

## Fund for Youth Employment



Credits: EEA - FMO

# Youth Employment Magazine

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With the new EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway aim to support measures that promote youth employment across Europe.

The Fund's focus on transnational cooperation reflects the view that unemployment among youth is a common European challenge and common European solutions should therefore be explored. By creating decent jobs and preparing young people for the labour market, as well as empowering them to influence their own future, Europe can combat unemployment. The EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment aims to be a part of that solution.

The organisations and bodies involved into the management of the Grants are several, and in particular the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) is representing the Brussels-based secretariat for the Grants Fund, being a fundamental contact point for the beneficiary countries. For particular Programmes and Funds, as is the case of our Fund for Youth Employment and Regional Cooperation, the FMO is entrusted with the role of Programme Operator; this is why the implementation of the Funds is performed by a Fund Operator (FO).

On behalf of the FO leader: Ecorys Polska and the associate JCP Italy, I'm representing today the FO TEAM, composed of several experienced figures which made possible the realisation of The Youth Employment Online Magazine.

It is with pleasure, indeed, that I'm announcing the first launch of our new tool: The Youth Employment Online Magazine, which will accompany our "Family" of Projects throughout the whole implementation period.

The Magazine wants to act as the main collector of the projects' best practices, interesting facts and figures, success stories. Here collected, as the principal, online contact point, people will have the opportunity to see and touch with their hands the concretisation of the measures promoted by the EEA and Norway Grants.

The content of this first issue is reflecting the initial steps related to the start-up of Projects' achievements, which certainly will increase afterwards and as a consequence of this initial implementation period.

The challenges and issues covered by the Fund are several and, especially, faced by every country concerned. Everybody, nowadays, is engaged, everybody is trying to find solutions: that is why we welcome your contributions.

Considering the level of importance of some of the challenges encountered and of the topics covered, I'm happy to welcome the first "external friend" of our Mag: the Journalist Thomas Mc Grath which, thanks to his experiences and professionalism, will share with all of us his thoughts.

With the hope that this can be a reason for you to know us better and to learn from others' experiences, I wish you a good "e-reading"

Gian Luca Bombarda

The Director

Fund operated by:



## **Tackling Youth Unemployment with Imagination and Inclusion**

In May 2019, over 3.2 million young persons were unemployed in the EU-28, representing 14.3% of the European Union. The latest figures – end 2018 - for NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training) total 5.5 million young people.

Behind those bald, baseline statistics lie a series of political, economic and social problems that threaten the social fabric of Europe and its constituent countries.

Identification of the causes of youth unemployment are well documented. While the financial and debt crisis of 2007-2010 has been identified as the catalyst and culprit, there were already deeply ingrained societal fault lines. Youth employment was suffering from structural deficiencies in educational training systems, labour market employment policies and the stratification of opportunities in society.

The consequences of this demographic fall out sometimes blur with the causes, in a cause or effect conundrum. However, the realities and repercussions of youth migration, lost generations, social exclusion, marginalisation and disaffection are all too clear.

The above scenario has taxed governments, societies, national and international institutions in their efforts for appropriate policy responses and development of support structures. Combatting youth unemployment and addressing the needs of NEETs is one of the highest priorities on the European agenda.

The EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment, established in 2014, recognises the threat towards the development of economic and social cohesion in the EU caused by this exclusion from the labour market, and the resultant waste of human energy, potential and talent. A call for projects to tackle the diverse problems of youth unemployment was launched in April 2017, targeting consortia that would work together across borders.

Underlying this initiative was the belief that youth unemployment is not geographically contained within frontiers in Europe but transcends borders; thus, a European problem requires a European solution. The added value of a transnational approach would allow entities across Europe pool their resources and efforts and benefit from respective best practices and economies of scale.

While EU funding is available to Member States with numerous initiatives targeting youth unemployment, the rationale behind the EEA Fund call was to complement existing EU funding and avoid duplication and working in silos. Taking into account the range of EU initiatives from long-term systemic changes in education and labour policies of EUMS to small projects and activities with limited funding, the Fund sought projects within areas that do not commonly receive EU funding.

In efforts to reduce economic and social disparities in the EEA, the Fund launched a call for projects in 18 beneficiary countries in Europe that would, in general, promote sustainable and quality youth employment, and more particularly help the more vulnerable sectors of society - long-term unemployed; ethnic minorities, including Roma; people with mental health problems; the disabled; asylum-seekers.

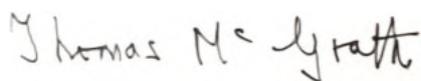
The enthusiastic response to the call, launched in April 2017, with a Euro 60 million budget, saw initial submission of above 700 project ideas involving over 2,500 different entities, eventually distilled to 26 projects which stated to be operational from the end of 2018. These comprise 205 project partners from 25 countries involving 18 partners from donor countries and 141 from beneficiary countries in addition to expertise partners coming from other EUMS and International Organisations.

The above data screens the imaginative, inclusive and human make-up of the projects. There are stories that need to be told and shared. This magazine can animate the lifelessness of statistics with the transfusion of narratives and accounts of the projects. The project leaders and their communication teams are the first shareholders in this fledgling initiative.

But this magazine can grow and serve many purposes beyond being a repository of good news stories related to the projects and their progress; it can help bring light to the darkness of worlds inhabited by the less fortunate and more vulnerable; it can help create networks of kindred actors in different communities; it can act as a barometer of social trends and provoke debate among administrations, civil society, media, businesses and universities. Finally, it can become an important space for analysis, academic debate and advocacy.

Thomas Mc Grath

Our Irish Journalist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Mc Grath". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

# Events

## JULY 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	<b>2 Comm. Training</b>	<b>3 Comm. Training</b>	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	<b>30 Magazine Launch</b>	31			

## Success Story



Credits: FO

The first step to the concretisation of our Mag took place last 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July, in occasion of the Communication Training for Communication Managers of our 26 Projects, organised by the Fund Operator in Warsaw.

During the workshop, indeed, the FO informed the participants about the official launch of their new tool for upcoming years together as part of a family: the Youth Employment Online Magazine!

As reported, Communication Managers appreciated the fact that FO has developed a common platform through which all projects within the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment will be communicated during their implementation.

Certainly, this will involve additional efforts from all the considered “members” of the family, but everybody welcomed the idea to have the possibility to move from dissemination to “exploitation” of communication resources.

One of the main aims of the Mag, indeed, is to strengthen the info-comm activities of the Projects, acting as a unique focal point gathering their main achievements and results of the entire programme and where possible clustering related indicators. We strongly believe that our issues will be fueled by more data, more results and, especially, more success stories to be spread worldwide thank to the Magazine itself.

For those reasons, the FO decided to dedicate to the participants two days of immersion into some communication “tips”, necessary for the new engagement towards the constant future feeding of the Online Mag. The sessions had been held by some professionals, such as Fabian Ribezzo, which showcased to his audience how to prepare some short videos and interviews with smartphones. Raquel Torres Prol from the FMO as Communication Officer, welcomed the Communication Managers with a fantastic session on communication campaigns. Last but not least, the training was

introduced and powered by the interventions of Thomas Mc Grath, a journalist which is as well the first external contributor of our Mag.

Mateusz, Sara and Francesca further refreshed and filled the store of knowledge of the participants with tips on communication tools, without forgetting Gian Luca, stimulating the atmosphere together with Malgorzata and Izabela.

The FO is convinced that this has been just the first milestone, together with the one of today reflected by the official launch of the Mag, towards a future rich of interesting success stories which will come from our Projects, engaged towards the achievements of common goals despite their diversity.

