

CLUSTER (C_A.3.1_0014)

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

Profiling Report

[Business Women Forum- Palestine -BWF]

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Author

Date (21/06/2022)

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Table of Content

Introduction	2
Methodology.....	5
Data analysis and indicators	6
References.....	21

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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 [Business Women Forum BWF] 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.

The socio-economic context of Palestine characterized with some main challenges most of it are originating from the protracted conflict. The consequences of the lack of progress towards peace appears in form of economic stagnation, high unemployment, gender inequalities and high rates of poverty and food insecurity. Overall, the general environment in Palestine branded by a fragile security situation; numerous restrictions on movement, on access to large areas, and on the ability of Palestinians to access natural resources, build and develop in Area C and East Jerusalem; an ongoing settlement enterprise; and regular instances of human rights violations with weak accountability. (United Nations (2016), Common Country Analysis, Leave No One Behind: A Perspective on Vulnerability and Structural Disadvantage in Palestine, page 54.)

Moreover, donor support has significantly declined, and a financing gap persists. The Palestinian internal polity remains divided between Gaza and the West Bank, with uncertainty about the reconciliation process.

All Over, Palestine is defined as “medium human development” country and placed at 114th out of 189 countries on Human Development Index HDI with 0.708 point based on the United Nations Development Programme (2020), Human Development Report 2020: Palestine.

According to the data of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics PCBS updated as of mid-2021, the Palestinian population who are living in the state of Palestine (Not including Historical Palestine and Diaspora) is 5.23 million where the number of males is 2.66 million and the number of females is 2.57 million.

The Palestinian Population is characterized as a young population; where the percentage of individuals between 15- 64 years old forms 59% of the total population, and 38% form individuals aged between 0-14 years old.

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According to PCBS press release on the Results of the Labor Force Survey, 2021. The general unemployment rate in Palestine reached to 26% of the participants in the labor force. While on the gender level, the unemployment rate for females reached 43% compared to 22% for males in Palestine.

In more details; and as per the PCBS press release On the Occasion of The International Youth Day, August 2020. the unemployment rate among youth between (18-29 years) in Palestine reached 38% in 2019 (31% among males and 63% among females). Where data showed that the higher unemployment percentage **among the youth was for holders of intermediate diploma and higher**, where this percentage reached 52% during 2019 (35% males and 68% females).

Also, in the same press release it was published that the percentage of the youth (18- 29 years) who are not in employment or education/training reached to 53%. Where the percentage was 38% for males and 68% for females (<https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=4046>)

Services activities generated from public sector form about half of the GBP contribution, followed by 19% generated from Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles. However, if we would like to focus on the main production sectors we can see that Mining, manufacturing, electricity and water, Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Finance and Insurance Activities are considerable when it comes to contribution in GDP followed by Information and communication Transportation and storage

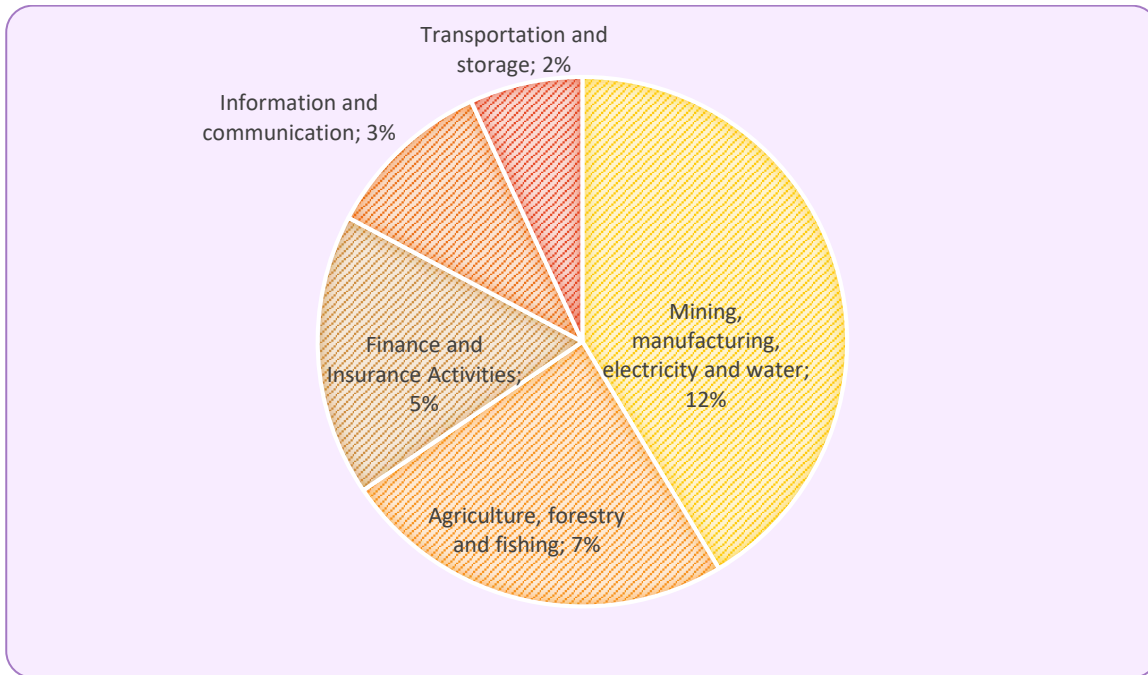
Below you can see the table for the main business sectors in Palestine according to investment promotion and industrial estates agency with their percentage contribution to GDP in 2022:

Sector/ Business activity	Contribution rate
Services and Other Activities* Activities Public administration and defense Households with employed persons	47%
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	19%
Mining, manufacturing, electricity and water	12%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	7%
Finance and Insurance Activities	5%
Information and communication	3%
Transportation and storage	2%

The below chart for main business sectors in Palestine disregarding the public service and wholesale /retails activities with their percentage contribution to GDP in 2022:

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In this profiling process BWF targeted NEETS and women from areas in all Westbank governorates, who aged between 18 to 30 years old, from both genders with more focusing on females. The collecting of the NEETS profiling questionnaires started on 12 April and ended by 31 May 2022.

