



Editorial

Iris Jakupić



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Dear Readers,

With the first warm spring days in April, the work of Brussels based institutions continues to warm up. During the first week of April, Croatian Regions Office co-organized **LLP training** in its premises. The learners participating in training expanded their knowledge on aspects of the LLP such as finding and selecting information, identifying the most suitable action for the organization and ICT tools for finding partners.

Second week of April was marked by the **EU Sustainable Energy Week**. We were also pleased to welcome in Brussels two Croatian colleagues, namely Mr. Mladen Lisak from the City of Kutina and Mr. Alen Ljeljak from the City of Čazma who participated in educational programme in order to meet the interests in field of utility management, spatial planning, green and spatial management, waste management and existing EU funds in the field of utility services. Links to the video recordings of most of the ESEW 2011 events are now available at <http://eusew.eu/component/content/article/51>.

On the occasion of the Tenth ManagEnergy Annual Conference, the North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency - **REGEA won a 2011 ManagEnergy award** for its project encouraging households to install solar energy systems. Congratulations to the winner!

Finally, I wish you all pleasant reading of April issue of our Newsletter.

Sincerely,

Iris Jakupić
Head of Croatian Regions Office

The first annual report of the Western Balkans Investment Framework Results of the new aid framework

The **Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF)**, officially launched in December 2009, is a financing initiative that aims to streamline existing **European Commission**-funded facilities, and to pool resources from the EC, the partner IFIs (**the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)**, the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**, and the **European Investment Bank (EIB)**), and **bilateral donors**. It pools existing resources in order to leverage loans for the financing of priority infrastructure in the Western Balkans. So far, the support has been approved for 73 projects worth over €6 billion in 2010.

The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) was introduced as a regional tool for EU Enlargement. It will result in better donor coordination and increased capacity to finance crucial infrastructure in line with accession priorities.

Projects receiving a grant contribution from WBIF must be on the territory of one or more of the following beneficiaries in the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo. The WBIF focuses on investments in key sectors of the Western Balkan economies including **energy, environment, transport, social infrastructure and private sector development**.

Projects must be nominated or endorsed by the National IPA Coordinator of the respective country and have the support of at least one IFI to be eligible for assistance. Projects of a regional nature or project have been deemed a priority by regional sectoral organization take precedence when deciding among applications.

To date, Croatia is benefiting from one project, namely "Penitentiary complex Šibenik". The amount approved under WBIF for project preparation is €0.8 million, while the total envisaged costs of the investment are €72 million. This investment is in line with the priorities stipulated in EC progress reports for Croatia and in the SAA signed on 29 October 2001.

Eligibility criteria

- **Geographical coverage:** Western Balkans
- **Sectors:** All contributing to socio-economic and environmental development
- **Eligible entities:** Public, private or mixed capital
- **Eligible costs:** All eligible under respective rules
- **Type of grant:** Technical Assistance, co-financing of investments, incentives, interest rates subsidies, insurance premiums
- **Complementary:** IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession) national programmes and other donors' initiatives

For more information please visit:

http://www.wbif.eu/attached_documents/9963/3299/WBIF_Annual_Report_2010.pdf

http://www.wbif.eu/attached_documents/9963/3297/WBIF_Overview_2010.pdf

The president of the Committee of the Regions in Croatia

Bresso: "In Croatia, the cities and regions will bring benefits of Europe to the citizens"

The CoR president, Mercedes Bresso, was invited to go and see for herself how Croatia is progressing along the road to reform. At numerous meetings with the Croatian authorities and representatives of Croatian local and regional authorities held from April 27 to April 30, 2011 she expressed her appreciation of the efforts that Croatia, soon to be the newest member of our Union, is making to create the political conditions, the institutional framework and the management capacity to boost regional development.

The Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of regional and local representatives. The mission of its 344 members from all 27 EU Member States is to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the EU's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies.