See a short interview at: [www.youthemploymentmag.net/multimedia-2/](http://www.youthemploymentmag.net/multimedia-2/)  
Follow-us up on: [www.youthemploymentmag.net](http://www.youthemploymentmag.net)

# 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

## The LEAD project, presented at “Ignite Moita – Inspiring Projects”



Credits: Labour market Employment for young Adults with a Disability – LEAD

On 17 July 2019, António Silva Dias, LEAD project manager from Consultis, the Portuguese partner, has presented the project and its activities in general, and the Centre of Supported Employment Services in particular, at *Ignite Moita - Projetos que Inspiram* (“Ignite Moita – Inspiring Projects”) organised in the municipality of Moita by Ignite Portugal and CLDS Moita. Ignite Portugal is a set of events that uses the power of short-form storytelling to grow a thriving community centered on the exchange of diverse stories and challenging ideas and projects. Each speaker gets 20 slides, for 15 seconds each (for a total of 5 minutes) to share its idea or project and inspire civil society.

This was a moment of exchanging, obtaining and generating new knowledge between this project partner and local stakeholders, including the final beneficiaries, with the aim to promote the Supported Employment paradigm and local services, and to promote cooperation networks, between public and private organizations as a fundamental strategy towards mainstreaming more efficient procedures of social and professional inclusion of the target group.



Credits: Labour market Employment for young Adults with a Disability – LEAD



Credits: Labour market Employment for young Adults with a Disability – LEAD

LEAD Launch, Mr. Nicolae Dobrescu, Executive Director of the HAO and the Manager of the LEAD Project



Credits: Labour market Employment for young Adults with a Disability – LEAD

LEAD Launch, Mr. Iulian Macovei



Credits: Labour market Employment for young Adults with a Disability – LEAD

Mrs Alina Dobrescu, Coordinator of the Supported Employment Program at the Health Action Overseas Romania Foundation (HAO)



Credits: Labour market Employment for young Adults with a Disability – LEAD

Ms. Andreea Susanu



Credits: Labour market Employment for young Adults with a Disability – LEAD

Mrs. Cristina Serbanescu, Communication Manager within the LEAD project

## 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

# 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
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Euroteam Vocational Training Center S.A	Private	Patras
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Social Cooperative ALTERNATA silos	NGO	Guidonia Montecelio
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Municipality of Cursi	Public	Cursi
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Palidzesim.lv	NGO	Riga
Romania	Beneficiary partner	Save the Children Association Iasi	NGO	Iasi

## Interreg Volunteer Youth

Since March 2017, AEBR has deployed over 300 volunteers in Interreg Programmes and Projects, making cooperation in Europe better known and more visible.

So far, thanks to IVY, hundreds of Interreg projects all over Europe have been implemented with the support of young Europeans who brought their interest, their skills and their enthusiasm. Every Interreg Programme can host a volunteer for a period of 2 to 6 months. Volunteers are young people from 18 to 30 years old who are committed to engage in an experience to enhance solidarity in the European Union and beyond. AEBR supports the volunteers financially and provides them with some information on Interreg prior to their deployment.

The pilot initiative continues until December 2019.



Credits: CODE

Cursi, Italy



Credits: CODE

## Cursi, Italy

# **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:**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Project partner status</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Type of institution</b>	<b>City</b>
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

## 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
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Social Cooperatives' Network of Central Macedonia	CSO	Thessaloniki
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 integration and equality	NGO	Murcia

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

## 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
Slovenia	Beneficiary partner	STYRIAN TECHNOLOGY PARK	Public	Pesnica pri Mariboru
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Business Research Association National Agrofood Technological Center, Extremadura	NGO	Villafranco del Guadiana
Norway	Expertise partner	Inclusion AS	Private	Asker



Credits: eNEET Rural

**Launch Event, Varna, Bulgaria**

The launching event of the “eNEET Rural: Facilitating entrepreneurship and improving skills of NEETs living in rural areas” project was organized in Varna and hosted by the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA) as the leading project organization.

The event took place at Interhotel “Cherno more” – Varna, Bulgaria on 12th of November 2018. Mr. Stoyan Pasev, District Governor of Varna welcomed the international project partners from Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Romania and Norway, as well as over 50 representatives of local business companies, small municipalities from Varna region, NGOs, Varna Chamber of Commerce and Industry, universities and vocational high schools, cluster organizations, citizens and media.

**25 January 2019**

COM introduced the project on 25th January 2019 in Mantova within the framework of a press conference to mobilize the stakeholders at local level

**6-7 February 2019**

The annual forum, organized by the Association of Agricultural Producers in Bulgaria, is one of the most significant events for the sector.

**12 March 2019**

Presents eNEET Rural Project at the “Competition Agriculture and Sustainable Local Supply” Event in Slovenia

**14 March 2019**

Meeting 14 march 2019 with the neets on the territory (activities with INFORMAGIOVANI of San Benedetto)

## **We achieved the following main milestones in the first 6 months of the project:**

**Project management:** the project partners met+ twice as per project implementation plan, each sixth month (November 2018 and March 2019). Launching event in order to present the project to the general public was implemented in Varna as accompanied event to the Kick-off meeting. The 2nd Project Partners Meeting was held at CTAEX in Spain.

**Communication actions:** Upon the updated Communication Plan the multilingual project website was set up as well as the FB page, Twitter are up and running. Project brochures, billboards and leaflets were designed and printed. The monthly bulletin of UBBSLA contained articles on the progress of eNEET.

**Preparation of the innovative solutions:** All partners started to work on the development of the Training Materials for Online & On-the-spot Courses. As a preliminary step each partner elaborated a Local Demand Research incorporating information on business, agriculture and NEETs in their respective countries.

**Network building with stakeholders:** the consortium started mapping the stakeholders: NGOs, agricultural associations, holdings, unemployment centers in their countries/regions. A database has been collected which is supervised by COM. The WP leader organized two meetings with stakeholders in Italy to collect their feedbacks related to the Template of National agreements and international agreements within the bilaterally collaborating countries. Agreements will be concluded in the coming months.

**Youth employment facilitating services:** a study visit as a short term staff exchange between the stakeholders performing similar activities was implemented in Extremadura region as accompanied event to the 2nd consortium meeting. As part of the study visits, three foreign stakeholders from Bulgaria and Italy took part and 4 Spanish stakeholders introduced their organisations focusing on their mission, goals, products/services, clientele and last but not least their possible engagement to eNEET project. The next study visit will be held in Slovenia in early autumn.

## **FRUTO May 2019**

Fruto has exchanged thoughts with the Békés County Government Office about the best cases of training #NEETs. Their department dealing with unemployment completes numerous national and international projects facilitating NEETs to the access to job. The cooperation within #eNEET\_Rural project was also discussed.

## **eNEET Rural Project May 2019**

Directing the young low-skilled unemployed to farming is one of the main aims of our project. The Great Hungarian Plain is traditionally the heart of #agriculture. A farm from the Great Hungarian Plain (Morahalom) was visited by Fruto to draw the details of their involvement in hosting and mentoring of #NEETs with agro interest.

Development of management information systems and investigation of IT systems of agricultural enterprises is part of the training courses of @nyiregyhaziegyetem. Fruto discussed with its lecturers their opinion on the #agro-training courses of #eNEET\_Rural and the opportunities of collaboration.

The representatives of PRIMOM Foundation for Promoting Enterprises and Fruto met to establish the collaboration on agro #entrepreneurship development related actions of #eNEET\_Rural. @primom.alapitvany is active partner of Enterprise Europe Network and handles micro credit and micro financing for SMEs.

