



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. Commission adopts its Work Programme for 2023

The Commission adopted its 2023 Work Programme. It sets out a bold agenda to respond to the current set of crises affecting the everyday lives of Europeans, while doubling down on the ongoing green and digital transformations, making our European Union more resilient.

In this spirit, the Commission aims at supporting people and businesses – whether by reducing energy prices, securing the supplies critical for our industrial competitiveness and food security, or by reinforcing our social market economy. This Commission Work Programme contains 43 new policy initiatives across all six of the headline ambitions of President **von der Leyen's** Political Guidelines, building on her 2022 State of the Union speech and letter of intent.



Many of the key initiatives in this Work Programme also follow up on the outcomes of the Conference on the Future of Europe. In addition, the new generation of citizens' panels will be part of the Commission's policymaking in certain key areas. The first citizens' panels will address the issues of food waste, learning mobility and virtual worlds. Ursula **von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission, said: *"Over the last year, we have been confronted by a*

collision of crises, brought on by the barbaric Russian invasion of Ukraine. In 2023, we will push forward an ambitious agenda for citizens - tackling high-energy prices to reduce the burden for families and businesses across Europe, while accelerating our green transition. At home and across the globe, we will defend democracy and the rule of law." Maroš **Šefčovič**, Vice-President in charge of Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, said: *"The next Commission Work Programme is driven by our efforts to tackle the most pressing challenges, like the energy crisis, while doubling down on the generational ones. This is also well reflected in our commitment to propose EU measures, boosting Europe's strategic autonomy on critical raw materials, because without them there is simply no green and digital transformation. As Chair of the group on health, I am also proud to say that the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe will be translated into many of our initiatives, with citizens' engagement remaining part of our policymaking. I now invite the European Parliament and the Council to swiftly come to an agreement on key legislative proposals so that we can deliver for our citizens and businesses in these testing times."*

Delivering on six headline ambitions

1. A European Green Deal

Against the backdrop of Russia's war against Ukraine, the Commission will propose in early 2023, amongst other initiatives, a comprehensive reform of the EU's electricity market, including decoupling electricity and gas prices. To help rapidly scale up our green hydrogen economy, the Commission will propose to create a new European Hydrogen Bank, which will invest €3 billion into kick-starting a hydrogen market in the EU. In 2023, the Commission will also take action to reduce waste and the environmental impact of waste, with a focus on food and textile waste, a topic identified during the Conference on the Future of Europe. Similarly, in response to citizens' concerns, the Commission will propose overhauling EU animal welfare laws.

2. A Europe fit for the digital age

To tackle current and future risks of strategic dependencies, the Commission will propose EU measures to ensure adequate and diversified access to critical raw materials needed for Europe's digital and economic resilience. On the 30th anniversary of the Single Market, we will showcase the significant benefits of our Single Market while identifying and addressing implementation gaps. The revision of late payment rules will help reduce burdens for SMEs in a time of economic uncertainty. Our initiative on further expanding and upgrading the use of digital tools and processes in company law will help businesses in the Single Market by simplifying administrative and judicial procedures. The Commission will also propose a common European mobility data space to boost the digitalisation of the mobility sector, while an EU regulatory framework for hyperloop will help prepare us for emerging mobility solutions.

3. An economy that works for people

Taking into account input from the Conference on the Future of Europe, the Commission will carry out a review of our economic governance to ensure it is still fit for purpose. To further

strengthen the Union budget in face of the current urgent challenges, we will also carry out a mid-term review of the EU budget for 2021-2027 and table a second set of new own resources, building on the proposal for a single set of tax rules for doing business in Europe. To ensure the Union's common currency is fit for the digital age, we will table a proposal to lay down the principles of a digital euro before its potential issuance by the European Central Bank. Given the social challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war against Ukraine, we will update our framework for quality traineeships to address issues, such as fair remuneration and access to social protection, to boost Europe's social resilience. This Work Programme has been decided upon in a time of high economic uncertainty. Therefore, we stand ready to re-evaluate after the winter, especially regarding those measures that can affect competitiveness.

4. A stronger Europe in the world

The cruel reality of war confirms the need to ramp up EU efforts in the area of security and defence. To defend our interests, our democratic principles, and peace and stability, we will present the EU space strategy for security and defence, as well as a new EU maritime security strategy. We will also update our sanctions toolbox to include corruption. We will propose a new agenda to reinvigorate our relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. At the same time, we will continue our cooperation with candidate countries in the Western Balkans, along with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, in view of their future accession to the Union.

5. Promoting our European way of life

With only 15% of young people having undertaken studies, training or apprenticeships in another EU country, the Commission will propose to update the current EU learning mobility framework, to enable students to move more easily between education systems. As 2023 will be the European Year of Skills, we want to attract highly qualified professionals to sectors where Europe experiences workforce shortages, through proposals on recognising the qualifications of non-EU nationals. A targeted initiative will promote one of the most strategically important skills, through a Cybersecurity Skills Academy. For a resilient and secure Schengen area of borderless travel, we will propose laws on digitalising EU travel documents and facilitating travel. To build further the European Health Union, the Commission will propose a comprehensive approach to mental health, one of the key initiatives from the Conference on the Future of Europe, as well as a revised recommendation on smoke-free environments, and a new recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers.



6. A new push for European democracy

Democracy is the bedrock of our Union. In 2023, the Commission will put forward a defence of democracy package, including an initiative on the protection of the EU's democratic space from outside interests. We will continue building a Union of equality by proposing a European disability card that will ensure the mutual recognition of disability status across all Member States. We will also continue our work on addressing gaps in the legal protection against discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin. In line with our better regulation principles, the Commission will continue to identify simplification and burden reduction potential as well as to support sustainability. To complement the systematic effort to identify and remove red tape, a high-level group of stakeholders will further contribute to targeted streamlining of the acquis affecting citizens and businesses.

Next steps

The Commission will start discussions with the Parliament and Council to establish a list of joint legislative priorities on which co-legislators agree to take swift action. The Commission will continue to support and work with Member States to ensure the implementation of new and existing EU policies and laws, and will not hesitate to uphold EU law through infringement proceedings where needed.

Background

Every year, the Commission adopts a Work Programme setting out the list of actions it will take in the coming year. The Work Programme informs the public and the co-legislators of our political commitments to present new initiatives, withdraw pending proposals and review existing EU legislation. It does not cover the ongoing work of the Commission to implement its role as guardian of the Treaties, enforcing existing legislation or the regular initiatives that the Commission adopts every year. The Commission's 2023 Work Programme is the result of close cooperation with the European Parliament, Member States and the EU consultative bodies.

2. Additional proposals to fight high energy prices

The Commission proposing a new emergency regulation to address high gas prices in the EU and ensure security of supply this winter.

This will be done through joint gas purchasing, price limiting mechanisms on the TTF gas exchange, new measures on transparent infrastructure use and solidarity between Member States, and continuous efforts to reduce gas demand. The regulation contains the following main elements:

- Aggregation of EU demand and joint gas purchasing to negotiate better prices and reduce the risk of Member States outbidding each other on the global market, while ensuring security of supply across the entire EU;
- Advancing work to create a new LNG pricing benchmark by March 2023; and in the short term proposing a price correction mechanism to establish a dynamic price limit for transactions on the TTF gas exchange, and a temporary collar or bandwidth to prevent extreme price spikes in derivatives markets;
- Default solidarity rules between Member States in case of supply shortages, extending the solidarity obligation to Member States without direct pipeline connection to involve also those with LNG facilities; and a proposal to create a mechanism for gas allocation for Member States affected by a regional or Union gas supply emergency.

In combination with already agreed measures on gas and electricity demand reduction, gas storage, and redistribution of surplus energy sector profits, these new steps will improve stability



on European gas markets this winter and beyond. The measures will also help to further mitigate the price pressure felt by European citizens and industry, while ensuring security of supply and a functioning internal market. The Commission will continue its work in other areas, including revision of the State aid Temporary Crisis Framework later this month, and further development of ways to limit the impact of high gas prices on electricity prices. In addition, the Commission will carry out a needs assessment on REPowerEU to speed up the clean energy transition and avoid

fragmentation in the single market, with a view to making proposals to enhance the EU financial firepower for REPowerEU. The Commission is also proposing a targeted flexible use of Cohesion Policy funding to tackle the impact of the current energy crisis on citizens and businesses, using up to 10% of the total national allocation for 2014-2020, worth close to €40 billion.

Joint purchasing

While the EU has made strong progress on filling its gas storage for this winter, achieving over 92% filling as of today, we need to prepare for possible further disruption, and lay a sound foundation for the following year. Therefore, we propose to equip the EU with new legal tools to jointly purchase gas. The Commission would contract a service provider to organise demand aggregation at EU level, grouping together gas import needs and seeking offers on the market to match the demand. We propose a mandatory participation by Member States' undertakings in the EU demand aggregation to meet at least 15% of their respective storage filling targets. Companies would be allowed to form a European gas purchasing consortium, in compliance with EU competition rules. Joint purchasing will help smaller Member States and companies in particular, which are in a less favourable situation as buyers, to access gas volumes at better conditions. The Regulation also includes provisions to enhance transparency of intended and concluded gas supply purchases, in order to assess whether the objectives of security of supply and energy solidarity are met. The Commission should be informed before the conclusion of any gas purchase or memorandum of understanding above a volume of 5TWh (just over 500 million cubic meters) and may issue a recommendation in case of a potentially negative impact on the functioning of joint purchasing, the internal market, the security of supply or energy solidarity.

Addressing high gas exchange prices

Although wholesale prices have decreased since the peak of summer 2022, they remain unsustainably high for a growing number of Europeans. Building on our previous work with Member States to mitigate the impact of high electricity prices and redistribute excessive energy sector profits to citizens and industry, we are proposing a more targeted intervention in market

gas prices. Many gas contracts in Europe are indexed to the main European gas exchange, the TTF, which no longer accurately reflects the price of LNG transactions in the EU. The Commission is therefore developing a new complementary price benchmark with ACER to address this systemic challenge. The new benchmark will provide for stable and predictable pricing for LNG transactions. Under the proposed Regulation, the Commission would task ACER to create an objective daily price assessment tool and subsequently a benchmark that could be used by energy market operators to index the price in their gas contracts. While this benchmark is being developed, the Commission proposes to put in place a mechanism to limit prices via the main European gas exchange, the TTF, to be triggered when needed. The price correction mechanism would establish, on a temporary basis, a dynamic price limit for transactions on the TTF. Transactions at a price higher than the dynamic limit would not be allowed to take place in the TTF. This will help avoid extreme volatility and excessive prices. In addition, to limit excessive price volatility and prevent extreme price spikes in the energy derivatives markets, the Commission proposes introducing a new temporary intra-day price spike collar to be established by EU derivatives exchanges. This mechanism will protect energy operators from large intra-day price movements. To ease the liquidity issues many energy companies currently face in meeting their margin requirements when using derivative markets, the Commission has adopted new rules for market participants, expanding the list of eligible collateral on a temporary basis to non-cash collaterals, including government guarantees. Secondly, the Commission has adopted new rules increasing the clearing threshold from €3 billion to €4 billion. Below this threshold, non-financial firms will not be subject to margin requirements on their OTC (over-the-counter) derivatives. Both these measures will provide much needed relief for companies, while also maintaining financial stability. The introduction of these measures follows extensive consultation with European and national regulators, as well as stakeholders and market participants. Finally, ACER and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) are enhancing their cooperation, by creating a new joint Task Force, to strengthen their capabilities to monitor and detect possible market manipulation and abuse in Europe's spot and derivative energy markets, as a precautionary measure to protect the stability of the market.

