

Newsletter

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Le principali attività del Centro EUROPE DIRECT Siena

Il Centro EUROPE DIRECT è un progetto europeo - ospitato dall'Università di Siena - che prevede l'attivazione di iniziative al fine di informare, comunicare e formare sui temi dell'Unione europea.

Si tratta di un network di oltre 40 Reti Europe Direct (ED) in tutta Italia, coordinate dalla Commissione Europea; in Toscana si trovano a Siena e Firenze che cooperano attraverso un Coordinamento Toscano.

La EUROPE DIRECT Siena si rivolge a tutti i cittadini e ha l'obiettivo di diffondere sul territorio le informazioni relative alle politiche ed ai programmi dell'Unione nonché dei finanziamenti al fine di soddisfare le esigenze informative e formative su questo tema.

La EUROPE DIRECT Siena si occupa, inoltre, di organizzare, in collaborazione con altre istituzioni e associazioni del territorio, iniziative ed eventi volti a sensibilizzare i cittadini e soprattutto a promuovere il dibattito, favorendo la conoscenza delle tematiche legate all'Unione europea.

La Ecological Law and Governance Association a Siena per il suo terzo convegno internazionale

Si è svolto nei giorni dal 12 al 14 ottobre 2022 all'Università di Siena il terzo convegno internazionale dell'associazione scientifica Elga (Ecological Law and Governance Association). Il convegno è stato organizzato dall'Università di Siena in collaborazione con l'associazione scientifica ELGA, con il supporto del Dipartimento di studi aziendali e giuridici (DISAG) e del Centro EUROPE DIRECT Siena. Il convegno si è occupato dell'analisi dei principi giuridici del diritto della governance ecologica e ha cercato di analizzare in maniera critica come tali principi possono rispondere alle attuali crisi globali, che hanno forti ripercussioni per i cittadini europei.

I temi del convegno si legano strettamente ad alcuni dei temi oggetto dell'attività di informazione e di formazione promossa dal Centro Europe Direct Siena, in connessione con i temi dello sviluppo sostenibile con particolare riferimento alle tematiche legate alle crisi climatica ed energetica, alla transizione ecologica ed all'economia circolare. Con riferimento a quest'ultimo tema, le questioni affrontate nel convegno si legano strettamente al ciclo di seminari sull'economia circolare promosso da Europe Direct Siena in collaborazione con le attività del Modulo Jean Monnet "European Law and Circular Economy for Sustainable Development" (ELCE4SD) finanziato dall'Unione europea nell'ambito del programma Erasmus+.



Premio Sacharov 2022 del Parlamento europeo al popolo ucraino

I deputati hanno assegnato al coraggioso popolo ucraino, rappresentato dal suo Presidente, dai leader eletti e dalla società civile, il Premio Sacharov 2022 per la libertà di pensiero.

Il 19 ottobre la Presidente del Parlamento europeo Roberta Metsola ha annunciato il vincitore dell'edizione 2022 del Premio in plenaria a Strasburgo, in seguito alla decisione della Conferenza dei Presidenti del Parlamento (la Presidente e i leader dei gruppi politici).

La Presidente Metsola ha dichiarato: "Questo premio è per gli ucraini che combattono sul campo. Per quelli che sono stati costretti a fuggire. Per quelli che hanno perso parenti e amici. Per tutti quelli che si alzano e combattono per ciò in cui credono. So che il coraggioso popolo ucraino non si arrenderà, e non lo faremo nemmeno noi."

La guerra di aggressione ingiustificata della Russia contro l'Ucraina sta infliggendo costi enormi al popolo ucraino, che non sta combattendo solo per proteggere le proprie case, la sovranità, l'indipendenza e l'integrità territoriale, ma anche per difendere la libertà, la democrazia, lo Stato di diritto e i valori europei "contro un regime brutale che cerca di minare la nostra democrazia, indebolire e dividere la nostra Unione".

