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RoboVET Project

The project entitled RoboVET: Definition and Implementation of a VET Programme in Robotics Technician was launched on 1st October 2018 and will be concluded on 30th September 2020.

The kick-off meeting took place in Espinho, Portugal on 27th and 28th of November 2018. The European Office of Cyprus participates as partner and dissemination leader.



The project will meet 4 objectives:

- increase the employability of young people by matching the market needs to the qualifications;
- contribute to the development of a highly skilled, qualified and mobile workforce;
- support joint developments in VET in Europe and strengthen its quality, relevance and attractiveness by allowing the transferability and mutual recognition of qualifications, making it more appealing for the future workforce;
- Promote the economic development, especially of the SME's which traditionally have lower capacity to recruit skilled workers, by promoting VET offers in Robotics.

Direct target groups will be VET students and teachers, VET schools and schools with VET offers, training centres, enterprises and relevant qualification authorities. Indirectly will be involved social partners from different bodies, policy makers and job counselling and /or recruiting entities.

The creation of the Robotics Technician VET Course will have impact upon VET students who will have access to a new training offer in an area with high level of employability. VET providers and teachers will deliver a more attractive training offer and improve the capacity to respond to the skills needs of the job market. Enterprises and job market will increase quality, productivity and competitiveness by having access to highly skilled personnel.

The results and products the project will achieve are: a needs assessment on Robotics training; a detailed qualification profile including the expected learning outcomes; the matching of skills' needs to the market needs; a joint curriculum mutually recognized; new training units; sustainable cooperation structures to increase youth employment and VET attractiveness.

More information about the project at <https://robovetproject.com/english>

EOC MEMBERS' NEWS



A mobile app to help migrants and refugees blend in

BLEND IN project, implemented in Cyprus by CARDET, has released an innovative mobile application that will help migrants, refugees and asylum seekers during their early days in the host society.

The App will become a useful resource for new entrants in the host societies involved in the project – Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Malta - providing them with essential and easy to comprehend information about their said countries.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=890>



GReFORM – Good Governance enhancement through e-learning for sport volunteer board members.

GReFORM is a transnational Erasmus+ project aiming to increase the capabilities of volunteer Board members in sport organisations by providing

online education on good governance.

The establishment of an online learning portal will allow volunteer Board members of sport organisations – in their own time and at no cost – to follow a series of educational courses explaining Good Governance at various levels. In line with the relevant European policies and co-funded programmes in the field of sport, the project aims to create an academic online platform providing informal education taking into account the limited time availability of volunteer Board members. The identification, collection and sharing of good practices in the field of good governance in sport and the publication of the relevant e-book will be a useful tool for the sport organisations in implementing good governance principles.

The project coordinator is Cyprus Sport Organization (CSO), while the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development, Alliances and Research (CEDAR) of UCLan Cyprus has a leading role in the implementation of the program with four academics. The total funding of this Erasmus+ program is €419,000 and will last for 3 years (2018-2020). The project involves 10 partners from seven EU Member States (Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Lithuania and Cyprus).

The research coordinator of GReFORM, Dr. Christos Anagnostopoulos, said that “those who govern our high profile sport organisations have been the subject of much media scrutiny, thereby rendering good governance as one of the greatest challenges in modern sport; the prime aim of this program is towards capacity building (via educational means) within the Boards so these volunteers practically respond to such a challenge”.

More information: <http://www.greform.eu/>



urbagri4women



Urbagri4women is coming to an end

Urbagri4women, an innovative project that sought to pave the way for the enhancement of migrant women’s role in cities and municipalities has completed its implementation period having fulfilled its pre-set objectives. The project, involved a series of innovative activities, complemented by policy papers (e.g., green paper, manifesto, etc.), to establish the potentials of migrant women in sustainable actions within cities and municipalities of the host/ receiving societies/ communities.

For further information about the project, please visit the project’s website: <https://www.urbagri4women.com/>



SMART Volunteering for female migrants

"SMART Volunteering for Female Migrants (SMART)", brings together civil society organizations, the business community and migrant women in five EU states to promote better integration and the active participation of Third Country National (TCN) females in the European societies.

