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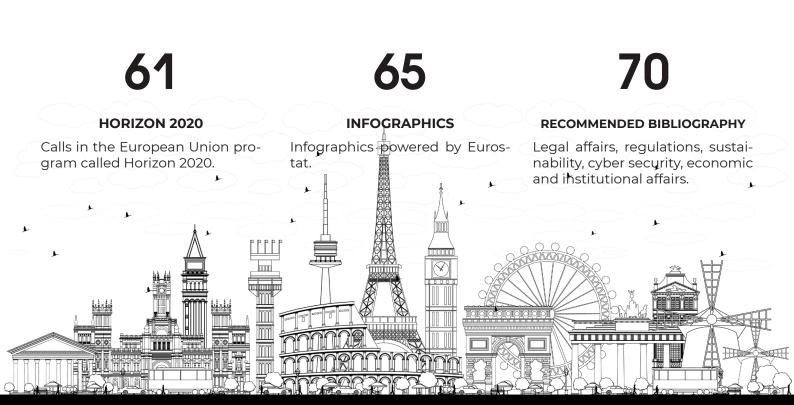
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### INTERVIEW

# Manuel Cebrián

Professor of Educational Technology in the Department of Didactics and School Organisation at the University of Málaga. He has been Director of the Institute of Educational Sciences, as well as Director of the Educational Innovation Service and of the Virtual Teaching Service of the University of Málaga. He has directed research and educational innovation projects in the field of digitalisation and the application of ICT in Europe, Latin America and Central Asia. He is Director of the Andalusian Regional Government's research group: Globalisation, Technology, Education and Learning (Gtea).

### According to UNESCO, more than 1.5 billion people lost access to face-to-face education during the first months of this global pandemic. How do you recall your experience during the months of lockdown as Vice Chancellor for Educational Innovation and Digitalization at UNIA?

At first, it was like a dystopian film, although we could see it coming days before the lockdown, so a crisis commission was created at the institutional level that helped a lot in the internal organization. During the first two months the adrenaline was only directed at thinking about the decisions that had to be taken. A diagnostic and digital transformation plan was available for the institution, but with longer deadlines than the situation required. It was a nonsense to apply this plan in such a hurry. We saw the situation as a challenge and an opportunity to implement what had been planned. Later, during the summer, we became aware that this is the most important problem we are experiencing in the world, and especially in Spain. Therefore, everyone must give the best of themselves. Facing a situation of this magnitude, one must feel the pulviscular "lightness" that Italo Calvino points out. In other words, you are not the important thing, you have to do your bit in your field as best as you can, it is the service to the institution, to the society... and it is an opportunity to put into play the skills we have acquired in the past. These days I had the impression -just an illusion at one point- that all this grace of experiences and learning from the past had been conjured up to respond exclusively to this moment. In my case, my responsibility is to lead the Vice-Rector's Office for Teaching Innovation and Digitalisation at the Unia, which consists of supporting teachers and students in this technological migration with quality, which is difficult due to the situations we have experienced, and also providing technological support to the entire Unia team (administrative staff, rector's team...) with teleworking, undertaking the digital transformation that society and the times we live in demand of us.

Several media have highlighted the effort made by a large number of our professionals in adapting their daily work to environments that were until then, almost residual, such as teleworking and in -our university environmenttele-education. Given your extensive experience as Director of various innovation and training centres at the University of Malaga and your work as an advisor in various international projects for the digitalisation of educational processes, what are the main challenges faced by Spanish universities in recent months?

It is true that from the experiences in this field of digital transformation in different universities and geographical areas (Spain, Latin America, Central Asia...) I knew what had to be done, but like my other colleagues with a lot of experience - here the team has been the most important part- the general situation in all the universities due to the pandemic has been and still is a challenge. In this situation my experience alone is not enough, as you have to articulate creative formulas very quickly, the situation is multifactorial, unique... and decision-making can take an assertive judgment. To this effect, the challenge during the first moments was to make the right decisions, because making mistakes could lead to spurious solutions. For example, in the first few days, many universities thought about producing materials to inform teachers about how to transform face-to-face teaching into virtual teaching; in our case, we thought that we did not have that time available. Therefore, we put the materials and resources collected in the institutional repository of the Unia to good use. We prepared a single simple pdf sheet that addressed the most

urgent and necessary information for teachers in an organised manner. At the same time, we planned a strategy of "accompaniment" for teachers and "cascade training" (first an interview with each of the directors to plan and detect weaknesses and strengths, then training for programme tutors, a team of teachers...) from which emerged a medium-term planning (April to December 2020) of twenty two-hour webinars on the experiences of experts who responded to the questions and gaps collected in this first dialogue with teachers (https://www.unia.es/ oferta-academica/webinars-unia/ oferta).

However, in response to the question, at the summer meeting that the universities of Andalusia held in Malaga, organised by the Unia, we had the participation of the director of Aneca and the Andalusian Agency for Quality Assessment, as coordinators of Crue-Tic, vice-rectors and directors of all the Andalusian universities with competences in teacher training and innovation. During this meeting, we were able to analyse the issue of quality and ICT initiatives during the pandemic, the strategies followed and the lessons learned, from which we could summarise three challenges (all sorts of details are shown in the videos of the meeting: https://vimeo. com/showcase/7644023):

-The need to define a viable model of education with technologies that ensure access for students without exclusion, and training in ICT skills for teachers and students.

-Ensuring the evaluation of learning with quality, and to support teachers in the conversion of their methodologies from the classroom to a virtual environment.

-Finding clever formulas that allow learning experiences in external practices to take place, many of which can only be done in person. All Spanish universities have prepared a contingency plan in the event that classroom training is greatly reduced as a result of COVID-19. However, as has been shown, teachers and students do not have the same starting point. While our students are "digital natives", most of our teachers come from the "analog world". Do you think that the current situation can create hitherto unexplored synergies in the teaching-learning process?

In my opinion, the question is based on a statement about "digital natives" that could be revised, since we could see that some students also found problems in following classes online, not so much because of the use of technology, but because of the competence in self-organising and managing their learning with technologies. At the same time, writing many twitters a day or reading a lot on the networks is not the same as writing an essay or following a scientific text in depth, or expressing an elaborated thought, argued and based on scientific evidence, with the depth required by an analysis of the problems; and therefore, getting into the complexity by abandoning the epidermis of dialogue that we sometimes observe on the networks. This scientific competence is the same as always. However, we are now necessarily drawn into the construction of this scientific knowledge through ICTs, and everyday practices, and the use of networks are not enough. It is true that we have also seen a lot of empathy and willingness in students to save this initial problematic situation from the pandemic, as it has not yet gone away. Let's just say that it has been encouraging for teachers to see the maturity of how most students have responded to this problem in the first wave. I think this has further reinforced this synergy you point out, in a kind of commitment between teacher and student to ensure quality learning despite adversity.

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### Assessment adapted to this digital environment has perhaps been one of the most debated issues among university teachers in recent months. Do you think it is possible to articulate a quality assessment in the academic field that responds to the challenges we face?

As I said before, this has been one of the challenges that we have not known or been able to solve completely in some cases, and in such a short period of time. It is possible to articulate an evaluation with indicators and quality standards, because this is how the universities that offer distance learning programmes in Spain and around the world have resolved it. The current challenge is to have different options according to the possible scenarios. We hope there will be no obligation to totally confine ourselves during the examination periods for the 2020-21 academic year.

If it is not possible to postpone the examinations, we would have no choice but to use technological options ranging from extensive proctering to a more moderate one (e.g., surveillance by means of videoconferencing without recording) which in any case obliges us to review the institutional regulations on data protection. There is also the possibility of attending face-to-face examinations in small groups and monitoring health security. There are also formulas for carrying out a more continuous and formative evaluation -more difficult in large groups than in small oneswhich does not depend so much on an examination, so that the teacher has the "confidence" that the student has competence in the subject. We are not in a position to guess what will come, but if very intense teaching takes place in the distance mode it is possible that the students themselves, contrary to what was initially stated, will request assessment solutions in this same mode.

In the field of Public Health, we are currently discussing how we are preparing for a possible second wave in this health crisis. What would you advise us, teachers and students, at the beginning of this new course?

Each one must review what worked for us in the first wave and what we could keep from those practices for a whole year, not just two months.

Students, think that technical mastery is not enough, and that this could be an opportunity to develop professional learning in the new scenario that has been imposed on all professions and companies, such as the digital transformation of their processes and products. And we could take an even greater step, thinking about directing this learning not only to a digitalised economy, but to a digital economy, which, as we are already seeing, will be the key to technological mastery in the immediate future.

We are a little bit dependent on the situation of the evolution of this second wave. In any case, teachers should digitize all their materials and resources thinking about uploading these resources to the institutional platform, regardless the modality and scenario we have. Those who want to go one step further, start transforming virtual teaching with the help of technology into something more active, dynamic, more fun... an approach that is not at odds with the effort and hard work required to master scientific knowledge.

We could think about more collegial work between lecturers of the same or similar subjects, not only within the same institution, but also between other lecturers from different universities. From my personal experience, I know of a group of lecturers from different institutions and related subjects, who have created a digital manual with exercises and resources. Each memeber has prepared a chapter and shared a space on Google Drive where they all uploaded their interactive presentation, audiovisual materials for the exercises in the manual, etc. and all in less than two months. If a lecturer can do a chapter and its materials in a limited time, by sharing it, he or she obtains a multiplication of very interesting digitized resources for online teaching. Not to mention how interesting it would be to take advantage of this and create inter-university debates among their students on common topics. If this cooperation between teachers is possible and viable, why not doing it between university institutions with more planning and ambition -because more intensity is not posible. It would be based on the collaborative work initiated and provoked by the pandemic, but in the longer term, and on innovative on innovative teaching. It would be a transformation based on technology, but also on university teaching methodologies.





# Emilio Peña

Emilio Peña Martínez, research technician at the Virtual Teaching Support Unit of the University of Almeria since 2004.

Interviewed by Ana Fe Gil Serra (CDE Almería Director)

# **Virtual Teaching**



Emilio Peña Martínez, research technician at the Virtual Teaching Support Unit of the University of Almeria since 2004. He continues to collaborate with the University of Almeria since 2010 through the Foundation of the University of Almeria as subcordinator of Virtual Teaching Platforms. He is as well coordinator of a line of research in the Online Training and Educational Technologies Group (FOLTE) of the Information and Communication Technologies Sectorial Commission of the CRUE Spanish Universities.

#### Interviewed by Ana Fe Gil Serra (CDE Almería Director)

The European Union's concern for improving digital education is expressed in the recent presentation of the Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) and the forthcoming creation of the European Centre for Digital Education. From your point of view, what is the state of play of digital education in the Spanish educational field?

Over the last few months, there has been a widespread misconception that we have suffered an acceleration in technological and educational innovation due to the situation provoked by the pandemic crisis in our universities. The fact that we have been forced to move higher education from a face-to-face context to one that is completely virtual overnight has in any case been a modernisation. As this is a supervening situation, it has really been a matter of continuing with the methodology followed in the classroom, but through a virtual channel. In this case, mainly through virtual classrooms and videoconferencing tools.

However, this meant a great effort for the teaching staff, who had many doubts and concerns when it comes to redesigning the training processes in this new context. We cannot ignore the fact that there are many initiatives doing "different things" in teaching-learning processes thanks to the use of technology, but they are few in number. Nor can we forget that our universities follow mainly face-to-face education, so they were not prepared. However, we must also see all this as an opportunity to evolve.

In this line, the Digital Education Action Plan (https://intef.es/ Noticias/digital-education-action-plan-2021-2027/) (2021-2027) is pushing for the change demanded to universities. It promotes the completion of the reinforcement of the technological infrastructures of our centres, which is undoubtedly necessary, but training teachers in new pedagogical approaches, designing quality content in new formats and,< something that has also played a leading role during this time of crisis, data protection and security are even more important.

I am convinced that in the coming years we will see real innovation in our higher education system.

Despite the fact that for years the professors of the University of Almeria have been used to using the digital platform, mainly as a support teaching tool, the situation in Spain since March 15 completely transformed the activity of teachers and students. How did you experience the first months of the state of alarm from the Support Service for Teaching and Virtual Teaching?

Indeed, at the University of Almeria the use of the virtual classroom service is very widespread thanks to the fact that virtual spaces for each subject are automatically created in each academic year. There are even calls to teach subjects in online and semi-presential formats, or what we know as multimodality. Independently, I believe that nobody was prepared for the state of alarm and what it has meant in our sector.

What we know as the EVA Unit, or the University of Almeria's Teaching and Virtual Teaching Support Service, has multidisciplinary, highly qualified staff with recognised experience in managing, supporting and advising on educational technology. We can say that any problem arosen during the crisis had been resolved previously. The real problem was that the resources were dimensioned for a workload in line with a face-to-face university. The sudden change to the online model had us totally overwhelmed by the number of applications received over the first few months.

Even so, efforts were focused on technical support for teachers and students. At this time, holding a video conference is a commonplace occurrence. But we must remember that a few months ago, it was not so common. With the change, teachers and students have been under a lot of pressure and

we have been by their side to help them in the process by giving extraordinary and continuous courses, advice sessions, video tutorials, consultation materials, etc.

Unlike other Spanish and European universities, the University of Almeria has been using the Blackboard digital platform for years. Do you think that the investment in digital tools that characterizes our university has allowed us to act in a more appropriate way during the months of confinement?

Without a doubt, having a platform like Blackboard, its technical support service and working hand in hand with a committed IT service such as UAL's STIC has been key to dealing with this situation.

From the beginning of the crisis, the strategy was clear: if the physical campus of the University of Almeria is the point of reference for the university community, the virtual campus had to be so.

Thus, the first measures focused on reinforcing this infrastructure which, although its use as we have already said was already widespread among teachers and students, it doubled its workload overnight. To this end, STIC added new servers and carried out stress tests on the systems with Blackboard's technicians. In addition, and to facilitate the continuity of synchronous educational activity, direct access to the videoconferencing system (Blackboard Collaborate), which the University of Almeria already had, was automatically enabled in all the Virtual Classroom courses. In this case, the system went from an average of 60 weekly sessions to an average of almost 7,000 sessions after the confinement.

It must be acknowledged that we have had some initial problems in the transition from face-to-face teaching to virtualisation regarding diversity, mainly in video conferences. The team of sign language interpreters, which the University of Almeria has at its disposal for students who need them, have worked together with EVA technicians in order to try to adapt their protocols. We know that Blackboard is also actively working to provide solutions for these cases.

Finally, the calls for exams in June and September has been the test of the entire system, for which, in addition, a Blackboard cloud service was enabled for those tests where the number of students was very high. In this sense, there has been great concern on the part of the teaching staff, in terms of security in the assessment tests or exams, and the institution has provided clear guidelines to address the challenge. This is a very complex issue, not only technologically but also legally.

I imagine that COVID-19 has shown that, in a virtual environment, the training needs are not the same among students —most of them "virtual natives"— and among teachers, who come mostly from the technological field. What have been the main difficulties of both sectors?

From my point of view, I think that the term coined by Marc Prensky "digital natives" needs to be qualified a little. It is true that the new generations of students "inhabit" the new technologies, we could say that they feel comfortable with them. But they continue to show that they need to develop certain digital skills, for example, in educational contexts.

