

#7
2022

BRUSSELS' PULSE



HIGHLIGHTS

**REPOWEREU: A PLAN TO RAPIDLY REDUCE
DEPENDENCE ON RUSSIAN FOSSIL FUELS AND
FAST FORWARD THE GREEN TRANSITION**

On the last 18th of May the European Commission presented the REPowerEU Plan, its response to the hardships and global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. REPowerEU is about rapidly reducing our dependence on Russian fossil fuels by fast forwarding the clean transition and joining forces to achieve a more resilient energy system and a true Energy Union.. Building on the Fit for 55 package of proposals and completing the actions on energy security of supply and storage, this REPowerEU plan puts forward an additional set of actions to 3 :save energy; diversify supplies; quickly substitute fossil fuels by accelerating Europe's clean energy transition; smartly combine investments and reform. Read the plan [here](#).

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The new regulation for ERDF in 2021-2027 introduced support for interregional innovation investments. This support, through the Interregional Innovation Investments instrument (I3), brings together researchers, businesses, civil society and public administrations. I3 has a budget of €570 million. The instrument will encourage the development of European value chains with a strong cohesion dimension as at least half of its budget will be dedicated to less developed regions.

The I3 instrument supports interregional innovation projects in their commercialisation and scale-up phases, giving them the support to bring their project to the investment level. More: [here](#).

NEWS

AGRICULTURE

INCREASED SUPPORT FOR EU FARMERS THROUGH RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

The European Commission proposed an exceptional measure funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) to allow Member States to pay a one-off lump sum to farmers and agri-food businesses affected by significant increases in input costs.

Such increases in prices, notably for energy, fertiliser and animal feed, are disrupting the agricultural sector and rural communities, leading to liquidity and cash flow problems for farmers and small rural businesses active in processing, marketing or development of agricultural products. More: [here](#).

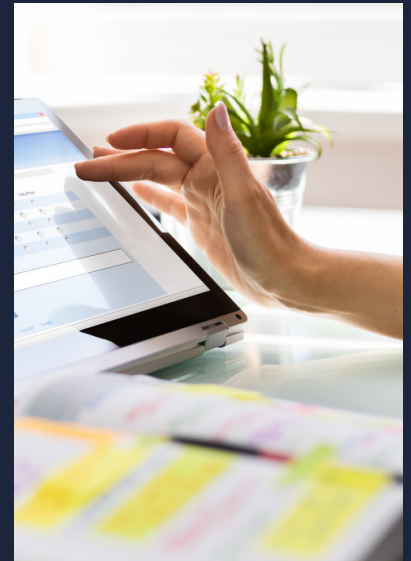


EDUCATION

NEW EUROBAROMETER SURVEY SHOWS GROWING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The new Eurobarometer survey shows growing youth engagement: today, a majority (58%) of young people are active in the societies they live in and have participated in one or more youth organisations over the last 12 months.

This is an increase of 17 percentage points since last Eurobarometer in 2019. In addition, young people's most common expectation for the 2022 European Year of Youth is for decision-makers to listen more to their demands and act on them, and to support their personal, social and professional development (72%). 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".

With up to 70 000 events organised each year in the European States signatory to the European Cultural Convention and an estimated 30 million visitors, this joint action of the Council of Europe and of the European Commission is a unique example of a grass-roots initiative organised and shared by millions of people living in Europe. More: [here](#).



HEALTH

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN HEALTH DATA SPACE ABOUT?

The European Health Data Space is a health-specific data-sharing framework establishing clear rules, common standards and practices, infrastructures, and a governance framework for the use of electronic health data by patients and for research, innovation, policymaking, patient safety, statistics, or regulatory purpose. The European Health Data Space will empower individuals across the EU to fully exercise their rights over their health data. People will be able to easily access and share these data, while retaining greater control over them, fully in line with our overall EU approach to data protection. More: [here](#).

ENVIRONMENT

PORTUGUESE WINNER AMONG THE NATURA 2000 AWARD WINNERS!

The European Commission is proud to announce the six winners of the 2022 edition of the European Natura 2000 Award. EU Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius, and members of the high-level Jury, announced the winners at the Natura 2000 Award Ceremony, held in Brussels on 18 May 2022.

