

#13

2022

BRUSSELS' PULSE



HIGHLIGHTS

CULTURE MOVES EUROPE MOBILITY SCHEME LAUNCHED!

The European Commission launched Culture Moves Europe, its new permanent mobility scheme for artists and cultural professionals, as well as a first call for individual mobility. The scheme is part of the Creative Europe programme and contributes to the implementation of the New European Bauhaus initiative. Implemented by the Goethe-Institut on behalf of the European Commission, Culture Moves Europe comprises two actions: individual mobility and residencies. Through mobility grants, it will offer an opportunity to around 7,000 individual artists and cultural professionals to go abroad, in the EU and beyond, for professional development or international collaborations, to take part in artistic residencies or to host artists and cultural professionals. The residencies action will be launched in early 2023. More: [here](#).

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EUROPEAN LONG-TERM INVESTMENT FUNDS: PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT REACHED

The EU is making further progress on the capital markets union (CMU), a plan to create a single market for capital in order to get investments and savings flowing across all member states for the benefit of citizens, businesses and investors. Today, negotiators from the Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the review of the regulation on European long-term investment funds (ELTIF) in order to make these investment funds more attractive. The ELTIF regulatory framework sets out detailed fund rules on eligible assets and investments, diversification and portfolio composition, leverage limits and marketing. ELTIFs are the only type of funds dedicated to long-term investments that can be distributed on a cross-border basis to both professional and retail investors. More: [here](#).

NEWS

AGRICULTURE

INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS: FRENCH FARMERS ESTABLISH LOCAL VALUE CHAIN WITH WOOD FROM HEDGEROWS

Barbecue season is approaching! And that is good news for the farmers of the 'Association Bois Paysan' in the French Cévennes region, who established a local collective that produces logs, wood chips and "barbecue wood" from old hedgerows on their farmlands. The idea for the wood producing collective originated a few years ago when a number of farmers and breeders from the Cévennes attended an infoday on wood. They organised themselves into a group, to find outlets for wood that is harvested on their farmlands, and that traditionally does not have a quality that is rewarded on today's wood market. More: [here](#).



INDUSTRY

COMMISSION KICKS OFF WORK ON A EUROPEAN SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

The Commission is formally endorsing a new Solar Photovoltaic Industry Alliance, with the aim of scaling up manufacturing technologies of innovative solar photovoltaic products and components. This will contribute to accelerating the deployment of solar power across the EU and improving the resilience of the EU's energy system. The Alliance is one of the concrete initiatives of the EU Solar Energy Strategy, adopted in May 2022 as part of the REPowerEU Plan, which will help the EU reach over 320 GW of newly installed solar photovoltaic capacity by 2025, and almost 600 GW by 2030. Once set up, the Alliance will bring together industrial actors, research institutes, consumer associations, NGOs and other stakeholders with an interest in the solar PV sector. More: [here](#).



EDUCATION

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS ON TACKLING DISINFORMATION AND PROMOTING DIGITAL LITERACY THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Commission published a set of guidelines for teachers and educators on tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training. The guidelines provide hands-on guidance for teachers and educators, including practical tips and activity plans. They are designed for primary and secondary teachers with or without specialist knowledge of digital education. The guidelines aim to foster an understanding of how to enhance digital literacy and provide practical knowledge about disinformation. They provide advice on how to use digital technologies responsibly and how to assess student competences concerning digital literacy. More: [here](#).



CULTURE

TWO CITIES SHORT-LISTED FOR EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF CULTURE 2028 IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Broumov and České Budějovice have been shortlisted in the competition for the title of European Capital of Culture 2028 in the Czech Republic. A panel of 12 independent experts recommended the shortlist following a meeting in Prague. In 2028, the Czech Republic will host the European Capital of Culture for the third time, after Prague in 2000 and Pilsen in 2015. The Czech Republic invited applications from interested cities in August 2021. Broumov, Brno, České Budějovice and Liberec submitted applications by the deadline of 1st September 2022. Being shortlisted for the title can result in significant cultural, economic and social benefits for the cities concerned, providing that their bid is part of a longer-term culture-led development strategy. More: [here](#).

