



## CLUSTER (C\_A.3.1\_0014)

### WP3 – A.3.1.1 Profiling and needs assessment of NEETs and Women

# Profiling Report

## ARCES Association (PP1)

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## Introduction

The report is the result of the activities relating to the project Intellectual Output 3.1 (A.3.1.1 - *Profiling and needs assessment of NEETs and Women*), implemented within the Work Package number 3 (Needs Assessment and Benchmarking of Successful Experiences and Efficient Practices).

This report is therefore the result of several different actions carried out by [*Organisation name*] in coordination with the WP3 leader (ARCES Association, PP1), the Project coordinator and all the project partners (PPs), namely: design and translation of the questionnaire for Profiling and needs assessment of NEETs and Women; creation of e-forms; delivery of questionnaires to interested people belonging to the project target groups (NEETs and women); promotion through social channels, websites and other tools; collection of the filled questionnaires (data collection) and analysis of collected data (data analysis).

The report is produced by following the instructions provided by ARCES Association (WP3 leader) in the so-called “Methodology Report”. It will consider all the actions implemented during the profiling phase by all PPs.

## Context and overview of NEET phenomena

The NEET phenomena is an issue of concern across the euro-Mediterranean area, but a huge variation exists between EU Member States and non-EU Member states as well as within between the northern and southern European countries. In fact, if the rate is below 7% in countries like Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Denmark and Austria, etc. it is above 20% in Bulgaria, Italy, Spain and Greece. At the same time the rate increase consistently in south Mediterranean countries such as Jordan (29%), Palestine (36,4%), Tunisia (32,2%) and Egypt (39,8%). Moreover, in these countries is particularly noticeable the gender gap, since in many areas women are more likely to be NEETs, in some case with percentages higher than 50%.

For better understand the phenomena, it is interesting to compare the NEET rate (15–29 years old) with the early school leavers (18-24 years old) in each country. Figure 1 shows a statistically significant correlation between the two indicators. In fact, in those countries with a dynamic economy, the low rate of early school leavers is clearly linked with a low rate of NEETs, while at the same time, a high rate of early school leavers is associated with a high rate of NEETs.

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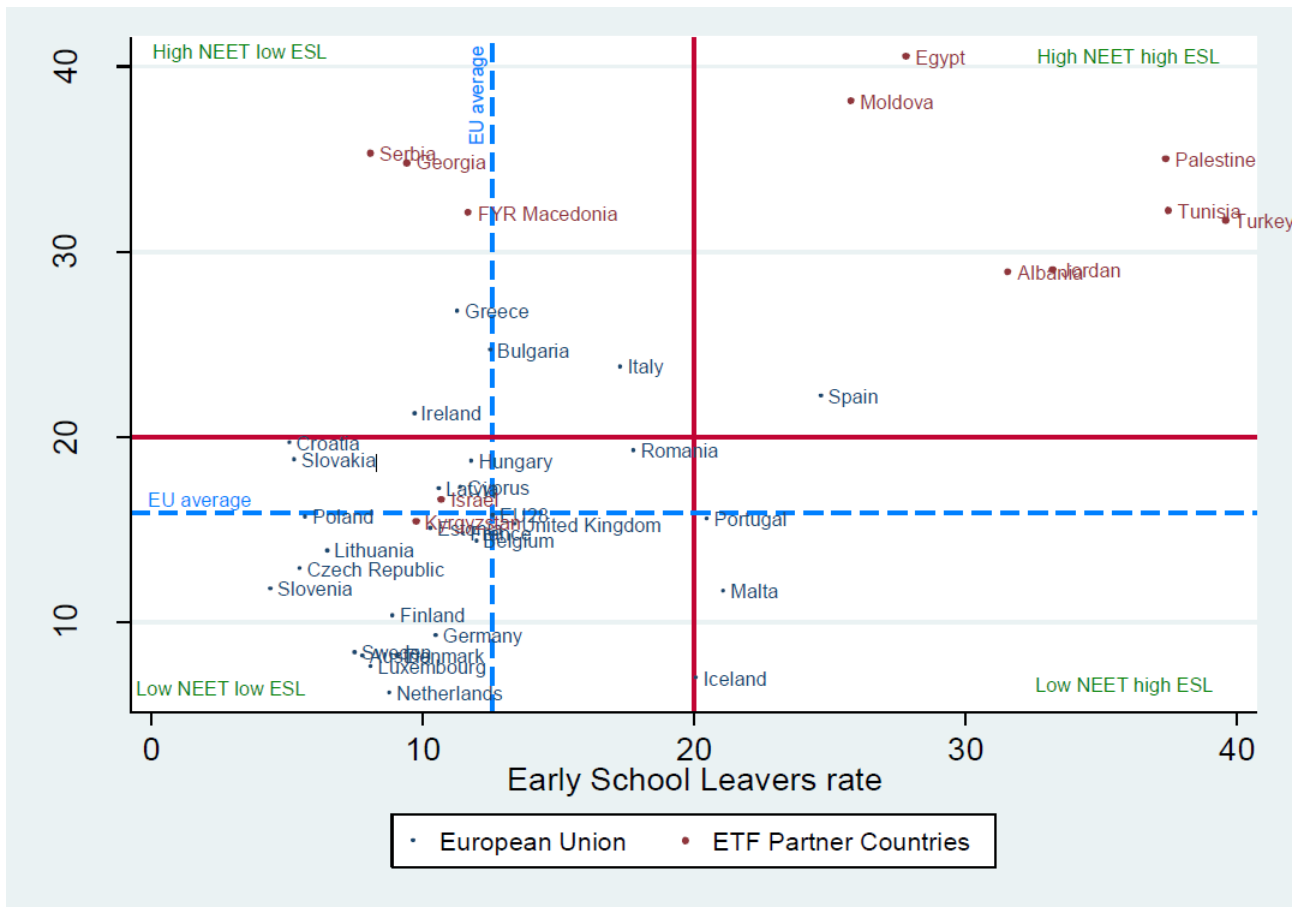


Figure 1: NEETs rate (15–29 years) and early school leavers (ESL) rate (18–24 years) in the EU and ETF partner countries. Sources: Eurostat and European Training Foundation, “Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) an overview in ETF partner countries” (2015).

