

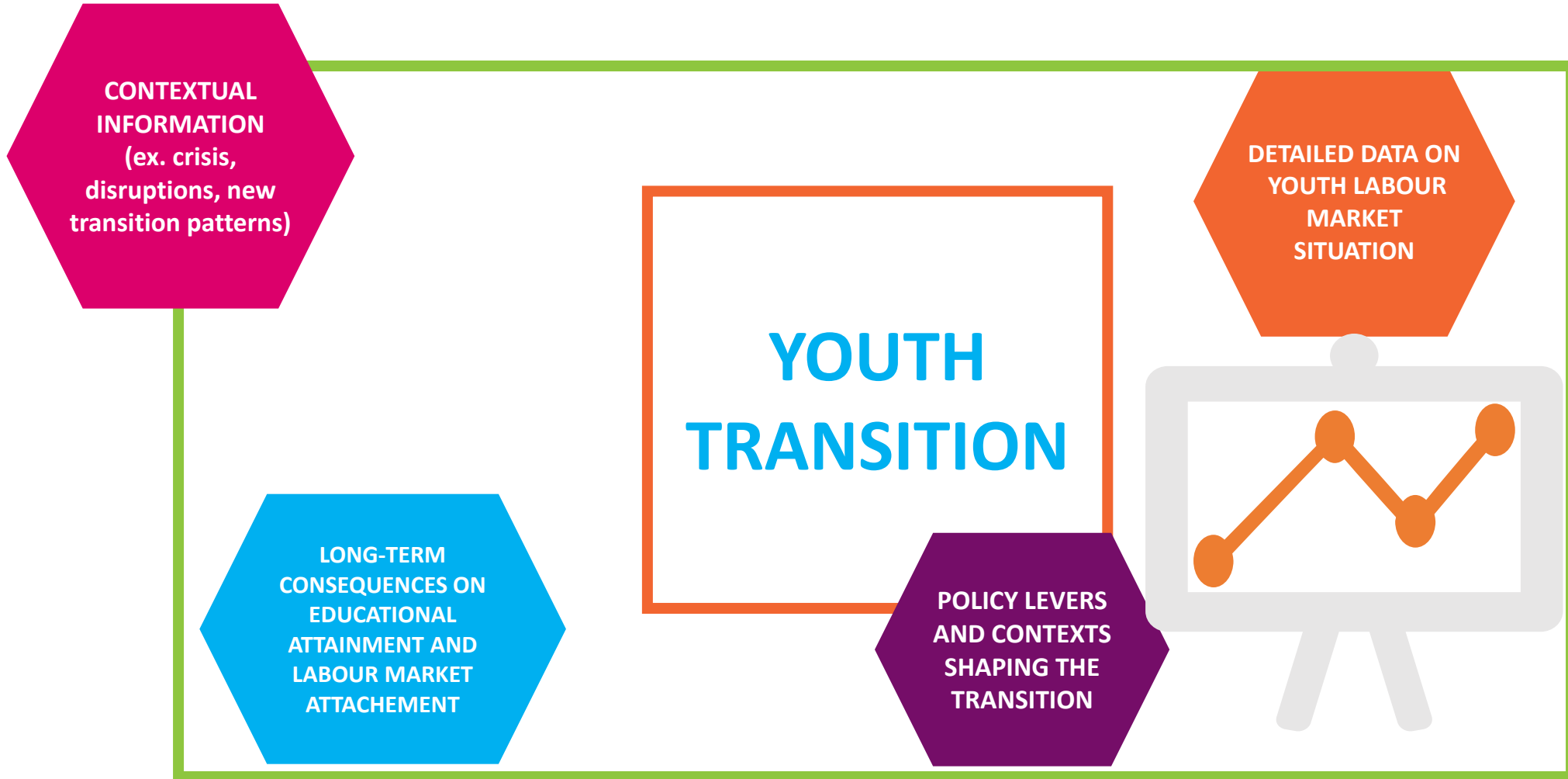
YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING

*Prevention, outreach and skills development
Western Balkans priorities*

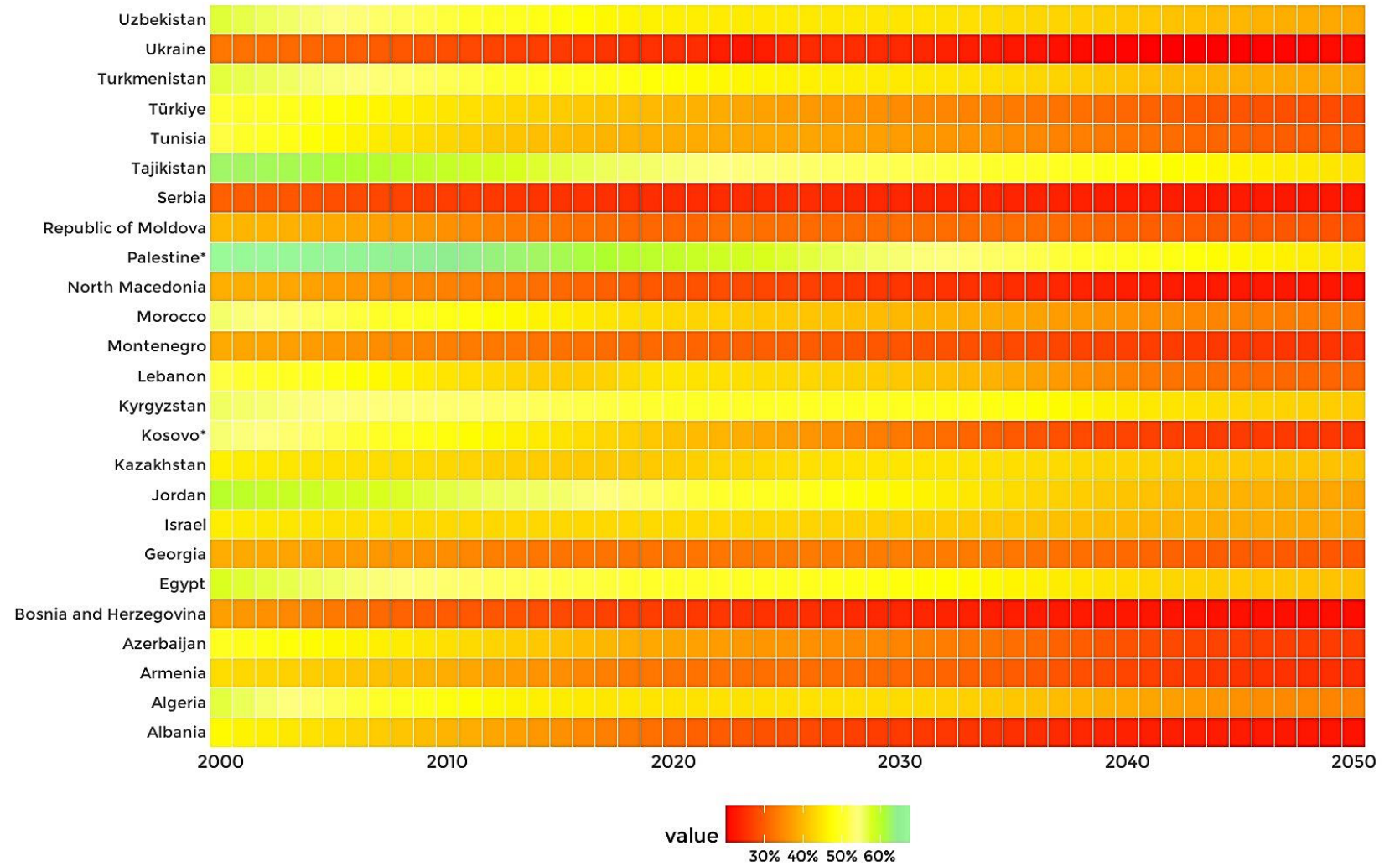
*Antalya, Türkiye, 16 November 2023
Cristina Mereuta, European Training Foundation*

FRAMING THE YOUTH TRANSITION

WHAT ARE WE USUALLY LOOKING AT ?

