

eurodesk

EBL Bulletin

January 2017

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Erasmus+

**EUROPEAN
YOUTH PORTAL**

Deadlines up to 1 February 2017

Upcoming deadlines

Reference number	Deadline	Programme Title
EU0010000387	23 Dec 2016	Traineeship at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
EU0010000280	27 Dec 2016	Traineeship at the Joint Research Centre
EU0010000150	30 Dec 2016	Internship programme at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
EU0010002088	31 Dec 2016	Youth eParticipation Projects
EU0010000443	31 Dec 2016	Traineeship European Railway Agency
EU0010002061	4 January 2017	YO!Fest 2017 Emerging Bands Contest
EU0010000050	10 January 2017	Horizon2020: Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
EU0010000413	15 January 2017	Bogliasco Fellowships Programme
EU0010002095	17 January 2017	Erasmus+ KA3: Support for policy reform-VET-business partnerships on work-based learning and apprenticeships'
EU0010000599	18 January 2017	College of Europe Scholarships for university graduates from ENP countries
EU0010000064	20 January 2017	Vulcanus in Japan

Documentation

Employment and Social Development in Europe 2016

The annual review of Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) provides analytical support for EU and national policy actions in pursuit of the Europe 2020 employment and social objectives. It considers the latest available data and provides analysis of key employment and social developments and challenges in the EU and its Member States. This year's report focussed on employment as a means to tackle poverty, digitalisation and the changing world of work, the role of social dialogue, disparities among Member States and the integration of refugees in the labour market.

According to the report, the number of Europeans in work was the highest ever measured, reaching 232 million. Last year, three million jobs have been created, most of them permanent. Full-time employment effectively protects people against poverty in most cases. The share of the EU population at risk of poverty or social exclusion (23.7%) is the lowest in five years. However, still 8.6% of Europeans are unemployed, and the Review highlights how difficult it has been in the post-crisis years (2008-2013) to return to employment: only about one in eight unemployed people managed to find permanent full-time employment within three years. Youth unemployment, still above 20%, remains a major concern.

[Full Report](#)

[Executive Summary](#)

Study on gender-based violence in sport

Published by the European Commission, the study provides an overview of the legal and policy frameworks, describes initiatives promoted by sport and civil society organisations, identifies best practice in combatting gender-based violence in sport and makes recommendations for future action. The study focuses on the coach-athlete relationship, the entourage of the athlete (managers, doctors, physiotherapists) and the peer to-peer athlete relationship. Special attention was devoted to children and the study explicitly included violence against LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual, Queer and Intersex) people. The study covers both elite/professional sport and grassroots sport.

One of the main difficulties encountered while researching for this study was that reliable prevalence and incidence data on this difficult topic are strikingly absent across the EU. It is therefore important to raise awareness of the problem and to assess its magnitude.

<http://bit.ly/2fG5NGI>

How to prevent and tackle bullying and school violence - Evidence and practices for strategies for inclusive and safe schools

Commissioned by European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture, this independent report aims to

highlight EU-wide evidence and practices and stimulate a policy discussion about bullying in the EU. The report raises awareness about the prevalence of school bullying in many EU countries and highlights key lessons emerging from the most relevant European and international research that can support policy and practice against such bullying. School bullying is a widespread phenomenon which takes many forms, such as discriminatory bullying against minority groups, homophobic bullying and bullying against students with special needs. It can also concern any other students who seem vulnerable or different from their peers. The report is part of the Commission's broader effort to implement the 2015 Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education as well as the specific priorities of the ET 2020 strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training.

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

Policies and practices for equality and inclusion in and through education - Evidence and policy guidance from European research projects funded under FP6 and FP7

The report, commissioned by the Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) and carried out by the Network of Experts on Social Aspects of Education and Training (NESET II), reviews the findings of 20 projects funded under the Sixth and Seventh European Framework Programmes for Research and Development (FP6 and FP7) with the aim of addressing issues of education inequalities, their consequences and strategies to prevent or overcome them. It highlights policies and practices that work to disrupt or prevent educational disadvantage and exclusion. It provides support to Member States in their efforts to make their education systems more inclusive and equitable and illustrates that European collaborative research projects can and do provide robust guidance to policy and decision makers.