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council are obliged to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the EU Court of Justice if its rights are infringed or it believes that an EU law violates the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

The President of CoR pointed out that the right direction for the public service reform being carried out by Croatia is to abolishing the current highly complex procedures and strengthening at every level the broadening of competences, efficiency, independence and reliability of the administration.

Mercedes Bresso called on the Croatian authorities to continue their efforts and transfer the greatest possible number of competences to local and regional level, whilst guaranteeing the accompanying funding.

The role of local and regional authorities in decentralised information and communication campaign at local and regional level that must accompany any enlargement was also pointed out.

Danube Summit in Vukovar

On Friday April 29, 2011 the Danube summit took place in Vukovar, Croatia. The event brought

together national leaders from the 14 countries of the Danube region, the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn and Committee of the Regions (CoR) President Mercedes Bresso. Participants discussed the way forward for the EU strategy for the Danube region.

The Danube Strategy aims at improving coordination of the financial support available in the region and deepening cross-border cooperation in the fields of transport, environmental protection, competitiveness and security. Cooperation along these lines is already a reality on the Baltic Sea, and national ministers gave their green light for the Danube strategy on 13 April. They also invited Member States and the Commission to continue working on other possible future macro-regional strategies.

Short news from Brussels

Croatian Regions Office hosted LLP training in Brussels



Croatian regions Office, together with European Academy Network (www.eanetwork.be), organized a training called "How to support Lifelong Learning opportunities through European Programmes. The training took place from April 4 to April 8, 2011 in our premises on the address Avenue de Tervueren 84.

The course, supported by European Grundtvig programme is conceived with the aim of improving competences of teachers and other staff involved in the educational field about EU policies and programmes supporting the lifelong learning. In particular the objective of the course is to help participants to identify the sources of information on EU Programmes supporting the lifelong learning in Europe and to explain them through the key-concepts, aims, priorities and the categories of beneficiaries.

The learners expanded their knowledge on aspects of the LLP such as finding and selecting information, identifying the most suitable action for the organization and ICT tools for finding partners-Common mistakes in developing a European project in the field of education and training.

The EU programme for employment and social solidarity-PROGRESS (2007-2013), is a subject to a review undertaken by EC. In this context, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion invites you to take part in the public consultation on a successor instrument.

Public consultation on a possible successor to PROGRESS programme

This public consultation targets key stakeholders of the PROGRESS programme, in particular relevant authorities in the participating countries, including **public employment services, local and regional authorities, social and economic partners; NGOs; higher education institutions and research institutes, experts** in evaluation, and the **media**. It also covers candidate countries. The online consultation is open **until 27 May**.

For further information please visit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=699&langId=en&consultId=6&visib=0&furtherConsult=yes>

Koprivnica-Križevci County Prefect visits Croatian Regions Office

During his visit to Brussels on the occasion of presentation of Heart-shaped egg project, Darko Koren, Koprivnica-Križevci County Prefect met with Head of Croatian Regions Office on April 15, 2011. The subject of the meeting was adhesion of Koprivnica-Križevci County as an Office partner. Župan (prefect) Koren restated the willingness of Koprivnica-Križevci County to become the Office partner.

Giant Easter egg painted with naïve art from Hlebine was exhibited in the Brussels square Grand Sablon with the support of the Croatian National Tourist Board and in co-operation with the Koprivnica-Križevci County Tourist Board.

Calls for proposals

EuropeAid/131266/C/ACT/Multi—Preparatory actions for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas in the Western Balkans for the year 2010

Deadline: 20-05-2011

The **global objective** of this Call for Proposals is the **preservation and restoration of valuable cultural and/or religious objects** damaged or destroyed by war or other political conflicts.

The **specific objective (s)** of this Call for Proposals is/are: The actions will also aim to foster **restoration knowledge** in the affected areas aiming at the **broadening of the skill base both at regional and local level**. It is also intended that those actions will help evolution of the local socio-economic conditions both in terms of education possibilities and revenue generating activities.

