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SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE SEMESTER OF CZECH PRESIDENCY

HIGHLIGHTS

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WHAT'S NEW FROM BRUSSELS

The 22-24 of January 2009 the Ministries for Employment and Social Affairs of the EU will meet in Luhacovice to discuss the situation on the job markets in the continent. The Zlin Region has raised this opportunity to attire the attention on one of the most vulnerable categories of our society, the youths.

In this issue, we present you the Special Session of the European Youth Forum that the Zlin Region has organized in Luhacovice in cooperation with the European Commission and other EU partners.

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SEMESTER OF CZECH PRESIDENCY

The calendar of the regional events for the Czech Presidency is rich of events. Read here about the closest ones, scheduled for the next month of February 2009.

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VACANCIES IN EUROPE

Don't forget to have a look at our calendar of EU events and at the vacancies currently published by the EC

Editorial

Mattia Crosetto

Dear readers,

The Semester of the Czech Presidency started on the 1st of January and we have immediately a double-official event in the Zlin Region: the informal meeting of the EU Ministries for Employment and the Special Session of the European Youth Forum.

The first event has been organized directly by the National Government in order to allow the EU Ministries exchange their views and ideas on the current financial and economic crisis that is menacing the job markets in the EU. The situation in Europe is surely not easy, but still not so bad as in the United States. A joint action is however needed to coordinate the policies of the different Member States to relaunch employment and job opportunities also in Europe.

The Meeting of Luhacovice has thus a crucial political meaning.

In this frame, the Zlin Region has decided to organize also a parallel event, inviting the representatives of the youth from all over the EU come to Luhacovice and discuss on what they would like the Ministries could do for improving the changes of finding good and stable jobs for those who finish to study and want to start up their professional careers.

The motto of the event could be thus: "let's the young people speak ... and let's also listen to them"!

In this edition we present you this international event occurring in the Region, the profile of the experts arriving and its importance at EU level.

Here, I would like just to thank all the people involved in the organization of the Youth Meeting because, even if the first impulse came from the Representative Office in Brussels, its realization required then the contribution of a team that worked a lot and very well! Thank you all and ... let's welcome our guests!

Sincerely,

Mattia Crosetto
The Head of Office
Zlin Region in Brussels

WHAT'S NEW FROM BRUSSELS?

Europe is traditionally sensible to the problems of employment and access to labor market and is always searching for new ways of ensuring good jobs for all its citizens, especially young people.

Flexicurity is one of the latest concepts that the EU is trying to apply to enlarge the labor market. What is it?

Concept: a model combining easy hiring and firing with high benefits for the employed people

Applications: first applied in Denmark in the 1990s, it works if the benefits are distributed only to those who are actively searching for a job or seeking further education when jobless

Upsides: almost immediate lowering of unemployment and stronger support to unemployed people

Downsides: high financial costs and higher tax burden for the wealthier part of population

The Zlin region works to ensure a better job conditions for the young generations

On the 20th-21st of January 2009, immediately before the informal meeting of the EU Ministries for Employment and Social Affairs, the Zlin Region will host in Luhacovice a special session of the European Youth Forum, specifically devoted to the topic "Youth Employment in Time of Crisis".

During the event, representatives of young people coming from all over Europe will discuss their views on the most sensible topics related to employment, such as the first occupation of young people, the workers' mobility, the promotion of entrepreneurship and the security of jobs and contracts.

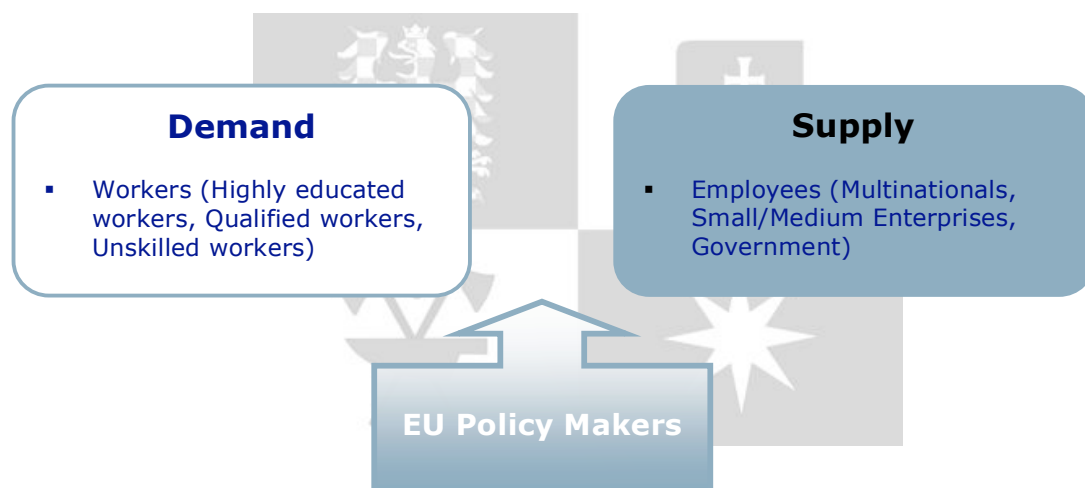
EU experts from the European Commission and the other Institutional partners, including the EU Trade Unions and the business sector, will help the young delegates dealing with those themes. At the end of the session, a delegation of the Forum will have the possibility of presenting the final document, the "Zlin paper" to the Ministries of Employment of the 27 Member Countries of the European Union.

The event has a high relevance for the Zlin Region that will host those two strategic events at the same time.

This event marks the sound engagement of the Zlin Region for ensuring better living conditions to all its citizens, and especially the young generations, not only at the local, but also at the European level.

Actually, the Zlin Region is the area of the Czech Republic with the highest rate of entrepreneurs per capita. The outstanding historical background of the Bata shoe industry displays the relevance of personal initiative in the Region. However, even self-initiative and private businesses need to be supported with good rules and regulations when the time of crisis arrives. This is the reason for opening up a debate on the labour market and the job contracts at the EU level.

By raising the attention on the working conditions of the young generations, the Zlin Region wishes to address to the EU decision makers a clear message: let's think to youths, because only in this way we can influence and regulate the relation between the demand side and supply sides of the job market. Young people will also express their concerns and tell their visions regarding these issues.



Youth Employment in Time of Crisis, Luhacovice, 20-21 January 2009

Connection between main priorities of the Czech Presidency and the Youth Sessions

The Government of the Czech Republic has defined a detailed program for its Semester of Presidency to the EU Council inspired to a limited series of clear priorities. The special session of the European Youth Forum in Luhacovice perfectly fits with all of them.

Czech Presidency Main Aims	Specific Aims	Ties with the Conference
Promoting EU Competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhance consumers' confidence • trust Small and Medium-sized Enterprises • new employment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussion on youth's potential contribution to competitiveness • focus on youth entrepreneurship • discussion on how to avoid the negative aspects of youth employment
Europe Open and Unite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transatlantic relations, the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe • security and economic cooperation • the integration of the Western Balkans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mobility issues • "flexicurity" • employment possibilities when new markets and geographies will open • increased opportunities through integration and common laws

Motivations for the Event from the point of view of the Zlín Region

"The idea of inviting the main non-governmental organization of young generations came from the Representatives of the Zlín Region to provide an opportunity to the EU decision makers to listen what youth today perceive as quality employment, difficulties to enter the labor market and precariousness of working conditions" explains Mattia Crosetto, the Director of the Zlín Region in Brussels.

Importance of youth's contribution

The youngsters' contribution is extremely important in a time of change.

Young people will bear the consequences of the economic and financial policies that are decided today. Youth's voice is also vital for the Zlín Region as most of its GDP is produced from small and micro businesses that are set up by individuals. There is therefore the need to create the best environment for young entrepreneurs. Their views, expressed first in their forum and then by their contribution to the informal meeting of the ministries, will help the region and the policy makers identify what are the priorities for the future generation and what is the best environment that will retain local talents and attract foreign investors.



What is the European Youth Forum?

The YFJ is an independent federation of European youth organizations. It is made up of more than 90 National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations. It brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, organised in order to represent their common interests. Its main focus is the articulating and voicing the concerns of its membership, and seeking their inclusion on the political agendas of governmental institutions, The European Youth Forum is a place for debate which leads to the elaboration of policies and positions, which are based on the opinions, experiences and expertise of young people from all over Europe.

