

# Conference Report: "On track II - Different youth work approaches for different NEET situations"

**6-10 March 2018  
Istanbul, Turkey**



## Rationale

Unfortunately some young people fall out of the boat for different reasons. They are **not in education, not in training and don't have a job either**. They have somehow disappeared from the system e.g. **school push-out**<sup>1</sup>, unemployed that are thrown from the dole, homeless youngsters, who don't find their way to services or help, people living in illegal situations, people alienated from society. Young people in NEET situation constitute an increasing and remarkable group and has become one of the key challenges for European states to tackle for the last decade, particularly as a result of the the social and economic developments in the globe.

**Conference "On Track" is part of** the SALTO Inclusion & Diversity Resource Centre, as well as the Turkish Erasmus+ NA, a **longer-term strategic approach** to reach young people who are excluded from the system and see how we can reconnect them to society and improve their opportunities in life.

Conference: "On Track 2 - Different youth work approaches for different NEET situations" ([www.salto-youth.net/ontrackconference2/](http://www.salto-youth.net/ontrackconference2/)) was designed and organised as **a follow up activity of the first On Track conference** held in **April 2016 in Slovakia**, ([www.salto-youth.net/ontrackconference/](http://www.salto-youth.net/ontrackconference/)).

The conference has been dedicated **to bring together cross-sectorial actors to share and examine various youth work approaches in tackling NEET situations**, allowing all such actors to share ideas and good practices on tackling NEET situation in diverse contexts with the following aims and objectives:

The SALTO Inclusion & Diversity **research & publication on NEET issues "On Track - Different youth work approaches for different NEET situations"** has been published in December 2015, which can be downloaded from the link: [www.salto-youth.net/ontrack](http://www.salto-youth.net/ontrack)

The **On Track video** can be accessed from the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6rO7XL15\\_I&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6rO7XL15_I&feature=youtu.be)

## General aim:

To initiate cooperation between professionals from different sectors in order to create better opportunities for young people in a NEET situation to enable their active involvement in society and integration into the labour market.

## Objectives:

- **To explore different NEET realities** across Europe and different types of practices,
- **To exchange the possible ways to work together** and stimulate development of cross-sectoral partnership projects for youth in a NEET situation,

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<sup>1</sup> School push-out: The term introduced by the guest speaker Didem Aksoy from Education Reform Initiative replacing school dropout as the existing systems is somehow triggering the school drop outs for some young people.

- **To highlight the variety of resources** on young people in a NEET situation, such as the SALTO Inclusion study “On Track”,
- **To reflect the role of international work** and the Erasmus+ programme, in addressing the issues that young people in a NEET situation are facing,

The conference brought together **a total number of 55 professionals from different sectors** dealing with NEET situations **from 21 European Countries**: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey and UK.

## Methodology

The core methodology is based on bringing various sectors together dealing with NEET issues in various contexts giving the opportunity to share realities, different approaches and good practices, allowing sufficient space for young people who had gone through a NEET situation in particular, in order to foster synergy and cooperation amongst various actors. In this respect the conference has been constituted on following programme elements.

- Understanding the concept of NEET across Europe
- Sharing local NEET realities
- Understanding the NEET situation in Turkey and visits to local projects
- Exploring the role of youth work, international youth work in particular combating against NEET situations.
- Methods and project ideas for working with young people in NEET situation.
- Networking opportunities to meet other professionals working in this area.

Padlet was one of the various ICT tool used during the conference fostering the communication and outreach  
<https://bit.ly/2Jt8xaG>



