

NEWS

Conference on the Future of Europe:
what is it and how will it work?

STATISTICS

- Vaccination evolution in Europe
- COVID-19 situation in Europe

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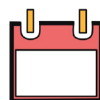
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EU NEWS



Andalusia for the Future of Europe



**CONSULTA
CIUDADANA**

**Andalucía
por el futuro
de Europa**

**Conferencia sobre
EL FUTURO DE
EUROPA**

The Andalusia for the Future of Europe initiative, led by the Regional Ministry of the Presidency, Public Administration and the Interior, with the collaboration of the European Information Network of Andalusia, aims to promote the participation of Andalusian society in the Conference on the Future of Europe promoted by the institutions of the European Union.

Andalusia is one of the largest and most populated regions in Europe, giving a voice to more than 8.5 million Europeans. Therefore, the future of the European Union is also the future of Andalusia and, in this context, the Andalusia for the Future of Europe initiative is being promoted.

The Conference on the Future of Europe provides a unique opportunity for European citizens to discuss Europe's challenges and priorities.

The European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission have committed themselves to listen to European citizens and to follow up, in their respective fields of competence, the recommendations and conclusions that emerge.



Conference on the Future of Europe: what is it and how will it work?



The Conference on the Future of Europe gives Europeans a greater role in choosing where the European Union goes in choosing where the European Union goes from here.

The Conference consists of a pan-European democratic exercise in which citizens are given a voice in shaping the future of Europe.

INCLUSIVE, DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

The vast majority of Europeans (92%), according to a recent Eurobarometer survey, demand that the voice of citizens "be taken more into account in decisions concerning the future of Europe". The aim of the Conference is to meet this demand.

The European Parliament, the Commission and the Council invite all Europeans to share their ideas on how the Union should evolve, what its priorities should be and how to prepare for the post-pandemic world. The institutions want to involve as many voices as possible and especially encourage young people to participate. The Parliament will use this year's edition of its well-known European Youth Event (EYE), to be held in October, to gather participants' views on the future of the EU.

Citizens' contributions will be collected on the multilingual platform and addressed in discussions between

MEPs, representatives of national parliaments, EU governments and civil society. Policy proposals for EU action will emerge from the debates. The Parliament, the Commission and the Council are committed to listening to citizens and to effectively following up on the results. Effective follow-up to the results of the of the conference.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

The digital platform of the Conference was launched on 19 April. It allows people to share and discuss ideas online as well as prepare events across the EU, where and when the health conditions allow. These events will serve as another source of ideas for change.

The member states will also organise citizen-driven events.

After the summer, European citizens' panels bringing together people from different walks of life will look at the ideas put forward. There will be four citizens' panels of 200 members each working on different themes:

- European democracy and values, rights, rule of law, security
- Climate change, environment and health
- Stronger economy, social justice, jobs, education, youth, culture, sport and digital transformation
- The EU in the world and migration



2021 G7 summit: Our shared agenda for global action to build back better



Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, represented the EU at this year's G7 summit hosted in Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

During the three-day meeting the G7 leaders discussed a wide range of pressing topics, including COVID-19, pandemic preparedness and economic recovery; geopolitical challenges and foreign affairs; trade and development; promoting open societies and democratic values; and fighting climate change and protecting the environment.

The summit took place under the UK presidency of the G7, whose overarching theme is 'Building Back Better' from the pandemic. The UK invited leaders from Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa to attend part of the meeting as guest countries.

At the end of the summit, the G7 leaders adopted the next leaders' communiqué:

End the pandemic and prepare for the future by driving an intensified international effort, starting immediately, to vaccinate the world by getting as many safe vaccines to as many people as possible as fast as possible. Total G7 commitments since the start of the pandemic provide for a total of over two billion vaccine doses, with the commitments since we last met in February 2021, including here in Carbis Bay, providing for one billion doses over the next year. At the same time we will create the appropriate

frameworks to strengthen our collective defences against threats to global health by: increasing and coordinating on global manufacturing capacity on all continents; improving early warning systems; and support science in a mission to shorten the cycle for the development of safe and effective vaccines, treatments and tests from 300 to 100 days.

Strengthen our economies by moving forward with recovery plans that build on the \$12 trillion recovery plans that build on the \$12 billion of support we have support we have put in place during the pandemic. We will continue to support our economies for as long as it takes, shifting the focus of our support from crisis response to growth promotion toward of our support from responding to the crisis to promoting growth into the future, with plans that will create jobs, invest in infrastructure, innovation, support people, and move up the ladder so that no place or person up the ladder so that no place or person, regardless of age, ethnicity or gender, is left behind. This has not been the case in past global crises, and we are determined that this time it will be we are determined that this time it will be different.

Access the full press release via the QR code.



EU-UK relations: Commission proposes draft mandate for negotiations on Gibraltar



The European Commission has adopted a Recommendation for a Council decision authorising the opening of negotiations for an EU-UK agreement on Gibraltar

It is now for the Council to adopt this draft mandate, after which the Commission can begin formal negotiations with the United Kingdom.

Gibraltar was not included in the scope of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement agreed between the EU and UK at the end of 2020. The Commission committed to begin the negotiation of a separate agreement on Gibraltar, should Spain request so. That is why the Commission is now recommending that the Council authorises the launch of specific negotiations on Gibraltar.

DRAFT MANDATE

This Recommendation builds upon the political understanding reached between Spain and the UK on 31 December last year. It is without prejudice to the issues of sovereignty and jurisdiction, and focuses on cooperation in the region.

The proposed negotiating directives put forward solutions to remove physical checks and controls on persons and goods at the land border between Spain and Gibraltar, while ensuring the integrity of the Schengen area and the Single Market. The proposals include rules establishing

responsibility for asylum, returns, visas, residence permits, and operational police cooperation and information exchange.

Other measures are included in different areas, such as land and air transport, the rights of cross border workers, the environment, financial support, and establishing a level playing field. It envisages a robust governance mechanism, including a review of the implementation of the agreement after four years, the possibility for both parties to terminate the agreement at any time and the possibility of unilateral suspension of the application of the agreement under certain circumstances.

Spain, as the neighbouring Schengen Member State and as the Member State to be entrusted with the application and implementation of certain

provisions of the future agreement, will be particularly affected by the agreement. The Commission will therefore maintain close contacts with the Spanish authorities throughout the negotiations and afterwards, taking their views duly into account.

With regard to external border control, in circumstances requiring increased technical and operational support, any Member State, including Spain, may request Frontex assistance in implementing its obligations. The Commission acknowledges that Spain has already expressed its full intention to ask Frontex for assistance.



INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS AGENDA



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**10
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FULL AGENDA

<https://bit.ly/3uUTWNp>

The European Union and its institutions act in a cross-cutting manner in a number of areas including EU enlargement and accession negotiations, international relations, issues relating to the institutional structure of the EU and external action matters, all with the aim of delivering and promoting the EU as a community of values, advocating a comprehensive and efficient approach to protect and promote the rule of law in the EU.

European Commission endorses Spain's recovery and resilience plan



The European Commission has adopted a positive assessment of Spain's recovery and resilience plan

The European Commission has adopted a positive assessment of Spain's recovery and resilience plan. This is an important step towards the EU disbursing €69.5 billion in grants under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) over the period 2021-2026. This financing will support the implementation of the crucial investment and reform measures outlined in Spain's recovery and resilience plan. It will play a key role in enabling Spain to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RRF – at the heart of NextGenerationEU – will provide up to €672.5 billion (in current prices) to support investments and reforms across the EU.

The Commission assessed Spain's plan based on the criteria set out in the RRF Regulation. The Commission's analysis considered, in particular, whether the investments and reforms set out in Spain's plan contribute to effectively addressing challenges identified in the context of the European Semester; contain measures that effectively support the green and digital transitions; and contribute to strengthening the growth potential, job creation and

economic and social resilience of the Member State.

SECURING SPAIN'S GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION

The Commission's assessment finds that Spain's plan devotes 40% of its total allocation to measures that support climate objectives. This includes measures to promote urban and long-distance sustainable mobility, increase the energy efficiency of buildings, decarbonise industry and reduce energy dependency, as well as to deploy new technologies for green hydrogen and renewables.

REINFORCING SPAIN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE

The Commission's assessment considers that Spain's plan includes an extensive set of mutually reinforcing reforms and investments that contribute to effectively addressing all or a significant subset of the economic and social challenges outlined in the country-specific recommendations (CSRs) addressed to Spain by the Council in the European Semester in 2019 and in 2020.

SUPPORTING FLAGSHIP INVESTMENT AND REFORM PROJECTS

Spain's plan proposes projects in all seven European flagship areas. These are specific investment projects which address issues that are common to all Member States in areas that create jobs and growth and are needed for the twin transition.



New VAT rules for e-commerce in the EU



The EU's VAT system was last updated in 1993 and has not kept pace with the rise of international e-commerce

New value added tax (VAT) rules for online shopping came into force this week. This development comes in the context of efforts to ensure a more level playing field for all businesses, simplify cross-border e-commerce and introduce greater transparency for EU shoppers in terms of prices and choice.

WHAT IS CHANGING?

As of July 1, 2021, several aspects of the application of VAT to online sales will change, regardless of whether consumers buy from traders inside or outside the EU:

Under the current system, goods with a value of less than €22 imported into the Union by non-EU businesses are exempt from VAT. From tomorrow, this exemption will be abolished so that VAT will be applied to all goods entering the EU, as is the case for goods sold by EU companies

Currently, e-commerce sellers have to have their VAT number in each member state where they have a turnover above a certain overall threshold, which varies from country to country. From July 1, these different thresholds will be replaced by a common EU threshold of EUR 10,000, above which VAT will be payable in the Member

State where the goods are delivered.

Instead of facing cumbersome procedures in other countries, they can register in their own Member State and in their own language. Once registered, the online retailer can declare and pay VAT on all its sales in the EU by means of a quarterly return submitted through the one-stop shop. The One-Stop-Shop will then transmit the VAT to the relevant Member State.

Similarly, the introduction of a one-stop import shop for non-EU sellers will allow them to easily register for VAT in the EU and ensure that the correct amount of VAT reaches the relevant Member State. For consumers, this brings much more transparency.



EU and US take decisive step to end aircraft dispute



The two parties will work together to jointly analyze and address non-commercial practices of third parties that may be detrimental to our major civil aviation sectors

European Commission Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai have reached an agreement on major airlines, transforming nearly 17 years of disputes into a new platform for collaboration to address bilateral issues and global challenges. Both sides will now seek to overcome long-standing differences to avoid future litigation and preserve a level playing field between our aircraft manufacturers, and will also work to prevent new differences from arising.

The EU and the U.S. also agreed to suspend \$11.5 billion worth of tari-

ffs over a five-year period that hurt businesses and individuals on both sides of the Atlantic.

AIRBUS-BOEING CONFLICT

The dispute between the European Union and the United States, known as the Airbus-Boeing dispute, is the longest-running dispute in the history of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It began in 2004, when the U.S. filed a WTO case against the EU, arguing that the bloc was illegally subsidizing European large civil aircraft manufacturer (LCA) Airbus. The EU also denounced the U.S. in May 2005 for its illegal support of Boeing.

Following the WTO rulings, both the US. (in October 2019) and the EU (in November 2020) imposed punitive tariffs on each other's exports, affecting a total value of \$11.5 billion between the two sides. As a result, EU and US companies have had to pay more than \$3.3 billion in duties.



Is it time to shorten the 40-hour workweek?



Researchers are calling for a shorter working week to boost productivity and lower burnout

Do you feel a bit sluggish after weekends? Would taking Friday or Monday off do the trick? Researchers from UK think tank Autonomy and the non-profit Association for Sustainability and Democracy (Alda) tend to agree in their joint report. They claim that 40-hour workweeks aren't necessary and even harmful to our well-being.

GETTING USED TO A NEW WAY OF WORKING

The report presents the results of a large-scale 4-day-week trial held in Iceland between 2015 and 2019. More than 1 % (2 500) of the country's working population participated in the pilot programme. Public sector employees cut their working hours by about 5 hours a week, or 35-36 hours instead of 40, with no reduction in overall pay. Findings showed that productivity and services remained the same or improved across most settings. Well-being improved considerably, from stress and burnout to health and work-life balance.

WILL 4-DAY WORKWEEKS BECOME A THING?

Unsurprisingly, most participants wanted to carry on with the 4-day arrangement. Today, 86 % of Iceland's workforce are working less hours or earning the right to shorten their hours.

"Recognition of the coming impact of automation and technological change on our working lives, alongside a burgeoning desire to spend less time tied up in work has put a reduction in working hours firmly on the policy-making table," concluded the report. "The ongoing Covid pandemic has only accelerated this, fuelling rapid transitions to remote work, and unexpected increases in

free time as workers have abandoned their commutes or found themselves placed on reduced working hours. It has become more and more clear that few wish to return to pre-pandemic working conditions: a desire for a reduced working week is set to define 'the new normal'."

Could the 4-day week be the start of a new trend as we continue to adapt to the impact of COVID-19 and Industry 4.0? Ask your higher-ups what they think. You might want to show them this article first!



First COVID-19 vaccine approved for children aged 12 to 15 in EU



EMA's human medicines committee (CHMP) has recommended granting an extension of indication for the COVID-19 vaccine Comirnaty to include use in children aged 12 to 15. The vaccine is already approved for use in adults and adolescents aged 16 and above



Comirnaty is a vaccine for preventing COVID-19. It contains a molecule called messenger RNA (mRNA) with instructions for producing a protein, known as the spike protein, naturally present in SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The vaccine works by preparing the body to defend itself against SARS-CoV-2.

The use of the Comirnaty vaccine in children from 12 to 15 will be the same as it is in people aged 16 and above. It is given as two injections in the muscles of the upper arm, given three weeks apart.

The effects of Comirnaty in children were investigated in 2,260 children aged 12 to 15 years. This study was carried out in accordance with Comirnaty's paediatric investigation plan (PIP), which was agreed by EMA's

Paediatric Committee (PDCO). The trial showed that the immune response to Comirnaty in this group was comparable to the immune response in the 16 to 25 age group (as measured by the level of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2). The efficacy of Comirnaty was calculated in close to 2,000 children from 12 to 15 years of age who had no sign of previous infection. These received either the vaccine or a placebo (a dummy injection), without knowing which one they were given. Of the 1,005 children receiving the vaccine, none developed COVID-19 compared to 16 children out of the 978 who received the dummy injection.

The most common side effects in children aged 12 to 15 are similar to those in people aged 16 and above. They include pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle

and joint pain, chills and fever. These effects are usually mild or moderate and improve within a few days from the vaccination.

HOW COMIRNATY WORKS?

Comirnaty works by preparing the body to defend itself against COVID-19. It contains a molecule called messenger RNA (mRNA) which has instructions for making the spike protein. This is a protein on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which the virus needs to enter the body's cells.

When a person is given the vaccine, some of their cells will read the mRNA instructions and temporarily produce the spike protein. The person's immune system will then recognise this protein as foreign and produce antibodies and activate T cells (white blood cells) to attack it.

If, later on, the person comes into contact with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, their immune system will recognise it and be ready to defend the body against it.

The mRNA from the vaccine does not stay in the body but is broken down shortly after vaccination.

Digital COVID Certificate enters into application



The purpose of the EU digital COVID certificate is to facilitate free and secure movement within the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic

On July 1st, the EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulation came into force. This means that EU citizens and residents will now be able to issue and verify their digital COVID certificates throughout the EU. Twenty-one member states, plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, had already started issuing certificates before the July 1 deadline and five more started this day.

EU DIGITAL COVID CERTIFICATE

The aim of the EU Digital COVID Certificate is to facilitate safe and free movement in the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic. All Europeans have the right to free movement, also without the certificate, but the certificate will facilitate travel, helping to exempt holders from restrictions such as quarantine.

The EU Digital COVID Certificate will be accessible for everyone and it:

- covers COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery;
- is free of charge and available in all EU languages;
- is available in a digital and paper-based format;
- is secure and include a digitally signed QR code;

Under the new rules, Member States must refrain from imposing additional travel restrictions on holders of an EU Digital COVID Certificate, unless they are necessary and proportionate to safeguard public health.

In addition, the Commission committed to mobilising €100 million under the Emergency Support Instrument to support Member States in providing affordable tests.

BACKGROUND

On 17 March 2021, the European Commission presented a proposal to create an EU COVID Certificate to facilitate the safe free movement of citizens within the EU during the pandemic. On 20 May, co-legislators reached a provisional agreement. On 1 June, the technical backbone of the systems, the EU gateway, went live, which allows the verification of the security features contained in the QR codes. In time for the 1 July deadline, all 30 EU and EEA countries are linked live to the gateway. As of 1 June, the first Member States started to issue certificates; in total, 21 EU countries anticipated the deadline of 1 July.

Following the official signature on 14 June, the Regulation was published on 15 June. It enters into application today, 1 July, with a phasing-in period of six weeks for the issuance of certificates for those Member States that need additional time.



Protein-rich legumes and quinoa in the plant-based food alternatives spotlight



EU-funded researchers say chickpeas, fava beans, lentils and quinoa are ideal crops for cultivation in Europe and could help the shift towards a more nutritional, environmentally friendly and sustainable food system

Not all crops are traded across the globe. Some are only important at a regional level and are typically eaten as part of local diets. Because they aren't traded internationally, these crops – labelled orphan crops by the western world – tend to receive little attention from crop breeders and researchers and therefore lag behind in terms of modern cultivation methods.

Researchers working for the EU-funded SMART PROTEIN project are now focusing on four of these orphan crops – chickpeas, fava beans, lentils and quinoa – that they think are highly suitable for cultivation on European soil. At present, the crops are mainly produced in Africa, Asia and South America, and imported to Europe.

The project team is studying these crops with the ultimate aim of developing healthy plant-based alternatives to meat. As SMART PROTEIN project coordinator Dr Emanuele Zannini of University College Cork, Ireland, stated in an article posted on the project website, the four crops were selected based on a preliminary investigation conducted by PROTEIN2FOOD, another EU-funded



project.

NUTRITIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Legumes such as chickpeas, lentils and fava beans are packed with protein, fibre and other nutrients. They can offer a natural and nutritious plant-based alternative to meat. More importantly, in the drive to fight climate change, their cultivation is less harmful to the environment and can help reduce the consumption of animal products. Increasingly popular quinoa contains B vitamins, magnesium and phosphorous as well as all nine essential amino acids. This protein crop is highly resistant to adverse conditions such as droughts and saline soils (soils that inhi-

bit crop growth due to their high salt concentrations). Of all the crops the PROTEIN2FOOD project studied, quinoa was found to be the most suitable crop for cultivation across Europe. "These crops are underutilized. All four crops are important sources for protein and can play an important role in a sustainable diet," observed Senior Communications Manager Paloma Nosten of SMART PROTEIN partner ProVeg International in a news item posted on the 'Food Ingredients First' website.

