

## IN THIS ISSUE

- p.
- 1 News and EU Policy
  - 2 Research and Innovation
  - 3 Health
  - 4 Environment and Energy
  - 5 Education and Culture

## 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.

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

## 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.

The big problem area will be Pillar Two – Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness. “You can’t set the work programmes [for the missions in Pillar 2] without a budget,” unlike, for example Pillar 1, involving the European Research Council.

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

## Europe needs to fulfill its gender equality commitments



A new vision for a gender-equal Europe was announced by Vera Jourova, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, and Helena Dalli, Commissioner for Equality, when they unveiled the EU’s Gender Equality Strategy 2020 - 2025.

Priorities include reducing economic inequalities, creating better work-life balance, combating violence against women, and making sure that important issues, such as climate change and digitalisation take gender equality concerns into account.

The European Institute for Gender Equality’s (EIGE) review of the Beijing Platform for Action, published ahead of International Women’s Day, reinforces the Commission’s message. Europe has several gender equality challenges needing immediate attention.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1414>

Editing by the:

EUROPEAN OFFICE OF  
CYPRUS

**NICOSIA**  
University of Cyprus  
1, Panepistimiou Avenue  
2109 Aglantzia, Nicosia, Cyprus  
T. +357 22 894278  
E. eoc@ucy.ac.cy

**BRUSSELS**  
Rue du Luxembourg 3,  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
T. +32 (0) 2 280 22 85  
E. eoc.brussels@ucy.ac.cy

**ATHENS**  
Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus  
Xenophontos 2A,  
105 57 Athens, Syntagma  
Greece  
T. +30 210 373 4833  
E. eoc.athens@ucy.ac.cy

## EU NEWS AND EU POLICY

### Relocating unaccompanied children from Greece: what works and what does not

Thousands of unaccompanied children in Greece are living in conditions that are completely unsuitable – without adequate housing, exposed to the cold weather, facing insecurity and even violence. The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) welcomes the initiative of the European Commission and some Member States to relocate these unaccompanied children.

FRA provides practical suggestions to the EU and its Member States on the relocation process. At the same time, FRA urges Member States to agree on a simple and practical workflow as soon as possible to avoid lack of clarity and delays in the relocation process.

FRA's practical suggestions to relocate unaccompanied children from Greece builds on lessons learned from previous mandatory and voluntary relocation schemes.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1436>

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

### Coronavirus: consequences for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) projects and related activities

The Commission understands that the current containment measures taken at national level may have consequences on MSCA projects. This may concern the regular mobility activities of MSCA fellows and other project staff as well as the participation of individuals in meetings and events organised by beneficiaries in the framework of MSCA projects.

To respond to these uncertainties, the European Commission is applying the maximum flexibility in the implementation of the programme, within the limits of the applicable legal framework.

The Research Executive Agency (REA) has informed all project coordinators about the possibility to invoke the "force majeure" clauses: REA will assess the circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1423>

### European Innovation Council Pilot: €344 million to 107 visionary ideas of start-ups, SMEs and researchers



The European Commission announced the latest results of the European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot. Over 100 game-changing ideas from across Europe are on track to receive EIC support totalling €344 million.

Funded by Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme, the selected proposals include the Radical project, which is revolutionising local and global air quality monitoring, and FluoGuide, a visualisation technology that vastly improves surgical precision during cancer-removal surgery.

Sixty-three of the ideas are at research stage. Over €162 million (from the EIC "Pathfinder" pilot) will enable their authors to discover breakthrough technologies or bring them closer to the market, which could become the basis of a start-up or spin-off company. Forty-four of the awards representing almost €182 million (from the EIC "Accelerator" pilot) will go to start-ups and innovative SMEs to develop and scale up their innovations. As well as financial support, these companies will receive a wide range of coaching, mentoring and advisory/business acceleration services.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1425>

### €275 million available for security research projects

A call for project proposals on security research across 20 different topics is open until 27 August 2020 in order to boost the effectiveness of the Security Union.

It makes available €275 million in total for projects working on protecting the infrastructure of Europe, increasing the disaster resilience of societies, fighting crime and terrorism, securing external borders, improving digital security and data protection, as well as artificial intelligence in support of law enforcement and citizen protection.

The proposals that have passed the evaluation will be known by mid-January 2021, and the grant agreements with the project teams should be signed by end of April 2021.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1422>

### Horizon Europe, an investment in and for our future

Ms. Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth and Mr. Emil Boc, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and members of the Committee of the Regions, participated in a Citizens' Dialogue on "Horizon Europe – challenges and perspectives".

