

Text 3

Promotion Mobility

Handout

TRAINING OF YOUTH LEADERS FROM YOUTHWORK WHO WOULD LIKE TO CARRY OUT INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS WITH THE TARGET GROUP OF THE "NEETS"



Co-funded by the
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Project



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compatible with JULEICA (<https://www.juleica.de/antrag-und-infos/bundeslaender/bayern/qualitaetsstandards/>)

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Dear reader,

"NEETs" - a technically terrible term for young people who, according to the definition (op. cit.), have "not made it", meaning they are neither in education, employment nor in training. Apparently disconnected, disadvantaged and partly out of reach for state (educational) structures, it is therefore very important that NGOs intensively address this political and social failure towards this group of youngsters. Focused and committed to enabling these young people to have cross-border experiences for their own personal development - economically unconstrained, non-formal, friendship- and trust-building.

So how can international youth work open up itself for the target group of NEETs? This question is not only asked by politicians, professionals in child and youth welfare and their organizations, but also by many volunteers in youth associations and youth organizations.

This is exactly where this method module for the training of youth leaders comes in, for example in order to expand professional and methodological competence in a goal-oriented way within the framework of the "Juleica workshops". However, it is not only the training that is crucial, but also the ideological and thematic opening of youth (association) work and the willingness to cooperate between youth welfare and the German employment agency.

The Erasmus project "LIVE LEARNING", in the framework of which this training module was developed, should provide a source of inspiration and a good example for international youth work in this field.

*Tobias Köck
Chairman German Federal Youth Council*

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1. Introduction

When training youth leaders who are active in international youth work, this handout is intended to help them focus on the target group of NEETs and, if necessary, to further develop and create measurements so that they are accessible and suitable for this group. In international youth work offered by youth associations in Germany, the participants are usually very homogeneous, and the young people are motivated and have specifically chosen an experience abroad.

At first sight, there seems to be no obstacle to the participation of so-called NEETs (see definition below), as youth work offers are usually open to all. Nevertheless, hardly any young person who is disadvantaged for various reasons will register or be interested in these offers and therefore will hardly find international youth work offers on their own or be able to participate without special support.

Nevertheless, the target group of international projects in youth work has also changed - not only because of Corona - and opening up measures of international youth projects should also be in the interest and within the range of feasibility for youth organisations.

In the following, the handout will follow **two questions and approaches**:

- How can international measures such as work camps or youth encounters be opened up to NEETs or changed so that participation is possible and successful?
- What can international youth work use and implement from the offers that have been developed especially for the target group of NEETs?

So up to now, there seems to be a gap here. Either there are special, exclusive offers for NEETs so that they can have a first international experience, which work in connection with youth welfare institutions, employment agencies and art and which are funded for e.g. by IdA (ESF). Within this there exists a support offer for young people who might not be interested on self-initiative in international youth work or who just do not have had access to it.

In youth work - especially in international youth encounters - participation is open and is being promoted among association members or locally. Also, it is always pointed out that no special previous knowledge is necessary to participate in the international programmes. Nonetheless, hardly any NEETs will be found within these offers.

Also, there are good experiences on both sides (youth welfare - employment agency and classical (association) youth work), so that it is possible to learn from each other which proposals, support and accompaniment of NEETs work well in different international projects.

Additional Information for Organisations of international youth work, that are aiming to work with NEET's:

Before NEET's can take part in international projects and youth leaders need to be trained in working with this target group, you need to identify and find NEET's in your local area. Because they will not be found by common approaches of youth work.

That's why we need to find and create new ways and networks. The first direction and approach should be to contact job centers and their offers to young people outside of school. There, NEETs could be found in job training and vocational education programs. This approach to reach NEET's might not be easy. Job centers might need to learn first about the value and effect that international mobility can bring to NEET's. There might be resistance and doubt. The positive effect of mobility and international experience might not be known or heard of. Therefore, it needs pilot projects like IdA (Integration durch Austausch) in the frame of the European Social Funds. Those are good examples where NEET's can successfully take part in international projects. In order to offer such new experiences to NEET's, it need a good network of institutions working together and to offer appropriate formats to young people.

And additionally, you find the target group of NEET's at home, in their rooms, and therefore within families with less contact to the outside. Partly, there are also involved in youth aid and support measures at their local youth authorities. Welfare organisations might be also locations to find them. And finally, NEET's can be found in alternative art projects for youth, which cooperate with youth work and aid.

It's seems to be more difficult to find them in school and their internal social offers. But at all those places described, we need to build bridges and networks to approach and target young people with special needs. If that works out, NEET's can be motivated for international projects, they usually would not see or use.

