



# PROJECT BEYOND NEET

## INTERNAL REPORT BEYOND NETT – WORKSHOP YOUNG NEET

21 de November de 2022



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**Location** Galway City Youthreach

**30 young trainees in attendance**

## 1. What is Youthreach

Youthreach is an education, training, and work programme for early school leavers aged 15-20 years of age. It offers support to young people to help them identify what they would like to do in adult life and allows them to gain a certificate. It operates on a full time basis and takes in new students all year round. There are 110 Youthreach centers around the country

If you are someone who has left education early and you're looking for an alternative to the traditional school system, Youthreach might be for you. This programme can give you the opportunity to return to education in an environment you are more comfortable with, learn new skills, gain a qualification, and move towards employment.

In order to take part in Youthreach, there are a few requirements:

- You must be between 15-20
- You must have left mainstream school early
- You want to further your education and be willing to commit to the programme
- Have a disability

At Youthreach, the team will look at the individual needs of each student. They will work with you to find out what areas you would like to develop, and they will put together a learner plan based on what the Centre can offer you.

Youthreach allows students to gain an academic certification. The programmes offered vary from Centre to Centre but can include:

- QQI certifications (FETAC)
- Junior Certificate programmes
- Leaving Certificate programmes
- Leaving Cert Applied programmes

Subjects covered in a general learning course might include:

- Communications
- Computer courses
- Personal effectiveness
- Woodwork
- Hairdressing
- Sports
- Career planning
- Childcare
- Work experience
- Maths or using numbers
- Art, design, photography or other creative courses
- Retail industry skills

The courses usually last two years and are full-time (35 hours a week), but you may have the option of part-time depending on the course. Courses run all-year round, so you can start at any time.

At Youthreach you will be offered a chance to:

- Make new friends and become part of a team
- Improve your self confidence
- Engage in work experience
- Be guided towards a career choice that best suits you
- Access guidance and counselling

## 2. Workshops

The group on both days were welcomed by Mary Cornally & Geraldine Delaney, Tutor. Both workshops had 15 participants in attendance on both days. The duration of each workshop was 4 hours.

On both days Mary Cornally, Project co-ordinator, gave a presentation, on the project and explained the aims and objectives of the project and also gave an overview of the schedule for the workshop. From this, a discussion on Volunteering began, the participants gave their views on Volunteering and it was evident from the discussion that all the young participants felt excluded and that their age was certainly a barrier to Volunteering. They felt lack of information, experience, financial constraints, time and transport would prohibit them from Volunteering.

### "Is it or is it not volunteering?"

The tutors then asked the group of young participants to break into groups of 5. The Dynamic of this training session was to assess the young participants' views on what volunteering is or is not. Participants identified whether this was a good example of volunteering or not.

The participants were divided into groups of 5. Several sentences were assigned, and the groups choose the 3 that best represented the concept of volunteering. The groups then justified their choices, when they came back together in a focus group. Each group compared the results of the other game and this gave way to a discussion on **What Volunteering is, is it or not volunteering.**

Each group participated in the Volunteer Game which lasted 50 mins. The game promoted reflection on the definition of volunteering and the main characters of volunteering.

Each group nominated a person in their group to give feedback on the Volunteer game. They analysed the results and a discussion and this gave way to a discussion on Volunteering.

A second focus group was then formed and divided equally by gender and similar age. Both Mary & Geraldine facilitated the group discussions. Previous questions on volunteering were then produced and the group engaged and gave their feedback on all for another 50 mins.