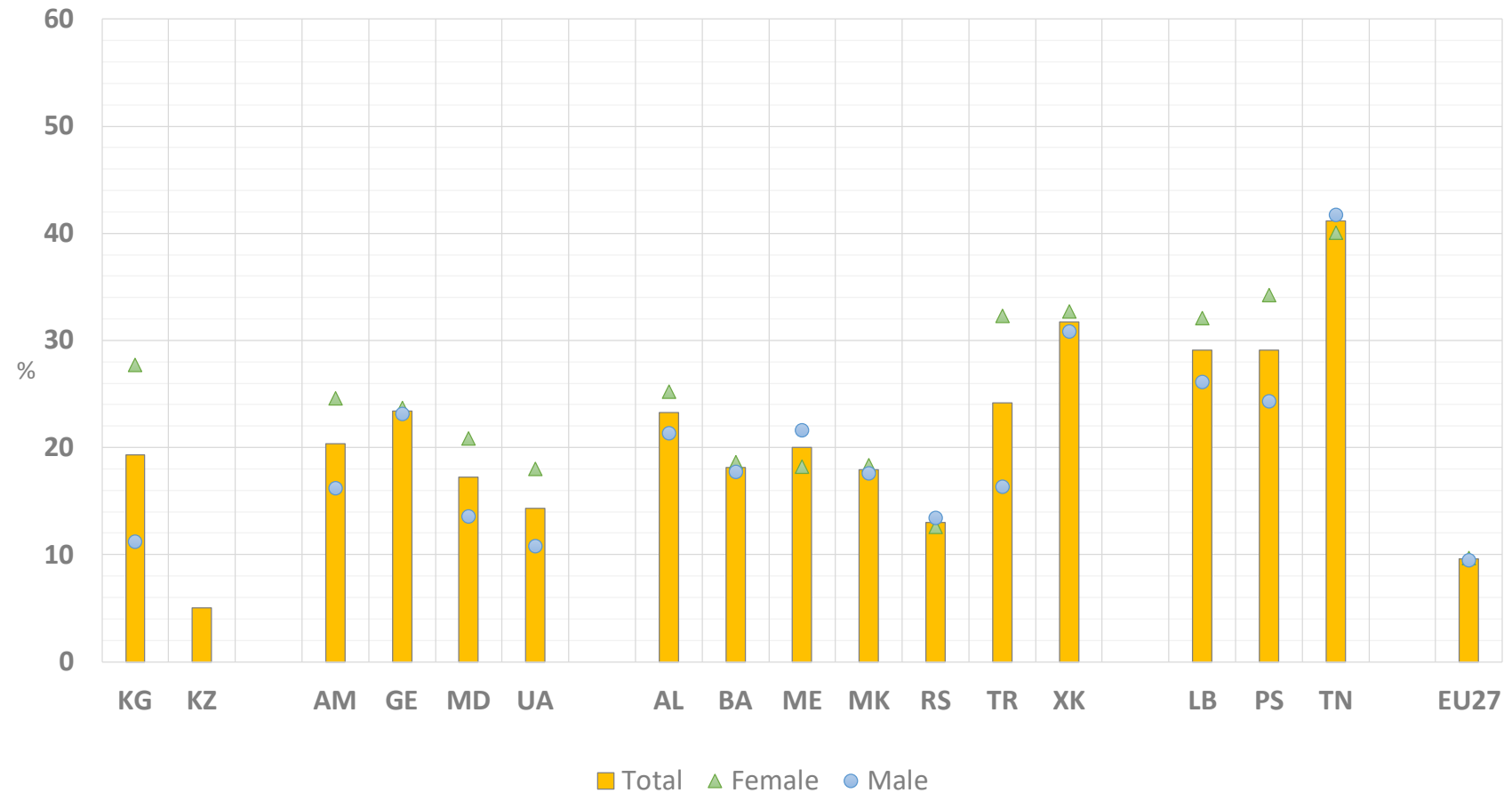


Share of youth (aged 0-24) in the total population, trends and projections



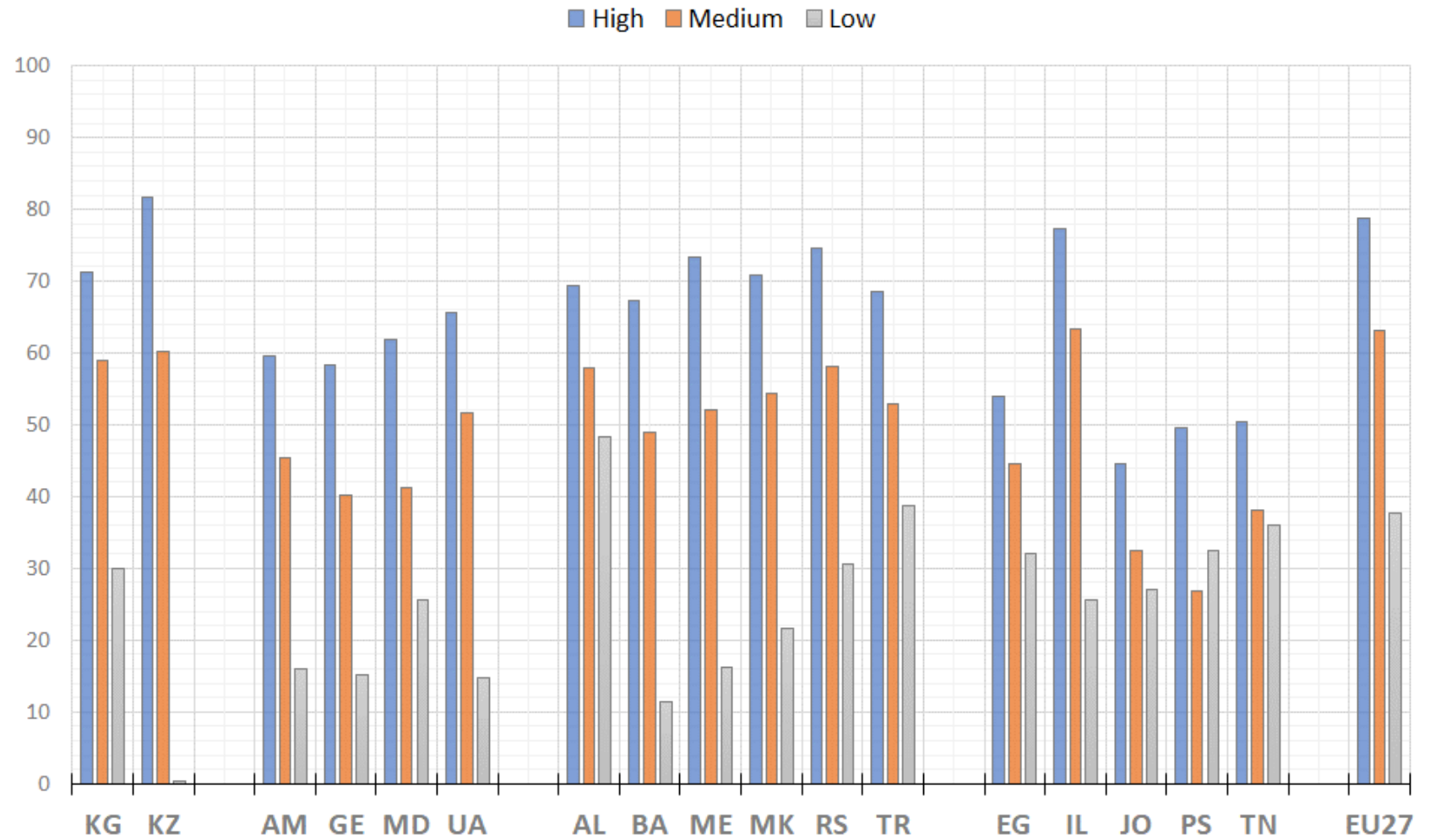
Source: ETF KIESE database, calculations based on UN DESA data

