



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. EU agrees fifth package of sanctions against Russia

The European Commission welcomes agreement by the Council to adopt a fifth package of restrictive measures against Putin's regime in response to its brutal aggression against Ukraine and its people.

Together with the four previous packages, these sanctions will further contribute to ramping up economic pressure on the Kremlin and cripple its ability to finance its invasion of Ukraine. These



measures are broader and sharper, so that they cut even deeper into the Russian economy. They have been coordinated with international partners. The Commission and the EEAS are working on additional proposals for possible sanctions, including on oil imports, and are reflecting on some of the ideas presented by Member States, such as taxes or specific payments channels, such as an escrow account. Beyond sanctions, the EU has made it clear that reducing our dependence on energy imports from Russia is an urgent

imperative. The Commission announced in its REPower Communication of 8 March a strategy to reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels as soon as possible and work has started to implement this plan. This package contains the following six elements:

1) Coal ban

An import ban on all forms of Russian coal. This affects one fourth of all Russian coal exports, amounting to around €8 billion loss of revenue per year for Russia.

2) Financial measures

A full transaction ban and asset freeze on four Russian banks, which are now totally cut off from the markets. They represent 23% of market share in the Russian banking sector and will, therefore, further weaken Russia's financial system. A prohibition on providing high-value crypto-asset services to Russia. This will contribute to closing potential loopholes. A prohibition on providing advice on trusts to wealthy Russians, making it more difficult for them to store their wealth in the EU.

3) Transport

A full ban on Russian and Belarusian freight road operators working in the EU. Certain exemptions will cover essentials, such as agricultural and food products, humanitarian aid as well as energy. An entry ban on Russian-flagged vessels to EU ports. Exemptions apply for medical, food, energy, and humanitarian purposes, amongst others.

4) Targeted export bans

Further targeted export bans – worth €10 billion - in areas in which Russia is vulnerable due to its high dependency on EU supplies. This includes, for example, quantum computing, advanced semiconductors, sensitive machinery, transportation and chemicals. It also includes specialist catalysts for use in the refinery industry. This will continue to degrade Russia's technological base and industrial capacity. Adding jet fuel and fuel additives, which may be used by the Russian army, to the existing export ban.

5) Extending import bans

Additional import bans – worth €5.5 billion - including cement, rubber products, wood, spirits (including vodka), liquor, high-end seafood (including caviar), and an anti-circumvention measure against potash imports from Belarus. These measures will also help to close loopholes between Russia and Belarus.

6) Excluding Russia from public contracts and European money; legal clarifications and enforcement

Full prohibition on the participation of Russian nationals and entities in procurement contracts in the EU. Limited exceptions may be granted by the competent authorities where there is no viable alternative. Restriction on financial and non-financial support to Russian publicly owned or controlled entities under EU, Euratom and Member State programmes. For instance, further to measures previously announced in research and education, the Commission will terminate participation in all ongoing grant agreements to Russian public bodies or related entities, and suspend all related payments, under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, Euratom, and Erasmus+. No new contracts or agreements with Russian public bodies or related entities will be concluded under these programmes. Addressing various overlaps between export restrictions on dual-use items and advanced technologies and other provisions. Extending to all

official EU currencies the prohibitions on the export of banknotes and on the sale of transferrable securities. The Commission also welcomes that an additional 217 individuals and 18 entities have now been sanctioned. This includes all 179 members of the so-called “governments” and “parliaments” of Donetsk and Luhansk. In total, 1091 individuals and 80 entities have been sanctioned since 2014.

Guidance on scrutinising foreign direct investments from Russia and Belarus

The Commission also published guidance on 5 April for EU Member States on assessing and preventing threats to EU security and public order from Russian and Belarusian investments. The guidance highlights the increased risk from investments subject to Russian or Belarusian government influence in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It calls for close cooperation between authorities involved in investment screenings and those responsible for the enforcement of sanctions. Member States are called upon to urgently set up comprehensive investment screening mechanisms if they have not done so already. They are also called upon to enforce anti-money laundering rules to prevent the misuse of the EU financial system by investors from Russia and Belarus.

Background

This agreement builds on the wide-ranging and unprecedented packages of measures the EU has been taking in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine's territorial integrity and mounting atrocities against Ukrainian civilians and cities. As guardian of the EU Treaties, the European Commission is in charge of monitoring the enforcement of EU sanctions across the Union. The EU stands united in its solidarity with Ukraine and will continue to support Ukraine and its people together with its international partners, including through additional political, financial and humanitarian support.

2. Green Deal: Modernising EU industrial emissions rules

The Commission is presenting proposals to update and modernise the Industrial Emissions Directive, key legislation to help prevent and control pollution.

Updated rules will help guide industrial investments necessary for Europe's transformation

towards a zero-pollution, competitive, climate-neutral economy by 2050. They aim to spur innovation, reward frontrunners, and help level the playing field on the EU market. The revision will help provide long-term investment certainty, with first new obligations on industry expected in the second half of the decade. The revision builds on the overall approach of the existing Industrial Emissions Directive, which currently covers some 50,000 large industrial installations and intensive livestock farms in Europe. These installations need to comply to emissions



conditions by applying activity-specific 'Best Available Techniques'. These techniques are determined together by industry, national and Commission experts, and civil society. The new rules will cover more relevant sources of emissions, make permitting more effective, reduce administrative costs, increase transparency, and give more support to breakthrough technologies and other innovative approaches. Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal Frans **Timmermans** said: *“By 2050, economic activity in the European Union should no longer pollute our air, water and the wider environment. The proposals will enable important reductions of harmful emissions coming from industrial installations and Europe's largest livestock farms. By modernising Europe's industrial emissions framework now there is certainty about future rules to guide long-term investments, increase Europe's energy and resource independence, and encourage innovation.”* Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus **Sinkevičius** said: *“These new rules will enable large industrial plants and intensive livestock farming to play their part in achieving the objective of the European Green Deal and its zero-pollution ambition. Solely from action on livestock farms, benefits to human health would amount to at least €5.5 billion per year. The changes will create more jobs, as the EU's eco-innovation sector has shown successfully in the past. Measures that proactively tackle the pollution, climate and biodiversity crises can make our economy more efficient and more resilient.”*

Updating a proven approach for the long term

Following extensive consultation with industry and stakeholders and a thorough impact assessment, the existing framework will be enhanced with new measures to boost its overall effectiveness. The main changes include: more effective permits for installations. Instead of settling for the least demanding limits of the best available techniques, as some 80% of installations do currently, permitting will have to assess the feasibility of reaching the best performance. It will also tighten the rules on granting derogations by harmonising the assessments required and securing a regular review of derogations granted; more help for EU innovation frontrunners. As an alternative to permits based on well-established best techniques, frontrunners will be able to test emerging techniques, benefitting from more flexible permits. An Innovation Centre for Industrial Transformation and Emissions (INCITE) will help industry with identifying pollution control solutions. Finally, by 2030 or 2034 operators will need to develop Transformation Plans for their sites to achieve the EU's 2050 zero pollution ambition, circular economy and decarbonisation aims; supporting industry's circular economy investments. New best available techniques could include binding resource use performance levels. The existing Environmental Management System will be upgraded to reduce the use of toxic chemicals; synergies between depollution and decarbonisation. Energy efficiency will be an integral part of permits, and systematic consideration will be given to technological and investment synergies between decarbonisation and depollution when determining best available techniques. The new rules will also cover more installations, notably: more large-scale intensive livestock farms. Under the new rules, the largest cattle, pig, and poultry farms would be gradually covered: about 13% of Europe's commercial farms, together responsible for 60% of the EU's livestock emissions of ammonia and 43% of methane. The health benefits of this extended coverage are estimated at more than €5.5 billion per year. As farms have simpler operations than industrial plants, all farms covered will benefit from a lighter permitting regime. The obligations stemming from this proposal will reflect the size of farms as well as the livestock density through tailored requirements. The Common Agricultural Policy remains a key source of support for the transition; extraction of industrial minerals and metals and large-scale production of batteries. These activities will significantly expand in the EU to enable the green and digital transitions. This requires that the best available techniques are employed to ensure both the most efficient production processes and the lowest possible impacts on the environment and human health. The governance mechanisms of the Directive that closely associate industry experts to the development of consensual and tailored environmental requirements, will support the sustainable growth of these activities in the Union. Finally, the new rules will increase transparency and public participation in the permitting process. In addition, the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register will be transformed into an EU Industrial Emissions Portal where citizens will be able to access data on permits issued anywhere in Europe and gaining insight into polluting activities in their immediate surroundings in a simple way.



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Next steps

The Commission proposal stipulates that Member States will have 18 months to transpose this directive into national legislation, after the proposal is finally adopted by the European Parliament and by the Council. After that, the Best Available Techniques will be developed and once adopted by the Commission, industrial operators will have four years and farmers three years to comply.

Background

Industrial activities, like electricity and cement production, waste management and incineration, and the intensive rearing of livestock, are responsible for emissions of harmful substances to air, water and soil. These emissions include sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides, ammonium, dust and mercury and other heavy metals. Pollution caused by them can lead to health problems such as asthma, bronchitis and cancer, and it generates costs measured in billions of euro and hundreds of thousands of premature deaths each year. Industrial emissions also damage ecosystems, crops, and the built environment. Thanks to the Industrial Emissions Directive, in the last 15 years emissions to air for many pollutants have been reduced by between 40% and 75% from

Europe's largest industrial plant and intensive livestock farms. Heavy metals emissions to water have also declined by up to 50% during this period. Despite successes in curbing emissions, the over 50,000 industrial installations covered still account for around 40% of greenhouse gas emissions, over 50% of total emissions to air of sulphur oxides, heavy metals and other harmful substances and around 30% of nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter air emissions, warranting further action.

3. Circular Economy: Commission proposes new consumer rights

The Commission is proposing to update the EU consumer rules to empower consumers for the green transition.

