



Easing transitions into work

Problem statement

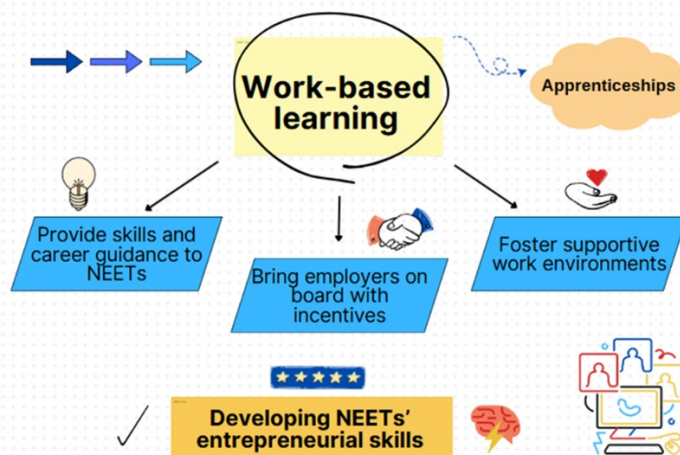
Transitions into employment for young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) present significant challenges, requiring robust support systems. A critical issue is the need to invest in human capital to facilitate these transitions effectively. Across Europe, there is a broad consensus that work-based learning is pivotal in empowering NEETs to enter the workforce quickly. This type of learning enables NEETs to acquire essential professional and social skills, thereby enhancing their employability.

Work-based learning offers NEETs practical opportunities to apply technical and academic skills in real-world settings while simultaneously developing vital employability skills such as communication, teamwork, time management, and problem-solving. Additionally, it provides valuable industry insights, helping NEETs understand workplace expectations, improve career readiness, and refine their career interests and goals. This learning model includes on-the-job experiences like apprenticeships, internships, cooperative education, and project-based learning with industry partners, as well as off-the-job experiences such as close-to-real simulations.

Despite its benefits, the availability and quality of work-based learning opportunities remain insufficient. Addressing this issue is a primary objective of initiatives like the [reinforced Youth Guarantee](#) and [the European Alliance for Apprenticeships \(EAfA\)](#), as well as [the Union of Skills](#). Within this EU policy framework, organisations like Cedefop are actively engaged in gathering evidence and fostering cooperation across Member States to support policy-making aimed at easing NEETs' transitions into employment.

Easing transitions into work

Investing in human capital



Beneficiaries

- NEETs in recent search
- NEETs in long-term search
- Unavailable due to family responsibilities

Addressing the problem

The following tips may be useful for policy makers and practitioners involved in the design and delivery of interventions to help NEETs transitioning into employment.

Tip 1: Guide and prepare young people for work-based learning

There is significant value in empowering young people, understand their strengths and learning preferences, and explore their professional aspirations. Access to high-quality career guidance is essential in helping them build career management skills and shape personalised learning or career plans. This guidance supports smoother transitions into the workforce by giving young people a sense of ownership over their career decisions, while also helping them set realistic expectations.

Effective career planning may incorporate informal learning opportunities that build competences valued by employers, as well as hands-on activities that facilitate practical work experience. For NEETs, it is especially important to ensure that they have acquired core employability skills before engaging in work-based learning, particularly within companies. These skills include not only basic knowledge and competences but also social or transversal skills and competences like problem solving or teamwork, as well as demonstrating a positive attitude and respectful behaviour.

Education and training providers play a critical role not only in enhancing the employability of young people but also in challenging and changing negative perceptions among employers regarding the motivation and capabilities of NEETs.

Tip 2: Encourage employers to create work-based learning opportunities

Incentivising employers to offer work experience opportunities to NEETs can involve both financial and non-financial measures.

Non-financial incentives may include fostering partnerships between employers and organisations that support NEETs, such as schools, public employment services (PES), social services, and youth NGOs. These partnerships can help employers recognise the economic and social value of engaging young people who bring enthusiasm and untapped potential into the world of work. Additionally, such collaboration allows employers to promote their sectors and workplaces to a

broader talent pool, potentially attracting motivated recruits.

