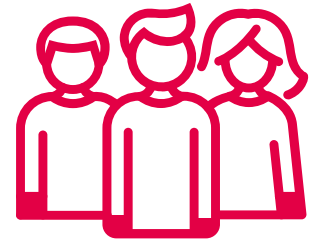


No one left behind

eWorkshop, 27.05.2025



SOCIAL

Luc Schmerber & Mart Velisté

Thematic Experts for a more Social Europe
Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

**Interreg
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Agenda

Time	Content
13h00	Welcome and introduction
13h15	PREVENTING EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING 3 presentations Discussion & Policy recommendations
14h40	Break
15h00	REINTEGRATING NEETS TO THE LABOUR MARKET 3 presentations Discussion & Policy recommendations
16h20	Conclusions

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Policy Learning Platform services



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Two actions



Projects

Limited number of regions exchanging and transferring experience on a shared regional development issue



Policy Learning Platform

Further exploiting projects' achievements and opening up the programme benefits to all

Project features



WHY?

To find **inspiration** and new **policy solutions** to solve **regional development** challenges

Partnerships of European regions



WHO?

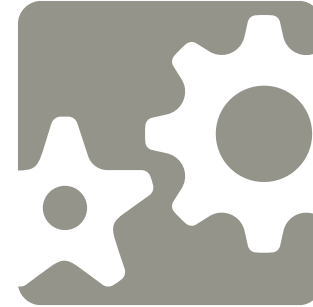
Policymakers from different **European regions**



HOW?

Through **exchange** of **experience** activities over 4 years

Platform features



WHY?

Increase your
knowledge

Expand your **network**
Get **free expertise**

Policy learning and expertise for all



WHO?

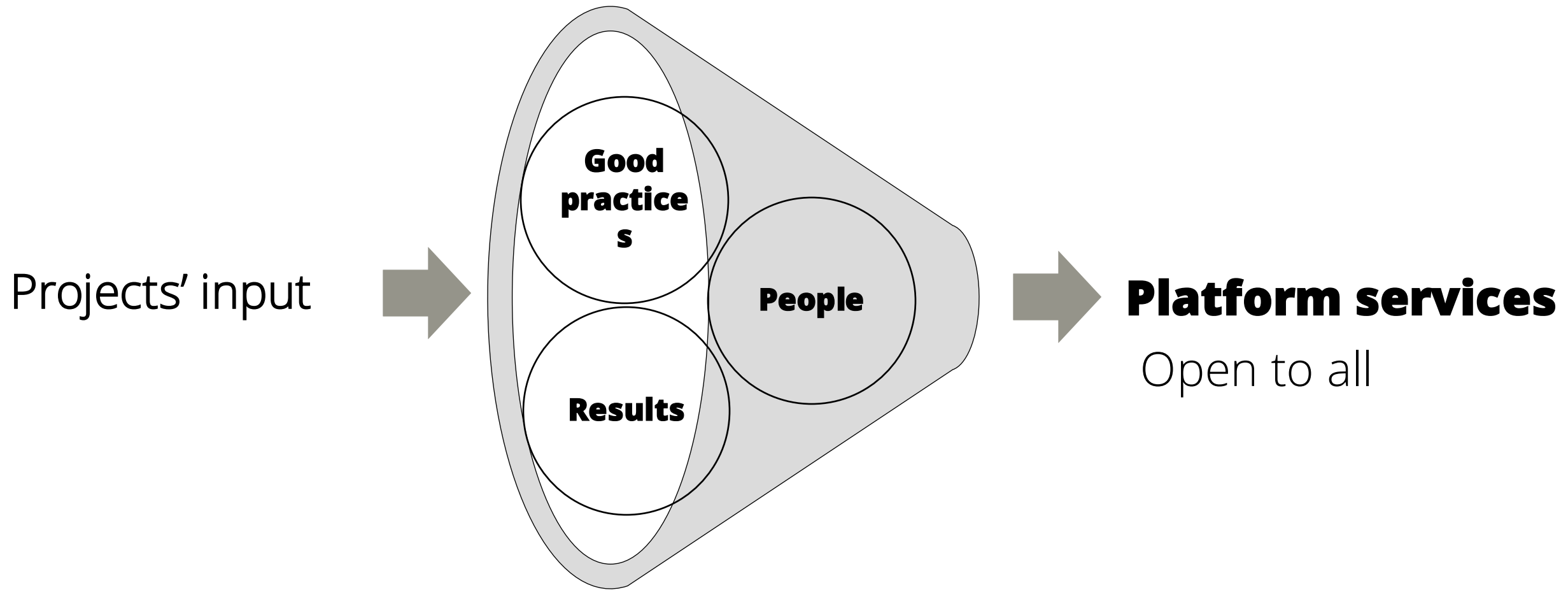
**Anyone
interested** in
regional policies