[Full report](#)

[Executive summary](#)

European Solidarity Corps

New European Union initiative offering young people opportunities to volunteer or work in projects (in their own country or abroad) that benefit communities and people around Europe. Interested young people can register for the European Solidarity Corps already when they are 17 years old, but they will be able to start a project when they are over 18 up to the age of 30 years old. After a simple registration process, European Solidarity Corps participants could be selected and invited to join a wide range of projects, such as helping to prevent natural disasters or rebuild afterwards, assisting in centres for asylum seekers, or addressing different social issues in communities.

https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

Mobility Scoreboard

Updated version of the European Commission Mobility Scoreboard to compare support for learning and studying abroad across Europe. Developed by Eurydice (higher education) and CEDEFOP (IVET), it follows up on the 2011 'Youth on the Move' Recommendation of the Council of the European Union, providing a framework for monitoring progress made by European countries in creating a positive environment supporting learner mobility. The new tool provides a framework for monitoring progress made by European countries in promoting, and removing obstacles to, learning mobility.

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/mobility-scoreboard>

30 years of Erasmus+

Erasmus+ web page dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of the EU programme Erasmus which will be celebrated all over in 2017. Throughout the year, there will be events all over Europe to mark the anniversary. These will include conferences, forums, dialogues, celebrations, debates, and exhibitions. From the site it is possible to register to a monthly newsletter to know about calls, news & events, or download a toolkit to get the promotional materials. <http://bit.ly/2heCoHE>

Varna: European Youth Capital 2017

Varna, Bulgaria's third-largest city, is the European Youth Capital for 2017. The European Youth Capital (EYC) title is awarded to a different European city each year by the European Youth Forum. Varna's application pledged to make the city a "social hub" for young people, with "Innowave" the title of the year. During its EYC year, the city will focus on the development of social entrepreneurship as a tool for increased youth participation, sustainable employment, creativity, networking, exchange and education.

<http://varna2017.bg/en>

Opportunities

Call for Applications: National Training Courses in Human Rights Education

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe is accepting expressions of interest from non-governmental organisations, public institutions and/or networks to organise training courses in 2017. The national training courses in human rights education are an integral part of the programme on human rights education with young people of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and aim to contribute to the development and accessibility of human rights education in member states. The courses should aim at training key multipliers in human rights education (youth workers, trainers, teachers, teacher trainers, peer educators) on how to plan, implement and evaluate human rights education activities based on the approaches laid out in Compass. The national training courses should also be a chance to advocate and learn how to advocate for human rights education at national and local level, and should contribute to the establishment of national networks of practitioners and their sustainability. The Council of Europe Youth Department will offer financial, educational and institutional support for such courses in 2017.

Deadline to [apply](#): **15th January 2017**, 23:00 CET.

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

Traineeships at the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Condition (EUROFOUND)

The programme is addressed mainly to recent university graduates, without excluding those who in the framework of lifelong learning have recently obtained a university diploma and are at the beginning of a new professional career. Trainees will work in different units at Eurofound in Dublin (Ireland) with the exception of the traineeship at the Brussels Liaison Office, located in Brussels (Belgium). Eligible candidates should be nationals of the Member States of the European Union (28 Member States) and of candidate countries. However, a limited number of nationals of non-Member States may also be accepted according to available resources. Candidates from Member States must have a very good knowledge of at least two EU languages, of which one should be English; candidates from non-Member States must have a very good knowledge of English, as well as their mother tongue language. Trainees will be awarded a monthly grant of EUR 1,309 per month.

Deadline: **29th January 2017**, 23.55 (Brussels time).

