

eurodesk

EBL Bulletin

March 2016

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Deadlines up to 1 April 2016

Upcoming deadlines

Deadline	Programme Title
13 March 2016	YouthActionNet Laureate Global Fellowship Programme
13 March 2016	Traineeships and student summer jobs at the European Investment Bank
14 March 2016	JM Jazz World Orchestra 2016
15 March 2016	YO!Fest Emerging Bands Contest
18 March 2016	Young Leaders Programme
18 March 2016	EaSI-EURES: Yourfirst EURES job – Targeted mobility scheme
20 March 2016	BEST courses for students of technology
20 March 2016	European Youth Media Days 2016 (special edition): Reporting on the European Youth Event 2016
24 March 2016	EU-Japan Training programmes
30 March 2016	Bocconi Scholarship and Merit Awards for International Students
31 March 2016	Marco Biagi Awards for young scholars
31 March 2016	Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) 2014-2020
31 March 2016	Traineeships at the Committee of the Regions
1 April 2016	European Youth Foundation – Grants for international youth activities
1 April 2016	European Space Camp
1 April 2016	Erasmus+Key Action1-Large-scale European Voluntary Service Events
1 April 2016	Traineeship at the Council of the European Union

Documentation

Entrepreneurship Education at School in Europe - 2016 Edition

Published by Eurydice, the report examines how European countries teach and promote entrepreneurship in schools. Entrepreneurship skills involve a full range of competences needed to adapt to a constantly changing economy and competitive labour market, such as an entrepreneurial mind-set, creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, languages or communication. Whereas these skills are closely linked to young people's chances of finding a job, but also their ability to realise ambitions and find their place in society, the report highlights that very few countries include entrepreneurship in schools' curricula.

The report focuses on primary education, lower and general upper secondary education as well as school-based initial vocational education and training. It contains information for 2014/15 from 33 countries participating in the Eurydice network. In addition, national information sheets provide an overview of entrepreneurship education in each country.

<http://bit.ly/1Q5475s>

OECD PISA report: Low-performing Students: Why they Fall Behind and How to Help them Succeed

According to the report published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), around 4.5 million 15-year-olds in OECD countries are failing to achieve the most basic level of proficiency in mathematics, reading and science. The report examines low performance at school by looking at low performers' family background, education career and attitudes towards school. The report also analyses the school practices and educational policies that are more strongly associated with poor student performance. Most important, the evidence provided in the report reveals what policy makers, educators, parents and students themselves can do to tackle low performance and succeed in school. <http://bit.ly/1LuUV8t>

Language teaching and learning in multilingual classrooms

Published by the European Commission, the study is designed to gather, analyse and synthesise existing data and research on what works to enable migrant children (who use a language at home different to the language of school instruction) to participate in learning, attain proficiency in the language of instruction, and achieve results (qualifications, progress to higher education, progress to employment) that match their potential.

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

Student Guidebook: Studying and Training Abroad

Published by the Erasmus Student Network, the guidebook provides information on the different opportunities to go abroad and the rights and obligations Erasmus students need to be aware of. It also gives guidance on what and when is necessary to prepare before a mobility project starts.

<https://esn.org/studentguidebook>

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

European Commission platform providing access to information on financing and expected achievements under the different ESI Funds (2014-2020). The data

relates to the 531 programmes as at the beginning of November 2015. It will be updated in 2016. <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu>

EU Investment Project Portal (EIPP)

Launched by the European Commission, the portal enables EU-based project promoters to reach potential investors worldwide. The EIPP offers on a single website standardised and transparent information on investment opportunities all-over Europe, accessible via a simple clickable EU map.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eipp>

Opportunities

YO!Fest Emerging Bands Contest (EBC)

In the framework of the European Youth Event 2016, to take place in Strasbourg (France), on 20th–21st May, the European Youth Forum, in cooperation with Jeunesses Musicales International, has launched the YO!Fest Emerging Bands Contest (EBC).

The contest is open to bands with maximum 8 members that are between 18 and 30 years old, who can play a genre that is accessible to a wide variety of people, coming from:

- European Union member countries;
- EU candidate countries (Albania, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey);
- EFTA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).

The jury will pick two winning bands. The bands will have a 30 minutes performance on the Main Stage at YO!Fest 2016, the annual youth festival organised by the European Youth Forum combining politics, debates and workshops with live music and artistic performances.