Most of EU countries are concentrated in the bottom-left part, having relatively a highly educated youth population and a high proportion of young people engaged in employment, preventing most of young people from becoming NEETs. On the contrary, other countries such as Tunisia, Jordan, Palestine, and Spain show high rates of early school leavers as well as high rates of NEETs. In this case, unskilled young people are highly vulnerable and are likely to be out of employment for a long time.

With regard to the Italian context, it is interesting to underline the links between the two indicators. As seen in the top-left part of the figure, Italy (as well as Bulgaria, Greece, Republic of North Macedonia, Georgia and Serbia) has a low early school leavers rates, but at the same time a high NEETs rate. This obviously indicates difficulties for young people with higher education to enter the

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labour market. The reasons could be the lack of job creation and the skills mismatches, since in Italy the education systems produces graduates not required by the labour market<sup>1</sup>.

Definitely, it would seem particularly important for education policies to take into account the existence of a high proportion of unskilled youth that might need targeted trainings, as well as the urgency to foster and adapt the educational system, especially TVET sector, with the labour market needs, with a special attention to young women.

In fact, both in countries with a low NEET rate and high NEET rate, the statistics show how young women are more likely to be neither in employment nor in education or training than young men are. In Italy the percentage is 25% for women and 21,2% for men<sup>2</sup>.

In such international economic context, the EU Mediterranean regions are particularly affected by a high rate of NEETs directly linked with a high rate of youth unemployment, in fact according to the Eurostat data, the 10 EU regions with the highest number of unemployment people aged 15-29, are all territories of Greece, Spain and Italy. Sicily with a youth unemployment rate of 41,1% is among these regions, while the NEET rate is around the 37,5%. In contrast, the EU average rates are respectively around 13% and 13,1%<sup>3</sup>.

Target groups taken into consideration by the profiling activities carried out by ARCES in the two-month implementation of the activity, were enquired through an e-questionnaire delivered to people (men and women) living in the Sicilian territory, most of whom aged between 18 and 30 years old. Despite the sample of young people interviewed was not that big, answers and feedbacks collected mainly confirm the above-mentioned statistics regarding the Sicilian region.

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<sup>1</sup> Ummuhan Bardak, Martiño Rubal Maseda and Francesca Rosso, “Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) an overview in ETF partner countries”, European Training Foundation (2015), 27-28.

<sup>2</sup> NEET rate by sex from 15 to 29 years old (2021). Source: Eurostat, [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Statistics\\_on\\_young\\_people\\_neither\\_in\\_employment\\_nor\\_in\\_education\\_or\\_training#Young\\_women\\_are\\_more\\_likely\\_to\\_neither\\_be\\_in\\_employment\\_nor\\_in\\_education\\_or\\_training#Young\\_women\\_are\\_more\\_likely\\_to\\_neither\\_be\\_in\\_employment\\_nor\\_in\\_education\\_or\\_training](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Statistics_on_young_people_neither_in_employment_nor_in_education_or_training#Young_women_are_more_likely_to_neither_be_in_employment_nor_in_education_or_training#Young_women_are_more_likely_to_neither_be_in_employment_nor_in_education_or_training)

<sup>3</sup> Source: Eurostat, [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=edat\\_lfse\\_20](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=edat_lfse_20)

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## Methodology

The methodology adopted by ARCES for the A 3.1.1 NEETs and women profiling and needs assessment was the same as established during several WP3 technical meetings, jointly decided and discussed by all CLUSTER project partners. Therefore, after the sample of NEETs and women to be profiled in each partner country was decided and the last version of the questionnaire delivered, the profiling phase implemented by ARCES consisted in the following steps:

- 1) **Translation of the e-form into Italian language.**
- 2) **Selection of the tool** for the target groups profiling, and creation of the e-questionnaire by using the Google forms application.
- 3) **Database building** with contacts of people belonging to target groups to be profiled (i.e. NEETs and women).
- 4) **Contact making** to reach out young people who may have interest in be interviewed as well as in the further training courses for NEET in the fields of Blue, Green, Circular Economy and Sustainable Agriculture. The Questionnaire was mainly delivered by e-mails or other e-tools such as WhatsApp (in case of direct contact). In accordance with the Cluster communication consultant and with ARCES communication manager a specific webpage on the ARCES website was created, with the aim of launching and promoting the initiative. The e-questionnaire was promoted through the main ARCES' social channels, i.e., Facebook, Instagram, Telegram. Information about the opportunities for NEETs provided by the project and about the questionnaire were given during a public on-site event organized by the Italian National Agency for Active Labour Policies (ANPAL) held in Palermo in May 2022, targeting young people and NEETs.
- 5) **Engagement of the collaborating organizations** in the promotion of the profiling and needs assessment of NEETs and women.
- 6) After the profiling phase ended, ARCES made a **quantitative analysis of the data collected** from respondents.
- 7) Thanks to the statistics, a qualitative analysis of the collected data was delivered, with the final aim the get an overview of the NEET phenomena in Sicily. These statistics can be considered as the main deliverable of this activity, essentials for the draft of the **Profiling Report**.