The updated rules will ensure that consumers can take informed and environment-friendly choices when buying their products. Consumers will have a right to know how long a product is designed to last for and how, if at all, it can be repaired. In addition, the rules will strengthen consumer protection against untrustworthy or false environmental claims, banning 'greenwashing' and practices misleading consumers about the durability of a product. Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Věra Jourová, said: *"We are supporting consumers who increasingly want to choose products that last longer and can be repaired. We must ensure that their commitment is not hampered by misleading information. We are giving them strong new tools to make informed choices and increase sustainability of the products and our economy with this proposal."* Commissioner for Justice, Didier Reynders, added: *"If we do not start consuming more sustainably, we will not achieve our European Green Deal goals - it is as simple as that. While most consumers are willing to contribute, we have also seen an increase in 'greenwashing' and early obsolescence practices. To become the real actors of the green transition, consumers must have a right to information to make sustainable choices. They must also be protected against unfair commercial practices which abuse their interest in buying green."*



A new right for information on the durability and reparability of products

The Commission is proposing to amend the Consumer Rights Directive to oblige traders to provide consumers with information on products' durability and reparability:

- **Durability:** Consumers must be informed about the guaranteed durability of products. If the producer of a consumer good offers a commercial guarantee of durability of more than two years, the seller must provide this information to the consumer. For energy-using goods, the seller must also inform consumers when no information on a commercial guarantee of durability was provided by the producer.
- **Repairs and updates:** The seller must also provide relevant information on repairs, such as the reparability score (where applicable), or other relevant repair information made available by the producer such as the availability of spare parts or a repair manual. For smart devices and digital content and services, the consumer must be also informed about software updates provided by the producer.

Producers and sellers will decide on the most appropriate way to provide this information to the consumer, be it on the packaging or in the product description on the website. In any case, it must be provided before the purchase and in a clear and comprehensible manner.

A ban on greenwashing and planned obsolescence

The Commission is also proposing several amendments to the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD). First, the list of product characteristics about which a trader cannot mislead consumers is expanded to cover the environmental or social impact, as well as the durability and reparability. Then, it also adds new practices that are considered misleading after a case-by-case assessment, such as making an environmental claim related to future environmental performance without clear, objective and verifiable commitments and targets, and without an independent monitoring system. Finally, it amends the UCPD by adding new practices to the

existing list of prohibited unfair commercial practices, the so-called 'black list'. The new practices will include, among others:

- **Not informing about features introduced to limit durability**, for example, a software which stops or downgrades the functionality of the good after a particular period of time;
- **Making generic, vague environmental claims** where the excellent environmental performance of the product or trader cannot be demonstrated. Examples of such generic environmental claims are 'environmentally friendly', 'eco' or 'green', which wrongly suggest or create the impression of excellent environmental performance;
- **Making an environmental claim about the entire product**, when it really concerns **only a certain aspect** of the product;
- **Displaying a voluntary sustainability label** which was not based on a third-party verification scheme or established by public authorities;
- Not informing that a good has limited functionality when using **consumables, spare parts or accessories** not provided by the original producer.

These amendments aim at ensuring legal certainty for traders but also at facilitating enforcement of cases related to greenwashing and early obsolescence of products. Furthermore, by ensuring that environmental claims are fair, consumers will be able to choose products that are genuinely better for the environment than their competitors. This will encourage competition towards more environmentally sustainable products, thus reducing negative impact on the environment.

Next steps

The Commission's proposals will now be discussed by the Council and the European Parliament. Once adopted and transposed into the Member States' national legislation, consumers will be entitled to remedies in the event of breaches, including through the collective redress procedure under the Representative Actions Directive.

Background

The proposed revisions in EU consumer law were announced in the New Consumer Agenda and the Circular Economy Action Plan. The revisions aim to support the changes needed in consumer behaviour to achieve climate and environmental objectives under the European Green

Deal by ensuring that consumers have better information on the durability and reparability of products, as well as protecting consumers from commercial practices that prevent them from shopping more sustainably. When drafting the proposal, the Commission consulted over 12,000 consumers, as well as companies, consumer experts and national authorities. Verifying the reliability of environmental claims on products was seen as the biggest obstacle to consumers to engage in the green transition. Around half of respondents said that they were willing to pay extra for a product to last longer without the need for repairs. Research also shows that consumers are confronted with unfair commercial practices, which actively prevent them from making sustainable choices. Early obsolescence of goods, misleading environmental claims ('greenwashing'), non-transparent and non-credible sustainability labels or sustainability information tools are common practices. This proposal is part of the European Commission's broader goal of becoming the first climate neutral continent by 2050. This can only happen if consumers and businesses are consuming and



producing more sustainably. The proposal will also be complemented by other initiatives, including the Sustainable Products Initiative and upcoming initiatives on Substantiating Green Claims and on the Right to Repair (for which a public consultation is open until 5 April 2022). The upcoming Right to Repair initiative will focus on encouraging repair of goods after purchase, while initiative on Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition imposes an obligation to provide information on reparability ahead of purchase, and protection against unfair practices linked to early obsolescence. On 23 February 2022, the European Commission also adopted its proposal on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, laying down clear and balanced rules for companies to respect human rights and the environment, and behave in a sustainable and responsible manner. In parallel, the Commission is also working to support businesses through the green transition, including with voluntary initiatives such as the Sustainable Consumption Pledge.

4. New proposals to make Europe's resource independence

The Commission is presenting a package of European Green Deal proposals to make sustainable products the norm in the EU, boost circular business models and empower consumers for the green transition.

As announced in the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Commission is proposing new rules to make almost all physical goods on the EU market more friendly to the environment, circular, and energy efficient throughout their whole lifecycle from the design phase through to daily use, repurposing and end-of-life. The Commission is also presenting a new strategy to make textiles more durable, repairable, reusable and recyclable, to tackle fast fashion, textile waste and the destruction of unsold textiles, and ensure their production takes place in full respect of social rights. A third proposal aims to boost the internal market for construction products and ensure that the regulatory framework in place is fit for making the built environment deliver on our sustainability and climate objectives. Finally, the package includes a proposal on new rules to empower consumers in the green transition so that consumers are better informed about the environmental sustainability of products and better protected against greenwashing. With proposals, the Commission is presenting the tools to move to a truly circular economy in the EU: decoupled from energy- and resource dependencies, more resilient to external shocks and respectful of nature and people's health. The proposals build on the success of EU's existing Ecodesign rules, which have brought remarkable reductions in EU's energy consumption and significant savings to consumers. In 2021 alone, existing ecodesign requirements saved consumers €120 billion. The rules have also led to a 10% lower annual energy consumption by the products in scope. By 2030, the new framework can lead to 132 mtoe of primary energy savings, which corresponds roughly to 150 bcm of natural gas, almost equivalent to EU's import of Russian gas.

Making sustainable products the norm

The proposal for a Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products addresses product design, which determines up to 80% of a product's lifecycle environmental impact. It sets new requirements to make products more durable, reliable, reusable, upgradable, repairable, easier to maintain, refurbish and recycle, and energy and resource efficient. In addition, product-specific information requirements will ensure consumers know the environmental impacts of their purchases. All regulated products will have Digital Product Passports. This will make it easier to repair or recycle products and facilitate tracking substances of concern along the supply chain. Labelling can be introduced as well. The proposal also contains measures to end the destruction of unsold consumer goods, as well as expand green public procurement and provide incentives for sustainable products. The proposal extends the existing Ecodesign framework in two ways: first, to cover the broadest possible range of products; and second, to broaden the scope of the requirements with which products are to comply. Setting criteria not only for energy efficiency, but also for circularity and an overall reduction of the environmental and climate footprint of products will lead to more energy and resource independence and less pollution. It will strengthen the Single Market, avoiding diverging legislation in each Member State, and create economic opportunities for innovation and job creation, notably in remanufacturing, maintenance, recycling and repair. The proposal will set a framework and a process through which the Commission, working in close cooperation with all those concerned, will progressively set out requirements for each product or group of products. Together with this proposal, the Commission has also adopted an Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2022-2024 to cover new energy-related products, update and increase the ambition for products that are already regulated, as a transitional measure until the new regulation enters into force. It notably addresses consumer electronics (smartphones, tablets, solar panels) - the fastest growing waste stream. To support the deployment of sustainable products across the EU market, targeted sectoral initiatives are also presented. The EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles and the revision of the Construction Products Regulation will address two priority product groups with significant impacts.



Sustainable and circular textiles

European consumption of textiles has the fourth highest impact on the environment and climate change, after food, housing and mobility. It is also the third highest area of consumption for water



and land use, and fifth highest for the use of primary raw materials. The EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles sets out the vision and concrete actions to ensure that by 2030 textile products placed on the EU market are long-lived and recyclable, made as much as possible of recycled fibres, free of hazardous substances and produced in respect of social rights and the environment. Consumers will benefit longer from high quality textiles, fast fashion should be out of fashion, and economically profitable re-use and repair services should be widely available. In a competitive, resilient and innovative textiles sector, producers have to take responsibility for their products along the value chain, including when they become waste. In this way, the circular textiles ecosystem will be thriving, and be driven by sufficient capacities for innovative fibre-to-fibre recycling,

while the incineration and landfilling of textiles has to be reduced to the minimum. The specific measures will include ecodesign requirements for textiles, clearer information, a Digital Product Passport and a mandatory EU extended producer responsibility scheme. It also foresees measures to tackle the unintentional release of microplastics from textiles, ensure the accuracy of green claims, and boost circular business models, including reuse and repair services. To address fast fashion, the Strategy also calls on companies to reduce the number of collections per year, take responsibility and act to minimise their carbon and environmental footprints, and on Member States to adopt favourable taxation measures for the reuse and repair sector. The Commission will promote the shift also with awareness-raising activities. The Strategy also aims to provide support to and accompany the textiles ecosystem throughout its transformative journey. Therefore, the Commission is launching the co-creation of a transition pathway for the textiles ecosystem. This is an essential collaborative tool to help the ecosystem to recover from negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic which have been affecting companies in their daily operations for the last two years. It will also strengthen their capacities to withstand both a fierce global competition and future shocks for their long-term survival. All the actors are encouraged to take active part in the co-creation process through their commitments on circularity and circular business models, actions to strengthen sustainable competitiveness, digitalisation and resilience, and identification of specific investments needed for the twin transition.

