

POLICY RESPONSES AND GOOD PRACTICES
YOUTH VOICES

**KEEPING YOUNG PEOPLE IN
EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION
AND TRAINING
BUCHAREST, 11 MARCH 2014**

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Who is working with NEETs?

- Public institutions?
- International organizations (eg. UNICEF)?
- Organized civil society (eg. National Youth Councils)?
- Researchers?
- Social workers?
- Youth workers?
- Policy makers?

Who are the real Practitioners?

Practitioners

Dr. Howard Williamson
Professor of European Youth Policy



- ◎ 'Youth work' practice 45+ years
 - Open club-based, issue-based, & street-based work
 - Teaching & examining on professional training courses
- ◎ Youth research 35+ years
 - Offending, training and unemployment, enterprise, substance misuse, homelessness, mental health and learning disability, public care, labour market recruitment
- ◎ Youth policy 25+ years
 - Youth work, alcohol and substance misuse, youth training, social inclusion, youth justice, curriculum reform, volunteering, safeguarding and advocacy
 - Wales, UK, EU, Council of Europe, other countries

WHO ARE THE NEETSs?

not in education employment or training

- ◎ The invisible
- ◎ The muted
- ◎ The silent
- ◎ The ignored

A category hard to trace?

If they are not in schools or at jobs are there other places for them?

How do they spend their free time?

How can we address both their troubles and those of the rest of young people?

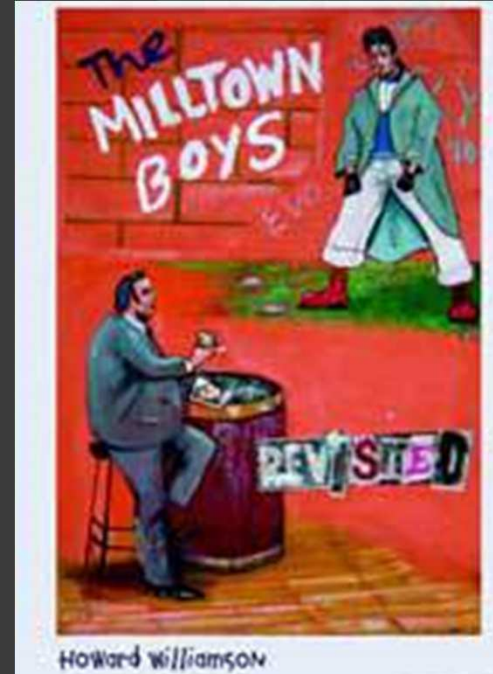
Miltown Boys

Research started in late 1970's
Followed the culture and interactions of young people (67 boys) in Cardiff estate (juvenile delinquency)
Howard lived on the estate during the research

20 years later Howard goes back to the group (only 30 more boys are in the same community – some have moved, some have died)

3 main categories are identified

- 1st Gained successful legitimate employment, own a house, reasonable levels of health and well being
- 2nd Also in employment, but closer to the margins of the labor market; tended to live in social housing, minor involvement in crime
- 3rd Remained involved in crime, unstable experiences with the labor market, risk behaviors
- In most of the cases the boys miss on career guidance, limited access to job centers and training schemes



WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?

- Apprenticeships
 - Internships
 - high standards or exploitation vs learning opportunities (when no legal framework and no social protection)
 - Youth Guarantees?
 - Research - evidence based strategies
 - Long term strategies
- (Romanian Youth Strategy 2014-2020)
followed by concrete action plans, with clear mechanisms and monitoring instruments, flexible and adjustable

Solutions (part II)

- ① Investing in NGOs
- ① Quality youth work/social work at grass root level, in the streets or wherever the NEETs are
- ① Investing in a culture for Participation (from early education)
- ① Investing in all fields of action (health, free time of young people)
- ① Community centers & peer education

When and how do we involve the
NEET?

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=pN0mIAly4YU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN0mIAly4YU)