Report on expert consultations with relevant stakeholders

Maribor, 30.11.2023

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This document has been produced with the financial support of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the University of Maribor and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the situation of the Education - Strengthening of Human Resources Programme Operator.

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Introduction

This report is based on the application documentation of the "To Be Read" project, namely:

> "The project will organise 4 multi-stakeholder consultations aimed at finding broader solutions for managing the activation of NEETs, one of which will be conducted at national level, with the support of the Youth Guarantee Inter-ministerial Working Group, led by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and involving all relevant ministries and umbrella non-governmental stakeholders.This will include the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. A second consultation will be held with representatives of regional development agencies and local authorities (municipalities), a third with representatives of youth centres and organisations (with young people) and a fourth specifically with representatives of NEETs who will be involved in the integrated programme of the project.

As planned, the following multi-stakeholder consultations were held in September and October 2023:

Date	Level	Organiser	Contractor/moderator
31.8.2023	National level	ZRS	ZZRS, Moderator Janja Deutschman
12.9.2023	Level of participants	LUC	UM, moderated by Andrej Naterer
21.9.2023	Regional level	LUC	UM, moderated by Andrej Naterer
27.11.2023	Youth centre and NGO level	MSS	UM, moderated by Andrej Naterer

The results of the activities carried out in the other work streams, and the multi-stakeholder consultations held here, provide the basis for concrete recommendations for policy makers.

Design of consultations

The consultations were designed based on the preliminary results achieved during the project, as published in the official reports. The design of the consultations included a universal part, which consisted of (1) a presentation of the "PreseNeeti se" project with a particular focus on the main objectives, (2) a presentation of the baseline for the detection of the needs and the number of young NEETs in Slovenia, (3) a presentation of the baseline model (original, unvalidated idea) for the detection of NEETs based on the compulsory health insurance, (4) the implementation of the validation of the baseline model, and (5) the key findings of the validation results. In addition, the design included a modular part that was applied as an adaptation for each specific population that participated in the consultation. These modules were the basis for the discussion and included the following specific discussion guiding principles or starting points:

1.) How can we develop a methodology to identify the essential characteristics and needs of the NEET population (which will provide the PES with a tool for early intervention)?

2.) How can we strengthen the competencies of professionals dealing with NEETs at the system level?

3.) How to establish advocacy systems through recommendations for policymakers, involving stakeholders at micro, mezzo, and macro levels?

4.) How to develop awareness-raising campaigns based on the "peer outreach" of NEETs?

5.) What would be your recommendations for policymakers?

Implementation report

The multi-stakeholder consultations were held in the following format:

Date	Level	Format	Duration
31.8.2023	National level	Live	approx. 60 min
12.9.2023	Level of participants	Live	approx. 60 min
21.9.2023	Regional level	On-line	approx. 60 min
27.11.2023	Youth centre and NGO level	On-line	approx. 100 min

REPORT MULTI-UNIT STATE COUNCIL - 31.8.2023 - Ljubljana

On 31 August 2023, a multi-stakeholder national consultation of key organisations responsible for work in the field of young people who are not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) took place in Ljubljana, organised by the Employment Agency of the Republic of Slovenia. The National Consultation was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Slovenian Youth Office, the MAMA Youth Network, the Slovenian Youth Council, the Andragogical Centre of Slovenia, the Ypsilon Institute, the Koper, Radovljica and Celje Folk Universities, the Familija Institute and the Centre for Youth Assistance, a total of 20 participants.

The consultation started with a detailed presentation of the project "NEETs to be detected", focusing on the detection phase of NEETs. The project developed a methodology to identify the essential characteristics and needs of the NEET population. The initial idea for detecting NEETs is based on basic insurance (people without education, employment, or other institutional coverage). However, NEETs' very causes and characteristics can be detected in the institutions that work with them.

The discussion highlighted the need to raise the accountability of schools and school leavers, that their obligations do not end here, and that leaving the "system" is not the solution. Pupils and students should be better informed about their options for the future, as a lack of information leads some to "wait to see what happens" and stay at home. More awareness raising and education of young people about their options is needed. Young people need a more significant increase in their general awareness. The Austrian practice was also presented in the discussion, mainly how primary school drop-outs are tackled there. It was pointed out that the Austrian system is linked to receiving financial

aid in the case of education. Otherwise, no financial aid is received. The issue of detecting young NEETs involved in the PreseNEETi se project was also raised. The young people were detected through the social network and an individual approach. The problems of young NEETs originate from the primary family.

The discussion also shared views and experiences and gathered answers to questions about the challenges young people face in transitioning to the labour market or to further education, what different organisations can offer them in this context, and how we can improve the measures we target at young people to address their issues better. The conclusion recognised the need for a continuous exchange of knowledge, experiences and approaches between organisations in youth work. The importance of social networks, support from family members, career counselling at different levels, extracurricular activities, personal motivation, and identifying potential, among other things, is crucial for a successful transition to adulthood.

REPORT MULTI-STATION CONFERENCE WITH PARTICIPANTS - 12.9.2023- Celje

On 12.9.2023, a multi-stakeholder consultation was held in an online environment with representatives of young NEETs who participated in the pre-test, the activities of the "Preseneeti.se" project, and the post-test. The consultation took place on the People's University of Celje premises.

The consultation started with a presentation of the project "PreseNEETi se," focusing on the detection phase of NEETs. It presented:

1. The methodology developed to identify the essential characteristics and needs of the NEET population,
2. The initial idea for NEET detection is based on basic insurance (people do not have insurance in the context of education, employment, or other institutional coverage) and
3. The project results are related to the causes and characteristics of NEETs and the proposed potential actions.

In the discussion part, the participants overwhelmingly confirmed the relevance of the conclusions related to the need to create a single database for tracking NEET young people and introducing exceptions or changes in the context of the GDPR. Participants stressed the need to integrate work with NEETs and address the personal, emotional, psychological, and social problems they face. They see the basis for this in more intensive, professional, and frequent cooperation with professionals (e.g. counsellors).

REPORT MULTI-STATION REGIONAL COUNCIL - 21.9.2023 - Online

On 21.9.2023, a multi-stakeholder consultation of critical organisations responsible for working with young people, not in employment, education, or training (NEETs), occurred online. The consultation was attended by representatives of various organisations working with young people at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of education, as well as in counselling and intervention organisations.

The consultation started with a detailed presentation of the project "NEETs to be detected," focusing on the detection phase of NEETs. It presented 1) the methodology developed to identify the essential characteristics and needs of the NEET population, 2) the initial idea for the detection of NEETs is based on the primary insurance (people do not have insurance in the context of education, employment or other institutional coverage), and 3) the results of the project so far related to the causes and characteristics of NEETs. 4.

In the discussion part, participants agreed on the validity of the need to create a single database for tracking NEET young people. Also, they agreed on introducing exemptions and changes in the context of the GDPR to facilitate the collection of relevant data to create this database. The representatives also agreed with the proposals to strengthen the staffing of institutions working with NEET young people, particularly by introducing appropriate professional staff. They also highlighted the urgent need for additional professional reinforcement of the existing staff and their relief (e.g., limiting the cases the professional can work with).

REPORT MULTI-UNIT ORGANISATIONAL MEETING - 27.11.2023 – online

On November 27, 2023, a multi-stakeholder consultation was held in an online environment with representatives of youth centers and youth organizations working in the field of youth in Slovenia.

The consultation began with the presentation of the "PreseNEETi se" project, with an emphasis on the detection phase of NEET persons. It was presented 1) a developed methodology for identifying the basic characteristics and needs of the NEET population, 2) the initial idea for the detection of NEET persons is based on basic insurance (persons do not have organized insurance in the context of education, employment or other institutional coverage), and 3) the current project results related to the causes and characteristics of NEET persons, and proposed potential measures.

In the discussion part, the participants agreed with the relevance of the conclusions presented, related to the need to create a single database for tracking NEET young people and the introduction of exceptions or changes in the context of the GDPR. The participants also pointed out that:

1.) the competences of workers need to be strengthened so that institutions go to the field (e.g. street work),

2.) work to be based on the form of a "one-on-one" format,

3.) peer work should be included in the approach,

4.) it is necessary to include specialized counselors for working with NEET youth in the system (it would be necessary to introduce a specialized counselor for NEET youth),

5.) as part of the Youth Guarantee (Jamstvo za mlade), the concept of employed specialized counselors for young people has already been included, and that this would indicate renewing or creating new jobs in this direction,

6.) it is necessary to create a specific methodology for working with NEET youth,

7.) it is necessary to create an inventory of problematic and non-problematic forms of employment,

8.) work with NEET young people is designed as integrated, and above all, it must also address their personal, emotional, psychological and social problems they face.

Conclusions

The key conclusions of the multi-stakeholder consultations can be agreed in the following paragraphs:

1.) A single database for the NEET population was identified as necessary in all the groups where the consultation was conducted. Participants agreed that the database should include all the essential data to enable the design of an appropriate individualised reintegration programme.

2.) Many participants at different levels agreed that the GDPR legislation represents a significant barrier to effective tracking and work with young NEETs. Representatives of institutions working with young NEETs endorsed the proposal to adopt the GDPR to allow for the collection and sharing of relevant information related to young NEETs (e.g., The GDPR was also identified as a problem by the representatives of the NEET population who participated in the consultations - they said that they agreed with the central collection of relevant information and the sharing of the database with the institutions working with young NEETs.

3.) Participants agreed that work with NEET young people should be integrated and, in addition to addressing the issue of reintegration into education or the labour market, it should also address the personal and social problems that young people face. This implies that the young person's primary family must be involved in all relevant processes.

4.) Representatives of institutions recognised and accepted that young people perceive institutions as rigid and somewhat distant, but they attributed this mainly to the overload of staff working with NEETs. In this context, they suggested (1) relieving the burden on staff (e.g. (1) the staff should be given more time to work (e.g., limiting the number of cases of NEET young people they work with), (2) the institutions should be strengthened with NEET experts, (3) the work should be more widely dispersed between institutions (e.g. several experts working on a given case) and (4) the staff should be given additional professional reinforcement (e.g. through shorter, online workshops on topics relevant for the professional work with NEET young people).