And the issue of digital competence is now coming to the fore, for both teachers and students. And we are no longer just talking about skills for using technological tools, but about how to use them to train students effectively. In this sense, we can detect a clear need for teacher training in terms of instructional design in these new technology-driven contexts. The new generations of students, the generation of immediacy, must adapt to the speed at which the institutions are going. The processes surrounding higher education take time. They also have to learn to distinguish well between formal and informal contexts and of course, to develop the capacity to manage all the information to which they are exposed.

In the field of Public Health, we are currently debating how to prepare for a possible second wave of this health crisis. What is the Teaching Support Service and Virtual Teaching doing at the beginning of this academic year?

Although the EVA unit team has been strengthened with new additions, while we remain in this uncertainty, we only plan to continue to focus on supporting teachers and students and on the calls for evaluation of the quality of the courses. It is worth noting that the EVA Unit team obtained AENOR ISO 9001 quality certification in 2018. It is the first Spanish university to certify a quality assessment procedure for virtual courses under the Multimodality call.

To comment on some specific actions, new functionalities are being added to the Virtual Classroom service. We continue to update our procedures in order to be able to respond to requests in less time. And we are adapting the knowledge database (manuals, video tutorials, etc.) available to teachers and students to the new scenario.

In my opinion, in the medium term it would be interesting to do a little bit of retrospective work and analyse the whole process we are going through in depth. This action will help us design a firm strategy that will allow the University of Almeria to continue promoting innovation in educational technology, as it has been doing for years, with the clear objective of improving the experience of our students.

### Department of Information and Communications Technology

### UNIVERSIDAD



DE ALMERÍA

The Information and Communications Technology Department of the UAL aims innovation and efficient management of the information and communication systems to provide support to different areas such as teaching, researching and management of the University of Almería.

Ana Fe Gil Serra (CDE Almería Director) interviews Diego Pérez Martínez (Head of the UAL ICT' department).

The Information and Communication Technologies Service (STIC) developed a contingency plan in mid-February which, unlike what happened in other Spanish universities, enabled the University of Almeria to meet the new needs that arose a month later. What were the main lines of action in the weeks before 15 March?

During the second half of February we observed what was happening in the North of Italy and we saw that one of the first measures taken was the closure of the universities in Lombardy and Veneto, the most affected regions. If it was happening there, and given the enormous mobility between all European countries, the logical reasoning was that sooner or later we would also have to face the virus.

We began working with the hypothesis that in a few weeks we would be facing the closure of the University of Almeria, and we had a clear objective: the activity at our University would continue as normally as possible.

The main lines of ac-

- Reinforcement of the infrastructure supporting our virtual teaching platform, given that this would go from a simple support tool to face-to-face teaching, becoming the keystone of all teaching, now online.

tion prior to 15 March were:

- Implementation of new systems such as virtual private networks, systems for remote access to equipment, etc. They would allow workers, especially the PAS who need access to management applications, to continue their work from home.

- Preparation of laptop computers for loan to the workers who need them.

- Simulations with some administrative services (Human Resources, Recruitment, Economic Management) to test and refine theproceduresandworkingtools.

In a few weeks and in an unusual situation until now, the functioning of an institution, in which a large part of its activity was carried out in person, had to be adapted. How did the staff of your Service

### experience these initial moments of the state of alarm?

ICT workers are citizens and as such they were facing a new situation full of uncertainties. On a personal level, I suppose that each person experienced it differently. However, in any case, we had to overcome it because the challenge before us was enormous. Even before March 15, the STIC staff had been working non-stop, without thinking about whether it was 10 in the morning, 11 at night, Tuesday or Sunday. Everyone worked with the clear understanding that everything had to be done to keep the activity at the University of Almeria going.

Stopping the activity at the University of Almeria, apart from the obvious repercussions, has many others. To cite an example: if the computer systems of the University of Almeria had not received invoices, or if officials had not been able to process them from home, the productive sector of Almeria would have suffered serious economic problems in such a difficult time. As far as teleworking is concerned, this is not something new for the STIC, given that for the last ten years or so, a dozen STIC technicians have been teleworking on a regular basis. This experience helped us extend the use of work procedures and tools that had been tested over the years to the rest of the members of STIC and workers, especially in the Administration and Services sector.

### Which services have been most affected during these months of lockdown and how has the STIC acted in this situation?

The STIC's catalogue has around 100 services, and among them we can find services of all kinds:

The services that are completely telematic were not affected in any way, with the exception previously mentioned of the virtual teaching platform that had to be reinforced. The virtual campus, the management applications, the web, the electronic administration platform, etc., all functioned normally.

On the contrary, we find some services that had to be cancelled directly for obvious reasons, such as the laptop loan service for students in the library, as there were no students on the Campus and it would not have been possible to guarantee adequate health safety measures.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect is that there have been services that have evolved to adapt to the new situation. One example is the audiovisual assistance for events (seminars, conferences, etc.). It was necessary to look for videoconferencing tools to be able to hold these events, but online. Similarly, the computer rooms have evolved and now they have become both face-to-face and online computer rooms, which can be accessed from home.

In the report presented to the university community "The role of ICTs in the University of Almeria during the coronavirus crisis", carried out by the Vice-Rector's Office for Digital Transformation, there are conclusions from this experience that will allow us to anticipate similar situations in the near future. What would be some of the main "lessons learned" from this period?

Perhaps the main lesson is "to be prepared for the pandemic". I am talking about ICT infrastructure. The University of Almeria has invested heavily in recent years in communications networks, servers, software, etc. This has allowed us to change work procedures and support the increased load on some systems. If in March we had found ourselves with old infrastructures, everything would have been much more complicated and I do not know if we would have managed to get the University of Almeria operational on Monday 16 March.

Another important lesson is that we must be prepared for any scenario in the future and to this end, mobility is important: promoting teleworking, setting up virtual computer rooms, promoting the virtual teaching platform and training workers (PDI and PAS).

In the field of Public Health, we are currently debating how to prepare for a possible second wave of this health crisis. How is the STIC acting at the be-

#### ginning of this academic year?

From March to July, we were working on a teleworking and online teaching scenario, and we prepared all our procedures, systems, etc, for it. We hope that this scenario will not be repeated, but if it does, I think that, as far as the ICT is concerned, we could face it without any problems.

Now, however, we are in a new scenario, that of semi-presence, which poses new challenges on which we are working at the moment. To give an example, in September, 200 classrooms were equipped with audiovisual media (digital tablet and webcam + microphone) to enable classes to be given with part of the students in the classroom and simultaneously the other part at home.

### INTERNATIONALIZATION AND RESEARCH, KEYS TO THE FUTURE OF ANDALUSIA

The internationalisation of companies from Almeria, based on the results of the research, was the subject of the meeting held on 27 October between the Andalusian Regional Government (hereinafter: Junta de Andalucía) and the University of Almeria.



Amós García Hueso, Diego Luis Valera, Arturo Bernal Bergua and Christian Gross Guille.

t this working meeting, organised by Amós García Hueso, Director General of Foreign Relations, and Diego Luis Valera, Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation, the Managing Director of the Andalusian Agency for Foreign Promotion (EXTEN-DA), Arturo Bernal Bergua, and the Coordinator of the Andalusian Network, Christian Gross Guille, presented the new lines of action of the Junta de Andalucia to

strengthen the presence of Andalusian SMEs in international markets.

Collaborative research projects between the University of Almeria and companies are one of the most effective ways of ensuring that the last ones develop services and products with a high international impact. However, as Arturo Bernal pointed out, the training, specialized consultancy and international promotion work carried out

by EXTENDA is crucial if we want to maintain and increase the competitiveness of our companies. Diego Valera stated that the UAL collaborates in more than a hundred research projects with Almeria's SMEs and highlighted the great acceptance of the "UAL-TransfierE" programme in the province of Almería. In addition, Amós García Hueso insisted "the current moment demands that we act in a comprehensive and diversified manner, and therefore we must support all areas susceptible to economic and business development that are also sustainable and innovative. The university has been working on research projects that help turn projects into companies and with the collaboration of the Junta de Andalucía we will promote their growth and internationalisation".

During the meeting, which was also attended by the researchers Juan Reca, Carlos Herrero and Ana Fe Gil Serra, future collaboration between the Andalusian Agency and the Vice Chancellor's Office for Research was established in order to promote this necessary strategic vision for the future.

### THE EU HAS BEEN AWARDED FOR ITS STRATEGY ON GENDER EQUALITY

The Spanish Federation of Women Managers, Executives, Professionals and Entrepreneurs awarded the EU with the FEDEPE International Prize.



The Spanish Federation of Women Managers, Executives, Professionals and Entrepreneurs, FEDEPE, has given its International Award to the European Union for its Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025. The award is motivated by the clear commitment of the European Union and in particular, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, to promote gender equality at all levels. FEDEPE stresses the importance of concrete measures promoted by the Commission to encourage a greater representation of women in positions of responsibility, committing itself to achieving parity at all levels of management by the end of 2024.

The FEDEPE Awards are celebrating their 29th anniversary this year. Francisco Fonseca, Director of the Representation of the European Commission in Spain, thanked FE-DEPE for this recognition and said: "Gender equality is a fundamental principle of the European Union, but is not a reality yet. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, has made it one of the cornerstones of her mandate to strongly work towards this end. She began by setting the tone by building the most equal Commission in history and ensuring a better gender balance in the cabinets. The next step will be to develop legal tools to fulfil the commitment she has made and to prevent and combat gender-based violence".

Similarly, Ana Bujaldón, President of FEDEPE, said, "Ursula von der Leyen has made history by making gender equality a priority for the European Union, in order to make it the 'Equality Union'.

The Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025 sets out a vision, policy objectives and actions to achieve concrete progress on gender equality in Europe and meet the Sustainable Development Goals. The ultimate goal is equality between all women and men, girls and boys, with all their diversity. As Bujaldón has stressed, paraphrasing von der Leyen, "We can only achieve our full potential if we use all our talents and diversity".

### The XXIX edition of the FEDEPE Awards

The FEDEPE Awards began in 1989 and, since then, have become an important event in the calendar of women entrepreneurs and managers in Spain, as well as companies and institutions and society as a whole. Throughout these years, they have become a benchmark for the business world and for the media, having so far distinguished a total of 168 female managers, professionals and entrepreneurs, as well as companies, institutions and the media.

### **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **SOTEU 2020**

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen today pledged that the European Commission will drive a sustainable and transformational recovery that will give Europe a global platform to lead economically, environmentally and geopolitically.

The President called for lessons to be learned, saying Europe must build a stronger European health union, with a future-proof and properly funded EU4Health programme, a reinforced European Medicines Agency (EMA) and a strengthened European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).



She pledged to build a European BARDA – agency for biomedical advanced research and development – to enhance Europe's capacity to respond to cross-border threats. The President called for a debate on new competences for the EU in the field of health, as part of the forthcoming Conference on the Future of Europe.

President von der Leyen stressed the importance of reinforcing Europe's social market economy and of protecting workers and businesses from external shocks. She promised to put forward a legal framework for setting minimum wages, emphasising that "minimum wages work – and it is time work paid".

The President pledged action to boost the single market, reinforce the Economic and Social Union, get the Schengen area working in full again, update the EU's industry strategy and adapt its competition framework.

## European Green Deal – reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030

The President revealed that the European Commission is proposing to increase the 2030 target for emissions reduction from 40% to at least 55%. This will put the EU on track for climate neutrality by 2050 and for meeting its Paris Agreement obligations. The Carbon Border Adjustment mechanism will help ensure others will follow Europe's lead.

By next summer the Commission will revise all of the EU's climate and energy legislation to make it 'fit for 55'.

The President further announced that 30% of the €750 billion #NextGenerationEU budget will be raised through green bonds. And 37% funding will be invested in European Green Deal objectives, including 'lighthouse' European projects – hydrogen, green building and 1 million electric charging points.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE





### Minimum wages work – and it is time work paid.

She called for a new 'European Bauhaus' as a co-creation platform for architects, engineers and designers, to launch the architectural style of our times, reflecting our aspirations to make Europe the first climate neutral continent.

#### **Europe's Digital Decade**

President von der Leyen stressed that "Europe must now lead the way on digital – or it will have to follow the way of others." She called for a common plan for digital Europe with clearly defined goals for 2030, such as for connectivity, skills and digital public services. She further announced that the EU will invest 20% of NextGenerationEU's budget on digital.

#### A Vital Europe in a Fragile World

The President called for the revitalisation and reform of the multilateral system, including the UN, WTO and WHO. She pledged that the European Commission will put forward a European Magnitsky act and urged Member States to embrace qualified majority voting on external relations "at least on human rights and sanctions implementation."

Referring to "new beginnings with old friends", the President said Europe is ready to build a new transatlantic agenda with the U.S. and to reach a deal with the UK, provided it honours the Withdrawal Agreement, "a matter of law, trust and good faith". Next week the Commission will put forward its New Pact on Migration, with an approach based on humanity, solidarity and a "clear distinction between those who have the right to stay and those who do not".

#### **Rule of Law**

The President stressed that the Commission will before the end of September adopt its first annual Rule of Law report covering all Member States. President von der Leyen pledged to ensure that EU funds are spent with the rule of law guaranteed.

### Letter of Intent

President von der Leyen's Address is accompanied by a 'Letter of Intent' to European Parliament President David Sassoli and to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who holds the rotating Council Presidency. The letter sets out a list of initiatives the European Commission intends to bring forward over the coming year.

#### **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE EU-UK JOINT COMMITTEE

Statement by the European Commission following the extraordinary meeting of the EU-UK Joint Committee

ollowing the publication by the UK government of the draft "United Kingdom Internal Market Bill" on 9 September 2020, Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič called for an extraordinary meeting of the EU-UK Joint Committee to request the UK government to elaborate on its intentions and to respond to the EU's serious concerns. A meeting took place today in London between Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič and Michael Gove, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Vice-President stated, in no uncertain terms, that the timely and full implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement, including the Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland – which Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his government agreed to, and which the UK Houses of Parliament ratified, less than a year ago – is a legal obligation. The European Union

expects the letter and

spirit of this Agreement to be fully respected.

Violating the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement would break international law, undermine trust and put at risk the ongoing future relationship negotiations.

The Withdrawal Agreement entered into force on 1 February 2020 and has legal effects under international law. Since that point in time, neither the EU nor the UK can unilaterally change, clarify, amend, interpret, disregard or disapply the agreement. The Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland is an essential part of the Withdrawal Agreement. Its aim is to protect peace and stability on the island of Ireland and was the result of long, detailed and difficult negotiations between the EU and the UK.

If adopted as proposed, the draft bill would be in clear breach of substantive provisions of the Protocol. In addition, the UK government would be in violation of the good faith obligation under the Withdrawal Agreement (Article 5) as the draft Bill jeopardises the attainment of the objectives of the Agreement.

The EU does not accept the argument that the aim of the draft Bill is to protect the Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement. In fact, it is of the view that it does the opposite. Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič called on the UK government to withdraw these measures rious violation of the Withdrawal from the draft Bill in the shortest time possible and in any case by the end of the month. He stated that by putting forward this Bill, the UK has seriously damaged trust between the EU and the UK. It is now up to the UK government to re-establish that trust.

He reminded the UK government that the Withdrawal Agreement contains a number of mechanisms and legal remedies to address violations of the legal obligations contained in the text which the European Union will not be shy in using.

Vice-President Maroš Šefčo vič stated that if the Bill were to be adopted, it would constitute an extremely se

Agreement and of international law.