WHAT?

Offer **policy
solutions and
expert advice** to all
European regions

Our mission: **share the projects' treasure**



What makes us unique: **our team of experts!**

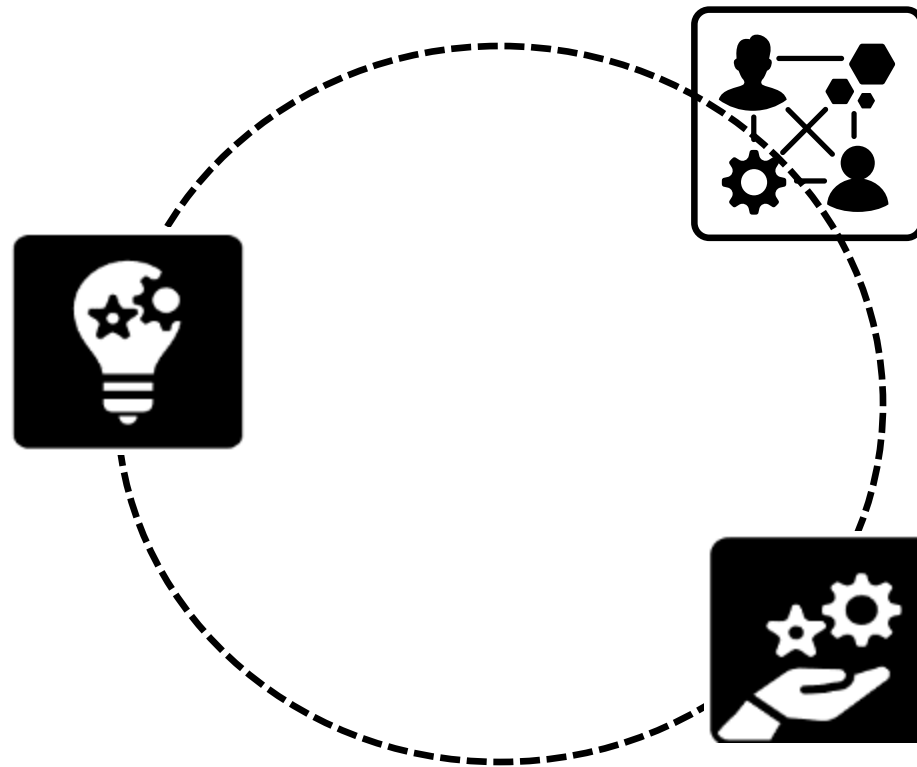


Platform in a nutshell

An easy tool for learning and capacity building for all policymakers in Europe to help improve regional policies through:

Knowledge

Find **policy solutions**
(good practice database,
thematic publications)



People

Meet our **community**
(thematic events, webinars)

Expertise

Get **expert support**
(peer reviews, matchmakings,
policy helpdesk)




Access to **policy solutions**

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 Search

 News and events

 Help & contact

 My account

The programme

Look for funding

Approved projects

Policy solutions

Get expert support

Meet our community



3,500+
good practices



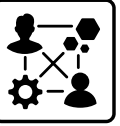
100+
policy briefs



150+
stories



100+
**webinar
recordings**



Access to **community**

- **Be part of a powerful network**
- **Connect with like-minded people**
- **Add EU leverage to your daily work**



20,000+
community members

15,000+
organisations



180+
policy-learning events

Community: events

- **Monthly thematic webinars**
- **In-person and online workshops (2x a year) primarily for projects**
- **Capacity building events in new countries**
- **Up on-demand online discussions**

Upcoming events

Join one of our upcoming events to network and exchange experience with community members across Europe.

