



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



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.

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1. Next steps for Europe's single market

New proposals on further economic integration among EU countries will benefit consumers, workers and businesses.

The proposals are in addition to a first set of 12 priority actions identified in 2011 to improve how the single market works. These are measures most likely to foster growth and employment by helping people, goods, services and capital to move more easily throughout the EU. More integration would also help speed up the EU's recovery from the global financial crisis. New proposals under the Single Market Act II would:

- open domestic rail passenger services to competitors from other EU countries – improving quality and reducing prices;
- eliminate complex administrative procedures for goods shipped between seaports within the EU – making EU maritime transport more competitive with rail, road and air;
- accelerate progress towards EU level management of Europe's airspace through the Single European Sky – increasing safety and reducing costs to airlines by about €5 billion a year;
- enforce current measures to open domestic energy markets – saving consumers up to €13 billion a year;
- develop the EURES online job portal further – matching job seekers with companies across the EU;
- improve companies' access to long-term financing – helping start-ups and small businesses grow;
- revise EU insolvency rules – giving viable businesses and entrepreneurs a second chance;
- make online payment services more efficient – encouraging more consumers to shop over the Internet;
- reduce the cost of deploying high speed Internet – increasing access to broadband services;
- make electronic invoicing standard for government purchases – saving the public sector about €1 billion a year;
- improve product safety rules and checks at the EU's borders – keeping unsafe and harmful goods from reaching consumers;
- give everyone the right to have a basic payment account with a bank, ensure bank account fees are transparent and comparable, and make switching banks easier.

Next steps

Single Market Week (15-20 October) marks 2 decades of increasing EU integration, and the new proposals will be discussed at national events across Europe.

The Commission will call on EU leaders and the European Parliament to adopt specific proposals as a priority by spring 2014.

2. Creative strategy

New plan to help Europe's cultural and creative industries become more competitive, boosting jobs and growth.

The switch to digital technologies, globalisation and evolving consumer behaviour are among the challenges facing the industry today. For example, creative businesses find it difficult to attract the investment needed to embrace digital technologies – key to lowering production costs and accessing new markets. The Commission is proposing a range of measures to help, both nationally and at EU level, including promoting skills development and providing investment. Helping out makes sense at a time when Europe is in the midst of an economic crisis. Up to 8.5 million people work in the creative sector, which includes architecture, artistic crafts, cultural heritage, design, festivals, fashion, film, music, performing and visual arts, libraries, publishing, radio and television. They account for up to 4.5% of the EU's GDP and make a significant contribution to other industries, where innovation is increasingly driven by creativity and design.

Direct action

The Commission is calling on EU countries to focus on improving skills and access to finance, boosting competitiveness, expanding exports, and reinforcing links with other industries. At EU level the Commission is proposing to strategically use the €1.8 billion earmarked for the next Creative Europe programme (2014-2020) and other existing funds. Plans include:

- fostering entrepreneurship by reducing red tape for small businesses, which make up a large segment of the cultural and creative sector;
- integrating the EU's digital market, for example through a common approach to protecting intellectual property rights and reducing the quantity of counterfeit goods sold via the Internet;
- promoting networking and the sharing of good business practice across Europe;
- guaranteeing bank loans to make access to finance easier for creative businesses and organisations;
- supporting measures to help build audiences, test business models and increase international exports;
- providing funds for education and training, such as through the EU's Erasmus for All programme;
- using a range of existing funds to increase the contribution culture makes to regional and local development, both in urban and rural areas.

3. More clout for cloud computing

New strategy to create single set of rules for cloud computing and increase EU GDP by €160 billion annually by 2020.

