



Iris Jakupić

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Don't forget to have a look
at our calender of EU
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Dear Readers,

Herewith I would like to present new and redesigned issue of the Croatian Regions Office monthly Newsletter.

In its issue from March 2011 we present two “burning” topics recently discussed in Brussels.

During the European Spring Summit which took place on 24-25 March in Brussels, the European Council adopted a comprehensive set of measures in response to the crisis and actions toward sustainable growth.

With regard to the current draft of the Europe 2020 strategy, European Commission proposed new ways on financing future infrastructure projects.

We also give you short news on activities of Croatian Regions Office on page 4, followed by an overview of latest news on Calls for proposals and events by European institutions. Finally, believing that you will find a lot of useful information at this web site, I wish you pleasant reading.

Sincerely,

Iris Jakupić
Head of Croatian Regions Office

Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

EU summit in the Council

During the meeting of heads of states and governments, which took place on 24-25 March in Brussels, the European Council adopted a comprehensive set of measures in response to the crisis and actions toward sustainable growth.

The package includes measures on economic policy, with implementing **"European Semester's" measures** aimed at fiscal consolidation and structural reforms.

The European Council welcomed the Commission's intention to present **the Single Market Act** for adoption by the end of 2012, bringing new impetus into market's performance.

Among other things, there are proposals for completing the Digital Single Market, reducing all sorts of burden to SMEs and implementing services Directive.

On issues of economic governance, the Council adopted a package of six legislative proposals (the so-called **comprehensive approach**) to ensure enhanced fiscal discipline and avoiding excessive macroeconomic imbalances, including a **reform of the Stability and Growth Pact**.

A new "quality of economic policy coordination", so-called the **Euro Plus Pact** was agreed by the member states and 6 countries outside the eurozone joined the pact, including Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

In restoring a healthy banking system, the Council agreed on introduction of **global financial transaction tax**; the Commission will make a report on the issue by autumn 2011.

Recalling the importance of financial stability in the euro zone states, the European Council adopted the decision to amend the Lisbon Treaty with regard to setting up of **the European Stability Mechanism** (the changes will take place before January 2013). The ESM is expected to have an effective lending capacity of € 440 bln; the signature of both agreements is expected before June 2011.

In view of the present nuclear power problems in Japan, the EU leaders endorsed the Commission's call for a comprehensive safety and risk assessment associated with the European nuclear power plants and those in the Union's neighboring countries. These assessments must be done on the basis of clear, common and transparent criteria, underlined the Commission.

Conclusions from European Spring summit can be found on the link:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/120296.pdf

The future of the EU budget

Better and different spending of European money

The negotiations for the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework (**MFF**), due to run from 2014 to 2020 have started, in part shaped by the publication of the Budget Review in autumn 2010. The Budget Review aimed to align the EU budget to today's challenges, and introduce significant reforms. Despite the planned publication date of 2009, it was delayed.

But, the policy and external environment had changed significantly, including the impact of the crisis, and the political economy of budget negotiations have also changed significantly.

The current structure of EU expenditure does not correspond well to the challenges the EU faces today. The budget continues to be dominated by agriculture and cohesion funding.

In **the Budget Review Communication** (CEC 2010f), the EC sets out key principles for the EU budget: delivering key policy priorities, EU added value and mutual benefits through solidarity, being results-driven and with reformed financing system. It links the budget strongly to the EU "smart, sustainable and inclusive" growth strategy, **Europe 2020** (CEC 2010e), while also aiming to deliver on citizenship, Europe's neighborhood and Europe's global role.

Even in those areas where budget is significant -agriculture and cohesion funding- the changing economic environment influences the next budget negotiations. From a budgetary perspective, there are no significant enlargements to be expected in the few new years, with the accession of Croatia and potentially few Western Balkan countries and Iceland to have relatively minor impact on the budget.

Europe 2020
is the formulation of the new European growth strategy, Europe 2020 is the successor to the Lisbon Strategy. It provides a strategic framework for EU spending decisions focusing on 5 headline targets: innovation, education, labour market participation, poverty and climate change.

The EU budget is a key implementation tool for Europe 2020 strategy and orienting spending on Europe 2020 will also have implications within budget lines.

Over the next decade, Europe will need to invest enormous sums into its infrastructure, from 'smart' power grids to urban transport systems. Around €450 billion will be needed just for trans-European transport networks. But, as a result of the financial crisis, nearly all European countries face budgetary constraints.