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Methodology

Following the completion of the questionnaire design by the project partners, BWF translated it to the Arabic language and created a google form. BWF published the questionnaire link on its Facebook page for the first time on April 12 and the process of receiving filled questionnaires contained to 31th May 2022.

During this period of time contacted a number of relevant local institutions, NGOs, TEVET institutions, active economic empowerment organizations and governmental bodies which are familiar with the targeted group. These institutions were contacted by BWF in various methods, including sending support emails with the questionnaire link enclosed, followed by phone calls, in order to help in disseminating the questionnaire for potential respondents. BWF also circulated the questionnaire among the existing WhatsApp groups for BWF members and beneficiaries to deliver it to interested people mainly women who belonging to the project target groups.

BWF shared the questionnaire on its Facebook page five times with encouraging and enthusiastic statements directed to the targeted group as well as promoted it at one of the most popular Facebook group for job seekers in addition to a widespread interactive women dialogue group. By the deadline of receiving responds, 31 May, BWF received 409 Questionnaires. Following, BWF downloaded the CSV. File and transferred it to Excel sheet. The sheet was reviewed carefully, where 40 responses dropped out during the 1st and the 2nd filtering process for being outside the target areas. Accordingly, BWF had in total 369 valid filled questionnaires that moved to analysis phase.

The methodology adopted by BWF did not focus on a single tool to reach the target group, BWF used direct and indirect tools, including social media, as well as individual contacting. In this methodology no party was excluded taking into consideration that they would circulate the questionnaire to potential target. BWF also contacted partners and institutions that work in similar fields, government bodies, and sectors targeted by CLUSTER.

Additionally, BWF utilized its connection and network with beneficiaries' who has also been participated in previous and current projects in disseminate the questionnaire and to make sure to reach as much as possible of potential people.

One of the limitations in the used methodology that BWF can't for sure report the exact number of people received the questionnaire, since it was not distributed by hand or directly or using paper form. However, it can be predicted that the questionnaire reached in minimum of 500 people.

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Data analysis and indicators

General Descriptive analysis:

During the process of contact making, BWF created a stakeholders data base for all possible relevant parties that might help and assist to reaching out to the targeted NEETs and women. Where this list contained more than a hundred contact, 24 of them are vocational and training centers, in addition to another general public, NGOs and policy makers who have a wide base and interaction with the target group thus all were contacted through introductory email, follow up email and calls and in few cases, meetings were hold in order to utilize their connection for NEET profiling. Though the exact number of people who received the questionnaire can't be reported since the distribution process wasn't by hand or directly or using paper form. However, it can be predicted that the questionnaire reached in minimum of 500 people.

By 31 May, BWF received 409 Questionnaires. Following, BWF downloaded the CSV. File and transferred it to Excel sheet. The sheet was reviewed carefully, where 40 responses dropped out during the 1st and the 2nd filtering process for being outside the target areas. Accordingly, BWF had in total 369 valid filled questionnaires that moved to analysis phase.

Female percentage of respondents where 91%, while 52% of the respondents aged between 26-30 years old, 34% of the respondents are resident of Ramallah and Al-bireh governorate while the remaining are residency of another 10 governorates in the Westbank. 44% of the respondents' residents in cities while 56 are residents of villages, rural area and camps.

Bachelor's degree and above holders formed 72% the respondents, while respondents with and education level less than high school formed only 6%. This compatible with PCRS publication that confirming that Palestine scoring one of world's highest Literacy rate. Where the illiteracy Rates declined from 7.8% in 1997 to 1.2% in 2020 among males, and decline from 20.3% to 3.8% among females during the same period. Based on Press Release by PCBS on the occasion of International Literacy Day on September 2021 (<https://pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=4062>).

As for employment status 91% of the respondents where 46% have been unemployed for more than two years. Additionally, and 79% of the total respondents are currently not studying.

About the respondents' interest and opinion's questions analysis. It was found that the most appealed difficulties for them in finding a job are lack of opportunities with the highest frequency with a percentage that reach to 76% followed by 29% for lack of experiences, then 9% of skills gaps and 7% for both qualification mismatching and gender barriers. On the other hand, 63% of the correspondents said that Covid-19 pandemic hadn't affected them personal or on professional condition or reduced their opportunities to find a job

The interesting part, despite the fact that the skills gaps represented only 7% of the obstacles to find job, still about 56% of the respondents stressed the need of providing young people with marketable skills and soft skills needed to work within emerging sectors as a support intervention in order to help

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young people to enter the labor market, followed by 47% highlighted the need of strengthening the links between the Technical, Vocational, education and Training system and the labor market.

63% of the respondents have never undertaken any vocational training course, yet the respondents showed an interest to know more about circular economy, sustainable agriculture, green agriculture (27%, 25% and 20%) respectively while blue economy came at last place with only 10% of interested respondents. This could be justified in looking at the Palestinian reality that involves the inability of the Palestinian to access natural water resources.

Also, the analysis showed that most of the respondents **don't** know the meaning of the circular economy and blue economy (51%, 57% respectively) while most of them **know** the meaning of green economy and sustainable agriculture (56%, 70% respectively) as per their opinion.

51% you like to attend a vocational training course in Food Processing one or more of the following sectors while 18% confirmed their willingness to attend organic farming training, while 31% of respondents showed interest in aquaponic and hydroponic together.

