



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. Winter 2022 Economic Forecast

The Winter 2022 Economic Forecast projects that, following a notable expansion by 5.3% in 2021, the EU economy will grow by 4.0% in 2022 and 2.8% in 2023.

Growth in the euro area is also expected at 4.0% in 2022, moderating to 2.7% in 2023. The EU as a whole reached its pre-pandemic level of GDP in the third quarter of 2021 and all Member States are projected to have passed this milestone by the end of 2022.

Economic growth set to regain traction

After the robust rebound in economic activity that started in spring last year and continued unabated through early autumn, the growth momentum in the EU is estimated to have slowed to 0.4% in the last quarter of 2021, from 2.2% in the previous quarter. While a slowdown was already expected in the Autumn 2021 Economic Forecast, after the EU economy closed the gap with its pre-pandemic output level in 2021-Q3, it was sharper than projected as headwinds to growth intensified: notably, the surge in COVID-19 infections, high energy prices and continued supply-side disruptions. Growth continues to be shaped by the pandemic, with many EU countries under pressure from a combination of increased strain on healthcare systems and staff shortages due to illness, precautionary quarantines or care duties. Logistic and supply bottlenecks, including shortages of semiconductors and some metal commodities, are also set to keep weighing on production, at least throughout the first half of the



year. Last but not least, energy prices are now expected to remain elevated for longer than expected in the Autumn Forecast, thereby exerting a more protracted drag on the economy and higher inflationary pressures. This forecast assumes that the strain on the economy caused by the current wave of infections will be short lived. Economic activity is set to regain traction, also as supply conditions normalise and inflationary pressures moderate. Looking beyond the short-term turbulence, the fundamentals underpinning this expansionary phase continue to be strong. A continuously improving labour market, high household savings, still favourable financing conditions, and the full deployment of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) are all set to sustain a prolonged and robust expansionary phase.

Upward revision to the inflation outlook

The forecast for inflation has been considerably revised upwards compared to the Autumn Forecast. This reflects the effects of high energy prices, but also the broadening of inflationary pressures on other categories of goods since autumn. After reaching a record rate of 4.6% in the fourth quarter of last year, inflation in the euro area is projected to peak at 4.8% in the first quarter of 2022 and remain above 3% until the third quarter of the year. As the pressures from supply constraints and high energy prices fade, inflation is expected to decline to 2.1% in the final quarter of the year, before moving below the European Central Bank's 2% target throughout 2023. Overall, inflation in the euro area is forecast to increase from 2.6% in 2021 (2.9% in the EU) to 3.5% (3.9% EU) in 2022, before declining to 1.7% (1.9% EU) in 2023.

Uncertainty and risks remain high

Even though the impact of the pandemic on economic activity has weakened over time, ongoing containment measures and protracted staff shortages could drag on economic activity. They could also dent the functioning of critical supply chains for longer than expected. By contrast, weaker demand growth in the near-term may help to resolve supply bottlenecks somewhat earlier than assumed. On the upside, household demand could grow more strongly than expected, as already experienced with the reopening of economies in 2020, and investments fostered by the RRF could generate a stronger impulse to activity. Inflation may turn out higher than expected if cost pressures are eventually passed on from producer to consumer prices to a larger extent than projected, amplifying the risk of second-round effects. Risks to the growth and inflation outlook are markedly aggravated by geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe.

Members of the College said:

Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People said: *"The EU economy has now regained all the ground it lost during the height of the crisis, thanks to successful vaccination campaigns and coordinated economic policy support. Unemployment has reached a record low. These are major achievements. As the pandemic is still ongoing, our immediate challenge is to keep the recovery well on track. The significant rise in inflation and energy prices, along with supply chain and labour market bottlenecks, are holding back growth. Looking ahead, however, we expect to switch back into high gear later this year as*

some of these bottlenecks ease. The EU's fundamentals remain strong and will be boosted further as countries start to put their Recovery and Resilience Plans into full effect." Paolo **Gentiloni**, Commissioner for Economy said: *"Multiple headwinds have chilled Europe's economy this winter: the swift spread of Omicron, a further rise in inflation driven by soaring energy prices and persistent supply-chain disruptions. With these headwinds expected to fade progressively, we project growth to pick up speed again already this spring. Price pressures are likely to remain strong until the summer, after which inflation is projected to decline as growth in energy prices moderates and supply bottlenecks ease. However, uncertainty and risks remain high."*



Background

The Winter 2022 Economic Forecast provides an update of the Autumn 2021 Economic Forecast, which was presented in November 2021, focusing on GDP and inflation developments in all EU Member States. This forecast is based on a set of technical assumptions concerning exchange rates, interest rates and commodity prices with a cut-off date of 27 January. For all other incoming data, including assumptions about government policies, this forecast takes into consideration information up until and including 1 February. The European Commission publishes two comprehensive forecasts (spring and autumn) and two interim forecasts (winter and summer) each year. The interim forecasts cover annual and quarterly GDP and inflation for the current and following year for all Member States, as well as EU and euro area aggregates. The European Commission's next forecast will be the Spring 2022 Economic Forecast, scheduled to be published in May 2022.

2. European Innovation Council: 2022 Work Programme

The Commission adopted the 2022 work programme of the European Innovation Council.

It opens funding opportunities worth over €1.7 billion in 2022 for breakthrough innovators to scale up and create new markets, for example in quantum computing, new generation batteries



and gene therapy. Launched in March 2021 as a major novelty of the Horizon Europe programme, the European Innovation Council has a total budget of over €10 billion between 2021 and 2027. Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: *"The European Innovation Council has already supported 4 unicorns and more than 90 centaurs. The work programme for this year is backed by the biggest ever annual funding for visionary entrepreneurs and researchers, as well as new measures to support female innovators and scale-ups. Europe is committed to supporting innovation and new technologies and we are on track to meet our ambition to make the EIC Europe's unicorn factory."*

What is new in the 2022 work programme?

The 2022 work programme of the European Innovation Council (EIC) has several new elements, simplifying the application process and contributing to EU policies.

Novelties

- **A new EIC Scale-Up 100 initiative:** Having already supported over 2600 small and medium business (SMEs) and start-ups in the past since 2018, the EIC introduces the EIC Scale-up 100 initiative to identify 100 promising deep tech EU companies that have the potential to become 'unicorns' (with valuation of over €1 billion).
- **Equity investments above €15 million:** The EIC Accelerator will allow companies working on technologies of strategic European interest to apply for EIC investments of more than €15 million.
- **Stronger support to women innovators:** Development of an innovation gender and diversity index to identify gaps and encourage diversity within companies. This will provide consistent information to investors, funders, customers and policy makers. The 2022 edition of the EU Prize for Women Innovators will include two additional prizes for innovators under 35 – hence, there will be six prizes awarded in total: three prizes to the most inspiring women innovators across the EU and the countries associated to Horizon Europe, and three prizes to the most promising 'Rising Innovators' under the age of 35.

Contribution to policy priorities

The 2022 work programme sets out an updated set of 'EIC Challenges'. The EIC Challenges provide funding opportunities in thematic areas with over €500 million for start-ups to develop technologies that will contribute to the EU's target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, as well as to building strategic autonomy in quantum, space and new medical technologies.

Simplification

The EIC strives to continuously improve its processes to the benefit of its applicants:

- All outstanding companies that cannot be funded by the EIC due to budget constraints will **automatically receive the Seal of Excellence**, which could help them obtain funding from other EU funding tools, such as the Structural Funds, Recovery Funds or other sources.
- In 2022, **more frequent application deadlines** will be opened for EIC Transition and Accelerator, with a continuous application process introduced for EIC Transition. Moreover, second time applicants to EIC Accelerator will be able to describe and defend the improvements made to their resubmission.

European Innovation Council funding and support in 2022

- **EIC Pathfinder** (€350 million) for multi-disciplinary research teams to undertake visionary research with the potential to lead to technology breakthroughs.
- **EIC Transition** (€131) million to turn research results into innovation opportunities, focussing on results generated by EIC Pathfinder projects and European Research Council Proof of Concept projects, to mature the technologies and build a business case for specific applications.
- **EIC Accelerator** (for 1.16 billion) for start-ups and SMEs to develop and scale up high impact innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones.

All projects of the European Innovation Council have access to Business Acceleration Services, which provides coaches, mentors and expertise, partnering opportunities with corporates, investors and others, and a range of other services and events. Following the publication of the Work Programme, an information day will take place on Tuesday 22 February to provide information on how the European Innovation Council works, how to apply for funding, who is eligible and what this year's novelties are. Sessions will include information on funding opportunities for research teams, start-ups, SMEs and investors.

Background

The EIC was launched in March 2021 as a major novelty under the Horizon Europe programme, and following a successful pilot phase between 2018 and 2020. It has a budget of over €10 billion between 2021-2027. Its strategy and implementation is steered by the EIC Board, which has independent members appointed from the world of innovation (entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, corporates and others from the innovation ecosystem). The EIC Board has endorsed the 2022 work programme. The EIC takes a proactive approach to managing funding under the leadership of EIC Programme Managers who develop visions for innovation and technology breakthroughs and steer portfolios of projects to achieve these goals. The EIC started implementation ahead of most other parts of Horizon Europe and has already selected for funding 164 SMEs and start-ups, 56 cutting-edge research projects and 29 projects to take breakthrough technologies from the lab into the real world. During its pilot phase from 2018-2020 and incorporating the previous SME and Future and Emerging Technology schemes, the EIC has:



- Supported over 5500 start-ups and innovative SMEs from across Europe, as well as over 400 cutting-edge research projects.
- The start-ups supported by the EIC have subsequently attracted close to €10 billion in investments. Many are successfully scaling up, with currently more than 90 centaurs and 4 unicorns.
- An increasing number of women-led start-ups: of those awarded funding in second half of 2020 29% percent have a female CEO, compared to 8% of companies funded in the first half of 2020.
- The EIC Fund, established in 2020, entered full operations: Investment decisions taken on 141 companies worth more than €630 million. The first 24 direct equity investments by the EIC Fund attracted co-investments by VC funds and others of €395 million (2.7 times the EIC Fund investment).

3. New Cohesion Report

The 8th Cohesion Report published by the Commission shows that Cohesion policy has helped to narrow territorial and social disparities between regions in the EU.

Thanks to Cohesion funding, the GDP per capita of less developed regions is expected to



increase by up to 5% by 2023. The same investments also supported a 3.5% reduction in the gap between the GDP per capita of the 10% least developed regions and the 10% most developed regions. The report also shows that, thanks to its flexibility, Cohesion policy provided much needed and very swift support to Member States, regional and local authorities in the midst of economic slowdowns and the worst crisis of recent times. The new 2021-2027 Cohesion policy programmes will continue to invest in regions and in people, in close coordination

with the financial firepower of the NextGenerationEU package.

