



# Youth Guarantee country by country

*France*  
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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 France. It contains extracts from:

- The country report drawn by the Commission for France 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.

France presented a [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#) on 22 December 2013.

France is eligible for the Youth Employment Initiative.

## Commission's assessment

From the 2020 country report (EN - FR):

**“Labour market conditions continue to improve, despite entrenched segmentation and untapped employment for older and low skilled workers.** Net job creation, driven by the private sector, continued to shift progressively from temporary to permanent contracts and slowed down only recently [...].”

4 **“Labour market conditions are improving but unemployment remains high, particularly for disadvantaged groups.** The situation for young people has also improved. However, those with low skills and those with a migrant background face difficulties in integrating in the labour market. Reforms are ongoing to increase their employment prospects. Finally, some sectors appear to face emerging skills shortages and mismatches.”

17 **“Action has been taken to improve the functioning of the labour market and reform of the vocational education and training system.** An important reform of the vocational education and training system has been implemented since 2018. It addresses major challenges such as the need to increase access to training for low skilled and improve the labour market relevance and quality provided by the vocational education and training system. However, the most vulnerable categories of workers (young, low-qualified workers, and people with a migrant background) are at a disadvantage in terms of labour market access. Specific initiatives to increase their employment opportunities are being implemented while persisting difficulties and inequalities continue to affect people with a migrant background”

29 **“Unemployment remains well above the EU average, especially for some categories, although decreasing.** [...] The situation of young people is slowly improving: the youth unemployment rate decreased to 18.9% in Q4 2019, still significantly higher than the 14.2% EU level, while the employment rate of recent graduates (20-34) increased to 77.7% in Q3 2019. Overall, despite positive developments, some groups remain at a strong disadvantage on the labour market, in particular people with low educational attainment and people with a migrant background. [...] Moreover, in spite of a declining early school leaving rate, the share of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) has remained broadly stable over the long term [...]. Reducing the share of NEET would lead to progress on Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality education.”

39 **“Unemployment remains well above the EU average, especially for some categories, although decreasing.** [...] The situation of young people is slowly improving: the youth unemployment rate decreased to 18.9% in Q4 2019, still significantly higher than the 14.2% EU level, while the employment rate of recent graduates (20-34) increased to 77.7% in Q3 2019. Overall, despite positive developments, some groups remain at a strong disadvantage on the labour market, in particular people with low educational attainment and people with a migrant background. [...] Moreover, in spite of a declining early school leaving rate, the share of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) has remained broadly stable over the long term [...]. Reducing the share of NEET would lead to progress on Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality education.”

41 **“Persisting difficulties and inequalities are affecting people with a migrant background.** [...] Disparities persist even within the QPV: 38.1% of young people with a migrant background are not in education, employment or training (versus 30% for nonimmigrant young people).

48 **“Overall, France performs relatively well on the employment and social indicators highlighted by the Social Scoreboard supporting the European Pillar of Social Rights.** [...] Labour market integration remains more difficult for young people, low-skilled workers and people from a migrant background. Onns job quality, the incidence of in-work poverty is low, but labour market segmentation remains a challenge.”

48 **“Integration of people with a migrant background remains a challenge.** People with a migrant background are overrepresented in deprived urban neighbourhoods, where they constitute more than 50% of the working-age population. Even within these areas, young people with a migrant background experience higher unemployment and inactivity rates than natives.”

62 **“The outermost regions exhibit particular vulnerabilities in terms of education and employment.** Unemployment is also higher than in mainland France, at more than 20% in Guadeloupe and La Réunion, and peaking at 35% in Mayotte. Young people are particularly affected (42% in La Réunion and 32% in Guyane) and continue to face difficult conditions. Early school leaving rate is at 21.3% in 2018 (8.9% for the French average), the ‘not in employment, education or training’ (NEET) rate is at 26% (11.1% for the French average), and the share of young people (30-34) having low or no qualifications is at 27.9% (against 13.3% for the French average).”

