

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

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

# Profiling Report

## European Institute of the Mediterranean

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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 the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) 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 Lead Beneficiary of CLUSTER, the IEMed, has implemented the activities related to the project Intellectual Output 3.1 (A.3.1.1 - Profiling and needs assessment of NEETs and Women) in the Project-targeted region of Catalonia (Spain).

According to the January 2021 population census of the Catalan National Institute of Statistics (2022b), Catalonia has 7,716,760 inhabitants, of which 50.94% women, and 31.17% people under 30 years old.

Compared to the unemployment rate at the country level registered by the National Institute of Statistics (2022a) in the third quarter of 2021 (14.57%), the regional rate appears to be lower (10.92%), according to the Catalan National Institute of Statistics. However, data from “La Vanguardia” (2021), Catalonia's leading newspaper, shows regional youth (from 16 to 29 years old) unemployment figures that are higher than overall unemployment rates, with 19.4% of young people unemployed as of the third quarter of 2021, in line with the Spanish national trend. In this framework, 23,268 young women are estimated to be unemployed by the Public Service of State Employment (2022).

The Catalan economic landscape presents main business sectors that include industrial activity, which accounts for 19% of Catalan GDP, followed by the agri-food sector (16.28%), and tourism (12%). In particular, in the framework of the industrial activity, the main sectors are: Food & beverage (12.8%); Chemicals (11.1%); Motor vehicles (10.5%), Pharma (10.0%) and Energy (7.8%) (Catalonia Trade & Investment, 2022).

The IEMed started the profiling activities in Catalonia on 22 March 2022 and finished them on 31 May 2022. During their implementation, the NEETs and women taken into consideration were on

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average people from 22 to 25 years old, enrolled in the first cycle of university studies, residing in the City of Barcelona.

## Methodology

Initially, the IEMed's key tool for contact making was the use of e-mails. Starting from a search for relevant Project's Partners of other ENI CBC MED-funded projects in Catalonia in the same fields as CLUSTER, the IEMed mapped the Catalan landscape of private enterprises and TVET institutions, as well as public authorities working with employment programs and professional growth, and individual researchers, expert in the four targeted fields, asking them to disseminate the questionnaire among their audiences and possible interested contacts. In addition, the Questionnaire was disseminated online on the IEMed's institutional channels (social media and webpage), the CLUSTER ENI CBC Med webpage and social media profiles. Regarding the latter, the promotion of specific posts on social media was deemed useful, specially to reach out to a wider and younger audience of NEETs. For this reason, throughout the months of April and May, social media promotion was used, in line with what was foreseen in the budget, with a final reach of 38,895 people who viewed the NEETs questionnaire post at least once on Facebook, and 33,339 impressions on Twitter. In addition, direct messaging on these platforms was used to target young individuals who could be interested.

After initially receiving a low number of responses, the IEMed opted for a more direct strategy and directly called those previously contacted by e-mail, while simultaneously looking for new contacts, specifically linked to NEETs, such as youth associations and youth-led associations, syndicates, and networks of young people. Based on the type of stakeholder and contact used, a message was tailored explaining the purpose of CLUSTER and its profiling activities. When necessary, online meetings were conducted with interested stakeholders in order to encourage them to share the questionnaire among their audiences.

In particular, the LB, as the coordinator of the Spanish network of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ReFAL), which consists of more than 130 organisations spread throughout the Spanish territory, has reached out to its members based in Catalonia, encouraging them to disseminate the questionnaires in their networks. Moreover, the LB also reached out to its Project Associates SOC – Servei Públic d'Ocupació de Catalunya, and AFAEMME, the Association of Organisations of Mediterranean Businesswomen, and other contacts relevant to the IEMed's action lines. All strategies used for NEETs engagement involved the human resources efforts of the Programme Manager and the Management Officer of the CLUSTER Project, as well as the Fellow of the Culture, Gender and Civil Society Department of the IEMed.

In the framework described above, the main tool used for profiling and needs assessment of NEETs and women were Microsoft forms. However, despite considerable efforts to reach out to relevant stakeholders to implement WP3 profiling activities, the IEMed encountered difficulties in reaching the target numbers set initially, due to a generally low response rate. For this reason, the strategy was adjusted and the IEMed started disseminating the NEETs Questionnaire face-to-face and in paper format, particularly in places of interest for young people, such as universities and meeting

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places. This proved to be best approach to reach out to a high number of young people in a timely manner. After going out a total of four times, 253 young people were reached, a target higher than the one set initially.

