

Entrepreneurship Training for NEETs

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WP2 – RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TRAINING

Desk Research and Field Study in Portugal

1. Introduction to the socio-economic situation of youth

Portugal's socio-economic situation has undergone significant changes in recent years, influenced by various factors such as economic reforms, globalization, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been shaped by labour market transformations, with a shift towards a service-oriented economy and increasing demand for skilled workers. While the country experienced positive economic growth before the COVID-19 pandemic, the global health crisis posed challenges to the economy, particularly in the tourism sector. Nevertheless, the government has implemented measures to mitigate the impact and support the recovery process.

Portugal's labour market has experienced notable shifts in recent years: the country has made progress in reducing unemployment rates, which peaked at 17.5% in 2013 following the global financial crisis. By 2019, the unemployment rate had declined to around 6.5%, demonstrating the success of labour market reforms and the overall economic recovery (OECD, 2020). However, it is important to consider the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these trends, as it has caused significant disruptions to the global economy.

Some general indicators of the situation in Portugal are provided by the Portuguese National Institute of Statistics (INE) and can be seen in Figure 1.

One important tendency in the labour market is the increasing prominence of the services sector. Portugal has been transitioning from a traditional manufacturing-based economy to a more service-oriented one. Sectors such as tourism, technology, and renewable energy have gained importance, contributing to job creation and economic growth (European Commission, 2020).



Figure 1. Portuguese statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estatística, 2023)

Furthermore, the rise of digitalization and automation has led to a growing demand for skilled workers in sectors related to information technology, digital services, and innovation.

In terms of the overall economic situation, Portugal has demonstrated resilience in recent years. After a severe economic downturn during the global financial crisis, the country implemented structural reforms and pursued fiscal consolidation measures in collaboration with international institutions, such as the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. These efforts aimed to enhance competitiveness, reduce public debt, and improve fiscal sustainability.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Portugal experienced a period of steady economic growth. Between 2014 and 2019, the country's GDP grew at an average rate of 2.4% per year (World Bank, 2020), reaching 2.5% in 2023. However, the pandemic had a substantial impact on Portugal's economy, leading to a contraction in economic activity in 2020. The services sector, particularly tourism, faced significant challenges due to travel restrictions and lockdown measures.

To mitigate the effects of the pandemic, the Portuguese government implemented various measures, including financial support for affected businesses, job protection programs, and investment in healthcare. The European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility has also provided Portugal with additional funds to support its economic recovery and foster sustainable development (European Commission, 2021).

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed additional challenges, necessitating ongoing efforts to support and empower youth in their transition to adulthood and the labor market also. The lockdown measures, economic disruptions, and reduced job opportunities associated with the pandemic have affected young people

disproportionately. Challenges such as delayed education, decreased employment prospects, and increased competition for jobs have emerged. The full extent of the pandemic's impact on the youth's socio-economic situation is still being assessed, and specific data on the post-pandemic period may not be available at the time of this response. However, it is crucial for policymakers to continue addressing the needs of young people and implementing targeted measures to support their recovery and future prospects.

In 2022, the youth unemployment rate in Portugal decreased by 5.6 percentage points since 2021. In total, the youth unemployment rate declined to 17.8 percent in 2022. This decrease was preceded by an increase in the youth unemployment rate. Over the observed period, the youth unemployment rate has been subject to fluctuation. The youth unemployment rate refers to the share of the workforce aged 15 to 24 that is currently not working but is actively searching for work. It does not include the economically inactive population, such as the long-term unemployed or full-time students.

The youth unemployment rate in 2023, stood at 19.6%, showing a decrease of 1 percentage point compared to the previous year. Concurrently, employment witnessed a rise of 23.8 thousand individuals, reaching a total of 4.924 million, while the number of economically inactive individuals declined by 55.8 thousand, totaling 3.537 million. (STATISTA, 2023). During the second quarter of 2023, 42.0% of the unemployed individuals had been in that situation for a year or more, which is classified as long-term unemployment. This figure increased by 5.5 percentage points compared to the previous quarter but decreased by 8.9 percentage points in comparison to the same period the previous year. The year-over-year decline in the long-term unemployment rate was primarily influenced by decreases among men (11.2 percentage points), individuals aged 25 to 34 (20.6 percentage points), and those with upper secondary and post-secondary education (13.1 percentage points). The unemployment rate among young people aged 16 to 24 was calculated at 17.2%, indicating a decrease of 2.4 percentage points from the previous quarter and a slight increase of 0.5 percentage points compared to the same period last year.