As a targeted response to a specific challenge facing Europe's economy, the European Commission has launched a public consultation on the "**Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative**" which aims at boosting the funding of projects with long-term revenue potential in line with the Europe 2020 policy priorities.

Link: DG ECFIN http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/consultation/index_en.htm

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Short news from Brussels

Croatian tourism day in Brussels

On March 16, 2011 Croatian National Tourist Board held a special presentation of Croatia's culture and tourism.

In addition to general information on natural beauties of Croatia, Mr Niko Bulić has presented numbers generated from tourist traffic with the Belgian market in the past year. In 2011, 103 341 arrivals have been achieved from Belgian market, which is 10% more than in the year 2009. Also, 545 342 nights in Croatia have been achieved, which makes 7% more than in 2009.

Iris Jakupić, Head of Croatian Regions Office in Brussels was invited to present the activities of the office to the group of EUROCITIES network and exchange with the participants on the issue of enlargement from regional perspective.

EUROCITIES discussion on EU neighborhood and enlargement policy

As Croatia's adhesion to the EU is on the top of the enlargement agenda, EUROCITIES, network of cities in EU member states and non-member states, organized on March 21, 2011 a meeting of a working group dealing with EU neighborhood and enlargement policy. The meeting was held in Liaison Office of the City of Wiener, since Vienna has traditionally been active in this field.

AER Regional Innovation Award

Assembly of European Regions has launched the 6th edition of the AER regional Innovation Award. A regional authority and its institutions play a fundamental role in the socioeconomic development and competitiveness of a territory. Each European Region can foster growth and offer educational and training instruments to companies, organizations and citizens, according to the spirit and commitments of EU objectives and contribute to these objectives by fostering a sustainable knowledge-economy.

The AER Innovation Award for European Regions aims to give recognition to the European regional authorities and their institutions which have actually stimulated, fostered and implemented innovation in their territory. The award has a symbolic value but it is highly representative, so that it will produce a considerable return in terms of image for the winner Regions.

Deadline for applications is 1 June 2011. Application forms can be downloaded on the dedicated AER webpage <http://www.aer.eu> under "economic development and innovation award.

Calls for proposals

ACTION 6/G/ENT/CIP/10/E/N01C21 — European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs

Deadline: 20-04-2011

Invitation for applications for a project to set up the European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs with EU co-funding is now open. This initiative will offer expert mentoring to women entrepreneurs, to help them keep new businesses going during their first, very challenging years.

The plan is to set up national networks of mentors for women entrepreneurs in at least 15 countries. Together, these will form the European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs.

The national networks will:

- identify, select and train mentors for women entrepreneurs,
- identify and select women entrepreneurs to be mentored,
- form optimal 'mentor/mentoree' relationships based on the experience and expectations of those taking part,
- monitor and facilitate these relationships throughout the project,
- evaluate and report on these relationships in a comprehensive, consistent manner ensure the national networks of mentors are promoted appropriately as part of an initiative with EU backing.

Organizations active in business support and/or in promoting women entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply.

Annex 1 (Submission Set) and Annex 2 (Guide for Submission) as well as any other document to be downloaded in order to complete your proposal can be found on this page: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/contracts-grants/calls-for-proposals/>

IEE 2011 Calls for proposals

Deadline: 12-05-2011

The objective of the Intelligent Energy - Europe II Programme ("IEE II") is to contribute to secure, sustainable and competitively priced energy for Europe, by providing for action:

- to foster energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources;
- to promote new and renewable energy sources and to support energy diversification;
- to promote energy efficiency and the use of new and renewable energy sources in transport.

More information: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/call_for_proposals/call_library_en.htm

Building the capacity of investment actors to analyse + use environmental, social and governance information - 5/G/ENT/CIP/11/E/N02S003

Deadline: 20-05-2011



The overall objective of this call for proposals is to enhance market reward for sustainable and socially responsible enterprises, so facilitating the transition towards a sustainable economy.