Solidarity and demand reduction

The Commission is closely monitoring demand reduction measures. Preliminary analysis on the basis of reporting by Member States shows that in August and September EU gas consumption would be around 15% lower than the average of the previous 5 years. Similar efforts will be needed every month until March in order to comply with the Council Regulation. Member States will report every two months on their progress. The Commission stands ready to trigger the EU Alert or review such targets if current measures prove insufficient. To reinforce preparedness for possible emergencies, the Commission also proposes measures allowing Member States to further reduce non-essential consumption to ensure that gas is being supplied to essential services and industries, and to extend solidarity protection to cover critical gas volumes for electricity generation. This should under no circumstances affect the consumption of households that are vulnerable customers. As not all Member States have put in place the necessary bilateral solidarity agreements, the Commission proposes setting default rules. This will ensure that any Member State facing an emergency will receive gas from others in exchange for fair compensation. The obligation to provide solidarity will be extended to non-connected Member States with LNG facilities provided that the gas can be transported to the Member State where it is needed. To optimise the use of LNG and pipeline infrastructure the Commission proposes new tools to provide information on available capacity, and new mechanisms to ensure that capacity is not booked and left unused by market operators. The Commission is also proposing a Council Recommendation on critical infrastructure protection in light of the suspected sabotage of the Nord Stream 1 & 2 gas pipelines.



Background

The Commission has been tackling the issue of rising energy prices for the past year, and Member States have deployed many measures at national level which the Commission provided through the Energy Prices Toolbox adopted in October 2021. The energy market situation has worsened considerably since Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its further weaponisation of its energy resources to blackmail Europe, which exacerbated an already tight supply situation after

the COVID-19 pandemic. As Russia has continued to manipulate gas supplies, cutting off deliveries to Europe for unjustified reasons, markets have become tighter and more nervous. The Commission therefore expanded on the Energy Prices Toolbox in Spring 2022 with the Communication on short-term market interventions and long-term improvements to the electricity market design and the REPowerEU Plan. The Commission proposed new minimum gas storage obligations and gas demand reduction targets to ease the balance between supply and demand in Europe, and Member States swiftly adopted these proposals before the summer. Prices increased further over the summer months, which were also marked by extreme weather conditions caused by climate change. In particular, droughts and extreme heat have had an impact on electricity generation by hydropower and nuclear, further reducing supply. Therefore, in September the Commission proposed and Member States agreed additional measures based on Article 122 of the Treaty to reduce electricity demand and capture unexpected energy sector profits to distribute more revenues to citizens and industry. This proposals complement the steps already taken, and continue our work to tackle the exceptional situation on global and European energy markets. The Commission has also published the first part of its annual State of the Energy Union Report.

Quotes by Members of the College of Commissioners

President Ursula **von der Leyen** said: *"Russia's war on Ukraine has severe consequences on global and European energy markets. We act in unity and have prepared well for the winter ahead, filling our gas storages, saving energy, and finding new suppliers. Now we can tackle excessive and volatile prices with more security. We will introduce a temporary mechanism to limit excessive prices this winter, while we develop a new benchmark so that LNG will be traded at a fairer price. We provide legal tools for joint EU purchasing of gas, ensure solidarity in security of supply for all Member States and negotiate with our reliable gas suppliers to secure gas at affordable prices. But we must also accelerate investment in renewables and infrastructure. Investing more and faster in the clean energy transition is our structural response to this energy crisis."* Executive Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** said: *"The next few winters will be tough, but this package helps to keep European families warm and industry going. By*



taking measures now and developing the tools to buy gas together instead of outbidding each other, we can again head into the next heating season with enough gas in storage. In response to the extremely volatile prices caused by Putin's weaponisation of energy, the Commission is also working to return stability to the energy market. But cheap fossil fuels will not return and we need to accelerate our transition to renewables.

This is why we need to consider ways to fund additional investment in Europe's green energy transition via REPowerEU." Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: *"In crisis situations with supply shortages, joining forces to negotiate can be an effective way to achieve better prices and better conditions. In the context of the current gas crisis, we stand ready to accompany firms willing to enter into a joint purchasing consortium, subject to safeguards and in line with our competition rules. Our goal is to ensure the full benefits of joint purchasing can be reaped and further passed through."* Commissioner for Energy Kadri **Simson** said: *"Russia's invasion of Ukraine has fundamentally changed the situation on the EU energy market. Tools and rules that served us well before are no longer adequate to ensure secure and affordable energy supply. To tackle this crisis effectively, we need to be able to buy gas together, to target excessively high prices, and to ensure solidarity between our Member States in case of shortages. The steps we have taken so far are working, with prices easing and demand decreasing. But this proposals are needed to better prepare for this winter and beyond."* Commissioner for Financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union Mairead **McGuinness** said: *"Our measures are significant for energy operators and energy derivative markets, while maintaining stability in the financial system. These time-limited and targeted measures focus on easing the liquidity stress that some energy firms have faced in meeting their margin requirements and on tackling extreme price volatility on energy derivative markets. We have worked closely with ESMA, the EBA and ACER, as well as national energy and financial regulators. Russia's brutal war on Ukraine is impacting energy markets with consequences also for consumers and businesses, which we are addressing today."*

3. Enforcing EU laws: delivering the benefits to citizens

The European Commission adopted a Communication on the enforcement of EU law, setting out its work to ensure that EU law is complied with and citizens and businesses can benefit from the same rights across the EU.

It is thanks to the correct application of EU law that people can breathe cleaner air, travel and work freely anywhere in the EU or get reimbursed for healthcare received abroad. EU law has a real impact on the everyday life of Europeans. This is why enforcement of EU law is a top priority



for the Commission. The Commission's efforts to promote compliance start at an early stage when the EU law is designed and adopted. The Commission has developed a number of measures to support Member States, including practical guidance, funding and monitoring, helping to prevent EU law breaches from happening in the first place. At the same time, when EU law is breached, the Commission does not hesitate to take legal action by launching infringement procedures. In recent years, the Commission has initiated ground-breaking procedures to protect

fundamental values: equality, justice and citizenship. President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen said: *"EU law is what makes the EU – free, fair, and equal. It is the driving force behind a greener, more prosperous and digital Europe, where citizens can feel safe and protected. This should be the right for every European without exceptions. This is why we need comprehensive, smart and strategic enforcement of EU law to make sure that Europeans and business can reap the full benefits of what EU has to offer."* The Communication:

1. Working together with Member States

As the Guardian of the Treaties, the Commission has central responsibility for the enforcement of EU law. However, cooperation with Member States is crucial for that enforcement. The application and enforcement of EU law is the result of a combined effort of various actors like national courts, parliaments, regulatory bodies, consumer or data protection authorities, as well as the civil society and the public. In particular, **national courts**, which are EU courts when applying EU law, have a particularly important role in the enforcement chain since it is through them that citizens can have effective access to redress.

2. Monitoring and early detection of EU law breaches

Increased transparency and monitoring have proven to be effective in encouraging Member States to move faster towards compliance as well as raising awareness among the wider public. The Single Market Scoreboard, the EU Justice Scoreboard, the European Semester's country-specific reports, the Rule of Law Report, the Environmental Implementation Review or Schengen evaluation are only some of the tools that help to identify potential issues, where enforcement of EU law might be needed.

3. Smart enforcement and preventing breaches from the outset

To prevent diverging interpretations of newly adopted EU law and to foster a common understanding of existing rules, the Commission provides Member States with practical guidance, meetings and trainings. Beyond the technical assistance the Commission also provides financial support. While the funding available under the European regional and structural funds or the Recovery and Resilience Facility are not enforcement tools, they can drive change and accelerate the implementation of EU law.

4. Strategic enforcement and pre-infringement process (EU Pilot)

The Commission's goal is to ensure that the benefits of EU law are enjoyed by citizens and businesses as quickly as possible. This is why in some cases, also those more technical, the Commission may decide to use a pre-infringement process, known as EU Pilot, which is likely to lead to swifter compliance than a formal infringement procedure. Over time, the EU Pilot process has proven its value. In 2021, over 80% of EU Pilot processes were successfully resolved. For those cases that do not succeed, infringement proceedings are launched.

5. Tackling breaches of EU law through legal action

The Commission's use of infringement procedures has evolved over time, giving priority to tackling breaches with the biggest impact on the interests of citizens and businesses. The Commission doubled down on issues concerning environment, digital transition as well as fundamental rights. In fact, the Commission has taken unprecedented legal steps to protect EU's fundamental values, including non-discrimination of LGBT community, media freedom, fight

against racism and xenophobia, and judicial independence. In addition, a larger proportion of cases were opened upon the Commission's own investigations, with a steady increase over the past five years despite major crises. Overall, the infringement procedures are bringing results with over 90% of cases being resolved before a referral to the Court of Justice becomes necessary.

6. Fast and effective reactions to crisis

Crises or emergency situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, put the Member States' full compliance to the test. The Commission has used a wide variety of steps to help Member States adapt to changing circumstances, from proposing new legislation, adapting the existing rules, to offering guidance and financial support. Infringement procedures have also been used where necessary, for instance to prevent export restrictions and to protect the rights of consumers.

Next Steps

Enforcement of EU law is not a one-off event but requires steady and sustained efforts by Member States and the Commission to promote the consistent and effective application of EU rules. A stocktaking exercise is currently under way within the Commission and with Member States to ensure that the best possible enforcement tools are available to make EU law work in practice. Particular attention is given to better monitoring of the proper application of Regulations, and to further increasing transparency of our enforcement activities. The Commission will report on its outcome in 2023.

