



# THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

### Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018



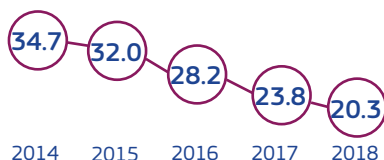
PORTUGAL

## SUMMARY

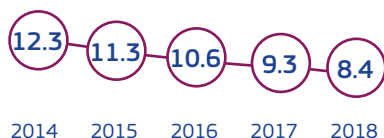
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and Portugal spent a combined total of 510.1 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 59 276 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Portugal. 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 **youth unemployment rate** was **considerably high and far above the EU average** of 22.2%. There were significant differences between regions, ranging from 28.2% in Centro to 50.5% in Madeira. Additionally, the rate of **young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)** was also high and at about the EU average of 12.5%.

► In 2018, the **NEET rate** is considerably lower than the rate observed at the EU level of 10.5%. There are still persisting **important variations by region**, with the Azores' NEET rate being almost double the rate observed across all less developed regions (24.1% vs. 12.3%).

► The **youth unemployment rate** shows a firmly positive development for young people aged 15-24 years, despite its high level compared to the EU average of 15.2%. In addition, the unemployment rate of young people aged 25-29 years is practically the same as that observed across the EU (9.2%). The gap between regions has narrowed.

► The **labour market situation of women** is similar to that of men. Whereas the unemployment rates of women and men of both age groups are about the same, the NEET rate for women aged 25-29 is 2.3 percentage points (pp) higher than that of men. However, the early school-leaving rate of young women (8.9%) is much lower than that of young men (14.7%) and is below the EU level of 10.6%.

### 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 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 225

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

YEI 486

Million Euro

ESF 192

Million Euro

The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI 447

Million Euro

YEI

Two Operational Programmes (OPs) implement specific actions supporting young people's integration into the labour market under Investment Priority 8.ii. The national OP Social Inclusion and Employment covers specific actions through YEI. Until the end of 2018, the national OP and the OP Azores also received ESF funding.

## 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 24 323

YEI 59 276

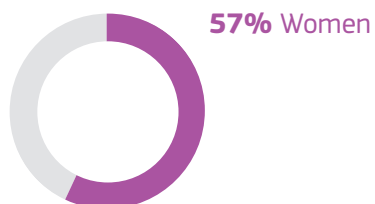
- 73% and 68% of the expected number of participations of young people benefitting, respectively, from a professional traineeship and employment support has been achieved. Until the end of 2023, the target should be easily reached.
- No participations have been reported so far in qualification/education actions because of difficulties faced by the beneficiaries and difficulties faced by the Managing Authority in the assemblage of the information system.

Achievements of targets for participation

47% 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.

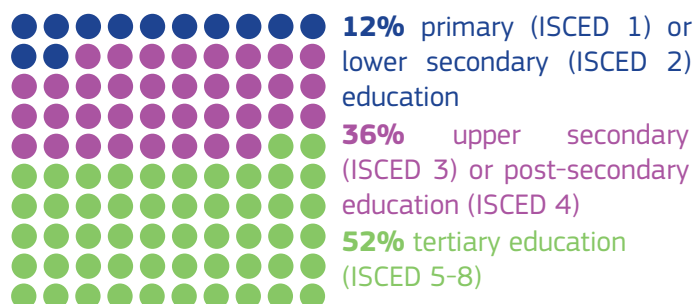
## PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT



57% <25 years  
43% ≥25 years



Other disadvantaged | 705\*



- ▶ While the share of female participants with primary or lower secondary, as well as upper secondary or post-secondary education is around 50%, women make up two thirds of participants with tertiary education.

Overall, **26 017** young people achieved a positive result upon leaving, all under the YEI.

Participants in employment **25 381** **YEI**

Participants in education **636**

Inactive participants engaged in job searching **0**

- ▶ The targeted number of unemployed as well as long-term unemployed participants who completed the YEI supported intervention exceeds the target by 23% each.
- ▶ While the targeted number of participants in employment six months after leaving is overachieved by 24%, this is not the case for participants in self-employment, with an achievement rate of 6% by end-2018.
- ▶ At the present stage, no participants are recorded yet as having gained a qualification

Achievement of targets for results **62%** **YEI**

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

## LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

### ESF

#### Complementarity

Complementarity with the Youth Guarantee (YG) was a challenge for Portugal. There is a need to clarify the articulation between YEI and the YG, in particular in terms of target groups and objectives. Complementarity was ensured through past experience.

#### Public spending

As Portugal is facing severe constraints in public spending, interventions would not have taken place otherwise or in a smaller scale. For example, the reduction of the NEET rate would probably not have been as sharp and/or would have taken more time.

#### Collaboration

Entities working with different programmes are often the same and try to complement operations in a coherent way, e.g. by collaborating in the signaling of young NEETs to YEI or ESF operations through the national strategy for the identification of inactive young people, supported by the EU and the International Labour Organisation.

### YEI

#### Professional traineeships

Professional traineeships within a firm with certification are the most effective and most sustainable type of intervention. In Portugal, around 60% of participants were offered employment with training opportunities.

#### Focus on results

A relevant factor for the effectiveness was the change of focus of public policy from numbers to results. This increased emphasis on results rather than on outputs coincided with simultaneously decreasing NEET and youth unemployment rates.

#### Targeting NEETs

Portugal set up a strong partnership network to overcome the problem of reaching out to those further away from the labour market and to be able to address their needs. This partnership includes young people's associations, municipalities, public employment services etc. and around 1 500 partners. Specific training on how to identify NEETs was provided.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Portugal <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=394>

Website of the ESF Portugal <http://poise.portugal2020.pt/inicio>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF support to Youth Employment
- Final evaluation of the YEI in Portugal

