Project title:
SOCIALNEET_From civil society organizations to social entrepreneurship. Combating youth unemployment and addressing the needs of NEETs

WHY:
Millions of young people in Europe are neither in employment, education or training. Many of these have dropped out of school or from precarious jobs. There is a need to explore how these young people can get access to education and good jobs.

WHAT:
The project partners will establish a transnational expert cooperation network in seven countries and prepare young people for jobs within social enterprises, by offering training and capacity building services to civil society organisations and businesses belonging to the social economy. The following sectors will be targeted: culture and tourism, health care, agriculture, IT and Open Source software and alternative energy sources. The project will result in increased awareness of the impact and the function that social innovation and entrepreneurship can have in tackling youth unemployment.

Target groups:
- Young unemployed people between 18-29, with an emphasis on the 25-29 years olds
- The social economy and civil society organisations

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

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.