

EUROPE DIRECT

Weekly Guidelines for the EUROPE DIRECT centres

Video message from Alessandro Giordani

TO KEEP YOU IN THE BIG PICTURE

Next Generation EU (NGEU) is now an irreversible reality: All Member States have ratified the Own Resources Decision linked to the possibility for the Commission to raise resources on the market with the guarantee of the EU budget. This opens the door, if everything goes well, for the 750 billion of [NGEU](#) to start flowing in July. The [back story](#).

European Public Prosecutor's office (EPPO) starts work on 1 June - the first-ever independent EU office to investigate and prosecute crimes affecting the EU budget: The EPPO will be in charge of conducting investigations and prosecutions for crimes against the EU budget. It is the first supranational prosecution office. The EPPO has a Central Office in Luxembourg made up of one European Prosecutor per each participating Member State and other staff, headed by Laura Kövesi. In addition, European Delegated Prosecutors located in the Member States form an integral part of the independent body. Here is [more](#).



European Union, Source: EC Audiovisual Service, Laura Kövesi 17/10/2019, P-041423/00-02, Photographer: Xavier Lejeune

Commission proposes update to travel measures: The Commission has proposed an [update](#) to the [Council Recommendation](#) on the coordination of free movement restrictions in the EU, which were put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission is proposing that Member States gradually ease travel measures, including most importantly for the holders of the [EU Digital COVID Certificate](#).

CALL FOR ACTION THIS WEEK ...

Let people know that NGEU is now irreversibly on track and an unprecedented amount of resources for recovery is on its way: Explain that NGEU is a real change of paradigm for EU integration. As of now, the Commission will go on the market to raise public debt for Europe based on the EU budget. This is not “yet another” EU programme, this is an enabler for national recovery and resilience plans to put the continent back on track after the pandemic.

Talk about the first supranational public prosecution office. This is also a unique milestone in the European integration, so let’s tell the story!

Act right now, and join us in spreading the news about the update proposed by the Commission on the EU Digital COVID Certificate. People love to hear stories with tangible impact on their lives. This is just about that.



European Union 2020, Source: EC Audiovisual Service, 18/07/2020, P-044620/00-80, Photographer: Lukasz Kobus

Conference on the Future of Europe: Your role

With more than 15 000 participants, 700 events and 400 ideas received to date, the digital platform clearly shows that citizens' engagement is becoming a reality.

The digital platform is not meant to host the views of a select few; it is designed to give a voice to the broad layers of society. So, the time is ripe to reach out as widely as possible.

A recent study suggests that **women** and **young people** are not well represented.

To our hub EUROPE DIRECT: Check out your lists with stakeholders (then ones you submitted to us) and make an extra effort to reach these two groups. To all EUROPE DIRECT: Don't hesitate to give these two categories an extra boost! According to the study, there are significant margins of improvement in citizens' participation in Poland. We count on our Polish centres for an extra effort.

And last, encourage your audiences to leave proposals and try to set up events that result in concrete ideas and proposals to feed into the platform.

·**Citizens' event on 17/06** - A European citizens' event, also in the framework of the Conference, will be held on 17 June 2021 in Lisbon, and livestreamed online. This will be composed of 27 representatives, one per EU country, from national Citizens' Panels or national events, as well as the President of the European Youth Forum and a number of the citizens already selected for the European-level Citizens' Panels

·**First Plenary on 19/06** - The inaugural CoFE plenary will take place on 19 June at the EP in Strasbourg, with remote and physical participation, and will include presentations on the European Citizens' Panels and on the digital platform.

Watch out:

Smarp is an app that will help you identify and share great content with citizens via your social media accounts (FB, Twitter, Insta, LinkedIn). It will help you strengthen your social media outreach. Posts are mostly prepared in English, but content creation is increasingly available in other EU languages. The Smarp App will feed you with relevant news on COVID-19, the Green Deal, Digital Europe and many other EU flagship policies. Look out for an email with a personal invitation link that would be sent from the app: "EU on Smarp –via Smarp".