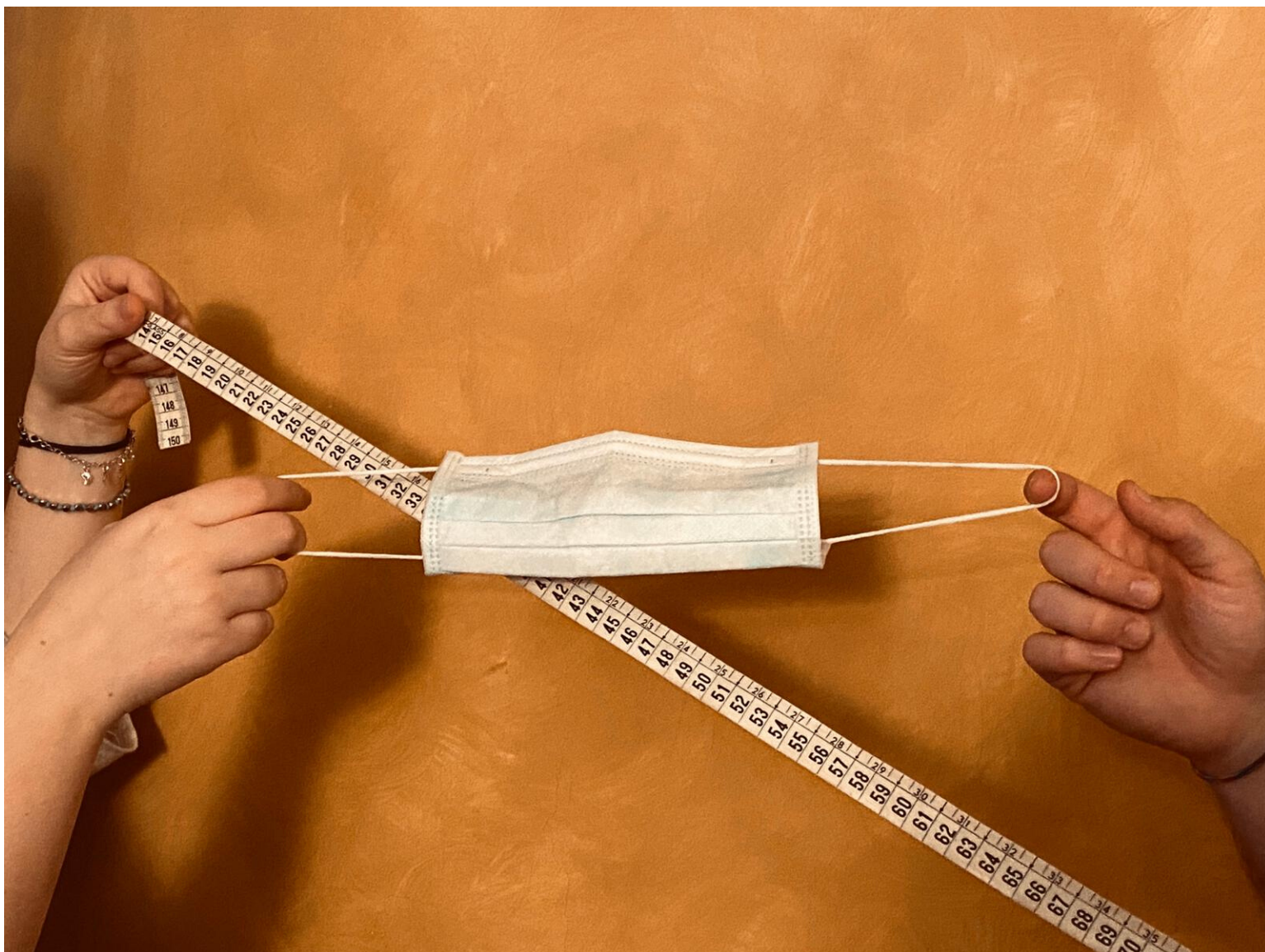


Fund for Youth Employment



Credits: Francesca Bombarda

Youth Employment Magazine

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Editorial

Dear Readers, Dear Friends,

...in reality, Dear Family,

as these days are clearly highlighting the importance of being a Family - we have always been a “Family even though at distance”, but now more than ever, I would like to express my hope that you are all safe.

Our fifth issue comes in a difficult period. We have all been put in an unprecedented situation because of the developments of the coronavirus, and we are aware that this pandemic may jeopardise our projects and create new challenges. The situation calls for reactions to address these challenges, and that is what we are all doing now.

Indeed, I would really like to thank you all for your kind messages and your thoughts: you have quickly reacted to this health crisis and to our invitation for action, and this is why we have decided to dedicate a special section of this new issue to your words.

This common threat, the COVID-19, risks hampering our activity schedule, but your prompt reaction in finding innovative solutions is much appreciated: we applaud them and we are all continuing to deliver our work as far as is reasonably possible, by putting in place all possible preventive measures.

The new scenario created by the spread of the coronavirus disease around the world has reminded us that global threats know no borders, but this is where we all can show the strength of the YE programme. I am sure that resilience and solidarity, along with the other values, will continue to spread among our YE Family of partners, in order to undertake collective responses, thus showing the aim of the Youth Employment Fund itself.

My thoughts, and the thoughts of all my colleagues, considering the escalation of this pandemic in our lives, are with the citizens (not only the projects target groups) living in the many countries in which we are operating. We all have to remain determined and focused, because once we succeed in overcoming this challenging period, we will be called on to contribute to the recovery of our societies. Meanwhile, we will keep on doing our job and pursue our mission to strengthen our interregional dialogue and cooperation initiatives. We are now limited to remote action, and can only support you at distance, but we hope to return soon to face-to-face meetings and a physical presence.

Youth (un)employment, already a persistent global challenge – known especially to our YE Family –, will increasingly lie at the heart of the new international agenda. As the COVID-19 spreads through societies and markets, youth may face an additional potential economic risk. Schools are closed, events and conferences are cancelled, travel is suspended. Increasingly, the threat of this pandemic is influencing our

behaviour, imposing a clear “social distance”, and the negative impact on the global market is already explicit. The negative consequences on young workers around the world therefore seem to be more severe than for others. Youth unemployment is not a new challenge, but it cannot be solved immediately. What we will try to do, following the nature and the scope of the Youth Employment Fund, is to support you, our projects, and our involved youth against the shock of the coronavirus, by trying to ensure extra efforts in monitoring the specific situations. What you need to strengthen now is the search for emergency measures, providing access to digital tools and resources, such as for example short-term training/courses, enriching our already existing virtual platform; we will be there to support you in the best way we can.

An increasing number of jobs, worldwide, could be lost due to the coronavirus pandemic, but – in our own small way – we can work to ensure coordinated responses. If everybody does something, the negative impact could be lower. In times of crisis such as this, the only thing we can do is to try to mitigate the damage, keeping alive dialogue and active engagement.

The time we are living in is forcing us to re-think the logic of our normal project activities. We are sure that you will make it, learning from each other.

I am sure that, together, we will overcome this challenging crisis; your projects have the greatest opportunity to show and demonstrate the goal for which they were born.

I invite all of you to read our special pages, dedicated to your messages.

Last but not least, and again, seeking to be positive, I welcome the initiative that you will find on page 18; once again, I invite you to participate actively. It will be **“nice to meet you”**, as you will understand from reading our fifth issue.

Keep calm, be safe, and stay connected with us.

Gian Luca Bombarda





COVID-19, or the so-called Coronavirus, became an enemy for all of us, for our families and for social relationship. As such, we are adapting our work to these preventive measures.

HOW ARE PROJECTS ADDRESSING THIS SITUATION?

"The Global Village is still alive, stay active and online during when faced by the Corona Virus" - Einurd Ltd., expertise partner of NEETs' Empowerment for Sustainable Employment in the Tourism sector (NESET).

PROJECT NESET 2017-1-285

"It has been a long time since we received such direct sign in Europe to truly socially innovate in order to build our collective resilience while acting in solidarity, together."

**PROJECT SOCIAL INNOVATORS
2017-1-218**

"Our project SEPAL is linked directly with the job offers and learning on the job, and in case of unemployment measures our beneficiaries will be first put off! We are aware about this phenomenon and we can see the cancellations of working with NEETs around here in Suceava until the end of this month. But, we invest good part on the online SEPAL platform (<https://www.projectsepal.com/>) which offers possibility for online mentoring and counselling for NEETs within My SEPAL functions (we have registered on the platform about 600 NEETs already and 20% of them has ICT competencies in using this function), than we have SEPAL HUB for interaction of WISE specialists and LSC representatives and it is going well, of course we continue our online training for WISERs using e-learning Moodle platform. It is perfect time to explore these options. I hope all our specialists will not be directly infected and will be able to adapt the program to the work environment. We have participated with a short presentation of our project to the Annual Social Firms Europe CEFEC Conference, that was cancelled from Dortmund/Germany and moved on virtual way using zoom and we go on to be part of this movement. Very happy that the organizers appreciate our SEPAL model and invite us to present online!

I'm afraid that difficulties will appear after the period when the pandemic will calm down and all the companies that we are in cooperation now will cancel our apprenticeship Programm trying to reduce the costs and recover the lose! Here we have to be creative and innovative on empowering our beneficiaries within reorientation, counseling and motivation. We already start to discuss to enlarge the services for our recruited NEETs on delivering ICT basic competencies.

I think we should keep going and adapt our activities and use the technologies as much as possible. We are able to be innovative and we should explore our potential now with this unpredictable situation. We will monitor closely our people involved so far within SEPAL project and we announced them about the measures necessary for their health and their families too.

PROJECT SEPAL 2017-1-058

Our target group is among the most vulnerable: marginalised youth whose families live close to the poverty threshold. The strategy we adopted is to postpone the face-to-face training until the pandemic is under control. The message which WCIF is communicating to all of our partners and grantees is to prioritise personal safety, to stay home, to avoid unnecessary contacts, and to support their elderly relatives in need. All partners meetings within Direction Employment are online and we try to stick to our schedule taking into account that the situation is different in the different countries and delays of some activities will inevitably occur.

“We will go through this together”

“Together we will make it!”

PROJECT DIRECTION EMPLOYMENT 2017-1-294

We believe that we will go through this hard situation together. Let us preserve and transmit the world we love and know! Tomorrow we will love again, forgive, laugh and think together how to make our day and life better for everyone, especially for the most vulnerable people with mental health problems

PROJECT L.I.K.E 2017-1-086

The time has come to face another challenge and cope with it together - as one strong international community. Let's continue making meaningful changes - we can grow together and become even closer when working apart.

PROJECT MOMMYPRENEURS 2017-1-277

Although situation and planned circumstances drastically changed from what we initially planned, we are trying to reorganize ourselves and to focus on the activities that we can still organize. All our face to face meetings, trainings and events have been cancelled as situation in all 4 project countries is similar. In Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Spain the life as we know is currently on hold; we are in isolation and all public and outdoor group activities are forbidden. In these strange times we are trying to focus on what we can do at home and in digital space and we are making project strategies for the following period if this situation continues during the upcoming months. We are considering organizing online trainings for our selected NEETS and to carry our NEET motivation via phone calls and via social media campaigns. As much as we are worried because of delays and negative impacts Corona virus has on our RAISE Youth project plans, one of the aspects of our project is to use digital tools and innovation to find new solutions thus we have to use our energy and creativity to adapt to the current circumstances and to find new solutions! In our thoughts we are with those who are really having it much worse i.e. with those who are sick and completely isolated and those who lost their beloved ones. These are the times when solidarity is

crucial for the well being of our societies and survival and we believe that we can grow stronger if we learn from this experience. Our planet needs us to create a new and more sustainable reality – maybe we can use this as a wakeup call to do better and be more responsible. We owe that to our only home, our Earth and to all upcoming generations.

PROJECT RAISE YOUTH 2017-1-053

In Estonia all lessons are carried out Online until further notice. Our graphic design teacher invited all CODE students to the Discord platform. It's a sound and text-based environment where the teachers can upload new assignments while students are expected to attend check-in and check-out discussions daily. Discord can be used via a laptop or mobile phone.

PROJECT CODE 2017-1-414

This is the year that made us realize the importance of being healthy. The year the world stooped for a little while and everyday life collapsed. But the world did not despair. It is reinventing itself. And is now welcoming the unity of the population by teaching us the wisdom of life.

PROJECT Individual Placement and Support for NEETs through Education Youth Technology Platform (EYTP) 2017-1-152

We are living challenging times. Suddenly we found ourselves in a point where our life is changing every day and we work hard to adapt to new and difficult routines. However we are just as dedicated as before and we do everything is in our power to take care of each other; we come together to take care of our main beneficiaries – young adults with disabilities.

