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Vicerrectorado de Investigación e Innovación de la Univeridad de Almería

Edificio Parque Científico-Tecnológico (Pita) Planta: 1ª, Despacho: 29 04120 – Ctra. Sacramento s/n.

Almería (Spain)

Teléfono: (+34) 950 015266

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Diego Luis Valera Martínez, Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation, is Professor in the Department of Engineering at the University of Almeria. He is currently attached to the School of Engineering, where he was awarded the Best Teacher Award in 2012. He studied Agricultural Engineering and Doctorate in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Cordoba, obtaining the "José María Bergillos" Extraordinary Prize for the best Final Degree Project. He is the author of more than 73 scientific articles in indexed international journals of great scientific impact and more than 125 articles in journals on knowledge transfer to professionals in the agri-food sector. He holds 4 patents and He has presented more than 100 communications at national and international conferences, some of which have won the Best Communication Award, Mentions of Excellence and Recognition Awards. He has supervised more than a hundred degree and master's degree final projects, as well as 15 doctoral theses, some of which have been awarded the Extraordinary Doctorate Prize and the Prize for the Best Doctoral Thesis. Since 2000, he has been in charge of the "Rural Engineering" Research Group, which has received the University of Almeria Social Council Award for the Promotion of Society-University Research. He is currently the President of the Governing Board of the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park.

QUESTION: What opportunities does the new European R&D&I funding programme, Horizon Europe, offer?

The opportunities are multiple, mainly due to two factors. Firstly, for quantitative reasons, since Horizon Europe will have a budget of almost 100 billion euros. This represents a significant increase over the budget of the previous framework programme, Horizon 2020, whose budget was already a milestone compared to previous programmes. More than a third of Horizon Europe's budget will be earmarked to promote policies that directly or indirectly combat climate change.

Secondly, Horizon Europe is a great opportunity for qualitative reasons, as it offers a wide range of funding options under the common objective of boosting sustainability in all areas of knowledge. On the one hand, we have the traditional actions in the Excellent Science Pillar, including the European Research Council funding programmes and the Marie Curie actions. On the other hand, the previous actions of the Societal Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness Pillars have been merged into a single pillar, oriented towards 7 major thematic areas, called clusters. These clusters now have a more interdisciplinary approach and are oriented to solve challenges in the areas of human health; creativity, culture and inclusive society; civil security; digitalisation, industry and space; climate, energy and mobility; and, finally, agriculture, food, bioeconomy, environment and natural resources. In addition, 5 major final objectives or 'Missions' have been defined, also mainly oriented towards the areas



of sustainability, the fight against climate change and human health.

If we analyse these areas we can quickly understand that these are areas where we are very well positioned and which represent a great opportunity for the University of Almeria.

QUESTION: You said that one of the main threads of the new European funding framework is sustainability and the fight against climate change. Is this really a change of model in Europe?

Yes, it is indeed a change of production model at European level, but Almeria has a long way to go in this new model. We must not forget that Horizon Europe materialises the priorities of European R&D&I funding within a larger long-term strategic framework, the European Green Pact, which is the European Union's roadmap to achieve an extremely ambitious objective by 2050: to achieve economic growth that is decoupled from the use of natural resources, allowing for a net greenhouse neutral economy and without the European people or regions being left behind in this growth. It is clear that this objective can only be achieved through a change of mentality that affects all areas, including public authorities, the productive economy and knowledge agents, including our institution.

Likewise, the European Green Pact is accompanied by a package of measures in various fields, including the European Climate Act, the European Biodiversity Strategy and the European Industrial and Circular Economy Strategy, as well as far-reaching initiatives within the Green Pact itself, such as the 'Farm to Table' Strategy, of great relevance for the economic environment of the Province of Almeria.

QUESTION: Earlier you said that the new European framework is a great opportunity for the University of Almeria. What are the implications of the European Green Pact for the research carried out at the University of Almeria?

The European Green Pact is based on 7 main pillars: clean energy, sustainable industry, sustainable construction, sustainable mobility, preservation of biodiversity, sustainable agri-food and pollution prevention. At a glance, we can appreciate the opportunity that these pillars represent for our institution, since we are a reference agent of knowledge generation in many of these areas.

For example, agri-food sustainability, materialised through the 'Farm to Fork' strategy, focuses on an area in which our university is indisputably a benchmark institution at international level. The same is true in the area of pollution mitigation, which expressly covers air, water and soil pollution, in which our institution is also a reference. Similarly, we are strongly positioned in the area of renewable energies, as well as in the preservation of biodiversity due to the rich natural environment in which we are located.

Furthermore, we cannot forget the distinctly multidisciplinary approach that the European Green Pact and Horizon Europe aspire to when it comes to solving these major objectives. This is a great opportunity for our research groups in economic, social and legal sciences, as well as in the various areas of knowledge in the humanities at the University of Almeria.

QUESTION: Almeria is an agri-food model that has been studied worldwide. What role does it play in the challenges of the future?

Almeria is widely recognised as one of the world's major agrifood clusters. What is known as the "Almeria miracle" is based on two aspects, technological on the one hand and socio-economic on the other.

From a technological point of view, Almeria has achieved the seemingly impossible: from being a semi-arid and unproductive province, it has become the so-called "Garden of Europe", a paradigm of collective effort and the application of knowledge to the solution of major agronomic challenges.

From a socio-economic point of view, Almeria has been the protagonist of what is probably the greatest success story of territorial development and wealth distribution in the recent economic history of Spain: from being one of the poorest provinces in Spain to becoming a clearly export-oriented agro-industrial cluster in which the world's major producing regions look to.

The basis of this agronomic and socio-economic success lies in the so-called "Almeria Model", a complex system of intensive fruit and vegetable production under glass whose combination of factors is unique to this province and which the rest of the world is avidly trying to imitate, as demonstrated by the countless visits the Almeria agro-industrial cluster receives each year from delegations from countries from all continents.

But Almeria is not only one of the great world poles of agri-food production, it is also perhaps one of the greatest exponents of what is set to become the great paradigm of the agriculture of the future: the principle of "producing more with less".

Achieving the ambitious objectives of the European Green Pact will require a change of mentality that allows us to see environmental challenges as opportunities for our society and our economy. These opportunities will be realised along the entire agri-food chain, from production to the final consumer, including the important objectives of reducing inputs, using renewable energies, ensuring food safety, health care and the full use and valorisation of bio-waste.

This future scenario offers a valuable opportunity for Almeria. Indeed, the European Union is aware that its principle of "green diplomacy" cannot be effective unless it demonstrates to the world that economic growth and environmental sustainability are fully compatible objectives. Only through this credible demonstration, based on concrete reference models, can the European Green Pact succeed as a global growth model for this century.

It is precisely on this point, the creation of concrete territorial models that demonstrate the full viability of the growth-sustainability binomial, where the greatest potential lies for the province of Almeria, since the roots of the new European economic and sustainability policy lie precisely in what we know how to do best: produce more with less.

We have the advantage that Almeria has an extraordinary capacity to rapidly adopt innovations across the entire agro-industrial cluster.

The European vision of the future shares the historical roots of Almeria's innovation: to produce more with fewer resources.



It is our great opportunity, and also our duty, to lead this European transition towards a new path of sustainable economic growth and to serve as a reference model for the world's major agricultural producing regions, as we have done so far.

QUESTION: What are the main competitive strengths of research at the University of Almeria compared to other institutions at national and European level?

The University of Almeria has a great research tradition in those subjects strongly linked to our geographical and socio-economic environment, especially in the wide range of knowledge areas in agri-food sciences, but also in renewable energies, climate change and biodiversity. Moreover, in recent years we have seen a strong inclusion of multidisciplinary approaches in research projects in these thematic areas, as I mentioned earlier. We are currently developing 140 research projects under the State R&D&I Plan and more than 35 European projects.

One of the most outstanding aspects of our research is the close collaboration in R&D&I with the productive sector, in which we are positioned well ahead of most national universities. As an example, we are one of the leaders in the main national call for public-private collaboration with companies, Retos Colaboración (Collaboration Challenges). Moreover, to this positioning we have added specific actions to promote R&D&I with companies through our own resources such as the UALtransfierE Programme, financing innovative and social innovative actions directly in companies, and through the powerful Own Research and Transfer Plan of the University of Almeria, to mention just a few examples.

QUESTION: You have just mentioned the Own Research Plan as an instrument to support R+D+i at the University of Almería. What elements of this Own Plan are particularly novel?

The Own Research Plan stands out from those existing in other national institutions both quantitatively and qualitatively and is the main tool of scientific policy in our institution.

On a quantitative level, the Own Research Plan represents an investment

in R&D&I in our university of almost 3 million euros, that is, almost 70% more investment than the Own Research Plan of 2017, only 4 years ago. This represents an outstanding investment effort in favour of our researchers, well above that made in other universities of a similar size to ours.

On a qualitative level, the Plan stands out for being fully aligned with national and European policies and for having highly innovative instruments to promote research, even compared to other much larger national and even European institutions.

Specifically, the Own Research Plan is based on five major Support Plans: firstly, the Strengthening of Human Resources for Research and Talent Attraction; secondly, Research Grants; thirdly, Mobility and Improvement of Research Staff; fourthly, Internationalisation and Transfer of Research; and finally, the University of Almeria Awards for Research Excellence. Each of these strategic axes consists of several Funding Programmes. In 2021 we have incorporated 5 new Grant Programmes, reaching a total of 30, which means a wide range of funding mechanisms for our researchers.

QUESTION: The agri-food sector is the real driving force behind the economic development of Almeria. How does the University of Almeria catalyse innovation in this strategic field?

Since its creation, the University of Almeria has been committed to the agrifood sector, as it could not be otherwise, since it is the real engine of socio-economic and demographic development



of our environment; with an annual production of more than three million tonnes of fruit and vegetables, which, due to its marked exporting character, contributes the largest share to the international agri-food trade of Andalusia.

It is well known that the so-called "Almeria Model" is a case of success and wealth distribution analysed from all over the world, in which one of its strengths is the quality of the technical advice it receives. Our farmers are highly trained and dynamic, but undoubtedly, the thousands of Agricultural Engineers, Agricultural Technical Engineers and Graduates in Agricultural Engineering who advise them, trained at the UAL, are co-participants in the spectacular development of the sector in recent decades.

In this sense, Agricultural Technical Engineers have been trained and incorporated into the sector in Almeria for more than 30 years. Even before the creation of the University of Almeria, in 1987, the University School of Agricultural Engineering was created by Decree 209/1987 of 26 August 1987 of the Government of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia. In other words, the former University College of Almeria, which was integrated into the University of Granada in 1984, was already a key part of the "Almeria Model", providing it with well-trained engineers to advise on the growing technical needs demanded by farmers. With the creation of the University of Almeria by Law 3/1993 of 1 July 1993, a decisive step was taken to support the agri-food sector, with an unquestionable and enormous positive impact for the whole of Almeria society. That same year, 1993, the degree of Agricultural Engineer was introduced.

Nowadays, the University of Almeria, with nearly fifteen thousand students, of which almost a thousand are foreigners, is a clear reference in higher education in the agri-food sector and a beacon for intensive Mediterranean horticulture worldwide. Moreover, since its creation, it has been very committed to the society to which it owes its existence, working closely with the agri-food sector to help it overcome its difficulties. The institution spares no effort to provide an agile and coordinated response to the demands of the agricultural sector, to which we are all indebted and which justifies and drives our institution.

One of our fundamental objectives is to promote the transfer of research results. We are making a considerable effort to transfer all the research we generate to society in general and to the agri-food sector in particular. Knowledge reaches its full value when it is transferred and helps to solve people's problems. In this sense, the University of Almeria occupies a relevant position in comparison with other institutions, also as a result of the strength of our primordial agriculture.

At the University of Almeria we are proud to be a university institution of reference in the European agri-food sector and one of the world's leading institutions in training and research in sustainable intensive agriculture.

In line with the productive environment of Almeria, the research project portfolio of the University of Almeria is particularly broad and covers all areas of knowledge linked to research in agri-food sciences.

In the early stages, we work hand in hand with plant biotechnology companies to develop new highly productive, better tasting and sustainable plant varieties. Similarly, we collaborate with leading agricultural producers to increase input efficiency, with the aim of producing more with less water, fertilisers and phytopharmaceuticals. In this area, digitalisation in agriculture has in recent years become an essential means of achieving greater efficiency in the use of resources. Undoubtedly, farmers in the southeast of Spain are no strangers to the revolution that the digital transformation in agriculture is bringing about, and are spearheading it.

Likewise, we have made a strong commitment to the development of new methods of biological control and integrated pest management, as well as new tools to guarantee the sustainability of the ecosystem as a whole through bioremediation processes for contaminated soils, the development of biodiversity, carbon capture, the sustainable management of our aquifers and adaptation to climate change.

Our research projects include initiatives to close the production cycle by generating new by-products with high added value along the process, such as biomass and eco-compatible biomaterials, as well as the valorisation of biocomposites and microorganisms.

Undoubtedly, one of the distinctive features of the R&D&I of the University of Almeria, and the one we are most proud of, is the success we have achieved in public-private collaboration, which has traditionally been one of the main priorities of the Spanish Science and Technology System. As we have already mentioned, Almeria represents an agri-food cluster known internationally for its high concentration of agricultural com-

panies and producers. As a result, the R&D&I of Almeria's agri-food cluster faithfully represents the existing symbiosis between the University of Almeria and the surrounding companies.

Research and training must be an inseparable binomial for any university. In fact, the most effective research is that which builds bridges between the knowledge generated in the university and its practical application through quality training, since education is the tool that guarantees that the new generations of technologists and experts have the necessary skills to successfully meet the challenge of an environmentally friendly, profitable, highly productive and sustainable agriculture.

Few institutions at national and international level have such a privileged position in the agri-food sector as the University of Almeria. Year after year it is confirmed that the training received by a student of our institution is at the forefront of university training centres in the field of agri-food at an international level. Moreover, in few places in the world does a student in the agri-food field have the opportunity to be trained so closely to the innovative companies that exist in the agri-food environment of Almeria.

Proof of this leadership are the numerous visits and academic and research exchanges that we are constantly receiving from institutions all over the world. All of them have in common that they want to know in depth the Almeria Model and the role that their university has played in the transformation of a semi-arid climate region into a highly productive and sustainable agri-food re-

gion.

For all these reasons, we are aware of the great responsibility we have as the main research and training institution of our environment and, therefore, of our role as builders of the future of the agri-food sector and of our future generations



Tomás Martínez Moya, a graduate and PhD in Veterinary Medicine, and Associate Professor in the Department of Biology and Geology at the University of Almeria, has 23 years of research and teaching experience in different areas of Animal Production and Animal Biotechnology and has four six-year research periods and one six-year period of technology transfer. Initially his research interests were related to digestive physiology and the control of microbial hydrolysis of protein and starch in ruminant diets, and later on digestive physiology and fish nutrition. He has carried out research stays in the UK and Canada, and is the author of 50 articles in international journals with impact index, and more than 150 communications to conferences, having participated in 20 funded research projects, two of them European (H2020), and in 15 research contracts. He is the author of two patents on encapsulation of probiotic bacteria and DNA vaccines for fish. He holds a diploma in Food Technology and Public Health from the National School of Health, and is a full member of the Royal Academy of Veterinary Sciences of Andalusia, head of animal health at the UAL animal facilities, and President of the Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee of the Bioethics Commission of the UAL.

Interview by Ana Fe Gil Serra, Director of the European Documentation Centre in Almeria.

QUESTION: Aquaculture is currently a minority production sector worldwide. However, given the depletion of most fishing grounds, aquaculture is shaping up to be one of the emerging areas in the coming years. What is the current situation of Spanish aquaculture?

The role of aquaculture, considering only the production of aquatic animals for human consumption, can be understood as a minority on a global scale if only the volume of production as a whole is used as a criterion, in which case it can certainly receive that qualification compared to the production of terrestrial animals. However, if other aspects are included in the assessment criteria, such as its efficiency of utilisation of food resources, its growth potential, its role as a source of protein and income in small communities in developing countries, or the healthy nature of aquaculture products, which are highly recommended in the high-calorie diets of Western countries, among many others, we find that its economic and social significance gives it a role far beyond mere production figures.

Thus, in a context in which the production and consumption of red meat in developed countries is increasingly questioned from the dual perspective of its environmental footprint and the health effects of its abuse in diets, fish and other marine products can take over as a source of animal protein compatible with these new healthy eating trends. For example,

it takes approximately 9 kg of feed to produce 1 kg of beef, whereas if we want to produce the same amount of farmed fish, it would take little more than 2 kg of feed to do so. Not only from an environmental point of view, but also from an ethical point of view, aquaculture can offer more acceptable solutions in this context for the more conscientious consumer.

On the other hand, you mention in your question the depletion of fishing grounds by extractive fishing as a major environmental problem, and this is certainly the case. This situation not only affects the present and future availability of fish for human consumption in an ever-expanding demographic environment, which can be compensated for by the growth of aquaculture, but also has a decisive impact on the production sector, creating a major shortage of fishmeal and fish oil, which are essential for the production of aquaculture feed. Given the simultaneous occurrence of these two antagonistic trends, the growth of aquaculture production and the stagnation of the available volume of fishmeal due to the depletion of fishing grounds, the search for sustainable alternative sources to break out of this vicious circle is now a major research and development challenge, and many Spanish and foreign groups are devoting their efforts to developing this field of work.