Many of us are using 'cloud computing' without even realising it. Web based e mail, Facebook and Spotify all use the technology to store data such as pictures, videos and text files. The files are stored in massive data centres containing hundreds of servers and storage systems that are compatible with very nearly all computer software. When you wish to access your information, you simply connect to the 'cloud' from your PC, smartphone or tablet. The advantages are numerous – users don't have to buy or maintain expensive servers and data-storage systems. Over 80% of businesses already using the technology have reported a drop in IT costs of 10-20%, while 20% have seen savings of 30% or higher. In addition to lowering IT costs, cloud computing saves office space and reduces the need for in-house IT support teams. But the EU is not yet reaping the full potential of cloud computing. Many businesses are put off by uncertainties over data security or moving data between different cloud providers. In response, the European Commission is proposing a strategy to tackle these risks, introduce a single set of rules, and boost the use of cloud computing by European businesses.

The strategy has four key aims:

- Ensuring users can move data from one cloud to another – or withdraw data altogether;
- EU-wide certification for trustworthy cloud providers;
- Model contracts for cloud computing that make legal obligations clear;
- A 'European Cloud Partnership' between the public sector and industry to identify needs and ensure Europe's IT sector can meet them. This will make European companies stronger in the face of competition from abroad – primarily from the US.

Through new opportunities for innovation and access to technology that increases productivity, businesses could add nearly €600 billion to EU GDP between 2015 and 2020, estimates the report Cloud computing in Europe – demand & barriers to up take. By the end of 2013 it should be clear whether further action or legislation is needed to support cloud computing.

4. Helping Europeans help others

EU programme would train volunteers for humanitarian aid projects worldwide and set standards.

Thousands of Europeans already work abroad as volunteers, helping the victims of disasters and crises. Many more would like to get involved if they could. The Commission is proposing a way for Europeans to help where most urgently needed by establishing an EU voluntary humanitarian-aid corps. The programme would provide practical training, set standards for managing volunteers and match them with humanitarian organisations. Trained volunteers would increase the impact of EU humanitarian aid. European standards would come with a certification scheme, recognised by aid organisations. About 10 000 Europeans would get training through the programme from 2014 to 2020. Another 10 000 would support the volunteers with tasks that can be done from home on a computer. Volunteers would have to be over 18 and citizens or long-term residents in the EU or other participating European countries. They may be looking to gain experience in the humanitarian sector, or be experts or retired workers with specialist skills. Training and deployment would depend on their

level of experience. The EU would also provide training to 7 000 local staff and volunteers in developing countries. The EU would certify organisations that apply European standards for managing volunteers. The organisations would identify suitable projects and apply for grants to deploy EU volunteers.

Testing in the field

The Commission has been preparing the ground for the service since 2011 through pilot projects funded by its humanitarian aid arm (ECHO). The idea enjoys broad public support. The projects have been exploring the different ways that the service could make the best use of volunteers in the field. Trained European volunteers are now working in over 30 countries. One is Aine Lynch, working in Kurgan-Teppe, Tajikistan, as an education officer with Save the Children UK. Another is Olivia Defrene, a volunteer with the French Red Cross working in the Pacific nation of Vanuatu. A second round of pilot projects began training volunteers this year.

5. Commission lays ground for banking union

Simple coordination is no longer enough – closer supervision and integration is now needed at EU level to avoid future banking crises, restore confidence in the financial system and protect savers.

While banks have been operating increasingly across borders, oversight of their activities has remained national. A shared currency and close financial integration make the eurozone particularly vulnerable to banking crises spilling over from one EU country to another. The solution, the Commission believes, is greater supervision at EU level. Three supervisory bodies were already set up in 2011 to help coordinate the work of national regulators and ensure EU rules are applied consistently. A new proposal would see the European Central Bank (ECB) gaining new powers to monitor the performance of the 6 000 or so banks in the eurozone. The arrangement would be known as the single supervisory mechanism. The ECB would take over tasks such as authorising banks and other credit institutions, ensuring they have enough (liquid) capital to continue operating even when sustaining losses and monitoring the activities of financial conglomerates. If a bank breaches – or is at risk of breaching – capital requirements, the ECB would be able to ask the bank to take corrective action. National supervisors would meanwhile continue to carry out day-to-day checks. A single rulebook on capital requirements, standardised deposit protection schemes and new recovery and resolution provisions – all proposed earlier in the year – would complete the ‘banking union’. The ECB would start the process in January 2013, monitoring some of the banks that have received or requested bailouts from the public sector. All banks would then be supervised by January 2014. This proposal is the latest in the line of EU initiatives to ensure that the bloc avoids a repeat of the 2008 banking crisis. As well as setting up EU-level supervisory authorities, the EU has also moved to introduce capital requirements for banks, restructure the financial sector by closing non-viable banks and introduce guarantees for bank deposits.

