Project title: Rural Action for Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Youth (RAISE Youth)

WHY: Many people move away from the countryside because there are few jobs and the ordinary welfare systems do not work well anymore. There is a need to create new jobs for young people living in the countryside, and make sure that all people living there get good services.

WHAT: 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

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 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