*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:**

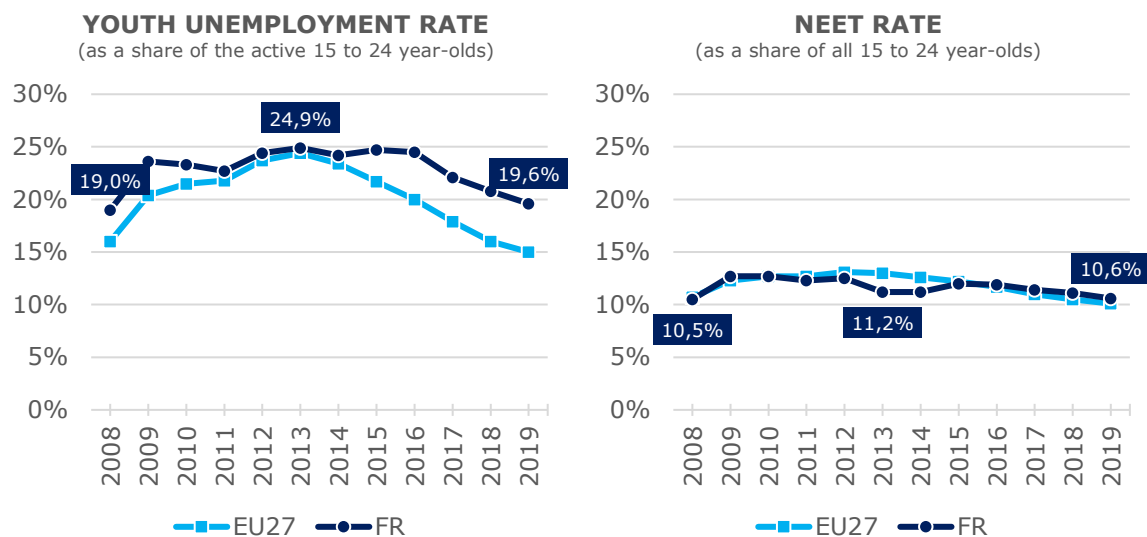
*The delivery of the Youth Guarantee in France is well advanced. It has improved since the last review thanks to operational and financial efforts aimed at improving coverage and increasing cooperation among relevant organisations involved in delivery. The Youth Guarantee has high coverage. France has developed a comprehensive range of measures which also focus on vulnerable groups. New additional measures include an agreement between the state and the regions for NEETs and job seekers, as well as stronger partnerships with employers. France has also continued to promote existing successful practices and introduced new outreach initiatives, including for 'invisible' NEETs aged 16-24 and for young people. Two new initiatives have been introduced, on compulsory training for every young person aged 16-18 and on universal national service.*

*Monitoring of delivery still needs to be tackled, but a new monitoring system is being put in place that is expected to be in full operation in 2020.*

*France has reinforced its legislative framework for quality of traineeships with a view to preventing abuse and exploitation of trainees, and linking the possibility of traineeship to an educational curriculum. However, the share of traineeship offers given to Youth Guarantee beneficiaries could be improved.*

## Youth Guarantee monitoring – Key data

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



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

### 2. Youth Guarantee delivery

France presented a Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan on 22 December 2013, which outlined how existing measures would be reinforced to fulfil the objectives of the YG and provide the best possible support for young people. The YG scheme was formally launched in January 2014.

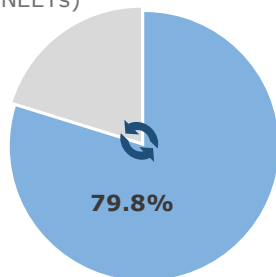
Monitoring data cover young people aged 16-25 registered as unemployed with Pôle Emploi (national public employment services, PES) or participating in one of the programmes provided by the Missions Locales (local PES).

Further information is available in the national YG implementation plan.

## YG monitoring data 2016

### COVERAGE

NEETs reached by the YG  
(% NEETs)



Change 2017-2018: +11.8 pp

→ Target

⋯ EU average

### IMPLEMENTATION

Take-up of an offer within 4m (% exits)

31.7%

Change 2017-2018: +3.2 pp

In YG beyond 4m target (% stock)

75.5%

Change 2017-2018: +1.9 pp

### OUTCOMES

In a positive situation 6m after exit (% exits)

Change 2017-2018: n.a.

