



EUROPEAN SEMESTER THEMATIC FICHE

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

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1. Introduction

The transition of young people from school to work is burdened by specific challenges, which become manifest in relatively low employment rates, high unemployment and high rates of young people who are neither in employment, education or training (NEETs). Youth unemployment is more sensitive to the business cycle than adult unemployment. Being new entrants with limited work experience, young people are less likely to find a job, are often employed through temporary contracts or pursuing a traineeship, and they are more easily dismissed if the economic cycle is weak. Moreover, young workers tend to be concentrated in economic sectors that are more exposed to downturns. Current levels of low youth employment and high unemployment and inactivity are largely due to the macro-economic situation, but they also have important root causes in terms of structural characteristics of school-to-work transitions, which were already prevalent before the crisis. These structural factors include, among others, unsatisfactory outcomes of education and training systems, segmentation of labour markets affecting young people in particular, as well as a low capacity of public employment services in providing tailored services to young people and limited outreach to young people in the most vulnerable situations.

Unemployment and inactivity among young people have a high cost and necessitate targeted policy efforts. Experiencing unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, at the beginning of one's career can have negative long-term consequences in terms of future earnings and employment prospects of the individual (the so-called "scarring effect") and may lead to lower productivity levels overall.

With the Youth Guarantee¹, Member States committed to ensuring that all young people up to 25 receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship within four months of leaving education or becoming unemployed. Reducing the

1 Council Recommendation on Establishing a Youth Guarantee of 22 April 2013

high share of young people neither in employment, education or training (NEETs, 12% in 2014) is a key objective.

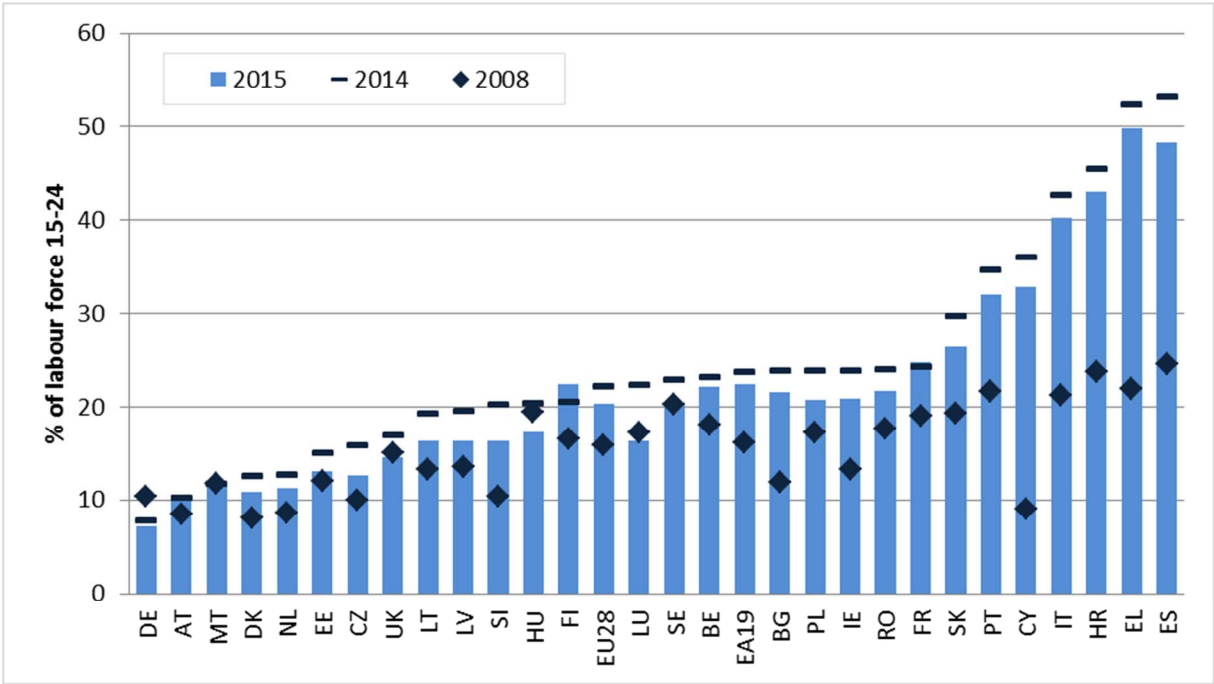
2. Identification of challenges

Risks to successful school to work transitions come in multiple forms. Because the share of young people who are active in the labour market – i.e. who are either employed or seeking a job – varies substantially across Member States, the analysis of these risks should employ several indicators, such as the youth unemployment rate, the NEET rate, and the unemployment ratio of the affected population (those aged 15-24). Furthermore, the analysis requires careful weighing of country specific factors.

Approximately 4.3 million young people (aged 15-24 years) in the EU are unemployed today. In March 2016, **youth unemployment in the EU 28 had decreased by 498,000** compared to March 2015 and, **by 1,373,000 (1.4 million)** compared with March 2013.

