

Tackling Youth Unemployment in Europe: Improving Outcomes for the Young Generation



Wednesday 25th November 2015

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre,
Brussels



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Overview

According to Eurostat's latest figures, 23.296 million men and women in the EU-28 were unemployed in June 2015, out of which 4.724 million were young people (under 25). Although there has been a recent improvement in the youth unemployment rate, with a decrease of 386,000 since June 2014 in the EU-28, the issue of youth unemployment remains a profound challenge to the future of Europe: the costs of NEETs (young people not in education, employment or training) amounts to €153bn (1.21% of GDP) a year in benefits and foregone earnings and taxes, according to Eurofound.

There is a pressing need to combat youth unemployment and support targeted measures that aid young people in their transition from education to work. With a budget of €6 billion for the period 2014 - 2020, the Youth Employment Initiative aims to support NEETs in EU regions most affected by youth unemployment. Additionally, EU Member States are developing the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans to ensure that all youngsters under 25 receive a good-quality offer within four months of leaving education or becoming unemployed. Also, the Riga Conclusions on Vocational Education and Training (VET) have put forth several priorities for 2015-2020, including the endorsement of non-formal and informal learning as well as the development of skills acquired through initial and continuous VET.

With millions of young people in Europe constantly struggling to find a job, the economic recession has forced many to accept unpaid internships or become long-term unemployed – which leads to a lack of confidence, social exclusion, poorer health, depression and even suicide. Without doubt, there is a need to support high-quality internships and tackle the causes of skills mismatch and its impact on the labour market.

This International Symposium sets out to explore the current situation of young unemployed people in Europe and examine possible solutions to boost employment in the EU. Delegates will also have the opportunity to examine initiatives and innovative projects that have been implemented to tackle youth unemployment and social exclusion at both national and EU levels.

“ Helping Europe's young people access quality jobs is at the top of my priorities. Together we will create new opportunities for young people to learn the skills and gain the experience needed in the labour market.”

**Marianne Thyssen , Commissioner for Employment,
Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility,
June 2015**

Venue and Accommodation

**Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre
Avenue du Boulevard 17
1210 Brussels
Belgium**



Why Attend?

- ✓ Explore solutions and discuss ways forward to encourage job creation in the EU
- ✓ Examine the role of both formal and non-formal education in tackling youth unemployment
- ✓ Assess trends and causes of skills mismatch and its impact on the labour market
- ✓ Share best practice in the field of innovative and experimental policy-making and implementation

Who Should Attend?

- Ministries of Employment and Social Affairs
- Social Services
- Employment Agencies
- Youth Organisations
- Social Funds
- Training Managers
- Recruitment Advisers
- Human Rights Groups
- Trade Unions
- Research Institutes
- Social Innovation Centres
- National Departments for Social and Family Affairs
- Lifelong Learning Institutes
- Social Advisers
- Active Ageing Organisations
- Voluntary Organisations
- Local Authorities
- Employment and Social Inclusion Institutes
- Labour Economy Research Centres
- Labour Market Institutes
- Academics
- PhD Candidates
- European Social Organisational Science Consultancies
- European Employment Associations
- Social Partners
- Pension Organisations
- Associations of Social Enterprises
- Sheltered Employment and Labour Integration Organisations
- Physical and Social Rehabilitation Centres
- Disabled People's Rehabilitation and Employment Unions
- Vocational Training Centres
- Innovation and Personal Development Centres
- Special Employment Unions

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Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Current EU Policy Framework on Youth Unemployment**
- Implementing the Youth Employment Initiative: Developments and Ways Forward
 - Discussing the EU Youth Guarantee Schemes
 - Promoting Youth Employment and Social Inclusion: Facilitating the School-to-Work Transition
 - Recommendations for Future Policy Actions
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Universities and Formal Education: Working towards an Employment-Oriented Outcome**
- Working Towards the Future: Aligning Education with Labour Market Needs
 - Providing Effective, Personalised and Coordinated Support and Career Advice at Every Key Transitional Period
 - Enhancing Young People's Skills through Entrepreneurial Education
 - Youth Unemployment and Mental Health: Preventing Depression and Suicide
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Employers' Role in Tackling Youth Unemployment and Making Workplaces Youth Friendly**
- Addressing Skills Mismatches : Exploring Trends and Causes
 - Introducing Young People to the Professional Life: Providing High-Quality Remunerated Internships
 - Engaging HR Professionals in Helping Young People to Prepare for Work Settings
 - Examples from Current Initiatives and Best Practice
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Fostering a Positive Image of Vocational Education and Training**
- Assessing the Impact of Vocational Education and Training (VET)
 - Promoting Training and Lifelong Learning Systems in Member States
 - Encouraging Recognition of Qualifications Gained through Non-formal Education
 - Sharing Knowledge and Best Practice
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Close

** Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice **

Event Details

- Date:** Wednesday 25th November 2015
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels



Speakers Include:

- ✓ **Fons Leroy**, CEO, VDAB (the Flemish Public Employment Service), Board Member, European Network of Public Employment Services
- ✓ **Marianna Georgallis**, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, European Youth Forum

Forthcoming Events

- ✓ Young People and Sexual Health: Towards Improved Standards for Sexual Education in Europe
21st October 2015
- ✓ Smart Cities: Supporting an Innovative and Sustainable Development of Urban Areas
27th October 2015
- ✓ Addressing Europe's Drug Problem: Combating Drug Trafficking and Substance Misuse
28th October 2015
- ✓ Delivering on EU Food Safety: Promoting a Safe and Sustainable Agri-Food Chain
17th November 2015
- ✓ 6th Annual International Symposium on Preventing Human Trafficking: Strengthening Cooperation, Developing a Multilevel Approach
1st December 2015
- ✓ Unlocking the Potential of Mobile Health in Europe: Removing Barriers to the Empowerment of Citizens
20th January 2016

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