



The Youth Prop-Up Programme

Support services through youth centres to 15-26-year old NEET youth to facilitate their (re-)entry into education or employment

ESTONIA

Title of the practice (in original language)

Noorte Tugila programm

Who is/was implementing the practice?

The Association of Estonian Open Youth Centres

Which other organisations are/were involved in the practice?

The Ministry of Education and Research launched the programme under the ESF project 'Inclusion of youth at risk of social exclusion and improvement of youth employability' implemented by the Estonian Youth Work Centre. Other stakeholders involved include: public employment services (PES), pathfinder centres, local municipalities and youth centres.

What are/were the main objectives of the practice?

The objective of the programme is to identify NEET youth (e.g. through mobile youth work, networking, etc.), motivate and provide individualised support in order to assist youth in returning to school or work.

When was the practice implemented?

Since 2015 (ongoing)

Who is/was targeted by the practice?

The programme is targeting young people aged from 15 to 26 who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).

What activities are/were carried out?

The activities of the Youth Prop-Up programme are centred around four phases:

1. Identifying young people through mobile youth work and networking. The purpose of mobile work is to reach young people that do not go to or know about youth centres. Youth workers approach young people in different places they gather in order to establish trust and share information about youth work possibilities (including the Youth Prop-Up programme). In addition, the network of partners (PES, the Pathfinder Centres, social workers) is used to reach out to young people. For example, when young people register at the PES as unemployed or to receive other services, the PES can provide information about the Youth Prop-Up programme and encourage them to contact one of the youth centres. Seminars for specialists working with young people organised within the project enhance the cooperation between partners.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Establishing a trusting contact with individuals in order to help them sort out their aspirations and ambitions. 3. Through the youth work motivating the participants, developing their practical knowledge and skills, or facilitating their entry into the labour market. 4. Keeping regular contact with the participants for at least six months after their exit from the programme.
<p>What are/were the sources of funding?</p>	<p>The programme is co-funded by the European Social Fund. A total of EUR 3 141 798 was committed to the programme in 2015-2018 (ESF EUR 2 670 528, national co-financing EUR 471 270).</p>
<p>What are/were the outputs: people reached and products?</p>	<p>People reached By the end of 2017, 4 361 young people have been offered support in the programme.</p> <p>Products In 2017, a Youth Prop-Up programme report was published. The report was based on the analysis of logbook data (this is the electronic monitoring system used by the youth centres to collect daily statistics). The aim of the analysis was to get an overview/create a profile of young people in NEET situation who have received support services through the programme. The analysis looked at the participants' age, gender, educational background, work experience and how the young person was found / how contact was made. In addition, the analysis looked at the goals young people set for themselves / what they hoped to achieve by participating in the programme and the actual outcomes of the programme. This information helped the programme promoters to evaluate, among other things, how effective the implementation of the programme has been.</p>
<p>What are/were the outcomes: medium-term results or effects?</p>	<p>Out of 4 361 young people who have been offered support services through the programme, 2 302 young people have exited the programme and for 1 308 of them 6 months had passed from their exit. Out of these 1 308 young people, 882 young people were in a positive situation 6 months after the exit – meaning that they were in employment, education, or in both education and employment, completing their compulsory military service, or were on maternity leave. Additional 145 young people managed to surpass negative situations (lack of permanent housing, tumultuous relationship with parents/family members) in which they were before the programme that prevented them from entering the labour market or going to school. The Youth-Prop Up specialist assisted them in finding housing, providing family counselling or finding childcare services.</p>
<p>What are/were the lessons learnt and success factors?</p>	<p>Lessons learnt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having an electronic monitoring system (i.e. logbook) is important for collecting daily statistics and analysing data on participants. • Networking between various stakeholders (public employment services, pathfinder centres, local municipalities, youth centres, etc.) is key to offer appropriate services to young people in a timely manner. • Planning (how to reach NEET youth, create an overview of available services) is of utmost importance in order to be able to make meaningful contact with NEET youth and inform them about the available services. • International cooperation¹ has increased knowledge about different practices in other countries to support young people. <p>Success factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific criteria for young people participating in the programme other than age limit between 15 to 26. <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>¹ Estonian Ministry of Education and Research and the Association of Estonian Open Youth Centres takes part in the Flagship School to Work initiative. In addition, the Association of Estonian Open Youth Centres, together with Iceland, Italy and Portugal, will participate in the strategic partnership project "Community Guarantee" financed under Erasmus+. The project aims to develop a manual for offering support services for NEETs.</p>

- Young people are offered support even if they do not disclose any personal information.
- Activities are carried out by professional youth workers using non-formal and informal learning methods.
- The programme is offered by 45 youth centres in 55 municipalities (altogether there are 79 municipalities in Estonia).
- Collaboration between various stakeholders (public employment services, pathfinder centres, local municipalities, youth centres, etc.) has increased and improved.
- A network of specialists guarantee that young people will receive the services they need, no matter where first contact with the young person was made.
- The awareness of the local municipalities and public at large of the target group (i.e., NEET youth) has increased.

What are key sources of information?

<https://ank.ee/youth-prop-up-programme-description/>

<https://ank.ee/raamatukogu/report-on-the-statistical-data-analysis-of-the-youth-centre-logbook-noorte-tugilayouth-prop-up/>