



EUROPEAN
OFFICE OF
CYPRUS



INFO DAYS

“Webinar: Maximising the impact of Horizon 2020 project results”

19 July 2017
10:30-11:45 (CET)
<http://tinyurl.com/lfen8we>

“Save the Date: Industrial Innovation Information Days 2017”

3-4 October 2017
Brussels, Belgium
<http://tinyurl.com/y7p2e5ph>

“Save the Date: Info Day and brokerage event on the Horizon 2020 WP 2018-2020, Challenge “Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency & Raw Materials””

8-9 November 2017
Brussels, Belgium
<http://tinyurl.com/yaphw4mh>

“Save the Date: Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 Info week”

14-17 November 2017
Brussels, Belgium
<http://tinyurl.com/y8ynxk47>

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EUROPEAN NEWS

ISSUE 121

MAY 2017

EOC signs Memorandum of Understanding with DLEARN Network

The European Office of Cyprus (EOC) and the European Digital Learning Network (DLEARN) are happy to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the organisations. The two organisations, taking into consideration their shared visions and aims, are keen to establish a joint cooperation about networking within their members and communities of stakeholders, cross promote their activities and projects, cooperate in commercial activities, and launching and coordinating joint initiatives at local or European level. The aim is to strengthen their respective roles, visibility and presence at EU level.

The European Office of Cyprus aims to offer support to its members, so they can use to the maximum the funding and development opportunities offered by the European Union. In order to achieve that, the organisation pro-

vides conclusive information and consultation on EU funding opportunities and developing partnerships and participation in European networks.

The European Digital Learning Network aims to address the challenges of the digital transformation in education and training, and bring closer the experiences and the voices of local territories and people to EU polices.

This will be a fruitful partnership with shared opportunities for growth for both organisations and a new pathway for development for our members in the field of digital learning and skills.

More information: eoc.brussels@ucy.ac.cy



Mobility Fair 2017



The 2nd Mobility Fair was organised successfully on 22 May 2017 in Technopolis, Athens.

Hundreds of visitors, students, teachers, researchers and parents visited the kiosks in order to gather information on the European funding programmes and the opportunities for mobility. At the same time, workshops and information talks were delivered by representatives of the institutions, the embassies and the student's networks on topics concerning studies in Europe, Erasmus+ programme, scholarships, as well as the opportunities for developing skills, exchange and training programmes, volunteer programmes and a wide range of activities related to mobility in European countries.

The European Office of Cyprus participated for the first time in the Fair and attracted the interest of guests as well as collaborating institutions. The office, **provided information regarding the offered Erasmus+ traineeship program in its office in Brussels** and discussed with participants the opportunities that exist for mobility and exchange through the European Funded programs, particularly in Cyprus. Moreover, the EOC **had meetings with the representatives of other participant organisations**, in order to arrange further collaboration on related subjects.

More information: eoc.athens@ucy.ac.cy

Digital Tools for Inclusion of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants



Europe is experiencing one of the most significant influxes of migrants and refugees in its history. In this regard, the role of the host countries becomes crucial especially when it comes to finding lasting solutions for migrants and refugees in terms of their resettlement and integration to the host society. Education is considered indispensable to their integration. There is an increasing need to prepare all adult education providers (AEPs) in the most affected EU countries, to initiate relevant programmes.



University of Nicosia participates in the Erasmus+ project “DIGITAL INCLUSION” which aims to provide digital training for them as an alternative learning opportunity to promote their inclusion to the labour market, their active participation in the social, political, economic and cultural life in the societies they live, as well as to promote self-employment solutions.

Project Coordinator is the **General Directorate of Social Services and Social Integration - Community of Madrid (Spain)**, developing the action in partnership with: **Community of San Egidio (Spain)**, **University of Nicosia (Cyprus)**, **CARDET (Cyprus)**, **Centre for European Constitutional Law (Greece)**, **Association of Saint Andrew (Italy)**, **Union of South-East Region Local Authorities (Bulgaria)** and **Hildburghäuser Bildungszentrum e.V. (Germany)**.

More information: <http://www.migrationnetwork.org/en/>

Language, Cultural and Social Orientation for Young Refugees



BLEND IN aims to prepare and empower one of the most vulnerable groups of our times, young refugees and migrants seeking a better life in an EU host/ receiving country. The ultimate goal of the project is to develop the social, civic, intercultural competences of the young refugees and migrants resettled in a host country, inform them on their rights and promote their autonomy, active citizenship and participation in social life and labour market, thus preventing their social exclusion, combating discrimination and segregation by facilitating their smooth cultural and social integration in the host community.

