



EUROPEAN
OFFICE OF
CYPRUS



INFO DAYS

**“2018 CEF Energy
Virtual Info Day”**

9 April 2018,
10:00 - 12:30,
Brussels time

<https://tinyurl.com/yce1bhko>

**“Bio-Based Industries JU
Info Day 2018”**

17 April 2018,
Brussels, Belgium

<https://tinyurl.com/yceddor5p>

“LIFE Info Day 2018”

4 May 2018,
Brussels, Belgium

<https://tinyurl.com/y7t9f2tc>

IN THIS ISSUE:

News from EOC	1
News from EOC's members	2-6
Research and Innovation	7
Health	8
Energy and Environment	9
Regional Policy	10
Education and Training	11
News of Enterprise Europe Network	12
Calendars April- May 2018	13-14

EUROPEAN NEWS

ISSUE 130

FEBRUARY 2018

Education Fair “Education and Career 2018”

The education fair “Education and Career 2018” was held at kiosk 6 of the national “Cyprus International Education fair” on the 23rd until the 25th of February 2018. The fair was co -organised by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB) and the European Office of Cyprus (EOC), in cooperation with the British Council Cyprus.

Students, parents, and other interested parties had the chance to discuss personally with the agents and representatives of the Universities and be informed about study programmes of their field of interest. More than 150 Universities and Education Institutes from Cyprus, Greece, the UK, the USA, Russia, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Italy, France, Bulgaria, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Spain, Slovakia, Ireland and Hungary, participated in the fair providing in-formation on their study programmes, offers, and job and funding prospects..

The growing internationalization of Higher Education is widely considered to constitute an important positive factor in the enhancement of its quality and relevance. Data show that mobility is a factor fore-casting better job opportunities and career development.

The participation of foreign agents in the fair reinforced the internationalisation of the exhibitors, which constitutes an important element of enhanced networking and created partnerships on common study programmes and research, interconnection with the business world, youth support in matters of career and skills development, as well as opportunities about student exchanges and support in internship placements.

The European office of Cyprus representing organisations engaged in the areas of Education, Research, Technology and Innovation, contributed decisively in the organisation of the



Mrs. Athina Michaelidou-Evripidou, Director of the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus at the opening of the Exhibition.



Psychometric career guidance at the Exhibition.

Fair, providing the channel for the development of more and closer partnerships between Universities, businesses and other organisations. As an organisation we support and promote quality education and research excellence. We offer cooperation opportunities among the Universities of Cyprus and Greece with foreign agencies through the EU's funding schemes Erasmus+ and Horizon2020, which down the line create job opportunities and contribute to a higher living standard, hence offering advantages for everyone .

The telecommunications sponsor was PrimeTel.

More information:
<http://www.edufair-cyprus.eu/index.php?id=457>

RISE has announced Twenty (20) Research Positions



RISE

**Research Centre on Interactive Media
Smart Systems and Emerging Technologies**

The Research Centre on Interactive Media, Smart System and Emerging Technologies (RISE; www.rise.org.cy) is a newly founded research centre in Cyprus, located at Nicosia.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme H2020-WIDESPREAD-01-2016-2017 (Teaming Phase 2) under grant agreement No. 739578, as well as from the Cypriot Government, local and international partners and other sponsors. RISE is a joint venture between the Municipality of Nicosia (coordinator), Max Planck Institute for Informatics (Germany), University College London (UK), University of Cyprus, Cyprus University of Technology, and Open University of Cyprus.

RISE has announced **twenty (20) positions (part-time/full-time) for junior researchers under various Multidisciplinary Research Groups (MRGs)**. There are two (2) full-time equivalent (part-time/full-time) research positions for each of the following MRGs:

- **Cognitive and Clinical Applications MRG**
- **Interactive Media and Education/Edutainment MRG**
- **Museums and Difficult Heritage MRG**
- **Real-time Populated Virtual Environments MRG**
- **Smart Networked Systems MRG**
- **Smart Human-centred Technologies MRG**
- **Smart, Ubiquitous, and Participatory Technologies for Healthcare Innovation MRG**
- **Socially-Competent Agent Technologies MRG**
- **Transparency in Algorithms MRG**
- **Virtual Reality for Well-being MRG**

The positions are open to everyone, internationally. Applicants outside the EU may require a working VISA for Cyprus.

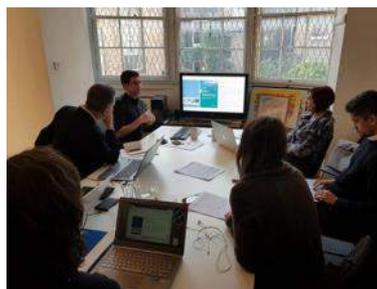
The deadline for applications is **Thursday, April 6th, 2018**. The call will remain open and applications received after this date will be reviewed on a rolling basis, till positions are filled. For general inquiries, applicants may contact RISE at info@rise.org.cy. More details about each of the specific positions/MRG research areas can be found [here](#).

