

# BRUSSELS' PULSE #6

## NEWS

### **NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Portugal's €16.6 billion recovery and resilience plan**

Last June 16th, the European Commission has adopted a positive assessment of Portugal's recovery and resilience plan. This is an important step towards the EU disbursing €13.9 billion in grants and €2.7 billion in loans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) over the period 2021-2026. This financing will support the implementation of the crucial investment and reform measures outlined in Portugal's recovery and resilience plan. It will play a key role in enabling Portugal to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic. More: [here](#)

### **The European Commission has adopted the main work programme of Horizon Europe for the period 2021-2022**

The Commission has adopted the main work programme of Horizon Europe for the period 2021-2022, which outlines the objectives and specific topic areas that will receive a total of €14.7 billion in funding. These investments will help accelerate the green and digital transitions and will contribute to sustainable recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and to EU resilience against future crises. They will support European researchers through fellowships, training and exchanges, build more connected and efficient European innovation ecosystems and create world-class research infrastructures. Moreover, they will encourage participation across Europe and from around the world, while at the same time strengthening the European Research Area. More: [here](#)

## Agriculture

### **Public Consultation: Conversion to a Farm Sustainability Data Network**

This initiative will expand the scope of the current network collecting data on EU farms to include data on their environmental and social practices. With this new data collection, it will be possible to benchmark farm performance and give farmers tailored advice and guidance. This will improve the sustainability of farmers, including their incomes, in line with the objectives of the common agricultural policy, the Green Deal and its farm to fork and biodiversity strategies. Feedback will be taken into account for further development and fine tuning of the initiative. The Commission will summarise the input received in a synopsis report explaining how the input will be taken on board and, if applicable, why certain suggestions can't be taken up. More: [here](#)

### **Public Consultation: Agricultural products – revision of EU marketing standards**

EU marketing standards for agricultural products ensure a high level of quality. However, some standards are now outdated or may hinder efforts to make the food system more efficient and sustainable. This initiative aims to update these standards to: encourage the supply of more sustainable products to consumers; simplify current legislation, which uses several legal instruments; align EU rules with requirements under the Lisbon Treaty. More: [here](#)

## **Industry**

### **Hydrogen: Commission presents guide on public funding opportunities for hydrogen projects**

The Commission presented, the Hydrogen Public Funding Compass, an online guide to public funding instruments at EU and national level, supporting renewable and low-carbon hydrogen projects. The guide helps stakeholders identify relevant programmes and funds and find out which projects they can finance, what type of funding is available and which conditions apply. More: [here](#)

### **Business Planet: The superhighway built from paper waste instead of cement**

Business Planet heads to Spain to look at a pioneering construction project that's using waste paper instead of cement to build a highway. More: [here](#)

## **Education**

### **Education: EU increases its commitment to Global Partnership for Education with a pledge of €700 million for 2021-2027**

Ahead of the G7 Summit, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced today that the European Union is pledging €700 million for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to help transform education systems for more than one billion girls and boys in up to 90 countries and territories. More: [here](#)

### **Public Consultation: Education for a greener, more sustainable Europe: Share your ideas!**

The aim of the consultation is to gather input and ideas for a proposal for a Council Recommendation on education for environmental sustainability, to be adopted by the Commission in late 2021. The Recommendation will set out the key challenges for integrating sustainability into education and will recommend a series of actions for education and training providers and policymakers. More: [here](#)

## Culture

### **EY Study on European Cultural and Creative Industries**

Cultural and creative industries (CCIs) are much more than just another sector to get out of the crisis, they are a significant part of Europe's solution to the current situation and its economic and social consequences. This new study from EY, called Rebuilding Europe: the cultural and creative economy before and after COVID-19, captures the figures behind Europe's thriving cultural and creative economy before the pandemic, and the staggering effects of venue and shop closures and health measures. It also lays out a series of recommendations to empower CCIs, so they can be one of the drivers to help boost and revamp the EU economy. More: [here](#)

### **Creative Europe launches call to support publication of literary translations**

Individual organisations or members of consortia can apply for the call for proposals to support the circulation of European literary works. With a budget of €5 million, this call will support projects that will translate, publish, distribute, promote a package of minimum 5 works of fiction (novels, poetry, comics etc.). More: [here](#)

