



EPR Public Affairs e-bulletin

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Social Affairs & Social Services

Commission presents the European Pillar of Social Rights

Building a fairer Europe and strengthening its social dimension is a key priority for this Commission.

Today, it delivers on its promise to adopt its proposal for the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Pillar sets out 20 key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems. The Pillar is designed as a compass for a renewed process of upward convergence towards better working and living conditions in Europe. It is primarily conceived for the euro area but applicable to all EU Member States wishing to be part of it.

Read more: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-1007_en.htm

The European Pillar of Social Rights - Questions and Answers

Building a fairer Europe and strengthening its social dimension is a key priority for this Commission, as indicated in the Political Guidelines of July 2014. In his first State of the Union speech to the European Parliament on 9 September 2015, President Jean-Claude Juncker announced the European Pillar of Social Rights: "We have to step up the work for a fair and truly pan-European labour market. (...) As part of these efforts, I will want to develop a European Pillar of Social Rights, which takes account of the changing realities of Europe's societies and the world of work. And which can serve as a compass for the renewed convergence within the euro area. The European Pillar of Social Rights should complement what we have already jointly achieved when it comes to the protection of workers in the EU. I will expect social partners to play a central role in this process. I believe we do well to start with this initiative within the euro area, while allowing other EU Member States to join in if they want to do so."

Read more: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-1004_en.htm

Delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights - Questions and Answers

Which initiatives accompanying the European Pillar of Social Rights is the Commission proposing today?

A number of principles and rights included in the Pillar will require further legislative or non-legislative initiatives to become effective. Where needed, existing EU law will be updated, complemented and better enforced, as exemplified by the rest of the package presented alongside the Pillar. Today, the Commission adopted a proposal on work-life balance, it launched two social partner consultations, one on modernising the rules on labour contracts (Written Statement Directive) and one on access to social protection, and it adopted a clarification of the Working Time Directive.

All of the initiatives adopted today are part of the 2017 Commission work programme. Further initiatives may be considered in the context of future work programmes.

Read full fact sheet: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-1005_en.htm

Commission launches the reflection on the social dimension of Europe by 2025

Following the launch of the discussion on the future of Europe via the Commission's White Paper on the Future of Europe presented on 1 March, the Commission zooms in on the social dimension of Europe by 2025.

The reflection paper on Europe's social dimension, published on 26 April, will mark the start of a reflection process with citizens, social partners, the European institutions and governments, that seeks to identify responses to the challenges our societies and citizens face in the coming years. It is also an effort to clarify the contribution of the EU level in addressing these challenges.

Read more: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-1008_en.htm

FEAD: how to best identify and reach out to aid recipients

A 'project marketplace' has given FEAD Network members insight into how projects successfully identify and target end beneficiaries. The latest FEAD Network meeting in Berlin on 6 and 7 April featured a range of projects presenting about their methods for engaging aid recipients.

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2790&furtherNews=yes>

New social policy initiatives in the UK

Two new Flash Reports prepared by the European Social Policy Network (ESPN) have just become available and provide information on recent social policy initiatives in the United Kingdom.

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2783&furtherNews=yes>

Employment & Disability

Commission launches public consultation for the evaluation of Eurofound, Cedefop, ETF and EU-OSHA

The European Commission has launched a public consultation in the context of the evaluation of the four EU agencies under the remit of DG Employment. The four agencies are: the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working conditions (Eurofound); the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop); the European Training Foundation (ETF); the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA).

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2781&furtherNews=yes>

Commission welcomes OECD report on 'Getting Skills Right'

The report 'Getting Skills Right - Financial Incentives for Education and Training systems' was published yesterday by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The report has been financed under the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). It examines how governments use financial incentives to promote a better alignment between labour market needs on the one hand, and the supply of skills, on the other.

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2782&furtherNews=yes>

Inequality and poverty – what action is being taken by Member States?

The 2017 Joint Employment Report (JER) and its Scoreboard of Key Employment and Social Indicators, adopted on 3 March 2017, provide a snapshot of recent employment and social policies implemented in Member States in line with the Employment Guidelines.

Exploring the Joint Employment Report, this edition of Evidence in focus looks at income inequality and poverty developments, and the policy efforts that have been made to reduce them.