The specific objective is to build the capacity of mainstream investment actors to better integrate environmental, social and governance information into their valuations of enterprises. This call for proposals is also an opportunity for the investment community to further align its practices with the expectations of European public policy.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4959&lang=en&tpa=201&displayType=fo&ref=newsbytheme%2Ecfm%3Flang%3Den%26displayType%3Dfo%26fosubtype%3Dp%26tpa%3D201%26tpa_id%3D201%26period%3Dlatest%26month%3D%26page%3D1

Youth in action - Action 3.2 – ‘Youth in the world’: Cooperation with countries other than the neighboring countries of the European Union

Deadline: 06-05-2011

Call for proposals aiming to support projects which promote cooperation in the youth sector between Programme Countries and Partner countries other than those which are neighbors of the European Union.

The cooperation is addressed to persons working in the youth sector, youth workers and youth leaders, young people themselves and other actors involved in youth organizations and structures and interested in running projects promoting cooperation in this field. Projects must start between 1 September 2011 and 31 December 2011. Duration minimum 6 months and maximum 12 months.

More information: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2011/call_action_3_2_en.php

General Calls for proposals on Life-long learning programmes

Each year, the European Commission sets out the priorities for the EU’s Lifelong Learning Programme in a call for proposals. The documents related to the call are listed here:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm

Grants, Funds and Programmes for Sport projects by EU Policy

The calls for proposals serve to implement the Preparatory Actions in the field of sport. The main objective of the Preparatory Actions is to prepare future EU actions in this field, on the basis of priorities set in the White Paper on Sport. The calls for proposals support transnational projects put forward by public bodies or civil society organizations in order to identify and test suitable networks and good practices in the field of sport.

The Commission department responsible for implementation and management of the Preparatory Actions is the Sport Unit of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture.

Funds are available in the framework of several European programmes, their selection can be found on the following site: http://ec.europa.eu/sport/faq/faq702_en.htm

The 5th Call for Proposals CIP PSP

Deadline: 01-06-2011

The Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme (CIP) runs for the years 2007-2013 and is organized around three multi-annual specific programmes:

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP)
- Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

The ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) has an overall budget of € M 730. In 2011 the annual budget amounts to around €125 million. It will go to beyond €140 million in 2013.

Details on the call are provided on the website:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/participating/calls/call_proposals_11/index_en.htm

FP7- SUSTAINABLE SURFACE TRANSPORT (SST)-2011-MOVE-1

Deadline: 01-06-2011

Activity area: Ensuring sustainable urban mobility

Activity: 7.2.3.4. Innovative strategies for clean urban transport (CIVITAS Plus II)

Topics called: Design, implement and test innovative strategies for sustainable urban transport; Support action for coordination, dissemination and evaluation, CIVITAS Plus

Details on the call are provided on the website:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=374#infopack

Health Programme – Operating grants 2011

The second Health Programme is intended to complement, support and add value to the policies of the Member States and contribute to increased solidarity and prosperity in the European Union. The Programme's objectives are

- to improve citizens' health security;
- to promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities and
- to generate and disseminate health information and knowledge

In addition to the 27 Member States of the European Union, the call is also open to the participation of EFTA-EEA countries within the context of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Croatia.

Organizations from these countries can receive funding from the second Health Programme. Non-governmental bodies or specialized networks from any of these countries can submit an application for an operating grant. A specialized network is a European network representing non-profit bodies active in the Member States or in countries participating in the second Health Programme and promoting principles and policies consistent with the

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objectives of the Programme, which has a relevant track record of joint achievements and established rules of collaboration (e.g. SOPs or a memorandum of understanding).

Details for this call are provided on the website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/grants.html>

EU Calendar April 2011

European Parliament Plenary Session

Date: 04.Apr.2011 To 07.Apr.2011

Where: European Parliament, Strasbourg

KEY ITEMS OF THE PLENARY:

- Migration flows (debate and resolution)
- Conclusions of the European council (24-25 Mar)
- Roma strategy
- Estimates of revenue and expenditure for 2012 - Parliament (debate and vote)
 - Financing of European political parties (debate and vote)
 - Fisheries (debate and vote)
 - Single market (debate and vote)
 - Japan disaster and nuclear safety (debate and resolution)
 - Situation in Syria, Bahrain and Yemen (debate and resolution)
 - Progress reports on Iceland and FYROM (debate and vote)
 - European Neighborhood policy (debate and resolution)



Hannover Messe

Date: 04.Apr.2011 To 08.Apr.2011

Where: Hannover, Germany

The world's leading showcase for industrial technology is staged annually in Hannover, Germany. The next HANNOVER MESSE will be held from 4 to 8 April 2011, with France to be featured as its official Partner Country.