In order to achieve this goal, **BLEND IN** partners will develop a cultural, social and **language integration toolkit in the form of a mobile application**, orienting the young newcomer refugees and migrants into the hosting socie-

ties' cultural and social realities and norms. They will also develop a Refugee Integration Handbook for Operators, focusing on key areas of a successful integration of young refugees and migrants in a host/ receiving country.

BLEND IN is implemented by **7 European organizations from 5 different countries: Anziani e non solo SC (ANS) – Italy (Leading Organisation); Caleidos Cooperativa Sociale Onlus – Italy; Family and Childcare Centre (KMOP) – Greece; EEO Group S.A. – Greece; Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants (FSM) – Malta; Centre for Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology LTD (CARDET) – Cyprus; and Canary Wharf Consulting (CWC) LTD – UK.** The project is funded by the EU and will run for 24 months (14 November 2016 – 13 November 2018).

More information: <http://www.blend-in.eu/en/>

Migrant women become champions of integration

INTEGR8 is a new project being developed by seven organisations across Europe with the aim of training migrant women to become champions of integration in their communities. The project will provide migrant women with the opportunity to develop skills and to build their confidence so that they can in-turn empower others; helping other migrant women to feel more accepted and integrated into the host communities, to access basic services and to learn about their rights and entitlements in the host/ receiving countries.

Working in partnership with local migrant support agencies, education providers, migrant women's networks and migrant women individually, project partners will develop a suite of training materials and will deliver this training locally between December 2016 and November



2018, when the project comes to an end. This training will be delivered through a series of practical workshops, networking and social events, and with the support of a dedicated online platform where trainees can access e-learning modules and integration resources.

The INTEGR8 consortium consists of the following organisations: **Meath Partnership – IRELAND; CARDET – CYPRUS; ISQ Formação – PORTUGAL; University of Pitesti – ROMANIA; Learning Unlimited – UNITED KINGDOM; FormAzione Co&So Network – ITALY; and Jugend am Werk – AUSTRIA.**

More information: www.integrateproject.eu



Migrant Information Centres

The University of Nicosia in collaboration with the Cyprus University of Technology, Neapolis University Paphos and the research organisation CARDET, under the co funding of the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Republic of Cyprus implements the Action entitled: Migrant Information Centres.

The aim of the action is the establishment and operation of Immigrants' Centres, which will provide informational and psychosocial support services to migrants towards their integration into the Cypriot society. The Centres' services provision include direct and indirect advocacy on migration, employment, housing, educational opportunities, health care, culture and social inclusion information and so forth.

The services are provided through a variation of means such as: social and psychological support, in person communication, communication through digital means, direct and indirect advocacy, communication with the appropriate government agencies, etc.

The main pillars of provision of services pinpoint to the sectors of asylum, employment, education, health, social welfare, house and overcome social and financial inequalities.

More information: www.mihub.eu

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WORKING HOURS

Monday–
Friday
10:00-18:00
Sunday
10:00-17:00



Launching the ComBuS Mobile App:

A new tool for fighting against bullying is available for all to use!



The ComBuS Mobile Application is a new innovative tool which will help to fight against bullying in schools. It is now available to download free of charge, and will allow teachers, parents and students to access guidance, advice and toolkit resources on-the-go. The ComBuS Mobile App provides information and training materials as well as guidelines for peer to peer support among students and their parents. ComBuS is financed by the European Commission under the Justice Programme and is coordinated by CARDET.

The ComBuS Mobile App is compatible with all mobile web platforms and it can be found here: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cardet.combus>.

Professional orientation for vulnerable young people

Eurostat (2015) estimated that almost 24 million people were unemployed in the EU-28, of whom over 18 million were in the Eurozone. Youth unemployment rate is more than twice higher than the adult one – 21.2 % against 9.8 %. More than 7,5 million young people across EU are neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs).

The University of Nicosia participates in the 'Professional Orientation of Vulnerable Young People' project which seeks to promote re-skilling and up-skilling across 8 Member States, providing vulnerable young people with e-career guid-



ance. Moreover it aims to improve the orientation measures offered by the adult education providers in the field. In particular, it aims to reduce the number of low-skilled adults by providing career guidance using Open Educational Resources and offering tailored learning opportunities with particular emphasis on vulnerable young learners.