As WP3 leader, ARCES was in charge of **monitoring the profiling activities** at the project level. For this reason, PP1 as well as the other PPs used to fill in the so-called “**Profiling monitoring tool**” with

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the most updated data relating to the number of questionnaires delivered and filled by respondents belonging to project target groups. This task had the final aim to monitoring the profiling as well as ensuring a correct implementation of the project activities.

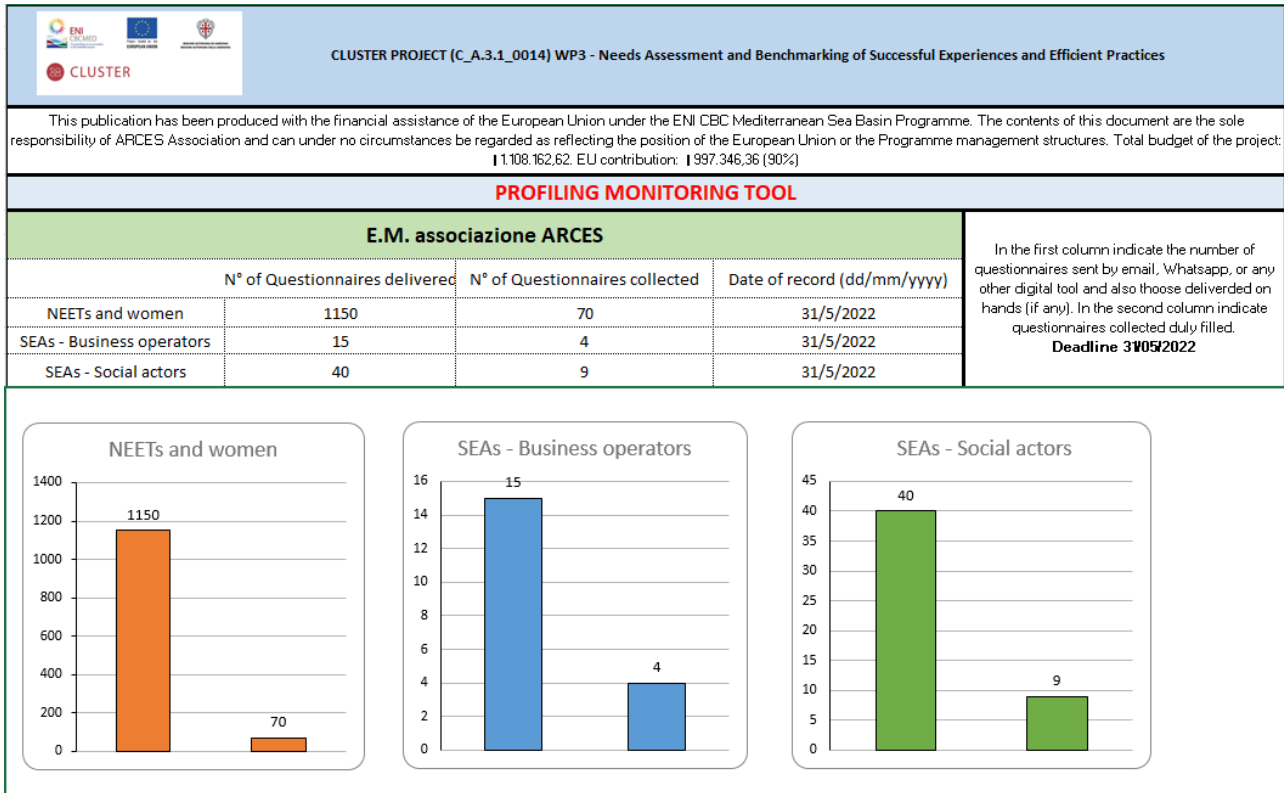


Figure 2: Profiling monitoring tool on Excel sheet.

During the profiling campaign targeting NEETs and young women, the main difficulty faced by ARCES was not necessarily linked with reaching out potential respondents but with getting filled questionnaires by the people we contacted. Despite we mainly delivered online forms created using the Google application, easy to understand and compile, especially by youths, it seemed that several people shown a lack of interest in such activity. It can have several reasons, among them the fact that the training courses planned by the project were not designed yet, so we did not have many information to provide, apart from the training course topics (Aquaponics, Hydroponics, Food Processing, Organic Farming) already chosen by the Consortium and included in the last question of the survey.

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## Data analysis and indicators

In total, the questionnaires were filled in by **70 people**, all of them through Google Forms. The percentage of men and women who completed the questionnaire was not really balanced; in fact, the 71% of respondents were women, and only the 29% young men (Figure 3). This representative sample is formed by questionnaires filled out by respondents coming almost from all the provinces of Sicily, which is the territory, selected for the implementation of the project activities. With regard to the age of the participants, the majority of people are more than 25 years old, while the most represented age groups (Figure 4) is the one aged more than 36 years old (27%). Anyway, also the third (26-30) and the fourth group (31-35) are well represented, reaching respectively the 23% and 20% out of the total.

Two out of three of the interviewees declared to be unemployed or never employed (66%) while the remaining interviewees declared to be currently employed with some of them having a part-time job (Figure 6). Within the category of unemployed, more than 50% of respondents declared to have been without a job for a period ranging from 6 months to 2 years.

