

FACT SHEET

DEFINITION OF NEETS

In Portugal, NEETs are defined as young people who are neither in working, studying, or attending any kind of training. Portugal has reported a big drop in NEETs from ages 15- 34 years-old since 2014, from 391 thousand people to 220 thousand in 2019, making Portugal the ninth EU country with the lowest NEET percentage.

FACTS

Eurostat analysis only consider people above the age of 20 since it is quite common for younger people to be finishing their high school studies. Analysis from Portugal, considering all young adults with ages between 20 and 34, indicate that 11,6% of them are integrated in the NEET category, with a higher percentile of women (13,3%) than men (9,8%; Eurostat, 2019). Studies also show that the older they get, the less likely they are to be integrated in this category (comparing 12,7% from ages 20-24 to 10,6% from ages 30-34). This may be due to the pressure of gaining independence and stop relying on parental support. It is worth mentioning inactive NEETs, who cover 5,8% of young adults from 20-34 years of age. These people are not actively seeking work, (e.g., they are not enrolled in a Public Employment Service), meaning it is not their goal to have a job. Again, studies show a higher percentile of women inactive NEETs (6,7%) than men (4,8%). This generally is due to the tendency of women tending to the household work.

ORGANISATIONS

In order to decrease the number of NEETs in the EU, the European Commission's proposal to the Council of the European Union to implement a Youth Guarantee in all Member States was adopted in April 2013. This initiative aims to ensure that all young people aged 15-29 receive a job offer, proceed their education and learning opportunities or have a good quality internship within four months of becoming unemployed or completing formal education. There are many Organizations that focus primarily on NEET's integration in the labor market (e.g., Public Employment Services; CECO), but it is also important to reach the forgotten or inactive NEETs, who are not actively seeking work. To do this, schools with high dropout rates might be useful to reach this target group, since studies of young adults in Portugal show that the youth's unemployment is due to school dropouts.

LABOUR MARKET

Generally, people need a CV and some form of education and/or training to work in Portugal. EU-citizens do not need any formal requisites to work in Portugal, other than specific training or habilitations certain jobs might require. If Portugal citizens enroll themselves in a Public Employment Service, they might benefit from their support in proceeding their education and learning opportunities or in finding a job. However, non-European citizens need a working visa, Startup visa, or Golden Visa to work.