Con la nomina al Premio, vengono evidenziati gli sforzi del Presidente ucraino Volodymyr Zelenskyy, insieme al ruolo di singoli individui, di rappresentanti della società civile e di istituzioni statali e pubbliche, tra cui i servizi di emergenza dello Stato ucraino, Yulia Pajevska, fondatrice dell'unità medica di evacuazione Angeli di Taira, Oleksandra Matviychuk, avvocatessa per i diritti umani e Presidente dell'organizzazione Centro per le libertà civili, il Movimento di resistenza civile Nastro giallo e Ivan Fedorov, sindaco della città ucraina di Melitopol, attualmente sotto occupazione russa.

La consegna del Premio Sacharov avverrà il 14 dicembre a Strasburgo.



Ultima relazione sul commercio agroalimentare: l'UE aumenta le esportazioni di cereali

La Commissione ha pubblicato l'ultima **relazione mensile sul commercio agroalimentare**, secondo la quale nel luglio 2022 le esportazioni e le importazioni agroalimentari dell'UE hanno subito un lieve rallentamento in termini di valore.

Sebbene sia diminuito del 2% rispetto a giugno e si attesti attualmente a 19,2 miliardi di €, **il valore delle esportazioni dell'UE rimane molto più elevato rispetto allo scorso anno**. Nello stesso periodo anche le importazioni dell'Unione sono diminuite del 2%, raggiungendo 14,3 miliardi di € nel luglio 2022. La bilancia commerciale dell'UE rimane stabile a 4,9 miliardi di €.

Nonostante il calo del valore complessivo delle esportazioni, quelle di cereali dell'Unione, in particolare di frumento ma anche di orzo, sono aumentate, in particolare verso il Medio Oriente e il Nord Africa (MENA). Nel luglio 2022 l'UE ha infatti esportato 1,9 milioni di tonnellate di frumento in Medio Oriente e Nord Africa, registrando un aumento del 300% rispetto al luglio dello scorso anno. In luglio le esportazioni totali di frumento verso il mondo hanno raggiunto i 3 milioni di tonnellate, con un aumento del 74% rispetto allo scorso anno.

Le categorie che hanno registrato un calo delle esportazioni in luglio sono la frutta e la frutta a guscio (-15%) e gli ortaggi (-10%). Le esportazioni di olive e di olio d'oliva sono diminuite del 14% in luglio, principalmente a causa del calo delle esportazioni verso gli Stati Uniti. Le importazioni di uve, semi di girasole e banane sono quelle che hanno subito un calo maggiore in luglio rispetto a giugno (rispettivamente del 24%, 20% e 18%). **Le importazioni dell'UE dall'Ucraina crescono per il quarto mese consecutivo, a seguito della liberalizzazione temporanea degli scambi e del migliore funzionamento dei corridoi di solidarietà.**

Anche le importazioni dell'Unione dai principali partner commerciali, come il Brasile e gli Stati Uniti, sono aumentate, in particolare per il granturco e la soia.

La relazione mette l'accento anche sui flussi commerciali tra l'UE e il Regno Unito, che è diventato il principale partner commerciale dell'UE per i prodotti agroalimentari, raggiungendo 53,8 miliardi di € nel 2021.

https://italy.representation.ec.europa.eu/notizie-ed-eventi/notizie/ultima-relazione-sul-commercio-agroalimentare-lue-aumenta-le-esportazioni-di-cereali-2022-10-26_it



La Commissione europea e la UEFA Insieme per combattere i cambiamenti climatici

La Commissione europea e la UEFA hanno lanciato un nuovo annuncio televisivo, “**Become a fan of saving energy too**”, presentato in anteprima durante le partite serali della Champions League.

L'annuncio sarà trasmesso in tutta Europa e in altri paesi e raggiungerà potenzialmente oltre 35 milioni di tifosi di calcio per partita nella sola Unione.

