

Co-operation Generates Results

Results of the Monitoring and Evaluation of
the Finnish Youth Guarantee

The Rehabilitation Foundation



Monitoring and Evaluation of the Finnish Youth Guarantee

- The Rehabilitation Foundation and the Research Centre for Social and Health Economy at the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences undertook a research support project for the youth guarantee
- Research support provided monitoring and evaluation of the **implementation of the youth guarantee during its first year**, as well as **development of the indicators** to be used in evaluating the effectiveness of the youth guarantee.
- The results are based on analysis of written documents, register research, questionnaires and interviews, as well as, regional development workshops.



Challenges and Success Factors of the Youth Guarantee

- The results show that the concept of the youth guarantee has **good public awareness**, but both young people and employers need more substantial information about its contents and opportunities.
- On average, the implementation of the youth guarantee is considered achievable to a fairly high degree, and even more so in the near future.
- Most of the young people and employers participating in the study considered the **youth guarantee generally beneficial for young people**, and young people are better catered for in terms of services offered to them.
- Youth participation in planning the services has not increased to any notable degree.



Challenges and Success Factors of the Youth Guarantee

- According to the employment statistics the unemployment rate of young persons under 25-years of age was higher in 2013 than year before, however it was lower than in 2009-2011.
- The re-organisation of the customer services, office network and PE-services hampered the implementation of the youth guarantee during the first six months of 2013. However, the functionality and access to the services has improved by the year 2014.
- The follow-up of the educational guarantee shows that in 2013 the transition rate of students from primary schools to vocational education has improved, and the amount of those young persons left without a study place has decreased.



Implementation of the Youth Guarantee Across the Country

- The youth guarantee has been introduced and implemented rather unevenly in the municipalities across the country.
- The youth guarantee has resulted in improved resources for youth services, including **youth workshops and youth outreach work**, improved the selection of services for young people and contributed to better referral practices.
- The youth guarantee has been most successfully implemented within municipal youth services, whereas implementation within social, health and rehabilitation services has fallen short.



Success Factors of the Youth Guarantee in the Municipalities

- In many municipalities and regions the implementation has been successful and innovative, and the guarantee has been raised as a political priority.
- Many municipalities have started **innovative low-threshold, single-point youth services**, which are integrating all services for young people, providing information and counselling and case-management services. This preventive and early-stage service model has turned out to be successful. The government policy is to start this kind of integrated low-threshold services in all municipalities and regions.



Good Results through Improved Co-operation

- The youth guarantee has improved internal co-operation within organizations providing services for young people and co-operation with educational institutions and employers has also increased.
- There is, however, still a need to develop multi-professional practices for co-operation, and co-operation with employers.
- The youth guarantee has also had an effect on the practices of organizations providing youth services, but further adjustments of the practice models are still required. The effects are expected to become stronger in the future.
- **In implementing the youth guarantee, focus should be placed on co-ordinated, mutually agreed and adaptable region-specific models for co-operation.**

