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To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	EMCO Review of the implementation of the Youth Guarantee - Data collection for monitoring of Youth Guarantee schemes in 2020

With a view to the Council (EPSCO) on 6 December 2021, delegations will find attached the data collection for monitoring of Youth Guarantee schemes in 2020 as transmitted by the Employment Committee (EMCO).

The key messages from EMCO on its Review of the implementation of the Youth Guarantee can be found in document 14111/21.

The country-specific conclusions of the EMCO Review of the implementation of the Youth Guarantee can be found in document 14111/21 ADD 1.

Data collection for monitoring of Youth Guarantee schemes in 2020

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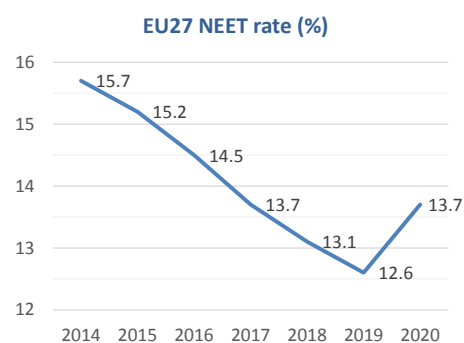
SUMMARY

This summary presents results of the data collection for monitoring the implementation of Youth Guarantee (YG) schemes in 2020¹.

The [Council Recommendation of 30 October 2020 on A Bridge to Jobs – Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee](#) aims to help Member States strengthen Youth Guarantee schemes to counter the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have disproportionately affected young people, and better support young people in gaining work experience and developing the right skills for a changing world of work, in particular those relevant to the green and digital transitions. The overarching objectives of the Reinforced YG are unchanged – to ensure that all young NEETs (people not in employment, education or training) get a good quality offer of work or training within 4 months of leaving school or becoming unemployed – but there is increased focus on identifying the target population, outreach activities to engage more of this group, and on strengthening preparatory actions to ensure that registered clients are better equipped to make the best of the opportunities on offer. Any sign of service improvements stimulated by the Reinforced YG will not be seen until data are available for 2021. In the meantime, this summary assesses how YG schemes performed in the face of the exceptional circumstances created by COVID-19.

Key indicators on the situation of young people in the labour market demonstrate clearly the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The number of NEETs aged 15-29 rose for the first time since the launch of the YG, increasing by 8.0% to just under 9.9 million. The NEET rate (proportion of the total population aged 15-29 that is NEET) rose from 12.6% to 13.7%, back to the level last seen in 2017. The NEET rate increased in all Member States except Romania.
- Whilst improvements in the NEET rate between 2014 and 2019 were driven by reducing unemployment amongst young people, the increase in 2020 derives – at EU level – more from higher numbers of inactive NEETs than unemployed NEETs, the former presumably discouraged from seeking work or training because of the pandemic. The situation varies across countries, however, with unemployed NEETs contributing more in several cases.
- Other indicators confirm the overall picture – the employment rate for people aged 15-29 fell by 2 percentage points (pp) in 2020 to reach 46.2% while the unemployment ratio (proportion of the population that is unemployed) rose by only 0.6 pp to reach 7.1%. Unemployment rising more slowly than employment declines implies increased inactivity and this is evidenced by the activity rate for young people – which had been static since the launch of the YG (range 54.4% to 54.7% between 2014 and 2019) – falling by 1.5 pp to 53.2% (compared to 79.5% for those aged 30-64).



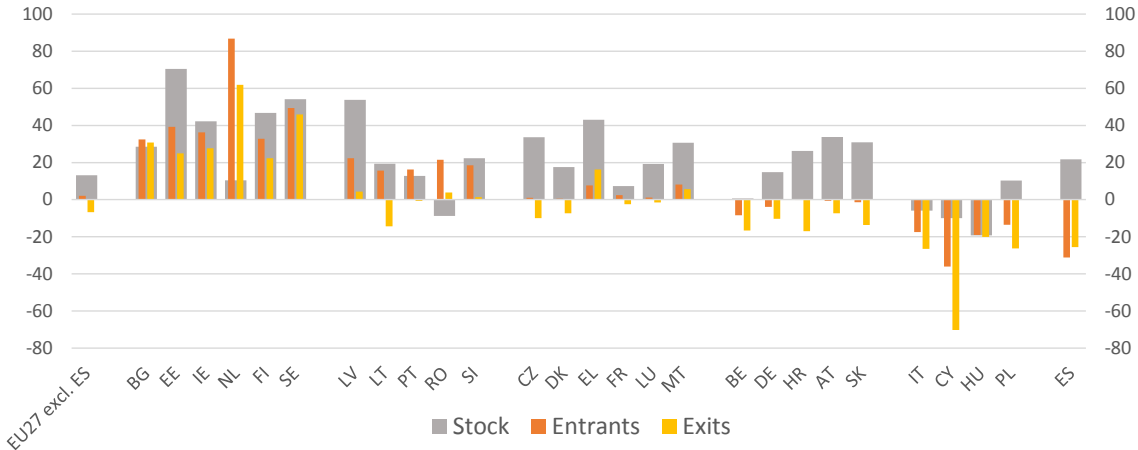
YG monitoring data at EU level show 7.75 million starts in 2020, a slight fall compared to 2019. However, after adjusting to ensure comparable coverage and taking into account the exceptional situation in Spain, the overall picture is one of increased inflows (+2.1%), though not enough to keep pace with demand given the increased size of the NEET population, and reduced outflows (-6.7%). This combination implies increased

¹ Data collection was based on the Indicator Framework for Monitoring the Youth Guarantee and the accompanying methodological manual, as revised by the Employment Committee (EMCO) in March 2021.

retention in the YG preparatory phase, evidenced by an increase of 13.1% in the average stock of young people registered in the YG at any point in the year.

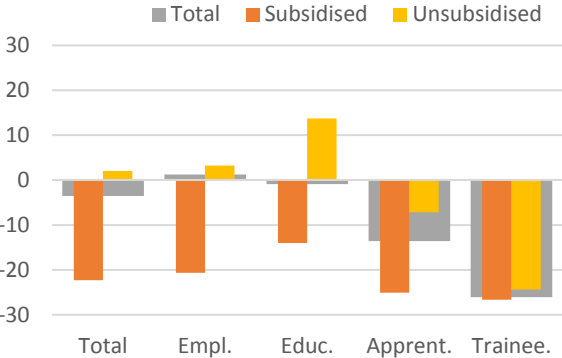
The situation varies across countries, with some showing much more substantial increases in the use of YG services as more young people registered as unemployed, while others saw registrations go down, presumably as a result of COVID-related difficulties to arrange initial interviews. In almost all cases the observed changes implied a net inflow during the year and, therefore, higher stocks.