ENVIRONMENT

ANOTHER BIG DAY FOR EUROPEAN HYDROGEN

October 19th was another important day for the hydrogen economy in Europe and globally. Members of the European Parliament have decided to support a hydrogen-based green transition in the transport sector, because they can see the bigger, long-term picture: that hydrogen is a necessary and opportune tool to achieve carbon neutrality and energy security in Europe. Hydrogen Europe welcomes the news that MEPs have voted to retain the ambition set by the European Parliament's transport committee in the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR). In today's plenary vote, parliamentarians opted to keep the targets proposed by the Rapporteur Ismael Ertug and their committee colleagues in a vote earlier in October. More: [here](#).



HEALTH

COUNCIL ADDS NEW BUILDING BLOCKS TO EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION

The Council adopted two regulations to improve the EU's capacities to respond to future pandemics and other cross-border health crises. A revision of a "cross-border threats to health" law updates national reporting requirements as regards health system indicators and streamlines cooperation between member states, the European Commission and EU agencies. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) – the EU agency tasked with supporting the EU in its efforts to fight infectious diseases – has been strengthened in the areas of surveillance, early warning, preparedness and response. More: [here](#).



DIGITAL

THE DEPLOYMENT OF A COMMON EUROPEAN DATA SPACE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

The service contract for the deployment of the common European data space for cultural heritage has been awarded to a consortium of 19 partners from 9 EU countries. The common European data space for cultural heritage is an initiative of the European Union, funded under its Digital Europe programme. It allows cultural heritage institutions across Europe to share digitised cultural heritage content, with high-quality metadata, including in 3D. It also promotes the reuse of digitised cultural heritage among various audiences, creating value for the economy and society. More: [here](#).



MARITIME

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS: COMMISSION PROPOSES FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2023

The Commission adopted its proposal for fishing opportunities for 2023 for the Mediterranean and the Black Seas. The proposal promotes the sustainable management of fish stocks in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas and delivers on the political commitments made in the MedFish4Ever and Sofia Declarations.

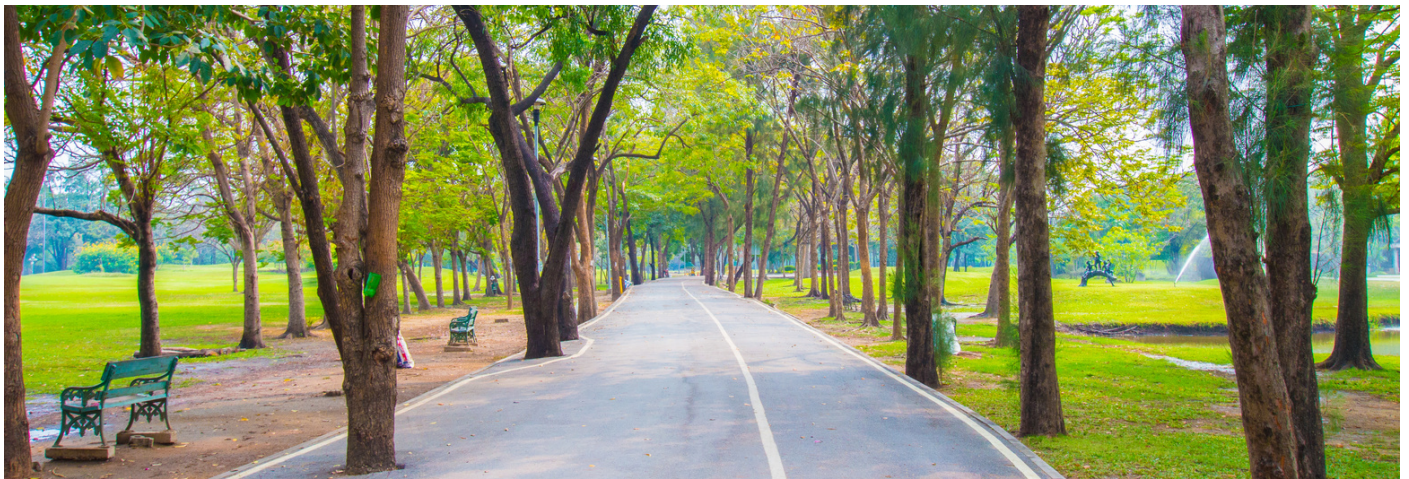
It reflects the Commission's ambition to make fisheries in these two sea basins sustainable, in line with the 2030 Strategy of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), which is the regional fisheries management organisation competent for the conservation and management of fish stocks in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas. More: [here](#).

