



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA centre
promoted by the association EURO-NET
and realised with the grant of E.U. in
the framework of the namesake project

Bimonthly newsletter:

- *to spread European opportunities and initiatives,*
- *to disseminate the respect of human rights and the awareness about the development of Europe's cultural identity and diversity,*
- *to fight discrimination against minorities, xenophobia, intolerance and racism,*
- *to help, with youth activities, the democratic stability and social inclusion in Europe,*
- *develop active European citizenship and civil society by giving impetus to the training of youth leaders and youth workers working within a European dimension;*
- *to promote European youth activities, such as exchanges, seminars, conferences, debates and training courses,*
- *to encourage exchange of ideas, proposals, experiences and good practises at international level.*

**YEAR 12 - NUMBER 4
OF 20TH AUGUST 2017
ENGLISH NEWSLETTER**

Contents

1. Latest Standard Eurobarometer shows Optimism is on the rise	2
2. EU school children to receive milk, fruit and vegetables	3
3. Commission acts to help regions build resilient economies	4
4. European Solidarity Corps: jobs and traineeships on track	5
5. New Monitor shows how culture and creativity help cities to thrive	6
6. High Level Group presents proposals to simplify access to EU funds	7
7. The EU works to share information, combat terrorist financing and protect Europeans	8
8. EU consumers show growing demand for cross-border online shopping	9
9. EC acts to reach at least 40% women in its management	10
10. Challenges ahead: boosting innovation-led growth in EU regions	11
11. Euro Video Challenge	13
12. SouthMed WiA: 1st call for proposals	13
13. 2017 EESC Civil Society Prize	14
14. Internships at the Global Public Policy Institute (Germany)	15
15. CASS-India provides internship opportunity	15
16. APV project SOLEN	16
17. Several new Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2 projects approved	16
18. Last Focus group of the project GPEUMP	16
19. New "Minierasmus" mobility	17
20. THE SUITCASE project is coming to an end	17
21. SAVE internships currently underway	17
22. IV4J: project overview	18
23. Last meeting di ENT-NET	18
24. Training course in Sweden for the project SPHR	19
25. Final meeting in Krakow and upcoming multiplayer event	19
26. Project EDIC applied for the triennium 2018-2020	19

1. Latest Standard Eurobarometer shows Optimism is on the rise

One year after the referendum in the UK, an increasing majority of people in the EU are optimistic about the future of the European Union.

Close to a majority of Europeans are now also optimistic about the state of their national economy. Trust in the European Union is growing – it is at its highest level since 2010, and support for the euro is greater than it has been since 2004. Moreover, a majority of respondents, from eleven non-EU countries polled for the first time, say they have a positive view of the EU. These are some of the key results from the latest Standard Eurobarometer survey published with the Flash Eurobarometer survey “Future of Europe – Views from outside the EU”.

I Optimism about the future of the European Union and the state of national economies

The future of the European Union: most Europeans are optimistic and their trust in the EU institutions is growing

A majority of Europeans (56%) are optimistic about the future of the EU – an increase of six percentage points compared to autumn 2016. The most significant increases can be observed in



France (55%, +14 points since last Autumn), Denmark (70%, +13 points) and Portugal (64%, +10 points). **Trust in the EU** continues to be on the rise and stands at 42% (up from 36% in autumn 2016 and 32% in autumn 2015). It has increased most strongly in France (41%, +15 points), in Denmark (56%, +11 points) and in Estonia (55%, +11 points). It has also increased by 10 points in Germany, reaching 47%. As in the two previous surveys of spring and autumn 2016, the levels of trust in national parliaments and governments have also increased to 36% and 37% respectively, but remain below the levels of trust in the EU. 40% of

Europeans have a **positive image of the EU** (+5 points since autumn 2016) with the number of respondents with a positive image increasing in 24 Member States, in particular in France (40%, +11 points), Denmark (42%, +10 points) and Luxembourg (57%, +10 points). Finally, 68% of Europeans **feel they are citizens of the EU**, which is the highest level ever shown by this indicator.

The economy: more positive feelings and strong support for the euro

Close to half of Europeans think that the **current situation of their national economy** is ‘good’ (46%, +5 percentage points since autumn 2016). This proportion has increased significantly in recent years (+20 points since spring 2013; +26 points since spring 2009). Although large differences remain between Member States, positive assessments of the situation of national economies are gaining ground in 22 Member States, in particular in Finland (59%, +19 points), Portugal (33%, +18 points), Belgium (60%, +11 points) and Hungary (41%, +11 points). **In the euro area, close to three-quarters of respondents support the euro** (73%, +3 points), which is the highest score reached since autumn 2004. 80% of respondents or more support the euro in six countries: Slovakia, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Slovenia and Luxembourg.

II For the first time, terrorism is seen as the major challenge facing the EU

Terrorism is now on top of the issues that citizens cite when it comes to challenges that the EU is currently facing (44%, +12 percentage points since autumn 2016). **Immigration**, which has been a top concern since spring 2015, is now the second most frequently cited challenge (38%, -7 points). It is well ahead of **the economic situation** (18%, -2 points), **the state of Member States' public finances** (17%, unchanged) and **unemployment** (15%, -1 points). Terrorism is the number one concern for the EU in 21 Member States while this was the case in one country only in autumn 2016. Terrorism and immigration are mentioned as the top challenges in all countries except for Portugal and Sweden. **At the national level**, the main concerns remain unemployment (29%, -2 points) and immigration (22%, -4 points) although both are declining. Health and social security are now in the third place (20%, +2 points), followed by terrorism for which the increase is noticeable (19%, +5 points). The economic situation, which was the main concern at the national level in autumn 2011, is now in fifth place (16%, -3 points).

III Future of Europe – Views from outside the EU survey

For the first time, the Eurobarometer survey assessed the image of the European Union in eleven non-EU countries. These countries represent 49% of the world population and 61% of global GDP. In the three most populated of these countries (China, India and the USA), at least three quarters of respondents have a positive view of the EU.

Respondents in most of the countries covered by the survey have a positive view of the EU: 94% in Brazil, 84% in China, 83% in India, 76% in Japan, 79% in Canada, 75% in the USA, 67% in Australia and 54% in Turkey. At the same time respondents in countries closer to the EU (Russia, Norway and Switzerland) tend to have mixed feelings (between 43% and 46% have a positive view of the EU). The survey also shows that **the EU is globally perceived as “a place of stability in a troubled world”** in the countries polled – with important differences, from 82% in India thinking that way to 49% in Turkey - but this is not the case in Russia where only 33% share this view and 61% the opposite.

Background

The “Spring 2017 - Standard Eurobarometer” (EB 87) was conducted through face-to-face interviews between 20 and 30 May 2017. A total of 33,180 people were interviewed across the EU Member States and in the candidate countries. The Flash Eurobarometer 450 “Future of Europe – Views from outside the EU” was conducted through telephone interviews between 20 and 25 February 2017. A total of 11,035 people were interviewed in 11 non-EU countries. The Standard Eurobarometer ‘First results report’ published outlines Europeans’ attitudes towards the EU, as well as citizens’ main concerns and perceptions of the economic situation.

2. EU school children to receive milk, fruit and vegetables

The new EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme will be in place on 1 August, ready to be implemented across the Union as of the first day of the 2017/2018 school year.

