

Fund for Youth Employment



Credits: Mommypreneurs

Youth Employment Magazine

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Editorial

«WHAT IS A CHALLENGE?»

Dear Readers, welcome back!

A new year has started, and with it, new opportunities are opening their doors to our family. I would however like to start the first issue of this new year with a question for all of us: what is a challenge?

Why? Because every new situation, every new opportunity hides a challenge, requiring great effort and determination. This is how I see our first months together: new tools, new members and protagonists (all of you), the need to coordinate and work together towards a single goal, that of finding new and innovative ways to contribute to improving NEET employment.

On our part, and as you know, the latest challenge has been the Baseline Study. Right from its initial conception, the Study has reflected the need to integrate the perspectives of different projects, different countries and different approaches towards Youth Employment Policies. There is no need to convince you how difficult it could have been, your contributions are the living proof of how important it is to study, concentrate and produce. Imagine this process multiplied by all the contributions received, and maybe you will find the answers to my first question.

At the same time, I'm sure you can imagine that we want to pay tribute to every single - but necessary - input that came from your side. We want to give back to you a product that pays off your efforts, we want to produce a special gift for you. Something that can be shared further, to exchange lessons learned and ensure a common benchmark for our actions. As such, this has to be as comprehensive as possible. This is the challenging idea behind the realisation of the Baseline Study, and this is why we are asking you to be a little patient: the Study still needs a few days of "brain squeezing".

We are proud of this result, which is all thanks to you, and so we want to give you the opportunity to be part of this creative process. As planned, we will circulate the final draft of the Baseline Study among all contributors before it is officially published online.

I cannot repeat enough that, as member of this great and unique family, I hope that you can understand our need and will to present the Baseline Study as a Special publication, therefore separate to the "normal" issues of our Online Magazine. Allow me to say that this is an opportunity for you to have a first-hand knowledge, in the form of a "premiere"!

Once again, thanks for your dedication and efforts, and ... see you soon with our special, challenging but stimulating Baseline Study.

PS: please check out our Editorial Team message, and stay tuned!

Gian Luca Bombarda

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'GLB' or similar, with a stylized, cursive script.

To our Readers

Dear Readers,

the whole Editorial Team is here today to congratulate with any single member which allowed us to produce the 4th issue of our Online Magazine: your efforts are not to be taken for granted.

This is even more appreciated considering the special time of the year; we are proud to see that the winter holidays in the middle have not prevented you to produce for our Mag new works.

While again thanking you, we want to stress the invitation to produce for our Family new ideas, which are not to be meant as long reports and/or articles, but short facts about how you are making concrete your projects, the human faces you are helping through your initiatives. Today visibility is more important than ever, and with it the way we communicate it: we want to give a special attention to the human side of our YE Fund. And now we can say that you can make it!

these are the reasons why we renovate our invitation sent during the last days of 2019, announcing that starting from the next issues we will have a new section, the so-called “Pleased to meet you”, dedicated to external innovative contributions. Sometimes, a nice picture is more important than a long essay, a smile is communicating more than thousand words.

Yes, we are ready to extend our family 😊

The Editorial Team

Perspectives on Youth Employment in Europe (n. 2)

SOCIAL PILLAR OF THE EU: HAVE A SAY IN

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1487>

As the “Youth Employment Magazine” team was finalising the Baseline Study on “Youth Employment in the 15+3 EU beneficiary countries of the EEA and Norway Grants, “Fund for Youth Employment”, building on the contributions of the almost 200 partners of the 26 projects of the Fund in the 18 beneficiary countries and the discussions held in the Annual Thematic Seminar in Brussels on 25-26 November, the new European Commission has started to act on the priorities outlined in the [Political Guidelines presented by the President Ursula Von der Leyen before the European Parliament in November 2019](#). One of these is the development of the social pillar of the European Union.

On 14 January 2020, the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for an Economy that Works for People, Valdis Dombrovskis, and the Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit, presented a first take on their ideas for the next five years¹. The next day, throughout Europe the media focused on the announcement of plans to move towards a European minimum wage framework, concerning which the Commission has launched a first phase consultation of social partners on the issue of a fair minimum wage for workers in the EU. The future European Unemployment (Re-) Insurance also made headlines. But the reflections of the European Commission go far beyond, concerning ten areas of action:

- Fair **minimum wages** for workers in the EU
- A European **Gender Equality Strategy** and binding pay transparency measures
- An updated **Skills Agenda** for Europe
- An **updated Youth Guarantee**
- **Platform Work Summit**
- Green paper on **Ageing**
- Strategy for **persons with disabilities**
- **Demography Report**
- **European Unemployment Re-insurance Scheme**

Many of these measures will have a direct bearing on youth employment in Europe over the next decade: the update of the Youth Guarantee ([see the “Perspectives of Youth Employment” section in the last issue of the Youth Employment Guarantee](#)), as well as the regulation of a fair minimum wage – young workers often have lower wages in the labour market. Another issue of course is the Gender Equality Strategy: as highlighted in the upcoming Baseline Study, unemployment affects young women in many Member States more than proportionally. Labour integration of persons with

¹ See [Press Communiqué](#) and [Communication from the European Commission on “A Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions”](#).

disabilities is also a black hole of the Youth Guarantee so far, as underlined by partners in the Baseline Study.

As a matter of fact, the Baseline Study as such, which will be published in the coming weeks, provides a true blueprint for the development of the youth employment aspects of the Social Pillar, and can be considered a contribution to the debate. Among the conclusions emerging from a youth employment reality, which has country-by-country specificities but shows an amazing pattern of common issues and problems throughout Europe, participants in the Baseline Study Workshop in Brussels highlighted the following:

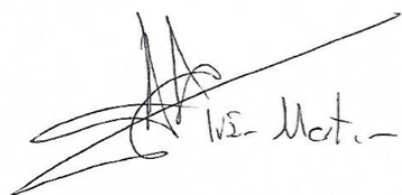
- The need to effectively address the issue of youth neither in education nor in employment (NEET, 16.5 million overall in the European Union, 14% of the total 15-34 year-old population, many of them discouraged because of the lack of opportunities in the labour market and prospects for an emancipated life at a time where all studies show a demographic decline, an ageing population and the difficulties of employers to find workers in certain sectors and for certain qualifications;
- The repeated pattern of discrimination and vulnerability of minorities such as young people with disabilities, Roma youth, young migrants or LGBTI youth;
- The mismatch between the skills young people receive through education at all levels and those required and demanded by the labour market, as well as the lack of strategies to cope with early school leaving (affecting more than 10% of the EU youth on average);
- The shortcomings of the Youth Guarantee implementation, however good an idea this is;
- The spread of precarious, atypical or informal jobs, in particular for young workers, who end up trapped in a vicious circle of periods of training, unemployment, informal work or low-paid jobs not allowing them to stabilise in their professional or personal life;
- The special problems faced by rural youth, in particular in depopulated or isolated areas;
- The widespread problems of lack of coordination and hence inefficiency in active labour market policies and other actions to tackle youth unemployment, both between national, regional and local authorities and across authorities and NGOs active in the field.

In this process, and all these fronts, it is crucial to build on the insights and experience of youth employment practitioners throughout Europe, such as the partner organisations of the Youth Employment Fund. The European Commission has

created a webpage for stakeholders to have a say on the Social Pillar implementation: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1487>. Here the European Commission endeavours to launch “a broad discussion with all EU countries and regions, and with all our partners”, including “civil society, the crucial voices on the issues about which our citizens care so deeply, academia, think tanks and citizens”. This consultation will be open until 30 November 2020, and will also be facilitated through a series of events and debates throughout Europe. Do not miss this opportunity for standing up for the future of our youth.

Iván MARTÍN

Our Spanish Youth Employment Expert

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right. Below the signature, the text "Iván Martín" is written in a cursive script.

Events

JANUARY 2020

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Training session with NEETs, Genoa	14 Training session with NEETs, Genoa	15 Training session with NEETs, Genoa	16 Training session with NEETs, Genoa	17 Training session with NEETs, Genoa	18 Training session with NEETs, Genoa	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 2020

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Workshop on Labour Market Policies and Dynamics	14 Workshop on Labour Market Policies and Dynamics	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

Success story

Project 008 - Youth employment partnership – evaluation studies in Spain, Hungary, Italy and Poland

IBS teaches Polish NGOs to use Nobel economists' methods

NGOs can learn a lot from this year's Nobel Prize winners in economics about how to use experimental methods to ensure their programmes succeed, said researchers from Poland's Institute for Structural Research (IBS) who led a workshop for assistance organisations.

The 2019 Nobel prize went to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer for their approach to poverty reduction, which used experimental methods to measure the effectiveness of support programs in developing countries. The Swedish Academy of Sciences said the trio "dramatically improved our ability to fight poverty in practice".

In the case of social programmes, the experimental method consists in dividing potential beneficiaries into two groups at random, of which only one group receives support (in the form of training, benefits etc.) After the project concludes, by comparing the two groups donors can confirm whether the programme is bringing the desired effect. Banerjee, Duflo and Kremer used this method to study the effect of various forms of support for Kenyan schools on educational outcomes.

"Both NGOs and public administration can use experimental methods with success: they're not difficult, and they deliver truly good answers," said Mateusz Smoter, an analyst at the IBS. "Taking into account that donors such as the EU are placing increasing weight on evaluation, the use of experimental methods may soon become essential."

As part of its "Youth employment partnerSHIP" project, which seeks to increase employment of young people, so called NEETs (not in employment, education or training) in Hungary, Italy, Poland and Spain, the IBS organised a workshop to teach experimental methods to NGOs. The event was led by Tomasz Gajderowicz, an economist who uses experimental methods in his research. He showed the circumstances in which it's possible to use an experiment, discussed how to design one and how to measure the effects.

"During the workshop, participants identified a number of ways to use experiments in the work they do," Gajderowicz said. "A randomized experiment is recognised as the most credible method for evaluating a programme's effectiveness; it's also exceptionally intuitive, and simpler than many advanced econometric methods that are less credible. It would be wonderful if a culture of experimentation developed here in Poland: we'd have much more effective programmes and we'd spend public funds better."

“Participants in our workshop admitted that they very often don’t know whether a programme is working or not,” said Gajderowicz. “Just because they’ve organised a number of trainings, which drew great interest from recipients of benefits and which they evaluated positively, doesn’t mean that the trainings delivered the desired effect, such as helping participants find work.”

The Projects

455 - Labour market Employment for young Adults with a Disability – LEAD

The project partners will transfer know-how and best practice on employment initiatives for young adults with a disability across European countries. They will develop and improve the framework of knowledge and actively promote successful measures for young adults with a disability to increase their access to the open labour market. A guide on best practice in employing young adults with a disability will be developed, as well as national networks. By involving the young adults in supported employment programmes, volunteering, educational activities and organising meetings between the participants and employers, they will be able to develop their personal and professional skills to get suitable jobs. By training employers and specialists in employment, they will be able to better understand the needs of the disabled. By elaborating and delivering a training package for family members of young adults with a disability, they will be able to better support the young adults' efforts to access the open labour market.

Target groups:

- Young adults with a disability, age 15- 29, and their family members
- Employers, specialists, public and private organisations involved in delivery of employment services

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Romania	Lead partner	Health Action Overseas Foundation	NGO	Bucharest
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Valakupiai Rehabilitation Centre	Public	Vilnius
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Consultis – Business Consulting Ltd.	Private	Vila Nova de Gaia
United Kingdom	Expertise partner	Status Employment	NGO	Croydon

415 - Youth Impact

The project partners will build a transnational research network and support NGOs, public and private institutions that carry out initiatives on youth employment and entrepreneurship, to increase their capacity to do impact studies. The results of the project will be knowledge of the effects of employment initiatives targeting young people, increased capacity of research institutions to evaluate the effects of such employment initiatives, and increased transnational cooperation on labour market issues.

Target groups:

- NGOs, public and private institutions that carry out youth employment and entrepreneurship support actions towards 25-29 years olds
- Organisations devoted to or interested in impact studies

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Czech Republic	Lead partner	Channel Crossings	Private	Prague
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Foundation in Support of Local Democracy	NGO	Warsaw
Slovakia	Beneficiary partner	PEDAL Consulting	Private	Martin
Germany	Expertise partner	FIAP e.V. – Institute for innovative and preventive job design	Non-profit	Gelsenkirchen

Why does the unemployment of young people matter?

The Youth Impact project – along with large number of other projects funded from the Youth Employment Fund – tackles within its particular focus one of the issues the labour markets across Europe face today. The issue is a high unemployment rate of young people on a long-term basis.

Young people seem to be especially vulnerable regarding work acquisition in the countries of southern Europe, such as Greece, Italy, or Spain, where the unemployment rate of youth without jobs for a longer period strikes more than 50% at times. However, people under 30 are a disadvantaged group on the labour markets elsewhere too.

If we take an example of one country, almost 27% of unemployed people aged 15-29 in Czechia were long term unemployed in 2017. General unemployment rate for people between 15 and 24 is still around 6% when for the overall 15-64 statistics show just above 2% this year. The EU average of long-term unemployed young people in 2017 was almost 33%. Though the unemployment rate for Czechia has dropped down by 2019, the statistics cannot confirm the situation of young people has improved in the long run.

It is in part caused by the fact that people unemployed for a long period of time often fall out of social support system and lose contact with authorities which provide this support and the statistics. But why are young people more disadvantaged than other age groups on the labour market?

To start with, young people have an uneasy position when striving for entrepreneurship. They have very limited access to financial resources, bank loans and credits because their bank history is very short or not existing. Therefore, they have no or very little capital to base their own businesses or enterprises on.

