

A Place for Youth in Mediterranean EEA: Resilient and Sharing Economies for NEETs

Newsletter #2

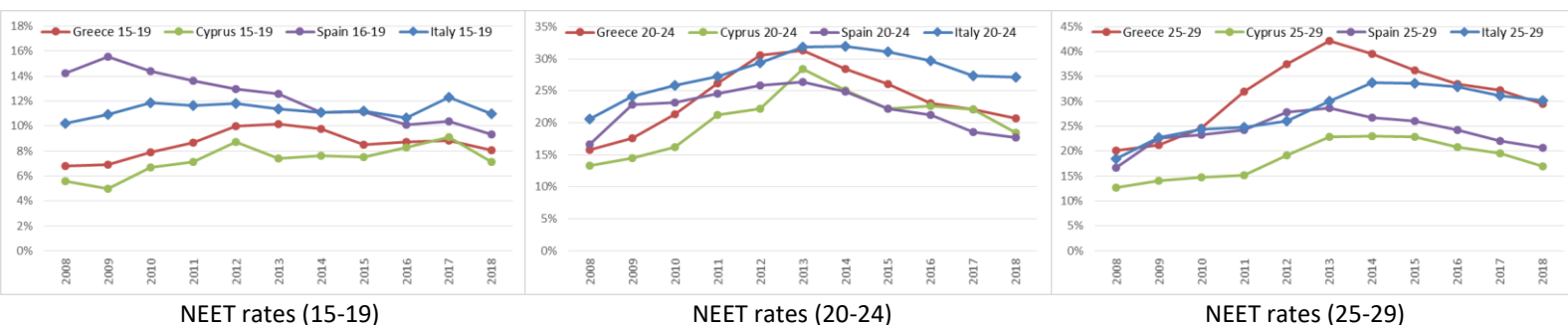
August 2019

Understanding the Impact(s): NEETs Geographies

The YOUTHShare project employs a wholistic approach to allow for the maximisation of the intervention's impact at later stages regarding the reduction of youth unemployment or the support of NEETs in the labour market. With the view to developing substantial solutions for NEETs in coastal and insular locations of the Southern Europe, the first and most essential step is to identify the impact of previous policy initiatives. A proper assessment of their impact is necessary before the development of more impactful policies.

In that framework, one of the major deliverables of the YOUTHShare project is the *Transnational Report on Employment Initiatives' Impact on Resilient Sectors in MED EEA*.

The findings up to date, with data from Labour Force Surveys of Eurostat and National Statistical Authorities, are revealing. The NEETs phenomenon seems to be a deeply complicated one, with structural features. The impact of previous policies, evidently, seems lower than expected; although, further research is being conducted on that matter.



