



Project Factory Evaluation Report

17th - 22nd October, Sigulda, Latvia



Introduction

Background, aims & objectives

“Project Factory” training course was an international event about creating better opportunities for young people in NEET situation in society and on the labour market. It gathered 31 professionals from different sectors: youth work, education, social work, employment... working on topic of NEET, along with 4 expert speakers

Fourteen European countries participated in this seminar: Belgium-FL & FR, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Spain, Romania and UK.

The course was organised and hosted by the Latvian National Agency for the Erasmus+ Programme - in cooperation with the SALTO Inclusion Resource Centre.

The organising Team for the event was

- Edgars Knohenfelds - Latvian National Agency
- Marijia Kljajic - Salto Inclusion
- Natalja Gudakovska - Trainer
- Dan Moxon - Trainer

Project aims and objectives:

- To create bridges and sustainable cooperation between the youth and other sectors in order to use E+: Youth in Action programme to reduce the numbers of young people at risk and in NEET situation by creating better opportunities for them.
- To make a better use of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme, especially of Youth Exchanges, EVS and Transnational Youth Initiatives in addressing the issues that youth at risk and NEET are facing.
- To find new partners, explore possibilities and develop cross-sectorial partnership projects for youth at risk & in NEET situation
- To develop an understanding of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action project lifecycle
- To exchange about possible ways to work together and methods to intervene
- To get to know different realities and share good practices

This was done by helping participants to find other partners and connect with them to develop new projects for young people in NEET situations

Programme					
Mon. 17th	Tues. 18th	Wed. 19th	Thur. 20th	Fri. 21st	Sat. 22nd
Arrive at Airport for 5.00	Team building and getting to know each other 9.00 - 11.00	Finding common ground and connecting with other partners 9.00 - 11.00	Understanding the E+ Youth In Action Programme 9.00 - 11.00	Creating projects 9.00 - 11.00	Depart after Breakfast
	Coffee Break 11.00-11.30	Coffee Break 11.00-11.30	Coffee Break 11.00-11.30	Coffee Break 11.00-11.30	
	Market Place 11.30-13.00	Working in different ways 11.30-1.00	Creating projects 11.30-13.00	Presentation and feedback on projects 11.30-13.00	
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
	What makes a good NEET project? 14.30-16.00	Walking in different ways 14.30-16.00	Creating projects 14.30-16.00	Creating roadmaps for success 14.30-16.00	
	Coffee Break 16.00-16.30	Coffee Break 16.00-16.30	Coffee Break 16.00-16.30	Coffee Break 16.00-16.30	
	Examples of practice + Reflection 16.30- 18.00	Involving young people in project creation + Young people's experiences + Reflection 16.30- 18.00	Creating projects + Reflection 16.30- 18.00	Reflection + Evaluation 16.30- 18.00	
	Dinner & Welcome 7.00	Evening social activity: Singing workshops		Evening social activity: Sharing night	

Expert speaker presentations

Ian Goldring - Author of ["On Track - Different Youth Work Approaches for different NEET situations"](#) gave a presentation focused on understanding the concept of NEET and effective design of projects for young people in NEET situations. He discussed that the impact of young people being in being in a NEET situation occurs on two levels. Firstly, being NEET results in lower human and social capital for the individual, as the workplace or education is often the place we build or maintain this capital. This can have negative consequences (hysteresis/ scarring) that follow the individual later in life. Secondly high levels of NEET in a country mean has a social cost and through a less productive economy. Ian highlighted the range of different groups and reasons young people can be in a NEET situation. He identified that to design a successful project it necessary to understand the target group you are working with specifically, and what their needs are. Projects targeted at the NEET group as a whole are unlikely to be successful because needs vary so much. Ian noted that an effective project is one the problems the target group is specifically facing and provides a positive counter balance to them. For example, if a young person is experiencing social isolation as a result of being NEET, it is important to find methods to connect them with others. He also discussed the importance of understanding "supply side" versus "demand" side employment problems. A supply side problem occurs when plenty of jobs are available but the local workforce is not skilled/available enough to undertake them - in this instance NEET projects should aim to work with young people to develop their skills and training to access these jobs. A demand side issue occurs when there are insufficient jobs available. In this situation projects for young people in NEET situation should focus on reducing the negative that being NEET has on a young person, but accept that it is much less likely they will move into work.