The overwhelming majority of respondents stated that the main difficulties they face in finding a job (Figure 8) are **the lack of previous experience** (43 answers) and the **lack of job opportunities** (46 answers), while others blamed the lack of specific competencies and professional qualification represent an obstacle for entering the labour market.

Concerning the level of education (Figure 5), around the 74% of the people are high skilled, since they have a university degree with a first or second cycle university diploma. On the contrary, only the 4% of respondents declared to have a technical, vocational and training background.

With regard the interests and the job market almost half of respondents agreed that the links to the TVET system and the job market should be enhanced, as well as a high percentage said that a solution could be to provide young people with marketable and soft skills needed to work within emerging sectors (Figure 9). Despite that, mostly of them (56%) did not take part in any training course during their educational path (Figure 7).

From the data collected is important to highlight that according to the interviewees the Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions heavy affected the economy and the job opportunities, especially for young people (Figure 10).

While mostly of the questionnaires shows as the meaning of green economy, circular economy and sustainable agriculture is well known (the percentage of people that answered positively is respectively of 86%, 80%, 91%), the sense of blue economy is not clearly understood since only the 39% of people interviewed know its meaning (Figure 11).

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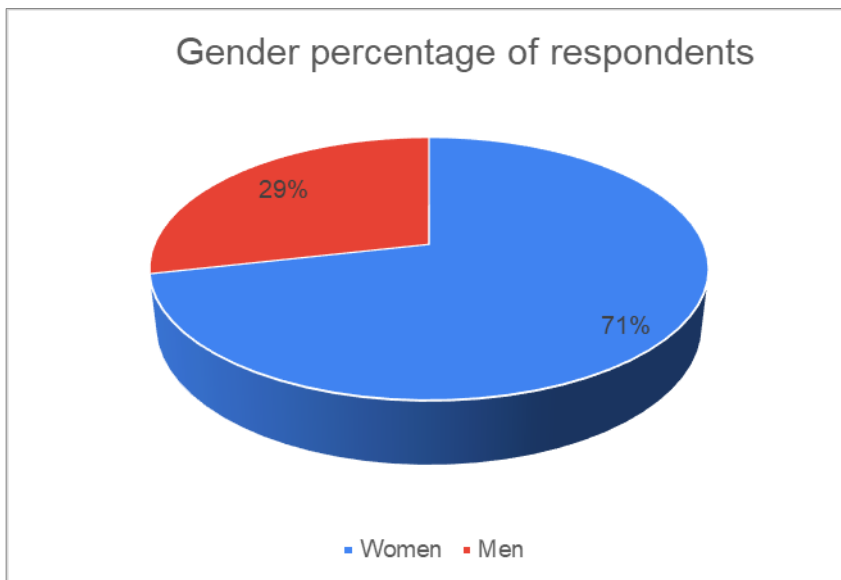


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Anyway, the overwhelming majority of people who filled out the questionnaire (98%) declared that these sectors would be increasingly important for the economic growth, the creation of new jobs and the environment, expressing a strong interest in these topics (Figure 12 and 13).

Moreover, since the last question included was relating to the topics of the training courses for young people that will be designed and further implemented at the project level, respondents expressed their willingness and interest in taking part in some of them. Food processing (28%) and organic farming (34%) got the highest consent, while Hydroponics and Aquaponics got a score respectively of 24 and 15 percent.