In any case, the production of fish from aquaculture in the world is growing steadily, at an annual rate of around 10% worldwide, surpassing the volume of extractive fishing for the last decade. However, this is not the case in the EU, where the volume of farmed fish still accounts for around 75% of the total amount of fish marketed and only the rest (around 750,000 tonnes) comes from aquaculture. If we focus on Spain, Spain is the leading producer of European aquaculture, accounting for slightly less than 25% of production, although it ranks fourth in terms of value. The dominant product in Spain, as in the EU, is still mussels, followed by sea bass, rainbow trout and sea bream. However, at European level, mussels are followed by salmon and rainbow trout.

QUESTION: As a member of the Aquatic Ecology and Aquaculture Research Group of the University of Almeria, could you briefly explain some of the activities carried out in this group and their foreseeable socio-economic impact on our environment?

Basic research as a knowledge-generating activity can in itself represent not only a source of satisfaction for researchers, but also provides new approaches and tools for future applied research. But undoubtedly, seeing this knowledge reflected in the development of technologies that can be directly transferred to the productive sector in the short and medium term is an achievement for a research team. However, developments at laboratory level are not easy to scale up industrially, and there-

fore the short-term commercialisation and use, even of the results of applied research, is not as immediate as we would like. Undoubtedly here the role of business-led research represents the most direct way to promote rapid solutions to concrete problems. However, this is still a major unresolved issue in our country compared to other neighbouring countries, with a substantial amount of public funds earmarked for research credits for companies remaining unused each year.

There are several lines of work being developed within the research group in relation to aquaculture, including the search for alternative sources of raw materials for animal feed, and within this, studies on macro and microalgae, as well as on insect meal, are the focus of several of the projects currently being carried out. These sources represent a sustainable and practically inexhaustible source of protein and oils of high biological value for animal feed, which could well compensate for the stagnation in the availability of fishmeal mentioned above. Furthermore, aware that aquaculture production is not just a question of quantity, but must also consider aspects such as the health of the animals themselves, as well as the quality of the fish entering the food chain, we are also working on the influence of algae-derived feed additives on animal health and welfare parameters, and on the objective quality of fish for consumption, such as the improvement of colour attributes, or the extension of the shelf life of both fresh and frozen fish, all of which are activities within the framework of food technology. Another of the novel lines of research currently underway is the development of encapsulation platforms for the oral administration of additives and vaccines, the latter being a fundamental aspect in intensive aquaculture, given that it is very difficult to administer vaccines efficiently in fish farms to batches of hundreds of thousands of fish in early stages of development.

But beyond the research itself, our research group has recently contributed its grain of sand in the transfer to the productive sector not only through the achievement of several competitive projects within the priority lines of targeted research of the various public calls, but also through the signing of numerous research contracts with companies, which seek to provide solutions to specific problems in the sector. On the other hand, a technology-based company was created within the group, whose field of work focuses mainly on the design and development of novel functional feed formats, as well as encapsulation platforms for oral administration of bioactive molecules such as additives or vaccines of interest in aquaculture through the feed. The research team is also technically responsible for the experimental feed service of the UAL, a unique facility in our autonomous community, and among the few services of this type that exist not only in Spain, but also in Europe, available to companies and research groups, with which it has signed and executed numerous contracts. Through this facility, innovative solutions are offered for the design and production of experimental feeds specifically adapted to the needs of customers, which high-capacity commercial facilities cannot offer.

As a result of these transfer activities, the group has registered three patents on oral delivery of probiotics and vaccines, and has developed four feed additives that are at an advanced stage of industrial scale-up for commercialisation to feed manufacturing companies.

QUESTION. The European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFF), with a budget of 6,108 million euros for the period 2021-2027, has set support for aquaculture as one of its objectives, since it increases the EU's food security and reduces dependence on fishery products from third countries. Can Spain occupy a relevant position in these EEF objectives?

The term food safety encompasses two important concepts, on the one hand, safety in relation to the health and safety of foodstuffs, and on the other hand, the guarantee of supply of products to supply markets.

With regard to the first meaning, we can be sure that food safety regulations in the EU are the most demanding in the world, but with regard to the second meaning, which is the one most relevant to the question, we should not lose sight of the fact that the EU is the largest fish consuming market in the world, yet it produces only

about one third of that consumption. This means that two thirds of the fish marketed in the EU has to be imported and there is therefore ample room for growth if dependence on external markets is to be reduced. Nor should it be forgotten that this external dependence means that non-EU aquaculture production and extractive fishing generally comes from developing countries and, therefore, is not subject to the complex and demanding environmental, labour, zootechnical or food safety measures that our producers have to comply with, which can lead to situations of unfair competition on many occasions.

Apart from these considerations, there is no doubt that Spain has a major role to play in achieving the objectives of the FEMPA, given that our country is not only the main market for the marketing of fishery products in the European Union. and among the first in the world, but, as mentioned above, it is also the main producer of aquaculture in the Community context. Geographical and climatic conditions, as well as a consolidated business fabric. the existence of highly professional human resources, and leadership in technology and research, have undoubtedly contributed to this outstanding role. There are numerous innovative companies, as well as research groups of a high scientific level, which collaborate in the improvement of the sector, something which, as a whole, should represent an opportunity to opt for a significant part of these funds and, in short, to offer

knowledge-based solutions which will enable the most immediate future challenges to be faced.

QUESTION. For months now, we citizens have been witnessing a continuous debate on the correct application of the European funds that Spain will receive within the NextGenerationEU programme, on which productive sectors should be prioritised, the suitability of the projects to the development of the different regions, etc. However, other voices also warn of a shortage of qualified personnel in some sectors. However, other voices also warn of the shortage of qualified personnel in some sectors. Do you think that this situation is occurring in aquaculture? What specialities should we, in this case, promote in order to improve the competitiveness of this economic sector?

This debate, which is not exclusive to the aquaculture sector, but extends to all productive sectors, is not only an economic but also a political battlefield. But it would be important that for once we were able to reach a consensus on the definition of our production model for the next two or three decades, beyond short-term individual interests. With this hope, there is no doubt that aquaculture is very well positioned to put forward proposals for innovation and improvement, both directly related to production strategies and also, and this is very important, to the valorisation and processing of fishery

products. In fact, it should not be overlooked that the EU's fish import and processing industries currently account for a larger economic volume than fishery and aquaculture producers combined. This strong weight of the downstream stages of primary production, i.e. processing and marketing, together with the comprehensive and complex zootechnical and environmental legislation with which European producers have to comply, undoubtedly determine the stagnation of primary production, and are the reason for the high volume of imports. As a consequence, and similar to many other economic sectors, production by volume alone is no longer attractive to companies within the EU, and hence we are witnessing relocation to developing countries.

If the ultimate aim of these policies is to increase the supply of fresh and local products, in order to reduce dependence on imports, it is essential to stimulate production in the EU by means of different strategies, seeking meeting points between businessmen, administration and researchers. It should be mentioned that a great strength is the willingness of the aquaculture business sector to innovate, something that is not always the case, at least not with the same intensity, in other animal production sectors. From this point of view, the sector as a whole is in a privileged position to make good use of the European funds allocated to it.

In this context, and in relation to the lack of qualified personnel, it has already been mentioned that in

parallel with the role of our country as a producer and consumer of fishery products mentioned above, it can be stated without fear of contradiction that in the aquaculture sector we also have extraordinarily qualified technical and scientific human capital, which in my opinion is a guarantee for the good use of the funds allocated to innovation proposals, because without doubt this human capital could well be the reference in which other productive sectors would like to be reflected.

And finally, among the future challenges for using these funds effectively, we could mention the diversification of farmed species, the optimisation of facilities, which directly affects the control of animal stress in the different stages of the production cycle, the minimisation of the environmental impact of intensive aquaculture production, the prevention and control of emerging diseases, and the reduction of the environmental impact of intensive aquaculture production, the prevention and control of emerging diseases by reducing the use of pharmacological products, the optimisation of feed formulation adapted to new species, the enrichment of fish to turn it into a "functional" food, improvements in product typification, the development of novel fish-based food formats, and the search for new forms of presentation and conservation, among the main ones.

QUESTION: The European Commission will soon launch a public consultation on whether current legislation is adequate to the challenges posed by gene editing in innovation in the agrifood sector. In the same vein, many experts have stressed the need for the integration of modern biotechnology and breeding technologies in organic production. Is this also the case in aquaculture?

Gene editing tools will undoubtedly bring about a revolution in all areas of agri-food production in the future, and aquaculture will not be left out of the advances that will be transferred to the production sector. Obtaining faster-growing animals, with greater resistance to disease, capable of making better use of nutrients, thus causing less environmental impact, or with higher levels of those chemical compounds that make it a healthy food

(e.g. essential fatty acids) appear as potential fields of application for these technologies.

However, they will also raise a multitude of bioethical questions that will have to be answered, and in this sense, it cannot be forgotten that what is considered ethically acceptable is not a single, unchangeable concept, but has to be placed in a given historical context. At present, there are clear differences in the adoption of any kind of advance or innovation related to genetic manipulation between the EU and, for example, the US, which is generally more open to such innovations. The precautionary principle is the EU's safeguard criterion for authorising any change in animal production involving the use of live micro-organisms, or the genetic modification not only of animals, but even of the crops from which the raw materials for animal feed are obtained.

To date, the Scientific Committees advising the highest regulatory authority on the matter in the EU, the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), have not been in favour of such modifications on animals, and there is no indication that this opinion will change significantly in the near future. However, neither would anyone have thought just five years ago that the European Medicines Agency (EMA) would authorise the use of the coronavirus gene vaccines that are currently being used in the population.

But even in the case of the United States, whose regulatory agency (the FDA, Food and Drug Administration), there is no special predisposition to genetic modifications in animals for human consumption, and good proof of this is that, to date, the only transgenic production animal authorised is a salmon that overexpresses growth hormone, the authorisation of which has involved no less than 25 years of debate within the FDA itself. This example also serves to show that aquaculture is a pioneer in many of these developments involving genetic modification, as it was in the case of the authorisation of the first mass-applied gene vaccines in animals, namely a DNA vaccine against a viral disease in salmon that was approved in Canada in 2005. At EU level, in fact, the only existing veterinary DNA vaccine, also against a salmon viral disease, was licensed in 2017.

Therefore, despite the enormous potential of scientific developments in the laboratory related to gene editing, the current reality is that at EU level they are not likely to have a major practical application in the immediate future. On these issues, extreme positions are commonly adopted, most of the time without a solid scientific basis, and based rather on visceral beliefs or arguments, amplified by the ease of dissemination of messages through the media and social networks. As a result, it seems that every citizen is an expert on any and every subject we can think of. Without going any further, we are witnessing this these days in relation, for example, to opinions on the safety of each of the available vaccines against the coronavirus.

But the decision-making forums must be the scientific committees, which bring together the most prominent professionals in each field of research with many, many years of their lives dedicated to the study, and with sufficient knowledge to make a reasoned judgement. That is the forum in which these issues, which undoubtedly have an impact on the animal production of the future, should be debated, and not in lobbies or pressure groups with more or less hidden interests in one decision or another, without losing sight of the fact that the overriding interest is to preserve the health and rights of consumers

EU NEWS





Welcome to Europe Day!!

FULL NEWS



"EUROPE WILL NOT BE BUILT ALL AT ONCE, NOR IN A COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT: IT WILL BE BUILT THROUGH CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS, WHICH FIRST AND FOREMOST CREATE A DE FACTO SOLIDARITY". ROBERT SCHUMAN

the peace and unity of the European continent. The date is the anniversary of the historic Schuman Declaration. In a speech delivered in Paris in 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe that would make a new war between European nations unthinkable. Schuman's proposal is seen as the beginning of what is now the European Union and celebrations have been held every 9 May ever since.

EVENTS IN THE EU

To celebrate Europe Day, the EU institutions are opening their doors to citizens in Brussels and Strasbourg. EU representations in Europe and around the world organise a variety of activities and events for all ages. Every year thousands of people attend visits, debates, concerts and other events to celebrate the day and raise awareness of the EU.

The EU invites citizens from all over Europe and the rest of the world to discover the EU in a safe and above all virtual way, with face-to-face events and visits when health conditions allow.

EU institutions will open their 'virtual' doors so that citizens from across the EU and beyond can find out more about the European Union and its activities.

Visit the Europe Day portal to find out more about the Parliament, the Commission and the other EU institutions, as well as Europe Day activities taking place in the EU and around the world. Hover your mouse over a country on the portal's interactive map to find out what's happening near you.

Take a virtual tour of the European Parliament, Commission headquarters and other EU institutions. An interactive online space allows visitors to play games, watch videos and test their general knowledge of the EU, as well as what they know about issues such as a green and digital Europe. With a single click, users can take part in online debates on EU topics and explore online events.

And as we all know that music brings us together... Happy and musical Europe Day! Head over to Spotify and discover the special "Europe Day" playlist created by the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European

Union, featuring great European music

#EUROPAENALMERÍA iiicelebrate it with us!!!

The European Documentation Centre (EDC) of the University of Almeria joins the celebration of Europe Day with the publication of an infographic on European culture and youth mobility in Europe and with a quiz on social networks where you can show your knowledge of the European Union. The contest will be held from 7 to 14 May and will be published on our social networks: Twitter, Facebook, Linkedin and Instagram (@cdealmeria), for a week you can share, tag and guess the 3 questions we have prepared. From here we encourage you to participate and get numerous gifts! 3 prizes will be given consisting of sweatshirt + notebook + portable battery + t-shirt and you will have to pick them up at our centre at the University of Almeria.

Conference on the Future of Europe

FULL NEWS



JOINT STATEMENT ON THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

uropean Parliament President, David Sassoli, Prime Minister of Portugal António Costa, on behalf of the Presidency of the Council, and Commission President Ursula von der Leyen have signed the Joint Declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe. This paves the way to launching a series of debates and discussions that will enable people from every corner of Europe to share their ideas to help shape Europe's future.

The Conference sets itself the goal of giving citizens a greater role in shaping EU policies and ambitions, improving the Union's resilience to crises, be it economic or health-related. It will create a new public forum for an open, inclusive, transparent and structured debate with Europeans around the issues that matter to them and affect their everyday lives.

The Joint Declaration gives a non-exhaustive list of pos-

sible themes for the Conference. It mentions health, climate change, social fairness, digital transformation, the EU's role in the world, and how to strengthen democratic processes governing the EU. These topics concur with overarching EU priorities and the issues raised by citizens in opinion polls. Ultimately, participating citizens will decide what topics the Conference will discuss.

NEXT STEPS

The Conference is under the authority of the three institutions leading this endeavour, represented by their Presidents, acting as its Joint Presidency. An Executive Board, equally representing the three institutions will soon be constituted, with national Parliaments having observer status. The Executive Board will oversee the works of the Conference, and prepare the Conference Plenary meetings, including citizens' input and their follow up.



Towards a renewed partnership between Africa and the EU

FULL NEWS



THE CITIZENS OF AFRICA AND EUROPE FACE COMMON CHALLENGES THAT DEMAND CLOSER AND FAIRER COOPERATION

Parliament's proposals for a new EU-Africa strategy laying the foundation for a partnership that reflects the interests of both sides and gives African countries the means to achieve sustainable development.

HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
AT THE HEART OF
FUTURE STRATEGY

ÁfAfrica is home to the youngest population in the world, with about one million Africans entering the job market every month. However, more than 390 million people are living below the poverty line, while less than 10% of 18-24 year olds are enrolled in some form of post secondary education or training.

Investing in people is therefore

seen as a key pillar of the upcoming EU-Africa strategy, announced by the European Commission in March, with priority given to the fight against inequality, young people and the empowerment of women.

Chrysoula Zacharopoulou (Renew Europe, France), who wrote the Parliament's proposals, emphasises the need to ensure access to quality education and provide young people, especially women and girls, with the necessary skills to access the job market.

Decent working conditions are seen as key to providing prospects to the rapidly growing population. This goes hand in hand with inclusive social protection systems, measures against child and forced labour and a transition from the informal to the formal economy. The informal sector makes up nearly 86% of all employ-

ment in Africa.

The new strategy should also improve health care and strengthen national health systems, making them more resilient to future crises. MEPs want to step up EU-Africa collaboration on health research and innovation to boost local production of equipment and medicine.

REDUCING AFRICA'S DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS

The EU-Africa relationship "must move beyond the donor-recipient relationship", according to the Parliament report, emphasising the importance of supporting Africa's domestic production through sustainable investment.

It also proposes boosting intra-African trade through the continental free trade area, investment in transport infrastructure and better access to global markets.

Public-private partnerships and funding small and medium enterprises are considered essential, as these smaller firms represent 95% of businesses in Africa and the private sector is expected to be decisive in the post-Covid recovery.



The European Committee of the Regions calls for a new Atlantic macro-region

FULL NEWS



ATLANTIC REGIONS ARE FACING THE CONSEQUENCES OF BREXIT IN FISHERIES, TRADE AND TRANSPORT WHILE ALSO SUFFERING FROM THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MARITI-ME LINKS. TOURISM AND LOGISTICS CHAINS

he European Committee of the Regions (CoR) has put forward a set of proposals to strengthen cooperation between EU Atlantic regions to better tackle the impact caused by Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic. The EU's assembly of cities and regions calls for the creation of an Atlantic macro-region that defines common strategies to boost blue economy priority sectors, including fisheries, commerce, tourism and transport. EU Atlantic regions are located in four Member States: France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain.

The CoR proposals can be found in an opinion led by the Spanish region of Cantabria, to be adopted at this week's plenary session.

