

eurodesk

EBL Bulletin

October 2017

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Deadlines up to 6th November 2017Upcoming deadlines

Reference number	Deadline	Programme Title
EU0010000606	6 Oct 2017	Erasmus+Key Action1-Mobility project for young people-Youth Exchanges
EU0010000604	6 Oct 2017	Erasmus+Key Action1-Mobility project for young people-European Voluntary Service
EU0010000607	6 Oct 2017	Erasmus+Key Action1-Mobility project for Youth workers
EU0010000525	13 Oct 2017	Tvebiomovies 2017
EU0010000004	15 Oct 2017	Traineeships and Study Visits at the European Parliament
EU0010000408	17 Oct 2017	Horizon2020: European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grants
EU0010000373	20 Oct 2017	Juvenes Translatores - translation contest for schools
EU0010000050	15 Oct 2017	Horizon2020: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
EU0010000212	31 Oct 2017	Traineeships at the Court of Auditors
EU0010000263	31 Oct 2017	Internships at the World Bank

Documentation

Report about Eurodesk and European Youth Forum Seminar on the EU Youth Strategy

The Eurodesk network and the European Youth Forum organised a seminar on the role of youth information in the upcoming EU Youth Strategy as part of the European Youth Week 2017 and in the framework of the 60th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. Europe offers many opportunities to young people, including grants to study, work or volunteer abroad through several community programmes. It also offers them channels to voice their ideas on the future of Europe, for instance, through the Structured Dialogue. However, only a minority of young people benefits from such opportunities. The lack of information is among the main barriers to participation, as stressed by several reports and by young people themselves during the EU Youth Conferences. How can the European Union ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to youth information at local, national and European level? During the seminar, representatives from various EU institutions, NGOs and youth information services shared their views on how to shape such a youth information strategy as the backbone of the upcoming EU Youth Strategy.

<http://bit.ly/2xX3ZGL>

Taking the future into their own hands - Youth work and entrepreneurial learning: final report

Published by the European Commission, the report presents the findings of a major study mapping, describing and analysing the contribution that youth work makes to supporting young people in achieving competences that will help them to fulfil personal aspirations and become active citizens in Europe.

The study, based on an extensive collection of data about youth work and entrepreneurial learning in all EU Member States, summarises in 28 country reports an inventory of 114 good practices and 12 case study reports. It confirms that youth work has an important contribution to make, but that improvements should be made in respect to the policy framework, as well as concerning partnerships at national, regional and local level. The report also suggests concrete recommendations for policymakers, as well as for the formal education sector and for youth work organisations, on how to increase the impact of young people's entrepreneurial learning.

[Final report](#)

[Executive summary of the study report](#)

Education at a Glance 2017

The OECD report provides key information on the output of educational institutions; the impact of learning across countries; the financial and human resources invested in education; access, participation and progression in education; and the learning environment and organisation of schools. The

2017 edition presents a new focus on fields of study, investigating both trends in enrolment at upper secondary and tertiary level, student mobility, and labour market outcomes of the qualifications obtained in these fields. The publication also introduces for the first time a full chapter dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals, providing an assessment of where OECD and partner countries stand on their way to meeting the SDG targets. Finally, two new indicators are developed and analysed in the context of participation and progress in education: an indicator on the completion rate of upper secondary students and an indicator on admission processes to higher education. The report covers all 35 OECD countries and a number of partner countries (Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and South Africa).

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

A guide to EU funding 2017

The publication goes through the different programmes and the funding opportunities proposed by the European Commission to boost jobs, growth and investment across the European Union. The programmes are part of the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020. The programmes described in the booklet range from the fields of research, employment, regional development and cooperation to education, culture, environment, humanitarian aid and energy, among many others. Significant support is available to small and medium-sized businesses, non-governmental and civil society non-profit organisations, young people, researchers, farmers and public bodies. Detailed information is available on the European Commission's website.

<http://bit.ly/2vkr79y>

Eurostat Regional Yearbook 2017

The 2017 edition of the yearbook provides a taste of the wide range of regional statistics available for the 276 NUTS level 2 regions (or even 1 342 NUTS level 3 regions for some indicators) of the 28 Member States of the EU as well as, when available, in EFTA and candidate countries. Each chapter presents statistical information in the form of maps, tables and figures, accompanied by a description of the policy context, main findings and data sources. These regional indicators are presented for the following 12 subjects: regional policies and European Commission priorities, population, health, education and training, the labour market, the economy, structural business statistics, research and innovation, the digital economy and society, tourism, transport, and agriculture. In addition, two special chapters are included in this edition: a focus on European cities and a focus on rural areas.

