



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. No place for tax cheats



Proposal would extend EU rules on mandatory exchange of personal financial information to cover all income.

Tax fraud and tax evasion hurt all of us. People who illegally avoid paying their fair share of taxes deprive governments of money that could otherwise be used to implement economic and social policies, improving the lives of citizens. One way cheats avoid paying tax is to hide income earned in another country from authorities in the country where they live and are normally taxed. The EU tries to prevent this from happening within its borders. Current EU rules require the United Kingdom, Ireland and all other member countries to collect

information on income earned on their territory by non-residents. UK and Irish authorities must then provide this information to the EU countries where these people actually live, so the income can be taxed – and EU countries must also send any information on UK and Irish residents to the UK and Ireland. But the scope of the current rules does not include all income, and the Commission wants to close these loopholes – following a request to do so by EU countries. This is why, from 2015, countries will also be required to exchange information on individuals' income earned from employment, directors' fees, life insurance, pensions and property. The Commission is now proposing to close even more loopholes by extending information sharing to also include dividends, capital gains, other financial income and account balances.

Common international approach

A common EU standard for sharing tax information would avoid a situation where EU countries have a patchwork of separate bilateral agreements with the US and other countries outside the EU. It would also ensure that all EU countries benefit from the additional information. Countries would be better able to assess and collect taxes due at home. The EU would also be in a better negotiating position to push for higher standards of tax information exchange at a global level. In December 2012, the Commission presented a blueprint outlining a more effective EU response to tax evasion and avoidance. The plan highlights the need to promote automatic information exchange as an international standard. The Commission will work with EU countries to ensure that there is a strong, unified EU position on an international standard at the upcoming G8 summit (June 2013) and G20 summit (September 2013).

2. Focus on stability, growth & jobs

Package of recommendations for 23 EU countries, as well as the eurozone, which offers guidance on budgetary and economic policies for 2013-14

The Commission's country-specific recommendations are derived from rigorous economic analysis of each EU member country, based on budgetary and economic reform plans submitted by each government in April. The recommendations – which do not apply to countries currently under a macroeconomic adjustment programme, i.e. Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Cyprus – take account of each country's economic situation and provide specific advice for boosting competitiveness, economic growth and job creation. The recommendations are part of the Commission's strategy to help Europe overcome the crisis, reduce unemployment and achieve sustainable growth. An overall assessment of progress so far finds most countries making progress in reducing budget deficits and implementing measures to increase competitiveness. However, some need to act faster. EU countries should also step up measures to tackle rising unemployment, with a focus on getting young people into jobs. At the same time, governments should reform education and training programmes to ensure jobseekers have the right skills for today's job market. More can be done to encourage businesses to invest and create jobs. Additional investment in research, innovation and resource efficiency should also be promoted. As part of the process, the Commission also issued general recommendations for the eurozone and took a number of decisions under the Excessive Deficit Procedure.



Next steps

The recommendations form part of the 'European semester', the EU's yearly cycle of economic policy coordination, during which EU governments consult each other on their budgets and economic policies, based on overall priorities proposed by the Commission. EU leaders will discuss the recommendations at their meeting on 27-28 June. Once they are approved in July, each country will work to incorporate them into national budgets and economic reform plans for 2013-14. The Commission and EU governments will then monitor how each country implements these measures.

3. A bank account if you need one

New measures would give all Europeans a legal right to a basic bank account anywhere in the EU – and make switching to another provider easier.

Now that electronic payments are increasingly replacing cash, everyone needs a bank account. Yet, around 25 million Europeans who would like to have an account currently do not have one. Some 2.5 million who applied for one have been rejected for various reasons – which include being considered too poor. Those without an account find it difficult or impossible to receive a wage or social support payments, transfer money or make purchases requiring a debit or credit card. The Commission has tried to help, for example by encouraging banks to voluntarily ease requirements. However, not much has changed in the 2 years since. Binding measures are now needed to ensure everyone who wants an account can have one. The Commission's proposals would:



- allow all Europeans, whatever their financial situation, to open a basic payment account anywhere in the EU – they would be able to perform essential banking operations
- make it easier for consumers to compare fees for payment accounts – they would get clear information on all charges from their providers, and each country would have an independent website comparing fees
- establish a simple and quick way for account holders to switch to another bank or provider anywhere in the EU.