Additional main findings

- **Cohesion policy became a more important source of investment.** Cohesion funding grew from the equivalent of 34% to 52% of total public investment from the 2007-2013 programming period to the 2014-2020 programming period.
- Since 2001, **less developed regions in Eastern Europe have been catching up with the rest of the EU.** At the same time however, many middle-income and less developed regions, especially in the southern and south-western EU, have suffered from economic stagnation or decline.
- **Convergence between Member States has accelerated**, but internal regional disparities within the fast-growing Member States have increased.
- **Employment has been growing**, but regional disparities remain larger than before 2008.
- **The number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion fell** by 17 million between 2012 and 2019.
- The **regional innovation divide in Europe has grown**, due to a lack of investment in R&D and weaknesses in innovation ecosystems of least developed regions.
- The **EU population is ageing** and will start shrinking in the years to come. In 2020, 34% of the EU population lived in a shrinking region. This is projected to reach 51% in 2040.

Members of the College said:

Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa **Ferreira**, said: *"The 8th Cohesion Report clearly shows the importance of Cohesion policy in fostering convergence and reducing inequalities between countries and regions in the EU. By mapping the areas where Member States and regions need to do more and better, the report allows us to learn from the lessons of the past to be better prepared for the challenges of the future. We need to accelerate the adoption and implementation of Cohesion policy programmes for 2021-2027 so that we can continue supporting regions in recovering from the pandemic, reap the full benefits of the transition to a green and digital Europe and deliver on long term growth."* Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas **Schmit**, added: *"The pandemic has increased the risk of inequalities in the EU, and Cohesion policy is one of our main tools to combat this trend and invest in people. It helps us to meet the objective of building a strong social Europe that is inclusive and fair. I am proud that thanks to EU funds, disadvantaged children receive books and computers; young people are offered apprenticeships to get them into the labour market; and vulnerable people have access to a warm meal and care."*

Cohesion policy addresses EU regions' main challenges

Cohesion policy has made a difference for many EU regions and people. It has helped them invest in a more sustainable and balanced growth, with long term benefits. It has supported physical and digital infrastructure, education and training, SMEs, and the green transition. More recently, Cohesion policy has helped EU regions face the challenge of the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences. The two support packages launched in spring 2020 (CRII and CRII+) offered immediate liquidity, made spending more flexible, increased the co-financing rate to 100% and extended the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund. As part of NextGenerationEU, REACT-EU provided an extra €50.6 billion to support the recovery from the pandemic allowing regions and cities to continue investing in their growth while preparing the 2021-2027 programming period. It has also provided a much-needed safety net to vulnerable persons whose situations have become even more precarious as a result of the pandemic. Over the next years, Cohesion

policy will continue to enhance a fair and sustainable development in all EU regions, while supporting the green and digital transition through: A comprehensive and targeted approach to development: funding, governance, consistency and synergies with national policies; Place-based, multilevel and partnership-led policies, tailoring its support to most vulnerable territories; Continued adaptability to emerging and unexpected challenges.

Next steps

The 8th Cohesion Report will feed the discussions at the upcoming Cohesion Forum (on 17-18 March), which brings together representatives of EU institutions, national, regional and local authorities from all Member States, social and economic partners, non-governmental organisations and academia. The Forum will debate how Cohesion policy can ensure that no region is left behind in the ongoing structural changes, and that all regions can reap the benefits of the green and digital transitions.

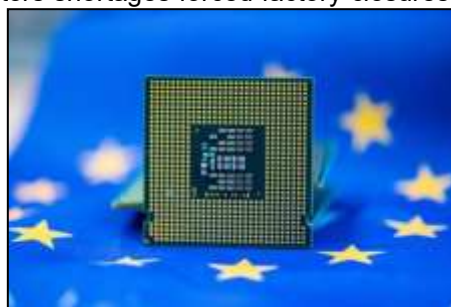
Background

Every three years, the Commission publishes a report on the economic, social, and territorial cohesion in the EU, presenting the progress and the EU's role as a driver for regional development. It analyses the evolution of cohesion in the EU according to a wide range of indicators, such as prosperity, employment, education levels, and accessibility and governance. On the basis of facts and figures, the Report offers a snapshot of the state and evolution of EU regions' development, and the challenges they are facing. The Report assesses whether disparities between regions have decreased, who is leading and who needs to catch up in innovation, employment or institutional capacity, for example. It also shows where regions stand in the green and digital transition and who needs further support. A clearer picture of what has been achieved and what still needs to be done in the 2021-2027 programming period will guide EU policies and investments to help regions achieve a balanced and sustainable long-term growth.

4. Digital sovereignty: Commission proposes Chips Act

The Commission proposes a comprehensive set of measures to ensure the EU's security of supply, resilience and technological leadership in semiconductor technologies and applications.

The European Chips Act will bolster Europe's competitiveness, resilience and help achieve both the digital and green transition. Recent global semiconductor shortages forced factory closures in a wide range of sectors from cars to healthcare devices. In the car sector, for example, production in some Member States decreased by one third in 2021. This made more evident the extreme global dependency of the semiconductor value chain on a very limited number of actors in a complex geopolitical context. But it also illustrated the importance of semiconductors for the entire European industry and society. The EU Chips Act will build on Europe's strengths – world-leading research and technology organisations and networks as well as host of pioneering equipment manufacturers – and address outstanding weaknesses. It will bring about a thriving semiconductor sector from research to production and a resilient supply chain. It will mobilise more than €43 billion euros of public and private investments and set measures to prevent, prepare, anticipate and swiftly respond to any future supply chains disruption, together with Member States and our international partners. It will enable the EU to reach its ambition to double its current market share to 20% in 2030. The European Chips Act will ensure that the EU has the necessary tools, skills and technological capabilities to become a leader in this field beyond research and technology in design, manufacturing and packaging of advanced chips, to secure its supply of semiconductors and to reduce its dependencies. The main components are:



- The **Chips for Europe Initiative** will pool resources from the Union, Member States and third countries associated with the existing Union programmes, as well as the private sector, through the enhanced “Chips Joint Undertaking” resulting from the strategic reorientation of the existing Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking. €11 billion will be made available to strengthen existing research, development and innovation, to ensure the deployment of advanced semi-conductor tools, pilot lines for prototyping, testing and experimentation of new

devices for innovative real-life applications, to train staff and to develop an in-depth understanding of the semi-conductor ecosystem and value chain.

- **A new framework to ensure security of supply** by attracting investments and enhanced production capacities, much needed in order for innovation in advanced nodes, innovative and energy efficient chips to flourish. In addition, **a Chips Fund will facilitate access to finance** for start-ups to help them mature their innovations and attract investors. It will also include a dedicated semiconductor equity investment facility under InvestEU to support scale-ups and SMEs to ease their market expansion.
- **A coordination mechanism between the Member States and the Commission** for monitoring the supply of semiconductors, estimating demand and anticipating the shortages. It will **monitor** the semiconductor value chain by gathering key intelligence from companies to **map primary weaknesses and bottlenecks**. It will draw together **common crisis assessment** and coordinate **actions to be taken** from a new emergency toolbox. It will also **react swiftly and decisively together** by making full use of national and EU instruments.

The Commission also proposes an accompanying Recommendation to Member States. It is a tool with immediate effect to enable the **coordination mechanism between the Member States and the Commission** to commence straight away. This will allow as from now to discuss and decide on timely and proportionate crisis response measures.

Members of the College said:

Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** said: *"The European Chips Act will be a game changer for the global competitiveness of Europe's single market. In the short term, it will increase our resilience to future crises, by enabling us to anticipate and avoid supply chain*



disruptions. And in the mid-term, it will help make Europe an industrial leader in this strategic branch. With the European Chips Act, we are putting out the investments and the strategy. But the key to our success lies in Europe's innovators, our world-class researchers, in the people who have made our continent prosper through the decades." Margrethe **Vestager**, Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, added: *"Chips are necessary for the green and digital transition - and for the*

competitiveness of European industry. We should not rely on one country or one company to ensure safety of supply. We must do more together - in research, innovation, design, production facilities - to ensure that Europe will be stronger as a key actor in the global value chain. It will also benefit our international partners. We will work with them to avoid future supply issues." Thierry **Breton**, Commissioner for Internal Market, elaborated: *"Without chips, no digital transition, no green transition, no technological leadership. Securing the supply in the most advanced chips has become an economic and geopolitical priority. Our objectives are high: doubling our global market share by 2030 to 20%, and producing the most sophisticated and energy-efficient semiconductors in Europe. With the EU Chips Act we will strengthen our research excellence and help it move from lab to fab – from the laboratory to manufacturing. We are mobilising considerable public funding which is already attracting substantial private investment. And we are putting everything in place to secure the entire supply chain and avoid future shocks to our economy like we are seeing with the current supply shortage in chips. By investing in lead markets of the future and rebalancing global supply chains, we will allow European industry to remain competitive, generate quality jobs, and cater for growing global demand."* Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture and Youth, complemented: *"The Chips for Europe Initiative is closely linked to Horizon Europe and will rely on continuous research and innovation to develop the next generation of smaller and more energy-efficient chips. The future initiative will offer a great opportunity for our researchers, innovators, and startups to lead on the new wave of innovation that will develop deep tech solutions based on hardware. Chips development and production in Europe will benefit our economic actors in key value chains and will help us attain our ambitious objectives in construction, transport, energy and digital."*

Next Steps

Member States are encouraged to immediately start coordination efforts in line with the Recommendation to understand the current status state of the semiconductor value chain across the EU, to anticipate potential disturbances and take corrective measures to overcome the current shortage until the Regulation is adopted. The European Parliament and the Member

States will need to discuss the Commission's proposals on a European Chips Act in the ordinary legislative procedure. If adopted, the Regulation will be directly applicable across the EU.

Background

Chips are strategic assets for key industrial value chains. With the digital transformation, new markets for the chip industry are emerging such as highly automated cars, cloud, IoT, connectivity (5G/6G), space/defence, computing capacities and supercomputers. Semiconductors are also at the centre of strong geopolitical interests, conditioning countries capacity to act (militarily, economically, industrially) and drive digital. In her 2021 State of the Union speech, Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** set the vision for Europe's chip strategy, to jointly create a state-of-the-art European chip ecosystem, including production, as well as link together the EU's world-class research, design and testing capacities. The President also visited ASML, one of Europe's major player in the global value chain for semiconductors, based in Eindhoven. In July 2021, the European Commission launched the Industrial Alliance on Processors and Semiconductors with the objective to identify current gaps in the production of microchips and the technology developments needed for companies and organisations to thrive, no matter their size. The Alliance will help foster collaboration across existing and future EU initiatives as well as playing an important advisory role and providing a strategic roadmap for the Chips for Europe Initiative, along with other stakeholders. To date, 22 Member State committed in a joint declaration signed in December 2020 to working together towards bolstering Europe's electronics and embedded systems value chain and strengthen leading-edge manufacturing capacity. The new measures will help Europe achieve its 2030 Digital Decade targets of having 20% of global chips market share by 2030. Together with the Chips Act, the Commission also published a targeted stakeholder survey in order to gather detailed information on current as well as future chip and wafer demand. Results of this survey will help to better understand how the shortage of chips is affecting European industry.

