

Call under ESF+ SI+ Initiative “Social Innovations for Upskilling of Vulnerable Youth, Especially Young People not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEETs)”

The list of signed Grant Agreements with beneficiaries

No	Application number	Coordinator	Country of the Coordinator	Project title and acronym	Grant amount, euro	Beneficiaries (name and country)	Associated partners (name and country)	Project duration (months)
1.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0011	SOS Europa	Italy	Women Engagement Boost in Technology (W.E.B. in Tech)	148 226,00	1. Euro Mamme ASD (Italy) 2. International E-Learning Institute Ltd (Malta) 3. Kultur und Art Initiative e.V. (KAI) (Germany)	-	24

Project summary

The project W.E.B in Tech aims to increase the employability of young women and mothers with migrant backgrounds (project’s target group) in the Third Sector and social entrepreneurship by improving their digital and communication skills (ICT). Specifically, the projects will address three main objectives:

1. Tailoring the ICT training programs provided by the lead organisation SOS Europa and the partner organisation Euro Mamme to meet the needs of the job market in the Third Sector.
2. Enhancing the accessibility and appeal of the new ICT training program for young women and mothers with migrant backgrounds.
3. Enroll 45 women with migrant backgrounds, aged between 23 and 29, who are in motherhood or family care situations, in the pilot program of training and career services.

The impressive diffusion of social media and ICT has highlighted the strong and intrinsic desire for communication within contemporary society. This phenomenon has now permeated all levels of daily life, from the personal to the professional sphere. Starting from these considerations, the project WEB in Tech intends to promote a set of skills and competencies starting from the personal needs and expectations of learners by directly engaging with the target group.

The final goal will be to help the learners from the target group by offering them concrete job placement opportunities through career-service activities.

Expected results:

1. The new pilot program tested and adopted by all the beneficiaries
2. The participants’ level of knowledges, skills and competences increased
3. The new training path promoted as learning model
4. Occupability of the 45 learners increased.

2.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0018	CESIE Ente del Terzo Settore	Italy	YouthPioneer: Forging pathways to labour market integration through project design, mentoring and professional experience (YouthPioneer)	639 559,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (Greece) 2. GrantXpert Consulting LTD (Cyprus) 3. Asociatia European Association for Social Innovation (Romania) 4. International Consulting and Mobility Agency SL (Spain) 5. Municipality of Botevgrad (Bulgaria) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovation Park Joist (Greece) 2. Servicio Andaluz de Empleo (Spain) 3. Dipartimento regionale Istruzione e Formazione Professionale Regione Siciliana (Italy) 	24
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Project summary

In a world where job roles are changing rapidly, soft skills will be one of the few constants. The YouthPioneer project intends to upskill young NEET's soft and entrepreneurial skills by combining 3 successful methods tested during REBUILD and StartUp2 projects, coordinated by CESIE, enriched with the experience made by CESIE as partner in the YOPEVA project.

YouthPioneer aims at promoting collaboration with relevant stakeholders, understanding young NEET's aspirations, enhancing their soft and entrepreneurial skills, and at empowering youth NEET to play a key role in today's evolving economy.

The objectives will be reached thanks to different activities relevant to the ESF+ and SI+ call, as they increase the employability of young NEETs by addressing skills gaps in an innovative and collaborative way. Partner organisations will participate in international training sessions to learn from the successful methodologies identified by CESIE. They'll explore young NEETs' aspirations through networking and mentorship, organise roundtable discussions with stakeholders, and collaboratively, they'll create the YouthPioneer Learning Model. Following this phase, they'll develop a project design training program focusing on NEET entrepreneurship, a handbook for effective pitching, and a NEET skill assessment tool. Young NEETs will then participate in the YouthPioneer Training & Mentoring (YPTM) and work-based learning (WBL) experiences. During the training they will learn project design that they will apply during their WBL experiences by designing a project answering a need of the host company/organisation. After the WBL, young NEETs will receive mentorship and career guidance, and participate in a Job and Innovation Forum with a project ideas contest. This will help them directly integrate in the labour market through the skills they have developed thanks to the YPM: the project design methodology combined with a multi-actor and multi-dimensional approach.

Expected results:

1. YouthPioneer Learning Model created collaboratively;
2. Project design training program focusing on NEET entrepreneurship developed;
3. Handbook for effective pitching developed;
4. NEET skill assessment tool created.
5. 90 NEETs who participated in the YouthPioneer Training & Mentoring (YPTM) and work-based learning (WBL) experiences.

3.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0019	International Rescue Committee IRC Deutschland gGmbH	Germany	SkillsPath - SKILLS and Innovation for Youth Employment PATHways (SkillsPath)	692 122,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Rescue Committee Hellas (Greece) 2. Major Development Agency Thessaloniki S.A. (Greece) 3. SkillLab B.V. (the Netherlands) 4. Fondo Andaluz de Municipios para la Solidaridad Internacional (Spain); 5. Social de la Persona – Inserta Andalucía (Spain) 6. 3s Unternehmensberatung GmbH (Austria) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Job Center Bonn (Germany) 2. Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Social Integration Directorate (Greece) 	24
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Project summary

SkillsPath aims to support 170 refugee and migrant young women and men aged 18-29 who are not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) in Germany (DE), Greece (GR), and Spain (ES) to increase their employability and access to local employment and skills development opportunities, particularly in the context of the green transition. By using a social innovation consisting of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills assessment tool that enables youth to articulate their skills, integrated with a service model combining job readiness, soft skills training, referral to (up)skilling opportunities, individualised coaching and employer engagement, the project will result in: (1) improved employability for refugee and migrant youth, (2) enhanced access to employment and skills development opportunities; (3) strengthened capacity for employment service providers to integrate technology-driven solutions into their work with youth; and (4) increased awareness of key employment stakeholders of innovative approaches to foster youth skills activation and validation.

