



THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

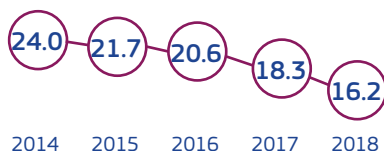
ROMANIA

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 Romania spent a combined total of 2 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 22 866 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Romania. 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 neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)** and the youth unemployment were both high and above the EU averages (respectively 12.5% and 22.2%). The country came fifth in the ranking for NEETs in the EU. This shows that in Romania, young people face specific difficulties to access education and the labour market.

► Despite decreasing, in 2018, the **NEET rate** remains relatively high. There are persisting important variations by region, with the Centru region having significantly higher NEET rates for young people than the capital region Bucuresti-Ilfov (23.9% vs. 7.9%).

► The **youth unemployment rate** is slightly above the EU average (15.2%). However, there are regional disparities, ranging from 9.1% in Nord-Est to 27.6% in Centru.

► Romania has the **highest NEETs gender gap** among people aged 15-24 (6.4 percentage points). Although the Youth Guarantee does target the 15-24 age group, it should be noted that the situation of young NEETs women aged 25-29 seems to be even worse, reaching 30.6% (17.5 percentage points gender gap).

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 497

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

YEI 329

Million Euro

ESF 421

Million Euro
The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI 302

Million Euro

ESF YEI The Operational Programme Human Capital implements specific actions to support young people's integration into the labour market through ESF and YEI funding.

- **The investments in the OP focus** on personalised integrated packages for young people. Outreach activities of the non-registered NEETs to the Public Employment Service are followed by measures such as counselling, orientation, training support for setting up companies and support for mobility to find a job in another region.

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 21 598

YEI 1 268

- The achievement of the expected number of participations is low both for the ESF and the YEI due to delays in the implementation.

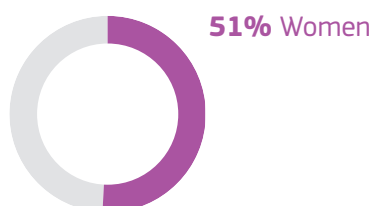
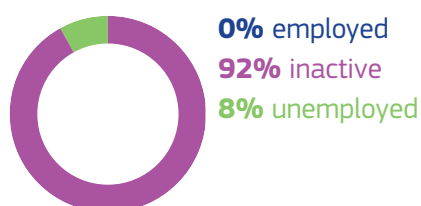
ESF 3%

Achievements of targets for participation

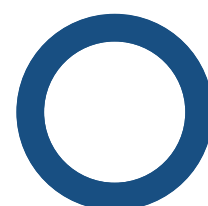
2% YEI

* 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.

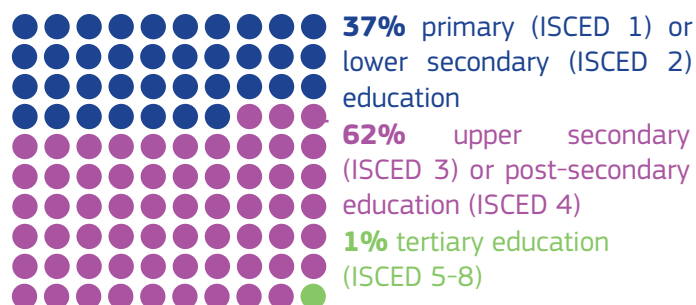
PARTICIPANT PROFILES WHEN RECEIVING SUPPORT



100% <25 years
0% ≥25 years



Migrants, participants with a foreign background, minorities (including marginalised communities, as Roma people)* | 481



► Differences in the educational level: Share of ESF participants with upper secondary or post-secondary education (ISCED 3): 91% ↔ Share of YEI participants with primary or lower secondary education (ISCED 1 or 2): 51%.

Overall, 1 360 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving, 39 under the ESF and 1 321 under the YEI.

ESF 32 Participants in employment 0 YEI

7 Participants gaining a qualification 0

0 Participants in education 0

0 Inactive participants engaged in job searching 0

Long-term unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention 480

Unemployed participants who complete the YEI supported intervention 841

► The achievement of the expected number of participations is low both for the ESF and the YEI due to delays in the implementation.

ESF 2% Achievement of targets for results

1% YEI

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

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

ESF

Defining the trajectory

Experience shows that the precise profiling (identifying needs, employability, skills, etc.) of NEETs is essential to the successful integration to the labour market. However, those efforts should be combined with a better case management approach, in order to provide tailor-made services, and prevent the NEETs of becoming long-term unemployed, discouraged, or inactive in the future.

Youth Guarantee

The increase of the level of subsidies (from approx. EUR 165 to EUR 300) per month have indeed led to higher attractiveness of the measures. However, further efforts are needed in increasing the quality offers, and collecting follow-up data on the people employed under the programme.

YEI

Lack of coordination

In Romania, it is recognised that the complementarity of YEI with other initiatives is limited, and the lack of coordination between the responsible institutions led to implementation delays.

Open-ended contract

43% of participants working after participation to YEI had an open-ended contract and 41% worked full-time.

Sustainable results

75% of participants who got a job kept it three months after the completion of the programme and just over half of the participants indicated to be working in the field in which they were trained.

Lack of mobility

Outreach of young NEETs in the rural areas is considered a challenge. Projects specifically designed to support the outreach measures show positive results. However, efforts in increasing the outreach scope are still needed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Romania <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=395>

Website of the ESF Romania <http://www.fonduri-ue.ro/>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF support to Youth Employment
- Evaluation of the YEI implemented through Priority Axis 1 of Human Capital OP 2014-2020