In the second quarter of 2023, the estimated number of people in the inactive population reached 5,000.9 thousand, showing a slight increase from the previous

quarter (4.4 thousand; 0.1%) but a decrease from the same quarter in 2022 (63.4 thousand; 1.3%). Among those aged 16 or over within the inactive population, which totaled 3,544.7 thousand individuals, they constituted 70.9% of the entire inactive population. This subgroup saw a small increase from the previous quarter (7.4 thousand; 0.2%) but a decrease from the same period a year ago (59.7 thousand; 1.7%).

The inactivity rate for individuals aged 16 or over stood at 40.1%, displaying a similar trend. It increased by 0.1 percentage point compared to the first quarter of 2023 but decreased by 0.8 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2022.

Youth unemployment remains a significant concern in Portugal. The high youth unemployment rate indicates the challenges faced by young people in finding stable employment. Factors such as a lack of work experience, limited skills, and difficulties in matching skills with job requirements contribute to this issue. To address youth unemployment, the Portuguese government has implemented labour market reforms and initiatives focused on creating job opportunities, promoting vocational training, and facilitating the transition from education to employment.

Investing in education and skills development is considered crucial for improving the socio-economic prospects of youth. Portugal has undertaken efforts to enhance the quality of education and align it with the needs of the labour market. Reforms have been implemented to improve school completion rates, reduce dropout rates and enhance vocational training programs (European Commission, 2020). These measures aim to provide young people with the necessary skills and qualifications to meet the demands of the labour market, increase their employability, and foster a smooth transition into the workforce. Some examples are:

- Implementation of the New Skills Agenda for Europe: Portugal has aligned its education and training systems with the objectives of the New Skills Agenda for Europe. This initiative focuses on developing skills that are in high demand in the labour market, promoting digital skills, and enhancing the quality and relevance of vocational education and training programs (European Commission, 2020).
- Promotion of Vocational Education and Training (VET): Portugal has implemented reforms to enhance vocational education and training, aiming to provide young people with practical skills and qualifications

that meet the needs of employers. This includes strengthening partnerships between schools and businesses, expanding apprenticeship programs, and improving the recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning (European Commission, 2020).

Promoting social inclusion among youth is another important measure, essential for ensuring equal opportunities and reducing inequalities. In Portugal, social policies and programs have been implemented to address social disparities and support vulnerable youth populations. Measures to combat poverty, improve access to healthcare and enhance social integration have been put in place (European Commission, 2020):

- **National Program to Combat Poverty:** Portugal has implemented a National Program to Combat Poverty, which includes specific measures targeting vulnerable youth populations. These measures aim to alleviate poverty, enhance access to social support systems, improve housing conditions, and provide targeted assistance to disadvantaged youth (European Commission, 2020).

Additionally, targeted support programs, such as financial assistance and mentoring, aim to assist disadvantaged youth in overcoming barriers and improving their socio-economic situation. The government has introduced the Youth Activation Measure to support the integration of young people into the labour market. This measure includes personalised support services, career guidance, vocational training, and internships to enhance the employability of young job seekers (European Commission, 2020).

Youth entrepreneurship plays a crucial role in fostering socio-economic opportunities for young people. Portugal has been actively working to create an enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship. Initiatives include the establishment of incubators, accelerators, and funding programs specifically designed for young entrepreneurs (European Commission, 2020). Two examples of such initiatives are:

- **StartUP Voucher Program:** The StartUP Voucher program in Portugal aims to support young entrepreneurs in the early stages of developing their businesses. It provides financial assistance, mentorship, and

training to help young entrepreneurs turn their innovative ideas into viable startups (IAPMEI, n.d.).

