

EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum, Workshop on: Youth Guarantee in cities

BRIEFING NOTE

20 October, 14:30-16:30

International Auditorium, 5 Boulevard Albert II, Bruxelles

External experts:

- Ulrike Storost (DG Employment)
- Ekaterina Travkina (OECD)
- Gianni Rosas (ILO) (tbc)
- Claire Dhéret (European Policy Centre)
- Marianna Georgallis (European Youth Forum)
- City representatives

Moderator: Giorgio Zecca (EUROCITIES)

Objective: This workshop will discuss the assets and challenges of the implementation of the Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment initiative at city level. Discussion will start from the main findings of EUROCITIES work on Youth Guarantee and will be enriched by cities perspective and experts contribution. The conclusions will feed in EUROCITIES future work in this area.

Format: Open discussion between city representatives and external speakers moderated by EUROCITIES Secretariat. Participants: maximum 35.

Introduction

The Youth Guarantee aims to tackle youth unemployment by ensuring that all young people under 25, whether registered with employment services or not, get a good quality, concrete offer within 4 months of them leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. The good quality offer should be for a job, apprenticeship, traineeship, or continued education and be adapted to each individual's need.

The Youth Guarantee was established in April 2013 through a Council Recommendation that invited all EU member states to adopt and establish a Youth Guarantee scheme. The European Commission allocated some devoted funds for implementing the Youth Guarantee in the Youth Employment Initiative (6 billion euros in total). These funds are available for the [eligible regions](#) experiencing youth unemployment rates above 25%. However, Member States may decide to allocate a limited amount not exceeding 10 % of the funds under the YEI to young people residing in sub-regions which experience high youth unemployment levels and which are outside the above mentioned eligible NUTS level 2 regions.

EUROCITIES work on Youth Employment

EUROCITIES launched its **Declaration on Work** in February 2016. This was a political call to cities, European institutions and key partners to work jointly for more and better jobs and a fairer, more inclusive society. Youth employment was identified as one of the main political priorities.

The **EUROCITIES Youth Employment Statement** (due to be adopted in October) stresses that dealing with youth unemployment requires an integrated approach: connecting different policies; finding the right combination of supply and demand-side measures; and brokering effective partnerships between public, private and non-governmental actors. This is essential to be able to match opportunities with the needs of the local labour market, and to provide tailored support to young people who need it.

The **High Level political round table** on Employment in cities taking place in February 2016 between European mayors and Commissioner Thyssen will be the occasion for conveying - among others - the main political views of European cities on how to promote youth employment and how to maximise the impact of the youth guarantee at local level.

Following up to previous exercises of data gathering and collection of practices on, EURO CITIES launched in June 2015 a specific **survey on the implementation of the Youth Guarantee at local level** open to its members. The aim of this survey was to get cities' views on the setting up and the implementation of the Youth Guarantee at the local level. The survey is an important part of EURO CITIES' work on youth employment and its main findings will feed in particular into the EURO CITIES statement on youth employment. The survey collected information on the development and the implementation of the Youth Guarantee at local level since its creation but also cities assessments and suggestions on how the Youth Guarantee could be improved in the coming years.

EUROCITIES main findings: challenges and opportunities implementing Youth Guarantee schemes at the local level

- Cities demonstrated to play a crucial role in the implementation at local level: from promoting local cooperation between stakeholders to launching new tailored measures, from outreaching, awareness raising and information campaigns for young people, to coordinating and integrating different services and initiatives at city level.

- Innovative elements have been introduced by cities such as preventive measures to tackle unemployment, specific initiatives aimed at limiting early school leaving, individualized and intense support including coaching and job placement, new working methods based on cooperation between city bodies and services and concentration of resources.
- The majority of cities are concerned by the lack of cooperation between levels of governments, hence preventing the Youth guarantee schemes from being more flexible and adapted to the local needs. Cities would like to be more involved in the design and implementation of the YG and to be more informed about it. Some cities even if directly involved in the implementation were not consulted at all in the layout/design of the YG. Moreover, in some cases where cities are directly responsible for the implementation of the YG due to an advanced level of decentralisation, they don't necessarily have the needed amount of resources to fulfil these tasks.
- Cities stressed that only a small part of the measures promoted with the YG are brand new and have been created due to the launch of the European Scheme. However, this had a positive effect on the pre-existing measures: more funding was available, a more integrated and transversal approach has been promoted, some existing measures have been reviewed and tailored.
- Flexibility of measures at local level is indeed a crucial point for cities: different approaches to answer the specific local target groups' needs have proved to be more effective. Measures must be adapted to the local labour markets, to the characteristics of the communities and to the specific sub-target groups (i.e. young migrants, young disabled).

Cities have identified main directions for improvement

- Cooperation with the other levels of governments must be strengthened, a proper involvement in the design and a sufficient funding must be ensured by national and regional authorities;
- Collaboration with other local stakeholders must be improved in particular with business partners and service providers;
- Outreaching to NEETs and young people who are not registered: need for ad hoc measures targeting the farthest from the usual channels, improving the inclusiveness of the scheme.
- Need of structural changes and reforms that cities can't achieve on their own: a multi governance effort must be paid in facing wider challenges such as the promotion of inclusive labour markets, the stimulation of the economy and the creation of jobs, the development of robust VET systems, and the promotion of a smoother transition from education to work.

Guiding questions for the debate: how we overcome challenges and improve the implementation of the Youth Guarantee?

- *How can we involve more cities in the design of the Youth Guarantee scheme?*
- *How can we improve the governance of the YG and establish stronger forms of cooperation between cities, regional and national authorities, and public employment services?*
- *How can we make the YG more flexible to the needs of local target groups and local labour market?*
- *How can we let cities directly access the Funds for the Youth Guarantee?*
- *How can we ensure that offer under the YG are quality offers?*
- *How can we promote innovative measures under the YG and avoid business as usual approach ?*