

Neets Phenomenon of Young Romanians Caught Between Never Endless Educational Reform and the Impenetrable Labor Market

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Abstract

In a society genetically endowed with great cognitive potential, the paradigmatic failure of the post-communist education system divide young people into three categories: young elitists who join foreign universities and companies, well-prepared young people eager to study in their country and young NEETs. The increasing percentage of the latter ones is confirmed by the national results obtained in the PISA tests and high school dropout rates. No community in this world can be strong when the investment in education lacks. Non-aligned job policies to educational ones will give birth to worrying imbalances, highlighting the phenomenon of migration. Demographic decline and the lack of strategies to stimulate birth rate will increase the impossibility to ensure generational change within the active population and all these will lead to a block of the pension system. Romania, in the next 20 years will follow the model of the European countries, which face labor importation and the migration of non-European capital. Are there any solutions to counterbalance these trends? This is the question which, the whole rethink of theoretical-methodological analysis of some policies meant to give value to the huge Romanian qualitative human force, deprecated within the large globalization, is based on.

Keywords: Young NEETs, education policies, labor market

Introduction

The transition from a private society of free speech and one realizing the opportunities aiming at individual development, in which there were no social classes and the smooth running was fueled by the standardization of individuals, to a democratic system based on a consumer society depending on promoting “the new” has led to significant changes in the cultural, political, educational and above all economic system.

The failure to reform structures has embrittled, for a long period of time, this system. Clearly, what will perpetuate the status quo in Romania is

the very educational pillar, which after the decline of the past 20 years, has fractionated the young into three categories: young migratory elitists, young people who continue their studies internally and the young NEET's.

Romania has a cognitive potential acknowledged by the member states of the European Union and not only. But amid the increasing migration of young elitists, either for studies or as a result of massive recruitment by foreign companies, Romania risks losing consistently specialists for productive fields. Remuneration or the conditions in which they practice and operate in areas such as medicine or IT are just a few illustrative examples of the elitist migration. Diminishing the migratory flux of people who can bring added value to the state, by boosting them, can on long term lead to economic and living standard growth in Romania.

In absolute figures, the rate of migration of highly qualified people, known as the phrase “brain drain”, created for the first time the British Royal Society to describe the emigration of scientists and technologists in the years 1950-1960, from UK to USA and Canada (Gibson & McKenzie, 2011), has increased. This may be due, on the one hand, to the increase in the level of education of the population of migrant-exporting countries, and on the other hand, to the improvement of infrastructure, means of transport and the development of international organizations and inter-state links.

The brain drain under unidirectional flow from less developed countries towards countries in the process of economic evolution acquires a negative moral connotation in relation to other forms of brain drain. In this sense, the specialized literature analyzes the various aspects of the phenomenon from different perspectives, revealing at least two discursive-explanatory versions. The first variant concerns the surplus of brains: some brains are prone not to be absorbed by the workforce due to the slow rate of use of improved human capital, which is diffused and absorbed by a foreign market (Gaillard & Gaillard, 1998). The second version refers to “brain exchange”, ie the exchange of specialists, researchers and students between LDCs and developed countries.

For the countries of destination of specialized laborforce the phenomenon was called “brain gain” and thus, these states use the classification of immigrants to develop certain sectors without investing in training and development. The winnings of the departure states is related to the remittances sent by migrants in the country, the possible transfer of knowledge and networking, and the losses can be estimated by the spendings made by the state for the training of the human resources and the loss of highly qualified people in the system (Schellinger, 2015, p.5-6).

This phenomenon of Brain Drain has grown in our country after 2007, when Romania joined the European Union, thus gaining the freedom of movement of circulatory human capital on the European labor market.

This phenomenon can not be analyzed by the phrase "good-bad" because from the migrating person's point of view this decision is beneficial to him, at least on short term, but it is not favorable for our country. The main reason for which Romanian society suffers from this phenomenon is that in the country there is no elite, which is why the society will face a shortage of scientists in different fields such as medicine or IT industry.

According to the report „Social Affairs and Inclusion, Employment and Social Developments in Europe. 2011” Romania has the highest mobility rate, over 11%, even taking into account the period of 7 years (2004-2011), when the mobility rate was 6%. (European Commission, 2011).

