



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. The EU Digital COVID Certificate: EU has set a standard

The Commission adopted a report on the EU Digital COVID Certificate and its implementation across the EU.

The report shows that the EU certificate has been a crucial element in Europe's response to the



COVID-19 pandemic, with more than 591 million certificates generated. The certificate, which covers COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery, facilitates safe travel for citizens, and it has also been key to support Europe's hard-hit tourism industry. The EU Digital COVID Certificate is a success worldwide: it has set a global standard and is currently the only system already in operation at international level. 43 countries across four continents are plugged into the system, and more will follow over the coming weeks and months. As said by President Ursula von der Leyen in her 2021 State of the

Union Address, the EU Digital COVID Certificate shows that *"When we act together, we are able to act fast."* The success of the EU Digital COVID Certificate system in figures:

- EU Member States have issued more than **591 million EU Digital COVID Certificates**
- **43 countries are already connected to the EU system:** 27 EU Member States, 3 European Economic Area (EEA) countries, Switzerland, and 12 other countries and territories. In total, the Commission was approached by **60 third countries interested in joining the EU system**. Beyond the ones already connected, technical discussions are ongoing with 28 of these countries.
- The air transport sector greatly benefited from the EU Digital COVID Certificate, which became operational just in time for the summer peak travel period. The association of Airports Council International (ACI Europe) reported that in July 2021 a total passenger volumes more than doubled compared to July 2020. ACI Europe attributes this change to the rollout of the EU Digital COVID Certificate along with the easing of travel restrictions.
- According to an EU Parliament's Eurobarometer survey, about **two thirds (65%) of respondents** agreed that the EU Digital COVID Certificate is the safest means for free travel in Europe during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **20 EU Member States** also use the EU Digital COVID Certificate for domestic purposes, such as for the access to large events and restaurants, cinemas and museums, with an additional national legal basis.

Members of the College said:

Commissioner for Justice, Didier **Reynders**, said: *"The EU Digital COVID Certificate system has helped mitigate negative economic effects during the pandemic. It gave travellers the confidence to travel safely in the EU and boosted travel this summer. Europe has swiftly and successfully set an innovative, privacy-friendly global standard, in times of crisis, with many countries around the globe interested in joining the system."* Commissioner for Internal Market, Thierry **Breton** added: *"In record time, the European Union has set up a digital, secure and interoperable COVID certificate system. This has been a key driver for the recovery of the tourism ecosystem and its many small and family-owned businesses across Europe. Beyond that, the EU system is adopted by countries around the world, demonstrating how Europe can set global standards through decisive and coordinated action"*, Commissioner for Health, Stella **Kyriakides** underlined: *"The EU Digital COVID Certificate is a symbol of an open and safe Europe. The quick roll-out of the system, not just in the EU but internationally, is an example of the EU cooperating and delivering in extraordinary circumstances. It is a strong European tool that has allowed us to move towards the reopening of our economies and societies and the exercise of free movement in a safe and coordinated way."* The Commission's work on the EU Digital COVID Certificates was led by Commissioner Didier **Reynders** in close cooperation with Vice-Presidents Vera **Jourová** and Margaritis **Schinias** and Commissioners Thierry **Breton**, Stella **Kyriakides**, and Ylva **Johansson***.

Next steps

The Commission will continue to monitor closely the validity of vaccination and recovery certificates as well as the use of antibody and rapid antigen tests for recovery certificates, and reconsider options once new scientific guidance is received. Technical work to improve the functionalities of the EU Digital COVID Certificate system will continue within the framework of

the eHealth Network. The Commission will: Continue its efforts to connect additional countries to the EU system; Work with Member States at technical level to implement the EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulation; Seek guidance from ECDC and European Medicines Agency (EMA) on relevant developments as regards the scientific evidence. **By 31 March 2022**, the Commission will submit another report on the application of the Regulation. This report may be accompanied by a legislative proposal to extend the period of application of the Regulation, taking into account the evolution of the epidemiological situation. The Commission does not exclude that it will put forward such a proposal already at an earlier stage, in order to ensure that the necessary legislative procedure can be concluded sufficiently in time.

Background

On 14 June 2021, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation on the EU Digital COVID Certificate. The Regulation requires the Commission to submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council by 31 October 2021. The Regulation sets out a common framework for the issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable certificates for COVID-19 vaccination, test or recovery certificates to facilitate free movement of EU citizens and their family members during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is accompanied by Regulation (EU) 2021/954, which extends the EU Digital COVID Certificate framework to third-country nationals who are legally staying or residing in a Member State's territory and who are entitled to travel to other Member States in accordance with EU law. On 31 May, the Commission proposed an update to the Council Recommendation on the coordination of free movement restrictions in the EU, which were put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the epidemiological situation was improving and vaccination campaigns were speeding up all over the EU, the Commission proposed that Member States gradually ease travel measures, including most importantly for the holders of the EU Digital COVID Certificate. The Council agreed to the updated Recommendations on 14 June.

2. European Year of Youth 2022: Commission kick-starts work

Following the announcement made by President von der Leyen in her 2021 State of the Union address, the Commission has adopted its formal proposal to make 2022 the European Year of Youth.

Europe needs the vision, engagement and participation of all young people to build a better future that is greener, more inclusive and digital. With this proposal, Europe is striving to give



young people more and better opportunities for the future. The Commission is also publishing its latest EU Youth Report, which provides an overview of the situation of young Europeans in terms of education, training, learning, employment, and civic and political participation. With the European Year of Youth, the Commission intends, in cooperation with the European Parliament, Member States, regional and local authorities, stakeholders and young people themselves: to honour and support the generation that has sacrificed the most

during the pandemic, giving them new hopes, strength and confidence in the future by highlighting how the green and digital transitions offer renewed perspectives and opportunities; to encourage all young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, from disadvantaged backgrounds, from rural or remote areas, or belonging to vulnerable groups, to become active citizens and actors of positive change; to promote opportunities provided by EU policies for young people to support their personal, social and professional development. The European Year of Youth will go hand in hand with the successful implementation of NextGenerationEU in providing quality jobs, education and training opportunities; and to draw inspiration from the actions, vision and insights of young people to further strengthen and invigorate the common EU project, building upon the Conference on the Future of Europe. The Commission is currently developing its programme of activities and all interested parties will be invited to submit their ideas and proposals. A dedicated survey on the Youth Portal will be launched in the coming days. Working together with other EU institutions, Member States, civil society organisations and

young people, the Commission will organise a number of activities throughout the year at European, national, regional and local level and consider new initiatives. The scope of activities will cover issues that mostly affect young people, following the priorities highlighted in the Youth Goals, such as equality and inclusion, sustainability, mental health and well-being, and quality employment. They will involve young people beyond the EU. The Commission calls on Member States to appoint a national coordinator responsible for organising their participation in the European Year of Youth. The Commission's proposal will now be discussed by Parliament and Council, with the opinions of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions taken into account. The events and activities are expected to start in January.

Members of the College said:

European Commission President, Ursula **von der Leyen** said: *"The pandemic has robbed young people of many opportunities - to meet and make new friends, to experience and explore new cultures. While we cannot give them that time back, we are proposing today to designate 2022 the European Year of Youth. From climate to social to digital, young people are at the heart of our policymaking and political priorities. We vow to listen to them, as we are doing in the Conference on the Future of Europe, and we want to work together to shape the future of the European Union. A Union that is stronger if it embraces the aspirations of our young people - grounded in values and bold in action."*

Vice-President for promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinias** said: *"Our Union is an area of freedom, values, opportunities and solidarity unique in the world. As we are emerging stronger together from the pandemic, the 2022 European Year of Youth will foster these principles for and with our younger generations across Europe. It is our duty to protect and empower them because their diversity, courage and boldness are essential for our future as Europeans."* Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**, said: *"The European Year of Youth should bring a paradigm shift in how we include young people in policy and decision-making. The objectives of the Year*



are to listen, engage and promote concrete opportunities for youth. We also need to bridge the gap between generations. Today's young people are less interested in traditional forms of participation, but they are active in standing up for what they believe in, engaging in new ways. This Year wants to pay tribute and recognise the commitment of young people. With this Decision we start a co-creation process with all interested parties to contribute to the successful organisation of the Year."

Background

The European Year of Youth will go hand in hand with NextGenerationEU, which reopens perspectives for young people, including quality jobs and education and training opportunities for the Europe of the future, and supports young people's participation in society. The Year of Youth will seek synergies and complementarity with other EU programmes targeting youth across the policy spectrum - from rural development programmes focussed on young farmers to research and innovation programmes, and from cohesion to climate change actions - including EU programmes with international outreach or of a transnational nature. Besides, Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, with budgets of €28 billion and 1€ billion respectively for the current financial period, the EU's Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative are creating more opportunities for young people. While, in 2022 also, a new programme called ALMA will be launched to support cross-border professional mobility for disadvantaged young people. The EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 is the framework for EU youth policy cooperation. It supports youth participation in democratic life and aims to ensure that all young people take part in society. The EU Youth Dialogue is a central tool in these efforts. Finally, the Conference on the Future of Europe, which will draw its conclusions also in 2022, ensures that the views and opinions of young people on the future of our Union are heard. One-third of participants in the European Citizens' Panels and of Panel representatives to the Conference Plenaries are also young people, while the President of the European Youth Forum also takes part in Plenaries.

3. Commission to provide 60,000 rail passes to young Europeans

The Commission will provide free travel rail passes to 60,000 Europeans aged from 18 to 20 years, thanks to DiscoverEU.