Yes, we are not able to work with them face to face as usually, but we work hard to keep in touch with them as much as possible (via phone or email), to teach them to respect the preventive measures and to assist them in order to keep them as calm as possible. Nonetheless, we work with their employers, in order to ensure that their rights are respected; we continue to discuss with our partners and collaborators in order to improve our work in these tumultuous times.

We hope your activity keeps on going and we pray everything will fall back into place in no time.

PROJECT LEAD 2017-1-455

Our communities struggle against social disengagement, isolation and fear induced by unemployment, with awareness, responsibility and innovation. Through the toughest times of the pandemic we witness the importance of the same values. In solidarity with the most affected

members of our societies we respond to the new challenge with optimism, looking forward to the new Spring, literally and metaphorically.

PROJECT YOUTHSHARE 2017-1-345

We wish calmness and strength to all human beings and organizations in Europe. We try to find innovative solutions how to develop online educational tools and mentoring for the young people who are involved in our initiative so they don't stay isolated and keep on developing even in this hard situation.

PROJECT Find your way to the world of work 2017-1-027

While lockdowns occur throughout Europe, this is still the time most needed to work closely together, and adjust our lives and planning to the circumstances.

As you already know, our project was having its conference in Sicily when the IT government applied strict restrictions due to the spread of the virus. The initial shock and concern about our colleagues and friends' health and safety was followed by positive thinking and our host partner's creative reflexes, which allowed for speakers and participants to participate and stay tuned online. All colleagues were safely back home after the conference and we are all fine 😊

We are currently working to switch to e-trainings and webinars with our NEETs on topics that can be delivered online and making sure that e-access is not an additional burden on participants. Our implementation partners are working on different approaches, platforms and plans and I am confident that soon after the first rounds we will be ready to share our learnings both within our consortium and among all projects (if and when needed).

This last thought is what our project would like to share with you and all other teams. The virus may have brought social distancing as the new normal, but perhaps it's better to see it as a good opportunity to break our work in isolation and start sharing more of our tools, approaches and ideas, and invest on peer-exchange and learning. After all the main objective of all our projects is to help build stronger local communities (and communities of practice) that will last longer and deliver better when the current challenges will be addressed. It's going to be a different world out there when this global alarm will be over...so let us make sure that we will be ready to deliver and improve our impact potential!

Stay safe, think positive, be creative and .." andrà tutto bene!"

**PROJECT YES! Young Entrepreneurs Succeed
2017-1-314**

The Covid-19 emergency has completely changed in a very short time our lives and consequently our way of working. It is not exaggerated to state that after this period we will not be the same, in our way of thinking about the present and above all about the future.

We weren't ready to face this kind of event maybe because we are a different generation from that of our ancestors, always on the move and not accustomed to give up to our freedom. Anyway we have to accept the actual situation, realize that this is a beginning for a new era, a sort of Zero Year, and to take this tragedy as an opportunity to do more, to do better.

We are a Science and Technology Park, we daily deal with new businesses and startups and inspiring entrepreneurs in search of the winning idea ready to gain the market. So the Coronavirus emergency has revealed above all in Italy some gaps that we can try to solve with European funds and Cooperation projects. In our base course for support to entrepreneurship we start our first lesson always with this sentence "at each need corresponds an idea". So just think in positive way turning on the problems into future business opportunities to experiment in some cases and to reinforce in other ones. To quote some examples: the absence of hospital equipment, the mismanagement of distance learning, the low usage of digital tools, the few diffusion of smartworking, the lack of ecommerce for many businesses. So a common challenge could be to think about what now is not working, to learn the lesson and to be prepared in the future with some new jobs maybe, some new businesses just to underline that the economy probably will change but will not die.

Tecnopolis Project Area Staff

**PROJECT Active Youth Entrepreneurship Network
Short Contribution by Tecnopolis Science and Technology Park
(Italy) 2017-1-041**

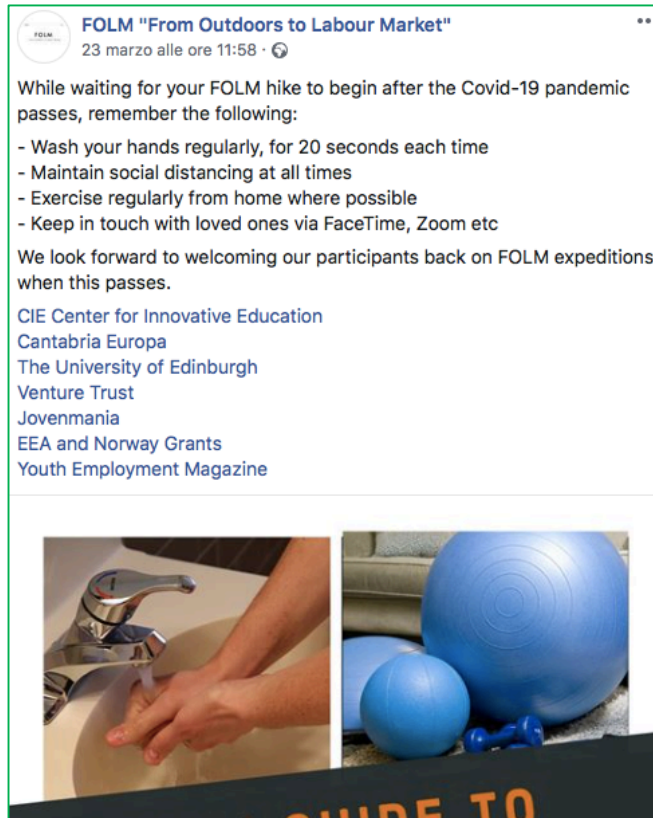
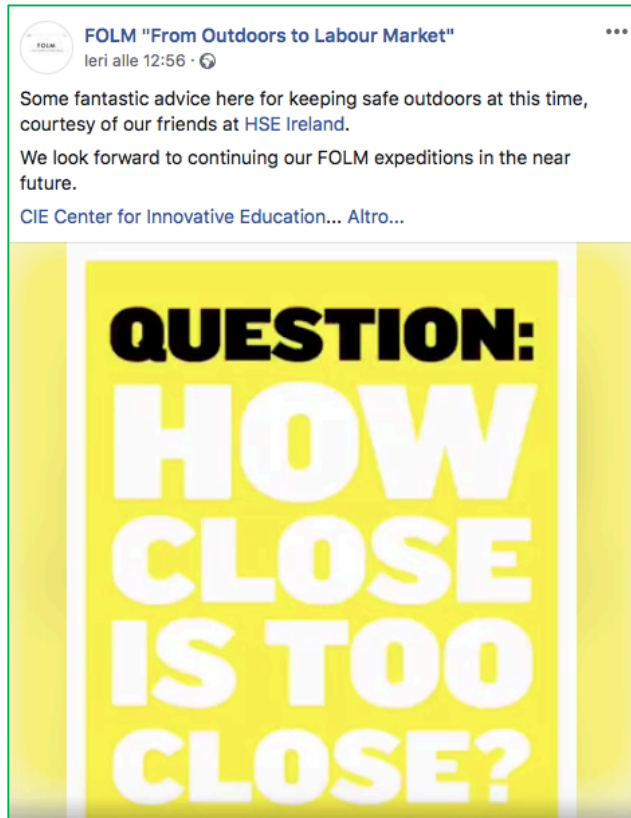
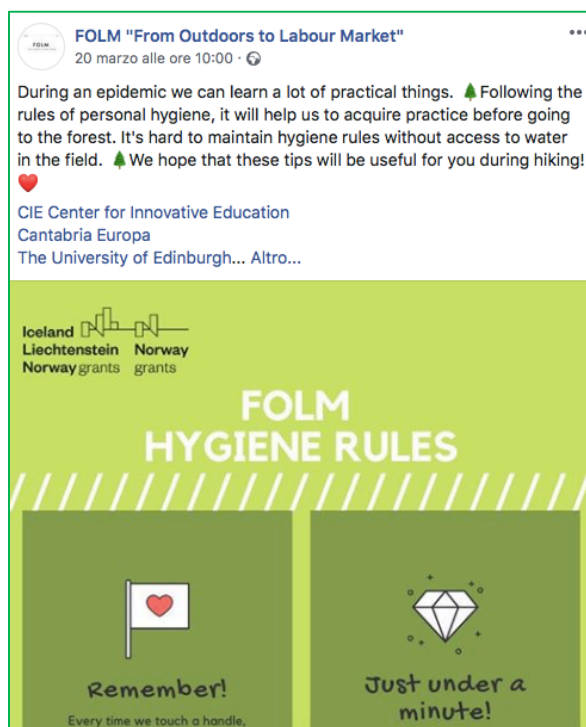
These are very unsettling and unprecedented times for all of us! As we bear witness to this on-going crisis unfolding in front of us, we must remain calm and follow the guidelines issued by our respective government and the World Health Organisation! We are resilient and we will get out of this situation stronger than before!

As YENESIS we have postponed all upcoming face-to-face YENESIS Activities (Apprenticeships, Showcasing Trips, Local Placements, Partner Meetings) and rescheduled them for a later date! We are now focusing more on online activities such as the creation of an e-course and online mentoring. The health and safety of our partners and participants is our first and foremost priority!

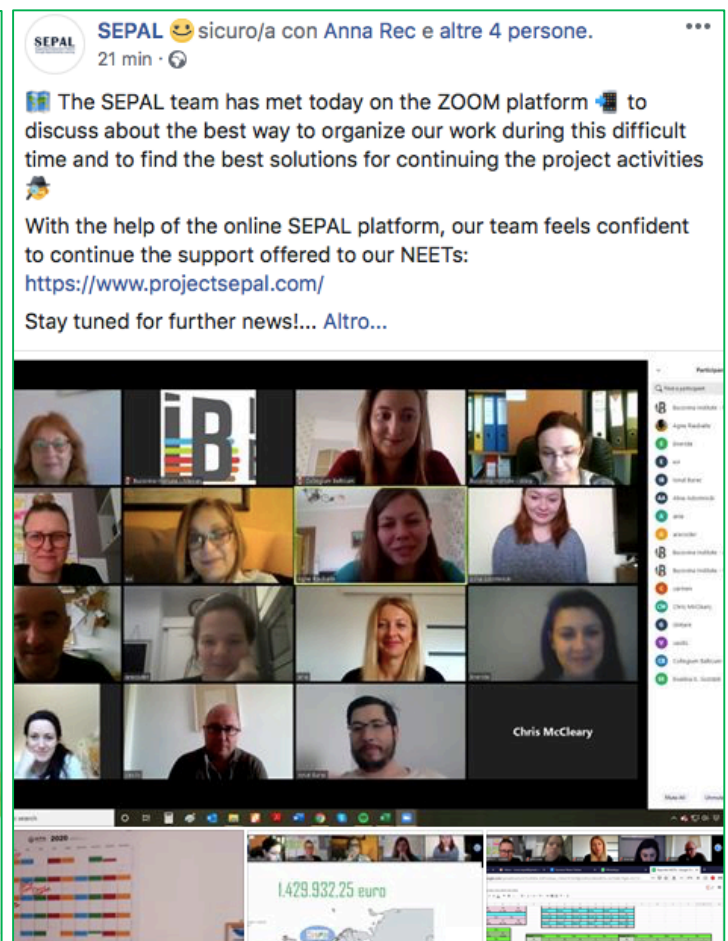
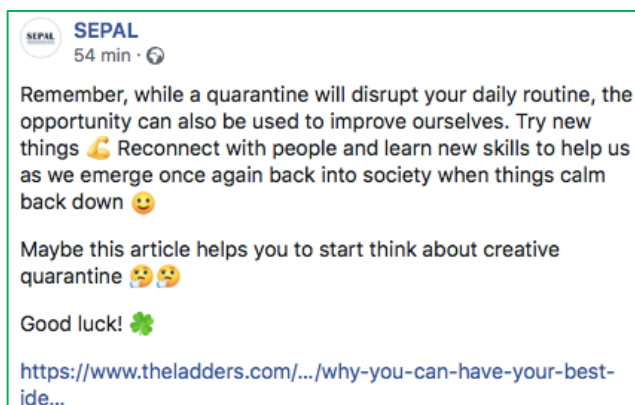
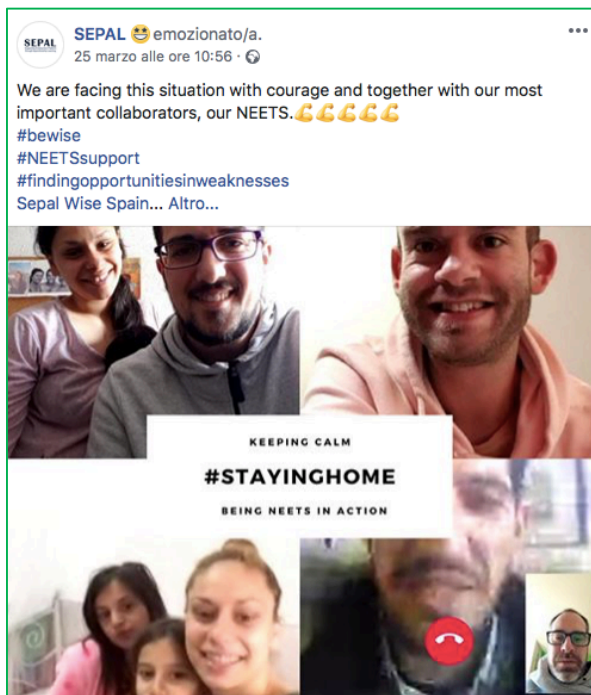
Until we meet again! Stay Home and Stay Safe!

