

Mapping community-based projects promoting participation and social inclusion of youth NEETs in rural areas across Europe

**Report elaborated by Working Group 1: Rural
NEETs social networks and social inclusion.**

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Opening note

[Note from the Chair, presenting the Action, justifying the importance of the report and connecting the report's topic to the whole Action]



Acknowledgement

The elaboration of this report was only possible because of the active collaboration of all members of WG1 “Rural NEETs: Social Networks and social inclusion”, COST Action CA18213 - Rural NEET Youth Network: Modelling the risks underlying rural NEETs social exclusion. Although a few of us have been working together since the early stages of the Cost Action, most of us actually started working together less than one year ago. Nevertheless, we soon realised that we all shared a commitment to improving the quality of life of young people in rural areas through research and intervention. Thus, concerned with ensuring that young people’s voices and needs are fully considered, our work has been focused on how existing policies, programmes, and projects can facilitate the participation and social inclusion of rural NEETs across Europe. Specifically, we are interested in community-based projects and initiatives aiming to give voice to and empower young people in rural areas.

The elaboration of this report involved the collaboration of 19 members from 12 countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. We would like to thank WG1 members for their contributions and enthusiasm during all the stages of this work. Our different perspectives, skills and positionings made our work truly collaborative, and we hope this report is just the beginning of many future collaborations.

Maria Fernandes-Jesus and Tatiana Ferreira, leaders of the WG1.

Introduction

The WG1 “Rural NEETs Social Networks and Social Inclusion” focus on the role of social networks (family, friends, neighbours, rural communities at large) and of social inclusion processes (risk and protective factors at the rural community level) for rural NEETs quality-of-life. How are social networks organised around rural NEETs? What are their main characteristics? What are the main factors and processes at the rural community level involved in rural NEETs social inclusion? How do social networks and rural community factors contribute to rural NEETs overall quality of life? How do these networks compensate for the lack of inadequacy of formal/institutional support in rural areas? Those are some of the questions that guide our work and inspire our collaboration.

NEET is an acronym for "Not in Education, Employment, or Training". In our working group, we look at NEETs from a very inclusive perspective within our cost action. As NEETs are diverse population (Mascherini & Ledermaier, 2016), socio-demographic factors (e.g., NEETs increase with age and referring to gender, young women are more likely to become NEET) and educational attainment (the likelihood of NEET decreases as educational level increases) are key variables explaining the NEET phenomenon. The level of urbanisation is also particularly relevant as there has been some evidence suggesting that young people living in rural areas are at higher risk of becoming NEETs (Eurofound, 2012). Besides, rural areas are also often neglected in terms of projects and initiatives targeting the support and development of the territory (Ellena et al., 2021). Against this background, this report aims to contribute to the identification of projects, programmes, or initiatives targeting youth in vulnerable situations, including young people not in employment, education or training, in rural areas across Europe.

Following Bronfenbrenner’s ecological model perspective, we argue that addressing the needs of rural NEETs is only possible if we consider the dynamic interplays between individual and environmental factors at micro, meso, exo and macro levels (Bronfenbrenner, 1989). The microsystem includes the settings in which individuals directly interact; the mesosystem encompasses the interaction process between the multiple microsystems; the exosystem includes the social and physical environments that are external to the individual; and the macrosystem represents the cultural context including the beliefs, values and social norms (Ettekal & Mahoney, 2017). Thus, an ecological perspective argues that people are influenced by multiple factors and that to understand the NEET phenomenon in rural areas, we need to look at the existing social support structures in place. To do this, in this report we focus on the projects, programmes, or initiatives targeting youth in

vulnerable situations, including young people not in employment, education or training, in rural areas across Europe.

Quality of life and social inclusion are two main concepts guiding our work. Here we consider “*quality of life*” from a broad perspective, one that includes several dimensions, including physical and/or psychological well-being, social development, socioeconomic conditions, as well as educational and employment outcomes. Thus, physical, social and cultural environments play a role in people's lives and quality of life (WHO, 2012). *Social inclusion*, namely through social networks and social support, is also an important factor in the quality of life. In the last decades, the social inclusion of young people has been the core concept in many European policies. Kovacheva (2014) defines social inclusion from a youth perspective as the “process of individual's self-realisation within a society, acceptance and recognition of one's potential by social institutions, integration (through study, employment, volunteer work or other forms of participation) in the web of social relations in a community” (p. 2). Highlighted in this definition is the role of existing social networks within the community and the importance of participation. Participation appears as an overarching dimension that helps to improve young people's quality of life and promote their social inclusion.

Engaging young people in the decision-making processes and in the development of projects and initiatives that are relevant to them is then fundamental. This is particularly relevant for young people who are in a NEET situation as they often face exclusion and are disengaged. According to the ladder of participation (Hart, 2008), relevant projects are those that are effectively able to involve young people in decision-making processes. Young people are not just assigned, consulted, and informed. Instead, projects are youth-initiated and directed, and the decisions are shared with adults. Inspired by this, our goals are to examine how participation measures have been implemented across European countries.

This report is organised into three main sections, followed by final discussion. We start with a brief statistical description of the countries involved in the report in terms of the proportion of (rural) NEETs and their socio-demographic characteristics. Then, in the second section, we describe the main European and national measures that direct social inclusion and active participation of young people. In the third section, we present the results of a survey aimed at mapping initiatives for rural NEETs across Europe. This survey was developed within the WG1 – “Rural NEETS social networks and social inclusion”. The survey aimed to identify projects, programmes, or initiatives targeting youth in vulnerable situations, including young people not in employment, education, or training (NEET), in rural areas across Europe. The mapping process followed recommendations from the Manual for the Classification of Intervention Best-Practices with Rural NEETs (Petrescu et al., 2021) and the Manual for the Methodological Best-Practices in Research Dedicated to Rural NEETs (Erdogan et

al., 2021). The initiatives described in this section are considered examples of projects across European countries focusing on the social inclusion and participation of NEETs in rural areas.



1. Rural NEETs across European countries

In this section, we look at the distribution of the NEET population at the EU level and in the countries participating in this report. Based on data available in Eurostat (2021), we report the NEETs rate by country, degree of urbanisation and sex, considering the population aged 16 to 29. As can be seen below in Table 1, Turkey, Italy, Montenegro, and Spain are countries with a percentage of NEETs higher than the EU-27 average (13.1%). On the opposite side, Sweden presents the lowest NEETs rate (figure 1). Data was not available for some countries (e.g., UK, Bosnia and Herzegovina), so we also used other sources to describe and characterise the NEETs.

Table 1-NEETs rate by country, degree of urbanisation and sex in 2021.

Country	Total NEETs	Cities	Towns and suburbs	Rural areas	Male	Female
EU- 27 (from 2020)	13.1 %	12.2 %	13.9 %	13.7 %	11.8 %	14.5 %
Austria	9.4 %	11.0 %	10.0 %	7.4 %	8.5 %	10.3 %
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	:
Czech Republic	10.9 %	10.1 %	11.1 %	11.3 %	4.8 %	17.3 %
Italy	23.1 %	24.5 %	22.8 %	20.8 %	21.2 %	25.0 %
Lithuania	12.7 %	8.4 %	16.9 %	15.5 %	11.9 %	13.5 %
Montenegro*	26.6 %	25.2 %	:	:	26.2%	26.9%
North Macedonia	:	:	:	:	:	:
Portugal	9.5 %	8.6 %	9.9 %	10.6 %	9.3 %	9.7 %
Spain	14.1 %	13.6 %	15.2 %	13.5 %	14.4 %	13.8 %
Sweden	6.0 %	5.5 %	6.4 %	6.5 %	5.8 %	6.3 %
Turkey**	32.0 %	:	:	:	18.0 %	40.0 %
UK***	12.2 %	:	:	9.9%	11.2%	9.5%

Source: (Edat_lfse_29); Year: 2021; Age: 15-29

* Montenegro: data from 2020

**Turkey: OECD statistics

***UK data: Office for National Statistics, 2022. Age 15-24 years old

Although there is no information available on the NEET rates by the degree of urbanisation in some countries, according to the available data, it is possible to verify the existence of two distinct trends. In some countries, the rate of NEETs is higher in rural areas, such as the Czech Republic, Portugal, and Sweden. In other countries the NEETs rate is higher in cities, such as Austria and Italy, or in towns, such as Spain and Lithuania (figure 1).

Figure 1 - NEETs rate by country and degree of urbanisation, 2021



* Montenegro: data from 2020. data not available for towns and suburbs and rural areas

** Turkey: data not available by degree of urbanisation

*** UK: data for 16-24 years. data not available for cities and towns and suburbs

Source: Eurostat (Edat_lfse_29); UK: Office for National Statistics, 2022; Turkey; OECD statistics, 2022

Below we present a short description and contextualisation of the NEET situation organised by country. Additional information on each country's population and geographical localisation can be found in appendix 1.

According to Eurostat (2021), in **Austria**, 9.4% of young people aged 15-29 years old were NEET, a rate lower than the EU27 (13.1%). In terms of gender, there were no significant differences, with the NEET rate being slightly higher among females than men (9.6% versus 9.4%, respectively). An analysis by degree of urbanisation highlights some significant differences between regions. The NEETs rate has been systematically higher in cities in the last decade, reaching the rate of 11% in 2021, 3.6 pp higher compared to rural areas (7.4%). In all degrees of urbanisation, the NEET rate is higher in 2021 than it was 10 years ago, but from 2017 onwards, a continuous decrease can be observed. The data also reveals the impact of the pandemic crisis triggered by Covid-19. In fact, in 2020, there was an increase in NEET rates in all degrees of urbanisation, reaching 12.4% in cities, 9.3% in towns and suburbs, and 6.8% in rural areas. It should also be noted that there has only been a slight recovery in cities, with a decrease of 1.4% in 2021, reaching the rate of 11%. In towns and suburbs and in rural areas, NEET rates continue to rise. In 2021, the early school leavers rate in Austria reached 8%, lower than the EU27 rate of 9.7%. An analysis by degree of urbanisation reveals significant differences between rural areas and cities and towns and suburbs. In fact, over the last decade, the ELET

(*Early Leaver from Education and Training*) rate has been systematically higher in cities, towns, and suburbs, compared to the rates reached in rural areas. In 2021 ELET rate in rural areas was 5.5%, in cities 9.5%, and in towns and suburbs 9.4%. In all degrees of urbanisation ELET rates are lower in 2021 than in 2011, and all lower than the 10% targeted by EU2020 strategy (rate defined to be reached by all state members in 2020).

Structural unemployment and social exclusion (primarily affecting youth), accompanied by gender-gap, are one of the most significant challenges faced by **Bosnia and Herzegovina** as a transition society. For three consecutive years (from 2017 to 2019), there was a drop in the unemployment rate among youth. Referring to the 2019 Labour Force Survey (LFS) data, this indicator for the 15–24 age group stood at 33.8% (BHAS, 2019). Almost one-fifth (19.3%) of young people (aged 15–24) are identified as NEETs (World Bank, 2022). Although their portion has declined over the last decade, it is substantially higher than in the EU-28. Bosnia and Herzegovina is an exception within the broader region (the non-EU Balkan states) as the NEET rate is rather gender-balanced (Eurostat, 2019)

In the **Czech Republic**, 10.9% of young people aged 15-29 years old are NEETs, a rate lower than the EU27 of 13.1% (Eurostat, 2021). In terms of gender, there are significant differences, with NEET rates reaching 17.3% among females compared to a rate of 4.8% among men. Regarding the degree of urbanisation, NEET rates are slightly higher in rural areas (11.3%) compared to the rate of in towns and suburbs (11.1%) and cities (10.1%). In all degrees of urbanisation, NEET rates in 2021 were lower than the rate 10 years ago in 2011, with a more prominent decrease in cities and rural areas: from 12.7% in 2011 to 11.3% in 2021 in rural areas and from 12.9% to 11.1% in towns and suburbs. Although this decrease, NEET rates increased during the pandemic crisis period, reaching 10% in cities, 12.1% in towns and suburbs, and 10.7% in rural areas. In 2021, the early school leavers rate in Czech Republic reached 6.4%, lower than the EU27 rate (9.7%). Regarding gender, the ELET rate is slightly higher among men (7%), a trend observed in the last 10 years. When considering the degree of urbanisation, ELET rates are higher in towns and suburbs (7.5%) and lower in cities (6.6%), reaching 6.6% in rural areas. Compared to the rates reached 10 years ago, NEET rates are higher in 2021, especially in towns and suburbs and in rural areas, where they increased by 2.9 pp and 1.5 pp, respectively. Although this slightly increases in the last decades, in all degrees of urbanisation, ELET rates are lower than the target of 10% in 2020, defined by the EU2020 strategy.

According to Eurostat, 23.1% of young people aged 15-29 years old are NEETs in **Italy**. There is a slight difference if gender is considered: 21.2% of males and 25.0% of females. When considering the degree of urbanisation, it can be observed that over the past 10 years the percentage of NEETs has been slightly higher in rural

areas. However, this trend seems to have had a carve-out point in 2019. Currently, the percentage of NEETs is higher in urban areas where they reach 24.5 % of youth, followed by towns and suburbs with 22.8% and finally rural areas with 20.8%. Highly alarming seems to be the situation in the southern regions where the comprehensive percentage of NEETs reaches 32.0 %, compared with 20.0 % in the centre and 17.0 % in the north. The situation becomes even more worrisome when considering females 25-29 years old in the South, where the percentage of NEETs peaks at 52.0 %. The levels of early school leavers over the past 10 years has been steadily declining, especially in the rural areas, where it went from 14.6 % in 2019 (higher data when compared with urban areas 13.5% and towns and suburbs 12.9%) to 11.0% in 2021 (lower data given that in urban areas it even increased to 13.8% and in towns and suburbs it slightly decreased to 12.5%).

Lithuania's economy has almost doubled in size since 2000. In 2017, the UN changed the status of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania from Eastern European countries to the states of Northern Europe. However, Lithuania needs to cope better with the problems of youth emigration and inclusion, which are decreasing slightly, and young people who have left Lithuania are now returning to their homeland slowly. Lithuanian youth policy is targeted at young people (aged 14–29) who presently amount to more than 630,000 (21%) of the country's population. According to Eurostat, in 2021, 12.7% of the youth population were NEETs. The percentage of NEETs in rural areas is higher (15.5%) and in Towns and suburbs (16.9%) is higher than in urban areas (8.4%). There is also a higher percentage of females (13.5%) compared to males (11.9%).

According to the latest available data (Eurostat, 2020) 26.6% of young people aged 15-29 years old were NEETs in **Montenegro**. There is a slight difference if gender is considered, 26.2% of males and 26.9% of females. In the previous 10 years, the share of NEETs was in a slight decline until 2019, when it increased sharply by 5.3% p.p. Considering the degree of urbanisation it can be concluded that due to the lack of data for Montenegro, there is only data for urban areas available. Thus, in 2020, the NEETs rate in urban areas was 25.2% (26.3% males, 24.8% females). When it comes to the early school leavers, the data for the past 10 years is slightly declining, with a sharp decline between 2019 and 2020 by 1.4%. The data by degree of urbanisation are not available for Montenegro.

In **North Macedonia**, youth unemployment remains high, with women and young people being particularly exposed to the problem of unemployment and inactivity, as are people with disabilities and low-skilled workers. According to Eurostat, in 2019 the participation of youth (age 16-24) in formal or informal voluntary activities or active citizenship was 25.2% (male 27.8%, female 23.9%) by sex, age, and educational attainment level. The migration rate had an increasing of 5.2% in 2020, with the percentage of male migration decreasing, amounting to 1.6% in 2020,

and a steady trend of female migration of 1.7% in 2020. NEET rates (25-34 years old) have declined from 43.7% in 2009 to 33.5% in 2019. However, the rate is still very high, making young people vulnerable and at risk of poverty and social exclusion. According to the degree of urbanisation, the NEET rate (25-34) is higher in urban areas (around 60) than the rate in rural areas (33.5%). Regarding gender, NEET rates are higher for females (53.8% in 2009; 41.6% in 2019) compared to males (34.2% in 2009; 25.7% in 2019). The share of NEETs aged 15-24 increased to 33.6% in 2020. There has been a significant decrease in ESLET in the past 10 years. The young population in the category from 18 to 24 years of age had a decrease of ELTS from 16.2% in 2009 to 7.1% in 2019 (female from 18.5% in 2009 to 8.4% in 2019 and males from 14.1% in 2009 to - 5.9% in 2019 – age category 18-24).

