



EUROPEAN COUNCIL - 27/28 JUNE 2013

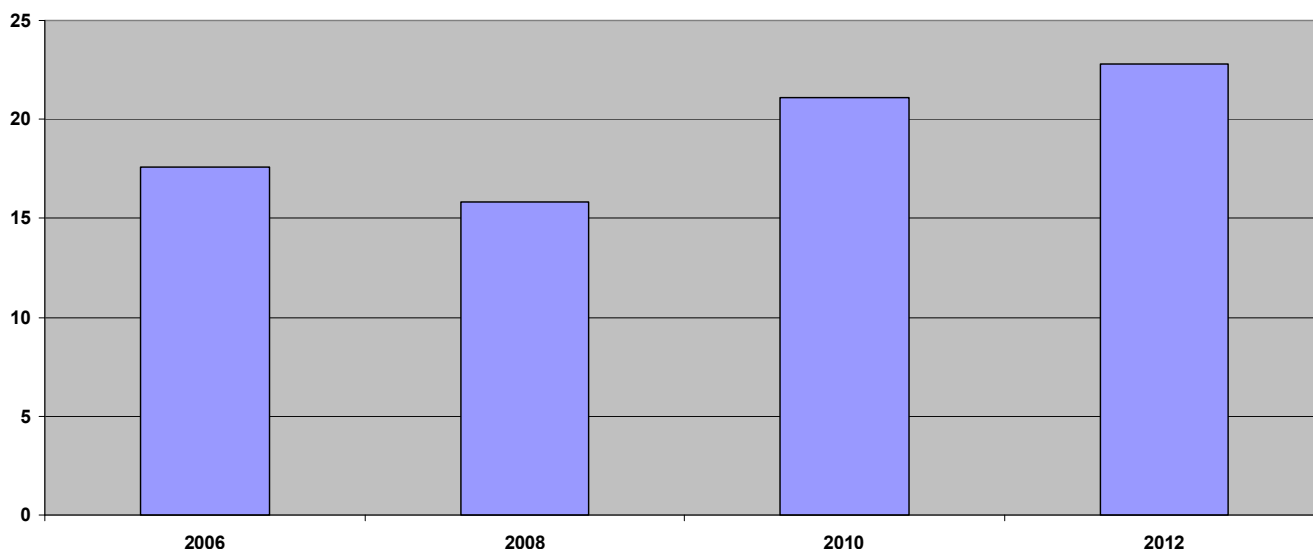
FACTSHEET ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, wants the June European Council to become a "rallying point" of national governments, social partners and European institutions to join forces in addressing the urgent problem of youth unemployment in Europe.

Youth unemployment in Europe

People between 15 and 24 years belong to the most vulnerable groups in our societies, as they are either newcomers to the labour market or their foothold in the labour market is recent and not very consolidated. The economic crisis has hit across all layers of society and young people is one of the most affected groups. The situation is particularly acute in certain Member States and regional differences in the rate of youth unemployment are increasing significantly. This could pose a serious threat to social cohesion and increase the risk of political instability.

Youth unemployment (%) in EU 27 among 15-24 years (2006-2012) - Source: Eurostat



In April 2013, the youth unemployment rate reached 23.5% in the EU 27. Moreover, the disparities between member states and between regions within member states are significant: the youth unemployment rate is over 50% in some member states and over 70% in some regions, while in a few regions it is even below 5%. All in all, currently more than 7.5 million of young people under 25 are neither in employment, education or training (NEET).

Actions to reduce youth unemployment

The **root causes** of unemployment have to be addressed through structural reforms at national level like reducing taxation on labour and eliminating the segmentation of the labour markets.

The **labour markets will only fully recover, when Europe has overcome the economic crisis**, which underlines the importance of EU's comprehensive strategy to combat the crisis through (1) restoring financial stability, (2) making the economies more resilient through sound public finances and improved competitiveness, (3) taking immediate measures for jobs and growth, and (4) completing the architecture of the Economic and Monetary Union.

As part of the 3rd leg of EU's crisis strategy and to address the urgent problem of youth unemployment, the June European Council is a "**rallying point**" for mobilising all immediate measures for jobs - from Member States over Social Partners to the European institutions. Although social and employment policies are first and foremost a national responsibility, the EU can complement and support.

