



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA centre
promoted by the association EURO-NET
and realised with the grant of E.U. in
the framework of the namesake project

**YEAR 17 - NUMBER 6
OF 20TH DECEMBER 2022
ENGLISH NEWSLETTER**

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. European Health Union: new EU cancer screening recommendations

Following the Commission's proposal to strengthen cancer prevention through early detection, the Council of the European Union has adopted a new approach on cancer screening.

This is an important step to improve early detection throughout the EU, an important goal of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. As announced in September, this new EU approach, based



on the latest available scientific developments and evidence, will help ensuring that 90% of the EU population who qualify for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings are offered such screening by 2025. The new approach also calls for extending screening programmes to prostate, lung and, under certain circumstances, gastric cancer, in a stepwise approach. The Recommendation is part

of a new EU Cancer Screening Scheme, put forward as a flagship initiative of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. For breast, cervical and colorectal cancers, the new EU approach recommends: breast cancer screening with mammography for women aged 50 to 69, and suggests it for women from 45 to 74 years; testing for human papilloma virus (HPV) as the preferred tool for cervical cancer screening for women aged 30 to 65, with an interval of five years or more; quantitative faecal immunochemical testing (FIT) as the preferred screening test for colorectal cancer screening before referring individuals between 50 and 74 years old to follow-up colonoscopy. For lung, prostate, and gastric cancers, the Recommendation invites Member States on the basis of further research to: explore the feasibility and effectiveness of low-dose computed tomography to screen individuals at high risk for lung cancer, including heavy smokers and ex-smokers, and link screening with primary and secondary prevention approaches; evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of organised prostate cancer screening for men, on the basis of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing in combination with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanning as follow-up; follow screen-and-test strategies for *Helicobacter pylori* (a bacterium that can cause gastric cancer) for countries and regions with high gastric cancer incidence and mortality. Financial support for cancer screening is available, with €38.5 million already committed for projects under the EU4Health Programme, and €60 million under Horizon Europe. Under the 2023 EU4Health Work Programme, an additional 38.5 million will support Member States to implement this new Council Recommendation and to develop EU guidelines. Further support can also be provided from the European regional, cohesion and social funds.

Background

The Recommendation replaces and extends the scope of the previous Council Recommendation on cancer screening adopted in 2003, which encompassed recommendations for breast, colorectal and cervical cancer screening. The Recommendation has been instrumental in ensuring that more citizens have access to organised screenings for these cancer types. However, there are still wide disparities in access to screening among Member States. In 2020, an estimated 2.7 million people in the Union were diagnosed with cancer. According to estimations, one in two EU citizens will develop cancer during their lifetime, with long-lasting consequences on their quality of life, and only half of all cancer patients will survive.

2. Zero pollution: 2030 targets within reach but need stronger action

The Commission is publishing its first Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook Report and its third Clean Air Outlook report - together setting pathways to cleaner air, water and soil.

The reports show that EU policies have contributed to reducing air pollution as well as pollution from pesticides. However, pollution levels are still too high. In other areas such as harmful noise, nutrient pollution or municipal waste generation, progress has stalled. The results show that overall much stronger action is necessary if the EU is to achieve 2030 pollution reduction targets, by adopting new anti-pollution laws and better implementing existing ones.

Progress towards 2030 targets but pollution levels still too high

The progress towards the six 'zero pollution' targets is mixed. Pollution is decreasing from pesticides, antimicrobials and marine litter. Not much progress has been made for pollution from

noise, nutrients and waste. On the other hand, the overall high rates of compliance with the EU drinking and bathing water pollution standards (>99% and >93% respectively) are encouraging. For 2030, we can achieve most of the targets if additional efforts are made. However, current pollution levels are still far too high: over 10% of premature deaths in the EU each year are still related to environmental pollution. This is mainly due to air pollution, but also to noise pollution and exposure to chemicals, which is likely to be underestimated. The pollution similarly damages biodiversity. There are significant differences between Member States, with premature deaths levels around 5-6% in the North and 12-14% in the South and East of Europe. The Commission has by now delivered or advanced on all 33 of the announced actions in the Zero Pollution Action Plan of 2021. In order for them to have an impact, the report calls for the swift agreement and adoption of the legislative proposals to reduce harmful pollution, and the improved implementation of the existing ones at local, national and cross-border level. Notably, it finds that if the EU implements all relevant measures proposed by the Commission, the number of premature deaths due to air pollution would fall by over 70% in 2030 compared to 2005, with benefits of clean air measures outweighing costs and leading to overall GDP gains. The report also points to the importance of promoting global initiatives and supporting third countries in their efforts towards reducing pollution.



Background

The report is supported by in-depth analysis from the European Environment Agency for the monitoring part, while the Joint Research Centre provided research that is the basis for the outlook part. Main findings from the third Clean Air Outlook were also included in the Zero Pollution Monitoring and Outlook report. The web-based Zero Pollution monitoring assessment, prepared by the European Environment Agency, provides a cross-cutting assessment on pollution centred around the themes of production and consumption, health and ecosystems. Pollution is the largest environmental cause of multiple diseases, and premature deaths, especially among children, people with certain medical conditions and the elderly. Pollution is also one of the five main threats to biodiversity. Under the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the Commission launched nine flagships and 33 dedicated actions to prevent and reduce pollution, most recently, the Zero pollution package for cleaner air and water.

3. Commission proposes to strengthen equality bodies to fight discrimination

The European Commission adopted two proposals to strengthen equality bodies, in particular their independence, resources and powers, so they can combat discrimination in Europe more effectively.

Equality bodies are essential in assisting victims of discrimination and making sure that EU law on non-discrimination is implemented on the ground. This new legislation will ensure that equality bodies can achieve their full potential. It will better protect victims of discrimination and contribute to the prevention of discrimination.

Empowering equality bodies

Existing EU rules on equality bodies leave a wide margin of discretion to the Member States as regards their set-up and operation. This has resulted in significant differences across Member States, in particular, regarding the powers, independence, resources, accessibility and effectiveness of equality bodies. The Commission is proposing a set of binding rules to strengthen the role and independence of equality bodies. Enhanced competences: The proposals extend the competence of equality bodies to two existing Directives, the Employment Equality Directive and the Gender Equality Directive in the field of social security. Independence: There will be a legal requirement for equality bodies to be free from external influence, in particular as regards their legal structure, accountability, budget, staffing, and organisational matters. Sufficient resources: Member States will have to provide equality bodies with the human, technical and financial resources necessary to exercise all their competences effectively. Accessibility for all victims: Services of equality bodies will have to be free and accessible to all victims on an equal basis, including for persons with disabilities. Equality bodies will also have to provide complainants with a preliminary assessment of their case. Consultation on law- and policy making process: Public institutions will be required to consult equality bodies

in a timely manner and to consider their recommendations on matters related to discrimination and equal treatment; equality bodies will also cooperate with other relevant stakeholders to



share knowledge and create synergies. Enhanced powers in discrimination cases: Equality bodies will be able to investigate cases of discrimination, issue opinions or binding decisions (depending on the choice of Member States), and act in court in discrimination cases. Equality bodies will also be able propose an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, such as conciliation or mediation, to the parties in a complaint procedure. Awareness raising: Member States and equality bodies will

step up their efforts aiming at prevention of discrimination and promotion of equality. Sharing expertise: Equality bodies will produce regular reports on the state of equal treatment and discrimination and be able to make recommendations. There is no common formal monitoring of equality bodies. The proposal stipulates that the Commission will establish common indicators to assess the effects of the proposed measures and ensure comparability of data collected at national level. The Commission will issue a report every 5 years on the situation of equality bodies across the EU.

Background

Equality is one of the EU's founding values. EU law requires Member States to set up equality bodies under the Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC), the Gender Equality Directive in the field of goods and services (2004/113/EC), the Gender Equality Directive in the field of employment (2006/54/EC), and the Gender Equality Directive in the field of self-employment (2010/41/EU). The Employment Equality Directive (2000/78/EC) and the Gender Equality Directive in the field of Social Security (79/7/EEC) do not include such provisions. Equality bodies are public institutions that provide assistance to victims of discrimination and issue reports and recommendations. They are part of the institutional checks and balances in a healthy democracy. Strengthening equality bodies is about safeguarding equality and ensuring non-discrimination in people's everyday lives. To strengthen the powers and operation of equality bodies, the Commission adopted a non-binding Recommendation on standards for equality bodies in 2018. However, only some Member States undertook reforms to address issues highlighted in the Recommendation, while most reported either no change at all or no major reforms. In 2019, 59% of Europeans still believed that discrimination based on ethnic origin is widespread in their country. For sexual orientation, religion, disability and age, the numbers are 53%, 47%, 44% and 40% respectively. With these high levels of discrimination across the EU, public awareness about victims' rights and knowledge of discrimination is limited. The public consultation in March 2022 confirmed that a majority of stakeholders are in favour of additional EU rules establishing standards for equality bodies. The initiative consists of two essentially identical proposals for directives. The reason for having two proposals is that the six Directives concerned by the initiative are based on two distinct legal bases requiring different adoption procedures.

4. Capital Markets Union: proposals to make EU capital markets attractive

The European Commission has put forward measures to further develop the EU's Capital Markets Union (CMU):

- to make EU clearing services more attractive and resilient, supporting the EU's open strategic autonomy and preserving financial stability.
- to harmonise certain corporate insolvency rules across the EU, making them more efficient and helping promote cross-border investment.
- to alleviate – through a new Listing Act – the administrative burden for companies of all sizes, in particular SMEs, so that they can better access public funding by listing on stock exchanges.

Clearing

The EU needs safe, robust and attractive clearing for a well-functioning CMU. If clearing does not function efficiently, financial institutions, companies and investors face more risks and higher costs –as the 2008 financial crisis showed. Today's proposed measures will: make our clearing landscape more attractive by enabling central counterparties (CCPs) – which provide clearing

services – to expand their products quicker and easier, and by further incentivising EU market participants to clear and build liquidity at EU CCPs; help build a safe and resilient clearing system, by strengthening the EU supervisory framework for CCPs and drawing lessons from the recent developments in energy markets caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. For example, by increasing the transparency of margin calls, so that market participants (including energy firms) are in a better position to predict them; reduce excessive exposures of EU market participants to CCPs in third countries, particularly for derivatives identified as substantially systemic by the European Securities and Markets Authority. The proposal requires all relevant market participants to hold active accounts at EU CCPs for clearing at least a portion of certain systemic derivative contracts. This will improve the management of financial stability risks in the EU.