Amount made available under this Call for Proposals is EUR 2 250 000. The Contracting

Any grant awarded under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum amount of EUR 100.000 and maximum amount of EUR 300.000 as well as between the minimum of 50% and maximum of 90% percentages of total eligible costs of the action.

Eligible applicants for a grant are the following: legal persons, non profit making, public authorities at local or regional level, or educational institutions, or non governmental organisations, or associations of craftsmen or skilled stakeholders conducting projects in the field, or international (inter-governmental) organizations which are nationals of a Member State of the European Union or of a Turkey, Iceland, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Kosovo under UNSCR1244/99.

Documents to be downloaded in order to complete your proposal can be found on this page:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1302869650079&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&Pgm=7573840&zgeo=35461&aoret=36538&debpub=21%2F03%2F2011&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=131266>

EuropeAid/131114/C/ACT/Multi- Civil Society Facility: Partnership actions Empowerment of Women

Deadline: 31-05-2011

The **overall objective** is to strengthen civil society within a participative democracy, stimulating a civil society friendly 'environment' and culture. The current Call for Proposals aims at developing strong regional partnerships between CSOs from the region themselves which are engaged in promoting gender equality together with their EU counterparts and public authorities.

Visit our website: <http://www.croatianregions.eu/en/> or <http://www.azra.hr/hr/501/o-uredu/>

The **specific objectives** of this Call for Proposals are to enhance the transparency and the accountability of CSOs; reinforce the professional capacity of CSOs working on women rights; organise CSOs so that they play an increasingly influential role in the formulation of public policy at local, national, regional and EU levels; increase citizens' awareness of their rights and duties as well as participation of citizens in civil society activities; enhance cooperation and networking among CSOs from the beneficiary countries, and with CSOs from the EU in order to foster an intercultural dialogue; increase understanding by CSOs of EU affairs and the accession process eventually leading to better dissemination of information; assist CSOs in improving women's rights, combating violence against women (both domestic as on the street and in promoting equal treatment).

The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is EUR 1,650,000.

Any grant awarded under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum amount of EUR 50.000 and maximum amount of EUR 200.000. No grant may exceed 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action.

Documents to be downloaded in order to complete your proposal can be found on this page:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=RS&aofr=131114>

Building the capacity of investment actors to analyze + use environmental, social and governance information - 5/G/ENT/CIP/11/E/N02S003

THE DEADLINE OF THIS CALL IS EXTENDED UNTIL 03/06/201



The **overall objective** of this call for proposals is to enhance market reward for sustainable and socially responsible enterprises, so facilitating the transition towards a sustainable economy. The **specific objective** is to build the capacity of mainstream investment actors to better integrate environmental, social and governance information into their valuations of enterprises. This call for proposals is also an opportunity for the investment community to further align its practices with the expectations of European public policy.

For more information please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4959&lang=en&tpa=201&displayType=fo&ref=newsbytheme%2Ecfm%3Flang%3Den%26displayType%3Dfo%26fosubtype%3Dp%26tpa%3D201%26tpa_id%3D201%26period%3Dlatest%26month%3D%26page%3D1

Youth in action programme

Permanent actions – Action 1.1 - Youth Exchanges, **Action 1.3** - Youth Democracy Projects Thematic Networking, **Action 2** - European Voluntary Service (EVS), **Action 3.1** Cooperation with the Neighbouring Countries of the European Union, **Action 4.3** - Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organization, **Action 5.1** - Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy

Round 2 deadline: 01-06-2011

Programme guide and application **eForms** 2011

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2011/applications_permanent_call_2011_en.php

Life-long learning programmes; Transversal programmes - Key activity 1 - Study visits

2nd deadline: 14-10-2011

Each year, the European Commission sets out the priorities for the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme in a call for proposals.

The documents related to the call are listed here:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/llp/doc848_en.htm

Europe for citizens programme

Deadline: 01-06-2011

Action 1-Measure 1.1 Citizen's meetings

Action 1 supports citizens' meetings in the context of town twinning. EU-funded gatherings share three common features: they show a commitment to EU integration; they build friendships in Europe; and they promote active participation.

