



Youth Guarantee country by country

Ireland
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 Ireland. It contains extracts from:

- The country report drawn by the Commission for Ireland 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.

Ireland presented a [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#) on 20 December 2013.

Ireland is eligible for the Youth Employment Initiative.

Commission's assessment

From the 2020 country report (EN):

"Ireland's labour market performance is robust. The employment rate (20-64) reached 74.1% in 2018, slightly above the EU average (73.1%). Solid job creation across most sectors continues, bringing the unemployment rate down to 4.8% in Q4-2019 (seasonally adjusted), its lowest level in a decade [...]. The long-term unemployment rate has steadily improved (1.7% of the active population in Q2-2019 against 2.5% on average in the EU). Under a strong momentum for policy reform, climate transition, new forms of work and skills shortages are rising challenges for the labour market."

"The European Social Fund has significantly contributed to increasing employment and social inclusion in Ireland. It focuses on the activation of the unemployed, improving social and labour market inclusion, enhancing education attainment and tackling youth unemployment. Since 2014, over 160 operations have supported nearly 112,000 unemployed persons, 28,000 persons with disabilities and 1 200 homeless persons. In total over 330,000 participants have been registered and benefitted from upskilling so far."

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

EMCO's assessment

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

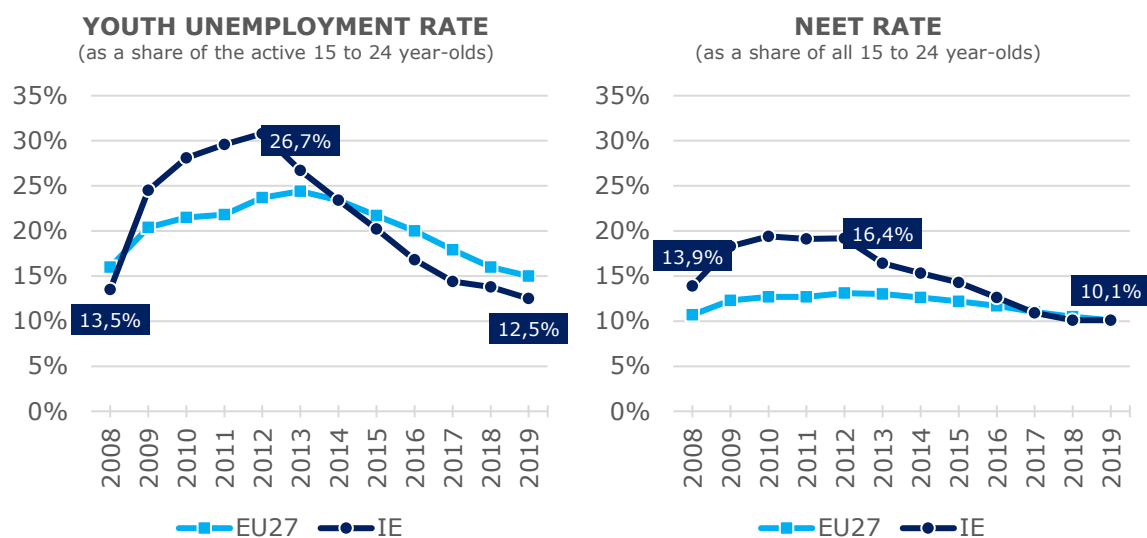
Ireland has made further progress in the implementation of the Youth Guarantee. Thanks to the reforms implemented in the past, PES are now more focused on activation services and the Further Education and Training sector is now more labour market oriented. According to the YG monitoring framework, Ireland performs very well in terms of delivering sustainable outcomes. Partnerships are well structured at both national and local level and the monitoring system is well developed.

However, some challenges remain. Since the focus remains on job seekers, inactive NEETs are not benefiting from the Youth Guarantee. It will therefore be key to scale up existing measures and closely monitor the measures that Ireland is planning to develop in order to improve outreach and reduce early school leaving. Additional measures should be considered to reach out to those furthest away from the labour market. Efforts are also needed to reduce the time span within which offers are made.

In 2018 Ireland launched a new comprehensive work-based training program, the Youth Employment Support Scheme, which is mostly aligned with the Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeships. Some further improvements could, however, be considered in terms of written agreements.