Contact: iangoldring@gmail.com

Three projects with involvement of young people in NEET situation or at risk to become NEET were presented.

Alise Devjatajeva presented the project "KNOW and DO!" that was started by the Agency for International Programs for Youth (AIPY) in September 2014 with a financial support of the European Social Fund and State funding and will last till the end of 2018. The project is being implemented within the Youth Guarantee initiative aimed at young people aged 15-29 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and are not registered in the State Employment Agency (SEA) as unemployed. The project is being implemented in close collaboration with local municipalities and their strategic partners, such as national and local governmental and non-governmental institutions, youth centres and other institutions that are engaged in youth work who collaborate together to identify the target group of young people and provide support within the implementation of individual support programme. The project foresees several phases of youth engagement. During the first phase young people of the target group are being identified and outreached to inform them about the opportunities provided by the project. This is being done by municipalities in close collaboration with their strategic partners. During the second phase young people are being profiled by experienced/ trained specialists to identify what skills and competences the

particular young person shall develop, i.e. personal, social, labor and/or others in order to successfully return to social and economic life. Based on the profiling results an individual support programme of measures is being elaborated which at a later stage of its implementation can be improved according to the young persons' needs in terms of measures and programme duration. Those young people who during profiling have expressed readiness to actively participate in the process of job search or further education are directed to join Youth Guarantee activities implemented by the State Education Development Agency or State Employment Agency. The profiling process as such is based on an individual approach and support provided by qualified specialists including consultation about possible vocational opportunities. The individual support program of measures is elaborated to fit the particular young person's needs therefore it encompasses individual and group support activities such as consultations, formal and informal learning activities, volunteer and social work, leisure time activities and others. The implementation of individual support programme is very significant therefore mentor's involvement in the implementation of individual support programme is obligatory.

The aim of the project "KNOW and DO!" is to develop skills of target group of young people and facilitate their involvement in education, including vocational learning to master craftsman, Youth Guarantee activities implemented by the SEA or the State Education Development Agency, active employment or preventative unemployment reduction measures provided by the SEA as well as in non-governmental organizations or youth center activities.

Contacts:

Alise Devjatajeva

Agency for International Programs for Youth

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Agnese Karklina, the representative of the Yurmala Children and Youth Initiative Centre, presented centre's experience with project Know and Do in Yurmala municipality area. With the project the youth centre works with following groups of young people who are in NEET situation or under risk to get in it:

- The young people –drop outs from schools and high schools due to bad records, regular absence in school, behaviour problems);
- Young people having problems with carrier path;
- Young people who cannot leave independently and are dependent on their parents;
- Young people with social integration problems;
- Young people with deviant behaviour or addictions.



The expert told that organisation reaches young people by use of different means, including the snow ball effect and pass the information through the network of friends and acquaintances, different informational events of the project, consultations and dissemination of information among visitors of the centre, cooperation with municipality institutions, cooperation with The

Agency for International Programmes for Youth, advertisements in the social media accounts of the Centre, article in the local media, direct approach and visits to the places where the potential target groups are accumulated (minority day centre, orphanages, probation services etc.).

Agnese explained that centre uses variety of activities, approaches and methods to engage, support and change life of young people who are in NEET situation, including:

- individual work with each young person;
- involvement of young people in activities together with active young people who are not in situation of NEET;
- young people are involved in the activities outside the centre;
- working with young person as much time as necessary – not counting hours but focusing on the problem of the young person and possibility to help him/her;
- motivating and encouraging young person to feel free and be positive when together with the youth worker;
- explaining and showing that everyone can make a mistake and encourage him/her not to be afraid to make mistake;
- regular work with personal development of the youth worker in order the youth worker would be able to be show a positive example of him/herself and the made a positive image of the youth centre. This would encourage young person to visit the centre and later engage in the activities;
- consider positive examples of some other young person who has been in the situation of NEET and is ready to tell his/her experience with overcoming problems of NEET;
- involve role models and famous people in the country as well as sponsors who would support you with presents.