P R E S S

The June European Council is expected to agree on a number of **new measures to combat youth unemployment at EU level**:

- Frontloading the **Youth Employment Initiative** of EUR 6 bn to ensure that the support is ready as of January 2014 and disbursed in 2014-2015 rather than spread over the entire MFF period of 2014-2020. In fact, more funding for this purpose could still be made available from unused commitments in the years to come. This should help ensure the maximum impact of the Youth Employment Initiative that targets regions with a youth unemployment rate of more than 25%.
- Speeding up the national **Youth Guarantee Schemes** to ensure that young people receive a job offer or an offer of education or training within four months after becoming unemployed or leaving school.
- Targeting youth unemployment when implementing the **Structural Funds**, including by reprogramming unspent funds. Likewise, resources from the **European Globalisation Adjustment Fund** can now also be used to combat youth unemployment.
- Increase **mobility of young job-seekers** by strengthening the "**Your First EURES job**", implementation of the Directive for **mutual recognition of professional qualifications** and the **Erasmus+** programme.

The European Council will also welcome the "**Framework of Actions on Youth Employment**" agreed by the Social Partners on 11 June.

The European Council's agreement on a new **Investment Plan for Europe** with focus on helping to finance the economy and in particular Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) through the next MFF and new measures from the European Investment Bank will also reduce youth unemployment.

Age 15 to 24	Total Pop (1,000')	Labour Force (1,000')	Job Seekers (1,000')	Activity Rate %	Unempl. Rate %	Unempl. Ratio %	Educ or Training %	NEETs %
	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
EU28	59.432	24.427	5.589	42,5	22,9	9,4
EU27	58.907	24.273	5.523	42,6	22,8	9,4	67,3	13,2
EA17	37.021	15.038	3.451	41,7	23,0	9,3	68,7	13,2
BE	1.341	418	82	31,5	19,8	6,1	66,8	12,3
BG	834	248	70	30,4	28,1	8,4	60,5	21,5
CZ	1.213	374	73	31,3	19,5	6,0	71,7	8,9
DK	707	449	63	64,1	14,1	9,0	80,2	6,6
DE	9.040	4.548	370	50,7	8,1	4,1	71,0	7,7
EE	172	70	15	41,7	20,9	8,5	68,8	12,5
IE	560	224	68	40,5	30,4	12,2	63,2	18,7
EL	1.147	314	174	29,2	55,3	15,1	68,8	20,3
ES	4.644	1.778	945	38,8	53,2	20,3	68,5	18,8
FR	7.991	2.803	668	37,8	23,8	8,4	68,8	12,2
IT	6.054	1.732	611	28,7	35,3	10,1	63,2	21,1
CY	134	42	12	39,0	27,8	8,7	61,5	16,0
LV	257	102	29	40,1	28,4	11,3	65,4	14,9
LT	417	121	32	29,3	26,4	7,6	74,6	11,1
LU	64	16	3	26,8	18,8	4,9	81,5	5,9
HU	1.207	301	85	25,9	28,1	7,0	68,7	14,7
MT	56	29	4	51,1	14,2	7,4	56,1	11,1
NL	2.048	1.415	134	69,9	9,5	6,5	78,4	4,3
AT	1.022	593	52	59,9	8,7	5,1	66,2	6,5
PO	5.090	1.565	415	33,6	26,5	8,1	72,0	11,8
PT	1.137	427	161	37,9	37,7	14,2	68,0	14,1
RO	2.736	834	189	30,9	22,7	6,9	58,8	16,8
SI	223	77	16	34,4	20,6	7,1	79,6	9,3
SK	728	222	76	30,5	34,0	10,4	67,5	13,8
FI	661	331	63	51,6	19,0	9,5	72,4	8,6
SV	1.243	652	154	52,6	23,6	12,4	71,5	7,8
UK	8.183	4.591	963	59,3	21,0	11,8	58,6	14,0
HR	524	154	66	29,6	43,0	12,6	68,4	16,7

Source: EUROSTAT

Note: The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force. The unemployment ratio is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the total population. The activity rate is the number of active people (both employed and unemployed) as a percentage of the total population.

References

- Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council [website](#)
- László Andor, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion [website](#)
- Youth Opportunities Initiative [website](#)
- EURES (European Job Mobility Portal) [website](#)
- Joint EU Commission-European Investment Bank report to the European Council [document](#)
- European Social Partners framework of actions on youth employment [document](#)
- Press release on Youth Guarantee [document](#)