More information: <http://www.rise.org.cy/en-gb/vacancies/>

“EPUM” Project: Emerging Perspectives on Urban Morphology

The Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus coordinates the international project “Emerging Perspectives on Urban Morphology: Researching and Learning through multiple practices” which aims at the integration of different, often isolated urban form research and teaching approaches through pedagogic innovation and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). EPUM (2017-2020) aims to develop an innovative, open and inclusive system of teaching and training in urban form from a multidisciplinary perspective, which is capable of enabling the current and future generation of planning and design professionals to address comprehensively and effectively the variety of issues and challenges faced by contemporary cities.

EPUM identifies the need to establish a network linking different approaches in the study of urban form, developing learning platforms that foster the exchange of knowledge, providing opportunities for contact between researchers, educators and learners from different geographical areas and disciplines.



EPUM
Emerging Perspectives on Urban Morphology

This network will provide the basis for a multidisciplinary exploration and the opportunity to establish common theoretical foundations for the growing number of urban form studies in many parts of the world. It will also provide the means to engage all stakeholders currently within introverted disciplinary, institutional and geographical boundaries, in a fruitful discussion through a collaborative open learning curriculum.

The Department of Architecture (Coordinator Nadia Charalambous) and the Computer Science Department at UCY (SEiT lab), Sapienza University Rome, University of Porto, TU Wien and Space Syntax Limited, participate in the project which is funded by the Erasmus + program of the European Union.

More information: <http://epum.eu/>

The “Space4Cocreate” model: Innovative collaborative working between VET providers and business organisations



Nowadays organizations are facing very important and long-term changes that have impact in all economic and social changes. These geo-political, economic and social developments are forcing companies to change their ways of doing, to make things better or differently, transforming their value proposals, their international presence and their organisation and management model. Talent and innovation are key factors in the equation as guarantee of employability and competitiveness. In this complex and uncertain context, the concept of open innovation is used as an ally.

The Space4Cocreate model is specific and simultaneously flexible; therefore it can be implemented in nearly any environment. Open innovation is the use of purposive inflows and outflows of knowledge to accelerate internal innovation, and expand the markets for external use of innovation, respectively. This paradigm assumes that firms can and should use external ideas as well as internal ideas, and internal and external paths to market, as they look to advance their technology. The SPACE 4 COCREATE Model is one of the core outputs developed in the framework of the ERASMUS + Strategic Partnership project Open and Innovative Spaces for Collaborative Working between VET Providers and Business Organizations, funded by the European Commission.

SPACE 4 COCREATE Model has been created as a handbook for the implementation of Open Innovation (OI) projects. It can be used as a core document by businesses, education and training providers and any other organization involved in the implementation and development of OI projects. For the elaboration of the model, stakeholders in the field of the Open Innovation, business and vocation and education representatives have taken part in different stages: 1) identification of successfully implemented Open Innovation good practices in Europe; 2) analysis of the good practices selected and selection of the criteria that helps for their success; 3) definition and validation of the framework of the Model according to the criteria selected.

The Model is structured in **five main chapters**. The first one introduces **Open Innovation concept**, what does it mean, which are the benefits, and its relations with the business models and vocational and educational training systems. Second chapter “**Collaborations and Synergies**” makes reference to the different collaboration possibilities that could happen during the implementation process. Third chapter defines the **Structure of the SPACE4COCREATE Model**; which are the participants, their roles and the stages that Model comprises. The methodology and proposed tools are also included. **Transferability aspects** are contained in the fourth chapter; it describes different situations that could happen with the format of different scenarios with different trends. The last main chapter includes **Successful Cases that can help businesses, education and training providers and any other organisation to understand the use and implementation of Open Innovation in real life.**

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/space4cocreate/>



“COME IN” Project: Competencies in Enterprises in Integration



COME IN - Competences in Enterprises on Integration - is a two-year-project co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. COME IN aims to contribute to the efficient integration of refugees in the European labour market and to enhance employers' competences and willingness to hire and integrate refugees.

Today's European labour markets face numerous challenges such as increasing numbers of vacant positions in some sectors, skill shortage, ageing workforces, or the lack of motivated apprentices. In these circumstances, refugees represent an important resource of human capital and enterprises need to learn how to exploit the wealth of talent that refugees bring to Europe.

COME IN addresses especially:

- Key staff in enterprises such as HR managers, supervisors and in-house trainers.
- Integration experts from NGOs, enterprises, research and public institutions.
- VET and adult education trainers.
- Public bodies such as chambers of commerce, business development agencies, job centres and public institutions.

Seven partners from Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece and Italy cooperate on this European project: Coordinator: Landkreis Kassel (Germany), BUPNET (Germany), Die Berater GmbH (Austria), Trendhuis BVBA (Belgium), Four Elements (Greece), Catro (Bulgaria), CESIE (Italy).

More information: www.welcomingenterprises.eu. You can also [register](#) for an interview to share your experience with the project partners.