The six winners include initiatives from Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal, Spain and a cross-border project from Germany, Austria, Luxembourg and Switzerland. Find out here who the 2022 winners are [here](#).



DIGITAL

THE BROADBAND PLATFORM DISCUSSES WAYS TO IMPROVE DIGITAL COHESION IN EUROPE

The European Committee of the Regions and European Commission held the 4th meeting of the Broadband Platform on 6 May, focusing on ways to improve the digital infrastructure in the European Union by adding the concept of digital cohesion to the ones of social, economic and territorial cohesion recognised by the Treaties. The Covid-19 pandemic and the worsening geopolitical context caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine have shown how important technology and digital tools are to help citizens to adapt to challenging circumstances and to provide them with the latest information and key support.

More: [here](#).

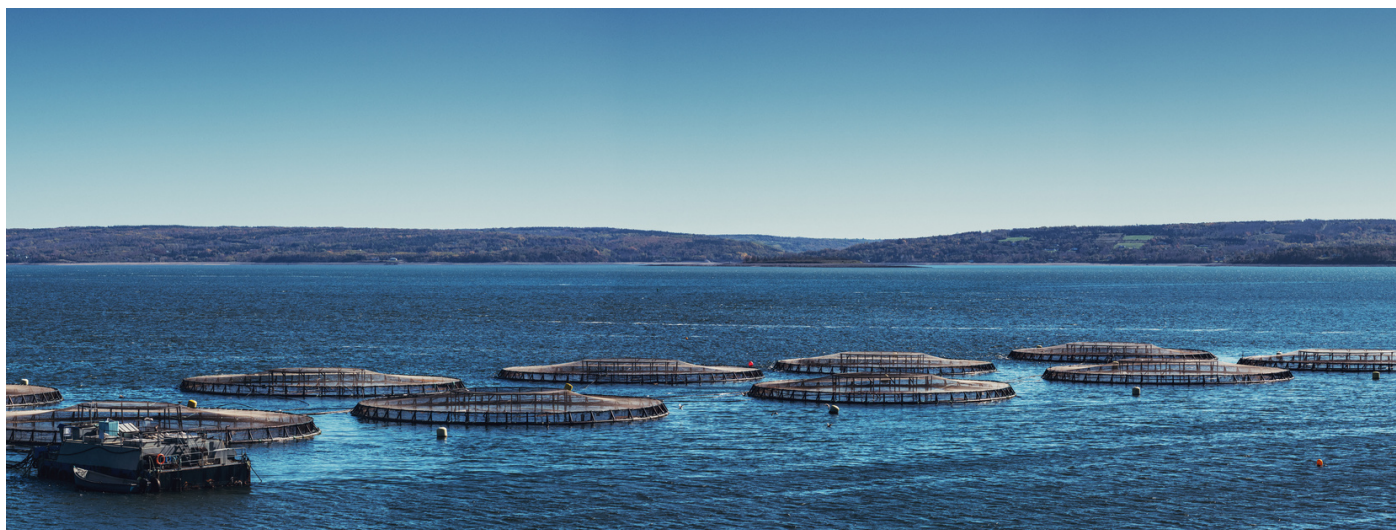


MARITIME

EU ORGANIC AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION: STEEP RISE FOR ORGANIC SHELLFISH, FINFISH STRUGGLES TO KEEP UP

A new EUMOFA report reveals that the EU's organic aquaculture production has increased by 60% in five years (2015-2020), mainly due to a growth in organic mussel production. Organic production from finfish, however, is stalling or even decreasing, mostly due to the limited demand and technical difficulties to apply the EU organic regulation.

Total organic aquaculture production at EU 27 level is estimated at 74,032 tonnes in 2020, which accounts for 6.4% of the total EU aquaculture production. More: [here](#).