<http://bit.ly/2h8edx3>

Eurydice Brief: Key Data on Teaching Languages at School in Europe - 2017 Edition

The new Eurydice Brief builds on the [May 2017 report](#), summarising its main findings and including recent research works and EU policy documents. The Brief is structured around five key EU and

national language policy themes: the importance of learning 'at least two foreign languages from a very early age'; the range of foreign languages learnt by students; foreign language teaching (focusing both on teachers and their visits abroad for professional purposes, and CLIL as a teaching approach); the expected levels of attainment in foreign languages; language support measures to facilitate the integration of newly arrived migrant students.

<http://bit.ly/2xcR6c1>

New and Innovative Forms of Youth Participation in Decision-making Processes

Commissioned by the Council of Europe's Youth Department, the study investigates how young people are choosing to participate, whether these methods enable them to be represented in decision-making processes and to identify practices which promote and help to consolidate democracy. It also analyses the concepts of "new and innovative" participation in an attempt to define them. The study's findings and recommendations are intended to inform the Youth Department's future work in this field.

<http://bit.ly/2xPhND9>

At home in Europe: Accommodate international students! Recommendation & Good Practice Booklet

The booklet is the result of the HousErasmus+ two years project conducted by the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), the European University Foundation (EUF), the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) and the Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA) with the aim to map the current housing situation in Europe and offer a platform for exchanging experience and good practices between stakeholders. The booklet includes the results of a wide range of research activities to create a comprehensive overview of how students, student organisations, higher education institutions, housing providers and policymakers perceive the situation. The most pressing issues highlighted in the report are the following: lack of awareness amongst stakeholders, need for more cooperation, lack of quality information, quality assurance, discrimination & fraud, financial burden, insufficient student housing, short-term accommodation, language barrier and cultural differences. Trainees are facing most challenges.

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

European Solidarity Corps App

Application for all those registered to the new European Commission initiative, the European Solidarity Corps which enables young people aged 18 to 30 to engage in solidarity-related projects around Europe. This could be as a volunteer, trainee or even as a paid employee working on a solidarity-themed project. The app aims to support European Solidarity Corps participants. In order to access it, users need to login using the same EU Login account or social media account that they used to create their European Solidarity Corps registration.

<http://bit.ly/2xmt75u>

Erasmusx10

Website of the Erasmusx10, a joint campaign launched by Eurodesk together with the European Youth Forum and the Lifelong Learning Platform calling for a 10 times budget increase of the Erasmus+ programme in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework negotiations for 2021-2028. During the Rome Summit on the 60th anniversary of the Treaty, political leaders mentioned Erasmus as the EU's biggest achievement in changing the lives of 9 million Europeans. If the suggested increase seems ambitious at first glance, the Erasmus+ Coalition recalls that only 4 million people (around 0.8% of EU citizens) are expected to benefit from Erasmus+ and that the programme only represents 1.4% of the overall EU budget in the 2014-2020 period. A X10 increase would send a strong political message to EU citizens by putting at the fore the need to build stronger ties between them and to foster a common European identity. It would also allow more individuals to benefit from a mobility experience, therefore improving their life prospects with higher employability chances and stronger political participation.

<http://erasmusx10.eu>

Happy Onlife

A game and toolkit, for children, parents and teachers, aimed at raising awareness of the risks and opportunities of internet and promoting the best online practices. The game and toolkit are proposed as work in progress to be extended with the contributions of all stakeholders applying innovative research methods for formal, informal and participatory education in the use of digital technologies with children aged between 8 and 12.

<http://bit.ly/1A8QCyS>

Opportunities

Europeana Research Grants

Postgraduate or doctoral students, early career scholars in any field (within the Humanities, Social Sciences, Archival or Information Sciences) are invited to submit their research projects which make use of Europeana Collections content to showcase and explore the theme of intercultural dialogue. Applicants should employ state-of-the-art tools and methods in digital humanities to address a specific research question. Funding available will be up to 8,000 EUR per successful project. Funding can be used for the buyout of researcher time, travel, meetings, or developer costs. Up to three successful projects will be funded for one to six months, but all the work must be carried out by 1st May 2018.

Proposal should include candidates' research question, their methodology, what (digital) tools they will use, what parts of the Europeana platform they will use, a work plan, and any engagements that will form part of their work (speaking, outreach, dissemination engagements or publications).