PROJECT YENESIS 2017-1-203

From the Social Networks



Credits: FOLM – From outdoors to labour market (192)



Credits: SEPAL (Supporting employment platform through apprenticeship learning – 058)



Credits: NEETs in entrepreneurship (083)



Credits: Yenesys (Youth employment network for energy sustainability in islands – 203)

While waiting for the Baseline Study, coming soon, please read the:

Perspectives on Youth Employment in Europe (n. 3)

Coronavirus: what impact on youth employment?

Our life has changed overnight. Our work, our world have been paralysed. Our projects suddenly seem inappropriate. Youth employment, and youth employment promotion, are no exceptions. The virus is particularly lethal for old people. But in our labour markets also young people suffer from “chronic illnesses”, making them very vulnerable to the Covid-19: “NEETity” (do not search in the dictionary: “condition of young people not in employment, education or training”), precarity, disabilities, discrimination as women or as member of minorities.....The impact on them can be devastating too.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has been quick to detect the danger in a preliminary assessment note published on 19 March, [*COVID-19 and the world of work: Impacts and responses*](#). Preliminary ILO estimates indicate a rise in global unemployment of between 5.3 million (“low” scenario) and 24.7 million (“high” scenario) from a base level of 188 million unemployed people worldwide in 2019. For comparison, the global financial crisis of 2008-9 increased unemployment by 22 million. As underlined by ILO Director-General Guy Ryder, “this is no longer only a global health crisis, it is also a major labour market and economic crisis that is having a huge impact on people”, including young people. In its analysis, the ILO points to six particularly vulnerable groups: only second to “those with underlying health conditions and older people [who] are most at risk of developing serious health issues”, the ILO mentions “Young persons, already facing higher rates of unemployment and underemployment, are more vulnerable to falling labour demand, as witnessed during the global financial crisis”. Other vulnerable groups include older workers, women (over-represented in more affected sectors such as services or in occupations that are at the front line of dealing with the pandemic e.g. nurses), unprotected workers, including the self-employed, casual and gig workers, and finally migrant workers.

Let’s try to recapitulate how the coronavirus risks to affect young employment now and in the future:

- **Youth Active Labour Market Policies** have had to be suspended: as public employment offices close, the Youth Guarantee, like many other youth employment promotion tools, has suddenly become ineffective. It will take a while before they can be resumed. And even if we as analysts and practitioners often complain about their lack of effectiveness, this will clearly have a drastic impact on (young) beneficiaries.
- **Young people in training** have seen their classes or traineeships interrupted, and their training itineraries run the risk of being disrupted. The fast reaction of training systems to go online and make the transition to distance learning

solutions has still to become the “new normal”, as both teachers, advisors and trainees, but also available technologies and facilities and pedagogical methods, adapt to the new learning environment. One opportunity however emerges in the horizon. The huge boost that the coronavirus is already giving to new forms of telework, teleconferencing and distance learning will no doubt benefit young people in isolated areas, rural areas and islands, who are worse off in terms of access to training opportunities and employment. But it remains to be seen to what extent the sudden disruption of education and training will cause permanent damage to the skills and employability of trainees and other young people. Work is a social process, and training too.

- **Young working people, often in precarious employment**, so far marginalised in the world of work, are quickly becoming the heroes of the coronavirus crisis: home delivery services, cashiers and even nurses are to a large extent young people. Will their work be better acknowledged, and their work conditions improve after this maelstrom is over?
- **Disadvantaged young people**. The impact is even worse for those belonging to disadvantaged minorities: young immigrants, young people with disabilities, NEETs (persons not in employment, education or training). In particular if they are engaged in the informal economy, the confinement measures will have the strongest impact on them, and will make it even more difficult for public employment services and employment promotion associations to reach out to them. They have the most precarious home conditions, and they often do not have even an Internet connection (the digital gap is another key issue these days).
- **Young unemployed**. As highlighted by the ILO in its note, youth employment risks quickly returning to post-crisis levels in 2008-2013 well before its effects were set off, with rates of up to 50% youth unemployment in some European countries. If we cumulate the 2008 recession and the impending recession, if national and European policy responses are not determined and targeted, for those who were born in the early 1990s, who are turning 30 now, there are good reasons to start thinking about a lost generation....

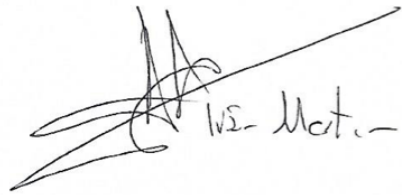
Policy measures to react to the coronavirus have focused so far on two fronts: to improve health care systems to face the healthcare challenges posed by the coronavirus crisis, and to mobilise resources to support those who are losing their employment. But those who already had no job, and who will now face increased obstacles to access the labour market should not be forgotten. To a large extent they are young: it is the future of European societies which is at stake.

As for the confined activists, social service workers, NGO officers and other youth employment practitioners, they should keep motivation high and prepare themselves during this time of forced leisure, and keep the machinery running. March 2020 is a month we will not easily forget. It will surely mark a sharp increase in youth

unemployment throughout Europe. But we should not forget that when the pandemic is over, hopefully at most in a few months, the work of our associations and institutions, and of initiatives such as the Youth Employment Fund, will be more necessary than ever. Unemployed youth need us.

Iván MARTÍN

Our Spanish Youth Employment Expert

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. Below the signature, the name "Iván Martín" is written in a cursive script.

To our Readers

Dear Readers,

First of all, my colleagues from the Editorial Team and I would all like to extend the message of the Fund Director: we hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy.

Despite these challenging times, we have tried to provide you with the best product we could, and for that we would also like to thank all of you, because it was your commitment that allowed us to create this special issue of the magazine. We hope that your colleagues' words that you read will fill you with optimistic thoughts.

And we have good news for you as well.

The current situation around us undoubtedly makes us think more and more about various topics, sometimes in a slightly different way than before. A time full of challenges fosters new, innovative ideas.

Following the initiative of Giulia Parola, representing the Munich Business School, which is a partner of the Young Entrepreneurs Succeed! project, we would like to take advantage of the opportunity and invite you all to a similar cooperation. Actually, we are going to run a new **“Nice to meet you”** section in the magazine and so we encourage you – not only people involved in implementing projects under the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment, but also external contributors – to collaborate with us on this. Please send us your texts, analyses, articles that in some aspects relate to the areas we write about in the pages of the magazine – all you have to do is contact us beforehand to agree on the subject, so we can give any help.

I wish you a pleasant reading of this special issue of the magazine, expressing once again the hope that you are healthy and safe. I also hope you will feel the positive vibes we have tried to spread, regardless of everything that is going on.

Mateusz Wiśniewski and the Editorial Team

The Fridge

The real starting point of this work is - at least in part - a (*pretty much*) heated exchange between a researcher and a practitioner during the kick-off meeting of the project they are part of. It was a rainy day of December 2018 in Athens, when the (*idealistic but naive*) researcher suggested (*took for granted*) the possibility of setting up control groups as a baseline for the project's impact assessment, the (*more experienced and quite frank*) practitioner asked what he should do with the people in the control group.

"Not much," the researcher answered. "You actually shouldn't do anything at all. They are the control group and they can't take part in the program."

"They can't?"

"Not they can't. We only need them for comparison so just keep them there."

"Should we put them in the fridge?"

"In the fridge?"

"Yeah. Should we put them in a fridge till the project ends?"

"Kind of. But then we need to get them out and ask them to fill the questionnaire again."

Putting a man in the labor market

This story triggered the idea, that academic-practitioner collaborations could be well worth exploring. Due to the complementary human capital researchers and practitioners hold, these cross-profession collaborations make use of their respective and equally valuable comparative advantage. Essentially, when we apply basic economics principles to the case of academic-practitioner collaborations, the argument is that it may be cheaper for an individual (*the more experienced and quite frank practitioner, for example*) to obtain new capacity to produce through collaboration with someone (*the idealistic but naive researcher we met earlier*) who already has the required human capital than acquiring the needed knowledge from scratch, personally. Formal collaboration may indeed be a cost-efficient solution whereby academics gain the data needed to advance science and practitioners the scientific knowledge to legitimize, evaluate and, possibly, improve their practices.

Believe it or not, they say collaboration even put a man on the moon on July 12, 1969. The Apollo program involved engineers, scientists, and technicians from more than 20,000 companies and universities that working together achieved one of mankind's greatest successes. Throughout history, there have been abundant examples of scientists teaming up with practitioners (be they farmers, nurses or businessmen) and teamwork in managing an emergency remains a timely and relevant topic today if we think of the crisis initiated by the COVID-19 outbreak. More formal cross-profession collaborations such as participatory and action research or citizen science, however, seem to be a rather modern phenomenon, which is still poorly understood. A systematic examination is missing and could make a real contribution to optimizing these relationships. With this in mind, we have decided to conduct a study to analyze if and how the identities of academics and practitioners might be playing a role in

some of the projects financed by the EEA and Norway Grant Fund for Youth Employment.

The projects at the center of this paper involve teams of researchers and career development professionals united in the fight against youth unemployment. Almost 51 years after President Kennedy asked NASA to put a man on the moon, academics and practitioners are struggling with what appears to be an even greater challenge: keeping a man on earth and putting him (or her) in the labor market.

We are interested in hearing about your experiences as part of a team, where academics and practitioners collaborate!

If you want to contribute, please contact giulia.parola@munich-business-school.de.

The Projects

455 - Labour market Employment for young Adults with a Disability – LEAD

The project partners will transfer know-how and best practice on employment initiatives for young adults with a disability across European countries. They will develop and improve the framework of knowledge and actively promote successful measures for young adults with a disability to increase their access to the open labour market. A guide on best practice in employing young adults with a disability will be developed, as well as national networks. By involving the young adults in supported employment programmes, volunteering, educational activities and organising meetings between the participants and employers, they will be able to develop their personal and professional skills to get suitable jobs. By training employers and specialists in employment, they will be able to better understand the needs of the disabled. By elaborating and delivering a training package for family members of young adults with a disability, they will be able to better support the young adults' efforts to access the open labour market.

Target groups:

- Young adults with a disability, age 15- 29, and their family members
- Employers, specialists, public and private organisations involved in delivery of employment services

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Romania	Lead partner	Health Action Overseas Foundation	NGO	Bucharest
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Valakupiai Rehabilitation Centre	Public	Vilnius
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Consultis – Business Consulting Ltd.	Private	Vila Nova de Gaia
United Kingdom	Expertise partner	Status Employment	NGO	Croydon

415 - Youth Impact

The project partners will build a transnational research network and support NGOs, public and private institutions that carry out initiatives on youth employment and entrepreneurship, to increase their capacity to do impact studies. The results of the project will be knowledge of the effects of employment initiatives targeting young people, increased capacity of research institutions to evaluate the effects of such employment initiatives, and increased transnational cooperation on labour market issues.