Western countries are aware of the advantages they have when hiring young people from less developed countries. People chosen for recruitment excel in the areas they are studying. The advantages of Western countries are that immigrants are often paid at a lower level, do not spend money on training of specialists and the third important aspect is they attract inside the community highly skilled people, contributing to the development of the host state. Another issue is strictly related to the brain drain of young people who leave to attend university abroad. According to a survey conducted in 2014 by the League of Romanian Students Abroad, nearly 40% of these people do not want to return home to practise a job.

Brain drain, analyzed with the Addiction theory or World system theory of Immanuel Wallerstein, can represent the direct effect of differentiated development between states and the dependency relationship between them. According to it, the capitalist development has given rise to a global order that is reflected in the „core” countries, namely the strong industrialized states which developed dependency relationships for the „peripheral” less developed ones. (Measure, 2009).

Wishing to perform professionally and have a standard of living higher than back home, young elitists always opt to migrate from the peripheral countries to the semi-peripheral or even core ones. Reverse migration is rare, only if the reason for migration is to experience or support a less developed community.

Brain drain affects Romania on long term, because the lack of elites, of those able to develop the country's economy produces negative effects in each action sector, more so when we are talking about diversity and inclusion on the labor market.

Duality or labor market segmentation confirms the classification of the first two categories of youth. According to the representative of this trend, Piore, it is divided into two segments: the first segment, called also the primary one, is characterized by high salaries, promoting the individual and his integration into large organizations that focus on the professional development of employees, and the second segment has the opposite

characteristics: low wages, where the emphasis is not on promoting the employee, and labor migration is very high. This structure has created a third segment of the labor market, ie unemployment. (Doeringer & Piore, 1971). Thus, many virtuous young people, opting to continue their studies in the country join the workforce, most commonly in the first segment, and the young NEETs is the third segment, but are also the result of the fluctuation of human capital from the second segment.

After all, at the core of human development an important role is held by social interaction, every behavior is internalized and becomes observable behavior (Stănciulescu, 1996). Thus, the interactional theory explains young people's options through a microsocioanalysis, to interact with dynamic systems that may support their professional development: education system, labor market, etc.

The classification of young people and inequalities of social positions in society may be associated to conflict theories that „*no longer considers education (especially school) as a factor of social order, emancipation and progress, but as an instance of social control through which inequality and domination are reproduced*” (Stănciulescu, 1997, p.241).

Young NEETs in the European context

Analyzing statistically, young people who continue their studies internally in Romania are declining, on the one hand due to negative demographic dynamics, and on the other hand, due to increasing interest towards education and work, causing strengthening the category of NEET's young. The results of admission to high school and baccalaureate in recent years, coupled with statistic data from the National Agency for Employment confirm the expansion of young people who are not in education nor are employed on the labor market.

In a country where the education system manifests exacerbated negative symptoms, in which the state continues to direct its attention in terms of budgetary allocation to other areas and with a labor market that offers limited employment, young NEETs phenomena becomes huge.

At EU level, the demographic data show a steady trend of population aging and worrying diminishing of the proportion represented by children and youth. The information provided by Eurostat, for the year 2014, showed the existence of 504 million inhabitants in the 28 EU Member States. Of these, the population of children aged 0-14 years is 15.6% and youth population aged 15-29 years, 17.7%. In this context the European Union was actively involved in the development and implementation of policies for young people, with the objective of reducing early school abandonment rate, the increase in the integration rate on the labor market or in a training program.

According to the latest statistics published by the European Commission in the article *Statistics on young people neither employment nor in education or in training*, young NEET rate increased in the EU, between 2008 and 2015 with a rate of 2.4%. By 2015, there were over 17 million young people, aged 20-34, who were not employed in the labor market and were not studying at all. The increase or decrease of this number is a direct effect of the phenomenon of progress or economic crisis. Analysing the situation of this group of young people for all Member States, there is a high variation in the recorded percentages. Thus, in 2015, the lowest figures were recored in Sweden and Luxembourg, where less than 10% of young people (20-34), was represented by young NEET. In contrast, we fiind Greece and Italy, where about 1/3 of all young people (20-34 years) are NEET youth, 32.4% and 31.6%, respectively.

