



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.



Lezioni d'Europa" ciclo di webinar 2025

La XVI edizione di "Lezioni d'Europa" avrà avvio il prossimo 20 febbraio 2025. La Commissione europea presieduta da Ursula von der Leyen è entrata in carica il 1° dicembre del 2024. Le sfide che si pongono di fronte alla presidente (al suo secondo mandato alla guida di Palazzo Berlaymont) e ai suoi commissari sono certamente assai impegnative. Sul piano interno, occorre promuovere la trasformazione energetica, quella digitale e quella sociale; ripensare alcune politiche (ad esempio quella agricola) e approfondirne altre (su tutte la politica di difesa); favorire una crescita economica sostenibile, che contemperi gli obiettivi della produttività e della modernizzazione con l'occupazione. Questo breve elenco non è certo esaustivo, e nondimeno illustra la magnitudine dei problemi che dovrà affrontare l'Unione. A complicare ulteriormente il quadro, in alcuni Stati membri si registrano preoccupanti tendenze alla rottura della coesione comunitaria. Non meno complessa è la situazione all'esterno dei confini dell'Unione europea. In Ucraina si continua a combattere, dopo l'invasione della Federazione russa; è di nuovo scoppiata la guerra in Medio Oriente, in seguito al brutale attacco compiuto da Hamas il 7 ottobre 2023 contro cittadini israeliani. Il quadrante medio-orientale è stato inoltre agitato dagli avvenimenti accaduti in Siria. L'elezione di Donald Trump alla Casa Bianca è presumibilmente destinata a rendere complesso il rapporto, da sempre fondamentale, tra Washington e Bruxelles.

L'edizione 2025 di "Lezioni d'Europa" prevede otto webinar, nei quali si prenderanno in esame alcune delle priorità indicate dal "Piano di lavoro della Commissione europea". Studiosi, esperti e analisti discuteranno degli obiettivi della nuova Commissione, dell'azione dell'Unione europea per il miglioramento della qualità della vita dei cittadini e per la tutela e lo sviluppo del modello sociale europeo, degli sviluppi della difesa comune e delle politiche dell'UE nei confronti dell'Africa mediterranea e di alcune ex Repubbli-

Lezioni d'Europa 2025

che sovietiche. Le “Lezioni d’Europa” sono rivolte a tutti i cittadini interessati ad approfondire alcuni temi cruciali dell’Unione europea, e in particolare agli studenti universitari e delle scuole secondarie, al personale della Pubblica amministrazione e ai professionisti dell’informazione.

Calendario degli appuntamenti:

Blocco 1. Verso una crescita qualitativa. L’Unione europea, l’innovazione e la prosperità sostenibile

20/02/2025 – Lezione 1 La nuova Commissione europea: priorità e obiettivi strategici

27/02/2025 – Lezione 2 Al servizio del cittadino europeo: l’UE e la modernizzazione della Pubblica amministrazione

6/03/2025 – Lezione 3 Non solo mercato. L’UE e il modello sociale europeo

13/03/2025 – Lezione 4 Aprirsi al nuovo, senza timore. La strategia dell’UE per l’Intelligenza artificiale

Blocco 2. L’Unione europea e la qualità della vita

20 marzo 2025 – Lezione 5 “Siamo ciò che mangiamo”. La politica agricola comune: che cos’è e a cosa serve

27 marzo 2025 – Lezione 6 L’Unione europea e la “resilienza idrica”

Blocco 3. L’Unione europea nel mondo

3 aprile 2025 – Lezione 7 L’Unione europea e la sua difesa: lo stato dell’arte, gli obiettivi

10 aprile 2025 – Lezione 8 I nostri vicini. L’Unione europea, il Mediterraneo e le ex repubbliche sovietiche

