

 **KATALIN BÖRDÖS****NEETs in Hungary: a summary on the evaluations of policies and challenges****ABSTRACT**

NEET-rates in Hungary are not outstandingly high: for 15-24-year-olds, NEET-rates correspond to the EU-27 average (in 2021, it was 10.6% and 10.8% for Hungary and the EU-27, respectively), and for the 25-29 cohort, it is even below the average of the Member States (13.4% for Hungary and 17.3% in the EU-27 for 2021). However, if we have a closer look at the situation of NEETs, we can see that certain groups – especially women, those with a low level of educational attainment and those who belong to the Roma minority – are in a significantly worse position than the ‘average’ youth in Hungary: for example, the gender gap concerning the 25+ NEET-rate was 17.9 percentage points in 2020, and the vast majority (84%) of female NEETs were outside the labour force. Among those with the lowest levels of education, the 25+ NEET-rate in 2020 was almost 3 times higher (49%) than among those with an upper secondary degree (17.0%) and almost 4.5 times higher than among those with tertiary education (11.1%). Also, Romani people have a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion, their employment rate is lower and they complete fewer grades of school on average compared with non-Roma Hungarian citizens.

The different fields of public policy have the potential to improve the situation of NEETs and to enable youth to integrate into the labour market. Concerning NEETs, the most relevant fields of policy in Hungary are youth policy, employment policy, education policy (especially vocational adult training and higher education) and social policy. In this paper, we take stock of the different legislations and regulations in effect in Hungary that can potentially affect the situation of NEETs, and summarise the results of the relevant (counterfactual) impact evaluations as well. Among NEETs, we pay special attention to the 25-29 cohort as well, as this is an age group that is often overlooked in Hungarian public policies.