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HORIZONS IN EUROPE

"Horizon 2020": the new name for FP7 and an existing name for de-polluting the Mediterranean.
Finally we have the suggestion for the name for the next Framework programme – it’s not FP8 but Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The name “Horizon” was suggested through an open online consultation: the year “2020” is meant to show how the framework programme supports the research and innovation objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, (which is the EU’s growth strategy for the coming decade, with aims such as smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth), and the “Framework Programme for Research and Innovation” connects the new framework programme with the previous ones. The new name will also signal new changes. A new integrated funding system will cover all research and innovation funding currently provided through the Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). This should prove to be a better way to support researchers and innovators in Europe – participation will be simplified, and improved integration should help good ideas get to market and generate sustainable economic growth. This new funding will also focus more clearly on addressing global challenges.

https://ktn.innovateuk.org/web/biosciencesktn/articles/-/blogs/horizon-2020-is-the-new-name-for-the-future-eu-funding-programme-for-research-and-innovation

On the other Horizon, what we should have in sight is the „Horizon 2020 Initiative”, which aims to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020 by tackling the sources of pollution that account for around 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban waste water and industrial pollution.

http://www.h2020.net/
So let’s widen our horizons toward 2020!

Personalisation and flexibility – core features of the new CORDIS Partners Service

Date: 4 July 2011

The CORDIS Partners Service was replaced with a collaborative platform in July 2011. The service is now available at cordis.europa.eu/partners/.

CORDIS, the Community Research and Development Information Service, has just launched a new Partners Service. Designed to be an interactive platform, this free online service can help you promote your expertise and organisations, find business or research partners, create groups, join networks and find the right components for funding bids and proposals. Developed in cooperation with a range of stakeholders, the new service builds on three fundamental ideas: personalisation, collaboration and networking.
Programme for biomonitoring the Italian population exposure (PROBE): internal dose of metals

Exposure of the general population to dangerous substances, continuously distributed by human activity, in the environment, food or consumer products represents one of the most important concerns in public health. The data obtained by environmental monitoring are unable to provide a complete assessment of human exposure and, then, of the risk to human health. The risk assessment connected to exposure to xenobiotics (chemicals not found naturally in the human body) becomes realistic if the amount of the contaminant actually present in the organism is measured, as is being carried out by Human Biomonitoring (HBM). Human biomonitoring has attracted great interest in Europe too, and is now integrated in European Union (EU) legislation.

The PROBE project represents the first attempt to estimate the internal level of the Italian general population as a result of environmental exposure to metals. The project, commissioned, funded and steered by the Italian Ministry of Health, developed and used harmonised procedures and validated protocols with the aim of establishing reliable Reference Values (RVs) for twenty toxic metals for the general population or population groups; to make the results comparable with those of similar monitoring campaigns in Europe; and, finally, to generate reliable information to develop exposure restriction and prevention strategies.

See the final report of PROBE:
» http://www.iss.it/binary/publ/cont/11_9_web.pdf

More consumer friendly labelling for European foods

On 22 June 2011, Member States confirmed the compromise that was hammered out by the Hungarian Presidency with the European Parliament (EP), on the way food information will be indicated to consumers in the future. New provisions on mandatory nutrition information and legibility will enable consumers to make healthier dietary choices.

As a main result, consumers will find so-called ‘mandatory nutrition information’ on packaged foods. Under the new rules, the energy value, and the quantities of fat, saturates, carbohydrates, protein, sugars and salt must be indicated, per 100g or per 100ml, in one table, and additionally it can also be expressed per portion or serving.

Another important element is the extension of the compulsory country of origin labelling to fresh meat from pigs, sheep and goats, and poultry, in addition to beef (on which a separate piece of legislation was introduced during the BSE crisis); and in addition to fruits and vegetables, honey, olive oils, and in cases where the failure to do so can mislead the consumer.

Further improvements of the EU food labelling rules concern allergens, which must in the future be highlighted on the package within the list of ingredients.

If you are interested in all the details of the topic of nutrition, please attend the 11th European Nutrition Conference, which will be held in Madrid in October 2011.

For further details of the programme and participation, please visit the official website of the event:

FP7 - Financial Reporting and Audits

FP7 - Financial Reporting & Audits is a 2-day course designed to comprehensively explain the requirements and practices of financial and technical reporting, financial audits and technical reviews in order to easily survive all of them.
http://www.eutrainingsite.com/113
LEGATO aims to advance the long-term sustainable development of irrigated rice fields, against risks arising from multiple aspects of global change. The overall objective is to develop and test generally applicable principles within the frame of ecological engineering – an emerging discipline, concerned with the design, monitoring and construction of ecosystems.

