

## Fund for Youth Employment

### **BASELINE STUDY**

### **Youth Employment**

### **in the 15+3 EU beneficiary countries of the EEA and Norway Grants**

### **“Fund for Youth Employment”**

First annual thematic seminar of Active Youth projects

25-26 November 2019, EFTA Building, Rue Joseph II 12 - 16, 1000 Brussels

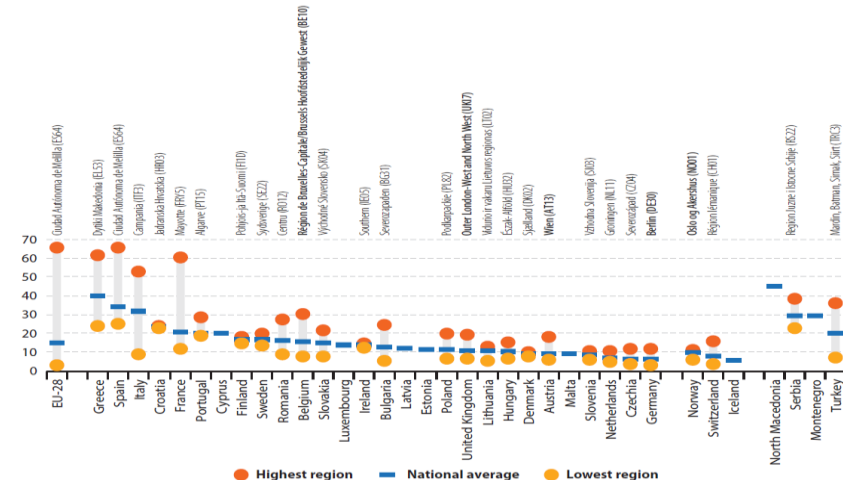
**Iván Martín** (with the contributions from “Fund for Youth Employment” projects partners)

# Overview of Youth Employment in 15+3 beneficiary countries

## Aggregate youth employment figures

- **Population 15+3:** 205 millions
- 34.5 millions 15-29 and 52.3 millions 15-34
- **15-29 labour force:** 18.2 millions
- **3 millions unemployed** (16.48% - UE 12%)
- Reduction in relation to 2013 (5.5 millions)
- **Youth unemployment rates typically 1.5 to 2 times higher than general rates** (7,1% for 15+3)
- 1,1 young long-term unemployed (Greece, Italy, Spain)
- **14,88% (15-34) NEETs:** 9,24 millions  
Particularly serious in Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Spain
- **Very low youth employment** (less than 20%) rates in Italy, Greece and Spain
- **Risk of poverty in work:** Romania (28.2%), Spain (19%), Bulgaria, Greece (more than 14%)

- High variations across countries and within countries



Note: includes data of low reliability for some regions (too many to document). For some regions an earlier reference period has been used (too many to document). Based on those regions for which data are available. Regions listed above the figure are those with the highest rate. Capital regions are indicated by a bold typeface.  
Source: Eurostat (online data code: ifst\_r\_ifu3r)

- Gender pattern for youth unemployment (female youth unemployment higher than male youth unemployment in some countries) but even more so for NEETs in Greece, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechia
- Higher for some minorities: Roma: Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Croatia, Slovakia

