



Outreach

Problem statement

In 2019, 12.6% of the population aged 15–29 were NEETs, which was the lowest point for a decade, but following the COVID-19 pandemic this increased to 13.7% (approximately 10 million NEETs) in 2020 (Eurofound 2021 based on Eurostat 2020).

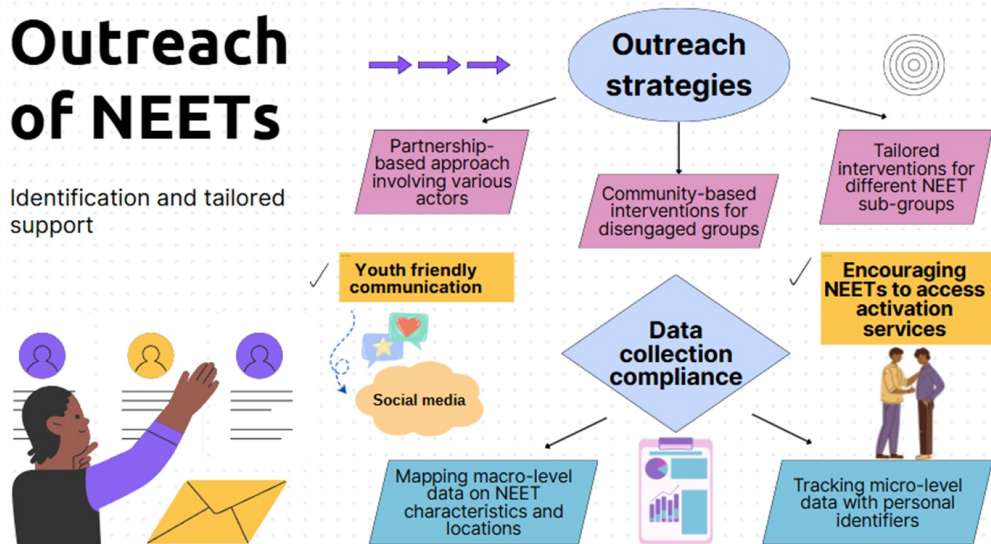
The first step in helping NEETs to find their way back into employment, education or training is to ensure that they benefit from the activation supports available. Reaching out to NEETs can involve identification, offering tailored support through vocational education and training, as well as engagement in labour market integration services.

Only about [half of NEETs are registered with public employment services](#) (PES) and they are often similarly [unregistered with social services](#). They are hard to reach through the regular channels provided by education and training or employment systems. It is crucial that outreach activities take place in settings where young people gather (e.g. near schools, community organisations, youth or sports clubs or facilities, online, on the street) and in partnership with organisations trusted by young people (e.g. youth centres, NGOs). First contact may be through peer-to-peer outreach workers (youth workers trained to work with NEETs) or on social media. Outreach activities should ideally reach NEETs soon after they leave education, training or employment because the longer that young people remain NEET, the harder it is to re-engage them successfully.

NEETs face various - often multiple - challenges and it is important to tailor the outreach approach to their particular needs. Some useful tips on reaching out to NEETs are provided below.

Outreach of NEETs

Identification and tailored support



Beneficiaries

- NEETs in recent search
- NEETs in long-term search
- Unavailable due to family responsibilities
- Unavailable due to illness or disability
- Discouraged and disengaged young people

Who are NEETs

NEETs are young people aged 15-29 years old who may be inactive (i.e. not actively looking for employment and / or enrolled in formal education or training) or they may be short or long-term unemployed. They may be in short- or long-term search of employment and/or education and training. They may be NEET by choice or involuntarily. They may be high or low-skilled, graduates or [early leavers from education and training](#), with or without work experience. Some have caring or family responsibilities, others have illnesses or disabilities. For some, being NEET is a temporary condition, while for others it is a long-term status.

Find out more about NEETs profiles [here](#).

