

Antalya, Türkiye, PES Forum on NEETs - Global and Local Trends European Region Meeting on the 16th and 17th of November, 2023

The Public Employment Services Forum on NEETs convened successfully in Antalya, Türkiye, on November 16th and 17th, 2023. Hosted by the Public Employment Services of Türkiye, and Azerbaijan, the conference addressed the challenges posed by NEETs (young people not in employment, education, or training) on both a global and European scale.

The conference, held over two days, underscored the significance of NEETs as a barometer for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal. Despite uneven global progress, the event highlighted the effectiveness of holistic approaches involving early intervention, skills development, and sustainability strategies. The discussions focused on practical, best-in-class approaches to policy and program design, digitalization, skills development, profiling, matching, outreach, and inclusion strategies.

Day 1:

The event commenced with impactful opening speeches from key stakeholders, setting the tone for in-depth discussions. Panels delved into global NEET trends, prevention and education strategies, and the introduction of NEET support programs. As the day unfolded, insightful discussions paved the way for a deeper understanding of the complex issues at hand. Closing remarks provided a concise summary of the key insights gained.

Day 2:

Building upon the foundation laid on the first day, panels on Day 2 explored critical aspects such as human support services, building sustainability and resilience, and global challenges faced by countries in the global south. A notable roundtable discussion featured PES representatives sharing valuable insights, enriching the discourse with practical experiences. The event concluded with closing remarks that reflected on the richness of the discussions held over the two days.

All panels painted a vivid picture of the multifaceted approach needed to effectively address NEET status. From global perspectives to targeted prevention strategies, job readiness, and the intricate challenges faced by countries in the global south, each facet of the NEET challenge was meticulously examined. The presentations and discussions with all member countries and friends, accompanied by engaging presentations, emphasized the critical role of collaboration with diverse stakeholders, the urgency of early intervention, and the ongoing support required to empower NEET individuals.

In a poignant note, the final panel projected the gaze towards the future. It explored how Public Employment Services can evolve to meet the evolving needs of NEET individuals, especially in the aftermath of challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic. The overarching objective remains clear: not only to prevent NEET status but to actively promote sustainability and resilience in the educational and

career journeys of NEET individuals. The event successfully united stakeholders, fostering collaboration and a collective commitment to addressing the complexities surrounding NEETs.

In closing, heartfelt gratitude is extended to all the esteemed presenters, including representatives from OECD, ILO, ETF, and our dedicated members, whose invaluable insights and contributions enriched the discourse, making the PES Forum on NEETs a truly collaborative and enlightening experience.