



# EURO-NET

## The Youth European Network



EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA centre  
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ENGLISH NEWSLETTER**

### *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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**NEWSLETTER REALISED BY  
THE ASSOCIATION EURO-NET  
AS EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA CENTRE**



## Contents

1. Winter 2021 Economic Forecast	3
2. Coronavirus: preparing Europe for the increased threat of variants	4
3. A renewed multilateralism fit for the 21 <sup>st</sup> century: the EU's agenda	6
4. EU trade policy	7
5. Strong EU trade enforcement rules enter into force	8
6. Return and readmission: improving cooperation	9
7. Commission welcomes European Parliament's approval of RRF	11
8. EU proposes new Agenda for the Mediterranean	12
9. Commission approves second contract with Moderna	13
10. Life Programme: EU invests €121 million in environment	14
11. REGIOSTARS Awards 2021	16
12. Europe&Youth 2021: student contest	16
13. Traineeships at the European Court of Justice	17
14. Traineeships at the General Secretariat of the Council	18
15. The European Committee of the Regions offers traineeships	19
16. ANG inRadio #piùdiPrima Potenza Changemakers: concluded	21
17. E+ Round Trip: 50 young people wanted to take part in online courses	21
18. Virtual meeting in "TheArThee" project	21
19. Realised the brochure and the first newsletter of the "LearnEU" project	22
20. Kick-off meeting of the "HEPA4ALL" project	22
21. Virtual meeting of "Dis-Act" project	23
22. "ACT2IMPACT": the project continues to develop its objectives	23
23. Kick-off meeting of the "ECHO PLAY" project	24
24. "My Community 2020" in the process of conclusion	25
25. "IP4J" project: kick-off meeting and website	25
26. "EASYNEWS" project: first meeting and video	25
27. Virtual meeting of "PISH" project	26
28. Last meeting of the "DESK" project	26
29. Second meeting of the "The spirit of Europe – Origins" project	27
30. Third meeting of the "HOPE" project	27
31. Virtual meeting of the "GREEN ROUTES" project	27
32. Virtual meeting of "The A Class" project	28
33. Kick-off meeting of the "yEURSTAGE" project	28
34. Two projects approved in Spain	29
35. Virtual meeting "Wir machen Europas Bürger finanzfit" project	29
36. Virtual meeting of "Youth Capacity" project	30
37. Kick-off meeting of the "Digital voyage around Europe" project	30
38. "Future Target": JSTE of the project	31
39. Concluded the training course "LWRMI" project	31
40. Meeting and brochure of the "Sustainable Agripreneurship" project	31
41. Online meeting "IMPROVE" project	32
42. Third meeting of the project "Foster Social Inclusion"	32
43. Kick-off meeting of the "SPEAK" project	32
44. Virtual meeting of "ENTER" project	33
45. First online seminar of the "YDMS" project	33
46. New meeting online of the "EUCYCLE" project	33
47. Kick-off meeting of the "STREM" project	34
48. A virtual meeting of the "CDRP" project	34
49. Short virtual meeting of the "Explore Europe" project	35
50. Concluded the JSTE of the "IMPROVE" project	35
51. Second online meeting of the "MEM" project	36

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## 1. Winter 2021 Economic Forecast

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**Europe remains in the grip of the coronavirus pandemic. The resurgence in the number of cases, together with the appearance of new, more contagious strains of the coronavirus, have forced many Member States to reintroduce or tighten containment measures.**

At the same time, the start of vaccination programmes throughout the EU provides grounds for cautious optimism.

### **Economic growth poised to recover as containment measures ease**

The Winter 2021 Economic Forecast projects that the euro area economy will grow by 3.8% in both 2021 and 2022. The forecast projects that the EU economy will grow by 3.7% in 2021 and 3.9% in 2022. The euro area and EU economies are expected to reach their pre-crisis levels of output earlier than anticipated in the Autumn 2020 Economic Forecast, largely because of the stronger than expected growth momentum projected in the second half of 2021 and in 2022. After strong growth in the third quarter of 2020, economic activity contracted again in the fourth quarter as a second wave of the pandemic triggered renewed containment measures. With those measures still in place, the EU and euro area economies are expected to contract in the first quarter of 2021. Economic growth is set to resume in the spring and gather momentum in the summer as vaccination programmes progress and containment measures gradually ease. An improved outlook for the global economy is also set to support the recovery. The economic impact of the pandemic remains uneven across Member States



and the speed of the recovery is also projected to vary significantly.

### **Inflation outlook to remain subdued**

The forecast projects that inflation in the euro area is set to increase from 0.3% in 2020 to 1.4% in 2021, before moderating slightly to 1.3% in 2022. The inflation forecast for the euro area and the EU has increased slightly for 2021 compared to the autumn but is, overall, expected to remain subdued. The delayed recovery is set to continue dampening aggregate demand pressures on prices. In 2021, it will be temporarily pushed up by positive base effects in energy inflation, tax adjustments - especially in Germany - and the impact of pent-up demand hitting some remaining supply constraints. In 2022, as supply adjusts and base effects taper out, inflation is expected to moderate again.

### **High uncertainty and significant risks remain**

Risks surrounding the forecast are more balanced since the autumn, though they remain high. They are mainly related to the evolution of the pandemic and the success of vaccination campaigns. Positive risks are linked to the possibility that the vaccination process leads to a faster-than-expected easing of containment measures and therefore an earlier and stronger recovery. Also, NextGenerationEU, the EU's recovery instrument of which the centrepiece is the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), could fuel stronger growth than projected, since the envisaged funding has - for the most part - not yet been incorporated into this forecast. In terms of negative risks, the pandemic could prove more persistent or severe in the near-term than assumed in this forecast, or there could be delays in the roll-out of vaccination programmes. This could delay the easing of containment measures, which would in turn affect the timing and strength of the expected recovery. There is also a risk that the crisis could leave deeper scars in the EU's economic and social fabric, notably through widespread bankruptcies and job losses. This would also hurt the financial sector, increase long-term unemployment and worsen inequalities.

### **Members of the College said:**

Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People said: *"This forecast provides real hope at a time of great uncertainty for us all. The solid expected pick-up of growth in the second half of this year shows very clearly that we are turning the corner in overcoming this crisis. A strong European response will be crucial to tackle issues such as job losses, a weakened corporate sector and rising inequalities. We will still have a great deal to do to contain the wider socio-economic fallout. Our recovery package will go a long way to supporting the recovery, backed up by vaccination roll-out and a likely upswing in global demand."* Paolo **Gentiloni**, Commissioner for Economy said: *"Europeans are living through challenging times. We remain in the painful grip of the pandemic, its social and economic*

*consequences all too evident. Yet there is, at last, light at the end of the tunnel. As increasing numbers are vaccinated over the coming months, an easing of containment measures should allow for a strengthening rebound over the spring and summer. The EU economy should return to pre-pandemic GDP levels in 2022, earlier than previously expected – though the output lost in 2020 will not be recouped so quickly, or at the same pace across our Union. This forecast is subject to multiple risks, related for instance to new variants of COVID-19 and to the global epidemiological situation. On the other hand, the impact of Next Generation EU should provide a strong boost to the hardest-hit economies over the coming years, which is not yet integrated in this projections.”*

### **Background**

The Winter 2021 Economic Forecast provides an update of the Autumn 2020 Economic Forecast which was presented in November 2020, focusing on GDP and inflation developments in all EU Member States. This forecast is based on a set of technical assumptions concerning exchange rates, interest rates and commodity prices, with a cut-off date of 28 January 2021. For all other incoming data, including assumptions about government policies, this forecast takes into consideration information up until and including 2 February. Unless policies are credibly announced and specified in adequate detail, the projections assume no policy changes. Crucially, the forecast hinges upon two important technical assumptions concerning the pandemic. First, it assumes that after a significant tightening in the fourth quarter of 2020, containment measures remain strict in the first quarter of 2021. The forecast assumes that containment measures will then begin to ease towards the end of the second quarter, and then more markedly in the second half of the year when the most vulnerable and an increasing share of the adult population should have been vaccinated. Second, it assumes that containment measures will remain marginal towards the end of 2021 with only targeted sectoral measures still present in 2022. The incorporation of NextGenerationEU, including the RRF, in the forecast remains in line with the usual no-policy-change assumption and is unchanged from the Autumn Forecast. The forecast only incorporates those measures that have either been adopted or credibly announced and specified in sufficient detail, notably in national budgets. In practice, this means that the economic projections of only a few Member States take account of some measures expected to be financed under RRF. This forecast takes into account that the EU and the United Kingdom agreed on a Trade and Cooperation Agreement, which is provisionally in application since 1 January 2021 and which includes a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The European Commission's next forecast will be the Spring 2021 Economic Forecast in May 2021.

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## **2. Coronavirus: preparing Europe for the increased threat of variants**

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### **The Commission is proposing immediate action to prepare Europe for the increased threat of coronavirus variants.**

The new European bio-defence preparedness plan against COVID-19 variants called “HERA Incubator” will work with researchers, biotech companies, manufacturers and public authorities in the EU and globally to detect new variants, provide incentives to develop new and adapted vaccines, speed up the approval process for these vaccines, and ensure scaling up of manufacturing capacities. Taking action now is important as new variants continue to emerge and challenges with scaling up vaccine production are arising. The HERA Incubator will also serve as a blueprint for the EU's long-term preparedness for health emergencies. Key actions to boost preparedness, develop vaccines for the variants and increase industrial production:



#### **1. Detect, analyse and assess variants**

Developing specialised tests for new variants, and to support genomic sequencing in Member States with at least €75 million in EU funding; Reaching the target of 5% of genome sequencing of positive tests to help identify variants, monitor their spread in populations, and screen their impact on transmissibility; Stepping up research and data exchange on variants with €150 million funding; Launching the **VACCELERATE** COVID-19 clinical trial network, bringing together 16 EU Member States and five associated countries including Switzerland

and Israel to exchange data and progressively also include children and young adults as participants in clinical trials.

2. **Speed up regulatory approval of adapted vaccines:** based on the annual influenza vaccine model, the EU will provide accelerated approval for adapted COVID-19 vaccines by: Adapting the regulatory framework, such as amending the regulatory procedure to enable the approval of an adapted vaccine with a smaller set of additional data submitted to EMA on a rolling basis; Providing guidance on data requirements for developers from the European Medicines Agency so that the requirements for variants are known in advance; Facilitating certification of new or repurposed manufacturing sites through early involvement of regulatory authorities; Considering a new category of emergency authorisation of vaccines at EU level with shared liability among Member States.

3. **Ramp up production** of COVID-19 vaccines: the EU will:

Update or conclude new Advance Purchase Agreements to support the development of new and adapted vaccines through EU funding, with a detailed and credible plan showing capability to produce vaccines in the EU, on a reliable timescale. This should not prevent the EU from considering sources from outside the EU if needed, provided they meet the EU safety requirements; Work closely with manufacturers to help monitoring supply chains and addressing identified production bottlenecks; Support the manufacturing of additional vaccines addressing new variants; Develop a voluntary dedicated licensing mechanism to facilitate technology transfer; Support cooperation between undertakings; Ensure the EU's manufacturing capacity by building up the "EU FAB" project.

The actions announced will go hand-in-hand with global cooperation via the World Health Organisation and global initiatives on vaccines. They will also prepare the ground for the **European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA)**. HERA will build on the actions launched on 17 February and provide a permanent structure for risk modelling, global surveillance, technology transfers, manufacturing capacity, supply chain risk mapping, flexible manufacturing capacity and vaccine and medicine research and development.

