



NATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF
LABOUR AND
HUMAN
RESOURCES

Under the Supervision of the
Ministry of Labour,
Social Security and Welfare

STATISTICAL INFO

ISSUE 1/2014

Kaminioti O. and Baskozou K.

April 2014

NEET: YOUTH NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, TRAINING

April 2014

NEET: Young people not in Employment, Education, Training

INTRODUCTION

Resources of any type that young people acquire help modulate their own as well as the societal status in a variety of realms of social reality. Formal and non-formal qualifications along with tacit skills derived from education, training, working experience and social participation shape -in relation to other parameters- their potential to respond effectively to the challenges they face.

However, in the present time of economic and social crisis, this potential of the youngest is limited in various ways. During the 4th quarter of 2013, the overall unemployment rate amounted to 27.5% or 1,363,137 unemployed while the corresponding unemployment rate for young people, 15-24 years old, was 57.8% and for young women of the same age group it was 65%¹. Along with the devastating effects of the recession on labour market demand, the deregulation of labour relations which has taken place affects negatively the quality of work without “facilitating” the entry of young people into the labour market as expected. Furthermore, fiscal constraints limit, on the one hand, the opportunities for education and training and, on the other hand, due to the substantial reduction of family income, multiplies the difficulty for investing in the social capital of young people.

SUMMARY FINDINGS

To capture the situation of the youth, we use – among other indicators – the indicator of their participation in employment, education, training. This indicator is used mostly in its “negative form”, that is, we focus on the number of young people who are neither employed nor educated or trained as a percentage of the corresponding population (NEET: Not in Employment, Education, Training).

¹ ELSTAT, (2014), Press Release, Labour Force Survey, 4th quarter 2013, www.statistics.gr

TABLE 1: Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training in the member states of the EU

	2002	2008	2012
European Union (28 countries)	16.8	13.9	17.1
Belgium	17.9	13.3	15.0
Bulgaria	36.3	21.6	26.0
Czech Republic	16.1	8.9	11.3
Denmark	7.0	5.7	8.8
Germany	12.2	11.8	9.8
Estonia	14.3	11.1	15.3
Ireland	15.0	17.4	23.8
Greece	20.2	15.9	28.4
Spain	14.8	17.0	23.8
France	13.8	13.5	16.2
Croatia	25.4	13.3	22.2
Italy	20.4	20.7	27.0
Cyprus	12.1	13.4	22.4
Latvia	17.9	13.9	17.4
Lithuania	16.5	12.3	14.9
Luxembourg	6.7	8.6	7.8
Hungary	17.5	15.3	19.5
Malta	14.3	7.6	11.7
Netherlands	5.0	4.6	5.7
Austria	7.7	8.7	7.8
Poland	24.0	12.3	15.9
Portugal	12.0	12.7	18.7
Romania	27.9	13.4	20.4
Slovenia	12.0	7.9	11.5
Slovakia	32.3	14.4	18.1
Finland	11.4	9.9	11.8
Sweden	9.3	10.7	10.5
United Kingdom	14.0	15.4	18.1

Source: Eurostat

FIGURE 1: Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training in the member states of the EU

