

EUROPE DIRECT

Weekly Newsletter

Click [here](#) to access the video message from Sandra Cavallo

TO KEEP YOU IN THE BIG PICTURE

TRAVELLING FOR THE HOLIDAYS?: The Commission last week proposed an update to the rules on coordination of safe and free movement in the EU, which were put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The updates lay stronger focus on a 'person-based' approach to travel measures and allow for standard acceptance period for vaccination certificates of 9 months since the primary vaccination series. The 9-month period takes into account the guidance of the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#) on the administration of booster doses as of 6 months, and provides for an additional period of 3 months to ensure that national vaccination campaigns can adjust and citizens can have access to boosters. [Press release](#).



MEASURES AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING: As a response to attempts to destabilise the EU at the EU's external border with Belarus, the Commission and the High Representative have put forward **a proposal targeting transport operators engaging in smuggling or trafficking people into the EU**. This adds a new instrument to the EU's toolbox for supporting Member States against hybrid attacks. The Commission is also making available a further 200 million EUR for border management in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The Commission is also working on changes to the EU's legal framework to address the emergency migratory situation. More info [here](#).

CultureEU: The Commission launched a new interactive map providing an **overview of funding opportunities at EU level for the cultural and creative sector**. It gathers a total of 75 funding opportunities from 21 different EU programmes, ranging from Creative Europe, Horizon Europe to structural funds and InvestEU. In just a few clicks, the tool can direct any cultural European entity to the most appropriate EU financial support available. More information [here](#).

We Handpicked for You ...

- **Spread the message about the new Erasmus+ call.** In 2022, young Europeans will have access to almost 3.9 billion EUR to support their mobility and cooperation in the fields of education, training, youth and sport. Erasmus+ will continue to offer broad opportunities for studying abroad as well as internships, apprenticeships and staff exchanges. An additional focus lies on cross-border collaboration. Find more info in the [press release](#).
- **Communicate about the new Interregional Innovation Investment instrument.** This new financing instrument allocates 570 million EUR to support the commercialization and development of interregional innovation projects in priority areas. It has strong element of cohesion as at least half of its budget will be spent in less developed regions. Details [here](#).
- With the number of cases growing, keep pushing back against disinformation campaigns. In several Member States, we continue to observe the purposeful spreading of wrong or misleading information about COVID vaccines. **Continue to stress the importance of getting vaccinated.** Spread the [message](#) of the Commission President on the importance of getting vaccinated and this [infographic](#) showing the heightened risk for the unvaccinated.
- **Introducing the EU Academy:** the EU online hub for e-learning provides courses, pedagogical resources and online training events targeting professional citizens whose work is related to the sphere of action of the EU. A number of courses are already available for enrolment, and soon several more will be available in a variety of EU languages. You can find the available courses [here](#) and join the online conversation by using the hashtag #EUAcademy.

CoFE ...

- **Postponement of the next European Citizens' Panel.** The panel which was scheduled to take place in Dublin on 3 to 5 December is now postponed due to the rising number of COVID infections to late January or early February 2022.
- **Continue to promote the platform as the central hub of the Conference.** Intensify your efforts to increase awareness for the discussions and use all available channels to reach out to citizens.
- **Reach out to local/regional media.** Invite them to interview citizens' panel participants from your region. In case media outlets show interest, direct them to the EC Representation to get their contact details.

Looking ahead ...

- **1 December, College:** Global Gateway initiative (connectivity) - Digital justice package - Addressing new COVID-19 challenges
- **3 December - international day of people with disabilities.** Barcelona, Helsinki, Leuven, Luxembourg City, Palma and Porto are shortlisted for the 2022 Access City Award. The winning cities will be announced at the online Access City Award ceremony on 3 December. More information available [here](#).

Interesting read

Recent years have seen high levels of polarisation, rapid spread of misinformation, a decrease in willingness to compromise, and a historic low in satisfaction with or even outright attacks on democracy. The JRC has published a **policy maker's guide on how to help citizens regain trust in democracy**. Find the report Values and Identities [here](#).