Candidates should submit their proposals by **20th October 2017**.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2xYoHn4>

Digital Girl, Woman and Organisation of the Year Awards

The awards recognise outstanding girls and women in digital sectors globally and the organisations that support them. The Awards are addressed to women, 18 or older, who live and/or work in the specified geography and distinguish themselves through leadership, creativity, entrepreneurship, social-focus and/or innovative discoveries. Participants must be positively impacting the number of girls and women participating in digitally-driven or digitally-enabled areas of study or work, in one or more of the following capacities:

- In the ICT sector, as a promising young potential or executive in a prominent public, private or academic sector IT organisation;
- Through work in entertainment or media, including social media;
- In commercialisation of an innovative digital concept, tool and/or service;
- Through focus on not-for-profit or social work, community-orientation, humanitarian activities (including ICT4Good, health, planet, well-being); and/or
- Through step-change research & development activities in the private or public sectors, academic excellence, digital/social innovations.

Deadline: **20th October 2017**, 18:00 CET.

Find out more: <http://digitalwomanaward.com/europe>

Time to Move T-shirt design contest

Time to Move campaign is a collection of events organised by Eurodesk all over Europe during the month of October to promote

mobility opportunities for young people. For this campaign Eurodesk is inviting young people between 13 and 30 years old and from one of the eligible countries, to join the contest, design a Time to Move themed T-shirt that best represents the spirit of the campaign, share it with Eurodesk and have a chance to win prizes that will help them kickstart their journey around Europe. For the design they can take a photo, create an illustration digitally, draw by hand on paper, use only text or choose any other technique. A jury panel will choose the 3 main winners and the 4th winner will be decided by public voting.

Deadline: **31st October 2017**, noon CET.

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

Faces2Hearts blogging competition

The Faces2Hearts project is a worldwide blogging experience offering four young people a 5-month journey across three continents (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America). During the first half of 2018 they will undertake a 5-month journey of discovery visiting a range of EU-funded development projects and record their experiences, interactions and feelings. The competition is for young people worldwide, between the age of twenty-one and thirty-one inclusive, skilled multimedia users (photography, video, social media, writing), free to travel for the first half of 2018, and holding an international passport valid until at least December 2018. They should be able to speak and write in English at an 'upper intermediate' level that corresponds to the Common European Framework of Languages (CEF) reference level B2. The language requirements vary according to the region they are applying and that region depends on their nationality. Four selected winners will be invited to Brussels for training and briefing on the journey in late 2017. They will each receive an equipment package and be supported by international development professionals on the ground during their journeys. Each winner will travel and discover stories within his or her own region (West & Central Africa, Latin America and Asia-Pacific), except for the European blogger who will be travelling in Eastern & Southern Africa. The project will culminate at the European Development Days 2018 (EDD2018) in Brussels, Belgium, in June, where the 4 winners will share their stories. Travel, accommodation and reasonable expenses for participation at EDD2018 will also be covered.

To apply they need to upload a short video (max. 1 minute) to YouTube, Vimeo or DailyMotion, showcasing their suitability for this adventure.

Deadline: **31st October 2017**, 23:59 pm CET.

Find out more: <https://www.faces2hearts.eu>

European Digital Skills Awards

Launched by the European Commission, the awards aim to showcase initiatives that develop the digital skills of Europeans in school, at work and in society in general.

The initiatives should be easy to scale-up and replicate in other cities, regions, countries and sectors. The winners and finalists will be selected in the following four categories:

- Digital skills for all (developing digital skills to enable all citizens to be active in our digital society);
- Digital skills for the labour force (developing digital skills for the digital economy, e.g. upskilling and reskilling workers, jobseekers; actions on career advice and guidance);
- Digital skills for ICT professionals (developing high-level digital skills for ICT professionals in all industry sectors);
- Digital skills in education (transforming teaching and learning of digital skills in a lifelong learning perspective, including the training of teachers).

To highlight the importance of closing the gender gap in digital skills, a fifth project selected from all the submissions promoting digital skills for women and girls will receive an award.

The winners will be awarded by Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society at the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition Conference on 7th December 2017 in Brussels, Belgium. Winners and finalists will be invited to exhibit their project at the Conference and will be featured by the European Commission in the media, website and newsletters.

Deadline: **1st November 2017.**

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

European Youth Event (EYE) call for contributors

The European Parliament has launched a call for contributors for the European Youth Event (EYE), taking place from 1st to 2nd June 2018 at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. EYE 2018 will include a large variety of activities run under the motto "Together we can make a change" in a political, social and cultural sense.

In order to contribute to the EYE 2018, participants should be between 16 and 30 years old (as of June 2018), registered as a group of at least 10 people, from any EU Member State or another European country and propose a workshop or performance related to the eye 2018 themes:

Youth groups taking part in the EYE2018 are invited to shape the programme of the event by proposing a workshop or an artistic performance in one of the EYE2018 themes:

- War and peace: Perspectives for a peaceful planet
- Apathy or participation: Agenda for a vibrant democracy
- Exclusion or access: Crackdown on youth unemployment
- Stagnation or innovation: Tomorrow's world of work
- Collapse or success: New ways for a sustainable Europe.