In this context, an Excel Database was created to facilitate the storage and retrieval of the relevant responses collected through the profiling activities, to capitalize on during future activities, and, simultaneously, the Stakeholders Database part of O2.1 was also updated with the relevant contacts collected. Finally, those contacts that accepted the relevant section in the questionnaire were included in the Project Newsletter for them to be updated with the Project latest news and progress.

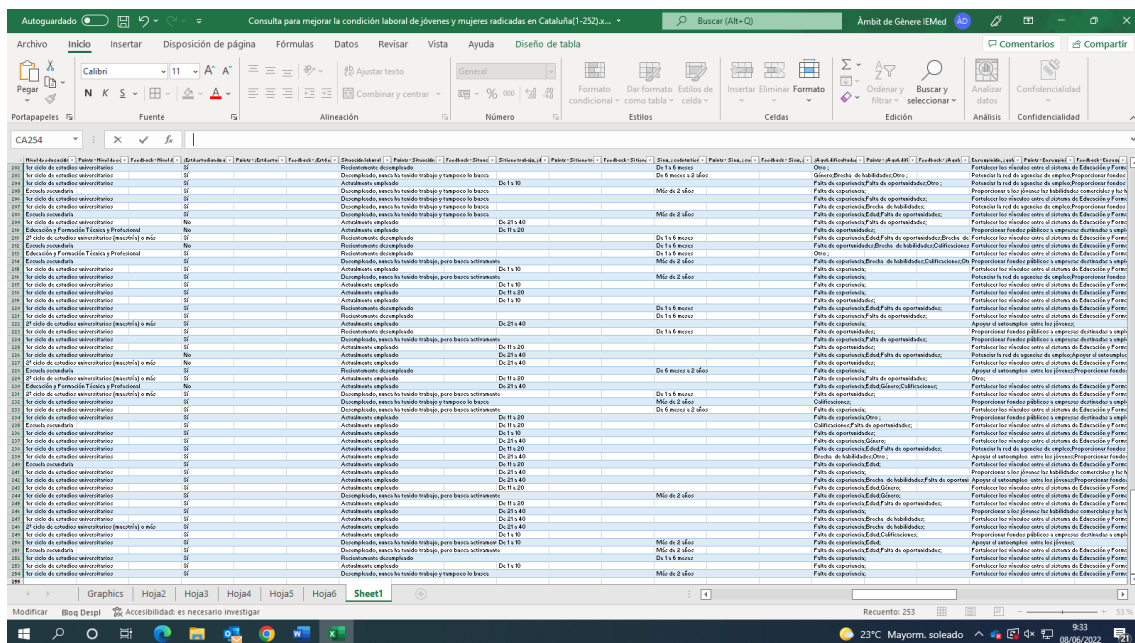


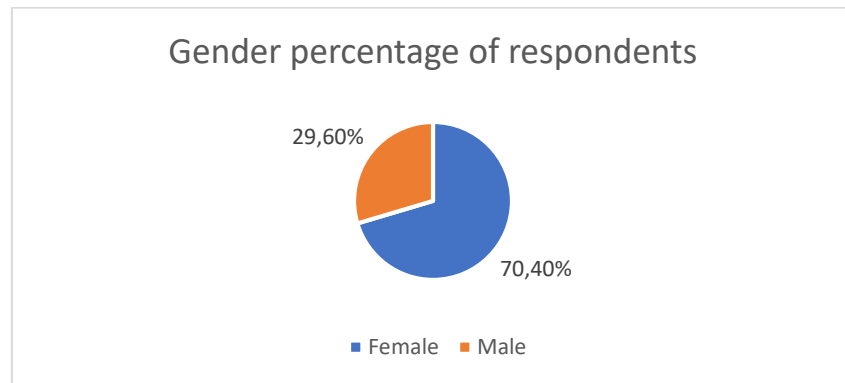
Figure 1. Data base Screenshot showing the collected data

## Data analysis and indicators

Through the different strategies outlined above, the IEMed contacted more than 500 people, an estimate that does not take into account the Project indirect beneficiaries reached through social media. In total, 253 young people, of which 70.40% women, filled the questionnaire.

