

INFO FLASH 31/12/2022

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Commission

(19/01) New Pact on Migration and Asylum: new mandate, new start for the European Union Agency for Asylum. Today, the new European Union Agency for Asylum starts work with its reinforced mandate, building on the achievements of its predecessor, the European Asylum Support Office. The new agency is a key deliverable under the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. It will help ensure that asylum decisions are taken in a fast and fair manner and that reception standards converge across the EU, bringing more uniformity in decision making and alignment between Member States' asylum systems. Full press release [here](#).

(18/01) Higher education: making EU's universities ready for the future through deeper transnational cooperation. Today, European society needs the contribution of universities and other higher education institutions more than ever. Europe is facing major challenges such as climate change, the digital transformation and aging population, at a time when it is hit by the biggest global health crisis in a century and its economic fall-out. Universities, and the entire higher education sector, have a unique position at the crossroads of education, research and innovation, in shaping sustainable and resilient economies, and in making the European Union greener, more inclusive and more digital. Full press release [here](#).

(6/01) 2021 FEAD Network Case Study Catalogue. The case studies in this report show how the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) is protecting and caring for Europe's citizens and helping to lift them out of poverty, using a combination of material support and access to services. Case study catalogue [here](#).

European Parliament

(26/01) Future of Europe: Europeans see climate change as top challenge for the EU. As 2022 - designated European Year of Youth – begins, today's survey highlights the views of young Europeans on the challenges facing the European Union, alongside the key role young people are playing in the Conference on the Future of Europe. Today's Eurobarometer shows that 91% of 15–24-year-olds believe that tackling climate change can help improve their own health and well-being, while 84% of those aged 55 or over agree. Almost every second European (49%) sees climate change as the main global challenge for the future of the EU, with overwhelming support for the environmental objectives of the European Green Deal: 88% of Europeans think it is important to increase the share of renewable energy in our economy and have greater energy efficiency, while 80% agree on the importance of making Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and promoting the growth of the zero- and low-emissions vehicles market. Other future global challenges highlighted by respondents include health (34%) and forced migration and displacement (mentioned by some 30%). Full press release [here](#).

(24/01) Conference on the Future of Europe: citizens' recommendations debated in Plenary. On Friday 21 and Saturday 22 January, the Conference Plenary took stock of recommendations made by two European Citizens' Panels and national Citizens' Panels.

The third session of the Conference Plenary took stock of the 90 recommendations made by the Panels on 'European democracy / Values and rights, rule of law, security' and 'Climate change, environment / Health', and of related recommendations from national Citizens' Panels. The debates revolved around the recommendations from the two European Citizens' Panels that have finalised their work so far, in which some 200 Europeans of different ages and backgrounds, from all Member States, met (in person and remotely) to discuss and adopt recommendations on the challenges facing Europe now and in the future. Full press release [here](#).

European Council / Council of the EU

(24/01) Human rights: EU adopts conclusions on EU priorities in United Nations human rights fora in 2022. The Council today approved conclusions on the EU's priorities in UN human rights fora in 2022. The conclusions reaffirm the EU's commitment to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, democracy and the rule of law consistently and coherently in all areas of its external action and to support the UN human rights system as a cornerstone of its external action. The EU will address recently emerging risks for human rights, including hybrid threats, technological developments, climate change, and the continuing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Full press release [here](#).

Others

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

(26/01) ICC National networks release their 2021 yearly reports. The Intercultural Cities programme is happy to announce the publication of the yearly reports of the ICC national networks in Italy (Città del Dialogo), Portugal (RPCI), Spain (RECI) and Ukraine (ICC-UA). The annual reports of the national networks inform about the progress of ICC national coalitions of cities, representing around 60% of the membership. They also show that it is possible to align national priorities with international ones, and to pilot innovative initiatives that will ultimately benefit the whole ICC network. Full press release [here](#).