Following the EU' trends, **Portugal** has been facing a challenge of a double ageing process in the last twenty years. This demographic transition has contributed to an increasing number of elderly and decreasing the number of young people. As a result, in 2021, only 2.188.545 of the Portuguese population were aged 15-34 (INE, 2022). The double ageing led to a reconfiguration of the Portuguese demographic structure, with a decrease in the fertility rate and an increase in life expectancy. Portugal also faced an exodus of the youth population, especially during the post-2008 economic and financial crisis (Ferreira et al., 2017). In 2021, 9.5% of young people aged 15-29 years old were NEETs in Portugal, which is lower than the EU27 rate of 13.1%. In this age group, NEET rates are slightly higher among females (9.7% versus 9.3% of men). In the last decade, NEET rates have been higher in rural areas, reaching the rate of 10.6% in 2021, 8.6% in cities, and 9.9% in towns and suburbs. After there was a continuous decline in rates following the economic and financial crisis that hit Europe in 2013, in 2020, rates increased again as a result of the impact of the pandemic crisis due to Covid-9, reaching 10.3% in cities, 11.9% in towns and suburbs and 11.2% in rural areas. In all degrees of urbanization, this trend has been reversed, with a further fall in rates in 2021. The rate of early leavers from education and training has been continuously decreasing in the last decade, reaching 5,9% in 2021. An analysis by degree of urbanisation shows that this decrease has occurred continuously in all areas, being particularly significant in cities and in towns and suburbs, where it dropped from 22.3% to 5% and from 23.4% to 6.1%. In rural areas, the decline was slower and less accentuated but still dropped from 23.5% in 2011 to 7.3% in 2021. In all degrees of urbanisation, except in Towns and suburbs, Portugal reached the target rate below 10%, as defined by the EU in Europe 2020 Strategy. Although, in 2021 all degrees of urbanisation, ELET rates are below 10%. In terms of gender, in 2021 there is a slight difference, with an ELET rate of 5.9% among men and 4.2% among females.

Spain has historically high unemployment rates. Indeed, youth unemployment under 25 in Spain presented a rate of 28.52% in the second quarter of 2022, where the young female rate (29.43%) was higher than the male rate (27.75%) (INE,

2020). For the same year, NEET rates were 14.4% for men and 14.8% for young women (15–29, Eurostat 2022). Trying to give a brief context of rural areas, the young population decreases, and ageing grows significantly in these areas. The ageing index was 125.75 in 2020 (INE, 2021). The population pyramids in rural areas are unbalanced: specifically, population ageing is much greater in rural areas, since the proportion of people aged 65 or over is 28.5%. And it is 40% in towns with less than 100 inhabitants. On the other hand, masculinization is another of the elements that unbalance rural population pyramids, a fact that makes it difficult to form new families. In 2018, the masculinization ratio was 105 in municipalities up to 5,000 inhabitants, while in municipalities with more than 5,000 inhabitants it was 94.4 (Trabada Crende, 2020).

In **Sweden**, the group of NEETs comprised 58,200 individuals aged 15-24 years (25,600 women and 32,600 men) and 53,300 individuals aged 25-29 years (22,900 women and 30,400 men) in 2021, numbers that make up 5.1 % and 7.6 % of the total population for the corresponding year and age groups (12). By constituting an important risk factor for ending up in a NEET situation and since statistics about NEET status by degree of urbanisation is not available in Sweden, 2021 data from Eurostat (13) illustrate how early school leaving is more common among young people aged 18-24 years living in rural areas (11%) as compared to Towns or suburbs (9.7%) and cities (5.8%). This pattern is also highly gendered in Sweden, with early school leaving being numerically more prevalent among young men than among young women in all areas. Adding to this, Eurostat data (14) show how the risk of material and social deprivation decreases with a higher level of education in Sweden. In 2021, forms of deprivation were more common among young people aged 20-29 years with only compulsory schooling (11.3%) as compared to those who had completed upper secondary school (1.9%).

Turkey has the highest rate of the NEET population among the EU member states, is one of three candidate countries with a percentage of 32% and comes third among the OECD countries. Available statistics show a significant gender gap, according to the OECD statistics, 40% of females between 15-29 years old are in the NEET status whereas this ratio is only 18% among young males. According to the official statistics, the number of NEETs aged 15-24 years is 2 million 736 thousand, which forms 22% of the total youth population. This number is 953 thousand (15%) for males and 1.8 million (30%) for females. These statistics show that as the level of education increases, the percentage of NEETs also increases in both sexes (26% and 35% at the highest level of education, respectively). Migration-internal and external; child labour; gender-related inequalities; Kurdish issue and polarized politics are the continuous political, economic, and social problems in Turkey that have multi-layered effects on youngsters current and future wellbeing. Turkey has 12.04 million people aged 15-24, 15.6 % of the total population of 83.15 million. The

country hosts 4 million refugees, the highest number in the world. 3.6 million of these refugees are registered Syrians in temporary protection status.

In the **UK**, the percentage of NEETs (16-24 years old) is currently estimated at 10.4% (Office for National Statistics, 2022). There are relevant age differences among the NEET group, with 3.8% of young people aged 16-17 and 12.2% aged 18 to 24 being NEET (Office for National Statistics, 2022). In terms of gender, there were more men (11.2%) than women (9.5%) who were NEET (Office for National Statistics, 2022). Data from Eurostat indicate that in 2019, 10.9% of young people aged 18 to 24 years were early leavers from education and training. Besides, the percentage was higher for males (12.3%) compared with females (9.4%). In rural areas, 9.8% of young people of the same age were early leavers, with 11.5% being males and 7.8% females. The percentage of NEETs in rural areas was 9.9%, 9.1% males and 10.8% females (Eurostat, 2019).

2. Social Inclusion and participation measures and policies

As previously suggested, all the countries face challenges related to social inclusion and participation of rural NEETs. In this chapter, we will describe the main European and national measures developed to promote social inclusion and active participation of young people.

2.1. European policies and programmes

Young people's social inclusion and participation have been key priorities in several policies and programmes developed by the European Union (EU). Below we describe the Youth Strategy 2019-2027, the Youth Guarantee; the Youth Guarantee reinforced; and Erasmus +.

Youth Strategy (2019-2027)

The EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 is the framework for EU youth policy cooperation for 2019-2027, based on the Council Resolution of 26 November 2018. According to its aims, youth cooperation shall make the most of youth policy's potential. Furthermore, it fosters youth participation in democratic life, supports social and civic engagement and aims to ensure that all young people have the necessary resources to take part in society. With the aim of promoting youth participation in democratic life and supporting the social and civic engagement of young people to ensure that all young people have the necessary resources to take part in society, this Youth Strategy intends to implement activities focused on three areas of intervention:

- ❖ Engage: take a step forward by European institutions towards young people who want to be active participants in political life, but at the same time expect their views to be reflected.
- ❖ Connect: supporting more opportunities for exchange, cooperation and civic action for young people who wish to gain experience in the European context.
- ❖ Empower: particularly through innovation and improving the quality of youth work that helps young people reach their full potential.

In addition, as a result of the EU's sixth round of dialogues with young people to reflect on priorities and implementation of European collaboration in the youth field, 11 goals, called "Youth Goals," were developed to reflect the views and opinions of young Europeans and are to be achieved through this 2019/2027 Strategy:

- ❖ Connecting EU with Youth
- ❖ Equality of All Genders

- ❖ Inclusive Societies
- ❖ Information & Constructive Dialogue
- ❖ Mental Health & Wellbeing
- ❖ Moving Rural Youth Forward
- ❖ Quality Employment for All
- ❖ Quality Learning
- ❖ Space and Participation for All
- ❖ Sustainable Green Europe
- ❖ Youth Organisations & European Programmes

Youth Guarantee (2014-2019)

Youth Guarantee (Recommendation of the Council of the European Union, April 22, 2013) was the first European measure to promote the social inclusion and employability of young Europeans. This is not a measure strictly dedicated to youth participation, yet it is a key element in the success of interventions. It aimed at responding to the challenge of the whole school-to-work transition and countering the NEET phenomenon. The goal of the scheme program was to ensure that young people under the age of 30 were provided with a quality offer of employment, further education, apprenticeship, or traineeship within 4 months of becoming unemployed or leaving the formal education system. Each state, depending on its own characteristics, has structured, and developed its own Youth Guarantee implementation plan. Despite the structural differences, however, very similar offers of interventions could be found among the different countries benefiting from this measure (Petrescu et al., 2022). In this regard, guidance and counselling services have been implemented with the aim of offering young people placement or reintegration into education and training or work experience. For example, in some countries the first phase of the Program was the so-called “Welcoming phase” in which each interested participant could go to the employment service and get the necessary information about the different projects and, therefore, register for the program. Subsequently, there was the possibility of entering the "Orientation phase", where an operator, following an interview, would identify.

The suggested path could consist of:

- ❖ Training: a training pathway aimed at acquiring skills useful for insertion into the world of work or reintegration into an educational pathway, if the applicant was under the age of 19.
- ❖ Accompaniment to work: an intervention whose objectives are to support the realisation of a work experience or an apprenticeship contract, ensure support in the active search for work and in the definition of a professional project, offer support in the phase of entry into the labour market, to build in the territory a network with public and private actors and disseminate the different work opportunities.

- ❖ **Apprenticeship:** it consists of a contract aimed at the first job placement, the main characteristic of this type of framing is its predominantly formative nature.
- ❖ **Internship:** with the aim of facilitating professional choices and facilitating employment opportunities following the attainment of a degree or diploma. Alternatively, reintegration traineeships may be arranged if previous employment has been lost.
- ❖ **Universal civic service (in some countries e.g., Italy):** with the aim of allowing young people a formative experience of civic growth and social participation, working concretely within solidarity, cooperation and assistance projects; this allows them to acquire transversal skills useful for the world of work.
- ❖ **Support for self-entrepreneurship:** should the young people have been interested in setting up their own business, programs had been planned that could support the start-up phase and the strengthening of useful entrepreneurial skills.
- ❖ **Vocational mobility within the national territory or in EU countries:** a voucher was provided that covered expenses for 6 months should those interested wish to carry out a work period either outside their region or outside their country.

Youth Guarantee Reinforced (2019-2027)

In 2020, the EU Council unanimously adopted a recommendation on "A Bridge to Jobs - Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee," aimed at better supporting youth employment across the EU, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was reporting high youth unemployment rates and increasing the number of NEETs. The new Youth Guarantee reaffirmed the commitment of EU member states to establish national programs through which young people can receive an offer of employment, education, traineeship, or apprenticeship within a period of four months after becoming unemployed or leaving formal education. At the same time, the recommendation extended the age limit for young recipients from 25 to 29 (already in place in some countries) and provided for better inclusion of people from vulnerable groups, such as NEETs, young women, and people with disabilities. The Youth Guarantee will be implemented through supporting measures at the national, regional and local levels, taking into account the following guidelines:

- ❖ **Mapping:** identifying target groups, available services, skills needs, and young people at risk of becoming an NEET.
- ❖ **Awareness raising:** targeted information campaigns among young people and particularly NEETs.
- ❖ **Preparation:** better profiling to meet needs and responses, counselling and guidance, and improving digital and other important skills.

- ❖ Supply: employment incentives, quality and equity, and post-placement support.

Measures under the recommendation are financed by EU funds, such as the European Social Fund Plus ("ESF+"), and investments from member states. The Recovery and Resilience Facility and REACT-EU provided additional EU funding for youth employment measures.

European Solidarity Corps

The European Solidarity Corps is a programme for young people between the ages of 18 and 30 that aims to help build a more inclusive society, provide help to vulnerable people and respond to social problems. It offers the possibility of a learning as well as a personal and professional growth experience in one of the EU Member States, bringing positive changes in the local community. It also promotes the participation of young people with fewer opportunities and from disadvantaged backgrounds. The programme proposes different types of activities to young people, including volunteering, traineeships, work and solidarity projects. Project proposals wishing to participate in the programme must address topics such as: social inclusion; reception and integration of refugees and migrants; citizenship and democratic participation; disaster prevention and management; environmental and nature protection; health and well-being; education and training.

Erasmus+

Another European programme aimed at fostering youth participation and social inclusion is Erasmus+. The main instrument of this programme is the mobility of individuals and groups in order to promote and develop certain key issues such as social inclusion, environmental sustainability, the digital transition and the promotion of participation in democratic life by the younger generation. According to the principles of Erasmus+, spending time in another country to study, learn and work should become the norm, as should being able to speak two languages other than one's mother tongue.

2.2. National policies and strategies

In addition to the European programmes described above, national states have policies that attempt to address this issue through both active and passive measures. Some countries have also outlined clear and detailed national and local strategic plans.

In **Austria**, the Austrian Youth Strategy (Österreichische Jugendstrategie) is an ongoing process to strengthen and develop youth policy. The aim is to bundle measures for young people, systematise them and optimise their effectiveness. The

youth strategy should also identify new fields of action and cooperation, identify a further need for action and underpin this with concrete measures. Four major fields of action serve as the framework. An essential feature of the Austrian Youth Strategy is the active involvement of young people and professionals at all levels. Through a permanent screening and the proximity to the target group – thus in constant exchange with youth representatives and young people – the youth strategy can respond to changing challenges and act in a trendsetting manner. As of 2020, the Strategy defined 4 fields of action, namely education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, life quality and social cooperation, and media and information. Corresponding to each of these fields of action, Youth Objectives (Österreichische Jugendziele) have been established. Based on the EU-Youth Strategy 2019-2027, these objectives have been linked to the European Youth Goals to contribute to their implementation. On a national level, 'Reality Checks' serve to ensure youth participation in the development of objectives and measures relevant to the Austrian Youth Strategy. In the area of Integration, the Federal Government adopted the National Action Plan for Integration (Nationaler Aktionsplan Integration). The Action Plan is the new foundation of integration policy, combining challenges, principles, and objectives in the different key action fields. There is no specific strategy to increase young people's political and civil society participation. However, youth participation is one of the four major strategic framework objectives of the Austrian Youth Strategy (Youth Wiki, 2021a).

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina** most youth-related issues are being governed at the entity or lower levels. Consistently, there are three basic laws concerning the youth: the Law on Youth of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of the Federation of BiH 36/10), the Law on Youth Organization of the Republika Srpska (Official Gazette of the RS, 98/04, 119/08 and 1/12), and the Law of Youth of Brčko District of BiH (Official Gazette of the Brcko District of BiH, 18/17). All these three laws define “youth” as persons who are of age ranging from 15 to 30 years. Besides these laws, there are other documents called youth policy (RS) and strategy (Federation of BiH and Brčko District of BiH). From local (municipalities and cities) over canton to state level in Bosnia and Herzegovina exist the youth councils.

The Czech Republic does not have a separate strategy for the social inclusion of young people, but social inclusion of young people is one of the key objectives of the Youth Strategy 2014-2020, whose first horizontal priority was equal opportunities. It aimed to facilitate the full integration of young people into society and gave support to both organised and non-organised young people so that they were ensured the same opportunities in everyday life, regardless of gender, disability, race, nationality, religious belief, or other discriminating factors. The Youth Strategy 2014-2020 provided several important goals: To facilitate equal access of children and youth to rights; To facilitate equal access of children and youth to information; To improve conditions for employment and employability of youth; To promote

active involvement of children and young people in decision-making processes and in influencing the social and democratic life; To facilitate inclusion of children and young people with fewer opportunities. Furthermore, policies targeting specific groups and areas have also been addressed. The main responsible state authority regarding the Youth Strategy is the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and also the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Culture in regard to social inclusion of youth. Participation was one of the priorities of the Youth Strategy for the years 2014-2020 (Konceptce podpory mládeže na období 2014-2020, Governmental Decree no. 342 of 12 May 2014) approved by the Government. Its fourth priority was named “to involve young people in the decision-making process and participation” (Youth Wiki, 2022a).

In **Italy**, interventions against poverty and social exclusion are promoted and implemented by different institutional actors at national, regional and local levels. Moreover, the third sector supports public institutions in the implementation of social policies and acts as a local mediator. In allocating the resources of the National Fund for Social Policies (FNPS), it approved the National Social Plan 2021-2023, which aims to define the framework of a structural process for the social services system. In addition, it approved a national strategy to combat poverty and social exclusion that includes, among its main interventions, the establishment of the Citizenship Income, i.e. an income support conditional on the commitment to follow a customised pathway aimed at social inclusion and employment, subsequently integrated with the GOL (Guaranteed Worker Employability) programme of the PNRR (National Plan for Resilience and Resilience), which also envisages the launch of a New National Skills Plan (NPNC), the strengthening of employment centres and the dual system. The duration of the NPNC coincides with that of the PNRR and is therefore the five-year period 2021/2025, and sees in place the National Social Plan, with reference to the National Fund for Social Policies; the Poverty Assistance and Social Services Plan, with reference to the Poverty Fund; and the Plan for Non-self-sufficiency, with reference to the Non-self-sufficiency Fund. Finally, there is a supplementary plan to the so-called Poverty Strategy: the Poverty and Social Services Action Plan 2021-2023. Concerning participation, as witnessed by the approval of Law 145/2018, the Conte Government has focused on the establishment of a specific body representing young people (the National Youth Council) to ensure and increase their participation in civic and political life (Dipartimento per le politiche giovanili e il servizio civile universal, 2022). The legal provision establishing the Council represents, therefore, a strategic tool whose main objective - in addition to ensuring youth representation - is to spread and increase youth participation. Moreover, the strategy on the issue of participation is designed, as with all youth policies on which there is concurrent competence between the state and the regions, through the Understanding between the two parties and other territorial actors. The Understanding represents a form of institutional dialogue between the Government

and local autonomies in which financial resources, objectives and priorities for action on youth policies are defined (Youth Wiki, 2022a).

In **Lithuania**, there is no specific strategy on social inclusion of youth as a special group. However, the Action Plan for Increasing Social Inclusion for 2014 - 2020 mentions youth among other target groups. In 2014, the Action Plan for Increasing Social Inclusion for 2014 - 2020 was revised, distinguishing target groups of residents, revising measures and planning for the funds allocated for the implementation of the measures. In 2020, the forecast on social exclusion and poverty levels demonstrated that despite COVID-19 pandemic, young people are less likely to be at risk of social exclusion and poverty than older persons. Nevertheless, rural areas in Lithuania could be characterised by emigration of young people, decreasing birth rate and ageing of population, thus, Rural Development Programme for Lithuania 2014-2020 focused on social integration and elimination of distinctions between rural and urban areas. This Programme aimed to strengthen human capital and decrease youth unemployment by providing support to vocational training, advisory services, information actions and young farmers' start-ups. No specific national strategy to increase youth participation exists. In December 2010, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the National youth policy development program for 2011-2019. It is the main, overarching, strategic public document integrating the major directions to be followed in the policy making on youth at national level in Lithuania including the encouragement of youth participation in the society. The program also develops a vision on the opportunities for young people to become active and motivated modern state citizens, being able to take responsibility for themselves and create a fulfilling life (Youth Wiki, 2022a).

North Macedonia still does not have a Law on Youth. The National youth strategy (2016-2025) is the main National Youth Policy document that sets out the basic principles and action guidelines for all actors in society. Youth are targeted with other legal acts such as Law on Secondary Education, Law on Higher Education, Law on Student Standard, partially with Law on Sports in Macedonia, Law on Child Protection (includes age of 15-18), Law on Juvenile Justice (includes the age of 15-18), Law for Justice for Children (includes the age of 15-18), Law on Volunteerism, and different youth strategies on local, municipality level. The Agency of Youth and Sport (AYS) is a governmental entity designated to work on youth-related issues. It is thus the leader of any youth policy process and in charge of coordinating ministries' actions and inputs related to youth. The decision-making process of youth policies includes other institutions/ministries such as the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Employment Service Agency, Education Development Bureau, National Agency for European Educational Programmes and Mobility, Local Self-Governments, etc. (Youth Wiki, 2022a).

For the first time in **Montenegro**, a Youth Law (Official Gazette of Montenegro, 025/19 and 027/19) was adopted in 2016, which now regulates youth policy and

youth-related work in Montenegro. It defines the activities of entities that participate in its creation and implementation and regulates issues of interest to youth activities. According to the Youth Law, young people are defined as persons from 15 to 30 years of age. To achieve the youth policy, the National and Municipal Youth Strategies are adopted. The last implemented Youth Strategy was for the period 2017-2021. Key priority areas were presented in this Strategy, all with the aim of a more effective environment and greater participation of young people in the decision-making process. This strategy defines the measures for achievement of economic and social security of young people through facilitated access to the labour market and employment as well as education. This is because unemployed youth in Montenegro are defined as a highly vulnerable group. From the statistical point of view, this strategy confirmed that young people in Montenegro were quite “invisible” up until 2016, and relatively little effort has been invested into addressing young people’s needs, problems, interests, and goals through research. As such, there is very little data available that is relevant for this population. On the other hand, the Youth Strategy for the period 2022-2026 is in the preparation phase and has not yet been presented to the public.

In **Portugal**, the main policies in the field of social inclusion for young people are framed in the Social Inclusion and Employment Operational Programme (POISE), in coordination with the Europe 2020 Strategy. In this context, in a logic of multi-level governance and subsidiarity, tools and models of organisation and operation that allow for tailored and flexible interventions were created, based on a proximity approach and with knowledge of the local realities, such as the GIP, CNAIM or the CLAIM Network, promoting the articulation between levels of central, regional, and local administration. Moreover, the National Youth Plan (2022-2024) is the political instrument of intersectoral coordination of youth policies in Portugal. One of its key themes is “Governance and Participation”, a section with more than 40 measures, framed in five strategic goals under the priority “to promote multilevel, inclusive, participative and participatory government practices, in view of the institutional strengthening of youth policies” (Simões et al, 2020; Youth Wiki, 2022a).

There is no legislation or regulation at state level for social inclusion in **Spain**, let alone for the social inclusion of youth. Currently, the 2019-2023 National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion (Estrategia Nacional de prevención y lucha contra la pobreza 2019-2023) is the frame of reference in terms of operational objectives, measures, and axes of action for the inclusion of society in Spain. Although it is not a policy exclusively aimed at young people, the National Strategy for the prevention and fight against poverty and social exclusion includes specific measures for the youth in terms of employment, education, housing, health, dependency, and disability. Moreover, the National Strategy for the inclusion of young people is embodied in the 2020 Youth Strategy (Estrategia Juventud 2020) and developed in the resulting Action Plans. In any case,

it is not an inclusion strategy exclusively, but inclusion is one of its strategic axes, namely number 5. This axis is also responsible for developing the points regarding participation and volunteering. In the framework of promoting participation, measures to finance the structure and maintenance of youth and third sector entities stand out. This objective is also linked to the granting of the Youth Institute General Scheme Grants, those destined for youth associations or entities that provide services to the youth, as a result of the call for IRPF grants (Youth Wiki, 2022a)..

The current **Swedish** National Youth Strategy has a clear focus on social inclusion. A specific target group in the youth strategy is young people between 16 and 20 years of age, who are not in education and have not completed secondary or equivalent education. A renewed action programme was presented in March 2021 including initiatives within four main priorities: young people's mental well-being, social and labour market inclusion of young people, meaningful leisure activities for all young people and young people's participation in society. The main target of this policy were: Young people not in education, employment or training; Long-term unemployed; Young women with migrant background; Young people with disabilities; Young LGBTIQ people. The government offices and, more specifically, the Ministries for Education and Labour market, were responsible for actions taken within their respective domains. For each action of the strategy, the Government has commissioned a responsible actor. There is no specific strategy for increasing young people's participation in Sweden. Instead, youth participation is an important component of the Swedish youth policy objective. In 2013, 'Policy for a living democracy' (En politik för en levande demokrati), was presented to increase young people's political participation with five main points: A high and more equal voter turnout; Broader and equal participation in elected assemblies; Strengthened opportunities for influence, transparency, and participation between elections; Increased democratic awareness; Safeguarding democracy against violence-promoting extremism (Youth Wiki, 2022a)..

In relation to the social inclusion of young people in **Turkey**, National Youth and Sports Policy Document is one of the main reference documents. One of the policy areas in this Document is "Disadvantaged Young People and Social Inclusion". Several important purposes are presented within this document, the main ones include: Preventing the exposure of disabled young people to social exclusion; Integrating young people who committed crime into society and preventing young people's inclination towards criminal behaviour; Providing social integration of young people living in the streets; Taking preventative measures to protect young people from addictive substances and performing studies on the treatment of young addicts; Increasing the awareness of young people and other parts of the society about disadvantaged individuals and their active participation in social integration processes; Ensuring the social inclusion of young people who have migrated to the city and have social adaptation problems; Preventing young people from being

abused; Supporting young women in every area of life. The authority responsible for implementing and monitoring the “National Youth and Sports Policy Document” is the Ministry of Youth and Sports. One of its main political areas is “Democratic Participation and Civic Consciousness”. In the policies and targets specified under this policy title, young people are encouraged to participate in the political process actively and become members of nongovernmental organisations. Turkey launched a new programme NEETPro “Labour Market Support Programme for NEETs” targeting 5000 youngsters between 15-29 ages old with a budget of 17 million Euros. The programme coordinated by the İŞKUR, the Turkish Employment Agency is based on providing the guidance to the participants in addition to monthly payments (50 Euros per month) and covering relocation expenses (200 euro). Although the Development Plan targets to reduce the number of NEETs, the country doesn’t have any other programme.

In none of the **UK** nations, there is a single strategy for the social inclusion of young people (Youth Wiki, 2020a). However, the social inclusion of vulnerable young people is widely covered in youth-related policies (Youth Wiki, 2020a; 2020b; 2020c; 2020d). For example, England has the “Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential” programme, which focuses on the role of education in facilitating social mobility. It aims to facilitate equal opportunities for children and young people in four key life stages: early years, school, post-16 education and careers (Department for education, 2017). The responsibility for policies targeting young people is often distributed among different departments (Youth Wiki, 2020a). The UK approach to NEETs has focused mainly on reducing NEET rates. However, diverse policy interventions to reduce the NEET population have been implemented in recent years in response to a “fluctuating, although persistent, policy concern” (Maguire, 2021, p. 830). Overall, interventions to support the NEET group vary across the four nations (Maguire, 2021). The 2008 Education and Skills Act has raised the minimum age at which a person can leave education or training to 18 for those born after 1 September 1997 (UK Public General Acts, 2008). The raising of the participation age was implemented only in England (Maguire, 2021, p. 830). In Wales, the main NEET intervention policy has been the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (YEPF) (Welsh Government, 2013), which combines early intervention programmes to prevent young people from becoming NEET, re-engagement programmes, and active labour market policies targeted for the under-18s group. In Northern Ireland, a similar strategy titled Pathways to Success (Northern Ireland Executive, 2012) was implemented to reduce the number of NEETs and prevent their social exclusion (Northern Ireland Executive, 2012). In Scotland, Developing the Young Workforce: Scotland’s Youth Employment Strategy represents one of the most significant policy interventions (Scottish Government, 2014).

3. Mapping Rural NEETs projects across Europe

European and national strategies for the social inclusion and participation of young people have facilitated the development of initiatives targeting NEETs. This section describes some examples of community-based and bottom-up projects implemented in the last few years, covering rural areas across Europe.

3.1. Methodological approach

For this deliverable, we were interested in projects, programmes or initiatives focusing on social inclusion and participation of young people in rural areas. We wanted to identify projects being currently implemented and projects that ended in the last five years. We used the term “project” broadly to include any programme, methodology, measure, or initiative focusing on rural NEETs - their social inclusion and quality of life in a European country. For mapping those projects, we conducted an online survey.

The survey was developed collaboratively by the WG1 members. Topics and questions to be included were discussed in detail during several meetings, including one face-to-face meeting that took place in April 2022 in Lisbon. The questionnaire was composed of 55 questions, clustered into six main dimensions: 1) characteristics of the project; 2) conception and implementation of the project; 3) evaluation of the project; 4) resources needed to develop the project; 5) articulation/networking; (6) communication and dissemination. Some questions were open-ended, but most were closed-ended (see Appendix 2).

A consent form was given to the participants, who had to accept to participate in the study. In the introductory part of the questionnaire, after the informed consent, we had two filter questions meant to help respondents avoid answering questions if the project was not relevant (i.e., young people as the main target group and was implemented in rural areas). If participants responded “no” to those questions, they were sent to the end page of the survey and thanked for their interest in the mapping.

The English version of the survey was translated into national languages including Bosnian, Portuguese, Czech Republic, Italian, Montenegrin, Macedonian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Lithuanian. Participants could select to complete the survey in English or in their national language. Austria, a participating country in this report, chose not to translate the survey.

The online version of the survey was added to the Qualtrics platform and disseminated through the COST Action social networks (e.g., Facebook, Twitter,

Connect space). Each WG1 member sent the survey to their networks of associations and entities working with young people in rural areas in their countries.

Data were collected between 8 June 2022 and 15 September 2022. We invited CA members, practitioners (e.g., social workers, rural community organisations), researchers and stakeholders to complete the survey. We asked potential participants to complete the survey if they were aware of a project, programme or initiative considered relevant, even if they were not directly involved. The survey included a few questions asking for details on where to find more information about the project (e.g., website url, project email, etc.), so we could follow up and collect more information if needed.

The quantitative data presented in this report was analysed descriptively using the Excel software. The open-ended questions in the questionnaire were analysed using content analysis.

The overall sample obtained is a non-probabilistic, so-called "snowball" sample, and 81 responses were collected, of which 43 responses were validated. Two criteria were defined for validating the answers: having answered yes to the two filter questions and having completed at least the first dimension of the questionnaire: characteristics of the project.

As the questionnaire was disseminated through the COST Action social networks and other COST working groups, our sample does not only include projects from our member countries, other countries such as Bulgaria, Croatia and Slovenia are represented. From our working group members' countries, we were only unsuccessful in collecting data for the Czech Republic. In future data collection, namely through document analysis and interview collection, we intend to include data from projects implemented in the Czech Republic.

The information collected via the survey was then complemented by the authors involved in this report using a description short template for each project (see Appendix 3). The template was adapted from the Manual for the classification of intervention Best-Practices with rural NEETs developed in the previous grant period by working group 2 (Petrescu et al., 2020). This project fiche was composed of 5 dimensions: (A) general information about the project, including name, country, organisation, and funding; (B) inclusion criteria, with information about the target group and area of intervention; (C) characteristics of the intervention, including project goals, activities, and outcomes; (D) scientific evidence, including evaluation strategy and (E) general subjective assessment, regarding innovation dimension, project limitations and strengths. Some of the project fiches were incomplete, as the data collected through the questionnaire was not always sufficient to complete all the information. The most significant difficulties arose in completing the last two dimensions, related to project evaluation and assessment. We intend to complete

and deepen this information in future data collection actions, namely through interviews with the project leaders and documental analysis of the projects.

3.2. Data analysis procedure

The analysis of the survey comprises two parts with different methodological approaches:

- ❖ Quantitative analysis based on the closed survey questions to outline a brief characterization of the projects identified in the survey.
- ❖ Qualitative analysis based on the open survey questions and from complementary data collected online.

Considering that the sample size is small, the data analysis is accompanied not only by the value in percentage but also by the absolute number in the sample, namely in the case where the distribution of the answers by the different categories (in the case of multiple answers) meant that the number of answers by category was sometimes minimal. For reasons of reliability, it was not possible to make inferences from the data.

3.3. Quantitative analysis



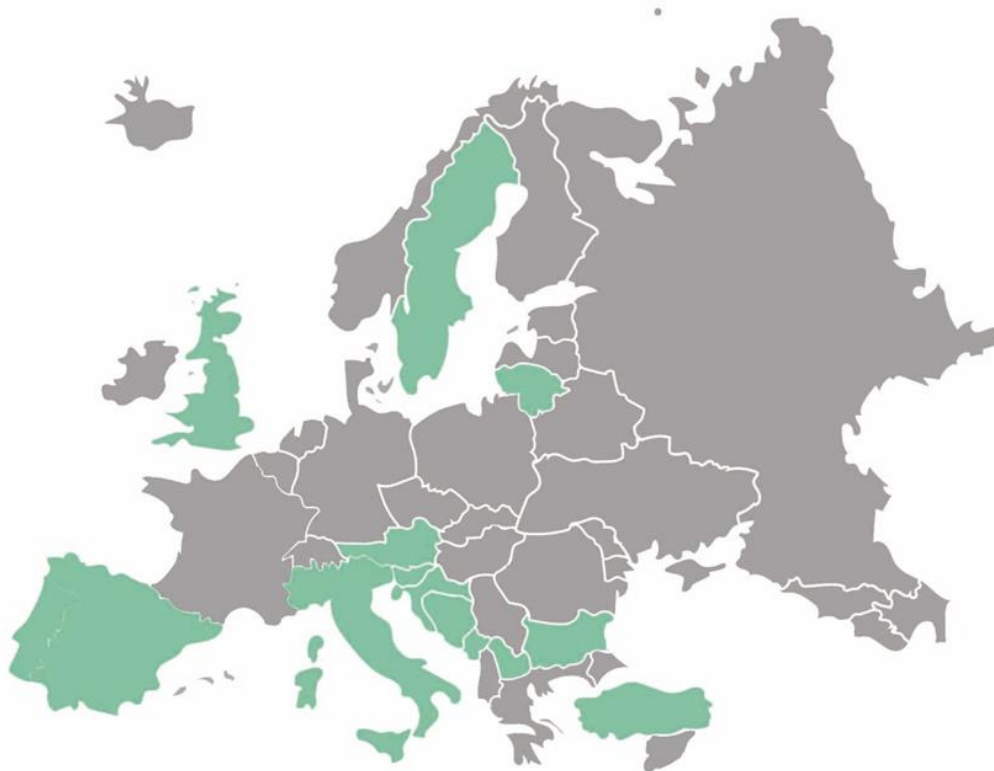
Sample

The overall sample obtained is a non-probabilistic, so-called "snowball" sample, and 81 responses were collected, of which 43 responses were validated. Two criteria were used to validate the responses: having answered yes to the two filter questions and having completed at least the first dimension of the questionnaire: characteristics of the project. Although 74 respondents responded that the project covered rural areas, only 43 answers were effectively validated (i.e., only those completely in the first section of the survey).

Most of the identified projects are of national scope (90.7%), with only a small proportion of projects being international (9.3%).

The **countries** with the highest number of projects identified were Portugal (14%; N=6) and Spain (11.6%; N=5).

Figure 2-Countries represented in the survey



Source: Survey WG1 – “Rural NEETS social networks and social inclusion” (2022). Image: freepick.com

Italy and Sweden (9.3%; N=4) were represented in 4 projects, followed by a set of countries with 3 (7%) or 2 (4.7%) projects, namely: North Macedonia, Slovenia, Turkey, with 3 projects, and Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the United Kingdom with 2 projects. Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Croatia are represented with only 1 project (2.3%).

As already mentioned in the methodological note, it was not necessary to have an active role in the project to respond to our survey. In some cases, the projects were identified by members of our working group, who filled out the survey with the requested information. This justifies that among the respondents, 25.6% (N=11) did not play any role in the project described in the survey.

Among the respondents who had some **role in the project**, consultants (16.3%; N=7) and those with some coordination function (14%; N=6) stand out. Also noteworthy is the percentage of employees (11.6%; N=5).



Project ID

Concerning **longevity**, most projects started in the current year (25.6%; N=11) or less than 2 years ago (2021 - 11.6%; N=5; 2020 - 16.3%; N=7) and are still under development (67.4%; N=29). They are expected to last more than 12 months (60.5%; N=26).

Approximately 23.3% of the projects included up to 50 people, 16.3% from 100 to 200 people, and only 4.3% covered more than 1000 people.

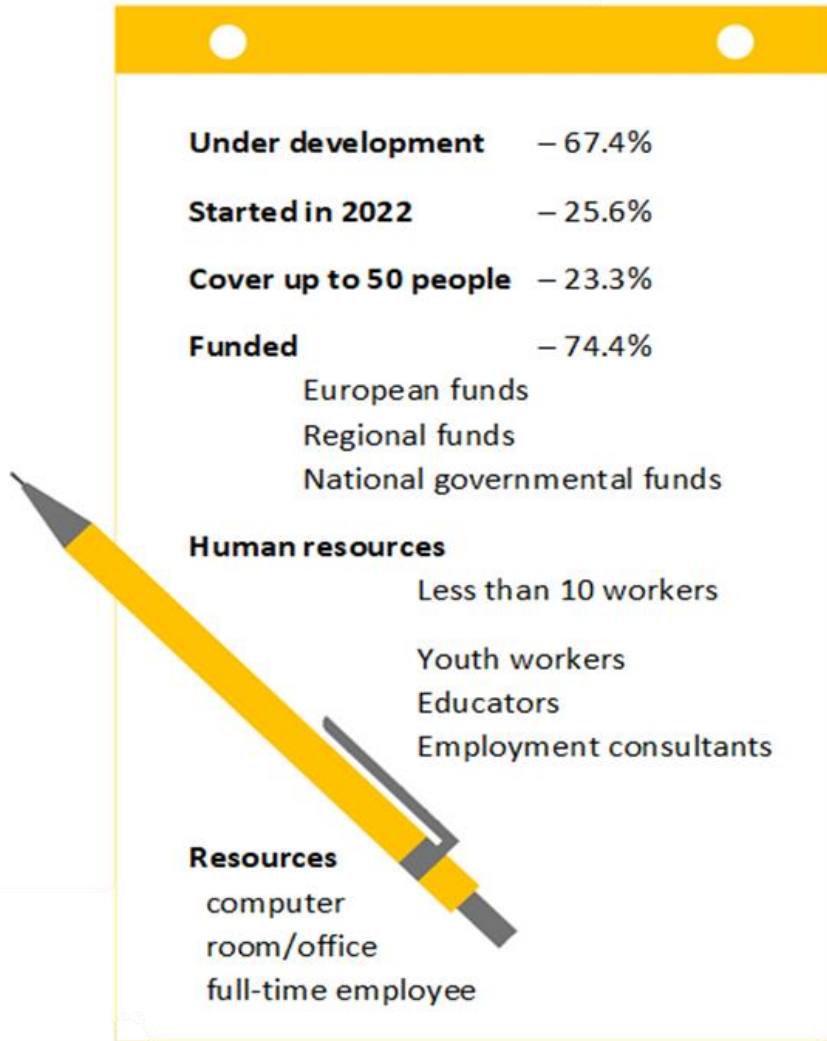
Although most projects have not yet been evaluated (41.9%; N=18), it is expected that when such an **evaluation** occurs, and it will be carried out by a funding entity (23.3%; N=10), a member of the project team (14.0%; N=6) or researchers from academia (9.3%; N=4).

Most projects are **funded** (74.4%; N=32), with the main sources of funding being European funds (50%; N=16), regional funds (40.6%; N=13), and national governmental funds (34.4%; N=11).

Regarding **human resources**, most of the projects involve less than 10 workers (34.9%; N=15). The professionals involved in the project are mainly youth workers (54.3%; N=19), educators (40.0%; N=14), and employment consultants (37.1%; N=13).

In terms of **resources** needed to implement the project, the majority mentioned a full-time human resource (81.3%; N=26), a computer (81.3%; N=26), and a room/office (78.1%; N=25).

Figure 3-Projects ID



Source: Survey WG1 – “Rural NEETS social networks and social inclusion” (2022).
Image: freepick.com

The **entities responsible** for the projects are mostly non-governmental organisations (34.9%; N=15). The importance of organisations at the local level should also be highlighted, with some projects being promoted by local associations or community organisations (16.3%; N=7) and local government entities (11.6%; N=5).

Most of the projects involve **institutions** other than the promoting institution (69.8%; N=43). These are mainly non-governmental organisations (48.3%; N=14), local associations or community organisations (41.4%; N=12), national governmental institutions (34.5%; N=10), and local government (31%; N=9).

The involvement of the private sector through private companies (27.6%; N=8), youth organisations (24.1%; N=7), and international organisations (20.7%; N=6) is also noteworthy.

Other partner institutions such as schools (13.8%; N=4), universities (6.9%; N=2), and labour unions (6.9%; N=2) are less relevant.



Target groups

Data were also collected, which allowed us to characterise the project target group briefly.

Concerning the **age of the target group**, the majority of the projects identified target young people aged 20-24 years (79.1%; N=34) and 25-29 years (72.1%; N=31). It is also noteworthy the proportion of projects targeting young people aged 15-19 years (65.1%; N=28).

Concerning **social groups**, the majority addresses the community in general (48.8%; N=21). Those targeting specific groups included women (34.9%; N=15), young people with specific needs (30.2%; N=13), migrants and refugees (25.6%; N=11), and ethnic minorities (23.3%; N=10).

Figure 4-Target groups



Source: Survey WG1 – “Rural NEETS social networks and social inclusion” (2022). Image: freepick.com

The projects also targeted other social groups: LGBTIQ+ (18.6%; N=10), NEET young people (11.6%; N=5), young people at risk of social exclusion (11.6%; N=5), and young people in general (9.3%; N=4).

Regarding **work/education status**, most projects target unemployed young people (55.8%; N=24), NEET young people (48.8%; N=21), and recent school leavers (46.5%; N=20).



Project goals

Respondents were also asked about the **main goals** of the project. Most of the project's goals were related to the integration of young people into the labour market, namely by improving job skills (68.4%; N=26), empowering young people (68.4%; N=26), creating employment (50.0%; N=19) and facilitating school-to-work transitions (31.6%; N=12). Although less relevant, the following objectives were also mentioned in the dimension of integration into the labour market: to facilitate the match between labour demand and supply (28.9%; N=11), and financial support to young people during their job search process (15.8%; N=6).

The reduction of inequalities through the work with particularly vulnerable groups is another dimension that stands out in the identified projects. In this dimension, the main objectives are the reduction of inequalities (39.5%; N=15) and fostering of social inclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g., migrants, refugees, disabled people) (39.5%; N=15).

It is also worth mentioning the objectives related to increasing participation (39.5%; N=15), promoting intergenerational relations (26.3%; N=10), and improving mental health and well-being (26.3%; N=10).



Involvement of young people

In the identified projects, the **involvement of young people** was guaranteed during the implementation phase of the project, with a smaller proportion of young people participating in the initial phase of the project, namely in its design and planning (25.6%; N=11) and follow-up (37.2%; N=16).

Most young people have an involvement in the project only as participants (79.1%; N=34) or beneficiaries (48.8%; N=21), with a small proportion of young people taking a more active/decisive role in the project, as employees (16.3%; N=7);

volunteers (14.0%; N=6), leaders (14.0%; N=6), consultants (14.0%; N=6) or mentors (11.6%; N=5).



Activities

Training (71.1%; N=27) and workshops (71.1%; N=27) were the **main activities** developed in the identified projects. Other activities should be highlighted, namely the events directed to the community (57.9%; N=22), the life coaching/mentoring (52.6%; N=20) and the information campaigns (52.6%; N=20).



Communication

Finally, regarding the **dissemination channels** that the project uses to communicate and engage young people, the majority mobilise local institutions/organisations, such as schools, municipalities, and youth associations (78.1%; N=25) or promote their initiatives on the project webpage and social networks, or through email (78.1%; N=25).

The role of community members is also highlighted as mean of communication for 62.5% (N=20) of the projects.

Open meetings are also held (50%; N=12), and dissemination is made via the press, radio, and TV (37.5%; N=12).

3.3.2. Qualitative analysis

The following sections are based on qualitative data obtained through the open questions included in the survey, as mentioned before.



Approach/methodology

Following an experimental learning logic based on an individualised approach, most projects aimed at promoting young people's personal, social, educational, and employability skills through "learning by doing" and focusing on individual needs and expectations. Some projects also emphasise the importance of involving young people in designing their own action plans, which are developed in a shared and collaborative way by young people and youth workers.

Some of these processes also include the involvement of young 'role models' who take on the role of mentors/community leaders.



Project name: Nuove Energie emergono dai Territori N.E.E.T. (New Energies Emerge from the Territories)

Country: Italy (Liguria – Tuscany)

Type of organization: public

Target group: Young NEETS

Approach: learning by doing

Innovation: empowerment and skill potential as well as self-entrepreneurship.

More information [HERE](#)



Main outcomes of the projects

Most of the identified projects are still in the implementation phase. Nevertheless, it was possible to determine, in some projects, some of the main achieved results achieved.

The projects highlighted the opportunities for developing social and employability skills and their importance for a more successful (re)engagement in the labour market. Within this scope, business development opportunities in local activities emerge with particular emphasis.

Some examples: in the wine industry, the registration of wineries, agriculture products, and the establishment of a producer group.



Project name: Slow Wine – Sustainable Local Wine in the Tikvesh Region

Country: North Macedonia (Кавадарци – Kavadarzi)

Type of organization: local association or community organisation

Target group: Wider local community; Young people in precarious work

Innovation: A complete model for supporting and building local brand and marketplace placemen

More information [HERE](#)

To achieve these results, the existence of a set of conditions favourable to their execution was determinant, of which we highlight:

- ❖ the essential role of networking and collaboration, insofar as many of these results were possible due to the development of synergies between different partners working in the field.
- ❖ the continuous and close follow-up with young people.
- ❖ small-scale intervention work, working with small groups of young people to develop a work of proximity and more and more following their needs.

With the data available was not possible to determine whether the emphasis was on creating business opportunities for others/adults to hire young people (i.e. create opportunities for employment) or whether it was more about entrepreneurship (i.e.

young people creating their own employment). In further data collection we will try to delve into this issue.



Expected outcomes of the project

In terms of expected results, in the projects mapped in this report, the respondents highlighted two main dimensions, one related to increased youth participation and empowerment and the other related to the well-being of young people.

As for increasing youth participation, respondents expect more active youth participation by improving leadership skills and strengthening their young people's knowledge and skills that enable them to build their life projects.



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Project name: Film Workshop “Our Free Spaces!” European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024

Type of organisation: Local association/ community organisation

Country: Austria (Scharnstein)

Target group: Wider local community

Goals and objectives/expected outcome: reducing inequalities, stimulating economic growth and competitiveness, empowerment, increasing participation, improving intergenerational relations

More information [HERE](#)

Regarding well-being, the individualised approach and the establishment of personalised goals and action plans according to the needs and expectations of young people can increase their self-efficacy and positive perception of interpersonal relationships. The expectation is that this strategy and approach will make it easier for young people to express their expectations and needs and to be more capable of problem-solving and coping with adversity.



Project name: Espaço J (Space J)

Type of organisation: Local association/ community organisation

Country: Portugal (Lousã)

Target group: Vulnerable youth, school leavers

Expected outcome: To promote the healthy and integrated development of personal, social and cognitive skills of young people in the Municipality of Lousã that enable the construction of their life projects.

More information [HERE](#)

These personal and social skills will enable young people to improve their self-knowledge and increase their quality of life in an active development and participation environment.

The identified projects also aim to promote the reduction of school dropouts and the increase of young people's employability.



Innovation

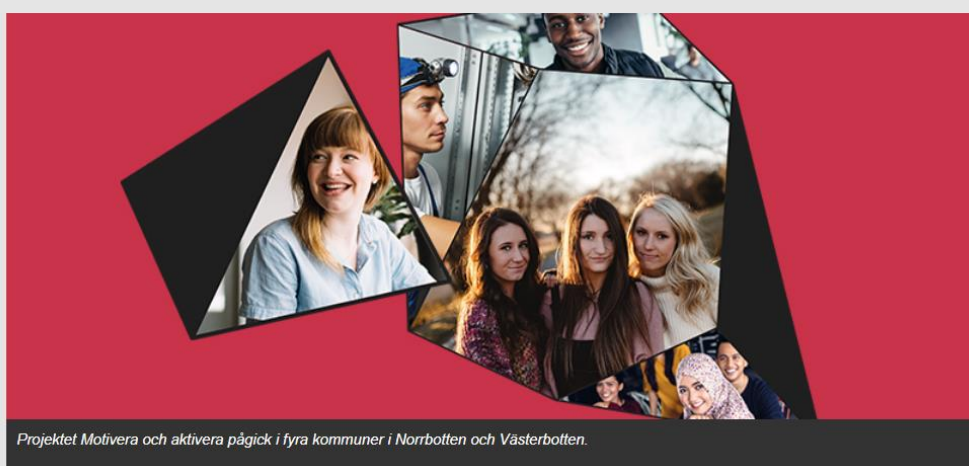
Another relevant dimension of analysis in identifying projects concerned with innovation.

Among the innovative elements mentioned in the projects, the following stand out:

- ❖ non-formal education as an intervention methodology.
- ❖ empowering young people to become community leaders.
- ❖ promotion of facilitation/mediation process between young people and the labour market and/or their community.
- ❖ constant reorganisation/updating of objectives, to meet the varying needs/expectations of young people.
- ❖ creation of micro-enterprises and social businesses based on the promotion of local activities/products.

- ❖ involvement of local communities, associations, and institutions and promotion of local partnerships.
- ❖ intergenerational dimension.
- ❖ “second chance” approach, giving young people the possibility to return after leaving the project, that is, they can return whenever they want.
- ❖ focus on the mental health and well-being of young people, promoting youth participation as the right of young people to have agency over their situation.
- ❖ mobilise educational agents as facilitators of spaces for sharing and well-being.

Motivera och aktivera



Project name: Motivera och Aktivera MOA (Motivate and Activate)

Country: Sweden (Norrbotten)

Type of organization: public, local government

Target group: Young people with disabilities, Migrants and refugees, Women, LGBTQi+, Wider local community

Innovation: the use of second-chance school methods.

More information [HERE](#)



Main constraints and obstacles

The projects identified in the survey faced several constraints and obstacles in their implementation.

One of the main challenges was attracting young people, mainly due to their lack of confidence and motivation. In fact, in the answers given in the questionnaire, these are the two main reasons hindering young people's access. In addition, the

responses also mentioned the difficulties in identifying their primary interests and needs.

The project's implementation was also affected by the difficulty of dealing with services in the relationship with public employment services and schools. In addition, challenges resulting from the bureaucratic processes in the relationship with these institutions were also mentioned.

The Covid-19 pandemic also impacted the implementation of some projects, mainly as many of the services provided by some entities shifted online.

Finally, difficulties in terms of resources, namely financial and human resources, were also mentioned. The lack of financial resources makes it impossible, for example, to rent adequate spaces to implement the projects.



Main potentialities and strengths of the project

Despite the identified constraints and obstacles, it is also possible to identify opportunities, potentials, and strengths in the identified projects. Two dimensions stand out, one more related to young people and the other to the institutional level.



Project name: Social Map of Youth in the Municipality of Jajce, 2022
Type of organisation: NGO - multi-ethnic local organization
Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Target group: Young people
Strengths: Strengthening institutions, networking of local communities
More information [HERE](#)

First, the identified projects have created new opportunities for young people by developing more individualised intervention strategies and meeting the needs and expectations of young people. Secondly, more related to institutional relations,

responders highlight the creation and the consolidation of existing partnerships. A strong community-based approach allows the mobilisation of several institutions, enhancing resources at a local level.

The data collected in the questionnaire does not allow us to assess project transferability. However, through the contacts identified in the questionnaire, we aim, in the next phase, to conduct interviews with those responsible for implementing the project. Therefore, the transferability of the projects will be a dimension to be included in further stages of our work.

It is also important to emphasise that in some cases, what is transferable is not the results achieved but the methodology of the intervention. Therefore, in the future will also try to understand the methodological cornerstones that can be indicated as transferable from one context to another.

The criteria to be considered a relevant project for young people's social inclusion purposes will also be a dimension to be further developed in the qualitative data collection process; even so, it was possible to identify a set of aspects. Accordingly, to the respondents of the project, the effectiveness of the identified projects can be measured by two intersecting dimensions: reaching young people and the consolidation of networks at the local level.

The projects mapped in this report managed to develop strategies to reach young people, namely their ability to adapt to the specificities of the intervention contexts and their needs, based, above all, on flexibility and tailored approach and the possibility to adjust the forms of intervention to their requirements. These projects also highlighted the development of design skills and the opportunity to bring proactivity and creativity into play, helping young people to develop social skills.

Concerning the institutional dimension, these projects are essential in raising awareness of the local community about young people's needs and expectations and their importance and role in promoting local communities' development.

4. Concluding remarks and implications for research and practice

This report was elaborated based on multiple sources and co-produced by authors from 12 European countries. First, we started by characterising the rural NEETs across countries, then we reviewed existing European and national policies targeting the social inclusion and participation of young people. This was followed by a chapter describing the results of a survey conducted between June to September 2022.

The data collected allowed us to describe several examples of community-based projects implemented in the last few years, covering rural areas across Europe. The identified projects are illustrative of community-based projects across those countries and, therefore, should not be considered representative of all existing projects. Nevertheless, it is still possible to draw some preliminary conclusions as highlighted below.

1 All projects presented in this report target unemployed young adults and/or in a NEET situation, aged 20-24 years or 25-29 years old. These projects aim to facilitate labour market integration and seem to be less focused on creating opportunities for young people to resume their education trajectory.

2 The collected data underlines the importance of the local scale in addressing the social inclusion of specific vulnerable populations that are often difficult to reach by top-down programmes developed by European and national institutions.

3 The local level facilitates the creation of small-scale projects better suited to a more personalised, tailor-made approach to the target population. Additionally, the local approach also allows for the involvement of communities in the communication, identification, and engagement of young people at risk of exclusion in the projects aimed at them.

4 All of the projects examined, more or less explicitly, have as their objective the development of skills and the empowerment of young people. However, only a few involve young people in the decision-making processes. Our data suggests that young people are mostly considered beneficiaries, with only a few projects considered young people as co-designers.

5 Most projects involve the mobilisation of existing local resources and networks within the community, and suggest the importance of social networks for the quality of life and social inclusion of rural NEETs.

6 At a policy level, although social inclusion and participation are targeted in major European policies (e.g., Youth Guarantee) most existing programmes lack a clear focus on the quality of life of young people, their social inclusion and participation.

Overall, these results suggest the need for increasing the focus on social inclusion and participation of young people. These findings suggest the need for further research on the perspectives of those involved in the projects identified in this report, especially young people.

Additionally, based on the mapping of community-based projects and analysis of social inclusion and participation measures and policies, below we outline three main recommendations and implications for research and practice.

1

Rural areas as spaces of opportunity

Although there are fragilities that are transversal to all young people in the NEET condition, the impact and prevalence of these fragilities differ according to the territorial contexts in which they live. Indeed, as we have discussed here, young people from rural or geographically isolated areas generally tend to have limited opportunities and fewer educational, training, social, and economic resources than young people from other territories. These barriers can make it even more difficult for them to reverse their structural vulnerabilities, limiting not only their participation opportunities but also their educational and professional expectations, increasing the risk of social exclusion.

Based on a knowledge of the territory, through a prior and rigorous diagnosis of the problems, needs, opportunities, and specific potential of each territorial context, it is possible to act locally, mobilising local resources and networks. The results of our survey precisely suggest the importance of enhancing local opportunities, for example, through the promotion of economic activities related to agriculture. The revitalisation of local activities, such as those traditional activities that are often devalued and considered minor, through innovative and alternative solutions can help to promote employment and contribute to the development of rural territories.

In this sense, rural areas can be seen as spaces of opportunity. If we create social structures that help to promote social inclusion and simultaneously change the

negative view associated with rurality, it may be possible to attract more young people to rural areas.

2

From consultation to collaboration and co-design

While many of the identified projects include in their design and implementation some mechanism for consulting young people on their needs, expectations, and motivations, most of them do not go beyond this stage. More than consulting young people, it is important to involve young people in the whole process of design, development, and evaluation of projects, making them key actors in the design, implementation and evaluation of projects that are relevant to them. In such challenge times, young people may find themselves in need not only of acquiring competencies and skills but, even more fundamentally, of finding meaning in living and in what is happening. It is therefore important to listen to their voice and ask them what could help them cope with life's challenges. It will be important to verify the outcomes of these projects, considering what will emerge from the ongoing evaluation process - as several projects are still in place. Thus, while consulting it is not only important to give young people a voice, but above all to give them the space and conditions to become active and participative elements in the projects. It is key to involve young people from the moment of defining the issues that are important to them.

3

Developing and improving local partnerships

Our analysis also indicates how important it is to establish and foster a partnership network. Cooperation and networking indeed emerged as a fundamental axis in implementing community-based projects.

On the one hand, from an organisational point of view, local partnerships allow institutions to enhance their capacity for action, mobilising a diversified set of partners, which enables them to respond more effectively to the issues and challenges faced by young people.

On the other hand, local partnerships allow the connection of young people with a diversity of partners, allowing them to (re)connect with local communities and organisations. At the same time, it also allows them to practice their social and relational skills and helps to provide young people with a network of relevant contacts for their professional future.

While there are several indications that social networks are important for community well-being and quality of life of young people, we argue that these

partnerships need to be led by young people. Local and bottom-up approaches can promote the social inclusion of young people, particularly if young people are the leaders of those partnerships.

Overall, our exploratory findings suggest that there are community-based projects trying to work on issues of social inclusion via the participation of young people. However, the identification of the policies and programmes suggests is a higher focus on employment and education issues. Our mapping of projects shows the need to go beyond these categories and look at how youth participation is considered a path and outcome of social inclusion. More research, particularly participatory research that gives power to young people, could help to overcome some of the issues mentioned and simultaneously facilitate our understanding of the challenges faced by young people in rural areas. Moreover, it is also important to continue to map and work towards identifying good and promising practices around the social inclusion and participation of young people in rural areas.

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Appendix

Country profiles

Austria



Austria is located in **central Europe**. It is a **landlocked democratic republic with nine federal states**. The capital and largest city in Austria is Vienna (Wien), with a population of approximately 1.8 million inhabitants, followed by Graz and Linz. Austria has a total population of around 8.8 million inhabitants, a number which has been increasing steadily and is estimated to grow above nine million by 2023.

The municipality with the largest population is Vienna, which had 1.92 million residents at the beginning of 2021. A fifth of Austria's population thus lives in the federal capital, followed by the provincial capitals. Of the **8.93 million residents of Austria**, about less than 1.29 million are children under 15 years of age. About 5.93 million are in the 15 to 64-year range, and another 1.72 million Austrian men and women are 65 years or older. This means that 14.4% of the population are preschool and compulsory school-age children, about two-thirds (66.4%) are of working age, and 19.2% are elderly persons in retirement age. The number and percentage of the **senior population of 65 and older are increasing**, henceforth even more, as the Baby Boom Generation reaches retirement age in the foreseeable future. The **potential workforce is remaining relatively stable**; however, the population of working age is also increasing. The migration numbers are decreasing in the last 5-6 years, but on the other hand, the rate of naturalisation has been increasing in the same period (www.austria.org/population).

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Bosnia and Herzegovina is a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-confessional state situated in south-eastern Europe, that is, the Balkan Peninsula. The country covers a total area of 51 209 km², with a relatively short coastline in the Adriatic Sea. Immediately after declaring its independence from Yugoslavia in March 1992 a horrible war broke out causing long-standing demographic and socio-economic issues. The war ended up by signing the Dayton Peace Accords in December 1995, introducing the era known as "Dayton Bosnia and Herzegovina" as the agreement incorporates the constitution as well. One of the main features of the Dayton Peace Accords is the establishment of a **complex administrative system of Bosnia and Herzegovina: two entities** (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska), as well as the self-governing Brčko District of BiH (a city on the banks of Sava River). Unlike the Republika Srpska (RS) entity, which is constituted of local self-government units only, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) (51 % of the territory) comprises ten cantons with competences in many sectors. The cantons are subdivided into local self-government units,

namely municipalities and cities. Such institutional architecture with a rather weak (and frequently dysfunctional) central level and a high degree of autonomy among entities and cantons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina reflects policies in domains such as employment, education, health care, social services, housing, culture, and others. In that sense, the labour market in Bosnia and Herzegovina is decentralized from a functional and policy point of view between entities and the district (RCC, 2021, p. 6).

According to the last census (conducted in 2013), the total population in Bosnia and Herzegovina was 3.53 million, which is almost 20 % less compared to the pre-war population size (in 1991). The population is not only constantly shrinking due to multiannual negative natural change coupled with outmigration but also ageing at an unprecedented pace. In addition to increasing death rates, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been recording the lowest low fertility for the last twenty years (less than 1.3 children per woman of childbearing age since 2002) (BHAS, 2020). Consequently, the total population is estimated at 3.3 million (WB, 2021), with an ever higher old-age dependency ratio.

The country (both by indicators and definitions) is one of the most rural countries in Europe (UNDP 2013, p. 9). Out of 1,155,552 total households, 46% are urban, while 54% belong to a category other (rural, rurban, etc.) (BHAS, 2017). Taking into consideration conflict-driven migration during the war (mostly by force), and the ongoing outflow of (young) people, the decline in fertility, as well as urbanization, the share of the rural and urban population, tend to converge (51 and 49 respectively) (World Bank, 2021). In the light of such long-lasting trends, rural areas face depopulation and progressive ageing, which is notable in the rising number of empty (deserted) villages across the country. In the framework document titled “Strategic Plan for Rural Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2018-2021)” (SPRD), SWOT analysis outlined increasing rural-urban migration, ageing rural households and loss of young, educated population as threats (T) (Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2021).

Czechia



The Czech Republic is a country located in the Central Europe with Prague as its capital and 10 main regions with 10.5 million of inhabitants, fairly homogenic as the immigration policy is still narrow and restricted. The Czech Republic entered EU in May 2004. It is a ‘dependent’ post-socialist economy closely related to Germany. Employment market is still focused on the cheap labour as a strategy of market competition. Czech Republic's median age is 43.2 against a global value of 30.3 years. The population in the Czech Republic fluctuated between 2010 and 2019. The number of people over age 64 continues its upward trend, reaching 2.1 million in 2019. The number of young people under age 14 is also growing. In 2019, the number of children increased by one percent from the previous year. In 2021, about 15.81 percent of the Czech Republic's total population were aged 0 to 14 years. Czech Republic rural population for 2021 was **2,759,991**, a **0.54% decline** from 2020 (Statista, 2019).

Italy



Italy is a peninsula located in southern Europe. Since its conformation resembles a boot with the toe pointing southwest, people usually refer to it by this nickname i.e., 'the boot'. To the north, it is bounded by the Alps and borders, from west to east, with France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia. However, most of the territory is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, including numerous islands, two of which are autonomous regions (Sicily and Sardinia). Within the Italian territory, the states of Vatican City, San Marino (enclaves of the Republic), and Campione d'Italia (exclave) can be found. Italy is the third largest country in the European Union by population (after Germany and France), with a total of 60,359,546 inhabitants. It is characterized by many older people, a low fertility rate, and a life expectancy of 80.6 years for men and 85.1 years for women.

Lithuania



Lithuania is located in at the east of the Baltic Sea and is bordered by Latvia in the north, Poland in the south, Byelorussia in the east Poland and the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad in the west, with an area of 65.300 km². Its lands were united under Mindaugas in 1236. Over the next century, through alliances and conquest, Lithuania extended its territory to include most of present-day Belarus and Ukraine. By the end of the 14th century Lithuania was the largest state in Europe. On 11 March 1990, Lithuania became the first of the Soviet republics to declare its independence, but Moscow did not recognize this proclamation until September of 1991 (following the abortive coup in Moscow). On March 1990 Lithuania became the first of the Soviet Republics to declare independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The National anthem shall be Vincas Kudirka's Tautiška Giesmė". On 1 May 2004, less than 14 years after renewal of its independence, Lithuania joined the European Union, which signified its success in becoming an internationally recognized constitutional democracy.

Montenegro



Montenegro is an independent and sovereign state, located in South-eastern Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula with territorial access to the Adriatic Sea. Montenegro borders Serbia to the east and northeast, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the west and northwest, Kosovo to the east, and Albania to the southeast. In the southwest, the Adriatic Sea separates it from Italy. The total extension of the territory is 13,812km², the land borders are 625 km long, and the length of the coast is 293.5 km. In the middle of 2019, there were 617,683 inhabitants in Montenegro (Monstat, 2022). Independence was declared on 3rd June 2006 via withdrawal from the state union with Serbia. Hence, Montenegro is one of the youngest European countries. The national government of Montenegro consists of 18 Ministries, including the Ministry of Sports and

Youth. In addition to the national government, the municipalities function as subnational administrative units. There are a total of 25 municipalities in Montenegro.

North Macedonia



North Macedonia is a small, landlocked country, situated in southeastern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula, with a total area of 25.713 km², a specific geostrategic position, representing a major transportation corridor from Western and Central Europe to Southern Europe and the Aegean Sea. The total population in the country is 2.1 million inhabitants (resident population 1.836.713 - latest census in 2021), of which 50,4 % are male and 49,6 % female. The largest group of the population (7%) falls in the 40-44 years, age category. It is the 6th poorest country in Europe, and about 450,000 of North Macedonia's population (21.5%) is suffering from poverty. Rural areas cover about 88.7% of the territory, where 47.5% of the total population is situated. There are 80 municipalities with 1783 settlements out of which 34 are cities and 1749 villages.

Portugal



Mainland **Portugal** is in the south-westernmost point of Europe Continental, on the Iberian Peninsula and covers two groups of islands in the northern Atlantic Ocean (Azores and Madeira). It is a Republic with representative democracy and a semi-presidential system. In 2021 the country had an estimated resident population of 10.352.042. Administratively divided into 308 municipalities and 3,092 civil parishes, Continental Portugal has 18 districts. In addition, the archipelagos of Azores and Madeira are autonomous governed regions. Of the 308 municipalities, only 159 are considered statistical cities, where 43.1% of the Portuguese population (around 4.5 million) live.

Spain



Spain is a state located in the extreme southwest of Europe, sharing a peninsula with Portugal. The country entered democracy in 1978, after the death of dictator Franco and 40 years of dictatorship regime. Since then, a territorial administration has been developed with 17 autonomous regions that are acquiring management competencies. Youth Policies make sense to be analyzed through this regional administration too. In 2022, the total population of Spain was around 47.6 million people. The annual population growth in Spain decreased by 0.6 percentage points in 2021 in

comparison to the previous year. The year 2021 marks a significant change in the population growth compared to the previous year. Population growth deals with the annual change in total population, and is affected by factors such as fertility, mortality, and migration.

Turkey



Turkey is a Middle Eastern country whose membership application to European Union has been “in progress” since 1987. Turkey is always in between- Europe and Asia; West and East; developed and developing and the gap between the regions in the country is also enormous. The administrative system is organized in a two-tier structure composed of central and local government. The central government is composed of central bodies (ministries and agencies) and their local branches appointed by the central government. The local administration is organized into three different and autonomous types of local government which is locally elected: special provincial administrations, municipalities, and villages. The country is composed of 81 (NUTS3) provinces and 957 districts (NUTS4). The governors of provinces and sub-governors of districts are appointed by the Ministry of Interior. In addition, there are currently approximately 1,394 municipalities and 18,247 villages. The municipalities are organized into several types: metropolitan municipalities (30 overall), province capitals (51 overall), district municipalities (519 in metropolitan municipalities, 400 in other provinces), and town municipalities (394). Each district also hosts its municipality, while many small settlements are organized as town municipalities. Mayors of these municipalities are elected through popular vote.

Municipalities consist of several neighborhoods, each of which has its own basic administration consisting of a headman (muhtar) and an assembly of aldermen. The latter is elected for a five-year term and has an advisory function. Villages represent the smallest form of local administration in rural areas and usually have a population of 150 to 5,000 inhabitants. The local administration of a village consists of a headman (muhtar) and an assembly of aldermen (European Committee on Regions, 2020b).

Sweden



Sweden is located on the Scandinavian Peninsula in Northern Europe with land border in the west with Norway and in the northeast with Finland. The country has a with three levels of domestic government: the central level, the regional level comprising 21 regions and the local level comprising 290 municipalities of which 197 are classified as rural or sparsely populated rural (1). Out of a population of approximately 10 million, about 34 % live in either type of rural areas.

United Kingdom



The **United Kingdom** (UK), composed of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, is an island country located off the north-western coast of mainland Europe. The UK population in mid-2020 was estimated to be 67,1 million (Office for National Statistics, 2021a), from these, 51% were females (Office for National Statistics, 2021b). 17% of the population lived in rural areas (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, 2022). In June 2021, 9% of the population living in the UK had a nationality of a different country (Vargas-Silva & Rienzo, 2021). Since the 90s, the number of people migrating to the UK has been greater than those emigrating (Sturge, 2022), and migration is the main driver of the UK's population growth. Nevertheless, the large majority of the population in rural areas are white British. In 2020, minoritized ethnic groups accounted for only 1.5% of those in rural areas (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, 2022). In terms of age, the average age is higher in rural areas (around 46 years old compared to 40.5 years).

Project fiches

Austria

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Austria
Region	Scharnstein
Intervention name	Film Workshop "Our Free Spaces!" European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Wonderland
Type of organisation	Non-governmental organisation
Period	since may 22 - completed - 2 months
Funding	Regional funds
Data source	https://wonderland.cx/news/film-workshop-our-free-spaces-european-capital-of-culture-bad-ischl-salzkammergut-2024/
Other relevant information	There are 2 more organisations involved - Local association or community organisation, An informal association of people- grassroots

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Wider local community
Age	15 - 29 years
Area of intervention	Young people in informal work

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Reducing inequalities, Stimulating economic growth and competitiveness, Empowerment, Increasing participation, Improving intergenerational relations
Level of implementation	National
Number of participants	12
Outcomes	https://wonderland.cx/news/film-workshop-our-free-spaces-european-capital-of-culture-bad-ischl-salzkammergut-2024/
Activities	Workshops, Life coaching/Mentoring, Information campaigns

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	No

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	young people could map vacant/underused spaces and imagine, how it could be improved.
Acceptance	Well accepted
Limitations	identifying un- or underused spaces of a village (perception of spaces)
Strengths	young people rethought places and how they could be used differently.

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Austria
Region	Vienna
Intervention name	Spatial Justice
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Wonderland Architecture/..
Type of organisation	International organizations
Period	January/2022- ongoing - 24 months - until 2024
Funding	European funds
Data source	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1166717360830157
Other relevant information	There are 6 more organisations working in the project - International organizations

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Wider local community
Age	Under 15 - 19 years
Area of intervention	Unemployed young people, Youth workers.

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Facilitating school-to-work transitions, Reducing inequalities, Empowerment, Increasing participation
Level of implementation	National
Outcomes	To empower youth in rural areas by giving workshops/ trainings. The trainers will be educated in advance and so we try to empower at one side the youth and in the other also the trainer
Activities	Training, Workshops, Information campaigns

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	not yet

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Region	Herzegovina
Intervention name	Podrška mladim u zapošljavanju u IT sektoru (Support for young people in employment in the IT sector)
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Asocijacija za ekonomski razvoj REDAH Mostar (REDAH- Economic development association)
Type of organisation	NGO
Period	2022-2023
Funding	EU funds
Data source	https://redah.ba/implementation-of-the-eu-project-support-for-young-people-in-employment-in-the-it-sector-has-started/?lang=en

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Young people (unemployed)
Area of intervention	Education and employment
Focus of intervention	Skills development and employment

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Improving digital skills,Improving job skills,Creating employment,Facilitating school-to-work transitions,Stimulating economic growth and competitiveness,Facilitate the match between labour demand and supply,Financial support to young people during their job search process,Empowerment,Fostering social inclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g. migrants, refugees, disabled people)
Level of implementation	Local level within the region (Herzegovina)
Number of participants	At least 45
Delivery mode	Specific intervention
Eligibility criteria	Being unemployed young people
Setting	Mostar and Herzegovina
Outcomes	Still unknown
Activities	Training,Information campaigns,Professional support (e.g., psychological guidance or counseling)

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Not yet
Reference of evaluation study	Yes, in the region

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	Not
Degree of dissemination	In the region among stakeholders
Acceptance	Still unknown
Limitations	Rather weak interest of young people in training
Strengths	Strong local partnership

Transferability	If the context similar, might be transferable
Level of evidence	Promising intervention
Reasons for considering a best practice	Effectiveness - better prospects of youth on demanding the labour market
Priority criteria	- level of community engagement;

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Region	Central Bosnia Canton
Intervention name	Social Map of Youth in the Municipality of Jajce, 2022
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	U.G. "Centar za obrazovanje i druženje" - Jajce (COD) - "Center for Education and Socializing"
Type of organisation	NGO
Period	2022
Funding	Regional funds
Data source	https://www.codjajce.com/

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Young people
Age	15-30
Area of intervention	Employment and education
Focus of intervention	Skills development and employment

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Creating employment, Stimulating economic growth and competitiveness, Facilitate the match between labour demand and supply, Empowerment, Fostering social inclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g., migrants, refugees, disabled people)
Level of implementation	Local
Number of participants	Not specified
Delivery mode	General/universal intervention
Eligibility criteria	Being between 15 and 30 years old
Setting	Jajce (municipality with high percentage of rural population)
Outcomes	Still unknown
Activities	Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events). Information campaigns

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Not yet
Reference of evaluation study	Yes, in the municipality
Study design	Other
Data type	Quantitative
Sample size	Youth population residing in Jajce (not sampled)

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
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Innovation	Not
Degree of dissemination	Yes, in the municipality and among stakeholders
Limitations	Lack of interest of local citizens in the field of information important for drafting the document
Strengths	Strengthening institutions, networking of local communities
Transferability	Yes, might be transferable to other local communities
Reasons for considering a best practice	Effectiveness - raising awareness of the local community (policy makers in particular) about the social status of youth and other youth-related issues
Level of evidence	Evidence based intervention (the social map is accompanied by the study containing analysis of the socio-demographic profile of the municipality)
Priority criteria	- level of community engagement;

Italy

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Italy
Region	Liguria - Tuscany
Intervention name	Nuove Energie emergono dai Territori N.E.E.T.
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Municipality of Genova and Livorno
Type of organisation	Public
Period	june 2021- april 2022
Funding	National government funds: 320.000; The NEET- New Energies Emerge from the Territories project was funded by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Department for Youth Policy and Universal Civil Service and ANCI - National Association of Italian Municipalities.
Data source	https://www.comune.livorno.it/progetto-neet ; http://www.informagiovani.comune.genova.it/contenuti/neet-nuove-energie-emergono-dai-territori-2021

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Young NEETS
Age	20-24 yo.,25-29 y.o.
Area of intervention	Entrepreneurship
Focus of intervention	To help young people by enhancing their team working skills, proactivity and creativity in order to design and implement projects that can contribute to local communities.

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	The NEET - New Energies Emerge from the Territories project aimed to enhance the talents, motivations, interests, curiosity and ideas of young people through the activation of an experimental workshop by permanently involving institutions, associations, territories and citizenship to invite girls and boys to "take the floor."
Level of implementation	Municipality level
Number of participants	about 45
Delivery mode	Specific intervention
Eligibility criteria	young people 20-29
Setting	Local communities

Outcomes	For the NEET Project - New Energies Emerge from the Territories this, in which the Municipality of Livorno took part, was the second edition. The first edition, carried out in Genoa between 2018 and 2019, supported 60 young people in the generation of ideas and their transformation into realized projects, bringing into play and measuring their own resources, co-opting other necessary skills, acquiring the means, planning the actions, and participating in the evaluation of the results.
Activities	The methodologies adopted have ranged from participatory planning to the transmission of knowledge and experience among peers (peereducation), passing through the practical feedback of theoretical study (learning by doing) and confrontation, learning and in-depth study in small groups (study circles), as well as guidance (mentoring, counseling, skills assessment, groups) integrating them in an innovative way adapted to the participants.

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Yes
Reference of evaluation study	https://smart.comune.genova.it/sites/default/files/archivio/documenti/SINERGIE_NEET_DEF_WEB.pdf
Study design	longitudinal
Data type	qualitative and quantitative
Sample size	45
Comparison group	no
Assessment period	beginning and end of the projet
Evaluation findings	Psitive outcomes, NEETs weren't outreach. Participants in the end weren't NEETs

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	empowerment and skill potential as weell as self entrepreneurship.
Degree of dissemination	at local level
Acceptance	well accepted
Limitations	NEET weren't outreached
Strengths	developping creatitivity, team working, procuding ideas for local communities
Transferability	yes
Reasons for considering a best practice	With the NEET project, the City of Livorno identified 30 young people, aged between 18 and 29, interested in getting involved with city innovation ideas and needs expressed by young people themselves. Each phase of the project and the youth idea yard was intertwined with actions that took place in the city of Genoa, with 15 other young people. Young people from the two cities got to know each other, met, exchanged ideas and visions, and shared the salient steps of this journey. After an initial training period, a working group was set up to design actions in line with Goal 11 of the United Nations Agenda 2030 - Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, durable and sustainable - for cities that are centers for new ideas for culture, science, productivity, social development and more, until an innovative project was achieved. So there are many reasons to consider the present project a best practice: the close connection with local communities and their needs; the development of design skills and the opportunity to bring proactivity and creativity into play; and the group work that helps young people develop social skills and team working useful for the world of work.
Priority criteria	Skills development; self-entrepreneurship; local communities' involvement

Part A - General intervention information	
Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Italy
Region	Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Puglia, Molise, Sardegna, Sicilia, Lazio, Umbria, Toscana, Emilia Romagna, Piemonte, Liguria e Marche
Intervention name	Progetto Policoro
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	<p>Conferenza Episcopale Italiana (CEI): In addition to the national offices of the CEI and the many dioceses involved, various Christian-oriented youth associations such as:</p> <p>MLAC (Movement of Catholic Action Workers); Acli Youth; Christian Worker Youth; Italian Catholic Guides and Scouts Association.</p> <p>Also adhering are various entities operating in the social and labor world including:</p> <p>Confederation of Italian Cooperatives; Cenasca-CISL; National Union of Italian Cooperatives; Christian Associations of Italian Workers; Ethical Bank; Christian Union of Managerial Entrepreneurs; Society for Youth Entrepreneurship.</p>
Type of organisation	Italian bishops' permanent assembly
Period	Since 1995
Funding	Italian Church
Data source	https://www.progettopolicoro.it/

Part B - Inclusion criteria	
Variables	Description
Target group	Young NEETs
Age	15-29 y.o
Area of intervention	<p>The figure on which the implementation of the project is based is that of the community animator; this consists of about 250 people whose task is to link the various offices in their dioceses with young people and voluntary associations, training organizations and public and private institutions operating in the area. Also at the local level in many dioceses the project has activated special information desks to which young people can turn both to obtain advice on their insertion into the world of work and for concrete support in the possible creation of new entrepreneurial realities.</p>
Focus of intervention	<p>The main lines of action of the project are:</p> <p>The implementation of a way of working that brings diocesan pastoral work in synergy with associationism as well as better coordination among the various dioceses; the formation of new conceptions of work in the consciousness and mentality of young people; the implementation of concrete gestures of solidarity such as the creation of new businesses.</p> <p>In addition to actions aimed specifically at local communities, young people and people involved in the project participate and/or organize events of national scope as well.</p>

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention	
Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Its original purpose was to help unemployed or underemployed young people in southern Italy to improve their working conditions either through personal training and information or through the founding of cooperatives or small businesses; however, over time these activities were also extended to various regions in northern Italy.
Level of implementation	National with local implementation

Number of participants	more than 3000
Delivery mode	General Intervention
Eligibility criteria	15-19 years,20-24 years,25-29 year; Early school leavers,Young people not in education or in training,Unemployed young people,Young people in precarious work,Young people in informal work
Setting	Different diocesis
Outcomes	In years of operation, the project has promoted the emergence of more than 500 work experiences (particularly consortiums, cooperatives and small businesses), which in turn are said to have created about 4,000 new jobs. Some of these small businesses have received management of land confiscated from the Mafia.
Activities	Training,Workshops,Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events),Peer support,Information campaigns

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Yes, by academic researchers
Reference of evaluation study	Report delivered to the commissioning party
Study design	Longitudinal
Data type	Qualitative (Focus Groups)
Sample size	It differs according to the specific intervention
Assessment period	It differs according to the specific intervention
Evaluation findings	It differs according to the specific intervention

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	Real and concrete active participation of young people, recipients and protagonists, implementation of integrated pastoral work, community development
Degree of dissemination	Very well known intervention
Acceptance	High degree of acceptance
Limitations	Use of different languages between different levels and functions
Strengths	Being able to intercept vulnerables young people and rehabilitate them.
Transferability	It already includes different contexts
Level of evidence	Promising intervention
Reasons for considering a best practice	It can be considered a best practice for two principal reasons. The first for its ability to effectively reach out to young people in need and vulnerability. The second its ability to recover and effectively rehabilitate them. The ability to have a widespread presence in the territory also undoubtedly represents a reason to consider the present project a best practice. Moreover, its organization can certainly serve as an example for other types of public and laic services.
Priority criteria	Skills development; self-entrepreneurship; local communities' involvement

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Italy
Region	Italy
Intervention name	Neets in entrepreneurship
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Junior Achievement Italia
Type of organisation	ONG

Period	2018- 2021
Funding	The NEETs in Entrepreneurship project is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment.
Data source	http://neets-entrepreneurship.org

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Ethnic minorities, Women, Wider local community; Early school leavers, Young people not in education or in training, Unemployed young people, Young people not seeking a job, Young people in precarious work, Young people in informal work
Age	20-24 years, 25-29 years
Area of intervention	Education; Entrepreneurship
Focus of intervention	A prevention track program on school dropout developed to enable a better cooperation between schools and students, ensuring the integration of good practices into the educational systems.; A blended learning program delivered to 1,600 NEETs from Romania, Bulgaria, Spain and Italy on topics related to career and entrepreneurship using both online and live sessions.; Entrepreneurial practice provided to 400 NEETs through a basic business incubator; 40 of them will receive money for setting up their own businesses.

