



Zavod Republike Slovenije  
za zaposlovanje

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NORWAY

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### **Study visit “Finding new ways of outreach to NEETs” report and evaluation**

Study visit was funded by NORWAY GRANT, FUND FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS (In accordance with Article 2.4 of the Bilateral Fund Agreement and Article 4.2 of the Regulations on the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021).

Project partners:

Donor state entities:

- Norwegian Ministry of Labour and social affairs, Oslo, Norway
- Veiledernetverket Nosco, Stavanger, Norway

Beneficiary state entities:

- Ministry for Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana  
Slovenia
- Public Employment Service of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Four officials from Ministry of Labour Slovenia and two practitioners from Employment Service Slovenia participated at the study visit.

Rich and comprehensive study visit program included discussions with representatives of the following partner institutions:

- Norwegian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- NAV Asker
- NAV Ullensaker
- Nosco
- UngInvest Rogland, Stavanger
- Friluftssenter,
- NGO Kirkens Bymisjon at Viste Strandhotel,
- NAV Eiganes and Tasta
- Privat company Miljonexpress

We were overwhelmed by the hospitality of all our hosts, especially the project partners. Presentations and practice exchange were at the very high level and offered time for discussion. Our learning process was strengthened by the ongoing discussions and reflections within the group of participants as well as with our hosts from Nosco, Arild and Liv Anita.

First, we learned about values that underpin activities and measures of all stakeholders. It was of high importance to talk about values such as trust, responsibility, support, respect and above all prioritising and investing in young people. Investing in young people is expected to pay off in the long run. The second important lesson for us was to see how fruitful cooperation and networking brings results for young people and practitioners. The long tradition of combining employment and social services is a useful tool to overcome inactivity traps and is something we need to improve in Slovenia. Municipalities have an important role in fighting early school leaving in Norway. We will most probably not be able to establish a similar system, but might try at least to connect services. The concept of "OT" counsellor who can connect young person who dropped out of school with relevant institution is a good idea to use also in our country.

Strategic approach to designing activities and services is also something to try to improve in Slovenia.

As follow up of the study visit, we are in the process of designing a pilot project "Young contact point". Pilot will be implemented at Regional office Koper. The main idea is to form a team of practitioners from different institutions (Employment Service, Centre for Social Work, Education and Health institution) to offer relevant services to young people at risk. Team will create a network with local schools and school counsellors, NGOs working with young people, Youth centres, Project learning for young adults, probation office, etc. in order to stir young people into the services most relevant for them. Counselling phase will be intense; therefore, caseload should not exceed 70 cases per counsellor. Counsellors will be able to meet their clients also outside the institution and will have more autonomy than regular Employment Service counsellors or Social workers. Regular team meetings, monitoring and supervision will be included in order to provide constant learning and adjustments of the pilot project. The results are planned to be used as the basis for nationwide services.

Further cooperation with Norway is also planned in future. We all agree that further cooperation in bilateral activities under the Bilateral Relations Fund and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. As one of the next possible activities in the future, we see the possibility of a follow up study visit by the Norwegian delegation to Slovenia, especially with the aim of establishing concrete partnership between potential contractors of joint projects within the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.