The measures would help people choose the bank account most suited to their needs in any EU country. They would also benefit from a more competitive market, possibly lowering fees.

Banks would also benefit from less red tape and more consistent rules across the EU, helping them to expand operations. EU countries would be able to set national rules, such as whether payment accounts with basic features should be offered to consumers for free or for a reasonable fee. Not all banks would have to provide basic payment accounts to everyone – governments may ask just one bank to offer such accounts.

Next steps

EU leaders will now consider the proposals, together with the European Parliament. They could come into effect in 2014, if accepted.

4. Upholding your rights

New proposals would remove remaining obstacles to living, working and shopping anywhere in the EU.

Every day, people face obstacles when trying to exercise their rights as EU citizens. The Commission is proposing new measures to tackle these, including:

- extending the unemployment benefits jobseekers receive from their home country beyond the current 3 months while they look for work in another EU country
- clarifying rules for trainees so they are not exploited through unpaid work
- making it easier for countries to accept identity and residence documents from another EU country, along with roadworthiness certificates for cars

- developing a common disability card allowing disabled people to receive the same benefits as nationals when in another EU country (for example, access to transport, tourism, culture and leisure)
- strengthening legal rights for those suspected or accused of a crime – especially children and the vulnerable
- improving EU rules for settling cross-border disputes over small purchases after buying online or in another EU country
- providing an online means for shoppers to compare prices for digital products sold across the EU
- making it easier for people to find out who can solve problems encountered in another EU country
- enabling citizens to vote in national elections in their home countries, no matter where they live in the EU.



The proposals are inspired by feedback received through an [online public consultation](#), ongoing citizens' dialogues and the Europe Direct information service. At the same time, the Commission also reports regularly on the state of fundamental rights and on gender equality in the EU. The proposals augment the [measures already taken in 2010](#) to make citizenship rights more effective in practice. These actions are well underway.

What is European citizenship?

Every national of an EU country is also a citizen of the Union. In addition to national privileges, citizens hold an additional set of rights, guaranteed by the EU's treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. EU citizenship gives people the right to live, work, travel and shop anywhere in the 27 member countries – as if they were in their own country.

5. Bringing down barriers to working in another EU country

New proposals would make it even easier for Europeans to go and work in another EU country.

EU citizens have a right to live and work in another EU country. That fundamental right benefits individual workers but also, through their skills, the economies of the countries where they go to work. EU nationals working in another EU country should, in theory, enjoy equal treatment with locals in access to jobs, working conditions, social welfare and tax. But in practice, many of the 10.7 million EU migrant workers face a range of discriminatory practices. For example, governments or businesses may set discriminatory recruitment rules, quotas, or nationality requirements for specific types of jobs. Pay and promotion rules might not be the same as for nationals. Experience and professional qualifications might not be recognised in the same way, if at all. These barriers serve to make more people reluctant to go and work in another EU country. In response the Commission is proposing measures to make it easier for workers to exercise their EU work rights – in place now for some 50 years and guaranteed by the EU's treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.



The measures would require EU countries to:

- provide official channels for EU migrant workers – and their employers – to get information, assistance and advice about these rights
- establish means of redress when workers from other EU countries are discriminated against
- allow labour unions and other organisations to launch administrative or legal procedures on behalf of individuals whose rights are not upheld.

By informing people, the measures would help people exercise their rights more effectively. A 2010 survey found 67% of people feel they are not well informed or are not at all informed of their rights as EU citizens.

Next steps

The proposals must be approved by EU governments and the European Parliament before becoming law.