The youth unemployment rate relates the number of unemployed jobseekers among those aged 15-24 years to the total number of economically active (i.e. employed persons plus unemployed jobseekers) in this age group. The youth unemployment rate has decreased from a peak of almost 24% in 2013 to 20.3% in 2015, but it is still high at nearly 4.4 percentage points higher than it was in 2008, Four Member States (Greece 49.8% Spain 48.3%, Croatia 43% and Italy 40.3%) still have peaks of more than 40% unemployment. 15 Member States faced a youth unemployment rate of above 20%: in six, the rate was even over 30% (Greece, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus and Portugal). For eight Member States (Germany, Austria, Denmark, Netherlands, Malta, Czech Republic, Estonia and the UK) the rates were lower than 15%, an improvement from 2014 when it was just six Member States. The dispersion of youth unemployment among euro area countries remains higher than those for the EU 28, starting from a low 7.2 % in Germany and reaching a very high 48.3% in Spain (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Youth unemployment rates (15-24 years) in EU Member States



Source: Eurostat, LFS [une_rt_a]

2014 was the first year after the crisis that the employment rate for young people (i.e. the number of those employed relative to the active population among those aged 15-24) started to make a recovery (32.5%). In 2015 the EU employment rate grew a further 0.6 percentage points and reached 33.1%, five Member States had employment rates for young people around 20 % or lower (Greece 13%, Italy 15.6%, Spain 17.9%, Croatia 19% and Bulgaria 20.3%). The top 5 performing Member States were Netherlands 60.6%, Denmark 55.4%, Austria 51.4%, UK 50.1% and Malta 45.5%. Employment rates are still about 3 % below pre-crisis levels.

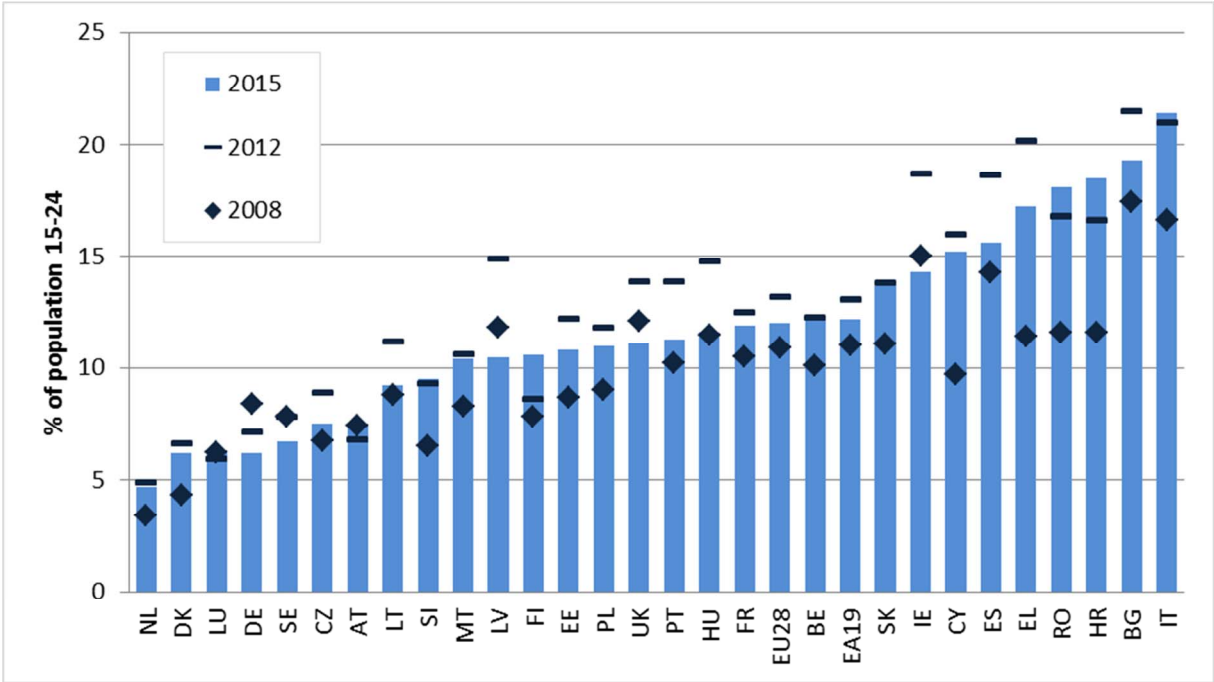
For young people, long-term youth unemployment (i.e. unemployment with a duration of at least one year), see data in Annex, is still at record highs. Between 2008 and 2015, for the EU-28 as a whole, the long-term unemployment rate increased by 3 percentage points to 6.6% of the young labour force, compared with a 1.9 percentage point increase, to 4.5%, for the total population.²

The youth **unemployment ratio**, i.e. the ratio between the youth unemployment and the total youth population (see also Annex), shows the extent of the above problem relative to the labour market situation of the population as a whole. In 2015, the youth unemployment ratio among the EU Members, varied between 3.5% in Germany and 16.8% in Spain, with the EU average standing at 8.4%³

² See Eurostat Labour Force Statistics (yth_empl_120), 15-24 and (une_ltu_a) respectively..

³ Eurostat Labour Force Statistics, (yth_empl_140)