In the below section you can find detailed illustration for data chart and graphic analysis for each question

Figure 1: Gender of respondents

Total	Gender	
	Male	Female
369	35	334

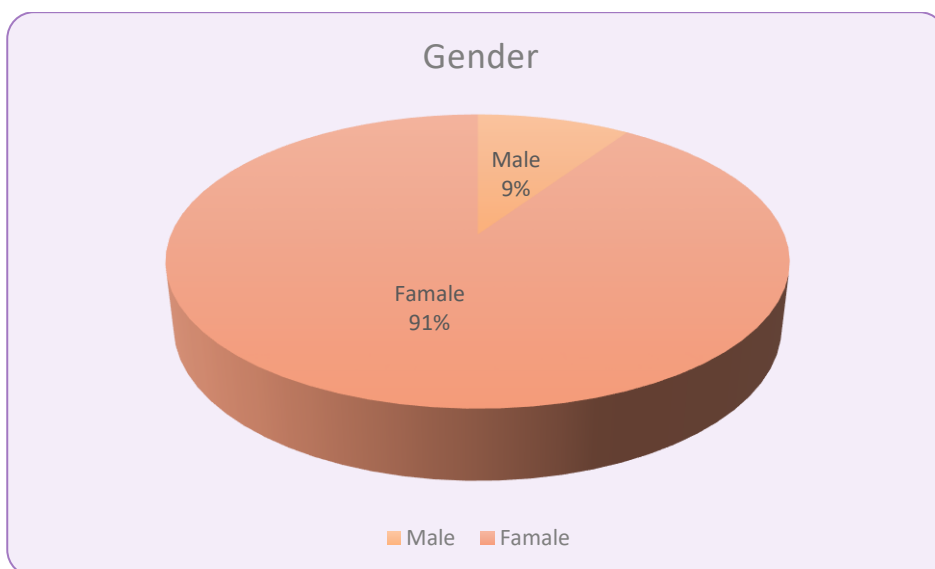


Figure 2. Age of respondents

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Age				
Total	Under 18	18-21	22-25	26-30
369	8	57	111	193

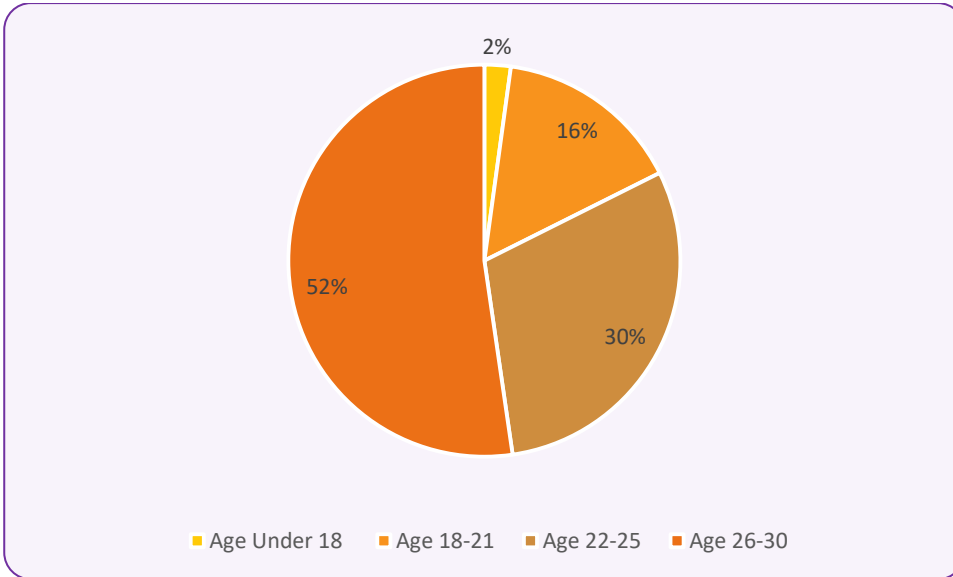
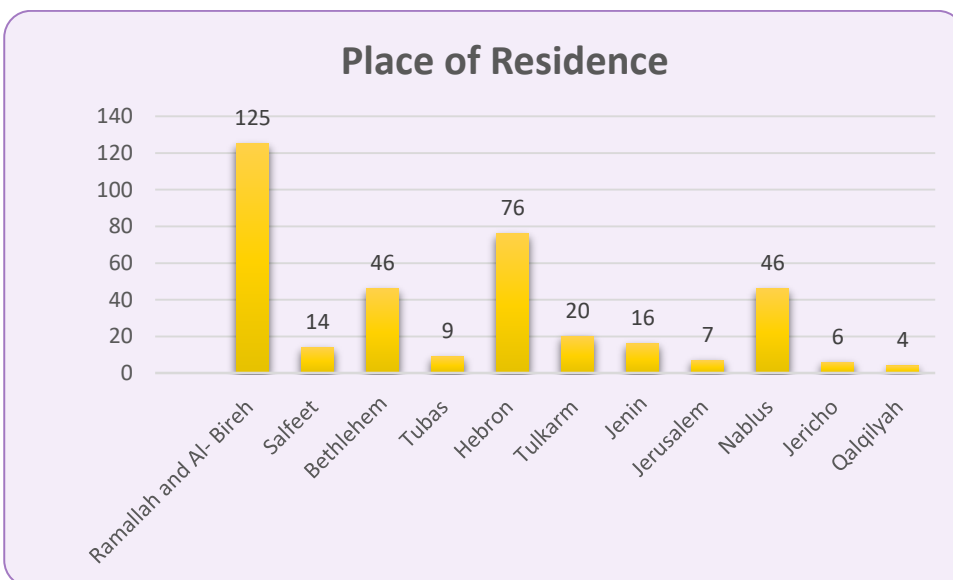


Figure 3. Place of residency



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Figure 4: Level of education

Level of Education	
less than high school	21
High School	46
Technical and Vocational Training	34
Bachelor's degree	252
Master degree or more	16
Total	369

