



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



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Bimonthly newsletter:

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

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



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1. State aid: green light to new synthetic securitisation

The European Commission approved, under EU State aid rules, the introduction of a new product in the form of guarantees on synthetic securitisation tranches under the European Guarantee Fund managed by the European Investment Bank Group (consisting of the European Investment Bank, “EIB” and the European Investment Fund, “EIF”) to support companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak in the 22 participating Member States.

With an envisaged dedicated budget of €1.4 billion, the new product is expected to mobilise at least €13 billion of new lending to small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) affected by the outbreak. This is a significant contribution to the overall target for the European Guarantee Fund to mobilise up to €200 billion of additional financing in the 22 participating Member States. Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, in charge of competition policy, said:



This new product will contribute significantly to the European Guarantee Fund's overall target to mobilise up to €200 billion for the European economy, by helping to originate at least €13 billion of new lending by financial intermediaries to SMEs, which have been severely hit by the coronavirus outbreak. The European Guarantee Fund, which is administered by the European Investment Bank Group, brings together

support by 22 Member States and complements the national support schemes. We continue to work closely with Member States and with the other European institutions to find workable solutions to mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak, whilst preserving the level playing field in the Single Market.” Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People, Valdis Dombrovskis, said: *“We continue pursuing our goal to support EU businesses, especially SMEs, weather the crisis. Thanks to the new synthetic securitisation product under the European Guarantee Fund, further financing in the form of new lending will flow to EU businesses that really need it. The European Guarantee Fund is the third of the safety nets agreed by the Council. We encourage Member States to continue using all three crisis tools to the maximum to support their workers and businesses.”* In April 2020, the European Council endorsed the establishment of a European Guarantee Fund (the “Fund”) under the management of the EIB Group, as part of the overall EU response to the coronavirus outbreak. It is one of the three safety nets agreed by the European Council to mitigate the economic impact on workers, businesses and countries. So far, the EIB and EIF have approved a total of €17.8 billion worth of projects under the Fund, which are expected to lead to some €143.2 billion in total mobilised investments. Following the notification by the participating Member States, on 14 December 2020, the Commission authorised, under EU State aid rules, the establishment of the Fund, the contributions to the Fund by, at the time, 21 participating Member States and the downstream interventions by in the form of guarantees on debt instruments (such as loans) under EU State aid rules. On 16 April 2021, the Commission authorised, under EU State aid rules, the participation to the Fund by Slovenia and its relative contribution in the form of guarantees on debt instruments under EU State aid rules. The Fund also provides guarantees on equity instruments, which are however outside of the scope of the December 2020 decision.

The new product under the Fund

The 22 participating Member States notified to the Commission, under EU State aid rules, the introduction of a new synthetic securitisation product to be implemented by the Fund. The complete notification, with the formal notification from the last participating Member State, was received on 9 August 2021. Synthetic securitisation is a financial technique whereby an originating entity (e.g. a bank) identifies a pool of existing assets (e.g. a portfolio of loans) which it holds on its balance sheet, creates tranches with different risk/reward profiles against that pool, and subsequently transfers a part of the risk stemming from the pool by buying protection on a specific tranche (for example by getting a guarantee on the relevant risk tranche) from a protection seller. In return, the originating entity pays a premium to the protection seller. Under the new instrument, the EIB Group, acting as a protection seller, will provide a financial intermediary with protection in the form of a guarantee on a specific risk tranche for a portfolio of existing assets, under the condition that the portfolio in question fulfils certain requirements in

terms of maximum size and contains only performing exposures. In exchange for providing the guarantee, the EIB Group will charge the financial intermediary with a subsidised guarantee fee. The financial intermediary will have to pass on the financial advantage stemming from the transaction, to the maximum extent possible, to the ultimate beneficiaries of the new instrument, i.e. to SMEs that will receive new loans. The financial intermediary will be obliged to use regulatory capital freed up thanks to the Fund's guarantee to build up a new pool of assets (e.g. a portfolio of loans) to meet the liquidity needs of SMEs, while complying with certain conditions in terms of riskiness, volume and maturity of the new loans. On top of this obligation, the terms of each transaction will also provide incentives to the financial intermediary to generate new lending. The purpose of the new product is to help originate new, riskier lending by financial intermediaries to SMEs. The aim is to free up lending capacity of financial intermediaries and prevent that their resources are shifted towards lower-risk assets instead of loans to SMEs. The risk of such a shift exists given the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, which is expected to lead to downgrades in the financial intermediaries' existing loan books and therefore to increasing demands for those intermediaries' regulatory capital.

The Commission's State aid assessment

The Commission assessed the new synthetic securitisation product under Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which enables the Commission to approve State aid measures implemented by Member States to remedy a serious disturbance in their economy. The Commission concluded that the synthetic securitisation product will contribute to managing the economic impact of the coronavirus in the 22 participating Member States. It is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy, in line with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU. On this basis, the Commission approved the Fund's guarantees on synthetic securitisation tranches under EU State aid rules.

Background

The Fund aims at addressing in a coordinated manner the financing needs of European companies (mainly SMEs) that are expected to be viable in the long-term, but are facing difficulties in the current crisis across Europe. By pooling credit risk across all of the participating Member States, the overall impact of the Fund can be maximised, whilst the average cost of the Fund is significantly reduced compared to national schemes. All Member States have the option to participate in the Fund. So far, 22 Member States decided to participate and jointly guarantee the Fund's operations. They take part in the governance of the Fund through the so-called Contributors Committee, which decides on the use of guarantee. The participating Member States are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. In case of particularly severe economic situations, such as the one currently faced by all Member States due to the continuing coronavirus outbreak, EU State aid rules allow Member States to grant support to remedy a serious disturbance to their economy. This is foreseen by Article 107(3)(b) TFEU. On 19 March 2020, the Commission has adopted a State aid Temporary Framework to enable Member States to use the full flexibility foreseen under State aid rules to support the



economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The Temporary Framework complements the many other possibilities already available to Member States to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak, in line with EU State aid rules. On 13 March 2020, the Commission adopted a Communication on a Coordinated economic response to the COVID-19 outbreak setting out these possibilities. For example, Member States can make generally applicable changes in favour of businesses (e.g. deferring taxes, or subsidising short-time work across all sectors), which fall outside State Aid rules. They can also grant compensation to companies for damage suffered due to and directly caused by the coronavirus outbreak. The Temporary Framework will be in place until the end of December 2021. With a view to ensuring legal certainty, the Commission will assess before this date if it needs to be extended. The non-confidential version of the decision will be made available under the case numbers SA.63422-SA.63443 in the State aid register on the Commission's competition website once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. More information on the Temporary Framework and

other action the Commission has taken to address the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic can be found [here](#).

2. Education: Commission steps up action

The Commission published a proposal for a Council Recommendation on blended learning to support high quality and inclusive primary and secondary education.

“Blended learning” in formal education and training is the term used to describe when a school, educator or student takes more than one approach to the learning process. It can be a blend of school site and other physical environments (companies, training centres, distance learning,



outdoor, cultural sites, etc.), or blending different learning tools that can be digital and non-digital. The Commission proposes shorter-term measures to address the most pressing gaps exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a way forward for blending learning environments and tools in primary and secondary education and training, that can help build more resilient education and training systems. Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel** said: “*Striving for a vision of better quality and inclusive education*

and training is by no means limited to the COVID-19 context. There is an opportunity now to learn and move forward from the most recent experiences. Today's proposal maps a vision of the education we want to see in Europe. One that supports the overall goals of the European Education Area and Digital Education Action Plan to promote quality and inclusion, green and digital education across Europe. The recommendation aims to guide Member States in strengthening the preparedness and outreach of their education systems to the benefit of pupils and students, their families and the pedagogical staff.” Blended learning can help to improve the inclusiveness of education, particularly due to its flexibility. It can mean better education provision in remote and rural areas, and for those who are part of traveller communities, or residing in hospitals and care centres, and those engaged in high-performance training. All environments and tools should be equally accessible to minority groups, children with disabilities or from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and should not lead to discrimination or segregation. The Commission's proposal for this Council Recommendation includes that Member States should: provide additional learning opportunities and targeted support to learners facing learning difficulties, with special educational needs, from disadvantaged groups or having been otherwise adversely affected by school disruption. This could include, for example, enhanced individualised support, mentoring systems, additional learning time during the school year and/or holiday period, access to additional learning environments, such as public libraries and community spaces, and to after-school services with pedagogical support. In that context, the Commission recommends mobilising or recruiting additional staff to allow more time for individual support at school and in after-school activities; prioritise the physical and mental wellbeing of learners and their families, as well as teachers and trainers. This could include developing guidance for mental health, and including student and teacher wellbeing and anti-bullying policies in school objectives; boost the development of digital competences of learners, of their families and of teachers and trainers, and encouraging investment at school and community level in available devices and connectivity; support effective partnerships for infrastructure and resources between different education providers, including from business, arts, cultural heritage, sport, nature, higher education, and research institutes, the educational resources industry (including technology, publishing, and other curriculum equipment) and educational research; make full use of EU funds and expertise for reforms and investment in infrastructure, tools and pedagogy to increase resilience and preparedness for future-ready schools, in particular Erasmus+, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Social Fund Plus, European Regional Development Fund, Digital Europe Programme, Horizon Europe and the Technical Support Instrument. The Commission stands ready to support the implementation of the Recommendation by facilitating mutual learning and exchanges among Member States and all relevant stakeholders within the dialogue forums set up under the European Education Area and the Digital Education Action Plan and on its online platforms and communities for education and training: School Education Gateway and eTwinning. A focus on the development of a blended learning approach in primary and secondary school education will be included in the regular progress reports of the European Education Area and the Digital Education Action

Plan 2021-2027. The Commission calls on Member States to swiftly adopt proposal for a Council Recommendation.