6. Help us uphold your rights

Let us know about problems you have encountered when travelling, studying, working or living in another EU country.

The Commission is there to uphold and strengthen your rights as an EU citizen. That’s why we want to know more about your experiences when exercising them. We would also welcome your suggestions as to how to remove any obstacles you might have encountered when working or studying in another EU country, for example. You can tell us your thoughts through our consultation on citizenship rights (until 9 September 2012). Your experiences and ideas will feed into proposals in our next citizenship report, due in 2013. The previous report identified 25 measures the EU should take to make your rights more effective in practice. These actions are well underway. They include slashing red tape for people registering a car in another EU country and resolving cross-border inheritance tax problems.

Your rights

As a national of an EU country you are also an EU citizen. In addition to national privileges you hold a further set of rights, agreed to by all 27 member countries and guaranteed by the EU’s treaties. This means you have the right to:

- travel and live anywhere in the EU;
- equal treatment with all other EU citizens (without discrimination because of your nationality);

- vote and stand as a candidate in municipal and European Parliament elections wherever you live in the EU;
- receive help from another EU country's embassy or consulate outside the EU (if your own country is not represented) in the same way as a citizen of that country;
- petition the European Parliament when you encounter problems, and make a complaint to the European Ombudsman;
- join with other EU citizens to call for new EU legislation through a citizens' initiative.

You also have other rights – such as consumer rights when buying something from another EU country on the Internet.

7. Nobel Peace Prize 2012 awarded to the European Union

The European Union has been awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize. This distinction rewards the EU's contribution for over six decades to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights.

"It is a tremendous honour for the European Union to be awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize. This Prize is the strongest possible recognition of the deep political motives behind our Union: the unique effort by ever more European states to overcome war and divisions and to jointly shape a continent of peace and prosperity. It is a Prize not just for the project and the institutions embodying a common interest, but for the 500 million citizens living in our Union", said the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission in a joint statement. Pointing towards the future, the two Presidents expressed the European Union's commitment to continue *"to promote peace and security in the countries close to us and in the world at large"*. The Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee singled out the *"EU's contribution for over six decades to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe."* It valued the stabilising part played by the EU that *"has helped to transform most of Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace. The work of the EU represents "fraternity between nations", and amounts to a form of the "peace congresses" to which Alfred Nobel refers as criteria for the Peace Prize in his 1895 will.*

8. EU expansion – next steps

Report on 2012 EU enlargement strategy released, with assessments of progress toward EU membership by Croatia, Iceland, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo.

The EU and its 27 member countries remain committed to widening EU membership, and thereby reinforcing the continent's peace, security, prosperity and international clout. The 2012 report on enlargement strategy, covering the Western Balkans, Iceland and Turkey, assesses progress and outlines the reforms those countries must take to join the EU. The annual monitoring process ensures that aspiring countries are admitted only when they have met all requirements, which have been spelled out in detail. These include improving political participation, legal standards, public administration, freedom of expression, conditions for socially excluded groups and economic stability. This year, the Commission is also proposing to help potential candidate countries meet key conditions for accession earlier on in the enlargement process.

State of play

The EU signed an accession treaty with **Croatia** in December 2011. The country is expected to join the EU on 1 July 2013 and remains on track to fulfil the remaining conditions by then as agreed. The EU continues to strengthen its ties with **Iceland**, including in the areas of renewable energy and climate change. Accession negotiations are progressing well.

Turkey needs to make more efforts to meet political and fundamental rights requirements, including those on freedom of expression. Other obligations remain a priority, such as improved relations with the Republic of Cyprus.