Another effective approach is the use of intermediary or promoting bodies that work with groups of employers. These bodies can coordinate the administrative aspects of apprenticeships or other forms of on-the-job training, thereby reducing the time and resource burden for individual employers.

On the financial side, recruitment subsidies can encourage employers to offer apprenticeship placements specifically targeted at NEETs. However, these incentives should be carefully designed and monitored to ensure they serve their intended purpose and genuinely benefit the target group. Financial incentives are often most effective when complemented by non-financial supports, creating a more holistic and sustainable model for employer engagement.

Tip 3: Ensure that work-based learning is a positive experience

For many young people, work-based learning is their first contact with the world of work. Ensuring that this is a positive experience will help to increase their motivation to complete their learning programme, attain a qualification and enter the labour market.

A key part of this is fostering a welcoming and inclusive workplace environment that offers real opportunities for learning and growth. It is also important to manage learners' expectations by addressing any potential mismatches between their perceptions and the realities of the profession before the placement begins.

Several measures can help ensure the success of work-based learning:

- **Written agreements** between the training provider, the company, and the learner that clearly outline the training objectives, planned activities, and working conditions (including working hours).
- **Mechanisms to ensure employer compliance** with their training responsibilities, such as periodic quality checks conducted by external agencies or trade unions.
- **Regular feedback mechanisms**, including scheduled check-ins with tutors from the vocational education and training provider or workplace mentors, to monitor progress and address any challenges the learner may face.
- **Conflict mediation processes** to resolve any issues between the learner and the in-company trainer or employer, ensuring that problems do not derail the learning experience.

These and other measures to promote inclusive work-based learning environments are described further in the [VET toolkit for tackling early leaving](#).

Tip 4: Promote the development of entrepreneurial skills

Entrepreneurial skills development goes beyond raising NEETs' awareness of self-employment as a career option. An entrepreneurial mindset is characterised by

initiative, independent thinking and decisive action where necessary. Developing NEETs' entrepreneurial skills and attitudes contributes to their successful transition into employment by promoting their ownership of their career choices. This, in turn, enhances their motivation to work (see [Cedefop, 2023](#)).

[Career guidance](#) and [mentoring programmes](#) play an important role in giving NEETs the opportunity to be involved in entrepreneurial activities that will allow them to identify and capitalise on business and employment opportunities. Entrepreneurship education programmes across Europe are increasing, expanding the scope for employment and social services to collaborate with schools and training providers to enhance the entrepreneurial skills of NEETs.

Expected outcomes

Expected outcomes from easing transitions into work for NEETs include enhanced employability and smoother integration into the labour market. By investing in work-based learning opportunities, NEETs can develop essential professional and social skills, bridging the gap between education and employment. This approach not only boosts their confidence and motivation but also increases their chances of gaining sustainable employment. Furthermore, fostering partnerships between employers and organisations supporting NEETs can broaden the talent pool, ultimately contributing to reduced youth unemployment rates and a more dynamic and inclusive workforce.

The positive outcomes can be expected at different levels:

		
INDIVIDUAL	INSTITUTIONAL	SYSTEM
• Enhanced employability and confidence of NEETs through positive work experience • Smoother transitions into the labour market, reducing burden on individuals while boosting their confidence and agency in finding their place in the world of work • Fostering young peoples' entrepreneurial skills	• Strengthened employer collaboration efforts • Increase in appeal of targeted projects for NEETs • Optimised resource and programme use	• Improved employment rates for NEETs • Less friction in the labour market • Utilising untapped potential through boosting work-based-learning • Overall greater inclusion and social cohesion

Related risk factors



Migratory background



Skills mismatch

Related resources

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

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

 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 effectively the jobseeker with a potential employer.

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

 **Spain**

Guidance and professional initiation courses and professional initiation courses to diverse professions

*Cours d'orientation et d'initiation
professionnelles (COIP) et cours
d'initiation professionnelle à divers
métiers (IPDM)*

COIP/IPDM aim to equip young people with the necessary skills and competences they need to integrate into a VET programme or the labour market.

