



***Let's care***

BUILDING SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS  
TO FOSTER EDUCATIONAL INCLUSION  
AND SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

**WP3. Qualitative data collection and analysis**

**T3.1. Life histories with NEETS**

**enrolled in second chance schools**

**POLAND – history 2**

## 1. The past

### 1. Reasons and manner of taking up learning again ( resuming learning) , what emotions accompanied this

The desire to make her dreams come true (the situation she found herself in forced her to drop out of school, which she didn't want). For her, studying at school is not only "doing something for yourself" but also a break from the household duties of a young mother, "a return to the carefree student days." Currently, school gives her the opportunity not only for self-development, but also for building relationships with other people. In addition, she is aware of being responsible for her daughter and therefore does not want to repeat the pathological patterns of the family home - she wants to create the best possible conditions for her family's development, which is why she wants to continue learning to gain the qualifications necessary to find a well-paid job. Moreover, she wants to fulfill her dreams (designing and sewing clothes in her own tailoring shop), which she never really gave up on, as she says, "she just postponed them."

### 2. Comments on their school experience at the time, school performance. Whether or not they liked going to school.

Despite her mother's little interest (her father left them when she was a little girl), she did very well at school, she was equal to the best, learning came easily to her, she understood everything in no time during lessons. In addition, she had artistic abilities; from an early age she liked painting and needlework. She entered many art competitions. It was then that she became interested in fashion. "I loved watching fashion programs for hours or looking through fashion magazines in the store" (she couldn't afford to buy them)

School was ok, she felt much safer there than at home, where there was always a lack of everything - money, food, peace, warmth, care and recognition.

### 3. Comments on his relationship with teachers at the time.

He remembers his school teachers warmly and well. From what she remembers, they were good relationships, the best thing she remembers is the lady who taught art classes, who quickly noticed her talent and tried to develop it. Unlike her mother, who was rather uninterested in her, the teacher appreciated and praised her very much. Moreover, she encouraged her to participate in an art club, where she developed her skills and raised her self-esteem.

The educator was privy to the difficult situation of the family - a single mother raising three children, having problems with work, sometimes with alcohol, sometimes with another partner... she tried to help them in every possible way.

### 4. Comments on your relationship with fellow students at the school at the time.

She had no close friends. Yes, winning competitions and getting good grades somewhat obscured her material shortcomings and the pathological nature of her family home, although she felt that she was behind her peers for these reasons. Maybe this contributed to her lower self-esteem and frequent withdrawal from relationships. She had the impression that her friends would not be able to understand her situation. "I was ashamed to invite them to my house, which certainly did not resemble their homes." She also had the impression that the

parents of her classmates did not really accept her - "my friends never invited me to their place like others, and I was never a guest at any birthday or name day party organized by my classmates. It was nice but with a noticeable distance." Maybe they even felt sorry for her. However, she doesn't remember anyone hurting her or calling her names. Rather, they were correct contacts, but not close ones.

5. Comments on their relationship with the family at the time. Also relationships that the family had with the school.

Whenever she was able or wanted and didn't forget, her mother showed up at meetings with the teacher. In retrospect, it looked as if she had "left the school" with her daughter's upbringing and teaching. She assumed that "since the school is an educational institution, it is supposed to teach and raise the child, that is what teachers and pedagogues at school are for."

Besides, she didn't cause problems at school, so her mother didn't have to worry much about anything. She only made sure to inform the school about the problems the family was struggling with, including financial ones, "thanks to which I could be exempt from certain fees, for example for meals or school trips"

6. Comments about their neighborhood and relationship with the community at the time.

The family lived in a municipal apartment, allocated to people in a difficult financial situation. It was a small apartment (2 rooms) in an old tenement house that had not been renovated for years. "It is easy to guess that our neighbors are families with a similar material and social status, struggling with various problems: lack of work, addictions, broken families, disabilities, migration, problems with the law, etc. We all knew each other, both adults and children. It is difficult to say how true these relations were, rather they were based on mutual interest. Basically, everyone knew everything about the other, gossip spread rapidly. It was a bit stuffy."

