

eurodesk

EBL Bulletin

February 2017

1. Deadlines up to 1st March 2017
2. Documentation
3. Opportunities
4. Highlights
5. Upcoming Events
6. EBL Activities



Erasmus+

**EUROPEAN
YOUTH PORTAL**

Deadlines up to 1 March 2017

Upcoming deadlines

Reference number	Deadline	Programme Title
EU0010000280	6 Feb 2017	Traineeship at the Joint Research Centre
EU0010000280	7 Feb 2017	Traineeship at the Joint Research Centre
EU0010002046	9 Feb 2017	Erasmus+Key Action2-Capacity Building in the field of higher education
EU0010000280	14 Feb 2017	Traineeship at the Joint Research Centre
EU0010000178	15 Feb 2017	Translation Traineeships at the European Parliament for university graduates
EU0010000560	15 Feb 2017	Translation training placements at the European Parliament
EU0010000601	18 Feb 2017	Erasmus+Key Action1-Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree
EU0010000386	20 Feb 2017	European Charlemagne Youth Prize
EU0010002099	22 Feb 2017	Framework Partnership Agreement with a European policy network in the field of education of children and young people with a migrant background
EU0010002097	22 Feb 2017	Framework Partnership Agreement with a European policy network on teachers and school leaders

EU0010000625	23 Feb 2017	<u>Erasmus+Jean Monnet Networks (Policy debate with the academic world)</u>
EU0010000624	23 Feb 2017	<u>Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Support to associations</u>
EU0010000621	23 Feb 2017	<u>Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Chairs</u>
EU0010000622	23 Feb 2017	<u>Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence</u>
EU0010000620	23 Feb 2017	<u>Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Modules</u>
EU0010000028	23 Feb 2017	<u>EU-Japan Training programmes</u>
EU0010000626	23 Feb 2017	<u>Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Projects (Policy debate with the academic world)</u>
EU0010000404	26 Feb 2017	<u>European Youth Capital</u>
EU0010000192	28 Feb 2017	<u>Traineeships and Fellowships at the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)</u>
EU0010000654	1 March 2017	<u>Europe for Citizens: Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation - Networks of Towns</u>
EU0010000554	1 March 2017	<u>Social Innovation Tournament</u>
EU0010000210	1 March 2017	<u>Young European of the Year Award - Travel Fellowships and InterRail-Global-Passes</u>
EU0010000468	1 March 2017	<u>Heinrich Böll Foundation grants scholarships (for study in Germany)</u>

Documentation

Erasmus+ Annual Report 2015

Published by the European Commission, the report reveals that, in 2015, Erasmus+ enabled 678,000 Europeans to study, train, work and volunteer abroad, more than ever before. In the same year, the EU invested €2.1 billion in over 19,600 projects involving 69,000 organisations. The Report also shows that the programme is well on track to meet its target of supporting 4 million people between 2014 and 2020. The Report finds that, in 2015, Erasmus+ expanded even further by enabling, for the first time, higher education institutions to send and receive more than 28,000 students and staff to and from countries beyond Europe. France, Germany and Spain remain three top sending countries, while Spain, Germany and the United Kingdom receive most of the Erasmus+ participants. Feedback from participants confirms that time spent abroad with Erasmus+ is time well spent: 94% say their skills have improved and 80% feel that it has boosted their career opportunities. One in three students who do traineeships abroad through Erasmus+ is offered a position by their host company. The Report also gives an overview of steps taken by the Commission to adapt Erasmus+ to help the EU and Member States tackle societal challenges, such as the integration of refugees and migrants. For instance, the programme's Online Linguistic Support system has been extended to benefit 100,000 refugees over the next three years; €4 million have been made available for this. The aim is to enable especially young people to enter the host countries' education systems and develop their skills.

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

2017 Erasmus+ Programme Guide updated version

The new version of the Erasmus+ Programme Guide includes detailed information about the European Solidarity Corps which was launched in December 2016.

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

Support Mechanisms for Evidence-based Policy-Making in Education

Published by Eurydice, the report describes the mechanisms and practices that support evidence-based policy-making in the education sector in Europe. It provides an initial mapping of a complex area. It compares institutions and practices in evidence-based policy-making, as well as the accessibility, and mediation, of evidence. The report also presents more detailed information, with specific examples of the use of evidence in policy formulation for each individual country.

Information was provided by Eurydice National Units and 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/2jFPU8x>

EU Citizenship Report 2017

Published by the European Commission, the report takes stock of progress since 2014 and presents actions to ensure citizens can fully enjoy their rights when working, travelling, studying or participating in elections.

