



Youth Guarantee country by country

Italy
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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 Italy. It contains extracts from:

- The country report drawn by the Commission for Italy 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 and EMCO the previous year.

Italy presented a [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#) on 23 December 2013. A progress note was sent in September 2015.

Italy is eligible for the Youth Employment Initiative.

Commission's assessment

From the 2019 country report (EN - IT):

"Employment growth has been associated with a rising labour force. Past reforms that raised the effective retirement age increased labour supply, which was partly dampened by a shrinking working-age population. ... Inactivity remains pervasive among women, the low-skilled and the young."

"Youth unemployment (15-24) remains extremely high at 32.0 %. Moreover, the share of young people (15-24) neither in employment nor in education or training increased to 20.1 % in 2017 and remained the highest in the EU."

"Italy faces challenges on many indicators of the Social Scoreboard supporting the European Pillar of Social Rights. Labour market conditions are only slowly improving and the persistently high unemployment had a strong impact on the social situation. Youth unemployment, as well as the NEET rate, remain among the highest in the EU. ... Access to social housing is almost precluded to younger generations, since occupants tend to remain in social housing for their entire lives."

"The Youth Guarantee scheme is supporting an increasing number of young people. Since its launch in 2014, 1.4 million young people have registered, out of which 53% have received support through activation measures. However, large discrepancies persist across regions, with 45 % of the young covered by the scheme in the South compared to 71.1 % in the North-West. Traineeships are by far the most common provided measure. Their potential substitution effects and their impact on labour market segmentation should be further monitored. The share of young people neither in employment, education or training covered is still low (14.1 %), but new outreach measures are being rolled out, including a better linkage with social assistance beneficiaries, e.g. people with disabilities. The share of young people in the programme who have not received any offer for more than 4 months remains high (83 %). The European Social Fund supports the roll-out of new measures addressed to young people, with a particular emphasis on southern regions."

"The migration balance, although positive, is not compensating the natural balance loss. 2018, inflows amounted to around 349 000 (+1.7 % compared to 2017), while the number of residents leaving the country further increased from very high levels (around 160 000. 3.1 % more than in 2017). The latter includes a large number of highskilled young Italians moving to other EU countries. In 2016, the number of Italian graduates leaving the country increased by 9 % compared to 2015. The draft budget Law 2019 focuses on reattracting emigrated highly skilled students to Italy [to be updated/integrated on brain drain]. However, the structural challenges pushing graduates to emigrate remain unaddressed."

"EU funds are being used to address policy challenges identified in the 2018 CSRs. As regards labour market participation, the ESF supports the reform of active labour market policies, in particular by strengthening the public employment services, as well as the implementation of the youth Guarantee scheme. By November 2018, more than 1.4 million young people had registered in the programme and 1.1 million had been taken in charge; about 56% of them have benefited from an active policy measure."

"The skill mismatch is exacerbated by the high youth unemployment, among the highest in the EU, which has a longterm negative impact on skills formation and future employability of young people."

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

EMCO's assessment

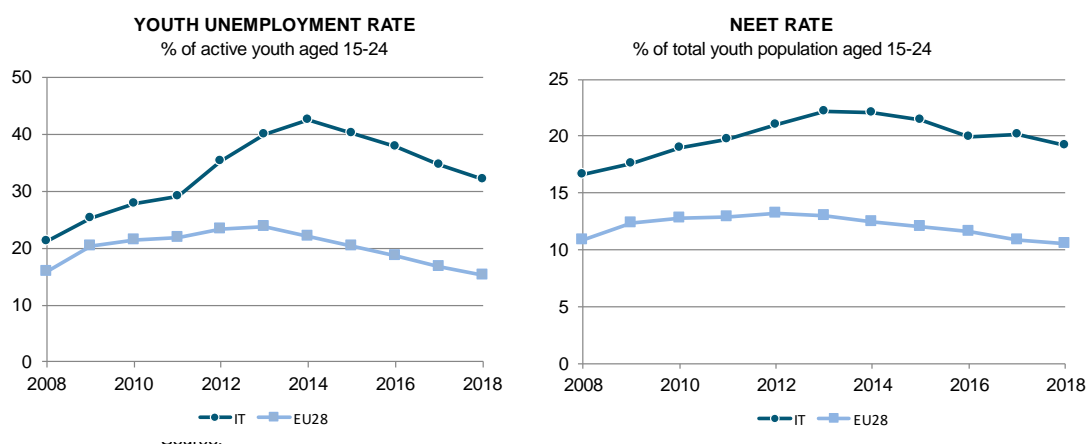
Conclusions of the Employment Committee's multilateral surveillance review on the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, October 2019:

Italy is advancing in the implementation of the Youth Guarantee scheme, which is comprehensive and based on a partnership strategy, combined with a strong profiling methodology providing for a personalised approach and individual pathways. Still, levels of unemployed youth and NEET rates are the highest in the EU, and large disparities across the northern and southern regions persist. In terms of outreach, which still is a challenge, the new measure devoted to outreach and activation of the most vulnerable youth (Plan 1D) has been introduced and looks promising. Awareness-raising and campaigns, the setup of a dedicated webpage, and the use of public media to disseminate best practices and available measures also appear promising in increasing the scope of the project: they go beyond youth themselves, as the families of youth can also be targeted by these activities, and this might improve registration and the uptake of measures. Personal services are well developed thanks to a strong profiling methodology, and result in individual pathways. Challenges include the fact that implementation may suffer from the high complexity of the system, and possible difficulties managing the large number of projects on a local and regional level. In this context, PES capacity needs to be strengthened and a national strategy might be needed. Regarding traineeships, Italy has specific traineeship legislation, and the most recent guidelines for traineeship quality should further help address the risk of renewal and substitution effects.

As regards the CSR, Italy is making progress in terms of youth employment policies, but results in terms of the impact on outcomes are still missing. The recently introduced 1D measure looks promising, but time is needed to see whether it will be effective in practice

Youth Guarantee monitoring – Key data

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



Source: Eurostat, LFS (une_rt_a, lfsi_neet_a)

2. Youth Guarantee delivery

The Youth Guarantee (YG) scheme in Italy was launched in May 2014. Since mid-2017 it has been co-ordinated and managed by the National Agency for Active Labour Policies (ANPAL), in conjunction with the regions coordinating the public employment services (PES) at local level. ANPAL is also the Managing Authority of the YEI Operational Programme and is responsible for the national YG database, which brings together data collected by the PES at local level.

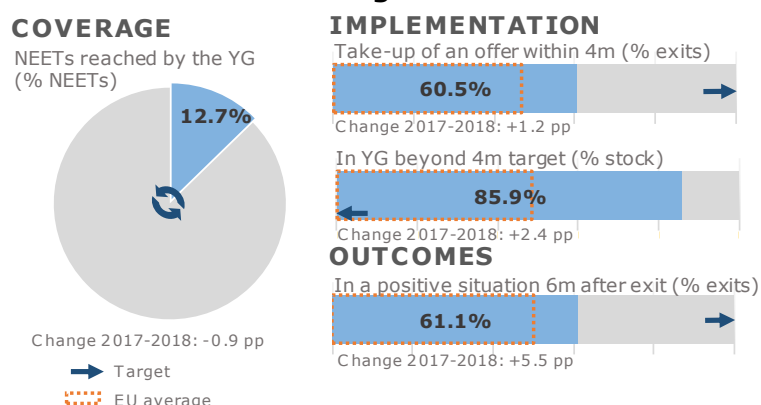
A dedicated website for the YG in Italy allows young people not already registered with the PES to sign up to the YG scheme. Young people registered with the PES but who have not registered in the YG may still receive offers or benefit from national or regional measures but are not included in the YG monitoring data.

Young people registered with the PES but who have not registered in the YG may still receive offers or benefit from national or regional measures, but they are not included in the YG monitoring data.

Further information can be found both in the [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#) and the [YG website](#)¹.

¹ www.garanzীগiovani.gov.it/

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.

Three in five (60.5%) of those leaving the Italian YG scheme in 2018 took up an offer within 4 months of registration. At the same time, more than eight in ten (85.9%) of those registered in the scheme at any time during the year had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, a small change of +2.4 pp from 2017. The implication is that although the scheme is quite effective in delivering timely offers to those that newly register, young people that do not receive an offer within 4 months risk being left for long periods without one. Indeed, the latest data show that more than two thirds (69.8%) of those registered in the Italian YG at any point in 2018 had been waiting for an offer for more than a year compared to the EU average of 19.2%. This should be of some concern and suggests a need to review the delivery model and/or the data recording.

Coverage of the NEET population remains low (12.7%) and has declined slightly compared to previous years (13.6% in 2017 and 14.1% in 2016). The result is known to be understated because some re-entrants are currently not counted in the data. Registration to the Italian YG is voluntary through an online portal. Young people registered with the PES but not in the YG may still receive an offer or benefit from national or regional measures but are not covered by the data, so not all efforts are reflected in these results.

Over three-fifths (61.1%) of those leaving the scheme in 2018 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months afterwards. The proportion is however understated because certain positive situations (e.g. non-subsidised education and self-employment initiated without public support) cannot be monitored.

Longer-term follow-up data for those leaving in 2017 show the proportion known to be in positive situation falls significantly 12 and 18 months after exit (38.6%, and 30.2% respectively for participants leaving the YG in 2017). This decline at least partly reflects the end of offers recorded in the 6-month situation and increased numbers in an unknown situation.

Previous year

From the 2018 country report (EN - IT):

"Italy faces challenges with regard to a number of indicators of the Social Scoreboard supporting the European Pillar of Social Rights. In particular, Italy has a very high gender employment gap, low overall employment rate and high and increasing income inequality. The impact of social transfers is low, but policy action has been taken recently. The share of young people not in employment, education or training is very high, although declining."

"[...]Youth unemployment is still among the highest in Europe despite decreasing from its peak of 43.6 % in 2014 to 32.2 % in December 2017. The number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) fell from 22.2 % in 2012 to below 20 % in 2016, but is still the highest in the EU and subject to wide and persistent regional differences. "

"Long-term and youth unemployment pose risks to social cohesion and growth. Although declining, both remain among the highest in the EU, also as a consequence of Italy's protracted recession. The low overall activity rate is constraining potential output growth. At the same time, the high level of youth unemployment can hinder young people's acquisition of skills and future employability."

"Employment has returned to pre-crisis levels thanks to a modest recovery and labour market reforms. Employment grew by 1.0 % in 2017, after 1.4 % in 2016, largely helped by generous hiring incentives. Yet, total hours worked remain below pre-crisis levels. Employment growth is set to continue, but the unemployment rate is forecast to drop only to 10.5 % by 2019, with long-term unemployed and young out of work still numerous."

"Despite difficulties, the Youth Guarantee has delivered some results. The Programme acted as a driver of reform and innovation in policy design, contributing to the establishment of supporting systems at national level. The number of young people registered with the scheme since its launch reached about 1.5 million in January 2018 (ANPAL internal reporting, 2017). More than 1 million have been taken in charge by PES or private operators and more than 520 000 completed an active labour market policy measure. However, the proportion of young people still in the programme who have not received any offer for more than 4 months remains high (75.2 %). The share of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) covered by the Youth Guarantee scheme, while increasing, is still low (14.1 %). Further efforts are needed to ensure that young people, including those facing multiple barriers, receive timely high-quality offers adapted to their needs. Additional resources deriving from EU funds will be available from 2018."

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

Links to further information

Youth Guarantee Knowledge Centre – Including promising examples from Italy

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

Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKewjfhvO0vqXjAhWJIIAKHSssBo8QFjAAegQIABAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.garanzigiovani.gov.it%2FDocumentazione%2FDocuments%2FItalian-Youth-Guarantee-Implementation-Plan.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0H5i-xSbboVMUBOYZ8a7li>

Where to register for the Youth Guarantee?

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

National Youth Guarantee Website

www.garanzigiovani.gov.it/

Youth Wiki Italy

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