CITIES

URBACT IV: EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT FOR CITIES

This European Territorial cooperation programme will support cities to tackle the green, just and digital transitions, through networking, capacity and knowledge building activities. The purpose is to promote integrated sustainable development in cities, improve city's policies and improve the effectiveness of Cohesion policy in cities. URBACT and the European Urban Initiative will work in collaboration to provide a coherent offer to urban stakeholders and support to cities for their integrated and sustainable urban development under Cohesion policy.

URBACT IV will also offer several tools to help cities, such as an online Partner Search Tool which will help them in finding partners for their project or contacting people with existing ideas. This platform will be launched on URBACT's website in the course of October. More: [here](#).



EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE - YOUTH POLICY DIALOGUE - MEASURING WHAT MATTERS: LOOKING BEYOND GDP - 30 NOVEMBER

Global concerns such as climate change, resource depletion, inequality, poverty, and health are pressing decision-makers to move away from a narrow focus on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a single metric to measure economic success and citizens' wellbeing. However, there is a lack of consensus on how to achieve this. The Youth Dialogue will be livestreamed on this website, on DG ECFIN's Facebook page and Twitter profile. Register and learn more: [here](#).

EIC - EMA INFO DAY: REGULATORY SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE MEDICINES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Join this online Info Day and discover the wide range of support services that the European Medicines Agency (EMA) provides to researchers and SMEs in the pharmaceutical and med-tech sectors.

The European Innovation Council (EIC) and the European Medicine Agency (EMA) invite you to attend the EIC-EMA Info Day on January 31, 2023 to hear about the wide range of support services provided by EMA to researchers and SMEs active in research and innovation in the pharmaceutical and med-tech sectors. EIC grantees and future EIC applicants are strongly encouraged to participate. The event is also open to researchers and SMEs funded by other EU programmes. More: [here](#).

EUROPEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT 2022

This year, the European Business Summit will highlight the ways to accelerate the European response to geopolitical challenges as well as improve Europe's efficiency in the fields of energy, transport, digitalisation, and performances of supply chains. Strengthening Europe's geopolitical role in a complex and changing world is key to understanding the implications it is likely to have on security and trade globally.

Boosting innovation will require efforts and investments from both the public and the private sector; but creating social acceptance will also be key to create safe ecosystems, integrated markets within the EU and an inclusive environment for companies, citizens, and consumers alike. Through a hybrid event combining a physical and online participation, the new format of the Summit will include an in-person event with exclusive networking opportunities as well as the live-streaming of each panel discussion and interview. More: [here](#).

14TH CITIZENS' ENERGY FORUM

The 14th Citizens Energy Forum will take place in Dublin, Ireland on November 21st 2022. Citizens' interest groups, NGOs, businesses and policy makers (ministries and regulators) will provide their input on energy consumer issues in the current energy crisis. Energy is an essential good and its security has been heavily impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has contributed to an unprecedented rise in energy prices that is hitting the European population.

Compared to previous editions, this forum will feature an enhanced citizen focus, taking stock of the actions of individuals and local actors to help citizens prepare for the difficult winter ahead, and considering what can be further done once the winter starts. The forum will focus on middle-income and low-income consumers and on solutions that they can have access to. More: [here](#).

2ND ANNUAL DIGITAL CONSUMER EVENT

The European Commission organises its second Annual Digital Consumer Event to reflect with the general public, academics, consumer and business associations, as well as authorities, on the problems consumers currently face in the digital transition. The core of the event will consist of panels on the following topics: Online consumer vulnerabilities: shedding light on dark patterns, personalisation and structural asymmetries; Online consumer purchases: challenges raised by digital subscriptions, virtual items and the addictive use of digital products; Online consumer contracts: mapping unfair contract terms and the lack of transparency.

The Commission will also present the progress on the Product Safety Pledge, a voluntary agreement by leading E-Commerce platforms. Registration for active participation is open from 14 October. It will be streamed on this page, so you can follow the event without registering. We look forward to your active participation in this event! Register and learn more: [here](#).

2nd ANNUAL DIGITAL CONSUMER EVENT

Ensuring fairness and safety for consumers in the digital world.