The report is based on input from citizens through surveys and a public consultation, and focuses on four areas: 1) promoting EU citizenship rights and EU common values; 2) increasing citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU; 3) simplifying EU citizens' daily lives; 4) strengthening security and promoting equality.

According to the Report, Europeans are more than ever aware of their status as citizens of the Union and the proportion of Europeans wanting to know more about their rights continues to increase. Four out of five Europeans cherish, in particular, the right to free movement that allows them to live, work, study and do business anywhere in the EU (December 2016 Eurobarometer). However, a lack of awareness means EU citizens do not fully exercise their right to vote in European and local elections and many are unaware of their right to consular protection from other Member States' embassies. The 2017 EU Citizenship Report sets out the Commission's priorities in further raising awareness of these rights and making them easier to use in practice.

In order to achieve these goals the Commission will take a number of actions, including:

- Organising an EU-wide information campaign on EU citizenship rights, to help citizens better understand their rights.
- Strengthening voluntary engagement: the Commission wants to create more opportunities for young people in Europe to make a meaningful contribution to society and show solidarity. The European Solidarity Corps, launched on 7th December 2016, gives young people the opportunity to gain valuable experience while showing solidarity to those in need.
- Proposing a 'Single Digital Gateway' to give citizens easy online access to information, assistance and problem-solving services on a wide range of administrative questions.
- Intensifying the Citizens' Dialogues and public debate, to exchange views with EU citizens and increase their understanding of what impact the Union has on their daily lives. Already 125 Citizens' dialogues have been organised since the beginning of the Juncker Commission.
- Promoting best practices to help citizens vote and stand for EU elections, particularly in the run up to the 2019 elections.

[EU Citizenship Report 2017](#)

From University to Employment: mapping higher education provision and labour market needs in the Western Balkans

Published by the The Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training, the study focuses on higher education provision and labour market needs in the Western Balkans, offering concrete data for policy reform in both higher education and labour sectors. It is the first study in the region to answer questions on how many degrees are given by year and in which

field, on the obstacle of entry into the labour market by graduates and on what employers are looking for in terms of skills. The study suggests a set of concrete recommendations to tackle the identified issues, both at individual country level and at regional level. The study has also assembled a unique higher [education database](#) that includes details of virtually all study programmes offered by all higher education institutions in the region in recent years.

<http://bit.ly/2kdX0jq>

Erasmus+ Implementation Survey 2016

Published by the Lifelong Learning Platform, the yearly survey on the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme aims to provide decision-makers with an evaluation coming from the programme's direct beneficiaries on what works and what could be improved. The survey contains questions on various aspects related, for instance, to the application procedures, to the relations with the national and European agencies, the financial rules and the reporting processes. The respondents of the 2016 survey particularly appreciate the simplified architecture of the Programme, mainly referring to the use of lump sums.

However, some figures are striking such as the fact that only every fifth of respondent believes that the rules are applied in a harmonised way across National Agencies. Also, most frequent concerns among respondents were the complexity of the bureaucratic procedures and the technicality of the documents, which hinder the chances of smaller organisations and seem to favour the larger ones. Moreover, the majority of beneficiaries believe that more funding is needed for the Erasmus+ Programme as a whole, and at the same time there is an urge for fairer distribution of budget amounts between the Key Actions and the specific budget items.

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

ILO World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends 2017

Published by the International Labour Office, the Report takes stock of the current global labour market situation, assessing the most recent employment developments and forecasting unemployment levels in developed, emerging and developing countries.

It also focuses on trends in job quality, paying particular attention to working poverty and vulnerable employment. According to the report, the global unemployment rate is expected to rise modestly from 5.7 to 5.8 per cent in 2017 representing an increase of 3.4 million in the number of jobless people. The number of unemployed persons globally in 2017 is forecast to stand at just over 201 million, with an additional rise of 2.7 million expected in 2018, as the pace of labour force growth outstrips job creation.

<http://bit.ly/2jqsMv3>

My House of European History

European Parliament collaborative platform aiming to become a virtual library of testimonials and stories from people across

Europe, the platform will be launched on 31st March 2017, on the occasion of the celebrations of the Treaties of Rome 60th anniversary. Contributions can already be posted, mainly through social media, but also through a temporary website. During this stage it's only possible to upload items. After the official launch, the site will be interactive and users will be able to explore contributions from across Europe.