5. Space: EU initiates a satellite-based connectivity system

The EU is acting on its space ambitions by tabling two initiatives - a proposal for a Regulation on a space-based secure connectivity and a Joint Communication on an EU approach on Space Traffic Management (STM).

Space technology is essential for facilitating our daily lives, contributing to a more digital, green and resilient future for our planet. As a major space power, the EU's Space Programme already provides valuable data and services for a wide array of daily applications from transport, agriculture, and crisis response to the fight against climate change, to name a few. However, due to new challenges and increased international competition, the EU's space policy needs to constantly evolve and adapt if we want to continue enjoying freely the benefits that space brings. This initiatives will help safeguard the efficiency and security of our current assets while developing European cutting-edge space technology to the benefit of our citizens and economy.

Space-based secure connectivity

In today's digital world, space-based connectivity is a strategic asset for EU's resilience. It enables our economic power, digital leadership and technological sovereignty, competitiveness and societal progress. Secure connectivity has become a public good for European governments and citizens. The Commission is thus putting forward an ambitious plan for an EU space-based secure communication system that will: ensure the long-term availability of worldwide uninterrupted access to secure and cost-effective satellite communication services. It will support the protection of critical infrastructures, surveillance, external actions, crisis management and applications that are critical for Member States' economy, security and defence; allow for the provision of commercial services by the private sector that can enable access to advanced, reliable and fast connections to citizens and businesses across Europe, including in communication dead zones ensuring cohesion across Member States. This is one of the targets of the proposed 2030 Digital Decade. The system will also provide connectivity over geographical areas of strategic interest, for instance Africa and the Arctic, as part of the EU Global Gateway strategy. Both governmental user needs and satellite



communication solutions are changing rapidly. The EU space-based secure communication system seeks to meet these increased and evolving needs, and will also include the latest quantum communication technologies for secure encryption. It will be based on the development of innovative and disruptive technologies, and on the leveraging of the New Space ecosystem. The total cost is estimated at €6 billion. The Union's contribution to the Programme from 2022 until 2027 is €2.4 billion at current prices. The funding will come from different sources of the public sector (EU budget, Member States, European Space Agency's (ESA) contributions) and private sector investments. This initiative will further boost the competitiveness of the EU space ecosystem, as the development of a new infrastructure would provide a gross value added (GVA) of €17-24 billion and additional jobs in the EU space industry, with further positive spill-over effects on the economy through the downstream sectors using the innovative connectivity services. Citizens would also benefit from the technological advantages, reliability and operational performance of such satellite communication services ensuring high-speed internet connections across the EU.

Space Traffic Management

With an exponential increase in the number of satellites in orbit due to new developments in



reusable launchers, small satellites and private initiatives in space, the resilience and safety of EU and Member States' space assets are at serious risk. It is critical to protect the long-term viability of space activities by ensuring that space remains a safe, secure and sustainable environment. This makes Space Traffic Management a priority public policy issue, which requires the EU to act now, collectively and at a multilateral level, if we are to ensure a safe, secure and sustainable use of space for the generations to come. Against this background, the Joint Communication establishes an EU approach on Space Traffic Management. The goal is to develop concrete initiatives, including operations and legislation, to promote the safe, secure and sustainable use of space while preserving the EU's strategic autonomy and industry's competitiveness. The EU approach focuses on four elements: assessing the STM civilian and military requirements and impacts for the EU; strengthening

our technological capability to identify and track spacecraft and space debris; setting out the appropriate normative and legislative framework; establishing international partnerships on STM and engaging at a multilateral level.

Members of College said:

Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager** said: "Space technology is essential for our everyday life and security. This initiatives will ensure secure, efficient connectivity at all times. It is benefitting both citizens and governments. It will play a key role in Europe's digital transformation. And make us more competitive. I hope that an EU approach to space traffic management and space technology will guarantee a safe and sustainable use of space in the long run." The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep **Borrell**, stated: "Space has become more crowded than ever, increasing the complexity and the risks related to space operations. To address this global challenge, we propose an EU approach to Space Traffic Management. We will develop concrete capabilities, set norms and engage with key partners and in multilateral fora to ensure a safe, secure and sustainable use of space. While STM is a civilian endeavour, European security and defence depend on a safe, secure and autonomous access to space." Thierry **Breton**, Commissioner for the Internal Market, said: "Space plays a growing role in our daily lives, our economic growth, our security, and our geopolitical weight. Our new connectivity infrastructure will deliver high-speed internet access, serve as a back-up to our current internet infrastructure, increase our resilience and cyber security, and provide connectivity to the whole of Europe and Africa. It will be a truly pan-European project allowing our many start-ups and Europe as a whole to be at the forefront of technological innovation."

Background

The two initiatives adopted are concrete deliverables of the Action Plan on Synergies between civil, defence and space industries, where these two flagship projects are mentioned.

Secure Connectivity

To implement this new space-based initiative ensuring secure connectivity across Europe, the Commission launched in December 2020 an initial system study to explore technical aspects and the potential service provision models. Meanwhile, the Commission published an additional call to also involve the European New Space ecosystem to integrate technologically cutting-edge,

innovative ideas by SMEs and start-ups. Two contracts were awarded in December 2021 and the technical work is now ongoing with results expected by June 2022.

Space Traffic Management

Since 2016, the Union already has a Space Surveillance & Tracking capability (SST), implemented by the EU SST Consortium. More than 130 European organisations from 23 Member States have registered so far to the EU SST services (collision avoidance, fragmentation analysis, re-entry analysis). Today, more than 260 EU satellites, including the Galileo and Copernicus fleets, benefit from the collision avoidance service. In 2021, partners of EU SST shared 100 million measurements through their data-sharing platform. Most recently, the EU SST fragmentation service confirmed the detection of and monitored space debris from destruction of a satellite in low orbit (COSMOS 1408) following an anti-satellite test conducted by Russia on 15 November 2021.

6. Actions to contribute to European Defence

The Commission puts forward a number of Commission-led initiatives in areas critical for defence and security within the European Union.

These comprise a Contribution to European defence, covering the full range of challenges, from the conventional defence industry and equipment on land, sea and air, to cyber, hybrid and space threats, military mobility and the relevance of climate change; and a roadmap on critical technologies for security and defence. These new initiatives are concrete steps towards a more integrated and competitive European defence market, particularly by enhancing cooperation within the EU, thereby building scale, mastering costs and enhancing operational effectiveness. With its announcement, the Commission provides input in the run-up to the EU Strategic Compass on Security and Defence. By using all available means in an ever-evolving geopolitical and technological context, the Commission aims at strengthening the Union's ability to counter fast-changing multi-layered threats. The Commission has, in particular, identified the following main new areas to further strengthen the competitiveness of the European defence market: explore how to further stimulate Member States investments in key strategic capabilities and critical enablers that are developed and/or procured in European Union cooperative frameworks; further incentivise the joint procurement of defence capabilities developed in a collaborative way within the EU; call upon Member States to continue moving towards streamlined and more convergent arms exports control practices, in particular for defence capabilities developed in an EU cooperative framework.



Investments in defence research and capabilities and joint procurement

By the end of 2022, the European Defence Fund (EDF) will have invested €1.9 billion in defence research and capability development projects. This will kick-start key large-scale collaborative capability development projects while stimulating defence innovation. The Commission will also develop further incentives to stimulate Member States' investments in defence strategic capabilities, notably where they are developed and/or procured within EU cooperative frameworks. In particular, the Commission will explore a number of instruments to incentivise the joint procurement of defence capabilities developed in a collaborative way within the EU, including by proposing a Value Added Tax (VAT) waiver, setting up new financing solutions, and reviewing the EDF bonus mechanisms to favour commitments to joint procurement of equipment, maintenance and operations in addition to joint development of the relevant defence technologies. The Commission will include a chapter with observations on developments, barriers and opportunities relative to multinational defence capabilities projects in the Annual Single Market Report, usually published in conjunction with the European Semester Autumn Package. More generally, the Commission will ensure that other horizontal policies, such as initiatives on sustainable finance, remain consistent with the EU's efforts to facilitate the European defence industry's sufficient access to finance and investment.

Streamlined and more convergent export control practices

While Member States are in charge of issuing export licences for military equipment, the Commission invites them to bring forward ongoing work to streamline and gradually converge further their arms export control practices, especially for those defence capabilities that are

jointly developed, in particular in an EU framework. The Commission invites Member States to seek an approach according to which, in principle, they would respectively not restrain each other from exporting to a third country any military equipment and technology developed in cooperation. This work should ensure that EDF-funded products will profit from adequate and competitive access to international markets without prejudice to Member States' sovereign decisions.

Synergies between civilian and defence research and innovation and reducing strategic dependencies

The Roadmap on critical technologies for security and defence outlines a path to enhance the competitiveness and resilience of the EU security and defence sectors by: inviting Member States to contribute actively to the Observatory of critical technologies currently being



established; encouraging dual-use research and innovation at EU level; inviting Member States to develop an EU-wide coordinated approach to critical technologies in the context of the Strategic Compass; supporting security and defence innovation and entrepreneurship through a number of new tools (e.g. incubator, investment blending facility, etc.); creating, together with the European Defence Agency, an EU Defence Innovation Scheme to bring their respective

efforts under one umbrella; assessing security and defence considerations more systematically, as appropriate, when implementing and reviewing existing or designing new EU industrial and trade instruments, in order to reduce strategic dependencies. Reducing the identified dependencies in critical technologies and value chains is another important aspect of the Roadmap. In this perspective, the Commission proposes to embed defence considerations in major EU industrial and technology initiatives (e.g. Alliances, standards), protect EU security and defence interests when procuring critical infrastructure (in particular in the digital domain) and reinforce the Foreign Direct investment screening by encouraging all remaining Member States to set up a national screening mechanism.

Strengthening the defence dimension of space at EU level

The Commission will also explore how to further enhance the protection of EU space assets, notably through additional Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) services and by making full use of the potential of the EU industry. It will promote a 'dual-use by design' approach for EU space infrastructures, with a view to offering new resilient services that address governmental needs, including in the area of defence. The Commission and the High Representative will also explore the possibility of activation of solidarity, mutual assistance and crisis response mechanisms in case of attacks originating from space or threats to space-based assets.

Enhancing European resilience

Finally, the Commission will also fully implement key enabling initiatives for European resilience. In particular, to counter hybrid threats, the Commission, in cooperation with the High Representative and the Member States, will assess sectoral resilience baselines to identify gaps and needs as well as steps to address them. Following the adoption of the Strategic Compass, the Commission will contribute to the future EU hybrid toolbox and will consider identifying experts in relevant policy areas. In addition, to strengthen cybersecurity and cyber-defence, the Commission will propose the Cyber Resilience Act and request the European Standardisation Organisations to develop harmonised standards regarding cybersecurity and privacy; and together with the Member States, it will step up preparedness for large scale cyber-incidents. By the end of this year the Commission, together with the High Representative, will propose an update of the joint Action Plan to enhance military mobility within and beyond Europe. Finally, also this year the Commission will take various actions to address climate change challenges related to defence.