Aimed at promoting healthy eating habits among children, the scheme will include the distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk products, as well as dedicated educational programmes to teach pupils about the importance of good nutrition and to explain how food is produced. This single scheme merges and optimises the existing projects that last year reached over 20 million children. Although participation is optional, all 28 Member States indicated they will take part in the initiative in the 2017/2018 school year. **Phil Hogan**, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, said: “I

am very pleased that the new school scheme will be introduced tomorrow. The scheme provides valuable support to millions of European schoolchildren and thousands of farmers in every Member State. Such support has proven particularly important for farmers in recent years and the increased funding will enhance the value of this support. In addition, the new scheme meets my priority of simplification through the integration of the former school milk and vegetable schemes. Finally, I am happy to be involved with an initiative with Commissioners Andriukaitis and Navracsics to



promote a healthy lifestyle and I am convinced that this scheme has a valuable part to play.” Fresh fruit, vegetables and drinking milk will be given as a priority to school children. Processed products such as soup, fruit compotes, juice, yoghurts and cheese may also be distributed if this choice is approved by the national health authorities. No added sugar, salt and fat are allowed unless the national health authorities permit limited quantities. Besides deciding on the exact way to put the scheme in place, like the inclusion of thematic educational measures and other agricultural products, Member States have the option to top up the EU aid with national aid for financing the scheme. This choice of products shall be based on health and environmental considerations, seasonality, variety and availability with priority to EU products. Member States may encourage local or regional purchasing, organic products, short supply chains, environmental benefits, agricultural quality schemes. Of the €250 million EU funding agreed for 2017–2018 school year, roughly €150 million will be allocated for fruit and vegetables and €100 million for milk. The new school scheme forms part of Commissioner **Hogan's** simplification agenda. It allows for greater synergies and efficiencies in the implementation of the new scheme, and complements other measures in the areas of health and education policies. From 1 August 2017, the two current schemes - the School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme and the School Milk Scheme - will be brought under a single legal framework. The new rules aim at greater efficiency, more focused support and an enhanced educational dimension. Currently, 24 Member States take part in the old fruit and vegetable scheme and 28 in the old milk scheme. Last year, around 20 million children benefited from the milk scheme and around 11.7 million children from the fruit and vegetables scheme.

3. Commission acts to help regions build resilient economies

Commission acts to help regions build resilient economies in the era of globalisation.

Globalisation has brought enormous benefits to the less-developed economies of the world and



many opportunities for Europeans; but while the benefits are widely spread, the costs are often borne unevenly as the Commission's reflection paper on harnessing globalisation highlighted. To take up the challenge of economic modernisation, Europe needs to empower its regions and help them create value. This means embracing innovation, digitisation, decarbonisation and developing people's skills. The Commission is proposing a new set of actions to further help Europe's regions invest in their niche areas of competitive strength ("smart specialisation") and generate the innovation, resilience and growth

needed. Vice-President **Jyrki Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness said: *"To reap the benefits of globalisation we need to create enabling environments, where the advances from trade and technology can materialise. Locally-led and locally-owned investment and innovation strategies are key to take up this challenge and empower our regions."* Commissioner for Regional Policy **Corina Crețu** said: *"We have entered the 'glocal' era, as President Juncker said, whereby the impact of global challenges is felt first at the local level. Our economies are undergoing deep changes; we can't reverse that process. But we can help our regions equip themselves with the right tools for robust and lasting growth – this is what smart specialisation is about."* Introduced in 2014 in all regional policy programmes, the smart specialisation approach has proven to deliver. The Commission intends to build on this positive experience with two pilot projects:

- **Tailored support for the specific challenges of regions facing industrial transition:** on their request, certain regions can work in partnership with teams of Commission experts to boost their innovation capacity, remove investment barriers, equip citizens with the right skills and prepare for industrial and societal change, on the basis of their smart specialisation strategies.
- **Interregional innovation partnerships supported by EU funds:** inspired by the success of the Vanguard initiative, the aim of this pilot project is to identify and scale up 'bankable' interregional projects that can create European value chains in priority sectors such as big data, bioeconomy, resource efficiency, connected mobility or advanced manufacturing.

In parallel, the Commission will step up its efforts to help Member States **address remaining bottlenecks to growth and establish business-friendly environments**. Particular attention will be given to the quality and openness of public research, cooperation between businesses and universities and the alignment of local skills-bases with market demands, with the help of Commission support facilities. **The Commission will also look at ways of facilitating further synergies and combinations** between the different innovation, growth and competitiveness EU programmes and instruments that currently exist.

Next steps

The calls for interest for the industrial transition regions pilot action will be launched in the autumn this year. The interregional partnerships will be set up during 2017 and run throughout 2018. The experience acquired so far with current Cohesion policy programmes, together with the actions and policy solutions put forward in this [communication](#), will provide useful input in preparing the next budget framework, in the context of the ongoing reflection on the future of EU finances. The Commission will consider stronger linkages between existing EU instruments with the common objective of responding to new industrial challenges. Smart specialisation could be scaled-up, to make it a comprehensive tool to help all regions take advantage of the changes brought by globalisation.

Background

Introduced as a prerequisite to ensure effective Cohesion Policy spending in research and innovation, smart specialisation has required all regions to design investment strategies based on their own competitive assets – from agrifood specialties and tourism to nanotechnologies and aerospace. Under these strategies, local businesses are receiving financial support to develop innovative products and expand beyond local markets. These strategies have also resulted in better links between science and business as well as improved coordination at all levels of local governance.

4. European Solidarity Corps: jobs and traineeships on track

Half a year after the European Commission launched the European Solidarity Corps and following the matching of voluntary placements which started in March 2017, thousands of job and traineeship placements are now also kicking off.

To this end, the European Commission supports two projects led by the Italian and French Public Employment Services, which will offer a solidarity-related job or traineeship in another EU country to up to 6000 young people. Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, **Marianne Thyssen**, said: *"The European Solidarity Corps is about creating more and better opportunities. I am happy that starting from today, with the kicking off of the occupational strand, the Corps is offering its full potential to our young people. In cooperation with Public Employment Services and partners on the ground, we will offer thousands of young people a concrete opportunity for a job or traineeship in solidarity-related fields across Europe. This will allow them to develop their skills and increase their future labour market prospects."* **Tibor Navracsics**, Commissioner for

Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, said: *"I am delighted to see the European Solidarity Corps growing. The occupational dimension now makes it complete. We know that many young people in Europe are eager to help others, and that this engagement will have positive knock-on effects for themselves. Participating in the European Solidarity Corps will prove to be a valuable experience for young Europeans at the start of their careers."*

The two projects led by the French Public Employment Service (Pôle Emploi) and the Italian National Agency for active labour policies (ANPAL) bring together public employment services and organisations from different EU Member States, such as employers' organisations and training institutes, to provide job or traineeship offers in solidarity-related areas to young people between the age of 18 and 30. Selected participants will be able to engage in a broad range of activities such as healthcare, social integration, environmental protection, assistance for migrants and refugees, or food aid in another EU country. The projects will reach out to employers, ensure the matching of candidates and provide financial and other types of support, such as training, to participants. The projects are funded with more than €14 million from the Employment and Social Innovation programme.



Timeline and next steps

The two projects will run up to March 2019. In parallel, the European Solidarity Corps is being further developed and consolidated. The aim is to provide 100,000 placements by the end of 2020. The experience gained under the two new projects being launched will help lay the ground for the rolling-out of the European Solidarity Corps by 2020. The two projects will continue to support young people in finding cross-border placements until spring 2019 and will work together with other projects on occupational placements for the European Solidarity Corps.