Changes in YG stocks and flows, 2019-20 (%)



Whilst there was more demand for YG services, albeit less than anticipated, there was a clear delivery gap in terms of the offers provided. Perhaps surprisingly, the number of open market offers of work or training taken up by young people registered in YG schemes increased marginally compared to 2019, suggesting that there were still opportunities available for those that were suitably equipped. But the gap in demand (bearing in mind the additional numbers registered in YG schemes) was not filled through delivery of more subsidised offers. To the contrary, the number of subsidised offers declined by more than a fifth (22.3%) compared to 2019. Subsidised traineeship offers were particularly affected, with the number provided falling by 26.7% and accounting for more than half the overall decline in subsidised offers. Although some of the changes in the delivery of different types of offer at national level could be policy related, the main reason for fewer traineeships is likely to be the difficulty to organise and conclude traineeship agreements at a time when face to face contacts were restricted and employers were experiencing business slowdowns or interruptions.

Change in positive exits by destination and type, 2019-20, EU27 excl. ES (%)

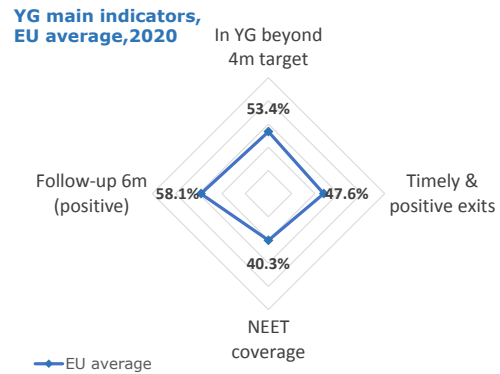


The main indicators for monitoring YG implementation show mixed results:

- The proportion of young people registered in the YG who had been waiting more than 4 months for an offer increased to 62.3%, highlighting the increased retention brought about by the pandemic. The result is, however, heavily influenced by the poor performance in in Italy (83.9%) and France (77.3%) and the average across all 27 Member States is 53.4%, an increase of 3.8 pp compared to 2019.

- Only just over one in three exits from the YG in 2020 (34.8%) were timely and positive (i.e. young people that took up an offer within 4 months of registration). This figure is weighted down by slow delivery in Spain and the average across countries was 47.6%. This represents a marginal improvement compared to 2019, suggesting that opportunities were still there for those work (or training) ready, and that the difficulties created by the pandemic had a greater impact on those needing more support.

- The supplementary indicator on the coverage of YG schemes (numbers registered in relation to the NEET population as measured by the EU Labour Force Survey) shows that only 36.9% of NEETs aged 15-29 were covered in 2020, though the average across countries was 40.3%. These figures are not fully representative, however, because a number of countries do not yet report on the 25-29 age-group. Coverage of those aged 15-24 was 47.4% in 2020 compared to 46.5% in 2019 so that still less than half of NEETs are reached by YG schemes, even if it has to be recognised that national definitions of NEETs may not align with those of the LFS.



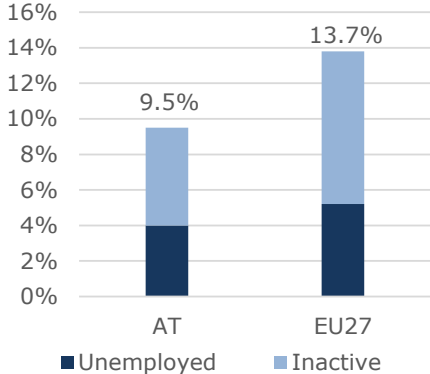
- Follow-up indicators remain incomplete as four countries have never reported any data and two others are currently missing for 2020. At the same time, however, there have also been some important improvements in data quality, reducing the proportion of people for whom the subsequent situation was unknown (notably Cyprus and Poland). The available data show that 59.7% of those leaving the YG in 2020 were still in employment or training 6 months later.

AUSTRIA

The Austrian Youth Guarantee implementation plan was presented on 12 March 2014, though monitoring started from 01 January 2014. The national scheme has developed progressively and focuses on facilitating the transition from education to work and reducing the numbers of early school leavers. The YG monitoring data cover all young people aged 15-29 (15-24 up to 2019) registered with the PES as unemployed or as an apprenticeship seeker, or who directly started a measure offered by the PES. Data cover employment, education and apprenticeship offers. Traineeships exist but cannot be identified in the data. Most training measures have no minimum duration by design, but a quality filter is used in case of training offers for which the quality cannot be identified ex ante, so that only cases where individuals follow the programme for more than 2 months (62 days) are counted as positive exits. Shorter durations are counted as continued registration in the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Austria, 2020

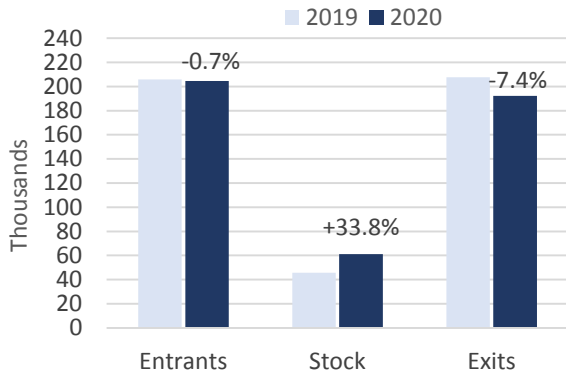


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Austria was 9.5%, well below the EU rate of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 4.0% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 5.5% (8.6% at EU level). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased by 1.2 pp, a change that derived mainly from unemployed NEETs (+1.0 pp vs +0.2 pp for inactive NEETs) and the older age-groups (+0.1 pp for those aged 15-19, +1.6 pp for those aged 20-24 and +1.8 pp for those aged 25-29).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-24, Austria, 2019-2020



