



## Editorial Iris Jakupić

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Dear Readers,

With Croatia's negotiation bid beyond us, we're aware that still serious work is in front of us. Our next issue of Croatian Regions Newsletter features articles on the priorities of the Polish presidency of the EU Council, Croatia soon to be the 28 Member state of the EU, Cohesion policy in the post-2013 programming period, short news from Brussels, selection of open calls for proposals and the upcoming events and much more! This Newsletter issue was put together with news from beginning of June till mid July and is a little bit bigger than the ones before. Many thanks to everyone who is reading it entirely!

I wish you all pleasant summer holidays.

Sincerely,

Iris Jakupić  
Head of Croatian Regions Office





## The priorities of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council

**Poland has unveiled its final program outlining ambitious agenda, but notably vaguer than its previous versions**

The main task of the Polish Presidency is to lead the European Union on a path to faster economic growth and an enhanced political community. In order to achieve these targets, the Polish Presidency will concentrate on three basic priorities: **“European integration as the source of growth”**, a **“Secure Europe”** and a **“Europe benefiting from openness”**

### Economic policy on the top of Poland’s agenda

The Polish Presidency will work to foster economic growth through further development of the internal market (including the electronic market) and using the EU’s budget for building a competitive Europe on the global scale. Europe must not concentrate solely on public finance and limiting budget deficits. Additional action and new rules on economic governance are required, including the development of tools preventing return waves of the crisis, such as the European Stabilization Mechanism. In order to meet these goals, the Polish Presidency will introduce a new model of economic growth, one that would allow the Union to secure appropriate level of economic development for the coming decades and guarantee the well-being of EU citizens.

Barring financial catastrophe, Poland wants to start work on **the next multi-annual EU budget**, push to maintain the current, generous Cohesion Policy and work towards **completing the Single Market Act**. Poland will also organize an important event supporting internal market development: the **“Single Market Forum – SIMFO”**.

A reform of the **Common Agricultural Policy**, guaranteeing the modernization of European agriculture and its enhanced competitiveness, will be another important issue.

### Secure Europe – food, energy, defense

A “Secure Europe” requires improving security in a number of different areas. Firstly, Europe must improve its macroeconomic security. The improvement of economic governance in the European Union will be the primary task of the Polish Presidency in the area of economy and finance. The Presidency will support actions and proposals serving the improvement of the regulation and supervision of financial markets, as well as drafting the principles of crisis management (aiming to protect financial markets from negative consequences of crisis, and maintaining financial stability).

Another step forward towards “Secure Europe” is the creation of a basis for an **external energy policy** of the European Union in relation to major producers, consumers and transit states of energy resources. Poland will work in order to strengthen the actions that allow a



better functioning of the EU within the international energy environment, resulting in savings and better conditions for economic growth.

Yet another aspect of increasing the security of Europe is a **reform of the CAP** (Common Agricultural Policy), such that European funds are utilised more effectively. Enhanced CAP should remain market-oriented and consider public common goods, including agricultural security and the multifunctional development of agriculture and rural areas. An important element of the Common Agricultural Policy reform will include in particular the resolution of the issue of direct payments and support towards rural areas.

Poland will pursue the conclusion of works on **changes to the regulation on Frontex** (the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union) during Presidency. The works aim to make Frontex more effectively **support member states in crisis situations**, such as those taking place in North Africa and Middle East.

The Polish Presidency of the EU Council will be the **strengthening of military and civil EU capabilities**. The Presidency will support actions towards the **consolidation of direct EU-NATO dialogue**.

### Europe benefiting from openness

During its Presidency, Poland will support the EU's foreign and security policy, which aims to strengthen the EU's position on the international arena. As a part of Eastern Partnership, Poland wants the process of signing **association agreements and free trade areas** (among others finalising or moving forward negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova) to continue. The Polish Presidency will pursue moving forward the negotiations on visa liberalization and the key political decisions to this end will be made in September as part of the Eastern Partnership Summit, with the participation of all heads of state and of the governments of member and partner states. With regard to Belarus, the aim of the Union is to encourage this country to work with the West, provided it respects the fundamental rules of democracy and human rights.

An important objective of Poland's Presidency in the UE Council will be to **finalise accession negotiations with Croatia and sign a Treaty of Accession** with it. Poland supports the continuation of accession negotiations with Turkey, with Iceland, and we will support the European aspirations of the Western Balkans.

