

Introduction of a Scout Profile

IO4 - Scout competence profile (organizational coordination and individual counseling)

SLOVENIA

Level: national/regional/local

Rationale:

Being a NEET¹ is not a financial burden just for individuals and their families, but has high costs for society too.² According to Eurostat, Slovenia still has one of the highest rates of NEETs among urban youth.³ At the same time almost 55% of Slovenia's population lives in urban areas.⁴ Further on, Slovenia is among countries where having tertiary education no longer lowers the risk of unemployment compared to having no qualifications.⁵ This suggests that just focusing on traditional educational success may not solve the problem of NEETs' (re)integration into the labor market.

The key resource for NEETs on their path to employability is a dedicated counselor who understands their personal needs and professional aspirations and can support and guide them to achieving qualification, vocational maturity, and employment. NEETs are a highly heterogeneous group with diverse needs addressed by a range of professionals from education, social, health, labor-market, and other sectors. The complexity of NEETs situation even arises due to rapid and diverse changes in the labor market. Therefore, the issue needs special professional attention.

Recommendation:

There is a need for specialized professionals supporting the NEETs. In the YIT Erasmus+ project a competency profile called *scout* was developed. It includes both an organizational and an advisory role. A scout is not only a competent individual counselor, but also possesses knowledge and skills to coordinate initiatives that draw on resources across educational, social, health, labor-market and other sectors. Professionals working with NEETS can become scouts by further developing their organizational and counseling competencies. With *scouts*, whose attention would be focused on this target group, the local, regional and national support systems are expected to gain an important step forward in the quality of their services.

¹ In 2019 NEET of age 20 to 34 in Slovenia was 10,1, men 6,8 and female 13,9. In 2020 numbers are: 11,1 total, 8,6 men and 14,0 female.

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/EDAT_LFSE_21_custom_1006665/default/table?lang=en

² European study states that each individual without qualification throughout their whole life costs the national budget between 1 and 2 millions of Euro. We can assume that costs are high for NEET with qualification too. Nevala, A. in Hawley, J. (2011). Study on reducing early school leaving in the EU. Brussel: European parliament. p. 14.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/cult/dv/esstudyyearlyschoolleaving/esstudyyearlyschoolleavingen.pdf

³ The other four countries are: France, Belgium, Austria, and the Netherlands.

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statisticsexplained/index.php/Statistics_on_young_people_neither_in_employment_nor_in_education_or_training#Young_people_neither_in_employment_nor_in_education_or_training

⁴ <https://tradingeconomics.com/slovenia/rural-population-percent-of-total-population-wb-data.html>

⁵ Especially during economic crises. <https://movendi.ngo/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NEET-and-youth-unemployment.pdf>