Regarding the concerning data registered by Italy, they highlight the effects of a high percentage of young discouraged people, a reduced rate of college graduates, a high rate of unemployment and limited employment. All these indicators ultimately affect young people's ability to create an independent future. The latest information provided by the Italian National Statistics Institute showed, for 2013, the existence of 2,400,000 NEETs young, aged 15-29. Youth unemployment rate increased from 20% in 2007 to a historic peak of 44.2% reached in 2014 (Pastore, 2015, p. 4). For the age segment 20-24 years, Italy occupied in 2015 the first place in Europe in terms of unemployment and 32%, respectively.

Spain is among the countries with the highest percentage of the total unemployment rate held by young people who do not have a job. According to the Spanish National Statistics Institute at the end of 2015, 22.7% of people aged between 15 and 29 years were young NEETs. Compared with Italy, inclusion and absorption policies of young people into the labor market have contributed significantly to lowering the unemployment rate, 2016 being the first year after 2009 in which this rate has gone into remission, from the 20% to 18.91%.

France is one of the EU member states where recorded percentages of young NEETs have not yet reached a dangerous level. According to the European Commission, in 2013, 13.8% of people aged between 15 and 29 years were part of the youth category NEET's, ie 1.58 million French citizens. However, France is experiencing a steady growth, over the past 15 years, of people aged 15-29 who give up school early.

The situation of young NETTs produces serious adverse consequences both for individuals who get in this situation, as well as society and economy. Looking at the statistical data published by Eurostat we can observe significant differences between genders in terms of the proportion of young people who are unemployed and do not attend any form of education

or training. In 2015, nearly a quarter of the total female population (23%), aged 20-34, were NEETs, while of the total male population (20-34 years), only 14, 9 % were NEETs. Of the total male population registered in the Member States as NEETs young people (20-34 years), 60.4% have not found a job, and 39.6% are inactive, because they are not looking for a job. In this situation also occurs the disproportion in gender analysis, only 32.6% of women were in a position of not finding a job, while 67.4% of them were inactive.

The high percentage of people who belong to the young NEETs at EU level, can be explained by analyzing several factors (lack of appetite of the youth to study and work, the superannuation of values by globalization, technological development and growing demands for specialist training, requirements for vacancies, projecting high financial expectations and generating dissonance between the potential and qualification of young people and the employers' offer, etc). Regardless of the possible explanations, the fact is that the vast majority of Member States of the EU is facing increasing challenges in trying to absorb and integrate young people in education and the labor market.

Young NEETs between the never endless educational reform and the impenetrable labor market in Romania

Integrating people between 16-29 years the labor market remains a challenge for Romania. According to the European Commission's Country Report published in February 2016, the youth unemployment dropped significantly, to 22%. However, although major efforts have been made and incentive programs have been implemented, we are still slightly above the EU average. Regarding young NEETs, namely those who do not attend any form of education or training nor operate on the labor market, Romania is above the EU average with 5%, averaging 12%. In the official documents of the Human Capital Development Operational Programme, the number of young NEETs in Romania is over 400,000. Initially, there were provided key measures such as internships and apprenticeships, mobility packages, etc., but which have not been implemented in a capacity to contribute to reducing the percentage of young NEETs.

The network of partnerships between public employment services, the education system represented by schools and universities and the private sector is not sufficiently developed and not used as a supporting pillar of a sustainable progress. Exceptions are some counties where pilot measures eased, however limitedly, to reach this category of young people who mostly is not registered in public employment. In the present financial allocation, 2014-2020, of the Human Capital Operational Programme, the Ministry of European Funds manages a Priority Axis aimed at improving the situation of

young NEETs category by implementing integrated measures. The measures eligible under this approach aim mainly the employment growth of unemployed young NEETs aged 16 to 24 years.

The implementation of strategies aiming at strengthening labor market and the education system through integrated plans and specific programs is limited by the capacity of public administration to access and manage national and European funds locally or regionally.

The problems in Romania, even more of young NEETs, are emphasized by the demographic situation of the population aged between 15 and 29 years. As shown by the National Statistics Institute data (see Table 1), young population is decreasing since 2013 to the present, and from one year to another this phenomenon starts spreading. Compared to 2013, the population aged between 15 and 29 years, dropped in 2016 with nearly 190,000 people, being reduced gradually: in 2014 with approximately 36,700 young people compared to 2013, in 2015 with 57,300 young people compared to 2014, and in 2016 the decrease is considerable, ie the difference being of almost 95,500 young people.

