

# eurodesk

## EBL Bulletin

### November 2016

1. Deadlines up to 1 December 2016
2. Documentation
3. Opportunities
4. Highlights
5. Upcoming Events
6. EBL Activities



Erasmus+

**EUROPEAN  
YOUTH PORTAL**

## Deadlines up to 1 December 2016

### Upcoming deadlines

Reference number	Deadline	Programme Title
EU0010000590	6 Nov 2016	<a href="#"><u>European Human Rights Moot Court Competition</u></a>
EU0010000210	15 Nov 2016	<a href="#"><u>Young European of the Year Award – Travel Fellowship and InterRail-Global-Passes</u></a>
EU0010000178	15 Nov 2016	<a href="#"><u>Translation Traineeships at the European Parliament for university graduates</u></a>
EU0010000560	15 Nov 2016	<a href="#"><u>Translation training placements at the European Parliament</u></a>
EU0010000646	24 Nov 2016	<a href="#"><u>OECD Young Professional Programme 2017</u></a>
EU0010000669	29 Nov 2016	<a href="#"><u>Erasmus+KA3-Support for Policy Reform Civil Society Cooperation in the field of Youth</u></a>
EU0010000441	30 Nov 2016	<a href="#"><u>Your Europe, Your Say 2017</u></a>
EU0010000456	1 Dec 2016	<a href="#"><u>MEDEA Awards 2017</u></a>
EU0010000600	1 Dec 2016	<a href="#"><u>Google Europe Scholarship for Students with Disabilities</u></a>

## Documentation

### **Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2017**

The programme guide provides information on the priorities of the programme, the actions supported, the funding available for different actions and detailed information on participation. Throughout the Guide, a special focus is put on encouraging projects supporting social inclusion (notably of refugees and migrants), as well as preventing radicalisation. The Guide is currently available in only 14 languages, but it will be published in all European languages in the next few weeks.

<http://bit.ly/1tuyXZb>

### **National Student Fee and Support Systems in European Higher Education 2016/17**

The Report, published by the European Commission's Eurydice network, is an overview of the main features of national fee and support systems and contains detailed information on each individual country. Forty-two national sheets present the reality of fees and financial support available to students in public or government-dependent private higher education institutions in short cycle, first and second cycle students in 2016/17. In particular, the publication describes the range of fees charged to national, EU and international students and specifies the categories of students that are required to pay, and those that may be exempt. Similarly, it explains the types and amounts of public support available in the form of grants and loans, as well as tax benefits and family allowances where applicable. Information covers the 28 EU Member States as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey.

<http://bit.ly/2dZAJpm>

### **The Erasmus Mundus Action 2 - Scholarship Holders' Impact Survey: Results**

The survey aims to analyse the implementation of Erasmus Mundus Action 2 and notably scholarship holders' opinions and experiences, as well as to measure their satisfaction and to assess the programme's impact on their personal lives, skills, competences and career perspectives. According to the results of the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 - Scholarship Holders' Impact Survey, carried out during the second semester of 2014, scholarship holders assess positively their experience abroad, including both academic and administrative aspects. Besides, the results provide useful data for the development of current and future programmes and policy frameworks involving the regions and countries covered by this study.

<http://bit.ly/2fsGf1B>

### **Inspiring Change: The Contribution of Youth Organisations to Citizenship Education**

Published by the European Youth Forum, the Report provides an overview of discussions around citizenship education. In particular, it offers evidence of how youth organisations deliver citizenship education and aims to serve as a reference point and inspiration for other educational stakeholders, especially formal education providers. The publication builds upon a survey conducted by the European Youth Forum between February and March 2016 to map practices within youth organisations and analyse their contribution to the development of young people's competences for active citizenship and social inclusion. The publication also offers critical analysis of the pedagogical approach citizenship education requires, and provides examples of cooperation between youth organisations and formal education institutions from across Europe. Finally, it outlines a set of recommendations for the future of citizenship education.

<http://bit.ly/2dJcL0u>

### **The gender employment gap: Challenges and solutions**

The Eurofound report explores the main characteristics and consequences of gender gaps in labour market participation. It finds women's labour market participation in the European Union has increased over recent decades, passing 70% in 2014. In that year, women represented almost 46% of the active EU labour market population. Nevertheless, women's employment and participation rates are still lower than those of men in almost all Member States. Fostering higher participation of women is crucial to meet the Europe 2020 target to achieve an overall employment rate of at least 75% by 2020. The report finds that the total cost of a lower female employment rate was €370 billion in 2013, corresponding to 2.8% of EU GDP. The report also examines policies and measures aimed at fostering female labour market participation, which could be central to closing gender gaps.