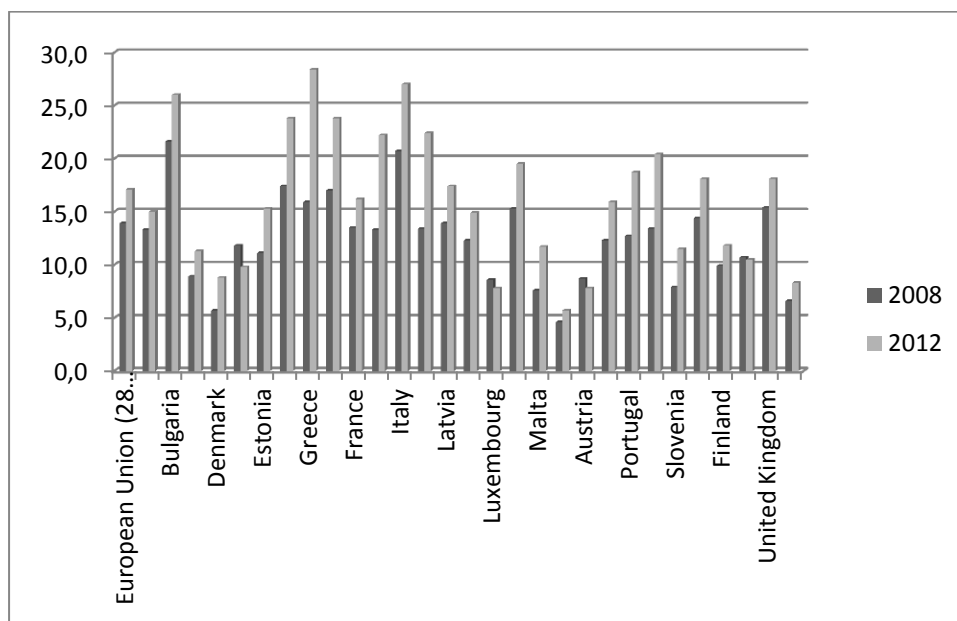
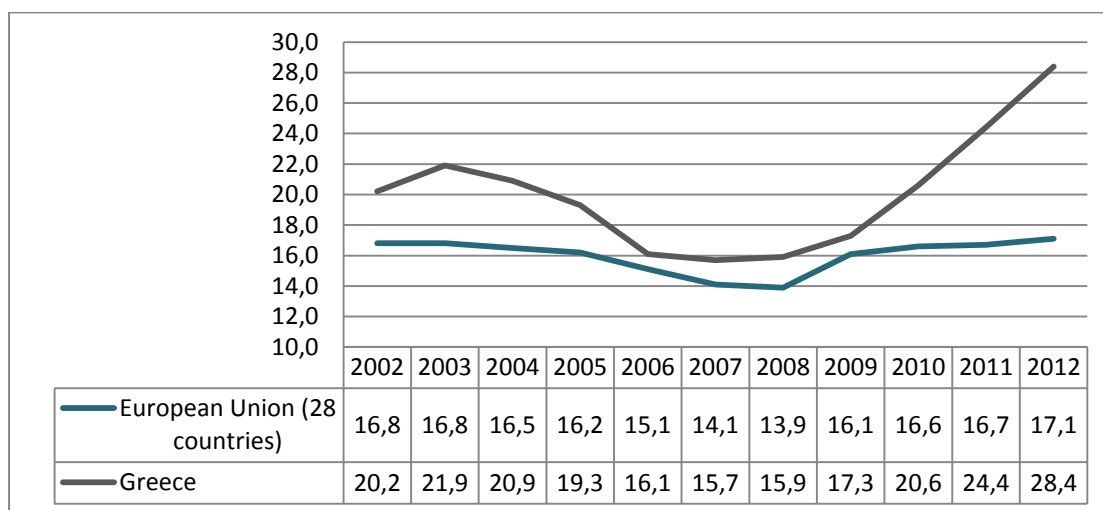


FIGURE 2: Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training in EU and Greece



In 2012, in the EU, the percentage of young people 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training was 17.1%; the lower percentages are met in the Netherlands, Luxemburg, Austria, Denmark, Germany and Sweden. The highest percentage of 28.4% corresponds to Greece while high percentages are also observed for Italy, Bulgaria and Ireland. Comparing years 2002, 2008 and 2012, we notice that the percentage of

NEET decreases in 2008 and increases in 2012 in most countries and only for Germany the percentage continues to decrease in 2012. In four countries (Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Finland) it remains at the same level in the time points we examine. It is obvious that the young people in the EU are facing quite different situations with regard to their participation in employment, education, training. These reported differences among member states will probably enhance even further the existing differences in the labour markets and economies of the member states in the future.

Although the percentage for Greek young people who were not in employment, education or training had approached the EU average in 2008, nowadays a significant deviation is observed. A similar situation is noticed in the majority of economic and social indicators². Moreover, this deviation seems to be continuously expanding.

It is important to mention that the NEET indicator comprises two different elements, the employment/unemployment one as well as the participation/no participation in education/training element. Unemployment rates for youth in the EU are presented in Table 2. Comparing Tables 1 and 2³, we conclude that at least in the case of Greece, the demonstrated NEET raise is due mainly to the dramatic increase of the unemployment rate as resulted from the economic crisis and the undertaken measures to deal with it.

² See, for example, Kaminioti (2012) and Kaminioti (2013).

³ It is important to mention that unemployment rates concern people 15-24 years old, while the NEET indicator concerns people 18-24 years old.

