



# 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. EU membership prospects improve for Western Balkan countries

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**The European Commission has recommended in its annual report on prospective new member countries that Albania is ready to begin EU membership negotiations.**

This year saw increased attention on the process by which the EU gains new members, known as enlargement, with Croatia becoming the 28<sup>th</sup> EU country on 1 July 2013. Last week, the Commission released its annual report assessing the progress made by the countries that have applied for membership. The report looks at the full range of criteria for EU membership, from ensuring good economic governance to respect for human rights,

and makes recommendations for the following year.

### **Progressing well**

According to the report, **Albania** is now ready to begin negotiating membership after making significant progress with its legal system and fighting corruption and organised crime. **Montenegro** also continued to make good progress towards EU membership. It was also recommended that the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** should begin membership talks. However these remain on hold until an agreement between all EU governments is made. A historic agreement between **Serbia** and **Kosovo** to help normalise relations has allowed Serbia to begin membership negotiations. Kosovo has also moved closer to an association agreement with the EU, a first step towards eventually joining. However, progress by **Bosnia and Herzegovina** was described as disappointing. **Turkey** made good progress in implementing judicial reforms and in dealing with the Kurdish question, but the government's handling of the recent demonstrations in Istanbul is a cause for concern. For **Iceland**, the Commission produced a simplified report on how the country can align with the EU, following the Icelandic government's decision to put membership negotiations on hold.

### **Protecting vulnerable groups**

All countries in the Balkans and Turkey still need to undertake further reforms to ensure that freedom of expression is respected and tackle discrimination, particularly towards Roma people and the gay community. New priority will be attached to these issues in the enlargement process, with more targeted funding available.

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## 2. New survey highlights the need for skills in Europe

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**A quarter of adults in the EU lack the basic skills needed to succeed in a modern knowledge economy, according to a new survey.**

The Survey of Adult Skills by the EU and OECD, conducted in 23 countries, found that 1 in 4 European adults lacked basic skills to effectively use computers, while 1 in 5 had low literacy and numeracy skills. The survey also highlighted large contrasts across the EU, with recent school leavers in Finland and the Netherlands outperforming university graduates from other European countries. The findings underline the need to improve education and training across the EU, to ensure all Europeans have the skills needed in the modern world.

### **Life prospects**

Skills have a major impact on life prospects. Those with a high level of skills are not only more likely to be in higher-paid and more rewarding jobs, but also more likely to be healthier and more trusting than those with low skills, the survey found. This has raised fears of a 'low-skills trap' developing, where those who lack skills find themselves shut out of employment and further education. This, in turn, leaves them without opportunities to develop the know-how they need to get back into work. The survey indicated this may be happening already: those with the lowest level of literacy are almost twice as likely to be unemployed as the general population.

### **What is the EU doing about this?**

The EU has various initiatives to help Europeans improve their skills base. The 'Opening up Education' initiative aims to improve proficiency with computers in Europe, while Erasmus+ will support projects that help develop and upgrade adult skills, such as literacy, numeracy and problem



solving in a computer environment. A new online tool will be launched where visitors can assess their skills and compare them to the results of the survey. And the findings of the survey will also help countries target investment from the European Social Fund, which provides money for skills and training.

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### 3. Social factors to be considered when setting economic policy

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#### **The EU is pushing for social factors to feed into the budget-setting process.**

The plan would see the creation of a social “scoreboard” to complement the economic data that is considered when national budgets are agreed with EU governments.



The scoreboard will feature 5 main indicators:

- unemployment
- the rate of young people who are neither employed, nor in education/training
- household disposable income
- inequality
- an at-risk-of-poverty index.

#### **Social, not just economic**

Under the plan, unveiled last week, trade unions and employers organisations will be more closely involved in formulating economic policy. The proposal is one of a number of measures designed to improve economic governance following the financial crisis. The plan also responds to a recent EU summit which agreed that the 28 nation bloc needs to find better ways to monitor economic and social conditions. The proposal is expected to feed into a discussion of the social dimension of economic integration in Europe at an EU summit in late October.

#### **Tackling unemployment**

Nearly a quarter of young people in the eurozone are currently jobless, but there are massive differences in youth unemployment rates between countries. The rate is highest in Greece at 62.9% and lowest in Germany at 7.7%. To tackle this, the EU wants to reduce the costs and hurdles of moving for work between countries. The hope is that the new scoreboard will allow potential social problems in EU countries to be identified at an early stage and so allow pre-emptive action to be taken. If agreement is reached with the European Parliament and EU governments, the social scoreboard will feed into economic decision making from next year.

