

# Network of Social Workers for the Exchange of Good Practice in Work with NEET Youth

## Background of the Problem

During the period from 2007 to 2014 the number of NEET youth (not in employment, education, or training) aged 15 to 24 years has increased rapidly in European countries including the Czech Republic. NEET youth is one of the most vulnerable groups of population, which is often exposed to social exclusion as well as other risk factors such as physical disability, premature parenthood, homelessness, drug abuse and crime. The support provided to social workers dealing with NEET youth is often insufficient and, therefore, social workers lack knowledge, skills and methodological tools for successful work with vulnerable youth. The absence of systematic approach addressing the complexity of the problem at the level of institutions and organizations is another important drawback when tackling the problem. According to the literature, among the causes of youth unemployment in the Czech Republic are their unsuccessful transfer from education to labour market, lack of training and passivity of young people. Researchers and experts in the field believe, that situation of NEET youth could be improved by the individual approach to disadvantaged young people, cooperation among organizations and institutions providing support for NEET youth, and complex long-term national policy of youth crime prevention.

## The Main Project Goals

The aim of the project is to create a platform for the exchange of good practice in work with vulnerable youth in the Czech Republic, UK and Sweden. Moreover, this platform will enable to create a network of social workers and other stakeholders working with NEET youth across sectors, organizations and institutions. During workshops and meetings organized within the project, participants will share their experiences and create the network for the exchange of good practice. Involvement of partners from Sweden and UK will enable to design a functional model of cooperation and transfer of good practice of work to the Czech environment. The Internet application created within the project will support the networking of social workers from NGOs and public sector when looking for new information and possible solutions to the problem. The project will last from the 1st November 2016 to 31st October 2018.

## Project Activities

In the course of the project **four meetings** will be held with project participants (social workers, representatives of public sector and NGOs), experts in the field and partners from Sweden and UK. The main purpose of these meetings is to creation of platform for the exchange of good practice and intersectional cooperation when tackling the problems of NEET youth.

1. Introductory meeting for the Czech participants in Prague: the exchange of information and experiences among local participants. (March 2017)

2. The **second meeting** will focus on the transfer of good practice from abroad and the representatives of organisations from Sweden and UK will be invited to Prague present their projects and activities.

3. The key project activity will be a 5-day visit of 20 Czech participants to Sweden. The Czech participants will be provided with an opportunity to visit projects and organizations working with NEET youth in Stockholm. (September/October 2017)

4. The last meeting will focus on the utilization of evaluation tools in the assessment of quality of the social work and the key project outputs. In addition, the experiences with implementation of cooperation model in different localities in the Czech Republic will be discussed. For this meeting the partner representatives from Sweden and UK will be invited to provide information and suggestions for effective intersectional cooperation in work with NEET youth. (May/June 2017)

**Participants**

The project participants will include: social services workers, social workers and employees of public sector dealing with NEET youth in the Czech Republic. (April/May 2018)

**Budget for the Swedish Partner**

<b>Costs</b>	<b>CZK</b>	<b>EUR</b>
Flight ticket (2nd meeting)	10,000.00 Kč	370.37 €
Subsistence expenses (2nd meeting)	15,000.00 Kč	555.56 €
Materials (2nd meeting)	20,000.00 Kč	740.74 €
Materials and coordination (meeting in Sweden)	20,000.00 Kč	740.74 €
Flight ticket (evaluation meeting)	10,000.00 Kč	370.37 €
Subsistence expenses (evaluation meeting)	15,000.00 Kč	555.56 €
Materials (evaluation meeting)	10,000.00 Kč	370.37 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100,000.00 Kč</b>	<b>3,703.70 €</b>