Over half of adults in the EU are overweight



Spain should have taken into account illegal water abstractions and those destined for urban supply in the estimation of groundwater abstractions in the Doñana region

While 45% of adults living in the EU had a normal weight in 2019, slightly more than half (53%) were considered as overweight (36% pre-obese and 17% obese) and almost 3% as underweight, according to their body mass index (BMI). BMI is a measure of a person's weight relative to their height that links fairly well with body fat.

With the exception of those aged 75 or over, the older the age group, the higher the share of overweight people: the lowest share was recorded among those aged 18 to 24 (25%), while those aged 65 to 74 had the highest share (66%) – similarly for the obesity rate (6% vs. 22%).

The pattern is also clear for education level: the proportion of overweight people falls as the educational level rises: while the percentage of overweight adults among those with low education level stood at 59% in 2019, it was 54% for those with a medium education level and 44% for adults with a high education level. Obesity rate also decreases with the education level: from 20% of

adults with low and 17% with medium to 11% of adults with high education level.

This information comes from the first results of the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS; third wave) published by Eurostat today. The EHIS measures the health status, health determinants and use of health care services of EU citizens.

This news item shows a handful of findings from the more detailed Statistics Explained article on overweight and obesity statistics.

ITALY THE LEAST OVERWEIGHT COUNTRY

The proportion of overweight adults varies across the EU Member States, with the highest shares recorded in Croatia and Malta, where 65% of adults were considered overweight in 2019.

In contrast, the lowest shares were recorded in Italy (46%), France (47%) and Luxembourg (48%).



Large investors vs Bankia



The CJEU has ruled that qualified investors can also hold Bankia liable for the inaccuracies contained in the prospectus for its IPO

The case pits Bankia against Unión Mutua Asistencial de Seguros (UMAS), a qualified investor who participated in the bank's IPO and subscribed to a purchase order for 160,000 shares at a price of 3.75 euros per share. UMAS seeks a declaration of nullity on the grounds of error of consent in the purchase of shares and a declaration of Bankia's liability in the alternative for lack of truthfulness in the prospectus for the issue.

IT DOES NOT COVER ONLY RETAIL INVESTORS

The Supreme Court asked the Court of Justice of the EU whether the prospectus liability action covers both retail and qualified investors when addressed to both, or only retail investors.

The judgment determines that, in the case of a public offer for subscription of shares addressed to both retail investors and qualified investors, the action for liability for the information contained in the prospectus "does not cover only retail investors but also qualified investors". The CJEU therefore considers that it is

legitimate for institutional investors to be able to rely on the information contained in the prospectus, which is presumed to be "complete" and "reliable". Even so, the court also concludes that the EU directive does not preclude the provisions of Spanish law that allow the judge to take into consideration the fact that an investor could or should have more information in addition to the information made available to all potential

legitimate to invoke".

Thus, as long as there is a prospectus, "it should be possible to bring a civil liability action for the information in the prospectus, regardless of the status of the investor who considers himself to have been harmed".

SPANISH LAW

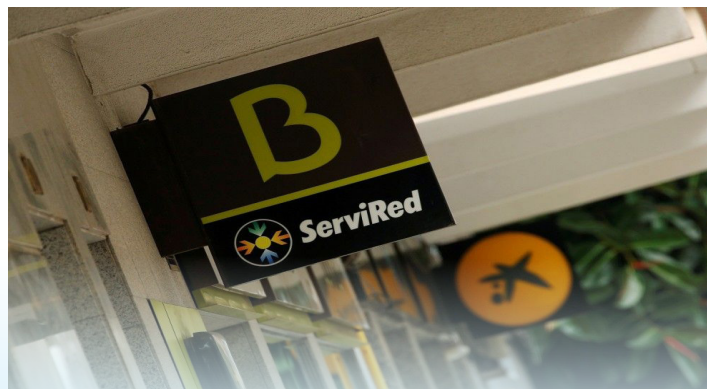
The EU Court of Justice upholds Spanish rules that allow a judge to take

into account whether a qualified investor "has or should have knowledge" of the financial situation of a listed company "on the basis of his relations with the company and outside the prospectus" and even "obliges the judge to take that fact into account".

However, it adds that this is possible as long as it does not result in "less favourable" treatment than "similar" actions under national law "and does not have the practical effect of making it impossible or excessively difficult to bring an action for liability".

purchasers.

The European judges argue that "it cannot be deduced" from the EU directive that qualified investors "do not have the possibility of bringing an action for liability" because, in the case of a mixed offer, all investors to whom it is addressed "regardless of their status, have that document, which allegedly contains complete and reliable information that it is le-



CJEU: the sound produced when a beverage can is opened cannot be registered as a trademark



The Court gives a ruling for the first time on the registration of a sound mark submitted in audio format

An audio file containing the sound made by the opening of a drinks can, followed by silence and a fizzing sound, cannot be registered as a trade mark in respect of various drinks and for metal containers for storage or transport, in so far as it is not distinctive.

Ardagh Metal Beverage Holdings GmbH & Co. KG filed an application for registration of a sound sign as an EU trade mark with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). That sign, submitted as an audio file, recalls the sound made by a drinks can being opened, followed by a silence of approximately one second and a fizzing sound lasting approximately nine seconds. Registration was sought in respect of various drinks and metal containers for storage or transport.

EUIPO rejected the application for registration on the ground that the mark applied for was not distinctive.

In its judgment, the Court dismisses the action brought by Ardagh Metal Beverage Holdings and gives a ruling for the first time on the registration of a sound mark submitted in audio format. It clarifies the criteria for assessing the distinctive character of sound marks and the perception of those marks in general by consumers

FINDINGS OF THE COURT

First of all, the Court recalls that the criteria for assessing the distinctive character of sound marks do not differ from those applicable to other categories of marks and a sound mark must have a certain resonance which enables the target consumer to perceive it as a trade mark and not as a functional element or as an indicator without any inherent characteristics. Thus, the consumer of the goods or services in question must, by the simple per-



ception of the sound mark, without its being combined with other elements such as, inter alia, word or figurative elements, or even another mark, be able to associate it with their commercial origin.

Germany systematically and persistently exceeded limit values for nitrogen dioxide between 2010 and 2016



CJEU declares that Germany failed to comply with the Air Quality Directive by systematically and persistently exceeding the annual limit value for nitrogen dioxide

By this judgment, the Court of Justice held that Germany had infringed the Air Quality Directive by systematically and persistently exceeding, as from 1 January 2010 up to and including 2016, the annual limit value for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in 26 of the 89 zones and agglomerations assessed.

The infringement concerns the agglomeration of Berlin, the agglomeration and district of Stuttgart, the district of Tübingen, the agglomeration of Freiburg, the district of Karlsruhe (without agglomerations), the agglomeration of Mannheim/Heidelberg, the agglomeration of Munich, the agglomeration of Nuremberg/Fürth/Erlangen, Zone III Central and Northern Hesse, the agglomeration I Rhine-Main, the agglomeration II Kassel, the agglomeration of Hamburg, Grevenbroich (Rhineland mining area), Cologne, Düsseldorf, Essen, Duisburg/Oberhausen/Mülheim, Hagen, Dortmund, Wuppertal, Aachen, urban and rural areas in North Rhine-Westphalia, Mainz, Worms/Frankenthal/Ludwigshafen and Koblenz/Neuwied.

Furthermore, Germany infringed the directive by systematically and persistently exceeding, during that pe-

riod, the hourly limit value for NO₂ in two of those zones, namely the agglomeration of Stuttgart and the agglomeration I Rhine-Main.

In addition, by not adopting, as from 11 June 2010, appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the limit values for NO₂ in all the zones at issue, Germany has failed to fulfil its obligations under the directive and, in particular, the obligation to ensure that air quality plans provide appropriate measures so that the period during which the limit values are exceeded is kept as short as possible.



CJEU ruling against Spain for failing to comply with several of its obligations to protect Doñana



Spain should have taken into account illegal water abstractions and those destined for urban supply in the estimation of groundwater abstractions in the Doñana region

The Doñana Natural Area in Andalusia includes, among others, the Doñana National Park and the Doñana Natural Park. In 2006, three outstanding conservation areas of European importance under the Habitats Directive were established in this Natural Park: Doñana (already a bird protection area since 1987), Doñana North and West, and Dehesa del Estero and Montes de Moguer.

In 2009, the Commission and Parliament received several complaints and petitions denouncing the deterioration of habitats in the Doñana Protected Natural Area. Outside these conservation areas, Doñana is also home to Europe's most important 'soft fruit' (especially strawberries) cultivation areas, which are irrigated to a considerable extent by groundwater extraction. This abstraction exceeds groundwater recharge in certain areas, with the result that the groundwater level in these areas is falling.

The Commission took the view that that situation constituted a breach of EU law; in particular, a breach of the prohibition on deterioration imposed by the Water Framework Directive and, as regards various habitats in conservation areas which have dried up as a result of the declining groundwater level, also of the prohibition on

deterioration contained in the Habitats Directive. It therefore brought an action for failure to fulfil obligations against Spain before the Court of Justice of the European Communities. Spain before the Court of Justice for failure to fulfil obligations.

In its judgment delivered yesterday, the Court of Justice upholds in part the action brought by the Commission. It finds that Spain has failed to fulfil its obligations under the Water Framework Directive in two respects:

First, Spain failed to take account of unlawful water abstractions and water abstractions for urban supply in the estimation of groundwater abstractions in the Doñana district in the context of the additional characterisation of the Guadalquivir Hydrological Plan 2015-2021.

Secondly, Spain did not provide, within the programme of measures laid down in that hydrological plan, for any measures to prevent the alteration of the protected habitat types located in the 'Doñana' protected area caused by the abstraction of groundwater to supply the tourist resort of Matalascañas (Huelva).



CROWN: European multifunction radiofrequency system project launched

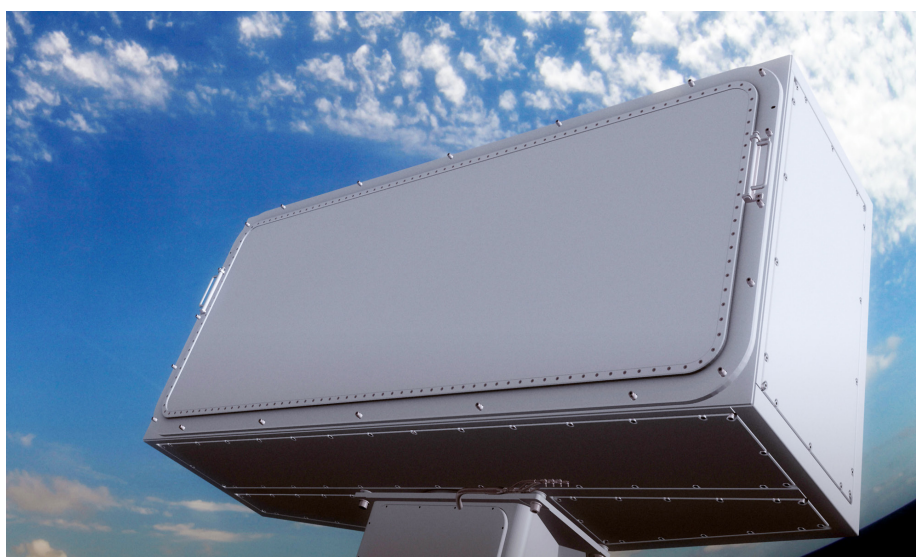


The CROWN project will focus on a European active electronic scanning system with combined radar, communications and electronic warfare functions for military applications

The project, with a budget of approximately €10 million and a duration of 30 months, was selected under the 2019 call for proposals for 'Electromagnetic Spectrum Dominance' under the EDA-managed EU Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR). The CROWN consortium is coordinated by Indra (Spain) and brings together 11 leading industry members, research centres and an SME from seven EU countries. The project was officially launched at an online kick-off meeting on 6 and 7 July 2021, with the participation of the consortium members, EDA and European Commission representatives.

CROWN will lay the foundation for designing and building a next-generation multifunction radiofrequency (RF) system based on Active Electronically Scanned Arrays (AESA) technology for a broad range of applications, to become available in several military domains within the next decade.

The planned activities include R&D assessment and recommendations on critical technologies, R&T activities on system and component level as well as designing, manufacturing and testing of a small-scale prototype.



pe.

CONSORCIO CROWN

CROWN – European active electronically scanned array with Combined Radar, cOmmunications, and electronic Warfare fuNctions for military applications – brings together 11 participants from 7 countries:

Indra (Spain), Thales (France), Office National d'Etudes et de Recherches Aérospatiales – ONERA (France), Hensoldt Sensors (Germany), Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft (Germany), Saab (Sweden), Totalforsvarets Forskningsinstitut – FOI (Sweden), Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek – TNO (Netherlands), Leonardo (Italy), Elettronica (Italy) and Baltijos Pazangiu Technologiju Institutas – BPTI (Lithuania).

ABOUT THE PADR

The CROWN project is part of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) launched by the European Commission in 2017 to assess and demonstrate the added-value of EU supported defence research and technology (R&T). It paved the way for a proper European Defence Programme to come as part of the European Defence Fund (EDF), under the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027).

New EDA helicopter training simulator inaugurated

COMPLETE ARTICLE



The new simulator, a state-of-the-art piece of technology, will enable the training center to provide ground and simulator training for the various tactical helicopter courses.

26th May, a new helicopter mission simulator installed at EDA's helicopter training centre at Sintra Airbase in Portugal was officially inaugurated during a joint visit by Portuguese Defence Minister João Gomes Cravinho, EDA Chief Executive Jiří Šedivý, EU Military Committee (EUMC) Chairman General Claudio Graziano as well as representatives from all EU Member States.

The new simulator, a top-notch piece of technology, will allow the training centre to deliver the ground and simulator training parts of the different helicopter tactical courses organised under EDA's Helicopter Exercise Programme (HEP) as well as the Helicopter Tactics Course (HTC) programme and the Helicopter Tactics Instructor Course (HTIC) programme.

At the same time, it will help prepare the transition of EDA's full range of helicopter training activities to the future Multinational Helicopter Training Centre (MHTC) which is expected to reach its initial operational capability in October 2023. Between now and then, EDA expects to deliver three more multinational 'Blade' exercises (the first of them, Hot Blade 21, will take place later this month in Portugal), two HEP helicopter tactics symposia, 15 HTC, three HTIC, seven Electronic Warfare and four Composite Air Operations planning courses.

The future MHTC is expected to host around 35 weeks of training per year in its facilities. This will significantly contribute to standardising helicopter tactics training in Europe and enhancing interoperability between Member States' helicopter crews. Portugal, as the host nation of the current EDA helicopter training centre and the future MHTC, has very actively supported EDA in the build-up of this centre and will lead the process to develop and implement the next generation of helicopter trainings at the MHTC.

FIRST SUCCESSFUL TRAINING

The new state-of-the-art training simulator has already successfully undergone its baptism of fire on 17 May when EDA's 67th Helicopter Tactics Course (HTC) was held at Sintra Airbase. The simulator was used for the first time, providing realistic and synthetic training to helicopter crews in an immersive environment that replicates the operational scenarios and environmental conditions in which rotary wing may operate. Two crews from Portugal and two from Germany participated in this training that used the latest simulation software, including virtual reality devices.



New R&D project to focus on interoperability standards for unmanned systems



The objective of this European Commission-funded project is to create the basis for a future European interoperability standard for unmanned military systems

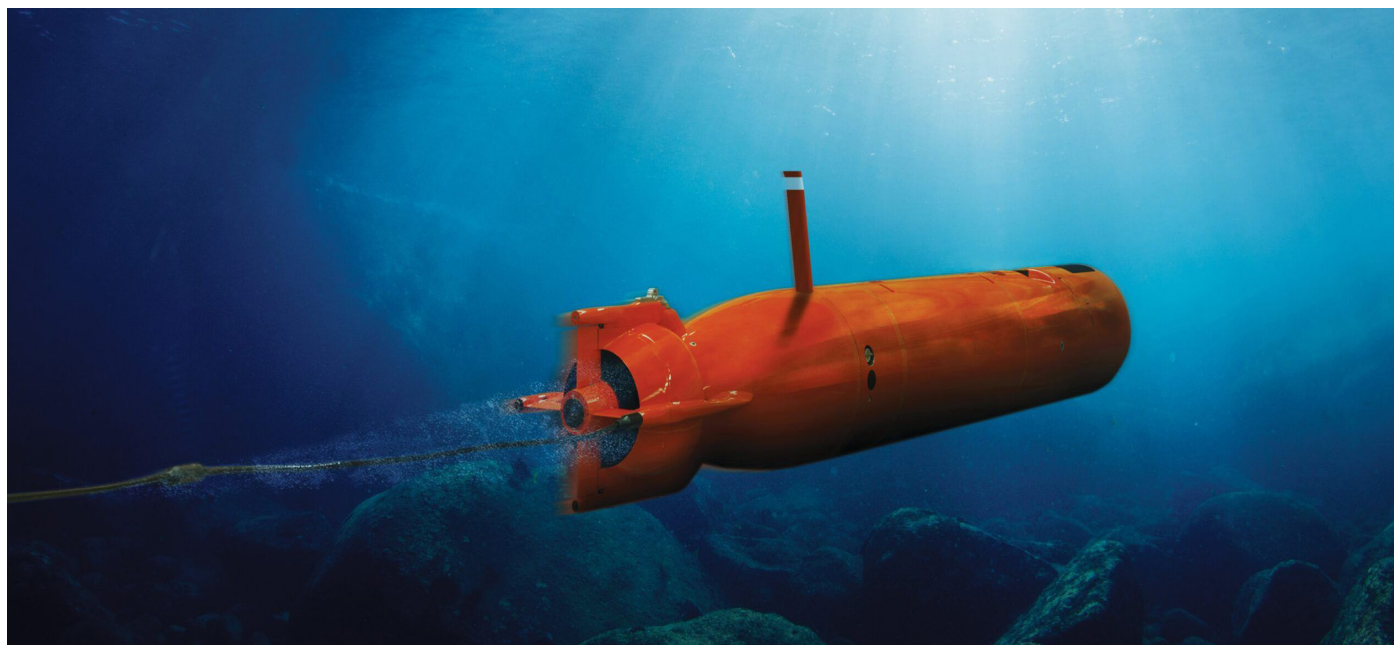
The aim of this 1.5 M€ project, financed by the European Commission, is to create a basis for a future European interoperability standard for military unmanned systems. For that purpose, the technical knowledge and operational experience available in Europe on control, monitoring, and application of unmanned systems will be integrated for the concept definition of a future European cross-industry interoperability standard. This standard will allow unmanned assets to be deployed flexibly in different configurations, such as singular deployment, in manned-unmanned teaming or as autonomous swarms independent of organisational or national provenance.