The construction products of tomorrow

The construction ecosystem represents almost 10% of EU value added, and employs around 25 million people in over 5 million firms. The construction products industry counts 430,000 companies in the EU, with a turnover of €800 billion. These are mainly small and medium-size enterprises. They are a key economic and social asset for local communities in European regions and cities. Buildings are responsible for around 50% of resource extraction and consumption and more than 30% of the EU's total waste generated per year. In addition, buildings are responsible for 40% of EU's energy consumption and 36% of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. The revision of the Construction Products Regulation will strengthen and modernise the rules in place since 2011. It will create a harmonised framework to assess and communicate the environmental and climate performance of construction products. New product requirements will ensure that the design and manufacture of construction products is based on state of the art to make these more durable, repairable, recyclable, easier to re-manufacture. It will also make it easier for standardisation bodies to do their work of creating common European standards. Together with enhanced market surveillance capacities and clearer rules for economic operators along the supply chain, this will help to remove obstacles to the free movement of the internal market. Finally, the revised Regulation will offer digital solutions to reduce administrative burdens, particularly on SMEs, including a construction products database and a Digital Products Passport.

Members of the College said:

Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal Frans **Timmermans** said: *"It's time to end the model of 'take, make, break, and throw away' that is so harmful to our planet, our health and our economy. The proposals will ensure that only the most sustainable products are sold in Europe. They allow consumers to save energy, repair and not replace broken products, and make smart environmental choices when they are shopping for new ones. This is how we bring*

balance back in our relationship with nature and reduce our vulnerability to disruptions in global supply chains.” Commissioner for the Internal Market Thierry **Breton** said: “European consumers rightly expect more environment-friendly and longer-lasting products. More sustainability and resource efficiency also means more resilience when a crisis disrupts our industrial supply chains. By harnessing the potential of the Single Market, making the most of digital tools and improving market surveillance, we will maximise opportunities for businesses and consumers alike. Greater resource and energy efficiency in the construction and textile sectors in particular will generate highly skilled jobs across Europe.” Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus **Sinkevičius** said: “Our circular economy proposals kick off an era where products will be designed in a way that brings benefits to all, respects the boundaries of our planet and protects the environment. Giving a longer lifespan to the phones we use, to the clothes we wear and to many other products will save money for European consumers. And at the end of their life products will not be a source of pollution, but of new materials for the economy, decreasing the dependency of European businesses on imports.”

5. Intellectual property: European craft & industrial products

The Commission has proposed a first-ever framework to protect the intellectual property for craft and industrial products that rely on the originality and authenticity of traditional practices from their regions.

This framework will cover products such as Murano glass, Donegal tweed, Porcelaine de Limoges, Solingen cutlery and Boleslawiec pottery. While these products benefit from a European and sometimes global reputation and standing, producers have so far lacked an EU indication protection linking their products' origin and reputation to their quality. Drawing on the success of the geographical indication system for wine-spirit drinks and agricultural products, with this proposal for a Regulation, the Commission aims to enable producers to protect craft and industrial products associated with their region and their traditional know-how, with effects in Europe and beyond. The Regulation, providing for an EU indication protection, will make it easier for consumers to recognise the quality of such products and make more informed choices. It will help to promote, attract and retain skills and jobs in Europe's regions, contributing to their economic development. The proposal would also ensure that traditional craft and industrial products are put on an equal footing with protected geographical indications that already exist in the agricultural area. Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager** for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age said: “Many European regions hold an untapped potential for jobs and growth. Notably in the crafts and industrial sector, many SMEs have developed and refined manufacturing skills over generations, but lack incentives and resources to project them, especially across borders. The protection granted by geographical indications for craft and industrial products will encourage both regions and producers in their competition at a continental and global level.” Commissioner Thierry **Breton**, responsible for the Internal Market, said: “Europe has an exceptional legacy of world-renown crafts and industrial products. It is time that these producers benefit from a new intellectual property right, like food and wine producers, that will increase trust and visibility for their products, guaranteeing authenticity and reputation. The initiative will contribute to the creation of skilled jobs especially for SMEs and to the development of tourism also in the more rural or economically weak areas.” This proposal for a Regulation will: establish an EU-wide protection for geographical indications of craft and industrial products to help producers protect and enforce the intellectual property rights of their products across the EU. The new Regulation will also facilitate action against fake products, including those sold online. It will address the currently fragmented and partial protections that exist at national level; enable simple and cost-efficient registration of GIs for craft and industrial products by establishing a two-level application process. This would require producers to file their GI applications to designated Member States' authorities, who will then submit successful applications for further evaluation and approval to the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). A direct application procedure to EUIPO will also be possible for Member States that do



not have a national evaluation procedure in place. The proposal also offers the possibility for producers to self-declare compliance of their products with the product specifications, making the system lighter and less costly, allow full compatibility with international GI protection by enabling producers of registered craft and industrial GIs to protect their products in all countries that are signatories of the Geneva Act on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications under the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), to which the EU acceded in November 2019 and which covers craft and industrial GIs. At the same time, it will now be possible to protect corresponding GIs from third countries within the EU; support the development of Europe's rural and other regions by providing incentives for producers, especially SMEs, to invest in new authentic products and create niche markets. The proposed Regulation will also help to retain unique skills that might otherwise disappear, particularly in Europe's rural and less developed regions. Regions would benefit from the reputation of the new GIs. This can contribute to attracting tourists and to creating new highly skilled jobs in the regions, thereby boosting their economic recovery.

Background

The proposal follows the Intellectual Property Action Plan adopted in November 2020, where the Commission announced that it would consider the feasibility of a GI protection system for craft and industrial products at EU level. This built on calls from producers, regional authorities, the European Parliament and the Committee of Regions, asking the Commission to create a regulatory framework for the protection of craft and industrial products. In November 2019, the EU's accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origins and Geographical Indications, a treaty administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization ('WIPO') brought further impulse. Current Union law protects GIs for agricultural products, food and wines. The proposal would create a complementary protection system, aiming as well for high intellectual property protection, improved consumer information and boosting regional recovery. The new system will offer the same level of protection as the existing GIs, while taking into account the different nature of craft and industrial products.

6. Chemical, biological and radio-nuclear emergencies

To improve the EU's preparedness and response to public health risks such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats, the Commission is building up strategic reserves of response capacities through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

This includes a €540.5 million rescEU strategic stockpile, established in close collaboration with the Health emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). This stockpile will consist of equipment and medicines, vaccines and other therapeutics to treat patients exposed to CBRN



emergencies agents, as well as of rescEU decontamination reserve to provide decontamination equipment and expert response teams. As an immediate first step, the EU has mobilised its rescEU medical reserve to procure potassium iodide tablets which can be used to protect people from the harmful effects of radiation. Already almost 3 million iodide tablets have been delivered to Ukraine via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, with the help of France and Spain. On this occasion Janez **Lenarčič**, Commissioner for Crisis Management said: “We are

taking concrete measures to increase Europe's preparedness in the face of potential threats. We are setting up both a decontamination reserve and a new stockpile of equipment tailored to chemical, biological or nuclear emergencies. I am thankful for Member States in this effort. Our aim is to provide rapid response capabilities for our citizens if such an emergency ever occurs.” Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella **Kyriakides**, said: “Health security needs preparedness. Preparing for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats is an essential element in keeping our citizens safe, and a key element of a strong European Health Union. HERA is our watchtower and has been working around the clock to support EU actions through the Civil Protection Mechanism to provide preparedness support to Ukraine and our Member States.” People may be exposed to CBRN agents as a result of unintentional disasters (eg. a chemical plant leak, nuclear power plant incidents, the spread of an infectious disease) or intentional incidents (eg. a terrorist attack). Being prepared to address the risks of such threats is

a key part of the EU CBRN stockpiling strategy. The Commission is therefore developing under rescEU: a strategic rescEU CBRN emergencies stockpile: The stockpile, which is designed with Member States, will include response equipment - such as personal protective equipment and detection, identification and monitoring devices - and medicines, vaccines and other therapeutics. The stockpile will make a crucial contribution to build CBRN resilience in the EU as it will include equipment and medicines that may be hard to manufacture in times of crisis or that may be suddenly required in larger amounts than what is available in national reserves. The CBRN stockpile is a first step towards establishing better capacities in response to nuclear power plant incidents, chemical facility emergencies, terrorist attacks or the spread of an infectious disease and many more; rescEU decontamination reserve: This will comprise both staff and equipment to decontaminate people, infrastructure, buildings, vehicles or critical equipment that have been exposed to CBRN agents. Upon request of the affected Member State, the rescEU decontamination reserve can be deployed. The reserve will be developed and hosted by Croatia, Germany and Spain and will be 100% EU-financed with an initial budget of €66.7 million.

Background

Extreme weather conditions and emerging threats, such as the coronavirus, but also CBRN incidents may overwhelm the ability of EU Member States to help each other, especially when several European countries face the same type of disaster simultaneously. Following the activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, rescEU provides an extra layer of protection and ensures a faster and more comprehensive response to disasters. The rescEU reserve is 100% EU-financed and the EU Commission maintains, in close cooperation with the country hosting the reserve, control of their operation. In an emergency, the rescEU reserve provides assistance to all EU Member States, Participating States to the Mechanism and can also be deployed to EU neighbouring countries. The Health Emergency preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) has been set up to strengthen Europe's ability to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to cross-border health emergencies, be it natural or man made threat. HERA is doing so by funding the development, manufacturing and procurement of key medical countermeasures and equipment.

7. Commission strengthens market surveillance

The Commission inaugurates two new laboratories, within the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra (Italy) that will allow scaling up Commission's capacity to test emissions from cars on the EU market.

This will help the Commission to determine whether vehicles comply with relevant EU emissions regulations, improving its ability to conduct market surveillance of vehicles. The Commission's competence to check emissions from cars is the result of the overhaul of the EU vehicle type approval legislation in the wake of the «Dieselgate» scandal, which introduced oversight and enforcement at EU level. Inaugurating the new facility at Ispra, Commissioner for Internal Market, Thierry **Breton**, said: *“While controls of cars placed on the market are Member States' responsibility, since September 2020 the Commission is able to carry out checks on cars, trigger EU-wide recalls, and impose fines of up to €30,000 per car when the law is broken. With this new state-of-the-art car emission testing facility, we are now better equipped than ever to improve air quality for European citizens, restore consumer confidence, strengthen the Single Market and support the global competitiveness of Europe's car industry.”* Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**, said: *“These new top-notch laboratories will allow the JRC to continue, with increased efficiency, to ensure that cars comply with emission rules in the EU. It is great news for all consumers and Europeans, and a step forwards towards the ambition to become a climate neutral continent by 2050. Another important example on how science helps policy.”* The new Vehicle Market Surveillance facility will enable emissions testing in regulated and simulated real driving conditions. Two climatic emission cells will allow testing a wide range



of ambient conditions such as temperature, humidity and pressure, which affect the final emissions performance of the vehicle. Due to their state of the art technology, the new labs will also serve the Commission in view of implementing future emission standards. The Commission is also publishing the results of the first year of the JRC's market surveillance activities carried out in the JRC's other testing facilities. The report, entitled "European market surveillance of motor vehicles", presents emissions test results and the compliance assessment for 40 Euro-6 vehicles, found to comply under a wide range of driving conditions. In support to the EU authorities involved in the surveillance duties on motor vehicles, the JRC also shares lessons learnt and best practices for the testing procedures.