### **ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

### **COMMISSION TO BOOST EUROPE'S CAPITAL MARKETS**

The European Commission has published a new, ambitious Action Plan to boost the European Union's Capital Markets Union (CMU) over the coming years.



The EU's top priority is to ensure that Europe recovers from the unprecedented economic crisis caused by coronavirus. Developing the EU's capital markets, and ensuring access to market financing, will be essential in this task.

Large and integrated capital markets will facilitate the EU's recovery, making sure that businesses – in particular small and medium-sized businesses – have access to sources of funding and that European savers have the confidence to invest for their future. Vibrant capital markets will also support Europe's green and digital transition, as well helping to create a more inclusive and resilient economy. The Capital Markets Union is also crucial to boost the international role of the euro.

#### **ACTION PLAN**

Ensuring that the EU's economic recovery is green, digital, inclusive and resilient by making financing more accessible for European companies, in particular SMEs.

2 Making the EU an even safer place for individuals to save and invest long-term.

Integrating national capital markets into a genuine EU-wide single market for capital.

### **SPECIFIC MEASURES**

Create a single access point to company data for investors.

Support insurers and banks to invest more in EU businesses.

3 Strengthen investment protection to support more cross-border investment in the EU.

Facilitate monitoring of pension adequacy across Europe.

Make insolvency rules more harmonised or convergent.

Push for progress in supervisory convergence and consistent application of the single rulebook for financial markets in the EU.

### **ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

### **FORTENOVA ACQUIRES MERCATOR**

The European Commission has approved unconditionally, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed acquisition of Mercator by Fortenova.

B oth Fortenova and Mercator are active in the supply of daily consumer goods. In the EEA, Fortenova is currently active in Croatia and Slovenia at various levels of the value chain. Mercator's activities are primarily located in Slovenia, with a significant presence at retail level where Fortenova is not active.



alternatives to the companies' products and services.

 A majority of market participants consulted by the Commission appears to be either supportive of the transaction or not concerned by it.



During its investigation, the Commission received feedback from a broad range of local and international competitors, suppliers and customers of Fortenova and Mercator, including producers of daily consumer goods, wholesale suppliers and retailers.

Based on its market investigation, the Commission found that the transaction, as notified, would not significantly reduce head-to-head competition in the procurement and wholesale supply of daily consumer goods, in particular for the following reasons:

- The companies have very low to moderate combined market shares.
- 2. A number of competitors offer effective

The Commission also found that vertical relationships between the activities of Fortenova and Mercator are unlikely to result in harm to competition. In Croatia, the addition of Mercator's very limited activities would not change Fortenova's incentive to give competitors' access to essential inputs or to a sufficient customer base. In Slovenia, the addition of Mercator's activities would not give Fortenova the ability or incentive to shut out competitors, mainly because a sufficient number of alternative suppliers and customers remain available in the market.

### COUNCIL AGREES ITS POSITION ON THE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY

**ECONOMIC AFFAIRS** 

Member states' EU ambassadors formally agreed the Council's position on the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

ollowing the political agreement reached by the ministers for economy and finance on 6 October 2020, member states' EU ambassadors formally agreed the Council's position on the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The facility is the centrepiece of the Next Generation EU recovery instrument designed to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and the challenges posed by the green and digital transitions.

With a financial envelope of €672.5 billion, the facility will support public investments and reforms and contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion within the EU. It will help member states address the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic whilst ensuring that their economies undertake the green and digital transitions, becoming more sustainable and resilient.

The key features of the facility were discussed by the EU leaders at their meeting on 17-21 July 2020 as part of negotiations on the multiannual financial framework and the recovery package. The Council's position builds on their political guidance.

As regards the financial envelopes, the Council's mandate reflects the key elements included in the European Council conclusions of 17-21 July.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility will offer member states €312.5 billion in grants (in 2018 prices), of which 70% would be committed in 2021 and 2022 and 30% by the end of 2023.

The allocation key for the years 2021-2022 would take into account for each member state its population, the inverse of its per capita GDP and its relative unemployment rate over the past 5 years. In the allocation key for the year 2023, the unemployment criterion is replaced, in equal proportion, by the percentage fall in real GDP in 2020 and the aggregated percentage change in real GDP over the period 2020-2021, based on a preliminary basis on the Commission Autumn 2020 forecasts and then to be updated by 30 June 2022 with the latest statistical figures.

In order to receive support from the Recovery and Resilience Facility, member states must prepare national recovery and resilience plans setting out their reform and investment agendas until 2026, including targets, milestones and estimated costs.

The plans should address the challenges and priorities identified in the country-specific recommendations of the European Semester and contribute to strengthening the growth potential, job creation and economic and social resilience of member states. At least 37% of the plan's allocation should support the green transition and at least 20% digital transformation. Member states should also ensure that their measures comply with the 'do no significant harm' principle of the EU taxonomy regulation.

### **Recovery and resilience plans**

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### **Approval process**

The Council considers that the Commission should assess member states' recovery and resilience plans or, where applicable, their updates, within two months. The member state concerned and the Commission may agree to extend this deadline by a reasonable time period if necessary.

The assessment of the recovery and resilience plans is to be approved by the Council by means of an implementing decision, which it should endeavour to adopt within four weeks of the Commission proposal.

### Disbursements

Under the facility, the funds are released to member states upon satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets included in their recovery and resilience plans. According to the Council's mandate, before the Commission adopts a decision authorizing the disbursement of the financial support, in addition to the regular consultation of the relevant committee of experts, it will ask the Economic and Financial Committee to give its opinion on the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets. The opinion should be delivered within four weeks of receiving the Commission's preliminary assessment.

### LEGAL AFFAIRS

### THE CJEU PREVENTS VIVENDI FROM ACQUIRING 28% OF THE CAPITAL OF MEDIASET

That provision constitutes a prohibited impediment to the right of establishment as it is not appropriate for achieving the objective of protecting pluralism of information.



n 2016, the French company Vivendi SA, which is the parent company of a group active in the media sector and in the creation and distribution of audiovisual content, launched a hostile acquisition campaign for shares in Mediaset Italia Spa ('Mediaset'), an Italian company operating in the same sector and controlled by the Fininvest group. It succeeded in securing 28.8% of Mediaset's share capital and 29.94% of its voting rights.

Mediaset lodged a complaint against Vivendi with the Autorità per le Garanzie nelle Comunicazioni (AGCOM) (Communications Regulatory Authority, Italy), accusing Vivendi of having infringed the provision of Italian law which, with the aim of safeguarding pluralism of information, prohibits companies, the revenue of which in the electronic communications sector, including that secured through controlled or affiliated companies, is greater than 40% of the total revenues generated in that sector, from earning, within the integrated communications system ('the SIC'), revenueexceeding 10% of the total revenues generated in that system in Italy. That was the case with regard to Vivendi, which already held a significant position in the Italian electronic communications sector by reason of the control that it exerted over Telecom Italia SpA (TIM).

By a decision of 2017, AGCOM declared that Vivendi had infringed that provision of Italian law by acquiring the shares in Mediaset and ordered it to put an end to that infringement.

While complying with the order issued by AG-COM by transferring to a third company 19.19% of the share capital in Mediaset, Vivendi brought an action seeking the annulment of that decision before the Tribunale amministrativo regionale per il Lazio (Regional Administrative Court, Lazio, Italy).

Against that background, the Tribunale amministrativo regionale per il Lazio asks the Court of Justice, in essence, whether the freedom of establishment enshrined in Article 49 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) precludes legislation of a Member State which has the effect of preventing a company registered in another Member State, the revenue of which in the electronic communications sector at national level, including through controlled or affiliated companies, is in excess of 40% of the total revenues generated in that sector, from earning, within the SIC, revenue exceeding 10% of the total revenues generated in that system The Court answers that the previous question in the affirmative.

The Court notes, first of all, that Article 49 TFEU precludes any national measure which is liable to hinder or render less attractive the exercise by EU nationals of the freedom of establishment guaranteed by the FEU Treaty. That is the case of the Italian provision prohibiting Vivendi from retaining the shareholdings that it had acquired in Mediaset or that it held in Telecom Italia and thus requiring it to cease to hold those shares in one or other of those undertakings in so far as they exceeded the thresholds laid down in that provision.

The Court observes, next, that, even though a restriction on freedom of establishment may, in principle, be justified by an objective in the general interest, such as the protection of pluralism of information and the media, that is not the case with regard to the provision in question, since it is not appropriate for achieving that objective.

The Court notes, in this connection, that EU law, as regards electronic communication services, makes a clear distinction between the production of content and the transmission of content. Accordingly, undertakings active in the electronic communications sector which control the transmission of content do not necessarily have control over the production of that content. However, the provision at issue in this case does not refer to the links between the production of content and the transmission of content, and it is also not worded in such a way as to apply specifically in relation to those links.

The Court concludes that the Italian provision sets thresholds which bear no relation to the risk to media pluralism, since those thresholds do not make it possible to determine whether and to what extent an undertaking is actually in a position to influence the content of the media.





### FIRST ANNUAL REPORT ON THE RULE OF LAW SITUA-TION ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION

This report includes input from every Member State and covers both positive and negative developments across the EU.

The European Commission has today published the first EU-wide report on the rule of law. This report includes input from every Member State and covers both positive and negative developments across the EU. It shows that many Member States have high rule of law standards, but important challenges to the rule of law exist in the EU. It also reflects relevant developments stemming from the emergency measures taken by Member States due to the coronavirus crisis. The report covers four main pillars with a strong bearing on the rule of law: national justice systems, anti-corruption frameworks, media pluralism and freedom, and other institutional issues related to the checks and balances essential to an effective system of democratic governance.

The aim of the new Rule of Law Report is to enlarge the existing EU toolbox with a new preventive tool and kick-start an inclusive debate and rule of law culture across the EU. It should help all Member States examine how challenges can be addressed, how they can learn from each other's experiences, and show how the rule of law can be further strengthened in full respect of national constitutional systems and traditions.



### Justice systems

VA number of Member States are undertaking reforms to strengthen judicial independence and are reducing the influence of the executive or legislative power over the judiciary. This includes Member States where judicial independence has traditionally been seen as high or even very high. The country specific assessments show that judicial independence remains an issue of concern in some Member States, some of which have led to infringements or Article 7(1) proceedings. Ensuring justice systems are fit for the digital age is also an EU-wide challenge and the current pandemic

has provided additional impetus to accelerate necessary digital reforms.

### Media freedom and pluralism

EU citizens broadly en-

dia freedom and pluralism. Especially during the coronavirus pandemic, media have proven essential in fighting disinformation. The report nevertheless raises concerns about effectiveness and adequate resources, as well as risks of politicisation of media authorities in some Member States. Some country assessments have further identified cases where serious concerns have been raised regarding political pressure on media. Lastly, journalists and other media actors face threats and attacks in relation to their work in a number of Member States, although some countries have also developed practices and set up structures and measures to support and protect journalists.

### Anti-corruption frameworks Several Member States have adopted comprehensive anti-corruption strategies, while others are in the process of preparing such strategies. Effective implementation and monitoring remain key to ensure progress. Many Member States have also taken, or foresee taking, measures to strengthen their corruption prevention and integrity framework, and some Member States have adopted measures to strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system to fight corruption. On the other hand, the effectiveness of criminal investigations, prosecution and adjudication of corruption cases,

Ilenge in several Member States.

# Institutional checks and balances

Institutional checks and balances are at the core of the rule of law, ensuring that power exercised by one state authority is sub-

ject to democratic oversight. In a number of Member States, constitutional reforms have been initiated to strengthen institutional checks and balances. Many Member States have also established systematic policies for involving stakeholders and ensuring that structural reforms are the product of a broad discussion within society. At the same time, the report shows that excessive use of accelerated and emergency legislation can give rise to rule of law concerns. Across the EU, civil society continues to be a key actor in defending the rule of law, and in most Member States, there is an enabling and supporting environment for civil society. However, there are examples of civil society facing serious challenges in some Member States as a result of legislation limiting access to foreign funding or smear campaigns.

### THE TJUE AGREES WITH MESSI AND ENDORSES THE REGISTRATION OF HIS TRADEMARK

The Court of Justice dismisses the appeals brought by EUIPO and a Spanish company against the judgment of the General Court authorising football player Lionel Messi to register the trade mark 'MESSI' for sports equipment and clothing

n August 2011, the footballer Lionel Andrés Messi Cuccittini filed an application with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) for registration of the following figurative sign as an EU trade mark, inter alia for sports and gymnastics clothing, footwear and equipment:



In November 2011, Mr Jaime Masferrer Coma filed a notice of opposition to the registration of the mark applied for by Mr Messi Cuccittini, alleging a likelihood of confusion with the EU word marks MASSI, registered, inter alia, for clothing, footwear, cycling helmets, protective clothing and gloves (the rights to those marks were transferred in May 2012 to the Spanish company J.M.-E.V. e hijos). In 2013, EUIPO upheld the opposition. Mr Messi Cuccittini lodged an appeal with EUIPO against that decision. In April 2014, EUIPO dismissed the appeal, due, essentially, to a likelihood of confusion between the signs MASSI and MESSI. Mr Messi Cuccittini then brought an action

before the General Court of the European Union for annulment of EUIPO's decision. By its judgment of 26 April 2018, the General Court annulled that decision, considering that the football player's reputation counteracted the visual and phonetic similarities between the two signs and excluded any likelihood of confusion.

In its judgment, the Court of Justice dismisses both appeals.

EUIPO (Case C-449/18 P) objected to the General Court having relied only on the perception of a significant part of the relevant public in order to rule out a likelihood of confusion. The Court of Justice considers, however, that the General Court did indeed take into account the perception of the marks MASSI and MESSI by the whole of the relevant public before ruling that EUIPO had been wrong to conclude that use of the MESSI mark for the goods at issue could give rise to a likelihood of confusion with the MAS-SI marks on the part of the relevant public.

J.M.-E.V. e hijos (C-474/18 P) claimed that the General Court had erred in law in having considered that, when assessing the likelihood of confusion, account should be taken of the reputation of the person, in this case Mr Messi Cuccittini, whose name is the subject of an application for an EU trade mark. The Court of Justice observes that, just like the reputation of the earlier mark, the possible reputation of the person who is applying for his name to be registered as a trade mark is one of the relevant factors for the purposes of assessing the likelihood of confusion, in so far as that reputation may influence the relevant public's perception of the mark. The General Court did not therefore err in considering that Mr Messi Cuccittini's reputation constituted a relevant factor for the purposes of establishing a conceptual difference between the terms 'messi' and 'massi'.

The Court also observes that, contrary to the Spanish company's assertion, the question of the reputation enjoyed by Mr Messi Cuccittini had already been in issue in the proceedings before EUIPO. It adds that the arguments relied on at the stage of the action before the General Court, which consist only of stating well-known facts, are not considered to be new, so the General Court was correct to find that, given, that the reputation of the name Messi, as the family name of a football player who is famous throughout the world and as a public figure, constituted a well-known fact, that is is say a fact that is likely to be known by any person or that may be ascertained from generally ac-

sible sour- c those sources were mat-

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that were available to EUIPO at the time it adopted its decision and which it should have taken into account in its assessment of the conceptual similarity of the signs MASSI and MESSI.