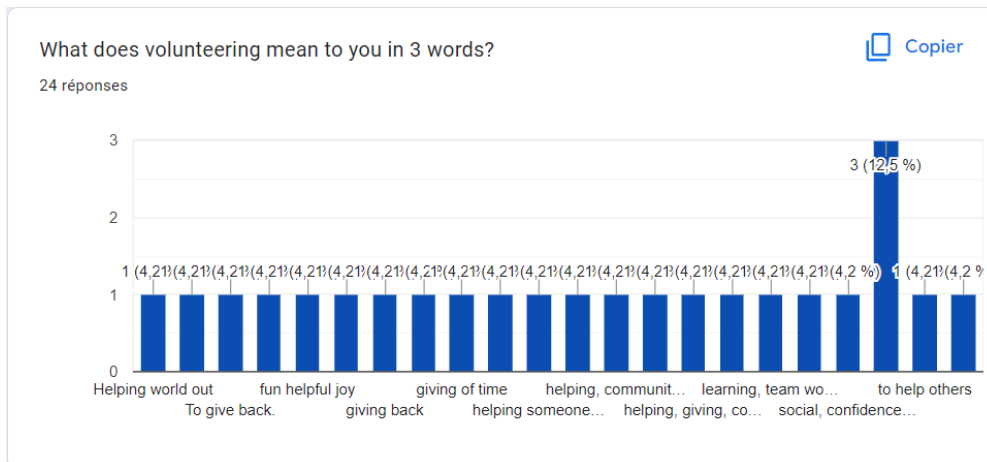
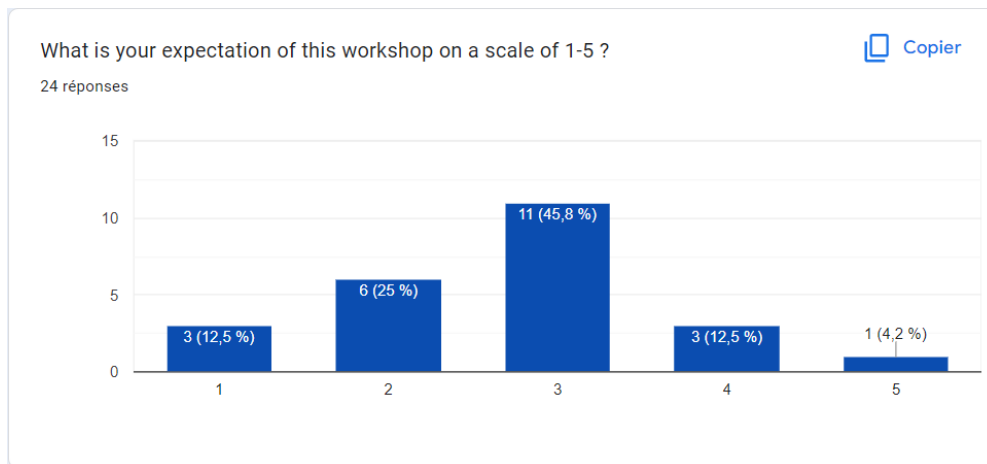
Information collected in the workshops assisted the young participants to answer questions on the online survey.

All young participants gathered for lunch and the discussion on Volunteering continued throughout lunch.

All results are available as follows

All young participants then took part in the online survey

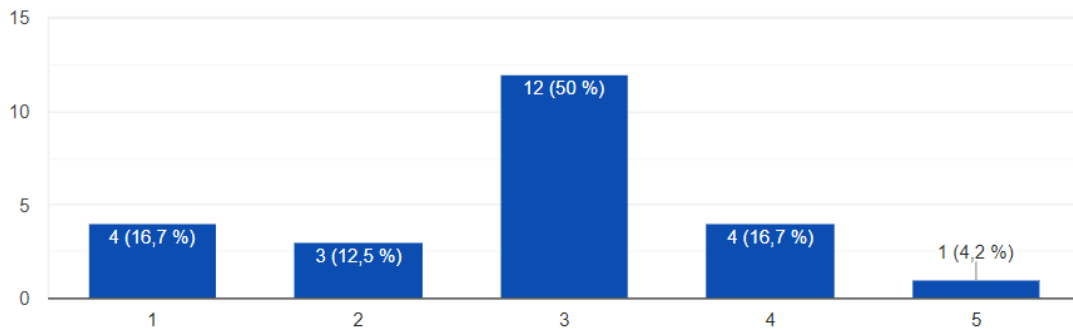
### 3. Answers to survey Young Neet Workshop



On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate Volunteering, according to your life goals?

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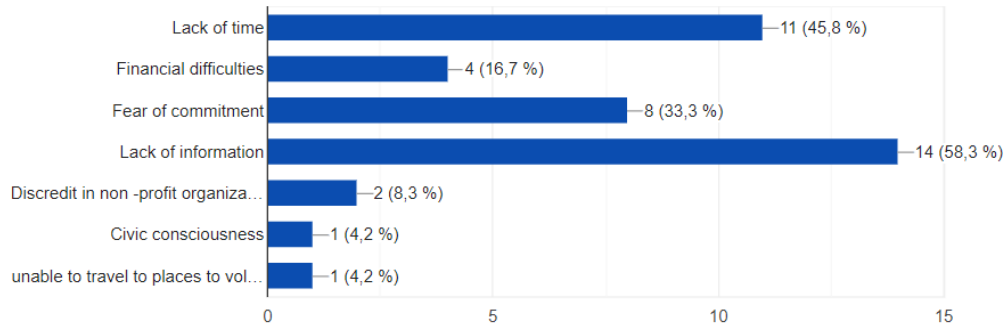
24 réponses

