



EPR Public Affairs e-bulletin

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European Platform for Rehabilitation, Avenue des Arts 8, c/o CCI, B-1210, Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 736 54 44, Fax: +32 2 736 8622, Website: www.epr.eu

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Social Affairs & Social Services

The European Social Fund celebrates its 60th anniversary: 6 decades of investment in people

The year 2017 marks the 60th anniversary of the European Social Fund (ESF), Europe's oldest and main instrument to invest in people. Today it is an important driver of job creation, promoting better education, more modern public administrations and social inclusion, and therefore a key tool to ensure fairer opportunities for all citizens.

Read full press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-681_en.htm

Commission registers 'Minority Safepack' European Citizens' Initiative

The European Commission has decided to register a European Citizens' Initiative inviting the Commission "to improve the protection of persons belonging to national and linguistic minorities and strengthen cultural and linguistic diversity in the Union".

The registration of this Initiative on 3 April 2017 will start a one-year process of collection of signatures of support by its organisers.

Read more: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-776_en.htm

Employment & Disability

Ten years of European solidarity via the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund

Ten years ago, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) began its operations. The fund is a practical demonstration of European solidarity, as it gives financial support to Member States to help workers and companies to adjust in response to changing patterns of trade.

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2755&furtherNews=yes>

Steady improvement of European labour market conditions according to Joint Employment Report

On 3 March, the European Council of employment and social policy ministers adopted the 2017 Joint Employment Report. The report takes a snapshot of the employment and social situation across the EU. It also highlights the extent of reforms carried out in the Member States over the past year. A draft version was presented by the Commission in November 2016 as part of the Autumn Package launching the European Semester.

Read full press release:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2753&furtherNews=yes>

Joint Employment Report 2017: Main findings from the Scoreboard of key employment and social indicators

The EPSCO Council adopted the 2017 Joint Employment Report (JER) on 3 March, including the Scoreboard of key employment and social indicators. The table in the article summarizes its main findings.

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2757&furtherNews=yes>

Fourth quarter of 2016 compared with the third quarter of 2016-Employment up by 0.3% in the euro area and by 0.2% in the EU28-+1.1% and +1.0% respectively compared with the fourth

The number of persons employed increased by 0.3% in the **euro area** (EA19) and by 0.2% in the **EU28** in the fourth quarter of 2016 compared with the previous quarter, according to national accounts estimates published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In the third quarter of 2016, employment increased by 0.2% in both areas. These figures are seasonally adjusted.

Full text available on EUROSTAT website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7913006/2-15032017-AP-EN.pdf/2cf9acd2-f326-4040-a9f4-7907155f7c94>

Creating jobs – reforms are producing results

The 2017 Joint Employment Report and its Scoreboard of Key Employment and Social Indicators provide a snapshot of employment and social developments in the EU. This analysis provides a focus on unemployment and Member States' efforts in the labour market to bring it down.

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2767&furtherNews=yes>

Education & Vocational Training

Reducing share of low-skilled adults in the EU 'a benefit for all

At a European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)/Labour Market Observatory conference on tackling long-term unemployment, Cedefop Deputy Director Mara Brugia presented the agency's latest study on the economic and social cost of low-skilled adults in the EU.

Read more: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/reducing-share-low-skilled-adults-eu-benefit-all>

The Move2Learn, Learn2Move initiative

Move2Learn, Learn2Move is a one-off initiative launched by the European Commission on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus programme for education and training, youth and sport.

Read more: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-17-650_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-650_en.htm)

Have you joined EPALE yet?

The Electronic Platform for Adult Learning (EPALE) is a useful resource for professionals that want to expand their horizons and gain new knowledge and skills.

The platform is an online community where users can share experiences, engage with their peers and find useful content to help them in their professional roles. Focusing on a different topic each month, EPALE is available in all EU countries and languages.

Read full news article: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/updates/20170323-join-epale_en

School education staff mobility - Where do I start?

There are many options for learning throughout Europe if you are interested in developing your skills in the field of education. If you would like to benefit from Erasmus+ funding and go abroad to gain experience in another European country, the first step is to draw up a development plan with your school. Would you like to gain experience abroad?

Read more: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/updates/20170322-school-education-mobility-where-to-start_en

European mobility for adult education professionals: where do I start?

Working with adults and want to benefit from Erasmus+? The EPALE Calendar of events and courses could be just what you need. Other EPALE tools such as the partner search function are also available together with financial support in certain cases.