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### 4. Fit for growth: making EU law simpler, lighter and cheaper

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#### **The Commission is simplifying – and even withdrawing – EU rules and regulations. The aim is to make life easier for businesses and citizens and foster economic growth.**

The Commission has established, by policy area, where it will take further action to simplify or even withdraw EU laws, reduce the burden on businesses and make EU laws easier to implement. This exercise is at the heart of the Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT). Ensuring that EU legislation is “fit for purpose” is essential for putting Europe back on track towards more growth and jobs. President Barroso said: “Europe is there to help find solutions to the big challenges we are collectively facing. However, to be effective, we need to make sure we concentrate on the right priorities and have the right dose of regulation. Not everything that is good is good at European level. Let's think twice whether, when and where we need to act at European level.” This is in line with the President's message in his State of the Union address on 11 September: “The EU needs to be big on big things and smaller on small things.” The President continued: “With REFIT, the Commission has undertaken the most comprehensive exercise to date to make EU law lighter and simpler. Our resolute application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality will not put into question the important benefits for citizens and business of EU regulation, particularly the rules underpinning the Single Market. The REFIT package provides a pragmatic outlook for the future of regulation in Europe just a few months ahead of the European



*elections in May 2014.*" Alongside its plans, the Commission has published the results of a review of all EU legislation, defining a wide range of ongoing or proposed measures. In addition, the Commission announced that it will publish a scoreboard to track progress at European and national level.

#### **Much has been achieved but a clearer focus on the right priorities is needed**

Small businesses benefit from a wide range of existing measures designed to reduce administrative burdens, including electronic VAT invoicing as well as exemption or special regimes in the areas of accounting, electronic waste and trade statistics. Between 2007 and 2012 administrative burdens such as unnecessary reporting and information requirements have been reduced by 25%. This is expected to increase EU GDP by 1.4%, equivalent to €150 billion. Major policy reforms aimed at simplifying rules and reducing costs include the introduction of a single EU patent, the development of an EU customs code, and cutting the price of broadband deployment. The way in which legislation is prepared by the Commission has also changed significantly; in particular by paying close attention to the needs of small businesses and through the systematic use of impact assessments, public consultations and evaluations.

#### **In the pipeline**

Over 20 initiatives for cutting red tape are currently being considered, including measures related to consumer product safety and animal health. For businesses, the a standardised VAT declaration could help cut costs. By the end of 2014, almost 50 evaluations on regulatory burdens will have been carried out. This includes planned checks on rules related to health and safety at work, temporary agency workers, and the new range of EU rules in the financial services sector. Finally, the Commission wants to withdraw a number of proposals that are stuck in the legislative process, and to repeal some adopted laws that may no longer be necessary.

#### **Working with the other EU institutions and EU governments**

The success of the Commission's regulatory fitness programme will crucially depend on whether or not the other EU institutions and member states show the same level of ambition. An annual scoreboard will also be published to track the progress of EU and national legislation as well as encourage dialogue between citizens, governments, business and civil society at large.

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## **5. Recognising new literary talent across Europe**

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#### **A dozen new or emerging authors from around Europe have been declared winners of the 2013 EU Prize for Literature.**

The annual competition, now in its 5th year, helps draw attention to new and emerging authors who might otherwise not gain the recognition they deserve outside their home country. The competition aims to put the spotlight on the creativity and diversity of Europe's contemporary literature, promoting its circulation within the continent and stimulating interest in reading books by authors from other countries. In

addition to collecting cash prizes of €5,000 and having their books promoted at prestigious book fairs, the winning authors also gain access to funding for translating their books into other European languages. The EU Literature Prize is open to 37 countries around Europe. Each year, national juries in a third of the countries nominate winning authors, so that all countries are represented over a 3-year period.

