

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

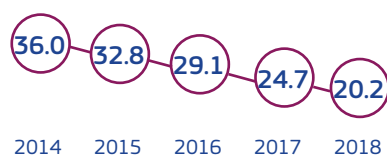
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SUMMARY

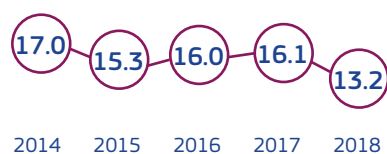
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and Cyprus spent a combined total of 22 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 6 786 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Cyprus. 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. Particularly the age group 15-24 was affected by high unemployment, especially young men with an unemployment rate amounting to 37.4%. This shows that **young people found it disproportionately difficult to access the labour market**.
- ▶ The **NEET rate** in 2018 is still higher than the rate observed across the EU (10.5%). The NEET rate for young people aged 25-29 is the same as the EU average (17.1%).
- ▶ The **youth unemployment rate** is still high and above the EU average (15.2%). However, the youth unemployment rate is **significantly lower for young people aged 25-29**, as well as only slightly above the rate observed at EU level (9.2%).
- ▶ The **labour market situation of young women** seems to be better than that of young men when looking at the age group 15-24 (lower NEET and unemployment rates). However, the labour market situation of young women and men aged 25-29 seems to be the same with rates about at EU averages.

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 8

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

YEI 39
Million Euro

ESF 7

Million Euro

The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI 36
Million Euro

ESF YEI Cyprus has one Operational Programme (OP) implementing specific actions to support young people's integration into the labour market. This national OP Employment, Human Capital and Social Cohesion covers specific actions through ESF and YEI funding.

► The investments in the OP focus on the transition into work through job placements and apprenticeships.

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 1 653

YEI 5 133

► Both under the ESF and the YEI the number of participations is as expected and the targets will easily be achieved by the end of 2023.

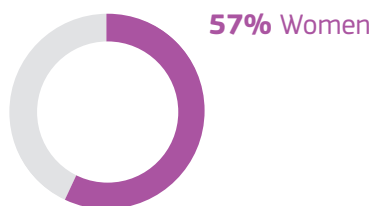
ESF 92%

Achievements of targets for participation

91% 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



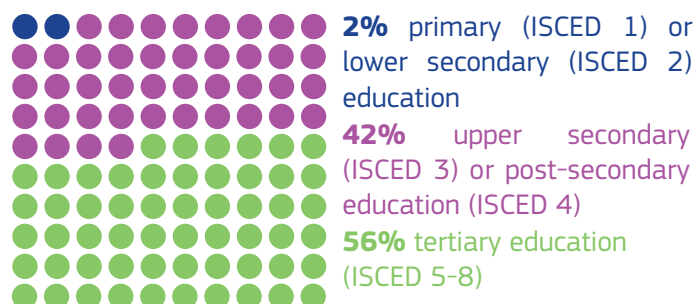
73% <25 years
27% ≥25 years



Migrants | 74

Other disadvantaged | 904*

Participants with disabilities | 97



- ▶ No variations in labour market status: Under both funds, the share of unemployed is 100%.
- ▶ Extended age group of eligible persons up to 29 years in the OP: Share of participants above 25 years: ⇨ 27%.
- ▶ Differences in terms of the educational level of participants: 100% of the ESF participants have tertiary education, while this share is at 42% for YEI participants.

Overall, **1 534 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving**, 551 under the ESF and 983 under the YEI.

ESF 376	Participants in employment	591 YEI
101	Participants gaining a qualification	338
74	Participants in education	54
0	Inactive participants engaged in job searching	0

- ▶ Under the ESF, 75% of the participants are in employment after completing the action. This high share is most likely linked to the high educational level of the participants. Under the YEI, six months after completion, the rate is at 36%.
- ▶ 39% of participants in the project for the 'Acquisition of work experience for young unemployed graduates' received a full-time permanent contract.

ESF 75%	Achievement of targets for results	27% YEI
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* Participants may refuse to give this information. Consequently, disadvantages are likely to be underreported.

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

YEI

Complementarity

The YEI funded programme is coherent and complementary with other existing policies supporting youth employment. The fact that it is the same authority, that manages a variety of programmes including YEI is seen as crucial for ensuring coherence between them.

Innovative steps

In Cyprus, apart from higher recruitment incentives in case of green and blue jobs, the real innovation lies in the targeting of NEETs.

Flexibility

The decision in Cyprus to extend the age limit for coverage of the Youth Employment Initiative and the Youth Guarantee from 25 to 29 years responded to the difficulties faced by this age group for entering the labour market.

Increasing employment

Over half of participants in 'Acquisition of work experience for young unemployed graduates' were employed six months after exit, about 5% were self-employed and the same proportion were in education, training or apprenticeships.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Cyprus <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=373>

Website of the ESF Cyprus <https://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF Support to Youth Employment
- 2nd evaluation of the YEI

