



SUMMARY

New evidence for better policies and programs aimed at NEET youth in Latin America

Proposed by the Centro de Análisis y Difusión de la Economía Paraguaya (CADEP) and the Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)

INTRODUCTION

In Latin America, the transition from formal education to the labour market is not an easy one, with around 20% of youth being *Not in Education, Employment or Training*, or “NEETs” (“ninis” in Spanish). Many youth who want to work cannot find a job, and of those who are working, a majority have informal employment. Governments in the region have implemented various programs to encourage the labour market integration and education of young people. However, these policies, while important, often lack the specificity required to work with youth who are alienated from the labour market and whose characteristics hinder their participation in these types of policies.

WHAT THEY WILL DO

This research is part of a broader regional project led by Espacio Público and supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), which seeks to include Chile, Colombia, Brazil and Mexico. CADEP from Paraguay and FUSADES from El Salvador will join this regional initiative, with the aim of developing recommendations for labour market integration and education policies for youth in Paraguay and El Salvador. These recommendations will be based on the analysis of the dimensions affecting the career and educational paths of young people, with a special focus on NEET youth.

HOW THEY WILL DO IT

This project will be implemented in three stages. The first stage will involve the adjustment of the regional project, such as the survey instrument, to the context of Paraguay and El Salvador, while maintaining the ability for cross-country comparisons. The second stage will involve giving the survey to approximately 1,400 youths in each of the principal metropolitan areas of Paraguay and El Salvador. The survey will be used to gather, among other things, information on education, employment, and future aspirations of young people. Information from the surveys will be transferred to an open access, anonymous database containing systematized, comprehensive information on youth. The third stage will involve the relevance of existing policies being analyzed in relation to the results of the survey which will lead to policy recommendations.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project will produce information on youth and a set of policy recommendations based on its analysis. It will also strengthen the participating institutions in terms of: (i) the quality of research into the subject of youth and the production of complex data, (ii) inter-institutional coordination and collaborative work, (iii) positioning and leadership in regional networks and with international donors, and (iv) communication and impact on public policies.