6. Climate change: planning for disasters

Strategy would coordinate EU countries' responses to the impact of global warming on local communities.

The EU is committed to cutting its greenhouse gas emissions. But setting targets to dampen the gradual rise in average global temperatures is not enough. People's lives, health, livelihoods and personal property are already at risk from the steady increase in extreme weather events. Southern and central Europe are experiencing more heat waves, forest fires and droughts. More flooding and coastal erosion is expected in northern and north-eastern Europe. Some countries are already taking steps to deal with the effects of global warming. But others have not yet started, for various reasons. That's why the Commission is proposing a more coordinated EU approach. It makes sense. Lack of preparation in any one country or region can lead to problems elsewhere. And the results of extreme weather – such as flooding, erosion and forest fires – are often shared problems. An EU approach would focus on:

- helping countries and cities develop plans for adapting to climate change – with funding and other forms of support
- including appropriate measures into EU programmes for critical economic sectors, such as agriculture and fisheries, and for regional projects. This aim would be to make infrastructure more resilient and encourage individuals, businesses and governments to take out insurance against losses from disasters
- encouraging research into the potential effects of climate change and expanding the EU's online information network on adaptation.



National plans would promote low-cost local solutions that support economic growth and jobs. The alternative is to do nothing, which could cost the EU economy around €250 billion a year by 2050.

Disaster insurance

In parallel, the Commission is also canvassing opinion on whether EU action is needed to ensure enough insurance coverage is available to cover losses from weather-related disasters. A country's financial stability could be harmed if public money is needed to help communities without adequate insurance recover from a large disaster.

Next steps

The Commission will consider proposing an EU law requiring countries to make plans and implement them if the current voluntary approach does not produce results by 2017.

7. Help for green shoppers

EU-wide standards for environmental claims would increase trust in the growing market for green products and allow shoppers to make informed choices.



A growing number of shoppers would like to buy environmentally friendly products but find it difficult to make informed choices. This is because EU countries use a wide variety of methods to measure the green credentials of products and companies – making comparison hard. What's more, the terms used on labels are often vague and confusing. The result? Around 48% of Europeans say they do not trust the environmental claims made by companies. To support the market for green products, the Commission is proposing common EU standards. One standard measures the environmental impact of specific products. Another measures the environmental performance of an organisation or company. Both are based on existing, tested methods. The Commission is calling on EU governments, companies and organisations to begin using the voluntary standards now. The Commission is also providing guidance on labelling, to allow people to shop with confidence. Environmental claims should be transparent (include information on the assessment procedure

used, source, criteria), relevant, reliable, complete, comparable and clear. Common standards are likely to encourage more firms to green their products, by reducing red tape and the cost of meeting different standards across the EU. Companies would also benefit by being able to compete fairly using the same standards.

Next steps

In parallel, the Commission plans to develop **product- and sector-specific rules** for assessing environmental impact. These rules will be developed over 3 years with the participation of organisations and companies. The Commission will also contribute to global efforts to develop better **international standards** for measuring and communicating environmental impact. 'Green products' are those that result in as little environmental damage as possible during production, distribution and use, to the end of their lifecycle (including reuse, recycling and recovery) compared to similar products of the same category.

8. EU economy: slowly recovering from a protracted recession

The economy is projected to return to growth in the second half of 2013. However, annual GDP is forecast to contract by 0.1% in the EU and 0.4% in the eurozone.

Following the recession that marked 2012, the EU economy is forecast to stabilise in the first half of 2013. GDP is expected to start growing again in the second half of the year, slowly at first, but picking up speed in 2014. In the aftermath of the financial crisis, demand within the EU is still held back by several factors including the reduction of the debt overhang and a shortage of credit. The main driver of growth this year is therefore likely to be net exports. Private consumption and investment in the EU look set to pick up modestly next year. This forecast is based on the assumption that continued policy efforts will prevent the sovereign-debt crisis from worsening.