Background

The full, swift, and consistent implementation and application of EU law by Member States is key to make sure that people and businesses in the EU enjoy the benefits of commonly agreed rules as soon as possible. It ensures that people can count on their rights being respected at all times, wherever they live in the EU. This is particularly true when it comes to our shared values, the rule of law, security, the EU's four freedoms, and the functioning of the Single Market. The European Commission enforces EU laws and upholds the Treaties, as the 'Guardian of the Treaties'. This overarching role gives the Commission central responsibility for enforcement. This is the basis on which the EU can make the most of the internal market, drive our transition to a greener and more digital Europe, protect and promote our values and the security of our Union, and ensure equal rights for all. Key work streams such as the annual Rule of Law reports, the European Democracy Action Plan and the renewed strategy for the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights combined represent a major intensification of work to strengthen the EU's legal and democratic foundations.

4. Investing in education and training

The Commission publishes the final report of the Expert Group on Quality Investment in Education and Training, "Investing in our future: quality investment in education and training".

The experts' report focuses on how to best invest public money in four major areas of education and training expenditure in the EU: teachers and trainers, education infrastructure, digital learning, and equity and inclusion. The expert group identifies promising education and training practices in national contexts, which can serve as inspiration for governments and education institutions across the EU. These include initiatives to reduce teachers' work-related stress, promote their well-being, and raise their pedagogical digital competences; one-to-one tuition and peer tutoring programmes; school building and renovation programmes to increase the quality of facilities; and quality early childhood education and care. Such national practices and reforms of education policies are regularly shared in the context of the European Education Area strategic framework through the EEA Working Groups, to inspire positive change throughout the European Union. Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**, welcomes the report: *"We need to ensure that all young Europeans receive the best education possible. Promoting quality investment in education and training is a key political priority for the European Union and is essential to achieving the European Education Area by 2025. The findings of this report will feed into our work at the Commission, and we will continue*



to promote a real policy evaluation culture in the Member States to support quality investment in education and training, and make the best possible use of the resources we have available.” Findings also underline the importance of evaluating education policies within each country, which in turn could guide future investment decisions for the benefit of students, teachers and the whole education community. While the education and training systems differ from country to country, EU Member States face common challenges in education and training. At a moment when the EU channels more funding than ever into education and training, the report also highlights the challenges that must be overcome to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of spending and in which common approaches might be beneficial: The lack of solid data on the impact of targeted investments on actual learning outcomes. More evidence is needed, and the Commission is ready to work on this by supporting education policy evaluation. There is a need to develop more robust evaluations of national education policies in general. This includes a need for expertise on evaluation methods among policy makers, and disseminate findings at EU level. To improve quality investment in education and training in the EU, the Commission will launch before the end of this year a new initiative to put flexible but targeted tools, methods, and expertise at the disposal of Member States, to support them in the evaluation of their education policies.

Background

The Commission Expert Group on Quality Investment in education and training was launched in May 2021 to identify the policy options that have the potential to boost education outcomes and inclusiveness, while improving the efficiency of public spending. The group has also worked on an evaluation methodology that relevant authorities and other key stakeholders may use on a voluntary basis to evaluate their education policies. An interim report was published on 19 January 2022 and its preliminary findings were discussed with Member States' representatives, key stakeholders, and international organisations the same day in a dedicated workshop. Comments received have been integrated in the final report.

5. Critical Infrastructure Resilience: stronger rules

The Commission is proposing to strengthen the resilience of EU critical infrastructure.

The proposal for a Council Recommendation builds on the 5-point plan for resilient critical infrastructure presented by President **von der Leyen** at the European Parliament on 5 October. European critical entities are more interconnected and interdependent, which makes them stronger and more efficient but also more vulnerable in case of an incident. Russia's war of



aggression against Ukraine has brought new risks, physical and cyber-attacks, often combined as a hybrid threat. The sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines and other recent incidents made it clear that the resilience of the EU critical infrastructure is under threat. Action is urgently needed to step up the EU's capacity to protect itself against attacks on critical infrastructure, both in the EU and its direct neighbourhood. As a key part of the EU's work to build a Security Union, the Commission proposed already in 2020 updated rules to

increase the resilience of critical entities. With the recently-agreed Directive on the resilience of critical infrastructure (CER Directive) and the Revised Directive on the security of network and information system (NIS2 Directive), the EU will soon have an updated and comprehensive legal framework to strengthen both the physical and cyber-resilience of critical infrastructure. However, in view of the fast-evolving threat landscape, the application of the new rules needs to be accelerated. The draft Recommendation aims at maximising and accelerating the work to protect critical infrastructure in three priority areas: preparedness, response and international cooperation. For that purpose, it foresees a stronger support and coordination role by the Commission to enhance preparedness and response against the current threats as well as a strengthened cooperation among Member States, and with neighbouring third countries. Priority should be given to the key sectors of energy, digital infrastructure, transport and space. The EU has a particular role to play in respect of infrastructure that crosses borders or that provides cross-border services and thus impacting the interests of several Member States. Clear identification of such infrastructure and entities operating them and collective commitment to

protect them is in the interest of all Member States. The Commission encourages Member States to conduct stress tests of entities operating critical infrastructure, based on a common set of principles developed at Union level. The stress test exercise will be complemented by the production of a Blueprint on critical infrastructure incidents and crises. This will describe and set out the objectives and modes of cooperation between the Member States and EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies in responding to incidents against critical infrastructure, in particular where these entail significant disruptions of the provision of essential services for the internal market. This Blueprint will be developed by the Commission in cooperation with the HRVP, in consultation with Member States and with the support of relevant agencies. It will make use of the existing Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) arrangements for the coordination of the response. The draft Recommendation aims to strengthen the capacity of early warning and response to disruptions of critical infrastructure through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. The Commission will regularly review the adequacy and readiness of the existing response capacity and it will organise tests of cross-sectoral cooperation at EU level. The draft Recommendation also calls for strengthened cooperation with key partners and neighbouring countries on the resilience of critical infrastructure. The Commission and the High Representative will strengthen coordination with NATO through the EU-NATO structured dialogue on resilience and will set up a Task Force for this purpose. Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinas**, said: *“Critical infrastructures have become increasingly interlinked as well as mutually dependent. Be it pipelines, transport ways, or undersea cables, a disruption in one country can have a cascading effect with ramifications of the Union as a whole. The Commission acted early on in our mandate to build a robust system to protect infrastructure online and off. The Nord Stream sabotage and other recent incidents show we need to accelerate the implementation of this new system and build strong crisis coordination mechanisms to act today.”* Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson** said: *“In view of fast-evolving threats, with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the sabotage of Nord Stream and the German rail network – it's clear we need to accelerate our work to protect our infrastructure. The European Parliament and the Council already agreed to deepen the legislative framework to strengthen the resilience of entities operating critical infrastructure. However, with the threats we see today, we need to accelerate the application of the new rules and intensify our work with additional measures and closer cooperation.”* Commissioner for Internal Market, Thierry **Breton** added: *“The geopolitical reality pushes us to strengthen the resilience of European critical infrastructure in all dimensions, cyber and physical. The two new directives, NIS2 and CER are 2 sides of the same coin that we want to achieve even faster. We have already laid the foundations with cooperation, coordination and preparedness in the cyber domain and that can serve as inspiration. The Commission has also set-up a short-term emergency scheme to support Member States in boosting their cyber preparedness for instance by supporting penetration testing.”*



Background

In the summer of 2022, the co-legislators reached a political agreement to deepen the EU legislative framework to strengthen the resilience of entities operating critical infrastructure. Agreements were reached on the Directive on the resilience of critical infrastructure (CER Directive) and the Revised Directive on the security of network and information systems (NIS2 Directive). The new legislation is expected to come into force in late 2022 or early 2023, and transposition and application should be prioritised by Member States. The CER Directive puts forward a new framework for cooperation, as well as obligations for Member States and critical entities aimed at strengthening the physical non-cyber resilience. Eleven sectors are now covered: energy, transport, digital infrastructure, banking, financial market infrastructure, health, drinking water, waste water, public administration, space, and food. The NIS2 Directive will put in place a broad sectoral coverage of cybersecurity obligations. This will encompass a new requirement for Member States, to include, where relevant, undersea cables in their cybersecurity strategies. Following the acts of sabotage against the Nord Stream pipelines, on 5 October 2022, President **von der Leyen** presented a 5-point plan for resilient critical infrastructure. Its key elements are: enhancing preparedness; working with Member States with a view to stress test their critical infrastructure, starting with the energy sector and then followed by other high-risk sectors; increasing the response capacity in particular, through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism; making good use of satellite capacity to detect potential threats; and strengthening cooperation with NATO and key partners on the resilience of critical infrastructure.

6. Commission kick-starts work on the European Year of Skills

Following the announcement by President Ursula von der Leyen in her 2022 State of the Union address, the Commission has adopted its proposal to make 2023 the European Year of Skills.

The green and digital transitions are opening up new opportunities for people and the EU economy. Having the relevant skills empowers people to successfully navigate labour market changes and to fully engage in society and democracy. This will ensure that nobody is left behind and the economic recovery as well as the green and digital transitions are socially fair and just. A workforce with the skills that are in demand also contributes to sustainable growth, leads to more innovation and improves companies' competitiveness. However, currently more



than three quarters of companies in the EU report difficulties in finding workers with the necessary skills, and latest figures from Eurostat suggest that only 37% of adults undertake training on a regular basis. The Digital Economy and Society Index shows that 4 out of 10 adults and every third person who works in Europe lack basic digital skills. In addition, already in 2021, 28 occupations ranging from construction and healthcare to engineering and IT had shortages, showing a growing demand for both high and low-skilled workers. There is also low representation of

women in tech-related professions and studies, with only 1 in 6 IT specialists and 1 in 3 STEM graduates being women. To encourage lifelong learning, Member States have endorsed the EU 2030 social targets that at least 60% of adults should participate in training every year, already presenting their national contribution to meeting this target. This is also important to reach the employment rate target of at least 78% by 2030. The 2030 Digital Compass sets the EU target that by 2030, at least 80% of all adults should have at least basic digital skills, and there should be 20 million employed ICT specialists in the EU, while more women should be encouraged to take up such jobs.

The European Year of Skills – boosting competitiveness, participation and talent

With the European Year of Skills, in cooperation with the European Parliament, Member States, social partners, public and private employment services, chambers of commerce and industry, education and training providers, and workers and companies all together, the Commission proposes to give a fresh impetus to lifelong learning by: Promoting increased, and more effective and inclusive investment in training and upskilling to harness the full potential of the European workforce, and to support people in changing from one job to another. Making sure that skills are relevant for labour market needs, by also cooperating with social partners and companies. Matching people's aspirations and skill sets with opportunities on the job market, especially for the green and digital transition and the economic recovery. A special focus will be given to activate more people for the labour market, in particular women and young people, especially those not in education, employment or training. Attracting people from third countries with the skills needed by the EU, including by strengthening learning opportunities and mobility and facilitating the recognition of qualifications. To meet these objectives, the Commission will promote upskilling and reskilling opportunities, for instance by highlighting relevant EU initiatives, including EU funding possibilities, to support their take-up, implementation and delivery on the ground. Events and awareness-raising campaigns will also be organised across the EU to support mutual learning of partners in up- and reskilling. The proposed Year also aims to help to further develop skills intelligence tools and promote tools and instruments for increased transparency and easier recognition of qualifications, including qualifications awarded outside the EU. To ensure the coordination of relevant activities at national level, the Commission calls on Member States to appoint a national coordinator for the European Year of Skills.

