



Youth Guarantee country by country

Czechia
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 Czechia. It contains extracts from:

- The country report drawn by the Commission for Czechia 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 schemes.

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

Czechia presented a [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#) on 4 December 2013, revised in April 2014.

Czechia is eligible for the [Youth Employment Initiative](#).

Commission's assessment

From the 2020 country report (EN - CZ):

"Labour market performance is far above the EU average. The employment rate of those aged 20-64 reached 80.4% in Q3-2019, 6 percentage points (pps) above the EU average. The activity rate (20-64) stood at 82.1% in Q3-2019, above the EU average of 78.8%. The unemployment rate dropped to 2% and is the lowest in the EU (see Graph 3.3.1). Employment is projected to increase, albeit by only 0.9% in 2019 suggesting that further labour market gains are limited. Labour shortages and demographics remain key challenges. For further youth-related matters please refer to the country report."

"High demand for labour has improved the participation of underrepresented groups, but disparities remain. The youth unemployment rate (age 15-24) has decreased significantly (from 18.9% in 2013 to 4.8% in Q3-2019), and so has the long-term unemployment rate (from 2.4% in 2015 to 0.6% in Q2-2019). The participation and employment rates of older workers (age 55-64), grew from 55.5% in 2015 to 65.1% in 2018 (EU average: 58.7%). There are, however, significant regional differences. At 29.7 pps, Czechia has a higher than average employment rate gap between people with and without disabilities (24.2 pps in the EU in 2017) (ANED, 2018), partly due to the low general unemployment rate. There is therefore scope for improving the monitoring and targeting of active labour market policies, in particular for the most vulnerable groups. Measures to increase labour market participation of underrepresented groups would contribute to progress under Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 10."

"Disparities in the rates of early leavers from education and training are increasing. Early school leaving declined in most regions in 2018. However, the highest regional rate in Severozápad further increased to 17.1% (see Section 3.4). The rate for Roma pupils was estimated at 57% in 2016 among Roma families that participated in the survey (FRA, 2016). The early school leaving gap between people with and without disabilities is also one of the highest in the EU (25.5 pps compared to an EU average of 10.1 pps in 2018). Policies to address disparities in the quality of teaching in schools and regions and to assign the most qualified and experienced teachers to the most challenging schools could help reduce existing gaps."

"Czechia performs well on most indicators of the Social Scoreboard supporting the European Pillar of Social Rights, yet some challenges remain. The employment rate is among the highest and the unemployment rate among the lowest in the EU. Yet there is still scope for increasing the labour market participation of vulnerable groups, as well as women. The early school leaving rate has slightly declined and remains below the EU average, but regional disparities are still significant."

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

EMCO's assessment

Conclusions of the Employment Committee's multilateral surveillance review on youth employment, October 2019:

In the context of low youth unemployment levels, the Czech Republic is making further progress in implementing the Youth Guarantee but a number of challenges remain. A wide range of ALMP measures are in place to support young job seekers, and a high ratio of public employment workers to job seekers allows for a more effective individualised approach.

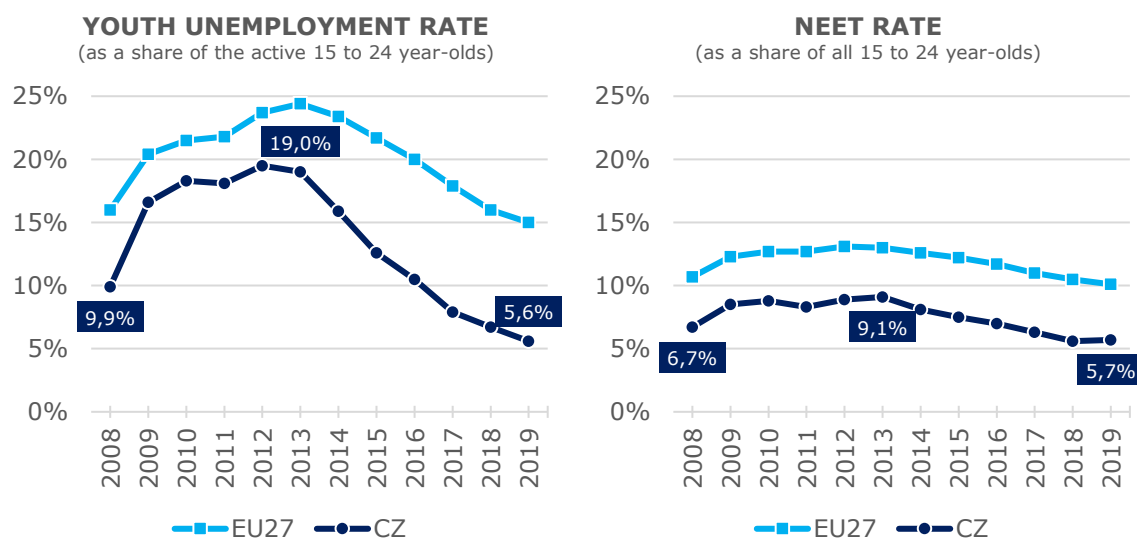
However, the measures taken are often not youth-specific and are delivered on a project basis. Efforts should therefore be made to ensure the universal, systematic and sustainable delivery of the Youth Guarantee.