For this project an important consortium of 19 members including research and technology organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises as well as large industrial groups has been set up by the consortium coordinator Fraunhofer-Institut für Optronik, Systemtechnik und Bildauswertung (IOSB). The fact that so many different entities are working together in this project was praised at the kick-off meeting as a very good start to set the way for a common unmanned systems standard.

ABOUT THE PADR

The INTERACT project is part of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research launched by the European Commission in 2017 to assess

and demonstrate the added-value of EU supported defence research and technology. It paved the way for a proper European Defence Programme to come as part of the European Defence Fund (EDF), under the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027). The PADR implementation is run by EDA following the mandate via a delegation agreement between the European Commission and EDA signed on 31 May 2017.



Latest cyber-attacks on the EU



Recent attacks against key infrastructure in the EU confirm the need for stringent cybersecurity requirements for connected devices, applications and operating systems

MEPs call for tighter EU cybersecurity standards for connected devices, apps and operating systems, amid recent cyberattacks on critical infrastructure in the EU.

- Hybrid threats and cyberattacks on infrastructure are increasing
- Call for tighter standards amid boom in connected devices
- COVID19 crisis has exposed the cyber vulnerabilities of critical sector.

MEPs welcome the European Commission's plans to propose horizontal legislation on cybersecurity requirements for connected products and associated services, but also want the Commission to attempt to harmonise national laws in order to avoid the fragmentation of the Single Market.

The text also demands legislation imposing cybersecurity requirements for apps, software, embedded software (that control various devices and machines that are not computers) and operating systems (software that runs a computer's basic functions) by 2023.

HYBRID THREATS

MEPs warn that hybrid threats, i.e. methods or activities used by hostile state or non-state actors to target democratic states and institutions, are increasing and are

becoming more sophisticated. This includes the use of disinformation campaigns and cyberattacks on infrastructure, economic processes and democratic institutions. They fear the impact on elections, legislative procedures, law enforcement and justice.

Moreover, the COVID19 crisis has again exposed the cyber vulnerabilities of some critical sectors, in particular healthcare, while teleworking and social distance has increased our dependency on digital technologies and connectivity. MEPs note the recent series of cyberattacks on healthcare systems such as in Ireland, Finland and France, which cause significant damage to healthcare systems and patient care, they say.

BACKGROUND

The Internet of Things is made of connected devices such as machines, sensors, industrial components and networks that are quickly increasing in number, with 22.3 billion devices expected to be linked to the Internet worldwide by 2024.

MEPs note that cybersecurity awareness among individuals and businesses remains low and that there is a shortage of skilled workers in the sector. Cybersecurity capabilities are also heterogeneous among Member States amid a lack of EU agreement on cyber intelligence collaboration and collective response against cyber and hybrid attacks.

COVID-19 in Europe: increased pollution from masks, gloves and other single-use plastics



EEA report analyzes the effect of the pandemic on the use of certain single-use plastic products, which can end up littering the environment

The responses to COVID-19 have resulted in increased use of certain products made from long-lasting single-use plastics, according to the EEA briefing 'Impacts of COVID-19 on single-use plastic in Europe's environment'. Increased production and consumption of masks and gloves, which have been essential to protect people's health, and certain types of food packaging resulted in additional greenhouse gas and other emissions, as well as litter that can harm ecosystems and animals.

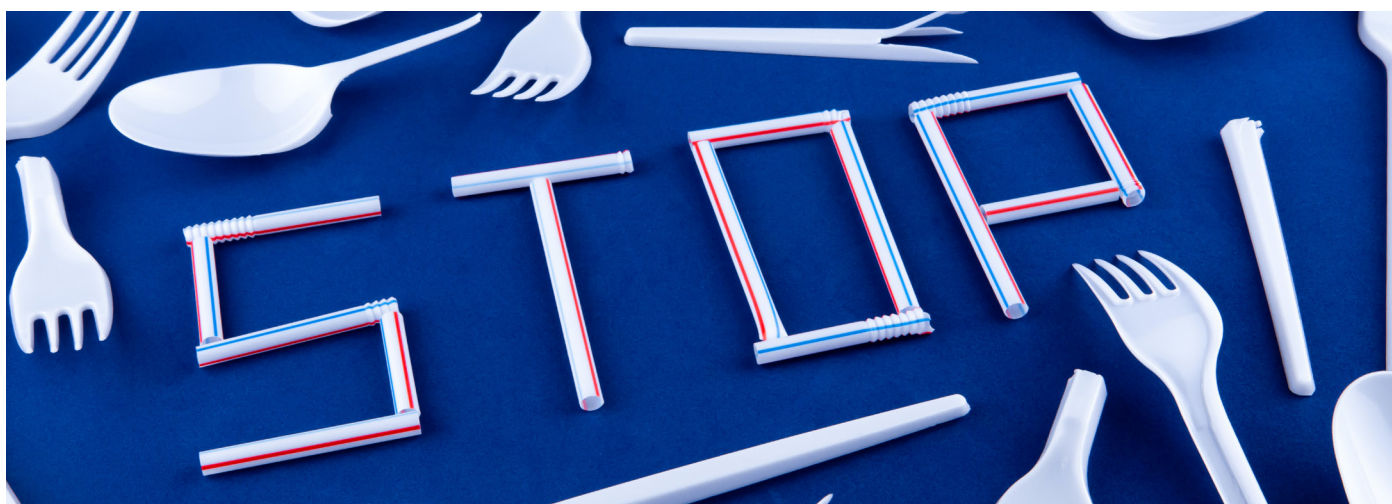
Imports of face masks and gloves into the European Union (EU) more than doubled during the first half year of the pandemic, and the EU's domestic production was also growing. The EEA briefing estimates that about 170 000 additional tonnes of face masks, or about 0.75 face masks per

person per day, were imported to the EU during that period, resulting in additional greenhouse gas emissions and other types of pollution. The briefing further estimates that reusable cotton masks become more climate friendly after about 13 washes but notes that reusable masks may not provide the same level of protection, which should always be the primary consideration.

The use of plastic packaging also changed during the pandemic but, instead of increasing, the EU's domestic production of plastic packaging decreased rapidly during the first months of the pandemic and then bounced back by October 2020 when restrictions were lifted in many countries, the EEA briefing shows. During the lock-downs, restaurants shifted to take-away and deliveries, increasing the use of single-use plas-

tic food containers. However, the same lockdowns may have reduced overall sales of on-the-go snacks, reducing the need for plastic for that purpose.

The briefing outlines several responses to be better prepared for future disruptions and uncertainties, including research on alternative materials and product designs, strategies to reduce littering, options for sanitising medical products, better recycling, and circular business models.



How many electric cars are sold in Europe?



In 2020, the European Union (EU) exported close to 5.2 million cars (petrol, diesel, electric and hybrid electric cars), while 3.0 million cars were imported

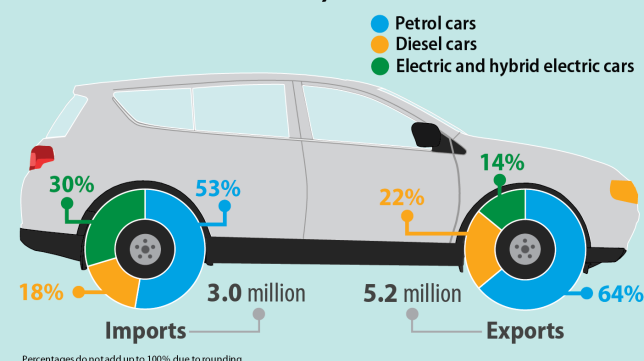
Petrol cars accounted for the majority of exported cars (64% of extra-EU car exports), followed by diesel cars (22%) and electric & hybrid electric cars (14%). In terms of imports, petrol cars accounted for over a half of extra-EU car imports (53%), followed by electric and hybrid electric cars (30%) and diesel cars (18%).

When looking at the 725 thousand exported electric cars and hybrid electric cars in detail: almost half of them were non-plug-in hybrid (49%), while around a quarter each were electric (27%) or plug-in hybrid (24%). Out of 892 thousand imported electric and hybrid electric cars, a half were non-plug-in hybrid (50%), a third were electric (34%) and plug-in hybrid accounted for the remaining share (16%).

RECENT TRENDS IN CAR TRADE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Despite the general decrease in trade following the restrictive measures taken in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the EU's exports and imports of electric and hybrid electric cars continued to gradually increase. Compared with 2017, extra-EU exports of electric and hybrid electric cars recorded almost a fivefold increase from 150 thousand exported cars in 2017 to 725 thousand in 2020, while extra-EU imports almost tripled from 301 thousand imported cars in 2017 to 892 thousand in 2020.

Extra-EU trade in cars, 2020

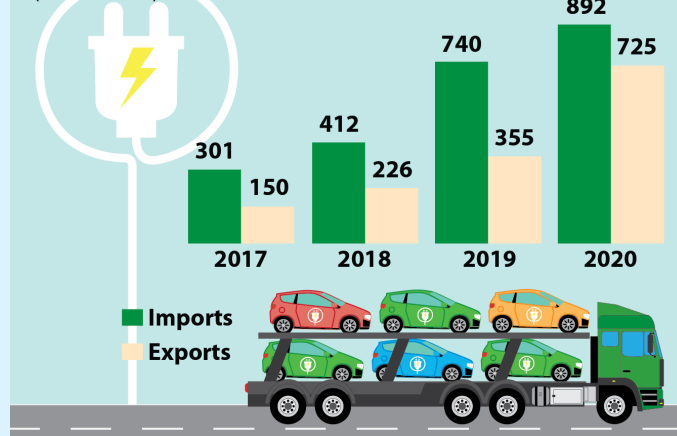


HALF OF ELECTRIC AND HYBRID ELECTRIC CAR IMPORTS FROM JAPAN AND THE US

In 2020, the main destinations for EU exports of electric and hybrid electric cars was the United Kingdom (accounting for 39% of exported cars), followed by the United States (16%), Norway (10%) and China (9%).

Almost half of electric and hybrid electric car imports came to the EU from Japan and the United States (each accounting for 23% of imported cars), followed by South Korea (15%), the United Kingdom (14%), Turkey (10%) and China (9%).

Extra-EU trade in electric and hybrid electric cars (in thousands)



European aircraft fleet for the 2021 forest fire season



Above-average seasonal wildfire risk and above-average temperatures are forecast for June through September in the Mediterranean region

To be prepared for any large-scale wild fires this season, the European Commission has set up a European fleet* of 11 firefighting planes and 6 helicopters hosted across Member States under the rescEU system. The Commission also issued guidelines to Member States to strengthen their fire prevention measures.

RESCEU FIREFIGHTING CAPACITIES

- The 2021 rescEU firefighting fleet foresees airplanes and helicopters from six EU Member States, ready to be deployed to other countries in times of need.
- The rescEU firefighting fleet will consist of: 2 firefighting airplanes from Croatia, 2 firefighting airplanes from Greece, 2 firefighting airplanes from Italy, 2 firefighting airplanes from Spain, 6 firefighting helicopters from Sweden.
- This comes in addition to 1 fi-

refighting airplane from France and 2 firefighting airplanes from Sweden which are part of the rescEU fleet on a long term basis.

BACKGROUND

Forest fire prevention, preparedness and response actions are working hand in hand to save lives, livelihoods and protect the environment. Having experienced forest fire experts, well-trained firefighters, information technology and sufficient response assets available makes a difference.

The EU ensures a coordinated approach to preventing, preparing and responding to forest fires when those overwhelm national response capacities. When the scale of a forest fire overwhelms the response capabilities of a country, it can request assistance via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Once activated, the EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre coordinates and finances assistance made available by EU Member States and six additional Participating States through spon-

taneous offers. In addition, the EU has created the European Civil Protection Pool to have a critical number of readily available civil protection capacities allowing for a stronger and coherent collective response. Should the emergency require additional, life-saving assistance, the rescEU firefighting fleet steps in to provide additional capacities to confront disasters in Europe. The EU's Copernicus emergency satellite mapping service complements operations with detailed information from space.



Spain wins the Environment category of the LIFE Awards



This year, a project from the Balearic Islands was the winner in the Environment category

The three winners of the LIFE 2021 awards, which recognise the most innovative, inspiring and effective projects funded by the European Commission's LIFE programme, were announced on 2 June. This year, a project from the Balearic Islands was the winner in the Environment category. Slovakia won in the Nature category and France in the Climate Action category.

In the environment category, the LIFE REUSE POSIDONIA project has reused dried posidonia seaweed, which is very common in the area, as thermal insulation in fourteen social housing units for people with limited resources in Formentera (Balearic Islands). This construction method reduces emissions by 60 %, energy use by 75 % and water use by 60 %.

Two other prizes were also awarded in the nature and climate action categories.

In the nature category, in Slovakia, the LIFE ENERGY project installed 8,600 elements to keep birds away from dangerous high-voltage power lines. Thanks to them, some 700 birds have been prevented from colliding with these wires each year. In addition, 550 trees were planted in the most dangerous areas to give them a better view of the power lines.

In the climate action category, LIFE FORECCAsT has helped forest managers in the Haute Languèdoc Regional Park to implement adaptation strategies against climate change. To do so, they developed a mobile application that allows them to assess the state of the land and optimise water use.

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FISHING AGENDA



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Increased controls and conservation efforts in NAFO's regulatory area

25
MAY

10
JUNE

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EP supports citizen's petition to end cages in farms

28
JUNE

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Agriculture ministers reiterate need for new approach to honey bee protection

28
JUNE

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Agriculture ministers confirm agreement on CAP reform

28-29
JUNE

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Council of Agriculture and Fisheries, June 28 and 29, 2021

6
JULY

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

6.1 billion to support sustainable fisheries and protect fishing communities

FULL AGENDA

<https://bit.ly/3ljEV4y>

The European institutions are working to adopt measures on agriculture and rural development, fisheries and all aspects of the common agricultural policy (CAP).

Union of Equality for pride not prejudice



The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia is a reminder to challenge the discrimination and violence that too many LGBTI people across Europe continue to suffer

Last year, FRA published findings from the largest ever survey on hate crime and discrimination against LGBTI people.

More LGBTI people are now open about who they are. But fear, violence and discrimination remain high.

Two in five respondents say they were harassed the year before the survey. One in five feels discriminated against at work.

In some countries, over 70% of respondents say society is more tolerant now than it was five years ago. But in others, up to 68% say it is less.

And this was before the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

Studies in Member States carried out during the pandemic show a higher negative impact on the mental health of LGBTI people than among the general population. There was also an increase in domestic violence, particularly against young LGBTI people in lockdown.

Access to employment and healthcare became more difficult. A greater than average rate of LGBTI people are unemployed and in precarious jobs. Many experienced heightened stigma as a result of the virus and obstacles when seeking healthcare.

In November 2020, the EU rolled out its first-ever Strategy for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) equality. It aims to address the inequalities and challenges LGBTIQ people face through targeted actions for the next five years.

The strategy particularly focuses on tackling discrimination, ensuring safety and building inclusive societies. This should enable the EU and its Member States to take the necessary steps to protect the fundamental rights of all LGBTIQ people.

Only when Member States ensure equality and respect for fundamental rights, will LGBTIQ people be able to be themselves and live in dignity.

FIGHT

HATE

The company and the gender imbalance created by COVID-19



Women teleworkers are more likely than men to have to care for children or other family members during working hours

COVID-19 has significantly sped up the move towards flexible working. To adapt to the 'new normal', many employers are making long-term changes to their workplace strategies. However, it is important that they also consider how their future workplace model will affect gender equality.

According to a recent report by the Joint Research Centre, women doing paid work from home are more likely than men to be caring for children or other family members during working hours. As a result, women do fewer hours of uninterrupted paid work than men.

Offering flexible working solutions could improve female employees'

work-life balance, but it could also result in offices becoming male dominated. A workplace with a significant gender imbalance can negatively impact the social dynamics of team interactions. It could also affect who gets what work and whose voice is 'heard' – employees who spend more time in the office could be treated more favourably by their managers than those working from home.

Las empresas deberán tomar la iniciativa y adoptar las medidas necesarias para adaptarse a los nuevos modelos de trabajo mixto que vayan surgiendo.

As more mixed working models emerge, businesses need to take proactive steps to manage this. Be-

low we have prepared a few tips that employers can follow to build better gender balance at work.

- Flexible working is for everyone.
- Senior employees can serve as an example.
- Gauge your employees' preferences.
- Train your managers.
- Keep communication channels open.
- Stay flexible.



Gender equality in EU Institutions



Parliament leadership adopts roadmap to achieve gender equality in political processes and its administration

50 % women in middle and senior manager positions and 40% women in top manager positions in the administration. These are the targets the European Parliament's Bureau, comprising the President, Vice-Presidents and Quaestors, set in January 2020. To reach these targets by 2024 the Bureau approved a two-year roadmap of ambitious milestones in political processes and in the Parliament's administration. Currently, 39% and 50% of middle and senior manager positions respectively, are occupied by women, and that number is 23% for top managers.

Chair of Parliament's High-level group on Gender Equality and Diversity, Vice-President Dimitrios Papadimoulis said: "I am very pleased that we have been able to adopt unanimously a roadmap, which for the first time includes not only the administrative but also the political side of the house. This presents not only another opportunity for us to become a leading institution on gender matters, but is also crucial to ensuring that Parliament is truly representative and accessible to the people."

On the political side, Parliament committed itself to strengthening the gender impact analysis of all legisla-

tion and to improving gender balance in the leadership of committees and delegations and in the selection of external experts on panels or as authors of studies. The Bureau also re-emphasises Parliament's zero tolerance policy on harassment.

Regarding the administration, to reach the ambitious targets for gender balance in management positions, selection boards will among other initiatives continue to propose to prioritise the underrepresented gender in situations where the respective merits of candidates are equal. A more gender-balanced approach to work-life balance measures that supports men and women in Parliament, and gender mainstreaming in training and development activities, should also contribute to improving gender equality in the workplace.

Parliament adopted these measures following the proposal by the High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity, chaired by Vice-President Papadimoulis. The group promotes equality, non-discrimination and diversity in Parliament so that it more accurately reflects European society as a whole.



European Parliament vehemently opposed to Hungarian anti-LGBTIQ law



Parliament “condemns in the strongest possible terms” the recent anti-LGBTIQ legislation and denounces the dismantling of democracy and the rule of law in Hungary

In a resolution, adopted with 459 in favour, 147 against, and 58 abstentions on Thursday, MEPs describe the Hungarian law as being in clear breach of fundamental rights enshrined in the EU Charter of fundamental rights, the Treaties and EU internal market legislation.

Yet another attack on democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental rights

Parliament stresses this is not an isolated incident, but “rather constitutes another intentional and premeditated example of the gradual dismantling of fundamental rights in Hungary”, where state-sponsored LGBTIQ-phobia and disinformation campaigns have become tools for political censorship. These human rights violations are part of a broader

political agenda to break down democracy and the rule of law, including media freedom, and should be considered a systemic violation of EU values.