[Summary](#)

[Full Report](#)

### **European Parliament Legislative Train**

The EP Legislative Train Schedule aims at providing an interesting and animated way to visualise the legislative elements that make up the working programme. Using trains, carriages and railways as metaphors, the application allows users to monitor the progress of a number of legislative files during the five-year-term of the current European Parliament. The information held in the Legislative Train Schedule is organised by themes and will be regularly updated. Users of the application can opt for the animated version online, but all textual elements in the application are equally available for printing.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/summary>

### **Mobile School**

Belgian organisation dedicated to street children worldwide. Under the motto "If a child can not go to school then we bring the school to the child", the organisation developed a mobile

school and a propelled blackboard with hundreds of educational games allowing street workers to empower street-connected children and youth in their familiar environment, on the streets. All materials and games are aimed at strengthening street-connected children self-esteem and identity, discovering their talents and allowing them to become empowered. By deliberately focusing on opportunities instead of problems, mobile school aims to be an open and recreational meeting place where children and youngsters are unconditionally accepted and appreciated. Through this positive approach, young people feel empowered and are able to regain a positive self-esteem and self-image.

<http://www.mobileschool.org>

#### **Youth4Peace Portal**

The Portal offers the latest news, upcoming and past events, and key resources on young people's participation in peacebuilding. Users can create their profile and be part of the Youth4Peace Community to join online consultations or start their own, share and showcase results, best practices and lessons learned, create groups, events and connect with others to trigger new initiatives and collaborate on common projects.

The Portal is a new multi-stakeholder partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), Search for Common Ground (SfCG) and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), working together through the Working Group on Youth & Peacebuilding.

<https://www.youth4peace.info>

#### **CEDEFOP Mobility Scoreboard**

The Mobility Scoreboard database for IVET is a tool for assisting policy-making in the broad area of international learning mobility in IVET. It is intended for EU level and national level policy-makers; VET institutions; mobility agencies; companies involved in mobility; guidance institutions; staff involved in organising mobility activities; IVET learners and their organisations; experts; researchers; and the wide public. It provides detailed country information on the conditions for IVET learner mobility in Europe: analysing weaknesses and shortcomings; identifying good practices; and suggesting reforms. It addresses 10 key action areas: information and guidance on opportunities; motivating learners for mobility; preparing learners for mobility; removing obstacles to mobility; portability of grants and loans; ensuring mobility quality; recognition of learning outcomes; support to disadvantaged learners; partnerships and funding and involving multipliers.

<http://bit.ly/2eZbG2A>

## Opportunities

### **Young European of the Year 2017**

The prize is awarded to young Europeans aged between 18 and 26 years who have distinguished themselves in an exemplary manner concerning their honorary commitment and dedication in the support of international understanding and/or the integration of Europe. The prize, € 5,000, is intended to finance a six-month internship with a Member of the European Parliament or another European institution. It is also possible to use the sum to finance a project which promotes European integration. Such a project has to follow the aims of the Schwarzkopf Foundation and needs the approval of the Foundation's board in order to be accepted.

The nominating persons will have an opportunity to win an interrail ticket for seven days of travel within one month.

Deadline to submit nominations: **15<sup>th</sup> November 2016**.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2exx8LE>

### **OECD Young Professional Programme 2017**

The programme is designed to bring highly qualified and motivated entry-level professionals with diverse backgrounds into the Organisation. The programme is open to nationals of an OECD member country who are born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 1981. Candidates should be interested in the objectives of the OECD in promoting international policy co-operation, understand the issues involved in international work, and possess the analytical and drafting skills which enable them to contribute to policy-related studies. Candidates with Masters degrees should have gained a minimum of two years full time professional experience in related fields. Applicants should also have an excellent command of one of the two official languages of the OECD (English and French) and working knowledge of, or willingness to learn, the other .

Deadline: **24<sup>th</sup> November 2016**, midnight, Paris time.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2ff7xqS>

### **Erasmus+KA3-Support for Policy Reform Civil Society Cooperation in the field of Youth**

The call aims to provide structural support to European non-governmental organisations (ENGOS) and EU-wide networks active in the field of youth and pursuing the following aims:

- Raise stakeholder awareness of European policy agenda in the field of youth, in particular the EU Youth Strategy.
- Increase stakeholder commitment and cooperation with public authorities for the implementation of policies and reforms in the field of youth, such as of the country-specific recommendations issued in the framework of the European Semester.
- Boost stakeholder participation in the field of youth.

- Boost stakeholder involvement in the dissemination of policy and Programme actions and results and of good practice among their membership and beyond.