The **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** awaits a decision from EU governments on a Commission recommendation to open membership talks.

Albania should be granted candidate status when the country completes key reforms.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has made limited progress in meeting initial EU conditions.

Accession negotiations have been launched with **Montenegro** and **Serbia** is now recognised as a candidate country, showing that once reforms are made, the EU delivers on its commitments.

Negotiations with **Kosovo** (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99) on a trade and financial assistance agreement could begin once the country meets key requirements.

Next steps

EU governments will consider the recommendations at their meeting in December 2012 and make decisions about each country moving towards membership. Meanwhile, the Commission will continue to help the countries make the necessary reforms.

9. Europe's best literature rewarded

The EU recognises 12 new or emerging authors – European Union Prize for Literature 2012.

The annual prize, now in its 4th year, is one of the ways the EU supports authors, such as by investing around €3m each year on translating some of Europe's best literary works, making them accessible to more readers and helping writers expand their audience. New and emerging authors receive €5,000, significant recognition and promotion at prestigious book fairs. Since 2010, EU funding has also helped translate 32 of the 35 prize winners into 19 languages, a total of 104 translations. The [2012 winners](#) are:

- **Anna Kim** (Austria) for her book **'Die gefrorene Zeit'** (Frozen Time), about a researcher helping a man from Kosovo
- **Lada Žigo** (Croatia) for **'Rulet'** (Roulette), a novel on gambling
- **Laurence Plazenet** (France) for **'L'amour seul'** (Love Alone), a story about secret lovers who are separated
- **Viktor Horváth** (Hungary) for **'Török tükör'** (Turkish Mirror), takes readers on an adventurous journey back to 16th century Hungary
- **Kevin Barry** (Ireland) for **'City of Bohane'**, set 40 years in the future in a once-great city on the west coast of Ireland
- **Emanuele Trevi** (Italy) for **'Qualcosa di scritto'** (Something Written), a tale of a writer who finds work in an archive
- **Giedra Radvilavičiūtė** (pseudonym for Giedra Subačienė, Lithuania) for **'Šianakt aš miegosiu prie sienos'** (Tonight I Shall Sleep by the Wall), a collection of short stories
- **Gunstein Bakke** (Norway) for **'Maud og Aud: ein roman om trafikk'** (Maud and Aud: A Novel on Traffic), about a family devastated by a car accident
- **Piotr Paziński** (Poland) for **'Pensjonat'** (Boarding House), describing a boarding house whose residents are Holocaust survivors
- **Afonso Cruz** (Portugal) for **'A Boneca de Kokoschka'** (Kokoschka's Doll), a story of friendship and identity
- **Jana Beňová** (Slovakia) for **'Café Hyena (Plán odprevádzania)'** (Café Hyena (Seeing People Off), short stories and observations on a young woman's relationship with an ageing man
- **Sara Mannheimer** (Sweden) for **'Handlingen'** (The Action), about a woman's desire to conquer all literature.

10. The battle for the EU's long-term budget

EU countries, still struggling because of the crisis, have to decide to what extent they will support the recently agreed growth compact, while avoiding that discussions on next EU's long term budget are limited to the issue of net contributions versus net recipients. This and other questions are on the table until member states agree among themselves and with the European Parliament on EU's long-term budget for 2014–2020, also known as the next multiannual financial framework (MFF).

Heads of state and government will meet at an extraordinary summit on 22 and 23 November with the aim of striking a deal on the long-term budget for 2014-2020. The November Council is exclusively dedicated to this and the Cypriot Presidency has expressed its intention to have an agreement before the end of this year. However, the Parliament will have to give its blessing to any agreement. A resolution adopted by MEPs in June 2012 called for a robust but flexible long-term budget. MEPs have also made clear they would not agree to a new long-term budget without political agreement on the reform of the own resources system. In October MEPs will once again express their views

concerning the long-term budget when voting on a resolution in plenary. The long-term budget determines EU expenditure for the next seven years, broken down by policy area.