Next steps

Through these defence initiatives, the Commission announces actions to be launched and implemented in the upcoming years. The Commission remains ready to consider additional steps forward in the light of progress made and the evolution of the threats and challenges the Union faces in the future. The dedicated defence session during the informal Summit in France on 10 and 11 March 2022 offers an opportunity to discuss these initiatives on defence.

Members of College said:

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the Commission said: *"Against the backdrop of deepening geopolitical rivalries, the European Union must maintain its technological edge. It can do so by addressing the wide range of threats, from conventional to hybrid, cyber and space, and can*

build the necessary scale through joint development, joint procurement and a convergent approach to exports. In addition to ensuring the security of EU citizens, the European defence sector can contribute to the economic recovery through positive innovation spill-overs for civilian uses.” Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, Margrethe **Vestager**, said: *“As more civilian technologies make their way to military application, and with the cooperation tools now in place, the EU has what it takes to lead if we act together. We need to bring together our SMEs and innovation potential from across the Union. The new wave of security and defence technologies should be developed under an EU cooperative framework from the outset.”* Thierry **Breton**, Commissioner for the Internal Market, said: *“In the face of the new geopolitics, we need a stronger Europe in defence. Threats to the EU's security are no longer only of military nature, but are increasingly becoming hybrid, shifting towards cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns endangering the heart of our democracies. We need to focus on reducing strategic dependencies, supporting innovation of the defence ecosystem, encouraging joint procurement of defence capabilities. We must protect the new contested areas, such as space. And for this, we rely on the industrial defence and aerospace sectors, a high-tech ecosystem that is an essential driver for Europe's strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty.”*

Background

The EU Strategic Compass for Security and Defence is a Council document, steered by the High Representative Josep **Borrell**, that aims at providing Member States' common ambition to answer to the threats and challenges the EU is facing through concrete objectives and deliverables for the next 5-10 years. The Council should adopt it in March 2022. The roadmap on critical technologies for security and defence corresponds to a request from the European Council of 25-26 February 2021 to outline a path to boosting research, technology development and innovation and reducing the EU's strategic dependencies in critical technologies and value chains for security and defence. The update of the 2020 New Industrial Strategy: Building a stronger Single Market for Europe's recovery in May 2021 confirmed that technological leadership remains an essential driver of the EU's competitiveness and innovation, in particular for critical technologies. The Commission action plan on synergies between civil, defence and space industries of February 2021 recognised the growing importance of disruptive and enabling technologies originating in the civil domain for Europe's future security and defence and the need to promote cross-fertilisation and synergies between civilian and defence technologies.

7. HERA launches first work plan

The new European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) presents its first annual work plan, which will have a budget of €1.3 billion in 2022 to prevent, prepare for and rapidly respond to cross-border health emergencies.

Following the adoption of the 2022 work plan by the HERA Board, HERA can now start implementing actions to strengthen preparedness and response capabilities within the EU, address vulnerabilities and strategic dependencies and contribute to reinforcing the global health emergency architecture. Announcing the adoption of the work plan at the informal EPSCO Council in Grenoble, Stella **Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said: *“Two years into the pandemic, we know that the capacity to respond decisively to cross-border health emergencies must be at the heart of a strong European Health Union. HERA is already operational and working to ensure that medical countermeasures are available for the present, but also ensuring that the right tools are available for any future health threats. The adoption of HERA's first work plan will enable it to begin its critical mission, by becoming the EU's health security watchtower for future health threats, as well as a key player for health crisis preparedness at global level.”* As a key pillar of a strong European Health Union, HERA has set out a number of ambitious deliverables for 2022, both in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 response, and for preparedness for potential future health threats.



Prevent and prepare for future cross border health emergencies: In the “preparedness phase”, HERA will work closely with other EU and national health agencies, industry, research

community, civil society and international partners to improve the EU's readiness for future health emergencies. Actions include: procuring and stockpiling medical countermeasures for a series of public health threats with a budget of over €580 million; releasing over €300 million to research and development of medical countermeasures and innovative technologies against emerging threats; building a network of ever-warm manufacturing facilities that can be mobilised in case of emergency (EU FAB); establishing a long term and large scale EU platform for clinical trials and data platforms; identifying three high-impact health threats, in addition to COVID-19, by the end of spring in close collaboration with Member States in the HERA Board, EU agencies, international partners and experts.

Detect future health threats: HERA will in addition carry out threat assessments and intelligence gathering, develop models to forecast an outbreak, and map out a response plan at EU level. Actions for 2022 include: putting in place a state of the art real-time health threat detection and intelligence system; creating a dedicated IT platform for threat assessment and threat prioritisation.

Respond to health threats: In the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, HERA's emergency response functions have already been activated. In the event of further cross-border public health emergencies at EU level, additional action will be taken, notably by activating emergency funding and launching mechanisms for monitoring, new targeted development, procurement and purchase of medical countermeasures and raw materials. Ongoing actions include: ensuring the timely provision of COVID-19 vaccines to EU Member States, including variant-adapted vaccines if needed; procurement of COVID-19 therapeutics for EU Member States; scaling up national capacities for the detection and scientific assessment of variants; ensuring delivery of vaccines across the world.

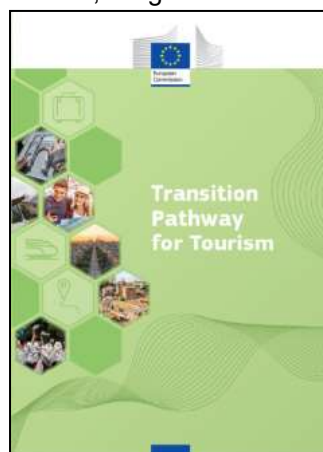
Background

The European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) is a key pillar of the European Health Union and a fundamental asset to strengthen the EU's health emergency response and preparedness. HERA was established in September 2021 to replace ad hoc solutions to pandemic management and response with a permanent structure with adequate tools and resources to plan ahead the EU action in case of health emergencies. HERA will anticipate threats and potential health crises, through intelligence gathering and building the necessary response capacities. When an emergency hits, HERA should have response solutions ready ensuring the development, production and distribution of medicines, vaccines and other medical countermeasures. The overall HERA budget is €6 billion for the period 2022-2027.

8. First transition pathway for tourism

The Commission presented the transition pathway for tourism during the EU Industry Days.

The transition pathway is a plan jointly created with actors of the tourism ecosystem detailing key actions, targets and conditions to achieve the green and digital transitions and long-term



resilience of the sector. The Commission invited involved parties to take part in its implementation. The transition pathway calls on the tourism community to implement measures in twenty-seven areas, including: to invest in circularity to reduce energy, waste, water and pollution, and at the same time to better meet the increasing demand for sustainable tourism; to enhance data sharing practices to allow for new innovative tourism services and improve the sustainable management of destinations; to invest in skills to ensure the availability of qualified workforce and attractive careers in the ecosystem. In the opening of this spotlight event on tourism, the Commissioner for Internal Market, **Thierry Breton**, said: *"I am very pleased that we can present to you the result of months of cooperation among all stakeholders. By working hand-in-hand we have come up with a common vision for EU tourism and agreed upon the ways to achieve it. This pathway will set the agenda for*

European tourism for the decade to come. I would like to invite all stakeholders to join the co-implementation process". Active involvement of all players in the sector will be key for the success of the green and digital transition. That is why the Commission launching an [on-line](#)

[survey](#) , inviting the EU tourism community to share information about their individual and collective commitments and to express interest in working together on the implementation of the transition. The Commission will be working with the interested stakeholders to steer, support and follow up the progress of the transition.

Background

The development of the Transition Pathway for Tourism started in June 2021 with a stakeholders' consultation on scenarios for the ecosystem transition. Several workshops and stakeholder meetings were held to further brainstorm and elaborate on the proposals. This Transition Pathway is the first one delivered as part of a broader action announced in the Industrial Strategy Update, published on 5 May 2021, where the Commission called for industrial ecosystems to accelerate the green and digital transformation and increase the resilience of the European economy. It initiated the principle of the co-creation of transition pathways with stakeholders, as an essential collaborative tool for the green and digital transformation of industrial ecosystems. Currently the Commission is working on the co-creation of pathways for the mobility, construction, energy-intensive industries and proximity and social economy ecosystems. The Transition Pathway for Tourism also contributes to the request of the European Council in its conclusions of 27 May 2021 that invite “the Commission and Member States, in participation with relevant stakeholders, to design a European Agenda for Tourism”. The Transition Pathway for Tourism addresses the requests outlined above and paves the way for a forward-looking transition and long-term resilience for the tourism ecosystem, towards 2030 and beyond.

9. NextGenerationEU: additional €5 billion in support for Europe's recovery

In its first bond syndication of 2022, the European Commission has raised a further €5 billion in NextGenerationEU funds on behalf of the EU in yet another successful deal.

Due on 6 July 2021, the 30-year bond – executed as an increase to an existing EU-Bond - brings the total financing raised under the programme to €78.5 billion. The Commission's successful placement will help sustain the momentum behind Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The bond was nearly 13 times oversubscribed, achieving a total order book of €64.1 billion. This strong demand enabled the Commission to place the bond under very good pricing conditions in a sign of the strong confidence of investors in the NextGenerationEU programme. The Commission complemented this issuance with a further €2.2 billion, 5-year bond to fund back-to-back loans to Portugal under the European Financial Stability Mechanism (EFSM). Commissioner for Budget and Administration, Johannes **Hahn**, said: *“This deal reflects the strength of the EU as an issuer. We executed a benchmark transaction on advantageous terms which is an excellent result. On this basis, the Commission will continue supporting Member States in their efforts to soften the blow of the pandemic and rebuild their economies on a more digital and sustainable foundation.”* Using funds already raised under NextGenerationEU, the Commission has financed some €67 billion in Recovery and Resilience Facility payments to a number of Member States. As of end-December 2021, over €7 billion has further been allocated in support of other EU programmes key to Europe's successful navigation of the digital and green transitions. This deal is the sixth syndicated transaction the Commission has executed under NextGenerationEU. Added to the €2.5 billion raised for the programme via bond auction in January, the deal takes the Commission to €7.5 billion of its €50 billion funding target for the first six months of 2022. As laid out in its issuance calendar for the first half of the year, the Commission intends to execute a further four syndicated transactions between March and June 2022. Syndicated transactions will be complemented by further monthly EU-bond auctions. Short-term funding will also continue to be raised in two EU-bills auctions per month, giving the Commission additional flexibility to meet its payment needs.