The 2013 winners are:

- **Isabelle Wéry** (Belgium), for her road-movie in the form of a novel, *Marilyn Désossée*
- **Faruk Šehić** (Bosnia-Herzegovina) for *Knjiga o Uni*, a novel about overcoming wartime trauma
- **Emilios Solomou** (Cyprus) for *Ημερολόγιο μιας απιστίας*, a book about time, destruction, memory and love
- **Kristian Bang Foss** (Denmark) for *Døden kører audi*, a novel involving a road trip through Europe
- **Meelis Friedenthal** (Estonia) for *Mesilased*, which follows the adventures of a student travelling between the Netherlands and Estonia
- **Katri Lipson** (Finland) for *Jäätelökauppias*, a playful and charming story, mostly set in the Czechoslovakia of the 1940s and 50s
- **Lidija Dimkovska** (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) for *Резервен Живот*, about the struggle for individuality of Siamese twins
- **Marica Bodrožić** (Germany) for *Kirschholz und alte Gefühle*, a story about time and memory



- **Tullio Forgiarini**(Luxembourg) *Amok – Eng Lëtzeburger Liebeschronik*, the story of an adolescent's search for love, happiness and a place in today's society
- **Ioana Pârvulescu** (Romania) *Viața începe vinery*, a unique and charming journey into bygone times
- **Gabriela Babnik** (Slovenia) *Sušna doba*, which chronicles an unusual love affair
- **Cristian Crusat** (Spain) for *Breve teoría del viaje y el desierto*: 6 stories which contemplate the full range of human experience.

The announcement of this year's winners coincided with the 12<sup>th</sup> European Day of Languages, which celebrates our rich linguistic heritage and the benefits of language learning. This year's event, which saw a wide range of language-related events taking place across Europe, emphasised how languages value not just in getting a job but more generally in helping people move around Europe to work, study and live.

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## 6. Improving digital education in Europe

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### **A new EU initiative will help give young people the computer skills they need to prosper in the 21st Century.**

By 2020 more than 90% of Europe's jobs will require computer skills, reflecting the ever-increasing role that technology plays in our lives. Despite this, many schools and universities do not have the resources, connectivity or equipment to keep pace with this change. To combat this and help ensure that Europeans are able to compete in the digital age, the EU has launched the [“Opening up Education” initiative](#). It focuses on making more resources available for students, organisations and teachers and improving IT infrastructure and connectivity in schools.



### **Tackling the lack of IT skills**

The new EU initiative forms part of a wider EU plan to broaden IT skills in Europe. Despite the increasing role that digital technology plays in today's society, only a limited number of us understand the workings behind our smartphones and laptops. Launching the new strategy, EU education commissioner Androulla Vassiliou commented: *"It's not enough to understand how to use an app or programme; we need youngsters who can create their own."* This will give young people the skills they need for future employment, as well as generating creative, enterprising people for the European job market.

### **Open Education Europa**

One of the concrete tools the Commission is introducing is a new website, [Open Education Europa](#). The site will enable students, teachers and the general public to use and share free digital resources. All educational materials produced with EU funding will be freely available for users on the site. The site will also provide a platform for teachers and students to discuss and promote better use of digital technologies in teaching, and share best practice. “Opening up Education” will address other issues in digital education in Europe. There will be increased support for training teachers in how to use digital technology in the classroom, and funding to improve access to broadband and IT facilities in schools and universities.

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## 7. Protecting woodland in the EU and beyond

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### **A new strategy for managing forests in the EU will protect the environment while also aiming to create new jobs in rural areas.**

Despite a global trend towards deforestation, forests cover more than 42% of the EU's land area and forest biomass (essentially, wood) supplies half the EU's total renewable energy. To protect this important resource, the EU's new forest strategy calls for woodland to be managed sustainably, improving competitiveness and creating jobs. The strategy also aims to improve quality of life for EU citizens by enhancing recreational opportunities while protecting ecosystems, biodiversity and the environment.

### **Joined-up approach**

These aims will be achieved through a holistic approach to managing forests, bringing together related policy areas on rural development, enterprise, the environment, climate change, research and development and bio-energy. Launching the new strategy, EU rural development Commissioner Dacian Cioloş said: “*Sustainable forest management, ensuring the protection of forests, is a key pillar of rural development and it is one of the principles of the new forest strategy.*”

### **Alleviating increased demands on forests**

Publication of the new strategy follows 2 years of consultation and cooperation between the Commission, national governments and key stakeholders. It replaces an EU forest strategy dating back to 1998 and is needed to respond to the increasing commercial and recreational demands on forests, as well as political, environmental and social change in the past 15 years. The new strategy also takes account of the effect of climate change on the delicate ecosystems of forests. In particular, rising temperatures and drought in southern Europe are having an effect on tree species at lower mountain altitudes. The Commission has also issued a blueprint to help forest-based industries, particularly wood-processing and paper, become more efficient. Accounting for some 3.5m jobs in the EU and annual turnover of nearly €500bn, this sector is at the forefront of the Commission’s efforts to create growth and jobs.