TABLE 2: Unemployment rates for 15-24 years old in the member states of the EU

	2002	2008	2012
European Union (28 countries)	17.9	15.8	23.0
Belgium	17.7	18.0	19.8
Bulgaria	35.2	11.9	28.1
Czech Republic	16.0	9.9	19.5
Denmark	7.4	8.1	14.0
Germany	9.9	10.6	8.1
Estonia	17.8	12.1	20.9
Ireland	8.4	13.3	30.4
Greece	26.8	22.1	55.3
Spain	22.2	24.6	53.2
France	17.2	19.3	24.7
Croatia	35.5	21.9	43.0
Italy	22.0	21.3	35.3
Cyprus	8.0	9.0	27.8
Latvia	20.3	13.6	28.5
Lithuania	23.2	13.3	26.7
Luxembourg	7.0	17.3	18.0
Hungary	11.9	19.9	28.1
Malta	17.1	12.2	14.2
Netherlands	5.4	6.3	9.5
Austria	6.7	8.0	8.7
Poland	42.5	17.2	26.5
Portugal	14.3	20.2	37.7
Romania	21.0	18,6	22.7
Slovenia	16.5	10,4	20.6
Slovakia	38.1	19,3	34.0
Finland	21.0	16,5	19.0
Sweden	16.4	20,2	23.7
United Kingdom	12.0	15,0	21.0

Source: Eurostat

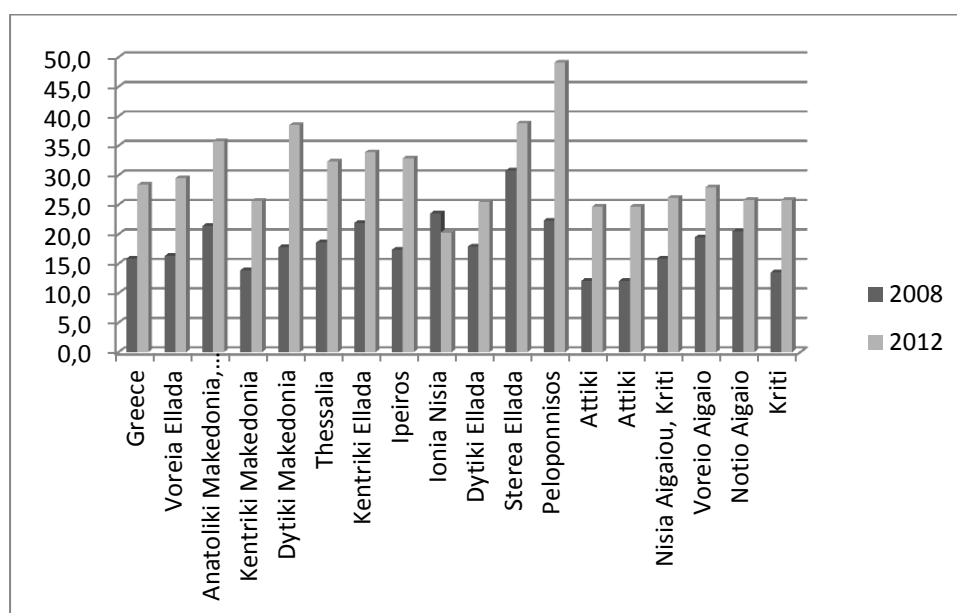
Moreover, 18-24 year old people's non participation in employment, education and training is also differentiated among the various regions in Greece. In 2008, before the economic crisis, the NEET average rate was 15.9% while the lower percentage is met in Attica (12.1%) and the highest one in Sterea Ellada (30.8%). In 2012, the average percentage was 28.4% while the lower one belongs to Ionia Nisia (20.3%) and the highest one in Peloponnisos (49.1%).