The winning bands will also get the travel to/from Strasbourg, local transport, accommodation and food covered + 50 Euro fee per band member.

Deadline: **15th March 2016**

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

European Youth Media Days 2016 (special edition): Reporting on the European Youth Event 2016

The European Youth Parliament, collaboration with the European Youth Press – Network of Young Media Makers, invites applicants to become one of the 110 young journalists, aged between 18 and 30, who will report from the European Youth Event (EYE) in the framework of European Youth Media Days (EYMD) 2016 taking place from 19th to 21st May 2016 in Strasbourg, France.

Young journalists citizens or residents in an EU Member State will experience three days of media workshops, political discussions, hands-on media production and invaluable insights into the European Parliament and international media milieu. They will get the chance to interact interact with high-level European politicians, professional journalists and experts and engage in intercultural exchange through practical media production. Over the course of the three-day workshop, each young journalist will work to produce a report on the topic of the seminar through their medium of choice, video, photo, radio, print, multimedia or new media.

This year's edition will focus on five main themes of the EYE 2016:

- War and Peace: Perspectives for a Peaceful Planet
- Apathy or Participation: Agenda for a Vibrant Democracy
- Exclusion or Access: Crackdown on Youth Unemployment
- Stagnation or Innovation: Tomorrow's World of Work
- Collapse or Success: New Ways for a Sustainable Europe.

This year's edition will also bring two innovations: new media workshop facilitated by journalists from German televisions and second TV workshop, whose participants will produce a short talk-show with EYE speakers.

The European Parliament will pay up to 540 Euros lump sum to working journalists or up to 270 Euros lump sum to journalism students or interns to cover accommodation, meals and local transport. For participants living in Strasbourg no lump sum or travel cost will be paid.

Young journalists from any other countries can participate at their own costs and need to contact the organisers prior to March 15.

Deadline to apply: **20th March 2016**, 23:59 CET
Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1SZS2nK>

Erasmus Charter for Higher Education 2014-2020

The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) provides the general quality framework for European and international cooperation activities a higher education institution (HEI) may carry out within the Programme.

The award of an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education is a pre-requisite for all higher education institutions (HEIs) located in one of the countries listed below and wanting to apply and participate in learning mobility of individuals and/or cooperation for innovation and good practices under the Programme. For HEIs located in other countries, the ECHE is not required, and the quality framework will be established through interinstitutional agreements between HEIs.

The Charter is awarded for the full duration of the Erasmus+ programme.

Eligible HEIs should be established in one of the following countries:

- the Member States of the European Union,
- the EEA-EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway),
- the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

The National Authorities will designate, among the applicants, the Higher Education Institutions to be considered eligible to participate in learning mobility of individuals and/or cooperation for innovation and good practices under the Programme, in their respective territories.

Deadline: **31st March 2016**, 12:00 noon CET
Read more: <http://bit.ly/1RK90Ub>

European Space Camp 2016

The European Space Camp is a summer camp taking place from 30th June to 7th July 2016 in Andøya Rocket Range, Norway. The Camp will be held in English and is addressed to high-school students, aged 17-20, interested in space and science, and having a background in physics and mathematics. The participants will spend a week doing technical experiments involved in a rocket campaign, working as real rocket scientists, learning how to exploit knowledge they already possess, and broadening their understanding of applied science. Working in groups, they will have to use their creativity and learn to cooperate. The programme includes hands-on activities related to the rocket launch, lectures and social activities.

Deadline: **1st April 2016**

Find out more: <http://www.spacecamp.no>

European Model United Nations - EuroMUN

The EuroMUN 2016 is taking place from 4th to 8th May 2016 in Maastricht, The Netherlands. A Model United Nations Conference (MUN) is a simulation of various international political, economic, and social organisations. Under the theme "Breaking Barriers: Securing Global Diversity", university students will have the opportunity to take on the role of diplomats and ambassadors, representing different countries, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and even corporations.

There is a participation fee.

Deadline to apply (for delegates and delegations): **4th April 2016**

Find out more: <http://euromun.org>

Erasmus for young entrepreneurs

This call aims to select transnational consortia for long-term partnerships (2016-2021) in order to expand and strengthen the existing network of Intermediary Organisations (IOs) which act as local contact points for newly established entrepreneurs as well as experienced entrepreneurs in the participating countries. Successful applicants will be awarded Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA). The IOs' core activity should be business support. IOs will, in particular, recruit and assist the entrepreneurs who will benefit from the programme.

