



# Youth Guarantee country by country

*Poland*  
*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 Poland. It contains extracts from:

- The country report drawn by the Commission for Poland 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.

Poland presented a [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#) on 23 December 2013, revised in October 2015.

Poland is eligible for the [Youth Employment Initiative](#).

## Commission's assessment

From the 2020 country report (EN – PL):

**“The labour market performs well on the back of strong economic growth, but some challenges remain.** The employment rate of people aged 20-64 has continued to rise reaching around 73% in the third quarter of 2019, an all-time high. However, regional differences are significant. Warsaw has an employment rate (20-64) of 82.5%, much higher than in Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodship (66.7%). The shrinking pool of people being able to meet labour market demand weighs on employment growth, which is estimated to have practically come to a halt in 2019. The activity rate has been steadily rising, while the unemployment rate stabilised below 3.5% in 2019, among the lowest in the EU. Both long-term and youth unemployment rates have declined to record lows in 2019 to below 1% and 10.1%, respectively. At the same time, significant differences across regions remain.”

**“Employment rates differ between population groups. Employment rates for young men and high-skilled people are well above the EU averages.** In contrast, older people and women in particular experience substantially lower employment rates than their peers in most other EU Member States [...].”

**“The proportion of young people choosing tertiary education remains high, while higher education funding remains low.** The proportion of people choosing higher education has declined slightly over the past few years. According to PISA (OECD, 2019d), socioeconomic status strongly affects students’ expectations of completing tertiary education. Still, as of 2018, 46% of the population aged 30-34 had tertiary education, well above the EU average of 41%. Women choose and complete higher education more often than men.”

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

## EMCO's assessment

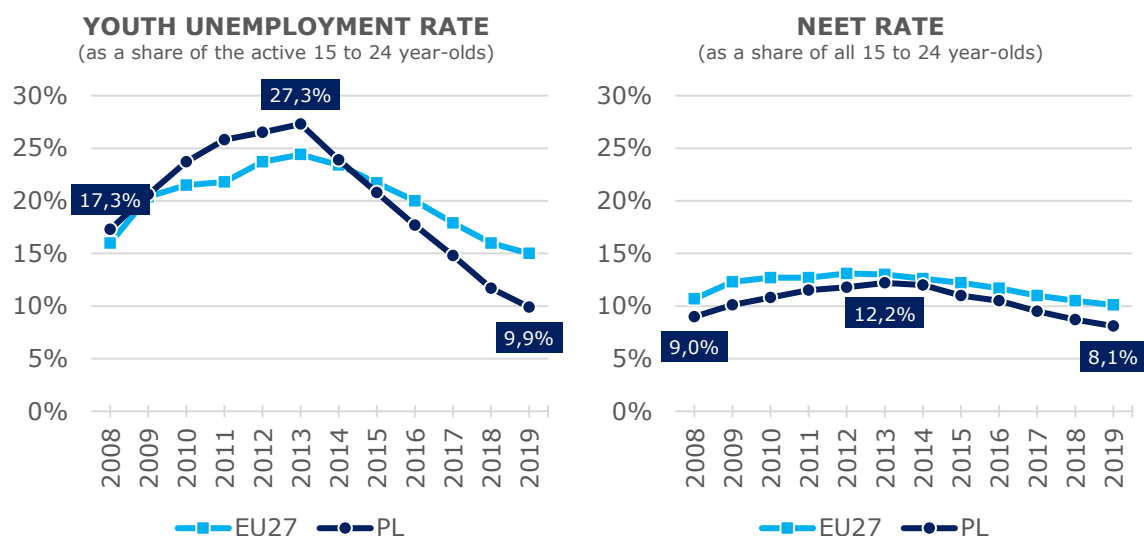
### **Conclusions of the Employment Committee's multilateral surveillance review on youth employment, October 2019:**

The Youth Guarantee is well established in Poland, complemented by a good monitoring system and a strong partnership framework in which youth NGOs are taking part. Some progress has been made since 2017 in delivering the Youth Guarantee. As regards the plans to further increase coverage, also in the context of a comprehensive strategy, outreach activities need to be further strengthened, notably with regard to NEETs and disadvantaged groups, given the diversity of the individuals involved. Personalised guidance and activation are key to ensuring the provision of comprehensive support, as are the inclusion of quality upskilling and reskilling measures relevant to the labour market, on which more focus should be placed. In terms of quality of reporting, there remains a relatively high proportion of unknowns on the situation of those leaving the Youth Guarantee scheme in 2018.

While compliance of traineeships with the Quality Framework for Traineeships is ensured, efforts to further increase their supply and quality need to continue.

## Youth Guarantee monitoring – Key data<sup>1</sup>

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



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

### 2. Youth Guarantee delivery

Poland submitted a [Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan](#) in December 2013, which was last updated in October 2015. The Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy has overall responsibility for the scheme and cooperates with the Ministry of Development in relation to activities funded by the ESF<sup>2</sup>. The main implementing organisations are the public employment services (labour offices at regional/vovoidship and local/poviat level), the Voluntary Labour Corps (working with marginalised youth) and the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK), a state financial institution involved in providing finance for start-up opportunities.

