



Corporate content on communication for outreach networks

Issue N. 40

To keep you in the big picture

Shared values

This week we will be sharing with you the [statement](#) of the **Commission President given during her visit in the U.S.** The statement is remarkable in many aspects, not least, because it outlines the new steps taken by the EU and the United States to deepen the economic relationship, build the clean energy economies of the future and address shared economic and national security challenges.

New LIFE

Last week, the Commission announced an investment of over €116 million for the new Strategic Projects of the **LIFE programme**, the **EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action**. It will help eight major projects in seven EU countries (Belgium, Estonia, Spain, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Finland) reach their environmental and climate goals. The projects are expected to mobilise significant additional funds from other funding sources. These include EU agricultural, structural, regional and research funds, on top of national funds and private sector investment.

Building bridges between people, languages and cultures

Last week, the Commission adopted a revision of the Erasmus+ Annual Work Programme for 2023. The overall budget of the programme for this year has been revised upwards to €4.43 billion, the highest annual financial envelope ever reached by **the Erasmus+ programme**. The increased budget will reinforce the [Erasmus+](#) priorities on inclusion, active citizenship and democratic participation, and on the green and digital transformations in the EU and abroad. The revised work programme includes a €100 million frontload from the 2027 Erasmus+ budget, to support projects that promote educational activities and facilitate the integration of people fleeing the war in Ukraine into their new learning environments, as well as activities supporting organisations, learners and staff in Ukraine. Funded activities may range from linguistic and cultural integration courses and language learning tools addressed to educators or learners, to scholarships or general financial support in all Erasmus+ sectors for learners and educators. Check out the [press release](#).

We handpicked for you

As long as it takes

The Commission adopted last week the [Communication](#) on Temporary Protection Directive. The Directive was [triggered](#) for the first time on 4 March 2022 in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, to protect people fleeing the war. Protection has already been extended until March 2024 and can be further extended until 2025. The Commission is ready to take the necessary steps for **further prolongation if needed**. At the same time a strong EU coordinated approach will be pursued to ensure a **smooth transition** to alternative legal statuses that would allow access to rights beyond the maximum duration of temporary protection, and **targeted support** for persons who, having fled Ukraine, want to go back home. Based on this year of implementation, the Commission considers that the Temporary Protection Directive should remain part of the toolbox of measures available at EU level. Full details [here](#).

Might wish to share among your networks

Are you happy with their job?

The DG EMPL team has launched a [public consultation](#) in the context of the **evaluation of four EU agencies under the remit of the DG**, namely:

- The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
- The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training
- The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
- The European Training Foundation

The aim of the consultation is to gather evidence on the performance and wider impact of these four agencies. The questionnaire is available in all EU languages and will be open [until 25 May](#). See also the [Have your Say](#).

In the spotlight: those who make the world a better place

Our last call to action was sent to us by the European Parliament team. The colleagues would need your help to spread the word about the nominations for the **European Citizen's Prize**. Quick refresher: the prize is awarded annually by the European Parliament to recognise projects led by citizens and organizations in the EU that demonstrate European cooperation, mutual understanding, and the promotion of European values and fundamental rights. Lifetime achievements or the day-to-day work of organizations are not eligible. One application per person, group, organization, or MEP can be submitted through the [registration portal](#) [until 31 March](#). Banners and visuals in English are readily [available](#). If you require language-specific promotional materials, please contact the EPLO in your respective countries or write to CitizensPrize@ep.europa.eu.

Learn about other EU networks and find synergies!

Today's network in highlight → **Financial Dispute Resolution Network (FIN-NET)**

Scope → FIN-NET is a network of national organisations responsible for out-of-court resolution of consumers' complaints against the financial service provider that is registered in a different country other than in which consumers reside.

The network covers the countries of the European Economic Area, i.e.

- the European Union
- Iceland
- Liechtenstein
- Norway

Target audience → Consumers, who did not manage to resolve the dispute directly with the financial service provider from another EEA country.

The Fin-net member responsible for the out-of-court settlement in the consumer's country of residence will

- a) transfer the complaint to the competent FIN-NET member or
- b) advise the consumer to contact the competent Fin-net member directly or
- c) resolve the complaint itself.

Possible synergies with you → They can cooperate with other networks dealing with 1) financial education; 2) cybersecurity. You can re-direct consumers to FIN-NET in case of need to settle cross-border financial disputes out-of-court.

Find FIN-NET near you and give them a call → https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en?networks=FIN_NET