



EUROPEAN NEWS

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New project launched “One Intelligent Cloud for PV Assets Diagnosis and Maintenance”

A new partnership that brings together three Mediterranean countries, Cyprus, Spain and Turkey has been launched for the implementation of a new project entitled “One intelligent cloud for PV Assets Diagnosis and Maintenance (Acronym: 1C4PV)”.

The project is supported under the umbrella of SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund by the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) in Spain, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and the Research and Innovation Foundation in Cyprus. SOLAR-ERA.NET is supported by the European Commission within the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation HORIZON 2020 (Cofund ERA-NET Action, N°691664).

The project is coordinated by ISOTROL (a Spanish company specialized in information systems for monitoring and control of renewables) and the partners are the FOSS Research Centre for Sustainable Energy of the University of Cyprus and TEGNATIA EPC SOLUTIONS (an O&M Turkish company for solar plants).

More information: <http://www.eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1485>

History and its effect on today’s youth (HEY)



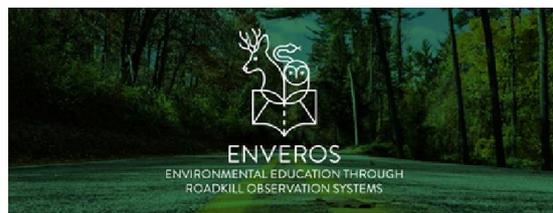
The project History and its Effects of today’s Youth (HEY) is based on the idea that understanding history is crucial to developing a united Europe.

Our vision is to create a common understanding of how wars and conflicts, extremist views and migration issues have a reciprocal effect, and look at how these factors challenge the way we teach history to our students. Each country has its own dramatic past that shapes how history is taught in classrooms. The partner schools in HEY is selected based on a desire to bringing a broad range of historical events into the project.

The coordinating school from Norway is Greåker videregående skole, and along with schools from Cyprus (Lykeio Aradippou “Tasos Mitsopoulos), Greece (2o Geniko Lykeio Rodou “Kazoulleio”), Croatia (Srednja skola Ban Josip Jelacic), and Spain (IES Consaburum), create a vibrant and dynamic community of teachers and students. The Cypriot team consists of 30 students from all ages, four teachers and a vice principal.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1565>

Environmental Education through roadkill observation systems – The ENVEROS Project



EnVeROS (Environmental Education through Roadkill Observation Systems) is an Erasmus+ KA2 funded project, which aims to raise public awareness and educate especially young adults, about the WVCs situation in Cyprus, Czech Republic and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen (Northern Italy). As a first step, the project created modern and innovative educational and informational

material (e.g. Layman’s booklet, e-courses material, educational activities for primary, secondary school as well as vocational training) to increase the public knowledge about the roadkill issue and road safety.

The project which started in October 2018 will be completed in December 2020. It is coordinated by the Open University of Cyprus, Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Lab (Temlab; Prof. Ioannis Vogiatzakis) while the partners are Eurac Research (Bolzano, Italy), CDV (Transport Research Centre; Czech Republic) and Terra Cypria foundation (Cyprus).

More information: <https://www.eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1566>

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Innovations in Water Education Programs: Water Security and Socio-Economic Development under Climate Change

Water sustainable management, under climate change, is a key issue in the Mediterranean and Middle East regions. Education is a tool to achieve sustainability by delivering up to date knowledge. Distance learning methods support access to education in areas where access to university classes might be more difficult than usual (e.g. Palestine).

The project WaSec - Innovations in Water Education Programs: Enhancing Water Security and Socio-economic Development in the Eastern Mediterranean under Climate Change, is an Erasmus+ project. It aims at strengthening the cooperation between enterprises and Higher Education Institutes, through the development of courses in Water Resources Management, while taking into consideration potential climate change impacts. WaSec will also strengthen the collaboration among the countries of the Western (e.g. The Netherlands, Spain) and SE Europe (e.g. Greece, Cyprus) and Middle East region (e.g. Palestine, Jordan). This will be achieved by providing educational material and teaching methods that could be adopted and

implemented by all the participating countries and beyond.

