

Facilitating entrepreneurship and improving skills of NEETs living in rural areas

NEWSLETTER

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eNEET Rural project benefits from a € 1,5 million grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment

INTRODUCTION

WHY? In many rural areas of Europe there are few job opportunities. Youth unemployment is high, and many young people, who have dropped out of school, are low-skilled and face difficulties in getting a job.

This is especially true for the disabled and those belonging to ethnic minorities, who face discrimination from education and employers.

WHAT? The project will focus on innovation and technology in the agricultural sector in order to create a Toolkit for young people, who are no longer in the education system, not working or being trained for work (NEETs). The Toolkit will include online and on-the-spot trainings, youth competition, staff exchange and mentoring services.

WHERE? The geographical coverage of the project:

- Territorially, it covers eNEET Rural partnering countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Spain;
- Bilaterally it includes partnering countries such as Bulgaria-Greece, Romania-Latvia, Spain-Portugal, Hungary-Slovakia, Slovenia-Croatia and Italy-Malta.

- Center for the Development of the Structural Funds Romania (CPDIS), www.cpdis.ro
- Business Research Association National Agrofood Technological Center, Extremadura (CTAEX), www.ctaex.com
- Fruto Consulting Ltd (FRUTO), www.fruto.eu
- STYRIAN TECHNOLOGY PARK – Business Support Centre and Incubator & Regional Centre for Technology Development (STP), www.stp.si
- Mantuan Oltrepò Consortium (COM), www.oltrepomantovano.eu
- Inclusion AS, www.inclusion.no



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CONSORTIUM MEETINGS

24 OCTOBER 2019

**3rd eNEET Rural transnational project event in Ljubljana,
Slovenia**



The 3rd eNEET Rural transnational project meeting took place on October 24th, 2019 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, followed by the much anticipated 1st Annual Seminar and Brokerage event next day.

On the 1st day the partners discussed all of the major operative steps and issues in order to prepare the upcoming capacity building activities, which will focus on training 1.200 young NEETs across the Consortium countries and beyond to those countries involved in bilateral cooperation.

5 Training Courses: Soft-Skills Basic, Soft-Skills Advanced, Soft-Skills Professional, Agro-Professional Basic, Agro-Professional Advanced are already set-up with downloadable PDF materials, PPT Presentations: for NEETs, trainers and teachers' usage and video materials and Quizzes/Educational tests for evaluation of acquired knowledge by the NEETs. Beyond the elearning trainings, the on-the-spot trainings are also at advanced level. The courses are scheduled to run from early 2020.

The 4th project meeting is due in March 2020 in Norway.

EVENTS

25 OCTOBER 2019 1st Annual Seminar and Brokerage event in Ljubljana, Slovenia



The eNEET Rural project partners, their stakeholders and NEETs, were kindly invited to take part to the 1st Annual Seminar and Brokerage event, which took place at Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre. The occasion was excellent, as the 50th Jubilee Fair Nature-Health took place on that exact day.

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia opened the event with a speech addressing the importance of the agricultural sector and the involvement of young people in the area. It was followed by Rok Damjan, president of Zveza slovenske podeželske mladine (Association of Slovenian Rural Youth) / ZSPM.

Following the opening speeches, hosting partner STYRIAN TECHNOLOGY PARK presented the eNEET Rural objectives and aims, while focusing on the so far achieved project results: the training materials, so called »Soft-Skills« and »Agro-Professional«, developed by all project partners based on their expertise and tailored to the demands and the needs of young people in Consortium countries, based on the local demand research pursued by each partner.

Finally, successful case examples related to the agricultural field were presented, in order to exchange practices with stakeholders, but also to empower the attending young people.

The second half of the day was dedicated to the IMK (Young innovative farmer) workshop, organised alongside with ZSPM. Each young competing person presented their farming ideas and projects for the future. In order to break the ice, the rest of attendants provided feedback, alongside some interesting exchange of ideas and useful suggestions for all parties.

The brokerage / networking part of the event followed the discussion, which allowed primarily stakeholders and NEETs to get to know each other better and get deeper into the discussion for a fruitful cooperation in the future eNEET Rural capacity building activities. To learn more about the impression of the attendees, go to: <https://eneet-project.eu/news/>



EVENTS

16-18 NOVEMBER 2019 1st Soft-skills training in Bulgaria



Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA), as responsible project partner for the trainings in Bulgaria conducted the 1st Soft-skills training during the period 16-18.11.2019 in Sliven.

The profile of selected young people that attended the training course absolutely fit to the main specific of the region: the minority community (mainly Roma) here represent about 20% of the population. They live mainly in 21 of the surrounding villages, where they account between 1% to 60% of the population.