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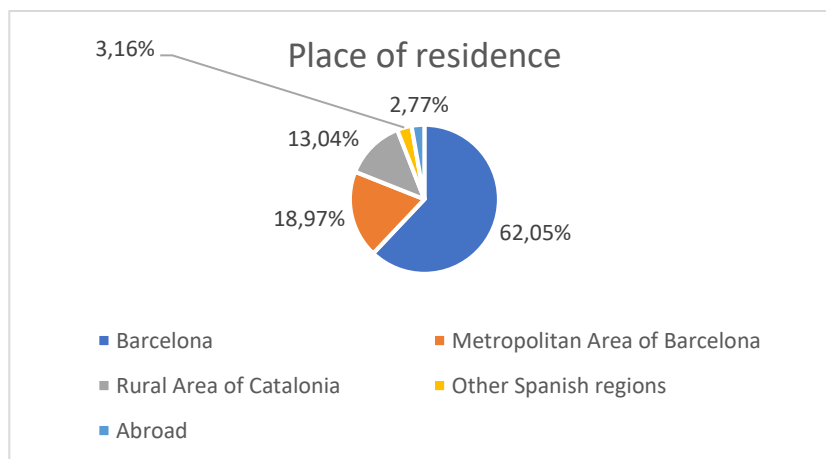

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Gender	Total
Female	178
Male	75

**Figure 2. Gender of interviewees**

Overall, the vast majority of the respondents reside in the City of Barcelona (62,05%) or the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (18,97%), while 13.04% respondents come from rural areas of Catalonia.



Place	Total
Barcelona	157
Metropolitan Area of Barcelona	48
Rural Area of Catalonia	33
Other Spanish regions	8
Abroad	7

**Figure 3. Place of residence**

On average, interviewees are from 18 to 21 years old (46,25%), followed by people from 22 to 25 years old (24,11%) and from 26 to 30 years old (18,18%). 53,36% of the respondents are currently enrolled or have completed their first cycle of university studies (22,92%). In addition, 13,83% of the respondents have a secondary school level of education, while only a minority of 9,49% of the respondents have attended training courses at a TVET institution. The respondents' common educated background of origin is generally due to the fact that young people and women who are

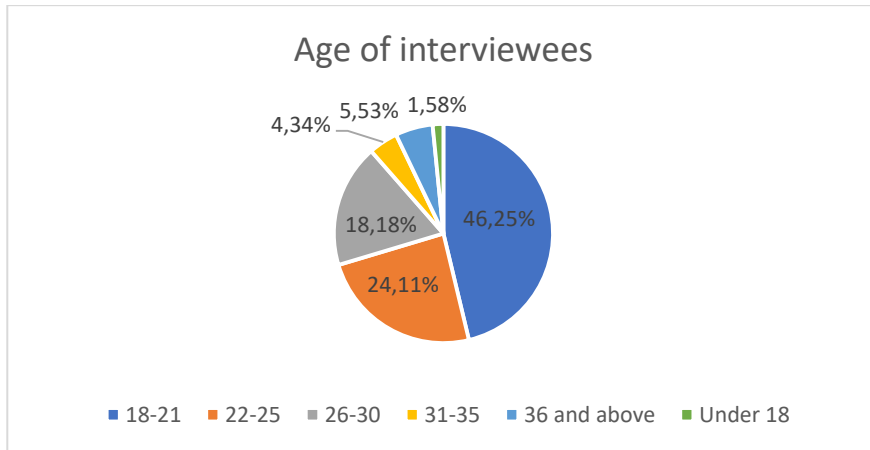
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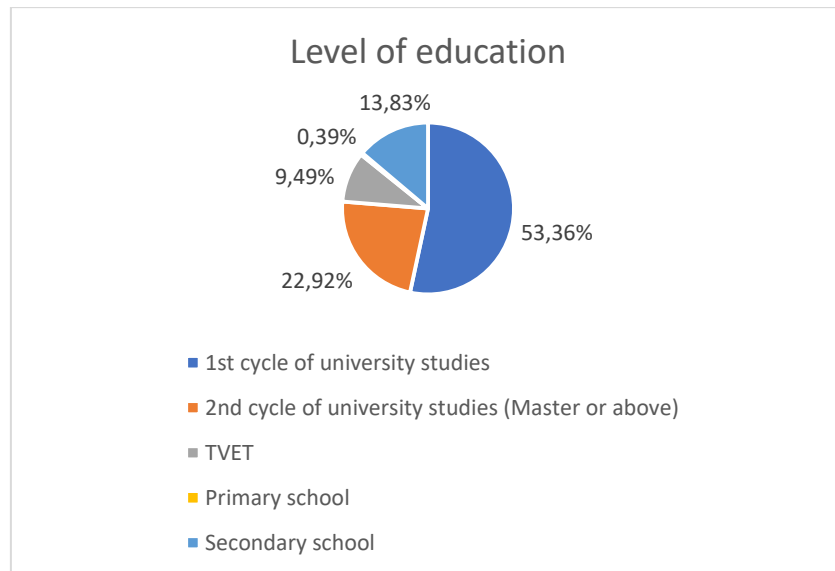
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not in education nor working were particularly difficult to reach, due to their lack of connections and affiliation with established institutions.



