

## **Evaluation of Initiatives Affecting 25+ NEETs in Nine Countries**

Kinga Tóth, Eszter Szónyi, Luca Koltai, HÉTFA Research Institute, [koltai.luca8@gmail.com](mailto:koltai.luca8@gmail.com)

Policy evaluation is a key tool for understanding, developing and modernising policies, including social and youth policies. Our paper is based on the overall evidence gathered during the course of the Lost Millennials project (the project is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment) and in particular on the nine evaluation reports conducted by the project partners. The evaluations focused on different initiatives in nine different countries in relation to 25+ NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

Evaluation, which is the systematic and objective assessment of an ongoing or completed project, programme or policy, can play an important role in supporting better policy with changing practical experiences and insights. The nine evaluations we examined have a significant added value for European social and youth policy.

In order to summarise the findings, statements that can be generalised have been identified, with particular emphasis on providing input for policy and practice recommendations. For example, some common themes were identified: the most vulnerable are hard to reach by formal programmes; filling a gap between other programmes increases relevance and coherence; there is a possible tension between reaching the target group and achieving indicators; gender is not considered in most of the initiatives evaluated; service provision should be complex and individualised; cooperation between implementers to carry out evaluations is a challenge.