 **Luxembourg**

 **Good practice**

Comprehensive pathways for the integration of young people

Programme for young people implemented by the cooperative "Jovent" offering comprehensive pathways of guidance, training, social inclusion and labour market insertion.

 **Spain**

 **Good practice**

Crafts Square

Piazza dei Mestieri

In Italy, 'Crafts Square' offers young people, unemployed young people and adults with an alternative educational offer with a good balance between practical and theoretical courses. The environment created by the 'Craft Square' aims to ensure learners feel understood, supported and valued.

 **Italy**

 **Good practice**

EPIDE (Etablissement Public d'Insertion dans l'emploi)

Young people aged 18-25 who are early leavers, unemployed and/or at risk of exclusion. Young people from

 **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

disadvantaged urban areas are a priority target group.

 **France**

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**

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**

 **Good practice**

RAISE Youth

Rural Action for Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Youth

The RAISE Youth initiative contributes to providing decent and productive work for youth through social innovation in rural areas of 4 EU countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, and Spain.

Main objective is to pilot and promote an innovative RAISE Model of (self) employment, for youth based on sustainable agri-business in 4 rural regions of EU with high unemployment rates and depopulation.

 **Bulgaria**  **Croatia**  **Romania**

 **Spain**

 **Good practice**

Social Innovators

Socialni inovatorji

Social Innovators is a programme aimed at developing skills for young people in social innovation fields, enhancing their employability, and encouraging impactful projects within local communities.

 **Bulgaria**  **Croatia**  **Norway**

 **Slovenia**

 **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**

Tools

✕ Tools

YOUTHShare e-learning platform

The YOUTHShare e-learning platform offers skills on resilient sectors of the Mediterranean economy, specially designed for NEETs.

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

 **Norway**  **Spain**

✕ Tools

Aim-Learn-Master-Achieve (ALMA) tool - European Commission's active inclusion initiative for integrating disadvantaged young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) through mobility

ALMA (Aim-Learn-Master-Achieve) is an active inclusion initiative to empower the most vulnerable young people (18- to 29-year-olds) who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs).

 **EU level**

✕ Tools

Encouraging preventive approaches to support young people not in employment, education or training: A checklist

This 15-page checklist offers a practical guide considering key questions when designing and implementing prevention projects for young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

 **EU level**

✕ Tools

Digital Start - Empowering Young NEETs for the Digital Era

Digitálny štart - Aktivácia mladých NEET pre digitálnu dobu

Digital Start is an online skills and counselling platform for NEETs, offering innovative online diagnostics and counselling for NEETs to help build digital and personal skills in areas with high labour market demand.

Publications

 Publications

Eurofound on NEETs

Eurofound's thematic area on NEETs

The website summarizes Eurofound's extensive research on NEETs

 EU level

 Publications

ILO: Policy brief on early intervention measures and youth employment

ILO Technical brief

This brief reviews the implementation of early intervention measures within national YG plans and analyses the interactions between prevention and curative policies and their effectiveness in addressing the difficulties young people face at different stages in the life-course.

 EU level

 Publications

Learning and Skills Network: Changing the NEET mindset

Achieving more effective transitions between education and work

This report examines the quality of the curriculum offer and careers guidance in place at key transition points from education into work, and looks at how it might be improved.

 United Kingdom

 Publications

Leaving education early: putting vocational education and training centre stage

Volume I: investigating causes and extent

This Cedefop study examines the contribution that vocational education and training (VET) can make to reducing early leaving from education and training (ELET).

 EU level

 Publications

Leaving education early: putting vocational education and training centre stage

 Publications

Eurofound: Young people not in employment, education or training: Characteristics, costs and

Volume II: evaluating policy impact

This Cedefop study focuses on the contribution that vocational education and training (VET) can make to reducing early leaving from education and training (ELET).