European non-governmental organisations (ENGO) in the field of education and training or in the field of youth and EU-wide networks (informal network) from EU Member States, European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and candidate countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey are invited to apply by **29<sup>th</sup> November 2016**, 12:00 (midday, Brussels time).

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2eltC6p>

### **Your Europe, Your Say (YEYS) 2017**

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is inviting secondary school children from the 28 EU Member States and from the 5 official EU candidates countries (Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey) to join the simulated youth plenary session and see how the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) decision-making process works in relation to a specific subject, which this year is "Europe at 60: where to next?" marking the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

Schools wishing to take part must register online through the EESC's Internet site by **30<sup>th</sup> November 2016** (midnight Brussels time). Only one registration form per school will be accepted. After registration has closed, one school from each of the participating countries, will be picked at random to take part in the workshops in Brussels, Belgium. The selected schools will then choose three students in their pre-final year of secondary education (aged 16 years) to represent them, as well as a teacher who will accompany them. These people will have to be able to express themselves in English. The event will take place in Brussels at the headquarters of the European Economic and Social Committee from 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The EESC will pay the travel and accommodation expenses of the students and accompanying teacher.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2ehamqy>

### **MEDEA Awards 2017**

The aim of the MEDEA Awards is to encourage innovation and good practice in the use of media (audio, video, graphics and animation) in education. The awards also recognise and promote excellence in the production and pedagogical design of media-rich learning resources. Award Categories for 2017 are the following:

- The MEDEA Award for User-Generated Educational Media;
- The MEDEA Award for Professionally Produced Educational Media;
- The special MEDEA Jury.

Participants are allowed to submit up to 8 entries.



Any multimedia material or programme, created after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and for use in formal or informal education and/or training, can be submitted by **1<sup>st</sup> December 2016** (midnight) CET. All finalists will be notified in February 2017 and will be invited to take part in the Awards Ceremony taking place during the Media & Learning Conference on the 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> April 2017, where the final winners will be announced.

Find out more: <http://www.medea-awards.com>

### **Google Europe Scholarship for Students with Disabilities**

The scholarship is addressed to students with disabilities who are pursuing university degrees in the field of computer science, computer engineering, informatics, or a closely related technical field at a University in Europe or Israel with a disability. Candidates should be currently enrolled at a university in Europe for the 2016-2017 academic year or intend to be enrolled or accepted as a full-time or part-time student in a Bachelor's, Master's or PhD programme at a university in Europe for the 2017-2018 academic year. The best candidates will each receive a 7,000 EUR (or equivalent) scholarship for the 2017/2018 academic year.

Deadline to apply: **1<sup>st</sup> December 2016**, 11:59 pm GMT.

Find out more: <https://www.google.com/studentwithdisabilities-europe>

### **DanceWEB - European Scholarship Programme for Contemporary Dance**

The Scholarship Programme offers around 65 young professional dancers, preferably between 22 and 30 years old, the possibility to take part in an intense multinational training programme. The Programme is a 5-week residency taking place from 12<sup>th</sup> July to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in Vienna within the framework of the ImPulsTanz festival. The programme focuses on the exchange of ideas and knowledge, further training and meeting with internationally renowned artists gathering in Vienna at ImPulsTanz. A scholarship includes individual coaching by artistic mentors, participation in the research projects and in the technique workshops, admission to all performances of ImPulsTanz, exchange of ideas and contact with the international trainers and choreographers and accommodation in Vienna for the period of the scholarship programme.

Deadline: **12<sup>th</sup> December 2016**, noon CET.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1uBvdVL>

### **Support for information measures relating to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2017**

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is crucial to long-term food security and makes a significant contribution to the Commission's top priorities, such as investment, jobs and growth, climate change, internal market, digital single market, and others. It contributes to the sustainable



development and modernisation of Europe's agriculture and the wider rural economy. It helps address the global challenge of 'how to produce more, using less'.

The target public is the general public (in particular young people in urban areas) and/or farmers and other parties active in rural areas. Indicative implementation period of the information measures: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017-30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Deadline: **15<sup>th</sup> December 2016.**

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1BgI0CI>

### **European Charlemagne Youth Prize 2017**

Young people from 16 to 30 years old, from all the EU Member States, are invited to participate in a competition on EU development, integration and European identity issues. The "European Charlemagne Youth Prize" is awarded to projects providing models for young people living in Europe and offering practical examples of Europeans living together as one community. Participants can apply individually or in groups. Representatives of the 28 national projects selected will be invited to the award ceremony in Aachen, Germany on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017.

The competition is organised by the European Parliament and the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen.

