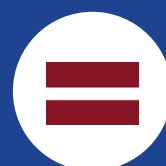


THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

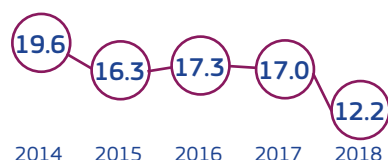
LATVIA

SUMMARY

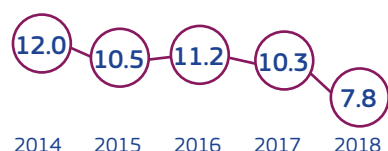
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and Latvia spent a combined total of 66.3 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 29 498 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Latvia. 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, the rates of **young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)** and of unemployment were high and at about the EU averages. The NEET rate was particularly high among young women aged 25-29 (25.6%) and was about ten percentage points (pp) higher than that of men.
- ▶ The **NEET rate** in 2018 is lower than the rate observed across the EU. However, this is not the case for young people aged 25-29 whose NEET rate is practically the same as the EU average (17.1%).
- ▶ The **youth unemployment rate** in 2018 is below that observed at EU level (15.2%) showing a significant decrease from 2017 to 2018.
- ▶ The **labour market situation of young women** seems to be slightly better than that of men with a very small gap (lower NEET and unemployment rates). This, however, is not the case for young women and men aged 25-29. While women of that age group have higher NEET rates, men of the same age group have a slightly higher unemployment rate.

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

YEI 63 Million Euro are budgeted to the support of young people, including national funding

YEI 58 Million Euro
The EU contributes a large share of this funding

ESF YEI Latvia has one single multi-fund Operational Programme (OP) implementing specific actions to support young people's integration into the labour market through YEI and ESF funding.*

- ▶ The **investments in the OP focus** on employment, continued education and training as well as individual help for young people to make the transition into working life.

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.**

YEI 29 498

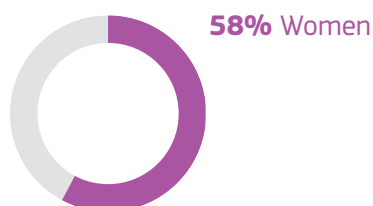
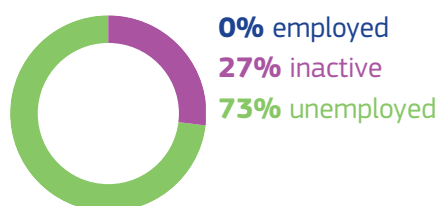
- ▶ Overall, the expected number of participations is progressing and targets should easily be achieved.

Achievements of targets for participation **80%** **YEI**

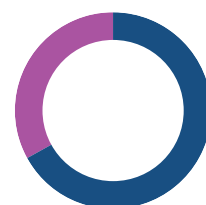
* The latest version of the OP allocates only YEI funding to IP 8.ii. However, according to the Annual Implementation Report 2018, additional ESF funding is spent on IP 8.ii, regardless of the fact that the OP does not allocate to this category of intervention.

** 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



67% <25 years
33% ≥25 years

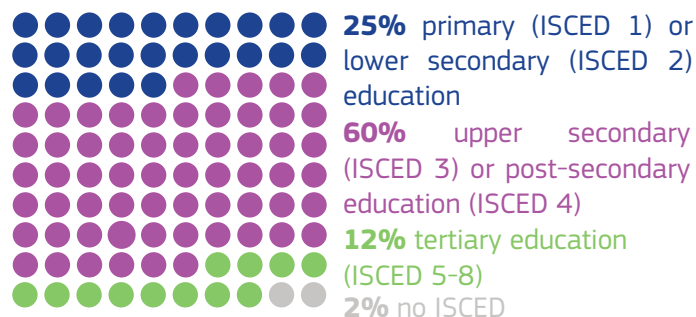


Migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities | 5 772

Other disadvantaged | 1 904*

Participants with disabilities | 4 445

Homeless | 102



- Extended age group of eligible persons up to 29 years in the OP: Share of participants above 25 years: ⇨ 33%.
- The share of women is high, also compared to the other OPs in the EU-28. One of the reasons is that men who are NEET seldom register as unemployed and therefore are less present.

Overall, **13 683 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving** under the YEI.

Participants in employment **5 521** YEI

Participants gaining a qualification **7 712**

Participants in education **378**

Inactive participants engaged in job searching **72**

- The targeted number of results is already achieved for a number of sub-groups in Latvia.
- The targeted number of participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving is both exceeded for the unemployed and the long-term unemployed.

Achievement of targets for results **107%** YEI

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

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

YEI

Positive feedback

The feedback from participants on the measures supported was positive (they contributed to improve their technical skills, their degree of motivation as well as their social skills), but this was less so for participants with basic or only general secondary education.

Sustainability

The proportion of participants in employment after 6, 12 or 18 months is generally higher than for non-participants for most of the YEI supported measures.

Promote participation

There is a need to further promote the participation of young people with disabilities in initial vocational education and job subsidy programmes. In addition, efforts should be increased to identify and reach men who are NEETs since they seldom register as unemployed.

Success factor

It is considered that individual work with young people at high risk of unemployment is a prerequisite for a successful outcome.

Impacts

The share of participants in employment immediately after exit of a YEI measure was 25% for 'Development of skills required for work in the non-governmental sector', 13% for 'Professional continuing education' and 10% for 'Non-formal education' and 'Training of drivers'. The share of participants in 'Support for self-employment' who were working immediately after exiting the measure was only 13%.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Latvia <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=389>

Website of the ESF Latvia <https://www.esfondi.lv/sakums>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF Support to Youth Employment
- Final evaluation on the implementation, effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the ESF and YEI support (including the Youth Guarantee)