(17/01) Want to make your workplace more inclusive? Learn here how to successfully manage diversity in the public-private partnership industry. In 2021 the Italian municipalities of Novellara, Reggio Emilia, and the union of municipalities "Rubicone e Mare" were awarded an ICC intercity-grant to develop "Diversity Management approaches in the public-private partnership industry", a project aiming to promote greater inclusion of employees from different backgrounds. After its very successful implementation, the project report contains all elements that will enable transferring to other public institutions the broad knowledge acquired and the methodological approach to a real inclusive diversity management in the workplace. Full press release [here](#).

(17/01) Fostering inclusive recruitment: project report and Guidebook for Employers. Employment is crucial factor for inclusion: it brings economic independence, and it is often a starting point for newcomers and migrants to develop local networks and relationships, and to fully develop their potential. However, migrants and newcomer do not always have easy and clear access to information regarding their rights and duties; besides, misconceptions and biases may also pose barriers to an inclusive recruitment process. Through the project "Inclusive Recruitment" the Portuguese municipalities of Amadora, Loures and Oeiras worked

on ways and means to encourage Portuguese employers to hire migrants and newcomers, taking advantage from diversity. Full press release [here](#).

(17/01) Sustainable and inclusive tourism to foster participation and sense of belonging. Sustainable and inclusive tourism could be a powerful way to safeguard citizens well-being during touristic routes, promote unknown areas and neighbourhoods, provide opportunities for employment of migrants, and promote intercultural interaction. These are some of the goals pursued by the cities of Bilbao and Valencia through “Diversitours”, a project awarded with an ICC intercity grant in 2021. Inspired by the model of the European network MIGRANTOUR, Diversitours has been developed as a specific intercultural business model, consisting in educational and community-led guided walk that contribute to the generation of new narratives for the targeted neighbourhood, empowering the local community through co-creation and implementation, while dismantling negative perception and stereotypes about the territory and its residents. Full press release [here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY

(21/01) ECRE - Editorial: Asylum Mini-Package: Derogations Through the Backdoor. The New Year was bookended by worrying developments on the right to asylum in Europe: legislative proposals which, together with the proposed [Council Decision of November 2021](#), could be classed as a new asylum mini-package. In the reductio ad absurdum that is EU asylum law, one of the main ideas of the legislative reforms is the normalisation of derogation from legal obligations. Some of the content overlaps with proposals in the 2020 Pact, which are currently subject to legislative scrutiny, while other elements were rejected in the preparation of the Pact and have now returned via the backdoor. All of which is highly dubious. Full press release [here](#).

(18/01) PICUM - COVID-19 certificates and undocumented migrants: for some, the risk is more exclusion. Since the EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulation went into effect on 1 July 2021, several Member States have used vaccine certificates to determine access to services and civic spaces. While many see this as a way to boost uptake of the vaccine among those hesitating, this is not true for everyone. For those already facing barriers to the vaccine, like undocumented migrants, requiring vaccination certificates to access public services and civic spaces compounds pre-existing exclusion. It also raises concerns about the increased policing of these spaces to the detriment of fundamental rights, particularly for groups already facing criminalisation. Full press release [here](#).

(10/01) Social Platform - Civil society space post-COVID - shared worries about the state of civil dialogue. We hear about the impact of COVID on businesses but what about civil society organisations? Recently Social Platform and [Civil Society Europe](#) hosted a discussion on the state of civic space with civil society organisations from different sectors, from development to the environment and the social sector. Full press release [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Council of the EU General Secretariat – [Think Tank Review](#) (January)

Caritas Europa - [Minimum income, it's time for an EU legal framework](#)

CONCORD - [Op-Ed: Aligning the Social Economy Action Plan with the EU's international partnerships](#)

Eurodiaconia - [Destitute EU Mobile Citizens](#)

ECRE - [AIDA Comparative Report: Digitalisation of Asylum](#)

ECRE - [EC Proposal on Situations of Instrumentalisation in the Field of Migration and Asylum](#)

ICMPD - [Migration Outlook 2022](#)

OECD - [Regularization of migrants in an irregular situation in the OSCE region: Recent developments, points for discussion and recommendations](#)