Expected results:

1. 140 youth will receive individualised support and at least 50% out of them will achieve significant career or education milestones, such as job placement, enrolment in apprenticeship/internship, occupational skills training; and 30% out of them will be employed or in training relevant to the green industry.
2. 80% of employment services providers' staff, including project staff using the AI skills assessment tool report improved career services and ability to align refugee and migrant youth skills with occupations; and 50% of local and national stakeholders participating in workshops/roundtables report that they see the value of and are motivated to incorporate social innovation and the AI skills assessment into their practices.

4.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0025	Uniser Società Cooperativa Onlus	Italy	EuMove: enhancing mobility schemes to empower and prevent NEETs (EuMove)	418 802,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open Formazione (Italy) 2. Asociacion mundus - un mundo a tus pies (Spain) 3. Coordinadora de Estudios S.L. (Spain) 4. Mondego Mobility (Portugal) 5. Instituto de Apoio à Criança (Portugal) 6. LEARNINGDIGITAL SRL (Italy) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regione Emilia Romangna (Italy) 2. CoopFond SPA Unipersonale (Italy) 	24
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Project summary

In the upcoming years, many organisations working with NEETs will gain access to funding opportunities for the organisation of work related experiences abroad to re-engage young people at risk of social exclusion. In addition to Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, the ALMA initiative will become a popular funding opportunity promoted by ESF+ authorities. Developing competences and tools to manage high quality learning mobility takes years, there is a urgent need to quickly prepare these organisations to operate at transnational level and deliver high quality mobility experiences.

The general objective of EuMove is to re-engage NEETs in education or training by leveraging the existing good practices implemented by partners on learning mobility and microcredentials. The specific objectives are:

1. To provide organisations working with NEETs methodologies and tools to access learning mobility;
2. To provide organisations working with NEETs with Microcredentials to certify the competences acquired abroad;
3. To increase the competences of operators in planning and managing work related experiences abroad for NEETs.

EuMove will unfold in 8 work packages aimed to transfer successful practices and scale them up in order to foster the use of learning mobility as a pedagogical methodology to re-engage NEETs. Partners will work at the adaptation of the practices for the development of innovative tools that will be tested on 30 NEETs.

Expected results:

1. A working methodology to manage all the steps of a mobility project cycle;
2. A toolkit containing practical instruments to plan and manage learning mobility for NEETs;
3. A set of microcredentials and step by step process to certify the competences acquired by NEETs abroad;
4. A blended training course for operators on how to organise internships abroad and certify them with microcredentials;
5. Increased mobility management competences in all practitioners working with NEETs;
6. 30 NEETs participated in the pilot learning mobilities;
7. 70% of NEETs participating in mobility improved their competences (professional or key competences);
8. 70% of practitioners reached by the project acknowledged the benefit of using the EuMove tools and methodology to manage learning mobilities of NEETs;
9. 70% of practitioners engaged in training activities declared a better knowledge of microcredentials - 6 Microcredentials produced - 30 Microcredentials issued.

5.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0029	Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII	Italy	EDUCATE for INDEPENDENCE: A Holistic Approach to Fostering Autonomy and Life Skills for NEETs with intellectual impairment (EDUCATE for INDEPENDENCE)	364 692,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cesie Ente Terzo Settore (Italy) 2. Asociación Bienestar Y Desarrollo (Spain) 3. Innovation Hive (Greece) 4. Il Ramo società cooperativa sociale (Italy) 5. InterAktion – Verein für ein interkulturelles Zusammenleben (Austria) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consorzio Socio Assistenziale del Cuneese (Italy) 	24
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Project summary

Young people aged 15 to 29 who are not in education, employment, or training (NEETs) with mild- medium intellectual impairment do not have access to labor market and to an independent and satisfying life due to obstacles such as the rigidity of programs designed for a generic “protected target group” and not always adaptable on individual needs. EDUCATE FOR INDEPENDENCE aims to test an innovative intervention which embrace three domains: outreach of the target group, defining of the learning model, skills validation and activation in the labor market. Intervention moves a step forward from the Local Educational Unit experience carried out by participant IL RAMO (<https://ilramo.it/attivita/uet-unita-educative-territoriali/>). Fundamental elements are: community involvement, social service and local authorities’ active participation, use of the public space and visibility, deconstruction of the caregiver/assisted person concept, relational assets’ enhancement.

Expected results:

1. 250 NEETs aged 15-29 with mild-medium intellectual will be actively involved and empowered by partners increasing their awareness on opportunities and potential for their independence.
2. 40 NEETs will have opportunities to train their life skills and be prepared to job in pilot and scaling up schemes.
3. 80 people among Social workers, caregivers, local authorities, CSOs, youth organisations and 150 people among small and medium enterprises professional, HR responsible will change.

