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Successful organisation of the Cyprus International Fair “Education and Career 2020”

The education fair “Education and Career 2020” was held at pavilion 6 of the Cyprus Expo from the 7th to 9th February 2020.



The fair was co-organised by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, the Cyprus 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.

More than 150 Universities and Educational Institutes from Cyprus, Greece, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, France, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, The Netherlands and Slovakia, participated in the fair providing information on their study programmes, offers, and job and funding prospects.

The growing internationalisation of Higher Education is widely considered to constitute an important positive factor in the enhancement of its quality and relevance. Data shows that mobility is a factor forecasting 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 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 Horizon 2020, which down the line create job opportunities and contribute to a higher living standard, hence offering advantages for everyone.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1420>

INART2DIVERCITY project - Development of pedagogical methodology & training practices to train the teachers

The European Office of Cyprus coordinates the European project “InART2DiverCity”: Introducing Cultural Diversity of European Cities to Youth.

InART2DiverCity project proposes the development of Alternative Pedagogical Methodology & Training practices to train the teachers, the development of training seminars for VET students and the creative applications and pilot testing for the re-use of the cultural heritage. The 4th meeting took place in Palermo, Italy on month 17 of the project as it was planned.

Partners were focused in the presentation of the results of the O2 - Alternative pedagogical methodology and “Train the Trainers” Guidebook, as well as for the O3 – Training Programme and O4 – Web-platform.

More information : <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1421>

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MEMBERS' NEWS



CARE

CONNECTING ART WITH REAL LIFE ISSUES

Frederick University: coordinator of a project for the enhancement of Visual Arts Education

On December 9 and 10, 2019, Frederick University hosted the kickoff meeting of the partners of the European research program *Visual arts education in new times: Connecting Art with REal life issues (CARE)*, which is funded by the Erasmus+ KA2 programme. The coordinator of the project is Dr Victoria Pavlou, Associate Professor of Visual Arts, Department of Education, Frederick University.

Project CARE is about enhancing visual arts education with education for sustainable development elements that will promote creative thinking, critical and systemic thinking, reflection and development of skills, attitudes and values. The project aims to develop and deliver teacher-training programmes that will empower primary schoolteachers in visual arts teaching within the framework of education for sustainable development and thus strengthen their teaching profile. The CARE project also seeks to establish links and collaborations with local agencies and organizations (such as governmental organisations, museums, artists and others) in order to empower the educational program and connect learning with real life context and experiences.

More information: <https://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1580>

EU NEWS AND EU POLICY



Commission Work Programme for 2020 published

The European Commission has published its Work Programme for 2020, entitled “A Union that strives for more” which sets out four main priorities for 2020: facilitating and capitalising upon Europe’s ecological and digital transformation; reaching a swift agreement on the existing legislative proposals to deliver on the six political priorities; reviewing pending legislative proposals to continue with the adoption of a limited number of new initiatives; and presenting several initiatives to improve future regulation, policymaking and implementation of EU law.

The Work Programme and its annexes include several direct references to research and innovation (R&I).

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1440#>

Cohesion Policy: involving citizens to ensure better results

The Commission decided to launch two new pilot actions to involve citizens more when rolling out cohesion projects on the ground. The aim is to support active involvement of citizens and civil society organisations in the way the EU funds are planned, invested and monitored, to ultimately ensure better results. Under these pilot actions, managing authorities of the Cohesion funds and civil society organisations will receive expert advice and support to develop the necessary knowledge and skills for rolling out the cohesion projects.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1375>

Future EU-UK Partnership: European Commission takes first step to launch negotiations with the United Kingdom

The European Commission on February 3, issued a recommendation to the Council to open negotiations on a new partnership with the United Kingdom. This recommendation is based on the existing European Council guidelines and conclusions, as well as on the Political Declaration agreed between the EU and the United Kingdom in October 2019. It includes a comprehensive proposal for negotiating directives, defining the scope and terms of the future partnership that the European Union envisages with the United Kingdom.