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## **8. EU plans to end mobile phone roaming charges**

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### **New strategy seeks to harmonise telecoms sector, ban roaming charges, cut red tape for businesses and introduce new rights for users and service providers.**

Despite 26 years of progress, the EU’s telecoms sector remains fragmented, operating mainly on the basis of national markets. As a result European companies have fallen behind their US and Asian competitors. The “Connected Continent” package aims to rejuvenate the EU’s flagging telecoms sector by abolishing roaming charges and simplifying rules to promote investment in new high-speed networks to boost growth and create jobs. The economic sector increasingly depends on faster connections, and it is estimated that completing the telecoms single market would create thousands of jobs and increase GDP by nearly 1% every year.



### **An end to roaming charges**

From July 2014 you would no longer be charged extra when you receive a call on your mobile phone while travelling in another EU country. Companies would need to offer “roam like at home” packages that apply across the bloc, or allow you to use a separate roaming provider without changing your original SIM card. International call charges would be capped at the price of a long-distance domestic call and intra-EU mobile calls at €0.19 per minute (plus VAT). The Commission also supports “net neutrality” – the principle that the Internet should be an open system – which would mean restricting companies from offering deals, for example, on higher data-transmission speeds, which could restrict access by their rivals.

### **Consumer rights across Europe**

Full harmonisation of consumer-protection rules would eliminate the need for customising services in every country and give consumers added protection. EU citizens would also benefit from simplified “plain language” contracts, greater rights to switch provider or contract, and to cancel a contract if promised internet speeds are not delivered.

### **Cutting red tape and increasing investment**

The EU wants to make it easier for telecoms companies to enter new markets. To achieve this, a licence in one country would be valid across the EU and future allocations of spectrum for broadband would be standardised to simplify cross-border investment plans. To encourage investment in fast fibre-optic broadband and ensure more access to 4G services and Wi-Fi, prices will be stabilised for renting access to networks. This should strengthen competition in the sector.

### **Next steps**

The proposals will need approval from the European Parliament and all 28 EU countries.

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## 9. Make the case for Europe

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In his 2013 State of the Union address, President Barroso made a rallying call to ***“all those that care about Europe, whatever their political or ideological position, wherever they come from, to speak up for Europe”***.

Exactly five years after the fall of Lehman Brothers, the President's speech recalled what has been achieved since then. *“If we look back and think about what we have done together to unite Europe throughout the crisis, we would never have thought all of this possible 5 years ago,”* he concluded, *“What matters now is what we make*

*of this progress. Do we talk it up, or talk it down? Do we draw confidence from it to pursue what we've started, or do we belittle the results of our efforts?”* The President pointed out a number of recent figures and evolutions that give Europe good reason to be confident. *“For Europe, he said, recovery is within sight. Of course, we need to be vigilant. But it does prove we are on the right track. This should push us to keep up our efforts. We owe it to those for whom the recovery is not yet within reach, to those who do not yet profit from positive developments. We owe it to our 26 million unemployed.”* President Barroso delivered an appeal for more European integration in the face of global developments: *“In our world of geo-economic and geopolitical tectonic changes, I believe that only together, as the European Union, we can give our citizens what they aspire: that in the age of globalisation our values, our interests, our prosperity continue to be protected and promoted.”* The bottom-line question in the debate going on all over Europe, President Barroso argued, is: *“Do we want to improve Europe, or give it up?”* *“My answer is clear”,* he continued: *“Engage! If you don't like Europe as it is: improve it! As any human endeavour, the EU is not perfect. Controversies about the division of labour between the national and European levels will never be conclusively ended. Not everything needs a solution at European level. Europe must focus on where it can add most value. It does not have to meddle where this is not the case. The EU needs to be big on big things and smaller on smaller things.”* At the same time he made it very clear that the work on deepening the economic and monetary union remains as valid as ever: *“There are areas of major importance where Europe must have more integration, more unity. Where only a strong Europe can deliver results. A political union needs to be our political horizon. This is not just the demand of a passionate European. This is the indispensable way forward to consolidate our progress and ensure the future.”*

