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Corporate content on communication for outreach networks

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To keep you in the big picture

The right guidance

We open this week's edition with news about the yearly exercise designed to coordinate the economic, fiscal, employment policy within the EU, in short the [European Semester](#). During the European Semester, Member States align their budgetary and economic policies with the rules agreed at EU level. It is in this context that the Commission **provided last week guidance to Member States under the 2023 European Semester Spring Package**. The guidance focuses on an integrated approach across all policy areas: promoting environmental sustainability, productivity, fairness, and macroeconomic stability. Here, we should mention that the Commission also provided [country-specific recommendations](#) to Member States to support the green and digital transitions and enhance competitiveness on the one hand, and tackle key economic and social challenges that are only partially or not addressed in their recovery and resilience plans on the other hand. These recommendations will also help implement the [Green Deal Industrial Plan](#). Get the full [story](#).

Top talent

Another story under the "Big picture" this week is **the new call for the 2023 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Networks**. The call is expected to fund over 130 doctorates spanning all scientific fields as well as the training and skills development of 1,600 doctoral candidates. With a budget of €434.8 million, the call will fund doctoral programmes implemented by international partnerships of organisations from different sectors across Europe and beyond. Besides regular doctorates, specific incentives are provided to set up Industrial Doctorates, which train researchers and develop their skills outside academia, particularly in industry, businesses and the public sector, and Joint Doctorates, which offer integrated training programmes leading to

joint or multiple degrees. The call will close on 28 November 2023. More information on the [2023 Doctoral Networks call](#) and on how to apply is available [online](#). Potential applicants can also attend the [dedicated](#) information day on [14 June 2023](#).

We handpicked for you

'Tin bòta. L'Europa è con voi.'

Let us flag a [press statement](#) by **President von der Leyen right after she visited Emilia-Romagna**, to see first-hand the consequences of the devastating floods and witness the relief efforts. In it, the Commission President recalls the positive impact of solidarity, by bringing to the fore the help extended by the rest of the Member States, the incessant efforts of the Italian volunteers and the [Solidarity Fund](#). Perhaps some last words on the Solidarity Fund: It was set up in 2002 to respond to major natural disasters within Europe. Since then, it has been used in 107 natural disasters, including floods, forest fires, earthquakes and drought. Have a read!

No smoking, please!

Yesterday, we were celebrating **World No Tobacco Day**. On this occasion, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides, made a [statement](#). It's worth the read!

Might wish to share among your networks

The right skills

DG Employment is reaching out this week with an **invitation to join one of the flagship events of the [European Year of Skills](#)**. The event aims to stimulate discussion about the gaps in skills development and the changes needed in public policy and the business world, as well as to promote the value and visibility of skills. The event will bring together training providers, guidance and validation practitioners, companies, social partners, chambers of commerce, qualifications agencies/authorities and public authorities. Together with your audiences, you can join online by registering via [this link](#). For more information, visit the [dedicated page](#).

A tale of two competitions

On 5 May DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs launched **two competitions open to cities in the EU Member States**: the European Capital of Smart Tourism and the European Green Pioneer of Smart Tourism 2024. We invite you to help raise the visibility of the competitions by sharing the information through your channels. Competition 1: The European Capital of Smart Tourism recognises outstanding achievements by European cities as tourism destinations in four categories: sustainability, accessibility, digitalisation as well as cultural heritage and creativity. It is open to cities across the EU with a population of over 100,000. Competition 2: The European Green Pioneer of Smart Tourism rewards the best achievements in sustainable tourism and green transition practices in smaller destinations. It is open to destinations across the EU with a population between 25,000 - 100,000. To support applicants in the process of writing a successful application, cities can attend the following workshop:

- European Green Pioneer of Smart Tourism: 5 June 2023, at 14:00 – 15:00 CET. To attend the workshop, register [here](#).