

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

8th -11th of December 2020
Online edition

Background

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-out¹, 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 situations 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 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 4 - Different youth work approaches for different NEET situations" (www.salto-youth.net/ontrackconference4/) was designed and organised as a **follow up activity** of the **previous third editions On Track conferences** organised by SALTO Inclusion and Diversity and Turkish National Agency.

The conference has been dedicated to support collaboration and exchange between professionals from different sectors in order to create better opportunities for young people in a NEET situation and enable their active involvement in society and integration into the labour market. It had the following **objectives**:

- **To explore different NEET realities**, as well as different types of practices or tools at all levels.
- **To exchange the variety of ways of working with young people** in a NEET situation, particularly taking the consequences of a pandemic situation into consideration.
- **To share resources on working with young people** in a NEET situation, such as the SALTO Inclusion and Diversity study "On Track".

¹ 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 promote the value of international youth work** for young people in NEET situations and the possibilities of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps and upcoming programmes.

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

Special edition

Due to the global pandemic, in 2020, the team decided to organise an online version of the conference. Taking in consideration the change of the conference environment, the team decided to create a dedicated platform of the conference. You can find all the materials of the conference at this link:

<https://vsdemo.spp42.net/en/info>

Thanks to the online environment, the conference was able to benefit from the contributions of experts from countries such as Colombia, Egypt, India. These contributions have brought the conference a global character, not just a European one.

The **On Track resources** can be accessed from the following link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EzMxB5FMSGzeNur1qpPt2O11pBSz5ld6>

Participants

The conference brought together **a total number of 25 professionals from different sectors** dealing with NEET situations **from 16 Countries**: Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Turkey and UK.

Next to the participants the conference gathered the input from **10 experts** from **9 different** countries. The entire event was coordinated by a team of **6 people** from **4 different countries**. **In total** there were **41 persons** involved from all over the world.

PARTICIPANTS		
First name	Last name	Country of Residence
Abdelhak	Kadari	Algeria
Zvončica	Kučanda	Croatia
Ahmed	Ali	Egypt
Mariana	Santillan	France
Ekkehard	Lippold	Germany

Anna	Kovacs	Hungary
Ornella	Pegoraro	Italy
Maija	Ozolina	Latvia
Ance	Putnina	Latvia
Daina	Kanaska	Latvia
Inga	Kulikauskė	Lithuania
Gabriele	Markunaite	Lithuania
Pascal	Fredrik	Netherlands
Ana Daniela	Costa	Portugal
GABRIELA	BINDAR	Romania
Stefan	Štrbac	Serbia
Marija	Jovanovic	Serbia
Daniel	Gismera Casasola	Spain
Nazan	Aydın	Turkey
Adem	ŞAHİN	Turkey
Fitnat	TAVACI	Turkey
Enis Ata	Işım	Turkey
Polat	Yalçın	Turkey
Serkan	Aba	Turkey
Nozmul	Hussain	United Kingdom
EXPERTS		
Ian	Goldring	Belgium
Michele	Di paola	Italy
Cathy	Street	United Kingdom
Ritikaa	Khunnah	India
Kanika	Sinha	India
Ozgehan	Senyuva	Turkey
Annastahia	Baino	The Netherlands

Sara	Hamouda Khalil Mohamed	Egypt
Domagoj	Barisic	Croatia
Jefferson	Tenorio	Columbia
TEAM		
Handan	Boyar	Turkey
Romina	Matei	Romania
Musa	Akgul	Turkey
Vojislav	Vujic	Serbia
Ufuk	Atalay	Turkey
Marija	Kljajic	Belgium

Methodology

The core methodology was 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 and beyond
- Sharing local NEET realities
- Understanding the NEET situation in different countries, discussion about how the global pandemic affect the NEET situation
- Exploring the role of youth work, international youth work in particular combating against NEET situations
- Discussing about the global cooperation for combating the NEET situation
- Resources for working with young people in NEET situations: such as Erasmus Plus, European Solidarity Corps programmes and others.
- Networking opportunities to meet other professionals working in this area.

