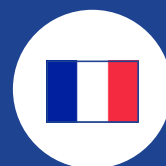




THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

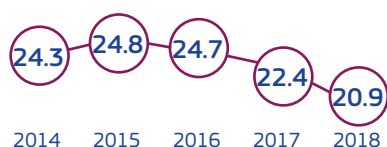
FRANCE

SUMMARY

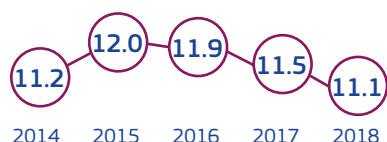
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and France spent a combined total of 746.8 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 495 775 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in France. This factsheet summarises the main actions, outputs, results and lessons learned so far of the implementation of youth employment measures funded by the EU.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



NEET RATE (15-24 YEARS)



► In 2014, more than one in ten (11.2%) young people aged 15-24 in France were **not in employment, education or training (NEET)** and unemployment among the same age group was very high (24.3%). There were important variations by region, with the youth unemployment rate ranging from 19.5% in Auvergne to 57.3% in Guadeloupe.

► In 2018, the **NEET rate** is practically the same as at the beginning of the programming period in 2014 and is now slightly above the rate observed at EU level (10.5%). The NEET rate for those aged 25-29 dropped slightly compared to 2014 (from 19.7% to 18.7%).

► The **youth unemployment rate** for young people aged 15-24 stood at 20.9%, noticeably higher than observed across the EU (15.2%), but could be reduced since 2014. Regional variations are persisting.

► The **labour market situation of women and men** is similar, with NEET rates for women aged 25-29 being the only exception – 7.8 percentage points (pp) higher than that of men. Women are also less likely to be early school leavers (6.9% in 2018 vs. 10.8% for general population).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

ESF European Social Fund

YEI Youth Employment Initiative

OP Operational Programme

NEET Young people not in employment, education or training

- This factsheet was prepared before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Figures present the situation for youth employment operations under Investment Priority 8.ii for the programming period 2014-2020 implemented up to 2018, as reported by 6th September 2019. In many instances, operations are not yet complete at this stage. They are provided only as an indication of progress.
- Target achievements are calculated dividing the outputs and the results by the targets set in the Operational Programmes. Targets set should be reached by 2023.
- Participants' data are collected on starting an operation. Data on results are collected at the end of an operation or even later. Because of this time lag, the two sets of data (participations and results) should not be directly compared.

ESF PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

ESF 250

Million Euro are budgeted to the support of young people, including national funding

ESF 196

Million Euro

The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI 1 118

Million Euro

YEI 945

Million Euro

ESF YEI 16 of the 33 Operational Programmes (OPs) implement specific actions supporting young people's integration into the labour market. One national OP for the implementation of YEI in mainland France and outermost regions and 15 regional OPs received YEI funding.

► **The investment in the 16 OPs focuses on** the provision of one-to-one counselling, training courses and ESF-funded work placements and apprenticeships to help young people take the important first steps into work.

STATE OF PLAY

► **Number of participations** of young people reported in specific actions promoting the sustainable integration of young people into the labour market by the end of 2018.*

ESF 36 650

YEI 459 125

► The achievement of the expected number of participants differs across the OPs, as e.g. in the OP Martinique, the rate is 12%, while in the OP Nord-Pas de Calais targets are largely exceeded.

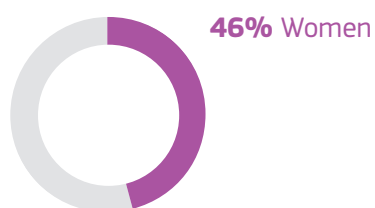
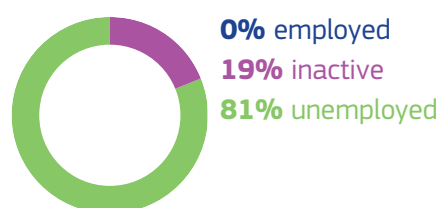
ESF 30%

Achievements of targets for participation

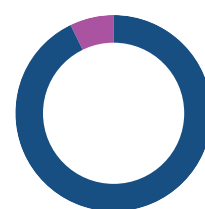
92% YEI

* As one person could participate more than once in ESF operations over time, the number of participations is reported, not the number of participants. These figures exclude Technical Assistance.

PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT



93% <25 years
7% ≥25 years

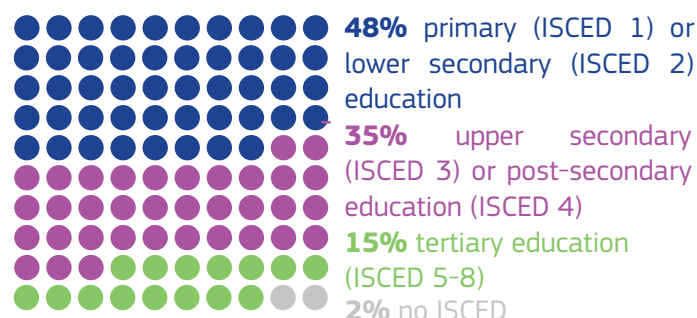


Migrants | 109 580

Other disadvantaged | 80 260*

Participants with disabilities | 10 365

Homeless | 17 484



- Variations in labour market status: Share of unemployed participants in the OPs Centre and Languedoc-Roussillon: 100% ⇔ Share of inactive participants in the OPs Réunion and Alsace: ~75%.
- Extended age group of eligible persons up to 29 years, e.g. in the OP Midi-Pyrénées et Garonne: ⇔ Share of participants above 25 years: 57% ⇔ Share of participants below 25 years in the OP Nord- Pas de Calais: 100%.
- Variations in participant profiles: Share of migrants: 86% in OP Île-de-France et Seine ⇔ 1% in OP Martinique.
- Differences in terms of the educational level of participants: Participants in OP Languedoc-Roussillon with primary or lower secondary education: 76% ⇔ Participants in OP Haute-Normandie with secondary or post-secondary education: 62%.

Overall, **251 042 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving**, 23 894 under the ESF and 227 148 under the YEI.

ESF 5 112 Participants in employment **126 219 YEI**

7 110 Participants gaining a qualification **25 821**

9 383 Participants in education **51 161**

2 289 Inactive participants engaged in job searching **23 947**

- In the OPs Île-de-France et Seine and Réunion, the targets for ESF are overachieved (132% and 171% respectively).
- The targeted number of long-term unemployed participants having received an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving has already been largely exceeded in the OPs Mayotte (1676%), Auvergne (1563%), and Île-de-France (155%).

ESF 51% Achievement of targets for results **142% YEI**

* Participants may refuse to give this information. Consequently, disadvantages are likely to be underreported.

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

ESF

Public agenda

The measures financed by ESF/YEI were already available to young people before, but the existence of a separate fund made the issue of NEETs more important and more visible in the public agenda. Strong cooperation with various stakeholders (e.g. youth institutions) helped place greater attention to youth employment issues.

Intensive support

For young people facing great difficulties to integrate into the labour market, the effective interventions are those in which young people discover and learn a particular job and those with intensive support, i.e. the intensity of support is more important than its duration in these cases.

Complementarity

Complementarity between ESF and YEI is ensured as e.g. second hand schools obtain either funding from YEI, if they are in eligible territories, or from ESF if they are in non-eligible territories.

YEI

Innovative interventions

Moving away from traditional training which is not relevant to all NEETs is considered as useful, as well as offering more innovative interventions through training reengineering, collective projects and project-based learning. Interventions like access to rights or specific support to the most vulnerable were particularly effective, since it addresses the need of specific support for a part of this population who is far from employment.

Addressing NEETs

The 'invisibility' of NEETs is stressed, i.e. those left out of the scope of the interventions and are difficult to identify. Interventions in some French regions addressed the needs of NEETs who are more distanced from the labour market, i.e. those with very low skills by offering them soft and basic skills or upskilling.

Policy boost

YEI has acted as a boost to youth employment policies. In France, the main change has been to consider the NEET population which is a significant improvement in French youth policy.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in France <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=380>

Website of the ESF France <http://www.fse.gouv.fr/nous-contacter>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF Support to Youth Employment
- 2nd evaluation of the YEI