11. Nominate a "Young European of the year" today

Do you know a young person you want to be awarded for his or her European commitment? Please, let us know! The Schwarzkopf Foundation is looking for young Europeans between the ages of 18 and 26, (in 2013 the prize winner should not be older than 26) who are imaginative and active in an honorary capacity, engaged for the European understanding and integration. Young people who are aware that a united Europe is of extraordinary importance for a successful future for European citizens and who are willing to advocate for the European idea. Each year, the Schwarzkopf Foundation rewards a young European for his or her outstanding commitment to fostering international understanding and the union of Europe. At the same time we want to encourage and motivate these young people to continue to champion these ideals. If you know a young person who fits this description, please fill in the enclosed nomination form and send it with the requested documents to:

SCHWARZKOPF-STIFTUNG JUNGES EUROPA

ILKA KEUPER, PROJECT MANAGER

SOPHIENSTRASSE 28-29, 10178 BERLIN (GERMANY)

E-Mail: i.keuper@schwarzkopf-stiftung.de

The Prize is endowed with € 5.000. This amount is intended to finance a six-month internship with a Member of the European Parliament or another European institution. It is also possible to use the sum to finance a project which promotes European integration. Such a project must fit the aims of the Schwarzkopf Foundation and receive the agreement of the Foundation's Management board in order to be accepted. The award-winner will be chosen by a jury of personalities from the European Youth Parliament, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Schwarzkopf Young Europe Foundation. **Deadline for entries: 30 October 2012**

For further information: <http://www.schwarzkopf-stiftung.de/?l=en&area=11&areaS=739&id>

12. Slogan Contest: International Year of Water Cooperation & World Water Day

Create a slogan for the UN International Year of Water Cooperation and win an invitation to the kick-off meeting in Paris in January 2013. The contest is open to anyone regardless of age, country of origin, etc. UN-Water and UNESCO employees or immediate family members, as well as those of any of the partners involved in the campaign for Water Cooperation 2013, are not eligible to enter the contest. Submissions are exclusively online. Selection of the top three entries will be made by a committee comprising representatives from UN-Water, UNESCO and their partners. An online poll taking place from 30/11 to 25/12/2012 will determine the overall winner of the contest. **Deadline for entries: 15.11.2012.** More info: <http://www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013/slogan.html>

13. "Fly Your Ideas" with Airbus

As one of the world's leading aircraft manufacturers, Airbus is looking ahead to anticipate the global needs of a more connected, more sustainable world. Airbus Fly Your Ideas challenges students across the globe to develop new ideas for the eco-efficient aviation industry of the future. The competition is open to teams of three to five students from around the world, currently studying a Bachelors degree, Masters or PhD in any academic discipline, from engineering to marketing, business to science and philosophy to design. The competition starts in September 2012 with the final in June 2013 when the top selected teams will present their ideas to a panel of Airbus and industry experts. With the third Fly Your Ideas competition - part of the visionary Future by Airbus Programme - Airbus is asking students to think big too, and propose an idea to address one of the following 21st century challenges for greener aviation: "Energy"; "Energy Efficiency"; "Affordable Growth"; "Traffic Growth"; "Passenger Experience"; "Community Friendliness". The winners of Fly Your Ideas 2013 will share the top prize of €30,000: the runners up €15,000. **Deadline for entries: 7 December 2012.** More info: <http://www.airbus-fyi.com/>

14. First and second group supervision of the Jumigg project

The first and second group supervision in the framework of the Jumigg project took place on the 30th of August and on the 27th of September 2012. The supervisor managed to create a pleasant environment of cooperation, confidence and involvement of all the team of young people. They analyzed the theme of any kind of violence, in order to fight and prevent it. Both the workshops focused on the change of a concept, a fear or simply an object or a picture into something with a different meaning. By recycling some materials, they transformed several objects representing both physical and moral violence into artworks related to positivity. All the artworks created by the young participants will be photographed so as to realize some postcards.



The next workshop of the same kind is scheduled for the 12th October 2012. You will find further information about this project in our next newsletter at the end of October.

