



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



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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.

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1. Winter 2020 Economic Forecast

The Winter 2020 Economic Forecast projects that the European economy is set to continue on a path of steady, moderate growth. The euro area has now enjoyed its longest period of sustained growth since the euro was introduced in 1999.

The forecast projects that euro area gross domestic product (GDP) growth will remain stable at



1.2% in 2020 and 2021. For the EU as a whole, growth is forecast to ease marginally to 1.4% in 2020 and 2021, down from 1.5% in 2019. Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that works for People, said: *“Despite a challenging environment, the European economy remains on a steady path, with continued job creation and wage growth. But we should be mindful of potential risks on the horizon: a more volatile geopolitical landscape coupled with trade uncertainties. So Member States should use this weather window to pursue structural reforms to boost growth and productivity. Countries with high public debt should also shore up their defences by pursuing prudent fiscal policies.”* Paolo **Gentiloni**, European Commissioner for the Economy, said: *“The outlook for Europe’s economy is for stable, albeit subdued growth over the coming two years. This will prolong the longest period of expansion since the launch of the euro in 1999, with corresponding good news on the jobs front. We’ve also seen encouraging developments in terms of reduced*

trade tensions and the avoidance of a no-deal Brexit. But we still face significant policy uncertainty, which casts a shadow over manufacturing. As for the coronavirus, it is too soon to evaluate the extent of its negative economic impact.”

Growth to remain stable, driven by domestic demand

The external environment remains challenging. However, continued employment creation, robust wage growth and a supportive policy mix should help the European economy maintain a path of moderate growth. Private consumption and investment, particularly in the construction sector, will continue to fuel economic growth. Public investment, especially in transport and digital infrastructure, is expected to increase significantly in a number of Member States. Together with tentative signs of stabilisation in the manufacturing sector, and a possible bottoming out of the decline in global trade flows, this should allow the European economy to continue expanding. At the same time, these factors appear insufficient to shift growth into a higher gear.

A small upward revision to the inflation forecast

The forecast for inflation (Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices) in the euro area has been raised to 1.3% in 2020 and 1.4% in 2021, an increase of 0.1 percentage points for both years compared to the Autumn 2019 Economic Forecast. This reflects tentative signs that higher wages may start passing through to core prices and slightly higher assumptions about oil prices. In the EU, the forecast for inflation in 2020 has also been raised by 0.1 percentage points to 1.5%. The forecast for 2021 remains unchanged at 1.6%.

Risks to the forecast

While some downside risks have faded, new ones have emerged. Overall the balance of risks continues to remain tilted to the downside. The “Phase One” trade deal between the US and China has helped to reduce downside risks to some extent, but the high degree of uncertainty surrounding US trade policy remains a barrier to a more widespread recovery in business sentiment. Social unrest in Latin America risks derailing the region’s economic recovery. Heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have raised the risk of conflict in the region. While there is now clarity on trading relations between the EU and the United Kingdom during the transition period, there remains considerable uncertainty over the future partnership with the UK. The outbreak of the ‘2019-nCoV’ coronavirus, with its implications for public health, economic activity and trade, especially in China, is a new downside risk. The baseline assumption is that the outbreak peaks in the first quarter, with relatively limited global spillovers. The longer it lasts, however, the higher the likelihood of knock-on effects on economic sentiment and global financing conditions. Risks related to climate change, though mainly long-term, cannot be ruled out in the short term. On the positive side, the European economy could benefit from more expansionary and growth-friendly fiscal policies and enjoy positive spillovers from more benign financing conditions in some euro area Member States.

For the UK, a purely technical assumption

Given that the future relations between the EU and the UK are not yet clear, projections for 2021 are based on a purely technical assumption of status quo in terms of their trading relations. This is for forecasting purposes only and reflects no anticipation or prediction with regard to the outcome of the negotiations between the EU and the UK on their future relationship.

Background

This forecast is based on a set of technical assumptions concerning exchange rates, interest rates and commodity prices with a cut-off date of 29 January. For all other incoming data, including assumptions about government policies, this forecast takes into consideration information up until and including 4 February. Unless policies are credibly announced and specified in adequate detail, the projections assume no policy changes. The European Commission publishes two comprehensive forecasts (spring and autumn) and two interim forecasts (winter and summer) each year. The interim forecasts cover annual and quarterly GDP and inflation for the current and following year for all Member States, as well as EU and euro area aggregates. The European Commission's next economic forecast will be the Spring 2020 Economic Forecast which is scheduled to be published on 7 May 2020.

2. Trade preferences boost developing countries' exports to the EU

Exports to the European Union from developing countries using special tariff preferences under the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) reached a new high of €69 billion in 2018.

According to the European Commission's report published every two years on the GSP, exports to the EU from the 71 GSP beneficiary countries increased to almost €184 billion. Nearly €69 billion of these used GSP special preferences. High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission Josep **Borrell** said: *"Trade is one of the crucial tools the EU has at hand to address, support and improve human rights, labour rights and good governance, which are pillars of sustainable development, around the world. Through the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences, we support developing countries to grow and advance in a sustainable way, not least when it comes to climate action. Our preferential trade tariffs help to take thousands out of poverty, to reduce inequalities, and to bring economic growth."* Commissioner for Trade Phil **Hogan** said: *"Thanks to our trade preferences, the EU imports twice as much from least developed countries as the rest of the world does. This trademark tool of the EU's trade policy underpins millions of jobs in the world's poorest countries and acts as an incentive to countries to implement international conventions on human rights, labour rights, good governance and the environment."* The Generalised Scheme of Preferences removes import duties on developing countries' exports to the EU. By creating additional export opportunities, it helps the countries to tackle poverty and create jobs while also respecting sustainable development principles. For instance, this report shows that, thanks to the GSP, countries like Sri Lanka, Mongolia and Bolivia are more effectively tackling child labour. The EU's trade agenda contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals around the world. The preferences provide beneficiary countries with an incentive to take further steps towards effectively implementing international conventions related to human rights, labour rights, environment and good governance. Challenges remain in many of the 71 GSP beneficiary countries, including when it comes to restrictions on civil society and freedom of the media, access to justice, minorities' rights, capital punishment and freedom of association. Insufficient progress, including in some of the largest beneficiaries, has resulted in the EU increasing its monitoring and enhancing its engagement, in particular regarding human rights and labour rights. In the case of Cambodia, this has led to the EU initiating the procedure to temporarily withdraw preferences because of the serious and systematic violation of the principles of core United Nations and International Labour Organization conventions. The report looks at the extent to which GSP countries make the most of the scheme. It also examines a number of overarching issues such as the freedom of civil society to operate, progress on tackling child labour, and



environmental and good governance concerns. The report gives examples of how the EU works with all stakeholders, such as civil society, international organisations – in particular the United Nations and International Labour Organization monitoring bodies – and beneficiary country authorities to make GSP more effective and to make sure that trade and values advance simultaneously. EU industry is an important partner in making sustainable development a reality by investing and producing in, and sourcing from, GSP countries and by ensuring that international labour and environmental standards are met.

Background

This third biennial report is accompanied by ten Joint Staff Working Documents written by the European Commission and the European External Action Service. Nine of the documents assess the performance of each of the nine beneficiaries of the GSP+ arrangement; the tenth assesses the three GSP beneficiary countries Bangladesh, Cambodia and Myanmar, with which the EU started enhanced engagement in 2017 – a more intense dialogue on issues related to human rights and labour rights.

The EU's GSP has three arrangements:

- A General Arrangement for low and lower-middle income countries, providing the partial or full removal of customs duties on two-thirds of tariff lines (15 beneficiaries);
- GSP+ is a special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance. It slashes these same tariffs to 0% for vulnerable low and lower-middle income countries that implement 27 international conventions related to human rights, labour rights, protection of the environment and good governance (8 beneficiaries);
- EBA (Everything But Arms) is a special arrangement for least developed countries, giving them duty-free, quota-free access for all products except arms and ammunition (48 beneficiaries).

3. Review of EU economic governance and launches debate on its future

The Commission presents a review of the effectiveness of the economic surveillance framework and launches a public debate on its future.

The EU framework for economic surveillance has guided Member States in achieving their economic and fiscal policy objectives. It helped attain closer coordination of economic policies, address macroeconomic imbalances, reduce public deficits and debt levels. It created the conditions for sustainable growth and for achieving the Union's strategy for growth and jobs. However, some vulnerabilities remain and the fiscal framework has grown increasingly complex, hampering its buy-in. Moreover, the EU faces an economic context that has significantly



changed since the rules were established. The start of a new political cycle in the Union is an opportune and appropriate moment to assess the effectiveness of the current framework for economic and fiscal surveillance, especially the six-pack and two-pack reforms, for which the Commission is required to report on their application. Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Executive Vice-President for An Economy that Works for People said: “*Our shared fiscal rules are essential for the stability of our economies and the euro area.*”

Ensuring financial stability is a precondition for economic growth and job creation. They are also vital in terms of building trust among Member States for further progress on the deepening of the Economic and Monetary union. Our rules have evolved considerably since they were first established and they have yielded positive results. But they are today perceived as too complex and difficult to communicate. So we're looking forward to an open discussion on what has worked, what has not, and how to build consensus for streamlining the rules and making them even more effective.” Paolo **Gentiloni**, Commissioner for Economy, said: “*Economic policies in Europe must address the challenges we face today, which are clearly not the same as those of a decade ago. Stability remains a key objective, but there is an equally pressing need to support*

growth and in particular to mobilise the immense investments required to tackle climate change. We also need to enable more anti-cyclical fiscal policies, given the increasing constraints faced by the ECB. Finally, the complexity of our rules makes it harder to explain to our citizens what 'Brussels' is saying, and that is something none of us should accept. I look forward to a genuine debate on these issues in the coming months."