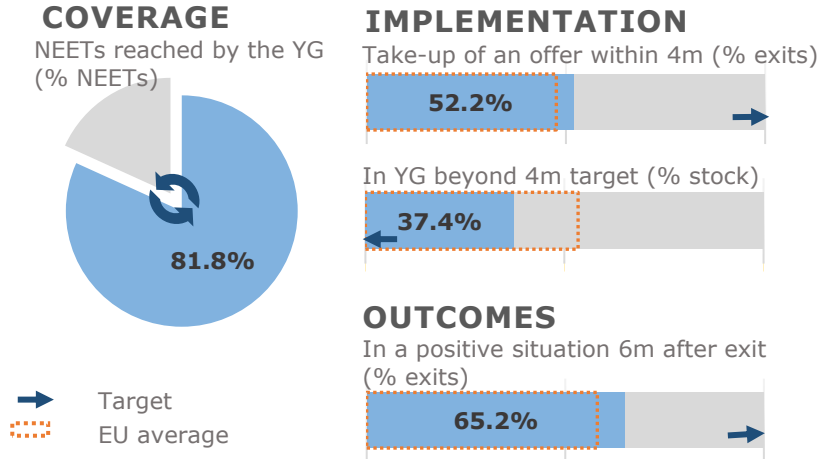
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

Austria provided data for the 25-29 age-group for the first time in relation to reference year 2020 so there are no historical data for the new wider coverage of the Reinforced YG. To assess the impact of COVID-19, therefore, comparisons are restricted to the 15-24 age-group. Compared to 2019, entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) in 2020 decreased overall by 0.7%, though there were more significant changes by age-group: -9.4% for those aged 15-19 and +3.6% for those aged 20-24. Exits, on the other hand, declined significantly (-7.4%), thus resulting in a significant increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year (+33.8%).

Key results

- ❖ Austria provided data for the 25-29 age-group for the first time. Comparison through time for the wider age-group supported by the Reinforced YG (15-29) is thus not yet possible.
- ❖ In 2020, 37.4% of young people aged 15-29 remained in the YG preparatory phase beyond the 4-month target, a result that is below the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Just over half (52.2%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, a figure that is above the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ The Austrian YG scheme covered four in five (81.8%) of all NEETs aged under 29 in 2020. This represents much better coverage than the EU average of 40.3%.
- ❖ Around two thirds (65.2%) of those leaving the scheme in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months after exit. This rate is above the EU average of 58.1%.

Key results, 15-29, Austria, 2020



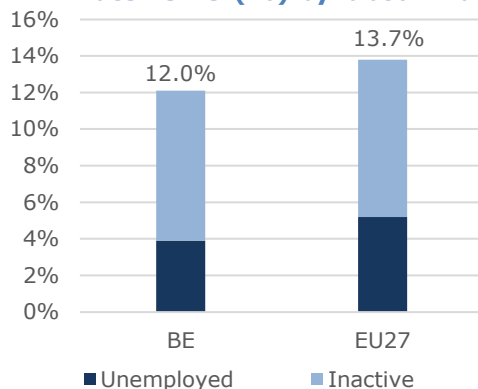
Notes: Change between 2019 and 2020 not applicable as reference data are different (15-24 in 2019 vs 15-29 in 2020).
 Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

BELGIUM

The Youth Guarantee scheme in Belgium was formally launched on 1st January 2014 and subsequently implemented by the regional authorities. The YG scheme is available to young people aged 15-29 registered as jobseekers with any of the four regional public employment services (PES), and who are not employed or participating in an education or training measure. To date, however, only VDAB and FOREM have provided data for the 25-29 age-group (as of 2020). In the Brussels region, the YG also targets young NEETs who have not registered as jobseekers, however the YG monitoring data cover only those who have registered with the PES (Actiris). The Belgian YG scheme provides employment, education and traineeship offers. To be recorded as a positive exit from the YG, participants should remain in an offer for at least 28 days.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Belgium, 2020

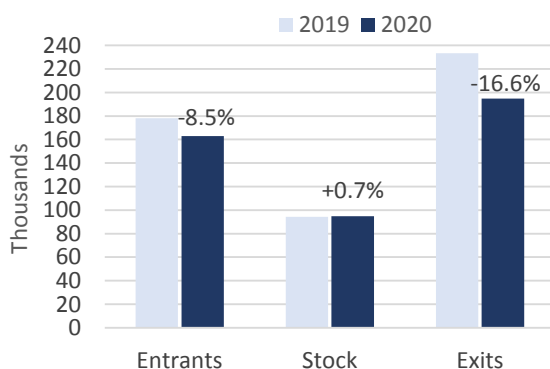


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Belgium was 12.0%, slightly below the EU rate of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for just 3.9% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 8.2% (8.6% at EU level). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased by only 0.2 pp. This small change derives from an increase of +0.8 pp in the 25-29 age-group compared to +0.2 pp for those aged 15-19 and -0.3 pp for those aged 20-24.

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-24, Belgium, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

Prior to 2020, Belgium reported only on the 15-24 age-group. To assess the impact of COVID-19, therefore, comparisons between 2020 and 2019 are restricted to the 15-24 age-group. Even this comparison is limited, however, because Actiris and ADG failed to

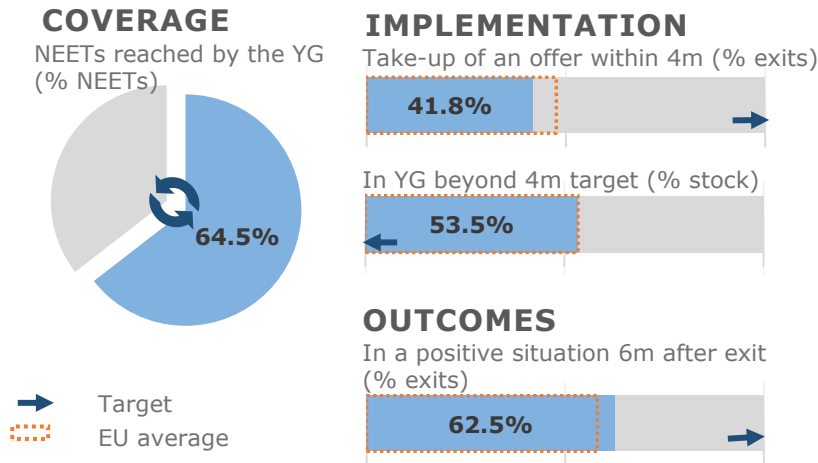
provide data for 2020. Belgian totals for 2020 have been completed using 2019 data for these providers, which accounted for 14% of inflows to the YG in 2019.