The call will support actions for organisations enhancing and facilitating the mobility of new entrepreneurs, and is not intended for entrepreneurs willing to participate in the programme. New entrepreneurs willing to participate in the programme will be supported directly by the selected IOs.

Deadline for submission of applications: **5th April 2016**, 17:00 CET

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/249J8Ie>

European Social Innovation Competition 2016

Based on the theme "Integrated Futures" the competition focuses on social innovation for refugees and migrants. It will support entrepreneurial ideas that can turn the challenges arising from the refugee crisis and migrant integration into an opportunity for Europe.

Individuals, groups and organisations across the European Union and in countries participating in the European Horizon 2020 programme are invited to apply by **8th April 2016**, 12:00:00 CET (noon). Applications that are led by or have been co-created with refugees and migrants are encouraged.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1wApL6I>

Unesco International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD)

The Fund supports projects aiming to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries that are parties to the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Applicants will have to consult their National Commissions for

UNESCO for their submission deadline at the national level.
Application should be completed in either English or French and projects should begin in March 2017 at the earliest.

Deadline to submit applications to National Commissions: **15th April 2016**,
midnight CET.

Find out more: <http://en.unesco.org/creativity/ifcd>

Highlights

Eurostat release: January 2016 Euro area unemployment rate

According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in January 2016, 4.434 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the EU28, of whom 3.037 million were in the Euro area. Compared with January 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 408 000 in the EU28 and by 217 000 in the Euro area. In January 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 19.7% in the EU28 and 22.0% in the Euro area, compared with 21.0% and 22.8% respectively in January 2015.

In January 2016, the lowest rates were observed in Germany (7.1%), the Czech Republic (11.0%), Denmark (11.1%) and the Netherlands (11.2%) and the highest in Greece (48.0% in November 2015), Spain (45.0%), Croatia (44.1% in the fourth quarter 2015) and Italy (39.3%).

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

Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council Outcomes

At the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) Council, taking place in Brussels on 24th February 2016, EU Ministers adopted a resolution on socio-economic development and inclusiveness in the EU through education. The text focuses on measures to ensure targeted investment in education and on how best to address skills gaps in order to restore jobs and promote sustainable economic growth in Europe. At the same time, it highlights the equally important role of education in promoting citizenship and social inclusion. Ministers discussed how to increase synergies between education, the labour market and society with a view to raising awareness and underlining the urgency of the many issues relating to skills development. The outcome of the ministerial debate will feed into the forthcoming Commission's initiative "A New Skills Agenda for Europe", aimed at promoting lifelong investment in people, as well as increasing employability.

Ministers also had an exchange of views on promoting citizenship and fundamental values through education, in the follow-up to the Paris Declaration adopted almost a year ago at the informal meeting of Education ministers in Paris.

Ministers underlined that the purpose of education should not be only employability. One key task was also to foster respect for shared European fundamental values, such as the freedom of expression, democratic citizenship and equality.

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

European Youth Event 2016: overwhelming interest of young people

Three months before the second edition of the European Youth Event 2016 takes place in Strasbourg, France, from 20th to 21st May, already 7500 young people registered. Participants are coming from all EU Member States but also candidate and neighbouring countries, with France, Germany and Italy topping the list. Their average age is 21 (participants can be aged 16 to 30). They will have the opportunities to be part of a big event having more than 150 activities organised and with more than 50 youth groups and youth organisations contributing to the organisation of an event for young people by young people.

There will be Artistic performances creatively combined with politics, culture, education and fun. From 14th March there will be the opening of registrations for activities (only for registered participants).

<http://bit.ly/1Pztf6e>

Hous Erasmus+ Survey

In the framework of a new project on housing for international students and trainees, the Erasmus Student Network is inviting current and former international students and trainees to answer a questionnaire on their experience when looking for an accommodation abroad. The aim of the survey is to learn how complicated (or easy) it was to find accommodations when they studied abroad or did an internship/ placement/ traineeship abroad. The survey is anonymous, the results will be used for internal and scientific purposes to propose recommendations to policy-makers in Europe to improve the situation around finding accommodation in the future for mobile young people in Europe. Answering the survey will take around 10 minutes. Participants will get the chance to win different prizes including two tablets.