Il ciclo di webinar “Lezioni d’Europa” è organizzato dai Centri della rete Europe Direct dell’Università di Siena, Roma Innovazione operativo presso il Formez, dell’Università di Chieti, della Provincia di Verona, del Consorzio Universitario di Trapani Sicilia, dello Europe Direct Venezia Veneto del Comune di Venezia, dello Europe Direct Emilia-Romagna, dello Europe Direct Molise e dello Europe Direct Lombardia

Per le iscrizioni: <http://eventipa.formez.it/node/461918>



Coming up for the EU in 2025



As one year draws to a close and another one begins, let us take a look ahead at what's to come in the EU over the coming 12 months. 2025 promises to be another eventful and challenging year for us all. Both at home and abroad there is much to be done, while there will be several significant milestones to celebrate along the way.

The EU will maintain its important role on the global stage. We will continue to stand steadfast with Ukraine in the face of Putin's aggression and, thanks to the Ukraine Facility and our G7 loan, we are even covering most of Ukraine's financing gap for 2025. The Middle East

will be another area of focus, whilst we look forward to building on our strong transatlantic relationship with the US when its new leadership takes power.

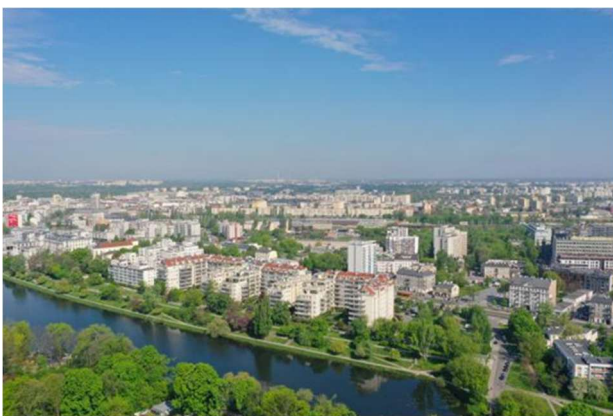
We will have some big birthdays to celebrate too. It will be 30 years since Austria, Finland and Sweden became members of the EU. 75 years since the Schuman declaration. On 1 January 2025, Bulgaria and Romania fully become part of Schengen, strengthening the Schengen area that will also be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Leading the way will be the European Parliament and Commission that took office in 2024, together with the Council of the EU, which will have Poland and Denmark as rotating Presidencies at its helm.

At the Commission, the coming months will see several new initiatives that will help to improve the EU's competitiveness, sustainability, defence, security, and digital technology. Progress will also be made on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034) in 2025.

(https://commission.europa.eu/news/coming-eu-2025-2024-12-31_en)

Poland assumes Presidency of the Council of the European



Poland takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Union for the second time. Thirteen years after the first Polish presidency, and twenty years after joining the EU, Poland presents an ambitious presidency programme, the main goal of which is to implement the priorities set around the topic of security.

Russia's ongoing armed aggression against Ukraine threatens the security of the entire continent, but it is also a war against the principles and values represented by the European Union. The Polish presidency will make efforts to respect and promote them by the EU, emphasising the special role of civil society.

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The Polish presidency will support activities strengthening European security in its many dimensions: external, internal, information, economic, energy, food, and health.

L'Europa al fianco dell'Italia: al via la campagna di comunicazione che racconta i risultati di NextGenerationEU



A Roma, ad Esperienza Europa, lo spazio dedicato a David Sassoli, è stata lanciata la campagna italiana che racconta i benefici concreti del NextGenerationEU per i cittadini, tramite il ritratto di tre protagonisti Lucia, Imma e Federico, e le loro storie. Le tre immagini chiave della campagna raccontano l'impatto positivo del piano di ripresa NextGenerationEU sulla vita delle persone e delle comunità locali:

Federico: un giovane proveniente dalla Sardegna, ha realizzato il sogno di trasferirsi e studiare all'Università di Bologna grazie a una borsa di studio finanziata dal PNRR. Un esempio concreto di come i fondi NGEU siano stati investiti anche per abbattere le barriere economiche e territoriali, favorendo l'accesso dei giovani all'istruzione e alla formazione.