Figure 2: NEET rates among those aged 15-24 in EU Members

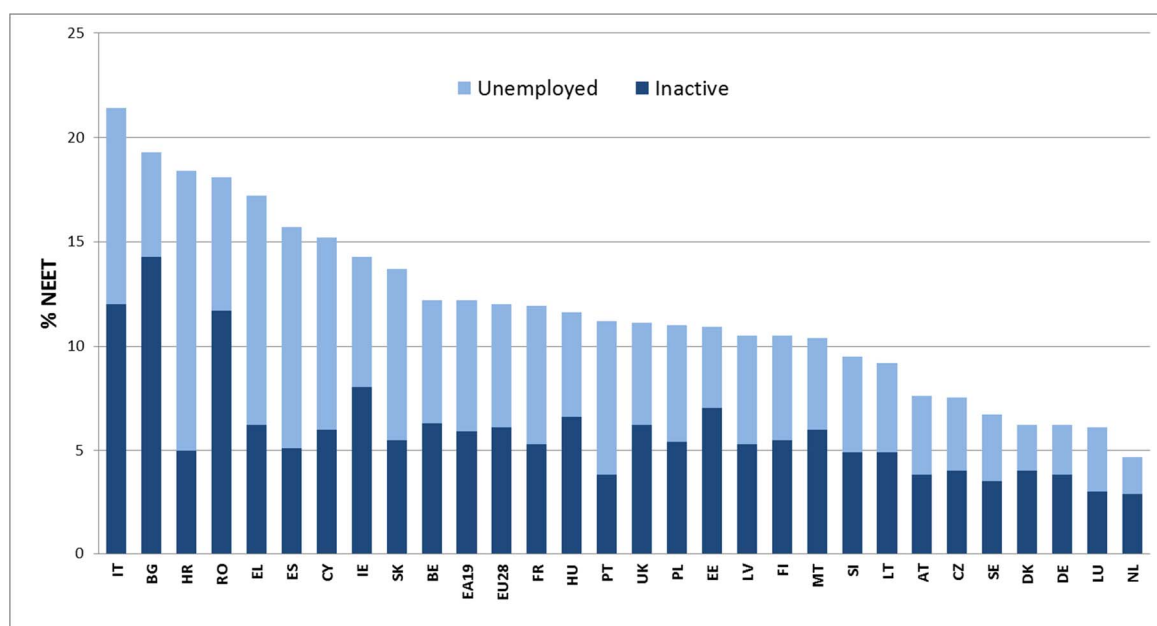


Source: Eurostat, LFS, table: edat_lfse_20

In addition to those working and seeking a job respectively, considerable parts of young people in the EU are economically inactive. For some this is due to the pursuit of education and training. Others however have just withdrawn from, or not entered into, the labour market, while they have left the education system. This aspect of young people's situation is captured in the NEET (not in employment, education or training) rate that relates those neither working nor learning to the total number of those aged 15-24, thus also including the non-working jobseekers. Spending time as NEET may lead to a wide range of negative consequences, such as insecure and poor future employment, but mental and physical health problems as well. In 2015, in the EU-28 as a whole, **6.6 million people in the 15-24 age group, or 12.0%, have been NEETs, with the rate up from 10.9% in 2008**. In 2015, the NEET rate among those aged 15-24 was the highest, with over 15%, in Italy, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Greece, Spain and Cyprus. Despite improvements NEETs rates have remained well above pre-crisis levels in these Member States. Some positive trends have been recorded in 2015 for Latvia, Ireland, Hungary, Spain, Greece and Lithuania compared to their peaks in 2012 (see figure 2).

The NEET rates consider both people who are not in employment but seeking a job, and inactive NEETs. The situation of young people falling into the latter category is particularly problematic as they are particularly detached from the labour market. In 2015, in the EU-28 on average, 6.1% of young people aged 15-24 were inactive NEETs. The inactive NEET rate varies substantially among EU Member States; in three Member States (Bulgaria, Italy and Romania) it exceeds 10% (see figure 3)

Figure 3: Profile of NEETs (15-24 years old), 2015 (%)



Source: Eurostat [edat_lfse_20]

Concerning the difficulties in the transition phase from education to work encountered by young people, different structural challenges can be distinguished, notably concerning labour market segmentation, the performance of education and training systems, the availability of quality work experience, and the effectiveness of tailored services and support provided to young people by public employment services. These are being discussed below in more detail.

Structural challenge (1): labour market segmentation

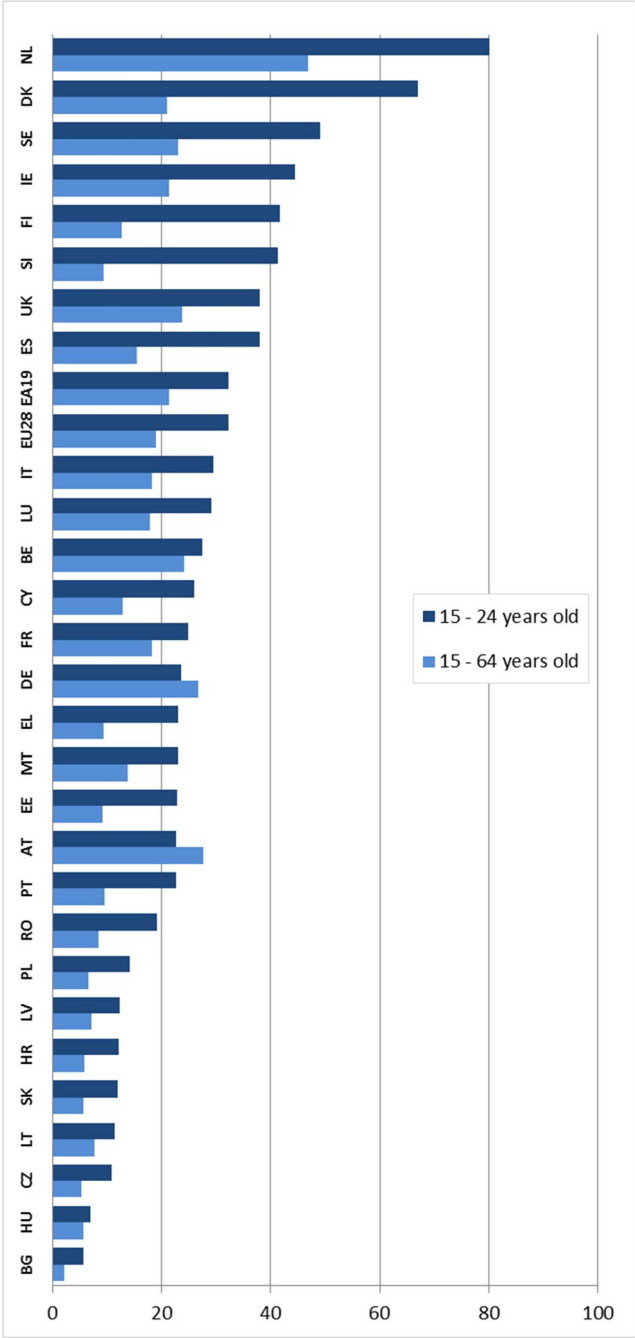
Labour market integration of young people is also shaped by structural characteristics of the labour market and by institutions such as the employment protection legislation, active labour market policy tailored to young people, and effective labour mobility policies. Labour markets with strong flexicurity elements may facilitate the entry of young people into the labour market. Young people are typically over-represented in temporary and part-time work. This can reflect **segmented labour markets**, with young people occupying relatively few permanent jobs. In 2015, in the EU-28 on average, 43.6 % of young workers were employed on a temporary contract (see figure 4)⁴, and 31.7 % pursued part-time employment⁵: these values are much higher than for the overall working-age population. In countries with high labour market segmentation, young people are at particular risk of being trapped in precarious employment, with little on-the-job training, relatively low wages, and weak long-term employment and career prospects. Besides, an increasing number of young workers with high qualifications are employed in jobs below their qualification levels⁶.