Ten organisations participate in the project from **Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, The UK, Lithuania, Italy and Bulgaria**. It is coordinated by Fundacion Altius Francisco De Vitoria (Spain).

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

Development of CBRN training programme for police officers



Terrorist activities involving the use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials constitutes a new threat that the European public must consider. In this context, CARDET participates in the 3-year Erasmus+ European project CBRN-POL (September 2016 - August 2019). Its general aim is to create a modern, multidisciplinary CBRN training curriculum and training educational materials, especially developed for police officers

A multidisciplinary team from 5 organisations in Poland, Belgium and Cyprus will share their experiences and transmit professional knowledge of CBRN risks and their mitigation in a train-the-trainers dedicated curriculum. The consortium aspires to increase the capacity of police officers for detection, management of crisis and mitigation of CBRN risks not only in the partner countries but also in other member states of the European Union.

More information: www.cbrn-pol.uni.lodz.pl/

Results of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020

The assessment of the first years of Horizon 2020 shows that it is on track to help create jobs and growth, tackle our biggest societal challenges and improve people's lives. Horizon 2020 has clear European added value by producing demonstrable benefits compared to national or regional-level support, but it has been so successful in attracting the best researchers and innovators that it could have spent four times its budget in support of excellent projects. These are some of the main findings of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 published on the 29th of May 2017 by the European Commission.

The interim evaluation provides a comprehensive assessment of Horizon 2020 after its first three years. Of the first 11,000 projects funded so far, less than 10% have already finished (and their budget is less than 0.6% of the budget committed), so it is too early to talk about the final impact of Horizon 2020. However, the programme is already funding research and innovations that will make a difference to the economy and to people's lives.

Horizon 2020 demonstrates clear European added value in terms of economies of speed, scale and scope, pro-



ducing demonstrable benefits compared to national and regional-level support. 83% of projects funded would not have gone ahead without EU support.

The programme has proved extremely attractive and demand is high. Participants come from over 130 different countries and more than half are newcomers, meaning they did not take part in its predecessor, the 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7). Annually, the number

of applications has increased by 65% compared to FP7, with 100,000 in total.

This leap in demand for European funding has, however, led to **oversubscription and a drop in success rates**, with some parts of the programme strongly underfunded. An additional EUR 60 billion would have been needed to support all the proposals that were scored "excellent" by independent evaluations.

Besides oversubscription, the evaluation also identified **other areas for improvement**, including **stimulating and scaling-up breakthrough, market-creating innovation** in particular by SMEs, and **increasing the awareness and involvement of the general public in agenda-setting**.

More information: http://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020evaluation

New strategy for transport research and innovation



The European Union's investment into research and innovation for a greener and more efficient transport will follow a new strategy. The blueprint, entitled "Towards clean, connected and competitive mobility", is part of a "mobility package" adopted by the European Commission on the 31st of May 2017.

The document outlines short, medium and long term strategies for research and innovation in the transport sector, which correspond to rapidly changing needs. It identifies key areas of transport innovation, and the necessary actions to accelerate the development and deployment of innovative low-carbon technologies in transport. Since transport is a fast-moving and significant area, it requires close coordination and collaboration within and between the public and private spheres. A range of sectors, from industry and infrastructure to IT and telecoms, also have a role to play in exploring this new frontier.

The strategy focuses in particular on two main areas: automation and connectivity, and electrification of transport. These areas bring about disruptive innovation and significant opportunities for European industry and its competitiveness. They also hold great promise for reducing environmental impact of transport, in line with the Commission's comprehensive agenda for mobility as well as the Energy Union priority.

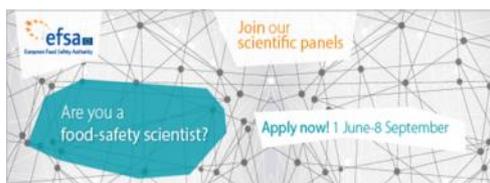
The document highlights the need to focus on users and citizens in shaping a transport research and innovation strategy, as well as to mobilise stakeholders across all sectors. It is also crucial that the EU provides roadmaps and establishes innovation-friendly conditions in order to maximise the impact of the investment into research and innovation. The EU's active involvement is also essential to overcome the many challenges – such as safety, public acceptance, cybersecurity, use of data, liability and ethical issues – that must be overcome before electrified, connected and automated transport becomes widely available.

More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2017&na=na-310517>

Food-safety scientists wanted!