Conference Program

On track IV- Different youth work approaches for different NEET situations

8th – 11th December 2020 | Online Conference

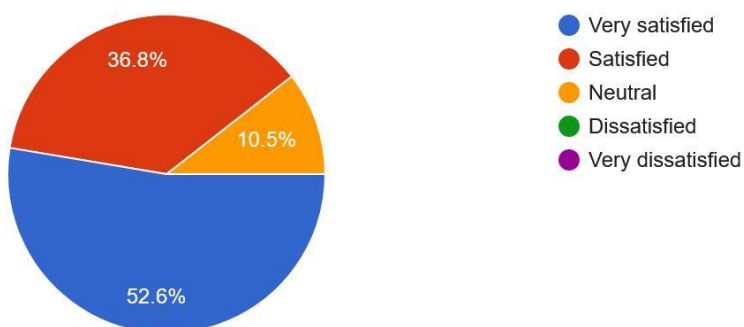
8 th December Tuesday	9 th December Wednesday	10 th December Thursday	11 th December Friday
Getting on Track Intro to programme Intro to the team and participants 9.00- 11.00	Youth Voice Input from young people 9.30 - 11.00	Covid times in youth work addressing NEET issues External Speakers 9.30 - 11.00	Global Cooperation Expert input 9.30 - 11.00
Coffee break 11.00-11.15	Coffee break 11.00-11.15	Coffee break 11.00-11.15	Coffee break 11.00-11.15
NEET issues in a nutshell Expert Input Concepts 11.15 - 13.00	More Voice for Youth Input from young people 11.15 - 13.00	Good for me may be good for you too Sharing good practices 11.15 - 13.00	What's next? Ideas for future cooperation 14.00 - 16.00
Lunch 13.00 - 14.00	Lunch 13.00 - 14.00	Lunch 13.00 - 14.00	Lunch 13.00 - 14.00
Participants' realities on NEET issues Sharing Experience 14.00 - 15.50	The impact of International Youth Work What worked out? 14.00 - 15.50	What do we have in our backpack? Role of E+, ESC and other tools and resources 14.00 - 15.50	I know what you did last conference... Evaluation 14.00 - 15.50
Check Out 15:50 – 16:00	Check Out 15:50 – 16:00	Check Out 15:50 – 16:00	Closing

Evaluation by the participants

The conference was evaluated both by an interactive tool online during the conference and by an online questionnaire that was sent to the participants after the conference. **The online questionnaire was filled by 19 participants and the results are:**

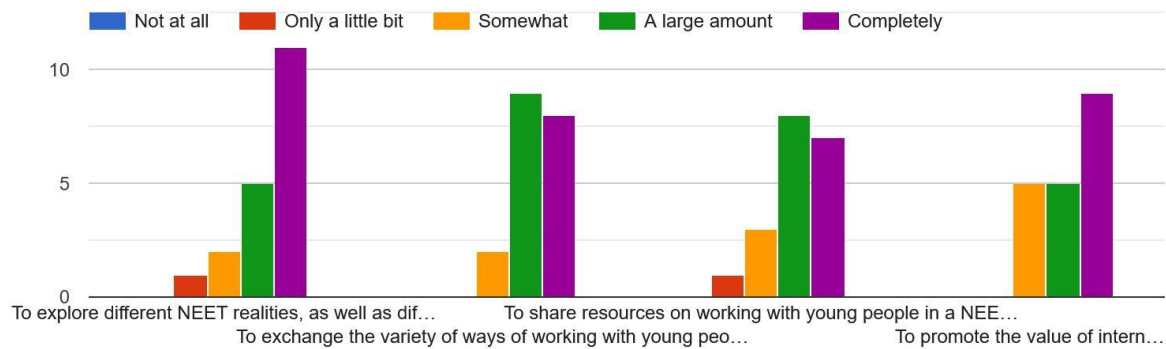
In general, how satisfied are you with the Conference?

19 responses



Based on the responses, 89.4% of the participants declared themselves very satisfied and satisfied with the overall conference. Only 10.5% said neutral. There was no one saying that the conference was dissatisfied. The team also concluded that it was a conference that reached its aim and objectives and it was relevant for the participants.

How much did this conference meet it's objectives?

