

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Support to Youth Employment: 2014-2018

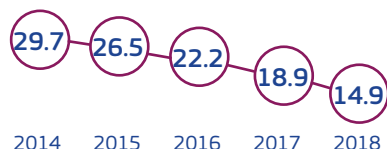
SLOVAKIA

SUMMARY

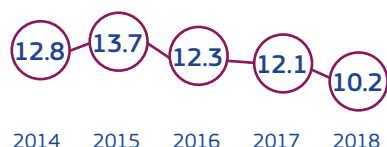
Youth Employment measures funded by the YEI and the ESF aim at improving access to employment for young people. During the period 2014-2018, the EU and Slovakia spent a combined total of 90.1 million euro in ESF/YEI investments to achieve this objective. As a result, 88 044 participations in youth employment activities have taken place in Slovakia. 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** (12.5% and 22.2% respectively). The labour market situation was slightly worse for young women than for young men, as NEET rates for young women aged 25-29 was 18 percentage points (pp) higher than those of men.
- The **NEET rate** in 2018 is practically the same as that observed across the EU (10.5%). However, NEET rates for the age group 25-29 are much higher than the EU level (21.3% vs. 17.1%). **Differences between regions** persist with NEET rates ranging **from 6.7% in the capital region of Bratislava to 14.8% in Východné Slovensko**.
- In 2018, the **youth unemployment rate** is similar to the EU average of 15.2%. Existing **variations by regions** remain, though **the gap has narrowed**. The youth unemployment rate ranges from 8% in Západné Slovensko to 22.2% in Východné Slovensko.
- The **labour market situation of women** seems less favourable than that of men (higher NEET and unemployment rates). This is particularly the case for women aged 25-29 for which NEET rates are considerably higher than those of men (31.7% vs. 11.2%).

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 228

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

YEI 207

Million Euro
The EU contributes a large share of this funding

YEI

One of the two Operational Programmes (OPs) implements specific actions supporting young people's integration into the labour market. The national OP Human Resources covers specific actions through YEI only.

- **The investments in the OP focus** on skills and helping young people into work through the provision of on-the-job training, the creation of first regular paid employment and active labour market services.

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 88 044

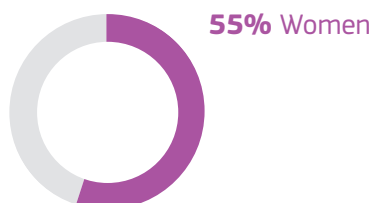
- The target of the expected number of participations below 29 years is already achieved by the end of 2018.

Achievements of targets for participation

107% 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



65% <25 years
35% ≥25 years

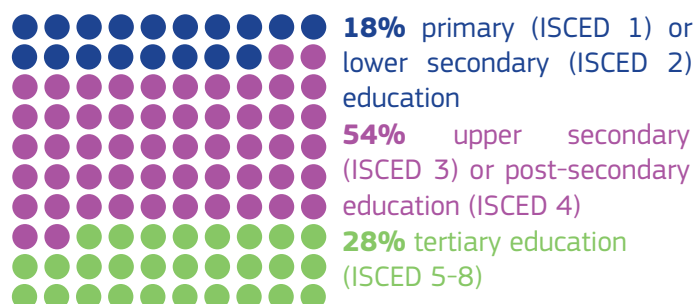


Participants belonging to minority groups | 5 001

Other disadvantaged | 2 024*

Participants with disabilities | 660

Homeless | 122



- ▶ Extended age group of eligible persons up to 29 years in the OP resulted in a share of 35% of 25 to 29 year olds.
- ▶ The share of participants with secondary education (ISCED 3-4) is very high, indicating that they face the most difficulties when entering the labour market.

Overall, **31 573 young people achieved a positive result upon leaving** under the YEI.

Participants in employment **31 434** YEI

Participants gaining a qualification **6**

Participants in education **123**

Inactive participants engaged in job searching **10**

- ▶ The targeted number of positive results has already been exceeded for the unemployed and the long-term unemployed, while the targets for the inactive have not been reached, as no projects have been realised for this target group.
- ▶ Long-term results six months after leaving the measure indicate the strong impact of the implemented interventions, as the target of bringing 20 564 people into employment was already reached (28 380) by the end of 2018.

Achievement of targets for results **110%** YEI

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

LESSONS LEARNED SO FAR

YEI

Cultural change

In Slovakia, there is evidence of a cultural change, with the government being committed to assist hard-to-employ groups in their integration to the labour market, although the content of the measures will depend on the demands of the labour market.

Educated participants

By degree of vulnerability of young people, Slovakia shows that better educated participants (with a University degree) are more likely to be employed shortly after the completion of the practice.

Marginalised Roma

Where there is emphasis on the marginalised Roma community, the main difficulty in addressing the needs of this target group is the lack of social workers who are specialised and trained in delivering employment services.

Disconnected policies

The low employability of young Roma is mainly caused by their low educational attainment. This is very poorly reflected by the YEI, which contains few skill upgrading/training aspects. Training schemes have only been introduced recently, but the criticism that early school dropouts (from Roma communities particularly) have no chance to complete their education had existed for several years. This shows a lack of interconnected educational and employment policies in Slovakia.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ESF in Slovakia <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=397>

Website of the ESF Slovakia <https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/esf/kontaktujte-nas/platobna-jednotka-esf/>

- European Commission, Study for the Evaluation of ESF support to Youth Employment
- 2nd evaluation report on the implementation of YEI 2018