 **EU level**

policy responses in Europe

This report analyses the labour market situation of young people in Europe, with a specific focus on the group categorised as NEET.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

Cedefop: Apprenticeships in work-based learning

This initiative is part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe, launched in June 2016.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

ILO: Rising to the youth employment challenge: New evidence on key policy issues

This book brings together contributions from the ILO's Youth Employment Programme detailing policies that enable young people to find decent work.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

OECD: Seven Questions about Apprenticeships

Answers from International Experience

This study draws out policy messages on how to design and implement high-quality apprenticeships.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

ILO: Policy brief on Activation strategies for youth employment

ILO Technical brief

This brief reviews the strategies to support unemployed young people in finding work. It is based on the analysis of evidence of similar strategies that have been put in place by EU countries over the past two decades.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

ILO: Policy brief on Outreach strategies for young NEETs

ILO Technical brief

 **Publications**

European Commission: Sustainable activation of young people not in

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**

employment, education or training (NEETs)

Practitioner's toolkit

This toolkit is intended to assist you in designing and implementing your approach to activate people not in employment, education and training (NEETs). The toolkit provides concrete guidance and tools for PES to assess the NEET challenge and set priorities; draft and implement an Action Plan; and develop new tools, measures and competences from scratch.

 **EU level**

Publications

Lifelong Learning Programme: Preventing and contrasting the NEET phenomenon

How to work with NEETs - A Toolkit for local administrations

At EU level NEETs (Not in Employment Education or Training) are considered one of the most problematic groups in the context of youth unemployment. The aim of the NET not NEET project was to enhance networking and co-operation amongst public and private actors.

 **EU level**

Publications

ILO: Guide for monitoring 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**

Publications

Becoming adults: Young people in a post-pandemic world

Latest Eurofound report on the situation of young people in Europe

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working

Publications

Becoming adults: Young people in a post-pandemic world

Latest Eurofound report on the situation of young people in Europe

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working

Conditions (Eurofound) published its latest report on youth in 2024. The report provides a snapshot of young people's situation in today's Europe, focusing on educational and career paths, housing circumstances and family situation.

 **EU level**

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 **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 opportunities for a significant share of youth.

 **Bulgaria**

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

 **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

Learning from experience - Integrating disadvantaged young people through mobility schemes

2022 report from the European Commission on trans-European mobility for NEETs

Mobility programmes have shown to enhance learners' skills, autonomy, confidence, and open-mindedness. They also help learners define their future careers and life choices, with participants experiencing shorter transitions from education to employment.

 EU level

 Publications

NEETs in European rural areas

Individual features, support systems and policy measures

This publication focuses on the topics of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) in a rural setting, this edition brings together a number of articles dealing with this complex social challenge. Next to the economic dimension of the NEET issue, the authors investigate regional and partly bottom-up approaches involving local actors and their target populations.

 EU level

 Publications

Reasons for dropping out of intermediate vocational education and training in Spain

Exploring the influence of sociodemographic characteristics and academic background for early leaving of VET

This article explores the main reasons for dropping out of Spanish Intermediate Vocational Education. It links the prevalence of early leaving of VET to personal, family and financial sociodemographic characteristics, as well as academic background.

 Spain

 Publications

Unravelling the NEET phenomenon: A systematic literature review and meta-analysis of risk factors for youth not in education, employment, or training

Meta-analysis reviewing 43 studies published since 2010

This systematic review examines the factors contributing to youth becoming not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

 EU level

 Publications

 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

Mapping of interventions targeting 25-29 old NEETs

Synthesis report in the framework of the project "Lost Millennials - transnational research network"

This synthesis report provides an overview of interventions targeting young people aged 25 to 29 who are neither in employment, education, or training (NEET).

 Bulgaria  Czechia  Greece
 Hungary  Malta  Poland
 Romania  Slovakia  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.

International

 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

In-depth overview of the EU cohesion funds' investments in skills in the context of the European Year of Skills

European Commission diving into how the EU's cohesion funds invest in skills

 Publications

ESF Synthesis Report of 2022

Summary of the Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs)

This report summarises the state of play

development

This European Commission report reveals how the EU's cohesion funds, namely the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), as well as the Just Transition Fund (JTF) are investing in skills development. This overview report breaks down the share of planned funding for education, training, and skills, across relevant investment priorities, programmes, and Member States.

 **EU level**

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

In what way a 'Guarantee for youth'?