Project “REST”: Refugee Employment Support and Training

REST is a two-year-project funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union. It started in March 2017 and aims at creating and applying a comprehensive training and support system for enterprises and organisations that want to employ and integrate refugees at their workplaces.

This program aims to prepare employers for a situation (which will start in a few months in the target countries) when many refugees will have the legal status to enter the labor market. So only through direct integration into the local economy, immigration can be an opportunity to improve the European workforce, which at the same time shrinks and becomes dramatically old.

Based on the analysis of the quantitative and qualitative information provided by companies, NGOs and other stakeholders four main areas of training and support needs were identified:

1. Providing information and strengthening cooperation.
2. Awareness raising and Intercultural dialogue.
3. Internal mentoring and on-going support.
4. Job matching.

Based on the results of the needs analyses the REST team is currently developing a comprehensive modular



training concept consisting of face-to-face workshops, coaching support and training material as well as networking facilities on an internet platform to assist enterprises in the process of employing refugees. **The training will tackle** the following topics:

- **Legal and administrative aspects to be considered when employing refugees.**
- **Recruitment and induction of refugees.**
- **Mentoring of refugees for better integration at the workplace.**
- **Intercultural aspect at the workplace.**
- **Easy language at the workplace.**

If you are interested in receiving free REST support, coaching and training offered in spring 2018 [register in the REST community](#) in order to receive more information. The REST consortium consists of a multi-lateral partnership of eight partners from six countries (Greece, Italy, Germany, Austria, France, Bulgaria).

More information: <http://rest-eu.org/>

Project “InterCap”: Developing Capacities Together



“Developing capacities together: European CSO-university networks for global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world” (InterCap) is a 3-year project that started on November 2017 and will last until October 2020, funded by EuropeAid Programme of the European Union.

The project envisages to establish European CSOs-university networks, to build the capacities of the education actors, to promote global learning on migration, security and sustainable development in an interdependent world. InterCap, led by the educational and research organisation CARDET, brings together 13 organizations from 12 different EU countries specialized in teachers’ training, educational reform, sustainable development and migration issues, along with more than 40 associates from all over EU (local authorities, Ministries, Universities, and CSOs). Overall, the project aims to enhance critical understanding of migration and sustainable development, in the context of SDGs, amongst those in teacher education, in order to increase comprehension of the relationship between the interdependent world, (in)-security and risk.

The partners shall meet their aims through the development and/or implementation of the following main activities:

- Conduct audit on migration, sustainability and development education.
- Establish mentor partnerships between teacher training institutions, a European development education Community of Practice and national networks for the promotion of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD).
- Develop a 6-module Training Package for development education teacher training based on participatory educational methods.
- Implement international & national teacher trainers’ trainings and national teachers’ workshops.
- Practice-oriented projects, involving CSOs, Universities, schools and local community.
- Internships for pre-service teachers.
- Annual International Conferences and other awareness raising activities.

More information: www.developptogether.eu

“T-Challenge” Project: Entrepreneurship education using challenge-based learning



The T-Challenge project, which will run from November 2017 to October 2019, aims to provide high quality opportunities for skills and competences development under an entrepreneurship education programme which will make use of alternative pedagogical methods.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Promote entrepreneurship education through the use of alternative pedagogical resources using ICT, at the same time as using challenge based learning.
- Allow entrepreneurial learning in all sectors of education including non-formal learning.
- Challenge educators to develop their own educational resources/webquests in an interdisciplinary way and share them with peers through T-Challenge WebQuests Platform Network.
- Promote a cross-curricular approach to subjects and, consequently, a collaborative work from educators.
- Foster an entrepreneurial spirit in European citizens, able to research, select, analyze, organise and present information.

To achieve these objectives, this project entails three Intellectual Outputs:

- **Webquests platform** - an open educational resource (OER), which includes a minimum number of 36 Webquests on the following topics: entrepreneurship innovation; leadership; critical thinking; social impact; and circular economy
- **Training of Trainers curriculum** – consisting of a training guideline and a tutor manual, enabling trainers and teachers to deliver T-Challenge entrepreneurship education program and develop their own WebQuest
- **Guideline** to help other European organizations using the T-Challenge products

More information: info@cardet.org

The Non-Government Organization CARDET launches project “CivAct”



Beginning November 2017, and for 18 months, Cypriots, third countries nationals and refugees in 6 European Countries will engage in activities that will explore the idea European Identity and will create a space where people will be empowered to discuss migration issues, refugees and the idea of European Identity not as a collection of national identities but as an idea of acceptance, solidarity and human rights, through practical actions and ways to interact with European political decision

makers as European Citizens through examples (e.g. limiting online hate speech).

The project will engage a number of volunteers from formal and informal education and the European Volunteer Platform EU Solidarity Corps platform to give ownership of the design and implement actions that will be relevant to them in the framework of discussing migration, national identity, European Union and ways to interact with European decision makers.