Deadline: **30<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

Find out more: <http://www.charlemagneyouthprize.eu>

*Please also look at the Opportunities folder within the Eurodesk intranet for news on European and international (funding) opportunities.*

## Highlights

### **#AskNavracsics-helping more young people to engage in their communities**

Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, the European Commissioner for Youth, wants to help more young people to engage with their communities through volunteering and other activities. He recently discussed the broad issues with a number of young people online and in person, and now he would like to hear from many more young people across Europe.

He wants to hear young peoples' ideas and opinions on how to make it easier for them to get involved in their communities. These will be used by him and his staff to influence policies and practices at European and national levels. His discussions with young people, along with more formal research into this topic, has highlighted some of the things that discourage young people from getting involved in their communities through volunteering and other activities, including:

- A lack of motivation and information about how to start volunteering;
- Too few role models that young people can be inspired by;
- Not enough information on the opportunities and projects that are available;
- The costs of taking part;
- Very little recognition of all the effort put in;
- Little acceptance by potential employers of the new skills gained through getting involved.

Participants to the consultation will have to give their views on what should be done to reduce or remove these barriers, and any others that make it difficult for young people to engage in their communities.

Deadline to participate is **15<sup>th</sup> November 2016**.

<http://europa.eu/youth/asknavracsics#take-part>

### **European organisations call for more information and mobility opportunities accessible to all young people**

The main European Youth Information and Mobility networks call for a greater weight of youth information and mobility policies and programmes in order to improve employability and increase youth active citizenship in Europe. EURODESK, the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA), and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) are asking for a greater weight of mobility and youth information policies in the EU Youth strategy. They do so through the recommendations included in the position paper 'Engage. Inform. Empower.'

The position paper emphasises that mobility should be the norm, not the exception. Every young citizen should have the right to participate at least once in European and international mobility programmes. This means supporting those from disadvantaged groups to overcome barriers with specific counselling, guidance and support. In addition, the position paper stresses that the Erasmus+ programme should be expanded as it represents one of the greatest successes of the European

Union and can contribute enormously to build a more open, tolerant and resilient society. The lack of information about the Erasmus+ programme and how to access it is the first barrier to participation. The EU and its Member States should ensure a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated approach to youth information delivery. They should also increase the capacity of Erasmus+ support to organisations such as Eurodesk, in order to broaden their outreach. The three networks also call for an ambitious programme for education and youth in the context of the future Multi-Annual Financial Framework.

<http://bit.ly/2f4EPK1>

### **European Parliament urges to remove remaining barrier to European volunteering**

In a Resolution voted on 27<sup>th</sup> October, MEPs asked for a better EU coordinated policy on volunteering, to give volunteers a proper legal status and help them join programmes. Almost 100 million EU citizens have taken part as volunteers in education, culture or arts, sport events, humanitarian and development aid work. Young people take advantage of volunteering schemes to develop skills and acquire experience that helps them to find jobs afterwards. Despite the real social and economic benefits of volunteering for individuals and organisations, participation in the European Volunteering Service remains modest and many barriers still have to be removed. People of all ages should be encouraged to take advantage of volunteering to improve their skills and understanding of other cultures, and thus improve their chances of finding a job.

To encourage volunteering, a more supportive environment is essential, including a legal framework with clear rights and responsibilities for programme managers and volunteers, as well as fair funding, underlined MEPs. Organisations should be encouraged to step up their participation in programmes involving volunteers, inter alia by allowing volunteer work to be accounted for as a “co-funding” contribution to projects by member states, alongside EU grants. If organisations could use EU structural funding in this way, they would have a stronger incentive to offer volunteering opportunities and develop their programmes and thus deliver more benefits for communities, MEPs noted. The European Parliament asked the European Commission to improve its communication strategy and public access to information about opportunities in the European Volunteering Service and also to develop a more coordinated volunteering policy, with a single contact point in the EU institutions and a simpler application system for both individuals and organisations. MEPs also voiced support for the Commission’s new EU Solidarity Corps initiative but stressed that its implementation should not undermine existing volunteering programmes and their funding. MEPs asked the European Commission to encourage participation by people of all ages in volunteering programmes, facilitate access to them for third-country nationals wishing to volunteer in Europe and propose a European Volunteering Statute to ensure that

volunteer organisations are given proper legal and institutional recognition.

