

**Interreg
Danube Region**



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



Project Leader: Centre for Social Innovation. AT

No. project: DRP0200289

Period: 01.01.2024 - 30.06.2026

Budget: 2.260.571.80 EUR.

Partners:

- *Centre* for Social Innovation (AT)
- NGO Youth Space (UA)
- Association Nevo Parudimos (RO)
- „Ion Creangă” State Pedagogical University of Chisinau (MD)
- Association CO-Efficient (HU)
- Foundation for Improvement of Employment Possibilities PRIZMA. an Institution (SL)
- HETFFA Research Institute (HU)
- DEX Innovation Centre (CZ)
- Association Youth initiative Triestingtal (AT)
- Austrian National Public Health institute (AT)
- Bulgarian Development Agency (BG)
- KHC(RS)
- Amica Educa (BA)
- TUKE (SK)
- The Competence Centre Future Health Promotion (AT)

„Ion Creangă” State Pedagogical University of Chisinau is implementing, as a partner, the MEET project for a period of 30 months, funded by the Interreg Program.

The MEET project will promote the mental health of (vulnerable) young people in Austria.

Bulgaria, Czech Republic. Hungary. Republic of Moldova. Romania. Slovenia. Ukraine, and the Danube Region.

In 2019, 10-12% of young people aged 10-19 years in the Danube Region were affected by mental disorders. Multiple crises (COVID, war in Ukraine, Climate) are an increasing threat to young people's mental health and well-being. The global nature of these crises and the shared challenges in the DR call for a transnational approach.

MEET aims to building capacities for youth mental health promotion in formal and informal educational settings at three different levels:

- At the practice level, MEET will collaboratively develop and pilot inclusive, innovative and youth - centred tools and learning materials for educators, social workers, practitioners and young people at risk (NEETs, ESLs) themselves.
- At the level of organisations and intermediaries, MEET will bring together key actors of health and education in Youth Mental Health Labs to form new and cross-sectoral mental health coalitions, boost their knowledge on mental health and equip them with a methodology on how cooperate in the future.
- At the policy level MEET will develop a transnational strategy and local action plans to integrate mental health in education giving policymakers of all levels guidelines on how to make education policy more inclusive. MEET'S innovative approach not only targets formal education like schools, but also non-formal education, like after-work schools, youth NGOs who are key in reaching disadvantaged learners and vulnerable youth. Moreover, it will address different dimensions of social inequality by reaching out to rural and Roma youth.

As a result the project will help to combat mental health problems among young people and, in the long term, the MEET outcomes will lead to a reduction in poor school performance and drop-out, reduce the number of NEETs, enable a better educated workforce, and contribute to reduced labour shortages.

This project is supported by the Interreg Danube Region Programme co-funded by the European Union.