



EURO-NET

The Youth European Network



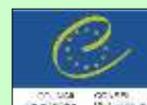
Bimonthly newsletter:

- 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. 2013 is the “European Year of Citizens”

2013 has been officially named "The European Year of Citizens".

20 years after the introduction of EU Citizenship, the year will focus both on what has already been achieved for citizens and on meeting citizens' expectations for the future. The decision by the European Parliament and the Council on the proposal by the European Commission was published in the Official Journal today. Events throughout the European Year will explain how people can directly benefit from their EU rights and which policies and programmes exist. The European Year will also stimulate an EU-wide debate with citizens about what the European Union should look like in the future and which reforms are needed to improve their every-day lives. *"After 20 years of EU citizenship, much has been achieved. It is time to reflect on where we stand and what the future should bring,"* said Vice-President Viviane Reding, EU-Commissioner responsible for Justice and Citizenship. *"People expect concrete results from Europe, and with cheaper roaming charges, better rights for crime victims and easier shopping online for consumers, that is exactly what we are delivering. We want to keep delivering on citizens' rights and this is why we are dedicating a full year to those at the heart of the European project – our citizens. The European Year of Citizens is an opportunity for us to listen and learn from you what you want and how we can build the European Union of the future together."* The European Year of Citizens coincides with the 20th anniversary of the introduction of EU Citizenship, when the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1993. 2013 will also be the year when the Commission adopts its next EU Citizenship Report, which will present further targeted EU initiatives to remove the remaining obstacles that hinder citizens from fully enjoying their rights. One year before the European elections 2014, it is also the right moment for a broad debate about the future. To prepare the ground for the European Year, the Commission held a broad public consultation between 9 May and 9 September 2012 asking citizens what problems they have encountered in exercising their rights as EU citizens. The contributions, which are currently being analysed, will feed into the Citizenship Report to be published on 9 May 2013. As part of the Year, politicians have started holding debates with citizens directly about the future of Europe. Such debates will be held all across the Union over the course of 2013. Everyone will be free to join the debates: http://ec.europa.eu/european-debate/interactive_map/estonia/index_en.htm. The first debates already took place in Spain, Austria and Germany and many more are still to come. The European Year of Citizens will be officially launched by a debate with citizens in Dublin on 10 January 2013, coinciding with the start of the Irish presidency of the Council.

Background

The decision to make the 2013 the European Year of Citizens in the EU's Official Journal, the EU's statute book, follows the adoption by the European Parliament and the Council to a Commission proposal from August 2011. This Decision indicates a budget for the European Year of €1 million. The final level of the budget allocated to the European Year is subject to ongoing negotiations about the EU Budget for 2013. The European Year communication campaign will make the most of existing tools and materials (such as websites, portals, videos, brochures, events etc) to raise awareness about, and promote the use of, existing multilingual information and participatory tools (including Europe Direct, Your Europe, SOLVIT, Interactive Policy Making, the European Citizens' Initiative, Petitions) to address citizens' concerns and make a real difference in their every-day lives. To achieve this, the Commission is working closely with the other EU Institutions, Member State authorities (at national, regional and local level) and civil society organisations. An EU-wide alliance of civil society organisations has set itself up expressly to collaborate with the Commission on the European Year. This 'European Year of Citizens Alliance' (EYCA) is a key strategic partner representing civil society.

2. Nobel Peace prize money for specific projects

The European Commission has formally accepted the Nobel Peace prize money on behalf of the European Union and indicated that it intends to allocate the prize money to children affected by war and conflicts across the world.

President Barroso said, *"The Nobel Peace Prize stands for reconciliation throughout the world. The Prize money should benefit the first hope for the future, but also the first victims of present and past conflicts: children"*. Following agreement between President Barroso and Presidents Van Rompuy and Schulz, the Commission intends to allocate the Nobel Peace Prize money for "EU Nobel Prize Children's Projects". These should be for the benefit of children in war and conflict zones. Since

children are the future of any society and at the same time among the most vulnerable, the peace dividend the European Union is receiving should be "invested" in those children who are the victims of violent conflict.