For the selected workshops and artistic performances the European Parliament will offer rooms and spaces, as well as some basic technical equipment, such as stationery, projectors, microphones or sound support. In addition, the best proposals will receive a small financial contribution covering travel costs.

Deadline: **15th November 2017**

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2xOA9nY>

European Human Rights Moot Court Competition

Launched by the European Law students' Association (ELSA), in cooperation with the Council of Europe, the 6th edition of the European Human Rights Moot Court Competition taking place between 25th February and 1st March 2018, will provide law students with the opportunity to gain practical experience in the field. The competition is open to students from ELSA countries as well as from countries that are members of the Council of Europe. The simulation of a court trial is often divided into two phases: the written phase and the oral phase. In the written part students draft submissions or memorials on behalf of the applicant and the respondent. The written phase leads to the oral phase, which means simulations of court hearings where students represent the applicant and the respondent. The teams will examine a fictive case and draft written submissions for each party. The teams will be evaluated based on their written admissions and the best 20 teams will compete in the European final at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. For the teams that are qualified to the final, there will be a participation fee that covers accommodation and meals. The winning team will be awarded with a one month traineeship at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The Best Overall Orator will be awarded with a traineeship at the Council of Europe Liaison Office with the European Union in Brussels and with cash prizes. For those who will win the Council of Europe prize and the prize for the Best Overall Orator, ELSA will cover up to 400 EUR of the accommodation costs per person.

Deadline for teams to register: **12th November 2017**, 23:59 CET.

Deadline for written submission: **19th November 2017**, 12 pm CET.

Find out more: <https://ehrmcc.elsa.org/participation>

EU Prize for Women Innovators 2018

The prize will reward the outstanding achievement of women entrepreneurs who have brought an innovation to market, along with a new category for young talent, the Rising Innovators award. For this category women must be born as of 1st January 1987.

Four prizes will be awarded at the end of the competition:

1st prize: €100 000

2nd prize: €50 000

3rd prize: €30 000

4th prize: €20 000

Contestants will be able to submit their entries up to **15th November 2017**.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1kEH32b>

International Schools Essay Competition and Debate 2018

Trust for Sustainable Living has launched an essay competition for young people worldwide, from 7 to 17 years old and their teachers, to share their best ideas for conserving and sustainably using the marine environment. Primary and Secondary students are invited to submit an essay on the theme "My plan to protect and manage our oceans, seas and marine resources" (max. 400 words for Primary, max. 600 words Secondary). One overall Grand Prize winner (plus Teacher Champion and parent) will win a free trip to the TSL 2018 Debates & Awards in the Seychelles, during the first week of July 2018. In addition, medals will be awarded in each category for the top ten essays and for the best individual and group contributions at the Debates.

Deadline: **15th December 2017.**

Find out more:
<https://www.livingrainforest.org/explore/schools-debate>

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

Highlights

Eurodesk's position paper on the proposed legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps

The Eurodesk position paper welcomes the European Solidarity Corps as an ambitious programme that aims to allow more opportunities for young people. However, Eurodesk is concerned about making sure all young people are informed about the opportunities offered and that they can benefit from quality placements (with measures before, during and after the mobility). Eurodesk position paper outlines four key areas of recommendations: Improving governance: no participation without information, Ensuring quality support, the go-to point for youth information: a comprehensive European Youth Portal and a youth-friendly programme, ensuring coherence and consistency in line with the EU Youth Strategy.

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

European Commission adopts initiative to boost apprenticeships in Europe

On 5th October, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships. This initiative is part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe, launched in June 2016. It also ties in with the European Pillar of Social Rights, which foresees a right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning. The Commission has identified 14 key criteria that Member States and stakeholders should use to develop quality and effective apprenticeships. This initiative will help increase the employability and personal development of apprentices and contribute towards a highly skilled and qualified workforce responsive to labour market needs.

To assess the quality and effectiveness of an apprenticeship, the proposed Framework proposes seven criteria for learning and working conditions: Written contract; Learning outcomes; Pedagogical support; Workplace component; Pay and/or compensation; Social protection; Work, health and safety conditions. The Framework also proposes seven criteria for framework conditions: Regulatory framework; Involvement of social partners; Support for companies; Flexible pathways and mobility; Career guidance and awareness raising; Transparency; Quality assurance and graduate tracking.

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

'SELFIE' tool launched

The European Commission has launched the trial version of a new tool to support schools in using digital technologies: 600 schools from 14 countries have the opportunity to try the new 'SELFIE' tool in this pilot phase, before it is finalised and made available to interested schools in Europe in early 2018. The SELFIE tool, which stands for "self-reflection on effective

learning by fostering innovation through educational technology", helps schools assess their strengths and weaknesses in order to make the most of digital technologies in their teaching activities. SELFIE is based on the [Digitally-Competent Educational Organisations framework](#) that offers a detailed description of what it takes for educational organisations to be digitally competent.

