

## EUROPEAN ACADEMY ON YOUTH WORK - WORKSHOP REPORT

### Collaborative NEET - Youth Support Service Model

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#### TOPIC / PROJECT DISCUSSED

During the workshop, the participants were acquainted with the Erasmus+ strategic partnership project “Community Guarantee” and its intellectual output – the profile of an effective support service for NEET-youth. The project included partners from four countries, Association of Estonian Open Youth Centres (project coordinator from Estonia); CAI–Conversas Associação Internacional (Lisbon, Portugal); Eduforma S.R.L. (Padova, Italy); Samfes, samtök felagsmidstodva a Islandi (Reykjavík, Iceland), and it aimed to discover and discuss how youth guarantee programme and support services targeting NEET-youth are being implemented in different countries, what are the challenges and good practices in different realities. Common discussions were held on how NEET-youth could be best supported and what would be the ideal service profile for that work.

#### METHODOLOGY

A Menti.com presentation was used during the workshop in order to enable participants to follow the information on their own devices, in addition to the large screen, and to participate in interactive quizzes. Additionally, a QR code was presented on flyers to guide participants to the NEET-youth support service model developed as an output of the Erasmus+ strategic partnership project “Community Guarantee”.

During the workshop, the participants were briefly walked through the project process as well as the publication and the service model itself, which is a theoretic model based on evidence-based and practice-based inputs gathered by different means during the process of the project. The service model presents different aspects of one service (physical, informational, social and mind-set aspects). Later on, the participants formed small groups of 4-5 persons to study the publication and the proposed service model hands-on, and to discover and discuss how similar or different the shown model is to existing practices, and how realistic it is to use it in the participants’ country contexts.

Key points from the discussions were brought out in the large circle. Participants pointed out what was new or different for them compared to their own local realities and discussed how to put the proposed service model into practice. A round of questions and answers followed before the wrap-up of the workshop and the final words.



## KEY ISSUES RAISED SUCH AS CHALLENGES

The aim of the workshop was to inform participants about the newly developed model and the possibility to design holistic and efficient support services with a focus on NEET-youth, while also:

- Recognizing different aspects of one service
- Interpreting the stages of service planning to ensure positive outputs
- Identifying the input from and collaboration of different stakeholders

In their discussions, participants raised the following challenges:

- Not all municipalities or ministries care about the target group of NEET-youth, even though the topic is still relevant everywhere.
- Different country contexts and realities create concerns. For example, one difference between countries is that publicly funded youth centres do not exist everywhere.
- Reaching out to people, including hidden target groups that need different approaches, might be tricky.

## INNOVATIVE RESPONSE(S) TO THOSE CHALLENGES

In their discussions, participants recognised possible responses, as follows:

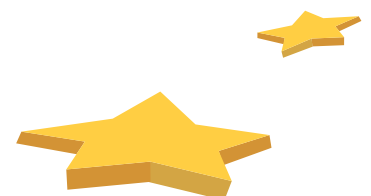
- Improving the connection between the education system and the labour market in order to provide better support for NEET-youth
- Coaching young people through their development until employment
- Reaching out and inclusion through youth-initiative funds that support youngsters' micro- projects using online opportunities
- Developing local and regional level services that are also accessible online
- Systematic approach, such as the proposed service model, which enables youngsters to exit a NEET situation.

Furthermore, participants proposed further hands-on approaches, multilevel networking, creating training modules, presenting more practice examples, involving youngsters, developing media campaigns and new KA2 projects etc. in order to put the created service model from theory into practice.

## KEY TRENDS IDENTIFIED

The need for cross-sectoral cooperation and evidence-based practices is a rising trend in youth work related discussions, and it was during the implemented project as well as during the workshop. The discussions pinpointed the importance of cooperation and networking between different partners and stakeholders, as well as involving different expertise networks in order to develop coherent and efficient approaches and synergy of practices.

For the work with any kind of deprived target group and the best possible solutions to current challenges, a common value base needs to be established between the different actors.



## FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

Participants said about the workshop: *“an important issue and challenge”, “a good model to be shared”, “a very useful tool”*. But also: *“too complicated”* or *“too theoretical”*.

Participants named the developed materials, new project ideas and the system model for NEET-youth support as something to bring home with them and expressed interest to share them with other organisations as tools for inclusion.



## LINKS TO FURTHER RESOURCES OR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT AVAILABLE ONLINE

During the Erasmus+ strategic partnership project “Community Guarantee”, different realities and country contexts were compared and analysed, in order to create a functional profile of a “Community Guarantee” – a document describing the concept of effective and multi-dimensional support service for youth not in employment, education or training. The intellectual output is an electronic publication describing an efficient institutional profile for working with NEETs that is available for anyone willing to provide qualitative services for young people.

It is possible to read and download a copy of the Community Guarantee: Profile of effective NEET-youth support service here:

[https://ank.ee/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CommunityGuarantee.IO1\\_.Final\\_.pdf](https://ank.ee/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CommunityGuarantee.IO1_.Final_.pdf)



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