As an initial framework for our actions we have created an anonymous survey for people living in Cyprus, to gauge the views on migration, refugees and the European Union. The survey is available in 6 languages and can be found in this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/civactsurvey>

The project consortium would like to encourage active students and members of organized societies to communicate with and be part of the volunteer pack in order to start designing relevant activities.

You can communicate with in the telephone +35 22002109 – Theocharis.michail@cardet.org (Haris Michail).

More information: www.civact.eu

“ArtS” Project: Free vocational Training Programme for Artists

Are you an artist? musician? actor? photographer? curator? painter? interested in the skills needed for creative entrepreneurship, and in making art a source of growth and job creation? If so, and you are looking for an innovative and stimulating experience, join the ArtS training today!!

The ArtS training programme offers you the opportunity to attend three transversal modules, which correspond with the most important skills and competences, identified for the Cultural and Creative Sectors in Italy, Spain and Greece:

- **Business administration /management**
- **Networking/ digital and media communication**
- **Enterpreneurial skills and social entrepreneurship**

And to choose at least 1 Module relevant with your specialization:

- **Craft**
- **Cultural Heritage**
- **Visual arts**
- **Audiovisual and multimedia**
- **Literary arts**
- **Performing arts**

Attending the training you will get an European certification valid around all Europe! **Participation and attendance are FREE!! The deadline for applications is 30 September.**

The European project "ArtS", funded by the Erasmus + program, has implemented a common vocational training program designed to **offer new opportunities and innovative tools to artists to improve their skills and thus levels of employment and their integration into the labor market, notably through educational processes designed in accordance with the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF) and the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training and Training (ECVET).**

More information: <http://arts-project.eu/are-you-an-artist/>



Project “E-Evalinto”: Online Educational Portal for Supporting Open Access to Intercultural Mentoring Tools for Secondary School Teachers



An innovative project on implementing intercultural mentoring practices at school under the title E-EVALINTO is being implemented in Secondary Schools in 5 European countries (Spain, Italy, Poland, Ireland & Cyprus).

Specifically, the project is focusing on the promotion of peer tutoring actions with migrant students managed through an ICT environment. The ICT environment which constitutes an online educational portal is multifunctional and its purpose is twofold. On the one hand, it provides Secondary School Teachers the theoretical and methodological framework for implementing intercultural mentoring programs. On the other hand, it serves as an online environment for assessing, managing and developing activities for intercultural contexts. The online educational portal was built and is being maintained by the University of Salamanca and the University of Cadiz that are also in charge of the user manual, guidelines and tutorials. The learning material has been translated in the official languages of the countries where the project has been put into practice.

The expected impact of the project is to reduce early school leaving in order to reduce the gap between migrant and non-migrant students and thus meeting the target of reducing Early School Leaving below 10% as stated in the educational priorities of the EU 2020 strategy.

A closure event will be held in Salamanca (Spain) organized by the University of Salamanca and will attract key note speakers from Europe who are working on policies and practices in the field of migrant education and a wide spectrum of stakeholders: school teachers, academic staff, in-service training institutions, educational NGOs, regional educational authorities etc.

More information: <https://evalinto.eu/>

Bold science to meet big challenges

A plastic-free ocean, 100 carbon neutral cities by 2030 or decreasing the burden of dementia, these are examples of bold but concrete goals. Setting EU-level research and innovation missions with such ambitious goals can inspire European citizens, push the frontier for research and innovation, drive economic growth, and help solve some of our society's biggest challenges. On the 22nd of February professor Mariana Mazzucato presented her vision, entitled "Mission-Oriented Research & Innovation in the European Union - A problem-solving approach to fuel innovation-led growth", to Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation. Her report is the latest in a series of inputs the Commission will consider in shaping the post-Horizon 2020 EU research and innovation framework programme.



The report recommends five key criteria for the selection of missions at EU level. They must:

- Be bold and inspirational, with wide societal relevance
- Be ambitious, but with realistic research & innovation actions
- Foster cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral and cross-actor innovation
- Set a clear direction: targeted, measureable and time-bound

- Require multiple, bottom-up solutions.

The Commission is calling on the public and research and innovation stakeholders for feedback on the report, including suggestions for possible EU research and innovation missions.

More information: <https://tinyurl.com/y9hlss88>

Science, Research and Innovation Report (SRIP) 2018

Europe has a unique opportunity to lead the next wave of breakthrough innovation where digital technologies meet the physical world in areas such as digital manufacturing, genomics, artificial intelligence or the Internet of Things, penetrating all sectors of economy and society. But it needs to translate its global scientific leadership into innovation and entrepreneurial leadership. This is one of the main findings of the latest Science, Research and Innovation performance of the EU (SRIP) 2018 report, published by the European Commission. The report documents how Europe's economic prosperity and social model rely on its ability to create and disseminate innovation. At the same time,



the EU needs to fully embrace emerging innovations and technologies in order to overcome a severe productivity problem and to sustain the current economic growth.

The Report points out a number of actions the EU needs to adopt to become a frontrunner in innovation:

- prioritise innovation investment;
- introduce new approaches to innovation support;
- adapt regulatory frameworks to incentivise innovation;
- foster innovation-friendly business environment.