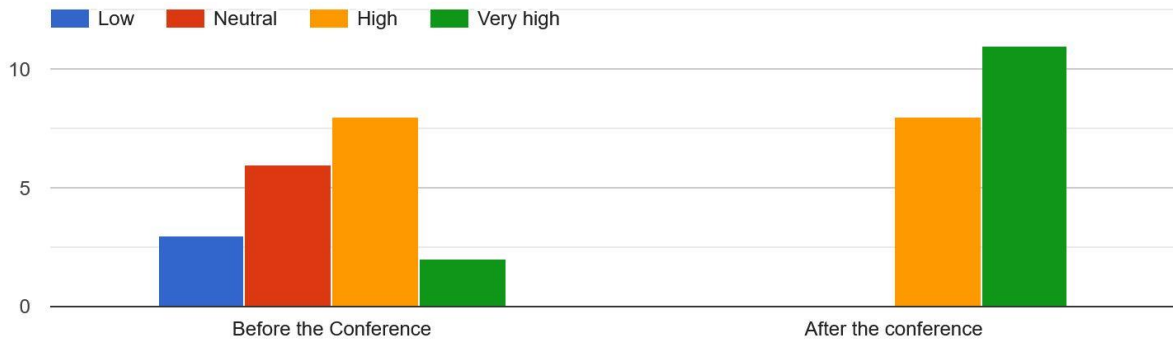


There were four objectives of the conference:

1. **To explore different NEET realities**, as well as different types of practices or tools at all levels. (Completely 57,89%, A large amount 26,32%, Somewhat 10,53%, Only a little bit 5,26%)
2. **To exchange the variety of ways of working with young people** in a NEET situation, particularly taking the consequences of a pandemic situation into consideration. (Completely 42,11%, A large amount 47,37%, Somewhat 10,53%)
3. **To share resources on working with young people** in a NEET situation, such as the SALTO Inclusion and Diversity study "On Track". (Completely 36,84%, A large amount 42,11%, Somewhat 15,79%, Only a little bit 5,26%)
4. **To promote the value of international youth work** for young people in NEET situations and the possibilities of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps and upcoming programmes. (Completely 47,37%, A large amount 26,32%, Somewhat 26,32%)

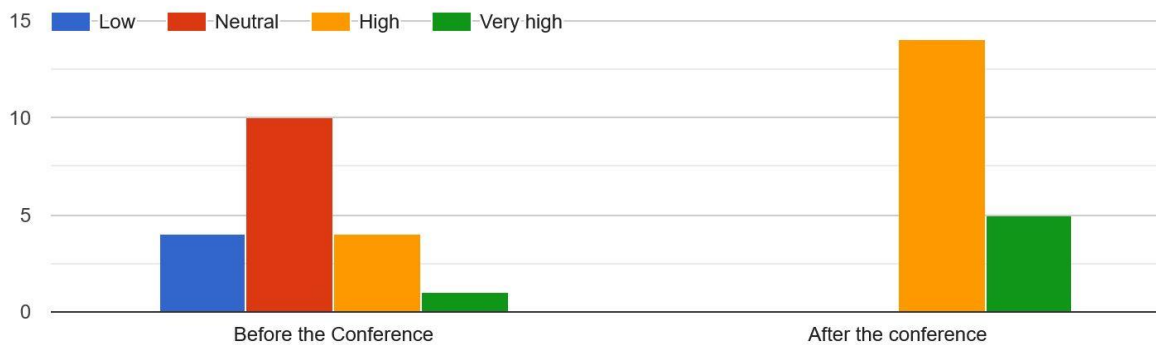
Based on the participants responses, the first objective was the most reached together with the 4th. The conference indeed focused a lot on exploring the different NEET realities and promotion of the international youth work, as the online environment is pretty limited in regards to encouraging a lot of cooperation within the group and exchanging a variety of working together. Nevertheless, none of the objectives was rated as not at all being achieved. All the objectives were rated as being, to a certain regard, achieved. 36,84% of participants told that all objectives of the Conference were Completely met.