The Spanish region of Cantabria has presented the opinion 'A new approach to the Atlantic maritime strategy – Atlantic action plan 2.0'. It includes a list of concrete proposals to strengthen cooperation between EU Atlantic regions, amongst which is the creation of an Atlantic macro-region.

The opinion gathers concrete measures including, among others:

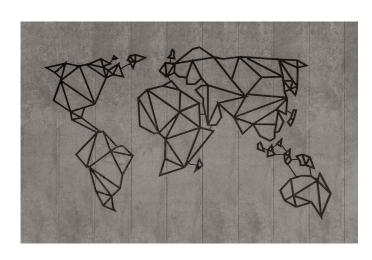
- The creation of an Atlantic macro-region according to the multi-level governance model of the Alpine macro-region.
- The inclusion of fishing, shellfish and aquaculture as a pillar in the Atlantic Action Plan (APP), since the supply of seafood products is a Green Deal priority.
- The extension of scope of the sea motorways in the Atlantic, allowing new connections between ports, emphasizing its strategic value in connecting Ireland with the continent in the post-Brexit scenario.

 The harmonization of public funding in research and innovation so that available resources are allocated more efficiently.

The CoR opinion welcomes the renewable energy pillar of the new APP, considering it as an unmissable opportunity to boost offshore renewable energy production in the EU.

The EU's assembly of cities and regions nevertheless regrets that key blue economy activities are excluded from the AAP, such as naval and maritime construction, transport industries, recreational boating, ancillary industry and sustainable tourism activities relating to the marine environment, including water sports, cruise tourism and ferries.

Neither fisheries, shell fishing nor aquacultures are dealt as subjects in their own right in the AAP, the CoR opinion recalls.



Commission refers the UK to the European Court of Justice over alleged unlawful aid

FULL NEWS



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS DECIDED TO REFER THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR FAILING TO FULLY RECOVER ILLEGAL STATE AID OF UP TO AROUND €100 MILLION

hese measures granted as a tax exemption for passive interest and royalties in Gibraltar, as required by a Commission decision. This case relates to facts that took place before the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union.

On 19 December 2018, the Commission adopted a Decision regarding Gibraltar's corporate tax exemption regime for passive interest and royalties applicable between 1 January 2011 and 30 June 2013 and between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2013 respectively, as well as five tax rulings granted between 2011 and 2013. The decision declared those measures unlawful and incompatible with State aid rules, and therefore the aid must be recovered from the beneficiaries. As a matter of principle, EU State aid rules require that illegal State aid is recovered in order to remove the distortion of competition created by the aid.

Pursuant to Articles 95 (1) and 87 (2) of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community,



the Commission is entitled to bring the United Kingdom to the Court of Justice for failing to implement a Commission decision taken before the end of the transition period (i.e. before 31 December 2020). Article 87 (2) thereof also confirms that the Court of Justice has jurisdiction in these cases.

The Commission has been in regular contact with the Gibraltar authorities throughout the recovery process. Such authorities have already recovered part of the illegal aid from the beneficiaries. However, more than two years after the Commission decision, the Gibraltar authorities have not yet recovered all the illegal aid: those authorities identified four aid beneficiaries subject to the recovery order, but recovery has only

be completed from two of them and less than 20% of the total illegal aid amount has been repaid. Recovery is still pending from Mead Johnson Nutrition (beneficiary of a tax ruling) and partially from Fossil (beneficiary of the unlawful aid scheme).

The Commission has therefore decided to refer the United Kingdom to the European Court of Justice for failure to implement the Commission decision, in accordance with Article 108(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Agreement reached on the European Social Fund+ for 2021-2027



ALL MEMBER STATES WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THEIR SPENDING PROGRAMMES, A PROBLEM THAT HAS BEEN AGGRAVATED BY THE COVID-19 CRISIS

ccording to the deal, EU countries where the number of children at a high risk of poverty is above the EU average will have to spend a minimum of 5% of the ESF+ resources on actions that contribute to children's equal access to free healthcare, free education, free childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition. Other member states also have to allocate part of their funds to beating child poverty.

All member states will have to address youth unemployment in their spending programmes, a problem that has been aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis. In countries where the number of young people currently not in employment, education or training (NEET-rate) is above the EU average, 12.5% of the fund will be spent on combating youth unemployment. These can be measures such as vocational education and training, in particular apprenticeships, and school-to-work transition.

HELPING THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

The Parliament negotiated to have a budget dedicated to combatting extreme poverty in each member state. At least 3% will be spent on those who need it most through food and basic material assistance or by addressing material deprivation, which is defined as an inability to pay for unexpected expenses, adequate heating, nutritious meals or durable goods.

OTHER MEASURES AGREED

- 25% of the funds will be earmarked for social inclusion, including the socio-economic integration of disadvantaged groups;
- Adequate funding for capacity building for social partners in member states;
- Safeguards to ensure that projects funded by EU money fully respect fundamental rights.



EIB and Banca March support spanish companies affected by the COVID-19 crisis



THE EIB GROUP WILL PROVIDE A TOTAL OF €270 MILLION TO BANCA MARCH VIA THREE AGREEMENTS, TO MOBILISE OVER €600 MILLION FOR SPANISH COMPANIES

he European Investment
Bank (EIB) and Banca
March are joining forces
once again to support
the economic recovery of Spanish
small and medium-sized enterprises
(SMEs – up to 250 employees), midcaps (between 250 and 3 000 employees) and large corporates (over
3 000 employees) via three agreements. These agreements will mobilise more than €600 million of financing, of which a total of €270 million
will be in the form of guarantees or
loans from the EIB.

First operation under the EGF: EIB guarantee of up to €100 million to mobilise €267 million.

One of the agreements signed is the first operation backed by the EIB under the Pan-European Guarantee Fund (EGF), operative since October and approved by the European Council on 23 April 2020 as part of the package of EU measures deployed in response to the economic impact caused by COVID-19. In particular, the EIB will provide Banca March with a guarantee of up to €100 million that will enable the Spanish bank to mobilise total financing of €267 million.

The loans that Banca March has agreed to provide will go towards

promoting the investments and working capital of SMEs, mid-caps and large corporates that are aligned with the EIB's long-term mission, such as projects related to innovation and the environment. By assuming up to 75% of the risk for loans that Banca March grants to mid-caps and large corporates, the EIB will promote the provision of new financing, indirectly supporting the entire ecosystem of small suppliers of the companies receiving such financing.

€70 MILLION EIB GUARANTEE UNDER EFSI

As a result of the second agreement, the EIB will grant a €70 million guarantee to Banca March on a portfolio of existing loans to mid-caps and large corporates. This guarantee will enable Banca March to build up a new loan portfolio of up to €140

million. The agreement was made possible thanks to the support of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the main pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe.

€100 MILLION EIB LOAN TO SUPPORT SMES AND MID-CAPS

Under the third agreement signed, the EU bank will grant a €100 million loan to Banca March, who will provide a further €100 million of financing. As a result, the total funding made available to Spanish SMEs and mid-caps to fund their working capital and investment projects will be €200 million.



Nearly 70 billion euros in Spain's Recovery Plan



THE COMMISSION HAS RECEIVED OFFICIAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLANS FROM DENMARK, SPAIN, LATVIA AND LUXEMBOURG

he Recovery, Transformation and Resilience plan aims to provide €672.5 billion in loans and grants to support reforms and investments undertaken by Member States. The aim is to reduce the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic and to make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the ecological and digital transitions.

To this end, the different EU countries submitted these plans on 30 April, which were made possible after lengthy dialogue between the Commission and the national authorities.

SPAIN

Spain has submitted a plan, which can be found on the Moncloa website in Spanish. It has requested a total of 69.5 billion euros in grants under the RRF.

The Spanish plan is structured around four pillars: green transformation; digital transformation; social and territorial cohesion; and gender equality. It includes measures in sustainable mobility, energy-efficiency in buildings, clean power, digital skills, digital connectivity, support to the industrial sector and SMEs, and social

housing. Projects in the plan focus primarily on the period 2021-2023. The plan proposes projects in all seven European flagship areas.

NEXT STEPS

The Commission will assess the plans within the next two months based on the eleven criteria set out in the Regulation and translate their contents into legally binding acts. This assessment will notably include a review of whether the plans contribute to effectively addressing all or a significant subset of challenges identified in the relevant country-specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester. The Commission will also assess whether the plans dedicate at least 37% of expenditure to investments and reforms that support climate objectives, and 20% to the digital transition.

The Commission has now received a total of nine recovery and resilience plans, from Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, and Slovakia. It will continue to engage intensively with the remaining Member States to help them deliver high quality plans.



Covid-19 recovery: how the main EU instrument will work



THE €672.5 BILLION RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY IS THE KEY TOOL IN THE EU'S COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN TO SUPPORT REFORMS IN RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS

WHAT THE MONEY WILL BE INVESTED IN

In the negotiations with the Council, MEPs insisted that the countries use the money in line with EU priorities. "EU recovery money will go to EU priorities. The EU recovery won't be a cash machine for national policies and domestic agendas," said Dragos Pîslaru (Renew Europe, Romania), one of the lead MEPs on this, after the announcement of the provisional deal with the Council.

Another lead MEP Eider Gardiazabal (S&D, Spain), emphasised that while the funds should alleviate the immediate social impact of the crisis, they should also support long-term EU goals such as the green transition and digitalisation. "We must bear in mind that it is the most important investment programme in the coming years, and we have to seize the opportunity [for reform]," she said.

The rules list six areas that the Recovery and Resilience Facility will support:

- The green transition
- The digital transformation
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

- Social and territorial cohesion
- Building resilience and crisis preparedness
- Policies for the next generation, including education and skills

National plans should allocate at least 37% of the budget to climate and biodiversity and a further 20% to digital measures. The rules prohibit the funding of measures that cause significant harm to the environment (the do no significant harm principle).

HOW IT WILL WORK

In order to receive support, member states must prepare recovery and resilience plans proposing a set of reforms and public investment projects that could be implemented by 2026. These plans will be integrated into the European Semester cycle of economic coordination and should be submitted by 30 April.

The Commission will assess the plans and make a proposal to the Council about the amounts of grants and loans to each country and the targets and milestones to be achieved. The Council then has to adopt the plans.

National measures taken in relation to the Covid-19 crisis since February 2020 are also eligible for support.

Payments will be made once the milestones and the targets are reached by the member states, but countries can request pre-financing of up to 13% of the total amount, which will be paid once their plan is adopted by the Council.

Member states will report on the progress achieved twice a year within the European Semester framework.

DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY

In the negotiations, Parliament pushed for more transparency. Under the agreement with the Council, the Commission will send all information concerning the national plans and its proposals for Council's decisions simultaneously to both Parliament and the Council.

Every two months, the Commission may be invited by parliamentary committees to discuss the state of the EU recovery and the progress by member states towards their targets.

The Commission is also required to prepare annual reports on the implementation of the instrument and other evaluation reports.

The European Union and the United States conclude negotiations on agricultural quotas agreement

FULL NEWS



THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE CONCLUDED NEGOTIATIONS TO ADJUST THE EUROPEAN UNION'S WTO AGRICULTURAL QUOTAS, FOLLOWING THE UK'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EU

his is the culmination of two years of negotiations in the WTO framework to divide these EU quotas, with part of the volume remaining with the EU 27, and part going to the UK, based on recent trade flows. The agreement covers dozens of quotas and billions of euros of trade including for beef, poultry, rice, dairy products, fruits and vegetables and wines.

Commenting on the agreement reached in principle today, Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciejowski said:

"I am delighted we have reached agreement with our most important trade partner the U.S. This agreement – done inside the framework of the WTO – preserves the original volumes but shares them between the EU and the UK. It gives certainty and stability to agricultural trade and our markets. I am particularly pleased that this agreement marks the significance of our trade and economic relationship. This sends a good signal of our commitment to work together both bilaterally and in the WTO framework. I want to thank my team and our U.S. colleagues for a job well done".



The EU is conducting similar tariff rate quotas (TRQ) apportionment negotiations with twenty-one other partners having rights to access these quotas, and has concluded negotiations already with Argentina, Australia, Norway, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia and others.

Once the Commission has adopted the EU-U.S. Agreement, it will then be sent to the Council and European Parliament for ratification, so that it can enter into force as soon as possible.

ALL TARIFFS LINKED TO THE AIRBUS AND BOEING DISPUTES

These negotiations have now been concluded coinciding with the agreement a few days ago between the European Union and the United States to suspend for a period of four months all retaliatory tariff measures on exports from both sides imposed in connection with the Airbus and Boeing disputes. The suspension allows both sides to focus on resolving this long-running dispute and is a major boost for EU exporters, as the US had been authorized to increase tariffs on USD 7.5 billion of EU exports. Similarly, the Union will suspend tariffs on approximately \$4 billion of U.S. exports.

The EU and U.S. agreed to suspend all retaliatory tariffs on EU and U.S. exports imposed in the Airbus and Boeing disputes for a four-month period. The suspension allows both sides to focus on resolving this long-running dispute. It provides an important boost to EU exporters, since the U.S. had been authorised to raise tariffs on \$7.5 billion of EU exports to the U.S. Similarly, EU tariffs will be suspended on some \$4 billion worth of U.S. exports into the EU.

Spain receives €1.03 billion under SURE

FULL NEWS



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS DISBURSED €14 BILLION TO NINE MEMBER STATES IN THE FOURTH INSTALMENT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES UNDER THE SURE INSTRUMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST DISBURSEMENT IN 2021

s part of these operations, Belgium has received €2 billion, Cyprus €229 million, Hungary €304 million, Latvia €72 million, Poland €4.28 billion, Slovenia €913 million, Spain €1.03 billion, Greece €728 million and Italy €4.45 billion. All nine Member States had already received financial support under SURE in 2020, under one of the first three issuances and disbursement operations that took place in 2020.

These loans will assist Member States in addressing sudden increases in public expenditure to preserve employment. Specifically, they will help Member States cover the costs directly related to the financing of national short-time work schemes, and other similar measures that they have put in place as a response to the coronavirus pandemic, including for the self-employed.

Following these disbursements, 15 Member States have received a total of €53.5 billion under the SURE instrument. Once all SURE disbursements have been completed, Belgium will have received €7.8 billion, Cyprus €479 million, Hungary €504 million, Latvia €192 million, Poland

SURE

Temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment

Risks in an Emergency

€11.2 billion, Slovenia €1.1 billion, Spain €21.3 billion, Greece €2.7 billion and Italy €27.4 billion.

MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE DECLARATIONS

President Ursula von der Leyen said: "Under the SURE programme, the EU has mobilised up to €100 billion in loans for EU Member States to save jobs and keep people in work. The funds are regularly making their way to our Member States, helping them financially to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic." Commissioner Johannes Hahn, in charge of Budget and Administration, said: "Following the fourth successful bond issuance under SURE, we have now disbursed more than half of the funds foreseen under this instrument. The 15 Member States benefitting from the initial four disbursements are now better equipped

to alleviate the social impact of the coronavirus pandemic. We will proceed with a speedy implementation of the rest of the programme in order to provide all authorised funds for the 18 Member States that have so far requested financial support under this instrument".

Paolo Gentiloni, Commissioner for Economy, said: "Today, the European Commission pays out a further €14 billion to support workers in nine hard-hit EU countries. The pandemic continues to weigh on our economies and while we know there is light at the end of this tunnel, we don't yet know how much longer until we reach it. That's why SURE and the European solidarity it represents are so important."

Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers

FULL NEWS



THE PLATFORM WILL PRESENT THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH FUNDED BY HORIZON EUROPE, THE EU'S RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME FOR 2021-2027, AND ITS PREDECESSOR, HORIZON 2020

pen Research Europe will provide free access to the latest scientific findings for researchers and the general public alike. This directly addresses the major difficulties often associated with the publication of scientific results, such as delays and barriers to re-use of results and high costs. The platform is an optional service for Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 beneficiaries to meet the requirement to immediately provide open access to their research at no cost to them.

Approximately 40 scientific papers from a wide range of research fields have already been submitted and are available for the scientific community to read and review.

SUPPORTING OPEN SCIENCE

In the Communication "A new ERA for research and innovation", the Commission presents Open Research Europe as an open access publication platform to disseminate research arising from Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe funding in all thematic areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as social scien-

ces, arts and humanities.

Open Research Europe will not only contribute to the open, fast and cost-effective publication of scientific research. It will also make it easier for Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe beneficiaries to meet the open access requirements linked to their funding: immediate open access, as required by Horizon Europe, and automatic submission to a general-purpose repository (whereas Horizon 2020 allowed documents to be retained for 6-12 months). Open Research Europe will provide researchers with a publishing space where they can quickly share their results and knowledge, and facilitate open and constructive research discussions. The platform has a wide range of metrics to measure the scientific and societal impact of articles and provide information on their use and re-use.

In taking on this new role, the Commission intends to lead by example by actively supporting open science practices and promoting transparency in the publication process. It aims to inspire other sponsors, in particular at national level, to do the same. By integrating Open Research Europe into Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, the Commission is taking scholarly communication to a new level of innovative solutions.

Digital health – European health data space

FULL NEWS



IT AIMS TO MAKE THE MOST OF DIGITAL HEALTH TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY HEALTHCARE AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES.

he Commission has published an open public consultation on the European Health Data Space, which is an important component of the European Health Union. It aims to make the most of digital health to provide high quality healthcare and reduce inequalities. It will promote access to health data for prevention, diagnosis and treatment, research and innovation, as well as for policy and law making. The right of individuals to control their own personal health data will be an essential element of the European health data space. The consultation will remain open until July 26, 2021.