More information: <https://tinyurl.com/yda8wavf>

Promote your Innovation with NIR-VANA

Are you looking for support to take your innovation to the next step? Join the NIR-VANA platform and make your company and projects visible to potential clients, partners, and innovation experts.

NIR-VANA is developing online services to help you innovate with the help of external partners following the Open Innovation principles. Thanks to NIR-VANA you will also discover different public funding opportunities and receive expert advice on how to benefit from them.



NIR-VANA is also the place where you can get market and intellectual property knowledge and prepare yourself to grow internationally.

Interested? Don't wait, join the NIR-VANA platform now! It's free!

This project has received funding from the European Union's under Horizon 2020 INNO-SUP.

More information: <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/take-your-innovation-next-level-with-nir-vana>

Call for Proposals for Pilot Projects in Public Health Sector

The Directorate General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission has published a Call for Proposals for Pilot Projects in Public Health Sector. Two new topics have been opened under this specific call for proposals:

- *PP-1-1-2018: Environmental Monitoring of Pesticide Use through Honeybees*
- *PP-1-2-2018: Rare 2030 - a participatory foresight study for policy-making rare diseases*



Grant applications are eligible if submitted by legal entities (with or without legal personality). Applicants must be legally established organisations, public authorities, public sector bodies, in particular research and health institutions, universities and higher education establishments established in one of the 28 EU Member States. The application shall state the legal status of the applicant. Topic specific requirements apply to the consortium criteria. The deadline for submission of proposals for both topics is **15 May 2018**.

More information: <https://goo.gl/vtDyVf>

Assessing health technology in the EU: Commission proposes to reinforce cooperation amongst Member States



The independent Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health has adopted three Opinions related to access to healthcare, innovative payment models for high-cost innovative medicines and performance of primary care.

The Opinion on innovative payment models for high-cost innovative medicines analyses how national pricing and reimbursement authorities could improve patients' access to innovative medicines and foster innovation that matters whilst ensuring that health systems are financially sustainable. It explores feasible new ways of setting prices for specialty medicines in terms of improving access.

The Opinion on benchmarking access to healthcare in the EU responds to the request for quantitative and qualitative benchmarks to assess progress in reducing unmet need for healthcare. It can support Member States in bridging the gaps in access to healthcare, giving effect to the principle of access to healthcare enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The Opinion on tools and methodologies for assessing the performance of primary care explores how to measure the performance of primary care. It takes account of the complex structure, modes of operating and services provision of primary care, and also of its outcomes, particularly in terms of relevance, equity, quality and financial sustainability.

he Opinion on tools and methodologies for assessing the performance of primary care explores how to measure the performance of primary care. It takes account of the complex structure, modes of operating and services provision of primary care, and also of its outcomes, particularly in terms of relevance, equity, quality and financial sustainability.

More information: <https://tinyurl.com/ybb66uz5>

The European Cancer Information System

Discussing cancer related issues is never easy. At the same time, given that the disease is still the second leading cause of death in the EU, there is a constant need for a robust, well informed response to it in order to contribute to the prevention, early detection, and adequate treatment.

The European Cancer Information System (ECIS) website launched on the occasion of World Cancer Day by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's in-house science and knowledge service, allows experts and practitioners to explore geographical patterns and trends. It gathers data from around 150 European population-based cancer registries covering 25 EU Member States and 7 non-EU European countries providing valuable information on how well national cancer programmes are actually working, and address short-



comings.

EU has been supporting research to fight cancer since 1985 through its research and innovation programmes. These efforts focus on developing patient-oriented strategies to prevent, cure and help people live with cancer. With funding totalling €2.4 billion since

2007, European #cancer research has been leading personalised medicine approaches and efforts to understanding cancer biology as well as better prevention, treatment and care solutions.

More information: <https://tinyurl.com/y7ggy77y>

Smart finance for smart buildings

At its meeting on the 6th of February, the Board of the European Investment Bank (EIB) approved the creation of a brand new financial instrument, the Smart Finance for Smart Buildings initiative. The aim is to make investments in energy efficiency projects in residential buildings more attractive to private investors, through the intelligent use of EU grants as a guarantee.



could be taken out of energy poverty.

The Smart Finance for Smart Buildings facility will improve use of public EU funding and will multiply the effect of the EU money invested. It will help to de-risk investments in the buildings sector, giving investors and financiers a better understanding of the risks and benefits of energy efficiency investments. Moreover, it will offer assistance with project development, as many households lack the skills and capacity to set up, implement and finance ambitious energy efficiency projects.

This new instrument, together with other EU policy initiatives for smart buildings, aims to unlock a total of €10 billion in public and private funds between now and 2020 for energy efficiency projects. It is estimated that this could support up to 220,000 jobs, and help establish a renovation market for small businesses worth up to €120 billion. In addition, up to 3.2 million European families

More information: <https://tinyurl.com/y828mt2g>

Report on renewable energy prospects in the European Union.

