

# th CONFERENCE on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy

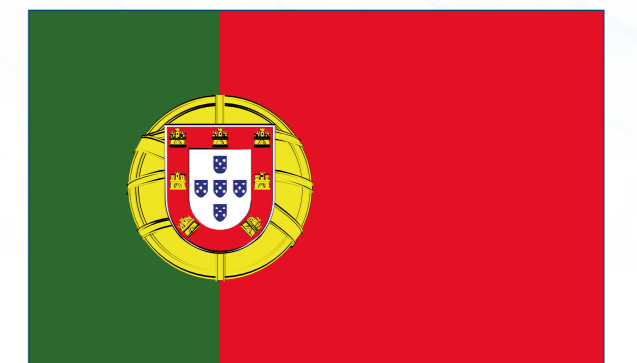
16-17 September 2021 Porto, Portugal

## Shaping Transitions with Evidence



### Impact Evaluation of the Youth Employment Initiative

Social Inclusion and Employment Operational Programme (PO ISE) Managing Authority



#### FUNDS COVERED

► ESF, YEI

#### PROGRAMMING PERIOD

► 2014-2020

#### PROGRAMME COVERED

Social Inclusion and Employment Operational Programme

#### THEMATIC

T08. Employment and labour market

#### TYPE OF EVALUATION

► Impact



#### YEAR OF COMPLETION

► 2021

#### MAIN OBJECTIVES

(i) Determine the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the YEI; (ii) Explain how the supported interventions produced the observed effects and the critical factors of success (and underachievement); (iii) To establish evidence of the YEI rationale and (iv) To verify the adequacy of support tools to the objectives of the programme.

#### METHODOLOGY USED

- Theory based Evaluation/Theory of Change (ToC)
- Counterfactual Impact Evaluation/Exact Matching and Optimal Matching Algorithm (OMA).

#### DATA SOURCES

- Data collected by Public Employment Services and Social Security registers
- POISE MA database
- Data collected through a Former YEI Measures Participants Survey.

#### MAIN FINDINGS

- After 4 weeks, 7 out of 10 participants **ceased to be NEET**; these were 8 out of 10, 6 months after



- There are positive effects on **speed of getting a job, access to employment, income, quality of job offers** (suitability to participants qualifications, sustainability, type of contract) as well as other immaterial effects as self confidence in one's skills, proactivity in job search
- **Internships and Hiring Supports** are the measures showing the greater effectiveness (85% and 89% of participants is employed 1 year after YEI participation)

#### Employed Participants 1 year after YEI ends



- The **counterfactual analysis proves** that even considering that most YEI interventions were held during a job growth period, having participated in a professional internship/hiring support measure under the YEI offered advantages:
  - in **obtaining a job** (+ 16 p.p.\* probability of obtaining a job for 12 months of internship and +32,8 p.p.\* for 12 months of hiring supports),
  - having a **better paid job** (+179€\* for 12 months of internship and +225€\* for 12 hiring supports)
  - these net **effects are variable according** to the type and length of the interventions which ranged from 6 to 18 months (the differences on internships vary from + 9,1 p.p.\* probability of obtaining a job to 16,9 p.p.\* and on hiring supports from 23,8 p.p.\* to 40,6 p.p.\*, respectively)
  - the net effects are also bigger when there are **sequential interventions** (+44,3\* pp. probability of obtaining a job for participants of 12 month internships followed by 12 month hiring supports)

- Effects vary also according to **participants profiles**: internships have higher effects on participants with higher qualifications; older participants (25-29 years) benefit more of shorter internships; hiring supports have bigger effects on low qualified participants.

\*All the values correspond to observations 24 months after the end of the participation.

#### CONCLUSIONS

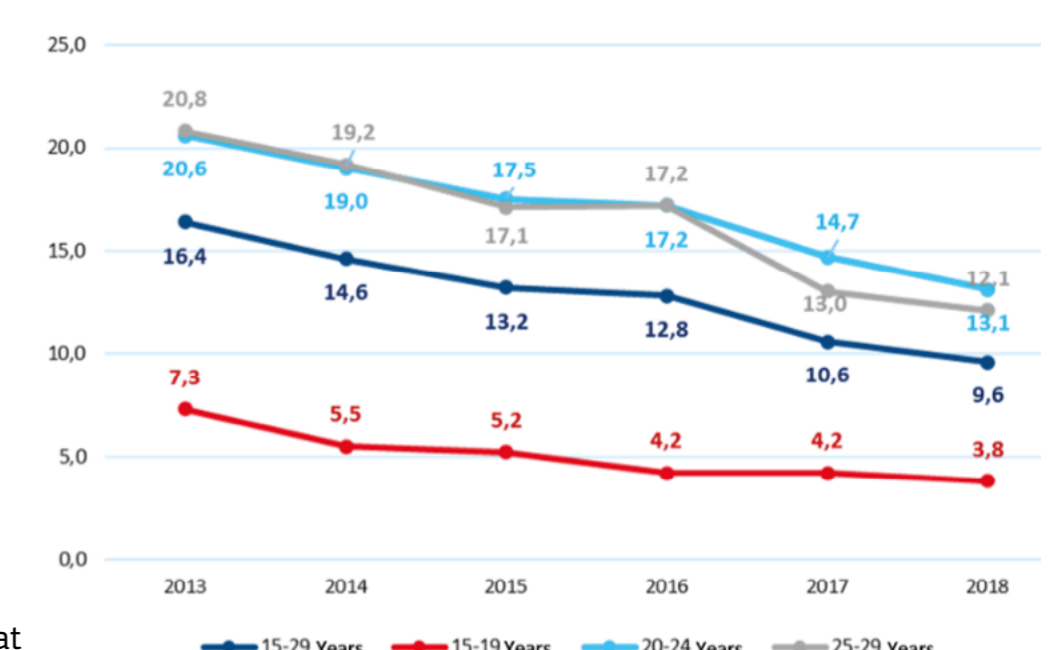
- Participation on YEI actions caused the **observed effects in terms of access to better jobs and reducing NEET situations among participants**. YEI thus contributed to the decrease of the NEET rate in Portugal.

1 year after the YEI:

**1,8% only, remained NEET\***

\*Source: Former Participants Survey (2020)

#### NEET rate in Portugal by age group (%)



Source: Eurostat

- During the crisis period, support YEI packages through internships and hiring support, have enabled to **stem youth's unemployment**
- Inactive and **least qualified publics were underrepresented among participants**
- **Internships and hiring supports** were the most **effective** and the latter also the most **efficient** of all types of intervention: respond better to different profiles (age groups, unemployment profiles and academic skills)
- **Information, dissemination, signalling and proximity with local context** were critical to the success of the initiative, though several inadequacies in targeting explain limited results in some interventions (e.g. entrepreneurialism)
- There were **improvements in Public Employment Services**, e.g. expanded public and territorial coverage, extension of services through partnerships.

#### AUTHOR(S) OF THE EVALUATION

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#### LINK

<https://poise.portugal2020.pt/avaliacao-e-resultados>