Are you a scientist with experience of food safety-related issues? Do you want to find solutions to food and feed safety challenges with scientists from other disciplines? Help the EU to protect the health and well-being of European consumers, animals and the environment! On the 1st of June 2017, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opened registration to experts to join its ten Scientific Panels and its Scientific Committee.

EFSA is an independent science-driven organisation working in the interest of European consumers, animals and the environment. Its motto is "Trusted science for safe food" and the knowledge, experience and decision-making of over 200 scientific experts are at the heart of its work. Their dedication makes it possible for EFSA to carry out its important mission. The scientific experts are at home in many fields: from toxicology, chemistry, microbiology, zoology, epidemiology and plant sciences to human medicine, veterinary medicine,



nutrition and ecology.

Experienced and independent scientists with the following basic requirements are invited to apply: **a university degree and minimum seven years of professional experience in a food-safety related scientific area.** The scientists will be part of an international and interdisciplinary team contributing to food safety for millions of Europeans. Through EFSA's active international cooperation efforts their work will have global relevance. Working at EFSA puts them at a scientific hub in Europe and provides access to European and international scientific networks.

Every three years EFSA's ten Scientific Panels and its Scientific Committee renew their membership. The next renewal is in July 2018. The application procedure officially starts this year on 1 June and ends on **8 September 2017**.

More information:

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/170502-0>

European Health Award 2017 for NGOs Rewarding initiatives in the field of Vaccination



The European Commission dedicates this year's EU Health Award to initiatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that contributed or are contributing to high standards of public health in the European Union through vaccination. The EU Health Award is funded under the 3rd Health Programme 2014-2020.

As with the EU Health Awards 2015 and 2016, this award is linked to the European Commission's work to build up a database of good practices in various health fields (Ebola in 2015 and AMR in 2016) from NGOs that can serve as models for the future.

The European Commission calls upon international, European, national and regional NGOs active in the field of vaccination to present details of their initiatives to the EU Health Award 2017. The call for applications targets initiatives that help achieving higher level of public health for Europeans through vaccination, with particular attention to several related aspects:

- **Prevention:** availability of vaccines and access to sustainable immunization services
- **Awareness and information:** promoting vaccination/advocacy
- **Countering growing vaccine hesitancy**
- **Engaging with health care professionals to strengthen education/medical curricula/training,** advocacy and health care professionals' communication skills
- **Surveillance**
- **Tackling vaccination from a specific disease perspective** (e.g. Human Papilloma virus HPV, seasonal flu, childhood immunisation, life-course vaccination/adult vaccination, synergies between vaccination and use of antibiotic).

More information: https://ec.europa.eu/health/ngo_award/home_en

EMCDDA Drug report 2016



The European drug market remains resilient, with some indicators for cannabis and stimulant drugs, in particular, now trending upwards stated the European Union's drugs agency at the launch of the "European Drug Report 2016: Trends and Developments".

In its annual review, the agency highlighted: the health risks of high-potency products, the continued emergence of new substances, and the changing patterns of drug use. It also expressed concern over rises in overdose deaths in some countries and the threats posed by internet drug markets.

More information: <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/edr2016>

Agriculture figures prominently in new framework for EU-Africa relations



A new strategic partnership between the EU and Africa was launched on May 4 with agriculture one of the main pillars of the new strategy. The agri-food sector is seen as a key area through which the EU can support rural and urban development in Africa.

According to a joint paper from the European Commission and the EU's High Representative for foreign affairs and security policy, Federica Mogherini, the EU will facilitate investments from the private sector in the African agri-food sector, building on initiatives such as the existing Agriculture Financing Instrument (AgriFI), in order to help boost jobs and address food security.

The plan also envisages enhancing vocational training and education in agriculture and the agri-food sector, in partnership with farmer organisations, as well as fostering research and innovation, building on the work of the existing Africa-EU roadmap on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (FNSSA). The EU has in particular earmarked more than €4.2 billion for the 2014-2020 period for actions related to food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture and fisheries.

More information:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/agriculture-figures-prominently-new-framework-eu-africa-relations_en

European Awards for Green Cities

For the first time, in order to celebrate the 10th year of the European Green Capital competition, the Commission will award a financial incentive of €350,000 to the winning city of the 2020 European Green Capital title. A financial incentive of €75,000 will be awarded to the winner of the European Green Leaf 2019 title. The European Green Capital Award (EGCA), now in its 10th cycle, rewards cities for making positive change to improve their urban environments.



