



Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN) Public Consultation on Indicators for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

NORRAG commentaries related to livelihoods and skills for employment in the proposed indicators

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Commentary # 3. By Enrique Pieck, Universidad Iberoamericana Ciudad de México, Mexico.

When trying to ensure an effective youth transition to the labor market, it is important to consider the diversity of youth and to define precisely what it is understood by labor market and educational enrollment. Therefore, I agree that when trying to assess the indicator known as NEET (not in education, training or employment), we are obliged to reflect upon the diversity behind each term and to disaggregate by sex, age and education level. For example, in Mexico women are the majority within NEET, they are often devoted to housework and that does not show in statistics. Also, when assessing youth that are not studying, age and education level are crucial because it is different to talk about youth that have finished university or youth that have only finished basic or secondary education. Probably young people have abandoned school but are enrolled in short training courses. All this lead us to widen the scope of what we consider as 'not in education' or 'not in employment'. What are we really referring to by these indicators? If a broader concept of NEET is considered then I think this indicator could be particularly useful when trying to identify problems and social inclusion policies in low-income countries. It is more feasible to find indicators that show the amount of young people enrolled in short non formal training programs than to find indicators that show youngsters involved in the informal sector. But these indicators could be very useful in order to reflect on how to deal with problems related to how adolescents make a transition from non-formal training courses to the labor market, and also on how to improve work competencies provided by training institutions. The point is in low income countries there are larger proportions of youth not enrolled in the formal education system and engaged in the informal sector, a broader notion of NEET is needed. This would allow to reflect upon the need to improve the link between non-formal training programs and the requirements of the labor market (formal and informal).

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On 14th February 2014, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) released [a draft report for public consultation](#) on proposed indicators for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We asked several NORRAG members to comment on these proposed



indicators; these commentaries are the views and opinions of individual NORRAG members and are not intended to represent the view of all NORRAG members.

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