#### **Members of the College said:**

President of the European Commission, Ursula **von der Leyen**, said: *"Our priority is to ensure that all Europeans have access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible. At the same time, new variants of the virus are emerging fast and we must adapt our response even faster. To stay ahead of the curve, we are launching the HERA Incubator. It brings together science, industry and public authorities, and pulls all available resources to enable us to respond to this challenge."* Margaritis **Schinias**, Vice-President of the European Commission, said: *"In our fight against the virus we are anticipating problems and acting proactively to mobilise all means to address the impact of variants. With our new bio-defence preparedness plan 'HERA Incubator', we are tackling parallel or subsequent series of pandemics deriving from the variants. This proposal is the perfect example of what the EU is best at: pooling efforts and*



*complementing them by funding. This is the way to get out from the crisis, ready to adapt to new circumstances and united in action - ensuring solidarity across the EU and the world."* Stella **Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said: *"Europe is determined to stay ahead of the threat of new coronavirus variants. The HERA Incubator is an exercise in foresight, anticipation and united response. We can meet the dual challenge of addressing new variants and increasing our vaccine production capacity. It will build bridges between research, industry*

*and regulators to speed up the processes - starting from the detection of variants all the way to the approval and production of vaccines. We need significant investments now and for the future and the HERA Incubator is a crucial part of our response."* Thierry **Breton**, Commissioner for the Internal Market, said: *"The Task Force for ramping-up vaccine production is already engaging on a daily basis with industry to better address and anticipate potential bottlenecks. With this increased cooperation, we will ensure that the industrial phase of vaccine production allows manufacturers to meet their commitments while anticipating our future needs and adjusting vaccine production to future variants. With HERA incubator, we are providing a strong structural response. This is not only about short term fixes: it will contribute to a higher level of autonomy in the area of health in the near future for our Continent."* Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: *"Research and innovation continue to*



*be crucial in fighting the continuing challenges of this pandemic. The HERA Incubator and the reinforcement of European infrastructures and networks, supported by additional funding from Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe programmes, will help us deal with any variants and be better prepared for future outbreaks.”*

#### **Background**

The EU Vaccine Strategy has secured access to 2.6 billion vaccine doses as part of the broadest global portfolio of safe and secure COVID-19 vaccines. Less than a year since the virus appeared for the first time in Europe, vaccination has started across all Member States. This is a remarkable achievement of European and global advanced research and vaccine development, condensing what usually takes 5-10 years in just over 10 months. At the same time, there are challenges to scale-up industrial vaccine production to keep pace. In order to boost production capacity in Europe, a much closer, more integrated and more strategic **public-private cooperation** with industry is needed. In this spirit, the Commission has set-up a Task Force for Industrial Scale-up of COVID-19 vaccines to detect and help respond to issues in real-time. Europe now also needs to stay ahead of the curve as new and emerging threats continue to appear in the present or on the horizon. The most immediate of these are emerging and multiplying variants already spreading and developing in Europe and across the world. Presently, authorised vaccines are considered effective against the variants we are aware of. However, Europe must be ready and prepared for the possibility of future variants being more or fully resistant to existing vaccines.

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### **3. A renewed multilateralism fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century: the EU's agenda**

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#### **The Commission and the High Representative put forward a new strategy to strengthen the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism.**

The Joint Communication lays out the EU's expectations of and ambitions for the multilateral system. The proposal suggests to make use of all tools at the EU's disposal, including its extensive political, diplomatic and financial support to promote global peace and security, defend human rights and international law, and to promote multilateral solutions to global challenges. High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy/Vice-President for a Stronger Europe in the World, Josep **Borrell**, said: *“Multilateralism matters because it works. But we cannot be ‘multilateralists’ alone. At a time of growing scepticism, we must demonstrate the benefit and relevance of the multilateral system. We will build stronger, more diverse and inclusive partnerships to lead its modernisation and shape global responses to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, some of which threaten the very existence of humanity.”* Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta **Urpilainen**, said: *“The EU has been and will continue to be the best ally of multilateralism and its institutions. However, the more complex global environment calls us to be more united, coherent, focused, and better leverage our collective Team Europe strength. This new strategy spells out our ambition on inclusive multilateralism, our strong commitment to renew it and it will be underpinned by specific actions.”*



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#### **Defining and defending EU priorities and values in the multilateral system**

The challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century call for more, not less, multilateral governance and rules-based international cooperation. The EU has defined clear strategic priorities on issues that no country can face alone: peace and security, human rights and the rule of law, sustainable development, public health, or climate. Now, it needs to advance these priorities multilaterally in a strategic approach to ensure a safer world and a sustainable, inclusive global recovery. The EU must step up its leadership and ‘deliver as one’ to ‘succeed as one’. To this end, the EU will advance more efficient coordination mechanisms around joint priorities and making better use of its collective strength, including building on the Team Europe approach. Its democratic and unique regulatory strengths are assets to help build a better world, while its security and defence structures support global efforts to keep, sustain and build international peace and security.

### **Modernising the multilateral system**

To ensure the global multilateral system is fit for purpose' to address today's challenges, the EU will continue to support the UN Secretary-General's reform efforts. It will promote the modernisation of key institutions such as the World Health Organisation and the World Trade Organisation. It will also spearhead the development of new global norms and the establishment of cooperation platforms in areas such as taxation, the digital sphere or Artificial Intelligence.

### **A stronger Europe through partnership**

To change the multilateral landscape, we need a new generation of partnerships. The EU will build new alliances with third countries, reinforce cooperation with multilateral and regional organisations, as well as other stakeholders, especially those with whom it shares democratic values and, with others, it will seek a common ground issue by issue. It will support partner countries in engaging more effectively in the multilateral system and ensure systematic follow-up of bilateral commitments with partners to advance multilateral objectives. EU aims to build a more inclusive multilateralism. It is important to engage also with civil society as well as the private sector, social and other stakeholders.

### **Next steps**

The Commission and the High Representative invite the European Parliament and the Council to endorse the approach and to work together on these priorities.

### **Background**

To respond successfully to global crises, threats and challenges, the international community needs an efficient multilateral system, founded on universal rules and values. The UN remains at the core of the multilateral system. The EU and its Member States are the largest financial donors to the UN system, to the Bretton Woods institutions, and many other international fora. They provide almost one quarter of all financial contributions to the UN's funds and programmes, whilst the EU Member States also provide almost one fourth of the UN's regular budget. At the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, EU Member States hold over a quarter of voting power close to a third of financial contributions come from the EU and its Member States. The EU works very closely with and in other international organisations and entities, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Trade Organisation, the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Finally, the EU seeks closer cooperation with other regional and multinational groupings such as the African Union, the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations or the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States to address common challenges and to work together at the international level.

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## **4. EU trade policy**

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**The European Commission has set out its trade strategy for the coming years. Reflecting the concept of open strategic autonomy, it builds on the EU's openness to contribute to the economic recovery through support for the green and digital transformations, as well as a renewed focus on strengthening multilateralism and reforming global trade rules to ensure that they are fair and sustainable.**



Where necessary, the EU will take a more assertive stance in defending its interests and values, including through new tools. Addressing one of the biggest challenges of our time and responding to the expectations of its citizens, the Commission is putting sustainability at the heart of its new trade strategy, supporting the fundamental transformation of its economy to a climate-neutral one. The strategy includes a series of headline actions that focus on delivering stronger global trading rules and contributing to the EU's economic recovery. Speaking about the new

strategy, Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade, Valdis Dombrovskis, said: *"The challenges we face require a new strategy for EU trade policy. We need open, rules-based trade to help restore growth and job creation post-COVID-19. Equally, trade policy must fully support the green and digital transformations of our economy and lead global efforts to reform the WTO. It*

*should also give us the tools to defend ourselves when we face unfair trade practices. We are pursuing a course that is open, strategic and assertive, emphasising the EU's ability to make its own choices and shape the world around it through leadership and engagement, reflecting our strategic interests and values.”* Responding to current challenges, the strategy prioritises a major reform of the World Trade Organization, including global commitments on trade and climate, new rules for digital trade, reinforced rules to tackle competitive distortions, and restoring its system for binding dispute settlement. The new strategy will strengthen the capacity of trade to support the digital and climate transitions. First, by contributing to achieving the European Green Deal objectives. Second, by removing unjustified trade barriers in the digital economy to reap the benefits of digital technologies in trade. By reinforcing its alliances, such as the transatlantic partnership, together with a stronger focus on neighbouring countries and Africa, the EU will be better able to shape global change. In tandem, the EU will adopt a tougher, more assertive approach towards the implementation and enforcement of its trade agreements, fighting unfair trade and addressing sustainability concerns. The EU is stepping up its efforts to ensure that its agreements deliver the negotiated benefits for its workers, farmers and citizens. This strategy is based on a wide and inclusive public consultation, including more than 400 submissions by a wide range of stakeholders, public events in almost every Member State, and close engagement with the European Parliament, EU governments, businesses, civil society and the public.

## 5. Strong EU trade enforcement rules enter into force

**Robust new trade enforcement rules have entered into force that will further strengthen the EU's toolbox in defending its interests.**

With the update of the EU's Trade Enforcement Regulation, the EU is able to act in a broader range of circumstances. The new rules upgrade the EU's enforcement by introducing the following changes: empowering the EU to act to protect its trade interests in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and under bilateral agreements when a trade dispute is blocked despite the EU's good faith effort to follow dispute settlement procedures (the regulation previously only allowed action after the completion of dispute settlement procedures); and expanding the scope of the regulation and of possible trade policy countermeasures to services and certain trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (IPR) (the regulation previously only permitted countermeasures in goods). Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade, Valdis **Dombrovskis**, said: *“The European Union must be able to defend itself against unfair trading practices. These new rules will help protect us from those trying to take advantage of our openness. We continue to work towards our first preference, which is a reformed and well-functioning multilateral rulebook with an effective Dispute Settlement System at its core. But we cannot afford to stand defenseless in the meantime. These measures allow us to respond resolutely and assertively.”* In line with the Political Guidelines of Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen**, the Commission is further reinforcing the Union's tools to focus on compliance and enforcement of the EU's trade agreements. Ensuring the respect of the commitments agreed with other trade partners is a key priority of this Commission. The EU is therefore increasing the focus on enforcing its partners' commitments in multilateral, regional and bilateral trade agreements. In so doing the Union will rely on a suite of instruments.

### Background

The proposal to amend the existing Enforcement Regulation came as a reaction to the blockage of the operations of the WTO Appellate Body. The current regulation – a basis under EU law for adopting trade countermeasures – requires that a dispute goes all the way through the WTO procedures, including the appeal stage, before the Union can react. The lack of a functioning WTO Appellate Body allows WTO Members to avoid their obligations and escape a binding ruling by simply appealing a panel report. The revised Regulation enables the EU to react even if





the WTO has not delivered a final ruling because the other WTO member blocks the dispute procedure by appealing to the non-functioning Appellate Body and by not agreeing to an alternative arbitration under WTO Dispute Settlement Agreement. This new mechanism also applies to the dispute settlement in relation to regional or bilateral trade agreements to which the EU is party if a similar blockage arises. The EU must be able to respond resolutely in case trade partners hinder effective dispute settlement resolution, for instance, by blocking the composition of panels.

#### **Anti-coercion mechanism**

As part of the agreement, the Commission committed to developing the EU's anti-coercion mechanism swiftly. As announced in the Letter of Intent of the President of the European Commission to the President of the European Parliament and President in office of the Council of 16 September 2020 the Commission shall adopt the proposal on the anti-coercion mechanism no later than the end of 2021. The anti-coercion mechanism is also included in the European Commission's 2021 Work Programme.

#### **Additional efforts on implementation and enforcement**

In addition to upgrading the Enforcement Regulation and to proposing an anti-coercion mechanism, several other steps have been taken since the start of this Commission to strengthen and target EU implementation and enforcement efforts. This includes: the appointment of a Chief Trade Enforcement Officer; the creation of a new Directorate in DG Trade for enforcement, market access and SMEs; and the establishment under Access2Markets of a single entry point for complaints from EU stakeholders and businesses on trade barriers on foreign markets and violations of sustainable trade commitments in EU trade agreements.

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## **6. Return and readmission: improving cooperation**

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**The Commission is presenting its first factual assessment to the Council on cooperation with partner countries on readmission, as required under the revised Visa Code and as part of the comprehensive approach to migration policy outlined in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.**

Effective return and readmission as well as sustainable reintegration are essential elements of comprehensive, balanced, tailor-made and mutually beneficial migration partnerships with countries outside the EU. The New Pact, presented last September, underlines that effective returns also require improved procedures inside the EU that reduce the fragmentation of national approaches and bring closer cooperation and reinforced solidarity between all Member States. Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinias**, said: *"The assessment shows that there is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to cooperation on readmission. Under our New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the EU is working on tailor-made partnerships with*



*at its disposal, from visa policy to development cooperation, investment, trade and employment, to achieve a more balanced and comprehensive approach to migration cooperation. Effective return and readmission are a key piece of the puzzle."* Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**, said: *"An important element in the comprehensive New Pact is humane, effective return, readmission and reintegration of those not eligible to stay in the EU. These are common challenges for the EU and its partners.*

*EU support for both assisted voluntary return and sustainable reintegration benefits all parties involved as well as improving the effectiveness of the return process overall. This report gives an important insight into what more can be done to address both return and readmission obstacles. I look forward to discussing the findings with the Council and engaging with partners to improve cooperation as part of our comprehensive migration dialogue, while fostering a common EU system for returns."*

### **A common EU system for returns**

The New Pact paves the way towards a common EU system for returns, where a consistent and coherent approach can ensure that returns can deliver within the overall objectives of the EU's migration and asylum policy. Many of the obstacles to return lie inside the EU. To overcome them requires improved procedures that reduce the fragmentation of national approaches, and closer cooperation and reinforced solidarity between all Member States. The New Pact outlined measures to improve national processes. This includes the need to agree legislation as well as the forthcoming appointment of a Return Coordinator, who will be supported by a High Level Network and work closely with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex). The Return Coordinator will bring together return and readmission stakeholders in EU Member States and encourage work towards a common objective.