<http://bit.ly/2eVcFzY>

### **More funds for young people and youth in 2017**

On 26<sup>th</sup> October, in a plenary vote, the European Parliament demanded for more funds to help young people into jobs, boost economic growth and assist third countries with a view to mitigating the migration crisis. MEPs added €1.5 billion in commitment appropriations for the Youth Employment Initiative, to help young people looking for a job. They also decided to reinstate in full the original budgets of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), which funds infrastructure projects, and the Horizon 2020 programme, which backs research projects. Both programmes had faced cuts to help fund the EU contribution to the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). The corresponding additional commitments amount to €1.24 billion above the proposed draft budget. These additional funds should be obtained through the mid-term revision of the EU's long-term budget (Multiannual Financial Framework, MFF), they said. Parliament reinforced spending on culture, communication and citizenship. It also increased budgets for programmes, including Erasmus+, COSME, Progress, Marie Curie, European Research Council and Eures. The plenary vote will kick off three weeks of "conciliation" talks with the Council, with the aim of reaching a deal between the two institutions in time for next year's budget to be voted by Parliament and signed by its President in December.

If Parliament and the Council fail to agree on the 2017 budget by the end of the conciliation procedure, then the European Commission is required to table a new draft budget.

<http://bit.ly/2dWdN8Y>

### **Eurostat release: September 2016 Euro area unemployment rate**

According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in September 2016, 4.125 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the EU28, of whom 2.875 million were in the Euro area. Compared with September 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 425 000 in the EU28 and by 243 000 in the Euro area. In September 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 18.2% in the EU28 and 20.3% in the Euro area, compared with 20.0% and 22.2% respectively in September 2015. In September 2016, the lowest rate was observed in Germany (6.8%), and the highest were recorded in Greece (42.7% in July 2016), Spain (42.6%) and Italy (37.1%).

<http://bit.ly/2e532TA>

### **Views from the European Education, Training and Youth Forum**

The European Education, Training and Youth Forum took place in Brussels on 20th-21st October and brought together 400 participants from the 33 countries participating in Erasmus+ to discuss the New Skills Agenda for Europe. Through the sessions of the Forum, participants explored how to connect education, the labour market and society since improving skills levels and educational are essential to increasing

employability and create fair, inclusive and sustainable societies.

Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, in his opening statement focused on the dual role of skills. Skills both make people employable throughout life but also help them play an active role in society. He also emphasised the importance of volunteering and its potential to equip young people with skills relevant throughout their lives.

Three Work Sessions addressed implementing initiatives of the New Skills Agenda for Europe, its future initiatives and key competences including transversal skills. Participants emphasised the importance of several themes:

- Non-formal and informal learning is central to personal development

- People need to be ready to learn throughout their lives

- We need to better understand what skills are needed for the labour market

- More diversity and more flexibility is needed to keep students in higher education

- Graduate tracking at EU-level is needed to be able to assess if formal education and training match the needs of European economies

- Soft skills such as critical thinking, creativity and problem solving will always be in demand from employers

A specific session looked at the need for a review of the 2006 Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning.

The Forum was a chance for feedback on the ongoing effort to make education systems more inclusive. Mobilising education to promote EU common values and inclusion, as a way to prevent violent radicalisation, is an EU priority.

<http://bit.ly/2fDT5wz>

### **EU signs agreement with the US to foster research cooperation**

On 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016, the European Commission and the US Government signed an agreement which will enable European and American researchers to work together more closely on projects funded under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme. The agreement, called Implementing Arrangement, will facilitate cooperation between US organisations and Horizon 2020 participants in cases where the US organisations are funded by the US and do not receive any funding from the Horizon 2020 programme. It will simplify cooperation between a selected Horizon 2020 project and a US entity by enabling researchers to organise their cooperation outside the formal Horizon 2020 Grant Agreement signed for each project, in accordance with applicable laws, rules, policies, and regulations of their respective funding programmes.

<http://bit.ly/2e95pm9>

### **Tunisian participation in Erasmus+ to increase in 2017-2018**

The EU will provide additional assistance worth €10 million to Tunisia under Erasmus + to increase the numbers of exchanges of students and staff between Morocco and Europe. Over the next two years, this funding will enable 1,200 students and

higher education staff in Europe and Tunisia to study, train or teach abroad. This comes on top of the yearly average of 640 students and staff who have already received support from the Erasmus+ annual budget for Southern Mediterranean countries, which supports Tunisia and nine other countries in the region. The EU will also use the additional funding to step up cooperation between universities in the EU and Tunisia, through projects designed to help modernise higher education institutions and to promote direct contact between individuals. Erasmus+ will also boost cooperation between Tunisian and European youth organisations by supporting informal education activities. The EU will also support culture and creativity in Tunisia by encouraging these two sectors to participate in EU programmes such as Creative Europe.