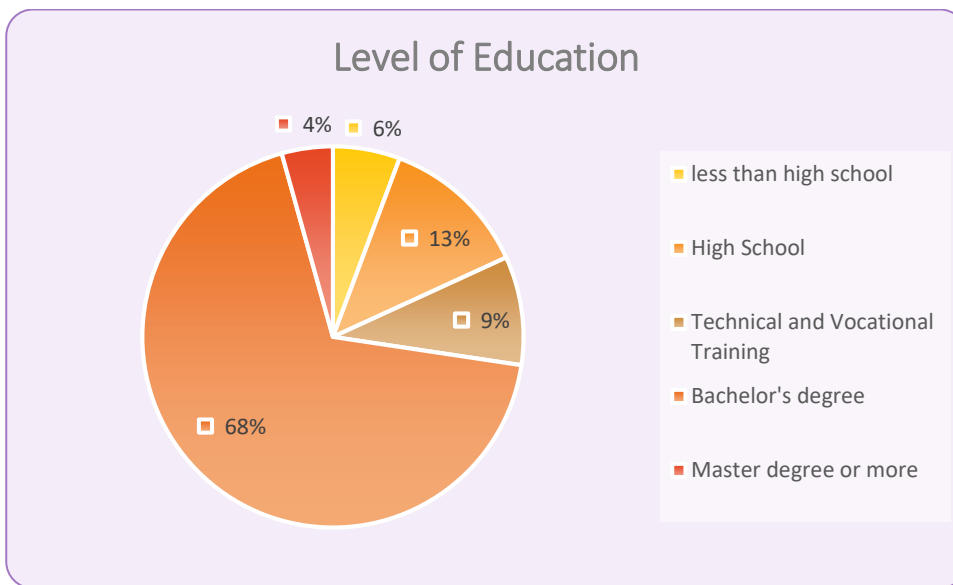


Figure 5: Studying status

Are you currently studying?	
Yes	76
NO	293
Total	369

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ARE YOU CURRENTLY STUDYING ?

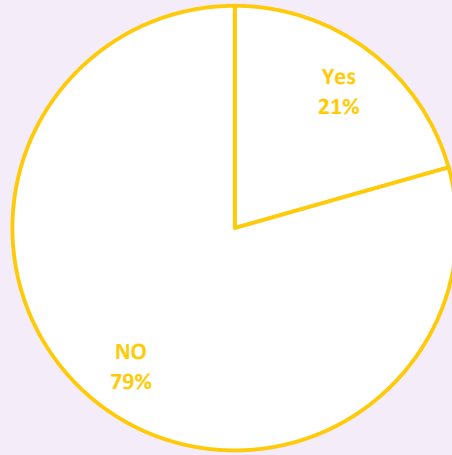


Figure 6: Employment status

Employment Status	Frequency	%
Currently employed	33	9%
Used to be employed	141	38%
Unemployed, never been employed, but actively seeking work	180	49%
Unemployed, never been employed, and not seeking work	15	4%
Total	369	100%

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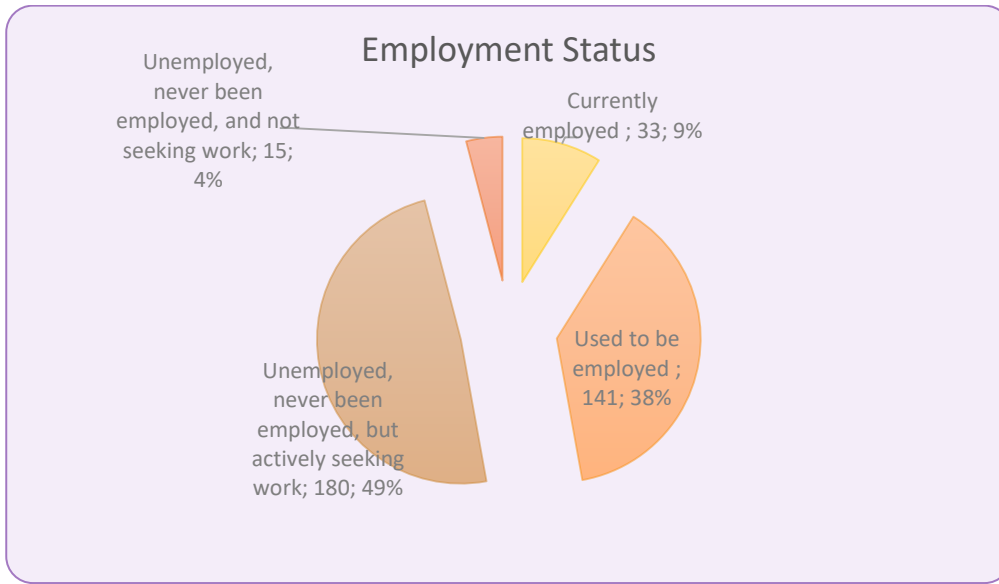
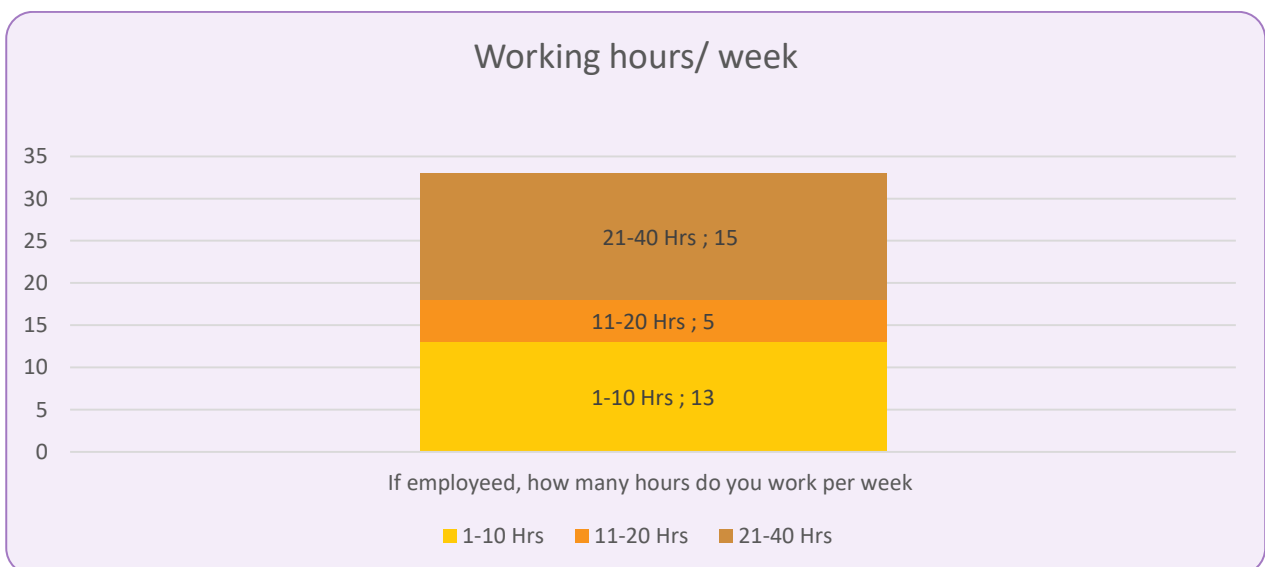