3. Visa liberalisation

The Commission is presenting its 4th report on the monitoring of the EU visa-free regime with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The report focuses on actions taken in 2020 to address the recommendations in the 3rd Report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism. For countries that have been visa-exempt for less than 7 years (Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), the report also provides a more detailed assessment of other actions taken to ensure the continuous fulfilment of the benchmarks. The report concludes that all countries concerned continue to meet the visa liberalisation requirements and made progress in addressing last year's recommendations. At the same time, the report highlights areas where further efforts are needed from each country. The report also states that visa-free



movement continues to bring positive economic, social and cultural benefits to EU Member States and partner countries. Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva **Johansson** said: *“Visa-free travel between the EU and the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries is a significant achievement. While restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on mobility, visa-free countries in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership must continue and step up their efforts in managing migration and asylum and in fighting corruption and organised crime.”*

Migration, asylum and cooperation on readmission

The COVID-19 pandemic and the related travel restrictions had a major impact on migration and mobility to the EU. The vast majority of those who did travel to the EU did so with legitimate grounds. While all countries assessed continued to take measures to address irregular migration, further efforts are needed to address ongoing concerns: **Asylum applications** decreased sharply in the spring of 2020. However, several countries need to continue addressing the issue of unfounded asylum applications by their citizens, including by strengthening participation in the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) and by continuing to organise targeted information campaigns. While **return rates** decreased due to the limited availability of flights, good cooperation on return and readmission continues between Member States and participating countries. Despite an overall decrease in the number of irregular border crossings, improvements in the areas of **border and migration management** are still needed. The reception capacity in some Western Balkan countries continues to raise concerns, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The **Frontex status agreements** with North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina should be swiftly finalised and implemented. To ensure a well-managed migration and security environment, a pre-condition for the continuous fulfilment of the visa liberalisation criteria, the assessed countries must ensure **further alignment with EU's visa policy**.

Public order and security

All countries assessed continued to take measures to prevent and **fight organised crime**. However, further efforts are needed to address internal security concerns: The countries should take action to effectively **fight against organised crime**, financial fraud and money laundering, especially through better coordination between law enforcement agencies. **High-level corruption** remains an area of concern. In some cases, efforts against corruption are still hampered by the limited capacity and legal status of anti-corruption agencies as well as the small number of convictions in those corruption cases which go to trial (especially in Moldova and Ukraine). Visa-free countries **granting citizenship in exchange for investment** should effectively phase out such schemes, so as to prevent nationals of other visa-required countries from circumventing the EU short-stay visa procedure and the in-depth assessment of migration and security risks it entails.

Next steps

The Commission will continue monitoring the fulfilment of the visa liberalisation requirements through senior officials meetings as well as through the regular Justice, Freedom and Security subcommittee meetings and bilateral and regional dialogues between the EU and visa-free

countries. For the Western Balkans, this monitoring will also take place through regular enlargement reports and, where relevant, EU accession negotiations. The Commission will continue to report to the European Parliament and the Council at least once a year.

Background

The EU currently has a visa-free regime in place with 61 countries. Under this visa-free regime, non-EU citizens with a biometric passport can enter the Schengen area for 90 days, within 180 days, without a visa. Visa-exempt travellers visiting the Schengen area will be subject to the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) as from the end of 2022. As part of the Strengthened Visa Suspension Mechanism, adopted in March 2017, the Commission monitors the continuous fulfilment of visa liberalisation requirements by non-EU countries that obtained visa exemption as a result of a visa liberalisation dialogue less than 7 years ago, and reports to the European Parliament and the Council at least once a year. This report is the 4th under the Visa Suspension Mechanism, following the First Visa Suspension Mechanism Report of December 2017, Second Visa Suspension Mechanism Report issued in December 2018 and Third Visa Suspension Mechanism Report issued in July 2020. Data from this report relates to the 2020 calendar year, with updates for 2021 where relevant. Citizens of Montenegro, Serbia and North Macedonia can travel to the EU without a visa since December 2009. For citizens of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, this is possible since the end of 2010. For Moldova visa-free travel entered into force in April 2014, for Georgia in March 2017 and for Ukraine in June 2017.

4. 2021 Rule of Law: EU report

The European Commission has published the second EU-wide Report on the Rule of Law with a Communication looking at the situation in the EU as a whole and dedicated country chapters on each Member State.

The 2021 report looks at the new developments since last September, deepening the assessment of issues identified in the previous report and taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the report shows many positive developments in Member States, including where challenges identified in the 2020 report are being addressed. However, concerns remain and in certain Member States these have increased, for instance when it comes to the independence of the judiciary and the situation in the media. The report also underlines the strong resilience of national systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic also illustrated the importance of the ability to maintain a system of checks and balances, upholding the rule of law. Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Věra **Jourová**, said: *“The Rule of Law Report is a useful preventive tool that has stimulated needed debate among the Member States and other actors. The second edition shows that Member States can make progress to address rule of law matters. Yet this has been uneven and there are causes for serious concern in a number of Member States, especially when it comes to the independence of judiciary. Moreover, two journalists were murdered over the past months – this is not acceptable. The report calls for decisive action to improve media freedom and pluralism. Over the next year, we expect the findings of the 2021 report to nourish discussions between Member States as they work to strengthen the rule of law.”* Commissioner for Justice, Didier **Reynders**, said: *“Over this past year, the 2020 Rule of Law Report has encouraged positive reforms related to the rule of law in a number of Member States. Moreover, the Council of Ministers used it to modernise its rule of law dialogue, with regular country-specific debates. I have also debated the report in 20 national parliaments. This year, we have further deepened our assessment, which benefitted from even more outreach than last year. The report can help us to have a real dialogue as a Union, side by side, in an honest and open spirit. This 2021 report, building on the one of last year, will foster this process.”* 2021 report builds on the methodology and scope of the previous report focusing on the four key elements: justice systems; the anti-corruption framework; media pluralism and media freedom; and other institutional issues linked to checks and balances.



Justice Systems

Almost all Member States are undertaking reforms related to their justice systems, albeit with variations in scope, form and progress. In a number of Member States, steps have been or are being taken to strengthen judicial independence through reforms related to Judicial Councils, the appointment of judges, and the independence and autonomy of the prosecution services, for example. However, a few Member States have continued to carry out reforms that lower their safeguards for judicial independence, raising concerns or aggravating the existing ones related to increased influence of the executive and legislative branch over the functioning of their justice system. Moreover, in some Member States, political attacks and repeated attempts undermining judges or judicial institutions are further challenging judicial independence. Since the adoption of the 2020 report, the Court of Justice of the EU has reaffirmed the importance of effective judicial protection for upholding the rule of law. Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has given a new sense of the urgency to modernise justice systems and highlighted the potential of digitalisation.

Anti-corruption frameworks

EU Member States continue to be among the best performers globally, with ten Member States in the world's top twenty of countries perceived as least corrupt. Several Member States are currently adopting or revising national anti-corruption strategies or action plans. Many took measures to strengthen the corruption prevention and integrity frameworks, including rules on conflicts of interests, lobbying transparency and revolving doors. Challenges however remain, in particular linked to criminal investigations, prosecutions and the application of sanctions for corruption in some Member States. Major or highly complex corruption cases continued to emerge in various Member States. The resources allocated to anti-corruption are not always adequate in some Member States, while concerns about the effectiveness of investigations, prosecution and adjudication of high-level corruption cases persist in others. Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down reforms and the decisions in corruption cases in some Member States.



Media freedom and pluralism

During the COVID-19 pandemic, journalists and media workers in Europe were under a heavy strain. With the highest ever number of journalist safety alerts and recent tragic events there is a need to address the issue across the EU. The 2021 Media Pluralism Monitor – a key source of information for the Rule of Law Report – points to an overall

deterioration of the situation of journalists in several Member States. Not all media regulators are free from political influence and there is a high risk of political interference in the media in some Member States. The news media have been crucial in keeping citizens informed during the COVID-19 pandemic even though a series of restrictions made journalists' jobs harder. The pandemic has also triggered serious economic challenges for the media sector, which led some Member States to adopt news media support schemes. Such support must be implemented in a transparent and equitable manner.

