



THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

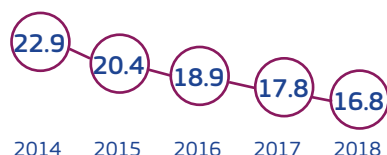
SWEDEN

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 Sweden spent a combined total of 183.2 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 43 470 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Sweden. 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 the sixth lowest rate observed across the EU. However, youth unemployment was high and at about the EU average (22.2%). Some groups are particularly affected: the unemployment rate among non-EU born young people was 41.7% in 2014. Sweden also has a very **high youth unemployment ratio** showing the need for support of this age group.
- ▶ In 2018, the **NEET rate** is practically unchanged and is still the sixth lowest rate among the EU. The NEET rates in the different regions are very homogenous.
- ▶ The **youth unemployment rate** in 2018 has successfully decreased, but is still slightly above that observed across the EU (15.2%). It ranges from 14.2% in Småland and the islands to 20.6% in Sydsverige.
- ▶ The **labour market situation for young women** seems to be better than that of young men (lower NEET and unemployment rates). This is not the case for the age group 25-29, as both the NEET and unemployment rates are slightly higher for young women than for men.

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 382

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

YEI 132

Million Euro

ESF 191

Million Euro

The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI 88

Million Euro

One of Sweden's two Operational Programmes (OPs) implements specific actions to support young people's integration into the labour market. This national OP ESF for investments in growth and employment covers specific actions through ESF and YEI funding.

- ▶ The **investments in the OP focus** on increasing employment and participation in education among young people aged 15–24 in the regions hardest hit by youth unemployment: Sydsverige, Norra Mellansverige, Mellersta Norrland, Övre Norrland, Småland med öarna and Östra Mellansverige.

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 14 706

YEI 28 764

- ▶ The targeted number of participations is already achieved under the YEI, as about 28 000 participations are reported compared to the target of 20 000. The number of ESF participations below the age of 25 years is still below the target of 39 400.

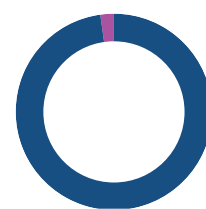
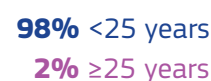
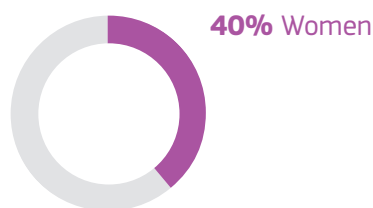
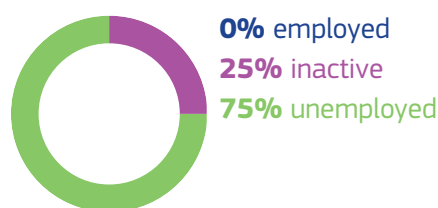
ESF 37%

Achievements of targets for participation

144% 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.

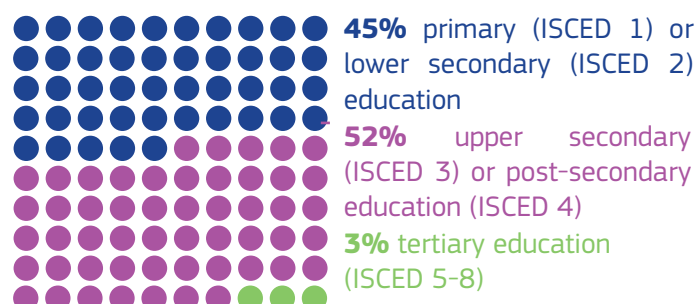
PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT



Migrants | **16 808**

Other disadvantaged | **1 933***

Participants with disabilities | **10 210**



- Variations in labour market status: Share of inactive participants supported through the ESF: 37% ⇔ Share of inactive participants under YEI: 19%.
- Differences in the support of disadvantaged participants: Share of people with disabilities under the ESF: 69% ⇔ Share of migrants is each 39% under ESF and YEI.
- Differences in terms of the educational level of participants: ESF participants with primary or lower secondary education: 66% ⇔ Participants supported through YEI with secondary or post-secondary education: ~35%.

Overall, **26 440 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving**, 6 653 under the ESF and 19 787 under the YEI.

ESF 3 017 Participants in employment **12 723 YEI**

656 Participants gaining a qualification **1 732**

2 705 Participants in education **4 820**

275 Inactive participants engaged in job searching **512**

- The targeted number of positive results has not been exceeded for the ESF, as 2 855 participants (=57%) were in employment, education or training six months after the end of the action against a target of 4 998 in 2023. This is due to the also not achieved number of expected participations. This rate is even lower for participants being in training (38%) or participants being in labour market measures (44%) six months after leaving.
- The targeted number of positive results under YEI support has already been exceeded in case of participants in education/training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving the action. However, the expected number of participants who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving has not been reached yet.

ESF 46% Achievement of targets for results

121% YEI

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

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

YEI

Target groups reached

The YEI activities are said to have largely reached the intended target group. It is recommended to consider YEI as a model for future actions for other specific target groups.

Success factors

The high quality of implementation (regarding competence, low staff turnover and anchoring in the organisation) and adaptation of the measure to the local context to fit the target group are estimated to have contributed to the success of the YEI operations.

Meeting actual needs

It is considered that YEI projects met an actual need and that the YEI strategy is based on a relevant needs analysis.

Positive effects

According to an impact evaluation carried out in the regional part of the Swedish YEI, it is estimated that within the studied population, there are positive effects for both income levels and the proportion with registered income. 12 months after the end of the project, the share of people in employment is higher among participants of the YEI measure compared to those who did not take part in the YEI.

Young future

While no effects for men were found within the studied population in the national project Young Future, positive effects could be achieved for women. The likelihood of leaving unemployment is estimated to be higher among women who have participated in a YEI operation than those who have not participated. For men, there are no statistically significant effects neither for YEI participants, nor for those men who have not participated in a YEI operation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Sweden <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=396>

Website of the ESF Sweden <https://www.esf.se/>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF support to Youth Employment
- Evaluation of the YEI 2018
- Effects of reinforced mediation efforts for young job seekers – Results from the evaluation of Young Future.