Citizens, stakeholders and organizations are invited to participate in the consultation. National public health, digital health and data protection authorities, existing data authorization bodies, healthcare professionals and providers, health insurers, organizations representing patients and civil society active in digital health, academia and research institutions, ethics committees, trade unions, as well as the digital, pharmaceutical and medical device industries may have a particular interest in contributing.

This public consultation focuses on:

 access to and use of health data for health care delivery, research

- and innovation, and policy and regulatory purposes;
- the promotion of a genuine single market for digital health services and products, including innovative ones.

The rationale for such a consultation is to facilitate better access to and exchange of health data, crucial to ensure greater accessibility, availability and affordability of healthcare, stimulate innovation in health and care to improve treatment and outcomes, and encourage innovative solutions that make use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI).



European initiative on processors and semiconductor technologies

FULL NEWS



THE COMMISSION IS WELCOMING A JOINT DECLARATION BY 20 EU MEMBER STATES ON PROCESSORS AND SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGIES.

hrough their declaration, the Member States will commit to work together to bolster Europe's electronics and embedded systems value chain and strengthen leading-edge manufacturing capacity, in view of reinforcing Europe's capabilities in semiconductor technologies and offering the best performance for applications in a wide range of sectors.

PROCESSORS AND SEMICONDUCTORS

In today's world, processors and semiconductors are used widely: from cars, medical equipment, mobile phones and networks to environmental monitoring, this technology powers the smart devices and services we use. It is therefore crucial as it enables key industries to innovate and compete globally so that Europe is in capacity to design and produce the most powerful processors. Today's joint initiative aims to enhance cooperation among Member States and increase investment along the semiconductor value chain on equipment and materials, design, and advanced manufacturing and packaging, where feasible through the Recovery and Resilience Funds.

Semiconductors are a core component of the "scale-up flagship", one of the seven areas where coordinated plans from Member States are encouraged under the NextGenerationEU. Furthermore, Member States can mobilise industrial stakeholders to design an ambitious European Flagship project in the form of a second Important Project of Common European Interest.

Thierry Breton, Commissioner for Internal Market, said:

Europe has all it takes to diversify and reduce critical dependencies, while remaining open. We will therefore need to set ambitious plans, from design of chips to advanced manufacturing progressing towards 2nm nodes, with the aim of differentiating and leading on our most important value chains. Today's highly welcomed joint effort is an important leap forward – it will pave the way to the launch of an industrial alliance. A collective approach can help us leverage our existing strengths and embrace new opportunities as advanced processor chips play an ever more important role for Europe's industrial strategy and digital sovereignty.



Horizon Europe to be launched: Europe's new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

FULL NEWS



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESENTED THE WORK PROGRAMME 2021 FOR THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL.

his is the first work programme under Horizon Europe, Europe's new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for 2021-2027. It includes three main calls for proposals for frontier research actions for a total amount of €1.9 billion. The European Research Council (ERC) offers grants to top researchers from anywhere in the world who are ready to come or to stay in Europe to pursue their breakthrough scientific and technological discoveries that can form the basis of new industries, markets, and social innovations of the future.

BUDGET

Over the entire long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the European Research Council is set to receive over €16 billion from Horizon Europe, which represents an increase of 22% vis-à-vis Horizon 2020.

NEXT CALLS

Lthe first call to be launched is the European Research Council's Starting Grants, which will support top researchers to start their own independent research team or programme. The call will be launched on 25 February, with a budget of €619 million and a deadline of 8 April.

Other grant competitions will follow according to the work programme's calendar: on 11 March the call for Consolidator Grants for researchers who are consolidating their own independent research team or programme will open, with a budget of €633 million. The deadline for applications is 20 April. Finally, on 20 May the European Research Council will launch a call for Advanced Grants for leading advanced investigators, with a budget of €626 million and deadline on 31 August.

Due to the transition to the new Framework Programme, the Synergy Grants are not available under the 2021 Work Programme. The award of Synergy Grants is likely to resume under the Work Programme of 2022. The Proof of Concept Grant is currently under revision by the Scientific Council, the governing body of the European Research Council, and therefore does not appear in this Work Programme either.

The 2021 Work Programme also covers other actions and public procurement to allow the Scientific Council to carry out its duties and mandate, including the appointment of independent experts during the evalua-



tion of proposals and the preparation of the calls, for ethics review and for the monitoring of ongoing projects. It also covers the Scientific Council's obligations to establish the overall strategy of the European Research Council and to monitor the quality of the programme's implementation from the scientific perspective.

In a first, the EU produced more energy from renewables than fossil fuels in 2020

FULL NEWS



THE EU NOW GENERATES MORE ENERGY FROM RENEWABLES THAN FROM FOSSIL FUELS, NEW REPORT CLAIMS

urope aims to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. This very ambitious goal seems closer to becoming a reality now that renewables have overtaken fossil fuels to become the EU's main source of electricity. According to a newly published report, wind, solar, hydropower and biomass met 38 % of the EU's electricity demands in 2020, compared to 34.6 % in 2019. Fossil fuels fell to 37 %. Co-published by the think tanks Agora Energiewende and Ember, it "compiles and analyses the full-year 2020 electricity generation of every EU country, tracking Europe's electricity transition."

MILESTONE IN CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

"Wind and solar are really beginning to transform Europe's electricity system," lead author and Ember senior electricity analyst Dave Jones told 'Forbes'. "They provided on average a fifth of Europe's electricity last year, but across certain countries and certain hours, the penetration is even higher." Could 2020 have simply been an anomaly because of the coronavirus? "It's going to be

close to whether there is a small rebound in fossil fuels in 2021 in Europe," Jones explained. "My money is for it to show another fall, and new wind and solar make up for the pick-up in electricity demand to pre-covid levels. If there is a small pickup in 2021, it will be small and temporary." "It is significant that Europe has reached this landmark moment at the start of a decade of global climate action," Jones commented in an Agora Energiewende press release. "Rapid growth in wind and solar has forced coal into decline but this is just the beginning. Europe is relying on wind and solar to ensure not only coal is phased out by 2030, but also to phase out gas generation, replace closing nuclear power plants, and to meet rising electricity demand from electric cars, heat pumps and electrolysers." Almost every EU country experienced a drop in coal production. This has made Europe's electricity 29 % cleaner than in 2015. By 2020, wind and solar power plants accounted for 20 % of the EU's electricity. Denmark (61 %), Ireland (35 %), Germany (33 %) and Spain (29 %) led the pack. Electricity demand fell 4 % in 2020.



Spain is ordered to pay a lump sum of € 15 million

FULL NEWS



THE COMMISSION HAS ASKED THE CJEU TO DECLARE THAT SPAIN HAS FAILED TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE DATA PROTECTION DIRECTIVE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES

Commission siders that Spain has neither adopted the national measures transposing the Directive nor communicated those measures. It therefore requested the Court to impose on Spain, pursuant to Article 260(3) TFEU, first, a daily penalty payment of EUR 89 548.20 for each day of delay from the date of delivery of the judgment in the present case, and, second, a lump sum of approximately EUR 15 500 000.

On 20 July 2018, the Commission, having not been informed by Spain of the measures transposing the directive by the deadline set (6 May 2018), had sent that Member State a letter of formal notice to communicate those measures. Since that letter failed to produce any results, the Commission sent Spain a reasoned opinion on 25 January 2019 calling on it to adopt the necessary measures within two months. Spain does not deny that it has failed to fulfil its obligations to adopt and communicate the measures transposing the Directive, and acknowledges that the very exceptional institutional circumstances which, according to Spain, have delayed the activities of the Government and the national



the necessary transposing measures tinues until the Court's examination

JUDGMENT. COURT TICE DECLARES THAT SPAIN HAS FAILED TO TIONS UNDER THE DI-RECTIVE

The Court considers that the infringement found falls within the scope of Article 260(3) TFEU, since, on the expiry of that period, the Commission was not informed of any transposition measure within the meaning of that provision.

As regards the financial penalties requested by the Commission, the Court points out, first of all, that an order to pay a periodic penalty payment is, in principle, justified only

Parliament with a view to adopting for as long as the infringement conof the facts.

> In view of the seriousness and duration of the infringement, the Court orders Spain to pay the Commission a lump sum of EUR 15 000 000 and, if the infringement established persists at the date of delivery of the judgment, a daily penalty payment of EUR 89 000 from that date until the infringement established has been brought to an end.

> The present judgment is the first in which the Court of Justice has imposed, pursuant to Article 260(3) TFEU, both types of financial penalty at the same time.

Ruling against Spanish football for alleged illegal aid scheme

FULL NEWS



THE APPEAL BROUGHT BY FUTBOL CLUB BARCELONA AGAINST THAT DECISION IS DEFINITIVELY DISMISSED

Spanish law passed in 1990 obliged all Spanish professional sports clubs to become sport limited companies, with the exception of those that had achieved positive financial results in the financial years prior to the passing of the law.

Fútbol Club Barcelona, Club Atlético Osasuna, Athletic Club and Real Madrid Club de Fútbol opted to continue to operate in the legal form of a non-profit-making entity and thus benefited from a specific tax rate on their income.

As this specific tax rate was lower than that applicable to sports limited companies, the Commission considered that this legislation, by introducing a corporate tax advantage in favour of the four clubs mentioned above, constituted an illegal and incompatible aid scheme, and ordered Spain to put an end to it and to recover the individual aid granted to the beneficiaries of that scheme.

Following an action brought by FC Barcelona against that decision, the General Court annulled it by judgment of 26 February 2019, holding that the Commission had failed to establish to the requisite legal standard the existence of an economic advantage granted to the beneficiaries of the contested measure.

In its judgment of 4 March 2021, the Court of Justice upheld the forms of order sought in the appeal brought by the Commission and set aside the judgment under appeal. In support of its appeal, the Commission put forward a single plea in law alleging infringement of Article 107(1) TFEU as regards, first, the concept of 'advantage which may constitute State aid' for the purposes of that provision and, second, the obligations incumbent on it in the context of the examination of the existence of aid, in particular as regards the existence of an advantage.

The General Court held that the Commission had not sufficiently examined whether the advantage resulting from that reduced rate of taxation could be counteracted.

The Court finds, first, that the General Court erred in law in holding that the contested decision had to be analysed as a decision relating both to an aid scheme and to individual aid, since the Commission had also ruled therein on the aid granted individually to the four nominally designated beneficiary clubs.

The Court finds that that error of law made by the General Court vitiates the conclusions which it drew concerning the extent of the Commission's obligations as regards proof of the existence of an advantage.

The aid scheme at issue was capable of favouring, from the time of its adoption, clubs operating as non-profit-making entities over those operating as sports limited companies, thereby conferring on them an advantage which may fall within the scope of Article 107(1) TFEU. Successive amendments to the Polish Act on the National Council of the Judiciary may violate EU law **FULL NEWS**



THE COMMISSION HAS ASKED THE CJEU TO DECLARE THAT SPAIN HAS FAILED TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE DATA PROTECTION DIRECTIVE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

y decisions adopted in August 2018, the National Council of the Judiciary decided not to submit to the President of the Republic of Poland proposals for the appointment of five persons to positions as judges of the Supreme Court and to propose other candidates for these positions. The appellants lodged an appeal against those decisions with the Supreme Administrative Court, the referring court. At the time they were lodged, those appeals were governed by the Law on the National Council of the Judiciary, as amended by a law of July 2018.

Under those rules, it was provided, first, that, if the decision of the CNPJ concerned was not challenged by all the participants in the appointment procedure for a post as a judge of the Tribunal Supremo, it became final in respect of the candidate proposed to fill the post.

In its initial reference for a preliminary ruling, the referring court, taking the view that that system excludes in practice any effectiveness of an appeal brought by a participant who has not been proposed for appointment, decided to refer the matter to the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility of that system with EU law.

Since the initial reference for a preliminary ruling was made, the Law on the CNPJ has been amended again in 2019, abolishing the possibility of bringing an appeal against decisions of the CNPJ concerning the nomination or non-nomination of candidates for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court, and the actions pending before it have been dismissed by operation of law, with the result that the referring court, by a supplementary reference for a preliminary ruling, has consulted the Court of Justice on the compatibility of that new system with EU law.

In the event of an established infringement, the principle of the primacy of European Union law requires the national court to disapply those amendments.

The Court, sitting as a Grand Chamber, finds, first of all, that both the system of cooperation between national courts and the Court of Justice, laid down in Article 267 TFEU, and the principle of sincere cooperation, enshrined in Article 4(3) TEU, preclude legislative amendments,

such as those made in Poland in 2019, where it appears that they have had the specific effect of preventing the Court of Justice from ruling on questions referred for a preliminary ruling. It also considers that the obligation on the Member States to provide the remedies necessary to guarantee to individuals their right to effective judicial protection in the areas covered by European Union law may also preclude such legislative amendments.

The Court finds that, if the referring court concludes that the adoption of the 2019 legislative amendments was in breach of EU law, the principle of the primacy of EU law requires it to disapply them.

Facial recognition: strict regulation is needed to prevent human rights violations

FULL NEWS



THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE HAS CALLED FOR STRICT RULES TO AVOID THE SIGNIFICANT RISKS TO PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION POSED BY THE INCREASING USE OF FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGIES

n a new set of guidelines addressed to governments, legislators and businesses, the 47-state human rights organisation proposes that the use of facial recognition for the sole purpose of determining a person's skin colour, religious or other belief, sex, racial or ethnic origin, age, health or social status should be prohibited.

This ban should also be applied to "affect recognition" technologies – which can identify emotions and be used to detect personality traits, inner feelings, mental health condition or workers' level of engagement – since they pose important risks in fields such as employment, access to insurance and education.

"At is best, facial recognition can be convenient, helping us to navigate obstacles in our everyday lives. At its worst, it threatens our essential human rights, including privacy, equal treatment and non-discrimination, empowering state authorities and others to monitor and

control important aspects of our lives – often without our knowledge or consent," said Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić.

"But this can be stopped. These guidelines ensure the protection of people's personal dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the security of their personal data."

The guidelines were developed by the Consultative Committee of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, which brings together experts representing the 55 states parties to the Convention as well as 20 observer countries.

The Convention, the first ever binding international treaty addressing the need to protect personal data, was opened for signature in Strasbourg forty years ago today, on 28 January 1981.



FULL NEWS

Creative Europe: 30 years of support to European culture



THE MEDIA STRAND OF THE EU PROGRAMME CREATIVE EUROPE, DESIGNED TO SUPPORT EUROPEAN FILM AND AUDIOVISUAL INDUSTRIES, IS CELEBRATING ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2021

o mark this, the European Commission is launching a campaign to celebrate the 30 years of support, as well as the launch of the new MEDIA programme of Creative Europe, running from 2021 to 2027.

Since 1991, Creative Europe MEDIA has invested over €2.6 billion in the film and audiovisual industries to support the development, promotion and distribution of European works within Europe and beyond. Its long-standing support has strengthened the competitiveness of the sector and has contributed to enriching Europe's cultural diversity, while at the same time it has promoted audiovisual creations across borders and helped giving recognition to the best of them.

For 2021-2027, the planned budget for the whole Creative Europe programme will be €2.4 billion, an 80% increase compared to the previous period (2014-2020), of which €1.4 billion will be devoted to its MEDIA sub-programme. The latter will keep supporting media projects with a European and international dimension, as well as nurturing talent and promoting the use of new technologies.

CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF CREATIVE EUROPE

Throughout 2021, the Commission will run a communication campaign to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the MEDIA strand of Creative Europe. The campaign's content will focus on 10 different themes and will be rolled out primarily on social media, aiming to reach young people and industry professionals. It will have a dedicated webpage and an Instagram series: 'Behind the scenes of European content - How EU support turns into stories'. This series will consist of 12 short episodes to highlight how the EU supports audiovisual and film projects on the ground.

BACKGROUND

Creative Europe MEDIA helps to launch and distribute projects with a European dimension and international potential to travel beyond national and European borders. Its funding actions provide support to audiovisual works including films, TV series, documentaries, video games and immersive content, and to cinemas, festivals, VOD services and industry markets. It also contributes to boosting European talents via training programmes, as well as to audience development and film education.



80 million euros of European funds to purchase computers for vulnerable students in Andalusia

FULL NEWS



THE SPANISH MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION LAUNCHED A TENDER TO PURCHASE MORE THAN 175,000 COMPUTERS WITH CONNECTIVITY FOR VULNERABLE STUDENTS IN ANDALUSIA

he Council of Ministers, at the proposal of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, has authorised the tendering of the action Educational Post in the Home for Andalusia within the Educa en Digital programme, the aim of which is to support the digital transformation of education in Spain by supporting the most vulnerable students. The amount of this action amounts to 100 million euros, of which the public company Red. es will provide 80 million through ERDF funds and the rest will be co-financed by the Andalusian Regional Government.

This action involves the acquisition of more than 175,839 computers with connectivity that will facilitate digital education, both at home and in person, for students from vulnerable families who study in publicly funded schools in this autonomous community.

This tender is in addition to those already approved to provide more than 200,000 computers and tablets to students in the autonomous communities of Aragon, Asturias, the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands, Castile-La Mancha, Castile and Leon, Valencia, Extremadura, Galicia, Madrid, Navarre and the Basque Country, and the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla. The first teams are expected to be made available in March.