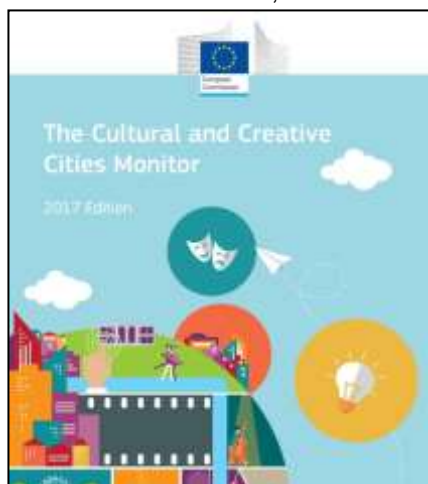
Background

During his 2016 State of the Union address, Commission President **Juncker** announced the creation of a European Solidarity Corps, offering young people between the age of 18 and 30 the opportunity to take part in a wide range of solidarity activities across the EU. Since its launch on 7 December 2016, more than 32,000 young people have joined the European Solidarity Corps. In March 2017, matching with organisations began; since then, about 11,500 participants have been contacted and 460 placements were accepted. The aim is to have 100,000 young people taking part in the European Solidarity Corps by the end of 2020. On 30 May 2017 the Commission presented a proposal to put the European Solidarity Corps on a firm footing, with a budget of €341.5 million for the years 2018-2020 and a dedicated legal base. In addition, the Commission proposed to extend opportunities for young people. As well as offering volunteering, traineeships and job placements, in the future the European Solidarity Corps will also offer participants the opportunity to set up their own solidarity projects or to volunteer as a group. To prepare its proposal, the Commission launched both an open online survey and targeted consultations with stakeholders, which concluded in a Stakeholder Forum. The proposal for a draft Regulation now needs to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council before it can enter into force. In their [Joint Declaration](#), the EU institutions committed to delivering on the proposal by the end of this year.

5. New Monitor shows how culture and creativity help cities to thrive

The European Commission released the first ever edition of the 'Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor'.

This new tool provides comparable data on how European cities perform across nine dimensions – covering culture and creativity – and underlines how their performance contributes to cities' social development and economic growth and job creation. Developed by the European Commission's in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor will



help policy makers as well as the cultural and creative sectors identify local strengths and areas for improvement, and learn from comparable cities. It also sheds light on the strong relationship between cultural vibrancy and various dimensions of a city's life, starting with its social diversity and its economic activity. **Tibor Navracsics**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth, Sport, responsible for the JRC, said: *"My objective is to place culture and creativity at the heart of the European policy agenda. In times of major societal transformations and sharpening global competition between cities, we must look beyond traditional sources of growth and socio-economic well-being and explore the role of culture in vibrant, innovative and diverse cities. The Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor highlights successful European cities that have found their own ways of using the potential of culture and creativity to drive development, innovation and job*

creation and improve quality of life for citizens. It puts sound evidence at the disposal of policy makers to help them identify where they fare well and where further improvement is desirable." The Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor is the result of a research project covering 168 cities in 30 European countries. It is available as an interactive online tool to allow users to browse the selected cities as well as a wide array of quantitative and qualitative information about their performance. It notably shows that the 'ideal' Cultural and Creative City in Europe would be the amalgam of the best performing cities on each indicator. This city would have the Cultural Venues & Facilities of Cork (Ireland), the Cultural Participation & Attractiveness and the Creative & Knowledge-based Jobs of Paris (France), the Intellectual Property & Innovation of Eindhoven (Netherlands), the New Jobs in Creative Sectors of Umeå (Sweden), the Human Capital & Education of Leuven (Belgium), the Openness, Tolerance & Trust of Glasgow (UK), the Local & International Connections of Utrecht (Netherlands) and the Quality of Governance of Copenhagen (Denmark). Of these eight cities, five have fewer than 500,000 inhabitants (Cork, Eindhoven, Umeå, Leuven and Utrecht).

Key findings of the research include:

- Leading cultural and creative cities: compared to other cities with a similar population, Paris, Copenhagen, Edinburgh and Eindhoven perform better than their counterparts;
- Cultural, creativity and prosperity: culture and creativity contribute to higher economic growth rates, and are crucial for low-income cities;
- Size is not everything: the size of a city does not determine its performance in culture and creativity, as on average small and medium-sized cities score relatively well compared to larger ones;
- Capitals fly high but not highest: even if capitals are often in the lead, they are outperformed in Austria, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Poland, Spain, the Netherlands and the UK.

Background

Since the adoption of the first 'European Agenda for Culture in a Globalising World' (2007), culture has taken an increasingly prominent place in European Union policymaking. However, mapping cultural and creative assets and measuring their value and impact in a systematic and comparable way across Europe remains a challenge, with no shared definitions or metrics, particularly at city level. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission has developed the 'Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor' in order to fill this information gap. The tool was built around three leading indices - cultural vibrancy, creative economy and enabling environment – organised in 9 dimensions and measured through 29 indicators ranging from the number of museums and concert halls, to employment in the cultural and creative sectors, and from ICT patent applications to the level of trust people have towards other citizens in their city. It brings together data from a variety of public sources (such as Eurostat and the Eurobarometer) and experimental data (for example from TripAdvisor). The Monitor is expected to be updated every two years in order to remain conceptually and statistically sound across countries, cities and time and capture cities' development.

6. High Level Group presents proposals to simplify access to EU funds

The group of independent Cohesion Policy experts presented its final report for a simplified EU funds framework after 2020.

Although the achievements of the EU Cohesion Policy are undeniably positive, the current volume of rules does not always make life easy for local authorities managing EU funds or businesses looking to apply for EU funding. Simplification is therefore key and the European Commission should look into how to further simplify access to EU funds in the budget framework post 2020. This is the main message that the High Level Group of Simplification seeks to feed into the discussion on the future of the EU finances which the Commission launched on 28 June with its dedicated reflection paper, the final paper in the series of five reflection documents released following the publication on 1 March of the Commission's [White Paper on the Future of Europe](#). Commissioner **Günther H. Oettinger**, in charge of budget and human resources, said: *"Citizens expect the EU to do more, yet the EU budget is decreasing. To solve this dilemma, we must make the most out of every euro that we spend. And simpler rules make for better spending."* Commissioner for Regional policy **Corina Crețu** said: *"Fewer and simpler rules mean better results and fewer errors. Let's focus on what counts: improving the lives of citizens everywhere in Europe."* Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility **Marianne Thyssen** said: *"Using the full potential of simplification will save money and time that can be used instead for boosting social convergence across Europe."* High Level Group Chairman **Siim Kallas** said: *"Simplifying access to and use of EU Cohesion funds will certainly contribute to bringing citizens closer to the EU."* According to the Group, **the current architecture of the rules is effective but needs a good clean-up.** Shared management governance should be kept to ensure mutual trust and ownership of common growth and jobs goals. But the simplest rules are those that are few in number; the Group suggests rules to delete or radically reduce. **Rules in different EU funds and instruments should be harmonised** in terms of state aid, public procurement and methods to reimburse costs, to facilitate synergies and allow beneficiaries to apply for different sources of EU funding for the same project. For example, applying the same rules in Cohesion Policy and in the [European Fund for Strategic Investments](#) (EFSI)



framework would allow easier access to support for small businesses. **An even simpler framework should be available** to all Member States and regions, provided they fulfil a number of criteria: reliable management and control systems; significant national co-financing to incentivise sound spending; identification of key structural reforms to implement and focus on few priority areas to be able to deliver. The Group suggests that EU rules should then be limited to strategic investment priorities and principles for spending. EU funds would be delivered via existing national administrative mechanisms and Commission audit work would be limited. The Member State and Commission would agree on structural reforms to be achieved and concrete outputs which trigger reimbursements. Simplification has already proved to be a success story: Commissioner Oettinger presented three reports on the implementation of the 2016 EU budget. One of the lessons is that simplified EU rules make it easier for local authorities, farmers and businesses to use EU funds effectively and correctly. In the same vein, the Commission proposed in September 2016 to simplify the rules under which Member States and other beneficiaries receive EU money.