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

Erasmus+ Generation Declaration Have your say

Erasmus+ Generation Declaration is a concrete set of proposals that reflect the Erasmus+ Generation's vision of the future Erasmus+ programme beyond 2020. These proposals will be presented to EU decision makers on November the 30th in Brussels, at the closing event of the Erasmus+ 30th anniversary campaign. The online discussions are already taking place and on 15th October 2017 the drafting of the Erasmus+ Generation Declaration will begin. The discussions will focus on 6 key topics chosen based on the feedback from the Mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme and the debates of 13th June at the European Parliament: Societal challenges, Skills gap, Civic engagement, Inclusion, Global dimension, Simplification.

Contributing to the discussion is very easy: participants need to create a profile on the [Erasmus+ Generation Online Meeting Point](#), join one of the main discussion topics (or all of them) and begin sharing their ideas and debating those of others. The Erasmus+ Generation is made of all the participants and beneficiaries of Erasmus+ and its predecessor programmes: young people, students, adult learners, teachers, trainers, volunteers and youth workers, as well as organisations, including schools, universities, training institutions, businesses, youth organisations and sports clubs and federations. Deadline to join the discussion is **14th October 2017**.

European Parliament calls for a substantial increase in funding for the next Erasmus+ budget

On 14th September, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the future of the Erasmus+ programme, acknowledging the extremely positive impact the programme has had on the personal and professional lives of more than 9 000 000 participants.

MEPs believed that the Erasmus+ programme and its successor should focus, in particular, on lifelong learning and mobility, and that this is an ideal opportunity to align the priorities of the successor of Erasmus+ with the new EU Youth Strategy and other EU-funded programmes. Concerning the financing of the programme, MEPs regretted that the low success rate of projects launched under some Erasmus+ actions: limited grants and high demand for programme participation may jeopardise the success of Erasmus+.

MEPs asked that the next Erasmus+ programming period must be matched by significant additional funding which should be reflected in an increased budget, and called for more visible support for the Erasmus programme in anticipation of the upcoming

multiannual financial framework (MFF) negotiations. Members also encouraged the use of regional and social funds to increase the financial contribution of Member States to Erasmus+ mobility grants. Members also recognised the need for Erasmus+ to lend strong support to actions geared towards delivering better employment opportunities, noting that almost 90% of all vocational education and training (VET) learners on mobility programmes say that their employability has increased as a result of this experience. Erasmus+ should focus on innovation and development and place a greater emphasis on enhancing key skills and competences, as well as foster stronger links between educational establishments and the business community. Parliament also urged the Commission and Member States to reinforce the opportunities for VET learner mobility and the professional apprenticeship dimension of the programme. Parliament wanted the programme to be more open and accessible, given that fewer than 5% of young Europeans benefit from the programme on account of socio-economic factors, and limited funding. It called on the Commission and the Member States to strengthen collaboration and thus improve the mobility of vulnerable people. Members drew attention to the lack of clarity and consistency in the recognition of European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) credits gained during the mobility period, and called for full implementation of learning agreements as a mandatory part of the mobility process and the smooth recognition of ECTS credits gained during Erasmus+ higher education mobility periods.

Erasmus+ programme should continue to stimulate active citizenship, civic education and develop a sense of European identity. All education and training financed by Erasmus+ should also raise young people's awareness of the added value of European cooperation. In this context, Parliament called on the Commission to develop a European student eCard giving students Europe-wide access to services. Lastly, Parliament would support a post-Brexit agreement allowing continued mobility for students and teachers between the EU and the UK.

<http://bit.ly/2y2JCHq>

Eurostat release: August 2017 Euro area unemployment rate

According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, in August 2017, 3.754 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the EU28, of whom 2.668 million were in the Euro area. Compared with August 2016, youth unemployment decreased by 426 000 in the EU28 and by 240 000 in the Euro area. In August 2017, the youth unemployment rate was 16.7% in the EU28 and 18.9% in the Euro area, compared with 18.5% and 20.6% respectively in August 2016. In August 2017, the lowest rate was observed in Germany (6.4%), while the highest were recorded in Greece (43.3% in June 2017), Spain (38.7%) and Italy (35.1%).

<http://bit.ly/2fl9phB>

Shadow Report on the Erasmus+ Mid-Term Evaluation

The European Commission is conducting the mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme in 2017. The results of this evaluation will influence how the next programme will look and work. The European Youth Forum is in the process of creating a mid-term evaluation Shadow Report. The report will have a special focus on the opinions of youth organisations and will complement the official mid-term evaluation of the European Commission. To this end, a survey targeting representatives of youth organisations having some experience and knowledge about Erasmus+ and its predecessor programmes has been developed. It covers a range of themes relevant to evaluating Erasmus+ and especially its Youth Chapter.