A changing economic context and new challenges

The economic governance framework has evolved over time, with changes introduced to respond to the emergence of new economic challenges. The six-pack and two-pack legislation was introduced to address the vulnerabilities exposed by the economic and financial crisis. The economic context has evolved materially since then. The European economy has experienced seven years of consecutive growth. No Member State is now subject to the corrective arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, the so-called Excessive Deficit Procedure, down from 24 Member States in 2011. However, the growth potential of many Member States has not recovered to pre-crisis levels and public debt levels remain high in some. Reform momentum has faded and progress has become uneven across countries and policy areas. Meanwhile, Europe is aiming to become the world's first climate-neutral continent and to seize the new opportunities of the digital age, as set out in the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy.

Assessing the European economic governance framework

The review seeks to assess how effective the economic surveillance framework has been in achieving three key objectives: ensuring sustainable government finances and economic growth, as well as avoiding macroeconomic imbalances; enabling closer coordination of economic policies; and promoting convergence in Member States' economic performance. The review finds that the surveillance framework has supported the correction of existing macroeconomic imbalances and the reduction of public debt. This, in turn, has helped to create the conditions for sustainable growth, strengthened resilience and reduced vulnerabilities to economic shocks. It has also promoted sustained convergence of Member States' economic performances and closer coordination of fiscal policies within the euro area. At the same time, public debt remains high in some Member States and the fiscal stance at Member State-level has frequently been pro-cyclical. Moreover, the composition of public finances has not become more growth-friendly, with Member States consistently opting to increase current expenditure rather than to protect investment. The review also finds that the fiscal framework has become excessively complex as a result of the need to cater for a wide variety of evolving circumstances while pursuing multiple objectives. This complexity means that the framework has become less transparent and predictable, which hampers communication and political ownership.



An inclusive debate

A high degree of consensus and trust amongst all key stakeholders is crucial for the effectiveness of economic surveillance in the EU. The Commission is therefore inviting stakeholders, including the other European institutions, national authorities, social partners and academia, to engage in a debate to provide their views on how the economic governance framework has functioned so far and on possible ways to enhance its effectiveness. This engagement will take place through various means including dedicated meetings, workshops and an online consultation platform. The Commission will take into consideration the views of stakeholders and the outcome of these consultations when it completes its reflections on possible future steps. This process should be completed by the end of 2020.

Background

The EU took a series of measures to strengthen its economic governance and surveillance framework as a response to the vulnerabilities exposed by the economic and financial crisis in 2008-2009. The six-pack and two-pack legislation was introduced to enhance the coordination of economic policy and promote sustained convergence of economic performance through strengthening budgetary surveillance under the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP). The legislation also introduced requirements for national fiscal frameworks and broadened the scope of surveillance to include macroeconomic imbalances. The revamped macroeconomic and budgetary surveillance was integrated into the European Semester, the framework for coordination of the economic policies, which was established in the same context.

4. EU accession process: more credible, dynamic, predictable and political

The European Commission put forward a proposal to drive forward the EU accession process, by making it more credible, with a stronger political steer, more dynamic and predictable.

Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, **Olivér Várhelyi**, commented: “*The European Union enlargement to the Western Balkans is a top priority for the Commission. We are working on three tracks: Firstly, we propose concrete steps on how to enhance the accession process. While we are strengthening and improving the process, the goal remains accession and full EU membership. Secondly, and in parallel, the Commission stands firmly by its recommendations to open accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania and will soon provide an update on the progress made by these two countries. Thirdly, in preparation of the EU-Western Balkans Summit in Zagreb in May, the Commission will come forward with an economic and investment development plan for the region.*”

Enhancing the accession process – A credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans

A more credible process: The accession process needs to build on trust, mutual confidence and clear commitments by the European Union and the Western Balkans. Credibility should be reinforced through an even **stronger focus on fundamental reforms**, starting with the rule of law, the functioning of democratic institutions and public administration as well as the economy of the candidate countries. When partner countries meet the objective criteria, the Member States



shall agree to move forward to the next stage of the process, respecting the merits-based approach. **A stronger political steer:** The political nature of the accession process requires a stronger **political steer and engagement at the highest levels**. The Commission proposes to increase the opportunities for high level political and policy dialogue, through regular EU-Western Balkans summits and intensified ministerial contacts. Moreover, **Member States should be involved more systematically in monitoring** and reviewing the process. All

bodies under Stabilisation and Association Agreement will focus much more on the key political issues and reforms, while Inter-Governmental Conferences will provide stronger political steering for the negotiations. **A more dynamic process:** To inject further dynamism into the negotiating process, the Commission proposes to group the negotiating **chapters in six thematic clusters**: fundamentals; internal market; competitiveness and inclusive growth; green agenda and sustainable connectivity; resources, agriculture and cohesion; external relations. Negotiations on each cluster will be open as a whole – after fulfilling the opening benchmarks - rather than on an individual chapter basis. Negotiations on the fundamentals will be open first and closed last and the progress on these will determine the overall pace of negotiations. The timeframe between opening a cluster and closing the individual chapters should be limited, preferably within a year fully dependant on the progress of the reforms. **A more predictable process:** The Commission will provide greater clarity on what the EU expects of enlargement countries at the different stages of the process. It will make clearer what the positive consequences progress on reforms can bring, and what will the negative consequences will be when there is no progress. To encourage demanding reforms, the Commission will better define the conditions set for candidates to progress and will provide clear and tangible incentives of direct interest to citizens. Incentives could include accelerated integration and “phasing-in” to individual EU policies, the EU market and EU programmes - while ensuring a level playing field - as well as increased funding and investments. The more candidates advance in their reforms, the more they will advance in the process. Equally, the Commission proposes more decisive measures proportionally sanctioning any serious or prolonged stagnation or backsliding in reform implementation and meeting the requirements of accession process. Negotiations could be put on hold in certain areas, or in the most serious cases, suspended overall, and already closed chapters could be re-opened; benefits of closer integration, like access to EU programmes, could be paused or withdrawn, and the scope and intensity of EU funding could be adjusted downward.

Next steps

The Commission hopes the Member States will endorse the proposal, in parallel with the opening of accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania, ahead of the European Union-

Western Balkans Summit in Zagreb on 6-7 May. For the summit the Commission will consider how to bring forward investment, socio- economic integration and the rule of law for the Western Balkans region.

5. Online shopping: traders to bring information policy in line with EU law

The European Commission is publishing the results of an EU-wide screening (“sweep”) of nearly 500 e-shops selling clothing and footwear, furniture and household items, and electric appliances.

This sweep was carried out by consumer protection authorities of 27 countries under the coordination of the Commission. The findings reveal that two-thirds of the screened websites do not comply with basic EU consumer rights. Didier **Reynders**, Commissioner for Justice, said: *"It is not acceptable that European consumers are not being properly informed of their rights relating to online deliveries in 2 out of 3 web shops. The EU rights, such as the right to return goods within 14 days, boost consumers' online trust. They should not be buried in small print." EU Consumer Rights Directive ensures that while making an online purchase every consumer has the right to receive clear, correct and comprehensible information about delivery arrangements, withdrawal rights and the legal guarantee in case the product is faulty.* Some of the key results of the screening include:



- More than a quarter of the flagged websites did not inform consumers about how to withdraw from a contract. This must be presented in a clear and understandable manner, specifying the right to withdraw within 14 days of receiving the good without the need to give a justification.
- Nearly half of the flagged websites were not clear about the time-limit to return the item within 14 days from the moment they have notified the trader of their intention to withdraw.
- In over one fifth of the flagged websites, the price initially shown was incomplete as it did not contain delivery, postal or other possible additional charges or information about the possibility of such charges.
- Over a third of the flagged websites did not inform consumers about the minimum 2-year legal guarantee to have a good repaired, replaced or reimbursed in case it was faulty at the moment of delivery (even if this becomes evident later on).
- Even though EU law mandates traders to include an easily accessible link to the Online Dispute Resolution platform on their website, informing consumers on their possibilities in case of a dispute, nearly 45% of all the websites screened did not provide such a link.
- One fifth of the flagged websites did not respect the Geo-blocking Regulation which allows consumers to shop from websites not delivering in their country of residence, provided they can get it delivered to an address in the country served by the trader i.e. the “shop like a local principle”.