Corporate insolvency

Each Member State has a different insolvency regime. This is a challenge for cross-border investors who have to consider 27 different sets of insolvency rules when assessing an investment opportunity. The proposal will: harmonise specific aspects of insolvency proceedings across the EU. For example, it includes rules on: actions to preserve the insolvency estate (i.e. avoiding actions by debtors that would reduce the value that creditors can get); creditors' committees to ensure a fair distribution of the recovered value among creditors; so-called "pre-pack" proceedings (i.e. where the sale of the business is agreed before the insolvency starts); and the duty on directors to timely file for insolvency to avoid that the value of the company deteriorates. Introduce a simplified regime for microenterprises to lower the costs of winding them down and to enable the companies' owners to be discharged from debt, granting them a fresh start as entrepreneurs. Require Member States to produce an information factsheet, summarising the essential elements of their national insolvency laws to facilitate decisions by a cross-border investor. These measures will foster cross-border investment across the Single Market, lower the cost of capital for companies, and ultimately contribute to the EU's CMU. Overall, the benefits of the proposal are expected to exceed €10 billion annually.



Listing Act

Companies nowadays face significant requirements when listing on public markets. For example, the length of prospectus documents can reach up to 800 pages. The proposed amendments will: simplify the documentation that companies need to list on public markets, and streamline the scrutiny processes by national supervisors, thereby speeding up and reducing the costs of the listing process whenever possible. For example, it is estimated that EU listed companies will save approximately €100 million per year from lower compliance costs, with companies saving €67 million per year from simpler prospectus rules alone; simplify and clarify some market abuse requirements, without compromising market integrity; help companies be more visible to investors, by encouraging more investment research especially for small and medium sized companies; allow company owners to list on SME growth markets using multiple vote share structures, so that they can retain sufficient control of their company after listing, while protecting the rights of all other shareholders. These measures will further develop the CMU by cutting unnecessary red tape and costs for companies. This will encourage companies to get and remain listed on the EU capital markets. Easier access to public markets will allow companies to better diversify and complement available sources of funding.

Further details and next steps

The clearing package consists of: a Communication; a Regulation amending the European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR), the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) and the Money Market Funds (MMF) Regulation; a Directive amending the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD), Investment Firm Directive (IFD), and the Directive on Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS). The listing package consists of: an amending Regulation amending the Prospectus Regulation, Market Abuse Regulation and the Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation; an amending Directive amending the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive and repealing the Listing Directive, and a Directive on multiple-vote shares. The corporate insolvency package consists of: a Directive on corporate insolvency. The six respective legislative proposals will now be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council for adoption.

5. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

The Commission has published its annual report on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

The report specifically looks at what Member States and the EU are doing to support civil society organisations and rights defenders such as national human rights institutions, equality bodies and ombuds-institutions. Overall the report shows that while the work of civil society organisations and defenders of fundamental rights is essential for the practical application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, further effort needs to be made across the EU to support them, including by improving the environment in which they operate.

The report in detail

The role of civil society organisations and rights defenders: the report shows how important they are to protect and promote fundamental rights and that their impact is acutely felt during times of crisis. This year in response to the war in Ukraine, for example, they have been instrumental in countering disinformation, mobilising support for people fleeing, and documenting atrocities, as well as relaying vital information about the needs of specific groups such as women, children, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ people and Roma. How they are protected: many Member



States have measures in place that safeguard civil society organisations and rights defenders. In recent years, some Member States have also improved support with national action plans. Over the last year, the Commission has also taken a number of steps to improve their protection with an initiative on the European Media Freedom Act, a Recommendation on safety of journalists and a package of legislative and non-legislative proposals to fight abusive litigation (anti-SLAPP). However,

there is still a need to improve protection across the EU. The figures show that 61% of organisations face obstacles limiting their 'safe space', while 43% face verbal (43%) and physical attacks (15%), including online (19%). The annual Rule of Law Report has also identified issues related to registration and operation requirements. How they are funded: the report shows that some Member States recently increased support, including to compensate for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, a lack of funds remains a major challenge for almost half of civil society organisations, particularly for those working on the rule of law and democracy as well as on fundamental rights more broadly. The EU budget for the period 2021 – 2027 makes available €1.55 billion for projects that protect and uphold fundamental rights - the largest amount ever provided for by the EU budget. In the last two years, €131 million supported almost 1500 organisations working on EU rights and values in every Member State. How they are included in policy-making: the report shows that many Member States consult civil society organisations and rights defenders in the preparation of legislation, for example via open public consultations. There are several examples of Member States setting up permanent channels for dialogue such as dedicated platforms and networks. At the EU level, civil society actors remain major partners in the preparation of EU initiatives and the Commission has opened several channels for dialogue with specialists and on specific topics with dedicated platforms and fora. At the same time, civil society organisations and rights defenders report various obstacles to their inclusion at the national level including limited access to documents and information, as well as a lack of civil dialogue more generally. The Fundamental Rights Agency also finds that across the EU, minorities and vulnerable groups are not sufficiently consulted.

Next steps

The Commission encourages other EU institutions, Member States and stakeholders to use the report to discuss its findings and develop a dialogue on civic space in the EU. In particular, the Commission encourages the European Parliament and the Council to have a dedicated discussion on the findings of the report. To support this debate, the Commission will launch a targeted dialogue with stakeholders through a series of thematic seminars on safeguarding civic space, focusing on how the EU can further develop its role to protect, support and empower civil society organisations and rights defenders to address the challenges and opportunities identified in this report. These seminars could examine themes such as protecting the digital civic space, how to better target EU and national funding to support CSOs and rights defenders, and ways to empower the civic space to bolster our democratic resilience. The outcome of this debate will be presented and discussed in a European high-level roundtable meeting in 2023.

Background

On 2 December 2020, the European Commission presented a Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU, including a commitment to produce annual reports on the application of the Charter based on specific themes. Last year's report focused on the challenges in protecting fundamental rights in the digital age. Over the last year, the European Commission has also worked on raising awareness about the Charter itself. A campaign launched in 2021 drove over 700,000 clicks to the campaign website and generated hundreds of thousands of video views, along with multiple conversations on social media. The success of the campaign, which was one of the deliverables of the 2020 Strategy, underlines the high interest Europeans have in knowing more about their fundamental rights and how to make sure they are being respected.

6. Putting an end to wasteful packaging, boosting reuse and recycling

The Commission is proposing new EU-wide rules on packaging, to tackle this constantly growing source of waste and of consumer frustration.

On average, each European generates almost 180 kg of packaging waste per year. Packaging is one of the main users of virgin materials as 40% of plastics and 50% of paper used in the EU is destined for packaging. Without action, the EU would see a further 19% increase in packaging waste by 2030, and for plastic packaging waste even a 46% increase. The new rules aim to stop this trend. For consumers, they will ensure reusable packaging options, get rid of unnecessary packaging, limit overpackaging, and provide clear labels to support correct recycling. For the industry, they will create new business opportunities, especially for smaller companies, decrease the need for virgin materials, boosting Europe's recycling capacity as well as making Europe less dependent on primary resources and external suppliers. They will put the packaging sector on track for climate neutrality by 2050. The Commission also brings clarity to consumers and industry on biobased, compostable and biodegradable plastics: setting out for which applications such plastics are truly environmentally beneficial and how they should be designed, disposed of and recycled. The proposals are key building blocks of the European Green Deal's Circular Economy Action Plan and its objective to make sustainable products the norm. They also respond to specific demands of Europeans as expressed at the Conference on the Future of Europe.



Preventing packaging waste, boosting reuse and refill, and making all packaging recyclable by 2030

The proposed revision of the EU legislation on Packaging and Packaging Waste has three main objectives. First, to prevent the generation of packaging waste: reduce it in quantity, restrict unnecessary packaging and promote reusable and refillable packaging solutions. Second, to boost high quality ('closed loop') recycling: make all packaging on the EU market recyclable in an economically viable way by 2030. And finally, to reduce the need for primary natural resources and create a well-functioning market for secondary raw materials, increasing the use of recycled plastics in packaging through mandatory targets.

- The headline target is to reduce packaging waste by 15% by 2040 per Member State per capita, compared to 2018. This would lead to an overall waste reduction in the EU of some 37% compared to a scenario without changing the legislation. It will happen through both reuse and recycling.
- To foster reuse or refill of packaging, which has declined steeply in the last 20 years, companies will have to offer a certain percentage of their products to consumers in reusable or refillable packaging, for example takeaway drinks and meals or e-commerce deliveries. There will also be some standardisation of packaging formats and clear labelling of reusable packaging.
- To address clearly unnecessary packaging, certain forms of packaging will be banned, for example single-use packaging for food and beverages when consumed inside restaurants and cafes, single-use packaging for fruits and vegetables, miniature shampoo bottles and other miniature packaging in hotels.

- Many measures aim to make packaging fully recyclable by 2030. This includes setting design criteria for packaging; creating mandatory deposit return systems for plastic bottles and aluminium cans; and making it clear which very limited types of packaging must be compostable so that consumers can throw these to biowaste.
- There will also be mandatory rates of recycled content that producers have to include in new plastic packaging. This will help turn recycled plastic into a valuable raw material – as already shown by the example of PET bottles in the context of the Single-Use Plastics Directive.

The proposal will clear up confusion on which packaging belongs to which recycling bin. Every piece of packaging will carry a label showing what the packaging is made of and in which waste stream it should go. Waste collection containers will carry the same labels. The same symbols will be used everywhere in the EU. By 2030, the proposed measures would bring greenhouse gas emissions from packaging down to 43 million tonnes compared to 66 million if the legislation is not changed – the reduction is about as much as the annual emissions of Croatia. Water use would be reduced by 1.1 million m³. The costs of environmental damage for the economy and society would be reduced by €6.4 billion relative to the baseline 2030. Single-use packaging industries will have to invest into a transition, but the overall economic and job creation impact in the EU is positive. Boosting reuse alone is expected to lead to more than 600,000 jobs in the reuse sector by 2030, many of them at local small and medium sized companies. We expect much innovation in packaging solutions making it convenient to reduce, reuse and recycle. Measures are also expected to save money: each European could save almost €100 per year, if businesses translate savings to consumers.

Clearing up confusion around biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics

The use and production of biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics has been steadily increasing. A number of conditions have to be met for these plastics to have positive environmental impacts, rather than exacerbating plastic pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss. The Commission's new framework clarifies in what way these plastics can be part of a sustainable future. Biomass used to produce biobased plastics must be sustainably



sourced, with no harm to the environment and in respect of the 'cascading use of biomass' principle: producers should prioritise the use of organic waste and by-products as feedstock. In addition, to fight greenwashing and avoid misleading consumers, producers need to avoid generic claims on plastic products such as 'bioplastics' and 'biobased'. When communicating on biobased content, producers should refer to the exact and measurable share of biobased plastic content in the product (for example: 'the product contains 50% biobased plastic content').

Biodegradable plastics must be approached with caution. They have their place in a sustainable future, but they need to be directed to specific applications where their environmental benefits and value for the circular economy are proven. Biodegradable plastics should by no means provide a licence to litter. Also, they must be labelled to show how long they will take to biodegrade, under which circumstances and in which environment. Products that are likely to be littered including those covered by the Single-Use Plastics Directive cannot be claimed to be or labelled as biodegradable. Industrially compostable plastics should only be used when they have environmental benefits, they do not negatively affect the quality of the compost and when there is a proper biowaste collection and treatment system in place. Industrially compostable packaging will only be allowed for tea bags, filter coffee pods and pads, fruit and vegetable stickers, and very light plastic bags. The products must always specify that they are certified for industrial composting, in line with EU standards.