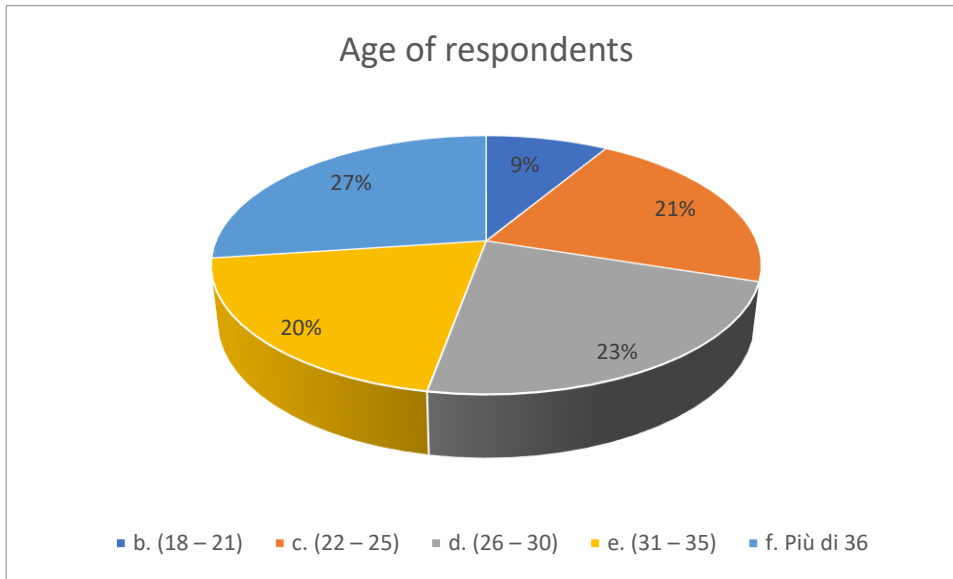
## Statistics and data charts



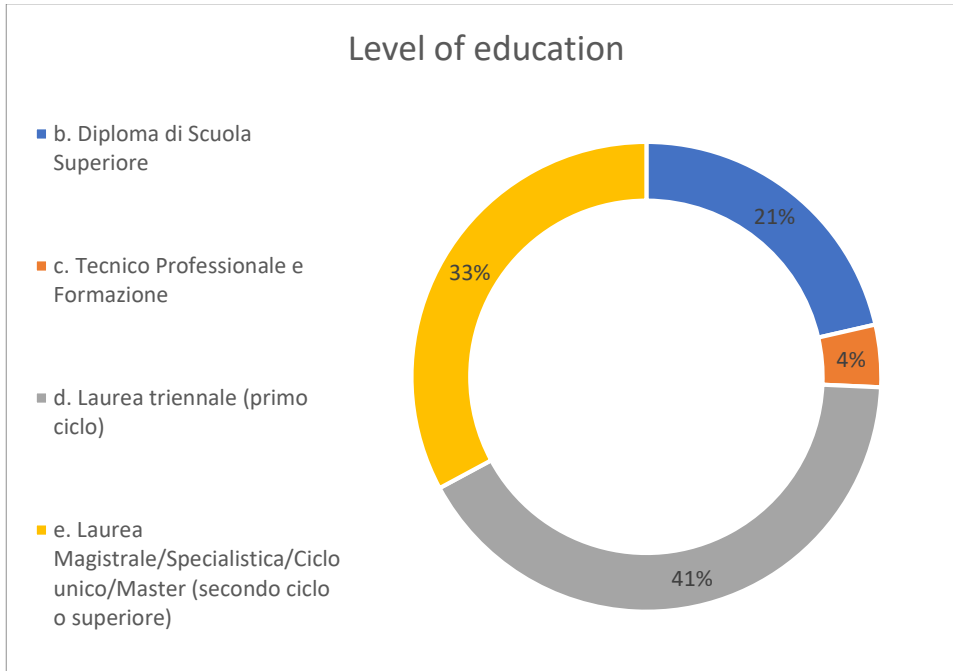
**Figure 3: Gender of interviewees**

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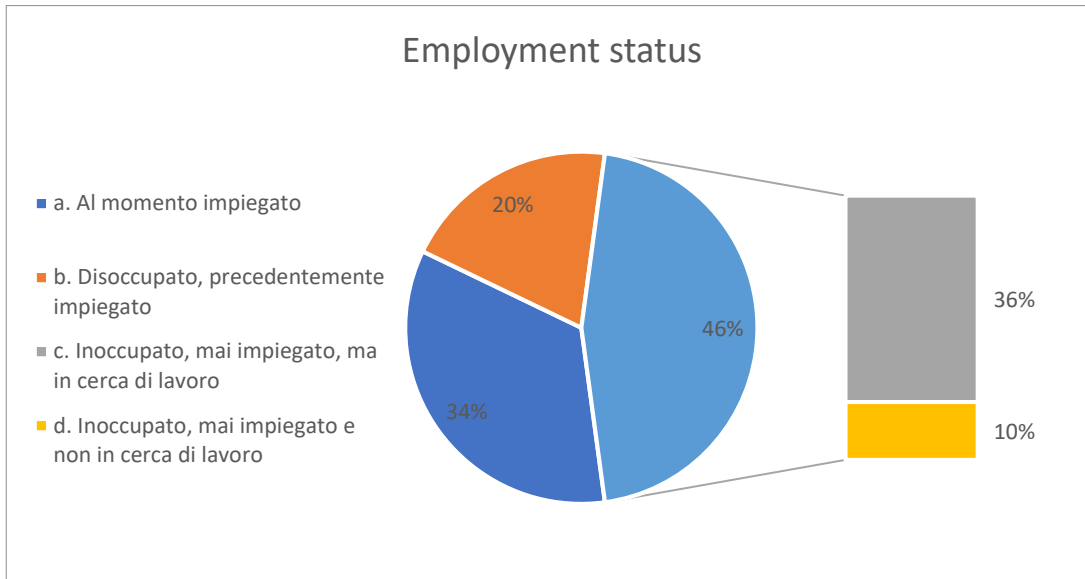
**Figure 4: Age groups**



**Figure 5: Level of education. Second university cycle (33%); first university cycle (41%); TVET diploma (4%); high school diploma (21%)**

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**Figure 6. Employment status**



**Figure 7. Training courses**

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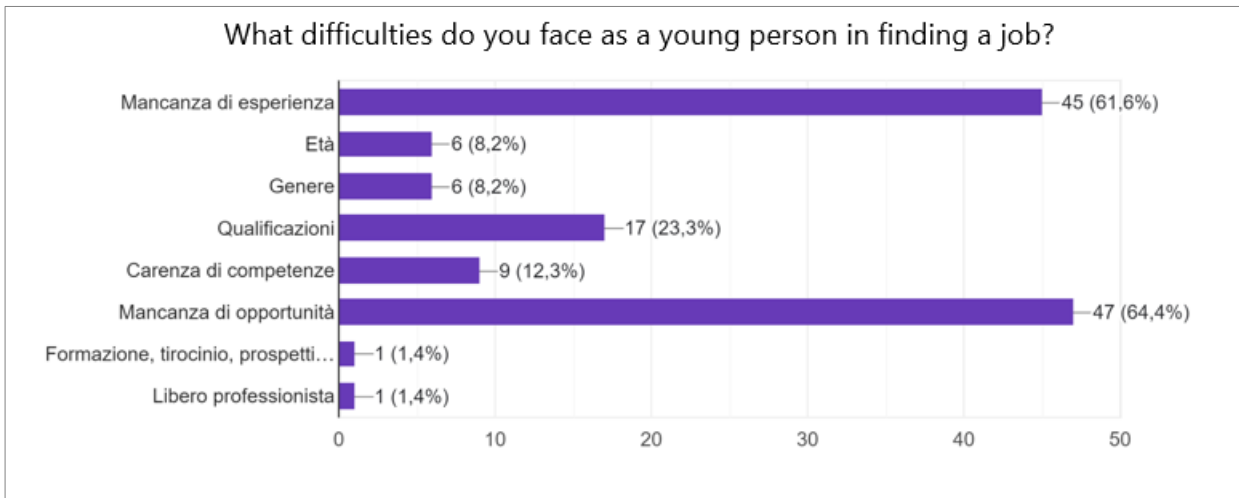


Figure 8: difficulties in finding a job. The lack of experiences (61,6%) and opportunities (64,4%) are the main challenges when young people look for a job.