The Citizens' Dialogue was held at the Centre for Urban Culture Casino in Cluj-Napoca. It focused on the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation "Horizon Europe", which will boost the scientific, economic and societal impact of EU funding. Horizon Europe invests in shaping Europe's future through research and innovation. It can help turning challenges into opportunities thus improving citizens' life. The citizens' dialogue offered an excellent forum to discuss the impact of the programme and especially its main novelties, such as the European Innovation Council and Missions.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1409>

## Making Europe's businesses future-ready: a new industrial strategy for a globally competitive, green and digital Europe



The Commission presented a new Strategy to help Europe's industry lead the twin transitions towards climate neutrality and digital leadership. The Strategy aims to drive Europe's competitiveness and its strategic autonomy at a time of moving geopolitical plates and increasing global competition.

The package of initiatives outlines a new approach to European industrial policy that is firmly rooted in European values and social market traditions. It sets out a range of actions to support all players of European industry, including big and small companies, innovative start-ups, research centres, service providers, suppliers and social partners. A dedicated Strategy for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) aims to reduce red tape and help Europe's numerous SMEs to do business across the single market and beyond, access financing and help lead the way on the digital and green transitions. Today's initiatives also include concrete

steps to address barriers to a well-functioning single market, Europe's strongest asset to allow all our businesses to grow and compete in Europe and beyond.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1424>

## HEALTH

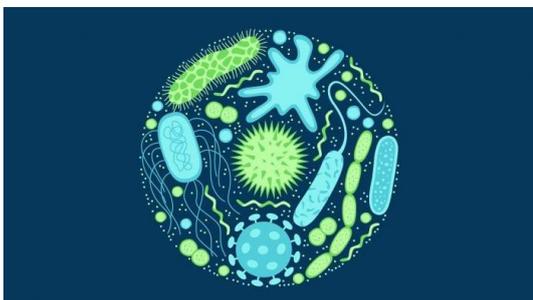
### Third EU Health Programme – Work Plan 2020 published

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 (CHAFAEA).

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>



### Antimicrobial resistance in the EU: infections with foodborne bacteria becoming harder to treat

Salmonella and Campylobacter are becoming increasingly resistant to ciprofloxacin, one of the antibiotics of choice for treating infections caused by these bacteria. The conclusion is part of the latest report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonoses released by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which also presents some positive trends in the animal sector.

The latest data from humans, animals and food show that a large proportion of Salmonella bacteria are multidrug-resistant (resistant to three or more antimicrobials). In humans, resistance to ciprofloxacin is common, particularly in certain types of

Salmonella, and resistance to high concentrations of ciprofloxacin increased overall from 1.7% (2016) to 4.6% (2018). For Campylobacter, 16 out of 19 countries report very high or extremely high percentages of ciprofloxacin resistance.

High proportions of resistance to ciprofloxacin are also reported in Salmonella and E. coli bacteria from poultry.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1411>

## 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.

During the BlueInvest Day conference in Brussels, EIB Vice-President Emma Navarro and Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, launched a €75 million equity investment fund for the blue economy.

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.

The blue economy includes economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts. It ranges from companies in the marine environment to land-based businesses producing goods or services that contribute to the maritime economy. The blue economy harbours many promising early-stage ventures and companies – often emanating from EU-funded R&D programmes.

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

## Citizen science projects on air quality produce useful information and raise public awareness



Air pollution is the biggest environmental health threat in Europe and more and more people are taking action to claim their right to clean air. A new European Environment Agency (EEA) report provides an overview of low-cost devices that citizens and NGOs can use to measure local air quality.

The EEA report 'Assessing air quality through citizen science' presents successful examples of using simple low-cost devices to measure local air pollution levels. The report also briefly explains how these devices work, summarises their reliability, and highlights the potential of such devices to address questions about air quality.

The EEA report shows that citizen science initiatives can produce useful information about local air quality. Such information can be used, for example, to improve official air quality models used to estimate pollution levels and identify suitable actions to

improve air quality. The initiatives often also help to raise public awareness of air quality problems, which can lead to stronger public measures to address the issue or changes in personal behaviour, such as switching from driving to walking or cycling.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1428>

## Changing how we produce and consume: new Circular Economy action plan shows the way to a climate-neutral, competitive economy of empowered consumers

The European Commission adopted a new Circular Economy Action Plan - one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal, Europe's new agenda for sustainable growth.