As next steps, the national authorities will carry out an in-depth investigation of the above-mentioned irregularities, and the traders will then be requested to correct their websites. Consumer protection authorities will ensure full compliance by traders by activating their national enforcement procedures where necessary.

Background

The Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) is a network of authorities responsible for enforcing EU consumer laws to protect consumers' interests in all EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. To tackle cross-border issues, their actions are coordinated at EU level. The new CPC Regulation applies since 17 January 2020 and brings stronger powers to consumer authorities and improves how the European Commission and Member State authorities can work together to stop bad practices against consumers. EU wide sweeps are carried out annually by the network of consumer protection cooperation authorities on the basis of a common questionnaire prepared by the European Commission. The area of research is corresponding to the most common topics for consumer complaints. The objective is to cover as many web shops as possible so as to cover a large part of the market under scrutiny.

6. Secure 5G networks: EC endorses EU toolbox and sets out next steps

The Commission is endorsing the joint toolbox of mitigating measures agreed by EU Member States to address security risks related to the rollout of 5G, the fifth-generation of mobile networks.

This follows the European Council's call for a concerted approach to the security of 5G and the ensuing Commission Recommendation of March 2019. Member States have since identified risks and vulnerabilities at national level and published a joint EU risk assessment. Through the toolbox, the Member States are committing to move forward in a joint manner based on an objective assessment of identified risks and proportionate mitigating measures. With its Communication adopted, the Commission is launching relevant actions within its competence and is calling for key measures to be put in place by 30 April 2020. Margrethe **Vestager**, Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, said: *"We can do great things with 5G. The technology supports personalised medicines, precision agriculture and energy grids that*



can integrate all kinds of renewable energy. This will make a positive difference. But only if we can make our networks secure. Only then will the digital changes benefit all citizens." Margaritis **Schinas**, Vice-President for promoting our European Way of Life, said: *"A genuine Security Union is one which protects Europe's citizens, companies and critical infrastructure. 5G will be a ground-breaking technology but it cannot come at the expense of the security of our internal market. The toolbox is an important step in what must be a continuous*

effort in the EU's collective work to better protect our critical infrastructures." Thierry **Breton**, Commissioner for the Internal Market, said: *"Europe has everything it takes to lead the technology race. Be it developing or deploying 5G technology – our industry is already well off the starting blocks. Today we are equipping EU Member States, telecoms operators and users with the tools to build and protect a European infrastructure with the highest security standards so we all fully benefit from the potential that 5G has to offer."* While market players are largely responsible for the secure rollout of 5G, and Member States are responsible for national security, 5G network security is an issue of strategic importance for the entire Single Market and the EU's technological sovereignty. Closely coordinated implementation of the toolbox is indispensable to ensure EU businesses and citizens can make full use of all the benefits of the new technology in a secure way. 5G will play a key role in the future development of Europe's digital economy and society. It will be a major enabler for future digital services in core areas of citizens' lives and an important basis for the digital and green transformations. With worldwide 5G revenues estimated at €225 billion in 2025, 5G is a key asset for Europe to compete in the global market and its cybersecurity is crucial for ensuring the strategic autonomy of the Union. Billions of connected objects and systems are concerned, including in critical sectors such as energy, transport, banking, and health, as well as industrial control systems carrying sensitive information and supporting safety systems. At the same time, due to a less centralised architecture, smart computing power at the edge, the need for more antennas, and increased dependency on software, 5G networks offer more potential entry points for attackers. Cyber security threats are on the rise and become increasingly sophisticated. As many critical services will depend on 5G, ensuring the security of networks is of highest strategic importance for the entire EU. A new Eurobarometer survey shows that awareness of cybercrime is rising, with 52% of respondents stating they are fairly well or very well informed about cybercrime, up from 46% in 2017.

EU toolbox conclusions

The Member States, acting through the NIS Cooperation Group, have adopted the toolbox. The toolbox addresses all risks identified in the EU coordinated assessment, including risks related to non-technical factors, such as the risk of interference from non-EU state or state-backed actors through the 5G supply chain. Based on last October's EU risk assessment report, the toolbox includes strategic and technical measures and corresponding actions to reinforce their effectiveness. These are calibrated based on objective factors. In the toolbox conclusions, Member States agreed to strengthen security requirements, to assess the risk profiles of suppliers, to apply relevant restrictions for suppliers considered to be high risk including

necessary exclusions for key assets considered as critical and sensitive (such as the core network functions), and to have strategies in place to ensure the diversification of vendors. While the decision on specific security measures remains the responsibility of Member States, the collective work on the toolbox demonstrates a strong determination to jointly respond to the security challenges of 5G networks. This is essential for a successful and credible EU approach to 5G security and to ensure the continued openness of the internal market provided risk-based EU security requirements are respected. The Commission will support the implementation of an EU approach on 5G cybersecurity and will act, as requested by Member States, using, where appropriate, all the tools at its disposal to ensure the security of the 5G infrastructure and supply chain:

- Telecoms and cybersecurity rules;
- Coordination on standardisation as well as EU-wide certification;
- Foreign direct investment screening framework to protect the European 5G supply chain;
- Trade defence instruments;
- Competition rules;
- Public procurement, ensuring that due consideration is given to security aspects;
- EU funding programmes, ensuring that beneficiaries comply with relevant security requirements.

Next Steps

The Commission calls on Member States to take steps to implement the set of measures recommended in the toolbox conclusions by 30 April 2020 and to prepare a joint report on the implementation in each Member State by 30 June 2020. Together with the EU Cybersecurity Agency, the Commission will continue to provide its full support including by launching relevant actions in the areas under its competence. The NIS Cooperation Group will continue to work in order to support the implementation of the toolbox.

Background

To support the deployment and take-up of 5G networks, the Commission has presented a 5G Action Plan in September 2016. Today, Europe is one of the most advanced regions in the world



when it comes to the commercial launch of 5G services, with an investment of €1 billion, including €300 million in EU funding. By the end of this year, the first 5G services are expected to be available in 138 European cities. On 26 March 2019, following a call from the European Council, the Commission adopted a Recommendation on Cybersecurity of 5G networks calling on Member States to complete national risk assessments, review their measures and work together on a coordinated risk assessment and a common toolbox of mitigating measures. Member State completed their national risk assessments and

transmitted the results to the Commission and the EU Cybersecurity Agency. In October 2019, the NIS Cooperation Group published a coordinated EU report, identifying the main threats and threats actors, the most sensitive assets, the main vulnerabilities and a number of strategic risks. The report highlighted a number of security challenges linked to 5G networks, and defined factors to assess the risk profiles of individual suppliers. In November 2019, the EU Cybersecurity Agency published a dedicated 5G threat landscape mapping as further input to the toolbox.

7. European Commission 2020 Work Programme

The European Commission adopted its 2020 Work Programme. It sets out the actions the Commission will take in 2020 to turn the Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen into tangible benefits for European citizens, businesses and society.

The driving force behind this first Work Programme is to successfully grasp the opportunities that the twin ecological and digital transitions will bring. Ursula **von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission, said: *“This Commission is committed to tackle our generational challenges such as climate change, digitisation and migration. We are committed to deliver on the European Green Deal and to improve chances for European citizens and businesses in the digital*

transformation. This Work Programme will help building a Union that strives for more.”



Maros **Šefčovič**, Vice-President in charge of Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight said: “Bringing our ambitions to life is a team effort between all institutions, Member States and key partners. Therefore, the Commission Work Programme also reflects the main priorities of the European Parliament and the European Council. Moreover, for the first time, we have integrated insights on long-term trends that are shaping our economies and societies. Strategic foresight will be the compass guiding our work as we move to design future-proof policies that forcefully address the needs

of all Europeans and strengthen the geopolitical position of our Union.”

