

Boosting Youth Employment in Europe through Growth and Quality Jobs Guaranteeing a Future for the Young Generations



Tuesday 22nd November 2016

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre,
Brussels



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Overview

Eurostat's latest figures show that in June 2016, 4.194 million young persons (under 25) were unemployed in the EU-28, of whom 2.915 million were in the Euro area. Compared with June 2015, youth unemployment rates have slightly decreased, with 18.5 % of young unemployed in the EU-28 and 20.8 % in the euro area, compared with 20.6 % and 22.5 % respectively in June 2015. Although the latest figures show a small improvement, youth unemployment rates remain very high in the EU. With so many youngsters struggling to find a job, it is therefore pivotal to find solutions to tackle unemployment and help young people take first steps towards the development of their professional life.

As a response to this challenge, the EC introduced in 2013 the Youth Employment Initiative, which aim at supporting NEETs (young people not in education, employment or training) in EU regions most affected by youth unemployment, using a budget of €6 billion for the period 2014 - 2020. Additionally, EU Member States have developed Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans to ensure that all youngsters under 25 receive a good-quality offer within four months after leaving education or becoming unemployed. Despite its potential, the scheme possesses several limitations that call for more efforts towards developing new initiatives and guaranteeing them financial support.

In order to maximize their impact, measures to help young people to prepare for work must be taken from an early stage, starting with their education. Whether it is within a university or a VET programme, their training should meet the skills required on the labour market. Another potential solution to tackle unemployment, as well as to ensure sustainable growth and development, is to foster an entrepreneurial culture and mindset. Promoting support mechanisms, pan-European projects, best practices and networks are therefore important ways to bring about these changes and take advantage of expertise from across the EU.

This International Symposium sets out to assess the challenges behind current unemployment trends in the EU and determine viable solutions to boost employment in the EU. It will also analyse the ways in which employers, HR experts and employment services can help the young unemployed to boost their professional lives. Additionally, the symposium will define alternative strategies for youngster to acquire the right skill-set for the current labour market – both through formal and non-formal education - as well as explore different possible career paths, with a particular focus on entrepreneurship.

“ Youth unemployment is a tragedy and prevents people from playing a full and meaningful part in society. If every second young person is out of work – as is still the case in some countries in Europe – it seriously harms the economy, because people willing to work cannot work and skills are not developed. And it threatens social harmony. Unemployment can lead in the long run to increased social problems and ill health.”

- Mario Draghi, President, European Central Bank, March 2016

Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre
Avenue du Boulevard 17
1210 Brussels
Belgium



Why Attend?

- ✓ Assess the latest policy developments to tackle youth unemployment at EU level
- ✓ Develop viable solutions to boost youth employment and create quality jobs with the support of employment services and employers' organisations
- ✓ Define alternative strategies to minimize skills mismatches in the current labour market and develop vocational education opportunities
- ✓ Evaluate the potential of Entrepreneurship in tackling unemployment amongst young people

Who Should Attend?

- Ministries of Employment and Social Affairs
- Social Services
- Employment Agencies
- Youth Organisations
- Social Funds
- Training Managers
- Recruitment Advisers
- Human Rights Groups
- Trade Unions
- Research Institutes
- Social Innovation Centres
- National Departments for Social and Family Affairs
- Lifelong Learning Institutes
- Social Advisers
- Active Ageing Organisations
- Voluntary Organisations
- Local Authorities
- Employment and Social Inclusion Institutes
- Labour Economy Research Centres
- Labour Market Institutes
- Academics
- PhD Candidates
- European Social Organisational Science Consultancies
- European Employment Associations
- Social Partners
- Pension Organisations
- Associations of Social Enterprises
- Sheltered Employment and Labour Integration Organisations
- Physical and Social Rehabilitation Centres
- Disabled People's Rehabilitation and Employment Unions
- Vocational Training Centres
- Innovation and Personal Development Centres
- Special Employment Unions

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Guaranteeing a Future for the Young Generations

Programme

09:15	Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:00	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:10	Tackling Youth Unemployment: Current Policy Framework at EU level <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysing Current and Future Youth Employment Initiatives: Developments and Ways Forward• Working towards the Future: Facilitating the Transition from School to Work• Future Policy Recommendations
10:40	First Round of Discussions
11:10	Morning Coffee Break
11:30	The Role of Employment Services and Employers in Supporting the Young Unemployed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving Cooperation between the Different Employment Services• Supporting Young People by Providing Career Advice at Every Key Transitional Period• Involving Employers in Making Workplaces more Youth Friendly• Promoting High- Quality Remunerated Internships for Young People
12:00	Second Round of Discussions
12:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	Discussing Education and Skills: Preparing Young Students for the Labour Market <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth Employability and Universities: Shaping Students' Future• Addressing the Importance of Vocational Education and Training (VET)• Youth Unemployment and the Digital Revolution: E-Skills for Digital Jobs
14:00	Third Round of Discussions
14:30	Afternoon Coffee Break
14:50	Encouraging Positive Attitudes towards Entrepreneurship amongst Young People <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhancing Employability by Promoting Entrepreneurship as an Attractive Career Path• Supporting Self-Employment and Micro-Enterprises: Overcoming Fear of Failure• Facilitating Access to the Right Entrepreneurial Skills-set at an Early Stage
15:20	Fourth Round of Discussions
15:50	Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
16:00	Networking Reception
16:30	Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice

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Event Details

Date: Tuesday 22nd November 2016
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels



Speakers Include:

- ✓ **Joao Santos**, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- ✓ **Michael Freytag**, European Public Affairs Manager, Eurociett
- ✓ **Caroline Jenner**, CEO, JA Europe & Global Head of Regional Growth and Development, JA Worldwide
- ✓ **Alan McGrath**, Senior Manager Skills and Engagement, Higher Education Authority
- ✓ **Yann Camus**, President, JADE - European Confederation of Junior Enterprises

Forthcoming Events

- ✓ Promoting the Circular Economy Package: Towards a Sustainable Future in Europe 29th September 2016
- ✓ Copyright in Europe: Adapting EU Rules to the New Digital Age 20th October 2016
- ✓ Smart Cities in Europe: Promoting Sustainability, Innovation and Cooperation 25th October 2016
- ✓ Active, Healthy Ageing in the EU: Growing the Silver Economy through Innovation and Partnership 26th October 2016
- ✓ Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Towards Improved Standards for Sexual Education in Europe 27th October 2016
- ✓ Reforming the Common European Asylum System: Towards a Unified, Fair and Effective Policy 16th November 2016