13 flagship fairs are taking place under the umbrella of HANNOVER MESSE 2011: Industrial Automation - Motion, Drive & Automation - Energy - Power Plant Technology - Wind - MobiliTec - Digital Factory - ComVac - Industrial Supply - CoilTechnica - SurfaceTechnology - MicroNanoTec - Research & Technology.

In 2011 the spotlight will be on industrial automation, energy technology, power transmission and control, industrial subcontracting and services as well as cutting-edge technologies.

Barroso and Füle in the Western Balkans

Date: 07.Apr.2011 To 09.Apr.2011

Where: Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro, FYROM



Commission President Barroso and Commissioner Füle will visit the Western Balkans from 7 to 9 April.

They will be in Croatia on the 7th, where they will meet Ms Jadranka Kosor, the Prime Minister of Croatia, at noon. At 12h50, they will attend the signature of the Instrument for Pre-Accession 2010 Financing Agreement and at 18h00 they have a meeting with Mr Ivo Josipovic, the President of Croatia.

The two remaining days will be spent in Bosnia, Montenegro and in FYROM.

Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative

Date: 11.Apr.2011

Time: 09:00

Where: Albert Borschette Conference Centre, Brussels

Description
This conference will serve as an integral part of the recently launched stakeholder consultation for the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative launched by the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Commissioner Olli Rehn and EIB President Philippe Maystadt will open the conference.

The European Commission and the EIB will then present and explain the Initiative in detail, followed by three consecutive roundtables:

- Session 1: Synthesis: Advantages and disadvantages compared to the current financing models
- Session 2: Demand View: Investor requirements in terms of deal structure
- Session 3: Supply View: Expected impact of the project bond initiative on capital market funding of projects

The conference is mainly addressed to financial institutions; development banks and other long-term lenders; institutional investors; financial, legal and other advisors; public administrations and companies.

European Sustainable Energy Week

Date: 11.Apr.2011 To 15.Apr.2011

Where: Europe

The EU Sustainable Energy Week will take place in Brussels and across Europe with this year's theme being "Smart Energy for a Sustainable Future".

On Tuesday 12 April Energy Commissioner Oettinger will kick-off the Sustainable Energy Week with an opening conference to address key issues such as energy efficiency. Over 30.000 attendees will participate in more than 600 events across Europe. Other topics covered during the Week will include energy-efficient buildings, products and appliances, renewable energy solutions (e.g. biomass, solar and wind energy), low-carbon technologies and sustainable urban mobility.

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On Wednesday 13 April Energy Commissioner Oettinger will fire the starting shot for a race of energy-labeled fridges, demonstrating the benefits of energy efficiency.

The EU Sustainable Energy Week is the key annual event of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign which contributes to achieving the EU 2020 energy policy targets. Four years of increasing participation have shown that the Week is the reference event for sustainable energy issues in Europe and beyond. The Week is organized by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) on behalf of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy.

European Disability Strategy Conference

Date: 19.Apr.2011 **To** 20.Apr.2011

Where: Budapest, Hungary

The Hungarian Presidency is organizing a conference on New Challenges in the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 in Budapest on 19 and 20 April.

The Conference will focus on the European Disability Strategy (2010-2020), as this document sets out the possible thematic areas for actions linked to the implementation of the UNCRPD. In this context, the Conference will also provide the opportunity to examine the national implementation of the UNCRPD.

The Conference will bring together all key stakeholders, including the relevant representatives of the civil society. By the time of this Conference, the Disability High Level Group will have prepared the Annual Report whose main conclusions will be shared. The outcome of the Conference will feed into the planned Council Conclusions to be adopted by the EPSCO in June.

Public Hearing on the European Shipbuilding Industry

Date: 18.Apr.2011

Time: 15:00

Where: Gdansk, Poland

On 29 April 2010, the EESC adopted an own-initiative opinion entitled "The European shipbuilding industry dealing with the current crisis". According to its work programme for 2011, the European Commission is revising the existing framework for state aid to shipbuilding, with a view to possibly updating and extending it beyond 2011. The EESC has decided to update its opinion, focusing mainly on the review of the state aid framework, but also taking into account measures that could be used to improve the effectiveness of the crisis exit strategy.

In line with its policy to involve local civil society, the EESC is holding a public hearing in Gdansk on 18 April 2011 starting at 3 p.m.