The Entrepreneur Center of Baranya County @BaranyaMegyeiVallalkozoiKozpont invited Fruto to get to know each others' activity in the stimulation of SMEs and the facilitation of the agricultural entrepreneurship in the County. Both parties see the synergetic points of the core activities of @BaranyaMegyeiVallalkozoiKozpont and #eNEET\_Rural project and open for closer collaboration.

According to the latest European Commission education report, 84 percent of Hungarian youth are employed. One reason for this unemployment rate could be the Youth Guarantee Program that has already helped 100,000 young people find work in Hungary. The Youth Guarantee Program provides assistance to young people under the age of 25 who do not work and do not attend any education or training.

## June 2019

The Ministry of Agriculture in Hungary plans a large- scale Roma catch-up program, which would solve the rural labor shortage, and at the same time it would create an opportunity for the Roma to break out.

In the Agroma project, "3in1" would bring about 1. the social inclusion of the Roma with 2. agricultural and 3. rural development, as these would come back and forth between themselves. The Agroma program could even start in 2020. #eNEET\_Rural will seek the collaboration with them.

## Meeting of the Business on the Black Sea coast

Meeting of the Business on the Black Sea coast was held in Varna. On June 13, 2019 in the Golden Sands resort near Varna was held the annual Meeting of the Business on the Black Sea coast. The event was attended by many owners and managers of companies in the region, business associations and chambers, mayors and municipal representatives. UBBSLA experts who attended the event had the opportunity to meet and establish a network with eNEET stakeholders. During the working discussion UBBSLA discussed the possibility of cooperation with the municipal administration of Devnya Municipality as well as with the Presidents of the Varna Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Executive Director of the Regional Industrial Association - Varna. All of them have committed themselves to cooperate with UBBSLA in finding suitable agro-business organizations and local agricultural holdings to be involved in the implementation of the #eNEET\_Rural project.

Under the eNEET Rural project, funded by EEA and Norway Grants, the CPDIS Association organized a meeting with young people from the Faculty of Consumer Protection and the Environment at the Agronomic University of Bucharest to discuss the opportunities the project

offers through online and offline. We encouraged the entrepreneur spirit in rural areas by presenting the objectives and results of the project. #eNEET

## **FUTURE RELEVANT EVENT:**

### **Bread Basket, Czech Republic**

August 22 - 27, 2019

### **Agrokomplex**

Nitra, Slovakia

August 22 - 25, 2019

### **ExpoDrev Russia**

Krasnoyarsk, Russia

September 3 - 6, 2019

### **Fruit Attraction**

Fruit Attraction is a specialized international platform dedicated to the fresh produce market.

Madrid, Spain

October 22 - 24 2019

# Scaling trust-based partnership models to recharge youth entrepreneurship: Supporting underserved communities with innovative entrepreneurship support instruments (TPM-RYE)

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



Credits: Scaling trust-based partnership models to recharge youth entrepreneurship: Supporting underserved communities with innovative entrepreneurship support instruments (TPM-RYE)

Workshop in Athens, 5-6 December 2018



Credits: Scaling trust-based partnership models to recharge youth entrepreneurship: Supporting underserved communities with innovative entrepreneurship support instruments (TPM-RYE)

Workshop in Barcelona, 15 to 16 June.  
Working and putting in common with the different partners the lines of the project and sharing good practices.



Credits: Scaling trust-based partnership models to recharge youth entrepreneurship: Supporting underserved communities with innovative entrepreneurship support instruments (TPM-RYE)

Workshop in Barcelona, 15 to 16 June.  
Working and putting in common with the different partners the lines of the project and sharing good practices.



Credits: Scaling trust-based partnership models to recharge youth entrepreneurship: Supporting underserved communities with innovative entrepreneurship support instruments (TPM-RYE)

Final group photo, workshop in Barcelona, 15 to 16 June.



Credits: Scaling trust-based partnership models to recharge youth entrepreneurship: Supporting underserved communities with innovative entrepreneurship support instruments (TPM-RYE)

Final group photo, workshop in Offenbach.

## 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
Slovenia	Beneficiary partner	Ljudska univerza Velenje (LUV)	Public	Velenje
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

## 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
Greece	Beneficiary partner	SARONIS S.A. – Former Vocational Training Center Attiki S.A.	Private	Salamina
Italy	Beneficiary partner	TUCEP – Tiber Umbria Comett Education Programme	NGO	Perugia
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Umbria Legislative Assembly	Public	Perugia

Portugal (2)	Beneficiary partner	APSU – Portuguese Association of Start-ups and Dialogue Diversity	NGO and private	Aspinho and Oliveirinha
Romania	Beneficiary partner	Geo Club Association	NGO	Corbeanca
Iceland	Expertise partner	Einurd Ltd.	Private	Reykjavik



Credits: NEETs' Empowerment for Sustainable Employment in the Tourism Sector NESET

Pictures from the Opening Ceremony, Varna, Bulgaria



Credits: NEETs' Empowerment for Sustainable Employment in the Tourism Sector NESET

# 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



Credits: Mommypreneurs

Pictures from the launch event in Vilnius, Lithuania.



Credits: Mommypreneurs

## 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
Iceland	Expertise partner	Iceland Aquaculture Association	NGO	Reykjavik
Norway	Expertise partner	Norwea	NGO	Oslo

The launch event of the large-scale project **Blue Generation** that opens the way to young people (15-29 yrs old) to pursue a sustainable career in the Blue Economy sector, was held with success in Brussels (30/11/2018).

The purpose of this event was to spread the word about the objective of the #BlueGeneration project to inspire, attract and engage young people to take advantage of the job opportunities available in diverse Blue Economy sectors – from coastal tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, and maritime transport, to ocean energy, marine biotechnology, and mineral resources.

The event attended stakeholders and organizations in Blue Economy across Europe, representatives of the European Commission and the EU Parliament, the fund operator of the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment (ECORYS in Poland), and all the beneficiary and expert partners forming the Blue Generation Project consortium.

The opening welcome was delivered by Mr. Christophe Tytgat, Secretary General of Sea Europe, and Mr. Kyriakos Lingas, representing the Blue Generation Project lead partner Militos Consulting SA in Greece. Ms. Wera Helstrøm, initiated the event presentations, stressing the important role and initiatives of the Mission of Norway within the scope of the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement. The nexus between Blue Economy and Youth employment in the European Union, as a much promising development area, have been addressed by key speeches by Ms. Alessia Clocchiati, representing European Commission's DG Mare, and Ms. Minna Nurminen, representing European Commission's DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion respectively. Lastly, Ms. Silja Teege, representing project partner Sea Teach in Spain, and Mr. Kyriakos Lingas, presented the objectives, the work philosophy and the international partnership of the #BlueGeneration project.

The audience engaged in an open discussion with the project partners and key speakers, exploring and initiating on the spot cooperation ideas and synergies, securing this way a well-established basis for further collaboration, that will substantially help the project to reach its objective to actively involve approx. 40,000 young people in Blue Economy jobs and training – an endeavor that should be supported by all relevant stakeholders at labour market, education and training, as well as policy- making levels.



Credits: Blue Generation Project

Seminar on Blue Economy Skills and Dr. Evangelos Kyriazopoulos, Lecturer at the Kapodistrian University, University of Crete and Panteion University in Greece, raised strong interest on the so far “unknown” career opportunities that the sea holds.