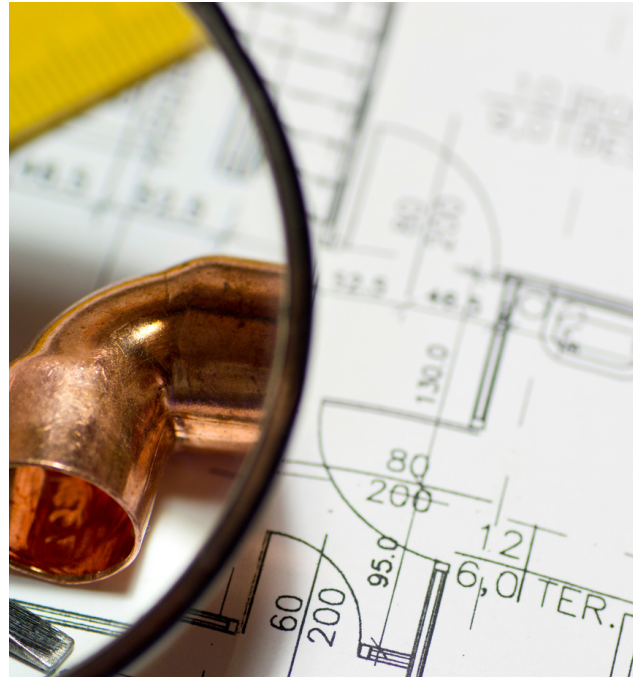


CITIES

NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS: FIVE Lighthouse PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED ACROSS EUROPE

The European Commission announced the five shortlisted projects will receive funding of approximately €5 million each to implement their plans in 11 Member States (Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Denmark, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Slovenia, and Portugal), as well as in Norway and Turkey. They will deal with topics such as building renovation, circularity, arts, cultural heritage, education, smart cities, urban and rural regeneration.

More: [here](#).



EVENTS

HIGH-LEVEL EVENT: THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS ON TRACK!

On 9 and 10 June 2022, the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) will hold the high-level event 'The European Alliance for Apprenticeships on track!' in Vienna, Austria. The event is organised in the context of the European Year of Rail (2021) and European Year of Youth (2022) in collaboration with the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) and the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. More: [here](#).

EASI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL FINANCE IN MORE DEVELOPED ECOSYSTEMS

The European Union is offering a virtual half-day workshop titled: "Social Finance in more developed Ecosystems" under the EaSI Technical Assistance programme for social enterprise finance providers. The workshop will take place online on June 17 between 9:00 and 13:00 CET. More: [here](#).

EU DESIGN DAYS 2022

Do you want to get inspired by innovative stories from across Europe? Join the EU Design Days 2022 - side event of the New European Bauhaus Fest! This year's edition will focus on "Will beauty actually save the world? How can design contribute to the green transition and help us to achieve the goals of the EU Green Deal?" The event will take place the 10 June between 08:30-16:30 in Brussels. More: [here](#).

GOOD PRACTICES OF ESF+ FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY

The European Commission – Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), in partnership with the European Investment Bank, is pleased to invite you to participate to the fi-compass webinar 'Good practices of ESF+ financial instruments for social economy', taking place on Tuesday, 21 June 2022, from 14.00 until 17.00 (CEST). More: [here](#).

SMART VILLAGES WEBINAR

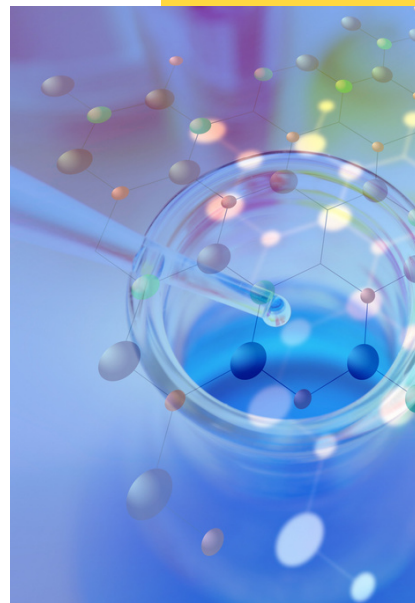
On 28 June from 14:00 to 15:30 CEST, the Policy Learning Platform is hosting a webinar on the topic of Smart Villages. Smart Villages are communities in rural areas that use innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities. They rely on a participatory approach to develop and implement their strategy to improve their economic, social and/or environmental conditions, in particular by mobilising solutions offered by digital technologies. More: [here](#).



