

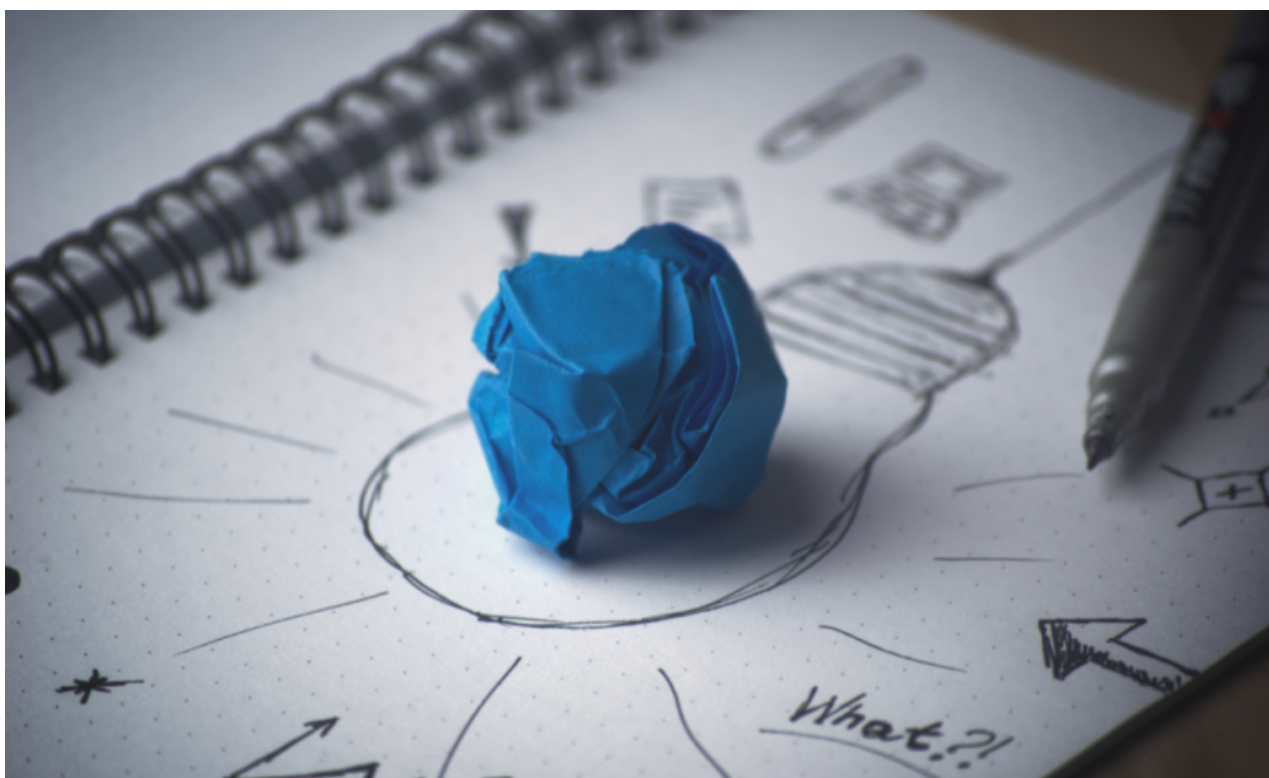
News

Fighting youth exclusion through social innovation



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NEET U.

