

#8

2022

BRUSSELS' PULSE



HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION REVEALS WINNERS OF LIFE AWARDS 2022

The LIFE Programme announced the five winners of the annual LIFE Awards at a ceremony held during EU Green Week Europe's largest annual environmental event. The LIFE Awards recognise the most innovative, inspirational and effective LIFE projects in three categories: nature protection, environment and climate action. The LIFE Citizen's Prize is awarded to the public's favourite project, and this year there was a special prize to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the LIFE Programme and Natura 2000 Award. More: [here](#).

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Upon the invitation of the Regional Hub of Alentejo, the European Committee of the Regions' Network of Regional Hubs (RegHub) organised its first external workshop, in the World Heritage City of Évora (Alentejo, Portugal) in the framework of the EU Smart Communities Summit. The workshop was the first in person meeting of the network since the beginning of the pandemic and a very important opportunity for the Hubs to exchange experiences and strengthen their ties. During the workshop, the Hubs were able to get (re)acquainted, to exchange good (consultation) practices and to develop new concepts and ideas for RegHub's future work. More: [here](#)

NEWS

AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE SUSTAINABLE EU FOOD SYSTEM FRAMEWORK INITIATIVE

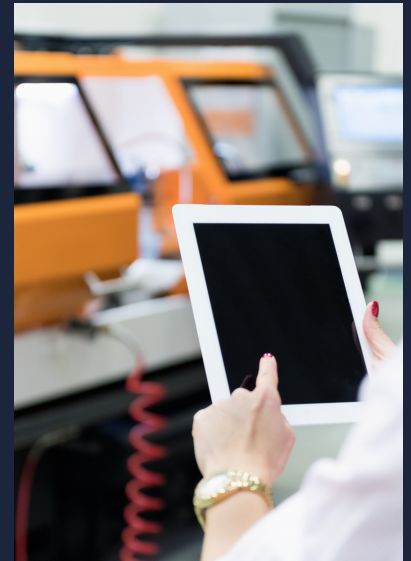
The European Commission would like to hear your views on the key issues within the Sustainable EU food system framework initiative. The Farm to Fork Strategy addresses comprehensively the challenges of sustainable food systems and recognises the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet. It acknowledges that "a sustainable food system will be essential to achieve the climate, biodiversity and other environmental objectives of the Green Deal, while improving the incomes of primary producers and reinforcing the EU's competitiveness". Complete the questionnaire by the 21st of July: [here](#)



INDUSTRY

GET DIGITAL: GO GREEN AND BE RESILIENT

The Russian aggression against Ukraine has refocused international efforts on energy dependence and supply chain resilience. In this context the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, alongside the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, and DIGITAL SME, will create a catalogue of leading European businesses with use cases for a more resilient industry. Through our initiative, we will highlight digital solutions and business models that may offer high-impact solutions to decrease dependence on oil, gas and external raw materials, as well as increase resilience in the global supply chain. If you are a start-up or SME from the EU, Ukraine, Moldova or Georgia with an innovative digital solution in a related field, learn more: [here](#)



EDUCATION

PROMOTING THE ENROLMENT OF CHILD REFUGEES IN EDUCATION

EU Member States are making substantial efforts to integrate child refugees displaced by Russia's invasion of Ukraine into national education systems, but further measures are required to facilitate enrolment and the provision of high-quality education adapted to the circumstances. These topics were touched upon at the peer learning focus session of the European Union (EU) Education Solidarity Group for Ukraine on 25 April 2022. The meeting was attended by ministerial officials from EU Member States, representatives of the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science, the Ukrainian Institute of Education Development, international organisations and other stakeholders. More: [here](#)



CULTURE

2022 YOUNG EUROPEAN HERITAGE MAKERS COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

Young European Heritage Makers is a competition for the young people of Europe. It is an opportunity for them to explore their surroundings, identify the most interesting parts of their heritage and present them to the rest of the world. This competition should encourage young people to understand the concept of heritage and express their views. This year's theme is "Sustainable Heritage". This competition is part of the European Heritage Days. From 15 August - 31 December 2022 we are asking for your visions of heritage. More: [here](#)