⁴ Eurostat Youth Employment yth_empl_050

⁵ Eurostat Youth Employment yth_empl_060

⁶ See EUROFOUND, Working conditions of young entrants to the labour market, 2013, http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/studies/tn1306013s/tn1306013s_1.htm

Figure 4: Young people in temporary employment



Source: Eurostat, LFS [lfsa_etpga]

In some countries (e.g. Austria, Malta, the United Kingdom), temporary employment acts as stepping stone and supports successful school-to-work transitions⁷. However rates of involuntary temporary contracts among young people are high in many other Member States and are often coupled with low transitions from temporary to permanent jobs.

⁷ Apprenticeship contracts are considered as temporary contracts, thus this data needs to be read in context.

Structural challenge (2): Performance of education and training systems

Young people who leave education and training prematurely –often due to a lack of preventive and early intervention measures in education and training institutions -are bound to lack skills and qualifications, and to face serious, persistent problems on the labour market. In the EU-28 on average, the rate of **early school leavers**⁸ was 11% of those aged 18-24 in 2015. While still above the Europe 2020 target of 10%, this represents good progress compared to the 17% observed in the early 2000s. Yet the decline in the number of early school leavers can be only partly explained by the low absorption capacity of labour market during the crisis (while in pre-crisis times of high demand also for unskilled labour in some countries, a number of young people preferred an early labour market entry to the pursuit of formal education).

Employment rates of graduates of post-secondary education are consistently higher than of those with primary education or less. Graduates of tertiary education have again higher employment rates than those with post-secondary education only. In this latter regard, the situation in EU Member States varies significantly: in 2015, employment rates of graduates with at least upper post-secondary education exceed 80% in Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Malta, Sweden, while they remained below 65 % in Croatia, Italy, France, Greece, Romania, Spain,⁹.

Structural challenge (3): Availability of quality work experience

Quality apprenticeships and traineeships schemes can play a major role in supporting smooth school-to-work transitions, helping young people gain practical work experience ahead of taking up regular employment. Apprenticeships with dual learning experience, namely that combines learning in the school with on-the-job learning in companies, have shown to substantially increase the likelihood of successful school-to work transitions. For most apprenticeship programmes the average proportion of apprentices securing employment immediately upon completion has found to be about 60%-70% in 2012.¹⁰ However, some countries which have a high proportion of participants in VET (vocational education and training) offer at the same time a very limited combination of work-based and school learning, for example Belgium, Slovenia, and Sweden¹¹.

Structural challenge (4): Capacity of Public employment service to ensure effective provision of tailored services and support to young people

Despite reform efforts in many Member States, the capacity of **Public Employment Services** (PES) is often still too weak to fulfil personalised and individualised counselling, offering adequate active labour market measures according to young people's specific

8 See also separate Europe 2020 Thematic Fiche on Early school leaving

9 The indicator measures the share of all young people (20-34) who graduate from at least upper secondary education in the last three years excluding those still enrolled in further education and training (edat_ifse_24)

10 European Commission (2013): Apprenticeship and Traineeship Schemes in EU27: Key Success Factors A Guidebook for Policy Planners and Practitioners, Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=11348&langId=en>

11 CEDEFOP, On the way to 2020: data for vocational education and training policies, 2013, <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/21373.aspx>

profiles¹². PES also play a key role in setting up partnerships with key players involved with the Youth Guarantee (schools, social partners, employers, youth organisations, other players of civil society).

A significant proportion of young people eligible to the Youth Guarantee are **not registered with a Public Employment Service**. Part of this group, notably including individuals on a sabbatical in their education or employment career or those who pursue a care period with a breadwinning partner, does not always constitute concerns for policy. The identification of the vulnerable among the NEETs is one of the key policy challenges in this regard.

There are currently relatively few indicators related to the provision of specific, tailored services to young people. However, an Indicator Framework for Monitoring the Youth Guarantee was endorsed by the Employment Committee in May 2015.¹³ The first regular data collection was launched at the end of June 2015 (covering the reference year 2014), the second in March 2016 (covering the year 2015).