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## 10. Reducing the risks of shadow banking

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**The EU presses ahead with plans to regulate the shadow banking system that helped spawn the credit crunch.**

Most of the regulatory requirements imposed on the financial sector since the economic slump of 2008 have been focused on the mainstream banking system. But the shadow banking sector – which includes hedge funds, private equity and securitisation – engages in activities similar to banks and yet has traditionally been supervised more lightly and does not have access to central bank support or safeguards such as deposit insurance and debt guarantees. While the shadow banking sector helps to provide financial liquidity to the banking sector, it has also created instability in the global financial system in recent years. This instability contributed to the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008 and helped to freeze global credit markets during the financial crisis.

**Remedying the causes of financial instability**

Globally, the total amount of shadow banking assets has more than doubled to over €50 trillion over the last decade and now accounts for almost a third of the global financial system. In Europe, shadow banking is worth over €23 trillion. The sheer size of the shadow banking system and its close links to the regulated financial sector make it a potential source of systemic risk for states, governments and



taxpayers, as any weakness could trigger a wave of contagion that would affect the regulated financial sector.

### Capital requirements

The EU's proposed reforms call for certain types of money market funds to hold a cash buffer equivalent to 3% of their assets in order to reduce the risk of the sort of runs on funds that occurred during the financial crisis. The EU also proposes setting daily and weekly liquidity levels for money market funds as well as measures to help anticipate large redemptions and reduce overreliance on third-party credit ratings. The EU is working in tandem with the G20 to reduce the risks of shadow banking.

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## 11. Young Researcher Award 2014

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The International Transport Forum at the OECD organises an Annual Summit for Transport Ministers from around the world to meet with researchers, industry leaders and representatives of civil society and examine strategic policy issues facing the sector. Continuing a long tradition of research on transport issues to inform the policy-making process, the International Transport Forum's Research Centre provides high-level research input for the Transport Ministers' Annual Summit organised by the Forum. At the 2014 Summit, to be held in Leipzig, Germany from 21-23 May 2014, the International Transport Forum will again present its "Young Researcher of the Year Award" to recognise a young researcher, or researchers, who submit(s) the best research paper on the theme of the Annual Summit. For 2014, the theme is "**Transport for a Changing World**".

### Objectives

The principal aim of the International Transport Forum's Young Researcher of the Year Award is to highlight the crucial importance of transport research for sound transport policy formulation and implementation, and to foster closer links between transport policy and research. The award is designed to encourage and reward creative reflection and analysis on the part of young researchers, currently investigating the major contribution of transport to the well-being of our societies and their proper functioning. The International Transport Forum's 2014 Annual Summit will focus on the transport sector's relation to the changing global situation, forming the core of the 2014 Summit discussions.

### Criteria

The Award is open to researchers under 35 years of age who have undertaken their research in an institution, university or consultancy firm located in a member country\* of the International Transport Forum. The researcher must be the main author of the paper. Co-authorship is possible, in which case the award will be shared among the main authors, all of whom must be under 35 years of age. Specifically, the research paper may analyse any aspect of the interlinkages between the transport sector and the evolving economic, social or sociological, historical, geographical, demographical and political context. For example, the following topics are relevant to the 2014 Summit:

- **Overall financial resource shortage** compared to investment needs in the transport sector.
- The **new geographical configuration of international trade** and its transport implications.
- New transport needs in **ageing societies**.
- Transport and **digitalised economies**.
- Transport systems facing **major climate events**.
- New forms of public transport in **urbanised societies**.
- Transport and **new energy sources**.

The research paper should treat one of these aspects and must show clear links with the general theme of the 2014 Summit, "Transport for a Changing World", and:

- extract and develop policy issues from the analysis;
- propose advances in the current state of knowledge in the domain;
- be methodologically rigorous;
- demonstrate strong economic understanding and analysis, though the analysis may be of an engineering, planning, historical or sociological nature;
- be written in such a way that the essence of the analysis and its policy relevance are accessible not only to researchers but also to policy-makers (implying that formal analysis should be accompanied by a clear explanation of its purpose and results);



- be written in either of the Forum's two official languages (French or English);
- be recent (working papers as well as articles published or accepted for publication in academic journals in 2012 or 2013 are welcome);
- not exceed 25 pages (single spacing), excluding references and annexes.

