



# Youth Guarantee country by country

*Austria*  
*October 2020*

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## Introduction and context

The [Youth Guarantee](#) has become a reality across the EU. It has facilitated structural reforms and innovation in policy design across EU Member States.

This document provides extracts from official Commission documents on the implementation of the Youth Guarantee in Austria. It contains extracts from:

- The country report drawn by the Commission for Austria in the context of the [European Semester](#);
- The conclusions of the thematic multilateral surveillance review of the [Employment Committee \(EMCO\)](#);
- Results from the data collection on Youth Guarantee scheme.

A section at the end of the document is devoted to the assessments made by the Commission in the previous year.

Austria presented a [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#) on 12 March 2014.

## Commission's assessment

### From the 2020 country report (DE- EN)

**"The labour market continues to improve, but regional differences remain pronounced.** Employment and activity rates (among 20-64 year-olds) have risen steadily since 2015, to 76.8% and 80.5% in Q1 2019. While unemployment continued to drop in 2018, reaching 4.9% [...], there are pronounced disparities between regions, ranging from 2.4% in Tyrol and 2.8% in Salzburg to 10.0% in Vienna. **Differences also apply for youth unemployment**, which reached 18.6% in Vienna, 13.4% in Burgenland and 12.2% in Carinthia, but was significantly lower in other regions, so that the national figure was 9.4%. Low inter-regional labour mobility seems to be an important factor behind the differences."

**"Austria performs relatively well on the Social Scoreboard supporting the European Pillar of Social Rights, but some challenges remain.** Despite a high employment rate of women (71.7% in 2018 against an EU average of 67.4%), the gender employment gap increased from 7.8 pps in 2016 to 9.0 pps in 2018. Many women work only part-time (47.6% in 2018, well above the EU average of 30.8%), which is linked to their caring responsibilities and lack of affordable full-time childcare facilities. About two thirds of the employees taking leave to care for frail or sick dependants or family members (i.e. long-term care leave or family hospice leave) are women."

**"Upskilling can help to reduce unemployment among low-skilled workers.** Around 50% of the unemployed have completed lower secondary school (Pflichtschule) at most. Unemployment among the low-skilled has doubled since 2008, to over 20%. 14.7% of adults have less than an upper-secondary qualification, while the number of jobs requiring only elementary skills is limited and likely to decrease. The Adult Education Initiative (Initiative Erwachsenenbildung) provides free access to education for socio-economically disadvantaged adults who lack basic skills or never graduated from lower secondary education."

**"The educational attainment of 15-year-olds is still influenced by socio-economic background.** [...] Regional differences are evident. While early school leaving affects 4.4% of pupils in rural areas, the figure rises to 7.7% in towns/suburbs and to 10.1% in cities."

**"Austria has taken only limited steps to improve basic skills for disadvantaged young people and people with migrant backgrounds.** While older measures to strengthen early childhood education and care could have long-term positive effects on educational outcomes, the direction of reform measures in general education is less promising; in fact, they undermine previous efforts. However, the new (January 2020) government programme contains a range of promising measures."