The data that are available show a decline in the use of the YG in Belgium during 2020 compared to 2019, though this change is likely to be understated (i.e. assuming similar changes for Actiris and ADG). Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) fell by 8.5% overall, though notably more among the 15-19 age-group (-16.2%) than the 20-24 age-group (-6.2%). Exits dropped by -16.6% but still exceeded the number of entrants by 20%. Yet the average stock of young people registered in the YG during 2020 was little changed from 2019 (+0.7%), which – in light of a net outflow - implies longer retention times.

Key results

- ❖ Data on the 25-29 age-group have been provided for the first time so comparison through time for the wider age-group supported by the Reinforced YG (15-29) is not yet possible. Moreover, Actiris and ADG failed to provide data for 2020 and Belgian totals have been completed using 2019 data for these providers.
- ❖ On average, more than half (53.5%) of those registered in the Belgian YG scheme at any point during 2020 had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, on par with the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Of those leaving the YG in 2020, 41.8% took up an offer within 4 months of registration, somewhat below the EU average (47.7%).
- ❖ On average during 2020, the Belgian YG scheme covered nearly two thirds of all NEETs aged 15-29 (64.5%), well above the EU average of 40.3%. This figure, however, underestimates the true coverage due to the incomplete data on participation amongst the 25-29 age-group (provided by Le Forem and VDAB only). Considering the 15-24 age-group only, the Belgian YG scheme reached about eight in ten young NEETs (79.4%), well above the EU average for that age-group (46.3%).
- ❖ More than three in five of those leaving the YG in 2020 (62.5%) were known to be in employment, education or training 6 months later. Moreover, longer-term follow-up data for those leaving the YG in previous years suggest that these outcomes are sustainable.

Key results, 15-29, Belgium, 2019-2020



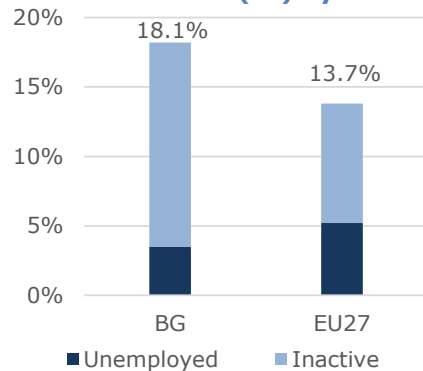
Notes: Change between 2019 and 2020 not meaningful as reference data are different (15-24 in 2019 vs 15-29 in 2020).
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

BULGARIA

The Youth Guarantee (YG) scheme in Bulgaria was launched in January 2014. Implementation is overseen by a Coordination Council (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy), with other actors involved being the Ministries in charge of Regional Development, Education and Science, Youth and Sport, Economy and Energy, the National Association of Municipalities and national representative organisations of employers, employees and young people. The YG in Bulgaria is available to all young people aged 15-29 who have registered with the PES as unemployed. The scheme provides access to employment and traineeship offers. Apprenticeships are also available as part of the dual-learning system, but are not specifically offered through the YG and cannot currently be monitored. By design, all measures offered have a duration of at least 6 months, but there is no minimum duration for the recording of positive exits (e.g. in case of drop-out).

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Bulgaria, 2020

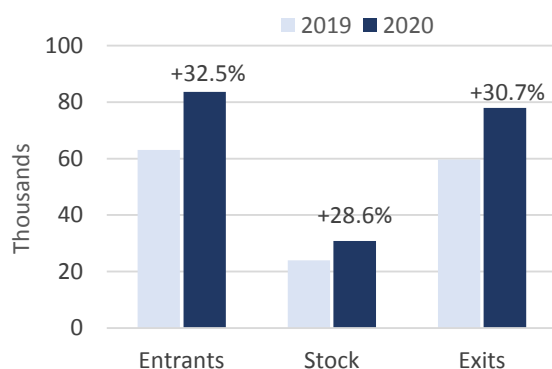


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Bulgaria was 18.1%, well above the EU rate of 13.7%. Although unemployed NEETs accounted for only 3.5% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, a further 14.7% were inactive NEETs – the second highest share seen amongst Member States (after Italy). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased by 1.4 pp. There was a small decline in the NEET rate for those aged 15-19 (-1.0 pp) but increases in both older age-groups (+2.5 pp for those aged 20-24 and +3.0 pp for those aged 25-29).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Bulgaria, 2019-2020



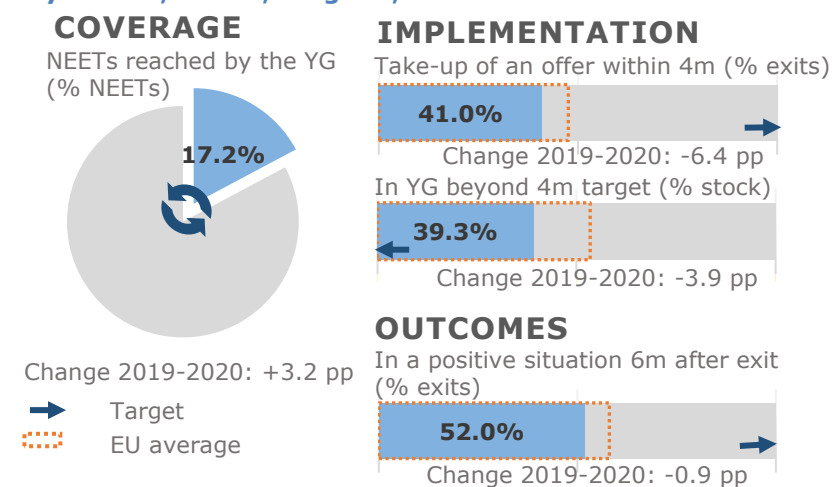
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

During 2020, there was a significant increase in the use of the YG. Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) increased by nearly a third overall (+32.5%). However, there were substantial differences by age, with inflows 45.5% higher in the 20-24 age-group, +28.5% for the 25-29 group, and only a small change for those aged 15-19 (+2.8%). Exits from the YG also increased, but by less than inflows (30.7%). As a result, the average stock of young people registered in the YG during 2020 increased by 28.6% compared to 2019.

