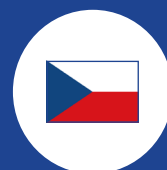




THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

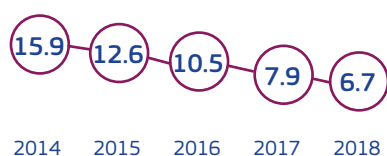
CZECH REPUBLIC

SUMMARY

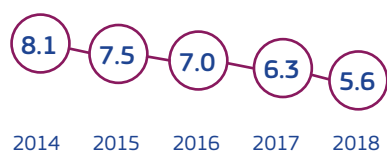
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. To achieve this objective, the Czech Republic and the EU have budgeted a joint total amount of 30 million euro. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and the Czech Republic spent a combined total of 20.6 million euro in ESF/YEI investments. In this intervention, 4 059 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in the Czech Republic. 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 of 12.5% and 22.2% respectively. However, young women found it more difficult than young men to access the labour market.
- ▶ The **NEET rate** in 2018 is nearly half that observed at EU level (10.5%). This is not the case for young people aged 25-29, as their NEET rate is still high (22.6%), despite some positive achievements.
- ▶ The **youth unemployment rates** for **both age groups** are among the **lowest observed across the EU**. It ranges from 4.1% in Central Bohemia to 9.3% in Moravia-Silesia.
- ▶ The **labour market situation of young women** seems slightly worse than that of young men (higher NEET and unemployment rates). This is particularly the case for young women aged 25-29 for which NEET rates are significantly higher than that of men (26.3% vs. 4.6%).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

ESF European Social Fund

OP Operational Programme

YEI Youth Employment Initiative

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

YEI 27 Million Euro
The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI

One of the three ESF funded Operational Programmes (OPs) implements specific actions supporting young people's integration into the labour market. A specific investment priority in the national OP Employment covers actions for young people through YEI funding in three eligible regions in Northwest Bohemia (Region Karlovy Vary and Region Ústí nad Labem) and North Moravia (Moravian-Silesia).

- ▶ **The investment in the OP focuses** on improving the skills of young people and creating job opportunities.

STATE OF PLAY

- ▶ **Number of participants** reported in specific actions promoting the sustainable integration of young people into the labour market by the end of 2018.

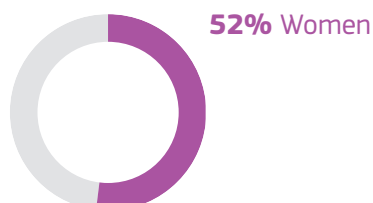
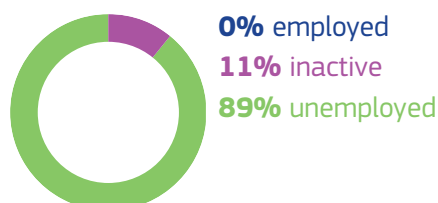
YEI 4 059

- ▶ The achievement of the expected number of participants is already exceeded by the end of 2018, as more than 4 000 out of the targeted 3 100 participants were supported through the YEI.
- ▶ The number of targeted participants of the age group between 25 and 29 years is also exceeded.

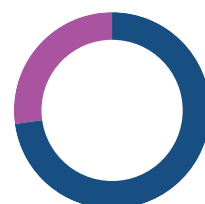
Achievements of targets for participants

154% YEI

PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT



73% <25 years
27% ≥25 years

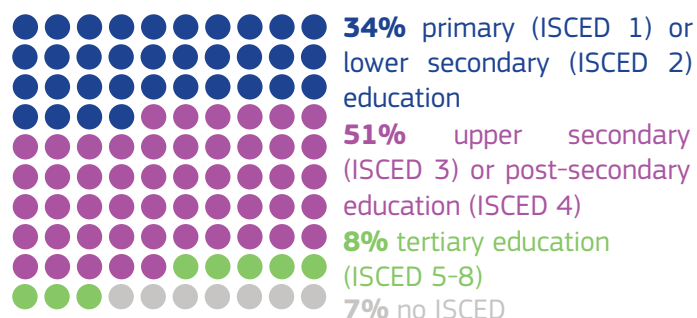


Migrants | 241

Other disadvantaged | 468*

Participants with disabilities | 280

Homeless | 48



- ▶ Extended age group of eligible persons up to 29 years in the OP: Share of participants above 25 years: ⇨ 27%.
- ▶ About 25% of the total number of participants belongs to a disadvantaged group.
- ▶ The actions supported by the YEI had a strong focus on the lower skilled leading to a share of 34% of participants with primary or lower secondary education.

Overall, **2 029 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving** under the YEI.

Participants in employment **1 757 YEI**

Participants gaining a qualification **242**

Participants in education **30**

Inactive participants engaged in job searching **0**

- ▶ 56% of the participants in the Czech Republic were in employment after leaving (and a further 10% were expected to start employment within the following month). Additionally, 3% were in education (10% indicated an intention to return to education).
- ▶ The expected number of results is already achieved by the end of 2018 for most of the target groups, especially for the inactive and unemployed participants.

Achievement of targets for results **109% YEI**

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

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

YEI

Needs are met

YEI is relevant and suitable for responding to the employment needs of young people and is considered to help the intended target groups in particular.

Sustainability

Six months after completing the measure, respondents with higher education were more likely to be in employment, or work placements. Among those who had a job half a year after leaving the project, there were 64% with primary education, 81% with secondary education and 89% with tertiary education.

Reaching disadvantaged

The measures managed by the regional authorities were able to reach in particular the most disadvantaged young people (such as those with low education level or from minorities). However, due to the significant decrease of the youth unemployment rate, it became difficult to reach the target group.

Flexibility

The significant decrease of the youth unemployment rate allowed a certain degree of flexibility enabling a stronger focus of the YEI on supporting actions in the Moravian-Silesian Region, which did not show the same decrease in youth unemployment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in the Czech Republic <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=374>

Website of the ESF Czech Republic <https://www.esfcr.cz/>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF Support to Youth Employment
- Evaluation of the YEI in the Czech Republic