Lastly, the Court considers that the arguments of J.M.-E.V. e hijos to the effect that the General Court erred in applying the case-law flowing from the judgment in RuizPicasso and Others v OHIM 4 are based on a misreading of that judgment. Indeed, the existence of an earlier, we-Il-known mark cited in support of an opposition does not constitute a condition for application of that case-law. The Court notes that the assessment aiming to establish whether a sign has a clear and established meaning as far as the public is concerned may, therefore, relate as much to the sign constituting the earlier mark (in this case MASSI) as it does to the sign corresponding to the mark applied for (in this case MESSI). It follows that, having noted that the relevant public perceived the signs MASSI and MESSI as being conceptually different, the General Court could rightly apply that case-law.

> MESSI como signos conceptualmente diferentes, podía fundadamente aplicar dicha jurisprudencia.

### **SECURITY AFFAIRS**

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: JOINT QUEST FOR FU-TURE DEFENCE APPLICATIONS

The Artificial Intelligence has significantly growth due to deep-learning techniques with insight implications in the defence world.

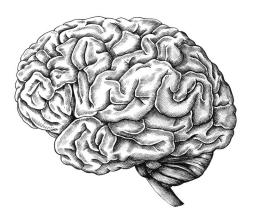


Illustration by rawpixel

The European Defence Agency aims to develop a Research & Development program alongside its Member States in this sector in important ways, from creating a common set of AI references and terminology to delimit logical areas for their cross-border collaboration to the development of the most relevant areas for Europe's strategic autonomy.

### Virtual testing for real-life military Artifitial Intelligence solutions

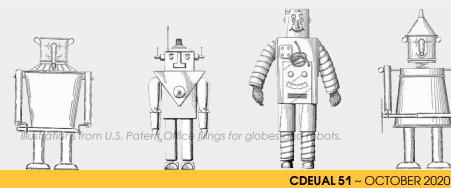
The first step to implement AI products and services into the military sector is to standardise and certificate them. Thereby, EDA came up with the idea of create a repository or 'data lake' of less sensitive but anonymous military operational data on vechicles, air platforms, etc.

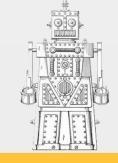
What if a company develops a great algorithm working on a predictive maintenance for a helicopter type? How to test it? Well, with the repository, a company could go to EDA as the trusted thir-party to link the innovator with the Member State that controls and owns the operational data needed.

#### LINK TO THE ARTICLE



Al is not new for the defence world. There have been a lot of expectations pinned to it since the end of the Second World War: many trends and crazy predictions that have promised so much, only to fade away





### **SECURITY AFFAIRS**

### **ENTRUSTED: THE EU'S NEW SECURITY PROJECT**

New EU research project launched by the European Commission under the HORIZON 2020 programme which aims to develop secure satellite communications for EU governments and institutions.

the European Commission under the HORIZON 2020 programme which aims to develop secure satellite communications for EU governments and institutions..

Called ENTRUSTED ('European Networking for satellite Telecommunication Roadmap for the governmental Users requiring Secure, inTeroperable, innovativE and standardiseD services'), the project will run un-

til February 2023.

Under the leadership of the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency (GSA) and with a budget of €3 million ENTRUSTED will identify needs requiand rements of tellite secure sacommunition endusers. project will contribute to the formulation of assumptions and guidelines, in terms of user-orientated activities, for the future EU GOV-SATCOM programme aimed at creating independent,

DA is part of a new EU research project launched by autonomous and secure satellite communication system for EU Member States and agencies.

> With its wide SatCom expertise based on two SatCom services delivering projects and a Project Team Satellite Communication, EDA has been called to be part of the consortium of EU Member States and EU Agencies implementing the project.

> > TO THE

The Agency will contribute to all work packages with a focus on user needs, requirements and use cases definition, surveying the state-ofthe-art of existing secure SatCom user technologies and definition of a research and development (R&D) roadmap.

Over the coming 30 **ENTRUSTED** months, will develop a common understanding of governmental user needs for secure SATCOM sys-

tems, elaborate a set of user requirements for the future EU GOVSATCOM programme and analyse available and planned secure SATCOM capabilities and solutions offered by commercial operators and governments. It will also assess the need for European standardisation for secure SATCOM user equipment and services and identify the main research and innovation actions to be taken at national and EU levels with regard to secure SATCOM user technologies. A set of recommendations to the European Commission will be issued at the end of the project.

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### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: THREATS AND OPPORTU-NITIES

Artificial intelligence (AI) affects our lives more and more. Learn about the opportunities and threats for security, democracy, businesses and jobs.

Europe's growth and wealth are closely connected to how it will make use of data and connected technologies. Al can make a big difference to our lives – for better or worse – and the European Parliament has established a committee to examine the impact of the technology. Below are some key opportunities and threats connected to future applications of Al.

EU countries are already strong in digital industry and business-to-business applications. With a high-quality digital infrastructure and a regulatory framework that protects privacy and freedom of speech, the EU could become a global leader in the data economy and its applications.

Al could help people with improved health care, safer cars and other transport systems, tailored, cheaper and longer-lasting products and services. It can also facilitate access to information, education and training. The need for distance learning became more important because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Al can also make workplace safer as robots can be used for dangerous parts of jobs, and open new job positions as Al-driven industries grow and change.

For businesses, AI can enable the development of a new generation of products and services, including in sectors where European companies already have strong positions: green and circular economy, machinery, farming, healthcare, fashion, tourism. It can boost sales, improve machine maintenance, increase production output and quality, improve customer service, as well as save energy.

Al used in public services can reduce costs and offer new possibilities in public transport, education, energy and waste management and could also improve the sustainability of products. In this way Al could contribute to achieving the goals of the EU Green Deal.

Democracy could be made stronger by using data-based scrutiny, preventing disinformation and cyber attacks and ensuring access to quality information . Al could also support diversity and openness, for example by mitigating the possibility of prejudice in hiring decisions and using analytical data instead.

Al is predicted to be used more in crime prevention and the criminal justice system, as massive data sets could be processed faster, prisoner flight risks assessed more accurately, crime or even terrorist attacks predicted and prevented. It is already used by online platforms to detect and react to unlawful and inappropriate online behaviour.

In military matters, AI can be used for defence and attack strategies in hacking and phishing or to target key systems in cyberwarfare, while the key advantage of autonomous weapon systems is the potential to engage in armed conflict with the reduced risk of physical harm.

### Threats and challenges of AI

The increasing reliance on Al systems also poses potential risks.

#### Underuse and overuse of AI

Underuse of AI is considered as a major threat: missed opportunities for the EU could mean poor implementation of major programmes, such as the EU Green Deal, losing competitive advantage towards other parts of the world, economic stagnation and poorer possibilities for people. Underuse could derive from public and business' mistrust in AI, poor infrastructure, lack of initiative, low investments, or, since AI's machine learning is dependent on data, from fragmented digital markets.

Overuse can also be problematic: investing in AI applications that prove not to be useful or applying AI to tasks for which it is not suited, for example using it to explain complex societal issues.

## Liability: who is responsible for damage caused by AI?

An important challenge is to determine who is responsible for damage caused by an Al-operated device or service: in an accident involving a self-driving car. Should the damage be covered by the owner, the car manufacturer or the programmer?

If the producer was absolutely free of accountability, there might be no incentive to provide good product or service and it could damage people's trust in the technology; but regulations could also be too strict and stifle innovation.

## Threats of AI to fundamental rights and democracy

The results that AI produces depend on how it is designed and what data it uses. Both desian and data can be intentionally or unintentionally biased. For example, some important aspects of an issue might not be programmed into the algorithm or might be programmed to reflect and replicate structural biases. In adcition, the use of numbers to represent complex social reality could make the Al seem factual and precise when it isn't. This is sometimes referred to as mathwashing.

If not done properly. All could lead to decisions influenced by data on ethnicity, sex, age when hiring or firing, offering loans, or even in criminal proceedings.

Al could severely affect the right to privacy and data protection. It can be for example used in face recognition equipment or for online tracking and profiling of individuals. In addition, AI enables merging pieces of information a person has given into new data, which can lead to results the person would not expect.

It can also present a threat to democracy; AI has already been blamed for creating online echo chambers based on a person's previous online behaviour, displaying only content a person would like, instead of creating an environment for pluralistic, equally accessible and inclusive public debate. It can even be used to create extremely realistic fake video, audio and images, known as deepfakes, which can present financial risks, harm reputation, and challenge decision making, All of this could lead to separation and polarisation in the public sphere and manipulate elections.

Al could also play a role in harming freedom of assembly and protest as it could track and profile individuals linked to certain beliefs or actions.

### AI impact on jobs

Use of AI in the workplace is expected to result in the elimination of a large number of jobs. Though AI is also expected to create and make better jobs, education and training will have a crucial role in preventing long-term unemployment and ensure a skilled workforce.

### Competition

Amassing information could also lead to distortion of competition as companies with more information could gain an advantage and effectively eliminate competitors.

### Safety and security risks

Al applications that are in physical contact with humans or integrated into the human body could pose safety risks as they may be poorly designed, misused or hacked. Poorly regulated use of Al in weapons could lead to loss of human control over dangerous weapons.



### **Transparency challenges**

mbalances of access to information could be exploited. For example, based on a person's online behaviour or other data and without their knowledge, an online vendor can use AI to predict someone is willing to pay, or a political campaign can adapt their message. Another transparency issue is that sometimes it can be unclear to people whether they are interacting with AI or a person.



### MEPS WANT TO INCREASE EMISSIONS REDUCTION TAR-GET TO 60%

All member states must become climate neutral by 2050, says Parliament in a vote on the EU climate law, calling for ambitious 2030 and 2040 emissions reduction targets.

The new law aims to transform political promises that the EU will become climate neutral by 2050 into a binding obligation and to give European citizens and businesses the legal certainty and predictability they need to plan for the transformation.

MEPs insist that both the EU and all member states individually must become climate-neutral by 2050 and that thereafter the EU shall achieve "negative emissions". They also call for sufficient financing to achieve this.

The Commission must propose by 31 May 2023, through the ordinary decision-making procedure, a trajectory at EU level on how to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, say MEPs. It must take into account the total remaining EU greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions until 2050 to limit the increase in temperature in accordance with the Paris Agreement. The trajectory shall be reviewed after each stocktake at global level.

MEPs also want to set up an EU Climate Change Council (ECCC) as an independent scientific body to assess whether policy is consistent and to monitor progress.

### A more ambitious 2030-target

The EU's current emissions reductions target for 2030 is 40% compared to 1990. The Commission recently proposed to increase this target to "at least 55%" in the amended proposal for an EU climate law. MEPs today raised the bar even further, calling for a reduction of 60% in 2030, adding that national targets shall be increased in a cost-efficient and fair way.

They also want an interim target for 2040 to be proposed by the Commission following an impact assessment, to ensure the EU is on track to reach its 2050 target.

Finally, the EU and member states must also phase out all direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies by 31 December 2025 at the latest, say MEPs, while they underline the need to continue efforts to combat energy poverty.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY**

### NEW PLAN TO SUPPORT GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSI-TION AND EU RECOVERY

The European Commission adopted a Communication on a new European Research Area for Research and Innovation.

Based on excellence, competitive, open and talent-driven, the new European Research Area will improve



Europe's research and innovation landscape, accelerate the EU's transition towards climate neutrality and digital leadership, support its recovery from the societal and economic impact of the coronavirus crisis, and strengthen its resilience against future crises.

The Commission set out strategic objectives and actions to be implemented in close cooperation with the Member States, in order to prioritise investments and reforms in research and innovation, improve access to excellence for researchers across the EU and enable research results to reach the market and the real economy. Additionally, the Communication will further promote researchers' mobility, skills and career development opportunities within the EU, gender equality, as well as better access to publicly funded peer-reviewed science.

Launched in 2000, the European Research Area has made major achievements over the past years – yet, today's context prompts us to rethink how to strengthen its role, better define and implement its key objectives, as well as make it more attractive as a common space for creating valuable research and innovation. Moreover, Europe is currently facing significant societal, ecological and economic challenges that are aggravated by the coronavirus crisis. Research and innovation is therefore crucial in addressing these challenges, delivering on Europe's recovery and speeding up the twin green and digital transitions.

Illustration by Brett Ryde

Objectives of the new European Research Area

La The Comunity sets four strategic objectives:

Prioritise investments and reforms in research and innovation towards the green and digital transition, to support Europe's recovery and increase competitiveness.

Improve access to excellent facilities and infrastructures for researchers across the EU.

Transfer results to the economy to boost business investments and market uptake of research output, as well as foster EU competitiveness and leadership in the global technological setting.

Strengthen mobility of researchers and free flow of knowledge and technology, through greater cooperation among Member States, to ensure that everyone benefits from research and its results.

The EU will work towards accomplishing the above strategic objectives, in close cooperation with the Member States, through 14 actions that are linked to each other and will be instrumental in realising the European Research Area. Furthermore, the Commission will drive a European Forum for Transition, a strategic discussion forum with Member States that will support them in the coherent implementation of these four objectives. The Commission will also propose, by the first half of 2021, that Member States adopt a Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe, which will reinforce their commitment to shared policies and principles and indicate the areas where they will jointly develop priority actions.

As part of its initiatives to support the recovery and build a green and digital Europe, the Commission, in addition to the new European Research Area, adopted today a new Digital Education Action Plan, to adapt education and training systems to the digital age, as well as a Communication on the European Education Area as a driver for job creation and growth.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE

#### **SUSTAINABILITY**

# COMMISSION PREPARES NEW INITIATIVES TO BOOST THE ORGANIC FARMING SECTOR

The European Commission has today launched a public consultation on its future Action Plan on Organic Farming.t

t is a priority for the Commission to ensure that the organic farming sector has the right tools in place as well as a well-functioning and consensual legal framework which is key to achieving the objective of 25% of agricultural land dedicated to organic farming. While the new organic regulation provides a solid basis, secondary legislation still to be adopted needs to be equally resilient. At the request of Member States, the European Parliament, third countries, and other stakeholders, the Commission has therefore proposed today as well to postpone the entry into force of the new organic legislation by one year, from 1 January 2021 to 1 January 2022.

The future Organic Farming Action Plan, due for adoption early in 2021, will be an important instrument to accompany the future growth of the sector. The Commission's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies include the target of reaching 25% of agricultural land under organic farming by 2030. To help reach this target, the European Commission is putting in place and making use of key tools:

An Action Plan for Organic Farming, which will be instrumental in helping boost the sector, both at demand and supply level. It will be organised around three key angles: stimulating demand for organic products while maintaining consumer trust; encouraging the increase of the organic farming area in the EU; and, enhancing the role of organic production in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, including in sustainable resource management.

The new organic legislation, which will reflect the changing nature of this rapidly growing sector. The new rules are designed to guarantee fair competition for farmers while preventing fraud and maintaining consumer trust. To ensure a smooth transition between the current and future legislation and to allow the industry and Member States to be fully ready to implement the new rules, the Commission has proposed to postpone by one year its entry into force. The postponement was originally requested by Member States, the European Parliament, third countries, and other stakeholders due to the complexity and importance of the secondary legislation under preparation. As a result of the coronavirus crisis, work on the secondary legislation has slowed down. The postponement will allow sufficient time for the necessary extensive consultations and legislative scrutiny.