ENVIRONMENT

MEET THE GREENING FACILITY

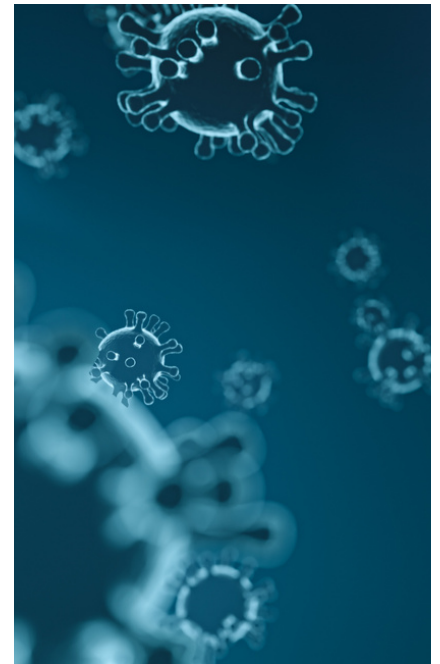
The Greening Facility supports DGs INTPA and NEAR in their mission to promote and implement the Green Deal, in line with the Sustainable Development Agenda, the Paris Agreement and relevant international commitments on the environment, biodiversity and disaster risk reduction. Their support also helps colleagues deliver on their collective responsibility to reach the financial targets for climate action and biodiversity conservation. Through its technical experts, the Facility offers remote and on-site assistance to EU staff and national partners to integrate the environment and climate change into all relevant policies and programmes of EU external partnerships. More: [here](#)



HEALTH

CORONAVIRUS: COMMISSION SECURES AN AGREEMENT WITH MODERNA TO ADAPT DELIVERY SCHEDULES TO MEMBER STATES' NEEDS

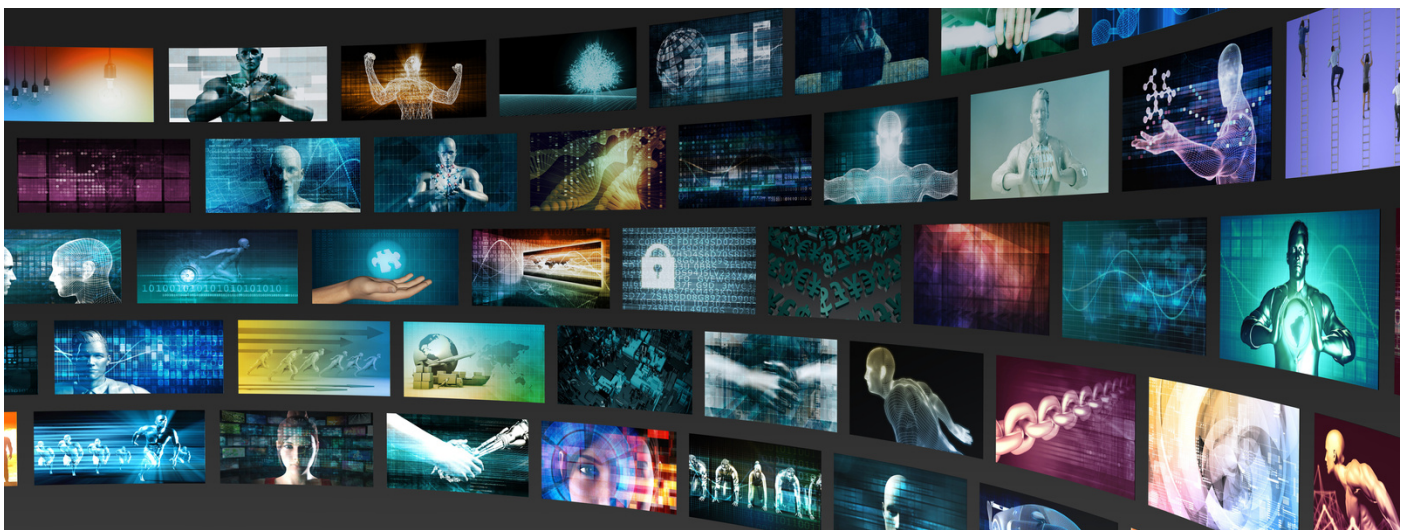
The European Commission and the vaccine developer Moderna have reached an agreement to ensure that the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines is adapted to the needs of Member States. On the basis of this agreement, the company will postpone the delivery of some doses initially planned for quarter 2 of 2022, to later in the year. In addition, should an adapted vaccine receive an EU marketing authorisation following the assessment of the European Medicines Agency, a part of the doses scheduled for April, May and June may be delivered as booster vaccines adapted to the current COVID-19 variants from September and during the autumn and winter months of 2022. More: [here](#)



