



## Call for Papers

Journal of Youth & Society Special Issue  
*“Challenges Associated with European  
Rural NEETs Youth Inclusion:  
Characterising Empowerment,  
Education and Employment  
Intervention Pathways”*

**May 2021**

## **COST Action CA 18123 Rural NEET Youth Network: Modelling the risks underlying rural NEETs social exclusion**

### **Call for Papers: Journal of Youth & Society Special Issue “Challenges Associated with European Rural NEETs Youth Inclusion: Characterising Empowerment, Education and Employment Intervention Pathways”**

- **Abstract no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2021**
- **Full article no later than the 31<sup>th</sup> of May 2021**
- **Expected publication by 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021**

According to our Annual Thematic Plan, we have the opportunity to fund Article Processing Charge of up to 8 articles for the Special Issue “Challenges Associated with European Rural NEETs Youth Inclusion: Characterising Empowerment, Education and Employment Intervention Pathways” to be published in [Youth&Society Journal](#) (Q1 both in 2019 Journal Citation Reports and SCOPUS impact indexes).

This special issue will focus on the challenges associated with European rural NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) youth socio-economic inclusion. For NEETs, the transition from childhood to adulthood is both complex and fascinating, fraught with risks of marginalisation and precarity. Such challenges have been compounded by assumptions regarding homogeneity evident in publications by the EU and the OECD which place all NEETs within age ranges without recognition of the complexity of life in this demographic. In 2019, across the EU28 member-states and non-EU states, the proportion of NEETs was recorded as higher in rural regions when compared with the same rate in towns and suburbs or cities (Eurostat, 2020). Notably, an uneven NEET distribution by the degree of urbanisation was evident in many eastern or southern European countries, with gaps between cities and rural areas ranging from 10 to more than 20 percentile points. Clearly, there is a need to explore the greater proportions of rural NEETs that occur in European countries with sub-protective welfare regimes and fail short to support school-to-work transition among the most vulnerable youths (Schoon & Heckhausen, 2019).



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These young Europeans particularly, between the ages of 15 to 24 in rural settings, are especially vulnerable and depend on a wide range of supports and targeted interventions at regional, national and international levels. The impact of recent economic crises and austerity policies of governments are having a sustained negative impact on the provision of such social services and, consequently, the availability of sustainable programmes and opportunities that target young people and those already experiencing marginalisation. Indeed, vulnerable rural youths are often confronted with less and lower quality educational alternatives, higher unemployment statistics, precarious living and lower potential income. This can result in rural NEETs, in particular, being harder to outreach and engage with and where mainstream policies such as Youth Guarantee are fail to adjust to local and regional needs (Simões & Rio, 2020). Despite this, it is evident that the seeds of marginal gains are being made. At a national level, across Europe, various public policies have been implemented to empower rural youth, develop educational opportunities and increase the employment inclusion policies for vulnerable young people residing in rural communities. Examples of this include policy packages, including broadband ones, for example, the EU Green Deal, or those specifically targeting youths, such as the EU Youth Strategy, have put vulnerable rural youths future in the spotlight. However, these initiatives and programmes remain relatively disparate and under-disseminated not just at a European but also in the wider non-EU context as a consequence of research agendas that place all NEETs in the same homogenous grouping compounded by a dearth of contextualisation.

Considering this fact, the aim of this special issue is three-fold. Firstly we aim to to establish rural NEETs as a specific and visible subgroup of NEETs; secondly, to enhance our understanding of European rural youth and the challenges associated with their socio-economic inclusion by encouraging submissions that address empowerment, education and employment pathways specific to this demographic group; and thirdly, to deliver a scientific output which becomes pivotal for and stimulates new research agendas on this topic, in the years ahead.

In this Special Issue, we encourage researchers to submit theoretical, methodological and empirical articles on topics related such as:

Suggested suitable topics include:

- Policies for youth social inclusion and their impact at regional and national levels
- Inclusion strategies within and between regions and cities, including comparative analysis
- Community development to promote youth social inclusion



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- Inclusive employment policies and intervention programs
- Good practices of coordination within and between social services and employment services
- Rural development policies and youth empowerment
- Rural youth and their specific inclusion challenges
- Nature, forms and mechanism of youth social exclusion and discrimination in social, economic, political and cultural spheres
- Formal educational policies, programmes and intervention programmes
- Non-formal educational policies, programmes and intervention programmes
- Policies and strategies related to the youth school-to-employment transition experience

The scope of this Special Issue is to provide a platform for researchers to share their research work on the field of youth mobility and rurality including aspects of migrations, transportation, commuting, rural development, social exclusion and inclusion.

In order to COST and RNYN to be able to fully reimburse Article Processing Charges (CHF 1900 or approx. €1759), manuscript proposals will be selected by the Guest editors of the Special Issue based on the basis of the fulfilment (and the degree of fulfilment) of the following 4 criteria:

1. Accepted articles including authors of RNYN from at least three COST Member Countries.

Below check some examples of works that would be (not) admissible for this call, under the COST rules for publication:

One paper with three authors from three different countries (e.g. Spain, Portugal and Italy) - one of the authors is not a member of the Action - admissible - the criteria is membership of the country to the Action and not being a member of the Action.

One paper with three authors from three different countries (e.g. Spain, Portugal and Finland) - one of the authors is not from a member country of the Action - not admissible - Finland is not part of RNYN.

2. Accepted manuscripts must be related to the topic of this specific call.

3. Contributions should be considered relevant to RNYN's Scope/Approach and be an original theoretical, methodological or empirical contribution to the field not being considered for publication elsewhere or already published.



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4. Accepted articles having at least 50% of the authors from ITC countries (as defined by COST) and/or by Early Career Investigators will be prioritized in the selection for funding.

All proposals received under this call will be classified by the editors of this special issue in three categories after receiving the editorial decision on publication:

- A) Accepted articles for publication to be funded 100% under the RNYN COST action.
- B) Accepted articles for publication to which authors fund APC with their own resources.
- C) Non-accepted articles.

All articles will be reviewed by anonymous reviewers selected by the journal. Articles must be written in academic UK English and reviewed by professional editors. As you know, there is some budget in the COST action to cover professional language editing.

#### **TIMELINE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE:**

1. To Inform all RNYN Consortium members.
2. There will be no proposal submission process, you will directly send your papers for proof reading. Deadline of submitting proposals: 31st May 2021
3. Editors will send back articles after the proofreading process (June 10th, 2021)
4. To receive full article submissions from authors through the Youth&Society Journal online platform. Deadline proposal: 15th June 2021.
5. Review process will be conducted by the Journal according to their editorial and peer review processes.
5. To inform the authors about the acceptance/rejection of their articles and which ones will be funded under the RNYN COST action for the Special Issue Challenges Associated with European Rural NEETs Youth Inclusion: Characterising Empowerment, Education and Employment Intervention Pathways" in Youth&Society Journal. Expected: 31st August 2021.



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