

NEETs for NEETs - Brief project description

As social science pioneers pointed out decades ago, today's modern societies are facing challenges characterised by so-called "wicked problems", where old solutions – carried out thanks to welfare administrative and social engineering activities – have become less successful, due to the arbitrary and complex dimensions of these modern problems in question (Rittel & Webber, 1973). In order to solve these complex (or "wicked") problems, you need to involve the people most affected by them – increasing the sustainability of the activities thanks to these persons' experience-based knowledge.

Still, staff members of public administrations, adult education centres, as well as civil society organisations, are often trying to figure out solutions to these complex problems by guessing between themselves. For example: if we find ourselves ended up with asking our colleagues: "why do not NEETs attend our work counselling workshops?" Or "Why don't we face progress when we upscale our outreach activities connected to these workshops in question?" We probably have the answer right there:

- Because we are asking *our colleagues* this very question, instead of asking the *target group themselves; i.e., NEETs*.

The NEETs for NEETs project exists due to this challenge: to create activities *with*, rather than *for* the target group. In this sense, the "target group" equals the people most affected by the complex problems that we are able to trace in our daily work. What are their perspectives on this? Do they agree that there even is a problem? If so, what are their views and opinions on how to solve the problem in question?

Our consortium partners will map these complex problems at their workplace, where NEETs are affected by seemingly malfunctioning top-down practices. Thereafter inviting Support Group Network (and/or equivalent expertise from Save the Children) to carry out workshops based on the co-creative ReACT model – in order to motivate NEETs to come up with their own formulations / solutions to these perceived problems in question. Moreover, these NEETs will get trained to become trainers themselves, motivating and empowering other NEETs, who in turn become drivers of their own future by giving their own advices on how to upscale already existing structures and modus operandis within the fields of work counselling, adult education and/or social work done by civil society organisations.

Eventually, the ReACT model will support NEETs in training staff members – both at local and European level – creating ripple effects as regards the understanding among the adult world (i.e., staff members of both public and non-governmental administrations) of the importance of co-creation related to complex problems.

How will we do it?

Shortly:

1.
 - a. Carrying out local pilots arranged by Support Group Network (or Save the Children) where NEETs and staff members get to know the ReACT co-creative model.
(Preferably between March and August 2022)
 - b. NEETs themselves (with 1 or 2 of the staff members in the audience) arranging another round of pilots by themselves, creating conditions for NEETs to train other



NEETs (Preferably between May and October 2022)

2. During these pilots, real action plans will most likely have become realised. Those insights and ideas will be presented internationally – together with another round of co-creative workshops based on a modified (now NEET-based) ReACT model – where trained NEETs are presenting the model for staff members of our consortium. Such presentations & modified ReACT workshops will take place in Stuttgart (**November 2022**)
3. After these co-creative workshops being held in Stuttgart – parts of the so far trained NEETs will be able to meet up for another round of international workshops in Sweden (Borås), where these NEETs from Sweden, Norway and Germany are training *new* staff members, this time also together *with NEETs who have not attended ReACT workshops before*. (NEETs training NEETs at European level). (**May 2023**)
4. All these held workshops (locally and at European level) will make it possible for NEETs to compile a compendium – presenting best practices and lessons learned, connected to how to implement these remodified Re-ACT workshops, now adoptable to problems affecting NEETs.
5. All project implementations, milestones, challenges, etc. will be presented in a collectively compiled project handbook, to be finished and presented at multiplier events during November 2023.