Additional challenges for the minority community include a low level of education, a high number of early marriages, and a lack of access to adequate health services. Last but not least, minority community in Sliven is also faced with widespread discrimination and very high unemployment rate. It is located 300 km away from Sofia in the South-Eastern region of Bulgaria. Viticulture is a priority sector for the region, which is favored by the soil and climatic conditions and the existence of big wineries and many wine-cellar.

14 NEETs between 18-29 years old living in rural areas around the city of Sliven attended the 1st Soft-skills training course. Most of them were very low educated (only four has a secondary education diploma, the rest are with primary education), 90% have identified themselves in the minority group, they do not use IT, except smart phones, some of young people have small working experience in agro-sector, but never been employed. The training program included soft-skills lectures, such as CV preparation, tip and trick for attending interview, what to do and what not to do when we start new job, etc. to enhance the skills and motivation of those young people to find a job, learning-by-doing exercise and games. After finishing the training units, the lector tried to involve the NEETs into discussion to share their opinion about the main topics presented, how they will be in practical use, their working experience, motivation to start a new job and their attitude to agricultural work. The main purpose was to give an opportunity to NEETs to improve their presentation and public speaking skills among other learners. The third day of the training was dedicated to individual consultations with the lector and expert from UBBSLA team in order to support and to inspire the young people to go to the labor market, to show them their weaknesses and strengths, etc. All young people participating during the whole class training received eNEET Rural Certificates

EVENTS

25-26 NOVEMBER 2019 1st Active Youth Annual Seminar in Brussels



The 1st Annual seminar was held on 25-26 November 2019 in Brussels with 55 representatives of lead, beneficiary and expertise partners of all 26 projects implemented under the Active Youth call for proposal present.

The seminar was an opportunity to discuss the common challenges, share best practices, exchange experience in three thematic sessions covering topics that are important to all project promoters. All participants had an opportunity to discuss issues related to outreach, inclusion of vulnerable groups, competence and skills development, job creation, entrepreneurship, inclusion of the social economy in workplace learning, working with stakeholders, etc. But the seminar's goal was also to strengthen the sense of community of Active Youth projects. Being part of this huge, Europe-wide team, means we are not alone when facing difficulties, we can count on each other's advice and support and we have lots of people around to celebrate our achievements.

Mr. Matjaž Fras and Mr. Stefano Guardati both from STYRIAN TECHNOLOGY PARK – Business Support Centre and Incubator & Regional Centre for Technology Development (our Slovenian partner) represented the eNEET Rural consortium on the event in Brussels.

Upon invitation from the Fund Operator, our Consortium's representatives were invited to take part as speakers to last panel of the event entitled "Challenges for European youth – working together towards a more inclusive and cohesive society in rural, coastal and island communities".

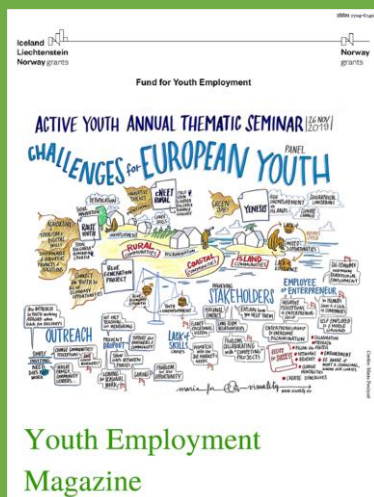
The focus was mostly on practices and methodologies implemented within the EEA and Norway Grants funded projects and touching upon different aspects like outreach, skills development, approaching and working with stakeholders, job creation and entrepreneurship. This was a great opportunity for the eNEET Rural project to be presented from the very practical point of view, while explaining what exactly we are going to do and what our NEETs will learn within our upcoming training activities in 2020.

At the same time, the panel was very interactive; all participants were asked to give their own opinion on each of the thematics via a mobile app, leading to even more interesting discussions and different points of view.

The joint seminars were proposed by the Financial Mechanism Office during the development of the Fund for Youth Employment framework and are considered an important component of the Fund's setup.

NEWS

Youth Employment Magazine 3rd issue is out! NOVEMBER 2019



30 OCTOBER – 03 NOVEMBER, INDAGRA in Bucharest, Romania

CPDIS was present at the international fair of products and equipment in the field of agriculture, horticulture, viticulture and animal husbandry INDAGRA in Bucharest from 30.10-03.11. 2019 to promote the eNEET Rural project, and to establish more contacts for the project.



Bulgarian News OCTOBER 2019

REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL for Fruits and Vegetables at the Regional Directorate of Agriculture – Varna, Bulgaria held a meeting at the end of October 2019. Created in June this year, the REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL aims to gather and summarize the opinions, problems and proposals for the decision of local farmers.

At the meeting it became clear that Varna farmers are suffering from lack of labor and undercutting of their commodity by imported products. Apart from the rural areas around Varna, labor is also imported from Ukraine!