2. Definition of NEETs and presentation of the international youth welfare project "Live Learning"

The term **NEET's** was defined on the European level and is used to refer to "adolescents and young adults who are not in employment, education or training"

Source:

<https://www.jugendpolitikineuropa.de/beitrag/europas-jugend-ist-arbeitslos-wer-sind-die-neets.10368/>

NEET's are and have been an important target group for many years now in the youth field of the EU's ERASMUS+ programme and are defined there as such:

„The indicator young people neither in employment nor in education and training, abbreviated as NEET, corresponds to the percentage of the population of a given age group and sex who is not employed and not involved in further education or training. The numerator of the indicator refers to persons meeting these two conditions:

- *they are not employed (i.e. unemployed or inactive according to the International Labour Organisation definition);*
- *they have not received any formal or non-formal education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey.“*

Source: Glossary Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Young_people_neither_in_employment_nor_in_education_and_training_\(NEET\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Young_people_neither_in_employment_nor_in_education_and_training_(NEET))

In the **LIVE LEARNING project**, six organisations from five countries are working together to offer the NEET group international learning opportunities and to develop and test formats that are appropriate for this target group. The Strategic Partnership, which is funded through ERASMUS+ Youth, has the goal of creating a catalogue that describes international measures and which can be used as a handbook for international youth work. The aim is to integrate young people with special needs and to provide them with suitable international offers to strengthen their non-formal competences.

A **project description** can be found at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplu-project-details/#project/2018-3-DE04-KA205-017170>

A **project web page** for more background information can be found at:

<https://www.live-learning.eu/main/de>

3. Example of a training programme in which youth leaders in international youth work can be trained for formats with the NEET target group

Programme/procedure of the modules for youth leaders

Time / Duration	Topic	„How“
Module 1 30 min	Introduction to NEETs as a target group of international youth work	Definition, Background information
Module 2 45 min	Exchange of experience and preparation for the target group NEETs in international youth work	Exchange in small groups (collect examples and experiences)
Module 3 60 min	Formats, methods and information relevant for working with NEETs	Introduce "mentor/coach" and try out different support services
Module 4 45 min	What does international youth work (as a method and format) offer to NEETs and vice versa; working out added value	Work in small groups and short input
Module 5 15 min	Transfer to planned projects and preparation of next steps	Mutual consulting
Module 6 30 min	Evaluation and Feedback	Interactive method in which everyone has their share

Module 1:

Introduction to NEETs as a target group of international youth work

The training starts with an introduction to NEETs as a target group. Although NEETs are present in organised youth work, they are not very visible and specific offers are often missing. In youth work there is increasing experience with inclusion, but this is primarily aimed at children and young people with mental or physical disabilities. Integration, on the other hand, is understood to mean opening up youth work to young people with a migration background. In addition, both groups should also be motivated and empowered to build their own structures and youth associations.

Therefore, a clarification and definition of the target group should be spoken about at the very beginning, which can be presented through a small input. The information under points 1 and 2 serves this purpose.

Implementation and method: The definition of NEETs should be presented with a short lecture (input), if necessary, with supporting material or media presentation via PowerPoint or analogue on a flipchart.

A differentiation or correspondence with the topics "integration and inclusion" can be helpful. Participants should be able to contribute their ideas and perceptions in an open exchange.

Module 2:

Exchange of experience and preparation for the target group NEETs in international youth work

International youth projects are usually open to all children and young people who already have had access to youth work and are active there. Opening up international measures to NEETs is a particular challenge because there is usually a lack of networking with youth welfare institutions or local employment agencies. An exchange of experiences between the participants on how, where and on what occasions they have already had experiences with NEETs in different settings should make the links and possible points of contact visible.

Implementation and method: To start with, for example, a self-assessment can be used. A question like: who has already had how much experience? This can be done through a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 stands for "no experience" and 10 for the "greatest possible experience". After everyone has agreed on a number, the experiences can be discussed and explained. Follow-up questions may ask what the next step to the next number would be or what number the participants would like to achieve through planned actions, if any.

If time allows and depending on the size of the group, the participants can also deepen their experiences in small groups and collect key points which can then be collected, presented and shared with the others. The experiences should be noted and can be written on a flipchart or pinboard.

Module 3:

Formats, methods and information relevant for working with NEETs

International youth work already offers many accessible services and formats in which young people can participate without prior knowledge and "without barriers". Nevertheless, youth leaders should be specifically trained and prepared so that possible barriers and obstacles are considered in advance and offers become even more low-threshold and open.

In the LIVE LEARNING project, many of these suitable methods were designed, tried out, compiled and classified. The following methods and offers can be presented here as examples:

- **Networking** of different partners in order to address the NEET target group and to motivate them to participate in international measures.
- **Special preparation** of the target group through "preparatory offers". This can also include many practical topics: how does the financing work, what do I get out of participating, what do I do afterwards, what do I need to be able to participate?
- **Mentoring and coaching** of participants from start to the end.
- **Crisis management** on site and during the measure abroad
- **Follow-up** with NEETs after the international experience
- **Further offers and follow-up projects** that participants can take part in

Implementation and method: The formats that have been developed and tried out for NEETs can be presented and worked on in this context. Individual methods can be explored and experienced in small groups. Next, the participants can present and discuss the different formats with each another. The adaptation and selection for the planned or intended projects of international youth work should also be discussed.