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

Traineeship at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Offered by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the traineeship programme aims to provide recent university graduates who are at the beginning of a new professional career with an understanding of the Centre and its role within the activities of the European Union while also providing an opportunity to acquire practical knowledge and professional experience. Eligible candidates must have the citizenship of an EU member state, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein, must have completed their studies and must have been awarded a full university degree by the closing date for applications. They also must have a very good command of English.

Trainees will be awarded a monthly grant of 1,435.55 EUR net and a travel allowance.

Deadline: **31st January 2017.**

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

Seeds for Integration Grants

Launched by the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU), the grants aim to provide seed-funding to secondary school student unions operating on local, regional or national level or, in case there is no student council in the school, to independent groups representing the school's students, in order to empower them to implement initiatives aimed at enhancing the integration of refugee students and pupils with migration background. Small, medium and large-scale funding will be provided for projects implemented by general and vocational secondary school students on local, regional and national levels.

On a local level, secondary school student groups can apply for a small scale grant of maximum 500 Euros.

On a regional level, project teams composed of students from different secondary schools or Regional School Student Unions can apply for a medium scale grant of maximum 1,000 Euros.

On a national level, OBESSU Member, Candidate and Affiliate Organisations can apply for a large scale grant of maximum 2,500 Euros.

Eligible applicants should be secondary school students studying in a European country. Their team has to have at least 3 members, with a person who will be in charge of the communication with OBESSU, with at least medium level English language knowledge and they will have to have a bank account (student union bank account or a bank account of an individual over 18 contractually representing the group throughout the implementation of the initiative).

Deadline: **31st January 2017.**

Find out more: <https://seedsforintegration.org>

European Youth Capital 2020

The European Youth Capital is a title granted by the European Youth Forum to a European city for a period of one year,

during which the city is given the chance to showcase its youth-related cultural, social, political and economic life and development. All municipalities from Member States of the Council of Europe are invited to apply. The title of European Youth Capital gives European cities the chance to present over one year a multi-faceted programme that highlights the wealth, diversity and common characteristics of Europe's intergenerational approach, and the empowerment of young people throughout the continent.

Deadline: **26th February 2017 (23:59 CET)**.

There are some fees.

For more information: <http://bit.ly/2hHRndO>

FEST 2017: International New Directors|New Films Festival, Espinho (Portugal)

Fest 2017, one of the most important cultural events in Portugal and worldwide, will be held in Espinho from 19th to 26th June.

Young directors (up to 30 years of age only for the Short and Medium Film Competition) are invited to send their videos, which must have been concluded after 1st of January 2016, under one of these categories: Fiction; Documentary; Experimental and Animation. Directors can submit more than one film, in separate entries. They cannot submit the same film in more than one category. Videos should be on DVD, Blu-ray and Hard Drive formats and be in English or have English subtitles.

There are small administration fees.

Deadline for submitting entries: **28th February 2017**.

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

Erasmus+ KA3: Support for policy reform - Knowledge Tools for Higher Education - Ranking

The call aims to sustain and support U-Multirank, a multi-dimensional information and ranking tool for higher education, to promote its use and identify and implement necessary improvements in its functioning.

The specific objectives are to ensure continued full operation, and further development of, the U-Multirank tool. This includes the annual release of a global ranking of higher education institutions, along with discipline-based and theme-based readymade rankings, and exploration of new performance indicators. In addition, work on U-Multirank should aim to optimise data collection through exploitation of national and international data sources and implementation of a network of institutional coordinators. Communication and dissemination measures should be undertaken with the aim of increasing participation levels and raising awareness of the tool and its possibilities. Strategies for continued operation and further development will be ensured through interactions with stakeholders and relevant experts.

Deadline: **14th February 2017, 12:00 noon CET**.

