



EUROPEAN
OFFICE OF
CYPRUS



INFO DAYS

"H2020 Info Day on FOF 12, ICT 5 and ICT 31: ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMES (I4MS), Customised and low energy computing and Micro- and nanoelectronics technologies"
2 December 2016
Brussels, Belgium
<http://tinyurl.com/jveghom>

"Info and Networking Days on H2020 Big Data Public-Private Partnership topics 2017"
17-18 January 2017
Luxembourg
<http://tinyurl.com/hafgsra>

"Erasmus+ SPORT Info day"
31 January 2017
Brussels, Belgium
<http://tinyurl.com/hhgrpto>

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EUROPEAN NEWS

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OCTOBER 2016

"Innovation Meetings" in Athens within the framework of the EAEC-EOC Task Force

The European Office of Cyprus (EOC) together with the European Association of ERASMUS Coordinators (EAEC) developed a new enhanced framework of services in relation to information provision, networking and assisting with the preparation of successful proposals with the objective of claiming funding from European, Regional and National Programmes.

More specifically, EOC (with 34 members from Cyprus and Greece) and EAEC network (with more than 100 members) joined forces with the most experienced consulting firms in the field, TALOS RTD, Enoros Consulting and GrantXpert. Together, they create an enhanced partnership scheme, i.e. "Task Force", which aims to maximize the chances of its members in the process of submitting successful proposals.

Within the context of this cooperation, the **European Office of Cyprus -Athens Office** organized **Innovation Meetings** on the 13th and 14th of October in the Embassy of Cyprus in Athens and the Hotel Amalia. The Meetings included presentations covering specific EU domains (such as Health, Education, Research, Natural Sciences, Humanities, etc) which corresponded to the profile of the participants and the reflective EU funding Programmes (Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, 3rd Health Programme, Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens, etc). **During the Innovation meetings, interaction among the partici-**

pants was encouraged through tailored discussion on developing innovative proposal ideas.

Moreover, during the first day of the meetings, the **Executive Director of EOC Dr Gregory Makrides** presented the **EAEC – EOC TASK FORCE** in the presence of representatives from the respective firms forming the task force. On Friday, 14th of October, the representatives from the consulting firms had **One to One meetings** for the support in writing a proposal and/or the search for partners. These meetings were open not only to members of the EOC network but also to other interested parties. The two day event concluded with a **presentation of the European Office of Cyprus Network** by Dr Makrides.

With the organization of these Innovation Meetings, the European office of Cyprus – Athens office, wishes to contribute to the collective effort for the extroversion of many institutions, their further networking and their involvement in transnational projects. Last but not least, with this opportunity the EOC wishes to extend its gratitude to the **Ambassador and the personnel of the Embassy of Cyprus** who stand by and support the activities and objectives of the EOC.

More information:

<http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=284>



“VeLoCiTy” project: Interview process simulation for job candidates



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The effects of the economic crisis are still very strong; 7 years after the crisis began. One of its most negative effects was the rapid increase in the unemployment rates observed in the EU-28, especially in southern European countries. This situation has led several individuals to leave their countries and try to search for a job in another country. Even though there are several other factors that make an individual leave their country, the fear of long-term unemployment is considered as a critical factor for the observed migration trend.

The Software Engineering and Internet Technologies Laboratory (SEIT) of the University of Cyprus coordinates the project “Virtual learning environment to coach interviewees - VeLoCiTy”, co-funded by Erasmus+ programme. The goal of the VeLoCiTy project is to facilitate the individuals that try to find a job in another country by making them familiar with the diversity in the theories and practices of the interviews, partially as a result of the culture and ethnic differences among the European countries. The above goal will be achieved through an innovative 3D virtual world learning environment that will include scenarios simulating the most representative interview processes.

The outputs of the project include user manuals, guidelines for the interviewees and demonstration videos that are expected to benefit VET organizations, NGOs and consulting organizations. However, the main target group is the individuals/interviewees that will benefit directly through the participation in the learning environment, overcoming potential problems such as distance and the space and/or tutor availability.

More information: **Prof. George Papadopoulos**, SEIT (Software Engineering and Internet Technologies Laboratory), University of Cyprus, email: george@cs.ucy.ac.cy

“DIDO” project: Developing Innovative Didactics for Workplace training

The project “Developing Innovative Didactics for Workplace Training – DIDO” will offer a new and innovative contribution to the field of VET pedagogy that is not reflected in current initial teacher training or within the resources available for the continuous professional development of VET staff. DIDO will provide appropriate pedagogical preparation for those providing workplace learning including trainers and supervisors of interns; supervisors and mentors of apprentices; and human resource professionals responsible for in-company training.

The second partner meeting held in Palermo (Italy) on the 27th and 28th of October. This meeting followed the completion of the research phase of the project in month 4, the drafting of the Summary Research Report in month 5 and the initial draft of the Didactic Model Framework for



workplace learning. This framework will include the learning outcomes to be addressed in the new continuous professional development curriculum resource for teachers, trainers, mentors and counselors. A Dissemination event also took place on the second day of the meeting. During the dissemination event the project thesis, evidence base and learning objectives to a wider cohort of stakeholders were presented. The project website and social media pages were also presented to attract potential users and contributors to the project development process.