Considering the experience of the recent year the organisation has observed that the Project helps young people to better know what are the opportunities in the municipality, country and in Europe for young people; helps young people to get to know other young people and deal with cases of NEET; encourages and supports with returning back or engaging into education or employment; helps to discover and improve opportunities for free time and leisure activity. Organisation is interested in development of Erasmus + : Youth in Action project together and for young people who are in NEET situation or are under risk to get in situation of NEET.

Contacts:

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Stanislavs Babins, the representative of the NGO “Radi Vidi Pats”/ “Create Environment Yourself”, presented organisation’s experience with project “Other Kitchen for Your CV” implemented in Liepaja city. This was 1 year project, implemented from April 2015 till April 2016 in cooperation with another NGO “Velo-Redele”. The project involved 24 young people being in situation of NEET. The project was focused on development of

participation of young people from Liepaja in public life and labour market by their



involvement in voluntary work activities in the practical workshop “Create Velo Yourself” and development of their skills. This helped young people to make their CV more reliable and considerable. As a result of one year work in the project, organisation together with young people has achieved following:

- the premises of the veloworkshop are renovated and available for everyone who wants to be active and get involved;
- 24 young people started to work, actively are looking for a job or restarted their studies.
- 3 velo routes developed in Liepaja.
- 26 bicycles are created/renovated.
- 7 creative workshops created, thus, developing new skills among young people.

Contacts:

Stanislavs Babins

NGO “Radi Vidi Pats”/ “Create Environment Yourself”

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Projects ideas developed by participants

During the course, participants worked out and presented project ideas to be further developed after the training course. The short description of project ideas can be found below:

Project name	Who are you?
Project aim	To become aware about the groups of young people who are in NEET situation
Project Type	Research
Target group	Young people from Riga aged 18 – 25 who are in NEET situation or under risk to get in NEET situation
Date and time	May – September 2017
Activities foresee	Allocation of stakeholders, research and statistics, forms groups, planning of activities
Leading partner	Sanita Lāce, Department of Education, Culture and Sports of Riga City Council (Latvia) www.e-skola.lv iksd@riga.lv , lace.sanita@gmail.com
Possible partners	Social Department of Riga Municipality, NGOs, spare time centres, schools and social centres from Riga.

Project name	Jobby
Project aim	To provide support in finding and developing a career/ profile according to personal skills
Project Type	KA2 Innovations,
Project theme	Carrier guidance, employability, professional training
Target group	Young people that are facing difficulties in their educational and training pathways
Date and time	May 2017 – September 2019
Activities foresee	Identification of real small problem, Preparation of the curriculum according to the problem; Training for trainers Preparation for implementation

	Testing the methodology Evaluating and editing Dissemination
Results	Methodology/guide to implement Curricula Good practice
Leading partner	Milici Laurentiu Dan CYGNUS Scientific Society - UNESCO Center (research, feasibility studies, design, consulting) (Romania) https://www.facebook.com/cygnus.unesco/suceava.romania@gmail.com
Possible partners	Romania, Italy, Spain, Germany

Project name	Relation
Project aim	To conduct cross-over study for teachers, trainers about refugee/migrants language learning and literacy
Project theme	Inclusion and integration
Project Type	Strategic partnership KA2, 3 years innovation
Target group	Teachers, trainers, refugees/migrants
Date and time	
Activities foresee	Database of curricula, methods, ideas European curricula on language learning for refugees European Curricula for adult literacy
Leading partner	Dieter Schulze Werkstatt-Berufskolleg Unna (Germany) www.werkstatt-berufskolleg.de and in Facebook "Werkstatt-Berufskolleg Unna" info@werkstatt-berufskolleg.de d.schulze@werkstatt-berufskolleg.de
Possible partners	Germany, Spain, Sweden, Belgium, Slovenia, Turkey, Italy, Czech Republic, France and Romania

Project name	Jobs MAPP
Project aim	To improve situation of persons in NEET situation To develop tool to support the work of professionals assisting young people in NEET situation
Project Type	Strategic partnership KA2, 3 years innovation
Activities foresee	APP for finding jobs for clients in NEET situation Software to detect hidden competences of clients in NEET situation Curriculum for searching/finding hidden competences
Leading partner	Dieter Schulze Werkstatt-Berufskolleg Unna (Germany) www.werkstatt-berufskolleg.de and in Facebook "Werkstatt-Berufskolleg Unna" info@werkstatt-berufskolleg.de d.schulze@werkstatt-berufskolleg.de
Possible partners	Germany, Portugal, Sweden, England, Spain, France, Italy, Turkey, Slovenia, Romania, France

Project name	Culturescope
Project aim	To reduce cultural barrier towards Roma and non-Roma

	people for 25 participants from 5 countries
Project Type	KA1 – youth mobility project (youth exchange)
Target group	Young Roma and non-Roma being in situation of NEET, aged 16 – 30 (5 people from each country, 4+1 leader, at least 1 person is of Roma origin)
Date and time	9 th -16 th October 2017 or 24 th August – 4 th September 2017, Dabuleni, Romania. APV in July 2017
Activities foresee	Living library, photo voice, discovery visit in the Roma communities, learning traditional Roma dances, songs etc.
Leading partner	Lucia Dulea Youngsters in Europe (Tineri in Europa) (Romania) Tineri in Europe luciadulea.yie@gmail.com
Possible partners	Romania (applicant), Germany, Lithuania, Belgium, Ireland.

Project name	Entrepre NEET
Project aim	To develop young people in a NEET situation into young entrepreneurs by teaching them entrepreneurial skills in a easy to learn, fun and engaging way
Project Type	Youth exchange
Project theme	Youth enterprise
Target group	Young people aged 16to 18 who are in or at risk of being in a NEET situation
Date and time	Wales/ Ireland, Autumn 2017, 7-10 days
Activities foresee	Workshops, mentorships (business partners), group work, practical and recreational activities, culture experience, personal development experience
Leading partner	Padraig McGrath Family Carers Ireland www.youngcarers.ie info@youngcarers.ie pmcgrath@familycarers.ie
Possible partners	Ireland, Wales, open for partners form other countries

Project name	Staff meeting
Project aim	To discover new opportunities, ways of working and programme and activities for future activities for young people
Project Type	KA1 , Youth workers mobility
Target group	Staff of organisations
Date and time	Antwerpen, Belgium. June or October 2017, 1 week
Activities foresee	Meet with participants, staff, families – discuss and learn new methodologies for working with young people, look at results and outcomes Meet policy makers to learn about Europe – new in Belgium and new European possibilities
Leading partner	Marie-Jeanne Sente Tabora vzw (Belgium) www.tabora.be mjsente@gmail.com
Possible partners	Ireland, Belgium and others

Project name	Study visit
Project aim	To enhance partnership and cooperation for development of youth work with young people in a NEET situation
Project Type	Study visit
Target group	4 youth workers, 2 policy makers, 2 young people from each country
Date and time	Aviles, Spain; Belgium
Activities foresee	<p>Spain Sharing good practices and innovative approaches Reinforcing organisational capacities Improving youth work with youngsters in a NEET situation Enhance relationship with partners</p> <p>Belgium Visits to projects working with young people in a NEET situation Meeting with partners and policy makers tackling NEET issues Meeting with young people and families</p> <p>Result: Multiplying learning Starting new local projects Strategic partnerships</p>
Leading partner	Marie-Jeanne Sente Tabora vzw (Belgium) www.tabora.be mjsente@gmail.com
Possible partners	Spain, Belgium

Project name	DOWN-SIDE-UP
Project aim	To raise self-awareness of young people being in or at risk of getting in a situation of NEET using the method of circus and experiential learning for facilitating social and professional inclusion
Project Type	Youth exchange
Target group	Young people aged 17-25, 4+1 leader from each country
Date and time	August 2017 6 programme days + 2 travel days, APV in June 2017
Activities foresee	Circus and experiential learning
Leading partner	Mieke Gielen "Onderstebuiten" (Belgium) mieke.gln@gmail.com mieke.gln@gmail.com
Possible partners	Belgium, Romania, Greece, France

Project name	NEXT LEVEL
Project aim	To enhance self-confidence of young people through event management, English speaking, intercultural understanding
Project Type	2-3 youth exchanges, one major conference
Target group	Young people 18 -25 years old

Date and time	All activities taking place in different partner country, 20 months
Activities foresee	Organisational skills Languages skills Problem solving skills (improvisation) Decision making skills Marketing skills Financial skills (budget planning) Public speaking Self esteem Leadership skills Communication skills Intercultural experience Professional ethics
Leading partner	John Delap Dublin Institute of Technology, Access & Civic Engagement Office (Ireland) http://www.dit.ie/ace/
Possible partners	Spain, Latvia, Greece, France, Ireland

Participant evaluations

At the end of the course, participants were asked to evaluate their experiences using an evaluation form. This asked questions regarding if participants had found partners through the course and results were very positive:

- **90% of participants** reported that they had **found a partner** as a results of this course
- **90% of participants** reported that they had **started to plan an E+ Youth In Action project** as a result of this course

Participants were asked to evaluate the extent to which the course reached its aims and objectives. All participants identified that the course had met its objectives either totally, or to a medium extent.

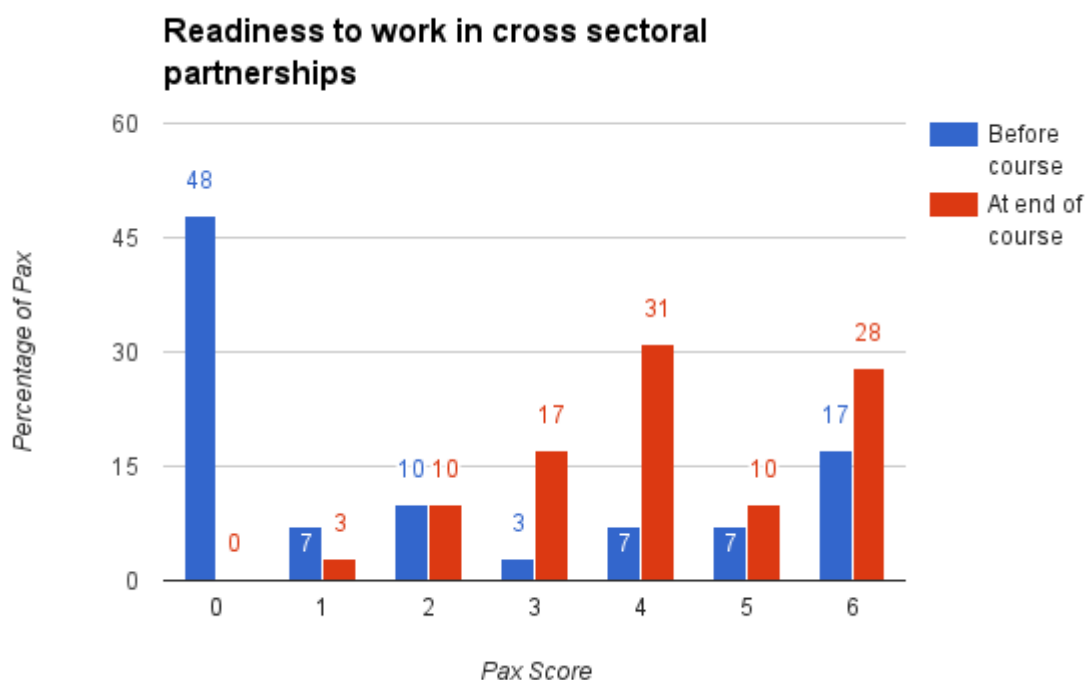
Responses are shown below:

To what extent did this course reach its aims and objectives?	
Response	% of Pax
Not at all	0%
A little	0%
More or less	0%
Medium	59%
Totally	41%

Participants were asked to rate their satisfaction levels with the course. Results indicated that satisfaction levels were very high, shown in the table below:

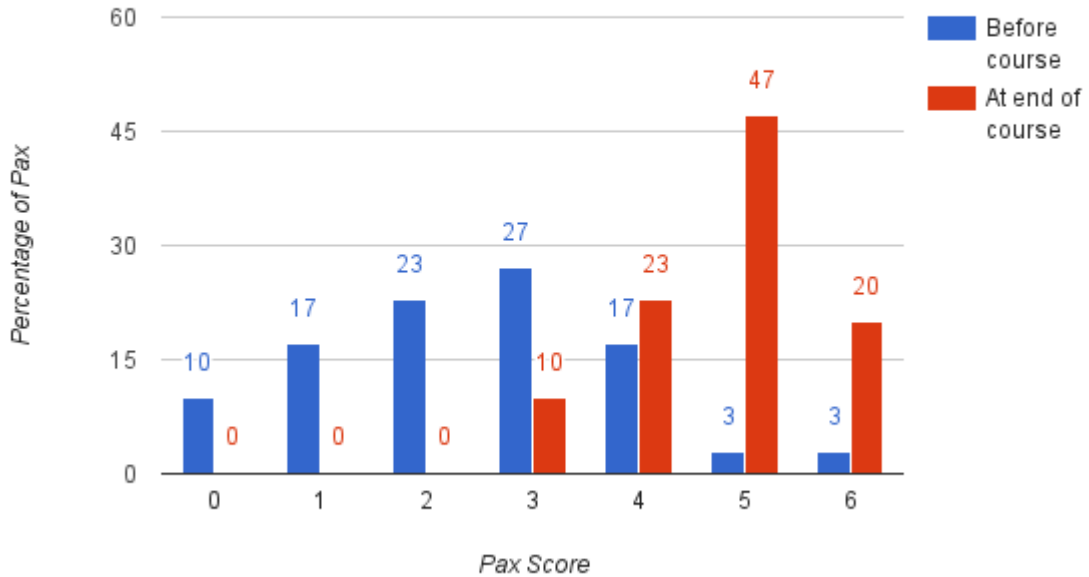
How satisfied were you with.....	Pax average score (Range from 0 - 6)
The materials provided and background documents	5.3
The trainers approach	5.6
The training overall	5.4

Participants were asked to score their readiness to work in cross sectoral partnerships before and after the course. Overall there was a strong improvement in participants readiness to work in cross sectoral partnerships. Results are shown in the graph below:



Participants were asked to score their Knowledge of E+ Youth In action programme possibilities for addressing NEET issues before and after the course. Overall there was a very strong improvement in this area of participants' knowledge. Results are shown in the graph below:

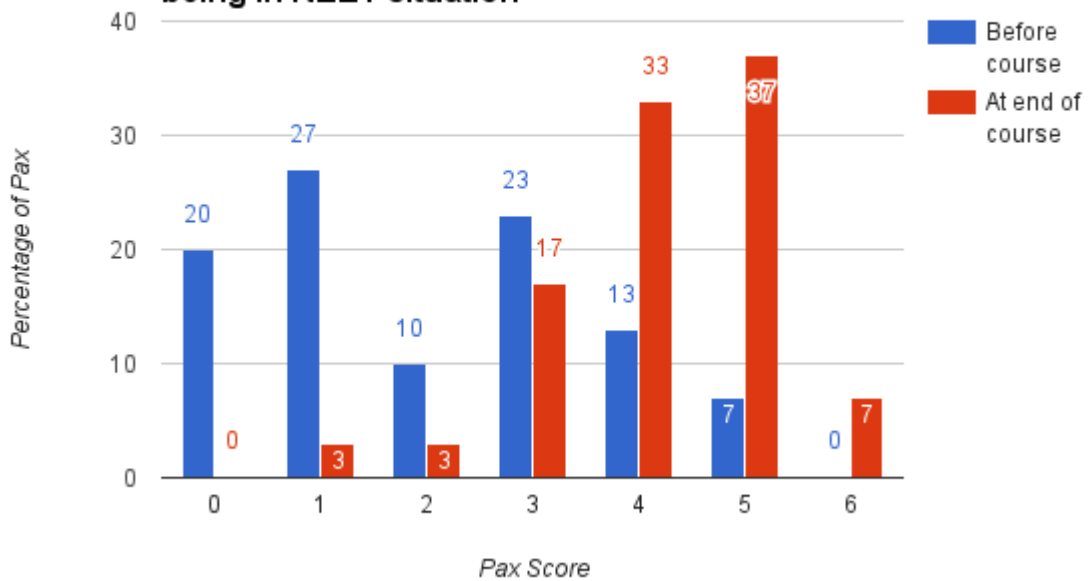
Knowledge of E+: YIA programme possibilities for addressing NEET issues



