

# EUROPE DIRECT

*Weekly Guidelines for the EUROPE DIRECT centres*

## Video message from Alessandro Giordani

### TO KEEP YOU IN THE BIG PICTURE

**The NEXT generation:** Commission starts NextGenEU corporate campaign: On 16 June, the Commission will launch the [NextGenerationEU](#) corporate campaign for European citizens. The launch happens as the Commission President begins a series of visits to the Member States. It follows the political launch in May. This new phase of the campaign will target young people aged 16-24, otherwise known as GenZ, and over the coming months, the target audience will be widened to include all Europeans.

**A job well done: EU institutions clear the way for the EU Digital COVID Certificate:** Yesterday, the Presidents of the three EU institutions, Parliament, Council of the EU and the Commission attended the [official signing ceremony](#) for the Regulation on the EU Digital COVID Certificate, marking the end of the legislative process. The Regulation was agreed between the institutions in the record time of 62 days. With this final step, the EU shows its strong commitment to bringing back a Europe without borders.

**Investing in people: On 8 June the Parliament gave its final green light to the new Social Fund +, for the period 2021-2027.** The Fund, worth €99,3 billion (current prices), integrates the former European Social Fund, [the Youth Employment Initiative](#), [the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived](#) and [the EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation](#) into one fund. The Fund will play an important role in addressing the adverse socio-economic impact of the pandemic. It will offer more ambitious funding for investing in youth employment and combating child poverty. Here is the [story](#).

**Building bridges - transatlantic summits in Brussels: On 14 and 15 June, the EU is meeting two of its most important partners.** The [meeting](#) between the Commission President and Council President, accompanied by High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell with the US President is on 15 June. It will be joined by Executive Vice-Presidents Margrethe Vestager and Valdis Dombrovskis. On the menu: a wide range of issues, including response to the coronavirus pandemic, sustainable recovery and climate action, cooperation on technology and the digital transition, relations with China and Russia, and the need to promote democracy and human rights worldwide.



European Union 2021, Source: EC Audiovisual Service, Ursula von der Leyen, 15/06/2021, P-051298/00-42, Photographer: Dati Bendo

**Looking into the future:** President von der Leyen charts next steps to get out of the pandemic. In a [speech](#) given at the Parliament on 9 June the Commission President shared with the MEPs the takeaways from the G20 summit on health in Rome and from the special meeting of the European Council. She focused on landmark initiatives at the G7 in Cornwall and the meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden in Brussels. The dominant strands: renewal of the transatlantic alliance, fair access to vaccines with specific focus on low- and middle-income countries and a shared commitment to the green and digital transition.

## CALL FOR ACTION THIS WEEK ...

**Don't fail to promote the launch of the [NextGenerationEU](#) corporate campaign.** The campaign marks the beginning of a “once in a lifetime chance to emerge stronger from the pandemic, transform our economies and societies, and design a Europe that works for everyone”. **Ignite the interest of GenZ**, and reach out to the rest of your audiences. You'll soon find more information about NextGenerationEU-funded projects in your area, so **stay tuned!**

**Tell people that the EU has delivered on its promise to help people travel safely again.** The EU Digital COVID Certificate is [becoming a reality](#), and all this thanks to the extraordinary efforts put in by the EU.



European Union 2021, Source: EC Audiovisual Service, EU Digital COVID Certificate signing ceremony with **António Costa**, **Ursula von der Leyen** and **David Sassoli**, 14/06/2021, P-051339/00-15, Photographer: Dati Bendo

## Conference on the Future of Europe: Your role

On 19 June, 9:00-13:30, the inaugural plenary will be held in Strasbourg. Links to the [agenda](#) and [live stream on Ebs](#). Here is what you may want to know on the **workings of the plenaries along the life of the Conference**: It will debate and discuss the recommendations from the national and European Citizens' Panels, and the input from the online platform, and put forward its proposals to the Executive Board, which shall then draw up a report, to be published. It will be composed of representatives from the Parliament, the Council and the Commission, as well as representatives from all national Parliaments on an equal footing, and citizens. Representatives from the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee, social partners, and civil society will also participate.

## Looking ahead

**Next College meeting**: Joint Communication on **EU-Russia relations**; Drawing the early lessons from the **COVID-19 pandemic**, 2nd phase consultation of social partners on possible action addressing the challenges related to working conditions in **platform work**, Outcome of the **G7 Summit**; **16-18/06**: President's von der Leyen visits 5 Member States (**PT**, **ES** on 16/06, **EL**, **DK** on 17/06 & **LU** on 18/06) in relation to the Recovery Plan NextGenerationEU and the assessment of national recovery and resilience plans.