



# THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



### Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

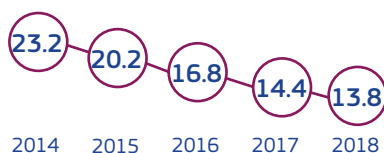
IRELAND

## SUMMARY

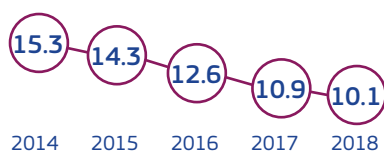
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and Ireland spent a combined total of 117.3 million euro in YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 12 043 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Ireland. 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 above the EU averages. While the NEET rate was particularly high for the age group 25-29 (22.5%), the unemployment rate was higher among young people aged 15-24.

► The **NEET rate** in 2018 is about at the EU average (10.5%) and ranges from 9.8% in Eastern and Midland to 10.6% in Northern and Western Ireland. The NEET rate for young people aged 25-29 showed a considerable decrease of eight percentage points (pp) and is now below the EU level.

► The **youth unemployment rates** are slightly below those observed across the EU (15.2% and 9.2%), which shows a significant reduction of 10 pp for both age groups since the beginning of the programming period.

► The **labour market situation of young women** seems to be slightly better than that of young men (lower NEET and youth unemployment rates). This is not the case for young women aged 25-29 for which NEET rates are considerably higher than those of men (17.9% vs. 11.6%).

### 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 to 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.

## YEI PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

**YEI 204** Million Euro are budgeted to the support of young people, including national funding

**YEI 136** Million Euro  
The EU contributes a large share of this funding

**YEI** Ireland has only one Operational Programme (OP) implementing specific actions to support young people's integration into the labour market. This national ESF OP for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) covers specific actions through additional YEI funding.

- ▶ The **investments in the OP focus** on the employment pathway including, achieving basic qualifications, community based schemes for long-term unemployed, internships and employer incentivised job programmes.

## 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.\*

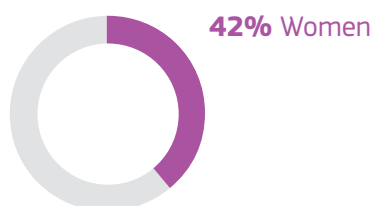
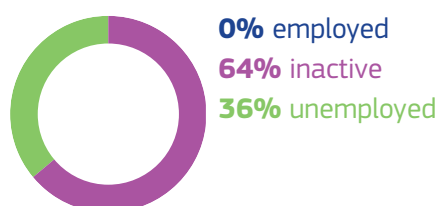
**YEI 12 043**

- ▶ The expected number of participations is at 63%, showing good progress towards the target of 22 330 that should be easily reached by the end of 2023.

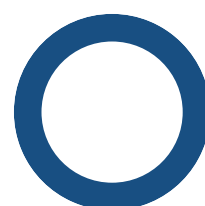
Achievements of targets for participation **63%** **YEI**

\* 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



100% <25 years  
0% ≥25 years

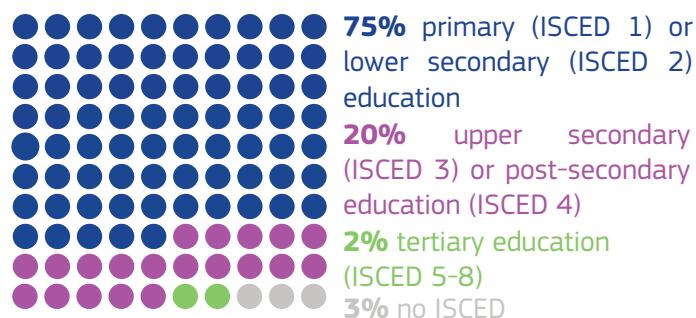


Migrants | 996

Other disadvantaged | 3 667\*

Participants with disabilities | 720

Homeless | 76



► About 25% of participants are part of disadvantaged groups.

Overall, 8 841 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving under the YEI.

Participants in employment 1 604 YEI

Participants gaining a qualification 3 064

Participants in education 3 814

Inactive participants engaged in job searching 359

- For 'MOMENTUM' (which funds upskilling programmes): 33% of participants were employed at end-2016, 17% were involved in further education or Job Bridge and 17% were still engaged in training or job placement.
- For Youthreach (which provides ongoing education for young school leavers): 10% of participants went into employment immediately after exit, and 50% went into continued education and training; 60% of participants gained a qualification.
- For Community training centres, 10% were in employment and 11% were in continued education or training immediately upon exit; 21% of participants gained a qualification.

Achievement of targets for results 99% YEI

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

## LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

### YEI

#### Collaboration

Many delivery agents are engaging in an efficient use of resources through collaboration with other agencies to ensure additionality by signposting and cross referral with employers, voluntary and community sector organisations and the Education and Training boards.

#### Nature of support

The nature of the support (closely targeted, intensive, individualised) was emphasised as being of major importance in Ireland.

#### Sustainability

The quality and rigour of the employment supports available through some measures (like MOMENTUM and JobsPlus) was greatly enhanced by being based on labour market intelligence around emerging and growth areas in the economy and the resultant potential for the sustained integration of participants to the labour market.

#### Existing measures

The long history of some measures (like BTWEA, which has existed since 1993 or 'Community Training Centres' - CTC) is considered to contribute to the success of YEI.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Ireland <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=385>

Website of the ESF Ireland <https://www.esf.ie/en/>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF Support to Youth Employment
- PEIL OP Mid-term evaluation – Final Report