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



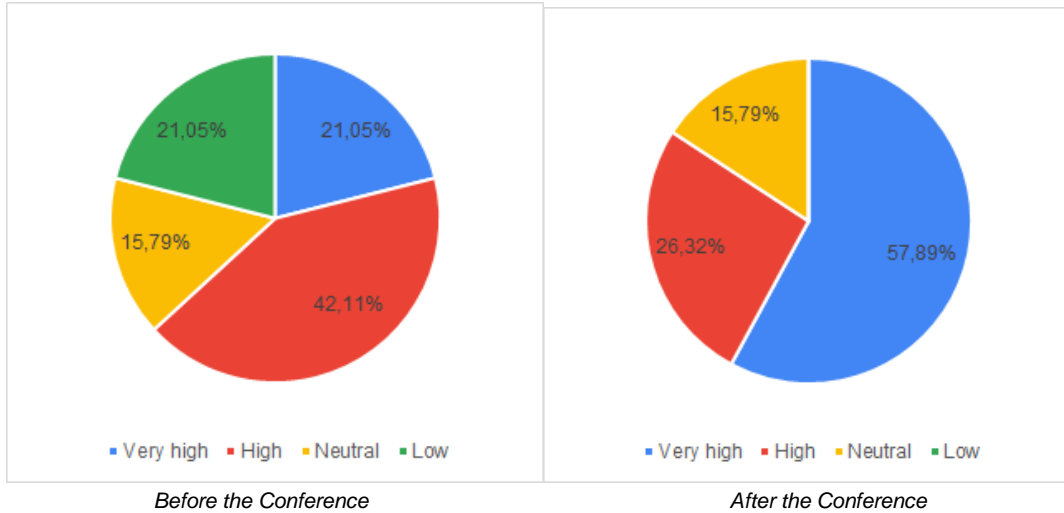
The understanding of the concept of NEET and the different NEET realities improved significantly after the conference. After the conference none of the participants declared that the understanding is low or neutral. All the participants that filled the questionnaire said their understanding is high and very high. This means that all the inputs and the moments of sharing NEET realities that were offered in the program were relevant and had an impact in the participants' learning process. (Before the conference: Very high 10,53%, High 42,11%, Neutral 31,58%, Low 15,79%; After the conference: Very high 57,89%, High 42,11%). Comparing individual progress in understanding: 68,42% improved their understanding of the concept of NEET, and different NEET realities.

How would you rate your understanding of different methods, tools and resources of working with young people in NEET situation, or at risk of being in a NEET situation?



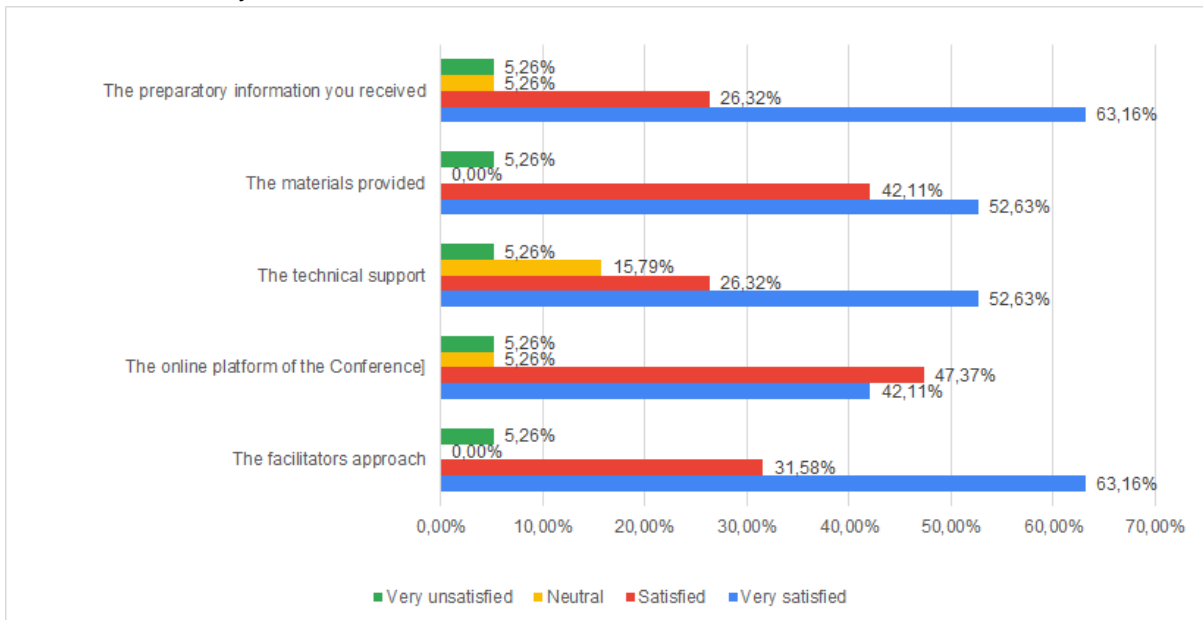
The understanding of different methods, tools and resources of working with young people in a NEET situation or at risk of being in a NEET situation also improved significantly after the conference. Before the conference only 26,32% participants said that their understanding is high and very high, after the conference 100% (High 73,68%, Very high 26,32%) participants declared that their understanding is high and very high.

How motivated are you to start developing international collaboration on the topic of NEET?