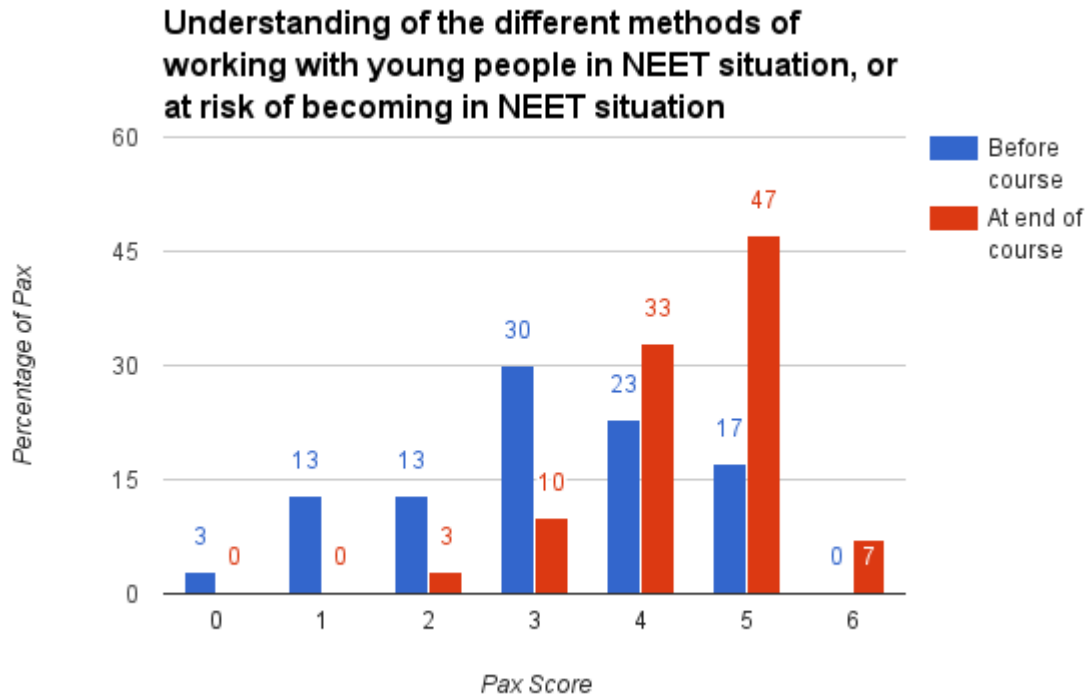
Participants were asked to score their skills to design an E+ YIA project for young people who are in a NEET situation or at risk of being in a NEET situation. Overall there was a strong improvement in participants' skills in this area.

Results are shown in the graph below:

Skills to design an E+ YIA project for young people who are in NEET situation or at risk of being in NEET situation



Participants were asked to score their understanding of the different methods for working with young people in NEET situations or at risk of becoming NEET. Overall there was a good improvement in this area of participants understanding. Results are shown in the graph below:



Participant comments:

Participants were asked to comment on their experiences - a selection of comments is shown below:

- *It brought me the possibility to know new partners and new possibility on E+ programme*
- *I become more effective in my work regarding project creation, management, organisational skills and evaluation*
- *I think it is most important to work in cross sectoral partnerships*
- *I have established a number of professional relationships which I will take away with me*
- *I gain some knowledge on KA2 and practical examples about what can be done for addressing NEET issues in this frame*
- *We plan to develop a project for youngsters who have problems to communicate in English*
- *Not much practical information given on how cross-sectoral partnerships work*
- *It gave me more understanding on NEET issues on local partners working in the field*
- *Food was delicious!*
- *I had good luck to find a partners with experience in writing applications*
- *I expected more innovation...but it seems the project ideas are already known*
- *The information provided in terms of KA2 and EVS was highly useful... I understand the concept of cross-sectoral much better*
- *For me is was a great way to understand where to start to improve to tackle NEET issues*

