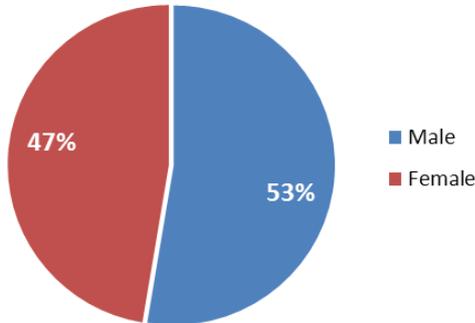


NEETs Questionnaire Results analysis Bulgaria

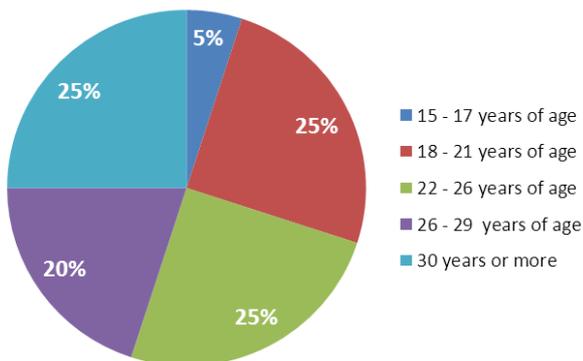
Number of respondents: 20 (twenty)

Gender



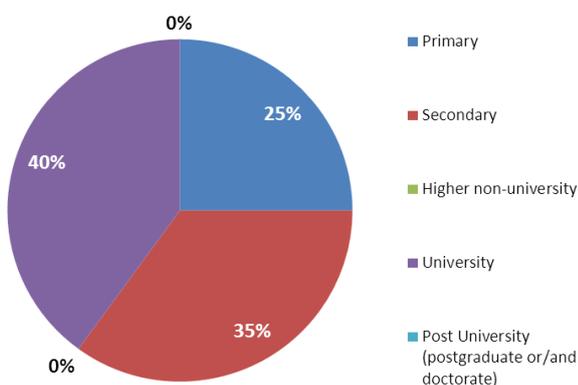
The number of men and women among respondents is almost even. 10 (ten) male and 9 (nine) female have answered the questionnaire. One respondent skipped answering this question.

In which age group do you belong?



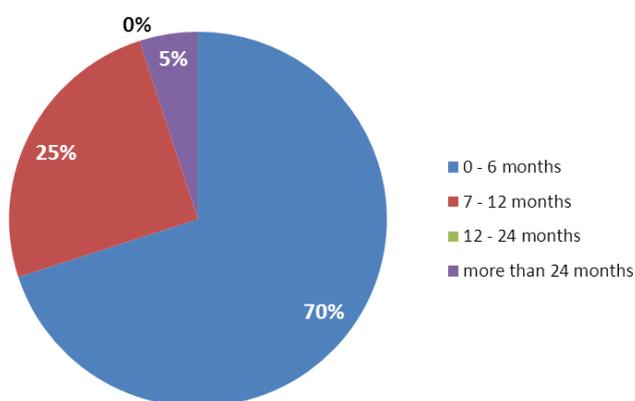
In view of the age of the participants in this survey, 1 (one) is at the age between 15-17 years, 5 (five) belong to the group between 18-21 years of age, other 5 (five) are between 22-26 years old, 4 (four) are at the age of 26-29 and other 5 (five) are representatives of the age group of thirty year-olds and above.

Highest level of formal education



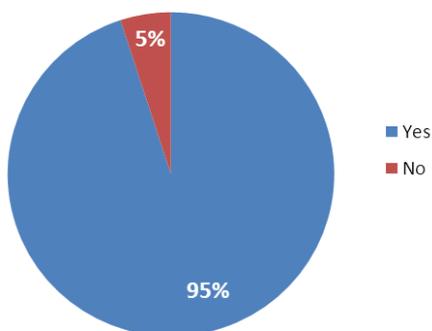
40% (eight people) of the respondents are University graduates. Holders of secondary education diploma are 35% (seven people) of the interviewed and 25% (five people) have graduated primary education. These results indicate that the educational level cannot be considered determinative by default for whether someone will fall into the NEETs group or not. It may be a reason for not getting the exact desired job but surely isn't decisive for being unemployed.

Duration of unemployment



More than half of the respondents 70% or 14 people are being unemployed for a period of up to 6 (six) months. 25% (5 people) are out of the labour market in-between 7-12 months and 1 (one) has been unemployed for more than 2 (two) years now. The lack of attention, care and measures to change this situation is about to lead to further extension of the problem. Those 70% are heading to the way of long-term unemployment¹ and the longer this period gets, the harder it becomes to successfully reenter the labour market.

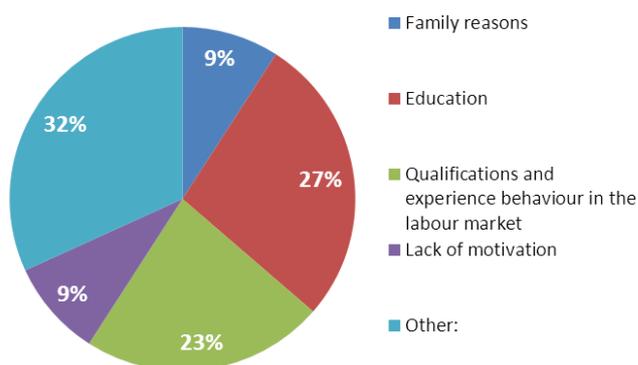
Are you registered in the public employment services?



95% of the people interviewed are registered in the public employment services – in the case of Bulgaria – the local labour office. Only one of the respondents is out of the registers but the answer of the next question (annotating the present) shows that this is due to recent drop out of work.

Although, based on the results of a previous question we've made the conclusion that educational level is not necessarily determinative for becoming a NEET, answers here of 27% of the respondents show that, in their case, is the main reason for being unemployed. Other 23% think that their qualifications and behavior on the labour market may be the reason. It is interesting that such a small number of 9% (only 2 people) report lack of motivation as the main reason for their unemployment. The same number are unemployed due to family reasons. The rest of the respondents that form 32% give other reasons for being out of the labour market such as:

What are the main reasons you are not in employment?



- finished campaign;
- lack of satisfactory position and payment;
- low payment compared to the qualification;
- no suitable companies in the region offering jobs in the specialty;
- expired project;
- expired contract.

¹ Long-term unemployment is a period of 27 weeks or more.

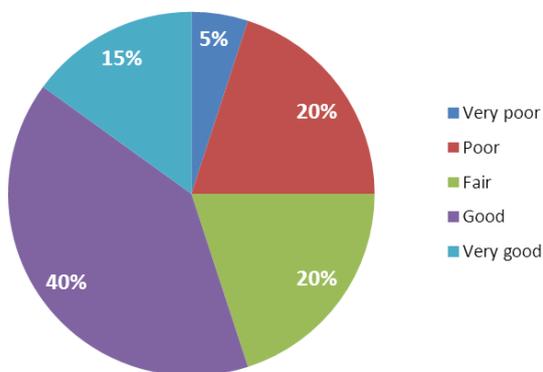
Some answers come to show a key element which forms the core of the problem, namely the mismatch between youth expectations, skills and qualifications and the real situation on the labour market. Young people want a high wage that can cover all their needs here and now. But entering the labour market with no experience, poor skills, improper or insufficient qualification is surely not the way to achieve the goal.

Please describe what is the background of the reason/s that you have ticked in the previous question.

Only 13 people have answered this question.

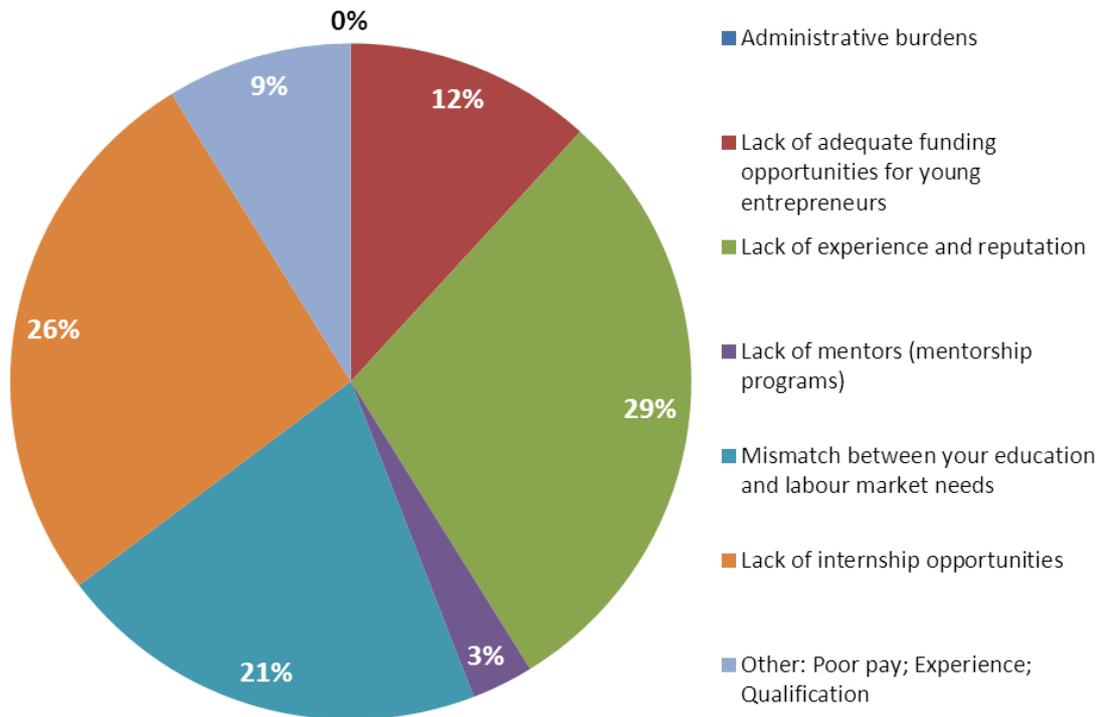
- There is no job suitable for the education I have.
- My parents do not agree to with the opportunity for me to go to work in another city.
- The wage for the vacant positions is very low.
- A condition for the job I like is at least secondary level of education
- I do not have the necessary experience.
- The primary education.
- I was involved in a project that expired and the employer terminated my contract.
- The campaign I was involved in expired.
- I changed my permanent address.
- The education I have is not professional.
- I would like the positions I apply for to offer a normal wage for my work, providing for life of full value.
- I have been working abroad.
- If there is no motivation, there is not much work done.

How would you rate the level of support provided to unemployed youth by the national public employment services of your country?



When assessing the work of the national public employment services in terms of unemployed youth 40% of the respondents give a good praise to the level of support provided. Other 20% think it is poor, 20% again rate it fair. 15% believe that young unemployed receive support of a very good level and only one person thinks the support provided is very poor. The need of special assistance and wider range of services at many levels is a must. Prevention measures, better awareness, qualified specialists, career days, consulting and further support are just few good options for the national public employment services to think on and to try to provide for the needs of the NEETs.

What are the main obstacles that you face when trying to find a job?



The respondents have rated the main obstacles (among the listed) when trying to find a job. The three most common answers were: lack of experience and reputation (chosen 10 times), lack of internship opportunities (chosen 9 times) and mismatch between the education of the applicant and the labour market needs (chosen 7 times). Four people find the lack of funding opportunities for young entrepreneurs problematic when searching for job. One of the respondents points out the lack of mentor and/or relative programmes as an issue. Other problems are low wages, experience and qualification issues.