Addressing the problem

💡 Tip 1: Establish a centralised mapping and tracking system

Identifying NEETs is the first step in reaching out. As NEETs are often not registered with either PES or social services, it can be difficult to establish a centralised information system. This challenge can be tackled with a two-step

approach of mapping and tracking.

Mapping NEETs consists of gathering macro-level information on the characteristics and location of the NEET population in the country/region/municipality. Are they mostly inactive young women with child caring responsibilities, for example, or low-skilled young people living in urban areas, or high-skilled workers with irregular work situations (e.g. consecutive internships or short-term contracts)? As NEETs are hard to identify, gathering information on all young people – particularly those in the age groups most at risk of being NEET – is of utmost importance. This information allows policy makers and practitioners to understand the characteristics and needs of NEETs in their country/region. This understanding leads to more effective outreach and policy responses that are tailored to specific [NEETs profiles](#).

These data can be collected through primary research (e.g. surveys, cross-referencing administrative data from a variety of institutions) or through analysis of existing national and international surveys (e.g. census data, national labour force surveys, EU Labour Force Survey (EU LFS), EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)).

Tracking NEETs is the second step in establishing an information system. This involves gathering micro-level information about individuals (e.g. address, age, gender, educational attainment, how long an individual has been NEET). Such data should include a personal identifier.

For NEETs who have disengaged from the education and training system and the labour market, this information cannot be easily collected from schools, VET providers, PES or other social services. Tracking requires collaboration between multiple partner organisations and government authorities to compile and share information on young people (see Tip 2 on ethical data collection).

Data-sharing can cross-reference administrative data from various education and training sub-systems (e.g. school-based VET and apprenticeship schemes), PES, social services, health services, youth centres, etc. Cross-referencing data is easier and more efficient where data are collected in common formats that can be easily compiled in a centralised database. Common protocols on collecting, sharing and using data should be established and followed by all organisations involved in the data collection process.

Tip 2: Ensure ethical and compliant collection and use of personal data

As with any collection and sharing of private data, special attention must be paid to personal data protection issues. This is particularly important in the context of NEETs. Firstly, the appearance of violation of their privacy may discourage already distrustful young people from engaging with any of the services offered. Secondly, because the data are collected and shared among multiple organisations, there is a greater risk of mishandling.

The following aspects should be considered before collecting and sharing information on young people:

- In some countries, there may be laws forbidding the collection and/or sharing of private information about individuals. Before an information system is established, policy makers and practitioners should verify that a centralised system is legal.

- Only the minimum amount of information necessary to identify NEETs and to provide appropriate services should be collected. For example, even if education providers can share information about individuals' grades, it should not be submitted to the centralised system if it is not necessary to provide services to NEETs.
- Personal data should be stored for as long as they serve their purpose (i.e. to provide support to a particular NEET individual).
- Personal data should be accessible only to those professionals with a direct role in providing support.
- Not all organisations providing data to the centralised information system should have reciprocal access to the system. For example, secondary education institutions may submit data used to map NEETs but would only need access to the centralised information system where they are providing direct support to NEETs.

Tip 3: Build up partnership-based approaches

Coordinated outreach campaigns make it easier to reach and inform NEETs of programmes and services offered by organisations such as PES, NGOs, VET providers, local, regional and national authorities.

All organisations providing support to NEETs should cooperate to guide young people to the services and supports they need. Cooperation should be horizontal, in multi-skilled, multi-disciplinary teams, and vertical, across local, regional and national authorities. Effective coordination between partner organisations will promote integrated working towards the same goals and reduce the risk of duplication of efforts.

Clear roles and procedures are useful in establishing which organisation (and the designated person(s) within that organisation) is responsible for reaching out to NEETs.

One-stop-shops are one possible way of coordinating local outreach efforts. These are centralised services tasked with reaching NEETs and providing guidance and advice tailored to their individual needs. Such centres provide information on the supports available from different services and stakeholders and are – ideally – easily accessible (i.e. self-referral). However, one-stop-shops are not a perfect solution, as the most disengaged young people are unlikely to contact these centres. Difficult-to-engage groups require more holistic outreach approaches through community organisations and/or in non-traditional settings.

