

# THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



# YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

## Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018



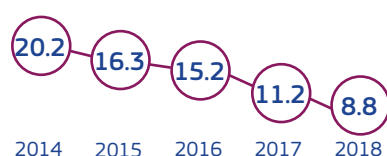
**SLOVENIA**

## SUMMARY

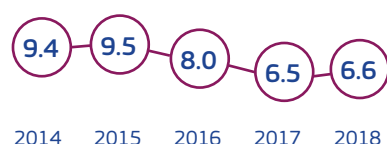
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and Slovenia spent a combined total of 52.4 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 13 220 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Slovenia. 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 rate of **young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)** was relatively low. Contrary, the youth unemployment rate was high and only slightly below the EU average of 22.2%. However, after the setback during the economic crisis, the labour market trends in Slovenia reversed in 2014, which also applies for employment of young people.
- ▶ The **NEET rate** in 2018 is one of the lowest rates observed at EU level. However, the NEET rate for young people aged 25-29 is significantly higher and is above the EU average (17.1%).
- ▶ The **youth unemployment rate** is the fourth lowest rate observed across the EU. It ranges from 6.4% in Zahodna Slovenija to 11.1% in Vzhodna Slovenija, although the latter one showed a considerable decrease of 13 percentage points (pp) since 2014.
- ▶ The **labour market situation of young women** seems to be slightly worse than that of young men (slightly higher NEET and unemployment rates). This is particularly the case for women aged 25-29 whose NEET rate is significantly higher than that of young men (15.2% vs. 9.8%).

### 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 91

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

YEI 21

Million Euro

ESF 73

Million Euro

The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI 18

Million Euro



Slovenia has one single national Operational Programme (OP) implementing specific actions to support young people's integration into the labour market. This national OP for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the period 2014-2020 covers specific actions through ESF and YEI funding.

- **The investments in the OP focus** on preventive measures targeting young people who have not yet entered the labour market, and on measures aimed at rapid activation of young people into the labour market, e.g. through employment incentives, training programmes, or career counselling.

## 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 10 235

YEI 2 985

- The achievement of the expected number of participations differs between YEI and ESF. While under the YEI, nearly all targets are largely exceeded, the ESF targets are slightly lagging behind. Nevertheless, the targets should be reached by 2023.

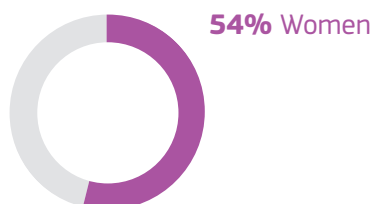
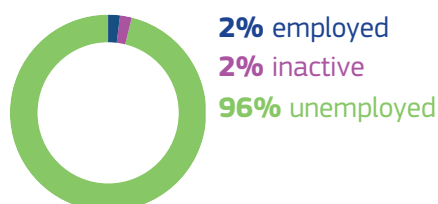
ESF 57%

Achievements of targets for participation

124% 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



38% <25 years  
62% ≥25 years

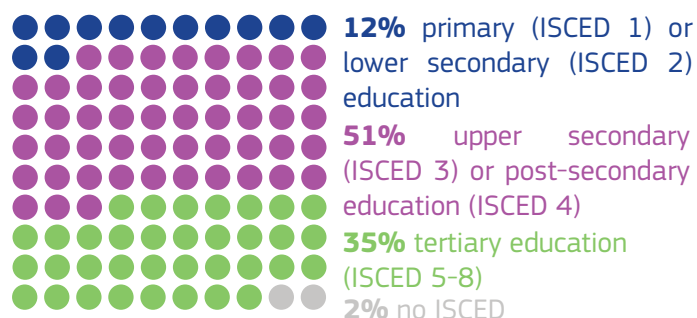


Migrants | 24

Other disadvantaged | 14\*

Participants with disabilities | 87

Homeless | 2



- No significant variations between the ESF and YEI were identified. However, the share of participants from rural areas in YEI is twice that of the ESF (63% vs. 31%).
- Slovenia not only focuses on the low-skilled, but also on the people with tertiary education, leading to a share of participations with tertiary education of 35%.

Overall, **3 393 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving**, 3 275 under the ESF and 118 under the YEI\*\*.

**ESF 1 773** Participants in employment

**1 499** Participants gaining a qualification

**2** Participants in education

**1** Inactive participants engaged in job searching

Unemployed achieving positive results under the YEI **118 YEI**

- The low result rates are related to the changed circumstances in the labour market and the increased supply of job vacancies.

**ESF 80%** Achievement of targets for results

**5%** **YEI**

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

\*\* Slovenia does not report under the YEI beside the number of people receiving an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving.

## LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

### ESF

#### Job offers and soft effects

Participants are generally satisfied with the job offers received, with satisfaction rates close to 70% in Slovenia. Still, the 2019 evaluation of the ESF 'PUM-O programme', which provides training and education for young NEETs in order to facilitate their entry onto the labour market, shows that more than 25% of participants found a job, but the most important effect according to the participants is in terms of self-esteem and self-image.

#### Good cooperation

In Slovenia, trade unions, several youth organisations, ministries and research centres collaborate and have a key role in the implementation and monitoring of the Youth Guarantee. This also contributed to spreading awareness of the possibilities offered by the YEI.

### YEI

#### Recruitment incentives

The highest employment rates are observed for recruitment incentives for employers. In Slovenia, participants in the YEI-funded 'First Challenge 2015 programme' are estimated to have an employment rate that is 31 percentage points higher than that of non-participants immediately after leaving the programme (79% against 48%).

#### Trial period is key

The highest added value of the programme is to provide first work experience that enables young people to improve their employability on the labour market. The programme also makes it easier to employ people with a low education level. The three-month trial period is considered to be a key feature of the programme.

#### Increased employability

Crucial for employers is the trust that young people can do the right things. The 'First Challenge' allowed to build this trust. 76% of young people in employment under the programme stated that the experience had a positive effect on their employability.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Slovenia <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=399>

Website of the ESF Slovenia <https://www.eu-skladi.si/kontakti>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF support to Youth Employment
- Evaluation of the YEI programme 'First-challenge 2015' in Slovenia: the second phase