3 The EU agri-food promotion policy, which supports the EU agri-food promotion policy, which supports the EU opean agricultural sector by promoting its quality features on the internal market and in third countries. For the year 2021, the Commission plans to allocate a specific budget of €40 million to organic farming under the promotion policy. This budget will co-finance promotion actions and information campaigns on the EU organic sector, raising awareness about its qualities and aiming at stimulating demand.

In addition to these key tools, the current and future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will continue to support the further development of organic farming in the EU. Forms tance, measures under the rural development program mes offer support to farmers who wish to convert to organic nic farming as well as maintaining this type of agriculture

LINK TO THE ARTICLE







Turning brewer's yeast into new bioproducts.

**B** DI biotechnology's European LIFE YEAST project uses spent brewer's yeast to transform it into new bio-products of great value for other sectors, contributing to the circular economy

Spent brewer's yeast is a by-product obtained in the brewing process, which is often sold as animal feed, and in many other cases is wasted and managed as a waste. By means of its treatment, BDI biotechnology coordinates, together with Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev), the European LIFE YEAST project whose aim is to convert this by-product into raw materials with relevant properties for its use in other industrial sectors.

# What can we do with this by-product to make use of it?

This is one of the big questions that the brewing sector is constantly asking itself.

In the brewing process, yeast is added to convert the sugars into ethanol. The excess yeast is collected and can be reused up to approximately six times in the same process. After this, spent brewer's yeast is obtained, which is the second most important by-product in the brewing process, representing 15%.

The project is coordinated by BDI biotechnology, a company which offers services for improving micro-organisms, and developing and scaling up biotechnological processes for the health and food segments. The world's largest beer manufacturer, AB InBev, also participates in the project..

#### How does the LIFE YEAST project obtain these bioproducts?

The main tasks for obtaining the product include:

The development of a pre-treatment, hydrolysis and purification process, using innovative technologies to obtain new bioproducts from spent brewer's yeast. These bioproducts are: yeast extract, cell wall and □-glucan.

The optimisation of each of the process stages with the aim of maximising the production of the-se bioproducts, taking into ac-count a techno-economic and environmental assessment.

The scaling up of the process to 100 and 1000 L, proving that the process developed can be applied on a semi-industrial scale to produce greater quantities of these processed bioproducts.

Tests in which these bioproducts are included as raw materials in various processes, proving their application in different industrial sectors..

#### What are these bioproducts and what are their applications in industry?

The new bioproducts elaborated during the development of the LIFE YEAST project are yeast extract, cell wall and  $\Box$ -glucan.

Yeast extract is composed of a wide range of amino acids, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals and is rich in proteins. This product is normally used in food due to its numerous organoleptic properties, acting as a flavour enhancer and helping to mask unpleasant flavours (Podpora et al., 2016).

**hat are their** in industry? trials are being conducted to test the cell wall produced as a prebiotic in animal feed, by introducing this raw material into this feed.

> The latest bioproduct developed in the LIFE YEAST project is  $\beta$ -glucan, obtained through a process of extraction from the cell wall. This bioproduct has interesting physical-chemical properties, including its gelling and emulsifying capacity, which allows it to be used in food applications. It also has biological activity, associated with applications in medicine, food, pharmacyte change through co-financed value-added projects.

veast extract obtained is be-

ing applied as a source of nitro-

gen in fermentations to produce

VLPs (Virus Like Particles) in the

as an enhancer in the fermenta-

tion of the beer-making process.

In turn, the cell wall is main-

ly composed of (1-3)- $\beta$ -glucans,

ins and chitin. Scientific studies

claim that this product may have

benefits in animal health, because

the beta-glucan present in the cell

wall stimulates the non-specific

immune response and decreases

the need for antibiotics (Liepins

et al., 2015). During the project,

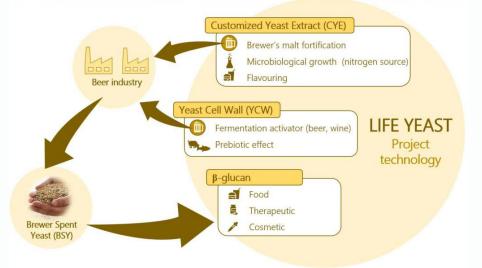
and.

mannoprote-

pharmaceutical industry,

(1-6)- $\beta$ -glucans,





### Life Yeast

One of the keys of this project is its contribution to the circular economy, which is key within the priorities of the European Union. For this reason, it has received funding from the LIFE programme, which is a European Union financial instrument dedicated to the environment and the climate change. The general objective of this programme is to contribute to the development of EU policies on the environment and climate change through co-financed value-added projects. Chae, H.J., Joo, H., In, M-J., 2001. Utilization of brewer's yeast cells for the production of food-grade yeast extract. Part 1: effects of ditfferent enzymatic treatments on solid and protein recovery and flavour characteristics. Bioresource Technology, 76, 253-258.

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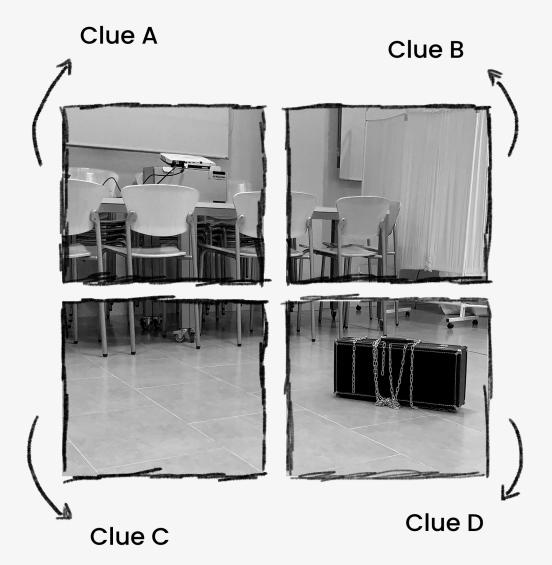
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#### WWW.LIFEYEAST.COM





# SCAPEROOM



Scape Room. Image of the set of one of the UAL rooms.

innovation at eaching all levels of education is not really new, but it has been greatly boosted in recent years, especially over the last months, as a result of a forced and hasty adaptation due to the health crisis. Far from the traditional methods of teaching-learning and evaluation in the university environment, we are entering a great revolution and a new way of teaching, learning and evaluating, in which teachers and students are much more involved. In fact, students are the centre and only protagonists of the whole teaching-learning process. Teaching innovation is understood as any change in what is considered as teaching normality, in order to promote and improve the teaching-learning binomial. This change seeks to remove

a little curiosity from the students and, start working from that point. This is the origin of the idea of using gamification as a vehicle for the learning process with Nursing and Physiotherapy students, although it can be extrapolated to other fields.

In general terms, the use of gamification includes the use of certain elements of games inside and outside the classroom to arouse the curiosity of students, and ultimately to engage them in the class. Nevertheless, this new innovative trend is not limited to that, as it also includes the use of complete and dynamic games such as the Escape Room, or adapted games based on Trivia or Party, as well as other more complex applications such as the use of virtual reality, augmented

reality or the use of video games with teaching applications.

#### "TELL ME AND I FORGET, TEACH ME AND I MAY RE-MEMBER, INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN." By **Benjamin Franklin**

Surely, reading this far, ideas are already beginning to emerge about its application in different areas of knowledge -not exclusively in the area of Health-, such as Law, Education or Chemistry. Its flexibility is the main advantage of the use of gamification and one of the reasons why it was decided to apply an Escape Room as a form of evaluation in Nursing. The essence of the game consists of escaping from one or several rooms by using the different clues that can be found after solving the puzzles and the clues found in them, always following the same line of argument. In addition, the functioning of the team is fundamental, since communication and cooperation play an important role as it is a game against the clock.

So far, one of the most repeated comments along the corridors in the Faculty of Health Sciences during the evaluation of the practical modules was "I was so nervous that I couldn't do everything I know". By starting from the idea of full attention, games such as the Escape Room involve them so much in the dynamics that they forget or minimize that factor of "feeling evaluated", being able to demonstrate all the knowledge acquired so far, applied in a clinical simulation environment.

The benefits do not end there. These dynamics also allow to work on other aspects that are almost as important in the future for these students, such as the cross-curricular skills that are required at any grade. Just the fact of working in a team to solve a puzzle includes several essential skills, such as verbal and non-verbal communication, role identification, leadership, the use of strengths and the support of the weaknesses of colleagues, among others. In addition, the game elements allow the inclusion or adaptation of methodologies to make them more dynamic, such as the use of extra "clues" as motivating elements to be well prepared. In the case of the Escape Room, they know that these clues during the game can be used if necessary, but it would have an impact on the time consumed and they would ultimately fall behind in the classification. In other words, competition elements, if used properly, can be incredibly motivating.



Working on the activity.

However, its applicability is not only limited to what has been presented so far, but can go beyond that, from its use in high-fidelity simulation rooms or adapting it to new situations, such as the one we are currently experiencing. As already stated, its flexibility allows it to play with the needs of each moment, capturing the attention of students in situations as complex as that of an alarm state. Thus, for example, the Escape Room can be adapted as a serious game or clinical simulation game in a totally online assessment mode, allowing students to experiment and work on other skills such as decision-making while receiving live feedback, that is, developing critical thinking.

Last but not least, it has an impact on student satisfaction. As teachers, it is tremendously motivating to hear "can we do it again?" or "when are we going to do another one?", when it is actually an exam. That said, learning has never been so much fun.







Figuring out the riddles of the activity.

Pictures of the activity.



Set of a scenario of the Scape Room.



Taking advantage of all the tools available.



#### PROJECTS

# LEARN LAW PLAYING AT THE LUDOTECA JURÍDICA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALMERIA

Teaching law has been —and still is— characterised by a traditional format (master classes, etc.). However, there was a moment when the following question arose: Can law, as a branch of knowledge, be taught through the use of games? The answer was yes. Game-based learning (GBA) or the use of "serious games" were complementary learning methodologies —or mechanisms— capable of facilitating the internalisation of knowledge and skills in the legal sciences. However, the fact that this was possible did not imply any real implementation in university classrooms. It was, therefore, time to promote and disseminate their use in view of their multiple advantages.

It was with this purpose how the digital platform "Ludoteca jurídica" was born, supported by a university project of teaching innovation entitled "Educational Games for Learning Law". The project, granted in the Call for the Creation of Innovation Groups and Good Teaching Practices (Biennium 2018 and 2019) of the University of Almeria, was coordinated by Prof. Víctor Bastante Granell. This platform -coordinated by various law professors- aims, on the one hand, to promote the use of the techniques and elements of the games in the teaching of legal disciplines; and, on the other hand, to serve as a webspace where teachers can publish and find educational game cards applicable to their law classes within the university environment. Once the teaching experience is completed, teachers can invite students to carry out a satisfaction survey on the educational game developed within the class.

Currently, the digital platform has —in open and free Access— different game cards, some focused on a specific subject and others of an interdisciplinary nature so that they can be applied in any branch of law. There are individual, group, collaborative, competitive, verbal, cognitive, directed, indoor and outdoor games, etc. Applied correctly, each of these games allows students to acquire different skills and competences in Law, which can be found in each of the cards. This means that their application can benefit our university students. We are not looking for mere fun, but rather to play in order to learn, putting in value the formative character of "gamifying" the classes.

Recently, and following this line of dissemination and the use of "gamification", another teaching project has started. In this project, called "Inter-University Teaching Innovation on Gamification in Legal Sciences" (Call for the Creation of Innovation and Good Teaching Practices Groups, 2020-2021 biennium) more than 50 teachers from different Spanish universities (Universidad de La Laguna, Córdoba, Málaga, Valencia, Santiago de Compostela, Salamanca, etc.) have come together to create and develop games (of a face-to-face or distance learning nature) in law lessons, starting a kind of "games revolution" in the legal field.

Accordingly, a real university network of "gamifying" teachers has been created. This may give an impetus to the use of this teaching methodology in teaching law, despite the skepticism of some teachers.

#### Dissemination

Following the launch of the digital platform, the "Ludoteca Jurídica" team has given —and will give— various presentations at teaching innovation events at certain universities (A Coruña, La Laguna, Santiago de Compostela, Valencia, Navarra, etc.) Likewise, professors Víctor Bastante Granell



and Lucía Moreno García has published several articles, collected, among others, in the Revista Jurídica de Investigación e Innovación Educativa (REJIE) and Revista on-line de gamificación, ABJ y serious games (Alea Jacta Est), under the titles "Plataforma digital "ludoteca jurídica": una apuesta por la "gamificación" en Derecho" and "La enseñanza del Derecho a través de los juegos", respectively. The dissemination work is also carried out through social networks, such as Twitter or Instagram, where information is provided on aspects related to "gamification", digital resources for teachers, dynamics and activities in university classrooms, amongst others. Thanks to this, teachers from other universities have contacted the platform expressing their interest in collaborating. Furthermore, students have expressed their suitability and enthusiasm for learning law through these recreational and training techniques.

#### **Creativity and motivaion**

In conclusion, it should be noted that there are few comprehensive studies on the use of this teaching technique in the field of legal sciences -advantages, disadvantages, forms of establishment, etc. The "Ludoteca Jurídica" was born as an educational experiment, aiming at creating an online environment that encourages "ludification". Therefore, its application by the teaching staff will determine its possible benefits and/or disadvantages, the arrival of new complementary educational experiences and even its establishment as a common learning technique. However, the most relevant aspect is that it constitutes the "spark" capable of igniting the creativity of teachers, as well as the motivation and attitude of students; and, consequently, a possible innovative teaching formula. We cannot forget that, as Albert Einstein pointed out in a famous phrase, that "play is the highest form of research". Thus, it may be time to enhance the role of those in charge of gamification.

WWW.LUDOTECAJURÍDICA.ES



# Vopsa Project

Microalgae are microorganisms that are easy to grow and have a growth rate close to that of bacteria or yeasts, which allows a high productivity in terms of biomass production in a short period of time. Furthermore, they are able to accumulate those compounds with high added value (Astaxanthin and omega-3 fatty acids) under certain environmental conditions. The VOPSA project proposes a source of microalgae to obtain these compounds

The global demand for food supplements and specific bioproducts from natural sources for human use is increasing dramatically. Moreover. the greater the number of products with a healthy role, the better the results in both research and the market. Different compounds derived from organisms such as Omega-3 fatty acids and the carotenoid Astaxanthin have incredible market potential. Omega-3 fatty acids are one of the model substances in the prevention of cardiovascular disease. Their consumption also contributes to the good development of the nervous and visual systems. Omega-3 is an essential oil required by the body for its proper functioning. It protects the body from cardiovascular diseases and improves the development and functioning of the skin, as well as the nervous and visual systems. Astaxanthin is characterised by its high antioxidant capacity (the elimination of oxygen free radicals, which are capable of producing cell damage). Astaxanthin is also able to cross the blood-brain barrier, providing both an antioxidant effect and anti-inflammatory protection in various organs such as the eves and central nervous system cells. This unusual attribute makes this high value-added compound a potential substance for preventing serious diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia.

Traditionally, Omega-3 fatty acids were obtained from fish oil, usually salmon species and from Astaxanthin by chemical synthesis or other natural sources such as oceanic krill. The indiscriminate fishing of these aquatic species, together with the costly processes involved in chemical synthesis, meant that the production of these substances had a high economic cost, in addition to the significant deterioration of ecosystems and the environment involved. It must also be considered that the animal origin of these compounds made them incompatible with the vegetarian and vegan sectors, the main consumers of healthy substances.