Figure 7: Number of working hours per week

10)	If employed, how many hours do you work per week	%
1-10 Hrs	13	39%
11-20 Hrs	5	15%
21-40 Hrs	15	45%
Total Currently employed	33	100%



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Figure 8: Period of unemployment

If not, how long have you been unemployed	%	Frequency
1-6 Months	27%	88
6 Months - 2 Years	28%	90
More than 2 years	46%	149
Total	100%	327

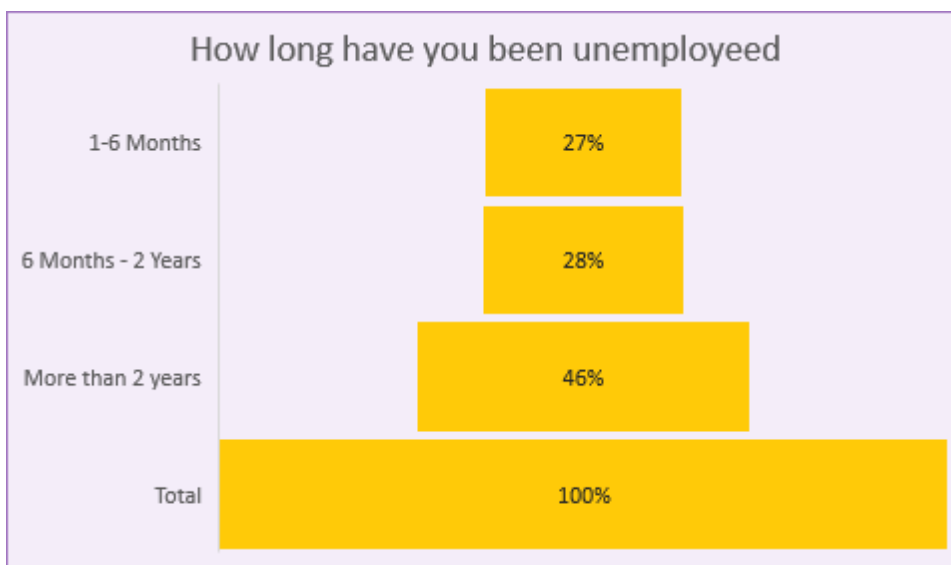


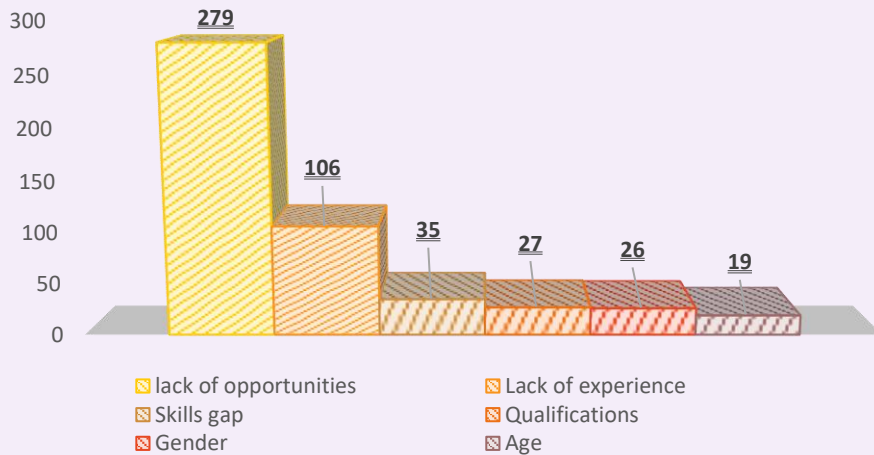
Figure 9. Difficulties in finding a job

What difficulties do you face as a young person in finding a job	Frequency
lack of opportunities	279
Lack of experience	106
Skills gap	35
Qualifications	27
Gender	26
Age	19

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DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING JOB



DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING JOB

- lack of opportunities
- Lack of experience
- Skills gap
- Qualifications
- Gender
- Age

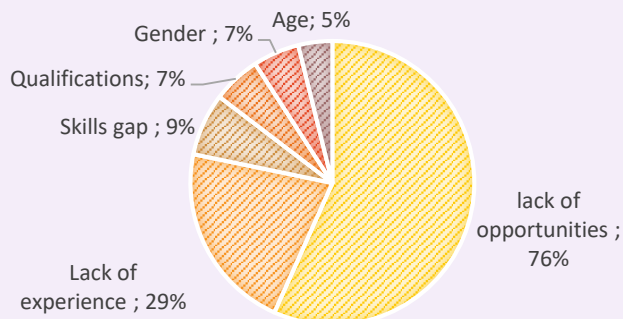


Figure 10: What aid and support could be put in place to help young people to enter the labor market?