Module 4:

What does international youth work (as a method and format) offer to NEETs and vice versa; working out added value

The added value of international youth work with the target group of NEET should be clear for both sides and should also be part of this training. The aspects of added benefits mentioned in the introduction can be used as a starting point. In addition, the participants can collect further ideas that they can recognize and name the benefits of such measures.

Implementation and method: An open method in which the participants find additional values in small groups or alone would be useful here. The different levels of advantages can be examined. What is the benefit for: the target group and the individual young people, for the organisations, for the youth leaders, for the partner organisations, for society.

The group can then brainstorm and discuss their ideas of the benefits they found important

Module 5:

Transfer to planned projects and preparation of next steps

If the participants of the training already want to plan and implement concrete activities, this module can start directly with the processing of the programme and the preparation and follow-up. The offers can be divided into phases or individual parts from beginning to end and the required and possible adaptations and changes for the target group NEET can be matched and discussed.

Implementation and method: In small groups, the planned international projects should be briefly presented and then jointly discussed and worked out. The question here is: how NEETs can be reached, addressed, prepared and accompanied if they want to participate. The individual phases and steps can be presented and elaborated. It is important that an "individual" adaptation is made to the individual measures.

Module 6: Evaluation and Feedback

Evaluation of the training takes place on two levels: what did the training achieve, what was good/bad, what should be changed. Also, the personal level of learning success shall be discussed: what do I gain for my work, how do I use the information and methods I have learnt here.

Implementation and method: The feedback can be collected with quite different methods. The 5-finger evaluation is only a short example here: thumb = what was good, index finger = what do I want to point out, middle finger = what was not good, ring finger = with what/with whom did I relate, little finger = what was missed out.

4. Links and information about programs and projects

The following links provide information about the project in which this training was developed and about the programmes whose practical experience provided the background for it.

- ✓ ERASMUS+ Youth: <https://www.erasmusplus-jugend.de/>
- ✓ European Solidarity Corps: <https://www.solidaritaetskorps.de/>
- ✓ Salto Youth: <https://www.salto-youth.net/>
- ✓ Integration durch Austausch: https://www.esf.de/portal/DE/Ueber-den-ESF/Geschichte-des-ESF/Foerderperiode-2007-2013/ESF-Programme/programme/bmas_ida.html
- ✓ EUCON e.V.; Erasmus+ Project LIVE LEARNING: https://www.live-learning.eu/partners_en
- ✓ Project LIVE LEARNING: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplus-project-details/#project/2018-3-DE04-KA205-017170>

Project Partners' Bibliography



Coordination Europe (NGO) established in 2013 in Sweden. Aim is to empower young adults individually in real life learning environments, inspire entrepreneurship and to lower the threshold for mobility experiences in Europe. Coordination Europe is operating in the EU and Turkey, active within Erasmus+, ESF projects, programs of the Swedish Ministry of youth and civil society and the German Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Expertise in project development & management, organisation of real life learning environments for personal empowerment and inspiring entrepreneurship.



CBLS founded in 2012 in Spain and offers various language courses, internship training programs for students (Erasmus+), mobility's for youth, arrangements for employments and apprenticeships. It promotes social and cultural projects connecting mainly Spain and Germany but also other European countries and Turkey. It is a partner in several social and cultural projects funded by EU programs.



Founded in Germany 2016 as an NGO for international youth exchange, research and models in the digital field. EUCON is active in programmes of the ESF, Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps and in programs of the German Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Active in EU, Western Balkans and Turkey. Expertise also in consultancy, development of innovative models of international cooperation, establishing cooperation among municipalities and companies.



Founded in Berlin in 1993, and based in Marseille, France since 1996. It is a European NGO that develops, carries out and promotes transnational projects in the field of youth international mobility, non-formal education, intercultural dialogue, social and professional inclusion, citizenship and diversity. Expertise is also in fostering of social and professional inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities (NEETs) and people with a migration background through intercultural dialogue and non-formal education. Promotion of EU policies and values are also in the core.



Established in 1999 in Slovenia as a consultancy provider in the field of vocational training, employment, enterprising, youth and capacity development. It operates in EU, Western Balkans and Turkey and provides non-formal learning environments, research, (quality) assessment, management, publicity, development & coaching.



The "Solidaritätsjugend Deutschlands" – "Solidarity Youth" is an independent youth organization based in Germany. The democratic organized federation was founded 1954 in the tradition of the workers' youth movement and has actively been involved in volunteer youth work for almost 70 years now. The youth led NGO offers to its 25.000 members and all young people the possibility to engage in the non-formal areas of youth culture, youth education, youth politics, European and international youth exchange and youth work.