Credits: Blue Generation Project

Seminar Day

Ms Marievi Grets (PP Milto Consulting SA) presented the Blue Generation Project and acted as a liaison and info-point. It was exciting to listen to many participants to characterize our project as an innovative ‘blue growth’ antidote to youth employment.

The skills seminar was organized by Knowl social enterprise for life long learning and the Municipality of Papagou Xolargou with the support of Stavros Niarchos Foundation in liaison with BlueGeneration Project in Greece.



Credits: Blue Generation Project

Blue Career Platform and mentoring sessions are planned by representatives from Militos Consulting S.A., Sea Teach, Active Bulgarian Society, Clube Intercultural Europeu, FRSP and Contextos that met in Bulgaria for a 2-day meeting (9-10 July).



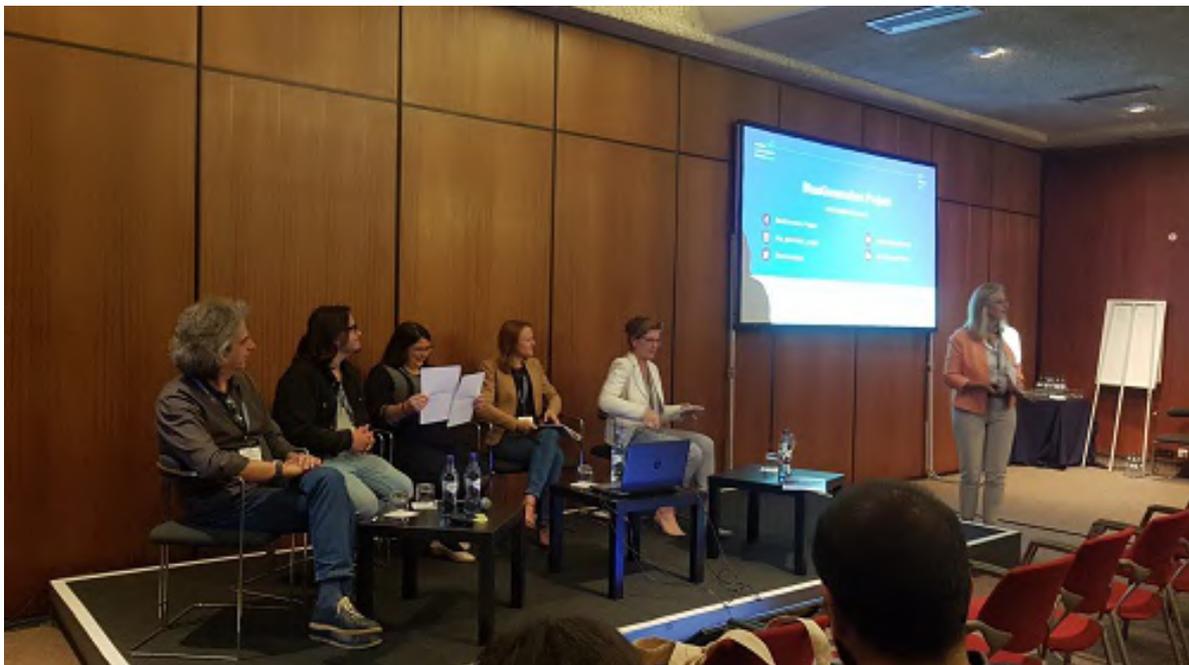
Credits: Blue Generation Project

The workshop about Employment, Jobs, Careers Funding in the Blue Economy, on Friday 31, at UPCT Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena was a success! A representative from Sea Teach, presented jobs opportunities in the European Blue Economy to a group a Naval Engineering students in the scope of the Blue Generation Project.



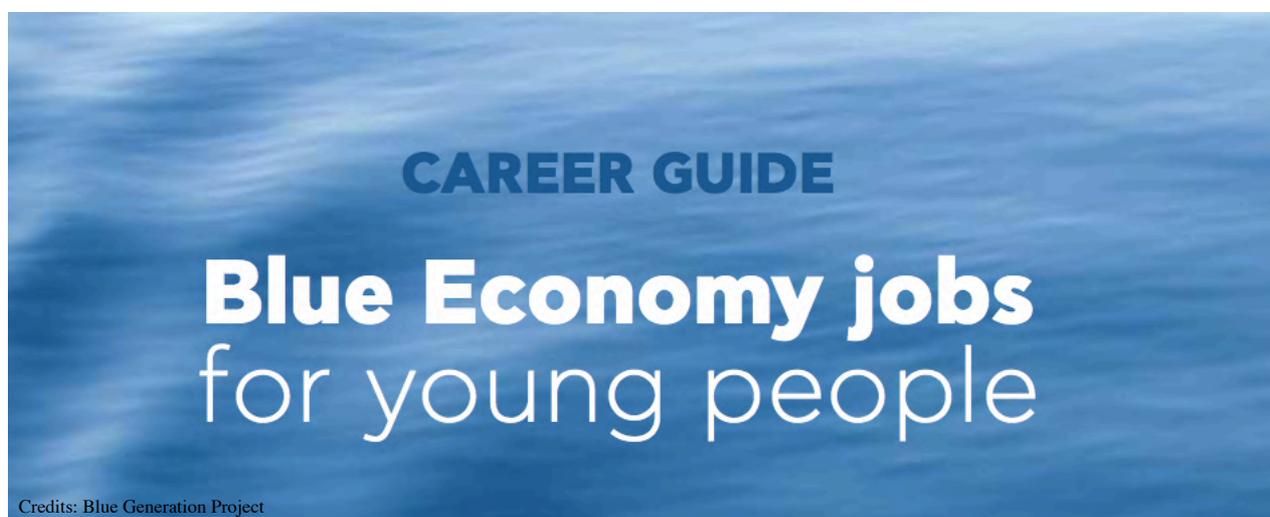
Credits: Blue Generation Project

Must make Blue Economy jobs relevant and attractive for youth. This was an “international” commitment made by BlueGeneration Project partners at European Maritime Day, in Lisbon.



Credits: Blue Generation Project

## Blue Career Guide



The Blue Career Guide is an attractive and informative tool for young people between 15 to 29 years old to guide them for the career opportunities in the Blue Economy growth areas: coastal tourism, aquaculture, ocean energy, marine biotechnology, shipbuilding, maritime transport and fisheries.

The Career Guide provides valid information, gathered by the expert partners of the Blue Generation project about the job opportunities along with the employment status at national level and EU level, complemented by short interviews conducted with people working in Blue Economy sectors.

The Blue Career guide has been edited by the project lead partner, Militos Consulting SA in Greece, with the support of Sea Teach in Spain. The Blue Career Guide, as the first Output of the Blue Generation project (funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment) will accompany all the promotional and communicational visits in all project partners countries and is available in the five Beneficiary partner languages plus English

Download here: <https://bluegeneration.org/index.php/en/results-and-outputs/10-results-and-outputs-1>

## Blue Growth SUMMER SCHOOL GRADUATES



Credits: Blue Generation Project

### Summer School Graduates

All the young mentors successfully received the Blue Growth Certificate and they are ready to apply valuable knowledge and tools acquired through training provided by the Ghent University Academy for Engineers to help youth pursue a sustainable career in the Blue Economy sector. Special thanx to Ms. Noemie Wouters and Mr. Pierre Jean Valayer for their enthusiastic support and memorable experiences and to Universiteit Gent and GreenBridge for hosting us and bring about this unique program.