The Partnership is composed from 7 partner countries: Ireland, Austria, Slovenia, Romania, Italy, Switzerland and **Cyprus with the participation of CARDET (Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology).**

More information: <http://www.didoproject.org/>

Workshop within the “Innovation Ecosystems for VET” project



The workshop on Intrapreneurship and Education: with special reference to Vocational Education and Training was successfully held on Tuesday, 25th October 2016 at the European University of Cyprus. The workshop, in the form of a panel discussion, attracted 45 participants in total and took place as part of the “Innovation Ecosystems for VET (InEcVET)”, an Erasmus+ funded project aiming at defining and piloting an innovation ecosystem for VET based on an agreed set of common elements and principles that can be applied as a framework for innovation in Member States. Two partners participate in this 10-partner project from Cyprus: CARDET and the European University of Cyprus.

This workshop's focus was on the development of the intrapreneurship curriculum in order to create connection between the VET and educational world as well as to stimulate innovation within the VET sector.

More information and presentations: <http://tinyurl.com/zjefnug>



“MEET” Project: Metacognitive Educational Training - Disabilities for Ability



Erasmus+

CARDET participates in the project “MEET: MEtacognitive Educational Training - Disabilities for Ability”, under the ERASMUS+ KA2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices. The MEET project develops an experimental framework for Early Childhood Education and Care system (ECEC), using the disabilities teaching methods for all the students in the ECEC system and fosters the assessment of transversal skills, for students with ages 0-5. The MEET application will be free to download and will mainly target teachers. The objectives are:

- Build a model of sustainable and transferable intervention, employing metacognitive approaches in early age learning processes.
- Create an innovative curricula to strengthen the system of pre-school teaching/learning. This curricula will provide school staff with some best teaching practices, educational material and general guidelines.
- Implement a training seminar which will provide support to the school staff.
- Create a meta-cognitive intervention model, consisting of the MEET application and Guidelines, which aim to strengthen skills for lifelong learning in early childhood.

More information: <http://tinyurl.com/jnu4gjo>

“World of Physics” project: Learning Physics through 3D virtual reality

Science courses are of particular importance in school education and are considered necessary for students to have a solid background on science and physics courses. However, students find science and physics courses to be very challenging and face particular difficulties in properly understanding and comprehending the various topics they consist of. The main aim of the “innovative virtual reality educational environment for school physics education - World of Physics” project is to assist students in better studying and learning physics with the utilization of new educational technologies.

Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου
University of Cyprus

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Specifically, a 3D virtual reality educational environment will be developed possessing innovative educational infrastructure, and offering immersive and efficient learning opportunities, engaging students in various educational activities, learning scenarios. The students will have the ability to virtually visit laboratories, perform experiments, explore procedures and phenomena, examine the ways that are conducted and also be guided towards analyzing and explaining them through the scientific method. The 3D virtual environment and the visualization of procedures aim to help students connect abstract concepts and to concrete experiences and examples. Indeed, one of the most vital and promising affordances of the 3D virtual environment is to provide spatial instruction. World of Physics will bring added values on the overall European school education, enhance the attractiveness of physics teaching and is expected to have great impact on participating countries and also on countries on European level. **The project is coordinated by the Software Engineering and Internet Technologies Laboratory (SEIT) of the University of Cyprus and is implemented with the co-funding of the Erasmus+ programme.**

More information: **Prof. George Papadopoulos**, SEIT (Software Engineering and Internet Technologies Laboratory), University of Cyprus, email: george@cs.ucy.ac.cy

“SciFUN” project: Making Learning Science Fun

“SciFUN” project aims to address the challenge of engagement in science through an innovative approach to science teaching and learning and make learning science Fun and Relevant to students’ contexts. The project aims to increase pupils’ motivation and achievement in science and other subjects and to prepare European educators to better engage pupils in science education. The specific objectives of the project are:



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- Prepare European educators to better engage pupils in science education.
- Provide information regarding acclaimed international and European best practices in science teaching and learning.
- Describe general approaches and specific methods and techniques to teach key competences and concepts in Science.
- Support educators in utilizing mobile devices (GPS, PDAs, Tablet PCs), comics, digital storytelling, film, multimedia, and Web 2.0 technologies to engage students in Science education.
- Design sample cross-curricular teaching units enriched with digital tools to be used by educators and function as models for new teaching units.
- Pilot and implement cross-curricular units in European schools, record data, and create case studies for teachers and policy makers.

The Project is funded by the European Commission and will run for 24 months (January 2016 - December 2018). As a partner of the project, CARDET (Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology) in collaboration with the INNOVADE LI are responsible for the coordination of a series of actions.

More information: <http://scifun.eu/>

“Welcome” project: Easier access to higher education for refugees

Educational institutions in host countries, including providers of tertiary education, need to react to the increasing number of refugees coming to Europe. Refugees often have qualifications and preparatory training – we need to ensure that it is possible for them to make use of their education in the host country and continue to develop. Studying good practice in this area on an international level can help promote access to education. Welcome aims to make it easier for refugees to access higher education by facilitating the sharing of good practice.

The five partner organisations in the consortium operate

at the boundary of institutions of tertiary education and cooperate closely with universities. Each of them has something to offer in terms of their own work and expertise as well as their regional and national environments.

