



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.

European Year of Skills

Why a European Year of Skills?

Having a workforce with the skills that are in demand contributes to sustainable growth, leads to more innovation and improves companies' competitiveness. Skilled workers enjoy better job opportunities as well as broader possibilities to fully engage in society. This is key to ensure that the economic recovery as well as the green and digital transitions are socially fair and just.

The European Year of Skills puts skills centre-stage. Helping people get the right skills for quality jobs and helping companies, in particular small and medium enterprises, address skills shortages in the EU is what this Year is all about.

How? By showcasing skills development opportunities and activities across Europe, by fostering easier [recognition of qualifications](#) across borders, by bringing organisations and people together to share their experiences and insights, and setting out how EU initiatives and funding possibilities can help.

Events and awareness-raising campaigns will happen across the EU.

For more information: https://year-of-skills.europa.eu/about_en

https://year-of-skills.europa.eu/index_en



EP Spring 2023 Survey: Democracy in action - One year before the European elections

The European Parliament's Spring 2023 Eurobarometer results reveal citizens' growing awareness of the upcoming European elections. The survey pictures also a continued attachment of citizens to democratic values and their overall satisfaction with EU democracy amid continuing economic difficulties. Finally, it sheds light on Europeans' awareness of and attitudes towards the actions of the European Union and European Parliament.

Interest in the next European elections of 2024 is at 56% among citizens, six percentage points higher than one year before the last European elections. What is more: two-thirds of citizens (67%) say they are likely to vote, when 58% said so in 2018.

Democracy is the core value that citizens want the European Parliament to defend. With 37% mentioning this overall, it is also the leading value in 14 EU Member States. The majority of citizens are also satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union (54%).

An absolute majority of EU citizens are satisfied with seven of ten different aspects of democracy. Free and fair elections (70%), freedom of speech (70%), and respect for fundamental rights (66%) are the aspects that generate the most satisfaction.

% Total 'Satisfied'



<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3093>

Synergies across the EU funding programmes managed by the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)

On **20 June 2023**, the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) is organising in **Rome** the event **Synergies across the EU Funding Programmes managed by the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)** in collaboration with the networks of Horizon Europe National Contact Points for Cluster 1 and Cluster 4 and the network of the EU4Health National Focal Points.

The event will be hosted by the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS) at Viale Regina Elena, 299, 00161 Roma.

The event is aimed at promoting the European funding programmes implemented by HaDEA in order to stimulate synergetic actions among the Horizon Europe (Cluster 1 Health and Cluster 4 Digital Industry and Space), EU4Health and Digital Europe's networks and the relevant stakeholders at the European level.

Marina Zanchi, Director of HaDEA, will introduce the sessions dedicated to the presentation of HaDEA's role to implement actions that strengthen Europe in the domains of health, food safety, digital technologies and networks, industrial capacities and space.

In order to highlight the impact of the participation to the European processes, the second part will be dedicated to the presentation of practical examples of successful management of European projects in synergy with other programmes.

With a view of supporting the networking activities and cooperation among the National Contact Points/Focal Points and the external stakeholders, the programmes managed by HaDEA's respective networks such as JA NFP4Health, HNN3.0, COSMOS, IDEAL-IST and NCP4INDUSTRY, will be presented during the last session of the event.

The event will be organised in **hybrid** mode. However, participation in presence is strongly encouraged.

Practical information:

When: Tuesday 20 June 2023, 09:30 CEST - Tuesday 20 June 2023, 13:00 CEST

Where: Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome

Languages: English

Website: <https://apre.it/evento/synergies-across-the-eu-funding-programmes-managed-by-the-european-health-and-digital-executive-agency-hadea/>



https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/events/synergies-across-eu-funding-programmes-managed-european-health-and-digital-executive-agency-hadea-2023-06-20_en

Press statement by President von der Leyen with Italian Prime Minister Meloni, Dutch Prime Minister Rutte and Tunisian President Saied

“Good afternoon, we are here as Team Europe. We want to mark an important milestone in the relationship between Tunisia and the European Union. Tunisia is a partner that we value very much in the European Union [...].

With Tunisia, we share much more than geographic proximity, we share a history. Since 2011, the European Union has been supporting Tunisia's journey of democracy. It is a long, sometimes difficult road. But these difficulties can be overcome. Against the backdrop of global uncertainties, it is in our common interest to strengthen our relationship and to invest in stability and prosperity. This is why we are here, and this is why we are working with Tunisia on a comprehensive package. This package is built on five pillars.