## Environment

### **Public Consultation: Law Revision of the plant and forest reproductive material legislation**

This initiative aims at revising the plant and forest reproductive material legislation to align it with the political objectives of the Green Deal and its Farm to Fork, Biodiversity, EU Climate Adaptation, European Digital and new EU Forest Strategies. It aims to remove barriers for the internal market and support technical developments, the creation of sustainable and climate-resilient agri-food systems and forests, the conservation of biodiversity and of plant and forest genetic resources. More: [here](#)

### **Forest fires: European Commission is stepping up its preparations for the forest fire season 2021**

To be prepared for any large-scale wild fires this season, the European Commission has set up a strengthened European fleet of 11 firefighting planes and 6 helicopters hosted across Member States under the rescEU system. The Commission also issued guidelines to Member States to strengthen their fire prevention measures. More: [here](#)

## Health

### **European guidelines on breast cancer screening and diagnosis**

ECIBC has developed evidence-based practice guidelines for breast cancer screening and diagnosis including recommendations intended to optimise patient care. Each recommendation contains information specifically tailored to women and healthcare professionals, as well as decision-makers. More: [here](#)

## **Emerging stronger from the pandemic: acting on the early lessons learnt**

European Commission is presenting a Communication on the early lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 18 months and building on them to improve action at EU and national level. This will help to better anticipate public health risks and enhance contingency planning leading to swifter and more effective joint responses at all levels. More: [here](#)

## **Digital**

### **European Commission proposes a trusted and secure Digital Identity for all Europeans**

European Commission proposed a framework for a European Digital Identity which will be available to all EU citizens, residents, and businesses in the EU. Citizens will be able to prove their identity and share electronic documents from their European Digital Identity wallets with the click of a button on their phone. They will be able to access online services with their national digital identification, which will be recognised throughout Europe. Very large platforms will be required to accept the use of European Digital Identity wallets upon request of the user, for example to prove their age. Use of the European Digital Identity wallet will always be at the choice of the user. More: [here](#)

### **New EU copyright rules that will benefit creators, businesses and consumers start to apply**

Monday 7 June marks the deadline for Member States to transpose the new EU copyright rules into national law. The new Copyright Directive protects creativity in the digital age, bringing concrete benefits to citizens, the creative sectors, the press, researchers, educators and cultural heritage institutions across the EU. At the same time, the new Directive on television and radio programmes will make it easier for European broadcasters to make certain programmes on their online services available across borders. Furthermore, today, the Commission has published its guidance on Article 17 of the new Copyright Directive, which provides for new rules on content-sharing platforms. More: [here](#)

## **Maritime**

### **Public Consultation: Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU – state of play and orientations for 2022**

This initiative reports on the implementation of the common fisheries policy, including progress in: achieving sustainable fisheries, assessing the state of fish stocks balancing fleet capacity and fishing opportunities. It also launches a public consultation on fixing fishing opportunities for 2022. More: [here](#)

### **Council adopts conclusions on the EU's intention to increase its role as a global maritime security provider**

The Council has adopted conclusions on the EU's intention to increase its role as a global maritime security provider. The EU depends on safe, clean and secure oceans and seas for all types of activities. The Council highlighted that climate change and environmental degradation have increasing implications for international stability, including maritime security and maritime infrastructure, and require an urgent

collective response. Further research is needed on the impact of climate change on maritime security.. The Council welcomed the development of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for maritime surveillance, asking the Commission to continue its efforts to develop this initiative in cooperation with Member States and the relevant EU agencies. The conclusions underline that sea-dumped munitions and unexploded ordnance pose a high risk to the environment, human health and economic activities at sea and should be given further attention. More: [here](#)

## Mobility

### **Public Consultation: A Drone strategy 2.0 for Europe to foster sustainable and smart mobility**

The EU needs to ensure the safe and efficient development of a drone ecosystem. In its Sustainable and Smart Mobility strategy, the Commission announced its plan to adopt a Drone strategy 2.0 in 2022 to develop drones into a vector for the smart and sustainable mobility of the future. This initiative aims to enable drones to contribute, through digitalisation and automation, to a new offer of sustainable services and transport, while accounting for possible civil/military technological synergies. More: [here](#)