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Between 2018 and 2021, 1,600 NEETs in Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and Spain received training and support to acquire the skills needed to find a job or start their own business. In addition, the project aimed to prevent another 1,000 young people enrolled in a vocational and technical education school from falling into the NEET category, by providing them with training and counseling.
Level of implementation	National
Number of participants	400 in Italy
Delivery mode	Specific intervention
Eligibility criteria	20-24 years, 25-29 years; NEETs
Setting	Italy
Outcomes	Delivered about 80 individual mentoring activities and 9 business start-up grants.
Activities	Training on topics related to career and entrepreneurship using both online and live sessions; Entrepreneurial practice

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	No

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	The introduction of an intergenerational mentoring dimension
Degree of dissemination	Online website and dissemination conferences; well known in the entrepreneurship sector : https://www.jaitalia.org/2021/09/27/si-chiude-con-successo-il-programma-neets-in-entrepreneurship-in-europa/
Acceptance	Well accepted
Limitations	Pandemic, with the online shift of activities; no final evaluation
Strengths	Ability to overcome territorial and generational fences
Transferability	It already included different contexts
Level of evidence	Promising intervention

Reasons for considering a best practice	The project succeeded in its intent both in terms of the target audience involved and the results achieved.
Priority criteria	Self-entrepreneurship\

Lithuania

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Lithuania
Region	Vilnius
Intervention name	Improving children's mental and physical health
Type of intervention	Summer camp
Organisation	Atsigrezk i vaikus
Type of organisation	NGO
Period	2022 July-August
Funding	Organizasion funds
Data source	Atsigrezk.lt

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Foster children with behavioral and emotional disorders
Age	7-18
Area of intervention	Education
Focus of intervention	Emotional support

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	To improving children's mental and physical health using the change of environment from urban to rural and giving physical activities - swimming in the lake, games, cycling, other
Level of implementation	Local
Number of participants	10
Delivery mode	Specific intervation
Eligibility criteria	Only Foster children with behavioral and emotional disorders
Setting	Ciziunai village, Vilnius district
Outcomes	To help childen learn how to relax, vent emotions through physical activities
Activities	Swimming in the lake, games, cycling, hiking, capming, making food in outside in grill

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	No

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	Not innovative
Degree of dissemination	Well-known intervation
Acceptance	Very acceptable
Limitations	Number of participants (children)
Strengths	Well known place for childen and social workers, local people well accepts children
Transferability	Can be easily transferable

Level of evidence	Evidence based intervention
Reasons for considering a best practice	Intervention is very effective
Priority criteria	Community engagement

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Lithuania
Region	
Intervention name	Policy/program/project title: Socio-emotional and Steam in Leisure time: Ugdykime vaikus
Type of intervention	Summer Camp 2022 m. Jun 27 d. – July 1 d.
Organisation	NGO: Ugdykime vaikus
Type of organisation	NGO: Ugdykime vaikus
Period	2017-2022
Funding	Private, National, Municipality
Data source	http://www.ugdykim.lt/paslaugos/emocinio-intelekto-eg-lavinimo-vaiku-vasaros-stovykla/
Other relevant information	http://www.ugdykim.lt/

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Children with disturbed social-emotional behavior
Age	14/mai
Area of intervention	Rural: Plunges municipality, Varkaliai
Focus of intervention	http://www.ugdykim.lt/seimu_gyvoji_educacija_persikele_i_plunges_raj_varkaliau_kaima/

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Include children with families in experimental educations camps and seminars
Level of implementation	Local
Number of participants	20-40
Delivery mode	creativity Interventions
Eligibility criteria	Families with children with behavioral and emotional disorders
Setting	Varkaliai village, Plunge municipality, Vilnius district
Outcomes	To help children learn how to relax, vent emotions through physical activities
Activities	Active educational games. Enactment of educational activities, charades, educational conversations together with educators
Activities additional information	more: https://www.facebook.com/ugdykim/posts/3430013737102976/

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Intervention evaluated after every camp and after one year.
Reference of evaluation study	https://www.peterlang.com/document/1254616; http://www.ugdykim.lt/produktas/steam-ikimokykliniame-ugdyme/
Study design	2019; 2020; 2021
Data type	2020, 2021

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	Sumer Camp on Steam

Degree of dissemination	MA degree; examples in Monograph
Acceptance	Very Acceptable
Limitations	Number of children and families
Strengths	<p>Well known place for children and social workers, local people well accepts children. o what extent it can be transfer to another context? Intended to get to know each other through practical experience in developing social-emotional, art therapy, wood carving skills.</p> <p>By providing intelligent floristic education, the community spirit and creativity of young people are strengthened in creating individual floristic works and one common floristic work,</p> <p>Photo therapy. "Photo voice", "The world through my eyes" and emotion recognition methods will be tested using photo education.</p> <p>Self-knowledge will be based on knowing one's roots, strengthening the national identity of young people. To develop this skill, we will use historical knowledge, games, social drama and a creatively simulated "Battle of Godinga", which took place between Curonians, Vikings and Crusaders.</p> <p>Social drama methods are used to recognize one's emotions and feelings while being mentored by an experienced educator. During the activities, problematic life situations will be acted out and ways of solving them will be simulated.</p> <p>Experiential ethno-cultural education in the preparation of Sami dishes. The day is dedicated to strengthening cooking skills by making local dishes yourself.</p>
Transferability	<p>Can be easily transferable. Intended to get to know each other through practical experience in developing social-emotional, art therapy, wood carving skills.</p> <p>By providing intelligent floristic education, the community spirit and creativity of young people are strengthened in creating individual floristic works and one common floristic work,</p> <p>Photo therapy. "Photo voice", "The world through my eyes" and emotion recognition methods will be tested using photo education.</p> <p>Self-knowledge will be based on knowing one's roots, strengthening the national identity of young people. To develop this skill, we will use historical knowledge, games, social drama and a creatively simulated "Battle of Godinga", which took place between Curonians, Vikings and Crusaders.</p> <p>Social drama methods are used to recognize one's emotions and feelings while being mentored by an experienced educator. During the activities, problematic life situations will be acted out and ways of solving them will be simulated.</p> <p>Experiential ethno-cultural education in the preparation of Sami dishes. The day is dedicated to strengthening cooking skills by making local dishes yourself.</p>
Level of evidence	Evidence based
Reasons for considering a best practice	Intervention are popularly between families and very effective
Priority criteria	Family and Community based

North Macedonia

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	North Macedonia
Region	Кавадарци - Cavadarzi
Intervention name	Slow Wine – Sustainable Local Wine in the Tikvesh Region, North Macedonia
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Slow Food Bitola Macedonia
Type of organisation	Local association or community organisation
Period	October 2020
Funding	European funds,Self-funded,Private company

Data source	http://www.slowfood.mk/ https://www.linkedin.com/in/slowfoodmacedonia/ https://www.instagram.com/slowfood.mk/ https://twitter.com/SlowFoodMacedon https://www.facebook.com/slowfood.mk
Other relevant information	There are 3 more organizations working in the project - Local association or community organisation; For the successful implementation of a project, a work plan must be prepared, a professional and skilled team must be involved, as well as motivated volunteers with whom the project would achieve a greater and visible impact that would make a difference in the local community.

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Wider local community; Young people in precarious work
Age	20 - 34 plus years

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Stimulating economic growth and competitiveness, Financial support to young people during their job search process, Empowerment
Level of implementation	National
Number of participants	30
Outcomes	Small wineries registered, 6 wineries on the market, over 30 new wine labels developed, first organic wines certified.
Activities	Training, Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events), Peer support, Information campaigns, Professional support (e.g., psychological guidance or counseling)

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	yes
Reference of evaluation study	The results were presented at more workshops and conferences in Macedonia and abroad and more articles and reports were published.
Data type	Reassessment of achievements and planned results

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	A complete model for supporting and building local brand and marketplace placemen
Acceptance	Well accepted
Limitations	limited resources for the sub-thematic realization of the whole idea and implementation of the model
Strengths	Recognized brand (Slow Wine) professional and skilled team and motivated students and professionals in a large international network.

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	North Macedonia
Region	in all regions
Intervention name	Youth Entrepreneurship Support Network
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Foundation for Management and Industrial Research
Type of organisation	Youth organization
Period	2015-2017 (but the network is still ongoing, and it was enlarged to becoming a regional/WB alliance) - completed - 24 months

Funding	European funds
Data source	http://www.yes-network.org/en ; http://www.pretpriemac.mk/
Other relevant information	There are 4 organisations working in the project - Non-governmental organisation, Labour unions, International organizations

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	young entrepreneurs (potential/existing) regardless of their nationality, sexual orientation, religion or alike
Age	20 - 34 years

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	supporting young people in starting and developing their businesses, providing assistance to business support providers and municipalities across the countries to better assist young entrepreneurs
Level of implementation	National
Number of participants	over 2000
Outcomes	national network of youth entrepreneurship support organizations established, CSOs/municipalities trained in all 8 regions, re-granting of local-actions, campaigning activities, young entrepreneurs promoted as community leaders, networking events, peer-learning events, matchmaking opportunities, business support and scaling-up services,
Activities	Training, Workshops, Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events), Life coaching/Mentoring, Peer support, Information campaigns, Other. If other, please specify:
Activities additional information	business and innovation support services

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	yes
Reference of evaluation study	it undergo ROM evaluation (results oriented monitoring)
Evaluation findings	was found as well performing project that achieved its planned results and provided a ground for lasting impact on the youth entrepreneurship development in the country.

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	empowering young entrepreneurs as community leaders, introducing them as early as possible in the public policy processes, connecting them with peers in the WB but also at European level, creating an action plan of the network completely in line with the EU's Entrepreneurship action plan.
Acceptance	high level of acceptance
Limitations	young entrepreneurs not being sufficiently empowered to participate in the public policy processes, particularly at local level
Strengths	the creativity of the young people, knowledge and experience of the partners, joint actions introduced via re-granting scheme where local CSOs and at least 2 municipalities introduces measures for supporting young entrepreneurs, setting up a national platform for youth entrepreneurship and its integration at European level

Portugal

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Portugal
Region	V. N. de Gaia
Intervention name	Escola de Segunda Oportunidade de Gaia - E2OG
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Câmara Municipal de Vila Nova de Gaia
Type of organisation	Local association or community organisation
Period	September 2019 - Ongoing (27 months)
Funding	Câmara Municipal de Vila Nova de Gaia
Data source	https://www.idis.pt/projetos

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Vulnerable school leavers
Age	15-19 years
Area of intervention	Education
Focus of intervention	Employability skills

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Improving job skills, Creating employment, Reducing inequalities, Empowerment, Increasing participation, Fostering social inclusion of vulnerable groups.
Level of implementation	Local
Number of participants	46
Eligibility criteria	15-19 year old vulnerable school leavers
Setting	Vila Nova de Gaia
Outcomes	Significant reduction of school dropout, continuation of studies, professional training and integration
Activities	Training

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Presentation of results to project partners

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	Social inclusion through education; creation of micro-enterprises or social businesses
Limitations	Insufficient available facilities
Strengths	Youth engagement and community involvement
Transferability	Yes

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Portugal
Region	Montemor-o-Novo
Intervention name	"À Volta das Conversas"
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Between (Ass. Entretodos)

Type of organisation	Network of professionals constituted as a non-profit association
Period	March 2021 to July 2022
Funding	70000 by National government funds
Data source	https://www.between.pt/-volta-das-conversas/ https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=between%20-%20partnerships%204%20development

Other relevant information

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Wider local Community; Youth; Early school leavers
Age	Under 15 years,15-19 years,20-24 years
Area of intervention	Education
Focus of intervention	skills development

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Improving mental health and wellbeing, Increasing participation, Promoting collaboration
Level of implementation	Regional
Number of participants	130
Delivery mode	???
Eligibility criteria	Young people between 14 and 19 years old, studying in the target schools
Setting	Group of Schools of Montemor-o-Novo; Group of Schools of Benfica; Group of Schools of Paço de Arcos; Professional Agricultural School D. Dinis - Paiã
Outcomes	Increase in young people's sense of self-efficacy; increased positive perception of their relationships; increased problem-solving ability; greater clarity on the concept of well-being; increased ease in expressing their needs; increased empathic listening skills; increased collaborative capacity; increased capacity to adapt to change; improved ability to deal with adversity.
Activities	Training, Workshops, Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events), Life coaching/Mentoring, Peer support, Information campaigns.
Activities additional information	sessions with young people.

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	The project is subject to evaluation. The collection of data was carried out and it is in process of analysis.
Study design	quasi-experimental
Data type	Quantitative and qualitative
Sample size	114 young people
Comparison group	the evaluation does not include a control group
Assessment period	Before starting implementation, at the end of implementation and after 6 months of project conclusion
Evaluation findings	not yet available

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	The project brings together participation with well-being and mental health, assuming participation as the right to have an agency over reality and, in itself, to also be a promoter of mental health. Uses non-formal education tools. It invites educational agents (often teachers) to assume the role of facilitators of spaces for participation and well-being. It has been applied in school contexts considered traditional, becoming a challenging and transforming process, which invites reflection from all

	those involved (young people, teachers, management, parents, among others). The project was applied in 4 different school contexts, and in the context of professional training, with very different involvements on the part of the educational agents (some by choice, others by decision of the school board); in a class context and in a club context (completely voluntary participation of young people), allowing to collect a lot of very interesting information.
Degree of dissemination	It is not a well-known intervention. There is an article about the methodology used by the project.
Acceptance	
Limitations	Difficulties in managing time for educational agents to participate in training activities. Restrictions raised by the difficulty of allowing a true participation of young people. Need for greater awareness of the type of communication to facilitate participation. Difficulties in opening the school space to the Community.
Strengths	The project as it was applied in different contexts, we can say that if some basic conditions are guaranteed, it can be very transformative both for young people and for the educational agents directly involved. Once the good conditions are guaranteed, even covering a smaller number of participants, the project can be very powerful and impacting on the other young people in the school, families and the community.
Transferability	The project's methodology has already been applied both in a school context and in a community context, with young people from rural areas, young people from urban areas and young emigrants or descendants of emigrants.

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Portugal
Region	Angra do Heroismo
Intervention name	As Nossas Quintas
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Caritas Ilha Terceira
Type of organisation	Non-governmental organisation
Period	September 2013 - ongoing (24 months)
Funding	Regional funds
Data source	https://acores.caritas.pt/as-nossas-quintas/

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Young Neet; Early school leavers; Young people not in education or in training; Unemployed young people
Age	20-24 years; 25-29 years
Area of intervention	Employment
Focus of intervention	employment

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Improving job skills, Creating employment, Reducing inequalities, Facilitate the match between labour demand and supply, Empowerment
Level of implementation	Regional/ Local
Number of participants	100
Eligibility criteria	young people aged between 14 and 21 in a situation of greater social vulnerability, with low levels of academic qualifications, in absenteeism or school dropout, without a job and without prospects of inclusion in the labor market.
Setting	Angra do Heroismo
Outcomes	Employability

Activities	Training, Life coaching/Mentoring, Professional support (e.g. psychological guidance or counseling)
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Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	The project is subject to evaluation.

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	Proximity, recognition of trainers and opportunities generated by internships
Limitations	Mobilization of beneficiaries
Strengths	Practical component

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Portugal
Region	Lousã, Coimbra
Intervention name	Espaço J
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Activar - Associação de Cooperação da Lousã
Type of organisation	Local association or community organisation
Period	January 2021 - Ongoing (24 months)
Funding	Local municipality funds
Data source	https://linktr.ee/espacojlousa

Other relevant information

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Vulnerable youth, school leavers
Age	Under 15 years and up to 24 years
Area of intervention	Education and Employability
Focus of intervention	Social inclusion and skill development

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	To promote the healthy and integrated development of personal, social and cognitive skills of young people in the Municipality of Lousã that enable the construction of their life projects.
Level of implementation	Local level
Number of participants	300
Setting	Lousã
Outcomes	To promote the healthy and integrated development of personal, social and cognitive skills of young people in the Municipality of Lousã that enable the construction of their life projects.
Activities	Training, Workshops, Community events, Peer support

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	The project is evaluated every six months by the Program that finances it. In addition, an external assessment was recently carried out by an autonomous entity. We hold weekly team meetings to assess the work being carried out. Every 2 months, a meeting is held with the consortium made up of partner

entities in the municipality, also to evaluate the work carried out.