GDP

Annual GDP this year is now forecast to contract by 0.1% in the EU and 0.4% in the eurozone. For 2014, economic activity is projected to expand by 1.4% in the EU and 1.2% in the eurozone.

Unemployment

Due to the slow rate of recovery of economic activity joblessness will not be reduced in the short run. Unemployment is forecast to reach around 11% in the EU and 12% in the euro area in 2013 and to stabilise there in 2014. There will continue to be large differences between EU countries.

Inflation

Inflation has continued to slow down as the impact of past energy-price rises has faded. It is projected at 1.8% in the EU and 1.6% in the eurozone in 2013, stabilising at 1.7% and 1.5%, respectively, in 2014.

Public finances

Fiscal deficits are set to continue falling in 2013 - to 3.4% of GDP in the EU and 2.9% in the eurozone. The pace of structural consolidation is expected to be slower this year than in 2012. Debt-to-GDP ratios are forecast to reach 89.8% in the EU and 95.5% in the eurozone.

9. New drugs require flexible response, says EU report



The number and availability of new types of drugs continued to rise in 2012, challenging EU efforts to combat illegal drugs and reduce addiction.

Globalisation, technological advances and the internet have driven the development of an open market for new drugs, according to the EU drugs agency, which monitors drug use in Europe. This fundamental shift poses significant challenges for treatment programmes, law enforcement and policymaking, the agency says in its annual report. The EU will have to rapidly

adjust its new drugs strategy to address this more dynamic market, the agency concludes.

European situation

There were some positive developments last year – demand for cannabis and cocaine is falling in some countries, and the number of first-time heroin users fell. Record numbers of people are also getting treatment for addiction. Some 1.2 million Europeans entered a rehab programme in 2011. Heroin addicts and those dependent on similar opioid-type drugs form the largest group being treated, followed by cannabis and cocaine users. The European situation indicates that drug treatment remains the most likely cost-effective approach – even in difficult economic times, the report says.

Treatment services

Although drug-related services have a significant role in helping addicts end, or at least manage, their drug use, treatment programmes are in danger of being underfunded as governments seek to cut public budgets. Cuts to such programmes have already been made by some countries, even though drug use in Europe remains high. A quarter of European adults – some 85 million people – are estimated to have used illegal drugs. While some 6,500 people died from overdose in 2011 – a fall of 500 from the previous year – drug-related deaths remain a major challenge for public health services. The drugs market is also adapting to demand, with ever more complex synthetic stimulants on the market in greater numbers. Authorities have detected over 70 new drugs in the past year, some of which can still be obtained legally. Globalisation and information technology are important drivers of this rapidly evolving market, with the internet allowing users to connect with new suppliers.

10. Bravo to EU's best young translators 2012!

The 27 winners of the EU's annual translation contest have received their awards in Brussels.

As a sure sign of spring, 27 teenage winners of the Commission's annual *Juvenes Translatores* contest for young translators have got together in Brussels. During the award ceremony, each has received a trophy and a certificate for having produced their country's best translation from Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth. Later, they have met the Commission translators who drafted the original contest texts and marked the translations. The winners have been selected from amongst the 3 300 pupils from secondary schools in all EU countries who sat the contest in November 2012. The contestants had two hours to translate a text from an official EU language of their choice into one of the other official languages. The translation texts focused on solidarity between generations, the theme of the 2012 European Year, and ranged from stories about the young teaching the old how to use computers to history lessons given by older people to children. The contest was truly multilingual, covering 138 language combinations, including such unusual ones as Slovene into Swedish, Dutch into Polish and Portuguese into Finnish. The winners also exhibited a fair share of linguistic diversity – 11 translated from English, 5 from French, 5 from Spanish, 4 from German, 1 from Estonian and 1 from Irish. *Juvenes Translatores* is a translation contest for 17-year-old students from schools in all EU countries. It aims to promote foreign-language learning in Europe and translation as a possible career. The contest was first organised in 2007 and continues to grow in popularity. The contest has created its own network, enabling students, teachers and professionals to interact through Facebook, Twitter and a blog. The next edition of the contest, starting this September, will be open to Croatian pupils for the first time after their country joins the EU and Croat becomes its 24th official language.