Secondly, those who are looking for an employment have a very disadvantageous position regarding work experience. Either just after graduating from secondary or tertiary education with no experience in the field of their degree, or with just a few years of work practice, the demands of employers for the vacancies exceed far what they are able to offer. Large spectrum of skills and abilities coupled with 3+ or 5+ years of experience in the field are often required in the advertisements for the new positions.

This creates a very complicated starting point which can turn into a vicious circle of not being able to gain any experience without any experience. Young people feel incompetent and often engage in unpaid internships or start a further education, which both leave them again without any remunerated professional experience.

From: <http://www.youth-impact.eu/2019/08/20/why-does-unemployment-of-young-people-matter/>

Impact evaluation in a nutshell

The terminology of Impact Evaluation procedures might be sometimes difficult to grasp, but the core question is very simple: **DOES IT WORK?** The evaluation of the impact of activities, measures or organisations, tries to answer basic questions such as: *What works? What does not work? For whom it works and for whom it doesn't? Why it doesn't work? What could work better in this particular context?*

Even though the questions are simple, answering them is not always easy. Thorough evaluation requires exploration of context, design of the evaluation, data collection, analysis of data, evaluation of the actual impact, and recommendations for future improvement.

In the first stage of the evaluation has to be specified who and how manages the evaluation, how the evaluation contributes to an actual change and what are the outlines of the evaluation in terms of users, purposes, questions and success stories. The second stage comprises of description of the context, data collection and analysis of all available data and sources. A synthesis of findings should be offered in the third stage of impact evaluation together with actions to communicate the findings and evaluation results. Also, recommendation for change, improvements and future developments should be outlined at this stage.

The process of learning is what really matters and it is the main reason why we carry out evaluations. We learn to do things differently and how to improve in the future. We can also get inspired by other evaluations in order to see if the same strategies and mechanisms work in different contexts. That is why networking and mutual learning are also very important parts of evaluation processes.

From: <http://www.youth-impact.eu/2019/09/23/evaluation-impact-in-a-nutshell/>

Youth unemployment through the optics of the public education system in Slovakia



Credits: Youth Impact

Despite the public education system in Slovakia being questioned for almost two decades, no substantial reform of either primary, secondary or tertiary education has happened. With the arrival of a number of major automotive companies into the country (Volkswagen, PSA Peugeot Citroën, KIA, Land Rover), Slovakia became the biggest car producer in the world per capita. However, this development increased pressure on the quality of the workforce, especially in technical and language skills. There is a growing gap between young educated professionals suitable for good quality graduate jobs in a number of large foreign corporations, and a group of formally educated young people with limited skills who struggle to gain any kind of experience on the job market.

There is also a substantial subgroup of young people mainly from the Roma minority in Slovakia, living in severely deprived conditions in slums around the villages of South-Eastern and Eastern Slovakia. They are being discriminated by the official education system and they remain practically illiterate and unemployable for decades. This phenomena is of a deep and complicated socio-economic, cultural, and historical origin.

There is no doubt that secondary – together with primary – schools play an essential role in creating an educated nation. Therefore, the quality of education is a determining factor for the human capital of every country. Not only knowledge is to be transferred onto students, but also skills (soft skills, problem solving, creativity, etc.) need to be developed within the years of compulsory education.

The requirements of labor market change in time and education should reflect the needs of current situation on the labor market. The more schools can educate students prepared for the labour market, the more effective is the relationship between schools and employers/businesses. Employers may also contribute to the

quality of the education system via feedback, trainings, and constant cooperation with governmental bodies.

/Robert Miskuf – PEDAL Consulting/

From: <http://www.youth-impact.eu/2019/11/23/youth-unemployment-through-the-optics-of-the-public-education-system-in-slovakia/>

NEETs – the youth stacked between education and work

When it comes to youth at the labour market, the most important indicators were usually the employment and unemployment rate. In the first decade of 2000s, it became clear that these rates do not capture the situation of all young people. While many young people aged 15–24 (or 15–29) are still students or trainees, there was a growing number of youth, which did not fall in any traditional category. The term NEET – young people neither in employment, education or training – which first emerged in the United Kingdom in the late 1980s, rapidly gained importance all around Europe. There are various reasons for the emergence of this group. As it is described in the European Training Foundation 2015 report “Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) – an overview in ETF partner countries”, it can be linked to “the growing complexity of youth transitions, the weakening of full-time routes through education and training, the growth of part-time and mixed patterns of work types, and changes in labour markets and the availability of jobs.”

The scope of NEET group is measured by the **NEET rate**. It is calculated through using Labour Force Survey data and refers to the percentage of the population aged 15–24 (in some countries 15–29) who meet two following conditions: (a) they are not employed (i.e. unemployed or inactive according to the International Labour Organisation’s definition), and (b) they have not received any education or training (i.e. neither formal, nor non-formal) in the four weeks preceding the survey (Eurostat definition). It is nicely visible on the scheme below (EFT 2015).

The broad definition of NEET concept has brought some criticism upon it. Some researches pointed that as the NEET group consists of very heterogeneous population, the diversity blurs the whole concept to such degree that it is not useful in planning public policies, and that “greater attention should be given to disaggregating the heterogeneous NEET category” (Mascherini 2018). Thus, in its reports Eurofound (2016) used five categories within the NEET population with varying degrees of vulnerability and needs: the conventionally unemployed, the unavailable, the disengaged, opportunity seekers, and voluntary NEET. Recently Massimiliano Mascherini developed seven subgroups of NEETs: re-entrants, short-term unemployed, long-term unemployed, unavailable because of illness or disability, unavailable because of family responsibilities, discouraged workers, and other inactive (2018).

While the above described criticism may be valid when it comes to the analysis of particular public policies, the general analysis of NEET category gives us wider perspective on the scale of problems emerging during the transition from education to work. Collecting and analyzing data on NEETs showed, among others, that the risk

of becoming a NEET increases significantly with age or rural locality, that personal circumstances often exercise greater constraint on females.

Spending some time as a NEET for any reason have severe consequences for one's future on the labour market. It also impacts other spheres of life, including mental and physical health. The consequences for the individual, society and the economy are wide and should be prevented. Introducing policies, which will concentrate on developing better education and training system, as well as youth activation programs, can help in tackling the issue. Therefore, in 2014 European Union introduced so-called Youth Guarantee program, about which we will write in our subsequent articles.

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Eurofound (2016), Exploring the diversity of NEETs, www.eurofound.europa.eu/pl/publications/report/2016/labour-market-social-policies/exploring-the-diversity-of-neets

Eurostat: ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:NEET

European Training Foundation (2015), "Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) – an overview in ETF partner countries"; www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/m/BFEEBA10DD412271C1257EED0035457E_NEETs.pdf

Mascherini, Massimiliano (2018) "Origins and future of the concept of NEETs in the European policy agenda", in: "Youth Labor in Transition: Inequalities, Mobility, and Policies in Europe" (2018), www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/oso/9780190864798.001.0001/oso-9780190864798-chapter-17

From: <http://www.youth-impact.eu/2019/11/29/neets-the-youth-stacked-between-education-and-work/>

Youth Guarantee – EU answer to the NEET problem

Before 2010 the problem of unemployed or otherwise workless youth who are no longer in education or training had been partially addressed in several initiatives on the European level, but the NEET category had not been used. The program *Youth on the Move* enacted in 2010 was the first European Union policy which used the term NEET and explicitly targeted this group. It was a part of *Europe 2020 Strategy* and it aimed at "unleashing all young people's potential" to "reduce high youth unemployment and to increase the youth-employment rate . . . by: making education and training more relevant to young people's needs; encouraging more of them to take advantage of the EU grants to study or train in another country; encouraging EU countries to take measures simplifying the transition from education to work" (*Youth on the Move* website).

As Mascherini notices "building on *Youth on the Move*, NEETs consequently became central to the new set of integrated guidelines for economic and employment policies" (2018), with initiatives like "Towards a job-rich recovery". In 2013, after the proposal from the European Commission, the Council of the EU prepared a recommendation of *Youth Guarantee*– a commitment by all Member States of EU "to ensure that all

young people under the age of 25 years receive a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.” (COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 2013).

At the time, the unemployment rate in EU-28 for people aged 15 to 24 reached 23.6%, and in some countries even exceeded 50% (Greece, Spain), while the NEET rate in the EU-28 reached 13%, in some cases rising to more than 20% (Bulgaria, Greece, Italy) (Escudero 2017). The idea of turning these trends and diminishing percentage of inactive youth was challenging. To ensure its realisation, the European Commission created *Youth Employment Initiative* with € 8.8 billion budget for the period 2014-2020, and urged every Member State to present their plans of the implementation of the *Youth Guarantee*, with details on actions, institutions involved, timeline, and modes of financing (Escudero 2017).

As a result, *Youth Guarantee* became an important factor in implementing actions against youth unemployment and inactivity. Each of the countries of origin for the Youth Impact project – Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and Slovakia – prepared its plan and is monitoring the indicators. In the links below you can find those implementation plans (unfortunately not all of them are in English) and fiches for a detailed assessment of the *Youth Guarantee* implementation in the respective country.

Czech

Republic: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1161&langId=en&intPagId=3329>

Germany: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1161&langId=en&intPagId=3336>

Poland: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1161&langId=en&intPagId=3348>

Slovakia: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1161&langId=en&intPagId=3351>

In each of these countries there has been a visible drop in NEET rate and youth unemployment rate. What causes bigger problem is a percentage of early leavers from education and training (it refers to persons aged 18 to 24 who has completed at most lower secondary education and are not involved in further education or training – Eurostat definition). We are writing about it in our other articles.

References:

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee, [https://eur-](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:120:0001:0006:EN:PDF)

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:120:0001:0006:EN:PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:120:0001:0006:EN:PDF)

Escudero, Verónica & López Mourelo, Elva (2017), “The European Youth Guarantee: A systematic review of its implementation across countries”, International Labour Organisation, www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/-dgreports/-inst/documents/publication/wcms_572465.pdf

Eurostat glossary: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Early_leaver_from_education_and_training

Mascherini, Massimiliano (2018) “Origins and future of the concept of NEETs in the European policy agenda”, in: “Youth Labor in Transition: Inequalities, Mobility, and Policies in Europe”
(2018), www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/oso/9780190864798.001.0001/oso-9780190864798-chapter-17
“Youth on the Move”
website: https://ec.europa.eu/youthonthemove/about/index_en.html
/FRDL/

NEET rate in Poland

As we wrote in earlier articles one of the biggest problems of transition from education to work is the significant share of young people, who are no longer in education or training, but they also do not have a paid job. So-called NEETs are usually counted in the population aged 15-24.

In Poland such age range may be misleading due to the national legislation, which impose schooling obligation on youth till the age of 15, and education obligation till the age of 18 (either at school, or at the employers’). This means that there is no official data on teenagers. Even if in Labour Force Survey some teenagers aged 15-17 could be identified as dropouts, they cannot be officially coded as NEETs, because they are formally registered as pupils in schools or trainees in other type of institutions, even though they do not attend in practice. Consequently, in the database of LFS results on the NEETs rate by age, Eurostat shows no data in the age group 15-17. And while before 2017 there was some percentage of NEET reported in this age group (0.5-0.9%), such data was marked with “low reliability” mark.

However, data for age groups 18-24 and 25-29 are reliable and show the dynamics in youth chances on the market. Over time there can be three different stages of NEET rate fluctuation defined. The 3 phases reflect:

- 1) integration with the EU, emigration and economic recovery process (2004-2008),
 - 2) economic crisis (2009-2013),
 - 3) economic recovery and implementation of the youth focused policies (2013-now).
- It is to be noted that in the last 5 years the NEET rate in Poland decreased significantly. In 2018, the NEET category amounted to 11.7% among youth aged 18-24 and 17.2% among youth aged 25-29 (Table 1).

Table 1. Young people neither in employment nor in education and training, by age, PL, 2004–2018, (%)

Age \ Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
15–17 yo	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	NA	NA
18–24 yo	20.4	18.7	17.2	14.5	12.3	13.8	14.5	15.4	15.9	16.4	16.0	14.7	14.1	12.8	11.7
25–29 yo	28.8	27.3	24.3	21.6	19.3	20.5	21.6	21.4	22.1	22.7	21.2	20.5	18.9	18.0	17.2

Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_20)

Figure 1. Young people neither in employment nor in education and training, by age, Poland, 2004–2018 (%)



Based on: Eurostat (online data code: edat_lfse_20)

Good news for youth unemployment in Germany – new record low reached

On the occasion of International Youth Day 2019, the Federal Statistical Office announced that the number of unemployed between 15 and 24 years in 2018 has fallen to a record since the reunification of Germany. The unemployment rate among young job starters was 6.2 percent.

The unemployment rate thus follows the declining trend of youth unemployment in the Federal Republic of Germany for many years. In 2015, the highest levels of youth unemployment were registered. At that time, unemployment among 15 to 24-year-olds was around 15 percent. Since then the unemployment rate has more than halved. Although differences between West Germany (5.8 %) and East Germany (8.6 %) can still be seen today, a positive development and a reduction in the difference between the old and new federal states has been evident since 2005.

The development shows that young people are benefiting from the overall improvement in the labour market in recent years. At the same time, however, the statistics also show that the unemployment rate for all 15 to 64-year-olds fell even stronger, from 11.3 to 3.5 percent since 2005.

The above-mentioned unemployment rate is calculated according to the standard of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and thus differs from the unemployment rate of the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit). The Federal Employment Agency, on the other hand, also considers people who work up to 15 hours a week to be unemployed. This means that the unemployment rate is always significantly higher than the unemployment rate.