#### Application Process

Candidates for the prize must send in the completed application form, including a brief summary of the paper in English (maximum 200 words) and the complete paper by email to the International Transport Forum at the OECD, ([Michel.Violland@oecd.org](mailto:Michel.Violland@oecd.org)) with copy to ([Julie.pailliez@oecd.org](mailto:Julie.pailliez@oecd.org)), by **7 February 2014**.

#### Awarding The Prize

Submissions will be examined by an international panel of experts from the transport and transport economics research sectors, under the aegis of the International Transport Forum's Research Centre. The jury will include representatives from the Joint Transport Research Committee and the President of the World Conference on Transport Research (WCTR).

A prize of **EUR 5 000** will be awarded. An official award ceremony, attended by Transport Ministers of Forum Member countries, will be held in Leipzig during the 2014 Summit. Honorary merit awards may also be presented. For more information please visit the following [link](#).

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## 12. Video contest “Young voices against poverty: What would you change?”

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The EDD13 video contest “Young voices against poverty” encourages children and young adults aged between 13 and 24 to make their voices heard in the dialogue on addressing global poverty. The task is to create a short video (120-seconds max.) that showcases visions for the world in 2030 and ideas for eliminating poverty. There will be four contest winners who will each receive an all-expenses trip to Brussels to attend European Development Days (26-27 November 2013) and have their video screened and made available on the website. The winners will be determined by those videos attracting the highest number of votes on Facebook.



**The final deadline for submissions is 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2013** and winners will be announced on 5 November 2013.

Please click on one of the following links to access the video contest page:

- [Web users click here](#)
- [Mobile users click here](#)

Please refer to the video contest rules below for further information:

- [English](#)
- [French](#)
- [German](#)
- [Portuguese](#)
- [Spanish](#)

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## 13. Council of Europe traineeships

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It is possible to undergo a traineeship with the Council of Europe, lasting from eight weeks to five months. Two official traineeship sessions are held each year. The Council of Europe encourages applications from any person who

has the requisite qualifications, without distinction as to gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social background, skin colour, religion, convictions or sexual orientation. Specific measures may be taken to ensure equal opportunities for applicants with disabilities.

### Who may apply?

- Nationals of one of the Council of Europe [member states](#);
- minimum education requirements a diploma for the first cycle of higher education within the meaning of the Bologna Declaration (bachelor's degree or equivalent), wishing to acquire practical experience and knowledge of the functioning and activities of the Council of Europe;
- having a very good knowledge of one of the two Council of Europe official languages (English or French) together with good drafting ability. Good knowledge of the other official language is appreciated.

### Duties

The duties which trainees are required to perform principally comprise:

- research work;
- preparation of draft reports and studies for meetings of experts;
- drafting of meeting reports;
- assistance with work in hand;
- committee organization;
- updating the website.

No traineeship in translation or interpretation is offered.

### Programme

Introductory courses for trainees enable them to find out about the structures, the activities and the international co-operation procedures followed by the Council of Europe, including the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights. Trainees may attend conferences held within the Organization, sittings of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and meetings that may take place during their stay in Strasbourg.

**Trainees are not remunerated.** They pay their own travel and accommodation expenses. The specific measures apply to candidates who provide a certificate or attestation issued by an officially recognized body or professional to confirm the type and degree of disability or disabilities. In order to enable the largest number of applicants to benefit from an opportunity for a traineeship at the Council of Europe, nobody may undertake more than one traineeship in the Organization, whatever form it may take.

### How to apply

Use the on-line system of candidature and submit the application by the due date. No application can be accepted other than on line. Applicants should have an e-mail address enabling them to set up an account. Application forms must be completed in French or English (only); they may be completed at several attempts and submitted once finalized.

### When to apply

The properly completed traineeship applications for the first session 2014 must be submitted online **between 16th of September and 29th of November, 2013** (midnight French time). Owing to the large amount of applications to be processed, it is strongly recommended to apply at least one month before the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered. After the deadline, the forms will be locked and it will no longer be possible to submit applications.

### Applicant's Area

- If you are already registered click [Login](#).
- The [link](#) to apply for the first Traineeship session 2014.

For more information please visit the following [link](#).

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## 14. Success of public at our stand at Lucania Film Festival

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At the Lucania Film Festival, the most important and best known Cinefestival Lucano, this year have been recorded over 20,000 visitors. During the Festival, as every year, our Europe Direct center Basilicata held a stand to distribute materials and gadgets on Europe, providing information and meeting the citizens to give them useful news on programs and initiatives funded by the European Union. In total, during the 4 days of the Cinefestival, about 670 people have contacted our stand at the Lucania Film Festival: so it was a great success!

