



Conference Report: "On Track 6 REUNION - Different youth work approaches for different NEET situations"

6th -10th of December 2022
Istanbul



Background

On track is a cross-sectoral conference on NEET issues and showcasing of good practices, with the emphasis on cooperation between youth work and other sectors (formal education, employment, social & business sector). In 2022, the conference reached its 6th edition. It was an ALUMNI EDITION, which was hosted on 6-10 December 2022 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Above all, On Track is about:

- Networking
- Celebrating
- Creating Impact
- Building Partnerships
- Disseminating
- Developing
- Jubilating
- Initiating
- Jump Starting networks

The On Track 6 video: <https://youtu.be/p3rmbGYALRcn>

The On Track interviews' video: : https://youtu.be/GFZJf_Sprn4 (unlisted video)

THEME: Young People in a NEET (Not in Education Employment or Training) situation

"On Track" is part of the SALTO Inclusion & Diversity Resource Centre, as well as the Turkish National Agency (NA), a longer-term strategic approach to reach young people who are excluded from the system and see how we can reconnect them to society and improve their opportunities in life. It has become an annual gathering of the professionals working on NEET issues and it is supported by the NA Strategic Partnership on Inclusion NEET working group.

The 1st conference was organized in 2016, after five editions, the one in 2022 was ALUMNI edition which celebrated achievements and brought former and new On Track people together to connect and develop future transnational partnerships.

The conferences included elements from the SALTO ID research & publication on NEET issues "On track - Different youth work approaches for different NEET situations" which was published in 2015.

Aim of the conference:

To support collaboration and exchange between professionals from different sectors in order to create better opportunities for young people in a NEET situation enabling their active involvement in society.

Objectives:

- To provide opportunities for cooperation and networking for professionals working with young people in NEET situations, by connecting newcomers and the alumni On Track participants.
- To explore different NEET realities in order to identify similarities and space for international cooperation.
- To share different ways of working, practices, resources and tools.
- To look into developments and impact of (youth) work with young people in a NEET situation.
- To create the space for celebrating achievements in addressing the NEET issues.

Participants

The conference brought together a total number of 74 professionals from different sectors working on NEET issues. From which 32 were alumni participants!

Next to the participants, the conference gathered input from 4 experts and 5 young people, who used to be in a NEET situation and had shared their stories already at one of the previous On Tracks. The organizing team was composed of 8 people.

In total there were 91 people from 31 countries: Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Türkiye and the UK.

Participants were:

- Youth workers/youth leaders directly working with young people in a NEET situation)
- Teachers, school support staff, alternative education staff, vocational programme staff
- Social workers, representatives of social services
- Local authorities/policy makers responsible for social provision
- Employers, apprenticeships programmes, employment agencies, job centres, job clubs, job coaches
- Researchers, academics with focus on NEET
- Other sector professionals directly working with young people: health, justice, sports, police, education, trade unions, welfare
- Young people from E+: Youth in Action Programme Countries & Partner Countries neighboring the EU (South Mediterranean, Eastern Partnership).

List of participants:

	First name	Last name	Country	Organisation
1	Abdelhak	Kadari	Algeria	Youth for Volunteer we are like this
2	Michaela	Meier	Austria	Jugend am Werk Steiermark GmbH
3	Silvia	Murlasits	Austria	Jugend am Werk Stmk. GmbH
4	Alen	Hadziefendic	Austria	WUK - "Werkstätten- und Kulturhaus
5	Nijat	Shukurlu	Azerbaijan	Ireli Public Union
6	Denitsa	Andonova	Bulgaria	Association Mundus Bulgaria
7	Mariya	Anastasova	Bulgaria	Horizont Proconsult
8	Aleksandra	Al Ahmed	Croatia	Korak Za Bolju Buducnost
9	Tomáš	Rezek	Czech Republic	R-Mosty, z. s.
10	Miroslav	Klempar	Czech Republic	Awen Amenca z.s.
11	Tomáš	Ščuková	Czech Republic	Centrum společného zájmu, z.s. ; Romani Hub
12	Kerli	Kõiv	Estonia	Development Centre of Võru County
13	Eva Linda	Roost	Estonia	SA Omanäolise Kooli Arenduskeskus
14	Kristi	Lepp	Estonia	SA Omanäolise Kooli Arenduskeskus
15	Christiana	Vaher	Estonia	Võru City Government
16	Janne	Mikkonen	Finland	Helsinki City Library
17	Hanad	Abdullahi Musse	Finland	Iftin Seura ry / City of Turku
18	Ihab Abdallah	Imran Alsouse	Finland	Mirsal ry
19	Julie F.	Richard	France	Association Controle-Z