As the EU negotiator, the Commission intends to continue work in close coordination with the Council and its preparatory bodies, as well as with the European Parliament, as was the case during the negotiations for the Withdrawal Agreement.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1378>

Future EU-UK Partnership: European Commission receives mandate to begin negotiations with the UK

The European Commission welcomes the Council's decision to authorise the opening of the future partnership negotiations with the UK. The negotiating directives adopted are based on the draft recommendation put forward by the Commission on 3 February 2020. They fully respect existing European Council guidelines and conclusions, as well as the Political Declaration agreed between the EU and the United Kingdom in October 2019.

The comprehensive negotiating directives define the scope and terms of the future partnership that the European Union envisages with the United Kingdom.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1450>

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



The gospel of ERC's new president: super-disciplinary science

At the age of 43, Mauro Ferrari moved from a successful academic career in mechanical engineering to study medicine, going on to become a founding father of the emerging field of nanomedicine. Now, at the age of 60, the man of many talents has taken on a new role at the helm of the EU's top research funding body, with an intention to make "super-disciplinary" science go mainstream.

There are many labels on scientific research that spans more than one field: interdisciplinary, trans-disciplinary, multidisciplinary, cross-disciplinary, and so on, but Ferrari proposes a slightly different notion to capture the evolution of scientific discovery and how new fields of knowledge come into existence: super-disciplinary.

With the overall EU budget for 2021-2027 still under negotiation, Ferrari did not exclude the possibility that potential cuts would also affect his turf. If that happens, "we are going to be fighting," he said.

In fact, Ferrari would actually like to see the budget increase. Until now, for every 10 projects that received the ERC's excellence mark and are funded, there were another four highly marked projects for which there isn't enough money.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1439>

Make your research systems more attractive, R&D Commissioner tells Member States

Member states should boost R&D spending and upgrade national innovation systems in line with EU plans to revive the European Research Area (ERA), the EU's new innovation chief told science ministers gathered in Zagreb on February 6.

Speaking at a meeting organised by the Croatian presidency of the EU council, Maryia Gabriel called on EU members to, "make sure national systems provide attractive working environment for young researchers." Gabriel wants to reinvigorate the effort to build ERA that began in 2000 with the aim of creating a single market for research and innovation and promoting a level playing field for researchers in the EU. After initial enthusiasm, the project ran into the ground, as progress was slowed by the economic crisis in 2008 and years of austerity that followed.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1449>

Shaping Europe's Digital Future: Commission presents strategies for Data And Artificial Intelligence



On 19 February, the Commission unveiled its ideas and actions for a digital transformation that works for all, reflecting the best of Europe. The European data strategy and the policy options to ensure the human-centric development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) presented are the first steps towards achieving these goals.

The strategy presents a European society powered by digital solutions that put people first, opens up new opportunities for businesses, and boosts the development of trustworthy technology to foster an open and democratic society and a vibrant and sustainable economy. Digital is a key enabler to fighting climate change and achieving the green transition. The European data strategy and the policy options to ensure the human-centric development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) presented are the first steps towards achieving these goals.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1398>

Mind the gap: budget tussle set to delay full start of Horizon Europe

Everyone has been wondering. Now they know: researchers and companies will indeed face a delay between the end of Horizon 2020 in December and when they can start to apply for grants from the new Horizon Europe programme. The open question is how long the gap will last.

"I think there will be some gap whatever [happens], but there is a potential for a longer gap," Paul Webb, Head of Unit, Budget and MFF Synergies, at DG Research said in conference in Brussels on 4 February. "Let's hope it's not long."