#### What is the VOPSA2.0 project?

VOPSA2.oproject (Ome-The ga-3 and Astaxanthin for human consumption) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the SME Facility Phase II grant agreement No 738661. The project has been led by NEOALGAE. an Asturian biotechnology SME whose mission is to contribute to the nutrition and health of people, as well as to the care of the environment. Their mission is accomplished through the development of different products based on the microalgae cultivated by the company itself, which guarantee personal well-being in different areas (food, cosmetics, health) and environmental sustainability (through agricultural and animal products). BI-COSOME, founded in 2012 by a group of scientists specialised in the study of skin tissue, lipid biophysics, lipid structuring and surfactants in the Institute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia (IQAC), which depends on the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) <sup>o</sup>. It develops and markets high-performance cosmetic and dermo-pharmaceutical ingredients based on a patented platform, Bicosome® technology.

The VOPSA project proposes a source of microalgae to obtain these compounds. Microalgae are microorganisms that are easy to grow and have a growth rate close to that of bacteria or yeasts, which allows a high productivity in terms of biomass production in a short period of time. Furthermore, they are able to accumulate those compounds with high added value (Astaxanthin and omega-3 fatty acids) under certain environmental conditions.

#### OMEGA-3 Y ASTAXANTINA PARA CONSUMO HUMANO proyecto **vopsa2.0**

In the industrial plant in which NEOALGAE is cultivating different species of microalgae, in both fresh and salt water, all the processes for the cultivation and extraction of the high-value compounds, are environmentally sustainable and domotized. Additionally, and following the criteria of what is known as circular economy,

> **NEO** ALGAE

# **Proyecto Vopsa**

waste flow recirculations have been installed and the biomass resulting from the extraction of omega-3s and antioxidants can be used as a co-product in aquaculture. With this new process, the production of Omega-3 and Astaxanthin will not affect marine resources. Both products will be free of contaminants, with no fishy taste or smell, suitable for vegans and with competitive and stable production costs.

Once the viability of the new products has been proven at a technical and market level, the project will expand the production of both compounds and demonstrate their effectiveness through their inclusion in nutraceuticals and new ecological products for the treatment of 3 skin disorders: acne, atopic skin and aged skin produced by the SME BICOSOME. Both companies will benefit from a spectacular increase in sales and improve their market positions, as well as internationalize their business.

During the project, the development, optimisation and scaling up of the 3 microalgae species was achieved from small volumes (strain and post-seeding levels) to pilot and industrial cultivations (photobioreactors). In addition, a supercritical CO2 extraction method was developed for the extraction of dry biomass from the microalgae of interest. The microalgae selected were Haematococcus pluvialis for its astaxanthin content and the microalgae Nannochloropsis gaditana and Isochrisys galbana for their omega 3 content.

This project has also allowed the development of a supercritical fluid chromatography method to purify the oil extracted from our crops, allowing us to obtain an astaxanthin-rich and an omega-3-rich fraction. Our SFC equipment also uses supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> as well as the supercritical extractor, but in this case, its function is to separate compounds by means of a chromatography column with a specific filling. This is a very important tool in the separation and determination of compounds that require higher degrees of purification.

Finally, there were developed two exclusive systems capable of incorporating and delivering Omega 3 and Asthaxanthin-rich microalgae extracts into the epidermal layers of the skin in order to obtain superior antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and protective effects. The Bicosoma-Astaxanthin and Bicosoma-Omega 3 products were successfully developed and will be marketed under the Bicoalgae® Xanthin and Bicoalgae® Omega 3 brands to treat skin disorders related to acne, atopic skin and ageing.

The project proved that it was possible to develop skin care products based on high standards of quality, innovation and sustainability. The products developed meet the needs of the growing market in different ways. They are ecological, of natural origin, developed with high technologies of microalgae production and skin release formulation, they are as well stable, safe and highly effective. We hope that these products will become a major breakthrough in the history of both companies and promote a successful long-term partnership.

WWW.VOPSAPROJECT.EU/

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# **MusIntegrAction**

MusIntegrACTION is an Erasmus+ project focused on musical educational excellence. It is based on a strategic partnership coordinated by the Conservatory of Music of Murcia and and co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ Programme, which was selected in July 2018 by the Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE). This project brings together the efforts of seven different institutions in the education sector to highlight the social and educational value of Europe's cultural heritage, while raising the profile of the teaching professions and promoting high quality and innovative work in music education.

The European Union is the world's leading cultural power, and the tradition of European classical music is one of the most significant elements of our common cultural heritage. As educational institutions, conservatories play an essential role in transmitting our European cultural heritage, but they are not exempt from the profound changes that our society is undergoing. These changes affect not only the ways in which we access culture (thanks, for example, to new technological platforms for disseminating content), but also the way in which culture, and in particular music, is lived, appreciated, learned and created by the younger generations, who give it a new value.

Even though conservatories are spaces where the weight of tradition is fundamental, methodological innovation in the field of education is essential. Music education can make this important part of our cultural heritage reach wider layers of our society as European citizens.

#### Under the title of the project

In the title of the Project, we can see "transforming music education institutions to ensure their role as transmitters of European cultural heritage", which describe their interest in responding to this new situation through innovation. This strategic partnership, however, goes beyond this transformative educational purpose. The acronym MusIntegrACTION shows this idea, by bringing together the terms music, integration and action.

#### **United in Diversity**

Conservatories, like any other educational institution, must become agents of change, and contribute to the creation of more cohesive human groups where tolerance and the recognition of the differences, whose value is an element that enriches our society, are fundamental. This interest in learning from others and their distinctive characteristics is already evident in the very diverse institutions that are part of the Project. These institutions which are not only conservatories but also secondary schools, are committed to the dissemination of Europe's musical and cultural heritage.

Furthermore, the Project includes a programme of activities based on the cultural heritage of the participating regions. This programme highlights among the many differences, the common cultural elements so that the participants in this experience understand, from practical experience, our European motto "United in Diversity".

#### Participation in the project

The participant institutions are from Germany (the Hochschule für Musik "Franz Liszt" and the Musikgymnasium Schloss Belvedere in Weimar), Spain (Conservatorio de Música de Murcia and IES El Carmen in Murcia), Italy (Conservatorio di Musica "F. A. Bonporti" and Liceo Musicale-Coreutico "F. A. Bonporti" in Trento) and Portugal (Escola de Música do Conservatório Nacional in Lisbon). All these institutions are gathered around the heritage of European cultured music, and have designed a roadmap which, since the project was launched in September 2018, has involved the direct participation of more than 90 teachers and 70 students. The teachers have taken part in four meetings of the teaching staff in which they have discussed the target groups of music education, the pedagogical innovations in the field of music teaching, and the integration of general education with specifically musical education in order to make both types of study compatible, amongst the others.

The students, as well, have enthusiastically participated in meetings in which the topics of cultural heritage, the essential characteristics of the participating schools which could be taken as examples of good practice, or the value of educational institutions to transform the environment through social collaboration activities such as benefit concerts and learning programmes aimed at citizens from disadvantaged social strata have been discussed. In addition, students had the opportunity to showcase their artistic activity abroad and to be taught by prestigious teachers in the host institutions.

Finally, the project has benefited not only the direct participants in the project by being selected for the mobility experiences, but also the whole educational community of each of the partner institutions thanks to the multiple dissemination activities. Likewise, a large number of citizens could attend, as an audience, the different concerts and activities carried out in the regions where the educational centres that form this strategic partnership are based. Moreover, citizens will be able to continue doing so during the academic year 2020-2021 in which it will be held the last meeting of the students in the third quarter, in the city of Weimar, and the final activities of the project, which include a series of concerts in the four participating countries whose proceeds will be destined to non-profit social organisations, as well as temporary exhibitions showing the results of the project.



### CALLS

# TENURE TRACK PROFESSOR IN STRATEGIC MANAGE-MENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN FINLAND

The vacancy at the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management is open to outstanding individuals with strong research and teaching interest. Ideal applicants enjoy intellectual leadership and strive for academic excellence and inspiring people around them. The call is primarily open on the Assistant Professor level. However, exceptional candidates at other levels will also be considered.

### REQUIREMENTS

4 – 10 years research experience in Economics or Technology.

### **BENEFITS**

Salary is internationally competitive, and Aalto University provides health care and retirement benefits. Finland is a great and safe environment, offering many excellent state-subsidized services, including affordable daycare and free schools, which are consistently ranked among the best in the world.

#### ORGANISATION

Aalto University LOCATION Finland

# **RESEARCH FIELD**

Economics

Technology

DEADLINE

30 November 2020

# FURTHER INFORMATION



#### CALLS

# 2 POSTDOC POSITIONS IN THE SINGTEL CYBER SECU-RITY LAB IN SINGAPORE

"NUS-Singtel Cyber Security R&D Lab" is a 5 years joint project with about SGD 43 mil (approximately USD 31 mil) of funds contributed by Singapore Telecommunications Limited (SingTel), National University of Singapore (NUS), and National Research Foundation (NRF) of Singapore.

### REQUIREMENTS

A Ph.D. degree in a relevant area (Computer Science/Engineer, mathematics, etc.);

2Good publication record and preferably in cybersecurity

**3**Good software development skills

**4**Good skills on various machine learning algorithms, not mandatory

•Good communication skills, self-motivated and good team players;

•Willing to perform practical research which may eventually lead to products.



LOCATION Singapur

# **RESEARCH FIELD**

**Computer Science** 

Mathemathics

DEADLINE

28 dicember 2020

# **FURTHER INFORMATION**



#### CALLS

# PHD STUDENT POSITION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NOVEL TOPICAL THERAPIES FOR ATOPIC DISEASES IN CANADA

The Hedtrich lab in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC is looking for a Ph.D. student to work on the development of potent, low molecular weight inhibitors of TSLP aiming for novel topical treatment options for atopic diseases.

#### REQUIREMENTS

**1**Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Demonstrated ability to keep abreast of developments and trends in relevant areas and a commitment to continue adding to their knowledge base and skills.

Personal attributes of an ideal team member: high level of honesty and integrity, robust work ethic and accountability, demonstrated initiative, adaptability in a rapidly changing landscape, a creative and curious problem-solver, commitment to engendering a harmonious work environment, and strong emotional intelligence.

#### ORGANISATION



# LOCATION Canada

#### **RESEARCH FIELD**

Medical Science Pharmacological Science Technology

# DEADLINE

31 Noviembre 2020

# **FURTHER INFORMATION**



CDEUAL 51 ~ OCTOBER 2020

#### TRAINEESHIPS

# SCHUMAN TRAINEESHIPS AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament offers different traineeships within its Secretariat in order to contribute to the vocational training of young citizens, and to the understanding of the working of the institution. These traineeships are awarded for a period of five months.

# REQUIREMENTS

Be aged 18+;

2 Hold a university level diploma(s);

**3** Have a thorough knowledge of one of the official languages of the EU and a very good knowledge of another official language of the EU;

4 Provide an eligible criminal record;

•Not have worked for more than two consecutive months within an EU Institution or body;

6Not have carried out a visiting junior or senior academia of six months prior the beginning of the traineeship.

### **BENEFITS**

Interns receive a monthy allowance depending on the places of assignment.

Candidates can apply for 3 traineeship offers per campaign.

### DEADLINE

30 November 2020

FURTHER INFORMATION

eurodes

#### TRAINEESHIPS

# PRÁCTICAS EN EL TRIBUNAL DE JUSTICIA DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

Las prácticas de interpretación duran de 10 a 12 semanas y están dirigidas a intérpretes de conferencia recién titulados cuya combinación de idiomas sea de interés para la Dirección de Interpretación.

Los becarios tendrán la posibilidad de perfeccionar sus conocimientos de interpretación, en particular en la interpretación jurídica, mediante la preparación de expedientes de casos, la investigación terminológica y ejercicios prácticos en una "cabina silenciosa".

# REQUISITOS

Ser ciudadanos de un Estado miembro de la UE.

2Tener un título universitario en derecho o ciencias políticas (el derecho debe ser predominante) o, en el caso de las prácticas en la Dirección de Interpretación, un grado en interpretación de conferencias, complementado en caso necesario por un diploma de posgrado, o una experiencia profesional equivalente.

3 Tener un perfecto conocimiento de uno de los idiomas oficiales de la UE, y un buen conocimiento de un segundo. No obstante, se recomienda encarecidamente un buen conocimiento del francés.

# BENEFICIOS

La beca que se otorgada es de 1 177 euros netos al mes.

También se hace una contribución de 150 euros para gastos de viaje a los becarios cuyo lugar de residencia esté situado a 200 km o más de la sede del Tribunal de Justicia de la Unión Europea.

# DEADLINE

15 April 2021

# FURTHER INFORMATION

eurode

CDEUAL 51 ~ OCTOBER 2020

### TRAINEESHIPS

# **ESMA TRAINEESHIPS**

It offers 6-12 months long paid traineeships to European students and graduates in different departments such as: Corporate Affairs Department (Risk & Control team, Communications team) or Senior management team (Accounting team), Resources department (teams: HR, Finance & Procurement, Facility Management, ICT and Planning & Reporting).

Work can include research, contributing to reports, compiling statistical data, performing operational tasks and participating in ad hoc studies and projects.

### WHO CAN APPLY

Applicants need to be national of a Member State of the European Union or the European Economic Area (EEA);

**2**Must have a good knowledge of English;

**3**Graduate applicants need to have completed the first cycle of a higher education course and obtained a university degree or its equivalent (bachelor degree);

**4**Undergraduate applicants need to have an official declaration from the relevant university.

### HOW TO APPLY

Candidates should send their applications for the open vacancies using the e-recruitment tool

Traineeship vacancies are continuously open, applications are revised on a regular basis, and evaluated only when a trainee position is available in ESMA budget

#### DEADLINE

31 December 2020

eurodesk

#### HORIZON2020

#### HORIZONTE 2020: TRATAMIENTO ÓPTIMO DE LOS PACIENTES CON TUMO-RES SÓLIDOS EN EUROPA A TRAVÉS DE LA INTELIGENCIA ARTIFICIAL

Patients, experts and citizens are demanding new treatments to fight cancer as the knowledge of the biological complexity of cancer is wider due to new studies and the application of new technologies and tools such as Artifitial Intelligence.

Thus, the scope of this call is to establish guideline-based decision support and platform solution to generate knoewledge discovery for breast, lung and prostate cancer with applicablility to other indications. The funded action will only focus in breast, lung and prostate cancer.t

The proposals submitted should describe how the results of the project will contribute in the effects described in the call wherever possible baseline, targets and metrics to measure impact.

#### REQUIREMENTS

The proposals shall comply the conditions described in the Rules for paticipation in Horizon 2020 regarding IMI2 JU.

Submission and evalution, including evaluation criteria and procedure, scoring and threshold are described in the IMI2 Manual for submisison, evaluation and grant award.

202

#### **OPENING DATE**

23 june 2020

#### **1ST STAGE DEADLINE**

29 september 2020 at 17:00 (Brussels Time)
2ND STAGE DEADLINE

17 march 2021 at 17:00 (Brussels Time)



FURTHER INFO

#### HORIZON2020

#### H2020: BEHAVIOURAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE FOR THE GREEN DEAL

All areas of the European Green Deal, from climate action to zero pollution, require considerable changes in societal practices. These changes concern, for example, mobility behaviour, minimising traffic-related emissions and energy/resource consumption, protecting or restoring biodiversity, etc. including changes achieved through collective and participatory processes or a sense of environmental citizenship and climate justice.