- Portugal Ventures: Portugal Ventures is a venture capital firm that provides funding and support to innovative startups, including those founded by young entrepreneurs. It focuses on sectors such as technology, digital services, and innovation, providing financial resources and mentorship to help startups grow and succeed (Portugal Ventures, n.d.).

These efforts aim to promote innovation, provide mentoring and training, facilitate access to financing, and encourage young people to start their own businesses. Youth entrepreneurship contributes to job creation, economic growth, and the development of a dynamic and innovative economy.

2. Profile of NEETs and main causes

In Portugal, NEETs represent a significant challenge in terms of youth unemployment and social inclusion. NEETs are individuals between the ages of 15 and 29 who are not engaged in any educational activities, employment, or training programs. They face specific obstacles in terms of accessing the labor market, acquiring skills and achieving socio-economic integration.

The profile of NEETs in Portugal is diverse and their characteristics can vary widely. Some common factors associated with NEET status include low educational attainment, lack of work experience, socio-economic disadvantage and personal circumstances such as health issues, family responsibilities, or geographic location. Research indicates that NEETs are more likely to come from disadvantaged backgrounds, with higher rates among those from lower-income families and lower levels of parental education (El Programa de Garantía Joven en Portugal, 2018).

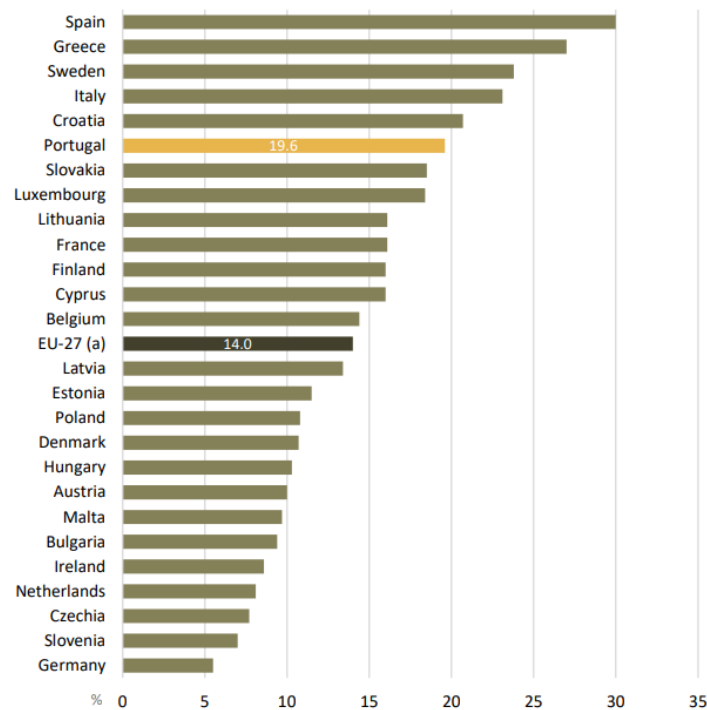


Figure 2. Youth unemployment rate in the European Union in the 1 st quarter of 2023. Source: Eurostat, Unemployment by sex and age – quarterly data [UNE_RT_Q]