The project is funded with support from the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Programme and will run for 24 months (October 2016 – September 2018). The directly involved partners are: uniT from Austria, CE-SIE from Italy, VNB from Germany, CARDET from Cyprus and VFI from Denmark.

More information: info@cardet.org



Integrated management and conservation of the endemic habitat type of Cyprus cedar through LIFE programme

A new applied research project shall be carried out, aiming to the sustainable management and conservation of the habitat type “9590 Cedrus brevifolia forests”, both inside its natural area (in situ) and outside (ex situ). The habitat type 9590*, endemic in Cyprus, is included in the Annex I of The Habitats Directive, characterized as priority habitat type, meaning that the Republic of Cyprus needs to implement actions for its conservation.*



programme (68,5%) and has a total budget of €1.413.304.

The project's planned work will lead to the preparation and implementation of an integrated Action Plan which will include guidelines for: (i) **implementation of a fire protection plan for the habitat type 9590***, (ii) **implementation of specific silvicultural treatments** to strengthen its adaptive capacity with regards to climate change, to endure against other competitive species and to ensure its regeneration, (iii) **restoration and expansion of the habitat within its natural range** and (iv) **implementation of measures for improving the resilience of habitat 9590*** (biotic and abiotic parameters). The *ex situ* conservation of habitat 9590* will be achieved through: (i) seed collections and storage of seedlots in a seed bank and (ii) establishment of a *Cedrus brevifolia* plantation in the Troodos National Forest Park.

Through the project entitled “Integrated conservation management of priority habitat type 9590* in the Natura 2000 site ‘Koilada Kedron-Kampos’” (code: LIFE15 NAT/CY/000850), a well-organised consortium, which includes the **Department of Forests**, the **Nature Conservation Unit of Frederick University** and the **Cyprus Forest Association** will collaborate to achieve the project's aims. The project is co-funded by the EC's LIFE

programme (68,5%) and has a total budget of €1.413.304. The project's planned work will lead to the preparation and implementation of an integrated Action Plan which will include guidelines for: (i) **implementation of a fire protection plan for the habitat type 9590***, (ii) **implementation of specific silvicultural treatments** to strengthen its adaptive capacity with regards to climate change, to endure against other competitive species and to ensure its regeneration, (iii) **restoration and expansion of the habitat within its natural range** and (iv) **implementation of measures for improving the resilience of habitat 9590*** (biotic and abiotic parameters). The *ex situ* conservation of habitat 9590* will be achieved through: (i) seed collections and storage of seedlots in a seed bank and (ii) establishment of a *Cedrus brevifolia* plantation in the Troodos National Forest Park.

More information: <http://tinyurl.com/zdcs28m>

“ALLIANCE” project: enhancing excellence and innovation capacity in sustainable transport interchanges



The project “ALLIANCE” aims at developing advanced research and higher education institution in the field of transport in Latvia by linking the Transport and Telecommunication Institute (TTI) with two internationally recognized research entities – University of Thessaly (UTH) and Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation (IFF).

Scope is the enabling of stimulating and strengthening the scientific and technological capacity of Latvia and the raising of the profile of the research staff and their institution, by providing knowledge in the field of smart interconnecting sustainable transport networks. This knowledge transfer will build the grounds for a common understanding of the main components affecting sustainable intermodality and support the selection and management of the most optimal and applicable solutions for transport interchanges. It will also facilitate stakeholder collaboration and the development of strong linkage among education, research and industry.

The overall methodology is built around the analysis of the needs of Latvia and the surrounding region of the Baltic sea (Lithuania, Estonia, Poland) on knowledge gain about intermodal transportation terminals and the development of the tools to attain this knowledge, providing at the same time excellence and innovation capability. The analysis to be conducted during the first stages of the project, steps on the overarching relations among policy makers (e.g. government, city authorities), industry (e.g. transport operators, service providers) and education/research.

More information: <http://alliance-project.eu/>

Have your say on Horizon 2020



The European Commission has launched on 20 October 2016 a public stakeholder consultation which will feed into the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, the EU's €77 billion research and innovation funding scheme running from 2014 to 2020. This interim evaluation will help improve the functioning of Horizon 2020, and will also be an important element in preparations of a next EU research and innovation programme. The public stakeholder consultation on the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 will be open until 15 January 2017.

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Working from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of nearly €77 billion, Horizon 2020 is one of the largest research and innovation schemes worldwide. In its first two years, the programme attracted over 76 thousand eligible proposals. Over 9000 grant agreements were signed by 1 September 2016 for calls with deadlines in 2014 and 2015, allocating almost €16 billion to boosting excellent science, creating industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. Almost a half of successful applicants are newcomers to the programme.

The interim evaluation will also draw on existing surveys and consultations, including on simplification and on a European Innovation Council.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2016&na=na-191016>

First research partnership in the Mediterranean to increase food and water sustainability

On 18 October 2016, the European Commission presented a proposal for a Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area - PRIMA. The first partnership of its kind in the Mediterranean basin aims to develop much-needed novel solutions for sustainable water management and food production.



The Commission's proposal already includes Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia. The participation of Germany is currently under negotiation. As the initiative is evolving over time, more participants are expected to follow, both EU and non-EU countries. **Funding for the €400 million partnership will come from the participating countries (currently around €200 million), matched by a €200 million contribution from the EU through its current research framework programme Horizon 2020.** The partnership is scheduled to run for 10 years, starting in 2018.