The survey is available [here](#) and will be open until 11th October 2017.

WIFI4EU approved

On 12th September, the European Parliament approved the WIFI4EU, a scheme to promote free Wi-Fi connectivity in public spaces across the EU. The objective of the WIFI4EU European initiative is to provide more than 6,000 communities across the EU with free high-speed Wi-Fi connection by 2020. Access to this initiative is reserved to public entities with spaces open to the public such as libraries, hospitals, parks, train stations and bus terminals. They would receive a grant from the EU to set up free Wi-Fi connection points. The WIFI4EU scheme will provide funding in the form of vouchers for equipment and installation. Public entities that participate in the scheme will have to pay for the connectivity and the maintenance and commit to offer the service for at least three years. Once registered, users will be able to log into all these hotspots. An EU online platform will be set up to allow public bodies to apply online.

<http://bit.ly/2eOd7ps>

MobiliseSME

The MobiliseSME project aims to test the viability of a mobility plan for the employees of SMEs in the EU like the Erasmus Program is for university students. This EU funded project is currently evaluating the potential for cross border staff exchange and the benefits SMEs will gain by joining in the scheme. The most important among those are creating opportunities for international business and encouraging growth, new revenues and more jobs.

Find out more: <http://mobilisesme.eu>

More than 400 top young researchers awarded with a total € 605 million of EU funding

The European Research Council (ERC) has announced the awarding of its Starting Grants to 406 early-career researchers throughout Europe. The funding, worth € 605 million in total and up to € 1.5 million per grant, will enable them to set up their own research teams and pursue ground-breaking ideas. The share of women amongst the new grantees is the largest ever in an ERC competition and there was also more diversity in terms of nationalities.

The new grantees will work on a wide range of topics from health research on chronic infections or asthma, to disaster management, network security, and climate change. The funded research covers all disciplines: physical sciences and engineering, life sciences, and social science and humanities. The grants are awarded under the 'excellent science' pillar of Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme.

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

Employment and Social Developments Quarterly Review - October 2017

The autumn edition of the Commission's Employment and Social Development in Europe (ESDE) Quarterly Review, highlights continuing economic growth in the EU together with a steady decrease in unemployment. The number of employed in the EU has reached above 235 million in the second quarter of 2017. This is the highest level ever recorded and represents almost 4 million more people in employment than in 2008. Economic growth has been the main driver behind the recovery in employment. According to the Review, from the second quarter of 2016 to the second quarter of 2017, GDP grew by 2.4%. The decrease in unemployment rate is general, declining in almost all Member States, for men and women and in all age groups, and especially among young people.

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

Eurostat - Euro area job vacancy

According to the latest figures published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, the job vacancy rate in the Euro area (EA19) was 1.9% in the second quarter of 2017, stable compared with the previous quarter and up from 1.7% in the second quarter of 2016. The job vacancy rate in the EU28 was 2.0% in the second quarter of 2017, up from 1.9% recorded in the previous quarter and from 1.8% in the second quarter of 2016.

In the Euro area, the job vacancy rate in the second quarter of 2017 was 1.6% in industry and construction, and 2.2% in services. In the EU28, the rate was 1.7% in industry and construction, and 2.3% in services.

Among the Member States for which comparable data are available, the highest job vacancy rates in the second quarter of 2017 were recorded in the Czech Republic (3.6%), Belgium (3.3%), Germany (2.7%), the Netherlands, Austria and the United Kingdom (all 2.6%) as well as Sweden (2.5%). The lowest rates were observed in Greece (0.7%), Bulgaria, Spain and Cyprus (all 0.8%) as well as Portugal (0.9%). Compared with a year ago, the job vacancy rate in the second quarter of 2017 rose in nineteen Member States, remained stable in four and fell in Cyprus (-0.2%), Bulgaria, Greece and Slovakia (-0.1%).

The largest increases were registered in the Czech Republic (+0.7%), the Netherlands and Austria (+0.6%), Belgium and Slovenia (+0.5%).

<http://bit.ly/2x3IKzV>

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

Upcoming Events

EURES Job Days

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

Find out more: <https://www.europeanjobdays.eu/en>

1st July-31st December 2017: Estonian EU Council Presidency

As of 1st July 2017 Estonia is holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time since the country joined the EU in 2004. It will be the first of a new Trio Presidency, composed of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria. This will be the first time Estonia holds the rotating Presidency. Under the motto "Unity through balance", the Estonian Presidency will focus on an open and innovative European economy, a safe and secure Europe, a digital Europe and the free movement of data and an inclusive and sustainable Europe.