Background

On 12 October 2012 the Nobel Prize Committee decided to award the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union for over six decades' contribution to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. The Prize Award Ceremony was held place in Oslo on 10 December 2012. The Commission has formally accepted the prize money on behalf of the European Union and states that the approximate €930, 000 will be allocated to children that are most in need. In the coming weeks, the Commission will decide on the details of the project, including the precise terms of reference, beneficiaries' selection process and legal and budgetary aspects. The Nobel Peace Prize consists of an amount of SEK 8 million, a medal and a diploma. The medal and the diploma will be kept by the European Union institutions on behalf of the European Union. The amount of money and the medal constitute a donation within the meaning of Article 19 of Regulation No 1605/2002. The amount awarded will be used for developing projects in accordance with the aim of the Nobel Peace Prize, and more specifically for action in support of children affected by war and conflicts. The decision to be taken by the European Commission will be in conformity with Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.

3. Employment: Commission improves EURES jobseeker mobility network

A Decision to modernise and improve EURES, the pan-EU job search network, has been adopted by the European Commission.

The Decision will help to increase mobility of workers across Member States and pave the way for a true European labour market. The EURES reform aims to make it easier for jobseekers to contact employers looking for particular skills, to focus on sectors and occupations with skills shortages and to support targeted mobility schemes for young people. EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion László Andor commented: *"Improving jobseekers' mobility between Member States can be part of the solution to the current unacceptably high levels of unemployment. The improved EURES network will aim to help people who are ready to move to another country to identify where suitable job vacancies exist and to help employers to find suitably skilled workers. We now call on all Member States to get ready to implement the reform"*. Despite high levels of unemployment (over 25 million people in the EU) there are still labour shortages and vacancy bottlenecks. Indeed, the number of unfilled vacancies has been on the rise since mid-2009, particularly in high growth areas such as information and communications technologies and the green economy. EURES is an existing job search network of 31 European employment services in the EU Member States, EEA countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and Switzerland. The new Commission Decision will help EURES to respond directly to specific economic needs. As a result, EURES will proactively match jobseekers and job-changers to current job vacancies. It will also give employers better access to a pool of candidates where they can find the skills they need to develop and grow their businesses. The reform will focus EURES more on young people, who have a higher propensity to be mobile, and cover forms of employment that combine work and learning opportunities, such as apprenticeships. Lastly, the EURES web portal will be revamped to create user-friendly online matching tools and access to skills-based labour market intelligence. The reform will extend the number of partners offering mobility services through EURES and will put in place co-operation between public and private job search organisations in order to cover an even higher percentage of available vacancies - currently it covers between 30-40% of the total vacancies available. The Decision is due to be implemented by the Commission and Member States by 1 January 2014. By then, all participating countries will have to designate specialist services to organise the reform, work with new partners and develop the necessary targeted services.

Background

Free movement of workers allows EU nationals to look for a job in another EU country, to work there without needing a work permit and to enjoy equal treatment with nationals of the host country in terms of access to employment, working conditions and social benefits. Currently EU citizens living in a Member State different from their nationality constitute only 3.1% of the EU labour force. The number has increased by almost 60% since 2005, mainly driven by the 2004 and 2007 enlargements. Overall it is estimated that post-enlargement mobility flows increased the GDP of EU-15 countries by around 1% in the 2004-09 period. However, the economic crisis has led to a decrease in mobility flows

between EU countries – in 2009-11, intra-EU mobility flows dropped by one third, compared to the 2006-08 period. The EURES job mobility portal is already unique in the EU as it is free of charge and gives information on living and working conditions in all participating countries in 25 languages. The website receives with 4 million visits per month, sets up 150,000 contacts per month between jobseekers and employers leading to approximately 50,000 placements per year, and on average hosts 750,000 CVs at any one time in a given month. There are hundreds of events taking place all over Europe that can be consulted in the EURES Events Calendar.

4. EU moves closer to banking union

EU presidents and prime ministers took eurozone countries closer to banking union when they sat down to their customary end-of-year meeting in Brussels on 13 December.