### **The first comprehensive analysis of readmission cooperation**

Return, readmission and reintegration are a common challenge for the EU and its partner countries. The assessment of third countries' cooperation on readmission – which is a restricted document – is based on the comprehensive set of indicators in the Visa Code that takes into account all stages of the readmission process: from identification to the issuance of travel documents and effective return. In addition to data on return operations and numbers of irregular arrivals, the assessment also considers some common challenges in readmission cooperation, such as obstacles to identification, delayed issuance of travel documents, non-respect of deadlines or non-acceptance of charter flights. The assessment details the extent of EU engagement with each country and efforts made to improve cooperation on readmission. A selection of countries was assessed based on objective criteria, looking at countries whose nationals are subject to a short-stay visa requirement and for which the EU has issued more than 1,000 return decisions in 2018. For almost two thirds of the assessed partner countries, Member States experience good or average cooperation on returns and readmission. For just over one third, the level of cooperation requires improvements. The assessment shows the overall added value of EU readmission agreements and that readmission instruments are most effective when tailored to the specific situation.



### **Next steps**

As part of a Communication outlining how the EU intends to enhance cooperation on return and readmission - internally and externally - the Commission is publishing the key overall findings of the first annual assessment of third countries' cooperation on readmission, while the full assessment is transmitted to the Council and serves as input for discussion on both return and readmission and on migration cooperation more broadly. Together with the High Representative and the Member States, the Commission will use the report's findings to engage partner countries where improvements are needed, as part of the comprehensive approach on migration. Under the revised Visa Code, the Commission could also make use of the possibility to propose more restrictive or more favourable visa measures, whilst taking into account the Union's overall relations with the countries concerned.

### **Background**

Readmission of own nationals is an obligation under international law. Under the revised Visa Code, the Commission annually assesses readmission cooperation with non-EU countries and reports to the Council. The Council, on a proposal by the Commission, could decide on a more restrictive or generous implementation of certain provisions of the Visa Code, including the maximum processing time of applications, the length of validity of visas issued, the level of visa fee applicable and the exemption of such fees for certain travellers. This process supports wider efforts to put in place effective and comprehensive migration management in the EU under the New Pact on Migration and Asylum and to strengthen the external dimension of migration policy. This includes not only the readmission dimension but also, for example, addressing migrant smuggling, improving the use



of EU funding, and fostering legal migration and mobility. [Communication](#): Enhancing cooperation on return and readmission as part of a fair, effective and comprehensive EU migration policy.

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## 7. Commission welcomes European Parliament's approval of RRF

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**The European Commission welcomes the European Parliament's vote, confirming the political agreement reached on the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation in December 2020. This marks an important step towards making €672.5 billion in loans and grants available to Member States to support reforms and investments.**

The RRF is the key instrument at the heart of NextGenerationEU, the EU's plan for emerging stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic. It will play a crucial role in helping Europe recover from the economic and social impact of the pandemic and will help to make the EU's economies and societies more resilient and secure the green and digital transitions. The approval of the European Parliament paves the way for the RRF to come into force in the second half of February. Member States will then be able to officially submit their national recovery and resilience plans, which will be assessed by the Commission and adopted by the Council. The recovery and resilience plans set out the reforms and public investment projects that will be supported by the RRF. The Commission is already engaged in intensive dialogue with all Member States on the preparation of these plans. Pre-financing of 13% of the total amount allocated to Member States will be made available once recovery and resilience plans are approved, to ensure that RRF financing arrives where it is needed as quickly as possible.



### **Structure and objectives of the Recovery and Resilience Facility**

The RRF is structured around six pillars: green transition; digital transformation; economic cohesion, productivity and competitiveness; social and territorial cohesion; health, economic, social and institutional resilience; policies for the next generation. It will help the EU achieve its target of climate neutrality by 2050 and set it on a path of digital transition, creating jobs and spurring growth in the process. A minimum of 37% of expenditure on investments and reforms contained in each national recovery and resilience plan should support climate objectives. A minimum of 20% of expenditure on investments and reforms contained in each national plan should support the digital transition. It will also help Member States effectively address the challenges identified in relevant country-specific recommendations under the European Semester framework of economic and social policy coordination.

### **Next steps**

The Council now also needs to formally approve the agreement reached, before the Presidents of the ECOFIN Council and the European Parliament can sign it. The Regulation will then be published in the Official Journal, allowing it to enter into force on the day after publication. The Commission expects all the necessary formal steps to be concluded in time for the RRF to enter into force in the second half of February.

### **Members of the College said:**

President Ursula **von der Leyen** said: *"Defeating the virus thanks to vaccines is essential. But we also need to help citizens, businesses and communities exit the economic crisis. The Recovery and Resilience Facility will bring €672.5 billion to do just that. It will invest in making Europe greener, more digital, more resilient, for everyone's long term benefit. I welcome the positive vote by the European Parliament as an important step towards activating the Recovery and Resilience Facility."* Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People, said: *"This Facility provides EU countries with a unique chance to rebuild and revamp their economies for the post-COVID world. It is an opportunity build resilience and to embrace a more digital and greener future. That requires both the right investments and the right reforms. To recover from the crisis and meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Member States should seize the opportunity of the RRF funding to free their economies of bottlenecks and refresh outdated policies and practices. We call on Member States to continue working closely with the Commission on compiling robust and credible recovery and resilience plans so we can start disbursing the funding as soon as possible. I thank the European Parliament for its support and the speed with which it has approved the RRF."* Paolo **Gentiloni**, Commissioner for Economy, said: *"This vote in the European Parliament brings us a step closer to the Recovery and Resilience Facility entering into force. Driven by the terrible shock of the pandemic, Europe has taken a historic step. We have done something that was unthinkable just one year ago: the*



creation of a common instrument, funded by common debt, to achieve a common goal. For several months the Commission has been working hard with governments as they draw up their recovery and resilience plans. Now we must all intensify our efforts and make sure we seize this unique opportunity to change our economies, for the common good of all Europeans.”

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## 8. EU proposes new Agenda for the Mediterranean

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To relaunch and strengthen the strategic partnership between the European Union and its Southern Neighbourhood partners, the European Commission and the High Representative adopted a joint communication proposing an ambitious and innovative new Agenda for the Mediterranean.



The new Agenda is based on the conviction that by working together and in a spirit of partnership, common challenges can be turned into opportunities, in the mutual interest of the EU and its Southern neighbours. It includes a dedicated Economic and Investment Plan to spur the long-term socio-economic recovery in the Southern Neighbourhood. Under the new EU's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), up to €7 billion for the period 2021-2027 would be allocated to its implementation, which could mobilise up to €30 billion in private and public investment in the region in the next decade.

High Representative/Vice-President Josep **Borrell** said: *“This Communication sends a crucial message about the importance we attach to our Southern Neighbourhood. A strengthened Mediterranean partnership remains a strategic imperative for the European Union. 25 years after the Barcelona Declaration and 10 years after the Arab Spring, challenges in the Mediterranean – many of which resulting from global trends – remain daunting. To address these challenges, we need to renew our mutual efforts and act closely together as partners, in the interest of all of us. This is what this new Agenda is all about. We are determined to work together with our Southern Partners on a new Agenda that will focus on people, especially women and youth, and help them meet their hopes for the future, enjoy their rights and build a peaceful, secure, more democratic, greener, prosperous and inclusive Southern Neighbourhood.”* Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Olivér **Várhelyi** added: *“With the Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood we are presenting a new beginning in our relations with our Southern partners. Based on common interests and common challenges; developed together with our neighbours. It shows that Europe wants to contribute directly to a long-term vision of prosperity and stability of the region, especially in the social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. In close dialogue with our partners, we have identified a number of priority sectors, from creating growth and jobs, investing in human capital or good governance. We consider migration to be a common challenge, where we are ready to work together to fight irregular migration and smugglers together with our partners as it is a risk for all of us. We will work together to bring real change on the ground for the benefit of both our neighbours and Europe!”* The new agenda draws on the full EU toolbox and proposes to join forces in fighting climate change and speeding up the twin green and digital transition and harness their potential, to renew our commitment to shared values, to jointly address forced displacement and migration, and to strengthen the unity and resolve of the EU, its Member States and Southern neighbourhood partners in promoting peace and security in the Mediterranean region. It focuses on five policy areas:

- **Human development, good governance and the rule of law:** Renew the shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, human rights and accountable governance;
- **Resilience, prosperity and digital transition:** Support resilient, inclusive, sustainable and connected economies that create opportunities for all, especially women and youth;
- **Peace and security:** Provide support to countries to address security challenges and find solutions to ongoing conflicts,
- **Migration and mobility:** Jointly address the challenges of forced displacement and irregular migration and facilitate safe and legal pathways for migration and mobility,



- **Green transition: climate resilience, energy, and environment:** Taking advantage of the potential of a low-carbon future, protect the region's natural resources and generate green growth.

A dedicated Economic Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbours aims at ensuring that the quality of life for people in the region improves and the economic recovery, including following the COVID-19 pandemic, leaves no one behind. The plan includes preliminary flagship initiatives to strengthen resilience, build prosperity and increase trade and investment to support competitiveness and inclusive growth. Respect for human rights and the rule of law are an integral part of our partnership and essential to ensure citizens' trust in the institutions.

#### **Background**

In 1995, the Barcelona Declaration launched the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership with the objective to create an area of peace, shared prosperity, and human and cultural exchanges. The last European Neighbourhood Policy review took place in 2015. 25 years on, the Mediterranean region is facing a number of governance, socio-economic climate, environmental and security challenges, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The European Council in December 2020 highlighted the need to develop a new Agenda for the Southern neighbourhood and looked forward to the Joint Communication. The new Agenda for the Mediterranean will guide the EU's policy towards the region and the multi-annual programming under the EU's new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) at the regional and bilateral levels. The EU will carry out a mid-term review of the Joint Communication by 2024.

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## **9. Commission approves second contract with Moderna**

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**The European Commission approved a second contract with the pharmaceutical company Moderna, which provides for an additional purchase of 300 million doses (150 million in 2021 and an option to purchase an additional 150 million in 2022) on behalf of all EU Member States. The new contract also provides for the possibility to donate the vaccine to lower and middle-income countries or to re-direct it to other European countries.**

The contract with Moderna builds upon the broad portfolio of vaccines to be produced in Europe, including the already signed contracts with BioNTech/Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sanofi-GSK, Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, Curevac and Moderna. This diversified vaccines portfolio will ensure Europe has access to 2.6 billion doses, once the vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective. The Commission has granted conditional marketing authorisation for the vaccine developed by BioNTech and Pfizer on 21 December 2020, Moderna on 6 January 2021 and AstraZeneca on 29 January 2021. President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said: *"We are securing 300 million additional doses of the COVID-19 vaccine produced by Moderna, which is already used for vaccination in the European Union. This brings us closer to our major objective: ensure that all Europeans have access to safe and effective vaccines as quickly as possible. With a portfolio of up to 2.6 billion doses, we will be able to provide vaccines not just to our citizens, but to our neighbours and partners as well."* Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said: *"With this new contract with Moderna, we are adding another 300 million doses of an authorised safe and effective vaccine. It marks another step towards*



*our objective of providing swift access to safe and effective vaccinations to citizens in Europe and beyond over the course of this year. The contract is important not only for the short term needs of the EU, but also for our future work to limit the rapid spread of new variants."* The Moderna vaccine is based on messenger RNA (mRNA). mRNA plays a fundamental role in biology, transferring instructions from DNA to the cells' protein making machinery. In an mRNA vaccine, these instructions produce harmless fragments of the virus, which the human body uses to build an immune response to prevent or fight disease. When a person is given the vaccine, their cells will read the genetic instructions and produce a spike protein, a protein on the outer surface of the virus which it uses to enter the body's cells and cause disease. The person's immune system will then treat this protein as foreign and produce natural defences — antibodies and T cells — against it. The Commission has taken a decision to support this vaccine based on a sound

scientific assessment, the technology used, the companies' experience in vaccine development and their production capacity to supply the whole of the EU, as well as their capacity to potentially develop a vaccine against coronavirus variants.

### Background

The European Commission presented on 17 June a European strategy to accelerate the development, manufacturing and deployment of effective and safe vaccines against COVID-19. In return for the right to buy a specified number of vaccine doses in a given timeframe, the Commission finances part of the upfront costs faced by vaccines producers in the form of **Advance Purchase Agreements**. Funding provided is considered as a down-payment on the vaccines that will actually be purchased by Member States. Since the high cost and high failure



rate make investing in a COVID-19 vaccine a high-risk decision for vaccine developers, these agreements will therefore allow investments to be made that otherwise might not happen. Once vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective and have been granted market authorisation by the European Medicines Agency, they need to be quickly distributed and deployed across Europe. On 15 October, the Commission set out the key steps that Member States need to take to be fully prepared, which includes the development of national vaccination strategies. The Commission has

adopted further actions to reinforce preparedness and response measures across the EU, a strategy on **staying safe from COVID-19 during winter** offering further support to Member States in the deployment of vaccines and a new Communication on a united front the beat COVID-19. The Commission has also adopted a plan to prepare Europe for the increased threat of variants and the possibility of them being resistant to existing vaccines. The European Commission is also committed to ensuring that everyone who needs a vaccine gets it, anywhere in the world and not only at home. No one will be safe until everyone is safe. This is why it has raised almost €16 billion since 4 May 2020 under the Coronavirus Global Response, the global action for universal access to tests, treatments and vaccines against coronavirus and for the global recovery and has confirmed its interest to participate in the COVAX Facility for equitable access to affordable COVID-19 vaccines everywhere. As part of a Team Europe effort, the Commission announced is contributing with €400 million in guarantees to support COVAX and its objectives in the context of the Coronavirus Global Response.

