WHY: Some young people fall outside the ordinary education systems and do not get a job. They give up. Many of these people do not take part in society and become ‘invisible’. There is a need to find them, motivate them and help them get a better life. However, many traditional initiatives like apprenticeships and certification of skills do not seem to help. Local institutions like schools, the public employment services, the social services, health services and the social partners often do not cooperate well enough to help these youngsters.

WHAT: 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

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

ABOUT THE EEA 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.