

Citizens' summary

Youth Opportunities Initiative

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Despite everything the EU and its member countries are doing, employment prospects for young people in the EU are bleak. One in five under-25's who are looking for work cannot find a job. 7.5 million 15-24 year-olds are neither working, nor in education or training.
- To respond to this situation, the European Commission is proposing a Youth Opportunities initiative in partnership with all EU countries.

WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THE INITIATIVE?

- To help unemployed young people who left school or training before finishing upper-secondary level to get back to school or into a vocational training course that can give them the skills they need to get a job.
- To give a first work experience to young people who have a diploma, but cannot find work.

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- The EU can provide both funding and policy support to help the national authorities provide jobs and opportunities for young people in need.

WHAT EXACTLY WILL CHANGE?

- A partnership between the Commission, national authorities, social partners and civil society with a better targeted European funding can help get young people into jobs.
- At least 5000 young people will benefit from the "Your First EURES Job" initiative, to help them find a job in another EU country.
- EU countries will set up schemes to ensure that young people are either in work, education or training within four months of leaving school.
- The Commission will establish a framework for high-quality traineeships to improve information on what opportunities are available throughout the EU, how to get them and what they offer to trainees.