

12 August: International Youth Day

Education, employment, both or neither?

What are young people doing in the EU?

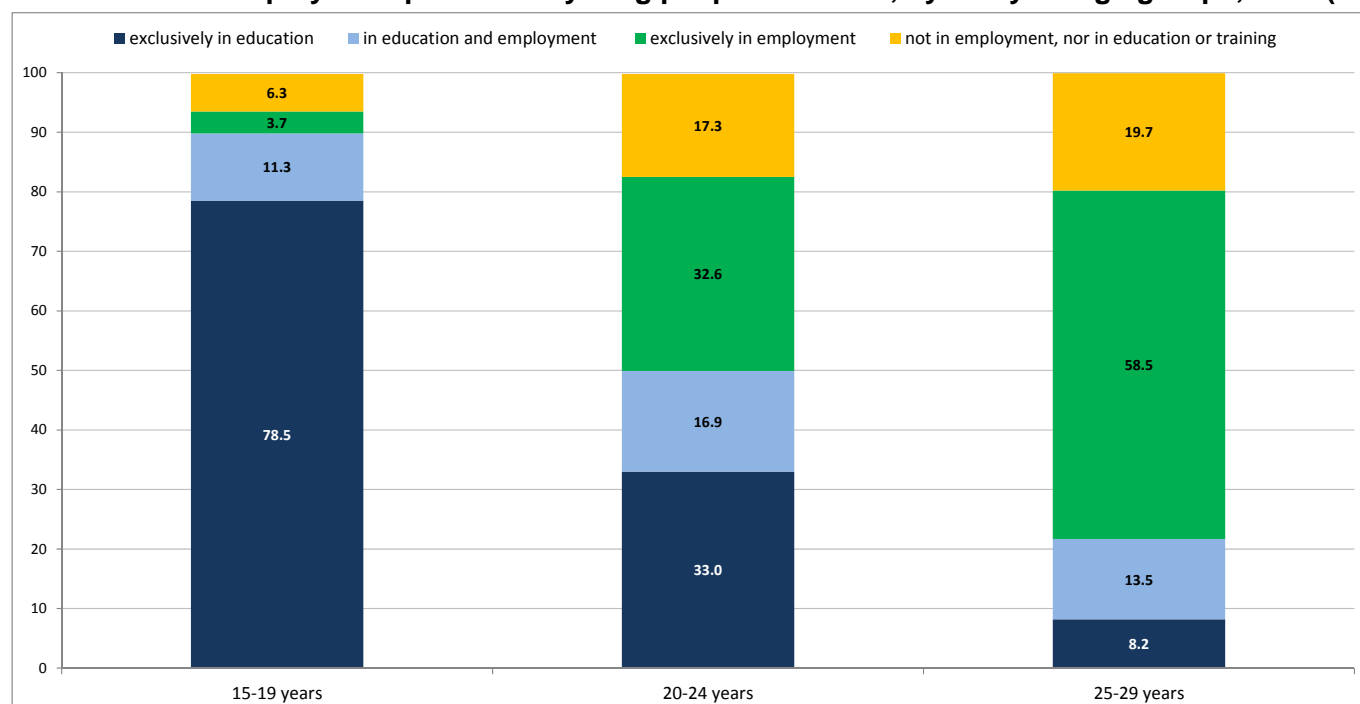
Patterns substantially change by age and over time

The **European Union** (EU) totals almost 90 million people aged 15-29, representing 17% of its population. These young people are in very different situations, with education and employment patterns varying considerably between Member States and by age group.

Between the ages of 15 and 29, a clear and significant shift occurs from the world of education to the world of employment. While in the 15-19 age group the vast majority of people in the **EU** were in education in 2015, the opposite is true for those aged 25-29: most of them were in employment. In-between, young people aged 20-24 were relatively evenly distributed between education and employment. Moreover, the proportion of young people neither in employment nor in education or training (NEET) increases considerably with age. The NEET rate, which stood at 6.3% for the age group 15-19 in 2015, almost tripled to 17.3% for the age group 20-24 and reached almost 1 young person in 5 aged 25-29 (19.7%).

This information is issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, on the eve of the International Youth Day. This News Release shows only a small selection of the wide range of data related to young people in the EU available at Eurostat.