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## 15. Play and have fun with the electronic game "CLIMA GAME"

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As part of the normal annual initiatives established for the year 2013, our Europe Direct Basilicata centre has developed a new electronic game titled "CLIMATE GAME". Click on the link shown below and have fun with our third electronic game (after "ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL GAME" built in 2009 and "COE TRIVIA BOARD GAME" made in 2010") developed to support the knowledge of the European institutions and of their play positive action to protect and preserve the planet on which we live and to promote energy efficiency by reducing waste and pollution.



At the end of the game leave us your name and your evaluation so we will know if these innovative "assets" are really appreciated by our readers and we will have a real feedback of our initiatives.

[Play](#).

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## 16. Open debates with citizens: closing event in Trieste September 16, 2013

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As part of the European Year of Citizens (2013) and in view of the European elections (2014), the European Commission has launched a phase of dialogue and listening to citizens through a series of innovative initiatives altogether. A closing event of these open debates with citizens was organised in last September in Trieste with the participation of the Vice-President of the European Commission Viviane Reding. This meeting was also attended by one member of the Europe Direct Basilicata staff. In the photo you can see some moment of open debate, that was realised during an annual EDIC meeting.



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## 18. Materadio 2013

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From 20 to 22 September was held the third edition of the festival of Materadio organised by Radio 3, which was attended by the Italian Representation of the European Commission, partner of the event, with the support of our Europe Direct Basilicata centre. This year the event was dedicated to the culture to support Matera, in view of its candidacy for the European Capital of Culture for 2019. Below you can see the topics of the seminars held by the Italian Representation of the European Commission and those who spoke as speakers.

### **Friday, September 20**

#### **17:00: *Culture , creativity, mobility***

- Maurizio Oliviero – University of Perugia - Erasmus ambassador in Italy.
- Antonino Imbesi, responsible for Europe Direct Basilicata.
- Representatives of the Dutch government.
- Representatives of Bulgarian cities nominated European Capital of Culture for 2019.
- Moderator: George Zanchini - Radio 3.

### **Saturday, September 21**

#### **11:30: *Citizenship, democracy and rights***

- Lucio Battistotti, director of the European Commission Representation in Italy.
- Ennio Triggiani, professor at the University of Bari "Aldo Moro".
- Castellaneta Marina, professor at the University of Bari and columnist for "Il Sole 24 Ore".
- Moderator: George Zanchini - Radio 3.

#### **17:30: *The new programming of EU funds - 2014-2020 - an opportunity for the South***

- Lucio Battistotti, director of the European Commission Representation in Italy.
- Patrizia Minardi, Managing Authority ERDF OP Basilicata Region.
- Moderator: Anguel Beremliysky, press officer of the European Commission Representation in Italy.

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## 19. Jobbing Fest

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In Potenza, in date 27/09/2013, and in Matera, in date 28/09/2013 was celebrated the annual Day of the European Social Fund in Basilicata organized by the Department of Training and Employment. How does the labor market, which changes in traditional jobs and what opportunities the new frontiers of employment can offer to young people were the arguments of the two meetings. Around these issues, the Basilicata Region organized the so called "Jobbing Fest", to which participated hundreds of high schools' students. During the event, one delegate of our Europe Direct Basilicata centre made two interventions based on study, training and work opportunities offered by Europe.



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## 20. Europe Direct Basilicata again among the best practices of EU

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The European Commission has just published a new e-book of good practices on methods and tools to promote knowledge of Europe and its many opportunities, developed at European level by the Europe Direct centers. We are proud to announce that our Europe Direct center Basilicata is, again, included in the list of "best practices" for the year 2013, which describes, this time, good practice in collaboration with other community networks. With this book, our organisation was chosen four time to be indicated in the publications of the European Commission for the activities normally carried out. In fact, our association has been chosen as an example to be followed in:



- 1999 in the CD-ROM produced by the European Commission, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and BBJ Brussels for the project "Euronews " ;
- 2011 in two e- catalogues :
  - GOOD PRACTICES IN MEDIA RELATIONS regarding cooperation with RAI3 Basilicata in the format " Buongiorno Regione" ;
  - GOOD PRACTICES IN SOCIAL MEDIA with regard to the ability to spread European news using all the modern tools of the internet and social networks ( facebook, webweb portal , RSS , YouTube , Linkedin and Twitter)
- 2013 in the new e-catalogue, titled GOOD PRACTICES IN COOPERATION, for our ability to work in perfect harmony with other networks of the European Commission.