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## 10. Life Programme: EU invests €121 million in environment

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**The European Commission announced an investment of €121 million for new integrated projects under the LIFE programme for the Environment and Climate Action.**

This funding – increased by 20% compared to last year – will promote the green recovery and help Belgium, Germany, Ireland, France, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia to reach their green targets. These integrated projects are expected to channel significant additional funds, helping Member States to make use of other EU funding sources, including agricultural, structural, regional and research funds, as well as national funds and private sector investment. Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Frans **Timmermans** said: *“To deliver the European Green Deal, we need to start mobilising the unprecedented resources made available for Europe's green transition in our long-term budget and recovery fund. These LIFE integrated projects support concrete action to protect the environment, restore nature, and support biodiversity. With this investment we help countries and regions to tackle the climate and biodiversity crises and build a just and sustainable future.”* Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries



Virginijus Sinkevičius added: *“I’m excited to see how this new investment will help green the economy, bring back nature and biodiversity and improve resilience to the changing climate in these 11 countries. LIFE integrated projects enable Member States to make a real difference to the environment and people’s lives, by enabling long-term strategies with far more money and capacity than with traditional LIFE projects.”*



### **New and increased LIFE funding will support 12 large-scale environment and climate projects in 11 Member States**

Integrated projects improve citizens' quality of life by helping Member States comply with EU legislation in six areas: nature, water, air, waste, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. They support plans required to implement environmental and climate legislation in a coordinated manner and on a large territorial scale. The LIFE investment announced is set to channel significant complementary funding from other EU sources, including agricultural, regional and structural funds,

Horizon 2020, as well as national and regional actors and private investors.

#### **Projects in Brief**

- **Nature Conservation:** Five nature projects in Latvia, Slovakia, Italy, the Netherlands and Germany will help to restore natural ecosystems, in line with the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, by improving the management of the Natura 2000 network and better connecting its protected areas. Various habitats and species stand to benefit, including forests, rivers, farmlands, grasslands, peatlands, aquatic species and birds.
- **Water:** In support of the EU Water Framework Directive, a project in France will introduce measures to improve water quality in the Pays de la Loire region. Another project will help to clean up Poland's Pilica river catchment area through blue and green infrastructure pilot actions and other initiatives.
- **Waste Management:** In support of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, a Belgian project will reduce plastic waste by encouraging sustainability, from increased product lifetimes to prevention, reuse and recycling of waste.
- **Climate Change Mitigation:** A project will help reduce Hungary's reliance on brown coal. LIFE funding will help authorities to gradually decarbonise the Mátra Power Plant, by replacing lignite-fired power generation units with low-carbon technology solutions. LIFE will also help the Małopolska region in Poland to implement its Regional Action Plan for Climate and Energy to guarantee a just transition. A project in Ireland will restore around 10,000 hectares of peatlands which have high carbon storage potential – an area roughly the size of Dublin.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** LIFE funding will help Portugal's Azores islands become more resilient to climate change. The project team will help to implement the regional climate change adaption programme on the nine islands.

Project descriptions can be found in the [Annex](#) to this press release.

#### **Background**

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 5,500 projects across the EU and in non-EU countries. At any given moment, some 1,100 projects are in progress. The budget for 2014–2020 was set at €3.4 billion in current prices. The political agreement on the long-term EU budget 2021-2027, foresees €5.4 billion in current prices for the LIFE Programme, an increase of almost 60%. LIFE Integrated Projects were introduced to enable statutory authorities in EU Member States to implement environmental and climate legislation to the fullest extent. Integrated Projects provide funding for plans, programmes and strategies developed on the regional, multi-regional or national level. They help Member States comply with key EU legislation in six areas:



nature, water, air, waste, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. The unique thing about Integrated Projects is they allow Member States to make use of other EU funding sources, including agricultural, structural, regional and research funds, as well as national funds and private sector investment.



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## 11. REGIOSTARS Awards 2021

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Every year, the European Commission awards those EU-funded projects, which demonstrate excellence and new approaches in regional development. With the goal of inspiring other regions across Europe, participating projects are in the spotlight of communication activities at European level. The REGIOSTARS are awarded to projects in five thematic categories (smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, urban development and a topic of the year). In 2021, the REGIOSTARS are focussed on five areas that are crucial part of the EU's regional policy: **SMART Europe:** Increasing the competitiveness of local businesses in a digital world; **GREEN Europe:** Green and resilient communities in urban and rural setting; **FAIR Europe:** Fostering inclusion and anti-discrimination; **URBAN Europe:** Promoting green, sustainable and circular food systems in functional urban areas; **TOPIC OF THE YEAR:** Enhancing green mobility in the regions: European Year of Rail 2021. A panel of high-level academics in the respective fields will assess the submitted applications and select the winners. In addition, the public will decide on its own winner among the finalists through a public on-line vote and award the Public choice award to one of the projects. More details on the award categories is in the Guide for Applicants. The Guide for Applicants provides you with all the necessary information to make your project a winner. Next to the detailed description of this year's award categories, the eligibility and award criteria, this Guide contains a practical handbook to guide you through the process. [Guide for applicants](#). The [on-line application platform](#) is open from 9 February until 9 May 2021. As a novelty, in 2021 the finalists are invited to training sessions on communication as part of the European Week of Regions and Cities in October. The winners in the five categories, and the winner of the public choice, will receive their well-deserved prize at the festive REGIOSTARS ceremony, to take place in Dubrovnik, Croatia in December 2021.

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## 12. Europe&Youth 2021: student contest

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The Istituto Regionale di Studi Europei del Friuli Venezia Giulia (IRSE) is pleased to announce the "Europe&Youth2021" contest. The contest is open to both University students and school students from all types and levels of schools of EU Member States.

### UNIVERSITIES

**Contest is open to University students, recent graduates and anyone who has not reached the age of 27 on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Written essays must not exceed 20,000 characters, including spaces. A video presentation of the topic (maximum 2 minutes), will be considered important added value. CRISIS as a CHANCE.** The capability of a state to manage

a large scale crisis depends on how much it has invested in its ability to govern and to shape markets that produce sustainable and inclusive growth. Starting from the essay *let's not waste this crisis* by the economist Mariana Mazzucato, analyse different strategies to restart after Covid-19 by comparing two or more European countries.

**CITIZEN SCIENCE.** More and better science dissemination and citizen involvement can help researchers to expand databases for important research projects. These are the aims of what is called "Citizen Science". Research and write about projects and experiments in progress, and what are the repercussions in terms of raising awareness about environmental issues.

**FINITUDE.** Tell us your thoughts and considerations about the latest book by Telmo Pievani (philosopher and biology historian) entitled *Finitude. A philosophical novel on fragility and freedom*; based on an original dialogue between the writer Albert Camus and the geneticist Jacques Monod. Possible stimulus could be how to act in this pandemic affair that can only appear to us as a dark confirmation of our finitude. **RACISM AND MINORITIES.** President von der Leyen said that in the EU "The fight against racism will never be an optional option". Analyse the 2020-2025 EU action





plan against racism and identify the strategies it contains to combat discrimination against minorities. **LIVING WITH ALGORITHMS.** AlgorithmWatch and Bertelsmann Stiftung have published the “Automation Society 2020” report which investigates the state of systems that automate decision-making processes in 16 European countries and at EU level. How can we understand the concept of privacy in this new social and technological context? How can we ensure that the development of these systems are compatible with respect for human rights and democratic rules? **DANTE, THE UNIVERSAL POET.** Dante is the most universal poet who wrote in a modern language. Despite being Italian he is first of all European. Comment on this thought by T.S. Eliot, analysing Dantes Comedy.

#### **HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Written essays can be submitted as individual work or in pairs and must not exceed 10,000 characters including spaces. WE GO STEM.** The strategic importance of teaching STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) for the social development of a country is consolidated. It is also well known how important it is to present STEM to a large and heterogeneous audience. Analyse what is being done in Europe and Italy to increase and update the implementation of STEM disciplines and the presence of women. **DANTE’S QUOTES.** Vivid phrases about war, family sagas, hatred and love... Choose one of the series of Dante’s targets proposed in the IRSE Project “Memory Awareness and Responsibility”, contextualising and updating the problems. (On this topic students from Friuli Venezia Giulia can also participate with a video production in the “Memory Awareness and Responsibility” Project, to be submitted before the 13th March 2021). **SHARING.** True sustainability lies in sharing: not only in terms of transport, but also in living and working spaces, and resources. Learn about the culture of sharing in Europe between car and bike sharing, house sharing, co-working and other sustainable good practices. Illustrate some accomplishments in your area.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**The projects can be done by either a whole class or a smaller group. It is possible to use different techniques (written, graphical, video, comics etc.) but always incorporating a descriptive summary. TERRACES.** During lockdown some videos went viral of boys and girls improvising songs, games and music from their terraces. Compose your own diary with episodes and images of an unusual period that you will not forget. **RIGHT TO WATER.** Europe is moving towards trying to guarantee everyone the right to good quality and free drinking water. Create a TV advert or song that will encourage people like your family and friends, to trust in tap water, and to ask for it where it doesn’t exist.

#### **RULES**

Entries may be written in Italian or in English. Each participant or group of participants may participate selecting only one topic. It is mandatory to fill in the DATA SHEET in all the parts indicated. Please send your entries via WeTransfer to [irse@centroculturapordenone.it](mailto:irse@centroculturapordenone.it). **Before and not more than the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021.** Essays must be sent in both .doc and .pdf formats; Videos must be sent at .mp4 horizontal files; any submissions in non-digital formats must first be approved by the IRSE secretary on +39 0434 365326. Prizes of: 400, 300, 200 and 100 Euros. Individual prizes for University and High School students. Group prizes for Middle and Primary school pupils. Book prizes and other materials for foreign language learning will also be presented. In the last contest 32 prizes were awarded to successful participants. For more information and applications please consult the following [link](#).

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### **13. Traineeships at the European Court of Justice**

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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](#).

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## 14. Traineeships at the General Secretariat of the Council

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Every year, there are around **100 places** available for paid traineeships, around **20 places** for unpaid compulsory traineeships and up to 6 places for paid trainees with a disability. A traineeship at the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) offers: first-hand experience of the work of the GSC; EU knowledge - insight into the processes and policies of the EU institutions; an opportunity to contribute to the Council's day-to-day business; the chance to work in a multicultural, multilingual and multi-ethnic environment; an opportunity to share your fresh point of view and the knowledge you have acquired during your studies.



**Important information:** the organisation of traineeships is currently affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Find out more, by reading the section on **COVID-19 implications for traineeships**. **Important: COVID-19 implications for traineeships.** There are 4 types of traineeships in the Council, you can choose a traineeship which is of interest to you:

- [Paid traineeships](#)
- [Compulsory unpaid traineeships](#)
- [Traineeships for students of national administration schools](#)
- [Positive action programme for trainees with a disability \(paid\)](#)

### What does a traineeship involve?

Depending on the needs of the service, your daily work would generally be equivalent to that of junior administrator officials at the beginning of their career, such as: preparing meetings and drafting minutes; attending meetings of Council preparatory bodies and Coreper (Committee of the Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the member states to the EU); researching on a particular project; translating documents; compiling documentation, writing reports. Trainees will also be invited to take part in a study programme that includes visits and conferences at other EU institutions in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg.

### Nationality

GSC traineeships are open to: EU citizens; citizens from candidate countries that have concluded EU accession negotiations.

### Languages

Candidates must have very good knowledge of at least two EU official languages. Given that English and French are used extensively for internal communication within the GSC, a good knowledge of **English or French** is required, (\*C level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

### Profiles

The majority of applications currently come from candidates with qualifications in law, political science, international relations, EU studies and economics. The GSC is also looking for trainees with **qualifications in other domains**, such as: translation, human resources, communication, education studies, computer sciences (collaboration platforms), archives and document management, civil engineering, graphic design, multimedia, agriculture, biochemical engineering, health and food safety, energy management, environment, aerospace engineering.

### Who can't apply?

Applications will not be accepted from candidates who have already **benefited from any kind of training** (paid or unpaid) **or employment for more than 6 weeks** within an EU institution, body, agency or office.

## Complaints procedure

We strive to offer the highest standards of service. However, if you think that you have been subject to maladministration, you have the right to introduce a complaint to the European Ombudsman. Please note that before the Ombudsman can accept a complaint from you, you need to first raise your concerns with the traineeships office. Applications open from: **15 February 2021**, noon, CET until **15 March 2021**, noon CET for the traineeship period **September 2021 - January 2022**. For more information please consult the following [link](#).