Background

NextGenerationEU is a temporary instrument bringing more than €800 billion in support to Europe's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe. To finance NextGenerationEU, the Commission will borrow around €800 billion

in current prices on capital markets by the end of 2026. Of this total, €723.8 billion will be made available under the Recovery and Resilience Facility. An additional €83.1 billion will support key EU programmes. To raise the necessary funding under the best possible market conditions, the Commission is implementing a diversified funding strategy. This strategy combines the use of different funding techniques with an open and transparent communication to market participants. This facilitates the market's absorption of the funding programme while at the same time giving the Commission the ability to react quickly to any market turbulence.

10. Over €110 million in LIFE projects for environment, climate

The Commission is announcing an investment of over €110 million into LIFE programme integrated projects for environmental and climate protection, selected after a call for proposals covering the year 2020.

The funding will support new major environmental and climate projects in 11 EU countries - Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland



and Slovenia. The projects contribute to a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and support the European Green Deal's objectives of making the EU climate neutral and zero-pollution by 2050. They are examples of actions to deliver key European Green Deal objectives under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the EU Circular Economy Action Plan. Executive Vice-President responsible for the European Green Deal Frans Timmermans said: *"We have no time to waste when it comes to the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises. The LIFE programme provides*

direct support to projects across the EU and enables entire countries and regions to protect and restore nature. Nature is our biggest ally and we need to take care of it so it can take care of us. My congratulations to each of the projects selected." Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius added: *"LIFE Programme integrated projects is one of the main tools to make the green transition a reality by delivering targeted changes on the ground. Through these projects, Member States can green their economies, bring back nature and biodiversity, and improve their resilience. I am looking forward to seeing the benefits that this investment will bring in the 11 countries and beyond their borders."* Integrated projects allow Member States to pool additional EU funding sources, including agricultural, structural, regional and research funds, as well as national funding and private sector investment. Altogether, the 11 projects are expected to attract more than €10 billion of complementary funds, significantly multiplying the resources allocated to make a real difference on the ground.

Delivering Green Deal objectives on the ground

- **Nature conservation:** A project in France will introduce measures to halt and reverse biodiversity decline in the Grand Est region by, for instance, setting up three pilot forest areas. Another project will mitigate the adverse effects of human activities that threaten Finland's marine and coastal biodiversity, by monitoring and improving the management of the national network of Marine Protected Areas. These projects will help deliver the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.
- **Clean air:** A project in Poland will implement measures to improve overall air quality in the region of Silesia where air pollution is among the most severe in Europe, by replacing small-scale solid-fuel domestic heating devices with less polluting alternatives. This project contributes to the EU's 2030 greenhouse gas emission targets and the Zero Pollution Action Plan.
- **Waste management:** In Cyprus, a project will aim to improve the infrastructure and collection systems for recyclable and biodegradable waste. In Latvia, the focus will be on improving separate waste collection and reuse of municipal waste. In Denmark, a project will work on waste prevention and on setting up a better waste regulatory framework. The project in Slovenia will aim to achieve a better recycling rate of non-hazardous construction and demolition waste, among other actions. In total, four projects will focus on waste prevention and recovering resources, contributing to the goals of the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan and the Waste Framework Directive.

- **Climate change mitigation:** LIFE funding will help Lithuania reach the objectives set out in its national energy and climate plan (NECP) including more efficient buildings, climate-friendly mobility, an energy-saving industry, and enhanced green public procurement. In Estonia, various tools and solutions will be created for the deep renovations on a range of buildings in three cities, which can then be replicated across Estonia and other Member States and support the EU's Renovation Wave Strategy.
- **Climate change adaptation:** In the Netherlands, LIFE funding will help stimulate climate change adaptation across several sectors: water management, infrastructure, agriculture, nature, health and spatial/urban planning. A project in the Moravian-Silesian Region in Czechia will increase the region's climate resilience, improve the quality of the environment for inhabitants and support sustainable development. Both projects will be following the goals of the EU's Adaptation Strategy.

Find out more about the 11 integrated projects in the [short descriptions](#).

Background

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 5 500 projects across the EU and beyond. The Commission has increased LIFE programme funding by almost 60% for the 2021–2027 period. It now stands at €5.4 billion. LIFE has currently four sub-programmes: nature and biodiversity, circular economy and quality of life, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and clean energy transition. The LIFE programme provides funding for integrated projects. These projects support the implementation of EU environmental and climate legislation and policies, on regional, multi-regional, national or trans-national level. Integrated projects help Member States comply with key EU legislation in six areas: nature conservation, water, air, waste management, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation.

11. Applications for the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize are open

The Lorenzo Natali Media Prize (#NataliPrize), the European Union's journalism award, opens for applications. Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the Prize rewards journalists reporting on themes such as inequality, poverty, climate, education, migration, employment, digital, healthcare, peace, democracy, and human rights. Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta **Urpilainen**, said: *"The Lorenzo Natali Media Prize celebrates its 30th anniversary. Democratic backsliding that we have witnessed during the pandemic, hybrid threats, disinformation and shrinking space for civil society are all worrying phenomena, which brave journalists tackle. As showcased at the Summit for Democracy in December, the EU is a firm supporter of fundamental freedoms and those who defend them, often with high personal risk. The Lorenzo Natali Media Prize is a symbol of our support to those who give voice to the voiceless and bring truth to light."*



Conditions for applications

Reporters may submit their work in written, audio and video formats in one of these three categories:

- **Grand Prize:** for reporting published by a media outlet based in one of the European Union's partner countries.
- **Europe Prize:** for reporting published by a media outlet based in the European Union.
- **Best Emerging Journalist Prize:** for reporting by a journalist below the age of 30, published in a media outlet based in the European Union or in one of its partner countries.

The submission should be made online in one of the five accepted languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese or German). Applications can be submitted from 15 February until 31 March 2022 at 23:59 CET (Central European Time).

Selection of winners

A Grand Jury of international renowned journalists and specialists in international development from around the world will choose the winners in each category. Each winner will receive €10 000. The winner of the Best Emerging Journalist category will also be offered work experience with a media partner. The winners will be announced at the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize Award Ceremony during the 2022 European Development Days between 14 - 15 June 2022.

Background

The Prize is named after Lorenzo Natali, a former European Commissioner for Development and staunch defender of the freedom of expression, democracy and human rights. His spirit has been kept alive through the Prize for the last three decades by celebrating journalists whose stories shine a light on the common challenges facing our planet and its people and inspire change. The Prize was first launched by the European Commission in 1992 to recognise bravery and excellence in reporting on sustainable and inclusive development. For further information, please consult the [Award regulations](#). You can send your application for the prize at the following [link](#).

12. Italian Sustainability Photo Award

The Italian Sustainability Photo Award is a photography award created to tell the world about sustainability in Italy and is inspired by the values expressed via the acronym ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance), typically used in the economics/financial sector and synonymous with commitment, innovation and awareness. The photographic material submitted



(individual photos, photo stories, or projects for the grant category) must fall within one of these three themes. Free and open to everyone, no matter where they're from or what they do, the ISPA award was created to tell stories of positivity, brave solutions and choices inspired by the world of sustainability. The photographs submitted should be inspired by principles such as conscious

growth, hope, innovation, and the quest for solutions. A jury made up of photographers, photo editors and international journalists will choose the best Single Photo, the best Photo Story and the best project, which will receive a Grant of €10,000 to finance its development.

The themes

- **Environmental sustainability:** Environmental sustainability in all its possible forms, from processes for reducing pollution and harmful emissions, to the production of clean energy; from the balanced management of natural resources, to the disposal and correct recycling of waste, to the complex safeguarding of biodiversity. It is the growing awareness of how the delicate relationship between humanity and the resources all around us is crucial to the future of mankind.
- **Social sustainability:** Everything inherent in respect for human, cultural, social and political rights, gender and inclusion politics, the protection of diversity and minorities, the safeguarding of health and the support of local communities. This category also embraces experiences of increased sharing in the value chain that links governments, businesses, associations and individuals, aimed at supporting reciprocal growth and ensuring the conditions for a dignified life for all are met.
- **Sustainable governance:** These are the methods, rules and procedures that sustainably govern and manage social phenomena, institutions, companies, public and private authorities, both large and small. These are stories inspired by good government and far-sighted management that respect the rules, and which forms the basis for positive growth.

The categories

- **Single photo:** A maximum of 10 photographs may be submitted, taken in Italy after January 1st 2019, with captions in English (obligatory) and Italian (optional). Single Photos that are also included in Photo Stories are permitted. The best Single Photo will be awarded a **prize of 1,500 euros**.
- **Photo story:** A maximum of 10 Photo Stories may be submitted. Each Photo Story must contain between eight and 12 images, accompanied by an explanatory text, in English (obligatory) and Italian (optional). The photos must be accompanied by captions in English (obligatory) and Italian (optional). At least half of the photos presented must have been taken in Italy, after January 1st 2019. The best story will be awarded a **prize of 3,500 euros**.
- **Grant:** Up to five projects to be carried out in Italy may be submitted (together with between 10 and 30 images, taken either in Italy or abroad). They must be accompanied by a text and a development plan, both in English (obligatory) and Italian (optional). The best project will be funded with a **grant of 10,000 euros** and will be completed over six months between April and October 2022.

For more information please consult the following [link](#). **Deadline: 15 March 2022.**

13. Traineeships at the European Court of Justice



Every year, the Court of Justice of the European Union offers a limited number of paid traineeships of five months' duration in the chambers of Members of the Court of Justice and the General Court and in the administrative departments of the Court. Traineeships in the Court's administrative departments are generally undertaken in the Directorate for Legal Translation, the Research and Documentation Directorate, the Communication Directorate, the Protocol and Visits Directorate, the office of the Legal Adviser on Administrative Matters, the Registry of the General Court or the Interpretation Directorate (for detailed rules regarding interpreting traineeships, see below). There are two traineeship periods:

- from 1 March to 31 July (applications to be made between 1 July and 15 September of each year);
- from 16 September to 15 February for the traineeships in the Members' chambers and 1 October to 28 February for the traineeships in the administrative departments (applications to be made between **1 February and 15 April** of each year).

Applicants, who must hold a degree in law or in political sciences (majority content, law) or, for traineeships in the Interpretation Directorate, a diploma in conference interpreting, must apply using the [EU CV Online](#) application within the above time limits. The grant paid is €1372 net per month. A contribution of €150 towards travel costs is also made to paid trainees whose place of residence is located 200km or more from the seat of the Court of Justice of the European Union. In view of the nature of the working environment, a good knowledge of French is desirable.

More information

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

How to apply

For more information please consult the following [link](#).

