WHY: Many young people not in employment, education or training are unengaged and need alternative pathways to boost motivation for schooling and jobs. These pathways must be stimulating and innovative, as traditional institutions don't manage to attract these youngsters.

WHAT: 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)

ABOUT THE FUND

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 26 000 young people to find a job
• Create 3500 jobs in NGOs and social enterprises
• Help 1800 young people start up their own business

The 27 selected projects involve partners from all the 15 beneficiary countries of the EEA and Norway Grants as well as Ireland, Italy and Spain – all countries with high youth unemployment. The projects also include expertise partners from the donor countries Iceland and Norway as well as two international organisations and other EU member states.

www.eeagrants.org/youthemployment