Following an agreement between finance ministers in the early hours of 13 December, leaders gave the green light to banking union later in the day. The agreement will see the European Central Bank (ECB) having direct oversight of eurozone banks, potentially from January 2014. The single supervisory mechanism is designed for those countries within the eurozone, but is also open to other EU countries. Commission president José Manuel Barroso welcomed the agreement, saying that it showed the EU and the eurozone mean business. “*We will not tolerate poor supervision for any of the 6 000 banks in the euro area*” he said. Agreement is now needed on bank capital rules, and on standardising individual EU countries bank resolution and deposit guarantee schemes. The commission will put forward proposals on how to do this in 2013. The European commission also placed the EU blueprint for closer union on the agenda. Launched in November, it maps a path to full economic, monetary, budgetary and political integration. Closer coordination here would help ensure that responses to EU-wide economic problems are coordinated and so more effective.

The plan urges the EU to do three things over the next 18 months:

- implement reforms already agreed – or in the pipeline – on better economic and budgetary governance;
- agree on rules for intervening when banks are struggling financially;
- approve an EU budget for 2014-20.

When he addressed the EU's heads of state and government in Brussels, Commission president José Manuel Barroso emphasised the need for urgent action on his blueprint. He urged EU countries to continue with their reforms. President Barroso also asked EU leaders to agree on a path towards economic and monetary union. The commission would like to see this written into the basic EU treaties, so the blueprint proposes treaty changes. Any new arrangement would need to balance economic discipline and responsibility with solidarity. The blueprint explains that countries signing up to economic and monetary union must act faster and more decisively than the EU at large, whilst staying true to policies affecting all 27 EU countries. The meeting responded by asking for more concrete ideas and proposals on timing by June 2013. The meeting on 13 and 14 December also addressed applications for EU membership, foreign policy issues and defence. The commission is currently looking into making Europe's defence sector more efficient and competitive.

5. EU gets tough on tax evasion

Around €1 trillion is lost to tax evasion and avoidance every year in the EU. A new action plan encourages European governments to work together to clamp down on companies and individuals not paying their fair share.

The action plan to fight tax fraud & evasion sets out short, medium and long term measures to tackle the problem and reclaim the money owed. The EU recommends that the campaign start with action against tax havens, and against the technicalities that some companies are using to avoid paying tax. EU countries currently have varying standards as to what constitutes a tax haven and therefore different rules on dealing with them. This means that any transactions involving tax havens can be routed through the countries with the most lenient legislation. The same approach to first detecting tax havens – and then reacting to them – would stop tax evaders from taking advantage of differences between national systems. The EU recommends that countries draw up a black list of places acting as tax havens. This would send a strong signal, and could be followed by a change to any tax agreements currently in place. This, in turn, would deter investors. To stop companies avoiding tax, EU countries should first strengthen existing double tax conventions – which prevent companies active

in more than one country from paying tax in both. But loopholes allow some companies to misuse the conventions and pay no tax at all. There has been a rise in this form of tax avoidance – known euphemistically as ‘aggressive tax planning’, and the action plan recommends ways to tackle the legal technicalities that make it possible. The risk for countries seeking to tackle the problem alone, is that the companies will simply relocate. An EU-wide response is needed to close loopholes and ensure that no country loses out financially for addressing the problem. The European Commission would monitor the implementation of these recommendations and put pressure on countries whose progress is slow. The plan now goes to the European Parliament and the EU’s finance ministers for approval. In the meantime, the Commission will also work on proposals for additional initiatives to counter tax evasion, including:

- A taxpayers’ code;
- An EU tax identification number;
- A review of anti-abuse provisions in EU law;
- Guidelines for tracing money flows.

6. Jobs and training for young people

Unemployed under-25s would be guaranteed an offer of a job, further education or training under proposed EU measures.

Around 7.5 million people aged 15 to 24 are not in employment, education or training. The economic crisis has made finding a job much harder. More than 1 in 5 young people are out of work. In Greece and Spain the figure is higher than 1 in 2. To help them, the Commission is proposing a package of measures, including a recommendation for EU countries to implement a job and training guarantee programme for those aged under 25. Under such programmes EU countries would ensure all young people receive a job offer, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within 4 months of leaving formal education or becoming jobless. The Commission would support the national programmes by providing EU funding and by forming networks to exchange ideas on the best ways to get young people into work, training or apprenticeships. Finland and Austria already have similar guarantee programmes in place. Such programmes would cost taxpayers money – about €21 billion – but that is far less than the cost of leaving young people on the dole. Apart from the hardship young people and their families suffer, the cost of youth unemployment to Europe’s economy is equivalent to around 1.2% of EU GDP, or €150 billion a year (calculated as benefits paid out plus lost tax revenues and earnings).