20	Gabriella	Russo	France	Association MED13 (MED13 NGO)
21	Elizabeth	Venisse	France	Eurasia Net
22	Gvantsa	Chagunava	Georgia	INC - Institute of Non-violence communications (NGO)
23	Anouk Madeleine	Ilg	Germany	Johanniter International Assistance
24	Vladislav	Artiukhov	Germany	CGE Erfurt (NGO)
25	Ekkehard	Lippold	Germany	Steinbeis Innovation Centre "European Projects"
26	Rafat	Shantir	Germany	The Excellence Center in Europe
27	Andre	Figueiredo Garcia	Germany	NaturKultur e.V.
28	Sofia	Triantafyllou	Greece	Consultant/Coordinator at the Educational Planning Center of Thessaly
29	Evangelia	Tsilimigkra	Greece	IOM GREECE_UNITED NATIONS
30	Silvia	Guerrero Rosa	Hungary	Youth Association Colectivo Mononcle
31	Eszter Veronika	Szónyi	Hungary	HÉTFA Research Institute
32	Björk	Vilhelmsdóttir	Iceland	The Opportunity
33	Kacper	Barwiak	Iceland	The Opportunity
34	Gígja	Baldursdóttir	Iceland	Hringsja náms og starfsenduræfing
35	Jón Helgi	Eyþórsson	Iceland	The Opportunity
36	Brenda	Lawlor	Ireland	Poppintree Youth Project
37	Emanuela	Plesca	Ireland	Ferns Diocesan Youth Services (FDYS)
38	Mirella	Pollice	Italy	Cifir Onlus; Comunità Oasi2 ; Eurodesk Andria
39	Maryna	Manchenko	Italy	CESIE
40	Ornella	Pegoraro	Italy	I.I.S. "Pertini-Santoni"
41	Isabella	Mileti	Italy	MOH - Mobility Opportunities Hub
42	Alice	Sardo	Italy	ARCS Culture Solidali
43	Fatima	Mohammad Ibrahim Abualeenein	Jordan	Amala Education
44	Vita	Kalinauskienė	Lithuania	Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labor
45	Fidelija	Markuniene	Lithuania	VŠĮ Užimtumo centras/ NGO employment center
46	Aelita	Pastuşenco	Moldova	Theoretical lyceum Nicolae Spatar
47	Abdellah	Khayya	Morocco	Moroccan Association for Youth Inclusion
48	Gerrit	Onstein	Netherlands	Outrac
49	Dominic Obi	Ogugua	Netherlands	Factor 5
50	Susana Maria	Pinto Clara	Portugal	CERCINA
51	Silviu-Mihai	Petrariu	Romania	Conflicte & Training SME
52	Anja	Trobec	Slovenia	Združenje DrogArt
53	Juan Carlos	Romero Márquez	Spain	Auna - Estudiantes Andaluces
54	Javier Antonio	Nisa Avila	Spain	Public Employment Service of Andalusia
55	Pere Joan	Gelabert	Spain	ELE USAL MALLORCA SL
56	Berka	Nilsson	Sweden	Örebro Kommun (Municipality of Örebro)
57	Smine	Mohamed	Tunisia	APLM -Association Protection Littoral of Maamoura (Maamoura cost Protection association)
58	Abdullah	Bilen	Türkiye	Her Yerde Sanat Derneği
59	Adem	Şahin	Türkiye	Social Innovation and Systematical Development Association(SISDA),
60	Ayşe	Demir	Türkiye	Pamukkale University School of Foreign Languages
61	Bilal	Göl	Türkiye	Genç Girişim Akademi - Young Enterprise Academy
62	Efe	Efeoğlu	Türkiye	Adana Alparslan Türkeş Bilim ve Teknoloji University

63	Enis Ata	Işım	Türkiye	Youthworks
64	Hüseyin	Ay	Türkiye	Yucel Boru Science High School
65	Merve	Yiğit	Türkiye	Hatay Provincial Directorate of National Education
66	Nazan	Aydın	Türkiye	Turkey Environment and Education Foundation (Türçev)- Golden Orange Youth Club
67	Nilgün	Arslan	Türkiye	Diyarbakır Provincial Directorate of National Education
68	Özge	Demirel	Türkiye	Çankaya İlkokulu
69	Özlem	Akin	Türkiye	Kırşehir Yusuf Demir Gifted and Talented Center
70	Salim	Kaya	Türkiye	Aydın Adnan Menderes University, Social Work Department
71	Serdal	Adam	Türkiye	Her Yerde Sanat Derneği
72	Sevim	Tetik	Türkiye	Hüyük Yunus Emre Ortaokulu
73	Şeyda	Kır	Türkiye	Yozgat Bozok University
74	Soner	Örnekol	Türkiye	Fatih Sultan Mehmet Foundation University
75	Jamie	Walker	UK	On Track 1
76	Mohamed	Al-lal El Karmaoui	France	On Track 2
77	Borislava	Ananieva	Bulgaria	On Track 3
78	Ümit	Yardım	Türkiye	On Track 5
79	Ashley	Kourt	Sweden	On Track 6
	SPEAKERS			
80	Ian	Goldring	Belgium	
81	Max	Fras	UK	
82	Burcu	Oy	Türkiye	
83	Ozgehan	Senyuva	Türkiye	
	TEAM			
84	Marija	Kljajic	Belgium	SALTO-YOUTH Inclusion and Diversity Resource Centre
85	Romina	Matei	Austria	Facilitator
86	Vojislav	Vujic	Serbia	Facilitator
87	Musa	Akgül	Türkiye	Facilitator
88	Ufuk	Atalay	Türkiye	Facilitator
89	Handan	Boyar	Türkiye	Turkish National Agency
90	Ömer Faruk	Önol	Türkiye	Turkish National Agency
91	Çağlar	Süren	Türkiye	

Conference Programme

Tuesday, December 6 th 2022	
14:00-19:00	International and domestic transfers Arrival of participants to the hotel and registration
19.00-20:00	Dinner in the hotel
	Getting to the station Official opening of the "On track 6" conference and getting to know each other.
Wednesday, December 7 th 2022	
9.30-11.00	Getting on Track Intro to the programme, team and participants
11.00-11.30	Refreshment break
11.30-13.00	Review of previous journeys Puzzle approach on past On Track conferences - input from participants
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-16.00	What NEET track are Europe & Turkey on? Expert input on main trends, challenges, achievements by Burcu Oy (TR), Ian Goldring (BE), Ozgehan Senyuva (TR)
16.00-16.30	Refreshment break
16.30-18.00	Where did the train come from? Different realities
19.00	Dinner in the hotel
Thursday, December 8 th 2022	
9.30-11.00	Who is on the track? Input from young people
11.00-11.30	Refreshment break
11.30-13.00	What vehicles can we use? Sharing good practices, tools & resources
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-16.00	Planning new routes Partnership building & ideas creation - how to turn our ideas into projects
16.00-16.30	Refreshment break
16.30-18.00	With whom we travel onwards? Contact making and networking (development) - Walk & Talk
19.00	Dinner in the hotel
	Free evening
Friday, December 9 th 2022	
9.30-11.00	How do we travel together? Check-in with the participants - how far did we get with planning. Inspirational input by Max Fras (UK) on cooperation & partnership
11.00-11.30	Refreshment break
11.30-13.00	Assembling new compositions Working on structuring & presenting the ideas
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-16.00	What do we do to plan our journey? Final deal on follow-up
16.00-16.30	Refreshment break
16.30-17.30	Looking back at our journey Evaluation
	Dinner out

Conference Sessions & Methodology

On track has been designed as a conference with a sound focus on fostering partnership, international cooperation and networking. Besides a typical conference set up, On Track approach aims to provide sufficient space for all participants to share experience and develop mutual follow up activities. As a typical youth work activity On Track Conference mainly based on non-formal education methodological principles.