The project plans to quantify the dependence of ecosystem functions and the services they generate in agricultural systems in three areas in Southeast Asia: Peninsula Malaysia; Vietnam (Tien Giang province in Mekong Delta and the Red River Valley from the Northwest mountain region to the Delta); and the Philippines (Luzon island from Banaue to Los Banos).

As core output, LEGATO will develop guidelines for optimising ecosystem functions and services, given the local socio-cultural conditions and their stabilisation under future climate and land-use change, which will particularly affect South and Southeast Asia. There is a clear need for crop productivity increases and diversification. LEGATO will analyse the potential of ecological engineering to achieve this, and test its implementation and transferability across regions. The latter is to be achieved through including local agricultural agencies and extension services as partners. Implementation will include assessments of ecosystem services risks and opportunities in the light of changes in land use intensity, biodiversity and climate.

For further information:
»http://www.legato-project.net/
2011 Innovation Union Competitiveness Report Published

This month, the European Commission published its 2011 Innovation Union Competitiveness Report. Building on the Innovation Union Scoreboard, it represents the first comprehensive analysis of recent trends and long-term evolution in research and innovation performance in all 27 EU Members States and 6 Associated Countries. The IUC report is intended to monitor Members States’ progress in fulfilling the Europe 2020 objective of investing 3% of GDP in R&D, as well as reaching their own national R&D targets. It also analyses the strengths and weaknesses of national research and innovation systems and presents winning approaches for progressing towards the Europe 2020 strategy.

Source:


Lifelong Learning

Put simply, lifelong learning means that people can – and should have the opportunity to – learn throughout their lives. Lifelong learning serves not only to make people more employable, but also to further their personal development and encourage active citizenship and social inclusion. Lifelong learning first became a buzzword in Europe in the mid 1990s. It has been part of the EU’s policy response to a fast-changing world ever since. Adult learning – be it second-chance adult education or more job-related continuing training – is a special priority. The ETF (European Training Foundation) has been supporting the development of national adult education strategies in countries such as those of South Eastern Europe for some time now. Adult education also takes pride of place in the ETF’s new Mutual Learning project, which focuses on the same region.

LIFELONG LEARNING IN EASTERN EUROPE

Lifelong Learning in Eastern Europe is an ETF regional project, started in 2011. The project aims to build capacity, to identify priority issues and formulate policy options on continuing vocational training, post-secondary vocational education and training, and transparency of qualifications in seven Eastern European countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. For further information visit:


Staying focused on this topic, another Lifelong Learning Programme, called PLE-baum, managed and coordinated by LVG Heidelberg, was selected for funding in Autumn 2009, and it finishes in November this year. The project partners plan to develop and implement a Personal Learning Environment (PLE) in arboriculture and forestry by using Web 2.0 technologies such as wikis, blogs and podcasts. They focus on two target groups: -to create a PLE for the schools and training centre involved in this project under the context of the topic of “climate change and its consequences for urban trees”. On the other hand, they are targeting arboricultural firms which are involved in this project as associated partners. They are looking to establish a PLE in the firms, which will improve the flow of information and generate a more productive and efficient working process. For further info:

Apply for Comenius and Grundtvig grants to attend next EUROCLIO 2012 Annual Conference!

EUROCLIO, in cooperation with the Association of History Educators of Turkey, is organising its 19th Annual Conference on the theme of "Looking at History through a Variety of Lenses" in Antalya, Turkey on April 1st–7th 2012. Participants can apply for Comenius and Grundtvig Grants. EUROCLIO is also organising the Fourth Historiana Seminar, "Rights & Responsibilities", in Fehérvárcsurgó in Hungary on October 27–30th 2011.

(Be European Civil Society Platform on Lifelong Learning – EUCIS-LLL Newsletter #26 - JUNE 2011)

Be creative and tour Europe! What will tomorrow be?

The European Parliament invites all EU citizens to produce a brief and entertaining viral video on "Diversity in Europe". Give your personal take, whether it is on language, national quirks, fashion or food… the possibilities are endless!

In order to take part, the candidates must read the instructions and register at:  
» www.europarltv.europa.eu/contest

The deadline for submissions is 31st July 2011.

For further information visit:

FP7 - TECHNICAL AND LEGAL MANAGEMENT

17-18 November 2011

The FP7 Technical and Legal Management training is designed to provide project’s scientific, administrative and financial coordinators, administrators and financial personnel with the skills needed to successfully implement EC projects.

http://www.eutrainingsite.com/112
In our future newsletters, we would like to assist you with disseminating information about your projects. **Feel free to send us** more information about activities, events, and news related to your project and we’ll try our best to publicize it! Even a simple link to the project’s website may inspire us...

If you would like to contribute to our next issue of the Europa Media newsletter, please send an email to us at: **magazine@europamedia.org**.

We always like to hear from our readership!