



Corporate content on communication for outreach networks

Issue N. 42

To keep you in the big picture

Time for ambition

We open today's edition with the **conclusions from the European Council** meeting that took place on 23 March. The day started with a meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres. Next, the European Council expressed once again its unity and determination as regards support for Ukraine and reiterated its commitment to maintaining and increasing the collective pressure on Russia, including through possible restrictive measures. The European Council concluded with a broad debate on migration, competitiveness, internal market and energy issues. Full details [here](#).

Ending the greenwashing

It's not easy to make a choice among the 230 different ecolabels on the EU market and make the right choice in a world where greenwashing is part of the game. To help consumers become more confident about their choices, the Commission proposed [common criteria against greenwashing and misleading environmental claims](#). Under the proposal, **consumers** will have **more clarity, stronger reassurance** that when something is sold as green, it actually is green, and better quality information to choose environment-friendly products and services. Businesses will also benefit, as those that make a genuine effort to improve the environmental sustainability of their products will be more easily recognised and rewarded by consumers and able to boost their sales, rather than face unfair competition. See [more](#).

Right to repair

22 March witnessed a second Commission proposal designed to help consumers become more confident - [proposal on common rules promoting the repair of goods](#). The latter will result in savings for consumers and support the objectives of the [European Green Deal](#) by reducing waste, among others. Over the last decades, replacement has often been prioritised over repair whenever products become defective and insufficient incentives have been given to consumers to repair their goods when the legal guarantee expires. The proposal will make it **easier and more cost-effective for consumers to repair as opposed to replace goods**. Find out [more](#).

We handpicked for you

Sweet dreams are made of .. ?

Last week, the Commission published the results of an **EU-wide coordinated action** that investigated how widespread adulteration is on the market **for imported honey**. An exemplary cooperation between DG SANTE, the JRC and OLAF, the investigation confirmed the initial assumption that a large proportion of imported honey is at least suspicious. While the risk to consumers' health is very low, such practices defraud consumers and put honest producers in jeopardy - as they have to face unfair competition from businesses that can slash prices thanks to the use of illicit, cheap ingredients. Read the full DG SANTE [report](#).

Might wish to share among your networks

Democracy in action

The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) needs your help to reach all European citizens. Since 2012, close to 800 people have started European citizens' initiatives, while more than 17 million signatures of support have been collected. The ECI allows EU citizens to influence EU policies by putting on the European agenda the issues that matter most to them. A citizens' initiative brings together people from different EU countries to collect signatures and call on the European Commission to propose laws in areas where the Commission has powers to act. The tool was launched in 2012 and in April 2023 the **100th** citizens' initiative will be registered for collecting signatures. [Find more facts and figures here](#). Taking part in European democracy is every EU citizen's right – whether by starting, joining or signing a citizens' initiative. You can also get involved by spreading the word. **Use your voice and communication channels to promote the ECI among your networks!** For more information, check out the [website](#).

Citizens, equality, rights and value: the outcomes

On 16 February this year the **European Education and Culture Executive Agency** organised an online Information session on 16 February 2023 to present the [Call for Proposals to promote civil society organisations' awareness of, capacity building and implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#). The presentations are now available on the [event page](#).

Learn about other EU networks and find synergies!

Today's network in highlight → **National Contact Points for Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV)**

Scope → CERV National Contact Points are currently established in 20 Members States (AT, CY, CZ, DE, DK, ES, ET, FI, FR, GR, HR, IT, LV, LT, LU, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI) and more may join before the end of the programme.

The CERV National Contact Points are the ambassadors of the Citizens Equality Rights and Values Programme ([Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme \(europa.eu\)](https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en?networks=CERV)). The main aim is to promote the programme and disseminate information in the areas covered by the programme. Other aims include supporting potential applicants in the application processes, facilitating the creation of cross-border partnership and promoting the exchange of best practices. Finally, they support the European Commission and EACEA in communicating the results of the programme to European citizens.

Target audience → Municipalities, civil society organisations active at local, regional and international level interested in funding opportunities for initiatives aimed at citizens' engagement, equality for all and the protection and promotion of rights and EU values.

Possible synergies with you → CERV National Contact Points can collaborate with other networks working on #citizensengagement #values #culture #equality with #youth #civilsociety #marginalisedgroups #localauthorities. They cooperate for example with EUROPE DIRECT centres, Creative Europe Desks, Erasmus+ National Agencies, etc.

Find CERV National Contact Points near you and give them a call

https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en?networks=CERV