Tip 4: Tailor outreach strategies to sub-groups of NEETs

NEETs are a diverse group with varying needs and they respond to different outreach strategies. Young people who have been NEET for a long time may not respond to social media campaigns and may need face-to-face contact with a trusted community organisation before they will engage with any support services. NEETs who have been out of work or education and training for a short time are easier to reach and are more likely to respond to more conventional

outreach strategies, such as direct contact by PES.

Collecting reliable information on the characteristics and needs of NEETs will help tailoring outreach strategies and channels (see Tip 1). For example, if mapping shows that NEETs in a given region are typically high-skilled and registered with PES, policy makers could consider opportunities for internships at local companies. If, on the other hand, the majority of NEETs are young mothers who have been out of the labour force due to caring responsibilities, outreach may be most effective through local organisations providing children's services (e.g. childcare facilities) or upskilling/retraining opportunities.

Tip 5: Use youth-friendly websites and social media campaigns

Attractive targeted websites and social media play an important role in reaching out to NEETs through the channels they use to connect with one another. Youth-friendly websites and social media campaigns can effectively raise awareness of services and supports among young people not registered with PES or other social services.

Targeted social media campaigns can reach sub-groups of NEETs (e.g. inactive women with caring responsibilities) more efficiently than regular PES channels. Such campaigns are more effective if they feature successful peers who share their experiences and can serve as role models.

Before roll-out of an outreach campaign, it is useful to carry out a careful analysis of who uses the specific communication channel, at what time of the day and how, to ensure that the campaign reaches the targeted audience. Communication campaigns should use language, writing style and visuals appropriate to the platform and target audience.

Tip 6: Use community-based interventions and holistic outreach for difficult-to-engage groups

It is particularly difficult to reach inactive young people not registered with PES or other social and youth services, those who are not actively looking for employment and/or training, and those who may face multiple challenges. They may mistrust authorities and fail to respond to official letters and invitations from PES or other services. Here, outreach is most likely to be effective where it involves community organisations and takes place in non-traditional settings, increasing its perceived 'credibility' by the young people in question.

The following points should be taken into account:

- A holistic approach mobilising social, health and youth services may be more effective in reaching disengaged young people who face multiple challenges.
- Young people are more likely to engage with supports and services provided by local organisations that they recognise and trust. Local organisations are also best positioned to reach out to difficult-to-engage NEETs through face-to-face contact.

- Peer-to-peer contact from young people who were themselves NEETs may be more effective in re-engaging those who are particularly discouraged.
- Multiple rounds of contact attempts using different communication channels may be needed to reach the most disengaged young people.

Tip 7: Encourage NEETs to access activation measures

Since many NEETs are not registered with PES, it is important that education and training providers work with PES to ensure that young people are aware of their services before they leave the education system. PES can reach out to young people through awareness-raising campaigns, job fairs, careers events and outreach street teams (among others). This is particularly important in countries where legislation does not allow schools and VET providers to offer PES with information on students who are about to leave the education system.

Financial incentives such as cash benefits or vouchers may encourage young people to register with support services and more easily find their way back into employment, education and training. Offering incentives to NEETs may also help PES and other services to collect information on their locations, characteristics and challenges, allowing them to offer better tailored support and services.

Related risk factors



Low education level

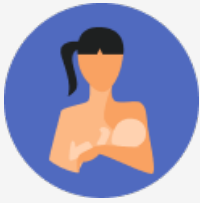


Disadvantaged family background



Migratory background

Skills mismatch



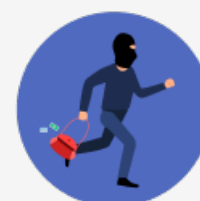
Early motherhood



Living in remote areas



Discouragement



Antisocial behaviour

Related resources

Statistics and data

 Statistics and data

Eurostat: Statistics on young people neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs)

Eurostat overview on NEETs

This regularly updated summary page presents an overview of European Union (EU) statistics related to young people neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET). It equally provides information on the transition from education to work and focuses on the number of young people who find themselves disengaged from both education and the labour market.