<http://bit.ly/2dRGJ0J>

### **Novi Sad to be European Capital of Culture in 2021**

Novi Sad (Serbia) is the first ever European Capital of Culture in a candidate country for EU membership to hold the title in 2021 following a recommendation from a panel of independent experts to the European Commission. The European Capitals of Culture is an initiative of the European Union. Its objectives are to safeguard and promote the diversity of cultures in Europe, highlight the common features they share and foster the contribution of culture to the long-term development of cities. The competition for European Capital of Culture in a candidate country was launched by the European Commission in December 2014. It was open to cities from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The title is now recommended by a panel of independent experts in the field of culture, responsible for assessing the competing cities. Two cities had been short-listed after the initial pre-selection round in December 2015: Herceg Novi (Montenegro) and Novi Sad (Serbia). The Commission now has to formally endorse the panel's recommendation. Started in 1985 on the initiative of the then Greek Minister of Culture Melina Mercouri, the European Capitals of Culture initiative has developed into one of the most ambitious and popular cultural projects in Europe. Cities in candidate countries or potential candidates for EU membership can receive this title every third year as of 2021. Novi Sad will share the title with Timisoara (Romania) and a city in Greece, to be selected in November among the three shortlisted candidates (Elefsina, Kalamata and Rhodes).

<http://bit.ly/2d9TDcY>

### **European Citizen's Prize: celebrating people's commitment to Europe**

On 12<sup>th</sup> October, the European Parliament honoured 50 people and organisations from 26 EU countries with this year's Citizen's Prize award ceremony highlighting their contributions to European cooperation and the promotion of common values. The winners include CoderDojo in Ireland, Citizens UK and the Internet Watch Foundation in the UK. CoderDojo is a global



network of free programming clubs for young people, set up in Cork, Ireland to give children between the ages of 7 and 17 the opportunity to learn how to code and develop websites, apps, programmes and games in an informal and creative environment. In addition to learning to code, participants meet like-minded people and are exposed to the possibilities of technology. Citizens UK organises communities to act together for power, social justice and the common good. The group develops the leadership capacity of its members so they can hold politicians and other decision-makers to account on the issues that matter to them. Internet Watch Foundation works internationally to make the Internet a safer place. With a remit to minimise the availability of potentially criminal Internet content, their vision is the elimination of child sexual abuse images online.

Since 2008 the Parliament has awarded the European Citizen's Prize every year to projects and initiatives that facilitate cross-border cooperation or promote mutual understanding within the EU. The prize, which has symbolic value, is also intended to acknowledge the work of those who through their day-to-day activities promote European values.

<http://bit.ly/2dmL3pA>

### **Slovak EU Youth Conference recommendations: enabling young people to engage in a diverse, connected and inclusive Europe**

The Slovak Presidency of the Council, together with the Slovak Youth Council, the European Commission and the European Youth Forum, hosted the EU Youth Conference in Košice, Slovakia, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016, bringing together youth delegates and policy makers.

The EU Youth Conference was part of the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Structured Dialogue, a unique participative process where young people contribute to EU youth policy.

The three EU Youth Conferences of the cycle of the current trio Presidency (Dutch, Slovakian, Maltese) focus on the theme "Enabling all young people to engage in a diverse, connected and inclusive Europe. Ready for life, ready for society."

Over four days, youth delegates and policy-makers worked together to identify and discuss the main challenges faced by young people today to fully develop their potential and become engaged in society.

They developed recommendations based on the input of 65,000 young people from around Europe.

The recommendations consist of concrete proposals, including:

- Member States and the European Commission should further their efforts to overcome existing obstacles to young people's access to mobility. Access to mobility programmes should be simplified and better adapted to the diverse needs of young people. Information and guidance should be provided to spread awareness of mobility opportunities.
- The EU Institutions and the Member States should develop or further implement evidence based policy and practice that aim to continually improve the skills of young people to critically evaluate and process information through both formal and non-formal education.



- The European Commission and Member States should allocate sufficient operational funding so that youth work and youth organisations are able to implement sustainable youth work that is accessible, relevant and meaningful for all young people.

The recommendations were presented to representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament and the ministries responsible for youth of the EU Member States.

These recommendations will be discussed in November in a High Level Policy Debate by the Ministries from the 28 member states. They will then be addressed to the Council of the EU to be the basis of participative youth policies.

<http://bit.ly/2dQxv9I>

### **Progress of the Youth Guarantee and of the Youth Employment Initiative**

The European Commission adopted a Communication that highlights the main achievements of the Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) since their launch in 2013. The Communication reports on progress so far and shows that, although youth unemployment remains a key concern in many Member States, young people's labour market performance in the EU has overall surpassed expectations since 2013.