15. E-GAME project

A Grundtvig project called E-GAME has been recently approved. The project aims to develop an animated electronic game in English on European integration in which all the partners will involve both adults and young people who will work together in order to encourage an intergenerational dialogue, as requested from the European Year 2012. Several partners are involved in this project: Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Czech Republic, Greece, United Kingdom, Latvia, Estonia, Turkey, Portugal and France. The project is extremely innovative since the participants will share their own experiences and skills by creating an animated electronic game that will promote European inclusion. All the participants will have the chance to:



– improve their skills of intercultural dialogue, by focusing on the values of tolerance and mutual respect;

– raise awareness of common European values and cultural, religious, linguistic & gender diversity;

– define competences and skills within the different professional areas;

– strengthen the concept of European citizenship and inclusion;

– learn to use innovative technologies that can help young people to find a job.

Moreover the project intends to promote non-formal education, intercultural dialogue and human rights, active participation and social inclusion, and to disseminate important EU values such as fighting racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and any kind of intolerance.

16. The VOSSES project has started

The first international meeting of the VOSSES project (Volunteering solution for entrepreneurship solution) will be held from the 4th to the 6th of November 2012. This project was approved in the framework of the programme Leonardo –transfer of innovation. The partnership involves: Spain (coordinating country), Italy, Denmark, Portugal, Romania. The main objective of the project is to realize several products such as an innovative e-learning course about entrepreneurship and an entrepreneurship curriculum, which will be adapted to all the other countries. The transfer will be

focused on a particular target group, that is young people willing to develop an entrepreneurial project so as to fight the increasing youth unemployment. For this reason it will be essential to analyse the enterprises reality of the partner countries so that the VOSES final products could meet the different needs. Moreover, the project outputs will be translated into the different languages of the countries and each partner will customize the final products of the project according to the local needs in order to match supply with demand in the labour market and ensure the highest flexibility.

17. COE trivia board game is quite ready



The COE Trivia Board Game project (action 858.12.B.2012. PC26) approved within the actions B of the Council of Europe – European Youth Foundation has been completed. The project focuses on the creation of a board game (similar to the popular “goose game” but developed on a board representing a map of Europe). The partners of this project are organizations from: Italy, Spain, Greece, Malta, Romania, Turkey, Slovakia and Azerbaijan. The game has been designed in order to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Council of Europe youth department. It involves several subjects: COE’s history; art, music, culture, food and humour of the COE nations; facts, figures, economy and trade of the COE countries; values of Active European Citizenship; human rights and empowerment; and some challenges about COE countries. The project was sent to the Council of Europe which evaluated it and asked for some changes or integrations. Now we are in the phase of realisation of the suggested changes: in few days we count to have the final version to be produced.

18. Tips for parents of dyslexic child



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

“Tips for parents of dyslexic child” is a Grundtvig Learning Partnership project”. The Partnership is composed by 7 organisations from Italy, Bulgaria, Turkey, Romania, Poland and Spain. Our main goal is to provide **free resources** for parents of dyslexic child. Link to free resources: <https://sites.google.com/site/dyslexiatips/e-book>

About the project activities

- The Partnership is working on the free e-book containing tips for parents of dyslexic child. Please be patient.
- It will be available in English and in the following languages: Italian, Bulgarian, Polish, Turkish, Spanish and Romanian.
- On 29 of June 2012 In Krakow (Poland) was held the 6 th Study Visit of the project. We would like to invite you to read an illustrated relation from this international meeting. Link: http://euroidea.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/tips-6th-study-visit-report_29-06-2012.pdf



About Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty. Dyslexia is a difficulty in the acquisition of accurate and fluent reading and writing skills that are neurological in origin. This problem, present in all languages and cultures, is estimated to affect 10% of the European population (data EDA - European Association of Dyslexia), equivalent to approximately 50 million subjects. Also other cognitive skills are interested by dyslexia such as memory, the ability to listen, taking- notes, organizing the work, managing the time. If interesting in more findings about Dyslexia and the TIPS project, please visit the project website.

<https://sites.google.com/site/dyslexiatips/>

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