Education and employment patterns of young people in the EU, by five-year age groups, 2015 (%)

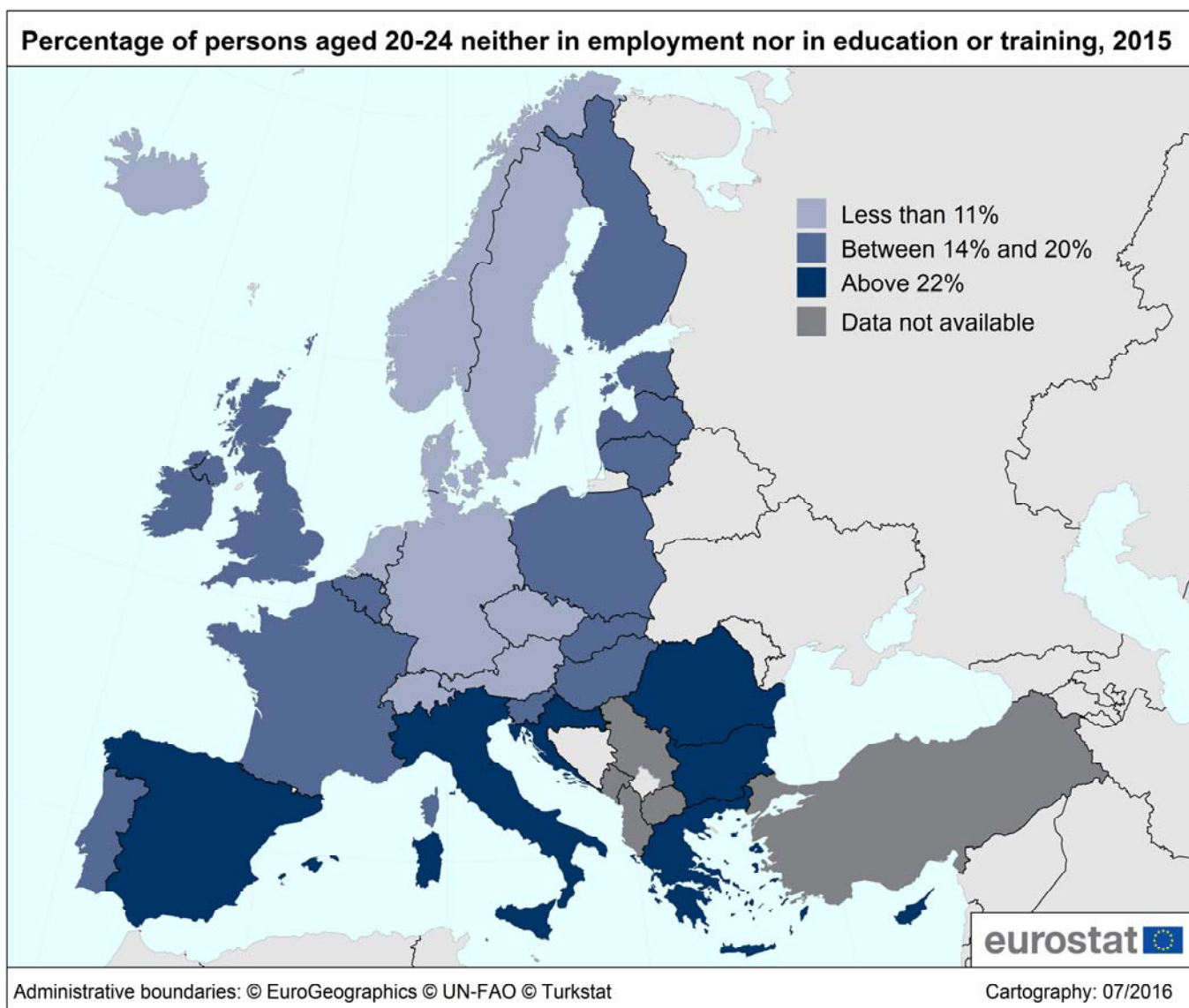


Focus on "NEET" in the age group 20-24

Largest share of NEET aged 20-24 in Italy and Greece, lowest in the Netherlands and Luxembourg

In 2015 across Member States, more than 1 in every 4 young persons aged 20-24 was neither in employment nor in education or training in **Italy** (31.1%) as well as in **Greece** (26.1%) and more than 1 in every 5 was also in this situation in **Croatia** (24.2%), **Romania** (24.1%), **Bulgaria** (24.0%), **Spain** and **Cyprus** (both 22.2%). In contrast, the lowest NEET rates among young persons aged 20-24 were recorded in the **Netherlands** (7.2%), **Luxembourg** (8.8%), **Denmark**, **Germany** and **Sweden** (all 9.3%), **Malta** and **Austria** (both 9.8%) as well as the **Czech Republic** (10.8%).