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## 15. The European Committee of the Regions offers traineeships

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In a standard traineeship, you will be witnessing first-hand the dynamics of a multilingual and multinational work environment. Within a small group of trainees you will not only be able to attend a wide range of conferences, forums and seminars, but you will also have the unique possibility to create an event by yourself! **The European Committee of the Regions offers the following opportunities for traineeships:**

### Standard traineeships:

#### **In a nutshell**

- 5 months;
- Full time / 40 hours a week;
- Workplace in Brussels, Belgium;
- Paid by grant (approx. 1200 euros/month);
- Preferred choice between 3 of the CoR's departments;
- Travel and mobility allowance;
- Health insurance cover optional;
- Accident insurance included.

#### **Calendar**

- **Spring Session: 16<sup>th</sup> of February to 15<sup>th</sup> of July.** Application period: 1<sup>st</sup> of April to 30<sup>th</sup> of September (midnight, Brussels time) of the previous year Pre-selection and interviews: November Selection: December.
- **Autumn Session: 16<sup>th</sup> of September to 15<sup>th</sup> of February** Application period: 1<sup>st</sup> of October to 31<sup>st</sup> of March (midnight, Brussels time) of the same year Pre-selection and interviews: May Selection: June.

**Warning:** Avoid applying close to the deadline, as high data traffic could impair the chance of your application to reach us. We will not accept any applications that were not sent in time or not submitted electronically.

#### **Who are we looking for?**

- EU citizens;
- Citizens from third countries (including the UK) may apply and may be selected in exceptional cases, notably if their candidature is of particular interest to the CoR and if they comply with requirements under national immigration law for residing and working legally in Belgium;
- University graduates that have completed a full degree by the closing date for applications;
- Candidates with excellent knowledge of one of the EU's official languages and satisfactory knowledge of French or English;
- Candidates that have NOT yet received more than 8 weeks of training or employment with a European Institution or body. This applies also to assistants to a Member of the European Parliament, intramural consultants or researchers, temporary/contract/auxiliary/interim staff members of any EU institution, body, delegation or representative office.

#### **How to apply?**

- Choose your preferred CoR-department (up to 3 possible);
- Fill out the online application form (in English or French);
- Make sure that you fill the mandatory fields, only provide correct information and check before you submit.

**Note:** You will still be able to make changes to your form before the application deadline. False statements will lead to rejection of the application or cancellation of the traineeship.

**Note:** After submitting you will receive a personal access code with whom you can check your application status anytime. **Got what it takes? Use our [Application form](#) and apply now!** For more information please consult the following [link](#).

### **Short term study visits**

Finalise your research project or satisfy your specific interest in the work of one of the CoR's department by applying for a short term study visit!

#### **In a nutshell**

- 1-4 months, extendable to 6 months depending on the resources available;
- Starting date is agreed upon with the candidate;
- Full time/ 40 hours a week;
- Workplace in Brussels, Belgium;
- Unpaid, all expenses to be covered by the participant;
- Health insurance cover not provided;
- Accident insurance included.

#### **Who are we looking for?**

- EU citizens - Note: Citizens from third countries (including the UK) may apply and may be selected in exceptional cases, notably if their candidature is of particular interest to the CoR and if they comply with requirements under national immigration law for residing and working legally in Belgium;
- University graduates that have completed at least a Bachelor's degree - Note: The Secretary General or his delegate may grant derogation to candidates who are not yet holder of a Bachelor's degree provided they can demonstrate to have successfully completed, at the start of the study visit, at least half of the training cycle related to a Bachelors' degree which is deemed relevant to CoR activities;
- Candidates with excellent knowledge of one of the EU's official languages and satisfactory knowledge of French or English.

#### **What do I need to apply?**

- Curriculum vitae in English, French or German;
- Motivation letter mentioning your preferred CoR department;
- Legible copy of a passport or identity card, giving surnames, forenames, date and place of birth and the nationality of the applicant;
- Proof of obligatory health insurance cover for the whole short term study visit;
- Copy of the Bachelor diploma or a certificate attesting that the candidate has successfully completed, at the start of the study visit, at least half of the training cycle related to a Bachelors' degree which is deemed relevant to CoR activities.

**Upon request you will need to provide:** copies of relevant diplomas and/ or official certificates held; copies of proof of professional experiences; proof of knowledge of at least one of English or French. **Note: All these documents are to be sent electronically to the Traineeships**

**Office:** [trainee@cor.europa.eu](mailto:trainee@cor.europa.eu). For more information please consult the following [link](#).

### **Traineeship for Government Officials**

#### **In a nutshell**

- 1-4 months, extendable to 6 months possible with permission of the Secretary General;
- Starting date is agreed upon with the candidate;
- Full time/ 40 hours;
- Workplace in Brussels, Belgium;
- Unpaid, all expenses to be covered by the participant or their sending authority;
- Accident insurance covered by the CoR.

#### **Who can apply?**

- Staff from a national, regional or local public authority of an EU Member state - Note: Citizens from third countries (including the UK) may apply and may be selected in exceptional cases, notably if their candidature is of particular interest to the CoR and if they comply with requirements under national immigration law for residing and working legally in Belgium;
- Existing job has corresponding duties to the level of an EU Administrator;
- Excellent knowledge of French or English.

#### **What do I need to apply?**

A curriculum vitae in English, French or German; A motivation letter mentioning your preferred CoR-department.

**Once accepted, you will be asked for:** confirmation of employment by the sending authority and its agreement to a traineeship at the CoR; legible copy of a passport or identity card, giving surnames, forenames, date and place of birth and the nationality of the applicant; proof of obligatory health insurance cover; proof of Language skills. **Note: All these documents are to be sent electronically to the Traineeships Office:** [trainee@cor.europa.eu](mailto:trainee@cor.europa.eu). For more information please consult the following [link](#).



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## 16. ANG inRadio #piùdiPrima Potenza Changemakers: concluded

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The ANG inRadio #piùdiPrima POTENZA CHANGEMAKERS" project has come to an end, with a balance of 50 podcasts carried out, 15 Role Models interviewed, and 4 multiplier events with schools, universities and public administrators. Work, environment, inclusion, participation, Europe, were some of the topics discussed, focusing on the concept of "opportunity". Special thanks to the editorial staff, Antonino Imbesi director of Euro-Net and the journalist Vito Verrastro, coordinators of the project. With the hope of creating a European digital radio antenna in the future. "ANG inRadio #piùdiPrima POTENZA CHANGEMAKERS", an initiative was approved, as action n.ANG-2020-IR+09, by the National Youth Agency to the EURO-NET association within the public call for financing youth initiatives for the creation of a Digital Radio Network "ANGinRadio #piùdiPrima" aimed at the new generations. The project was carried out by 17 young people aged between 18 and 30 with the aim of promoting a Lucanian web radio, located in the city of Potenza, which addressed, using a peer-to-peer system, young people through a series of radio podcasts on European and local topics, developed under the constant guidance of the well-known journalist-innovator Vito Verrastro. You can follow find all podcasts of the initiative on the Facebook page at the internet address: <https://www.facebook.com/anginradiopotenzachangemakers> or on the official web site <http://www.anginradiopotenzachangemakers.eu/>

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## 17. E+ Round Trip: 50 young people wanted to take part in online courses

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Our association is looking for 50 young people who would like to participate for free in the online courses offered by our project "E+ Round Trip" (action n.2018-1-RO01-KA205-049043). Anyone interested can go to [www.themobility.eu](http://www.themobility.eu) and sign up for a definitely worthwhile activity to professionalise themselves! The project 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 partnership is composed of: S.C. Predict Csd Consulting S.R.L. (Romania) project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); Dacorum Council For Voluntary Service Ltd (UK); Asociația Millennium Center Arad (Romania); Grobes Schiff (Austria). 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. You can already follow the development of the activities on the previously indicated web site or on the official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/eplusroundtrip/>.



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## 18. Virtual meeting in "TheArThee" project

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In date 21 December took place the virtual meeting of the project "TheArThee" (acronym "TAT"). The project is exploring the inclusive potential of theatre and the performing arts as a methodology to create opportunities, acquire new skills, improve communication and dispel prejudices towards young people who face social exclusion. This has to be achieved through the sharing of best practices and the exchange of skills among intersectoral organizations working in the field of youth empowerment and alternative learning.

The project is exploring how theatre can be used as a tool to bring together elements of society to empower young people regardless of perceived class, race, gender and disability and ability. The project complements the attention on the exclusion of young people with an additional attention to physical and cognitive disorders. TAT implements an intervention on the emotional and skills-related dimension of the condition of excluded young people through the exploration of the educational, integrative and creative dimension of the so-called "Devised Theater". The project was approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Youth by the National Erasmus Plus Agency in the UK. The partners of the project are: CHICKEN SHED THEATER TRUST LTD (England); MV INTERNATIONAL (Italy); CHAMPIONS FACTORY (Bulgaria); EURO-NET (Italy); IYDA E.V. (Germany); PRO IFALL AB (Sweden); COUNTY LIMERICK YOUTH THEATER (England). During the project meeting, in which participated for EURO-NET the trainer Raffaele Messina, the partners took stock of the activities already developed and of the further steps to be realized in the 2021. For more information on the Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/Thearthee114642043269776/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/Thearthee114642043269776/?modal=admin_todo_tour).

## 19. Realised the brochure and the first newsletter of the "LearnEU" project

In the last months, have been realised and published the brochure and the first newsletter in all project languages foreseen within of the project "LearnEU", an initiative approved as action n.2020-1-IT02-KA201-079054 by the Italian National Agency Erasmus Plus Indire within the Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnerships for School Education programme. The project aims to create a "space on the European Union" suitable for the new generations with a series of interactive tools and activities of a recreational-cultural-educational nature in Europe with the direct active involvement of school students and aimed at encouraging intergenerational dialogue and the sense of active European citizenship, using gamification and innovative digital products. This will allow to develop a better quality of work that, today, in the school sector is developed in relation to European citizenship because the project will generate the



right tools to work with young people and will provide teachers with "a new way to explain Europe and its values" through "serious games" capable of involving students and making them learn by actively participating and having fun. In addition to EURO-NET as lead partner, are also part of the technical partnership: Damasistem (Turkey), Mpirmpakos D. & Sia O.E. (Greece), CCS Digital Education Limited (Ireland) and AIJU (Spain), which represent the best of the European market in the production of educational games and export their products worldwide. The educational partnership includes 4 high schools, Ipias Giorgi (Italy), Sredno opstinsko ucliste Pero Nakov (Macedonia), Colegiul Economic "Ion Ghica" Braila (Romania) and Agrupamento de Escolas de Penalva do Castelo (Portugal), which will experience the learning paths in real didactics with students more than the others. More details on the European initiative can

already be found on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Learneu-117725843430250/> or on the website <https://project-learn.eu/>.

## 20. Kick-off meeting of the "HEPA4ALL" project

In date 08/01/2021 and 19/02/2021 took place a virtual kick-off meeting of the project "Encouraging Participation in Sports and Health Enhancing Physical Activities with an Inclusive Approach" (acronym "HEPA4ALL") action n.622480-EPP-1-2020-1-UK-SPO-SCP a centralised

initiative of the Erasmus Plus Sport programme approved in the call EAC/A02/2019 - Collaborative Partnerships and coordinated at European level by Ikkaido (UK). The main objectives of the project are to identify the long-term measures needed to encourage high-level inclusive participation in Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA) by the whole of society, including disabled and disadvantaged people through the inclusive involvement of different disciplines in a cross-sectoral system-wide approach to the HEPA implementation process and to create educational and innovative methodologies. During the start-up meeting the project was presented, its initial problems, as well as all the activities to be implemented within the partnership in the coming months.



## 21. Virtual meeting of "Dis-Act" project

In date 11/01/2021 took place a virtual meeting of the project "Dis-Act" (acronym DA). The meeting was supposed to take place in presence in Potenza but unfortunately, due to the



continuing pandemic, the project partners had to hold it online. The project aims to increase the inclusive potential of the 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 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany. During the virtual meeting the partners examined the

activities to be developed and defined the project steps to be implemented in the coming months. 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). More information about the project can be found on the official Facebook page at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/KA2AdultProjectDisAct>.

## 22. "ACT2IMPACT": the project continues to develop its objectives

The "ACT2IMPACT" project continues to make progress towards its objectives. More than 60% of the activities have already been implemented despite the pandemic. And the planned courses (developed in an innovative and interactive way with concrete activities and practical exercises) are almost ready and will soon be uploaded to the online platform. "ACT2IMPACT", approved in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The project 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). More information on the project Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/Act2impact101666948045902/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/Act2impact101666948045902/?modal=admin_todo_tour).