Kick-starting the transition to a fair, climate-neutral and digital Europe

In 2020, the European Commission will start turning the six headline ambitions of President **von der Leyen** into concrete initiatives that will then be negotiated and implemented in cooperation with the European Parliament, Member States and other partners:

- **A European Green Deal:** After tabling the first key initiatives in December 2019 and January 2020, the Commission will propose a European climate law to enshrine the 2050 carbon neutrality objective into legislation. A European Climate Pact will bring together all of these efforts, involving regions, local communities, civil society, schools, industry and individuals. The EU will also lead international negotiations ahead of the COP26 in Glasgow. The Commission will present initiatives to tackle the loss of biodiversity and – through a ‘Farm to Fork’ Strategy – support farmers in providing high quality, affordable and safe food in a more sustainable way.
- **A Europe fit for the digital age:** A new European Data Strategy will enable our Union to make the most of the enormous value of non-personal data as an ever-expanding and re-usable asset in the digital economy. This will cover the best possible use of the potential of digital data and the development and uptake of artificial intelligence that respects our European values and fundamental rights. A new Industrial Strategy for Europe will strengthen our industrial and innovation capacities, while the Digital Services Act will reinforce the single market for digital services and help provide smaller businesses with the legal clarity and level playing field they need.
- **An economy that works for people:** After presenting its first ideas on a strong social Europe in January 2020, the Commission will take action to embed the twin digital and climate transitions into our unique social market economy ensuring our economy combines social fairness, sustainability and economic growth. While respecting national traditions, the Commission will put forward proposals to guarantee fair minimum wages for workers in the EU, for a European unemployment reinsurance scheme, and initiatives to ensure effective and fair taxation. The Commission will also propose a European Child Guarantee to ensure that children have access to basic services and will reinforce the Youth Guarantee to support the education of young people as well as the training and job opportunities they need.
- **A stronger Europe in the world:** The Commission will develop new strategies for working with our neighbours in Africa and the Western Balkans. The Commission will continue to push for the opening of accession negotiations with North Macedonia and Albania. In parallel, it will seek to keep up the momentum by putting forward ways to enhance the accession process, including on the enlargement methodology and on a reinforced investment framework. We will remain committed to upholding, updating and upgrading the rules-based order to make it fit for today’s realities. To strengthen the geopolitical role of the Commission, all Work Programme initiatives will have a strong external dimension.
- **Promoting our European way of life:** The Commission will present a New Pact on Migration and Asylum - the centrepiece in the reform of the asylum policy. The Commission will also support the health protection of Europeans and lead the fight against cancer. Initiatives will help to step up investment in people’s skills and help them to master the challenges of the digital and ecological transitions. The Commission will also put forward a new EU Security Union Strategy setting out the areas where the Union can bring added value to support Member States in ensuring security – from combatting terrorism and organised crime, to

preventing and detecting hybrid threats and enhancing cybersecurity and increasing the resilience of our critical infrastructure.

- **A new push for European democracy:** Together with the other EU institutions and partners, the Commission will launch the Conference on the Future of Europe, engaging citizens to shape EU actions. The Commission will continue ensuring a strong rule of law culture in the EU. We will also look at how new demographic realities affect everything from employment, to social protection, public health, public finance and regional policy, digital connectivity, skills and integration and respond through initiatives on ageing for example.

A full list of the 43 new policy objectives under the six headline ambitions are set out in Annex 1 of the Work Programme.

Applying political discontinuity

In preparing the Work Programme, the Commission examined all proposals that currently are awaiting decision by the European Parliament and the Council, and is proposing to withdraw and repeal 34 of them. Some of them do not match the new Commission's political priorities; for the majority of initiatives, the Commission remains strongly committed to deliver on their objectives. The Commission will reflect on better and more efficient ways to pursue the objectives and will consult the European Parliament and the Council before formalising the withdrawals. A full list of the proposals for withdrawal is set out in Annex 4 of the Work Programme.

Strengthening policy-making and implementation with a future perspective

As of 2020, the Commission will make greater use of its strategic foresight capacities to identify long-term trends, improve the Commission's priority setting and evidence-based policy-making. A reinforced Better Regulation framework will ensure that policies deliver tangible results and make the lives of people and businesses easier. In particular, the 'one-in, one-out' approach will ensure that newly introduced burdens are offset by relieving people and businesses – notably SMEs – of equivalent administrative costs at EU level in the same policy area. A Fit-for-future platform will also support the Commission's simplification efforts. A full list of proposals for regulatory simplification is set out in Annex 2 of the Work Programme.

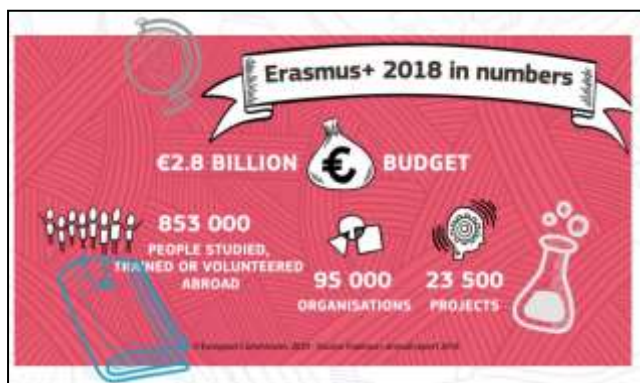
Delivering the joint agenda

The Commission cooperated closely with the European Parliament, Member States and the consultative committees to draw up its Work Programme before presenting it. Continuing work in this team spirit, the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council will now start discussions for establishing a list of joint priorities on which co-legislators agree to take swift action.

8. Erasmus+: a life-changing experience for 10 million young Europeans

The 2018 annual report on Erasmus+, shows that over the last three decades, more than 10 million people have participated in what turned out to be a life-changing experience for many of them.

Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinās**, said: *“People across Europe engage, exchange and learn when they participate in education, youth and sporting activities across borders. Erasmus+ is a fantastic common success and we should aim for more. More participants, more mobility, more diversity, more opportunities.”* At the opening of a stakeholder event on the new Erasmus+ programme in Brussels, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**, said: *“Erasmus+ has become for our younger generations a gateway to Europe and to the world. It is one of the EU's most tangible achievements: uniting people across the continent, creating a sense of belonging and solidarity, raising qualifications, and improving the prospects of participants.”* With a budget of €2.8 billion, a 10% funding increase compared to 2017, 2018 was yet another record year. Erasmus+ funded more than 23,500 projects and overall, it supported the mobility of over 850,000 students, apprentices, teachers, and youth workers in 2018. Nearly 10% of the 470,000 students, trainees,



and staff in higher education who received a grant during the 2017/2018 academic year, travelled to and from partner countries across the world. In addition to university students and staff, Erasmus+ supported 40,000 teachers and school staff, 148,000 vocational education and training learners, 8,400 adult education staff, and 155,000 young people and youth workers. The programme also financed 199 sports projects, 118 of which were run by grassroots sport organisations. Erasmus+ supported the annual European Week of Sport, which saw unprecedented success with more than 50,000 events across Europe. Building on synergies with the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018, many actions supported by Erasmus+ addressed the importance of Europe's cultural heritage. Since 2018, Erasmus+ also supports the initiative to make the European Education Area a reality by 2025. The European Universities initiative helps higher education institutions to form strong new alliances.

Background

Erasmus+ and its predecessors are among the most successful EU programmes. Since 1987, they have been offering young people opportunities to gain new experiences by going abroad. The current Erasmus+ programme, running from 2014 to 2020, has a budget of €14.7 billion and will provide opportunities for 3.7% of young people in the EU to study, train, gain work experience, and volunteer abroad. The geographical scope of the programme has expanded from 11 countries in 1987 to 34 in 2020 (which includes all 28 EU Member States as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey). The programme is also open to partner countries across the world. In May 2018, the Commission presented its proposal for an ambitious new Erasmus programme, seeking to double the budget to €30 billion in the EU's next long-term budget for the period 2021-2027. The aim is to make the programme even more inclusive, more international and accessible to people from a diverse range of backgrounds.

9. Financing the green transition

The European Union is committed to becoming the first climate-neutral bloc in the world by 2050. This requires significant investment from both the EU and the national public sector, as well as the private sector.

The European Green Deal's Investment Plan - the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan - presented will mobilise public investment and help to unlock private funds through EU financial instruments, notably InvestEU, which would lead to at least €1 trillion of investments. While all Member States, regions and sectors will need to contribute to the transition, the scale of the challenge is not the same. Some regions will be particularly affected and will undergo a profound economic and social transformation. The Just Transition Mechanism will provide tailored financial and practical support to help workers and generate the necessary investments in those areas. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said: *"People are at the core of the European Green Deal, our vision to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050. The transformation ahead of us is unprecedented.*



And it will only work if it is just - and if it works for all. We will support our people and our regions that need to make bigger efforts in this transformation, to make sure that we leave no one behind. The Green Deal comes with important investment needs, which we will turn into investment opportunities. The plan that we present, to mobilise at least €1 trillion, will show the direction and unleash a green investment wave." Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans, said: *"The necessary transition towards climate-neutrality is going to improve people's well-being and make Europe more competitive. But it will require more efforts from citizens, sectors and regions that rely more on fossil fuels than others. The Just Transition Mechanism will help support those most affected by making investments more attractive and proposing a package of financial and practical support worth at least €100 billion. This is our pledge of solidarity and fairness."* Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People, added: *"For Europe to transition to a climate-neutral economy,*

we need both political commitment and massive investments. The Green Deal shows our determination to tackle climate change, which we are now backing up with a funding plan. First, we will use the EU budget to leverage private funds for green projects across Europe and support the regions and people most affected by transition. Second, we will create the right regulatory incentives for green investments to thrive. Last but not least, we will help public authorities and market players to identify and develop such projects. The European Union was not built in a day. A Green Europe will not happen overnight. Putting sustainability at the heart of how we invest requires a change of mindset. We have taken an important step towards achieving this today."

