Youth Guarantee country by country

Greece
January 2020
Table of contents

Introduction and context ................................................................. 3
Commission’s assessment ............................................................... 4
EMCO’s assessment ..................................................................... 5
Youth Guarantee monitoring – Key data ........................................ 6
Previous year ................................................................................ 8
Links to further information ........................................................... 9
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 Greece. It contains extracts from:

- The country report drawn by the Commission for Greece 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 assessment made by the Commission the previous year.

Greece submitted a Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan on 31 December 2013, updated in May 2014 and November 2018.

Greece is eligible for money from the Youth Employment Initiative.
Commission's assessment

From the 2019 country report (EN -EL):

**Although the Greek labour market still feels the effects of the crisis, major improvements have taken place.** During the crisis, employment in Greece dropped by a sharp 19 %. Employment levels stabilised in 2014 and started rising more markedly from 2017, while the unemployment rate has been steadily decreasing from its peak of 27.9 % in July 2013 to 18.5 % by November 2018.

**Although still very difficult, the labour market situation for young people has been improving.** Youth unemployment has fallen considerably from its peak of almost 60 % in mid-2013 although, at 39.1 % in November 2018, it continues to be one of the highest in the EU. As reported in the Social Scoreboard, the proportion of young people (aged 15-24) not in employment, education or training (NEET) remains particularly high (15.3 % in 2017, compared to an EU average of 10.9 %). While the share of young unemployed (NEETs) has declined in line with the reduction in youth unemployment, the number of inactive youth (i.e. NEETs not seeking employment) has remained stable. Meanwhile, the reduction in youth unemployment has not been driven so much by an increase in youth employment, but rather by an increased participation in education (see Graph 3.3.3). The EU has been supporting the fight against youth unemployment though the Youth Employment Initiative. Over EUR 250 million have been allocated to Greece since 2014, reaching over 57 000 unemployed youth (NEETs 18-29 years old) but further investment is needed.

**Wages are expected to recover, following a sizable increase in the minimum wage and with collective bargaining once again playing a stronger role in wage formation.** ... Furthermore, the government increased the minimum wage by 10.9 % on 1 February 2019, eliminating also the sub-minimum wage for workers under 25 years of age. This increase in the minimum wage leads in the medium term to higher risk of negative employment effects, especially on low-skilled, young workers and workers with a long tenure.

**European Structural and Investment Funds have supported various actions concerning educational and vocational training, efficient public administration, social inclusion, and sustainable and quality employment.** These actions supported more than 410 000 participants, including more than 58 000 young people (18-29 years old) under the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI);

**Improving digital skills and increasing the proportion of information and communication technologies employment remains a challenge.** Improving digital skills among young adults is crucial given the urgency of the digital transformation of the economy and society.

---

January 2020 | 4
EMCO's assessment

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

The implementation of the Youth Guarantee is advancing, with improvements taking place in the context of a broader reform agenda. The Youth Guarantee action plan has been revised and a number of new measures and initiatives are being pursued to improve activation policies, including measures to improve the functioning of the public employment services. The effectiveness of partnerships has improved but further efforts are needed to improve the delivery mechanism with a view to activate NEETs faster. New initiatives are being pursued, such as the policy design initiative ‘ReBrain Greece’. Media campaigns are being pursued as part of outreach activities for NEETs but further efforts are still needed to reach out to non-registered NEETs. The profiling system which is being put in place, along with the monitoring and evaluation systems (currently at the design stage), should further increase the effectiveness of ALMPs. Efforts to address the quality of activation initiatives have been acknowledged, while the involvement of international organisations is welcomed. The new certification system for Continuous Vocational Training and the setting up of continuous monitoring of training action are also welcomed.
Youth Guarantee monitoring – Key data

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

![Graph showing youth unemployment rate and NEET rate](source)

Source: Eurostat, LFS (une_rt_a, lfsi_neet_a)

2. Youth Guarantee delivery

The Greek Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan was presented in December 2013 and updated in June 2014. The design of the YG scheme drew upon the experience gained from the "Action Plan of Targeted Interventions to Strengthen Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship within the Operational Programme of NSRF" (January 2013), which was the first cohesive effort to tackle youth unemployment. The scheme is based on the broader national strategy laid out in the "Partnership Agreement for the Development Framework, 2014-2020" and the "Action Plan for Creating New Jobs and Supporting Unemployed People" (May 2013).

The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare is in charge of the strategic planning and implementation of the YG, with the Employment Directorate of the Ministry appointed as the National Coordinator and responsible for fostering dialogue and cooperation with all institutions involved. The Ministry of Labour is supported by the PES (OAED) and other actors including the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, the Ministry for Development and Competitiveness, the Ministry of Merchant Marine and Island Policy, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, local authorities and social partners.

Further information is available in the national YG 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]).

2 National Strategic Reference Framework.
Three in five (60.9%) of those registered in the YG scheme at any point during 2018 had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, slightly fewer than in 2017 (-1.6 pp) but still a long way above the EU average of 48.6%.

Fewer than a third (31.1%) of those leaving the YG in 2018 took-up an offer within the 4-month target. Slightly decreased compared to 2017 (-1.1 pp) and still well below the EU average of 46.7%.

On average, 61.8% of NEETs aged 15-24 were registered in the YG preparatory phase at any point during 2018, significantly more than in 2017 (+11.8 pp) and well above the EU average of 38.9%.

Of those that left the YG in 2018, well over two in five (46.5%) were known to be in a positive situation 6 months after leaving, but still behind the EU average of 50.3%.

NEETs data were extracted from Eurostat, Labour Force Survey on 21 June 2019.
Previous year

[Greece did not receive a Country Report as part of the 2018 European Semester. Instead, the December 2017 EMCO conclusions are mentioned here.]

2017

Conclusions of the Employment Committee’s multilateral surveillance review on youth employment, December 2017:

The labour market situation is improving in Greece, but continues to be very challenging, with youth unemployment and NEET rates well above EU average. Greece has taken important steps towards an effective implementation of the Youth Guarantee. Partnerships provide a strong basis for further improvement of outreach efforts. The capacity of the Public Employment Service is key and the significant modernisation of the PES should support the provision of personalised services. The reform of the apprenticeship system, recently adopted, needs to be swiftly implemented to show effects. The new web portal is very promising and, together with other measures, could contribute to increase the effectiveness of the Youth Guarantee system. Quality and timeliness of offers remain a challenge that requires continued efforts, as does the need to increase the labour market relevance of training.
Links to further information

Youth Guarantee Knowledge centre – Including promising examples from Greece

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

Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan


Where to register for the Youth Guarantee?


Youth Wiki Greece