During its Presidency, Poland wants to establish a new framework of cooperation between the EU and Russia. This relates to actions towards the signing of a new agreement with Russia and the development of an **EU-Russia Partnership for Modernisation**.

In terms of common trade policy, the most important issue will be to continue the **multilateral trade negotiations of World Trade Organization** (so called Doha Round). In addition to further steps towards the liberalisation of trade (**elimination of customs barriers**), such issues as agriculture subsidies, patent law, anti-dumping regulations and intellectual property protection will be discussed.



### Croatia closed the last four chapters in its EU entry talks on June 30 2011

On Friday, June 10, the European Commission (EC) proposed July 1, 2013 as an indicative date for Croatia's admission into the EU as its 28th member.

"Today is a historic day for Croatia and for the EU," EC President **Jose Manuel Barroso** said in a statement, praising the Zagreb authorities and "the current government" in particular for their "hard work" towards achieving that goal.

Nevertheless, the EC will continue to watch the country's reform progress during the ratification process of Croatia's accession treaty by all member states, which usually takes up to two years and is expected to be completed by July 2013.

During the EU summit on June 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup> the leaders of the bloc's 27 nations gave their approval for the conclusion of membership talks.

"In recent years, Croatia has made real progress and we are glad that it is now one step closer to EU accession," said **Mercedes Bresso**, adding that the CoR would also support Croatia's local and regional authorities in their **decentralisation and administrative reforms**. "Despite the financial and economic crisis, we have to give our full support to Croatia and other candidate countries so that the dynamics of the European integration process will be maintained," she added.

European Commissioner responsible for Enlargement **Stefan Füle** also recalled that since the opening of negotiations, Croatia has made substantial steps forward in all areas important for EU accession, including in **setting up structures for absorbing EU Cohesion Funds**. "I believe that further cooperation of the local and regional authorities of Croatia with their European institutional partners will be very positive," he stressed.



The CoR is currently preparing its opinion on [Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges](#) in which rapporteur **Franz Schausberger** recalls that "one of the main political priorities of the Committee of the Regions is to secure the success of the enlargement process". He underlines in particular that "further measures will have to be taken in Croatia under the regional policy chapter to involve local authorities more in the implementation of EU policies", and that Croatia needs to provide thorough training for administrative staff and politicians also at the local and regional level.

Speedy implementation of the new legislation is crucial so as to improve the provision of decentralised services for the public and build up a modern, efficient public administration, the draft opinion states.

## [The future of Cohesion Policy in post - 2013 programming period](#)

### **The conclusions of the 5th report on economic, social and territorial cohesion adopted in November 2010**

A public consultation was held between 12 November 2010 and 31 January 2011. A total of 444 contributions were received. The public consultation asked a series of questions about the future of cohesion policy. The replies can be summarised as follows:

Contributors to the public consultations stressed the need to ensure that cohesion policy provides the **flexibility** to take into account the regional and local context, allowing regional and local actors to influence the priorities and goals of cohesion policy through a **bottom-up approach**.

Regarding the **development and investment partnership contract**, a common strategic framework that would include other EU funds in addition to the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and Cohesion Fund, which currently make up cohesion policy, majority of Member States were in favour of extending the contracts beyond cohesion policy but expressed no clear position on the proposed partnership contracts.

EC introduced **conditionalities, incentives and results-based management** in order to make cohesion policy more effective, but many stakeholders tended to be less positive about the **introduction of conditions** which are not directly related to the effectiveness of the Cohesion policy.

EC also introduced a better-functioning monitoring and evaluation systems linked to a **results-oriented approach to cohesion policy**. Stakeholders called for better qualitative and quantitative indicators, which are truly results-oriented and aligned with locally identified objectives. Stakeholders mentioned **environment, innovation and social inclusion** among the **main policy priorities** to be pursued. Stakeholders supported a greater **focus on urban territories** and regions facing particular **geographical and/or demographic challenges**, such as sparsely populated areas, cities, mountains, islands.



Development of macro-regional strategies was welcomed as a means to support such regions.

Local and regional authorities, the social partners and other organizations called for more and better **engagement with local stakeholders**, including civil society and the private sector, stronger involvement of target groups in designing measures and projects and better dialogue between all stakeholders.

The **audit** process should be more **transparent and simplified**. In order to maintain a high level of assurance on expenditure co-financed by EC, respondents called for a **proportionate and progressive system** of financial management (audit and control) which would **depend** both on **the size and cost of the project** and on the **proven reliability** of managing authorities in previous programming periods.

Respondents to the public consultation called for greater **flexibility and simplification of administrative rules** and greater **focus on the outputs and results of projects** was suggested in order to simplify management and control systems. With regard to **territorial cooperation programmes**, there were calls for greater **standardisation of rules and procedures**. Most contributors called for a **common set of rules for the Structural Funds** on eligibility of expenditure, audits, financial issues, use of standard costs, etc. Others simply called for clearer definition, application and interpretation of existing rules (mainly with regard to eligible expenditure).

Addressing the relationship between the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, regional and local authorities generally want to **maintain the current specific nature of the ESF**, in terms of its broad focus on employability, training and social inclusion, but without creating a different budget heading, and call for greater coordination of the ESF and the ERDF.

EC introduced a new **intermediate category of regions** be designed to accompany **regions** which have not completed their process of **catching up** which was welcomed by regional and local authorities, as long as this does not compromise the principle of cohesion policy support for all European regions. Nevertheless, some called for a more **flexible transition mechanism**, including a **gradual reduction of funding** with additional help for regions facing specific issues or special needs. Finally, some respondents to the public consultations suggested that other criteria beyond GDP should be adopted to identify intermediate regions.

## Short news from Brussels

### (Re)discover Croatia

An evening of cultural encounter was held by the European Movement (Belgium) and the Croatian Embassy on June 28<sup>th</sup> 2011. The programme was including short films «Croatia, 28<sup>o</sup> Member state of the European Union, a debate with the **Croatian Ambassador**, His Excellency **Boris Grigic** and **Dr. Bernard Snoy**, professor at the Institute of European Studies (UCL), plus a concert by the **violinist Daniel Kuzmin**.



### **Croatian Regions Office participated in 1<sup>st</sup> year meeting with Commissioner Hahn (DG REGIO)**

The first meeting of the year between the Commission's Regional Policy's department (DG REGIO) and representatives from regional offices in Brussels took place on 17 May. EU Regional Policy Commissioner Johannes Hahn presented his point of view on the preparations for the new legislative framework for Cohesion policy post 2013. This was followed by an open floor discussion.

### **Adriatic Ionian Initiative**

On May 23, the annual ministerial council of the Adriatic and Ionian Sea Macroregion took place at the Committee of the Regions. The ministers of coastal counties [Adriatic & Ionian Initiative \(AII\)](#) grouped to discuss the way forward the AII. They stressed the need for closer cooperation in the fields of security, transport and environmental protection, calling on all EU Institutions to bring in their political leverage and technical expertise.

The meeting brought together the EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and the foreign ministers or state secretaries of eight Adriatic and Ionian countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia.

Ministers adopted the "**Brussels declaration**", stating "formal acknowledgement of the strategy at the highest level" as their aim. In this context, they welcomed the conclusions of the EU council of Ministers of 13 April, which invited the Commission to clarify the concept of macroregional strategies and invited member states to continue to work on future strategies in cooperation with the European Commission.

Ministers underlined that a European strategy would be highly beneficial for the Adriatic countries that are not yet EU members. Such a move would "reaffirm that their future lies in the European Union" and would "allow them to advance on the path towards EU accession through a structured framework". A European strategy for the entire Adriatic-Ionian 'macroregion' must be launched right now, at a crucial time for defining priorities on future funding programmes for post-2013, as with cohesion policy".

Cooperation along these lines is already a reality in the Baltic and the Danube area. Last year, Committee of the Regions also proposed to extend this "macroregional" approach to the North Sea.

Committee of the Regions is currently drawing up an on the Adriatic-Ionian macroregion. The opinion is being prepared by (IT/ALDE), President of the Marche Region (Italy). The opinion is scheduled for adoption at the Committee of the Regions' plenary session on 11-12 October in Brussels.

### **EU budget 2014-2020 and cohesion policy**

The European Commission presented its proposals for a Multi-annual Financial Framework covering the period 2014-2020 on 29 June 2011.

The **Commission proposes to allocate €376 billion for the 2014-2020 period** for spending under cohesion policy instruments.