The core methodology was based on bringing together various sectors dealing with NEET issues and giving them an opportunity to share realities, different approaches and good practices. There was also space for hearing the voices of the young people who had gone through a NEET situation.

The information about the conference, programme and the guest speakers, can be found here: <https://ontrack.lineupr.com/ontrack/>

All presentations and session outcomes are available on padlet:

<https://jintvzw.padlet.org/salto/9ffaevg6o5ttrnw4>

In this respect the conference has been constituted on following programme elements:

- **Getting to the station** - reconnecting & reunion party
- **Getting on Track** - intro to the programme, team and participants. Participants had chance to get to know each other, meet the team, reach a working and learning agreement and express their hopes, fears and possible contributions.
- **Review of previous journeys** - analyzing the impact of the On Track conference series by presenting results of the On Track survey and hearing stories of the former participants. For more see the On Track Impact chapter.
- **What NEET track are Europe & Turkey on?** - we have invited three guest speakers in order to enrich the discussions and provide background information from different perspectives and get the expert input on main trends, challenges & achievements.

Ms. Burcu Oy, is a youth researcher actively involved in evidence based youth policy development in Turkey. Ms Oy has presented the current and past situation of NEET issue Turkey, particularly underlining the gender aspect in particular. **Watch here session "What NEET track are Europe & Turkey on?" recordings:**

<https://youtu.be/yedgXMKfmGA>

Mr. Ian Goldring, the author of On Track booklet presented the situation of NEET issue from European dimension with a specific comparison from 2016. **Watch here session "What NEET track are Europe & Turkey on?" recordings:**

<https://youtu.be/PKnHUKDIxw>

Mr. Ozgehan Senyuva, has shared his interpretations from the research data on the impact of youth work in NEET issues. He has underlined how youth work has and should play. important role in combat against neet issues. **Watch here session "What NEET track are Europe & Turkey on?" recordings:**

<https://youtu.be/USCioEYquSM>

- **Where did the train come from?** - The participants were invited to present information about their local reality in relation with young people who are in a NEET situation, and also to present their organisation. They had to prepare a LinkedIn offline profile which reflected the following information: their contact details; the main activity of the organisation; which needs of young people in a NEET situation the organisation is answering to; what are the main reasons young people are ending up in a NEET situation; what is the current situation regarding young people in a NEET situation in your community; how to reach out to NEETs, what obstacles and barriers do they face in your reality and a section about: I am interested in international collaboration regarding the topics of I can offer this and this experience. This session gave the participants a first impulse to start thinking of possible future trans-national ideas.
- **Who is on the track?** - input from young people who used to be in a NEET situation and shared the stories about the support and success factors.
 - Ümit Yardim, Turkey (main speaker)
 - Borislava Ananieva, Bulgaria
 - Jamie Walker, UK
 - Ashley Kourt, Sweden
 - Dominique Ogugua, The Netherlands
- **What vehicles can we use?** - sharing good practices, tools & resources. The group was invited to propose tools, good practice examples, studies, to share between them using Open Space technology. In total there were 17 topics addressed. Participants had 30 minutes to share their practice to a group of 3 to 15 persons. The topics addressed where: The opportunity pathways for young migrants; Lost millennials research project; Leadership and empowering as a method; Working with refugees; Mentoring young people; Working with young criminals; The importance of arts and culture for young people in relation to mental health; My career story; Inclusion 4 all in training based on target group; Competence building creating awareness; Volunteering as a way to gain experience to get a job; Training Measures for youth on behalf of the public employment service; Emotional intelligence for Employability, Youth Empowerment on creating awareness and project management; Family hub motel; Integrating prevention services for 0-19 children and youth + families; Working with youngsters in NEET situation in disadvantaged district areas; 7-17 age children skills improvement; Circus pedagogy; volunteer support.
- **Planning new routes** - partnership building & ideas creation - how to turn our ideas into projects
- **With whom we travel onwards?** - contact making and networking
- **How do we travel together?** - check-in on the project planning and inspirational input on cooperation & partnership by Max Fräs (UK). The discussion focused on what should be the motivation for international cooperation - which are the benefits of international cooperation. Max talked also about what makes a partnership a strong one and which elements need to be respected in a partnership. He also gave some advice for good partnership and shared concrete examples of successful cooperation at EU level and not only. More about the input you can watch the full video here: "How do we travel together?" <https://youtu.be/Gs4yYISNcc4>

- **Assembling new compositions** - working on structuring & presenting the project ideas. At the end of this session ... project ideas had been developed by different participants from the conference.
 - **IDEA Art Therapy** - to support/help the traumatic process of those in NEET situations.
 - **Culturally Diverse Humanly United** - to create a specific methodology on diversity management for youth workers.
 - **Women on The Right Trek** - to support women empowerment by capacity building
 - **Engage For The Future** - Capacity Building For Youth workers in Rural Areas
 - **The Art of Creation and Performance** - creating pieces of art to enable self expression for skills development.
 - **Connect To Create, What Skills Do We NEET?** - to increase capacities of the organizations and youth workers that work with those in NEET situations.
 - **Study Visit** - sharing best practices, finding new ideas and approaches.
 - **ART Sport is NEE(T)ED** - to break barriers about those in NEET, To reach those in NEET situations, to integrate and include, to teach practical skills
 - **Programming For Youth** - local project in Spain

(For more information please visit; <https://jintvzw.padlet.org/salto/9ffaevg6o5ttrnw4>)