14. Internships at FAO

The Internship Programme is a learning opportunity aimed at attracting talented young women and men who are strongly motivated to share their new perspectives, innovative ideas and latest research experience in FAO's domains. The Internship Programme provides selected students, enrolled in an under-graduate or post-graduate degree programme or recent graduates, with the opportunity to supplement their academic knowledge with a practical work experience in a field related to the work of FAO. It will enable them to gain a better understanding of FAO's mandate and programmes. At the same time, the Programme provides FAO with the assistance of qualified individuals specializing in relevant fields in connection to **FAO Strategic Objectives** and to **UN Sustainable Development Goals**.



Eligibility Criteria

- **Nationality:** candidates must be nationals of [FAO Members](#).
- **Education:** candidates must be students enrolled in an under-graduate or graduate degree programme in a bona fide educational institution at the time of application, or recent graduates. Applicants pursuing their studies in a country where higher education is not divided into under-graduate and graduate stages must have completed at least three years of full-time studies towards the completion of a degree.

- **Languages:** candidates must have working knowledge of at least one FAO official language (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese or Russian). Knowledge of a second FAO official language will be considered an asset.
- **Age:** candidates should be aged between 21 and 30 at the start of their internship (i.e. internship should start before the candidate turns 31).
- **Skills:** candidates should be able to adapt to an international multicultural environment, have good communication skills and be knowledgeable in the use of basic computer programmes.
- **Residence/Visa status:** candidates should have appropriate residence or immigration status in the country of assignment prior to the start of the internship assignment.
- **Family relation:** candidates with family members (defined as brother, sister, mother, father) employed by FAO under any type of contract are not eligible for the Internship Programme.

The duration of an internship assignment is between 3 and 11 months.

How to apply

Apply to the “Call for Expression of Interest”, which is published on our career portal. Interested candidates should apply online through the career portal enclosing a motivation letter and evidence of attendance at a recognized University. Only selected candidates will be contacted. Candidates who are not selected before the closing date and wish to be continuously considered for an assignment are requested to re-apply to the new Calls. For more details, please visit the [link](#).

15. OHCHR Internship Programme

OHCHR advertises for specific internship opportunities. Please visit the UN Careers website to see current internship opportunities with OHCH. To be eligible for an internship with OHCHR, you have to apply through the UN Careers website. When completing your application, kindly indicate a time period in the current year when you are available to start your internship.



Purpose of the internship programme

Internships for graduate students are available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). These internships are intended to: increase the intern's understanding of current human rights issues at the international level and give them an insight into the work of the United Nations and OHCHR in particular; and provide OHCHR

and the United Nations Human Rights mechanisms with the assistance and contribution of outstanding young students or graduates. The relationship between the Organization and the intern is one of mutual benefit. Interns are assigned to an organizational unit of OHCHR according to the needs of the Office and their own areas of interest. They are involved, inter alia, in: researching human rights issues, drafting analytical papers and reports, providing substantive and technical servicing of meetings, backstopping fact-finding and technical cooperation activities as well as field operations and supporting other OHCHR activities, depending on the exigencies of the Office. As part of the internship programme, OHCHR endeavours to brief interns through a series of information sessions on human rights issues conducted by staff of the Office.

Qualifications required

Please keep in mind that even if you meet the qualifications described below, there is no guarantee of an internship. You will be contacted directly by the Hiring Manager if you are selected. Applicants to the United Nations internship programme must at the time of application meet one of the following requirements:

- Be enrolled in a graduate school programme (second university degree or equivalent, or higher);
- Be enrolled in the final academic year of a first university degree programme (minimum Bachelor's level or equivalent);
- Have graduated with a university degree (as defined in 3.1 (a) and (b) above) and, if selected, must commence the internship within a one-year period of graduation, as provided for in section 11.4 of the present instruction.

How to apply

For more information consult the following [link](#).

16. First meeting and newsletter of the "MOOC4ALL" project

In date 22/12/2021 took place the first online meeting within the project "MOOC4ALL - Innovative Model for Facilitating On-line Learning Success" (acronym "MOOC4ALL", approved as action n.2021-1-BG01-KA220-VET-000029853 by the Erasmus Plus Agency in Bulgaria in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA220-VET Programme Cooperative Partnership in Vocational Training. The project envisages the development of a practical e-learning tool for online learning that fosters open, innovative and effective digital education (as set out in the Digital Education Action Plan), improving the quality of provision in the education sector and the integration of online content and courses, to enhance the qualification of staff in partner organisations, promote the initial and continuing professional development of VET teachers, instructors and mentors, and increase access to lifelong learning for all, including low-skilled workers, migrants and refugees. Partners in this project are, in addition to the Bulgarian coordinator Narodno Chitalishte Badeshte Sega 2006, the following organisations: University of Turku (Finland), Stando Ltd (Cyprus), Kainotomia (Greece), EURO-NET (Italy) and Krase Research and User Experience (Netherlands). The first meeting was useful for the partners to get to know each other and to define the first steps of the initiative. Moreover the first newsletter in Italian foreseen in the framework of the project has been produced in these days.



17. Meeting online of the "LearnEU" project

In date 29/12/2021 took place a new online meeting within the project "LearnEU", an initiative approved to the EURO-NET association (which hosts the Europe Direct Basilicata centre), as action n. 2020-1-IT02-KA201-079054 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency Indire within the Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnerships for School Education programme. The transnational meeting, which unfortunately also this time took place online due to the new limitations imposed by the ongoing "omicron" evolution of the pandemic, allowed the partners to take stock of the



work done so far in the project at about the halfway point of the planned project. *"We would have strongly wished to hold at least this second face-to-face meeting, - said Dr. Anna Lagrotta, President of EURO-NET - but, alas, it was not possible due to the umpteenth resurgence of covid-19, which still represents a serious threat to people's health, and we had to settle for meeting online again to check the state of the art of the work done on the various intellectual products planned. Fortunately, however, the project activities went ahead professionally and*

without suffering any particular negative repercussions, despite the fact that the pandemic had a major impact on physical mobility, leading us to hold only virtual meetings to avoid contagion: All the partners have, however, worked hard, each for their own part and competence, on the serious games and all or almost all of the planned products are at a good level of completion and even some of them have already been completed in full compliance with the initial schedule, which leads us to assume that we will be able to fully comply with the stages initially planned in the project." The partnership is composed by EURO-NET (Italy). Damasistem (Turkey), Mpimpakos D. & Sia O.E. (Greece), CCS Digital Education Limited (Ireland) and AIJU (Spain), Ipias Giorgi (Italy), Sredno opstinsko uciliste Pero Nakov (Macedonia), Colegiul Economic "Ion Ghica" Braila (Romania) and Agrupamento de Escolas de Penalva do Castelo (Portugal). More information on the project is available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Learneu-117725843430250/> and on the website <https://project-learn.eu/>.

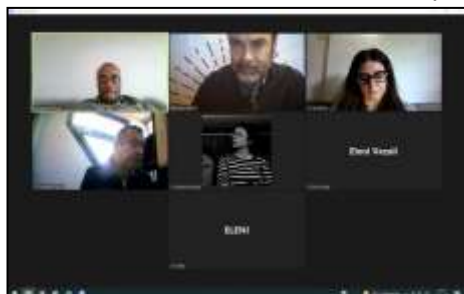
18. Meeting online of the “HEPA4ALL” project

In date 04/01/2022 took place an online meeting of the project "Encouraging Participation in Sports and Health Enhancing Physical Activities with an Inclusive Approach" - (acronym HEPA4AL) - action n.622480-EPP-1-2020-1-UK-SPO-SCP, a centralised project of the Erasmus Plus Sport programme approved in the call EAC/A02/2019 - Collaborative Partnerships and coordinated at European level by Ikkaido (UK). The meeting was supposed to be held in person in Oxford, England, but due to the exponential increase of contagions throughout Europe and particularly in Great Britain, the partners decided to hold it virtually, in order to protect the health of all and avoid possible contagions. During the meeting the partners discussed the development of the various actions and intellectual products envisaged in the sports partnership. The European initiative, which aims to identify the long-term measures needed to encourage inclusive participation in physical activities by all people, including disabled and disadvantaged people through the development of appropriate educational and innovative methodologies, can be followed on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hepa4all>.



19. Two online meeting “PISH” project

In date 13 and 18/01/2022 took place two online meetings 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. During the two meetings, the project partners reviewed the activities carried out on the selected good practices and discussed the mid-term quality evaluation. The project aims to meet the needs of intercultural communication in the peer-to-peer learning environment of STEM students in Higher Education Institutions. The European partnership working on the PISH project is composed of: Aalborg University (Denmark), EURO-NET (Italy), 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 on the official Facebook page at the link <https://www.facebook.com/PISHproject/>. More information on the project will be available in our next newsletters.



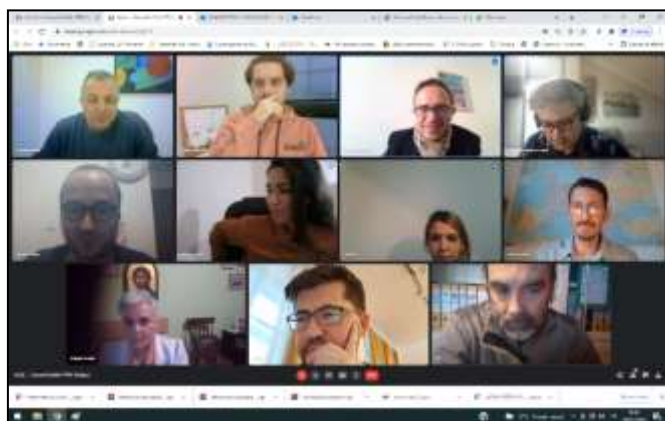
20. Steering Committee meeting for “CoCo” project

In date 18/01/2022 took place, online, the “Steering committee meeting” envisaged within the project "Conscious Consumption" (acronym "CoCo"), approved in Germany by the German National Agency Erasmus+ within the programme "KA220-ADU Cooperation partnerships in adult education" as action n.2021-1-DE02-KA 220-ADU-000033718. The CoCo project is aimed at creating a behavioural change of European citizens towards more conscious and ecological consumption patterns: the initiative aims at ensuring reliable product information and at strengthening consumer protection against commercial practices such as greenwashing and premature obsolescence. The project will also develop a "hybrid" game (both tabletop and online) that will be guided in its realisation by the EURO-NET organisation and that will be directed to improve the green awareness of young consumers. CoCo will thus lead to the



realisation of a learning tool based on "gamification" (a methodology so dear to the new generations) and a curriculum aimed at facilitating the acquisition of awareness on how citizens can contribute to solve environmental challenges in their community through better consumption choices. The partnership that will develop this project is composed of Comparative Research Network EV (Germany - coordinator of the initiative), EURO-NET (Italy), DR. Ludwig Intelligent Projects GMBH (Germany), Kaakkois-Suomen Ammattikorkeakoulu OY (Finland), Blue Room Innovation SL (Spain), Erasmus Learning Academy (Italy) and Fundacja Otwarty Plan (Poland). More information about the project will be available in our next newsletters.