Key results

- ❖ In 2020, on average, just under two fifths (39.3%) of young people aged 15-29 remained in the YG preparatory phase beyond 4 months, a slight improvement compared to 2019 (-3.9 pp), and somewhat below the EU average (53.4%).
- ❖ Over two fifths (41.0%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, down by 6.4 pp compared to 2019, and below the EU average (47.6%).
- ❖ Less than a fifth (17.2%) of the NEET population in Bulgaria was covered by the YG scheme in 2020. This low coverage reflects the high proportion of inactive youth in the NEET population (81.2%), a group that is not reached by the YG.
- ❖ Over half (52.0%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months after exit. This is just below the EU average (55.4%), but likely to be understated as the follow-up data (a) appear to cover only those that left with an offer and (b) cannot track people returning to regular education or training. Consequently, as many as 40.7% of those leaving the YG in 2020 were in an unknown situation 6m after exit. Positive outcomes 6 months after exit were lowest for the 15-19 age group (36.6% compared to 47.1% for those aged 20-24 and 57.5% for those aged 25-29).

Key results, 15–29, Bulgaria, 2019-2020



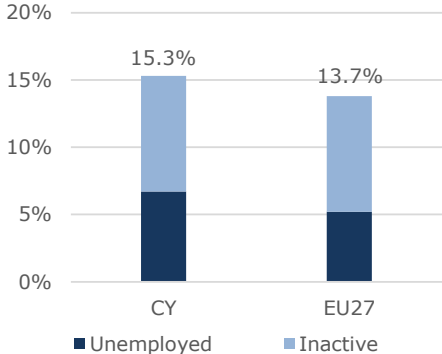
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

CYPRUS

Cyprus presented its Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan at the end of December 2013 and started implementing a Youth Guarantee scheme for people aged 15-24 in January 2014. The target group was extended to cover those aged 25-29 in mid-2017. Monitoring data cover all young people aged 15-29 registered as unemployed with the Cypriot public employment services (PES). In general, Cyprus does not provide differential treatment for young unemployed so that people registered in the YG scheme simply have access to the programmes/measures open to all registered unemployed. Indeed, in 2020 there was just one subsidised employment programme specifically targeted at people under the age of 25 and one traineeship programme that seem to be open to all registered unemployed. As of 2020, employment and training offers should last for at least 28 days to be considered good quality offers.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Cyprus, 2020

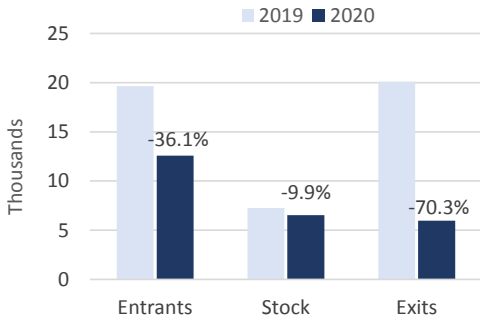


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Cyprus was 15.3%, slightly above the EU rate of 13.7% . Unemployed NEETs accounted for 6.7% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 8.6%, the same share as at EU level. Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased by 1.2 pp (+0.8 pp for unemployed NEETs and +0.4 pp for inactive NEETs).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Cyprus, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

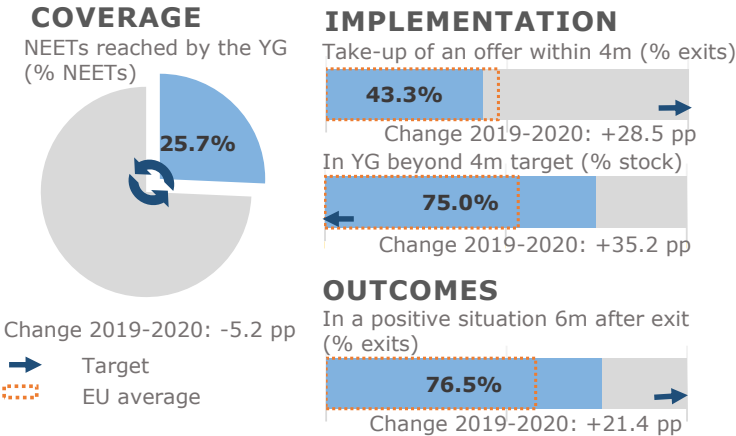
Cyprus introduced a new monitoring system to compile the YG monitoring data for 2020. The approach includes some important differences with the previous methods (section **Error! Reference source not found.**) so that any comparisons with previous years, as shown above, should be interpreted with caution. The changes in data compilation impact (so far as we can tell) on flow data much more than stock data so that comparisons of

entrants and exits between 2020 and previous years are not meaningful. Stock data appear to be less affected, but the reduction of 9.9% compared to 2019 could also be linked to the methodological changes.

Key results

- ❖ Cyprus introduced a new monitoring system to compile the YG monitoring data for 2020. The approach is quite different from before so that any comparisons with previous years should be made with caution, particularly in relation to flow data for which comparisons are unlikely to have any meaning.
- ❖ Over two fifths (43.3%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, slightly below the EU average (47.6%).
- ❖ Three out of four (75.0%) of those registered in the YG scheme at any point during 2020 had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, a much higher proportion than the EU average of 53.4%. Compared to 2019, that represents an increase of 35.2 pp which partly reflects the methodological changes implemented in 2020.
- ❖ The Cypriot YG scheme covered a quarter (25.7%) of the of all NEETs aged under 29 in 2020. This represents much lower coverage than the EU average of 40.3% and reduced compared to 2019 (-5.2 pp) because of the reduced stock (which could be partly methodological).
- ❖ Three quarters (76.5%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months after leaving, a higher proportion than the EU average of 58.1%.