I tifosi lo vedranno durante la Champions League UEFA maschile e femminile, l'Europa League e altre grandi competizioni. Il video sarà trasmesso anche negli stadi durante le partite, quando annunci pubblicitari a bordo campo promuoveranno il Green Deal europeo. All'inizio di questo mese la Commissione ha rinnovato il partenariato di lunga data con la UEFA, definendo una tabella di marcia per gli sforzi congiunti fino al 2025 volti a sfruttare il calcio come forza di cambiamento positivo in tutta Europa. La collaborazione continuerà a concentrarsi sulle principali priorità dell'UE, quali l'azione per il clima, l'uguaglianza per tutti e l'inclusione sociale.

Frans Timmermans, Vicepresidente esecutivo per il Green Deal europeo, ha dichiarato:

“L'invasione dell'Ucraina da parte della Russia ha scatenato una crisi energetica avvertita in Europa e nel mondo. I prossimi inverni saranno difficili, ma abbiamo ciò che serve per affrontare questa sfida. Gestì semplici, come quelli che vediamo nel video, possono fare una grande differenza: se tutti abbassiamo il riscaldamento di 1°C, possiamo risparmiare 10 miliardi di metri cubi di gas. Il risparmio energetico è importantissimo anche nella lotta contro la crisi climatica. Alla fine è necessario uno sforzo collettivo: se tutti contribuiamo, affronteremo i prossimi inverni e saremo pronti per un futuro più verde. Risparmiare energia è una grande tattica: dannosa per Putin, buona per il clima”.

https://italy.representation.ec.europa.eu/notizie-ed-eventi/notizie/la-commissione-e-la-uefa-inaugurano-la-seconda-stagione-della-campagna-combattere-i-cambiamenti-2022-10-26_it



Eurobarometer: Attitudes of Europeans towards Air Quality

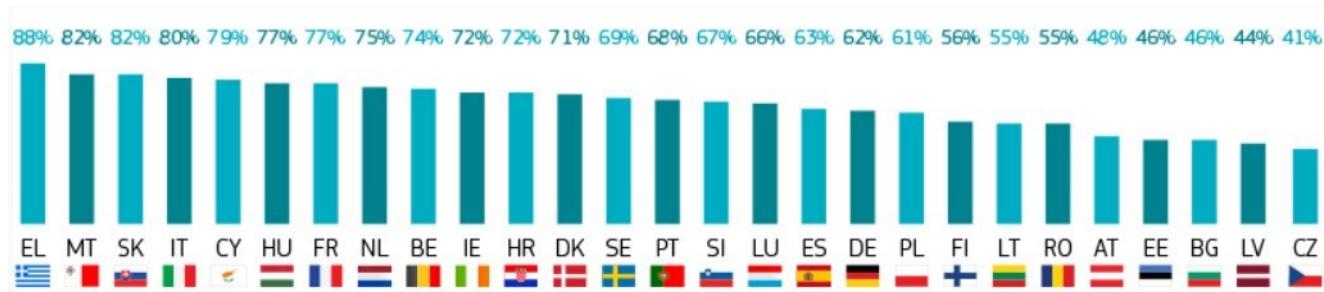
The results of this survey reveal that air quality is still a serious concern for European citizens. While a majority of Europeans do not feel well-informed (60%), nearly half of the respondents hold the view that air quality has deteriorated in the last ten years (47%).

Concern about health and environmental impact of air pollution

Most Europeans think that health conditions such as respiratory diseases (89%), asthma (88%), and cardiovascular diseases are serious problems in their countries resulting from air pollution. Europeans are also worried about the environmental problems caused in water bodies by air pollution such as acidification and eutrophication (both 83%).

Support for strengthening EU air quality standards

The Eurobarometer reveals that citizens lack information about air quality problems in their country. Most of Europeans remain poorly informed about the existing EU air quality standards as only a minority of respondents (27%) have heard of them. Nevertheless, a large majority of the respondents (67%) who are aware of EU air quality standards say that they should be strengthened. This is true in all but five Member States.



Support for more action to promote air quality, especially at international level

A large majority of Europeans think air pollution should be addressed at the international level (65%) followed by the European and the national level (both 42%), and finally the regional or local level (32%). A significant proportion of the respondents also believe that actions should be carried out at all levels simultaneously (19%).