The motivation to start developing international collaboration on the topic of NEET also increased after the conference. 84.21% declared that after the conference their motivation is high and very high to start the international collaboration on the topic of NEET.

How satisfied are you with...



Overall all the participants were satisfied and very satisfied with the preparatory information that they received, with the materials provided, with the online platform of the conference and the facilitators approach. Only one participant declared unsatisfied with all five elements that were evaluated at this question and there were 1 to 2 participants that said “neutral” to the preparatory information received, the technical support and the online platform.

The questionnaire implied also **three open questions**, where participants could share more about what were the most important elements of the conference and why, also what could be improved next time and how.

At the questions “**What aspect of this conference did you value the most? Why?**”, the most mentioned part of the conference was the sharing of good practices, the guest inputs and the personal stories of the young people. These elements were appreciated also in the residential format of the conference. Plus to that, there was also mentioned as a value the online platform that was created to support the conference.

Here it is a summary of the answers:

- Sharing good practices, the guest inputs and the personal stories
- Also the possibility to talk and share experiences with different people. All of this has given me new perspectives and points of view that I think will be very useful for my work.
- Communication, exchange of experience, good organization team.
- The information about NEET situations
- A very diversified and rich program, great facilitators and the full support of the Agency Team. Very nice speakers from around the world who shared extraordinary experiences. Thank you for this amazing opportunity!
- Developing the international collaboration with NEET.
- The materials supplied
- The people. Because meeting them is always enriching my life.
- My best experiences were the presentations of the experts and NEET people, and the funny online energizers :).
- Frankly, I thought that volunteering was the only appropriate field, but through the experiences of others, I learned about other new techniques and methods for developing the topic of NEET in my country.
- The thing I liked the most and felt that I benefited from are the chat rooms and group work, which enabled me to get to know more about the ideas of the participants and their programs
- The online platform of the Conference
- The international connections! It's nice to see that we have so much in common while we are so distant in a geographical sense.

Regarding the question “**What aspects of this conference could be improved? How?**” of course, the most mentioned element regarding improvement of the conference was to have the conference in a residential format, because it is better to meet in person and to discuss all the topics addressed by the conference program. Beside that another element mentioned was that not all the participants were active during the small group discussion and this could have improved by having a facilitator in the small groups to animate the discussions. Another suggestion was also to have a more debatable environment and to allow space for more critical thinking.

Here is a summary of the answers:

- The interaction between participants. I think the facilitation team has done everything possible, but the participant group has not responded as we should. Online is difficult, personal realities interfere a lot.
- Nothing, just internet connections would be better.
- Critical thinking was a little bit lacking. There should have been more of a debate environment.
- Not using too many different technical tools
- Discussion a lot with newcomers who have the passion for working with NEET but need experience
- Dissemination
- Activate us, as participants more, for example with a facilitator in the smaller rooms as well.
- More concentrated and shorter
- "With all the circumstances we are going through, the conference was successful. But it is better for me personally to have a conference in the future in any country and to participate in it in attendance.
- To have a live event, but due to the circumstances you had to do it online and I believe if it was a success!

The last question was about allowing space for **"Any other comments"**. A lot of comments were "thank you" messages and the suggestion to organise the conference in 2021 in Istanbul with the same group of participants.

- To organize the conference in Istanbul with the same participants next year!
- Thank you all! It was a great time and a very useful conference.
- I want to thank you, it has been a great experience. The good mood of the facilitation team has been wonderful. I hope we can meet in person soon (maybe in the next edition).
- Thank you for Turkish NA, the great team and participants
- Thanks for all the preparation and effort.
- Great job guys, it was very challenging but you did an excellent job!
- Thanks for organising it!
- I want to travel to Istanbul!
- A snowstorm and winds caused the internet service to be cut off for the last two days. I hope to download the learning material to see what I have missed
- Thank you...
- Thank you very much for a lovely experience! Looking forward to join in real life next year

Conclusion

All in all, the fourth edition of the On Track conference was a success, even if for 2020 the conference moved online. The objectives of the conference were achieved and the participants considered that the program and the methodology proposed was relevant. Once again it was a plus to have a diversity of inputs, from experts with a different background and from different contexts. A highlight of the program remains the session when the young people

share stories from their own reality and how they overcome a NEET situation. To create a good dynamic in the group, it is important to have a large diversity of participants, coming from different fields of actions. The topic of NEET needs to be tackled also in the future, taking in consideration also the impact of the current pandemic on the young people that are in less privileged conditions.