7. Comments on their relationships and friendships in adolescence.

This is the time when she started a new school, her dream school: clothing technical school. "There I entered a new school environment, different than before. We were older and everyone came from a different background." She managed to make new friends quite quickly, and in high school she met people with a similar passion - design and sewing. The first parties appeared in the city and she seemed to be liked. During this time, she became very close to a boy who lived nearby, "in fact, you could say that we grew up in the same yard. He was 2 years older than me, in the penultimate class of the construction trades. His family situation was similar to mine (broken family, addictions), maybe that's what brought us together. Actually, outside of school, I mainly spent time with him. We became a couple. He impressed me then - he was older, he was studying, he had plans for the future. He wanted to quickly become independent, so he started earning money on construction sites. He seemed to be much more mature than her classmates, he gave her a sense of security. It soon turned out that they were going to become parents, unfortunately too early.

8. Comments on their work (if any).

As a teenager, she worked part-time during holidays, sometimes on weekends. "I worked to earn money for my small expenses - clothes, cosmetics, cinema - there was no money at home for such things, I didn't want to be left behind by my friends"

9. Reasons why they dropped out of school, account of what happened and how they continued on their way. Reactions of their parents at the time.

She made the decision to leave school with great pain. She realized what she was giving up. Despite the school's enormous support and enabling her to learn in every possible way, she

was unable to combine motherhood and school at that time. Until the child's birth, the situation seemed under control - the boy was with her as much as he could afford, finishing school and working, the mother promised to help, the school introduced individual teaching and supported her in every situation. Somehow she initially managed to combine studying with taking care of the child and it seemed that everything would work out. She planned to return to school normally after a year, when the little one would go to nursery, so she would have time to study. Unfortunately, in reality it turned out completely different. In the nursery, the little one started to get sick and had to miss classes because there was no one to stay with her; the house became crowded, there were tensions between her boyfriend and the rest of the family, she stopped studying completely, and she became absorbed in the prose of life. Moreover, things started to break down between her and the child's father, who was hanging out somewhere for days. It ended when he started coming home under the influence of alcohol and started arguing - I guess the situation was too much for him. The mother was also losing control of the situation - the house became very unpleasant, to put it mildly.

10. Other comments about important concerns or emotions in the past. Important moments in your past. Other events (migration, etc)

Her father's departure, leaving the family to themselves, financial problems, her mother's subsequent partners with problems ranging from aggression to alcohol.... finally, the shock of becoming a mother, separation from the child's father

Emotions that accompanied these events: shame, fear, anxiety (will the boy leave her like her father? How will she cope with raising a child when she is less than 17 years old? Anger and sadness that she will no longer realize her dreams. Disappointment with the child's father, pain related to the breakup, feeling of emptiness and fear of whether she will be able to support herself and her daughter.

Provide here at least 1-2 exemplary direct quotations used by the interviewees (please report them in national language and English).

"For her, studying at school is not only "doing something for yourself" but also a break from the household duties of a young mother, "a return to the carefree student days."

"Nauka w szkole jest dla niej nie tylko "robieniem czegoś dla siebie" ale też oderwaniem się od domowych obowiązków młodej matki, "powrotem do bez troskich uczniowskich czasów"."

## 2. The present

11. Perceptions and emotions in relation to the current stage.

She feels joy, peace and strength because he sees that he is heading in the right direction, he has a clearly defined goal and he is trying to reach it in small steps. "Starting school again is the

best thing that has happened in my life, apart from, of course, giving birth to my lovely daughter.”

“Luckily, I managed to put my life back together and finally start acting constructively.” Of course, it took some time for her to get back on her feet and start building her future again. “I am proud of myself for overcoming the family stereotype - my mother also gave birth to me at a similar age and then she had to rely only on subsequent partners and social services. I have a chance to finish school, get a job, and then run my dream tailoring shop.”.

**12. Comments on the photograph(s) that best define your present moment. More comments about your current life.**

A dress I sewed for a friend for her prom. Everyone loved it, everyone asked where she bought it. I felt very proud and pleased with myself. I love looking at her picture, I feel valuable then and I know I can do something. This picture shows that I am on the best way to realize my dropped before dreams.

