



NEETs in Luxemburg – describing and understanding the phenomenon for better action

A study identifying the diverse characteristics and difficulties of young NEETs – with recommendations on appropriate measures

LUXEMBOURG

Title of the practice (in original language)

Les jeunes NEET au Luxembourg – Décrire et comprendre le phénomène pour mieux agir

Who is/was implementing the practice?

The project was initiated by the National Youth Service (SNJ) and carried out in collaboration with the Labour and Employment Unit (CET) of the Inspectorate General of Social Security (IGSS) and the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER).

Which other organisations are/were involved in the practice?

- Ministry of Education, Children and Youth
- Local Action for the young (ALJ), under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth
- Centre for orientation and psychological support (CePAS), under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth
- Ministry of Higher Education, service “Cedies”
- Ministry of Family and Integration
- Ministry of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy
- Public Employment Service

What are/were the main objectives of the practice?

- Study objective: to describe the characteristics of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), to analyse the heterogeneity of their situation and to understand the causes of their difficulties. Given that the NEET concept includes a vast array of situations in terms of vulnerability and precariousness, the initiative sought to identify the diversity of situations to which the concept may refer to. By identifying these characteristics, the support offered can then be adapted to the needs of the young person.
- Raise awareness among policy makers on the fact that:
 - not every young person is either in school, training or work and a non-negligible proportion of young people experience difficulties in their transitions; and
 - not every NEET is a problematic case.

When was the practice implemented?

2013-2017

Who is/was targeted by the practice?

- Organisations and public institutions working with vulnerable young people
- Policy makers

What activities are/were carried out?

The study used data from different administrative sources which was combined into one 'Young Persons' file representing all young people aged 16-24. This data represented those who were residing in Luxembourg and registered on the Luxembourg Social Security System.

The situation of each young person could be tracked month by month which made it possible to construct trajectories and measure the persistence and the recurrence of the status of NEET.

Although the data was comprehensive in that it covered all NEETs it did not include specific characteristics. To support the administrative data a survey of young NEETs and non-NEETs was conducted to gain qualitative information.

What are/were the sources of funding?

- Budget of the National Youth Service (SNJ)
- European Social Fund (ESF)

What are/were the outputs: people reached and products?

The 'Young Persons' file created through this project can be updated on a regular and recurring basis. The study thus enabled the creation of a permanent tool to monitor changes to the situation of young people in Luxembourg and could be used to guide public policies in their favour.

A collection of four publications was produced presenting:

- conclusions of the research work; and
- proposals for measures to be taken by the public authorities.

What are/were the outcomes: medium-term results or effects?

New measures are being introduced on the basis of experience from the project:

- Preventing school failure and early school leaving by:
 - improving cognitive skills from early childhood,
 - diversifying the school offer (e.g. promoting vocational training),
 - supporting language learning.
- Special attention to certain groups at risk by:
 - developing pedagogical tools in order to make the school offer more flexible to meet specific needs and to provide individualized support,
 - strengthening the means to detect children with specific problems (mental health, hyperactivity, family – including family socioeconomic status).
- Providing accessible pathways for young people after finishing school by:
 - reinforcing employability,
 - expanding cooperation between services.
- Programs to detect young people in difficulty and to put them on the "radar" of competent actors for further support.

In addition, collaboration between school and out-of-school sector is essential for prevention of the phenomenon of NEET. In May 2017, the integration of the Local Youth Actions (ALJ), which until then were part of the Professional Training Department, with the National Youth Service (SNJ) was approved. The government is thus improving support for the transition to working life.

A follow-up project listing all existing measures for vulnerable young people led by the University of Luxembourg is currently underway.

What are/were the lessons learnt and success factors?

Lessons Learnt

- The NEET concept is often criticised, but the project found that it is useful to describe groups of vulnerable young people who are not necessarily early school leavers or unemployed young people registered with the PES. It allows public authorities to get them "on the radar" and develop relevant measures.

Success Factors

- Excellent cooperation between the three project partners.
- Involvement of relevant stakeholders during the whole project.
- Presentation of intermediary results to experts which supported dissemination and reach of project findings, initiating discussion and future research/collaboration.

What are key sources of information?

- NEETs: understanding the complexity of situations to better help the inactive young <http://www.men.public.lu/fr/actualites/articles/communiqués-conference-presse/2017/06/13-NEETs/index.html>
- Young NEETs in Luxembourg: Describe and understand the phenomenon for better action <http://www.men.public.lu/catalogue-publications/politique-jeunesse/statistiques-analyses/170613-neet-etudes-conf/brochure.pdf>