OPEN CALLS

HORIZON EUROPE, HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-07-01

The Hop On Facility is based on Article 20 (3) of the HE Common Understanding providing that the work programme may foresee the possibility for legal entities from low R&I performing countries to join already selected collaborative R&I actions, subject to the agreement of the respective consortium and provided that legal entities from such countries are not yet participating in it. The scheme further aims at achieving the Inclusiveness ambition of the future ERA policy by involving research institutions from widening countries under Horizon Europe Pillar 2 actions. Deadline date 10 November 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time. More: [here](#).



EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND + (ESF). ESF-2022-SOC-FIN

This call aims to further support the development of the social investment market and facilitate access to finance for social enterprises through grants to intermediaries in the social enterprise finance field to partially cover the transaction costs. The envisaged activities are based on the fact that the most important funding gap for social enterprises is below EUR 500 000. However, the transaction costs for such small tickets can be high which gives an incentive to social impact fund managers to focus on higher amounts in order to preserve the fund's sustainability. This can lead to a mismatch between needed and sustainable ticket sizes. Deadline date 14 June 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time. More: [here](#).

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME. ERASMUS-EDU-2022-PEX-COVE

The initiative on Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) supports a bottom-up approach to Vocational Excellence involving a wide range of local stakeholders. It enables VET institutions to rapidly adapt skills provision to evolving economic and social needs, including the digital and green transitions. CoVEs operate in a given local context, being the linchpin of skills ecosystems for innovation, regional development, and social inclusion, while working with CoVEs in other countries through international collaborative networks. Deadline date 07 September 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time. More: [here](#).

LIFE PROGRAMME. LIFE-2022-CET-BUILDSKILLS

Launched in 2011, the BUILD UP Skills initiative is supporting the upskilling of building professionals across Europe, to deliver building renovations offering high energy performance as well as new Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (nZEBs). This effort needs to be sustained through the development of strategies and the rollout of ambitious training and qualification interventions aligned with the EU Green Deal, the EU's 2030 climate objectives as well as the EU's long-term strategy of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

The first objective is to support the revitalisation of the National Platforms created in the first phase of the BUILD UP Skills initiative (2011-2012, 'Pillar I'), gathering all key national stakeholders. Since the first platforms were established ten years ago, projects should aim at expanding their scope by involving new stakeholders. Deadline date 16 November 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time. More: [here](#).

DIGITAL EUROPE. DIGITAL-2022-DEPLOY-02-LAW-SECURITY-AI

The project will have direct impact on the capability of LE to test and deploy AI based solutions and other emerging technologies thus to handle efficiently and in accordance with EU core values the abundance of digital evidence. In addition, it will contribute to foster the adoption and give visibility to best in class EU designed solutions for LE. Possibilities of coordination with related activities in the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe Programme should be analysed too. Some activities, resulting from this topic, may involve using classified background and/or producing of security sensitive results. Deadline date 17 August 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time. More: [here](#).



EU4 HEALTH PROGRAMME (EU4H). EU4H-2021-PJ-20

This action supports the policy priority to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and to enhance preparedness for future health emergencies with the particular emphasis on intelligence gathering to support the timely provision of medical countermeasures. It implements the EU4Health Programme's general objective of protecting people in the Union from serious cross-border threats to health and strengthening the responsiveness of health systems and coordination among the Member States to cope with serious cross-border threats to health. Deadline date 18 August 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time. More: [here](#).

"... AND MORE"

JEAN MONNET ACTIONS: NEW CALLS ARE OPENING IN AUTUMN 2022

The Jean Monnet Action has opened up the call for new schools, teachers and organisations! If you want to teach or learn more about the EU at school, new calls are opening in Autumn. The Jean Monnet Actions offer opportunities in the field of higher education and in other fields of education and training, and are part of the new ERASMUS + Programme. The aim is to help young people get a better understanding of the European Union, the European values and the European institutions. The Jean Monnet Actions provide funding for education actions for organisations, teacher training institutions and schools. Are you a teacher, school or organisation active in education/teacher education?? Stay tuned – new calls for application will open in Autumn 2022. More: [here](#).



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Initiative
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