EU initiatives to support skills development

For the European Year of Skills, we can build on the many EU initiatives already ongoing to support skills and increase their take-up, including: The European Skills Agenda is the framework for EU skills policy cooperation and will continue to help individuals and businesses develop more and better skills and to apply them. As part of the Skills Agenda, under the Pact for Skills so far, more than 700 organisations have signed up and 12 large-scale partnerships in strategic sectors have been set up with pledges to help upskill up to 6 million people. The Structured Dialogue with the Member States on Digital Education and Skills. The

Commission has also proposed new initiatives to address EU skills shortages and improve migration cooperation. The roll-out of an EU Talent Pool and of Talent Partnerships with selected third partners will help match the skills of candidates to work in Europe with labour market needs. This is a key deliverable under the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. The New European Innovation Agenda, adopted in July, proposes a flagship initiative and set of actions to create the right framework conditions for our talents. The European strategy for universities, adopted in January, proposes a series of 50 actions that are key to develop high level and future-proof skills for a wide range of learners, including lifelong learners, for them to become creative and critical thinkers, problem solvers and active and responsible citizens. The European Digital Skills and Jobs Platform is an initiative launched under the Connecting Europe Facility Programme. It offers information and resources on digital skills such as a digital skills self-assessment tool, as well as training and funding opportunities. The EU Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition tackles the digital skills gap by bringing together Member States, social partners, companies, non-profit organisations and education providers to raise awareness and encourage organisations to take different actions to encourage digital skills training such as taking a pledge to boost digital skills.

EU funding and assistance to invest into skills

Significant EU funding and technical support is available to support Member States' investment in up- and reskilling, including: The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) with a budget of more than €99 billion for 2021-2027 is the EU's main instrument for investing in people. The Recovery and Resilience Facility can support Member States' reforms and investments, including in the area of skills and jobs. In the national recovery and resilience plans endorsed by the Commission and the Council so far, around 20% of the social expenditure is dedicated to "employment and skills". The Digital Europe Programme's €580 million for development of advanced digital skills. It provides strategic funding and, among others, it supports the development of a skilled talent pool of digital experts, while at the same time enhancing cooperation between EU Member States and stakeholders in digital skills and jobs. Horizon Europe underpins skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and innovators notably through its Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, the European Innovation Council and the European Institute for Technology. Erasmus+ with a budget €26.2 billion supports, amongst others, the personal and professional development of learners, staff and institutions in vocational education and training through funding mobility activities and partnerships for cooperation across Europe. It also funds European Universities which are pioneering the development of micro-credentials for training, up-skilling and re-skilling. Additional programmes that can support skills development include the InvestEU programme, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for displaced workers, the European Regional Development Fund, the Just Transition Fund, the European Solidarity Corps, the Programme for Environment and climate action (LIFE), the Modernisation Fund, the Technical Support Instrument, and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument.



Members of the College said:

Executive Vice-President for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age, Margrethe **Vestager**, said: *"Skills are an essential if we are to do what we want with technology. Managing digital life - like paying bills, asking for parking permits etc. - takes knowledge for us as citizens. Creating solutions for the society with technology that helps us in our daily life's takes expertise. We have decided on goals, now is the time to take action. The European Year of Skills will help us focus our efforts on enabling people to learn."* Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinas**, said: *"Our Union is an area of freedom, values, opportunities and solidarity unique in the world. Attracting the people with the skills needed for the EU, including by facilitating the recognition of their qualifications, will be a key priority for the European Year of Skills. Furthermore, skills acquired in Europe can be transferred to other countries, and Europe can play a strong role in transferring knowledge and new knowledge to where they are needed most."* Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicholas **Schmit**, said: *"Skills mean jobs – quality jobs. During the European Year of Skills, we have an opportunity to connect the dots between labour market-oriented training and labour shortages. To make sure that the transition to a carbon-neutral economy is truly fair and inclusive, we need massive and immediate investment in people's skills. I am confident that having 2023 as the European Year of Skills will have a significant effect in pushing forward the skills revolution we need in Europe."* Commissioner for Research, Innovation, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**,

said: *“Building on the successes of the 2022 European Year of Youth, next year will be about equipping people with the relevant skills to match the labour market needs. This goes hand in hand with training. With the European Year of Skills, we will support increased, more efficient and more inclusive funding for re- and upskilling as well as training, with the aim to ensure our talents develop their full potential.”* Commissioner for Internal Market, Thierry **Breton**, said: *“Europe’s strength resides in its talent, including engineers, researchers and entrepreneurs. To achieve our Digital Decade and Green Deal goals, we want to support our companies, in particular SMEs, in hiring, training and keeping talent. We are creating partnerships for skills in the industrial ecosystems, from the automotive, aerospace and defence, to tourism. The European Year of Skills will make the European skills offensive even stronger.”*

Next steps

The European Parliament and the Council will now discuss the Commission's proposal, with the opinions of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions taken into account.

Background

President **von der Leyen** proposed in her 2022 State of the Union address to make 2023 the European Year of Skills to strengthen our competitiveness, better focus our investments, cooperate with companies and match these needs with people's aspirations as well as attract talents to our continent. The proposal for a European Year of Skills is also listed in the State of the Union Letter of Intent as an initiative for 2023.

7. 2022 Report on migration and asylum

This report presents key developments in the area of migration and asylum, and it takes stock of the progress achieved in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum in the past year.

It identifies key challenges ahead, highlighting the need for further progress towards a responsible and fair migration management system in the EU.

From Russia's war against Ukraine causing the largest forced displacement of people in Europe since the Second World War, to the instrumentalisation of migration for political purposes by the Belarusian regime, through a pandemic and unprecedented travel restrictions, all alongside continued and even growing pressure on traditional migratory routes – the EU has over the last year been faced with a series of challenges with major repercussions for migration, asylum and border management. In each instance, the EU has shown itself able to react quickly, with concrete solidarity and effective coordination. Nevertheless, these developments have also been



a vivid reminder that structural reforms to the EU's asylum and migration system are needed to equip the EU to address both crisis situations and longer-term trends. Vice-president **Schinus** said: *“When faced with dramatic events having major repercussions for migration, asylum and border management, the EU has shown the combined strength and collective political will to act quickly and resolutely. Outside the EU, determined and united EU action can bring impressive results. Within the EU, the kind of solidarity we showed to Ukrainians must continue to be present in our migration debate and to inspire our future*

actions.” Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**, said: *“Ahead of the upcoming Justice and Home Affairs Council, the Commission is presenting this report which highlights clearly the urgent need to Europeanise migration policy. As the migration response to the illegal invasion of Ukraine showed, a joint European response works. The more than 4 million Ukrainians who have been given practical, meaningful help, would agree. Effective external border controls, while respecting fundamental rights, helping those in need and looking after our long-term labour needs, requires Member States to recognise that we can only make progress on migration policy by working together.”*

Situational picture

The Commission continues to monitor developments along the main migratory routes: The Central Mediterranean route remains the most frequently used route. Almost all arrivals were to Italy, with Malta seeing a substantial decrease. Irregular arrivals along the Eastern Mediterranean route doubled compared to 2021, mostly due to heightened migratory pressure in

Cyprus, which currently accounts for roughly 60% of arrivals along the route. On the Western Mediterranean/Atlantic route, Algeria and Morocco/Western Sahara remain the main countries of departure towards mainland Spain and the Canary Islands. Along the Western Balkans route, there were over 86 000 detected irregular border crossings in the first eight months of 2022, nearly three times more than in 2021 and more than ten times the total in the same period in 2019. Given the sharp increase of arrivals, the Commission is monitoring the situation via the Blueprint Network with increased vigilance and is stepping up engagement with partners in the Western Balkans as well as with the most affected EU Member States to address the situation. The situation at the Eastern border with Belarus continues to be stable, with a significantly lower number of irregular border crossings than at the peak of the instrumentalisation crisis in 2021.

Key findings of the report

This report takes stock of the progress achieved and the key developments in the area of migration and asylum over the past year, notably highlighting: Unprecedented solidarity with Ukraine: Europe has offered an unprecedented welcome to millions of people fleeing the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, through the first-ever activation of the Temporary Protection Directive; the setting up of a Solidarity Platform and the implementation of a 10-point plan for a coordinated European response (see factsheet). Strong external border management: As a core part of the approach of the Pact, strong focus has been paid to ensuring external border management through the implementation of the new IT architecture and interoperability; important steps in building a common EU system of return including through the appointment of a Return Coordinator; and enforcement of a strategic and structured visa policy. Working with international partners: Over the past year, the EU has stepped up its work to pursue mutually beneficial cooperation in the area of migration. The EU is a leading global actor and donor in improving the protection and assistance to forcibly displaced people and their hosts, saving lives and laying the foundations for durable solutions. At the same time, there has been progress in addressing issues of returns, readmission, border management and smuggling networks in partnerships with key third countries that reflect a balance of their needs and EU interests. Countering hybrid threats: Timely, resolute and united EU outreach to partners can bring impressive results, as demonstrated by the response to the Belarusian regime's instrumentalisation of migrants. The Commission worked with countries of origin and transit, as well as with airline companies and civil aviation authorities, to build a coalition to counter this hybrid attack.



New Pact on Migration and Asylum

The EU institutions are on good track to making progress on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, also supported by the Council Presidencies and the European Parliament. The Pact offers the comprehensive approach needed to manage migration in an effective and humane way. The EU Agency for Asylum, succeeding the European Asylum Support Office, stepped up its operations in January 2022 when the Regulation establishing the Agency entered into force.

At the informal Justice and Home Affairs Council of 3 February 2022, the Presidency proposed a step-by-step approach aimed at ultimately leading to a comprehensive European migration, border and asylum policy. In May 2022, the Return Coordinator took office at the Commission to promote a more coherent and effective approach to returns. In June 2022, under the French Presidency, Member States agreed on negotiation mandates for the Screening and Eurodac regulations. These are key proposals for better and more effective procedures to help tackle irregular migration, improve returns and better support the asylum system. Also in June 2022 we welcomed Member States' political agreement in the Council to start implementing the voluntary solidarity mechanism. This ensures that countries with available reception capacity express their solidarity by welcoming people. The mechanism is already being implemented and the first relocation already took place. The Commission welcomed the political agreement on 7 September between the European Parliament and the Council. We now have a Joint Roadmap on the Common European Asylum System and the Pact on Migration and Asylum. See more details in the [report](#).