Next steps

The proposal on packaging and packaging waste will now be considered by the European Parliament and the Council, in the ordinary legislative procedure. The policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics will guide future EU work on this issue, for example ecodesign requirements for sustainable products, funding programmes and international discussions. The Commission encourages citizens, public authorities and businesses to use this framework in their policy, investment or purchasing decisions.

Background

Goods need packaging to be protected and safely transported, but packaging and packaging waste have a significant impact on the environment and use of virgin materials. The amount of

packaging waste is growing, frequently at a faster pace than GDP. Packaging waste increased by more than 20% over the last 10 years in the EU and is forecast to soar by another 19% until 2030, if no action is taken. Biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics are emerging in our daily lives as alternatives to conventional plastics. Citizens can find them for example in packaging, consumer goods and textiles as well as other sectors. Since they are called 'bio', consumers have the perception that they are necessarily good for the environment. However, this is only true to a certain extent. The package addressing these issues follows the first Circular Economy package of measures adopted in March 2022. It included the new Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products, the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles, and proposed new measures to empower consumers and enable them to play a fuller role in the green transition.

7. European Solidarity Corps: helping through volunteering

The Commission launched the call for proposals under the European Solidarity Corps for 2023.

The European Solidarity Corps is an EU programme for young people who wish to engage in solidarity activities in various areas ranging from helping disadvantaged people to contributing to health and environmental action, across the EU and beyond. Building on the European Year of Youth, the call intends to create more solidarity opportunities for young people, making over €142 million available. It will fund volunteering, youth-led solidarity projects, volunteering teams in high priority areas focusing on relief for persons fleeing armed conflicts and other victims of natural or non-natural disasters as well as prevention, promotion and support in the field of health, and also the next edition of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

This call also offers participants the possibility to contribute to humanitarian aid operations across the globe. With the help of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, solidarity should be developed between organisations and volunteers from Member States, third countries associated to the Programme (Member States of the European Union plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of North Macedonia, and Türkiye), and people and communities outside the European Union. As a result, the first volunteers will be deployed in projects far and wide. The programme is open to people aged between 18 and 30 for solidarity activities addressing societal challenges and between 18 and 35 for volunteering in support of international humanitarian aid activities. Young people wishing to engage in European Solidarity Corps activities need to register in the European Solidarity Corps portal, where they can browse and find organisations implementing projects. Groups of young people registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal may also apply for funding for solidarity projects led by themselves. Any public or private body may apply for funding to carry out activities under the European Solidarity Corps based on a quality label, which certifies that they are able to carry out high quality solidarity activities in compliance with the principles, objectives and requirements of the programme. They can apply with the help of European Solidarity Corps National Agencies based in all EU Member States and third countries associated to the programme or of the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) for centralised actions. The call for proposals lists the different types of actions, their eligibility criteria, and their respective application deadlines.

Background

The European Solidarity Corps has existed as an EU-funded programme since October 2018, with an operating budget of €375.6 million for the years 2018-2020. It built upon previous EU initiatives in the area of solidarity, aiming to offer a unique gateway for organisations active in the solidarity sector and young people wishing to contribute to society in areas that matter most to them. Based on the initiative's success, the European Solidarity Corps continues and will continue its activities in the period 2021-2027 and will extend them to contribute to the delivery of humanitarian aid around the globe. The total budget of the European Solidarity Corps programme for 2021-2027 is €1.009 billion. Over its seven-year lifespan, this EU programme will enable at least 270,000 young people to take part in solidarity actions. The European Solidarity Corps



supports political priorities of the European Union and engages with organisations and young people in projects to address them by: promoting inclusion and diversity and aiming to provide all young people with equal access to European Solidarity Corps opportunities; supporting projects and activities aiming to protect, conserve and enhance natural habitats and the environment, to raise awareness about environmental sustainability and to enable behavioural changes; contributing to the digital transition by supporting projects and activities that aim to boost digital skills, foster digital literacy and develop an understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology; engaging and empowering young people to be active in society and become true change-makers. Due to its in-built flexibility, the European Solidarity Corps quickly mobilised to support the displaced Ukrainians, in cooperation with National Agencies. In 2022, project applicants were encouraged to include activities linked to the integration of displaced Ukrainians, the promotion of European common values or the fight against disinformation and fake news.

8. Erasmus+ 2023 call launched: support mobility and cooperation

The Commission launched the call for proposals for 2023 under the Erasmus+ programme.

With an annual budget of €4.2 billion, Erasmus+ is increasing its support for inclusion, active citizenship and democratic participation, and green and digital transformations in the EU and internationally. Erasmus+ flagship feature being mobility, next year, the programme will continue to support the movement of school pupils, higher education and vocational education and training (VET) students, adult learners, young people in non-formal learning programmes, educators and staff across borders and towards a European educational and training experience. As of 2023, the programme will feature a new action to support sport coaches through their participation in mobility projects, extending opportunities for cross-European cooperation and learning directly to local grassroots sport organisations and their staff. The programme will rise to the challenges we expect to face in 2023 by providing meaningful support to learners and educational staff fleeing the war in Ukraine, continuing to strive for a more



inclusive programme, and building on the legacy of the European Year of Youth. Erasmus+ support is aimed at activities feeding into programme priorities in the fields of schools, higher and adult education, VET, as well as youth and sport. Based on open calls for project applications, any public or private body active in the fields of education, training, youth and sport can apply for funding, with the help of Erasmus+ national agencies based in all EU Member States and third

countries associated to the programme, and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency. The entire Erasmus+ programme focuses on four key priorities, among which inclusion and diversity. Organisations and participants with fewer opportunities themselves are at the heart of this priority. The programme therefore keeps on supporting participants' inclusion mechanisms and dedicated resources to remove any barriers to their participation. Also in 2023, following up on the European Year of Youth, the programme will continue to ensure that the voices of the youth are heard in the European Union and beyond, especially through an increase in youth activities funded through the Erasmus+. In addition to encouraging across all the different educational sectors projects that seek to support the green transition, the programme continues to strive for carbon-neutrality by promoting sustainable transport modes and more environmentally responsible behaviors. Furthermore, the programme will keep supporting the youth dimension in existing initiatives and policies. At the same time, project and activities under the Erasmus+ 2023 call will continue feeding into the EU's commitment to upskilling and reskilling, thereby providing a valuable contribution to the proposal to make 2023 the European Year of Skills.

Background

Created 35 years ago, Erasmus+ is one of the most emblematic EU programme and nearly 13 million people have participated in the programme so far. With a total budget available for Erasmus+ from 2021 to 2027 amounting to €26.2 billion, complemented with about €2.2 billion from EU's external instruments, the programme is set to support even more participants and ideas in Europe and beyond. The European Commission launched the call for proposals under the Erasmus+ call for 2023 following the adoption of the 2023 work programme.

9. Commission proposes new rules on Advance Passenger Information

The Commission is proposing new rules to strengthen the use of Advance Passenger Information (API) data. This proposal is one of the key actions identified in the EU Security Union Strategy.

The EU continues its progress in strengthening its overall security architecture, which aims to enhance EU citizens' protection, as shown also in the Fifth Security Union Progress Report. The report highlights three years of solid progress in implementing the Security Union Strategy. It shows that significant steps have been made in strengthening the protection of critical infrastructures from physical, cyber and hybrid attacks, in fighting terrorism and radicalisation, as well as in the fight against organised crime. Information on travellers has helped to improve border controls, reduce irregular migration, and identify persons posing security risks. Every year, over a billion passengers enter, leave or travel within the EU. The new rules will improve the use of API data to perform checks on passengers prior to their arrival at the external borders. The new rules will also enhance the fight against serious crime and terrorism within the EU. This will close an important gap in the current legal framework, while upholding EU standards for data protection and transmission. The Commission is also reporting on three years of solid progress in implementing the Security Union Strategy and proposing a new Action Plan on Trafficking in Cultural Goods, which remains one of the most lucrative forms of business for organised crime groups. The new rules on API will introduce uniform rules on API data collection. The new rules include a closed list of API data elements, the means to collect API data, and a single point for the transfer of the data. Mandatory API data collection for the purposes of border management and combating irregular immigration on all flights entering the Schengen area. This will facilitate the travel of people travelling to the Schengen area, with reduced times at disembarkation and at the physical border checks. Mandatory API data collection for law enforcement purposes for all flights to and from the EU, as well as on selected flights within the EU. API data for such purposes is collected in full respect of EU personal data protection rules. Better quality API data, as air carriers will have to collect API data by automated means only. Streamlined transmission of API data by air carriers to national authorities through a new router, which will be managed by an EU Agency, eu-LISA. This technical solution is compliant with personal data protection safeguards as it will only transmit and not store any API data.



Next steps

It is now for the European Parliament and the Council to examine the proposal. Once adopted, the rules will be directly applicable across the EU. These proposals complete other EU systems and initiatives in the area of border management and security, and that are being rolled out in the course of 2023 (such as the Entry Exit System and the European Travel Information Authorisation System). The new rules on the collection and transfer of API data are expected to be applied in full as of 2028. Once the router is developed, which is expected to be the case by 2026, public authorities and air carriers will have two years to adjust to the new requirements and test the router, before it becomes mandatory.

Background

The processing of API data provides an effective tool for advance checks of air travellers, allowing to expedite procedures upon arrival and allocating more resources and time to identify travellers who need further attention. In the EU, the API Directive imposes obligations on air carriers to transmit, upon request, API data to the EU Member State of destination prior to the flight's take-off. This concerns inbound flights from a third country and aims to improve border control and fight irregular migration. The revision of the Directive was announced in the Commission Work Programme 2022 and the June 2021 Schengen Communication. The two new Regulations will replace the 2004 Advance Passenger Information Directive. Results of the 2020 evaluation of the API Directive showed that the current rules on the collection of API data in the EU are no longer fit for purpose. This proposal addresses the need to harmonise and clarify the way API data is collected throughout the EU. It also highlights the usefulness to combine API and PNR data in order to strengthen the reliability and effectiveness of PNR data as a law enforcement tool. In addition to API data that is collected by air carriers at the moment of

check-in and boarding of the plane, air carriers also collect passenger name records (PNR) data at the moment of reservation or booking of a flight ticket. These are a separate set of information, collected by airlines in the normal course of their business. The transmission of PNR data to national authorities and the subsequent use of this data is regulated in the EU by a separate legal framework, the PNR Directive adopted in 2016.

10. Industrial investments in R&D in the EU again on the rise

The 2022 edition of the EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard, shows that Europe's industry is back on track in research and development investments with an increase of 8.9% in 2021 compared to the -2.2 % pandemic-related dip in 2020.