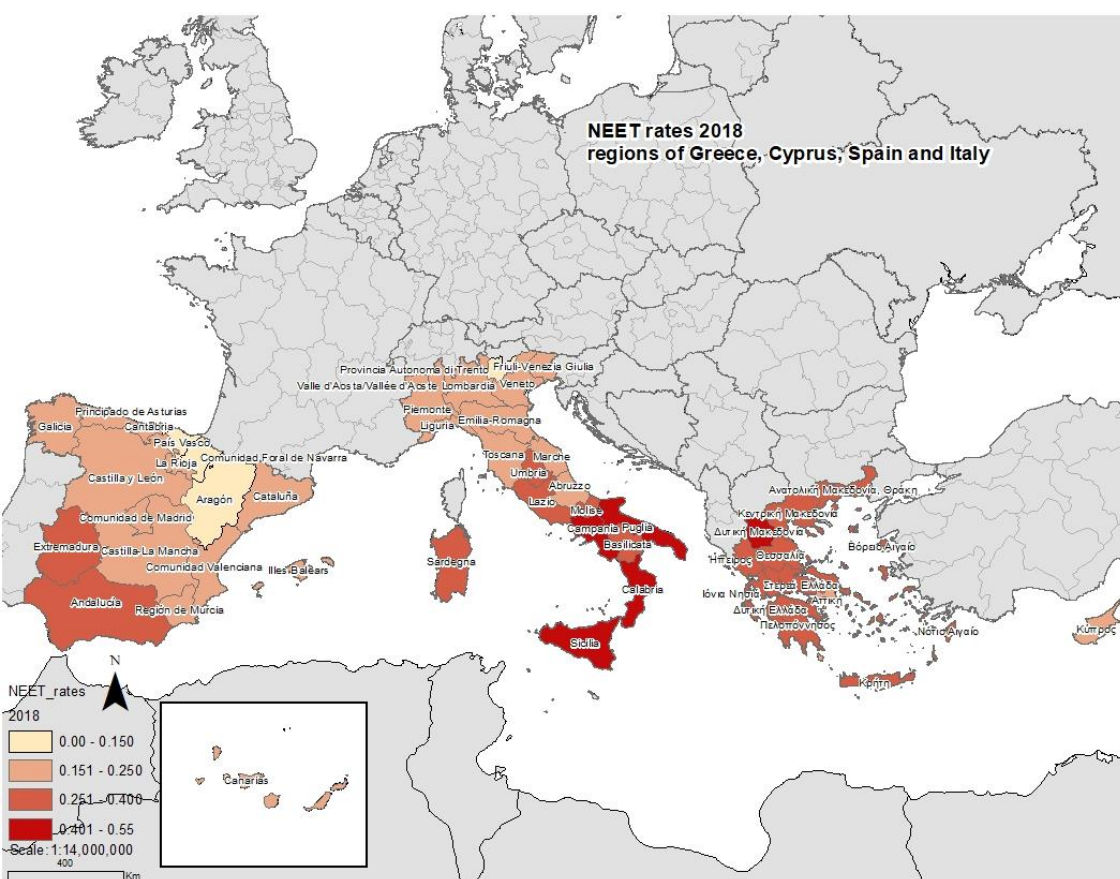
As expected, the NEETs phenomenon has been exacerbated by the economic crisis, but it presents considerable persistence in the countries in focus (Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Spain) throughout the recession. What is more interesting, though, is the quantitative differences between age spans. Although, NEETs between 15 and 19 years old tend to decrease or at least stabilise from 2008 to 2018, their rate to the general population for ages 25 to 29 years old, present more violent fluctuations, especially in Greece and Italy. The rate has, indeed, picked in 2013 and 2014 but the diagram on the right reveals its slow reduction, compared to the beginning of the crisis in 2008. Still, the volume of NEETs in Italy and Cyprus is currently 50% higher than it used to be! The NEET phenomenon remains in an alarming condition in Mediterranean EEA countries.

In addition to age differentiations, NEET's spatial distribution is also revealing. Italy presents a significant uneven concentration of NEETs in the South, who appear to be inactive in majority. A common spatial feature in all three

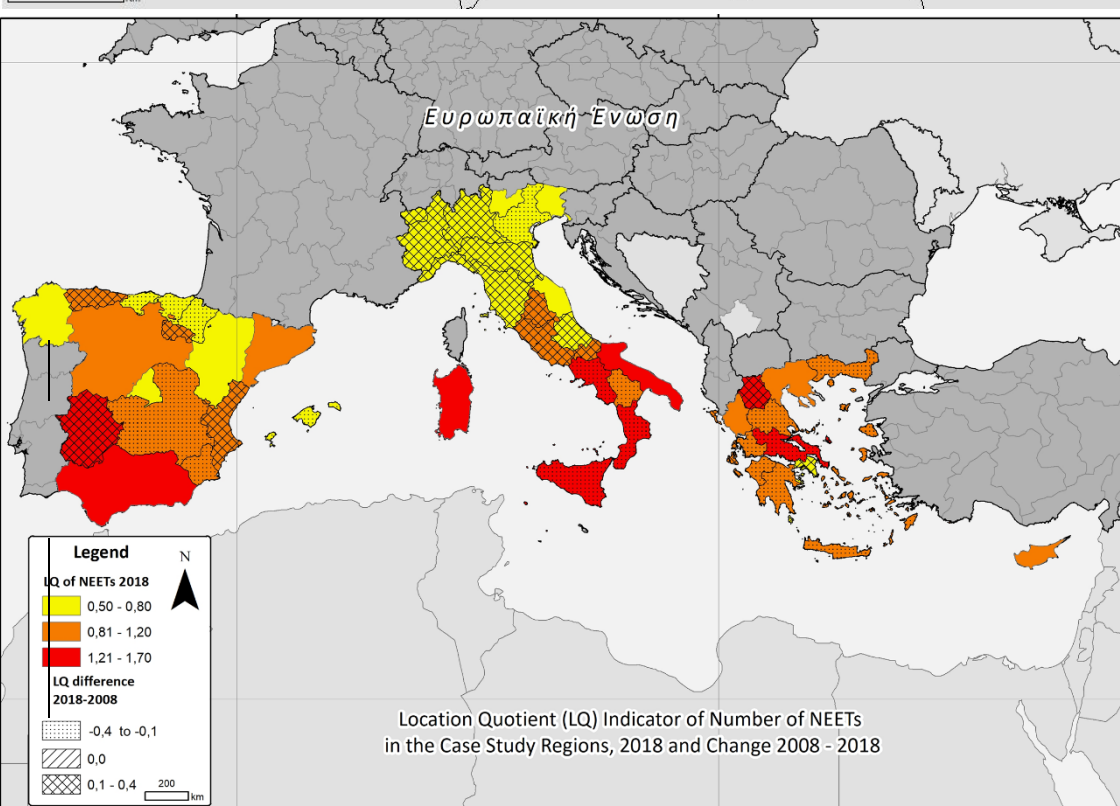
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countries is the lower NEETs' rates in capital cities areas and the high concentration of NEETs in the rural regions; possibly related to a positive relation between high NEET concentrations and low regional GDP per capita.



