



Youth on
the Move

“Youth Opportunities Initiative”

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Europe 2020: **3 relevant** EU headline targets

By 2020

- **75 % employment** rate for people between 20 and 64
- **< 10% early school leavers & min. 40% hold tertiary degree**
- reduce by 20 million the number of people at **risk of poverty**



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3 strands of key actions

- Improve **education and training** systems: lifelong learning, higher education, VET
- Facilitate **EU mobility** for learning purposes and on the labour market
- Policy framework to improve **youth employment**



1. Actions to support education & training

- Re-launch cooperation on vocational education and training
- Modernise universities
- Quality framework for traineeships





2. Support for **learning and job mobility**

- Access to job opportunities in the wider EU labour market through new mobility scheme: **Your first EURES job**
- A **European Vacancy Monitor** to increase transparency
- Ensure free movement of young workers and monitor the application of EU legislation to ensure that mobile workers enjoy the same rights as « home » young workers
- Remove obstacles and increase opportunities: proposal for a **Council Recommendation** on promoting **learning mobility**



3. A framework for youth employment

- For all young people: graduates from VET, graduates from HE, vulnerable groups (**NEETs**, low-skilled, women, ethnic minorities, migrants, disabled)
- Focus on: **transitions**, fighting **segmentation**, provide adequate **safety nets**, encourage **youth entrepreneurship & self-employment**



Youth Opportunities Initiative : WHY ?

Immediate action needed, the crisis having hit European Youth the most !

- youth (under-25s) unemployment reached **22.3%** for EU-27 with **49.6%** for ES in Nov 2011
- **5.5 million young people unemployed** in the EU:
 - * + 1 million of young unemployed between 2008 and 2010
 - * 1 in 5 under 25 willing to work but can't find a job
- **15% of pupils** leaving school without graduating and **graduates** cannot find stable jobs either (successive traineeships or temporary jobs)
- **7.5 million** young people between 15 and 24 currently neither in employment nor in education or training (**NEETs**)
- Current youth unemployment levels cost about **€2 billion per week**, or just over 1% of the GDP of 21 Member States (recently surveyed by Eurofound)



Youth Opportunities Initiative : WHAT ?

YOI goals are:

- to get unemployed young people, who left school or training without having achieved upper secondary level education, back to school or into a vocational training fitting the labour market needs; and
- to ensure that young people, who obtained a diploma, but cannot find a job, get a first work experience.

The initiative addresses three areas in particular:

- greater use of the **European Social Fund** for youth employment measures;
- **innovative approaches** supporting youth employment, and
- supporting **mobility** of young people in the labour market.

To be achieved through **stronger partnership** between political authorities, business and trade unions at all levels of governance (European, national, regional and local) with Commission fully involved, offering policy guidance and concrete assistance in the process.



Youth Opportunities Initiative : HOW-1 ?

- As part of the preparation of the 2012 European Semester of economic governance, European Commission will discuss with each Member State concrete measures to implement the Youth Opportunities Initiative, in particular better use of European Social Fund to that end:
 - * € 1.3 million via ESF Technical Assistance to support **apprenticeships** - – Member States to contribute to a 10% increase in order to reach 370,000 new apprenticeship placements by the end of 2013
 - * € 3 million of ESF Technical Assistance will focus, among others, on setting up support schemes for **young business starters** and **social entrepreneurs**
- **Focus on:** Member States to adjust the way they use the European Social Fund in order to tap into the €30 billion uncommitted to projects for the current 2007-13 programming period



Youth Opportunities Initiative : HOW-2 ?

Additional EU leverage funding for a series of concrete actions:

- Spreading **Youth Guarantees** via an EP preparatory action (€4 million) – challenge: to ensure that good practices (AT, FI) can be adapted and transposed to all Member States
- **European quality framework on traineeships** in the first half of 2012
- New mobility pilot project: “**Your first Eures Job**” will help up to 5,000 young people to find a job placement in another Member State, in 2012 and 2013
- **Erasmus & Leonardo da Vinci** geared towards placing higher education and vocational training students in enterprises - Target of at least 130,000 placements in 2012
- **Erasmus for Entrepreneurs**: 600 further exchanges for young new entrepreneurs
- **European Voluntary Service**: at least 10,000 volunteering opportunities



Youth Opportunities Initiative : Timetable

- **January** (30) European Council strong support for the YOI approach – each MS will prepare a National Job Plan to tackle youth unemployment - President Barroso announced Youth Action teams
- **February** Bilateral meetings with 7 MS with youth unemployment rates above EU average and Action team visits to 8 MS with youth unemployment rates = or > 30%
- **April** – Interim report on YOI implementation – Commission’s Staff Working Document, part of the Employment Package:
 - * EU Employment and Social Affairs Ministers Council (24-25), and
 - * Danish Presidency conference on Youth Inclusion & Employability (26-27)
- **April/May** – Commission will assess how MS are addressing 2011 CSR on youth employment in their 2012 National Reform Programmes (NRP) and will systematically address youth policies and measures in its proposals for the 2012 CSR
- **June** – European Council to endorse the 2012 CSR + presentation of an overview on the follow-up to the Action teams



Some relevant links

Youth Opportunities Initiative *(as of 15 March)*

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/YOI>

Promoting entrepreneurs & the self-employed

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=952&langId=en>

Progress Microfinance

<http://ec.europa.eu/epmf>

Erasmus for Entrepreneurs

<http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/>

Youth on the move

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=950>

Youth@Work

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/youth@work>