European
Commission

#digitalfairness4consumers
#productsafety

OPEN CALLS

€3 BILLION CALL UNDER THE EU INNOVATION FUND

The European Commission is launching the third call for large-scale projects under the EU Innovation Fund. With a budget doubled to €3 billion thanks to increased revenue from the auctioning of EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) allowances, this 2022 call for large-scale projects will boost the deployment of industrial solutions to decarbonise Europe.

Projects will be assessed by independent evaluators according to their level of innovation, potential to avoid greenhouse gas emissions, operational, financial and technical maturity, scaling up potential and cost efficiency. The call is open for projects located in EU Member States, Iceland and Norway until 16 March 2023. More: [here](#).

CLOUD DATA AND TEF (DIGITAL-2022-CLOUD-AI-03)

Activities in this topic will pilot and apply the principles of the data space for smart communities defined in the blueprint, on a large scale and with good geographical coverage, to build EU capacity for connecting data from all relevant domains, following their specific legislation. They will also contribute to the fine-tuning and improving the blueprint via a continuous feedback loop to the project.

This Data Space will be controlled by public data holders, using open standard based tools and supported by the common middleware platform. It should also create synergies with the project. The action will fund a consortium of relevant supply and demand-side stakeholders to foster innovation among a large number of EU cities and communities, without prejudice to sector legislation. Deadline date: 24 January 2023, 17:00, Brussels time. More: [here](#).

NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS UNDER COHESION POLICY: €50 MILLION CALL FOR INNOVATIVE PROJECTS IN CITIES

The European Urban Initiative (EUI) is launching today a €50 million call to support urban innovation and cities' capabilities to build a sustainable urban development. This call is a perfect translation into practise of the core values of the New European Bauhaus (NEB): aesthetics, sustainability, and inclusion. It will allow the second generation of NEB demonstrators to be implemented after the first six projects that were financed under Horizon Europe. The EUI is part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The call looks for projects that trigger transformation in the cities and have the potential to generate investments and inspire other Cohesion Policy projects, in line with the principles of NEB. The call is open until mid-January 2023. More: [here](#).

MUSIC MOVES EUROPE (CREA-CULT-2022-MME)

Music Moves Europe will support sustainable music distribution, with a focus on live music. In line with MME's overall objectives, the action will aim to enhance the competitiveness, innovation and diversity of Europe's music sector. The purpose of this call is to select one consortium capable of promoting competitiveness, innovation and diversity within a large number of European music sector organisations, including providing them with financial support. This call for proposals is expected to select one single project, proposed by a consortium of organisations, in charge of organising activities with a widest possible outreach to stakeholders (organisations and/or individuals) in the music sector across Europe. Deadline date: 12 January 2023, 17:00, Brussels time. More: [here](#).

"... AND MORE"

EU DEPLOYS FIRST QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY IN SIX SITES ACROSS EUROPE

The European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU) has announced the selection of six sites that will host the first European quantum computers: in Czechia, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, and Poland. They will be integrated on site into existing supercomputers, and will form a wide network across Europe. The total planned investment is over €100 million, half of which comes from the EU and the other half from the 17 countries participating in the EuroHPC JU. Academic researchers and the industry, no matter where in Europe they are located, will be able to access these six quantum computers based on state-of-the-art European technology. More: [here](#).



COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Following the announcement by President Ursula von der Leyen in her 2022 State of the Union address, the Commission has adopted its proposal to make 2023 the European Year of Skills.

Next year, focusing on European Citizens Skills, the main goal is to boost competitiveness, participation and talent. Every single European Region should and must benefit from the European Union initiatives to support skills development and, at the same time, contribute with their regional characteristics and assets to build a robust and capable ecosystem of skills in Europe.

European Regions need urgently to work together and develop projects/partnerships that will increase European talent, competitiveness and expand reskilling and upskilling, which are now more than ever crucial for the construction of a successful European future!

The Regional Initiative for Culture and Creativity (RICC), a European Regional Network of which the Alentejo region is co-leading, is an example of co-creation and co-development of activities to upskill and reskill European citizens working on Culture and Creativity, such as artists, urban planners, architects, among others.

Taking as an example the RICC Network, let's build more European Regional Networks focusing on other European dimensions, such as digital or environment, fundamental tools and mechanisms to retain talent and improve skills all over the European Union!

MARCOS ANTÓNIO NOGUEIRA.





AUROPAL



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