Institutional checks and balances

Since last year, some Member States have continued to embark on constitutional reforms to strengthen checks and safeguards. Some have recently put measures in place to increase the transparency of law making and improve citizens' participation. Overall, national checks and balances, including the Parliaments, the courts, ombudspersons and other independent authorities have played a crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been a stress test for the rule of law. At the same time, challenges exist to the legislative process, such as sudden changes, expedited procedures, or to the system of constitutional review. Civil society generally benefits from a supportive environment in the majority of Member States but in some of them it continues to face serious challenges, be it deliberate threats from the authorities, inadequate protection against physical or verbal attacks, or an inadequate level of protection of fundamental rights guaranteeing their work. These challenges have been at time exacerbated by the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of recent developments have raised concern with regard to the respect of the primacy of EU law, essential for the functioning of the EU's legal order and equality of Member States in the EU.

Next steps

The adoption of the 2021 Rule of Law Report marks the start of a new cycle of dialogue and monitoring. The Commission invites the Council and the European Parliament to have general and country-specific debates on the basis of this report, and calls on national parliaments and other key actors to continue to intensify national debates. The Commission invites Member

States to effectively take up the challenges identified in the Report and stands ready to assist Member States in these efforts.

Background

The annual Rule of Law Report is the result of close dialogue with national authorities and stakeholders, and covers all Member States on an objective and impartial basis, looking at the same issues. The qualitative assessment carried out by the Commission focuses on significant developments since the adoption of the first annual Rule of Law Report and ensures a coherent approach by applying the same methodology to all Member States, while remaining proportionate to developments. The scope and the methodology of the 2021 edition are the same as for the first annual Rule of Law Report, adopted in September 2020. The report is at the centre of the Rule of Law Mechanism. The Mechanism is a yearly cycle to promote the rule of law and prevent problems from emerging or deepening further. The goal is to focus on improving understanding and awareness of issues and significant developments, as well as to identify rule of law challenges and help Member States find solutions with support from the Commission and the other Member States. It also allows Member States to exchange best practices, discuss among themselves and learn from each other. The objective of the Mechanism is preventive. It is separate from the other elements in the EU's Rule of Law Toolbox, and complements but does not replace the Treaty-based mechanisms for the EU to respond to more serious rule of law related issues in Member States. These tools include infringement proceedings and the procedure to protect the founding values of the Union under Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union. There is also a close link to EU policies to bring economic recovery: strong justice systems, a robust anti-corruption framework, and a clear and consistent system of law-making, the protection of the EU's financial interests, and sustainable growth. This is a key driver for the work of EU instruments, which promote structural reforms in Member States.

5. Beating Financial Crime

The European Commission has presented an ambitious package of legislative proposals to strengthen the EU's anti-money laundering and countering terrorism financing (AML/CFT) rules.

The package also includes the proposal for the creation of a new EU authority to fight money laundering. This package is part of the Commission's commitment to protect EU citizens and the EU's financial system from money laundering and terrorist financing. The aim of this package is to improve the detection of suspicious transactions and activities, and to close loopholes used by criminals to launder illicit proceeds or finance terrorist activities through the financial system. As



recalled in the EU's Security Union Strategy for 2020-2025, enhancing the EU's framework for anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing will also help to protect Europeans from terrorism and organised crime. These measures greatly enhance the existing EU framework by taking into account new and emerging challenges linked to technological innovation. These include virtual currencies, more integrated financial flows in the Single Market and the global nature of terrorist organisations. These proposals will help to create a much more consistent framework to

ease compliance for operators subject to AML/CFT rules, especially for those active cross-border. This package consists of **four legislative proposals**: a Regulation establishing a new EU AML/CFT Authority; a Regulation on AML/CFT, containing directly-applicable rules, including in the areas of Customer Due Diligence and Beneficial Ownership; a sixth Directive on AML/CFT ("AMLD6"), replacing the existing Directive 2015/849/EU (the fourth AML directive as amended by the fifth AML directive), containing provisions that will be transposed into national law, such as rules on national supervisors and Financial Intelligence Units in Member States; a revision of the 2015 Regulation on Transfers of Funds to trace transfers of crypto-assets (Regulation 2015/847/EU).

Members of the College said:

Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that works for people, said: *“Every fresh money laundering scandal is one scandal too many – and a wake-up call that our work to close the gaps in our financial system is not yet done. We have made huge strides in recent years and our EU AML rules are now among the toughest in the world. But they now need to be applied consistently and closely supervised to make sure they really bite. This is why we are today taking these bold steps to close the door on money laundering and stop criminals from lining their pockets with ill-gotten gains.”* Mairead **McGuinness**, Commissioner responsible for financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union said: *“Money laundering poses a clear and present threat to citizens, democratic institutions, and the financial system. The scale of the problem cannot be underestimated and the loopholes that criminals can exploit need to be closed. Today's package significantly ramps up our efforts to stop dirty money being washed through the financial system. We are increasing coordination and cooperation between authorities in member states, and creating a new EU AML authority. These measures will help us protect the integrity of the financial system and the single market.”*



A new EU AML Authority (AMLA)

At the heart of this legislative package is the creation of a new EU Authority which will transform AML/CFT supervision in the EU and enhance cooperation among Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs). The new EU-level Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA) will be the central authority coordinating national authorities to ensure the private sector correctly and consistently applies EU rules. AMLA will also support FIUs to improve their analytical capacity around illicit flows and make financial intelligence a key source for law enforcement agencies. In particular, AMLA will: establish a single integrated system of AML/CFT supervision across the EU, based on common supervisory methods and convergence of high supervisory standards; directly supervise some of the riskiest financial institutions that operate in a large number of Member States or require immediate action to address imminent risks; monitor and coordinate national supervisors responsible for other financial entities, as well as coordinate supervisors of non-financial entities; support cooperation among national Financial Intelligence Units and facilitate coordination and joint analyses between them, to better detect illicit financial flows of a cross-border nature.

A Single EU Rulebook for AML/CFT

The Single EU Rulebook for AML/CFT will harmonise AML/CFT rules across the EU, including, for example, more detailed rules on Customer Due Diligence, Beneficial Ownership and the powers and task of supervisors and Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs). Existing national registers of bank accounts will be connected, providing faster access for FIUs to information on bank accounts and safe deposit boxes. The Commission will also provide law enforcement authorities with access to this system, speeding up financial investigations and the recovery of criminal assets in cross-border cases. Access to financial information will be subject to robust safeguards in Directive (EU) 2019/1153 on exchange of financial information.

Full application of the EU AML/CFT rules to the crypto sector

At present, only certain categories of crypto-asset service providers are included in the scope of EU AML/CFT rules. The proposed reform will extend these rules to the entire crypto sector, obliging all service providers to conduct due diligence on their customers. This amendments will ensure full traceability of crypto-asset transfers, such as Bitcoin, and will allow for prevention and detection of their possible use for money laundering or terrorism financing. In addition, anonymous crypto asset wallets will be prohibited, fully applying EU AML/CFT rules to the crypto sector.

EU-wide limit of €10,000 on large cash payments

Large cash payments are an easy way for criminals to launder money, since it is very difficult to detect transactions. That is why the Commission has proposed an EU-wide limit of €10,000 on large cash payments. This EU-wide limit is high enough not to put into question the euro as legal tender and recognises the vital role of cash. Limits already exist in about two-thirds of Member States, but amounts vary. National limits under €10,000 can remain in place. Limiting large cash payments makes it harder for criminals to launder dirty money. In addition, providing anonymous crypto-asset wallets will be prohibited, just as anonymous bank accounts are already prohibited by EU AML/CFT rules.

Third countries

Money laundering is a global phenomenon that requires strong international cooperation. The Commission already works closely with its international partners to combat the circulation of dirty money around the globe. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, issues recommendations to countries. A country that is listed by FATF will also be listed by the EU. There will be two EU lists, a “black-list” and a “grey-list, reflecting the FATF listing. Following the listing, the EU will apply measures proportionate to the risks posed by the country. The EU will also be able to list countries which are not listed by FATF, but which pose a threat to the EU's financial system based on an autonomous assessment. The diversity of the tools that the Commission and AMLA can use will allow the EU to keep pace with a fast-moving and complex international environment with rapidly evolving risks.

Next steps

The legislative package will now be discussed by the European Parliament and Council. The Commission looks forward to a speedy legislative process. The future AML Authority should be operational in 2024 and will start its work of direct supervision slightly later, once the Directive has been transposed and the new regulatory framework starts to apply.

Background

The complex issue of tackling dirty money flows is not new. The fight against money laundering and terrorist financing is vital for financial stability and security in Europe. Legislative gaps in one Member State have an impact on the EU as a whole. That is why EU rules must be implemented and supervised efficiently and consistently to combat crime and protect our financial system. Ensuring the efficiency and consistency of the EU AML framework is of the utmost importance. This legislative package implements the commitments in our Action Plan for a comprehensive Union policy on preventing money laundering and terrorism financing which was adopted by the Commission on 7 May 2020. The EU framework against money laundering also includes the regulation on the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders, the directive on combating money laundering by criminal law, the directive laying down rules on the use of financial and other information to combat serious crimes, the European Public Prosecutor's Office, and the European system of financial supervision.