<https://my-european-history.ep.eu>

OnOurWatchEU

New project offering a platform for organisations to assess the Parliament's work on a number of issues, to inform citizens, generate debate, and most importantly to look ahead at what work there is left to do before the 2019 elections.

<http://onourwatch.eu>

Opportunities

Pilot Project "Europe of diversities"

Launched by the European Commission, the aim of the pilot project on "Europe of diversities" is to enhance the motto of the European Union ("United in diversity") especially at local and regional level. The pilot project aims to:

- finance trainings, seminars, workshops, and conferences on how to maintain the uniqueness of Europe of diversities and how to promote unity in diversity;
- promote the exchange of good practices in fighting discrimination and promoting diversity at local and regional level;
- help to identify and target discriminatory practices at local and regional level and build understanding between majority and minority societies.

Eligible applicants are local and regional stakeholders, in particular public authorities (cities, regions, municipalities), NGOs, youth organisations, schools, civil society and businesses from EU Member States, including their overseas departments.

Deadline: **28th February 2017.**

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2dPh9bX>

Social Innovation Tournament 2017

The SIT recognises and supports the best European social entrepreneurs by promoting innovative ideas and rewarding opportunities that fight against social exclusion, covering projects in a wide range of fields from education, health care and job creation, to new technologies, new systems and new processes. All projects compete for four prizes in a General Category, and this year the Special Category Prizes will go to projects focusing on ageing. Winning projects in both categories will be awarded a 1st and 2nd Prize of EUR 50 000 and EUR 20 000 respectively. Projects are typically related to combating unemployment, marginalisation of disadvantaged communities and promoting access to education in a wide range of fields, from education and health care to natural or urban environment, through new technologies, new systems, and new processes. The tournament is addressed to non-for-profit and for-profit organisations, mainly from young entrepreneurs and social enterprises, corporate responsibility departments of private-sector companies of any size, NGOs and government or local government entities and university communities. Entries from student teams are also welcome. The Tournament is open to individuals or teams from (or residing in) the European Union Member States, Candidate and Potential Candidate countries, and EFTA countries that submit proposals to be implemented in one or more such countries.

Deadline for submission of proposals: **1st March 2017**, 23:59 CET.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2kSF6pg>

Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence 2017

Organised by the ERSTE Stiftung Foundation and Open Society Foundation in cooperation with the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, BIRN, the fellowship is addressed to journalists from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia. Ten journalists will be selected to receive funding and professional support to research and report on a topic of regional and European importance. The subject for 2017 is CHANGE. Participating fellows will receive: a bursary of €2,000, a travel allowance of up to €2,000, close editorial supervision and mentoring, and the chance to attend international seminars and receive continuous one-to-one mentoring for their stories. Their work will be published in the most influential regional and international media. In addition, the top three articles, chosen by an international jury, will receive awards of €4,000, €3,000 and €1,000.

The fellowship will run from April until December 2017 and three winners shall be selected during the final seminar held at the end of the year.

Deadline: **8th March 2017**.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2ko5ffi>

Young Leaders Programme

Young adults from all around the world, without restriction of nationality, between 21 and 26 years old, proactive about finding solutions to the world's most pressing problems and ready to sit shoulder to shoulder with world leaders at a global forum on international development, are invited to join the Young Leaders Programme at European Development Days (EDD) 2017, taking place in Brussels, Belgium from 7th to 8th June 2017. This year's forum will focus on Investing in Development including three main themes: Investing in People and Planet, Investing in Prosperity, Investing in Peace and Partnerships. Achieving inclusive and sustainable growth, creating decent jobs, particularly for women and young people can be achieved thanks to more investment, in particular with the full engagement of the private sector both as an economic and responsible actor in development. The 16 Young Leaders at EDD 2017, will be able to speak on a high-level panel, and showcase their development work to global audiences. Young Leaders will be also invited to take part in activities and workshops, share their views, draft recommendations and meet with development decision-makers from around the world. Applicants will have to show leadership and knowledge in one of the EDD 2017 topics, demonstrate expertise in their chosen field, and explain how they will represent young people at the forum. Applicants should be able to travel to and participate

in EDD 2017 in Brussels (Belgium) from 31st May to 10th June 2017.

Deadline: **9th March 2017**, 13:00 (Central European Time).

Find out more: <http://www.eudevdays.eu/young-leaders>

JM Jazz World Orchestra 2017

The JM Jazz World Orchestra is a project launched by Jeunesses Musicales International giving the opportunity to young musicians from all around the world to take part in training sessions, workshops and finally in a concert tour as a member of the JM Jazz Orchestra. The project will be under the artistic leadership of Luis Bonilla (USA), a California raised, Costa Rican trombonist, composer and arranger. The Rehearsal Session will take place at the beginning of July in Groznanj, Croatia, and will continue with a tour until mid July. Applicants will have the chance to socialise, play and work together to create the best young big band the world has ever seen.