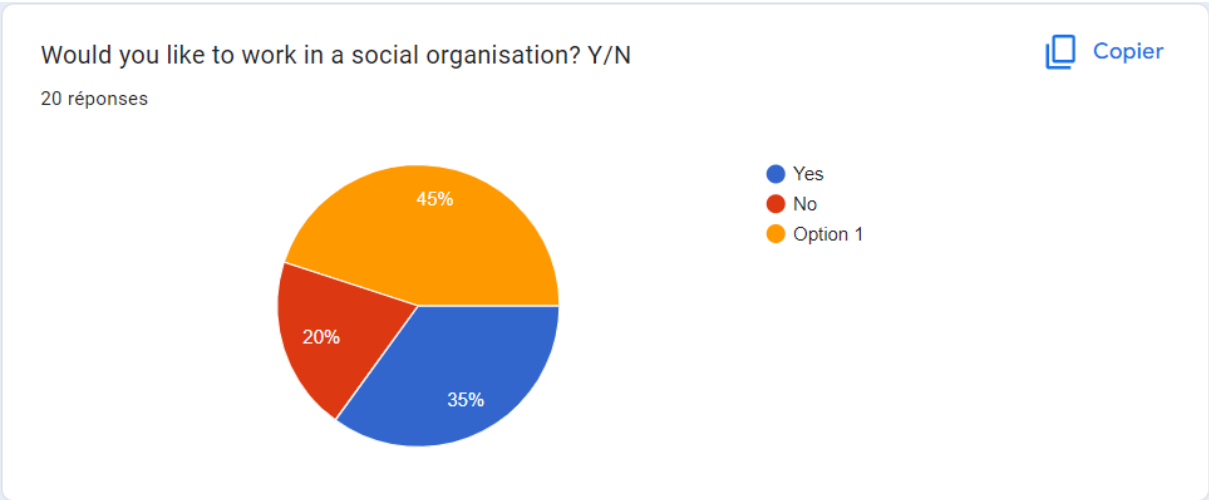
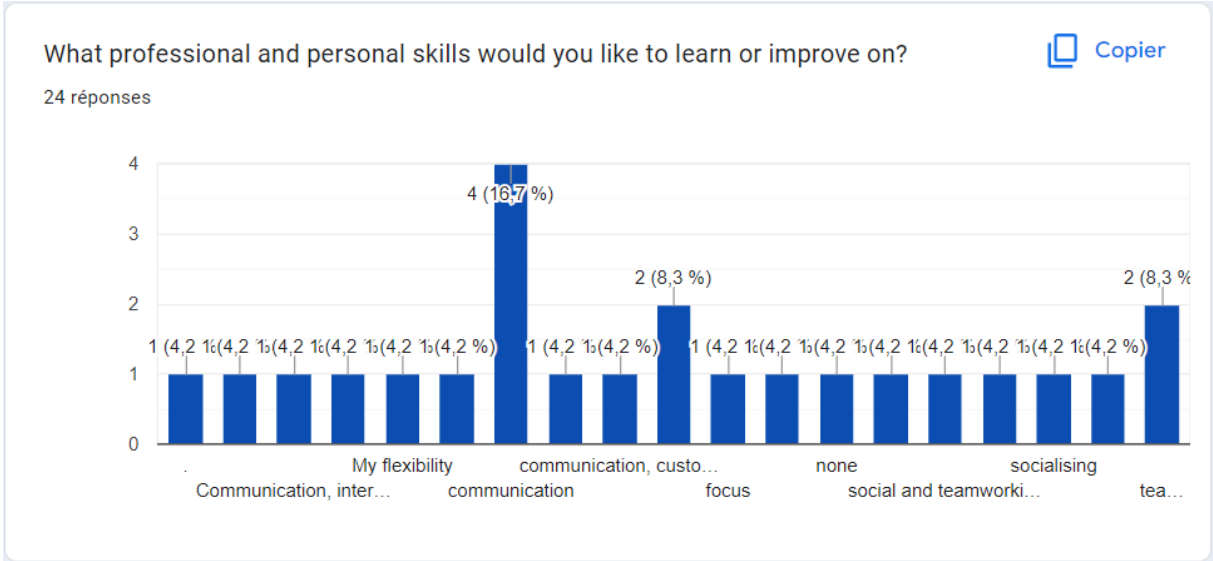


What are the barriers and challenges that you feel stop you from volunteering?