The EU remains the global leader in R&D investments by the automotive sector, where the transformation towards electric vehicles and digitalisation is fully underway in both established companies and younger firms. The Scoreboard also shows a broad sectoral diversification for the EU, especially compared to the US, where R&D investment is highly concentrated in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Globally the private sector R&D investment grew strongly beyond pre-pandemic levels (by 14.8% in 2021 vs. 2020). For the first time since the



2004 Scoreboard, total R&D investment by the world's top 2500 firms passed above one trillion euros (€1094 billion). An important change is that all Chinese Scoreboard firms together now have a slightly bigger share of the global total than the EU companies (17.9% Chinese and 17.6% EU, respectively). The leading share of US firms increased to 40.2% of the global total.

Further deepening of the global technology race

The Scoreboard highlights the intensification of the global tech race in the four key sectors which account for more than three-quarters of the total company R&D reported: ICT producers (22.6%), health industries (21.5%), ICT services (19.8%) and automotive (13.9%). The R&D growth rates of US and Chinese companies - 16.5% and 24.9%, respectively - continued to outpace that of EU counterparts, due to the fact that US Scoreboard companies are leading R&D investors in ICT

(both as producers and service providers) and health sectors, while Chinese Scoreboard firms are ahead of the EU not only as ICT producers, but also in ICT services. The number of Chinese Scoreboard companies more than tripled over the past decade (from 176 in 2011 to 678 in 2021), displacing EU and Japanese firms from more traditional manufacturing sectors.

Encouraging trends and policies

Many EU Member States have significant R&D players in sectors such as aerospace, defence and chemicals industries, in addition to the automotive, ICT and health industries. The top 1000 EU companies include a substantial number of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in health and ICT sectors with encouraging R&D growth in 2021. This is a welcome signal for important target groups of the New European Innovation Agenda, which among others addresses scale-up and growth in emerging deep tech and breakthrough technologies and triggers spillovers between sectors with the support of the European Innovation Council. The updated Industrial Strategy also promotes innovation policies in the broad industrial base in Europe including the high-technology sectors. A patent-based positioning of Scoreboard companies in green technologies and circular economy technologies shows that EU and US companies lead in high-value patents, and the EU also leads in inventions relevant to circularity. The 2022 report also analyses performance in relevant UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). EU companies achieved the highest scores in most SDGs and showed progress since last year. From a sectoral perspective, companies in the automotive and chemical sectors achieved on average high progress in SDGs. The review also reveals the high potential of deep technological solutions to tackle global challenges.

Corporate venture capital

As a new aspect of corporate innovation strategies, Corporate Venture Capital (CVC) has also been analysed. CVC has been increasing over the past 20 years and is now used by two-thirds of Scoreboard companies. R&D and CVC complement and support each other, especially in ICT and health. CVC by EU companies amounts to around half of that by US companies. Moreover, 80% of funds from EU-based companies go to US-based start-ups, which triggers important spillovers.

Background

The EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard has been published annually since 2004 – this is its 19th edition. It provides the most recent economic and financial information based on the latest published audited accounts of the world's top 2500 R&D investors, including the top 1000 EU-based ones. Together with the Scoreboard, the Commission publishes the *2022 Survey on EU Industrial R&D Investment Trends*. While the Scoreboard data do not yet show an impact from the war in Ukraine, the survey report mentions some early feedback such as delays of some existing R&D projects in aerospace and defence, construction, health industries and automobiles. Some companies also said that they started new R&D projects as a direct impact of the war. The 2022 Survey on EU Industrial R&D Investment Trends was sent to the top 1 000 EU R&D investors in the Scoreboard 2021 and has taken place between June and September 2022.

11. Aqua Film Festival

Aqua Film Festival – International Film Festival organized by UNIVERSI ACQUA, Association with environmental, social, and territory enhancement purposes – selects short films, of any category and nationality, focused on the theme of WATER, and able to use the language of cinema to illustrate and interpret the social, ecological, cultural, naturalistic, and artistic aspects of this extraordinary and vital element. The Seventh edition of Aqua Film Festival will take place from April 20th to 23rd, 2023. The films will be screened on Mymovies. The award ceremony will take place in Rome, on April 22th, in live streaming. The INVITATION to participate to the selections of the seventh edition of AquaFilmFestival is open from November 3rd, 2022; deadline to send works is **February 28th, 2023**. The Regulations of the official competition, available below, include instructions for the participation to the selections: **Short films**, up to 25 minutes; **Mini short films**, up to 3 minutes (film credits excluded). Participation to Aqua Film Festival official competition is both easy and free. Please read the regulations carefully, fill in the entry form, available by [clicking here](#), and send us a link to preview your film.



AQUA & STUDENTS COMPETITION – National / International

Thanks to the collaboration with schools and universities, this year's edition includes the AQUA & STUDENTS competition, that will feature mini short films (up to 3 minutes' running time) made by students from schools and universities worldwide. Mini short films may be shot with smartphones, and will have WATER, in all its forms and functions, as the main player. To subscribe to **AQUA & STUDENTS** Competition, fill in the entry form, by [clicking here](#). Deadline for submission of mini short films (up to 3 minutes): March 21st 2022.

SIDE COMPETITION: AQUA & COOKING

It is the competition dedicated to video recipes that interpret a sustainable cuisine, both for the origin of the products and for the creativity of the dish. The duration is up to 3 minutes. Aqua & cooking video recipes should be sent to: aff@aquafilmfestival.org or festival@aquafilmfestival.org. Deadline for submission of mini short films (up to 3 minutes): March 21st 2022. For more information please visit the following [link](#).

12. The Young Entrepreneurs Challenge



The Young Entrepreneurs Challenge brought to you by Verizon Business and Unloc is an annual event that seeks to find cutting edge young talent across Europe. Got a great business idea or concept? If you're 16-25 and have a fresh and innovative technology led idea for a business, or have started one already - then we want to hear from you! Our competition seeks the best young minds from across Europe, young people with vision, social awareness and the ambition to achieve. Grand Prize Winner will receive a £10,000 / €11,000 grant (the actual prize fund will be dependent on the exchange rate at time of award), a mentorship package and pro-bono support to accelerate their business idea or start-up. It's the opportunity to make your mark, get

noticed and put your ideas into action. All shortlisted finalists will also receive the Young Entrepreneurs Challenge Masterclass Support Programme. An assigned enterprise support mentor who will create a 1-2-1 support plan focusing on your key priorities. These could be addressing knowledge gaps, or being matched with services. You will also receive a series of masterclasses across the next year on a range of topics and with a variety of industry expert speakers. Last year's masterclasses focused on: - Business Finance, Equity Sharing & Legal Structures, R&D, Strategic Planning + Forecasting. **Deadline: January 20, 2023, 5 p.m. (GMT).** For more information and applications please consult the following [link](#).

13. The Bank Internship Program (BIP)

The Bank Internship Program is now accepting applications through January 31st for its Summer Term (May – September 2023).

The Bank Internship Program (BIP) offers highly motivated individuals an opportunity to be exposed to the mission and work of the World Bank. The internship allows individuals to bring new perspectives, innovative ideas and research experience into the Bank's work, while improving skills in a diverse environment. In addition, it is a great way to enhance CVs with practical work experience. Internships are available in both development operations and other business units (such as Human Resources, Communications, Accounting, etc.) however, availability during a given internship term is based on business need. To access the application, please click the apply button, noting that only selected candidates will be contacted.



Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an Internship, candidates must have an undergraduate degree and be enrolled in a full-time graduate study program (pursuing a master's degree or PhD with plans to return to school full-time). There is no age limit. Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of languages such as: French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Portuguese, and Chinese is desirable. Other skills such as computing skills are advantageous. We value diversity in our workplace, and encourage all qualified individuals, particularly women, with diverse professional and academic backgrounds to apply. Our aim is to attract and recruit the best talent in the world.

Additional Information

The WB Internship Program typically seeks candidates for: Operations (Front Line) in the following fields: economics, finance, human development (public health, education, nutrition, population), social sciences (anthropology, sociology), agriculture, environment, engineering, urban planning, natural resources management, private sector development, and other related fields; or Corporate support (Accounting, Communications, Human Resources Management, Information Technology, Treasury, and other corporate services). The WB pays an hourly salary to all Interns and, where applicable, provides an allowance toward travel expenses up to USD 3,000 at the discretion of the manager. These travel expenses can only include transport expenses (airfare) to or from the duty station city. Interns are responsible for their own accommodations. Driven by business needs, most Intern positions are based in Washington, DC with a few others in the WB country offices. Usually, internship opportunities are for a minimum of four weeks. The WB Internship is offered twice a year:

- Summer Internship (May–September): The application period is December 1–January 31 each year.
- Winter Internship (November–March): The application period is October 1-31 each year. All applications must be submitted online and during the respective application period. (We do not accept applications by email).

J1 visa holders need to obtain a G4 visa abroad prior to starting employment or unpaid internship at the WB.

Application Process

Applications must be completed by 11:59 PM UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) on the last day of the application period. Take time to prepare your application and enter your personal information accurately. You will be asked to upload the following documents: Curriculum Vitae (CV); Statement of Interest; Proof of Enrollment in a graduate degree. Application Checklist: the following application checklist is meant to facilitate your application experience. For more information please consult the following [link](#).

14. 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 (1 500 euros/month) or unpaid, depending on the budgetary appropriations available. As from 1 October 2020, the three sessions will cover the following periods: from 1 March to 31 July of the same calendar year; from 1 May to 30 September of the same calendar year; from 1 October of one calendar year until 28 (29) February of the next. During these three sessions, each traineeship may last from three to five months.

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

Be a national of one of the Member States of the European Union, except where an exception has been granted by the appointing authority; either hold a recognised university-level diploma giving access to the AD function group (a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three years, as attested by a diploma) as defined in the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union, or have completed at least four semesters of university study in an area of interest to the Court; wish to obtain practical training related to one of the Court's areas of activity; not already have benefited from a traineeship (paid or unpaid) at any EU institution, body or agency, including the European Central Bank and the European Investment Bank; state that they have a thorough knowledge of one official EU language and a satisfactory knowledge of at least one other official EU language; not previously have been or are not, at the time of application, employed in an EU institution, body or agency as a member of the temporary staff, contract staff, auxiliary contract staff, employment agency staff, as a national expert on secondment to an EU institution, body or agency, or as an assistant to a Member of the European Parliament. Applicants who are selected must provide a recent certificate, as drawn up for civil-service employment purposes by their national authorities, stating that they have never been convicted or found guilty of a criminal offence, and a medical certificate stating that they are physically fit to perform their duties. Applicants with a disability are not required to produce such a certificate, which is replaced in their case by a certificate from their family doctor stating that they are able to function effectively in the workplace if appropriate arrangements are made.