6. New strategy to protect and restore EU forests

The European Commission adopted the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030, a flagship initiative of the European Green Deal that builds on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

The strategy contributes to the package of measures proposed to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 55% by 2030 and climate neutrality in 2050 in the EU. It also helps the EU deliver on its commitment to enhance carbon removals by natural sinks as per the Climate Law. By addressing the social, economic and environmental aspects all together, the Forest Strategy aims at ensuring the multifunctionality of EU forests and highlights the pivotal role played by foresters. Forests are an essential ally in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. They function as carbon sinks and help us reduce the impacts of climate change, for example by cooling down cities, protecting us from heavy flooding, and reducing drought impact. Unfortunately, Europe's forests suffer from many different pressures, including climate change.

Protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests

The Forest Strategy sets a vision and concrete actions for increasing the quantity and quality of forests in the EU and strengthening their protection, restoration and resilience. The proposed actions will increase carbon sequestration through enhanced sinks and stocks thus contributing to climate change mitigation. The Strategy commits to strictly protecting primary and old-growth forests, restoring degraded forests, and ensuring they are managed sustainably – in a way that preserves the vital ecosystem services that forests provide and on which society depends. The Strategy promotes the most climate and biodiversity



friendly forest management practices, emphasises the need to keep the use of woody biomass within sustainability boundaries, and encourages resource-efficient wood use in line with the cascade principle.

Ensuring the multifunctionality of EU forests

The Strategy also foresees the development of payment schemes to forest owners and managers for providing alternative ecosystems services, e.g. through keeping parts of their forests intact. The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), amongst others, will be an opportunity for more targeted support to foresters and to the sustainable development of forests. The new governance structure for forests will create a more inclusive space for Member States, forest owners and managers, industry, academia and civil society to discuss about the future of forests in the EU and help maintain these valuable assets for the generations to come. Finally, the Forest Strategy announces a legal proposal to step up forest monitoring, reporting and data collection in the EU. Harmonised EU data collection, combined with strategic planning at Members States' level, will provide a comprehensive picture of the state, the evolution and the envisaged future developments of forests in the EU. This is paramount to making sure that forests can deliver on their multiple functions for climate, biodiversity and economy. The strategy is accompanied by a Roadmap for planting three billion additional trees across Europe by 2030 in full respect of ecological principles – the right tree in the right place for the right purpose.



Members of the College said:

Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Frans **Timmermans**, said: "Forests provide a home to most of the biodiversity we find on Earth. For our water to be clean, and our soils to be rich, we need healthy forests. Europe's forests are at risk. That is why we will work to protect and restore them, to improve forest management, and to support foresters and forest caretakers. In the end, we are all part of nature. What we do to fight the climate and biodiversity crisis, we do for our own health and future." Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz **Wojciechowski**, said: "Forests are the lungs of our earth: they are vital for our climate, biodiversity, soil, and air quality. Forests are also the lungs of our society and economy: they secure livelihoods in rural areas, provide essential products for our citizens, and hold a deep social value through their nature. The new Forest Strategy recognises this multifunctionality and shows how environmental ambition can go hand-in-hand with economic prosperity. Through this Strategy, and with support from the new common agricultural policy, our forests and our foresters will breathe life into a sustainable, prosperous, and climate neutral Europe."



Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus **Sinkevičius**, said: "European forests are a valuable natural heritage that cannot be taken for granted. Protecting, restoring and building up the resilience of European forests is not only essential to fight the climate and biodiversity crises, but also to preserve the socio-economic functions of forests. The huge involvement in public consultations shows that Europeans care about the future of our forests, so we must change the way we protect, manage and grow our forests that it would bring real benefits for all."

Background

Forests are an essential ally in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss thanks to their function as carbon sinks as well as their ability to reduce the impacts of climate change, for example by cooling down cities, protecting us from heavy flooding, and reducing drought impact. They are also valuable ecosystems, home to a major part of Europe's biodiversity. Their ecosystem services contribute to our health and well-being through water regulation,

food, medicines and materials provision, disaster risk reduction and control, soil stabilisation and erosion control, air and water purification. Forests are a place for recreation, relaxation and learning, as well as part of livelihoods.

7. Commission revises EU rules on consumer credit and product

The European Commission has proposed revisions of two sets of EU rules to enhance consumer rights in a world reshaped by digitalisation and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission is reinforcing its safety net for EU consumers, for example, by making sure that dangerous products are recalled from the market or that credit offers are presented to consumers in a clear way, easily readable on digital devices. The proposal updates both the existing General Product Safety Directive as well as the EU rules on consumer credit to safeguard consumers. Věra Jourová, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, said: *“Consumers face many challenges, especially in the digital world which revolutionised shopping, services or financial markets. This is why we are stepping up consumer protection on two fronts: we are making it easier for consumers to avoid risks related to having a credit and we are putting even stronger rules for product safety in place. It will also put more responsibility on market players and make it more difficult for bad actors to hide behind complicated legal jargon.”*

Didier Reynders, Commissioner for Justice, said: *“The COVID-19 crisis has impacted consumers in multiple ways and many have faced financial difficulties. The digitalisation that has been accelerated by the pandemic, leads to a surge of online shopping and is profoundly changing the financial sector. It is our duty to safeguard consumers, in particular, the most vulnerable ones. With our revision of the existing EU rules on consumer credit and general product safety, that's exactly what we do!”* Online sales have increased steadily in the last 20 years



and in 2020, 71% of consumers shopped online, often buying new technology products. From wireless earplugs and air purifiers to gaming consoles – the market for technological gadgets is vast. The General Product Safety Regulation will address risks related to these new technology products, such as cybersecurity risks, and to online shopping by, introducing product safety rules for online marketplaces. It will ensure that all products reaching EU consumers, through online marketplaces or from the neighbourhood shop, are safe, whether coming from within the EU or from outside. The new Regulation will make certain that marketplaces fulfil their duties so that consumers do not end up with dangerous products in their hands. The revision of the Consumer Credit Directive provides that information related to credits must be presented in a clear way, adapted to the digital devices so that consumers understand what they are signing up for. Furthermore, the Directive will improve rules with which creditworthiness, i.e. whether or not a consumer will be able to repay the credit, is assessed. This is to avoid the issue of over-indebtedness. The regulation will ask Member States to promote financial education and to ensure debt advice is made available to consumers.

Next steps

The Commission's proposals will now be discussed by Council and Parliament.

Background

General Product Safety Regulation

The General Product Safety Directive, in force since 2001, ensures that only safe products are sold on the EU single market. However, too many unsafe products still circulate on the EU market, creating an uneven playing field for businesses and an important cost for society and consumers. In addition, the rules need to be updated to address challenges linked to new technologies and online sales.

Consumer Credit Directive Proposal

Directive 2008/48/EC on credit agreements for consumers established a harmonised EU framework for consumer credit and provided a solid framework for fair access to credit for European consumers. However, since its entering into force in 2008 the digitalisation has profoundly changed the decision-making process and the habits of consumers in general. This

revision aims to address these developments. Both proposals are part of the New Consumer Agenda, launched last year, aiming to update the overall strategic framework of the EU consumer policy.

8. Europeans consider climate change as most serious problem

A new Eurobarometer survey published shows that European citizens believe climate change is the single most serious problem facing the world.

More than nine out of ten people surveyed consider climate change to be a serious problem (93%), with almost eight out of ten (78%) considering it to be very serious. When asked to pick



out the single most serious problem facing the world, over a quarter (29%) chose either climate change (18%), deterioration of nature (7%) or health problems due to pollution (4%). In terms of policy response, nine out of ten Europeans (90%) agree that greenhouse gas **emissions should be reduced to a minimum** while offsetting remaining emissions to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050. Close to nine in ten Europeans (87%) think it is important that the EU sets ambitious targets to **increase renewable energy use**, and the same percentage believe that it is important that the EU provides support for **improving energy efficiency**.

Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal Frans **Timmermans** said: *“Despite the pandemic and the economic hardship Europeans are facing, support for climate action remains high. Europeans recognize the long-term risks posed by the climate and biodiversity crises, and expect industry, governments and the European Union to take action. The numbers in this Eurobarometer survey serve as a rallying call for politicians and businesses. For the European Commission they provide added motivation to finalize the ‘Fit for 55’ legislation that we’ll present later this month to make sure we reach our climate targets.”* A majority (64%) of **EU citizens are already taking individual climate action** and consciously making sustainable choices in their daily lives. When asked who is responsible for tackling climate change, **citizens underlined the need for structural reform** to accompany individual action, pointing to national governments (63%), business and industry (58%) and the EU (57%). Over eight in ten Europeans surveyed (81%) agree that **clean energies should receive more public financial support**, even if this leads to a reduction in subsidies for fossil fuels. Three quarters of Europeans (75%) believe that investment in the economic recovery should mainly target the new green economy. There is clear acknowledgement that **fighting climate change brings opportunities** for EU citizens and for the European economy. Almost eight out of ten Europeans (78%) agree that taking action on climate will lead to innovation that will **make European companies more competitive**. Almost eight in ten (78%) agree that promoting EU expertise in clean technologies to countries outside the EU can **help create new jobs** in the EU. Seven in ten Europeans (70%) believe that reducing fossil fuel imports can benefit the EU economically. Over seven in ten Europeans (74%) agree that the **cost of damages due to climate change are much higher than the investments needed for a green transition**.

