

SEPAL Newsletter - Issue no. 9

January 2021

"Let's NEET Together!" Webinar

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Norway
grants

LET'S NEET TOGETHER!

ON 16TH OF NOVEMBER 2020
3:00 PM EET TIME

WEBINAR

an online event to share innovative approaches
on supporting the inclusion of the NEETs

ORGANISED BY
IB Institutul
Bucovina





Andrej Korosec
Public University of Ptuj,
Slovenia
152 - EYTP



Mary Ann Rukavina Cipetic
GTF - Initiative for
Sustainable Growth, Croatia
053 - RAISE Youth



Nicolae Dobrescu
Health Action Overseas
Foundation, Romania
455 - LEAD



Valentina Alina Adomnicăi
Bucovina Institute, Romania
058 - SEPAL



Dorin Călin
Junior Achievement,
Romania
**083 - NEETs in
Entrepreneurship**

On the 16th of November, Bucovina Institute organized the "Let's NEET Together" webinar, within The Festival Of Your Opportunities. 85 people from 12 European countries and the United States attended the webinar,

exchanging good practices in supporting the inclusion of the NEETs.

Our special guests were 5 lead partners from different projects financed through EEA & Norway Grants: **Andrej Korosec** from Slovenia presented individual placement and support for NEETs through Education Youth Technology Platform (EYTP), **Mary Ann Rukavina Cipetić** (Croatia) talked about rural action for innovative and sustainable entrepreneurship for youth (RAISE Youth), **Nicolae Dobrescu** from Health Action Overseas Foundation Romania raised awareness about labour market employment for young adults with a disability (LEAD), **Alina Adomnicăi** from Bucovina Institute - supporting employment platform through apprenticeship learning and last, but not least, **Dorin Călin**, who talked about NEETs in entrepreneurship.

4th Dissemination Event – Pere Closa Private Foundation, Spain



FUNDACIÓ PRIVADA
Pere Closa
PER A LA FORMACIÓ I LA PROMOCIÓ DELS GITANOS A CATALUNYA

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Productes / Serveis / Presentacions

about opportunities in Covid-19 time

IT'S TIME TO APPRENTICE

SEPAL Supporting Employment Platform through Apprenticeship Learning

Projecte d'emprenedoria social en el qual volem aconseguir la millora de l'ocupabilitat de persones que ho desitgen i necessiten. El projecte té un procés de 3 anys en el qual passarem per diferents fases en les quals des de l'inici fins al seu clausura es posaran de manifest les claus per aconseguir treball. Es tracta d'un projecte que anem a desenvolupar de forma simultània en diferents països d'Europa, tenint la possibilitat de compartir amb altres realitats, així com identificar accions i bones pràctiques per poder implementar amb grans garanties a Espanya. Com a nombres generals volem arribar a 300 joves de 24-29 anys d'edat, població gitana, persones migrades, persones poc qualificades o persones amb diversitat funcional o que abandonen les escoles de 5 països de la UE.

M'INTERESSA

The **4th Dissemination Event** of the SEPAL Project in Spain, Pere Closa Private Foundation Event, was decided to be organized on the occasion of its participation in the Virtual Fair of Social and Solidarity Economy of Catalonia, FESC 2020. First, we would like to explain you what FESC is all about.

Last year's **FESC** (October 23 - November 22) (the ninth) came amid a pandemic that has disrupted normalcy. The Solidarity Economy Fair of Catalonia adapted to those times and claimed, once again, its transformative role and the promotion of another normality where people and quality of life are at the heart of the economy.

Right now, there are about 180 entities registered to exhibit their services and products in a special section of offers and promotions.

Pere Closa Private Foundation decided to participate, promoting the SEPAL project, SERCO and RomaPrem, which aim to promote the social and solidarity economy within Roma communities as a strategy for self-employment and community engagement.

5,000 unique visitors have entered the FESC website, which they have seen **13,500 times** on our virtual stands and more than 25 have clicked on a promotional offer.

As a result of these indicators, we organized a meeting with the 25 people who showed interest in being part of our project and with 25 private entities, participants of the Virtual fair, offering further information about our Sepal Project. The 25 persons were registered as NEETs in the SEPAL online platform.

Right now, we are working to study possible activities regarding the necessities of the 25 NEETs and interventions to help the social and labour insertion of them.

Related to the Private Entities, we are studying to create a network in order to exchange and cooperate in the accompany for a better occupation of our NEETS.



Digital Skills Improvement Course

In collaboration with the CFA Morera Pomar in Badalona, Pere Closa SEPAL team decided to organize a training on how to establish a course aiming the improvement of the digital skills, because the WISERS detected that the NEETs had very low competences in this area.

For the next three months, this youngsters will improve their skills and will receive an official certified title, that can help them in order to find a job easily in the administration area, and other sectors related to the use of computers on the jobs.



This training is taken by 7 migrant NEETs.

They are very satisfied with this training. At one point, we had to stop it because the COVID-19 situation got worse and the local classes were not allowed to be held for five days. Along with the improvement of the general situation in the country, we can continue the course again. The participants are closer to getting their titles, and also a job in the regular market.

The idea is that at the beginning of the year 2021, they can start apprenticeships in some of our collaborates companies and gain job experience in order to get a better position in the labour market.”

SEPAL Project Greece's Focus on Motivation

"Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits..."



