

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.

OUR WEBSITE & LINKEDIN PAGE ARE LIVE!

We are excited to announce the launch of the Rural Connect website and our official LinkedIn page!

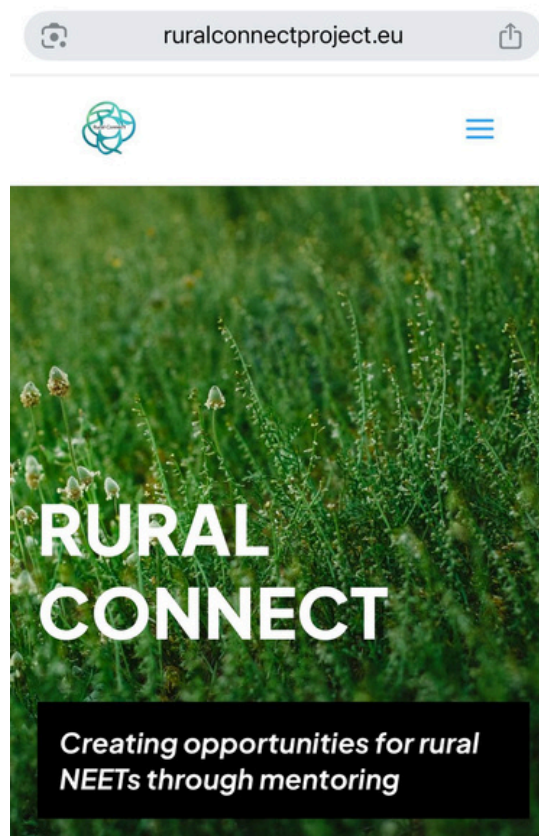
 www.ruralconnectproject.eu

 [Rural Connect Project](#)

On our website, you can explore:

- Updates about project progress and events.
- Publications such as reports, guides, and toolkits.
- Stories and good practices from partner countries.

Our LinkedIn page will share highlights, quick news, and opportunities to engage with the project community. By following us, you'll stay up to date and help us spread the word about supporting NEETs in rural areas.



COMPARATIVE REPORT ON NEETS IN PARTNER COUNTRIES

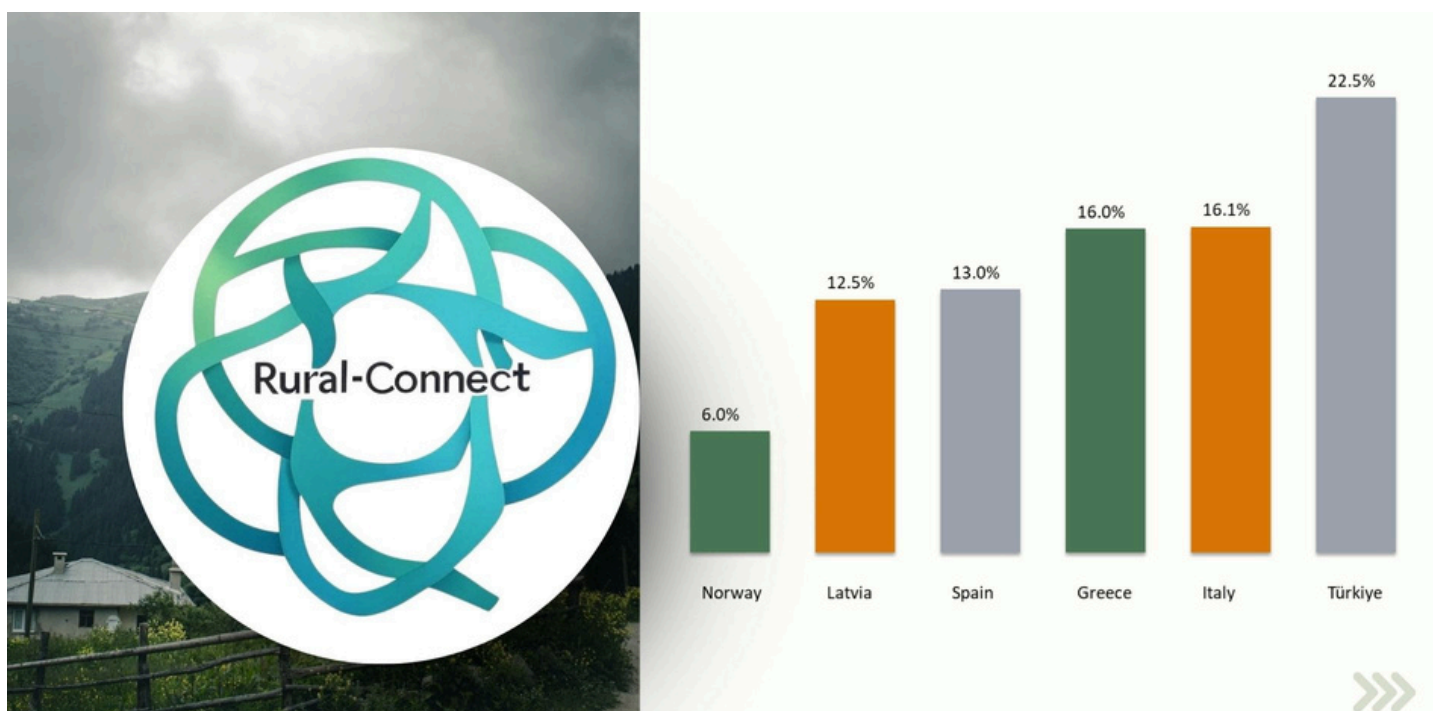
One of the project's first major achievements is the Comparative Report on the Phenomenon of NEETs in Partner Countries, a joint effort by our six partners.

Highlights from the findings:

- Diverse realities: NEET rates range from as low as 6% in Norway to over 22% in Türkiye.
- Rural disadvantage: Young people in rural areas face compounded barriers — lack of transport, digital divides, and fewer training or job opportunities.
- Gender gaps: Women, especially in Türkiye, Italy, and Greece, are more likely to be NEET due to cultural expectations, early parenthood, and lack of childcare support.
- Mental health and isolation: NEET youth across countries report low confidence, demotivation, and social exclusion.
- Policy response: Most countries apply the Youth Guarantee, but effectiveness varies, especially in reaching rural areas.

The report is the evidence base for all upcoming project activities, including the development of our counseling toolkit and online platform.

NEET RATES IN PARTNER COUNTRIES



PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE

Since our last newsletter, the consortium has advanced in several key areas:

- Finalizing the comparative research on NEETs.
- Starting the framework and methodology for counseling rural NEETs.
- Planning the development of the Career Counselor's Toolkit, with practical exercises and worksheets to be piloted in partner countries.

These steps will ensure that our next outputs are grounded in real needs and can be directly applied by educators, counselors, and youth workers.

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**Helping rural NEETs isn't just about jobs—it's about helping
them discover where they thrive and how to grow
across life's stages.**