The European Green Leaf Award (EGLA), established in 2015, to commend the work of smaller cities in driving environmental change. Both Awards have a two-stage evaluation process. First, an international independent Expert Panel assesses each city's application, selecting a shortlist for the next stage of the competition. Applicants are assessed based on 12 environmental indicators, and EGLA applicants on six topic areas. Finalist cities then present to an international Jury, when they must show their ongoing commitment to improving their urban environments and their capacity to act as a role model to others. The deadline for submission of applications is **18 October 2017**.

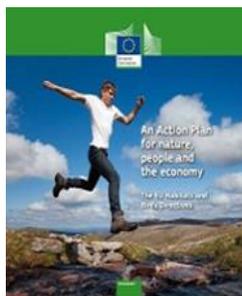
More information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/europeangreenleaf/>

European Action Plan for nature, people and the economy

Following a thorough evaluation of the Birds and Habitats Directives, the European Commission has adopted the Action Plan for nature, people and the economy. The action plan is designed to improve implementation of the directives and thus boost their contribution to the attainment of the EU's biodiversity targets for 2020.

The plan focuses on 4 priority areas and comprises 15 actions to be carried out between now and 2019. Its publication follows on from the recent Birds and Habitats Directives fitness check, which highlighted the strategic role that the LIFE programme plays in supporting the implementation of the Directives.

The new action plan will enable the percentage of the LIFE programme budget for action grants for LIFE Nature and Biodiversity to be increased by up to 10%. This proposal will increase the LIFE budget dedicated to projects



supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity, while keeping the overall budgetary envelope of the LIFE programme unchanged. As well as driving forward the implementation of the nature directives through the co-funding of LIFE Nature projects, the additional funding will help develop LIFE Integrated Projects in Member States, strengthening their capacity for larger scale territorial action.

In addition, the action plan foresees support for additional pilot projects specifically targeted at landowners' organisations and their constituency, who contribute significantly to testing the applicability of tools for private land conservation in Natura 2000 network sites under the LIFE programme (2017-2019).

The action plan also foresees other LIFE funded actions such as the LIFE preparatory projects for the European Solidarity Corps call.

More information: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/index_en.htm

Strategy for high quality education

The Commission adopted on 30 May 2017 new initiatives on school and higher education, including a proposal on graduate tracking to help Member States collect information on what graduates do after their studies. The overall aim of these initiatives is to help Member States provide high quality and inclusive education for all young people through a series of concrete actions.



The **renewed higher education strategy** builds on the 2011 Modernisation agenda. In the Communication, the Commission sets out its plans for four key areas:

With regard **to schools**, evidence from Member States show three areas where action is needed and where EU support can help address important challenges:

- **Developing better and more inclusive schools;**
- **Supporting excellent teachers and school leaders;**
- **Developing the governance of school education systems.**

The Commission is proposing to complement actions taken by Member States in these three areas by supporting mutual learning, strengthening the evidence for what works in education and assisting national reforms for Member States that so wish. Examples of such support include boosting competence development and intercultural learning through school partnerships, mobility and e-Twinning projects under Erasmus+; strengthening peer learning on the careers and professional development of teachers and school leaders; and setting up a new support mechanism to help Member States seeking assistance in designing and implementing education reforms.

- Ensuring **graduates leave higher education** with the skill sets they and the modern economy need;
- **Building inclusive higher education systems;**
- Making sure **higher education institutions contribute to innovation** in the rest of the economy;
- **Supporting higher education institutions and governments in making the best use of the human and financial resources available.**

Finally, to ensure that higher education can help boost growth and job creation, universities need to tailor curricula to current and anticipated needs of the economy and society, and prospective students need up-to-date, solid information to help them decide what courses to choose. This is why the Commission is in parallel presenting a **proposal for a Council Recommendation on graduate tracking**, as part of the new Skills Agenda for Europe, which will also cover graduates from vocational education and training programmes in addition to higher education graduates. This will encourage and support Member State authorities to improve the quality and availability of information on how they progress in their careers or further education after finishing their studies.

More information: <https://goo.gl/KjduvR>

Promoting social inclusion through formal and non-formal learning



The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the "Recommendation on Promoting social inclusion and shared values through formal and non-formal learning". The online questionnaire will gauge public opinion on the importance of equipping young people with shared values and how education and non-formal learning can help achieve this aim in view of creating more socially cohesive societies. The public consultation will last until **11 August 2017.**

In particular, the online questionnaire aims to gather input on the following questions: *How successful are education and training in helping young people acquire shared values and promoting social inclusion? What are the key challenges?*

What objectives should be pursued in this context? Which are the most effective policy approaches, tools and methods in formal and non-formal learning?