 EU level

 Statistics and data

OECD data on NEETs

Overview of NEET rates as a percentage of the total number of young people in the corresponding age group, by gender

OECD data showcasing rates of young people not in employment, education or training by different age groups and gender. Data from all OECD countries are included as well as the OECD average with data available from 1997 onwards.

Available in [English](#) and [French](#)

 [EU level](#) [International](#)

 [Statistics and data](#)

ILOSTAT data explorer on NEETs

Data gathered by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)

Collection of data from across the world reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals indicator 8.6.1 which refers to the proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training.

Available in [English](#)

[International](#)

Good practices

 [Good practice](#)

400+Future

400+Zukunft

400+Future is a low threshold programme that targets young NEETs to support them to re-engage in education and training activities. The programme offers individualised support and practical experience in a variety of vocational fields as well as the opportunity to attain a lower secondary education certificate.

 [Germany](#)

 [Good practice](#)

Project CLICK-Activate Skills for Employability

Projeto CLICK-Ativar Competências para a Empregabilidade

CLICK functions as a mediation project between job supply and demand, working as a complementary tool to public employment services. The scope of this project is twofold including the development of soft skills among vulnerable or unemployed people and actions for raising awareness about social responsibility among potential employers. By joining efforts with multiple stakeholders and working closely with the actual beneficiaries, the

project aims to make the “click” in their lives.

 **Portugal**

 **Good practice**

Integrated Network for Young People in the Province of Vicenza

Rete Integrata per i Giovani del Vicentino

In Italy, one of the main difficulties of the Youth Guarantee Programme in the course of the first phase was to reach and engage the most discouraged NEETs from social backgrounds characterised by high levels of poverty that affected their ability to enter and remain within training and education courses, to gain work experience and to find out about the possibilities offered by the Programme.

 **Germany**  **Italy**  **Portugal**

 **Spain**  **United Kingdom**

 **Good practice**

PLAY YOUR SKILLS

Mobile Gaming App for Identification and documentation of Skills and Competences for disadvantaged young NEETs

Getting NEETs back on track by the “VET-ification” of gaming to encourage them to take part in Vocational Education and Training (VET) or at least get in touch with VET.

 **Austria**  **Germany**  **Ireland**

 **Italy**  **Portugal**  **Spain**

 **Good practice**

Transnational Employment YOUTHShare Centre- Greek Branch

Διακρατικό Κέντρο Απασχόλησης YOUTHShare, Ελληνικό Παράρτημα

The Transnational Employment Branch of YOUTHShare in Greece adopts, adapts and elaborates on the new practices for work inclusion based on Ripples in the Water Methodology from Norway -NHO- Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises). Based on this methodology, the YOUTHShare employment Centre and its staff aims through a person-centred and empower-focused approach at matching

 **Good practice**

DigitHer

DigitHer

DigitHer empowers young women to launch digital careers by addressing barriers to employment and boosting confidence through targeted training and mentorship. By creating a supportive, female-focused learning environment, the initiative helps bridge the gender gap in tech.

 **Italy**

effectively the jobseeker with a potential employer.

 **Cyprus**  **Greece**  **Italy**

 **Spain**

 Good practice

Tech Your Future

Dalla formazione al lavoro, crea il tuo futuro

Tech Your Future equips NEETs across Italy with the skills and support to launch careers in high-demand digital professions, offering inclusive training and personalised job placement. By connecting talent with opportunity, the project opens pathways for youth to thrive in the ever-evolving tech sector.

 **Italy**

 Good practice

Go Remote

Unlocking the potential of remote job opportunities

Go Remote is an initiative designed to reduce youth unemployment by offering training, mentoring, and employment opportunities in remote and hybrid jobs.