Recent manifestations of this problem include amending the country’s Constitution to declare that “the mother is a female and the father is a male”, and the de facto ban of legal gender recognition for transgender and intersex persons. In this context, MEPs state their unwavering commitment to defend children’s rights, declaring that tolerance, acceptance, and diversity should serve as guiding principles to ensure the best interests of the child are respected.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED

MEPs call on the Commission to launch an accelerated infringement procedure and to use all tools in the Court of Justice, such as interim measures and penalties for non-compliance if necessary. They also call on the member states to bring the matter to the CJEU should the Commission not act, and to launch an inter-state application to the European Court of Human Rights.



What exactly is academic freedom in higher education?



In recent months, a number of articles have been published addressing academic freedom in higher education. But what exactly is academic freedom? And does it matter?

The Rome Communiqué, adopted by European ministers of higher education in 2020, defines academic freedom as the “freedom of academic staff and students to engage in research, teaching, learning and communication in and with society without interference nor fear of reprisal.”

While this definition seems straightforward, it is noteworthy that academic freedom has rarely been defined in international legally-binding documents. This lack of legal underpinning creates problems in assessing when academic freedom is violated. Consider, for example, the high profile case brought to the European Court of Justice by the European Commission against Hungary for introducing higher education legislation in 2017 that in effect outlawed the Central European University (Lex CEU). Although the judgement, which found against Hungary, was heralded as a victory for academic freedom, in reality the case depended primarily on arguments related to unlawfully restricting World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules on trade in services – whilst the violation of academic freedom, as mentioned in the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union was an additional concern.

This judgement has certainly raised awareness of the importance of protecting academic freedom, and the need to establish a commonly-agreed concept. In this respect, the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) has taken an important step, with Ministers in Rome adopting a statement on academic freedom that was developed by national experts and key higher education stakeholder organisations.

The statement frames academic freedom as a concept re-

lated to, but different from, freedom of speech, and linked to institutional autonomy. It “designates the freedom of the academic community – including academic staff and students – in respect of research, teaching and learning and, more broadly, the dissemination of research and teaching outcomes both within and outside the higher education sector. In essence the concept ensures that the academic community may engage in research, teaching, learning and communication in society without fear of reprisal. Academic freedom is also an essential element of democracy. Societies cannot be genuinely democratic without honouring academic freedom and institutional autonomy.”

The Rome Statement stresses that academic freedom is never an absolute value. Freedom to research, for example, does not imply the freedom of researchers to work on any project, nor the obligation for governments to fund all research. For example, some research may raise ethical concerns, involving animal suffering or human stem cells, and the involved researchers should not be left alone to decide what is ethically acceptable.



2.5 billion euros for the EU's new cultural program



The new program sees its budget almost double compared to the 2014-2020 period

The Parliament adopted on Wednesday 19 May 'Creative Europe', the European program for the cultural and audiovisual sectors, the EU's largest financial commitment to date in this area.

The new program, which sees its budget almost double compared to the 2014-2020 period (when it had 1.4 billion), will devote €2.5 billion (in current prices) to the EU's cultural and creative sectors. MEPs recognize the importance of supporting them to recover from the crisis caused by the pandemic, which has forced the closure of numerous music and cultural facilities across Europe.

In addition to the significant budget

increase, MEPs succeeded in placing more emphasis on inclusion and the contemporary and live music sectors, which are among those hardest hit by the pandemic, as well as a higher co-financing rate for small-scale projects.

In negotiations with the Council, the Parliament also managed to include an obligation for the program to promote female talent and support women's professional and artistic careers. Women are still underrepresented in decision-making positions in cultural, creative and artistic institutions.

CONTEXT IN SPAIN

Since 2013, Spain has implemented 618 cultural projects thanks to Creative Europe, of which 436 were exclusive to the Spanish territory and the rest collaborated as partners with other countries. In terms of European cooperation proposals, in 2020 Spain benefited from funding for 10 smaller-scale Spanish projects selected as leaders and 24 Spanish organizations participated as partners, according to the Ministry of Culture and Sport.



What's new in the Erasmus+ programme?



The European Parliament approves the new edition of the Erasmus+ programme, the EU's flagship programme for education, training, youth and sport

The programme, which has demonstrated that it plays a significant role in fostering European identity, will have almost double the funding in 2021-2027 (over 28 billion EUR from different sources) when compared to the previous seven years (14.7 billion EUR).

MORE INCLUSION

The new Erasmus+ will offer more tools and resources to support inclusion. The Commission and member states must come up with action plans to improve access to learning and mobility for people who historically have had fewer opportunities to participate – people living with a disability, people living in poverty, in a remote location, people with a migration background, and more.

Those who do not have sufficient means to cover the initial costs to take part in the programme (such as buying a train ticket or booking accommodation) can receive top-up grants, including up-front payments. Applications cannot be rejected for having higher costs if those are linked to measures that guarantee inclusion.

MOBILITY FOR ADULT LEARNERS

Compared to the previous Erasmus+, the new programme will expand to support time spent in a different EU country for up to six months for students in adult education. It will help people of all ages and backgrounds acquire new work and life skills, helping them better adapt to the changes brought about by the coming green and digital transitions as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

SIMPLIFIED ACCESS TO A 'GREENER' ERASMUS+

The new Erasmus+ will be simpler and more managea-



ble for applicants, with more user-friendly IT systems and less paperwork. It will offer a special “small-scale partnerships” funding scheme for smaller organisations, such as youth associations and sports clubs.

The programme will also measure its contribution to achieving the EU's climate spending targets and reduce its own environmental footprint, for example by incentivising climate-friendly means of transportation for participants.

INNOVATIVE MODELS OF EDUCATION

The DiscoverEU initiative will now be part of Erasmus+. It gives young people the opportunity to apply for a free pass to travel around Europe in order to learn (e.g. attend an intensive language class or participate in a museum workshop) and discover Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity.

The “European Universities” initiative will enable students to obtain a degree by combining studies in several EU countries. The third initiative – “Centres of Vocational Excellence” will create local, internationally connected skills ecosystems.

EU Guidelines for the Cultural and Creative Sectors



The objective of the guidelines is to provide a coordinated approach in line with specific national, regional and local conditions

The Commission has issued EU guidelines to ensure that activities in the cultural and creative sectors resume safely across the EU. Now that the epidemiological situation is improving and vaccination campaigns are going faster and faster, Member States are reopening cultural venues and activities. They are expected to guide the design and implementation of measures and protocols in EU countries to cover both safe reopening and sustainable recovery in the cultural and creative sectors.

More specifically, the guidelines recommend the following measures and protocols:

- The removal of restrictions should be strategic and gradual, with a limited number of participants at the beginning to allow for an assessment of the epidemiological situation.
- Cultural centers should have a preparedness plan detailing protocols for action in the event that COVID-19 cases are detected.
- Specific information or specific training courses should be provided to all cultural center personnel to minimize the risk of

infection.

- Vaccination of people working in cultural settings should be encouraged to ensure both their protection and that of the general public.
- Participants may be required to present a negative COVID-19 test, proof of vaccination, or a COVID-19 diagnostic test in order to gain access to the facility. Depending on the local circulation of virus variants, this requirement could be extended to those who are fully vaccinated.
- Centers should ensure that they have contact details of the public, in case they are needed for contact tracing.
- The center should establish specific protective measures: maintain social distancing whenever possible, have clean

and accessible hand-washing facilities, provide adequate ventilation, and clean surfaces frequently. The use of face masks by attendees is an important complementary measure.



EDUCATION AND CULTURE AGENDA



EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Porto Social Summit



EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Culture, Audiovisual and Sports

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Education, Youth, Culture and
Sports Council



EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

EURYDICE-EUROPEAN COMMISSION



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

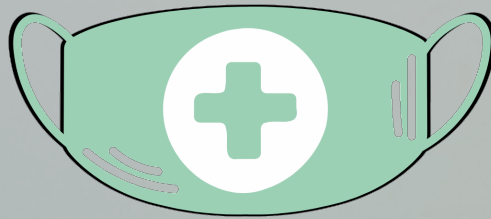
Launch of the new Erasmus+
program

FULL AGENDA

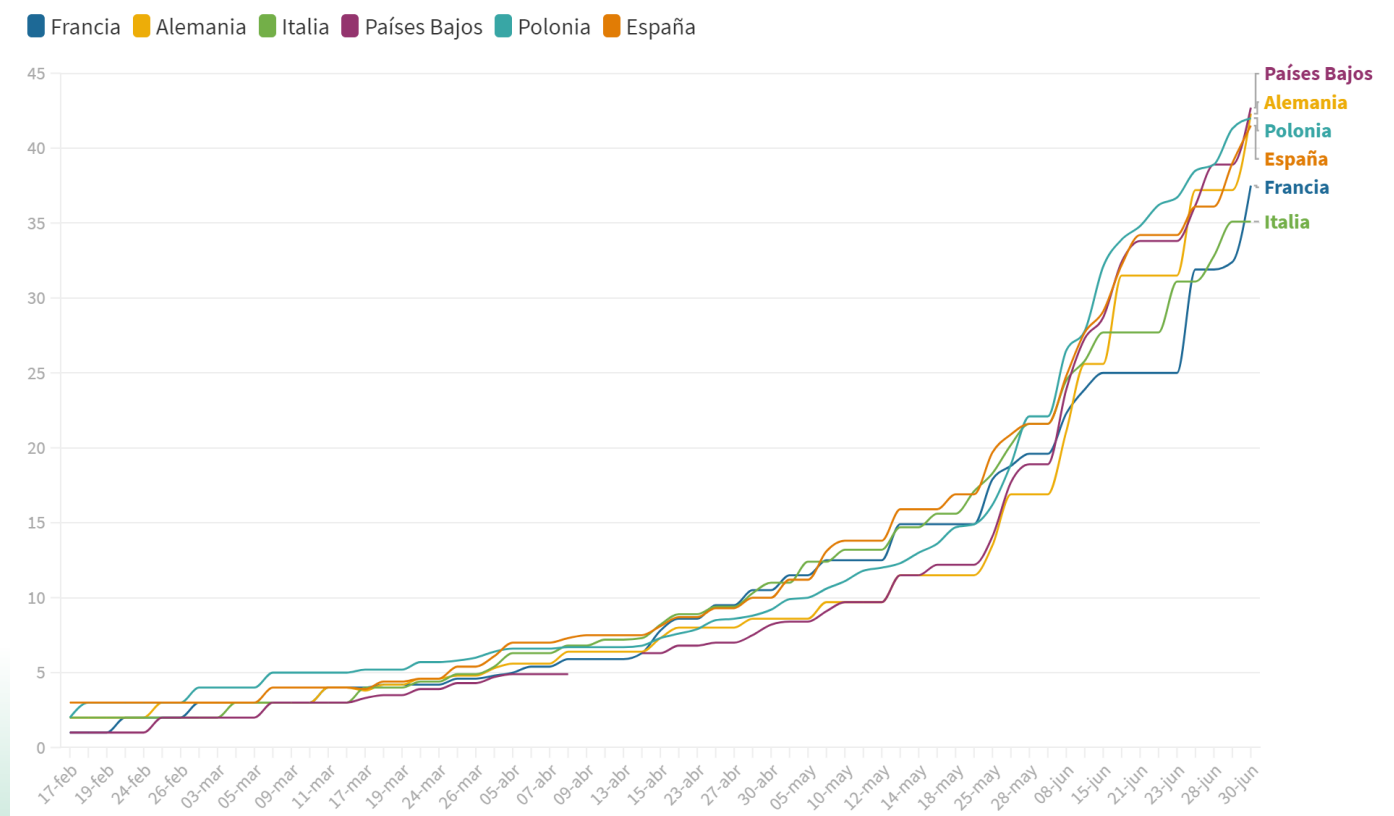
<https://bit.ly/3zL7HiX>

The European Union, through its various institutions and agencies, continues to propose support measures in the field of culture and education, focusing on the welfare of Europeans and greater educational opportunities throughout the EU. These days the focus has been on digitization and the budget for education and culture.

COVID-19 IN EUROPE



COVID-19 VACCINATION IN EUROPE



Evolution of immunization in the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Spain, France and Italy. Percentage of population with complete registration. Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Although the vaccination process is progressing steadily in all EU countries, the pace of vaccination is uneven in the different European territories, with some countries being more efficient in vaccinating their population. As of July 30, 39.21% of the EU/EEA population had received the full course of one of the EU-licensed vaccines and had therefore been immunized against COVID-19. The countries which, to date, have vaccinated a higher percentage of their citizens are: Malta (66.5 % of its population vaccinated), Iceland

(62.4 %), Hungary (59.7 %), Cyprus (48.1 %) and Ireland (43.4 %). In terms of population, the most populated countries with the highest percentage of vaccinated people are the Netherlands (42.7 %), Germany (42.3 %), Poland (42 %), Spain (41.5 %), France (37.5 %) and Italy (35.1 %). The countries in which the rate of vaccination is progressing more slowly are: Bulgaria 14.3 %, Finland 22 %, Romania 28.6 %, Latvia 30.8 % and Croatia 32.2 %.

COVID DIGITAL CERTIFICATE

On March 17, 2021, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal establishing a common framework for an EU digital COVID certificate including vaccination, testing and recovery. This is an EU-wide approach for the issuance, verification and acceptance of certificates to facilitate free movement within the Union, based on strict respect for non-discrimination and the fundamental rights of EU citizenship. On July 1, 2021, the Regulation on the EU digital COVID certificate entered into force.

An EU Digital COVID Certificate is a digital accreditation that a person:

- has been vaccinated against COVID-19, or
- a test has been performed with a negative result, or
- has been recovered from COVID-19.

CONTEXT

Vaccination against COVID-19 started on December 27, 2020 across the European Union, in a moment of unity. To date, 4 safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19 have been licensed for use in the EU, following positive scientific recommendations from the European Medicines Agency:

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

Moderna: On January 6, 2021, the European Commission granted conditional marketing authorization to the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Moderna, which thus became the second COVID-19 vaccine licensed in the EU.

AstraZeneca: On January 29, 2021, the European Commission granted conditional marketing authorization to the COVID-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca, which thus became the third COVID-19 vaccine licensed in the EU.

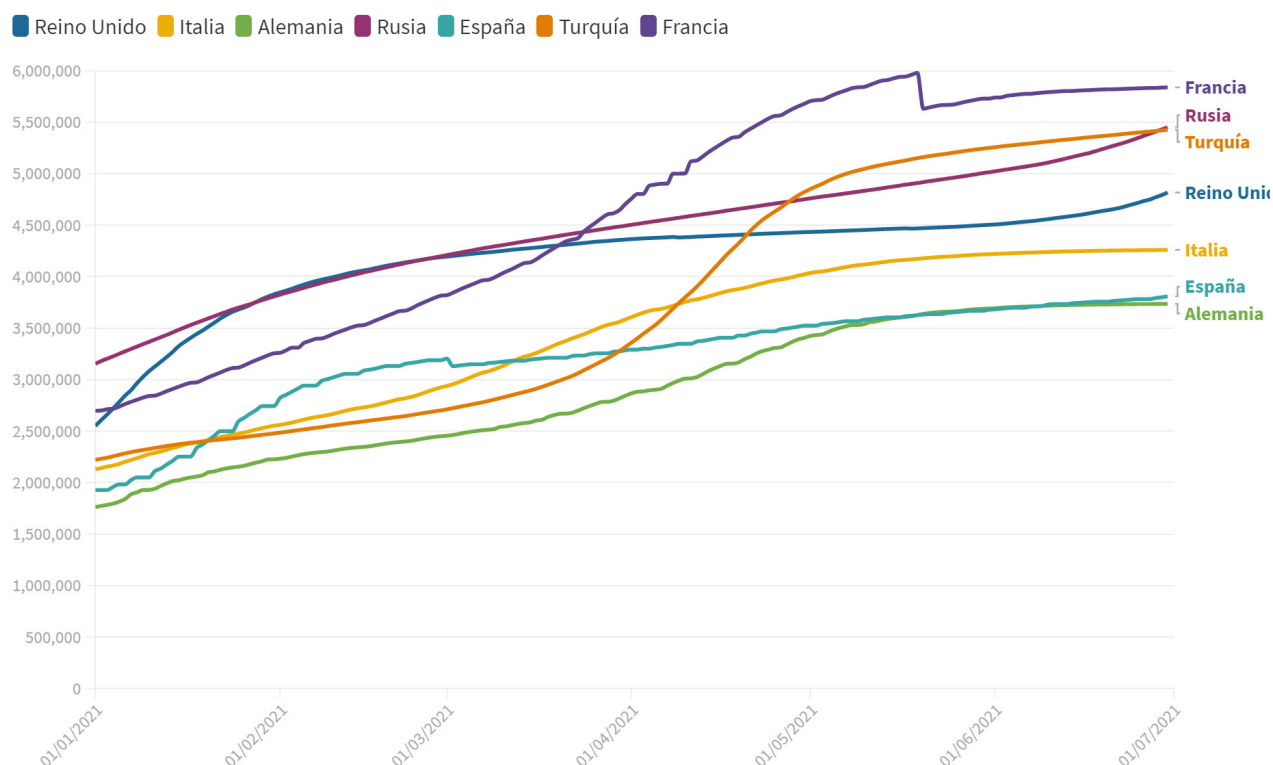
Johnson & Johnson: On March 11, 2021, the European Commission granted a conditional marketing authorization to the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, which thus became the fourth COVID-19 vaccine licensed in the EU.