Age	Total
18 – 21	117
22 - 25	61
26 - 30	46
31 - 35	11
36 and above	14
Under 18	4

Figure 4. Age of interviewees



Level of Education	Total
1st cycle of university studies	135
2nd cycle of university studies (Master or above)	58
TVET	24

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Primary school	1
Secondary school	35

Figure 5. Level of education

Concerning their employment status, most of the respondents are currently employed (35,96%), followed by the recently unemployed (28,85%) and those who have always been unemployed but are looking for a job (20,15%).



Employment situation	Total
Currently employed	91
Always been unemployed and not looking for a job	38
Always been unemployed and looking for a job	51
Recently unemployed	73

Figure 6. Employment situation

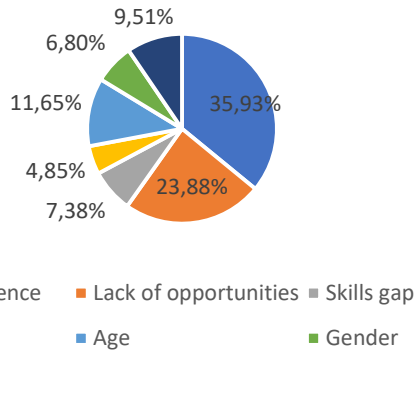
Regarding the opinions of the respondents when asked about what they believe maybe have a negative impact on finding a job, most of the interviewees (35,93%) believe that what is affecting them, as young people, is the lack of experience, followed by a lack of opportunities (23,88%), their age (11,65%) and other reasons (9,51%). Concerning the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the job market, 50,59% believe that the pandemic affected their personal/professional condition, reducing their chances of finding a job.

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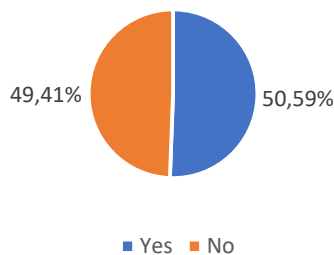
Main difficulties in finding a job as a young person



Main difficulties in finding a job as a young person	Total
Lack of experience	185
Lack of opportunities	123
Skills gap	38
Qualifications	25
Age	60
Gender	35
Other	50

Figure 7. Main difficulties in finding a job as a young person

Do you think the Covid-19 pandemic reduced your chances of finding a job?



Do you think that the Covid-19 pandemic affected your personal/professional condition, reducing your chances of finding a job?	Total
Yes	125

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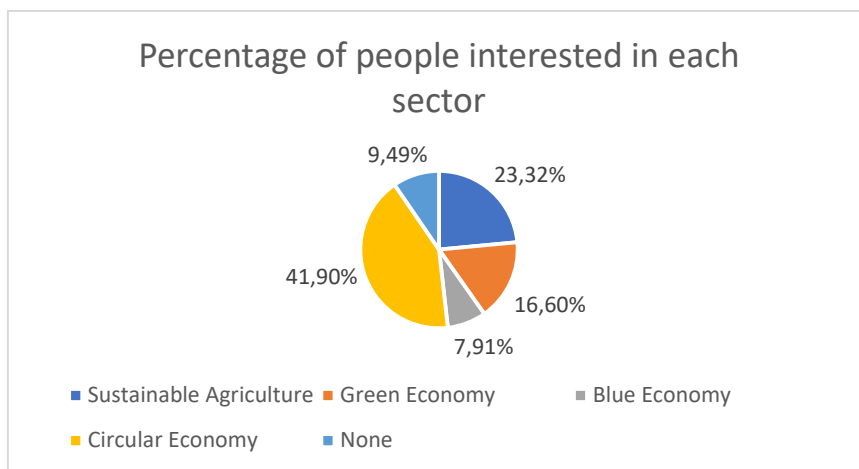