Youth Guarantee monitoring – Key data¹

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



Source: Eurostat, LFS (une_rt_a, edat_ifse_20)

2. Youth Guarantee delivery

Ireland presented a Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan in December 2013. The intervention and activation process governing the Youth Guarantee will essentially be a tailored version of the Pathways to Work activation model which was launched in 2011 and updated in 2013.

The YG scheme was introduced in January 2014 and targets two distinct groups: early school leavers aged under 18 and unemployed youth aged 18-24. Only the latter group is covered by the monitoring data. The public employment service (PES) is in charge of establishing and managing the Youth Guarantee scheme; other government departments are responsible for specific aspects.

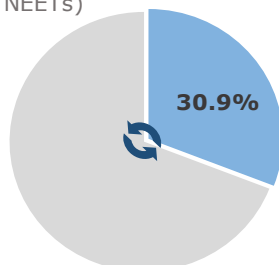
Further information is available in the national YG implementation plan.

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>).

YG monitoring data 2017-18

COVERAGE

NEETs reached by the YG
(% NEETs)

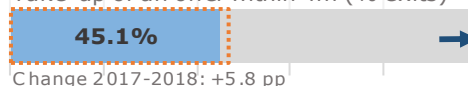


Change 2017-2018: -7.0 pp

→ Target
⋯ EU average

IMPLEMENTATION

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



Change 2017-2018: +5.8 pp

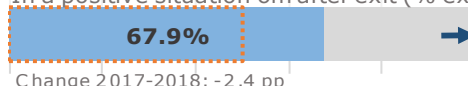
In YG beyond 4m target (% stock)



Change 2017-2018: -3.0 pp

OUTCOMES

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



Change 2017-2018: -2.4 pp

*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, approaching three fifths (57.1%) of those registered in the YG scheme at any point during the year had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, well above the EU average of 48.6%.

More than two fifths (45.1%) of those leaving the scheme in 2018 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, a result that is close to the EU average of 46.7%.

Compared to 2017, the proportion of the NEET population covered by the Irish YG has fallen by 7.0 pp to 30.9%. This reflects the shifting structure of the NEET population as youth unemployment continues to decline and the proportion of NEETs that are inactive increase. The monitoring data, and therefore the indicators, do not take into account support provided for NEETs that do not register as unemployed and thus tend to understate the Irish efforts to support young NEETs generally.

Follow-up data show that two thirds (67.9%) of those leaving the YG in 2018 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months later, well above the EU average of 50.3%.

Previous year

From the 2019 country report (EN):

"Labour market conditions continue to improve overall, but some groups are not fully benefitting from it. Job creation during the recovery has taken place across most sectors of the economy (Graph 4.3.1). In 2018, construction and accommodation and food services contributed most to the growth in employment, reflecting the strength of domestic activity. Unemployment kept on falling (5.4 % in the fourth quarter of 2018), as did youth unemployment (12.5 % in the fourth quarter of 2018)."

"Policy measures to tackle long-term unemployment are having a positive impact. ... Longterm unemployment among youth remains high in the Border, Midland and Western region (5.2 % vs 4.2 % in the EU), indicating a need for further targeted efforts."

"The rapidly rising number of homeless people as a result of rent increases and insufficient social housing merits urgent action. Insufficient levels of investment and construction over the last decade, including social housing, have led to a huge shortage of adequate accommodation for those most at risk. The bulk of the challenge is concentrated in the major urban areas and it is affecting different groups, notably single parents, single men, the elderly, people with disabilities and an increasing number of families and youth."

"A growing number of young people leaving state care are also increasingly exposed to homelessness with an 8 % annual rise in the number of 18-24 year olds living in emergency accommodation. Temple Street Children's University Hospital reported discharging 29 % more children up to the age of 16 with 'no fixed address' in 2018 compared to 2017."

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

Links to further information

Youth Guarantee Knowledge centre – *Including promising examples from Ireland*

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

Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan

<http://www.welfare.ie/en/downloads/Youth-Guarantee-Implementation-Plan.pdf>

Where to register for the Youth Guarantee?

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

Youth Wiki Ireland

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