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 in 2018, three quarters (75.5%) of those registered in the French YG scheme at any point during the year had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months. This proportion has increased slightly compared to 2017 (+1.9 pp) and remains one of the highest observed amongst Member States, a long way above the EU average of 48.6%.

The difficulty to deliver timely offers is reflected in the fact that less than a third (31.7%) of those leaving the scheme in 2018 took up an offer within 4 months of registration.

In 2018, the YG scheme in France covered more two fifths (79.8%) of NEETs aged under 25, well above the EU average of 38.9%, though it should be noted that some of those entering the YG in France are not NEET according to the LFS definition used to measure the target group.

Follow-up data to look at subsequent outcomes are not yet available.



## Previous year

From the 2019 country report (FR - EN):

**"Labour market conditions continue to improve, albeit at a slower pace than in the rest of the EU."**

**"While all groups benefit from the improvements in the labour market, low skilled and young people remain at a disadvantage.** The unemployment rate of the low skilled fell in 2017 for the first time since 2008, but at 17%, it remains much above pre-crisis levels. The rate of young people (15-24) not in employment, education or training decreased from 11.8% in 2016 to 11.5% in 2017 (slightly above the EU average of 10.9%), but is close to 18% for young people not born in the EU. Youth unemployment (15-24) decreased by 2.3pps in 2017, to 22.3%, but still above the EU average of 16.8%. However, the unemployment rate of low-skilled young people is still very high, at 37.8%."

**"Reaching out to the most vulnerable jobseekers, in particular young people and those with a migrant background remains a challenge.** In 2017, the Youth Guarantee scheme in France covered an estimated 68% of young people (under 25) not in employment, education or training but almost three quarters (73%) of those registered at any point during the year had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months. In addition, the percentage of young people (15-24) not in employment, education or training is much higher for non-EU born (18.7%) than for young people born in France (11.0%). Cooperation between key providers of employment and social services has not always been efficient so far, but is improving. These elements point to a need to further modernise labour market institutions and services towards an integrated approach. Moreover, active labour market policies are increasingly focused on training for jobseekers, while the number of subsidised contracts is further decreasing."

**"Regional disparities are relatively moderate compared to other European countries, with the exception of outermost regions.** In the outermost regions, disparities are particularly pronounced for indicators linked to young people. Educational attainment rates tend to be much lower than in the rest of the country and labour market prospects of young people remain weak (youth unemployment hovered around 50% in 2017, compared to 22.4% on average in France). Regional disparities are less pronounced in metropolitan France. In general terms, long-term unemployment and youth unemployment are higher in the northeast and Mediterranean areas."

**"Adult participation in learning was broadly stable in 2017 (18.7%) and far above the EU average (10.9%).** Yet, the participation in learning by low-qualified and unemployed people is comparatively low in respect of other groups. ... The implementation of the EUR 14 billion Skills investment plan for 2018-2022 will gain pace in 2019. The plan aims at reaching out 1 million to young people not in employment, education or training and 1 million low-qualified unemployed and supports new forms of training (i.e. online)."

**"Some groups face additional difficulties, despite recent improvements.** ... Poverty in young people (18-24) also remains relatively high at 20.9%."

**"EU funding has helped to address policy challenges identified in the 2018 CSRs.** Close to EUR 6.5 billion from the European Social Fund and the Youth

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*Employment Initiative (23 % of the ESIF budget in France) is notably used to improve employability of people furthest away from the labour market, in particular the young, and to help workers adapt to change, among others through a better training offer, improved access to apprenticeship or active inclusion support.”*

*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 France

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

### Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan

[http://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/dgefp-france-plan-garantie\\_jeunesse\\_1\\_.pdf](http://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/dgefp-france-plan-garantie_jeunesse_1_.pdf)

### Where to register for the Youth Guarantee?

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

### Youth Wiki France

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