Before applying, please note the following important information:

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

15. First in presence meeting in Istanbul for the “Digi4You” project

The first in presence meeting of the project “Digital skills development toolkit for young NEETS to increase employability” (as known as “digi4you”) took place on October 24th in Istanbul, in Turkey. The initiative has been approved in Turkey by the National Agency of the same country within the Erasmus Plus Partnership Cooperative Program for Youth as action number 2021-2-TR01-KA220-YOU-000047996. During the meeting the partners have discussed the progress of the Outcome 1 of the project (“Digital skills training framework”), the initial plan and the methodology to apply in order to develop the Outcome 2 related to the toolkit of digital competences, as well as the Outcome 3 concerning a guide for young trainers in order to improve young people's soft skills. On the other hand, EURO-NET has presented the plan to develop the Outcome 4 related to the online application and the website of the project, just completed by its team of webmasters in every language and English and accessible through



the website <https://www.digi4you.eu/>. Administrative project management, communication strategy and coordination, quality assessment and dissemination plan were also discussed at the meeting. The project as a whole aims to increase the quality of education and training of young people of the country within the European consortium through structured contents and tools to increase both digital skills and soft skills of young people. The partnership includes the following



organizations: Blim ve Insan Vakfi (project coordinator, Turkey), EURO-NET (Italy), Indepcie Sca (Spain) and Esica (Austria), all very active within the youth sector and experts in the field of digital innovative productions. Lastly, we would like to remind you that it is possible to follow the development of the project's activities on the website indicated above and also on the official Facebook page of

the initiative <https://www.facebook.com/digi4youproject>.

16. CE and Europe Direct Basilicata Center at the Lucca Comics&Games

The "Lucca Comics&Games", the most important Italian event (and one of the world's most important kermesses) of comics, cartoons and games, took place from October 28th to November 1st in Lucca, in Italy. This year, for the first time, also the European Commission Representation in Italy (institutional partner of the event) and the EURO-NET Association, invited by the Representation, took part in the event to present to the tens of thousands of visitors expected at the Festival the 2D and 3D productions about Europe. *"Initiatives as the Lucca Comics&Games"* – as stated by Antonio Parenti, Head of the European Commission Representation in Italy – *"are important opportunities to communicate the priorities of the European Union, such as the Green Deal and the NextGenerationEU, through a creative and innovative narrative, reaching a broader and more diverse audience that mostly gathers new generations, which are the main protagonists of the European Year of Youth 2022"*. The European Commission Representation in Italy had at its disposal at the Festival an entire exhibition space along the "Cortina delle Mura" ("Cortina Santa Maria"), where it met the visitors and explained the many opportunities that the EU offers

its citizens. The space of the Commission has also hosted, during many days and times, several famous cartoonists and Italian content creators (Alessandro Perugini aka Pera Toons; Charlotte Le Bleu, Francesco Guarnaccia and Lorenzo Ghetti; Andrea Lorenzon; Federico Palmaroli and Luigi Gallo) for dialogues about Europe and live drawing activities. The space of the Representation, as underlined above, has also hosted the active Potenza-based association EURO-NET, which, as Europe Direct Basilicata Center, has presented during the last three days of the Festival (from October 30th to November 1st) its main and most important achievements and productions in the sector over the last years. For the purpose, the EURO-NET staff coordinated by Antonino Imbesi



has presented on a large screen a sequence of cartoons and games developed to communicate Europe, its values and its history in a different way. *"For us it is such a huge honor to have been invited directly by the European Commission Representation in Italy to present our products at the Lucca Comics&Games"* have stated Anna Lagrotta, President of EURO-NET, and Antonino Imbesi, Director of the Europe Direct Basilicata Center. *"This is a tangible sign of the Commission's regard for our information center and the quality of our animated productions"*. EURO-NET has not only presented at the Lucca Festival 2D multi award-winning productions such as "Il magico viaggio di Luca", "Basilifiaba", "ClimaCartoon", "Forza Capitano", "La storia animata della Unione europea", many other cartoons together with e-games as "Eurbanities", "Sono anche io un deputato europeo" and the 3D electronic game "The Spirit of Europe – Origins", but they have also provided to all the interested young people and visitors, who showed up in the dedicated area of the Representation, information and suggestions on how to present and develop new EU projects or on how to take part in initiatives already funded.

Lastly, it is worth mentioning that during the Lucca Festival the European Commission has also held an information session on the Creative Europe Program 2021-2027 with further information on the call for application “Videogames and Immersive Content Development” organized by the Antenna Creative Europe Desk Italy MEDIA, which took place on October 28th at 4 pm at the Rec Hall (“Complesso di San Francesco”).

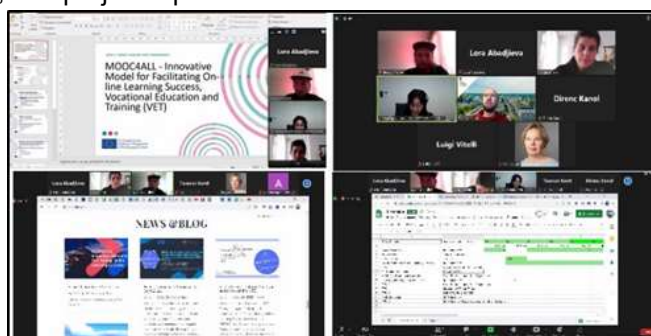
17. Meeting of the “PISH” project in Potenza

The transnational in presence meeting of the project “Problem Based Learning Intercultural Communications and STEM in Higher Education” (acronym “PISH”) took place from November 3rd to 4th (travel days excluded) in Potenza, in Italy. The initiative has been approved by the Danish Erasmus Plus National Agency as action number 2020-1-DK01-KA203-075109 and is aimed at satisfying the intercultural communication needs within the field of peer-to-peer learning of STEM students in Institutes of Higher Education. The European partnership, which consists of the Aalborg University (Denmark), EURO-NET (Italy), University of Thessaly (Greece), Crossing Borders (Denmark), Comparative Research Network (Germany), Center for Education and Innovation (Greece) and ITA Suomen Ylipisto (Finland), has met to define the details of the situation and the work already carried out since the beginning of the project and to plan the following activities to still develop by the conclusion of the project. More information on the project can be found on the website <https://www.pishproject.eu/> or the official Facebook page of the initiative <https://www.facebook.com/PISHproject/>.



18. Third online meeting of the “MOOC4ALL” project

The third online meeting of the European project “MOOC4ALL - Innovative Model for Facilitating On-line Learning Success” (acronym “MOOC4ALL”) took place on November 7th. The project has been approved as action number 2021-1-BG01-KA220-VET-000029853 by the Erasmus Plus Agency in Bulgaria within the Erasmus Plus KA220-VET Partnership Cooperative Program for professional training. During the meeting, the project's partners have worked on the finalization and translation in all languages of the handbook. The project involves the development of a practical e-learning tool for online learning, which promotes an online, open, innovative and effective training (as stated in the action plan for digital learning), by improving the quality of the offer within the sector of training and integration of contents and online courses, in order to strengthen the qualification of the staff in the partner organizations, to promote the professional continuous development of teachers, trainers and mentors of VET, to increase access to continuous education and training for everybody, including workers low-skilled workers, migrants and refugees. In addition to the Bulgarian coordinator Narodno Chitalishte Badeshte Sega 2006, the partners of the project are: University of Turku (Finland), Stando Ltd (Cyprus), Kainotomia (Greece), EURO-NET (Italy) and Krase Research and User Experience (The Netherlands). More information on the project and its activities can be found on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Innovative-Model-for-Facilitating-Online-Learning-Success-110541508153755>.



19. Meeting in Potenza for the “ECHOPLAY” project

A new transnational meeting of the project “European Career Help and Occupational Orientation Play” (acronym “ECHO PLAY”) took place on November 7th and 8th in Potenza, Basilicata. The initiative has been approved in Iceland as action number 2020-1-IS01-KA202-065802 within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Program for Strategic Partnerships in the VET. During the meeting, the partners - Midstod Simenntunar a Sudurnesjum (Iceland), project coordinator; EURO-NET and

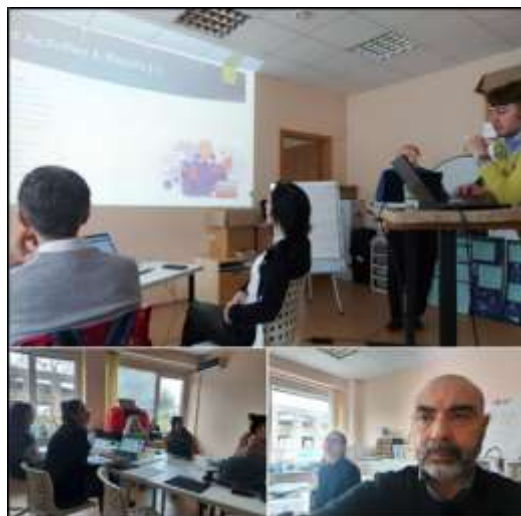


Studiodomino SRL (Italy); Turun Yliopisto (Finland) and Kelje Production (France) – have assessed the work done so far on intellectual products and they have also discussed the activities to be completed by April 2023 (when the project will end, unless extended). The meeting was coordinated for the EURO-NET association (Europe Direct Basilicata center) by Dr. Peppino Franco, who reminded the partners that the results of the project will be shared in an open format and will be made available to everybody through a series of events to be held in the

various countries that are part of the European consortium in the upcoming months. More information on the project are available on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Echoo-Play-project-102639605153401> and on the project's website <https://www.echooplay.eu/>.

20. Meeting in Vilnius for “The first steps in STEM” project

The Lithuanian meeting for the project “The first steps in STEM, Robotics and Programming” took place on November 14th and 15th in Vilnius. The initiative has been approved in Romania by the Erasmus Plus National Agency as action number 2021-1-RO01-KA220-YOU-000029548 within the Cooperative Partnerships in Youth. The association EURO-NET took part in the meeting with two members of the staff, Antonino Imbesi and Francesco Bruni, involved in the project as researchers. The objective of the European partnership, consisting of Asociatia Zury (Romania-project coordinator), S.C. Predict Csd Consulting S.R.L. (Romania), EURO-NET (Italy), Vsi Robotikos Mokykla (Lithuania) and Vantaan Venäläinen Klubi Ry (Finland), is to develop skills in robotics and STEM education-, which have gone through a growth during the last decades, despite the fact that these topics are not taught in schools yet and they are not integrated within a formal curriculum and this causes a loss of opportunities for young people as the universal programming language and STEM elements represent a relevant aspect to ensure that the current generation is being prepared for a digitalized future. In order for young people to be able to understand how ICT can be useful in their lives and generate potential solutions for the future, they should first know about the basics in the computational thinking and be aware of the basic concepts and notions upon which the whole digital world was established, hence, in short, they should know about programming. The objective of the project is to plunge young people in the extraordinary realms of robotics, programming and STEM by creating three relevant products: two online training and an e-game. The meeting in Vilnius has devoted two days of activities to the assessment of the project's actions to implement and to those actions related to the Outcome 1 (which involves the development of the first online training on robotics and programming). Dissemination plan and administrative management were also discussed during the transactional meeting. Lastly, some on-site visits to individuals working in the sector's project were planned.