- **What do we do to plan our journey?** - Before creating the action plans, the participants were invited to think individually at maxim three challenges which they might face once they return home, to implement their project ideas. What could be a blockage for their ideas to become reality. After expressing and writing the challenges on a piece of paper, the participants were divided into 4 groups. In each of the groups they hang their paper with challenges on a wall, and all the rest of the group walk around and give solutions / advice for each of the expressed challenges. At the end each person received back his/her own paper with the expressed challenges together with at least one solution. In most of the cases, there were more than one solution to one challenge. At the end, the group reunited and together with the facilitator, there was a discussion about how to transform all the actions into concrete plans to be followed once they return home. Looking at all their project ideas, possible challenges and solutions, and also what could be a first step to be taken so the ideas become reality. The session ended with the participants reflecting and creating their action plans.
- **Looking back at our journey** -final evaluation, done through use of various methods. Results of the evaluation are presented further in the report.

YouthPass: as a form of formal recognition of the participation in the conference, all participants have received YouthPass issued by the Turkish National Agency.

On Track Impact (Survey)

This is a summary of the answers from the participants' of the former "On Track Conferences" held in 2016 in Slovakia, 2018, 2019, 2021 & 2022 in İstanbul, 2020 online. In

order to simply measure the impact on the former participants, a questionnaire had been designed and sent to 279 of them and 31 answers were received.

According to the results, in order to understand the updated situation and their first impressions;

- 27 of them are still working with those in NEET situation
- 26 of them stated that the On Track Conferences had an impact on their personal lives.
- 30 of them stated that On Track Conferences had an impact on their professional lives.
- 19 of them collaborate with some organizations/participants they met during the On Track Conferences
- 29 of them stated that On Track conference had an impact on life/situation of the young people they are working with
- More than 60 % of the participants has benefited from the partnership and project development opportunities through the conferences

Video “On Track Journey”- how we travelled from 2016 till 2022 and whom we travelled with: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fc_pYOAT_Xc&feature=youtu.be

As part of the questionnaire we asked about one word to describe their On Track experience and here is the World cloud reflecting their answers:



As part of the questionnaire we asked if their participation in the On Track conference had an impact on the life/situation of the young people they are working with. According to their reflections. It's no but due to the simple fact that On track 2021 was the latest event in the series. For this kind of potential impact, years are needed.

They stated that this experience gave them new perspectives on how to look at those in NEET and the situation they might be in and this allowed them to understand their situation and feelings better. They feel more able to respond to challenging situations and advise young people when necessary. They realized that they need to do more work with those in NEET situation.

They also stated that they found more partners to collaborate with in different projects and to increase the opportunities for the young people they are working

with.

More opportunities for participation in international projects were created.

As an important impact, they said, some of those who are in the NEET situation have started pursuing careers as well as applied to schools and colleges after their participation in these conferences.

Some other direct comments by the participants were as follow:

- *I understood that the data/graphics are not enough when working with those in NEET situation, and so, the individual talk and meetings are more important and valuable in order to get closer to them.*
- *I started to show Erasmus+ projects and our clients get used to traveling and joining for other projects.*
- *Trying some working methods with those in NEET situations.*
- *I got many new ideas and learned a number of good practices during the conference, and later used it all to enrich the projects I was working on, especially the ones related to coaching those in NEET situations.*
- *I use different perspectives when giving directions about those in the NEET situation.*
- *I learned new ways to work with young people and how to integrate them into life.*
- *We implemented new things into our work and they seem to be working awesomely, youngsters love new workshops*
- *Based on the good practices from other countries of which I learnt at the On Track, our NGO has organized a series of seminars for teachers during the first 2 months after the new phase of Russian war in Ukraine. The project aimed at supporting the NEET people in emergency and crisis.*
- *I'm sure for me it had a great impact and I try to make a change in their life, in better, by sharing my experience and what I've learnt from the conference. Until now, based on the projects that are carried out within our organisation, 36 people, those in NEET situation at the beginning, now 21 are registered in different free trainings, 11 got a job and the others think of starting their own business.*
- *We hope that in the future we get more volunteers from the target group (those in NEET) in our projects.*
- *They realized they are not the only ones in such a situation and that people are doing things about the situation.*
- *I shared with the people whom I worked with what I have learned at the conference and guided them for different opportunities.*

As part of the questionnaire we asked if **On Track changed anything in their daily work/or your organization's work with young people in NEET situations.** According to their reflections;

- *We changed small things in our approach towards the youngsters which I know gave us better relations with most of them.*
- *It had an impact on the project that we wrote about emotional intelligence as a soft skill to open the gates to be employed.*

- *We realized that we need to develop more projects related to those in the NEET situation.*
- *Better research on the solutions.*
- *The methods I had learned are now a basic tool in our everyday work with the youth in Kozani (my city).*
- *Yes. Young people in the NEET situation are our target group. They were not so much before the event.*
- *We become more aware of the fact that those in the NEET situation are more often seen as people who didn't finish their studies, but it is also available for the ones who graduated and still are in the NEET situation. So, it opened our perspective and helped us expand our area of people and NEET target group.*
- *In our team we are started to create a new project at national level with more specialists and employees.*
- *Focusing more on informal learning and building community structures*
- *Once again - I learned so much, and I use that knowledge every day in my work.*
- *I have new experiences about those in the NEET situation.*
- *The most important thing we learned about is the modernization of our educational means and the development of the programs that we offer. It became based on a scientific and meticulously studied basis For example, we provide initial training for young people before sending them to workshops to work a specific profession.*
- *Thanks to my experience with On Track, I have facilitated some changes into the ways our NGO approaches those in NEET situations.*
- *The projects on those in NEET situations carried out by the Employment Office of Brasov and 2 different suppliers of professional training.*
- *We would like to implement more projects and activities focused on people in the NEET situation.*
- *We started to focus more on teaching english and independent living skills so that they can benefit from different opportunities*