Help needed now

It is also important to help out now rather than wait for the economy to recover. The longer young people remain unemployed and without work experience, the greater the risk they will be left out of the job market when the economy rebounds. Across Europe around 30% of young people without a job have been unemployed for more than 12 months – 1.6 million in 2011, compared to 900 000 in 2008. The package of measures is in response to a request from EU leaders and the European Parliament. It is a follow-up to measures already in place to help people to return to school, enrol in vocational training or get their first work experience.

7. A better energy deal for consumers

EU countries will be pushed to fully apply EU energy rules so the market works to its full potential for consumers.

EU countries have agreed on common rules for a more competitive energy market, one that offers people and businesses secure and sustainable supplies at fair prices. These rules are key to overcoming the challenges facing us today, including climate change, over dependence on imports, and access to affordable energy for all. Some progress has been made. Today, consumers have more choice, wholesale prices are kept in check, and sufficient supplies are being secured to meet our needs. In other areas countries are falling short. To speed up the process, the Commission will do more to help consumers reap the benefits of a competitive market. Measures to make the internal energy market work include:

- **ensuring all countries apply all the rules correctly** – some do not yet, especially the rules on interconnecting gas and electricity markets;

- **making sure consumers are aware of all their rights**, including the right to switch from one supplier to another with 3 weeks' notice and at no cost – which could represent €13 billion a year in savings for consumers if everyone were paying the cheapest rates;
- **promoting the roll-out of smart metering** – which enables consumers to monitor their consumption in real time and better manage their energy bills;
- **clearer presentation of prices, tariffs and offers** – protecting vulnerable consumers;
- **removing regulated prices** – which give consumers a false impression prices are at the fairest level and which are a barrier to more competition and investment (currently only 9 EU countries do NOT regulate retail prices).

Next steps

Some countries plan to provide incentives to traditional suppliers so as to keep electricity capacity available for when variable sources (such as wind and solar power) do not produce enough to meet demand. Before such incentives are introduced, more analysis is needed on the reasons why countries are not investing in increasing their production capacity. National governments should also look at getting supplies from providers in other EU countries, which could be more cost-effective. The Commission will also issue guidelines on how to improve the market for renewables.

8. Women on company boards: 40% target

Proposal sets targets for Europe's largest companies to achieve gender equality on their boards.

Ensuring women have a clear path to top positions is not only fair, but good for Europe's economic competitiveness. Studies have found that companies with a more equitable balance outperform their rivals. But change at the top has been slow. For example, women make up around 14% of the boards of the EU's biggest publicly listed companies – compared with 12% in 2010. At this rate it would take around 40 years before companies come close to a balance. Europeans agree something must be done. Almost 9 out of 10 say women should be equally represented in the top jobs in business (given equal qualifications). And about 3 in 4 favour legislation on gender balance on company boards. In response the Commission is proposing measures to right the imbalance. The measures would set a **minimum target of 40%** for the under-represented sex for **non-executive board members** of the largest companies listed on Europe's stock exchanges. The measures would only apply to listed companies with **250 or more employees and with over €50 million in annual worldwide turnover** – around 5 000 companies in total. State-owned companies or those in which governments have a significant financial stake (and influence) would have to meet the target by 2018. Companies under the 40% target would be required to apply clear, gender-neutral standards and choose candidates on their **qualifications and merit**. If 2 candidates are equally qualified, priority should be given to the under-represented sex – which in most cases would be a woman. The measures would be **temporary** – automatically expiring in 2028 when gender balance is expected to have been achieved. Companies would also be required to set their own targets for achieving balanced gender representation for **executive directors by 2020** (2018 for state-owned companies). These are board members who simultaneously hold key positions in the day-to-day running of a company. **Governments would be responsible for setting sanctions** for companies in breach of EU standards. Countries with effective systems in place for achieving gender equality would be able to keep them in place. They may also introduce measures that go further than EU measures. Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Austria and Slovenia already have rules to promote gender balance on company boards.

Providing an example

Opening the doors to senior positions will encourage more of them to enter and stay in the workforce, helping to raise women employment rates and making full use of their skills. The proposal will now pass to EU governments and the European Parliament (which has repeatedly called for legislation).