Background

In response to the « Dieselgate » scandal that revealed that real driving emissions in some cases far exceeded values measured in the legislative certification test, the European Union in May 2018 adopted the Regulation (EU) 2018/858 on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles. This Regulation significantly overhauls and tightens the previous system of type approval by introducing a mandatory market surveillance of motor vehicles. It also improves the quality and independence of vehicle type-approval and testing, increases checks of cars already on the EU market and strengthens the overall system with greater European oversight. Based on the results of its market surveillance activities, the 2018 Regulation on vehicle type approval allows the Commission to trigger EU-wide recalls of vehicles and impose fines of up to €30,000 per car when the law is broken and Member States fail to act. The JRC's Vehicle Emissions Laboratory (VELA) enables all types of road vehicles to be tested for both emissions and energy efficiency. The VELA laboratory, now consisting of 11 facilities, and the JRC's research results are used to develop European emissions legislation for road transport, generating unbiased scientific data for the evaluation of vehicle technologies. The JRC ran a pilot project from 2017 to 2020, when the Commission became finally responsible for vehicle testing in the context of vehicle market surveillance.

8. Adoption of the HR Strategy and Greening of the Commission

The Commission adopted a new Human Resources Strategy to enable it to perform at the highest level in the interest of all Europeans by offering a modern workplace and rewarding careers that attract top talents from all Member States.

As part of the Strategy, this Communication on Greening lays out how the Commission will become climate-neutral by 2030. It thereby sets a good example of corporate climate action, in



line with the spirit of the policy proposals to deliver the European Green Deal. The Commission will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030 compared to 2005 and compensate remaining emissions with carbon removals. The Strategy focuses on three strategic priorities:

1. An attractive workplace

The Commission will strengthen its attractiveness as an employer to hire and retain the best talent from all Member States and reflect the diversity of the European society it serves. This Strategy will boost existing efforts to create an inclusive, sustainable and flexible work environment with family-friendly working conditions and attractive professional development perspectives for all. Through new actions, we will continue to actively promote a working environment that is discrimination-free, inclusive, gender-balanced and accessible for persons with disabilities. In addition, the Communication on Greening the

Commission will align the way we work with the political priorities we are working for, with specific measures, which will be implemented immediately: further reducing emissions from Commission buildings in Brussels and at other Commission sites; a smarter and greener policy for business travel, without undermining the need to maintain a presence in Member States and reach out to citizens; encouraging staff to increase their use of sustainable transport for commuting, and replacing the corporate conventional vehicle fleet with electric cars.

2. Faster and more agile selection and recruitment

The Commission, in cooperation with the European Personnel Selection Office, will introduce modern, faster, and more flexible selection and recruitment procedures for external and internal

candidates. The aim is to select the most talented and suitable individuals, ensure a level playing field for applicants from diverse backgrounds, and retain internal talent. The Commission will also work with under-represented Member States, in order to shape a better geographical balance among its staff.

3. A flexible and rewarding career for all staff

The new HR Strategy will reinforce the career perspectives of staff by promoting internal and external mobility at all levels and in all places of employment. Career guidance, mentoring, coaching and headhunting will be reorganised and strengthened. All three priorities will be supported by a fourth, cross-cutting priority: the streamlining of HR services, simplifying, digitalising and speeding up procedures. Services will be designed with the end user in mind and be smart aiming at providing quick support and solutions. This will be enabled by effective HR IT tools that meet staff expectations and business requirements.

Members of the College said

Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** said: *“Since I have taken office as President of the Commission, I have witnessed the amazing commitment and skill of the women and men who staff this administration. It is thanks to our staff that the Commission delivered on the political priorities I set out at the beginning of my mandate, and successfully steered the EU through the COVID-19 pandemic. And now our staff are working hard to coordinate the EU's solidarity with Ukraine in the face of the Russian invasion and strengthen the EU's resilience. The new Human Resources Strategy will help adapt their working environment, drawing the lessons from the pandemic and continuing to drive forward our ambition to become a climate-neutral administration.”* Commissioner Johannes **Hahn**, in charge of Budget and Administration, added: *“This Strategy enables our organisation to be fit for the future by addressing the immediate and emerging needs, from digital transformation to changing workplace structures, geopolitical challenges and the climate crisis. Our key words are: trust, people first, flexibility, digital and green.”*

Background

The development of a new Human Resources Strategy for the Commission is part of President **von der Leyen**'s mission letter to Commissioner **Hahn**. The Strategy was developed after an extensive consultation process with Commission staff and management and the main stakeholders. DG Human Resources and Security, and the other Commission services involved will now implement the Strategy through a series of actions outlined in the text. The Communication on Greening and the Decision on working time and hybrid working are the first such actions.

9. New rules to boost cybersecurity and information security

The Commission proposed new rules to establish common cybersecurity and information security measures across the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies.

The proposal aims to bolster their resilience and response capacities against cyber threats and incidents, as well as to ensure a resilient, secure EU public administration, amidst rising malicious cyber activities in the global landscape. Commissioner for Budget and Administration, Johannes **Hahn**, said: *“In a connected environment, a single cybersecurity incident can affect an*



entire organisation. This is why it is critical to build a strong shield against cyber threats and incidents that could disturb our capacity to act. The regulations we are proposing are a milestone in the EU cybersecurity and information security landscape. They are based on reinforced cooperation and mutual support among EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on a coordinated preparedness and response. This is a real EU collective endeavour.” In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing

geopolitical challenges, a joint approach to cybersecurity and information security is a must. With this in mind, the Commission has proposed a Cybersecurity Regulation and an Information Security Regulation. By setting common priorities and frameworks, these rules will further strengthen inter-institutional cooperation, minimise risk exposure and further strengthen the EU security culture.

Cybersecurity Regulation

The proposed Cybersecurity Regulation will put in place a framework for governance, risk management and control in the cybersecurity area. It will lead to the creation of a new inter-institutional Cybersecurity Board, boost cybersecurity capabilities, and stimulate regular maturity assessments and better cyber-hygiene. It will also extend the mandate of the Computer Emergency Response Team for the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies (CERT-EU), as a threat intelligence, information exchange and incident response coordination hub, a central advisory body, and a service provider.

Key elements of the proposal for a Cybersecurity Regulation:

- Strengthen the mandate of CERT-EU and provide the resources it needs to fulfil it;
- Require from all EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies to: have a framework for governance, risk management and control in the area of cybersecurity; implement a baseline of cybersecurity measures addressing the identified risks; conduct regular maturity assessments; put in place a plan for improving their cybersecurity, approved by the entity's leadership; share incident-related information with CERT-EU without undue delay.
- Set up a new inter-institutional Cybersecurity Board to drive and monitor the implementation of the regulation and to steer CERT-EU;
- Rename CERT-EU from 'Computer Emergency Response Team' to 'Cybersecurity Centre', in line with developments in the Member States and globally, but keep the short name 'CERT-EU' for name recognition.

Information Security Regulation

The proposed Information Security Regulation will create a minimum set of **information security rules** and standards for all EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies to ensure an enhanced and consistent protection against the evolving threats to their information. These new rules will provide a stable ground for a **secure exchange of information** across EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and with the Member States, based on standardised practices and measures to protect information flows. **Key elements** of the proposal for Information Security Regulation: set up an efficient governance to foster the cooperation across all EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, namely an inter-institutional Information Security Coordination Group; establish a common approach to information categorisation based on the level of confidentiality; modernise the information security policies, fully including digital transformation and remote work; streamline current practices and achieve greater compatibility between the relevant systems and devices.

Background

In its resolution from March 2021, the Council of the European Union stressed the importance of a robust and consistent security framework to protect all EU personnel, data, communication networks, information systems and decision-making processes. This can only be achieved through enhanced resilience and improved security culture of the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies. Following the EU Security Union Strategy and the EU Cybersecurity Strategy, the Cybersecurity Regulation proposed will ensure consistency with existing EU cybersecurity policies, in full alignment with current European legislation: the Directive on the security of Network and Information Systems (NIS Directive) and the future Directive on measures for high common level of cybersecurity across the Union ('NIS 2') that the Commission proposed in December 2020; the Cybersecurity Act; the Commission Recommendation on building a Joint Cyber Unit; the Commission Recommendation on coordinated response to large-scale cybersecurity incidents and crises. Considering the ever-increasing amounts of sensitive non-classified and EU classified information handled by EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, the proposed Information Security Regulation aims to increase the protection of the information, by streamlining the different legal frameworks of the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies in the field. The proposal is in line with: the EU Security Union Strategy, which includes a comprehensive EU commitment to complement Member States' efforts in all areas of security; the key feature of the Strategic Agenda for 2019-2024, adopted by the European Council in June 2019, to protect our societies from the ever-evolving threats targeting the information handled by EU institutions, bodies, and agencies; the Conclusions of the General Affairs Council of December 2019 calling on the EU institutions, bodies and agencies, supported by Member States, to develop and implement a comprehensive set of measures to ensure their security.



10. Ukraine: EU support to help Member States meet the needs of refugees

The European Commission outlines the actions being taken to support Member States in meeting the needs of those fleeing the war against Ukraine and its people.



Since the unprovoked and unjustified Russian invasion, some 3.5 million people – mainly women and children – have arrived in the EU in the space of just four weeks. Around 6.5 million people are estimated to be displaced internally. The EU's welcome to those who arrived on EU territory is epitomised by the first-ever activation of the Temporary Protection Directive, offering quick assistance and a clear legal status. Beyond the immediate support provided in terms of assistance at the border, reception and civil protection, the EU is taking further steps to help

Member States ensure beneficiaries can effectively access their right to education, healthcare, accommodation and jobs – hallmarks of the European way of life.

