



European Commission

# YOUTH GUARANTEE & YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE



Tackling youth unemployment is mainly a task of national governments. But the European Union can support their efforts. We are doing this with the **EU Youth Guarantee**.



*«I cannot and will not accept that Europe is and remains the continent of youth unemployment. I cannot and will not accept that the millennials, Generation Y, might be the first generation in 70 years to be poorer than their parents.[...] We will continue to roll out the Youth Guarantee across Europe, improving the skillset of Europeans and reaching out to the regions and young people most in need.»*

European Commission **President Jean-Claude Juncker**, State of the Union Address, 14 September 2016



## YOUTH GUARANTEE DELIVERY

The Youth Guarantee is a political commitment taken by Member States in April 2013 to give every person under the age of 25 a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

**Launched by the Commission, the Guarantee has helped put a dent in youth unemployment.**



**2.4 million less**  
young unemployed in the EU since 2013

**1.9 million less**  
young people not in employment, education or training since 2013



**More than 20 million**  
young people registered since 2014



**More than 14 million**  
young people took up an offer of employment, education, traineeship or apprenticeship since 2014



## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE (2013 > 2017)

**The Youth Employment Initiative is the main EU funding programme to facilitate the roll-out of the Youth Guarantee.** It supports in particular regions where youth unemployment is higher than 25%. The Youth Employment Initiative was launched in 2014 with a total budget of EUR 6.4 billion, targeted to young people not in employment, education or training in 20 Member States. As a first measure, the Juncker Commission proposed to increase the Youth Employment Initiative pre-financing to speed up the launch of the Youth Guarantee. In 2015, the Commission proposed a 30% advance payment to eligible Member States. This Proposal was adopted by the EU co-legislators soon after. It was an unprecedented and exceptional measure in the context of limited national budgets as a result of the economic crisis.

In his State of the Union Address in 2016, President Juncker announced that the Commission would step up the roll-out of the Youth Guarantee, by proposing to increase funding under the Youth Employment Initiative. Following the agreement of the European Parliament and the Council in April 2017, the total Youth Employment Initiative budget went up to €8.8 billion. This budget was further increased in 2019, to around €9 billion, and it will continue to support more young people in need throughout the EU.

**€9 billion  
until 2020**

**2.4 million**  
young people not  
in employment,  
education or training  
directly supported by  
end-2017

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S LABOUR MARKET PERFORMANCE (2008 > 2018)

Five years on from when the Youth Guarantee took off, young people's labour market performance has improved significantly:

- Youth unemployment has dropped from a peak of 24% in 2013 to 14.6% in February 2019, faster than overall unemployment and faster than the macroeconomic trend would have predicted.
- The share of 15-24 year olds not in work, education or training has fallen from 13.2% in 2012 to 10.2% in the fourth quarter of 2018.

○ European average