In European comparison, Germany recorded the lowest unemployment rate in the European Union in 2018. This is partly due to the good economic performance of recent years, but is also influenced by demographic change. The 15- to 24-year-old group in Germany has been shrinking for decades. As a result, few young workers are available to the labour market. Wherever companies need trainees, the few young people looking for training or work are in high demand. In particularly economically strong federal states such as Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, the unemployment rate is therefore only up to three percent. In structurally weak areas, on the other hand, the unemployment rate is much higher (up to 15 %). In these areas a variety of measures against youth unemployment and long term unemployment can be observed.

The project partners from the Youth Impact project are working together with partners from the Ruhr-Area, where structural change has caused a lot of economic problems and where an above-average number of young people with employment barriers have to be placed. Although the good economic starting position offers specific framework conditions in Germany some measures can nevertheless constitute best practices for labour market integration outside Germany

Decreased unemployment rate in Slovakia

The overall unemployment rate decreased to 4,94 percent in October 2019. Expressed in absolute numbers, the total number of jobseekers was 136,192. However, according to the statistics data from Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the unemployment rate was significantly higher in case of two specific target groups; namely in case of youth unemployed and long-term unemployed.

As concluded by the State Secretary of Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the forecast of the development for the next few months is not expected to be negative in terms of the unemployment rate. Moreover, the Ministry has been predicting positive trend in the employment rate, despite of the economic slowdown, while the rate will depend also on external aspects, such as Brexit or business relations between the United States and China.

Bank analyst forecasts are assuming unemployment rate close to 5 percent during the year. In fact, there are more than 100,000 job vacancies available at the market and out of that more than 41,000 vacancies are believed to be suitable for young graduates. Based on the geographical distribution, the most vacancies are offered in the western part of Slovakia.

University graduates are very successfully placed on the labour market these days. In general, they are able to find appropriate jobs in a short time. On the other hand, the situation is not as good and supportive for secondary school graduates. The Labour Office registered 6,500 secondary school graduates in September 2019 and 5,500 in October 2019, compared to 277 university graduates in October 2019.

In general, secondary school graduates cannot be placed at the labour market so easily as university graduates. It results from the fact that the structure and the study fields at secondary level do not necessarily reflect the current market needs. Moreover, the content shared with the learners at secondary schools does not truly meet the requirements of the employers.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic is aware of this challenging situation on the market and therefore has been opening discussions on possible future solutions, e.g. with the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

As a partial solution, the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides retraining courses and contributions for employers aiming to empower and support youth employment.

References: <https://ekonomika.sme.sk/c/22264756/nezamestnanost-klesla-na-uroven-494-percenta.html>

414 - CODE – Competence Opportunities for Digital Employment

The project partners will develop and run an innovative training programme for specialised digital competences such as digital design and skills, graphics, 3D animation, game design etc. for young people that otherwise cannot afford to obtain a hi-tech education due to poverty. The programme will be created together with business supporting organisations with focus on the creative industries, organisations for psychological and/or social help and youth organisations.

Target groups:

- Vulnerable young people at poverty risk, orphans that are out of social protection, and children of working poor people
- Young people in rural areas, young single parents, and young graduates at poverty risk
- Young people in rural areas, young single parents, and young graduates at poverty risk

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Bulgaria	Lead partner	Human Resources Development Agency	Public	Ruse
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Solutions Brief Therapy and Counselling Centre Rousse	NGO	Ruse
Estonia	Beneficiary partner	Tartu Art School	Public	Tartu
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	FPC ltd	Private	Sofia
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Social silos Cooperative ALTERNATA	NGO	Guidonia Montecelio
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Municipality of Corsi	Public	Corsi

Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Palidzesim.lv	NGO	Riga
Romania	Beneficiary partner	Save the Children Association Iasi	NGO	Iasi
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Euroteam Center S.A.	Vocational Training	

FPC Ltd is promoting CODE project with two videos

FPC Ltd has made two videos to promote the project CODE - COMPETENCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIGITAL EMPLOYMENT.

The first promotional video presents the partner meeting, which took place in Tatu, Estonia in October 2019 at the Tartu Art School. During the meeting partners have discussed the content of the training curricula to be elaborated under CODE project, which will be further developed and adapted according the specific features and needs in each partner's country.

Here the video about CODE curriculum design meeting in Estonia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52yctBK5BZw&t=8s>

The second video is dedicated to the Motivational course organised by FPC Ltd. and held at Ruse University in October 2019 within the framework of the European Week of Skills. The aim of the course was to test motivational models when working with young people, who are potential beneficiaries of the project CODE training modules.

Here the video dedicated to the Motivational course organised by FPC Ltd: <https://youtu.be/f7I7li4N4G0>

Tartu Art School - NEET youth course registration and interviews



Credits: CODE

At the end of November the registration for graphic design course for NEET-youth at Tartu Art School ended. We received 38 applications which means 3,8 people per place. We are satisfied with the first results because we could make out what the current situation is and segregate the needs of each applicant and how the applicants can complement oneself during the 6 month study course.

The background and experiences varied among the applicants - there were qualified people with already a clear goal; those who had mingled a bit with design/art before and those who had no idea what they wanted from life, but had decided to apply for the course.

The teachers singled out about 15 applicants who were most in need for the course and conducted interviews with them. The interview form was decided to be a group interview - max two applicants were interviewed at the same time by two teachers. The impression and emotion of these interviews were very positive since the candidates showed motivation and will to learn more. The next task is to keep the motivation going.

Just in case there were some people left below the line, as there might be some candidates who decide not to commence with the course, which is natural. Right now the first 10 are chosen and we are ready to step forward!

Tartu Art School started project CODE graphic design course in Estonia



Credits: CODE

Project CODE specific objective is to develop and implement a training programme for specialized digital competences such as digital design, graphics, 3D animation, game design for these young people that otherwise cannot afford to obtain hi-tech knowledge due to restrictions coming from their financial situation.

During October and November the Estonian partner Tartu Art School received 40 applications altogether for CODE graphic design course and carried out group interviews which consisted of 2-3 teachers, who were interviewing groups of 2 potential participants at a time. From these interviews 10 candidates were chosen for the training course in graphic design and digitalization for a learning group of

minimum 10 and maximum 20 participants for a duration of 6 months (480 hours of training).

The first CODE graphic design course week/6.01-10.01.2020/ was intended to be simple for participants, thus they had a chance to meet new people, including teachers and other workers. Moreover, the group visited the main building of Tartu Art School, where while given a guided tour around the premises, they familiarised themselves with the new surroundings.

On the next day a second meeting was organised, but this time it was led by a school counselor. He encouraged people to participate in various activities and discuss their well-being in order to get to know each other better. Later together they went hiking to the forest for a few days as a part of team-building exercises. Going camping is a tradition in Tartu Art School for all students to start their study year. During the camps students spend time in nature, go on hikes, cook together, make camp fires and do some maintenance work around local buildings and sights. These camps enhance the sense of teamwork, provoke creative thinking and inspiration, which is a prerequisite for successful completion of Project CODE training course in graphic design.



Credits: CODE

351 - SOCIALNEET_From civil society organizations to social entrepreneurship. Combating youth unemployment and addressing the needs of NEETs

The project partners will establish a transnational expert cooperation network in seven countries and prepare young people for jobs within social enterprises, by offering training and capacity building services to civil society organisations and businesses belonging to the social economy. The following sectors will be targeted: culture and tourism, health care, agriculture, IT and Open Source software and alternative energy sources. The project will result in increased awareness of the impact and the function that social innovation and entrepreneurship can have in tackling youth unemployment.

Target groups:

- Young unemployed people between 18-29, with an emphasis on the 25-29 years olds; The social economy and civil society organisations

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	Institute of Social Economy Studies	NGO	Athens
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Institute of Industrial and Business Education & Training	Public	Athens
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Craftsmen Association of Terni	Private	Terni
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Rezekne Academy of Technologies	Public	Rēzekne
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Janusz Korczak Pedagogical University	Non-public higher education institution	Warsaw
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Development Association of Alto Tamega's Region	NGO	Chaves

Slovenia	Beneficiary partner	University of Primorska	Public	Koper
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Municipality of Mataro	Public	Mataro
Belgium	Expertise partner	European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy	NGO	Brussels

345 - A Place for Youth in Mediterranean EEA: Resilient and Sharing Economies for NEETs

The project partners will create a transnational research network and an employment centre to train young people for jobs in the food production and waste management sectors. The project entails on-the-job training courses in social enterprises and mentoring of former NEETs in setting up new social enterprises.

Target groups:

- Inactive low-skilled women and migrants from local reception centres
- Non-traditional regional actors supporting youth employability

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	University of the Aegean	Public	Mytilene
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Cyprus Authority for Cooperative Societies	Public	Nicosia
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Neapolis University Pafos	Private	Paphos
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Centre for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology LTD	Private	Nicosia
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Network for Employment and Social Care	Private non-profit	Piraeus
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Social Cooperatives' Network of Central Macedonia	CSO	Thessaloniki
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Territorial Association Comunità Montana Alto Bassento	Public	Potenza
Italy	Beneficiary partner	GAL La Cittadella del Sapere srl	Public/private	Latronico

Italy	Beneficiary partner	Sistema Turismo srl	Private	Potenza
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Educational association for integration and equality	NGO	Murcia
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Catholic University of Murcia	Private non-profit	Murcia
Norway	Expertise partner	Fafo, Institute for Labour and Social Research	Non-profit	Oslo

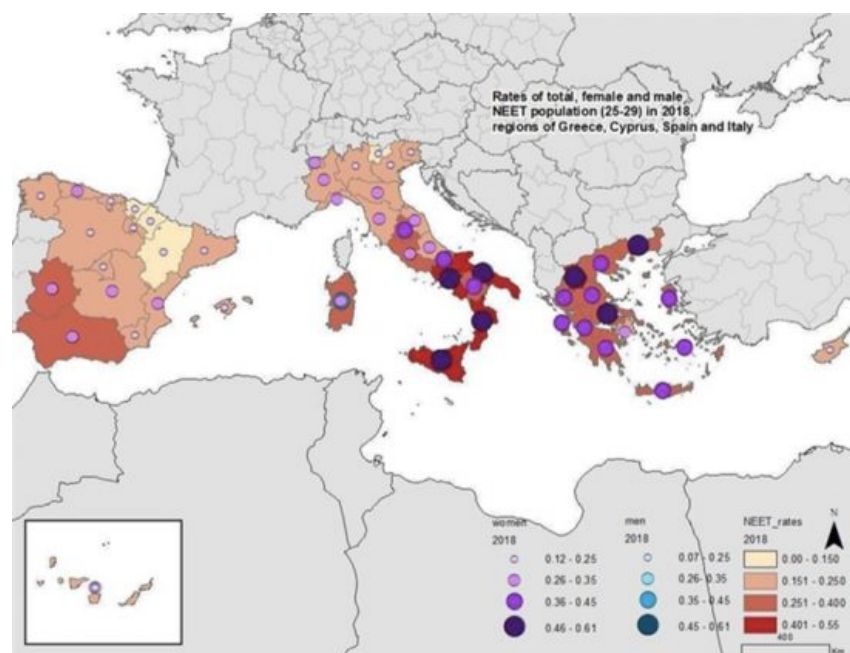
Youth Unemployment Tops Policy Concerns of Southern Europe – YOUTHShare project investigates pathways to solution

The European Parliament has recently issued its regular survey on the policy concerns of the EU citizens. The Parlameter 2019, part of the Eurobarometer, reveals alarming results regarding youth unemployment and its geographical distribution among EU countries.

Unemployment is a decades long issue plaguing the civil debate and policy making in Europe. The collapse of the “post-war consensus” from the end of the 1970s has undermined certainties such as the “full employment”. The last years, however, and regardless of the economic crisis, it is youth unemployment that looms as the new threat against the economic growth; among the several reasons, the most basic one being that youth with no labour experience will most likely fail to get a permanent and meaningful job now and in the future. In that way the growing bifurcation between the well-equipped personnel and the long-term unemployment, that depends upon social support, will spiral economic recession.

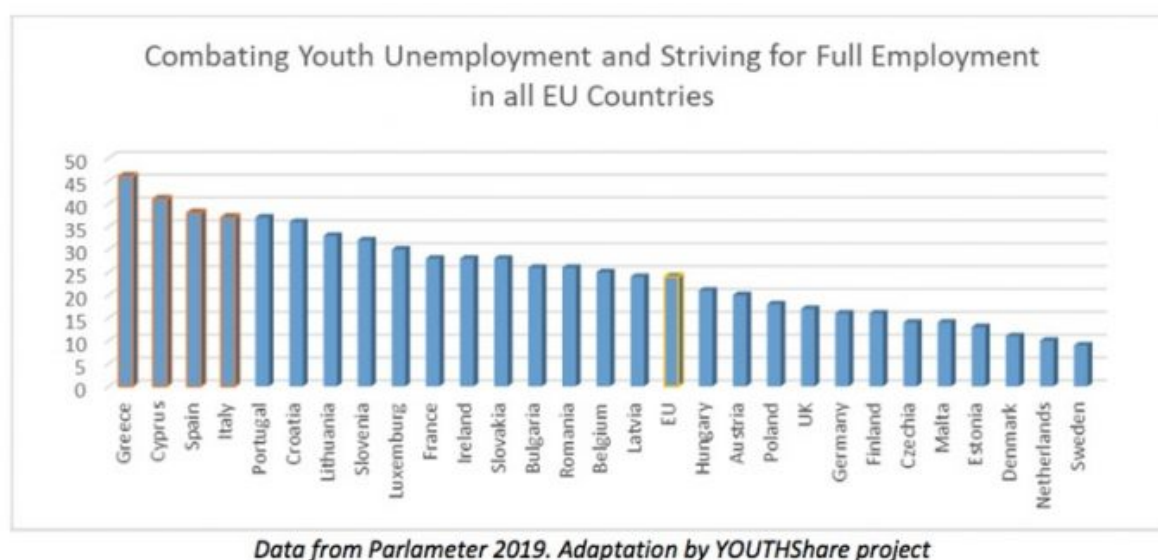
The above have been repeatedly confirmed through detailed statistical analyses and in-depth scientific research. Light has also been shed, amongst else, by the YOUTHShare project, on youth unemployment as a structural feature of Southern European economies. What is new is that youth unemployment leaves the scientific analysis and becomes a lay concern. If science has the tendency to ring early warning bells, then the fact that youth unemployment tops at the people’s policy concern translates to the high visibility and the emergency of the situation.