Regional NEET rates in Mediterranean EEA countries in 2018



Regional NEET concentrations in Mediterranean EEA in 2018

The report under development has already revealed significant insights in the NEETs phenomenon. Its conclusion in January 2020 will be an important contribution in labour and regional development studies, as well as a basis for the development of more impactful policies.

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YOUTHShare project is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment

Youth Employment Magazine

On July 30th the official launch of the Youth Employment Magazine (<https://youthemploymentmag.net>) marked a turning point for the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment.

Maximising impact is a crucial task of communication and the Youth Employment Magazine aims exactly that. It will function as a content resource for the 26 projects, implemented by 200 institutions from 26 European countries, that are financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The magazine acts a communication focal point that will share and disseminate the results of the initiatives aimed at combatting youth unemployment in Europe.



The magazine's editorial team consists of experts implementing the projects themselves, who are regularly developing materials about the progress and results of each project. The platform is established by the Fund Operator, a consortium of JCP Italy and Ecorys Polska.

According to recent data by Eurostat, approximately 15 million young people aged 20-34 were neither in employment, nor in education and training (NEET) in the EU-28 in 2018. Italy and Greece present the highest rate with more than a quarter of young people out of the labour market.

To promote sustainable and quality youth employment in Europe, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway launched in 2017 the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment amounting to 60 million euros. The 26 large-scale projects selected to receive funding are now implementing their initiatives that aim to help around 25 000 young people find a job or create new ones.

The added value of the Fund for Youth Employment is its transnational focus. Under that light, the dissemination of results faces significant challenges. The "Youth Employment Magazine" comes to tackle this as an umbrella communication project.

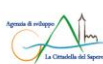
The newly created magazine will aggregate content prepared by all projects: not only news about current achievements and information on their progress, but also longer substantive articles and various multimedia. Furthermore, the constantly updated calendar will allow the audience to follow all events organised by projects across Europe and the Donor States.

More information:

<https://youthemploymentmag.net>

<http://eeagrants.org/fundforyouthemployment>.

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The Scientific Issue

Sharing Economy

The YOUTHShare project aims to develop solutions tackling the NEETs phenomenon in Mediterranean EEA countries by combining social with sharing economy in local resilient sectors.

Despite being a very dynamic and innovative way of distributing goods and services, sharing economy, remains an obscure and not completely determined term.

Regardless that, sharing economy has become so visible in everyday life that related activities are easily identifiable. What is remains unidentifiable yet, is to determine what is not part of the sharing economy.

In very broad terms, sharing economy challenges the traditional way of usage and distribution of goods and services by transferring focus from ownership to access. The general schema is that owner of an asset provides access to it, for a remuneration, instead of selling it.

The asset in such case might range from commercial goods to assets that are rarely commodified such as personal time or knowledge. Therefore, access might be provided to a home or a car but also to time (e.g. babysitting session) or knowledge (e.g. language lessons).

It is important to stress that the asset in question is not in use and therefore accessible to anybody else aside its "owner". That practically means that anyone could partake in sharing economy, expanding, by that, its potential.

That, however, doesn't mean that anyone becomes a potential businessman. That's because sharing economy doesn't always have commercial purpose. Traditional book-lending or simple exchanges of tasks or even the exchange platforms are not-for-profit initiatives. On the other hand, there are also commercial business models in sharing economy, with the most prominent being the Airbnb platform or Uber.