Open University of Cyprus, during the COVID-19 outbreak (March-April 2020), organized an online tuning workshop to familiarize partners with distance teaching and learning methods applied. More about Wasec can be found on the project's website: <http://wasec.just.edu.jo/>

EU NEWS AND EU POLICY

Covid-19: the EU plan for the economic recovery

On 15 May Parliament called on the European Commission to present a major economic stimulus plan to help mitigate the shock from the coronavirus and settle on a sustainable future.

The latest economic forecasts, presented by the Commission in early May, show the economy has taken a hard hit because of the health crisis. As people stay at home and entire sectors have abruptly shut down, the EU economy is facing the prospect of at least a 7.4% contraction this year, which is significantly worse than the fall in 2009. Even this bleak forecast might underestimate the actual scale of the recession, as any relaunch of economic activity will be gradual and could be easily disrupted by a second wave of the coronavirus.

At the same time, many people fear they might lose their jobs and are unwilling to spend, while businesses are facing disruptions in their supply chains. Governments see tax revenue falling and welfare expenditure increasing, which will bring budget deficits, higher levels of debt and drive up borrowing costs.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1536>



Coronavirus global response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines



The Commission registered €7.4 billion, in pledges from donors worldwide during the Coronavirus Global Response pledging event. This almost reaches the initial target of €7.5 billion and is a solid starting point for the worldwide pledging marathon. The aim is to gather significant funding to ensure the collaborative development and universal deployment of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines against coronavirus.

The pledging event was co-convened by the European Union, Canada, France, Germany, Italy (also incoming G20 presidency), Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (also holding the G20 presidency), Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom. The initiative is a response to the call from the World Health Organization (WHO) and a group of health

actors for a global collaboration for the accelerated development, production and equitable global access to new coronavirus essential health technologies. The Coronavirus Global Response Initiative is comprised of three partnerships for testing, treating and preventing underpinned by health systems strengthening.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1519>

Coronavirus: a common approach for safe and efficient mobile tracing apps across the EU

Member States, with the support of the Commission, have published guidelines to ensure interoperability between mobile tracing and warning apps across EU. These are common principles to ensure tracing apps can communicate with each other when required, so citizens only have to use one app to report a positive test or to receive an alert, wherever they are in the EU.

This builds on the recent joint EU toolbox ensuring common standards to develop contact tracing applications across Europe and the Commission guidance on data protection. Both the toolbox and the guidelines have been developed together by the Member States and European Commission's support.

The framework (.pdf) sets out that tracing apps must be voluntary, transparent, temporary, cybersecure, using temporary and pseudonymised data; they should rely on Bluetooth technology and approved by national health authorities, and be inter-operable across borders as well as across operating systems. Interoperability is crucial, so that wide, voluntary take-up of national tracing apps can support the relaxing of confinement measures and the lifting of restrictions of freedom of movement throughout the EU.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1530>

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



New director of the ERC executive agency confirmed

Waldemar Kütt has been confirmed as director of the European Research Council (ERC) Executive Agency, the administrative arm of the ERC. Having been the acting director of the executive agency since August 2019 when he took over after Pablo Amor, his new mandate started on 16 May.

Before joining the ERC, Waldemar Kütt worked for the European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation, where he headed units for "Bioeconomy and Food Systems", "Bio-based Products and Processing" and "Bioeconomy Strategy". Prior to this, he inter alia worked in the Cabinets of European Research Commissioners J. Potočník and M. Geoghegan-Quinn, as Deputy and Head of Cabinet. He holds a doctor's degree in Physics from the Technical University Aachen, Germany.