On Monday 19 February, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete and the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Adnan Amin launched in Brussels a new report on renewable energy prospects in the European Union.



Prepared by the International Renewable Energy Agency, the report identified cost-effective renewable energy options across all EU countries, sectors, and technologies, in order to meet – and even exceed – the proposed 27% renewables target for 2030. It also provided an open platform for EU countries to assess the impacts of their national renewable energy plans at an EU level, provided insights into the environmental and economic impacts of further deployment of renewables in the EU, and highlighted the role that renewables could play in the long-term decarbonisation of the European energy system.

The report also showed that all individual EU countries have the potential to deploy more renewables cost effectively, especially by generating more solar and wind energy. Moreover, in the heating and cooling sector, which accounts for about half of the EU's energy demand, more than two thirds of the renewables options identified in the report are cheaper than the conventional alternative. The report made a number of recommendations aimed at helping the EU decarbonize its economy and limit global warming to well below 2°, in line with the Paris Agreement, as well as bringing substantial health benefits for citizens.

Support for Exercise Projects from the Civil Protection Mechanism



The Union Civil Protection Mechanism aims to provide support, upon request, in the event of major emergencies and to facilitate improved coordination of assistance intervention. The new call for proposals published late February 2018 aims to co-finance training projects aimed at assessing and improving the response of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism to major emergencies.

The term "exercises" refers to a range of activities that span from validate existing capabilities to exploring new ones, from focusing on a national response team's performance to focusing on the trans-governmental and cross-sectorial emergency response mechanisms. They are designed to enhance the readiness and capacities of national response and to test or validate crisis management procedures.

The purpose of this call is to enable and support exercise projects which provide opportunities in controlled environments to assess, learn from and improve the response capability of Participating States of the Mechanism and the European Commission. The deadline for submission of proposals is **15 May 2018**.

More information: <https://tinyurl.com/y8am492w>

New guidance helps Member States organise sound tender procedures for EU-funded projects



On the 13th of February 2018, the Commission published new guidance to help national, regional and local public officials dealing with EU funds ensure efficient and transparent public procurement procedures for EU-funded projects.

The guidance covers the process from A to Z, from the preparation and publication of the calls to the selection and evaluation of bids and the contract implementation. As such, it can also be useful outside the scope of EU funds. At each step, the guidance includes tips to avoid mistakes, good practices and useful links and templates. It also explains how to make the most out of the opportunities offered by the revised

public procurement directives of 2014, i.e. less red tape and more online procedures to make it easier for small businesses to participate in public tenders and the possibility of introducing new criteria in award decision to choose socially responsible companies and innovative, environment-friendly products.

The European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds channel over €450 billion into the EU real economy over the 2014-2020 funding period, half of which is invested through public procurement. An infographic on the guidance and more information on what the Commission does to help Member States improve the way they manage and invest EU funds are available online.

More information: <https://tinyurl.com/ydhbtktw>

Reports on progress under global commitments for sustainable urban development

The three commitments contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. They are part of the New Urban Agenda, also presented 15 months ago. Each of these commitments has a specific scope, expected achievements and deliverables.

This is what has been achieved since end 2016:

Commitment to enhance cooperation between cities in the field of sustainable urban development

The EU's International Urban Cooperation (IUC) was launched in 2016 to support this commitment and develop city-to-city cooperation around the globe.

Commitment to develop a global, harmonised definition of cities

To facilitate monitoring, benchmarking and eventually policy-making, it is important that the same definition of



cities is used globally. The EU has been working on such a definition, which will be presented to the UN in March 2019, in partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank.

Commitment to deliver the New Urban Agenda through the Urban Agenda for the EU

3 action plans out of 12 have already been drawn up under the Urban Agenda for the EU, on urban poverty, the integration of migrants and air quality. They include policy recommendations, good practices and projects to be replicated across the EU and in the world. All the action plans are expected to be completed by end 2018.

More information: <https://tinyurl.com/ycm4ll43>

New Portal: Interreg.eu



In order to make Interreg more accessible, understandable and simple for a wider audience as well as promote its opportunities and benefits, Interact, in coordination with Interreg programmes, has developed the 'interreg.eu' portal.

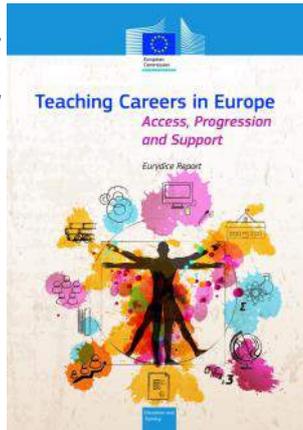
The website features a simplified interactive Europe map of all Interreg programmes with easily accessible programme pages, programmes' highlighted news, calls, jobs and success stories.

More information: <https://interreg.eu/>

New report on teaching careers in Europe

Even though most European countries suffer from teacher shortages or expect to in the future, many are not planning long-term how to manage supply and demand of teachers. This is one of the findings of the report on 'Teaching careers in Europe' published by the European Commission, presenting data from the Eurydice network.