 **Bulgaria**  **Croatia**  **Cyprus**

 **Finland**  **Iceland**  **Latvia**

 Good practice

Supporting the economic mobility of NEETs through targeted training, mentorship, and job placement

Generation empowers NEET youth through targeted mobilisation, skill-based assessment and selection, and tailored mentorship, equipping them with skills to build meaningful careers and foster economic mobility. Generation creates pathways to an inclusive workforce, ensuring resilient, career-ready young professionals.

 **France**  **Ireland**  **Italy**

 **Spain**

 Good practice

INTERCEPT (motivating mobiliziNg supportiNg nEets gReen CarEer PaThway)

Connecting young NEETs with job opportunities in the green sector

INTERCEPT empowered NEETs (individuals not in employment, education, or training) aged 25-29 by offering tailored training and paid work placements with green companies, assisting them in re-entering the labour market. Through research and a pilot programme in Italy, Malta, and Lithuania, the project provides with valuable insights to shape future EU policy on youth employment in the green sector.

 **Italy**  **Lithuania**  **Luxembourg**

 **Malta**  **Poland**  **Slovakia**

Good practice

Back on Track - Support for young NEETs in rural areas

Fostering the (re)integration of NEETs in rural areas into education, training, and the labour market by increasing their basic skills, resilience, and digital inclusion.

Back on Track aims to (re)integrate young NEETs (not in employment, education, or training) in rural areas into general and vocational education as well as the labour market. The goal is to improve their basic skills and resilience, while strengthening their digital competences, to enable sustainable employment and personal development.

 **Austria**  **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

 **Bulgaria**  **Czechia**  **Germany**

 **Hungary**  **Romania**  **Serbia**

 **Slovakia**  **Slovenia**

Tools

Tools

Risk of NEET Indicator Tool (RONI)

This tool has been developed to assist secondary schools to identify students at risk of becoming NEET once they leave compulsory education.

 **United Kingdom**

Publications

 Publications

Eurofound on NEETs

Eurofound's thematic area on NEETs

The website summarizes Eurofound's extensive research on NEETs

 **EU level**

 Publications

Eurofound: Exploring the diversity of NEETs

This report examines the NEET indicator and uses variables captured routinely by the EU Labour Force Survey to disaggregate the NEET population into seven subgroups. It provides an analysis based on the data available for each subgroup and describes the composition and characteristics of Europe's NEET population at both EU28 level and in each Member State.

 **EU level**

 Publications

ILO: Mapping outreach practices to support inactive young people in re-entering education or gaining employment

ILO Technical paper

This paper was commissioned by the ILO's Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in October 2015 with the aim of mapping the main initiatives and the lessons learnt from the implementation of outreach initiatives that targeted discouraged and other inactive young people.

 **EU level**

 Publications

European Commission: Tracking and mapping young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs)

Youth Guarantee Mutual Learning Seminar Report

This seminar was hosted by the Croatian Ministry of Labour and Pension System and brought together representatives from national ministries, public employment services (PES), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and youth organisations from the host country (Croatia) and 16 Member States.

 **EU level**

 Publications

European Commission: Effective outreach to NEETs - Experience from the ground

 Publications

European Commission: PES practices for the outreach and activation of NEETs

A contribution of the Network of Public Employment Services

The aim of this report is to highlight existing practices, lessons learned, challenges and success factors on improving outreach to NEETs.

 **EU level**

This report was produced on the basis of 28 'Descriptions of Practices on outreach and activation of NEETs' submitted in October 2014 by 25 PES in 23 countries.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

Cedefop: Reaching out to 'invisible' young people and adults

Cedefop briefing note

Low qualifications, disengagement from education and training and long-term unemployment are interconnected phenomena and tend to cumulate throughout a person's life.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

ILO: Policy brief on Outreach strategies for young NEETs

ILO Technical brief

This brief analyses the outreach approaches and strategies that target young people who are inactive with the objective of supporting them in entering the labour market or re-engaging in education and training activities. In particular, it explores the practices implemented through national YG schemes in support of inactive young people to re-enter the labour market or return to education and training.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

Young Lives: NEET Survey & Research

This research engaged with 315 young people (16-24) from across West Yorkshire to enable them to share their experience of Not being in Employment, Education or Training (NEET).