Percentage of population aged 15-24 identified as NEET



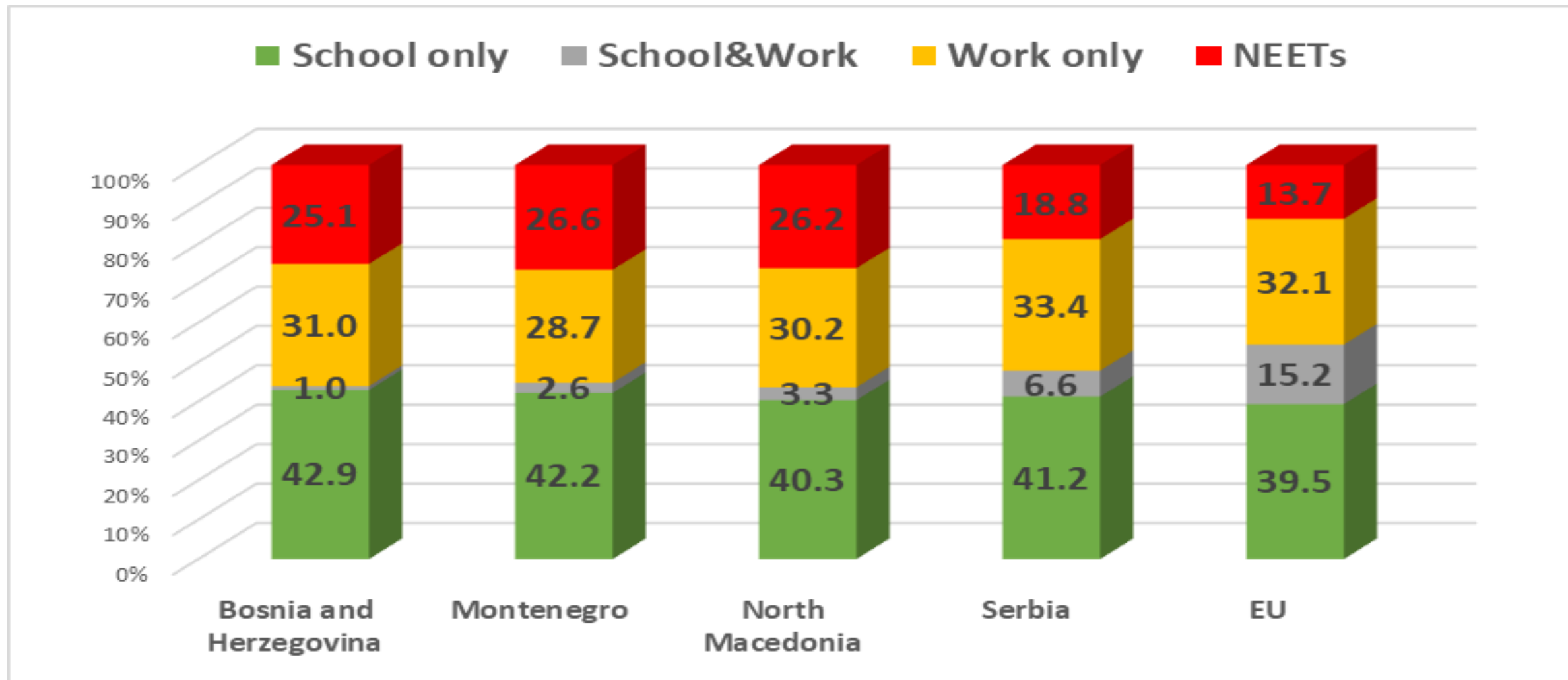
Source: ETF KIESE (from LFS and Eurostat). 2022 or last year available