The screenshot displays the 'Upcoming events' interface. At the top, a calendar for June 2025 shows dates 3, 4, 17, and 19 marked with green dots. Below the calendar are filter options: 'Select all', 'General info', 'Smart', 'Green', 'Connected', 'Social', 'Citizens', and 'Governance'. A red circle highlights the 'Platform' dropdown menu. To the right, three event cards are shown:

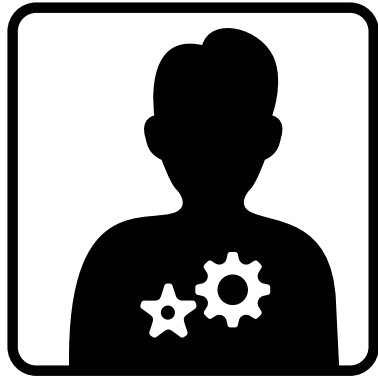
- 03 - 04 JUN 2025**: Enhancing local economic development by creating an 'arts of fire' ecosystem. Description: On 03-04 June 2025, the Policy Learning Platform is organising a peer review for the Municipality of Martres-Tolosane, France, on the topic of enhancing local economic development by creating an 'arts of fire' ecosystem.
- 17 JUN 2025**: Capacity building: boosting urban cycling in Moldova. Location: In person, Ungheni. Description: On 17 June 2025, the Policy Learning Platform is organising a capacity-building event in Ungheni, Moldova, dedicated to urban cycling. The event is mainly dedicated to national, regional and local authorities and mobility stakeholders across Moldova.
- 19 JUN 2025**: Capacity building: speed up the energy transition in Moldovan buildings. Location: In person, Chişinău. Description: On 19 June 2025, the Policy Learning Platform is organising a capacity-building event in Chişinău, Moldova, on energy efficiency and renewable resources in buildings. The event is mainly dedicated to national, regional, and local authorities across Moldova, as well as building stakeholders.

Each event card includes a 'See all events' link and a 'By Platform' button at the bottom.



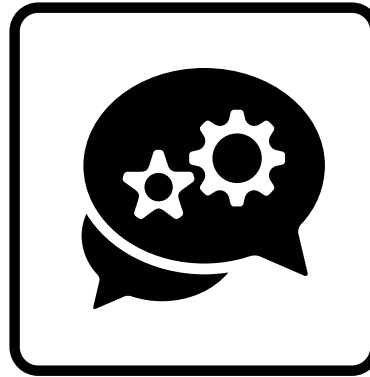
Access to expert support

A fast track to policy solutions (priority to newcomers)



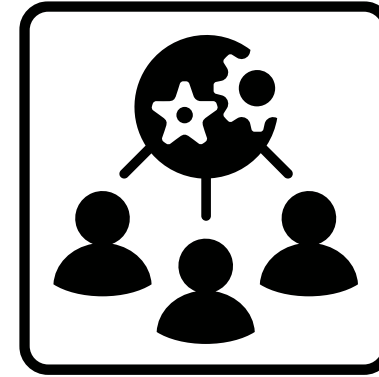
Policy helpdesk

Get expert advice to any type of questions in regional policy-making



Matchmakings

Be inspired from good practices across Europe during a 2-hour exchange



Peer reviews

Get tailored solutions from relevant peers during a 2-day in-depth analysis



Peer review key features

In-depth **thematic exchanges** over two days about a **specific policy challenge** in the beneficiary region or in one of the peer regions.