Find out more: <https://www.eu2017.ee>

1st-31st October 2017: Time to Move Eurodesk Campaign

Organised by Eurodesk all over Europe, the "Time to Move" campaign will offer for the fourth consecutive year a collection of hundreds of events about international opportunities. The activities range from information sessions to concerts, online and on-site events that will introduce young people to European programmes about studying, volunteering, travelling and internship places abroad. The site of the campaign includes an interactive map with all the activities. Depending on the event, pre-registration may be needed.

Find out more: <http://timetomove.eurodesk.eu>

4th-10th October 2017: World Space Week, Worldwide

The World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition. The week is coordinated by the United Nations with the support of World Space Week. Government agencies, industry, non-profit organisations, teachers and even individuals can organise events to celebrate space. This year's theme is "Exploring New Worlds In Space".

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

7th-22nd October 2017: Europe Code Week, Europe

This is a week to celebrate coding in Europe, encouraging citizens to learn more about technology, and connecting communities and organisations who can help to learn coding. Millions of children, young adults, adults, parents, teachers, entrepreneurs and policymakers will again come together in events and classrooms across Europe to learn to create with code.

Find out more: <http://codeweek.eu>

10th October 2017: Intergenerational fairness and solidarity in Europe, Brussels, Belgium

Jointly organised by the LMO and the European Commission, the conference will focus on the labour market-related problems that younger generations are facing today, the need for adequate and sustainable pensions and the role of civil society in ensuring fairer labour markets for all. On this occasion, the 2017 Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) Review, prepared by the EC, will be launched. The conference will be webcast live [here](#) from 09:30 to 17:30 CET.

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

16th October-20th November 2017: Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on ERASMUS+ Funding Opportunities for Youth

The MOOC on Erasmus+ will provide with the basic knowledge and understanding of how to use various funding opportunities and fulfill the funding requirements for international youth exchanges, European voluntary service, mobility of youth workers, and structured dialogue projects funded through Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme. Furthermore, participants will learn how to start developing youth exchange and volunteering projects, youth worker training activities and participation projects.

They will discover good practice examples, tips and hints for developing good quality projects and have the opportunity to network with other participants of the course and share their knowledge and ideas with them. The course is organised by SALTO Participation Resource Centre.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1DqTdE8>

23rd-26th October 2017: EU Youth Conference, Tallinn, Estonia

The EU Youth Conference, under the Estonian Presidency, will focus on the priority for the VI cycle of the Structured Dialogue "Youth in Europe: What's Next?", the common topic for the trio Presidencies of the Netherlands, Slovakia and Malta. The conference will bring together young people and policy makers to explore what really matters to the young people today (with possible outlook into the future); map all possible questions, topics, worries, hopes, problems and challenges influencing the young people and their lives today and in the future. The EU Youth Conference aims to create an input that will inform the guidelines for the open youth consultation to be launched in all the EU Member States as part of the Structured Dialogue during the period November 2017-February 2018.

It will also aim to inform the proposal for the next EU Youth Strategy, to be published by the European Commission early summer 2018.

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

23rd-29th October 2017: SEC2U - Startup Europe Comes to Universities

The SEC2U is an initiative to showcase the commitment of European universities to create a strong culture of entrepreneurship and innovation that is spreading in the university community. The initiative will bring together entrepreneurs, businessmen and representatives of local universities and government for one week to showcase local universities; opportunities and support for businesses; success stories and cases of failure as a way of learning; and allow time for networking and to make contacts among participant.

Find out more: <http://startupeuropeuniversities.eu>

30th October-11th December 2017: Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Essentials of Youth Policy

Offered by the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, the course will equip learners with the basic competences to engage in youth policy. Participants will learn about the essential elements of youth policy, the steps of youth policy (development, delivery, evaluation) and its impact in the lives of young people. They will reflect on their future steps in youth policy. The course is open and free for anyone interested. Youth policy makers from different levels, youth workers and youth leaders, youth NGOs and youth researchers are encouraged to participate.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2hhnkI6>

6th-9th November 2017: Regional training course on Roma youth participation and combating antigypsyism, Vilnius, Lithuania

Organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, the training course aims to develop the competences of participants in acting against antigypsyism and supporting the participation of young Roma with the intention of supporting the social and economic condition of the Roma communities at national and local level. The course will gather young people, activists, educators, youth leaders and others interested in promoting non-discrimination and youth participation. Participants should come from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The event is organised in partnership with the Department of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Culture of Latvia, and the Ministry of Culture of Estonia with the support of "Sare Rome" Roma youth organisation from Lithuania.