As part of the questionnaire we asked if they created (or became a partner in) any international project (Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps or any other) or develop a tool/method after taking part in the On Track conference. According to their reflections;

- *Yes, last year we had an international project to support Social entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs with disabilities in Georgia (from my previous workplace).*
- *I became a partner in three project applications, unfortunately two of them were approved and the third project was canceled after approval. I was also going to send one volunteer to one organization in Czech Republic but she canceled her participation just before departure.*
- *Yes, our organization was a partner in several Erasmus+ youth exchange projects.*
- *Yes, the project I have mentioned has partners from Czechia, Greece, Germany, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands.*
- *We had submitted one Erasmus, involved some participants in our new COST network, and submitted other research proposals.*
- *I'm doing a PhD in NEET situation in the Balkans and I'm developing a tool to measure it and track progress.*

- *Yes, I created an Erasmus+ project where participants from On track will learn more about educational escape rooms. We created a partnership with an organization who shared our volunteer call.*
- *Yes, but unfortunately without any organizations that took place in that conference.*
- *As previously mentioned, we applied to Erasmus+ with a proposal initiated by a Turkish partner I met at the event. Results are expected in a couple of months.*
- *Yes, with some we managed to write a E+ project regarding those NEET situations and entrepreneurship.*
- *I have some future plans to share working methods with other youth workers.*
- *I was writing a project but then came the pandemic and changed it all...*
- *As a project manager I've managed a number of projects and created a significant amount of tools in the past three and a half years that I've been working at CESIE full time. I can specifically mention project such as Creative PRISMA, ESVOL and partially FemSTEM.*
- *We have developed new educational tools and presented our participation as an organizer in the Maghreb Learning Tools Conference*
- *Yes, currently Erasmus+ mobility Cloud issues, Ground solutions*
- *It is a work in progress.*
- *Yes, I am part of the project (Erasmus +) "Find your way out" together with Belgium, Portugal, Turkey, Latvia and the host, Switzerland, that will take place at the end of November 2022. This is a "baby" of the "On Track 5 Conference"!*
- *Because of the Corona pandemic and its restrictions it was not possible to develop any new project.*
- *We agreed on a joint project with an NGO from Portugal..but we missed the last application deadline.*
- *No because I was abroad for my postdoc research but now I am working on some applications to submit in Erasmus+*

We have selected 4 former participants to share their stories and the impact of these conferences on their personal/professional lives:

1- Berkka Nilsson (On Track1, 2016)

Hearing a great story of the young Irish man on how EVS volunteering changed his life has affected Berkka very much during the very 1st On Track in Bratislava. Right after he turned back from the conference he started to search and learn more about the European Voluntary Service programme and he started working with the program as a sending organization at that time and the Irish man's story convinced him that it was a fantastic program, especially for those in NEET situations. That is where international volunteering experiences can be most useful.

The whole conference gave him inspiration to start working to promote volunteering as an option for young people that he met in his profession. Today, six years later, he works as volunteer coordinator for the Municipality of Örebro (and project coordinator for our hosting project where we only host those in NEET Situation). Last year they were selected by their NA as the best sending organization in Sweden during 2022.

2- Marina Monchenko (On Track2, 2018)

Marina stated that the beautiful conference room with the view of Istanbul, full of bright, inspiring people - activists and professionals, with whom she had so many useful discussions, shared good practices.

It was her first time in Istanbul, and it started a great period in her life - she felt motivated to explore more options and search for more opportunities for herself, and it really paid off. This year her novel called "Bitter Oranges" was published by Tempora Publishing in Ukraine - the first part of it was inspired by a story she was told by one of the participants of the OnTrack conference in 2018.

She felt so motivated after the conference and she applied for many more opportunities and the same year presented her paper on the conference in Tel Aviv and won a scholarship from Thomson Reuters foundation that allowed her to participate in their Trust Conference in London in November 2018. She also started working in her NGO full time as a project manager and a researcher in January of 2019, implemented numerous activities for those in NEET situation and finally defended her PhD.

3- Silviu-Mihai Petrariu (On Track5, 2021)

Silviu described the conference he attended as a great diversity of people (from Europe, Middle East, South America). For him, that was one of the best working environments and he keeps it as one great memory.

With some of the participants he managed to write projects and to develop other ones.

He understood that the data/graphics are not enough when working with those in a NEET situation, the individual talk and meetings are more important and valuable in order to get closer to them.

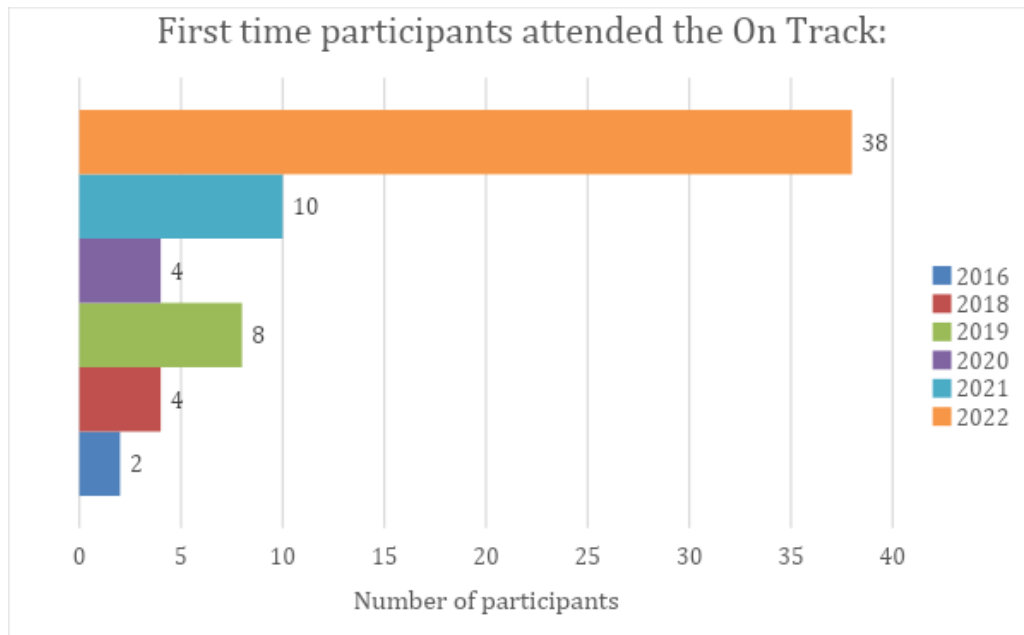
After the conference with some of the other participants he managed to write a E+ project regarding those in the NEET situation and entrepreneurship and implements a local, solidarity project in cooperation with the municipality.

