WHY: Some young unemployed people struggle with anxiety and mental illness, which makes the search for a job difficult. There is a need to develop new ways of counselling these young people and train them for the labour market in a way that they find beneficial and motivating.

WHAT: 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 consists 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

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

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.

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