With measures along the entire life cycle of products, the new Action Plan aims to make our economy fit for a green future, strengthen our competitiveness while protecting the environment and give new rights to consumers. Building on the work done since 2015, the new Plan focuses on the design and production for a circular economy, with the aim to ensure that the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible. The plan and the initiatives therein will be developed with the close involvement of the business and stakeholder community.

The transition towards a circular economy is already underway, with frontrunner businesses, consumers and public authorities in Europe embracing this sustainable model. The Commission will make sure that the circular economy transition delivers opportunities for all, leaving no one behind.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1429>

## Committing to climate-neutrality by 2050: Commission proposes European climate law and consults on the European climate pact

The Commission presented a proposal to enshrine in legislation the EU's political commitment to be climate neutral by 2050, to protect the planet and our people. The European Climate Law sets the 2050 target and the direction of travel for all EU policy, and gives predictability for public authorities, businesses and citizens. At the same time, the Commission is launching a public consultation on the future European Climate Pact. Through this consultation the public will be involved in co-designing this instrument.

With the European Climate Law the Commission proposes a legally binding target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The EU Institutions and the Member States are collectively bound to take the necessary measures at EU and national level to meet the target. The Climate Law includes measures to keep track of progress and adjust our actions accordingly, based on existing systems such as the governance process for Member States' National Energy and Climate Plans, regular reports by the European Environment Agency, and the latest scientific evidence on climate change and its impacts.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1413>



## Cities and regions need to switch to a low-emission transport system

The Green Deal and the role of cities and regions in the switch to cleaner transport was the focus of discussion in a joint meeting between the European Parliament's Committee for Transport and Tourism (TRAN) and the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) of the European Committee of the Regions.

The European Green Deal is the long-term plan of the European Commission to achieve full decarbonisation of the continent by 2050. A big part of it is the decarbonisation of the transport sector. While the objective of climate neutrality can only be achieved on a European level through new legislation and the adaptation of existing law, implementation will depend heavily on local and regional authorities who are in charge of public transport

and infrastructure in their territories.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1412>

## €350 million proposed to support Green Deal innovators across Europe

A proposed update to the European Innovation Council (EIC) Pilot work programme, under Horizon 2020 includes €350 million 'green deal' calls for game-changing, market-creating innovation contributing to the goals of The European Green Deal and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The main element will be a €300 million one-off call under the EIC Accelerator to support start-ups and SMEs to develop and scale breakthrough innovations that address at least one of the eight goals of The European Green Deal. This represents the largest ever funding round under the EIC pilot and has a deadline for applications of 19 May 2020.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1410>

**EDUCATION AND CULTURE****EUA learning & teaching thematic peer groups release key considerations on enhancing learning and teaching**

The 2019 EUA Learning & Teaching Thematic Peer Groups have concluded their work. The groups focused on peer-learning and the exploration of issues and good practice in learning and teaching. They presented their preliminary conclusions at the 2020 European Learning & Teaching Forum.

The groups' reports are now available online and focus on the following themes: Curriculum design; Internationalisation in learning and teaching; Student assessment; and Evidence-based approaches to learning and teaching.

At the 2020 European Learning & Teaching Forum, group members also reported that they have started to implement some of the ideas raised in their respective groups, which further testifies to the success of their work.

More information: <http://eoc.org.cy/en/index.php?id=1432>

## OUR MEMBERS



## CONTACT US:

## EUROPEAN OFFICE OF CYPRUS

## NICOSIA

University of Cyprus, 1, Panepistimiou Avenue, 2109 Aglantzia, Nicosia, Cyprus  
T. +357 22 894278 | E. [eoc@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:eoc@ucy.ac.cy)

## BRUSSELS

Rue du Luxembourg 3, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
T. +32 (0) 2 280 22 85 | E. [eoc.brussels@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:eoc.brussels@ucy.ac.cy)

## ATHENS

Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, Xenophontos 2A, 105 57 Athens, Syntagma, Greece  
T. +30 210 373 4833 | E. [eoc.athens@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:eoc.athens@ucy.ac.cy)

## FOLLOW US:

 European Office of Cyprus

 @EOCyprus

 European Office of Cyprus

 @eocyprus



The European Office of Cyprus applies the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU)2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (GDPR) and we ask you to give us your consent to send you newsletters about events, news and announcements concerning our services.

If you would like to continue receiving news from us, please fill out the statement of consent available at: <https://goo.gl/forms/kuy6lVcZCubO1FS33>