

The Follow-Up Project Helps Youths Who Neither Work Nor Study

Ny GIV is the largest national effort ever against dropout in secondary education in Norway. The Follow-up Project is a subproject of Ny GIV. The focus of the Follow-up Project is aimed in particular at young people aged 15-21 years who are neither in education or employment. The secondary target group is young people who are at risk of dropping out of secondary education.

The objectives of this part of the Ny GIV initiative are several and multifaceted. Youths should be given close supervision, offered qualifying practice-oriented measures, and no youths outside of school and work should be unidentified by the authorities. Plans of action for all young people within the target group should be prepared. Clarification meetings should be conducted with all the students before they fully opt out. The Follow-up Project further has the goal of strengthening cooperation between the county monitoring services, secondary schools, vocational training, and labour and welfare administration – as well as other relevant agencies such as social services, health care and child welfare authorities.

In the years before the project was initiated, the counties did not reach about a total of 10,000 of an audience of around 20,000 young people aged 15-21 years who neither worked nor studied. Now, cooperation has been strengthened, the follow-up service has a broader view than previously, and more young people have participated in alternative training. The Follow-up Project has, however, only to a lesser extent managed to get to the most vulnerable group; those who have been out of work and school for more than one year.

Interdisciplinary Courses Needed

The evaluation also indicates that the offered measures which combine work and learning objectives should be expanded. Combined courses within several disciplines should be made available.