DIGITAL

SPOTLIGHT ON EU-SUPPORTED EUROPEAN VOD NETWORKS AND OPERATORS

Seven projects will receive EU support to enhance the circulation of and access to European works across territories. As a reflection of Europe's cultural richness and diversity, European audiovisual works should be available to wide audiences across Europe. The EU supports video-on-demand (VOD) platforms to join forces and bring European content closer to their audiences. In June 2021, the Commission launched a call for proposals under Creative Europe MEDIA programme worth EUR 4M to increase cross-border collaboration between existing European VOD services. Projects have started in January 2022 and will last between 12 and 18 months. More: [here](#)



MARITIME

ZERO POLLUTION: LARGE NUMBER OF EUROPE'S BATHING WATERS MEET HIGHEST QUALITY STANDARDS

The annual Bathing Water report published today shows that in 2021 almost 85% of Europe's bathing water sites met the European Union's most stringent 'excellent' water quality standards. The assessment gives a good indication of where swimmers can find the best quality bathing sites across Europe this summer. The assessment, put together by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in cooperation with the European Commission, is based on the monitoring of 21 859 bathing sites across Europe. These cover the EU Member States, Albania and Switzerland throughout 2021.

More: [here](#)



CITIES

118 REGIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES JOIN THE EU MISSION FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

On the 7th of June, the European Commission announced the first 118 regions and local authorities participated in the EU Mission for Adaptation to Climate Change, the so-called Mission Adaptation, which will support the European Green Deal and the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy. The Mission Adaptation will receive €370 million of Horizon Europe funding for the period 2021-23. These regions and local authorities signed the Mission Charter at the European Committee of the Regions' first Forum of the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change. More: [here](#)



EVENTS

"MISSION CANCER: JOINING EUROPEAN FORCES TO UNDERSTAND CANCER"

The Conference on Synergies in the Research and Innovation Funding in Europe, to be organised by the Czech Presidency in the Council of the EU, will take place from Thursday, 7th July to Friday 8th July 2022 in Prague, Czechia, as a lunch-to-lunch event. The conference will address the topic of synergies in the research and innovation funding in its broad perspective. A lot of efforts have been already made by both the Member States and the European Commission to exploit the full potential of synergies to increase the research and innovation funding intensity in the EU. High-level representatives of the European Commission and the Members States will present their views and discuss how to remove persisting barriers and facilitate synergies. The outcomes of the conference shall be presented in the form of the "Prague Declaration on Synergies in the Research and Innovation Funding in Europe". Register and learn more: [here](#)

HORIZON EUROPE - CLUSTER 3: CIVIL SECURITY FOR SOCIETY

The Horizon Europe - Cluster 3 Info Day is being held on the 28th of June 2022. The Info Days are a unique opportunity for potential applications to get ready to apply for EU funding. Attend to learn about the rules for participation and horizontal aspects in applying for research related to civil society. Cluster 3 focuses on security issues and has six destinations: Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism; Effective management of EU external borders; Resilient Infrastructure; Increased Cybersecurity; Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe; Strengthened Security Research and Innovation. Register and learn more: [here](#)

POSITIVE ENERGY DISTRICTS CONFERENCE

Are you a civil servant, policymaker or researcher with an interest in positive energy districts? Join the two-day conference in Amsterdam (June 23-24) to visit PED projects, exchange experiences, share ideas and develop new insights with like-minded professionals. Learn about the latest international insights on PEDs and find out how to get a grip on the real implementation of technologies and systems. You will not only attend interesting keynotes and discussions, but you will also join excursions to cutting-edge local demonstration sites, with plenty of opportunities for mingling and networking. More: [here](#)

ENERGY POVERTY ADVISORY HUB CONFERENCE: MOVING TOWARDS ENERGY AUTONOMY

The 2nd Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH) international conference will take place on 28-29 June 2022 in Zagreb under the theme “Moving towards energy autonomy: How to guarantee social inclusion”. The conference is co-hosted by EPAH, the city of Zagreb and DOOR, the civil society organisation devoted to the promotion of sustainable energy development. During the conference, we will bring together local governments, EU representatives, policymakers, energy agencies, civil society organisations and all stakeholders active in energy poverty. The conference is open to all interested stakeholders to join in Zagreb upon registration. Some sessions will be broadcasted online. Register and learn more: [here](#)

13TH OECD CONFERENCE ON MEASURING REGULATORY PERFORMANCE IN BRUSSELS

This conference, organised by the OECD and hosted by the European Commission, will discuss solutions and ways forward to improve the quality of regulations. It will have a particular focus on improving the efficiency of legislation and its capacity to address complex problems, while driving green growth and innovation. The “OECD report Better Regulation Practices across the European Union” will be launched at the Conference. The general Conference will take place in Brussels on 28 June from 13:30 CET to 18:00 CET and will also be webstreamed due to the limited capacity of the conference venue. More: [here](#)



OPEN CALLS

MISSION "RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS BY 2030" LAUNCHES A SECOND WAVE OF ACTIONS!

The EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030", a large-scale, "Apollo-11 style" push to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters, has just launched a second wave of actions. Its aim is to achieve healthy marine and freshwater ecosystems through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments. Rooted in Horizon Europe, the Mission will use a budget of €117.9 million for the Work Programme 2022 with further, complementary actions and new research and innovation areas. One single call for proposals addresses the three relevant policy objectives. Deadline date: 27 September 2022. More: [here](#)



EU SOIL MISSION: €95 MILLION CALL OPENS

The 2022 soil mission call for proposals seeks to advance soil literacy and societal appreciation for the vital functions of soil health across Europe. It aims to ensure that land managers, consumers and society at large are better informed and work together to take effective action on soil health. Protecting and restoring soils is vital to the achievement of several EU policies and Green Deal targets. Topics open for proposals focus on the role of soil biodiversity, strategies for land decontamination and reuse. Topics also encompass how to better preserve and increase soil carbon and enhance soil relevant education and access to information. Deadline date: 27 September 2022. More: [here](#)

HORIZON EUROPE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: EIC TRANSITION 2022 **EIC-2022-TRANSITION-01**

EIC (European Innovation Council) Transition aims at maturing both your technology and business idea thus increasing its technology and market readiness. The expected outcomes of an EIC Transition project are a) a technology that is demonstrated to be effective for its intended application and b) a business model, its initial validation and a business plan for its development to market. It is also expected that the intellectual property generated by the EIC Transition project is formally protected in an adequate way. It supports both the maturation and validation of a novel technology from the lab to the relevant application environments (by making use of prototyping, formulation, models, user testing or other validation tests) as well as explorations and development of a sustainable business case and business model towards commercialisation. Deadline date: 28 September 2022, 17:00, Brussels time. More: [here](#)

HORIZON EUROPE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR ERC
PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANT2
ERC-2022-POC2

The ERC (European Research Council) Proof of Concept Grants aim to maximize the value of the excellent research that the ERC funds, by funding further work (i.e. activities which were not scheduled to be funded by the original ERC frontier research grant) to verify the innovation potential of ideas arising from ERC funded projects. Proof of Concept Grants are therefore on offer only to Principal Investigators whose proposals draw substantially on their ERC funded research. The financial contribution will be awarded as a lump sum of EUR 150 000 for a period of 18 months. The ERC expects that normally proof of concept projects should be completed within 12 months. However, to allow for those projects that require more preparation time, projects will be signed for 18 months. Given this initial flexibility, extensions of the duration of proof of concept projects may be granted only exceptionally. Deadline date: 29 September 2022, 17:00, Brussels time. More: [here](#)

HORIZON EUROPE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: EU PRIZE FOR WOMEN
INNOVATORS
HORIZON-EIC-2022

The EU Prize for Women Innovators celebrates the women entrepreneurs behind game-changing innovations. In doing so, the EU seeks to raise awareness of the need for more women innovators and create role models for women and girls everywhere. The Prize is awarded to the women who have created the largest impact on the EU innovation ecosystem by transforming ideas into new and advanced products and services to benefit people and the planet. There are two prize categories: Women Innovators and Rising Innovators. In the first category, three prizes of EUR 100 000 each are awarded to the three highest-ranked applications. In the second category, three prizes of EUR 50 000 are awarded to the three highest-ranked applications from promising 'Rising Innovators' under the age of 35. Deadline date: 18 August 2022, 17:00, Brussels time. More: [here](#)



"... AND MORE"

EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE: COMMISSION DECIDES TO REGISTER 'GOOD CLOTHES, FAIR PLAY' INITIATIVE

On the 1st of June the Commission decided to register a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) entitled 'Good Clothes, Fair Pay'. The initiative calls on the Commission to propose legislation requiring companies in the garment and footwear sector to carry out due diligence in respect of living wages in their supply chains. The organisers list six objectives of such a due diligence exercise, including: identifying, preventing and mitigating adverse impacts on human rights; reducing poverty in the EU and worldwide, with particular attention to the circumstances of women, migrants and workers with precarious contracts and the need to combat child labour; prohibiting unfair trading practices; providing a right to information for consumers; and improving transparency and accountability of undertakings in the garment and footwear sector. More: [here](#)



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