Target groups:

- NGOs, public and private institutions that carry out youth employment and entrepreneurship support actions towards 25-29 years olds
- Organisations devoted to or interested in impact studies

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Czech Republic	Lead partner	Channel Crossings	Private	Prague
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Foundation in Support of Local Democracy	NGO	Warsaw
Slovakia	Beneficiary partner	PEDAL Consulting	Private	Martin
Germany	Expertise partner	FIAP e.V. – Institute for innovative and preventive job design	Non-profit	Gelsenkirchen

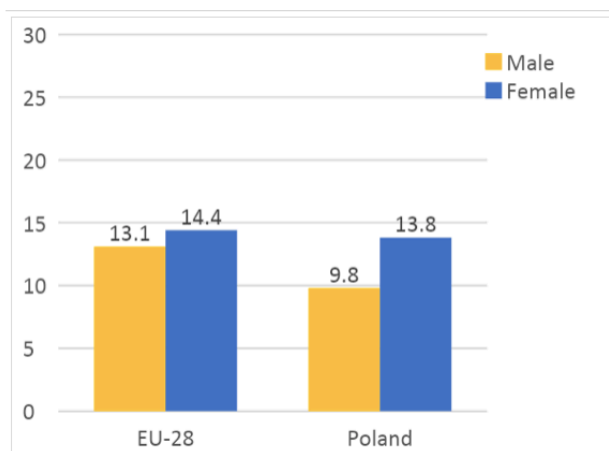
Gender dimension of NEETs in the EU and in Poland

There are several groups of youth facing serious challenges in their transition from education to work phase of their lives. One of these groups are women. As for the average in the 28 countries of the European Union the 2016 Eurofound's report "Exploring the diversity of NEETs" described "there is a great imbalance in the gender composition of the category of those who are NEET due to family responsibilities. The share of young men is slightly higher in all other categories – re-entrants (of whom 53% are male), short-term unemployed (55%), long-term unemployed (60%), discouraged workers (57%), unavailable because of illness or disability (55%). However, young women constitute 88% of all 15–24 year-olds who are NEET due to family responsibilities."

(Eurofound2016)

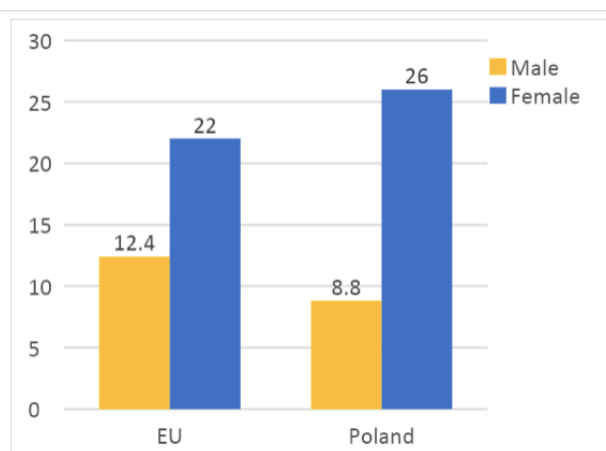
How does it look in Poland? Figures 1 and 2 show that the NEETs' rate is higher among women. Moreover, the gender gap in NEETs rate is significant among youth aged 18–24 (4 pp) and grows much higher among 25–29 years old (17 pp).

Fig. 1. NEETs rate among youth aged 18–24 by sex, 2018, %



Source of the data: Eurostat

Fig. 2. NEETs rate among youth aged 25–29 by sex, 2018 (%)



Source of the data: Eurostat

Credits: Youth Impact

More detailed data presented in the table 1 display that the NEET rate among men consists nearly the same percentage of the unemployed (registered in the labour market offices) and the inactive (not registered), and both of these numbers were steadily falling down during the last 5 years. At the same time most of the NEET group among women consists mostly of inactive women. This disparity is much bigger in the group of 25–29 years old than women aged 18–24. What is alarming is that the group of inactive women is the only category growing over the last 3 years.

Table 1. NEETs' rate among unemployed and inactive, by sex and age group, Poland, 2014–2018 (%)

POLAND			2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
aged 18–24	Unemployed	Total	8,8	7,5	6,6	5,5	4,5
		Male	10,2	9,3	8,0	6,6	5,3
		Female	7,3	5,6	5,1	4,4	3,7
	Inactive	Total	7,2	7,2	7,6	7,3	7,2
		Male	5,7	5,6	5,4	4,7	4,5
		Female	8,8	8,9	9,8	10,1	10,1
aged 25–29	Unemployed	Total	9,1	7,8	6,3	4,7	3,7
		Male	9,4	8,6	6,9	5,1	4,0
		Female	8,9	7,0	5,7	4,2	3,5
	Inactive	Total	12,1	12,7	12,6	13,3	13,5
		Male	5,4	6,4	4,9	4,7	4,9
		Female	19,2	19,4	20,8	22,4	22,5

Source of the data: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_20)

Credits: Youth Impact

The findings on highest NEET rate among inactive women correspond with the Eurofound's report revealing that Poland is one of the countries, where "the share of young NEETs who are unavailable for work due to . . . family responsibilities is particularly high."

Low female participation in labour market in Poland is "related to strong family values shaped by deep-rooted Catholicism and a relatively weak although improving institutional childcare infrastructure, in particular in rural areas." (Magda et al. 2018) However, according to the study The Effects of Large Universal Child Benefits on Female Labour Supply the recent growth of the inactivity among women may be resulting (among others) from Family 500+ Programme. This programme, which aim was to increase fertility and reduce child poverty, seems to have reduced motivation to work among families with children, and widened already substantial gender gap in the category of inactive NEETs. A factor of insufficiency of affordable, high-quality social care services also plays a role and was mentioned among key employment challenges in 2018 Europe 2020 Employment Performance.

Such data showing the imbalance in the NEET categories suggests that much can be improved not by labour market services or activation actions, but rather policy interventions, which would support childcare and social care for young women family members to promote their re-integration into the labour market or education.

References:

Eurofound (2016). Exploring the diversity of NEETs,

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pl/publications/report/2016/labour-market-social-policies/exploring-the-diversity-of-neets>

Magda, I., Kielczewska, A., Brandt, N. (2018). The Effects of Large Universal Child Benefits on Female Labour Supply. IZA Discussion Paper No. 11652:

<https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/11652/the-effects-of-large-universal-child-benefits-on-female-labour-supply>

International Standard Classification of Education

Level of education is one of the most important factors in predicting one's future on the job market. As the world's education systems vary widely in terms of structure and curricular content, in the 1970s the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) developed the **International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)** – a comprehensive framework, which allows to compare national education systems across countries.

The **ISCED** is now commonly used in compiling education statistics. For example, the Eurostat uses it to provide information on NEET rate by educational attainment level. There are 8 levels of ISCED, but for utility reasons, they are combined into three categories:

- less than primary, primary or lower secondary level of education (ISCED 2011 levels 0–2; often referred to as a low level of education);
- upper secondary or post-secondary non-tertiary education (ISCED 2011 levels 3 and 4; often referred to as an intermediate level of education);
- tertiary education (ISCED 2011 levels 5–8; often referred to as a high level of education).

How does it matter in the context of NEETs? If you have low level of education your “labour-market prospects are relatively challenging” (OECD 2019). As the newest OECD report *Education at a Glance 2019: OECD Indicators* shows “People with the lowest educational qualifications have lower earnings and are often working in routine jobs that are at greater risk of being automated, therefore increasing their likelihood of being unemployed”.

It seems that Poles know that. According to *2018 Europe 2020 Employment Performance* report Poland has high rates of formal education participation both at tertiary and upper secondary levels. The tertiary education graduates account for nearly 46% of Poles who are in their early thirties (30–34 yo). This measure shows already higher value than the Poland's target (45%) and well ahead the EU-28 average (41%). What is more there are only 5% of so called “early leavers” i.e. young people aged 18–24 left education and training without completing upper secondary education or complete vocational education, while the same indicator for the EU-28 is twice higher.

Table 1. Developments in formal education attainment in Poland and the EU-28, 2013–2018

	Poland 2013	Poland 2018	EU-28 average 2013	EU-28 average 2018
Early leavers from education and training (18–24)	5.6%	4.8%	11.9%	10.6%
Tertiary educational attainment (30–34)	40.5%	45.7%	37.1%	40.7%

Source of the data: Eurostat

Credits: Youth Impact

At the same time, Poles seem to believe that only formal education can improve their chances on the job market. In comparison to other European Union countries, Poland has one of the lowest participation of adult population (25–64) in the lifelong learning. While EU-28 average in 2017 was 10.9%, in Poland only 4.0% of adults took part in education or training (EMCO 2018)

In our future articles we develop these topics, analyse NEET rates by education attainment level in four Youth Impact project partners' countries and compare the results with European Union average.

References:

OECD (2019), *Education at a Glance 2019: OECD Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris,

https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/education-at-a-glance_19991487

EMCO (2018), *2018 Europe 2020 Employment Performance*, to download:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=20000&langId=en>

414 - CODE – Competence Opportunities for Digital Employment

The project partners will develop and run an innovative training programme for specialised digital competences such as digital design and skills, graphics, 3D animation, game design etc. for young people that otherwise cannot afford to obtain a hi-tech education due to poverty. The programme will be created together with business supporting organisations with focus on the creative industries, organisations for psychological and/or social help and youth organisations.

Target groups:

- Vulnerable young people at poverty risk, orphans that are out of social protection, and children of working poor people
- Young people in rural areas, young single parents, and young graduates at poverty risk
- Young people in rural areas, young single parents, and young graduates at poverty risk

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Bulgaria	Lead partner	Human Resources Development Agency	Public	Ruse
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Solutions Brief Therapy and Counselling Centre Rousse	NGO	Ruse
Estonia	Beneficiary partner	Tartu Art School	Public	Tartu
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	FPC ltd	Private	Sofia
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Social silos Cooperative ALTERNATA	NGO	Guidonia Montecelio
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Municipality of Corsi	Public	Corsi

Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Palidzesim.lv	NGO	Riga
Romania	Beneficiary partner	Save the Children Association Iasi	NGO	Iasi
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Euroteam Center S.A.	Vocational Training	

Partner study and collaboration workshop and Teachers training in Tartu Art School, Estonia

Despite the epidemic coronavirus threat occurred and special measures applied from the different countries, project CODE partners held Partner study and collaboration workshop of 3 full effective working days in Tartu, Estonia during March 09th - 11th. The same week Tartu Art School, together with Tiimiakatemia Global, Finland organized training for CODE project teachers for five full working days.



Credits: CODE

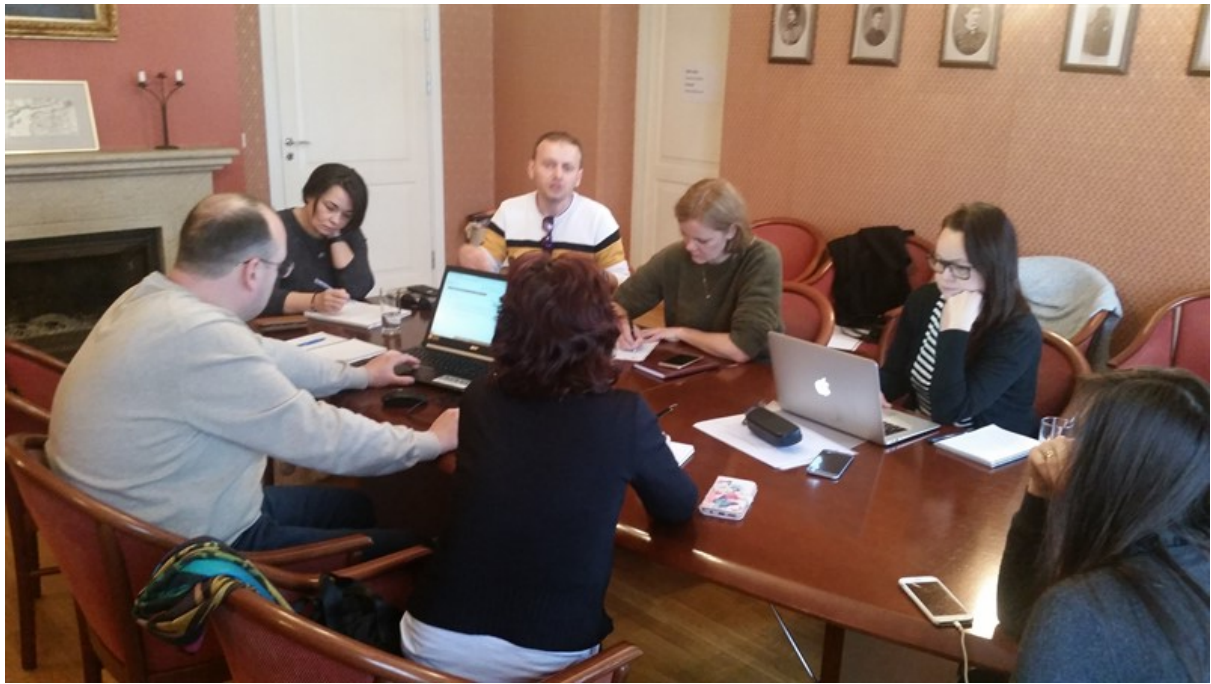
During the first day Mr Boyan Strahilov from Solutions Brief Therapy and Counselling Centre Rousse presented to participants in both events the main CODE motivation tools: CODE motivation platform www.self-trainer.eu and the self motivational diary "My steps to success". According to him, the students should start their training by asking themselves good questions, that is why they should use the printed or electronic version of the motivational diary. This would stimulate their thinking and involvement in the learning process during CODE courses. He demonstrated in front of the participants the motivational platform functionalities and discussed with them on learning constellation and scaling the progress of the students.