The Commission's proposal will now be sent to the European Parliament and the Council of the EU for political discussion and legislative approval.

More information: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-3472_en.htm

Canadian researchers to join ERC teams in Europe

On 27 October 2016, a new deal between Canada and the European Union was concluded to encourage talented Canadian researchers to join European Research Council (ERC) teams in Europe.



cellent frontier research.

This deal will help Canadian scientists undertake research visits in Europe, temporarily becoming part of a team funded by the ERC - the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. The first initiative of this kind was signed in 2012 with the USA and agreements then followed with funding bodies in Korea, Argentina, Japan, China, South Africa, Mexico and very recently Brazil. These efforts are part of the Commission's policy of making European research and innovation Open to the World.

More information: https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/press_release/files/ERC-Highlight-Canada-agreement.pdf

EU signs agreement with the US to foster research cooperation



The European Commission and the US Government are signing an agreement on 17 October 2016 which will enable European and American researchers to work together more closely on projects funded under Horizon 2020.

The agreement facilitates cooperation between US organisations and Horizon 2020 participants in cases where the US organisations are funded by the US and do not receive any funding from the Horizon 2020 programme. It simplifies cooperation between a selected Horizon 2020 project and a US entity by enabling researchers to organise their cooperation outside the formal Horizon 2020 Grant Agreement signed for each project, in accordance with applicable laws, rules, policies, and regulations of their respective funding programmes.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2016&na=na-171016>

Public consultation on strengthening EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment



On 21 October 2016, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the form future EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) might take.

HTA is a multidisciplinary process to assess the added value of a given health technology – for example a medicine, medical device, diagnostic tool or surgical procedure, over and above existing ones. It is a key tool for EU countries to ensure cost-effective, accessible and sustainable health systems.

The consultation on the Commission initiative will run until **13 January 2017**, after which a consultation report will be drawn up. In parallel, the Commission has launched a number of studies to further analyse possible options for HTA and their impacts.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/technology_assessment/consultations/cooperation_hta_en.htm

3rd Health Programme – Call for Pilot Projects

The Third EU Health Programme is the main instrument that the Commission uses to implement the EU Health Strategy. The general objectives of the Programme shall be to complement, support and add value to the policies of the Member States aimed at improving the health of Union citizens and reduce health inequalities by promoting health, encouraging innovation in health, increasing the sustainability of health systems and protecting Union citizens from serious cross-border health threats.



ciated with risk of violence to self and others in patients with severe mental disorders. To assess tools capable of predicting violence risk, for decision-making. To evaluate effective treatments in order to assist in the planning of services (clinicians, managers, law-makers and governments) in the development of preventative and supportive measures. To compare national variations in pathways into and out of care, including specialized secure services in different coun-

tries.

The new call for proposals refers to **Pilot Projects on the following topics:**

•PP-2-1-2016: Pilot project — Establishing a Registry of Rare Congenital Malformations

The key objective of this pilot project is to set up a registry of rare congenital malformations as a part of rare diseases national registers. The project should be implemented at a national level.

•PP-2-2-2016: Pilot project — Mentally - access to mental health care and improving mental health literacy

The objectives of this project are: To develop and test a multi-applicable framework across European countries and stakeholders in order to increase access to mental health care in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders within the field of mental health. To increase primary care professionals' competencies, evaluate organization and capacity of care systems, and improve patient outcomes by developing different tools.

•PP-2-3-2016: Pilot project — Severe mental disorders and the risk of violence

The objectives of the project are: To identify factors asso-

•PP-2-4-2016: Pilot project — INTEGRATE: Development of integrated strategies to monitor and treat chronic and rheumatic diseases

This pilot project should focus on exploring the potential of specific quality indicators, and patient-reported outcomes in addition to the more traditional reports of physicians towards developing an effective strategy to prevent and treat musculoskeletal diseases such as rheumatic diseases, focusing on rheumatic connective tissue diseases, taking multimorbidity as well as integrated care for such patients into account.

•PP-2-5-2016: Pilot project — Primary prevention courses for girls living in areas with higher risk of breast cancer

The key objective of this pilot project is to establish the scientific evidence for environmental problems in relation to areas with higher cancer rates, with the aim to improve the situation for the citizens living in this area in a cross-sectoral manner.

Legal entities (with or without legal personality) established in EU Member States are invited to submit their proposals until **31 January 2017**.

More information: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_food-safety/funding/grants_en.htm

A LIFE-line for 144 new innovative projects the environment and climate action



The European Commission has approved an investment package of €222.7 million from the EU budget to support Europe's transition to a more sustainable and low-carbon future. The EU funding will spur additional investments leading to a total of €398.6 million to be invested into 144 new projects in 23 Member States. The support comes from the LIFE programme for the Environment and Climate Action.

€323.5 million will go to projects in the field of environment and resource efficiency, nature and biodiversity and environmental governance and information. Examples of recognised projects in 2016 include the new energy-saving hydrogen-electric garbage trucks in Belgium, technologies for reducing the health risks of sludge in wastewater pioneered in Italy and a project to help Greek municipalities, such as Olympia, increase recycling rates.

