

# EUROPE DIRECT WEEKLY

Monday morning news for the Europe Direct network

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## Weekly message from DG COMM

by Alessandro Giordani

*Head of Unit, Networks in the Member States*

Dear European EDICs, this week you will find in the Newsletter a good selection of actualities to draw from for your outreach activities, but also important messages for the life of our network. Firstly, let me flag that last week the Commission unveiled the much awaited “**Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan**”, which shows that the EU is not only concentrated on the COVID pandemic but is still a major actor on the other fronts. The building of a **European Health Union** relies on this major component as well, and there is much for you in it: look at the 3 major EU programmes that will benefit from the €14 billion earmarked for action against cancer, and think of the constituents you can reach on this. Remaining on the big picture, please note that while the Commission disbursed on Tuesday **another €14 billion** to 9 Member States under the **SURE** scheme to alleviate the burden of short term unemployment due to the pandemic, next week will be the week of adoption of the Regulation bringing the **Recovery and Resilience Facility** into being. The main EU weapon for the recovery will be ready to shoot.

Finally, if you are a hub-EDIC for the deployment of the **Conference on the Future of Europe** on the ground, but also if you are not, stay tuned because the Conference gained momentum last week and will touch you all: **kick-start in sight now!** This of course should not divert your attention from completing your **events on cohesion policy** and switching them online if need be. You will see a reminder on this.

Have a nice week!

## The big picture

- **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan:** On 3 February, the Commission unveiled "[Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#)" aiming to introduce a new EU approach to cancer prevention, treatment and care. The plan will tackle the entire disease pathway, from prevention to quality of life of cancer patients and survivors, focusing on actions where the EU can add the most value. It will be implemented using the whole range of Commission funding instruments, with a total of EUR 4 billion being earmarked for actions addressing cancer, including from the EU4Health programme, Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe programme.
- **Commission disburses €14 billion under SURE to 9 Member States:** The European Commission [has disbursed €14 billion to 9 Member States](#) in the fourth instalment of financial support to Member States under the SURE instrument. These loans will assist Member States in addressing sudden increases in public expenditure to preserve employment. Belgium has received €2 billion, Cyprus €229 million, Hungary €304 million, Latvia €72 million, Poland €4.28 billion, Slovenia €913 million, Spain €1.03 billion, Greece €728 million and Italy €4.45 billion. 15 Member States have received a total of €53.5 billion under the SURE instrument. Member States can still submit requests to receive financial support under SURE which has an overall firepower of up to €100 billion.
- **Rule of Law:** The Commission has launched a [targeted stakeholder consultation](#) to ask stakeholders for information on developments related to the rule of law in the Member States and in the Union. The consultation is targeting organisations such as a) European networks and associations b) NGOs/civil society organisations c) national associations (e.g. judges associations, journalists federations, etc.) d) other relevant stakeholders. The Rule of Law Report lies at the heart of the new comprehensive European Rule of Law Mechanism, a preventive tool aimed at promoting the rule of law and preventing challenges from emerging or deteriorating. The consultation is available online until 8 March.

## What's in it for you?

- **Help share the new batch of Recovery success stories:** The stories are live on [Europa](#).
- **Do not forget to bring the Commission's new cancer plan** to the audiences likely to be the most concerned, including local communities and health professionals, and the most involved in EU4Health programme, Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe programme.
- **Show to your audiences the Commission's commitment in supporting the Member States** in their effort to fight unemployment (SURE).
- **Follow a [keynote speech by President von der Leyen](#)** at the "Masters of Digital 2021" event. The speech will provide you with useful insights into the President's vision of Europe becoming a global leader in the digital world.



European Union, 2020, EC - Audiovisual Service, "Next generation EU banner" on the Berlaymont building, Date: 18/06/2020



## Vaccination campaign news



Continue checking out the the Commission [main webpage](#) on vaccines and the [Questions and Answers Factsheet](#) on COVID-19 vaccination in the EU.

## Life of our network

**Reporting on the cohesion policy events:** Some time back we suggested that you transform your offline events into online undertakings whenever the sanitary situation prevents you from implementing the events as set out in the Annual Communication Plan. This also applies to the events on cohesion policy carried out by those of you who signed an amendment to the specific agreement under the commitments vis-à-vis DG REGIO.

You may recall that you are under the obligation to insert the dates of all planned and implemented events on the InfoRegio site. We would urge you to do this by 12 February.

Do not forget to provide a detailed account of the implemented events in the EDIC reporting tool.

**Update on Conference on the Future of Europe:** On 3 February COREPER approved the revised Council mandate on the Conference, paving the way for a possible finalisation and signature of the Joint Declaration. HUB EDICs and the rest of the network: stay tuned!.

## Looking ahead

[23 - 26/02 EU Industry Days, online](#)  
[8 - 11/02, EP Plenary session](#)



Visual of the conference "Masters of Digital 2021", European Union, 2020, EC - Audiovisual Service, ID: P-049483/00-02