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## EOC MEMBERS' NEWS



### BeOLD

*CARDET's project, BeOLD, has entered its second year of implementation and continues its stride to further the social inclusion of older workers through the use of innovative training tools.*

These tools seek to afford greater professional and personal development opportunities for older workers as well as to raise awareness on age management, age discrimination and ageism at work in a manner that will lead to age-friendly working environments and conditions.

In that regard, the project will deliver two innovative educational programs: a Vocational counselling program for older workers and a training program for Human Resources Managers. The former will help motivate older workers professionally, and make opportunities available that will help them meet the arising age-related needs. Moreover, it will help them boost their self-esteem and develop new skills so that they can remain competitive in the labour market. The latter will provide Human Resources Managers with the knowledge and skills to promote cross-generational workplaces, combat ageism, eliminate social stereotypes related to older workers and facilitate the mentoring of young workers. With an emphasis on an intergenerational approach, the program will guide participants to confront reason, integrate and modify their perception regarding old age in work environments and to explore and identify new ways to create intergenerational and age-friendly working environments.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=905>

## HANDSON



***A new innovative project, improving VET to increase out work placement opportunities for special educational needs learners.***

HANDSON, CARDET's new innovative project, has commenced its work seeking to foster the level of educational support learners with special education needs receive in a bid to support them to successfully enter the labour market.

The project wishes to put forward new approaches and tools to improve Vocational Education Training (VET) and Work Based Learning (WBL) practices so that it can help increase the availability of work placement opportunities and further the social inclusion of SEN learners. Through its workings, HANDSON, will support VET managers and VET educators to address day-to-day challenges and be in a position to design and implement catered approaches to support SEN learners.

To that end, the project will develop an inclusive production-based learning model and a set of multilingual approaches and ICT-based didactic resources - eManual, eKit, digital learning space and app generator - to help SEN learners to complete VET cycles and successfully transit into the labour market. Moreover, HANDSON aims to become a "reference point" that will pave the way towards the formation of a network and synergies between stakeholders and organisations.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=906>

## HEALTH



### European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases announced

*The European Commission announced a new research partnership - European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases (EJP RD) - which will be launched on 1 January 2019.*

This is a new EU-wide Cofund initiative to foster rare disease research and to pool EU and Member States' resources to develop effective treatments and to improve diagnosis. The partnership involving more than 130 entities from 35 countries (including 27 EU Member States, seven Associated Countries and Canada) will receive €100 million over 5 years (of which €55 million will come from Horizon 2020).

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=898>

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



## EU begin discussions on Horizon Europe with eight countries

*A group of eight countries – from Japan to Argentina – are diplomatically checking out whether and how they might get more deeply involved in the European Union's next €94.1 billion R&D programme, Horizon Europe.*

On 3 December in Brussels, ambassadors of the eight countries scheduled to meet with EU Research Commissioner Carlos Moedas for what's described as an "informational" meeting. The countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil,

Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and the US. The group meeting offered by Moedas, follows a letter to him on March 6, co-signed by the eight ambassadors, asking for discussions on Horizon Europe. That letter reflected concerns, sources say, that although the Commission has openly invited more collaboration with other top R&D-performing nations, it didn't spell out how that might happen.

The diplomatically worded letter says "our countries look forward to continuing discussions with the European Commission to promote even greater cooperation in the future."

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=900>



## Consultation on the guidance for the implementation of Plan S Open

*Guidance on how to implement Plan S (an initiative for Open Access publishing) has been published, and was formally presented by cOAlition S at the end of November in London.*

The intention of the guidance is to clarify Plan S provisions and describe the desired implementation modalities. It also provides responses to questions and comments arising from online discussions and debates on Plan S.

A consultation has been launched to offer individuals and organisations the opportunity to provide feedback on the guidance via a public feedback survey, with a particular focus on identification of specific areas of the Plan's implementation that require further clarification. In order for respondents to prepare feedback in advance, a copy of guidance S and the questions asked in the feedback form are available for download. Feedback can be provided until the 1 February 2019 at 17:00 CET.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=899>



## Horizon 2020 Work Programmes: Timetable and updates

*The Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2019 has been recently updated with some minor changes, including alignment of topics within the Research Infrastructures part with the ESFRI 2019 Roadmap.*

Some topics were moved from different parts of the Work Programme (FET, Research Infrastructures, LEIT-ICT) to the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (High Performance Computing).