In its recent study on the distribution of the youth that is Not Employed, in Education or in Training (NEETs) among the Southern European countries, the YOUTHShare project has demonstrated the prevalence of this particular phenomenon. Indeed, youth unemployment with NEET characteristics appears to be a structural issue especially for the Greek, Cypriot, Italian and Spanish economies.



Credits: YOUTHShare

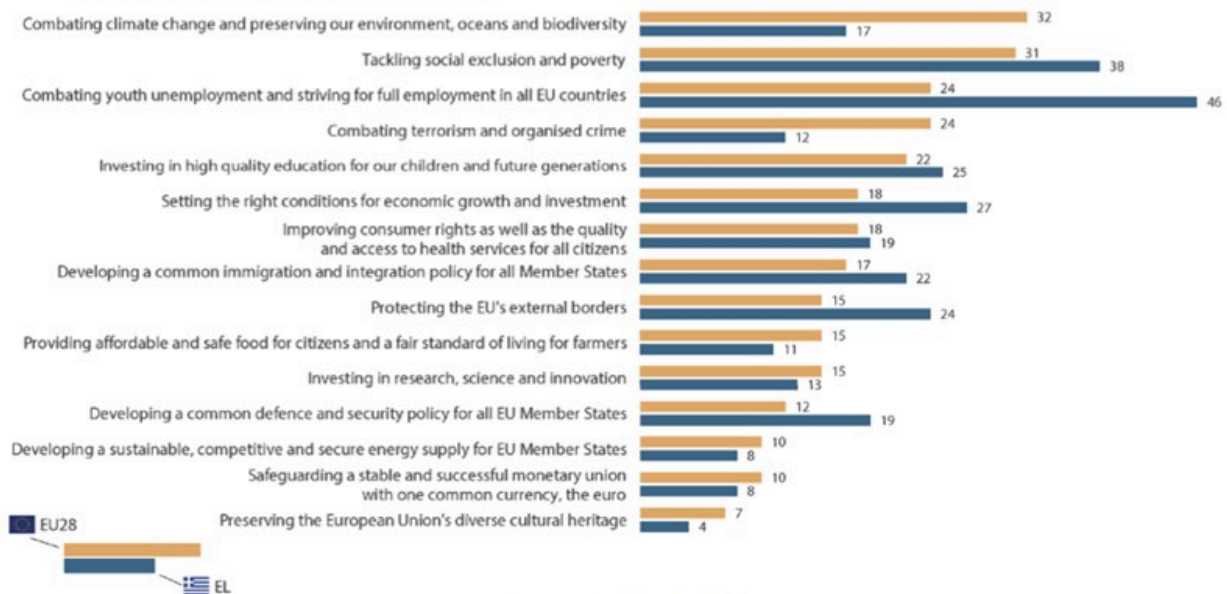
The Parlameter 2019 comes to confirm the above ascertainment, although, through the people's viewpoint. The concern "combating youth unemployment and striving for full employment in all EU countries" is the top priority in Greece, Italy and Cyprus exceeding by far the next concern "social exclusion and poverty" which is one of the most common among the rest of the EU countries. In Spain the social exclusion tops the concerns of the people with 39% of the answers followed by youth unemployment with 38%. Youth unemployment tops also the concerns in Slovakia and Croatia although in close range with other concerns.



Credits: YOUTHShare

The Ranking of Concerns of Citizens in Greece

QB5T The EP makes decisions on European legislation which directly impacts every citizen's life. In your opinion which of the following should be given priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)



Data from Parlameter 2019

Credits: YOUTHShare

The research conducted by the YOUTHShare project has demonstrated that the young NEET phenomenon is prevalent in the Southern European societies at least the last decade. The NEET population is persistently high in all study countries with uneven distribution among different regions. During the recent economic recession, the NEET rates have skyrocketed; in the post-crisis period the decreasing of the phenomenon is apparent but uneven among countries and regions. Finally, the age group 25 – 29 years old along with women and migrants are considerably more vulnerable to becoming NEETs compared to other population groups.

The people's concerns echoed by the parlametersurvey, pinpoint a new danger, that of "mainstreamisation". The effect of understanding the NEET issue not only as a structural phenomenon of the economy but also as a standard social feature in the popular mindset may lead to abatement of the pertinent concern as well as the pressure for effective policy adaptations.



Credits: YOUTHShare

The YOUTHShare project is already acting to prevent both effects. The NEETs phenomenon is put under the prism of in-depth analysis shedding light on the causes and potential methods of reversing the trend. The research staff of the project is already working on a multi-layer intervention strategy aiming in mapping the problem both in the sense of the regional concentration of NEETs but also in the sense of their social profiles. Up to date 44 long qualitative interviews with NEETs have been conducted in Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Spain. They have contributed in a better understanding of the phenomenon's social dimensions and in structuring an intervention strategy that focuses on their actual needs.

The impact of previous policy interventions countering the NEET phenomenon has been assessed with more than 70 interviews with key informants from employment organisations, social and sharing economy sectors in an attempt to form data-informed policy recommendations.

As the analysis of more statistical data and more interviews are on the way, a more detailed picture of the NEET phenomenon is gradually formed. YOUTHShare's primary goal is to make the NEET person visible to the public and to deepen the understanding that the societies of the Southern Europe are reaching an alarming state regarding their cohesion.

315 - eNEET Rural: Facilitating entrepreneurship and improving skills of NEETs living in rural areas

The project partners will offer training and preparation for two distinct groups: those with a secondary school diploma will receive entrepreneurship training, while those without a diploma will receive training that prepares them for jobs. The project will focus on innovation and technology in the agricultural sector and create a toolkit that will include various forms of training, a competition, staff exchange and mentoring.

Target groups:

- Low-skilled young people not in employment, education or training living in rural areas and registered with the public employment services, who face multiple barriers in entering the labour market.

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Bulgaria	Lead partner	Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities	NGO	Varna
Hungary	Beneficiary partner	Fruto Consulting Ltd.	Private	Budapest
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Mantuan Oltrepò Consortium	Public	Mantova
Romania	Beneficiary partner	Center for the Development of the Structural Funds	NGO	Slatina
Slovenia	Beneficiary partner	STYRIAN TECHNOLOGY PARK	Public	Pesnica pri Mariboru
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Business National Agrofood Research Technological Association Center, Extremadura	NGO	Villafranco del Guadiana
Norway	Expertise partner	Inclusion AS	Private	Asker

Hungarian stakeholders share their impression of the eNEET Rural Annual Seminar& Brokerage event held in Ljubljana, Slovenia



Credits: eNEET Rural

7 Hungarian stakeholders from agro-, youth- and employment development segment joined the eNEET Rural Hungarian mission led by Fruto Ltd to take part in the Annual Seminar& Brokerage event in Ljubljana. The event was organized within eNEET Rural project addressing the youth unemployment in rural areas. Returning from the 2-days mission we were curious to learn their take-away messages of the event.

What was the reason for your interest to attend?

Mrs Rita Tanczos (Unemployment Department of Bekes County Government Office):

The goals of the Unemployment Department of Bekes County Government (<http://bekes.munka.hu/engine.aspx?page=wbl>) are to decrease the number of unemployment in the county which covers significant rural areas in south-eastern Hungary. The particular reason of my delegation to the study visit was to seek connection with the program of the Young Farmer which Bekes County Government runs. I had no specific expectations, but rather excitement to see different approaches of handling unemployment at international level.

Mrs Gyurokne Csilla Bodi (Baranya County Business Center):

As the representative of Baranya County Business Center (www.bmvk.hu) my professional interest focused on two things: getting to know the project activities and clarifying future cooperation opportunities and tasks.

During the official events, I obtained additional information about the project, which gives our organization a more accurate picture of this very interesting initiative. One of the main target groups of our organization is the circle of agribusinesses, and one of our main goals is to support the young entrepreneurs to become entrepreneurs.

Mr Tamas Horvath (Spica Farmers' Association and Cultural Association):

As the president of the Spica Farmers' Association and Cultural Association I am interested in the project and wanted to learn more about it. Furthermore, I think the Slovenians are very good at innovation and farming. They have very good initiatives, hence I was wondering what solutions they had to the agro-industry related problems.

Mrs Melinda Kassai (Butterfly Complex Regional Development):

As an expert of Butterfly Complex Regional Development; <http://www.bffd.hu/> I attended the event upon the invitation of the Hungarian project partner, Fruto Ltd.. My expectation was that I could get to know the other participants of the project, the Hungarian partners to be involved, as well as other foreign participants with whom we maybe establish collaboration at professional level.

Mrs Tormane Ivett Hosszu and Mr Peter Torma (TP Consulting Ltd):

We attended the event after meeting Mrs Patricia Merei, Fruto Ltd who visited us and introduced eNEET Rural project, which arose our interest as we are a training provider company operating also in rural areas while focusing on vulnerable groups. Hence, we were happily say yes for the invitation to attend the event.

We arrived with the expectation to build new relationships between national and international professionals operating in similar fields.

Another expectation was that we could expand our own activities with other European Union projects, and find the opportunities that the agricultural field could offer for us.

What is your profile, what are the linking points with eNEET?

Mrs Rita Tanczos (Unemployment Department of Bekes County Government Office):

I work in the Agricultural and Rural Development Support Department of the Bekes County Government Office dealing typically with rural development and agricultural investment. Our call for support for young farmers under the Rural Development

Program has different nature in terms of grants and projects comparing to those introduced in Ljubljana, but they are similar in terms of the targeted end results.

Mrs Gyurokne Csilla Bodi (Baranya County Business Center):

I attended the conference on behalf of my organization: Baranya County Business Center. One of the main target groups of our organization is the circle of agribusinesses, and one of our main goals is to support the young entrepreneurs to become entrepreneurs.

Several elements of our activities and services are / may be related to the eNEET Rural project in the future (consultancy, training, tenders

Mr Tamas Horvath (Spica Farmers' Association and Cultural Association):

I am specialised in agriculture, rural development. My Association seeks and works on Slovenian-Hungarian projects and nurtures many farmer relations, farmer activities. We have active participation in Leader program and links with agricultural vocational training institutes which would be an asset for eNEET Rural project as well as the common activities with the Chamber of Agriculture. We are very happy to help the implementation of eNEET Rural project via our network of farmers and other shareholders who could assist the mentoring and training of NEETs with agro interest.

Mrs Melinda Kassai (Butterfly Complex Regional Development):

Butterfly Complex Regional Development (www.bffd.com) has strong competence and skilled staff on sustainable agriculture in rural areas for vulnerable people. eNEET Rural is strongly connected with our training programmes and training experience.

Mrs Tormane Ivett Hosszu and Mr Peter Torma (TP Consulting Ltd):

Our company, TP Consulting Ltd (<http://tp-consulting.hu/>) deals with adult education, language teaching and foreign language translation. As part of our adult education activities, we provide digital and other competence development training in disadvantaged employment regions among others in Somogy County region. Our accredited trainings (OKJ Master Training) are run in the cooperation with the Employment Department of job seekers.

How did you like the event? What is your take-away message?

Mrs Rita Tanczos (Unemployment Department of Bekes County Government Office):

I had a great time both in the city and at the professional event. The kindness and openness of the project participants was very positive and the developments

presented were amazing, especially the “The Sunny Paradise Estate”. As far as I can, I will share with anyone who is interested in youth development what eNEET Rural program is and will force the conclusion of the cooperation agreement with the project to utilize the synergetic operation.

Mrs Gyurokne Csilla Bodi (Baranya County Business Center):

At the professional conference, I received additional information about the project, which gave a more accurate picture of this very interesting initiative. I hope that establishing personal contacts will help the project to be effectively and successfully implemented and will also contribute to the development of activities and services of the cooperating partners.

Mr Tamas Horvath (Spica Farmers’ Association and Cultural Association):

I very much enjoyed my participation at the professionally organized event. I especially liked the video presentations of the Slovenian rural development projects, but also felt pleased to meet other Hungarian stakeholders and my two collaborative farming partners attending the event.

Mrs Melinda Kassai (Butterfly Complex Regional Development):

I find the event very useful as we got to know Hungarian participants who would otherwise be working in different parts of the country.

The same for foreign project partners whom we could exchange words and learn about the practices of organizations working on the same domain in other countries at

I liked the large-scale ‘local product’ exhibition which was attended not only by exhibitors from Ljubljana or even Slovenia, but also from Croatia and Serbia. It was impressing to see the high quality of Slovenians products and their openness for organic (natural, chemical-free) cultivation and consumption.

Mrs Tormane Ivett Hosszu and Mr Peter Torma (TP Consulting Ltd):

The participants shared good practices and experiences at regional level.