Despite the fact that efficient partnerships are in place at national and regional level, closer cooperation is required between employment and social policies as well as between PES and relevant institutions to strengthen outreach and provide NEETs with individualised measures. Improving the monitoring system is also an issue, especially as regards the collection of follow-up data.

Current legislation on traineeships in the Czech Republic only partly complies with the QFT. Though traineeships are effective with regard to employment outcomes, revising the legislation could be considered, with a view to increasing their attractiveness for those furthest from the labour market.

Youth Guarantee monitoring – Key data¹

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



Source: Eurostat, LFS (une_rt_a, edat_lfse_20)

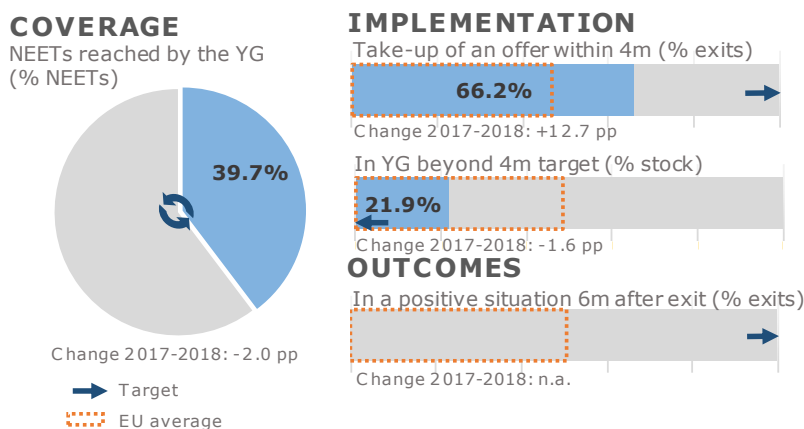
2. Youth Guarantee delivery

The Czech Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan was presented in December 2013 and updated in April 2014. Implementation and monitoring of the scheme began in April 2014. Responsibility of the scheme is divided between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS). The MLSA is the main coordinator and focuses on employment policy measures. The MEYS focuses on preventing unemployment and social exclusion by increasing the efficiency of the educational system according to the needs of the labour market.

Further information is available in the national [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#).

¹ 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, less than a quarter (21.9%) of young people registered in the YG at any point in time had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, less than half of the EU average of 48.6%.

Two thirds (66.2%) of those leaving the YG in 2018 are reported to have taken up an offer within the target of 4 months, a result that is much improved from 2017 (53.5%) and noticeably above the EU average of 46.7%.

The Czech YG scheme covered two fifths of NEETs in the country (39.7%), similar to the coverage seen in 2017 (41.7%) and to the EU average of 38.9%.

No follow-up data are available to assess the sustainability of YG outcomes.

Previous year

From the 2019 country report (EN - CZ):

"The Czech labour market is one of the best performers in the EU but is increasingly tight. The employment rate of those aged 20-64 has continued to rise and reached 80.0 % in Q3-2018. The activity rate reached a new peak of 81.9 % in Q3-2018. The unemployment rate is the lowest in the EU, at a record low of 2.1 % in Q4-2018. Long-term unemployment (0.7 % in Q3-2018) and youth unemployment (7.6 % in Q3-2018) have declined to below pre-crisis levels. The share of young people (aged 15-24) neither in employment nor in education and training declined from 7.5 % in 2015 to 6.3 % in 2017."

"While below the EU average, the early school leaving rate has continued to increase since 2010. At 6.7 % in 2017, the rate exceeds the 5.5 % national target for 2020. Wide regional disparities and a high proportion of early leavers among Roma pupils (57 % in 2016 among the Roma families that participated in the survey) call for strengthened analysis and targeted measures (see Country Report 2018, FRA, 2016). This trend contrasts with the steadily decreasing EU average. The most affected schools have less qualified teachers and high staff turnover. In 2018, a study (Bicakova and Kaliskova, 2018) showed that young people dropping out of school are attracted by the current easy access to paid employment. However, they often end up in low paid, low quality and short-term jobs. Thus, they add to the number of the low-skilled unemployed. Incentives to attract young people back to education, as well as prevention measures and second chance education are under discussion."

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

Links to further information

Youth Guarantee Knowledge Centre – Including promising examples from Czechia

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

Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan

<http://portal.mpsv.cz/sz/politikazamest/zarpromla>

Where to register for the Youth Guarantee?

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

Youth Wiki Czech Republic

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