Town-twinning meetings can foster friendship and mutual understanding by enabling citizens to get to know people from their twinned towns and to develop personal relationships with them. These gatherings could also help people become familiar with day-to-day life in their partner towns in other countries, and encourage them to experience cultural diversity, as well as their common cultural heritage.

Citizens' meetings should be characterised by active civic participation. This could be done by involving the local community in the planning and implementation of the project; granting participants an active role through displays, workshops, joint cultural performances, etc.; and ensuring that meetings are truly a joint endeavour between all the towns involved.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.uzuvrh.hr/stranica.aspx?pageID=110>

or

<http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/programme->

Action 1-Measure 2.1., Citizen's project

Citizens' projects funded under Action 1 should employ innovative methods to bring together citizens from different walks of life, who will collaborate on or debate common European issues at local and EU level.

This novel measure was tested through a series of pilot projects which were launched in a call for proposals on April 2006 and ran until the summer of 2007. The selection of projects focused on experimental and innovative methods for enhancing citizen participation.

The deadline is the **1st of June 2011** for projects starting between 1 December 2011 and 28 February 2012.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.uzuvrh.hr/stranica.aspx?pageID=110> or http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/programme-actions/doc38_en.htm

Action 1 – Measure 2.2., Support measures

In order to improve the quality of town-twinning activities funded under Action 1, support measures have been set up to fund the exchange of good practice, pool experience and help revitalise dormant twinning relationships.

These support measures should be coordinated and managed by intermediary bodies which possess broad expertise in the field and use efficient tools to improve the quality of the projects. The European Commission will establish partnerships with relevant organisations, which will be selected through an open and transparent procedure. Within these, the Commission will co-fund the support measures they carry out.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.uzuvrh.hr/stranica.aspx?pageID=110> or http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/programme-actions/doc496_en.htm

Action 4 – Active European Remembrance

Action 4 has a two-fold objective: "fostering action, debate and reflection related to European citizenship and democracy, shared values, common history and culture", and "bringing Europe closer to its citizens by promoting Europe's values and achievements, while preserving the memory of its past".

Support will be provided to projects that preserve sites of historical and social interest linked to Nazism and Stalinism, such as the concentration camps of World War II. Preserving the experiences of those who lived through the war – and remembering the millions who died – should help present generations, especially the young, to understand the sacrifice made by their forebears.

Funded projects should have at least one, or a combination, of the following features: preservation, commemoration, reflection and networking.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.uzuvrh.hr/vijest.aspx?pageID=20&newsID=1319>
http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/programme-actions/doc48_en.htm

PROGRESS programme

VP/2011/08 - Restructuring, well-being at work and financial participation

Deadline: 14-06-2011, 12-12-2011

This call is intended to cover grants to promote development and dissemination of better expertise and capabilities among the actors concerned in the areas of anticipating, preparing and promoting a socially acceptable repose when reconstructing comes. It also covers measures to promote employees financial participation.

The call has the budget of 2.330.000 EUR for 2011.

Priority objectives and types of actions are the following:

- I. Improvement of experience in reconstructing
- II. Better understanding of health and well-being of work during change
- III. Promoting the financial participation of workers

The deadlines for the submission of applications are as follows: 14 June 2011 for activities commencing no earlier than 26 September 2011 and 6 September 2011 for activities commencing no earlier than 12 December 2011 and no later than 31 December 2011.

The documents related to the call are listed here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=305&furtherCalls=yes>

VP/2011/001 - Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue

Deadline: 30-08-2011

Objectives of this call include measures and initiatives related to the adaptation of social dialogue to changes in employment and work and related to challenges such as addressing modernization of the labor market, quality of work anticipation, preparation, youth employment, contributions to the health and safety strategy reconciliation of work and family life, gender equality, action in the field of anti-discrimination, active ageing, active inclusion and decent work.

The foreseen budgetary allocation to this call is 13 260 000 EUR.