In the field of climate action, the investment will support climate change adaptation, climate change mitigation and climate governance and information projects totalling €75.1 million. Some examples of projects include restoration and carbon storage in peatlands in five EU countries (Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland), demonstration of the production of low-emission cement and concrete products in France, enhancing the climate resilience of vineyards in Germany and implementing adaptation measures in urban areas in Cyprus.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/newsarchive2016/november/index.htm#pr>

Call for Smart and Sustainable Cities

A new call for proposals has been published under the Horizon 2020 Programme within the pillar "Societal Challenges: Cross-cutting activities (Focus Areas) - Call "Smart and Sustainable Cities". (Call identifier: H2020-SCC-2016-2017 single stage). The Call refers to the following thematic: "SCC-1-2016-2017 Smart Cities and Communities lighthouse projects".

The challenge of this topic is to demonstrate solutions at district scale integrating smart buildings, smart grids (electricity, district heating, telecom, water, etc.), energy storage, electric vehicles and smart charging infrastructures, using the latest generation ICT platforms (and infrastructure) based on open specifications. This should in turn help to manage a successful transformation towards



intelligent, user-driven and demand-oriented city infrastructures and services. The actions should be accompanied by energy efficiency measures and the use of very high shares of renewables at the level of districts.

The indicative total budget for this topic (SCC-01-2016-2017) is **69,5 million EUR, with 70% funding rate** (except for

non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies). The Commission considers that **proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 12 to 18 million** would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately.

The deadline for proposals submission is open until **14 February 2017**.

More information: <http://tinyurl.com/hrwn6tl>

Market uptake of renewable energy technologies



EUR 15 million are available within the topic "LCE-21-2017: Market uptake of renewable energy technologies" of Horizon 2020 for Coordination and Support Actions that will address one of the following sectorial technology challenges:

Photovoltaics: Tackling the bottlenecks of high penetration levels of PV electricity into the electric power network.

- **Heat Pumps:** Accelerate the penetration of heat pumps for heating and cooling purposes.

- **CSP (Concentrating Solar Power):** Facilitating the supply of electricity from CSP plants in Southern Europe to Central and Northern European countries.
- **Wind energy:** Increasing the market share of wind energy systems.
- **Geothermal energy:** Tackling the bottlenecks of high penetration levels for geothermal energy systems.
- **Sustainable Fuels:** Facilitating the market roll-out of liquid advanced biofuels and liquid renewable alternative fuels.

Between EUR 1 to 3 million per project would be made available by the EU in order to address appropriately this specific challenge. The deadline for proposals submission is open until **5 January 2017**.

More information: <http://tinyurl.com/gur9vwa>

€2.5 billion available for Erasmus+ in 2017, a 13% increase compared to 2016 and record rise since the start of the programme



On 20 October 2016, the European Commission published its 2017 Call for Proposals for Erasmus+, the European Union's programme for education, training, youth and sport. For 2017, funds expected to be available for the programme should increase by almost €300 million compared to 2016, also representing a record annual rise of funds since the first year of the Erasmus+ programme.

This will benefit Erasmus students, but also teachers, apprentices, volunteers and young people involved in sport projects, while also supporting cooperation between education institutions, youth organisations and businesses. As in 2016, **priority will be given to projects promoting social inclusion, notably of refugees and migrants, as well as projects that prevent radicalisation.**

The major changes since 2016 include:

- The introduction of the concept of **"European priorities in the national context"** under KA2 Strategic Partnership. For more information on this, please visit the website of each relevant National Agency.
- The **funding rules for some decentralized actions have been fine-tuned.**
- The action **"Sector Skills Alliances"** is no longer covered by this General Call and Programme Guide and **will be dealt with separately through a Specific Call for Proposals** announced by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

More information: <http://tinyurl.com/zflbt6n>

2016 edition of the Education and Training Monitor

This year's edition of the Commission's Education and Training Monitor shows progress towards important EU targets, but also highlights that Member States need to make their education systems more relevant and inclusive, in particular regarding the integration of newly arrived refugees and migrants.



According to the report, EU wide, **public investment in education grew by 1.1% annually.** About two-thirds of Member States recorded a rise. In six countries, this increase was greater than 5% (Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Romania and Slovakia). By contrast, ten Member States reduced their spending on education in 2014 compared to 2013 (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, and Slovenia).

At the same time, **more efforts are needed to make education systems more inclusive.** Education is a powerful force for integrating young people with a migration background. Yet, they continue to fare worse than native-born residents. In 2015, they had higher early school leaving rates (19%) and lower rates of tertiary educational attainment (36.4%) than the native population (10.1 % and 39.4% respectively). This points to the need for Member States to redouble their efforts – particularly given the rise in the number of refugees and migrants coming to the EU (1.25 million in 2015 as compared to 400 000 in 2013). About 30% of the newly arrived persons are under 18 years old, and most of them are under 34. Given their young age, education is an extremely powerful tool to promote their integration in society.