EDUCATE IN DIGITAL

The Educa en Digital programme was approved by the Council of Ministers on 16 June 2020 and envisages providing educational centres with equipment with reliable and quality connectivity so that it can be loaned and made available to students who do not have this equipment in order to access education with digital media, both at home and at the educational centre itself.

It also covers another series of actions such as the provision of applications, tools and curricular resources that facilitate digital education, both in person, at the centre, and at home, and the training of teachers, in order to provide the educational community with digital educational resources.



FULL NEWS

New Erasmus+ programme in the European Union



EL NUEVO PROGRAMA FINANCIARÁ PROYECTOS DE MOVILIDAD Y COOPERACIÓN TRANSFRONTERIZA RELACIONADOS CON EL APRENDIZAJE PARA 10 MILLONES DE EUROPEOS DE TODAS LAS EDADES Y TODOS LOS ORÍGENES

he Commission adopted the first annual work programme of Erasmus+ 2021-2027. With a budget of €26.2 billion, (compared to €14.7 billion for 2014-2020), complemented with about €2.2 billion from EU's external instruments, the new and revamped programme will fund learning mobility and cross-border cooperation projects for 10 million Europeans of all ages and all backgrounds. It will seek to be even more inclusive and to support the green and digital transitions, as set out in the European Education Area. Erasmus+ will also support the resilience of education and training systems in the face of the pandemic.

The new Erasmus+ programme provides opportunities for study periods abroad, traineeships, apprenticeships, and staff exchanges in all fields of education, training, youth and sport. It is open to school pupils, higher education and vocational edu-

cation and training students, adult learners, youth exchanges, youth workers and sport coaches.

In addition to mobility, which counts for 70% of the budget, the new Erasmus+ also invests in cross-border cooperation projects. These can be between higher education institutions (e.g. the European Universities initiative); schools; teacher education and training colleges (e.g. Erasmus+ Teacher Academies); adult learning centres; youth and sport organisations; providers of vocational education and training (e.g. Vocational Centres of Excellence); and other actors in the learning sphere.

The main features of the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme are:

• Inclusive Erasmus+: providing enhanced opportunities to people with fewer opportunities, including people with diverse cultural, social and economic backgrounds, and people living in rural and remote areas.

- Digital Erasmus+: It will provide high-quality digital training and exchanges via platforms such as eTwinning, School Education Gateway and the European Youth Portal, and it will encourage traineeships in the digital sector.
- Green Erasmus+: In line with the European Green Deal, the programme will offer financial incentives to participants using sustainable modes of transport.
- Erasmus+ for young people:
 DiscoverEU now becomes an integral part of Erasmus+ and gives 18 year-olds the possibility to get a rail pass to travel across Europe, learn from other cultures and meet fellow Europeans.



Commission proposes to ease restrictions on non-essential travel to the EU

FULL NEWS



THE COMMISSION IS PROPOSING THAT MEMBER STATES EASE THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL INTO THE EU TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PROGRESS OF VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

he Commission proposes to allow entry to the EU for non-essential reasons not only for all persons coming from countries with a good epidemiological situation but also all people who have received the last recommended dose of an EU-authorised vaccine. This could be extended to vaccines having completed the WHO emergency use listing process. In addition, the Commission proposes to raise, in line with the evolution of the epidemiological situation in the EU, the threshold related to the number of new COVID-19 cases used to determine a list of countries from which all travel should be permitted. This should allow the Council to expand this list.

At the same time, the emergence of coronavirus variants of concern calls for continued vigilance. Therefore as counter-balance, the Commission proposes a new 'emergency brake' mechanism, to be coordinated at EU level and which would limit the risk of such variants entering the EU. This will allow Member States to act quickly and temporarily limit to a strict minimum all travel from affected countries for the time needed to put in place appropriate sanitary measures.

'EMERGENCY BRAKE' TO COUNTER THE SPREAD OF VARIANTS

When the epidemiological situation of a non-EU country worsens quickly and in particular if a variant of concern or interest is detected, a Member State can urgently and temporarily suspend all inbound travel by non-EU citizens resident in such a country. The only exceptions in this case would be healthcare professionals, transport personnel, diplomats, transit passengers, those travelling for imperative family reasons, seafarers, and persons in need of international protection or for other humanitarian reasons. Such travellers should be subject to strict testing and quarantine arrangements even if they have been vaccinated.

When a Member State applies such restrictions, the Member States meeting within the Council structures should review the situation together in a coordinated manner and in close cooperation with the Commission, and they should continue doing so at least every 2 weeks.



FULL NEWS

Digital Green Certificate



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS PROPOSING TO CREATE A DIGITAL GREEN CERTIFICATE TO FACILITATE SAFE FREE MOVEMENT INSIDE THE EU DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMI

he Digital Green Certificate will be a proof that a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, received a negative test result or recovered from COVID-19. It will be available, free of charge, in digital or paper format. It will include a QR code to ensure security and authenticity of the certificate.

The "Digital Green Certificate" will facilitate safe and free movement during the COVID-19 pandemic within the EU. A Digital Green Certificate will be a proof that a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, has received a negative test result or has recovered from COVID-19 that can be used across all EU Member States.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL?

The Digital Green Certificate system covers three different types of CO-VID-19 certificates: a vaccination certificate, a test certificate, and a certificate of recovery.

They can be issued and used in all EU Member States to facilitate free movement. All EU citizens and their family members as well as non-EU nationals staying or residing in the Member States and who have the right to travel to other Member States, would be eligible to receive them free of charge.

The certificates should only include a minimum set of information necessary to confirm and verify the holder's vaccination, testing or recovery status.

Being vaccinated will not be a pre-condition to travel. All EU citizens have a fundamental right to free movement in the EU and this applies regardless of whether they are vaccinated or not. The same principle applies to the rights of non-EU nationals staying or residing in the EU Member States and who have the right to travel to other Member States. The Digital Green Certificate will make it easier to exercise that right, also through testing and recovery

certificates.

The Digital Green Certificate will be valid in all EU Member States and open for Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway as well as Switzerland. The Digital Green Certificate should be issued to EU citizens and their family members, regardless of their nationality. It should also be issued to non-EU nationals who reside in the EU and to visitors who have the right to travel to other Member States.

The Digital Green Certificate system is a temporary measure. It will be suspended once the World Health Organization (WHO) declares the end of the COVID-19 international health emergency.



Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme

FULL NEWS



THIS IS THE LATEST STEP TOWARDS MAKING EUR 5.1 BILLION AVAILABLE TO STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF HEALTH SYSTEMS AND PROMOTE INNOVATION IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

his follows the Council adoption on 17 March and the vote on the programme by the European Parliament on 9 March. It marks the final step towards making €5.1 billion available to strengthen the resilience of health systems and promote innovation in the health sector. EU4Health will make a significant contribution to the post-COVID-19 recovery by making the EU population healthier, supporting the fight against cross-border health threats and boosting the EU's preparedness and capability to respond effectively to future health crisis, as part of a future strong European Health Union.

EU4HEALTH PROGRAMME

The EU4Health Programme is an ambitious and dedicated funding programme for 2021-2027 to ensure a high level of human health protection in all Union policies and activities in keeping with the One Health approach. The Programme, proposed by the Commission on 28 May

2020, is the EU's response to COVID-19, which has had a major impact on medical and healthcare staff, patients and health systems in the EU. EU4Health is the largest EU health programme ever in monetary terms and will provide funding to EU countries, health organisations and NGOs.

EU4Health aims to:

- Improve and foster health in the Union;
- Protect people in the Union from serious cross-border threats to health;
- Enhance the availability, accessibility and affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products;
- Strengthen health systems, their resilience and resource efficiency.



Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines

FULL NEWS



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS INTRODUCED THE PRINCIPLES OF RECIPROCITY AND PROPORTIONALITY AS NEW CRITERIA TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN AUTHORISING EXPORTS OF VACCINES

he European Commission has introduced the principles of reciprocity and proportionality as new criteria to be considered for authorising exports under the transparency and authorisation mechanism for COVID-19 vaccine exports.

This system has significantly improved the transparency of exports. Nevertheless, the objective to ensure timely access to COVID-19 vaccines for EU citizens is still not met.

TOWARDS INCREASED TRANSPARENCY, RECIPROCITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

The new regulation introduces two changes to the existing mechanism. First, in addition to the impact of a planned export to the fulfilment of the EU's Advance Purchase Agreements (APAs) with vaccine manufacturers, Member States and the Commission should also consider:

Reciprocity – does the destination country restrict its own exports of vaccines or their raw materials, either by law or other means? and

Proportionality – are the conditions

prevailing in the destination country better or worse than the EU's, in particular its epidemiological situation, its vaccination rate and its access to vaccines.

Member States and the Commission should assess whether the requested exports do not pose a threat to the security of supply of vaccines and their components in the Union.

Second, to gain a full picture of vaccine trade, the new act includes 17 countries previously exempted in the scope of the regulation.*

The EU remains committed to international solidarity and will therefore continue to exclude from this scheme vaccine supplies for humanitarian aid or destined to the 92 low and middle income countries under the COVAX Advance Market Commitment list.

THE EXPORT AUTHORISATION SCHEME

This implementing act is targeted, proportionate, transparent and temporary. It is fully consistent with the EU's international commitment under the World Trade Organization and the G20, and in line with what the EU has proposed in the context of the WTO's trade and health initiative. Member States decide on the requests for authorisation in accordance with the Commission's opinion.



FULL NEWS

HERA Incubator to anticipate the threat of COVID-19 variants



VON DER LEYEN ANNOUNCES THE START OF HERA INCUBATOR TO ANTICIPATE THE THREAT OF CORONAVIRUS VARIANTS

o prepare Europe for an increased threat of coronavirus variants, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced the start of European bio-defence preparedness plan called "HERA Incubator". The Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Incubator will bring together science, industry and public authorities, and leverage all available resources to enable Europe to respond to this challenge.

"The aim is to use our combined strength to get ahead of the curve for the next phase of this virus", von der Leyen said, explaining this applies to all phases – from the early detection of new variants, to rapid mass production that is necessary if there are adapted second-level or second-generation vaccines.

Calling this 'a new stage' of our strategy to counter the coronavirus, she reminded there was a lot to build on and to learn from. "We know what works well. And equally we know where there were delays, disruptions and bott-

lenecks the first time round."

With the HERA incubator, the Commission will focus on several key actions:

- detecting and analysing new variants of the virus
- developing vaccines against new variants for which existing vaccines may not be sufficiently effective
- producing at scale and speed vaccines adapted to new variants

Von der Leyen elaborated on the specific steps the Commission plans to take, from funding new research projects to speeding up approval processes and ramping up production.

"The pandemic has shown us three things: We have to act early. We have to invest at large scale. We have to partner up", von der Leyen concluded, summarising the core tasks of the HERA incubator.



FULL NEWS

The UAL advances in R+D+i in agrifoods



UAL AND KIMITEC CREATE THE 'CÁTEDRA KIMITEC FARM TO FORK' TO PROMOTE R+D+I IN THE FIELD OF AGRI-FOODS

n April 29, the UAL and Kimitec have developed a project under the name of 'Cátedra Kimitec-Farm to fork' in which research, dissemination and research training activities will be launched under the concept 'Farm to fork' (from farm to fork). The purpose is to promote an agri-food production system that ensures food protection and, at the same time, the environmental impact it may have.

The activities will be focused on three areas. The first will aim to develop research, development and innovation activities that will be oriented to R&D&I cooperation between Kimitec and UAL. The second will be

to highlight the scientific talent with formulas based on the promotion of training programs and development of research talent. The third will be scientific dissemination activities, dissemination and communication of the results of R+D+i activities carried out within the framework of the Chair.

The rector of the UAL, Carmelo Rodriguez highlights the importance of this project as it is about creating synergies with a leading company in biotechnology focused on agricultural production, while ensuring food security objectifying health. On the other hand, the vice-president of Kimitec comments that this alliance with the UAL is key to face the challenges that are proposed within the agricultural sector, promoting sustainable development and at the same time boosting European research.

Kimitec is a biotechnology company that researches, develops and commercializes biostimulants, biopesticides, seed treatments, pre- and probiotics based on obtaining natural molecules from the synergy of four natural sources: botany, microbiology, microalgae and green chemistry. This pact aims to promote a sustainable environment, focusing on a program for educational research and dissemination.



The University of Almeria, the first Andalusian university to obtain certification from AENOR's COVID-19

FULL NEWS



THE UAL UNDERGOES THE MOST DEMANDING VALIDATION TO ENSURE THAT IT IS ACTING IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY IN THE FACE OF THE VIRUS, BEING THE FIRST UNIVERSITY IN ANDALUSIA TO ACHIEVE THIS CERTIFICATION.

ment of the University of Almeria has received the notification coming from AENOR: it has been granted the Certification of Protocols in front of the COVID-19. This is a reason for huge tranquility, as it has been demonstrated that the document of measures developed by the University of Almeria against the coronavirus, implemented since the last months, brings together from the beginning the appropriate measures to protect and prevent possible infections of people in the university community and, in turn, make the campus as safe as possible.

This distinction supports, therefore, that the protocols developed by the LAU are aligned with the recommendations of national and international organizations, as well as with recognized good practices in the education sector. In this way, obtaining the AENOR certification places the University of Almeria in the vanguard of the action against the COVID-19.

In order to obtain it, the University of Almeria has undergone exhaustive evaluations, both in person and through documentation. This certification supports a comprehensive approach to the management of risks derived from COVID-19. For its part, AENOR has considered various aspects for its concession: management of specific risks in the organization, management of occupational health, good cleaning and hygiene practices, organizational measures, protection measures, training, information and communication and crisis management and continuity of activities.

Thus, two commitments are joined, that of the UAL itself and that of AENOR, which has created this new certification because of its interest in promoting various lines of



action to strengthen the response capacity of our country to the crisis caused by the COVID-19, based on the evidence that the proper implementation of good practices in the management of coronavirus is key to transfer to workers, customers and consumers the necessary guarantees to generate confidence.

The University of Almeria is supported by this concession in its good practices in managing the risks derived from COVID-19 in its facilities and services, as AENOR states, adding that "the facilities and services that are audited will have the assurance that they are applying appropriate protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19". This has been the intention of the University of Almeria since it entered the State of Alarm in March 2020, always watching over the safety of its students and staff, teaching and research, and administration and services. By virtue of this, it developed a protocol that has managed to dissipate the risk of infection on campus, provided with the strict application of the measures contained therein by the entire community. It is now the first public administration in Almeria, the first university in Andalusia and the second in Spain, after that of Castilla La Mancha, to have such a prestigious endorsement..

Torrecárdenas: único hospital de Andalucía que participa en el programa FOCUS

FULL NEWS



EL PROGRAMA FOCUS LLEVA EN PROCESO DESDE EL AÑO 2010 Y CON ELLO SE PRETENDE EL DIAGNÓSTICO PRECOZ DE INFECCIONES COMO EL VIH Y LA HEPATITIS C EN HOSPITALES Y CENTROS SANITARIOS



ras una selección, El Hospital Universitario Torrecárdenas participará en la implantación del programa FOCUS. El programa FOCUS lleva en proceso desde el año 2010 y con ello se pretende el diagnóstico precoz de infecciones como el VIH y la hepatitis C en hospitales y centros sanitarios. Todo esto gracias al acuerdo del Servicio Andaluz de Salud (SAS) y Gilead Sciences.

Una de las doctoras del Servicio de Hepatología del hospital referente de la provincia, Marta Casado, comenta que uno de los objetivos del proyecto es detectar el mayor número de infectados posibles por hepatitis C. Se trata de un programa fundamental ya que supone un avance muy importante a nivel hospitalario. Además, será de ayuda a la hora de detectar el virus en pacientes que lo desconocen, asegurándose así de mejorar el

pronóstico y proporcionar un tratamiento adecuado.

El Hospital Torrecárdenas ha sido el único seleccionado para este programa dentro de Andalucía, siendo precisamente el primero en llevar a cabo un proceso innovador con el propósito de acabar con esta infección vírica. Para que esto sea posible, se seguirán las recomendaciones mencionadas por la Organización Mundial de la Salud.

FULL NEWS

13 investigadores de la UAL, entre los más influyentes del mundo



SUS NOMBRES APARECEN EN EL LISTADO 'RANKING OF THE WORLD SCIENTISTS: WORLD'S TOP 2% SCIENTISTS', COMPUESTO POR CIENTÍFICOS CUYOS TRABAJOS HAN SIDO AMPLIAMENTE CITADOS DURANTE EL ÚLTIMO AÑO

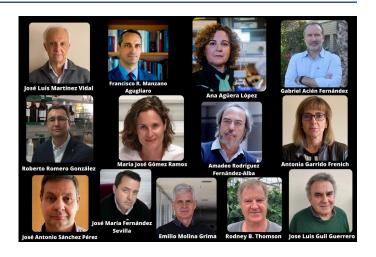
os investigadores de la UAL pertenecen al Departamento de Ingeniería Química y a las áreas de Expresión Gráfica en la Ingeniería, Química Analítica, Tecnología de los Alimentos y Producción Vegetal.

Trece investigadores de la Universidad de Almería aparecen en el 'Ranking of the World Scientists: World's Top 2 % Scientists' elaborado por la Universidad de Stanford. Esta lista mide el impacto de las investigaciones en base a las veces que han sido citadas durante el último año.

El ranking completo, publicado en la revista científica PLOS Biology, incluye a algo más de 160.000 científicos internacionales de primer nivel, y pone de manifiesto la buena salud y el prestigio del que goza la investigación realizada por los investigadores de la Universidad de Almería. La base de datos contempla 22 campos científicos y 176 subcampos, además de permitir conocer los resultados de investigadores a lo largo de su trayectoria o en el año 2019.