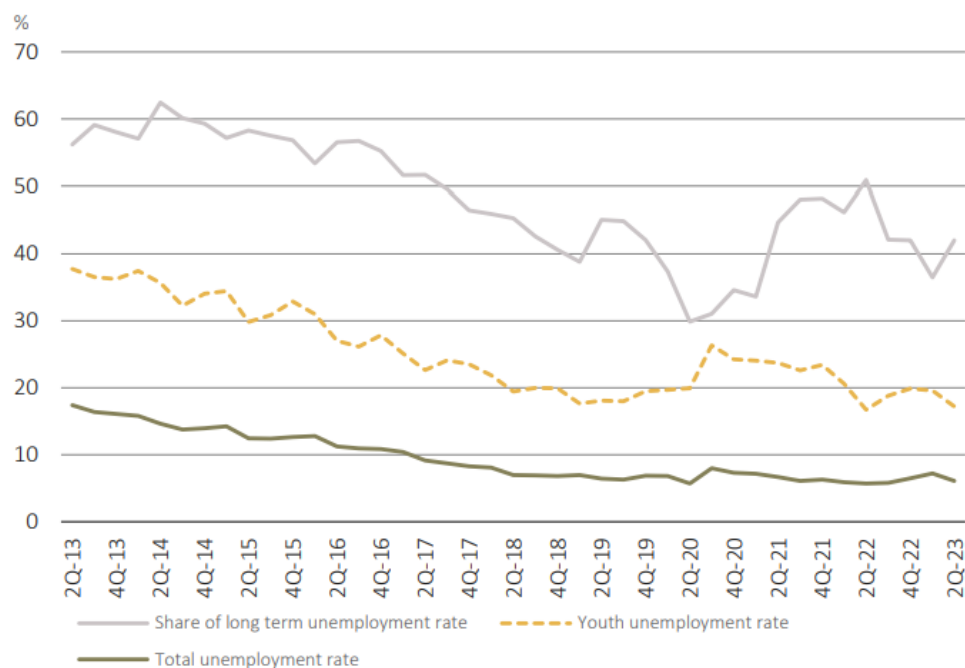


Figure 3. Total and youth unemployment rate and share of long-term unemployment. Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 2 nd quarter of 2023

Education plays a crucial role in the transition from education to employment, and the educational profile of NEETs is an important aspect to consider. The year-over-year shift in the share of long-term unemployment was primarily influenced by a decrease among individuals holding upper secondary and post-secondary education qualifications, with a decline of 13.1 percentage points. A significant proportion of NEETs in Portugal have not completed upper secondary education, which limits their opportunities for further education or training. Insufficient qualifications and skills mismatch between job requirements and the available workforce further contribute to their unemployment or inactivity. The economic situation in Portugal has also had an impact on NEET rates. The global financial crisis that began in 2008 had severe consequences for the Portuguese labour market, leading to increased youth unemployment and a rise in NEET rates. While Portugal has made progress in reducing overall youth unemployment in recent years, the NEET rate remains a concern, particularly among certain vulnerable groups.

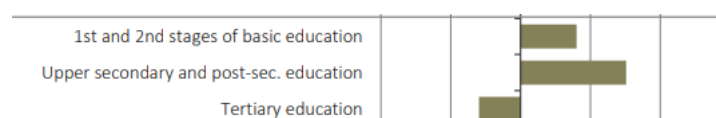


Figure 4. Contributions to the year-on-year rate of change of the unemployed population in the 2nd quarter of 2023. Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 2nd quarter of 2023.

Efforts have been made by the Portuguese government and various organizations to address the NEET phenomenon and support young people in their transition to education and employment. The National Youth Guarantee Program (Garantia Jovem) is a key initiative aimed at reducing the number of NEETs by providing support, training, and employment opportunities. It offers personalized career guidance, vocational training programs, internships, and incentives for companies to hire young job seekers. Furthermore, initiatives focused on skills development and vocational training aim to improve the employability of NEETs. The recognition of non-formal and informal learning, along with the expansion of apprenticeship programs,

aims to provide alternative pathways for acquiring skills and qualifications outside traditional educational settings (Instituto Nacional de Estatística, 2023).

Addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups within the NEET population is crucial. Efforts have been made to provide targeted support for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, including those at risk of poverty, early school leavers and young people with disabilities. Social inclusion measures encompass access to social welfare, healthcare and support services to ensure that NEETs have the necessary resources to participate fully in society.

It is worth noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has likely had an impact on the situation of NEETs in Portugal, as it has disrupted education, reduced job opportunities, and created economic uncertainty. The full extent of the pandemic's influence on NEET rates and dynamics is still unfolding, and its long-term effects on the socio-economic situation of young people require ongoing monitoring and targeted support (European Commission, 2022).