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

Erasmus+ KA3: Support for policy reform - Forward-Looking Cooperation Projects 2017

The call aims to invite the submission of forward-looking cooperation projects (FLCPs), transnational cooperation projects aiming to identify, test, develop or assess innovative policy approaches that have the potential of becoming mainstreamed and giving input for improving education and training systems. The specific objectives of this call are:

- to kick-start longer-term changes and field-test innovative solutions to challenges in the education and training fields which have the potential of becoming mainstreamed and to generate a sustainable and systemic impact on education and training systems,
- to support transnational cooperation and mutual learning on forward-looking issues among key stakeholders,
- to facilitate the collection and analysis of evidence to substantiate innovative policies and practices.

Proposals submitted under the present call must address one of the five priorities listed below:

- acquisition of basic skills by low-skilled adults,
- promoting performance-based approaches in VET,
- promoting innovative technology in the field of providing career guidance,
- professionalisation of staff (school education, including early childhood education and care),
- achieving the aims of the renewed EU strategy for higher education.

Eligible applicants are public and private organisations active in the field of education and training or other sectors such as non-formal learning, including youth, other socio-economic sectors and/or organisations carrying out cross-sectoral activities from EU Member States, EFTA/EEA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and candidate countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

The minimum partnership composition requirement for this call is three organisations representing three programme countries. Activities must start on 1st November 2017, 1st December 2017 or 1st January 2018.

The project duration must be between 24 and 36 months.

Deadline: **14th March 2017**, 12:00 (noon, CET).

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

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

Highlights

Launch of the Youth Initiative

On 7th December 2016 the European Commission presented its Youth Initiative containing several key actions aimed at supporting young people in Europe. The four key areas of critical importance for young people are: employment; mobility; solidarity and participation; education and training. The Commission aims at further supporting the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, also through the continuation of the Youth Employment Initiative. In particular, in September, the Commission proposed to increase funding by a total of €2 billion (€1 billion by increasing the budget line for the Youth Employment Initiative, matched by another billion from the European Social Fund). This would make it possible to support around 1 million more young people until 2020 in the Member States most affected by youth unemployment. To encourage mobility for young people, the Commission wants to build on one of Europe's most successful programmes: Erasmus+. This programme is emblematic for the opportunities the EU offers to young people to learn or study abroad. Learning and studying in another country has proven to be of great added value for young people to develop their skills, improve their career chances and enhance European citizenship. When it comes to learning mobility, apprentices are still under-represented. In spite of the proven positive impact, only a small fraction of apprentices spend time learning in another Member State and, even then, it is usually for a very short amount of time (one month on average). In 2017, the Commission will launch "ErasmusPro", a new dedicated activity within the Erasmus+ programme to support long-duration (6-12 months) placements of apprentices abroad. In addition to the current 650,000 apprentices that will benefit from mobility under Erasmus+, these measures will open up the possibility for 50,000 additional young people to spend at least 6 months of their learning experience in another Member State in the period 2017-2020. Vocational education and training systems, in particular apprenticeships, are a tried-and-tested way to equip young people with relevant skills and facilitate their transition from school to the labour market; but it is essential that sufficient apprenticeship places are available and that they are of a good quality. Therefore the Commission is also proposing a Quality Framework for Apprenticeships which will set out key principles for the design and delivery of apprenticeships at all levels.

One of the main elements of the Youth Initiative is the European Solidarity Corps, which has been announced by President Juncker in his 2016 State of the European Union address. Through the European Solidarity Corps young people between the ages of 18 and 30 can sign up for new opportunities to make an important contribution to society across the EU, and to gain invaluable experience and acquire valuable skills at the start of their career. The European Commission measures under the Youth Initiative have been

backed by the European Council which, on its last meeting on 15th December 2016, agreed that more should be done for young people.

<http://bit.ly/2hhMS6e>

Eurostat quarterly data on employment

According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, the number of persons employed increased by 0.2% in both the Euro area (EA19) and the EU28 in the third quarter of 2016 compared with the previous quarter.

