

Our Europe, Our Future!

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NEWSLETTER REALIZED BY
THE ASSOCIATION EURO-NET AS
EUROPE DIRECT BASILICATA CENTRE

Newsletter in English

to spread European opportunities and initiatives,
to disseminate the respect of human rights and the
awareness about the development of Europe's cultural
identity and diversity,
to fight discrimination against minorities, xenophobia,
intolerance and racism,
to help, with youth activities, the democratic stability
and social inclusion in Europe,
develop active European citizenship and civil society by
giving impetus to the training of youth leaders and
youth workers working within a European dimension;
to promote European youth activities, such as
exchanges, seminars, conferences, debates and training
courses,
to encourage exchange of ideas, proposals, experiences
and good practises at international level.

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New impetus for youth solidarity: green light for the 2026 European Solidarity Corps call

The European Commission has officially published the 2026 call for proposals for the European Solidarity Corps, marking the beginning of a new and exciting funding cycle aimed at supporting the altruism and participation of young people across Europe. In line with the European regulatory framework and the annual work program, the initiative strongly reaffirms the Union's commitment to offering young people concrete opportunities to challenge themselves, acquire transversal skills, and personally contribute to the well-being of local and international communities. The new call offers an extremely broad and diverse range of operational opportunities, confirming the lines of action that have ensured the program's success in past years. The program focuses on traditional individual or group volunteering projects, alongside solidarity projects conceived, planned, and managed independently by young people in their local communities, as well as specific volunteering-related activities within global humanitarian aid operations. Alongside these practical measures, the program continues to firmly support quality tools, the issuance of the prestigious quality label for accredited institutions, and non-formal and informal learning pathways, true pillars of participants' personal and professional growth. The invitation to participate is open to a wide range of public and private entities, including non-governmental organizations, local authorities, third-sector associations, and even informal groups of young people registered on the official platform. Geographically, the measure is open to organizations established in the twenty-seven EU member states, the EFTA and European Economic Area countries, as well as candidate countries such as Turkey & North Macedonia. Organizations from non-associated third countries may also participate when this directly meets the Union's strategic and cooperative interests. More information is available in English at the link: https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/launch-2026-european-solidarity-corps-call-proposals-and-programme-guide-2025-11-17_en

The European Day of Languages looks to the future with competitions & initiatives

Celebrated last September 26th at the joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, the European Day of Languages continues to vigorously promote the continent's extraordinary linguistic richness, encouraging approximately 700 million citizens in the forty-six Member States to discover and learn new languages at any age, both through formal and non-formal education. This daily commitment aims to build bridges between different people and cultures, fostering the sharing of ideas, developing cooperation, and creating increasingly united communities. Although the European Union recognizes twenty-four official languages, the European landscape is distinguished by an even deeper diversity, encompassing over

European Day of Languages 26 September



sixty regional and minority languages, as well as those brought by migrant communities. Although the central anniversary has already passed, the journey to promote languages continues and continues to offer important opportunities for active participation through two upcoming events. Until October 15, 2026, you can participate in the competition to create a poster on the theme "Languages unite us!", using images, symbols, and quotes to illustrate how languages can serve as a bridge to overcome any cultural barrier. Furthermore, you have until December 31, 2026, to submit your graphic proposals and enter the competition for the official t-shirt for the European Day of Languages 2027,



offering creatives and enthusiasts the chance to see their design printed on the next edition's iconic merchandise.