It's (virtually) All About Motivation

SEPAL participants' engagement and motivation may ebb and flow over time. The Greek Team of WISE Experts offers some strategies that are used in our approach to enhance the motivation levels of our beneficiaries, to set meaningful goals, to gain skills and reach their professional and personal recovery objectives.

Connecting Knowledge & Skills Acquisition with Personal Goals

One of the most powerful motivational strategies is to connect a participant's personal recovery goal to a skill that is being taught. This, in turn, helps the

participant by linking the skill to a situation in his or her own life and imagining how that skill could be useful.

For example, if the participant sets the goal of getting a job and is working on coping with persistent symptoms, the practitioner could help them identify persistent symptoms that they experience, such as hearing voices, and then work on strategies for coping effectively with them so they can concentrate during a job interview and on the job. A client with the goal of taking up a training course might connect the practice in social skills while being with other students.

The above could even be role-played during a counseling session.

Promoting Hope and Positive Expectations

Practitioners constantly look for every opportunity to convey their belief in the participants and their ability to succeed in their aspirations. If practitioners seem discouraged or doubtful, the participants will often pick up on this and will start to feel that way themselves.

This does mean looking for the positive things that beneficiaries have achieved, connecting past successes to the skills involved in taking steps towards current goals, and noting participants' strengths and abilities as they appear in everyday events.

For example, a participant who is homeless might feel discouraged about reaching his or her goal of getting a job and claim that he or she "has no skills". The practitioner could help this person identify the many skills he or she has displayed in surviving on the streets. For instance, the participant has shown the ability to solve problems (by seeking out safe places to sleep, knowing where to get meals, avoiding unsafe people, and so on) and cope with challenges on a daily basis, which will be very helpful on the job.



Re-Framing Past Experiences in a Positive Light

Some participants become demoralised and discouraged about the future, when they think about unpleasant experiences in the past. WISE experts help these beneficiaries reframe their past experiences as challenges and view their coping efforts as strengths.

For example, a participant may say something like “spending so much time in the psychiatric hospital makes me a loser”. The practitioner could explore with the person the challenges he or she experienced in the hospital (such as being confined on a locked unit with little access to outdoor activities, being around people whose behavior was unpredictable, and feeling lonely) and what coping strategies they used (such as reading books and magazines, going to the nursing station for assistance when an altercation developed in the day room, reconnecting with family members by phone or trying to harness alternative supportive networks).

This strategy may help the participant to begin to see his or her hospital experience as a sign of strength and resourcefulness rather than shame and embarrassment.

Professionalism is the key for our apprentice Dalius!

Our eager participant **Dalius** has been training at his workplace since the late July 2020 at **UAB Baltik Vairas**, manufacturer of bicycles, located in the northern part of Lithuania (Šiauliai). Operating since 1948, the company exports top-quality bicycles all over Europe. Quality employee training and social responsibility are the main aspects of the company's philosophy.

The project SEPAL has given Dalius an opportunity to overcome his financial struggles. It was a challenge for Dalius to settle in one place and to bond with his colleagues, however, this work-based training has met his expectations. The participant is now financially stable and has plenty of personal space for work.



At the moment, Dalius is working at the new branch of the factory - manufacturing electric bicycles. In his opinion, the company's German-style management system, implementing various work efficiency improvement practices and evaluations is what makes his job attractive.

We are very proud of Dalius and our close connection with such a significant company to the city of bicycles - Siauliai.



Worth knowing about!

November

- We participated in the E.U. online conference **"Political Participation in Europe - Towards Effective Involvement of Persons with Disabilities"**, learning about the new E.U. strategy 2027 on reducing poverty and risk of exclusion, training opportunities and employment to support full participation of people with disabilities in the society.
 - SEPAL participants were invited to the online event **"Can volunteering become a job?"**. On the 29th of November, participants had the chance to take part in a quizz and and learn interesting facts about volunteering.
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Political Participation in Europe – Towards effective Involvement of Persons with Disabilities

Thank you for joining our digital conference today. Below you will find the players with different language and assistance offers and today's conference program.

► [Switch to German](#)

► [Further information about the conference](#)

On stage you will see a light blue backdrop with the inscription 'Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs', 'EU2020' and the hashtag 'MySocialEurope'. The presenter Ninia LaGrande and Dr. Rolf Schmachtenberg, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, will discuss with their digitally connected guests.

Multilingual player in German and English



December

- One of the SEPAL Project's partners - **Collegium Balticum from Poland**, published an article in Youth Employment Magazine, regarding the collaboration with their LSCs in offering different trainings including, among others, sales techniques and building a personal image in the labour market.
- The SEPAL team participated on the 15th of December 2020, in the **Second annual thematic seminar** for Active Youth projects under EEA & Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment entitled **"Transnational cooperation: sharing our strengths and resources"**.
- The WISE Experts within the SEPAL Project participated in the **Module 1 of the Social Enterprises Training** conducted by Felicitas Kresimon, president of Social Firms Europe CEFEC. During the first online meeting we found out more about Social Enterprises in Europe.



January

- **Sepal Wise Spain** goes ahead with the process of employability improvement of young people in vulnerable situation. They had a session with Roma and migrant people explaining the next apprenticeship program.
- **New training platform** has been established by our friends - National Association of Social Enterprises and their partners. Looking forward to starting using it during our SEPAL training for NEETs!



The SEPAL project is financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment

