

<i>- 'YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS' -</i>	
<b><u>Organisation / Country:</u></b>	Municipality of Leiden, Region of Holland Rijnland, Netherlands
<b><u>Website:</u></b>	<a href="#">Here</a>
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<b><u>Summary:</u></b>	<p><b>Regional context</b>            In the Dutch region of Holland Rijnland, there were 1613 young people under the age of 25 years were unemployed in June 2014. As developments on the labour market in the Netherlands, a decrease of 66.000 jobs is expected in 2014. More than half of this decrease was caused by budget cuts in healthcare and government. As an employment trend, it can be observed that more people start their own (independent) business. In terms of the regional business structure, 80 percent of the enterprises are SMEs (Small and Medium-sized enterprises). They are mostly in the sectors of agriculture, industry, education, and healthcare. For low-skilled people, lesser jobs have become available, and employers have asked for more flexibility and cheaper labour.</p> <p><b>Local context</b>            In the Municipality of Leiden, unemployed young people receiving social benefits are obliged to follow a programme called Project JA.</p> <p><b>Target group</b>            Project JA is based on a regional model and involves young people between 18 and 27 years.</p> <p><b>Project description</b></p>

	<p>This programme aims to guide the young person into employment or education and to make him financially independent. In the framework of this programme, young people attend several trainings and courses to empower and develop social and professional skills.</p> <p>Besides these trainings and courses, the individual youngster has to work between 20 and 24 hours a week in a facility to maintain or obtain applicable skills and to get used to a daily routine. During the enrolment in the programme, young people are obliged to apply for and accept any kind of work.</p> <p>Apart from to this programme, the project sustains a network of health authorities whom can support the youngsters with problems like personal debts, substance abuse, housing problems etc.</p> <p>The objective of bringing youth into work touches upon a variety of different issues, institutions and responding services, where young people are in the centre. Among those are school drop-out, prevention, addiction counselling, guided living, an orientation year, safety houses, debt counselling, regional education centres, and the employee insurance agencies.</p>
<p><b><u>Issues:</u></b></p>	<p>One of the issues is the considerably higher rate of youth unemployment as compared to overall unemployment. Referring to the total working population in the Netherlands of 9,773,512, the overall average rate in June 2014 was at 8.6 per cent, whereas the unemployment rate of those under 25 years of age was higher with 15.1 per cent.</p>
<p><b><u>Resources:</u></b></p>	<p>Counselling and helping young people mostly takes place within existing programmes and projects. This keeps the extra costs of the counseling low. As an example, for the field of education: The government finances the education for young people when they return to school. This measure will keep the youngster away from benefits and the young person will gain a</p>
	<p>better position in the labour market due to higher and/or more specific education.</p> <p>Applying the projects and programmes for young people produces annual costs per young person of EUR 1,300.</p>

<p><b><u>Objectives:</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activating and guiding young people to take up jobs and education opportunities or trainings.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Outcomes:</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In terms of results, out of the 619 participants in 2013, 246 in 2014 were still in the project. Since 2013, 373 (61 per cent) exited the project, out of which 219 entered work or school. Another 154 young persons exited the programme for other reasons: detention, not wanting to participate, change of residence etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Evaluation:</u></b></p>	<p>The evaluation has identified the following success factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a clear analysis of the target group,</li> <li>• a close network of organisations and partners,</li> <li>• a clear approach: guidance to work or school</li> <li>• political support, and</li> <li>• devoted employees who counsel the youngsters.</li> </ul> <p>Based on past experiences, the working method within the project will be adapted to make the best use of the instruments. For example, the increase of higher educated youngsters in the program asked for a different approach than the youngsters without any qualification.</p> <p>The evaluation has led to several changes, which are for example: A high number of youngsters deal with behavioural problems. They say they want to work, but this does not reflect their actions and their behaviour. For this group a new training started to focus on keeping appointments and confronting the youngsters with their behaviour and the implied effects.</p>