**Project title:**
Supporting Employment Platform through Apprenticeship Learning – SEPAL

**WHY:**
Some young people have a harder time getting good education and finding a good job than others. It may be due to a physical or psychological disability, or poverty, or lack of skills. Immigrants and refugees have problems because they often do not speak the languages of their new countries, and many minority groups are discriminated against. Many young people have specific needs that the ordinary education systems cannot handle and usually these groups may not be attractive to ordinary employers.

**WHAT:**
The project partners will make apprenticeships and training opportunities that are better suited to the specific needs of young people who fall outside the ordinary education systems. They will train the youngsters in social enterprises, which are businesses that are more concerned with social changes than with making a profit. The model used is called WISE (Work Integration Social Enterprise), which includes a set of guidance tools. The project will also work together with local institutions and private companies which will offer internships.

**Target groups:**
- Young people not in employment, education or training, aged 24-29
- Young people with disabilities
- Roma
- Migrants
- The low-skilled
- Drop-outs
- Teachers and mentors
- Local stakeholder committees (LSOs)

**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 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.

**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.