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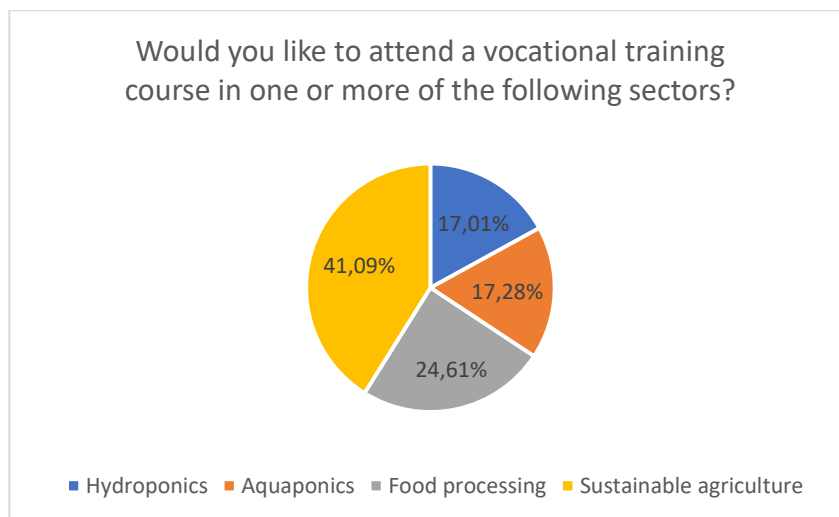
**Figure 8. Percentage of people who believe the Covid-19 pandemic reduced the chances of finding a job**

On average, respondents are interested in the four sectors targeted by the Project, particularly Circular Economy (41,90%) and Sustainable Agriculture (23,32%), followed by Green Economy (16,60%) and Blue Economy (7,91%). Results show that these figures are reflected in their interest and willingness in taking part in the training courses planned by the Project: 41,09% of the interviewees would take part in a training course in Sustainable Agriculture, 24,61% in Food Processing, 17,28% in Aquaponics and 17,01% in Hydroponics.



Interest in each sector	Total
Sustainable Agriculture	59
Green Economy	42
Blue Economy	20
Circular Economy	106
None	24

**Figure 9. Percentage of people interested in each sector**



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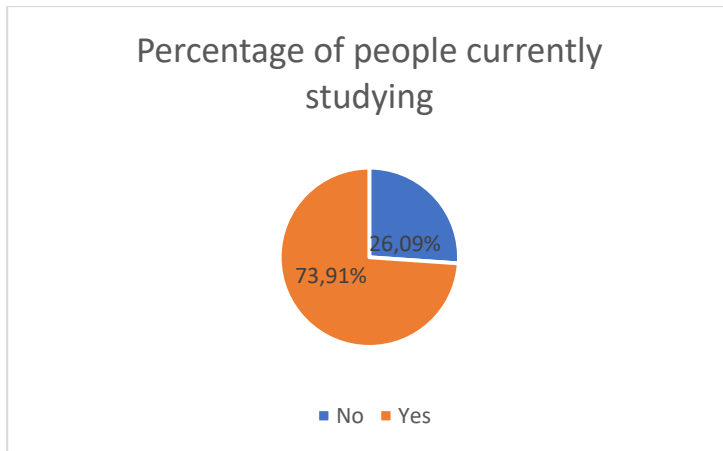


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Interest in attending a vocational course in one or more of the following sectors	Total
Hydroponics	65
Aquaponics	66
Food processing	99
Sustainable agriculture	157

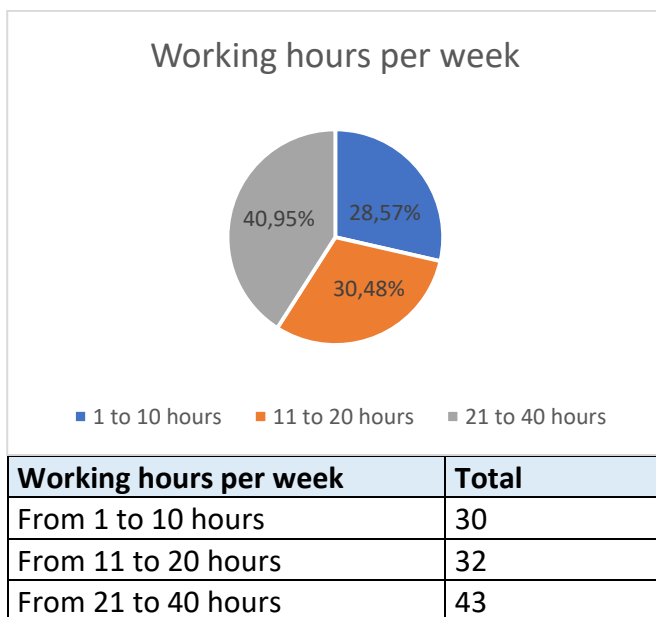
Figure 10. Percentage of people interested in attending a vocational course in each sector

