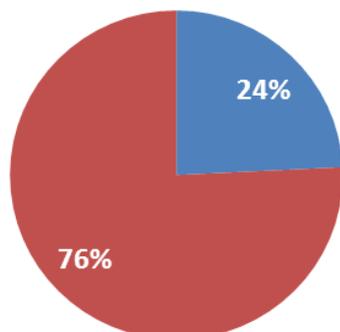


YOUTH WORKERS Questionnaire analysis Bulgaria

Number of respondents: 20

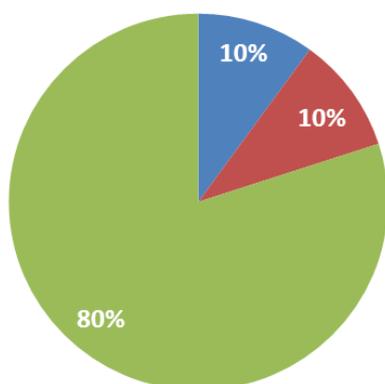
Gender



■ Male ■ Female

24% of the respondents are male and female are about three times more – 76%. This is a tendency in general in Bulgaria that women tend to work in the social field and especially with children more often than men do.

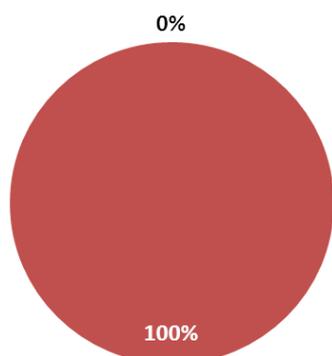
Highest level of formal education?



■ Secondary
■ Higher non-university
■ University
■ Post University (post graduate or/and doctorate)

80% of the participants in the survey are university graduates. 10% of the whole number have higher non-university education and the other 10% graduated secondary school.

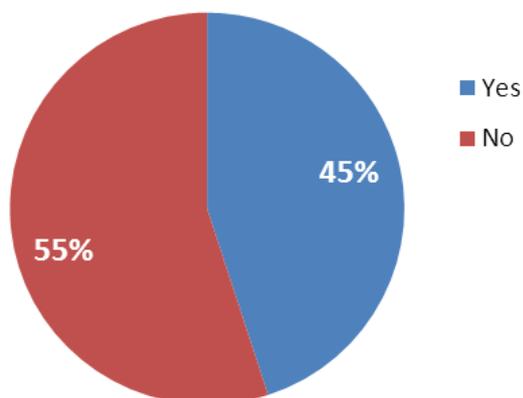
Do you have any educational qualifications in the field of youth work?



■ Yes
■ No

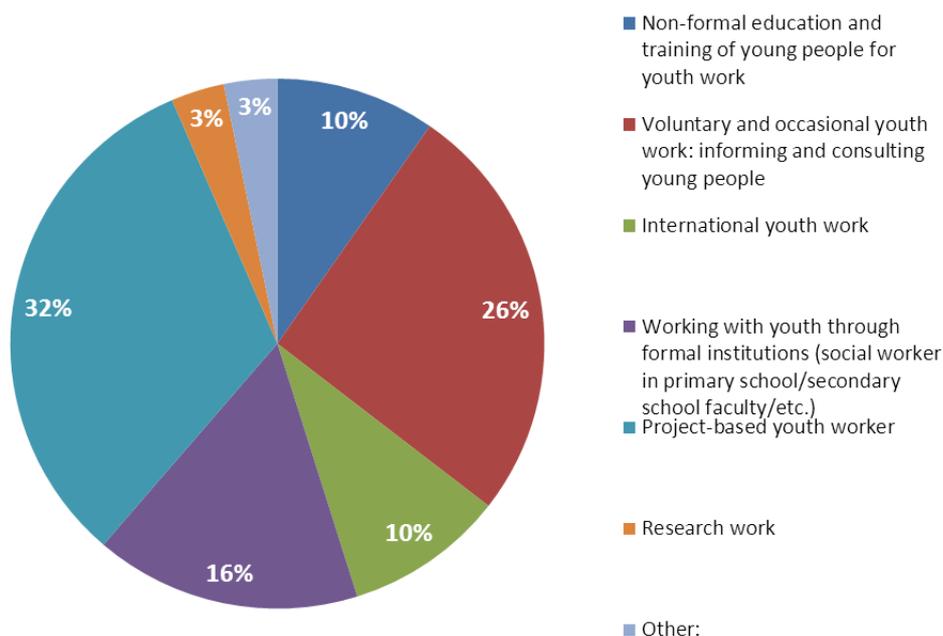
None of the respondents declare having any educational qualification in the field of youth work – neither formal, nor informal. This undeniably is a sign of lack of opportunities for relevant qualification.