Background

Special Eurobarometer 513 on Climate Change surveyed 26,669 citizens from different social and demographic groups across all 27 EU Member States. The survey was carried out between 15 March and 14 April 2021. Where possible, face-to-face interviews were conducted, but some respondents completed the survey online, in line with COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The European Green Deal is the number one political priority for the European Commission. Based on proposals presented by the Commission, the European Parliament and Member States have committed to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050, and to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. These commitments are now enshrined in the European Climate Law, which was formally signed into law on 30 June 2021. To



meet these targets, the Commission will present on 14 July 2021 its 'Fit for 55' package of legislative proposals. This comprehensive reform of the EU's climate and energy policy toolbox will include revisions to existing legislation and a number of new instruments.

9. Sustainable finance

The European Commission has adopted a number of measures to increase its level of ambition on sustainable finance.

First, the new Sustainable Finance Strategy sets out several initiatives to tackle climate change, and other environmental challenges, while increasing investment – and the inclusiveness of small



and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – in the EU's transition towards a sustainable economy. The European Green Bond Standard proposal, will create a high-quality voluntary standard for bonds financing sustainable investment. Finally, the Commission adopted a Delegated Act on the information to be disclosed by financial and non-financial companies about how sustainable their activities are, based on Article 8 of the EU Taxonomy. These initiatives highlight the EU's global leadership in setting international standards for sustainable finance. The Commission intends to work closely with all international partners, including through the International Platform on Sustainable Finance, to cooperate on building a robust international sustainable finance system.

A new Sustainable Finance Strategy

Over the last number of years, the EU has become significantly more ambitious in tackling climate change. The Commission has already taken unprecedented steps to build the foundations for sustainable finance. Sustainability is the

central feature of the EU's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial sector will be key in helping to meet the targets of the European Green Deal. This Strategy includes **six sets of actions**:

1. Extend the existing sustainable finance toolbox to facilitate access to transition finance;
2. Improve the inclusiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and consumers, by giving them the right tools and incentives to access transition finance;
3. Enhance the resilience of the economic and financial system to sustainability risks;
4. Increase the contribution of the financial sector to sustainability;
5. Ensure the integrity of the EU financial system and monitor its orderly transition to sustainability;
6. Develop international sustainable finance initiatives and standards, and support EU partner countries.

The Commission will report on the Strategy's implementation by the end of 2023 and will actively support Member States in their efforts on sustainable finance.

A European Green Bond Standard (EUGBS)

The Commission has also proposed a Regulation on a voluntary European Green Bond Standard (EUGBS). This proposal will create a high-quality voluntary standard available to all issuers (private and sovereigns) to help financing sustainable investments. Green bonds are already used to raise financing in sectors such as energy production and distribution, resource-efficient housing, and low-carbon transport infrastructure. There is also a lot of investor appetite for these bonds. However, there is potential to scale-up and increase the environmental ambition of the green bond market. The EUGBS will set a 'gold standard' for how companies and public authorities can use green bonds to raise funds on capital markets to finance ambitious investments, while meeting tough sustainability requirements and protecting investors from greenwashing. In particular: Issuers of green bonds will have a robust tool at their disposal to show they are funding green projects aligned with the EU Taxonomy. Investors buying the bonds will be able to more easily see that their investments are sustainable, thereby reducing the risk of greenwashing. The new EUGBS will be open to any issuer of green bonds, including issuers located outside of the EU. There are four key requirements under the proposed framework: the funds raised by the bond should be allocated fully to projects aligned with the EU Taxonomy; there must be full transparency on how bond proceeds are allocated through detailed reporting requirements; all EU green bonds must be checked by an external reviewer to ensure compliance

with the Regulation and that funded projects are aligned with the Taxonomy. Specific, limited flexibility is foreseen here for sovereign issuers; external reviewers providing services to issuers of EU green bonds must be registered with and supervised by the European Securities Markets Authority. This will ensure the quality and reliability of their services and reviews to protect investors and ensure market integrity. Specific, limited flexibility is foreseen here for sovereign issuers. The core objective is to create a new 'gold standard' for green bonds that other market standards can be compared to, and potentially seek alignment. This standard will aim to address concerns on greenwashing and protecting market integrity to ensure that legitimate environmental projects are financed. Following this adoption, the Commission proposal will be submitted to the European Parliament and Council as part of the co-legislative procedure.

Sustainable Finance and EU Taxonomy

The European Commission also adopted the Delegated Act supplementing Article 8 of the Taxonomy Regulation, which requires financial and non-financial companies to provide information to investors about the environmental performance of their assets and economic activities. Markets and investors need clear and comparable sustainability information to prevent greenwashing. The Delegated Act specifies the content, methodology and presentation of information to be disclosed by large financial and non-financial companies on the share of their business, investments or lending activities that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. Non-financial companies will have to disclose the share of their turnover, capital and operational expenditure associated with environmentally sustainable economic activities as defined in the Taxonomy Regulation and the EU Taxonomy Climate Delegated act, formally adopted on 4 June 2021, as well as any future delegated acts on other environmental objectives. Financial institutions, mainly large banks, asset managers, investment firms and insurance/reinsurance companies, will have to disclose the share of environmentally sustainable economic activities in the total assets they finance or invest in. The Delegated Act will be transmitted for scrutiny by the European Parliament and the Council for a period of 4 months, extendable once by 2 months.



Members of the College said:

Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People, said: *"Today's Sustainable Finance Strategy is key to generate private finance to reach our climate targets and tackle other environmental challenges. We also want to create sustainable funding opportunities for small and medium-sized companies. We will work with our international partners to deepen cooperation on sustainable finance, as global challenges call for global action. We also propose a Green Bond Standard to fight greenwashing and clearly recognise those bonds that truly represent a sustainable investment."* Mairead **McGuinness**, Commissioner in charge of Financial Services, Financial Stability, and Capital Markets Union, said: *"Today's*



Strategy sets out our ambitious roadmap on Sustainable Finance for the years ahead. To achieve our climate targets, we need sustained efforts to ensure more money flows towards a sustainable economy. Significant investment is needed to green the economy and create a more inclusive society, so that everyone can play their part. We must step up global cooperation on climate and environmental issues because the EU cannot fight climate change alone – global coordination and action

is essential. In addition, our EU Green Bond Standard proposal will set a gold standard in the market, and responds to the needs of investors for a trusted, robust tool when investing sustainably."

Background

The European Green Deal made clear that significant investment is required across all economic sectors to transition to a climate-neutral economy and reach the Union's environmental sustainability goals. A big part of these financial flows will have to come from the private sector. Closing this investment gap means redirecting private capital flows towards more environmentally sustainable investments and requires a comprehensive rethink of the European financial framework. In particular, the European Green Deal underlined that it should be easier for

investors and companies to identify environmentally sustainable investments and ensure that they are credible. With this proposals, the EU is taking another major step towards achieving the goals in the Green Deal by ensuring a comprehensive approach to funding the green transition.

10. Potential COVID-19 vaccine with Novavax

The European Commission has approved its seventh Advanced Purchase Agreement (APA) with a pharmaceutical company to ensure access to a potential vaccine against COVID-19 in Q4 of 2021 and in 2022.

Under this contract, Member States will be able to purchase up to 100 million doses of the Novavax vaccine, with an option for 100 million additional doses over the course of 2021, 2022, and 2023, once reviewed and approved by EMA as safe and effective. Member States will also be able to donate vaccines to lower and middle-income countries or to re-direct them to other European countries. This contract complements an already broad portfolio of vaccines to be produced in Europe, including the contracts with AstraZeneca, Sanofi-GSK, Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, BioNtech-Pfizer, CureVac, Moderna and the concluded exploratory talks with Valneva. It represents another key step towards ensuring that Europe is well prepared to face the COVID-19 pandemic. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said: *"As new coronavirus variants are spreading in Europe and around the world, this new contract with a company that is already testing its vaccine successfully against these variants is an additional safeguard for the protection of our population. It further strengthens our broad vaccine portfolio, to the benefit of Europeans and our partners worldwide."*



Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said: *"Vaccinations in the EU are advancing and we are closer to our target of 70% fully vaccinated citizens by the end of summer. Our new agreement with Novavax expands our vaccine portfolio to include one more protein-based vaccine, a technology platform showing promise in clinical trials. We will continue working tirelessly to ensure that our vaccines continue to reach citizens in Europe and around the world, to end the pandemic as quickly as possible."* (Updated 05/08/2021 at 11:17). Novavax is a biotechnology company developing next-generation vaccines for serious infectious diseases. Their COVID-19 vaccine is already under rolling review by EMA in view of a potential market authorisation. The Commission has taken a decision to support this vaccine based on a sound scientific assessment, the technology used, the company's experience in vaccine development and its production capacity to supply the whole of the EU. 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**. In view of the current and new escape SARS-CoV-2 variants, the Commission and the Member States are negotiating with companies already in the EU vaccine portfolio new agreements that would allow to purchase rapidly adapted vaccines in sufficient quantities to reinforce and prolong immunity. In order to purchase the new vaccines, Member States are allowed to use the REACT-EU package, one of the largest programmes under the new instrument Next Generation EU that continues and extends the crisis response and crisis repair measures.