Other relevant findings



Are you currently studying?	Total
Yes	187
No	66

Figure 11. Percentage of people currently studying



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Figure 12. Working hours per week

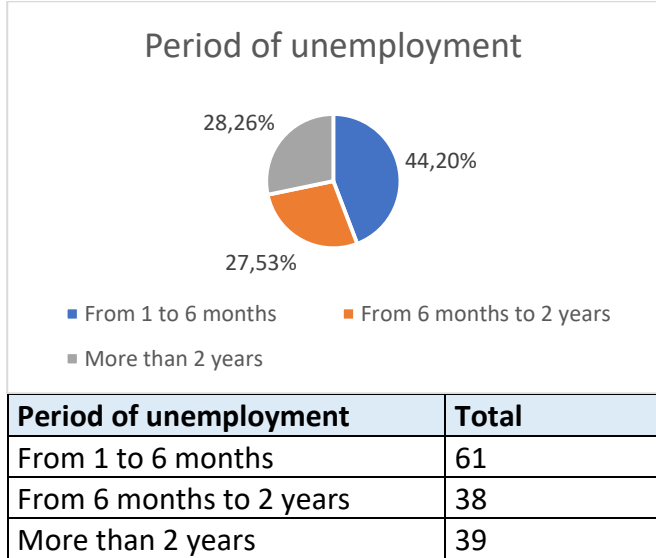
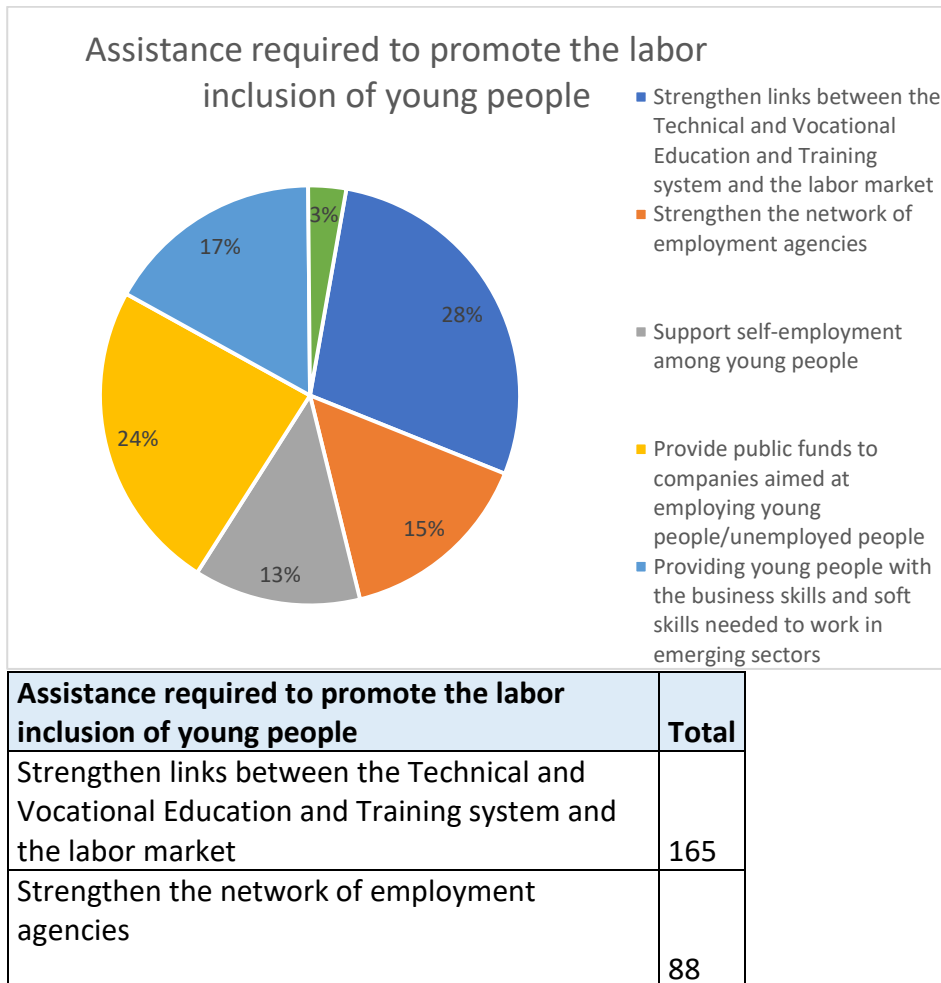