<http://bit.ly/1Uow1yH>

Three Greek cities shortlisted for the title of European Capital of Culture 2021 in Greece

Eleusis, Kalamata and Rhodes are the three Greek cities shortlisted for the title of European Capital of Culture 2021 in Greece. The recommendation was done by a panel of independent experts evaluating applications from 14 competing Greek cities at the outcome of a 4-day meeting in Athens. Once the panel's recommendation has been confirmed by Greece, the shortlisted cities have until next autumn to complete their applications. The panel will then meet again in Athens before the end of 2016 to recommend which Greek city will be the European Capital of Culture 2021. In 2021, Greece will host the European Capital of Culture for the fourth time, after Athens in 1985, Thessaloniki in 1997 and Patras in 2006. In the same year, there will also be a European Capital of Culture in Romania and one in a candidate country or potential candidate to EU membership. The pre-selection round for the competition in Romania took place last December 2015 and the four cities recommended for pre-selection are Baia Mare, Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca and Timisoara. The pre-selection round for the competition between cities from candidate countries/ potential candidates took place on 11th December 2015 and two cities were recommended for pre-selection Novi Sad from Serbia and Herceg Novi from Montenegro.

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

EUROSTAT Eurobarometer Survey on Development

According to a new Eurostat survey, almost nine out of ten EU citizens support development (89% - a 4 percentage point increase since 2014.) More than half say that promised levels of aid should be delivered by the EU, with a further 16% saying aid should be increased beyond what is already promised. Figures show increases in the proportion of people who think tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of the EU (up five percentage points to 69%) and of national governments (up five percentage points to 50%). Almost seven out of ten respondents supported an increase of development aid delivered by the EU (68%) - a higher percentage than in recent years.

EU citizens see peace and security in developing countries as the most important challenge of the year for development and cooperation (41%) - which perhaps may be due to the fact that it can be seen as an important factor in tackling the root causes of irregular migration. This was followed by health and education (both 34%).

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

Matching job seekers and vacancies across Europe

The European Parliament has recently approved a law to revamp the European Employment Services (EURES) network with an EU-wide database of job seekers and vacancies. The aim is to help fight unemployment by better matching labour market supply and demand. Updated rules, already agreed with the Council, will also pay more attention to cross-border regions and young people. The new EURES portal should automatically match CVs with suitable job offers. Also, all vacancies published by public job offices in member states will be available EU-wide on the web portal. Automated matching of vacancies and applications will be free of charge for workers; there should be no discrimination based on nationality as regards employment, pay and other working conditions and access for persons with disabilities will be ensured.

Parliament's negotiators managed to broaden the network by also offering member status to private organisations if they provide support services to both workers and employers and inserted amendments to boost cross-border labour markets. MEPs also inserted amendments to allow publicly-funded traineeships and apprenticeships to be exempted from cross-border publication obligations due to differences in education systems and member states' active labour market policies. The Regulation, as voted by Parliament, will have to be formally approved by the Council of Ministers. It will enter into legal force after its publication in the EU Official Journal and member states will have two years to put it into effect.

<http://bit.ly/1S3kzHX>

Employment and Social Situation Quarterly Review - Winter 2015

The EU employment rate for people 20 to 64 years has increased by 0.9 percentage points in the year to the third quarter of 2015, reaching 70.6%, according to the 2015 winter edition of the Employment and Social Situation Quarterly Review. The improvement was shared by most Member States, with Estonia, Latvia, Hungary and Spain recording the largest increases.

Employment and activity rates have continued to increase in the EU, across all population groups and most notably for older workers (55-59 years). In the third quarter of 2015, the overall EU employment rate has even reached its pre-crisis level, although the progress is unevenly distributed among Member States. In addition, unemployment has continued to recede and the share of long-term unemployed persons in total unemployment has slightly gone down.

The Quarterly Review also confirms that in the year to the third quarter, employment was up in all broad sectors except for agriculture and construction. However, the EU quarterly employment growth in the third quarter of 2015 was mainly driven by the service sectors. Employment growth was driven by both permanent and full-time contracts, though less so than in 2014. The number of employees with a permanent contract grew by about 1.5 million in the year to the third quarter of 2015, while temporary contracts grew by about 930

thousand and the number of those self-employed declined by 330 thousand. The number of full-time workers increased by about 1.5 million, while the number of part-time workers increased by about 600 thousand.

<http://bit.ly/1o5WrJm>

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>

7th -11th March 2016: Mobile Learning Week, Paris, France

Mobile Learning Week 2016 (MLW) will seek to clarify the difficult question of how ICT can be used as an educational ally. The event will shed light on the ways mobile technology can be leveraged in different contexts and for different groups to provision and assure high-quality education for all learners now and in the future. Events will include webinar, workshops, symposium and policy forum.