## 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

## Non-Governmental Organisations as soft skill accelerators



Credits: Social Innovators

Youth Initiative for Human Rights alongside Association for Culture and Education PiNA and Norwegian Embassy in Croatia launched the project **‘Social Innovators’** which establishes NGO’s as successful human resource accelerators and develops innovative approaches which can lower youth unemployment.

Project coordinators from Croatia and Slovenia, in the scope of **LEAP Summit in Zagreb**, presented an innovative model of simultaneously addressing the challenges of high rates of youth unemployment and low employment rate in NGO sector, which all present a tremendous waste of human potential and missed opportunities for greater contribution to the social transformation not only in Croatia but in EU in general. Through this project, NGOs can offer young people work experience and opportunity to 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.

Presenters announced the opening of IDEAhubs, open spaces in Croatia, Bulgaria and Slovenia in 2019, where social innovation, skills and employment opportunities will be generated for young people.

As part of the presentation, a panel **‘Accelerators of youth social innovations’** was organized in which successful examples of social innovations in the non-profit sector were presented, as well as the challenges and opportunities that non-governmental organizations can provide to young people in the form of employment and skills development.

The project is supported by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants, which are continuously supporting cooperation of different stakeholders to work together for a green, competitive and inclusive Europe.

The four-year project is developed in cooperation of PiNA, YIHR Croatia, National Management School from Bulgaria and Ostfold University College from Norway.



Credits: Social Innovators



Credits: Social Innovators

## Social Innovators partners meet in Koper to Define the next steps of the project



Credits: Social Innovators

From 27th to 29th of May, partner organizations developing Social Innovators met in Koper, Slovenia, to discuss the next steps of the project. The meeting was hosted by PiNA and joined by representatives of National Management School (Bulgaria), Youth Initiative for Human Rights (Croatia) and Østfold University College.

Throughout different interactive activities, the partners thought about the future of the project and its activities, that still need to be done in order to successfully implement wanted results. The partners also brainstormed about the importance of social innovation in several sectors, with an emphasis on the NGOs, and talked about the ongoing research, mapping and baseline study and training programme, that will be created during the four-year-long project.

# Yenesis – 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

## 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.

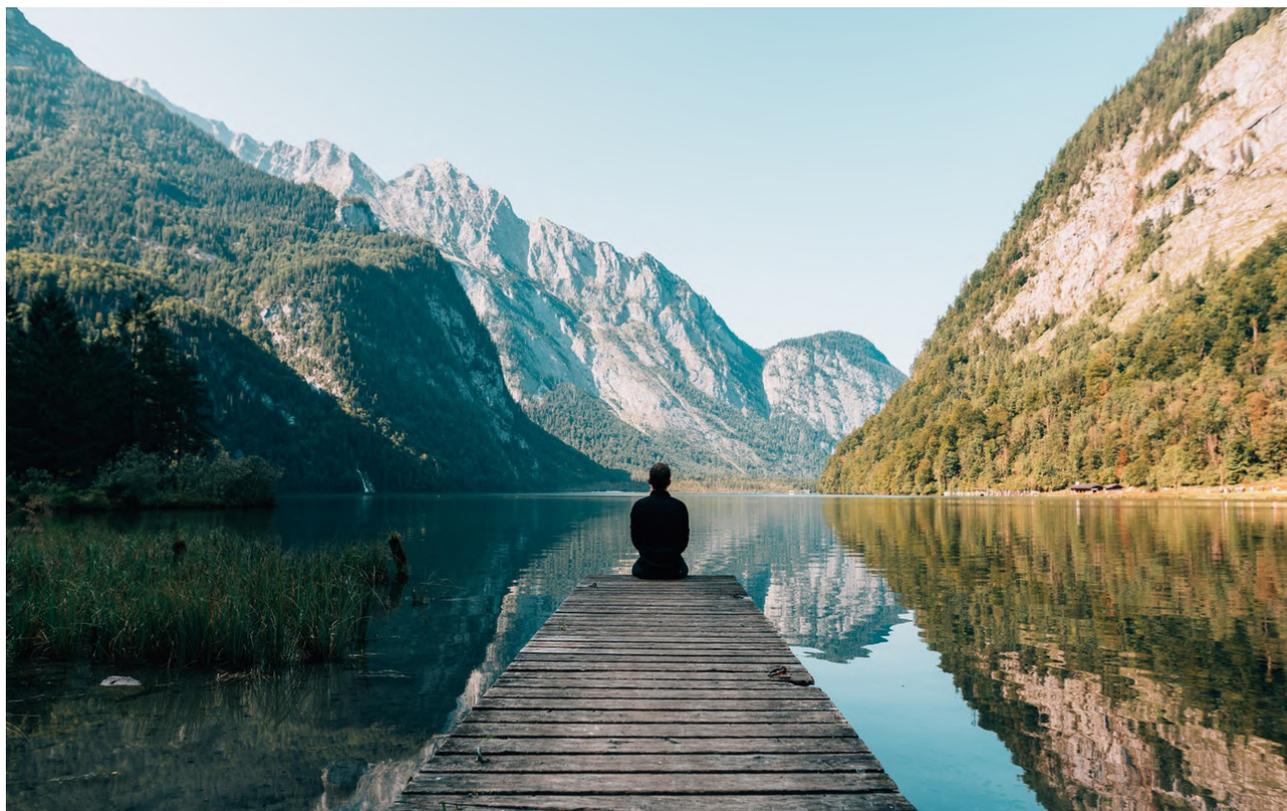
### Target groups:

- 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 GRANT AMOUNT: € 3.5 MILLION	NGO	Edinburgh

## FOLM works! An interview with Andrii, participant of FOLM



FOLM has started. The first 25 participants have already travelled to the Picos de Europa to overcome their limits and build a better future. Now our trainers are waiting for them, who will help them prepare to enter the labour market or return to education. We decided to present specific stories, such as Andrii's story. Andrii is a participant in the second group, who, shortly after finishing his participation in the expedition, decided, as a volunteer, to help the team that creates FOLM. Andrii comes from Ukraine but lives in Cantabria. He is a true fan of the audiovisual world. As soon as he learned that our operators, Robert and Mateusz, are traveling to Cantabria to film the material we want to use on YouTube, he offered us his help.

We asked him a few questions to get to know him better and his FOLM's impressions.

### **What were the advantages of participation in the FOLM project ?**

When I left for the first time as a participant, I met very nice people with whom I keep in touch so far. I have always dreamt about camping and thanks to the FOLM project I could fulfill this dream. I have also fallen in love with the area of Liébana (Cantabria). I had never been there before.

### **What changes have occurred in you?**

The truth is that I have already known some coaching strategies that were used by our trainers. The most important thing that I learned was to understand that to have knowledge and not to do anything with it is not enough. I believe that this change was due to the dynamics of interaction

with other people in the group. So I am very happy with the work of our trainers Fernando, Yolanda and Sofia.

**Would you recommend FOLM to others?**

I have recommended to everyone in my surroundings, because the truth is that I felt that a lot has changed for the better for me.

**Why have you decided to help FOLM?**

I wanted to thank you for what you did for me. I was very surprised that not all places in the groups were occupied and I decided to help you with the promotion of the project.