The project, being implemented in Cyprus by CARDET, utilizes highly successful certified methods of Circles TM, narrative empowerment and digital advocacy, fine-tuned to the needs of female migrants, NGOs and business professionals to help them co-create a constructive space, in which TCN women will be able to explore their motivations, potentials and skills contributing to both theirs and their communities’ wellbeing.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=892>

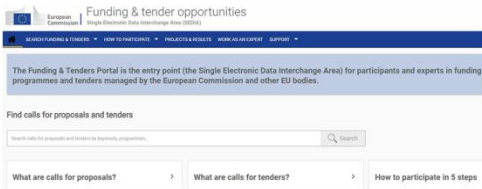


INTEGR8 successfully reaches its completion

Set out to harness the potential of migrant women as integration experts; INTEGR8 project is now fruitfully coming to an end. Over a period of two years (2016-2018), the project has taken a series of meaningful steps to train and support migrant women to become champions of integration in their communities and empower others by helping them feel more accepted and integrated into their host communities, access basic services and learn about their rights.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=893>

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



New version of the participant portal

As of Friday 30 November, the changes of the new Participant Portal took effect and the new Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal replaced the previous version.

When logging into the portal using the Participant Portal link, users are automatically redirected to the new version of the Portal. Similarly, when accessing bookmarked pages on the Participant Portal, users now have a message at the top of the page, which will invite them to switch to new Portal. The changes are part of a wider effort to simplify and consolidate funding streams so that the new Portal will become the single entry point for finding and managing both EU grants and procurement contracts. Furthermore, after 2020, the next generation of (centrally-managed) EU programmes is expected to migrate to the new Portal, thus making it a single entry for all EU funding..

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=889>



Final report of the high-level panel of the European Decarbonisation pathways initiative

A panel of experts has published their final report on the role of research and innovation in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and supporting decarbonisation in key industries.

The group (which directly advises the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation - Carlos Moedas), forms a High-Level Panel of the 'European Decarbonisation Pathways Initiative' and is made up of nine members from academia, industry and public administration. The work of the High-Level Panel started in autumn 2016 and ended in autumn 2018, with the purpose of developing research and innovation strategies that will support EU decarbonisation pathways and achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=888>



New EC Guidance on Ethics and Data Protection for Horizon 2020 projects

The European Commission has recently published a guidance note on ethics and data protection, which sets out to ensure that all projects are guided by ethical considerations. It focuses on ethical issues related to research data on Horizon 2020 projects and not on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) implementation aspects at institutional level.

Data protection is a central issue for research ethics, and imposes obligations on organisations processing research data to ensure that the data are properly protected, minimised and destroyed when no longer needed. It also obliges individual projects processing personal data to comply with EU and national data protection laws.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=884>



Poland's constitution for science gives universities more power and accountability

A new law in Poland gives more autonomy to universities in setting research priorities and makes research financing simpler, with the aim of enabling them to become more successful in EU R&D funding programmes and increase their standing on the international stage.

Now, researchers are waiting to see if it will produce the hoped for outcomes.

The law, which came into effect on October 1, gives more autonomy to universities to follow their own research agendas. The law, called the Constitution for Science, stipulates that separate streams of funding for teaching and for research should be combined into a single fund and internally distributed by universities.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=883>



It's official: Brexit deal will change but not end UK participation in European Research

Brexit took a major step closer to reality Wednesday, 14th of November as the UK Cabinet backed a draft deal and EU ambassadors started reviewing the details – but for research, innovation and related issues, a series of side-deals and UK government promises are likely to ease the blow considerably.

As expected, under the draft UK-EU agreement published November 14th, UK scientists and entrepreneurs will normally cease to be eligible for EU-funded grants under the bloc's big research programme after Brexit day 29 March 2019. But UK participation will likely continue under several conditions. The UK government has already pledged to finish paying for any British researchers whose EU grants have been approved up to the end of the current EU programme, Horizon 2020, on 31 December 2020. And the draft agreement puts that promise in writing, requiring the UK to make its payments "equivalent" to those Horizon 2020 would normally have provided.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=882>



EU Science Leaders urge more funding, to compete internationally

The presidents of six European science organisations—informally known as the G6—are calling for larger budgets for top-quality scientific research, as a way to boost European competitiveness and cooperation.