The first pillar is economic development. We will support Tunisia to strengthen its economy. The European Commission is considering macro-financial assistance as soon as the necessary agreement is found. We are ready to mobilise up to EUR 900 million for this purpose. And as an immediate step, we could provide an additional EUR 150 million in budget support.

The second pillar is investment and trade. The EU is Tunisia's biggest foreign investor and trading partner [...]. An important focus for our investments is the digital sector [...]. Our flagship project, the Medusa submarine cable, will link the two sides of the Mediterranean. The Medusa cable is bringing high-speed broadband to the region – a real digital bridge that by 2025 will connect 11 countries around the Mediterranean [...].

The biggest area for investment we see is energy. This is our third pillar. Energy is a win-win area. Tunisia is looking to harness its tremendous potential for renewable energy. And the European Union needs reliable energy suppliers of clean energy as we are electrifying our entire economy. Thus, we need to invest in our infrastructure so that Tunisia can export clean energy to Europe. An important milestone in this journey is the ELMED interconnector, an undersea electricity cable linking Tunisia to Italy [...].

The fourth pillar is migration. We both have an interest in breaking the cynical business model of smuggler. It is horrible to see how they deliberately risk human lives for profit. We will work together on an Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnership. And we will support Tunisia with border management [...]

The fifth and very important pillar is about people-to-people contacts. Tunisia has a young and vibrant population. And we should do everything to bring people together. We will create a Tunisia window in the Erasmus+ programme worth EUR 10 million to support student exchange. And we will establish 'Talent Partnerships' to give Tunisia's youth opportunities to study, work or train in the EU. They will develop new skills useful for modernising Tunisia's economy.

And finally, we will reinstate the Association Council. The High Representative is ready to organise the next meeting before the end of the year. Team Europe, the Commission and the Member States are looking forward to working on our partnership with Tunisia”.

https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/press-statement-president-von-der-leyen-italian-prime-minister-meloni-dutch-prime-minister-rutte-and-2023-06-11_en

Social economy: Commission proposes ways to harness its full potential for jobs, innovation and social inclusion

The European Commission recommends concrete measures to support the social economy, which prioritises people, social and environmental causes over profit.

The proposal aims to create favourable conditions for social economy organisations to thrive and grow, and raise awareness of their potential, particularly in creating quality jobs, supporting innovation and social inclusion.

Following up to the [2021 Social Economy Action Plan](#), the Commission presents:

- A [proposal for a Council recommendation](#) for Member States to design and implement social economy strategies.
- The [social economy gateway](#), a one-stop shop website to provide social economy organisations with information on EU funding, training opportunities and more.

The [proposed Council Recommendation](#) calls on Member States to develop comprehensive strategies for the social economy to promote an enabling environment for the social economy across all relevant areas, by adapting policy and legal frameworks. In doing so, the aim is to promote quality job creation, boost the local economy, and strengthen social and territorial cohesion.

For instance, the Commission proposes measures to:

- Design labour market policies that support employees in social enterprises (e.g., through training), promote social entrepreneurship, and ensure fair working conditions through social dialogue and collective bargaining.
- Acknowledge the role of the social economy for social inclusion, e.g. in providing accessible and high-quality social and care services and housing, particularly for disadvantaged groups.
- Improve access to public and private funding, including to EU funds.
- Enable access to market opportunities and public procurement.
- Make use of the opportunities provided by State aid rules to support the social economy, including provisions for start-up aid, reintegration of disadvantaged workers, and support for local infrastructure.
- Ensure that taxation systems support the social economy, through the simplification of administrative procedures and the consideration of appropriately designed tax incentives.
- Raise awareness of the social economy and its contributions, notably through research and data.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_3188



Ecodesign: new EU rules to make sustainable products the norm

The Environment Committee put forward its proposals to make products in the EU more environmentally friendly, circular and energy efficient throughout their lifecycle by adopting its position on [revising the EU's ecodesign framework for sustainable products](#) with 68 votes in favour, 12 against and 8 abstentions.

The manufacturers must not limit the lifetime of a product through design features and must make available software updates, consumables, spare parts and accessories for an appropriate period. Products should also be easy to repair and consumers should have access to repair guidelines.

