

**Innovative Employment Support for
Young People in the Eastern
Partnership:**

The NEET Outreach Programme in Moldova

Implemented by the National Youth Council of
Moldova (CNTM)
in partnership with the National Employment
Agency and the International Labour
Organization (ILO)



Overall Goal:

To support the social and economic inclusion of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) in the Republic of Moldova by connecting them with employment, training, and counselling opportunities through innovative outreach and cooperation mechanisms.



Specific Objectives:

Identify and reach out to inactive and hard-to-reach NEET youth, especially from rural and disadvantaged communities.

Build bridges between young people and local employment services through youth workers, mobile teams, and peer outreach.

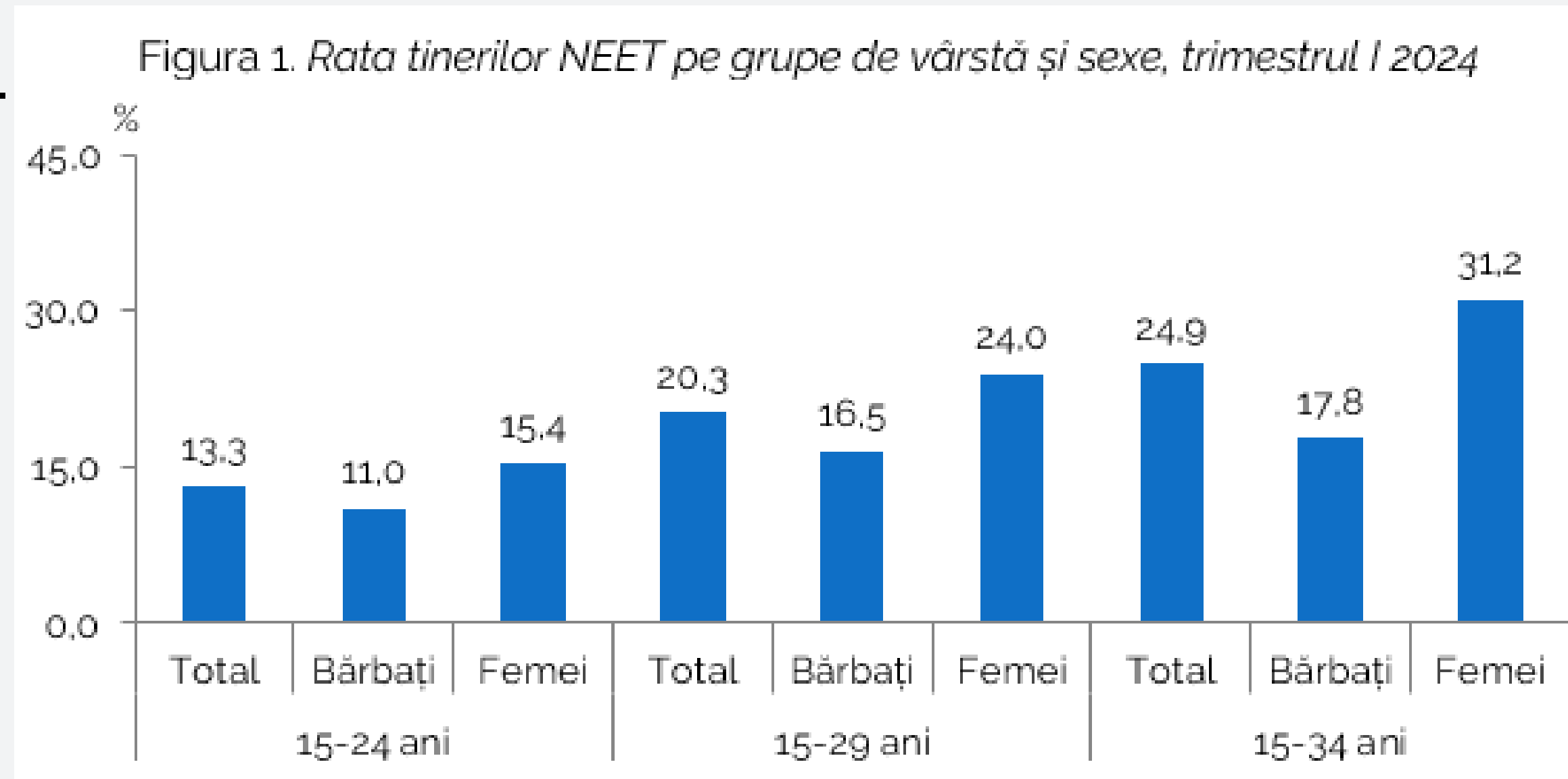
Generate data and evidence on NEET profiles and challenges to inform national employment and youth policies.