The European Green Deal Investment Plan

The European Green Deal Investment Plan will mobilise EU funding and create an enabling framework to facilitate and stimulate the public and private investments needed for the transition to a climate-neutral, green, competitive and inclusive economy. Complementing other initiatives announced under the Green Deal, the Plan is based on three dimensions: Financing: mobilising at least €1 trillion of sustainable investments over the next decade. A greater share of spending on climate and environmental action from the EU budget than ever before will crowd in private funding, with a key role to be played by the European Investment Bank. Enabling: providing incentives to unlock and redirect public and private investment. The EU will provide tools for investors by putting sustainable finance at the heart of the financial system, and will facilitate sustainable investment by public authorities by encouraging green budgeting and procurement,



and by designing ways to facilitate procedures to approve State Aid for just transition regions. Practical support: the Commission will provide support to public authorities and project promoters in planning, designing and executing sustainable projects.

The Just Transition Mechanism

The Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) is a key tool to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way, leaving no one behind. While all regions will require funding and the European Green Deal Investment Plan caters for that, the Mechanism provides targeted support to help mobilise at least €100 billion over the period 2021-2027 in the most affected regions, to alleviate

the socio-economic impact of the transition. The Mechanism will create the necessary investment to help workers and communities which rely on the fossil fuel value chain. It will come in addition to the substantial contribution of the EU's budget through all instruments directly relevant to the transition. The Just Transition Mechanism will consist of three main sources of financing:

1. **A Just Transition Fund**, which will receive €7.5 billion of fresh EU funds, coming on top of the Commission's proposal for the next long-term EU budget. In order to tap into their share of the Fund, Member States will, in dialogue with the Commission, have to identify the eligible territories through dedicated territorial just transition plans. They will also have to commit to match each euro from the Just Transition Fund with money from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund Plus and provide additional national resources. Taken together, this will provide between €30 and €50 billion of funding, which will mobilise even more investments. The Fund will primarily provide grants to regions. It will, for example, support workers to develop skills and competences for the job market of the future and help SMEs, start-ups and incubators to create new economic opportunities in these regions. It will also support investments in the clean energy transition, for example in energy efficiency.
2. **A dedicated just transition scheme under InvestEU** to mobilise up to €45 billion of investments. It will seek to attract private investments, including in sustainable energy and transport that benefit those regions and help their economies find new sources of growth.
3. **A public sector loan facility with the European Investment Bank backed by the EU budget** to mobilise between €25 and €30 billion of investments. It will be used for loans to the public sector, for instance for investments in district heating networks and renovation of buildings. The Commission will come with a legislative proposal to set this up in March 2020.

The Just Transition Mechanism is about more than funding: relying on a Just Transition Platform, the Commission will be providing technical assistance to Member States and investors and make sure the affected communities, local authorities, social partners and non-governmental organisations are involved. The Just Transition Mechanism will include a strong governance framework centred on territorial just transition plans.

Background

On 11 December 2019, the Commission presented the European Green Deal, with the ambition of becoming the first climate-neutral bloc in the world by 2050. Europe's transition to a sustainable economy means significant investment efforts across all sectors: reaching the current 2030 climate and energy targets will require additional investments of €260 billion a year by 2030. The success of the European Green Deal Investment Plan will depend on the engagement of all actors involved. It is vital that Member States and the European Parliament maintain the high ambition of the Commission proposal during the negotiations on the upcoming financial framework. A swift adoption of the proposal for a Just Transition Fund Regulation will be crucial. The Commission will closely monitor and evaluate the progress on this transition path. As part of these efforts, every year the Commission will hold a Sustainable Investment Summit, involving all relevant stakeholders, and it will continue to work for promoting and financing the transition. The Commission invites the investment community to make full use of the enabling regulatory conditions and ever-growing needs for sustainable investments, and authorities to take an active role in identifying and promoting such investments.

10. Less than half of EU travellers are aware of EU Passenger Rights

The European Commission released the results of a Eurobarometer survey on passenger rights in the European Union (EU).

According to the survey, 43% of EU citizens who have travelled by air, long-distance rail, coach, ship or ferry in the previous 12 months ('travellers') know that the EU has put in place rights for passengers. Commissioner for Transport Adina Vălean said: *"The European Union is the only*

area in the world where citizens are protected by a full set of passenger rights. However, these rights need to be better known and easier to understand and enforced. Our rules should also provide more legal certainty to passengers and the industry. This is why the Commission proposed to modernise air and rail passenger rights. We now need Council and the European Parliament to swiftly reach agreement on them to ensure that people travelling in the EU are effectively protected." Passenger rights are defined at EU level. They are applied by transport providers and enforced by national bodies. Disparities between national practices can make it hard for passengers to get a clear picture of what to do and to whom to turn, especially as passengers often move across EU borders. The Commission has already stepped up efforts to make passenger rights clearer, and to raise awareness about these rights. The Commission has done so through legislative proposals for air and rail passenger rights, through guidelines, and through regular communication about relevant case law. The Commission also launched an awareness-raising campaign.



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More results from the survey:

- 32% of all respondents (including those who did not travel with one of the transport modes referred to above in the last 12 months) know passenger rights exist in the EU, for air, rail, coach or ship or ferry transport. But only 14% are specifically aware for air travel, 8% for rail, 5% for coach and 3% for travel by ship or ferry. Respondents who have travelled by at least one of these modes are more likely to be aware of passenger rights (43% vs 32%), although this remains below 50%.
- The percentage of travellers who feel they were well informed about their rights by transport companies before travelling varies by transport mode: 40% for air passengers, 29% for ship or ferry passengers, 26% for rail passengers and 26% for coach passengers. Percentages are even lower for information received during and after travel.
- Respondents who have experienced disruption during air travel are more likely to have complained than those using other modes: 37% of air passengers vs 26% of coach passengers, 24% of rail passengers, and 18% of ship or ferry passengers complained. All modes combined: 26%. Among respondents who experienced a travel disruption but did not

make an official complaint (72%), the most likely reason for not complaining was the feeling that it was useless to do so (45%), followed by the amount of money involved being seen as too small (25%).

- Of those who have experienced air travel disruption over the last 12 months, 53% indicated that the airline offered some form of help (either food and drinks or alternative flight, reimbursement, financial compensation, accommodation, etc.), whether passengers complained or not. Only 43% of rail passenger respondents, and 38% who had travelled by coach, ship or ferry indicated that transport companies offered help in case of disruptions.
- 55% of respondents who complained to the transport company about disruption say they were satisfied by the way their complaint was dealt with, but only 37% of those who had experienced a disruption claimed to be satisfied with the way the transport company informed them about complaints procedures.
- A large majority (81%) of those who have at some point requested assistance for a person with a disability or reduced mobility (i.e. 8% of respondents) declare themselves satisfied with the transport company's response. Fewer (60%) expressed satisfaction when more than one mode was used.

Next steps

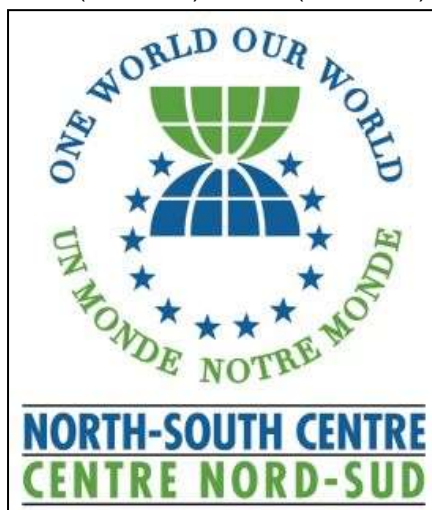
The survey results will feed into two ongoing legislative procedures, on rail and air passenger rights, as well as evaluations of the rights of bus & coach passengers, the rights of ship and ferry passengers, and the rights of air passengers with disabilities or reduced mobility. Accessibility to multimodal transport for these passengers, as well as other travellers, will also be considered in this context.

Background information

The survey was conducted between 19 February and 4 March 2019, and involved interviewing 27,973 EU citizens. EU legislation to protect passenger rights and ensure they are not lost in a myriad of national rules has been introduced for all transport modes – this is unique in the world, no other continent offers passengers of all modes such protection.

11. North-South Centre of the Council of Europe traineeship opportunities

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe offers traineeships twice a year for a period of three (minimum) to five (maximum) months. Each year the sessions take place as follows: First



session: between January and June (deadline: 31 October of the previous year); Second session: between July and December (**deadline: 30 April of the year of the traineeship**). Applications that are incomplete or received after the deadline will not be processed. Nationals of the member states of the North-South Centre and/or the Council of Europe. Candidates who have already completed an internship at the Council of Europe or any of its institutions are not eligible. **Requirements:** Completion of higher education or successful completion of at least three years of university study; A very good knowledge of one of the Council of Europe's official languages (English and French) and a good knowledge of the other; Good drafting ability.

Duties

The duties to which trainees are assigned include assisting with the preparation of activities, research, different types

of drafting and other day-to-day administrative tasks.

Conditions

The North-South Centre covers its trainees for medical and accident insurance during the traineeship period and a monthly basic allowance of 200€. Trainees are entitled to two days leave per month. The usual working hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 17:30.