What aid and support could be put in place to help young people to enter the labor market?	Frequency of this answer
links between the TEVT & market	175
Enhance employment agencies network	89
Support self-employment	117
Public funds for employment	164
Provide skills needed	207
Other	15

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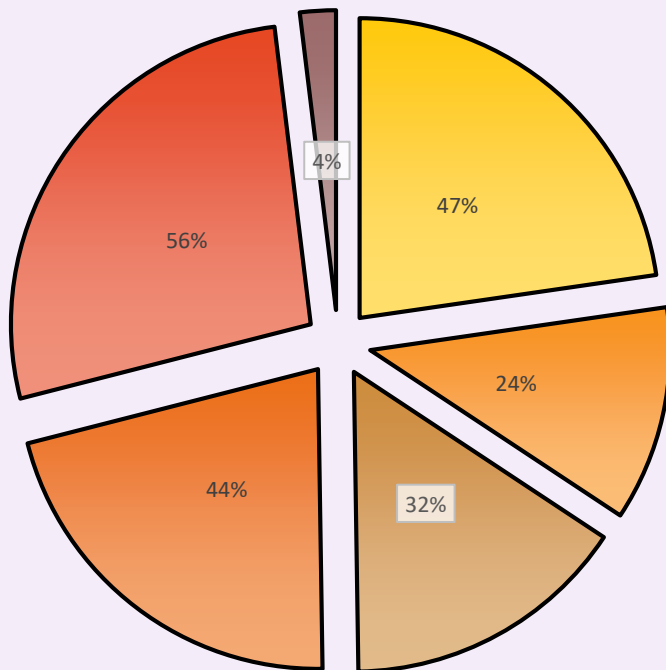
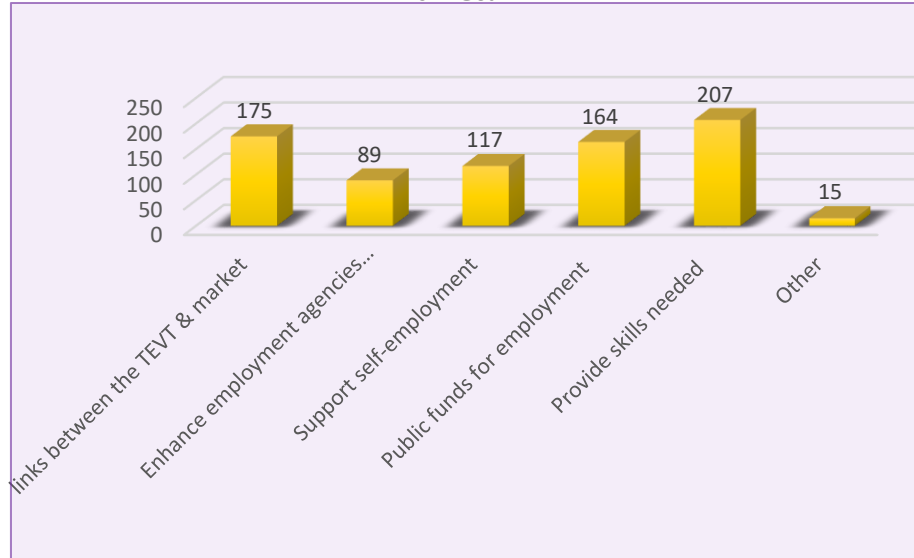


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Support to help young people to enter the labour market?



- Strengthen links between the Technical, Vocational, education and Training system and the labour market
- Enhance the employment agencies network
- Support self-employment among young people
- Provide public funds to enterprises aimed at employing young people
- Provide young people with marketable skills and soft skills needed to work within emerging sectors
- Other

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Figure 11: Have you ever undertaken any vocational training course?

Have you ever undertaken any vocational training course?	Frequency
Yes	232
No	137
Total	369



Figure12: Do you think Covid-19 pandemic affected your personal/ professional condition, reducing your opportunities to find a job

Do you think Covid-19 pandemic affected your personal/ professional condition, reducing your opportunities to find a job	Frequency
Yes	137
No	232
Total	369

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

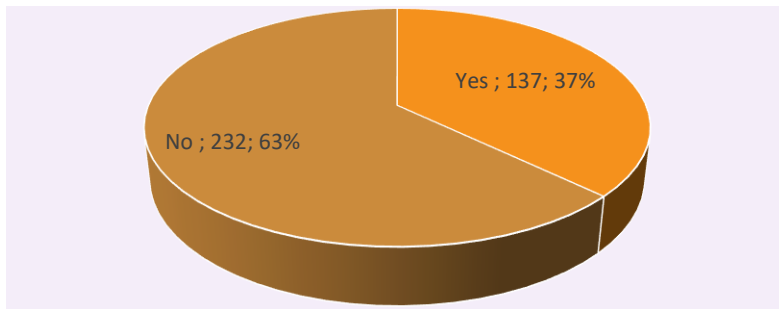
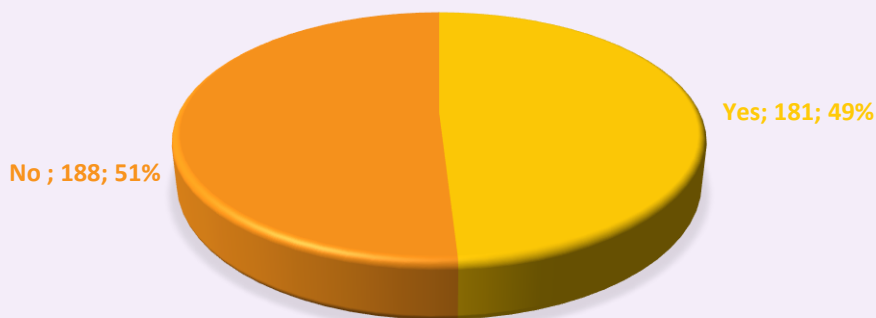


Figure13: Do you know the meaning of Circular Economy?

Do you know the meaning of Circular Economy	Frequency
Yes	181
No	188
Total	369

DO YOU KNOW THE MEANING OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY



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Figure14: Do you know the meaning of Blue Economy?