Applications open, 12 October, at noon and close on 26 October, at noon, for a travel period in 2022, which will be the European Year of Youth. Vice-President for the European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinias** said: *“Over the past 18 months, in a true spirit of solidarity, our young people have sacrificed valuable youthful and defining moments of their lives. I am delighted that the*



Commission offers today a European boom of mobility with the 60,000 train passes. This European boom of mobility and opportunities will be further fostered by Erasmus+ and many more initiatives coming for the European Year of Youth in 2022.” Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**, said: *“I am very glad to open this new round of DiscoverEU to give 60,000 young people the chance to discover the richness of our continent. In the spirit of the Commission designating 2022 the European Year of Youth, DiscoverEU is back, bigger than*

ever, with new opportunities for young people to take a train, broaden their horizons, extend their learning, enrich their experiences and meet fellow Europeans while travelling by rail as of March 2022.” This application round is open to young Europeans born between 1 July 2001 and 31 December 2003. Exceptionally, 19 and 20 year-olds can also apply after their rounds were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Successful applicants can travel between March 2022 and February 2023 for up to 30 days. As the evolution of the pandemic remains unknown, all travellers will be offered flexible bookings through a new mobile travel pass. The departure date can be changed right up until the time of departure. The mobile travel passes have a one-year validity. The Commission advises all travellers to check potential travel restrictions on ReopenEU. Young people with special needs are strongly encouraged to participate in DiscoverEU. The Commission will put information and tips at their disposal and cover the costs of special assistance, such as an accompanying person, an assistance dog, etc. Successful applicants can travel alone or in a group of up to five people (all within the eligible age range). To reinforce sustainable travel - and thereby support the European Green Deal, DiscoverEU participants will predominantly travel by rail. However, to ensure wide access across the EU, participants can also use alternative modes of transport, such as coaches or ferries, or exceptionally, planes. This will ensure that young people living in remote areas or on islands also have a chance to take part. Every Member State is allocated a number of travel passes, based on its population, as a proportion of the overall population of the European Union.

Background

The Commission launched DiscoverEU in June 2018, following a proposal from the European Parliament. It has been formally integrated into the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027. DiscoverEU connects thousands of young people, building a community across Europe. Participants who had never met before linked up on social media, exchanged tips or offered local insights, formed groups to travel from city to city or stayed at each other's places. In 2018-2019, 350,000 candidates applied for a total of 70,000 travel passes available: 66% of candidates travelled for the first time by train out of their country of residence. For many, it was also the first time they travelled without parents or accompanying adults and the majority indicated that they had become more independent. The DiscoverEU experience has given them a better understanding of other cultures and of European history. It has also improved their foreign language skills. Two-thirds said that they would not have been able to finance their travel pass without DiscoverEU. Since 2018, former and prospective DiscoverEU travellers now form a diverse and engaged community that meets on- and offline to share their experiences. Participants are invited to become DiscoverEU Ambassadors to champion the initiative. They are also encouraged to contact fellow travellers on the official DiscoverEU group online to share experiences and exchange tips, particularly on cultural experiences, or on how to travel digitally and sustainably. To apply, eligible candidates need to complete a multiple-choice quiz on general knowledge about the European Union and other EU initiatives targeting young people. An additional question invites applicants to make an estimate of how many people apply in this

round. The closer the estimate is to the correct answer, the more points the applicant gets. This will enable the Commission to rank the applicants. The Commission will offer travel passes to applicants following their ranking, until the available tickets run out.

4. The EC has issued the first bond for green and sustainable investments

The European Commission has issued the first NextGenerationEU green bond, thus raising €12 billion to be used exclusively for green and sustainable investments across the EU.

This represents the world's largest green bond issuance ever. With NextGenerationEU green bonds, the EU is set to become the world's largest green bond issuer by far, providing a significant boost to sustainable finance markets as well as funding a greener EU recovery from the pandemic. With the strong oversubscription rate and excellent pricing conditions this issuance represents a promising start to the NextGenerationEU green bond programme of up to €250 billion by end-2026. The 15-year bond due on 4 February 2037 was more than 11 times oversubscribed, with books exceeding €135 billion. A wide range of investors expressed interest in the bond. Commissioner in charge of Budget and Administration, Johannes **Hahn**, said: *"This issuance*



is a strong start for the NextGenerationEU green bond programme. Set to turn the EU into the world's biggest green bond issuer, it is a powerful signal of the EU's commitment to sustainability. Our future is green and it is extremely important that we seize the opportunity to clearly show to investors that their funds will be used to finance a sustainable European recovery." The issuance followed the adoption of the NextGenerationEU Green Bond framework earlier in September. The framework, which is fully compliant with the Green Bond Principles of the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) - a market standard for green bonds – reassures investors that the funds mobilised will be used for green investments. The Commission's reporting on the use of proceeds and on the environmental impact of the expenditure financed by NextGenerationEU Green Bonds will be subject to independent review. The funds from the NextGenerationEU green bond issuances will be used to finance green and sustainable expenditure under the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Eligible investments from the already approved plans include a research platform for energy transition in Belgium, or the construction of wind power plants on land in Lithuania. A minimum of 37% of every Recovery and Resilience Plan has to be devoted to the green transition, with many Member States striving to do more. This is the fifth syndicated transaction since the start of the NextGenerationEU funding operations in June 2021. In addition, the Commission performed the first NextGenerationEU bond auction at the end of September. These operations have so far enabled the Commission to raise €68.5 billion in long-term funding through bonds. In addition, the Commission has so far issued some €14 billion of EU-Bills following the start of the EU-Bills auctions in mid-September 2021. In the course of 2021, the Commission expects to raise some €80 billion in bonds, to be complemented by short-term EU-Bills, as announced in the funding plan published in June 2021 and updated in September 2021. As announced in September in its detailed issuance calendar for 2021, the Commission plans to hold one more syndicated transaction by the end of the year, in November. The Commission will also be holding auctions of both EU-Bills and bonds on a regular basis.

Background

NextGenerationEU is a temporary recovery instrument of more than €800 billion in current prices to support Europe's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and help build a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe. To finance NextGenerationEU, the European Commission – on behalf of the EU – will raise from the capital markets around €800 billion between now and end-2026. This will translate into borrowing volumes of an average of roughly €150 billion per year.

To raise the necessary funding under the best possible market conditions, the Commission has started to implement a diversified funding strategy. This strategy relies on a mix of long- and short-term issuances via syndicated and auction formats to enable the Commission to raise funds flexibly and on the most advantageous terms under prevailing market conditions.

5. Energy prices: presented a toolbox of measures to tackle situation

The Commission adopted a Communication on Energy Prices, to tackle the exceptional rise in global energy prices, which is projected to last through the winter, and help Europe's people and businesses.

The Communication includes a “toolbox” that the EU and its Member States can use to **address the immediate impact of current prices increases**, and further **strengthen resilience against future shocks**. Short-term national measures include emergency income support to households, state aid for companies, and targeted tax reductions. The Commission will also support investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency; examine possible measures on energy storage and purchasing of gas reserves; and assess the current electricity market design.

Presenting the toolbox, Energy Commissioner Kadri **Simson** said: *“Rising global energy prices are a serious concern for the EU. As we emerge from the pandemic and begin our economic recovery, it is important to protect vulnerable consumers and support European companies. The Commission is helping Member States to take immediate measures to reduce the impact on households and businesses this winter. At the same time, we identify other medium-term measures to ensure that our energy system is more resilient and more flexible to withstand any future volatility throughout the transition. The current situation is exceptional, and the internal energy market has served us well for the past 20 years. But we need to be sure that it continues to do so in the future, delivering on the European Green Deal, boosting our energy independence and meeting our climate goals.”*

A toolbox of short- and medium-term measures

The current price spike requires a **rapid and coordinated response**. The existing legal framework enables the EU and its Member States to take action to address the immediate impacts on consumers and businesses. Priority should be given to **targeted measures** that can **rapidly mitigate the impact of price rises for vulnerable consumers and small businesses**. These measures should be easily adjustable in the Spring, when the situation is expected to stabilise. Our long-term transition and investments in cleaner energy sources should not be disrupted.

Immediate measures to protect consumers and businesses:

- Provide emergency income support for energy-poor consumers, for example through vouchers or partial bill payments, which can be supported with EU ETS revenues;
- Authorise temporary deferrals of bill payments;
- Put in place safeguards to avoid disconnections from the grid;
- Provide temporary, targeted reductions in taxation rates for vulnerable households;
- Provide aid to companies or industries, in line with EU state aid rules;
- Enhance international energy outreach to ensure the transparency, liquidity and flexibility of international markets;
- Investigate possible anti-competitive behaviour in the energy market and ask the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) to further enhance monitoring of developments in the carbon market;
- Facilitate a wider access to renewable power purchase agreements and support them via flanking measures.

The **clean energy transition is the best insurance against price shocks in the future, and needs to be accelerated**. The EU will continue to develop an efficient energy system with high share of renewable energy. While cheaper renewables play an increasing role in supplying the electricity grid and setting the price, other energy sources, including gas, are still required in times of higher demand. Under the current market design gas still sets the overall electricity price when it is deployed as all producers receive the same price for the same product when it enters the grid - electricity. There is general consensus that the current marginal pricing model is the most efficient one, but



further analysis is warranted. The crisis has also drawn attention to the importance of storage for the functioning of the EU gas market. The **EU currently has storage capacity for more than 20% of its annual gas use**, but not all Member States have storage facilities and their use and obligations to maintain them vary.

Medium-term measures for a decarbonised and resilient energy system:

- Step up investments in renewables, renovations and energy efficiency and speed up renewables auctions and permitting processes;
- Develop energy storage capacity, to support the evolving renewables share, including batteries and hydrogen;
- Ask European energy regulators (ACER) to study the benefits and drawbacks of the existing electricity market design and propose recommendations to the Commission where relevant;
- Consider revising the security of supply regulation to ensure a better use and functioning of gas storage in Europe;
- Explore the potential benefits of voluntary joint procurement by Member States of gas stocks;
- Set up new cross-border regional gas risk groups to analyse risks and advise Member States on the design of their national preventive and emergency action plans;
- Boost the role of consumers in the energy market, by empowering them to choose and change suppliers, generate their own electricity, and join energy communities.

The measures set out in the toolbox will help to provide a timely response to the current energy price spikes, which are the consequence of an exceptional global situation. They will also **contribute to an affordable, just and sustainable energy transition for Europe, and greater energy independence**. Investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency will not only reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, but also provide more affordable wholesale energy prices that are more resilient to global supply constraints. The clean energy transition is the best insurance against price shocks like this in the future, and needs to be accelerated, also for the sake of the climate.

Background

The EU, like many other regions in the world, is currently experiencing a sharp spike in energy prices. This is principally driven by increased global demand for energy, and in particular gas, as the economic recovery after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic gathers speed. The European carbon price has also risen sharply in 2021, but at a lesser rate than gas prices. The effect of the gas price increase on the electricity price is nine times larger than the impact of the carbon price increase.