More information: http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/et-monitor_en

European Education, Training and Youth Forum

The European Education, Training and Youth Forum took place in Brussels on 20-21 October. The Forum brought together 400 participants from the 33 countries participating in Erasmus+ to discuss the New Skills Agenda for Europe and explore how it can connect education, the labour market and society. Adopted in June 2016, the New Skills Agenda for Europe aims to encourage the development of skills and competences from early on in life. Improving skills levels and educational are essential to increasing employability and create fair, inclusive and sustainable societies. The conclusions of the Forum include among others:



- Education systems should focus on teaching people how to learn and not the skills needed in an unknown future job market.
- Education should focus on the learner and be for life and not just job-specific.
- Closer cooperation is needed between education and employers.
- Young people need to be prepared not only for the labour market but for society more broadly.
- Education and training of low-skilled workers is a shared responsibility between education, employers and unions.

More information: https://ec.europa.eu/education/news/20161028-views-from-education-training-youth-forum_en



News for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

VET-Business Partnerships on Work-based learning and Apprenticeships



Against the background of high youth unemployment and skills mismatch, the overall aim of the Call "VET-Business Partnerships on Work-based learning and Apprenticeships" - EACEA 40/2016, under Erasmus+, is to bridge the gap between the worlds of education and business, to improve the relevance of education and training to labour market needs, and to raise excellence. In this context, the objective of the Call is to invite the submission of proposals on VET-business partnerships to develop work-based learning and thus contributing to the Riga objective to promote work-based learning in all its forms, with special attention to apprenticeships.

These partnerships should contribute to the involvement of business and social partners in the design and delivery of VET and to ensure a strong work-based learning element in VET. This Call also intends to improve the quality of work-based learning and apprenticeships by promoting partnerships that involve companies, VET providers, other relevant stakeholders and intermediary organisations to develop more relevant, systematic and sustainable approaches by transferring knowledge and by learning from well-established models and practices. **The focus lies on the regional and local dimension in order to produce concrete and sustainable results on the ground.**

Eligible participating organisations include public local and regional authorities, social partners (employers' and workers' organisations), small, medium or large enterprises (public or private), chambers of industry, trade and crafts, or similarly relevant sectoral/professional organisations, public employment services, VET schools and VET providers, agencies, centres (including post-secondary VET), youth organisations, parents associations, other relevant bodies.

Each grant will amount to between **250.000 EUR and 350.000 EUR**. The EU grant is limited to a **maximum co-financing rate of 80%** of eligible costs. The agency expects to **fund around 20 proposals**. Applications must be submitted no later than the **17 January 2017**.

More information: <http://tinyurl.com/hamub3u>

e-invoicing grant funding

An indicative €7 million is available for Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) e-invoicing grants, administrated by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA). The deadline for submissions is 15 December 2016.

The purpose of CEF e-invoicing is to promote the uptake and accelerate the use of e-invoicing in full compliance with the European standard (see Directive 2014/55/EU), among both public and private entities established in the EU, as well as in participating EEA countries.

More information: <http://tinyurl.com/jbym8eq>



Set up new High Level Expert Group on sustainable finance and calls for members

The European Commission has formally decided to establish a High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on sustainable finance and has, as a first step, launched a call for the expression of interest for members of this group.

The decision builds on the Commission's goal to develop an overarching and comprehensive EU strategy on sustainable finance as part of the Capital Markets



Union.

The HLEG will be composed of up to 20 senior experts coming from civil society, the business community and other non-public sector institutions. Interested individuals are invited to submit their application by **25 November 2016**. The selection of the group's members will be carried out next month and the HLEG will start its work in January 2017.

More information: http://ec.europa.eu/finance/capital-markets-union/docs/20161028-call-for-applications-hleg_en.pdf

Proposal on major corporate tax reform for the EU



On 25 October 2016, the European Commission has announced plans to overhaul the way in which companies are taxed in the Single Market, delivering a growth-friendly and fair corporate tax system. Recalibrated as part of a broader package of corporate tax reforms, the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB) will make it easier and cheaper to do business in the Single Market and will act as a powerful tool against tax avoidance.

The re-launched CCCTB will help cross-border companies cut costs, red tape and to support innovation. It will also create a level-playing field for multinationals in Europe by closing off avenues used for tax avoidance.

Two further proposals aim to improve the current system for **dispute resolution on double taxation in the EU and to bolster existing anti-abuse rules**. Taken together, these measures will create a simple and pro-business tax environment. To encourage swift progress, the CCCTB has been broken down into a more manageable, two-step process. The common base can be quickly agreed to unlock key benefits for both businesses and Member States. Consolidation should be introduced soon afterwards and would allow all the benefits of the complete system to be reaped.

More information: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-16-3488_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-3488_en.htm)

New EU space policy



The European Commission proposed on 26 October 2016 a new space policy that will foster new services and promote Europe's leadership in space. EU space programmes already deliver services that have become indispensable in everyone's daily lives. Space data is needed in using mobile phones, driving cars with a navigation system, taking the plane or watching satellite TV. It is also central to the protection of key infrastructures such as power plants, smart grids or even bank transactions.

Space data helps to manage borders and save lives at sea. It improves our response to earthquakes, forest fires and floods. It allows farmers to plan ahead. It helps to protect the environment and monitor climate change.

The Space Strategy for Europe responds to growing global competition, increasing private sector involvement and major technological shifts. The Commission proposes a range of actions to allow Europeans to fully seize the benefits offered by space, create the right ecosystem for space start-ups to grow, promote Europe's leadership in space and increase its share on the world space markets.