Read full article: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/updates/20170322-adult-education-mobility-start_en

Erasmus+ helps in addressing one of the barriers to citizens' free movement in Europe: lack of common curricula

It can be difficult to achieve the same level of skills across European countries. However, the pioneering work of European cooperation has helped to improve the situation for professionals across Europe. European citizens' freedom of movement for work is sometimes challenging to implement because of differences between countries' requirements for specific professions.

Read more: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/updates/20170322-vet-common-curricula_en

Erasmus+ supports VET staff mobility, leading to quality training

Each European country has something to share with others in terms of education - a different method, attitude or insight. For teachers wanting to keep their skills fresh and up to date, a professional job-training or shadowing in another European country can be just what they need. Pick up on alternative teaching methods and implement them in your own classroom. Well-trained teachers, as well as inspiring and updated teaching methods, are essential to offering good quality teaching and training to students on vocational and education (VET) learning pathways.

Full news item: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/updates/20170322-vet-staff-mobility_en

Treaty of Rome anniversary: upholding VET values for the past 60 years

The Treaty of Rome set up the European Economic Community (EEC) through endorsement of joint policies in distinct areas of interest. Vocational education and training (VET) was explicitly included at social policy level, as stated in Articles 118 and 128. It was specified that the European Commission would promote close cooperation among Member States in matters pertaining to basic and advanced VET.

Read more: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/treaty-rome-anniversary-upholding-vet-values-past-60-years>

First comprehensive compendium of guides on skills anticipation methods

In a context of dynamic and complex labour markets, intelligence on current and future skill needs can support better matching of skills and jobs, which is important for every country. Cedefop, the European Training Foundation and the International Labour Office have combined expertise to develop a compendium of methodological guides on anticipation and matching of skill supply and demand.

Read more: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/first-comprehensive-compendium-guides-skills-anticipation-methods>

Other relevant EU affairs

March 2017: Commission White Paper on the Future of Europe and Rome Summit to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome

On 25 March, Heads of State or Government will come together in Rome to mark the 60th Anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome, which laid the foundations for the European Union we know today. This Summit is the next step in implementing the positive agenda President Juncker set out in his State of the Union address and agreed at the informal Bratislava Summit in September 2016 by the EU-27 Member States. To support the reflection on the future of the European Union at 27, President Juncker will present a White Paper on the Future of Europe in time for the meeting of EU leaders in Rome.

Full press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_AGENDA-17-252_en.htm

Questions and Answers: What is the EU doing for women's rights and gender equality?

Equality between women and men is a fundamental value of the European Union and one that has been enshrined in the Treaty from the very beginning, as the Rome Treaty included a provision on equal pay. The 2016-19 Strategic engagement for gender equality aims at pursuing the improvements in key policy areas. What are the priorities of the Commission in terms of gender equality?

Full fact sheet: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-17-470_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-470_en.htm)

8 March 2017: International Women's Day

Only 1 manager out of 3 in the EU is a woman... earning on average almost a quarter less than a man

Nearly 7.3 million persons hold managerial positions in enterprises with 10 employees or more located in the European Union (EU): 4.7 million men (65% of all managers) and 2.6 million women (35%). In other words, although representing approximately half of all employed persons in the EU, women continue to be under-represented amongst managers.

Full article on EUROSTAT website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7896990/3-06032017-AP-EN.pdf/ba0b2ea3-f9ee-4561-8bb8-e6c803c24081>

Friday 3 March: How digital is your country? The 2017 Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)

On Friday 3 March, the European Commission published the results of the 2017 Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI). This tool presents the performance of Member States in a wide range of areas, from connectivity and digital skills to the digitisation of businesses and public services.

Full press release: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release AGENDA-17-328_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_AGENDA-17-328_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
08-09/03/2017	EU Sport Forum 2017	St. Julian's (Malta)	https://ec.europa.eu/sport/events/201700127-eu-sport-forum_en
16-17/03/2017	SEFORIS Final Conference: 'Social Entrepreneurship: Inclusion and Innovation in Society'	Brussels	http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=874F0F5A-A83E-0116-966696E1C6A3F7C6
22-23/03/2017	Shipping 2030 Europe: "Technology for Today, Ideas for the Future"	Copenhagen (Denmark)	http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=EBEBCE49-0D75-9F95-598538DD9450C54E
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
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
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
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
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