The ERC is led by an independent Scientific Council, supported by the executive agency, which implements the scientific funding strategy established by the Scientific Council and executes the operational activities. The ERC Executive Agency has over 500 staff members.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1523>

Top scientists to identify future members of European Research Council's scientific council

European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel has invited six high-level scientists to identify future members of the European Research Council's (ERC) governing body, the ERC Scientific Council.

This Identification Committee will in particular focus on the continuation and renewal of the ERC Scientific Council in view of the start of Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme. The Committee consists of six highly respected personalities in European research.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1532>



European Innovation Council awards €114 million to 35 cutting-edge technologies and appoints its first programme manager



The European Innovation Council (EIC) Pathfinder Pilot has selected 35 projects set to develop cutting-edge technologies to receive a total of €114 million following the latest round of applications for funding. The funding comes from Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme.

At the same time, Iordanis Arzimanoglou - expert in genetics and cancer research as well as biotechnology and AI-based medicine - has been appointed as the first EIC Programme Manager. The role of programme managers is to develop visions for technological and innovation breakthroughs and bring about synergies across the EIC project portfolio to transform these visions into reality.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1525>

European Researchers' Night 2020

As part of the European Researchers' Night 2020, the European Commission will fund 51 projects in 30 European countries – including countries associated to the Horizon 2020 Programme. The European Researchers' Night, funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, is a Europe-wide public event that brings researchers closer to the general public. The Night showcases the diversity of science and its impact on citizens' daily lives, stimulating interest in research careers - particularly among young people. In 2019, it attracted 1.6 million visitors across 400 cities in Europe and beyond.

This year the event was initially scheduled for Friday 25 September 2020. Due to the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, it will now take place on Friday 27 November 2020. Researchers will meet the public and showcase their work through hands-on experiments, science shows, games, quizzes, competitions, exhibitions, and digital activities.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1548>



Innovative training networks to fund 2 000 outstanding doctoral candidates

With a total budget of €530 million, the European Commission has announced that it will support 147 Innovative Training Networks (ITNs) under the programme.

These networks cover nearly 1400 organisations – including 158 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) – as part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. The projects will offer extraordinary, global research and training opportunities to 2 000 PhD candidates. They will also contribute to increasing the overall quality and innovation of doctoral training in Europe and beyond.

The doctoral training programmes include 114 European Training Networks, 21 European Industrial Doctorates and 12 European Joint Doctorates. The selected projects cover a variety of research areas, including engineering (31%), life sciences (24%) and social sciences (10%).

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1549>

32% increase in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Rise 2020 Call

The Research Executive Agency (REA) received a total of 408 project proposals under this year's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange call. This is the last MSCA-RISE call under Horizon 2020. The call deadline, initially foreseen by 28 April, had been postponed by two weeks due to COVID-19, closed on 12 May at 5pm CET.

Like in previous years, engineering, environment, chemistry, life sciences and social sciences are the themes that attracted most applications. The submitted proposals are competing for €80 million in EU funding.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1524>



Research and innovation performance report: enabling Europe to lead the green and digital transition

The Commission released its latest report on the EU's Science, Research and Innovation Performance, through which it analyses how Europe performs in the global context. It highlights the need for research and innovation (R&I) to support sustainable and inclusive growth of companies, regions and countries, making sure that no one is left behind in the quest for strengthening innovation systems, especially in less-developed regions.

The report also emphasises the importance of ensuring that Europeans have the right skills, in the light of new technological revolutions, as well as the significant role of R&I policy in reinforcing companies' productivity, resulting in jobs and value creation, in a sustainable way. In particular, the 2020 edition of the biennial report presents 11 policy

recommendations to support our people, planet and prosperity.

The EU ranks among the top players in scientific production and excellence, for example accounting worldwide for 25% of top-cited scientific publications on the topic of climate and for 27% in the area of bioeconomy. When it comes to patent applications in these two areas, the EU is also leading the way with 24% in climate and 25% in bioeconomy. Yet, more efforts are needed to turn research results into sustainable marketable solutions as well as to build a strong European Research Area and increase the effectiveness of public research systems.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1544>

European Innovation Council: from deep-tech research to visionary innovation and scale-ups

The Advisory Board of the European Innovation Council (EIC) has presented its new vision for the future to support world-class science and innovations. The new motto is “from deep-tech research to visionary innovation and scale-ups”.