En la elaboración del listado se ha tenido en cuenta información estandarizada sobre parámetros relacionados con las veces que un artículo es tomado como referencia y citado por otro investigador, el número de autores que firma cada artículo o la posición que ocupa cada uno de los firmantes. Los investigadores han sido distribuidos en 22 campos científicos diferentes, y son incluidos el 2% de los mejores en cada una de su disciplina principal, representando a instituciones de todo el mundo.

En este listado de los investigadores más influyentes del mundo aparecen trece científicos de diferentes ámbitos



de trabajo de la Universidad de Almería. El que ocupa la mejor posición en el ranking es el catedrático del Departamento de Ingeniería Química, Emilio Molina Grima, seguido de los catedráticos Amadeo Rodríguez Fernández-Alba, del Área de Química Analítica, y Francisco R. Manzano Agugliaro, del Área de Expresión Gráfica en la Ingeniería.

En el listado aparecen, además, otros tres investigadores de Ingeniería Química – Francisco Gabriel Acién Fernández, José Antonio Sánchez Pérez y José María Fernández Sevilla—, cinco investigadores de Química Analítica—Antonia Garrido Frenich, Ana María Agüera López, José Luis Martínez Vidal, María José Gómez Ramos y Roberto Romero González—, un investigador del Área de Tecnología de los Alimentos—José Luis Guil Guerrero— y otro del de Producción Vegetal—Rodney B. Thompson—.

El vicerrector de Investigación e Innovación, Diego Luis Valera, ha hecho una valoración muy positiva de esta noticia, subrayando que la UAL se encuentra muy bien posicionada a nivel nacional e internacional.

Andalusian Flag Awards in recognition of the work of people of Almeria

FULL NEWS



THE ANDALUSIAN FLAG FOR RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND HEALTH WAS AWARDED TO THE HEALTH MANAGEMENT AREA OF THE NORTH OF ALMERIA, THE ALMERIA PRIMARY CARE DISTRICT AND THE PONIENTE PRIMARY CARE DISTRICT

Every year the Regional Government of Andalusia (hereinafter: Junta de Andalucía) awards the Andalusian Flag honorary distinction to recognise those institutions or individuals who have carried out meritorious actions and services for the benefit of each province.

INSTITUTIONAL ACT

The delegate of the Government of Andalusia in Almeria, Maribel Sanchez Torregrosa, has announced the names of the eleven people or entities that will receive the award in the province of Almeria. In this city, the institutional act was presided over by Marta Bosquet, President of the Parliament and Carmen Crespo, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, both from Almeria.

AREA OF RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Covid-19 has marked the event and many awards have been in recognition of the fight against the pandemic. In Almeria, Health Management Area of the North of Almeria , the Almeria Primary Care District and the Poniente Primary Care District received the Andalusian Flag for Research, Science and Health.

REST OF AWARDS IN THE PROVINCE

- Institute of Almerian Studies.
 Andalusian Flag of Social Sciences and Literature.
- Cervantes Theatre. Andalusian Flag of the Arts
- Iván Fernández Ruiz. Andalusian Flag for Sport
- MAAVi Foundation. Andalusian Flag of Solidarity and Concord.
- Illustrious Official College of Social Graduates of Almeria. The Andalusian Flag of Economy and Business.
- Northern Health Management Area of Almeria, the Primary Care District of Almeria and the Poniente Primary Care District. Andalusian Flag for Research,

Science and Health

- Agrícola Navarro de Haro S.L.
 Andalusian Flag for the Projection of the Province.
- Ecomares Project. Andalusian
 Flag for Environmental Merit.
- Jesús Peregrín Mula. Andalusian
 Flag for Human Values
- José María Rossell Recasens Grupo Hoteles Playa, S.A. Senator Hotels & Resorts and Diego
 García Molina, president of the
 Provincial Association of Hotel
 and Catering Businessmen of Almería (ASHAL), posthumously.
 Flag of Andalusia in recognition
 of the special trajectory in the defence and promotion of the general interest of the province.





Coronavirus

Total Confirm

COVID-19 IN EUROPE

To 932 China

COVID-19 vaccination in Europe

vID-19 started on 27
December 2020 across
the European Union, in
a moment of unity.

To date, 4 safe and effective CO-VID-19 vaccines have been licensed for use in the EU, following positive scientific recommendations from the European Medicines Agency:

BioNTech-Pfizer: On 21 December 2020, the European Commission granted conditional marketing authorisation to the COVID-19 vaccine developed by BioNTech and Pfizer, thus becoming the first COVID-19 vaccine licensed in the EU.

Moderna: On 6 January 2021, the European Commission granted conditional marketing authorisation for the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Moderna, which became the second COVID-19 vaccine authorised in the EU.

AstraZeneca: On 29 January 2021, the European Commission granted conditional marketing authorisation for the COVID-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca, making it the third COVID-19 vaccine authorised in the EU.

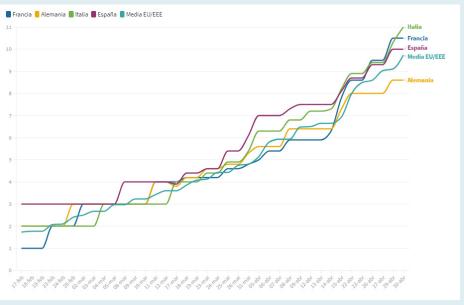
Johnson & Johnson: On 11 March 2021, the European Commission granted a conditional marketing authorisation for the COVID-19 vaccine



developed by Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, thus becoming the fourth COVID-19 vaccine authorised in the EU..

VACCINATION IN THE

Although the vaccination process is progressing steadily in all EU countries, the pace of vaccination is uneven across Europe, with some countries being more effective in vaccinating their populations.



Immunisation trends in Italy, France, Spain and Germany. Percentage of population with complete regimen. Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

POPULATION WITH 1 DOSE

As of 30 April, 34.4% of the EU population had received at least one dose of one of the EU-licensed vaccines. The countries with the highest percentage of the population vaccinated with at least one of the doses required to achieve immunisation against COVID-19 were: Hungary (44.6% of the population with at least one of the doses), Malta (43.5%), Finland (34.6%), Belgium (31%), and Austria (29.4%).

Countries with the slowest vaccination progress were: Czech Republic (21.6%), Romania (19.4%), Croatia (18.8%), Latvia (13.4%) and Bulgaria (10.2%).

POPULATION WITH FULL DOSE

As of 30 April, 12% of EU citizens had received the full course of one of the EU-licensed vaccines and have therefore been immunised against COVID-19.

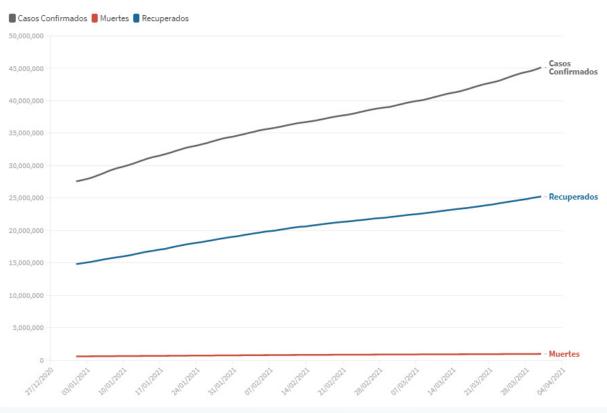
The countries which, to date, have vaccinated the highest percentage of their citizens are: Malta (23.4% of its population vaccinated), Hungary (20.6%), Denmark (12.5%), Iceland (11.6%) and Liechtenstein (11.6%).

The countries where the number of people immunised through the administration of vaccines were: Norway (7.1%), Croatia (5.1%), Finland (3.5%), Bulgaria (3.3%) and Latvia (2.4%).

EUROPE VACCINATION AS AT 30-04-21

Country	% population with complete dose	% population with first dose	Doses Administered
Malta	23,4%	43,5%	289.457
Hungary	20,6%	44,6%	5.252.379
Denmark	12,5%	26,2%	1.805.829
Iceland	11,6%	28,7%	113.783
Liechtenstein	11,6%	24,3%	11.426
Romania	11,5%	19,4%	4.841.492
Austria	11,1%	29,4%	2.974.179
Ireland	11,1%	28,3%	1.482.568
Italy	11%	26,4%	18.722.924
Czech Repu- blic	10,9%	21,6%	2.827.327
France	10,5%	26,7%	19.643.905
Greece	10,3%	23,6%	3.003.565
Lithuania	10,2%	28,1%	879.067
Slovenia	10,2%	23,7%	583.287
Luxembourg	10,1%	26%	1804.84
Spain	10%	27,6%	14.688.229
Slovakia	9,8%	23,3%	1.472.220
Portugal	9,6%	25,9%	3.053.271
Cyprus	9,5%	27,9%	267.802
Estonia	9,3%	28,9%	409.573
Poland	9,2%	26,5%	10.985.684
Sweden	9%	28,1%	3.017.464
Germany	8,6%	28,1%	25.489.567
Belgium	8,5%	31%	3.633.609
Netherlands	8,2%	28,7%	5.176.010
Norway	7,1%	28%	1.489.114
Croatia	5,1%	18,8%	805.183
Finland	3,5%	34,6%	1.702.098
Bulgaria	3,3%	10,2%	776.288
Latvia	2,4%	13,4%	244.170

COVID-19 Evolution in Europe



Evolution of COVID-19 during the first quarter of 2021 in Europe. Source Johns Hopkins University

uring the first quarter of 2021, COVID-19 cases continued to increase steadily. The European continent started the year with a total of 27,552,498 people infected with COVID-19 and 585,110 deaths from COVID-19. As of 31 March, the number of reported cases in Europe grew by 63.74% 45,115,099 positive cases. Unfortunately, deaths also rose by 65.38% during this period, reaching a staggering 967,702 deaths.

The countries with the most reported cases of COVID-19 were Fran-

ce (4,705,068 reported cases, accounting for 10.43% of all cases in Europe), Russia (4,494,234 cases, accounting for 9.96% of all European cases), the UK (4,359,982 reported cases, accounting for 9.66% of all positive cases in Europe), Italy (3,584,899 reported cases, accounting for 9.66% of all positive cases in Europe), Italy (3,584,899 reported cases, accounting for 9.66% of all positive cases in Europe) and the United Kingdom (4,359,982 cases, accounting for 9.66% of all positive cases in Europe). 584,899 cases reported and 7.95% of all cases in Europe), Turkey (3,317,182 cases reported, 7.53% of all positives), Spain (3,284,353 cases reported, 7.3% of all European cases) and Germany (2,843,644 cases reported, or 6.3% of all cases in Europe).

However, if we look at the number of inhabitants, the countries with the most cases are the Czech Republic (14,575 cases per 100,000 inhabitants), San Marino (14,519), Andorra (14,515), Montenegro (14,078), Luxembourg (11,214) and Slovenia (10,460). The countries that had registered the fewest cases at the end of the year were Vatican City (27 cases), Monaco (2,288), Liechtenstein

(2,670), San Marino (4,730) Iceland (6,205) and Andorra (12,010). However, if we again look at the number of infections per 100,000 population, the countries least affected by the pandemic to date are Uzbekistan (239 cases), Finland (1,415), Kazakhstan (1,634), Norway (1,870), Iceland (1,905) and Greece (2,437).

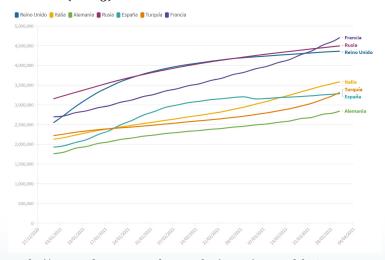
COVID-19 FATALITIES IN EUROPE

In terms of the lethality of the disease caused by the virus, the countries with the highest number of fatalities as of 31 March 2021 are the United Kingdom (126,955), Italy (109,346), Russia (97,219), France (95,798), Germany (76,589) and Spain (75,459). Taking into account the number of inhabitants in each country, the countries where the virus has been most lethal are San Marino (257 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants), the Czech Republic (251), Hungary (209), Belgium (205), Bosnia and Herzegovina (199), the United Kingdom (198) and Montenegro (196). The countries that have fortunately recorded fewer deaths are Vatican City (o deaths), Monaco (28), Iceland (29), Liechtenstein (56), San Marino (84) and Andorra (115). If we take into consideration the number of inhabitants of each country, the countries with the fewest deaths caused by the virus are Vatican City, Uzbekistan (1.82 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants), Iceland (8 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants), Uzbekistan (8 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants), Iceland (8 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants)

Total Confirmed

1 2 8 3 4 3

and Andorra (8 deaths per 100,000). The countries that have fortunately recorded the fewest deaths are Vatican City (0 deaths), Monaco (3), Iceland (29), Liechtenstein (39), San Marino (59) and Andorra (84). If we take into consideration the number of inhabitants of each country, the countries with the fewest deaths caused by the virus are Vatican City, Uzbekistan (1.78 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants), Monaco (8.24), Norway (8.48), Iceland (8.9) and Finland (10.25).



Evolución casos de COVID-19 durante el primer trimestre del año 2021 en Alemania, España, Francia, Italia, Reino Unido, Rusia y Turquía.

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED BY COVID-19

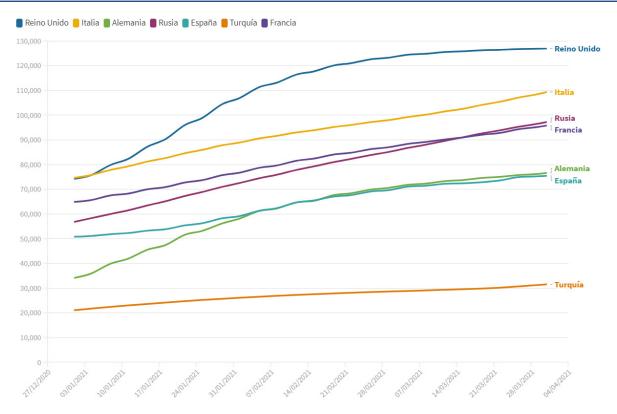
The following is an analysis of the evolution during the first quarter of 2021 of total cases, deaths and recovered persons in those European countries with the highest number of confirmed cases at the end of March 2021.

FRANCE

During the first quarter of 2021, the number of positive cases increased by 74.45% in France. At the end of March, France had 4,705,068 infected cases. In terms of deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 47.62% to 95,798 deaths due to COVID-19.

RUSSIA

During the first quarter of 2021, the number of positive cases in Russia increased by 42.49%. By the end



Evolution of COVID-19 deaths during the first quarter of 2021 in Germany, Spain, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Russia and Turkey.

of March, Russia had 4,494,234 infected people. In terms of deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 71.16% to 97,219 deaths due to COVID-19.

UNITED KINGDOM

During the first quarter of 2021, the number of positive cases in the UK increased by 71%. At the end of March, the UK reached 4,359,982 infected. In terms of deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 71.01% to 126,955 deaths due to COVID-19.

ITALY

During the first quarter of 2021, the number of positive cases in Italy increased by 68.35%. At the end of March, Italy reached 3,584,899 infected people. In terms of deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 46.54% to 109,346 deaths due to COVID-19.

TURKEY

During the first quarter of 2021, the number of positive cases in Turkey increased by 49.37%. At the end of March, Turkey reached 3,317,182 infected people. In terms of deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 49.51% to 31,537 deaths due to COVID-19.

SPAIN

During the first quarter of 2021, the number of positive cases in Spain increased by 70.32%. At the end of March, Spain had 3,284,353 infected cases. In terms of deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 48.43% to 75,459 deaths due to COVID-19.

GERMANY

During the first quarter of 2021, the number of positive cases in Germany increased by 61.32%. At the end of March, Germany reached 2,843,644 infected persons. In terms of deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 124.3% to 76,589 deaths due to COVID-19.

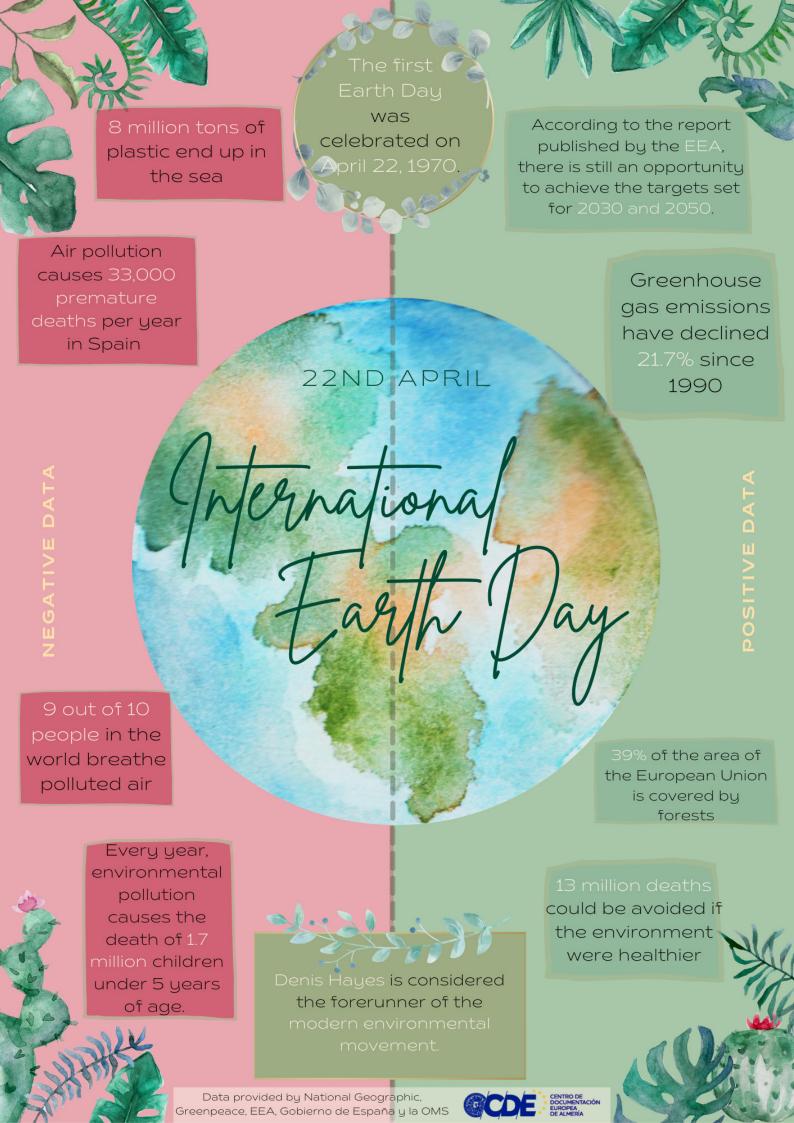
INFOGRAPHICS



Welcome to Europe Day!