The available support includes:

- **Special protection for children:** Children need to be guaranteed swift access to their rights, without discrimination. Their registration upon entry into the EU is key. The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child provides a comprehensive framework for the protection and the fulfilment of the rights of the child. National coordinators now in place under the **European Child Guarantee** have a key role to play in galvanising and coordinating the effort at a national level and with regional and local authorities. In this context, specific focus is given to children from institutions (such as orphanages), and children at risk of trafficking and abduction. On top of this, the Commission is preparing dedicated Standard Operating Procedures for **transfers of unaccompanied minors**.
- **Access to education:** Helping pupils, students and teachers in these difficult times is a priority. The Commission will bring together Member States to start sharing experiences and identify what is needed to continue the education of displaced children. The School Education Gateway will serve as a one-stop shop to link to educational material from Ukraine and Member States' material in the Ukrainian language. It will also be essential to draw on the capacities of Ukrainian teachers among the new arrivals in Europe. The eTwinning community can help groups created in the secure space of the platform to support teachers. Flexibility in the Erasmus+ funding programme will also be used to support the education of refugee students and the integration of staff of higher education institutions who are fleeing the war.
- **Access to healthcare:** Thanks to a solidarity mechanism set up by the Commission, people in urgent need of specialised hospital treatment can be quickly transferred between Member States for such treatments, with 10,000 beds already available. The ECDC monitors the health situation on the ground and has issued guidelines on the prevention and control of infectious diseases. The Commission, through HERA, also supports the supply of vaccines, with a particular focus on childhood vaccination. Finally, it will take targeted actions on mental health and trauma support for those fleeing the war, including the set-up of a network of Ukrainian-speaking mental health professionals.
- **Access to jobs:** Member States are invited to take measures to help those arriving swiftly take up their right to work, as well as vocational training. This includes informing people about their rights under the Temporary Protection Directive, providing language or business support, and ensuring access to childcare, with a key role for public employment services to act as matchmakers on the labour market. The Commission has added the Ukrainian language to the **EU Skills Profile Tool** for non-EU nationals to help Ukrainian job seekers and those who wish to continue their studies showcase their skills and connect with opportunities and guidance on next steps. The Commission will also pilot a **new Talent Pool** to match skills with job vacancies. Other Commission initiatives in this area include developing new guidelines to facilitate recognition of **professional qualifications** obtained in Ukraine and working with social partners to help **inform the private sector** about the rights under temporary protection and the programmes available.
- **Access to accommodation and housing:** To meet immediate needs for suitable accommodation, a new “**safe homes**” initiative will support Europeans who are making their homes available, mobilising targeted funding and online resources as needed. In addition, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, as well as Cohesion Policy funds, will be mobilised to

strengthen public reception systems. In the longer term, the European Regional Development Fund helps to provide social housing for families and individuals in the community, and the Fund can cover both the purchase and refurbishment of accommodation. The European Social Fund can support community-based services and accommodation, especially for those with special needs, disabilities, children and older people.

Solidarity in action

The Commission has set up a **Solidarity Platform**, bringing together Member States and EU Agencies, to coordinate support to Member States in need. The Platform will help organise the transfers of people within the EU to the Member States that have reception capacity and can also help establish pathways towards non-EU countries that already host significant Ukrainian communities, such as Canada or the United Kingdom. Solidarity has also come from the private sector, with many transport companies organising humanitarian trains and providing free tickets to those fleeing. The EU is helping repatriate non-Ukrainian nationals who were caught up in the war in Ukraine, for instance with the first Frontex-supported humanitarian voluntary return flights from Poland to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Fast, flexible solutions to support solidarity

The Commission has taken immediate action to help mobilise financial support to Member States hosting those fleeing war in Ukraine. This includes the proposal on the Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) and amendments to the 2014-2020 Home Affairs Funds. Tailor-made support via the Technical Support Instrument will provide Member States help to build institutional and operational capacity to welcome people fleeing the war in Ukraine, enhancing their social and economic integration and making the best use of available EU funds to provide accommodation for families or unaccompanied children. In addition, available funding under **REACT-EU**, in particular its 2022 tranche of up to €10 billion, can be used by the Member States. To support Member States, and particularly those closest to the EU border with Ukraine, €3.4 billion pre-financing payments under REACT-EU will be made available to speed up access to funds. Significant funding is also available under the agreed 2021-2027 financial framework from both Home Affairs and Cohesion Policy funds.

Members of the College said

Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka **Šuica**, said: *“Children make up around half of all arrivals since the beginning of the war. These children have suffered traumatising experiences and have seen their lives up-ended from one day to another. It is our duty and responsibility to ensure that they are appropriately received and cared for, including children with disabilities. The immediate priority now is to offer these children a place where they can feel secure, and receive swift and indiscriminate, access to psycho-social support, healthcare, nutrition and education. Unaccompanied minors, children separated from their parents and orphaned children need to be immediately registered and supported by child protection services to prevent them from falling prey to trafficking and abuse. With this Communication, we are taking concrete actions in the best interests of these children, every step of the way”*. Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinias** said: *“The temporary protection directive is now in place and is giving millions of people immediate access to medical care, schools, jobs and housing. The Commission is outlining a series of further measure to help Member States give life to these rights in practice. From giving a platform to host school materials, to a mechanism for intra-EU medical transfers, an EU Talent Pool for jobseekers and a Safe Homes initiative, we will translate the goodwill of Europeans into practical help for the millions forced to leave their homes.”* Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson** said: *“Millions of people have been uprooted and we need to put all expressions of solidarity rapidly into action. The new Solidarity Platform is up and running already, to ensure that, between Member States we can match needs to capacity. Those who flee the war need to have their rights quickly reestablished. They must be able to work, to have access to healthcare, be sure of a roof over their heads and be able to put their children in school.”*



Background

In the face of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military invasion of Ukraine, the EU has made available direct humanitarian aid, emergency civil protection assistance, support at the border, as well as a clear legal status allowing those fleeing the war to receive immediate protection in the

EU. The Communication follows from the decision taken on 4 March to introduce temporary protection for persons fleeing the war, which grants them the right to accommodation, healthcare, access to the jobs market and education. It complements the Commission's operational guidelines to support Member States in applying the Temporary Protection Directive. It also complements the Commission's operational guidelines on external border management, intended to help Member States' border guards in managing arrivals at the borders with Ukraine efficiently.

11. Youth4Regions – the programme for aspiring journalists

As of 11 April 2022, the Commission is accepting applications for the sixth edition of the Youth4Regions programme for journalism students and young journalists. Applications are welcome from EU Member States and neighbouring and acceding countries. The 38 competition winners will gather in Brussels from 8 to 14 October to attend training courses, receive mentoring from experienced journalists, work with them in the press room and visit the European institutions and media. The winners will also participate in [the Megalizzi-Niedzielski prize competition for aspiring journalists](#) which will be awarded on 11 October. The application form and conditions of participation are available on the programme's [webpage](#) until **11 July 2022**. #Youth4Regions is a European Commission programme that helps students and young journalists discover how the EU operates in their region. Since its launch in 2017, more than 130 young people from across Europe have participated. A survey of previous participants shows that 78% of them consider that their career has benefited from the programme in terms of networking and career advice. For 93%, the programme helps them to better understand the EU and cohesion policy. For more information please consult the following [link](#).



12. PLURAL+ 2022 Youth Video Festival

PLURAL+ is a youth video festival that encourages and empowers global youth to explore the pressing social issues of migration, diversity, social inclusion, and the prevention of xenophobia and to share their creative vision with the world.

The PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival (hereinafter referred to as “PLURAL+”) is open to young people of all nationalities with a keen interest in the pressing social issues of migration, diversity, social inclusion, and the prevention of xenophobia. Entrants to PLURAL+ **must be 25 years old or less** at the time of the production of their videos. PLURAL+ is organized into three age categories: up to 12 years old; 13 to 17 years old and 18 to 25 years old. While the people appearing in the video do not have to be young, it is important that the video reflects the thoughts and opinions of the young filmmaker about migration, diversity, social inclusion, and xenophobia. The person submitting the video (“the entrant”) must be actively involved in its making; e.g. either as a director, writer, camera person, editor, actor, coordinator, etc. Immediate family members of staff members of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and members of the PLURAL+ International Jury are not eligible to enter the competition. Multiple young people can work together on one video, as long as each of them is 25 years old or less at the time of the production of the video. When submitting a video as a group, the video will fall into the age category of the entrant. While people over the age of 25 (parents, teachers, etc.) can provide support and assistance in the making of the video, their role should remain minimal. However, it is understood that for the age group of up to 12 years old, adults may play a more substantial role. PLURAL+ video entries must be: between one and five minutes in length, including title(s) and opening/closing credits (the PLURAL+ team will automatically



disqualify any submission falling outside of this time restraint); in English or include English subtitles; produced after 31 December 2018. In addition, PLURAL+ video entries can be of any genre (animation, documentary, music video, comedy, etc.) as long as they have the potential to make the audience think in constructive ways about the PLURAL+ themes – migration, diversity, social inclusion, and the prevention of xenophobia. If selected, entrants must be prepared to submit a digital copy of their video in either of the following formats: MOV (preferred), MP4, AVI, QT, MKV, or FLV. HD is preferred (1920×1080), but not required. PLURAL+ recognizes young people as powerful agents of social change and video entries should therefore serve as an instrument for them to express their thoughts and opinions on one or several of the main themes of PLURAL+: migration, diversity, social inclusion, and the prevention of xenophobia. PLURAL+ video entries can be of any genre (animation, documentary, music video, comedy, etc.) as long as they have the potential to make the audience think in constructive ways about those pressing social issues in constructive ways. To get a better idea, interested candidates should browse past PLURAL+ winning videos here. PLURAL+ video entries should not contain profanities or material that some audiences may find inappropriate or offensive. To submit a video for consideration, you must first complete [our online form here](#). Please provide all of the required information. Incomplete submissions will lead to disqualification. You will need to specify your method of sending the video on the submission form. The form will then ask you to submit your videos in one of four ways: **Through a video-streaming website** (e.g. YouTube or Vimeo). If submitting through this option, the entrant will be asked to include the URL of the video in the online form. **Through a file-hosting website** (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.) where the entrant's video is saved. If submitting through this option, you will be asked to include the URL of the video in the online form. Submissions must be completed by **10 June 2022** at midnight EST. The PLURAL+ team will automatically disqualify any video entries received after the deadline. For more information please consult the following [link](#).