*For further youth-related matters please refer to the country report.*

## EMCO's assessment

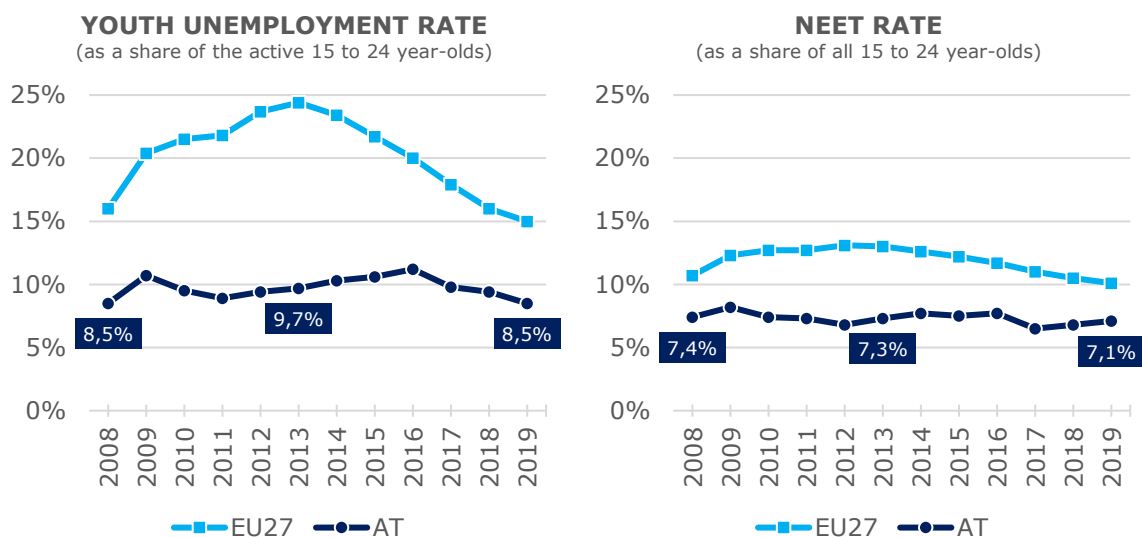
### **Conclusions of the Employment Committee's multilateral surveillance review of the Youth Guarantee, October 2019:**

*Austria is very advanced in implementing the Youth Guarantee, as is evident from the availability of comprehensive nationwide programmes, including some which focus on avoiding becoming NEET and the integration of young people in vulnerable situations, e.g. those with low skills, and migrants. Austria has effective monitoring and evaluation systems in place, as well as reporting and tracking systems allowing proper assessment of delivery. A number of pilot projects are ongoing. Compulsory education until 18 has been in place for some time now and is providing the first results. Despite the very good performance in implementing the Youth Guarantee, some challenges remain to be tackled, including outreach to hard-to-reach young people with multifaceted problems, youths with a migrant background. The effects of ongoing projects on these groups will be monitored.*

*Internships that are part of certain ALMP offers (e.g. during production school) have requirements that are laid down in the respective guidelines. Regarding open-market traineeships, there is no specific legislation; they are mainly regular employment contracts. Neither of the two types are counted as traineeship offers within the Youth Guarantee. It is necessary to make sure that traineeships comply with the Quality Framework for Traineeships.*

## Youth Guarantee monitoring – Key data<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Main trends in young people's labour market performance



Source: Eurostat, LFS (une\_rt\_a, edat\_lfse\_20)

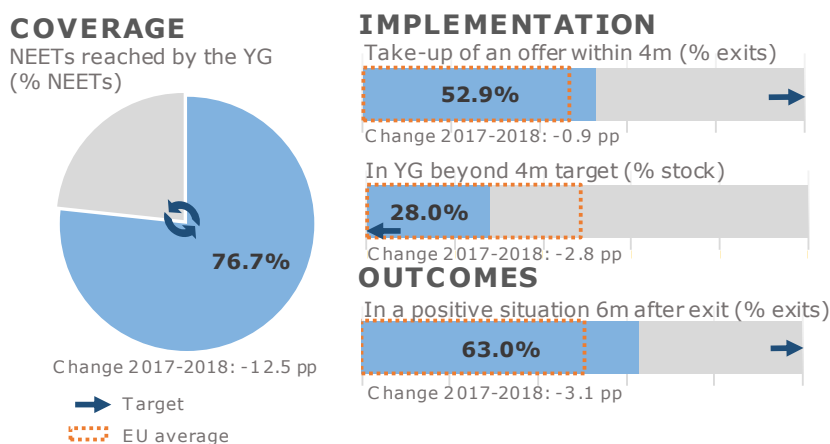
### 2. Youth Guarantee delivery

Young people have been a focus of labour market and education policy in Austria for several years and a range of measures are available to facilitate the pathway from education to working life and to reduce the incidence of early school leaving. In 2008, a Training Guarantee was established to give all young people a chance to complete vocational education and in 2009 the programme “future for the youth” was launched to address young people aged 20-25. In 2016 the “Education/Training until 18” (AusBildung bis 18) (compulsory education or training up to the age of 18) and the Training Guarantee for young people until the age of 25 were introduced<sup>2</sup>. Thus, the Austrian Youth Guarantee has developed progressively and comprises a variety of measures, some of which have been in place for several years.