11. EU Health Prize for Journalists

The European Commission is proud to present the **fifth edition of the EU Health Prize for Journalists**. It is awarded to stimulate high-quality journalism that raises awareness of issues related to healthcare and citizen's rights. Under the theme "Europe for Patients", the prize highlights the following **EU health policy initiatives**:



- cross-border healthcare
- rare diseases
- health workforce
- patient safety and hospital acquired infections
- organ donation and transplantation

- chronic diseases: cancer, cardiovascular diseases and/or diabetes
- vaccination (flu vaccination and/or childhood vaccination)
- prudent use of antibiotics
- ageing and dementias
- pharmaceuticals
- active and healthy ageing
- health determinants: tobacco, alcohol and/or nutrition & physical activity.

Journalists are invited to submit their articles published in **print or online media** in any EU Member State (including Croatia) between **01 August 2012** and **30 September 2013**. The articles must relate to one of the **12 health topics** listed above. Submissions are open until **30 September 2013**. Please read carefully the [rules of the prize](#).

There is one nominee per Member State. All national nominees are invited to Brussels for the award ceremony where the winner and two runners-up will receive prizes with a value of:

- 1st prize: € 6,500
- 2nd prize: € 4,000
- 3rd prize: € 2,500

The **EU Health Prize for Journalists** is funded under the [second Community Health Programme 2008-13](#).

12. 2013 IAESTE Student Video Competition

The Student Video Competition is a part of 65th IAESTE anniversary celebrations. The Student Video Competition is open for all students from the world at each level of studies. You have to record and submit a video that explains the importance of traineeships abroad, the value of international networking, or why your country is great place for a technical traineeship



1. **Make a short video** (max. 5 minutes) that explains the importance of traineeships abroad, the value of international networking, or why your country is great place for a technical traineeship. The video should be in English or at least have English subtitles.
2. **Upload your video to YouTube and register the link** [here](#).
3. **Get votes:** Get your social networks, family, friends, or anyone else to vote for your video on [iaeste.org](#). They can vote once per day, every day
4. **Win! An** international jury will choose the three best videos (from the top 10 videos with highest numbers of votes) that will **win prizes in the value of 500, 250 and 100 Euro**
5. You can **register your video between the 9th May 2013 and 31st October 2013**. Join the [Facebook event](#) – we will remind you about deadlines
6. The results will be announced by 30th November 2013

[Full Students video competition rules](#)

13. Europemobility Video Contest 2013



The competition research and creative original videos that show mobility experiences. The competition is open to anyone who has carried out a program of practical training, a youth exchange, an apprenticeship, an exchange between undertakings or an internship abroad, in Europe or outside. The exchange of learning mobility in another country may have received support from a national program, for their own private initiative, or with one of the following programs: Youth in Action Programme, Leonardo da Vinci, Erasmus Placement, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, Comenius and Grundtvig. The video must have a duration of one to three minutes, and be original,

respect international norms on intellectual property rights, be in English or have English subtitles. Each category will be awarded with a cash prize plus a trip to Brussels. The winners will be invited to the Awards Ceremony in Brussels and submit their videos to an international audience to the "Europemobility Network International Conference", which will take place in November 2013. The travel and accommodation will be arranged and paid by the Network Europemobility along with a daily sum for living expenses. **Deadlines: August 31, 2013** to upload the videos, **September 15, 2013** Online voting. For more information, please refer to the following [link](#).

14. 3rd E-game meeting in Portugal



The next meeting of the project E-GAME will be realized in Portugal in the period 04-07 July 2013. The project meeting will be hosted, in the town of Beja, by the Portuguese partner, the "CHECKIN Organisation". During the encounter the partners will share the activities done in the first 12 months of the project in each partners' country and all the products realized in the first year of the LLP



Grundtvig initiative. The Italian coordinator, the association EURO-NET, will show the development of the electronic games and will do the supervision of the whole meeting. We will give you more details about the 3rd E-GAME meeting in the next our newsletter.