Employment rate (age 15+) by educational attainment



Source: ETF KIESE (from LFS and Eurostat). 2022 or last year available

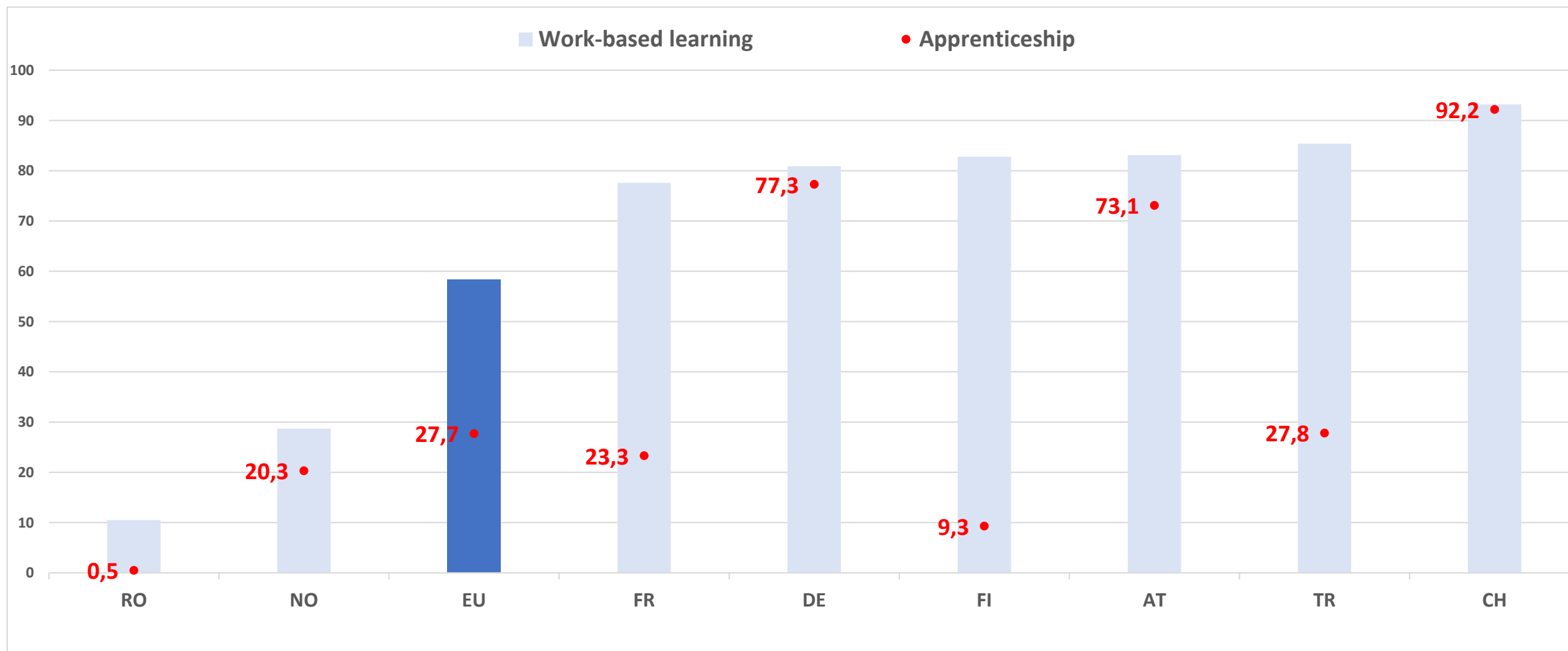
Starting point: Where are the *youth today* ?