 **United Kingdom**

 **Publications**

Eurofound: Long-term unemployed youth: Characteristics and policy responses

Focusing on young people aged 15-24 years, and taking those aged 25-29 years into account also, the report examines long-term unemployment in Europe.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

ILO: Guide for monitoring

 **Publications**

ILO: Indicator framework for

the performance of national Youth Guarantees

The aim of this guide is to provide a template for the collection and analysis of monitoring data on key reforms, early intervention, outreach approaches, activation strategies and labour market integration measures that are part of the Youth Guarantee.

 EU level

monitoring the Youth Guarantee

The aim of this guide is to offer easy-to-use tools to practitioners with the view to monitoring the performance of the measures included in the implementation plans of the national Youth Guarantee schemes.

 EU level

 Publications

ILO: Monitoring the performance of the Youth Guarantee: A learning package

This package is a tool to support the organization of training sessions on monitoring the performance and evaluating the results of YG schemes.

 EU level

 Publications

Trends in EU Public Employment Services Capacity 2023

2024 Assessment report by the European Network of Public Employment Services on trends in Public Employment Services (PES)

This assessment report provides a comprehensive overview of the European public employment services (PES) landscape. The report highlights trends in PES service delivery, strategic orientation as well as good practice examples from different EU Member States.

 EU level

 Publications

NEETs in Bulgaria and policy measures to effectively address their integration

European Commission 2019 in-depth country case study including findings from regional focus groups

The report starts on the premise that, despite current positive employment trends, the Bulgarian labour market and the country's educational institutions have been failing to provide inclusion

 Publications

ILO's Global Report on public employment services and active labour market policies for transitions

Drawing on an extensive literature analysis, country case studies and survey results encompassing 94 public employment services worldwide

This first ILO report on public employment services focuses on the role of such services in mitigating the

opportunities for a significant share of youth.

 **Bulgaria**

effects of the COVID-19 crisis and potentially future crises on the labour market.

International

 Publications

Being NEET before and after the Great Recession

Research paper on the situation of NEETs by gender in Southern Europe

This article adds to the literature on the time persistence of being Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) youth.

 **Greece**  **Italy**  **Portugal**

 **Spain**

 Publications

Is there a uniform NEET identity in the European Union?

Research paper examining whether a common NEET identity across the EU exists

This paper furthers a better understanding of the group of NEETs. It investigates whether young people not in employment, education or training identify with the common label of NEETs, despite difference in terms of key characteristics such as educational levels, gender and/or age.

 **EU level**

 Publications

Mapping Young NEETs Across Europe

Exploring the Institutional Configurations Promoting Youth Disengagement from Education and Employment

This paper explores how different subgroups of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) are conditioned by institutional configurations across 26 European countries.

 **EU level**

 Publications

NEETs and Youth Guarantee Registration: Examining the Link to Past Undeclared Work

Report of practices from Italy, Portugal and Spain

The risk of becoming NEET depends on a number of factors, including socio-economic conditions, level of vulnerability as well as other socio-demographic characteristics. This report examines the link between undeclared work experience and Youth Guarantee registration among youth in Italy, Portugal and Spain.

 **Italy**  **Portugal**  **Spain**

 Publications

International Labour Organization's Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024

Despite positive youth unemployment trend annual ILO report identifies high shares of NEETs, regional and gender gaps, growing youth anxiety about work

This report starts on the premise that the global labour market outlook for young people has improved over the last four years. However, the report warns that the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) remains concerning.