There are 1.4 million less young unemployed in the EU since 2013 and 900,000 less young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). These encouraging trends suggest that the Youth Guarantee, backed up by the Youth Employment Initiative, has helped make a difference on the ground. Around 9 million young people took up an offer, the majority of which were offers of employment. Moreover, the Youth Guarantee has been a catalyst for policy change, leading to structural reforms and policy innovation across Member States. The Youth Employment Initiative, a €6.4 billion targeted financial source mobilised at EU level, has been central to the swift set-up of national Youth Guarantee schemes and has provided direct support to over 1.4 million young NEETs living in those regions most in need.

The 30% increase by the Commission in advance payments of the Initiative in 2015 to the eligible Member States - amounting to around €1 billion - played a significant role to provide readily available cash liquidity, allowing to speed up the launch of measures on the ground.

Given this progress, the Commission has recently proposed to extend the budget resources of the Youth Employment Initiative and provided an additional €1 billion to the YEI specific budget allocation, matched by €1 billion from the European Social Fund. These €2 billion could make it possible to support around 1 million more young people until 2020 in the Member States most affected by youth unemployment. These measures come on top of financial allocations available under the ESF.

The Communication underlines the need to accelerate and broaden the Youth Guarantee, and to speed up the implementation of the YEI. It recognises that more efforts need to be made to support "hard-to-reach" young people:

youngsters who are not registered with the public employment services, are low-skilled, have dropped out of school, and face multiple barriers to entering the labour markets (such as poverty, social exclusion, disability and discrimination). In parallel, the quality of the offers and services provided to young people can be improved.

<http://bit.ly/2fa8Sm8>

*Please also look at the News folder within the Eurodesk intranet for other European news from the network.*

## Upcoming Events

### **EURES Job Fairs**

Thinking about finding a job in another EU country?  
EUR Job Mobility Portal organises job fairs all over Europe.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/EUREScalendar>

### **1<sup>st</sup> July-31<sup>st</sup> December 2016: Slovak EU Council Presidency**

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, Slovakia took over the six-month rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU from The Netherlands, as part of the Dutch-Slovak-Maltese 'Trio Presidency'. The Slovak EU Presidency will focus on economic growth, digital Single Market, the creation of an Energy Union, migration, and the EU enlargement.

<http://www.eu2016.sk/en>

### **14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> November 2016: Global Entrepreneurship Week**

The Week is the world's largest celebration of the innovators and job creators, who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare. During one-week people worldwide, through local, national and global activities, meet and exchange ideas to explore their potential as self-starters and innovators.

Find out more: <http://www.gew.co>

### **24<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Safer Internet Forum 2016, Luxembourg**

Organised by European Schoolnet on behalf of the European Commission, the international conference will gather policy makers, researchers, law enforcement bodies, youth, parents and carers, teachers, NGOs, industry representatives, experts and other relevant actors to discuss the latest trends, risks and solutions related to child online safety.

Attendance is free of charge but it is subject to confirmation.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2eYJCwC>

### **29<sup>th</sup> November 2016: 20 Years of MSCA, Brussels, Belgium**

The Opening Ceremony of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016, in the Berlaymont building, Brussels, with one itinerary exhibition of the famous researcher featuring key moments of her life and a photo exhibition of MSCA fellows. Commissioner Tibor Navracsics and members of his Cabinet as well as stakeholders and EU Staff will attend. You can register for this event at: [EAC-MSCA-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EAC-MSCA-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu) .

To participate please [register](#) by 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2f7Vyip>

### **29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November 2016: Day of Persons with Disabilities Brussels, Belgium**

Annual event organised by the European Commission together with the European Disability Forum. This year's Day of Persons with Disabilities conference will specifically celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The conference will examine the progress which has been made in the EU to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, based on the UN Convention. Each session on rights will give an overview of the legal and political framework, and how it has changed, followed by examples. Each session will also give attention to the way that people with disabilities can claim their rights, through using a variety of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2e15Eem>

**30<sup>th</sup> November-1<sup>st</sup> December 2016: Great start in life! The best possible education in early years, Brussels, Belgium**

Organised by European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture and Directorate General for Research and Innovation, the conference will tackle some of the latest research findings in the early childhood education and care sector and primary schools. Education practitioners, researchers and policymakers will share their findings and opinions and discuss future research needs.

Attendance to the event is by invitation only.

Find out more: <https://great-start-in-life.teamwork.fr/en>

**30<sup>th</sup> November-2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016: Online Educa Berlin, Germany**

This is a global, cross-sector conference on technology supported learning and training. The theme for this year is "Owning Learning".

Find out more: <http://www.online-educa.com>

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2016: Public Launch "Youth Work Campaign, Study on the Social Value of Youth Organisations and Validation", Brussels, Belgium**

The European Youth Forum will be publicly launching its campaign on Youth Work, a Study on the Social Value of Youth Organisations and the newest publication on Validation of Non-formal education in the Youth Sector. The aim is to involve youth organisations, Institutional partners, external stakeholders and other partners in the efforts to strengthen the visibility and recognition of the work and impact of youth organisations.