3. Identification of policy levers to address the challenge

In order to improve young people's labour market situation and their transition from education to employment, the following policy levers are considered key:

- Stimulating labour demand for young people and the provision of quality offers, for example with well-targeted hiring subsidies for young workers,
- Tackling labour market segmentation by reforming contractual arrangements, notably by narrowing the protection gap between permanent and fixed term contracts;
- Securing investment and reforming education systems to ensure quality education outcomes, implementing comprehensive strategies on early school leaving, and recognising informal learning;
- Helping young people get work experience while in education and acquiring important skills relevant in the labour market, reforming VET systems aiming at offering more and better apprenticeships, and increasing cooperation with the non-formal and business sector in schools;
- Activation, upskilling and targeted support to young people, including through profiling, individual action plans and activating measures including training and placements, in particular by Public Employment Services; increased cooperation between PES and employers as well as schools in this regard.
- Better outreach to non-registered NEETs, through early identification of young people dropping out from education and employment, specific information and intervention in partnership with youth, social services and NGOs.
- Better monitoring through exchange of information across sectors and follow-up of users to better capture the quality of interventions.

¹² European Network of Public Employment Services, Study on PES implementation of the Youth Guarantee, See also the LABREF database for a detailed recording of ALMP measures adopted in the EU28 over recent years. Database available at: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/labref/index_en.htm

¹³ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/contentAdmin/BlobServlet?docId=13402&langId=en>

Most of these policy levers are brought together in the commitment of EU Member States to establish Youth Guarantee schemes to ensure successful transitions from school to work, made in April 2013 through a Council Recommendation¹⁴. Under this commitment, Member States should ensure that, within four months of leaving school or losing a job, young people under 25 can either find a good-quality job suited to their skills and experience, or acquire the skills and experience required to find a job in the future through an apprenticeship, traineeship, or continued education. The implementation of the Youth Guarantee can be considered a structural reform: In order to deliver on the commitment of a Youth Guarantee, systemic change to school-to-work-transitions is needed, including effective VET and apprenticeship policies, activation policies, well-functioning of Public Employment Services, partnerships, and outreach measures. This helps public institutions work better (together) and improves the functioning of the economy (increasing skill matching and productivity).

Common standards to the improvement of traineeship schemes have been set by the Council Recommendation on a **Quality Framework for Traineeships** adopted in March 2014¹⁵. The Recommendation proposes guidelines for traineeships outside formal education to provide a high quality learning content and fair working conditions, so that traineeships increase the employability of trainees and support education-to-work transitions.

4. Cross examination of policy state of play

The Youth Guarantee foresees a comprehensive and consistent set of structural reforms to facilitate school-to-work transitions of young people. Member States have started to implement the Youth Guarantee since 2014. Based on experience, a number of success factors have been identified, namely a true partnership approach between key players; stepping up early intervention and outreach processes, integrating services into a one-stop shop for young people, strong involvement of employers, notably towards providing attractive and well performing vocational education and training, including the offer of quality apprenticeships. All Member States presented Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans by May 2014.

With regard to improving the quality of education and training, substantive action has been taken by Member States as well. As an example, in France, a comprehensive plan to reduce early school leaving is being implemented since end 2014. For pupils at risk aged 15 or more, a specific "adapted initial training path" combining regular education with out of school activities is being experimented. For early-school leavers aged between 16 and 25 a legal right to get back into education or training has been introduced. In Austria a focus on youth was also very much on education, including reforms in vocational training as well as in higher education, in order to better facilitate the pathway from education to working life. A reform of the "Vocational Training Act" aims to further improve the apprenticeship training system and to enhance its quality.

Concerning the improvement of VET systems, successful reform requires the cooperation of a multitude of players. A platform to bring together different stakeholders, the European

14 Council Recommendation on Establishing a Youth Guarantee of 22 April 2013

15 COM (2013) 857 final of 4.12.2013. The Quality Framework for Traineeships also contains guidelines on transparency regarding compensation and social security coverage, as well as hiring chances.

Alliance for Apprenticeships aims at increasing the quality and supply of apprenticeships across Europe and at changing mind-sets towards this type of learning. Participants are public authorities, business and social partners, VET providers, youth representatives, and other key players such as chambers of industry and commerce, in order to coordinate and upscale different initiatives for successful apprenticeship type schemes, and to promote national partnerships for dual vocational training systems. Nearly all Member States have submitted concrete commitments in this framework, and numerous organisations (chambers, businesses, VET providers) pledged to take concrete action, including the exchange of best practices, awareness raising and steps to increase quality and supply of apprenticeships.

Breaking down barriers between the key players has been an important element of efforts to improve school-to-work transitions more widely. In Belgium, supporting youth employment and stepping up the implementation of the Youth Guarantee is a key priority within the 2025 Strategy for Brussels, adopted in June 2015. The strategy involves all the relevant ministers and is implemented in partnership between key governance levels, in order to build bridges between the employment, education and youth sectors. In **Bulgaria**, a Coordination Council for the implementation and monitoring of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan involves state institutions, social partners, youth organizations and NGOs. In Germany, the Federal Government launched the “Alliance for Initial and Further Training 2015-2018” together with the Länder, the private sector, trade unions and the Federal Employment Agency. In this context, the private sector has committed to offering 20,000 additional training places and 500,000 internships for the purpose of career orientation each year

Estonia launched ‘My First Job’ in 2015 which provides a one-year wage subsidy and coverage of training expenses during a two-year period. The measure targeted young unemployed aged 17-29 with low educational attainment and lack of sufficient work experience who have not been able to find employment on their own during the first months of unemployment. Slovenia launched the Work Trials programme in 2015, intended to allow unemployed persons aged up to 29 years to test their knowledge, skills and habits at a specific workplace.