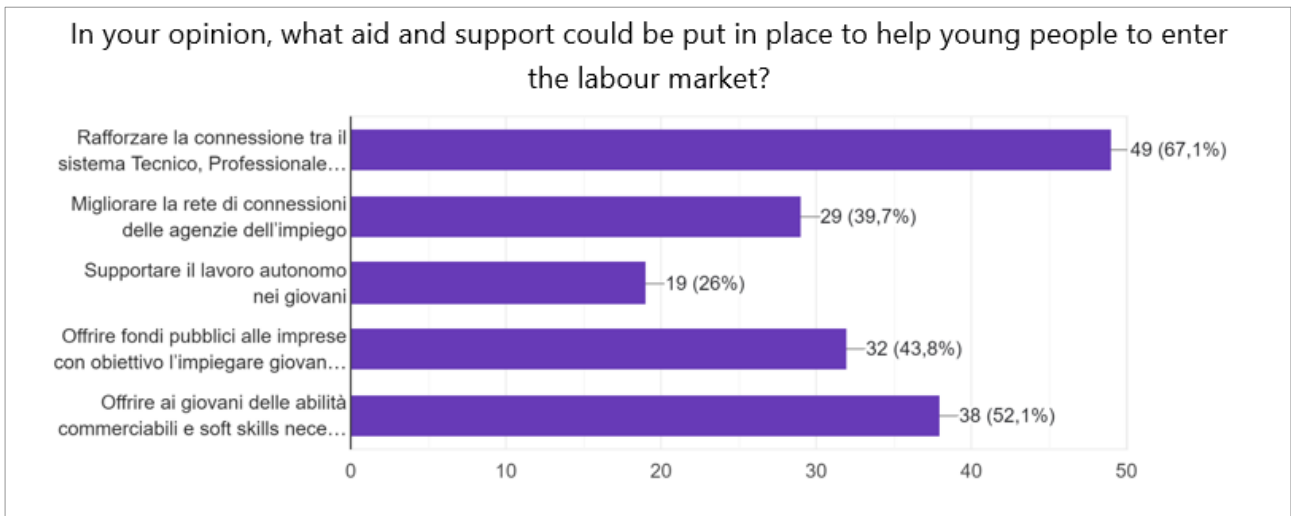


Figure 9: Measures to help young job seekers.

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Do you think the Covid-19 pandemic affected your personal/professional condition, reducing your opportunities to find a job?

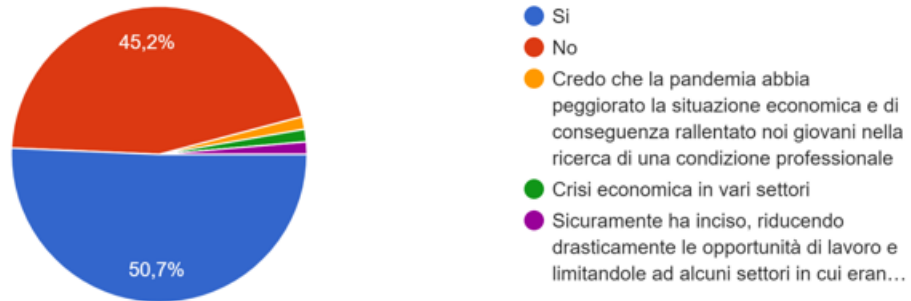


Figure 10: Covid-19 impact

Do you know the meaning of Blue economy, Green Economy, Circular Economy and Sustainable Agriculture?

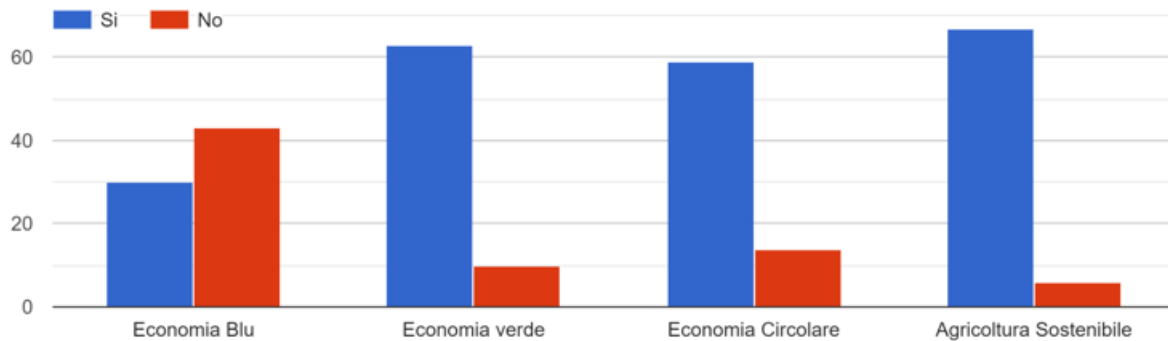


Figure 11: knowledge of project sectors: Blue, Green, Circular economy and Sustainable Agriculture. No. of answers.