During the event, it was clear that the international participants of the project took the task seriously, and many young people were reached, involved and encouraged to start their independent activity. They were also stimulated to build a team and create a community.

What I liked the most was the enthusiasm and coordination of the speakers and the appreciation of each other and their international experience.



Credits: eNEET Rural

Is there any future collaboration with the project?

Mrs Rita Tanczos (Unemployment Department of Bekes County Government Office):

Bekes County Government Office intends to promote eNEET Rural project by circulating the project flyers. Further, it will invite Fruto Ltd as project partner and communication manager of the project to attend the relevant events of the Office and introduce it to the target group of unemployed young people. The Office plans to deliver human development services on the trainings to be run by Fruto to the target group.

Mrs Gyurokne Csilla Bodi (Baranya County Business Center):

It was especially useful for me to be able to have a glimpse at an agro expo with a profile similar to the farmers' days held yearly in Szentlorinc, Hungary which our organization co-organise. Both events provide opportunities for exhibitions and fairs of local handicraft products. We trust that the newly established links with the Slovenian counter-partners will aid organising our event in August 2020. We also

deem that we can generate new projects with the stakeholders we got to know during the study visit in Ljubljana!

Mr Tamas Horvath (Spica Farmers' Association and Cultural Association):

Beyond the cooperation agreement we concluded with Fruto Ltd on the project related activities (contribution to the trainings, hosting and mentoring the NEETs, disseminating the project and its results) I see numerous opportunities for cooperation beyond eNEET Rural project. We can certainly help each other out in our daily operation and we can work out the potential of Sector Training Centers.

Mrs Melinda Kassai (Butterfly Complex Regional Development):

Having concluded a cooperation agreement with Fruto Ltd, we will mainly play role in the implementation of trainings.

Mrs Tormane Ivett Hosszu and Mr Peter Torma (TP Consulting Ltd):

For the sake of agricultural and other training opportunities, we would like to join the eNEET project.



Credits: eNEET Rural

314 - Scaling trust-based partnership models to recharge youth entrepreneurship: Supporting underserved communities with innovative entrepreneurship support instruments (TPM-RYE)

The project partners will test a trust-based partnership model and provide direct business development services to young people in the four beneficiary countries. After testing, the model will be improved, and external funding will be applied to scale it up. The project partners will write and publish a research report with data and evidence and prepare a transnational methodology guide.

Target groups:

- Youth (25-30) who will benefit from dedicated, highly specialised financial and non-financial business development services
- Organisations who will use the knowledge base of what works, where and why

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	Agricultural University of Athens – Research Committee	Public	Athens
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Development Agency of Karditsa S.A Anka Anaptyxia-ki Karditsas Anaptyxiaki Anonimi Etairia O.T.A	Public	Karditsa
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Microfinanza S.R.L.	Limited Liability Co	Vicenza
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Foundation Technologic Incubator – YBP	Foundation	Warsaw
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Autoocupació	Foundation	Barcelona
Germany	Expertise partner	Munich Business School	Private	Munich

Germany	Expertise partner	KIZ SINNOVA Company for Social Innovation gGmbH	Limited Liability Co	Offenbach am Main
United Kingdom	Expertise partner	Youth Business International – YBI	Charity	London

294 - Direction Employment

By uniting partners from different sectors – NGOs, universities, companies – from the participating countries, who have a proven track-record of working for the social and labour market inclusion of young people from highly marginalised minorities, the project will create and test an educational model with an experimental and innovative curriculum, establish a mobile classroom model to train trainers at regional level and apply assessment tools that will demonstrate the impact of the methodology on the participants as well as on their close environment (extended family, peer group, etc.) and on employers.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training, suffering from multiple discrimination; Employers

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Bulgaria	Lead partner	Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation – WCIF	NGO	Sofia
	Beneficiary partner	SKUC Association	Public	
Ireland	Beneficiary partner	DMC-Metrix	Private	Dublin
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Lai-momo soc. coop. soc.	Social Coop.	Sasso Marconi
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Lithuanian Gay League	NGO	Vilnius
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Porto Accounting and Business School	Public	São Mamede de Infesta
Slovenia	Beneficiary partner	Andragoski zavod Ljudska univerza Velenje	Public	Velenje

285 - NEETs' Empowerment for Sustainable Employment in the Tourism sector (NESET)

By working together on a large-scale transnational basis, through innovative and experimental activities, the project partners will create better conditions for young people's employment in alternative tourism. The youths will receive training in tourism-related and social skills through an e-Support platform and job placements across the project countries. The result of the project will be increased opportunities for successful start-ups in the (alternative) tourism sector.

Target groups:

- 25-29-year-old people not in employment, education or training in the 7 beneficiary countries (incl. long-term unemployed, low-skilled and discouraged young people)
- End beneficiaries include all unemployed young people in the 7 beneficiary countries, who are planning a sustainable career in tourism.

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Bulgaria	Lead partner	Varna Chamber of Commerce and Industry	NGO	Varna
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Cluster for IT Support to the Black Sea Touristic Business	NGO	Burgas
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Tora Consult Ltd.	Private	Sofia
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	NGO ECHO	NGO	Zagreb
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	Local Development Agency of the city of Velika Gorica – VE-GO-RA	Public	Velika Gorica
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Enoros Consulting Ltd	Private	Nicosia

Greece	Beneficiary partner	SARONIS S.A. – Former Vocational Training Center Attiki S.A.	Private	Salamina
Italy	Beneficiary partner	TUCEP – Tiber Umbria Comett Education Programme	NGO	Perugia
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Umbria Legislative Assembly	Public	Perugia
Portugal (2)	Beneficiary partner	APSU – Portuguese Association of Start-ups and Dialogue Diversity	NGO private and	Aspinho and Oliveirinha
Romania	Beneficiary partner	Geo Club Association	NGO	Corbeanca
Iceland	Expertise partner	Einurd Ltd.	Private	Reykjavik
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Dialogue Diversity	Private	Oliveirinha

277 - Mommypreneurs

This project will empower 1050 young mothers by training them in eCommerce and web design to make them more attractive in the labour market or supporting their entrepreneurship skills to make them able to start their own businesses. As young mothers' employment is a culturally sensitive topic, transnational cooperation is essential to develop a well-rounded universal solution that can be tried out in different national contexts.

Target groups:

- 1050 young mothers in 7 countries

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Lithuania	Lead partner	Startup Division	NGO	Vilnius
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Kalys Solutions LTD	Private	Nicosia
Italy	Beneficiary partner	PoliHub, Startup District and Incubator	Private	Milan
Poland	Beneficiary partner	University of Łódź	Public	Łódź
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Madan Parqu	NGO	Caparcia
Romania	Beneficiary partner	University Stefan cel Mare of Suceava	Public	Suceava
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Technical University of Cartagena – Cloud Incubator HUB – UPCT	Public	Cartagena
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Independent Local Agency for the Economic Development of Talavera de la Reina – IPETA	Public	Talavera de la Reina

Spain	Beneficiary partner	Independent Local Agency for the Economic Development of Talavera de la Reina (IPETA)	Public	Castilla La Mancha
Poland	Beneficiary partner	LODZKIE REGION	Public	Lodz

Second Road Event in Poland

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:30-10:00	Registration of participants
10:00-10:15	Opening of conference
10:15-11:00	“Market Qualifications and Their Role in Lifelong Learning” by Dorota Nawrat-Wyras , Martyna Kruszyńska , Regional Advisors of the Łódź Voivodeship ZSK Team
11:00-11:45	“New pathway to qualifications – validation” by Dorota Nawrat-Wyras , Martyna Kruszyńska , Regional Advisors of the Łódź Voivodeship ZSK Team
11:45-12:30	“Women in the labour market – blocked competences” by Aleksandra Piekarska, HR expert, Faculty of Economics and Sociology, University of Lodz, expert of “Mommypreneurs project”
12:30-13:00	Lunch
13:00-13:45	Blue Economy” by Justyna Germanek – Foundation for the Development of the Entrepreneurial Society
13:45-14:30	“Opportunities and threats of mothers’ return to the labour market” Presentation of the idea of the Mommypreneurs project by Dr Julita Czernecka, Faculty of Economics and Sociology, University of Lodz, expert of “Mommypreneurs project”
14:30-15:00	Summary

The meeting took place in the Information and Career Planning Centre of the Voivodeship Labour Office in Łódź, at Wólczańska 49 building A, room 006. Within the framework of the “Mommypreneurs” project, the Faculty of Economics and Sociology established very close cooperation. The meeting was addressed to career advisers from all over the Łódź Province. There were about 50 people at the meeting. The whole conference was devoted to competences in the labour market. There were two speeches of our experts.

During her speech, Dr Julita Czernecka presented the assumptions of the project and the target group, as well as the results of her own research on the situation of women in the labour market. In turn, the second expert, Aleksandra Piekarska, presented the results of research on the competence of women employees.



Credits: Mommypreneurs

Mommypreneurs networking event

TIME	ACTIVITY
18:00	Event opening, welcome drinks
18:05	‘Mommypreneurs’ project presentation
18:20	Key speaker Justè Pakénaité-Dailydké ‘Motivation’
18:40	Panel discussion with digital skills course participants and lecturers
19:10	Pitching: business ideas presented by entrepreneurship skills course participants
19:40	Awarding the certificates, closing

Purpose:

1. Increase the awareness of the project.
2. Attract more participants to join other batches of the project.
3. Celebrate the end of the first ‘Mommypreneurs’ batch.

Objective:

1. Introduce the ‘Mommypreneurs’ project program and attract participants, lecturers and mentors to join it.
2. Show real examples of mothers who graduated from the first batch of the courses, introduce their success stories and challenges they faced.
3. Award the certificates to the participants.

There were 98 participants registered on eventbrite.com and 78 of them attended the networking event. Some of the mothers attended the event with their children, however free childcare services were provided to the attendees.

There were four main activities:

1. ‘Startup Division’ presented ‘Mommypreneurs’ project.
2. Panel discussion with digital skills course participants and lecturers (‘Code Academy’).
3. Pitching business ideas (entrepreneurship skills course participants).
4. Awarding the certificates.



Credits: Mommypreneurs



Credits: Mommypreneurs

Mommypreneurs Lithuania Roadshow event in Kaunas



Credits: Mommypreneurs

DATE

10th of January, 2020

EVENT AGENDA

11:00 – 11:30: Mommypreneurs' project presentation

11:30 – 13:00: 'Careers workshop' by CodeAcademy: Creating LinkedIn profile and CV

SUMMARY OF THE EVENT

DATE AND VENUE: 10th of January, 2020. CodeAcademy, Laisvės av. 51A, Kaunas, Lithuania

THE PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

- Increase the awareness of the project.
- Attract more participants to join other batches of the project.
- Provide mothers with useful knowledge and practical tips on how to create a

CV and a LinkedIn profile.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

- Introduce the ‘Mommypreneurs’ project program and attract participants to join it.
- Answer any questions from the registered applicants.
- Provide useful knowledge and skills on how to create an attractive LinkedIn profile and CV, show real life examples.

There were 36 participants registered on eventbrite.com and 20 of them attended the networking event. The event was also streamed live on Instagram.

There were two main activities:

1. ‘Startup Division’ presented ‘Mommypreneurs’ project.
2. Careers workshop delivered by ‘CodeAcademy’ (digital skills training provider).

263 - Blue Generation Project

The project partners would like to inspire and engage youth between 15 and 29 to pursue a career in the Blue Economy. This will be done by bringing together experts from the Blue Economy and youth organisations to share knowledge about training opportunities and vacant jobs. A training programme will be developed for young mentors who will promote the sector to 39,000 young people in schools, adult education centres, NGOs, unemployment services and local associations across five countries. At least 2,000 young people will get access to training and mentoring. The project partners will also create a Blue Economy guide and a job platform.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
- Youth at risk of becoming NEETs

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	Militos Consulting SA	Private	Athens
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Active Bulgarian Society	NGO	Blagoevgrad
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Enterprising Society Development Foundation	NGO	Wola
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	European Intercultural Club	NGO	Amadora
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	CONTEXOS	NGO	Faro
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Sea Teach	Private	Cala D'or

Belgium	Expertise partner	Sea Europe		NGO	Brussels
Belgium	Expertise partner	European Boating Industry		NGO	Brussels
Germany	Expertise partner	SubMariner Network		Non-profit	Berlin
Iceland	Expertise partner	Iceland Association	Aquaculture	NGO	Reykjavik
Norway	Expertise partner	Norwea		NGO	Oslo

Find out what the sea has to offer

1st National Seminar in Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal and Poland in the frame of the BlueGeneration project

1st National Seminar in Spain | 19 November 2019

On the 19th of November, our beneficiary partner SeaTeach organized the first National Seminar for the BlueGeneration Project in Centre in Spain. We gathered representants from local employment agencies and social organizations that work with NEETs one hand. On the other hand, we gathered companies representing the nautical sector in Mallorca. It was a successful event where representatives from the employment agency for the Balearic Island presented the status of the Job Market for youth on the islands and opportunities in the Blue Economy. There was a round table to talk about training and work opportunities and some examples of successful young people working in the maritime sector. The overall feedback was positive, the participants were really interested, and it helped to create a network of social institutions and organization that work with NEETs and the maritime sector.