Several foci of behaviour and mindset are at play in interconnected ways: concerns for: personal health and we-II-being; for the planet; for decent work; for fairness and solidarity, etc. Ways of combining individual, collective socio-economic and environmental benefits should be sought wherever possible.

Disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups and groups and communities most affected by the transition need special attention. Their existing practices, for example, may combine environmentally friendly, circular habits with practices that are detrimental to both their own health and to the environment (from dietary choices, mobility and travel behaviour to inappropriate use, reuse and disposing of materials), but to which they see no feasible alternatives.

#### SCOPE

Actions should address behavioural change at individual and collective levels, including public and private organisations, as well as broader changes in social practices related to the European Green Deal. Actions should establish transnational and transdisciplinary networks of experts, researchers, practitioners and relevant civil society organisations on behavioural, social and cultural change. They should jointly analyse social practices and behavioural change processes, including enabling as well as inhibiting factors, share good practice, tools and resources and implement relevant experimentation on priority issues to deliver on the European Green Deal. They should build on existing experience, notably stemming from EU-funded projects.

Actions should include several experimental studies, each implemented in at least four Member States and/or Associated Countries. Specific topics for case studies should be co-decided with the European Commission services involved in implementing the European Green Deal. They should support major EU actions where such change is key, including – but not limited to – Horizon Europe Missions, in close cooperation with the respective mission boards, and other R&I initiatives.

#### **EXPECTED IMPACT**

Successful projects are expected to contribute to specific impacts, including:

- structurally enhanced research and innovation capacities in this area, through structured transdisciplinary expertise, research and practice networks of the highest ethical and methodological standards across Europe;

- more effective and inclusive action on the social and behavioural aspects of the European Green Deal, by achieving a more nuanced view of mindset, incentive structures and social and behavioural change mechanisms, including enabling as well as inhibiting factors for various groups and communities, through the lens of transdisciplinary research that integrates historical, cultural, societal, economic and psychological perspectives;

- behavioural change and long-term commitment, trust, social acceptance and buy-in from people, communities and organisations, through effective new strategies to induce this, including innovative recommendations and incentives that consider differences between EU regions and social groups e.g. in terms of urgency perceptions;

- improved management, inter alia, of the uncertainty derived from climate change through bottom-up approaches;

- greater societal resilience against climate change and environmental crises, and as well as contributions to effective just transitions;

- changed behaviour at both individual and collective levels, among citizens, communities, businesses, workplace, decision makers and institutional actors;

- in the longer-term, systemic change at the level of political and economic structures, culture and society and contribution to one or several of the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### DEADLINE

26 January 2021

#### HORIZON2020

#### HORIZON 2020: EUROPEAN MUSEUM COLLABORATION AND INNOVA-TION SPACE

Museums and cultural organisations have been hit by the COVID-19 crisis, some of them significantly, by the loss in revenues. At the same time, the crisis has speeded up the digital transformation of the sector. Digital technologies become central to almost every aspect of the work of museums to meet the new realities. On the one hand, digital means can offer solutions in relation to museums' functions, from the collection of artefacts to their conservation and study, and from the interpretation and exhibition of museum collections to marketing and to managing online and onsite visitors. On the other hand, there is a huge potential for innovation and experimentation using advanced technologies and for collaboration between the cultural, creative and technology sectors, in an inclusive way. Investing in digital technologies is essential for museums to innovate and to adapt to new circumstances.

#### SCOPE

The proposed action will provide the opportunity for museums to work with creative and technology partners, as well as with each other, through small, experimental projects, to apply digital technologies to a selected area of work or activities, in an innovative way. The project will support museums, for example and not exclusively, to develop solutions that enhance their digital presence, or innovate their day-to-day functions and processes, experiment with 3D digitization and AR/VR applications for visitors, tap in the creative potential of technology to offer transformative experiences for audiences, or test new business models for their post-crisis recovery.

#### **EXPECTED IMPACT**

The action will promote collaboration and innovation in cultural organisations, primarily in the museum sector, at European level. It will offer the opportunity for museums, especially smaller and medium ones, to make the most of digital technologies and services to innovate their digital processes and digital presence, acquire and share know-how through collaboration, experimentation and shared practices, and potentially develop solutions contributing to their financial recovery. Participating museums are expected to develop skills and expertise through their dedicated project, while a shared collaboration and innovation space with good practices, examples of reference and common knowledge will foster capacity building and innovation in the museum sector in a wider and more inclusive way.

#### DEADLINE

12 January 2021

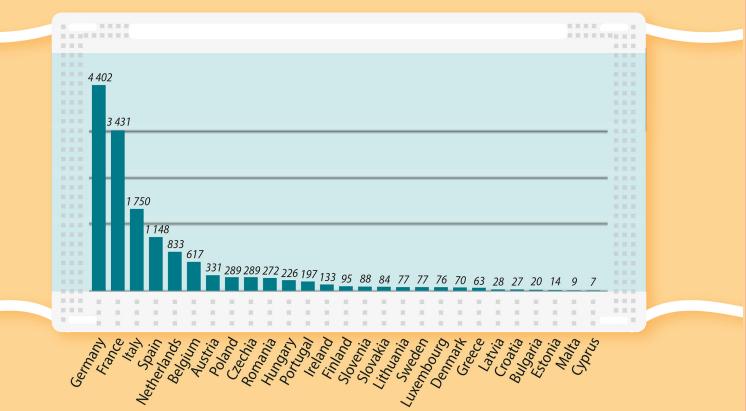
FURTHER INFO

# INFOGRAPHICS 2020 POWERED BY EUROSTAT



# **Extra-EU imports of face masks**

in € million, first semester 2020

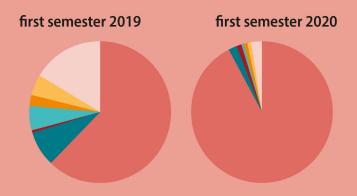


# **Extra-EU imports of face masks** *in € per capita, first semester 2020*

| EU                    |          | 33 |  |     |
|-----------------------|----------|----|--|-----|
| Luxembourg            |          |    |  | 121 |
| Luxembourg<br>Belgium |          | 53 |  | 121 |
| Germany               |          | 53 |  |     |
| France                |          | 51 |  |     |
| Netherlands           |          | 48 |  |     |
| Slovenia              |          | 42 |  |     |
| Austria               |          | 37 |  |     |
| ltaly<br>Lithuania    | 29       |    |  |     |
| Lithuania             | 28       |    |  |     |
| Czechia               | 27       |    |  |     |
| Ireland               | 27       |    |  |     |
| Spain                 | 24<br>23 |    |  |     |
| Hungary<br>Portugal   | 19       |    |  |     |
| Malta                 | 18       |    |  |     |
| Finland               | 17       |    |  |     |
| Slovakia              | 15       |    |  |     |
| Latvia                | 15       |    |  |     |
| Romania               | 14       |    |  |     |
| Denmark               | 12       |    |  |     |
| Estonia               | 11       |    |  |     |
| Cyprus<br>Poland      | 8        |    |  |     |
| Poland                | 8        |    |  |     |
| Sweden                | 7        |    |  |     |
| Croatia               | 7        |    |  |     |
| Greece<br>Bulgaria    | 6        |    |  |     |
| bulyana               | 5        |    |  |     |

# Extra-EU imports of face masks by partner

% of extra-EU imports of face masks



| 62.3%  | China          | 92.3% |  |
|--------|----------------|-------|--|
| 8.2%   | Vietnam        | 1.9%  |  |
| 0.5%   | Hong Kong      | 1.2%  |  |
| 5.6%   | United Kingdom | 0.7%  |  |
| 2.6%   | Turkey         | 0.7%  |  |
| 4.5%   | Tunisia        | 0.7%  |  |
| 16.40/ | Other          | 2.5%  |  |



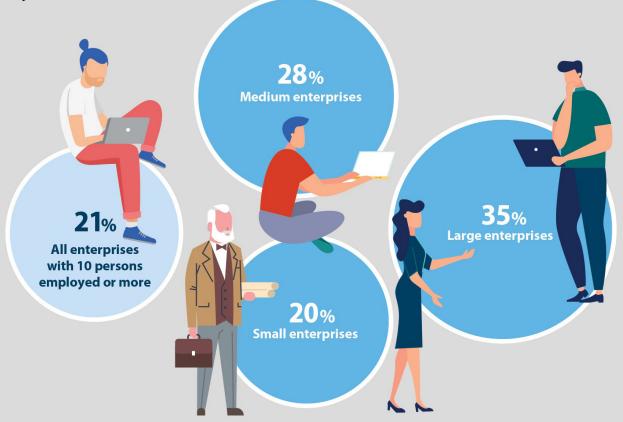
#### **INFORMATION POWERED BY**



CDEUAL 51 ~ OCTOBER 2020



# Enterprises with insurance against ICT security incidents by size class, 2019



# Enterprises with insurance against ICT security incidents, 2019

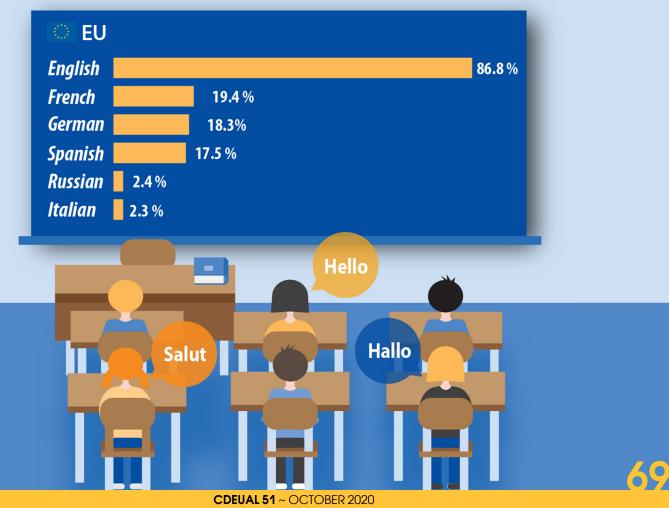


# What share of students learn two or more foreign languages?

(% of pupils at upper secondary level, 2018)



### Which are the foreign languages studied most commonly? (% of pupils at upper secondary level, 2018)







Title: In Joined Cases C-807/18 and C-39/19, requests for a preliminary ruling under Article 267 TFEU from the Fővárosi Törvényszék (Budapest High Court, Hungary), made by decisions of 11 September 2018, received at the Court on 20 December 2018 and 23 January 2019, respectively, in the proceedings

**Abstract:** The requests have been made in two sets of proceedings between Telenor Magyarország Zrt. ('Telenor') and the Nemzeti Médiaés Hírközlési Hatóság Elnöke (President of the National Communications and Media Office, Hungary) ('the President of the Office') concerning two decisions by which the latter ordered Telenor to terminate

some of its internet access services.

Published: 15-09-2020

Author: Tribunal de Justicia de la Unión Europea Celex Code: 62018CJ0807 Link: https://bit.ly/33ZDs9K

Palabras clave: Libertad de establecimiento - Procedimiento prejudicial - Comunicaciones electrónicas - Reglamento (UE) 2015/2120 - Artículo 3 - Acceso a una Internet abierta - Artículo 3, apartado 1 - Derechos de los usuarios finales — Derecho a acceder a las aplicaciones y a los servicios y a utilizarlos — Derecho a ofrecer aplicaciones y servicios - Artículo 3, apartado 2 - Prohibición de acuerdos y prácticas comerciales que limiten el ejercicio de los derechos de los usuarios finales – Conceptos de "acuerdos", de "prácticas comerciales", de "usuarios finales" y de "consumidores" - Evaluación de la existencia de una limitación del ejercicio de los derechos de los usuarios finales — Modalidades — Artículo 3, apartado 3 - Obligación de trato equitativo y no discriminatorio del tráfico - Posibilidad de aplicar medidas razonables de gestión del tráfico – Prohibición de medidas de bloqueo y de ralentización del tráfico – Excepciones — Prácticas comerciales que consisten en ofrecer paquetes con arreglo a los cuales los clientes que se suscriben a ellos contratan un plan que les permite utilizar sin restricciones un volumen de datos determinado, sin que la utilización de ciertas aplicaciones y ciertos servicios específicos a los que se aplica una "tarifa cero" se descuente del volumen de datos contratados, y, una vez consumido este volumen de datos, pueden continuar utilizando sin restricciones estas aplicaciones y estos servicios específicos, mientras que se aplican medidas de bloqueo o de ralentización del tráfico a las demás aplicaciones y servicios

**Keywords:** Freedom of establishment - Reference for a preliminary ruling – Electronic communications – Regulation (EU) 2015/2120 – Article 3 – Open internet access – Article 3(1) – Rights of end users – Right to access applications and services and to use them – Right to provide applications and services – Article 3(2) – Prohibition of agreements and commercial practices limiting the exercise of end users' rights – Concepts of 'agreements', 'commercial practices', 'end users' and 'consumers' – Assessment of whether the exercise of end users' rights is limited – Detailed rules – Article 3(3) – Obligation of equal and non-discriminatory treatment of traffic – Possibility of implementing reasonable traffic-management measures – Prohibition of measures blocking and slowing down traffic – Exceptions – Commercial practices consisting in offering packages which provide (i) that customers subscribing to them purchase a tariff entitling them to use a given data volume without restriction, without any deduction being made from that volume for using certain specific applications and services covered by 'a zero tariff' and (ii) that once the data volume has been used up, those customers may continue to use those specific applications and services without restriction, while measures blocking or slowing down traffic are applied to the other applications and services.



Title: In case C-265/19 request for a preliminary ruling concerns the interpretation of Article 8 of Directive 2006/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on rental right and lending right and on certain rights related to copyright in the field of intellectual property (OJ 2006 L 376, p. 28), read in the light, in particular, of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Performances and Phonograms Treaty, adopted in Geneva on 20 December 1996.

**Abstract:** The request has been made in proceedings between, on the one hand, Recorded Artists Actors Performers Ltd ('RAAP') and, on the other, Phonographic Performance (Ireland) Ltd ('PPI'), the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Ireland), Ireland and the Attorney General concerning the right of nationals of third States to a single equitable remuneration when they have contributed to a phonogram which is used in Ireland.

Published: 08-09-2020

Author: Tribunal de Justicia de la Unión Europea

Celex Code: 62019CJ0265

Link: https://bit.ly/2Rhri6g

Palabras clave: Libertad de establecimiento - Procedimiento prejudicial — Propiedad intelectual — Derechos afines a los derechos de autor — Directiva 2006/115/CE — Artículo 8, apartado 2 — Utilización de fonogramas en la Unión — Derecho de los artistas intérpretes o ejecutantes a una remuneración equitativa compartida con los productores de los fonogramas — Aplicabilidad a los nacionales de terceros Estados — Tratado sobre Interpretación o Ejecución y Fonogramas — Artículos 4 y 15 — Reservas notificadas por terceros Estados — Limitaciones del derecho a una remuneración equitativa que, por vía de reciprocidad, pueden resultar de tales reservas para los nacionales de terceros Estados en la Unión — Artículos 17, apartado 2, y 52, apartado 1, de la Carta de los Derechos Fundamentales de la Unión Europea — Derecho fundamental a la protección de la propiedad intelectual — Exigencia de que toda limitación sea establecida por la ley, respete el contenido esencial del derecho fundamental y sea proporcionada — Reparto de competencias entre la Unión y los Estados miembros para determinar esas limitaciones — Reparto de competencias en las relaciones con terceros Estados — Artículo 3 TFUE, apartado 2 — Competencia exclusiva de la Unión

**Keywords:** Freedom of establishment - Reference for a preliminary ruling – Intellectual property – Rights related to copyright – Directive 2006/115/EC – Article 8(2) – Use of phonograms in the European Union – Right of the performers to equitable remuneration shared with the phonogram producers – Applicability to nationals of third States – Performances and Phonograms Treaty – Articles 4 and 15 – Reservations notified by third States – Limitations of the right to equitable remuneration that may, on the basis of reciprocity, follow, in the European Union, for nationals of third States from those reservations – Article 17(2) and Article 52(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union – Fundamental right to the protection of intellectual property – Requirement that any limitation must be provided for by law, respect the essence of the fundamental right and be proportionate – Division between the European Union and the Member States of competences to set those limitations – Division of competences in relations with third States – Article 3(2) TFEU – Exclusive competence of the European Union.