Background

The European Commission launched the High Level Group in 2015 to identify opportunities to strip cohesion policy rules of unnecessary complexity, in view of both the mid-term review of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), to which the Group has significantly contributed, and the reflection on the post 2020 budgetary framework. High Level Group Chairman Siim Kallas is a former European Commission Vice President in charge of Administrative matters, audit and anti-fraud and Transport. In addition to his in-house expertise on EU funds, Siim Kallas' terms as Prime Minister and Minister of Finances of Estonia have given him a unique perspective on how EU financial support can be best combined with reforms on the ground to bring about economic growth. The twelve members of the High Level Group represent national and regional authorities and the private sector. They all have personal experience in dealing with EU funds, as well as fresh ideas to reform the system.

7. The EU works to share information, combat terrorist financing and protect Europeans

The 9th Security Union progress report highlights the recent steps taken to prevent terrorist financing through trafficking in cultural goods and improve the interoperability of EU information systems.

Based on a comprehensive assessment of EU security policy since 2001, the report also highlights the remaining gaps and challenges to be addressed. Incomplete implementation of existing policies



remains a challenge, as do evolving threats such as radicalisation and cybercrime — which may require changes to existing instruments. Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: *"In this rapidly changing security environment, we must intensify our efforts to deliver on all essential elements and work swiftly to achieve a genuine and effective Security Union. Fragmentation makes us all vulnerable. Unity and trust by enhancing cooperation and facilitating information exchange between our*

Member States is the only way for the EU to bring concrete added value and ensure the security and safety of European citizens." Commissioner for the Security Union **Julian King** said: *"The Comprehensive Assessment fulfils a commitment I gave to the European Parliament to carry out a thorough review of the EU's security policy – the first in 16 years. There are some important lessons, including the need for greater agility to respond to the evolving threat landscape. There will be an opportunity to discuss with Parliament in September."*

Steady progress on key files

Steady progress has been made in recent months, notably with new rules on trafficking in **cultural goods** proposed in July 2017, and agreement reached on a new **Entry/Exit system** to register entry and exit data of non-EU nationals crossing the EU's external borders. Work on **countering radicalisation** on the internet has been stepped up with an action plan of new measures set out to detect and remove illegal terrorist content online. A renewed focus on **soft target protection** also saw Belgian and Dutch Special Forces simulate synchronised terrorist attacks on public schools. Supported by the Commission, the drill exercise provided valuable lessons on preparedness.

Addressing challenges and gaps in security policy

The report looks back at 15 years of EU security policy and whilst the assessment is positive and confirms the relevance of the main instruments of EU security policy, it also identifies challenges and gaps. This includes the need to adjust existing policies and tools to respond to the evolving threat posed by terrorism, as also highlighted by the European Council conclusions of 22-23 June 2017 and the G20 Action Plan on Countering Terrorism of 7 July 2017.

To address the challenges and gaps, the Commission will continue to take action by:

- **Supporting the full implementation of EU measures:** The Commission will continue to support Member States in implementing EU legislation, such as the EU Passenger Name Record (PNR) Directive that needs to be completed by 25 May 2018 and the Prüm framework for the exchange of DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data;
- **Reducing the complexity of EU instruments and strengthening interoperability:** Agreement on the Entry/Exit System is an important step towards achieving full interoperability of EU information systems by 2020 and the Commission will engage with the European Parliament and Council to accelerate work on related proposals to strengthen the Schengen Information System and EURODAC and ECRIS databases;
- **Building up capacity by pooling resources:** Building on the success of the network approach already deployed in fields like drug trafficking and transport security, the Commission will work on further pooling security expertise at EU level, notably where individual Member States lack specific expertise or resources in areas such as cybersecurity, chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials;
- **Addressing evolving threats:** While the overall EU legislative framework has proven its usefulness, the Commission is continuously analysing the need for adaptations, for example with a newly established High-Level Expert Group on Radicalisation. A key area of activity in the coming months will be the review of the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy to provide an up to date and effective response to the growing threat of cybercrime. The new European Parliament special

committee on terrorism will provide an additional opportunity to discuss how EU counter-terrorism measures can be adapted to constantly evolving threats.

Background

Security has been a political priority since the beginning of the Juncker Commission's mandate – from President Juncker's Political Guidelines of July 2014 to the latest State of the Union address on 14 September 2016. The European Agenda on Security guides the Commission's work in this area, setting out the main actions to ensure an effective EU response to terrorism and security threats, including countering radicalisation, boosting cybersecurity, cutting terrorist financing as well as improving information exchange. Since the adoption of the Agenda, significant progress has been made in its implementation, paving the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union. This progress is reflected in the Commission's reports published on a regular basis. The comprehensive assessment, annexed to the report, is based on in-house analysis by the Commission services, surveys carried out with Member States' authorities and EU agencies, and an inclusive dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders including the European Parliament, national parliaments, civil society, think tanks, academia and industry representatives. The Commission will present its comprehensive assessment to the European Parliament and the Council, and it encourages the two institutions to engage in a dialogue to examine its findings.

8. EU consumers show growing demand for cross-border online shopping

The 2017 edition of the Consumer Conditions Scoreboard shows that more and more EU consumers are shopping online and that their trust in e-commerce has increased, in particular in buying online from other EU countries.

For retailers, however, the Scoreboard shows that many are still reluctant to expand their online activities and continue to have concerns about selling online to consumers in other EU countries. Such concerns are mainly linked to a higher risk of fraud and non-payment in cross-border sales, different tax regulations, differences in national contract law and in consumer protection rules. While consumer conditions have improved overall since the last Scoreboard, the levels of trust, knowledge and protection still vary greatly between EU Member States. Commissioner Jourová said: *"My priority has been to improve trust of the people and smaller retailers in the Digital Single Market. Consumers are now more confident when they shop online. And we've equipped them with a quick procedure to get their money back if something goes wrong, even when buying from another country. The challenge now is to encourage more businesses to respond to this growing demand."*

More trust in e-commerce but barriers remain, including for retailers

The Scoreboard shows that consumer trust in e-commerce has dramatically increased. In ten years the share of Europeans buying online has almost doubled (from 29.7% in 2007 to 55% in 2017). Since the last Scoreboard consumers' levels of trust have increased by 12 percentage points for purchases from retailers located in the same country and by 21 percentage points for purchases from other EU Member States. Although there has been much progress, the Scoreboard shows that consumers are still facing obstacles when trying to buy from online retailers based in another EU country. For example, 13% of respondents reported a payment being refused and 10% were refused delivery of products to their country. As for retailers, only 4 out of 10 of those currently selling online said that they are considering selling both domestically and across borders in the coming year. Many still have concerns about selling online in other countries, namely because of a higher risk of fraud, differences in national tax regulations or national contract law rules, or differences in consumer rules.