9. Recognising active ageing

EU promotes programmes to help older people stay active in their communities by recognising some of the best initiatives.

A wide variety of programmes across the EU support older people in their desire to keep contributing to society after retirement. They ensure communities continue to benefit from the skills and knowledge

they have gained throughout their lives. The Commission recognises some of the outstanding programmes by giving awards. This year's winners are:

- **Gravity Racer project** – Huolin Koulu School, Finland. 12-year-old students and granddad Hannu Gustafsson worked together building a gravity racer car.
- **The Generation Gap**, JP/Politiken Hus, Denmark – 4 journalists at Danish newspaper Politiken wrote about ways younger and older generations can work together.
- **The Senior at Work**, Cultfiction Oy, Finland – an 18-part reality TV series on public channel Yle TV1 depicting people who decide not to retire.
- **Two Generations Share a House**, Typhaine de Penfentenyo, France – through Typhaine's Ensemble2générations, students stay in the home of an older person for free or for a small rent, in exchange for help and company.
- **Life-Long Living**, Fredericia, Denmark – local social services help elderly people remain independent, focusing on everyday rehabilitation.
- **Managing People of Different Ages**, Helsingin kaupunki, Henkilöstökeskus, Finland – promotes an age-diverse workforce by getting everyone involved, through bodies such as sports centres, healthcare providers and occupational services.

Bruno Pöder of Kersti Skovgaard, Estonia received an individual award recognising his desire to contribute to his society by continuing to work as a surgeon until 80.

Strategy to support active ageing

The age profile of the EU's population is expected to change dramatically in the coming decades – nearly a third of Europeans will be 65 or over by 2060. Population ageing means there will also be fewer people of working age – a shift from having 4 working-age people for every pensioner to having just 2. These demographic changes are expected to have substantial consequences for public finances in the EU – for example on pension systems and the cost of healthcare services. The Commission created the awards to promote ways to address the challenges of ageing. Active ageing programmes can help older people find new opportunities for employment, participate in society, and live independently for as long as possible.

10. Fast-tracking Europe's car industry

Proposals to make EU auto sector more competitive by investing in innovation, cutting red tape, boosting skills and increasing access to overseas markets.

Keeping the automotive industry fit is vital for Europe's prosperity. Some 12 million people depend, directly or indirectly, on the sector for their livelihoods. But carmakers are under pressure from the global downturn. Demand is falling at a time when competition is growing, challenging EU companies at home and abroad. Manufacturers must also respond to the increasing demand for better energy efficiency and safer cars. Meeting these challenges means companies need to focus more on quality and innovation. To help them make this transformation, the Commission is proposing a package of measures.

These include:

- investing in technologies to reduce greenhouse gases, pollutants and noise – by targeting EU funds and European Investment Bank loans and streamlining financial incentives;
- creating a viable consumer market for vehicles using alternative fuels (electricity, hydrogen and natural gas) – by increasing the required infrastructure, creating an EU standard for electrical recharging plugs;
- promoting advanced road-safety measures – these include intelligent transport systems (such as onboard computers, sensor technologies, digital services, communication systems);
- reducing red tape and unfair competitive practices throughout the EU;
- helping industry get better access to international markets through fair, balanced trade deals and better promotion, especially in countries where demand is growing;
- concluding international negotiations on common standards and safety rules for electric vehicles and their batteries;
- improving skills and training and anticipating future industry needs;
- using funding for research and innovation more efficiently at European and national levels.

The plan is based on the Commission's industrial strategy, which sets EU priorities for boosting strategic sectors – which also include aeronautics, engineering, space, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. The strategy aims to reverse the decline in manufacturing, increasing its share of

gross domestic product from the current 16% to around 20% by 2020. Manufacturing currently accounts for 80% of the EU's exports.

11. Save Erasmus for students from 2014 to 2020: YES we can, say MEPs

The culture and education committee adopted the new YES EUROPE programme for youth, education and sport, merging all the EU programmes for education, training and sport and Erasmus for higher education.

More than five million students, of all ages, should enjoy greater mobility and cooperation abroad thanks to €18 billion in EU funding for the years 2014 to 2020.