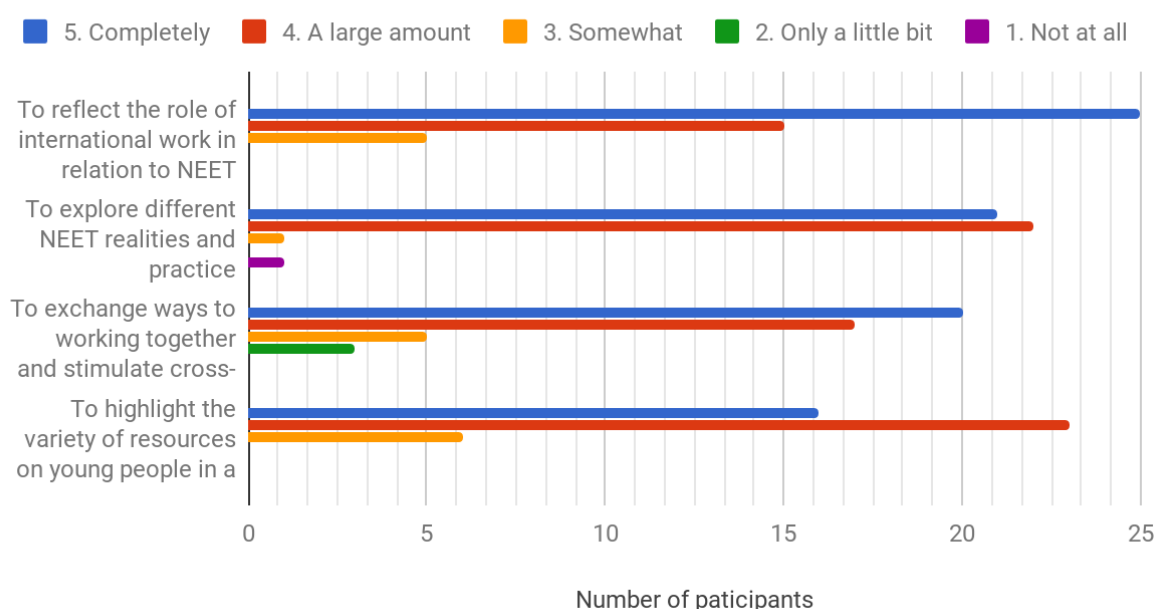
## Conference Program

Tues 6th March	Wed. 7th March	Thur. 8th March	Fri. 9th March	Sat. 10th March
Arrivals	Getting “On Track” 9.30- 11.00	What NEET track is Europe on II? Expert input from Turkish Speakers 9.30- 10.30	What routes can we take?: Thematic discussions 9.30- 11.00	Departure
	Coffee break 11.00-11.30	Coffee break 11.30-11.00	Coffee break 11.00-11.30	
	Who is on the train? Voices of YP who are in NEET situation 11.30- 13.00	What routes can we take? Sharing Good Practices 11.00-13.00	What routes can we take?: Thematic discussions 11.30-13.00	
	Lunch 13.00 - 15.00	Lunch 12.30 -13.30	Lunch 13.00 - 14.30	
	What NEET track is Europe on? - Expert Input from Ian Golding 15.00-16.30	Stopping at local stations: Visit to Turkish Projects 13.30-18.00	Our final destinations Feedback from thematic discussions 14.30 - 15.30	
	Coffee break 16.30-17.00		Coffee break 15.30-16.00	
Dinner in Hotel 19.00-21.30	Who is on the journey with us? - sharing our realities 17.00-18.30		Looking back on our journey 16.00-17.00 Reflection and evaluation	
Welcome evening 21.30	Dinner at hotel 19.00	Dinner and Boat tour 19.00	Dinner at hotel 19.00	