What measures could be taken by both the state and other actors to reduce youth unemployment? What do you expect from society to do for you?

15 People have given suggestions of youth unemployment reduction measures. Here are some of them:

- Adequate state policy.
- State support for young people.
- Raise the average wage for skilled labor.
- Vocational courses.
- Providing opportunities for vocational guidance and education, labour exchange.
- Conclusion of contracts after graduation, labour market regulation, synchronization between education and employers.
- More information.
- More job offers.
- Promotion of vocational qualification.
- The payment for young people in Bulgaria should be equal to the payment in other European countries. Opportunities for internship and qualification should be provided.
- Higher wages and more tolerance towards young and inexperienced workers.
- I do not expect anything.
- It is necessary to create factories, which will reduce unemployment, especially in the small towns.

What is your preferred expert field for the future?

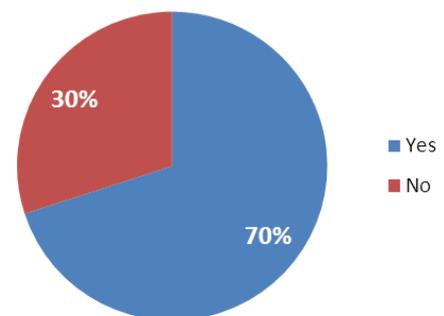
16 of the respondents have ideas of how to get into the labour market, some are wider – just mentioning the professional field, others are more specific and already wish for an exact position, or in another case – evaluate their chances as better when applying for this position.

- social sphere
- job as a model
- job in a bank
- accounting
- private sector
- job as a labourer
- telecommunications and media
- information communications
- administration services
- job as a construction, builder
- job as a sanitary worker in a social cares center
- professional development
- educational field
- interior design and woodworking
- lots of ideas that take time to be realized
- performing administrative, accounting activities

14 of the respondents report that they know their competences and name them as follows:

- Enthusiasm, rigor, motivation.
- I have ideas
- Basic, accurate, aware of matter
- Labourer
- education supported by professional experience, foreign languages
- computer literacy, organizational skills, video and photo shoots
- work with machine tools - grinding machine, sewing machine mechanic, communication engineer
- administrative management
- construction worker
- in the field of woodworking, furniture production
- skills for the care, training and support of children in primary and preschool age. Skills to support disadvantaged children.
- almost entirely focused on woodworking
- I do not want to share them
- performing activities related to the organization and planning of tasks within a certain timeframe.

Do you know your competences?



The answers given show that the respondents don't understand the meaning of "competences" and cannot define their own. Some give information about the skills they have others point out features of their characters but none of them can fully explain what he/she *can do, how, by using what means, etc.*

What do you think you could contribute to society?

14 of the respondents have written how they think they may contribute to the society:

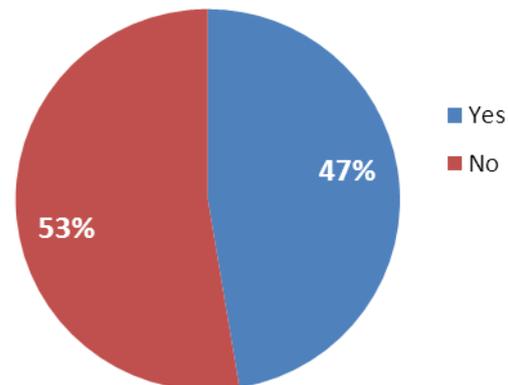
- As I work what I have studied for.
- By working a lot.
- By working actively and with motivation.
- By working.
- Conscientiously fulfilling of the official duties. With sense of incorruptibility.
- With an active position, using different and new channels of communication to direct public attention to specific, significant issues.
- With the knowledge I have.
- With mu skills for working in construction.
- I can help people in need and comprehend their pains.
- With skilled labor.
- With desire and motivation to learn other people and to improve myself.
- Throughout volunteer activities.
- With my motivation for a good future.
- With good concentration and confidence.