- Platform experts organise and facilitate the peer review
- Careful preparation of all participants (beneficiary and peers)
- Opportunity to involve stakeholders
- Onsite or online – adapted agenda and format
- Costs covered by the Platform
 - **Beneficiary**
Catering, interpretation, and local transport
 - **Peers**
Travel and accommodation costs and Flat Daily Allowance (FDA) of EUR 350 for up to three working days (upon request)



Who can apply for a peer review?

- **Public authorities** responsible for regional development policies from programme eligible area
(all EU, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine)
- **Priority to non-project partners**



Peer learning in practice



101 peer reviews since 2018

- 24 online
- 77 onsite
- 26 countries
- 452 peers



55 matchmaking sessions

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European Reinforced Youth Guarantee

- Youth Guarantee:
 - created in 2013 and reinforced in 2020
 - EU's reference policy framework to fight youth unemployment and inactivity.
- Commitment by all Member States to ensure that **all young people under the age of 30 (15 to 29 years old)** receive within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving education a **good quality offer** of:
 - **Employment**
 - **Continued education**
 - **Apprenticeship**
 - **Traineeship**

European targets

- Early School Leavers
 - The EU has set an EU-level target stipulating that the share of early leavers from education and training should be less than 9 % by 2030.
 - In 2023 the figure was 9.5 % (11.3% of young men and 7.7% of young women).
 - Strong national and regional variations.
- **NEETs (young people neither in employment nor in education and training)**
 - The EU has set an EU-level target stipulating that the share of NEETs should be less than 9 % by 2030.
 - In 2023 the figure was 11,2%.
 - Strong national and regional variations.

NEETs and Early School Leavers in the Interreg Europe context

- Projects working on the topic:
atWork4NEETs , HARMONY, QUEEN, YESVolunteer, YOUNGSPACE
- Several others working on **social cohesion** or the **integration of migrants**
- **Three peer reviews** (further upcoming)
 - Early school leaving and integration of NEETS into the labour market in Réunion Island, France (November 2023)
 - From NEETs to FEETs, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (December 2024)
 - Co-creating actions for school perseverance: Social innovation by La Réunion, France (April 2025)
 - ***Integrating young people with maental health issues to the labour market, Pomorskie, Poland (October 2025)***

Peer review follow-up: **Early school leaving and integration of NEETS into the labour market in Réunion Island**



Regional Council La Réunion, France

Peers from: **Belgium, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain**


Recommendations

- **Develop a comprehensive strategic plans**
- **Systematic evaluation of measures**
- **Improve access to data and monitoring of youth**
- **Promote professional education positively**
- **Allow for innovative measures**
- **Reinforce collaboration with enterprises**
- **Act more on prevention**
- **Better valorise the potential of the island as being an island**

More information available [**here**](#)




**28-30 November
2023**


**8
peers**



Peer review follow-up: Co-creating actions for school perseverance: Social innovation by La Réunion



Regional Council La Réunion, France

Peers from: **Belgium, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden**

Recommendations

- **Better get to know our youth**
- **Reinforce the role of parents in educational success**
- **Prevent early school dropouts**
- **Better connect the youth and companies**
- **Improve local governance between local actors and municipalities**

More information available [here](#)



Peer review follow-up: **From NEETs to FEETs**



Schleswig-Holstein's Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany

Peers from: **Belgium, France, Italy, Lithuania, Sweden**

Recommendations (extract)

- **Prioritize early dropout prevention**, particularly during critical transition phases (e.g., from school to vocational training).
- **Put a specific focus on transition phases.** People are more at risk of dropping out when changing environment (e.g. from school to vocational education)
- Offer also **shorter paths** with high employability potential in a flexible manner
- **Involve family and parents**
- **Multiply reach out channels**

More information available [**here**](#)



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Our speakers today



COMPLETED EDUCATION 2013 – 2024 INITIATIVE: REDUCING EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING WITH A MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE APPROACH

Gunnar Anderzon

Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions



EARLY LEAVING FROM EDUCATION AND TRAINING (ELET) THE WAY FORWARD 2023-2030 STRATEGY

Dr. Pamela Marie Spiteri

Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, Malta,
atWork4NEETs project, Malta