**13. Comments on the photograph(s) that define your experience at the school after returning.**

My feelings after returning to the school is reflecting my favourite place is the Polish sea. There I feel that all my worries go away and I can have a nice time. The sound of the sea relaxes me a lot. I like to walk along the shore or just sit, read a book, catch some sunshine and breathe in the fresh air. I would like to spend more time at my sewing machine. To learn to sew new things, maybe to sew on commission for someone to make some money. I'd like to get better and better at this business but it takes a lot of hours of work and improvement and I can't afford it at the moment.

**14. Comments on your relationship with teachers.**

Very good relations. Basically a partnership.” They support me, the fact that I managed to go to school for the second time does not mean that it costs me nothing - work, children and learning are a big challenge. I feel that my current teachers understand my situation. For me it's very important.”

**15. Comments on your relationship with fellow students at the study center.**

At the Second Chance School there are people who have a history behind them, which helps in mutual acceptance and better understanding of each other. “We can also count on each other - at least I do, I have great friends here who, like me, are mothers or aunts to my daughter.” She can count on some of her friends to take care of the baby. They help each other in learning, looking for a job, share advice, etc. “I think I managed to build good relationships here at school”

**16. Comments on their relationship with the family. Also relationships that the family has with the school.**

Currently, he maintains a good but very distant relationship with his mother. She hasn't seen her father for a dozen years, he doesn't even know she has a granddaughter. However, she tries at all costs to maintain relationships with her younger siblings, she really wants them to finish school, be safe and not end up like their mother. “I invite them to my place, I help them with their studies, I take them to the cinema.” “The mother rather lives her own life, she is not

interested in me or her granddaughter." He no longer lives with his mother and siblings. She does not live with the child's father (after the breakup, she is in another relationship), but she allows him contact with her daughter, for whom she tries to pay alimony. "I really want my daughter to know her father and have a good relationship with him. "It wasn't given to me and I know how it hurts."

The mother does not contact the school, she is only informed about the continuation of education. "I don't know if I'm happy because he doesn't show it to me. She decided that since I was an adult and had moved out of my family home, I had to take care of myself and my daughter on my own, and it didn't matter to her. "

17. Comments about their neighborhood and relationship with the community.

She now lives in a different district, but still in a social apartment. She received help in becoming independent from a foundation supporting single mothers, without them it would have been impossible. The district she currently lives in is slightly better, her closest neighbors are two very nice families. "I feel I can count on them in difficult situations. We maintain warm and quite close relationships. We borrow various things from each other, and I can also leave my daughter in the care of one lady if I need to."

18. Challenges that the participant considers that he/she has overcome.

The decision to have a child at such a young age was very difficult.

The decision to break up with the child's father - who had an alcohol problem, which could have ended badly for the entire family.

The decision to move out of a pathological family environment and start living on your own with a small child.

19. Other comments about important concerns or emotions. Important moments in your life. Other events (migration, etc)

She was very worried about how she will be able to support herself and her child - the child's father helps her financially, but the amounts are rather small.

Raising a child alone has been extremely difficult - she feels very grateful to everyone who helps her.

When she is overtired (child, work, school), a feeling of hopelessness, apathy, fear creeps in - can she cope with it all?

All these fears and emotions disappear when he sees his daughter's smile and unconditional love. "She is my greatest motivation to act."

Provide here at least 1-2 exemplary direct quotations used by the interviewees (please report them in national language and English).

"Luckily, I managed to put my life back together and finally start working constructively"

"Szczęśliwie udało mi się poukładać rozsypane dotychczasowe życie i w końcu zacząć

konstruktywnie działać”

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### 3. The future and personal projection

20. Projection of your life in the coming years.

Graduating from school, working in a tailoring shop, creating her own clothing designs and sewing them for individual clients - in the future she would like to set up her own tailoring shop.