The EIC aims at supporting top-class innovators, entrepreneurs, small companies and scientists with bright ideas and the ambition to scale up internationally. Its objective is to bring together the parts of the funding programme Horizon 2020 that provide funding, advice and networking opportunities for those at cutting edge of innovation.

The Advisory Board, which consists of experienced innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and investors, presented a new statement on future approach to support innovative European solutions to current global challenges.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1522>

Dealflow – delivering “go to market” support to EU-funded innovators

EU funded research and innovation projects are delivering thousands of breakthroughs in every field and sector. Behind these breakthroughs are great innovators coming from every corner of Europe, working in institutions of all types: from university to startups to research centres to large enterprises.

To understand better the innovations and their potential to impact ‘beyond the lab’, the Commission is collecting deep sets of intelligence from these projects about their innovations. This intelligence system - the Innovation Radar – is helping the Commission to deliver on its commitment to help the innovators get their EU-funded innovations ‘out of the lab’ and into the market.

In support of this, the EU has launched a new initiative – Dealflow.eu – that will work with the Innovation Radar to ensure the best innovators get help and guidance to bring their EU-funded innovations to market.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1537>

Coronavirus: Commission boosts urgently needed research and innovation with additional €122 million

The Commission has mobilised another €122 million from its research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, for urgently needed research into the coronavirus. The new call for expressions of interest contributes to the Commission’s €1.4 billion pledge to the Coronavirus Global Response initiative, launched by President Ursula von der Leyen on 4 May 2020.

The new call is the latest addition to a range of EU-funded research and innovation actions to fight the coronavirus. It complements earlier actions to develop diagnostics, treatments and vaccines by strengthening capacity to manufacture and deploying readily available solutions in order to rapidly address the pressing needs. It will also improve understanding of the behavioural and socio-economic impacts of the epidemic.

The projects funded under this call should repurpose manufacturing for rapid production of vital medical supplies and equipment needed for testing, treatment and prevention, as well as develop medical technologies and digital tools to improve detection, surveillance and patients care.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1539>

Coronavirus: Commission launches one-stop shop for coronavirus research and innovation funding

The European Commission launched the new European Research Area (ERA) corona platform. The platform provides useful information, dedicated support and real-time updates on funding opportunities for coronavirus related research and innovation.

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, the scientific community is facing unprecedented challenges in the search for solutions against coronavirus. Good coordination and quick mobilisation of funds are essential to help our researchers and innovators meet those challenges. Therefore, the European Commission has launched the ERA corona platform, a one-stop shop for information for current and prospective beneficiaries of the R&I Programmes.

The ERA corona platform brings together information on funded and ongoing projects, updated information on the extension of H2020 call deadlines and links to tailored Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for calls and grants affected by the coronavirus.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1526>

EU grants nearly €49 million to boost innovation in cybersecurity and privacy systems

The Commission announced that it will commit nearly €41 million, through Horizon 2020, the EU’s research and innovation programme, to support 9 projects aimed at working on innovative cybersecurity and privacy solutions. Five of these new projects will concentrate on cybersecurity and privacy solutions for citizens and small and medium businesses (SMEs). The other four projects will work on improving critical security systems, such as healthcare infrastructures and multimodal transport systems.

Furthermore, 21 projects will be funded through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the European networks and infrastructures programme, also covering the digital sector. With a total of €7.6 million, the latter projects will strengthen the EU’s cybersecurity capacity to be better prepared and counter more efficiently cyber-threats and incidents. Three hospitals in Croatia and Latvia will, for example, increase their preparedness by implementing technical and organisational improvements, while an Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) for the Italian aviation sector will be set up.