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2785&furtherNews=yes>

Europe 2020 employment indicators - Employment rate of people aged 20 to 64 in the EU reached a new peak at 71.1% in 2016 - Seven Member States already achieved their 2020 targets

In 2016, the employment rate of the population aged 20 to 64 in the European Union (EU) stood at 71.1%, up compared with both 2015 (70.1%) and its previous peak recorded in 2008 (70.3%). The Europe 2020 strategy target is to reach a total employment rate for people aged 20 to 64 of at least 75% in the EU by 2020. This objective has been translated into national targets in order to reflect the situation and possibilities of each Member State to contribute to the common goal.

Read full article on the EUROSTAT website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7997105/3-25042017-BP-EN.pdf/377b4834-5a19-42f4-8a2d-36e133ed887d>

Commission proposes €2.6 million from Globalisation Fund to support former Nokia workers in Finland

The European Commission has proposed to provide Finland with €2.6 million from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) to help 821 former workers of Nokia Network Systems to find new jobs.

The measures co-financed by the Globalisation Fund would help the former workers by providing them with career coaching and individual guidance; employment and business

services; a variety of vocational trainings; services for new entrepreneurs and start-up grants; hiring incentives; training-related allowances; pay subsidy and contributions to removal costs.

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2777&furtherNews=yes>

Education & Vocational Training

Developing ECVET to boost flexible vocational pathways

The EU is taking action to increase the effectiveness, attractiveness, quality and flexibility of vocational education and training (VET). One key way is through further developing the European Credit System for VET (ECVET), which has already helped VET systems become more flexible at national level. Erasmus+ is crucial to this evolution as it will build on the great work being done by the European VET community through EU-funded projects.

Read more: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/20170421-developing-ecvet_en

How we can help vulnerable adults get a job

There are 70 million European adults who struggle with literacy, numeracy, and digital skills. Many have a job, but still almost half of them are out of work. To help these people become more employable, Erasmus+ projects are working to support them so they can acquire the basic skills they need.

Read more: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/20170424-help-vulnerable-adults-get-job_en

Everybody deserves a second chance

The road to employment and a successful working life can be a bumpy one for young people. This is especially true for those who have difficulty at school or in their personal lives, and have dropped out of education or may be thinking of doing so. To support young adults and give them a second chance, Erasmus+ adult education projects are there to offer a helping hand.

Read more: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/20170425-everybody-deserves-a-second-chance_en

Adult education: a road to entrepreneurship

There are eight key competences which every European citizen should possess. But acquiring all of these skills requires a lot of training and experience. Luckily for adults who wish to become entrepreneurs, some Erasmus+ projects have developed useful tools to support them, and identify the skills needed to become a successful entrepreneur.

Read more: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/20170424-a-road-to-entrepreneurship_en

Knowledge Alliances: building bridges between universities and business

Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliances are innovative European projects bringing Higher Education Institutions and businesses together to work on highly relevant issues for both parties. These projects aim to strengthen Europe's capacity to innovate and to support the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems. Want to learn more or interested in applying for funding?

Read more: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/20170424-knowledge-alliances-building-bridges-between-universities-and-business_en

How to make skills visible and valued

Real life-long learning is about more than just adding professional training sessions and courses to your CV. We also learn in other ways, through our own interests and experiences, without an approved syllabus or without even intending to acquire knowledge. The New Skills Agenda highlights that people should be able to use the full range of their skills for their careers or for further learning, including what they gain in non-formal or informal learning.

Read full article: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/20170421-how-make-skills-visible-and-valued_en

Help shape the future of Erasmus+!

Wondering what the impact of international mobility or cooperation programmes is in the areas of education, training, youth and sport? You can help measure the difference the programme Erasmus+ is making for learners and staff by participating in our online survey. The survey will help us gain a more specific understanding of the impact of the Erasmus+ programme by comparing the changes in attitudes, competences and behaviours of learners and staff as a result of mobility.

We are interested to hear from all learners and staff, also from those who have not participated in any international mobility or cooperation programme.