13. EU Prize for Women Innovators

The EU Prize for Women Innovators celebrates the women entrepreneurs behind game-changing innovations. In doing so, the EU seeks to raise awareness of the need for more



women innovators, and create role models for women and girls everywhere. The prize is awarded to the most talented women entrepreneurs from across the EU and countries associated to Horizon Europe, who have founded a successful company and brought innovation to the market. The prize is managed by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, and the winners are chosen by an independent expert jury. There are

two prize categories: **Women Innovators category**: three prizes of EUR 100 000 each awarded to the most talented women innovators from across the EU and Associated Countries; **Rising Innovators category**: three prizes of EUR 50 000 each awarded to the most promising young innovators aged 35 or under. Eligible applicants can only apply to one category.

The prize is open to:

- Women (this prize celebrates women in all their diversity);
- Established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country;
- Who have founded an innovative company registered 2 years before the call year.

Those applying for the Rising Innovators category must be aged 35 or under. There is no age limit to apply for the Women Innovators category. Eligible applications will be evaluated against 3 award criteria:

- **Breakthrough innovation** – the company founded or co-founded by the applicant provides a truly innovative product or service in the EU market;
- **Impact** – the product or service addresses a specific societal need or challenge, with significant benefits for people and/or planet;
- **Inspiration** – the applicant has played a pivotal role in the success of the company, and a role model for other women and girls.

Deadline for applications is **18 August 2022** at 17.00 (CET). Learn more in the [How to apply section](#).

14. European Social Innovation Competition 2022

The Commission launched the 9th edition of the European Social Innovation Competition (EUSIC) Impact Prize. The Impact Prize 2022 recognises the successful outcome of socially innovative projects from the previous EUSIC edition.

The European Social Innovation Impact Prize 2022 aims at recognising the efforts made by the semi-finalists of the European Social innovation competition – the Challenge Prize 2021 edition. The European Innovation Council (EIC) supports the Prize under European innovation ecosystems (Pillar III) of the Horizon Europe Work Programme. Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth said: *“The European Social Innovation Impact Prize 2022 is an excellent example of caring about EU beneficiaries and their results. The success of their projects is our success! I am curious to discover how original ideas have evolved into robust projects, showcasing the best impact methodology, and demonstrating the best results among 2021 semi-finalists”*. The EUSIC Challenge Prize 2021 focused on “the skills for tomorrow”. The Competition looked for scalable social innovations that would contribute to job creation, growth and European competitiveness by helping people, businesses and industries identify, develop and strengthen the skills that would power the European economy’s green and digital future. Semi-Finalists of the 2021 edition are now invited to submit an impact report with their application, which will show the progress of the projects presented at the European Social innovation competition 2021. Based on the impact reports received, the jury will award the 1st ranked winner with the Impact Prize worth €50,000. In order to be eligible, the applicant must be: one of the 27 semi-finalists of the European Social Innovation Competition – the Challenge Prize 2021 edition. located in one of the Member States or Associated Countries. Winners of the Social Innovation Competition - the Challenge Prize 2021 are not eligible. Applicants that have already received an EU or Euratom prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities. All applicants must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before the call deadline — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). The Competition is open for applications until **24 May 2022** (17:00:00 CET). For more information please consult the following [link](#).



15. Traineeship at the European Court of Auditors

The European Court of Auditors organises three traineeship sessions per year in areas of interest to its work. In addition to considering general traineeship applications, the Court will pay particular attention to applications from candidates with profiles in the areas of IT audit and data science, in line with its 2021-2025 development plan for making better use of technology and data in audit. They may be paid (1 350 euros/month) or unpaid, depending on the budgetary appropriations available. As from 1 October 2020, the three sessions will cover the following periods: from 1 March to 31 July of the same calendar year; from 1 May to 30 September of the same calendar year; from 1 October of one calendar year until 28 (29) February of the next. During these three sessions, each traineeship may last from three to five months.



In order to be eligible for a traineeship, applicants must:

- be a national of one of the Member States of the European Union, except where an exception has been granted by the appointing authority;
- either hold a recognised university-level diploma giving access to the AD function group (*a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three years, as attested by a diploma*) as defined in the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union, or have completed at least four semesters of university study in an area of interest to the Court;
- wish to obtain practical training related to one of the Court’s areas of activity;

- not already have benefited from a traineeship (paid or unpaid) at any EU institution, body or agency, including the European Central Bank and the European Investment Bank;
- state that they have a thorough knowledge of one official EU language and a satisfactory knowledge of at least one other official EU language;
- not previously have been or are not, at the time of application, employed in an EU institution, body or agency as a member of the temporary staff, contract staff, auxiliary contract staff, employment agency staff, as a national expert on secondment to an EU institution, body or agency, or as an assistant to a Member of the European Parliament.

Applicants who are selected must provide a recent certificate, as drawn up for civil-service employment purposes by their national authorities, stating that they have never been convicted or found guilty of a criminal offence, and a medical certificate stating that they are physically fit to perform their duties. Applicants with a disability are not required to produce such a certificate, which is replaced in their case by a certificate from their family doctor stating that they are able to function effectively in the workplace if appropriate arrangements are made.

Before applying, please note the following important information:

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

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

16. Short online meeting “PISH” project

In date 25/02/2022 took place a short online meeting of the project “Problem-Based Learning, Intercultural Communications and STEM in Higher Education” (acronym PISH) – action n. 2020-



1-DK01-KA203- 075109 approved by the Danish Erasmus Plus National Agency in the framework of the KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education. During the meeting, the partners discussed project activities already developed and defined the steps of the new activities to be developed in the coming months. The project aims to meet the intercultural communication needs in the peer-to-peer learning environment of STEM students in Higher Education Institutions. The word STEM is an acronym derived from the English "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" used to refer to scientific-

technological disciplines and related courses of study. PISH seeks to provide useful tools such as working methodologies, exercises, games, activities and other “tools” to university teachers to help them to assist and support so-called “mixed” classes in which there are local students together with foreign students. The project, drawing on the expertise of the various partners involved, thus seeks to guide teachers to broaden their outlook and mentality, while also making them culturally aware and sensitive, in order to enable frictionless curriculum development. 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). Within the framework of this strategic partnership, four sectoral intellectual products will be developed by August 2023: a collection of good practices; a toolkit on intercultural communication focusing on so-called PBL or Problem-Based Learning; an online platform; and an evaluation report on pilot actions to be developed in classrooms. The project, which is thus aimed at improving the coaching and intercultural communication skills of academic teachers, also aims to involve NGOs, policy-makers and relevant organisations or associations that can help institutionalise its results in university faculties. All interested parties can follow the project on the official Facebook page at the link <https://www.facebook.com/PISHproject/>.

17. Brief meeting “Game4CoSkills” project

In date 28/02/2022 took place a brief online 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. During the meeting the deadline for the realisation of the first intellectual product was planned. The partnership that will develop the whole project 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).



18. New meeting of the “CoopCities” project

In date 01/03/2022 was realised a new online meeting of the 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”). During the meeting the work to be done on Project Result 1 was planned. 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 to 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. The initiative will help to promote and support the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



19. EDIC Basilicata donates 1000 masks to the Potenza City Council

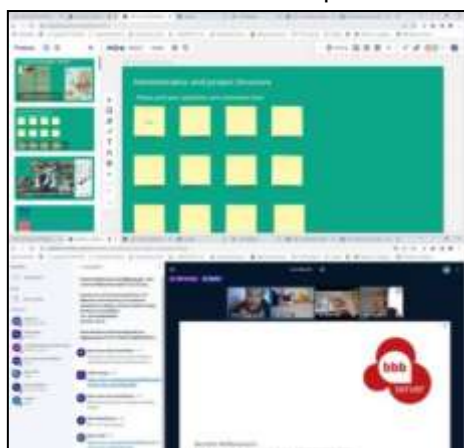
In date 10/03/2022, finally, after almost 40 days of waiting, the Municipal Administration (which we thank in the persons of Mayor Mario Guarente and Councillor Matteo Restaino for their availability) organised the delivery of our donation (made as Europe Direct Basilicata centre) of 1000 masks (including surgical and FFP2) destined for civil protection. For the third year in a row, our centre has decided to support those in need at this sad time. We hope that some of the same masks delivered will also be sent to Ukraine as a tangible sign of the European commitment, also at local level, to help the country under siege. In a statement, the President of the 5th permanent Council Commission of the Municipality of Potenza, which also deals with Civil Protection, thanked the



European Commission's Europe Direct Basilicata Centre, which has once again donated 1 000 masks (surgical and FFP2 masks) to the Municipality of Potenza during the meeting held in the Municipality Building in the presence of Mayor Mario Guarente. *"I applaud the meritorious action carried out by the European Commission's Europe Direct Basilicata centre in our region, said the Mayor of Potenza, Mario Guarente, which not only develops actions of a high educational, cultural and training level, but continues to concretely support actions of social support to help the weakest, also in view of the persistence of the Pandemic".* The masks will be used by the Department of Social Policies and the Municipal Civil Protection to support people in difficulty. *"The Europe Direct Basilicata Centre - said Matteo Restaino - shows itself to be active and attentive to social issues, we are pleased with the support of the administration and we hope that the European Commission will remain at the side of our municipality in other fields and with other activities to help the community and our young people".*

20. First official meeting of the "CoCo" project

In date 24/03/2022 took place in Berlin the first official meeting of 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 meeting was attended online by EURO-NET director, Antonino Imbesi, who, being covid-19 positive, could only connect virtually. The CoCo project, which formally started on 1 January this year, will end after 30 months of activity at the end of June 2024. 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 table game 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).

21. Meeting of the "EASYNEWS" project

In the days 24 and 25/03/2022 took place in Wien, Austria, a 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 (in which the EURO-NET staff, with Dr. Daniela Scavone, could only participate online due to contagion problems caused by the covid-19 pandemic) the partners presented the results of the activities carried out to develop intellectual product 2 and the state of the art of intellectual product 3. The EASYNEWS project, which started on 1 October 2020 and is due to end on 30 September this year, aims to foster the interest of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) in journalism and reading media and communication; through the creation of a methodology supported by an ICT tool aimed at facilitating the reading

of newspaper articles, magazines and other digital information and, therefore, fits perfectly into the European Commission's strategy aimed at the inclusion of people with disabilities. The European partnership that is implementing the project is composed of Asociación Para La Atención De Las Personas Con Discapacidad Intelectual De Villena Y Comarca (Spain - project coordinator); EURO-NET (Italy); Asociacion De Investigacion De La Industria Del Juguete Conexas Y Afines (Spain); Austrian Association of Inclusive Society (Austria); Social Enterprise Puzzle (Greece) and Fub Stockholm (Sweden). 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>.