**Table 1. OVERVIEW OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE EU. STATISTICAL PROFILE**

15+3 Beneficiary countries	Unemployment rate (general labour force) % (Eurostat)		Unemployment rate (youth 15- 29) % (Eurostat)		Unemployment rate (male 15-29) % (Eurostat)		Unemployment rate (female 15- 29) % (Eurostat)		Total number of youth unemployed (male 15-29) 000 (Eurostat)		Total number of youth unemployed (female 15-29) 000 (Eurostat)		% NEETs 15-34 (general) (Eurostat)		% NEETs 15-34 (male) (Eurostat)		% NEETs 15-34 (female) (Eurostat)	
	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018
<b>EU-28 average</b>	10,9%	6,8%	18,9%	12%	19,3%	12,1%	18,5%	11,8%	5,160.1	3,160.8	4,225.2	2,596.2	17,2%	14,1%	14,2%	10,8%	20,2%	17,5%
<b>Bulgaria</b>	13%	5,2%	21,8%	8,3%	22,3%	9,2%	21%	7%	75,7	25,4	53,2	13,7	26,1%	19,1%	23,6%	14,8%	28,2%	23,5%
<b>Croatia</b>	17,4%	8,4%	34,1%	17,6%	35,4%	14,7%	32,4%	21,3%	73,7	29	52,8	32,8	23,2%	16,2%	22,2%	13,7%	24,2%	18,9%
<b>Czechia</b>	7%	2,2%	12,3%	4,4%	12,1%	3,9%	12,6%	5,1%	66,8	19,1	48,8	18,1	15,6%	12,5%	7,9%	4%	23,7%	21,4%
<b>Cyprus</b>	15,9%	8,4%	27,5%	14,7%	29,4%	16,2%	25,7%	13,3%	15,5	7,9	13,9	6,8	20,3%	15,4%	19,6%	13,4%	21%	17,4%
<b>Estonia</b>	8,6%	5,4%	13,8%	7,4%	13,4%	7%	14,3%	7,8%	10,4	5,4	9	4,8	15,3%	12,6%	10,7%	8,5%	20,1%	16,9%
<b>Greece</b>	27,5%	19,3%	48,7%	32,3%	45,5%	28%	52,4%	37,4%	217,8	107,7	211,7	123,6	30,8%	22,3%	27%	17,4%	34,7%	27,3%
<b>Hungary</b>	10,2%	3,7%	17,7%	6,7%	17,7%	6,2%	17,7%	7,3%	79,5	29,9	59,7	25,5	20,4%	14,7%	14,5%	7,3%	26,5%	22,5%
<b>Ireland</b>	13,8%	5,8%	21,5%	10,6%	24,7%	11,4%	18,1%	9,6%	68,6	31,5	47,7	24,2	20%	12,7%	18,8%	10,6%	21,2%	14,8%
<b>Italy</b>	12,1%	10,6%	29,8%	24,8%	28,5%	23,5%	31,4%	26,6%	620,5	503,8	524,5	421,5	27,2%	24,8%	23,6%	20,9%	30,9%	28,9%
<b>Latvia</b>	11,9%	7,4%	16,4%	10,6%	16,5%	11,2%	16,3%	9,8%	19,7	10,6	16,1	7,8	16,3%	12,7%	14,3%	10,9%	18,4%	14,6%
<b>Lithuania</b>	11,8%	6,2%	17,1%	7,5%	17,8%	8,6%	16,2%	6,2%	28,3	12	20,8	7,1	14,1%	10,6%	13,6%	9,3%	14,6%	11,9%
<b>Malta</b>	6,1%	3,7%	9,2%	5,5%	10,8%	6,5%	7,4%	4,3%	3,4	2,4	1,9	1,4	12,9%	9,3%	8,6%	5,8%	17,6%	13,2%
<b>Poland</b>	10,3%	3,9%	18,9%	7,6%	17,4%	7,3%	21%	8%	380,6	137,5	343,8	114,9	17,4%	13,7%	13,2%	8,2%	21,8%	19,5%
<b>Portugal</b>	16,4%	7%	28,9%	14,1%	28%	14%	29,8%	14,3%	129,1	62	132	58,2	17,1%	9,9%	16,4%	9,2%	17,9%	10,6%
<b>Romania</b>	7,1%	4,2%	15,8%	10,1%	16,3%	10,8%	15,1%	9,1%	167,5	100,5	111,9	58,4	20,5%	18%	15,8%	11,7%	25,5%	24,6%
<b>Slovakia</b>	14,2%	6,5%	24,3%	11%	25,2%	10,9%	23%	11,3%	85,4	32,7	53,1	23	21,5%	17,2%	15,8%	9,6%	27,5%	25,2%
<b>Slovenia</b>	10,1%	5,1%	19%	8,9%	17,1%	8,1%	21,4%	9,9%	17,7	7,9	18,4	7,9	13,2%	9,5%	11,3%	7,5%	15,1%	11,7%
<b>Spain</b>	26,1%	15,3%	42,4%	26,2%	43,7%	26,2%	41,1%	26,2%	947,3	499,3	815,4	445,8	24%	16,7%	23,4%	14,9%	24,5%	18,6%