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Do you think that the Circular Economy, Blue Economy, Green Economy, Sustainable Agriculture will be increasingly important for economic growth, creation of new jobs and for the environment?

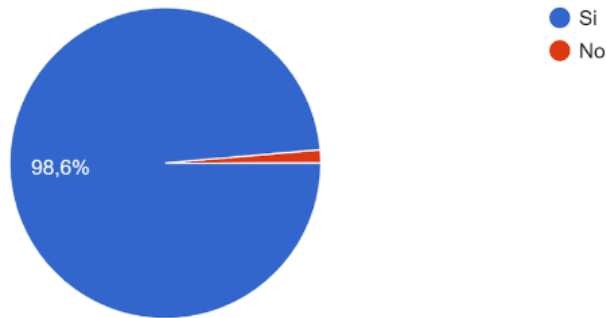


Figure 12: importance and opportunities of the project sectors

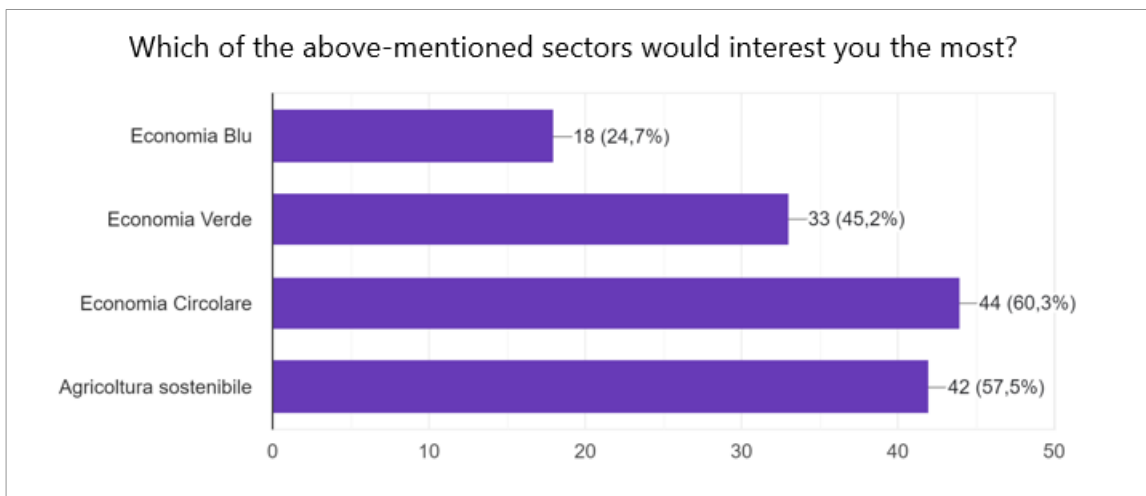


Figure 13: interest in the project sectors

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Would you like to attend a vocational training course in one or more of the following sectors?