Credits: Blue Generation Project

1st National Seminar in Poland | 19 November 2019

Another conference was held on 19th of November 2019 at the Center for Non-Governmental Organizations on behalf of the beneficiary partner FRSP in Katowice. It was attended by 20 people from 10 different institutions that cooperate with young people and unemployed people. During the conference, the basic issues related to the project (its objectives, activities, plans for the future) were discussed and then the results of the previous promotional meetings held in Silesia were presented. Then there was a discussion and questions from the participants. The panel concerning the Blue Generation project was a part of the conference "Open Door to Success - International Projects - an Opportunity for Youth".



Credits: Blue Generation Project

1st National Seminar in Portugal | 26 November 2019

On the 26th November, Clube Intercultural Europeu organized the 1st BGP national seminar in Lisbon with 102 participants. The seminar made part of an event organized by Rede EFE, an employability network of which Clube is part. The event was called "Out of the box – employability tools" and had the objective of providing moments of sharing and dissemination of instruments, methodologies, tools, among technicians who work in the field of training and employment. This meeting aimed to create an opportunity to dedicate ourselves to sharing the "way" we work with the target audiences, enhancing the resources used by all those involved in the area of employability.

Doing the seminar in the context of a larger employability event allowed us to get to more people, specially education technicians and organizations that work in the field. Showing this project as a tool for employability has an important impact because people get interested in knowing more and see the Blue Generation project as a

resource with whom they can work and find responses for the young people with whom they work, mentioned the representatives of the Clube Intercultural Europeu at the end of the seminar.



Credits: Blue Generation Project

1st National Seminar in Bulgaria | 12 December 2019

On December 12, Active Bulgarian Society organized the First National Seminar in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. During the seminar, BlueGeneration coordinators presented the idea of the project, its goals and target groups, what has been done so far, and how local organizations can get involved.



Credits: Blue Generation Project

There was an interest among local authorities, high-school principals, youth and social workers, teachers, etc. to attend the meeting and be involved in the next steps of the project. We are happy to see the active participation of all of them and look forward to organizing the next year's National Seminar. Last but not least, we were invited in the biggest regional Radio - BNR to present the National Seminar organized by ABS in Blagoevgrad, and the scope of the Blue Generation Project funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants fund for Youth Employment.

218 - Social Innovators

The project partners will focus on the non-governmental sector as an attractive working and learning environment for young people. In NGOs, young people will gather work experience and become involved in some of the most relevant initiatives and programmes dealing with social challenges in Europe today. As a result, the participants will be supported to create their own jobs within the social sector, where their educational background is essential for further development.

Target groups:

- Young people graduated from social studies and the humanities who are not in employment, education or training

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Slovenia	Lead partner	Association for Culture and Education PiNA	NGO	Koper
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	National Management School	NGO	Sofia
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	Youth Initiative for Human Rights	NGO	Zagreb
Norway	Expertise partner	Østfold University College	Public	Halden

YIHR.hub launches



Credits: Social Innovators

The YIHR.hub at Đorđićeva 8a (Zagreb), a new space dedicated for civil society organisations, informal citizen initiatives and others free of charge was officially launched on **November 28**.

The celebration was twofold: together with the hub opening, the Youth Initiative for Human Rights also celebrated its 11th birthday. More than 100 CSOs, media, and college staff and students attended the event. The report from the event (in Croatian) in Novosti journal can be read [here](#). The hub opening and the Social Innovators project was also covered on a radio show on Yammatt (in Croatian – listen to it [here](#)).

The YIHR.hub opening started with the Social Innovators project presentation. The presentation also included a short overview of other project activities complementary to the hub such as the CSO Apprenticeship model and a new educational programme focused on the topic of social innovation. After the Social Innovators project presentations, the Youth Initiative for Human Rights hosted a panel “Deconstruction of Social Innovations – the return of the underrated!”, moderated by Nikola Puharić. The panelists were Gabrijela Ivanov (K-zona, FierceWomen), Tena Šojer Keser (Netokracija), and Eugen Vuković (Zelena akcija, Biciklopopravljaona). The panelists shared their formative experiences in civil society organisations and the IT sector, discussed the potential for social innovations, and shared their perspective on activities planned within the Social Innovators project.

The dinner was followed by the music programme performed by the Domaćigosti choir, which served as an opening for the Initiative's birthday celebration. The Youth Initiative for Human Rights thanks to all our associates, friends, supporters and volunteers, as well as all others who attended the event.

Follow the YIHR.hub events and other Social Innovators activities on [Social Innovators – Croatia Facebook page.](#)

203 - Yenesys – YOUTH EMPLOYMENT NETWORK FOR ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY IN ISLANDS

The project partners will cooperate and share information on how to create green jobs within the energy sector, renewables, mobility, and tourism. Young people will be supported and prepared for employment in these green jobs via training, business development, mentoring and work exchanges. Participants will get experience with internships in local projects.

Target groups:

- Young professionals age 25- 29 who are not in employment, education or training
- Human resource development agencies, productivity centres, business support organisations and education- al institutions

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Cyprus	Lead partner	Cyprus Energy Agency	NGO	Nicosia
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	The International Centre for Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems – SDEWES	NGO	Zagreb
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Frederick University	Private	Nicosia
Cyprus	Beneficiary partner	Chrysalis LEAP Limited	Private	Nicosia
Estonia	Beneficiary partner	Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre	NGO	Tallinn
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Network of Sustainable Greek Islands – DAFNI Network	NGO	Athens

Italy	Beneficiary partner	Sapienza University of Rome - Department of Astronautical, Electrical and Energy Engineering	Public	Rome
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Regional Agency for Energy and Environment of the Autonomous Region of Madeira	NGO	Funchal
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Canary Islands Institute of Technology	Private	Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
Norway	Expertise partner	Møre and Romsdal County Authority	Public	Molde

192 - From Outdoors to Labour Market

The project will examine the University of Edinburgh's "Model for social and personal growth through Outdoor Learning" and test whether it will help young people in Warmia-Masuria (Poland), Cantabria (Spain) and the Mid-West Region (Ireland) to engage in society, become active citizens and acquire professional skills. Expertise partners from the UK will be involved to train the trainers of outdoor learning. The model will help participants recognise their own strengths and talents, build self-esteem, provide career advice and prepare for job-seeking. Job matching with employers and mentoring will also be offered.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training in Warmia-Masuria (Poland), Cantabria (Spain) and the Mid West Region (Ireland)

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Poland	Lead partner	Center for Innovative Education	NGO	Warsaw
Ireland	Beneficiary partner	Limerick Institute of Technology	Public	Limerick
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Food Bank in Olsztyn	Non-profit	Olsztyn
Spain	Beneficiary partner	General Directorate for Youth and International Co- operation – Council for Education, Culture and Sport – Autonomous Government of Cantabria	Public	Santander
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Femxa Group	Private	Pontevedra

UK	Expertise partner	Outdoor & Environmental Education Moray House School of Education University of Edinburgh	NGO	Edinburgh
UK	Expertise partner	The Venture Trust	NGO	Edinburgh
Ireland	Beneficiary partner	ULS Universal Learning Systems	Private	Dublin

186 - Migrant Talent Garden

The project partners will study what is being done on entrepreneurship support in Europe today and create a business support network and training programme. In addition, they will set up an online platform and local centres to support and train young entrepreneurs with migrant background. This will help migrants develop their own business ideas and create new jobs.

Target groups:

- Young entrepreneurs of migrant background; Asylum-seekers

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution		Type of institution	City
Lithuania	Lead partner	Active Youth Association		NGO	Kaunas
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Hemus Technologies		Private	Sofia
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	Zagreb Incubator	Entrepreneurship	NGO	Zagreb
Greece	Beneficiary partner	European Institute for Local Development		Private	Thessaloniki
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Shelter Safe House		NGO	Riga
Iceland	Expertise partner	Reykjavik Red Cross		NGO	Reykjavik
Norway	Expertise partner	Caritas Norway		NGO	Oslo
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Baltic Arab Chamber of Commerce		NGO	Riga

152 - Individual Placement and Support for NEETs through Education Youth Technology Platform (EYTP)

The project partners will improve the counselling competence in their countries through combining a two-step model consisting of the Maturing Model (MM) and Individual Placement and Support (IPS) from Norway. In combination with an Education Youth Technology Platform (EYTP), young people will get support towards vocational education or a permanent job. MM consist of an individual coaching period, which will be used for motivation and preparation for the more formal counselling work using the systematic IPS model.

Target groups:

- Coaches providing counselling
- Young people not in employment, education or training

Project Partners:

Country	Project status	partner	Institution	Type institution	of	City
Slovenia	Lead partner		Public University of Ptuj	Public		Ptuj
Hungary	Beneficiary partner		Interregio Association	Forum	NGO	Budapest
Romania	Beneficiary partner		Asociatia EIVA		NGO	Arad
Spain	Beneficiary partner		Tesla Technologies & Software S.L	Private		Santiago de Compostela
Norway	Expertise partner		Fønix AS		Non-profit	Sandefjord

The actual work can be started now!

Updated IPS4NEETs trainings were held in Slovenia, Budapest and Romania

All 60 Slovenian, Hungarian and Romanian youth advisers and counsellors working with NEETs were gathered again, to deepen their knowledge on IPS method and gain practical experiences on the use of the application developed by Tesla Technologies. The trainings were all held in November 2019 in two parts. In the first part, experts from Tesla presented the structure of the application which is a complex and project-specific tool for following-up and reporting on the status of the involved NEETs. Participants got hands-on knowledge on the use of the different sections and tools of the platform and learned step by step the process of NEET registration. In the second part, experts from Fønix held an updated training on IPS method. Transfer of Norwegian best practices and tools concerning youth employment to Hungarian, Slovenian and Romanian context was again on the agenda as the main topic of group-level discussions. By mastering the method in their daily work, participants can expand the range of their services and provide effective support to young people who approach them. With the newly acquired knowledge the real work begins now! Stay tuned for further information on the project development!

Let's start finding NEETs a job with a successful IPS method!



Credits: EYTP

IPS4NEETs project has been active since September 2018. What have we done so far? Where did the project take us?

After a year of planning, developing, training and educating, our 60 coaches from Romania, Slovenia and Hungary are ready to use the successful IPS method supported by a new developed application! All 60 youth advisers and counsellors working with NEETs were gathered through the year in three long trainings to receive knowledge on a Norway IPS method presented by our Norway partner Fønix and to gain practical experiences on the use of the application developed by our Spanish partner Tesla Technologies.

Experts from Tesla Technologies developed the application which is a complex and project-specific tool for following-up and reporting on the status of the involved NEETs. 60 coaches got hands-on knowledge on the use of the different sections and tools of the platform and learned step by step the process of NEET registration.

Experts from Fønix created learning materials on how to use the IPS method and held three trainings about their successful method. Transfer of Norwegian best practices and tools concerning youth employment to Hungarian, Slovenian and Romanian context was the main topic in all training of group-level discussions. By mastering the method in their daily work, all 60 participants can expand the range of their services and provide effective support to young people who approach them. With the newly acquired knowledge the real work begins now! Stay tuned for further information on the project development!

134 - DARE – Day One Alliance for Employment

The Partners from Poland, Lithuania and Austria will share their work on these topics and support the establishment of Job Labs and Entrepreneurship Labs that will help 1400 young people into education or a job. The project will also establish systems for validation of non-formal learning. The aim is to draw experience from the Youthpass certificate but extend its impact in terms of target groups, scope, and level of innovation.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training in Greece, Italy, Portugal and Cyprus
- Employers who would like to test a system for validation of non-formal learning

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Cyprus	Lead partner	SEAL CYPRUS – Cyprus Organisation for Sustainable Education & Active Learning	NGO	Nicosia
Greece	Beneficiary partner	N.G.O. CIVIS PLUS	NGO	Athens
Greece	Beneficiary partner	PRAKSIS – Programs of Development, Social Support and Medical Cooperation	NGO	Athens
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Craftsmanship & SMEs Association / Confartigianato Imprese Salerno	NGO	Salerno
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Lithuanian Association of Non-formal Education	NGO	Vilnius

Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Youth Career and Advising Center	NGO	Kaunas
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Lodz Chamber of Industry and Commerce	Chamber of commerce	Lodz
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	Ha Moment, CRL	NGO	Lisbon
Austria	Expertise partner	IFTE Initiative for Teaching Entrepreneurship	NGO	Vienna
Austria	Expertise partner	Austrian Federal Economic Chamber	Public	Vienna
Portugal	Beneficiary partner	PAR – Respostas Sociais	NGO	Lisbon

101 - European Digital Bootcamps (EDIBO)

The project partners will develop and test a model to strengthen the ICT skills of young people under 30 who are not in employment, education or training. The model is inspired by the new “Rapid Technology Skills Training” developed by the World Bank and includes close cooperation with employers. Every partner of the project will organise “European digital training labs”, with ten weeks of intensive ICT training combined with other types of training like English language courses. After the training phase, participants will have the opportunity to get an apprenticeship.

Target groups:

- Young people under the age of 30 who are not studying or working, with a special focus on those aged 25-29 from disadvantaged groups (low-income, women, migrants, youngsters from rural areas)

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	THREE THIRDS SOCIETY NPO	NGO	Athens
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Institute for Youth Initiatives and Innovations	NGO	Varna
Italy	Beneficiary partner	National Craftsmen Confederation Lecce – CNA Lecce	NGO	Lecce
Italy	Beneficiary partner	FORMA.LAB SRL	Private	Milan
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Foundation for Society	NGO	Riga
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Integration Centre	NGO	Pilviškiai
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Polytechnic University of Valencia	Public	Valencia

The 1st EDIBO Bootcamp in Bulgaria started on 14.01.2020!