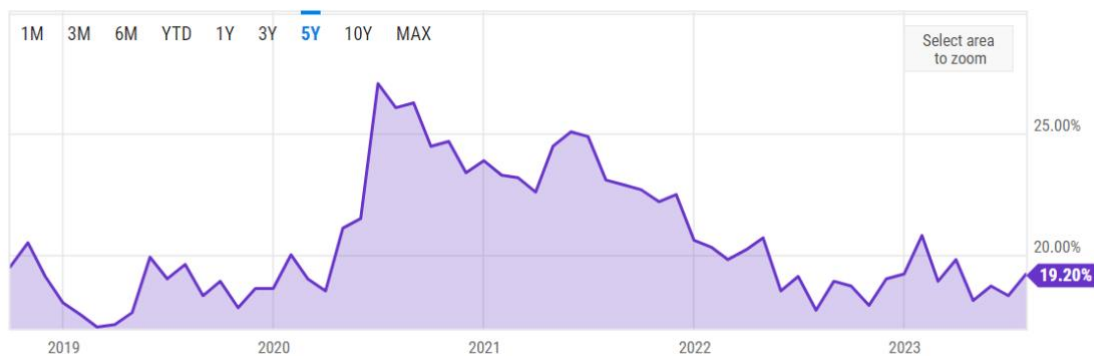


Figure 5. Portugal Youth Unemployment Rate in the past 5 years. Source: YCharts.

In Portugal, there is a recognized relationship between being a NEET and belonging to a group at risk of exclusion or discrimination. NEET individuals often face multiple barriers that can contribute to their increased vulnerability and risk of exclusion. Certain groups in Portugal, such as young people with lower educational attainment, individuals from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, ethnic minorities, migrants, and individuals with disabilities, are more likely to be at risk of exclusion or discrimination (Eurofound, 2017). These groups may face structural

inequalities, limited access to quality education and employment opportunities and social stigma, which can increase their chances of becoming NEET.

As a matter of fact, young people from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with limited educational qualifications may encounter difficulties in finding suitable employment or accessing higher education. The lack of opportunities and resources can contribute to their disengagement from education or training, leading to NEET status. Ethnic minorities and migrants may face additional challenges due to language barriers, discrimination, and limited recognition of foreign qualifications, which can hinder their integration into the labor market and educational system. These factors can increase their likelihood of becoming NEET. Similarly, individuals with disabilities may encounter barriers in accessing education and employment opportunities, leading to higher rates of NEET status. Limited accessibility, discriminatory practices, and negative attitudes can hinder their participation in education and employment, exacerbating their risk of exclusion.

Recognizing these challenges, Portugal has implemented various measures to address the relationship between NEET status and exclusion or discrimination. The government has focused on developing inclusive policies, promoting equal opportunities, and providing support services to vulnerable groups. Initiatives such as vocational training programs, career guidance services, and targeted interventions have been implemented to enhance the employability and educational prospects of individuals at risk of exclusion (European Commission, 2020). By addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by these groups, Portugal aims to reduce the risk of exclusion and discrimination, ultimately contributing to the reduction of NEET rates and fostering social inclusion.

3. Field research on NEETs and entrepreneurial education (with NEETs, youth workers, professionals and stakeholders)

From the point of view of youth workers, following the answers provided by them in the interviews, the biggest challenges and difficulties that youth is facing are that in Portugal, as in many other European countries are they feel the lack of practical knowledge and skills, even after a degree and in order to get experience and find a job

they are asked for experience in exchange, which is very hard to have after just graduating. They also mentioned 'High unemployment rates, Temporary and precarious employment, Limited professional growth, Low wages, Brain drain, Mismatch between education and job market and lack of entrepreneurial support.

As some of the respondents have experience with the NEETs and some do not, their answers are diverse and from various perspectives. Asked about the importance of entrepreneurial education for improving the situation of NEETs, they all acknowledged that it can lead to developing essential skills, fostering self-reliance, encouraging innovation and adaptability, encouraging job creation and they need to be encouraged and enlightened to discover of training on entrepreneurial education, experiential learning and non-formal education.