In view of reducing NEET rates, Member States have stepped up activities to support early activation of NEETs and outreach towards young people furthest away from the labour market. Portugal has created a broad network of partners to increase outreach to NEETs. Besides, a Youth Guarantee online platform has been put in place where each NEET can register, and be automatically redirected to the Public Employment Service, the EURES network, or to the centres for qualification and professional training. In Sweden municipalities' responsibility for intervening vis-à-vis young NEETs has been considerably strengthened as from January 2015. Bulgaria launched the National programme “Activating the inactive” with the aim to register discouraged NEETs with the Labour offices, and to involve them in training or help them returning to education; the programme includes the appointment of Roma mediators. Croatia is developing a NEETs tracking system in 2015 to address increases in the numbers of NEETs as part of a comprehensive human resources register. In Malta, a census was conducted between June and November 2015 to identify NEETs and analyse through one-to-one interviews their needs, aspirations and the challenges they face.

Date: 04.05.2016

ANNEX. Statistical indicators

Table Youth unemployment rate, for population under 25, in Member States, 2003 – 2015 % of active population under 25

GEO/TIME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
EU 28	19.2	19	17.7	15.9	15.9	20.3	21.4	21.7	23.3	23.7	22.2	20.3
Belgium	21.2	21.5	20.5	18.8	18	21.9	22.4	18.7	19.8	23.7	23.2	22.1
Bulgaria	24.3	21	18.3	14.1	11.9	15.1	21.9	25	28.1	28.4	23.8	21.6
Czech Republic	20.4	19.3	17.5	10.7	9.9	16.6	18.3	18.1	19.5	18.9	15.9	12.6
Denmark	8.2	8.6	7.7	7.5	8	11.8	13.9	14.2	14.1	13	12.6	10.8
Germany	13.7	15.4	13.6	11.8	10.4	11.1	9.8	8.5	8	7.8	7.7	7.2
Estonia	23.9	15.1	12.1	10.1	12	27.4	32.9	22.4	20.9	18.7	15	13.1
Ireland	8.7	8.7	8.7	9.1	13.3	24	27.6	29.1	30.4	26.8	23.9	20.9
Greece	26.5	25.8	25	22.7	21.9	25.7	33	44.7	55.3	58.3	52.4	49.8
Spain	22	19.6	17.9	18.1	24.5	37.7	41.5	46.2	52.9	55.5	53.2	48.3
France	20.4	21	22	19.5	19	23.6	23.3	22.7	24.4	24.9	24.2	24.7
Croatia	32.8	31.9	28.8	25.2	23.7	25.2	32.4	36.7	42.1	50	45.5	43
Italy	23.5	24.1	21.8	20.4	21.2	25.3	27.9	29.2	35.3	40	42.7	40.3
Cyprus	10.2	13.9	10	10.2	9	13.8	16.6	22.4	27.7	38.9	36	32.8
Latvia	20	15.1	13.6	10.6	13.6	33.3	36.2	31	28.5	23.2	19.6	16.3
Lithuania	21.8	15.8	10	8.4	13.3	29.6	35.7	32.6	26.7	21.9	19.3	16.3
Luxembourg	16.4	14.6	15.5	15.6	17.3	16.5	15.8	16.4	18	16.9	22.3	16.3
Hungary	15.5	19.4	19.1	18.1	19.5	26.4	26.4	26	28.2	26.6	20.4	17.3
Malta	16.6	16.1	15.5	13.5	11.7	14.5	13.2	13.3	14.1	13	11.7	11.8
Netherlands	11.4	11.8	10	9.4	8.6	10.2	11.1	10	11.7	13.2	12.7	11.3
Austria	10.5	11	9.8	9.4	8.5	10.7	9.5	8.9	9.4	9.7	10.3	10.6
Poland	39.6	36.9	29.8	21.6	17.2	20.6	23.7	25.8	26.5	27.3	23.9	20.8
Portugal	19.7	20.8	21.2	21.4	21.6	25.3	28.2	30.2	38	38.1	34.7	32
Romania	20.5	19.1	20.2	19.3	17.6	20	22.1	23.9	22.6	23.7	24	21.7
Slovenia	16.1	15.9	13.9	10.1	10.4	13.6	14.7	15.7	20.6	21.6	20.2	16.3
Slovakia	33.4	30.4	27	20.6	19.3	27.6	33.9	33.7	34	33.7	29.7	26.4
Finland	20.7	20.1	18.7	16.5	16.5	21.5	21.4	20.1	19	19.9	20.5	22.4
Sweden	20.4	22.6 20.4	21.5	19.2	20.2	25	24.8	22.8	23.7	23.6	22.9	20.4
United Kingdom	12	12.8	13.9	14.3	14.3	15.0	19.1	19.9	21.3	21.2	16.9	14.6

Source: Eurostat, Unemployment rate by sex and age groups - annual average, % [une_rt_a]

Table NEET rate for population aged 15-24 in Member States, 2003 – 2015 % of population 15-24