"Knowledge will be the most powerful engine to lead Europe towards sustainable development and common progress," according to a statement released November 13th by the heads of the national science agencies of France, Spain and Italy, and of Germany's top three research organisations.

The group's statement comes just as the European Parliament is about to start debating the European Commission's plan for the next big EU research programme, Horizon Europe. The Commission has already proposed a budget rise to €94.1 billion over seven years, from €77 billion in the current seven-year programme. But inside that budget, the increase for fundamental science is smaller – and some members of Parliament are pushing for a much bigger budget overall, to €120 billion or €160 billion. The Parliament's industry and research committee meets Nov. 21 and 22 on the matter

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=881>

MORE ARTICLES ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

European Parliament research service briefing paper on Horizon Europe.

Read more: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=887>

ECA reports on the European Research Joint undertakings published

Read more: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=880>

European Universities call for Horizon Europe to be based on Excellence

Read more: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=871>

EU Runs to catch up as governments pledge more cash for quantum computing

Read more: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=870>

Commission launches EU Prize for women innovators 2019

Read more: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=862>

Commission launches innovation radar prize 2018

Read more: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=859>

Athens of the European Capital of Innovation 2018

Read more: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=858>

HEALTH



Endocrine disruptors strategy and European Citizens' initiative

The Commission adopts a strategy that protects EU citizens and the environment from hazardous chemicals.

The Commission adopted a Communication on the future of the EU's approach regarding Endocrine disruptors, outlining how the Commission intends to ensure that the EU approach remains the most modern and fit-for-purpose in the world. Endocrine disruptors are chemical substances that alter the functioning of the hormonal system and, as a consequence, negatively affect the health of humans and animals.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=867>

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT



Commission welcomes European Parliament adoption of key files of the clean energy for all Europeans package

New rules on renewables, energy efficiency and the governance of the Energy Union have been signed off by the European Parliament – an important step in enabling the European Union and its Member States to embrace the clean energy transition, follow up on the already adopted 2030 climate legislation and meet the Paris Agreement commitments.

On November 13th, the European Parliament completed the parliamentary approval of half of the eight legislative proposals in the 2016 Clean Energy for All Europeans package, following the Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, which came into force on 9 July. The package is

a key element of the Juncker Commission's political priority of "a resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy", aimed at giving Europeans access to secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy and making the European Union world leader in renewable energy.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=865>

INSTITUTIONAL



Commission published Autumn 2018 Economic forecast

The European Commission published its Autumn 2018 Economic Forecast. It covers the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 and includes data on gross domestic product growth, investment, employment, unemployment, inflation and general government gross debt for all 28 EU Member States.

According to the Commission's forecasts, growth in the euro area is forecast to ease from a 10-year high of 2.4% in 2017 to 2.1% in 2018 before moderating further to 1.9% in 2019 and 1.7% in 2020. The same pattern is expected for the EU27, with growth forecast at 2.2% in 2018, 2.0% in 2019 and 1.9% in 2020.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=866>

EDUCATION AND CULTURE



European Vocational Skills week 2018 helps millions to discover the benefits of vocational education and training

Thanks to 1512 events that took place all over Europe, the campaign has so far reached over 2.2 million people, 1.2 million more than last year.

And it does not stop here, as many more associated activities and events are being organised across Europe until December 2018. The Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, has also announced the winners of the Awards for VET Excellence 2018.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=868>

CONSTITUTIONAL



MEPs limit third country access to €9.2b digital Europe infrastructure plan

A committee of MEPs voted on November 21 to make it harder for third countries to take part in Digital Europe, the proposed €9.2 billion programme for digital infrastructure and skills.