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	Non-formal education is a methodology used par excellence, as it allows a work of relational proximity that can favor the change of behavior towards greater social inclusion.
Limitations	Insufficient funding
Strengths	Partnerships and collaborations

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Portugal, Bulgaria and Macedonia
Region	International
Intervention name	EcoMap "Road map of ecological practices in youth work in rural area and urban suburbs"
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	AEQUALITAS
Type of organisation	NGO
Period	November 2021 - Ongoing (15 months)
Funding	European Funds (60,000 Eur)
Other relevant information	

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Youth organizations and Young workers
Age	No age restrictions
Area of intervention	Employability
Focus of intervention	Improving digital skills, Improving job skills, Empowerment, Increasing participation

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Improving digital skills, Improving job skills, Empowerment, Increasing participation
Level of implementation	International
Number of participants	100
Setting	International
Outcomes	Provide skills to youth organisations to be greener and map their needs
Activities	Workshops, Community events, Life coaching/Mentoring, Peer support, Information campaigns
Activities additional information	

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Not yet

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	The mapping of needs
Limitations	Reach of the targets
Strengths	Networking

Spain

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Spain
Region	Valencian Region
Intervention name	Joop
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	IVAJ
Type of organisation	Youth Public Organism in Regional Government
Period	May 2022 - September 2022
Funding	EU
Data source	Project Facilitator

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Young people with disabilities, Migrants and refugees, Ethnic minorities, Women, LGBTQI+
Age	15-19
Area of intervention	Education
Focus of intervention	Improving job skills

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Improving job skills, Empowerment, Fostering social inclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g., migrants, refugees, disabled people)
Level of implementation	Local level
Number of participants	12
Delivery mode	Specific intervention
Eligibility criteria	
Setting	Cox (Valencia)
Outcomes	Increased employability and/or return to Regulated Training.
Activities	Training, Workshops, Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events), Life coaching/Mentoring, Peer support, Professional support (e.g., psychological guidance or counseling)
Activities additional information	

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Not yet

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	Ease of access. Absence of developmental rigidity. Constant reorganization of objectives.
Degree of dissemination	Local level, by local resources and channels
Acceptance	7
Limitations	Local resources
Strengths	New opportunities for youth
Reasons for considering a best practice	Best practice (at description level)
Priority criteria	Level of community engagement

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Spain
Region	Valencian Region
Intervention name	JOVE
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	IVAJ
Type of organisation	Youth Public Organism in Regional Government
Period	February 2022 - July 2022
Funding	EU
Data source	Project Advisor

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Young people with disabilities,Migrants and refugees,Ethnic minorities,Women,LGBTQi+
Age	15-19
Area of intervention	Education
Focus of intervention	Improving digital skills

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Improving digital skills,Improving job skills,Reducing inequalities,Improving mental health and wellbeing,Empowerment,Increasing participation,Fostering social inclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g., migrants, refugees, disabled people) ,Improving intergenerational relations
Level of implementation	Local
Delivery mode	Specific intervention
Setting	Altura (Castellón)
Outcomes	Participants to resume their studies or can access the job market
Activities	Training,Workshops,Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events),Life coaching/Mentoring,Peer support,Professional support (e.g., psychological guidance or counseling)

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Not yet

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	The coach role: direct and permanent contact with young people. That ensures that they do not lose interest and continue to participate in the project
Degree of dissemination	Local level
Limitations	Mobility (lack of transport in the rural)
Strengths	Ability to generate in the participants the necessary motivation to achieve the objectives of the project.
Reasons for considering a best practice	Best practice (at description level)
Priority criteria	Level of community engagement

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Spain
Region	Valencian Region
Intervention name	Anigmatik
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	IVAJ
Type of organisation	Youth Public Organism in Regional Government
Funding	IVAJ and town councils
Data source	Project Managers and Youth Center Manual

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Age	12 to 17
Area of intervention	Education
Focus of intervention	Reading animation

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Foster community and young relations outside local town through reading animation
Level of implementation	Local and 'county level'
Number of participants	50
Delivery mode	Specific intervention
Eligibility criteria	
Setting	Vilafranca, Benassal, Ares, Atzeneta, Vall d'Alba (Castellón)
Outcomes	Creation of youth networks
Activities	Monthly meetings for reading animation
Activities additional information	3 rural High Schools involved

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Level of evidence	Chosen at the High Quality for Youth Centers Manual (http://brfonds.lv/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Ideal_Youthcenter_Manual_HQYC_EN.pdf)

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Spain
Region	Valencian Region
Intervention name	INTERCONEXIÓN
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	IVAJ
Type of organisation	Youth Public Organism in Regional Government
Data source	Project Manager

Sweden

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Sweden
Region	Västernorrland
Intervention name	UTAS- Unga Till Arbete eller studier
Type of intervention	From project to ordinary practice
Organisation	Sollefteå Municipality
Type of organisation	Public, local government
Period	May 2015 - ongoing
Funding	European funds,Regional funds
Data source	https://www.solleftea.se/utbildning--barnomsorg/reveljen-yuxenutbildning/utas---unga-till-arbete-eller-studier

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Young people with disabilities,Migrants and refugees,Ethnic minorities,Women,LGBTQi+,Wider local community
Age	15-19 years,20-24 years,25-29 years
Area of intervention	To education/employment
Focus of intervention	Skills development/employment/emotional and social support - support young people in reaching their goals and with government contacts. For example, to complete their education at the lower and/or upper secondary level and get a job. Method used: second chance school

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Break isolation, get young people the help they need from authorities/government agencies and reduce the number of NEETs locally among young people
Level of implementation	Local level
Number of participants	146 persons so far
Delivery mode	Specific
Eligibility criteria	The young person should be NEET
Setting	Sollefteå municipality
Outcomes	Young people starting or completing their education at lower and/or upper secondary level, finalising VET, getting their drivers licence or own place of living and moving from welfare dependency to self-sufficiency
Activities	Workshops,Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events),Life coaching/Mentoring,Peer support,Professional support (e.g., psychological guidance or counseling)

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Yes, by the funding agency
Data type	Qualitative
Sample size	
Comparison group	No
Assessment period	Post intervention (after finalising the project in 2018)

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
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Innovation	Yes, the use of the second chance school method; supporting the participants with government contacts = guide, coordinate, sit in on various meetings, etc. Own house that the staff has been able to design to suit the participants. Always offers free coffee. Leasing car. Access to special educator, coaching and the opportunity to make study visits and test on various leisure and sports activities. Availability - usually no appointment required, generous opening hours, flexibility, hospitality, fast efforts and digital (Google meet, Facebook, sms, etc.)
Degree of dissemination	No, not beyond the region
Acceptance	High at local/regional/community level, moving from project to ordinary practice is a sign of that.
Limitations	
Strengths	Great need for the intervention, a place for young people who are far from the labor market to get advice, support and guidance.
Transferability	By synthesising and contextualising the practices
Level of evidence	Promising intervention
Reasons for considering a best practice	Innovation and local adaptation, context specific, flexible and tailored to the young people's needs.

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Sweden
Region	Norrbottnen
Intervention name	Motivera och Aktivera MOA
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Skellefteå, Älvsbyn and Arvidsjaur municipalities together with Region Norrbotten, Sparbanken Nord, Samordningsförbundet Södra Norrbotten
Type of organisation	Public, local government
Period	2019-03-01-2022-03-04
Funding	European funds
Data source	https://www.pitea.se/invanare/arbete/Vagen-till-arbete/Projekt/avslutade-projekt/motivera-och-aktivera/

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Young people with disabilities, Migrants and refugees, Women, LGBTQi+, Wider local community
Age	15-19 years, 20-24 years, 25-29 years
Area of intervention	To education/employment
Focus of intervention	Skills development/employment/emotional and social support - support young people in reaching their goals and with government contacts. For example, to complete their education at the lower and/or upper secondary level and get a job. Methods used: Supported Employment, Outcome Rating Scale och Session Rating Scale

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Get NEET young people closer to the labour market or formal education, for example, through enhanced self-esteem, increased self-confidence and improved collaboration between actors.
Level of implementation	Local level
Number of participants	165 persons
Delivery mode	Specific

Eligibility criteria	The young person should be NEET and between 15-29 years old
Setting	Älvsbyn and Arvidsjaur municipalities
Outcomes	77 young people to education or employment
Activities	Workshops,Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events),Life coaching/Mentoring, Peer support,Professional support (e.g., psychological guidance or counseling)
Activities additional information	Benefits of working closely with the individual, action planning based on the participant's needs and goals

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Yes, by external evaluator (non-academic)

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	Work closely with the individual, individual planning based on the participant's needs and goals, meeting at home, "walk and talk" meetings, bringing the participant to meetings, followed the participant to the health center and others contacts, continue to support and assist after programme exit. Have patience-do not give up, hand-holding, strength and solution-focused and frequent follow-ups during, for example, internships
Degree of dissemination	No, not beyond the region
Acceptance	High at local/regional/community level
Limitations	Time limited, to achieve long-term and sustainable results for the participants, more time is required.
Strengths	Context specific, flexible and tailored to the young people's needs.
Transferability	By synthesising and contextualising the practices
Level of evidence	Promising intervention
Reasons for considering a best practice	Innovation and local adaptation, context specific, flexible and tailored to the young people's needs.

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Sweden
Region	Västerbotten
Intervention name	SIKT 2.0
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Region Västerbotten together with Storuman, Vilhelmina, Åsele, Dorotea, Lycksele, Malå, Norsjö, Sorsele, Arvidsjaur and Arjeplog municipality (R.10)
Type of organisation	Public, local government
Period	Nov 2020 - ongoing
Funding	European funds,Regional funds
Data source	https://www.storuman.se/Naringsliv--arbete/Arbetsmarknadsfragor/projekt-sikt/

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Young people with disabilities,Migrants and refugees,Ethnic minorities,Women,LGBTQI+
Age	15-19 years,20-24 years,25-29 years,30-34 years,+ 34 years
Area of intervention	To education/employment

Focus of intervention Skills development/employment/emotional and social support

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Strengthen the participants' knowledge and skills
Level of implementation	Local level
Number of participants	162 persons
Delivery mode	Specific
Eligibility criteria	Young people between 15-25 years and immigrant, long-term unemployed, partial disability or has been on long-term sick leave and has a need for support for returning to work. Referral from the Swedish Public Employment Service, Social Services or the Swedish Social Insurance Agency
Setting	Storuman, Vilhelmina, Åsele, Dorotea, Lycksele, Malå, Norsjö, Sorsele, Arvidsjaur and Arjeplog municipalities
Outcomes	
Activities	Training, Workshops, Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events), Life coaching/Mentoring, Peer support, Information campaigns

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	Not done yet

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	Local anchoring is a must and a key to success. Local contact person
Degree of dissemination	No, not beyond the region
Acceptance	High at local/regional/community level
Limitations	Time limited, to achieve long-term and sustainable results for the participants, time is required.
Strengths	Based on a model with 4 pathways (skill-building, preparatory work, placements/training, work or studies)
Transferability	By synthesising and contextualising the practices
Level of evidence	Promising intervention
Reasons for considering a best practice	Innovation and local adaptation, context specific, flexible and tailored to the young people's aspirations.

Turkey

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Turkey
Region	Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Diyarbakır, Erzurum, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya, Mardin, Trabzon, Van
Intervention name	Young Women Building Their Future
Type of intervention	Projetc
Organisation	Sabancı Foundation; UNDP; Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Services; Turkish Ministry of Labor and Social Security
Type of organisation	Non-governmental organisation
Period	since February 2022 - ongoing - 36 months - until 2025

Funding	Self-funded
Data source	https://www.sabancivakfi.org/en/social-change/young-women-building-their-future ; https://www.geleceginikurangenckadinlar.org
Other relevant information	There are 3 more organisations working in the project - National governmental institution,International organizations

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Women
Age	15-19 years,20-24 years,25-29 years
Area of intervention	Early school leavers,Young people not in education or in training,Unemployed young people,Young people not seeking a job

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Improving digital skills,Improving job skills,Facilitate the match between labour demand and supply,Empowerment,Increasing participation
Level of implementation	National
Outcomes	To raise the problems and needs of the NEET women in national fora and activate the relevant stakeholders and institutions; to ensure awareness raising and empowerment of the NEET women; to improve the reachable NEET women's skills and employment opportunities
Activities	Training,Life coaching/Mentoring,Information campaigns,Other. If other, please specify:
Activities additional information	Internship; Digital information platform; Grant program for NGOs

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	not yet

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Strengths	The project offers grant program for NGOs in selected 11 provinces to conduct the project's training, counselling, mentorship programs with NEET women

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Turkey
Region	
Intervention name	First Chance
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Esas Sosyal / Esas Social initiative
Type of organisation	Private company
Period	2016 - ongoing - (no information)
Funding	I don't know'
Data source	http://www.ilkfirsat.org/em ; https://twitter.com/EsasSosyal https://www.facebook.com/esassosyal ; https://twitter.com/EsasSosyal
Other relevant information	There are more 52 organisations involved - Non-governmental organisation,Private company

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Recent university graduates; Unemployed young people
Age	20-24 years; 20-34 years

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Improving job skills, Facilitating school-to-work transitions, Facilitate the match between labour demand and supply
Level of implementation	National
Outcomes	Providing work experience and on the job training; Increasing social awareness of youth; Building critical skills for employment; Contributing to human resources and capacity of NGOs
Activities	Training, Life coaching/Mentoring, Other. If other, please specify:
Activities additional information	Facilitation of school-to-work transition; financial support to NGOs to cover employment costs

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	Turkey
Region	Istanbul - Bilinmiyor
Intervention name	Türkiye'de Ne Eğitimde Ne İstihdamda (NEET) Gençlerin İhtiyaçları, Problemleri, Gelecekte Beklentileri Neither in Education nor in Employment (NEET) Needs, Problems and Future Prospects of Young People in Turkey
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	YADA
Type of organisation	Non-governmental organisation
Period	since 2021 - completed - 6 months
Funding	I don't know'
Data source	https://yada.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/T%C3%BCrkiye%E2%80%99de-NEET-Gen%C3%A7lerin-%C4%B0htiya%C3%A7lar-Problemleri-Beklentileri-Nisan-2021-YADA.pdf
Other relevant information	For detailed information, you can contact Rümeyza Çamdereli for detailed information about the research. I am just a young person who is interested in the NEET issue and I believe that these examples are very important abroad, but I believe that they are ignored in Turkey despite being experienced by many young people.'

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Women, Wider local community, Students
Age	25-29 years
Area of intervention	
Focus of intervention	Young people not in education or in training, Unemployed young people, Young people not seeking a job, Young people in precarious work, Young people in informal work

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
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Goals and objectives	Improving job skills,Creating employment,Facilitating school-to-work transitions,Reducing inequalities,Stimulating economic growth and competitiveness,Facilitate the match between labour demand and supply,Financial support to young people during their job search process,Improving mental health and wellbeing,Empowerment,Increasing participation
Level of implementation	National
Activities	Workshops

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	not yet

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	To reveal the difference between NEET and NON-NEET youth through ind-depth one-to-one interviews
Degree of dissemination	
Acceptance	Well accepted
Limitations	ANALYSING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE
Strengths	To be able to distinguish between NEETS and Non-NEETS

United Kingdom

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	UK
Region	Humber - Hull and East Riding (Village/neighborhood)
Intervention name	Springboard project
Type of intervention	Project
Organisation	Humber Learning consortium
Type of organisation	Non-governmental organisation
Period	since 04/2014, until 2023 (110 meses) - ongoing
Funding	European funds
Data source	https://www.hlc-vol.org/our-programmes/springboard/
Other relevant information	There are other organisations involved in the project as partners - Three local authorities

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Early school leavers,Young people not in education or in training,Unemployed young people,Young people not seeking a job
Age	15-19 years,20-24 years,25-29 years
Focus of intervention	NEET

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objectives	Improving digital skills,Improving job skills,Creating employment,Facilitating school-to-work transitions,Improving mental health and wellbeing
Level of implementation	National

Outcomes	Springboard is a youth employment partnership project which aims to help young people access learning or work through specialist support and training.
Activities	Training,Workshops,Peer support

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	yes, by an external non-academic organisation
Reference of evaluation study	There is a public report of the evaluation. It's available online: https://www.humberlep.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Springboard-Report-May-2017-final.pdf

Part A - General intervention information

Variables	Description
Country of intervention	UK
Region	Angus, Lanarkshire, Outer Hebrides, Rural Perth and Kinross and the Scottish Borders.
Intervention name	Rural Youth Project
Type of intervention	Project
Type of organisation	An informal association of people- grassroots
Period	since 2018 - ongoing - 50 meses - until 2022/23
Funding	European funds,National government funds,Regional funds
Data source	https://www.ruralityouthproject.com/about
Other relevant information	There area 19 other organisations involved in the project - Youth organisation,Local association or community organisation, Non-governmental organisation,Local government, National governmental institution, International organizations

Part B - Inclusion criteria

Variables	Description
Target group	Young people with disabilities,Migrants and refugees,Ethnic minorities,Women,LGBTQi+,Other. Please specify:
Age	Angus, Lanarkshire, Outer Hebrides, Rural Perth and Kinross and the Scottish Borders.
Area of intervention	Rural youth
Focus of intervention	Empower young rural people: leadership, business and enterprise skills, positiv activism

Part C - Characteristics of the intervention

Variables	Description
Goals and objetives	Improving job skills,Creating employment,Reducing inequalities,Stimulating economic growth and competitiveness,Facilitate the match between labour demand and supply,Financial support to young people during their job search process,Empowerment
Level of implementation	National
Number of participants	I don't know?
Outcomes	The Rural Youth Project is a movement for positive change to empower young people (18 to 28 years of age), through developing their leadership, business and enterprise skills, whilst encouraging positive activism to help to play their part in making rural places attractive and viable for young people to build their lives and their futures.
Activities	Workshops,Community events (e.g., cultural/sport events),Life coaching/Mentoring,Peer support,Other. If other, please specify:
Activities additional information	The project is creative in how it works, using Ideas Festivals and workshops, story seeking and telling and sharing the voices of young people. It also fosters international relationships and learning via learning journeys and joint events with other nations.

Part D - Scientific evidence

Variables	Description
Evaluation of the intervention	yes

Part E - General Subjective assessment

Variables	Description
Innovation	The fact that involves a combination of research with action: "research-based project aims to develop feasible strategies to facilitate the involvement of young people in agricultural and rural activity by better understanding their current situation, aspirations, opportunities and challenges."
Degree of dissemination	Press media, radio, TV, Webpage, emails, social media (e.g., Facebook), Other. If other, please specify:

