



# National project KNOW and DO

Outreach activities for young NEETs

**LATVIA**

**Title of the practice (in original language)**

PROTI un DARI!

**Who is/was implementing the practice?**

Agency for International Programs for Youth

**Which other organisations are/were involved in the practice?**

Local municipalities, youth NGOs, other NGOs, social services, educational institutions

**What are/were the main objectives of the practice?**

The main aim of the project is to motivate and activate young NEETs aged 15-29 years and to facilitate their transition into the labour market or re-integration into the education system.

**When was the practice implemented?**

The initiative started in autumn 2014 and is ongoing until the end of 2020.

**Who is/was targeted by the practice?**

Inactive NEETs aged 15-29 years, in particular young NEETs not registered with the Public Employment Services or not enrolled in education and training.

**What activities are/were carried out?**

The project encompasses outreach activities to support detached youth in their progression towards the labour market. Inactive NEETs are identified in local municipalities by mentors and programme managers employed in the project. They cooperate with strategic partners in NGOs, social services, youth centres, police, trade unions, social businesses to reach out inactive young people.

The individual support programme, prepared for each young person entering the project, sets out a path of support, which can last from 1 to 9 months. The individual support programme is based on in-depth profiling of the young person, exploring characteristic such as: socio-psychological and economic problems, level of education, work skills and previous work experience, spare time and social activity, interests and skills' development needs.

Each month the young person receives at least 48 hours of support, which includes: at least 24 hours of group activities and specialist support (e.g. non-formal education, activities to explore different professions, camping and sport activities), at least 20 hours of individual support of mentor mentor (e.g. child care support while young person participates in group activities) and at least 4 hours of individual support of a programme manager who motivates the young person and works with his or her self-esteem. On average the duration of the individual support programme lasts up to 4 months.

<b>What are/were the sources of funding?</b>	<p>This initiative is jointly funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the state budget, with the total budget of EUR 6.8 million. The ESF is providing EUR 5.78 million and the state budget EUR 1.2 million.</p>
<b>What are/were the outputs: people reached and products?</b>	<p>By the end of 2020, the project aims to reach 3 500 young people, whereby 70% of them (i.e. 2 450) will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• re-enter the educational system;</li> <li>• enter the job market;</li> <li>• register as unemployed and participate in other Youth Guarantee programmes;</li> <li>• get involved in NGOs or youth centres.</li> </ul> <p>As of March 2018, 1 342 young people were involved in the project, out of which 615 completed their individual support programmes. Nearly half of all participants are between 21 and 25 years old. Women constitute the majority of young people entering the project (65%). 20% of them are teenage mothers or young mothers. Young people with disabilities constitute 13% of all participants.</p>
<b>What are/were the outcomes: medium-term results or effects?</b>	<p>As of March 2018, 615 young people completed their individual support programmes and 79% (485) of them were in a positive situation after leaving the scheme, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38% entered job market;</li> <li>• 28% got involved in other Youth Guarantee activities;</li> <li>• 22% re-entered education system;</li> <li>• 12% got involved in NGOs or youth centres.</li> </ul>
<b>What are/were the lessons learnt and success factors?</b>	<p><b>Lessons Learnt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The individual needs and challenges of the participants have to be addressed in the design of the programme.</li> <li>• All local municipalities that take part in the outreach programme need to have the necessary capacity to do so. The Agency for International Programs for Youth supports them by providing methodological support (guidelines) as well as training courses for mentors and programme managers.</li> <li>• There is a need to develop outreach measures for non-registered, inactive young people which are done at local level by municipalities in cooperation with strategic partners.</li> </ul> <p><b>Success Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national outreach strategy and the development of a common methodology for the activities relating to the target groups of young people at the national level has been important in ensuring a common and joint approach by partners.</li> <li>• Supervisions and facilitation of experience exchange between mentors and programme managers across municipalities have enabled key personnel to learn from each other and provide on successful support.</li> <li>• Creating and strengthening local strategic partnerships has been key to ensure that the strengths of local partners are utilised fully in reaching and supporting the target group.</li> <li>• Individual support programmes and mentoring are important to achieve success in reaching out to the target group, which are typically very disengaged young people, far from entering the labour market or returning to education.</li> </ul>
<b>What are key sources of information?</b>	<p><a href="http://jaunatne.gov.lv/lv/jauniesu-garantija/par-projektu-proti-un-dari">http://jaunatne.gov.lv/lv/jauniesu-garantija/par-projektu-proti-un-dari</a></p>