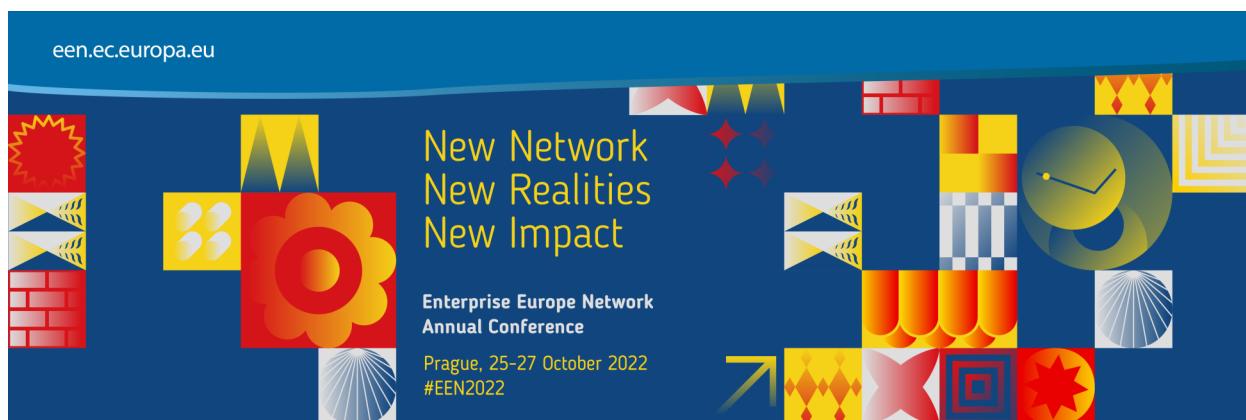
The Enterprise Europe Network Annual Conference 2022

The Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is the world's largest support network for small and medium-sized enterprises with international ambitions. On October 25, the 2022 EEN Annual Conference opened to discuss **how the network can best accelerate the industrial transition through its services.**

The Annual Conference is the network's main event, providing participants with an interesting and stimulating mix of EU policy updates, workshops, and networking sessions. It is a leading forum for its members to exchange best practices and reflect on the quality and visibility of EEN services, including sustainability, the single market, internationalisation and innovation. It offers opportunities to network and build synergies with members and other external stakeholders. This year, it had over 500 people onsite and around 1,500 people participating online.

The overarching theme for this year's event was "**New Network, new realities, new impact**". With the European economy dealing with the cumulative shock of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, it is vital that the EEN Network's services evolve to meet these challenges. That means a stronger focus on the industrial transition: sustainability, digitalisation and resilience. It is part of a continuous effort to improve SME access to the single market and global markets - including better integration within regions. Harnessing the power of innovation is essential for supporting these goals and, notably, the twin transition. Finally, the goal is raising quality across the renewed Network to deliver maximum impact to SMEs and stakeholders in the most visible way. Roughly 3,000 experts across over 470 member organisations in almost 70 countries comprise the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), including innovation agencies, regional development agencies, chambers of commerce and industry, technology centres, and research institutes. It helps ambitious SMEs innovate and grow internationally by combining international business expertise with local knowledge across a range of targeted services.

<https://een.ec.europa.eu/news/enterprise-europe-network-annual-conference-2022-has-started-prague>



2022 Enlargement package: European Commission assesses reforms in the Western Balkans and Türkiye and recommends candidate status for Bosnia and Herzegovina *