A Stronger Europe for the Future in Ursula von der Leyen's Plan

A more autonomous, competitive Europe, capable of autonomously determining its own destiny in an increasingly complex global geopolitical context. This was the central message delivered on Wednesday, September 16, by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, during her annual State of the Union Address (SOTEU 2026), held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg to review the past year and set strategic priorities for the near future. On the economic front, the top priority identified by the EU executive is revitalizing competitiveness and the Single Market, faithfully following the guidelines outlined in the reports signed by Mario Draghi and Enrico Letta. To achieve this goal, the Commission intends to accelerate authorization procedures and drastically reduce bureaucratic costs for businesses, implementing a new Pact against Overregulation. At the same time, to secure the continent's strategic and energy independence, the establishment of a European Society for Critical Raw Materials will be proposed, while promoting a decisive transition to electrification and affordable clean energy for citizens and businesses. Security and defense inevitably occupy a prominent place on the new European agenda. Faced with the growing threat posed by cyberattacks and hybrid threats, the President announced the launch of a new Security Strategy, the creation of a dedicated European Security Council, and the establishment of a rapid coordination mechanism among member states, conceived as an Article Four mechanism to complement the one envisaged by NATO. On the international front, unwavering support for Ukraine was also confirmed, which will translate into new economic sanctions against Russia, targeted energy aid, and the joint development of the advanced missile defense system called Freya. With a view to strengthening and redefining global alliances, the President also put forward a historic proposal: opening the door to Canada to become the first associate member of the European Union. To address the impacts of climate change, the European Union will launch a structured framework for resilience in the hundred most vulnerable territories, a specific plan to combat heatwaves, and a new continent-wide initiative to protect water resources. In the areas of employment and fundamental rights, political action will focus on the Quality Jobs Act and the European Care Deal to address pressing demographic challenges. In terms of migration management, the goal remains the full implementation of the Pact on Asylum and Migration, coupled with a new regulatory framework for border emergencies. Protecting citizens and placing digital at the center of the list of key priorities.

European crackdown on social media with the EU Kids Act!

The European Commission is cracking down on the safety of young people in cyberspace. Responding to widespread and pressing social concerns regarding the protection of minors online, the EU executive has unveiled the EU Kids Act, a new and ambitious regulatory proposal designed to secure social and digital platforms across the Union. At the heart of the measure is a radical change: the introduction of a formal ban on platforms allowing independent access to minors under the age of thirteen. But the crackdown doesn't stop there, designing a step-by-step path for entering the virtual world. Strict parental supervision will be mandatory for those between the ages of thirteen and fifteen, while the minimum age for opening an account independently is set at fifteen. Brussels' stated goal is to develop a gradual and safe approach, curbing systemic problems such as cyberbullying, exposure to potentially dangerous content, and pathological addiction to virtual applications and environments. The EU Kids Act is structured around four key pillars. The first concerns the gradual introduction and strengthening of parental powers, with the aim of delaying the use of social media and providing families with more effective supervision tools. The second focuses on specific safe design requirements, requiring online services to integrate advanced time management systems from the outset, secure algorithmic recommendations, profiles automatically set to private, and a strict ban on sending push notifications during nighttime hours. The third pillar introduces age verification tools, such as the dedicated European Union verification app, to secure access to platforms. The fourth and final pillar establishes stringent liability obligations for service providers, who will be required to demonstrate the actual reliability and appropriateness of their resources based on the age of their users. The new regulatory framework does not emerge in a vacuum, but is organically integrated with the existing structures established by the Digital Services Act and the Artificial Intelligence Act, thus leveraging control and protection mechanisms already tested at the European level. Having completed the Commission's approval, the ball is now in the European Parliament's court and the Council, who will be responsible for initiating the complex legislative process for the text's examination, debate, and subsequent final adoption.

"CyberWell-ID" project approved!