4- Tomáš Ščuka (On Track3 & 5, 2019 & 2021)

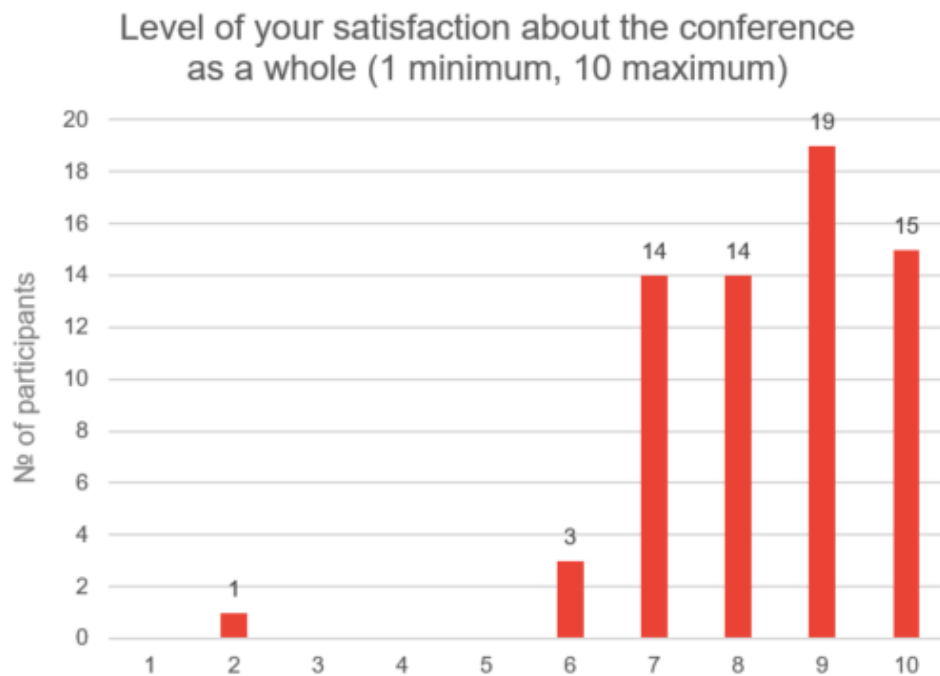
He remembers when they shared their work experiences in groups and they realized that their work was very similar. Different stories were very powerful and inspiring.

He designed an Erasmus+Project with another participant from the same conference. He believes his work shows them how much is important to understand the background of people/person in NEET situations. Not only concrete situations, but also to understand socio-cultural specifics which often represent barriers to failure, as he has experienced in working with Roma communities.