### **Public Consultation: Vehicle safety – data collection rules for vehicle checks (market surveillance)**

Regulation 2018/858 introduces strict market surveillance obligations on EU countries and allows the Commission and third parties to carry out checks on vehicles (market surveillance). These ensure that vehicles and equipment do not endanger health, safety or the environment. Have your say! More: [here](#)

## Cities

### **How to set up your own "EU City Facility" - Guidebook**

The EU City Facility (EUCF) provides financial and technical support to cities and towns in developing an investment concept for local sustainable energy. Could this model be replicated at national or regional level? In a guidebook published just last week, Energy Cities explains why and how this model should be replicated to set up your own EUCF at regional or national level! A City Facility is both a pool of financial and technical experts to support local governments when designing a project and a grant allocation mechanism to give them the resources to describe their investment needs. It bridges the gap between the many wonderful ideas emerging at the local level and the existing funding streams to support their development by joining the world of finance and cities. More: [here](#)

### **Fiscal sustainability: Conclusions on challenges arising from an ageing population**

The Council today approved conclusions on the fiscal sustainability challenges arising from an ageing population. The conclusions draw on the main findings of the 2021 ageing report and call on member states to address the economic and budgetary consequences of ageing. The conclusions stress that ageing populations pose a significant challenge for the long-term sustainability of public finances. The Council notes that government debt levels have risen due to the COVID-19 crisis and that they are expected to stay high

for some time. At the same time, it underlines that premature withdrawal of fiscal support should be avoided to preserve longer-term fiscal sustainability. More: [here](#)

## EVENTS

### **The Brussels Economic Forum**

The Brussels Economic Forum is the flagship annual economic event of the European Commission. Every year the event gathers together high-level European and international policymakers, opinion leaders, influential academics, civil society and business leaders to identify key upcoming challenges and debate policy priorities for the European economy. This year the Forum celebrates its 20th anniversary in the exceptional economic circumstances caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and in order to ensure the health and safety of the audience, speakers and staff, #EUBEF20 has been transformed into a digital event. More: [here](#)

### **CONNECT University Summer School 2021 | Digital for our Planet**

The current changes in the planet's climate are transforming our world. An understanding of the climate emergency and its future implications is imperative for the future of Europe. With the aim of empowering people to a human-centered, sustainable and more prosperous digital future, CONNECT University is organising from 21 June until 2 July a special sixth edition of Summer School that aims to share knowledge and information about the way climate change is interconnected with digital transformation. High-level experts coming from the EU Institutions, industry, academia will present cutting-edge innovations addressing how can digital technologies be harnessed to tackle climate change, both in terms of a greener digital system, as well as their role in helping reducing carbon emissions across industries. More: [here](#)

### **AU-EU-UK research collaborations: emerging opportunities and prior learning**

The resilience of water and food systems to natural and human-induced shocks is one of the most significant challenges facing societies across the world. Across the African Union (AU) the nexus of population growth, economic development and climatic change creates a particularly acute challenge.. Through this event, on the 6 July 2021. we wish to share emerging lessons on themes of resilience, water security and multinational interdisciplinary research partnerships in the context of UK and EU funding programmes. We will hear from existing projects and learn from previous programmes promoting resilience in ODA contexts. With a focus on practical examples of AU-EU-UK collaborations the event will share knowledge of past activities, future potentials and the opportunities emerging from national and European Union funding programmes. The event is intended to raise awareness and to build prospective research communities. More: [here](#)

### **Horizon Europe Info days**

The 10-day event will give prospective applicants and other stakeholders of EU research and innovation the opportunity to get information and ask questions about main funding instruments, processes of Horizon Europe and what is new. The Horizon Europe Info days will be open for participation without prior registration (except for Cluster 3 - Civil Security for Society). More: [here](#)

### **InterregEurope: GPP4Growth High Political Event**

Final dissemination event gathering executives and policymakers from the regions to share project achievements and disseminate the results of the GPP4Growth action plan implementation, hosted by Lombardy Region. The event will focus on political contributions regarding Green Public Procurement for eco-innovation, resource efficiency, and green growth from all 9 partners of the project. Furthermore, the event will host interventions from experts in this sector and some of the most important best practices will be presented. More: [here](#)