The Institute for Youth Initiatives and Innovation (IYII) has launched its first EDIBO Bootcamp on 14th of January at the International College in Dobrich. In a specially equipped hall, enrolled young people up to 29 who are not studying and not currently working (NEETs) will have the opportunity, within 200 hours, to acquire the necessary computer skills to start their own businesses or to start working in an existing company. The training will be conducted in two phases. In the first phase, students will attend theoretical classes, and in the second phase, the best students will have the opportunity to intern at an IT sponsor company.

The aim of the first phase is to improve not only technical knowledge but also to enhance English and soft skills such as group work and entrepreneurship. With regard to the second phase, the aim is the students to participate in real projects in real IT companies to enhance their experience, self-esteem and eventually getting a job.

The training in Dobrich started by completing an online questionnaires by NEETs in order to help EDIBO trainers to clarify the students' level of readiness, to tailor lessons and hands-on activities to the specific audience, as well as creating a profile in the Google Classroom Educational Platform that will be used by lecturers throughout the whole training. Google Classroom is an online based software that enables students to take advantage of the multimedia content published by EDIBO trainers, and to solve tests and tasks online and to check them quickly and efficiently.

The Digital Skills training courses are organized under the project EDIBO (European Digital Bootcamps), funded by the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment.

The Institute for Youth Initiatives and Innovation, as a national partner for Bulgaria, will organize a total of 6 training courses by the end of September 2021.

More information about the course syllabus, how to apply and the necessary documents can be found on the IYII website (www.youthvarna.eu/novini/post/-edibo-2) or contact directly the EDIBO team youth_institute@abv.bg.

094 - Young-ICT Women: Innovative solutions to increase the numbers of EU vulnerable girls and young women into the digital agenda

The project partners will motivate young women in seven European countries to improve their digital competence and choose a career within ICT. They will investigate the ICT skills of 1000 women and train 700 of them together with employers. The women will develop a 'learning to learn' attitude, a sense of initiative, and the social skills necessary to find a job.

Target groups:

- Unemployed young women
- Women without targeted education of profession
- Women in/after maternity leave
- Women in rural disadvantaged areas, coming from low income/disadvantaged families

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Latvia	Lead partner	Latvian Information and Communication Technology association	NGO	Riga
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Creative Thinking Development – CRETHIDEV	NGO	Rafina
Ireland	Beneficiary partner	ECDL Ireland Ltd.	Private	Dublin
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	Baltic Education Technology Institute	Private	Vilnius
Malta	Beneficiary partner	Malta Communications Authority	Public	Floriana

Romania	Beneficiary partner	Educating for an Open Society	Private non-profit	Timisoara
Spain	Beneficiary partner	FUNDACIÓN INTERNACIONAL	PLAN NGO	Madrid
Belgium	Expertise partner	DIGITALEUROPE aisbl	NGO	Brussels
Norway	Expertise partner	European Centre for Women and Technology – ECWT	NGO	Drammen

086 - L.I.K.E. – Life Investment is the Key to Employment

The project partners will do a study on young people with mental health problems and develop new methods to help this group get an education and a job. The project partners will work together with their families, employers and mental health institutions. They will establish youth houses called 'Hidden Likes' in which the youngsters will experience a supportive environment. By overcoming isolation and increase their motivation, they will get a mentor to help them in their training for local jobs.

Target groups:

- Long-term unemployed young people aged 25-29 with mental health problems
- Roma and other minority groups
- Relatives and families of young people with mental health problems
- Local employers
- Mental health specialists

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Bulgaria	Lead partner	Association "Sustainability and of progressive communication"	NGO	Sofia
Hungary	Beneficiary partner	Salva Vita Foundation	NGO	Budapest
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Codici Social Cooperative	Social Cooperative	Milan
Latvia	Beneficiary partner	Association PINS	NGO	Riga
Iceland	Expertise partner	Inspiring NGO (Hbetjandi NGO) HRIS	NGO	Garðabær

Norway	Expertise partner	Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Concurrent Sub-stance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders	Public	Brumundal
Hungary	Beneficiary partner	JOB Ltd.	Private	Budapest

First Conference "Mental Health and NEET`s" in Bulgaria

On December 12, 2019, the Conference "Mental Health and NEET`s" was held, which presented the first data from the study on mental health of young people who do not work and study, as well as focus groups with employers and in-depth interviews with relatives and families of young people. The Conference was attended by representatives of state institutions, NGOs and professionals in the field of mental health care.

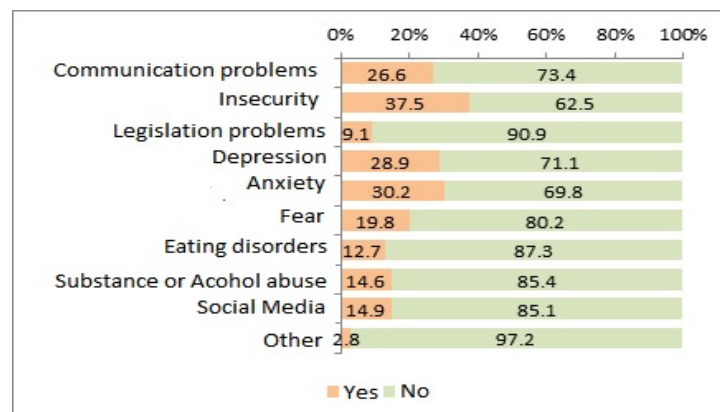
The LIKE project examines the growing proportion of young people between 15 and 29 years of age, with mental health problems, who do not work or study. The survey was conducted in the period from 20th of July to 20th of September 2019 on a representative sample of the population in the country of 726 respondents among the capital, district cities, as well as in regional small towns and villages in Bulgaria.

The field survey was conducted with a questionnaire that included a demographic section and specific questions related to lifestyle, employment status, psychological attitudes, family relationships, environment, sources of information, health, and more. The information provided in the study will help to offer opportunities for active inclusion in employment and greater participation of young people in society.

The highest percentages are those with secondary education - 47.8 %. They were followed by the higher education holders - 29.5 %, primary - 17.1 % and with 4 % with initial. 1.7 % have no education. The largest part of the target group has completed secondary education - about half of those surveyed, and about 1/3 are university graduates. A huge part of unemployed young people who are not engaged in training are educated and are still outside the labor market.

Psychological Characteristics

On the question of the nature of personal problems, the highest percentage (37.5%) answered "uncertainty". Psychiatric disorders like depression and anxiety hold a significant proportion - about 30% for each of these disorders. If nutritional disorders and addictions are added, a significant proportion of mental health problems will emerge, which also explains the leading feeling of insecurity as a cause of personal problems.



Credits: LIKE

Family

Half of the respondents – 49 % of young people between 15 and 29 years of age live with their parents. The lack of sufficient financial resources to meet the daily needs forces young people to delay parental separation. As other studies show, poverty in children and young people is directly dependent on parental poverty - the so-called 'Intergenerational poverty' or 'intergenerational poverty inheritance'.

Conclusions and discussion of the received data

The results of the research are framing a specific profile of the target group. The analysis of data shows the reasons for social maladaptation which can be observed in the group, are mainly lack of motivation for an active life, integration into the social environment and personal development. This lack of motivation is caused by complex reasons which outline the psychological profile of a young man, without ambition reconciled with the financial state in which he is, with intentions for activity in the future. Most of these young people live with their parents, which impacts their social life. Their world is more or less closed, confined in the family and close environment of peers (probably in the same situation as themselves). Their horizons of dreams and interests are relatively limited. The sources of information do not extend beyond the environment in which they live, and hence limit their interests and intentions for the future.

The causes of this condition are complex, but a large part of them is due to some psychological distress from the range of anxiety disorders and moderate depressive states. Increasing the unemployment period increases the likelihood of using substance or alcohol. If the young people who are unemployed under 1 year of age, are one in ten substance users, those who have been unemployed for between one and five years or more than five years are already two out of ten. Lack of work and social environment leads to a closure in a virtual reality world. Each one out of ten young people who neither study nor work, recognizes their dependence on the Internet and social networks as a personal problem.

In conclusion, the problems of young people that emerge from this study are primarily psychological and cultural. Socio-economic factors and health status are rather secondary phenomena, although their interaction in the course of one's career is essential. This raises the question of interventions that focus mainly on the upbringing and education of these young people, as well as impact on the family environment, which, although supportive, prove incapable of overcoming the basic passivity and lack of life motivation of these people. Creating a motivating social environment will be a key factor in overcoming and breaking the vicious circles created in the majority of young people surveyed. In this sense, the objectives set by the project as well as the provided interventions are completely in line with the findings of the research phase and could be expected to be adequate and effective.

083 - NEETs in entrepreneurship

The project partners from Romania, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain will reach out to young people that are not enrolled in education, do not have a job and do not take part in society. They will support and train them in small family businesses, so they can be motivated to create their own jobs in the local community. The project partners will use their own experiences at the local level and a methodological approach to business developed by the Junior Achievement across Europe.

Target groups:

- The hard-to-reach
- The low-skilled
- The long-term unemployed
- National authorities
- The Junior Achievement network in 35 countries

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Romania	Lead partner	Junior Achievement Romania	NGO	Bucharest
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Junior Achievement Bulgaria	NGO	Sofia
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Junior Achievement Italy – Young Enterprise	Non-profit	Sesto San Giovanni
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Junior Achievement Spain	NGO	Madrid
Belgium	Beneficiary partner	Junior Achievement Europe	NGO	Brussels
Norway	Expertise partner	Junior Achievement Norway	NGO	Oslo
Norway	Expertise partner	Lyk-z & daughters AS	Social entrepreneur	Skien

JA national organizations prepare for a better future young people through the first trainings, using Norwegian FROG method

This autumn (end of October – end of November 2019), JA Bulgaria, JA Italy and JA Romania delivered, at local level (in Milan, Bucharest, Sofia), the first pilot training sessions, as part of the **NEETs in Entrepreneurship Project**, funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment.

During the sessions, the trainers used the Norwegian FROG method, developed by Lyk-z & døtre, involving 26 young participants from the three countries.

The FROG program includes complex activities, interactive tools and exercises meant to support participants to find their true motivation, being implemented in small groups (8-12 participants). Thus, this series of activities that might seem awkward to an outsider, challenge the inner self of the NEET youth in a safe environment. These newly acquired learnt behaviours help them better control their reactions when facing real-life situations. Standing brave and taking risks, these youth will make real differences for their future and the one of their families by pursuing their dreams and opportunities, so they all have a fulfilling life.

The FROG method is not just about discovering the power of words and learning about building efficient relations with peers. It is about being aware and focusing on a higher and positive impact these young souls are able to cast on others and on their community. Using this good, strong foundation, our endeavor is to be further continued by providing them the help and support they need to follow their hopes by either starting a business or getting a fulfilling job.

The feedback received at the end of the training from participants emphasizes once again the need and true utility of this project for young people both from knowledge and skills' perspective, by encouraging openness and sharing, and also inspiring and engaging them in learning by doing activities.

"I was pleased to be a part of this project. The program was well structured and the atmosphere very friendly. The practical exercises encouraged me to learn more about myself, to overcome my limits and follow my dreams. I began to grow as a person, to discover my strengths and to have more confidence in myself. I would recommend this course to anyone who wants to learn something new and useful for the future." – participant from Romania

"I found the project interesting, educating, fun and nice. And when I went for a walk in the evenings of these five days, I felt the change in the air. I'm really grateful for that because this is the best feeling, to walk and smile because you're happy and you know what you want and are going to do, how you will do it. I will move forward with the skills that I found in myself thanks to you. It will definitely be something that develops me in one way or another. I am an entrepreneur!" – participant from Bulgaria

"I am really interested in leadership training and team building exercises and I have never had a chance to train these skills before. I would suggest to my friends to get involved in FROG training and this project because it is worth experiencing. I think that companies appreciate people with the skills practiced in this project." – participant from Italy

In Spain, the first training session is scheduled for the week 16-20th of December 2019. In all the beneficiary countries (Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and Spain) the FROG trainings will continue also in the first half of 2020.

By the end of the project, 1,600 NEETs will be involved in different learning experiences face-to-face or blended learning, related to career orientation and entrepreneurship, such as job shadowing, internship, and mentorship for starting a small business.

058 - Supporting Employment Platform through Apprenticeship Learning – SEPAL

The project partners will make apprenticeships and training opportunities that are better suited to the specific needs of young people who fall outside the ordinary education systems. They will train the youngsters in social enterprises, which are businesses that are more concerned with social changes than with making a profit. The model used is called WISE (Work Integration Social Enterprise), which includes a set of guidance tools. The project will also work together with local institutions and private companies which will offer internships.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training, aged 24-29
- Young people with disabilities
- Migrants
- The low-skilled
- Drop-outs
- Teachers and mentors; Local stakeholder committees (LSCs)

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Romania	Lead partner	Bucovina Institute for Social Partnership	NGO	Suceava
Greece	Beneficiary partner	Koispe Diadromes – 10th sector at Attica Prefecture	Social Cooperative	Athens
Lithuania	Beneficiary partner	ZIPB Human Resources Monitoring and Development Bureau	NGO	Siauliai
Poland	Beneficiary partner	Szczecin Higher School Collegium Balticum	Non-public higher education institution	Szczecin
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Pere Closa Private Foundation	NGO	Barcelona

SEPAL project: success stories and bumps in the road Supporting Employment Platform through Apprenticeship Learning – SEPAL

The NEET's recruitment process proved to be quite a challenging experience for all the partners from the SEPAL project, due to the specific age range of our target group. Even though we have clearly specified the admission criteria, youth outside the age range still expressed their desire to be included in the project. Reaching the specific target group was not easy at the beginning and we had to design carefully our approach. The good collaboration with local stakeholders, especially with the Local Labor Offices proved to be very helpful in the process of NEETs engagement and recruitment. The participation at the local job fairs for young people was another successful strategy that has ensured the visibility of SEPAL initiative not only among young people looking for work but also for employers.