Eligible measures are the following:

- I. Support for European social dialogue
- II. Improving expertise in the field of industrial relations

The deadline for the submission of applications is August, 30 2011 for actions beginning no earlier than 30 October 2011 and no later than 22 December 2011.

The documents related to the call are listed here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=630&langId=en&callId=292&furtherCalls=yes>

EU Calendar May 2011

Your Europe, Your Say!

Date: 05.May, 2011 **To** 07.May, 2011

Where: European Economic and Social Committee, Rue Belliard 99, Brussels

For the second year running, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is offering an unique opportunity for secondary schools from across Europe to come to Brussels to debate, negotiate, stand up for their beliefs and try to find a consensus in a simulated plenary session. Taking place from 5 to 7 May 2011, the simulated plenary session will allow young people to debate a specific topic with the Committee's other "extraordinary" members – students of the same age from each of the 27 EU Member States. Around 100 students and teachers will come and share their experiences in a multicultural environment, exchange ideas and make new friends. See and learn how participatory democracy works by getting involved. And experience Brussels from the inside.

Scientix European Conference

Date: 06.May, 2011 **To** 08.May, 2011

Where: Crowne Plaza, Rue Gineste 3, 1210 Brussels

The Scientix European Conference is a unique opportunity to learn more about different science education projects in Europe, get to know the people behind the projects, and share your expertise, knowledge and best practices with colleagues from across Europe. Also, it gives a thorough view of the potential and possibilities of the Scientix portal and community. The conference is targeted especially at science, maths and technology teachers.

Europe Festival

Date: 7/05, http://europa.eu/festivalofeurope/index_fr.htm

On 7th May European institutions will open their doors to the public for a look behind the scenes of European power. On this day the whole district will be full of stands providing information on Europe and the rich culture of its member states. The Europe Festival is not only informative, it's also fun. Parliament will be organising a huge Euro karaoke on the esplanade. A great atmosphere is guaranteed. Participants will include the Brussels-Europe Liaison Office. You will find us in the European Parliament and in the Committee of the Regions building.

AER working meeting on Financial Engineering

Date: 11.May, 2011

Where: AER, Avenue Louise, Brussels

Identification of the main issues at stake for regions regarding the implementation of Financial engineering programmes and sharing best practices between experienced and non-experienced regions.

Comenius Regio Conference

Date: 11.May.2011 **To** 12.May.2011

Where: Bordeaux, France

The Comenius Regio Conference 2011 is organised by the European Commission and the Agence Europe-Education-Formation France on 11 and 12 May 2011, for members of regional and local education authorities implementing Comenius Regio Partnership Projects.

The conference aims to provide opportunities for representatives of these authorities to reflect on the achievements of their projects over the last 2 years. It also provides a chance to discuss the challenges which lie ahead for school education in Europe, and in which regional and local authorities play a crucial role. Above all, the conference is designed to facilitate the creation of networks of regions, in order to lay the foundations for future collaboration between European regions and to give better visibility to the policy innovations developed through their partnerships.

Building Tomorrow's Smart Cities: The Role of Electricity and DSOs for Sustainable Urban Development

Date: 12.May, 2011

Where: Hotel Marriott, A. Orts 3-7/Grand Place, 1000 Brussels

Cities expanding in size and population pose increased challenges to the environment: they require most energy services and are therefore ultimately responsible for the use of energy resources and, consequently, for a significant share of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions.

The goal of this EURELECTRIC Conference is to present, discuss and address the challenges faced by European municipalities, businesses and distribution system operators when transforming energy systems and electricity networks. 'Smart' systems and technologies can lead to energy and resource efficiency through better monitoring and management of electricity distribution, buildings and transport. Yet business models for smart cities are still unclear and require the outline of a multiparty stakeholder structure. Within this perspective, European distribution system operators could take up the role of facilitators by providing interoperability between the various market players of a smart city model. Experts from the European Commission, major cities, the electricity and engineering industry will all report on key questions, progress and challenges ahead.

