

10 -2016: Best practice Reducing Early School Leaving

An example: Talent for Rotterdam in the Netherlands

“Challenging home situations of young people are often one of the main risk factors for dropping out of school in the Netherlands. For that reason, Talent for Rotterdam invests in the prevention of early school leaving and youth unemployment by assisting young people with education, employment and coaching, and affordable housing. In close collaboration with employers, senior VET and adult education, local housing associations and youth coaches, Talent for Rotterdam aims to have more youngsters graduating with the minimum of a basic qualification, and that they enter the labour market as qualified and independent members of society.

The Talent for Rotterdam initiative focuses on 18- to 24-year-old youngsters with disrupted home environments combined with debt or psychosocial problems, but who still have the motivation to continue with school. This group can be divided in two groups: the first group being those who have already dropped out of school, education, training or work and are therefore already far from entering into the labour market.



The second group are young people at risk of dropping out of school, education, training or work. All of them are potentially talented students, who want to study, but due to personal circumstances were not able to continue with school. The aim is to give all these talented youngsters the assistance they need in order to at least obtain a basic qualification by providing them with a combined programme of school-based or work-based education, in addition to a residence and two hours of individual coaching per week. On average, youngsters participate in this project for 16-18 months. Around ninety per cent finishes this programme and receive a basic qualification. In addition, around seventy per cent of the participants who obtain a basic qualification continue to higher levels”.

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