The European Commission adopted its 2022 Enlargement Package, providing a detailed assessment of the state of play and the progress made by the Western Balkans and Türkiye on their respective paths towards the European Union, with a particular focus on implementing fundamental reforms, as well as clear guidance on the reform priorities ahead. The Commission recommends that Bosnia and Herzegovina be granted candidate status by the Council, on the understanding that a number of steps are taken to reinforce democracy, functionality of state institutions, rule of law, the fight against corruption and organised crime, guarantee media freedom and migration management in the country. The Commission will continue supporting reform efforts and accelerate the integration of the Western Balkans as a whole.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell, said: “*We are recommending today to the Council to grant candidate status to Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are infusing a positive dynamic into the process and hope for the region to take the chance and follow up on it by implementing key reforms. We are not only assessing the performance of partners, but of future member states. The assessments we make now are also about the kind of Union we want for the future. And it is clear that we believe in the European future of our partners. Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine brings into strong relief the importance of EU enlargement, which takes on a new geopolitical significance. It is a long term investment into peace, prosperity and stability for our continent.*”

Presenting this year's Package, consisting of Communication on EU enlargement policy and annual reports, **Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, Olivér Várhelyi, said:** “*The enlargement policy of the European Union is a geostrategic investment in our European continent's peace, stability, security, and socio-economic growth. Our reports offer a factual and fair assessment and a clear guidance*

precisely to allow our partners to identify where they need to go faster in reforms to move ahead. There is no alternative, and it is in our common interest to accelerate the integration process, starting with the Western Balkans, where we have been investing for many years to bring them closer to the EU. The recommendation to grant candidate status is a historic moment for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I urge the leaders of the country to make the most of this historic opportunity and swiftly proceed with the steps identified in our recommendation. This will restart the work on reforms and on the fulfilment of the 14 key priorities set in the Commission's Opinion which remain key for the opening of accession negotiations.”

Western Balkans

In the case of **Montenegro**, the priority for further overall progress in negotiations remains the fulfilment of the rule of law interim benchmarks set under chapters 23 and 24. To reach this milestone, Montenegro needs to intensify its efforts to address the outstanding issues, including in the critical areas of freedom of expression and media freedom and fight against corruption and organised crime and credibility of the judiciary. This requires political stability and constructive engagement by all stakeholders, leading to the establishment of a stable government and broad political consensus in Parliament on key reforms.

Serbia should as a matter of priority establish a government, firmly committed to the EU strategic direction and reform path. Further work and political commitment are needed to continue and deepen reforms and address shortcomings, in particular in the key areas of the judiciary, fight against corruption and organised crime, media freedom, freedom of assembly and the domestic handling of war crimes. Serbia also needs to improve as a matter of priority its alignment with EU foreign and security policy which dropped significantly. It also needs to robustly tackle all forms of disinformation.

2022 Enlargement package: European Commission assesses reforms in the Western Balkans and Türkiye and recommends candidate status for Bosnia and Herzegovina *

Albania and North Macedonia opened a new phase in their relations with the EU following the first intergovernmental conferences on accession negotiations on 19 July 2022. Albania and North Macedonia need to further intensify efforts in key areas of rule of law, the fight against corruption and the fight against organised crime. Albania also has to address property rights, minority issues and freedom of expression.

In June 2022, the European Council expressed its readiness to grant the status of candidate country to **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and invited the Commission to report on the implementation of the 14 key priorities, with special attention to those that constitute a substantial set of reforms. Despite political turmoil and the general elections of 2 October, the leaders of the political parties represented in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina in June 2022 committed to principles for ensuring a functional Bosnia and Herzegovina that advances on the European path. Fulfilling the 14 key priorities from the Commission's Opinion on the country's EU membership application will allow recommending opening EU accession negotiations.

Kosovo needs to intensify its efforts to strengthen democracy, public administration, the rule of law and to fight corruption. The Commission stands by its assessment of July 2018 that Kosovo has fulfilled all visa liberalisation benchmarks and the proposal, still pending in the Council, should be treated as a matter of urgency.

On the normalisation of relations, while both **Serbia and Kosovo** have remained engaged in the Dialogue, the EU expects both sides to engage more constructively in the negotiations on the legally-binding normalisation agreement in the coming period and show flexibility in order to make rapid and concrete progress.

Türkiye

In the area of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, **Türkiye** needs to reverse the negative trend as a matter of priority with addressing the weakening of effective checks and balances in the political system. Dialogue on rule of law and fundamental rights remains an integral part of the EU-Türkiye relationship. The underlying facts leading to the assessment that Türkiye's accession negotiations have effectively come to a standstill, still hold.