To gather information straight from the source **we interviewed 20 Portuguese youngsters**, NEETs, aged between 17-32 years old that mainly have never had a job, or worked for maximum of three months due to imbalance between working hours, requirements and payment. Asked about entrepreneurial education, 4 of them mentioned having some extracurricular classes in the highschool regarding the topic, while the rest of them had never done anything as such.

To get started as entrepreneurs they find it important to have knowledge on finance, marketing, risk evaluation and how to be a leader, and the 5 skills they would like to improve are management skills, self-confidence, leadership skills, flexibility and marketing skills. The average time that they are willing to invest in their education is from 5-10 hours and they would like to have a way to gather experience through hands-on activities.

What hinders NEETs from getting into the labour market the most is one of the things also youth workers mentioned- their lack of experience, experience asked by employers in the hiring process, is a fact that makes them feel frustrated.

Interviewing 10 entrepreneurs led to interesting and fruitful information. The first question was related to social issues and as entrepreneurs, they strongly believe in the power of businesses to create positive social impact. 7 out of the 10 have incorporated tackling social issues into their business objectives, either by integrating sustainability principles into their operations, aiming to minimise the environmental

footprint and contribute to a greener future, or by promoting gender equality within their organisation and supporting initiatives that empower women in entrepreneurship.

Establishing a business requires a variety of resources. Initially, they mentioned needing financial resources to cover startup costs, such as funding for product development, marketing and infrastructure. To attract these resources, they pursued different avenues, including pitching to investors, seeking business loans, and even leveraging personal savings. They then mentioned as important the human capital actively seeking skilled and motivated team members who believed in their vision and were willing to contribute their expertise and time. 'Building a strong team has been essential in attracting resources and driving the success of our business' was the answer of one respondent.

Throughout their experience, they mentioned helpful learning opportunities, such as attending workshops, industry conferences, and entrepreneurship programs that have provided valuable insights and knowledge to sharpen skills and stay updated with the latest trends. Building a strong professional network has been crucial as well, enabling them to connect with mentors, advisors, and like-minded entrepreneurs who have offered guidance, support, and valuable business connections. In terms of financing mechanisms, they explored options such as crowdfunding, venture capital, and government grants to secure the necessary funding for growth and development.

They sustain that the success of their businesses can be attributed to a combination of internal and external factors. Internally, having a clear vision, strong leadership, and a dedicated and cohesive team has been instrumental for a lot of them. They mentioned as crucial innovation, continuous learning, and accountability within the organization. Externally, market conditions, customer demand, and industry trends have played a significant role. Additionally, positive relationships with suppliers, strategic partnerships, and effective marketing and branding strategies have all contributed to their success.

As entrepreneurs, they have encountered their fair share of mistakes and setbacks. Some of the common mistakes include underestimating market demand, not conducting thorough market research, and misjudging the competition. In hindsight, they would have taken more time to gather comprehensive market insights, validate their assumptions, and fine-tune their business model before launching. Additionally,

they learned the importance of delegating tasks and building a strong support system to avoid burnout and ensure a sustainable growth trajectory. Learning from these mistakes, they now approach challenges with a more strategic and cautious mindset and continuously train their people.

Their advice would be for the young people to focus on a combination of competencies, training opportunities and resources. Firstly, they should develop strong problem-solving and critical thinking skills to identify opportunities and overcome challenges. Additional skills such as effective communication, leadership, and adaptability are essential in managing teams and navigating dynamic business environments. Acquiring business acumen and knowledge through education or entrepreneurship training programs can provide a solid foundation. Access to mentorship and coaching from experienced entrepreneurs is invaluable in gaining practical insights and guidance. Furthermore, resources such as funding options, networking opportunities, and support organisations can help young people establish and grow their businesses.

‘I believe that entrepreneurship has the power to drive innovation, create opportunities, and contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future for youngsters’ said as a conclusion one of the respondents.

During the focus group, participants engaged in a productive discussion covering various topics related to the research. The atmosphere was positive, and all participants actively contributed their thoughts and insights. The group felt satisfied with the overall discussion and agreed with the general vision of the research and the data presented. They expressed enthusiasm and support for the proposed project.