**What are your plans for the future?**

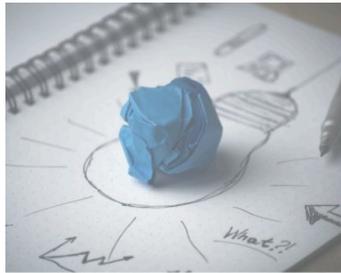
I want to continue my development in the audiovisual sector. I would like to get a job that will allow me to use my experience and audiovisual knowledge, but also interact in different areas of the company for more professional development. I would also like to continue participation in the FOLM project. We have also talked with Robert (the film producer) about his experience working with Andrii. Here is what he told us:

**What do you think about your work with Andrii?**

It was nice to see someone who was making the very first steps in the field of filming with such passion and the will to develop himself. You can see the potential, enthusiasm and awareness Andrii has gained about what he wants to do. He tried to get as much experience as possible with us. He asked about how to work in this field, how to produce, how to communicate with clients, how to attract the attention of viewers. I think his future is in the audiovisual world.

**In your opinion, what is the added value he got from the FOLM project?**

I think that Andrii's example is a great proof that the program works, motivates and above all gives the support. It is surprising that in such a short time one of the participants decided to become our volunteer and thanks to this he developed his skills and gained new experiences. I think that he will have a great future.



Do you know what  
**DESIGN THINKING** is?  
FOLM Participants  
know!!!

Participants of the FOLM project "From Outdoors to Labor Market" have prepared innovative prototypes of bags and backpacks in accordance with Design Thinking during one of the coaching sessions 😊 We develop, motivate to act, set goals and inspire!



Credits: FOLM

Iceland  
Liechtenstein  
Norway grants

Norway  
grants

Joanna Jędrzejczyk

Polecam projekt  
Joanna Jędrzejczyk

Projekt wdrażany przez:

FOLM - Z natury do rynku pracy

THE FOLM PROJECT IS FUNDED BY ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN AND NORWAY THROUGH THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS FUND FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Partner:

Credits: FOLM

Joanna Jędrzejczyk - famous MMA fighter - is now FOLM Ambassador

## 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 Entrepreneurship Incubator	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

# 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 partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Slovenia	Lead partner	Public University of Ptuj	Public	Ptuj
Hungary	Beneficiary partner	Interregio Forum Association	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

## 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	Ha Moment, CRL	NGO	Lisbon
Austria	Expertise partner	IFTE Initiative for Teaching Entrepreneurship	NGO	Vienna
Austria	Expertise partner	Austrian Federal Economic Chamber	Public	Vienna

The launch conference of the "DARE-Day One Alliance for Employment" project, aimed at boosting youth employment, was held on Monday 24 June. The project started in April 2019 and will last for three years. The project is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment.



Credits: DARE

**Launch Conference of the project DARE- Day One Alliance for Employment**

The conference was welcomed by Mr. Giorgos Kalligas on behalf of the Office of the Volunteering Commissioner and NGO, Ms. Leda Skordelli on behalf of the National Focal Point for the Financial Mechanism of the EEA & Norway Grants in Cyprus. At the same time, the Youth Entrepreneurship Program was presented by Ms. Elena Kalli, Youth Officer of the Youth Board of Cyprus, as well as actions to Combat Youth Unemployment by Ms. Marina Rigou, representative of the Department of Labor of the Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Insurance.

The proposed interventions entail Job Labs and Entrepreneurship Labs for 1.400 young people not in education, employment, or training. A system of validation of non-formal learning with Open Badges will be put in action in favour of the participants. Five partners will transfer know-how in career planning, entrepreneurship education, and validation of non-formal learning from three countries:

Lithuanian Association of Non-formal Education (Lithuania), Youth Career and Advising Center (Lithuania), Lodz Chamber of Industry and Commerce (Poland), IFTE Initiative for Teaching Entrepreneurship (Austria), Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (Austria).

The target group of the project is young people who are out of employment, education or training. The group includes long-term unemployed, discouraged young people who have stopped looking for work, inactive women caring for children or adults, ethnic minorities, asylum seekers, the least qualified, people with mental health problems and people with disabilities. The project will also approach employers who intend to recognize non-formal learning.

More on the project: <https://sealcyprus.org/projects/international-projects/dare/>

## **DARE project visit from the EEA and Norway Grants secretariat**

### **Interviewer**

**César Gimeno Rodríguez**

Communication Trainee

EEA and Norway Grants

FMO – Financial Mechanism Office

### **Interviewees**

**Anna Dalosi**

President & Project Manager, SEAL CYPRUS

**Nicolas Christofi**

Communication Officer, SEAL CYPRUS

### **DARE has a focus on vulnerable groups and people who are hard to reach. How are you planning on outreach, as a way to secure participants to your project?**

The partners will try to reach the beneficiaries in physical spaces where young people meet. Word of mouth is a key communication channel in all the countries of project implementation.

For the young people who have a more ‘temporary’ NEET status, outreach activities will focus on ensuring a successful transition to their next job or education stage by providing advice, guidance and information.

We will use the internet and social media, which such young people are likely to use when searching for information about their future options. These channels are effective in reaching young NEETs, who have IT and literacy skills and are motivated to search for such information on their own.

For the young people who have a more ‘long-term’ NEET status, much more intense outreach activities will take place, including joint partner efforts to identify, locate and track such people, to understand the range of their often multiple support needs, to motivate them to re-engage with employment or education providing individualised guidance.

We are now talking with stakeholders who are working directly with the NEET population to understand their needs and explore appropriate channels to reach them. The public employment service has been very open in providing information about their work in the field, but data sharing and data protection issues prohibit them from providing access to people.

Hopefully, we will manage to identify practitioners such as private careers advisers who have obtained permission by their beneficiaries to contact them. One idea is to follow up with young people who have reached for advice at some point in the past and inform them about our project- if they are still NEET.

Key partners in outreach activities are local municipalities and regional authorities, and we are planning to implement Job Labs and Entrepreneurship Labs in urban and rural areas too.

### **Similarly, how will you reach the employers and other stakeholders you plan to work with?**

We have been in contact with stakeholders from the beginning. During the launch conference in Cyprus on June 2019, representatives of the following stakeholders have addressed the audience:

- The Commissioner for Volunteerism and Non-Governmental Organizations Mr Yannis Giannakis.

- The National Focal Point for the Financial Mechanism of the EEA & Norway Grants in Cyprus.
- The Youth Board of Cyprus.
- The Department of Labor of the Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Insurance.

It has been our plan from the beginning to involve during the outreach and the implementation phases a range of relevant government and non-government stakeholders, such as employment services, education providers, social services, NGOs and local authorities. For the success of our project, we are counting on the strength of the networks of stakeholders that each partner has ready and open access to.

With DARE project, we will try to influence employers to endorse the Open Badges as a system for validation of learning of the young people in NEET situation. We will reach employers not only through their associations and other bodies such as Chambers of Commerce and Industry but also by direct contact.

### **How will you work on motivation and life skills development of the project participants?**

With the operation of Job Labs and Entrepreneurship Labs, we will increase the motivation and skills development of the project participants. Given that young people in NEET situation might be seriously discouraged, we will support the participants to build confidence by acknowledging their “hidden talents” as they have been expressed and developed throughout their life.

We believe that receiving validation for non-formal learning will also matter a great deal to the beneficiaries. Validation with Open Badges is expected to strengthen the self-esteem of young people who are NEET and, in return, to provide the boost they need to show courage and become more motivated to plan and pursue their career pathway.