Participants should be talented musicians between the ages of 18 and 26 playing saxophone, trombone, trumpet, horn, tuba, guitar, bass, drums, percussion, piano and vocals.

Deadline: **12th March 2017**.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2k3Evkl>

International Children's Peace Prize 2017

Every year KidsRights organises a prize which aims to award a child whose courageous or otherwise extraordinary efforts have made an impact on behalf of the rights of children worldwide. The winner will receive the statuette 'Nkosi, which shows how a child sets the world in motion, a study and care grant, and a worldwide platform to promote his or her ideals to the benefit of children's rights. Furthermore, KidsRights will invest a project fund of €100,000 in projects that are closely connected to the winner's area of work, in the country of the winner. Any person or organisation worldwide can nominate a child between 12 and 18 years old who has a history of standing up and fighting for children's rights.

Deadline: **17th March 2017**.

Find out more on: <http://childrenspeaceprize.org>

Pilot Project on long-term mobility for apprentices

In line with the 2016 Pilot Project on long-term mobility of apprentices, the aim of this call Pilot Project on long-term mobility for apprentices, "A European framework for mobility of apprentices: Developing European citizenship and skills through youth integration in the labour market", is to enable young apprentices to develop their skills and enhance their employability prospects, whilst also strengthening their sense of European citizenship. In particular, actions should:

- assess to what extent demand exists among relevant stakeholders for developing long-term (minimum 6 to maximum 12 months) transnational apprentice mobility schemes, and the uptake of such schemes;
- identify obstacles (legal, practical, institutional, academic) that prevent apprentices from carrying out longer-term stays abroad;
- identify and disseminate good practices and success factors for long-term work placements for apprentices. Eligible applicants are public or private organisations active in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET), properly established and registered in EU Member States. To be eligible, actions must have the involvement of at least two applicants (lead and co-applicants) established in at least two different EU Member States. Actions must be fully carried out in EU Member States. The project duration is 18 months.

Deadline: **29th March 2017**.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2k8pRW7>

Erasmus+Key Action2-Sector Skills Alliances

The aim of Sector Skills Alliances is to tackle skill gaps in one or more occupational profiles.

Sector Skills Alliances identify specific labour market needs (demand side), and enhance the responsiveness of initial and continuing VET systems to the labour market needs (supply side). Based on evidence regarding skills needs, Sector Skills Alliances support the design and delivery of transnational vocational training content, as well as teaching and training methodologies for European professional core profiles.

Projects can achieve these objectives by applying to one of the following 'Lots':

Lot 1 - Sector Skills Alliances for skills needs identification;

Lot 2 - Sector Skills Alliances for design and delivery of VET;

Lot 3 - Sector Skills Alliances for implementing a new strategic approach ('Blueprint') to sectoral cooperation on skills.

Deadline: **2nd May 2017**, 12:00 noon CET.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2kn02Si>

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

Highlights

European Parliament adopts Implementation report on Erasmus+

On 3rd February 2017 the European Parliament adopted the Implementation Report on Erasmus+ in the mini-plenary session in Brussels, Belgium. The report evaluates the first two and half years of the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme. Many EU citizens value Erasmus+ as the major tool to support activities in education and training, youth and sport and consider it as a success story of European integration. The overall conclusion of the implementation report is that the programme offers a variety of new opportunities for potential participants. The objectives of the programme are considered to be very much related to today's policies in the relevant fields. In the debate MEP's acknowledged the value of the Erasmus+ programme as a flagship project of the European Union, providing opportunities for young people in the fields of education and training, youth and sport. The programme is considered as the one of the best tools to make young people become European citizens and therefore an antidote to the crisis the European integration project finds itself in.