Title: In Case C-443/19 request for a preliminary ruling under Article 267 TFEU from the Tribunal Superior de Justicia del País Vasco (High Court of Justice, Basque Country, Spain), made by decision of 24 April 2019, received at the Court on 7 June 2019

**Abstract:** The request has been made in proceedings between Vodafone España SAU and the Diputación Foral de

Gipuzkoa (Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, Spain) concerning a tax payable by Vodafone España SAU under the administrative concession for the right of private use of public radio frequencies that was granted to that company.

Published: 06-10-2020

Author: Tribunal de Justicia de la Unión Europea

Celex Code: 62019CJ0443

Link: https://bit.ly/34AhuKu

Palabras clave: Aproximación de las legislaciones - Procedimiento prejudicial — Redes y servicios de comunicaciones electrónicas — Directiva 2002/20/CE — Artículo 13 — Canon por los derechos de uso de radiofrecuencias — Normativa nacional sectorial que sujeta la reserva del dominio público radioeléctrico a una tasa — Normativa nacional que sujeta la constitución de concesiones administrativas de bienes de dominio público a un impuesto sobre transmisiones patrimoniales

**Keywords:** Approximation of laws - Preliminary ruling - Electronic communications networks and services - Directive 2002/20/EC - Article 13 - Charges for the right to use radio frequencies - Sectoral national legislation subjecting the reservation of the radio public domain to a charge - National legislation subjecting the creation of administrative concessions of public property to a transfer tax



**Title:** Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1247 of 2 September 2020 operating deductions from fishing quotas available for certain stocks in 2020 on account of overfishing in the previous years Abstract: The fishing quotas fixed in Regulations (EU) 2018/2025, (EU) 2019/1838, (EU) 2019/2236 and (EU) 2020/123 for the year 2020 shall be reduced as set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

Published: 03-09-2020

Author: European Comission Link: https://bit.ly/32RtMhD

**Palabras clave:** Unión Europea, Derecho de la Unión Europea, acto de la UE, reglamento (EU), agricultura, silvicultura y pesca, cuotas de pesca, sobrepesca

**Keywords:** European Union, European Union law , EU act , regulation (EU) , agriculture, forestry and fishing , fishing quotas , overfishing



Title: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1336 of 25 September 2020 imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of certain polyvinyl alcohols originating in the People's Republic of China

Abstract: Imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of certain polyvinyl alcohols originating in the People's Republic of China Published: 25-09-2020

Author: European Comission

Celex Code: 32020R1336

Link: https://bit.ly/3IH4wlG

**Palabras clave:** Unión Europea , Derecho de la Unión Europea , acto de la UE , reglamento (UE) , antidumping , China , EU

Keywords: European Union , European Union law , EU act , regulation , antidumping , China , EU



**Title:** Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1238 of 17 June 2020 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/40 as regards the evaluation of the implementation of the school scheme

**Abstract:** Member States shall evaluate the implementation of the school scheme in order to assess its effectiveness against its objectives of increasing the consumption of fruit, vegetables, milk and milk products by children and educating them about healthy eating habits. The results of that evaluation shall be submitted to the Commission by way of an evaluation report. A Member State that implements the school scheme at regional level may choose to submit a corresponding number of evaluation reports.

Published: 01-09-2020

Author: European Comission

Celex Code: 32020R1238

Link: https://bit.ly/2IJIlbs

**Palabras clave:** Unión Europea, Derecho de la Unión Europea , acto de la UE , reglamento (EU) , Estados miembros, programa escolar **Keywords:** European Union, European Union law , EU act , regulation (EU) , regulation, Member States, school curriculum



country greenhouse gas emissions invogin circular economy actions in the buildings sector Cutting greenhouse

gas emissions through circular economy actions in the buildings sector

# Title: Cutting greenhouse gas emissions through circular economy actions in the buildings sector

**Abstract:** Together, European countries have reduced their greenhouse gas emissions significantly since 1990. Achieving climate neutrality by 2050, however, will demand additional and long-lasting climate mitigation strategies. With materials management accounting for up to two thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions, one promising area for further reductions is the circular economy.

Published: 10-08-2020

Author: European Environment Agency (EU body or agency) ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-9480-247-7 / 2467-3196

Link: https://op.europa.eu/s/oc6N

Palabras clave: Política y protección del medio ambiente ; economía circular , gas con efecto invernadero , industria de la construcción , reducción de las emisiones de gas

**Keywords:** Environment policy and protection of the environment , building industry , circular economy , greenhouse gas , reduction of gas emissions

EEA Report | No 0

Is Europe living within the limits of our planet? An assessment of Europe's environmental footprints in relation to planetary boundaries



#### Title: Is Europe living within the limits of our planet? An assessment of Europe's environmental footprints in relation to planetary boundaries

**Abstract:** Planet Earth faces pressures from human development that are unprecedented in scale and urgency. The planetary boundaries framework confronts us with limits to the amount of such pressures, beyond which we risk potentially irreversible consequences for human development. Critically in this context, and to quote former UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon, echoed by young people around the world, we do not have a 'planet B'. **Published:** 11-08-2020

Author: European Environment Agency (EU body or agency), Federal Office for the Environment FOEN; Wugt Larsen, Frank ; Lung, Tobias

ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-9480-215-6 / 1977-8449

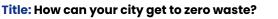
Link: https://op.europa.eu/s/oc0p

**Palabras clave:** medio ambiente , consumo interior , desarrollo sostenible , duración del producto , Europa , impacto ambiental , informe , política de medio ambiente , sobreexplotación de recursos , Suiza

**Keywords:** environment, domestic consumption, environmental impact, environmental policy, Europe, over-exploitation of resources, product life, report, sustainable development, Switzerland



HOW CAN YOUR CITY GET TO... LESS WASTE, MORE VALUE?



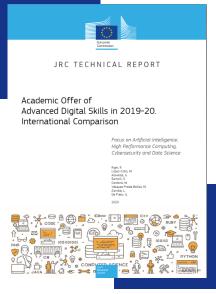
Abstract: Since the 1970s, we have been using more resources than the Earth can produce annually. Today, we consume the equivalent of 1.75 Earths to provide the resources we use and to absorb our waste. The need to move from a business as usual 'take-make-usedispose' linear model to a resource-efficient circular economy decoupling growth from consumption has never been greater.

Published: 05-10-2020

Author: Directorate-General for Environment (European Commission) ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-76-21370-3

Link: https://op.europa.eu/s/oISI

Palabras clave: adaptación al cambio climático, consumo, economía circular , envasado, gestión de residuos, sociedad civil (movimientos de opinión) Keywords: adaptation to climate change, circular economy, civil society, consumption, packaging, waste management



CYBER CONFLICT

The EU and conflict prevention in cyberspace

UNCODED

INTRODUCTION

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CONFLICT S E R I E S

# Title: Academic offer of advanced digital skills in 2019-20. International comparison : focus on Artificial Intelligence, high performance computing, cybersecurity and data science

**Abstract:** This work aims at supporting policy initiatives to ensure the availability in the EU27 of an adequate education offer of advanced digital skills in the domains of artificial intelligence (AI), high performance computing (HPC), cybersecurity (CS) and data science (DS). The study investigates the education offer provided in the EU27 and six additional countries: the United Kingdom, Norway, and

Switzerland in Europe, Canada and United States in America, and Australia, with a focus on the characteristics of the detected programmes. **Published:** 08-09-2020

Author: Joint Research Centre (European Comission) ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-76-21451-9 / 1831-9424

#### Link: https://bit.ly/3ho4kFa

**Palabras clave:** análisis comparativo , cambio tecnológico , ciencia abierta , cultura digital , empresa europea , enseñanza superior , informe de investigación , inteligencia artificial , seguridad informática

**Keywords:** artificial intelligence , comparative analysis , digital literacy , European undertaking , higher education , information security , open science , research report , technological change

#### Title: Cyber conflict uncoded. The EU and conflict prevention in cyberspace

**Abstract:** The complex nature of cyber conflicts makes it difficult to design effective, targeted conflict prevention instruments. Yet existing approaches to prevent conflict in cyberspace have, so far, brought about very little change in state behaviour. How might the EU lead the way in preventing conflicts from escalating or breaking out?

#### Published: 29-07-2020

Author: Eurpean Union Institue for Security Studies (EU body or agency); Pawlak, Patryk ; Tikk, Eneken ; Kerttunen, Mika

ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-9198-880-8/2315-1110

Link: https://bit.ly/3ggKziZ

**Palabras clave:** defensa, conflicto internacional , criminalidad informática , guerra de información , prevención de conflictos , seguridad europea , seguridad informática

**Keywords:** information warfare, conflict prevention, information security, defence, international conflict, european security



#### Title: Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) 2020

**Abstract:** Data collection for IOCTA 2020 was conducted during the confinement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, the pandemic provoked a significant change and criminal innovation in the area of cybercrime. Criminals developed new modus operandi and adapted existing ones to exploit the situation, new attack vectors and new victim groups..

Published: 05-10-2020

Author: EUROPOL

ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-76-21370-3

Palabras clave: crimen organizado , cibercrimen , COVID-19 , innovación criminal

Keywords: organised crime , cybercrime , COVID-19 , criminal innovation



INSTITUTIONAL PAPER 133 | JULY 2020



#### Title: Report on public finances in EMU 2019 . 2020 Edition

**Abstract:** Report on public finances in EMU 2019 made by the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs European Comission). **Published:** 12-08-2020

Author: Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (European Commission) ; Mohl, Philipp

**ISBN / ISSN:** 978-92-76-16322-0 / 2443-8014

Link: https://op.europa.eu/s/oc60

**Palabras clave:** Política económica , Finanzas comunitarias , análisis económico , control presupuestario , Estado miembro UE , gasto público , hacienda pública , informe , política fiscal , Unión Económica y Monetaria , zona euro

**Keywords:** Economic policy , Community finance Subject: budgetary control , economic analysis , Economic and Monetary Union , EU Member State , euro area , fiscal policy , public expenditure , public finance , report



JRC TECHNICAL REPORTS

Financial integration in the EU28 equity markets: measures and drivers







# Title: Financial integration in the EU28 equity markets. Measures and drivers

**Abstract:** We examine time-invariant and time-varying market integration across European stock markets. Market integration has been increasing especially during the crisis period. Among others, market capitalization, technological developments and overall political uncertainty drive financial integration and systematic volatility, while macroeconomic variables do not impact idiosyncratic volatility.

Published: 22-09-2020 Author: Joint Research Centre (European Commission) ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-76-22099-2 / 2467-2203

Link: https://op.europa.eu/s/oIn6

**Palabras clave:** Economía , Finanzas, Bolsa de valores , Estado miembro UE , finanzas internacionales , informe de investigación , integración monetaria

**Keywords:** Economy , Finance, EU Member State , international finance , monetary integration , research report , stock exchange



#### Title: Merchant interconnectors in Europe. Merits and value drivers

**Abstract:** Interconnectors can help the European Union (EU) resolve the energy trilemma, increasing security of supply, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy and favouring price convergence. **Published:** 10-08-2020

Author: European University Institute

ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-9084-818-9 / 2467-4540

Link: https://bit.ly/2R7YahD

**Palabras clave:** abastecimiento energético , Europa , mercado de la energía , precio de la energía , red de energía

**Keywords:** energy grid , energy market , energy supply , Europe , price of energy





through infrastructure provision: an EU-wide sur



**de survey Abstract:** In 2015-2016, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) conducted a restricted survey in the 28 EU Member States (EU-28) on the benefits of gender-sensitive infrastructure. The EIGENET framework of contractors was engaged in the survey implementation, involving 23 organisations and consor-tia. The analysis of the survey was carried out by a research group led by the University of Murcia,

Spain. Published: 25-08-2020

Author: European Institute for Gender Equality (EU body or agency) ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-9482-443-1

Link: https://op.europa.eu/s/oec7

Palabras clave: política social, asignación de recursos, equilibrio entre vida privada y vida laboral , familia , igualdad de género , infraestructura urbana , integración de la perspectiva de género , organización sanitaria , rol social , servicio de interés general , sistema de enseñanza , transporte colectivo , zona urbana

**Keywords:** social policy, resource allocation, work-life balance, family, gender equality, urban infrastructure, gender mainstreaming, health organisation, social role, service of general interest, education system, public transport, urban area



**Discriminatory Laws** Undermining Women's Rights



dantation



Aonitoring and evaluation of national



Abstract: This paper provides insight into the current situation and recent trends in the abolition or reform of discriminatory laws undermining women's rights in countries outside the European Union (EU). The paper aims to provide a nuanced understanding of processes through which legal reforms take place. Published: 11-09-2020

Author: Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union (European Parliament); Devrim, Deniz; Blomeyer, Roland; Dalton, Paul; Mut-Tracy, Senni **ISBN / ISSN:** 978-92-846-6734-5

#### Link: https://op.europa.eu/s/oiOi

Palabras clave: Derechos fundamentales; acceso a la justicia, acuerdo internacional, derechos de la mujer, discriminación sexual, movimiento feminista, papel internacional de la UE, participación de la mujer, reforma judicial Keywords: Fundamental rights, access to the courts, international agreement , judicial reform , participation of women , sexual discrimination , the EU's international role, women's movement, women's rights

#### Title: Monitoring and evaluation of national adaptation policies throughout the policy cycle

Abstract: Although the EU and all EU Member States have a dedicated climate adaptation policy, none of them can fully show whether we are becoming more resilient. This report looks at how monitoring and reporting could feed into policy evaluation and inform future policies.

#### Published: 10-09-2020

Author: European Environment Agency (EU body or agency), Mäkinen, Kirsi; Deacon, Andrew ; Prutsch, Andrea ; Vikstrom, Suvi ; Vanneuville, Wouter ; Mysiak, Jaroslav ; Torresan, Silvia ; Ligtvoet, Willem ; Leitner, Markus

ISBN / ISSN: 978-92-9480-243-9 / 1977-8449

#### Link: https://op.europa.eu/s/ojBZ

Palabras clave: Política y protección del medio ambiente, adaptación al cambio climático, análisis de coste-beneficio, elaboración de políticas, informe, política de medio ambiente de la UE, política en materia de cambio climático Keywords: Environment policy and protection of the environment, adaptation to climate change , climate change policy , cost-benefit analysis , EU environmental policy, policymaking, report

policies throughout the policy cycle



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