6.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0034	JSC DEROTA	Lithuania	EmpowerEmerge: Unlock Potential of NEETs by Creating Opportunities (EmpowerEmerge)	514 066,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trakai Education Center (Lithuania) 2. Małopolska Provincial OHP Headquarters (Poland) 3. Lithuanian Society of Cynologists (Lithuania) 4. Venture Out Wilderness Project CLG (Ireland) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Institute of Changes (Lithuania) 	24
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Project summary

EmpowerEmerge project endeavors to enhance the employability of vulnerable youth by implementing a personalized job guidance program grounded in the proven efficacy of outdoor learning methodologies. Participants are expected to develop and improve their interpersonal skills and competencies, thereby increasing their employability in the local labour market. The innovative social model also seeks to boost participants' self-esteem, sense of community, and commitment to employment, thereby creating a more dynamic and engaging educational environment conducive to active participation and skill development among youth.

Project activities will be carried out in Lithuania and Poland.

The project is based on 3 main activities:

- 1) Training of mentors/trainers and development of a programme for the implementation of outdoor learning methods.
- 2) Engage and connect at-risk young people in adventure therapy programmes in the outdoor environment.
- 3) Creation of an experience-based program with expedition in nature together with dogs, job orientation learnings, and stylist's help in preparing a young person for the labour market. Also, the skills gained or improved will be validated.

Integrating outdoor learning techniques with individualized job guidance initiatives will enhance the appeal of job services for NEETs disheartened by the system. Additionally, it will amplify the programs' effectiveness in fostering participants' personal development, thereby increasing success rates and mitigating dropout rates.

Expected results:

1. Developed innovative outdoor program to gain young people new self-development skills;
2. Established training methodology for trainers;
3. 45 NEETs who participated in OUTDOOR and INDOOR training programme to develop essential skills to enhance their employability and socio-economic prospects;
4. 70% NEETs increase in employment/education outcomes.

7.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0035	Fundación Escuela de Organización Industrial FSP	Spain	BEAUTIFUL BEES: Blossoming opportunities for young women in rural Europe (Beautiful Bees)	558 134,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cámara Oficial de Comercio, Industria, Servicios e Navigación de Santiago de Compostela (Spain) 2. CESIE ETS (Italy) 3. Europos socialinis verslumo ir inovatyvių studijų institutas (Lithuania) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LAND Impresa sociale srl (Italy) 2. Asociación de Jóvenes Emigrantes Retornados en Galicia (Spain) 3. Asociación Galega de Desenvolvemento Rural (Spain) 4. CONSELLERIA DE POLITICA SOCIAL XUNTA DE GALICIA (Spain) 5. Andalucía Emprende (Spain) 6. Vytauto Didžiojo Universitetas (Lithuania) 	24
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Project summary

Bees are essential to life; they pollinate, contribute to regeneration and help each other. This is what we want for our young women in rural Europe: to become beautiful bees that contribute to regenerating their environment.

The project aims to empower young rural women, especially NEETS, in Spain, Italy, and Lithuania. by providing them with training and support to become successful entrepreneurs and enhance their employability. Participants benefit from a training journey in several phases:

- Inspiration Phase, where they will be exposed to opportunities to venture both into sectors at risk of abandonment and new business models, especially related to Green Economy and Digital Transformation.
- Coliving Phase, an immersive transformative experience where Bees will live together, fostering peer mentoring, and learning in informal spaces close to nature. -Beautiful Bees Transnational Bootcamp, facilitating networking and mutual learning among Bees, facilitators, and partners.
- Giving Back phase, encouraging participants to contribute to their host communities with various activities, as a sign of gratitude, under the motto, "What is loved is cared for".

The aim is to create a community of women based on sisterhood, a space where they don't feel judged. Emphasis will be placed on the elimination of stereotypes, self-appreciation, attachment and love for their territory. We aspire to foster dialogue among the dynamic forces within the entrepreneurial and employment landscape, to enlighten participants about the running initiatives that can help them on their employability and entrepreneurial projects, and to foster meaningful exchanges among institutions, galvanizing efforts to address challenges confronting women in rural Europe. Fundación EOI (ES) and ESI (LT) are the co-founders of this project, since they will contribute to the development of the innovative approach after the project funding, thanks to several future funds.

Expected results:

1. 100 vulnerable young women in rural areas equipped with entrepreneurial, green, and digital skills, motivated to become changemakers within their regions;
2. Enhanced collaboration among local and regional stakeholders related to employability and entrepreneurship, addressing challenges faced by women in rural areas.
3. Inspired rural communities through the "Bees" initiative.
4. Lessons learned on innovative facilitation methodologies tailored for rural young women.

8.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0041	Wonderful Education SRL	Italy	WISE - Women in STEM and digital Empowerment (WISE)	525 450,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ActionAid International Italia E.T.S. (Italy) 2. SocialFare Impresa Sociale s.r.l. (Italy) 3. Fundación Alianza por los Derechos, la Igualdad y la Solidaridad Internacional (Spain) 4. Edutech Cluster. Associació Per a la Promoció de la Tecnologia Educativa (Spain) 5. E-Civis Assosiation (Romania) 6. Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Modena (Italy) 	-	18
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Project summary

WISE aims to enhance the development of digital and Data Science skills among young women and NEETs in Italy, Spain and Romania, scaling up training experiences undertaken in South of Italy by Wonderful Education and NEETs outreach, engagement and mentoring by ActionAid Italy. WISE is implemented by an innovative partnership of organizations from social innovation sector, non profit entities targeting NEETs and women and EdTech organizations from IT, ES and RO.