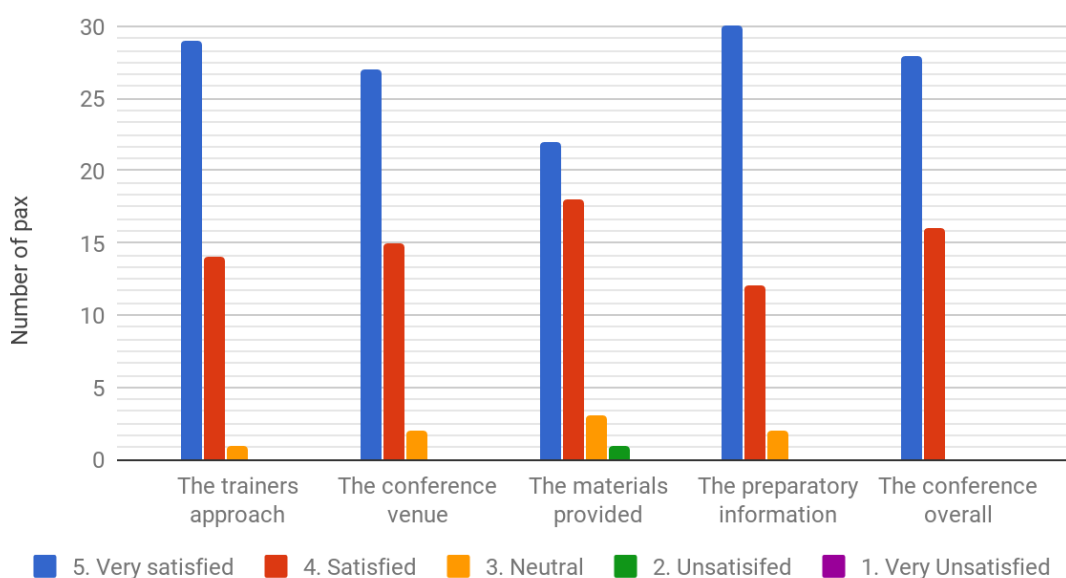
## Evaluation

Participant and trainer evaluations indicate that the conference was a successful event, held in a very efficient and warm working atmosphere with the very active participation of the all participants and guest speakers. **45 participants filled in an online evaluation form**, the analysis of which is below. Over 85% of the participants indicated that the conference met all of its objectives and in general, participants were satisfied with the conference overall, including the trainers approach, the venue, and the preparatory materials. This is shown in the two graphs below:

### How much did the conference meet its objectives?

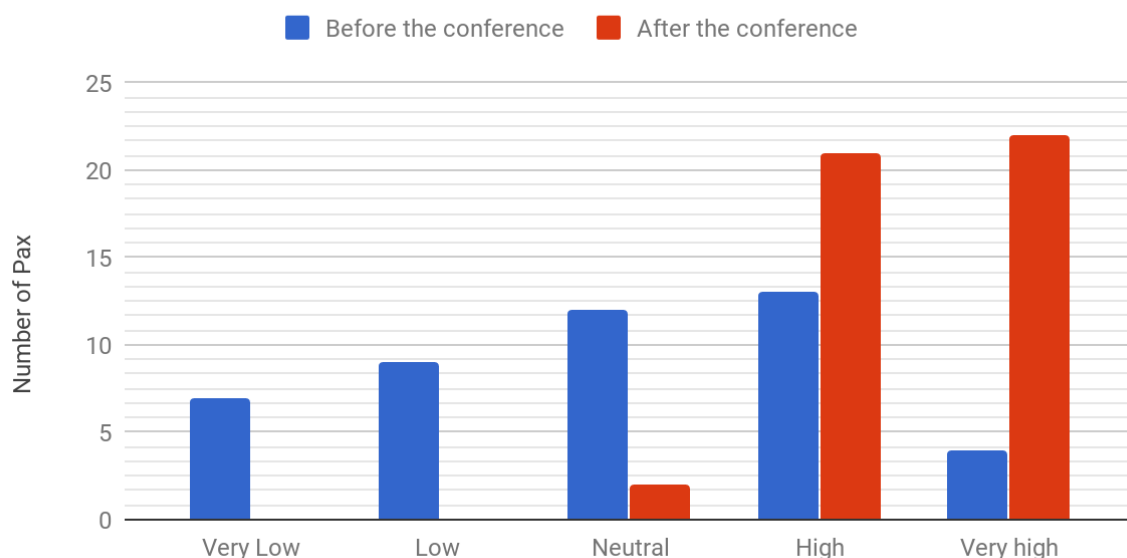


### How satisfied were you with.....



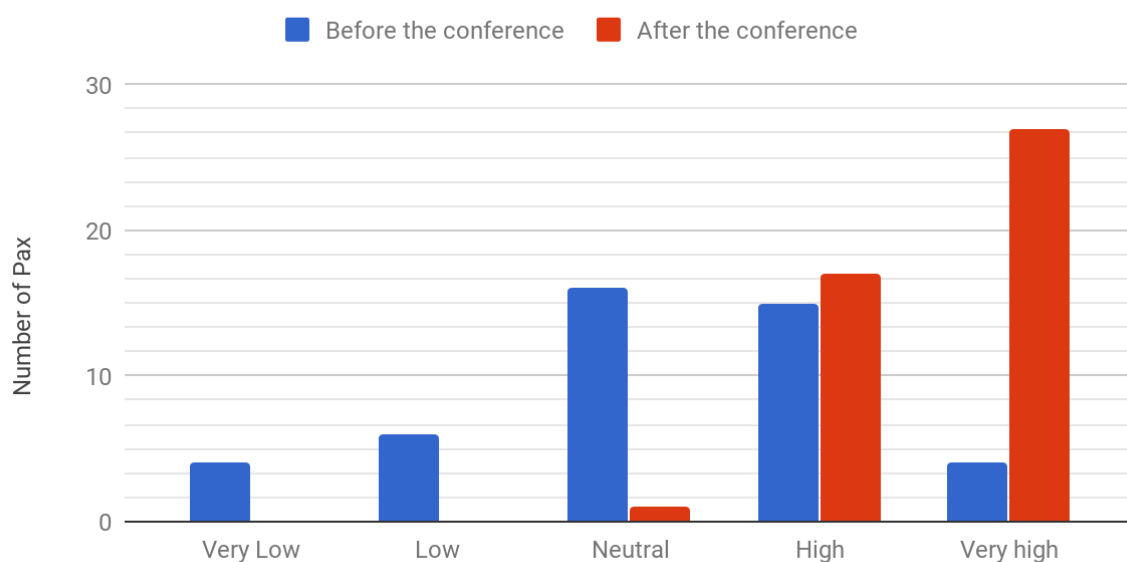
There was a substantial improvement in participants understanding of different methods of and resources to work with young people in neet situations. 96% of the participants rated their understanding as high or very high by the end of the conference, shown below.

### How would you rate your understanding of different methods and resources of working with young people in NEET situation?



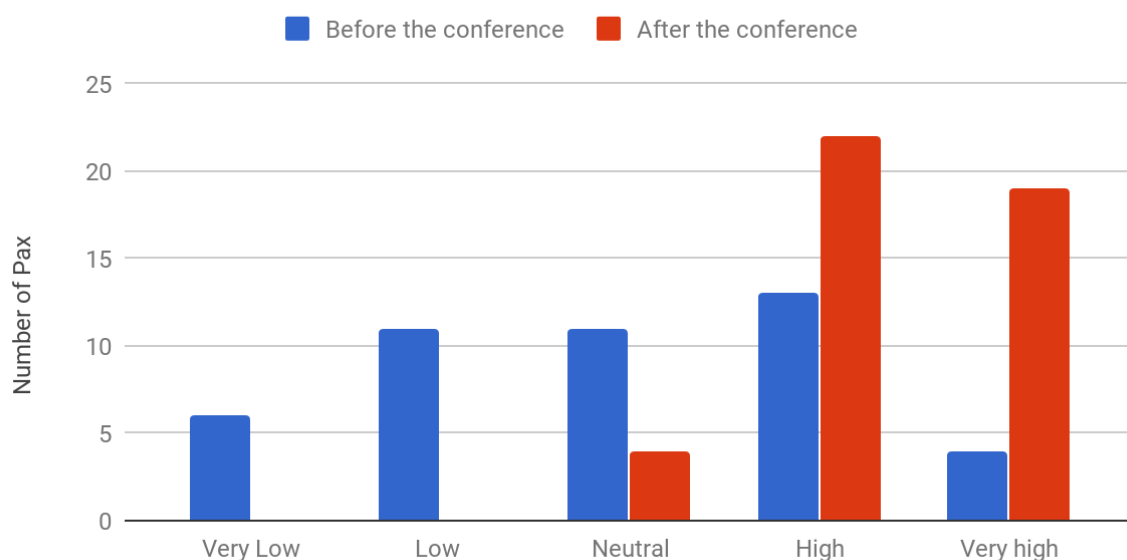
There was a substantial improvement in participants understanding of different methods of the concept of NEET. Over 95% of the participants rated their understanding as high or very high by the end of the conference, shown below.

### How would you rate your understanding of the concept of NEET, and different NEET realities?



There was good improvement in participants confidence to work cross sectorally. 91% of the participants rated their understanding as high or very high by the end of the conference, shown below.

### How confident do you feel to work cross sectorally on the topic of NEET?



### Feedback from participants on the evaluation form:

- When asked which aspect of the conference participants valued most, responses were mixed, different participants seemed to value different things, and there was no clear stand out session or aspect.
- Similarly when participants were asked what parts of the conference could be improved there were no strong trends. However some participants highlighted it would have been useful to receive more information on Erasmus +.
- Some participants also commented that the size of the conference made it hard to network with everyone there, and that they would have preferred to see both field visits as well as all presentations of best practice.
- A small number of participants commented that the final day could have been used better.