Source: ETF KIESE, Eurostat (2021 or latest)

Note: As a % of youth aged 15-29. Totals don't add up to 100 due to those with an unknown status.

Exposure of recent Vocational Educational and Training graduates to *Work Based Learning*



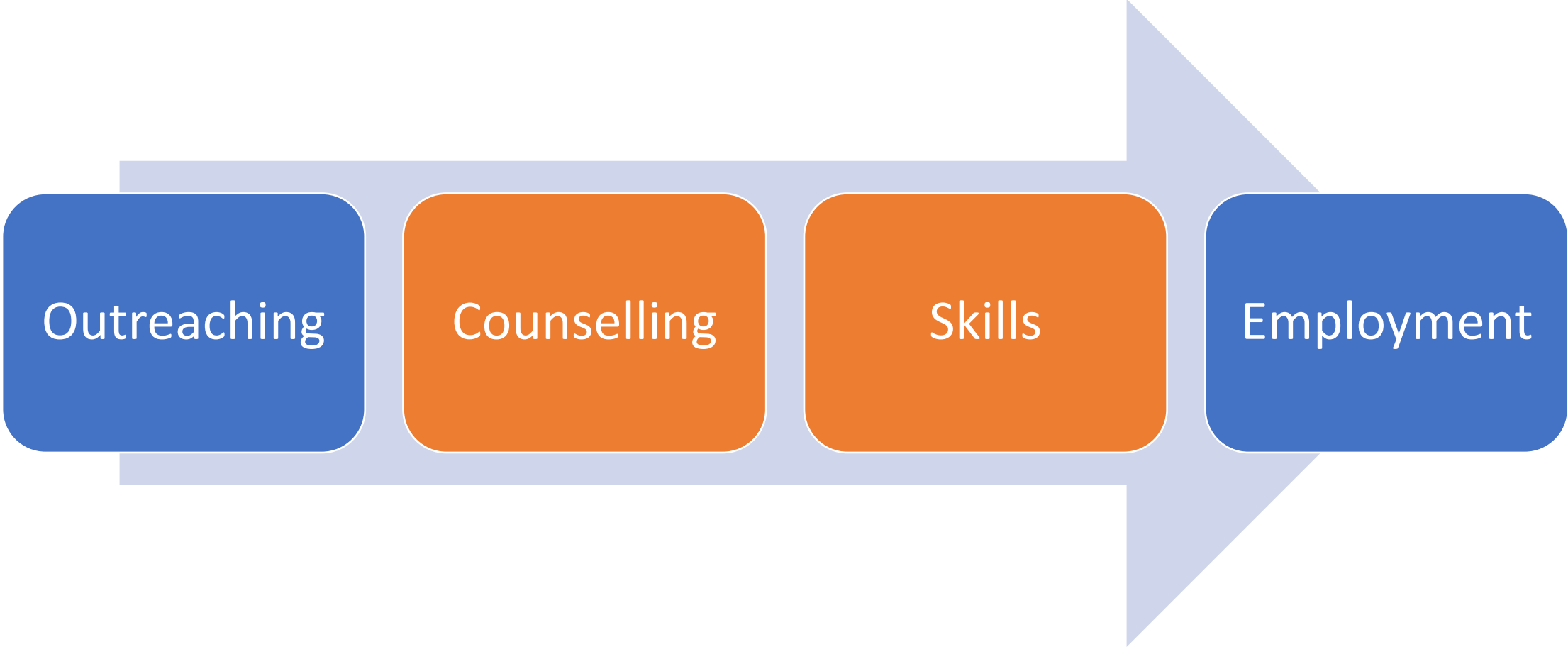
Operational definition used: Apprenticeship includes remunerated, curriculum-related work-experience during studies, of at least 6 months in duration.

Source: Eurostat (Ifso_16feduc); * ISCED 3-4 VET graduates aged 15-34

YOUTH GUARANTEE IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

- Political commitment
- Partnership based approach and social dialogue
- Engagement of youth organisations
- Stronger collaboration schools – universities – PES – social services
- Reform of ALMPs and capacity building of Public Employment Services
- EU and ILO – capacity building, peer exchange and funding
- Contribution of other international and European agencies, donors.