Provide personalized guidance and counselling for labour market integration — including skills assessment, career advice, and referrals.

Strengthen cooperation between the National Employment Agency, local authorities, and youth organizations for coordinated interventions.

Context & Justification

- Over 22% of young people (15–29) in Moldova are NEET, not in education, employment, or training.
- Many young people face limited access to quality jobs, especially in rural areas, where opportunities are scarce and migration remains high.
- The transition from school to work is often slow and difficult, with skills mismatches and limited career guidance.
- Vulnerable groups (young women, rural youth, those with low education levels) are disproportionately represented among NEETs.



Partnership Model



NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF MOLDOVA

- Leads community outreach and engagement with NEET youth.
- Mobilizes youth workers, local NGOs, and youth centers across districts.
- Provides peer-to-peer communication and builds trust with hard-to-reach young people.
- Collects data and feedback from the field to improve programme design.



NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (ANOFM)

- Provides employment services, skills assessment, and job counselling.
- Registers NEETs in the official employment system.
- Connects young people with training, apprenticeships, and active labour market programmes.
- Works with local employment offices to ensure tailored support.



International
Labour
Organization

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

- Offers technical assistance, training, and methodological guidance.
- Supports the development of the NEET identification and profiling tools.
- Promotes the replication of the model in other Eastern Partnership countries.
- Ensures alignment with international labour and youth employment standards

Programme Approach & Methodology

IDENTIFICATION AND OUTREACH

Local youth workers and volunteers trained by CNTM use community mapping and peer outreach to identify inactive young people (15–29 years old) who are not studying or working.

PROFILING AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Using tools developed with ILO experts, NEET youth are profiled to assess skills, interests, and barriers.

REFERRAL AND SUPPORT

CNTM and ANOFM coordinate to register NEETs with local employment offices.

Results & Impact



- Over 1,500 NEET youth identified across multiple districts of Moldova (e.g., Hincesti, Rezina, Ungheni, Soroca).
- Around 60% from rural areas and 40% women, many reached for the first time by employment services.
- Significant engagement of marginalized youth, including those from minority communities and low-income families.
- 2. Activation and Employment Pathways
- 800+ young people registered with local employment offices.
- 450 participants benefited from individual counselling, job-matching, and referral to training programmes.
- 200+ NEETs accessed vocational courses, internships, or entrepreneurship schemes.
- Several success stories of youth who launched micro-enterprises or found stable employment.