Key results, 15–29, Cyprus, 2019-2020



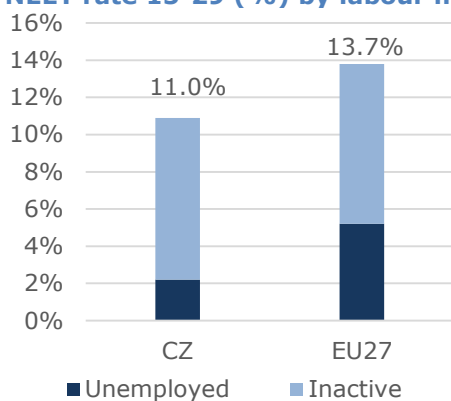
Note: Due to methodological changes, comparison with previous years should be made with caution.
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

CZECHIA

The Czech Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan was presented in December 2013 and updated in April 2014 when the implementation and monitoring of the scheme began. Monitoring data cover all young people aged 15-29 registered as unemployed with the Czech PES. In 2020, the Czech YG provided subsidised offers of all possible types except apprenticeships as there is no dual system in the country. All offers regardless of their duration are regarded as exits from the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Czechia, 2020

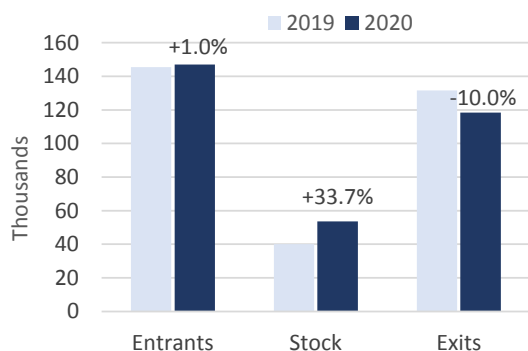


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Czechia was 11.0%, somewhat lower than the EU rate of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for just 2.2% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 8.7% (8.6% at EU level). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased by 1.2 pp, with similar contributions from the unemployed and inactive components of the population (+0.6 pp and +0.5 pp respectively).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Czechia, 2019-2020



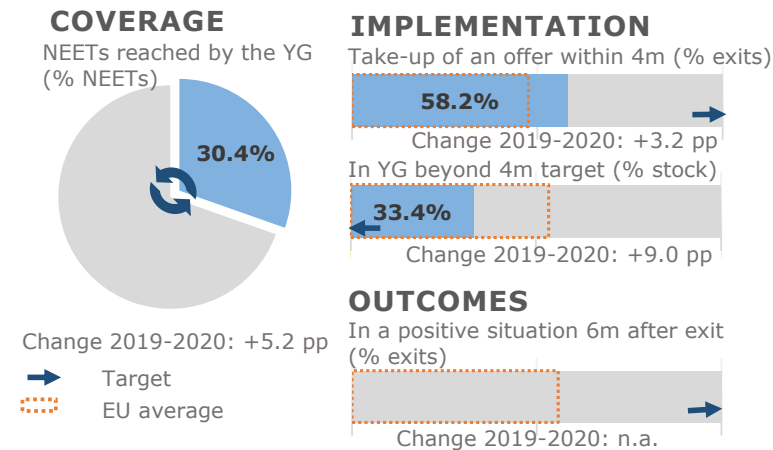
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

During 2020, the use of the YG remained at similar levels as in 2019, with the number of entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) increasing by just 1.0% overall. Inflows increased for those aged 20-24 (+5.0% vs only 0.2% for 25-29) but decreased by 5.3% for those aged 15-19. At the same time, exits from the YG decreased overall by 10.0% resulting in a significant increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during 2020 (+33.7%).

Key results

- ❖ In 2020, 33.4% of young people aged 15-29 remained in the YG preparatory phase beyond the 4-month target, a result that is well below the EU average (53.4%).
- ❖ Almost three fifths (58.2%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, up 3.2 pp compared to 2019 and above the EU average (47.6%).
- ❖ The Czech YG scheme covered three in ten (30.4%) of all NEETs aged under 29 in 2020. This represents lower coverage than the EU average of 40.3%, though compared to 2019, coverage of Czech YG scheme has increased by 5.2 pp.
- ❖ Follow-up data to assess the sustainability of outcomes are not available.

Key results, 15–29, Czechia, 2019-2020



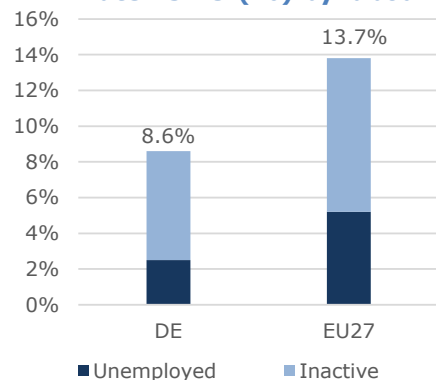
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

GERMANY

Germany presented its Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan in April 2014 but the start-date of the monitoring was set to January 1, 2014. The Federal Employment Agency (BA²) is the key public service provider in the German labour market. Delivery is mostly via local job centres (the majority of which are managed jointly with municipalities), which provide placement and advice services and activation through integration and education/training programmes. Monitoring data cover all young people aged up to 29 registered with the PES either as unemployed or as applicants for vocational training. The German YG offers access to active labour market programmes/measures open to all registered unemployed, subsidised education and apprenticeship offers, as well as open market jobs and re-entry to the regular education and training system.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Germany, 2020

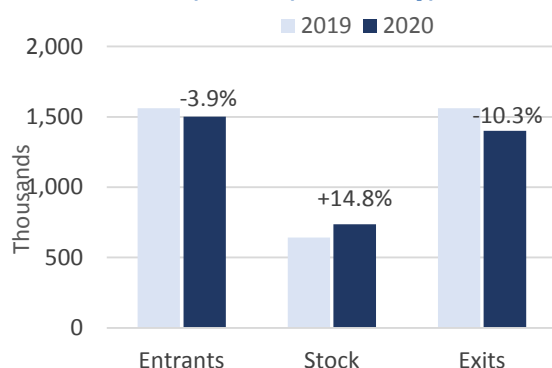


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate in Germany was 8.6%, well below the rate seen at EU level (13.7%) and the fourth lowest amongst Member States. Unemployed NEETs accounted for just 2.5% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 6.1% (8.6% at EU level). Germany is one of only three Member States to have less than 3% unemployed and one of eight to have an inactive NEET rate below 6.5%.