21. Focus group for the “EQUALLEY” project

On November 17th the association EURO-NET has held (in the structure of the well-known innovation space in Potenza, Godesk) a focus group coordinated by Antonino Imbesi and Caterina Lacerra as part of the project “Equalley” (acronym “Tackling street harassment & gender stereotypes in youngsters”). The focus group, which is part of a transnational research, was aimed at assessing (together with 6 experienced educators who have been working with young people for years) the situation related to harassments in the street and to gender stereotypes. The interview has involved Giulia Pietrafesa, Rosa Volino, Tiziana Cione, Vito Verrastro, Matilde Misseri and Maria Domenica Giura, all with significant teaching or training backgrounds. The results of the focus group will be analyzed by the EURO-NET staff and then summarized in a report, which will be part of the research conducted at the European level. The project EQUALLY (approved in Spain by the Spanish Erasmus Plus National Agency within the KA220-SCH program for Cooperation Partnerships in school education, as action number 2021-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000032603) has started in December 2021 and has involved the following organizations: 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 whole initiative was addressed to face and decrease harassments and sexual violence by fighting gender stereotypes and discriminations through the development of three main outcomes: a booklet on the results of the research conducted in the partner countries, a course for young people aged between 12 and 16, and a final guide for trainers and educators.



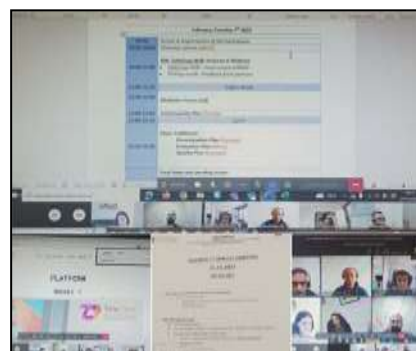
22. Online workshop on European topics

An online workshop on European topics was held on November 17th to discuss issues, actions and European opportunities with volunteers of the Basilicata-based associations to conclude the annual course that has involved many civil society organizations. The annual course focused on the future of Europe and the opportunities offered by European projects. Lastly, the workshop has also covered in detail the actions and initiatives within the Erasmus Plus program. A special thanks goes to Felicia D'Anna for her devotion and willingness to cooperate and work, and also to all the people who participated in the meetings and discussions.



23. Sixth online meeting for the “TELEGROW” project

The sixth online meeting for the project "Telegrow: Enhancing the Teleworking Digital Skills for the Middle aged employees" (acronym “Telegrow”) was held on November 21st. The project has been approved as action number 2020-1-ES01-KA226-VET-096306 by the National Agency in Spain within the Erasmus Plus program and the special October 2020 call for KA226 VET projects in the field of creativity and innovation. The European initiative is aimed at providing trainers and professional training operators with the necessary expertise and tools to shape and improve the skills of employees over the age of 50 in order to help them efficiently work from home by consciously and effectively use telecommuting. The meeting was held to assess the outputs which have been achieved and



to plan the activities to be completed, in particular the TelegrowHub, which will be available to trainers and employees over 50. The partners claimed to be extremely satisfied about the work already done and for having adhered to the schedule of the program. The partnership of the project is composed by: 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).

24. Training course and meeting of the “yEURSTAGE” project

The fifth and last training of the 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”) was held in Potenza from November 22th to 25th (excluding travel days). The project has been approved as action number 2020-1-PT01-KA204-078361 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Portugal within the Strategic Partnerships in the field of adult learning. The training course was held by the trainer Roberta Laguardia and was focused on the “Slavskij method” and the Theater of the Oppressed. The training has been reduced by one day because of the issues related to Covid, which have affected two foreigner delegations, which could not have been physically present at the course because the participants tested positive to Covid a few days before leaving for Italy. In any case, the course was held in a hybrid form: participants from Spain and Cyprus were physically present, whereas participants from Greece and Portugal followed online. The last transnational meeting within 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”) took place on December 9th and 10th (excluding travel days) in Nicosia, in Cyprus. The project has been approved as action number 2020-1-PT01-KA204-078361 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Portugal within the Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education. The meeting has been addressed to the assessment of the work done during the last two years within the European partnership in which the following organizations have cooperated: 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 meeting was attended for EURO-NET by 4 volunteers who have presented the dissemination realized

by the Italian organization. More information on the project and on the many activities are available on the official Facebook page of the initiative <https://www.facebook.com/yeurstage> and on the yEURSTAGE website <https://yeurstage.eu/>.

25. Training and multiplier event for the “MUSICLAJE” project

The European training of the project “MUSICLAJE: Emprendimiento social con instrumentos reciclados” (MUSICLING: Social entrepreneurship with recycled instruments) took place from October 24th to 30th in Gandia, close to Valencia, in Spain. The project has been approved and



financed (as action number 2020-1-ES02-KA227-YOU-16727) by the Spanish Erasmus Plus National Agency within the Erasmus Plus KA227 Youth Program dedicated to youth initiatives full of creativity. During the training course, attended for EURO-NET by its trainers Renato Pezzano and Emiliano Tricarico together with a selected group of young creatives and artists, several workshops and laboratories were held on how to build musical instruments from recycled materials and how to use them to produce music and sounds, as well as recording sessions of the music made together by all participants. The last day of the transnational mobility has been dedicated to the exposition of the musical instruments created and to the planning of

the Spanish multiplier event. The multiplier event took place on November 25th in Potenza, at the “Due Torri Theater”. During the public event, which was held like a festival, the EURO-NET staff has presented to the audience the development of the activities and the products created during the last 15 months of activities, during which all the European partners - Xeracion Valencia (Spain, project coordinator), EURO-NET (Italy), Social Youth Development Civil Nonprofit Society (Greece) and Association for Volunteerism Volonterski Centar Skopje (Macedonia) – have been engaged in the creation of musical instruments from recycled materials, and this has been a learning opportunity for the youth about the importance of reuse. The event has ended with a small musical concert that has perfectly framed all the moments of disseminating and sharing of the results of the projects, which was completed at the end of November. *“It has been such a nice project – has stated Renato Pezzano, a trainer of the EURO-NET association, - and we have perfectly worked with all the partners, we have shared every step and every decision as it is good practice in a European partnership. We, as staff taking part in the activities, are very proud of what we have done and we are convinced that what has been achieved so far has a double value, because on one hand it improves the awareness to reuse, and, on the other hand, it demonstrates how it is possible to create new products from waste material and to set a good example for both old and new generations.*

26. First panel discussion “Next Generation – Future Builders”

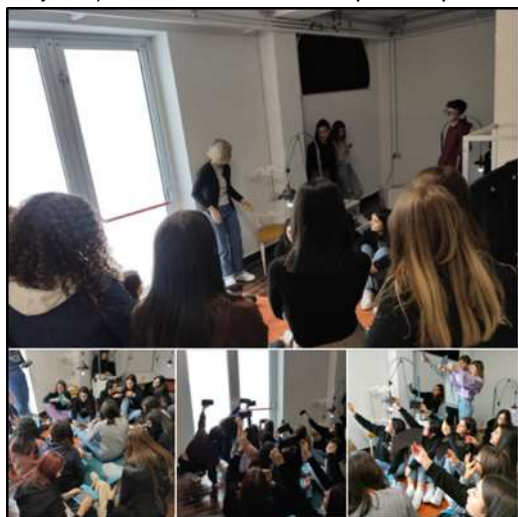
The initiative “Next Generation – Future Builders” has started in Potenza on November 25th and it was aimed at debating on particularly interesting topics for younger generations and at gathering inputs and ideas to transform into action to be planned within the next years. The initiative, conceived by the Regional Council of Basilicata together with the Regional School Office as part of the events related to the European Year of Youth 2022, included four discussion meetings involving different generations confronting themselves (Students’ representatives, activists, cultural associations, institutional stakeholders, labor unions) moderated by an expert and a facilitator. The first panel discussion was held on November 25th in the Hall B of the Regional Council in Potenza and was addressed at the opportunities offered by Europe for young people. The expert who led this first active contamination meeting, which was also attended by the Regional Council President Cicala for the



introductory greetings, was Antonino Imbesi, head of the Europe Direct Basilicata Center, the European's Commission information center, whereas the facilitator was Vito Verrastro, from BasilicataPress. The other meetings planned at the Regional Council of Basilicata were held on November 29th (orientation, employability and opportunities), on November 30th (youth active participation) and on December 5th (youth and environmental sustainability). The objective of these panel discussions was to create a multi-voice debate during which it was possible to learn more about those who work for young people in order to launch proposals which could potentially be implemented by the Regional Council in the years to come. Other ideas have been gathered via digital means by many organizations and youth associations which, despite being interested in these topics, did not have the possibility to physically take part in the discussions. The proposals gathered during the discussions have been analyzed, summarized and presented during a conclusive event attended by more than 500 participants from Basilicata on December 15th at the "Don Bosco Theater" in Potenza. During the final event, attended by the regional institutions, as well as the experts and facilitators involved in the discussions, the students' representatives have presented all the proposals, and the high schools in Basilicata have chosen the best one, which has been included in the final document addressed at the President of the Regional Council so that it could become a policy to be discussed the following year, which is also the European Year of the Skills.

27. Fab-Lab event on recycling materials at the MOON in Potenza

Two workshops on how to recycle materials to give them a new life took place on November 25th and 28th at the MOON (Museo Officina Oggetti Narranti – Workshop Museum of Narrative Objects). These two workshops are part of the 2022 actions of the annual project Europe Direct Basilicata and they have involved 66 high school students.