VACUNACIÓN EUROPA A 30-06-21

País	% población con primera dosis	% población con pauta completa	Población
Alemania	64,2	42,3	83.166.711
Francia	63,6	37,5	67.320.216
Italia	65,9	35,1	59.641.488
España	63,6	41,5	47.332.614
Polonia	54,2	42	37.958.138
Países Bajos	71,4	42,7	17.407.585
Bélgica	76,2	42,3	11.522.440
Grecia	53,2	40,5	10.718.565
Chequia	56,6	34,7	10.693.939
Suecia	58,1	36,6	10.327.589
Portugal	62,2	38,4	10.295.909
Hungría	67,4	59,7	9.769.526
Austria	63,8	40,1	8.901.064
Bulgaria	16,4	14,3	6.951.482
Dinamarca	66,7	38,2	5.822.763
Finlandia	71,6	22	5.525.292
Eslovaquia	43,2	32,6	5.457.873
Noruega	56,6	33	5.367.580
Rumanía	30	28,6	5.176.010
Irlanda	66	43,4	4.964.440
Croacia	43,7	32,2	4.085.165
Lituania	51,3	39,7	2.794.090
Eslovenia	46,7	37,3	2.095.861
Letonia	35,8	30,8	1.907.675
Estonia	50,4	37,1	1.328.889
Chipre	62,9	48,1	888.005
Luxemburgo	61,5	42,8	626.108
Malta	71,6	66,5	514.564
Islandia	88	62,4	364.134
Liechtenstein	57,5	33,8	38.747

COVID-19 Evolution in Europe



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

During the first half of 2021, COVID-19 cases continued to increase steadily. The European continent began the year with a total of 27,552,498 people infected with COVID-19 and 585,110 deaths from COVID-19. As of June 30, the number of reported cases in Europe had risen by 103.4% compared to the beginning of the year to 56,048,358 positive cases. Unfortunately, the number of deaths also increased during this period by 101.8% to an appalling 1,180,598 deaths. The countries that ended the six-month period with the most

reported cases of COVID-19 were France (5,837,265 reported cases, which accounted for 10.42% of all cases in Europe), Russia (5,449,594 cases, which accounted for 9.72% of all European cases), Turkey (5,425,652 reported cases, with 9.7% of all positive cases in Europe), the United Kingdom (4,817,298 reported cases and 8.6% of the cases in Europe), Italy (4,259,909 reported cases, 7.6% of the positives), Spain (3,808,960 reported cases, 6.8% of all European cases) and Germany (3,736,205 reported cases, or 6.7% of the cases in Europe).

However, if we look at the number of inhabitants, the countries with the most infected are Andorra (with 16,350 cases per 100,000 inhabitants), Czech Republic (14,519), San Marino (15,628), Montenegro (15,473), Luxembourg (12,877) and Slovenia (12,485). The countries that by the end of the first half of 2021 had registered the fewest were Vatican City (27 cases), Monaco (2,577), Liechtenstein (3,036), San Marino (5,091) Iceland (6,555) and Andorra (13,911). 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 (320 cases), Finland (1,750), Iceland (2,012), Norway (2,556), Kazakhstan (2,652) and Vatican City (3,206). Deaths due to COVID-19 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 Russia (132,973), the United Kingdom (128,404), Italy (127,566), France (111,244), Germany (90,945) and Spain (80,875). Taking into account the number of inhabitants of each country, the countries where the virus has shown the highest lethality are Hungary (303 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants), Bosnia and Herzegovina (292), Czech Republic (288), San Marino (276), North Macedonia (266), Montenegro (248) and Bulgaria (245). The countries that have fortunately recorded a lower number of deaths are Vatican City (0 deaths), Iceland (29), Monaco (33), Liechtenstein (59), San Marino (90) and Andorra (127). 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 (2.19 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants), Iceland (8.9), Norway (15.45), Finland (17.7) and Kazakhstan (19.39).

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED BY COVID-19

The following is an analysis of the evolution recorded during the first half of 2021 of total cases and deaths in those European countries with the highest number of confirmed cases at the end of June 2021.

FRANCE

During the first half of the year 2021, the number of positive cases increased in France by 116.4%. At the end of June, France reached 5,837,265 infected persons. As for deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 71.42% to 111,244 deaths due to COVID-19.

RUSSIA

During the first half of 2021, the number of positive cases increased in Russia by 72.79%. By the end of June, Russia reached 5,449,594 infected people. As for deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 134.1% to 132,973 deaths from COVID-19.

UNITED KINGDOM

During the first half of the year 2021, the number of positive cases increased by 88.9% in the United Kingdom. At the end of June, the UK had 4,817,298 infected people. As for deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 73% to 128,404 deaths due to COVID-19.

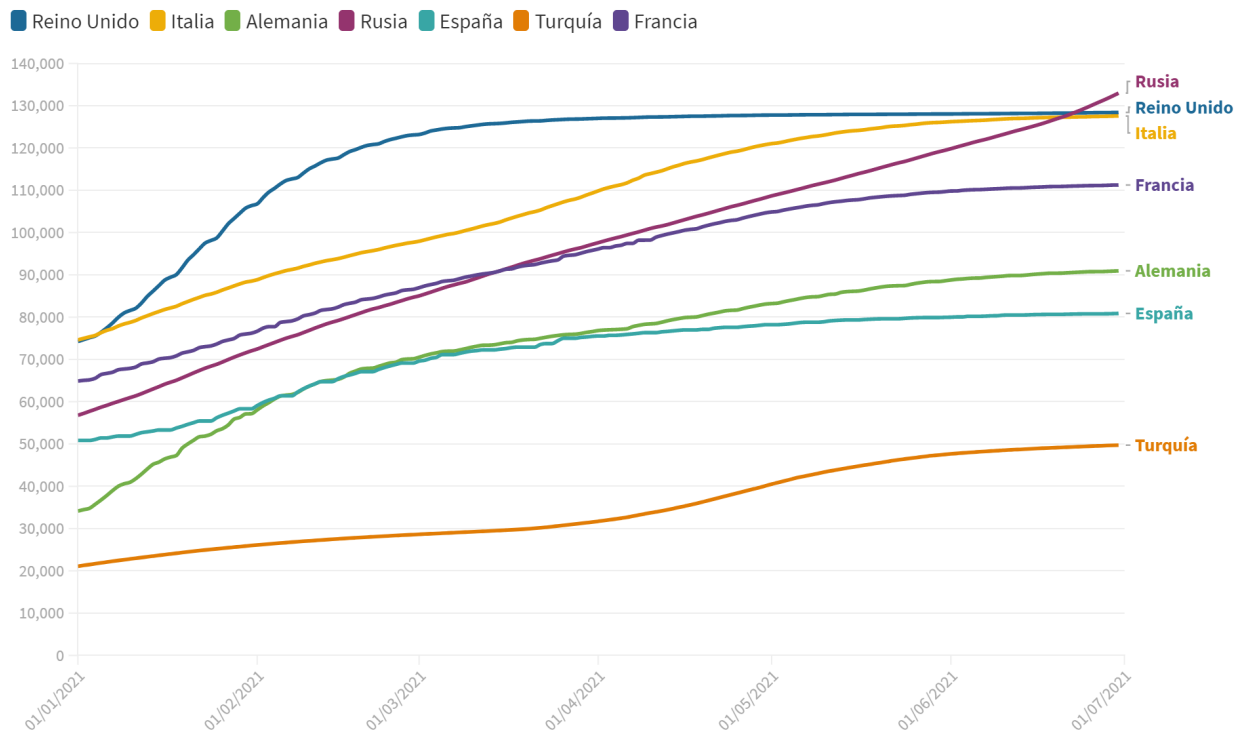
ITALY

During the first half of the year 2021, the number of positive cases increased in Italy by 100%. At the end of June, Italy reached 4,259,909 infected persons. As for deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 71% to 127,566 deaths due to COVID-19.

TURKEY

During the first half of the year 2021, the number of positive cases increased in Turkey by 144.3%. At the end of June, Turkey reached 5,425,652 infected persons. As for deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 135.8% to 49,732 deaths due to COVID-19.





Evolución fallecidos por COVID-19 durante el primer semestre del año 2021 en Alemania, España, Francia, Italia, Reino Unido, Rusia y Turquía.

SPAIN

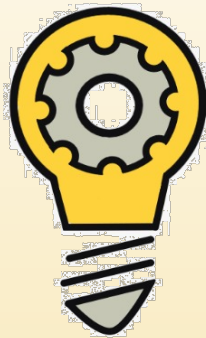
During the first half of the year 2021, the number of positive cases increased by 98% in Spain. At the end of June, Spain reached 3,808,960 infected persons. As for deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 59% to 80,875 deaths due to COVID-19.

GERMANY

During the first half of the year 2021, the number of positive cases increased by 112% in Germany. At the end of June, Germany had 3,736,205 infected persons. In terms of deaths, during this period the number of deaths increased by 166.34% to 90,945 deaths due to COVID-19.



INFOGRAPHIES



CELEBRITIES



ALAN TURING

He deciphered the messages of the Enigma machines, which was crucial for the development of the war in favor of the Allies

CRISTINA ORTIZ, "LA VENENO"

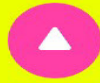
Variety artist and one of the most important LGBTI icons in Spain



FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA

Spanish poet, playwright and prose writer

Playlist!



28 JUNE LGBTI DAY

Russia in 2013 passed a law banning homso-sexual propaganda



It began with the Stonewall riots in New York in 1969

86% of LGBTI people have heard homophobic or transphobic jokes or comments

62% of Spaniards are "armored" at work

FLAG



Gilbert Baker created the flag in 1978.

Each color has a meaning. If you want to discover them, click here!

CELEBRATED IN
HONOR OF DR.
HUGH HAMMOND
BENNETT SINCE
1963.

PROBLEMS:

- SOIL EROSION.
- INADEQUATE FARMLAND MANAGEMENT.
- ONE BILLION HECTARES ARE NEEDED TO GUARANTEE THE FOOD NEEDS OF THE POPULATION.

7 JULY

International Soil Conservation Day



BENEFITS:

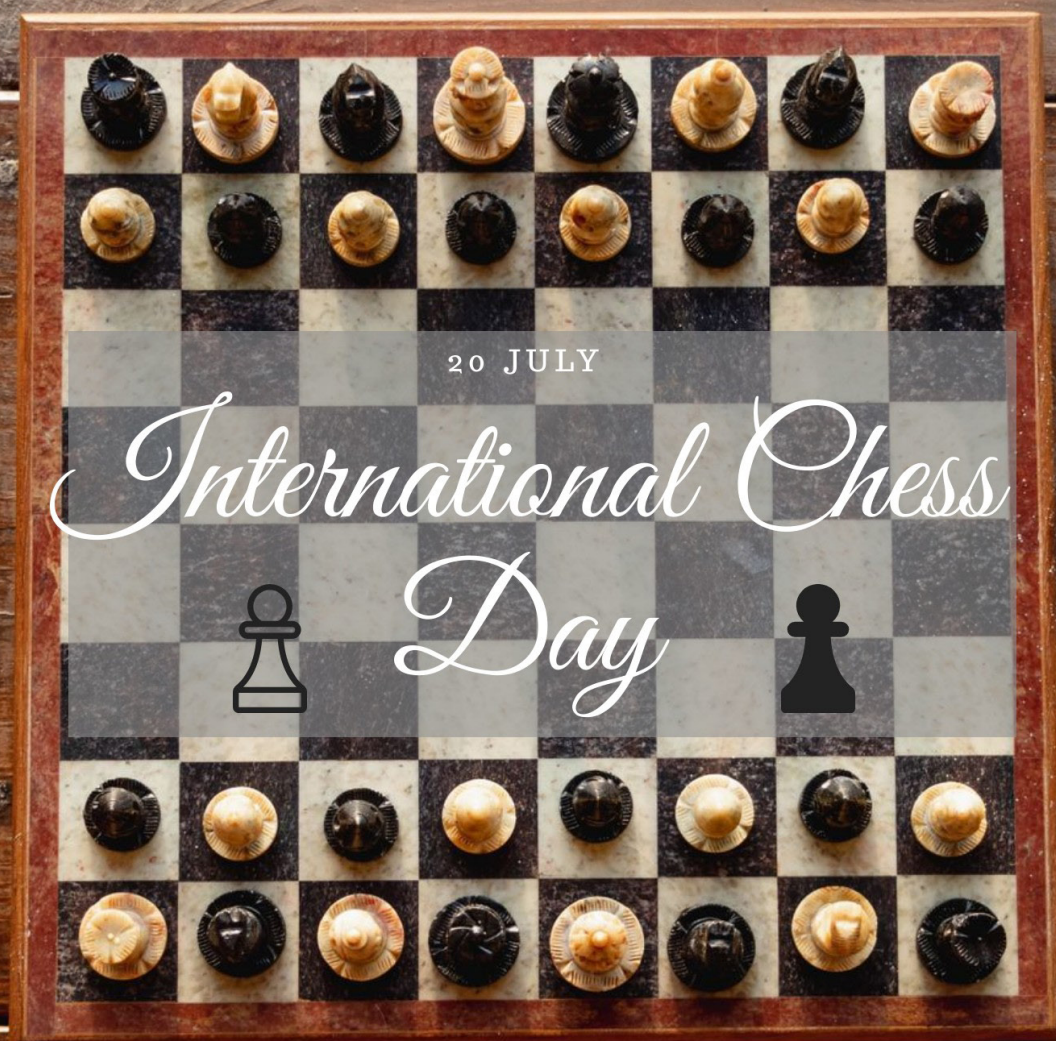
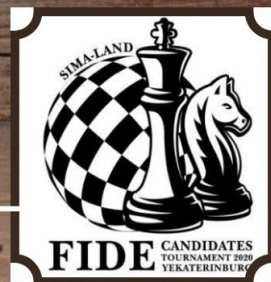
- STRUCTURE.
- CHEMICAL COMPOSITION.
- PERMEABILITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS:

- IMPACT ON BIODIVERSITY.
- LOSS OF SPECIES.
- CLIMATE CHANGE.
- AIR, WATER AND SOIL POLLUTION.

The inventor of chess was the sage Sissa of India during the 15th century

It is celebrated on 20 July to commemorate the date of the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in Paris in 1924



The IV Count of Peñalver, Enrique de Peñalver y Zamora, was the Spanish representative at the founding of FIDE

Chess contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030



A

2020

J A N 1 CALLS

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

VISITING PROFESSOR POSITION IN ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE AND BUSINESS INFORMATICS IN RUSSIA

MORE INFORMATION



Institute of Industrial Management, Economics and Trade (IIMET), Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, is inviting applications for a visiting professor position (Professor or Associate Professor) in the area of Enterprise Architecture and Business Informatics.

REQUIREMENTS

- The applicants should have a PhD in a relevant field.
- Associate or Full Professor position (or similar) at one of the world's leading universities preferable.
- The applicants must possess knowledge in the field of Enterprise Architecture, TOGAF, ADM, Archi modelling tool and others, the experience in research and publication activities in a relevant field.
- The applicants must have publications in peer-reviewed journals indexed by Web of Science or Scopus (preferably Q1, Q2 quartiles).

COMPENSATION

- Compensation is considered by selection committee on documents received and individual achievements
- Provision of housing on campus.
- Reimbursement of transportation expenses.
- Personal mentor.

ORGANISATION

PETER THE GREAT ST. PETERSBURG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

LOCATION

Russia

RESEARCH FIELD

Arquitecture

Economics

DEADLINE

31st December 2021



IT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN IN ROMANIA

MORE INFORMATION



The IT/telecommunication technician's activity consists in providing technical support, testing and implementing the technical solutions related to the ELI-NP IT and telecommunications infrastructure.

REQUIREMENTS

- High school graduate with baccalaureate diploma.
- Practical experience in and knowledge of the main tasks as described in the job profile above;
- Solid general understanding of IT and telephone systems;
- Working and troubleshooting experience with videoconferencing systems;
- Networking knowledge (OSI layer 1, basic network equipment configuration) is considered a plus;
- Working and troubleshooting experience with end-user Microsoft products (Windows 7/8/10, Office 2010/2013/2016) is considered a plus;
- Good interpersonal skills, a strong team spirit and a result-oriented attitude, as well as a capability to deliver when working under tight deadlines;
- Fluent in English.

ORGANISATION

"Horia Hulubei" National
Institute for Research and Engineering
Development in Physics
and Nuclear Engineering

RESEARCH FIELD

Computer science
Engineering
Physics

LOCATION

Romania

DEADLINE

31st December 2021



POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN MEDICAL IMAGE ANALYSIS WITH BIG DATA AT THE RITEH IN CROATIA

MORE INFORMATION



They are seeking candidates for a two-year postdoctoral position in the area of big data medical image analysis, to work on the project IP-2020-02-3770 Machine Learning for Knowledge Transfer in Medical Radiology, funded by the Croatian Science Foundation.

The project will advance existing knowledge on modeling for medical image analysis by introducing a common transfer learning platform for domain-specific challenges in medical radiology cad. the objectives will be achieved by merging available data sources (pixel data, dicom tags and narrative diagnostics) from a large pacs database of radiological medical exams (approximately 20 tb of images).

REQUIREMENTS

- PhD in computer science, physics or similar field,
- Good knowledge of image analysis and machine learning,
- Good programming skills,
- Experience with machine learning frameworks (PyTorch, Tensorflow), Good knowledge of English language,
- Excellent communication skills,
- No more than 4 years of previous postdoctoral engagement.

ORGANISATION

University of
Rijeka Faculty of
Engineering

RESEARCH FIELD

Computer science

LOCATION

Croatia

DEADLINE

31st October 2021



INTERNSHIP: VULCANUS IN JAPAN

MORE INFORMATION



The programme consists of industrial placements for EU/COSME students.

OBJECTIVE

This programme aims to improve and stimulate the industrial co-operation and better mutual understanding between Japan and the EU.

The mains objectives are:

- to study the range of advanced technologies employed by a leading Japanese host company;
- to learn Japanese and to understand and appreciate Japanese culture with a view to an enriching one year experience abroad;
- to be well placed in a future career to interact with Japanese businesses and people.

SUPPORT

This programme is financed by the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation and the Japanese host company. The European students are awarded grants (Yen 1.900.000) to cover the cost of travel to and from Japan and living expenses in Japan.

There is no charge for the language course and seminar. and Accommodation is provided during the seminar, the language course and the company traineeship.

DEADLINE

23rd January 2022

eurodesk

LIVE IT LISBON! VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

MORE INFORMATION



Live it Lisbon! is a non-profit & low-cost summer experience, which aims at promoting intercultural dialogue and social justice. It is meant to be a responsible alternative to mainstream tourism and a meaningful way to spend one's summer break, as over half of the time of the programme is spent on intercultural activities and on giving back to the socially & economically challenged host community of Bairro Padre Cruz in Lisbon, Portugal.

ACTIVITIES AND DATES

The programme is about volunteering, culture, Portuguese language, food and tourism. This year there are three periods:

- period A, from July the 17th to July the 27th
- period B, from August the 21th to August the 31th
- period C (only for participants aged 28 and older), from September the 1st to September the 8th

HOW TO APPLY

- to apply you have to fill in the online form and pay the participation fee
- the €272/€325 fee covers accommodation, food, travel costs within the programme, language classes, cooking workshops and other activities
- the participation fee does not cover international travel expenses, insurance or costs associated with obtaining a visa (if applicable)

DEADLINE

Once all the vacancies are filled

eurodesk

ISTITUTO EUROPEO DI DESIGN :MASTER SCHOLARSHIPS 2021/22

MORE INFORMATION



Istituto Europeo di Design (IED) has launched a call for 38 scholarships covering 50% of the tuition fee and 29 Tutor positions for Master Courses 2021/2022 in Design, Fashion, Visual Arts, Communication and Art area held in Milan, Florence, Rome, Turin and Como.