Youth Employment in Time of Crisis, Luhacovice, 20-21 January 2009 Expected outcomes of the event for the Region and its community

The special session of the YFJ will produce direct benefits for the Zlín Region, also thanks to the promotion assured by the Representative Office in Brussels. Let's see which ones ...

First, the event, together with the Informal Meeting of the EU Ministers, will promote Luhacovice and the Zlín Region as a destination for tourism and business conferences. The fact that the Region is capable to organise events so important and host so many qualified international guests will be more effective than whatever expensive spot or promotional campaign. Just consider that during the whole Semester of Presidency only five cities outside Prague will host official EU events.

This will enhance the Zlín Region at the eyes of Europe as one of the top Czech Regions of Czech Republic.

Secondly, the initiative of inviting the YFJ and provide young people the opportunity of meeting the EU Ministries has a clear political meaning. The "Zlín Paper" will become a model of the possible cooperation between the civil society and the political decision makers for all Europe. This profile of a modern and active Region will be useful when the Region will have projects or other initiatives in the field of social affairs that need a financial aid from Europe.

Finally, the initiative has positive follow up also for the local community. The event offered the opportunity for the members of the Regional Government to talk with EC high officers and EU experts, as well as for the local students to meet colleagues from all Europe. This contribute to enlarge the horizons of the Region and of its community in all the sectors and for all possible initiatives.

The agenda of the two-days event

Tuesday 20 January	
Opening Session in Municipality of Luhacovice	
Moderator: Mr Mattia Crosetto, the Director of the Representative Office, Zlín Region in Brussels	
09h30-10h00	Registration of participants
10h00	Opening Speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Stanislav Misak, the President of the Zlín Region - Mr Frantisek Hubacek, the Mayor of Luhacovice - Mr Tine Radinja, the President of the European Youth Forum - Ms Wallis Goelen, the Head of Unit; DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; European Commission - Ms Alena Gajduskova, the 1st Vice-President of the Senat of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
11h00	Experts Speeches
	<i>Quality jobs and Flexicurity</i> ETUC
11h40	<i>The Development of Skills</i> DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; EC
12h20	<i>Mobility of Workers</i> DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; EC
14h30	Workshops in Hotel Palace
19h00	<i>Official Dinner with the participation of representatives of the Regional Parliament of Youth and Children</i>
Wednesday 21 January	
09h00	Workshops in Hotel Palace
13h30	Closing Session in Municipality of Luhacovice Moderator: Mr Mattia Crosetto, the Director of the Representative Office, Zlín Region in Brussels Closing Speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Luca Scarpiello, Bureau Member for Employment and Social Cohesion, European Youth Forum - Mr Ondrej Benesik, the Member of the Committee of the Regions and Regional Council - Mr Jaroslav Drozd, the Vice-President of the Zlín Region

SHORTS FROM BRUSSELS



The Czech Presidency has started with many events in the Brussels agenda.

The last newsletter of 2008 provided an overview of the most important ones.

In this issue we have a deeper look at the upcoming events scheduled for the near future, starting with February.

More news on the Presidency are available at:

www.czechreg.eu

Cohesion Policy 2014+ Brussels 11th February 2009, Committee of the Regions

The main objective of the European cohesion policy is to diminish the gap between the less favoured regions and the more affluent ones.

The seminar "Cohesion Policy 2014+" is organised in the framework of the Days of the Czech Regions in Brussels within the Czech Presidency agenda. Its general aims are to contribute to the ongoing discussion on the future shape of the cohesion policy as well as to gather and present the most up-to-date outcomes of the wide public debate on this agenda.

The intent is also to stress the role of the regional authorities in drafting, adopting and implementing the Cohesion Policy. Special emphasis will be put on the territorial dimension of the Cohesion Policy – meaning the importance of involving each single municipality and Region in the EU policies.

The advice of international experts, as well as of the members of the Committee of the Regions and of the European Parliament will be also important to understand which is the political position of the EU decision makers in respect to the communication of the European Commission's entitled "Turning territorial Diversity into Strength" which publication is expected for February 2009.