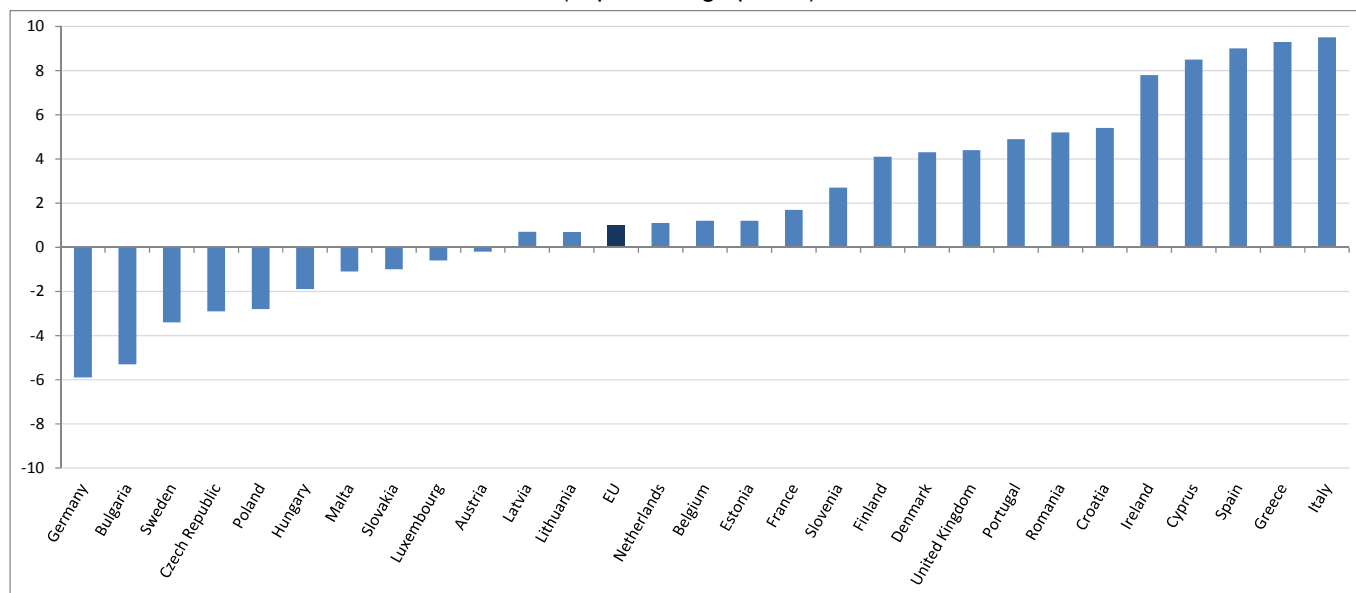
At **EU** level, almost 5 million young persons aged 20-24 (or 17.3%) were in 2015 neither in employment nor in education or training.



Highest increase in NEET rate in Italy, Greece and Spain, highest drop in Germany and Bulgaria

Although the proportion of young people aged 20-24 neither in employment nor in education or training remained relatively stable in the **EU** as a whole between 2006 and 2015, important changes occurred over the last decade in Member States. In ten of them, the NEET rate has decreased, with the most significant reductions being registered in **Germany** (from 15.2% in 2006 to 9.3% in 2015, or -5.9 percentage points – pp), **Bulgaria** (-5.3 pp), **Sweden** (-3.4 pp), the **Czech Republic** (-2.9 pp) and **Poland** (-2.8 pp). In the other eighteen Member States, the situation has deteriorated, with the proportion of persons aged 20-24 neither in employment nor in education or training increasing notably in **Italy** (from 21.6% to 31.1%, or +9.5 pp), **Greece** (+9.3 pp), **Spain** (+9.0 pp), **Cyprus** (+8.5 pp), **Ireland** (+7.8 pp), **Croatia** (+5.4 pp), **Romania** (+5.2 pp), **Portugal** (+4.9 pp), the **United Kingdom** (+4.4 pp) **Denmark** (+4.3 pp) and **Finland** (+4.1 pp).