EU space programmes will deliver additional services which contribute to common European priorities such as security and defence as well as fighting climate change. The Commission will promote the use of Galileo in mobile devices and critical infrastructures and improve connectivity in remote areas. It will make it easier for innovative companies and start-ups to access space data via dedicated industry-led platforms in order to develop services and applications.

EU funding will be more strongly geared towards space entrepreneurs starting and scaling up across the Single Market. Additionally, the Commission will promote more private investment for such start-ups, in particular in the context of the Investment Plan for Europe and the upcoming Venture Capital Fund of Funds. It will also support the emergence of European industrial space hubs and clusters in European regions.

More information: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-16-3531_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-3531_en.htm)



Research institutes and companies from the EEN Network are seeking universities and SMEs as partners

H2020 call MG-8-5-2017 Part 1 "Shifting from car ownership to sharing"

POD reference number: RDDE20161102001

A German-based international non-profit organisation, specialised in sustainable life style and behaviour business models **seeks a coordinator with expertise in mobility and further partners for a project proposal "Shifting from car ownership to sharing" in the H2020 call MG-8-5-2017. Research and industrial partners are sought for this research cooperation.**

The overall objective of the project will be to contribute to sustainable transportation by guiding enabling policy making, route planning and automobile industry development, based on provided new knowledge on future mobility preference and potential sustainability impacts. The task is to compare the existing trends and forecasts across the EU and to identify the factors (economic/social/demographic/spatial/cultural), that influence the varied implementation of such schemes in different countries/regions/cultures including the growing use of app-based services and to compare and benchmark existing business models, social innovations and identify possible new ones.

The deadline for **expression of interest is on 2 December 2016**, while the **deadline for the submission** of proposals is on **1 February 2017**.

H2020 Eng-Globally-08-2016-2017: EU-China Cooperation on sustainable urbanisation

POD reference number: RDDE20161102002

An international non-profit sustainability centre in Germany **seeks research institutes and universities to submit a project to the call H2020 Eng-Globally-08-2016-2017: EU-China cooperation on sustainable urbanisation.** The partners should carry out research on challenges of sustainable urbanisation and response strategies in Europe and China. Furthermore organisations are sought for this research cooperation who implement technology and know-how transfer in sustainable urban development.

The objective of the call is to foster research cooperation between EU and China on sustainable urbanisation. The development of cities in China is taking place at impressive pace and has affected millions of citizens. Many aspects of city planning and development, such as infrastructures, regulatory regimes, taxation, health, education and culture, have therefore a bearing on the framework conditions within which innovation occurs and which shape living conditions of residents. Joint European-Chinese research taking into consideration these essential elements of city development could contribute to an improved reciprocal knowledge on urbanisation processes between the EU and China.

A coordinator is sought. The deadline for **expression of interest is on 30 November 2016**, while the **deadline for the submission** of proposals is on **2 February 2017**.

H2020- MG-4.1-2017: End-users (city councils, municipalities, transport companies, etc.) for a new solution for taxi/bus transport

POD reference number: Ref: RDES20161017001

A Spanish SME company, specialised in ICT solutions and with wide experience coordinating European projects, is looking for **end-users (city councils, municipalities, transport companies, etc.) to take part in a consortium aimed to deploy a new solution for taxi/bus transport in at least ten different locations in Europe.** The proposal will be submitted to the call **TRANSPORT-MG-4.1-2017: Increasing the take up and scale-up of innovative solutions to achieve sustainable mobility in urban areas.**

When multiple options are available, citizens evaluate and ponder their pros and cons to select the one that better fits their demands. This has also become apparent in the transport sector in the last years with the appearance of innovative services such as Bla Bla Car, Uber or Car2Go. Traditional business models, e.g. taxis, have still the chance to adapt their strategy to new trends at the time they contribute to a more sustainable urban mobility. Sharing the same vehicle, allowing pick-ups and drops at specific locations, combinations with other means of transport or flexible rates are some aspects that should be considered. In this context, the generation of ephemeral taxi/bus routes in urban environments is proposed to:

- Facilitate the access to any point of the city, no matter the level of demand.
- Encourage taxi sharing and smart pricing.
- Increase the connectivity of different means of transport and improve urban mobility.
- Study and analyse mobility patterns for better coordination and cooperation.

The deadline for expression of interest is on 30 November 2016, while the deadline for the submission of proposals is on **26 January 2017**. The project duration is 3 years.

Type and role of the partners sought: The Spanish SME company is looking for end-users to join the consortium. Consolidated partnerships between municipalities and public transport services or similar collaboration schemes are also welcome. They will participate as end users and testers and will also try to engage citizens to take advantage of more efficient means of transport.

