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**Understanding NEETS: Individual and Institutional Determinants of Youth Inactivity in the UK, France, the Netherlands, Germany and Japan**

**Discussion guide**

**Initial Interviews with Government Level Policymakers**

The University of Oxford’s Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE), as part of a consortium led by the University of Maastricht, has successfully secured funding from the Open Research Area (ORA) for the Social Sciences to undertake a comparative study of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). The ORA is an agreement between the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, UK), Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANC, France), Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, Germany) and the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO, Netherlands).

As well as the SKOPE and Maastricht teams, researchers from the University of Burgundy, the WZB – Berlin Social Science Center, Germany and Doshisha University, Japan will participate in the study. It started in June 2016 and will finish in March 2019. Quantitative analysis and longitudinal case studies will address the following key research questions:

* What are the patterns of NEET?
* What are the causes of NEET?
* To what extent can (a) individual characteristics, and (b) countries’ institutions and policies, and the interactions between them explain the probability that young people aged between 16-29 years make transitions into and out of NEET status?
* What are the consequences of NEET?

**Introduction**

* Interview length approx. 60 minutes
* Consent / recording (which can be stopped at any time)
* Confidentiality
* Do not need to answer every question

**About the respondent/organisation**

1. Personal information
* Name / job title
* Their role and their responsibilities within their organisation
* Department – overview of responsibilities for NEET agenda
* Role of devolved government/government department in NEET policy development/strategy and programmes/initiatives targeted at the NEET population
* Extent to which responsibilities for the NEET agenda are growing/diminishing
* Extent to which responsibilities complement/overlap with other UK government departments/agencies
* Interaction with other UK government departments to plan and deliver NEET strategy/interventions

**Understanding young people who are NEET**

**2** Respondent’s understanding of the terminology around NEET:

* Definitions of NEET
* Definitions of the economically active and inactive within NEET group
* Age profile : PROMPT for feedback on the use of term ‘NEET’ to an expanded age range to 29 years and 30+

**Profile of the 16-24 (and to 29) NEET group**

**3** Who is NEET?

* Gender
* Age
* SES
* Ethnicity
* Disability
* Education achievement
* NEET ‘churn’
* Trends

I**nterventions and initiatives to support NEET/Unemployed Groups**

**4 Funding**

* Sources
* Priorities
* Adequacy
* Sustainability

**5 Target Groups**

* All NEET categories
* Unemployed
* Inactive
* Area based approach
* Specific age groups
* Other

**6 Approach**

*(The four types of intervention may need to be described in detail, see appendix for definitions)*

* Strategic
* Preventative
* Reintegration
* Active labour market policies

**7 Delivery**

* Identifying and securing contact with eligible young people
* Barriers to participation
* Programme length
* Description of intervention
* Programme size

**8 Outcomes**

* Desired outcomes
* Actual outcomes
* Dropout rates and reasons for dropout
* Description of how programme effectiveness/performance is measured

9 **Adequacy of NEET interventions**

* Feedback on quality, quantity and scale of local/national interventions to support NEET/unemployed groups
* Examples of other types of local initiatives (may not be formal programmes or interventions, but support and advice)
* Suggestions of interventions/support needed for NEET group at local (country) /national (UK) level
* Requirements for co-production/co-working between government departments/agencies
* Future plans

**Data**

**10** Statistical and resource evidence on the NEET group

* Data collection methods and responsibility for data collection
* Local sources of data - PROBE for use of other data sources e.g DWP (NOMIS) and ONS
* Accuracy of local data sources on NEET and unemployed groups
* Scale and level of the ‘unknown’ population

***Finally, we would welcome your cooperation and assistance in planning and undertaking a country specific case study on young people in the NEET group and policy responses. This will involve:***

* ***visits to relevant departments, agencies and organisations;***
* ***agreeing access to relevant datasets and resources, and***
* ***collecting evidence on published data, research and evaluation outputs***

***The timescale for undertaking the case studies is between January and June 2017, with a proposed follow-up visit in 2018***

**Thanks for your time and willingness to take part in the research.**

**Do you have any questions?**

**Appendix: Definitions**

***Types of policy intervention***

*Strategic level responses* – policies which are coordinated within an overall framework

*Preventative strategies* – early interventions which are designed to reduce the likelihood of dropout of EET at a later stage.

*Reintegration strategies* – targeted at young people who have already dropped out of EET.

*Active labour market policies (ALMPs)* – policies which are intended to stimulate the demand for young people in the labour market, usually by offering wage/training subsidies or tax/NI breaks to employers.