Products may only be sold if accompanied by a “product passport”, containing accurate and up to date information. This passport would enable consumers and businesses to make informed choices when purchasing products, facilitate repairs and recycling, and increase transparency about the environmental impact of what they are buying. MEPs want consumers to be able to compare product passports through an online platform.

Economic operators which destroy unsold goods would have to report the annual number and percentage of products they discarded as well as their reasons why. Based on this information, MEPs want the Commission to identify products for which a destruction ban should be introduced [...].

MEPs want the Commission to prioritise a number of product groups in its first working plan to be adopted within three months after the entry into force of the new rules. These priority products include iron, steel, aluminium, textiles (notably garments and footwear), furniture, tyres, detergents, paints, lubricants and chemicals.

The report is scheduled to be adopted during the July 2023 plenary sitting and will constitute Parliament's negotiating position with EU governments on the final shape of the legislation.

Rapporteur Alessandra Moretti (S&D, IT) said: *“It's time to end the “take, make, dispose” model which is so harmful to our planet, our health and our economy. This law will ensure that new products are designed in a way that brings benefits to all, respects our planet's boundaries and protects the environment. Sustainable products will become the norm allowing consumers to save energy, make repairs easier and make smart environmental choices when they shop, saving themselves money in the long run.”*



<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230612IPR97206/ecodesign-new-eu-rules-to-make-sustainable-products-the-norm>

Sustainable Finance: Commission takes further steps to boost investment for a sustainable future

The Commission has put forward a new package of measures to build on and strengthen the foundations of the EU sustainable finance framework. The transition to a climate-neutral and sustainable economy by 2050 offers new opportunities for companies and citizens across the EU. However, companies and investors are also facing challenges in this transition, especially when it comes to complying with new disclosure and reporting requirements.

The aim of this package therefore is to ensure that the EU sustainable finance framework continues to support companies and the financial sector, while encouraging the private funding of transition projects and technologies. Specifically, the Commission is today adding additional activities to the EU Taxonomy and proposing new rules for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) rating providers, which will increase transparency on the market for sustainable investments. The package aims to ensure that the sustainable finance framework works for companies that want to invest in their transition to sustainability. It aims also to make the sustainable finance framework easier to use, thereby continuing to contribute effectively to the European Green Deal objectives.

The package in detail:

EU Taxonomy Delegated Acts

The EU Taxonomy is an important market transparency tool that helps direct investments to the economic activities most needed for a green transition.

The Commission has approved in principle a new set of EU Taxonomy criteria for economic activities making a substantial contribution to one or more of the non-climate environmental objectives, namely:

- sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources,
- transition to a circular economy,
- pollution prevention and control,
- protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

The inclusion of more economic activities covering all six environmental objectives, and consequently more economic sectors and companies, will increase the usability and the potential of the EU Taxonomy in scaling up sustainable investments in the EU [...].

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_3192



Nuove regole dell'UE per batterie più sostenibili ed etiche

Batterie: un mercato strategico per l'UE

Le stime di cui disponiamo indicano che, entro il 2030, la domanda globale di batterie potrebbe aumentare di 14 volte e che il fabbisogno per l'UE potrebbe rappresentare il 17% della domanda totale.

Tale fenomeno trova la sua principale spiegazione in una molteplicità di fattori: l'ascesa dell'economia digitale, lo sviluppo delle energie rinnovabili e l'avvento della mobilità a basse emissioni di carbonio. Il crescente aumento di veicoli elettrici alimentati a batteria, renderà questo mercato strategico a livello globale.

Come affrontare i problemi relativi alle materie prime delle batterie

La produzione di batterie dipende fortemente dalle [importazioni di materie prime critiche](#) e in particolar modo quelle di cobalto, litio, nichel e manganese, dei metalli ad impatto ambientale e sociale molto elevato.

Per contrastare la violazione dei diritti umani connessi ai processi produttivi e garantire batterie più etiche, le nuove regole introducono un obbligo di diligenza per i produttori. Secondo il testo, i produttori dovrebbero essere tenuti a rispettare standard di gestione dei rischi sociali ed ambientali, legati all'approvvigionamento, alla lavorazione e al commercio di materie prime e materie prime secondarie. Tutti gli operatori economici che immettono batterie sul mercato dell'UE, ad eccezione delle PMI, saranno tenuti a sviluppare e attuare questa politica di dovuta diligenza.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/it/headlines/economy/20220228STO24218/nuove-regole-dell-ue-per-batterie-piu-sostenibili-ed-etiche>



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