"I appeal to all those in authority who repeatedly stress the importance of education in their speeches, to do it justice by providing an adequate budget. We will live up to our responsibilities as co-legislators and give the programme the importance it deserves at the heart of European education policy", said Doris Pack (EPP, ED), chair of the culture and education committee. MEPs amended the Commission proposal to facilitate guarantee loans taken out by master's students and simplifying the administration of grants. For the first time, programmes dedicated specifically to sports will qualify for European funding. They will cover grassroots sports as well as initiatives to tackle doping, violence, discrimination and intolerance.

EU to guarantee loans for masters students abroad

Students wishing to take a masters degree in a different EU country will be able to apply for a loan which will be guaranteed from a new facility under the YES Europe programme. To qualify, the student must study abroad for one to two years. The committee voted for loans of up to €12 000 for a one-year master's programme and up to €18 000 for a two-year master's course. MEPs stipulate that this new facility will complement rather than replace the other student grants or funding mechanisms that exist at local, national or European level. Special terms, favourable to students, should apply to loans of this type, such as reduced interest rates, "grace periods" for paying off the loan (a minimum of 12 months after the end of the period of study) or abolishing for additional guarantees from parents.

Youth - third section of the programme

Actions that apply specifically to Youth should be funded from a separate budget line, say MEPs. They propose a structure based on three sections, with a specific chapter on Youth, in addition to the chapters for education and training and for sport. Specific targets for this area are set out in the text adopted by the committee. MEPs want the EU to continue to use the existing brand names for the different actions in the three sections of the programme: Erasmus for mobility in higher education; Grundtvig for adult learning, Leonardo da Vinci for vocational education and training abroad, Erasmus Mundus for international students' and teachers' mobility, Comenius for school education and Youth in Action for activities in the new Youth chapter.

Budget allocation and administration in member states

MEPs wanted to see the programmes and their administration modernised in order to make better use of the total budget allocation proposed by the Commission for the seven years from January 2014. It amounts to over €18 billion, of which just over €1 billion will come from various external aid instruments because the programme will be open to cooperation with non-EU countries. They adopted minimum guaranteed thresholds for each section of the programme: 83.4 % for education and training; 8% for youth; and 1.8% for sport. National agencies will administer the programme in the member states. MEPs voted to ensure that each member state will be able to decide whether to have one or more national agencies. The text adopted by the culture and education committee will be discussed and voted in plenary next year.

12. What does science mean to you? - photo contest

Science is all around us. From quirky phenomena to stunning science in action, we want to see what's grabbing your attention. To take part in the photo contest you must be part of a team of three people with at least two girl members. Your photo should not include any images of identifiable people.

Participate now and your team could win a trip to Prague (Czech Republic) to attend the European Union Contest for Young Scientists or a trip to Ispra (Italy) to visit the Joint Research Centre! It's a monthly competition so you must submit your photo between the beginning of the 1st to the end of the 15th day of each month.

Prizes

Based on an online voting system, each member of the monthly winning teams between December 2012 and May 2013 will be awarded an exciting package of campaign material. The best of the six monthly winning entries will be selected in a final vote-off to determine the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners of the competition. The team with the most votes will be awarded a trip to Prague in September 2013 to attend the European Union Contest for Young Scientists. This will mean a unique opportunity to discover fascinating science projects and meeting more than 100 young scientists from all over Europe! The second winning team will be awarded a trip to Ispra to visit exciting research labs and facilities at the European Commission's in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre. They will have the opportunity to see real science activities and meet experienced and young scientists. The third prize winning team will be awarded an ICE Watch for each of its member.

Deadline for entries: May 2013.

Read more Terms and Conditions: <http://science-girl-thing.eu/en/contest>

13. Picture contest "Where was it taken?"

Are you young? Have you travelled around Europe? Can you identify a city just by taking a look at its picture? How about the landmarks in the European capitals? In addition to the activities prepared for the 2013 European Year of Citizens, you now have the chance to prove what an observant traveller you are. You may win an mp4 player! Youth on the Move (a European Union initiative) is launching the 'Where was it taken?' contest in order to test your knowledge of European urban topography. Don't think twice. Stand up to the challenge right now! You will be able to show off your knowledge in 9 unique opportunities – starting from December 10, 2012 till February 24, 2013. This contest is open to young people aged 16 to 30 from one of the 27 EU Member States, as well as Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey or Switzerland. **Deadline for entries: 24 February 2013. Check here the rules of the competition:**

http://ec.europa.eu/youthonthemove/news/2012/20121206-are-you-a-veritable-european-citizen_en.htm