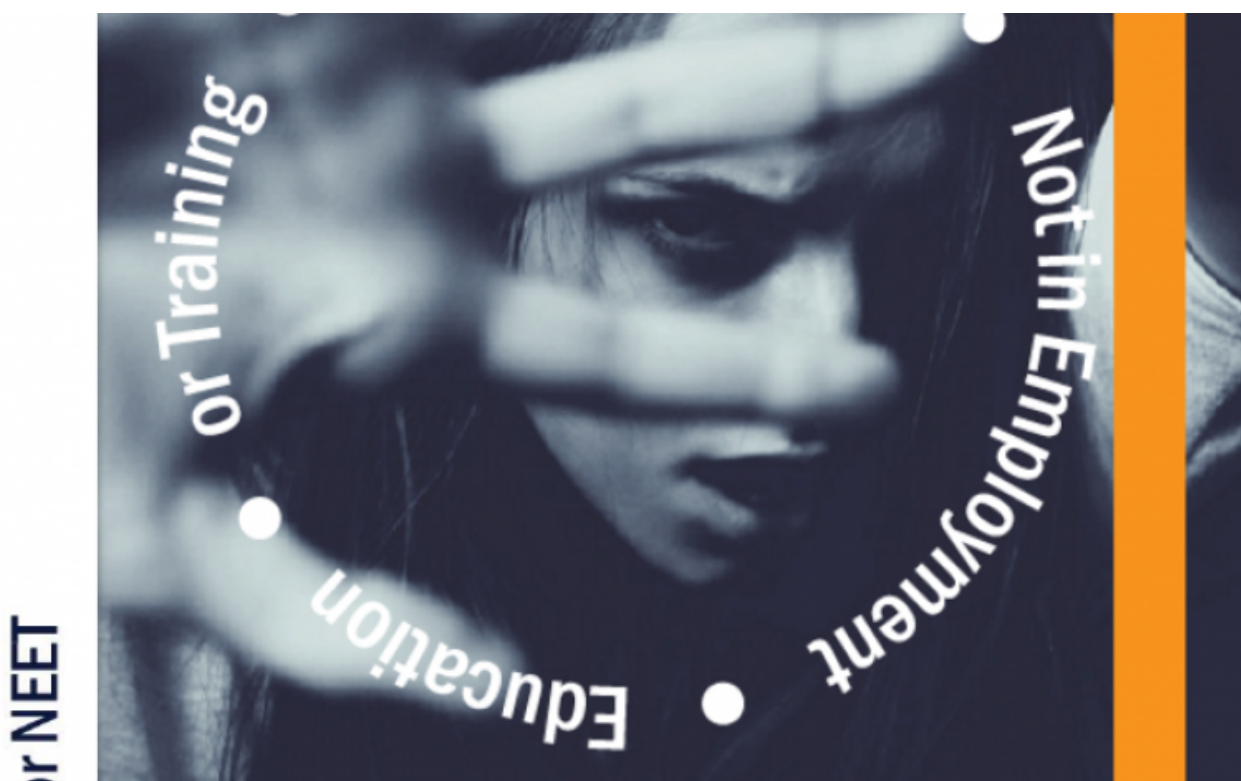
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Capacity-building seminar in Shrewsbury, University of Chester / Photograph: NEET U.



Project participants in the capacity-building seminar / Photograph: NEET U .



Together for NEET.

NEET U, a project funded by the Erasmus+ programme, aims to change Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) situations by re-activating experienced seniors.

How can **social change** be brought about through new citizen-driven alliances in the communities by mobilizing available resources? 9 European organisations have joined together in order to give a response.

NEET U combines two important social and educational challenges: re-activate the increasing number of **experienced seniors** with social and educational potential to help counter the dramatic increase in **depressed social situations** among **young people**, with the mission to generate **social and educational value** from the dynamic interaction between these two “**out of the economy**” population groups.

This is a Strategic Partnership project funded by the [Erasmus+](#) programme (Key Action 2), which started in September 2015 and will end in March 2018. It is implemented in 5 different territories of experimentation: Romania, Slovenia, Italy, Spain and France.

What is the philosophy of NEET U?

Seniors work together with NEET youth in order to help in achieving their **mission**. The premise of the project is that NEET youth in dead-end situations, who only have resources from very limited and closed circles of society, cannot simply change the situation and break out of the closed circles through making a big jump. Experienced seniors act as brokers by **breaking practical and emotional barriers**.

What is different from other mentoring-based programmes for young people at risk?

Seniors are understood as **brokers** and not as mentors. Emotional relations are not necessary; instead, the relationships built with the young people are **working relations** and will be created along and through **practical collaboration** in concrete missions.

In addition, no special professional or educational background is needed to become a broker. Often good brokers are **strong drivers of initiatives**, based on a variety of experiences and based on a very action and **change-oriented mentality**.

NEET at the core of social innovation

In addition to NEET U, several other European projects are currently approaching youth exclusion by focusing on NEET. [Together for NEET](#), a project also funded by the Erasmus+ programme, aims to create synergies between diversified stakeholders (education institutions, youth sector, labor market) in order to **explore together effective measures** and interventions for the **better reintegration of NEET youth** in society, education and labor market. One of the objectives of this project is to identify the experiences carried out in Europe within this framework. You can find a brief description of the projects on its [website](#).

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