Whatever the delay, it is unlikely to strike evenly across Horizon Europe. Webb confirmed that two of the three "pillars" of the new programme – basic research and innovation – are essentially ready to go. "We can start Pillar One and Pillar Three the day after they are agreed," he said.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1448>

EU announces €10m funding for research on coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission is putting €10 million up for research to help halt the spread of the deadly coronavirus and has launched an "emergency request" for expressions of interest for research projects to advance understanding of the epidemic, which originated in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

The EU-funded research should contribute to more efficient clinical management of patients infected with the virus, as well as public health preparedness and response, the commission said. The €10 million funding will support between two and four research projects.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1441>

Funding and tender opportunities portal: update expected to reflect withdrawal agreement

A note has been added to the European Commission's Funding and Tenders Portal.

The note states: "The Commission is in the process of updating some of the content on this website in the light of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. If the site contains content that does not yet reflect the withdrawal of the United Kingdom, it is unintentional and will be addressed.

"More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1443>

Horizon Impact Award 2020 contest opens: apply by 2 April 2020

The European Commission is launching the 2020 edition of Horizon Impact Award – a prize dedicated to EU-funded projects whose results have created societal impact across Europe and beyond.

The prize acknowledges and rewards the most influential and impactful project results under Horizon 2020, the EU research and innovation programme, and its predecessor, the 7th Framework programme (FP7, 2007-2013).

"More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1405>

HEALTH



European Commission launches EU-wide public consultation on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

On 4 February, World Cancer Day, the European Commission launched an EU-wide public consultation on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The consultation will help shape the Plan, identify key areas, and explore future action.

Every year, 3.5 million persons are diagnosed with cancer in the European Union. It is a serious health issue that will directly affect 40% of EU citizens with important impacts on the European health systems and economies. However, with up to 40% of cancer cases being

attributed to preventable causes, the scope for action and potential to reduce the number of cases in the EU is immense. As announced by President von der Leyen in her Political Guidelines and set out in the mission letter of Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides, the Commission will present a European plan to reduce the suffering caused by the disease and support Member States to improve cancer control and care.

The aim of the public consultation is to allow EU citizens and stakeholders to contribute and voice their opinion on the best ways to address this issue in the EU. The results of the consultation will feed into the outline of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and help identify the areas and the scope of future action.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1376>

Third Eu Health Programme – Work Plan 2020 published

The European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) has published its 2020 work plan for the Third EU Health Programme. The EU Health Programme is the main funding mechanism supporting cooperation among EU countries in the area of public health and healthcare system policies.

The Programme is managed by DG SANTE with the assistance of the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA).

The annual plan sets out the priorities and actions to be undertaken. The budget available in 2020 is €65 million, supporting a limited number of calls for proposals for projects and mainly funding joint actions undertaken by Member States' health authorities, as well as operating grants for non-governmental bodies and grants for international organisations.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1442>

New members of eHealth stakeholder group start their work

On 7 February, the Commission announced new member organisations of the eHealth Stakeholder Group. The group will support the Commission in the development of actions for the digital transformation of health and care in the EU.

The Commission has just published the names of the new member organisations of the renewed eHealth Stakeholder Group with a mandate until 2022. The call for applications closed in September 2019 and the Commission received over 100 applications for a maximum of 40 membership places. In selecting organisations, the Commission took into account not only the eligibility and selection criteria, but also the need for a balanced representation of the different interests needed to support the breadth of digital health over the next three years.

Members are all umbrella organisations/associations with a European outreach, representing the following sectors/groups: the Health Tech industry, patients, healthcare professionals and the research community. The names of selected organisations are published in the Register of Commission Expert Groups.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1447>

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

European Commission and European Investment Fund launch €75 million BlueInvest Fund

The European Commission is partnering with the European Investment Fund, part of the European Investment Bank Group (EIB), to launch the BlueInvest Fund.

The BlueInvest Fund will be managed by the European Investment Fund and will provide financing to underlying equity funds that strategically target and support the innovative blue economy. This sector can play an important role in the transformation to a carbon-neutral economy by 2050, an ambition announced in the European Green Deal. The new programme is backed by the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the financial pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1419>



EU to strengthen green energy R&D partnerships with Africa

The European Commission is actively seeking ways to collaborate with countries in Africa to develop and implement green energy technologies.