21. Kick-off meeting "Game4CoSkills" project



In date 06/01/2022 took place online the kick-off meeting of the project "Mobile game for cognitive skills development and concept teaching for adults with intellectual disabilities" (acronym "Game4CoSkills"), approved by the French National Agency Erasmus+ within the programme "KA220-ADU Cooperation partnerships in adult education" as action n.2021-1-FR01-KA220-ADU-000026181. The "Game4CoSkills" project aims to develop an e-game for developing cognitive skills and teaching concepts

for adults with intellectual disabilities to be used individually or in groups. The mobile game will cover the development of multiple cognitive skills and teaching strategies trying to enable adults with intellectual disabilities to learn while having fun. The partnership that will develop the whole project over 24 months is composed of INTERACTIVE 4D (France - project coordinator), Austrian Association of Inclusive Society (Austria), Synthesis Center For Research And Education Limited (Cyprus), Avrasya Yenilikçi Toplum Derneği (Turkey), Elliniki Etairia Nosoy Alzheimer Kai Syggenon Diatarachon Somateio (Greece) and EURO-NET (Italy). More information on the project will be available in our next newsletters.

22. Online meeting of the "CARES" project

In date 24/01/2022 took place an online meeting of the project "Career Accessibility for Resilient Employment in STEMM" (acronym "CARES"). The project, approved under the Erasmus Plus programme in the UK by the relevant National Agency as action no.2020-1- UK01-KA201- 078909, is aimed at addressing 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 development of the project, the activities carried out so far and the APP in progress. 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 Braniste" (Romania); "Horizont ProConsult" EOOD (Bulgaria); Samsun İl Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü (Turkey). More information on the project will be available in our next newsletters.



23. Meeting of the “The A Class” project

In date 26/01/2022 took place a new virtual meeting of the project “The “A” class: integrating and supporting students with autism in the mainstream classroom” (acronym “The A Class”) approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Denmark in the framework of programme Erasmus Plus



as action n.2020-1-DK01-KA201-075054. The meeting was supposed to take place in Aarhus (Denmark) but due to pandemic reasons it was held online, the partners talked mainly about the mobilities to be realised in the coming months and the development of intellectual products in realisation. The project wants to fight the problems that autism creates for students at school: teachers all over Europe encounter great

difficulties when they find a student with ASD in their classrooms. The partnership is composed of Sosu Ostjylland (Denmark) coordinator, EURO-NET (Italy), Inercia Digital SI (Spain), Masaryk University (Czech Republic), Centar za autizam (Croatia), Stando Ltd (Cyprus), Zdruzenie za unapreduvanje na kvalitetot na zhivot na licata so autistichen spektar na narushuvanje “Sina Svetulka” (Macedonia). You can follow the development of this initiative on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheAclass/s> or on the official website <https://theaclass.eu/>.

24. The last TPM of the “ROBOT@3DP” project

In date 26/01/2022 took place, in Errenteria (Spain), the last meeting of the project “New Training Resources for the Change of the Industrial Paradigm” (acronym “ROBOT@3DP”), approved, as action n. 2019-1-ES01-KA202- 065905, in the framework of the program Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The EURO-NET association was only able to take part in the meeting online due to technical issues related to the spread of the “omicron” pandemic.



During the meeting all the results developed during the whole project were presented. More information can be found on the project web site www.robot3dp.eu or on the official Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/robot3dp/?modal=admin_todo_tour.

25. Realised the video and the second TPM of the “TELEGROW” project

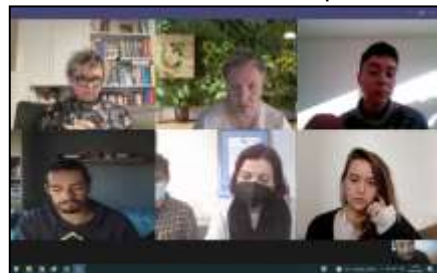
In the days 28/01/2022 took place the second meeting of the project «Telegrow: “Enhancing the Teleworking Digital Skills for the Middle aged employees» (acronym “Telegrow”). During the meeting, the project partners presented the completed and new project outputs. During the meeting was also presented the promotional video of the project that was completely realized by EURO-NET staff. The video, which can be viewed at the following YouTube link <https://youtu.be/9NQJ7Bop6ylb>, was really appreciated by the members of the European Partnership: it describes the motivations that led to the development of the initiative (funded under the Erasmus Plus programme by the Spanish National Agency in the KA226 actions aimed at the development of creativity and digitalisation), as well as the path followed by the international consortium in the development of the various



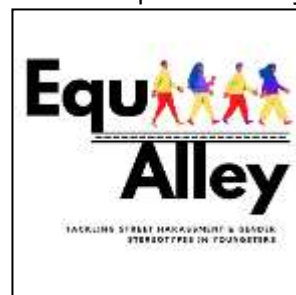
steps of the project (which formally started on 1 March 2021 and will end on 28 February 2023). More information on the official website at the link <https://telegrow.erasmus.site/> or on the official Facebook page at the web link <https://www.facebook.com/TeleGrow-Enhancing-Teleworking-Skills-for-the-Middle-aged-employees-106389581610827>.

26. Kick-off meeting and logo of the “Equalley” project

In date 28/01/2022 took place, online, the official kick-off meeting of the project “EquAlley” (acronym “Tackling street harassment & gender stereotypes in youngsters”) has been approved in Spain by the National Agency Erasmus Plus within the programme KA220-SCH - Cooperation partnerships in school education as action n.2021-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000032603. The online meeting was useful for the partners to get to know each other and to establish the first administrative matters to be worked on in order to start this new European adventure in the best possible way. During



the meeting, the partners also chose the official logo of the project from several options already prepared for this purpose by one of the members of the European consortium. The initiative formally started on 01/12/2021 and will end at the end of November 2023. It is aimed at tackling and reducing sexual harassment and violence, combating gender stereotypes and discrimination, through the development of three main outputs: a booklet containing the results of research to be carried out in all partner countries; a course aimed at 12-16 year olds; and a final guide for educators and trainers. All project results will be made available free of charge and in all languages of the partner countries (plus English) on the EquAlley website and social media. The partnership includes the following organisations: Escuela Profesional Otxarkoaga (Spain - project coordinator), EURO-NET (Italy), Aidlearn Consultoria Em Recursos Humanos LDA (Portugal), Uniwersytet Lodzki (Poland) and Stichting Emancipator (Netherlands). More information about the project and its activities will be available in our next newsletters.



27. Third newsletter in English of the “LearnEU” project

At begging of February 2022 has been published in all partners' languages the third newsletter realised in the framework of the project “LearnEU”, an initiative approved by INDIRE NA. The newsletter in English produced also in a browser format by the project coordinator EURO-NET is available at the following link: https://issuu.com/memex23/docs/newsletter_03-english. More details on this European initiative can already be found on the official project Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Learneu-117725843430250/> or on the project website <https://project-learn.eu/>.



28. First meeting of the “CoopCities” project

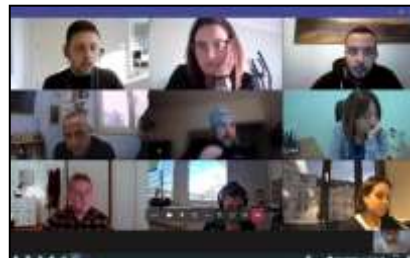
In date 02/02/2022 was realised an online first meeting of the project Erasmus+ KA220-VET project entitled “CoopCities: Learning from urban cities sustainable solutions to deal with the global challenges faced due to COVID pandemic” (acronym “CoopCities”). The partnership that will develop the project includes the following organisations: E-Code (Slovakia - project coordinator), Stando Ltd (Cyprus), Universitaet Paderborn (Germany), Challedu (Greece) and EURO-NET (Italy). The aim of the project is to develop the capacities and skills of different urban actors to be able to respond to unexpected challenges. Within this framework, the project aims to develop an innovative training model for VET trainers/educators to help them acquire the skills and competences on how to deal with



unexpected global challenges in their cities, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The training model will be combined with digital media training materials, i.e. serious games and e-learning portal, video narratives, digital case studies, all available as OER in the project's e-learning portal. More information about the project and its activities will be available in our next newsletters.

29. Brief meeting of the “EASYNEWS” project

In the days 02/02/2022 took place a brief online meeting of the project "Periodismo Digital Accesible y Educación Mediática para Personas con Discapacidad Intelectual" (in English "Accessible Digital Journalism and Media Education for People with Intellectual Disabilities" - acronym "EASYNEWS"), approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Spain as part of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education as action n. 2020-1-ES01-KA204-082417. During the meeting, the partners discussed the various intellectual products produced and those to be produced and defined the steps of the project activities to be developed in the coming months. More information on the project and its activities and products can be found on the official web site at the following web address: <https://easynewserasmusproject.es/> or on the Facebook page at the link <https://www.facebook.com/Easynews108569271011998>.



30. EURO-NET was officially accredited for VET



We are pleased to inform you that the association EURO-NET, Europe Direct Basilicata centre, has been accredited by the National Agency Erasmus Plus INAPP as an organisation for the development of traineeship actions abroad in the call for proposals 2021 - EAC/A01/2021 - Erasmus+ Programme (2021/C 103/11) KA120 VET. EURO-NET, for this activity is the leader of a consortium including schools, training providers, information agencies, employers' organisations and public bodies. More information on the project will be available in our next newsletters.

31. Two project newsletters realised in the “Spirit of Europe - Origins”

In these days have been published on issuu the first and the second newsletter in English produced in the framework of the project "The Spirit of Europe - Origins", an European initiative financed in Romania by the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education as action n.2019-1-RO01-KA204-063864. The aim of the project is to develop an immersive simulated environment commonly known as a video/digital game, in which the student can travel through the history of Europe, from its mythological origins to the present day, actively participating in key events through history and mythology that have shaped the Europe of today. The project partners are: S.C. Predict CSD Consulting S.R.L. (Romania) - coordinator; Asociatia Millennium Center Arad (Romania); EURO-NET (Italy); IDEC (Greece); Inercia Digital SL (Spain). The first newsletter in English is available at the following link: https://issuu.com/memex23/docs/soe_newsletter_1, while the newsletter n.2 in English is available at the following link: https://issuu.com/memex23/docs/soe_newsletter_2. More information on the project can be found on the website: <https://thespiritofeurope.eu/> or on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheSpiritofEurope.Origins/>. More information on the project will be available in our next newsletters.



32. "FINANZFIT": e-learning and free games for the financial education



In date 10/02/2022 took place a press conference in the project "Wir machen Europas Bürger Finanzfit" (title in English "Basic Economic Training For European Adults") approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Germany as action n.2019-1-DE02-KA204-006098 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus program KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. During the Press conference were presented to various journalists the projects and all its products and tools, that can be accessed and downloaded free of charge from the

following website: <https://finanzfit.whkt.de/content/about>.