For more info about the "Days of the Czech Regions in Brussels" visit: www.czechreg.eu

Building the bridge: regional dimension of TEN-T

The Zlín Region in Brussels is organizing the TEN-T Conference, an international event that will occur on February 24th at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. The main aim is to raise the attention of all interested parties on one of the still missing elements for the completion of the internal market: the transport infrastructures, especially in their connections with the local and regional networks.

Ms Petra Janoskova, regional representative in Brussels introduces the event by explaining: *"I personally come from Zlín and because of my job for the Regional Representation in Brussels, I have to regularly travel there and back. As a consequence, I have a direct experience of gaps in the transport field. I can imagine that businessmen, investors, researchers and even students would really appreciate giving full focus on their professional and academic activities spending less time in travelling. – she explains - This event has been planned exactly for this purpose: to highlight what is still missing in the European system of transport for creating a modern, efficient and integrated network of infrastructure. We know that there are still a lot of regions who are cut-off and we want to stress it again and propose possible solutions how we see them."*

In order to apply that philosophy, speakers and participants are invited to share their visions on the state of art of TEN-T schemes and explore the immediate future of the three strategic dimensions of TEN-T projects: the political, the financial and the environmental ones.

Main issues treated will include the expected accomplishments of TEN-T axes on the basis of the orientation outlined by the new EC Green Paper, a balance of Public-Private-Partnerships in this field, an evaluation of possible new formulas that could be experimented for a better combination of the EU, national, regional and private capitals for the realisation of the transport infrastructures. Examples of successful projects will come from Poland, France and Italy.

For more information about:

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Calls for proposals

Galileo Program	Support to the European Global Navigation Satellite System Deadline: 31. 03. 2009 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:324:0016:0016:EN:PDF
Media Program	Development of audiovisual projects – Initiative i2i Deadline: 02. 02. 2009 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:293:0011:0013:EN:PDF
Education	Jean Monnet Program – EU Studies Deadline: 13. 02. 2009 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:255:0006:0007:EN:PDF
Education	Erasmus Program – Student mobility for studies and placements Deadline: 13. 03. 2009 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:255:0006:0007:EN:PDF
Education	Grundtvig Program – Assistantships, Senior Volunteering Projects Deadline: 31. 03. 2009 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:255:0006:0007:EN:PDF
Culture	Cooperation projects and measures; support for cultural bodies Deadline: Various http://www.europanostra.org/
Transport	Urban Transports Grants for sustainable mobility policies in urban agglomerations Deadline: 31. 03. 2009 http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/grants/proposal_en.htm
Research	Seventh Framework Program for Research and Development Energy Second Generation Biofuels - EU Brazil Coordinated Call Deadline: 05. 05. 2009 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:001:0010:0010:EN:PDF
Research	Seventh Framework Program for Research and Development Call for proposals for grant to research infrastructures Deadline: 27. 03. 2009 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:314:0011:0011:EN:PDF



Czech Reg Days

11.2. – 21.4.2009 CoR

Regions of the Czech Republic contribute to the program of Czech Presidency

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CALENDAR

JANUARY

15. 1. 2009

EUREGHA special session with the Czech Presidency
Czech Permanent Representation to the EU
Brussels, Belgium

19-21. 1. 2009

European Youth Forum in the Zlín Region
EU Ministerial Meeting
Luhacovice, Czech Republic

20-21. 1. 2009

Meeting of EU Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs
Luhacovice, Czech Republic

30. 1. 2009

Czech Ball
Social event of the Czech Presidency to the EU Council
AutoWorld
The Museum of Cars in Brussels
Brussels, Belgium

Vacancies in Europe

EU Satellite Center

• General Directorate

Vacancy notice: EUSC/V07/2008

Assistant to Director General

Place of work: Torrejón de Ardoz (Madrid) Spain

Deadline: 15. 02. 2009

Info: <http://www.eusc.org/>

EU Satellite Center

• Administration and Personnel Division

Vacancy notice: EUSC/V 05/2008 (revised)

Head of Division

Place of work: Torrejón de Ardoz (Madrid) Spain

Deadline: 15. 02. 2009

Info: <http://www.eusc.org/>

EU Satellite Center

• Technical Division

Vacancy notice: EUSC/V 04/2008 (revised)

Head of Division

Place of work: Torrejón de Ardoz (Madrid) Spain

Deadline: 15. 02. 2009

Info: <http://www.eusc.org/>



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