In May 2017, the Commission adopted a communication on 'School development and excellent teaching for a great start in life' which proposed EU-level actions to support Member States in their education reforms. One of the objectives outlined is to achieve excellent teaching and learning by ensuring teachers and school



leaders are well-trained and receive the support and recognition they deserve.

European ministers and stakeholders, meeting just a month ago on the occasion of the first European Education Summit, confirmed that it is essential to develop a shared agenda to modernise and better support the teaching profession.

More information:

<https://tinyurl.com/y794r8ze>

Developing digital youth work - Policy recommendations, training needs and good practice examples



Digital literacy and 21st century skills play a crucial role as part of modern-day citizenship and modern life in general. Youth work should be able to encourage this. Therefore, youth workers need an agile mindset, willing to try new things, learn from both success and failure, and be supported to do so.

This publication contains the main outcomes of the expert group on 'Risks, opportunities and implications of digitalisation for youth, youth work and youth policy' set up under the European Union Work Plan for Youth 2016-

2018:

- A working definition of 'digital youth work';
- Examples of innovative practices in delivering digital youth work and upskilling youth workers' digital competences;
- Policy recommendations on the development of digital youth work;
- Identification of training needs of youth workers relevant for digital youth work, based on existing competence frameworks for digital skills and for youth work;
- Collection of training material which is available online and which addresses the identified training needs of youth workers relevant for digital youth work.

The results of this expert group will be of interest to anyone involved in developments in youth work in the 21st century, especially youth workers, organisations, training providers, policy-makers, other practitioners and researchers.

More information:

https://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/developing-digital-youth-work-%E2%80%93-agile-mindset-crucial_en

Support for Training Actions for Professionals in the Audiovisual Sector



The new Call for Proposals "Support for Training 2018" - EACEA / 09/2018 of the MEDIA sub-program aims to fund training actions for acquiring and improving the skills and competences of audiovisual professionals (in particular: Producers, Managers, Authors, Editors Scenarios, Publishers, Distributors, Exhibitors, Sellers, New Media Providers, Animation Industry Professionals, Post-Production Professionals, Legal Professionals, Banking or Financial Professionals IEG working with the audiovisual industry) and networking.

Bodies aiming at continuing vocational training are invited to apply until **26 April 2018**.

More information: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding/support-training-2018-eacea092018_en



News for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Have your say on the SME definition!



The European Commission is currently preparing for an evaluation and possible revision of some aspects of the SME definition and is inviting any interested actor to provide feedback on its evaluation and impact assessment.

The SME definition is a widely used tool in EU policies such as competition (state aid), structural funds, research and innovation (Horizon 2020).

Moreover, the SME definition is relevant for some European administrative exemptions and reduced fees, such as for Regulation on registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH).

If you would like to know more about this initiative please check the public consultation on the review of the SME definition. You can contribute until **6 May 2018**.

More information: <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/have-your-say-sme-definition>

EU Industry Day - 600 participants, one credo: 'modernise our industry'



After a first successful edition last year, EU Industry Day came back with an extended edition. On 22 and 23 February, 600 participants representing key industrial, finance, research and innovation players, as well as high-level EU policymakers gathered in Brussels.

The participants took stock of the ambitious strategic approach to industrial policy presented by President Juncker last autumn and debate the future of European industry on the 'Road to 2030'.

The High-Level Industrial Roundtable 'Industry 2030', chaired by Vice-President Katainen, met for the first time, as an important advisory instrument for the implementation of the Commission's renewed industrial policy. EU leadership in the transition to clean and sustainable energy is a big priority for the Commission and this is demonstrated by the launch of the first edition of the Clean Energy Industrial Forum, centred around 3 industry-led initiatives: batteries, renewables and construction.

Industrial actors presented **20 priority actions as part of the new European Battery Alliance**. The Commission launched a €10 million EIC Horizon Prize for the development of a reliable, safe, low-cost battery for e-vehicles, and signed a €52.6 million InnovFin loan for the start-up Northvolt to build a gigafactory for battery cells in Europe. The role of key enabling technologies, such as micro and nanoelectronics, to modernise European industry, boost innovation and solve societal challenges was also discussed.