Support NEET transition to work



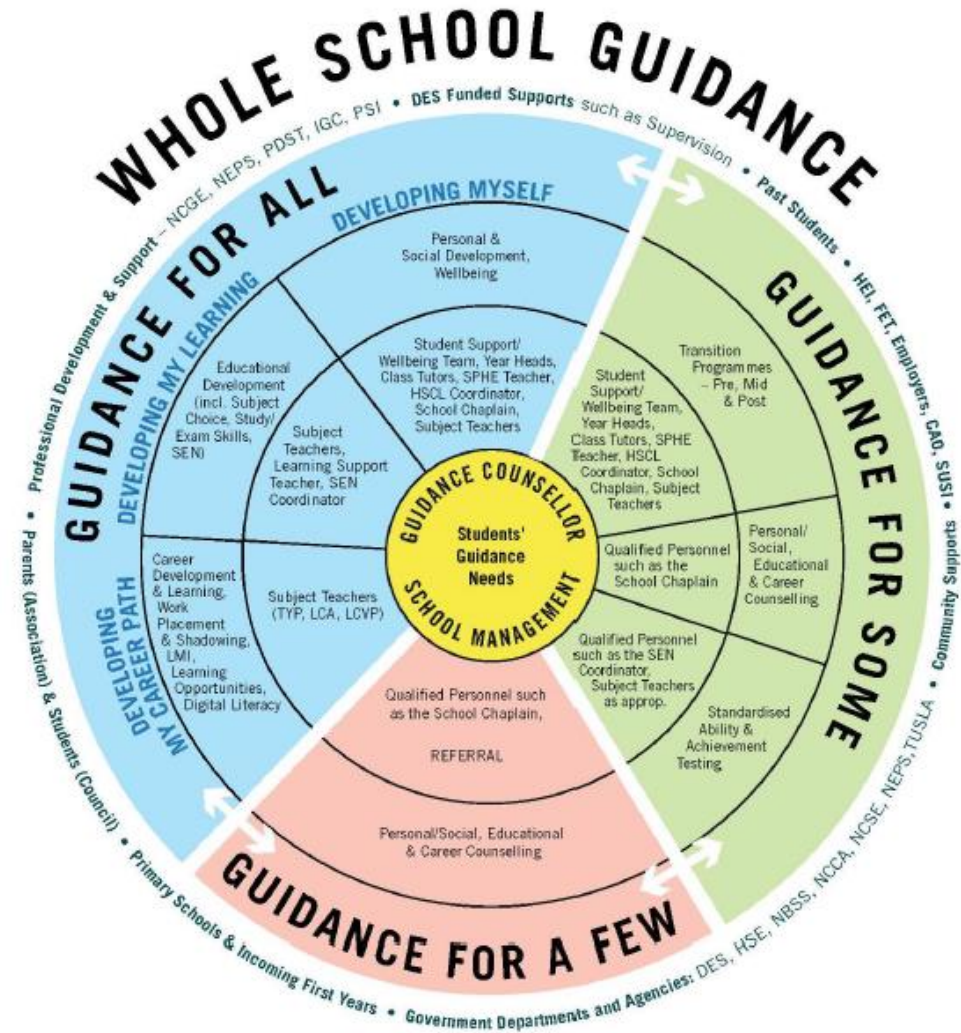
YOUTH GUARANTEE & CAREER COUNSELLING

EARLY INTERVENTION OR PREVENTION PHASE

- integrate career education as structured learning programme in formal education throughout all levels from primary education onwards

OUTREACH & PREPARATION PHASES

- train partners that reach out to young people in the provision of career guidance. Young NEET often need extensive support before they are ready to participate in YG preparatory activities



TOWARDS EFFECTIVE OUTREACH

Outreach as information service	Outreach to empower
Main objective: registration of NEETs	Main objective: help NEETs find their way
Sometimes support offer such as motivational training, training on CV writing and interviewing etc.	Empower NEETs to reengage into learning and working in a self-directed way (intrinsic motivation)
Fast activation	Sustainable activation
Short term, rather technical intervention to hand over to other stakeholders (PES, trainers)	Establish trustful relationships with young NEET

Quality Assurance of YG offers

Implications for traineeships, apprenticeships, qualifications frameworks and validation of non-formal and informal learning

European quality framework for apprenticeships

- **Council Recommendation of 15 March 2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships** [EUR-Lex - 32018H0502\(01\) - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

Apprenticeships are understood as formal vocational education and training schemes that

- a) combine learning in education or training institutions with substantial work-based learning in companies and other workplaces,
- b) lead to nationally recognised qualifications,
- c) are based on an agreement defining the rights and obligations of the apprentice, the employer and, where appropriate, the vocational education and training institution, and
- d) with the apprentice being paid or otherwise compensated for the work-based component.