In the second quarter of 2016, employment rose by 0.4% in the Euro area and by 0.3% in the EU28. These figures are seasonally adjusted. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, employment increased by 1.2% in the Euro area and by 1.1% in the EU28 in the third quarter of 2016 (after +1.3% and +1.4% respectively in the second quarter of 2016). Eurostat estimates that, in the third quarter of 2016, 232.5 million men and women were employed in the EU28 (highest level ever recorded); of which 153.4 million were in the Euro area (highest level since the fourth quarter of 2008). These figures are seasonally adjusted. These quarterly data on employment provide a picture of labour input consistent with the output and income measure of national accounts.

Among Member States for which data are available, Portugal (+1.3%), Spain (+0.8%), Luxembourg (+0.7%) as well as Ireland, Cyprus and Slovakia (all +0.6%) recorded the highest increases in the third quarter of 2016 compared with the previous quarter. In contrast, the highest decreases in employment were observed in Latvia (-1.5%), Estonia (-1.0%) and Bulgaria (-0.7%).

<http://bit.ly/2hIBW9>

Adoption of the European Commission Communication on improving and modernising education

On 7th December, the European Commission adopted a Communication setting out its vision for ensuring a high quality education for all.

The Communication on improving and modernising education emphasises the strategic importance of education in the EU. Investing in education represents society investing in its people and its future. The Commission recognises the achievements and progress of education and training systems across the EU in recent years. Key Europe 2020 targets are being met, including:

- the share of early-school leaving has been brought down from 15.7% in 2005 to 11.0% in 2015;
- the 40% target for the share of young people graduating from higher education is in reach.

Next year, the EU will present a new plan of action to increase the quality of and access to early childhood education and care. In schools, it will help adapt and develop school education as it responds to societal, economic and technological change. The plan will look to build links between schools and their local communities and provide

stronger support for teachers and school leaders. In the field of higher education, further efforts are needed to ensure that graduates are equipped with the right skills to succeed. In particular, increasing quality of teaching in higher education must be a particular focus and will require both investment and recognition of its value relative to research output.

These will be among the issues tackled in an renewed EU strategy for higher education that will also be presented next year.

<http://bit.ly/2gIV3sC>

Joint Declaration on the EU's legislative priorities for 2017

On 13th December, the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, the holder of the rotating Council Presidency, Robert Fico, and the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker signed the first ever Joint Declaration setting out the EU's objectives and priorities for the legislative process in 2017.

Building on the European Council's Strategic Guidelines and the 10 priorities the European Parliament gave the Juncker Commission a mandate to deliver, the Presidents of the three European Institutions agreed on a number of proposals they will give priority treatment to in the legislative process. This will ensure that the EU delivers concrete results for its citizens and addresses the most urgent challenges Europe faces today.

The Presidents of the Parliament, Council and Commission set out in the Joint Declaration six specific areas in which proposals should be fast-tracked. They commit to streamlining the efforts of their Institutions to ensure swift legislative progress on these priority initiatives and, where possible, delivery before the end of 2017.

1. Giving a new boost to jobs, growth and investment - through the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI 2.0), revamped Trade Defence Instruments, the Banking Union, the Capital Markets Union, and the improvement of waste management in the circular economy;

2. Addressing the social dimension of the European Union - through the Youth Employment Initiative, improved social security coordination, the European Accessibility Act and the European Solidarity Corps;

3. Better protecting the security of citizens - through the Entry-Exit System, Smart Borders and the European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS), the control of firearms, instruments to criminalise terrorism, money laundering and terrorist financing, and the European Criminal Records Information Systems (ECRIS);

4. Reforming and developing migration policy in a spirit of responsibility and solidarity - through the reform of the Common European Asylum System (including the Dublin mechanism), the Legal Migration package and the External Investment Plan to help to address the root causes of migration by enhancing investment and job creation in partner countries;

5. Delivering on the commitment to implement a connected Digital Single market – through the EU telecoms and copyright reforms, the Union of the 700 MHz band, preventing unjustified geo-blocking, the Audiovisual Media Services Directive and common data protection rules;

6. Delivering on the objective of an ambitious Energy Union and a forward looking climate change policy – through the 2030 climate and energy framework, the Paris Agreement and the Clean Energy for all Europeans package.