Credits: CODE

The Partner study continued the idea of the Curriculum meeting in Estonia for building a common platform for CODE teachers which will facilitate their joint work on the training programme and the transfer of learning methods and approaches. Partners discussed on the project progress and different project issues. Project indicators and target groups were specified, the criteria for selection of trainees in the CODE courses were defined. Partners scheduled their next partner studies and workshops, each organization presented its intentions for the start of both courses.

During the visit to TAS CODE graphic design class teachers and students shared their impressions and experience achieved for these 3 months, showed their working classrooms and some of their arts.



Credits: CODE

The main focus of Tiimiakatemia training was on team learning and team coaching.

Tiimiakatemia Method aims to empower people to become motivated and skilled life-long learners, to empower people to become leaders, to create jobs and entrepreneurship, advance sustainability. Students from Tartu Art School CODE graphic design course attended one of the sessions of the teachers training and participated actively in the training by exchange of ideas and sharing opinion and experience.

At the end of the event teachers from each partner presented their own vision about the practical implementation of their courses, applying the good practices and approaches they achieved during the teachers training.

351 - SOCIALNEET_From civil society organizations to social entrepreneurship. Combating youth unemployment and addressing the needs of NEETs

The project partners will establish a transnational expert cooperation network in seven countries and prepare young people for jobs within social enterprises, by offering training and capacity building services to civil society organisations and businesses belonging to the social economy. The following sectors will be targeted: culture and tourism, health care, agriculture, IT and Open Source software and alternative energy sources. The project will result in increased awareness of the impact and the function that social innovation and entrepreneurship can have in tackling youth unemployment.

Target groups:

- Young unemployed people between 18-29, with an emphasis on the 25-29 years olds; The social economy and civil society organisations

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	Institute of Social Economy Studies	NGO	Athens
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Institute of Industrial and Business Education & Training	Public	Athens
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Craftsmen Association of Terni	Private	Terni
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Rezekne Academy of Technologies	Public	Rēzekne
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Janusz Korczak Pedagogical University	Non-public higher education institution	Warsaw
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Development Association of Alto Tamega's Region	NGO	Chaves

Slovenia	Beneficiary partner	University of Primorska	Public	Koper
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Municipality of Mataro	Public	Mataro
Belgium	Expertise partner	European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy	NGO	Brussels

Info Day

On February 21st 2020, a public meeting was held at Confartigianato Imprese Terni aimed at presenting the SOCIALNEET project, funded by EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment, which aims to facilitate the insertion into the world of work of so-called NEETs.



Credits: SOCIALNEET

The event was also attended by the Councilors for Social Services of the Municipalities of Terni, Narni and Orvieto (the leading institutions in our Province's area).

Confartigianato Imprese Terni's President, Mr. Mauro Franceschini, signed a memorandum of understanding together with the Institutional representatives of Municipalities of Terni, Orvieto and Narni for the support and enhancement of the project's activities.



Credits: SOCIALNEET

This is an outstanding result, which gives an important visibility to the project and encourage its positive impact in the local social context.

Italy has the European primacy of the NEETs and in the Municipality of Terni this new social scourge is dramatically evident. To date, on the basis of recent statistical data, youth unemployment in the area reaches 40% and the number of inactive has reached 33.7%, in practice one every three citizens residing in the area no longer seeks for work and training.

Moreover, this scenario is made even more complex by the high percentage of young people who leave the province to seek fortune elsewhere: only during the last year more than 5000 young under 40 have made this choice. Confartigianato Imprese Terni, as the only Italian partner of the Socialneet project, intends to play, in collaboration with local institutions, an active role to fight these worrying phenomena.

The Association can share its heritage of skills and experiences acquired in multiple areas of activity with local young people, to help them to find the determination to create and pursue their own life project.

The Infoday was also the opportunity to introduce Socialneet Meeting Point's activities.

This office is available, in Confartigianato Terni's headquarter, for unemployed young people. It provides consultancy and work orientation services and training courses both frontal and workbased.



Credits: SOCIALNEET

345 - A Place for Youth in Mediterranean EEA: Resilient and Sharing Economies for NEETs

The project partners will create a transnational research network and an employment centre to train young people for jobs in the food production and waste management sectors. The project entails on-the-job training courses in social enterprises and mentoring of former NEETs in setting up new social enterprises.

Target groups:

- Inactive low-skilled women and migrants from local reception centres
- Non-traditional regional actors supporting youth employability

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	University of the Aegean	Public	Mytilene
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Cyprus Authority for Cooperative Societies	Public	Nicosia
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Neapolis University Pafos	Private	Paphos
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology LTD	Private	Nicosia
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Network for Employment and Social Care	Private non-profit	Piraeus
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Territorial Association Comunità Montana Alto Bassento	Public	Potenza
Italy	Beneficiary partner	GAL La Cittadella del Sapere srl	Public/private	Latronico
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Sistema Turismo srl	Private	Potenza

Spain	Beneficiary partner	Educational association for NGO	Murcia
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Catholic University of Murcia	Private non-profit Murcia
Norway	Expertise partner	Fafo, Institute for Labour and Social Research	Oslo

315 - eNEET Rural: Facilitating entrepreneurship and improving skills of NEETs living in rural areas

The project partners will offer training and preparation for two distinct groups: those with a secondary school diploma will receive entrepreneurship training, while those without a diploma will receive training that prepares them for jobs. The project will focus on innovation and technology in the agricultural sector and create a toolkit that will include various forms of training, a competition, staff exchange and mentoring.

Target groups:

- Low-skilled young people not in employment, education or training living in rural areas and registered with the public employment services, who face multiple barriers in entering the labour market.

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Bulgaria	Lead partner	Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities	NGO	Varna
Hungary	Beneficiary partner	Fruto Consulting Ltd.	Private	Budapest
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Mantuan Oltrepò Consortium	Public	Mantova
Romania	Beneficiary partner	Center for the Development of the Structural Funds	NGO	Slatina
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Business National Agrofood Research Technological Association Center, Extremadura	NGO	Villafranco del Guadiana
Norway	Expertise partner	Inclusion AS	Private	Asker

The 2nd Soft-skills on-the-spot training in Bulgaria ended with several agro-business ideas for start-ups suggested by the trained NEETs

The 2nd Soft-skills training in Bulgaria has been implemented in Dobrich, where the agriculture is the most developed branch of the economy in the region. The main reason for this is the environment – climate, soils and clean lands. 81% of all the land in Dobrich is agricultural, almost 4,000,000 decares. More than 70% of it is cultivated, which makes Dobrich №1 cultivated region in the country. Farming, plant-growing and stock-breeding are the most important part of the economy in Dobrich. Dobrudja territory, called the “granary of Bulgaria” is part of the district. Some of the end products made in Dobrich are: bread and flour products, all kinds of sausages, milk and dairy products, poultry products, margarine and vegetable oils, wine, soft drinks. The biggest bird-farm is located in the district. 11,3% is the youth unemployment in several municipalities in the region of Dobrich.

18 young people not working and not studying now (NEETs) attended the training during the period 28.02-01.03.2020 at Dobrich Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They were between 23-29 years old, most of them living in small settlements around the city of Dobrich. In general, students entered the course were well educated (12 of them have completed secondary education and 6 have higher education), one disabled person and two by the minority group were noted. Although the region of Dobrich is mostly oriented to the agriculture, most of the NEETs had no working experience in the sector.



Credits: eNEET Rural

As the level of education and knowledge of NEETs in this course was significantly good as opposed to the 1st Soft-skills course in Sliven, during the second day of the course the trainer organized a team work for the trainees in respect to support them to start preparing a business plan and to present it in front of all participants. One of the teams presented an business idea for creation of apiaries (bee hives) located in a rural municipality nearby Dobrich and production of organic honey, another interesting idea was starting of a small local restaurant in Dobrich offering food made from local raw materials and products from the region (short delivery of local products). All young people participating during the whole class training received Certificates of successful completion, as well as a T-shirt branded with the Program logo.



Credits: eNEET Rural

Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA), as responsible project partner for the trainings in Bulgaria will organize another on-the-spot Soft-skills training for 10-15 more NEETs in the forthcoming months, most probably in Varna region. After which eNEET Rural Agro-professional online and on-the-spot trainings will start with involvement of at least 150 NEETs.



Credits: eNEET Rural

Study visit as an accompanied event to the 4th Transnational project meeting Oslo, NORWAY, 6 March 2020

As an accompanied event to the 4th eNEET Rural Transnational project meeting, the **Study visit** was conducted in Oslo (Norway) on 6th of March 2020. Organized by the Inclusion As (project expertise partner), some stakeholders from Norway, one stakeholder from Bulgaria and project partner organisations had the opportunity to exchange experience on the topics such as youth employment, supporting youths to find a job, helping immigrants/minority groups to get prepared for the job market, etc.

During the study visits 4 stakeholders (Hagecrew, Caritas Resource Center, Jobbsøkehjelpen and Agricultural Department of Bærum Municipality) from Norway introduced their structures focusing on their mission, goals, products/services, experience on youth employment in rural areas and possible engagement to eNEET project. As a stakeholder from Bulgaria, Mrs. Krasimira Dyankova, Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Aksakovo was invited by UBBSLA to attend the event. Mrs. Dyankova is in charge of the investment policy of the municipality, as well she is leading the social affairs and youth employment department.

Stakeholder 1: Study visit at Hagecrew

<http://www.hagecrew.no>



Credits: eNEET Rural

Mr. Camilio Heredia and Mr. Mathias S. Michelsen presented their organization and shown how Hagecrew help hundreds of young people in the City of Oslo to get a job.

Hagecrew is created in 2016 as an ideal children's and youth association, with the aim of bringing urban cultivation to the growing generation. The start of the association started as early as 2013, and over the last 6 years they have employed 260 young people, and activated over 1450 children and young people in various forms of cultivation. When young people are asked what they want for their own development, the answer is opportunities for work and more activities to join. Hagecrew is the supplier of both.

Through cultivation and various cultivation projects, they create arenas that activate both children and young people and offer them jobs. Youth who show extra interest and effort can be hired as mentors to educate new children and young people. The mentors work closely with the other leaders and professionals at Hagecrew. Skilled mentors can also step up to become interns and furthermore become leaders in the organization.

Hagecrew has also designed its own cultivation boxes for urban areas. These come in different sizes and are built with recycled materials. Last year, they built over 300 mini-boxes through workshops. This year, with the help of Spleis and sustainable enthusiasm across the country, they have plans to build about 6,000 boxes in 12 months. At the workshop, children and young people build mini-boxes from a 20 cm³ building set. The boxes are made with recycled materials and filled with soil and seeds. Everyone who participates is allowed to bring their box home, so they can grow their own salads and herbs.

Over the past few years Hagecrew has built hundreds of greenhouses and implemented small and large projects for young people in Oslo and the surrounding area. They have started activities throughout the year and now have seasonal jobs for youth from January to December.

All participants attended the study visit to Hagecrew place on 6th of March were able to experiment and make their own boxes with the help of the Hagecrew team.



Credits: eNEET Rural



Credits: eNEET Rural

Stakeholder 2: Caritas Resource Center

www.caritas.no/caritas-infosenter-oslo



Credits: eNEET Rural



Credits: eNEET Rural

Mr. Finn Børre Ekås spoke about how Caritas help immigrants /refugees coming to Norway to get prepared for the job market through courses, one-to-one counselling and facilitation through meeting arenas. At Caritas Resource Center in Oslo, they offer information and guidance. Every day they have the opportunity to guide in the following languages: Norwegian, English, Spanish, Romanian, Polish and Russian. In addition, they have some tutors who speak Arabic, French, Dutch, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Swahili, Urdu and German.

Caritas provide advice on work-related problems, a meeting place (JOB FOCUS) for job seekers, organize a job search course where immigrants/refugees can learn how to apply for a job in Norway, how to write a good CV and application, etc. Caritas also provide a working life sponsor scheme for immigrants and refugees as an extra support in the way to work. A working life sponsor is a person with good knowledge and connection to the Norwegian labor market, and who knows how the job search process works.

Stakeholder 3. Jobbsøkehjelpen

<http://www.jobbsokerhjelpen.no>

Jobbsøkehjelpen an organisation helping young people to get a job through counselling and courses provided by professional job experts. Jobbsøkehjelpen is a nonprofit foundation established in 2017. Organisation's vision is "Every youth who want to work shall get a job". The organization sees itself as a complement to other services, Jobbsøkehjelpen offer free courses and guidance for young people, they have projects and offer sales of courses.

But due to health reason, Mr. Vegard Trosøyen Foseide was not able to attend and personally to present the organization.

