



news letter



Bridging Opportunities for Rural NEETs through Counseling

ABOUT THE PROJECT

"Bridging Opportunities for Rural NEETs through Counseling" is an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership project aimed at improving the employability and social inclusion of NEETs (young people Not in Education, Employment, or Training) in rural areas.

RURAL CONNECT PARTNERS MEETING IN RIGA

On 2–3 December 2025, the partners met in Riga, Latvia, for the project's 2nd Transnational Partner Meeting, hosted by Biedrība Eurofortis.

During the meeting, partners reviewed the progress of completed activities, coordinated the transition to the next project phase, and aligned on upcoming tasks and timelines.

Key discussions focused on finalising the research and guidance-related work, preparing the next implementation steps, and strengthening cooperation between partner organisations.

The meeting ensured a shared understanding of priorities and reinforced coordination across the partnership as the project moves forward.



TURNING PROJECT RESULTS INTO REAL SUPPORT FOR RURAL YOUTH

For many rural NEET youth, the challenge is not a lack of motivation, but a lack of information and support. Without access to guidance services, young people often struggle to understand what opportunities exist or how to reach them.

Career guidance helps rural youth identify their strengths, explore realistic pathways, and regain confidence in planning their future. When guidance is adapted to local realities, it becomes a powerful tool for inclusion, helping young people reconnect with education, training, or employment opportunities.

Supporting NEETs in rural areas requires more than awareness — it requires practical, accessible solutions. Throughout the Rural Connect project, partners have focused on building a strong foundation that responds to real needs identified in rural communities.

The completion of the Career Guide and Counselor Toolkit marks an important step toward strengthening guidance and support for professionals working with rural NEET youth. At the same time, work has begun on transforming project content into an interactive online environment that will help bring guidance closer to young people, regardless of location.

By combining structured guidance approaches with digital access, Rural Connect aims to reduce barriers and support rural NEET youth in exploring opportunities, building confidence, and planning their next steps toward education or employment.



BUILDING EUROPE'S FUTURE FROM RURAL ROOTS



PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE

✅ **Career Guide and Counselor Toolkit:** The development of the Comprehensive Career Guide and Counselor Toolkit for Rural NEETs has been completed, providing a strong foundation for guidance and support activities across partner countries.

📱 **Digital Platform Development:** Partners reviewed the draft version of the online counseling platform and began the process of transforming project content into interactive learning and guidance modules.

17 What's Next?

- Online coordination meeting: February 2026
- Educational activity: May 2026, Greece
- Platform pilot testing: Summer 2026

Rural Connect continues to progress through strong collaboration and a shared commitment to supporting NEET youth in rural areas.

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**Many rural young people don't lack skills — they lack access
to guidance and information**