This amount comprises:

€162.6 billion for convergence regions,  
€38.9 billion for transition regions,  
€53.1 billion for competitiveness regions,  
€11.7 billion for territorial cooperation  
€68.7 billion for the Cohesion Fund

More information can be found here : [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/index_en.htm)

### **CAP's development in the next programming period**

In its proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 the European Commission stipulates the proposal to [reform](#) the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), in such way that it will be oriented toward **economic, ecological and social challenges for the EU**, as well as to the **contribution of agriculture for achieving the goals** of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The proposal points out that in future, not only will the agriculture budget be used to **increase agricultural productivity**, ensure a **fair standard of living** for the agricultural community, **stabilise markets, assure the availability of supplies** and ensure that they reach the consumer at **reasonable prices**, but it will also support the **sustainable management of natural resources and climate action** and support **balanced territorial development throughout Europe**.

The very philosophy of the agriculture policy is now being changed. For example, the funds for food safety are moved from heading I (sustainable growth) in heading III (citizenship, freedom, security and justice) stating that **food safety is part of Europe's common security**.

The great issue for the farmers is how will the approach to **direct payments** change. The significant novelty in the budget proposal is that **30% of direct aid will be provided under conditionality for "greening"**. This means that all **farmers will be obliged to introduce environmentally friendly practices**, which will vary according to the region. In future all "green" activities will be obligatory for farmers applying for direct payments.

During the programming period (2014-2020) member states with **direct payments below the level of 90% of EU average will receive a gradual increase of 1/3 from their current levels**. This will be proportionally financed by all member states with direct payments levels over EU average.

The same way the distribution of funds for rural areas will be changed on the basis of more objective criteria and better allocation according to policy's objectives. Besides, the Commission responds to the calls and will make a proposal to allow the transfer of funds between the first and the second pillar and vice versa.

Another novelty is that a **ceiling will be imposed on larger farmers**, as will be taken into account their structure and the employment they generate.

A big shift for the post-2013 period is envisaged for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The idea is that **EAFRD is included in the common strategic**



**framework of all structural funds** and in the contracts envisaged for all member states. The purpose is to emphasize on the territorial dimension of socio-economic development and the combination of all available funds for one joint contract for a specific project. Thus an opportunity will be given for a more **comprehensive approach to stimulate underdeveloped regions**.

The big news in the proposal for the new MFF is that CAP's share in terms of the overall budget has dropped. In the current MFF (2007-2013) CAP has a share of a little over 40%, in future its **share will drop below 40% (36%)**. For the **first pillar (direct payments)** the Commission proposes the allocation of **281.8bn euros** and **89.9bn euro for the second pillar (rural areas)**, for the entire period from 2014 to 2020.

Separately from these funds, **additional 15.2bn euros** is envisaged for **research on food safety, bio-economy and sustainable farming**; for food security (which is being transferred to heading III of the budget) and more in support of the most deprived persons in the EU, for the new crises reserve in the farming sector and for the European Globalisation Fund.

The total amount of the MFF in commitments is 1,025bn euros and 972bn euros in payments.

### **Budget of the Commission 2014-2020: 1,6 billion for "Creative Europe"**

The European Commission has published its budget proposal for the EU for the period 2014-2020 with €1.6 billion for the cultural sector. Published in the Communication "A Budget for Europe 2020" this proposals is the start of the negotiations between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union in order to adopt the next budgetary framework of the Union. The **Commission proposes to allocate €1.6 billion for the cultural sector** (current programmes for Culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus).

## **Calls for proposals**

### **Supporting Public Procurement Of Innovative Solutions: Networking And Financing Procurement**

#### **Deadline: 27-09-2011**

The present call for proposals aims at supporting public procurers in purchasing new and improved solutions, products and services in areas of grand societal challenges as defined by Innovation Union communication.

This objective is to be realised through establishing trans-national networks to enable Contracting Authorities (as defined by Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC) and organizations supporting innovation procurement:

- ⤴ to offset the additional risks and costs,
- ⤴ to collaborate to create a critical mass,
- ⤴ to test the feasibility and implementation modalities of a future EU support scheme.