This is why the Commission has made a proposal for modern digital contract rules to harmonise contract rules for online sales of goods, and to promote access to digital content and online sales across the EU.

Awareness of consumer rights improving, but still low and uneven levels across the EU

Compared to the previous edition of the Scoreboard, consumers are more aware of their rights. On average, 13% of consumers are aware of their key rights (an increase of 3.6 percentage points since 2014). However, consumer conditions are generally better in northern and western EU countries than eastern and southern ones. 94.5% of Finns complain when they encounter a problem, for



example, whereas only 55.6% of Bulgarians do so. Exposure to unfair commercial practices, such as the use of aggressive marketing techniques, also varies greatly: 40.9% of Croatians are affected, in comparison to 3.4% of Austrians. To tackle these issues, the Commission is working on a proposal to update consumer rules. The aim is to make sure that every European consumer is aware of their rights and that these rights are correctly enforced throughout the EU.

Retailers' insufficient knowledge of consumer rights

The 2017 Scoreboard shows that retailers' knowledge of consumer rules hasn't improved since the previous edition. Only 53.5 % of their answers to questions on basic consumer rights were correct. Again the level of knowledge varies between countries, with only 36.2% of Croatian retailers knowing these rights compared to 62.3% of retailers in Germany.

Room for improvement with the speed of handling complaints

While consumers are finding fewer reasons to complain, the ones who have done so are more satisfied with how their complaints are handled. However, almost one third of consumers decided not to complain, as they considered the sums involved were too small (34.6%) or that the procedure would have taken too long (32.5%). This is why the Commission has improved the Small Claims procedure (since 14/07/2017), which now allows consumers to benefit from a fast-track online procedure for claims up to €5,000. The Commission is also encouraging out-of-court settlements with the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform, which offers easy online access to alternative dispute entities for online transactions.

Background

The Consumer Scoreboards provide an overview of how the Single Market works for EU consumers. Published since 2008, they aim to ensure better monitoring of consumer rights and provide evidence to inform policy. There are two types of Scoreboard, which are published in alternate years and based on large scale surveys:

- The **Consumer Conditions Scoreboard**, which monitors national conditions for consumers in three areas: 1. knowledge and trust, 2. compliance and enforcement, 3. complaints and dispute resolution. It also examines progress in the integration of the EU retail market and in e-commerce.
- The **Consumer Markets Scoreboard**, which tracks the performance of over 40 consumer markets on the basis of key indicators such as trusting that sellers comply with consumer protection rules, the comparability of offers, the choice available in the market, the extent to which consumer expectations are met, and the detriment caused by problems that consumers encounter. Other indicators, such as switching and prices, are also monitored and analysed (2016 edition).

9. EC acts to reach at least 40% women in its management

A new Diversity and Inclusion Charter and fresh action to reach at least 40% women in its management by 1 November 2019 are two key features of the Commission's new human resources policy.

The purpose is to create a better workplace for all – including women, staff with disabilities, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Intersex (LGBTI) staff and older staff. Concrete steps will be taken to make best use of the talent of all of the Commission's employees. Commissioner **Gunther**



H. Oettinger in charge of budget and human resources said: *"We want our staff to be valued and accepted, irrespective of their age, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities. If we build on this diversity, we will be more innovative and deliver better results for our citizens."*

A true equal opportunity workplace: at least 40% in female management

In addition to the Diversity and Inclusion strategy, the Commission has adopted a set of robust measures to bring female representation in its management to at least 40% by 1 November 2019.

These include individual targets for all Commission departments when it comes to appointing someone as Head of Unit for the first time. Departments that are falling behind their targets may be asked to attract suitable female candidates before proceeding with an appointment. These measures come on top of those adopted earlier, including

efforts to identify, develop and support female talent, targeted training sessions as well as mentoring.

A better workplace for all: the Commission's Diversity and Inclusion strategy

The Diversity and Inclusion strategy focuses on four main target groups: women, staff with disabilities, LGBTI people and older staff. The strategy contains cross-cutting but also specific measures to address the concerns of each of these groups, including:

- For women, specific management programmes and support for existing and new women networks;
- For disabled staff, involvement in the planning of access and mobility facilities in Commission buildings;
- For LGBTI, awareness activities and trainings for managers and staff, in particular to address any unconscious bias;
- For older staff, monitor whether they face any discrimination when applying for new jobs.

The strategy will start a process of reporting, monitoring and further fine-tuning of proposed measures. The first Diversity and Inclusion Report will be published in spring 2018.

Background

The Diversity and Inclusion Strategy is part of the ongoing efforts of the Commission to make the best use of its talent. The measures also aim to deliver on the commitment of the Juncker Commission towards the Commission staff. They follow President Juncker's mission letter to Commissioner Oettinger, in which the Commissioner was asked to develop "a diversity strategy for the personnel and administrative policy of the Commission" and to "achieve our common target of 40%" of female management in the Commission. Last year, the Commission adopted its talent management strategy. It focused on promoting mobility among its middle management. Organisations that embrace a diverse workforce and are inclusive to all tend to deliver better results, innovate more and are able to take better decisions.

10. Challenges ahead: boosting innovation-led growth in EU regions

Smart specialisation has made a real difference in the way European regions are designing their innovation strategies, creating or reinforcing cooperation at all levels, especially with local business spheres.

Smart specialisation has made a real difference in the way European regions are designing their innovation strategies, creating or reinforcing cooperation at all levels, especially with local business spheres. There is room for improvement; to better help regions catch the train of globalisation, **this Commission communication identifies four main challenges to regional innovation, as well as actions and policy solutions to tackle them**, under the regions' smart specialisation strategies. The experience acquired so far with current Cohesion policy programmes, together with the actions and policy solutions put forward in this communication will provide a useful input in preparing the next Multiannual Financial Framework. The Commission will seek to

shape a broader approach to boosting innovation-led growth in the EU, with the objective of making smart specialisation a comprehensive tool to help all regions seize the opportunities brought by technological change, digitisation and industrial modernisation.

Challenge 1: Boosting innovation capacity in less-developed and industrial transition regions

The Commission already highlighted the specific needs of less-developed regions in relation to their innovation capacities and connection with global value chains. Commission-supported pilot projects led in two Polish regions showed promising results, especially as regards the development of competitive clusters and the reform of the business environment. Regions in industrial transition face different challenges. Trailing behind in terms of innovation in a globalised context, they don't benefit from the same EU financial support as less-developed regions, although they may be unable to attract sufficient investment to develop new comparative advantages and move up the value chain. Often carbon intensive, they can combine lack of an appropriate skills-base, high labour cost and deindustrialisation.



What the Commission proposes:

To accompany the industrial modernisation of these regions, the Commission will promote an EU-funded pilot action including a number of volunteer regions to help revamp their innovation systems on the basis of their smart specialisation strategies. This pilot action will provide on-demand support from Commission experts as well as technical assistance actions supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), in order to facilitate the combined use of existing EU instruments with the aim to accelerate innovation uptake, remove investment barriers, facilitate reskilling and prepare for industrial and societal change. These partnerships should be in place by March 2018. By the end of 2018, each partnership should have defined a set of actions to foster economic transformation, identifying possible funding opportunities at European, national and regional level. As per the Commission's "EFSI 2.0" proposal, this hands-on support could be complemented by guidance by Commission investment envoys on the ground on opportunities to combine EU funds and instruments, such as the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI – the heart of the Juncker Plan) and Cohesion Policy funds.