REQUIREMENTS

- The contest is open to all international students aged over 18 years at the moment of application, in possession of a bachelor degree or, equivalent qualification, or having a job experience in the relevant field.
- Graduands are eligible, as long as they obtain the academic diploma within 30 days before the discussion of the Master course's Thesis Project.
- Candidates must show proficiency in the language of the course at minimum level B2.
- Candidates, Italian or foreigners, should not reside in Italy.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the scholarship, choose the course you want to apply for and register using this form.

Scholarship will be assigned, taking into consideration the designated course, according to the results of a test related to the course skills, an aptitude test and the selection interview.

DEADLINE

- 27th May 2021, 23:59 CET, for the Master courses starting in November 2021
- 20th September 2021, 23:59 CET, for the Master courses starting in January 2022

eurodesk

BIOMATERIALS DATABASE FOR HEALTH APPLICATIONS

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

MORE INFORMATION



SCOPE

Projects will incorporate data on as many of the material properties as possible, allowing for the development of standardised protocols for the determination and measurement of the efficacy and safety of new biomaterials, taking into account the specificities due to sex, race and age, whether they be single or combination entities. Processing of data should be done in accordance with GDPR provisions.

A label of biocompatibility should be established so as to define the suitability of a biomaterial for eventual use in a Medical Device or Advanced Therapy that the biomaterial becomes a part of, so as to assist companies, especially SMEs, in choosing and facilitating market access for their products.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Develop a user-friendly platform for making all relevant data easily and readily accessible for the assessment and decision-making processes in appropriate formats to ensure interoperability. To ensure that the data are processed in accordance with the GDPR provisions;
- Facilitate extracting, analysing and re-using of the data with advanced data processing technologies e.g. Artificial Intelligence;
- Provide innovative trainings and manuals for the use of the database and its documentation.

DEADLINE

23rd September 2021



ANTIMICROBIAL, ANTIVIRAL, AND ANTIFUNGAL NANOCOATINGS

MORE INFORMATION



SCOPE

Inorganic nanomaterials have demonstrated enhanced anti-microbial and anti-viral activity. They are also stable at high temperatures, robust, and have a long shelf life, compared to organic anti-microbial coatings. Research areas should address new antiviral and antibacterial nanocoatings for a range of applications addressing use on both surfaces of so-called high-traffic objects (e.g. door and window handles in public places, public transport, hospitals, public buildings, schools, elderly homes etc.) and/or coatings for textiles (e.g. protective clothing in food processing plants, laboratory coats, face masks, etc.).

EXPECTED RESULTS

Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Minimise the risk of spread of infections from harmful pathogens arising from everyday human activities;
- Create a healthier living and working environment and offer holistic solutions to people with health issues;
- Improve citizen health and enhance the EU's reputation as a public health best practice region;
- Enhance economic benefits through reduction of lost hours of work through illness;
- Boost research, development and innovation in the EU;
- Provide business opportunities especially for SMEs;
- Sustainable synthesis of nanocoatings (including bio-based materials) especially with effectiveness against a range of pathogens.

DEADLINE

23rd September 2021



ADVANCED MATERIALS FOR HYDROGEN STORAGE

MORE INFORMATION



SCOPE

- Development of new environmentally friendly catalysts for ammonia synthesis at low pressures for long term hydrogen storage and distribution;
- Development of new ultra porous materials for hydrogen storage with a gravimetric storage capacity in excess of 6 wt% and a volumetric storage capacity in excess of 40g/lit. The use of machine learning techniques to assess combinations and substitutions in various porous materials to help optimise the development process should also be considered; the development of suitable pressure vessel designs and materials for the containment of the adsorbent ultra-porous materials should also be addressed.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

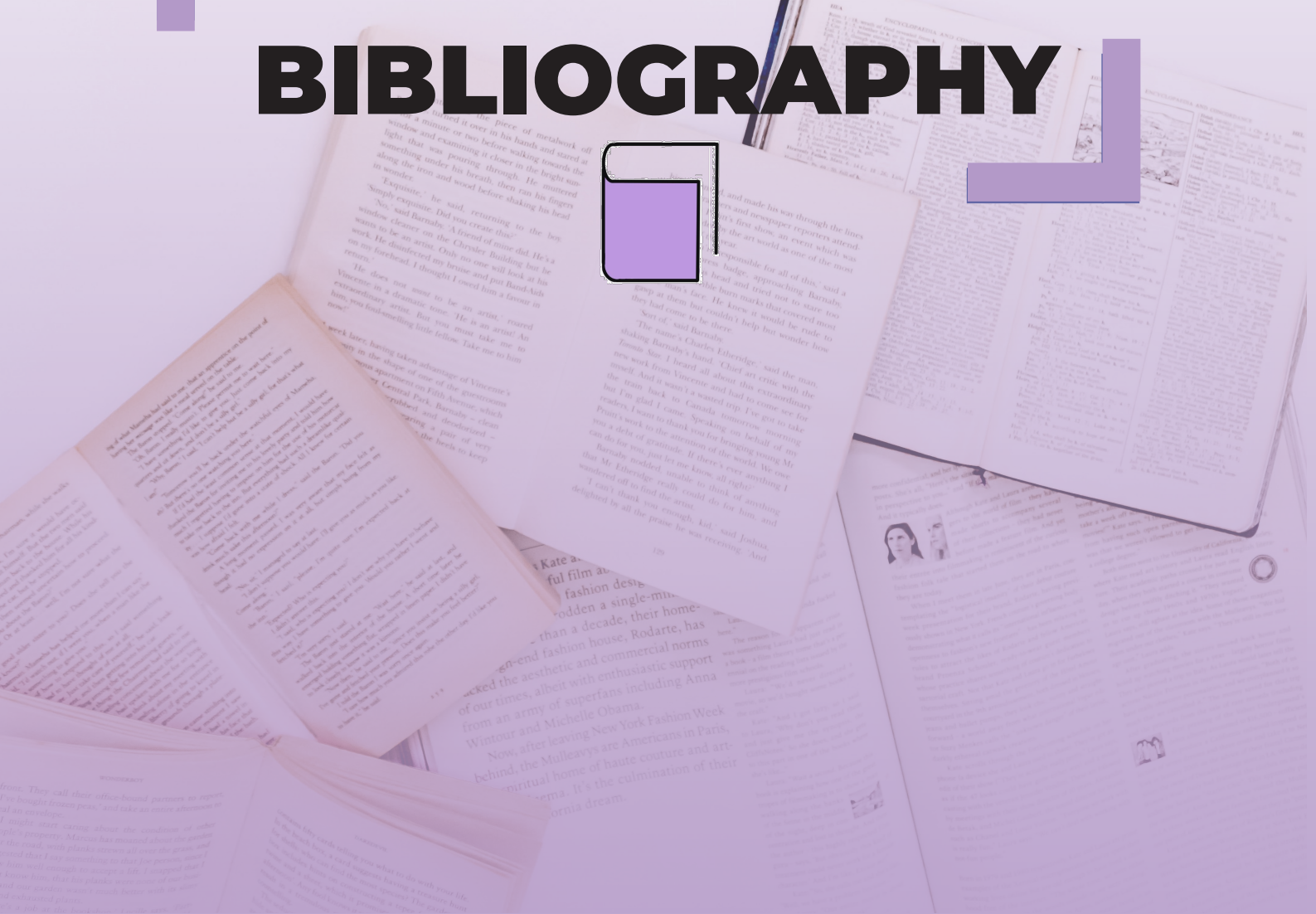
- Provide commercially attractive and safe new technologies for long-term storage and transport of hydrogen;
- Enable efficient and safe hydrogen short term storage for example for fuel tanks for automobiles, rail vehicles, ships, airplanes, or stationary storage, etc., eliminating pollution caused by fossil fuels and facilitating the greening of transport;
- Elimination of economic dependence for EU's energy needs;
- Ability for distributed production, providing opportunities for new business ventures and the development of new centres for economic growth in both rural and urban areas that currently find it difficult to attract investment in the current centralised energy system.

DEADLINE

23rd September 2021



RECOMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY





TRIBUNAL DE JUSTICIA
DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

Title: Case C-12/20 DB Netz v Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Judgment of the Court (Fifth Chamber) of 24 June 2021

Resume: The reference for a preliminary ruling concerns the interpretation of Articles 13(1), 14(1) and (9), 18(c) and 20 of Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on a European rail network for competitive freight.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

Author: Tribunal de Justicia de la Unión Europea

Celex code: 62020CJ0012

Keywords: Reference for a preliminary ruling - Rail transport - International rail freight corridors - Establishment of a one-stop shop for each freight corridor - Nature of the framework for the allocation of infrastructure capacity in the freight corridor established by the executive committee - Procedure for submitting requests for infrastructure capacity - Work of the infrastructure managers - Role of the regulatory body and cooperation between bodies regulatory bodies



TRIBUNAL DE JUSTICIA
DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

Title: Case C-559/19 Commission v Spain (Détérioration de l'espace naturel de Doñana). Judgment of the Court (First Chamber) of 24 June 2021

Resume: By its action, the European Commission is asking the Court of Justice to declare that the Kingdom of Spain has failed to fulfil its obligations in respect of the groundwater bodies and habitats of the Doñana protected natural area.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

Author: Tribunal de Justicia de la Unión Europea

Código Celex: 62019CJ0559

Keywords: Failure of a Member State to fulfil obligations - Article 258 TFEU - Doñana Protected Natural Area - Directive 2000/60/EC - Framework for action by the European Union in the field of water policy - Articles 4(1)(b)(i), 5 and 11(1), (3)(a), (c) and (e), and 4 - Deterioration of bodies of groundwater - Lack of additional characterisation of bodies of groundwater at risk of deterioration - Basic measures and appropriate accompanying measures - Directive 92/43/EEC - Article 6(2) - Deterioration of natural habitats and habitats of species



TRIBUNAL DE JUSTICIA
DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

Title: Case C-550/19 EV v Obras y Servicios Públicos and Acciona Agua. Judgment of the Court (Seventh Chamber) of 24 June 2021

Resume: The reference for a preliminary ruling concerns the interpretation of Clause 4(1) of the Framework Agreement on fixed-term work concluded on 18 March 1999 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of undertakings or businesses.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

Author: Tribunal de Justicia de la Unión Europea

Celex code: 62019CJ0550

Keywords: Reference for a preliminary ruling - Social policy - Framework Agreement on fixed-term work concluded by ETUC, UNICE and CEEP - Measures to prevent abuse arising from the use of successive fixed-term employment contracts or relationships - Successive fixed-term contracts in the construction sector known as 'works contracts' - Concept of 'objective reasons' justifying the renewal of such contracts - Subrogation in employment contracts pursuant to the terms of a collective agreement



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / REGULATIONS



Title: Regulation (EU) 2021/954 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2021

Resume: This Regulation (EU) 2021/954 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2021 establishes a framework for the issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable COVID-19 vaccination, diagnostic test and recall certificates (EU digital COVID certificate) in respect of third country nationals legally present or residing in the territories of the Member States during the COVID-19 pandemic (Text with EEA relevance).

Date of publication: 15-06-2021

Author: Parlamento Europeo y Consejo

Celex code: 32021R0954

Keywords: regulations, legal acts, binding legal elements, vaccination, covid certificate, diagnostic test



Título: Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021

Resume: This Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishes the Neighbourhood, Development Cooperation and International Cooperation Instrument.

Date of publication: 14-06-2021

Author: Parlamento Europeo y Consejo

Celex code: 32021R0947

Keywords: European Union-EU law-EU Act-EU Regulation (EU)



Title: Decision (EU) 2021/928 of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 2 June 2021

Resume: A judge is hereby appointed to the General Court by Decision (EU) 2021/928 of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 2 June 2021.

Date of publication: 02-06-2021

Author: Parlamento Europeo y Consejo

Celex code: 42021D0928

Keywords: Regulations, legal acts, binding legal elements, decision, general court, general court





Title: Case of Sándor Varga and Others V. Hungary (Applications nos. 39734/15 and 2 others)

Resume: The cases concern the applicants' sentences of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. The applicants complained that their sentences constituted inhuman and degrading punishment, in violation of Article 3 of the Convention.

Date of publication: 17-06-2021

Author: Tribunal Europeo de Derechos Humanos

Keywords: article 3 , article 35(1) , human rights , human rights , article 3 , inhuman or degrading punishment , mandatory pardon , article 35(1) , exhaustion of domestic remedies , international law , international law , justice , judgement , rights and freedoms , international law , article 35(1) , exhaustion of domestic remedies



Title: Case of Hasáliková v. Slovakia (Application no. 39654/15)

Resume: The applicant complained that the criminal proceedings, in which she had been convicted of murder and sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment, had been unfair. She alleged that no provision or reasonable accommodation had been made for her intellectual disability and that, as a result, her rights had not been duly and effectively protected. She also complained that she had not had sufficient time to choose a lawyer and that her confession to the police had formed the basis for her conviction, although she had subsequently retracted it.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

Author: Tribunal Europeo de Derechos Humanos

Keywords: Fair trial of the applicant, with a mild intellectual disability, which resulted in a conviction for murder and a prison sentence, lack of sufficient evidence to oblige the authorities to consider the applicant as a particularly vulnerable person and to make appropriate accommodations



Title: Case of Dodoja v. Croatia (Application no. 53587/17)

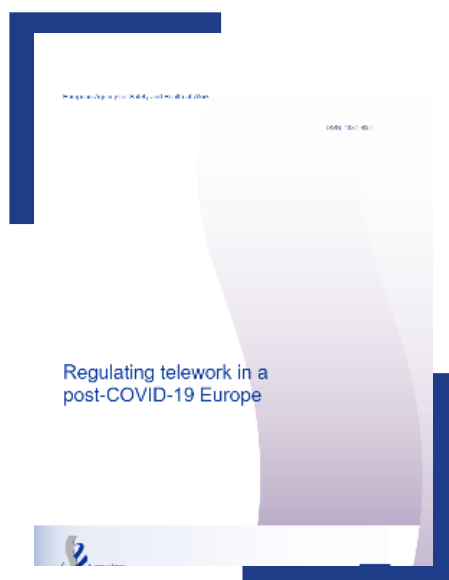
Resume: The case concerns the applicant's complaint that he had been sentenced to a heavier penalty because of a police statement by his co-accused, who had in the meantime absconded and was being tried in absentia.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

Author: Tribunal Europeo de Derechos Humanos

Keywords: Fair hearing, applicant convicted of a more serious offence and sentenced more severely on the basis of unproven incriminating witness evidence of significant weight, insufficient countervailing factors to compensate for the disadvantage caused to the defence





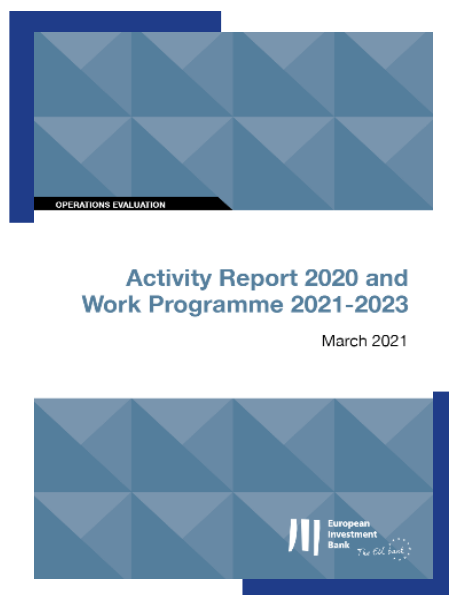
Title: Regulating telework in a post-COVID-19 Europe

Resume: This report presents an analysis of how telework is regulated in Europe, based on this consultation and an additional literature review, including a review of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) database of national legislation.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

Author: Agencia Europea para la Seguridad y la Salud en el Trabajo; Caprile, Maria; Sanz de Miguel, Pablo; Munar, Lorenzo

Keywords: coronavirus disease , work-life balance , work flexibility , report , legislation , collective bargaining , collective bargaining , work organisation , psychology , occupational health , telework , telecommuting , work-life balance , legislation



Title: Operations evaluation. Activity report 2020 and work programme 2021-2023

Resume: During 2020, the EIB Group's evaluation function provided timely and useful input to the organisation's decision-making. Its work programme for 2021-2023 echoes the EIB Group's work and priorities. Despite unprecedented challenges, the evaluation function of the European Investment Bank Group (IG/EV) delivered on its ambitious work programme in 2020. It provided timely and useful input to the organisation's decision-making at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis and helped the EIB Group draw lessons on how to improve its work.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

Author: Banco Europeo de Inversiones

Keywords: European Investment Bank , EU financing , activity report , EU investment , third country , EIB loan , EIB loan



Title: Online advertising, the impact of targeted advertising on advertisers, market access and consumer choice

Resume: In this research paper, we provide an overview of online advertising markets and analyse the challenges and opportunities related to digital advertising.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

Author: Dirección General de Políticas Interiores de la Unión; Lognoul, Michael ; Hill, Jordan ; Godlovitch, Ilsa ; Taş, Serpil ; Fourberg, Niklas ; Jacquemin, Hervé ; Nunu, Madalina ; Bourguignon, Camille ; Jacques, Florian ; Wiewiorra, Lukas ; De Streel, Alexandre ; Ledger, Michèle

Keywords: EU Member State , consumer behaviour , consumer access , e-commerce , consumer behaviour , cloud computing , personal data , EU directive , coronavirus disease , EU Member State , legislation , single market , business model , third country , small and medium-sized enterprises , privacy protection , unsolicited electronic advertising , market access , consumer behaviour , personal data , third country , privacy protection , unsolicited electronic advertisement



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / ECONOMIC AFFAIRS



Taxation Trends in the European Union

Data for the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway
2021 Edition

Title: Taxation trends in the European Union. Data for the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway : 2021 edition

Resume: This report analyses the potential impact of the pandemic on future public finances. According to the latest forecasts (spring 2021), tax revenues in the EU are expected to have fallen in 2020, but by less than GDP. Therefore, the tax-to-GDP ratio would have risen in 2020, but will fall significantly in 2021, with further declines in 2022.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

Author: Dirección General de Fiscalidad y Unión Aduanera

Keywords: EU Member State , financial statistics , taxation , taxation , tax policy , Iceland , Norway , financial statistics , taxation , Iceland , Norway



Methodology for Establishing Environmental Proofing of Investments funded under the InvestEU Programme

Case Study Report
Accompanying the Draft Technical Support Document

Title: Methodology for establishing environmental proofing of investments funded under the InvestEU programme

Resume: This report presents the results of the testing of the technical support guidance document for the environmental testing of projects eligible for funding under the InvestEU Programme.