Find out more: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/mlw>

9th March 2016: The Future of Higher Education, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The main purpose of the conference will be to showcase best practices and bring together people who work in industry, innovation and education. Participants will focus on the main challenges and chances for European higher education and will formulate recommendations for the European Commission. There will be keynote speakers from various European countries, a roundtable and six parallel sessions around the themes 'linking higher education to the outside world', 'preparing engaged citizens' and 'the potential of digital technologies'. The conference is addressed to representatives from all countries in the European Higher Education.

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

9th - 10th March 2016: EU Sport Forum, The Hague, The Netherlands

This year's Forum will tackle key issues facing EU sport including how sport can support the integration of migrants and how to ensure good governance for the world of sport. Participants will be updated on and debate EU sport policy and preparations will be made for the 2016 edition of the European Week of Sport.

The event will be webcast live [here](#) from 09:30 to 18:30 CET.

Find out more: <http://ec.europa.eu/sport/forum>

10th March 2016: European Consumer Day, Brussels, Belgium

The 18th edition of the European Consumer Day will focus on the "Better Regulation" initiative, what should be taken into account by the European Commission and other institutions in implementing this new strategy and how to make sure that consumers do not lose out.

Deadline to [register](#): **7th March 2016**

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

10th-11th March 2016: Media & Learning Conference, Brussels, Belgium

The conference will look in the latest developments, services and uses of media in education and training. Aimed at researchers, policy makers and practitioners, the event will identify policies and initiatives that promote digital and media competence at all levels of education and training as well as to promote best-practice in the take-up and application of media in education and training. Part of the event will also be the Awards Ceremony of the MEDEA Awards recognising and rewarding excellence in this field.

There are registration fees.

Find out more: <http://media-and-learning.eu>

12th-21st March 2016: European-wide Action Week Against Racism

Racism is not a local issue and the Action Week Against Racism can help to set the agenda on all levels. Cooperating in the Action Week will give all participants and activists new energy and inspiration to go on with their everyday struggle against racism and intolerance. The slogan for this year will be "Strength in Diversity".

Find out how to get involved: <http://weekagainstracism.eu>

16th March 2016: eSkills for Jobs, The Hague, The Netherlands

The conference will focus on the key actions needed to develop the digital and key enabling technologies (KET) skills required to fuel the economy, jobs and growth in Europe. The meeting will support the EU-wide eSkills for Jobs campaign, launched by the European Commission to raise awareness of the need for European citizens to improve their digital skills (e-skills) for work. The campaign falls under the Commission Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs to tackle the lack of e-skills in Europe and the vast number of unfilled vacancies in information and communication technologies (ICT) across all industry sectors.

Find out more: <http://www.eskills4jobs.nl>

21st March 2016: Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth, Brussels, Belgium

The Convention will bring together policy makers and civil society to discuss what the EU can do to ensure that all citizens reap the benefits of truly inclusive growth. Five workshops will look at the: active inclusion and inclusive labour market policies, social investment and the European Fund for Strategic Investments, upward social convergence and fighting poverty, the social dimension of the European Semester and the integration of refugees.

Participation to the event is upon invitation only.

The event will be webcast live [here](#) from 09:00 to 17:15 CET.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1RKau0H>

6th-7th April 2016: EU Youth Conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

At the EU Youth Conference young people and policymakers from all EU member states will discuss a topic affecting young people throughout Europe. The conference is part of the European policy process known as the Structured Dialogue, and is the first in a cycle of three, planned during the Presidencies of

the Netherlands, Slovakia and Malta. The results of the Structured Dialogue serve as input for the Council of the European Union.

Attendance to the event is by invitation only.

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

30th May-2nd June 2016: Symposium "(Un)Equal Europe? Responses from the youth sector", Budapest, Hungary

Aiming to take stock of the social inclusion aspects in youth policies and to explore possible approaches, the symposium will draw inspiration from other sectors dealing with inequalities and strengthen the potential of the youth sector to adapt its approaches in supporting groups of young people facing multiple inequalities across Europe. About 100 participants will be invited to attend the event, representing various fields of policy, research and practice.

The symposium will be held in English.

Deadline to [register](#): **6th March 2016, 24h00 (GMT+1)**

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1XkXH73>

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://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar>