



THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

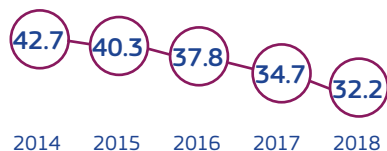
ITALY

SUMMARY

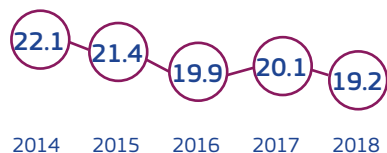
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and Italy spent a combined total of 1 724.6 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 952 344 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Italy. 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 **among the highest observed in the EU**. The NEET rate of women aged 25-29 was significantly higher than that of men (39.0% vs. 28.7%). **Hence, access to the labour market was disproportionately difficult for young people in Italy.**

► The **NEET rate** in 2018 is slightly lower than at the beginning of the programming period, but is still almost double the rate observed at the EU level (10.5%). This means that in Italy, almost one in five (19.2%) young people aged 15-24 were not in employment, education or training.

► The **youth unemployment rate** is still very high and is twice that of the average EU rate of 15.2%. It ranges **from 9.2% in the Province of Bolzano to 53.6% in the regions of Campania and Sicily**. Unemployment of young Italians aged 25-29 was also higher compared to that of young people of the same age group across the EU.

► The **labour market situation of women** of both age groups was worse compared to that of men (higher NEET and unemployment rates). However, the early school leaving rate was considerably lower for women (12.3% vs 16.5% for total population), though it remained unchanged since 2014.

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 2 268

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

ESF 1 293

Million Euro

The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI 2 288

Million Euro

YEI 1 821

Million Euro

ESF YEI 21 ESF or multi-fund Operational Programmes (OPs) implement actions to support young people's integration into the labour market through dedicated resources, two at the national level and 19 at the regional level. YEI resources are fully allocated to one national OP.

► **The investment of the 21 OPs focuses on transition from school to work**, with support to apprenticeships and work placements, as well as coaching and skills training courses for young people with little or no qualifications.

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 458 166

YEI 494 178

► The achievement of the expected number of participations differs across the OPs, as e.g. in five OPs the targets are already exceeded (Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, Lazio, Toscana and Calabria), while in eight OPs the rate is below 15%.

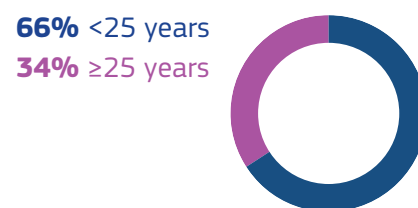
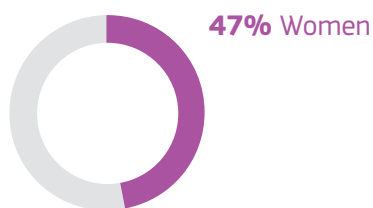
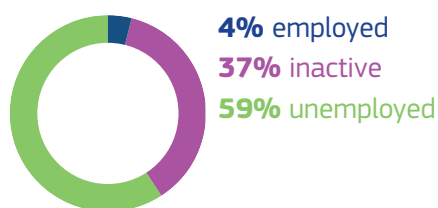
ESF 56%

Achievements of targets for participation

68% 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

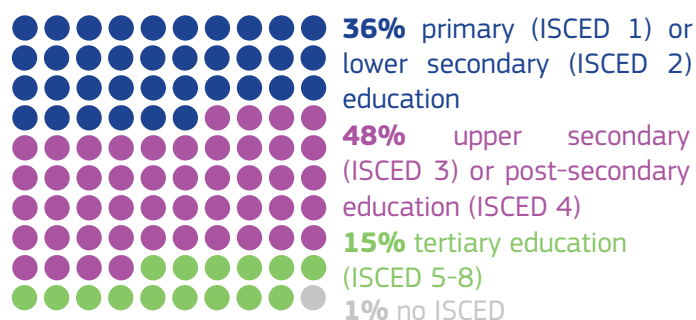


Migrants | 124 046

Other disadvantaged | 11 805*

Participants with disabilities | 9 901

Homeless | 120



- Variations in labour market status: Share of unemployed participants in the OPs Abruzzo, Umbria and Sardinia: 100%
⇔ Share of inactive participants in the OPs Molise and Calabria: 100%.
- Extended age group of eligible persons up to 29 years, e.g. in the OP Calabria ⇔ Share of participants above 25 years: 100% ⇔ Share of participants below 25 years in the OP Molise: 100%.
- Differences in terms of the educational level of participants: Participants in OP Sicily with primary or lower secondary education: 91% ⇔ Participants in OP Veneto with tertiary education: 72%.

Overall, **359 633 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving** under the ESF.

ESF 10 996 Participants in employment

65 239 Participants gaining a qualification

9 217 Participants in education

5 372 Inactive participants engaged in job searching

Unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention **268 809** **YEI**

- The targeted number of results for the long-term unemployed has almost been reached in the OP Tuscany, as 84% of participants were in education/training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment, after completion. A number of OPs have not reported any progress yet.
- Progress towards the employment targets defined for unemployed participants are well on track in most OPs in Italy. Only in Marche, Calabria and Puglia no substantial employment results have been recorded thus far.

ESF 11% Achievement of targets for results

54% **YEI**

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

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

ESF

Strengthened governance

The strengthening of the governance of active youth employment policies is widely seen as an essential element for the successful implementation of the measures. The recently introduced reform and capacity building plan of the Public Employment Services played a crucial role in improving the way services were organised and led to more staff being available to provide support across the country.

Partnership Agreement

The Partnership Agreement provides a demarcation between the scope of intervention of different national and regional programmes. At the same time, the complementarity of the YEI and ESF-funded youth operations with other national measures promoting the socio-economic integration of individuals has been reinforced (such as the national minimum income scheme used for the identification of young NEETs in vulnerable households).

YEI

Employment effects

Work-based learning programmes show positive employment effects. The conclusion of traineeships increases the marginal probability of finding a job by more than 100% within the next two to three months.

Labour market policy

The YEI was key in rethinking labour market policies for young people and adapting operations to the individual needs of NEETs.

Youth Guarantee

The Youth Guarantee (YG) has introduced a new cooperation model between the central and regional governments. A set of “standard” YG measures is planned centrally, but then implemented and customised at the regional level. This includes standard cost operations across all regions, which are now mainstreamed in national policies as well.

Satisfaction

Participants found the quality of the services provided satisfactory and the offer to be in line with expectations and offering better employment opportunities than their counterparts not participating in the YEI.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Italy <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=386>

Website of the ESF Italy <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/europa-e-fondi-europei/Pagine/default.aspx>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF Support to Youth Employment
- 2nd Evaluation Report of the Youth Guarantee and the National OP Youth Employment