The amendments expand the list of criteria that must be satisfied for countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) to participate. MEPs also removed distinctions between applicants in countries on the road to joining the EU, such as Macedonia and Serbia, and all others outside the EEA. Unless it can secure preferential terms in negotiations over its future relationship with the EU, the UK post-Brexit will find itself lumped in with all other third countries. The European Commission launched its proposal for Digital Europe in June, with the goal of boosting digital resources and capabilities in high-performance computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and interoperability.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=879>

Council Adopts position on European Defence Fund

The Council of the European Union has formally adopted its position on the proposed European Defence Fund (EDF).

More information: <http://www.eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=877>

INTERNATIONAL BROKERAGE EVENTS

The "Participation in International Brokerage Events" Programme aims to the international networking of Cypriot organisations. Through implementation of the Programme it is anticipated to support the extroversion of Cypriot organisations and to eliminate the weaknesses attributed to the small size of the Cypriot market and lack of critical mass of resources and infrastructures.

Furthermore, Cypriot entities will be supported in exploiting research results of Cypriot origin that cannot be utilised in the local market, as well as identifying technologies and technical know-how which are not available in Cyprus.

DESCRIPTION	DATES AND LOCATION
HTH Styria Pitch & Partner 2019 More information: https://hth-styria.com/	15 January 2019 Graz, Austria
Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency Info Day More information: https://h2020-sc3-info-day.b2match.io/	22 January 2019 Brussels, Belgium
TUS Expo Europe 2019 Matchmaking More information: https://tusexpo2019.b2match.io/	17-18 January 2019 Rotterdam, Netherlands
SMAGUA 2019 – Brokerage Event More information: http://www.galacteaplusblog.com/event/xiv-international-water-and-irrigation-exhibition-smagua-2019-brokerage-event/	5-6 February 2019 Zaragoza, Spain
Rev3days More information: https://rev3days.fr/en/home	5-6 February 2019 Lille, France
MWC Brokerage event 2019 More information: https://mwc2019.b2match.io/	26-28 February 2019 Barcelona, Spain
JEC World 2019 More information: http://www.jeccomposites.com/events/jec-world-2019/	12-14 March 2019 Paris, France
5th International B2B Software Days 2019 More information: https://b2b-software-days-2019.b2match.io/	14-15 March 2019 Vienna, Austria

EVENTS CALENDAR JANUARY 2019

DESCRIPTION	DATES AND LOCATION
SECOND STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP TO SUPPORT THE FITNESS CHECK OF THE EU AMBIENT AIR QUALITY DIRECTIVES More information: https://bit.ly/2KWLnKR	15 January 2019 Brussels, Belgium
PHOTONICS INFO DAY 2019 More information: https://bit.ly/2BSDDqE	18 January 2019 Brussels, Belgium
DESIGNING FUTURE ENERGY POLICIES: SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES TO ACCELERATE THE ENERGY TRANSITION More information: https://bit.ly/2RwqNU1	22 January 2019 Brussels, Belgium
HORIZON 2020 ENERGY EFFICIENCY INFO DAY More information: https://bit.ly/2DEjsPc	22 January 2019 Brussels, Belgium
11TH EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY CONFERENCE More information: https://bit.ly/2PinM88	22-23 January 2019 Brussels, Belgium
FORUM ON THE FUTURE OF LEARNING More information: https://www.sbra.be/en/content/value-social-science-humanities-europe	24 January 2019 Brussels, Belgium
2019 INFO-DAY - ENSURING EXCELLENT RESEARCH BY INVESTING IN RESEARCHERS' TALENTS, SKILLS & CAREER DEVELOPMENT - IMPLEMENTING THE HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY (HRS4R) More information: https://bit.ly/2zIcODQ	29 January 2019 Brussels, Belgium
ECFIN WORKSHOP – "FISCAL POLICY IN AN UNCERTAIN ENVIRONMENT" More information: https://bit.ly/2SsRMQH	29 January 2019 Brussels, Belgium

Should you wish us to attend to the aforementioned events please inform us by email. Requests should be sent to eoc.brussels@ucy.ac.cy as soon as possible or as long as event registrations remain open.

Should you have a different event in mind that is not included in the calendar, please let us know.

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