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## 21. Euro-net admitted to EBN!

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Our association Euro-net, with official communication of 25 September last year, was admitted to the network EBN (EUROPEAN BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CENTRE NETWORK), as associated body. We are delighted umpteenth recognition given to us and we are convinced that we can exploit, given the wide experience gained in recent years, our presence in the network with a fruitful work and good cooperation. EBN:

- represents the voice and interests of the BICs and its Associate members, their stakeholders and customers to all EU organisations and EC institutions. EBN acts as an interface between EU Policy makers and its members, and maximizes the reputation of the members both in the private and public sector (local, regional, national, European).
- undertakes feasibility studies and technical support for the setting up of new BICs, Incubation and Innovation centres, through on-site visits, audits, and assistance in quality assurance. EBN ensures that members comply to a professional, serious and specific quality system, using both process and result indicators, delivering advice, benchmarking, and assistance to BICs, candidate BICs and similar organisations.
- creates the appropriate environment for networking and exchange to take place between members, especially at the international level, through projects, events, thematic actions, sector-specific approaches, etc. EBN also facilitates benchmarking and the sharing/transfer of expertise, tools,





and specific know-how, enabling members to continuously evolve and adapt to competitive environments.

- facilitates the network "idea-lab" and drives the "project factory" of its community, inventing, testing and deploying pilot-schemes, EC-funded projects and thematic working groups. EBN monitors calls for tender within the EU, and alert members of forthcoming projects which may be of strategic interest. EBN builds and coordinates consortium involving members in order to respond accurately to the relevant project opportunities.
- is a recognized quality brand, and communicates members' technical assets via newsletters and publications. EBN promotes the network through participation in international and national events, and takes all initiatives to increase its members' exposure in media, publications and events.

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## 22. European Commission approved our project, "My future is Europe"

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We are pleased to announce that the Italian Representation of the European Commission IN Italy has approved our project, "My future is Europe" under the call "COMM/ROM/ED/2013\_EPE", a call established to promote actions in favor of next European elections. The project, which starts these days and will continue until 15/04/2014, is based on the necessity to find new forms and ways for moving all citizens (but especially young people) to discover and to appreciate the values of European Union, to play a significant role as protagonists of the new Europe. My future is Europe is a project aimed to the promotion and understanding of the issues and opportunities of Europe, particularly directed to high school and university students. The initiative is divided into 2 stages of implementation. The first phase (up to 28/02/2014) will be dedicated to raise awareness of the new Community programmes (eg the Erasmus Plus). The goal of the second phase (until 15/04/2014), however, is to foster an awareness of the activities and responsibilities of the European Parliament, that have a direct connection with the lives of all citizens of the Union.



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## 23. Our association admitted with 3 other European networks

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Our association EURO-NET in the last days was accepted, with great satisfaction of all members, as a member in the other three new European networks: VIRTUAL CLUSTER INITIATIVE, EUROPEAN CIVIL RESOURCE CENTRE and EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR TRANSFER AND EXPLOITATION OF EU PROJECT RESULTS (E.N.T.E.R.). with these new 3 networks our association, today, adheres to 47 international networks, coordinating 4 of them at international level. 5 of these networks are created or supported directly by the European Commission. Thank you, therefore, all those who, over the years, with their work and dedication have allowed this wonderful result!



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## 24. New AGM Europe Direct in Sofia

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A new Annual General Meeting of the Europe Direct network is in realisation in these days in Sofia (Bulgaria). Also one of our staff member is participating at this event. This year's program of activities supported by the slogan "Act, React, Impact" includes a series of discussions and workshops dedicated to 4 primary objectives:

1. to ensure that EU policies in 2014 are perfectly integrated into the programs of activities of the EDIC centres;
2. to allow the exchange of experience between old and new Europe Direct centres after the selection of the new relays for the years 2013-2017;
3. to strengthen relations between European stakeholders;
4. to mobilize citizens for the elections of the European Parliament that there will be in May 2014.

More details on the meeting will be provided in our next newsletter.