Project title: A Place for Youth in Mediterranean EEA: Resilient and Sharing Economies for NEETs

WHY: In addition to youth unemployment, many of the coastal and island regions of the Mediterranean countries share problems related to the refugee crisis and the creation of sustainable jobs. This complex situation calls for transnational cooperation in research and development of evidence-based solutions to lower the unemployment rate and improve the local economy.

WHAT: 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

The €60 million EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment supports transnational project initiatives that promote sustainable and quality youth employment in Europe. The focus on transnational cooperation reflects the view that unemployment among youth is a common European challenge and common European solutions should therefore be explored.

The fund seeks to complement existing EU funding on youth employment initiatives, e.g., the long-term unemployed in the age group 25-29.

The selected projects aim to:
- Make it easier for 25,000 young people to find a job
- Create 3,500 jobs in NGOs and social enterprises
- Help 1,800 young people start up their own business

About the EEA Grants and Norway Grants

The EEA and Norway Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reducing economic and social disparities and to strengthening bilateral relations with 15 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics. For the period 2014-2021, the total contribution is €2.8 billion (EEA Grants €1.5 billion and Norway Grants €1.3 billion).

Under the EEA Agreement, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are part of the European internal market. The EEA Agreement sets out the common goal of working together to reduce social and economic disparities.

www.eeagrants.org/youthemployment