The European Council has repeatedly reaffirmed its strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye. However, the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean has again become tenser. Türkiye must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all EU Member States.

Türkiye's continued policy of not aligning with restrictive measures against Russia is of concern due to the free circulation of products, including dual use goods, within the EU-Turkey Customs Union.

Türkiye also needs to take decisive steps to improve alignment with EU CFSP, including EU restrictive measures, and avoid actions that go against its stated objective to join the EU. Türkiye remains a key partner for the European Union in essential areas of joint interest, such as migration, counterterrorism, economy, trade, energy, food security and transport. High-level dialogues and intensified engagement in these areas continued. Türkiye has facilitated dialogue between Russia and Ukraine and played a key role in the agreement on the export of grains, although it has also decided to increase trade and financial relations with Russia.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_6082

Commission kick-starts work on the European Year of Skills

The Commission has adopted its proposal to make 2023 the European Year of Skills, following the announcement by President Ursula von der Leyen in her 2022 State of the Union address.

The green and digital transitions are opening up new opportunities for people and the EU economy. Having the relevant skills empowers people to successfully navigate labour market changes and to fully engage in society and democracy. This will ensure that nobody is left behind and the economic recovery as well as the green and digital transitions are socially fair and just.

A workforce with the skills that are in demand also contributes to sustainable growth, leads to more innovation and improves companies' competitiveness. However, currently more than three quarters of companies in the EU report difficulties in finding workers with the necessary skills, and latest figures from Eurostat suggest that only 37% of adults undertake training on a regular basis.

The Digital Economy and Society Index shows that 4 out of 10 adults and every third person who works in Europe lack basic digital skills. In addition, already in 2021, 28 occupations ranging from construction and healthcare to engineering and IT had shortages, showing a growing demand for both high and low-skilled workers. There is also low representation of women in tech-related professions and studies, with only 1 in 6 IT specialists and 1 in 3 STEM graduates being women.

To encourage lifelong learning, Member States have endorsed the EU 2030 social targets that at least 60% of adults should participate in training every year, already presenting their national contribution to meeting this target. This is also important to reach the employment rate target of at least 78% by 2030. The 2030 Digital

Compass sets the EU target that by 2030, at least 80% of all adults should have at least basic digital skills, and there should be 20 million employed ICT specialists in the EU, while more women should be encouraged to take up such jobs.

The European Year of Skills – boosting competitiveness, participation and talent

With the European Year of Skills, in cooperation with the European Parliament, Member States, social partners, public and private employment services, chambers of commerce and industry, education and training providers, and workers and companies all together, the Commission proposes to give a fresh impetus to lifelong learning by:

- Promoting increased, and more effective and inclusive investment in training and upskilling to harness the full potential of the European workforce, and to support people in changing from one job to another;
- Making sure that skills are relevant for labour market needs, by also cooperating with social partners and companies.
- Matching people's aspirations and skill sets with opportunities on the job market, especially for the green and digital transition and the economic recovery. A special focus will be given to activate more people for the labour market, in particular women and young people, especially those not in education, employment or training.
- Attracting people from third countries with the skills needed by the EU, including by strengthening learning opportunities and mobility and facilitating the recognition of qualifications.

Commission kick-starts work on the European Year of Skills

To meet these objectives, the Commission will promote upskilling and reskilling opportunities, for instance by highlighting relevant EU initiatives, including EU funding possibilities, to support their take-up, implementation and delivery on the ground. Events and awareness-raising campaigns will also be organised across the EU to support mutual learning of partners in up- and reskilling. The proposed Year also aims to help to further develop skills intelligence tools and promote tools and instruments for increased transparency and easier recognition of qualifications, including qualifications awarded outside the EU. To ensure the coordination of relevant activities at national level, the Commission calls on Member States to appoint a national coordinator for the European Year of Skills.

