



THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

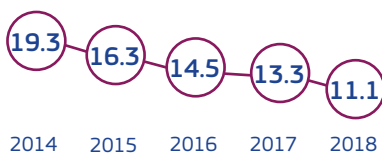
LITHUANIA

SUMMARY

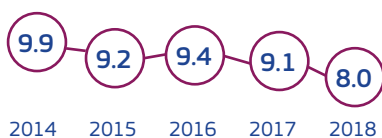
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and Lithuania spent a combined total of 62.7 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 61 321 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Lithuania. 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 below the EU averages. The proportion of NEET youth among young Lithuanians reached a peak during the height of the economic crisis in 2010, but has been declining ever since. Thus, the NEET rate is highly dependent on the general economic situation of the country.

► The **NEET rate** in 2018 is below the rate observed across the EU (17.1%). There are persisting important variations by region, with the Sostines region having significantly lower NEET rates for young people than the Vidurio ir vakarų Lietuvos region (3.9% vs. 9.5%).

► The **youth unemployment rate** is much lower than that observed across the EU (15.2%). It ranges from 5.8% in Sostines region to 13.3% in Vidurio ir vakarų Lietuvos region, though both regions showed a considerable decrease of eight percentage points (pp) since 2014.

► The **labour market situation of young women** seems to be slightly better than that of young men (lower NEET and unemployment rates). While young women aged 25-29 have lower youth unemployment rates, young men of the same age group have lower NEET rates.

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 21

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

YEI 69
Million Euro

ESF 17

Million Euro
The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI 64
Million Euro



Lithuania has one single multi-fund Operational Programme (OP) implementing specific actions to support young people's integration into the labour market. This national OP covers specific actions through YEI funding. In addition to YEI, Lithuania ring-fenced 21 Million Euro (ESF+national co-financing) to finance youth employment actions when the YEI resources will be completely used.

- **The investments in the OP focus** on assisting young people in making the transition into working life e.g. through the development of motivational, social and labour market skills through voluntary work, traineeships, apprenticeships and the provision of psychological 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.*

YEI 61 321

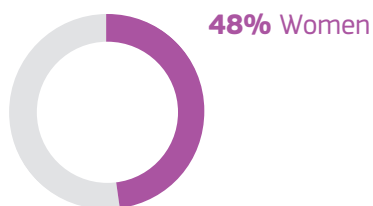
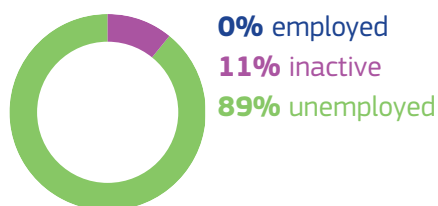
- In Lithuania, the achievement of targets for participation is well-advanced, as targets are already exceeded by end 2018.

Achievements of targets for participation

147% 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



54% <25 years
46% ≥25 years

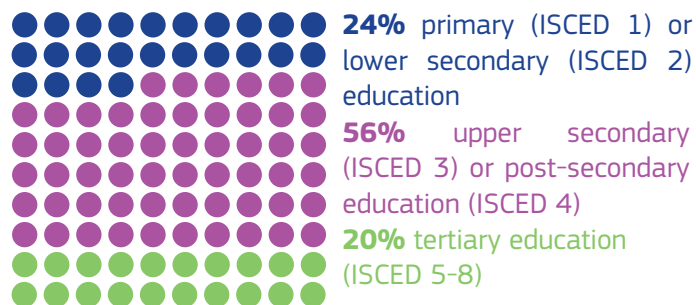


Migrants | 126

Other disadvantaged | 562*

Participants with disabilities | 728

Homeless | 171



► Extended age group of eligible persons up to 29 years in the OP ⇨ Share of participants above 25 years: 46%.

Overall, **23 032 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving** under the YEI.

Participants in employment **11 577** YEI

Participants gaining a qualification **1 195**

Participants in education **6 897**

Inactive participants engaged in job searching **3 363**

► Lithuania is showing good progress in the overall achievement of the expected number of positive results under the YEI. The targeted number of results is already exceeded for the long-term unemployed and inactive who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving.

► The targeted number of results for unemployed are close to the target set, and should be reached.

► 34.4% are in employment six months after completion of the action, while 25.5% are in continued education, training programmes leading to a qualification, an apprenticeship or a traineeship six months upon leaving the measure.

Achievement of targets for results **113%** YEI

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

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

YEI

Visibility

Publicity through the Department of Youth Affairs website or on social networks was reported as successful while announcements on radio, leaflets, posters in streets or public announcements during special events were considered as virtually ineffective.

Success factors

The experience and competence level of coordinators are considered as key elements for the performance and implementation of the YEI.

Meeting needs

The needs of young people facing serious barriers to enter the labour market or to participate in education (e.g. disabled young persons) were not met, as they were often involved into projects irrespective of their actual labour market needs or they were only proposed the services that were still available. It is estimated that for a relatively large proportion of participants (between 25 and 50%), their needs could not be met by the supported measures.

Identifying NEETs

Reaching young people who should be supported by the programme was challenging. Many NEETs are not registered and it requires street work to identify and encourage them to register.

Effectiveness

Services provided to the group of participants prepared for the labour market were delivered most effectively, while the least efficient were those proposed to unemployed people who were not ready for the job market.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Lithuania <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=387>

Website of the ESF agency in Lithuania <https://www.esf.lt/en/>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF Support to Youth Employment
- Evaluation of the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of EU investments and YEI, including the implementation of Youth Guarantee