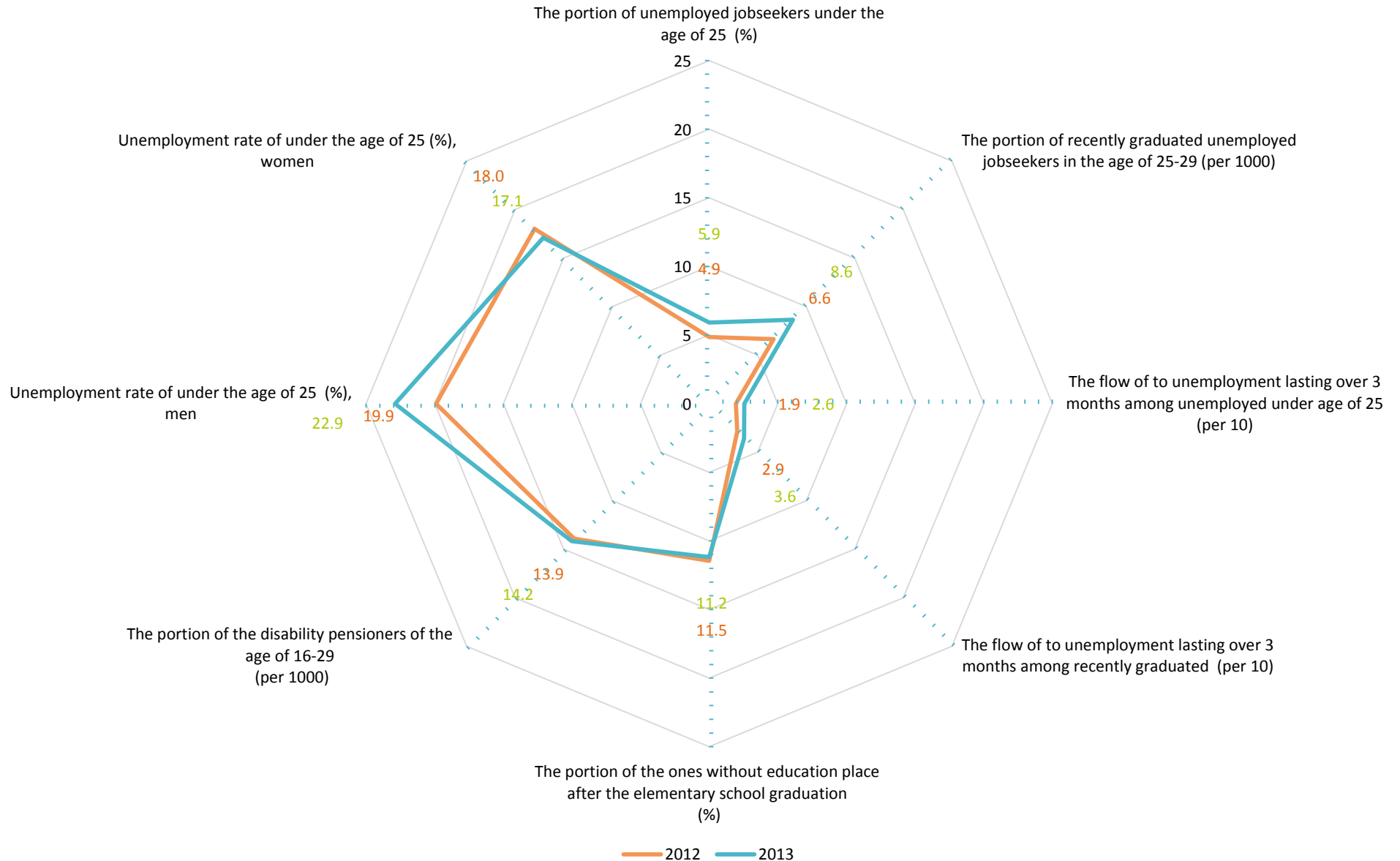


Development of the Monitoring Indicators

- As a part of the research and support project specific monitoring indicators were developed: 31 of them as **impact indicators** showing statistical information on the employment, education and risks of social exclusion of young people, and 25 **measure indicators** monitoring the implementation of the services provided
- In order for the indicators used in monitoring the effects of the youth guarantee to be applicable it is vital that relevant data collection continues and is regularly updated.
- The financial evaluation of the youth guarantee did not provide a comprehensive view of the economic effects, since the existing statistics and monitoring of grants, resources and services did not provide sufficient information.