WISE foresees innovative training activities based on challenge-based approach, real contest analysis and data focused on sustainability and environmental topics, with practical orientation. Through blended training, green data science camps and bootcamps focusing on green economy, Data science fundamentals, Data Analysis and Visualization, coding for machine learning and artificial intelligence, WISE intends to train 230 beneficiaries in 3 the EU countries targeted. The action targets young people, especially girls, at risk of school drop-out through orientation events, online training and two Data Science camps, and young women under 29 years through Green Data Science Bootcamps part-time. The methodology is based on digital tools and solutions of real life focusing on sustainability, grounding in existing frameworks for data science and industry needs. WISE contributes to reducing the existing skill mismatch through innovative upskilling programmes and facilitating the match between labor supply and demand thanks to community development and stakeholder engagement actions. Moreover, the project foresees transversal actions (coaching, mentoring, case management, soft and life skills development), ensuring the active involvement and retention of participants, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the intervention, and fostering connections among all partners and stakeholders.

Expected results:

1. 100 young people, especially girls, at risk of school drop-out involved in trainings in Italy, Spain and Romania:
 - work-based learning experiences with a strong impact on the professional and personal development "Green Data Science Bootcamps" for 50 NEETs.
 - face-to-face elevator camps in Italy, Spain and Romania with all beneficiaries.
 - face-to-face and online training for skills development, focusing on digital and Data Science competences and communication.
 - 9 trainers trained on WISE methodology.
2. Reduced unemployment rate of NEETs women between 18 and 29 years in Italy, Spain and Romania.

9.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0044	TESE – Associação para o Desenvolvimento pela Tecnologia, Engenharia, Saúde e Educação	Portugal	Faz-Te Forward (FFWD)	604 951,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IEFP - Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional, I.P. (Portugal) 2. FUNDACIÓN RONSEL (Spain) 3. Föreningen Furuboda (Sweden) 	-	24
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Project summary

Faz-Te Forward (FFWD) focuses on tackling youth unemployment, through supporting vulnerable young people, particularly those Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET), to find their own, meaningful and sustainable pathway into work and education and to promote their social inclusion. The core concept of FFWD is the development of transversal skills, which won't become obsolete and will serve the participants' through the rest of their careers.

The project materialises the expansion of a tried and tested innovative approach - Faz-Te Forward programme led by TESE in Lisbon and Porto regions of Portugal in 2011-2020, that supported 300 young people, with 97% reporting improving their employability and 68% securing employment. The approach used a mix of methodologies (non-formal learning group sessions, as well as individual coaching and mentoring) to meet each participant's needs. The original approach is complemented in this FFWD project with intensive support, work experience, and skills validation.

FFWD aims to work with 100 young people (50 in Portugal and 50 in Spain). Key outcomes expected include 75% of participants report developing transversal skills; 50% enter employment, education or training; and 75% feel more socially included.

The initiative will be implemented by a partnership of 3 civil society organisations (TESE from Portugal, Fundación Ronsel from Spain and Föreningen Furuboda from Sweden) and a public body (IEFP, the Portuguese national employment and training agency) as a potential co-funder for the future. It includes the design and preliminary implementation of scale-up strategies for the 3 countries involved, with a view to, post-project, integrate the approach into national public policy in Portugal; roll it out in the region of Galicia in Spain; and adjust and test the methodology to support young people with disabilities in Sweden. The project will test the versatility of the approach and its potential for EU-wide replication.

Expected results:

1. 100 young people participated in the skills development program, with 75% of participants reporting improved transversal skills for employability, including self-knowledge, self-confidence, and the ability to set personal and professional goals;
2. 75% of participants feel more prepared to enter employment, education or training;
3. 90% of participants increase their professional network;
4. 50% of participants enter employment, education or training; and 75% feel more socially included.

10.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0046	Fondazione L'Albero della Vita ETS	Italy	PROMoting Digital and Green skills for Youth (PRODIGY)	535 669,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actionaid Hellas Astiki Mi Kerdoskopiki Etairia (Greece) 2. Fondazione Mondo Digitale – ETS (Italy) 3. Partners Bulgaria Foundation (Bulgaria) 4. Adecco Italia SPA (Italy) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Università degli Studi Roma Tre (Italy) 	24
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Project summary

PRODIGY PROMoting Digital and Green skills for Youth aims to promote the upskilling and reskilling of 240 NEETs in Italy, Greece and Bulgaria in order to facilitate their job inclusion and active participation in the civic life. The project is the European scale up of DIG4ALL Social Innovation Practice funded by the Italian Fondo per la Repubblica Digitale. The practice promotes a methodology that, through an educative approach, one to one follow up and the reinforcement of multi-stakeholders social networks, foster the upskilling of vulnerable NEETs with digital, green and professionalizing competences in order to facilitate their job inclusion. PRODIGY target are 240 NEETs in Catanzaro, Reggio Calabria, Naples, Palermo, Thessaloniki, Blagoevgrad, Gotse Delchev with low, medium and high education. Furthermore, the action provides a special focus on vulnerable NEETs: Roma, migrants and youth with disabilities. The DIG4ALL training package is updated with target areas needs and with a focus on green skills. The training paths available in Italian, Greek and Bulgarian are: digital basic and advanced, social media marketer, web designer, data analysts, understanding self-assessing and presenting green competences in the new job market and sustainability manager. FMD and the associate partner Università di Roma Tre validate the training with ESCO certification. PRODIGY fosters business companies' involvement in each target areas by creating the Cluster of Companies for Youth Social Values; in Italy ADECCO leads the action.