The report calls for a further increase of the budget for the successor of the Erasmus+ programme after 2020. This will be needed to maintain the level of funding that will be reached in the last year of the current programme cycle, since the 40% budget increase of Erasmus+ compared to its predecessor programmes will only really be felt from this year onwards. An ambitious budget for the successor for Erasmus+ would also help to address the issue of many high quality projects being rejected. The report also takes into account some important demands of the youth and volunteering sector: volunteer time contribution to be considered as eligible co-funding; more flexibility for National Agencies to shift money between budget lines; the possibility to access funding for European organisations based in Brussels; the increase in operational support for European organisations; the importance of maintaining a separate youth chapter in the next programme period. Furthermore, the report expresses concern that Erasmus+ is viewed by young people and the wider public primarily as a programme for higher education. It recommends, therefore, that greater importance be attached to raising the profile at the European, national and regional level of the different sectors that people can apply for, including school-level education, higher education, international higher education, vocational education and training, adult education, youth and sport, and volunteering as well as highlighting the possibility of having cross-cutting projects, notably by means of an information campaign and public relations work regarding the content of all programmes. The report calls on the national authorities to provide all the necessary information on their homepages in the same format and with the same content where possible.

The European Parliament Youth Intergroup worked together with youth organisations, in particular with the European Youth Forum and the Erasmus+ NGO Coalition, to ensure that the views and needs of young people and youth organisations are reflected in the report. All the amendments suggested by the Youth Intergroup have been tabled and then taken on board in the final text, thanks to the collaboration with the rapporteur, Mr. Zver MEP and the shadow-rapporteurs.

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

Juvenes Translatores winners announced

The winners of the 2016-2017 edition of the Juvenes Translatores Contest have been announced by the European Commission.

28 secondary school students, one from each Member State, will be invited to Brussels on 6th April to receive their trophies from Commissioner Günther Oettinger, responsible for Budget and Human Resources.

For the 10th time since 2007, over 3,000 students from across the European Union translated texts, this time on the subjects of languages and translation. They could choose from any of the 552 possible combinations between any two of the EU's 24 official languages.

Students used 152 language combinations, including translating from Greek into Latvian, and from Bulgarian into Portuguese. All winners chose to translate into their strongest language or mother tongue, as the official translators in EU Institutions do.

All winners will be awarded a prize, a trophy and a paper diploma.

<http://bit.ly/2jIU0K5>

Progress Report on the implementation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

On 2nd February 2017 the European Commission presented its Progress Report on the implementation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020. The Strategy is the main instrument to support the EU's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). According to the report, there has been progress in all the eight areas of the Strategy: accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social protection, health and external action. Initiatives such as the Directive on Web Accessibility, which will make public websites accessible to all, and the proposal for a European Accessibility Act are big steps towards better accessibility.

The EU Disability Card project is being piloted in eight Member States and will make it easier for people with disabilities to travel across these Member States. Provisions in the Erasmus+ programme allow better mobility for students with disabilities and the increased attention paid to disability in EU external action policies was recognised by the UN Committee in its recommendations to the EU. People with

disabilities will also benefit from the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2725>

Georgia visa waiver approved by Parliament

Georgian citizens will be able to enter the EU without a visa for short stays, under a new law passed by the European Parliament on 2nd February 2017.

Under the visa exemption, endorsed in plenary by 553 votes to 66 with 28 abstentions, Georgians who hold a biometric passport will have the right to enter the EU visa-free for 90 days in any 180-day period, for business, tourist or family purposes, but not to work.

The legislation still needs to be formally approved by the Council and will only enter into force once the suspension mechanism, which allows the temporary reintroduction of visas in the event of migration surges or risks to public security, is in place.

The visa waivers apply to all EU member states (except Ireland and the UK), plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

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

University of Luxembourg to defer tuition fees and accommodation fees through Erasmus+

On 20th January 2017 the University of Luxembourg signed a guarantee agreement with the European Investment Fund (EIF) to launch an Erasmus+ pilot scheme to support incoming postgraduate students by deferring tuition fees and rent for two years.

Under the scheme, incoming Master students will not have to meet key costs upfront and will be able to start repayments for their learning and housing two years after graduation.

The University of Luxembourg expects to welcome 300 Master students through the €5 million initiative which is open to students from any of the 32 other Erasmus+ programme countries. Students will not need collateral or third-party guarantees to benefit from it.

The cost of education is one of the main barriers to studying abroad. This initiative aims to overcome that financial obstacle and make postgraduate study abroad accessible to students from all backgrounds.

Through the guarantee agreement signed with EIF, the Erasmus+ programme shares part of the risk with the university that students will not pay back the university for the costs they have incurred.

The agreement between the European Investment Fund and the University of Luxembourg represents a new direction for the Erasmus+ Master Loan scheme. This is first time where a university acts as the financial intermediary. Erasmus+ Master Loans are also available in Spain, France, the United Kingdom and Turkey through more traditional financial intermediaries such as banks.