Stakeholder 3. Agricultural Department of Bærum Municipality

www.baerum.kommune.no



Credits: eNEET Rural

Bærum Municipality has the highest income per capita in Norway and the highest proportion of university-educated individuals. Bærum, particularly its eastern neighborhoods bordering West End Oslo, is one of Norway's priciest and most fashionable residential areas, leading Bærum residents to be frequently stereotyped as snobs in Norwegian popular culture. The municipality has been voted the best Norwegian place to live in considering governance and public services to citizens.

Mr. Gudbrand Teigen, Head of the Agricultural Department of Bærum Municipality spoke about "Inn på tunet" as a socially responsible business concept and new innovative technologies and job creation in agricultural sector. "Inn på tunet" (Green Care) refers to individually adapted and quality-assured welfare services on farms. The services shall stimulate coping skills, development and well-being. Farms are properties that are used for farming, forestry or gardens. The activities offered in the Green Care service relate to the farm and its daily life and operations. The unique aspect of Green care is that it uses the farm as an arena for welfare services. The farms have physical facilities that lend themselves to a diversity of activities, and also have surroundings that can provide the users with positive stimuli and experiences.

Inn på tunet Norge SA represents Green care farms all over Norway. The goal is to ensure the members economics interest, and ensure the members' common interest such as development of materials, strategy, billing systems and contracts with the local authorities. The services that the members provide target a wide spectrum of

sectors, including education, after-school care, occupational training, day care services for persons with dementia and adapted services for mental health.

Stakeholder 4. Norges Vel

www.norgesvel.com



Credits: eNEET Rural

The Royal Norwegian Society for Development (Norges Vel) is an independent non-profit member organisation established in 1809, and is Norway's oldest nationwide organisation. Norges Vel create local, sustainable jobs and products within food, agriculture and marine industries. The goal is to promote thriving local communities both in Norway and internationally. The methods are the same as they were at the organisations conception: collaboration, knowledge sharing, and business development.

Ms. Kari Clausen, Develop Manager Norway of Norges Vel spoke about their occupational training programme aimed at immigrant women working in the food sector. Through sustainable projects, Norges Vel contribute to value creation in local communities. They believe that a well-functioning society at large dependent on thriving local communities.

Their primary focuses nationally and internationally:

- Agriculture and environment
- Aquaculture and fishing

- Food, culture and experiences
- Renewable energy and climate
- Entrepreneurship and collaboration

Norges Vel also awards the Medal for Long and Faithful Service, Norges Vel's Entrepreneurship Award and manages and allocates resources from three business development grants.

The study visits are video recorded and available at the project Google Drive folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fjVSxUG118ai5CB_aCgmcknLpleIUaYY

314 – YES!

Young Entrepreneurs Succeed

The project partners will test a trust-based partnership model and provide direct business development services to young people in the four beneficiary countries. After testing, the model will be improved, and external funding will be applied to scale it up. The project partners will write and publish a research report with data and evidence and prepare a transnational methodology guide.

Target groups:

- Youth (25-30) who will benefit from dedicated, highly specialised financial and non-financial business development services
- Organisations who will use the knowledge base of what works, where and why

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	Agricultural University of Athens – Research Committee	Public	Athens
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Development Agency of Karditsa S.A Anka Anaptyxia-ki Karditsas Anaptyxiaki Anonimi Etairia O.T.A	Public	Karditsa
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Microfinanza S.R.L.	Limited Liability Co	Vicenza
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Foundation Technologic Incubator – YBP	Foundation	Warsaw
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Autoocupació	Foundation	Barcelona
Germany	Expertise partner	Munich Business School	Private	Munich
Germany	Expertise partner	KIZ SINNOVA Company for Social Innovation gGmbH	Limited Liability Co	Offenbach am Main

United Kingdom	Expertise partner	Youth Business International – YBI	Charity	London
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294 - Direction Employment

By uniting partners from different sectors – NGOs, universities, companies – from the participating countries, who have a proven track-record of working for the social and labour market inclusion of young people from highly marginalised minorities, the project will create and test an educational model with an experimental and innovative curriculum, establish a mobile classroom model to train trainers at regional level and apply assessment tools that will demonstrate the impact of the methodology on the participants as well as on their close environment (extended family, peer group, etc.) and on employers.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training, suffering from multiple discrimination; Employers

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Bulgaria	Lead partner	Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation – WCIF	NGO	Sofia
	Beneficiary partner	SKUC Association	Public	
Ireland	Beneficiary partner	DMC-Metrix	Private	Dublin
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Lai-momo soc. coop. soc.	Social Coop.	Sasso Marconi
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Lithuanian Gay League	NGO	Vilnius
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Porto Accounting and Business School	Public	São Mamede de Infesta
Slovenia	Beneficiary partner	Andragoski zavod Ljudska univerza Velenje	Public	Velenje

285 - NEETs' Empowerment for Sustainable Employment in the Tourism sector (NESET)

By working together on a large-scale transnational basis, through innovative and experimental activities, the project partners will create better conditions for young people's employment in alternative tourism. The youths will receive training in tourism-related and social skills through an e-Support platform and job placements across the project countries. The result of the project will be increased opportunities for successful start-ups in the (alternative) tourism sector.

Target groups:

- 25-29-year-old people not in employment, education or training in the 7 beneficiary countries (incl. long-term unemployed, low-skilled and discouraged young people)
- End beneficiaries include all unemployed young people in the 7 beneficiary countries, who are planning a sustainable career in tourism.

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Bulgaria	Lead partner	Varna Chamber of Commerce and Industry	NGO	Varna
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Cluster for IT Support to the Black Sea Touristic Business	NGO	Burgas
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Tora Consult Ltd.	Private	Sofia
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	NGO ECHO	NGO	Zagreb
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	Local Development Agency of the city of Velika Gorica – VE-GO-RA	Public	Velika Gorica
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Enoros Consulting Ltd	Private	Nicosia

Italy	Beneficiary partner	TUCEP – Tiber Umbria Comett	NGO	Perugia
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Umbria Legislative Assembly	Public	Perugia
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	APSU – Portuguese Association of Start-ups	NGO private and	Aspinho and Oliveirinha
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Dialogue Diversity Unipessoal Lda	NGO private and	Aspinho and Oliveirinha
Romania	Beneficiary partner	Geo Club Association	NGO	Corbeanca
Iceland	Expertise partner	Einurd Ltd.	Private	Reykjavik
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Dialogue Diversity	Private	Oliveirinha

277 - Mommypreneurs

This project will empower 1050 young mothers by training them in eCommerce and web design to make them more attractive in the labour market or supporting their entrepreneurship skills to make them able to start their own businesses. As young mothers' employment is a culturally sensitive topic, transnational cooperation is essential to develop a well-rounded universal solution that can be tried out in different national contexts.

Target groups:

- 1050 young mothers in 7 countries

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Lithuania	Lead partner	Startup Division	NGO	Vilnius
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Kalys Solutions LTD	Private	Nicosia
Italy	Beneficiary partner	PoliHub, Startup District and Incubator	Private	Milan
Poland	Beneficiary partner	University of Łódź	Public	Łódź
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Madan Parqu	NGO	Caparcia
Romania	Beneficiary partner	University Stefan cel Mare of Suceava	Public	Suceava
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Technical University of Cartagena – Cloud Incubator HUB – UPCT	Public	Cartagena
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Independent Local Agency for the Economic Development of Talavera de la Reina – IPETA	Public	Talavera de la Reina

Spain	Beneficiary partner	Independent Local Agency for the Economic Development of Talavera de la Reina (IPETA)	Public	Castilla La Mancha
Poland	Beneficiary partner	LODZKIE REGION	Public	Lodz

The second batch of Mommypreneurs courses started!



Credits: Mommypreneurs

The second batch of “Mommypreneurs” courses in Lithuania started in February. 60 new participants began their journey in digital skills and entrepreneurship skills course:

- 30 participants in Entrepreneurship skills course in Vilnius
- 15 participants in Digital skills course in Vilnius
- 15 participants in Digital skills course in Kaunas



Credits: Mommypreneurs

263 - Blue Generation Project

The project partners would like to inspire and engage youth between 15 and 29 to pursue a career in the Blue Economy. This will be done by bringing together experts from the Blue Economy and youth organisations to share knowledge about training opportunities and vacant jobs. A training programme will be developed for young mentors who will promote the sector to 39,000 young people in schools, adult education centres, NGOs, unemployment services and local associations across five countries. At least 2,000 young people will get access to training and mentoring. The project partners will also create a Blue Economy guide and a job platform.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
- Youth at risk of becoming NEETs

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	Militos Consulting SA	Private	Athens
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Active Bulgarian Society	NGO	Blagoevgrad
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Enterprising Society Development Foundation	NGO	Wola
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	European Intercultural Club	NGO	Amadora
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	CONTEXOS	NGO	Faro
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Sea Teach	Private	Cala D'or

Belgium	Expertise partner	Sea Europe	NGO	Brussels
Belgium	Expertise partner	European Boating Industry	NGO	Brussels
Germany	Expertise partner	SubMariner Network	Non-profit	Berlin
Norway	Expertise partner	Norwea	NGO	Oslo

218 - Social Innovators

The project partners will focus on the non-governmental sector as an attractive working and learning environment for young people. In NGOs, young people will gather work experience and become involved in some of the most relevant initiatives and programmes dealing with social challenges in Europe today. As a result, the participants will be supported to create their own jobs within the social sector, where their educational background is essential for further development.

Target groups:

- Young people graduated from social studies and the humanities who are not in employment, education or training

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Slovenia	Lead partner	Association for Culture and Education PiNA	NGO	Koper
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	National Management School	NGO	Sofia
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	Youth Initiative for Human Rights	NGO	Zagreb
Norway	Expertise partner	Østfold University College	Public	Halden

203 - Yenesys – YOUTH EMPLOYMENT NETWORK FOR ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY IN ISLANDS

The project partners will cooperate and share information on how to create green jobs within the energy sector, renewables, mobility, and tourism. Young people will be supported and prepared for employment in these green jobs via training, business development, mentoring and work exchanges. Participants will get experience with internships in local projects.

Target groups:

- Young professionals age 25- 29 who are not in employment, education or training
- Human resource development agencies, productivity centres, business support organisations and education- al institutions

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Cyprus	Lead partner	Cyprus Energy Agency	NGO	Nicosia
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	The International Centre for Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems – SDEWES	NGO	Zagreb
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Frederick University	Private	Nicosia
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Chrysalis LEAP Limited	Private	Nicosia
Estonia	Beneficiary partner	Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre	NGO	Tallinn
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Network of Sustainable Greek Islands – DAFNI Network	NGO	Athens

Italy	Beneficiary partner	Sapienza University of Rome - Department of Astronautical, Electrical and Energy Engineering	Public	Rome
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Regional Agency for Energy and Environment of the Autonomous Region of Madeira	NGO	Funchal
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Canary Islands Institute of Technology	Private	Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Norway	Expertise partner	Møre and Romsdal County Authority	Public	Molde

192 - From Outdoors to Labour Market

The project will examine the University of Edinburgh's "Model for social and personal growth through Outdoor Learning" and test whether it will help young people in Warmia-Masuria (Poland), Cantabria (Spain) and the Mid-West Region (Ireland) to engage in society, become active citizens and acquire professional skills. Expertise partners from the UK will be involved to train the trainers of outdoor learning. The model will help participants recognise their own strengths and talents, build self-esteem, provide career advice and prepare for job-seeking. Job matching with employers and mentoring will also be offered.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training in Warmia-Masuria (Poland), Cantabria (Spain) and the Mid West Region (Ireland)

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Poland	Lead partner	Center for Innovative Education	NGO	Warsaw
Ireland	Beneficiary partner	Limerick Institute of Technology	Public	Limerick
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Food Bank in Olsztyn	Non-profit	Olsztyn
Spain	Beneficiary partner	General Directorate for Youth and International Co- operation – Council for Education, Culture and Sport – Autonomous Government of Cantabria	Public	Santander
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Femxa Group	Private	Pontevedra

UK	Expertise partner	Outdoor & Environmental Education Moray House School of Education University of Edinburgh	NGO	Edinburgh
UK	Expertise partner	The Venture Trust	NGO	Edinburgh
Ireland	Beneficiary partner	ULS Universal Learning Systems	Private	Dublin

186 - Migrant Talent Garden

The project partners will study what is being done on entrepreneurship support in Europe today and create a business support network and training programme. In addition, they will set up an online platform and local centres to support and train young entrepreneurs with migrant background. This will help migrants develop their own business ideas and create new jobs.