Deadline to apply: **8<sup>th</sup> November 2016**, 23:59 (CET)

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2ebyue8>

**8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> January 2017: 30<sup>th</sup> International Youth Leadership Conference, Prague, Czech Republic**

This is a week-long youth forum on world politics, international relations and justice. One hundred and twenty students from more than 35 different countries will join the

conference and get the opportunity to exchange their ideas, test their leadership skills, debate current issues, deliver speeches, make executive decisions, and realise through experience the complexities of international relations. The event is addressed to students and graduates from 18 to 26 years old, from all countries.  
There are fees.

Deadline: **15<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

Find out more information: <http://www.iylcprague.org>

**8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February 2017: Step it up for Gender Equality - Youth for Gender Equality Forum, Brussels, Belgium**

Gender Equality is an interactive and inspiring initiative to promote dialogue, exchange, learning and networking for people engaged in promoting gender equality in their daily lives. It is organised by the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, in collaboration with PES Women, Young European Socialists, Rainbow Rose and the Global Progressive Forum. The Forum is addressed to 25 young motivated EU nationals, from 18 to 25 years old. They should be motivated, proactive and engaged in gender equality/women's rights activism, with good communication skills, and have a good knowledge of English. Travel expenses and accommodation costs will be covered by the organisers.

Deadline to apply: **7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2fHeAwF>

**European Citizenship Training Courses 2017**

The courses are meant to support youth workers and youth leaders developing their critical understanding of European Citizenship and encourage them to integrate the topic in their practical work.

List of proposed Courses:

- Training Course: ECTC-Spain (12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> February 2017)

Deadline: to be announced.

- Training Course: ECTC-Belgium-Flanders (7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May 2017)

Deadline: to be announced.

All details are available here: <http://bit.ly/1tg7FFo>

**Salto-Youth: Training Calendar**

The European Training Calendar contains current training offers of different institutions and organisations, such as SALTO, the National Agencies for the YOUTH IN ACTION Programme, non-governmental youth organisations, the European Youth Centres of the Council of Europe and the Partnership Programme on European Youth Worker Training. They are addressed to young people, group leaders, mentors, trainers and other specialists.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1ppG1uS>



## Eurodesk Brussels Link Activities

<b>3-7 Oct 2016</b>	Slovak EU Youth Conference. Location: Košice, Slovakia Participant from EBL: Audrey.
<b>10 Oct 2016</b>	Erasmus+ Coalition: Public hearing on Erasmus+. Location: European Parliament. Participant from EBL: Audrey.
<b>10 Oct 2016</b>	CULT Committee meeting - Debate on the draft report on Erasmus+ implementation. Location: European Parliament. Participant from EBL: Audrey.
<b>10 Oct 2016</b>	Online Webinar "Erasmus+ 30th anniversary campaign". Participant from EBL: Grazia.
<b>11 Oct 2016</b>	Preparatory online meeting for Eurodesk Network meeting in Braga. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe.
<b>11 Oct 2016</b>	Preparatory online meeting for Eurodesk Multipliers Seminar in Italy. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe.
<b>11 Oct 2016</b>	Audrey Frith participate in LLL Awards Ceremony as jury member.  Location: European Parliament.
<b>12 Oct 2016</b>	Meeting with Eurodesk Belgian Partners from the Flemish, French and German communities. Location: Brussels. Participant from EBL: Audrey.
<b>12 Oct 2016</b>	EYP Editorial Board Meeting. Location: EAC. Participants from EBL: Gheorghe, Zsolt.
<b>13 Oct 2016</b>	Lifelong Learning Week Week 2016. Location: European Parliament. Participant from EBL: Silvia.
<b>14 Oct 2016</b>	Euroclasses online meeting. Participant from EBL: Grazia.
<b>19-23 Oct 2016</b>	Eurodesk network meeting. Location: Braga, Portugal. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe, Grazia, Zsolt.



<b>20 Oct 2016</b>	Executive Committee Meeting. Location: Braga, Portugal. Participant from EBL: Audrey.
<b>20-21 Oct 2016</b>	European Education, Training and Youth Forum. Location: Brussels. Participant from EBL: Noemi.
<b>23-26 Oct 2016</b>	Eurodesk Multipliers Seminar 2016. Location: Trieste, Italy. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe, Grazia.
<b>27 Oct 2016</b>	Eurodesk Italy Network Meeting. Location: Pordenone, Italy. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe, Grazia.