The Commission has been consulting widely on the appropriate response to the current situation, and has participated in debates on this issue with Members of the European Parliament and Ministers in the Council of the European Union, while also reaching out to industry and to international energy suppliers. Several Member States have already announced national measures to mitigate price rises, but others are looking to the Commission for guidance on what steps they can take. Some international partners have already indicated plans to increase their

energy deliveries to Europe. The toolbox presented allows for a coordinated response to protect those most at risk. It is carefully designed to tackle the short-term needs of bringing down energy costs for households and businesses, without harming the EU internal energy market or the green transition in the medium-term.

Next Steps

Commissioner **Simson** will present the Communication and toolbox to Members of the European Parliament on Thursday 14 October and to Energy Ministers on 26 October. European Leaders are then due to discuss energy prices at the upcoming European Council on 21-22 October. This Communication is the Commission's contribution to the continued debate among EU policy makers. The Commission will continue its exchanges with national administrations, industry, consumer groups and international partners on this important topic, and stands ready to respond to any additional requests from Member States.

For More Information

- [Communication on Energy Prices](#)
- [Questions and Answers on the Communication on Energy Prices](#)
- [Factsheet on the EU Energy Market and Energy Prices](#)
- [Factsheet on the toolbox](#)
- [EU energy prices webpage](#)

6. More needs to be done against water pollution from nitrates

The latest Commission Report on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive (based on data for 2016-2019) warns that nitrates are still causing harmful pollution to water in the EU.

Excessive nitrates in water are harmful to both human health and ecosystems, causing oxygen depletion and eutrophication. Where national authorities and farmers have cleaned up waters, it has had a positive impact on drinking water supply and biodiversity, and on the sectors such as fisheries and tourism that depend on them. Nevertheless, excessive fertilisation remains a problem in many parts of the EU. Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for the Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, said: *"The implementation of the Nitrates Directive over the last 30 years has undoubtedly increased water quality overall in the EU. We also see that real efforts to switch to sustainable methods are paying off. However, the pace of change is not enough to prevent damage to human health and preserve fragile ecosystems. In line with the European Green Deal, more urgent action is now needed to achieve a sustainable agriculture and protect our precious water supply."*



Nitrate concentrations have fallen in both surface and groundwater in the EU compared to the situation prior to the adoption of the Nitrates Directive in 1991. However, the new report reveals that little progress has been made over the last decade and nutrient pollution from agriculture is still a serious concern for many Member States. For the period 2016-2019, across Member States, 14.1% of groundwater still exceeded the nitrates concentration limit set for drinking water. According to the findings, water reported as eutrophic in the EU includes 81% of marine waters, 31% of coastal waters, 36% of rivers and 32% of lakes. The Commission will act to improve compliance with the Nitrates Directive, which is a prerequisite for reaching the European Green Deal objective of reducing nutrient losses by at least 50% by 2030. This requires strengthened measures in most Member States at national and regional level. Overall, the quality of national action programmes has improved, but in many cases the measures in place are not sufficiently effective in fighting pollution in areas where agricultural pressure has increased. Climate change impact in tackling nitrates pollution has to also be better factored in at national level. Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain are facing the greatest challenges in tackling nutrient pollution from agriculture. Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Italy, Portugal and Romania also have hotspots where pollution should be urgently diminished.

Background

While nitrogen is a vital nutrient that allows plants and crops to grow, high concentrations in water are harmful to people and nature. Nitrates from livestock manure and mineral fertilisers have been a major source of water pollution in Europe for decades. About half of the nitrogen in fertiliser and manure applied in Europe is lost to the surrounding environment. In economic terms, this amounts to a loss of potential benefits to farmers of around EUR 13 to 65 billion per year. Nitrates put human health at risk notably by polluting drinking water. This has also significant economic impacts in terms of cleaning the water for human consumption and for the communities who depend from the polluted waters, such as fisheries and the tourism sector. The overall environmental costs of all reactive nitrogen losses in Europe are estimated at EUR 70–EUR 320 billion per year, much beyond the costs of reducing pollution at source. The Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity strategies are key initiatives of the European Green Deal and set a target to halve nutrient losses by 2030.



This should be achieved notably by implementing and enforcing in full the relevant environment and climate legislation. The Nitrates Directive is key in that. It is an important instrument to achieve the objective of the Water Framework Directive of good chemical and ecological status of all water bodies by 2027 at the latest. The Directive sets out a number of steps to be fulfilled by Member States. The Zero Pollution Action Plan, which aims to reduce pollution in air, water and soil to levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems by 2050, will also contribute to reduce nutrient pollution.

7. Code of Practice on disinformation

The topic of disinformation remains high on the Commission's agenda. Eight new prospective signatories joined the revision process of the Code of Practice on disinformation during the latest signatories Assembly meeting.

They expressed their willingness to take commitments under the strengthened version. The Code is the first such framework worldwide setting out commitments by platforms and industry to fight disinformation. The revision of the Code is based on the Commission's Guidance issued in May, which sets out how the current Code should be strengthened to provide a firm response to disinformation. The list of prospective new signatories includes online video platforms like Vimeo, new types of social networks like Clubhouse, and advertising technology providers like DoubleVerify, as well as organisations that provide specific expertise and technical solutions to fight disinformation, such as Avaaz, Globsec, Logically, NewsGuard, and WhoTargetsMe. Substantial additional efforts are needed to reduce the flow of harmful disinformation, as illustrated by recent electoral campaigns and by the signatories' reports on the COVID-19 disinformation monitoring programme. The current Code was a good first step in this direction,

but the Commission's Assessment in 2020 revealed significant shortcomings. These include inconsistent and incomplete application of the Code across platforms and Member States, gaps in the coverage of the Code's commitments, a lack of appropriate monitoring mechanism, including key performance indicators, a lack of commitments on access to platforms' data for research on disinformation and limited participation from stakeholders, in particular from the advertising sector. The Commission expects signatories to closely follow the Guidance when revising the Code to make sure that it lives up to the expectations for a strong EU instrument. Věra Jourová, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, said: *"I am pleased to see new actors from relevant sectors answering our call and engaging in the overhaul of the Code of Practice. I encourage others, including platforms, messaging services and actors in the online advertising ecosystem, to join as soon as possible to co-shape the process. The strengthened Code cannot fall short of the expectations we have set out in our Guidance from May. Online players have a special responsibility regarding spreading and monetising disinformation. They must become more transparent, accountable and safe by design."* Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, added: *"I welcome the fact that more and more online platforms, technology providers, civil society and expert organisations are formally committing to fighting disinformation. The private sector should be ambitious and anticipate the new EU rules on digital services (DSA). Now is the time to show they walk the talk."* The Commission calls on all other interested parties that can contribute to the strengthened Code and willing to take on commitments related to their services to manifest their interest to become signatories of the strengthened Code and join the drafting process as soon as possible.



This call is notably addressed to established and emerging platforms active in the EU, relevant stakeholders in the online advertising ecosystem (e.g. ad exchanges, ad-tech providers, brands benefitting from ads, communication agencies), other players providing services that may be used to monetise disinformation (e.g. e-payment services, e-commerce platforms, crowd-funding/donation systems), private messaging services, as well as stakeholders that can contribute with resources or expertise to the Code's effective functioning, are also welcome to join the Code. The strengthened Code should include new tailored commitments corresponding to the size and nature of services provided by signatories, with signatories expected to take relevant commitments related to all their services.

Reports on the COVID-19 disinformation-monitoring programme on the platforms' summer actions

As part of the regular monitoring dedicated to COVID-19 disinformation, the Commission also published the reports from Google, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok and Microsoft that include the actions taken by the platforms in July and August to reduce COVID-19 and vaccines disinformation. As laid out in the 2020 Joint Communication, the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) is assisting the Commission with the COVID-19 monitoring programme with its expertise. ERGA is expected to deliver its report on the monitoring programme in the coming weeks.

Background

The Code of Practice has been established in October 2018. As announced in the European Democracy Action Plan (EDAP), the Commission issued Guidance to strengthen the Code of Practice on Disinformation in May 2021 to address the shortcomings identified in the Commission's 2020 Assessment of the Code and draws from the lessons learned in the COVID-19 disinformation monitoring programme. The Commission's proposal for the Digital Services Act (DSA) establishes a co-regulatory framework for Codes of Conduct, such as the



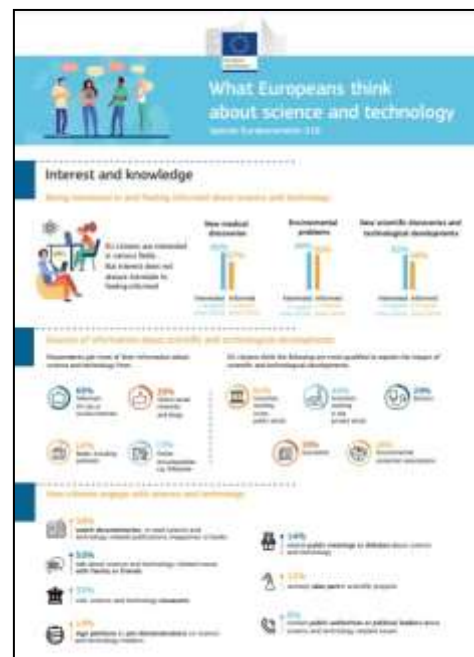
Code of Practice. The Guidance calls for reinforcing all chapters of the Code: the monetisation of disinformation must be reduced, measures against manipulative techniques must be stepped up and users should have access to tools to understand and flag disinformation and safely navigate in the online environment. The Code should also increase the coverage of fact checking across all Member States and languages, and drastically improve the access to platforms' data for research. The signatories should also set up a publicly accessible Transparency Centre, and a Permanent Task Force will

be in charge of adapting the Code in view of technological, societal, market and legislative developments. The reinforced Code needs to be complemented by an effective monitoring framework, based on clear key performance indicators for measuring the efficacy of the actions implemented under the 2021 Code. Signatories are expected to deliver the revised Code by the end of 2021. During the COVID-19 crisis, signatories effectively participated in a dedicated Monitoring Programme. It has proven to be a useful transparency measure to ensure platforms' public accountability and has put the Code through a stress test. At the same time, the COVID-19 programme highlighted a number of shortcomings that need to be addressed by the strengthened Code.