More information: <https://tinyurl.com/y7g6a9of>



CALENDAR APRIL 2018

Digital Skills for Everyone More information: https://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/ID05-PPE2	5 April Brussels, Belgium
EUA Annual Conference 2018 More information: https://tinyurl.com/y9wf4xl6	5-6 April Zurich, Switzerland
2018 CEF Energy Virtual Info Day More information: https://tinyurl.com/yce1bhko	9 April 2018 Online Webinar
Fostering Gender Equality in the Workplace More information: https://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/ID10-PPE2	10 April Brussels, Belgium
Transforming Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services More information: http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/ID10-PPE	10 April London, United Kingdom
IntelliSub Europe 2018 More information: https://euagenda.eu/events/2018/04/10/intellisub-europe-2018	10-12 April Düsseldorf, Germany
5th International Solar District Heating Conference More information: https://tinyurl.com/y8heml9s	11-12 April Graz, Austria
Building an Innovative, Customer-Focused Public Transport Network More information: http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/ID11-PPE	11 April London, United Kingdom
One Of Europe's Most Exclusive Infosec Events More information: http://cybercentral.eu/	11-13 April Prague, Czech Republic
The Future of Tourism in the EU More information: https://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/ID12-PPE2	12 April Brussels, Belgium
Lisbon Tech Job Fair 2018 More information: https://tinyurl.com/ybsukrpa	12 April Lisbon, Portugal
6th International Fresenius Conference: Environmental Risk Assessment of Biocides More information: https://tinyurl.com/yc7zn3l3	12-13 April Düsseldorf, Germany
European Congress on Obesity and Eating Disorder More information: https://tinyurl.com/y9j6c2u9	12-13 April Amsterdam, Netherlands
Bio-Based Industries JU Info Day 2018 More information: https://bbi-europe.eu/events/bbi-ju-info-day-2018	17 April Brussels, Belgium
8th Annual International Symposium on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling More information: http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/ID17-PPE2	17 April Brussels, Belgium
Ensuring Young Careers are Safe, Healthy, Aspiring and Achieving More information: http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/ID17-PPE	17 April London, United Kingdom
Workplace Innovation: The Essential Fifth Element Diagnostic and Beyond More information: https://www.eipa.eu/product/workplace-innovation/	23-25 April Maastricht, Netherlands
European Public Procurement, PPP/Private Finance and Concessions More information: https://www.eipa.eu/product/european-public-procurement-ppp/	24-25 April Dubrovnik, Croatia
Computer Science On-line Conference 2018 More information: https://tinyurl.com/ybvkjtho	25-28 April Online Webinar
Building a Zero Tolerance Approach to Acid and Corrosive Substance Attacks More information: http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/ID26-PPE3	26 April London, United Kingdom
Updating the European Strategy on High Performance Computing More information: http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/ID26-PPE2	26 April Brussels, Belgium



CALENDAR MAY 2018

AgriResearch Conference More information: https://goo.gl/KNc4Lh	2-3 May Brussels, Belgium
Smart Specialisation and Technology Transfer as Innovation Drivers for Regional Growth More information: https://goo.gl/Z5tEJD	3-4 May Sofia, Bulgaria
Internationalization of Universities and the National Language More information: https://goo.gl/f2yyxy	4 May Leuven, Belgium
The role of cultural heritage in the construction of the Europe for citizens More information: https://goo.gl/yu1yRu	4 May Burgos, Spain
IP Case Law Conference More information: https://goo.gl/E1ZUzt	7-8 May Alicante, Spain
European Biomass Conference More information: http://www.eubce.com/	14-17 May Copenhagen, Denmark
9th Internet of Things European Summit More information: https://goo.gl/j2LnQw	15-16 May Brussels, Belgium
Innovation through Interconnection 2018 More information: https://goo.gl/NnXMZx	16 May, London, United Kingdom
European Natura 2000 Award Ceremony More information: https://goo.gl/RLYRPC	17 May Brussels, Belgium
#BlueInvest 2018 More information: https://goo.gl/89zCGW	17 May Brussels, Belgium
Introduction to EU Asylum and Migration Law More information: https://www.eipa.eu/product/eu-asylum-and-migration-law/	17-18 May Luxembourg City, Luxembourg
Demonstrating Results of Big Data initiatives in Healthcare More information: https://goo.gl/jzQi73	17-18 May Rotterdam, Netherlands
Reflecting on Europe's Disorder: Scenarios for the (EU's) Future More information: http://cse.uaic.ro/eurint/index.htm	18-19 May Iasi, Romania
EUREKA Innovation Days 2018 More information: http://eurekainnovationdays.org/	22-24 May Helsinki, Finland
Fostering the Digitisation of Public Services in the EU More information: https://goo.gl/ycKNvr	23 May Brussels, Belgium
18th International Conference on Integrated Care More information: https://goo.gl/ycKNvr	23-25 May Utrecht, Netherlands
Conference on Good Governance for Cohesion Policy More information: https://goo.gl/ZNsoXm	24 May Brussels, Belgium
European Forum on Defence and Dual Technologies More information: https://endrpaca2018.b2match.io/	24-25 May Toulon, France
Energy Infrastructure Forum 2018 More information: https://goo.gl/5SaFuk	24-25 May Copenhagen, Denmark
Health 2.0 Europe 2018 More information: http://www.himsseuropeconference.eu/sitges/2018	27-29 May Barcelona, Spain
Meeting of the European Electricity Regulatory Forum More information: https://goo.gl/rGfs2D	30-31 May Florence, Italy
European Maritime Day 2018 More information: https://www.eipa.eu/product/european-public-procurement-ppp/	31 May–1 June Burgas, Bulgaria

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