<http://bit.ly/2k01KId>

Erasmus celebrates 30 years

On 26th January the European Commission launched the campaign marking the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus programme, called Erasmus+ since 2014 because it benefits more people through a wider range of opportunities. The launch took place at the [Parlamentarium](#), in the presence of Erasmus alumni.

Throughout 2017 many events will be organised across Europe to celebrate the 30th anniversary including a flagship event at the European Parliament in June. Celebrations will highlight the positive impact of Erasmus both on individuals and society as a whole, and will give all those involved the opportunity to debate how the programme should evolve in the future.

Over the past 30 years, Erasmus+ and its predecessors have supported not only more than 5 million students, apprentices and volunteers, but also staff and youth exchanges, amounting to 9 million people in total. The current seven year programme (2014-2020) has a budget of €14.7 billion - a 40% increase compared to previous spending levels.

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/anniversary_en

Commission prepares next steps towards European Pillar of Social Rights

At the high-level conference which took place in Brussels on 23rd January 2017, closing a far-ranging consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker highlighted national minimum salaries and national minimum incomes as issues he would like to see addressed by European cooperation on the Pillar.

He confirmed that the Pillar should apply initially to the Eurozone, with other EU countries free to join. President Juncker also announced that the European Commission would co-host an EU "Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth" together with Swedish Prime Minister Löfven in Gothenburg on 17th November 2017. The Summit will gather heads of state and government, the social partners and other key players to discuss the policy priorities set at European level and see how the European Union, the Member States and social partners at all levels can deliver on their shared economic and social priorities. The Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, underlined the need for partnerships at all levels to achieve tangible results which make a difference to people's lives.

Since the initiative's announcement by President Juncker in September 2015, there has been a wide debate with EU authorities, Member States, social partners, civil society and citizens on the content and role of the Pillar and how to ensure fairness and social justice in Europe.

The Commission will now prepare its proposal on the Pillar to be expected in March.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-114_en.htm

Eurostat release: December 2016 Euro area unemployment rate

According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in December 2016, 4.219 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the EU28, of whom 2.957 million were in the Euro area. Compared with December 2015, youth unemployment decreased by 196 000 in the EU28 and by 88 000 in the Euro area. In December 2016, the youth unemployment rate was 18.6% in the EU28 and 20.9% in the Euro area, compared with 19.5% and 21.8% respectively in December 2015. In December 2016, the lowest rate was observed in Germany (6.5%), while the highest were recorded in Greece (44.2% in October 2016), Spain (42.9%) and Italy (40.1%).

<http://bit.ly/2iU0tmD>

End of roaming charges: EU negotiators agreed on wholesale prices

As the last step towards the end of roaming charges by 15th June 2017, representatives of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed on how to regulate wholesale roaming markets (the prices operators charge each other when their customers use other networks when roaming in the EU).

EU negotiators agreed on the following wholesale caps: 3.2 cents per minute of voice call, as of 15th June 2017, 1 cent per SMS, as of 15th June 2017.

A step by step reduction over 5 years for data caps decreasing from €7.7 per GB (as of 15th June 2017) to €6 per GB (as of 1st January 2018), to €4.5 per GB (as of 1st January 2019), to €3.5 per GB (as of 1st January 2020), to €3 per GB (as of 1st January 2021) and to €2.5 per GB (as of 1st January 2022) was also agreed.

Thanks to the political agreement on wholesale rules and the rules on fair use policy and sustainability adopted by the Commission in December 2016, consumers will be able to use their home subscriptions when travelling periodically abroad. If consumers exceed their contract limits when roaming, any additional charges will not be higher than the wholesale roaming caps agreed. The agreement still needs to be formally approved by the Industry Committee, Parliament as a whole and national ministers before entering into force.

<http://bit.ly/2kU7F1S>

Antonio Tajani new European Parliament president

Antonio Tajani was elected president of the European Parliament on 17th January, succeeding Martin Schulz. Tajani, an Italian member of the centre-right European People's Party (EPP) group and vice-president of the Parliament, received 351 votes in the fourth and final round of voting, compared to 282 votes for Gianni Pittella, the Italian leader of the S&D group. His term in office will end in 2019, when the next elections for the European Parliament will be held.

The new president thanked his predecessor Martin Schulz for the work he did as well as the MEPs who voted for the other candidates, telling them he would be a "president for everybody". Tajani said he would seek to ensure that Parliament would be strong and have its views heard by the Council, representing national governments in the EU. He also

said he dedicated his election to the victims of last year's earthquakes in Italy.

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

Essen, European Green Capital 2017

On 21st January 2017, the town of Essen in Germany has officially become the European Green Capital for 2017.