22. Last meeting and Multiplier event of the "F.A.M.E.T." project

In the days 02 and 03/03/2022 took place in Valencia, Spain, the last meeting within the project "Fostering Adult Migrant Entrepreneurial Training and Qualification" (acronym F.A.M.E.T.), initiative approved as action n.2019-1-DK01-KA204-060186 within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education programme by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Denmark. During the meeting, the partners presented all the completed outputs. The project, which formally ended on 31 March (thanks to a 3-month extension given by the Danish Agency due to the covid-19 pandemic), started on 31 December 2019 and was aimed at developing the entrepreneurial skills of migrants and refugees wishing to start a business. Moreover, in date 26/03/2022, in Potenza, the EURO-NET association realised the multiplier event



planned into the FAMET project during which our staff, in the persons of Raffaele Messina and Giulia Maria Provenzale, presented to a very attentive and interested audience all the completed outputs, starting from a website translated into the different languages of the organisations involved and a web learning platform that can be accessed to train, even after the conclusion of the European partnership initiative, realised with the participation of the following organisations: Aalborg Universitet (Denmark), Markeut Skills Sociedad Limitada (Spain), Kainotomia & SIA EE (Greece), EURO-NET (Italy), Danmar Computers SP ZOO (Poland) and Crossing Borders (Denmark). More information is available on the official web site <https://famet.erasmus.site/> and on the

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FAMET117061303388382>.

23. Last training course of the "HOPE" project

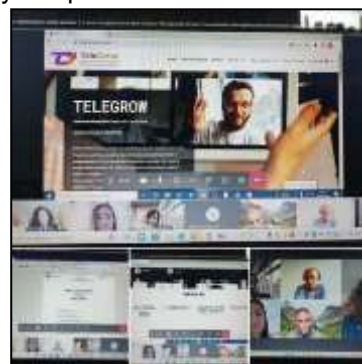
In the period 29-31/03/2022 took place, online, the last training course of the project "Supply of High Quality Learning Opportunities for Migrant People and Enhance Social Inclusion" (acronym "HOPE"), initiative approved in Germany as action n.2019-1-DE02-KA204-006479 within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices programme. The online course was attended by two staff members of our association and, as it was also the last project activity, it was also an opportunity to say goodbye to all the partners, wishing to work together again in new projects. HOPE aimed to open the discussion among

stakeholders to exchange opinions, concerns and questions in order to develop new practices, procedures and capacities in the field of migrant reception. Project partners were the following organisations Centrum Fur Innovation Und Technologie Gmbh (Germany), project coordinator; IMH C.S.C Limited (Cyprus); Mitropolitiko College Anoyimi Ekpaideytiki Etairia (Greece), Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants (Malta), BSC, Poslovno Podporni Center, Doo (Slovenia) and EURO-NET (Italy). For further information please visit the Facebook page available at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/erasmusplusHOPE>.



24. Third meeting of the “TELEGROW” project

In the date 29/03/2022 took place a new meeting of the project «Telegrow: "Enhancing the Teleworking Digital Skills for the Middle aged employees» (acronym “Telegrow”) approved, as action n.2020-1-ES01-KA226-VET-096306, by the National Agency in Spain within the framework of the Erasmus Plus programme in the special call of October 2020 dedicated to KA226 VET projects in the field of creativity and innovation. During the meeting, the project partners presented the final results of the first two products and discussed the project objectives to be achieved in the coming months. Drs. Palma Bertani and Caterina Lacerra from the EURO-NET association attended the meeting. The European initiative aims to provide trainers and vocational training providers with the necessary knowledge and tools to (re)train and improve the skills of employees aged 50+ and help them to work efficiently from home, using teleworking consciously and effectively. The project partnership is composed of: Florida Centre De Formació, COOP. V (Spain), project coordinator; Stowarzyszenie Centrum Wspierania Edukacji I Przedsiębiorczosci (Poland); Kainotomia & SIA EE (Greece); E-Seniors: Initiation Des Seniors Aux Ntic Association (France); Markeut Skills Sociedad Limitada (Spain) and EURO-NET (Italy). 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>.



25. Short meeting of the “GREEN ROUTES” project

In the date 01/04/2022 took place, online, a short meeting of the project "GREEN ROUTES", initiative approved in Germany as action n. 2020-1-DE02-KA204-007652 in the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education programme. During the meeting the partners planned the next training course (JSTE) foreseen in the framework of the project and which will take place in Belfast next 24-28 May (including travel days). The main objective of Green Routes is to create a toolkit to promote sustainable solutions and trends in urban areas. The toolkit will be created through the three intellectual outputs and a training methodology. The Promenade Theatre and storytelling Input Training will produce scenarios for both live and virtual augmented reality educational tours on sustainability-related topics. The scenarios can be used by the educators to create the tours while the training plans will be documented in a printed guide. Virtual tours can be followed through an Augmented Reality App, which will also interact with the guidebook. All products and educational guidelines, as well as practices and experiences gathered during the training, will be stored in the Green Routes Online Tour and Learning Hub, a unique hub for any educator, individual or entrepreneur interested in green education in the chosen cities. More information is available on the initiative's Facebook page at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenRoutes-108204151034392>.



26. Training course and fourth meeting of the "LearnEU" project

In the period 04-08/04/2022 took place in Penalva do Castelo, Portugal, the first face-to-face training provided in 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 blended mobility (in which, unfortunately, neither the Greek nor the Irish partner was able to participate due to pandemic issues) saw the participation of a large number of students from schools in the various partner countries and had the task of ascertaining the progress made with the first games created in the project so that the learners could directly verify their usefulness and didactic versatility: During the mobility, verification activities were therefore carried out with the young participants in the form of cooperative workshops in working groups coordinated by the heads of the various intellectual products, and the impressions and indications received from the participants were recorded, thus also promoting their critical spirit and civic responsibility. The results obtained were very encouraging: the students expressed very favourable opinions on the products developed, gratifying the work carried out so far by the entire European partnership composed of EURO-NET (Italy - project coordinator), Damasistem (Turkey), Mpirmpakos D. & Sia O.E. (Greece), CCS Digital Education Limited (Ireland) and AIJU (Spain), Ipias Giorgi (Italy), Sredno opstinsko ucliste Pero Nakov (Macedonia), Colegiul Economic "Ion Ghica" Braila (Romania) and Agrupamento de Escolas de Penalva do Castelo (Portugal). Moreover, on 13th April the fourth



online meeting was held, hosted by the Turkish partner, which served to plan the second training scheduled to take place in Braila (Romania) at the end of May and in which the remaining games and innovative teaching tools developed will be tested (also aimed at allowing school teachers to work concretely with students on the training of European citizenship, involving them through playful-educational activities). During the online TPM, which was attended by two staff members of our association, the project partners talked also about the interim report and the results achieved after the training in Portugal.

More information about the project is available on the website <https://project-learn.eu/> or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Learneu-117725843430250/>.

27. Meeting of the "The A Class" project

In date 05/04/2022 took place in Aarhus, in Denmark, a new 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. During the meeting, the partners talked about the development of the intellectual products being realised: in particular Andrea D'Andrea, one of the staff technician of our association, showed the innovative platform of the project to improve the teaching of autistic students. The project wants to fight the problems that autism creates for students at school: teachers



all over Europe, in fact, 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), Združenje za unapređivanje na kvalitetu na životu na licata so autistichen spektar na narušavanje "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/>.

28. Training course of the "Urbanities 2.0" project

In the period 11-14/04/2022 took place in Berlin, in Germany, in presence, the third and last training foreseen in the project "Urbanities 2.0", an initiative approved and financed, as action n.2019-1-DE02-KA204-006159, in the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult

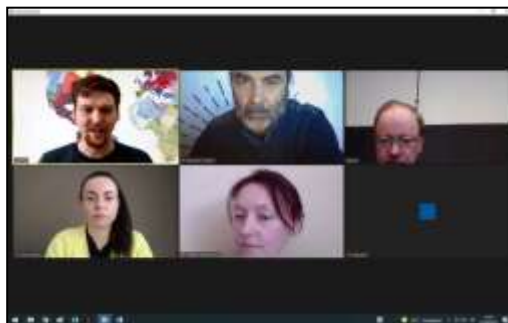


Education programme by the German National Agency. During the training various workshops and laboratories were carried out. One of the workshops (the one on gamification) was coordinated by the technical staff of EURO-NET, that has developed a great experience in the creation and implementation of "serious games" (both board games and online and offline electronic games). Moreover, the "Urbanities 2.0" project is mainly directed towards the creation of a game (developed by the EURO-NET team on the basis of the choices and indications of all partners) that helps citizens to actively engage in the development of fair and sustainable urban neighbourhoods, increasing their participation in

urban planning and neighbourhood development with an innovative non-formal approach, in which citizens themselves become protagonists and co-creators of their own neighbourhoods. The European partnership initiative, which started in September 2019, is being developed by an outstanding partnership consisting of the following seven organisations: Comparative Research Network Ev (Germany - coordinator of the whole project); EURO-NET (Italy); Uniwersytet Jagiellonski (Poland); Stadtlabor Innovationen Fur Urbanelebensqualität GmbH (Austria); Mine Vaganti Ngo (Italy); Asociatia Pentru Tranzitia Urbana (Romania) and Changemaker AB (Sweden). More information on the project (which will end at the end of August 2022) and the activities it has developed is available on the official Facebook page at the following link <https://www.facebook.com/urbanities/>.

