

Deliverable 5.2a: Counselling and Vocational Guidance Handbook for policy makers, structures and services

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Abstract

The “Counselling and Vocational Guidance Handbook for policy makers, structures and services” (D.5.2a) constitutes an integral part of the “Planning and development of a twofold comprehensive intervention proposal towards NEETs’ social inclusion (W.P.5). It accompanies the comprehensive, targeted and competence-based Training-Reskilling Programme (by taxonomic category, based on their skills profile) (D.5.1), as well as the Report on the proposed set of psychological support interventions (D.5.3). Furthermore, the twofold comprehensive intervention proposal towards NEETs’ social inclusion includes, except from the current “Counselling and Vocational Guidance Handbook for policy makers, structures and services”, another one “Counselling and Vocational Guidance Handbook for NEETs in Greece” (D.5.2b).

The “Counselling and Vocational Guidance Handbook for policy makers, structures and services” was written for policy makers, structures and services related to the fields of education, training-reskilling, LLL and NEETs’ as well as other socially vulnerable groups’ social inclusion. It aims at utilizing by the abovementioned public and private bodies as a handbook with guidelines for NEETs’ integration and re-integration into labour market in the context of the “Youth Guarantee” (see in detail Council of the European Union, 2013: 3-5). Specifically, as a handbook towards a) the personalised support of each NEET in Greece in relation to issues of vocational guidance management and b) the counterbalance of the current mismatch between NEETs’ needs-in job finding and the respective interventions and actions by the state and other public and private bodies(Eurofound, 2016: 49).

Specifically, the “Counselling and Vocational Guidance Handbook for policy makers, structures and services” includes a set of proposed targeted measures/actions at national and regional level, which may be utilized by the abovementioned policy

makers, structures and services and they are related to the management of NEETs' and other socially vulnerable groups' vocational guidance. The proposed set of measures/actions are divided into three parts: a) general actions/measures in the field of Counselling and Vocational Guidance aiming at the mitigation of NEETs' social vulnerability, b) targeted actions/measures in the fields of education, training and LLL, and c) targeted actions/measures in the field of employment.

Regarding the General Actions of Counselling and Vocational Guidance, actions/measures are proposed with (partial) financial cost in order to: a) prevent and address the NEETs' phenomenon in Greece with long-term effects and b) enhance their employability. Namely it is proposed an increase in financing or reallocation of the budget to public and private bodies active in the field of counselling and vocational guidance, especially of socially vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, towards NEETs' re-education, training-reskilling and enhancement of their employability, as well as the provision of information about issues of councelling and vocational guidance, are proposed: a) the promotion and the enhancement of the bilateral and tripartite partnerships between public and private bodies and social partners, b) the upgrading of the National Network of Lifelong Learning, as well as c) the creation of local networks (networking) and a central network node aiming at the promotion of the communication and the cooperation between local networks and the exchange of "best practices" regarding issues of social vulnerability unemployment (especially youth unemployment), counselling and vocational guidance and empowerment of local employment.

Regarding the targeted actions in the fields of education, training and LLL, are proposed: a) the promotion of the certification of qualifications and occupational profiles as well as the promotion of Lifelong learning structures, in parallel with the validation and the certification of the qualifications of non-formal and informal learning, b) the promotion of the institution of Second Chance Schools (SDE) and the enhancement of Lifelong Learning Centres (KDVM) and c) the promotion of PostGraduate Studies Programmes (PSP) in the Tertiary Education Institutions and parallel information for them (i.e. distance postgraduate studies, Higher education Institutions and parallel information for them (distance graduate studies, tuition fees, access, occupational features etc.).

Additionally, as concerns the targeted actions in the field of employment, are proposed: a) the promotion and the upgrading of the EOPPEP's (National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance) initiatives and actions of counseling and vocational guidance (e.g. workshops organization at regional level), b) the enhancement of the Employment and Career Structures (DASTA) and, especially, the Career Offices of the Tertiary Education Institutions, c) the upgrading of the counseling services of the Greek Manpower Employment Organization (OAED) and the Centres for Promotion to Employment (KPA 2), d) the promotion and the empowerment of the youth entrepreneurship by taking measures and implementing actions at regional level and in coastal and island areas, aiming at strengthening employability and vocational guidance of NEETs and other socially vulnerable groups and e) the creation of one-stop-shops (young people service centres and web-portal for informing NEETs and other socially vulnerable groups about occupational and educational paths as well as counselling and vocational guidance issues.

All the abovementioned proposed targeted actions may take the form of preventive and countervailing measures for NEETs (re-education, training-reskilling, empowerment of employability), aiming at their integration or re-integration into the labour market and, consequently, at their social inclusion, reducing the risk of social marginalization and exclusion.

The “Counselling and Vocational Guidance Handbook for policy makers, structures and services a) may be used either individually as a set of targeted actions for counselling and vocational guidance of NEETs and other socially vulnerable groups, and, generally, of young people who are unemployed and they are at risk of social marginalization, b) or may be included in the overall strategic framework of measures and actions related to the social inclusion of socially vulnerable groups in Greece taken for the social integration of vulnerable social groups in Greece.