33. Brief meeting of the "yEURSTAGE" project

In date 14/02/2022 took place a brief 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 is aimed at developing an international synergy between 5 European organizations, 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. The following organizations 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 December 2020, has a duration of 24 months and will end on 30 December 2022. During the meeting, the project activities already developed were reviewed and new ones still to be implemented were planned. More information on the project is available on the initiative's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/yeurstage>.



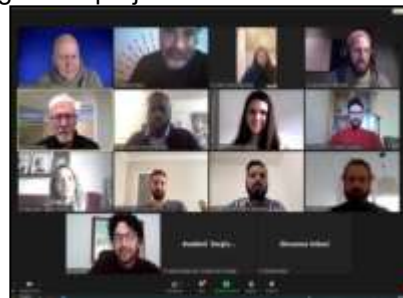
34. Meeting of the "STREM" project

In date 27/12/2021 took place an online meeting of the project "Stressless Employees - Introducing the profile of Employee Satisfaction Officer to tackle work-related stress" (acronym "STREM"), an initiative approved by the German Erasmus Plus National Agency as action n.2020-1-DE02-KA202-007495 within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET programme in the field of Innovation. The partnership, which is developing the project, 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). During the meeting, the partners discussed the project developments and the activities carried out so far, especially the second Output on "Employee Satisfaction Profile and Training Curriculum". More information are available on the website <http://www.strem-euproject.eu/> and on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Project-STREM-102693358527163>.



35. “INTERACT” project: online training

In the days 24, 25 and 31/01/2022 took place the online training 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 training, addressed to 15 staff members of the partner organisations of the European partnership initiative, was to be developed in Poland and hosted by the association Logos Polska in cooperation with the Spanish Interacting SL, but after many postponements due to the covid-19 pandemic all partners decided to hold it virtually. The objectives of the course were to develop the historical and artistic contents of the cultural heritage mapped by the project for each of the cities involved in order to adapt them into theatrical scripts to be performed by actors in period costumes and included in the project's augmented reality app. More information on the whole initiative coordinated by Find an Internship (UK) and developed with the cooperation of Youth Europe Service (Italy), S.C Predict CSD (Romania), Interacting S.L (Spain) and Logos Polska (Poland) can be found on the website <https://interactproject.eu/> and on the official Facebook page at the link <https://www.facebook.com/Erasmus-Plus-Interact-100911398721786>.



36. Meeting of the “Sustainable Agripreneurship” project

In date 24/01/2022 took place an online meeting of the project "Sustainable Agripreneurship" (acronym "SustainAgri"), an initiative approved in the Czech Republic in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET as action n. 2020-1-CZ01- KA202-078268. During the meeting of the project (which focuses on sustainable entrepreneurship in agriculture and the promotion of agricultural self-entrepreneurship, using a methodology adapted to the age groups of the different targets), the state of the art of the activities developed so far was reviewed and those still to be implemented were discussed. Among the project outputs, there is a serious game that is currently in its Alpha version and is being tested by a number of young students and teachers linked to partners in the countries involved, including YES (Youth Europe Service) in Potenza. At the end of February, once the tests have been completed, the Beta version of the game will be released, in anticipation of the next Transnational Project Meeting to be held (hopefully live) in the summer. 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 Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/sustainableagripreneurship>.



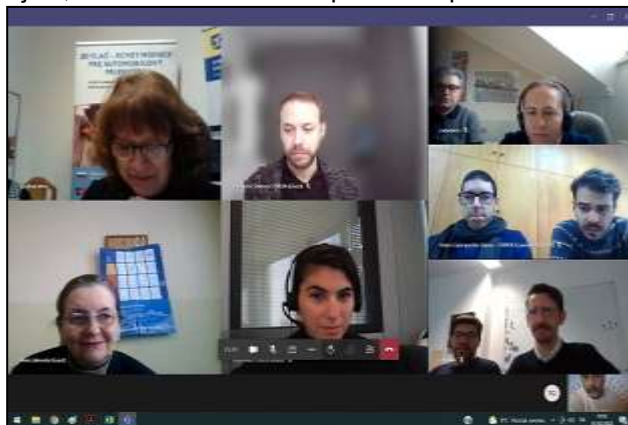
37. Kick-off meeting of the “CECIL” project



In date 27/01/2022 took place, online, the official kick-off meeting of the project "Circular economy education for the social inclusion of Women" (acronym "CECIL"), an initiative approved in Portugal in the Erasmus Plus programme as action n.2021-1-PT01-KA220-ADU-000026125. The meeting was supposed to be held in Portugal, but due to the ongoing pandemic, the partners opted to hold it virtually. During the meeting the partners introduced themselves and clarified the steps to be developed within the European initiative.

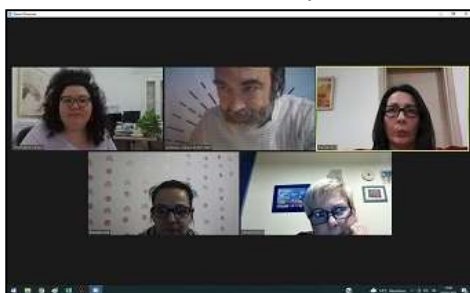
38. Kick-off meeting of the “3D4Auto” project

In date 01/02/2022 took place, online, the kick-off meeting of the project "ECVET compatible 3D printing training modules for automotive technologies" (acronym "3D4Auto") approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Slovakia as Action n. 2021-1-SK01-KA220-VET-000034617 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA220-VET Programme Cooperative Partnerships in Vocational Education and Training. The project, whose international partnership also includes GODESK, a company from Potenza, is mainly aimed at the implementation and development of a 3D printing and prototyping course for high schools in the field of "Automotive Technology" with the intention of stimulating the young minds of students, awakening their creativity and potential in a school laboratory. 3D printing technology is now present in many sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, aerospace and others, but it is still little used in vocational schools, where it is necessary to implement tools and materials that can be used by teachers to promote new forms of education and training. In addition to the Italian GODESK, the following organisations are part of the partnership: Stredna priemyselna skola dopravna (Slovakia - project coordinator), Higher School of Transport "Todor Kableshkov" (Bulgaria), CEPROF (Portugal), Vienna Association Of Education Volunteers (Austria), Exelia E.E. (Greece) and International Association for Research and Development of Vocational Education and Training (Turkey). The initiative started on 01/12/2021 and will end on 01/12/2023, unless extended due to the covid pandemic. More information on the project will be available in our next newsletters.



39. Meeting of the “Think global, entrepreneur local” project

In date 02/02/2022 took place online a new meeting of the project “Think global, entrepreneur local” initiative approved under the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for VET programme as action n. 2019-1-MK01-KA202-060468. The project, in which GODESK SRL (coworking centre and innovation space in Potenza) is also an Italian partner, confirms, in fact, the great capacity for initiative and action of this Italian company in the field of start-ups and innovation. During the meeting, the partners discussed project developments, the activities carried out so far and those still to be implemented in the coming months. More information on the project will be available in our next newsletters.



44. Y.E.S.: organisation for the development of traineeships abroad



We are happy to communicate that the Youth Europe Service association, has also been accredited by the National Agency Erasmus Plus INAPP as an organisation for the development of traineeship actions abroad in the call for proposals 2021 - EAC/A01/2021 - Erasmus+ Programme (2021/C 103/11) KA120 VET. It is the result of the serious and constant work developed by all the staff of the organisation from Potenza, which was also awarded 4 times for its best practices.

45. The second newsletter in English of the “Future Target” project

The 2nd newsletter in English produced in the project "Future Target" has been recently published. The project "Future Target", (action n. 2019-1-DE02-KA204-006511) 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 among 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). More information on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/projectFutureTarget/>.



46. Second meeting of the project “Explore Europe” project



In date 12/02/2022 took place online a second meeting of the project “Explore Europe”, an initiative approved by the National Erasmus Plus Youth Agency in Italy as action n. 2020-2-IT03-KA205- 018664 in the framework of the programme Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Youth. During the meeting, the partners presented various activity plans related to communication, quality, risk, sustainability and monitoring and evaluation as well as discussed the state of the art of the development of the

various products under implementation. More information are available on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/Explore-Europe104476754982850/ or on the official project website www.exploreeurope.eu which.

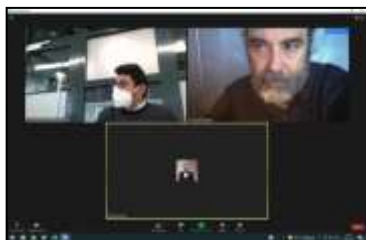
47. Brief meeting of the “CYBER-SAFETY” project

In the date 16/02/2022 took place an online meeting of the project "Together to guarantee cyber-safety and prevent cyberbullying in schools" (acronym "CYBER-SAFETY"), an initiative approved in Croatia by the National Agency Erasmus+ within the programme KA220-SCH Cooperation-partnerships in school education as action n.2021-1-HR01-KA220-SCH-000027712. The Cyber-Safety project aims to prepare young people aged 13-18 (with the right set of tools) to recognise cyberbullying incidents and be able to avoid or escape from such situations. By doing so, it will also prepare teachers (and youth educators) to deal with the topic and confront teenagers with the risks of the online world. The objectives of the initiative are to raise awareness among teenagers about cyberbullying as well as to provide teachers with skills and competences to prevent and combat this abhorrent phenomenon. During the meeting, the partners set the dates for the first TPM in Zagreb. The partners of the initiative are the following organisations: Ivan Cankar Primary School (Croatia - project coordinator), Youth Europe Service (Italy), Colegiul National Spiru Haret (Romania), Mine Vaganti NGO (Italy) and Van İl Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü (Turkey).



48. Kick-off meeting and brochure of the “Joint Ventures” project

In date 17/02/2022 took place the first meeting of the project “Joint Ventures: Jeunes et des espaces verts” (acronym JV) the initiative was approved under the Erasmus Plus KA220-YOU programme (action n. 2021-1-LU01-KA220-YOU-000 029296). The main objective of the project



is to create a healthy and climate resilient society in Europe by harnessing the potential of young people, working across urban and rural sectors, and helping them to improve their skills. During the meeting the partners introduced themselves and clarified the steps to be developed within the European initiative. In addition, the first newsletter produced in English as part of the project was published and can be found at the following link: https://issuu.com/youtheuropeservice/docs/joint_venture_poster.

49. Training course of the project “Everywhere is home”

In the days 17, 18 and 19/02/2022 took place a training course of the project "Everywhere is home", a project approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in France as action n.2020-1-FR01-KA204-080291 and aimed at sharing good practices in adult education, in which the staff of the GODESK company participates online due to the continuing situation of covid-19 infection and positivity. The project "Everywhere is home" aims to improve the social inclusion and acceptance of migrants and refugees in European societies. Project partners are GODESK SRL (Italy), CIEUX (France), ISEDE (Germany), NGO NEST BERLIN EV (Germany) and AGD (Luxembourg). More information on the project and its activities is available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/everywhereishomeeu>.