European Youth Week 2011

Date: 15.May.2011 **To** 21.May.2011

Where: Brussels

The fifth European Youth Week (EYW) will take place 15-21 May. Organised in cooperation with the EU Committee of the Regions and the European Youth Forum, the EYW will feature events in the 33 countries involved in the Commission's Youth in Action programme (27 EU Member States, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey). The city of Antwerp in Belgium, which has been designated as the '2011 European Youth Capital' will host, on 17 May, a debate on the Europe 2020 flagship initiative 'Youth on the Move'.

President Barroso will present awards for outstanding European Voluntary Service projects supported by the Youth in Action programme and Commissioner Vassiliou will announce the results of a new Eurobarometer survey on youth and education.

Europe's Development Policy Comes Of Age

Date: 17.May, 2011

Where: Bibliothèque Solvay, Parc Léopold, Rue Belliard 137, 1040 Brussels

The focus of development policy thinking is shifting away from aid to wider economic cooperation and to policies that promote regional integration and investment. Trade will more than ever be at the heart of the development debate, so the impact of trade and investment on developing countries must be looked at against a background of financial market instability, commodity price volatility and climate change.

With the European Commission due to unveil its proposals this year for further CAP reform and to finalise its new development policy based on sustainable growth, how will these proposals impact on development?

Brussels Economic Forum 2011

Date: 18.May.2011

Where: Charlemagne building, Brussels

The Brussels Economic Forum (BEF) 2011 offers an opportunity to discuss the new era of EU economic governance. High level decision-makers, economists, social partners and the media will gather in order to debate and exchange ideas.

This year, the time has come for Europe to adopt and implement the full, reformed economic governance framework – from the first European Semester to a robust surveillance of fiscal and macroeconomic policies. Its successful implementation will represent a major overhaul of economic policy coordination in Europe.

ICT Proposers' Day

Date: 19.May.2011 To 20.May.2011

Where: Budapest, Hungary

The ICT Proposers' Day 2011 is dedicated to networking and promoting research & development in the field of Information and Communication Technologies. If you would like to know more: about the funding opportunities offered by the European Union in the field of ICT research & development and about participating in **Calls 8 and 9** of the FP7 ICT Work Programme offering more than one billion euros of EU funding.

International Biodiversity Day

Date: 22.May.2011

22 May is the International Day for Biodiversity (IDB). This year's theme of biodiversity and forests provides Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and those dealing with forest the opportunity to raise awareness of the issue and increase practical action.

Green Week Conference 2011: Resource Efficiency - Using Less, Living Better

Date: 24.May, 2011 To 27.May, 2011

Where: European Commission - DG Environment, Avenue de Beaulieu 5, 1160 Brussels

Green Week offers a unique opportunity for debate and exchanges of experience and best practice. Over the past decade, the conference has established itself as an unmissable event

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for anyone involved with protecting Europe's environment. The 2010 edition attracted some 3 400 participants from government, business and industry, non-governmental organisations, academia and the media.

e-Health Week

Date: 10.May.2011 **To** 12.May.2011

Where: Budapest, Hungary

Participants at the eHealth week conference will discuss the role of eHealth in tackling common challenges such as chronic disease management, human resource shortages and the ageing population. For the first time, the eHealth Week will focus on innovation-rich subjects such as Ambient Assisted Living; and European Innovation Partnerships.

Conference: Mobilising SMEs for the Future of Europe

Date: 24.May.2011 **To** 25.May.2011

Where: Gödöllő, Hungary

Together with the Hungarian EU Presidency, the European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry is organising a high-level conference "Mobilising SMEs for the future of Europe - The Small Business Act for Europe & European Enterprise Awards 2011: exchange of good practices" on 24-25 May 2011 in Gödöllő, near Budapest, Hungary.