This data aim also for an analysis of birth rate in Romania, during 1987-2001, demographic decline explained by changes in the political structures of that period. The policies' consequences of the new democratic regime installed in the 90s, after a period of 41 years of communism, is configured in the social phenomena of contemporary Romania. Approval of abortion, widespread use of contraception and the transition from housewife, the woman devoted to her family to the independent woman, eager to build a career are just some of the facts that contributed to the demographic decline of population in the period 1987-2001. This explanation is also confirmed by and dynamics of young people aged between 25-29, which is increasing in 2013-2015, a period relates to the birth rate in the years 1987-1989.

Age groups	Population for2013	Population for2014	Population for2015	Population for2016
15-19 years	1091355	1087420	1081303	1083079
20-24 years	1273671	1193052	1128713	1079644
25-29 years	1344539	1392394	1405491	1357286
TOTAL				
15-29 years	3709565	3672866	3615507	3520009

Table 1 (Analysis of demographic data, National Statistics Institute)

According to the European Commission country report issued in February 2016, Romania is facing the phenomenon of aging population, under the current conditions being estimated that we will rank second in Europe by 2060, the demographic dependency index increasing to 64.8%. To prevent a second position in European rankings, Romania should adopt

social policies to stimulate birth rates growth and counteract the migration of young people towards developed Western countries.

On the other hand, the phenomenon of young NEETs is a direct effect of multiple failures in the education system. The school has a determinant role in social and professional development of individuals and is considered to be an important factor in their adaptation process to the effervescent reality and prepares them for an easy integration on the labor market. The education system is the barometer of a country's development. No state without investments in health, education and culture could aspire to the status of „central state”, dominating the world economy and controlling most of the technology and capital, according to I. Wallerstein's theory.

Education must be approached with a major importance because it configures fundamentally the human life, but also social progress, and in current conditions it must reprioritize systemic issues to revitalize and ensure intergenerational quality transfer.

The increasing percentage of young NEETs is confirmed by the national results obtained in the PISA tests, where Romania participates since 2001. According to the results in 2015, when 4876 students attended, 15 year olds, from 182 surveyed schools, published in the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) report, education is in decline, the overall score obtained on the scale by Reading/Lecture can match the performances of Uruguay and Bulgaria.

On the overall scale of Sciences is signaled an average performance, ranking us 48th out of 70 participating countries, and regarding Mathematics, Romania is compared to Greece, Bulgaria, Cyprus or Argentina.

Identifying key internal and external factors that can stimulate and maintain the quality of education and analyzing the main approaches, dimensions, criteria and organizational, financial, managerial, pedagogical, sociological indicators reflected in the standards and assessment strategies of educational institutions may represent alternatives to improve the educational act.

The educational system is one of the pillars of a society interested in investing in sustainable development and that tends to access a higher stage in the evolutionary process. However, in Romania the state of education indicates that this is not a priority, especially for political leaders who allocate insufficient funds for the development of the educational process in optimal conditions. The financial resources provided regularly in the budget do not cover the entire range of identified needs, so that the chance of achieving progress standards found in other European Union member countries is minimized.

Romania's efforts in education in terms of governance and public spendings are recognized in the European Commission's report. According to it, public spendings increased in 2013 from 2.8% to 3.2% in 2015, and this level is wanted to continue in 2016. Increasing the budget allocations percentage in education do not balance the large range of needs and problems that perpetuate in the education system.

Roma citizens and students from families with a high degree of poverty, part of vulnerable groups, still face significant difficulties in the access to education, mainly the completion of studies, mostly in rural areas. Regarding education, vulnerable groups (among which we mention children in rural communities, children in institutions, Roma and disabled people) are classified on a significantly lower position compared to the general population, a situation revealed in graduation rates as well as registered performances.

Due to the major disinterest for a socio-educational reform, focused on identifying the causes generating school dropout and prevention of poverty, but also due to the manifestation of low availability for effective corrective programs, the percentage of early school dropouts remains at one of the highest, alarming levels in Europe. Thus, the results recorded in Romania, in school dropouts increased with almost 7% above the EU average and our target made under the Europe 2020 Strategy, namely from 18.1% in 2014.