15+3 Beneficiary countries	Youth employment rate (%) (general 15-24). (Eurostat)		Youth long-term unemployment rate (%) (general 15-29) (Eurostat)		Youth long-term unemployment rate (%) (male 15-29). (Eurostat)		Youth long-term unemployment rate (%) (female 15-29). (Eurostat)		Total number of young long-term unemployed (15-29) 000 Own calculations on Eurostat data		% Early leavers from education and training (% of population aged 18-24) (Eurostat)		% of 18-24 in work at risk of poverty (ESPN)		Expenditure in unemployment benefits & policies (% of GDP) (ESDE)
	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2013	2018	2012	2017	Last available
<b>EU-28 average</b>	32,3%	35,4%	7,1%	3,6%	7,6%	3,7%	6,6%	3,4%	3526	1727	11,9%	10,6%	11,7%	11%	1,3%
<b>Bulgaria</b>	21,2%	20,7%	10,8%	4,3%	11,3%	5%	10%	3,3%	64	20	12,5%	12,7%	11,3%	14,7%	0,5%
<b>Croatia</b>	14,4%	25,4%	18,4%	4,7%	20%	4,2%	16,4%	5,4%	68	17	4,5%	3,3%	5,5%	7,3%	0,5%
<b>Czechia</b>	25,4%	28,2%	4%	0,9%	4,1%	0,8%	4%	1%	38	8	5,4%	6,2%	5,2%	1,5%	0,5%
<b>Cyprus</b>	20,8%	29,6%	9,9%	2,9%	12,1%	3,4%	7,9%	2,5%	11	3	9,1%	7,8%	9%	13,7%	1%
<b>Estonia</b>	32,2%	41,7%	5%	0,8%	5,3%	NA	4,6%	NA	7	1	9,7%	11,3%	9,3%	18,4%	0,5%
<b>Greece</b>	11,4%	13,5%	29,1%	19,6%	27,4%	16,6%	31,1%	23,1%	257	140	10,1%	4,7%	13,3%	14,1%	1%
<b>Hungary</b>	20%	29%	6,7%	2%	6,8%	2%	6,6%	1,8%	53	17	11,9%	12,5%	5,2%	6,6%	0,3%
<b>Ireland</b>	36,5%	40,2%	9,7%	2,5%	12,8%	3,1%	6,5%	2%	52	13	8,7%	5%	10,2%	9,3%	1,5%
<b>Italy</b>	15,5%	16,8%	15,9%	12,7%	15,8%	11,9%	16,2%	13%	611	474	16,8%	14,5%	13,2%	12,3%	1,7%
<b>Latvia</b>	30,3%	32,9%	5,7%	2,9%	6%	3,1%	5,4%	2,8%	12	5	9,8%	8,3%	5,6%	7%	0,7%
<b>Lithuania</b>	24,6%	32,5%	4,3%	1,1%	4,7%	1,2%	3,7%	1%	12	3	6,3%	4,6%	5,8%	13,4%	0,5%
<b>Malta</b>	46,2%	50,9%	3%	1%	3,9%	1,5%	2%	NA	2	1	10,8%	17,4%	3,7%	5,1%	0,4%
<b>Poland</b>	24,2%	30,9%	6,8%	1,5%	6,3%	1,3%	7,6%	1,6%	261	50	5,6%	4,8%	11,6%	11,4%	0,2%
<b>Portugal</b>	21,2%	26,6%	12,2%	3%	12,9%	3%	11,3%	3,1%	110	26	18,9%	11,8%	11%	11%	0,9%
<b>Romania</b>	23%	24,7%	6,7%	4,3%	6,7%	5%	6,6%	3,3%	118	68	17,3%	16,4%	30,5%	28,2%	0,1%
<b>Slovakia</b>	20,3%	27,4%	15,6%	5,7%	16,6%	6,4%	14%	4,7%	89	29	6,4%	8,6%	5,6%	3,8%	0,5%
<b>Slovenia</b>	26,5%	34,7%	8,2%	1,8%	7,4%	1,8%	9,1%	1,9%	16	3	3,9%	4,2%	6,1%	5,4%	0,6%
<b>Spain</b>	16,4%	19,9%	17,8%	6,9%	19%	7,1%	16,4%	6,7%	740	249	23,6%	17,9%	12,3%	19%	1.9%

# TOWARDS COMMON SOLUTIONS TO SHARED CHALLENGES

## COMMON Key issues

- **Minorities** (Roma, but also disabled young people and immigrants)
- **Gender dimension** of youth unemployment
- **Education challenges:** early leavers, qualifications mismatch, quality of education
- **Migration** and brain drain
- **Precariousness** of work conditions & vicious circle (informal work, part-time work, training...)
- **EU centrality in the response to youth unemployment challenges: YEG**  
uniformity/tailoring challenge  
dysfunctions (disabilities; public programmes)
- Clusters of countries (Mediterranean countries, low-income Eastern European countries, Medium income Eastern European countries...)

## Topics for Youth Employment fund projects

- Activation of NEETs
- Entrepreneurship
- Social entrepreneurship and civic engagement
- Training and education models
- Digital employment and ICT,
- Specific challenges in rural, coastal and island areas,
- Gender approaches to youth employment,
- Migrants and young people with special needs (minorities, young people with disabilities...).
- Knowledge generation projectsw

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**Stelios Gialis** (YOYTHShare project, <http://www.youthshare-project.org>, University of the Aegean)

**Fund for Youth Employment**

- **COMMON KEY ISSUES FACED DESPITE OF THE DIVERGENT BACKGROUNDS AND SOCIO-SPATIAL REALITIES**
- **Minorities/ groups facing discrimination:** Roma, but also disabled young people and immigrants/ refugees
- **Educational challenges/ insufficiencies:** early leavers, qualifications mismatch, low quality of education
- **Precariousness in work reproducing a “bad job-poor prospects vicious circle”** (informal work, part-time work, continuous training...)
- **EU policies centrality (YEG) and uniformity** (regional or national insensitiveness, poor functioning and disabilities of public programmes)

**Fund for Youth Employment**

- **DISSEMANTING THE RESULTS OF THE BASELINE STUDY / HAVING AN IMPACT ON POLICY MAKERS**
- **Networking and bond creation among the 26 Active Youth Projects**
- **Frequent interaction through the Youth Employment Magazine and other sharing knowledge platforms or via face-to-face meetings**
- **Stakeholders involvement**
- **Trans-national and trans-regional integration of the results of the impact studies**
- **Produce policy proposals highlighting the why, how and where of YEG need of improvement**
- **Communicate these proposals to all relevant actors!!!**