After the participants have been exposed to the objectives of the project, main results and target groups they were given the general situation of young people, especially NEETs, general data of field research about youth situation and NEETs and best practices and suggestions for using entrepreneurship education for improving the general context, there have been several discussions that led to the following mentioned conclusions.

As **feedback on the research**, participants found it very detailed and on point, giving clarity and specificity to the topic addressed. They showed a strong understanding of the different methodologies proposed by the different interviewees and showed

great support to the idea of the need of entrepreneurial education through non-formal education methodologies. They also suggested some meetings with different successful entrepreneurs and perhaps some training provided by them. They were very surprised and pleased to see that, even though the NEETs are having a hard time being in this situation, they are very open and willing to learn more, to get into the labour market and very excited about the idea of entrepreneurship.

The group expressed concern for this vulnerable demographic and acknowledged the existence of various challenges they face. According to the participants, the reasons behind the existence of NEETs in Portugal can be attributed to multiple factors. They highlighted a lack of opportunities for employment and education as significant contributors to the issue. Participants also mentioned that economic difficulties and limited access to quality education further hinder the prospects for NEETs. The group emphasised the importance of addressing these barriers to provide better opportunities for young people.

The background of young people's lives was acknowledged as a significant influence on their perspectives of the future. Participants discussed how factors such as socioeconomic status, education level, and family support or lack thereof can shape their outlook. Those from disadvantaged backgrounds may face additional challenges due to limited resources and opportunities. The group recognized the need for targeted support and resources to empower young people from all backgrounds and enhance their belief in a positive future.

Regarding the potential role of entrepreneurship in tackling the NEETs situation, participants expressed a shared belief that entrepreneurship could be a useful tool. They highlighted that entrepreneurship provides opportunities for self-empowerment, skills development, and economic independence. By fostering entrepreneurial mindsets and supporting aspiring entrepreneurs, it was suggested that NEETs could be empowered to create their own opportunities and overcome the barriers they face.

The group discussed the lack of a clear definition of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial education within society. They emphasised the need for greater awareness and understanding of what entrepreneurship entails, both in terms of mindset and practical skills. Participants acknowledged the importance of providing comprehensive entrepreneurial education that goes beyond mere business knowledge,

incorporating elements such as creativity, problem-solving, and adaptability. It was suggested that society should strive for a broader recognition of entrepreneurship and its potential benefits for individuals and communities.

Participants expressed concern that entrepreneurial education is not adequately included in the curriculum for youth in their country. They noted a lack of emphasis on developing entrepreneurial skills and mindsets within formal education systems. This gap prevents young people from acquiring the necessary knowledge and tools to succeed as entrepreneurs.

Regarding the support provided by the public administration, participants generally felt that the resources and opportunities offered to start projects or businesses for youth were insufficient. They highlighted challenges such as limited access to funding, bureaucratic hurdles, and a lack of tailored support programs. These factors hindered the potential for youth to embark on entrepreneurial ventures. To improve the situation, participants proposed several changes in policies and initiatives. They stressed the need for greater integration of entrepreneurial education into the curriculum, ensuring that young people are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge from an early age. Additionally, they called for the public administration to allocate more resources and create tailored support programs for aspiring young entrepreneurs. Simplifying bureaucratic processes, providing accessible funding options, and fostering collaboration between government agencies, educational institutions, and private sector stakeholders were suggested as ways to improve the ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship.

In summary, the focus group highlighted the lack of entrepreneurial education in the curriculum for youth and the insufficient resources and opportunities provided by the public administration for starting projects or businesses. They emphasised the importance of integrating entrepreneurial education into formal education systems and called for increased support, funding, and streamlined processes to empower young entrepreneurs. They identified several suggestions to improve the situation for youth entrepreneurship. These include fostering a culture of entrepreneurship, enhancing entrepreneurial ecosystems, integrating technology and digital skills, collaborating with educational institutions, implementing policy reforms and incentives, and promoting

public-private partnerships. 'By implementing these suggestions, we can create a more favourable environment for young entrepreneurs, unlock their potential, and drive economic growth and innovation' was mentioned.