The results showed that the percentage of school dropouts is much higher among rural residents, children with special needs and Roma people. It was thus found that the support given to teachers and parents working with children and young people from vulnerable groups is insufficient, highlighting the need for more support from those entitled thereto. Therefore, there must be a speed up implementation of the strategy aiming to reduce early school dropout, approved and adopted since 2015, strategy which still has unprecedented delays, at the expense of those who need real solutions in this sense. „Second chance” programs are still not sufficiently calibrated to the extent and variety of needs. Education technology, generating network database for all stakeholders interested in the phenomenon, bases that would include specific indicators for dropout detection and its correction, it not yet implemented.

In 2013, only 6% of children under three years of age benefited from formal care for a period of time greater than 30 hours/week. Compared with the Barcelona target, of 33%, Romania is significantly below average. Also in the case of preschool children, in the age group three to six years, there have been major differences in access to care and education services.

Adopting Law no. 248/2015 on stimulating the participation in preschool education of children from disadvantaged families, aimed to offer

them the chance to benefit monthly from social coupons to purchase the materials needed in the educational process, where their children aged between three and six years are registered and attend kindergarten or grammar school. This measure to fight child poverty is part of a beneficial initiative whose application would result in solving the numerous system discrepancies.

Young NEETs analysis can also be achieved by a study on the figures showing the rate of young people registered in secondary education system. The difference between the number of candidates registered for the admission examination and the number of distributed candidates represents young NEETs candidates, except those that fall in employment at the age of 15 with the parents or legal guardian's approval. Thus, according to the results published by the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research in 2013, 500 students were not distributed to a high school, this number being on the rise, reaching 1880 students in 2015 (see Table 2). At the same time, there is decrease in the number of students registered in high school admission examination in the 2013-2016 period, in 2013 being 145,896 students registered compared to the number of young people enrolled in 2016, of 119,578 students.

Total number of candidates in the year:	Registered	Distributed
2013	145896	145396
2014	128707	127746
2015	126685	124805
2016	119578	118661

Table 2 (Source: Ministry of National Education)

The analysis of young NEETs should not ignore the cases of school dropout, another phenomenon that has grown in Romania, occupying top positions, regarding this indicator, at European level.

Continuing with the difficulties in the education system, the disastrous failure of high school graduates at the baccalaureate examinations in the last four calendar years is a problem whose cause must be identified and stopped. Equally relevant is the graduation rate at the Baccalaureate Examination and its analysis in the last four years. We can observe a constant increase, so since 2013 when the graduation rate was 52.4%, it reached 64.1% in 2016. This ascending trend manifests itself after the graduation rate in 2007 was 80.3%, and in 2011 it declined dramatically to 43.9%. The number of students who have not passed the Baccalaureate examination in the period 2013-2016 is over 269,000 students, young people who definitely were not included in the university education system. This number is a minimized one since it adds the young people who, although they obtained a passing grade, have opted not to continue their studies. As

with the analysis of high school admission, the 269,000 young people who failed to fit into the impenetrable labor market were absorbed by the young NEETs category.

Graduation rate for the Baccalaureate exam			
2013	2014	2015	2016
52,4%	56,7%	64,1%	64,2%

Table3 (Source: Ministry of National Education)

The failure of the baccalaureate examination or the high school admission is due to several factors: small GDP given to education with direct effects on the educational process (poor remuneration of teachers and decreased quality of their training, precarious material base of Romanian schools, underfunding of activities meant to identify vocational interests and establish educational and professional paths appropriate to young people, etc), social status uncorrelated with education (youth people take easy social success models, generated by the context of interminable transition to market economy and favorable to law circumvention), frequent changes in the Education Law, better surveillance of the examinations to reduce fraud during the evaluation process, etc.

Although many of the labor market needs are not met, whatever efforts are made to eliminate the dissonances between what the education system provides and what employers request, the number of those who complete tertiary education has increased. Over the last decade, there have been mixed results, the graduation rates of tertiary education increasing constantly, thus reaching 25% in 2014, approaching Romania's target of 26.7%, assumed by the 2020 Europe Strategy.

According to the European Commission country report, despite the results achieved since 2008, the number of candidates registered to university studies has declined dramatically, while that of tertiary education graduates in rural areas is steadily decreasing, the divide between geographical areas, in this segment, retaining a ratio eight times lower in rural than in urban areas. Corroborating these data also with the employability of graduates in the last three years, also trending negatively by more than 7 percentage points, we demonstrate that universities have not yet rallied with developments on the labor market, being a significant gap between supply and demand on the labor market. Thus, it is highlighted the need to make permanent annual evaluations of the binomial supply and demand, of labor market forecasts, to adapt curricula, to cooperate with economic and social partners and rational and practical reform of the education system in Romania.