Nevertheless, "sharing economy" is actually a misnomer when it comes to marketization. When the accessible goods and services are market-mediated then they are shared in the same way that a commodity is shared. In reality those assets are rented, and Airbnb illustrates exactly that case. A transaction over that platform is in reality a short-term lease. Under that light the term "access economy" is suggested as more representing, since what is at stake is the unused asset or stagnating capital.

Although any estimation of the size of the sharing / access economy faces significant challenges, if one focuses on strategic sectors may identify a huge potential. PWC after studying travel, car sharing, finance, staffing and streaming sectors in USA in 2014 estimated that they totalled about \$15 billion and they will rise up to \$335 billion in 2025 (Cusumano, M. A. (January 2018). "The Sharing Economy Meets Reality". *Communications of the ACM*.). In Europe, the European Commission estimated that in 2015 Peer to Peer (P2P), another term for sharing economy in sales of goods, accommodation rentals, goods sharing, odd jobs and ridesharing totalled €27.9 billion ("Exploratory Study of consumer issues in peer-to-peer platform markets". *European Commission*. June 12, 2017).

Regardless of the terminology, it is sure that sharing economy will play a major role in the foreseeable future creating by that sustainable job potentials for NEETs.

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Partner Presentation

Research Partners

In the present, first stage, of the YOUTHShare project, the role of research activities is cardinal. Researchers are developing the foundations for successfully implementing interventions in the next stages.



The University of the Aegean holds nodal thematic competences, facilities and experiences that are of high relevance for the YOUTHShare project. It spans across two Regions with the unique feature that they comprise the Aegean archipelago. In that environment the university is a Regional Innovator across insular and coastal Mediterranean regions with strong partnerships and effective communication with several National, International Universities and Authorities. The university's faculties and departments have actively participated in numerous international research networks and projects the last decades, designed to improve Regional Innovation, Human Capital and Mobility of Researchers. The

University of the Aegean has established 90 research laboratories and centres with diverse activities in several research areas. Additionally, the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit of the university promotes entrepreneurial and innovative capacity as identified in the Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS3) of the North and South Aegean Regions, with a focus in agri-food production, blue/ green growth and circular economy.



Neapolis University Pafos was founded in 2007 in Pafos, Cyprus. In addition to abiding to the uppermost academic standards, it strives to excel in research as well. It acquires both the facilities and the experience to support YOUTHShare project implementation. Specifically, NUP has actively participated in several international research networks and projects and is duly capable of supervising PHD students.

At the same time, along time, it has developed strong links with the local and national business community and an extensive collaboration network with institutions and organizations worldwide. Quality of services is of great importance for NUP. Thus, Quality Assurance Unit of the NUP coordinates and supports the internal and external evaluation procedures through a unified assurance system and according to international good practices.



Catholic University of Murcia was founded in 1996 with the clear missions to provide students with the knowledge and skills to serve society, to contribute to the further expansion of human knowledge through research and development, and to participate in the areas of education and culture. Since its establishment more than fifty research groups have been operating in the framework of UCAM

and in close collaboration with enterprises. Research as well as teaching focus on providing real-world solutions to social problems. Top class infrastructure, laboratories and studios, allied with thorough analysis and fieldwork facilitate the close interaction of basic research and innovation.



Sistema Turismo is a training centre which promotes, organises and manages internships and educational programmes for young students, teaching staff, unemployed, young workers and organizations coming from all over Europe. The main mission is to provide the best work experiences, training courses, workshops and seminars for students and adults. It has been established in 1996 in Italy and is dedicated in bringing value into every aspect of training and learning mobility. More specifically, Sistema Turismo is active in research of new training methods and the development of training courses. In that framework it has been organizing

international mobility schemes offering work experience in many vocational areas as well as offering courses as accredited centre mainly in the field of tourism, Social Services and Culture. At the same time, it is active in developing and managing EU projects. Being part of ETN International, Sistema Turismo shares and contributes towards a clear vision regarding the powerful magic behind learning and training in an international environment

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News from the Project

Communication and Dissemination

The YOUTHShare project was presented in detail during Mr Marinis Aniftos' speech in the event "Sustainable Entrepreneurship: Family, Cooperation and Community". It was organised by the Cyprus University of Technology and took place in March 2019 in Cyprus. Mr Aniftos represents Cyprus Authority for Cooperative Societies in YOUTHShare project. The authority's contribution is pivotal in connecting the project with the existing cooperative schemes in Cyprus.