How to apply?

Please fill in the available application and follow instructions for sending CV and Motivation Letter. All applications must be completed in either English or French. Applications received in other languages will not be taken into consideration. More information are available at the following [link](#).

12. Traineeships at the European Court of Justice

Every year, the Court of Justice of the European Union offers a limited number of paid traineeships of five months' duration in the chambers of Members of the Court of Justice and the General Court and in the administrative departments of the Court. Traineeships in the Court's administrative departments are generally undertaken in the Directorate for Legal Translation, the Research and Documentation Directorate, the Communication Directorate, the Protocol and Visits Directorate, the office of the Legal Adviser on Administrative Matters, the Registry of the General Court or the Interpretation Directorate (for detailed rules regarding interpreting traineeships, see below). There are two traineeship periods: from 1 March to 31 July (applications to be made between 1 July and 15 September of each year); from 16 September to 15 February for the traineeships in the Members' chambers and 1 October to 28 February for the traineeships in the administrative departments (applications to be made between **1 February and 15 April** of each year). Applicants, who must hold a degree in law or in political sciences (majority content, law) or, for traineeships in the Interpretation Directorate, a diploma in conference interpreting, must apply using the [EU CV Online](#) application within the above time limits. The grant paid is €1177 net per month. A contribution of €150 towards travel costs is also made to paid trainees whose place of residence is located 200km or more from the seat of the Court of Justice of the European Union. In view of the nature of the working environment, a good knowledge of French is desirable. **For more information and applications please consult the following [link](#).**



13. Traineeships at the offices of the European Ombudsman

The European Ombudsman's office offers traineeships that allow trainees to add practical experience to the knowledge and qualifications acquired during their course of study. The European Ombudsman is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from anybody who meets the eligibility criteria and required qualifications. We will try to accommodate the needs of applicants with disabilities. For this traineeship period, the Ombudsman is offering traineeships in: Case handling; Media and communication. **Eligibility criteria and required qualifications:** Candidates should be nationals of a Member State of the European Union, or of an accession/candidate country; Candidates should not have benefitted, for more than eight consecutive weeks or two full months, from a previous paid traineeship or work contract in a



European institution, body, agency, office, service, delegation, representation, including the office of a Member of the European Parliament or of a European political group; They should have a thorough knowledge of one of the official languages of the EU and very good knowledge of another. The main working language of the Ombudsman's office is English and therefore a very good knowledge of English is required; Candidates applying for case handling should have a degree or diploma of at least 3 years in either law, political science, European studies, or European public administration; Candidates applying for media and communication should have a degree or diploma of at least 3 years in communication, journalism or media, with focus on online media and/or digital marketing.

Candidates applying for case handling and communication should have sound: understanding of the role of the European Ombudsman; understanding of the EU institutions; drafting skills in English; drafting skills in another official language of the European Union; analytical and research skills.

As a trainee in case handling, you will:

- Provide support to the investigation of complaints against EU institutions and bodies concerning issues relevant to EU administration, including research and drafting of decisions and preparatory notes;
- Handling of "out-of-mandate" complaints;

- Monitor EU policy developments and carry out research relevant to the Ombudsman's activities;
- Replying to citizens' information requests;
- Participate in meetings with EU institutions and bodies and draft minutes of meetings;
- Provide practical support in meetings and other events organised by the Office.

As a trainee in media and communication, you will:

- Assist with communication-related tasks with a focus on social media (mainly LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter) and online communication tools, including website management;
- Contribute to the implementation of the Unit's strategy by proposing, producing and editing online and offline content;
- Carrying out research relevant to the work of the Ombudsman for speeches and briefings;
- Assist in other communication activities, such as events and publications;
- Draft minutes of meetings.

Place of work: Brussels or Strasbourg.

6. Deadline for applications

You must submit your application through the online application system on the Ombudsman's website by **31 March 2020 (23:59)** at the very latest. Avoid waiting until the last minute to send a full application. Carefully read the rules and prepare the required scanned documents in advance, before starting the registration process. For general information on traineeships, their aim, duration and monthly grants see the [Decision of the European Ombudsman concerning traineeships](#). For general information on the processing of your personal data see the [privacy statement](#). For more information and applications please consult the following [link](#).

14. Gaetano Cozzi Prize for studies on history of games

As part of its long-standing support for research into **games, festive events, sports and leisure activities in general up to the outbreak of World War II**, the Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche sponsors two annual awards of 3,000 Euros each for young scholars. The awards continue in the tradition of the Foundation, which over thirty years has assigned 70 scholarships to graduates over a broad range of academic levels. Started in 1988 in memory of Stefano Benetton, the scholarships were, from 2001 to 2015, dedicated to Gaetano Cozzi, the illustrious scholar, Selection board chairman until 2000, and driving force behind the initiative until his death in 2001. The award for unpublished essays is also dedicated to the memory of Gaetano Cozzi. Chaired by Gherardo Ortali, the Selection board is made up of directors of the journal [«Ludica. Annali di storia e civiltà del gioco»](#). The regulations governing the award for unpublished essays are available in pdf format in different languages on this same site. Submissions must be sent in digital format (Word and pdf) to Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche at: pubblicazioni@fbsr.it, no later than **15th March 2020**. For more information please consult the following [link](#).



15. Lorenzo Natali Media Prize 2020

Journalists covering development can apply for the European Commission's Lorenzo Natali Media Prize until **15th March**. The Prize rewards journalists from around the globe for their online, print or audio-visual reporting of stories of human achievements and perseverance around sustainable development issues. Their stories bring injustices to light and compel us to act. To mark the launch, Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta **Urpilainen** said, *“Every year, the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize recognises journalists' contribution to building more sustainable, fair and prosperous societies and speaking truth to power. Their human stories help to shed light and search solutions to poverty, inequalities and injustices. I would like to warmly encourage*

journalists covering sustainable development stories worldwide to apply and join the global community of winners, jury members and partners of the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize.” The



overarching theme of the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize is journalism for sustainable development. Entries for this year's competition should relate to international partnership issues such as, but not limited to, fighting poverty and inequalities, human rights, democracy, youth, gender equality, environment and climate change, health, technology and digitalisation.

Who can apply?

Journalists are encouraged to send in entries for one of three categories: **Grand Prize:** for reporting published by a media outlet based in one of the European Union's partner countries. **Europe Prize:** for reporting published by a media outlet based in the European Union. **Best Emerging Journalist Prize:** for reporting by journalists

under the age of 30, published in a media outlet based in the European Union or in one of its partner countries. For the 2020 Lorenzo Natali Media Prize, entries published in a UK-based outlet are eligible if published between 10 March 2019 and 31 January 2020. Detailed information on the terms and conditions is available [here](#).

How do I apply?

Journalists are invited to [submit their work](#) online. Applications are open **from 10 February to 23:59 CET on 15 March 2020**.

Who chooses the winners?

The selection will be carried out by a Grand Jury of renowned journalists and development specialists from around the world. Each category winner will receive €10,000. The winner of the Best Emerging Journalist category will also be offered work experience with a media partner. The winners will be announced and receive their awards at the [European Development Days](#) in Brussels on 9 and 10 June 2020.

Background

Since 1992, the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize has celebrated journalists who report on international partnerships stories around the world. It recognises journalism's contribution to building more sustainable, fair and prosperous societies **Lorenzo Natali** was a staunch defender of freedom of expression, democracy, human rights and development. He was an Italian politician and served as a Vice-President and European Commissioner from 1977 to 1989. He was Commissioner for Cooperation, Development Affairs and Enlargement from 1985 to 1989. Winning the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize is not only a personal achievement for the journalists concerned. It also recognises the media outlets that published their articles as platforms that champion sustainable development and democracy and give a voice to ordinary people.

16. BIM: concluded fourth meeting in Madrid

In the period 3-4 January 2020 took place in Madrid, Spain, the fourth meeting of the project "Borders in the Mind" (acronym "BIM"), approved in Spain in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The project proposes modern and relevant reception services designed by residents of local communities to inform visitors. The main objective of the project is to devise and provide innovative, practical and relevant tools and methodologies to promote tolerance and celebrate difference and identity. The project is also exploring the intangible cultural heritage, observing how current cultural beliefs, traditions and lifestyles have been influenced and continue to be influenced by events in our past, even though many people are unaware of it. During the project meeting, in which some delegates of EURO-NET participated, the partners took stock of the activities to be developed and defined the further steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months. Partner of the project are the following organisations: Interacting S.L. (Spain), project coordinator; Youth Power (Cyprus); EURASIA NET (France); Youth Center of Epirus (Greece); EURO-NET (Italy); Stichting chain foundation (The Netherlands); The Nerve Centre (UK). More information are available on the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Borders-in-the-Mind-2227951067468445/?modal=admin_todo_tour.