Next steps

The past year has shown the EU's capacity to act as a Union of determination and solidarity to address the constantly shifting challenges and opportunities of migration towards our continent. As key next steps, the Commission calls on the Member States to implement the Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism and on the Parliament and Council. To implement the joint roadmap with

the aim of adopting all proposals on the table by March 2024. The Commission will present this report at the upcoming JHA Council, where the next steps in the implementation of the roadmap will be discussed. To swiftly adopt their positions on all the pending proposals. To swiftly progress in the negotiations on the Skills and Talent package (the recast of the Directive on long-term residents and the recast of the Single Permit Directive). The Commission will continue to support these efforts, and to build on other aspects highlighted by this report.

Background

The New Pact on Migration and Asylum is a key part of delivering on President von der Leyen's commitment in her political guidelines. The first Report on Migration and Asylum was adopted in September 2021. The second report covers all aspects of migration management and structural reform of the legislative framework. It also presents the EU's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine to welcome those fleeing the war and to give life to temporary migration rights in the EU.

8. Culture Moves Europe

The Commission launches Culture Moves Europe, its new permanent mobility scheme for artists and cultural professionals, as well as a first call for individual mobility, during a high-level event in Brussels, Belgium.

Benefiting from a total budget of €21 million under the Creative Europe programme for a three-year-period (2022-2025), Culture Moves Europe becomes the largest European mobility scheme for artists and cultural professionals targeting all Creative Europe countries and sectors covered by the Culture Strand of the programme. Participants will include representatives of the EU institutions, stakeholders and organisations from the cultural sector. Culture Moves Europe addresses the pressing needs of the cultural and creative sectors for inclusive and sustainable mobility opportunities with reinforced attention to emerging artists. Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**, said: *"With Culture Moves Europe, the Commission paves the way for the future of the cultural and creative sectors. And it offers enhanced opportunities for emerging artists and cultural professionals to gear up their skills and their ties with European partners. It acknowledges how mobility exchanges shape our present and influences the future of our intertwined communities. It bridges mobility with sustainability and inclusion, as promoted by the European Green Deal."* Implemented by the



Goethe-Institut on behalf of the Commission, Culture Moves Europe comprises two actions: individual mobility and residencies. Through mobility grants, it will offer an opportunity to around 7,000 individual artists and cultural professionals to go abroad, in the EU and beyond, for professional development or international collaborations, to take part in artistic residencies or to host artists and cultural professionals. The residencies action will be launched in early 2023. The first call for individual mobility targets artists and cultural professionals working in the following sectors: architecture, cultural heritage, design, fashion design, literary translation, music, visual arts and performing arts from the countries participating in the Creative Europe programme and travelling to another Creative Europe country, for a duration of 7 to 60 days for individual artists and of 7 to 21 days for groups of people (2 to 5 people).

Background

The current call is open from October 10, 2022 to May 31, 2023. Individual mobility action will operate on a basis of the rolling calls open every year from autumn to spring with monthly evaluations. Culture Moves Europe's Mobility Grant includes: standard travel costs (€350 round trip up to 5,000 km and €700 round trip for distances longer than 5,001 km) and €75 per diem to contribute to the subsistence and accommodation expenses. Additionally, in line with horizontal priorities of the programme, such as inclusion and sustainability, several top-ups are foreseen: Green top-up: additional €350 to encourage artists and cultural professionals not to use air-travel. Support for artists and cultural operators with special needs linked to disability. Support for applicants coming from Outermost Countries and Territories and outermost regions or travelling to those destinations. Family top-up for artists who have a child younger than 10 years old. Visa top-up to purchase a visa. Also, Ukrainian artists, who may not be able to leave the country, could exceptionally apply directly for virtual mobility. In that case, they would receive €35 per diem.

9. Digital literacy among young people

The Commission published Guidelines for teachers and educators in primary and secondary schools, on how to address disinformation and promote digital literacy in their classrooms.

The guidelines provide practical support for teachers and educators and include definitions of technical concepts, class-exercises and how to encourage healthy online habits. This toolkit covers three main topics: building digital literacy, tackling disinformation, and assessing and evaluating digital literacy. Currently in Europe, one in three 13-year-olds students lack basic digital skills when directly tested, and according to the OECD, only a little over half of 15-year-olds in the EU reported being taught how to detect whether information is subjective or biased. There is consequently a clear need to strengthen the role of education and training in tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy as well as media literacy. It will increase resiliency and the possibility to fight the impact of online disinformation more effectively. Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**, said: *"These Guidelines are a hands-on toolkit for teachers and educators. They will give teachers the knowledge and tools they need to teach our youth how to navigate the digital world. Even a teacher with no or little prior experience in digital education will now be able to effectively explain to pupils how to spot disinformation. I am convinced that these Guidelines will make a difference for many."*



Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry **Breton**, added: *"Teachers and educators are some of the most important role models for young people and it's critical they're trained to help them distinguish what is news and what is disinformation. With these new Guidelines and the new Better Internet for Kids strategy, we aim to make it easier to foster digital literacy skills from an early age throughout schools in Europe."* The Guidelines presented were developed with the support of the Commission expert group on tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training bringing together a wide range of practice from the world of education and training, broadcast, academia, social media, and journalism. On the same occasion, the expert group also published a report, which analyses the role of education and training in tackling disinformation and presents possible solutions through policy at EU and national level. The Commission will further invest in this cause through the 2023 Erasmus+ Annual Work Programme, which will provide funding for large-scale forward-looking projects with a focus on teacher training and curriculum development in tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy. The Commission will also use the new guidelines for actions to support teachers under the new European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+).

Background

The Guidelines are part of the Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) and the European Democracy Action Plan. They will contribute to achieving the European Education Area by 2025. They further complement the work that the European Commission is already undertaking to address disinformation through its Erasmus+ Programme, European Solidarity Corps and eTwinning. The role of media literacy in the fight against disinformation is supported under the Creative Europe programme and via the European Commission supported European Digital Media Observatory and its regional hubs. In order to support the development of the Guidelines, the Commission launched an informal expert group on tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training. A call for experts to join the group was published on 31 May and closed on 29 June. The final report of the expert group provides insights on the key role education and training play in equipping young people with the competences needed for today's digital world, including when it comes to tackling disinformation, while stressing the main challenges and potential solutions in this complex and dynamic field. It refers to existing policy at EU level and international initiatives, stressing the added value on building on existing work. The report puts forward four main dimensions of tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training as concerns the technological and psychological nature of disinformation; key dimensions of digital literacy, teachers and educators needs; and, lastly, effective approaches adopted across Member States.

For More Information

Guidelines for teachers and educators on tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training - translations into all EU official languages will follow in due time.

10. DiscoverEU awards 35,000 rail tickets to young people this autumn

The Commission is releasing the DiscoverEU autumn call, thanks to which 35,000 young people will receive a rail pass to explore Europe and its rich culture.

The call is open to applicants from Erasmus+ programme countries, from 11 October at noon to 25 October at noon. In order to win a travel pass, young people are invited to apply on the European Youth Portal, answer 5 quiz questions and a subsidiary one. Applicants who have successfully filled in the selection quiz, born between 1 January and 31 December 2004 will be



able to travel in Europe for up to 30 days during the travel period 1 March 2023 and 29 February 2024. Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**, said: *"2022 is the European Year of Youth and this is a crucial moment in European history. We need to focus on the younger generations, to offer them the possibility to broaden their horizon in order to build a more connected and tolerant world. This is what DiscoverEU is about. Through travelling, it allows young people to explore our diversity*

but also find out so many similarities." With the European Year of Youth 2022, the number of travel passes has been boosted. In total, 70,000 passes are made available this year. DiscoverEU is now part of Erasmus+, therefore participants from Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey are also eligible to apply. Recipients will continue benefitting from a discount card with more than 40,000 discount possibilities on public transport, culture, accommodation, food, sports and other services available in the eligible countries. As part of the European Year of Youth, the Commission has launched the flagship initiative 'Youth discovers culture thanks to DiscoverEU in 2022'. That is why on 25 May 2022, the DiscoverEU Culture Route was launched. It combines various destinations and cultural branches, including architecture, music, fine art, theatre, fashion, design and more. DiscoverEU travellers can visit the European Capitals of Culture, destinations added on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List, or holders of the European Heritage Label. Moreover, they can also stop at locations with the Access City Award label. These are cities that have gone above and beyond to become more accessible to everyone, regardless of age, mobility or ability. Erasmus+ National Agencies support young people through pre-departure information meetings preparing them for their journey. Through these meetings, DiscoverEU aims to promote discussions on sustainability, culture, and European identity, among others. In addition, as part of the European Year of Youth, the agencies organise the DiscoverEU Meet-ups, an initiative launched in summer 2022 composed of an exciting cultural programme between one and three days across all Erasmus+ countries. 49 of these Meet-ups have taken place so far and will continue in future years. As social inclusion is a top priority of the Erasmus+ programme, participants with disabilities or health issues can be accompanied on their journeys. Apart from the travel costs, additional individual help is also provided. This year, the Erasmus+ National Agencies are also launching the DiscoverEU Inclusion Action, allowing organisations working with young people with fewer opportunities, to apply for grant. The Commission encourages sustainable travel by rail. Special arrangements are available for young people from outermost regions, Overseas Countries and Territories, remote areas and islands.

Background

The Commission launched DiscoverEU in June 2018, following a preparatory action from the European Parliament. It has been integrated into the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027. Since 2018, nearly 754,000 candidates applied for 165,000 travel passes available. According to the past travel survey, 66% of candidates declared that they travelled for the first time by train out of their country of residence. For many, it was also the first time they travelled without parents or accompanying adults and the majority indicated that they had become more independent. The DiscoverEU experience has given them a better understanding of other cultures and of European history. It has also improved their foreign language skills. Two-thirds said that they would not have been able to finance their travel pass without DiscoverEU. Participants are invited to become DiscoverEU Ambassadors to champion the initiative. They are also encouraged to contact fellow travellers on the official DiscoverEU group online to share experiences and exchange tips, particularly on cultural experiences, or on how to travel digitally and sustainably. To apply, eligible candidates need to complete a multiple-choice quiz on general knowledge about the European Union and other EU initiatives targeting young people. An additional question

invites applicants to make an estimate of how many people apply in this round who are born on a Tuesday. The closer the estimate is to the correct answer, the more points the applicant gets. This will enable the Commission to rank the applicants. The Commission will offer travel passes to applicants following their ranking, until the available tickets run out.