The Recommendation will establish a policy framework, as a key reference document at EU level to support Member States in providing education and training that promotes social inclusion and ownership of shared values while also contributing to preventing radicalisation leading to violent extremism.

More information: <https://goo.gl/HqUyPc>

New EU-Africa strategy: a major role for Erasmus+ and higher education cooperation



The European Commission's new Communication on a renewed impetus of the EU-Africa partnership, launched in May, has strong focus on education and youth. The new Communication link outside the EC domain sets out how the two continents can work together on common challenges, and in particular in the ways that Africa can deal with the impact of its rapid population growth and an increasingly young population. It is estimated that Sub-Saharan Africa needs to create 18 million new jobs each year up to 2035 to absorb new labour market entrants, compared to the 3 million formal jobs created today.

This will need to unlock and unleash the full potential of young people. There is a clear role for education initiatives and Erasmus+. The Communication aims to launch new, or boost existing, initiatives including:

more African participation in the Erasmus+ programme:

- **mobility of staff and students and academic cooperation** to improve students' skills and education quality and relevance;
- **support to the harmonisation of higher education in Africa** on the basis of experience gained in Europe;
- **more focus on skills development** with new pilot projects for VET mobility in Africa;
- **developing the capacities of organisations that support young peoples' mobility and active participation in society**;
- **support for alumni networks** and activities in Africa.

More information: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-1189_en.htm

Free digital learning opportunities for migrants and refugees

In order to assess the extent to which MOOCs and other free digital learning offers, such as mobile learning, are effective and efficient ways of developing the skills needed by migrants and refugees, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre was asked to research projects and experiences on the ground. The study was conducted in collaboration with external experts.

The main results of the newly released study are:

Awareness: There is a lack of awareness of FDL among migrants and refugees. The use of adequate communication channels such as social media or FDL "ambassadors" may increase awareness.

Flexibility: FDL allows migrants and refugees to start acquiring the skills they need for asking for asylum, a resident's permit, housing or to find employment, even before they arrive in the host country. The use of FDL in refugees' countries of origin and refugee camps has been identified as an opportunity.

Adaptation: Initiatives should adapt to learners' characteristics. The developers of FDL initiatives should take into account the fragility and diversity of migrant/refugee target groups. Co-development with learners and cooperation with other initiatives and sharing of good practices can be helpful. Technology should also be adapted to the restrictions of the target groups (e.g. in some camps, internet connexion can be difficult).

Language learning: This is a first priority for the gen-



eral migrant and refugee community. Mobile apps could provide easily accessible first steps towards language learning and integration. Blending language training with other content acquisition enhances the efficacy of FDL initiatives.

Recognition, quality assurance and

accreditation: FDL Higher Education initiatives should consider using Bologna tools (ECTS credits) and pursue recognition by European quality assurance agencies. Efforts should also be made to encourage employers to recognise FDL oriented to labour market skills.

Sustainability: FDL should not rely only on foundational funding, such as crowd-funding or grants. Diversification of funding, cooperation between initiatives, alternative income mechanisms and good communication channels to reach target group is needed.

Finally, the study identifies **two main research gaps** that need to be covered in order to continue improving the offer of FDL for migrants and refugees. **First, most FDL initiatives stem from the Higher Education sector** and little evidence is available about other migrant or refugee learning groups and their digital learning needs. **Secondly, the lack of specific (public) data on participation**, completion and impact makes it difficult to understand how refugees and migrants use FDL and the effects it has on their successful integration into society and labour market.

More information: <http://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC106146/jrc106146.pdf>



News for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Startup Europe Regions Network - SERN

**STARTUP
EUROPE**



REGIONS NETWORK

High-growth firms are crucial for strengthening the European economy, and boosting innovation and competitiveness of European regions. They create many more new jobs compared to other firms. Several Member States have already put in place or are considering initiatives to create an environment conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship. At European level important initiatives have been taken to support startups. In particular on 22 November 2016, the European Commission launched the Startup and Scaleup initiative as part of general strategy to make a deeper and fairer single market and help startups grow. Also, in partnership with the European Commission and since 2011, the Committee of Regions rewards every year EU regions which show an outstanding and innovative entrepreneurial policy strategy for the future.