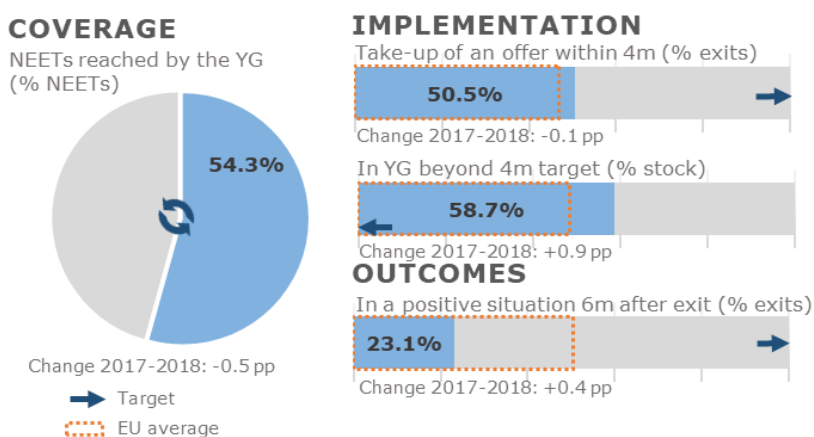
The YG scheme in Poland was initially open to young NEETs aged 15-24. In autumn 2015, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy extended the coverage to include young people up to 30 years of age (reflected in the updated implementation plan). Note that NEET criterion is relaxed for young people registered as unemployed but participating in informal education/training and hence technically not NEET. There is also an entrepreneurship option open to people up to the age of 29 who are unemployed or seeking work and still within 4 years of completing their education.

More information is available in the dedicated [Youth Guarantee website](#).

<sup>1</sup> 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>).

<sup>2</sup> The names of the Ministries are those applied since reorganisation in November 2015. Previously the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development.

## 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.

During 2018, on average, nearly six in ten (58.7%) of those registered in the YG scheme at any point during the year had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, a slightly higher result than in 2017 (57.8%) and significantly above the EU average of 48.6%.

On the other hand, half (50.5%) of those leaving the YG in 2018 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, no change from the previous year (50.6%) and still above the EU average (46.7%).

On average, the YG scheme covered more than half (54.3%) of all NEETs aged under 25 during 2018, slightly lower than in 2017 (54.8%) but well above the EU average (38.9%).

Less than a quarter (23.1%) of those leaving the YG in 2018 were known to be in employment, education, apprenticeship or training 6 months later, but the result is not particularly meaningful as the situation was unknown for more than six in ten of cases (63.9%). Longer-term follow-up data for those leaving the YG in previous years show a mixed picture and, due to the relatively high proportion of unknowns, does not give any clear indication as to the sustainability of offers.

## Previous year

From the 2019 country report (EN – PLs):

**"Employment growth slowed in 2018, with unemployment stabilising at historically low levels.** In the first three quarters of 2018, employment increased by around 0.5 %. New jobs were mainly created in manufacturing and some services sectors, while agricultural employment continued to fall. The number and share of permanent contracts has risen fast, while temporary employment continued to decline, although close to 24 % of all employees still had such contracts in the third quarter of 2018, well above the EU average."

**"Regional differences create serious policy challenges, though their extent is similar to that observed in other large EU Member States.** [...] However, many smaller cities and rural areas struggle with the outmigration of young, highly skilled people, and access to high quality public services such as healthcare, education or public transport."

**"EU funding has helped to address policy challenges identified in the 2018 recommendations for Poland.** [...] Furthermore, until the end of 2017, more than 520 thousand unemployed including 310 thousand young persons received support."

**"Poland initiated a reform of initial vocational education and training.** Such education currently takes place mainly in schools, with only limited work-based learning. The reform to be implemented from the 2019/2020 school year introduces measures to strengthen links with the labour market through changes in curricula, the financing system, practical training and increased involvement by employers. The financing formula is to take into account the extent to which schools' offer matches the demand for specific occupations. Demand projections are to be co-ordinated by the Ministry of Education. Vocational schools also face difficulties in equipping pupils with general basic skills, such as numeracy and literacy."

**"Tertiary education continues to be the choice of a large share of young people, but concerns regarding its quality persist.** In 2017, almost 46 % of people aged 30-34 had tertiary qualifications, well above the EU average. However, the quality of some of higher education institutions remains subpar. Weaknesses result from factors such as: the drawbacks of the quality assurance system; fragmentation of the higher education sector; its limited internationalisation and the suboptimal design of financial incentives (NIK, 2018a; OECD, 2018b; European Commission, 2017c). The supply of new researchers is small, with the ratio of new doctoral graduates to population aged 25-34 being among the lowest in the EU."

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 Poland*

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

**Youth Guarantee implementation plan**

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=16338&langId=en>

**Where to register for the Youth Guarantee?**

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

**Youth Wiki Poland**

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