29. Kick-off meeting of the "CREATIVENTER" project

In date 12/04/2022 took place in the first online meeting of the project "Creativity skills for young social entrepreneurs for development in the VUCA world", acronym "CREATIVENTER", an initiative approved in Poland by the competent National Agency as action 2021-1-PL01-KA220-YOU-000029767 within the Erasmus Plus Cooperative Partnerships in youth programme. During the meeting, the partners introduced themselves and planned the steps to be developed in the coming months within the European initiative. The project is aimed at supporting the development of social enterprises, an increasingly widespread phenomenon with great potential that is still far from being fully exploited and that has faced major problems, especially in recent periods due to economic crises, pandemics and not least the war in Ukraine (problems that are even more important and relevant especially for enterprises developed by young people). Yet social entrepreneurs are sorely needed at this stage of the world's history, since more than anyone else they can be considered pioneers of a green and inclusive society and economic system. The project therefore aims to strengthen creativity and innovation with various training activities in order to support young people in developing their own social



enterprise, also helping to solve the employment problem and strengthening active European citizenship. This initiative, in which the association EURO-NET (Europe Direct Basilicata centre) from Potenza is a partner, also has the characteristic of being one of the very first actions put in place at European level to support young Ukrainians: in fact, the partnership that will develop the project, in addition to EURO-NET, includes two Polish organisations (Fundacja Marki Polskiej IM. Prof. Witolda Kieżuna, as coordinator of the project and the Spółdzielnia Socjalna Osób Prawnych Centrum Usług Środowiskowych), a Portuguese association (the Embaixada da Juventude) and above all a Ukrainian organisation (the Ukrainian Center of the Future), which obviously more than all the other partners will benefit most from the results of this project for what is happening in that country, facilitating, thanks also to this project, the economic recovery, thanks to the development of new enterprises. To this aim, CREATIVENTER foresees the realisation of three really innovative products, all addressed to young social entrepreneurs: an e-learning course, a manual to develop creative skills and a chatbot (a software that simulates and processes written or spoken human conversations) with a digital assistant to support the creativity of those who want to try their hand at business development. In addition, the project also includes 5 multiplier events (one for each project partner) with the ultimate aim of supporting and helping at least 120 young social entrepreneurs to develop key competences for business development.

30. Third meeting of the “INTERACT” project

In the date 23/02/2022 took place the third online meeting of the project “Innovative Cultural Heritage the Root of European Identity” (acronym “INTERACT”) an initiative approved by the UK National Agency as action n. 2020-1-UK01-KA204-078950 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus

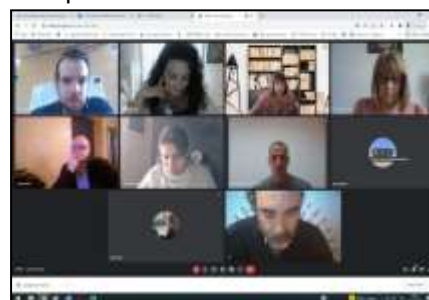


KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Innovation programme. After the virtual training, the partners returned to discuss the development of the outputs in a meeting that was supposed to take place in Arad, Romania, but due to pandemic issues, the partners decided to do it virtually. The objectives of the project are to develop new sectoral policies in European cultural tourism, adopting innovative practices for tourists and promoting authentic interactive cultural experiences. The project foresees the development of the following 3

intellectual products: theatre performances; digital platform and tool-kit; 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: <https://www.facebook.com/ErasmusPlus-Interact-10091139872178>.

31. Brief meeting of the “Sustainable Agripreneurship” project

In date 01/03/2022 took place a short 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. The project aims to develop an innovative training package of materials and tools, including a serious game, adapted to the learning needs of the younger generation in the agricultural sector to implement a business model to guide their agricultural activities towards sustainable development. Three intellectual products are envisaged in the project activities, one of which is the development of an electronic educational game: this "serious" game will be used as a training and learning tool as well as an evaluation tool for vocational training providers in the agricultural sector. The partnership is now working on the development of a training curriculum composed of many professional modules in order to develop a new and attractive training but, at



the same time, is concentrating its efforts also on various questionnaires that will be basic for the development of the e-game (planned as second product) as well as the final tool-kit (third project output). For further information, please visit the website www.sustainagriproject.eu or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/sustainableagripreneurship>.

32. Conversation on youth change in the pandemic era in the "CONTINUE"

In date 11/03/2022, the Youth Europe Service association organised in Potenza a Conversation of Change in which were discussed true stories of the positive and negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people's lives. Fear, isolation, closure, anger, frustration, but also a desire



for freedom, sharing and socialising: these are some of the key words that young people across Europe highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic: Exactly two years after the outbreak of this terrible tragedy, their experience, told through short videos, was the basis for reflecting and contributing to co-produce ideas for social actions such as the formation of guided listening groups, the promotion of forms of aggregation with associations, the development of voluntary actions, the promotion of creative workshops and training projects for inclusion, support actions followed by psychologists and

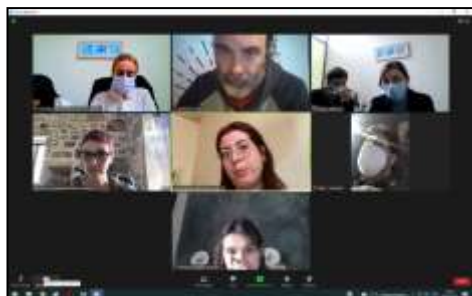
counsellors, the creation of an app to continue using the digital skills acquired during the lockdown. The workshop organised within the CONTINUE project, a KA3 Erasmus Plus action (approved in the call "European Youth Together" as action n.624723-EPP-1-2020-1-DE-EPPKA3-EU-YTH-TOG), of which Youth Europe Service is a partner, was carried out with the participation of learners who interacted actively, working in small groups and then in plenary, showing great interest in the initiative. Moreover, in date 07/04/2022 took place, online, a new event with the Conversations of Change carried out in the project. The online event was organised by People's Voice Media (UK) and took place in English with the participation of young people from various European countries. The CONTINUE project aims at supporting young people living in marginalised situations and the youth workers who support them, through the development of tools and activities that will help young people to find, promote and co-create solutions to the problems they face on average in a bottom-up approach. Furthermore, the second English newsletter produced in the framework of the "CONTINUE" project has been published recently. The English newsletter is available at: https://issuu.com/youtheuropeservice/docs/2nd_newsletter_continue. The partnership that is working on this project is composed of Comparative Research Network EV (Germany - coordinator), People's Voice Media (UK), Crossing Borders Denmark), FAJDP - Porto Federation Youth Associations (Portugal), Per Esemplio (Italy), Artemisszió Foundation (Hungary), Youth Europe Service (Italy) and Active Youth (Lithuania). More information on the project and the activities carried out within the framework of this European action are available at the following link <https://communityreporter.net/users/youtheuropeservice>.



33. Meeting of the "CECIL" project

In date 28/03/2022 took place, online, a new meeting of the project "Circular economy education for the social inclusion of Women" (acronym "CECIL"): it is a 2 years Erasmus+ Cooperative partnership aimed at promoting the Circular Economy and Sustainability among women at risk of exclusion, fostering greater interaction with the European Green Deal and the EU Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025. During the meeting, the partners discussed the development of the project's website and Facebook page. The project, approved under the Erasmus Plus KA220-ADU programme by the National Agency In Portugal as action n.2021-1-PT01-KA220-ADU-000026125, pursues the following specific objectives: to provide adult educators and trainers with skills, competences and tools to involve women (especially in the 35-45 age group) at risk of

exclusion and/or who have not completed their studies, as well as to create retraining paths for the same target group in order to offer new educational opportunities in the field of circular economy and sustainability. The results to be developed will be basically three: the development of a Guide on methods and techniques to promote the circular economy and sustainability in organisations and in the world of work with the development of a training course based on transnational research aimed at identifying needs, barriers and factors of social exclusion to which the most at-risk women are subject; the creation of an interactive tool-kit with workshops



and video tutorials to promote the circular economy; the creation of a network of online operators where good practices, notions and information can be exchanged. The following organisations are part of the partnership Domínio Vivo -Formação E Consultoria, LDA (Portugal - project coordinator), Mine Vaganti NGO (Italy), Center for Education and Innovation (Greece), Youth Europe Service (Italy), Mobilizing Expertise AB (Sweden) and Aidlearn Consultoria EM Recursos Humanos LDA (Portugal).

34. Meeting online and toolkits realised of the project “SPEAK” project

Last weekend took place online a new meeting of the project "Speaking skill Performance Enhancement in entrepreneurial customs for social workers" (acronym SPEAK), an Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnership for adult education initiative approved in Sweden as action n. 2020-1-SE01-KA204-077885. The project is experimenting new ways and innovative competences to help and professionalise social workers. During the meeting, the project partners talked about the national

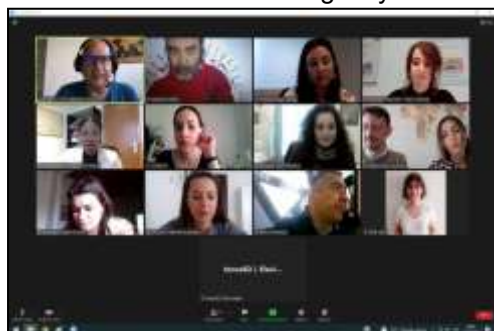


reports developed in all the partner countries, as well as about the Toolkit developed within the project, the English version is available at the following link: https://issuu.com/youtheuropeservice/docs/speak_toolkit_eng. All the interested people can follow the development of this initiative on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SPEAK103210721662026/> or on the project website <https://www.speakproject.eu>.



35. Kick-off meeting of the “Emotional Intelligence for Resiliences” project

In the date 18/04/2022 took place the first online meeting of the project "Emotional Intelligence for Emotional Resilience", an initiative approved within the KA220-ADU actions by the Spanish Erasmus Plus National Agency as action n.2021-1-ES01-KA220-ADU-000026157. During the



meeting the partners introduced themselves and planned the steps to be developed in the next months within the EU initiative. The project (of which the company GODESK is a partner), through the development of various innovative products, is aimed at promoting the importance of emotional intelligence in everyday life, both in a personal and professional perspective, supporting adults with fewer opportunities (i.e. from socially disadvantaged backgrounds such as unemployed, immigrants, refugees, disabled, etc.) to develop skills in managing their emotions and

become more emotionally resilient. The project, coordinated at European level by the Spanish institute INDEPCIE SCA, has a partnership composed of GODESK S.R.L. (Italy), Instituto Ikigai (Spain), Center for Education and Innovation (Greece), Vienna Association of Education Volunteers (Austria) and Avrasya Yenilikçi Toplum Derneği (Turkey).