

EUROPE DIRECT

Weekly Guidelines for the EUROPE DIRECT centres

Video message from Alessandro Giordani

TO KEEP YOU IN THE BIG PICTURE

An incredible journey: First borrowing operation under the NextGenerationEU brings over €20 billion to finance Europe's recovery. On 15 June the Commission raised €20 billion to finance Europe's recovery from the coronavirus crisis. This is the largest amount the EU has raised in a single transaction. The positive assessment given by the Commission to the recovery and resilience plans of Greece, Spain, Portugal, Denmark and Luxembourg were followed by official visits of the Commission President to hand-deliver the plans. Austria, Slovakia, Latvia, Germany, Italy, Belgium and France were next on the list. Here is [more](#).

You may recall that we talked about the launch of the NextGenerationEU campaign for European citizens, targeting the 16 – 24 year olds in the previous edition. Here is a fresh manifesto [movie](#) plus the campaign [website](#).



EU 2021, Source: EC AV Service, Ursula von der Leyen and Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, Lithuania, 22/06/21, P-051391/00-09, Photographer: Dati Bendo



EU 2021, Source: EC AV Service, Ursula von der Leyen and Sebastian Kurz, Austria, 21/06/21, P-051390/00-34 Photographer: Dati Bendo

In good health: EU starts ambitious funding programme for health, paving the way towards a strong European Health Union. Starting 18 June, [EU4Health](#) will fund more modern and resilient health systems, interventions to shore up our preparedness against health crises and more decisive EU action in the fight against cancer. The first annual work programme of EU4Health will provide €312 million for crisis preparedness, disease prevention, health systems and the healthcare workforce, and digitalisation.

No one left behind: New initiatives to ease the plight of refugees see the day. On the occasion of the World Refugee Day on 18 June, the Commission announced a new initiative, the [Lives in Dignity Grant Facility](#), that seeks new forms of collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors to address the most challenging situations of forced displacement in the world. Together with the new [Talent Partnerships](#), aiming to better match the skills of workers from outside Europe with the EU labour market, this initiative comes to show that the EU is determined to address the persistent difficulties faced by refugees. Follow here the [joint statement](#) by the Commission and the High Representative.

CALL FOR ACTION THIS WEEK ...

NextGenerationEU and Presidential visits: The Presidential visits to the capitals of Europe form a great occasion to **talk about the benefits of the financial package under NextGenerationEU** and the importance our President attaches to one of the most ambitious European projects ever. **Make it known that the President is “coming to town”** when your country gets on the list and turn the spotlights on the visits that have already taken place.



EU 2021, Source: EC AV Service, **Ursula von der Leyen and Edurard Heger, Slovakia**, 21/06/21, P-051362/00-22, Photographer: Dati Bendo



EU 2021, Source: EC AV Service, **Ursula von der Leyen and Xavier Bettel, Luxembourg**, 18/06/21, P-051350/00-24, Photographer: Dati Bendo



EU 2021, Source: EC AV Service, **Ursula von der Leyen and Mette Frederiksen, Denmark**, 17/06/21, P-051358/00-48, Photographer: Dati Bendo



EU 2021, Source: EC AV Service, **Ursula von der Leyen and Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Greece**, 17/06/21, P-051358/00-48, Photographer: Dati Bendo

Public consultation: Make people's voice heard by **promoting the Commission's public consultation on environmental sustainability – education and training**. The [consultation](#), open until 21 September is the first step in helping EU countries cooperate and develop stronger policies on education for environmental sustainability, climate education, biodiversity and related topics. Following the consultation, the Commission should propose a recommendation on education for environmental sustainability for learners of all ages and at all levels of education.



EU 2020, Source: EC AV Service, Lake Pomorie, Bulgaria, 16/10/20, P-046419/00-41, Photographer: Nikolay Doychinov

Conference on the Future of Europe: Your role

This edition of our CoFE box offers a host of useful updates. Together with the **official guidelines** and **the report from the inaugural plenary**, appended in the e-mail accompanying the guidelines, these updates will help you throughout your CoFE journey. Make sure you check it out and most importantly, make good use of it. We will continue keeping you in the loop. [Inaugural plenary meeting in Strasbourg press release](#), [video](#), [CoFE panels video](#), [CoFE Platform video](#), [Citizens' panels factsheet](#).

Looking ahead

College on Wednesday: EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027

Thursday-Friday 24-25/06: European Council