In a ceremony, Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, handed over the title for 2017 from Ljubljana to Essen. The European Green Capital Award rewards efforts and commitment to improving the urban environment, boosting awareness of the need for environmental change at the city level. Essen will act as role model for sustainable urban development, sharing and promoting best practices that have been tried and tested in this German city.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital>

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>

1st January-30th June 2017: Maltese EU Council Presidency

As of 1st January 2017 Malta will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time since the country joined the EU in 2004. Malta will take over the six-month rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU from Slovakia, as part of the Dutch-Slovak-Maltese 'Trio Presidency'. The Maltese EU Presidency priorities in the youth field will be: the role of young people in the framework of the New Skills Agenda; the implementation of the main recommendations of youth conferences, the 5th cycle of the structured dialogue and the mid-term review of the Youth Strategy.

Find out more: <http://www.eu2017.mt/en>

17th February 2017: Meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) Council, Brussels, Belgium

The EYCS Council is composed of ministers responsible for education, culture, youth, media, communication and sport from all EU member states. Its main objective is to preserve Europe's cultural heritage, support its cultural industries, ensure a high quality of education and promote physical activity. As these policy areas are primarily the competence of the Member States, the EU's role is to provide a framework for cooperation between them and adopt incentive measures and recommendations.

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

22nd February 2017: Info day - Pilot Project on long-term mobility for apprentices

Organised by the European Commission, the day will focus on the explanation of the funding opportunities available under the Call for proposals ([VP/2017/007](#))-Pilot Project on long-term mobility for apprentices "A European framework for mobility of apprentices: Developing European citizenship and skills through youth integration in the labour market". The event will focus on the mobility of apprentices and policy related issues, on the call for proposals, its objectives, activities, expected results and the procedural and financial issues.

Participants should register [here](#) by 15th February 2017. The European Commission will not reimburse costs related to participation in this Information Session.

The info day will be also streamed live [here](#) from 09:00 to 17:30 CET. Specific questions can be sent in advance to EMPL-VP-2017-007@ec.europa.eu. Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2k6QjB6>

2nd-4th March 2017: CATCH-EyoU Conference Young People as Active EU Citizens? Challenges and Visions on a Renewed Project for Europe, Athens, Greece

The conference aims to explore the multifaceted factors that influence the different forms of youth active engagement in Europe, thus offering policy makers and professionals working with young people new instruments and "conceptual lenses" to better understand this generation and bring the EU closer to all its citizens.

Deadline: **1st March 2017.**

Find out more: <http://www.catcheyou.eu/conference2017>

7th-12th April 2017: Rewind Radicalisation: Building up strategies against extremism, Prague, Czech Republic

Organised by UNITED, the conference aims to create a platform to:

- understand what radicalisation is and where and how it starts,
- listen to experts in this field and get some theoretical background,
- find out how it affects our society by listening to personal testimonies,
- work in groups on education, media, advocacy, campaigning or community work,
- initiate joint actions for NGOs as well as produce future working materials,
- pave the way for future cooperations.

The conference programme will combine debates, workshops, sharing of experiences, political cafes and many other methods for learning from practical experience.

Deadline: **12th February 2017, 24:00 CET.**

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1nKuq9u>

18th-21st April 2017: Regional Training Seminar on Bookmarks, Combatting Hate Speech through Human Rights Education, Porto, Portugal

The training seminar aims to build participants' competences to combat hate speech online and promote human rights on- and off-line through human rights education and campaigning. The seminar is addressed to campaign activists, youth workers and educators involved in the No Hate Speech Movement at national level from the South European region, including: Andorra, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, and Spain. There is an enrolment fee of 60 Euros, which will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses. The working language will be English.

Deadline: **21st February 2017**, at noon, CET.

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

19th-22nd April 2017: School of Democracy, Reggio Emilia, Italy

Organised by the S&D (Socialists and Democrats) Group in the European Parliament, the event will gather 100 young people from EU countries and beyond, along with experts from the political, economic and academic worlds, to discuss the major issues facing Europe and the world.

Young people between 18 and 25, passionate about progressive politics, committed to diversity and European inclusion should fill the [application form](#) and summarise in few lines their motivations to join the event.

Travel, hotel and meal expenses will be paid by the organisers.

Participants of the previous editions will not be considered.