EU initiatives to support skills development

For the European Year of Skills, we can build on the many EU initiatives already ongoing to support skills and increase their take-up, including:

- **The European Skills Agenda** is the framework for EU skills policy cooperation and will continue to help individuals and businesses develop more and better skills and to apply them.
- As part of the Skills Agenda, under the **Pact for Skills** so far, more than 700 organisations have signed up and 12 large-scale partnerships in strategic sectors have been set up with pledges to help upskill up to 6 million people.
- **The Structured Dialogue** with the Member States on Digital Education and Skills.
- The Commission has also proposed new initiatives to address EU skills shortages and improve migration cooperation. The roll-out of an **EU Talent Pool and of Talent Partnerships** with selected third partners will help match the skills of candidates to work in Europe with labour market needs. This is a key deliverable under the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.
- **The New European Innovation Agenda**, adopted in July, proposes a flagship initiative and set of actions to create the right framework conditions for our talents.
- **The European strategy for universities**, adopted in January, proposes a series of 50 actions that are key to develop high level and future-proof skills for a wide range of learners, including lifelong learners, for them to become creative and critical thinkers, problem solvers and active and responsible citizens.
- **The European Digital Skills and Jobs Platform** is an initiative launched under the Connecting Europe Facility Programme. It offers information and resources on digital skills such as a digital skills self-assessment tool, as well as training and funding opportunities.
- **The EU Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition** tackles the digital skills gap by bringing together Member States, social partners, companies, non-profit organisations and education providers to raise awareness and encourage organisations to take different actions to encourage digital skills training such as taking a pledge to boost digital skills.



<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=10431#navItem-relatedDocuments>

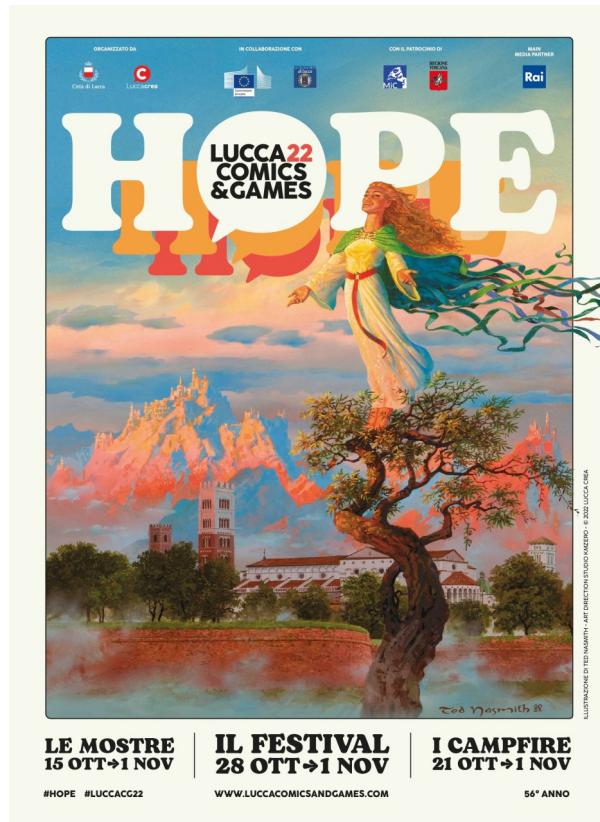
La Commissione europea a Lucca Comics&Games 2022

Quest'anno, per la prima volta, la Rappresentanza in Italia della Commissione europea sarà partner istituzionale di Lucca Comics&Games.

L'obiettivo è comunicare *in chiave inedita e innovativa le priorità dell'Unione europea, in particolare le tematiche relative a NextGenerationEU e alla transizione verde e digitale.*

Un'attenzione particolare sarà rivolta alle nuove generazioni, protagoniste **dell'Anno europeo dei giovani 2022.**

https://italy.representation.ec.europa.eu/notizie-ed-eventi/eventi/la-commissione-europea-lucca-comicsgames-2022-2022-10-28_it



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