The publication of a report highlighting the particular difficulties facing European shipbuilding provides an opportunity to call on the EU institutions to give this industry the attention it deserves. The proposals and recommendations set out in the report will be forwarded to policymakers and the social partners across Europe.

High-level speakers representing the various stakeholders along the sector's value chain will be present to discuss ways out of the crisis and the industry's future.

Education Reforms in the EU

Date: 19.Apr.2011

Where: Brussels

The European Commission will release an analytical report on Member States' progress towards shared European objectives in education and training.

The background:

In 2009, EU Education Ministers agreed on five education and training benchmarks to be attained by 2020:

- at least 95% of children between the age of four and the age for starting compulsory primary education should participate in early childhood education;
- the share of 15-years olds with insufficient abilities in reading, mathematics and science should be less than 15%;
- the share of early leavers from education and training should be less than 10%;
- the share of 30-34 year olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 40%;
- an average of at least 15 % of adults (age group 25-64) should participate in lifelong learning

Two of these targets – reducing the share of early school leavers from 14.5% to under 10% and increasing the number of graduates from 31% to at least 40% - are also key objectives in the Europe 2020 growth strategy.

In its annual report on indicators and benchmarks the Commission will analyse Member States' performance against these targets, while also reviewing how countries have performed in relation to an earlier set of benchmarks agreed for 2010.

The report, which covers the 27 EU Member States, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Turkey, Norway and Liechtenstein, will contain overviews and detailed statistics identifying which countries perform above or below the EU average and which are catching up or falling behind compared to the others. It also draws on new educational research to set out conclusions about how our education systems are addressing issues such as creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Draft Budget 2012

Date: 20.Apr.2011

Where: Brussels

On 20 April, the Commission will present its proposal for the 2012 EU budget, the last but one in the in the current financial programming.

This will be the second annual budget procedure under the Lisbon Treaty; following the Commission's proposal there will be only one reading in the Council and the Parliament followed by a 21 day conciliation procedure in case of disagreement between both arms of the budgetary authority.



The EU budget amounts to over €120bn, with over 90% of that amounts going back to EU member states - often with multiplying effect, in one form or another (cohesion policy, science and research, agriculture, trade, employment...).

Last February, Commissioner Lewandowski sent a letter to the heads of each EU institution calling for restraint for the 2012 budget.

Conference: Towards the European Year for Active Ageing

Date: 29.Apr.2011

Time: 09:30

Where: Charlemagne building, Brussels

The conference "Towards the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012)" will be an important milestone towards the European Year and should help to mobilize stakeholders at all levels.

Member States, regional and local authorities, social partners and civil society organizations will be invited to commit on specific objectives and activities in view of the European Year 2012.

A first version of the future website of the European Year 2012 will be launched and the conference will also mark the 3rd European Day on Solidarity between Generations.

Conference on Energy Security

Date: 29.Apr.2011

Time: 09:30

Where: Pécs, Hungary

The event will include presentations on how EU energy policy can ensure security of supply and how we can strengthen the external dimension of EU energy policy. There will also be an expert panel on energy cooperation from the perspective of both the EU and its neighbors, and a workshop on enhancing the instruments for energy cooperation.

The conference, which deals with the pressing issue of energy security, is jointly organized with the city of Pécs and will be held under the Hungarian EU Presidency. It will focus in particular on European and regional aspects of the policy, and how European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) instruments can strengthen energy integration and cooperation.

The opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on "Energy supply: what kind of neighborhood policy do we need to ensure security of supply for the EU?" (Rapporteur: Edgardo Iozia, EESC Group II, Employees) will be discussed by EU and Hungarian political decision makers, together with representatives of organized civil society, businesses, think tanks, media and the general public.

Vacancies Internship vacancy

The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Office European Union has an internship to offer for the months May - July (inclusively) within the framework of its European Programme. The internship includes the organizational preparation and follow-up of events on the situation in the Middle East, the Polish EU Presidency, the situation in Iraq and the achievements of Green Policy in the European Parliament since the last elections as well as organizational and editorial support with the internet dossiers on the EU Presidencies 2011 and the future of the eurozone. Required are a basic knowledge of and a serious interest in EU foreign and security policy and the working of the European institutions, good organizational and editorial skills as well as fluency in English (oral and written). Contact: ebertowski@boell.eu and divito@boell.eu (all administrative questions).