ANLEHRE UND ANLEHRE+ VOCATIONAL INTEGRATION THROUGH SUPPORT IN DUAL TRAINING

Chantal Fijalkowski

IAWM Institute for Training and Continuing Education in Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, Belgium

Policy recommendations



Preventing early school leaving

Put a specific focus on transition phases	Prioritise early dropout prevention through systemic and personalised approaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continuity of Support: Maintain active monitoring and personalized interventions before, during, and after each transition. ➤ Cross Sector Coordination: Align efforts between schools, training providers, employment services, and employers to close gaps in handovers. ➤ Early Identification: Use data and stakeholder feedback to flag individuals most at risk of falling through cracks at transition points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proactive Prevention: Address risk factors before disengagement occurs, rather than reacting once young people have already left school or training. ➤ Early Identification: Deploy mechanisms in primary and lower secondary schools to spot warning signs—attendance drops, declining performance, behavioural changes—and trigger timely support. ➤ Positive Promotion of Vocational Paths: Introduce professional career options early, framing vocational education as a valued, attractive choice.

Focus on transition phases

FOCUS ON TRANSITION PHASES – KEY ACTIONS

1	Map Critical Transitions and At Risk Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify the main transition phases: secondary → vocational/upper secondary education, school → first employment, and job → job changes. ➤ Use labour market and education data to pinpoint cohorts with historically high dropout or NEET rates at each phase.
2	Strengthen Monitoring and Data Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish protocols for data exchange among schools, training institutions, and employment services. ➤ Assign transition “case managers” who track individual progress and trigger support measures when warning signs appear.
3	Implement Bridging and Induction Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Design short, flexible “bridge” courses or orientation workshops to familiarise learners with new environments and expectations. ➤ Pair incoming students or employees with peer mentors from the receiving institution or workplace.
4	Enhance Guidance and Mentorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide tailored career- and learning-path guidance in the months leading up to and following each transition. ➤ Leverage digital platforms (e-portfolios, mobile apps) to maintain contact and deliver just-in-time advice.
5	Engage Employers and Training Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop partnerships with local employers to offer work-taster days, internships, or apprenticeships timed around key transition points. ➤ Coordinate with trainers to align curricula and expectations, reducing culture-shock for newcomers.

Act on early dropout prevention

ACT ON EARLY DROPOUT PREVENTION – KEY ACTIONS	
1	Implement an Early Warning System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integrate school data (attendance, grades, behaviour) into a dashboard monitored by counsellors and employment service liaisons. ➤ Define clear thresholds for intervention—e.g., two consecutive weeks of truancy—to activate support measures.
2	Embed Career Orientation in Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partner with employment services to deliver age-appropriate career talks and hands on workshops from the first years of secondary school. ➤ Equip career guidance staff with up to date labour market intelligence on emerging professions and skills needs. ➤ Involve parents in “career at home” initiatives, where they—and invited professionals—share real world job experiences.
3	Offer Early Exposure to Professions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize extracurricular “Career Camps” that immerse students in workplaces, combining site visits, simulations and mentoring. ➤ Facilitate short “taster” placements (1–2 days) in local businesses or trades to spark interest in vocational routes.
4	Personalize Learning and Validation of Competencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide 1:1 learning support assistants for students flagged by the early warning system. ➤ Recognize and certify partial qualifications or micro credentials—especially soft skills like teamwork, communication and problem solving—so that even incomplete training carries labour market value. ➤ Develop individualized learning plans that allow students to progress at their own pace and pursue modules aligned with their strengths.
5	Establish a One-Person-One-Plan Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop personalized action plans in collaboration with each individual, focusing on their goals and preferences. ➤ Incorporate both formal and non-formal pathways, ensuring that each plan is realistic and achievable.