## 23. Kick-off meeting of the "ECHOO PLAY" project

In the days 18 and 19/01/2021 took place a virtual kick-off meeting of the project "European Career Help and Occupational Orientation Play". Our association EURO-NET (which is also the official Europe Direct information centre of the European Commission in the region) since 31 December 2020 is implementing a new interesting European project entitled "European Career Help and Occupational Orientation Play" (acronym "ECHOO PLAY"), an initiative approved as action n.2020-1-IS01-KA202-065802 by the Icelandic National Agency under the Erasmus Plus



KA2 Strategic Partnerships in VET programme. *"This action - said Antonino Imbesi, director of the association's EDIC centre - wants to develop, test and implement a new methodology aimed at supporting teachers, educators and trainers in general in one of their major professional roles, i.e. that of helping young people in choosing their career and career path, through the development and application in vocational training of the "Lego Serious Play", a method aimed at developing*

*thinking, communication and solving complex business management problems through the use of Lego construction toys."* The main objectives of the project are therefore to develop the following products: a report on the current needs for improved employability at a time when young people are faced with a rapidly changing and highly contracted labour market due to the COVID-19 pandemic; a **toolkit and a methodological guide** to facilitate the career approach through the use of Lego bricks; a *board game* for career guidance and finally a **research on the methodological and pedagogical approach** used in the European initiative. *"The ECHOO PLAY project - underlined Peppino Franco, project manager on behalf of the EURO-NET association - intends to address the ever-increasing number of job seekers who are disorientated about which path to choose and which career to pursue, despite incredible efforts in terms of training and specialisation. And it wants to do so by adopting an innovative strategy for the vocational training sector by working on the Lego methodology, which helps people to "think through their fingers", unleashing intuition, inspiration and imagination. The method is based on the creation of 3D visual metaphors aimed at representing the main issues we want to think about and possible ways to solve them, involving all aspects of the human dimension (rational, emotional, instinctive) simply by building models and telling stories about them (storymaking) with the help of a facilitator".* The partnership engaged in this hard task consists of the following 5 organisations from 4 European countries: MIDSTOD SIMENNTUNAR A SUDURNESJUM (Iceland), project coordinator; EURO-NET and STUDIODOMINO SRL (Italy); TURUN YLIOPISTO (Finland) and KELJE PRODUCTION (France). *"The presence of two organisations from Potenza, namely the EURO-NET association and the STUDIODOMINO company - continued Peppino Franco - confirms the strong need felt in the Lucania region to innovate career guidance and to do something to unlock careers and occupations. The first meeting of the project, due to COVID, was obviously held online on 18 and 19 January and saw the enthusiastic participation of the partners in a project that is very promising and wants to become a reference*





point in Europe thanks to the innovation and methodologies introduced." The results of the project will be shared in an open format and will be made available to all thanks to a series of dissemination events that, it is hoped, will be carried out in presence in the future by staff who, after a special European qualifying course, will be awarded the title of "European Career and Orientation Play Facilitator and Trainer", expert facilitator and trainer of this new orientation methodology. *"We are firmly convinced - concluded Antonino Imbesi - that the ECHOO PLAY project will bring considerable benefits and will succeed in providing new career opportunities and, above all, awareness of their own means, a fundamental element for today's young people, who are often too disillusioned with the labour market and also not very aware of their own abilities".* The European initiative can already be followed on the official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/My-Community-2020-893155357540688/>.

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## 24. "My Community 2020" in the process of conclusion

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The My Community 2020 project will end on 30/04/2021. There are therefore only few months left to complete the last planned initiatives and mobilities as well as the various Multiplier Events (which will possibly be realised online). The project "My Community 2020" is an initiative approved by the UK National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education. The project intends, through the development of three different intellectual products, to improve the digital skills, self-esteem and employability of adult learners with low digital skills, encouraging them to play an active role in their community as citizens. The intellectual products envisaged are: a training course on digital skills for the creation of local history, which once created will be the subject of a pilot testing action, and a manual for the effective implementation of the training activities. The European initiative can be followed on the official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/My-Community-2020-893155357540688/>.




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## 25. "IP4J" project: kick-off meeting and website

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In date 20/01/2021 took place a kick-off meeting of the project "Innovative and Practical training for low-skilled and migrants Jobs" (acronym "IP4J") – action n.2020-1-DE02-KA202-007465. The project aims to develop, test and introduce a brand new approach to work-based learning for low-skilled and migrant people starting from career orientation / professional guidance and providing practical VISUAL training tools (brochure, video, APP) to respond to market demand. During the start-up meeting the project and all the activities to be carried out within the partnership in the next months were presented. We are also pleased to inform you that the website of the project "Innovative and Practical training for low-skilled and migrant Jobs" (acronym "IP4J") is online at the following link: [www.ip4j.eu/](http://www.ip4j.eu/). The partnership consists of: FA-Magdeburg GmbH (Germany) coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); SC Rogepa SRL (Romania); Inercia Digital SL (Spain); Midstod Simenntunar in Sudurnesjum (Iceland). You can also find out more about the European initiative by consulting the project's official Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/ip4j.eu>.




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## 26. "EASYNEWS" project: first meeting and video

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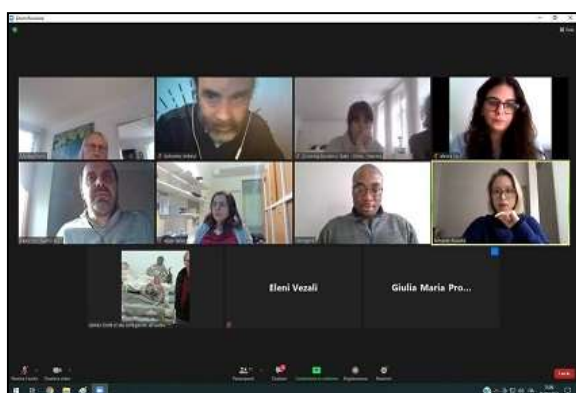
In date 21/01/2021 took place a first meeting of the project "Periodismo Digital Accesible y Educación Mediática para Personas con Discapacidad Intelectual" (in English "Accessible Digital Journalism and Media Education for People with Intellectual Disabilities") - acronym EASYNEWS. The project was approved in Spain in the framework of Erasmus Plus KA2 Adult

Education as Action 2020-1-ES01-KA204-082417. The project aims to encourage the interest of people with intellectual disabilities (DI) for journalism and reading media and communication; through the creation of a methodology supported by an ICT tool to adapt and read newspaper articles, magazines and other digital information for easy reading, trying, therefore, to give concrete help to those in need because community programmes, if used well, also do this. During the meeting the project was presented and the project partners discussed how to start working on different project outputs and management issues. It is important to underline that the partnership produced also a video made to promote the objectives of the European partnership composed of: Asociación para la atención de las personas con discapacidad intelectual de Villena y comarca (Spain); EURO-NET (Italy); Asociacion De Investigacion de la Industria del Juguete Conexas Y Afines (Spain); Austrian Association of Inclusive Society (Austria); Social Enterprise Puzzle (Greece); FUB Stockholm (Sweden). For more information, please visit the project's official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Easynews108569271011998>.



## 27. Virtual meeting of “PISH” project

In date 25/01/2021 took place a virtual meeting of the project “Problem-Based Learning, Intercultural Communications and STEM in Higher Education” (acronym PISH) – action. 2020-1-DK01-KA203-075109 approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Denmark as part of the Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education. The project aims at improving coaching and intercultural communication skills and competences of university teachers in a "Problem-Based Learning" environment. Partners of the project are Aalborg Universitet (Denmark), Pane-pistimio Thessalias (Greece), EURO-NET (Italy), Crossing Borders (Denmark), Comparative Research Network Ev (Germany), Center For Education And Innovation (Greece) and Ita-Suomen Yliopisto (Finland). During the meeting the project partners discussed the first intellectual product to be developed in the project. You can follow the project on the official Facebook page of the project: <https://www.facebook.com/PISH-106053687956829>.



## 28. Last meeting of the “DESK” project

In date 28/01/2021 took place the last TPM of the project "An Adult Digital education Skills Kit to Foster Employability" (acronym DESK) is an initiative approved as action n. 2018-1-EL01-KA204-047819 by the Greek National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for adult education. The partnership is composed by: MPIRMPAKOS D. & SIA O.E. (Greece) project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); MECB (Malta); Media Creativa 2020, S.L. (Spain); Universitatea Politehnica Din Bucuresti (Romania); Evropska rozvojova agentura, s.r.o. (Czech Republic); Archon sp. z.o.o. (Poland). The project partners met virtually to discuss the last steps to be developed before the conclusion of the activities of this beautiful augmented reality project. More details on this European project can be found on the website <http://desk4ms.e-sl.gr/> or on the official Facebook page of the initiative at <https://www.facebook.com/DESK362474434309114/>.

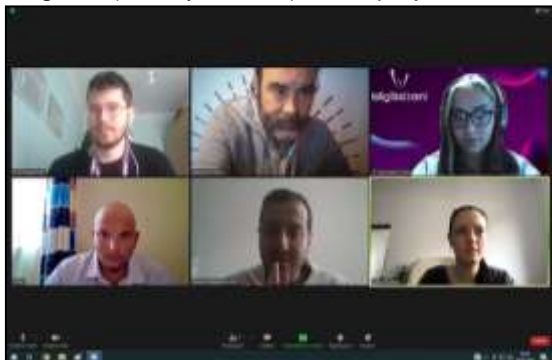


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## 29. Second meeting of the “The spirit of Europe – Origins” project

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In the days 28 and 29/01/2021 took place the second TPM of the project "The spirit of Europe - Origins" (acronym SEO). The project intends to develop an immersive simulated environment



commonly known as video/digital game, in which the student could travel through the history of Europe, from its mythological origins to the present day, participating actively at key events through the history and mythology that shaped Europe today. The project was approved as action n.2019-1-RO01-KA204-063864 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Romania. During the meeting, the partners discussed developments in the e-game. The partners of the

project are: S.C. Predict CSD Consulting S.R.L. (Romania) - coordinator; Asociația Millennium Center Arad (Romania); EURO-NET (Italy); IDEC (Greece); Inercia Digital SL (Spain). You can follow the development of the 3D egame on the following Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheSpiritofEurope.Origins>.

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## 30. Third meeting of the “HOPE” project

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In date 03/02/2021 took place a third meeting of the project "Supply of High Quality Learning Opportunities for Migrant People and Enhance Social Inclusion" (acronym "HOPE"), an initiative approved within the Erasmus Plus KA2 program Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices by the National Agency Erasmus Plus in Germany (action n. 2019-1-DE02- KA204-006479). During the meeting, the project partners discussed the organisation of upcoming trainings and meetings, unfortunately taking into account the ongoing pandemic. The project aims to provide new and better learning opportunities for migrants and organisations working with them. The exchange of good practices between migration and social inclusion providers will offer professionals and decision makers the opportunity to explore innovative ideas. HOPE will open the stakeholder discussion to exchange views, concerns and questions in order to develop innovative practices, procedures and skills in the area of welcoming migrants. The partners of the project are: Centrum Fur Innovation Und Technologie GmbH (Germany) coordinator of the project; IMH C.S.C Limited (Cyprus); Mitropolitiko College Anonymi Ekpaideytiki Etairia (Greece); EURO-NET (Italy); Foundation for Shelter And Support To Migrants (Malta); BSC, Poslovno Podporni Center, Doo (Slovenia). More information can be found on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/erasmusplusHOPE>.



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## 31. Virtual meeting of the “GREEN ROUTES” project

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In date 05/02/2021 took place a new virtual meeting of the project "GREEN ROUTES" approved in Germany as action n. 2020-1-DE02-KA204-007652, in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The main goal of Green Routes is to create a toolkit to promote sustainable solutions and trends in urban areas. The toolkit will be created through the three intellectual outputs and the training methodology.



The Promenade theatre and storytelling Input Training will produce scenarios for both live and virtual AR educational tours on topics connected to sustainability. The scenarios can be used by educators to perform the tours - the training plans will be documented in a paper guide book. The virtual tours can be experienced through an AR app, which will interplay as well with the guide book. All products and educational guidelines, plus the practices and experiences gathered in the training will be stored in the Green Routes Online Tour and Learning Hub, a one-stop-shop for any educator, individual or entrepreneur interested in green education in the chosen cities. During the virtual meeting the partners examined the activities to be developed and defined the project steps to be implemented in the coming months. The partnership consists of: CRN (Germany); EURO-NET (Italy); Interacting UK Limited (England); Panepistimio Thessalias (Greece); Euro-Idea Fundacja Społeczno-Kulturalna (Poland); Izmir Katip Celebi Universitesi (Turkey). You can follow the project on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Green-Routes-108204151034392>.

### 32. Virtual meeting of “The A Class” project

In date 05/02/2021 took place a new virtual meeting of the project “The A” class: integrating and supporting students with autism in the mainstream classroom” (acronym “The A Class”) approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Denmark under the Erasmus Plus Programme as Action 2020-1-DK01-KA201-075054. The project develops a strategic partnership in the field of school education. “The A Class” is aimed at combating the problems that autism creates for students at stoneness that each child with ASD is unique, which means that they have different learning styles. The project will therefore seek to develop products to help schools, teachers and children with autism. During the virtual meeting the partners examined the activities to be developed and defined the project steps to be implemented in the coming months. Partners of the project, besides the EURO-NET association, are the following organisations: Sosu Ostjylland (Denmark), Inercia Digital SI (Spain), Masaryk University (Czech Republic), Centar za autizam (Croatia), Stando Ltd (Cyprus) and Združenje za unapređivanje na kvalitetot na život na licata so autistichen spektar na narushuvanje “Sina Svetulka” (Macedonia). You can follow the development of this initiative on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheAclass-102338701663883> or on the website <https://theaclass.eu/>.