Target groups:

- Young entrepreneurs of migrant background; Asylum-seekers

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Lithuania	Lead partner	Active Youth Association	NGO	Kaunas
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Hemus Technologies	Private	Sofia
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	Zagreb Incubator	Entrepreneurship NGO	Zagreb
Greece	Beneficiary partner	European Institute for Local Development	Private	Thessaloniki
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Shelter Safe House	NGO	Riga
Iceland	Expertise partner	Reykjavik Red Cross	NGO	Reykjavik
Norway	Expertise partner	Caritas Norway	NGO	Oslo
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Baltic Arab Chamber of Commerce	NGO	Riga

152 - Individual Placement and Support for NEETs through Education Youth Technology Platform (EYTP)

The project partners will improve the counselling competence in their countries through combining a two-step model consisting of the Maturing Model (MM) and Individual Placement and Support (IPS) from Norway. In combination with an Education Youth Technology Platform (EYTP), young people will get support towards vocational education or a permanent job. MM consist of an individual coaching period, which will be used for motivation and preparation for the more formal counselling work using the systematic IPS model.

Target groups:

- Coaches providing counselling
- Young people not in employment, education or training

Project Partners:

Country	Project status	partner	Institution	Type institution	of	City
Slovenia	Lead partner		Public University of Ptuj	Public		Ptuj
Hungary	Beneficiary partner		Interregio Association	Forum	NGO	Budapest
Romania	Beneficiary partner		Asociatia EIVA		NGO	Arad
Spain	Beneficiary partner		Tesla Technologies & Software S.L		Private	Santiago de Compostela
Norway	Expertise partner		Fønix AS		Non-profit	Sandefjord

134 - DARE – Day One Alliance for Employment

The Partners from Poland, Lithuania and Austria will share their work on these topics and support the establishment of Job Labs and Entrepreneurship Labs that will help 1400 young people into education or a job. The project will also establish systems for validation of non-formal learning. The aim is to draw experience from the Youthpass certificate but extend its impact in terms of target groups, scope, and level of innovation.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training in Greece, Italy, Portugal and Cyprus
- Employers who would like to test a system for validation of non-formal learning

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Cyprus	Lead partner	SEAL CYPRUS – Cyprus Organisation for Sustainable Education & Active Learning	NGO	Nicosia
Greece	Beneficiary partner	N.G.O. CIVIS PLUS	NGO	Athens
Greece	Beneficiary partner	PRAKSIS – Programs of Development, Social Support and Medical Cooperation	NGO	Athens
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Craftsmanship & SMEs Association / Confartigianato Imprese Salerno	NGO	Salerno
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Lithuanian Association of Non-formal Education	NGO	Vilnius

Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Youth Career and Advising Center	NGO	Kaunas
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Lodz Chamber of Industry and Commerce	Chamber of commerce	Lodz
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Par – Respostas Sociais	NGO	Lisbon
Austria	Expertise partner	IFTE Initiative for Teaching Entrepreneurship	NGO	Vienna
Austria	Expertise partner	Austrian Federal Economic Chamber	Public	Vienna
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	PAR – Respostas Sociais	NGO	Lisbon

101 - European Digital Bootcamps (EDIBO)

The project partners will develop and test a model to strengthen the ICT skills of young people under 30 who are not in employment, education or training. The model is inspired by the new “Rapid Technology Skills Training” developed by the World Bank and includes close cooperation with employers. Every partner of the project will organise “European digital training labs”, with ten weeks of intensive ICT training combined with other types of training like English language courses. After the training phase, participants will have the opportunity to get an apprenticeship.

Target groups:

- Young people under the age of 30 who are not studying or working, with a special focus on those aged 25-29 from disadvantaged groups (low-income, women, migrants, youngsters from rural areas)

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	THREE THIRDS SOCIETY NPO	NGO	Athens
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Institute for Youth Initiatives and Innovations	NGO	Varna
Italy	Beneficiary partner	National Craftsmen Confederation Lecce – CNA Lecce	NGO	Lecce
Italy	Beneficiary partner	FORMA.LAB SRL	Private	Milan
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Foundation for Society	NGO	Riga
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Integration Centre	NGO	Pilviškiai
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Polytechnic University of Valencia	Public	Valencia

1st Digital Bootcamp in Greece

As part of **EDIBO** project, the 1st Digital Bootcamp has officially started in Athens, Greece on 13th of December 2019. **Three Thirds Society NPO** in cooperation with the University of West Attica is implementing the 1st cycle until March 2020. **21 participants**, all belonging in the NEET category, are able to learn how to use **LabVIEW** which is a valuable tool for their successful adjustment to workforce. After the completion of **200 hours** some of the participants will have the chance to proceed with an **internship** to companies so as to test the knowledge and skills they gained through the Digital Bootcamp.

But these are not the only good news, as after the end of this cycle, **5 more will follow** so as to provide with digital skills approximately **150 young people** who are not currently working, studying or participating in any training activity. This number for us is a responsibility that we will try to follow through and give the opportunity to participants being active members of Greek society.

If you want to take part to the next cycles that will follow very soon don't hesitate to contact us and find more here info@3ts.gr and in our [Facebook page](#).



Credits: EDIBO

1st EDIBO Digital Bootcamp in Bulgaria is over with great success!

The Institute for Youth Initiatives and Innovation (IYII) has completed its first EDIBO Bootcamp on 28th of February 2020 at the International College in Dobrich. In a specially equipped hall, enrolled young people up to 29 who are not studying and not currently working (NEETs) had the opportunity, within 200 hours, to acquire the necessary computer skills to start their own businesses or to start working in an existing company. The training was split into two phases.

During the first phase, the students attended theoretical classes leaded by professional lector, and the second phase (the best students will have the opportunity to intern at IT Sponsor Company) is still ongoing. The aim of the first phase was to improve not only technical knowledge, but also to enhance English and soft skills, such as group work and entrepreneurship.

The 1st Bootcamp included 25 NEETs aged between 21-29 years old, most of them living in rural areas around the city of Dobrich. The students entered the course with very different level of education (45,5% - completed secondary education, 40,9% - completed higher education), digital skills, language skills (only 20% with basic level of English) and social standard.



Credits: EDIBO

Many partners and stakeholders supported IYII team in implementation the 1st EDIBO Bootcamp. Within the support of Dobrich Labor Office, the rural municipalities in the region and the Regional Information Center – Dobrich, two information days were organized in Dobrich with interested NEETs in order to promote the Bootcamp, to present the Curriculum, training schedule, teaching methods, expected results, etc.

All 25 students attending the 1st EDIBO Bootcamp received a Certificate of successful completion on a special awarding ceremony, organized by IYII. All stakeholders, supported the start of the training in Dobrich also were invited and attended the ceremony. They received Certificates of Appreciation, by the Chairperson of the IYII in gratitude for the support in finding young people to attend the 1st Bootcamp.



Credits: EDIBO

After the 1st EDIBO Bootcamp awarded ceremony, the trainer Mr. Lachezar Rosenov and one of the students (Naylen Ali) were invited by the national Darik radio in Dobrich for a short interview. During the interview, Mr. Rosenov shared his personal impression of the 1st Bootcamp, his satisfaction with all the students who completed the course, as well as invited new young people belonging to the category NEETs and wishing to participate and to improve its digital skills in the next cycles of courses in Varna region, during May 2020 and in Dobrich during September – October 2020, most probably.



Credits: EDIBO

The full interview is coming soon!

II Info-Day of the EDIBO project in Valencia, Spain



Credits: EDIBO

On the 27th of February, the II Info-Day of the EDIBO Project took place at the headquarters of the Mancomunitat Camp de Túria in Llíria (Valencia, Spain). The event aimed to present the project and the fourth bootcamp to local businesses and the city council technicians responsible for employment and youth policies.

The event began with a few words from Ms. María Dolores Celda, president of the Mancomunitat Camp de Túria and mayor of Marines (Valencia, Spain), who presented the project in broad strokes and stressed how digital bootcamps such as EDIBO are a good way to improve and strengthen employment amongst local unemployed youth.

Next, Pablo Boix, president of the Association for the Development of Logistics (ADL), focused his speech on logistics and warehouse management, discipline that is set to be the topic for the next bootcamp to be developed in Valencia. During his intervention, Mr. Pablo Boix stressed the importance of logistic activities to improve the benefits of a company and said that this activity will be the main workhorse of companies in the coming years. In addition, technology has greatly modified warehouse management in recent years and companies are demanding people with specific training who know how to perform these functions efficiently.



Credits: EDIBO

Afterwards, the main researcher of the project EDIBO in Spain, Lenin Lemus, presented the EDIBO project offering an overview of the problem of youth unemployment in Spain and the demand of experts in Information Technology and Communications (TICS). He also detailed the result of the first three bootcamps already implemented and presented the theme and program of the fourth bootcamp, which will focus on the management of warehouses and stocks.

Then, what took place was a round table moderated by Miguel Ángel Mateo Pla, professor of the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV) and researcher of the EDIBO project. In it, the EDIBO project was discussed from the perspective of those responsible for the training of students: teachers, practice tutors and course organizers.

Lastly, there was question time. In it, attendees raised many questions and comments, being very interested in the project and the proposal of the fourth bootcamp. The event ended with a small snack where we continued talking about the project and raising possible future actions.

094 - Young-ICT Women: Innovative solutions to increase the numbers of EU vulnerable girls and young women into the digital agenda

The project partners will motivate young women in seven European countries to improve their digital competence and choose a career within ICT. They will investigate the ICT skills of 1000 women and train 700 of them together with employers. The women will develop a 'learning to learn' attitude, a sense of initiative, and the social skills necessary to find a job.

Target groups:

- Unemployed young women
- Women without targeted education of profession
- Women in/after maternity leave
- Women in rural disadvantaged areas, coming from low income/disadvantaged families

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Latvia	Lead partner	Latvian Information and Communication Technology association	NGO	Riga
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Creative Thinking Development – CRETHIDEV	NGO	Rafina
Ireland	Beneficiary partner	ECDL Ireland Ltd.	Private	Dublin
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Baltic Education Technology Institute	Private	Vilnius
Malta	Beneficiary partner	Malta Communications Authority	Public	Floriana

Romania	Beneficiary partner	Educating for an Open Society	Private non-profit	Timisoara
Spain	Beneficiary partner	FUNDACIÓN INTERNACIONAL	PLAN NGO	Madrid
Belgium	Expertise partner	DIGITALEUROPE aisbl	NGO	Brussels
Norway	Expertise partner	European Centre for Women and Technology – ECWT	NGO	Drammen

086 - L.I.K.E. – Life Investment is the Key to Employment

The project partners will do a study on young people with mental health problems and develop new methods to help this group get an education and a job. The project partners will work together with their families, employers and mental health institutions. They will establish youth houses called 'Hidden Likes' in which the youngsters will experience a supportive environment. By overcoming isolation and increase their motivation, they will get a mentor to help them in their training for local jobs.

Target groups:

- Long-term unemployed young people aged 25-29 with mental health problems
- Roma and other minority groups
- Relatives and families of young people with mental health problems
- Local employers
- Mental health specialists

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Bulgaria	Lead partner	Association "Sustainability and of progressive communication"	NGO	Sofia
Hungary	Beneficiary partner	Salva Vita Foundation	NGO	Budapest
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Codici Social Cooperative	Social Cooperative	Milan
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Association PINS	NGO	Riga
Iceland	Expertise partner	Inspiring NGO (Hbetjandi NGO) HRIS	NGO	Garðabær

Norway	Expertise partner	Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Concurrent Sub-stance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders	Public	Brumundal
Hungary	Beneficiary partner	JOB Ltd.	Private	Budapest

083 - NEETs in entrepreneurship

The project partners from Romania, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain will reach out to young people that are not enrolled in education, do not have a job and do not take part in society. They will support and train them in small family businesses, so they can be motivated to create their own jobs in the local community. The project partners will use their own experiences at the local level and a methodological approach to business developed by the Junior Achievement across Europe.

Target groups:

- The hard-to-reach
- The low-skilled
- The long-term unemployed
- National authorities
- The Junior Achievement network in 35 countries

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Romania	Lead partner	Junior Achievement Romania	NGO	Bucharest
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Junior Achievement Bulgaria	NGO	Sofia
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Junior Achievement Italy – Young Enterprise	Non-profit	Sesto San Giovanni
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Junior Achievement Spain	NGO	Madrid
Belgium	Beneficiary partner	Junior Achievement Europe	NGO	Brussels
Norway	Expertise partner	Junior Achievement Norway	NGO	Oslo
Norway	Expertise partner	Lyk-z & daughters AS	Social entrepreneur	Skien

Only 5 out of 100 NEETs want to continue their education or find a job

91 out of 100 NEETs are satisfied with their current situation

Only 126 (9%) of the 1,400 youth NEETs (people Not in Education, Employment, or Training) Junior Achievement Romania contacted since the beginning of this year seem interested to change their current situation. The share of those who want to cooperate and fully engage in this process is even smaller: only 5 out of 100 NEETs are willing to make a change. The young people from Ialomita, Giurgiu, Galati and Vrancea we talked to believe the effort required to change their current status is too great for any lasting benefits and think they would do just fine even without getting trained for a job or getting employed. Although they are perfectly able to complete their studies and work, they refuse to do so.