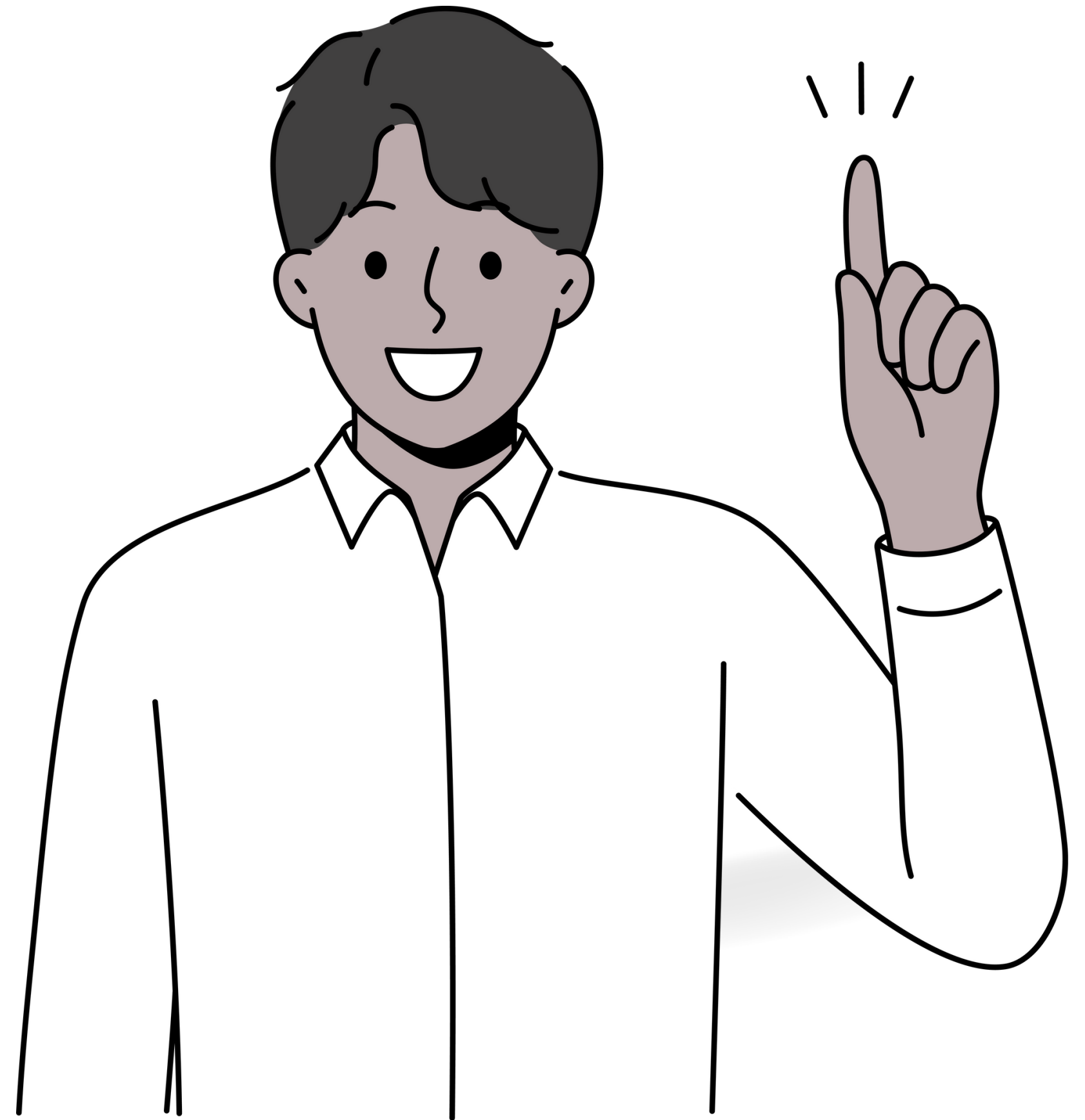
Policy Gaps & Challenges

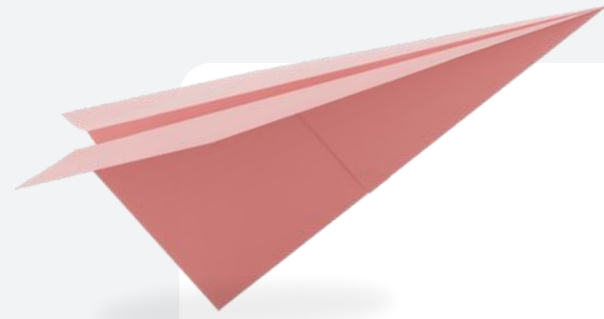
- National employment strategies focus primarily on registered jobseekers, while inactive youth remain outside institutional systems.
- Many young people do not approach ANOFM offices due to mistrust, lack of awareness, or physical distance especially in rural areas.
- Existing programmes (internships, training, entrepreneurship) are not adapted to NEET realities, they often require prior registration or formal qualifications.
- Lack of flexible and community-based support limits outreach to the most vulnerable youth.
- There is no comprehensive database on NEET youth in Moldova.
- Schools and universities provide minimal career guidance, and local employment counsellors are often overloaded and undertrained.
- Few mechanisms exist for lifelong guidance or early intervention before youth drop out of education or work.



Policy Recommendations

1. Institutionalize NEET Outreach Mechanisms
2. Strengthen Local-Level Cooperation
3. Improve Data Systems and Research
4. Ensure Sustainable Financing
5. Promote Youth Participation in Policy Design





Do you have any **questions?**

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