### 33. Kick-off meeting of the “yEURSTAGE” project

In date 09/02/2021 took place the kick-off meeting of the project “The stage is yEURs: Learning the language of the ‘host’ country through contemporary theatre approaches for adult educators



towards the social inclusion of minority groups in Europe of leaving no one behind” (action n.2020-1-PT01-KA204- 078361). The project foresees an exchange of good practices in the field of theatre and will try to use theatre to develop a better inclusion of minority groups. During the start-up meeting, the project and all the activities to be carried out within the partnership in the coming months were presented. The European partnership is composed of the following countries: Portugal (project coordinator), Greece, Spain, Italy (with EURO-NET) and



Cyprus. More information on the project is available on the official Facebook page of the project at: <https://www.facebook.com/yeurstage>.

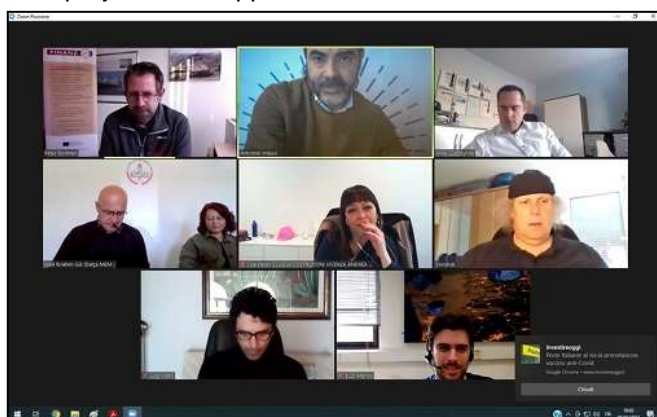
## 34. Two projects approved in Spain

We are pleased to inform you approved in Spain two projects of EURO-NET, centre Europe Direct Basilicata, applied on the last creativity call of Erasmus Plus KA226 for VET. They are "Telegrow: Enhancing The Teleworking Digital Skills For The Middle Aged Employees" (action n.2020-1-ES01-KA226-VET-096306) and "Hiperaulas 4.0. Desarrollo De Herramientas, Contenidos Y Metodología En Competencias Digitales Para Formación Online" (action no.2020-1-ES01-KA226-VET-096306). More information about the projects will be available soon in our next newsletters.



## 35. Virtual meeting “Wir machen Europas Bürger finanzfit” project

In date 09/02/2021 our association participated, with our manager Antonino Imbesi, to a short online meeting to verify the development of the intellectual products envisaged within in the project "Wir machen Europas Bürger Finanzfit" (title in English "BASIC ECONOMIC TRAINING FOR EUROPEAN ADULTS") that wants to develop a series of contents that are essential also for people with low qualifications to be able to act "sensibly" in the economic sector in everyday life. The project was approved as action n.2019-1-DE02-KA204-006098 in the framework of the



Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany. A mini project in North Rhine Westphalia, conducted by Europe Unlimited in November 2018, has shown that even simple, free training courses for migrants and former prisoners can be used to achieve successes with the topic of "Basic economic training for European adults". According to this transnational project, the lack of knowledge on economic and financial matters should be

counteracted. Interviews with teachers, career counsellors, migrants' caregivers and prison officials prior to submitting the project application have shown that a need for targeted training and documents on economic and financial matters exists, as there are hardly any independent free offers for the target group in this respect. The FINANZFIT collaboration of eight project partners has set the goal of developing innovative methods and tools to assist people with low qualifications in acquiring knowledge on economic and financial matters as well as key competences to strengthen basic skills in the fields of: financial assets; financing; insurances; liquidity; current account; retirement planning. The objective of the project partners is to work on these topics to make them understandable for the target group, low qualified persons, in the project partner countries. Experience has shown that people with lower qualifications in particular have lower incomes (compared to those with good professional training), so it is even more important to have the knowledge in order to make the right financial decisions. People who have experienced lower education often are difficult to motivate themselves for further education. In order to reach the uneducated clientele in the project regions, the project also addresses stakeholders such as career counsellors, migrants' advisors, social workers, media and volunteer education initiatives. The projects started on 1st September 2019, the duration is 30 months. The planned project



activities include the development of four intellectual outputs: e-learning platform (web-based learning/ blended learning); training program for low-skilled or low-qualified persons (to increase the professional qualification); training program for their supervisors (to increase pedagogical competence); development of a professional journal (target group specific journal). The creation of the trade magazine "Basic economic training for European adults" is another way of supporting individuals in the acquisition of basic skills or the learning needs of people with low qualifications. The trade magazine will be available on paper as well as in PDF format and will be distributed at various events. The partners of the project are: Westdeutscher Handwerkskammertag (Germany) – coordinator; Mobilizing Expertise AB (Sweden); EURO-NET (Italy); Datca Ilce Milli Egitim Mudurlugu (Turkey); Europe Unlimited E.V. (Germany); Eyropaiko Institoyto Topikhs Anaptykshs (Greece); A. Palladio Building Center (Italy); Vondiconsulting Unternehmensberatung Vondrak KG (Austria). More details on the project are available on the website [www.whkt.de/finanzfit](http://www.whkt.de/finanzfit) or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/finanzfit>.

### 36. Virtual meeting of "Youth Capacity" project

In date 12/02/2021 took place a new virtual meeting of the project "Enhancing Capacities of Youth Policy Makers Across Europe" (acronym "Youth Capacity"), an action approved in Italy by the National Youth Agency in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for Youth (action n.2018-2-IT03-KA205-014000). Partner of the project are the following organisations: Unione Montana Alta Langa (Italy), project coordinator; Kek Tehnikes



Sholes Epimelitiriou Irakleiou (Greece); Federaci3n de Municipios de la Regi3n de Murcia (Spain); AK.T.A. (Cyprus) and EURO-NET (Italy). The project aims to create a network of local and regional authorities working with young people to: develop concrete strategic plans; promote the EU's youth policy agenda; plan youth activities allowing the participation and inclusion of young people in society. Policy makers and youth leaders of local and regional authorities involved in the project will be trained on: transversal skills

to improve their collaboration with young people; potential sources of funding for youth projects; youth entrepreneurship; "No-Hate Speech" campaign; opportunities available for youth volunteering. During the meeting, the partners presented the now completed third intellectual product and discussed intellectual products four and five and the remaining activities until the end of the project. For more information you can consult the official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Youth-Capacity-791315631226768/>.

### 37. Kick-off meeting of the "Digital voyage around Europe" project

In date 21/12/2020 took place the kick-off meeting of the project "Digital voyage around Europe" (of which GODESK is the Italian partner) an initiative approved in Spain by the National Agency Erasmus Plus as action 2020-1-ES01-KA204-082259. It is a KA204 project, a Strategic-Governmental Partnership for Adult Education aimed at raising awareness on the use of new and latest generation digital tools. During the meeting the partners introduced themselves to each other, discussed the whole project development and planned the steps of the activities to be carried out in the next months. For the time being, you can follow the development of this interesting



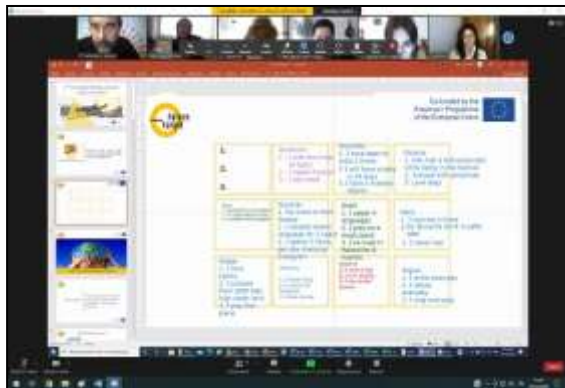
initiative on the official Facebook page of the project at: <https://www.facebook.com/Digital-Voyage-Around-Europe-102972418345600>.

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### 38. "Future Target": JSTE of the project

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In the days 21, 22 and 29/12/2020, were held the last three training days of the first of 3 training courses of the European project "Future Target", (action n. 2019-1-DE02-KA204-006511)



implemented in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The European initiative is focused on the exchange of good practices between 7 partner organisations, Youth Europe Service (Italy), IYDA e.V. (Germany), Sharing Euro-pe (Italy), Geoclube - Associacao Juvenil De Ciencia Natureza E Aventura (Portugal), Kainotomia & SIA EE (Greece), Academia Postal 3 Vigo SL (Spain) and Mobilizing Europe (Sweden), to try to find solutions to the issue of refugees and migrants, which is currently one of the biggest problems facing

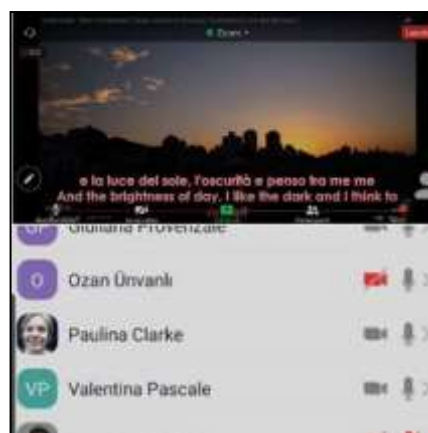
the European Union. More information on the project is available on the project Facebook page at the following link <https://www.facebook.com/projectFutureTarget/>.

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### 39. Concluded the training course "LWRMI" project

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In date 21 December, took place the last day of the planned training course in the project "Let's Work for a Real Migrants Inclusion" (acronym LWRMI), approved in Italy as action n. 2018-1-IT02- KA204-047938 within the project Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education, an initiative coordinated by the association Youth Europe Service of Potenza. The course that had to be carried out in Bulgaria, for reasons related to the still ongoing pandemic, was developed in 5 days of online meetings. The project focuses on the exchange of good practice between 7 organisations from 5 different countries (Italy, Bulgaria, Turkey, England and Greece) and it is directed to find solutions to the problem of refugees and migrants. For more information you can consult the official the website <http://migrantinclusion.eu>



and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Lets-work-for-a-real-migrants-inclusion-304869633653912>.

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### 40. Meeting and brochure of the "Sustainable Agripreneurship" project

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In date 18/01/2021 took place an online meeting of the project "Sustainable Agripreneurship" (acronym "SustainAgri"), an initiative approved in the Czech Republic within the framework of the



Erasmus Plus KA2 VET programme as action no. 2020-1-CZ01-KA202-078268. During the meeting the partners discussed how to develop IO1 an intellectual product foreseen within the project and planned the next steps to be taken in the European initiative. In addition, in recent months has been realised and published the brochure planned within the project. The project involves the following organisations: Ceska Zemedelska Univerzita V Praze (Czech Republic), Youth Europe Service, (Italy),



Dekaplus Business Services LTD (Cyprus), Exponential Training & Assessment Limited (UK), Center For Education And Innovation (Greece), 8D Games BV (Netherlands) and Trebag (Hungary). More information on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/sustainableagripreneurship>.

#### 41. Online meeting "IMPROVE" project

In date 20/01/2021 took place the last meeting of the project "Innovative Metodologies and PRactices on VET" (acronym "IMPROVE"), an initiative 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 Youth Europe Service, took stock of the activities developed in the last months and defined the last steps of the project.. The decisions taken at the meeting were crucial for the development of the final steps. Remember that you can follow the activities of the project on the Facebook page at the link <https://www.facebook.com/Innovative-Metodologies-and-PRactices-On-VET406262400174556/> or on the official website <https://www.improveproject.eu/>.



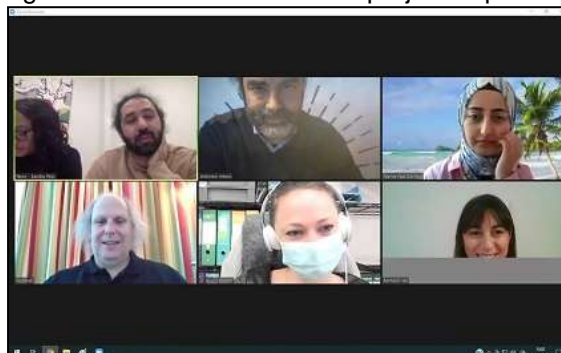
#### 42. Third meeting of the project "Foster Social Inclusion"

In date 21/01/2021 took place a new virtual meeting of the project "Foster Social Inclusion: volunteering, social entrepreneurship and art for social inclusion" (acronym Foster Social Inclusion), an initiative approved by the Polish National Agency as action n. 2019- 1-PL01-KA204-065375 as part of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices. During the meeting the Danish partner, Crossing Borders, presented the training module on methodologies for the inclusion of migrants. It was an opportunity to deepen this important topic on how this issue is addressed and managed by the Danish partner. Furthermore, the partners took stock of the activities already developed and defined the steps of the activities to be developed in the coming months. More information on the project on the official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Foster-Social-Inclusion-109112230563838/>.