However, further assessment is needed regarding the implementation of effective measures to support startups at regional level, notably reviewing progress made over time and promoting best regional practices.

In this context, the European Commission promoted the creation of **Start Up Europe Regions Network - SERN**, which was officially launched at a major event in October 2015 at the Committee of Regions. Since then, SERN has been set up as a non for profit organisation **with a strong commitment to support startups and its activities, in particular by focussing on the mapping and promotion of support activities at regional level across Europe and by mobilizing regional resources to address relevant barriers to startups' growth**, such as harmonization of regulations, access to talent and to major research infrastructures.

SERN aims at providing an annual overview and gauging of the measures taken by the regions to foster startup growth, highlighting best practices and showing cases studies. SERN will engage with the European institutions, local authorities and relevant stakeholders to ensure the success of this initiative.

More information: <http://startupeuropeclub.eu/serm/>

Interim evaluation of the COSME programme

A public consultation has been launched as part of the interim evaluation of the COSME programme. The objective of the interim evaluation is to measure impacts and results achieved so far, to draw lessons to improve implementation up to the end of the programme in 2020, provide an evidence-base for future activities and initiatives.

All interested parties are invited to take part, in particular small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), SME stakeholders, including business support organisations, public authorities etc. The open consultation is available online from 10 May until **31 August 2017**.

More information: <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/help-us-evaluate-cosme-programme>





CALENDAR JULY 2017

MaculArt Meeting 2017 More information: http://www.maculart-meeting.com/2017/#.WRLj19R96t-	2-4 July Paris, France
Research & innovation – shaping our future More information: http://tinyurl.com/l8oaz77	3 July Brussels, Belgium
EDULEARN17 More information: https://iated.org/edulearn/	3-5 July Barcelona, Spain
Understanding the Brain: Neurobiology for non-specialists More information: http://tinyurl.com/llmuru8	3-5 July Innsbruck, Austria
Energy Union - Challenges and vision for a common EU energy policy More information: http://tinyurl.com/lmosclv	3-14 July Bruges, Belgium
The Future of Tourism in Europe, Promoting Competitiveness Through Sustainability and Digitisation More information: http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/HG04-PPE2	4 July Brussels, Belgium
European and African Conference on Wind Engineering More information: https://10times.com/eacwe	4-7 July Liege, Belgium
Mastermind Europe Final Conference More information: http://mastermindeurope.eu/mastermind-europe-final-conference/	5-6 July Amsterdam, The Netherlands
The future of Transportation More information: http://www.thefutureoftransport.com/	5-6 July Koln, Germany
5th Hellenic Forum for Science, Technology & Innovation More information: http://events.demokritos.gr/	5-7 July Athens, Greece
Open Ecosystems for Innovation More information: http://ebncongress.eu/	5-7 July Enghien-les-Bains, France
7th International Conference on Experiments / Process / System Modelling / Simulation / Optimization More information: http://tinyurl.com/n7tyqmj	5-8 July Athens, Greece
Osnabrück Computational Cognition Alliance Meeting More information: http://www.occam-os.de/home.html	6-8 July Osnabruck, Germany
Doing Business in Innovative China More information: https://bcecc.be/hubermont-summits-2017-business-innovative-china-july-7-8-2017/	7-8 July Ortho, Luxembourg
2nd CAPS Community Workshop More information: https://goo.gl/P24Q5Z	12 July Volos, Greece
Intellectual Property Rights, Translation & Exploitation of Research More information: https://education.humanbrainproject.eu/web/1st-hbp-curriculum-ipr/general-information	17-19 July Leimen, Germany
Cancer Science and Therapy More information: http://cancerscience.conferenceseries.com/	17-19 July Lisbon, Portugal
Global Conference of Womens Health and Gynecology More information: http://womens-health-gynecology-conference.scientonline.org/index.html	17-19 July Valencia, Spain
Webinar: Maximising the impact of Horizon 2020 project results More information: https://www.iprhelpdesk.eu/node/2625	19 July 10:30-11:45 (CET)
European Observatory Summer School More information: http://tinyurl.com/y9xpae6v	23-29 July Venice, Italy
14th Annual International Conference on SMEs, Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Management – Marketing – Economic – Social Aspects More information: https://www.atiner.gr/sme	24-27 July Athens, Greece