Imma: amministratrice delegata nel settore digitale ha sviluppato contenuti per le scuole e gli studenti attraverso l'utilizzo di nuove tecnologie. Tra i suoi obiettivi, il PNRR mira a favorire la partecipazione delle donne nel mercato del lavoro e a sostenere l'imprenditoria femminile. Scopri la storia di Imma

Lucia: attrice di teatro, è agevolata nel suo percorso di autonomia grazie ad un'abitazione dedicata alle persone con disabilità, ristrutturata con fondi PNRR per meglio adattarsi alle sue esigenze. Scopri la storia di Lucia.

La campagna mette in evidenza come i fondi del NextGenerationEU stiano costruendo un futuro migliore per l'Italia, attraverso investimenti mirati e progetti concreti, volti a migliorare la vita dei cittadini e delle comunità. Con un focus su innovazione, formazione e inclusione, l'Unione europea si conferma protagonista di un cambiamento positivo per tutti. La campagna, al via dal 14 gennaio per tre settimane, è pensata per far arrivare le storie dei cittadini beneficiari al più ampio pubblico possibile nei territori di appartenenza. Strade e piazze di Roma, Napoli e Bologna ospiteranno visual con le loro storie, mentre quotidiani nazionali e locali, piattaforme digitali e social daranno spazio ai protagonisti della campagna. Con l'hashtag ufficiale #NextGenerationEU, articoli e video sui protagonisti e tramite una pagina web i cittadini potranno interagire e scoprire di più sui progetti finanziati in Italia. I cittadini saranno invitati a rispondere a una divertente call to action: potranno condividere sui social gli scatti della campagna presente nei diversi angoli delle loro città: basterà taggare @europainitalia su Instagram, Facebook o X per provare a vincere alcuni gadget.

(https://italy.representation.ec.europa.eu/notizie-ed-eventi/notizie/leuropa-al-fianco-dellitalia-al-la-campagna-di-comunicazione-che-racconta-i-risultati-di-2025-01-14_it)

New EU rules to improve Gender Balance in corporate boards enter into application



The Gender Balance on Corporate Boards Directive entered into application at the end of 2024, aiming for a more balanced gender representation on the boards of listed companies across all EU Member States.

The Directive sets a target for EU large listed companies of 40% of the underrepresented sex among their non-executive directors and 33% among all directors.

The deadline for the transposition by Member States was 28th December 2024, and companies must meet the targets by 30 June 2026.

The share of women in corporate boards is 34% on average in the EU. Since 2010, the representation of women in corporate boards has improved in most EU Member States, but the extent of progress varies considerably and in some Member States it is stagnating.

For example, in 2024, women accounted for 39.6% of the board members of the largest listed companies in countries with binding gender quotas, compared to 33.8% in countries with soft measures, and just 17% in countries that have taken no action at all.

Clear representation targets and transparent appointments to improve gender balance

By now, Member States must have transposed the Directive's rules into their national legislation, including:

- Specific binding measures for the selection procedure of board directors, with transparent and gender neutral criteria.
- Preference rule for the candidate of the underrepresented sex - in case of equally qualified candidates of both sexes.
- The disclosure of qualification criteria if requested by an unsuccessful candidate.
- Individual commitments from listed companies to reach gender balance among executive directors.
- Reporting on the composition of boards and obstacles to meet the target of the Directive, where applicable, and actions taken to overcome these.
- Effective, proportionate, and dissuasive penalties for companies failing to comply with transparent selection and reporting obligations. Penalties are defined by Member States, and can include fines and nullity or annulment of the contested directors' appointment if needed.
- The Directive also requires Member States to publish a list of companies that reached the gender balance targets as well as designate one or more bodies for the promotion, analysis, monitoring and support of gender balance on boards.