The minimum wage of the employees is 400.00 EUR, additionally providing them with accommodation and food.

Romanian News OCTOBER 2019

Within the non-formal education day, CPDIS has presented eNEET Rural project, financed through EEA and Norway Grants to youth and the local community of Horezu, Romania.



NEWS

Hungarian News OCTOBER 2019

Fruto attended the III. Expo dedicated to SMEs active in Southern Slovakia. We aimed at networking with Slovakian stakeholders involved in business development of young entrepreneurs. Further strategic discussion on the collaboration within #eNEET_Rural is scheduled.



SEPTEMBER 2019 “Back to work” event in Italy

On September 11th at Informagiovani Office of Pegognaga the #eNEET_Rural project took part in the "BACK TO WORK" event dedicated to the young people of the area with a meeting entitled: "SOFT SKILLS: THE KEYS FOR THE WORLD OF WORK".

The meeting was requested by the youth and by the informagiovani of the Municipality of Pegognaga to make known the many development opportunities dedicated to them and to let them know about our Project. The young people who participated in the meeting experienced a teambuilding activity, aimed at introducing the topic of soft skills.

30 SEPTEMBER 2019, Maribor, Slovenia

Štajerski Tehnološki Park / Styrian Technology Park had the honour and pleasure to meet and host Ambassador Olav Berstad and his deputy Håvard Austad from the Norwegian Embassy at their premises in Maribor, Slovenia.

They had the chance to present their organisation, but also the eNEET Rural project, its objectives and outcomes we expect to achieve in the upcoming months.

As the Ambassador is actively maintaining Norwegian diplomatic relations with both Hungary and Slovenia, a very interesting and positive discussion followed on common issues related to employment, education and agriculture, highlighting the importance of co-operation among EU countries and, in particular, of the EEA and Norway Grants Programme in reducing social and economic disparities.



FUTURE EVENTS

27-28 JANUARY 2020 and mid FEBRUARY 2020

eNEET-Rural Soft Skills and Communication Trainings

eNEET-Rural Soft Skills and Communication Trainings will be held on **27-28 January 2020 in Suzzara, Italy for NEETs**. Do not miss this opportunity if you are unemployed youth in age 25-29 with intention to improve your job skills! The language of the trainings is Italian!

CPDIS will also organize courses in **mid February 2020** in Romania for NEETs through eNEET Rural Project for development of Soft Skills and Communication. The language of the trainings is Romanian!

corso per la ricerca attiva del lavoro
SOFT SKILLS E COMUNICAZIONE
due assi vincenti (spesso ingiustamente trascurati)
per trovare il lavoro che piace

*corso gratuito con iscrizione obbligatoria
destinato principalmente a diplomati e laureati*

LUNEDI 27 GENNAIO | Piazzalunga | ore 9.00-13.00
LE SOFT SKILLS docente **RICCARDO TRANQUILLI**

Principali argomenti trattati

- Cosa sono le soft skills
- Perché sono importanti
- Quali sono le principali soft skills (legate al sé / alla comunicazione con gli altri / all'oggetto di lavoro)
- Quando e dove le possiamo utilizzare
- Quali rappresentano dei miei punti di forza?
- Su quali voglio/posso/devo crescere?
- Approfondimento: le abilità legate alla comunicazione e alla relazione.

MARTEDI 28 GENNAIO | Piazzalunga | ore 9.00-13.00
COMUNICAZIONE E LEADERSHIP docente **VALENTINA BORGOGNONI**

Principali argomenti trattati

- Nozioni fondamentali sulla comunicazione
- Il contesto comunicativo e la comunicazione nei contesti lavorativi
- Stili di comunicazione e stili di leadership

PIAZZALUNGA#SPAZIO-i
viale Zonta,6 - 46029 Suzzara (MN)
piazzalunga-i@comune-suzzara-mn.it
tel 0376 513293
smsline + whatsapp 328 0452779
Facebook: PiazzalungaSuzzara + gruppo Suzzara Lavoro



LAVORAZIONI

in collaborazione con il progetto:
eNEET Rural,
Favorire l'imprenditorialità
e migliorare le competenze
dei NEET che vivono
in zone rurali

partner italiano Consorzio
Oltrepò Mantovano
<https://eneet-project.eu/it>

il progetto "eNEET Rural"
beneficia di un contributo
di 1,5 milioni di Euro,
concessi da Islanda, Liechtenstein
e Norvegia attraverso il "The EEA
and Norway Grants Fund for
Youth Employment" (Fondo di
Contributi SEE e Norvegia per
l'occupazione giovanile)



**info
& prenotazione
eventi**

CONTACT

LEAD Partner:

***Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local
Authorities***

Bulgaria

www.ubbla.org

coordinator@ubbsla.org

Communication Manager:

Fruto Consulting Ltd

Hungary

www.fruto.eu

info@fruto.eu



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