

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

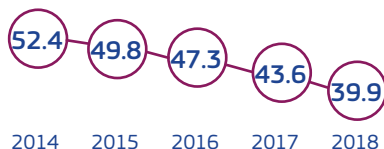
GREECE

SUMMARY

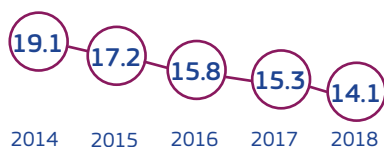
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and Greece spent a combined total of 157.6 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 60 893 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Greece. 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 **among the highest in the EU**. The youth unemployment rates for people aged 15-24 and 25-29 amounted to 52.4% and 40.8% respectively. This shows that **young people in Greece found it disproportionately difficult to access the labour market**.

► In 2018, the **NEET rate** has improved since the beginning of the programming period. One in seven (14.1%) young people aged 15-24 in Greece were not in employment, education or training. For people aged 25-29 years, the NEET rate even showed a considerable reduction of 10 percentage points (from 39.5% to 29.5%).

► The **youth unemployment rate** is more than double the proportion observed across the EU (15.2%). This means that two in five (39.9%) active young people aged 15-24 were unemployed. All types of regions significantly decreased their unemployment rates, but the reduction was higher in less developed regions than in transitional or more developed regions.

► The **labour market situation of women** seems to be worse than that of young men (higher NEET and unemployment rates). This is particularly the case for women aged 25-29 for which both rates are considerably higher than that of 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

YEI **574** Million Euro are budgeted to the support of young people, including national funding

YEI **501** Million Euro
The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI One of the 17 Operational Programmes (OPs) implements specific actions supporting young people's integration into the labour market. The OP Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning covers specific actions through YEI funding only.

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.*

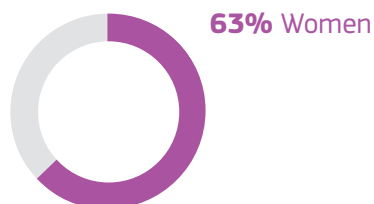
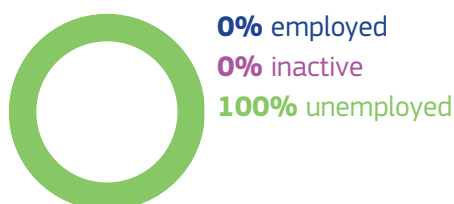
YEI **60 893**

- 56% of job offers concerned permanent contracts (57% of them full-time), which is a very positive indication given the general socio-economic context in Greece.
- The YEI interventions are progressing well in terms of their results and are expected to contribute to the targets set for the sustainable integration of young people into the labour market by 2023.

Achievements of targets for participation **49%** **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



52% <25 years
48% ≥25 years

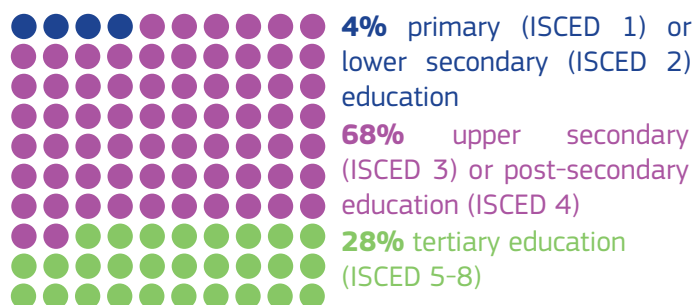


Migrants | 5 795

Other disadvantaged | 1 640*

Participants with disabilities | 288

Homeless | 59



- ▶ Extended age group of eligible persons up to 29 years in the OP: Share of participants above 25 years: 48%.
- ▶ The share of higher qualified participants (ISCED 5-8) is at 28% showing that not only the low skilled have difficulties in entering the labour market.

Overall, **22 129 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving** under the YEI.

Participants in employment **6 509 YEI**

Participants gaining a qualification **14 628**

Participants in education **992**

Inactive participants engaged in job searching **0**

- ▶ Looking at the number of participants having completed the YEI action, the targeted number of positive results shows good progress for the unemployed and the long-term unemployed participants.
- ▶ Two thirds of the long-term unemployed participants, and 80% of the unemployed participants are in education/training, gaining a qualification, or in employment, including self-employment after completion of the YEI action.

Achievement of targets for results

44% YEI

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

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

YEI

Professional guidance

Social partners recognise the value of apprenticeships for their two year duration and they even recommend to increase them to three years. It is regarded as a win-win situation, where the student acquires skills and work experience and the enterprise acquires a more productive employee.

Invisible contribution

The programme had an important contribution in terms of the improvement of personal and social skills, helping young people to improve their self-esteem, self-confidence, getting mature and giving them a moral boost. This in turn contributes to employability and integration in the medium and long term.

Sustainable results

NEETs have benefited from the programme in a sustainable way, by improving their employability. The most important outcome was not the employment offer after completion but the possibility to be in the labour market one year after completion, not necessarily in the enterprise where they did their practical training. Recommendations to ensure sustainability in the future include to design interventions that have a personalised character and to include alternative approaches for the acquisition of practical experience (e.g. company mentors) in order to maximise the possibility of sustainable results.

Targeting key sectors

Implementation of YEI actions in cutting edge sectors of the Greek economy such as tourism, retail or smart specialisation, combining theoretical and practical training, offers the opportunity for specialisation and improves the employability of young people.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Greece <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=382>

Website of the ESF Greece <http://www.esfhellas.gr/en/pages/default.aspx>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF Support to Youth Employment
- 2nd Evaluation of the Youth Employment Initiative 2014-2020