Critical assessment of whether EU labour market policies leave NEETs entrapped

In the aftermath of the Great Recession of 2009 and its negative effects on youth unemployment, the European Union developed and put in place the European Youth Guarantee. This study employs a Geographical Political Economy approach to analyse the Youth Guarantees underpinnings and conditions which have an impact on its application on a regional level.

 **Italy**  **Spain**

Publications

Paper on self-regulated learning during repeatedly failing

How do students reflect on their failure in exams and approach future ones

The exit examination from upper-secondary school represents an essential part of the educational trajectory, but failure can complicate the transition to the labour market or higher education. This study explores how students who repeatedly fail the Czech upper-secondary leaving examination reflect on their failure and approach future attempts.

 **Czechia**

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-

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

29 age group in Italy, Lithuania, and Malta.

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

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

Malta, aimed at integrating young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) aged 25-29 into the green jobs.

 **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

OECD report on youth-led social enterprises

Unlocking the potential of meaningful employment opportunities

This paper explores the potential of youth-led social enterprises for providing young people with meaningful employment opportunities while addressing social and environmental issues.

International

Publications

Labour market transition of youths with disabilities

Research article from Austria

This article delves into the transition process for youths with disabilities in Austria from compulsory education to higher levels or vocational paths.

 **Austria**

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**

The profile of NEETs teachers in Greece

From European policies and practices to empirical findings

This Cedefop working paper provides fresh insights into the effectiveness of VET in addressing the complex challenges faced by NEETs and their teachers.

 **Greece**

 **Publications**

Intra-EU labour mobility

Annual report (Edition 2024)

The report highlights an increase in working-age EU movers in 2023, who generally have higher activity and employment rates compared to nationals and third-country nationals.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

Implementation of the EU Youth Strategy (2022-2024)

European Commission's report

The report describes the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027) focused on engaging, connecting, and empowering young people by promoting their participation in democratic life and supporting their social and civic engagement.

 **EU level**

 **Publications**

Partnerships and collaborations for success

Europe impact report 2024-2025 from Generation

The report highlights significant achievements in transforming education to employment systems, with over 5,100 graduates trained and placed in high-demand sectors such as healthcare, tech, and the green economy.

 **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

 **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

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

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

Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2025

Unlocking the potential of people through promoting higher employment in the EU

This edition of the annual Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) review examines 51 million EU residents (aged 20-64) out of employment and highlights how including groups that are under-represented in the labour market can help offset the impacts of demographic change on Europe's workforce.

 EU level

 Publications

2025 Belgian Gen Z and Millennial Survey

Survey on new generation's opinions on the pursuit of money, meaning, and wellbeing

This survey aims to examine the connection between happiness and work in the Belgian workplace. It identifies work happiness as a key pursuit of Gen Z and Millennial workers and tries to answer the question whether happiness is the responsibility of the employer.

 Belgium

 Publications

Assessing the impact of the Youth Employment Initiative in European regions

Regional impact analysis of the YEI on youth labour market and education outcomes

This article assesses the impact of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), a major EU funding instrument targeting young people not in employment,

 Publications

Mind the AI Divide: Shaping a Global Perspective on the Future of Work

UN and ILO joint report on the risks of uneven AI adoption

This report focuses on disparities in access to digital infrastructure, quality education, training, and skills that shape opportunities in the changing world of work.

education or training (NEETs), across European regions.

 EU level

International

 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

Trends in PES: Assessment report on PES capacity 2025

2025 report of the Network of Public Employment Services with a special focus on Youth Guarantee implementation

Published every two years, this capacity report provides an EU-wide overview of the evolving role of Public Employment Services (PES) in 2025, with a special focus on the reinforced Youth Guarantee, alongside two additional themes: skills-based approaches and the role of PES in addressing labour shortages.

 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.

 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.

 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

Spain's Recovery and Resilience Plan - Labour market reforms, skills development and opportunities for young people

European Economy Discussion Paper

This discussion paper analyses the labour market reforms introduced through Spain's Recovery and Resilience Plan and their preliminary impact on employment outcomes. It examines measures aimed at reducing temporary employment, strengthening active labour market policies, improving skills development and modernising vocational education and training.

 **Spain**

 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**