Further information is available in the national YG implementation plan, while a more recent overview can be found in the [Brochure Youth and Work in Austria 2015/16](#).

<sup>1</sup> The information below is taken from the country fiche related to the Youth Guarantee Data collection (full results can be found on <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1143&langId=en#YGIF>).

## YG monitoring data 2017-18



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted 09 December 2019.  
NEETs data were extracted from Eurostat, Labour Force Survey on 21 June 2019.

On average during 2018, only 28.0% of those registered in the YG preparatory phase had been waiting to take up an offer for more than 4 months, well below the EU average of 48.6%.

More than half (52.9%) of those leaving the YG during 2018 took up a known offer within 4 months of registration, again better than the EU average of 46.7%.

The number of people aged 15-24 registered in the Austrian YG scheme in 2018 was, on average, 76.7% of the number in this age-group identified as NEET in the Labour Force Survey, though it should be noted that the populations may not fully overlap due to differences in definitions and recording methods. This proxy "coverage rate" ranks third amongst the 28 Member States but is considerably down on the 2017 rate (89.2%).

Almost two thirds (63.0%) of those leaving the scheme in 2018 were known to be in employment, education or training 6 months afterwards. Follow-up data for those leaving in previous years show a positive trend over the longer-term.

## Previous year

### From the 2019 country report (DE - EN)

**"With stable economic growth and increasing employment, the labour market is continuously improving performance.** Labour demand and job creation together with increased participation by older workers and women are the main drivers of rising employment and activity rates, reaching 76.2 % and 80 % respectively in the third quarter of 2018. The unemployment rate fell to 4.9 % in the third quarter of 2018 from 5.5 % the year before."

**"Austria performs relatively well on most indicators of the Social Scoreboard supporting the European Pillar of Social Rights.** Austria has robust policies to facilitate labour market access and to ensure fair working conditions. Austria has a system of social dialogue and industrial relations with a proven capacity to contribute to balanced socio-economic development. However, recent government actions are likely to reduce this capacity. Positive developments have been noted with regard to the unemployment rate and share of youth not in employment, education or training."

**"In 2017, Austria recorded a clear improvement with regard to the share of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs).** With just 6.5 % of population affected, the country is well below the EU average, and the decrease by 1.5 pp since 2016 was also among the most significant. This development reflects an improved labour market situation, and can be credited to the employment-oriented educational system."

**"Regional disparities are pronounced though moderate, compared to other EU countries. There is a strong east-west divide in the increase of unemployment rates over recent years.** In 2017 the highest unemployment rate was registered in the Vienna region, at 10.1 %, as compared to 2.9 % in the Salzburg region. Whereas the unemployment rate for people aged 15-74 years, amounted to 9.3 % in 2017 in cities and to 4.9 % in towns and suburbs, it was the lowest in rural areas, with only 2.9 %. Vienna is particularly affected by long-term unemployment (4.1 % in 2017) and has the highest youth unemployment rate, which is considerably higher than the national average (16.7 % versus 9.8 % in 2017)."

**"Austria has taken some steps to improve basic skills for disadvantaged young people and people with migrant backgrounds.** While recent measures to strengthen early childhood education and care could have long-term positive effects on educational outcomes, the direction of reform measures in general education are less promising. They partly reverse previous reform efforts and are not in line with EU and OECD best practices. The expansion of all day schools has slowed down."

For further youth-related matters please refer to the country report.



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## Links to further information

### **Youth Guarantee Knowledge Centre – Including promising examples from Austria**

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1327&langId=en>

### **Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan**

[https://www.sozialministerium.at/siteEN/Service\\_Media/Downloads/Youth\\_Guarantee\\_Implementation\\_Plan\\_Austria](https://www.sozialministerium.at/siteEN/Service_Media/Downloads/Youth_Guarantee_Implementation_Plan_Austria)

### **Where to register for the Youth Guarantee?**

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1218&langId=en>

### **Youth Wiki Austria**

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/overview-austria>