The "CyberWell-ID" project, recently approved by EACEA under the HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-two-stage call, targets adolescents with intellectual disabilities (ID) who are disproportionately exposed to cyberbullying, which leads to significant deterioration in mental health, autonomy, and quality of life, while increasing the burden on families who serve as informal caregivers. However, there is no clinically validated and cognitively accessible digital solution to prevent these risks or to support both adolescents and their caregivers. This represents a critical gap in the provision of innovative, evidence-based interventions, aligned with European priorities on inclusion, health, and independence. The "CyberWell-ID" project seeks to address this through an innovative, person-centered digital intervention designed to improve the quality of life, empowerment, and autonomy of adolescents with ID and their families. The project will develop a dual-module, multilingual mobile application that will combine cognitively adapted CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) micro-interventions, gamification, and inclusive psychoeducation for families. The innovation will lie in considering cognitive accessibility as a fundamental property of the system and integrating assistive artificial intelligence under human supervision, including adaptive personalization, multilingual cyberbullying detection, and an intuitive interface for caregivers that will provide concrete support. The solution will be designed in collaboration with end users in seven countries and validated through a multicenter randomized controlled trial. CyberWell-ID will provide the first clinical evidence supporting a digital intervention targeting cyberbullying in populations with intellectual disabilities (ID), achieving measurable improvements in coping, autonomy, and quality of life, while reducing caregiver burden. The partnership, which also includes EURO-NET, is composed of 17 partners operating in 8 countries (Turkey, Spain, Italy, Romania, Finland, Germany, Greece, and Estonia). The project is currently in the complicated phase of contracting and programming and can only begin once this phase is completed.

Intergenerational Sports Olympics held in Potenza on September 10th

Thanks to EURO-NET (Europe Direct Basilicata Centre), the mini-Olympics planned in Italy as part of the "FitGenerations Smart TrAIner" (FGST) project were held on September 10th at Baden Powell Park in Potenza. This initiative was approved by EACEA (Executive Agency of the European Commission in Brussels) as part of the ERASMUS-SPORT-2025 call for proposals within the ERASMUS-LS actions (ERASMUS Lump Sum Grants). The event combined competition and social in-

tegration, including team sports, athletics, and ecological sports activities, allowing participants to test their agility, balance, and coordination. Because the "FGST" project aimed to engage people of all ages and promote a healthy lifestyle, foster intergenerational integration, and include marginalized groups such as refugees and people with disabilities, the activities were designed for diverse target groups, including children, adults, young people, migrants, and people with disabilities. These competitions focused on social integration. Participants competed in team games such as beach volleyball or single-hoop basketball, as well as in amateur athletic competitions, including intergenerational relays, chess games, and even electronic game competitions. Thus, they created a space for intergenerational integration through competition and cooperation, regardless of any disabilities or limitations. The event concluded with an awards ceremony, during which the most active participants were recognized and the organizers summarized the project's achievements. The "mini-Olympic" activity (co-financed by the EU) was held in two editions: one in Italy and one in

FitGenerations Smart TrAIner

INTERGENERATIONAL SPORTS OLYMPICS ITALY

Muoviti. Migliora. Cresci insieme.

- ATTIVITÀ FISICHE**
Sport di squadra, attività all'aria aperta, giochi e sfide per tutte le età.
- INTERGENERAZIONALE**
Giovani e senior insieme per condividere sport, energia e divertimento.
- BENESSERE**
Muoviti, migliora la tua forma fisica e il tuo benessere.

QUANDO
10 SETTEMBRE 2026
ORE 9:30

DOVE
POTENZA
Parco Baden Powell

PER CHI
Per tutti:
giovani e senior

INSIEME PER CRESCERE, INSIEME PER STARE BENE!

SPORT DI SQUADRA **BOCCIE / PETANQUE** **PERCORSI E STAFFETTE** **NORDIC WALKING E GIOCHI OUTDOOR** **PROVE DI AGILITÀ, EQUILIBRIO, COORDINAZIONE** **E-SPORT**

PREMIAZIONE E PRESENTAZIONE DEI RISULTATI DEL PROGETTO

Cofinanziato dall'Unione europea

euro-net

FitGenerations Smart TrAIner - Erasmus+ Sport. Partneri di cooperazione su piccola scala. Contratto di associazione n. 1010454677. Finanziato dall'Unione Europea. Lo sponsor espresso sono tutte le istituzioni che, nell'ambito del progetto, hanno fornito il proprio contributo. L'Unione Europea ed ERASMUS+ Sport sono marchi registrati per il progetto.

fitzielonaskie.o/it

Poland with an enormous number of participants, who competed in sports designed for different age groups & fitness levels. The goal was to demonstrate that sport can be an integral part of everyday life and a valuable opportunity for social integration.