Criteria for learning and working conditions

Written agreement

Learning outcomes

Pedagogical support

Workplace component

Pay and/or compensation

Social protection

Work, health and safety conditions

Criteria for framework conditions

Regulatory framework

Involvement of social partners

Support for companies

Flexible pathways and mobility (VNFIL, NQF, upward mobility)

Career guidance and awareness raising

Transparency

Quality assurance and tracking of apprentices

European quality framework for traineeships

- **Council Recommendation of 10 March 2014 on a Quality Framework for Traineeships**

[EUR-Lex - 32014H0327\(01\) - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

Traineeships are understood as a limited period of work practice, whether paid or not, which includes a learning and training component, undertaken in order to gain practical and professional experience with a view to improving employability and facilitating transition to regular employment

Key principles:

- *Conclusion of a written traineeship agreement*
- *Learning and training objectives*
- *Working conditions applicable to trainees*
- *Rights and obligations*
- *Reasonable duration (recommended max 6 months)*
- *Proper recognition of traineeships*
- *Transparency requirements*

Quality of training offers

National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) **assure** that all qualifications included in the national qualifications registers are:

- market relevant
- properly designed and described (learning outcomes)
- assessed in a valid and reliable assessment process
- covered by QA procedures.

NQFs are at **various stages of operationalisation**.

Training programmes fall under **different jurisdictions** (adult learning, non-formal learning, IVET, CVET) and might not yet be included in the NQFs. Close **collaboration** with all relevant partners is crucial.

QA mechanisms should be applied in line with the national regulations and circumstances.

QA priorities: labour-market relevance of programme and quality of learner's assessment process.

Stock-taking
on
qualifications
and learning
outcomes

Consider use of validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL) - alternative route to qualification

2012 Council Recommendation on validation of non-formal and informal learning

[EUR-Lex - 32012H1222\(01\) - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

Validation systems in place - challenges in:

- attracting candidates - outreach
- scaling up the service

For whom:

- Persons with skills (work experience, unpaid work in family business, volunteering, hobby)

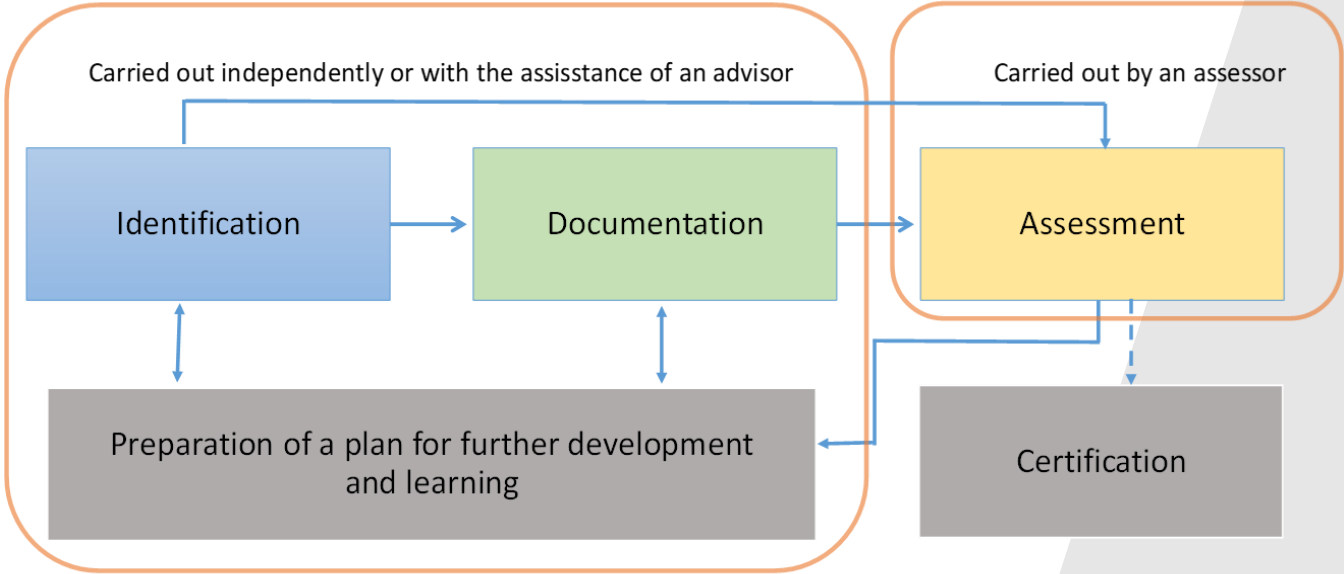
BUT

- VNFIL can be combined with training and work-based learning offers

Validation process - synergies

Potential benefits

- Shorter training time
- Reduced training costs
- Motivation boost



Source: Instytut Badan Edukacyjnych (IBE)

Key references

[The reinforced Youth Guarantee - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Youth disengagement and skills mismatch in the Western Balkans | ETF \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Youth transition and skills mismatch in Eastern Partnership countries | ETF \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Youth transition and skills mismatch in EU Southern Neighbourhood | ETF \(europa.eu\)](#)

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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