	Frequency
Do you know the meaning of Blue Economy	
Yes	157
No	212
Total	369

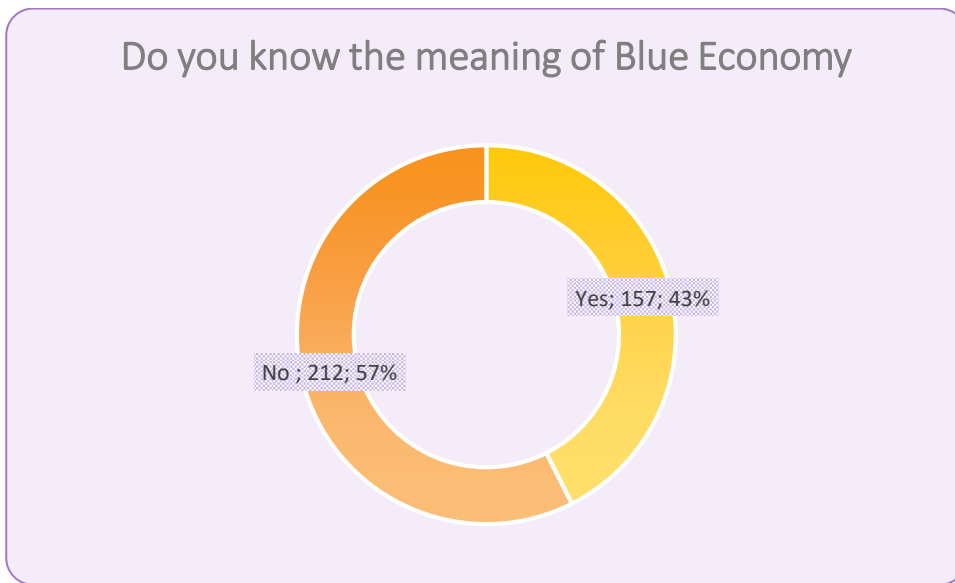


Figure15: Do you know the meaning of Green Economy?

	Frequency
Do you know the meaning of Green Economy	
Yes	205
No	164
Total	369

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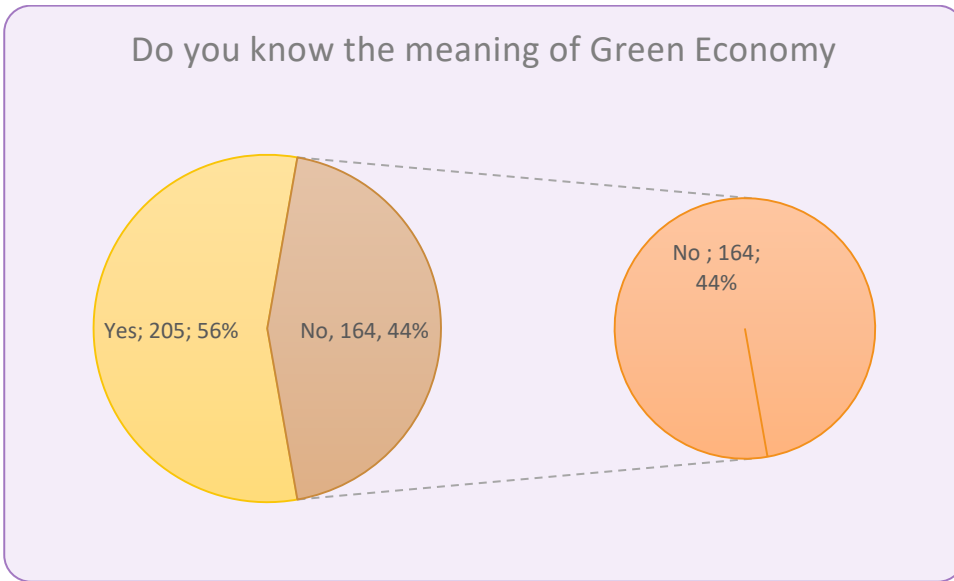
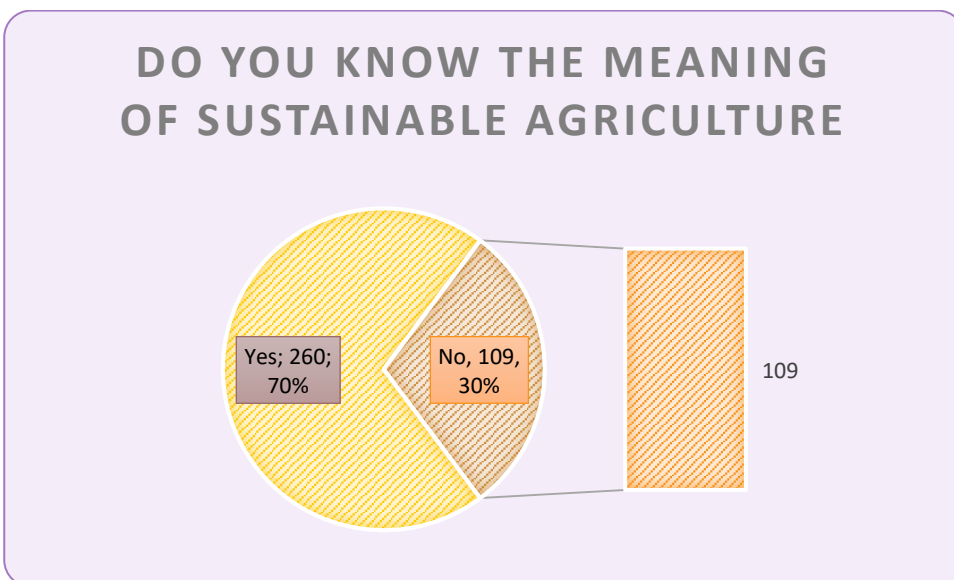


Figure16: Do you know the meaning of Sustainable Agriculture?

	Frequency
Do you know the meaning of Sustainable Agriculture	
Yes	260
No	109
Total	369



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Figure17: 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?

