The EU Youth Report 2012 summarises the results of the first 3 years of the EU Youth Strategy and proposes to prioritise employment and entrepreneurship, as well as social inclusion, health and well-being over the next 3 years.

One of the aims of the EU Youth Report is to present an updated analysis on the situation of young people in the European Union.

Key data on the situation of young people in the European Union in 2012

Increasingly difficult labour market. The youth unemployment rate in the EU (age 15-24) increased by 50 % since the financial crisis hit, from 15 % in Feb 2008 to 22.5 % in July 2012. Among the unemployed 30% have been without a job for more than one year.

Increase in ‘youth not in employment, education or training’ (NEET). After several years of decline, the share of NEETs levelled out in 2007 and has sharply increased since 2008. Given that NEETs are overrepresented in families with a low household income and high unemployment, this increase is clearly linked to the current financial crisis.

More school, less work. Until 2009, the share of young people in full-time education or employment was relatively stable. Since then, the share of students is going up while that of young employees is going down. Young people who lose their job return to education in higher numbers than before.
Young people’s well-being under pressure. Young people’s health and general well-being has been impacted by the crisis. Unemployment, poverty and family disruptions significantly increase the risk of mental health problems such as depression, alcohol-use, disorders and even lead to suicide. Such problems can often have lifelong consequences.

Youth at greater risk of social exclusion and poverty. The share of young people at risk of social exclusion and poverty is higher than that of the general population. From 2009 to 2010, the risk of poverty rate among young people rose faster than for the general population.

Fewer early school leavers. Some progress has been made in reducing the share of early school leavers. Although the share dropped from 14.9 % in 2008 to 13.5 % in 2011, it would be hard to reduce it much further.

But young people remain active. Youth participation in democratic life has not suffered as a result of the crisis. On the contrary, youth organisations are flourishing across Europe.

Decline & growth of youth population across Europe (2000-2010)

Youth population (15-29), demographic change between 2000-2010

The full report and National Reports can be found on: http://ec.europa.eu/youth