 **Portugal**

 Publications

Profile of Portugal's Young NEETs

ILO's in-depth country report on NEETs

There is a number of evidence suggesting that the labour market situation of Portuguese young people has improved in recent years: Unemployment rates have decreased, with long-term unemployment seeing a marked decline during the Youth Guarantee's implementation period.

 **Portugal**

 Publications

European Commission report on economic, social and territorial cohesion

Ninth edition of this series of reports assessing the state of cohesion in the EU

During the past three decades, EU Cohesion Policy has played a pivotal role in fostering economic and social convergence across Europe, not least in view of the 2004 enlargement. Today, socio-economic disparities persist and a growing number of regions across Europe are facing new challenges. This report takes stock of achievements of EU Cohesion Policy but also look into ways it can be adapted to meet emerging challenges.

 **EU level**

 Publications

ESF Synthesis Report of 2022

Summary of the Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs)

This report summarises the state of play of European Social Fund (ESF) implementation in 2022 and with it sheds light on use of the Youth Employment Initiative, the financing tool behind the European Youth Guarantee.

 **EU level**

 Publications

 Publications

How digital inclusion increases opportunities for young people

The case of NEETs from Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey

This study explores the challenges faced by young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) in rural areas of Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey. It examines the relationship between digital skills, digital inclusion, and virtual mobility, and how these factors impact the lives of rural NEETs.

 [Bulgaria](#)  [Romania](#)  [Türkiye](#)

A conceptual framework for researching the risks to early leaving

Overview of different theoretical concepts underpinning research on ESL

Early School Leaving (ESL) remains a significant concern in Europe, with far-reaching consequences for individuals, society, and the economy. A conceptual framework has been developed to research the risks associated with ESL, combining ecological systems theory and the concept of educational "binds" of poverty.

 [Spain](#)  [United Kingdom](#)

 Publications

A multi-stakeholder analysis of the risks to early school leaving

Comparing young peoples' and educators' perspectives on five categories of risk

This study reveals the different perspectives of young people and educators on the key risk factors for early school leaving (ESL). While educators tend to focus on structural issues and personal challenges, young people emphasise the importance of social relationships and school environment.

 [United Kingdom](#)

 Publications

Education at a Glance 2024

OECDs overview report of the state of education around the world

The report reveals that while educational attainment and labour market outcomes have improved since 2016 for NEETs, this progress does not necessarily translate to better learning outcomes.

[International](#)

 Publications

Determinants of Regional Youth Employment

Report on employment potential for young people through alternative sectors

This transnational report relates to the

 Publications

Beyond the mind: Understanding the influence of mental health on youth NEET status in Europe

Systematic literature review

This study is a systematic literature

Cowork4YOUTH project which aims to enhance knowledge on youth employment policies in less developed regions of the European Union. The project's key findings reveal that youth employment trends have fluctuated due to the Great Recession and COVID-19 pandemic.

 **EU level**

review that explores the influence of mental health on the likelihood of becoming not in employment, education, or training (NEET) among young people in Europe.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

Conceiving of and politically responding to NEETs in Europe

Scoping review

The article discusses the concept of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) in Europe, focusing on how they are defined, the factors that contribute to being NEET, and policy responses to address this policy issue.

 **Germany**  **Romania**

 **Publications**

Interventions targeting young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) for increased likelihood of return to school or employment

A systematic review

The review aimed to assess the effectiveness of interventions on primary outcomes such as participation in education and employment, and training status, as well as secondary outcomes including changes in financial stability, well-being, and social functioning.

 **Norway**

 **Publications**

Active labour market policies targeting NEETs

Final report from INTERCEPT project

This project report provides an in-depth analysis of young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) in Europe, focusing on the 25-29 age group in Italy, Lithuania, and Malta.

 **Italy**  **Lithuania**  **Luxembourg**

 **Publications**

Pilot evaluation of the INTERCEPT project

Project report showcasing good practices from Italy, Lithuania and Malta

This report provides a comprehensive assessment of three pilot schemes implemented in Italy, Lithuania, and Malta, aimed at integrating young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) aged 25-29 into the green jobs.