In addition, the three Presidents highlight four fundamental issues which need particular attention and further progress in 2017: (i) commitment to common European values, the rule of law and fundamental rights; (ii) tackling tax fraud, evasion and avoidance; (iii) preserving the principle of free movement of workers; and (iv) contributing to stability, security and peace.

Read more: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-4360_en.htm

Survey: MOVE – Mapping mobility-pathways, institutions and structural effects of youth mobility in Europe

In the framework of the Horizon 2020 MOVE project, researchers have launched a survey which aims to provide a research-informed contribution towards improving the conditions of the mobility of young people in Europe and a reduction of the negative impacts of mobility through the identification of good practices, thus fostering sustainable development and well-being.

The survey is addressed to young people between 18 and 29 years old, nationals of Luxembourg, Germany, Spain, Romania, Hungary and Norway, who are currently or who have ever been involved in a mobility experience (pupil's exchange, higher education, voluntary work, employment, vocational training and entrepreneurship). They can be living anywhere in Europe. Those who fill out the survey will enter a prize draw and can win gift cards of 50€. The survey will be open until **mid January 2017**.

<http://bit.ly/2imsz8u>

Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!) Implementation Consultation

The WHO Secretariat, in collaboration with other UN agencies and in consultation with youth, Member States and major partners, has drafted the global implementation guidance for Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA! guidance). Its aim is to support the implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030). Governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, youth groups and citizens are invited to join the consultation by **15th January 2017**.

<http://bit.ly/2hJX00Y>

Eurostat Release: Internet use by individuals

According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, more than 80% of persons aged 16 to 74 in the European Union (EU) used the internet in 2016, in many cases via several different devices. Mobile phones or smart phones were the device most used to surf the internet, by over three-quarters (79%) of internet users. They were followed by laptops or netbooks (64%), desktop computers (54%) and tablet computers (44%).

During the last twelve months, more than 70% of internet users in the EU provided some kind of personal information online, many of them undertaking different actions to control access to this personal information on the internet. Almost half of them (46%) refused to allow the use of personal information for advertising and 40% limited access to their profile or content on social networking sites. In addition, 37% of internet users read privacy policy statements before providing personal information and 31% restricted access to their geographical location. Mobile phones or smartphones were the devices the most used in 2016 by internet surfers in every EU Member State, except for the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia where it was laptops or netbooks. At EU level, young individuals aged 16-24 mostly preferred accessing the internet via a mobile or a smart phone (94%) as well as via a laptop or a netbook (71%), while the use of a tablet computer was most popular among those aged 25-54 (47%).

This information is part of the results of the survey conducted in 2016 on ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) usage in households and by individuals.

<http://bit.ly/2hD5Qb5>

Winners of the Sakharov Prize 2016

Islamic State survivors and Iraqi Yazidi activists Nadia Murad and Lamiya Aji Bashar received, on 13th December, the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

The two women were honoured by Parliament for standing up for the persecuted Yazidi minority and the victims of sexual violence by Islamic State. "More than 3,500 children and women are still held hostage as slaves under Daesh. Every day they die a thousand times", Aji Bashar said in her acceptance speech. Murad and Bashar are from Kocho, one of the villages near Sinjar, Iraq. In August 2014, Islamic State militants slaughtered all the males in the village. Young women, including Aji Bashar, Murad and their sisters, were abducted and forced into sex slavery. They eventually managed to escape: Murad in November 2014 and Aji Bashar in April 2016. Murad, 23 years old, and Aji Bashar, 18 years old, are now living in Germany and have become active in raising awareness of the plight of the Yazidi community in Iraq, a religious minority subjected to a genocidal campaign by Islamic State militants, and of the situation of women afflicted by the terrorist group's campaign of sexual violence.

The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought was set up in 1988 and is awarded each year by the European Parliament to honour

individuals and organisations defending human rights and fundamental freedoms. Laureates receive €50,000.

