



## **Corporate content on communication for outreach networks**

European Commission, Directorate General for  
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### EU News & Policy Highlights

#### **Standing strong for democracy**

The Commission has launched the European Democracy Shield and a new EU Strategy for Civil Society - two major initiatives to strengthen democracy and civic participation across Europe.

The European Democracy Shield aims to protect what makes our democracies thrive: free elections, independent media and active citizens. It will boost resilience against disinformation, promote media literacy and support citizens' engagement through a whole-of-society approach. The EU Strategy for Civil Society will empower civil society organisations through better protection and more accessible funding.

The Democracy Shield will also pave the way for a new European Centre for Democratic Resilience, bringing together EU and Member States' expertise and resources to increase our collective capacity to anticipate, detect and respond to threats and build democratic resilience.

Together, these initiatives aim to make democracy tangible — visible, shared, and lived locally. Find out [more](#).

#### **EU Enlargement Package: progress towards a stronger Europe**

On 4 November, the European Commission adopted its annual Enlargement Package, reporting significant progress among candidate countries including Ukraine, Moldova and the Western Balkans. Enlargement is not simply a necessity, it is an investment. It affects every citizen, strengthening prosperity and democratic values across Europe. From better cross-border connections to economic opportunities, all communities stand to benefit as new members join our shared Union. Majority of EU citizens support enlargement, recognising its promise for wider solidarity and resilience. The EU is committed to supporting reforms, ensuring that enlargement delivers positive change for everyone.

### **LIFE Programme: The EU invests massively in local sustainable projects**

The European Commission has approved over €358 million in funding for [132 new projects](#) across Europe under the [LIFE Programme](#), marking one of the most ambitious waves of green investment in the programme's history. These local projects target a wide range of priorities: restoring peatlands and wetlands, protecting endangered species, reducing waste, and deploying clean energy solutions. Communities will benefit from innovations like sustainable farming in France, river restoration in Poland, and solar energy training in remote areas throughout Europe. By financially supporting local action and cross-border partnerships, the LIFE Programme empowers citizens to lead the green transition. To stay up to date on the latest programmes offered by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, [subscribe to their newsletter](#).

### **Spotlight on COP 30: EU demonstrates global leadership on climate action**

The ongoing [COP30 in Belém](#), Brazil brought together 190 nations, including representatives from all member States, to accelerate climate action. The EU reaffirmed its commitment to the [Paris Agreement](#) and efforts to ensure its implementation. The President of the European Commission reinstated her engagement to [climate neutrality by 2050](#) and proposed a 90% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. This process, at the European level, is well underway: emissions reduced by 37% since 1990, half of the electricity sourced from renewables, and accelerating the phase-out of fossil fuels. The COP30 outcome underlines why staying the course on climate action is vital: it safeguards citizens, strengthens energy security, and builds resilience against extreme weather conditions, which already have devastating impacts in regions throughout Europe.

### **New EU protection for your region's craft and industrial products**

As of 1 December 2025, craft and industrial products will fully benefit from an EU-wide Geographical indications (GIs) protection under a new [regulation](#)! This new protection ensures that traditional products with a strong link to their region - such as glass, porcelain, textiles, cutlery, or jewellery, among many other regional crafts - can now benefit from the same EU-wide recognition and quality label already enjoyed by food and drink products.

### **EU Bioeconomy Strategy: new horizons for your region**

Imagine a world where your every-day products - from clothing and packaging to building materials and cosmetics - come from renewable natural resources rather than fossil fuels. The forthcoming EU Bioeconomy Strategy, due for adoption on 27 November 2025, will help make this shift a reality, bringing innovation from research to market and positioning the EU as a leader in bioeconomy. By unleashing the potential of the European bioeconomy, the Strategy will help create quality jobs and support innovative enterprises, particularly in rural and coastal areas. Communities will benefit from new bio-based value chains in farming, forestry and fisheries. In our cities, sustainable materials and smarter circular systems will reduce our waste. Bio-based products will be more affordable and available across Europe, and investors and businesses will operate in a simplified regulatory environment. By encouraging the smart use of renewable bio-based resources and turning waste into value, the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy will help build a more resilient and competitive Europe - without damaging nature. Find out [more](#).

## Spotlight on resources

### **The European Commission releases the 2025 edition of the Education and Training Monitor**

The Education and Training Monitor is the Commission's annual report on progress and developments in education and training across the EU. Covering all education levels from early childhood education to adult learning, it showcases achievements towards the European Education Area targets while identifying where further action is needed. The Monitor also includes country reports detailing your country's specific strengths and challenges. This year's edition places a special focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) – disciplines crucial to Europe's competitiveness and strategic autonomy. The data shows that there is room for improvement. Across the board, too few women choose STEM careers. Find out [more](#).