4. Successful national practices and strategies for entrepreneurial education and guidance

StartUP Portugal

StartUP Portugal is a national strategy that aims to foster entrepreneurship and innovation. It provides support for startups, including access to funding, mentoring, and networking opportunities. The program also focuses on creating a favourable environment for entrepreneurship through regulatory reforms and the promotion of entrepreneurial culture.

Entrepreneurship Education

Portugal has placed significant emphasis on entrepreneurship education at various levels. The Ministry of Education has incorporated entrepreneurship into the national curriculum, offering specialised courses and extracurricular activities. The government has also supported initiatives such as the Junior Achievement Portugal, which promotes entrepreneurial skills among young students.

Incubation and Acceleration Programs

Portugal has developed a robust network of incubators and accelerators that provide support and resources to startups. These programs offer mentorship, workspace, funding opportunities, and access to networks of investors and industry experts. Notable examples include Startup Lisboa, UPTEC - Science and Technology Park of the University of Porto, and Startup Braga.

Innovation Hubs and Clusters

Portugal has established innovation hubs and clusters to foster collaboration between startups, research institutions, and established companies. These hubs, such as Hub Criativo do Beato in Lisbon and UPTEC in Porto, provide a

collaborative environment, infrastructure, and access to specialised resources. They also facilitate knowledge transfer and networking among different stakeholders.

Entrepreneurship Competitions and Events

Portugal hosts numerous entrepreneurship competitions and events that encourage and showcase innovative ventures. For instance, the Lisbon Investment Summit brings together investors and startups, offering pitching sessions and networking opportunities. Additionally, the Web Summit, one of the largest tech conferences in the world, takes place annually in Lisbon, attracting startups, investors, and industry leaders.

Supportive Legislation and Policies

The Portuguese government has implemented several policies and legislative measures to support entrepreneurship. These include simplifying the company registration process, reducing bureaucracy, and offering tax incentives for startups and investors. Additionally, Portugal has introduced the "Startup Visa" program, which allows international entrepreneurs to establish and develop their startups in the country.

5. Summary of conclusions, answering the topics proposed in the last part of head 3 of this same document

All interviews and research shed light on several key areas that need to be addressed in order to support NEETs effectively.

It is crucial to address the specific needs of NEETs, including providing access to quality education and training, facilitating job placement and skill development programs, and offering mental health and social support services. These interventions should be tailored to individual circumstances and promote inclusivity and equal opportunities for all NEETs.

It repeatedly highlighted the importance of integrating entrepreneurial education into the curriculum. Key topics to address include business planning, financial literacy, marketing, leadership, problem-solving, and innovation. Equipping NEETs with entrepreneurial skills and mindsets can empower them to create their own opportunities and pursue self-employment or business ventures. It emphasized the need for interactive and experiential learning methodologies in entrepreneurial training. Project-based learning, hands-on activities, mentorship programs, and practical workshops were recommended to enhance engagement and provide real-world exposure. Incorporating reflective practices and promoting critical thinking were also deemed essential in fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.

It should be stressed the importance of inclusivity in entrepreneurial training. It is crucial to consider the diverse profiles of NEETs, including individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds, educational levels, and personal circumstances. Providing tailored support, addressing barriers to participation, and ensuring equal access to resources and opportunities were highlighted as crucial considerations.

The activities to engage NEETs in entrepreneurial training could include ideation workshops, team projects, business simulations, guest speaker sessions, networking events, and exposure to real-life entrepreneurial experiences through internships or apprenticeships. These activities should be designed to be interactive, practical, and relevant to the specific needs and interests of NEETs.

In conclusion, addressing the main needs of NEETs, focusing on key topics in entrepreneurial education, adopting effective methodologies, ensuring inclusivity, and offering diverse activities can create a comprehensive and impactful framework to support NEETs in their entrepreneurial journeys and empower them to overcome exclusion and build a positive future.

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