Last year the prize was awarded to Raif Badawi. The Saudi blogger, who has not been able to receive the prize in person, is still in prison for hosting a website promoting social, political and religious debate.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sakharovprize/en/home/the-prize.html>

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>

Aarhus and Pafos European Capitals of Culture 2017

Aarhus in Denmark along with Pafos in Cyprus are the two European Capitals of Culture for 2017. From January 2017 they will officially start a year of music, theatre, dance, film and literature events showing their culture to the world.

Further information on their celebrations and events can be found at:

Aarhus 2017: <http://www.aarhus2017.dk/en>

Pafos 2017: <http://www.pafos2017.eu/?lang=en>

24th-25th January 2017: iLearning Forum 2017, Paris, France

The Forum will be the place for all the demonstrations and presentations of the latest international innovations in e-learning (simulations, interactive video, serious games, skills and management applications, the development of contents tools, social networks of learning).
The access to the forum is free.

Find out more: <http://www.ilearningforum.org>

27th January 2017: Infoday Forward-Looking Cooperation Projects, Brussels, Belgium

Organised by the European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), the day will focus on the explanation of the funding opportunities available under Erasmus+ Key Action 3: 'Support for Policy Reform - Initiatives for policy Innovation - Call n° EACEA/41/2016- Forward-Looking Cooperation Projects'.

Speakers will present the policy framework and policy priorities of this call and will offer advice and tips on preparing and submitting proposals.

On-site attendance will be restricted to a maximum of two representatives per organisation.

The event will also webcast live from 09:00 to 17:30 CET.

Deadline to register: **20th January 2017.**

Find out more: <https://flcp2017.teamwork.fr>

31st January 2017: Sport Infoday, Brussels, Belgium

Organised by the European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), the day will focus on the explanation of the funding opportunities available under Erasmus+ Key Action 3: 'Support for Policy Reform - Initiatives for policy Innovation - Call n° EACEA/41/2016- Forward-Looking Cooperation Projects'.

Speakers will give advice and tips on preparing and submitting proposals, and provide support with the financial aspects of funding.

The event will also webcast live from 08:30 to 17:30 CET.

Deadline to register: **10th January 2017.**

Find out more: <https://sportinfoday2017.teamwork.fr>

7th February 2017: Generation Maastricht- YO!Fest 2017

Generation Maastricht: YO!Fest 2017 is a key highlight of "Europe Calling" a year of events to mark the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Maastricht treaty.

The event will bring together over 3,000 young people to debate key topics on the future of Europe. The festival will mobilise young people and youth organisations, locally and from across Europe, to raise up the voice of young people and #YouthUP Europe.

The festival is open to anyone from across Europe and participation is free.

Deadline to register: 29th January 2017.

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

9th February 2017: Safer Internet Day

On this date a wide array of activities will take place across Europe and the world, focusing on the theme "Play your part for a better internet!".

Find out more: <http://www.saferinternetday.org>

10th-11th February 2017: EU Studies Fair 2017, Brussels, Belgium

The EU Studies Fair 2017, organised by Politico, is an education and networking event bringing together universities, prospective students and representatives of EU institutions. World-class academic institutions will showcase their graduate and postgraduate programmes in EU Studies, international relations, economics, business, public policy and law.

Find out more: <http://www.eustudiesfair.com>

29th-31st January 2017: Seminar 'Countering violent extremism and youth radicalisation', Nicosia, Cyprus

Organised by the Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility Through the Youth Card and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA), the seminar aims to explore ways in which youth card systems would assist governments in providing young people with services and access to activities that would help to promote peaceful communities; see how these peaceful communities could be an enabling factor/context in the longer-term prevention of young people's radicalisation, and share and analyse examples of good practices from EYCA member organisations. The seminar will be held in English.

Governmental representatives from ministries dealing with youth affairs, social affairs, education, migration and internal affairs; EYCA members; NGO representatives, youth workers, youth leaders, young people with migrant background are invited to [register](#) by **5th January 2017**.

Participants' travel costs, meals and accommodation will be [covered](#).

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2heKCQ6>

Call for young people: Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (32nd and 33rd sessions)

In the framework of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities taking place from 26th to 30th March and 16th to 20th October 2017 in Strasbourg (France), a special call for youth delegates has been launched.

The aim is to create a space for dialogue between the youth delegates and local and regional elected representatives in order to:

- raise the youth delegates' awareness of the Council of Europe's and Congress' aims and work, in particular their policies on youth and participation, notably the co-management system;
- examine the state of young people's participation at local and regional levels in European society and identify opportunities and obstacles to its effective implementation;
- contribute to a number of Congress debates on thematic issues to ensure an exchange of views between them and Congress members;
- multiply the information and experience acquired during the sessions on their return home in particular through the development and implementation of their own projects at local and regional level;
- through formal and informal exchanges, promote dialogue and co-operation between the elected representatives and the youth delegates in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect and encourage the exchange of good practices as well as the promotion of existing models of youth-led structures;
- illustrate to the Congress the importance of officially including young elected representatives in member States' national delegations, both as full and substitute members.

The youth delegates, one per national delegation, should:

- be committed and motivated to develop and strengthen dialogue between young people and elected representatives;
- be between 16 and 30 years old;
- have been resident in one of the Council of Europe member states for a minimum of five years and live in the country which they will represent for the duration of their participation;
- be a member of a local/regional youth council or parliament, or local/regional council or assembly or executive, or a representative of a youth NGO, or a youth-led structure, or involved in youth work, or a local or regional elected representative;
- be available and motivated to engage in the whole of the activity including the preparation of grass-roots projects;
- have an interest in actively participating in policy making at local and or regional levels;
- speak English fluently.

The youth delegates' travel and subsistence expenses will be covered jointly by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities according to the Council of Europe's rules. Accommodation will be provided and paid for by the organisers, in single-occupancy or shared rooms according to availability.

Deadline to apply: **10th January 2017.**

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

24th-29th April 2017: 6th Euro-Arab Youth Forum, Fez, Morocco

The sixth edition of the Euro-Arab Youth Forum will be hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in the Kingdom of Morocco in April 2017. The Forum will be part of a series of activities implemented as part of Rabat capital of Arab Youth (2016-2017) under the slogan "For a creative and co-existent youth" and will contribute to the programme of Fez 2017, Youth Capital of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference under the theme of Young People, Holders of Tolerance Values. It will also take into account the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 and the role of young people in supporting their implementation. The Forum will mobilise young people and youth organisations from Arab and European regions to engage in dialogue and cooperation against violent extremism and hate speech.

Youth leaders and youth workers resident in member states of the League of Arab States or the Council of Europe, from 18 to 30 years old are invited to apply by **15th January 2017.**

Accommodation, meals and travel costs will be provided.

Find out more on: <http://bit.ly/2hig69C>

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 (12th-18th February 2017)

Deadline: to be announced.

- Training Course: ECTC-Belgium-Flanders (7th-13th 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/1ppGluS>

Eurodesk Brussels Link Activities

22-24 Nov 2016	Eurodesk Online participation to the Assembly of European Regions - Eurodyssey Forum, Larnaca, Cyprus. Participant from EBL: Audrey.
6 Dec 2016	Online Quality meeting. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe.
7 Dec 2016	Launch of the European Solidarity Corps. Location: Brussels, Belgium. All EBL staff attended the event.
12 Dec 2016	Meeting with Eryica and EYCA Networks. Location: EYCA Office. Participant from EBL: Audrey.
16 Dec 2016	Eurodesk Training for Belgian Partner from the French community. Location: BIJ. Participant from EBL: Audrey.
17 Dec 2016	Seminar "Hikikomori a chi?" Location: Sarezzo, Italy. Participant from EBL: Grazia.