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Are young people really disconnected from the labour market?

Understanding youth vulnerability through NEET, education and unemployment indicators



West University
of Timișoara



Learning objectives



Understand what youth-specific labour market indicators measure



Distinguish between NEET, early school leaving and youth unemployment



Use youth indicators to support training and guidance decisions

Why focus on young people?

- School-to-work transition



- Higher risk of exclusion



- Long-term effects over the life course



Youth vulnerability is not one single problem



Not studying



Not working



Not actively
looking for a
job

What does the NEET rate measure?



Not in
Education



Not in
Employment



Not in
Training

Young people not studying, not working and not in training

Why does early school leaving matter?

- Leaving education too early
- Limited access to quality jobs
- Higher risk of long-term exclusion



What does the youth unemployment rate measure?



- Actively looking for a job



- Part of the labour force



- Different from NEET



The indicators do not describe the same young people

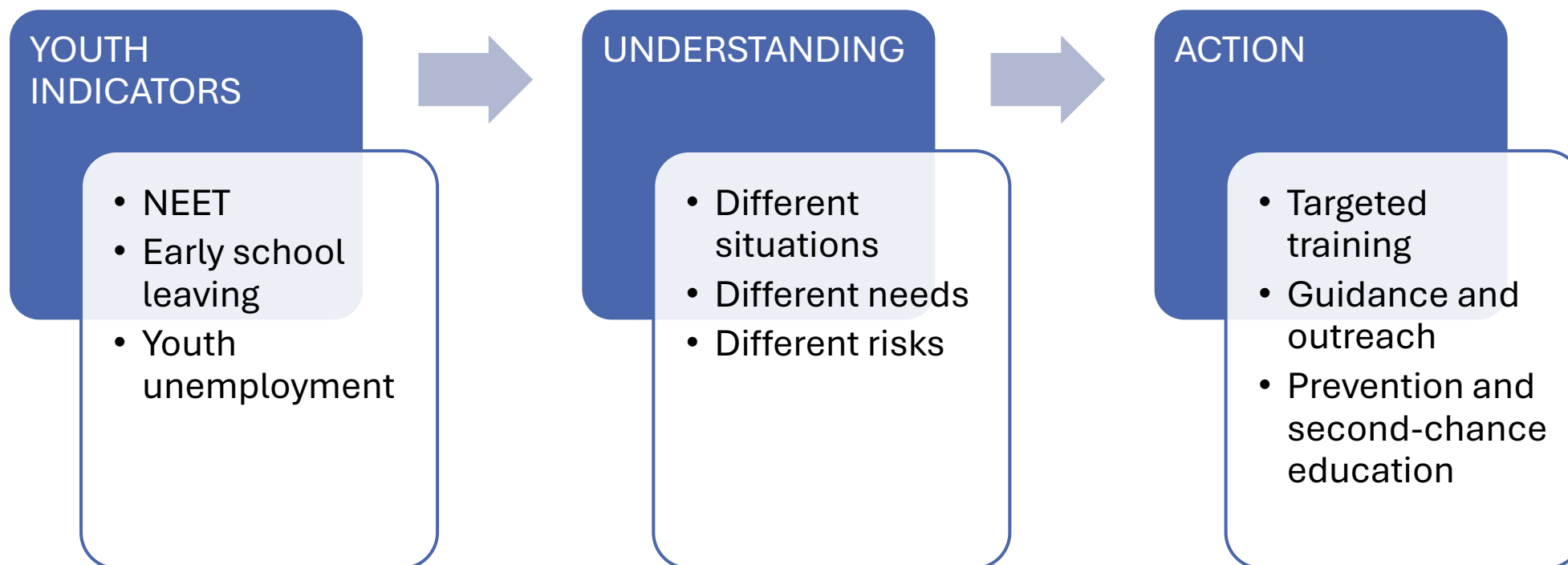


Situation	NEET	Youth unemployment	Early school leaving
Inactive	✓	✗	▲
Actively looking for a job	✓	✓	▲
Studying	✗	✗	✗
Left education early (in the past)	▲	▲	✓

Different indicators capture different situations

✓ = included
 ✗ = not included
 ▲ = possible overlap

From youth indicators to action



Key message



Youth vulnerability is not one single problem

Different indicators reveal different needs



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Thank you

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