Expected results:

1. 30.000 youth are acknowledged of the PRODIGY practice through the awareness campaign, 240 NEETs are involved in the action, they sign an educative pact in which their career goals and personal ambitions are pursued.
2. PRODIGY final step promotes job inclusion of NEETs in the job active search with the 120 traineeships contracts signed and 240 interviews held.

11.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0052	Roscommon Integrated Development Co. Ltd t/a Roscommon LEADER Partnership	Ireland	CIRCULAR Economy for YOUNG NEETs with a Migrant Background (CirculYOUNG)	226 877,00	1. CRADLE (Greece) 2. BLab (Austria) 3. Training 2000 (Italy)	-	24
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Project summary

CirculYOUNG is a 24-month program developed by 4 partners in Ireland, Greece, Austria and Italy. CirculYOUNG aims to support Youth NEETs with a migrant background in these countries to access employment opportunities, better integrate into their communities, and contribute to the local, national or European economies' current challenges, as well as to the EU and UN's sustainability goals. CirculYOUNG adapts a specific innovation: the Circular Economy Methodological Framework and Behavioral Index primarily developed to boost the key competences and circular economy skills of young people, and to assess their perceptions and behaviors regarding circular economy. The project is aiming:

1. To develop a program dedicated to (re)build motivation and provide proper guidance to empower Youth NEETs with a migrant background to enhance their social and economic inclusion, and equip them with skills relevant for the labour market in the context of the green transition;
2. To equip Youth NEETs with a migrant background with skills and knowledge in circular economy practices, the project seeks to foster a shift towards sustainability and provide a response to the EU's sustainability goals.

Expected results:

1. Enhanced participants' comprehension of circular economy principles and sustainable practices, fostering their readiness for training and employment.
2. Creation of an innovative Curriculum, activities and assessment methods incorporating practical learning experiences (courses, bootcamp, mentoring) as well as a guide to assess participants' adoption of practices and acquisition of new skills and competences.
3. Increased opportunities for Youth NEETs and Professional Development of Trainers / Youth Workers.
4. Increased awareness around the question of inclusion of Youth NEETs with a migrant background and the acquisition of green skills and competences at national, regional and EU levels.

12.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0055	Duo for a Job France	France	Empowering Youth with Migration Background: bridging opportunities through mentorship (E.Y.M.B.)	684 153,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Duo for a Job Belgique (Belgium) Duo for a Job Netherlands (the Netherlands) Collectif Mentorat (France) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> EPIC Foundation (France) 	24
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Project summary

The E.Y.M.B. project aims to address the persistent challenges faced by youth with a migration background, particularly NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, or Training), in accessing the job market and achieving socio-economic integration through the provision of an intergenerational mentoring program.

The project focuses on 4 objectives:

- Scale up the DUO for a Job employment mentoring programme for young people with a migration background to 3 new city locations. This will be achieved by preparatory activities (market research, organisational preparation, key staff identification) and effective launch of the activities (sourcing and training mentors, sourcing mentees, launching duos)
- Engage 1000 additional people aged 50+ in intergenerational mentoring to support employment for young people with a migration background. This will happen in our currently operating branches (Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Liège, Charleroi, Lille, Paris, Marseille, and Rotterdam). By training more mentors in the existing branches, the project team will be able to support more mentees on a short- and long-term basis, as more than 80 % of the mentors continue after their first duo.
- Provide a mentoring service to 2500 young people with a migration background. Like the second objective, this will be realised in current branches. The outreach activities will attract more hard-to-reach youth people with migrant backgrounds to the program.
- Pilot a national mentoring strategic coalition model in one EU country (Belgium) and disseminate learnings and resources to enable this mentoring program to be adopted in other EU countries.

By monitoring progress and engaging stakeholders, the project aims to ensure the effective implementation and sustainability of its initiatives, ultimately empowering youth with a migration background to realise their potential and contribute positively to society.

Expected results:

- Establishment of three new branches in targeted locations.
- 1000 additional trained mentors: increased capacity to match mentees with suitable mentors; expanded mentorship opportunities for mentees across various fields and industries.
- 5200 young people with migrant backgrounds enrolled in the program.
- Creation of 1 Mentoring Platform in Belgium: increased coordination between mentoring actors; better ability to influence public policies.

13.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0058	SOLETERRE ETS	Italy	IT Bridge: Empowering Migrant Youth for Employment (ITBridge)	693 897,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fondazione International Rescue Committee Italia Ets (Italy) 2. Tazebaez S.Coop (Spain) 3. Randstad Hr Solutions Srl (Italy) 4. Fundación De La Universidad De Cantabria Para El Estudio Y La Investigación Del Sector Financiero (Spain) 5. Movimiento Por La Paz (Spain) 6. Fondazione Italiana Accenture (Italy) 7. Associazione Italiana per la promozione della Cultura della Cooperazione e del Nonprofit (Italy) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consejería De Economía, Hacienda Y Fondos Europeos Del Gobierno De Cantabria (Spain) 	24
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Project summary

The ITBridge project aims to promote the skill development of youth with a migrant background (especially NEETs), through the implementation and scaling of industry-aligned bridge programming integrated with holistic support services for the IT sector.

Youth with a migrant background are a particularly vulnerable group: they are overrepresented in the NEET category; and more likely to experience early school dropout and to find employment in the informal labor market. The IT sector offers relevant opportunities, but these youths often lack the skills needed to participate in training in this sector.