The call for proposals has two strands:



- ▲ **Strand 1:** to develop public procurement of innovative solutions (preparation phase and implementation phase) It aims at:
  - Creating buyers groups dedicated to prepare for the procurement of innovative solutions (including needs assessment, market consultation (involvement of the supply chain (in particular European SMEs)), specification development, risk management), and the actual procurement process (including defining the conditions for the collaboration between contracting authorities, sharing resources in the evaluation of bids and related procedures, translations and publicising the calls for tender);
  - and, with the possibility to implement within the time-line of the project a public procurement of innovative solutions co-financed by the European Union; resulting in the first application / commercialisation of innovations of European Union relevance which have already been technically demonstrated with success but which, owing to residual risk, are not yet commercially available in the market in which the procurement authority operates. This includes solutions based on existing technologies that are to be utilised in a new and innovative way, as well as non-technological innovations. The solutions have to be new to the contracting authority and new to the Internal Market.
- ▲ **Strand 2:** to create and run a European platform dedicated to "public procurement as tool for innovation".

It aims at developing a European platform to support the use of public procurement as tool for innovation policy, aiming in particular at making widely available know-how on public procurement procedures for innovation procurement (e.g. PPI & PCP), and state-of-the-art solutions accessible to other procurers.

The two strands will complement national and regional efforts by adding a European dimension through mutual learning and concrete actions.

**The deadline** for the submission of proposals to strand 1 and strand 2 is **27/09/2011**.

more information can be found on the following link :

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/\\_getdocument.cfm?doc\\_id=6624](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/_getdocument.cfm?doc_id=6624)

### **Grant for SMEs: Fuel cells and hydrogen research projects**

#### **Deadline: 18-08-2011**

The European Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan has identified fuel cells and hydrogen among the technologies needed to put Europe on the path towards sustainable growth, as stated in the Europe 2020 strategy.

Specifically, Europe is aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, boost the share of renewables in the energy mix and slash primary energy use.

More information : [ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/calls/cooperation/jti/y-gfafch-201105\\_en.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/calls/cooperation/jti/y-gfafch-201105_en.pdf)



### **EAC/01/2011 - European Policy Network on the education of children and young people with a migrant background**

**Deadline: 14-10-2011**

The purpose of this call is to strengthen cross-European collaboration between high level decision makers, academics and practitioners for raising the educational attainment of children and young people with a migrant background. The call aims to support the establishment of a European network to analyse, develop and exchange policy and practice in the area. This call for proposals is open to ministries of education, other public bodies, research centres and universities, foundations and associations. More information :

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:183:0019:0019:EN:PDF>

### **EAC/13/2011 - European Policy Network on the Implementation of Key Competences in School Education**

**Deadline: 30-09-2011**

This call for Proposals will support the implementation of the 2006 Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning. It will do so by addressing in particular the issues raised by the 2009 Communication "Key Competences for a Changing World" that takes stock of the state of play of the implementation of the Recommendation, and suggests areas for further work.

This call for proposal is open to ministries of education and other public bodies, such as those responsible for curricula, teacher education, assessment and evaluation, research centres and universities, foundations and associations with legal personality and a registered office in one of the countries taking part in the Lifelong Learning Programme. More information : <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:180:0025:0026:EN:PDF>

### **Selection procedure for DG Interpretation bursaires**

**Deadline: 15-09-2011**

More information : [http://scic.ec.europa.eu/europa/jcms/c\\_6053/study-bursary](http://scic.ec.europa.eu/europa/jcms/c_6053/study-bursary)

### **EACEA/17/2011**

#### **Action 4.3 — Youth Support Systems — Enhancing youth workers' learning mobility and youth work support to unemployed young people**

**Deadline: 01-09-2011**

The purpose of this call for proposals is to support youth workers' mobility and exchanges with a view to promoting the acquisition of new skills and competences in order to enrich their profile as professionals in the youth field.

By promoting long-term transnational learning experiences for youth workers, this new action will also aim at strengthening the capacities of the structures involved in the project, which will benefit from the experience and new perspective brought by a youth worker from a different background.

In doing so, this call will enhance networking among youth structures in Europe and will contribute to the policy priority to support, recognise and professionalize youth work as a cross-cutting policy tool in Europe.



Furthermore, this call shall contribute to encouraging the development of innovative approaches or methods through which youth workers can support unemployed young people in gaining the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence to enter the labour market.