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Germany, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

During 2020, there was a small decline in the use of the YG compared to 2019. The number of entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations) fell by 3.9%. There were fewer inflows

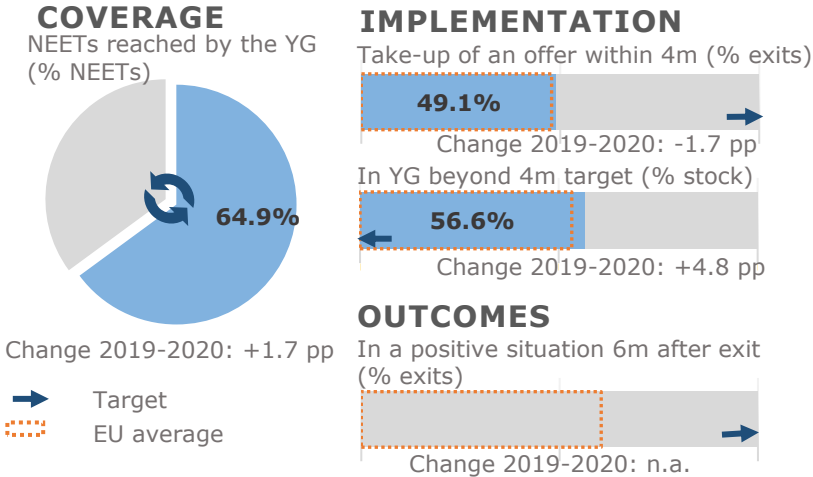
² Bundesagentur für Arbeit

in all age-groups but most noticeably from the younger group aged 15-19 (-7.1%). Importantly, the number of exits from the YG declined more than twice as much (-10.3% vs. -3.9%) resulting in a substantial increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year (+14.8%).

Key results

- ❖ On average during 2020, 56.6% of those registered in the YG preparatory phase had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, an increase compared to 2019 (+4.8 pp) and above the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Almost half of those leaving the YG in 2020 (49.1%) took up an offer within 4 months of registration, slightly fewer than in 2019 (50.7%) but still just above the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ Both results indicate that in 2020 it became more difficult for young people to find a quality offer within 4 months.
- ❖ The number of people aged 15-29 registered in the German YG scheme in 2020 was, on average, 64.9% of the number in this age-group identified as NEET in the Labour Force Survey, though the populations may not fully overlap due to differences in definitions and recording methods. Coverage overall was similar to 2019 (63.2%), though there was a substantial decrease in the coverage of those aged 15-19 (from 86.7% to 52.2%) but a corresponding increase in the coverage of the two older, and numerically much more important, age-groups (+2.7 pp).

Key results, 15-29, Germany, 2019-2020



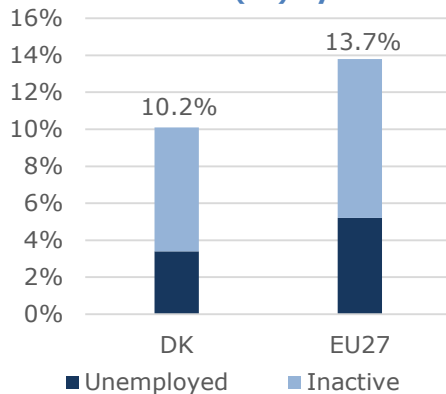
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

DENMARK

The Danish Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan published in April 2014 summarised the existing policy infrastructure and recent reforms aimed at reinforcing the support available to young people. Danish policy for young people – taken to be all those aged under 25 – is focused first on ensuring a decent education and there are accordingly three policy threads based on individual needs in this respect: to prepare people for education, to give people an education, and to help those with an education to find work. Implementation of the YG in Denmark is very much a partnership approach with inputs from job centres, municipalities, educational institutions, youth guidance centres, production schools, youth units, unemployment insurance funds, social partners, and others. Though the YG targets those aged 15-24, the YG monitoring data cover people aged 15-29 registered with job centres organised at municipal level. In 2020, the Danish YG provided subsidised offers to all possible destinations with the exception of traineeships. A person is counted as an exit if the person is recorded as participating in an offer for two weeks in a row.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Denmark, 2020

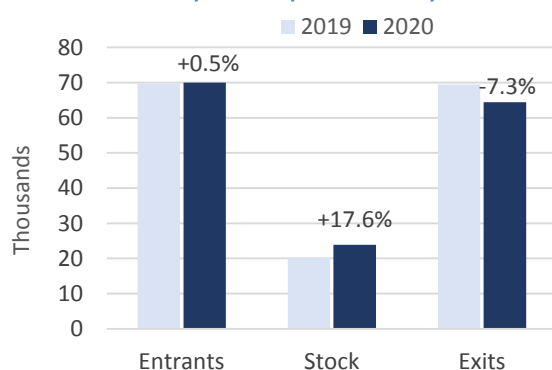


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020 the NEET rate in Denmark was 10.2%, some way below the rate of 13.7% at EU level. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 3.4% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 6.7% (8.6% at EU level). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased only slightly in 2020 (+0.6 pp). This change derives entirely from the 25-29 age-group (+2.1 pp) as there were only marginal changes in other age-groups (-0.1 pp for those aged 20-24 and -0.3 pp for those aged 15-19).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-24, Denmark, 2019-2020



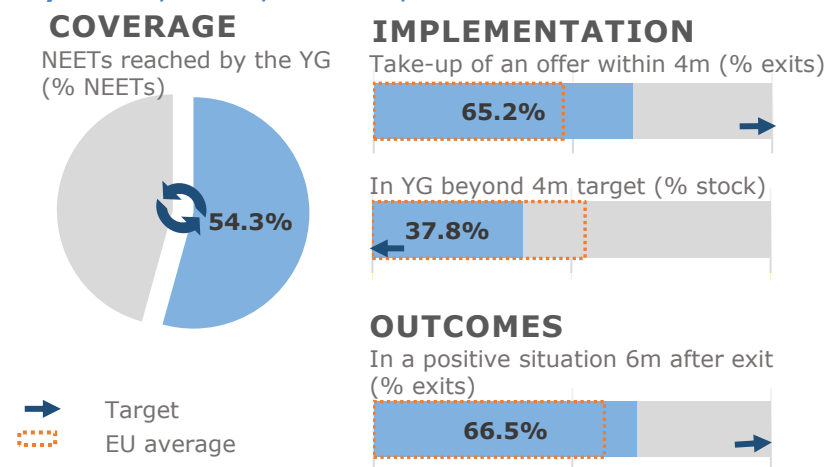
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

Denmark provided YG monitoring data for the 25-29 age-group for the first time in relation to reference year 2020 so there are no historical data for the new wider coverage of the Reinforced YG. To assess the impact of COVID-19, therefore, comparisons are restricted to the 15-24 age-group. For this age-group, there was a minor increase in the use of the YG in 2020. The number of entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) was little changed (+0.5%), but there was a noticeable reduction in exits (-7.3%), resulting in a marked increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year (+17.6%).