### Quotes from participants included:

- *"Gaining international awareness, Searching for solutions common challenges, cooperation"*
- *"I liked that, although it was a conference, working methods were mixed, only in part formal. I do appreciate the how dynamic facilitators were".*

- *"All the different input from experts/trainers as well as the practices shared by the participants. I also liked the flow of the Conference very much."*
- *"I value the most the trainers approach and logistics services. The conference ran smoothly and efficiently. The field visit to Tarlabasi Community Centre was interesting, inspiring and well organized. Presentation with young people who found themselves in NEET situation was very useful to understand how to motivate, inspire, encourage and help young people".*
- *"Maybe the link of the topic and the potential of Erasmus+. I felt that the workshops connecting this issue was somewhat too short and for those that didn't know of Erasmus+ before, they could be better off with more hands-on guidance in taking the next steps."*
- *"I liked to say thank you for every member of that conference, specially for the authorities / organizers! That was best erasmus+ project for me this far, it was very good mix of free space, working in different teams, some hard core information, data and statistics and funny and relaxing parts like dancing and joking together."*
- *"All the different input from experts/trainers as well as the practices shared by the participants. I also liked the flow of the Conference very much."*
- *"I value the most the trainers approach and logistics services. The conference ran smoothly and efficiently. The field visit to Tarlabasi Community Centre was interesting, inspiring and well organized. Presentation with young people who found themselves in NEET situation was very useful to understand how to motivate, inspire, encourage and help young people."*

## **Outputs and project ideas:**

On the last day, one of the sessions was dedicated to network and developing further projects. The participants were asked to reflect on ideas / initiatives / projects that they would like to initiate after the conference, in partnership with persons that they've met during the event. The following topics were collected from the group:

After gathering all the mentioned ideas, the facilitators created 15 themes:

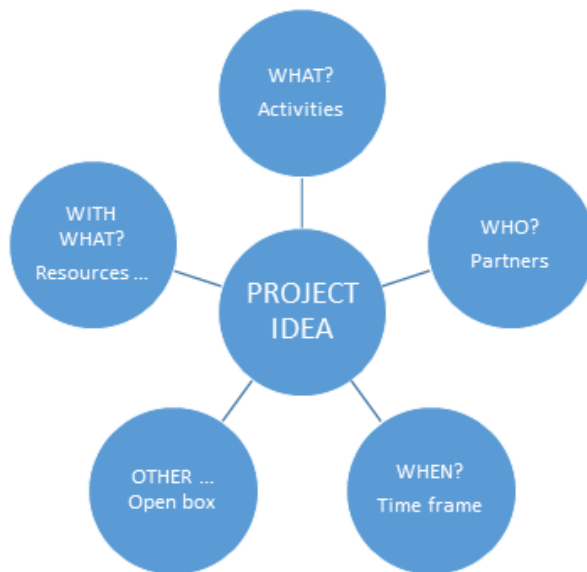
1. KA2 - Developing critical thinking
2. Youth exchanges
3. Role models and good practices
4. Long term EVS and inclusion
5. Sports
6. Arts, tech and music
7. School education
8. Mental health and wellbeing
9. Fighting addictions
10. Gender equality
11. Involving decisions makers
12. Computer gaming
13. Social and social enterprise



14. Research

15. Funding

In the groups, the participants were encouraged to discuss together about:



## Conclusions and follow up

The conference was finalized with a great success as a result of great cooperation of SALTO-Youth Inclusion and Diversity Resource Centre and Turkish National Agency. The synergy between the participants is very promising for various follow up projects and activities. Its once again proved that youth work is one of the key tools in supporting young people in NEET situation and combat preventing NEET situations.

In this respect it is decided to take the next step for **the third On Track conference with a larger group of 120 in Autumn 2019.**

## Annex I - Conference Attendees

Organizers	Name	Surname	Organisation	e-mail
Belgium	Marija	Kljajic	SALTO Inclusion & Diversity	Marija.Kljajic@jint.be
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Guest Speakers	Name	Surname	Organisation	e-mail
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