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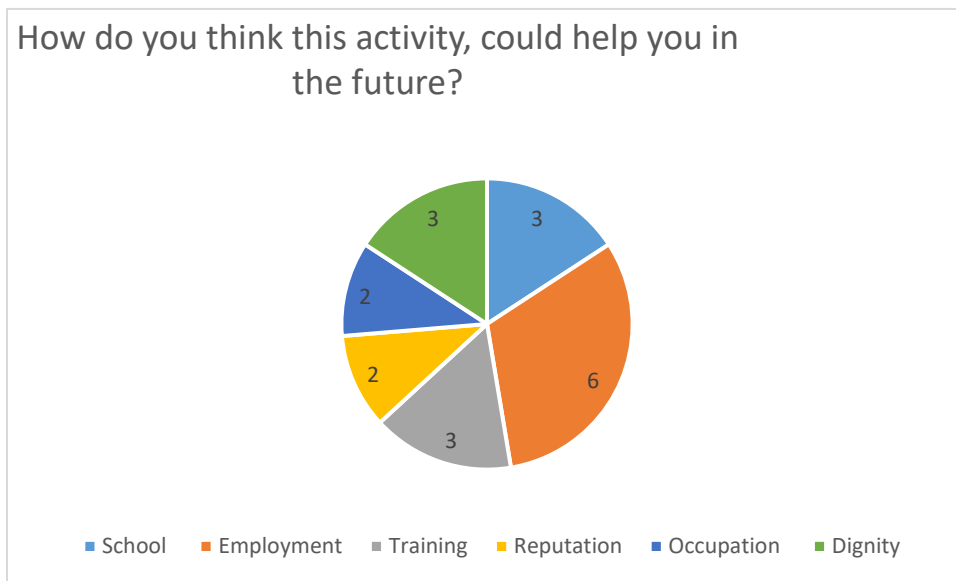
24 réponses





#### 4. Conclusion & Feedback

The feedback from the workshops was extremely positive. The young participants felt very strongly about Volunteering and that it was much more than Volunteering. One young participant in particular stated that, ‘‘ giving up your time to the most vulnerable in society and giving the gift of your time was of the most precious things any human being can do for one another’’. Another comment from one of the participants was, by just being there, listening and being non-judgemental is one of the most important things that we can do for one another.



Over 14 people expressed their opinions and views on the Inaccessibility of transport which can be a major barrier for potential young volunteers. Young people with disabilities or young people living in rural areas can have particular difficulties in arranging and paying for transport to and from their voluntary activity. They made a suggestion, wherever possible to reimburse travel costs such as bus/train fares. They also made a valid point to remember that people with disabilities may need extra notice about their volunteering as it can take them time to organize transport in advance.

As the day progressed the young participants really engaged in the discussions about Volunteering. Any negative doubts they previously felt about Volunteering seemed to disappear as they discussed ways to

break down the barriers to Volunteering and solutions they felt should be implemented if they were to engage in future Volunteering activities.

The young participants also expressed their views and ideas on inviting current volunteers to act as advocates or champions at recruitment events or include stories about their volunteering experience. They suggested having another workshop or a discussion group where experienced Volunteers would give advice to young Volunteers and share their experiences of Volunteering.

Over half of the young NEETS showed an interest in working in civil organisations. There is certainly a fear with young participants when it comes to working in these organisations. Fear of being judged, being too young, lack of experience was evident from their responses throughout their focus group.

**Overall, the young NEETS felt that the workshop was a success.**

- **Comments were as follow:**

Very well organised

Very informative

A sense of inclusion

Everyone got to express their opinions/views

Non-Judgemental

Like that we all signed a group contract

Felt a sense of belonging in the group

Learnt about Volunteering

Helped my confidence

Learned that Volunteering means so much more

- **Recommendations from the young participants after the workshop:**

Another workshop

Experienced volunteers to attend to give advice and their views on volunteering

Have a mentor or advocate when you first start to volunteer

Links to the different places we can volunteer

Help with filling out a garda vetting form

Help with filling out a volunteer application form

Maybe a taster workshop – help with time management, self-confidence building and mock interviews to become a volunteer