The training model tested within ReadyForIT, aimed at creating job opportunities in the IT sector, shows entry barriers for youth with a migrant background due to limited outreach, language barriers, and limited support/resources to ensure long-term commitment. The project will adopt a social innovation approach, complementing the training with a package of actions designed to overcome those barriers. Through a personalized approach and holistic support, the intervention will bridge language challenges, knowledge gaps in the local ecosystem, and the limited social capital of youth with a migrant background, with the aim of increasing their employability and leading them to achieve significant career or education goals.

Expected results:

1. Increased beneficiaries' employability and spread awareness of the possibilities related to the IT sector within this group (140 young migrants participate in the onboarding process, 90 young migrants participate in the Empowerment process).
2. Consolidated a multi-stakeholder delivery model in which all entities leverage their specific expertise, to be broadened to additional training paths/vulnerable groups (i.e. long-term unemployed people, people with disabilities): 300 entities reached through outreach activities, 500 potential beneficiaries directly reached through outreach strategy (50K indirectly reached).
3. Sensitized public and private sectors regarding the need to guarantee integrated support to vulnerable groups, to allow their participation in training pathways. This approach will represent a good practice to widen to private and public VET or within other social projects: 10 companies involved in the Speed Meets.

14.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0071	Landgoedcooperatie Woudhuis U.A.	The Netherlands	Trojan horses in ecosystems of appreciation. Scaling new approaches to learn-work transitions for youth with special support needs (THIEA)	472 718,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Konekt vzw (Belgium) 2. Stichting Hogeschool Utrecht (the Netherlands). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. De Passerel (the Netherlands) 2. Viro vzw (Belgium) 3. Fiola vzw (Belgium) 4. CVO Miras (Belgium) 5. De Onderwijsspecialisten (the Netherlands) 6. VSO De Zonnehoek (the Netherlands) 7. Regiegroep Apeldoorn Werkt Mee (the Netherlands) 8. CVI goeipunt (Belgium) 	24
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Project summary

A rise in YSSN (Youth with Special Support Needs) in most EU countries, including NL and BE is reflected in growing awareness and efforts to improve job market access. However, policy efforts in the past 15 years have not closed the disability employment gap. YSSN often find the transition from school and care to work and society hard to handle. The transition is a challenging phase for all young adults. Complex regulations, and changing responsibilities in combination with adulthood, create uncertainties. Fragmentation in health and social care services makes addressing and offering support difficult. A paradigm change of attitudes and values is required to support the transition of schools to work.

Two innovative care-work-learn labour market activation approaches with practice-based learning models for YSSN will be scaled up using an action research method engaging professionals from associated partners. In these so-called transition arenas they train, practice and explore new approaches to facilitating young adults' development of their strengths and engagement on regular work floors in SMEs. The transition arenas will seek to develop collective competence through service integration, with a high degree of interlinked activities between professionals and organisational units also including service recipients and family caregivers as legitimate extra-professional parts of the collaborative network.

Expected results:

1. 170 YSSN actively engaged in work environments
2. 35 professionals in Care and Education organisations explore the integration of care-work-learn transitions for YSSN
3. Welfare organisations actively explore Simple Switching as the conditions for a healthy care-work-learn ecosystem
4. Inclusive professional education synthesises the innovative practices in replicable learning models for creating ecosystems of appreciation for YSSN synthesis document with Case tools and methods descriptions
5. At least 20 regional SMEs have adopted inclusive practices e.g. job carving.

15.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0073	VšĮ Žmogiškųjų išteklių stebėsenos ir plėtros biuras	Lithuania	Revealing the hidden resources: supported employment for NEETs with support needs (Revealing the Hidden)	374 454,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Valo-Valmennusyhdistys (Finland) 2. Humak University of Applied Sciences (Finland) 3. Stichting Studeren Op Maat/Werken Op Maat SWOM (the Netherlands) 	-	24
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Project summary

The project aims to tackle unemployment among 18-29 year old NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) by implementing a transformative supported employment model from the Netherlands (SWOM) in Lithuania and Finland, with a focus on coaching and mentoring. The target beneficiaries are people with physical and/or mental disabilities, those at risk of poverty, those with low qualifications and skills, migrants and others facing barriers to employment. Key outputs will include the SWOM model methodology, available online, and a White Paper on Supported Employment - recommendations for policy makers on how to make supported employment more widely available. Dissemination efforts will include a final international conference in Lithuania to share project results and lessons learned, with the aim of inspiring further action on inclusive employment practices. Through collaborative efforts and innovative approaches, the project aims to empower NEETs, promote social inclusion, implement the successful SWOM model in Lithuania and Finland and bring about positive changes in the labour market landscape by establishing two fully self-sustaining supported employment centres in LT and FI under the supervision of SWOM.

Expected results:

1. A total of 200 NEETs will be informed about the project, 80 NEETs will receive coaching, and 30 young people will be successfully placed in employment.
2. In addition, at least 10 experts will be trained in the SWOM methodology.
3. The project will conduct 30 transformative evaluation interviews to assess its impact, as well as collect 15 testimonials from participants and stakeholders to communicate the impact to a wider audience.