The aim is to “strengthen our international partnerships with Africa and work closely with the African Union countries on energy issues and the green transition,” said Ditte Juul-Jørgensen, director general for energy at the European Commission.

Commission president Ursula von der Leyen kick-started her mandate in December with a visit to Ethiopia, underlining the EU’s geopolitical ambitions in Africa, where it hopes to collaborate on developing technologies needed for a transition to a carbon neutral economy by 2050.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1444>

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More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1419>

EU invests more than €100 million in new LIFE Programme projects to promote a green and climate-neutral Europe

The European Commission announced on 17 February an investment of €101.2 million for the latest projects under the LIFE programme for the Environment and Climate Action.

The funding will support 10 large-scale environment and climate projects in nine Member States, helping Europe’s transition to a sustainable economy and climate neutrality. These projects are located in Cyprus, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Slovakia, Czechia and Spain.

Integrated projects improve citizens’ quality of life by helping Member States comply with EU legislation in six areas: nature, water, air, waste, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. They support implementation of environmental and climate legislation in a coordinated manner and on a large territorial scale, leveraging funding from other EU sources, national and regional actors and private investors. More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1394>

Energy: EU priority projects should be aligned with 2050 climate objectives

The Commission should update its guidelines to select priority energy projects so that the next EU list is in line with its climate policy, said the Energy Committee of the European Parliament.

The revision of the TEN-E guidelines, to be proposed by the European Commission later this year, should be consistent with EU energy and climate targets for 2030, its long-term commitment on decarbonisation and the energy efficiency first principle, say MEPs from the Industry, Research and Energy Committee, in a resolution adopted on Tuesday.

In order to ensure that the projects selected for the next PCI (projects of common interest) list are in line with the EU’s climate commitments, MEPs call on the Commission to also propose transitional guidance before the end of 2020.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1392>

EDUCATION AND CULTURE



Competitiveness ministers meeting discusses brain circulation and the ERA

An informal meeting of the EU Ministers for Competitiveness (Research) has taken place in Zagreb, Croatia, with a specific focus on brain circulation and developing a vision for the future European Research Area (ERA).

The topic of brain circulation, as a positive form of researcher mobility, was discussed from the perspective of the well-being of researchers, collaborative networks, increased participation in research and innovation programmes, and complementary action at the national-level. Former Commissioner Phillipe Busquin and Croatian innovator Mate Rimac gave their personal views on these topics, followed by a ministerial discussion.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1445>

MSCA: €387 million to support 2 500 researchers across Europe and beyond

The grants are part of the Horizon 2020, the EU's framework programme for research and innovation and are awarded to outstanding post-doctoral researchers as well as to exceptional doctoral and post-doctoral training programmes. The grants will fund research in a wide range of disciplines across the European Research Area.

The EU will finance nearly 1500 post-doctoral researchers to find solutions to current and future societal problems in cooperation with top universities and research organisations, while helping them enhance their skills and innovative potential. MSCA Individual Fellowships include research into anti-cancer therapies, energy management, optimising water utilisation for farming and understanding the effects of digital technologies on young adults.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1446>

Study on international credit mobility for disadvantaged students

A study recently conducted by the European University Association (EUA) addresses the capacity of the Erasmus+ programme to tackle equity and inclusion, by facilitating the access to participants from disadvantaged backgrounds and with fewer opportunities.

The European University Association (EUA) has recently conducted a study on the implementation of International Credit Mobility towards disadvantaged students for the European Commission. Under the Support and Promotion for Higher Education Reform Experts initiative (SPHERE), the study addresses the capacity of the Erasmus+ programme to tackle equity and inclusion, by facilitating the access to participants from disadvantaged backgrounds and with fewer opportunities.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1400>

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