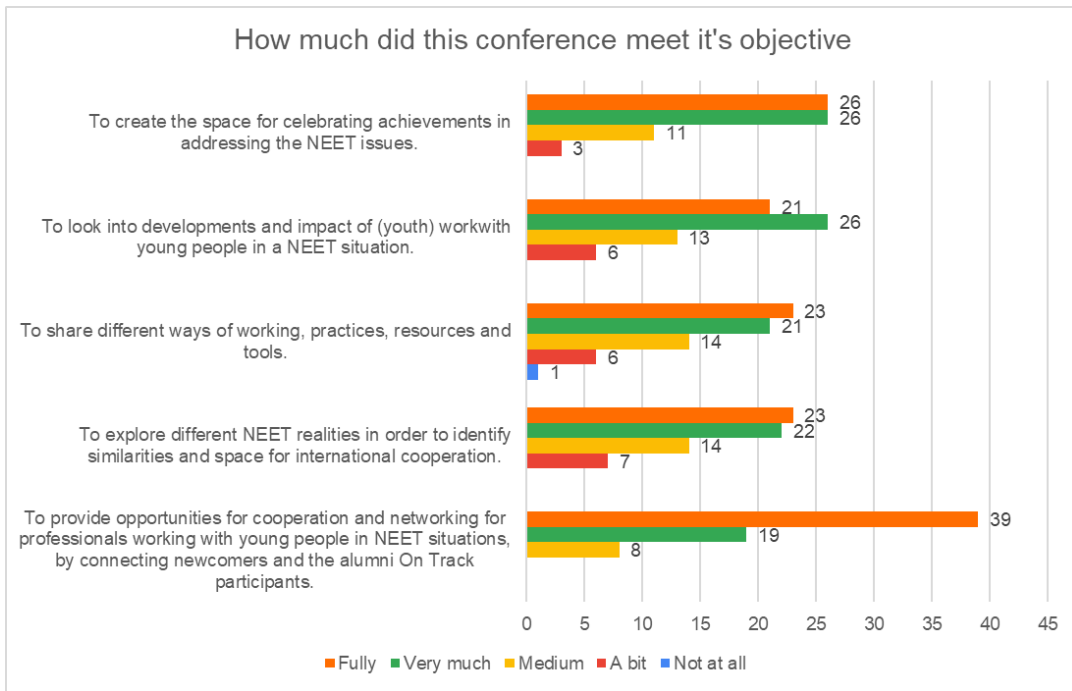
Evaluation by the participants



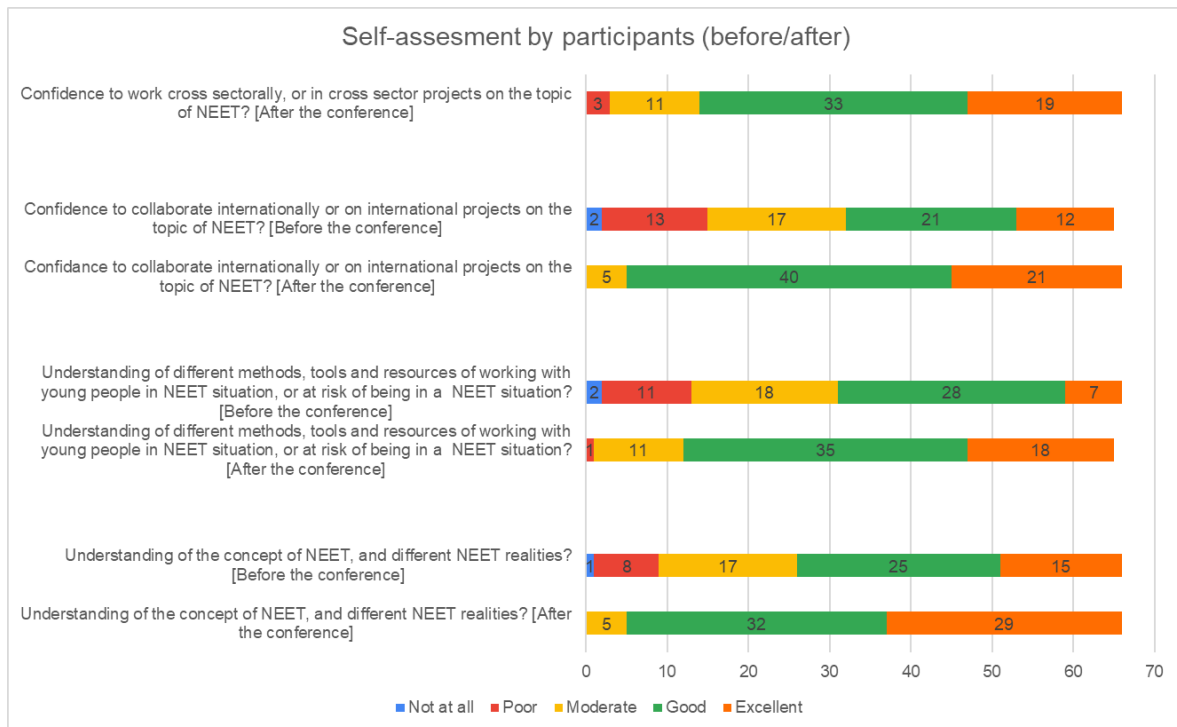
Among 66 participants which completed the written evaluation form, 38 of them were first time on the On Track in 2022, while 28 were on the conference before. In percentage it is 57% and 42% respectively.



More than 50% of participants rated the conference with 9 or 10 out of 10. When taking only those which are participating at the conference for the first time, the result is slightly better with 55% marking conference with 9 or 10. This shows that a great majority of the participants were happy and very happy with the conference.

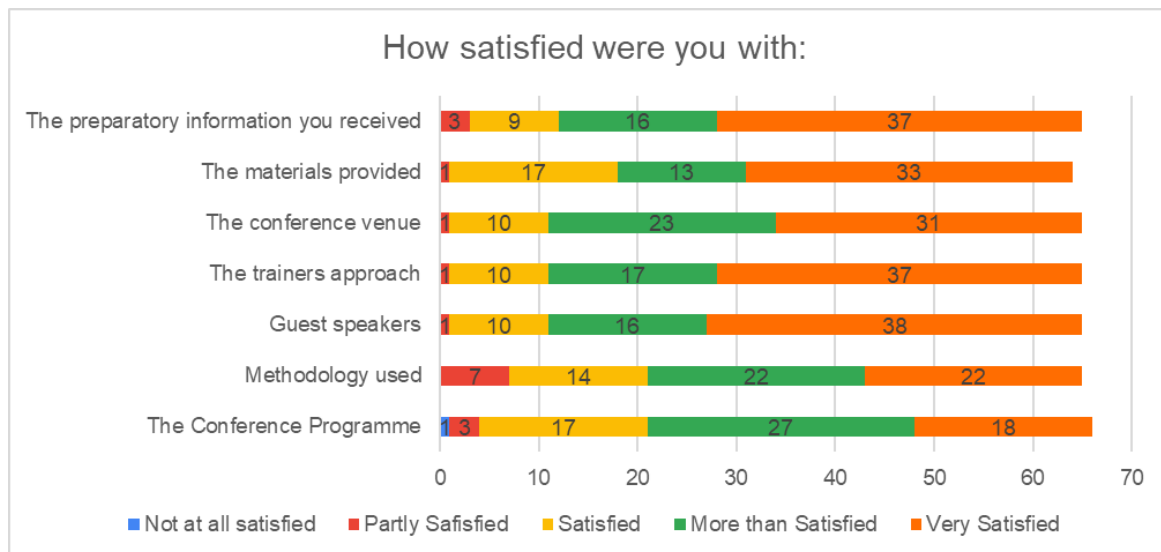


Participants on average gave feedback that 75% of objectives were met ‘fully’ or ‘very much’. According to one participant that objective was not met at all. The objective ‘to provide opportunity for cooperation and networking’ (the main aim of the Reunion conference) was fully met according to the majority of the participants.



The graphic shows that participants improved confidence in collaboration from 51% which marking 4 or 5 to 92%, understanding of methods, tools are resources from 53% to 81% and concepts of NEET and different NEET realities from 60% to 92%. If we focus only on participants which marked Excellent doubled from in each question: confidence to

collaborate from 12 to 21, for understanding methods from 7 to 18 and on understanding of concepts of NEER from 15 to 29 among those who submitted evaluation.



Participants are ‘more than satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with all the elements of the conference. Aggregated satisfaction of specific elements is as follow:

- The Conference Programme - 77.58%
- Methodology used - 78.15%
- Guest speakers - 88.00%
- The trainers’ approach- 87.69%
- The conference venue - 85.85%
- The materials provided - 84.38%
- The preparatory information received - 86.77%

Any specific comments regarding programmes, methodology, speakers, trainers, materials, venue, preparation etc.