The partners from Italy, Greece, Portugal, and Cyprus will implement the Labs with the use of know-how and good practices from the partners from Lithuania, Poland & Austria. Some examples: The Youth Career and Advising Center from Lithuania will provide know-how on “Mind Development of Critical Thinking for a Successful Future Career” while the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lodz from Poland will provide know-how on the development of soft skills, time-management and more. IFTE from Austria will provide mindfulness exercises and a challenge-based learning methodology with a series of Entrepreneurial Challenges

### **How will you overcome language and cultural barriers between the project partners and the participants?**

The partners in the four countries of implementation- Cyprus, Greece, Italy, and Portugal- will adapt the good practices to their cultural frameworks. The reason five partners from the above four countries came together to build the project was in the first place, the fact that they share cultural and socio-economic characteristics. English is the working language of the project partners. The Job Labs and the Entrepreneurship Labs will be implemented in the language of the participants. All the material to be handed- out to the participants will be in their language.

### **Could you tell me about the current project status and what the next steps are?**

The project started four months ago, in April 2019. The Lead Partner, SEAL CYPRUS, has had an initial meeting with the partners who will transfer know-how in Vienna. All the partners have been invited in the Launch Conference which took place in Nicosia on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. The event was a

big success in terms of visibility and engagement of the stakeholders. Right now, the partners are working on the needs analysis and state-of-the-art in regards to the situation of the young people with NEET status in the four countries of implementation.

**What motivated you to apply for funding from the EEA and Norway Grants? Has our funding enabled you to do something differently than if you had received funding from EU programmes, like Erasmus+?**

The EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment is providing the partners with the means to promote sustainable and quality youth employment. Combatting youth unemployment and addressing the needs of NEETs is one of the top priorities of all the project partners.

The partners have experience in projects funded by EU Programmes such as Erasmus+. For example, the lead partner, SEAL CYPRUS, is experienced in organising transnational educational mobility projects; mainly for youth professionals. Competence development and entrepreneurship education have both been at the core of our work. Moreover, with the support of the Erasmus+ Programme, we have coordinated three long-term Strategic Partnerships where we have developed educational curricula and non-formal tools for youth work to promote competence development of vulnerable youth. Our project CURSOR (<http://cursorcareer.eu/>) is developing tools for youth professionals who wish to support the youth in Career Planning.

This current project, DARE, is complementing the transnational activities implemented by the project partners in the context of EU Programmes such as those funded by the European Social Fund or Erasmus+. DARE is an effort to strengthen cooperation with our partners in other European countries to address European challenges in the area of youth employment.

The Fund allowed us to implement direct interventions in benefit of the young people who are currently not in education, employment, or training. Our interventions towards the youth are on a personal level and include Job Labs dedicated to Career Planning with non-formal education methods and Entrepreneurship Labs. Moreover, we will work on a systemic level with the Validation and Certification of Learning with an innovative Open Badges System.

**What kind of results do you foresee from the entrepreneurship training? Which sectors, or services or products, do you think the participants will aim for?**

The main result we foresee from the Entrepreneurship Labs is to increase the participants' desire and ability to be engaged in entrepreneurial activities. We aim to use entrepreneurship education as a way to create a sustainable culture of entrepreneurship. Through the Challenges system that we are going to adapt from Austria, we expect to increase the participants' sense of initiative and a proactive, creative thinking and risk-taking attitude that will allow them to be more active and responsible citizens while developing their full potential. Challenge-based learning is a practically oriented approach to entrepreneurship education and is based on the learning cycle "challenge – feedback – reflection". Each challenge is a demanding and complex task that is tailored to the target group and reflects their daily reality. Learners are challenged to develop and implement ideas (often in collaboration with others) for the specific situation in question.

**How will you support the participants to ensure that their entrepreneurship are sustainable after the project ends?**

During the Entrepreneurship Labs, the participants will have the opportunity to test the feasibility of their ideas with the help of trainers and peers. After the end of each Lab, the participants will receive more individualised mentoring.

**Do you have experience with employers accepting validation of former learning? How will you overcome the barriers many employers have towards uncertified competence and skills?**

The lead partner, SEAL CYPRUS, has worked with employers to promote the visibility of the Youthpass, the certificate that validates non-formal learning obtained through mobility activities in the youth field. All the partners will need to intensify their efforts in reaching the employers and convincing them to endorse the Open Badges to be created by the project DARE.

**How will you make sure that women with care responsibilities (for their own children or their family members) can stay in the project? Will you provide any services for them, like childcare?**

The partners might provide childcare during the implementation of the Job Labs and the Entrepreneurship Labs.



Credits: DARE

Interview from FMO. Anna Dalosi and Nikolas Christofi.

## 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

## 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 PLAN INTERNATIONAL	NGO	Madrid
Belgium	Expertise partner	DIGITALEUROPE aisbl	NGO	Brussels
Norway	Expertise partner	European Centre for Women and Technology – ECWT	NGO	Drammen

## 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 of progressive and open 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 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders	Public	Brumundal



Credits: LIKE

Project L.I.K.E. - Life Investment is the Key to Employment, implemented under the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment 2014-2021, has launched a large-scale comparative study aimed at mapping the prospects for inclusion in the labor market of the target group of young people with mental health problems, the opportunities available and the challenges they face. The uniform questionnaire developed by the lead partner, Association for Progressive and Open Communication, with the expert advice and support of the Norwegian and Icelandic partners, is designed to find out the opinion of young NEETs with mental health problems from Bulgaria, Ireland, Latvia and Hungary regarding their special needs and unique qualities.

The study, covering the quality of life, health status, degree of satisfaction, interests, aspirations, concerns, attitudes and benefits expected by the NEETs target group, will outline new opportunities for employment and full participation in society for these young people. The comparative analysis based on data from partner countries will inform the development of a multidimensional system with a working mechanism to foster the inclusion of the target group between 15 and 29 years of age, with a special focus on the Roma community.

As part of the project implementation, the conducting of in-depth interviews has started with the families and friends of young people with mental health problems following a uniform methodology applied by all partners. The setting up is currently in progress of focus groups with prospective employers to provide more extensive information on the expectations and the capacity of businesses to offer internships and employment to the young.

The outcome from the implementation of the full range of research activities by the project consortium will be the drafting of evidence-based measures to eliminate the isolation of the target group, of various motivation techniques, as well as a positive foregrounding of the individual's qualities aimed at fulfilling the overarching goal of offering working approaches and support in job- or internship-seeking through employer training and consulting for these young people's families and friends.

## 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	Private	Skien

**1,600 young people from 4 European countries will take part in the *NEETs in Entrepreneurship* project**

- 1,600 young people aged 18-29 who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) will participate in the project between 2018 and 2021.
- 500 young NEETs will find jobs, 400 will participate in a business incubator, and 40 will start new businesses.

NEETs are a sensitive social group of vulnerable young people aged 16-29, who do not have a job and do not attend any form of education or professional training. In order to facilitate their integration into the labour market, 6 Junior Achievement member organisations and Lyk-Z & daughters social entrepreneurship company launched the NEETs in Entrepreneurship European project, funded by the EEA Grants and Norway Grants.

Between 2018 and 2021, 1,600 NEETs in Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and Spain will receive training and support to acquire the skills needed to find a job or start their own business. In addition, the project aims to prevent another 1,000 young people enrolled in a vocational and technical education school from falling into the NEET category, by providing them with training and counselling.

The project's beneficiaries will take part in activities carried out in one of the four hubs in each of the countries implementing the NEETs in Entrepreneurship project. Over the course of the 3 years, at least 500 NEET youths will have access to professional insertion activities, 400 will participate in core business incubation activities, and 40 will open their own businesses.

NEETs will benefit from Junior Achievement's expertise in creating and implementing educational content, while having the opportunity to participate in a blended learning career guidance and entrepreneurship course featuring interactive sessions, work meetings and e-learning modules. Thus, they will easily be able to access the program's educational content, regardless of their location or their availability at a specific time of day. The objective is to help them find a job in a company or to create their own job by starting a business.

