Addressing youth unemployment and inclusion-the EU ‘Youth Guarantee’

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Young people unemployment and exclusion

Youth unemployment (15 to 24 years):

- 12% - Australia
- 11.8% - the UK
- 11.4% - Poland
- 4.4% Czech Republic


- 13.7% Australia
- 16.8% OECD average
UNESCO (2012) vulnerable groups: experience a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion than the general population. Ethnic minorities, migrants, disabled people, the homeless, those struggling with substance abuse, isolated elderly people and children often face difficulties that can lead to further social exclusion, such as low levels of education, unemployment or underemployment (Di Nardo, Cortese & McAnaney, 2010, p. 5). Often cumulative disadvantage.

Due to complex interaction of structural and personal issues However - vulnerable learners are often perceived in deficit terms at a policy level:

• ‘at risk groups’,
• ‘the hard to reach’
• Using problematic behavioral characteristics

Vulnerability – a product of policy!

How good are jobs!

welfare is not an "Ikea catalogue"
European Context, 2016

- Over 88 million young people in Europe
- 12.5 million Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) across the Union (down from 14mln)
- 4.2 million unemployed young people (down from 5.5 mln in 2013)

European Policy Context

- Social policies (education, employability, welfare, youth) sovereign jurisdiction of each nation state
- Influence of European Union policies in social dimension
  - European Education and Training framework (2010-2020)
  - Renewed European Agenda on Adult Learning (2011-2020)
  - Youth Guarantee (2014-2020), among many others
- Decisions often taken within the European Union in Open Method of Coordination (OMC) - form of EU soft law
- ‘Social exclusion’ policy language the most commonly used in the EU
- ‘Competitiveness’, ‘innovation’ and ‘employability’ – main policy goals
all young people under the age of 25 years receive a good quality offer of employment continued education apprenticeship or traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education
Youth Guarantee

Policy framework
- Detailed national implementation plans
- Benchmarking
- Annual reporting and monitoring

+ funding sources
- More than 15,1 billion Euros in youth employment (2014-2020)

+ active measures
1. Building up partnership-based approaches
2. Early intervention and activation
3. Supportive measures for labor market integration (enhancing skills, subsidies etc.)
Spain

YG in Spain:
• The age limit extended to the age of 29 years
• Focus on disability sub-group
• 170,559 participants in 2015 (increase from over 21,000 in 2014)
• A partnership approach to implementation (national, regional authorities, 84 chambers of commerce, Youth organisations, NGOs)
• Subsidies, direct management and public contracting
• Measures: individual assessment and job search help, apprenticeships, internships, self-employment subsidies…

Unemployment of the population less than 25 years, annual average. Source: Maiztegui-Oñate et al 2019.

Challenges:
• Jobs offered through the Youth Guarantee are likely to be precarious
• The recycling of measures that were already in place
• Difficulties to reach the most vulnerable
Belgium (Brussels-capital region)

YG in Belgium:
- Brussels-Capital region: 33.2% of the 15-24 year olds unemployed
- Age range extended to 29 y.o.
- Target: non-registered NEETs
- Collaboration government agencies, welfare centres, municipalities, career guidance providers, NGOs and other new instruments and new partnerships created
- Every young job seeker is followed until at least 18 months after their leaving each of the destinations
- Job activation but more importantly education pathways
- 70% of non-registered - migrants

Youth unemployment rate, 15-24 aged. EU and Belgium (%). Source: Knipprath & De Norre et al 2019.
“The EU funds have helped a lot to set up innovative pilot projects to reach young people who are the furthest from the labour market. We learned that NEETS are a heterogeneous group, which implies an individualized approach. Local conditions and local actors need to be integrated in a global strategy towards NEETs. We are still strengthening our collaborations with education and vocational training actors to tackle early school drop out.”
Issues to consider for Australia

• Consider NEET group in terms of ‘vulnerability’

• Consider diversity of backgrounds/needs/vulnerabilities of NEETs

• Target specific groups through flexible and multi-agency approach

• Funding support

• Vision and leadership for long-term adult education and vocational education