8. Europeans strongly support science and technology

A new Eurobarometer survey on “European citizens” knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology’ released shows that 9 in 10 EU citizens (86%) think that the overall influence of science and technology is positive.

They expect a range of technologies currently under development to have a positive effect on our way of life in the next 20 years: notably, solar energy (92%), vaccines and combatting infectious diseases (86%) and artificial intelligence (61%). Furthermore, results reveal a **high level of interest** in science and technology (82%) and a desire amongst citizens to learn more about it in places like town halls, museums and libraries (54%). In many areas, EU citizens' interest in, expectations of, and engagement with science and technology have grown in recent years. Respondents most often mention health and medical care and the fight against climate change when asked in which areas research and innovation can make a difference. These results are in line with a growing interest in new medical discoveries, which grew from 82% to 86% since 2010. Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**, said: *“The overall positive attitude towards science and technology is reassuring as they are essential for responding to the coronavirus, climate change, biodiversity loss, and a host of other pressing challenges. At the same time, we need to respond to citizens' concerns that the benefits of science and technology are not equally distributed, to pay more attention to gender dimensions in research content, and to explore how research and innovation can be conducted with higher involvement of the citizens and other stakeholders.”* The Eurobarometer survey also reveals **challenges for research and innovation**. Many EU citizens



think that science and technology mostly helps improve the lives of those who are already better off (57%) and does not pay sufficient attention to differences between women's and men's needs (23%). More than half think that researchers in China (58%), the US (57%) and Japan (54%) are ahead of researchers in the EU in terms of making scientific discoveries. Levels of scientific knowledge also show wide divergences across different parts of society. EU citizens have a positive view of scientists and their defining characteristics, such as intelligence (89%), reliability (68%) and being collaborative (66%). More than two-thirds (68%) believe that scientists should intervene in political debates to ensure that **decisions take into account scientific evidence**. Most EU citizens get their information about developments in science and technology from television (63%), followed by online social networks and blogs (29%) and online or in-print newspapers (24%). A large majority (85%) believes that young people's interest in science is essential for future prosperity. Additionally, the majority thinks that **involving non-scientists in research and innovation** ensures that science and technology respond to the needs and values of society (61%). Almost three-quarters (72%) of respondents think that governments should ensure that **new technologies benefit everyone**, and more than three-quarters (79%) think that governments should make private companies tackle **climate change**.

Background

The Eurobarometer survey published is the **largest one to date** on science and technology in terms of number of participants (37,103 respondents) and countries surveyed (38 countries, including EU Member States, EU enlargement countries, EFTA states, and the United Kingdom).



The survey was conducted between 13 April and 10 May 2021, primarily through **face-to face interviews**. The engagement of citizens, local communities and civil society will be at the core of the **new European Research Area** to achieve greater societal impact and increased trust in science. **Horizon Europe**, the new EU research and innovation programme (2021-2027), will reinforce interactions between science and society by promoting the co-creation of R&I agendas and by involving citizens and civil society directly in doing research and innovation. It will do so across the Programme and through dedicated activities, while monitoring citizens' contributions and the uptake of R&I in society. EU-wide surveys on science and technology stretch back four decades.

9. Commission proposes a common charger for electronic devices

The Commission takes an important step against e-waste and consumer inconvenience, caused by the prevalence of different, incompatible chargers for electronic devices.

Years of working with industry on a voluntary approach already brought down the number of mobile phone chargers from 30 to 3 within the last decade, but could not deliver a complete solution. The Commission is now putting forward legislation to establish a common charging solution for all relevant devices. With this proposal for a revised Radio Equipment Directive, the charging port and fast charging technology will be harmonised: USB-C will become the standard port for all smartphones, tablets, cameras, headphones, portable speakers and handheld videogame consoles. In addition, the Commission proposes to unbundle the sale of chargers from the sale of electronic devices. This will improve consumers' convenience and reduce the environmental footprint associated with the production and disposal of chargers, thereby supporting the green and digital transitions. Margrethe **Vestager**, Executive Vice-President for a Europe fit for the Digital Age, said: *"European consumers were frustrated long enough about incompatible chargers piling up in their drawers. We gave industry plenty of time to come up with their own solutions, now time is ripe for legislative action for a common charger. This is an important win for our consumers and environment and in line with our green and digital ambitions."* Commissioner Thierry **Breton**, responsible for the Internal Market, said: *"Chargers*



Quali misure sta adottando la Commissione?

Le principali azioni mirano a:

- armonizzare** regole di sicurezza e della tecnologia di ricarica rapida
- evitare l'aumento dei costi dovuti a soluzioni tecnologiche incompatibili
- informati meglio sui rischi

compatible charger. Combined with the other measures, this would help consumers limit the number of new chargers purchased and help them save €250 million a year on unnecessary charger purchases. The revision of the Radio Equipment Directive is part the Commission's broader action to address the sustainability of products, in particular electronics on the EU market, which will be the focus of a forthcoming proposal on sustainable products. This proposal for a revised Radio Equipment Directive will now need to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council by ordinary legislative procedure (co-decision). A transition period of 24 months from the date of adoption will give industry ample time to adapt before the entry into application. To ultimately have a common charger, full interoperability is required on both sides of the cable: the electronic device and the external power supply. The interoperability on the device end, which is by far the bigger challenge, will be achieved by this proposal. The interoperability of the external power supply will be addressed by the review of the Commission's Ecodesign Regulation. This will be launched later this year so that its entry into force can be aligned with this proposal.

In 2020, approximately 420 million mobile phones and other portable electronic devices were sold in the EU. On average, consumers own around three mobile phone chargers, of which they use two on a regular basis. Despite this, 38% of consumers report having experienced problems at least once that they could not charge their mobile phone because available chargers were incompatible. The situation is not only inconvenient but also costly for consumers, who spend approximately €2.4 billion annually on standalone chargers that do not come with electronic devices. In addition, disposed of and unused chargers are estimated to pile up to 11,000 tonnes of e-waste every year. To address the challenges for consumers as well as the environment, the Commission has supported a common charging solution for mobile phones and similar electronic devices since 2009. The Commission first facilitated a voluntary agreement by the industry in 2009 that resulted in the adoption of the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and led to reducing the number of existing charging solutions for mobile phones on the market from 30 to 3. Following the Memorandum's expiration in 2014, a new proposal by industry presented in March 2018 was not considered satisfactory in delivering a common charging solution or meeting the need for improved consumer convenience and e-waste reduction.



10. Commission launches new Erasmus+ app & European Student Card

The Commission launched the new Erasmus+ application, marking a new milestone in the digitalisation of the Erasmus+ programme.

The new application, available in all EU languages, will provide a digital European Student Card to each student, valid all across the European Union. The future is digital, and this renewed



app will make sure students are going even more paperless. Vice-President for Promoting European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinas** said: *"I am glad that the interface of our flagship programme for young people, Erasmus+, is becoming more like them. More digital, more mobile, and more community-oriented. The new app and its embedded Student Card are emblematic of the European Education Area we stand for."* Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel** said: *"Paper officially belongs to the past. This new Erasmus+ app will be a one-stop shop for mobile Erasmus+ students. Having all the information at your fingertips means less stress, less time spent on administrative requirements, and more flexibility. The European Student Card, available through the app, is an*

important step towards a true European Education Area. One where each student feels included and can get access to the same services and same recognition of their educational background."

Thanks to the new app, which works on Android and iOS systems, students will be able to:

- Browse and select their destination among their university's partners;
- Sign their online learning agreement;
- Discover events and useful tips about their destination, and get in touch with other students; and,
- Obtain their European Student Card to get access to services, museums, cultural activities and special deals in their host university and country.

Over 4,000 universities are currently involved in the Erasmus Without Paper Network, which enables them to securely exchange data and more easily identify learning agreements. This digital cooperation allows the rollout and wide recognition of the European Student Card. In line with the Digital Education Action Plan, the new Erasmus+ programme for the period 2021-2027 supports the development of digital skills and contributes to the digital transition of European education systems. With an increased budget of over €28 billion for the 7-year period, Erasmus+ will also support the resilience of education and training systems in the face of the pandemic.

Background

Since the beginning of the original Erasmus Programme in 1987, 10 million people have experienced an exchange abroad. The new Erasmus+ programme provides opportunities for study periods abroad, traineeships, apprenticeships, and staff exchanges in all fields of education, training, youth and sport, and at all ages. The Erasmus+ Higher Education Impact Study, published in 2019, showed that the programme has positive effects on the professional, social, educational and personal development of the participants. Over 70% of the students have a better understanding of what they want to do in their future career when they come back from their mobility abroad, enabling them to re-orient their studies to match their career ambitions. More than 90% of Erasmus+ students also improve their ability to



work and collaborate with people from different cultures and feel they have a European identity. For the current academic year (2021-2022), 600,000 higher education students are expected to go abroad thanks to Erasmus+. In her 2021 State of the Union's address, President **von der Leyen** proposed to make 2022 the Year of the European Youth. Young people must be able to shape Europe's future. Our Union needs a soul and a vision they can connect to.

11. Clementoni Soft Clemmy Design

Clementoni is looking for new ideas aimed at further developing and expanding the Soft Clemmy product range offer. Participants are invited to submit projects that highlight the defining characteristics of the range. **Soft Clemmy** consists of a range of products centred on blocks made of an innovative plastic material patented by Clementoni, which is 100% soft, hygienic,



perfumed, washable, and which has been tested for safety in case of contact with the child's mouth, and that can be thrown and stepped on without risk. The Soft Clemmy blocks are designed to help 6 to 36-month-old toddlers familiarize with the world of building toys in a safe, autonomous and age-appropriate manner, accompanying them along every step of their play journey. Out of the Clementoni infant line, the Soft Clemmy block **stands out** for being **"open mind & open end"**, **stimulating creativity by means of an exploration that can be defined as: autonomous** - parental help while playing becomes

optional; **free** - no play patterns to reproduce, every action is part of a spontaneous playing experience; **safe** - soft materials that can be put in the mouth safely; **pro-active** - toddlers start the play experience themselves; **suitable for younger toddlers** - no risk of toddlers hurting themselves. Participation is free of charge and open to designers and creative talents of any nationality aged 18 years or older. Participants can submit one or more projects, but only the projects published on the www.desall.com website, via the upload page related to this contest will be accepted. **Award 1°: €5000**. The selection of the winner by the Sponsor will be the result of an unquestionable evaluation and it will take into account originality, feasibility and consistency of submitted projects with the presented brief. Upload phase: 15 September 2021 – **9 December 2021** (1.59 PM UTC). For more information please consult the following [link](#).