EUTRAIN received over 350,000 online views

The project, promoted by Youth Europe Service in collaboration with the Europe Direct Basilicata centre and the CDE-CNR of Tito, has taken the web and schools by storm, combining animation, gamification, and active citizenship to extraordinary success and reaching extraordinary numbers. This digital and cultural journey has captured the attention of hundreds of thousands of people, transforming EU issues into an engaging adventure for younger generations. The "EUTRAIN - A journey to discover Europe" project has achieved an exceptional and record-breaking milestone, garnering over 350,000 total views across various social media channels and online platforms, alongside nearly 400 participants who attended live screening events throughout the region. These numbers demonstrate the extraordinary effectiveness of an innovative formula: a blend of animated storytelling, digital content, and moments of direct discussion conceived and developed by the Youth Europe Service association, as part of a project co-financed by the EU (approved by the European Commission Representation in Italy under the call for proposals COMM/IT/GRANTS/2025) and also supported by a small contribution from BCC Basilicata through its "Ethical Fund." At the heart of the initiative is a seven-episode animated web series and the interactive world of EUTRAIN (featuring the character Ashanti and the retro game "EUTRAIN - Build the Future"), capable of bringing the values of integration, sustainability, and European mobility directly into schools, social media, and local communities. From online platforms, where project videos and clips continue to generate a viral wave of interaction, to lecture halls, film festivals, and youth gathering places (as evidenced by the itinerant stages currently involving Basilicata and beyond), the initiative confirms its position as a virtuous benchmark in European communication. "This incredible response," emphasize the promoters of Youth Europe Service, "demonstrates that young people and citizens are eager to discover Europe through new languages, close to their world. Surpassing 350,000 views and meeting hundreds of young people in person rewards us for the great work done and encourages us to do even more to connect the region with community opportunities." EUTRAIN's journey doesn't stop there: the project caravan continues to travel with new screening stops and institutional promotion opportunities, as well as through the national competition linked to the e-game, which has already actively involved around eighty young people, confirming, once again, that building Europe's future requires creativity, participation, and sharing. The cartoon is uploaded to multiple social channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) and web platforms, but to enjoy the full experience, we recommend watching the entire cartoon comfortably on the EURO-NET (Europe Direct Basilicata centre) YouTube channel at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9E53zHySB0U>.

A visit to "Europe Experience" for future winners of the EUTRAIN competition.

Everything is ready for their immersion into the heart of the European Union: on November 27, the Youth Europe Service association will accompany the fifty young winners on an extraordinary prize trip. This extraordinary journey, promoted by the EUTRAIN project, continues to transform young people's commitment and creativity into concrete opportunities for growth. To crown the journey, the Youth Europe Service association has organized



a special study and discovery visit to Europe Experience for the end of November, the interactive and multimedia space designed to introduce citizens to the dynamics, history, and functioning of the European Union institutions. The initiative was conceived as a prize of excellence for the winners of the EUTRAIN competition, a journey that successfully combined digital animation, gamification, and interactive storytelling to engage younger generations in the themes of integration, sustainability, and transnational cooperation. Thanks to this award trip, participants will have the opportunity to symbolically cross the threshold into the beating heart of Europe. Within the Europe Experience spaces, the young people will immerse themselves in advanced multimedia experiences, experiencing firsthand the interactive simulators of the Parliament and the Council of the European Union. They will be able to experience firsthand the legislative challenges European representatives face daily, understanding how EU decisions shape local and global reality. This is not just symbolic recognition for the competition's results, but a true laboratory of active citizenship. YES association thus confirms its commitment to building strong bridges between young people and institutions, demonstrating that European education can and must be achieved through innovative languages, immersive experiences, and moments of direct sharing. The young winners are therefore preparing for an unforgettable experience, ready to gain a wealth of knowledge and insights that will lead them to become true ambassadors of European values in their local communities.