The event – has stated Anna Lagrotta, President of the EURO-NET association, who has been running the European Commission's information center in Basilicata for two decades now – was inspired by the European Green Deal and aimed at demonstrating the importance of recycling in order to safeguard our planet and at decreasing climate changes. Recycling and giving a new life to old objects is essential to environmental sustainability and also to decrease the amount of waste material in the world, because we could all do our part with just a little bit of effort and attention. The Fab-Lab was conducted by the staff of the cultural association "La Luna al Guinzaglio" (active in Potenza since 2003), which works in the field of arts, education and culture and organizes

training courses, expositions, educational projects for schools, teachers, families and citizens of all ages. The cultural association has been actively cooperating with the Europe Direct regional center for years. *"The path has been built around broken objects and their regeneration potential – has stated Sara Stolfi of the "La Luna al Guinzaglio" association – and has created an ecological poetic which has made young participants ambassadors of values as sustainability, knowledge, inclusion and respect for the environment. A true collective ritual has given territories the possibility to create virtuous and socializing paths with significant cultural and environmental impact.*

28. Meeting and multiplier event for the "THE A CLASS" project

A new transnational meeting within the project "The A Class: integrating and supporting students with autism in the mainstream classroom" (acronym "The A Class") took place from November 8th to 10th in Zagreb, in Croatia. The project has been approved by the Danish Erasmus Plus National Agency within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Program Strategic Partnerships in the field of school education as action number 2020-1-DK01-KA201-07505. During the meeting, attended for

the EURO-NET association by two delegates, the partners have summoned up the work done during the partnership for the development of an educational approach for intensive autism with the aim of creating a real perspective in the implementation and use of the ABA technique (acronym of "Amplified Behavior Analysis") at school: the partners of the initiative seek to develop an innovative educational package based on teaching approaches for school teachers in order to support the teaching to autistic kids in class. The Italian multiplier event of the project took place on December 2nd 2022 at the "Liceo Gropius" in Potenza. At the event, which has involved municipal and regional school institutions which have talked about the importance of the Erasmus Plus Program and generally about European programs for young students, also took part some young artists of the "Liceo Gropius" who have entertained the audience with dancing, singing and music. During the event Antonino Imbesi, representing the EURO-NET association, has presented the project and the many products being developed, whereas some teachers of the Liceo Gropius have described in detail their positive experience at the training course held in Cyprus within "The A Class" project and the useful notions learned related to the use of the ABA technique (acronym of "Applied Behavior Analysis"). Then some young students have talked about the importance of taking part in experiences abroad for their education and future career. The project, which will be over in the first months of 2023, has developed a partnership made of Sosu Ostjylland (Denmark), EURO-NET (Italy), Inercia Digital (Spain), Masaryk University (Czech Republic), Center for Autism (Croatia), Stando Ltd (Cyprus) and Association for improving quality of life of people with autism spectrum disorders "Blue Firefly" (Macedonia). More information on the project, its objectives and all the activities done so far are available on the official website <https://theaclass.eu/> and on the Facebook page of the initiative <https://www.facebook.com/KA2TheAclass>.



29. Last training of the "CLanIMATE Youths" project in Potenza

The last training within the project "CLanIMATE youth: Empowering young people to tackle climate change through the use of animation tools" (acronym "CLanIMATE Youths") took place from December 2nd to 6th in Potenza (travel days excluded). The project has been approved as action number 2020-3-FR02-KA205-018477 by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in France within the field of youth initiatives for strategic partnership KA205. At the training course, hosted by the Italian partner EURO-NET (which hosts the Europe Direct Basilicata Center) took part 9 youth workers from Cyprus and Spain. Andrea D'Andrea and Luca Caggiano have been exceptional trainers, both experts who have been working in the 2D animation field for years: the training course has been focused on the development of animations to use as a useful tool at the disposal of youth to make their voices being heard in political debates on climate change. The partners of the project are Association FenêtreS (France), EURO-NET (Italy), STANDO LTD (Cyprus) and AIJU (Spain). More information on the project are available on the website <https://clanimatemyouths.netsons.org/> and also on the Facebook page of the European initiative <https://www.facebook.com/CLanimateYouths>.



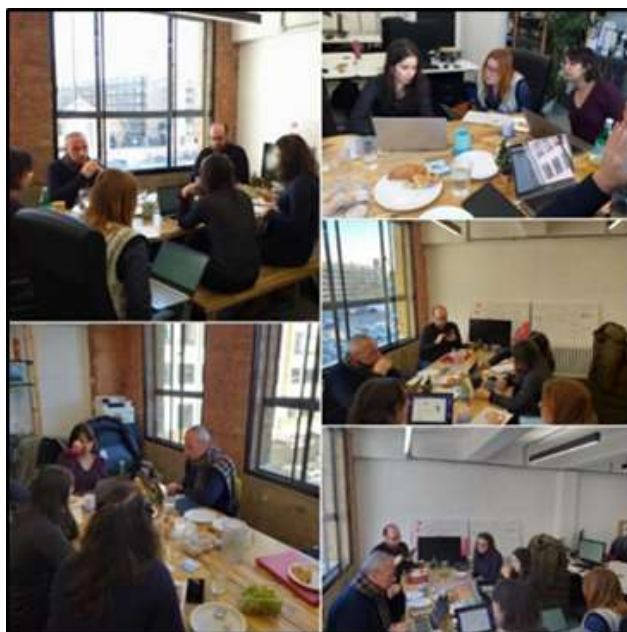
30. Last meeting of the “CARES” project in Sofia

The last transnational meeting of the project "Career Accessibility for Resilient Employment in STEMM" (acronym "CARES") took place on December 5th and 6th in Sofia, in Bulgaria. The initiative has been approved within the Erasmus Plus program in UK by the National Agency as action number 2020-1- UK01-KA201- 078909. The meeting, attended for EURO-NET by Doctor Veronica Summa (an intern at the Potenza-based association) and online by Doctor Andrea D'Andrea, has been aimed at assessing the intellectual products developed during the last 28 months of activities and, in particular, the app developed by the Italian organization. The meeting has been also aimed at planning the final report and at discussing the multiplier events, some of which are still to be completed. The project, which will be over at the end of December 2022, was aimed at facing the gap of competences in STEMM and at supporting the improving of competences related to foreign languages through the use of the app with augmented reality features (developed as digital tool useful to education), which can be downloaded both on Android via the Google Play Store at the following link <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=eu.euronet.cares.androidid> and also on iOS via the Apple Store at the following link <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/cares/id6444202674>. The partnership which has realized the project is composed by Academy for International Science and Research (UK), EURO-NET (Italy), Hilal Dogu Akademi Egitim Hizmetleri Ve Uluslararası Proje Yönetim Danışmanlığı Ticaret Ve Sanayi Limited Şirketi (Turkey), Fablab Messina (Italy), Liceul Tehnologic "Valeriu Braniste" (Romania), "Horizont ProConsult" EOOD (Bulgaria) and Samsun İl Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü (Turkey). More information on the project are available on the official website of the initiative <https://www.cares-erasmus.eu/>.



31. Last meeting in London for the “QUEER MIGRANTS” project

The last transnational meeting for the project “Queer Migrants: Addressing gaps in adult education and social cohesion” (acronym “Queer Migrants”) took place on December 6th and 7th (excluding travel days) in London, UK. The project has been approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in the United Kingdom within the Erasmus Plus KA2 Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education as action number 2020-1-UK01-KA204-079101. The final meeting has been dedicated to the presentation of all products and activities developed from December 21st 2020 to the date of the meeting, and to the planning of the latest activities to be realized in the last weeks of the project (in particular some multiplier events in some partner countries). The European initiative, coordinated by the IARS Institute (Independent Academic Research Studies International Institute) based in London, was aimed at improving social cohesion and allowing the inclusion of LGBTQI migrants: together with IARS, also EURO-NET (Italy), Symplexis (Greece), Astiki Mh Kerdoskopiki Etaireia Helping Hand (Greece) and CSI Center for Social Innovation LTD (Cyprus) have worked on the project. More information on the project area available on the website <https://www.queermigrants.eu/>.



32. Meeting in Bonn and training in Luxembourg for the “JV” project

The second meeting of the project “Joint Ventures: Jeunes et des espaces verts” (acronym “JV”) took place on October 29th in Bonn, in Germany. The project has been approved in Luxembourg as action number 2021-1-LU01-KA220-YOU-000029296 within the Erasmus Plus Program for Strategic Partnerships for Youth. The main objective of the project is to create a healthy and climate resilient society in Europe by exploiting the potential of young people, by working across urban and rural sectors and by helping young people to improve their skills. The partnership developing this youth project is made by the Alliance for Global Development (Luxembourg – project coordinator), ISEDE and V (Germany), Europejskie Forum Młodzieży “Fraternitas” (Poland), Xeracion Valencia (Spain) e Youth Europe Service (Italy). The meeting was dedicated to reviewing activities already implemented and to products under development. After the meeting the partners moved to Luxembourg to take part in the “urban adventures” training, which was attended by four members of each organization. Participants have been given explanations on how to organize events within their community and urban spaces, by reaching out first to local competent authorities and receive their permission before taking any action. Young people have learnt to create some green activities, including the maintenance and reparation of community gardens and they have been given explanations on mechanism of hydroponics, waste management, environmental issues and how to reduce urban energy consumption by decreasing the carbon footprint through climate-friendly activities such as walking, cycling, using public transport, etc.



33. Short online meeting for the “EI4Future” project

A short online technical meeting of the project “Emotional Intelligence for Emotional Resilience” took place on November 4th. The initiative has been approved within the actions KA220-ADU of the Spanish Erasmus Plus National Agency as action number 2021-1-ES01-KA220-ADU-



000026157. The meeting was focused on the assessment of the Outcome 1 and on the planning of the development of the “cards” describing the games that can be used to improve learning and knowledge of emotional intelligence among adult learners. The project, coordinated on the European level by the

Spanish Institute Indepcie SCA, can rely on 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 emotive intelligence in the daily life under a personal and professional perspective, and it encourages the adults with less opportunities (which means belonging to disadvantaged backgrounds such as unemployed, immigrants, refugees, disabled) to develop skills to manage their emotions and become more emotionally resilient. More information on the project and its activities are available on the official Facebook page of the initiative <https://www.facebook.com/EI4Future> or on the website (partially under construction) <http://www.ei4future.eu/>.

34. Last meeting in Krakow for the “EUCYCLE” project

The last meeting of the project “Upcycling Europe: sharing good practices on circular economy within the framework of a European partnership” (acronym: “EUCYCLE”) took place on November 8th in Krakow, in Poland. The initiative has been approved as action number 2020-1- IT01-KA202-008379 by the Italian Erasmus Plus National Agency INAPP within the actions KA2 related to the exchange of good practices in strategic partnerships for the VET. The meeting of the project EUCYCLE, which has been coordinated on the European level by the well-known Potenza-based startup, GODESK SRL, has represented the occasion to assess the implementation of all the activities and products as envisaged by the initiative, and also the moment during which the partners have discussed the final report to present at the end of the project (after November 30th). The transnational meeting in Krakow was also an opportunity for the European partners to say goodbye in person one last time after two-years of professional work carried out with regularity and commitment that has been so rewarding that the partnership has already decided to submit a next following project at the next Erasmus Plus call in 2023. The meeting has been hosted by the EURO-IDEA's partners at the city stadium, a charming location that has been extremely appreciated by all the participants coming from Europe, who have also had the possibility to visit the notorious Polish city during the meeting. More information on this European project are available on the website <https://eucycle.wordpress.com/> or on the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Eucycle-project-101446965239402>.