Read more: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/updates/20170411-erasmus-survey_en

Europe 2020 education indicators in 2016 - Ever greater share of persons aged 30 to 34 with tertiary educational attainment in the EU... - ... and ever fewer early leavers from education and training

The share of persons aged 30 to 34 in the European Union (EU) who have completed tertiary education continued to steadily increase, from 23.6% in 2002 when the series started to 39. 1% in 2016. This pattern was even more significant for women (from 24.5%

in 2002 to 43.9% in 2016, meaning above the overall Europe 2020 target) than for men (from 22.6% to 34.4%, meaning still below the overall Europe 2020 target). The Europe 2020 strategy's target is that at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds in the EU should have completed tertiary education by 2020.

Read full article on the Eurostat website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8001730/3-26042017-BP-EN.pdf/c22de270-ea00-4581-89bc-501056f9cae2>

Recognition for Open Data Platform for EU funds and Vocational Skills Week

Two European Commission projects have received recognition in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion. The Award for Good Administration, which was launched in October 2016 and attracted 90 nominated projects from the main EU institutions as well as many agencies and other bodies, was presented by the European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly.

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2775&furtherNews=yes>

Other relevant EU affairs

Commissioner Navracsics discusses how to better connect young people to the European project in Molenbeek (Brussels)

Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics, and the President of the European Youth Forum, Luis Alvarado Martinez, yesterday visited D'broej - Centrum West in Molenbeek, a district of Brussels. The centre organises educational, cultural and sport activities for children and young people with fewer opportunities living in the area. Commissioner Navracsics and President Martinez were joined by the local mayor, Françoise Schepmans, for the visit, which was followed by a Citizens' Dialogue with around 50 young people aged 16 to 24, as well as some of their families, youth workers and volunteers working at the centre. Commissioner **Navracsics** and President Martinez discussed topics such as how to better connect youth with the European project, the opportunities offered to young people by the Erasmus+ programme and the role of culture and sport in building communities.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-17-1104_en.htm

Protecting all children in migration: Commission outlines priority actions

Over the past two years, a growing number of children in migration have arrived in the EU, many of them without their families. While EU and Member States' legislation provide a solid framework for protection, the recent surge in arrivals has put national systems under pressure and exposed gaps and shortcomings. This is why the Commission is today setting out actions to reinforce the protection of all migrant children at all stages of the process.

Read more: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-906_en.htm

EU funded programmes

- Erasmus+ [new calls 2017](#)
- DG EMPL – PROGRESS / EaSI [calls](#)
- Horizon 2020 – various [new calls](#)

Calendar of upcoming events

Date	Title	Venue	Contact
06-07/04/2017	7th University Business Forum	Brussel	http://ec.europa.eu/education/events/20170406-university-business-forum_en
24/04/2017	EqUIP Showcasing Event: Research with Impact	Brussels	http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index.cfm?pg=events
12/05/2017	FreSsco seminar (Finland): EU, unemployment benefits and social security coordination: what is new?	Helsinki (Finland)	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1198&furtherEvents=yes
18/05/2017	FreSsco seminar (Romania): Recent case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the field of free movement of workers and social security coordination	Bucharest (Romania)	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1199&furtherEvents=yes
16-17/05/2017	Policy learning forum: VET as a solution to leaving education early	Thessaloniki (Greece)	http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/events/policy-learning-forum-vet-solution-leaving-education-early
19/05/2017	2017 Work Forum on the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in the EU and the Member States	Brussels	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1207&furtherEvents=yes
24/05/2017	FreSsco seminar (Switzerland): News in the field of Regulation (EC) No. 883/2004	Lausanne (Switzerland)	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1200&furtherEvents=yes
16-17/05/2017	Policy learning forum: Skills matching policies for the long-term unemployed	Thessaloniki (Greece)	http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/events/change-dates-policy-learning-forum-skills-matching-policies-long-term
01/06/2017	Brussels Economic Forum 2017	Brussels	http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/bef2017/index_en.htm
08-09/06/2017	EPR Annual Conference	Mulhouse (France)	http://www.epr.eu/index.php/component/jevents/icalrepeat.detail/2017/06/08/47/-/epr-annual-conference?Itemid=1&filter_reset=1
22/06/2017	FreSsco seminar (Poland): Posting under the coordination rules and assimilation of facts	Warsaw (Poland)	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1201&furtherEvents=yes
26-27/06/2017	European Economic and Social Committee: Civil Society Days 2017	Brussels	http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-civil-society-days-2017
20-24/11/2017	European Vocational Skills Week	Europe	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1261&newsId=2754&furtherNews=yes