12. Annual Photography Awards

Celebrating photographers of all levels, professionals, amateurs and students alike, the Annual Photography Awards invites participants to the third instalment of this International Photography Competition. Looking specifically for those with a bold & innovative approach that disrupts traditional artistic standards, participants can submit entries in up to eight categories. There are no restrictions on interpretation, creativity, or aesthetic; we accept all formats that showcase new talent and help grow the notoriety of photography as a fine art. The Annual Photography Awards are dedicated to preserving the craft as a contemporary medium of fine art, and is motivated to helping artists rise in their careers. By participating, our artists receive the attention of a global audience and are eligible for various cash prizes. **Deadline: 31 December 2021**. For more information please consult the following [link](#).



13. Traineeships 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. 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. **Deadline: 15 December 2021.** For more information please consult the following [link](#).

14. Traineeships at the European Chemicals Agency - (ECHA)

ECHA looks for newly-qualified graduates who are willing to make a contribution to the everyday work of the Agency. There are up to 20 graduate traineeship opportunities per year in scientific fields such as chemistry, toxicology, biology, environmental science and technologies, and administrative duties such as law, communications, finance, human resources and ICT. The traineeships usually start in the beginning of March or September. The trainee scheme is designed for: recent university graduates and holders of a technical or professional qualification of an equivalent level in fields relevant to applicable chemicals legislation or other fields relevant to the administration tasks of an EU institution; public or private sector employees engaged in graduate-level work in fields relevant to applicable chemicals legislation.



Traineeships may last from three to six months and may not be extended beyond six months. The graduate trainee scheme offers a grant of approximately 1,300 euro. Trainees who continue to receive remuneration from their employer, or any other grant or allowance will only be entitled to a grant from ECHA if the amount they receive is less than the one indicated above. In this case, trainees will receive an amount equal to the difference between their income and the level of ECHA's grant. Trainees in employment must provide a declaration of remuneration, expenses and allowances signed by their employer. To apply for a graduate traineeship you must: Be a national of a Member State of the EU or a national of the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein). Nationals of candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy can also be accepted according to the availability of budgetary resources and the ECHA's capacity to host them. A limited number of nationals of non-Member States may also be accepted; Be able to communicate in English as this is the working language of ECHA; Have obtained a university degree or equivalent or engaged in graduate-level work in fields relevant ECHA. You will be invited for a telephone and/or face-to-face interview if you are selected. Trainees do not benefit from sickness insurance. Before the start of your traineeship you must prove you are covered by a sickness and accident insurance valid in Finland. Traineeships are not offered to applicants who have already been a trainee in a European institution or body, employed by a European institution or body, or worked for ECHA as an interim staff member, researcher or in house expert for more than eight weeks. **Deadline: 31 October 2021.** For more information and applications please consult the following [link](#).

15. Traineeships at the Court of Auditors

The European Court of Auditors organises three traineeship sessions per year in areas of interest to its work. In addition to considering general traineeship applications, the Court will pay particular attention to applications from candidates with profiles in the areas of IT audit and data science, in line with its 2021-2025 development plan for making better use of technology and data in audit. They may be paid (1 350 euros/month) or unpaid, depending on the budgetary appropriations

available. The three sessions will cover the following periods: from 1 March to 31 July of the same calendar year; from 1 May to 30 September of the same calendar year; from 1 October of one calendar year until 28 (29) February of the next. During these three sessions, each traineeship may last from three to five months. **In order to be eligible for a traineeship, applicants must:** be a national of one of the Member States of the European Union, except where an exception has been granted by the appointing authority; either hold a recognised university-level diploma giving access to the AD function group (a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three years, as attested by a diploma) as defined in the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union, or have completed at least four semesters of university study in an area of interest to the Court; wish to obtain practical training related to one of the Court's areas of activity; not already have benefited from a traineeship (paid or unpaid) at any EU institution, body or agency, including the European Central Bank and the European Investment Bank; state that they have a thorough knowledge of one official EU language and a satisfactory knowledge of at least one other official EU language; not previously have been or are not, at the time of



application, employed in an EU institution, body or agency as a member of the temporary staff, contract staff, auxiliary contract staff, employment agency staff, as a national expert on secondment to an EU institution, body or agency, or as an assistant to a Member of the European Parliament. Applicants who are selected must provide a recent certificate, as drawn up for civil-service employment purposes by their national authorities, stating that they have never been convicted or found guilty of a criminal offence, and a medical certificate stating that they are physically fit to perform their duties. Applicants with a disability are not required to produce such a certificate, which is replaced in their case by a certificate from their family doctor stating that they are able to function effectively in the workplace if appropriate arrangements are made.

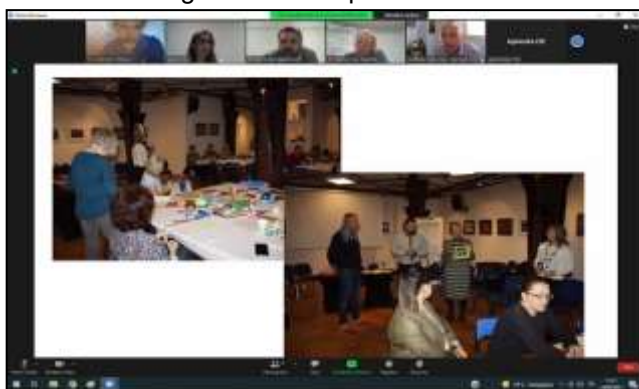
Before applying, please note the following important information:

- Due to the high volume of applications, we do not respond to each individual applicant;
- Only online applications will be processed. Unsolicited applications or CVs sent by post, fax or e-mail will not be accepted;
- Only successful applicants will be contacted by the Court's Human Resources department;
- No traineeships can be granted outside the sessions listed in the web site of reference.

Deadline: 30 November 2021. For more information and applications please consult the following [link](#).

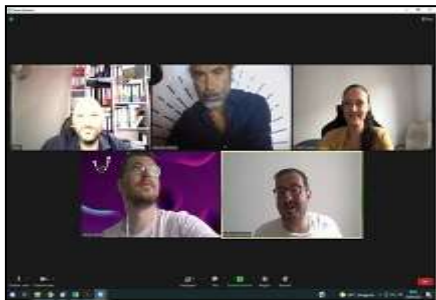
16. Last on line meeting of the "Elblag Educators for Seniors" project

In date 24/08/2021 took place the last online meeting of the project "Elblag Educators for Seniors" (acronym "EEFS") initiative approved in Poland as action n.2018-1-PL01- KA204-051125 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus programme KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices. During the meeting the partners talked about the final results of the project, which is aimed at older people as well as teachers, tutors and trainers responsible for planning and developing the cultural offer for the target group. The main objective of the project was to improve the educational offer for older people by including original and innovative activities and workshops. Project partners are the following organisations Centrum Spotkan Europejskich Swiatowid (Poland), project coordinator; Asociación de Innovación, Formación y Empleo para el Desarrollo sostenible (Spain); International Exchanges Berlin Molinari & Benedetti GbR (Germany) and EURO-NET (Italy).



17. Online meeting of the “The spirit of Europe - Origins” project

In the days 30 and 31/08/2021 took place an online TPM of the project "The spirit of Europe - Origins" (acronym SEO). The project intends to develop an immersive simulated environment commonly known as video/digital game, in which the student could travel through the history of Europe, from its mythological origins to the present day, participating actively at key events through the history and mythology that shaped Europe today. The project was approved as action n.2019-1-RO01-KA204-063864 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Romania. During the meeting the partners checked how to use and install the wonderful e-game created. For those interested in following our project step by step, you can see it on <https://www.facebook.com/TheSpiritofEurope.Origins>. The partners of the project are: S.C. Predict CSD Consulting S.R.L. (Romania) - coordinator; Asociația Millennium Center Arad (Romania); EURO-NET (Italy); IDEC (Greece); Inercia Digital SL (Spain).



18. “PISH” project: on line TPM

In date 30/08/2021 took place a short online 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/>.



19. Training course of the “Dis-Act” project

In the period 27/08/2021-02/09/2021 took place in Sofia (Bulgaria) a training course of the project “Dis-Act” (acronym DA) approved as action n.2019-1-DE02-KA204-006285 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany. The project aims to increase the inclusive potential of the theatre as a tool to open up opportunities and dispel prejudices against people with disabilities by producing a quality educational offer for operators and disabled adults themselves in the so-called "Devised Theatre". The training was supposed to take place in February 2020, but the day before its implementation it was cancelled due to the sudden development of the covid pandemic and the lockdown decided by practically all European countries. Now the German Erasmus Plus Agency has allowed the training course to be rescheduled (as it is of primary and fundamental importance for the development of the 3 intellectual products foreseen in the project), allowing even a smaller number of participants than initially foreseen, taking into account the expenses already incurred by the various participating organisations for the activities not developed in February 2020. So the project partners - NGO Nest Berlin (Germany); Comparative Research Network EV (Germany);

Champions Factory (Bulgaria); EURO-NET (Italy); Sihtasutus Noored Teaduses Ja Ettevotluses (Estonia) and Centrul Pentru Educatie Si Consultanta Instrumente Structurale (Romania) -



decided to develop the training course, taking also the risk of international travel and activities in presence abroad, choosing people that could meet the requirements of the European Green Pass. The training, which engaged participants from morning until late afternoon, was addressed to educators or trainers aged 18+ (with a formal link to the partners organisations and with experience in adult education and/or with adults with disabilities) interested in developing further competences, skills and professional capacities to better engage people, with or without disabilities, in educational programmes and non-formal activities through the use of "Devised Theatre". More information about the project is available on the initiative's

Facebook page at the following link <https://www.facebook.com/KA2AdultProjectDisAct> (which now has almost 600 followers from all over Europe) or on the website at <https://dis-act.eu/>.