## **CALLS**

### **BlueInvest Readiness Assistance: Business Development Opportunities for Blue Economy Companies**

Until July 30, 2021, startups and SMEs in the blue economy sector will have the opportunity to benefit from the BlueInvest Readiness Assistance service. High-potential companies and projects with innovative and sustainable products and solutions for the blue economy will be able to apply and be selected for a 3-month coaching service specifically tailored to their business objectives. Up to 200 companies will be selected and will receive feedback on their level of investment readiness and a proposal for a coaching package. Each participant will be paired with a dedicated business coach, with whom they will work to develop a set of business goals through one-on-one sessions both in-person and online. In addition, participants will benefit from additional training through events held at the BlueInvest Academy, networking sessions, and B2B matchmaking at BlueInvest events.

**Deadline date 30 July 2021 17:00:00** Brussels time.

More: [here](#)

### **HORIZON-EIC HORIZON EIC Grants**

Novel routes to green hydrogen production. The development of efficient, sustainable and flexible energy systems is a key challenge for Europe's energy decarbonisation and a cornerstone of Europe's 2050 climate-neutrality goal, set out in the European Green Deal. To achieve such viable energy system, a particular support should be given to solutions aimed at increasing lifetime and decrease the cost of the overall system. In this context, Hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) has the potential to contribute to the above-mentioned objectives.

**Deadline date: 27 October 2021 17:00:00** Brussels time.

More: [here](#)

### **European Networks of Cultural and Creative Organisations (CREA-CULT-2021-NET)**

The support to European Networks of Cultural and Creative Organisations action intends to enhance the capacities of European cultural and creative sectors to face common challenges and nurture talents, innovate, prosper and generate jobs and growth. This action will support projects implemented by highly representative, multi-country, membership-based networks of European cultural organisations, which cover a wide range of Creative Europe participating countries[1]. Networks must have a shared mission, governance rules, and members' rights and obligations, as formally specified (in "statutes" or equivalent) and agreed upon by its members. Networks should be composed of a coordinating entity and its members.

**Deadline date 26 August 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time.**

More: [here](#)

### **HORIZON-MSCA-2022-CITIZENS-01-01**

European Researchers' Night 2022-2023The European Researchers' Night takes place every year, on the last Friday of September[1]. It supports events that can last up to two days: they can start on Friday and continue the following day. Pre-events, prior to the main event, and related post-events, such as wrap-up meetings or small-scale follow-up events can also be organized. For 2022 call, applicants are encouraged to focus on, and include activities relating to, priorities identified by the Missions in their events.Partnerships and coordination at regional, national or cross-border levels will be strongly encouraged aiming at a good geographical spread and avoiding overlaps. Activities carried out in non-associated third countries are not eligible for funding.

**Deadline date 07 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time**

More: [here](#)

### **HORIZON-INFRA-2021-SERV-01-03**

Research infrastructures services for responding to climate-related risks on the environment. Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes: enhanced and increased society's long-term and consistent problem-solving capacity and evidence-based policy making in areas of climate-related risks, risk management, health and green transition, including a better understanding of socio-economic implications, through the provision of innovative, customised and efficient RI services;enhanced and integrated cross-disciplinary R&I capacities addressing climate related-risks in Europe and in particular support relevant R&I objectives of Horizon Europe clusters, missions or partnerships;harmonisation of data policies and management of IPRs and ethical issues; interoperability across disciplines and with risk management platforms;researchers in the environment and climate change able to optimally exploit the research infrastructure services relevant for their research.

**Deadline date 23 September 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time**

More: [here](#)

**“... and more”**

## **EU Disability Strategy: Time to translate words into action**

Rooted in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which was the first international treaty to take a human rights approach to disability, the EU Disability Strategy for the next decade is a promising document with many commendable proposals and only a few flaws. But for the strategy to be able to live up to its promise of ending discrimination against 87 million European with disabilities, its implementation will require a strong political will and resources. More: [here](#)

---

**Editor:** Valentina Russo

### **Alentejo / Europe Initiative**

Alentejo EU in Brussels: Rue Luxemburg 3, 1000 Brussels

Follow with: @AlentejoO #AlentejoInBrussels

---