GEO/TIME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
EU 28	12.9	12.7	11.7	11	10.9	12.4	12.8	12.9	13.2	13	12.5	12
Belgium	15.4	13	11.2	11.2	10.1	11.1	10.9	11.8	12.3	12.7	12	12.2
Bulgaria	26.4	25.1	22.2	19.1	17.4	19.5	21	21.8	21.5	21.6	20.2	19.3
Czech Republic	13.7	13.3	9.2	6.9	6.7	8.5	8.8	8.3	8.9	9.1	8.1	7.5
Denmark	5.1	4.3	3.6	4.3	4.3	5.4	6	6.3	6.6	6	5.8	6.2
Germany	10.1	10.9	9.6	8.9	8.4	8.8	8.3	7.5	7.1	6.3	6.4	6.2
Estonia	12.5	10.6	8.8	8.9	8.7	14.5	14	11.6	12.2	11.3	11.7	10.8
Ireland	11.9	10.9	10.1	10.8	15	18.6	19.2	18.8	18.7	16.1	15.2	14.3
Greece	16.6	15.9	12	11.3	11.4	12.4	14.8	17.4	20.2	20.4	19.1	17.2
Spain	12.5	13	11.8	12	14.3	18.1	17.8	18.2	18.6	18.6	17.1	15.6
France	10.9	11.2	11.3	10.7	10.5	12.7	12.7	12.3	12.5	11.2	11.4	11.9
Croatia	17.1	16.7	14.2	12.9	11.6	13.4	15.7	16.2	16.6	19.6	19.3	18.5
Italy	16.8	17.1	16.8	16.1	16.6	17.6	19	19.7	21	22.2	22.1	21.4
Cyprus	9.4	19.5	10.7	9	9.7	9.9	11.7	14.6	16	18.7	17	15.2
Latvia	12.4	10.6	11.5	11.9	11.8	17.5	17.8	16	14.9	13	12	10.5
Lithuania	10.6	8.8	8.3	7.1	8.8	12.1	13.2	11.8	11.2	11.1	9.9	9.2
Luxembourg	6.3	5.5	6.7	5.7	6.2	5.8	5.1	4.7	5.9	5	6.3	6.2
Hungary	12.7	12.9	12.4	11.5	11.5	13.6	12.6	13.2	14.8	15.5	13.6	11.6
Malta	13.1	11.9	10.3	11.5	8.3	9.9	9.5	10.2	10.6	9.9	10.5	10.4
Netherlands	5.3	5.3	4	3.5	3.4	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.9	5.6	5.5	4.7
Austria	9.1	8.6	7.8	7.4	7.4	8.2	7.4	7.3	6.8	7.3	7.7	7.5
Poland	15	13.9	12.6	10.6	9	10.1	10.8	11.5	11.8	12.2	12	11
Portugal	11.2	11.1	10.6	11.2	10.2	11.2	11.4	12.6	13.9	14.1	12.3	11.3
Romania	19.8	16.8	14.8	13.3	11.6	13.9	16.6	17.5	16.8	17	17	18.1
Slovenia	7.5	8.9	8.5	6.7	6.5	7.5	7.1	7.1	9.3	9.2	9.4	9.5
Slovakia	17.9	15.8	14.4	12.5	11.1	12.5	14.1	13.8	13.8	13.7	12.8	13.7
Finland	9.1	7.8	7.7	7	7.8	9.9	9	8.4	8.6	9.3	10.2	10.6
Sweden	7.6	10.5	9.3	7.5	7.8	9.6	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.2	6.7
United Kingdom	8.4	8.4	8.6	11.9	12.1	13.2	13.6	14.2	13.9	13.2	11.9	11.1

Source: Eurostat, Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex and age (NEET rates) [edat_lfse_20]

Table Youth unemployment ratio, for population aged 15-24, in Member States, 2003 – 2015 % of total population aged 15-24

GEO/TIME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
EU 28	8.2	8.26	7.66	6.84	6.9	8.65	9.01	9.2	9.81	9.94	9.25	8.44
Belgium	6.0	7.5	7.1	6.4	6.0	7.1	7.3	6.0	6.2	7.4	7.0	6.6
Bulgaria	7.2	6.2	5.6	4.4	3.8	4.8	6.8	7.4	8.6	8.4	6.5	5.6
Czech Republic	6.9	6.5	5.9	3.4	3.1	5.3	5.7	5.4	6.1	6.0	5.1	4.1
Denmark	5.2	5.9	5.4	5.3	5.8	8.4	9.4	9.6	9.1	8.1	7.8	6.7
Germany	6.2	7.7	6.9	6.1	5.5	5.8	5.0	4.5	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.5
Estonia	10.2	5.5	4.3	3.8	4.9	10.7	12.4	9.0	8.5	7.4	5.8	5.5
Ireland	4.1	4.6	4.7	5.1	7.1	11.7	12.0	12.1	12.3	10.6	8.9	7.6
Greece	9.7	8.7	8.0	7.0	6.6	7.9	9.9	13.0	16.1	16.5	14.7	12.9
Spain	10.1	9.4	8.6	8.7	11.7	17.0	17.7	18.9	20.6	21.0	19.0	16.8
France	7.3	7.7	8.1	7.2	7.1	9.1	8.8	8.3	8.8	9.0	8.9	9.1
Croatia	13.1	12.3	10.4	9.2	8.7	9.2	11.6	11.9	12.7	14.9	15.3	14.3
Italy	9.0	8.2	7.0	6.3	6.5	7.3	7.8	7.9	10.1	10.9	11.6	10.6
Cyprus	3.6	5.9	4.1	4.3	3.8	5.5	6.7	8.7	10.8	14.9	14.5	12.4
Latvia	8.1	5.8	5.6	4.5	5.9	13.8	14.4	11.6	11.5	9.1	8.0	6.7
Lithuania	5.2	4.0	2.6	2.3	4.0	8.7	10.2	9.2	7.8	6.9	6.6	5.5
Luxembourg	4.8	3.9	4.6	4.1	5.2	5.5	3.5	4.2	5.1	4.0	5.9	6.1
Hungary	3.9	5.3	5.1	4.6	4.9	6.5	6.6	6.3	7.2	7.3	6.0	5.4
Malta	10.1	8.6	8.2	7.4	6.2	7.4	6.8	6.9	7.1	6.9	6.1	6.1
Netherlands	5.8	5.8	4.6	4.3	3.9	4.8	6.0	6.8	8.1	9.1	8.6	7.7
Austria	6.7	6.4	5.7	5.6	5.1	6.4	5.5	5.3	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.1
Poland	14.1	13.2	10.2	7.1	5.7	7.0	8.2	8.6	8.9	9.1	8.1	6.8
Portugal	6.0	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.8	7.9	8.2	11.5	14.1	13.3	11.9	10.7
Romania	8.1	6.3	6.6	6.2	5.7	6.4	6.9	7.3	6.9	7.1	7.1	6.8
Slovenia	5.5	6.5	5.6	4.2	4.5	5.6	5.8	5.9	7.1	7.3	6.8	5.7
Slovakia	12.8	11.0	9.4	7.0	6.2	8.6	10.4	10.1	10.4	10.4	9.2	8.4
Finland	16.4	10.2	9.7	8.8	8.8	10.9	10.6	10.1	9.8	10.3	10.7	11.7
Sweden	9.0	11.5	11.0	10.1	10.7	12.8	12.8	12.1	12.4	12.8	12.7	11.3
United Kingdom	6.6	7.9	8.7	8.8	9.2	11.3	11.6	12.4	12.4	12.1	9.8	8.6