11. The Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism

The Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism (hereinafter, the Prize) was launched on 16 October 2020 as a tribute to the Maltese anti-corruption investigative journalist and blogger who was assassinated in a car bomb attack in 2017. The Prize, with the support of the European Parliament, will be awarded annually to in-depth journalism pieces undertaken by EU-based professional journalists. Applications must be submitted via our [online platform](#) by **1 September 2021, 12 PM (CET)**. The Prize aims to recognise outstanding in-depth journalism work on topics that are relevant for the European Union (EU) as a whole or some of its Member States, and

contribute to the promotion of principles and values of the EU, as enshrined in the European



Charter of Human Rights. There will be one single prize of €20,000 awarded annually. The Prize is open to individual professional journalists or teams of professional journalists of any nationality. Applications may be submitted by authors themselves or by professional media organisations and associations on their behalf. Entries must have been published/broadcast in print, audiovisual or online media outlets based in one of the 27 EU Member States between **1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021.**

English is the official language of the Prize. Entries may be submitted in all EU official languages. A summary in English (500 words maximum) must be provided in the submission form. Length: No restriction. Entries may have one or several authors. Participants must be the authors and holders of the copyright and the moral rights to their work. Applications may be submitted by authors themselves or by professional media organisations and associations on their behalf. Should a journalist or team of journalists wish to participate with more than one entry, they are allowed to do so. However, they must submit a separate application per entry. Plagiarism, which includes the unauthorised use of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own, will result in disqualification. Retrospective discovery of plagiarism will result in revocation of the awarded Prize.

Evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the topic for European society and contribution to the promotion of EU values and principles;
- Quality of content, which should be well documented, accurate, factual, and based on a variety of sources;
- Quality in terms of language, style, and structure;
- Original and in-depth approach to the topic.

There will be one single winner, who will receive €20.000. The jury reserves the right not to award the Prize in case the aforementioned quality criteria are not met. The winner will be invited to participate in the Award Ceremony of the Prize. The European Parliament will cover the winner's travel costs. The Jury will be composed of at least 27 recognised personalities in the fields of media, journalism and civil society. The Jury, deciding by simple majority, will determine the winning entry. Each Jury member may vote for one single entry. The decision of the Jury shall be final and irrevocable. The winner will be announced at the Award Ceremony to be held in the European Parliament in Brussels on Thursday, 14 October 2021. The European Parliament has the right to reproduce and disseminate the awarded entries in its own publications, on its website and in other communications and promotional materials, including, but not limited to, publicity material for the Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism. The European Parliament is committed to personal data protection. The organisers are processing your personal data for the purposes of the Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism in line with [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#). For more information please consult the following [link](#).

12. EDL T-Shirt Contest

Send us your design/image/graphic and have your layout on the official 2022 EDL T-Shirt!

Please keep in mind that the design should be about languages, not countries. So please don't use flags or similar. You can use up to 3 colours. If you have versions using different colours, send all of them in one email, we will select the ones that we like the most. Keep in mind that we need a simple design that is not too complex or that has small details. This will increase printing quality. The design cannot go over the seams of the t-shirt, it must be placed on the front. Keep in mind that the maximum printing surface is 30 cm x 30 cm. The design cannot contain third party copyright logos or material. By sending us the design you agree that we can use it free of charge on our



websites, on the t-shirts and on promotional media (such as Facebook or flyers). Of course we will always add your name to it. **Submission deadline: 31 December 2021.** The winner will also receive up to 10 t-shirts to give to his/her classmates! For more information please consult the following [link](#).

13. International Contest “Fine Art Photography”

Art is born out of passion. Fine Art photography is a perfect instrument, which allows a person to



communicate with the world and share their vision. It results from the author's deep sensitivity, a need to express feelings through image, a unique view of the surrounding reality. It can be spontaneous, but it can also be a conscious and deliberate manifesto. FAPA is searching for photos born out of passion – your passion. The competition is open to everyone, amateurs and professionals alike. Entries are welcome from any country in the world. Your work will be judged by an international panel of high profile

photographers. The winners of the Professional and Amateur sections will receive the titles: Professional Fine Art Photographer of the Year, Amateur Fine Art Photographer of the Year and \$5000 in cash prizes. **Submission deadline: 10 October 2021.** For more information please consult the following [link](#).

14. Traineeship at the European Union Agency for the Space Programme

The European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) provides university students and graduates with a unique and first-hand experience of the workings of the EUSPA, in particular, and of the EU institutions in general. Currently, there are two types of traineeships: **Short-term unpaid traineeship** to complete and validate mandatory academic requirements (maximum duration three months). To apply please send the following documents in English to jobs@euspa.europa.eu: CV in Europass Format; motivation letter, indicating area/s of interest within the scope of the Agency and justifying the need of the traineeship for educational purposes **Regular paid traineeship** (maximum duration one year). EUSPA regularly publishes calls for traineeships for various departments (see the list of open positions below).



The eligible applications are evaluated on a regular basis. The starting date of traineeship depends on the Agency's needs and budget availability. **You are advised to submit your application online as soon as possible, the earlier you submit the sooner your application can be considered.** You may find more information about the eligibility criteria as well as the rights and duties of the trainees in the [Rules governing the traineeship](#) scheme of the Agency. We recommend you to read them carefully before submitting your CV. **Please note:** When applying, please carefully read the [EUSPA e-recruitment guidelines](#). Please note that it is recommended to use Google Chrome to ensure all functionalities of the e-recruitment portal. Should you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact jobs@euspa.europa.eu. For more information and applications please consult the following [link](#).

15. Internships at the Court of Justice of the European Union

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. Interpreting traineeships, which last from 10 to 12 weeks, are primarily aimed at newly qualified conference interpreters whose language combination is of interest to the Interpretation Directorate. The aim is to enable newly qualified interpreters to be supervised as they perfect their interpreting skills, particularly in legal interpreting, which involves the preparation of case-files, terminological research and practical exercises in a 'silent booth'. The ability to read French is required. Candidate selection takes place once a year, around 15 September, covering the whole judicial year (applications must be made between 1 July and 15 September of each year). Please note that no hearings are held during [judicial vacations](#). For more information and applications please consult the following [link](#).

16. Meeting on line meeting of the "IP4J" project

In date 21/06/2021 took place a new on line 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 meeting, the partners discussed how to prepare for meetings in Iceland and Romania in the coming months. 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> or on the website at the following link: www.ip4j.eu/.



17. Project "LearnEU": interactive part of the game completed

We are pleased to inform you that the interactive part of the project game has been realised.



"Imparare l'Europa è un gioco da ragazzi" (acronym LearnEU) is an initiative approved to EURO-NET Association 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. You can see the cartoon at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0iMPVhx5bA> which was also translated into the 7 languages by the various partners. The project aims to create a "space on the European Union"

suitable for new generations with a series of interactive recreational-cultural-educational tools and activities in Europe with the direct active involvement of school students, encouraging

intergenerational dialogue and the sense of active European citizenship using innovative gamification and digital products. More details on the project can already be found on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Learneu-117725843430250/> or on the website <https://project-learn.eu/>.

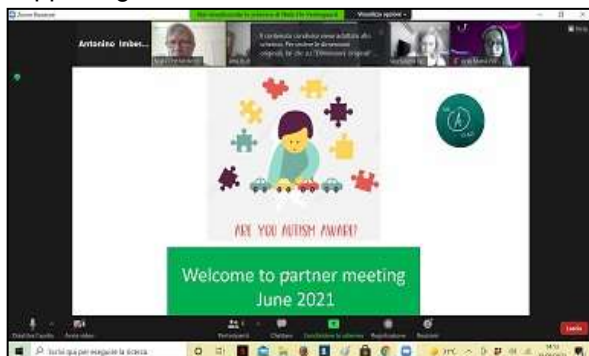
18. Meeting of the EDIC Basilicata centre on Digital Transformation

In date 25/06/2021 the Europe Direct Basilicata centre took place an evening meeting on Digital Transformation and the opportunities opened up by European funds with the participation of an exceptional speaker, Dr Vittorio Calaprice from the Representation in Italy European of the Commission. During the meeting we talked about the three areas on which the Commission wants to focus in particular and they are: data, technology and infrastructure. It was an excellent meeting in which there were many interesting points of reflection and many opportunities were examined together.