Challenge 2: Increasing cooperation in innovation investment across regions

To develop innovative products and expand beyond local markets to create – or rebuild – European value chains, regions and their local industrial spheres need to join forces and pool their resources, in tight partnership with innovation actors and researchers. Interregional investment networks in industrial renewal already exist. The Vanguard initiative gathers 30 EU regions who jointly develop high value added projects, on the basis of matching smart specialisation priorities. This Initiative has served as model for thematic Smart Specialisation platforms, under which 100 regions with matching assets can develop project pipelines, share research infrastructure (testing facilities, data centres or Fab-

Labs) and benefit from the expertise of Commission experts.

What the Commission proposes:

To go one step further and build on existing networks and platforms, the Commission will launch an EU-funded pilot action by the end of 2017 in order to scale-up interregional innovation projects. Small projects will have the opportunity to integrate large investment pipelines, bringing together EU funds in the most efficient way. Five to ten thematic partnerships will be created with policy-makers, researchers, businesses and other innovation actors. High value added economic sectors will be targeted, such as bioeconomy, big data, health or connected mobility as well as traditional sectors with innovative manufacturing processes. The smart specialisation thematic platforms will act as the coordination structure where selected partnerships can work with teams established within the Commission, involving experts from several Commission departments.

Challenge 3: The need to reform regional innovation systems

As a prerequisite for Member States to benefit from Cohesion Policy funding in research and innovation, smart specialisation has proven to be a powerful incentive for Member States and regions to carry out reforms and improve multi-level governance. Broader reform efforts of regional research and innovation systems require particular attention to three cross-cutting issues, according to recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester: the quality of public research, efficient business-science cooperation with the right support for technology transfer, and a business-friendly environment. Efforts to conduct reforms should be complemented by investments in the right skills, education and training to better match today's and tomorrow's job market demands, in line with the New Skills Agenda.

What the Commission proposes:

The Commission will step up its efforts to encourage Member States to make full use of available EU support to facilitate the design and implementation of reforms. For example, on-demand assistance from the Structural Reform Support Service can help improve the business environment and break down silos between administrative bodies. The Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility will help Member States address obstacles in their research and innovation systems, including those related to an effective implementation of smart specialisation strategies. Member States are invited to reinforce the dialogue with all concerned stakeholders in the course of the European Semester process, including regions and local authorities. They should also develop local skills-bases by better linking vocational education and training systems to smart specialisation priorities.

Challenge 4: Facilitating synergies between EU policies and instruments

Currently there is a substantial number of regional, national and European policy instruments aiming at research and innovation, growth and competitiveness or at promoting interregional cooperation. Efforts have already been undertaken to promote and simplify combinations and synergies between the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) under the Juncker Plan, Horizon 2020 and Cohesion policy funds.

What the Commission proposes:

The Commission will work with national and regional authorities and help them combine the funds, in particular by providing further clarifications on synergies as regards state aid and public procurement. To boost interregional cooperation, the Commission will continue to work with the European Parliament and Council in the context of the ongoing discussions on the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework to further facilitate transnational investments, such as the implementation of operations outside an EU funds programme area. The Commission will also provide stakeholders with a comprehensive mapping of support actors and facilities to foster cross-regional industrial partnering and access to competences. Simplifying synergies and aligning rules between different EU funding instruments is high on the Commission's agenda in the framework of the discussion on the future of the EU finances which the Commission launched on 28 June with its dedicated reflection paper. In this context, a High Level Group on Simplification for the beneficiaries of EU funds set up by the Commission recently published its final conclusions for the post-2020 framework, with ideas to facilitate further combinations between EU funds.

11. Euro Video Challenge

Can you explain economic topics in an entertaining way? Do you like to make videos? If you are aged between 18 and 30, this is your chance to tell your story and show us your talent by submitting an original video, no longer than 2 minutes 20 seconds, on an economic topic related to the [European Central Bank's activities](#)! The **deadline** for submitting your video is **24 September 2017**. The individuals or teams that produce the best videos will be invited to attend the award ceremony at the 10th anniversary of the economics conference "[Les Journées de l'économie](#)" (Jéco) in Lyon (France) on Thursday, 9 November 2017. First prize for the winning video is €4,000. Second and third prizes of €3,000 and €2,000 respectively may also be awarded subject to the jury's decision on the quality of the videos. The best videos might also feature on the social media of the European Central Bank and the Jéco! **Tell us your story on an economic topic related to the European Central Bank's activities.** It should be presented in an engaging and a simple way, suitable for a young audience that does not necessarily have any previous knowledge of the topic. **Videos can be in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish.** They should be in landscape format and should last no more than 2 minutes and 20 seconds. You must also submit the script of the video (maximum 1,500 words). **Trouble choosing a topic?** Here are some ideas:



- Why a single currency for Europe?
 - Why not a world currency?
 - Does the value of the euro against the dollar matter?
 - Why is too much debt a problem? Is the problem public debt or private debt?
 - Why is high inflation a problem?
 - Should troubled banks be given public money?
 - What will money look like in the future?
 - Can monetary policy reduce social inequalities?
 - Should workers be more mobile in the euro area?
- Register on the competition [website](#) and submit your video by 24 September 2017!**

12. SouthMed WiA: 1st call for proposals

SouthMed WiA project launches the 1st Call for Proposals to support greater gender equality in the Southern Mediterranean Audiovisual Sector

SouthMed WiA, a project funded by the European Union in the framework of the regional programme



MedFilm, launches its 1st Call for Proposals. The objective of this call is to support projects addressing weaknesses and issues related to gender equality and the under-representation of women in the audiovisual sector in seven Southern Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia. The present call includes the following lots: **research activities; training; awareness raising and advocacy**. The indicative amount available for the 3 lots is EUR 340.000. Any grant awarded under this call for proposals will fall between minimum EUR 80.000 and

maximum EUR 100.000. **The deadline for applications is 15 September 2017, at 21:00 (GMT).**

- [Read the Call background](#)
- [Read the guidelines](#)
- [More info about the project](#)
- [Read the press release](#)

13. 2017 EESC Civil Society Prize

For the European Economic and Social Committee (the "EESC" or the "Committee"), the **aim** of the prize, which is awarded annually, is to reward and encourage initiatives of civil society organisations and/or individuals that have made a significant contribution to promoting European identity and integration. The **overall objective** of the prize is to raise awareness of the contribution that civil society organisations and/or individuals can make to the creation of a European identity and citizenship in a way that underpins the common values that shore up European integration. The EESC Civil Society Prize is open to all civil society organisations (the "CSOs") officially registered within the European Union and acting at local, national, regional or European level. It is also open to individuals. The specific objective of the 2017 Civil Society Prize is to reward innovative initiatives carried out on the territory of the EU and which aim at the labour market integration of newcomers (such as young people, particularly those not in education, employment or training (NEET), people with migrant background) and all the people who are distant from the labour market and require specific support (such as the long-term unemployed, women detached from the labour market, people with disabilities or from ethnic minority groups and people living in poverty). These initiatives shall have already been implemented or still be ongoing. Initiatives which are planned but have not yet started on **8 September 2017** (closing date for submission of applications) are excluded. To be eligible, activities shall cover at least one of the following areas:



- Favour the effective implementation and enforcement of the principle of non-discrimination as regards labour market integration;
- Enable the effective inclusion of newcomers and disadvantaged people on the labour market – in quality jobs or as entrepreneurs or self-employed;
- Develop innovative forms of work integration for disadvantaged and vulnerable people – for example in the social economy, including through specifically the Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs);
- Provide disadvantaged and vulnerable people with a regular job or with a sheltered job in a protected, enabling environment, ensuring an effective transition into regular employment;
- Provide individualised advice and guidance services for unemployed people with regards to labour market integration (e.g. job coaching, job counselling, information and advice);
- Provide tailor-made, individualised learning and training to upskill / reskill vulnerable people, enhance their employability and empower them (for example in a protected environment or a real work environment)
- Raise awareness, promote mutual learning and disseminate good practices regarding alternative, innovative approaches to work integration of the people, including those furthest away from the labour market.