11. Call for Artists "ON ACCEPTING THE UNDESIRABLE"

Eco project IT IS NOT TOO LATE, which focuses on the Seagrass beds and their importance for the overall ecosystem and undesirable elements in our environment. For this reason, the transfer of knowledge to those familiar with the role of seagrass beds for the ecosystem and the quality of life of fish is important to change people's awareness and perception of this natural phenomenon. Namely, the knowledge that 1% of sea flowers in the share of the sea creates 12% of the oxygen get from the sea can connect residents, associations and all interested participants with the aim of preserving the ecosystem. The project deals with changing the perception of seagrass beds, its valorization and protection. By removing a significant part of the pollution from the area of the rivers Bijela basin, during which has already been collected 1 ton of glass and other bio-neutral waste. We will use this material for the artistic intervention, which will permanently point to the problem of environmental pollution. For the first-prize-winning work, the selected author was provided an award in the amount of 22,000.00, HRK (3000 euro), excluding production costs. The open competition is preceded by an artistic and socio-cultural workshop where interested candidates will be able to familiarize themselves with the specifics of the cultural and natural location. The workshop will be held from October 7 to 9, 2022 in Karin and Lončari. After the workshop, selection of artistic spatial installation (sculpture) and its placement in public space, our intention is to continue, through workshops and public invitations, to open environmental problems and communicate through inclusive social and artistic actions that will continuously point out social and economic problems in the local context. These are the first steps in creating a pluriannual Velebit educational trail that connects people of different social, national and cultural profiles. This call is open to all individuals or collectives for ideas or concepts elaborated art projects of the following contemporary art areas: Artist's work – artistic intervention; intermedia and art research praxis; art, science; bio-art; sound art and experimental artwork. The key selection criteria that will be taken for selecting works are: Creativity, sensitivity to natural and social context, innovation and critical approach in artistic work; Elaboration of the work implementation plan, feasibility with regard to: cost estimate, schedule and necessary resources for project implementation; Quality content, conceptual elaboration, research and theoretical background; Transdisciplinarity and cross-sectoral character – cooperation of artists or collectives with local associations, individuals and experts outside the field of art and culture; Specifics of work and / or work process in relation to the local environment. **The competition is open from June 20th 06. to November 15th 2022! 2022. Proposals are submitted via the [GOOGLE FORM ONLINE](#) (*require google gmail account).** The application must contain:



- Contact information (name and surname / name of the collective; e-mail address; telephone / mobile phone number);
- Applicant's website or portfolio with descriptions and visual and / or audio documentation of previous works;
- Professional biography (up to 200 words);
- Applicant Project Name;
- Summary description and concept of the project (up to 500 words);
- Technical description of the project (up to 300 words);
- Projection of production costs and project setup (one document, up to 10MB);
- Sketches and / or photo / video / audio documentation of the project (one document, up to 10MB).

Incomplete applications from associations will not be able to be considered in selecting a project for implementation. The selected applicants will be notified of the results of the competition no later than **November 30, 2022**. By filling out and sending the application form, you agree to provide your personal information to the Lončari Association. For more information please visit the following [link](#).

12. Traineeships at the Court of Auditors

The European Court of Auditors organises three traineeship sessions per year in areas of interest to its work. In addition to considering general traineeship applications, the Court will pay particular attention to applications from candidates with profiles in the areas of IT audit and data science, in line with its 2021-2025 development plan for making better use of technology and data in audit. They may be paid (1 350 euros/month) or unpaid, depending on the budgetary appropriations available. 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(*) 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 below. **Deadline: 30 November 2022.** For more information and applications please consult the followig [link](#).

13. Traineeships at the European Union Agency for the Space Programme

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



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

14. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification traineeships

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) welcomes graduate students and recent graduates specializing in a field related to the work of the United Nations and UNCCD. These internships are intended to promote a better understanding of international problems and give insight into the work of the United Nations, while providing departments with the able assistance of outstanding young students specializing in a field related to their own work. The minimum internship duration is two months and maximum six months. Interns are not financially remunerated by the UNCCD secretariat. Costs and arrangements for travel, visas, accommodation and living expenses are the responsibility of intern or his/her sponsoring institution. Interns of the UNCCD secretariat are not considered to be staff members. More information is available on the UNCCD Internship conditions and agreement on the resources. Application for internships is open, and qualified candidates are always encouraged to apply. Please see the required documents below: **Internship application documents:** Cover letter; Curriculum vitae; [UNCCD internship application](#). Send your application materials to staffing@unccd.int. For more information and applications please consult the following [link](#).



15. Brief online meeting "Game4CoSkills" project

In date 29/08/2022 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 Plus within the programme "KA220-ADU Cooperation partnerships in adult education" as action n.2021-1-FR01-KA220-ADU000026181. The purpose of the meeting was to define the next steps in the development of



project actions after the summer break and to review the work done so far. "Game4CoSkills" (<http://game4coskills.eu/>) aims to produce an e-game for developing cognitive skills and teaching concepts for adults with intellectual disabilities to be used individually or in groups: the mobile game will cover the development of multiple cognitive skills and teaching strategies trying to enable adults with intellectual disabilities to learn while having fun. The partnership that is developing the

whole project is composed by 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).

16. Last meeting in Greece for the “ACT2IMPACT” project

In date 30/08/2022 took place, in presence, in Volos the last project meeting “Development of Critical and Creative Thinking Skills to Foster Employment and Impact Success in Job” (acronym “ACT2IMPACT”), approved in Spain as Action n. 2019-1-ES01-KA204-065216 in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education programme by the Spanish National Agency. The project, which formally ended on 31 August, carried out all the planned courses (developed in an innovative and interactive manner with concrete activities and practical exercises) as well as a pilot training activity with some young people, aiming to bridge the gap between the set of transversal skills of the new generations preparing to enter the labour market or their first work experience and the needs currently demanded by companies. The project therefore developed an enhancement pathway that, through an integrated approach, supports the development of transversal critical and creative thinking skills, relying on Internet tools and promoting new skills through highly interactive challenges and exercises together with collaborative debates through an online discussion forum. The initiative involved the following organisations: FUNDEUN (Spain - project coordinator), UTH (Greece), E&D Knowledge Consulting Lda (Portugal), Danmar Computers LLC (Poland) and EURO-NET (Italy). Further information on the activities and products developed by the European project can be found on the initiative's website at <https://act2impact.eu/> or on the Facebook page of the transnational partnership at the link <https://www.facebook.com/Act2impact-101666948045902>.



17. New meeting of the “Aktif” project in Kirsehir

In the period 04-07/09/2022 took place (including travel days) took place in Kirsehir, Cappadocia, a new transnational meeting of the project "Aktif yaslanma kapsaminda mültecilerin yasam kalitesinin arttirilmasi" (in English "Increasing the quality of life of refugees under active ageing") approved in the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education - Exchange of Good Practices programme by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Turkey. The project envisages improving the living conditions of refugees in old age by offering activities and products that foster and enable their better integration in the host countries. The project partnership consists of: Kirsehir Aile Calisma Ve Sosyal Hizmetler Il Mudurlugu (Turkey); Kirsehir Il Milli Egitim Mudurlugu (Turkey); Kirsehir Ahi Evran Universitesi (Turkey); EURO-NET (Italy); Aristotelio Panepistimio Thessalonikis (Greece); Genista Research Foundation (Malta); Municipio De Lousada (Portugal). The project meeting was dedicated to the planning of the last mobility (a training), which should take place, again in Turkey, from 11 to 17 September 2022, and to the verification of the work done so far for the compilation of the final report, as the project ended definitively at the end of September.



18. Training course in Greece of the “TELEGROW” project

Took place in Larissa, Greece, in the period 05-10/09/2022 a training course planned in 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. For the EURO-NET association, a delegation of its staff attended the training course. 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 Przedsiębiorczości (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 project can be found on the official website (<https://telegrow.erasmus.site/>) or on the official Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TeleGrow-Enhancing-Teleworking-Skills-for-the-Middle-aged-employees-106389581610827>).



19. Training course in Senegal for EURO-NET



In the period 06-17/09/2022 (travel days included) took place in Senegal the training course envisaged in the project "FUTURE FRIENDLY AFRICA - Capacity transfer for programme for youth development and environmental entrepreneurship in Senegal and Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)" approved by the EACEA as action n.619137-EPP-1-2020-1-BG-EPPKA2-CBY-ACPALA. This is an Erasmus Plus Capacity Building for Youth initiative in which various activities are planned to support the development and empowerment of young people in Senegal. The international partnership is composed of: NC FUTURE NOW (Bulgaria) coordinator; EURO-NET (Italy); CASCUP (Senegal). Margherita Gilotti participated in the training as a delegate of the EURO-NET association, which is a partner in the project.

20. Meeting in Dublin of the "LearnEU" project

In date 09/09/2022 in Dublin, Ireland, a new meeting of the project "Imparare l'Europa è un gioco da ragazzi" (acronym LearnEU), an initiative approved to the EURO-NET association, as action n.2020-1-IT02-KA201-079054 by the Italian National Agency Erasmus Plus INDIRE within the framework of the Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnerships for School Education programme. During the transnational meeting, the partners reviewed the state of the art of the project and analysed all the activities realised so far as well as the actual completion of the development work on the various intellectual products. The European partnership is 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). More information on the project is available on the Face-book page <https://www.facebook.com/Learneu-117725843430250/> and on the website <https://project-learn.eu/>.



21. Training course in Bulgaria “MOOC4ALL” project

In the period 19-23/09/2022 (travel days included) took place in Smolyan, Bulgaria, the training course foreseen in the framework of the European project "MOOC4ALL - Innovative Model for Facilitating On-line Learning Success" (acronym "MOOC4ALL"), approved as action n. 2021-1-BG01-KA220-VET-000029853 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Bulgaria within the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA220-VET Partnership Cooperative in VET programme. The training course (attended by 3 delegates of the EURO-NET association) was dedicated to



accelerated learning, a scientific method of learning and teaching that ensures that the results of teaching and training are achieved by the largest number of qualified students without increasing the time in class by creating a fun and engaging environment. In Accelerated Learning, learning and processing styles are addressed in a structured and systematic way the format and training techniques are based on state-of-the-art educational technologies derived from the most modern worldwide research of more than 80 universities. This means that both learners and trainers gain significant educational benefits and

greater effectiveness and that, while learners acquire skills more quickly, trainers achieve their educational goals more easily. Thanks to the MOOC4ALL project, it will be possible to analyse and build a rich multisensory training environment, where through specific techniques the potential of students can be unlocked, also using classical art and music to ensure a higher success rate among students. The project envisages the development of a practical e-learning tool for online learning that fosters an open, innovative and effective digital education, improving the quality of education provision and the integration of online content and courses, to enhance the qualification of staff in partner organisations, promote the initial and continuing professional development of VET teachers, instructors and mentors, and increase access to education and continuing training for all, including low-skilled workers, migrants and refugees. Partners in this project are, in addition to the Bulgarian coordinator Narodno Chitalishte Badeshte Sega 2006, the following organisations: University of Turku (Finland), Stando Ltd (Cyprus), Kainotomia (Greece), EURO-NET (Italy) and Krase Research and User Experience (Netherlands). More information on the project and its activities and products can be found on the official Facebook page at the following web link: <https://www.facebook.com/Innovative-Model-for-Facilitating-Online-Learning-Success-110541508153755>.