18. Online meeting of the “The A Class” project

In date 28/06/2021 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 in the framework of programme Erasmus Plus 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.. The project will therefore seek to develop products to help schools, teachers and children with autism. Partners of the project, besides EURO-NET, 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 kvalitetu na život na licata so autistichen spektar na narušivanje “Sina Svetulka” (Macedonia). During the meeting, the partners talked mainly about the mobility to be realised in the coming months and the development of the intellectual products envisaged within the project. You can follow the development of this initiative on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheAclass/s> or on the official website <https://theaclass.eu/>.



19. Online training of the “IntegrateME!” project

In the period 28-30/06/2021 took place the online training planned in the European project "IntegrateME: The development of a VET Open Educational Resource on Cultural Literacy towards the integration of immigrants and refugees in the EU in the frames of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development focus of "leaving no one behind" (acronym "IntegrateME!"). The initiative was approved as 2019-1-UK01-KA202-062109 as part of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET program. The course was attended online by three staff members of EURO-NET. The project focuses on the role of VET trainers/trainers/Tutors in promoting the cultural literacy of immigrants and refugees towards their regular integration into the diverse society of the European Union. The partnership is composed of 6 different organisations from 6 different States: SIRIUS Training CIC (UK); EURO-NET (Italy); Balkanska Agenciya za Ustoychivo Razvitie (Bulgaria); Wyzsza Szkola Biznesu I Nauk O Zdrowiu (Poland); Mpimpakos D. & SIA O.E. (Greece); STANDO LTD (Cyprus). You can follow the development of the activities on the official Facebook page at the internet address: <https://www.facebook.com/Integrateme110797257073942>.



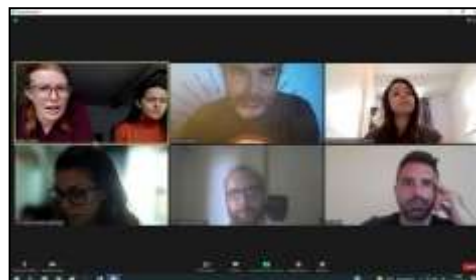
20. Short meeting of the “PISH” project

In date 29/06/2021 took place the short on line meeting of the project “Problem-Based Learning, Intercultural Communications and STEM in Higher Education” (acronym PISH) – action n. 2020-1-DK01-KA203- 075109 approved by the Danish Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education. The project aims to improve the coaching and intercultural communication skills of university teachers in a problem-based learning environment. During the meeting, the project partners discussed the work of the activities developed so far and what still needs to be done in the coming months. In addition to EURO-NET, the international partnership also includes the following organisations: University of Aalborg (Denmark); University of Thessaly (Greece); Crossing Borders (Denmark); Comparative Research Network (Germany); Center for Education and Innovation (Greece) and ITA Suomen Ylipisto (Finland). All interested parties can follow the project at the moment on the official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PISHproject/>.



21. Online meeting of the “Queer Migrants” project

In date 01/07/2021 took place an online meeting of the project "Queer Migrants: Addressing gaps in adult education and social cohesion" project (acronym "Queer Migrants"), approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in the United Kingdom as part of the Erasmus Plus KA2 program Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education as action n.2020-1-UK01-KA204-079101. The European initiative, well-coordinated by the IARS Institute (Independent Academic Research Studies International Institute) in London, is aimed at improving social cohesion and allowing the inclusion of LGBTQI migrants. During the meeting the partners checked the state of the art of the first intellectual product envisaged within the project. The partnership that works on the project includes the following partners: IARS (UK), EURO-NET (Italy), Symplexis (Greece), Astiki Mh Kerdosko-piki Etaireia Helping



Hand (Greece) and CSI Center for Social Innovation LTD (Cyprus). The project can be followed either on the official website at <http://queermigrants.netsons.org/> and on the Facebook page specially created at the link <https://www.facebook.com/queermigrants>.

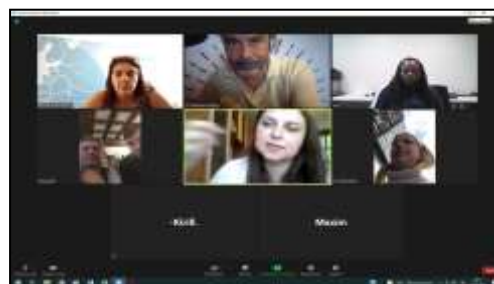
22. Brochure in Italian of the “TELEGROW” project

The project «Telegrow: "Enhancing the Teleworking Digital Skills for the Middle aged employees» (acronym “Telegrow”) was approved, as action n.2020-1-ES01-KA204-082417, by the National Agency in Spain in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus within the special call of October 2020 dedicated to KA226 VET projects in the field of creativity and innovation. The project formally started on the 1st March 2021 and will end on 28th February 2023 after 24 months of activity, involving the following European partnership: Florida Centre De Formació, COOP. V (Spain), project coordinator; Stowarzyszenie Centrum Wspierania Edukacji I Przedsiębiorczosci (Poland); Kainotomia & SIA EE (Greece); E-Seniors: Initiation Des Seniors Aux Ntic Association (France); Markeut Skills Sociedad Limitada (Spain) and EURO-NET (Italy). The European initiative aims to provide trainers and vocational training providers with the necessary knowledge and tools to (re)train and improve the skills of employees aged over 50 and help them work efficiently from home, using teleworking consciously and effectively. We are pleased to inform you that the Italian brochure of the project has been produced and published and is available at the following web link: https://issuu.com/memex23/docs/telegrow_italiano_leaflet.



23. TPM in Turkey of the “JSTE” project

In date 05/07/2021 took place an official meeting of the project "Citizens of public life in digital learning" (acronym JSTE) that aims to develop innovative practices in the use of ICT in the effective teaching of literacy to adult migrants (refugees, newly arrived migrants, asylum seekers, young adult migrants and women migrants), testing and implementing innovative practices, including the creative use of ICT for language learning in the field of formal and non-formal adult education. The project was approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program - KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices by the National Erasmus Plus Agency in the UK. The partners of the project are: Urban MBA (England); Mitra France (France); Namoi (Russian Federation); EURO-NET (Italy); Organization for Promotion of European Issues (Cyprus); Ballıbag Köyü Yardımlasma Ve Dayanışma Dernegi (Turkey). During the meeting the partners decided the dates of the next 2 meetings in France (22/08/2021) and in Russia (21/09/2021) and the dates of the training (6-12/09/2021 including travel days) to be carried out in Italy. More information on the project is available on the official website <https://jste.org.uk/> or on the project's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Citizens-of-public-life-in-digital-learning-104604067783086>.



24. Online training course and meeting of the “HOPE” project



In the period 06-08/07/2021 took place an official training course of the project "Supply of High Quality Learning Opportunities for Migrant People and Enhance Social

Inclusion" (acronym "HOPE"), an initiative approved in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices by the National Agency Erasmus Plus in Germany (action n. 2019-1-DE02- KA204-006479). Four EURO-NET staff members attended the course online to learn and share new experiences on migrant inclusion in the different partnership countries. 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. 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 Anoyimi 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>.

25. Kick-off meeting of the "CLanIMATE Youths" project

In date 06/07/2021 took place the first transnational meeting (official TPM) of the project "CLanIMATE youth: Empowering young people to tackle climate change through the use of animation tools" (acronym "CLanIMATE Youths") approved in France, as action n.2020-3-FR02-KA205-018477 within the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 programme - Exchange of Good Practices. During the meeting, were presented the project, its development and the activities to be carried out in the coming months, as well as the management of local initiatives. The project intends to contribute to raising the awareness of young people, to give them a voice and to make them responsible in facing climate change through the production of short animations, as an effective tool of expression, encouraging them to study these problems, their causes and consequences and imagining solutions. The partnership is composed by the following organizations: Association FenêtreS (France); EURO-NET (Italy); Stando LTD (Cyprus); Asocia-cion De Investigacion De La Industria Del Juguete Conexas Y Afines (Spain). The project can be followed on the Facebook page at the link <https://www.facebook.com/CLanimateYouths>.



26. The training course of the "TAT" project

In the period 18-24 July 2021 took place in Varna, Bulgaria, the training course 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. The project was approved in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus 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); lyda E.V. (Germany); Pro Ifall AB (Sweden); County Limerick Youth Theater (England). For more information are available on the Facebook https://www.facebook.com/Thearthee114642043269776/?modal=admin_todo_tour.



27. TPM in Potenza of the “ACTE” project

In date 24/07/2021 took place in Potenza, finally in presence, a new meeting of the project "Active Citizenship Through Education" (acronym ACTE), hosted by EURO-NET association. The project was approved and funded, as action n. 2019-1-IT02-KA204-063152, by the Italian National Agency Erasmus Plus INDIRE in the framework of the homonymous programme within the Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. During the project meeting, the partners also took stock of the activities already developed (the project started in September 2019) and of the further steps to be taken in the coming months, before its conclusion (February 2022, except for possible extensions due to the ongoing pandemic). *“The main aim of the project, explained Antonino Imbesi, project manager of the association in Potenza and director of the Europe Direct Basilicata centre, is to exchange methods of good practice in the field of education for active citizenship. Using innovative methodologies and digital tools, active citizenship can, in fact, be included in various training programmes and encourage active participation in public life, as well as inclusion.”* The partnership is composed of the following organisations: Informamentis Europa (Italy); EURO-NET (Italy); Interacting S.L. (Spain); Geoclube (Portugal); Namoi (Russia); IYDA (Germany); Biedriba "Logos Latvija" (Latvia). The initiative can be followed on the project's official Facebook page at the link https://www.facebook.com/projectacte/?modal=admin_todo_tour or on website at the following address <https://www.acteproject.eu/>.