17. Concluded the kick of meeting of the ACT2IMPACT project

In the period 12-14 January 2020 took place in Alicante, Spain, the first meeting of the project "ACT2IMPACT", approved in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The project ACT2IMPACT aims to tackle the existing gap between the set of soft skills detained by young adults preparing to enter the labour market and the needs currently required by companies. In fact because the traditional education system is changing in a very slow mode, solutions to support young adults to face the new challenges of the changing labour market are highly needed. The project wants to develop, in 26 months of activity, an upskilling pathway that, through an integrated approach, supports the development of Critical and Creative Thinking soft skills. It intends to use a blended approach, based on short online training courses dedicated to Critical Thinking and Creativity, blended with "in-person" team work for an effective skills development. The project aims to develop a solution addressed to: young adults aged between 20 and 30 years old to permit them to enter more easily in the professional markets, educators and other training organizations, to support the development of key skills that will contribute to increased chances of professional success and satisfaction in their jobs. Partner of the project are the following organisations: FUNDEUN (Spain), UTH (Greece), E&D Knowledge Consulting, Lda (Portugal), Danmar Computers LLC (Poland) and EURO-NET (Italy). During the project meeting the partners examined the activities to be developed and defined the steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months. More information on Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Act2impact-101666948045902/?modal=admin_todo_tour.



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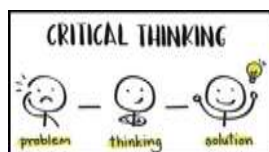
18. Concluded the first meeting in Spain of the ROBOTS project

In the period 15-16 January 2020 took place in Alicante, Spain, the first meeting of the project "NEW TRAINING RESOURCES FOR THE CHANGE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PARADIGM" (acronym "ROBOT@3DP"), approved in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The project aims to integrate additive manufacturing and 3D printers with mechatronics as the perfect complement for students to acquire knowledge that places them in the emerging concepts of Industry 4.0. The project plans to make the following products: poster; logo; brochure; n.4 newsletters (one every 6 months); n.4 Intellectual products; website; Facebook page. The project partnership is made up of: AIJU (Spain); START SMART SRL (Italy); Berzosa Injection Molds, S.L (Spain); TALLERES TIBI S.L. (Spain); SPOT DESIGN SRL (Romania); SOLSKI CENTER KRSKO SEVNICA (Slovenia); EURO-NET (Italy); CIFP DON BOSCO LHII (Spain). During the project meeting, in which a delegate from our association participated for EURO-NET, the partners examined the activities to be developed and defined the steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months. More information on the project can be found on the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/robot3dp/?modal=admin_todo_tour.



During the project meeting, in which a delegate from our association participated for EURO-NET, the partners examined the activities to be developed and defined the steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months. More information on the project can be found on the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/robot3dp/?modal=admin_todo_tour.

19. Approved our mobility project in Turkey



The "Critical Thinking" project, approved in Turkey as action n.2019-3-TR01-KA105-079895 by the competent National Erasmus Plus Agency, foresees the realization of a training course in Burdur. More information on the project and the activities it provides will be available in-depth in our next newsletter.

20. Our "Break Your Chains" project approved

The project "Break Your Chains" (acronym BYC), approved in the Erasmus Plus program by the National Youth Agency, as action n.2019-3-IT03-KA105-017544, will bring together 28 youth workers, NGO activists and young people (many of whom have fewer opportunities) from 7 different countries. The project was approved in the Erasmus Plus program by the National Youth Agency. The main idea of the project is to use "escape rooms" as a tool to spread knowledge of human rights and raise problems in this sector for young people. The partners of the project are: EURO-NET (Italy); AMITIE FRANCO RUSSE LANGUEDOC "AFR" (France); NGO LOGOS LATVJA (Latvia); ASOCIACIÓN XUVENIL AROUSA MOZA (Spain); EURO-IDEA (Poland); KIRSEHIR KÜLTÜR SANAT ÇEVRE KORUMA VE TANITMA DERNEGI (Turkey); ASOCIATIA CLUBUL SPORTIV EXPERIENTAMULTISPORT (Romania).



21. Multiplier Event of the Stereoscifi project in Potenza

In the 14 January 2020 took place in Potenza, Italy, the Multiplier Event of the European project «STEREOSCIFI – Stereotypes and Hard Science Fiction», the project was approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency of Portugal as part of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership program. The event, held at the University of Basilicata, was attended by 78 young students, teachers and professors from various educational institutions, all extremely interested in the activities developed to promote the project and its intellectual products. During the



event, the manuals created in the project were also distributed. More information on the project is available on the official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StereoScifi/>.

22. Approved our F.A.M.E.T project in Denmark

The project "Fostering Adult Migrant Entrepreneurial Training and Qualification" (acronym F.A.M.E.T.) focuses on adult education and lifelong learning, excluding barriers and obstacles to discrimination through the provision of education and training. The project is aimed at developing entrepreneurial skills and is aimed at migrants and refugees who wish to start a business. The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Denmark. The partners of the project are: AALBORG UNIVERSITET (Denmark); MARKEUT SKILLS SOCIEDAD LIMITADA (Spain); KAINOTOMIA & SIA EE (Greece); EURO-NET (Italy); DANMAR COMPUTERS SP ZOO (Poland); CROSSING BORDERS (Denmark) More information on the project will be available in our next newsletters.



23. E + Round Trip: concluded third project meeting in London

In the period 25-26 January 2020 took place in Hemel Hempstead, United Kingdom, the third meeting of the project "E+ Round Trip Online Preparation for Young People" that is an initiative approved by the Romanian National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the programme



Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Youth. The project wants to create a more modern, dynamic, committed and professional environment for young people. The main objectives are: to create an online pre-departure course tested by 150 young people and created for future European volunteers; improve the preparation of 150 young people for potential future youth exchanges; to increase the valorisation skills of 150 people - participants in the online form and potential participants in experiences abroad. The "E+ ROUND TRIP" platform, hosting

innovative and practical online tools for orientation and preparation, useful in all kinds of projects devoted to working with youth (youth exchanges, EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERING) will also function as database for future actions. This online platform will use participatory approaches and ICT-based methodologies to create or improve processes of recognition and validation of competences of young people. During the meeting the partners took stock of the activities to be developed in the coming months and defined the steps of the project to be implemented. You can already follow the development of the activities on the official Facebook page of the project at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/eplusroundtrip/>.

24. Concluded the first meeting of the "JSTE" project

In the period 7-8 February 2020 took place in London, United Kingdom, the first meeting of the project "Citizens of public life in digital learning" (acronym JSTE) project aims to develop innovative practices in the use of ICT in the effective teaching of literacy to adult migrants (refugees, newly arrived migrants, asylum seekers, young adult migrants and women migrants), testing and implementing innovative practices, including the creative use of ICT for language learning in the field of formal and non-formal adult education. It was approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices by the National Erasmus Plus Agency in the UK. The partners of the project are: URBAN MBA (England); MITRA FRANCE (France); NAMOI (Russian Federation); EURO-NET (Italy); ORGANIZATION FOR PROMOTION OF EUROPEAN ISSUES (Cyprus); BALLIBAG KÖYÜ YARDIMLASMA VE DAYANISMA DERNEGI (Turkey). The meeting in England served the partners to plan the activities of the initiative which will last until 30 September 2021. More information on the project's Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Citizens-of-public-life-in-digital-learning104604067783086/?modal=admin_todo_tour.



25. My Community 2020: the digital skills training course has started



In the days 8 and 15 February took place in Potenza, Italy, two of the modules of the digital skills training course planned for the project of "My Community 2020" that is an initiative approved by the UK Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education. The project aims to improve the digital skills, self-esteem and occupational skills of adult learners, as well as to encourage them to play an active role in their community as citizens. The purpose of these training modules, which involve young

people from Pakistan, Gambia, Nigeria, Albania and Italy, is to improve digital skills, provide security in encouraging, meeting and interviewing others, arouse interest and make an important contribution to the local cultural heritage. During the second appointment (15/02/2020), the journalist Vito Verrastro spoke about the interview techniques, a way that will allow them to get in touch with many people. The European initiative can already be followed on the official Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/My-Community-2020-893155357540688/>.

26. Concluded the first training course of the CDTMOOC project

In the period 9-15 February 2019 took place in Turku, Finland, the first training course (JSTE) of the project "CDTMOOC", an initiative approved by the Finnish National Agency in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships. The partnership consists of: University of Turku (Finland), EURO-NET (Italy), Succubus Interactive (France), Art Square Lab (Luxembourg), MSS (Iceland). The project aims to provide new tools and methodologies in line with the modernization and complexity of the current world of work, starting from the creativity of ideas as a new competence to be developed and cultivated by students. The project will provide both theoretical and practical tools such as: a free online course on transversal skills based on Creative Problem Solving and Design Thinking methodologies; guides on creativity for entrepreneurship; detailed reports on the real needs in terms of innovation required by the market throughout Europe. At the end of the project, the products and results developed will be disseminated in the European Union and beyond, thanks to an attractive platform with different game elements (so-called gamification) and to the already active website (www.cdtmooc.eu) which will contain a rich database of materials and interactive guides in different languages, and also thanks to a series of seminars in each partner country to present the intellectual products created in the biennial initiative.



