Young people in Europe - vulnerability factors and options for action

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Youth unemployment rate in Feb 2012 reached 22.4% ≈ 5.6Milions

- Youth unemployment rates have doubled or in some cases tripled since the onset of the recession.
- Unemployment hit all young persons, regardless their educational level.
The traditional indicators for labour market participation are frequently criticised for their limited relevance for youth.

Modern youth transitions tend to be complex and protracted.

The need of moving beyond the dichotomy between the employed/unemployed so as to capture the various ‘shades of grey’ that represent current labour market attachment.
### Young People Not in Employment, Education and Training

- The acronym NEETs first emerged in the UK in the late 1980s
- The interest on NEETs has grown at the EU level.

The need to focus more on NEETs is one of the priorities of **EU 2020** and the flagship **Youth on the move** and it is central to the **new set of integrated guidelines** for economic and employment policies proposed by the **European Commission**.
Who are the NEETs?

Unemployed

Unavailable

Disengaged

Voluntary NEETs
How many NEETs in Europe?

7.5 Millions aged 15-24
6 Millions aged 25-29
Potential risk factors of ending up NEETs are a mix of individual and family background

**Individual**
- Low educational level (+300%)
- Living in remote areas (+150%)
- Immigration Background (+70%)
- Suffering Disabilities (+40%)

**Family Background**
- Parents with Low educ. level (+200%)
- Low household income (+100%)
- Divorced parent (+40%)
- Parents experienced unempl. (+17%)
Despite their heterogeneity, NEETs share common characteristics:

- *not accumulate human capital* through formal channels;
- *cumulate several disadvantages* (low educational attainment; poor family background);

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- **Unemployed regularly** or have a **poor participation** in the labour market.
- **Dangerous lifestyles**: crime and substance abuse.
- Experience **mental** and **physical health** problems.
All these outcomes and consequences each have a cost attached to them and therefore being NEET is not just a problem for the individual but also for societies and economies as a whole.

**Economic**

The yearly loss for our economies for having 13 million NEETS

**120 Billion Euro**

26 Member States - 2008

**Societal**

Risk of disaffection from democratic engagement

- Young people participate far less than other groups
- NEETs participation and trust is even lower
The costs of the NEETs call for new policy action in support of those not included in education or employment.

NEETs is an heterogeneous population and the different sub-groups will require distinct forms of policy interventions.

EU Member States in recent years have been actively engaged in designing policy measures aimed at increasing their employability and promoting higher employment participation or young people.
Early School Leavers

- One out of every seven young Europeans leaves the education system without having the qualifications necessary to make a successful transition to the labour market.
- 6.2 million young people in Europe are classified as early school leavers (14.1% in 2010).

Reducing the share of early school-leavers to under 10% is one of the five headline targets within the European Union.

Source: Eurostat 2010
• MS have been very active in implementing measures to **prevent** and **re-integrate** ESL

**Preventing ESL**
- Diagnostic policies
- Alternative schooling environments
- Increasing compulsory age
- General and careers counselling and support

**One-stop-shop guidance center**
- Tracking/catch-up services

**Reintegrating ESL**
- Second chance opportunities
- Financial help to bring them back in education
• Once young people are equipped with the necessary skills and competences, they should be helped and guided in their entrance in the labour market.

• In most EU countries, a combined and coordinated approach seems to be the most useful tool for smoothing school to-work transitions also for the most vulnerable groups.

One-stop-shop for YP
- information
- career advice
- mentoring
- guidance
- job-matching services
- job-search assistance
Youth guarantee

• To ensure that all young people are in a job, education or training activity, some countries introduced youth guarantees.

• In Finland, for example, all unemployed under 25 years of age, within three months of registering with the Public Employment Service (PES), are offered a job, an educational opportunity.

  • It is very effective with those “ready-to-work”
  • Effective to re-build trust in institutions.
  • Do not remove structural problems and cannot be considered a universal remedy.
Removing barriers

- Alternative/adapting training provision to young disabled people.
- Employers incentives for facilitating employment of young people with disabilities and migrants.
- Facilitating mobility through support for transport and accommodation.
- Childcare support.
• The crisis hit all young people: the well educated are also at risk of being unemployed

• Costs of the NEETs call for new policy action in support of those not included in education or employment. However, NEET sub-groups will require distinct forms of policy interventions.

• Governments are responsible of initiatives for promoting employability of young people: the effectiveness of policy measures should be assessed.

• Coordinated actions between governments and social partners might be the key for successful initiatives.