Georgia selected as the world book capital

This year books are offered at 1.50€



23 DE ABRIL



In 2016, the largest share of total household expenditure in Slovakia was spent on books, newspapers and stationery.

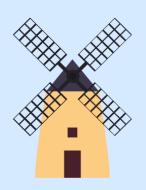
International Book Day

"The eyes are the window to your soul."



The <u>Book Face</u>
<u>Challenge</u> is one of the challenges that UNESCO has created this year!

-William Shakespeare-



Did you know...

Don Quixote is the best-selling book in the world (500 million copies).



The best-selling book in Spain in 2020 was Javier Castillo's "La Chica de Nieve". (106,315 copies sold in August)



Data provided by Educastur, INE, Comisón Europea y UNESCO

EU CALLS



POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN NEUROSCIENCE IN JAPAN

MORE INFORMATION

Postdoctoral neuroscience fellowship available at the Department of Physiology (Takeuchi Group), Osaka City University School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan.



REQUIREMENTS

A PhD in neurophysiology / molecular biology / biomedical engineering / data science, or related discipline is required.

Electrophysiological experiments with rodents, including perturbation experiments using ultrasonic stimulation, electrical stimulation and/or drug infusion.

Electronics handling skills to perform insitu experiments.

Neural data analysis with Python and/or MATLAB

Molecular biology skills for viral vector packaging

Histological analysis

TASKS

A postdoctoral researcher is sought to support a study to evaluate the efficacy of non-invasive ultrasonic stimulation in the regulation and/or prevention of neurological and psychiatric disorders such as epileptic seizures, schizophrenia and addiction.

ORGANISATION

Osaka City University **RESEARCH AREA**

Neurosciences

LOCATION

Japan

DEADLINE

01 June 2021



POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES IN KOREA

MORE INFORMATION



This position is included in the China Talent Programme, applicants will need to submit an application form with supporting documents for panel review.

REQUIREMENTS

A doctorate in a related discipline. Research disciplines include, among others, chemistry, the main branches of engineering, biology, mathematics, physics and other interdisciplinary fields. Engineering disciplines include, among others, electrical engineering, computer science, information technology, energy and environment, nanotechnology and materials science, and emerging technology. We emphasise interdisciplinary research.

In-depth knowledge and proven academic and applied research skills.

Demonstrated ability to teach.

Candidates should have published in international journals and have been involved in obtaining external funding.

ORGANISATION

Jiaxing University

LOCATION

South Korea

RESEARCH AREA

Agricultural Sciences

DEADLINE

30 November 2021



POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH IN ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY IN TAIWAN

Urban Lab invites applications for a postdoctoral research assistant position in analytical chemistry.

MORE INFORMATION



The position is located in the Department of Chemistry, National Tsing Hua University (Taiwan). Postgraduate research will involve the development of new analytical tools based on mass spectrometry and optical detection.

REQUIREMENTS

In general, candidates should have a PhD degree in analytical chemistry. However, candidates with PhD degrees in engineering, electronics, computer science or biochemistry may also be considered if they can clearly complement the team's expertise in certain areas. Those with previous experience in mass spectrometry, instrumentation development or microfluidics are especially welcome to apply.

ORGANISATION

National Tsing Hua University

LOCATION

Taiwan

RESEARCH AREA

Chemistry

DEADLINE

30 June 2021



TRAINEESHIPS AT THE COURT OF JUSTICE

MORE INFORMATION



Each year, the European Court of Justice offers a limited number of paid traineeships of a maximum duration of five months.

REQUIREMENTS

Be a citizen of an EU Member State;

hold a university degree in law or political science (law must predominate) or, for traineeships in the Interpreting Directorate, a diploma in conference interpreting, possibly supplemented by a postgraduate diploma, or equivalent professional experience;

Trainees have the opportunity to perfect their interpreting skills, particularly in the field of legal interpreting, through the preparation of dossiers, terminology research and practical exercises in a "quiet booth".

BENEFITS

The grant paid is EUR 1 177.00 net per month.

A contribution of EUR 150 towards travel expenses is also granted to remunerated trainees whose place of residence is 200 km or more from the seat of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

DEADLINE

15 September 2021

eurodesk

TRAINEESHIPS AT THE EUROPEAN BANK AUTHORITY

The European Bank Authority (EBA) is an independent EU authority that works to ensure effective and consistent prudential regulation and supervision across the European banking sector. Its overall objectives are to maintain financial stability in the EU and to safeguard the integrity, efficiency and orderly functioning of the banking sector.

MORE INFORMATION



REQUIREMENTS

Recent university graduates, who have completed their studies no more than five years before the closing date for applications.

Nationals of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the candidate countries;

have a very good knowledge of English, the official working language of the EBA.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should submit their application in English to EBA-Traineeship-Applications@eba.europa.eu;

They should indicate the reference number of the traineeship they are applying for and add their first and last name in the subject line of their email (e.g. TR LE-GAL 2019_First Name, Last name).

DEADLINE

31 December 2021



INTERNSHIPS AT THE WORLD BANK

The World Bank offers internships to young people interested in learning more about the economic and social issues that affect the lives of people around the world. The programme offers work-study opportunities that provide hands-on experience.

MORE INFORMATION



REQUIREMENTS

Paid internships are available for the winter and summer programmes. It is open to national students from the Bank's member countries. Candidates must hold a university degree and already be enrolled in a full-time graduate study programme (pursuing a master's or doctoral degree with plans to return to full-time study).

This programme seeks candidates in the following fields: economics, finance, human resource development (public health, education, nutrition, population), social sciences (anthropology, sociology), agriculture, environment, private sector development, as well as other related fields. Fluency in English is required.

BENEFITS

The Bank pays an hourly wage to all interns and, where appropriate, provides a travel allowance. Interns are responsible for their own accommodation. Most positions are located in Washington, DC, with a minimum duration of four weeks.

DEADLINE

31 October 2021



EU PRIZE FOR WOMEN INNOVATORS

The opportunities created by new technologies and disruptive innovations promise to deliver the fair and sustainable recovery that Europe needs.

MORE INFORMATION



But Europe risks missing out on these opportunities if half of its population is ignored as a source of innovation and creative talent.

In doing so, the EU aims to raise awareness of the need for more women innovators and to create role models for women and girls around the world.

The prize is awarded to the most talented female entrepreneurs from across the EU and Horizon Europe partner countries who have founded a successful company and brought innovation to the market. The award is launched and managed by the European Innovation Council and the SME Executive Agency, and the winners are chosen by a jury of independent experts.

In the main category "Women Innovators", three prizes of EUR 100 000 each are awarded to women who, in the opinion of the jury, have excelled in all the award criteria and have stood out from the other candidates. In the second category, a prize of EUR 50,000 is awarded to a promising "Emerging Innovator" aged 30 or younger.

EXPECTED IMPACT

The awards will raise public awareness of the potential, importance and contribution of women to the innovation ecosystem, and create strong role models to inspire other women to become innovators.

DEADLINE

30 June 2021



INNOVATIONS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GREEN DEAL

MORE INFORMATION



The EIC Accelerator Challenges programme supports companies (mainly start-ups and SMEs) to develop high-impact innovations with the potential to create new or disrupt existing markets in identified areas of strategic relevance. Like the EIC Accelerator Open programme (Section II.3 of the EIC Work Programme 2021), EIC Accelerator Challenges focus on innovations that are based on scientific discoveries or technological breakthroughs ("deep tech") and where significant funding is needed for a long period of time before benefits can be generated ("patient capital").

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Within the objectives of the Green Deal, specific priority is given to projects related to key innovations related to the green economic transition, as identified in the Recovery Plan for Europe.1,2 In this respect, at least 50% of the companies selected for the interview phase must have submitted proposals related to one of the following areas:

- Renewable energies, including hydrogen and energy storage
- Integrated building renovation
- Low carbon industries
- Batteries and other energy storage systems

DEADLINE

09 June 2021



MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY AND DEVICES: FROM THE LABORATORY TO THE PATIENT

MORE INFORMATION



SCOPE

EU-funded early-stage research into innovative medical technologies and devices is uncovering unique opportunities to benefit patients and support clinicians.

Medical device and technology companies face long and investment-intensive product development cycles, complex regulatory procedures, slow market acceptance requiring support from key opinion leaders, and intensive early adopter follow-up. In addition to an established technology, a well-developed and realistic exploitation pathway is needed with an emphasis on achieving market acceptance as proof of the clinical and commercial potential of the idea.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Proposals submitted to this call for transition challenges should aim to:

Perform the R&D necessary to move from an existing prototype trial technology to an advanced version to initiate clinical evaluation.

Develop an exploitation strategy, describing qualitatively and quantitatively the proposed pathway to the patient and describing an investable proposal.

The EIC will consider proposals with a requested Community contribution of up to EUR 2.5 million and a duration of up to 3 years, as appropriate.

DEADLINE

22 September 2021





BIBLO GRAFIA

Methad International Ages

Methad

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / JUDGEMENTS





Title: Case C-362/19 P Commission v Futbol Club Barcelona. Judgment of the Court (Fifth Chamber) of 4 March 2021.

Summary: By its appeal, the European Commission seeks the annulment of the judgment of the General Court of 26 February 2019, Fútbol Club Barcelona v Commission, by which the General Court annulled Commission Decision (EU) 2016/2391 of 4 July 2016 on State aid SA.29769 (2013/C) (ex 2013/NN) granted by Spain to certain football clubs.

Date of publication: 04-04-2021

Author: Court of Justice of the European Union

Keywords: Appeal - State aid - Aid granted to certain professional football clubs - Article 107(1) TFEU - Concept of 'advantage' - Aid scheme - Regulation (EU) 2015/1589 - Article 1(d) - Reduced rate of taxation - Non-profit-making entities - Less advantageous tax deduction - Relevance - Accession to the appeal.







 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Title:} Case C-652/19 KO v Consulmarketing. Judgment of the Court (Second Chamber) of 17 March 2021. \end{tabular}$

Summary: Reference for a preliminary ruling concerns the interpretation of Council Directive 98/59/EC of 20 July 1998 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies, Clause 4 of the Framework Agreement on fixed-term work concluded on 18 March 1999, annexed to Council Directive 1999/70/EC of 28 June 1999 concerning the Framework Agreement on fixed-term work concluded by ETUC, UNICE and CEEP.

Date of publication: 17-03-2021

Author: Court of Justice of the European Union

Keywords: Non-discrimination - Preliminary ruling - Citizenship of the European Union - Articles 18 TFEU and 21 TFEU - Extradition of a citizen of the Union to a non-member country - Person who has acquired citizenship of the Union after transferring his centre of vital interests to the requested Member State - Scope of Union law - Prohibition on extradition applying only to own nationals.





Title: Case C-739/19 VK v An Bord Pleanála. Judgment of the Court (First Chamber) of

Summary: The reference for a preliminary ruling concerns the interpretation of Article 5 of Council Directive 77/249/EEC of 22 March 1977 to facilitate the effective exercise by lawyers of freedom to provide services.

Date of publication: 10-03-2021

Author: Court of Justice of the European Union

Keywords: Reference for a preliminary ruling - Freedom to provide services for lawyers - Directive 77/249/EEC - Article 5 - Obligation on a visiting lawyer providing services, representing a client in national court proceedings, to act in agreement with a lawyer practising before the court seised - Limits of competition - Allegation of abuse of a dominant position in the form of commercial practices covered by contractual provisions







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RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / LEGISLATION



Title: Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme

Summary: This Regulation establishes the InvestEU Fund, which will provide an EU guarantee to support financing and investment operations carried out by partner managing entities that contribute to the Union's internal policy objectives.

This Regulation also establishes an advisory mechanism to support the development of investable projects and access to finance and provide related capacity building assistance ("InvestEU Advisory Hub").

Date of publication: 24-03-2021

Author: European Parliament and Council

Keywords: European Union-EU Law-EU Act-EU Regulation





Title: Regulation (EU) 2021/444 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2021 establishing the Customs programme for cooperation in the customs field

Summary: This Regulation establishes the Customs programme for cooperation in the customs field for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027. The duration of the Programme shall be in line with the duration of the multiannual financial framework. This Regulation also lays down the objectives of the Programme, the budget for the period 2021-2027, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.

Date of publication: 11-03-2021

Author: European Parliament and Council

Keywords: European Union-EU Law- Eu act- Regulation (EU)





Title: Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Resilience and Recovery Mechanism.

Summary: This Regulation establishes the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism.

It also sets out the objectives of the Facility, its financing, the modalities of Union funding under the Facility and the rules for the provision of such funding.

Date of publication: 12-02-2021

Author: European Parliament and Council

Keywords: European Union , European Union law , EU act, regulation (EU)



RECOMMENDED READING / ECONOMIC AFFAIRS



Title: Supervisory banking statistics

Summary: Banking supervision statistics for the second quarter of 2020: October

2020 provided by the European Central Bank

Date of publication: 11-03-2021 **Author**: European Central Bank

Keywords: banking activity, economic statistics, banking supervision, financial insti-

tution, banking statistics





Title: Analysis of developments in EU capital flows in the global context. Increasing uncertainty in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic

Summary: This report presents an analysis of the main trends and developments in EU and global capital flows up to 2019, as well as the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Date of publication: 11-03-2021

Author: CEPS; Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union; Jahn, Marvin; Musmeci, Roberto; Gros, Daniel; Capolongo, Angela; Alcidi, Cinzia

Keywords: debt, coronavirus disease, direct investment, foreign investment, capital market, currency, newly industrialised country, commodity price, financial risk, foreign investment, financial risk





Title: Recession and recovery. The distribution of EU firm growth 2005-2014

Summary: This report investigates firm growth before, during and after the Great Recession 2007-2009. We use a representative sample of firms from the business economy of 16 European Union (EU) Member States between 2005 and 2014.

Date of publication: 22-02-2021

Author: Joint Research Centre; Janiri, Mario L; Kornejew, Martin; Flachenecker, Florian **Keywords**: economic growth, business, coronavirus disease, research report, economic recession, economic recovery, economic growth, business, economic recovery





RECOMMENDED READING / ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Title: Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan

Summary: The Plan will guide the implementation of 72 billion euros of European funds until 2023 and will mobilise 50% of the resources available to Spain over the next three years thanks to the Next Generation EU instrument.

Date of publication: 30-04-2021 **Author**: Government of Spain

Keywords: economy, recovery, Spain, plan, aid, fund, Europe





PLAN DE RECUPERACIÓN, TRANSFORMACIÓN Y RESILIENCIA

Title: European Investment Bank financial report 2020

Summary: In 2020, the Bank's loan signatures amounted to EUR 66.1bn. This report includes the 2020 financial statements and the audit report for both the EIB and the EIB Group.

Date of publication: 0-05-2021 **Author**: European Investment Bank

Keywords: audit, European Investment Bank, financial statistics, public finances, activity report, financial statistics, public finance, activity report





The birth of new high growth enterprises:

internationalisation through new digital technologies



Title: The birth of new high growth enterprises

Summary: Internationalisation and the adoption of new digital technologies play an important role in the formation of new high-growth firms. This paper examines this relationship for high-growth firms in Europe and the UK, using data from the EIB Investment Survey and ORBIS.

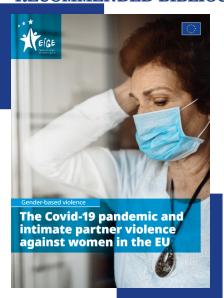
Date of publication: 18-05-2021

Author: European Investment Bank ,Pál, Rozália ; Teruel, Mercedes ; Coad, Alex ; Domnick, Clemens ; Lorenzo, Mario ; Flachenecker, Florian ; Harasztosi, Péter

Keywords: economic growth, business, coronavirus disease, research report, economic recession, economic recovery, economic growth, business, economic recovery



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / HEALTH



Title: The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women in the EU Summary: The spikes in reports of domestic violence during the Covid-19 closures were a grim reminder that women are often the most at risk from those they know. This study examines the measures EU Member States have taken to protect women from intimate partner violence during the pandemic and offers recommendations on what could be improved to ensure that victims have access to support services in times of crisis.