 Malta  Poland  Slovakia

 Italy  Lithuania  Luxembourg

 Malta  Poland  Slovakia

Publications

Successful integration of 25-29-year-old NEETs into the labour market with a focus on green job

INTERCEPT project guidelines

The recommendations of the INTERCEPT project refer to several key steps, including conducting research, providing targeted training, facilitating internships, and securing job placements for young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) into green jobs.

 Italy  Lithuania  Luxembourg

 Malta  Poland  Slovakia

Publications

Concepts, consequences, and policy approaches for young NEETs

Research paper

This research paper examines the concept of young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) and European Union's target to reduce NEET rates by 2030.

 EU level

Publications

Public Employment Services: Digitalisation and vulnerable youth in EU

Addressing challenges and opportunities for rural NEETs

The article discusses how the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the digitalisation of Public Employment Services (PES) across Europe, presenting both challenges and opportunities for rural people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs). Challenges include mistrust in institutions and low digital skills, while opportunities lie in improved outreach and engagement through digital tools.

 EU level

Publications

What works in reducing NEET rates: a comparative study

Examining international evidence on successful initiatives

This study investigates international NEET rates and identifies successful initiatives that have helped reduce these rates. More specifically, it offers a comparative data analysis on trends in NEET rates (ages 15–24) across OECD countries between 2015 and 2023, and draws on case studies from Australia, Denmark, France, and the Netherlands.

International  United Kingdom

 Publications

ILO: Handbook on policy areas to reduce youth in NEET status

Reducing the number of young people in NEET status through targeted interventions

This ILO Handbook serves as a repository of good practices and policies that have been implemented in different countries around the world with the aim of reducing NEET rates. Measures are framed in accordance with the intervention's primary objective, that is prevention, outreach and engagement, reintegration, and lowering unemployment.

 **International**

 Publications

InclusiVET Mapping Report

Characteristics, challenges & opportunities of inclusive learner engagement in VET

The report provides insights into under-represented groups of learners enrolled in VET in Europe and the extent to which VET programmes are inclusive to all. It aims to increase awareness of the barriers, challenges, and opportunities in engaging VET learners.

 **EU level**

 Publications

Implementation of the reinforced Youth Guarantee - Trends in EU Member States, impact, EU funding and governance

European implementation assessment of the reinforced Youth Guarantee and its impact on youth transitions

This European Parliament study evaluates how the 2020 Reinforced Youth Guarantee (RYG) has been implemented across EU Member States, examining trends, challenges; and impacts on young people's access to quality offers of employment, education, apprenticeships, and traineeships.

 **EU level**

 Publications

Lost in transition: New research from the UK on rising NEET rates

An examination of why the UK NEET rate is high and rising

This report investigates why the UK's NEET rate has been rising since 2019, and why it has long been higher than in many other countries. It explores the potential links with factors such as current labour market conditions, health and well-being levels, as well as social support systems.

 **United Kingdom**

 Publications

Youth disengagement from education and employment in the United Kingdom

What the UK's growing NEETs problem really looks like, and how to fix it - Resolution Foundation Report

This report examines the rising share of young people (16-24) not in education, employment or training in the United Kingdom. It looks into the changing composition of NEETs facing challenges related to low qualifications, health issues, or economic difficulties.

 **United Kingdom**

 Publications

ComNetNEET - Community Networking for Integration of Young People in NEET Situation

Erasmus+ Final Evaluation Report

This report presents the ComNetNEET project, a European initiative aimed at promoting the social inclusion and employability of young people who are NEET.

 **Germany**  **Italy**  **Portugal**

 **Spain**  **United Kingdom**

 Publications

Cohesion policy support for youth employment

European Court of Auditors special report 15/2026

This European Court of Auditors report assesses how EU cohesion policy funding has supported youth employment across Member States. It examines the effectiveness of measures financed through the European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative in helping young people access employment, education and training opportunities.

 **EU level**