Find out more:

<http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/schoolofdemocracy>

30th April-7th May 2017: Youth Peace Camp - Engaging young people and youth organisations from conflict-stricken regions in dialogue and conflict transformation, Strasbourg, France

The Camp aims to engage young people and youth organisations from conflict affected regions in dialogue and conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning. This year, a particular focus will be given to the role of hate speech in relation to armed conflicts and connect with No Hate Speech Movement campaign at the European, national and local levels. The camp is addressed to young people, from 18 to 25 years old, from Cyprus (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots), Kosovo, Serbia, South Caucasus region and Ukraine (in particular the Luhansk and Donetsk regions). Applicants will have to be fully committed to taking part in the Youth Peace Camp project, be involved in youth or community projects and motivated to implement youth initiatives for peace building within their own communities and be able to work in English.

A specific priority will be given to applicants who are or have been displaced as a result of armed conflict (refugees, internally displaced people, migrants, asylum-seekers).

Travel expenses and visa costs will be reimbursed upon presentation of the relevant receipts, according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Board and lodging at the seminar will be provided and paid by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg.

Deadline to apply: **8th February 2017**, noon CET.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2jN0ubx>

12th-13th May 2017: StudyWorld, Berlin, Germany

The 12th international fair for higher and continuing education provides first-hand information on higher education,

internships and other educational services in Germany and worldwide.

Find out more: <http://www.studyworld.de>

29th May-3rd June 2017: Study session "Inclusion Culture-Promoting Leadership in Intercultural Understanding within Mixed-ability Groups", Strasbourg, France

Organised by the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) and the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) in partnership with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, the study session aims to promote cultural awareness, tolerance and solidarity among disabled and non-disabled young people and to stimulate intercultural learning. Participants should be between 18 and 35 years old, from Member States of the Council of Europe, be motivated and have experience, or an interest, in the topic of inclusion and intercultural learning. They should be willing to share what they have learned in their local groups or communities following the study session.

The study session will be in English and international sign, therefore participants must be confident in either of these. There is a participation fee of 50 EUR, covering programme, food, accommodation, travel and visa costs.

Deadline to [apply](#): **21st February 2017, 23:59 (CET)**.

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

12th-16th June 2017: FEANTSA Study Session: Housing First For Youth, Budapest, Hungary

The FEANTSA Youth Study Session will focus on Housing First for Youth. Housing First is a model of providing housing for people with chronic experiences of homelessness and complex needs. It has proven successful and is becoming mainstreamed into many European Government's Housing and Homelessness Strategies. This study session will take the Housing First model and look at how best the model can be implemented to address youth homelessness, and the specific needs which often accompany youth homelessness.

Participants should be under 30 years old, living in a Council of Europe member state, working with young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and having experience in housing, housing first or housing led solutions and looking to build on that knowledge and apply it in a context for youth. They must be able to communicate in English.

Travel, accommodation and meal costs will be covered by the Council of Europe: a €50 registration fee will be charged.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2jC8hYR>

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/1ppGluS>

Eurodesk Brussels Link Activities

9 Jan 2017	Preparatory Online Eurodesk Network Meeting Essen. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe.
9 Jan 2017	Preparatory Online Meeting YoFest2017. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Grazia.
10 Jan 2017	European Solidarity Corps Webinar. Location: EBL. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe, Grazia.
10-11 Jan 2017	Online Quality Group Meeting. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe.
13-16 Jan 2017	Learning for Well Being Community Meeting. Location: Caux, Switzerland. Participant from EBL: Audrey.
17 Jan 2017	Online Quality Group Meeting. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe.
17 Jan 2017	Preparatory Online Eurodesk Network Meeting Essen. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe.
18 Jan 2017	Preparatory Meeting Training Project ERYICA, EYCA, EURODESK. Location: ERYICA Office. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Zsolt.
18 Jan 2017	Online presentation about Eurodesk priorities in 2017, Eurodesk Poland national meeting. Participant from EBL: Audrey
20 Jan 2017	Preparatory Online Meeting YoFest2017. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Grazia.
24 Jan 2017	Online Quality Group Meeting. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe.
26 Jan 2017	Launch event of the campaign marking the 30 th anniversary of the Erasmus programme. Location: Parlamentarium, Brussels. Participant from EBL: Grazia.
27 Jan 2017	Eurodesk President, Reinhard Schwalbach and EBL Director Audrey Frith, Meeting with Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and

Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).
Location: DG NEAR

27 Jan 2017	Online Info session: Capacity Building in the field of Youth 2017 - Eastern Partnership Window. Participant from EBL: Grazia.
31 Jan 2017	Online Info session: Erasmus+ Programme in the field of Sport. Participant from EBL: Grazia.