



Youth Guarantee country by country

Latvia
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 Latvia. It contains extracts from:

- The country report drawn by the Commission for Latvia 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.

Latvia presented a [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#) on 20 December 2013, updated in April 2014.

Latvia is eligible for the Youth Employment Initiative.

Commission's assessment

From the 2020 country report (EN - LV):

“Labour market performance is overall positive; however, labour shortages and skills mismatches have emerged. The employment rate continues its upward trend (77.4% in Q3-2019; 76.8% in 2018), on the back of declining unemployment (6.2% in Q3-2019; 7.4% in 2018) and a growing activity rate (77.7% in 2018). The long-term unemployed and young people also continue to benefit from the steady improvement in the labour market. Nonetheless, unemployment rates continue to differ depending on the region and level of skills, highlighting the need for significant investment.”

“Labour market performance is strong. [...] The long-term unemployed and young people also continue to benefit from the steady improvement in the labour market, but regional and skills level disparities persist.”

“Low-skilled, older workers and ethnic minorities have limited access to the labour market. While youth unemployment has decreased, unemployed young people often lack work experience and basic skills, and youth employment (33.1% for young people aged 15-24) is lower than the EU average (35.4%, 2018). As many as half of the registered unemployed aged 15-29 are low skilled, which reflects the overall high unemployment of the low-skilled in the country [...]”

“Employment conditions differ across regions and internal mobility remains a challenge. The unemployment rate, youth unemployment rate and share of long-term unemployed vary considerably across regions.”

“Workforce shortages are hindering access to healthcare and challenging the implementation of health reforms. Low remuneration has been a deterrent for young health workers and nurses in particular.”

“Renewing the teaching workforce is a challenge, as young graduates are not attracted to the profession and teacher shortages are becoming apparent, especially in science and maths.”

“The share of young adults with tertiary education decreased in 2018 compared to the previous year, but remains above the EU average. 42.7% of 30-34 year-olds had a tertiary qualification in 2018, down from 43.8% in 2017.”

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

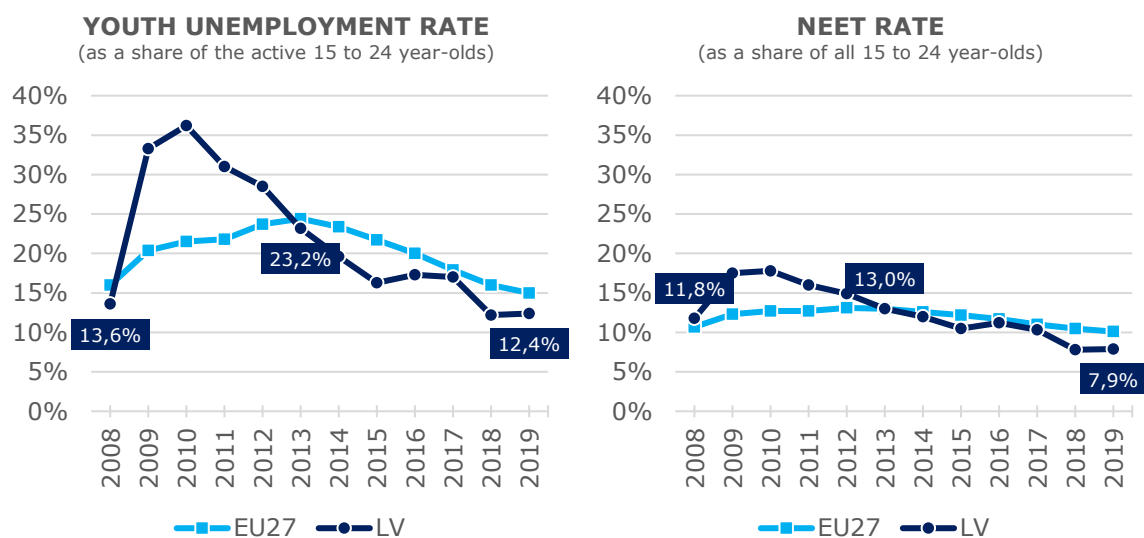
EMCO's assessment

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

Implementation of the Youth Guarantee in Latvia is advancing well. The new strategic approach is very welcome. As far as partnerships are concerned, the institutional setup and cooperation are well established and recent efforts have been made to foster more cooperation between PES, municipalities and social services. Outreach measures have been stepped up and are being implemented in cooperation with local governments and NGOs, with a variety of programmes for different NEET target groups. Regarding personalised services, a NEET profiling system has been developed, individual action plans prepared, and mentoring services made available. However, challenges remain as regards attracting more employers to provide employment offers, reaching out to NEETs who face multiple barriers and addressing dropout rates among registered NEETs. Further efforts are also needed to strengthen the link between employment and social services. Furthermore, there is scope for improved data gathering on NEET status and retention initiatives with regard to education. The ESF project, which aims to prevent early school leaving, started in 2016 and looks promising. Traineeships are not offered in the framework of the Youth Guarantee, only as part of ALMP measures. Latvia is more focused on workplace learning as part of its education system. These ALMP measures have traineeship characteristics and partly comply with the Quality Framework for Traineeships in terms of working conditions and learning context, but there is scope to improve the definition of learning objectives and recognition of experience.