Are you a member of NGO?



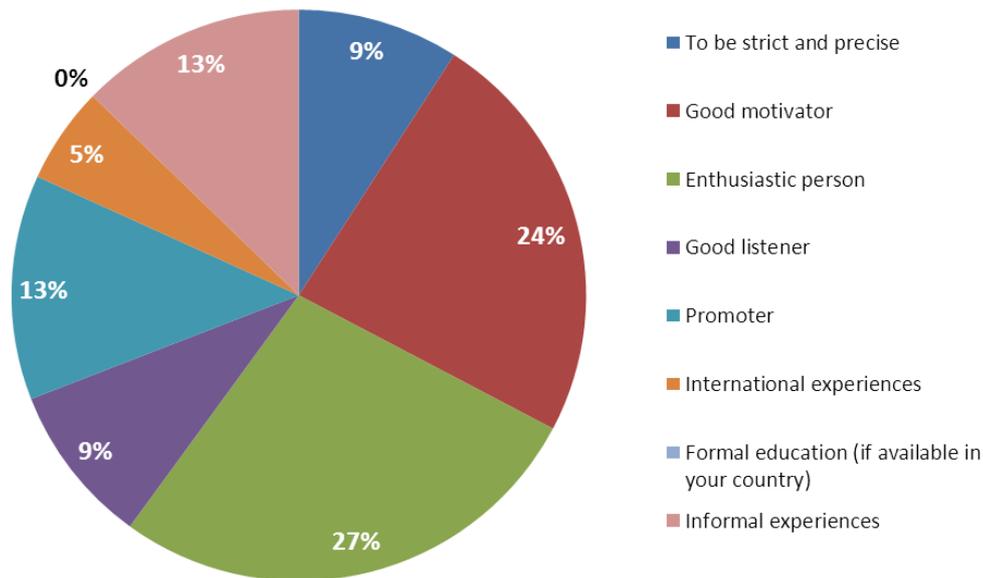
55% of the people who answered the questionnaire are members of NGO. The fact that most of the respondents interested in youth issues are NGO representatives may evidence that a growing number of the latter have foreseen the need of providing opportunities for the educational qualification and the better public awareness in the field of youth.

I am active youth worker via/through/as/in:



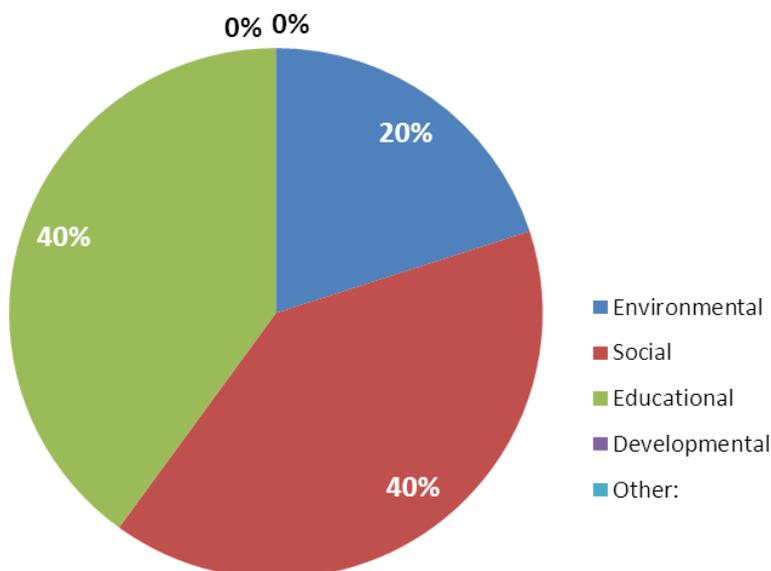
Youth workers are helping young people to develop their skills and talents mainly during their extracurricular time and through informal education. In terms of this the role of 32% of the participant in the survey is project-based youth work. Other 26% are doing voluntary and occasional youth work, including informing and consulting young people. The third among the higher results is the value of 16% of people who are working with youth through formal institutions, in the capacity of social workers in school of different educational levels. Fewer of the respondents are acting in terms of international youth work, research work or other forms of youth related activities. Such allocation of the roles of the respondents gives a broader view of the youth sector in general and allows for the recognition and comparison of different points of view.