27. Concluded the first meeting of the AKTIF project

In the period 12-15 February 2020 took place in Kırşehir, Turkey, the first meeting of the project



"Aktif yaslanma kapsamında mültecilerin yaşam kalitesinin artırılması" (in English "Increasing the quality of life of refugees under active aging"). This project was approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices from the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Turkey. The project wants to improve the living conditions of the refugees in the partners' countries. The partners of the project are: KIRSEHIR AILE CALISMA VE SOSYAL HIZMETLER IL MUDURLUGU (Turkey); KIRSEHIR IL MILLI EGITIM MUDURLUGU (Turkey); KIRSEHIR AHI

EVRAK UNIVERSITESI (Turkey); EURO-NET (Italy); ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS (Greece); GENISTA RESEARCH FOUNDATION (Malta); MUNICIPIO DE LOUSADA (Portugal). During the project meeting the partners examined the activities to be developed and defined the steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months.

28. Concluded the first training course of the Ruralities project

In the period 17-21 February 2020 takes place in Tolosa, France, the first training course (JSTE) of the project "Ruralities" that is developed in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships program for Adult Education. The main commitment of the Ruralities project is to allow citizens of rural and remote areas to become real actors for the improvement of social and physical living conditions in their localities. The specific project goal is to create a game based learning tool for being used in local trainings on participatory processes, in the frame of non-formal education. The target groups of Ruralities are: trainers, educators and experts working with disadvantaged learners in rural areas; Citizens living in rural and remote areas. The project partnership is made up of: IPSO FACTO (France); EV COMPARATIVE RESEARCH NETWORK (Germany); EURO-NET (Italy); PANEPISTIMIO THESSALIAS (Greece); ARBEIT UND BEBEN LAG MV (Germany); KRAJOWY INSTYTUT POLITYKI PRZESTRZENNEJ I MIESZKALNICTWA (Poland).



29. Final meeting of the INDI project

In the days 21-22 February will take place in Potenza, Italy, the final meeting of the project "Intercultural dialogue: a holistic approach to teaching drama, storytelling and video making techniques" (acronym InDi) that is an initiative approved by the UK Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education - Exchange of Good Practices. The partnership is composed by: Sirius Training C.I.C. (UK) project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); Mitra France (France); EESTI People to People (Estonia); Youth Information Centre-Municipality Kordelio Evosmosi (Greece). The objectives of the project are: to share best practices among project partners; to increase professional development of adult educators; to collect and develop methods of intercultural dialogue; to develop and reinforce EU networks for teaching and learning; to enrich partnership of adult education providers in partners' countries and Europe; to support social and educational value of European cultural heritage. Educators who work in adult education - teachers, tutors, mentors, social workers involved in lifelong learning in partners' institutions – are the main target group. The final beneficiaries are adult learners, including people with fewer opportunities. During the meeting the partners will take stock of the activities developed in the last few months. More information on the project is available on the official Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/IN-DI-1421157744681293/>.



30. Kick off meeting of the PRIMAE project

In the period 26-28 February will take place in Oxford, United Kingdom, the kick off meeting of the project "Participation and Recreation through Inclusive Martial Arts Education and E-Learning" (acronym PRIMAE). The project aims to develop an international recognition of certification and promote martial arts education through the industry's first online platform to also promote inclusion of people with disabilities. The project was approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in the UK. The partners of the project are: IKKAIDO LTD (England); AREADNE OE (Greece); DIGITAL FUTURE (Italy); EURO-NET (Italy); IKKAIDO INCLUSIVE MARTIAL ARTS (Ireland); STOCKHOLM VASTRA IDROTTSFORENING FOR FUNKTIONSNEDSÄTTA (Sweden); UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS (Cyprus); AUX COULEURS DU DEBA (France). More information on the meeting will be available in our next newsletters.



31. Training course of the "Dis-Act" project

In the period 1-9 March will take place in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, the training course (JSTE) of the project "Dis-Act" project (acronym DA). The project aims to increase the inclusive potential of theatre as a tool to open up opportunities and dispel prejudices against people with disabilities by producing a quality educational offer for operators and disabled adults themselves in the so-called "Devised Theatre". The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany. The partners of the project are: NGO Nest Berlin (Germany); Comparative Research Network Ev (Germany); Champions Factory (Bulgaria); EURO-NET (Italy); Sihtasutus Noored Teaduses Ja Ettevotluses (Estonia); Centrul Pentru Educatie Consulting Structural Instrument (Romania).



32. Fourth meeting of the project "Youth Lifestyles"

In the period 10-12 March will take place in Potenza, Italy, the last meeting of the European project "Life Styles, Deviance and Prevention: Non Formal Education and Interdisciplinary Resources for Vulnerable Youth" that is an initiative approved by the Slovak Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Youth. During the meeting, the partners will take stock of the activities developed in recent months and will define the further steps of the project to be carried out in the coming months. More information on the project can be found on the official Facebook page of the European initiative at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/YouthLifestyles-deviance-and-prevention-330204640941364/>.



33. Concluded the fourth meeting in Greece for the "IMPROVE" project

In the days 7-8 January 2020 took place in Larissa, Greece, the fourth meeting of the project "Innovative Metodologies and PRactices on VET" (acronym "IMPROVE") approved by the UK Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET as action n.2018-1-UK01-KA202-047912. During the meeting, the partners, including the association potentina Youth Europe Service, took stock of the activities developed in recent months and defined the further steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months. You can follow the project activities on the official Facebook page at the link <https://www.facebook.com/Innovative-Metodologies-and-PRactices-On-VET-406262400174556/> or on the website <https://www.improveproject.eu/>.



34. Concluded third meeting of the PAESIC project

In the days 9-10 January 2020 took place in Volos, Greece, the third meeting of the project "Pedagogical Approaches for Enhanced Social Inclusion in the Classroom" (acronym "PAESIC") approved in Denmark under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for school education as action n. 2018-1- DK01-KA201-047100. The project is aimed at creating tools aimed at teachers and trainers to facilitate the inclusion of migrant and refugee students in European schools and also to foster mutual understanding and respect among young people in the classroom and build a more cohesive and inclusive European society. The project involves partners from the following countries: Denmark, Germany, Greece and Italy. During the meeting the partners took stock of the activities developed in recent months and defined the further steps of the project to be carried out in the coming months. You can follow the project on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/paesic/>.



35. YDMS: third meeting in Germany concluded

In the days 21-22 January 2020 took place in Leipsic, in Germany, the third meeting of the project “Youth Drama, Media & Storytelling for developing cultural heritage and tourism” (YDMS acronyms) has been created. Italian partner in this project is the association Youth Europe Service of Potenza. The project was approved by the Danish National Agency in KA2 Erasmus+ Programme in field of Strategic Partnership for Youth (action n°2018-2-DK01-KA205-047148 - ID: KA205-2018-007). The project's aim is to develop innovative touristic city-tours. Both theatrical activities and video story telling will be used in order to let the experience be more interesting and suggestive. These tours will be developed for these cities: Potenza (Italia), Copenhagen (Denmark), Leipzig (Germany), Alicante (Spain). During the meeting the partners took stock of the activities developed in recent months and defined the further steps of the project to be carried out in the coming months. The project has already developed an official website (www.ydms.eu/) and a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/YDMS-281144935844296/>).



36. CircleVET: concluded fifth meeting in Turkey

In the period 6-7 February took place in Izmir, Turkey, the fifth meeting of the project “CircleVET – Exploring the Educational Potential of Circular Economy” of which the Italian company GODESK SRL of Potenza is the Italian partner. The CircleVET project was approved by the German National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET Exchange of Good Practices as action n.2018-1-DE02-KA202- 005022. During the meeting, the calendar and activities to be carried out over the next few months were defined, the initiatives already developed were taken into account and good practices on the circular economy developed in the various partner countries of the project were presented. The project involves 7 organizations from the following countries: Germany (2 partners), Italy, Slovakia, Turkey, Finland and Spain. More information on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Circlevet308447786426005/>.



37. Concluded first meeting of the Think global, entrepreneur local project



In the period 10-11 February took place in Potenza, Italy, the first meeting of the project “Think global, entrepreneur local” approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. Italian partner of the project is GODESK SRL (coworking center and innovation space in Potenza) During the project meeting the partners examined the activities to be developed and defined the steps of the project to be implemented in the coming months.

38. Third meeting in Italy of the ENTER project

In the days 4-5 March (including travel days) will take place in Potenza, Italy, the third meeting of the project ENTER, action n.2018-1-PT02-KA205- 005148, approved in Portugal in the Erasmus Plus Youth program. During the meeting, the partners will take stock of the activities developed in recent months and will define the further steps of the project to be carried out in the coming months. Who is interested can follow the project on the following official Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/ENTER-725346554497726/?modal=admin_todo_tour.