"Stay-at-home NEETs cannot enjoy the opportunities of their age. Building on the 100-year Junior Achievement experience in educational programs, the project has the noble goal of helping this vulnerable category find a place in society. The NEET phenomenon is a genuine one and it is spread across the entire Europe. This is why 6 European project partners decided to harness their expertise to help these young people own their economic success." – Alice Duțu, JA Romania.

Through its activities, the project also aims to create partnerships between institutions, business hubs, schools and economic agents in the national and European labour market. Young people will benefit from an easier professional insertion and their newly acquired entrepreneurial attitude will have a significant influence on choosing a career path.

Following the launch of the project, the partners met in Bucharest, during the first NEETs in Entrepreneurship transnational meeting. In Romania, the project is developed and implemented by Junior Achievement Romania.

## 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
- Roma
- 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

## 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

### 9 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



Credits: RAISE Youth

### Launch of “RAISE Youth”, Sheraton Hotel, Zagreb, Croatia.

The Launch of the “RAISE Youth” project took place today at the Sheraton Hotel in Zagreb, Croatia. Under the full name “Rural Action for Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Youth” the project is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment with 3.1 million EUR. Project duration is 40 months, ending 31. December 2021. RAISE will tackle the non-existing job market for young NEETs<sup>1</sup> from rural areas facing depopulation through a social innovation involving synergy between sustainable agriculture, tourism, digital technologies and entrepreneurship, initiating a “RAISE Model” of (self) employment in Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania and Spain for 2000 NEETs. RAISE project in Croatia will focus on Lika- Senj County, the county with the highest NEETs rate in Croatia! During the opening session, Velimir Žunac, State Secretary at the Croatian Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Karlo Starčević, Mayor of the City of Gospić, one of the project partners and Maja Dodić, representative of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Zagreb, gave opening remarks. Afterwards Mary Ann Rukavina Cipetić, Project Coordinator (GTF – Initiative for Sustainable Growth) presented the project and stated “Rural youth NEETS’ rate is above 20% and as high as 35% in our 4 countries making the need for such an intervention long overdue.”

On this occasion H. E. Astrid Versto, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Croatia, stated: “Our Fund for Youth Employment is set up to find and test out new ways to create workplaces for young people in Europe. We have high expectations to the RAISE Youth project both locally here in Croatia and that it can serve as inspiration also in other countries. It is handpicked among 300 project proposals from all over the continent. Out of 27 projects we have selected for funding,

seven of them involve Croatian organizations. This is a great success and Croatia should be proud for its applicants!”

To find out more about the project, please contact Mary Ann Rukavina Cipetić, [maryann@gtf.hr](mailto:maryann@gtf.hr), 091 575 5562 or visit GTF – ISG, and to find out more about the Fund please visit [www.eegrants.org](http://www.eegrants.org).

## 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

### 9 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



Credits: AYEN

CEDRA Split presented project AYEN in the end of 2018. on a Launch Event at Hotel Cornaro. More then 70 participants, including the project candidates, project team members and the mentors attended the event.



Credits: AYEN

AYEN Launch Event at Hotel Cornaro

After the recruitment process, team of experts from CEDRA Split and their partners and associates, just started the first round of the incubator program. Workshops and individual meetings with a business advisor, team of mentors relevant for their sector, a dedicated ICT expert and a personal coach will be intense until the end of the year, in order to help each participant/team become investment ready to finance their idea. Finally, as a part of the project activities, CEDRA Split is establishing a new business angels network in Split whose first meeting was held in the late January.

For more information on the project and its activities and ways how to join the project either as a beneficiary or supporter, please visit the project website at <https://www.ayenproject.eu/>



Credits: AYEN



Credits: AYEN

A problem-based learning workshop on April 2019 in Split, Croatia. Entrepreneurial incubators for the unemployed young people presented their business ideas and identified with business advisers problems and challenges.

## Launch event of AYEN project in Varna



Credits: AYEN

On 19.11.2018, at 17.30 in Hall 128 of University of Economics – Varna, Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovation – Varna in partnership with Trade Club of University of Economics – Varna held a launched event under project 2017-1-041 AYEN “Active Youth Entrepreneurship Network” named “The Road to Successful Business”. The event was attended by 46 participants.

Dr. Ralitsa Zhekova, Project Coordinator and Mr. Bozhidar Panayotov, President of Commerce Club at UE-Varna, welcomed the participants.

Then, Mr. Panayotov presented the experience he gained during this year’s Startup Weekend –Varna and how he managed to implement it in his own business.

Dr. Ralitsa Zhekova presented AYEN project – the main goal, activities, objectives and expected results. She explained the main benefits for the participants and gave specific information about the possibilities for NEETs to join.

Mr. Ivelin Mihaylov, founder of Together Bulgaria and the initiator of Historic Park, presented his experience in establishing and development of a successful business. He shared to the audience what kind of challenges and difficulties were encountered. Specific skills required for young entrepreneur for overcoming them were also outlined.

The event ended with a discussion.



Credits: AYEN

Info day in Split, Croatia (31/05/2019)



Credits: AYEN

Project Presentation & leaflet distribution at General Assembly of HMA (5/06/2019)



Credits: AYEN

Launch event in Italy, Bari (27/06/2019)



Credits: AYEN

Interactive workshop on 10.07.2019 in Split, Croatia. The participants learned how to make a presentation and how to understand and properly use the marketing power to highlight their product /service among competitors.

## Incubator focused Open space session in Varna, Bulgaria



Credits: AYEN

Incubator focused Open space session with the young entrepreneurs, participating in AYEN project was held on 13.07.2019 at the co-working space Beehive in Varna, Bulgaria.

The presented opportunities for international exchange of experience within AYEN project were accepted with high interest by the participants. During the study visits, New Entrepreneurs will be assisted to do foreign market research, broaden their professional network and gain practical experience.

Mrs. Tatyana Gicheva, EEN – Dobrich, presented the services provided by Europe Enterprise Network in support of SMEs to find business partners, potential investors and international market opportunities. During a discussion with the participants, she also recommended several forthcoming networking events and international fairs according to the sectors of interest of the new entrepreneurs.

## Looking for investment for your startup?

Local meetup SplitBiz welcome two guest speakers as they diversified their meetup, moving into the world of business angels in partnership with CEDRA Split's Project AYEN.

Vanja Perić and Steve Balaban from Wealth Management Canada led the proceedings at Black Dog Bar. Vanja started by introducing their company, which aims to connect individuals and families looking to invest with the right wealth manager.

Steve then followed up with an introduction about what angel investors are, his experience with them across the globe, before opening the room to questions. A discussion followed about what was needed in Split and Croatia, as well as the strengths and weaknesses locally.

The majority of guests were investors, however, a number of entrepreneurs also came so they split into two tables to share their own experiences and ideas. The investors had a wealth of experience in IT and sport, whilst the entrepreneurs were just starting on their adventure.

After a lengthy discussion, both parties mingled with each other, sharing, networking and discussing ways forward to work together.

All the angels were particularly keen on finding some new investments and working with the best entrepreneurial brains in Split, and therefore next SplitBizAngels will enable two startups to pitch to them. If you're a potential angel investor or a startup looking for an angel and would like to know more and get involved, get in touch at [michael@ensoco.co.uk](mailto:michael@ensoco.co.uk).

## 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

### 9 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 Mureş
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Foundation Secretaria do Gitano	NGO	Madrid

# 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

## 9 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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