CALENDAR AUGUST 2017

Soil Science in a Changing World More information: http://tinyurl.com/y9jubtfe	27-31 August Wageningen, The Netherlands
9th Nano Congress for Next Generation More information: http://nanocongress.conferenceseries.com/	31 August - 1 September Brussels, Belgium

CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2017

International Conference on Field-Programmable Logic and Applications More information: https://www.fpl2017.org/	4-8 September Ghent, Belgium
INSPIRE a Digital Europe - Thinking out of the box More information: http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/conference2017	4-8 September Kehl, Germany
JRC-SAS-INGSA Evidence and Policy Summer School More information: http://tinyurl.com/ycjkletc	6-8 September Senec, Slovakia
International GNSS Summer School 2017 More information: http://www.esa-jrc-summer-school.org/	4-15 September Longyaerbyen, Norway
BigData Analysis and Data Mining More information: http://datamining.conferenceseries.com/	7-8 September Paris, France
Regional Polarisation and Unequal Development in CEE More information: http://tinyurl.com/yaxmundt	10-13 September Cluj Napoca, Romania
2017-3 CEF Telecom call Virtual Info Day More information: http://tinyurl.com/y74jvcbb	12 September webstreaming
Social sustainable development – from policy to practice More information: http://tinyurl.com/yb7q3rto	12 September Brussels, Belgium
2nd Young Researchers Event (YRE) 2017 - Human Brain Project (HBP) More information: http://tinyurl.com/ybj6q85k	12-13 September Geneva, Switzerland
Judicial protection and free movement of workers More information: http://tinyurl.com/ydd6fmaq	15 September Florence, Italy
9th International Conference on Structural Biology More information: http://structuralbiology.conferenceseries.com/	18-20 September Zurich, Switzerland
The Fourth International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Pattern Recognition More information: http://tinyurl.com/ycap795r	18-20 September Lodz, Poland
International Conference on Advanced Computational Methods in Engineering More information: http://www.acomen.ugent.be/	18-22 September Ghent, Belgium
From excellent research to excellent innovation – are universities ready for the future? More information: http://tinyurl.com/y9xbbmdt	20 September Brussels, Belgium
RemTech Europe - European Conference on remediation markets and technologies More information: www.remtechexpo.com	21 September Ferrara, Italy
EU4FACTS: Evidence for policy in a post-fact world More information: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/eu4facts	26 September Brussels, Belgium
6th European Conference on Corporate R&D and Innovation More information: http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/concord/2017/index.html	27-29 September Seville, Spain
EUA EUROPEAN LEARNING & TEACHING FORUM More information: http://tinyurl.com/yd8xmo2q	28-29 September Paris, France

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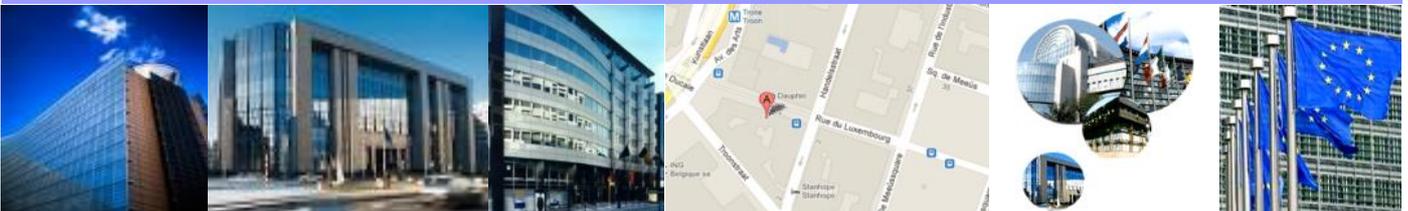
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Αξίζει να αναφερθεί ότι το πρόγραμμα προκάλεσε το άμεσο ενδιαφέρον του Παγκόσμιου Οργανισμού Υγείας (ΠΟΥ), και υποσχέθηκε την έμπρακτη του στήριξη καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια υλοποίησης.

Η υλοποίηση του προγράμματος CONCORD πραγματοποιείται μέσω μιας ευρείας διεπιστημονικής συνεργασίας, με συμμετοχή επιστημόνων από 14 διαφορετικούς οργανισμούς από το Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο, την Ελλάδα, την Πορτογαλία, την Κύπρο, την Ολλανδία, τη Νορβηγία, την Τουρκία και το Βέλγιο. Ο γενικός συντονιστής του προγράμματος είναι το Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust από το Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο.

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