Custom profile for each NEET

Inaction, indulgence in their current situation and a propensity for a life where seasons are the only variable are all factors that act as a barrier preventing NEETs from being more motivated. Applying a series of techniques derived from the FROG method, the Junior Achievement experts interact directly with these young people, driving them to desire fulfilment in their life by getting trained and employed and also by pursuing their dreams in their own start-up. Given their geographical dispersion, we usually make extensive phone support sessions with each one of them and we also organize online seminars (webinars) that help us identify NEETs' interests, their strengths and *ultimately train them*. Following their consent, we built custom profiles for each NEET individual. Unlike a CV, this custom profile is tailored to give information not only about their knowledge, skills and abilities, but also about their work and study habits.

Why do NEETs refuse to change their current situation?

There are NEETs who do not have the means to access the Internet, to open an email account or to search for a job. Others do not have the minimum resources required to prepare and go to an interview, let alone plan and put their entrepreneurship ideas into practice. The **NEETs in Entrepreneurship** project aims to lift these seemingly insurmountable barriers faced by the young people who really want to change their lives. Those without computers and access to internet access have been guided to access the online resources through the facilities provided by local libraries and town halls. Moreover, NEETs that have the desire of starting their own company are offered special trainings and they will also receive funding after preparing a good business plan.

Taking all into account, inaction remains the main obstacle these young people must overcome. Most NEETs, particularly those who do not consider entrepreneurship as an option, need to make the big step and get employed. In order for this to happen, our project implementation team actively seeks and proposes jobs matching the

NEETs' custom profiles. We even help young people unable to look for a job by going even further: we ask their consent and apply to jobs in their own name.

The lowest level of job vacancies

According to data published in February by the National Institute of Statistics, in 2019 there was a decrease in the average annual rate of job vacancies, the greatest in the last five years. In the last quarter of 2019, there were only 47,090 job vacancies, compared to 63,694 in the third quarter of 2018, a level close to that recorded in the first quarter of 2015: 47,448 job vacancies. During 2019 the number of unemployed people who have never had a job reached a new minimum down to 177,089 people, compared to 200,000-290,000 people in the last 10 years. Furthermore, the unemployment rate was 3% in eight months of 2019, the lowest value since 1992 to date. Fewer job vacancies, less unemployed and a lower unemployment rate pose new challenges for those who currently do not work, do not go to school but want to find a job.

Junior Achievement Bulgaria's NEETs in Entrepreneurship trainings have started



Credits: NEETs in Entrepreneurship

In February, **Junior Achievement (JA) Bulgaria** kicked off the first series of trainings on entrepreneurship for NEETs, in partnership with labour bureaus in the cities of Sofia and Vratsa. In the latter, 20 young people took part in a two-day 'green entrepreneurship' workshop, focused on career paths and entrepreneurship ventures in renewable energy, eco-tourism and sustainable products. The objective was to inspire participants to develop their own business in the future, such as bio food retail, renewable energy prospecting and sustainable guesthouse ventures. In addition, they were encouraged to participate in the 'NEETs Start-Up Competition' in the summer. Mentorship was provided by local healthy food start-up ventures and by Nikola Gazdov, CEO of Renergy, a leading Bulgarian renewable energy company and member of SolarPower Europe association.

"We want to train NEETs with different backgrounds from many Bulgarian cities in time to take part in the first run of our NEETs Start-Up Competition scheduled for the summer" – explains Apostol Dyankov, Project Manager at JA Bulgaria. "We are focusing our entrepreneurship trainings on subjects that provide added value to local communities and unemployed young people alike, including renewable energies, logistics, hospitality, ICT and retail".

Ahead of the NEETs Start-Up Competition, Bulgarian labour bureaus and VET schools have begun to inform registered NEETs and graduating students about opportunities to start their own business ventures and apply for the competition. JA Bulgaria held their first day preparatory training with a team registered in the Sofia East labour bureau, where the youngsters are considering launching an AI machine learning start-up. During this training, they completed the first stages of their future business model, and were able to talk to business mentors working at ICT companies

who develop B2B machine learning applications. Among them [Identrics Bulgaria](#), who will welcome ICT-savvy NEETs in their internship programme.

I was never particularly interested in entrepreneurship. I used to think that you need massive funding to start a company, but this training taught me it is possible to start with very little. I also found out there are many opportunities to start a small green business on your own. It was a very pleasant surprise to have successful local entrepreneurs participating as mentors in the training.

Polina Dimitrova, 23, Vratsa

JA Bulgaria will continue to work with VET schools and labour bureaus in Sofia and across the country, training about 20-40 young people each month. The team plans to train a total of 20 VET teachers on NEETs prevention, using a 30-hours course workbook developed specifically for the project. A first-of-its-kind innovation camp for deaf NEETs will happen in March, in partnership with the Bulgarian Youth Deaf Association MOGA. The activities will be adapted entirely to sign language from the FROG working method, developed by the Norwegian organisation *Lyk z & døtre* to assist youth who have dropped out of school and work life in finding their inherent qualities and unique abilities.

By 2021, only in Bulgaria the project is expected to have reached 400 NEETs and 1,000 VET students. Internships and job shadowing opportunities will be offered to young people from smaller cities and underprivileged backgrounds, and trainings will be expanded to include Roma and youth with especial needs. While these groups are more likely to experience discrimination in the job market, successful career and entrepreneurship examples can greatly motivate their peers.

058 - Supporting Employment Platform through Apprenticeship Learning – SEPAL

The project partners will make apprenticeships and training opportunities that are better suited to the specific needs of young people who fall outside the ordinary education systems. They will train the youngsters in social enterprises, which are businesses that are more concerned with social changes than with making a profit. The model used is called WISE (Work Integration Social Enterprise), which includes a set of guidance tools. The project will also work together with local institutions and private companies which will offer internships.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training, aged 24-29
- Young people with disabilities
- Migrants
- The low-skilled
- Drop-outs
- Teachers and mentors; Local stakeholder committees (LSCs)

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Romania	Lead partner	Bucovina Institute for Social Partnership	NGO	Suceava
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Koispe Diadromes – 10th sector at Attica Prefecture	Social Cooperative	Athens
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	ZIPB Human Resources Monitoring and Development Bureau	NGO	Siauliai
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Szczecin Higher School Collegium Balticum	Non-public higher education institution	Szczecin
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Pere Closa Private Foundation	NGO	Barcelona

053 - Rural Action for Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Youth (RAISE Youth)

The project partners will make a network to work together and share their experiences and views on how young people can create their own local jobs. The partners will establish local training and production centres and use a new model called RAISE to help young people use the resources of the countryside and find new ways of working together in the local community. Older people will be called on to mentor the young, but new technology will also be used. The local communities will use the internet to sell their products and attract investment.

Target groups:

- 2000 primarily rural 25-29 year olds not in employment, education or training; Women and Roma; Non-traditional employers and sectors

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Croatia	Lead partner	GTF-Initiative for Sustainable Growth	NGO	Zagreb
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Gender Project for Bulgaria Foundation	NGO	Sofia
Romania	Beneficiary partner	AUR - the National Association of Human Resources Specialists	NGO	Bucharest
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Casarrubuelos City Council	Public	Casarrubuelos
Spain	Beneficiary partner	FUNDECYT Science and Technological Park of Extremadura	Private	Badajoz
Austria	Expertise partner	Goodworks Innovation Agency EWIV	Private	Eschenau
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	City of Gospic	Local Government	Gospic

Presentation of the RAISE Youth project to Stakeholders and NEETs of Spanish Region of Extremadura



Credits: Raise YOUTH

On 23rd of January 2020 in Cáceres (Spain) the presentation of the RAISE Youth Project was organized for the Stakeholders and NEETs of Extremadura Region. FUNDECYT-PCTEX used this opportunity to organise a local outreach event in order to inform, motivate and engage its target audience: NEETs who are 18 to 29 years old, mainly rural while not excluding urban, giving special consideration to inactive women and Roma.



Credits: Raise YOUTH

During the event the attendees were divided in two FOCUS GROUPS. The first group consisted of 12 Stakeholders from various institutions who are working directly with NEETs on daily basis and the latter group was composed of 16 young NEETs. This concept was introduced in order to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information with the final aim of guaranteeing further contribution of all relevant stakeholders to the development of the RAISE Project model. After completing visual exercises both focus groups came up with interesting conclusions.



Credits: Raise YOUTH

In the **Stakeholders Focus Group** all agreed how there is a need to create regular common spaces/forums where opinions and experiences can be exchanged, and where future collaboration opportunities can be generated. The participating stakeholders agreed on the importance of offering various training alternatives and also about a need to change the way contemporary NEETs are approached. Modern NEETS are people who are far more visual and less oriented to reading which was a medium of older generations therefore it is our main task to find new ways of reaching out to them if we want to achieve tangible results. The stakeholders also pointed out how it is necessary to improve the contact with enterprises and change the ways of promoting traditional jobs.



Credits: Raise YOUTH

In the **NEETs Focus Group** the majority agreed that the barriers that currently prevent them from getting a job are, above all, the lack of training & experience and not having a driving licence. All participants agreed that to overcome these obstacles they will have to be trained, have confidence and do internships that will help them to gain that first relevant professional experience which is so much demanded by today's employers. NEETs who were present showed interest in more information regarding ways to find a job or how to become entrepreneurs. They also showed interest in attending longer, relevant and job oriented courses which would result in an employment opportunity in the near future.

041 - Active Youth Entrepreneurship Network

The project partners will make a network to work together and share their experiences and views on how young people can create their own jobs. The partners will help young people get in contact with local entrepreneurs and assist them in creating their own business ideas. The youth involved in the projects will get an experienced mentor and will be trained to become entrepreneurs. The project will also have positive effects on the local economy in the participating regions.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training, aged 25-2
- Entrepreneurial support communities
- Experienced mentors

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	Hellenic Management Association	Private non-profit	Athens
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations Varna	NGO	Varna
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	Cluster for Eco-Social Innovation and Development	NGO	Split
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Tecnopolis Science and Technology Park	NGO	Valenzano
Romania	Beneficiary partner	IPA-Research and Development, Engineering and Manufacturing for Automation Equipment and Systems	Private	Craiova
Norway	Expertise partner	International Development Norway	Private	Trondheim

027 - Find your way to the world of work

The project partners will learn from each other how to improve the chances of disadvantaged youth to get an education and a job. The aim is to increase the skills of participants through various personal services. Employers will be assisted to strengthen their motivation to hire a more diverse workforce.

Target groups:

- 15-29 years old disadvantaged youth, with completed primary education
- Roma
- Employers who want to diversify their workforce
- Schools that will introduce new pedagogical tools and attitudes towards disadvantaged and Roma youth

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Hungary	Lead partner	Autonomia Foundation	NGO	Budapest
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Trust for Social Achievement Foundation	NGO	Sofia
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Arete Youth Foundation	NGO	Sofia
Romania	Beneficiary partner	Association 'Caritas-Social Assistance' Branch of Caritas Alba Iulia Organisation	NGO	Târgu Mureș
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Foundation Secretaria do Gitano	NGO	Madrid

008 - Youth employment partnership – evaluation studies in Spain, Hungary, Italy and Poland

The project partners aim to cooperate in the evaluation of two different forms of employment initiatives targeting youth in Spain, Hungary, Italy and Poland, support other researchers in doing such evaluation studies, and promote the use of such studies to policy-makers. As a result, youth employment policies can become more effective.

Target groups:

- Researchers evaluating public policy with administrative data
- NGOs working with youth
- Policy-makers implementing youth policies
- Young people who would benefit from improved youth policies

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Poland	Lead partner	IBS- Institute for Structural Research	NGO	Warsaw
Hungary	Beneficiary partner	Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis	Private	Budapest
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Collegio Carlo Alberto	NGO	Turin
Italy	Beneficiary partner	The National Institute for the Analysis of Public Policies – INAPP	Public	Rome
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Foundation for Applied Economics Studies – FEDEA	NGO	Madrid

Spain	Beneficiary partner	The University of the Basque Country	Public	Leioa
France	Expertise partner	Paris School of Economics	Public	Paris
Norway	Expertise partner	NHH Norwegian School of Economics	Public	Oslo
International Organisation	Expertise partner	World Bank	International Organisation	Washington DC

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