



Addressing youth unemployment and inclusion- the EU 'Youth Guarantee'

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Supporting young people
into their futures:
Research and practice

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- **Senior Lecturer**, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, the University of Melbourne
- **Horizon 2020**, Encouraging Lifelong Learning for an Inclusive and Vibrant Europe (ENLIVEN)
- **Forthcoming book**
Europe's Lifelong Learning Markets, Governance and Policy. Using an Instruments Approach. By Milana, M; Klatt, G; Vatrella, S. (eds) (2019). Palgrave Macmillan.



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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

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) (OECD 2018, 20-24 y.o., women)

- 13.7% Australia
- 16.8% OECD average

Concept of ‘vulnerability’

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.**

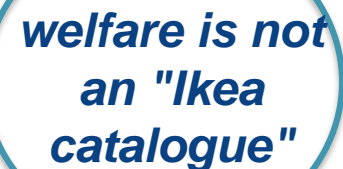
Due to complex interaction of structural and personal issues

However - vulnerable learners are often perceived in deficit terms at a policy level:

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



How good are jobs!



welfare is not an "Ikea catalogue"

Vulnerability – a product of policy!



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 14m in 2013)
- 4.2 million unemployed young people (down from 5.5 million in 2013)

Source: Eurofound, <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/topic/NEETs>; European Commission (2018) Situation of young people in the European Union Commission Staff Working Document.



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)
 - The European Youth Strategies (2002, 2009, 2018)
 - 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



Youth Guarantee (2013)

*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

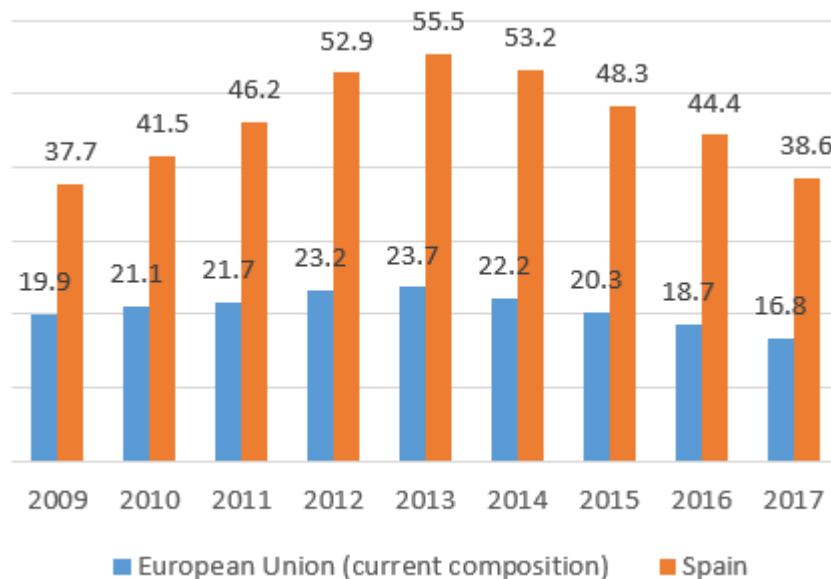
1. Building up partnership-based approaches
2. Early intervention and activation
3. Supportive measures for labor market integration (enhancing skills, subsidies etc.)



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.

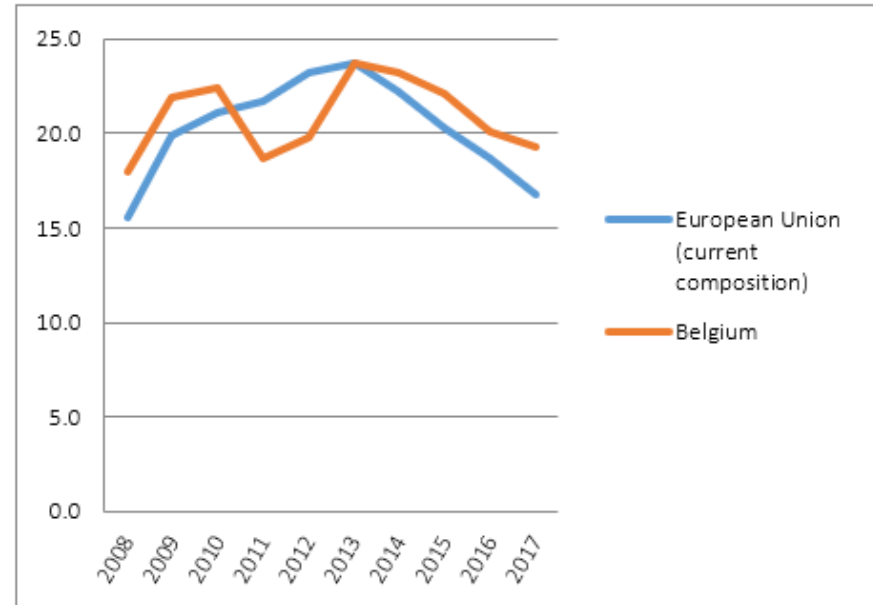
Challenges:

- 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.



Interview in Belgium

“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