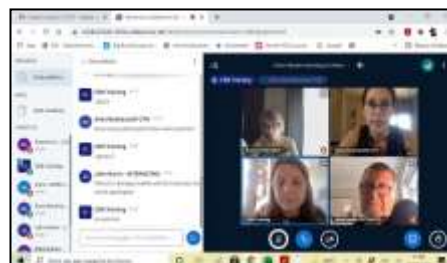
28. Meeting of the “CASE” project

In date 03/08/2021 took place in Athens (Greece), in a mixed mode, the third meeting of the "CASE" project approved within the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education programme by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Luxembourg as action no. 2020-1-LU01-KA204-063247. The meeting took place a week after the second meeting held in Potenza on 28 July in order to try to take advantage of the summer period, which was more suitable for the development of face-to-face meetings, so as to allow the partners to meet physically and catch up on some unfinished mobility. During the meeting, the partners took stock of the activities carried out and planned those to be carried out in the coming months. The project "Civically Active for Social Engagement" (acronym CASE) follows a cross-sectoral approach in order to collect, review and publish new and innovative approaches in active citizenship education as a way to break down boundaries between education sectors and to facilitate more open and innovative training and teaching. The partnership is composed of: Alliance for Global Development (Luxembourg); EURO-NET (Italy); Initiative for Sustainable Education and Deve-lopment (Germany); Action Synergy SA (Greece); Swideas AB (Sweden); Asociacion Juvenil Intercambia (Spain). More information on the project is available on the official Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/CASE-Civically-Active-for-Social-Engagement-713964402758349/>.



29. Online meeting of the “GREEN ROUTES” project

In date 06/08/2021 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. During the meeting, the partners took stock of all the activities carried out and planned the



activities and mobilities to be implemented in the coming months. 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 partnership consists of: CRN (Germany); EURO-NET (Italy); Interacting UK Limited (England); Panepistimio Thessalias (Greece); Euroldea Fundacja Społeczno-Kulturalna (Poland); Izmir Katip Celebi Universitesi (Turkey). You can follow the project on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Green-Routes108204151034392>.

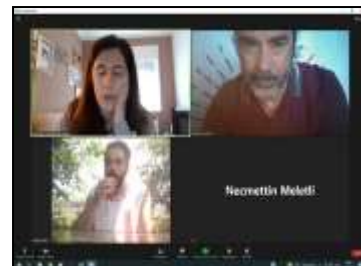
30. Last meeting online of the “EplusRoundTrip” project

In the days 19 and 20/08/2021 took place online the last meeting of the project "E+ Round Trip Online Preparation for Young People", an initiative approved by the Romanian National Agency Erasmus Plus within the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 programme. The aim of the project was to create a more modern, dynamic, committed and professional environment for young people. The partnership is composed of S.C. Predict Csd Consul-ting S.R.L. (Romania), project coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); Dacorom Council For Voluntary Service - (UK); Asociatia Millennium Center Arad (Romania); Grobes Schiff (Austria). During the last TPM the partners discussed about project results and the final report to be realized. Those who want to follow the initiative can do it on the Facebook page at the link <https://www.facebook.com/eplusroundtrip/>. Those who want to participate in the 3 available courses can do them on the following web platform <https://themobility.eu/>.

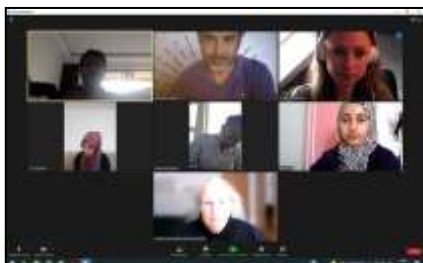


31. Online meeting of the “ENTER” project

In date 21/06/2021 took place a short meeting of the the project “ENTER – From problems to achievements in learning and development” (acronym ENTER), action n.2018-1-PT02-KA205-005148, approved in Portugal within the framework of the Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnerships for Youth programme. During the project meeting, the partners talked about the last activities to be carried out before the end of the project foreseen at the end of August and about the Multiplier Events still to be realised (the Italian partner, Youth Europe Service, has already completed all the actions foreseen in the project, far exceeding the initial expectations in terms of number of people to be involved and informed). Moreover, in these days, a video tutorial in English has been realised to explain how the game created within the project works. The video is available at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/imbesei.antonino/videos/360512575727349>. All interested parties can follow the activities of this project on the initiative's official Facebook page at the link https://www.facebook.com/ENTER-725346554497726/?modal=admin_todo_tour or on the official website at the following web address <http://www.enterka2.com/>.



32. Online meeting of the “SPEAK” project



In date 22/06/2021 took place a new online 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 project is experimenting with new ways and new innovative skills how to

help and professionalise this category of operators. During the virtual meeting, the project partners talked about the state of the art of the activities developed and what is still to be realised. All interested parties can follow the development of this interesting initiative on the project's official Facebook page at the web address: <https://www.facebook.com/SPEAK-103210721662026/> or on the project website available in all languages of the partnership at the following link: <https://www.speakproject.eu>.

33. Virtual meeting of the “Digital voyage around Europe” project

In date 23/06/2021 took place the online 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 Partnership for Adult Education aimed at raising awareness on the use of new and latest generation digital tools. During the meeting, which for some partners took place in presence while for GODESK unfortunately it was possible to participate only online due to the still existing restrictions, the participating organisations discussed the whole project development and planned the steps of the activities to be carried out in the next months. More Information on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DigitalVoyage-Around-Europe-102972418345600> or on the project website <https://dvaeproject.eu/>.



34. Meeting online and brochure of the “EUCYCLE” project

In date 30/06/2021 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 by 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 start-up 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. In addition to GODESK, the European partnership is composed by: 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 the partners reviewed the work done so far, presented new good practices from all countries to promote the circular economy in Europe and finally decided on the date of the JSTE (training course) which will take place from 28 to 30/09/2021 in Bari. Above you can see the brochure produced for the project. 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> and on the website (translated into all partner languages) at the link: <https://eucycle.wordpress.com/>. More information will be available in the next newsletter.



35. Online training course of the “MEM” project



In the period 05-09/07/2021 took place a first online training course of the project "Modern Educational Methods" (acronym "MEM"). 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 project 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-Methods102518281259840> or on the website <https://www.mem-project.eu/>.

36. Meeting of the “Future Target” project

In the date 25/07/2021 took place in mixed mode (part of the participants online and part in presence) in Potenza the European project meeting "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 Europe (Italy), Geoclube - Associacao Juvenil De Ciencia Natureza E Aventura (Portugal), Kainotomia & SIA EE (Greece). Academia Postal 3 Vigo SL. (Spain) and Mobilizing Europe (Sweden): the project objective is to try to find solutions to the issue of refugees and migrants, which is currently one of the biggest problems facing the EU. More information on the project is available on the Facebook page at the link <https://www.facebook.com/projectFutureTarget/>.



37. TPM in Potenza of the “STREM” project



In the date 27/07/2021 took place in mixed mode (with most of the partners physically present and a small part still, unfortunately, connected online) in Potenza, the second meeting of the project “Stressless Employees – Introducing the profile of Employee Satisfaction Officer to tackle work-related stress” (acronym “STREM”), an initiative approved by the German Erasmus Plus National Agency as Action n.2020-1-DE02-KA202-007495 within the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET programme in the field of Innovation. The European partnership, which has been developing the project since 01/09/2020 and until 31/08/2022 (except for possible extensions due to further difficulties caused by covid-19), is composed of 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) and Innovation Hive (Greece). More information on the project is available on the website <http://www.strem-euproject.eu/> and on the Facebook page of the initiative at <https://www.facebook.com/Project-STREM-102693358527163>.

38. Meeting of the “Everywhere is home” project

In the date 28/07/2021 took place, in presence in Potenza, the transnational meeting of the project "Everywhere is home", a project approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in France as action n.2020-1-FR01-KA204-080291 aimed at sharing good practices in adult education. During the meeting the partners took stock of all the activities carried out, discussed and reasoned about the planning of mobility and management of activities to be carried out in the coming months. More details about the project will be available in the next newsletters.



39. Meeting of the project “Foster Social Inclusion”

In the days 02 and 03/09/2021 will take place in Potenza another 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 association Youth Europe Service will present the training module that has implemented on entrepreneurship for social inclusion. During the meeting the partners will be able to see concretely what Finally, the partners will take stock of the activities already developed and define the steps of the activities to be developed in the next months. More information on the project is available on the official Facebook page at the link: <https://www.facebook.com/Foster-Social-Inclusion-109112230563838/>. More information about the meeting will be available in the next newsletter.

