

**Analysis from Sweden:****Increased number of young people are at risk of permanent alienation after the Corona crisis**

The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF), has made an analysis to the Swedish Government examining how the recession during the years of 2008–2009 affected the youth in Sweden and their possibility to establish themselves in the labour market the years after the recession. The Agency takes a closer look at young people between 16–24 years old in Sweden, who were defined as NEETs in 2004 and how they established themselves on the labour market up until the age of 29. Using knowledge of the persistency in the NEET state after the financial crisis, MUCF hopes that the Government of Sweden will take action in order to prevent similar consequences after the Corona crisis for the young generation in the country today.

The concept of NEET (young people not in employment, education or training) is an international used concept which is used to capture the varieties of youth labour market disengagement and has become a standard statistical indicator of the performance of the labour market. NEETs are considered being especially at risk of exclusion of the labour market and social alienation, hence the interest of this particularly group in politics and research.

The analysis shows that 25 percent of the young people who left NEET for work or education between the years 2004-2007 returned to this statistical indicator during the last recession and still hadn't returned to the labour market or education at the age of 29.

This group of young people have both in Swedish and international research been identified as a group dealing with more mental health issues than a randomly selected group of the same age. MUCF also conducted interviews with representatives of the Swedish municipalities during the month of April of 2020. Based on this material the agency claims there is a decline within the mental health among NEETs due to social distancing. The young people within NEETs are also more reluctant to start an education due to the Corona crisis. A lot of these young people usually are in some form of employment measures at local businesses. Since these businesses are heavily affected by the economic impacts due to the crisis, these preventive actions for the NEETs are now being stalled.

The results of the interviews also identifies a risk of more students leaving compulsory school not being qualified for upper secondary education after the summer. The municipalities argue that this is because of an increased absence of both students and teachers due to the Corona crisis. Therefore the compulsory schools, even if they still are open in Sweden, can't offer the help to students at risk of not being qualified for upper secondary school education as the schools usually are able to do during a normal year.

Previous research from both Sweden and other countries clearly shows that passing upper secondary school decreases the risk of becoming a NEET. Therefore MUCF argue for the need of governmental investments in order to prevent an increase of the share of NEETs among today's youth generation and the risk of this large group being permanent in this state for the next decade.

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- [The full analysis: Coronakrisens konsekvenser för ungas långsiktiga möjligheter att etablera sig på arbetsmarknaden \(in Swedish\)](#)
- [MUCF press release from 2020-05-07](#)