



# news letter



## Bridging Opportunities for Rural NEETs through Counseling

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

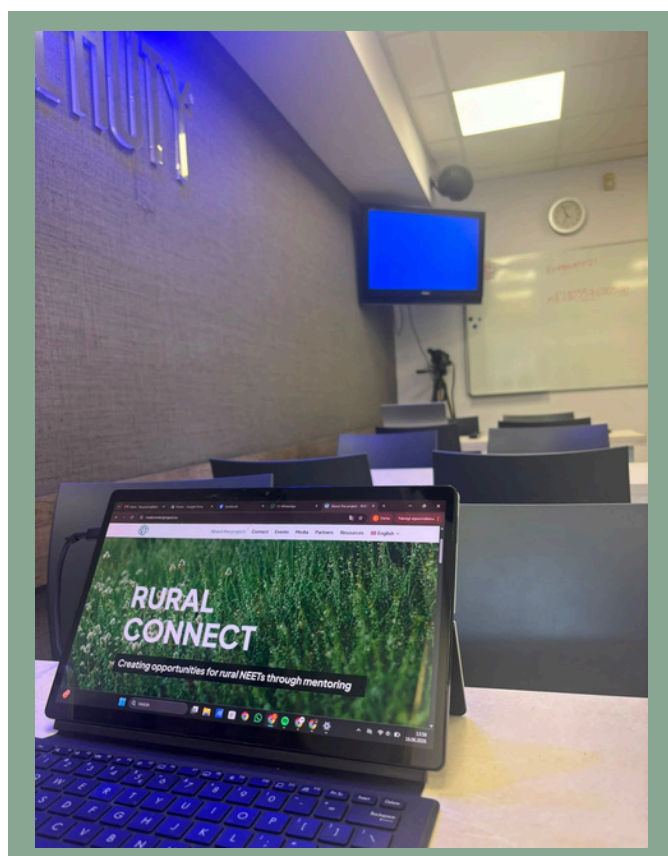
**"Bridging Opportunities for Rural NEETs through Counseling"** is an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership project aimed at improving the employability and social inclusion of NEETs (young people Not in Education, Employment, or Training) in rural areas.

### FROM GUIDANCE TO ACTION: SUPPORTING RURAL YOUTH THROUGH MENTORING

During the first year of Rural Connect, partners explored the challenges faced by NEET youth in rural areas and developed practical guidance resources. The project is now entering a new phase—turning knowledge into action.

Through mentoring, career guidance and innovative digital solutions, Rural Connect aims to equip professionals with practical tools that help young people recognise their strengths, explore opportunities and build confidence.

As activities continue across partner countries, the focus shifts from developing project outputs to testing, improving and preparing them for real-life use with rural NEETs.



## STRENGTHENING CAREER GUIDANCE FOR RURAL NEETS IN ATHENS

From 16–18 June 2026, the Rural Connect partnership gathered in Athens, Greece, for the project's Learning, Teaching and Training Activity (LTTA), hosted by INTERSIC – International Social Innovation Centre.

The three-day training brought together representatives from all partner organisations to strengthen their knowledge and practical skills in mentoring and career counselling for young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) in rural areas. Through interactive workshops, group discussions, and hands-on exercises, participants explored effective counselling techniques, exchanged good practices from their countries, and reflected on the common challenges faced by rural youth across Europe.

A key focus of the training was helping counsellors and mentors develop approaches that encourage young people to identify their strengths, build confidence, and make informed decisions about their future. By sharing experiences and practical methodologies, partners worked together to ensure that the support provided through Rural Connect is both effective and adapted to the realities of rural communities.

An important milestone during the activity was the testing of the first version of the Rural Connect online guidance platform. Partners explored its structure, reviewed the learning content, and provided valuable feedback that will support the further development of an accessible and user-friendly digital environment for career guidance and mentoring.

Beyond the learning activities, the meeting further strengthened cooperation among project partners and reinforced our shared commitment to creating new opportunities for rural NEET youth. The knowledge and experience gained in Athens will now contribute to the next stage of the project as we continue preparing the platform and mentoring resources for future pilot activities across partner countries.



**BUILDING EUROPE'S  
FUTURE FROM  
RURAL ROOTS**

## PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE

### ✓ Learning, Teaching and Training Activity Completed:

Project partners successfully participated in the international training activity in Athens, strengthening their mentoring and counselling competences while exchanging good practices for supporting rural NEET youth.

 **Digital Platform Development:** Partners tested the first version of the Rural Connect online guidance platform and provided feedback to further improve its functionality, accessibility, and user experience before the pilot phase.

### Mentoring Methodology Strengthened:

Practical mentoring techniques and counselling approaches were further refined, ensuring that professionals across partner countries are equipped to provide effective guidance tailored to the needs of rural young people.

### 17 What's Next?

- Finalisation of multilingual platform content
- Preparation of pilot activities in partner countries
- Next Transnational Project Meeting in Norway
- Launch of platform testing with target groups

## PROJECT PARTNERS



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