22. New meeting of the “STARTKNOW” project

In the date 26/09/2022 took place an online meeting of the project "Boosting the employability of Europeans young through the STARTKNOW Platform", an initiative funded in Spain under the Erasmus Plus KA210-ADU programme as Action n. 2021-1-ES01-KA210-ADU-000033998 by the Spanish Erasmus Plus National Agency. During the transnational meeting, the partners reviewed the state of the art of the project and analysed all the activities implemented so far. The project will develop three training modules: Technological and Self-Management Tools, Globalisation, Social Change) mainly addressed to young adults, but also to unemployed people, recent graduates, NEETs, workers who fear that their job will be replaced by a machine. The partners will tutor groups of six young people from each country in which the described modules (each planned to last approximately 30 hours) will be applied, which will then also be uploaded into a special online platform and made available in four languages (English, Spanish, Italian and Polish). The partnership developing this project of "Small-scale partnerships in adult education" is composed of Associació Educativa i Cultural Blue Beehive (Spain - coordinator of the initiative), EURO-NET (Italy) and Centrum Edukacyjne EST (Poland). You can follow the project at the following website: <https://startknow.eu/>.



23. Meeting of the “CoCo” project in Barcelona

In the period 26-27/09/2022 took place in Barcelona the second official meeting of the project "Conscious Consumption" (acronym "CoCo"), approved in Germany by the German National Agency Erasmus Plus within the programme "KA220-ADU Cooperation partnerships in adult education" as action n.2021-1-DE02-KA 220-ADU-000033718. The meeting, which was attended by two EURO-NET staff members, dr. Luca Caggiano and dr. Giulia Maria Provenzale, was



dedicated to reviewing the work done so far in the project and planning the next steps. The partnership initiative is aimed at creating a behavioural change of European citizens towards more conscious and ecological consumption patterns and is designed to ensure reliable product information and to strengthen consumer protection against commercial practices such as greenwashing and premature obsolescence. In the

project, EURO-NET will lead the development of a "serious game" (to be developed both online and tabletop) aimed at improving the green awareness of young consumers. The partnership working on this project consists 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).

24. Meeting of the “HEPA4ALL” project in Cyprus

In date 27/09/2022 took place in Nicosia, at the new Campus of the University of Cyprus, a meeting in the presence of the project "Encouraging Participation in Sports and Health Enhancing Physical Activities with an Inclusive Approach" - (acronym HEPA4AL) - action no.622480-EPP-1-2020-1-UK-SPO-SCP, a centralised project of the Erasmus Plus Sport programme approved in the call EAC/A02/2019 - Collaborative Partnerships and coordinated at European level by Ikkaido (UK). Unfortunately, the EURO-NET association was only able to participate in the meeting online

(given the contingency of too many mobility activities concentrated in the same period) with one person from its staff (Serena Lamastra), who followed the entire meeting virtually, despite some connection and line difficulties. During the meeting, the partners discussed the development of the various actions and intellectual products envisaged in the European project, which is aimed at identifying the long-term measures needed to



encourage inclusive participation in physical and sporting activities by all persons, including disabled and disadvantaged persons through the development of appropriate educational and innovative methodologies. The project, its development and activities can be followed on the Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/hepa4all>.

25. First meeting and Italian brochure of the “EQUALLEY” project

In the period 27-28/09/2022 took place in Lodz, Poland, the first meeting of the "Equalley" project (acronym "Tackling street harassment & gender stereotypes in youngsters") which was approved in Spain by the Spanish National Agency Erasmus Plus within the KA220-SCH programme addressed to Cooperative Partnerships in School Education as action n.2021-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000032603. The meeting, attended for the EURO-NET association by dr. Caterina Lacerra and dr. Anna Restivo, served the partners to present and discuss the first draft of the booklet envisaged in Result 1 and the guidelines to be followed for the collection of the necessary data as well as to update the project timetable. The initiative is



aimed at addressing and reducing harassment and sexual violence, combating gender stereotypes and discrimination, through the development of three main outcomes: a booklet containing the results of a research study to be carried out in all partner countries; a course aimed at 12-16 year olds; and a final guide for educators and trainers. All project results will be made available free of charge and in all languages of the partner countries (plus English) on the EquAlley website and social media. The following organisations are part of the partnership: Escuela Profesional Otxarkoaga (Spain - project coordinator), EURO-NET (Italy), Aidlearn Consultoria Em Recursos Humanos LDA (Portugal), Uniwersytet Lodzki (Poland) and Stichting Emancipator (The Netherlands). The project brochure in Italian is now online at this link: https://issuu.com/memex23/docs/first_flyer_equalley_italian.



26. New video realised by the staff of the Europe Direct Basilicata Centre

We are pleased to share with you our new video developed as Europe Direct Basilicata centre that explains well how the European Commission is fighting the indiscriminate proliferation of fake



news. Fake news are articles with invented, erroneous or misleading information, without reliability and contrived to manipulate the truth of facts, for example in favour of economic, political or medical-scientific interests. As false news about the European Union has also been published, the video aims to explain and raise awareness on this sensitive issue. The production direction of the video was

supervised by Antonino Imbesi; Antonia Bruno took care of the subject, texts and voice; while the images were edited by Gianluca Lagrotta. The video is available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITIIGKXB2UY>.

27. Last European training course in Potenza of the “LearnEU” project

In the period 27-29/09/2022 (travel days not included) took place in Potenza the third and last in-presence training foreseen in the project LearnEU, This third training activity concerned only the staff of the partner organisations and was aimed, on the one hand, at verifying the state of the art of the project and the realised outputs and, on the other hand, at promoting storytelling techniques for students to improve their approach to the activities and optimise the learning of European notions. Therefore, the training also covered the methods of involving learners in the various e-games developed and the techniques of expression such as drama and body language that were very useful in engaging learners. During the three-day training event in Potenza, a further review of the implemented games was carried out and were planned the Multiplier Events to promote the use of the outputs developed in the project by the entire European partnership composed by 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 uciliste Pero Nakov (Macedonia), Colegiul Economic "Ion Ghica" Braila (Romania) and Agrupamento de Escolas de Penalva do Castelo (Portugal). More information on the project is available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Learneu-117725843430250/> and on the website <https://project-learn.eu/>.



28. Last meeting in Karditsa, Greece of the "TeaM" project

In the period 03-07/10/2022 (excluding travel days) took place in Karditsa, Greece, the last international mobility developed under the project "TeaM" (Teaching to Marginalized Groups), an initiative approved in Greece as Action n. 2020-1-EL01-A204-078944 within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education programme. The training in Greece was attended by three delegates from the EURO-NET association (which is also the Europe Direct Basilicata information centre of the European Commission), who found the activities carried out during the training course very interesting and stimulating. The training course was excellently hosted by the partner E-School, which is also the coordinator of the entire KA2 project, in which the following organisations participate: MPIRMPAKOS D. & SIA O.E. (Greece); EURO-NET (Italy); Aydin Egitim, Kultur ve Sanat Dernegi (Turkey); Web per tutti (Italy); STANDO LTD (Cyprus); Initiative for Sustainable Education and Development (Germany). The project, which will end on 30 November, is aimed at exchanging good practice between organisations working with disadvantaged groups to try to provide these people with more training opportunities. During the training course in Greece, the partners presented and discussed the situation of NEETs in the various countries of the project consortium, exchanged ideas and good practices for the inclusion of NEETs, evaluated the work done and moreover found time for some cultural visits.. More information on the European project is available on the initiative's website <https://team-euproject.eu/> and on the official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TeaM-Project-110817037508230>.



29. Training in Thessaloniki of the "yEURSTAGE" project

In the period 09-15/10/2022 took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, the fourth and penultimate training foreseen in the European project "The stage is yEURs: Learning the language of the 'host' country through contemporary theatre approaches for adult educators towards the social inclusion of minority groups in Europe of leaving no one behind" (acronym "yEURSTAGE") approved, as action n. 2020-1-PT01-KA204-078361, by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Portugal within the framework of the Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. Two delegates from the Italian association EURO-NET, Alessia Di Tolla and Gabriele Garofalo, participated in the training course in Greece entitled "Following the Playback theatre approach". They were very interested in the theatrical techniques they could learn during the Greek training. The project aims to develop an international synergy between 5 European organisations, each with specific competences in the field of theatre, language teaching or the reception of migrants and refugees, in order to carry out an exchange of good practices using contemporary theatrical approaches aimed at the social inclusion of minorities, a very sensitive topic which always arouses much debate on an ideological and political level. The following organisations are part of the partnership working on this project Associação Cultural E De Solidariedade Social Raquel Lombardi (Portugal), EURO-NET (Italy), Echo Playback Theatre Koinsep (Greece), Iniciativas De Futuro Para Una Europa Social Coop V (Spain) and Stando LTD (Cyprus). The aim of the initiative is to work on the target group, composed of adult educators, trainers, mentors and professionals working with immigrants and refugees, in order to increase their competences through the sharing of non-formal and intercultural learning practices based on modern and innovative theatrical approaches, while strengthening local cooperation networks and, thus, being able to provide better social inclusion services for minority groups now present in each European country. More information on the project, whose last training activity is scheduled to take place in Potenza, Italy, from 21 to 27 November, is available on the initiative's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/yeurstage> or on the website at <https://yeurstage.eu/>.



30. New training in Nicosia of the “The A class” project

In the period 09-15/10/2022 took place in Nicosia, in Cyprus, the second and final training course 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 the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for School Education programme as action n.2020-1-DK01-KA201-07505. The course, which was attended by 7 delegates for EURO-NET, all of whom were support teachers, was aimed at deepening the ABA methodology (an acronym for "Applied Behavior Analysis", i.e. an intensive autism educational approach with a focus on development, independence and inclusion)



in order to be able to verify a real perspective in the implementation and use of the same technique within the school world. The abbreviation ABA does not actually identify a single method, as the term identifies a number of different methods that may seem very different in practice, but whose common starting point is behavioural analysis, i.e. the study of how human behaviour is shaped and changed in interaction with the surrounding environment. ABA is considered in many countries to be the best method for supporting children with autism and similar developmental disorders. The European project coordinated by the Danish organisation Sosu Ostjylland and in which EURO-NET (Italy), Inercia Digital SI (Spain), Masaryk University (Czech Rep.), Center for Autism (Croatia), Stando Ltd (Cyprus) and Association for improving quality of life of people with autism spectrum disorders 'Blue Firefly' (Macedonia) are also partners, aims to develop an innovative educational package based on didactic approaches for school teachers to support their teaching of autistic children in the classroom. More information on the project is available on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KA2TheAclass> or on the website at <https://theaclass.eu/>.

31. Training course of the “CLanIMATE YOUTHS” project in Spain

In the period 16-22/10/2022 took place in Ibi, in the province of Alicante, Spain, the second training provided in the project "CLanIMATE youth: Empowering young people to tackle climate change through the use of animation tools" (acronym "CLanIMATE Youths") approved, as action n. 2020-3-FR02-KA205-018477, by the National Agency Erasmus Plus in France within the framework of the Strategic Partnership for Youth. The training course, hosted by the Spanish partner AIJU, includes the participation of 4 youth workers from each of the partner organisations. On behalf of EURO-NET the participants in the training course are the same as in the first training course held in Cyprus: all of them were enthusiastic about the first course and wanted to confirm their participation for this second Spanish training



event as well. Project partners are Association FenêtreS (France), EURO-NET (Italy), STANDO LTD (Cyprus) and AIJU (Spain). The project envisages, by the end of 2022, two more training courses, all focused, like the first two, on the development of animations to be used as an effective tool for young people to make their voices heard in political debates on climate change, which will be developed respectively in France, in Tassin la Demi Lune from 20 to 26 November, and in Italy, in Potenza from 2 to 6 December. More information on the European project and its many mobility activities is available not only on the website <https://clanimateyouths.netsons.org/>, but also on the European initiative's Facebook page at the web link <https://www.facebook.com/ClanIMATEYouths>.

33. Meeting in UK of the “Green Routes” project

In the period 11-14/10/2022 (travel days included) took place in Stockton-on-Tees, England, the fourth meeting of the project "Green Routes - Learning about sustainable trends in European cities" (initiative approved in Germany as action n. 2020-1-DE02-KA204-007652 within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education programme). The meeting, which was held in the presence of and excellently hosted by the Interacting UK staff, allowed the European partners to address issues related to the beta versions of some intellectual outputs and to verify the final development of others, defining the next steps of work. A part of the meeting was also dedicated to the verification of all administrative documentation produced so far for the project and to the evaluation of the activities carried out during the two days in the UK. The “Green Routes” project aims to create a toolkit to promote sustainable solutions and trends in urban areas through the creation of three intellectual products and the application of a training methodology for the development of 'green' scenarios for both live and virtual augmented reality educational tours on sustainability-related topics. The scenarios can be used by educators to follow 'green' tours and will also be documented in a printed guidebook, while the virtual tours can be experienced through an AR app, which will also interact with the guidebook. More information on the project is available on the European Initiative website <http://greenroutes.eu/> and on the official Facebook page of the strategic partnership at <https://www.facebook.com/GreenRoutes-108204151034392>.



34. New meeting of the “EUCYCLE” project in Bari

In date 03/09/2022 the University of Bari a meeting in the project "Upcycling Europe - Sharing Good Practices on Circular Economy within a European Partnership" (acronym EUCYCLE), developed within the Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnerships for Vocational Education and Training (so-called VET) programme and approved in Italy by the INAPP National Agency as action n. 2020-1-IT01-KA202-008379. The project is co-ordinated by the company Godesk srl, which is leading a valuable European partnership also composed of the University of Bari and the Chamber of Commerce of Basilicata (both Italian organisations), FA-Magdeburg GmbH (Germany), Kainotomia (Greece), Euro-Idea Fundacja Społeczno-Kulturalna (Poland) and MiTale (Finland). The meeting was aimed at taking stock of the situation in the development of the products envisaged in the project and defining the last steps and mobility planned (before the end of the partnership initiative there will be a new transnational meeting on 9 November in Krakow, Poland). At the meeting in Bari, final reporting was also partly discussed, as the entire project will end at the end of November 2022.. More information on this European project can be found on the website <https://eucycle.wordpress.com/> and on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Eucycle-project-101446965239402>.



35. Meeting in Sardinia for the “SPEAK” project

In date 09/09/2022 took place in Sassari, Sardinia, a new transnational meeting of the Erasmus Plus KA2 project approved in Sweden as a strategic partnership for adult education (action n. 2020-1-SE01- KA204-077885) entitled "Speaking skill Performance Enhancement in entrepreneurial customs for social workers" (acronym SPEAK), dedicated precisely to social workers. The meeting was devoted to the verification of the finalisation of all developed products and the planning of activities still to be completed. Dissemination initiatives, the definition of Multiplier Events to be developed by the end of the project, and the Future Sustainability Plan were also discussed. The project, in which



the association Youth Europe Service is a partner, is testing new ways and new innovative skills to help and professionalise social workers more and more, improving their communication skills with the public. All those interested can follow the development of this interesting initiative on the project's official Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/SPEAK-103210721662026/> or on the project website at the following link: <https://www.speakproject.eu>.

36. Meeting in Madrid of the “INTERACT” project

In the period 12-13/09/2022 took place in Madrid, Spain, a new transnational meeting foreseen in the project "Innovative Cultural Heritage the Root of European Identity" (acronym "INTERACT"), an initiative approved by the English National Agency as action no. 2020-1-UK01-KA204-078950 within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education programme. The meeting was aimed at reviewing the outputs realised so far (Paper guide and Legends' book) and planning the new activities related to the development of the animations and the app as well as the necessary dissemination activities and evaluation of the entire work developed so far. 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 of the project at the link <https://www.facebook.com/Erasmus-Plus-Interact-100911398721786>.



37. Focus Group and technical meeting of the “EI4Future” project

In date 30/09/2022 took place in In Potenza, at Godesk's headquarters, a very interesting Focus Group on Emotional Intelligence was held with six expert trainers as part of the “Emotional Intelligence for Emotional Resilience” project, an initiative approved within the KA220-ADU actions by the Spanish Erasmus Plus National Agency as action n. 2021-1-ES01-KA220-ADU-000026157. In addition, a technical meeting took place online on 03/10/2022, during which the partners reviewed the state of the art of the project and analysed all the activities carried out so far. The project, coordinated at European level by the Spanish institute Indepcie SCA, has a partnership consisting 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). The partnership aims to promote the importance of emotional intelligence in everyday life, from both a personal and a professional perspective, by 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. More information on the project is available on the official Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/EI4Future/> on the website (still under construction) at the following link: <https://www.ei4future.eu/>.



38. “CONTINUE”: 3 workshops and World Cafè

In the period 14-16/09/2022 took place in Potenza a cycle of three workshops dedicated to helping participants understand how to develop social actions for change. The workshops were developed by the Youth Europe Service association in the framework of the CONTINUE project,

a KA3 Erasmus Plus action (approved in the “European Youth Together” call for proposals as action n. 624723-EPP-1-2020-1-DE-EPPKA3-EU-YTH-TOG) and which is being developed by a European partnership composed not only of the Potenza organisation but also 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). The series of workshops developed in Potenza saw the participation of some fifteen young students of age to whom the staff of the Potenza association explained what a social action consists of and how to develop it: it can in fact be defined as an action shared with other people and destined to produce effects on other people and can be generated by an emotional impulse or by a shared value, but it always has a value for the community. There can be various types of social action (creative action, volunteering, awareness-raising activities, and peer support or community events). During the three-day workshop, the young participants therefore came up with their own ideas for activities and eventually developed their own social action: a social petition on the creation of a “Wall of Expression” (which gathered several hundred signatures), together with a logo, interviews and a poster, succeeded brilliantly in the desired objective. Then in date 30/09/2022 took place in Potenza, in the Godesk innovation space, a knowledge exchange meeting using the “World Café” methodology allowed the numerous participants to talk



about the impact of the pandemic on the lives of young people, how to combat their social exclusion and what actions can be put in place to improve their lives after the pandemic. The Italian event developed by the staff of Youth Europe Service was attended by around 20 people (mostly teachers, students and third sector workers) who, led by Y.E.S. staff, applied the World Café technique, a simple and effective method of engaging in informal, lively and constructive conversations on issues and topics affecting the life of an organisation or community. In the World Café, the “circulation” of ideas is realised by inviting all participants to move from one discussion group to another in a rather short time, recreating in the room at their disposal the intimate and cosy setting of a café, with several small tables suitable for 4 to 6 people each and

equipped with materials for noting, drawing, writing, in other words, for fixing ideas. Also in the World Café organised in Potenza, each table saw the presence of a facilitator, or, to use the terminology peculiar to this technique, a “host”, whose tasks were those of soliciting the intervention of all the participants, recording the discussion and summarising it to the next group so as to encourage contamination and the exchange of ideas between one group and the next, as well as presenting, if necessary, what emerged from the various groups during the concluding plenary session. Numerous “policies” emerged from the event in Potenza, which will be recorded and shared with all the European partners of the CONTINUE project in the coming weeks. More information on the project can be found on the website <https://www.continue.community/> and on the initiative's official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/continue.eu>.

39. Training in Volos of the “CECIL” project

In the period 9-16/10/2022 (travel days included) took place in Volos, Greece, the training of the project "Circular economy education for social inclusion of Women" (acronym “CECIL”), 24-month adult-oriented cooperation partnership aimed at promoting the Circular Economy and Sustainability among women at risk of exclusion and aimed at fostering greater interaction with the European Green Deal and the EU Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025. Ms. Angelillo

Lucia, Ms. Francesca Lauciello, Ms. Carla De Giorgi and Ms. Caporusso Annarita participated in the training course in Greece, eager to learn new methodologies and working techniques to be applied to the classroom lessons: during the training, organised and hosted by the Greek partner, team building activities, ice-breaking examples, thematic discussions and in-depth analysis, presentation of creative games and so on, all useful tools to be applied to the sectoral training, were implemented. 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 engage 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 pathways for the same target group in order to offer new educational opportunities in the field of circular economy and sustainability. The expected results of this cooperation action (which will end no earlier than 31 October 2023) are three: 1) 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 the needs, barriers and factors of social exclusion faced by women most at risk; 2) the creation of an interactive tool-kit with workshops and video tutorials to promote the circular economy; 3) the creation of an online network of operators where good practices, knowledge 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). You can follow the development of the project activities on the initiative's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cecilproject.eu/>.