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?	Frequency
Yes	345
No	24
Total	369

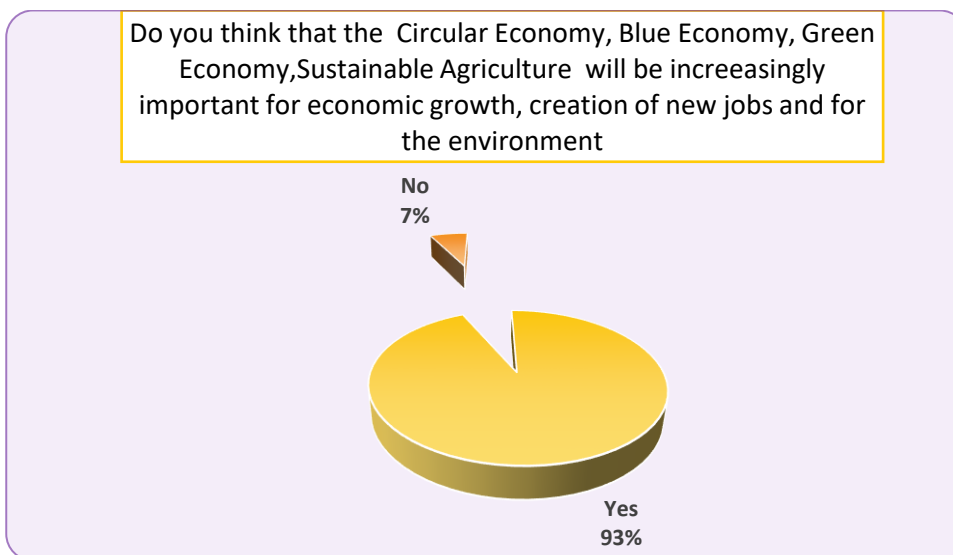


Figure17: Which of these sustainable economic sectors would interest you the most?

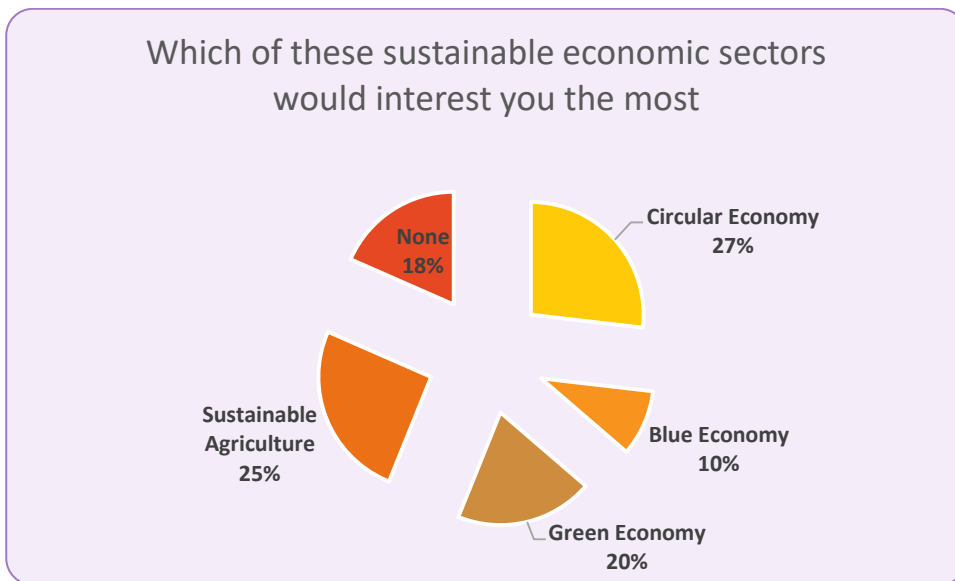
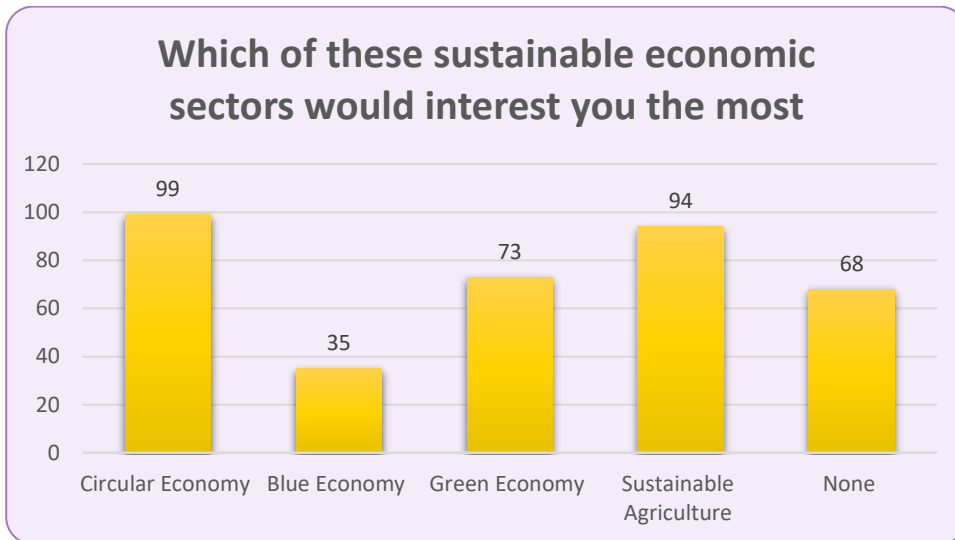
Which of these sustainable economic sectors would interest you the most?	Frequency
Circular Economy	99
Blue Economy	35
Green Economy	73
Sustainable Agriculture	94

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None	68
Total	369



References

Internet Source:

Link to the NEETs and women questionnaire in national language.

- <https://forms.gle/C3rHHXU2B2Zci4P57>

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Link to webpage dedicated to the NEETs and women profiling and need assessment (including associated partners webpages, if any)

- <https://www.facebook.com/BusinessWomenForum>
- <http://www.bwf.ps/index.php/en/about-us/our-news/item/219-cluster-will-participate-in-the-forum-of-mediterranean-worlds-in-marseille,-an-event-that-will-bring-together-150-young-people-from-both-shores.html>

Link to any other relevant article, post, etc. linked with the A 3.1.1 (including those published by associated partners, if any)

- https://www.facebook.com/groups/229039387640704/posts/1176050032939630/?comment_id=1176216476256319¬if_id=1653843764443794¬if_t=group_comment&ref=notif
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/forsety/permalink/2397206337121102/>

Report, publication, or any other relevant document used for the Profiling report

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