In July 2019, the communication manager of the YOUTHShare project attended a workshop of the Fund for Youth Employment of the EEA and Norway Grants. The communication teams of the projects of the Fund were briefed by the Funding Operator and representatives of the EEA and Norway Grants on the common communication strategy that will be realised through the Youth Employment Magazine.

In July 2019, representatives from the EEA and Norway Grants Communication Unit visited the YOUTHShare project partners in Cyprus. Cyprus Authority for Cooperative Societies, Neapolis University Pafos and CARDET presented the progress of the project and endorsed the cooperative society Agrose Rose Products which will train former NEETs during the later stages of the project.



In August 2009, after the launching of the Youth Employment Magazine, Ms Theognosia Petrou, project manager and researcher at CARDET, was interviewed in the RIK3 radio station of Cyprus at the radio show "Proino Dromologio". She talked about the Magazine, the EEA and Norway Grants and the YOUTHShare project. The interview is available at: <https://bit.ly/2ZeX3TO>

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The YOUTHShare project and communication managers were interviewed on August 19th in the Kokkino Rodou radio station in Greece. They answered questions regarding YOUTHShare, the Youth Employment Magazine, unemployment and NEETs, Social Economy and R&D in South Aegean Region. The interview is available at: <https://bit.ly/2zf4XNs>



The previous period has been very busy for the YOUTHShare project in terms of dissemination. Preliminary findings of the project have been presented in various conferences by the researchers of the project:



Avagianou A., Karampela S., Iosifides T., Kizos T., Pissurios I., "[Policies promoting Social and Sharing Economies in Mediterranean European Economic Area \(MED EEA\): a literature review focusing on youth unemployment and NEETs](#)" at the conference *Social Sciences Today: Dilemmas and Projections beyond the Crisis*. Lesvos, Greece 06-09.06.2019.

Emmanuil E., Poulimas M., Papageorgiou I., Gialis S., "[Young people not in employment, education or training \(NEET\) in the Mediterranean EU South: a study of the phenomenon for the recent crisis](#)" at the conference *Social Sciences Today: Dilemmas and Projections beyond the Crisis*. Lesvos, Greece 06-09.06.2019.

Avagianou A., Emmanuil E., Gialis S., "[Sharing the Burden of Unemployment: A Critical theorization of the NEET Phenomenon in the Mediterranean EU regions](#)" at the conference *Urban Inequalities: Ethnographic Insights*. Corinth. Greece 20-22.06.2019

Emmanuil E., Poulimas M., Papageorgiou I., Gialis S., "[NEETs expansion in the Mediterranean EU South: Inquiring the 2008-2018 period at the conference](#)" *Research, Innovation, Competitiveness and Local and Regional Development*. Athens, Greece 21-22.06.2019

Avagianou A., Karampela S., Iosifides T., Kizos T., "[Social and solidarity economy among the cities and regions of Southern Europe: An outlet for NEETs?](#)", at the conference *Urban Inequalities: Ethnographic Insights*. Corinth. Greece 20-22.06.2019.

Marava N., Kaznesis S., "[Innovative Strategies for Approaching, Informing and Mobilizing NEETs in EU and Greece](#)" (in Greek), at the conference *Urban Inequalities: Ethnographic Insights*. Corinth. Greece 20-22.06.2019.

Sykas G., Gourzis K., Gialis S., "[Capital flows and surplus labour force in times of recession: A geographical approach to the antinomies between the EU core and periphery](#)" (in Greek) at the conference *Urban Inequalities: Ethnographic Insights*. Corinth. Greece 20-22.06.2019.

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News from the Project

Stay Tuned

Building a strong communication bond with stakeholders, NEETs, policy makers, researchers, universities, research centres, businesses, chambers and everyone interested is vital for the project.



The YOUTHShare Newsletter is being published quarterly. Please subscribe in www.youthshare-project.org#contact to receive it by email.

For more frequent updates don't forget to like us on facebook:

www.facebook.com/youthshareproject



Or check the frequent updates in the news sections of our website

www.youthshare-project.org#news

Let's Meet!

The next open event will take place on Tuesday 17.09.2019 in Matera, Italy. Join us to learn about the project, meet the partners as well as local stakeholders. Details at:

www.facebook.com/events/1039239319746493/



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