Date of publication: 22-06-2021

Author: B'Innov , Dirección General de Medio Ambiente , IAE de Paris Sorbonne Business School , INERIS , Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd , RPA Europe , Sofies , t33 , VVA; Mugdal, Shailendra ; Salvetti, Maria ; Penttinen, Ilkka ; Lengyel, Zsolt ; Kaddouh, Salam ; Brignon, Jean-Marc ; Daly, Elizabeth ; Camboni, Marco ; Levarlet, François ; Rima Rumbauskaitė, Rima

Keywords: cost-benefit analysis , sociological analysis , European Investment Bank , European Commission , technical cooperation , environmental economics , environmental economics



The rise of Africa's digital economy

The European Investment Bank's activities to support Africa's transition to a digital economy

Title: The rise of Africa's digital economy. The European Investment Bank's activities to support Africa's transition to a digital economy

Resume: Africa's booming digital economy is improving millions of lives and rapidly transforming societies. Africa has a unique opportunity to become more sustainable and create economic growth by making better use of data, rather than using old technologies that consume fossil fuels.

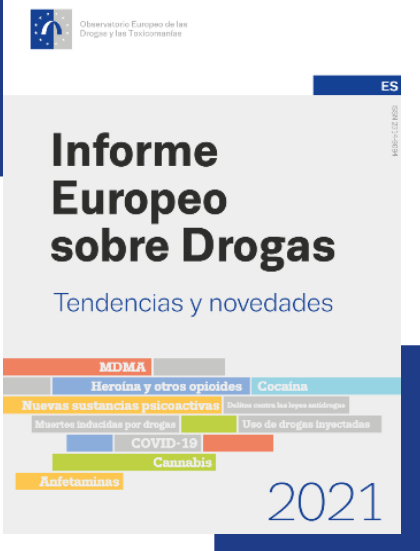
Date of publication: 22-06-2021

Author: Banco Europeo de Inversiones

Keywords: European Investment Bank , technical cooperation , job creation , economic growth , economic development , economic development , social development , sustainable development , digitalisation , digital economy , entrepreneurship , private enterprise , public enterprise , financing , investment , data protection , energy efficiency , tertiary sector , IT security , Africa



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY/ HEALTH



Title: Informe europeo sobre drogas 2021. Tendencias y novedades

Resume: The 'Trends and developments' report presents the EMCDDA's latest analysis of the drug situation in Europe. Focusing on illicit drug use, related harms and drug supply, the report contains a comprehensive set of national data on these issues and key harm reduction interventions.

Date of publication: 15-06-2021

Author: Observatorio Europeo de las Drogas y las Toxicomanías

Keywords: European Union , European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction , data collection , public health , drug addiction , Norway , drug abuse , Turkey , narcotic drug , data collection , drug addiction



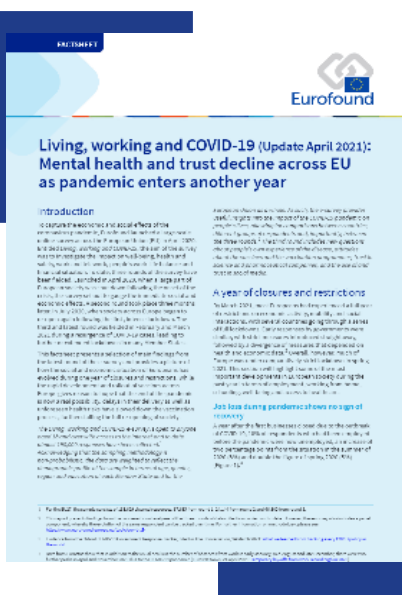
Title: Long-term care report Trends, challenges and opportunities in an ageing society. Volume I

Resume: The Long-Term Care Report 2021 provides an overview of the state of long-term care systems in the EU and recent reforms, also highlighting first response measures taken during the pandemic.

Date of publication: 14-06-2021

Author: Dirección General de Empleo, Asuntos Sociales e Inclusión (Comisión Europea)

Keywords: demographic analysis , demographic analysis , EU Member State , long-term financing , report , health organisation , health policy , health policy , European social policy , health system , population ageing , EU Member State , long-term financing



Title: Living, working and COVID-19 (Update April 2021). Mental health and trust decline across EU as pandemic enters another year

Resume: This factsheet presents a selection of the main findings from the latest round of the e-survey and gives a picture of how the social and economic situation of Europeans has evolved during a year of closures and restrictions.

Date of publication: 11-06-2021

Author: Eurofound; Nivakoski, Sanna ; Ahrendt, Daphne ; Mascherini, Massimiliano ; Sándor, Eszter

Keywords: awareness campaign, work condition, living condition, socioeconomic status, coronavirus disease, epidemic, restriction of freedom, health risk, occupational health, health service, job suppression, vaccine





Title: Electromagnetic emissions from mobile networks and potential effect on health
Resume: This report provides a preliminary analysis, including a literature review of recent governmental and research activities on the health impact of RF EMF exposure. This report also attempts to explore a possible relationship between RF EMFs and the incidence of brain cancer, based on publicly available national datasets.

Date of publication: 14-06-2021

Author: Centro Común de Investigación (Comisión Europea), Gianmarco, Baldini ; Chrysanthi, Chountala

Keywords: mobile communication , radio frequency identification , environmental impact , research report , electromagnetic disturbance , health risk , health hazard



Title: Consolidated annual activity report 2020

Resume: The Governing Board has assessed the Consolidated Annual Activity Report for the year 2020. The Governing Board appreciates the results achieved by the Centre during the year when the European Union and the whole world was in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Date of publication: 01-07-2021

Author: Centro Europeo para la Prevención y el Control de las Enfermedades

Keywords: EU activity , EU activity , European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control , activity report , preventive medicine , public health , public health



Title: HIV and migrants

Resume: Follow-up on the implementation of the Dublin Declaration on Partnership on HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia : 2018 progress report. Migrants are a key population affected by HIV across Europe. While the majority of migrants are HIV-negative, a minority of migrant communities may be more vulnerable to HIV due to higher prevalence in their countries of origin and sexual mixing within higher prevalence communities post-migration.

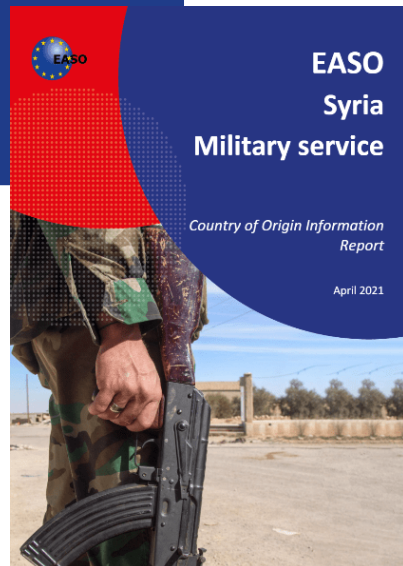
Date of publication: 01-03-2021

Author: Centro Europeo para la Prevención y el Control de las Enfermedades (Órgano o agencia de la UE)

Keywords: AIDS , Central Asia , Europe , Europe , report , preventive medicine , migrant , health policy , action programme , sexually transmitted disease , preventive medicine , central asia , action programme , health policy , AIDS



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / DEFENCE



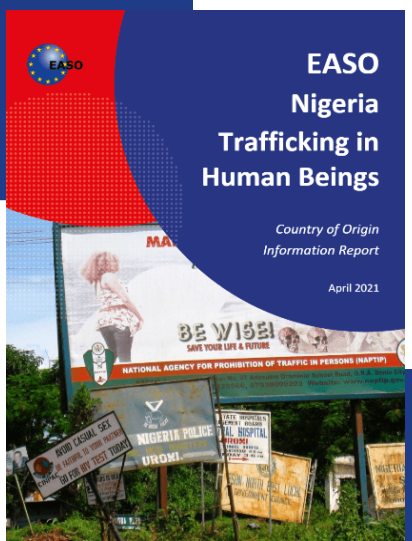
Title: EASO Syria, Military service

Resume: The purpose of this report is to provide relevant information on military service in the Syrian Arab Army - the formal ground forces of the Syrian national armed forces - for the determination of international protection status, including refugee status and subsidiary protection, and in particular for use in updating the development of the EASO Country Guide on Syria. This report is prepared in line with the EASO COI Reporting Methodology (2019) and the EASO COI Drafting and Referencing Style Guide (2019).

Date of publication: 25-06-2021

Author: Oficina Europea de Apoyo al Asilo (Órgano o agencia de la UE)

Keywords: reserve army , professional army , report , conscientious objection , international security , international security , regional security , Syria



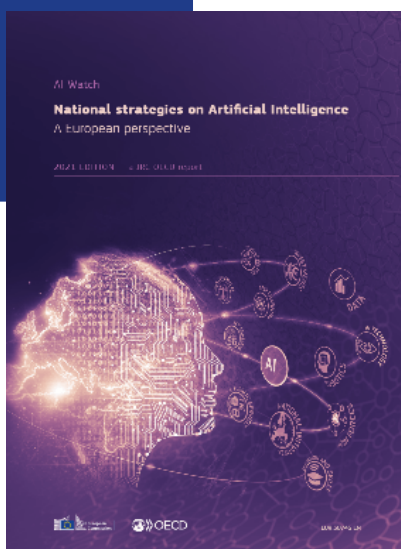
Title: EASO Nigeria, Trafficking in human beings

Resume: El informe es una actualización del informe de EASO COI de 2015 sobre el tráfico sexual de mujeres en Nigeria y del capítulo 3.16 Víctimas en el THB en el informe de EASO de 2018 Targeting of Individuals. Aunque el informe sigue centrándose principalmente en la trata de personas con fines sexuales -en la que en gran medida participan mujeres como víctimas-, también se analizan brevemente otros tipos de trata de seres humanos, como la trata de hombres y niños y con fines de trabajo, drogas, tráfico de órganos o "fábricas de bebés" en Nigeria.

Date of publication: 25-06-2021

Author: Oficina Europea de Apoyo al Asilo (Órgano o agencia de la UE)

Keywords: ayuda a las víctimas , crimen organizado , derechos humanos , esclavitud , informe , Nigeria , primera infancia , reagrupación familiar , trata de seres humanos , tráfico de estupefacientes , violencia sexual



Title: AI watch, national strategies on artificial intelligence. A European perspective

Resume: En apoyo del Plan Coordinado de Inteligencia Artificial, la Comisión Europea ha puesto en marcha la iniciativa AI Watch, el servicio de conocimiento de la Comisión Europea para supervisar el desarrollo, la adopción y el impacto de la IA para Europa, ejecutado por el Centro Común de Investigación de la Comisión Europea en estrecha coordinación con la DG CONNECT. El seguimiento y el análisis de las estrategias nacionales de IA constituyen el núcleo del mandato y los objetivos de AI Watch.

Date of publication: 22-06-2021

Author: Centro Común de Investigación, Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos; Perset, Karine ; Rossetti, Fiammetta ; Van Roy, Vincent ; Galindo-Romero, Laura

Keywords: Estado miembro UE , informe de investigación , innovación , inteligencia artificial , investigación y desarrollo , Noruega , política de investigación , Suiza



Título: EU cybersecurity initiatives in the finance sector

Resume: El sector financiero es un sector fuertemente regulado, y las disposiciones de ciberseguridad ya están incluidas en múltiples políticas y legislaciones de la UE (por ejemplo, PSD 2, MIFID II2). Las instituciones, agencias, organismos, reguladores y otros grupos de interesados de la UE llevan a cabo varias iniciativas dedicadas a mejorar la ciberseguridad de las entidades financieras. Este breve documento resume estas iniciativas europeas de ciberseguridad en el sector y constituye una primera descripción del complejo panorama de iniciativas relacionadas con la ciberseguridad a nivel de la UE.

Date of publication: 22-06-2021

Autor: Agencia de la Unión Europea para la Ciberseguridad; Naydenov, Rossen ; Theodoridou, Marianth

Palabras clave: certificación comunitaria , formación profesional , gestión de crisis , innovación , intercambio de información , mercado financiero , normalización , política



Título: Balancing digital transformation and cybersecurity policies

Resume: Debido a este aumento, la ciberseguridad y la privacidad son áreas de gran preocupación política. En el informe titulado Shaping Europe's Digital Future, el Consejo de la Unión Europea subrayó la importancia de la ciberseguridad como "... un componente clave para un mercado único digitalizado, ya que garantiza la confianza en la tecnología digital y el proceso de transformación digital."

Date of publication: 21-06-2021

Autor: Agencia Ejecutiva para el Consejo Europeo de Innovación y las Pymes

Palabras clave: digitalización , informática industrial , Internet , investigación y desarrollo , mercado único digital , nueva tecnología , política de telecomunicación , protección de datos , red de información , tecnología de la información



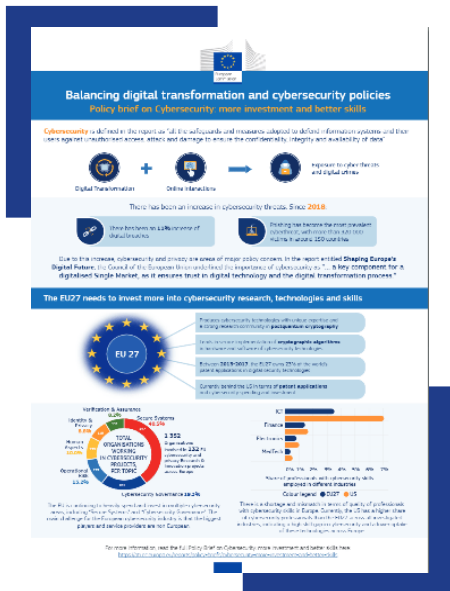
Título: The EU's arms control challenge. Bridging nuclear divides

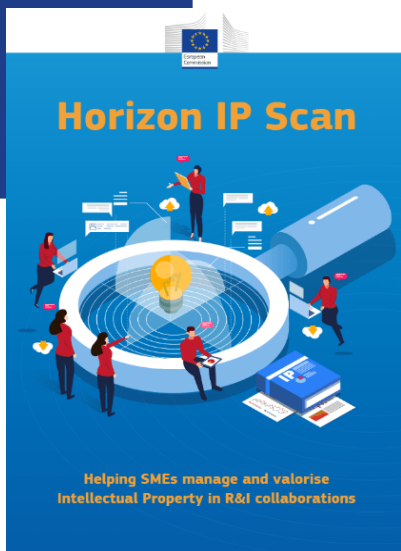
Resume: Este Documento de Chaillot sugiere que la UE puede evitar que se profundicen estas divisiones y mitigar la polarización global para promover un resultado exitoso de la próxima Conferencia de Revisión del Tratado de No Proliferación Nuclear (TNP).

Date of publication: 01-06-2021

Autor: Instituto de Estudios de Seguridad de la Unión Europea; Portela, Clara

Keywords: arma nuclear , control de armamentos , desarme , limitación de armamentos , no proliferación de armamento , no proliferación nuclear , política de defensa , política europea de armamento





Title: Horizon IP scan. Helping SMEs manage and valorise intellectual property in R&I collaborations

Resume: Horizon IP Scan is a free, customised, front-line Intellectual Property (IP) support service provided by the European Commission specifically designed to help European start-ups and other small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) involved in EU-funded collaborative research projects to effectively manage and valorise IP in collaborative R&D efforts.

Date of publication: 22-06-2021

Author: Agencia Ejecutiva para el Consejo Europeo de Innovación y las Pymes

Keywords: administrative formalities , research and development , research project , intellectual property , small and medium-sized enterprises , intellectual property , research project



Title: Advanced technologies for industry. Product watch : lightweight materials

Resume: This report aims to provide an overview of stakeholders on an analytical and empirical basis to see how lightweight materials can help EU industry stay ahead of global competitors. The objective is to map the EU lightweight materials industry and its interactions in the value chain, as well as to identify its strengths and weaknesses.

Date of publication: 22-06-2021

Author: Agencia Ejecutiva para el Consejo Europeo de Innovación y las Pymes; Fraunhofer ISI; Fischer, Piret

Keywords: value chain , competitiveness , cutting-edge industry , industrial research , advanced materials , EU industrial policy , materials technology , EU industrial policy



Title: Horizon Europe, the EU framework programme for research & innovation, 2021 - 2027. A practical guide for China

Resume: This brochure explains the content of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and is intended as a practical guide for Chinese researchers to better understand the options offered by Europe for participating in its various funding instruments.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

Author: Dirección General de Investigación e Innovación; Science and Technology Section Delegation of the European Union to China

Keywords: China , economic science , competitiveness , competitiveness , living conditions , international cooperation , democracy , promoting the idea of Europe , research expenditure (EU) , user's guide , innovation , financial instrument , EU research policy , environmental policy , industrial policy , research programme , EU programme , digital technology





Title: A robust and harmonised framework for reporting and monitoring European Partnerships in Horizon Europe

Resume: The objective of this first interim report of the Expert Group was to develop and propose a set of common indicators that could be adopted and used by all European Partnerships to monitor their progress as a policy approach, as well as to provide guidance to the partnerships in developing partnership-specific indicators to monitor their contributions towards European objectives.

Date of publication: 21-06-2021

Author: Dirección General de Investigación e Innovación (Comisión Europea, Johnson, Henric ; Gulda, Krzysztof ; Erbe, Katharina ; Doms, Michaël ; Amanatidou, Effie ; Romainen, Jari ; Julkowska, Daria ; Napa, Ülle ; Carrozza, Maria Chiara

Keywords: public-private partnership , innovation , EU research policy , research programme , data collection , partnership between the public and the private sector , innovation , personal society



Title: Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, 2021-2027. Developing talents, advancing research

Resume: The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fund excellent research and innovation and equip researchers at all stages of their careers with new knowledge and skills, through cross-border mobility and exposure to different sectors and disciplines. MSCAs help build Europe's research and innovation capacity by investing in the long-term careers of excellent researchers. They also fund the development of excellent doctoral and post-doctoral training programmes and collaborative research projects around the world.

Date of publication: 18-06-2021

Author: Dirección General de Educación, Juventud, Deporte y Cultura

Keywords: study allowance , postgraduate education , scientific research , organisation of research , scientific profession , distribution of EU funding , EU research funding



Title: European Innovation Scoreboard 2021

Resume: The EIS 2021 report is the first edition to be published using the revised measurement framework, which includes new indicators capturing digitisation and sustainable innovation. All EU results are for the current 27 Member States. Most of the data used in this report are not recent enough to capture the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Date of publication: 21-02-2021

Author: Dirección General de Mercado Interior, Industria, Emprendimiento y Pymes

Keywords: Enterprise policy, Research policy and organisation, benchmarking, economic indicator, economic sector, industrial policy, innovation, report, research and development Alternate



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

STUDY
Requested by the AIDA committee



Artificial Intelligence diplomacy

Artificial Intelligence governance
as a new European Union
external policy tool



Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies
Directorate-General for Internal Policies
Author: Ulrike Franke
PE 662306 – Issue 2021

EN

Title: Artificial Intelligence diplomacy. Artificial intelligence governance as a new European Union external policy tool

Resume: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a tool of power politics and an element of state diplomacy. However, the European Union (EU) approaches AI primarily from an economic, social and regulatory angle. This paper analyses how AI affects the EU's geopolitical power and its relationship with other countries. It presents possible scenarios of how AI may change the international balance of power and recommends ways for the EU and its member states to respond.

