



Cedefop toolkit for empowering NEETs: get to know how to use it

Rena Psifidou and Anthie Kyriakopoulou

Department for VET and Skills

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A close-up photograph of a person's hand with the index finger pointing at a laptop screen. The background is blurred, showing the laptop and some papers.

Cedefop

VET toolkit for tackling early leaving

www.cedefop.europa.eu/TEL-toolkit

Cedefop

VET toolkit for empowering NEETs

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/neets>



Identify and prevent



Risk of early leaving

Learners at risk of early leaving

Early leavers



Learners escaping the system



Learners confronting the system



Learners disengaging due to difficulties adapting after transition



Learners disengaging because they cannot find a placement



Young people who left education and training because of caring, parenting or working obligations



Young people who left education and training and combine multiple disadvantage, possibly facing health and psycho-social issues



Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)



Cedefop work on inclusion

Empowering young NEETs



BRIEFING NOTE

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AS A LIFE JACKET

Cedefop's work on VET supporting social inclusion of young NEETs

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) are absent both from the labour market and the education sector, thus facing a high risk of professional, digital and social exclusion. Analyses of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic show that, in spite of EU countries' bold response to this crisis protecting jobs, businesses and livelihoods, yet again, young people were hardest hit by its effects. This is why young NEETs have continued to be a top policy priority at national and EU levels.

The concept of NEETs as an individual risk group (e.g. compared to early leavers from education or long-term unemployed adults) emerged in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, which had a devastating effect on young people's employment in the EU. The concept has allowed policy-makers and practitioners to tackle the effects of progressive marginalisation and prolonged inactivity of young people in a more targeted way.

YOUNG NEETs: WHO ARE THEY?

In the EU, young people with no or low qualifications are, on average, three times more likely to be NEETs than those with tertiary education; and twice as likely as those with secondary education. Other factors also play a role: living in a household with low income, being raised by a single parent, living in a rural area, being born in a country outside the EU, or having a disability. Young NEETs often suffer from poverty, social exclusion, insecurity, or health problems (1).

Beyond personal circumstances, labour market failures and mismatches often disproportionately affect young people. The results of a 2020 large-scale research project in Greece, funded by the European Economic Area, illustrate the dire employment situation of young Greeks: 15.9% were unemployed and actively looking

for a job, compared to 6.3% of their peers in the EU as a whole (2). The large number of young unemployed in Greece includes many well-qualified young people. Perceiving vocational education and training (VET) as a potential route to a job, many of them are willing to attend a training programme, provided it will help them (re)enter the labour market.

VET TO EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE

In line with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, VET, offering young people practical opportunities to obtain skills and acquire a qualification, is a powerful shield against marginalisation. According to the 2021 Council Resolution on a European education area by 2030, we are witnessing an increase in labour market needs for a different mix of skills and qualifications.

Being closely tied to the labour market, VET can react swiftly to skill needs as they emerge. For example, to keep pace with the digitalisation of the European economy, VET is incorporating a range of digital skills, responding both to occupation-specific and transversal skill needs. It is also central to policies supporting young NEETs, such as outreach, personalised guidance, and assessment and validation of their existing formal and informal skills. It is the role of policy-makers to ensure VET's labour market relevance and so help unlock its inclusive potential. VET programmes, with their practical component, can help young people acquire entrepreneurship skills and ease their transition to work. Ultimately, they can provide young people with skills harnessing their employability and fostering their inclusion in society.

(1) Broken down by gender, this corresponds to 14.0% of men and 17.4% of women aged 20-34 for Greece, compared to 6.8% of men and 5.8% of women of that age for the EU as a whole.

(2) 2021 Education and training statistics explained, Eurostat.

Distance from participation in employment, education and training



SEEKING WORK AND/OR EDUCATION OR TRAINING



Re-entrants



NEETs in recent search



NEETs in long-term search

NOT SEEKING WORK AND/OR EDUCATION OR TRAINING



Unavailable due to family responsibilities



Unavailable due to illness or disability



Discouraged and disengaged young people



VET toolkit for empowering NEETs

Source of support to young people not in employment, education or training

- Introduction
- Identify
- Intervene
- Evaluate
- Resources
- Advanced search
- About the toolkit
- Contact us



BLOG HIGHLIGHTS

27 APR 2021

What is the VET Toolkit for empowering NEETs?

This Europe-wide toolkit is inspired by successful VET practices and aims at helping policy makers, practitioners, and providers of support to young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) to design policies and implement practices that will better address the needs of NEETs, helping them to reintegrate into education or training and the labour market.

[VIEW ALL](#)

BROWSE BY

Type of approach

6
Profiles at risk

7
Intervention approaches

8
Risk factors

BROWSE BY

Type of resource

2
Tools

1
Statistics and data

37
Publications

10
Good practices

WAYS TO

Take part

- Evaluation plan for policy makers
- Evaluation plan for learning providers
- Become an ambassador tackling early leaving from VET



VET toolkit for
tackling early
leaving



VET toolkit for
empowering
NEETs



Thank you

www.cedefop.europa.eu

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