20. "EplusRoundTrip": online training is also available in Italian

From different months all the online trainings of the "EPlusRoundTrip" project are available not only in English but also in Italian, German and Romanian. You can access them on the portal <https://themobility.eu/> where you can register and participate free of charge in the 3 available courses: Pre-departure training in Volunteering activities; Successful return, which involves the reworking of the contents learned and their internalisation; Preparation of participants in youth exchanges in order to improve your knowledge of European programmes addressed to young people! The project "E+ Round Trip Online Preparation for Young People" is an initiative approved by the Romanian National Agency Erasmus Plus in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 programme. The aim of the project, ended at the end of last august, was to create a more modern, dynamic, committed and professional environment for young people. The partnership was composed of S.C. Predict Csd Consul-ting S.R.L. (Romania), project coordi-nator; EURO-NET (Italy); Dacorum Council For Voluntary Service - (UK); Asociatia Millennium Center Arad (Romania); Grobes Schiff (Austria). The platform www.themobility.eu hosts innovative and practical online tools for guidance and preparation, useful in all types of youth work projects (youth exchanges, European voluntary work), also serving as a database for future actions. This online platform developed into the project uses participative approaches and ICT-based methodologies to create or improve processes for the recognition and validation of young people's competences. Interested parties can register on the website indicated and thus obtain a free course useful for the recognition of their youth worker qualifications.



21. Kick-off meeting of the "MUSICLAJE" project

In date 03/09/2021 took place the kick-off meeting of the project "MUSICLAJE: Emprendimiento social con instrumentos reciclados" (MUSICLING: Social entrepreneurship with recycled instruments) approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Spain, in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA227 Youth programme. During the meeting the partners discussed how to create musical instruments from recycled materials, teaching young people about the importance of re-use. The partnership of the project is composed of Xeracion Valencia (Spain), EURO-NET (Italy), Social Youth Development Civil Nonprofit Society (Greece) and Association for Volunteerism Volonterski Centar Skopje (Macedonia).



22. Online meeting and first newsletter of the "CARES" project

In date 03/09/2021 took place a new online meeting of the project "Career Accessibility for Resilient Employment in STEMM" (acronym "CARES") an initiative approved in England as action n.2020-1-UK01-KA201-078909 by the National Erasmus Plus Agency in the UK. The project aims to address the STEMM skills gap and also to support the improvement of English language skills for English as a Second Language (ESL) learners through the use of the AR app as a digital tool in education. During the meeting the partners discussed the project developments and the activities carried out so far. In addition, the first newsletter, foreseen within the project, was produced and published and it is available at the following link: https://issuu.com/memex23/docs/newsletter_1_cares. The partnership consists of: Academy for International Science and Research (UK) coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); Hilal Dogu Akademi Egitim Hizmetleri Ve Uluslararası Proje Yönetim Danışmanlığı Ticaret Ve Sanayi Limited Şirketi (Turkey); Fablab Messina (Italy); Liceul Tehnologic "Valeriu Braniște" (Romania); "Horizont ProConsult" EOOD (Bulgaria); Samsun İl Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü (Turkey).



23. Training course of the "IP4J" project

In the period 6-9/09/2021 took place a training course 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 course, the trainer Peppino Franco demonstrated that "Playing" with Lego enables many skills (creativity, problem solving, etc.). The partnership consists of: FA-Magdeburg GmbH (Germany) coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); SC Rogepa SRL (Romania); Inercia Digital SL (Spain); Midstod Simenntunur 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/.



24. Second meeting of the "Digi4Equality" project

In date 13/09/2021 took place a second virtual meeting of the project DIGI4EQUALITY (A DIGITAL toolkit for promotion gender EQUALITY in science and technology). The project aims to develop a new toolbox through which professionals can attract, reach and assist students to raise awareness and address gender stereotypes in society and in professional choices in a digitised world. The partnership consists of: Szkoła Podstawowa Nr 2 W Proszowicach (Poland) coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); Mpirmakos D. & SIA O.E. (Greece); Challedu (Greece); Aydin İl Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü (Turkey); Adazu Vidusskola (Latvia). During the meeting, the partners discussed the project developments and the activities carried out so far. Please note that you can follow the project on the website <https://digi4equality.eu/>.



25. Start Erasmus ME Academy gGmbH



In date 16/09/2021 a new initiative was launched in Germany: the "Erasmus ME Academy gGmbH". Developed as a response to today's problems, Erasmus ME supports organisations to realise their projects and ideas: it is designed to be the one-stop solution for projects in Europe and beyond. Erasmus ME works with organisations from proposal development through implementation to project reporting. Erasmus ME's team of experts provide their expertise to support any organisation wishing to use its services, guiding them through each stage of the project.

26. Meeting of the "yEURSTAGE" project in Valencia

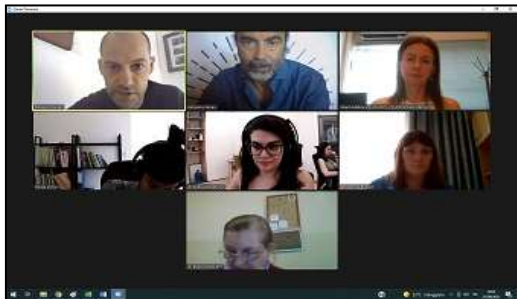
In date 18/09/2021 a delegation of the EURO-NET association from Potenza participated in Valencia, in Spain, at the second meeting of the European project "The stage is yEURs: Learning the language of the 'host' country through contemporary theatre approaches for adult educators towards the social inclusion of minority groups in Europe of leaving no one behind" – acronym "yEURSTAGE" – approved, as action n.2020-1-PT01-KA204-078361, by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Portugal in the framework of the Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. *"The yEURSTAGE project - declared Antonino Imbesi, project manager on behalf of the Italian association EURO-NET, as well as Director of the Europe Direct Basilicata centre - is aimed at developing an international synergy between 5 European organisations, each with specific competences in the field of theatre, language teaching or reception of migrants and refugees, in order to exchange good practices using contemporary theatrical approaches for the social inclusion of minorities, a very sensitive issue which always gives rise to many ideological and political debates, but which is more important than ever today, looking at what it is happening, for example, in Afghanistan."* The following organisations are part of the partnership working on this project: Associação Cultural E De Solidariedade Social Raquel Lombardi (Portugal), EURO-NET (Italy), Echo Playback Theatre Koinsep (Greece), Iniciativas De Futuro Para Una Europa Social Coop V (Spain) and Stando LTD (Cyprus). The project, started on 31/12/2020, has a duration of 24 months and will end on 30/12/2022. The aim of the initiative is to work on the target group, composed of adult educators, trainers, mentors and professionals working with immigrants and refugees, in order to increase their competences through the sharing of non-formal and intercultural learning practices based on modern and innovative theatrical approaches, strengthening, at the same time, local cooperation networks and, therefore, succeeding in providing better social inclusion services for the minority groups now present in each European country. The meeting in Valencia followed the development of the first European training held on the beautiful island of Madeira in Portugal in the period 16-22 July and was useful to plan the 2nd training course to be organised in Nicosia (Cyprus) at the end of October. *"During the meeting - concluded Antonino Imbesi - the partners discussed of the project activities already developed and of the new ones still to be realised, that were planned, in particular the training course foreseen on the island of Cyprus that will be organised by the partner STANDO LTD and entitled <<Listen to my story: a blending of theatre and digital techniques as SL learning means for immigrants and refugees>>. Moreover were also planned the other three training activities foreseen by the end of the project in Greece, Spain and Italy. Also EURO-NET will be called to host a training in Italy, which will be carried out by our experienced trainers".* More information on the project is available on the Facebook page of the initiative at <https://www.facebook.com/yeurstage>, which already has a lot of followers.



realised, that were planned, in particular the training course foreseen on the island of Cyprus that will be organised by the partner STANDO LTD and entitled <<Listen to my story: a blending of theatre and digital techniques as SL learning means for immigrants and refugees>>. Moreover were also planned the other three training activities foreseen by the end of the project in Greece, Spain and Italy. Also EURO-NET will be called to host a training in Italy, which will be carried out by our experienced trainers". More information on the project is available on the Facebook page of the initiative at <https://www.facebook.com/yeurstage>, which already has a lot of followers.

27. Last meeting of the “IntegrateME!” project

In the date 21/09/2021 took place the last meeting 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 under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Vocational Education and Training (so-called VET) programme by the English National Agency as action 2019-1-UK01-KA202-062109. In the final meeting, the partnership took place of the situation and the initiatives



realised in these two years of joint activities and defined the structure of the final report that will have to be presented to the English National Agency in order to request the final balance of the expected contribution. The initiative, now ended and that brilliantly achieved all of its aims and objectives, focused on the role of trainers, teachers and tutors working in vocational training and was especially aimed at those who work in promoting the cultural literacy of immigrants and refugees and thus develop

activities for their smooth integration into the diverse society of the EU. Four intellectual products were developed during the project: a Curriculum for VET trainers, a Pedagogical guide on cultural literacy, a tool-kit of educational games on cultural literacy and an e-learning platform for open and inclusive online training. The following organisations took part in the project: SIRIUS Training CIC (UK); EURO-NET (Italy); Balkanska Agenciya za Ustoychivo Razvitie (Bulgaria); Wyzsza Szkola Biznesu I Nauk O Zdrowiu (Poland); Mpirmpakos D. & SIA O.E. (Greece); STANDO LTD (Cyprus). All interested parties can see all the work developed in this initiative on the official Facebook page at the link <https://www.facebook.com/Integrateme110797257073942>.

28. EC training on involving citizens in dialogues on the future of Europe

In the days 21 and 22/09/2021 took place an online training developed directly by the Commission on how to involve citizens in the dialogues on the future of Europe. The Conference on the Future of Europe gives Europeans the opportunity to express their views on how the European Union should evolve to meet future challenges. In this major consultation, European citizens' panels play a key role. They will come together to discuss the ideas that have emerged from the events organised across the EU and the proposals submitted via the Conference platform. These contributions will be discussed with the EU institutions and other stakeholders. The aim of the training course was to provide suggestions to practitioners on how to engage citizens to make them aware of the opportunity they have to take part in an open, inclusive and innovative debate between experts and citizens, aimed at facilitating active participation and providing food for thought on the future of the Union and Italian priorities to combat widespread scepticism towards the EU, often based on false or inaccurate news.