14. Youth exchange and third multiplication phase of the Jumigg project



In the period November 29th to 2nd December 2012 (travel days included) in the our Europe Direct Basilicata centre in Potenza, was held the second phase of the youth exchange of the Daphne project Jumigg, to which have participated again the some of the English and Italians youngsters (the first phase was in London from 13th to 16th of September 2012). On the first day the young Italians have accompanied the UK friends in a sightseeing of Potenza. Then they presented the comic strip realised on the issue of bullying and the spot on the issue of violence against women that have been implemented under the project. In the afternoon the two English guys with the tutor Doris were able to participate

in the third stage of multiplication phase, which was held at the Salon of the Refused people where it was presented a specific performance. The Italian youngsters have also created a box that ideally contains all the most important elements that have marked their presence in the project. With elements of corporate waste, they have created OBJECTS OF WONDER, as a weapon against violence. On the second day after the morning activities the 2 groups participated in an art workshops organized by the pole of crafts that were held at the Three Fountains Park.

15. Competition: "Fax For Peace, Fax For Tolerance"

It's an international competition in which students and artists from all over the world can participate sending images, short videos and cartoons produced by themselves about the themes of peace,

tolerance, human rights and contrast to every form of discrimination. The attitude is apertic, aconfessional, open to the comparison among the most different cultures. The international competition Fax for Peace was born in 1996, on the initiative of the Institute of Secondary Education of Spilimbergo (Pordenone - ITALY). The initiative has the aim to create a virtual forum, to which images from all over the world flow together, so that people can discuss and reflect upon the great values of peace and solidarity among cultures. Our motto is “send us thoughts and opinions through images”: images are a universal language, proper to communicate with efficacy and without mediations on an international level. A special jury, composed by communication experts, art critics, testimonials of culture, sports and entertainment, and representatives of the school world, will select and give prize to seven works, among those received, on the ground of the adhesion with the proposed themes and of the efficacy of the message. **Deadline for entries: 28 February 2013. Check here the rules of the competition:** <http://www.faxforpeace.eu/>

16. First meeting of the animated electronic game of the E-GAME project



It was held from the 22nd to the 25th of november 2012 in Potenza the first meeting of our project Grundtvigt. 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. The meeting was attended by partners: Italy (which is the country coordinator), 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. During the meeting the various partners have defined the operational steps and set the various activities to be performed

17. The first meeting of the VOSSES project project

It was held from the 4th to the 6th of November 2012 (including travel days) the first international meeting of the VOSSES project (Volunteering solution for entrepreneurship solution). 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.

18. Approved the project Gargantua's soul

Few days ago we have received the marvellous notice that our project titled "Gargantua's soul" was approved under the framework of the "Youth in Action" programme (action 1.2 - youth initiatives) by the Italian Youth Agency. So from next January we will start this new activity!

19. Preparatory visit to Austria

Last week was held in Vienna a preparatory visit under the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci programme to promote a future centralized project to be presented at the next dead-line of the programme. At the preparatory visit participated representatives coming from the following countries: Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, Ireland and Slovakia. The meeting, to which participated of course also a delegate from our association, was very fruitful because the partners had the possibility to discuss the most important steps of the future proposal.

20. Different youth exchange approved

In the last dead-line of the Youth in Action programme our organism have received the approval of the following youth exchanges, in which it will participate as partner:

- Healthy living, get to know other cultures and ourselves through sports, relaxing and healthy food (in Finland)
- Voluntary competences for youth (in Gaziantep - Turkey)
- Further rights for an inclusive Europe (in Kirsehir - Turkey)
- Facing Europe 2020: Advanced Training in Key Competences for Youth Workers in Non-formal Education (in Germany)
- Tailwind coaching training seminar (in Finland)

More information on the exchanges will be given in the next newsletter

21. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all readers



This is the last issue of our annual newsletter. We hope you have some more useful information and interesting: Our aim was, is and will continue to arouse interest and curiosity in you to Europe and the opportunities it offers, 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 February 20th, 2013.



**Merry Christmas....
and Happy New Year!**