I need to complete additional courses in clothing design and sewing - there are opportunities to obtain funding from the employment office and I intend to use them

21. Wishes for your life in the near future.

Maintaining good relationships with siblings, I want to support them in leaving a pathological environment.

Starting a full family (she believes that she will be able to connect with someone suitable)

Becoming financially independent from anyone.

I want to earn money by pursuing my passion - designing and sewing.

22. What would you say to a person who wants to understand the situation of teenagers returning to school after dropping out.

I would like to say never give up, even when everything is going wrong.

Giving birth to a child at a very young age does not mean that it is the end of education, career or dreams. Yes, there may be an earthquake first, but you should not give up and fight for yourself.

Returning is extremely difficult, full of uncertainty and sometimes requires many sacrifices. Therefore, such people should be supported as much as possible so that they can feel their agency.

You must remember that these people have suffered many failures in their lives so far, they may have low self-esteem and weak will. As a rule, it is difficult for them to believe in their abilities and in achieving success. It is difficult for them to imagine that life can go

in a different, better direction, that change is possible, that not all is lost.
<p>Provide here at least 1-2 exemplary direct quotations used by the interviewees (please report them in national language and English).</p> <p>"I need to complete additional courses in clothing design and sewing - there are opportunities to obtain funding from the employment office and I intend to use them"</p> <p>"Potrzebuje ukończyć dodatkowe kursy z projektowania ubrań i szycia – są możliwości uzyskania dofinansowania z urzędu pracy i zamierza z nich skorzystać"</p>

<b>4. Facilitator's observations and general assessments of the activity</b>
<p>Briefly highlight what you consider the major key points brought up in the activity and the 3-4 recurring themes, if any.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to interrupt your studies</li> <li>- The need to cope with great difficulties related to the situation in which the participant found herself</li> <li>- Dreams</li> <li>- Back to school</li> <li>- Determination to return to achieving abandoned goals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Comments on the first phase</b> (taking of photographs) if any:</p> <p>Taking photos was a challenge for the participant, but the final result was very satisfying for her. She said it was a good time for her because she self-reflected on her life.</p>
<p><b>Other comments:</b> taking into account atmosphere, level of trust and openness, interruptions, etc.</p> <p>During the implementation of tasks, the atmosphere had to be based on trust, because without trust and good atmosphere it would not be possible to complete the task.</p>

PHOTOGRAPHY	PL	EN
1. A space where you feel safe and at ease.	Przedszkole mojej córki. Lubię ją tam zaprowadzać, wiem, że to dobra placówka, która wiele ją nauczy. Moja córka jest tam szczęśliwa, więc i ja jestem. Lubię tam przebywać i dowiadywać się jaki jest program na nadchodzący dzień/tydzień, czuję że troszczę się o jej przyszłość najlepiej jak mogę.	My daughter's kindergarten. I enjoy taking her there, I know it's a good facility that will teach her a lot. My daughter is happy there, so I am too. I enjoy being there and finding out what the programme is for the coming day/week, I feel I am looking after her future as best I can.
2. A space where you feel uncomfortable or unsafe (or something you are afraid of).	Basen. Bardzo nie lubię być w bikini. Nie wróciłam jeszcze do formy z przed ciąży i czuję się nieatrakcyjna. W stroju kąpielowym czuję się bardzo niekomfortowo.	Swimming pool. I really dislike being in a bikini. I'm still not back to my pre-pregnancy shape and I feel unattractive. I feel very uncomfortable in a swimsuit. Plus I can't swim so I don't feel safe in the water. I