29. Europe Direct event in Venice

In date 22/09/2021 as part of the initiatives aimed at promoting a fairer and more inclusive Europe, an event co-organised by the Europe Direct Venezia Veneto centre and the Europe Direct Basilicata centre took place in Venice, dedicated to the EU and to migration and inclusion policies. Among the speakers, there were several experts in the field of inclusion and integration, including the Director of the Europe Direct Basilicata centre, Antonino Imbesi, who presented to the audience (the event was held at 18:00 at the conference room of the Candiani Cultural Centre in Mestre) some good practices and European projects developed in the field of inclusion of

migrants and asylum seekers. This event is part of the "Cycle of meetings on the European Union", which consists of five lessons that can be attended individually, all free of charge and open to the public. The topics of the meeting "The EU and migration dynamics" were: migration as a global phenomenon; the immigrant presence in Europe; the European asylum system, European actions and above all the challenges that await Europe. In recent years it has been said many times that "Europe has not done enough" on immigration, we need to clarify what we mean by "Europe". The institutions in Brussels (Commission and Parliament) have been very attentive to immigration and to the most exposed countries. On the contrary, the Eastern countries have managed to "boycott" (or at least downsize) these initiatives, preferring a "non-management" of migratory phenomena. In a period of relative 'calm' on the arrivals by sea front, the opportunity to reform the asylum system was not taken. By pursuing these anti-immigration positions, there is a risk of concentrating resources and energies on the protection of external borders (with questionable results, as in the case of the EU-Turkey agreement), while neglecting the issues of legal entry and integration of migrants already present.



30. Last meeting of the “JSTE” project

In date 26/09/2021 took place the last official meeting of the project "Citizens of public life in digital learning" (acronym JSTE), approved in UK as action n.2019-1-UK01-KA204- 061372 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practice programme. During the meeting the partners reviewed the final results of the project and defined the structure of the final report to be submitted to the UK National Agency. The partners of the project, now ended, were: Urban MBA (England); Mitra France (France); Namoi (Russian Federation); EURO-NET (Italy); Organization for Promotion of European Issues (Cyprus); Ballibag Köyü Yardimlasma Ve Dayanisma Dernegi (Turkey). The partners worked since November 2019 and until 30/09/2021 with the intention 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. More information on the project is available on the project's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Citizens-of-public-life-in-digital-learning-104604067783086> or on the official website <https://jste.org.uk/>.



31. Online meeting on the Europe Conference realised

In date 27/09/2021 took place an important online event at national level in which several Europe Direct centres, including the Europe Direct Basilicata centre, participated as organisers. The webinar was addressed in particular to young people and focused on the future of Europe, on the opportunities for mobility and initiatives guaranteed by the European programmes (in particular by Erasmus Plus) and on the possibilities of concrete participation in the construction of the new Europe (by participating in the relevant Conference). Among the speakers, many experts on European issues, such as Ramon Magi (President of Eurodesk Italy), Dario Manna (Strategic Advisor of Capitale Lavoro/Città Metropolitana of Rome) and Antonino Imbesi (Director of the Europe Direct Basilicata centre).



32. Concluded online meeting of the “m-Game” project

In date 01/10/2021 took place a virtual meeting of the project “MOOCs for Mobile Game Development Programme ” (acronym “m-Game”) approved as action n. 2018-1-TR01-KA202-059731 as part of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for VET by the National Erasmus Plus Agency in Turkey. The initiative aims to promote a training module on how to develop e-games online to allow the development of new skills in order to promote employability. The MOOC, now quite completely implemented, provides new learning outcomes for students with continuous, non-formal and informal training methods, also offering new solutions to teachers, trainers and tutors in the school and work environment. The project partners are: Middle East Technical University (Turkey), project coordinator; DamaSistem (Turkey); Milli Egitim Bakanligi (Turkey); Asociacion De Investigacion De La Industria Del Juguete, Conexas Y Afines (Spain); Instituto Anaptix Epicheirimatikotitas Astiki Etaireia (Greece); EURO-NET (Italy). The project intends to promote open education and innovative practices in the digital age and also support modern teaching tools for both trainees and educators, contributing to job creation, economic growth and social cohesion in Europe. To achieve these results, the MOOC consists of 15 modules; each one lasts between 4 and 10 weeks with 2 to 6 hours of study, weekly, completely free of charge. During the meeting, the partners took stock of the activities already developed and defined the steps of the project still to be implemented. You can follow the development of the activities on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/M-Game872446363106303/>.



33. DG Communication training on the new reporting system for EIDC

In date 08/10/2021 took place an online training organised by DG Communication on the new Europe Direct reporting system for the new generation of the ED centre for the period 2021-2025. The overall objective of the Europe Direct Information Centres is to act as an information “antenna” of the European Commission Representation in Italy to “bring” Europe closer to citizens and consolidate knowledge on EU policies, programmes and funding. The aim of the training course was to provide specific information to the operators of the Europe Direct centres in Europe on the new reporting system to be used in the coming years.



34. “AKTIF”: meeting in Portugal

In the period 07-10/10/2021 (including travel days) took place in Lousada, Portugal a meeting of the project “Aktif yaslanma kapsaminda mültecilerin yasam kalitesinin arttirilmasi” (in English “Increasing the quality of life of refugees under active aging”) approved within the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices programme by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Turkey. The project aims to improve the living conditions of refugees in old age. During the meeting, the partners participated in activities planned by the Portuguese partner to provide suggestions to stakeholders on how to enjoy biodiversity while increasing the quality of life. The project partnership is composed by Kirsehir Aile Calisma Ve Sosyal Hizmetler Il Mudurlugu (Turkey); Kirsehir Il Milli Egitim Mudurlugu (Turkey); Kirsehir Ahi Evran Universitesi (Turkey); EURO-NET (Italy); Aristotelio Panepistimio Thessalonikis (Greece); Genista Research Foundation (Malta); Municipio De Lousada (Portugal).



35. Training course of the “FINANZFIT” project

In the period 11-13/10/2021 took place an online training course of the project "Wir machen Europas Bürger Finanzfit" (title in English "BASIC ECONOMIC TRAINING FOR EUROPEAN ADULTS") approved as action n.2019-1-DE02-KA204-006098 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany. The FINANZFIT collaboration of eight project partners has set the goal of developing innovative methods and tools to assist people with low qualifications in acquiring



knowledge on economic and financial matters as well as key competences to strengthen basic skills in the fields of: financial assets; financing; insurances; liquidity; current account; retirement planning. The objective of the project partners is to work on these topics to make them understandable for the target group, low qualified persons, in the project partner countries. Experience has shown that people with lower qualifications in particular have lower incomes (compared to those with good professional training), so it is even more important to have the knowledge in order to make the right financial decisions. People who have experienced lower education often are difficult to be motivated for further education. In order to reach the uneducated people in the project regions, the project is

addressed also to stakeholders such as career counsellors, migrants' advisors, social workers, media and volunteer education initiatives. While the main target group is poorly educated people in the project regions, FinanzFit is also aimed at people who are already in education but are not learning about finance, as well as immigrants, prisoners and more generally people motivated to increase their skills and knowledge on economic and financial issues. In addition, teachers and counsellors in education and trainers in prisons are also being looked at so that financial education can reach many of the weaker sections of society in the countries involved. At the end of the project, scheduled for January 2022, a multilingual, multimedia e-learning platform will be available free of charge on which the adults involved can learn, play, test skills and deepen their acquired knowledge independently. The partners also designed and edited newsletters and two issues of a magazine dealing vertically with the project topics. During the training, the e-learning platform through which people can learn by playing was demonstrated and tested. More details on the project are available on the website www.whkt.de/finanzfit or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/finanzfit>.

36. TPM in Krakow of the “EUrbanities 2.0” project

In date 12/10/2021 took place, at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, a meeting in the project “Eurbanities 2.0”. This initiative was approved in Germany as action n.2019-1-DE02-KA204-006159, in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education programme by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany. During the project meeting, the partners discussed administrative issues and organised the next training course to be carried out in Wieliczka, also in Poland. The project aims at empowering citizens to actively engage in the development of fair and sustainable European urban neighbourhoods. The project intends to transfer knowledge on tools and methods of citizen participation in urban planning and neighbourhood development through the creation of a game-based learning tool. Eurbanities 2.0 is based on a modern approach to urban participation as it considers citizens as co-creators of their neighbourhoods. The project partners are: Comparative Research Network EV (Germany); EURO-NET (Italy); Stadtlabor Innovationen Fur Urbanelebensqualität GMBH (Austria); Uniwersytet Jagiellonski (Poland); Mine Vaganti NGO (Italy); Asociatia Pentru Tranzitia Urbana (Romania) and Changemaker AB (Sweden). More information on the project's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/urbanities/>.



37. Kick-off meeting of the "EDUCULT " project

In the days 13 and 14/10/2021 took place in Bulgaria, the kick-off meeting of the project "Arts, museums, outdoor activities and learning" approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Bulgaria, as action n.2020-1-BG01-KA227-SCH-094995 within the framework of the KA2 Erasmus+ Programme KA227 School Education - innovation. During the meeting was presented the entire project, its development and the activities to be carried out in the coming months, as well as the mobilities planned and the management of the local initiatives. EURO-NET, as Italian partner, participated, unfortunately only online at the meeting due to the impossibility to travel to Bulgaria.



38. Fourth TPM in presence of the "ACTE" project

In date 14/10/2021 took place in Riga, in presence, a fourth meeting of the project "Active Citizenship Through Education" (acronym ACTE). 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 reviewed the activities already developed and planned the last remaining mobilities to be developed by the end of the project. The main aim of the project is to exchange good practice methods in the field of Active Citizenship Education. The partnership that is developing this initiative is composed of the following organisations: Informamentis Europa (Italy); EURO-NET (Italy); Geoclube (Portugal); Biedriba "Logos Latvija" (Latvia); Interacting S.L. (Spain); Namoi (Russia) and IYDA (Germany). The results of the intense work of exchange of good practices, which is being carried out in the ACTE project, will flow into the construction of a Handbook, which will be published in the form of an E-Book and will be the main product of the strategic partnership initiative, summarising all the good practices, research, inputs and methodologies analysed both in English and in the language of each partner. The aim is to produce a useful tool that can be used (by downloading it from the website) by teachers, training centres and people involved in adult education in various capacities. More information on the project is available on the website <https://www.acteproject.eu/> or on the official Facebook page at the link https://www.facebook.com/projectacte/?modal=admin_todo_tour.