Deadline: **15th October 2017**, 18:00 CET.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2xMORT3>

8th-10th November 2017: World Forum for Democracy 2017, Strasbourg, France

Under the theme "Is Populism a problem?" the sixth edition of the Forum will engage with young people, decision-makers and opinion-formers to review novel initiatives and approaches which can enhance democratic practices and help parties and media, but

also other political actors, to re-connect to citizens, make informed choices and function optimally in 21st century democracy. Working languages are English and French. Participation is free of charge and open to the public. All visa requests, travel and accommodation are entirely at participants' own costs.

Deadline to apply: **15th October 2017.**

Find out more: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy>

17th November 2017: Time to Move Campaign 2017 - Closing Conference, Brussels, Belgium

Time to Move is the flagship campaign of Eurodesk. During the month of October hundreds of Time to Move events are organised in dozens of countries with the aim of informing young people about mobility opportunities available for them. Eurodesk would like to invite you to take part in the closing conference of the Time to Move campaign and join the discussion evolving around mobility experiences, European identity and outreach in a digital age.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is needed.

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

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

20th-24th November 2017: European vocational skills week, Europe

Under the theme "Discover your Talent!", the second European vocational skills week aims to raise the attractiveness of Vocational Education and Training (VET) through examples of excellence, and advocate for VET to be seen as an equal choice with other education routes. A series of events and activities will take place in Brussels, Belgium (press conference, conference, workshops, closing event with award-giving) and across Europe. All stakeholders (learners, parents, companies, business organisations, social partners, education and training providers, adult learning organisations, researchers, career counsellors, public authorities, and society at large) are invited to get involved and register their activity [here](#).

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

4th-8th December 2017: Entrepreneurship School, Volos, Greece

The course is addressed to young people interested in widening their business horizon and developing their own entrepreneurial ideas. During the 5-day programme, focusing on sharing economy, participants from all around the world will have the opportunity to meet and challenge the most successful entrepreneurs. They will meet, discuss and compete against participants, share opinions and experiences with successful entrepreneurs and will also have the chance to contribute towards developing a new business start-up idea in an interactive way. The school will be conducted in Greek. The admission fee is 30€.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/2fc6vO7>

7th-8th December 2017: European Culture Forum 2017, Milan, Italy
Biennial flagship event organised by the European Commission to raise awareness about the European cultural cooperation and to bring together cultural sectors' key players to debate on EU culture policy and initiatives. Its 2017 edition will mark the official launch of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

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

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

19th-24th February 2018: Training Course "Tuning In to Learning and Youthpass", Italy

The course aims to contribute to the development of quality in youth work, with the focus on learning. The framework of the course is the Youthpass process that helps to reinforce the learning process in youth activities and to highlight the learning outcomes. During the training course, the Erasmus+ Youth in Action projects will be considered, as well as the wider youth work context, providing practical support to facilitating learning in youth work activities, based on the concept of the Youthpass process.

The course is addressed to youth workers, trainers, youth leaders, mentors, coaches, everyone interested in developing the quality of their youth work in terms of supporting learning. Participants should come from Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme countries and Partner Countries Neighbouring the EU (Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, KOSOVO * UN RESOLUTION, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Russian Federation, Serbia, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine).

Deadline to apply: **15th November 2017, 24:00 CET.**

Read more: <http://bit.ly/2hKZ300>

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

4 Sept 2017	Meeting with European Commission. Location: EC. Participants from Eurodesk: Reinhard Schwalbach, Audrey, Safi.
6-9 Sept 2017	Eurodesk Advanced Training "Working with Multipliers". Location: Cagliari, Italy. Participant from EBL: Audrey.
6 Sept 2017	Job Placement App final conference. Location: Brussels. Participant from EBL: Grazia.
6 Sept 2017	European Solidarity Corps informal reception at the Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU. Location: Brussels. Participant from EBL: Safi.
7-8 Sept 2017	European Platform on Learning Mobility meeting. Location: Council of Europe, Brussels. Participant from EBL: Safi.
11-12 Sept 2017	Executive Committee meeting. Location: EBL. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Safi.
14 Sept 2017	EYP meeting. Location: EC. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe, Zsolt.
22 Sept 2017	Online training for Eurodesk Greece and Hungary. Participant from EBL: Gheorghe.
26 Sept 2017	Meeting with the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU. Location: Brussels. Participant from EBL: Audrey, Safi.
26-29 Sept 2017	Eurodesk Network meeting. Location: Varna, Bulgaria. Participants from EBL: Audrey, Gheorghe, Grazia, Safi, Zsolt.
27 Sept 2017	Executive Committee meeting. Location: Varna, Bulgaria. Participant from EBL: Audrey.