The support to the new projects is part of the EU’s commitment to build a strong cybersecurity culture and capabilities to resist and respond to future cyber threats and attacks.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1540>

HEALTH



Coronavirus: €117 million granted for treatments and diagnostics through the Innovative Medicines Initiative

The Commission announced that 8 large-scale research projects, aimed at developing treatments and diagnostics for the coronavirus, were selected in a fast-track call for proposals, launched in March by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), a public-private partnership.

In order to fund a larger number of high-quality proposals, the Commission increased its commitment to €72 million (up from the originally planned €45 million) from Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme. €45 million will be provided by the pharmaceutical industry, IMI associated partners and other organisations involved with the projects, bringing the total investment to €117 million. The projects selected are part of the common European response to the coronavirus outbreak that the Commission is coordinating since the beginning of the crisis.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1528>

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

How to preserve biodiversity: EU policy

In order to preserve endangered species, the EU wants to improve and preserve biodiversity on the continent. In January, the Parliament called for an ambitious EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and set legally binding targets, including conservation of at least 30% of natural areas and 10% of the long-term budget devoted to biodiversity. In response, and as part of the Green Deal, the European Commission presented the new 2030 strategy in May 2020.

An important part of Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's Green Deal commitments, the Commission launched the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, to go hand in hand with the Farm to Fork Strategy. For the next 10 years, the EU will focus on an EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, concrete commitments to restore degraded systems, enable change by making the measures workable and binding and take the lead in tackling biodiversity on a global level.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1543>



Commission supports Member States in their transition to a climate-neutral economy

The European Commission has approved all requests made by 18 Member States for support with the preparation of their territorial just transition plans, which each Member State will have to draw up to get access to funding from the Just Transition Mechanism.

To recall, the Just Transition Mechanism is part of the European Green Deal Investment Plan and will mobilise at least €100 billion of investments to provide additional targeted support to the regions most impacted by the transition towards a climate-neutral economy and with less capacity to deal with the challenge. The approval follows a dedicated call, launched by the Commission at the end of February 2020 under the Structural Reform Support Programme.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1516>



Creating a sustainable food system: the EU's strategy

The EU's food sustainability strategy aims to protect the environment and ensure healthy food for everyone, whilst ensuring farmers' livelihoods.

The food system, from production to consumption and waste, has a significant impact on the environment, health and food safety. With the Farm to Fork Strategy presented on 20 May 2020, the European Commission aims to create a sustainable EU food system that safeguards food security and protects people and the natural world.

The strategy provides the framework for a series of laws that the Commission will propose, ranging from a revision of EU pesticides legislation, new EU animal welfare rules and plans to address food waste and tackle food fraud to food labelling, a carbon farming initiative and

the reform of the EU farm system.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1545>

Covid-19: EU recovery plan should include climate crisis action

As the EU looks at how best to recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, MEPs say the Green Deal must be at the centre of any reconstruction package. The current health crisis and its consequences remain the immediate priority, but the European Parliament is also focusing on a strategy for the post-crisis period. In a resolution adopted on 17 April, MEPs said the EU needs a massive recovery and reconstruction package with the Green Deal, a series of initiatives to make Europe's economy sustainable, at its core to stimulate the economy and fight climate change.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1518>



Complex network of European and global developments impacts sustainability

A wide variety of rapid and long-term societal developments in Europe and globally have important effects on the environment in Europe. A recently published European Environment Agency (EEA) report analyses these 'drivers of change', providing insights on their impacts on EU sustainability ambitions.

The EEA report 'Drivers of change of relevance for Europe's environment and sustainability' provides an in-depth characterisation of developments that range from demographic shifts to leaps in technological innovation and from global competition for natural resources to changes in geopolitical landscape and people's lifestyles. It also shines light on their potential implications for major policy processes such as the European Green Deal (EGD) in the EU and the UN Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals.

The report argues that varying global and European trends point not only to continuing sustainability challenges and new risks, but also towards opportunities for positive change.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1535>

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