Another update of the Work Programme 2019 is expected in due course. This will be mainly linked to the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot, as previously reported by UKRO, and follows an invitation by the European Council in June this year for the Commission to launch a new pilot initiative on breakthrough innovation within the remaining period of Horizon 2020. Plans are to further enhance this with a view to support disruptive and breakthrough innovation, financing high-risk innovations and scaling up the potential of innovative start-ups and SMEs.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=896>

## INSTITUTIONAL



## A Europe that protects: the EU Steps up action against disinformation

*To protect its democratic systems and public debates and in view of the 2019 European elections as well as a number of national and local elections that will be held in Member States by 2020, the EU presented on 5 December an Action Plan to step up efforts to counter disinformation in Europe and beyond.*

Taking stock of the progress made so far and following up on the call made by European leaders in June 2018 to protect the Union's democratic systems, the European Commission and the High Representative are setting out concrete measures to tackle disinformation, including the creation of a Rapid Alert System and close monitoring of the implementation of the Code of Practice signed by the online platforms.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=901>



## Changes to the way EASME deals with personal data come into effect on the 11 of December

*As from this date, the new Data Protection Regulation for EU Institutions, bodies and agencies (Regulation (EU) 2018/1725) becomes applicable.*

Through this new Regulation, the data protection rules for EU institutions, bodies and agencies is brought in line with the standards imposed by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on all other EU organisations and business. This is another vital step forward in the development of a comprehensive EU framework for data protection in the digital era.

The new rules are designed to increase protection of personal data, no matter where it is processed, sent or stored, and to give individuals more control over it.

Therefore, the general EASME Data protection notice is updated accordingly as of 11 December 2018.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=903>



## Commission presents ways to further strengthen the euro's global role

*In his State of the Union Address in September 2018, President Juncker highlighted the strategic importance of the euro and the need to ensure that the single currency can play its full role on the international scene.*

Supported by upcoming decisions to strengthen Europe's Economic and Monetary Union, complete the Banking Union and advance on the Capital Markets Union, the euro needs to develop its global role and fully reflect the euro area's political, economic and financial weight. To this end, the Commission in a Communication today outlines the benefits of such a strengthened international role of the euro for the EU and the international financial system, and proposes initiatives to boost the role of the single currency. As part of this effort, the Commission has adopted a Recommendation on the international role of the euro in the field of energy, promoting a wider use of the euro in this strategic sector.

Promoting the euro's international role is part of Europe's commitment to an open, multilateral and rules-based global economy and trade. This comes at a time where the recent global trends, the emergence of new economic powers along with the development of new technologies are supporting a potential shift towards a more diversified and multipolar system of several global currencies.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=902>



## EU-Japan trade agreement on track to enter into force in February 2019

*The European Commission welcomed the approval in the European Parliament of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement and the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement.*

The trade agreement negotiated by the Commission is the first ever to include an explicit reference to the Paris climate agreement. It will create an open trading zone covering 635 million people and almost one third of the world's total GDP. The Strategic Partnership Agreement is the first ever bilateral framework agreement between the EU and Japan.

The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement will remove the vast majority of the €1 billion of duties paid annually by EU companies exporting to Japan, as well as a number of long-standing regulatory barriers, for example on car exports. It will also open up the Japanese market of 127 million consumers to key EU agricultural products and increase EU export opportunities in many other sectors. In addition, the agreement will strengthen cooperation between Europe and Japan in a range of areas, reaffirm their shared commitment to sustainable development, and include for the first time a specific commitment to the Paris climate agreement.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=904>



**EEN NEWS**



**New financing models for energy efficiency for SMEs**

Horizon 2020 project EPC+ has pioneered the use of energy performance contracts (EPC) in the SME sector, which allows investments to be financed by a private energy service company and repaid through the energy savings.

Energy performance contracting is mostly found in the public sector and to a lesser extent in the industrial and commercial building sectors. For this reason, EPC+ set out to experiment the application of this model to SMEs and the results are promising.

The project set up 18 SME Partnership for Innovative Energy Services (SPIN), which are consortiums of local SMEs with all the required skills to implement EPCs, in the 11 targeted countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Portugal). The SPINs were trained to provide energy efficiency services to SMEs. The project also developed highly standardised energy service packages, easily usable by the SPINs, with simple contract templates developed in the form of a toolbox.

EPC+ supported the signature of 27 energy performance contracts between a SPIN and a client SME. These contracts represent EUR 3.5 million of investments in energy efficiency and 13.37 GWh of primary energy savings.

The project also created the Energy Efficiency Network Europe platform, which aims to bring together energy supply actors, private companies and ESCOs in one international platform on energy performance contracting.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=897>

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