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

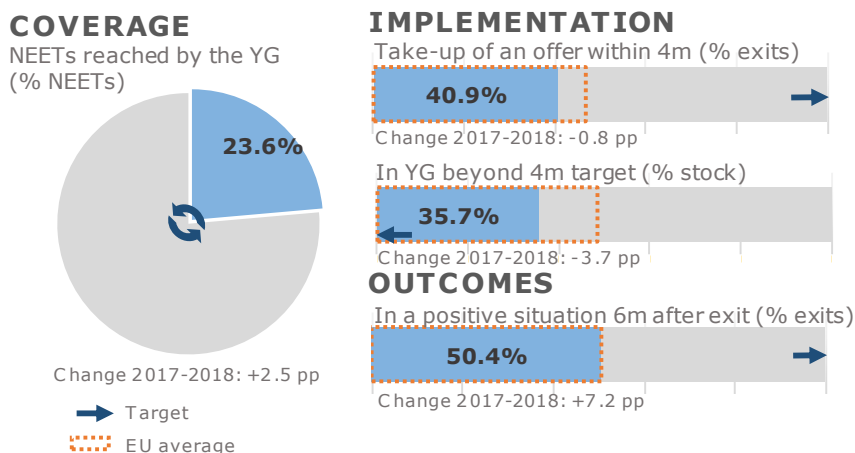
The Latvian Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan was presented in December 2013 and updated in April 2014. The scheme started in January 2014, targeting young people not in employment, education or training aged 15-29 years. The Ministry of Welfare is in charge of establishing and managing the Youth Guarantee while the State Employment Agency (public employment service - PES) and the State Education Development Agency (SEDA) are responsible for implementation. Young people can register via the PES, or via vocational and educational training (VET) schools for participation in 2nd chance VET programmes. At the same time, outreach measures, coordinated by the Ministry of Science and Education and implemented by the Agency for International Programs for Youth, municipalities and youth organisations (Know and Do! project) aim to make contact with non-registered NEETs and refer them either to VET programmes or to the PES .

In 2018, the Latvian YG offered access to general programmes/measures open to all registered unemployed, open market jobs and offers provided through the regular education and training system. In addition, there are four targeted measures available only to young people (gaining first working experience, Youth workshops, improving work skills in NGOs, in-depth vocational guidance).

Young people can register via the PES, or via VET schools for participation in 2nd chance VET programmes. A [dedicated website](#) provides young people with information on relevant contact points and how to register.

Further information is available in the national [Implementation Plan](#) as well as in the dedicated websites of the [Ministry of Welfare](#), the [Public Employment Service \(PES\)](#), and the [State Education Development Agency \(SEDA\)](#).

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, two in five (35.7%) of those registered in the YG at any point during 2018 had been registered for more than 4 months, well below the EU average of 48.6% and improved compared to 2017 (39.4%).

Two fifths (40.9%) of those leaving the YG in 2018 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, below the EU average of 46.7%.

The number of people aged 15-24 registered in the Latvian YG scheme in 2018 was, on average, 23.6% of the number in this age-group identified as NEET in the Labour Force Survey, well below the EU average (38.9%). Nevertheless, it should be noted that the populations covered by the LFS survey and the YG monitoring data may not fully overlap due to differences in definitions and recording methods.

Follow-up data were provided but are not in line with the YG monitoring framework.

Previous year

From the 2019 country report (LV - EN):

"In line with the favourable macroeconomic environment, the labour market performance is overall positive. The employment rate increased on the back of declining unemployment and growing activity rate. The long-term unemployed and young people continue to benefit from the steady improvement in the labour market (Section 1). However, the shrinking pool of the working age population is contributing to increasing labour shortages, in particular in Riga."

"[...] Young people also benefit from the improvement in the labour market, with this group's unemployment rate falling to 9.8 % in 2nd quarter of 2018 (below the EU average of 15.2 %), down from 36.2 % in 2010. The share of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) also decreased by 0.9 pp (year-on-year) to 10.3 % in 2017 (close to the EU average level of 10.9 %)."

"The Youth Guarantee is effectively supporting young people in the labour market. Implementation of the Youth Guarantee in Latvia started in 2014, targeting young people not in employment, education or training aged 15-29 years. The employment offers provided under the scheme are mostly subsidised employment in the regular labour market. The education offers emphasise several vocational tracks, and also include 'Youth workshops' which provide training to help young people with their career choices. The Youth Guarantee is implemented using national funds, the European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative. It has helped significantly reduce the rate of young people not in employment, education or training, which in 2017 fell to 10.3%, below the EU average of 10.9%."

"Latvia performs below the EU average as regards digital skills. Half of the population (52%) are lacking basic digital skills, and the gap with other EU countries is even wider for advanced skills (European Commission, 2018j). The national strategy aims to provide training on information technologies tailored to labour market needs, involve more young people in this field, and develop modern and interactive learning processes. Latvia would require substantial investment to improve the digital skills of its population and labour force for the digital transformation of its economy and society."

"The quality of public services differs notably among different Latvian regions, influencing their territorial attractiveness. [...] These data show that outside the Riga metropolitan area, large parts of Latvia do not present sufficient territorial attractiveness, making it very difficult to tackle emigration, especially of young people."

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

Links to further information

Youth Guarantee Knowledge Centre – Including promising example from Latvia

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

Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan

http://www.lm.gov.lv/upload/jauniesiem/ygip_latvia_20122013.pdf

Where to register for the Youth Guarantee?

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

Youth Wiki Latvia

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