16.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0075	Institute for Structural Research	Poland	NEETcraft Initiative: Innovations for Empowering Youth with Disabilities (NEVI-EVY)	414 487,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundacja Aktywizacja (Poland) 2. European Rural Youth Observatory – Associação (Portugal) 3. Centerkontura družba za svetovanje, socialni razvoj, usposabljanje in založništvo d.o.o. (Slovenia) 	-	24
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Project summary

The project aims at increasing employment chances and job quality among young persons with disabilities. We will achieve this goal by developing, testing, evaluating, and popularising Job Crafting, an innovative model of work with unemployed individuals. Job Crafting is an approach that offers extensive support from a job crafter who accompanies unemployed individuals not only during the job search but also during employment. Job crafters enhance the sense of control and agency that allows employees to shape their tasks and relationships in the workplace. We have been using this method for several years. It effectively improved job satisfaction, engagement, and overall well-being among individuals with disabilities. Despite its high effectiveness, this model is not yet popular among service providers in the EU. Within this project, we will tailor the model to the specific needs of young persons with disabilities, accounting also for gender differences. European experts from various countries will co-design the model to increase mutual learning and make the model more universal and possible to replicate in other contexts. We will test and evaluate the effectiveness of Job Crafting in Poland and Slovenia. We will support young, jobless persons with disabilities, including NEETs and inhabitants of rural areas. They have fewer job opportunities and worse access to PES services. We will use our experience and networks to conduct an effective outreach. After the testing phase, we will prepare the final version of the model. To scale up Job Crafting, we will train European NGOs, Public Employment Services and other service providers so that they can use it in their daily work. Thanks to a strong research component, we will reach academics and researchers. To increase the project's long-term impact, we will engage European policy-makers in our events (workshop, European parliament hearing, conference) to discuss how to mainstream disability in EU policies and services.

Expected results:

1. At least 40% people from the group of 55 participants selected for the test will gain employment using the Job Crafting method.
2. At least 50% of people who have been employed will maintain employment with the assistance of job crafter for at least 3 months.
3. Job crafting model, which will be designed in a universal way, capable of being replicated in other countries, by other NGOs dealing with the activation of young people, including NEET.
4. At least 30 participants of the dissemination conference, will end and summarise the implementation of the project.

17.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0076	Fundació Privada per a la Promoció de l'Autoocupació de Catalunya	Spain	Ready for work mentoring (Ready 4 Work)	269 385,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ANAPTYXIAKI KARDITSAS ANAPTYXIAKI ANONIMI ETAIRIA O.T.A. (Greece) 2. European Microfinance Network aisbl (Belgium) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barcelona Activa SAU SPM (Spain) 2. Managing Authority for Regional program "Thessalia" 2021-2027 (Greece) 	24
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Project summary

Ready 4 Work is a social innovation initiative aiming to establish volunteer mentoring as a new impactful form of learning to empower and upskill vulnerable youth during their transition to employment, whether from education or inactivity, increasing their employability and quality of life, complementing traditional employment interventions as vocational training or career guidance, establishing public and private partnerships to scale and sustain it, and enhancing community engagement, solidarity and helpfulness through volunteering.

This social innovation is based on Autoocupació's successful mentoring program for young entrepreneurs, built from the Youth Business International experience, scaled across Catalonia and Spain through public and private partnerships and across Greece, Italy and Poland through the Young entrepreneurs succeed project funded by the EEA & Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment.

This successful mentoring methodology will be adapted to vulnerable youth needs to engage with the labour market, piloted and assessed through a proper impact assessment framework and disseminated to promote its implementation in other regions and countries.

The Ready 4 Work consortium is formed by Autoocupació, which will implement the intervention in Catalonia (Spain) supported by Barcelona Activa, ANKA, the Development Agency of Karditsa, which will implement it in Thessaly (Greece) supported by the Regional Managing Authority, and the European Microfinance Network, which will provide mentoring and impact assessment expertise and lead the dissemination and knowledge transfer at EU level.

Expected results:

1. Improved Employability for Young People: Enhanced soft skills, confidence, and motivation, leading to better job-seeking outcomes and educational/vocational choices.
2. Engaged and Sustainable Mentor Community: Motivated mentors share expertise, fostering sustainable mentorship and promoting intergenerational knowledge transfer.
3. Strengthened Social Cohesion: Increased community involvement and relationships across social groups, building trust and social responsibility among young people.
4. Scalable Mentorship Model: Development of mentoring as a replicable tool to support and integrate unemployed and inactive youth.
5. Comprehensive Impact Assessment: Mixed-method evaluation to measure mentee and mentor progress, inform best practices, and enhance program effectiveness.

18.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0078	Stiftelsen Reach for Change	Sweden	Joining forces for increased youth employability in Liepaja (Joining Forces Liepaja)	387 906,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Liepaja City Municipality Central Administration (Latvia) House of Hope biedrība (Latvia) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forum for Social Innovation Sweden (Malmö university) (Sweden) 	24
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Project summary

The Latvian government has a target to reduce the NEET rate among 15-24-year-olds from 8.6% to 6% by 2027. Despite this fast-approaching deadline, systematic cross-sectoral collaboration to improve youth employability remains a rarity in Latvia. For example, a new wave of emerging social entrepreneurs (SEs) regularly struggles to access long-term partnerships with the public sector, leading to key societal actors all too often working in silos, duplicating efforts and limiting innovation.

This project overall aims to replicate an approach to facilitating sustainable cross-sectoral collaboration, particularly in the context of supporting youth employability. By supporting the joining of forces at the local level, this project aims to bring together complementary expertise and capacities, overall scaling up the ability of actors to reach disadvantaged youth with a meaningful, well-designed intervention that addresses their needs. Through a co-creation approach, RfC will guide a Latvian municipality and Latvian SE towards the design and implementation of a 12-month joint initiative, leveraging their respective strengths and expertise in relation to outreach among disadvantaged youth and quality learning models. Social innovation is therefore represented both in the collective co-creation process, as well as in the improved services provided to the target group.