The event will focus on local and regional solutions to the key challenges facing SMEs and on implementing the Small Business Act (SBA) for Europe in the Member States. The event will incorporate the European Enterprise Awards ceremony. The event is aimed at local and regional public authorities, business organisations and experts from Member States' national and regional administrations. Registration is open until 13 May.

Europe's Scarce Resources Strategy

Date: 25.May, 2011

Where: Friends of Europe, Bibliothèque Solvay, Parc Léopold, Rue Belliard 137, 1040 Brussels

Green Week 2011, organised by the European Commission's DG Environment, will address the problem of resource depletion and scarcities. Green Week attracts over 4,000 participants from Europe and the rest of the world. Friends of Europe's European Policy Summit, entitled 'Europe's scarce resources strategy', will consist of two sessions focusing on Europe's response to the "scramble for global resources" and speeding up the revolution in how business thinks of resource efficiency.

Enhancing business cooperation within the framework of the EU Danube Strategy

Date: May 26, 2011 9:30-12:30

Where: European Economic and Social Committee (Room JDE 63)

Jointly organised by the **Croatian Chamber of Economy and the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, representative offices in Brussels.

The event is focusing on the **importance of the Danube Strategy as a framework policy promoting business development** and it intends to help stakeholders to better understand how the initiative can contribute to a more active cooperation of enterprises within the macroregion. Working language: English (no interpretation will be provided)

Visit our website: <http://www.croatianregions.eu/en/> or <http://www.azra.hr/hr/501/o-uredy/>

BUDAPEST: GET ENGAGED!

Date: May 26, 2011 9:30-12:30

Where: Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101

The conference aims to present the new directives in City Strategy, City Branding and Image, City Transport and Business Innovation – Business Development in three parts.

Tolled Infrastructures for Safe, Smart and Clean Transport

Date: 29.May, 2011 **To** 31.May, 2011

Where: ASECAP, Rue Guimard, 15, 1040 Brussels

From 29 until 31 May 2011, motorway experts and high level representatives from the European institutions will gather in Brussels for a two-day congress to identify how the public and private sectors can cooperate and provide the necessary responses for the benefit of the road users. The first day of the congress will be dedicated to political sessions focusing on Eurovignette, concessions and PPP schemes as the basic tools for building, financing and operating safe, smart and clean road infrastructures.

The second day will allow an exchange of best practices from over 20 European countries; these technical sessions will demonstrate the ability of tolled motorways to meet the current mobility needs in terms of safety and sustainability by providing their expertise in the field of Intelligent Transport Systems and new tolling technologies.

Culture Programme Infoday

Date: 30.May.2011

Where: Charlemagne building, Brussels

This information day is brought to you by the European Commission (Direction General Education and Culture) and the Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency, which is responsible for the day to day management of most of the Culture Programme. This Infoday will provide information on the upcoming calls for proposals, as well as tips and practical advice on how to prepare a strong proposal. It will offer you the possibility to speak to key players from the Culture Programme and with participants implementing projects.

Upcoming seminars

EIPA (<http://seminars.eipa.eu/>) organizes seminar on EU Transparency and Access to Documents and European Information Management called “Transparency and Access to Documents in the EU: Ten Years on from the Adoption of Reg.1049/2001”

Date: 29-30 Jun,2011 **Place:** Maastricht

The seminar will familiarise participants with the various aspects of “openness and transparency” in the EU. While linking the concept of transparency with the broader issues of political accountability and democratic deficit, the sessions will address the latest developments regarding access to documents. These will cover both the acts of the community institutions and other bodies such as agencies, treatment of sensitive data, relevant case law as well as the role of the Member States. Furthermore the seminar will focus on the changes resulting from the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and their ramifications on the revision process of Regulation 1049/2001.

The objective of the seminar is to highlight the practitioners’ view on the application of European provisions on transparency, to allow for a discussion on the key challenges of Regulation 1049/2001, and to demonstrate different issues faced by the institutional actors in the application of the legal framework for transparency and access to documents.

At the end of the seminar participants will have a sound understanding of “the politics of information” at the European level, be more aware