Date of publication: 11-03-2021

Author: European Institute for Gender Equality

Keywords: victim support, coronavirus disease, epidemic, EU Member State, women , conflict prevention , conflict prevention , domestic violence , domestic violence





Title: Guidance for COVID-19 quarantine and testing of travellers

Summary: This document provides evidence-based guidance on quarantine and testing of travellers in EU/EEA countries in the context of the emergence of variants of concern of SARS-CoV-2 (COV). It follows the provisions of Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/119 of 1 February 2021 amending Recommendation (EU) 2020/1475 on a coordinated approach to the restriction of free movement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Date of publication: 12-03-2021

Author: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Keywords: coronavirus, COVID-19, quarantine, testing, epidemiological situation,

transmission





Title: Introducing a coherent European framework for tuning COVID-19 response mea-

Summary: This document presents a coherent, but not prescriptive, framework for tuning COVID-19 response measures in the European Union and the European Economic Area (EU/EEA). It aims to ensure effectiveness and promote public confidence and compliance, while protecting the health of European citizens.

Date of publication: 17-03-2021

Author: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Keywords: coronavirus, COVID-19, framework, measures, Member States



CDE UAL Nº53

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / HEALTH



Title: Objectives of vaccination strategies against COVID-19

Summary: This paper provides an overview of the possible objectives of vaccination strategies against COVID-19 and reflects on their possible implications.

Date of publication: 23-04-2021

Author: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control **Keywords**: coronavirus, COVID-19, vaccination, targeting





Title: Public procurement in healthcare systems

Summary: In the EU, an average of 8.3% of GDP is spent on health services and medical goods. The procurement of these goods and services is often subject to public procurement.

Date of publication: 12-05-2021

Author: Health and Food Safety Directorate-General (European Commission)

 $\textbf{Keywords}: public \ procurement\ , \ health\ care\ , \ investment\ , \ health\ policy\ , \ public\ health$

, health service , health policy , public health , health care





PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

Opinion of the

Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health (EXPH) Title: Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health (EXPH)

Summary: Every year, more than 250,000 public authorities in the EU spend around 14% of GDP (about ×2 trillion) on the purchase of services, works and supplies. Many of these are in the health sector, where public authorities are the main purchasers in many countries. When these purchases exceed certain thresholds, EU public procurement rules apply.

Date of publication: 07-05-2021

Author: Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

Keywords: public procurement, patients' rights, EU funding, pharmaceutical industry, health industry, health organisation, e-health, health service, health technology, public procurement, healthcare organisation, health service



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / ENVIRONMENT



Title: Land-based wildfire prevention

Summary: This brochure, produced by the European Commission with the support of national fire management experts, provides an overview of current and future trends in forest fires in Europe, as well as tools for monitoring them at European and national level.

Date of publication: 22-03-2021

Author: Joint Research Centre (European Commission)

Keywords: green economy, renewable energy, renewable energy, coronavirus disease, EU strategy, environmental impact, report, innovation, energy research, energy efficiency, clean technology, clean technology





Title: Forest fire prevention on land

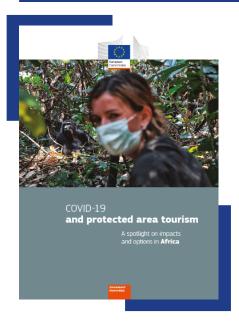
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Date of publication: 22-03-2021

Author: Joint Research Centre (European Commission)

Keywords: green economy, renewable energy, renewable energy, renewable energy, coronavirus disease, EU strategy, environmental impact, report, innovation, energy research, energy efficiency, clean technology, green economy, clean technology





Title: COVID-19 and protected area tourism. A spotlight on impacts and options in Africa **Summary**: The world was rocked in 2020 by a global pandemic resulting from a new coronavirus. The virus, believed to have been transferred to humans from a wild species, raised awareness of the links between wildlife exploitation, trade and zoonotic disease transfer. This paper describes the impact of COVID-19 on wildlife tourism in protected areas, considering the implications for the tourism sector and local communities.

Date of publication: 03-03-2021

Author: Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

 $\label{lem:keywords:keywords:} \textbf{Keywords:} \ A frica\ , \ resource\ conservation\ , \ coronavirus\ disease\ , \ economic\ consequence\ , \ economic\ intelligence\ , \ protected\ area\ , \ report\ , \ ecotourism\ , \ economic\ intelligence\ , \ zoonoses\ , \ environmental\ impact\ , \ eco-tourism\ , \ report\ \\$





RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / ENVIRONMENT

Title: Research and innovation in low-emission alternative energy for transport in Europe

Summary: This report provides a comprehensive analysis of research and innovation in low-emission alternative energy for transport in selected ongoing European Union (EU)-funded projects with completion dates from 2019 onwards.

Date of publication: 07-05-2021

Author: Joint Research Centre; Stepniak, M; Ortega Hortelano, A; Tsakalidis, A; Gkoumas, K; Marques dos Santos, F; Pekár, F; Grosso, M

Keywords: financial support, biofuel, biofuel, soft energy, research report, transport infrastructure, innovation, energy research, energy research, industrial research, research and development, transport policy, EU energy policy, gas emission reduction, information system, energy technology, energy technology





Title: EU measures on eco-design and energy labelling

Summary: Eco-design legislation is based on the provision of minimum energy efficiency and environmental requirements for products for households and industry. EU energy labelling informs consumers about the energy consumption and environmental performance of products and helps them to make informed choices.

Date of publication: 09-03-2021 **Author**: European Court of Auditors

Keywords: energy savings, audit, compliance audit, energy consumption, environmental law, eco-label, labelling, consumer information, report, information exchange, EU environment policy, energy efficiency, market surveillance, energy efficiency





Title: Can nature make it?

Summary: This study explores the concept of the 'rights of nature' and its different aspects in legal philosophy and international agreements.

Date of publication: 12-05-2021

Author: Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union (European Parliament)

Keywords: climate change , EU law , EU law , EU law - national law , environmental law , (EU) case law , environmental law , EU environmental policy , environmental law , pollution prevention



CDE UAL N°53 77

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / RESEARCH



Title: Establishment of sustainable data ecosystems

Summary: The aim of this study is to identify and analyse a set of successful data ecosystems and to make recommendations to support the evolution of contemporary spatial data infrastructures that can act as catalysts for data-driven innovation, in line with the recently published European data strategy. The recommendations provided here cover approaches that can be taken to ensure the evolution of contemporary spatial data infrastructures towards self-sustaining data ecosystems.

Date of publication: 11-03-2021

Author: Joint Research Centre ; Gautier, Prune ; Turki, Slim ; Kotsev, Alexander ; Martin, Sébastien

Keywords: supply chain, supply chain, EU member state, radio frequency identification, big data, market, digital single market, agriculture sector





Title: Digitranscope

Summary: This brochure summarises the main findings of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre's Digitranscope research project. The project set out to explore over the period 2017-2020 the challenges and opportunities that the digital transformation is posing to the governance of society.

Date of publication: 09-03-2021

Author: CAS Centre for Advanced Studies, Joint Research Centre; Ponti, Marisa; Craglia, Massimo; Boter, Jaap; Hradec, Jiri; Scholten, Henk; Luitjens, Steven; Micheli, Marina; Calzada, Igor

Keywords: technological change , smart city , knowledge economy , knowledge economy , coronavirus disease , governance , artificial intelligence , internet of things , gaming , research project , simulation , data processing , data processing





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Title: Internet of Things in connected and autonomous vehicles can support safer, more accessible and sustainable transportation

Summary: The European automotive industry is facing a digital revolution in the 21st century in the form of connected and autonomous vehicles. With the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) components in vehicles, vehicles become part of a network, enabling them to communicate with each other, with the surrounding infrastructure and with other drivers.

Date of publication: 22-03-2021

Author: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Executive Agency

Keywords: value chain, technological change, automotive industry, sustainable mobility, new technology, sustainable mobility, value chain, new technology



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / RESEARCH

GLOBAL APPROACH to Research and Innovation

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Title: Global approach to research and innovation **Summary**:Global approach to research and innovation

Date of publication: 18-05-2021

Author: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (European Commission) **Keywords:** technological change , scientific cooperation , knowledge management , knowledge management , environmental impact , innovation , oceanography , health organisation , EU research policy , intellectual property , food safety , digital technology , health organisation , food security





Title: Cobots (collaborative robots)

Summary:Cobots are industrial robots specially designed to work in close contact with people.

Date of publication: 06-05-2021

Author: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

Keywords: machine learning, industrial robot, robotics, robotics





Title: Horizon Europe. Strategic plan 2021-2024

Summary: The strategic plan 2021-24 defines the key strategic orientations for the first four years of Horizon Europe, the EU's multi-annual framework programme for research and innovation. It sets out the research and innovation priorities to support a sustainable recovery and further accelerate the dual green and digital transition, ultimately leading to a climate-neutral and green Europe, fit for the digital age, where the economy works for people.

Date of publication: 19-03-2021

Author: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

Keywords: international cooperation , sustainable development , innovation , new technology , research organisation , EU research policy , research budget , EU programme , international cooperation , EU research policy , research budget , EU programme



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES





Title: Internet of Things in connected and autonomous vehicles can support safer, more accessible and sustainable transportation

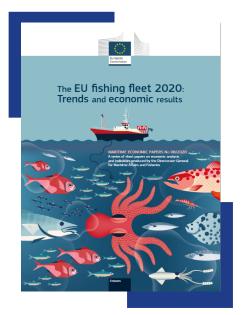
Summary: The European automotive industry is facing a digital revolution in the 21st century in the form of connected and autonomous vehicles. With the integration of Internet of Things (IoT) components in vehicles, vehicles become part of a network, enabling them to communicate with each other, with the surrounding infrastructure and with other

Date of publication: 22-03-2021

Author: Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Executive Agency

Keywords: value chain, technological change, automotive industry, sustainable mobility, new technology, sustainable mobility, value chain, new technology





Title: The EU fishing fleet

Summary: This document, prepared by experts from the Commission's Joint Research Centre and the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, contains complementary analyses by major fishing region and type of fishing activity, together with the results of forecasts for 2019 and 2020 (1), including the expected impact of COVID-19 on the performance of the fleet.

Date of publication: 09-03-2021

Author: Joint Research Centre, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Keywords: economic analysis, economic situation, economic indicator, EU Member State, fishing statistics, fishing fleet, economic analysis, EU fisheries, economic situation , common fisheries policy, economic indicators, economic situation







Title: The EU fisheries market. 2020 Edition

Summary: The objective of "The EU Fish Market" is to provide an economic overview of the European fisheries and aquaculture sector as a whole. This edition is based on data available up to June 2020. The analyses included in this report do not take into account possible updates in the sources used after this date.

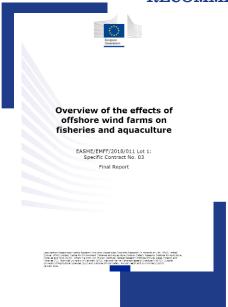
Date of publication: 15-02-2021

Author: Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (European Commission) Keywords: supply, aquaculture, aquaculture, consumer, fishing industry, EU market , fish , fishery policy , fishery product , economic situation



EDC UAL Nº53

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES



Title: Overview of the effects of offshore wind farms on fisheries and aquaculture **Summary**: The global shift towards renewable energy, including the large-scale development of offshore wind farms (OWFs), is well underway. This expansion will lead in some places to increased coexistence and potential for multiple uses of the space available for fisheries and aquaculture activities, or to potential conflicts and restrictions for some fisheries activities.

Date of publication: 18-05-2021

Author: European Executive Agency for Climate, Infrastructure and Environment, BIOR, CEFAS, CEFAS, DTU, ILVO, MRAG, NMFRI, SLU, Thünen-Institut, Wageningen

Keywords: aquaculture, socio-economic condition, decision, ecology, marine ecosystem, wind power





Title: Development of a methodology to assess the 'green' impacts of investment in the maritime sector and projects

Summary: The European Green Pact is the cornerstone of the European Union's climate policy. It sets the clear objective of reaching climate neutrality by 2050. To achieve this ambitious target, EU GHG emissions will need to be reduced by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels and by 90% in transport emissions by 2050. This target is included in the Sustainable and Intelligent Mobility Strategy adopted at the end of 2020. All modes of transport, including the maritime sector, will have to contribute to this target.

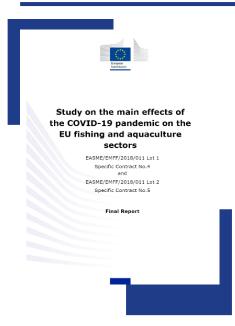
Date of publication: 06-05-2021

Author: EC Delft, COWI, DG Mobility and Transport

Keywords: pollution, greenhouse gas, environmental impact, report, innovation,

innovation, sustainable mobility, transport, transport, maritime transport





Title: Study on the main effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the EU fishing and aquaculture sectors. Final report

Summary: This document provides a summary of the available information on the effects of the pandemic; a limited quantification of the extent of these effects; an indication of how long they may last; and what mitigation measures governments have implemented to contain the short, medium and long-term negative economic effects on fishermen and aquaculture farmers. Knowledge gaps are identified in a separate chapter.

Date of publication: 07-05-2021

Author: Executive Agency for the European Innovation Council and SMEs, MRAG, National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI), Research institute for Agriculture Fisheries and Food (ILVO), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) **Keywords**: aquaculture, export control, coronavirus disease, EU Member State, impact assessment, report, EU fisheries, EU fisheries, fishery resource



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / EDUCATION



Title: The role of local and regional authorities in achieving a European education area by 2025

Summary: This study identifies, analyses and classifies education and training (ET) initiatives implemented by local and regional authorities (LRAs) across the European Union (EU). The responsibility of local and regional authorities for education and training varies considerably from one Member State to another, but the data collected in this study shows the active contribution of the sub-national level to the achievement of a European Education Area (ERA).

Date of publication: 17-03-2021

Author: European Committee of the Regions , Fondazione FORMIT , Progress Consulting S.r.l; Cavallini, Simona ; Bisogni, Fabio ; Soldi, Rossella

Keywords: Education policy, education policy, quality of education, education cooperation, education, higher education, territorial entity, education policy, education policy, quality of education, education cooperation, education, higher education, territorial entity



Title: Compendium of inspiring practices on inclusive and citizenship education

Summary: This compendium presents a wide range of inspiring practices gathered by the ET 2020 Working Group on Common Values and Inclusive Education during the period 2016-2020.1 The main objective of the compendium is to provide ideas and inspiration to policy makers and practitioners striving to improve the inclusiveness of education and training systems across the EU.

Date of publication: 05-03-2021

Author: Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture; ET 2020 Working Group on Promoting Common Values and Inclusive Education; Leeuw-Roord, Joke van der; Driel, Barry van; Donlevy, Vicki; Janum, Anja; Battaglini, Mario; Staring, François **Keywords**: bullying, digital literacy, disinformation, disinformation, vocational education, vocational training, social integration, nationality, education policy, education system, civil society (opinion movements), EU Member State, vocational education





Title: Toolkit for inclusive early childhood education and care. Providing high quality education and care to all young children.

Summary: The toolkit aims to inspire decision-makers to use examples of good practice to create the right conditions that can benefit all children and families.

Date of publication: 12-02-2020

Author: Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (European Commission)

Keywords: career, working conditions, staff recruitment, education cooperation, professional qualification, vocational training, continuing vocational training, childcare, report, social inclusion, child, education policy, early childhood



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / EDUCATION

Research paper
Key competences in initial vocational education and training: digital, multilingual and literacy

Title: Key competences in initial vocational education and training

Summary: This research paper examines three key competences: digital, multilingual and literacy. It analyses the extent to which they are included in initial secondary vocational education and training.

Date of publication: 2021-03-30 Author: Cedefop (EU body or agency)

Keywords: digital literacy, vocational qualification, adult education, lifelong learning, vocational education, continuing vocational education and training, retraining





Title: Erasmus+ Teacher Academies

Summary: The new Erasmus+ programme (2021-2027) will contribute to achieving this goal by supporting projects with a wide range of opportunities, including cooperation with peers and a stay abroad. Erasmus+ Teacher Academies are a new initiative specifically designed to support teachers and trainers in their careers, fostering deeper cooperation in initial and in-service teacher education.

Date of publication: 04-05-2021

Author: Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (European Commission)

mission)

Keywords: educational establishment, educational cooperation, professional qualification, teacher education, teacher training, student exchange, new pedagogy, teaching staff, teacher training, new pedagogy





SELFIE, adult learning and non-formal learning

A pre-feasibility study

Later happings
Ander Smart 2005

Ander Smart 2005

Ander Smart 2005



Title: SELFIE, adult learning and non-formal learning

Summary: SELFIE is developed in reference to educational organisations or institutions. According to the seminal publication on SELFIE, Promoting Effective Learning in the Digital Age, "the term educational organisation refers primarily to primary, secondary and VET schools, as well as institutions of higher education such as universities, colleges and polytechnics".

Date of publication: 07-04-2021

Author: Joint Research Centre; Hippe, Ralph; Broek, Simon

Keywords: access to employment, skills acquisition, digital literacy, adult education, non-formal education, primary education, vocational education, vocational education, secondary education, higher education, feasibility study, vocational training, labour market, organisation of education





IN LUMINE SAPIENTIA UNIVERSITAS ALMERIENSIS



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Edificio Parque Científico-Tecnológico Planta: 1ª, Despacho: 29 04120 – Ctra. Sacramento s/n. Almería (Spain) Teléfono: (+34) 950 015266 Email: cde@ual.es

