Paid internships as ALMP for Italian Southern NEET: some hypothesis to improve their effectiveness

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- **Numbers**
  - More than 2 million and 250 Italian NEET in 2012;
  - The highest value in Europe after Greece;
  - More than 1 NEET out of 2 is female;
  - Unemployment rate, Italy, Year 2012:
    - Age 15-29 $\rightarrow$ 25,2% $\rightarrow$ II Trim. 2013 $\rightarrow$ 28%
    - Age 15-24 $\rightarrow$ 35,3% $\rightarrow$ II Trim. 2013 $\rightarrow$ 37,3%
  - Unemployment rate, South of Italy, Year 2012:
    - Age 15-29 $\rightarrow$ 37,3 $\rightarrow$ II Trim. 2013 $\rightarrow$ 42%
    - Age 15-24 $\rightarrow$ 47% $\rightarrow$ II Trim. 2013 $\rightarrow$ 50,6%
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The frame:

Graf.1 – Italian NEET rate over lt. population 15-29 - Year 2012

- 76%
- 24%
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The frame:

Graf. 2 - It. NEET rate in It. macro Regions
Age 15-29 - Year 2012

- Nord - 29%
- Centro - 15%
- Sud - 56%
- Mezzogiorno
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The frame:

Graf. 3 - It. Pop. rate in It. macro Regions
Age 15-29 - Year 2012

South 40%
Center 19%
North 41%
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The frame:

Graf. 4 - It. NEET rate by sex - Age 15-29 - Year 2012

Women 54%

Men 46%
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The frame:

Graf. 5 - It. Pop. Age 15-29 - 2012

49% - Women

51% - Men
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- **The frame:**

- **Educational qualification of It. Southern *NEET* :**
  - 47% → high school diploma;
  - 44% → junior high school diploma;
  - 9% → university degree
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➢ The frame:
Graf. 6 – High school graduates in Italy and field of study - 2012/13 – 2011/12
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- **The frame:**

- **High demographic density of young people 15-29 living in the South of Italy in 2012:**
  - Nearly 20% (in the Campania region in 127 municipalities out of 550 > 20%);
  - Italy: 15%
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➢ The Map:
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- **Numbers:**
  - The highest unemployment rate, Age 15-29 in 2012:
    - Sicily: 41.7% → Caltanissetta Province: 52.2% → Catania Province: 37.7;
    - Calabria: 40.3% → Crotone Province: 51.4% → Reggio Calabria Province: 36.3%;
    - Campania: 40% → Napoli: 44.6% → Caserta: 31.3%;
  - The highest *NEET* rate in 2012:
    - Sicily: 38%
    - Calabria: 34%
    - Campania: 31%
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- The frame:

- What’s in the basket of the EU Cohesion Action Plan for the South of Italy ([www.opencoesione.gov.it/pac/](http://www.opencoesione.gov.it/pac/)):

- Let's focus only on the freshly made internship piece of cake to finance internships for Southern NEET through ESF:

  - €168mm (Law n. 99 of the 9th of August 2013, Art. 3, c. 1, i. c) →
  
  - €56mm for 2013 → €16mm for 2014 (launch of Youth Guarantee) → €96mm for 2015

- The resources must be distributed amongst the 8 Italian Southern regions (Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Apulia, Calabria, Sicily, Sardinia)

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- The frame:

- 4 Southern regions out of 8 are inside the so-called “Convergence Objective”, where the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and the ESF (European Social Fund) finance big projects in territories with the GDP lower than 75% of the EU average;

- The regions are Campania, Apulia, Calabria and Sicily;
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The frame:

- Beneficiaries of ongoing regional and national projects financing internships in the South of Italy since 2011:
  - 48% → young people 18-29 with only a junior high school diploma;
  - 45% → graduates especially with a non-competitive degree (in some regions until 35 years of age);
  - 7% → high school graduates (only regional projects)

- Monthly average scholarship gross amount: € 528 (including tutorship);
- Average internship duration: 6 months
The point:

There are very few ALMP projects to finance internships for NEET high school graduates in the South of Italy: the target, even if so numerous (47% out of 2mm 254 Neet pop.), is very poorly covered.
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- How to built a protocol of intervention:

- Target: high school graduates from general education (scientific and classical Liceum);

- Task force: local Employment services, Municipalities, Chamber of Commerce, Local Education Authorities, local stake holders (social associations, etc), in service qualified national experts, etc;

- Efficient multitasking user friendly data bank;

- Where interns can go:
The regional southern enterprises picture frame:

- Little but constant positive balance of new enterprises in the II trimester of 2013 in the majority of Southern provinces (even if in most cases a bit lower than one year ago) → nearly 6,700 new enterprises on the market;

- Worsening of the insolvency phenomenon in the whole country;

- The best performing Region: Basilicata;

- The best performing Provinces: Palermo, Siracusa (Sicily), Potenza (Basilicata),

- The best performer only for artisan enterprises: Province of Isernia (Molise)
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- **Where interns can go:**

- in the new enterprises, located in most populated southern provinces, with the highest unemployment rate

- in social associacions/services at local level;

- In cultural private /public services (also in connection with the newly launched Fund “1000 young people for culture”)
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- **Warning** while building a protocol of intervention:

- A rich and exhaustive module describing the *internship training project* doesn’t make the quality of the internship and his main function as a tool to improve the individual capacity building of Italian Southern *NEET*;

- The contribution of “in service” qualified national/local experts as tutor/facilitator will be essential to improve the positive effect of the measure;

- Without a proactive service attitude to cover this aspect, the effectiveness of this *NEET* measure will be probably miserable.
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- The proposal “dilemma”

- To destiny the new national funds for paid internship in favour of Italian Southern NEET with a “Liceum” high school diploma could create a multiplicative effect, pushing the “left behind” (with only the compulsory schooling) to improve their educational standards,

- or

- could be only a vanishing drop of water, a social lottery, giving an opportunity to trainers and tutors more than to final recipients? Maybe not, if the “facilitators” work with a proactive service attitude........
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- ....also “facilitating” the public finance, (the new law 99/13 establishes this principle → Art. 5, c. 2, l. i-bis)

- As a matter of fact € 168mm could promote for the next two years, on the basis of a gros total cost of € 3.000 for each internship for 6 months:

- 56.000 internships, investing directly on NEET the total amount

- or

- 50.000 internships, calculating a maximum tutoring cost of € 360 for each intern (€ 18mm), totally or partially avoidable if using inservice qualified experts;

- But even in this case the provision risks to be a drop of water giving a little breath to → 4% of the actual Southern NEET → 10% of high school graduates NEET living in the It. South
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- The “alternative” proposal.

- The new actual amount available in the State budget of €168mm could be invested to cover 60% of 84,000 southern NEET university graduates in order to valorise in the area young qualified h.r., avoiding the ongoing massive phenomenon of brain escape;

- The “dilemma” is not easy to solve: today I choose the high school graduate NEET with low technical qualification, which are in a more risky social situation, non prepared enough to find an alternative outside the country.
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Thank you for your attention
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