More information : <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:165:0007:0011:EN:PDF>

### **PROGRESS N° VP/2011/005**

#### **Public Employment Services & Private Employment services working together PARES (PARTnerships between Employment Services)**

**Deadline: 17-08-2011**

PARES purpose is to bring together all employment services in order to improve the co-operation between them and to further define the fields in which they can deliver complementary services. Recently some EU Member States have started to further liberalise the provision of services to jobseekers and have extended the role of private actors in the delivery of public employment assistance programmes. PARES does not aim to further increase the competitive pressure among employment services. In fact it should focus on how the cooperation can be further improved and how the complementarity of their service offers can be further developed. PARES does not aim at changing/revising the regulatory framework for the provision of employment services.

PARES is an important accompanying measure in the Commission's flagship initiative "An agenda for new skills and jobs" to support flexicurity. More information :

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=307&furtherCalls=yes>

### **PROGRESS N°VP/2011/007 innovative policies to support healthy, active and dignified ageing and raise the effectiveness and efficiency of spending on social, health and long-term care services and benefits**

**Deadline: 26-09-2011**

This call for proposals seeks to promote the sustainability and quality of health and long-term care provision for the elderly through healthy and active ageing. It aims at helping Member States achieve the objectives defined within the open method of coordination applied to social protection and social inclusion (the 'social OMC') in the European Union. The objectives of this call for proposals are to provide financial support to projects aimed at designing better policies for healthy, active and dignified ageing in the countries participating in PROGRESS.

Projects may focus on different stages of policy development ranging from the identification of potential benefits of healthy and active ageing for sustainable social protection and social cohesion in ageing societies to the design of new policies, their implementation and evaluation. Particular attention should be paid to specifically vulnerable social groups and to parts of the EU where poor health is most prevalent (as assessed by measures such as healthy life expectancy) and where many people are at risk of not receiving appropriate care for a life in dignity. More information :

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=316&furtherCalls=yes>

### **PROGRESS N° VP/2011/010 PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES**

**Deadline: 29-07-2011**

The main objectives are to encourage mutual learning at all levels and enhance transferability of the 2 most effective policies to: 1) implement the skills dimension of the



flagship initiative "An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs" and 2) implement the flagship initiative "Youth on the Move". More information :

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=306&furtherCalls=yes>

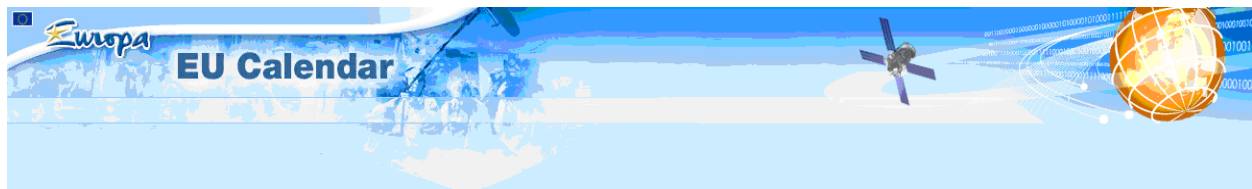
### Europe for Citizens

**Deadline: 01-09-2011, 30-09-2011, 15-10-2011**

Action 1 Measure 1.1 Town-Twinning Citizens' meetings, Phase 3

Action 1 Measure 1.2 Networks of Twinned Towns, Phase 2

More information : [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/funding/2011/index\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/funding/2011/index_en.php)



### Innovation for stronger regions: opportunities in FP7

14.07.2011 to 14.07.2011, Committee of the Regions, Brussels

Aim of the conference is to raise awareness in the regions of **the forthcoming FP7 calls to be published later in July**. The main purpose of this event is fourfold: encourage new local/regional actors to get acquainted with the framework programme; provide an opportunity for more established actors to share their experience with other regions, so as to mutually learn how regions are developing their research/innovation capacities and supporting business engagement in European research/innovation programmes; stimulate new partnerships between regions with shared or complementary research/innovation capabilities; inspire learning and sharing ideas on new thinking, such as smart specialisation, and how this may affect regional approaches to research and innovation.

### FP7 transport information days

18.07.2011 to 19.07.2011, Charlemagne building, Brussels

The next round of **calls for proposals for transport research under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) will be published at the end of July 2011**.

In order to support the preparation of project proposals, the European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation will organise two 'Information Days' on 18 and 19 July 2011 in the Charlemagne building, Rue de la Loi 170, in Brussels.