TABLE 3: Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training in Greek regions

	2008	2012
Greece	15.9	28.4
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	21.4	35.8
Kentriki Makedonia	13.9	25.6
Dytiki Makedonia	17.8	38.5
Thessalia	18.6	32.3
Ipeiros	17.4	32.9
Ionia Nisia	23.5	20.3
Dytiki Ellada	17.9	25.5
Stereia Ellada	30.8	38.8
Peloponnisos	22.3	49.1
Attiki	12.1	24.7
Voreio Aigaio	19.5	28.0
Notio Aigaio	20.5	25.8
Kriti	13.5	25.8

Source: Eurostat

FIGURE 3: Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training in Greek regions



It is important to mention that the young people that do not participate in employment, education, training comprise a heterogeneous group. Of course, there are many reasons for which young people belong in the NEET category. In the remaining part of this issue, we present more recent data for the NEET indicator by gender, nationality, educational level, age groups and region using Labour Force Survey data for the second quarter of 2013. In the following analysis we use the self-determination of respondents with respect to their position in the labour market for the calculation of the indicator.⁴ We check for any significant differences between the categories of each variable using the chi-square (χ^2) statistical test.

TABLE 4: Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training by gender (2nd quarter 2013)

	Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training (%)	Young people, 18-24 years old in employment, education, training (%)	Total (%)
Men	30.5	69.5	100
Women	31.5	68.5	100
Total	31.0	69.0	100

Source: ELSTAT, Labour Force Survey, own calculations

Young men and women 18-24 years old in Greece share similar percentages of NEET. Whatever differences exist are not statistically significant according to chi-square test⁵. However, further examination of the consisting parts of this indicator reveals highest participation in employment for men as opposed to higher participation in education and training for women.

⁴This decision was due to the inability to calculate the indicator according to the official definitions from existing data. It should be noted that for the specific age group it is not observed substantial differentiation among the official definition and the self-determination of respondents concerning the basic categories of employment situation.

⁵ That means they can be attributed to chance.

TABLE 5: Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training by nationality (2nd quarter 2013)

	Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training (%)	Young people, 18-24 years old in employment, education, training (%)	Total (%)
Greek	29.4	70.6	100
Foreign	47.9	52.1	100
Total	31.0	69.0	100

Source: ELSTAT, Labour Force Survey, own calculations

Although Greek young people's 18-24 years old participation in employment, education and training is very low compared to European levels, participation levels of people with foreign nationality who reside in Greece is even lower. We notice a percentage of 29.4% of Greeks NEETs compared to 47.9% of foreigners NEETs, while the differences observed are statistically significant according to the chi-square test.

TABLE 6: Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training by education level (2nd quarter 2013)

	Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training (%)	Young people, 18-24 years old in employment, education, training (%)	Total (%)
Elementary education	72.2	27.8	100
Secondary education	28.8	71.2	100
TOTAL	31.0	69.0	100

Source: ELSTAT, Labour Force Survey, own calculations

This indicator's calculation by educational level⁶ is interesting since young, 18-24 years old who have elementary education do not participate in employment, education or training at a rate of 72.2% while secondary education graduates do not participate at a rate of 28.8%. Once again, these differences are statistically significant according to the chi-square test.

TABLE 7: Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training by age (2nd quarter 2013)

	Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training (%)	Young people, 18-24 years old in employment, education, training (%)	Total (%)
18-19 years old	20.2	79.8	100
20-24 years old	35.3	64.7	100
Total	31.0	69.0	100

Source: ELSTAT, Labour Force Survey, own calculations

We observe a higher rate of participation for young 18-19 years old (due to their participation in high school) compared to those belonging in the age group of 20-24 years old. The chi-square test shows that existing differences are statistically significant.

⁶ Only two educational levels are used in the analysis. The first one includes people with elementary school education while the second one includes graduates either of secondary or university. Those two upper education levels merged due to certain data restrictions: due to the age focus, the number of university graduates is quite limited plus the group of secondary education includes many university students.

TABLE 8: Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training by Region (2nd quarter 2013)

	Young people, 18-24 years old not in employment, education, training (%)	Young people, 18-24 years old in employment, education, training (%)	Total (%)
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	38.7	61.3	100
Kentriki Makedonia	27.2	72.8	100
Dytiki Makedonia	34.8	65.2	100
Ipeiros	31.6	68.4	100
Thessalia	35.9	64.1	100
Ionia Nisia	27.6	72.4	100
Dytiki Ellada	24.3	75.7	100
Stereia Ellada	40.8	59.2	100
Attiki	28.8	71.2	100
Peloponnisos	41.5	58.5	100
Voreio Aigaio	30.8	69.2	100
Notio Aigaio	35.0	65.0	100
Kriti	27.9	72.1	100
Total	31.0	69.0	100

Source: ELSTAT, Labour Force Survey, own calculations

Regions with the higher scores in NEET are Anatoliki Makedonia-Thraki, Dytiki Makedonia, Thessalia, Sterea Ellada, Pelloponisos and Notio Aigaio. The chi-square test shows, once again, that differences are statistically significant.