	Dodatkowo nie umiem pływać więc nie czuję się bezpiecznie w wodzie. Unikam basenów już od lat.	have avoided swimming pools for years.
3. Something that makes you sad.	Zdjęcie z przygotowań do ślubu. Z ojcem mojego dziecka planowaliśmy wspólne życie. Jednak wszystko potoczyło się nie po naszej myśli. Rozeszliśmy się, a on ma teraz nową partnerkę. To wszystko sprawia, że jestem smutna gdy o tym pomyślę.	A photo from the preparations for the wedding. My child's father and I were planning a life together. However, things did not go our way. We split up and he now has a new partner. All this makes me sad when I think about it.
4. Your usual study space.	Kanapa w moim domu. To właśnie na niej najczęściej się uczę. Mam ograniczony czas na naukę ze względu na dziecko. Ale każdego dnia udaje mi się wygospodarować chociaż godzinę – dwie lub czasami nawet więcej. Wszystko uzależnione jest od mojej córki, to ona jest dla mnie najważniejsza.	The sofa in my house. It is where I study most often. I have limited time to study because of the baby. But every day I manage to set aside at least an hour - two or sometimes even more. Everything depends on my daughter, she is the most important thing for me.
5. The place where you spend the most time.	Najwięcej czasu spędzam w moim domu razem z dzieckiem. Wspólnie się bawimy, uczymy, również przy niej wypełniam obowiązki domowe. Nie mam za dużo wolnego czasu, praktycznie wcale.	I spend most of my time in my home together with my child. We play together, we study together, I also do household chores with her. I don't have much free time, practically none.
6. Your favorite place, or something that brings you joy.	Moje ulubione miejsce to polskie morze. Tam czuję, że wszystkie troski odchodzą a ja mogę miło spędzić czas. Szum morza bardzo mnie relaksuje i odpręża. Lubię spacerować brzegiem morza, lub po prostu posiedzieć, poczytać książkę, złapać promienie słońca i powdychać świeże powietrze.	My favourite place is the Polish sea. There I feel that all my worries go away and I can have a nice time. The sound of the sea relaxes me a lot. I like to walk along the shore or just sit, read a book, catch some sunshine and breathe in the fresh air.
7. A place where you would like to spend more time than you currently do.	Chciałabym więcej czasu spędzać przy mojej maszynie do szycia. Uczyć się szyć nowe rzeczy, może szyć na zlecenie dla kogoś aby zarobić trochę pieniędzy. Chciałabym być coraz lepsza w tej branży ale to wymaga wielu godzin	I would like to spend more time at my sewing machine. To learn to sew new things, maybe to sew on commission for someone to make some money. I'd like to get better and better at this business but it takes a lot of hours of work and improvement and I can't

	pracy i doskonalenia, a obecnie nie mogę sobie na to pozwolić.	afford it at the moment.
8. A photo that makes you proud.	Sukienka, którą uszyłam koleżance na studniówkę. Wszystkim się podobała, każdy pytał gdzie ją kupiła. Czułam się bardzo dumna i zadowolona z siebie. Uwielbiam patrzeć na jej zdjęcie, czuję się wtedy wartościowa i wiem, że coś potrafię zrobić.	A dress I sewed for a friend for her prom. Everyone loved it, everyone asked where she bought it. I felt very proud and pleased with myself. I love looking at her picture, I feel valuable then and I know I can do something.
9. A photo of a place that brings back good memories.	Zdjęcie przedstawia kajak o zachodzie słońca. Kiedy jeszcze nie miałam dziecka, i spędzaliśmy z moim chłopakiem miło czas podczas długich letnich wieczorów. Było cudownie, miło jest powspominać te czasy.	The photo shows a canoe at sunset. When I didn't have a child yet, and we used to have a nice time with my boyfriend during the long summer evenings. It was wonderful, and it's nice to reminisce about those times.
10. A photo that you would show to another teenager who was in the situation you were in when you dropped out of school.	Zdjęcie ośrodka pomocy. To właśnie to pokazałabym osobom, które chcą rzucić szkołę. Nic dobrego, przyjemnego ani lekkiego ich nie czeka. Bez edukacji i pracy człowiek skazany jest na porażkę i ciężkie życie z ciągłym upokorzeniem. Nie jest miło chodzić i prosić o zasiłek i martwić się o przetrwanie kolejnego miesiąca. Nikomu tego nie polecam.	A picture of the help centre. This is what I would show to people who want to drop out of school. Nothing good, pleasant or light awaits them. Without education and a job, a person is doomed to failure and a hard life with constant humiliation. It is not nice to go and ask for benefits and worry about surviving another month. I would not recommend this to anyone.

















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