35. First workshop of the “Run Forest Run” project

The first Italian workshop of the “Run Forest Run” project took place on November 11th in Potenza, Italy. The initiative has been approved in Poland as action number 2021-2-PL01-KA210-YOU-000051306 within the Small Scale addressed to youth of the Erasmus Plus Program, and the Basilicata-based association Youth Europe Service is a partner. The creative laboratory, named “See, touch, renew” and addressed to young people aged between 15 and 30, was held at the MOON (Museo Officina Oggetti Narranti – Workshop Museum of Narrative Objects) by the staff of the Potenza-based associated involved in the project KA210-YOU, which pursues the



goal of encouraging young people to discover the world in which they live by engaging them to combat climate changes and fight to protect the environment. The workshop, attended by 33 young students coming from the High School Pierpaolo Pasolini of Potenza and Muro Lucano, aimed at making young people aware of the environmental problems in order to encourage them to do something to protect the planet by employing an ecological behavior on a daily basis while being respectful of the world around them. After the presentation on the many recycled products at MOON and the explanation of the project, its objectives and the products to develop, the activity (involving the flora and everyday objects) has allowed young students to express themselves in interactive exercises including the production of short movies lasting 5-8 minutes (by simply using their phones) related to the backstage and the activities done. The partnerships of the project “Run Forest Run”, composed by Istytut Nowych Technologii (Poland), Youth Europe Service (Italy) and BestSeller (Serbia), aims at promoting through this workshop (and many others following) the principles of recycling and reusing by addressing younger generations and encourage them to decrease the consumption of new materials and favor the reduction of urban waste, in particular in the kitchen and gardens, by retrieving and reusing materials such as plastic, glass, paper, aluminum, etc., which, if used in a creative way, can become valuable resources to create new useful items.

36. First meeting in Madrid for the “SAFE” project

The first in presence meeting of the project “Social Awareness For Europe” (acronym “SAFE”), took place on November 14th and 15th in Madrid, in Spain. The project has been approved in Norway within the Erasmus Plus KA220-ADU Program – Cooperation partnerships in Adult Education by the homonymous National Agency. The transnational meeting, attended for the association Youth Europe Service by Doctor Luigi Vitelli, has allowed partners to assess the work already done (in particular on the first output of the project related to the “Framework on the management of current situations of exclusion and awareness at the European level”) and to plan the following steps to develop. The project, which involves Fonix As (Norway); Academia Postal 3 Vigo S.L. (Spain); The Rural Hub Clg (Ireland) and Youth Europe Service (Italy), addresses the reduction of social intolerance and exclusion amongst adults in the European Union. This objective should be reached by offering adults skills, procedures and high quality tools in order to manage these problematics, by promoting positive values, by avoiding believing fake news and by promoting an inclusion perspective based on respect, equality and social justice. The project also involves the development of four complete training courses on the methodology to adopt, in order to provide associations, public institutions, organizations and organizers with valuable tools to manage appropriately the situations of exclusion, by promoting values of tolerance and mutual respect. In addition to that, the SAFE project aims at developing a virtual community for disadvantaged groups, which have potentially been affected by situations of social exclusion or intolerance, together with professionals and social workers or organizations working in favor of inclusion by promoting the exchange of experiences and values, as well as the sharing of resources and the promotion of tolerance.



37. Meeting in Potenza for the “DVAE” project

The Italian meeting of the project “Digital Voyage Around Europe” (acronym “DVAE”) took place on November 18th in Potenza at GODESK, which is one of the partners of the initiative. The project (approved in Spain by the Erasmus Plus National Agency as action number 2020-1-ES01-KA204-082259 within the KA2 Strategic Partnerships in the field of adult learning) is aimed at raising awareness on the use of the newest and latest digital tools and it involves the creation of five intellectual products, three of which have been already totally completed and the fourth one (a learning online platform) is under development. During the meeting the partners - Association De Cooperation Al Desarrollo Abarka (Spain – project coordinator), AIJU (Spain), Kapadokya Egitim ve Arastirma Dernegi (Turchia), Namoi (Russia), SC Psihoforworld (Romania), GODESK S.R.L. (Italia), Skills Zone Malta co. Limited (Malta) and Alliance for Global Development (Luxembourg) - have focused on assessing the state of the products that have been developed and have also planned the creation of the fifth product, whose production will be led by the Potenza-based association and



it concerns a guide on the use of all the products being developed. More information on the project are available on the official Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Digital-Voyage-Around-Europe-102972418345600> or on the website of the initiative (available in all the languages of the partnership) <https://dvaeproject.eu/>.

38. First meeting in Potenza of the “Ares” project

The project “ARES – A Radio for Employability Skills” has started on November 19th in Potenza with an opening meeting of the partners. The project has been approved within the Erasmus + KA210-ADU Program - Small-scale partnerships in adult education, as action number 2022-1-IT02-KA210-ADU-000081472. The project has the objective of training educators and young adults to use podcasts in order to explore the present and the ongoing changes, to improve the expressivity and communication, to acquire new soft skills such as critical thinking, sense of collaboration, creativity, entrepreneurial spirit and techniques (like research of sources, organization of information, structuring of content, intelligent use of technologies and software, use of the voice, public speaking, editing), with the aim of acquiring and training some of the abilities required by the job market. The project, coordinated by the communication agency Basilicata Press and approved by the National Agency INDIRE, will also involve for 12 months a German partner (Erasmus ME Academy, from Bonn) and a Spanish partner (Asociació educativa i cultural Blue Beehive, from Ibi, province of Alicante), with the objective of laying the groundwork for the establishment of an international radio managed by young people only. The path of the project includes the creation of a video guide for all the trainers who are interested in acquiring this learning non formal methodology to export it to their organizations, and also an online course for young adults (aged up to 30 years) in order to share the sense of the project and to start being active in the ideation and production of podcasts. The ARES platform will produce over a year 300 podcasts, among which 150 in English, 50 in Italian, 50 in German, 50 in Spanish, and will train young people on their linguistic skills too. *“The challenge of work has moved the focus on the topic of employability, which means constantly working on yourself and on your skills in order to remain attractive to an ever changing market”* – has stated Vito Verrastro, of Basilicata Press, conceiver of the project and founder of the Lavoradio podcast. *“In order to adjust to these changes, which are often frightening, young people need to feel like protagonists and no longer like spectators of the present and the future. This has led to the idea of helping young people discover the existent opportunities on the European, national and local levels, and then converting them in the form of a podcast, through a non-formal learning which will help engage, motivate and stimulate their actions. In addition, ARES will allow a work on those technical skills which are highly demanded by the job market, especially in the field of communication and content creation, with the aim of increasing the employability threshold for the participants”*. The partners have created a website www.aresproject.eu and have also created a Facebook page, “Ares Project” (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087562917983>).



39. Online meeting of the “Explore Europe” project



A new online meeting of the project “Explore Europe” was held on November 23th. The initiative has been approved by the Youth Europe Service association, based in Potenza, as action number 2020-2-IT03-KA205-018664 by the National Agency for Youth within the KA205 initiatives of the Erasmus Plus Strategic Partnerships for Youth Program. During the meeting, the partners have assessed the status of the “Intellectual Outputs” under development and have mutually agreed to submit a request for a 4-months extension to the National Agency in order to have all the necessary time to conclude the action in the best

way. Because of the pandemic, there have been some delays in the development of the activities of the project and in the processing of digital innovation products (all of high quality, as it has been confirmed by the image attached to this article where it is possible to see some of the scenes of the 3D e-game). The pandemic has affected the work of the partners and caused some delays on the schedule of the project. After the online meeting, the project coordinator has sent via email the request for extension to the National Agency and Doctor Cecchini. The partnership, which consists of Youth Europe Service (Italy), S.C. Predict CSD Consulting S.R.L (Romania) and Damasistem (Turkey), is now expecting the approval of the extension and they all hope it is going to be accepted soon by the Erasmus Agency. The project is developing three interactive games of the latest generation (for online and mobile phones), which will allow the development of educational and training activities conducted by youth operators in an innovative way, which means by using gamification methodologies with the aim of making young people live a competitive adventure (young people will have the opportunity to confront themselves in competitions) characterized by the respect of human rights, promotion of integration and inclusion, support to solidarity, enhancement of citizenship's rights and drive towards European values. More information on the initiative are available on the Facebook page of the project www.facebook.com/Explore-Europe-104476754982850/ and on the official website www.exploreeurope.eu.

40. Meeting and training in Espinho, in Portugal, for the project “3D4Auto”

The second meeting and the transnational training within the project "ECVET compatible 3D printing training modules for automotive technologies" (acronym “3D4Auto”) took place in Espinho, in Portugal. The initiative has been approved by the Erasmus Plus National Agency in Slovakia as action number 2021-1-SK01-KA220-VET-000034617 within the Erasmus Plus Program KA220-VET Cooperation Partnerships in Vocational Training. The two activities have engaged the partners for some days: some of the delegates have taken part in the meeting (on December 5th and 6th), whereas some others have taken part in the training course (from December 5th to 9th). The project, which also involves the Potenza-based society GODESK as a participant to the international partnership, mainly aims at the implementation and development of a course about printing and 3D prototyping addressed at high schools in the “Automotive Technology” field with the objective of inspiring young students and triggering their creativity and potentials in a school laboratory. The other partners of the initiative, together with GODESK, are: Stredna priemyselna skola dopravná (Slovakia- project coordinator), Higher School of Transport "Todor Kableshkov" (Bulgaria), CEPROF (Portugal), Vienna Association Of Education Volunteers (Austria), Exelia E.E. (Greece) and International Association for Research and Development of Vocational Education and Training (Turkey). More information on the project are available on the website of the initiative <https://www.3d4auto.eu/>.



41. Training in Van, in Turkey, for the “CYBER SAFETY” project

The training for the project "Together to guarantee cyber-safety and prevent cyberbullying in schools" (acronym "CYBER-SAFETY") took place on December 11th to 17th (including travel days). The initiative has been approved in Croatia within the Erasmus Plus KA220-SCH Program as action number 2021-1-HR01-KA220-SCH-000027712. The “CYBER SAFETY” project aims at preparing young people aged between 13 and 18 (with the right set of instruments) to spot episodes of cyberbullying and to be able to avoid or escape from these situations. The training course named “Fighting cyber bullying in school” has been addressed at training school teachers and ONG youth workers on competences and tools related to the fight and also prevention of bullying among children, by using non formal education methodologies. The project, overall, has the aim of training teachers and youth educators to face this problematic so that they can confront

themselves with young people on the risks related to the online world, by raising awareness on cyberbullying as well as proving teachers with skills and competences to prevent and combat this awful phenomenon. The training of the staff held in Van, in Turkey, has tested the methodology being developed in the First Outcome in a real learning environment with final targeted users and it has also functioned as a pilot activity. After the training, the results and the participants' feedbacks will be integrated in the first output of the project. The main added value to the training and the mobility has been the active involvement of school teachers and ONG youth workers, who will have to complete some surveys whose results will be sent to the trainers. The participants have elaborated the results and have shared those to the consortium and this has been helpful to direct the future fulfillment of the overall project. The partners of the initiative are the following organizations: Ivan Cankar Primary School (Croatia – project coordinator), Youth Europe Service (Italy), Colegiul National Spiru Haret (Romania), Mine Vaganti NGO (Italy) and Van İl Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü (Turkey).



42. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

This is the last issue of our annual newsletter. We hope you enjoyed it: our aim was, is and will continue to arouse your interest and curiosity in Europe and its opportunities, as well as to promote the values of European citizenship. But because Christmas approaches, we do not want to bore you further and, therefore, we wish you peaceful holidays. We'll see on next February 2023. Merry Christmas... and Happy New Year!