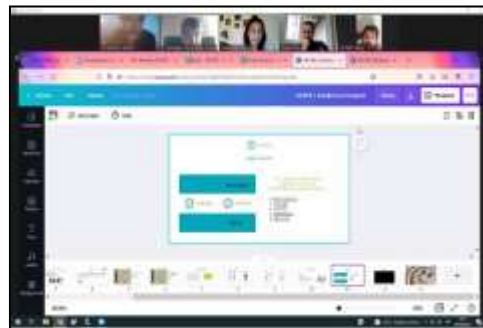
39. TPM of the "Borders in the Mind" project

In date 18/10/2021 took place in Nicosia (Cyprus) a new meeting of the project "Borders in the Mind" (acronym "BIM"), an initiative approved in Spain, as action n.2018-1-ES01-KA204-050833, in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The project proposes modern and relevant reception services designed by residents of local communities to inform visitors about their place. The main objective of the project is to design and provide innovative, practical and relevant methodologies and tools to promote tolerance and celebrate difference and identity. The project is also exploring intangible cultural heritage, looking at how current cultural beliefs, traditions and lifestyles have been influenced and continue to be influenced by events in our past, even though many people are not aware of this. During the project meeting, the partners took stock of the final activities to be implemented. More information on this interesting and nice initiative are available on the project Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Borders-in-theMind2227951067468445/?modal=admin_todo_tour.



40. Last meeting of the “ENTER” project

In date 28/08/2021 took place the last meeting of the project “ENTER – From problems to achievements in learning and development” (acronym ENTER), approved in Portugal, as action n.2018-1-PT02-KA205-005148, in the framework of the Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnerships for Youth programme. The ENTER project, coordinated at European level by the Portuguese association Geoclub, involved a partnership composed also by the following 3 organisations: Youth Europe Service (Italy), IFALL(Sweden) and COSI (Romania). The main objective of the project was to promote quality youth work and to allow the development of relevant skills and competences in the youth workers' sector, enabling youth workers to play a strategic role in non-formal educational pathways in favour of different targets and in different contexts, providing tools to make learning more effective, engaging and fun. The project developed the so-called "Enter Tool-Kit" whose main element is a board game on the topics of European citizenship, EU awareness and democracy: this game offers youth workers an informal learning tool to help them in their role as providers of non-formal learning opportunities for different target groups. The project aimed to promote socio-educational animation as a means of integration, encouraging a cross-sectoral approach to promote innovative education and foster social inclusion, supporting interculturalism and combating prejudice, thanks to the development, first of all, of the board game in which young people are called upon to play an interactive role with regard to situations of prejudice. During the project meeting the partners discussed the final results and the report to be sent to the Portuguese N.A. The European initiative can be followed on the official project website at <http://www.enterka2.com/> or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/projectenter/>.



41. TPM in Malaga of the “STREM” project

In the date 14/09/2021 took place in Malaga (Spain) a new project 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 in 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 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). The STREM project, taking its cue from the fact that stress often causes mental health problems to the employees of various companies, intends to develop the job profile and competences of a new professional figure called "Employee Satisfaction Officer" (ESO), who can lead wellbeing activities in companies, in order to improve the wellbeing of workers and consequently also their professional performance, reducing stressful situations that affect the quality of work performed but also people's lives. During the implementation of the project 4 intellectual products are expected to be realised. These are the development of a Report on Employee Satisfaction in the different European countries (already completed in the first months of activity), the creation of the Employee Satisfaction Officer Profile and the development of its curriculum, followed by the implementation of a Training Course for Employee Satisfaction Officers and a promotional pilot action as well as a Guide for employees in the sector. During the meeting, the partners discussed the development of the project, the



activities carried out so far and especially the interim report and the products to be presented. More information on the project is available on the website <http://www.strem-euproject.eu/> and on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Project-STREM-102693358527163>.

42. Second meeting of the “INTERACT” project

In date 25/09/2021 took place the second online meeting of the project “Innovative Cultural Heritage the Root of European Identity” (acronym “INTERACT”) an initiative approved by the UK National Agency as action n. 2020-1-UK01-KA204-078950 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus



KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Innovation programme. The objectives of the project are to develop new sectoral policies in European cultural tourism, adopting innovative practices for tourists and promoting authentic interactive cultural experiences. During the project meeting the partners took stock of the activities already developed and those still to be developed, and planned the next mobilities (hopefully they could be organised in physical presence). Project partners are the following organisations: Find an Internship (UK) - project coordinator; Youth Europe Service (Italy); S.C Predict CSD (Romania); Interacting S.L (Spain); Logos Polska (Poland). The project will develop the following three intellectual products: theatrical performances; digital platform and tool-kit; augmented reality app. More information on the project can be found on the following Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Erasmus-Plus-Interact-100911398721786> or the web site <https://interactproject.eu/>.

43. Training course in Bari of the “EUCYCLE” project

In the period 28-30/09/2021 (excluding travel days) took place in Bari at UNIBA the training course foreseen in 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. Two

representatives from each of the Italian (Godesk, the Chamber of Commerce of Basilicata and the University of Bari) and European partners (FA-Magdeburg GmbH from Germany, Euro-Idea Fundacja Społeczno-Kulturalna from Poland, Kainotomia from Greece and MiTale from Finland) took part in the training, which was developed in mixed mode, i.e. with participants in presence and others online due to the still ongoing pandemic. The training was imagined as a training event for facilitators working in the field of adult education and it was, in fact, managed and hosted by the University of Bari, which during the three-days training course, under the coordination of Professor Sabrina Spallini,



addressed the following topics non-formal environmental education; sustainability as a set of environmental, social and economic values and responsibilities; the potential of a sustainable development model; the role of citizens in promoting sustainable local actions; practical examples of sustainable projects; the principles and new business models of the circular economy; education for conscious and sustainable consumption; the resilience of natural, anthropic and social ecosystems; production processes and product innovation (recycling, regeneration and

reuse processes). *"The course on the circular economy - underlined Antonino Imbesi, CEO of GODESK - has taken into account the valorisation of the social fallout of the mapped experiences, setting as a prerequisite the welding between the dimension of social justice and that of environmental justice: the shared value of an economic experience and, in particular, its territorial fallout represent, therefore, important elements for the evaluation of economic experiences that allow to go beyond exclusively econometric evaluations"*. The training modules have been developed with frontal lessons, practical exercises, guided visits, workshops and laboratories, plenary debates and group works with the aim of allowing all the participants in the training to carry out a professional update on the theme of the circular economy and its didactic declination, with a view to increasingly promoting education for sustainability. 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/>.

44. Training course in Nicosia of the “MEM” project

In the period 03-09/10/2021 took place in Nicosia, Cyprus, a new training course of the project "Modern Educational Methods" (acronym "MEM") which was attended by three delegates from

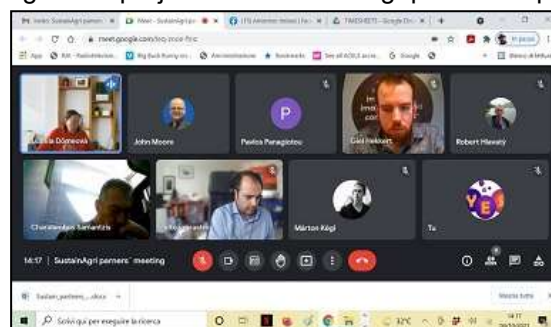


the association Youth Europe Service, the only Italian partner in the initiative. The project has been approved as action n.2019-1-EL01-KA204- 062923 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices programme. The international partnership 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: <https://www.facebook.com/Modern-Educational-Methods102518281259840> or on the website <https://www.mem-project.eu/>.

45. Brief online meeting of the “Sustainable Agripreneurship” project

In date 04/10/2021 took place an brief online meeting of the project "Sustainable Agripreneurship" (acronym "SustainAgri"), an initiative approved in the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET as action n. 2020-1-CZ01-KA202-078268. During the meeting, the project partners discussed the drafting of the project's interim report. The partnership is composed of the following organisations: Ceska Zemedelska Univerzita V Praze (Czech Republic), Youth Europe Service (Italy), Dekapulus Business Services LTD (Cyprus), Center For Education And Innovation (Greece), Exponential Training & Assessment Limited (UK), 8D Games BV (Netherlands) and Trebag (Hungary). More information on the website www.sustainagri-project.eu or on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/sustainableagripreneurship>.



46. New innovation project approved in Erasmus Plus programme

We are pleased to inform you that a new Erasmus Plus opportunity has been approved for the Youth Europe Service association in Potenza. It is a project KA220-YOU (new typology of the seven-year period 2021-2027 of the above mentioned programme) entitled "Joint Ventures: Jeunes et des espaces vertes" (acronym: JV) - action 2021-1-LU01-KA220-YOU-0000292960 - approved in Luxembourg. The larger aim of the project is to create healthy and climate resilient societies in Europe by harnessing the potential of young people, working across urban and rural sectors to help young people to improve existing skills and learn new ones, including organising summer camps and camping weekends in nature. Follow it (it will start in January 2022) as it will offer many training and mobility opportunities for young people!



47. New meeting in Lund of the “Future Target” project

In the date 25/10/2021 took place in Lund, Sweden, a new European project meeting of the project "Future Target", (action n. 2019-1-DE02-KA204-006511) which was attended by three delegates from the association Youth Europe Service. The project was approved by the Erasmus+ National Agency in Germany within the framework of the Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The European initiative focuses on the exchange of good practice between 7 partner organisations; Youth Europe Service (Italy), Sharing Europe (Italy), IYDA e.V. (Germany), Geoclube - Associacao Juvenil De Ciencia Natureza E Aventura (Portugal), Kainotomia & SIA EE (Greece). Academia Postal 3 Vigo SL. (Spain) and Mobilizing Europe (Sweden), to try to find solutions to the issue of refugees and migrants, which is currently one of the biggest problems facing the European Union. During the meeting, the partners took stock of the activities already developed and defined the steps of the project activities to be organised in the coming months. More information on the project is available on the Facebook page at the web link <https://www.facebook.com/projectFutureTarget/>.



48. Last meeting of the project “Foster Social Inclusion”

In the date 22/10/2021 will take place in Berlin the last 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 partners will take stock of the activities already developed and define the steps of the activities to be developed until the end of the project, which will end on 31/12/2021. More information on the project 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.