#### 43. Kick-off meeting of the "SPEAK" project

In date 22/01/2021 took place the kick-off meeting of the Erasmus Plus KA2 project "Speaking skill Performance Enhancement in entrepreneurial customs for social workers" (acronym SPEAK), approved in Sweden as an innovative strategic partnership for adult education (action n.2020-1-SE01-KA204-077885). The meeting was supposed to be hosted in Potenza but due to the still ongoing pandemic it was unfortunately held online. During the months in which the project will be implemented, again with a high-level international partnership, we will experiment with new ways and new innovative skills to help and professionalise

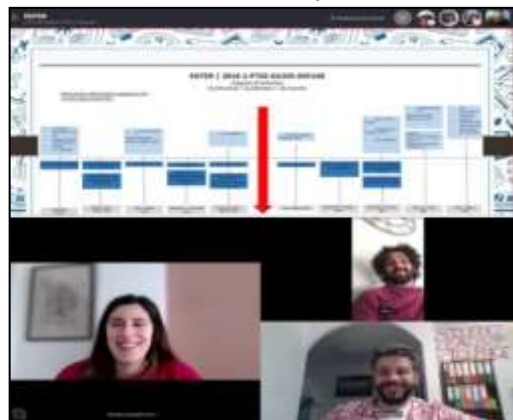




this category of workers more and more. During the meeting, the partners introduced themselves, discussed the whole project development, and planned the project steps to be carried out in the next months. For the moment, you can follow the development of this interesting initiative on the project's official Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/SPEAK-103210721662026/>.

#### 44. Virtual meeting of “ENTER” project

In date 03/02/2021 took place the virtual meeting of the project “ENTER – From problems to achievements in learning and development” (acronym ENTER), action n. n.2018-1-PT02-KA205-005148, approved to the Italian association Youth Europe Service within the Erasmus Plus Youth programme. During the project meeting the partners discussed the necessary changes in strategy and budget. In particular, the actions to be implemented in the last months are the game test to be carried out by the end of October with about ten youth workers, the translation in four languages of the developed materials, the final printing of the game and its distribution to youth organizations and associations and schools that can use it in their learning activities. Finally, several Multiplier Events are planned to promote the project and all the outputs produced in the project. More information on the project can be found on the official Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/ENTER-725346554497726/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/ENTER-725346554497726/?modal=admin_todo_tour).

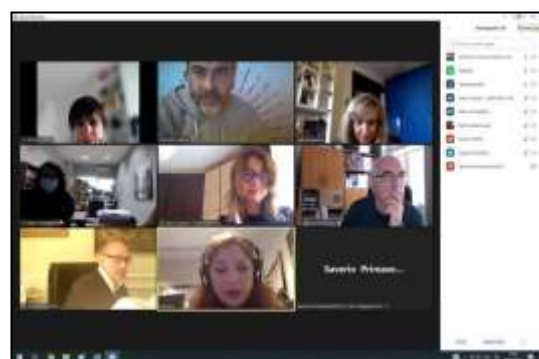


#### 45. First online seminar of the “YDMS” project

In the days 04, 10 and 11/02/2021 took place the Italian online seminar of the project “Youth Drama, Media & Storytelling for developing cultural heritage and tourism” (acronym “YDMS”). 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 were developed for the following cities: Potenza (Italy), Copenhagen (Denmark), Leipzig (Germany) and Alicante (Spain). The seminar was an opportunity to tell many young people at the Fortunato high school in Pisticci about this innovative project. More information on the official website ([www.ydms.eu/](http://www.ydms.eu/)) and on the official Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/YDMS-281144935844296/>).



#### 46. New meeting online of the “EUCYCLE” project

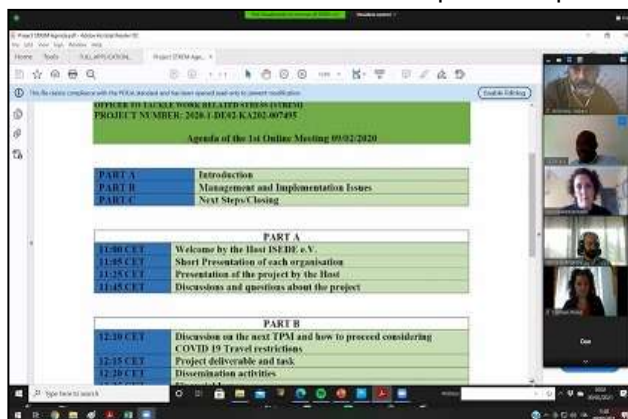


In date 08/02/2021 took place a new online meeting of the project “Upcycling Europe - Condivisione di buone pratiche sull'Economia Circolare nell'ambito di un partenariato europeo” (acronym “EUCYCLE”) - action n. 2020-1-IT01-KA202-008379 - approved the Erasmus Plus National Agency INAPP in Italy in the framework

of KA2 actions related to Exchange of good practices in Strategic Partnerships for VET and coordinated at European level by the startup company from Potenza, GODESK SRL. The project aims to promote and make known to a wider public the principles of circular economy contributing, also through the exchange of good methodological practices at international level, to create a greater awareness of the need to recycle materials as much as possible for our own good and the survival of our planet. In addition to the company from Potenza, the European partnership includes a number of organisations that are very active in the field of circular economy or are very sensitive to the subject, such as Euro-Idea Fundacja Społeczno-Kulturalna (Poland), Kainotomia (Greece), the Chamber of Commerce of Basilicata (Italy), the University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy), FA-Magdeburg GmbH (Germany) and MiTale (Finland). During the meeting some communication products that the project partners are developing were presented. More information on the project is currently available to the general public on the project's official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Eucycle-project-101446965239402>.

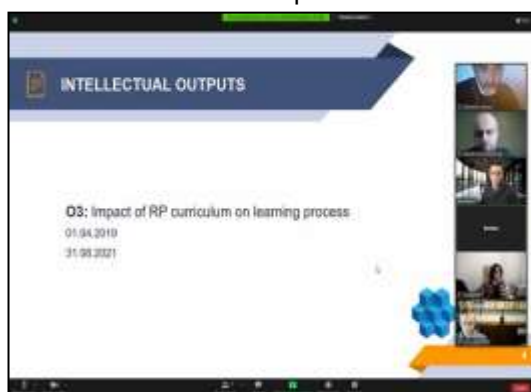
## 47. Kick-off meeting of the “STREM” project

In date 09/02/2021 took place the kick-off meeting of the project “Stressless Employees – Introducing the profile of Employee Satisfaction Officer to tackle work-related stress” (acronym “STREM”) - approved by the National Agency in Germany in the framework of KA2 actions related to Strategic Partnerships for VET – Innovation (n. 2020-1-DE02-KA202-007495). During the start-up meeting, the project and all the activities to be carried out within the partnership in the coming months were presented. The project, taking its cue from the fact that stress at work often causes mental health problems to employees in various companies, aims to develop the job profile and competences of a new professional figure called “Employee Satisfaction Officer” (ESO), who can lead wellness activities in companies, in order to improve the well-being of employees, and consequently, exponentially, also their job performance. As part of the implementation of the project, the following intellectual products will be developed: report on the well-being of employees in different European countries; profile of the “Employee Satisfaction Officer” and development of the related curriculum; training course for employee satisfaction officers and related pilot action; guide and handbook for employee satisfaction officers. The European partnership is composed of the following organisations: Initiative for Sustainable Education and Development (Germany); Youth Europe Service (Italy); Stando LTD. (Cyprus); Asociacion Egeria Desarrollo Social (Spain); SC Mixt Source Management SRL (Romania); Innovation HIVE (Greece). More information on the project is available on the official Facebook page of the project at: <https://www.facebook.com/Project-STREM-102693358527163>.



## 48. A virtual meeting of the “CDRP” project

In date 11/02/2021 took place a virtual meeting of the project “Curriculum Development for Rapid Prototyping in Engineering Education” (acronym “CDRP-EN”) approved under the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for higher education as action n.2018-1-TR01-KA203-059739. The initiative foresees the participation of the following partners: Gazi Üniversitesi (Turkey), Danmar Computers sp. z.o.o. (Poland), Universitatea Politehnica Din Bucuresti (Romania), Macdac Engineering Consultancy Bureau Ltd (Malta), GODESK SRL (Italy), Association of



Academicians (Turkey), Evropska rozvojova agentura s.r.o. (Czech Republic), SC Ludor Engineering SRL (Romania) and Gerade Yazilim Anonim Sirketi (Turkey). The project aims to transfer developments in the field of rapid prototyping to engineering education in the near future through a partnership of organisations with particular expertise in the field. During the meeting the partners took stock of the development of the products envisaged within the project and which activities still have to be completed. More information on the project can be found on the official Facebook page of the initiative at the link <https://www.facebook.com/CDRPEUProject/>.

## 49. Short virtual meeting of the “Explore Europe” project

In date 15/02/2021 took place a short online meeting of the project “Explore Europe”, approved by the National Youth Agency in Italy the Erasmus Plus KA2 (action n. 2020-2-IT03-KA205-018664). During the short meeting, the partners clarified some details of the work that awaits them in the coming months and talked about the development of the intellectual products to be realised within the project. The project aims at responding to the needs of both young people (especially between 11 and 18 years old) and youth workers, who work with the same young people, through the creation of special new generation interactive tools allowing the development of educational and training activities conducted by youth workers in an innovative way, using gamification methodologies. The aim is to enable young people to experience a "competitive adventure" characterised by respect for human rights, the promotion of integration and inclusion, support for solidarity, the enhancement of citizenship rights and the promotion of European values. The project intends, in fact, to develop a series of games to teach Europe in a new way and with greater effectiveness and involvement of young people, who will be able to learn by competing in specific competitions. The aim of the project is to promote the positive action of Europe, from the earliest years of its development, in order to make it perceived by all young Europeans as the driving force of a "12-star" future, encouraging greater active participation in the social and political context and reviving people's enthusiasm for the dream of a united people, enabling greater participation of citizens in the institutions and reviving their confidence in the action of the future state of states. The project is being developed at European level by a partnership composed of the Potentine association Youth Europe Service, as coordinator, together with Damasistem (a spin-off of the University of Ankara in Turkey) and the Romanian company S.C. Predict CSD Consulting S.R.L. Those interested in finding out more can follow the project on the official Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Explore-Europe-104476754982850/](https://www.facebook.com/Explore-Europe-104476754982850/) or on the website [www.exploreeurope.eu](http://www.exploreeurope.eu) which is under construction and will soon be online.



## 50. Concluded the JSTE of the "IMPROVE" project

In the days 15-19/02/2021, took place the training course provided as part 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. The "IMPROVE" project, aims to promote innovative practices and tools in VET, in order to encourage



people to consider VET as an important choice on their professional path, as set by the European Commission in one of "Ten actions" of the new and comprehensive "Skills Agenda for Europe" (launched in June 2016). As Remarked in the Agenda the UE Commission purpose is Making Vocational Education and Training (VET) a "first choice" by enhancing opportunities for VET learners to undertake a work based learning experience and promoting greater visibility of good labor market outcomes of VET. The main objective of the project is developing institutional partnerships supporting the set up and implementation of an internationalization strategy of VET learners and apprentices. All partners in their respective activities, thanks to the European projects in which they are involved, meet the needs of many young people and adults to acquire / improve skills and competences to strengthen their position in the labor market / their career. At the same time they meet the need for professionals and workers to be able to assert their skills and abilities in an international context in order to fully implement the Single European market. Hence the motivation of the partners to become involved in projects that can favor the international dimension of vocational training, the innovation of VET systems. During the training course the project partners presented the 7 thematic handbooks which were produced during these months of activity and which will be written in all the partners' languages and which they are convinced will improve the approach to VET and its results in terms of quality and numbers. In particular the association Youth Europe Service produced the manual on gamification and storytelling and explained how these two techniques have improved teaching. In the meantime, all interested parties can follow the activities of the project on the website <https://www.improveproject.eu/> or on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Innovative-Metodologies-and-PRactices-On-VET406262400174556/>.

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## 51. Second online meeting of the "MEM" project

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In date 16/02/2021 took place a second online meeting of the project "Modern Educational Methods" (acronym "MEM") to decide how to proceed with the courses foreseen in the strategic partnership initiative. The project has been approved as action n.2019-1-EL01-KA204-062923 I the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices programme. The international partnership that is developing the whole community action includes the following organisations: Mpirmpakos D. & SIA O.E. (Greece); Comparative Research Network EV (Germany); Youth Europe Service (Italy); Stando LTD (Cyprus) and Aydin Egitim, Kultur VE Sanat Dernegi (Turkey). The objective of the MEM project is to conduct a series of training activities, in which the organisations involved will be able to share methods and educational tools normally used and to identify the differences and advantages of integrating each methodology/tool into their own processes. More information on the official Facebook page of the project at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/Modern-Educational-Methods-102518281259840>.