Our speakers today



THE YOUTH GUIDANCE CENTRES MODEL

Anders Bergström

Norden Association Sweden



PROFILING OF NEETS PARTICIPATING IN THE PLYA (PROJECT LEARNING FOR YOUNG ADULTS) PROJECT

Natalija Žalec

Slovenian Institute for Adult Education, atWork4NEETs project, Slovenia



TROKUT ŠIBENIK'S NEET ACADEMY

Diana Mudrinić

Trokut Šibenik incubator for new technologies, Croatia

Reintegrating NEETs (education, work, society)

<p>Build trust and act locally Bring services closer to the target group</p>	<p>Allow for innovative / out-of-the box measures</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proximity Matters: Offer services in easily accessible locations, particularly in areas with high unemployment rates. ➤ Trusted Outreach: Involve local role models, youth ambassadors, and community influencers to build connections. ➤ Safe and Attractive Spaces: Create welcoming and supportive environments where young people feel comfortable seeking assistance. ➤ Tailored Approaches: Focus on understanding the needs of both young people and local employers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Differentiated and Individualized Support: Not every NEET can or should be reintegrated into traditional systems. Offer flexible, tailored solutions that address their specific challenges. ➤ Focus on Personal Growth and Soft Skills: Prioritize skills like resilience, communication, creativity, and self-motivation to boost confidence and independence. ➤ Entrepreneurial Mindset as an Alternative Pathway: Encourage self-employment and entrepreneurial thinking as viable options. ➤ Peer Mentoring and Role Models: Engage community figures and peers who can relate to NEET experiences and serve as positive influences. ➤ Co-Creation and Stakeholder Involvement: Actively involve young people in designing and implementing measures to ensure relevance and ownership. ➤ Comprehensive Youth Service Networks: Strengthen local collaborations among social workers, educators, and community organizations to create interconnected support structures.

Build trust and act locally

BUILD TRUST AND ACT LOCALLY – KEY ACTIONS

1

Promote Local Engagement Strategies

- Use trusted community members (e.g., social workers, sport trainers, former NEETs) to actively reach out and build relationships.
- Initiate awareness-raising digital campaigns using youth ambassadors and local influencers.
- Include local business leaders and community figures in career days to provide inspiration and mentorship.

2

Build on Proximity and Accessibility

- Establish “one-stop shops” and job meeting points near areas with high youth unemployment.
- Set up branches of public employment offices in key locations, ensuring short travel distances for job seekers.
- Create mobile outreach teams to meet young people where they are, including rural areas.

3

Develop Supportive Community Hubs

- Establish Youth Guidance Centres and career centers that act as safe spaces for young people to access advice, training, and opportunities.
- Organize regular events featuring local success stories to inspire youth through relatable examples.
- Foster local networks of “friends and role models” who can offer consistent guidance and encouragement.

4

Develop Partnerships with Local Businesses

- Involve employees from the community in designing and promoting local career opportunities.
- Offer financial incentives to businesses that employ NEETs.
- Clarify company needs and align training programs to meet these expectations

Allow for innovative measures

ALLOW FOR INNOVATIVE MEASURES – KEY ACTIONS

1	Promote Individual Empowerment and Soft Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organize workshops on resilience, leadership, and personal growth. ➤ Develop modular programs that allow NEETs to select topics of personal interest, encouraging engagement and ownership. ➤ Use non-formal learning opportunities (e.g., volunteering, international mobility programs) to build employability and life skills.
2	Support Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launch grants and incentives for youth-led startups, particularly in industries addressing undeclared work. ➤ Offer 100% tax deductions and self-employment incentives to encourage innovative projects.
3	Create Bottom-Up Learning Labs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Allow young people to choose topics they wish to explore in depth. ➤ Facilitate their involvement in selecting trainers and experts to foster a sense of ownership and curiosity.
4	Encourage Local and Community-Based Support Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Build networks of youth services that include educators, local entrepreneurs, and social workers. ➤ Facilitate collaboration between public employment services and local community groups to create holistic support. ➤ Regularly monitor and adapt measures to ensure they remain relevant and effective.

Policy recommendations