There were a lot of comments saying that the conference was just perfectly organised, that the methods, the experts and the facilitators were very well chosen.

Participants felt inspired and motivated. Some participants would have appreciated a bit more of group dynamic exercises. They felt that sometimes the experts were not so strict with the time. Regarding the program, it might be more valuable to have less objectives in order to have a deeper and more meaningful space to share and learn from each other.

Some participants would have liked to have more young people who can share their stories. For some it was important to have a bit of more information about the other conference and a feedback on what the other conferences were about/methodologies used instead of just the "impact" testimonies.

Few also said that in this conference it felt that we only talked about the NEET and youth worker’s perspective, we could have talked more about the job market, could be specific about it and have more critical thinking about bureaucratic requirements when applying to projects.

The session with the young people sharing their stories was considered super important but also very emotional. meaningful space to share and learn from each other.

One participant considered that the methodology and facilitators comments are sometimes controversial to the EU agenda, like having a king and queen, or using sentences like: "ladies first"; Also the morning energisers and other details were considered very sexist and reinforcing gender stereotypes. The same participant also criticized that the organisers did not had an sustainable approach, "the arrival presents" that they received, was not necessary, they would have appreciated more something meaningful thing, representing Turkish culture, which really could be used (a bag of spices for cooking, soap, or something else)

Someone appreciated how the trainers used the walls and every inch of the space. By the end of the conference, the walls were filled, also they appreciated the session based on open space, but at the same time he/she would have loved to have more time for speakers.

A person mentioned that he/she was missing one free afternoon for exploring the city and a field trip to a local project, because that was the best part about On track 2 in 2018.

There were some criticisms about having the first night as a Reunion to dance and also about the music chosen for the morning energisers. One person considered it more logical to first introduce different types of projects under Erasmus + and Solidarity Corps, before starting with the project's ideas.

What aspect of this conference did you value the most?

By far the most appreciated aspect of the conference was the session of young people sharing their stories. Beside this, the participants also appreciated the possibility to network and to connect with other professionals from the field.

The group appreciated the time and the structure to work on the project ideas and also the possibility to be inspired by well prepared experts. The venue and the city of the conference was highly appreciated.

The session based on Open Space was also mentioned a few times, as one element which helped a lot the group dynamic and the possibility to generate future partnerships. The project ideas were very satisfying for some participants. Also, many mentioned the possibility of meeting such a diverse group of people was very important.

Many appreciated the food and the location of the conference, together with the positive energy and enthusiasm. It was appreciated that the conference had many honest moments, which allowed sharing experience, emotions, ideas etc. This created the feeling of a strong networking.

Participants also appreciated the professionalism of the crew, of the organisers, trainers, experts. They were well prepared and very well organised.

One element mentioned many times was the given time and space to network and get to know more about other organisations.

What aspects of this conference could be improved?

One aspect mentioned several times was the length of the conference. A lot of people would have appreciated at least one more day, so more topics could have been addressed and the program would not have been so packed.

There were also many participants who mentioned that everything was just great, nothing to be improved. Except more time dedicated to sharing and learning from each other.

Many people expressed the need to dedicate more time to get to know each other, more networking so they could work better on their project ideas. Some would have preferred more diverse methods and approaches to be implemented during the conference. Some people would have appreciated more time for the open space and more structure.

Regarding communication, someone said that just one communication channel would have helped and not Facebook or WhatsApp. Just email. For some it was very confusing and some do not feel comfortable with social media platforms.

Regarding the project ideas, some mentioned that they needed more time and also they felt the need to receive feedback on their ideas. One suggestion was like in 2021, to have the chance to have a personal project presentation. Like "I have a project about and I want to partner for this".

Someone needed more comparative data from different countries to get an overall idea of the international situation. Also, the music and technical things around did not help for some. For some, the overall approach and the methods used were very appropriate, but there were few suggestions to improve: for example the reunion party would have worked better at the end of the conference when the group already knew each other. In the end, there was a lot of focus on one project (which in itself is useful of course) but there were so many people and it would have been more useful for the long term to make use of that to identify different possibilities for cooperation with different people, and not only one idea.

If you are asked to define this conference in 2-3 words what would it be?



Conclusion

Based on the evaluations expressed above and also based on the team observation, the sixth edition of the On Track conference was a success. The objectives of the conference were achieved and the participants considered that the program and the methodology proposed were interactive and relevant for the audience and for the theme. As in the previous conference, it was a plus to have a diversity of inputs from experts with a different background and from different contexts. A highlight of the program remains the session when the young people share stories from their own reality and how they overcome a NEET situation.

This edition had a focus on established trans-national partnerships. For this there were sessions dedicated to participants to have the time to reflect on common ideas and to plan their common actions. It was important to have in the room participants from different sectors and with diverse experience. The selection of the participants really helped the good outcomes of the conference.

Even though this was the last edition of the On Track, the participants declared that the topic of NEET needs to be continuously discussed, because the NEET numbers are increasing all around Europe. The effects of the current recession are not yet seen, and once again this will impact the most the ones who are already in less privileged conditions.

Recommendations

The series of On Track Conferences has been completed with a great success bringing together **over 350 participants from 45 countries**. The On Track approach has been fostering strong partnership in the field of youth work focusing on NEET issues. There has been various follow up projects and activities organized at local national and international level as an outcome of the conferences and achieved great success, nevertheless the figures on young people in neet situation has not been improving in the same direction as various factors such as pandemia, armed conflicts, economical crisis appears to have negative influence on the situation of young people. Therefore the efforts on NEET issues and NEET specific activities should be increasingly continued. Since the youth work has a great impact on NEET issues new measures and opportunities should be developed to involve more organisations in Europe.

While the On Track Conference series has come to an end, it is important to develop new dimensions and opportunities to encourage youth organisations and youth work professionals to be actively involved in working with young people in NEET situation.