

# HORIZON

The EU Research & Innovation Magazine

MONTHLY FOCUS

## The future of finance

04 January 2017



*As the Euro turns 15, Horizon looks at the future of finance. Image credit: Pixabay*

**It's been 15 years since the euro came into circulation and to mark the occasion Horizon is looking at what the future could have in store for finance. We talk to one economist who says the way to avoid another crisis is to keep banks small and boring, and we explore the effect of alternative local currencies on supporting small businesses. We also delve into some of the technology that could enable us to move to a cashless society, and we look at the growth of the so-called sharing economy, in which people share access to resources.**



## SOCIAL SCIENCES

24 January 2017

### Alternative currencies in rapid growth phase – researchers

In the province of Limburg, in northeastern Belgium, residents earn points by helping out in the community which they can spend on cinema tickets or trips to the local swimming pool.



## ICT | OPEN INNOVATION

16 January 2017

### How would you like to pay – phone or bracelet?

From eliminating checkout queues to potentially cutting counterfeiting and even terrorist financing, the rise of cash-free payment systems might not only change the way most of us pay but even pave the way to a cashless society.



## SOCIAL SCIENCES | ICT

10 January 2017

### **Roaming for car-sharers on the horizon as 'access economy' accelerates**

People who use car-sharing services could soon be able to roam with different providers when travelling, much in the same way as people do with their mobile phone networks, thanks to a new piece of software which its inventor says will also help make car sharing economically viable in smaller cities and rural areas.



## SOCIAL SCIENCES | INTERVIEW

04 January 2017

### **Banks should be small and boring – Prof. Eckhard Hein**

We need to return to a diverse, small-scale banking system in order to reduce the risk of another financial crisis, according to Professor Eckhard Hein from the Berlin School of Economics and Law, Germany, who was involved in the EU-funded FESSUD project examining the causes and consequences of the 2008 - 2009 financial and economic crisis.