What are the main characteristics and/or values for youth worker (choose three):



When asked about the main characteristics and/or values for the youth workers respondents rate four (among the listed) as most important, namely: being an enthusiastic person, being a good motivator and the third place is shared by being a promoter and having informal experiences. All of the aforementioned are in the range of the so called “soft skills”. In other words practically everyone could be a youth worker, no matter age, gender or level of education as soon as they are motivated enough and manage to share, promote and encourage this motivation among youth. However, more information, better understanding of youth issues and innovative approaches are needed to support youth workers.

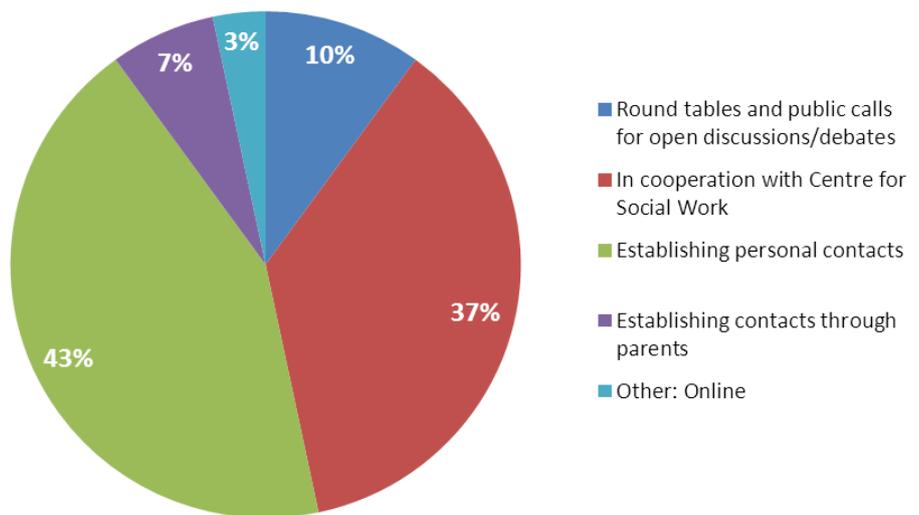
In which field do you work?



40% of the respondents work in the social field, other 40% in the educational system and the 20% rest deal with environmental issues in their job.

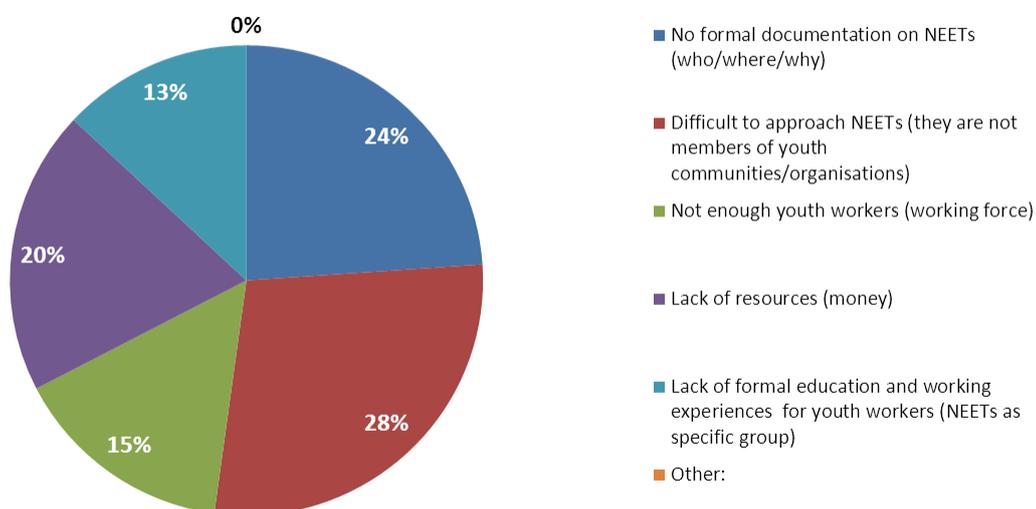
The results of the survey show that the most common approach to NEETs is the establishment of personal contacts. 37% of the respondents cooperate with Social Work Centres in terms of approaching NEETs. Much fewer establish contacts through parents (only 7%). Such results may be a sign for the need of more sufficient cooperation and communication between youth workers and parents at earlier stage – school level. The better dialogue and prevention measures within the family and the more efficient participation of the parents in their children’s life would affect further development, orientation and motivation and provide for youth better involvement in community life.

How do you approach NEETs?



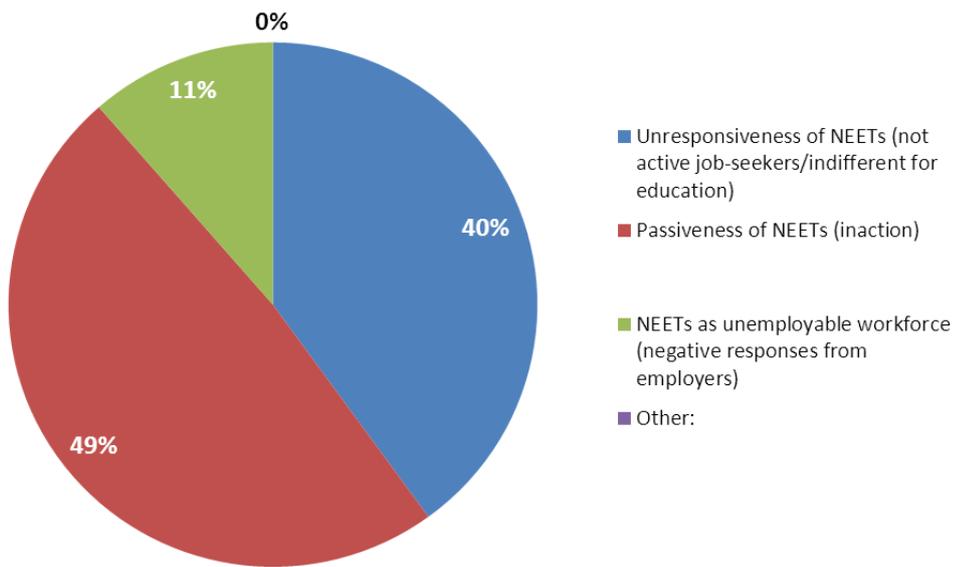
The better dialogue and prevention measures within the family and the more efficient participation of the parents in their children’s life would affect further development, orientation and motivation and provide for youth better involvement in community life.

What logistical problems do you encounter working with NEETs ?



The questionnaire focused on five major logistical problems in working with NEETs. As two most substantial, with rates of 28% and 24% appear the difficulties to approach NEETs, as they are not members of youth communities/organizations and the fact that there is no formal documentation on NEETs. The lack of financial resources is another considerable obstacle affecting NEETs work. The insufficient number of youth workers and the lack of formal education in the field of NEETs in specific are rated last but they are surely not to be underestimated. The fact that these five issues had been clearly defined as problematic and are being observed by this survey and the relatively close results come to show that besides any rates here every effort in overcoming these problems is a step forward and will contribute to remedy the situation.

What implementation problems do you encounter working with NEETs ?

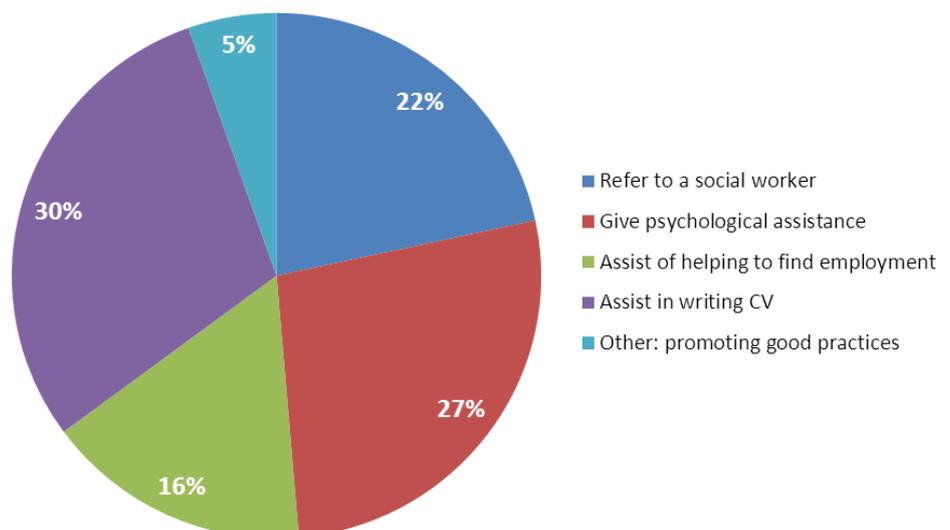


As the biggest problem when working with NEETs, among the listed in the questionnaire, respondents determine the inaction, the passiveness of this youth group. Almost half of the people (49%) find this decisive. Other 40% assess the unresponsiveness of NEETs as most problematic, the fact that these young people are neither

actively seeking for job nor being interested in any form of education. A long period of such indifference might grow to total social and communitarian exclusion and lead to numerous serious problems not only for NEETs themselves but for the community. 11% of the answers determine NEETs being an unemployable workforce as the main problem. This definition for NEETs comes out of negative responses from employers due to NEETs' qualification, habits, attitude or total unfitness. None of the respondents indicate other implementation problems.

The two most common prevention measures used by the respondents are the assistance in writing a CV (30%) and the provision of psychological assistance (27%). 22% of the people refer to a social worker and other 16% assist by helping NEETs to find employment. 5% of the respondents use the promotion of good practices as a prevention measure.

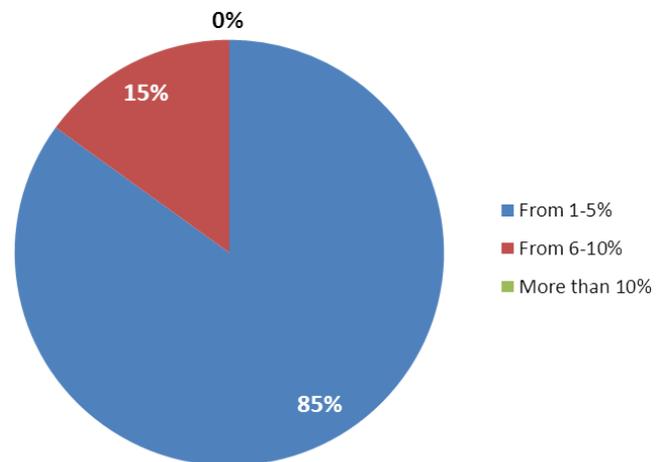
What prevention measures do you take?



According to the experience of 85% of the respondents the rate of success to get NEETs involved in any form of education or employment is only between 1-5%.

15% have answered that they have succeeded to make NEETs get a job or education in 6-10% of the cases. These are very poor results. Numbers here need to rise rapidly and sustainably. If the tendency here doesn't change for good the mismatches between youth (expectations, skills, qualification) and labour market and the business will widen and complicate.

What is the rate of success (get them involved into non-formal and formal education, getting a job) with NEETS according to your experiences?



What can be improved in your work when approaching and working with NEETS?

Few of the respondents have specified how approach and work with NEETS could be improved:

- First of all, a research on NEETS actual up-to-date numbers must be made and a system of supervision and prevention since early school age must be drafted and implemented.
- National policies are a must. There must be a better coordination between the needs of the labour market and the education provided.
- Optimized publicity and cooperation between the institutions in terms of the promotion of this youth group, the display and the summation of the difficulties encountered in the processes of coverage and work with group.

How do you think you can improve your work with NEETS to achieve better results?

- by using successful European practices, adapted to our reality.
- by establishing more contacts, involving more resources - human, financial in order to improve interaction and work. By introduction of compulsory training and experience related to working with this specific group.
- by encouraging them to enjoy their personal achievements and form a moderate optimism, ambition and sense of responsibility towards their own life and development.