Figure 13. Period of unemployment



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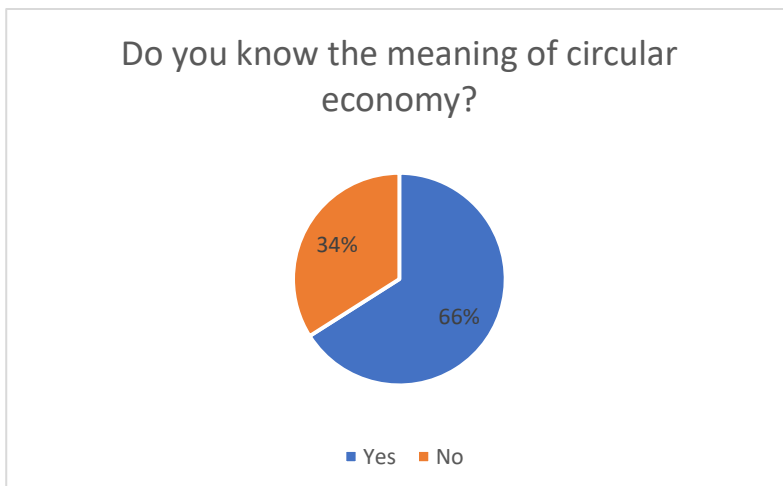
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Support self-employment among young people	75
Provide public funds to companies aimed at employing young people/unemployed people	140
Providing young people with the business skills and soft skills needed to work in emerging sectors	98
Other	17

Figure 14. Collected opinions on the assistance required to promote the labour inclusion of young people



Figure 15. Percentage of people who took a vocational training course

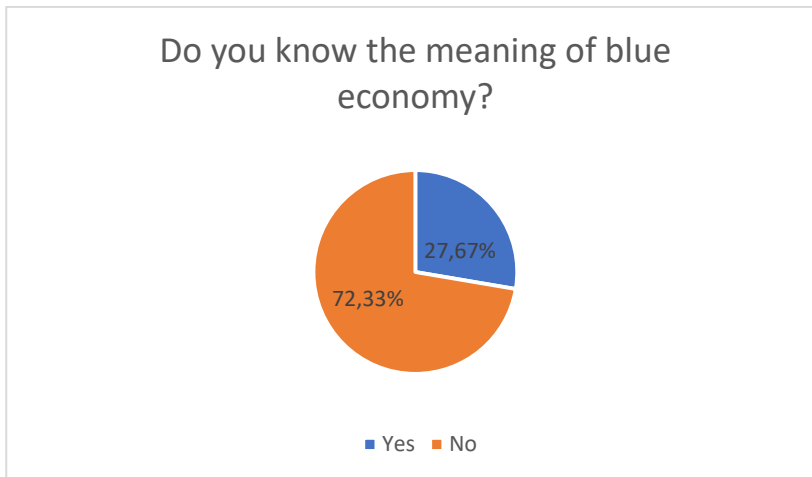


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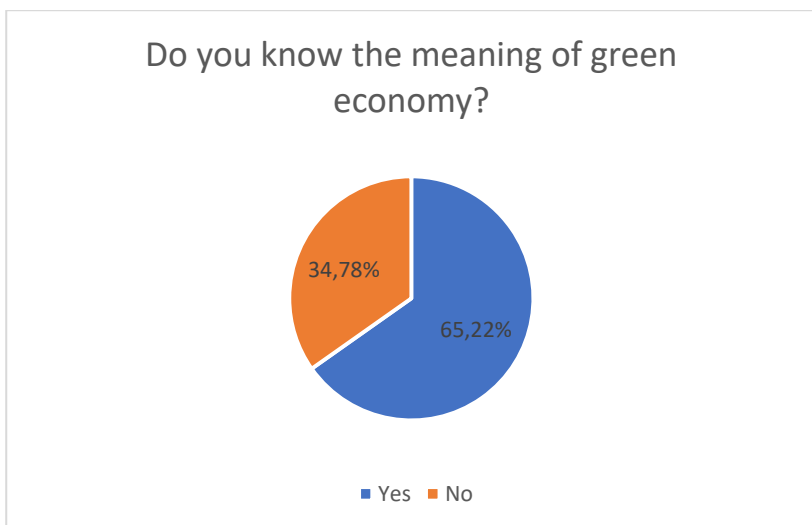
Do you know the meaning of circular economy?	Total
Yes	167
No	86