For further information, please visit this [link](#).

14. Internships at the Global Public Policy Institute (Germany)

GPPI runs a small, highly selective internship program for **current students, or students between bachelor's and master's degrees**, interested in gaining first-hand experience in public policy research and consulting. Candidates who already have a graduate degree (master's or equivalent) and are not currently enrolled at a university are not eligible to apply for our internship program. We do our best to match the qualifications and interests of our interns with research, advisory and dialogue projects to which they can contribute most. Depending on their background and interests, GPPI interns will contribute to one of our issue areas:



Candidates who already have a graduate degree (master's or equivalent) and are not currently enrolled at a university are not eligible to apply for our internship program. We do our best to match the qualifications and interests of our interns with research, advisory and dialogue projects to which they can contribute most. Depending on their background and interests, GPPI interns will contribute to one of our issue areas:

- [Humanitarian Action](#): not accepting applications at this time;
- [Rising Powers](#): accepting applications for January 2018 and beyond;
- [Innovation in Development](#): not accepting applications at this time;
- [Peace & Security](#): accepting applications for January 2018 and beyond;
- [Human Rights](#): accepting applications for January 2018 and beyond;
- [Data & Technology Politics](#): accepting applications for October 2017 and beyond;
- [Monitoring & Evaluation](#): not accepting applications at this time.

Candidates must be highly motivated to work in a demanding environment that requires excellent research and analysis as well as communication and project management skills. Applications of successful candidates must demonstrate:

- Strong analytical skills;
- Outstanding academic background in the social sciences, law, history or a related field;
- Interest in and familiarity with the relevant issues of global governance and the key players in the field;
- Excellence through very good grades and/or scholarships;
- Exceptional writing ability, in particular in the English language (short-listed candidates will be required to send writing samples);
- Record of initiative, engagement and entrepreneurial spirit;
- International experience outside of home country is preferred;
- Good team fit.

Internships are based in our Berlin office. GPPI can pay a €250-per-month contribution to living expenses for those not receiving a scholarship for their internship. The minimum duration is six weeks of full-time working hours or alternatively ten weeks part-time (minimum 2-3 days per week). Please indicate when you would be available. Send an email to gppi@gppi.net and include a copy of your CV with a brief statement of purpose outlining what you expect from an internship and what you would bring to GPPI. Shortlisted candidates will be asked for writing samples. Note: we do not encourage the use of Europass CVs. GPPI encourages international applicants. Please note, accepted candidates will be responsible for arranging their own visa if one is required. We can provide a letter of invitation and an internship contract to support this process. For further information, please visit this [link](#).

15. CASS-India provides internship opportunity

CASS-India provides internship opportunity for those who are interested in doing research in our areas of specialization (mentioned in home page) involving South Asia, West Asia, S-E Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific region and to develop their leadership and research skills. However, CASS-India shall seek to create a working and research environment conducive to interns' substantive learning, research, and professional development. At the end of the internship period, the centre shall prepare a written evaluation of the intern's performance and organize a meeting with the intern to provide constructive feedback. The interns shall observe all applicable rules, regulations, instructions, procedures and directives of the centre. The interns shall respect the impartiality and independence required for the reputation of the Centre. Candidates must possess a minimum of a Bachelors degree in a relevant discipline. Those pursuing a final year of a Masters degree may also apply. Internships ideally last for a period of not less than **nine months** and can be extended up to **one year** depending upon the performance. Interns are required to contribute to management of assigned projects, write summaries of events, assist in administrative work, edit

documents and web content, prepare reports and perform other duties as assigned. Candidates should be highly motivated to learn on the job, work under deadlines, and a strong command over written and spoken English is must. The first one month of the internship will be unpaid. CASS-India will pay Rs 8,000-10,000 per month after successful completion of one month, if found suitable. **Interested applicants may submit the following materials:** Curriculum vitae; Contact details of two References; Areas of interest and proposed start and end dates for the internship; Two recent passport size photographs; Scanned copy of valid passport. The above documents along with a covering letter may be sent to Director at director@cassindia.com. CASS-India reserves the right to reject any application without giving any reason. For further information, please visit this [link](#).



16. APV project SOLEN

The advance preliminary visit (APV) of the project "Το Περιβάλλον μας ενώνει-Solidarity for the environment (SOLEN)", co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme KA1-Youth Mobility, was held in



Athens (Greece) from the 2nd to the 4th of July. The aim of the project is to increase the consciousness of young people as active citizens in European and other Southern Mediterranean countries, to develop their environmental awareness, to inform them about the necessity of respecting of the Euro- Med eco-system, to promote intercultural understanding on the issue and to discuss and provide best practises for environmental protection. The participants will have the opportunity to confront different aspects of the problem, and to exchange local experiences, while different case studies will be

presented to enrich the exchange of information and to enhance the intercultural dialogue. Members of organisations from different countries, such as Greece, Italy, Jordan, Turkey, Bulgaria. Spain and Austria joined the APV. Maria Cristina Porfidio participated on behalf of EURO-NET organisation.

17. Several new Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2 projects approved

Several new projects created by EURO-NET have been approved under the Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2 Programme. Our project "Skills for Migrants Entrepreneurs (S.M.E.)", upheld by the Swedish Erasmus+ National Agency, is co-funded by the Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET Programme. The project will start next September and it will be twenty-six months long. It aims to develop a set of training initiatives for migrants. Our project "Escape for human rights: Few m2 of different reality" was endorsed by the Youth National Agency under the Erasmus+ KA1 Programme. The goal of the project is to train youth leaders from European and non-European Countries. Other youth exchanges in Italy, Germany, France, Poland, Ireland, Greece and Portugal were approved. For further information on our projects, please check next newsletters.



18. Last Focus group of the project GPEUMP



The last focus group of the "Gender Perspective in EU Mobility Programs" project took place with the participation of young people who had transnational mobility experience and workers in the sector. The objective of the focus group was to understand the issues that hinder or limit the participation of women in European programmes, notably in transnational mobility. In fact, the project, approved under the Erasmus Plus Programme KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Youth, aims at integrating the gender perspective with the European Union mobility programmes, in order to enhance the visibility of the gender issue in youth organisations.

19. New “Minierasmus” mobility

Over the years EURO-NET carried out many agreements with schools from the Basilicata regional district (Italy) as regards International Mobility for Educational Paths. These paths, endorsed by the Basilicata Operative Programme ESF 2014-2020, are addressed to 3rd and 4th grade high school students from Basilicata. Students and teachers can take part in these educational paths which allow them to choose a European hosting country and to have an international experience. This year again, EURO-NET applied to the “Minierasmus” regional competition notice, published by the Basilicata regional administration, in order to implement new mobility experiences.