This project aims for two long-term outcomes, firstly it should provide an innovative pathway towards reduced unemployment rates among disadvantaged youth, secondly it should inspire an increased number of sustainable partnerships between the public sector and SEs, both in Latvia and beyond. To achieve these impact goals, the project will have a particular emphasis on M&E, participant feedback, internal/external learning and sustainability planning. As regards the latter, one partner (LCMCA) has already identified themselves as a potential co-funder of the joint initiative beyond the grant period.

Expected results:

- Improved understanding, alignment on goals, and optimism for ongoing collaboration among project partners, with a 100% target for partner satisfaction.
- Active participation of at least 30 youth in the co-creation and implementation of the project, ensuring their perspectives are considered.
- Increased local labor market-relevant skills and knowledge among participating disadvantaged youth.
- 70% of key stakeholders (local, national, and EU levels) report a greater understanding of cross-sector collaboration benefits for youth skills development.
- Project outcomes contribute to reduced youth unemployment and foster sustainable partnerships between public and social enterprise sectors, with potential for broader regional impact.

19.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0086	Lithuanian Gay League	Lithuania	Enhancing the employability of NEETs from the LGBTI communities in Bulgaria and Lithuania (Connecting the Dots)	260 582,00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bilitis Resource Center Foundation (Bulgaria) 2. Glas-Bulgaria Foundation (Bulgaria) 3. Lithuanian Diversity Charter Association (Lithuania) 	-	24
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Project summary

LGBTI youth in Bulgaria and Lithuania face persistent discrimination and bullying in their teenage years resulting in school drop outs, low self-esteem, lack of motivation to continue post-secondary education, fear from potential harassment at the workplace, and underutilization of state-subsidized youth activation programs aiming to enhance the employability of NEETs. The partners in this project, LGL from Lithuania, Bilitis and Glas foundations from Bulgaria are leading LGBTI rights defenders in their countries and trusted support providers in their communities. They unite in developing an integrated employability model for NEETs from the LGBTI communities, which has two main pillars: strengthening young people's employability skills and building a support network that will facilitate their first entry or re-entry into the labor market.

Diversity Charter from Lithuania promotes diversity and inclusion at the workplace. The partners will utilize a "connecting the dots" approach to motivate LGBTI NEETs to utilize existing pathways to employment, and strengthen their technical as well as interpersonal skills, adaptability, commitment to continuous learning, resilience, and conflict-solving skills. At the same time, the partners will engage potential employers who value diversity and inclusion at the workplace and create a "bridge to employment" strategy that can be replicated in different EU contexts for other vulnerable groups of NEETs. The key innovative elements of this strategy are:

1. "Teaming up" with existing youth employment services to make them LGBTI inclusive
2. Individual empowerment of LGBTI NEETs to set and achieve personal goals related to career development
3. Ensuring on-the-job skill-building/validation options at LGBTI-inclusive companies.

Expected results:

1. For LGBTI NEETs: 120 individuals will see increased employability, confidence, career orientation, and motivation, with 30 accessing internships or apprenticeships, 60 receiving state-subsidized professional training, and 30 supported in developing self-employment plans.
2. For Employers: 40 employers will benefit from access to a more diverse talent pool, improved workplace culture, and enhanced compliance with anti-discrimination and equal treatment standards.
3. Skill Validation Innovation: New skill validation opportunities will be created with active employer involvement, further enhancing job prospects for LGBTI NEETs.

20.	ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0102	Visas Iespējas SIA	Latvia	Digital works for youth (DigiW)	495 113,00	1. Asociatia Institutul pentru Parteneriat Social Bucovina (Romania)	1. University of Latvia (Latvia) 2. Agenția Județeană pentru Ocuparea Forței de Muncă Suceava (Romania) 3. Confederation of European Firms, Employment Initiatives and Cooperatives (CEFEC) (Belgium)	20
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Project summary

“Digital works for youth” project aims to combine best practices of digital realm and personal, tailored in-person activities to empower vulnerable youth, especially NEETs, in scale. It will be done through a sequential set of activities - mentoring, training and job speed-dating events. They will be improved by mentee in-person meet-ups as well as local and international training bootcamps. The project will have two cycles with all of the activities in Latvia and Romania, each lasting 9 to 11 months. These activities will improve youth’s confidence levels, skill development and validation, and employment prospects.

The key principles of this project are:

- the scalability of this project, due to the digital nature of this project;
- personalisation of the content for the youth, which allows for youth to feel in control of their lives;
- close integration with employers, bringing youth closer to real-life employment situations.

The main innovation of this project lies in successfully and intricately integrating the past innovations from Visas Iespējas project Go Remote and Bucovina Institute’s project SEPAL. Go Remote provides the required know-how on online outreach, mentoring, training, and speed-dating events. It provides first approaches on how to involve people digitally. At the same time, SEPAL provides a personal touch towards all NEETs, even the most disadvantaged ones, and showcases the crucial personal touch in outreach, mentoring, training and preparation for the workforce, ensuring that each person feels truly heard and understood. Our ambition is that after the successful piloting of this project, through collaboration with corporations and public bodies, we will be able to scale this project nationally and internationally.

Expected results:

1. Involvement of 600 unique vulnerable young people
2. Providing mentoring to at least 240 people
3. Providing training to at least 360 people
4. Reintegrate around 120 people in the job market via speed-dating events and mentorings.