The aim of the two-day event is to inform potential researchers about FP7 and the new transport calls for proposals under the 'Co-operation' programme. Details will be given on the main legal and procedural conditions.

### Relaunching the TEN-T: towards a sustainable EU transport policy

20.07.2011 to 20.07.2011, Warsaw, Poland

This conference organised in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure aims to gather all the relevant stakeholders from Poland and the EU to look at the issues of trans-European mobility, sustainability and efficiency, in particular regarding new objectives, the financing, the role of new technologies and the implementation. It will assess whether the provisions of the White Paper are sufficient to ensure a rapid and successful implementation of the TEN-T policy.



The conference is a follow-up to an EESC exploratory opinion on Sustainable development of the EU transport policy and planning for TEN-T prepared by EESC Vice-President Jacek Krawczyk at the request of the upcoming Polish presidency of the EU and adopted on 15 June 2011.

### **European and national strategies for service innovation: conference**

06.09.2011 to 07.09.2011, Hamburg, Germany

The aim of the 2nd EPISIS Conference is to contribute to a better understanding of service innovation policy and to provide European, national and regional policy makers and stakeholders with more knowledge on service innovation as a driver of value creation.

The conference will build on the latest theory and policies on service innovation, company cases and best practice in policy making from all over Europe, and discuss issues like how to promote value creation, how is service innovation linked to economic growth in advanced economies and what are the main challenges of establishing specific service innovation instruments and strategies.

### **European day of languages**

26.09.2011, Europe

Every year, 26 September is the day we celebrate Europe's rich linguistic heritage – the EU's 23 official languages, the 60 or so regional/minority languages, and the languages spoken by people who've come to Europe from other parts of the world.

### **EuroPCom 2011 – "Share (y)our voice"**

19-20.2011. Brussels

This is the second edition of **EuroPCom**, the European conference on public communication. Please visit [www.cor.europa.eu/europcom](http://www.cor.europa.eu/europcom) for all details about the conference and an online **registration** form.

On the website you will find a first overview of speakers and workshop panellists. Over 40 experts have confirmed their participation so far, presenting their experiences and long term insights in themes such as branding, social media, press relations and EU communication. Among the key note speakers are **Simon Anholt**, independent policy advisor on strategy and communications, **Jean-Marie Dru**, chairman of TBWA Worldwide and **Philippe Cayla**, CEO of Euronews.

### **Green Electronics 2011**

8-10.11., Bucharest, Romania

#### **Workshop "Resource Efficiency in the Electric and Electronics Industry"**

Still every day future shortages of several resources (e.g. export bans of rare earth materials, record prices for several metals, ...) are in the news. **How can industry respond to this threat and secure its future business?**

What are major sectors and players already doing to substitute and/or recover those critical materials?

What are the trends in research and innovation? How can we collect more End-of-Life products?

These are some of the questions that will be discussed during the workshop! Leading experts from **producers (HP, ICL, Nokia, Panasonic), branch associations (Plastics Europe, European Flame Retardant Association), WEEE systems**



(EcologyNet Europe, ECOTIC, elektrowin, Recolamp, WEEE Forum), public authorities (European Commission, Romanian Ministry for Environment) and academia will share their views and by that kick-off the discussion.

It is already possible to register at [www.care-electronics.net/greenelectronics](http://www.care-electronics.net/greenelectronics) – Please keep the **pre-registration discount** and the **hotel reservation until September 15, 2011** in mind.

### Smart2Wheels

22.09.2011., Brussels

On the 22nd September in Brussels on the occasion of Mobility Week, ETRA (The European Twowheel Retailers' Association) and Forum Europe, in association with the Netherlands Embassy to the EU, The European Greens and UEAPME, will host the "Smart2Wheels" event.

The day will feature an exhibition of innovative cycling products, bicycles and other two-wheelers on the Esplanade outside the European Parliament (to be confirmed) followed by a half-day debate at the Netherlands Embassy. This debate will focus on the beneficial impact of cycling on European cities and on their citizens' health.

The purpose of the day will be to highlight and to discuss the economic and social effects of promoting 2Wheels as a sustainable mobility solution.

To view the provisional conference programme and to register, please click here: [www.smart2wheels.eu](http://www.smart2wheels.eu)

### Contact

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