Maintaining youth interest and participation in the project is another issue to be addressed. The partners have discovered that it is important to schedule the vocational assessment as soon as possible after signing the registration form. In this regard, the organization of job club activities coordinated by the job mediator – group meetings of youth that are included in SEPAL project - are aiming to train the job skills of youth, to maintain their interest and motivation for participation until job placement and to enable social support. It is important for them to see that they are not alone in this process and meet people dealing with similar difficulties: lack of job, lack of skills. People from vulnerable groups are often isolated and group activities are a good opportunity for them to socialize and support each other.

The five partners of the SEPAL project have established a common methodology for NEETs recruitment and what are the exact steps in working with them, but also each partner was encouraged to follow their own strategies, according to the particularities of the beneficiaries they are working with and their previous experiences.

As regarding the recruitment of the NEETs in **Romania**, the WISE experts in charge of this process consider this activity as quite challenging and full of surprises. They are using a lot of media communication as Facebook, Instagram, local newspapers, but also the Local Stakeholders to promote the SEPAL program in order to reach the NEETs more easily. Also, their personal networks as family, friends, and acquaintances did a great job to reach the young people, so far.

Our experts usually get in touch with them by calling them directly, explaining them about who we are and what we do in the SEPAL program, about our team and about the whole process. Among the other regular questions, they ask *“what are the cost for them to access these services, to help them find a job, or to help them have more faith in applying for a job, going to the interview and so on”*. Most of them smile and are very happy when they find out it is for free.

After we schedule a meeting and we talk a bit more details about us and we earn their trust, our NEETs are more open and communicative about what kind of job they had

and the challenges they faced while looking for a job alone on the labor market and what kind of job they are looking for.



Usually, at the second meeting a vocational profile is made so we could know exactly what kind of job they desire and be able to determinate what qualities they possess in order to know what to look on the market or if one of the employees we are in contact with has such a job offer to match their competences. If needed we recommend a qualification training or some sessions of Job Club.

At the Job Club we actually teach them how to make a CV, how to look for a job on the labor market, how to apply online for a job, or through e-mail, and how to face an interview with success. The Job Club activities are also very good for socializing. The NEETs from our target group usually miss this part and here, because they are all facing the same challenges, they empathize with one another and also get more motivated to succeed.

One of the NEETs from Romania that joined the SEPAL program in July 2019, already in September got her dream job of becoming a photographer assistant. She is improving every day to be better.

Credits: SEPAL



Credits: SEPAL

In **Spain**, during the first year of the project, about 37 youngsters are registered as job seekers and signed a commitment to be part of the NEETs recruitment process. Group and individual sessions are ongoing, analyzing the current education, social and employment situation to project their future and expectations in middle and long terms.

The work of our Spanish partner is focused in three neighborhoods in Barcelona and Badalona with a high rate of Roma population. In order to have a diversity approach, recently, they are also working with migrants' organizations to have an integrated and inclusive support. A group of Roma women at risk of exclusion is setting up in order to promote a gender equality and reach the Roma women emancipation.

Our stakeholders' network is every day more enlarged and they are being involved on the recruitment of the NEETs and their training, apprenticeship steps etc. Actually, Spain is implementing a lot of ambitious apprenticeship and labor initiatives. On one hand, these initiatives raise the competition among NGOs and on the other hand sharing experiences among us means feeding each other with ideas and new challenges. The collaboration with social enterprises is one of the best practices we are adopting. Mescladis is one of them, which has more than 14 years training and offering jobs to the migrant youngsters through cooking trainings.



Credits: SEPAL

In **Greece**, since May 2019, we have approached many mental health organisations to inform them about the SEPAL project and to ask for their cooperation/involvement in terms of referrals of candidates aged 24-29. At the same time, we approached agencies and organisations that could provide either apprenticeship positions, or training and certification in specialized skills. Through this article, our Greek partners wanted to share the story of a young man, an asylum seeker with high skills and low self-esteem. He was reluctant to start looking for a job, he had no CV and had no idea where to start looking for a job. He was also very scared – mainly of being rejected. This person was referred to KoiSPE “Diadromes” by another organisation and agreed to be registered in the SEPAL project.

Following the intake, there were five more sessions during which he was helped to structure his CV and was supported in terms of boosting his self-esteem. Finally, he felt strong enough to apply for a job. All it took was two meetings with the potential employer and was eventually offered a position. A week later called KoiSPE “Diadromes” and asked for an appointment with the SEPAL WISE expert. He came to the session and offered chocolate bars, with a big smile on his face and said that through the provided support finally got the courage and developed faith in himself, his worth and abilities. As per his words, this was the most essential skill that earned him the job.

In **Poland**, our project partner has intensified their efforts in the recruitment process of the project’s target group. They organized some meetings with local stakeholders (LSCs) and other organizations (public and private) to create a local network of job support. They created and posted some advertisements about the SEPAL project and the recruitment process on job searching websites. The Polish team created a list of students from their University (from years 2016-2019) who graduated or dropped out Collegium Balticum and shared with them information about project.

The Polish team has made some recruitment interviews for the project and created the first group of NEETs for which to develop their vocational profiles to decide about the next steps of the project (training, employment or apprenticeship).

They had interviews with a lot of young people who are looking for a job. One of them was Wojtek, a young man who spent almost two years abroad (UK) mostly to find well paid jobs. After a few months of disappointment, he decided to come back to Poland. He tried to find a proper job and engaged quite a lot in charity activities. Our team decided to include him on our apprenticeship programme to help him get back on the Polish labor market.

The Polish team is working very hard to promote the SEPAL project in West Pomerania region and they have just started to extend information about this international initiative in whole of Poland.

The mission to provide better apprenticeship and internship conditions for our NEETs continues. It isn't an easy process, but it sure comes with many rewards and success stories.

More details about the SEPAL project activities are available on the [website](#) or on the project [Facebook page](#).

053 - Rural Action for Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Youth (RAISE Youth)

The project partners will make a network to work together and share their experiences and views on how young people can create their own local jobs. The partners will establish local training and production centres and use a new model called RAISE to help young people use the resources of the countryside and find new ways of working together in the local community. Older people will be called on to mentor the young, but new technology will also be used. The local communities will use the internet to sell their products and attract investment.

Target groups:

- 2000 primarily rural 25-29 year olds not in employment, education or training; Women and Roma; Non-traditional employers and sectors

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Croatia	Lead partner	GTF-Initiative for Sustainable Growth	NGO	Zagreb
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Gender Project for Bulgaria Foundation	NGO	Sofia
Romania	Beneficiary partner	AUR - the National Association of Human Resources Specialists	NGO	Bucharest
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Casarrubuelos City Council	Public	Casarrubuelos
Spain	Beneficiary partner	FUNDECYT Science and Technological Park of Extremadura	Private	Badajoz
Austria	Expertise partner	Goodworks Innovation Agency EWIV	Private	Eschenau
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	City of Gospic	Local Government	Gospic

041 - Active Youth Entrepreneurship Network

The project partners will make a network to work together and share their experiences and views on how young people can create their own jobs. The partners will help young people get in contact with local entrepreneurs and assist them in creating their own business ideas. The youth involved in the projects will get an experienced mentor and will be trained to become entrepreneurs. The project will also have positive effects on the local economy in the participating regions.

Target groups:

- Young people not in employment, education or training, aged 25-2
- Entrepreneurial support communities
- Experienced mentors

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Greece	Lead partner	Hellenic Management Association	Private non-profit	Athens
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations Varna	NGO	Varna
Croatia	Beneficiary partner	Cluster for Eco-Social Innovation and Development	NGO	Split
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Tecnopolis Science and Technology Park	NGO	Valenzano
Romania	Beneficiary partner	IPA-Research and Development, Engineering and Manufacturing for Automation Equipment and Systems	Private	Craiova
Norway	Expertise partner	International Development Norway	Private	Trondheim

027 - Find your way to the world of work

The project partners will learn from each other how to improve the chances of disadvantaged youth to get an education and a job. The aim is to increase the skills of participants through various personal services. Employers will be assisted to strengthen their motivation to hire a more diverse workforce.

Target groups:

- 15-29 years old disadvantaged youth, with completed primary education
- Roma
- Employers who want to diversify their workforce
- Schools that will introduce new pedagogical tools and attitudes towards disadvantaged and Roma youth

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Hungary	Lead partner	Autonomia Foundation	NGO	Budapest
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Trust for Social Achievement Foundation	NGO	Sofia
Bulgaria	Beneficiary partner	Arete Youth Foundation	NGO	Sofia
Romania	Beneficiary partner	Association 'Caritas-Social Assistance' Branch of Caritas Alba Iulia Organisation	NGO	Târgu Mureș
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Foundation Secretaria do Gitano	NGO	Madrid

008 - Youth employment partnership – evaluation studies in Spain, Hungary, Italy and Poland

The project partners aim to cooperate in the evaluation of two different forms of employment initiatives targeting youth in Spain, Hungary, Italy and Poland, support other researchers in doing such evaluation studies, and promote the use of such studies to policy-makers. As a result, youth employment policies can become more effective.

Target groups:

- Researchers evaluating public policy with administrative data
- NGOs working with youth
- Policy-makers implementing youth policies
- Young people who would benefit from improved youth policies

Project Partners:

Country	Project partner status	Institution	Type of institution	City
Poland	Lead partner	IBS- Institute for Structural Research	NGO	Warsaw
Hungary	Beneficiary partner	Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis	Private	Budapest
Italy	Beneficiary partner	Collegio Carlo Alberto	NGO	Turin
Italy	Beneficiary partner	The National Institute for the Analysis of Public Policies – INAPP	Public	Rome
Spain	Beneficiary partner	Foundation for Applied Economics Studies – FEDEA	NGO	Madrid

Spain	Beneficiary partner	The University of the Basque Country	Public	Leioa
France	Expertise partner	Paris School of Economics	Public	Paris
Norway	Expertise partner	NHH Norwegian School of Economics	Public	Oslo
International Organisation	Expertise partner	World Bank	International Organisation	Washington DC

Not studying or working. A challenge for public policy?

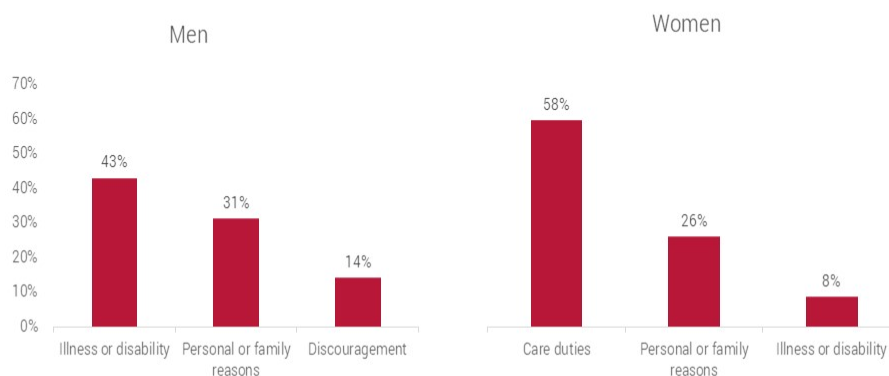
Although labour market conditions in Poland are favourable, 750,000 young people are not in education, employment or training (NEET). In the last IBS Policy Paper, created as part of the [“Youth Employment PartnerSHIP”](#) project, Mateusz Smoter identifies the reasons why so many Poles aged 15-29 do not work, and seeks what the government can do to change this situation.

Why aren't they employed and interested in improving their qualifications? The media often describe them as lazy, helpless, discouraged or demanding, ‘not even wanting to want’. This is an oversimplified picture. In fact, NEETs are a diverse group, with different reasons for not working. We demonstrate that most NEETs in Poland are economically inactive, i.e. not looking for employment – mostly owing to childcare responsibilities, family situation, poor health or disability. Some would like to return to the labour market, but are prevented from doing so by various barriers, such as difficulties in reconciling family and professional life. Most NEETs live in rural areas and small towns. Such people have worse access to attractive jobs, childcare facilities and employment offices. 50% of youth who are not studying or working have no professional experience.

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Women who do not work or study (NEET) are economically inactive mainly due to care duties, men due to illness or disability.

The main reasons for not looking for a job by young people not working or studying (NEET) in Poland



Source: own work based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) data for Poland for 2018.

The „Youth employment partnerSHIP” project is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment.

Credits: Youth Employment Partnership

Long-term unemployment at a young age may have negative consequences in the future – it lowers the chances of finding a job and earning a decent living further on in life, and increases the risk of poverty. Some NEETs could work, but instead rely on their family for support or receive social benefits.

Permanent joblessness at a young age may have also negative social and economic consequences. Increasing the level of employment is desirable for demographic reasons. Activating this group of people represents a public policy challenge, since most of them are

not looking for employment, and therefore do not receive support from labour market institutions.

Most women in this group do not search for jobs because of family and childcare responsibilities, while the main reasons for men are poor health or disability. Improving access to nurseries, kindergartens and other forms of childcare, enabling part-time employment as well as removing architectural and transport barriers could facilitate entry in the labour market for those currently economically inactive who would like to work. This group may be assisted also through policies targeted at those who are unemployed or economically inactive but not registered at employment offices.

The full text of the IBS Policy Paper is available here:

<https://ibs.org.pl/en/publications/not-studying-or-working-a-challenge-for-public-policy/>

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