



EUROCITIES statement on youth employment

October 2015



Making youth employment a priority

Since the financial crisis in 2008, the number of young people without a job has grown considerably in Europe. To avoid losing a whole generation and to reverse these trends, our members have made youth employment a priority in the EUROCITIES declaration on work.

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.

What are cities already doing?

- City authorities design and implement policies and programmes for young people that are in line with local needs and that make a significant contribution to reducing youth unemployment.
- City authorities use an integrated approach and lead dynamic and effective partnerships at local level to address the challenge of youth unemployment.
- City authorities implement demand-side measures designed to create jobs:
 - by using social clauses in public procurement to promote traineeships or job opportunities
 - by supporting and encouraging businesses to implement a youth-friendly CSR policy
 - by supporting social economy through direct grants or social clauses in public procurement
 - by encouraging young people to set up their own businesses and offering grants to young entrepreneurs
- City authorities play a crucial role in implementing the Youth Guarantee at local level.
- City authorities are key players in customising education and vocational training to the needs of young people and of the local labour market in order to improve their employability.

What can be done?

- **Adequate resources and technical support** from the European and national level must be ensured to cities.
 - The **European Social Fund (ESF)** resources for training, skills development and social inclusion of young people must better target cities' needs and capitalise on cities' potential.
 - The innovative potential of the **Youth Guarantee** must be fully explored.
 - Youth Employment Initiative funds should be made **directly available** to major cities to use in deprived neighbourhoods where youth unemployment is higher than national and regional averages.
 - The European institutions and member states must work in **partnership** with cities to define, implement, and evaluate youth employment policies and programmes.
 - National employment strategies should be **flexible** enough to allow cities to shape them according to local labour market needs, specificities and potential.
 - **Stronger cooperation** is needed between businesses, formal education agencies and VET providers.
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