Next steps

The Commission will check the notifications of Member States of their transposition measures, and whether these measures correctly transpose the provisions of the Directive. The Commission can launch infringement proceedings against Member States that fail to notify transposition, or to correctly transpose, the Directive. Throughout the transposition period, the Commission supported Member States to ensure correct transposition, for example through workshops and bilateral consultations.

(https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_22)

In focus: Youth and the energy transition



Successful policymaking depends on the support and involvement of the people at its centre. Youth are a special case in point: they are directly concerned by many decisions taken at different government levels and are at an age decisively shaping their attitude to citizenry.

Given that 67% of young people see how actions taken by the EU have an impact on their daily life, the European Commission wants to create the conditions to allow young people to fully participate in policy discussions and drive change.

President von der Leyen has made enhanced exchanges and dialogues with citizens, and particularly with youth, her priority. She has also asked all the Commissioners to organise annual Youth Policy Dialogues, to be launched within their first 100 days in office. Dan Jørgensen, the Commissioner for Energy and Housing, will hold his first Youth Dialogue in Brussels in February 2025.

Employment and skills in the energy sector

While most jobs in the EU energy sector are still linked to conventional sources, there are some important changes in the trends already. In 2020, the renewables sector employed over 1.3 million people. As EU policies drive the uptake of clean energy technologies and renewables deployment, many new opportunities in the labour market will arise. It is estimated that as many as 3.5 million new posts will be needed by 2030 to cover the increase in demand.

Zooming in on specific sectors, the wind industry alone is estimated to grow from 300 000 jobs in 2022 to over 900 000 by 2030. The photovoltaic sector grew from 466 000 workers in 2021 to 648 100 by the end of 2022 and is estimated to reach over 1 million workers in 2025. There has also been significant growth in recent years in the heat pump and solid biofuels sectors. It is thus imperative to ensure that young people have the necessary education and skills to enter this market.

A lack of information amongst youth can constitute a barrier that prevents them from becoming involved and taking interest in the energy sector and what it can offer. The Commission is therefore increasing its efforts to provide information, offer more tools and opportunities for young people to participate in the energy transition, and make their voices heard, including in the policy process. Existing analyses point to further obstacles, such as not factoring youth needs to a sufficient extent in policy debates, or lack of detailed curricula in secondary and tertiary education allowing for the development of professional skills in the sectors expected to expand.

To encourage youth awareness about energy policy and their engagement in the clean energy transition, the Commission launched in 2023 the Young Energy Ambassadors programme.

It aims to promote direct engagement and representation of young energy professionals in the EU's largest event dedicated to the clean energy transition, the annual European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW). Through a call for application, 30 young people who work, study, or who are otherwise engaged in the energy sector, are selected to become Ambassadors. Their mandate lasts for 12 months, during which they contribute to the energy policy process and are tasked to communicate and raise awareness about EU energy-related issues amongst their peers.

The call for application for the 2025 selection of Young Energy Ambassadors will be launched on 28 January.

(https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/focus-youth-and-energy-transition-2025-01-16_en)

Commission launches competition for 2027 European Green Capital and Green Leaf Applicants



The European Commission invites European cities committed to sustainability to apply for the 2027 edition of the European Green Capital and Green Leaf Awards.

These Awards recognise and reward the efforts of European towns and cities that strive to reduce their local and global environmental impact while improving the quality of life for their inhabitants.

Winning cities will receive a financial prize and join the ever-growing network of leading European cities that share a common vision and expertise, inspiring others to follow their lead.

The European Green Capital Award is available for cities with over 100,000 inhabitants, while smaller towns and cities with more than 20,000 inhabitants can apply for the European Green Leaf Award.

The winner of the Green Capital Award will receive €600,000 and up to two Green Leaf winners will receive €200,000 each. The financial prize supports the winning cities in implementing initiatives to enhance their environmental performance and in engaging with citizens, especially during their winning year. Additionally, all applicants will receive personalised feedback on their applications.

