



European
Commission

ESF EVALUATIONS 2014-2018

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Integrating young people into the labour market was one of the main priorities of the ESF for the 2014-2020 period. The Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), adopted by the Council in February 2013, provided additional EU funds. These funds aimed to benefit young people not in employment, education and training (NEETs).

By the end of 2018 **3.8 million** people under 30 had participated in youth-employment support projects. Women made up 52% of all participations and 70% of all participants were under 25. Some 1.4 million people entered employment immediately after participation. Further positive results of ESF projects include **employment-focused education** and training as well as **self-employment**.

Youth employment objective is addressed with by 58 ESF Operational Programmes in 17 Member States and there are 37 Operational Programmes with YEI spread over 20 Member States. An estimated EUR 22 billion is being invested in youth employment schemes over the current programming period (2014-2020).

The following findings of the evaluation can serve as lessons for future ESF programmes targeting youth employment:

- 1** To better target inactive, vulnerable and low-skilled young groups, **support should be extended to participants under 30** instead of the previous threshold of under 25;
- 2** **Work experience and vocational training** are key means of increasing employability;
- 3** **Intensive, personally-tailored guidance and support** can significantly benefit individuals furthest away from the labour market;
- 4** ESF work can **expand its outreach** by diversifying its means of communication. Key steps to achieving this include building a stronger social media presence and forging partnerships with schools, community organisations and frontline services.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

Sweden: project builds new paths to work for young people

Young people excluded from the labour market face diverse challenges that often require personalised solutions. Omstart is helping young persons between 15-24 years to increase their chances of finding a good job by developing innovative ways of working, reconnecting with education and highlighting how to approach labour markets.

Omstart gives guidance on municipalities into new methods of working and achieving education that may lead young people into reengaging with work and study. The project, which is financed by the ESF, collaborates through a wide range of initiatives – offering informed, active and effective support for shortening the search for employment.

Learn more



More info



[Link to the Staff Working Document:](#)



[Link to study and country factsheets:](#)

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