Change in the NEET rate for people aged 20-24 in the EU Member States, 2015/2006 (in percentage points)



Geographical information

The **European Union (EU)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

Data on education and employment patterns presented in this News Release are based on the EU Labour Force Survey.

The indicator **young people neither in employment nor in education and training**, abbreviated as **NEET**, corresponds to the percentage of the population of a given age group who are not employed and not involved in further education or training. The numerator of the indicator refers to persons meeting these two conditions: they are not employed (i.e. they are unemployed or inactive) and they have not received any formal or non-formal education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey.

For more information

Eurostat [website section](#) dedicated to youth statistics.

Eurostat [database](#) on youth statistics.

Eurostat publication "[Being young in Europe today](#)" (2015 edition).

Eurofound report: "[Exploring the diversity of NEETs](#)"

Eurostat [interactive tool](#) on young Europeans.

Eurostat [infographic](#) on young people and internet use.

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Education and employment patterns for young people aged 20-24 in the EU Member States, %

	2006				2015			
	Exclusively in education	In education and employment	Exclusively in employment	Not in employment, nor in education or training	Exclusively in education	In education and employment	Exclusively in employment	Not in employment, nor in education or training
EU	29.7	15.4	38.1	16.3	33.0	16.9	32.6	17.3
Belgium	35.2	6.1	42.3	16.3	42.3	5.2	35.0	17.5
Bulgaria	26.0	6.4	38.3	29.3	42.1	6.9	27.0	24.0
Czech Republic	37.5	4.4	44.4	13.7	42.7	8.5	37.9	10.8
Denmark	22.4	42.3	30.6	5.0	26.1	42.3	22.3	9.3
Germany	23.8	24.3	36.6	15.2	27.0	30.1	33.5	9.3
Estonia	31.1	16.2	38.9	13.9	28.1	20.6	36.3	15.1
Ireland	17.5	15.7	54.6	11.9	29.9	12.6	37.8	19.7
Greece	43.5	4.2	35.4	16.8	49.7	4.8	19.5	26.1
Spain	28.9	13.6	44.3	13.2	46.3	9.2	22.2	22.2
France	34.5	12.2	36.9	16.4	33.7	19.3	28.9	18.1
Croatia	39.1	4.5	37.7	18.8	44.1	4.5	27.2	24.2
Italy	37.0	5.3	36.1	21.6	41.4	3.7	23.6	31.1
Cyprus	21.0	10.4	54.9	13.7	33.2	9.4	35.2	22.2
Latvia	23.7	16.6	44.3	15.4	28.7	15.0	40.2	16.1
Lithuania	40.9	9.7	35.8	13.7	35.9	14.9	34.8	14.4
Luxembourg	48.9	4.1	37.6	9.4	47.1	17.2	26.7	8.8
Hungary	42.8	4.5	34.3	18.4	40.2	6.4	36.9	16.5
Malta	19.1	7.2	62.9	10.9	24.5	11.8	53.9	9.8
Netherlands	16.3	41.2	36.4	6.1	23.4	42.1	27.3	7.2
Austria	23.0	18.0	49.0	10.0	24.1	23.8	42.4	9.8
Poland	39.5	14.2	25.9	20.4	38.0	10.4	34.0	17.6
Portugal	33.7	4.8	49.0	12.6	42.3	8.5	31.7	17.5
Romania	34.6	3.2	35.0	18.9	36.4	1.9	37.7	24.1
Slovenia	36.0	24.1	28.6	11.3	41.5	22.0	22.5	14.0
Slovakia	33.8	3.8	42.1	20.2	41.3	3.7	35.8	19.2
Finland	29.7	28.3	30.3	11.6	27.4	24.9	32.0	15.7
Sweden	27.5	19.9	39.8	12.7	30.0	26.8	33.8	9.3
United Kingdom	14.1	25.5	33.5	10.6	16.9	21.5	46.3	15.0
Iceland	20.1	37.3	37.1	5.4	15.3	43.3	35.7	5.6
Norway	22.8	30.0	39.0	7.4	24.7	32.8	33.4	8.2
Switzerland	15.4	34.1	41.7	8.8	20.1	39.9	30.6	9.5

Data shown in blue represent the highest share.
The source dataset can be found [here](#).