Figure 16. Percentage of people who know the meaning of circular economy



Do you know the meaning of blue economy?	Total
Yes	70
No	183

Figure 17. Percentage of people who know the meaning of blue economy



Do you know the meaning of green economy?	Total
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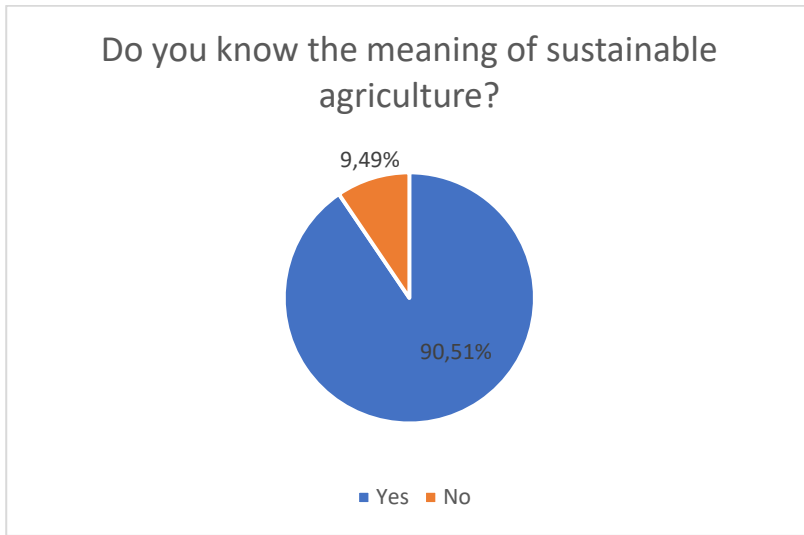
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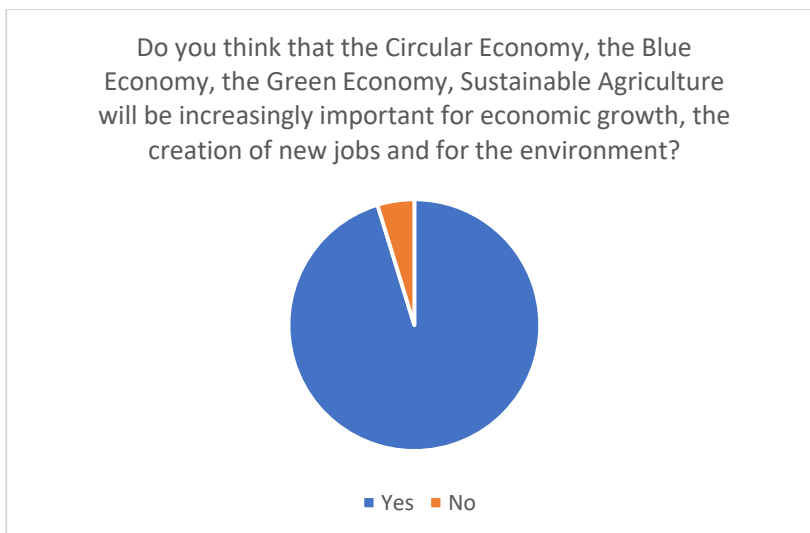
Yes	165
No	88

Figure 18. Percentage of people who know the meaning of green economy



<b>Do you know the meaning of green economy?</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	229
No	24

Figure 19. Percentage of people who know the meaning of sustainable agriculture



<b>Do you know the meaning of green economy?</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes	241
No	12

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Figure 20. Percentage of people who believe that circular, blue, green economy, and sustainable agriculture will be increasing important for economic growth and for the environment

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[Link to the NEETs and women questionnaire in national language.](#)

[Link to webpage dedicated to the NEETs and women profiling and need assessment.](#)

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