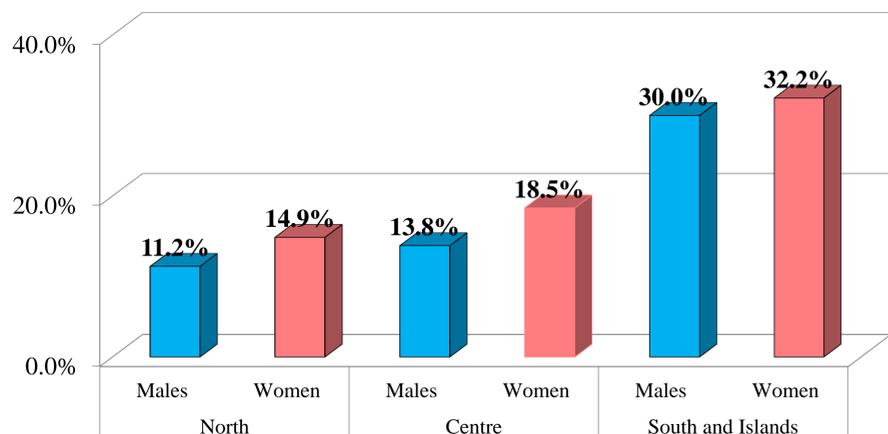


# A Study on the Condition of Young Italian NEETs and their Trust in the Future

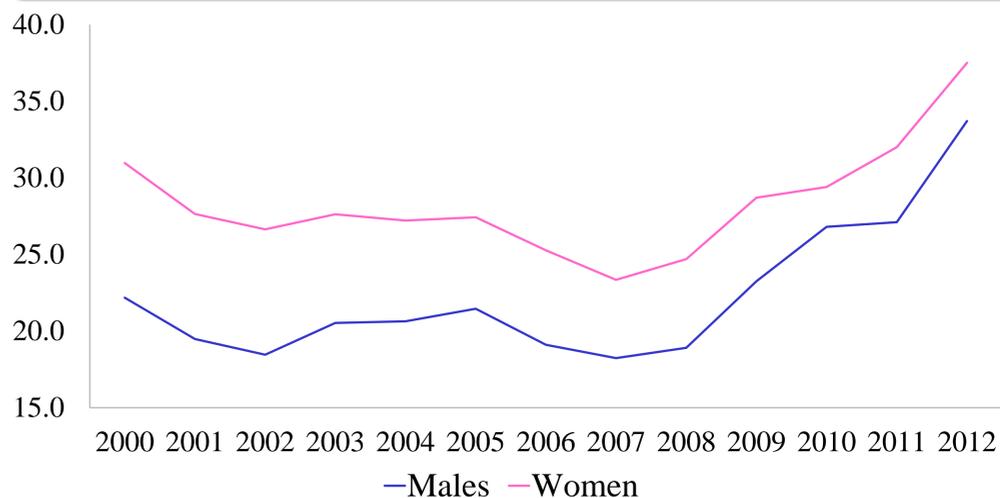
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**a) Background:** NEETs are defined as people aged 15-29 that are “Not in Education, Employment or Training”. The NEET category, first adopted in England in the nineties, has generated a great interest in the last years in Italy.

**NEETs distribution across Italy (age 18-29) [Youth Project]**



**Trend of Youth Unemployment Rate (age 15-24) in Italy [ISTAT]**



**Social-demographic feature of the phenomenon:** Strong territorial differences and gender specificity. NEETs are people without any study or work commitment, but also with no political, marital or parental obligations; NEETs have a great amount of spare time and, crucial for this life period, face difficulties in finding a job (Arnett, 2000). The already pronounced affective and economic dependency on families of Italian youngsters (Scabini, Marta & Lanz, 2006), along with the extension of the period young people live with their parents, represent new challenges for Italian families.

**b) Aim:** to investigate whether NEETs are more likely to agree or disagree with each of the following items:

- 1) Most people can be trusted;
- 2) I see my future full of risks and uncertainties;
- 3) Having experiences in the present is more important than planning for the future;
- 4) In life there are no choices that are forever.

## DATA

**Data:** We use data from the “Youth Project” carried out by the Toniolo Institute for Advanced Studies, IPSOS and Catholic University. The sample consists of 9,087 individuals aged between 18 and 29 and equally distributed by gender; 38.7% are students, 34.7% workers. About 7% work and study at the same time while 19.6% of the sample are NEETs.

## ESTIMATION STRATEGY

**Model:** Ordered logistic regression investigating the level of agreement to each statement measuring the trust in the future and the quality of relationship with the other people.

$$y_{ij}^* = x_i^T \beta + u_{ij}$$

For item j=1,2,3,4

**c) Main Results:** NEETs expect a more negative and hopeless future for themselves;

family proves to be an important protective factor regarding young people’s trust in the future.

VARIABLES	CATEGORIES	MOST PEOPLE CAN BE TRUSTED	MY FUTURE FULL OF RISKS	EXPERIENCES IN PRESENT MORE IMPORTANT THAN IN FUTURE	NO CHOICES FOREVER
GENDER	Males	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
	Women	-0.004	-0.185***	0.010	0.059
FAMILY INDICES	Quality of relationship (mother)	0.186***	-0.108**	0.129***	0.230***
	Controlling mother	-0.020	0.142**	0.231***	0.173***
	Quality of relationship (father)	0.338***	-0.211***	0.051	0.090**
	Controlling father	0.032	0.182***	0.015	0.089
AGE	18-20	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
	21-23	0.068	0.057	-0.128**	0.035
	24-26	0.114*	0.070	-0.194***	0.107
	27-29	0.233***	-0.012	-0.309***	0.247***
EMPLOYMENT	Employed	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
	Employed + Student	-0.056	0.111	-0.058	-0.225***
	Student	-0.216***	0.277***	-0.025	-0.183***
	NEET	-0.284***	0.326***	0.105*	-0.093
EDUCATION	Primary or lower secondary	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
	Upper secondary	-0.126**	0.184***	0.018	-0.134***
	Higher	0.049	0.194***	-0.129*	-0.221***
Observations		8447	8447	8447	8446

Significance: \*0.05 ≤ pvalue < 0.10; \*\* 0.05 ≤ pvalue < 0.01; \*\*\* pvalue ≤ 0.01;

Education of the parents not significant

**References:** Arnett, J. J. (2000) “High hopes in a grim world. Emerging Adults’ Views of Their Futures and ‘Generation X’”, *Youth & Society*, 31, 267-286. Scabini, E., Marta, E., & Lanz, M. (2006) “The transition to adulthood and family relations: An intergenerational perspective”. London, England: Psychology Press. Istat (2014) “Noi Italia. 100 statistiche per capire il Paese in cui viviamo”, <http://noi-italia2014.istat.it/index.php?id=3>