

NEETs and the Rural/Urban Divide in Sweden – Institutional Capacities for Interventions

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NEETS, i.e. young people neither in education, employment or training, is a pivotal target group for social programmes in many EU member states. Sweden is no exception as a substantial part of youth are marginalised. What generates challenges to combat NEETS in Sweden is the combination of two characteristic factors, first the strong emphasis on municipal interventions and, second, the extensive rural-urban divide between municipalities. Swedish municipalities differ in funding for schooling and active labour market policies but also distance to higher education institutions. There are also differences in the proportion of NEETS as well as the composition of NEETS on municipal level. Taken together, increasing the knowledge of the impact of rural-urban divide on NEETS policies is central for the Swedish context. The paper aims to map Swedish municipalities based on number of NEETS and composition of NEETS in relation to on the one hand institutional capacities to target NEETS such as access to education, employment services, and on the other hand structure of the labour market.