15. The VOSSES workshop on the modules of Business Plan in Potenza



On 27th of May 2013 a workshop was held also in Potenza (Italy), with 5 business and labor consultants to analyze and adapt the modules of Business Plan prepared for the VOSSES training course. The



analyzed indicated module was considered completely ok by the experts: in fact the consultants considered the indicated module as complete and efficient.

16. Four workshop of the project's Gargantua Soul

Within the project "Gargantua's soul" were made till now four workshops: below you can read in detail the activities that the boys have done during the meetings.



The First Workshop: Ice Breaking - April 30, 2013

During the first meeting, lasting two hours, related to the project's Gargantua Soul approved under the Youth in Action programme, the young tutors after a brief presentation of the project, its aims and activities, have used simple ice-breaker exercises in order to encourage participants to melt, relax, have fun and interact each other encouraging their knowledge in an informal contest. The participants welcomed the proposed activities:

through the game all have developed a group feeling and have felt increasing confidence in themselves and to others.

The second Workshop: Theatre and improvisation - May 2, 2013

In the second workshop, that had a duration of two hours, the main theme was the theater: objective of the workshop was not to train young actors, but to bring out the creativity inherent in the age of adolescence through theater practice to favor the cognitive and emotional development. Thanks to the playful and targeted exercises, the boys have acquired the elements to better manage their emotions, to improve their communication and gain basic skills in theater. The enthusiasm of the young participants has been rewarding and has proven the strong educational value of the theater.

The third Workshop: Dynamic body and group relationship - May 4, 2013

The third meeting, that was realized in the day May 4, 2013 and again had a duration of two hours, concerned the time of the dynamism of the body and the relationship of the group. Trying to learn about themselves, their own emotions, their own body with movements and gestures, the boys were involved in activities that required a personal commitment, listening and trust towards others..

The fourth Workshop: Protection and Promotion of Human Rights - May 5, 2013

In this meeting, lasting two hours, it was decided to carry out a series of activities of non-formal education about Human Rights enabling young people to be able to reflect on the importance of Human Rights in the life of every person and the importance their protection and promotion. The activity of non-formal education proposed, "Draw The Word", was taken from the manual Compass. This activity had as main objectives: to develop knowledge on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; to encourage teamwork and creative thinking; to raise awareness on the use of visual language; to promote solidarity and respect for diversity.

17. C.R.E.A.M. – Creative RE-use of Abandoned Materials



In the period 23-29 June 2013 (including travel days) will be held the workshop of the project "C.R.E.A.M. - Creative RE-use of Abandoned Materials", organised by the association YOUTH EUROPE SERVICE in the framework of 'LLP - GRUNDTVIG Workshop' programme of the European Commission. During the workshop the Italian promoter organization, that is member of our network and that few week ago was awarded by the European Commission for its previous project, will host 15 persons coming from many different European countries (exactly 11!) to learn how it is possible to have a creative re-use to recycling the materials. We will give you more details on the workshop development in our next



newsletter. In the meantime on your right you can see the photo of the award received by the association for its project SEAL: the prize of "Star Project" was received by mr. Peppino Franco during the Europe Festival events organised by Italian National Agencies in Florence (Italy) in date 10/05/2013.

18. A new stage in our Europe Direct Basilicata centre



From the 17th of June, in our Basilicata Europe Direct centre, started the apprenticeship of Ms. Felicia Berterame, Ms. Annunziata Bellizio and Mr. Laviero Saganeiti, three young graduates who will have the opportunity to get experience on how runs an information center of the European Commission participating actively in its initiatives. The apprenticeship will have a duration of at least 1 month and will give to the guys a chance to acquire skills and knowledge.