For more information, as well as to get in touch with the enterprises, please contact (referring the POD code) with:

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CALENDAR DECEMBER 2016

Raw Materials Week More information: http://tinyurl.com/zz5jzr2	28 Nov. - 2 Dec. Brussels, Belgium
SET Plan 2016 - Central European Energy Conference X More information: http://www.setplan2016.sk/index.php	30 Nov. - 2 Dec. Bratislava, Slovakia
The European Cluster Conference 2016 More information: http://tinyurl.com/z7yg56m	30 Nov.-2 Dec. Brussels, Belgium
Recent Trends in the Case Law of the Court of Justice of the European Union More information: http://seminars.eipa.eu/en/activities09/show/&tid=5921	1 December Luxembourg
Annual Conference on Financial Supervision in the EU 2016 More information: http://tinyurl.com/znpa2dg	1 December Brussels, Belgium
The European Cluster Conference 2016 More information: http://tinyurl.com/z7yg56m	1-2 December Brussels, Belgium
IP (Intellectual Property) Summit More information: http://www.ipsummit.info/	1-2 December Brussels, Belgium
Digital Tourism Think Tank - DTTT GLOBAL More information: http://tinyurl.com/zp8w25h	1-2 December Brussels, Belgium
SET Plan 2016 – Central European Energy Conference X More information: http://tinyurl.com/zqkzca3	1-2 December Bratislava, Slovakia
Tourism and Development 2016: Urban Environments More information: http://tinyurl.com/hq59xrn	1-3 December Zagreb, Croatia
H2020 Info Day on FOF 12, ICT 5 and ICT 31: ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMES , Customised and low energy computing and Micro- and nanoelectronics technologies More information: http://tinyurl.com/jyeghom	2 December Brussels, Belgium
The 4th Trondheim Gas Technology Conference 2016 More information: http://tinyurl.com/grvwtjh	5 December Trondheim, Norway
European Programmes Conference Week – Ideas and Networking 2016 More information: http://www.ucy.ac.cy/epcw/	5-7 December Nicosia, Cyprus
European Summit on Digital Innovation for Active & Healthy Ageing More information: http://tinyurl.com/gvlf86a	5-8 December Brussels, Belgium
European Nuclear Safeguards training seminar More information: http://tinyurl.com/jyorj4d	5-8 December Luxembourg
The European Vocational Skills Week More information: http://tinyurl.com/hbqx74a	5-9 December Brussels, Belgium
Scientific Conference: Non-Animal Approaches - The Way Forward More information: http://tinyurl.com/zpz728t	6-7 December Liege, Belgium
Revolutionary innovation: how could innovation change our world? More information: http://tinyurl.com/z4j3mru	7 December Brussels, Belgium
Demonstrating Excellence and Innovation in Teaching Tourism More information: https://www.athe.org.uk/conferences-2/	7-9 December Cardiff, United Kingdom
Info Day Innovative by Nature: Responding to Societal Challenges through Nature-Based Solutions and Cultural Heritage More information: https://www.b2match.eu/infodayh2020-nature-culture	8 December Brussels, Belgium
Science For Business – BioWin Day More information: https://www.b2match.eu/biowinday2016	8 December Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
Call for Project ideas: Skills are Key! More information: http://www.neth-er.eu/en/node/9812	8-9 December Brussels, Belgium
3rd Annual World Open Innovation Conference More information: http://woic.corporateinnovation.berkeley.edu/	15-16 December Barcelona, Spain
















CALENDAR JANUARY 2017

Molecular Neurodegeneration More information: http://tinyurl.com/zngamek	9-14 January Hinxton, United Kingdom
Aligning Corporate Governance and culture: What's in it for the board More information: http://tinyurl.com/jv8jfo7	11 January Brussels, Belgium
European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI): Roadmap 2018 Info Day More information: http://www.esfri.eu/workshops/save-date-roadmap-2018-info-day	17 January Malaga, Spain
Info and Networking Days on H2020 Big Data Public-Private Partnership topics 2017 More information: http://tinyurl.com/hafgsra	17-18 January Luxembourg
COST Action: Workshop on Environmental Concentrations, Cycling & Modeling of Technology Critical Elements More information: http://tinyurl.com/hhkrpe3	18-19 January Rehovot, Israel
10th EUA-CDE Workshop: Ethics & integrity in doctoral education and research training More information: http://tinyurl.com/zmbbo5w	18-19 January Lisbon, Portugal
2nd Internet of Things (IoT) Tech Expo Event More information: http://www.iottechexpo.com/europe/	23-24 January London, United Kingdom
European Gas Conference More information: http://www.europeangas-conference.com/	23-25 January Vienna, Austria
How best to attract talented researchers More information: http://tinyurl.com/z9ovzsr	24 January Brno, Czech Republic
1st European Insights Summit More information: http://researchchoices.org/eis/	24 January Brussels, Belgium
E!Sharp Live 2017: What does Europe mean to Europe? More information: http://eu-ems.com/summary.asp?event_id=2302&page_id=6846	24 January Brussels, Belgium
9th Conference on European Space Policy More information: http://www.spaceconference.eu/welcome.html	24-25 January Brussels, Belgium
The 3rd Annual Middle East and North Africa Spectrum Management Conference More information: http://eu-ems.com/summary.asp?event_id=3308&page_id=7913	24-25 January Dubai, United Arab Emirates
10th Medicines for Europe Pharmacovigilance Conference More information: http://www.medicinesforeurope.com/events/phv-2017/	25 January London, United Kingdom
Seafood safety - new findings and innovation challenges More information: http://www.ecsafeseafoodconference.com/	25-26 January Brussels, Belgium
16th Regulatory and Scientific Affairs Conference More information: http://www.medicinesforeurope.com/events/rac17/	26-27 January London, United Kingdom
European Cancer Congress 2017 More information: http://www.eccocongress.org/programme	27-30 January Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Erasmus+ SPORT Infoday More information: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/events/sport-infoday-31-january-2017_en	31 January Brussels, Belgium

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