CONCLUSIONS

In general, young people in Greece participate more in education and training than employment. Moreover, they face higher unemployment rates as well as longer unemployment spells before entering employment. The economic and labour market situation in Greece has dramatically worsened due to the crisis and the measures undertaken to overcome it. Unfortunately, participation in employment, education and training declines, especially in a period that it should be high for both personal survival reasons as well as for securing future working life.

Negative situations do not influence all people and social groups the same way or to the same extent. Some young people face higher probability to find themselves out of employment, education and training whilst this danger is higher in some member states of the EU than others. In Greece, the discrepancy in youth employment, education and training participation compared to the average EU rate is of serious concern. It urgently asks for targeted measures in order to reverse this trend. Moreover, youth of lower educational level, young people in some regions as well foreigners are found in even worse situation which constitutes an area for specifying targeting in order to face effectively the identified disparities.

The noted disadvantage of people with lower educational level and foreign nationality are a common place for EU nowadays.⁷ European Commission in its latest working papers not only focuses on the problem but urges for the wider use of ESF funds to overcome the existing situation.⁸

Although causes may differ and heterogeneous situations exist among young persons, NEETs accumulate negative characteristics which seriously impede their current and future progress in the economic and social life.⁹ Being NEET for a long period of

⁷European Foundation (2012).

⁸European Commission (2012).

⁹Chen (2011), OECD (2010), European Foundation (2012).

time provokes short and long term consequences, increasing the social exclusion possibility. On the other hand, a thorough study of NEETs characteristics and needs could provoke the undertaking of effective measures for increasing participation in employment, education and training and decreasing disparities and social exclusion.

REFERENCES

Chen, Y. W. (2011) 'Once a NEET always a NEET? Experiences of employment and unemployment among youth in a job training programme in Taiwan'. *International Journal of Social Welfare*, Vol. 20, pp. 33–42.

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (2012). NEETs, Young people not in employment, education or training: Characteristics, costs and policy responses in Europe. Luxembourg: Publication Office of the European Union.

ELSTAT (2014). Press Release, Labour Force Survey, Fourth quarter 2013. www.statistics.gr

EMCO (European Commission Employment Committee) (2010). Ad Hoc Group report 2010. *Policies to support youth* – thematic review. Brussels.

European Commission (2012). *Towards a job-rich recovery*. COM(2012) 173 final, Brussels.

Kaminioti, O. (2012). Labour market data amid the economic crisis. National Institute of Labour and Human Resources. Articles and studies 5/2012 (in Greek). <http://www.eiead.gr/publications/docs/ta%20dedomena%20tis%20agoras%20ergasi%20en%20meso%20tis%20oikonomiki%20krisis.pdf>

Kaminioti, O. (2013). Labour and employment in Greece. Characteristics and developments in the Greek and European labour market. At: Anagnostopoulos K. and Kaminioti O. (eds.). Labour and Employment in Greece. Yearly Report 2012. National Institute of Labour and Human Resources. <http://www.eiead.gr/publications/docs/%CE%95%CE%99%CE%95%CE%91%CE%94.%20%CE%95%CE%A4%CE%97%CE%A3%CE%99%CE%91%20%CE%95%CE%9A%CE%98%CE%95%CE%A3%CE%97%202012%20-%20%CE%9C%CE%95%CE%A1%CE%9F%CE%A3%20%CE%99.pdf>

OECD (2010). *Off to a good start? Jobs for youth*. Paris: OECD.

Editorial Board

Professor K. P. Anagnostopoulos President-General Director

S. P.Gavroglou, Ph.D. Director

O. Kaminioti, Ph.D. Director

C. Paidoussi, Ph.D. Director

Articles, studies, comments etc are expressing exclusively the views of their author/s. The content can be reproduced in part, excluding for commercial use and with explicit reference to the source. The reproduction of the whole document requires a permission from the Institute.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

K. PALAMA 6-8

111 41 ATHENS GREECE

TEL.:++30 210-2120700

FAX: ++30 210-2285122

e-mail: info@eiead.gr

www.eiead.gr



NATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF
LABOUR AND
HUMAN
RESOURCES