Source: Eurostat, Population, activity and inactivity - annual averages [lfsi_act_a]

Table Youth long-term unemployment rate (12 months or longer), for population aged 15-24, in Member States, 2003 – 2015 % of active population aged 15-24

GEO/TIME	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
EU 28	5.83	5.78	5.22	4.09	3.59	4.64	6.01	6.53	7.54	8.05	7.9	6.61
Belgium	5.4	5.9	5.8	5.6	4.9	5.7	6.7	6.0	5.8	7.3	8.0	7.9
Bulgaria	11.4	10.9	8.1	6.3	5.0	5.2	8.9	12.1	13.8	13.2	11.8	11.0
Czech Republic	7.4	7.4	6.6	3.4	3.1	3.3	5.8	5.3	6.5	6.2	4.4	3.8
Denmark							0.9	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.9
Germany	3.5	4.9	4.6	3.8	3.1	3.1	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.6
Estonia	8.3	5.2		3.1	2.9	7.0	12.2	8.9	6.3	6.5	4.5	2.0
Ireland	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.6	6.1	11.6	13.6	14.7	11.0	9.4	8.1
Greece	12.5	11.6	12.0	9.4	7.8	7.9	11.7	18.9	27.1	30.3	31.5	27.9
Spain	5.3	2.6	2.1	1.8	2.6	6.9	12.1	15.0	18.9	21.9	21.6	16.9
France	4.3	4.9	5.4	4.6	4.5	5.9	6.7	6.2	6.7	6.6	7.4	7.1
Croatia	13.9	13.9	12.8	11.6	10.6	11.0	16.0	20.0	23.2	25.4	22.7	20.2
Italy	11.0	10.9	9.5	8.4	8.1	10.2	12.4	13.9	17.5	21.3	25.5	22.5
Cyprus	1.6	1.7		2.4		1.3	2.8	3.9	6.9	12.7	10.7	8.0
Latvia	5.2	3.4	2.5	1.2	1.8	6.9	12.0	10.2	8.9	6.8	4.7	4.4
Lithuania	7.6					5.2	10.8	11.2	6.8	4.4	4.4	
Luxembourg			4.9		3.9		3.7	3.8	3.6	3.6		
Hungary	4.9	6.8	7.0	6.5	6.2	7.8	10.3	9.3	9.1	8.6	6.7	4.6
Malta	6.5	6.0	3.3	3.7	3.2	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.5	3.2	3.2	3.5
Netherlands	1.2	1.5	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.6	2.3	2.4	2.1
Austria	2.4	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.7
Poland	17.6	16.5	12.6	7.5	3.8	4.4	4.9	6.8	8.0	8.7	7.4	6.1
Portugal	4.2	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.2	5.4	6.9	8.0	11.7	13.8	12.6	9.9
Romania	10.4	10.0	10.9	9.7	8.1	6.1	7.2	9.5	9.4	9.0	8.7	8.1
Slovenia	6.3	5.9	5.0	3.0	2.1	2.8	5.0	5.5	6.6	8.5	7.6	5.8
Slovakia	17.4	18.2	16.3	11.6	10.0	11.4	18.4	18.2	19.1	20.7	17.0	14.5
Finland	1.4	1.4	1.1	0.9		1.0	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.8
Sweden	1.0			0.8	0.7	1.2	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3
United Kingdom	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.3	2.4	3.6	4.7	5.2	5.8	6.0	4.7	3.2

Source: Eurostat, Youth long-term unemployment rate (12 months or longer) by sex and age [youth_empl_120]

Table NEET rate by activity status for population aged 15-24 in Member States, 2015 % of population 15-24

GEO/STATUS	Inactive	Unemployed	NEET
EU 28	6.1	5.9	12
Belgium	6.3	5.9	12.2
Bulgaria	14.3	5	19.3
Czech Republic	4	3.5	7.5
Denmark	4	2.2	6.2
Germany	3.8	2.4	6.2
Estonia	7	3.9	10.8
Ireland	8	6.3	14.3
Greece	6.2	11	17.2
Spain	5.1	10.6	15.6
France	5.3	6.6	11.9
Croatia	5	13.4	18.5
Italy	12	9.4	21.4
Cyprus	6	9.2	15.2
Latvia	5.3	5.2	10.5
Lithuania	4.9	4.3	9.2
Luxembourg	3	3.1	6.2
Hungary	6.6	5	11.6
Malta	6	4.4	10.4
Netherlands	2.9	1.8	4.7
Austria	3.8	3.8	7.5
Poland	5.4	5.6	11
Portugal	3.8	7.4	11.3
Romania	11.7	6.4	18.1
Slovenia	4.9	4.6	9.5
Slovakia	5.5	8.2	13.7
Finland	5.5	5	10.6
Sweden	3.5	3.2	6.7
United Kingdom	6.2	4.9	11.1

Source: Eurostat, Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by sex and age (NEET rates) [edat_ifse_20]