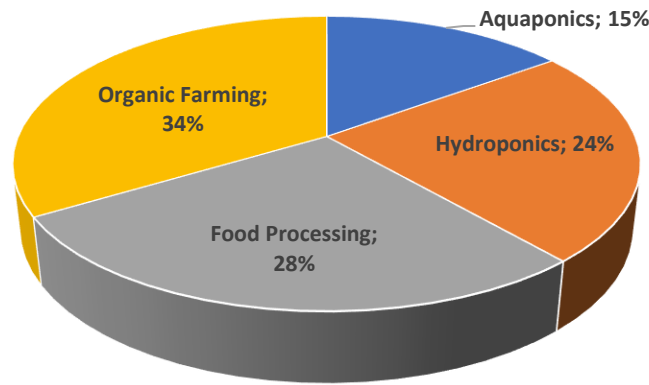


Figure 14: interest in project training courses proposed topics

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Informazioni cronolog	1. Nome e Cognome	2. Numero di Telefon	3. Indirizzo e-mail	4. Genere	5. Età	6. Luogo di Residenz	7. Livello di Educazi	8. Stai studiando al r	9. Stato occupazionale	10. Se impiega
4/20/2022 16:53:28	Elisabetta Rucco	3505854133	elysabetty97@live.it	Femmina	c. (22 - 25)	Carini	b. Diploma di Scuola S Si		a. Al momento impiegato	c. Da 21 a 40
4/20/2022 17:23:38	Alessia Saladino	3201422520	alessia.saladino@alice.it	Femmina	d. (26 - 30)	Palermo	e. Laurea Magistrale/S No		c. Inoccupato, mai impiegato, ma in cerca di	
4/20/2022 19:09:55	Emmanuel Saladino	3202222970	saladino.emmanuel@g	Maschio	b. (18 - 21)	Monreale	b. Diploma di Scuola S Si		d. Inoccupato, mai impiegato e non in cerca	
4/20/2022 19:44:33	Sofia Casà	3331250807	sofiacasa94@gmail.co	Femmina	d. (26 - 30)	Agrigento	e. Laurea Magistrale/S No		c. Inoccupato, mai impiegato, ma in cerca di	
4/20/2022 20:11:44	Alessandra Saladino	3772444613	Alessandrasaladino01@	Femmina	b. (18 - 21)	Palermo	b. Diploma di Scuola S Si		d. Inoccupato, mai impiegato e non in cerca	
4/20/2022 20:39:53	Rosa Sciortino	3288416094	sciortinorosa@gmail.co	Femmina	d. (26 - 30)	Palermo	e. Laurea Magistrale/S No		b. Disoccupato, precedentemente impiegato	
4/20/2022 22:07:13	Gaia Romeo	3278496894	gaiaromeo@gmail.coi	Femmina	d. (26 - 30)	Altotfonte	b. Diploma di Scuola S No		a. Al momento impiegato	c. Da 21 a 40
4/20/2022 22:26:50	MARGHERITA MARCH	3282010028	margherita.marchese@	Femmina	d. (26 - 30)	MONREALE	d. Laurea triennale (pri Si)		c. Inoccupato, mai impiegato, ma in cerca di	
4/21/2022 9:41:33	Francesco Fasone	3270253242	francescofasone@vitr	Maschio	d. (26 - 30)	Palermo	e. Laurea Magistrale/S Si		a. Al momento impiegato	a. Da 21 a 40
4/21/2022 15:03:05	Eleonora Matranga	3345464418	eleonmatr@gmail.com	Femmina	b. (18 - 21)	Palermo	b. Diploma di Scuola S Si		a. Al momento impiegato	a. Da 1 a 10
4/22/2022 8:14:43	Cristina Poli	3402913806	crstinapoli88@gmail.c	Femmina	e. (31 - 35)	Augusta	e. Laurea Magistrale/S No		b. Disoccupato, precedentemente impiegato	
4/22/2022 13:51:08	Angela Rita Comparat	3486843221	angie.comparato@libe	Femmina	f. Più di 36	Pollina	c. Tecnico Professione No		a. Al momento impiegato	a. Da 1 a 10
4/22/2022 13:59:24	Orazio Pulvirenti	3471357775	oraziopulvirenti@hotm	Maschio	e. (31 - 35)	Palagonia	c. Tecnico Professione No		b. Disoccupato, precedentemente impiegato	
4/22/2022 14:04:12	Mirko Mancino	3891160885	mirkoman6@gmail.com	Maschio	d. (26 - 30)	Palermo	d. Laurea triennale (pri No)		c. Inoccupato, mai impiegato, c. Da 21 a 40	
4/22/2022 14:10:33	Sofia Cannonito	3209432684	Sofia_cannonito@hotr	Femmina	d. (26 - 30)	Palermo	e. Laurea Magistrale/S No		b. Disoccupato, precedentemente impiegato	
4/22/2022 14:29:18	Rosangela Di Giuseppe	3290226394	rosangela.digiuseppe@	Femmina	f. Più di 36	Partinico	d. Laurea triennale (pri Si)		c. Inoccupato, precedentem	a. Da 1 a 10
4/22/2022 14:34:43	Domenica Salvia	3791374103	rousdream@live.it	Femmina	f. Più di 36	Palermo	b. Diploma di Scuola S No		c. Inoccupato, mai impiegato, ma in cerca di	
4/25/2022 20:31:39	Dario Catania	328/3432958	dar.catania@tiscali.it	Maschio	f. Più di 36	scordia	b. Diploma di Scuola S No		b. Disoccupato, precedentem	a. Da 1 a 10
4/27/2022 8:42:48	Cristina Guddo	3803640178	crstinaguddo.cg@gm	Femmina	c. (22 - 25)	Palermo	d. Laurea triennale (pri Si)		c. Inoccupato, mai impiegato, ma in cerca di	
4/27/2022 8:48:11	MARIANGELA VASSA	3498636104	mariangelavassallo10@	Femmina	f. Più di 36	Flumefreddo di Sicilia	e. Laurea Magistrale/S No		b. Disoccupato, precedentemente impiegato	
4/27/2022 16:06:39	Rosangela Di Giuseppe	3290226394	rosangela.digiuseppe@	Femmina	f. Più di 36	Partinico	d. Laurea triennale (pri Si)		c. Inoccupato, mai impiegato, ma in cerca di	
4/28/2022 17:14:33	Giada Calderone	3317417480	giadacalderone17@grr	Femmina	e. (31 - 35)	Palermo	d. Laurea triennale (pri No)		c. Inoccupato, mai impiegato, ma in cerca di	
4/28/2022 17:32:19	Marco Marrocco	3490081102	marcouipa@gmail.coi	Maschio	f. Più di 36	Palermo	d. Laurea triennale (pri No)		c. Inoccupato, mai impiegato, ma in cerca di	
5/4/2022 18:10:46	Ivana Russo	3491063844	ivanarusso@gmail.com	Femmina	f. Più di 36	ACI castello	d. Laurea triennale (pri No)		b. Disoccupato, precedentemente impiegato	
5/5/2022 22:51:23	Armando Marsala	3881659172	marsalarmando97@g	Maschio	c. (22 - 25)	Palermo	b. Diploma di Scuola S No		c. Inoccupato, mai impiegato, ma in cerca di	
5/6/2022 8:10:36	Eugenio Santamaria	3886361174	eusant96@yahoo.it	Maschio	c. (22 - 25)	Ramacca	b. Diploma di Scuola S Si		a. Al momento impiegato	
5/6/2022 14:31:10	rosaria camarda	3452360617	rc0473@gmail.com	Femmina	f. Più di 36	casteldaccia, Palermo	e. Laurea Magistrale/S No		b. Disoccupato, precedentemente impiegato	

Figure 10: Data base Screenshot showing the collected data

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- <https://www.arces.it/cluster-lancia-unindagine-sui-bisogni-del-mercato-del-lavoro-dei-giovani-delle-donne-e-degli-operatori-socio-economici-del-mediterraneo/>
- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRxAHIfy9oavBzZt6bRg4q2iUg80Si4I4jXmsMCND8PceJ2g/viewform>

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