10 out of 19 answers here show that these people don't know what could help them reenter education/labour market.

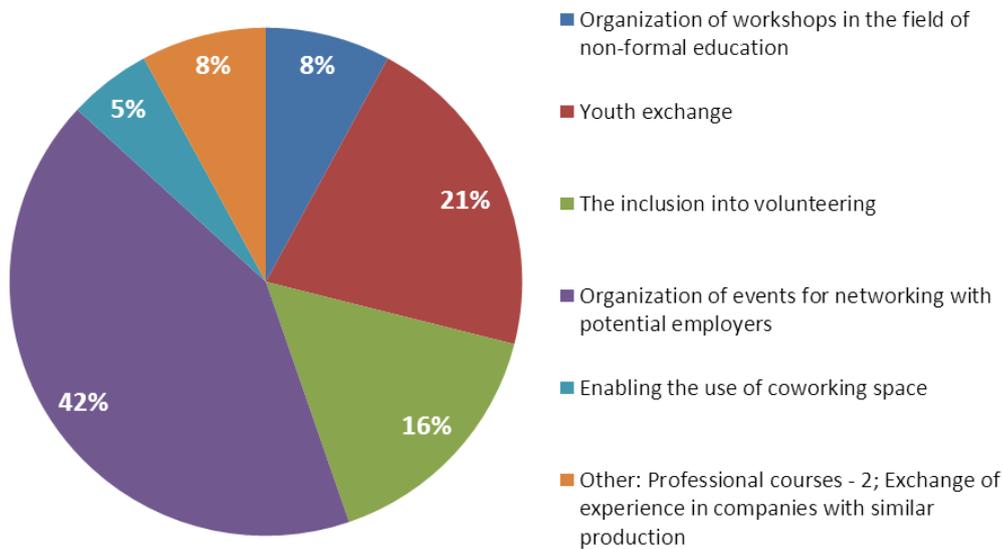
The other 9 (47%) who declare knowing the resources necessary list them the following way:

- professional course;
- financial resources, an agile and helpful mind, a desire for personal development;
- work on acquired education;
- qualification;
- enhancing education;
- ensuring good wage, additional training for qualification improvement;
- mediation of the labor office;
- if a person is responsible, loyal and consistent he/she will manage to find a job.

Do you know what are the available resources that would help you go back to school/Faculty or finding a job?



Please provide how youth work could play a role in reducing youth unemployment and/or any other comment you might have on the specific issue



***YOUTH WORK:** Youth work can be defined as a broad range of activities (e.g. social, cultural, educational, sports-related and political) carried out with, by and for young people through non-formal and informal learning. Youth work has three essential features:

- ✓ Young people choose to participate;
- ✓ The work takes place where the young people are;
- ✓ It recognizes that the young person and the youth worker are partners in a learning process.

Youth work helps young people to reach their full potential. It encourages personal development, autonomy, initiative and participation in society. (http://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/implementation/work_en.htm)

Organization of events for networking with potential employers is the most frequently chosen response among those listed. 16 (sixteen) of the respondents (42%) think this is the best approach to youth unemployment reduction. Youth exchange could be a proper solution according to 8 (eight) of the respondents (21%). 6 (six) people (16%) think that youth unemployment could be reduced by the inclusion into volunteering. These three options of youth work as means of unemployment reduction seem to be most highly supported. A reason for that could be the fact that they are also the most well-known among the general audience. In other words, youth work activities. Therefore, the diversity of youth work activities should get greater public popularity and people should be better informed about the opportunities for promotion, support and/or participation. Organization of workshops in the field of non-formal education is seen as a good option by 3 (three) people and other 2 think that enabling the use of coworking may be a sufficient tool for the reduction of youth unemployment. Only 3 (three) people have used the option to give their own suggestions. Two of them think that professional courses will support young people with more skills and better qualification and will provide for their insertion in to the labour market. Another unemployment reduction measure is the exchange of experience in companies with similar production according to one of the respondents.