Date of publication: 24-06-2021

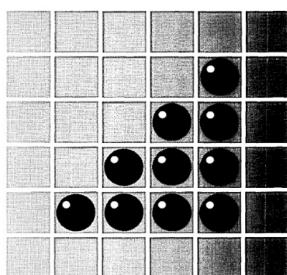
Author: Dirección General de Políticas Interiores de la Unión; Franke, Ulrike

Keywords: artificial intelligence , artificial intelligence , European Union relations , geopolitics , artificial intelligence , European Union relations , diplomatic relations , international relations , armaments , robotics , European security , international relations , diplomatic relations



Periodical 5/1983

THE SOCIAL POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION

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Title: The social policy of the European Community

Resume: One of the main objectives of the European Community is to improve the living conditions of all its citizens. To what extent has this objective been achieved and what are the prospects for the 1980s? The first section of this booklet describes the origins of social policy in the Treaties establishing the three Communities. The second section deals with the changes in Community social policy during the 1970s.

Fecha publicación: 16-03-2021

Author: European Commission

Keywords: employment status , EU member state , EU employment policy , EU member state , EU social policy , social security , history of Europe , EU employment policy , social security



European network of legal experts in
gender equality and non-discrimination

Country report

Gender equality



Turkey
2021

Justice
and Consumers

Title: Country report

Resume: Gender equality: How are EU standards transposed into national law? Turkey 2021

Date of publication: 10-06-2021

Author: Dirección General de Justicia y Consumidores (Comisión Europea) , European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination , human european consultancy , Migration Policy Group (MPG) , Universiteit Utrecht , Bakirci, Kadriye

Keywords: EU law enforcement , discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation , discrimination on grounds of disability , discrimination on grounds of age , racial discrimination , religious discrimination , sexual discrimination , ethnic discrimination , report , anti-discrimination , anti-discrimination , Turkey





Title: 2021 report on equality between women and men in the EU

Resume: On 5 March 2020, the Commission adopted its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025. The strategy was the first result of President von der Leyen's commitment to an Equality Union. It sets out an ambitious framework for the next 5 years, formally endorsed by the Commission, on how to advance gender equality in Europe and beyond. The strategy is based on a vision of a Europe where women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are free from violence and stereotypes and have the opportunity to thrive and lead. This is the first report of the new strategy. It takes stock of where the EU and its Member States stand on gender equality one year after the adoption of the Strategy.

Date of publication: 16-04-2021

Author: Dirección General de Justicia y Consumidores

Keywords: aquaculture , advice and expertise , EU Member State , European Maritime and Fisheries Fund , European Structural and Investment Funds , financial management , fishing industry , financial management



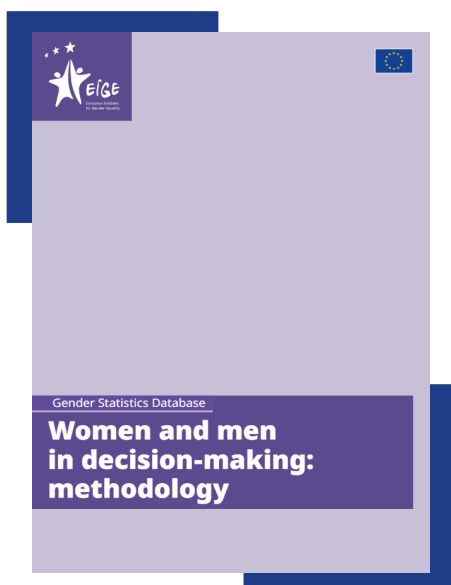
Title: EU foreign policy in action. 10 years of EU diplomacy around the world

Resume: This publication focuses on the diversity of work carried out by EU Delegations, Missions and Operations, giving a flavour of what the EU does on the ground and how EU external policy is put into practice around the world. These images are, of course, only a selection and a small fraction of the breadth of our external action. These photos were also promoted digitally on the EEAS website and social media channels as part of the #EEAS10 campaign.

Date of publication: 14-07-2021

Author: Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior

Keywords: Commission delegation , EU delegation , EU civilian mission , EU police mission , EU body , EU international role , EU agency , EU civilian mission , EU police mission , EU foreign and security policy , diplomatic relations , international relations , European External Action Service , photography , international relations , EU agency , European External Action Service



Title: Women and men in decision-making

Resume: Statistics on women and men in decision-making are a key element in assessing the implementation of area G of the Beijing Platform for Action, "Women in power and decision-making", a commitment of the Council of the European Union. All statistics on decision-making are now integrated in the entry point "Women and men in decision-making" of the EIGE gender statistics database, and can also be accessed from other relevant sections of the database. This document presents the methodology for the collection of data on decision-making, and provides information on the coverage (countries, organisations and decision-making positions), definitions applied and collection methods for each topic. It starts with general definitions and then presents detailed information for each domain.

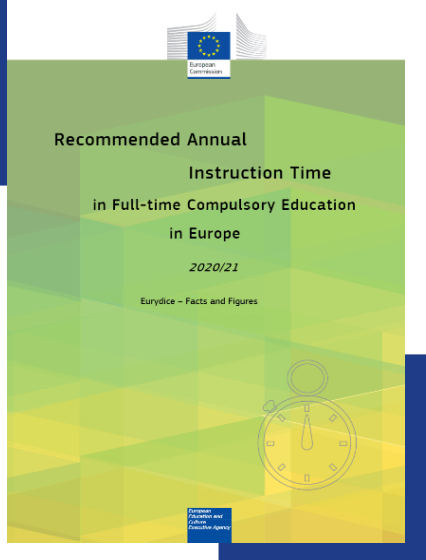
Date of publication: 26-07-2020

Author: Instituto Europeo de la Igualdad de Género

Keywords: gender equality , equal treatment , european social policy , data collection , gender equality , data collection



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / EDUCATION



Title: Recommended annual instruction time in full-time compulsory education in Europe, 2020/21

Resume: This report on instructional time analyses the recommended minimum instructional time in full-time compulsory general education in 39 European education systems by 2020/21. Special attention is given to reading, writing and literature, mathematics, natural sciences and social studies.

Date of publication: 25-06-2021

Author: Eurydice (Agencia Ejecutiva Europea de Educación y Cultura)

Keywords: compulsory education , compulsory education , compulsory education , Europe , educational planning , educational policy , educational planning , educational policy , educational programme , data collection , educational system , data processing , duration of studies , data collection , compulsory education , Europe , educational organisation



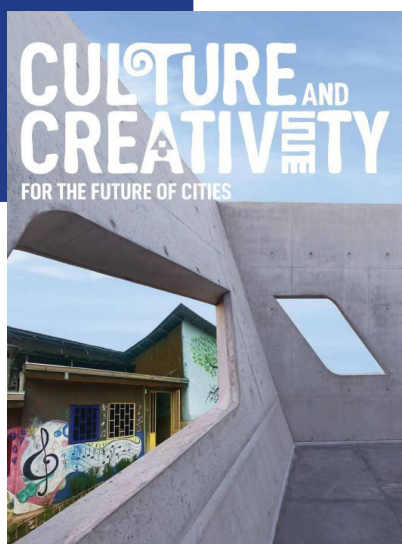
Title: EU sports policy. Assessment and possible ways forward : research for CULT Committee

Resume: Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU has the right to support, coordinate or complement the activities of the Member States in the field of sport. European sport policies over the last decade have been characterised by numerous activities and continued differentiation.

Date of publication: 22-06-2021

Author: Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln; Dirección General de Políticas Interiores de la Unión (Parlamento Europeo); ENGSO Youth; EUPEA; Willibald-Gebhardt-Institut e.V; Scheuer, Claude; Tisson, Caroline; Garamvolgyi, Bence; Pranjic, Ivana; Uhlenbrock, Christina; Brückner, Sebastian; Glibo, Iva; Mittag, Jürgen; Bailey, Richard; Naul, Roland; Bock, Vincent

Keywords: EU Member State , funding , public aid , EU Member State , regional development , coronavirus disease , human rights , governance , social integration , human rights , sport , mass media , public aid , career , regional development , governance , social integration , youth , funding , public aid , mass media



Title: Culture and creativity for the future of cities

Resume: Cities function as "laboratories" in addressing new challenges, the effective role of local governments and their partnerships, and mobilise all local stakeholders to connect culture and sustainable development. This compilation of a desk study on the contribution of culture to sustainable urban development, with best practices and methodologies, illustrates some of the latest priorities put forward by the European Union.

Date of publication: 18-06-2021

Author: Directorate-General for International Partnerships (European Commission) , Enabel , French Community of Belgium

Keywords: Africa , Asia , business model , capacity building , cultural cooperation , cultural heritage , cultural pluralism , culture , culture , Latin America , non-cognitive skills , social development , sustainable development , city , urbanisation





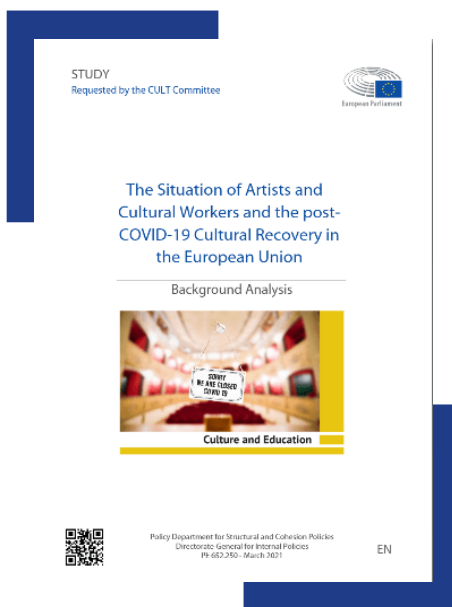
Title: European Education and Culture Executive Agency

Resume: Students and teachers, young people and volunteers, artists, writers and performers, media professionals and citizens active in local communities. What do they have in common? They all want to hone their skills, create and share knowledge and ideas, and enrich Europe's cultural diversity.

Date of publication: 17-06-2021

Author: Agencia Ejecutiva Europea de Educación y Cultura

Keywords: executive agency , EU agency , cultural policy , education policy , EU programme , EU body , cultural policy , education policy



Title: The situation of artists and cultural workers and the post-COVID-19 cultural recovery in the European Union

Resume: This background analysis on the situation of artists and cultural workers and post-COVID-19 cultural recovery in the European Union is prepared for the European Parliament. It provides an overview of the main features of the situation of artists and cultural workers across Europe, their working conditions, precariousness and career paths. It outlines the rationale for specific policy solutions and maps the main challenges for a European framework for working conditions in the cultural and creative sectors and industries.

Date of publication: 02-06-2021

Author: Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union; Badia, Tere ; Rosana, Gabriele ; Kiss, Kornelia ; Weisinger, Maya ; Bertagni, Sebastiano ; Dâmaso, Mafalda

Keywords: cultural policy , cultural policy , digitalisation , European Union , income , career , income , career , social status , working conditions , gender equality , cultural policy , art profession , coronary heart disease , digitalisation , gender equality



Title: Europa Creativa 2021-2027

Resume: The EU programme in support of the cultural and creative sectors

Date of publication: 12-05-2021

Author: Dirección General de Educación, Juventud, Deporte y Cultura (Comisión Europea)

Keywords: competitiveness , artistic creation , culture , audiovisual industry , cultural industry , multimedia , cultural policy , EU programme , cultural promotion , audiovisual industry , cultural industry , competitiveness , cultural policy



RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY / COVID-19



Title: Coronavirus pandemic in the EU. Fundamental rights implications : vaccine rollout and equality of access in the EU. Bulletin #7, 1 March - 30 April 2021

Resume: This Coronavirus Bulletin focuses on equitable access to vaccines. It describes the situation in the 27 EU Member States from 1 March to 30 April 2021. The bulletin examines two main areas: planning and prioritisation in the roll-out of Covid-19 vaccines and their deployment in countries. It covers information and communication campaigns, as well as (pre-)registration channels and vaccine administration.

Date of publication: 16-06-2021

Author: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Keywords: right to health , right of the individual , human rights , human rights , coronavirus disease , epidemic , EU Member State , freedom of movement , government policy , restriction of liberty , vaccine



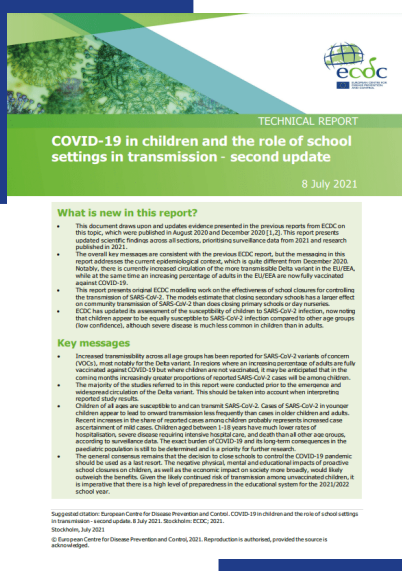
Title: European surveillance of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in the EU/EEA Aggregate data reporting : surveillance protocol version 1.1

Resume: This surveillance protocol aims to allow countries to report their existing national surveillance data on COVID-19 in long-term care facilities (LTCFs) easily and regularly. This will allow the ECDC to report national trends in the EU/EEA, with the aim of providing all EU/EEA countries with timely information to support their preparedness activities for LTCFs.

Date of publication: 01-07-2021

Author: Centro Europeo para la Prevención y el Control de las Enfermedades (Órgano o agencia de la UE), Nicolay, Nathalie ; Spiteri, Gianfranco ; Suetens, Carl ; Melidou, Angeliki ; Tseroni, Maria ; Mougkou, Aikaterini ; Adlhoj, Cornelia ; Bartha, Zsolt ; Monnet, Dominique

Keywords: long-term care , coronavirus disease , European Economic Area , report , preventive medicine , data collection , European Union , disease surveillance , disease surveillance



Title: Partial COVID-19 vaccination, vaccination following SARS-CoV-2 infection and heterologous vaccination schedule: summary of evidence

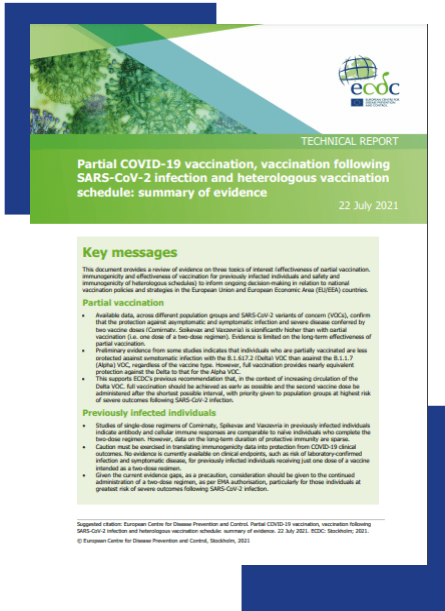
Resume: The aim of this paper is to provide an update on the role of children in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and the role of schools in the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing in particular on the experience of EU/EEA countries since the beginning of the pandemic.

Date of publication: 08-07-2021

Author: Centro Europeo para la Prevención y el Control de las Enfermedades

Keywords: Community-acquired infections, Coronavirus, COVID-19, EU/EEA, Prevention and control, Public health threat, Scientific advice





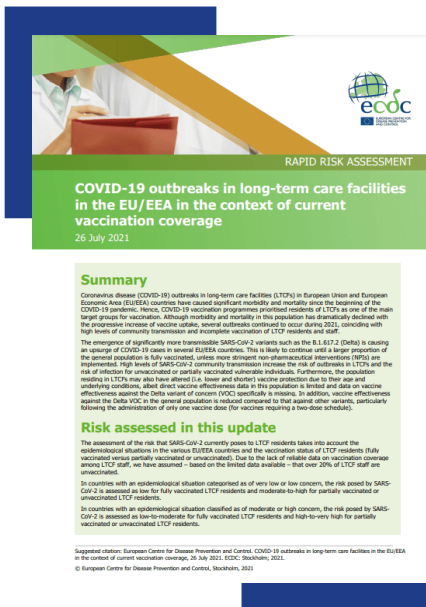
Title: Partial COVID-19 vaccination, vaccination following SARS-CoV-2 infection and heterologous vaccination schedule: summary of evidence

Resume: This document provides a review of the evidence on three topics of interest (effectiveness of partial vaccination, immunogenicity and effectiveness of vaccination for previously infected individuals, and safety and immunogenicity of heterologous schedules) to inform ongoing decision-making regarding national vaccination policies and strategies in European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA) countries.

Date of publication: 22-07-2021

Author: Centro Europeo para la Prevención y el Control de las Enfermedades

Keywords: Coronavirus, Coronaviridae, COVID-19, EU/EEA, Immunisation, Public health threat



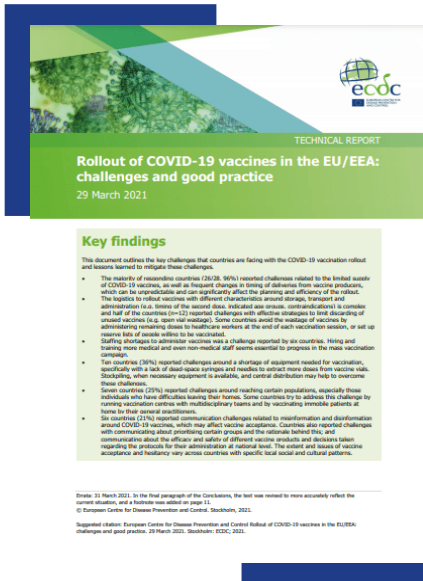
Title: Rapid Risk Assessment: COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities in the EU/EEA in the context of current vaccination coverage

Resume: Outbreaks of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in long-term care facilities (LTC-Fs) in European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA) countries have caused significant morbidity and mortality since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, COVID-19 vaccination programmes prioritised residents of long-term care facilities as one of the main target groups for vaccination. Although morbidity and mortality in this population have declined dramatically with the progressive increase in vaccine uptake, several outbreaks continued to occur during 2021, coinciding with high levels of community transmission and incomplete vaccination of hospice residents and staff.

Date of publication: 26-06-2021

Author: Centro Europeo para la Prevención y el Control de las Enfermedades

Keywords: COVID-19, Healthcare-associated infections, Prevention and control, Public health threat Healthcare associated infections, Prevention and control, Public health threat, Scientific advice



Title: Rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in the EU/EEA: challenges and good practice

Resume: The aim of this report is to share the challenges that countries are facing in the COVID-19 vaccine deployment process. It also aims to share lessons learned and good practices that countries have put in place to mitigate the challenges.

Date of publication: 29-03-2021

Author: Centro Europeo para la Prevención y el Control de las Enfermedades

Keywords: coronavirus, COVID-19, vaccination, challenge





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