20. THE SUITCASE project is coming to an end



No structures offer in Romania training course in the field of youth work, no structure in Europe offer online training course for persons interested to become youth workers, there is not any clear process of training, evaluation and certification of a youth worker; in other words, there is no professionalization in the field of youth work. Starting from this assumption the project “The suitcase, the map and the voyage of a youth worker” (KA2), approved by the Romanian Erasmus Plus National Agency, proposed the following objectives during its length of 24 months (1st September 2015- 31 August 2017):

- To prepare a full range of 3 necessary tools for youth workers, in 2 years of the project;
- To build and test an online training course for 50 people interested to become youth workers, in 2 years of the project;
- To allow 200 young people to test a full range of innovative, created tools in order to project their personal and professional life plan with the support of youth workers, during 2 years of the project;
- To create and test an online training courses for one key competence from the Reference Framework, by 200 young people, during 2 years of the project;
- To certificate 42 people interested to become youth workers on the Romanian Occupational Standard;
- To build an international partnership network of 9 structures, in the ground of youth work during 2 years of the project.

The project carried out two training courses available in English and Romanian, three meetings and a multiplier event. The **last meeting** of the project, took place **in Romania from the 6th to the 9th of July**. Thanks to this meeting the partners were able to take stock of the situation, reassess the tools created and share their opinions on the achievements of the project. During this meeting, a **multiplier event** called “The boxes of a youth worker – the European challenge” was held with the participation of many youth workers and workers in the sector. The design of the meeting allowed the youth workers to:

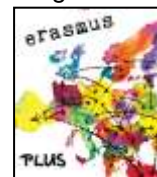
- Discuss and share good practices about their work in their countries;
- Find out more about the youth worker in Europe;
- Work more with the e-learning management system;
- Learn more about the tools created in the project, create new synergies between them and concrete initiatives;
- Offer feedback upon using the tools and the online training course;
- Propose other relevant sessions they are interested in.

Even though the project is ending we invite you to use the tools created and to attend the online training course available at <http://thevoyage.eu/>.

21. SAVE internships currently underway

70 students and 18 teachers from the **Istituto Agrario “G. Fortunato” of Potenza** (Agrarian High School), are having a work-based learning experience in different European countries, thanks to the Erasmus+ Programme. The project, named **“SAVE”KA1 - Learning Mobility of IndividualsVET**

learner and staff mobility", allowed the participants to do an internship in some agricultural enterprises all around the European Union. The aim of the project is to provide students with new technical and professional skills, as well as to enhance the capacity of students to meet the labour market needs. Therefore, the project endeavours to create an innovative perspective for students, so that they can experience the work-based learning in the European area. Taking into account the sustainable development, the environment, the social economy and other core issues, the school starts to operate in an international dimension, which will give students an effective lifelong learning experience.



22. IV4J: project overview

The project "Innovation in Vet for Jobs and employment (IV4J)" (action: 2016-1-DE02-KA202-003271), co-funded by the Erasmus Plus KA2 VET Programme, has the overall objective to introduce strong innovation in the VET system thanks to alternative and successful methodologies and approaches to the learning environment, in order to create a novel system aimed at job-oriented learning. The selected methodologies/approaches are:



Entrepreneurship education, Work-Based Learning, Creative Problem Solving Methodology, Web 2.0 tools for VET, Gamification, Simulation and Digital storytelling, Open Educational Resources, ECVET implementation. The project aims to:

- Research, explore and discover from across EU successful GOOD PRACTICE examples about innovation in VET;
- Promote the development, testing and implementation of INNOVATIVE PRACTICES/METHODOLOGIES in VET: Entrepreneurship Education, Work-Based Learning, Creative Problem Solving Methodology, Web 2.0 tools for VET, Gamification, Simulation and Digital storytelling, Open Educational Resources, ECVET implementation;
- Transfer the knowledge about the METHODOLOGIES through a large series of interactive GUIDES describing the methodologies, explaining in detail how to implement them in VET, introducing tips and providing a suggested quality management system;
- Create a WEBSITE integrated with Wiki, Blog and Social Networks containing a DATABASE OF MATERIALS TRANSLATED into all partners' National languages to promote and encourage extensive exploitation and dissemination;
- Stimulate ENTREPRENEURSHIP and WORK and JOB-ORIENTED LEARNING.

The partnership is composed of: FA-Magdeburg GmbH (Germany); SBH Südost GmbH (Germany); EURO-NET (Italy); Godesk s.r.l. (Italy); Get Tallaght Working Co-operative Limited (Ireland); Universiteit Utrecht (Netherlands); Espoon Seudun Koulutuskuntayhtymä Omnia (Finland). For further information, please visit the Website: <http://iv4j.eu/>.

23. Last meeting di ENT-NET

The fourth meeting of the project "ENT-NET: promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship through a training network" (action n. 2015-1-ES01-KA204-015882) took place in Madrid from the 26th to the 29th of July. This 2-year project aims to promote and enhance entrepreneurship and self-employment to tackle three main problems that adult people face nowadays: high unemployment rates, lack of basic knowledge for opening and running a business and deeply theoretical character of the entrepreneurial education. The project addresses adult people qualified, low and no qualified, and women participation will be highly encouraged. The project aims to involve directly over 1000 people as direct participants in training activities. During this meeting the partnership discussed on the planned activities. Moreover, a dissemination meeting was held in



Mostoles, with the participation of several entrepreneurs. Partners also created a Facebook page to provide all the information on the project. The page has already many followers, if you want to keep updated please go to this link <https://www.facebook.com/Ent-Net-project-963195357084339/>.

24. Training course in Sweden for the project SPHR



At the end of August a training course will be held by the partner Integration För Alla, for the project "Safer Places Hopeful Refugees", co-funded by the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education Programme. The training course will take place in Örkelljunga (Sweden) and it will cover the social integration of migrants. The project objectives are to:

- Strengthen the capacity of organizations working for refugees and even the skills of its staff;
 - Increase sustainability and global solidarity;
 - Promote international cooperation and intercultural communication;
 - Improve social inclusion and equal opportunities for refugees;
 - Develop networks and links at local, national and international level.
- Next newsletters will provide further information on the training course.

25. Final meeting in Krakow and upcoming multiplayer event

The final meeting of the "CREATUSE" project, implemented and coordinated by the Italian Association Youth Europe Service and funded under the European Programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adults Education, took place from the 16th to the 19th of July in Krakow, Poland. During the meeting, the partners covered the results achieved and defined the dates for the next multiplier events to be developed by October in each country participating in the initiative. The project, which aims to improve the level of skills of citizens in a way that is creative in the urban areas of their cities, has been well conducted and has produced many positive results that will be presented during the upcoming Multiplier Events. The partners are very satisfied with the intellectual outputs developed during the two years of activity and they are convinced that the project outcomes will be very useful to many other stakeholders from different countries. More information on the final events will be provided on our next newsletter.



26. Project EDIC applied for the triennium 2018-2020



The Representation of the European Commission in Italy published the competition notice to update the Europe Direct Centres network for the period 2018-2020. The network of some 500 walk-in EDICs is one of the main tools of the European Commission to engage with the public on EU-related topics at local and regional level. These centres are set in all EU Member States. Their mission is to inform European citizens at local and regional level about the EU, referring them to specialised information sources and other services and networks. This information can cover the rights of EU citizens, the EU's priorities, legislation, policies, programmes and funding opportunities. EDICs also organise conferences and events and channel citizens' feedback to the EU. The selected centres will gain a grant from 25,000 to 32,000 euros per year from the European Commission to accomplish their activities. Our organisation, already EDIC, applied for the upcoming triennium.