Key indicators years 2012 ja 2013, average in Finland, Promotion of youth employment

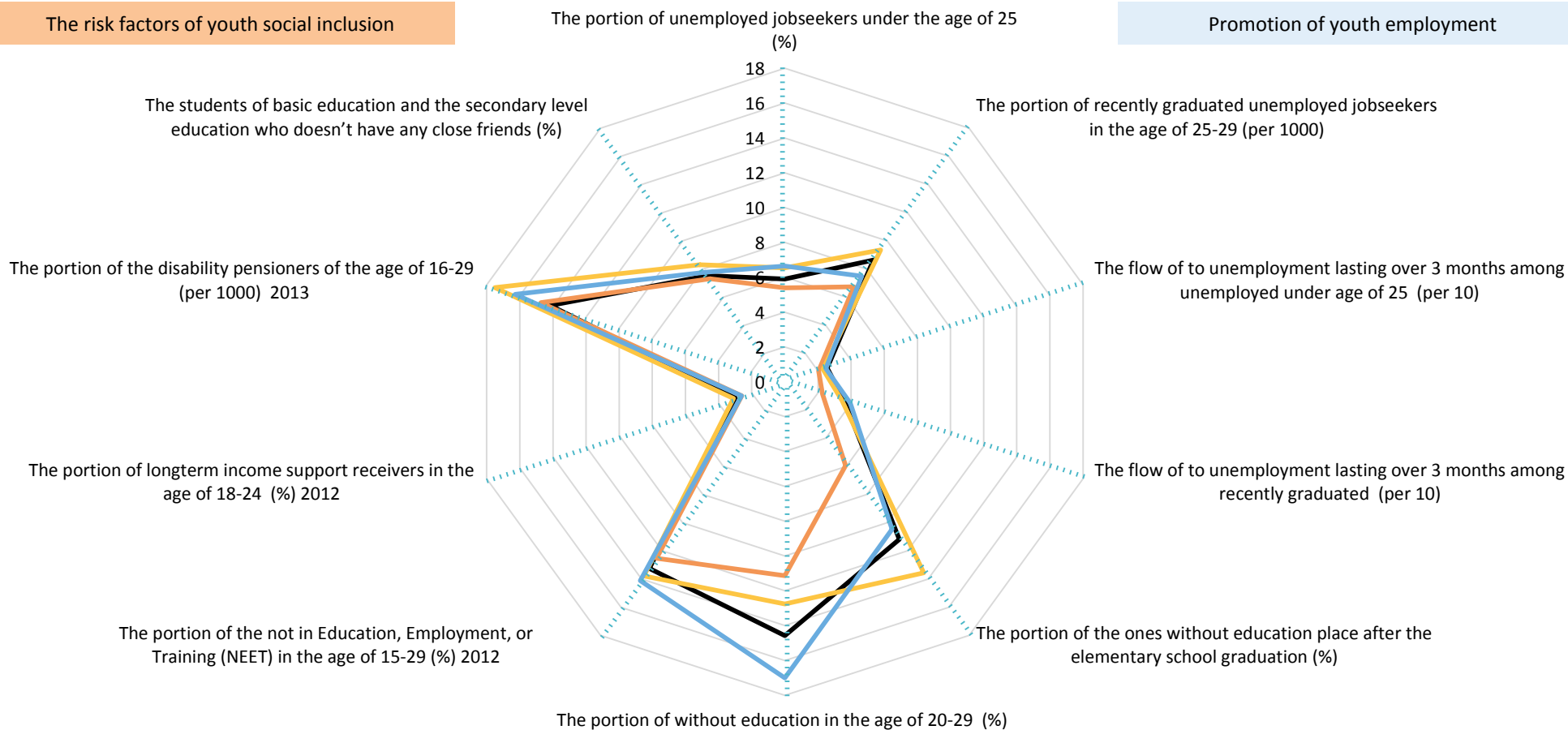


Key indicators, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

Group 1 (totally 15 regions)

The risk factors of youth social inclusion

Promotion of youth employment



Prevention of youth social exclusion

Education guarantee accomplishment

— Average in Finland — South Ostrobothnia — Southern Savonia — Tavastia

Concluding Remarks

- The key premises of the Finnish youth guarantee is comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to support young persons
- The youth guarantee has good public awareness and it has been raised as a political priority both nationally and locally
- The youth guarantee contributes to improved co-operation between various actors providing services and support for young people
- The youth guarantee contributes to the aim to introduce early intervention, low-threshold, single-point integrated youth services, which have turned out to be successful

