



JULY 2025

NEWSLETTER



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About the project

Across Europe, thousands of young people aged 15 to 29 with mild to medium intellectual impairments are excluded from education, employment, and training. Often referred to as NEETs, these individuals face unique challenges. Traditional programs tend to treat them as a generic "protected group", without adapting to their personal needs, aspirations, and potential.

Educate for Independence is an ambitious initiative that seeks to challenge this reality.

Objective

To test an innovative model for activating these young people through three interconnected domains:

- Outreach to the target group
- Development of a flexible learning model
- Skills validation and activation in the labor market

This project builds on the successful Local Educational Unit (LEU) experience by Italian partner IL RAMO.

[Learn more about their work here IL Ramo – LEU](#)



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Key Features of Our Approach

- Active community involvement
- Close collaboration with social services and local authorities
- Use of public spaces to raise visibility and promote inclusion
- Focus on breaking the caregiver/assisted-person dynamic
- Empowering NEETs through the enhancement of relational networks



Who Will Be Involved?

- 200 NEETs will be empowered to recognize their potential and take steps toward independent living.
- 40 NEETs will train in life skills and take part in pilot and scaling-up job preparation schemes.
- 80 stakeholders (social workers, caregivers, youth organizations, local authorities, CSOs) and 130 SMEs and HR professionals will participate and help reshape systems of support.



Where We Are Now

We have completed the Research & Engagement phase:

Focus Groups were successfully conducted across all 4 partner countries. These sessions involved:

- Employment services
- Social services
- Schools
- Cultural associations
- Companies
- Local authorities
- Youth from the target group

These discussions provided valuable insights into the beliefs, attitudes, and needs of all stakeholders.

Additionally, a comprehensive SWOT Analysis of the Italian LEU approach was carried out to evaluate its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

All findings have been compiled into a Key Findings Report, which now guides the next phase of implementation.

Impact

To ensure long-lasting impact, we are working to engage at least 16 key actors across 4 countries as enduring partners. Through dedicated meetings and dialogue sessions, we are co-designing programs that reflect real needs, lived experiences, and community knowledge.



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Partnership



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GROUP

 Innovation
Hive

 **cesie**
the world is only one creature

*Inter
Aktion*



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