Interested cities are invited to register for the contest via the EU survey to ensure they receive access to the relevant documents and the application form. The deadline for applying is 15 April 2025

A panel of independent urban sustainability experts will review and assess the performance of the competing cities against the following seven environmental indicators: air quality, water, biodiversity, green areas and sustainable land use, waste and circular economy noise, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation.

Based on the experts' recommendations and factual background checks, the Commission selects the finalist cities (expected around June/July).

The finalists will be requested by the jury to provide additional input on their sustainable governance and communication strategy.

They will be invited to present their vision to the jury, who will then select the winners (expected around October). Each year, one Green Capital and one or two Green Leaf winners are selected.

Background: The European Green Capital Award was launched by the European Commission to encourage cities to become greener and cleaner, and to improve the quality of life for inhabitants.

With over two-thirds of Europe's population living in cities, cities play a leading role in the social, environmental, and economic transformation prioritised by the European Green Deal.

17 cities have won the European Green Capital Award and 19 smaller cities have won the European Green Leaf Award to date, forming an ever-growing network of leading European cities that share a common vision and expertise and inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

(https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/competition-2027-european-green-cities-launches-2025-01-15_en)

Commission unveils action plan to protect the health sector from cyberattacks



On January 15, the Commission has presented an EU action plan aimed at bolstering the cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers. This Action Plan was announced in President von der Leyen's political guidelines as a key priority within the first 100 days of the new mandate. The initiative is an important step in shielding the healthcare sector from cyber threats. By enhancing threat detection, preparedness and response capabilities of hospitals and health providers, it will create a safer and more secure environment for patients and health professionals.

Digitalisation is bringing a revolution to healthcare, enabling better services to the patients through innovations such as electronic health records, telemedicine, and AI-driven diagnostics. However, cyberattacks can delay medical procedures, create gridlocks in emergency rooms, and disrupt vital services which, in severe cases, could have a direct impact on the lives of Europeans. Member States reported 309 significant cybersecurity incidents affecting the healthcare sector in 2023 – more than in any other critical sector.

The action plan proposes, among others, for ENISA, the EU agency for cybersecurity, to establish a pan-European Cybersecurity Support Centre for hospitals and healthcare providers, providing them with tailored guidance, tools, services, and training. The initiative builds on the broader EU framework to strengthen cybersecurity across critical infrastructure and marks the first sector-specific initiative to deploy the full range of EU cybersecurity measures.

In a nutshell, the action plan focuses on four priorities:

- **Enhanced Prevention.** The plan helps to build the healthcare sector's capacities to prevent cybersecurity incidents through enhanced preparedness measures such as guidance on implementing critical cybersecurity practices. Secondly, the Member States may also introduce Cybersecurity Vouchers to provide financial assistance to micro, small, and medium-sized hospitals and healthcare providers. Finally, EU will also develop cybersecurity learning resources for healthcare professionals.
- **Better detection and identification of threats.** The Cybersecurity Support Centre for hospitals and healthcare providers will develop an EU-wide early warning service, delivering near-real-time alerts on potential cyber threats, by 2026.
- **Response to Cyberattacks to minimise impact.** The plan proposes a rapid response service for the health sector under the EU Cybersecurity Reserve. Established in the Cyber Solidarity Act, the Reserve provides incident response services from trusted private service providers. As part of the plan, national cybersecurity exercises can take place along with the development of playbooks to guide healthcare organisations to respond to specific cybersecurity threats, including ransomware. Member States are encouraged to request reporting of ransom payments from entities, to be able to provide them the support they need and allow follow-up by law enforcement authorities.
- **Deterrence:** Protecting European healthcare systems by deterring cyber threat actors from attacking them. This includes the use of the Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox, a joint EU diplomatic response to malicious cyber activities.

The Action Plan will be implemented hand in hand with healthcare providers, Member States, and the cybersecurity community. To further refine the most impactful actions so that patients and healthcare providers can benefit from them, the Commission will soon launch a public consultation on this plan, open to all citizens and stakeholders.

(https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_262)



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