Conclusion

Early participation in the labor market is an advantage for graduates and helps them find a job in the profession for which they have trained after graduation if they have gained experience during their studies. The globalisation process has led to significant changes in the occupational structure of Romania, the socio-economic reforms leading to the elimination of some occupations and the emergence of others. The transformations have included the effect phenomenon of market economy dynamics, unknown in the communist era and specific to the capitalist stage: unemployment.

The phenomenon of unemployment can be fought by promoting good practices that encourage the implementation in short periods of time of solutions to the problems that the Public Employment Service is facing, by using mechanisms or methods already tested by other institutions and thus be able to respond efficiently the more increasing requirements of citizens and which will be a source of inspiration and learning for their own activity.

Amid these findings, boosted by demographic decline and constant maintenance of a migration flow, sociological analyzes come to confirm fears and outline alarming predictions on the educational future of children and young Romanians, especially young NEETs. Although there are viable solutions to help perform the education system, there was still not created the reflection on the possibilities of change and was not exhaustively used the application of social policies in the area of family, education and employment.

Although the negative effects of migration, in general and the brain drain, in particular, are obvious, the Romanian Government does not seem aware of this, so it still did not follow a public policy to reduce the migration phenomenon.

In order to diminish the effects produced by the constant increase in the percentages of young population who get to be part of NEETs groups, the European Union and all Member States have developed and implemented policies of social inclusion.

In 2014 it was launched in Romania by the Romanian Students Abroad League, the Diaspora SMART project which aims to stop the migration effect of graduate students in other states. The project proposes viable solutions consisting in offering financial incentives in the form of financial deductions for those who have completed undergraduate studies at one of the best 500 universities in the world, online recruitment for jobs in the public system, creation and development of research and innovation centers for the best scientists and engineers in the country and abroad, simplifying the bureaucratic process of recognition of diplomas, etc.

On the other hand, by a recommendation published by the Council of Europe in 2015, it warned Italy on the lack of existence of a national social

service for the unemployed. That same year, Italy began implementing the program *Youth Guarantee*, supported by all Member States, which had as immediate results the creation of new forms of cooperation between the public and private system and established new ways to facilitate the relationship between employers and young people.

Another example is Spain, where the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality published the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion of the Kingdom of Spain for the period 2013-2016. In this document there are three strategic objectives:

1. Promoting labor market inclusion of vulnerable groups, especially families with minors and children with high risk of exclusion.

2. Implementing a system of benefits that grants financial support to those belonging to vulnerable groups reducing poverty among children.

3. Ensuring the provision of basic services to the entire population, focusing especially on disadvantaged groups: social services, education, health, housing, etc.

In France, the Committee to Combat Exclusion adopted in January 2013 the *Social subsistence/ protection and health cover for young people living in poverty* plan. Its objectives aimed: reducing inequality and exclusion prevention; consolidation of inclusion actions of disadvantaged groups; coordination of social action and development of some stakeholders in this area.

Within the European Council held on May 12th 2009, there was materialized the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (“ET 2020”). According to its conclusions, among the specific objectives to be achieved by 2020 there are included: minimum 95% of children between 4 years and 16 years should attend preschool education, the proportion of graduate employees should be at least 80%, at least 15% of adults should participate in learning activities throughout life, etc.

The main imposed measures refer to actions aiming at strengthening preventive approaches, promoting innovation and creativity through the use of teaching and learning specific methods and last but not least the development of partnerships between the education system (schools/high schools/universities), training providers, private companies and research institutions.

Regarding young NEETs, Romania has developed numerous strategies that support them, including the National Strategy for Employment, the Initiative Jobs for Youth, the Guarantee Implementation Plan for Youth 2014-2015, the National Strategy for lifelong Learning. There also should be taken into consideration the country specific recommendations of the European Union in fighting youth unemployment. The financial allocation for Initiative Jobs for Youth, program in which the

target group is limited to young NEETs, was set for 105.9 million EUR for Romania. Therefore, the implementation of these projects would lead to stopping the phenomenon of young Romanian NEETs by registering them in the impenetrable labor market or the education system.

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