Key results

- ❖ Denmark provided data for the 25-29 age-group for the first time. Comparison through time for the wider age-group supported by the Reinforced YG (15-29) is thus not yet possible.
- ❖ On average during 2020, almost two fifths (37.8%) of those registered in the YG at any point in time had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, well below the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Two-thirds (65.2%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within the 4-month target, well above the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ The Danish YG scheme covered more than half (54.3%) of NEETs aged under 29, well above the EU average of 40.3%.
- ❖ Two-thirds (66.5%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months later. The result is well above the EU average of 58.1%. Data for those aged 15-24 provided in previous years, suggest that outcomes are sustainable.

Key results, 15–29, Denmark, 2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

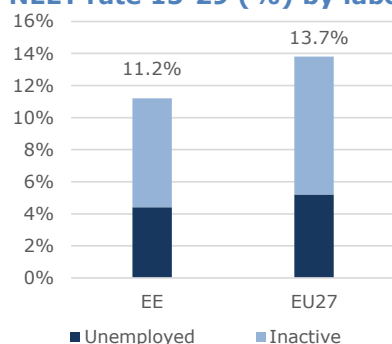
Notes: Change between 2019 and 2020 not applicable as reference data are different (15-24 in 2019 vs 15-29 in 2020).

ESTONIA

The Estonian Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan was presented in April 2014, though the YG scheme started already in January. Monitoring data cover young people aged under 30 that register as unemployed with the Estonian Public Employment Services (PES) and participants in two specific programmes targeting NEETs aged 15-26: the Youth Prop Up programme implemented by the Association of Estonian Open Youth Centres and, from 2019, the Hoog Sisse programme, which operates in the capital, Tallinn. In these programmes, youth workers engage with young NEETs (e.g. through mobile youth work) and then collaborate with local municipalities, schools, the Estonian PES, partners in the youth sector etc. to find the best solution for each person (education, employment or other activity). In 2020, the Estonian YG provided subsidised employment, education and traineeship offers, but not apprenticeships. All offers regardless of their duration are regarded as exits from the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Estonia, 2020

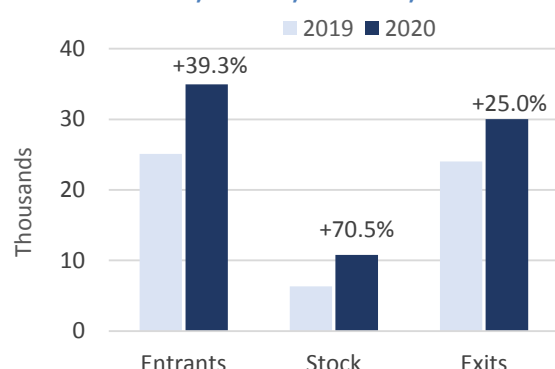


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Estonia was 11.2%, below the EU rate of 13.7%. This represents an increase of 1.4 pp compared to 2019 (9.8%) that derives from a rise in the unemployed NEET rate (from 2.5% to 4.4%) while the inactive NEET rate dropped slightly (from 7.3% to 6.8%).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Estonia, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

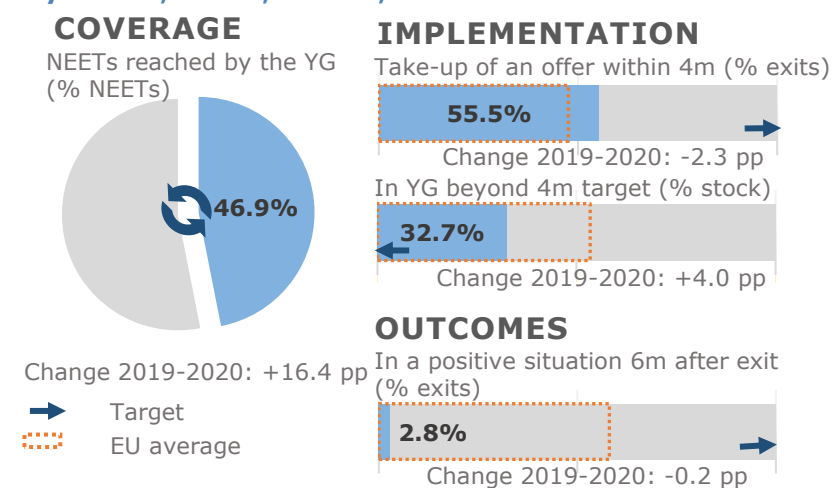
During 2020, there was a significant increase in the use of the YG compared to 2019. The number of entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed or in one of the two programmes managed by the Ministry of Education) increased by 39.3% overall. There were increases amongst all age groups, but particularly for those aged 20-24 (+53.1% vs +38.9% for the 15-19 age-group and 27.9% for 25-29). Exits from the YG also

increased substantially (+25.0%) but noticeably less than inflows, resulting in a significant increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year (+70.5%).

Key results

- ❖ On average in 2020, a third (32.7%) of YG participants had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, more than in 2019 (+4.0 pp) but still well below the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Over half (55.5%) of those leaving the YG scheme in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, a small decline on 2019 (-2.3 pp) but still well above the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ In 2020, the YG scheme reached 46.9% of NEETs aged under 29, above the EU average of 40.3%, and considerably up on 2019 (+16.4 pp), reflecting the increased numbers of unemployed NEETs.
- ❖ Follow-up data are available only for the Youth Prop-up and Hoog Sisse programmes, which accounted for just 5.3% of all exits. Hence the indicator result is not meaningful.

Key results, 15–29, Estonia, 2019-2020



Note: Follow-up data on the situation 6m after exit are available only for the Youth Prop-Up and Hoog Sisse programmes (5.3% of total exits in 2020). Data for young people supported by the PES (the large majority) are not available.

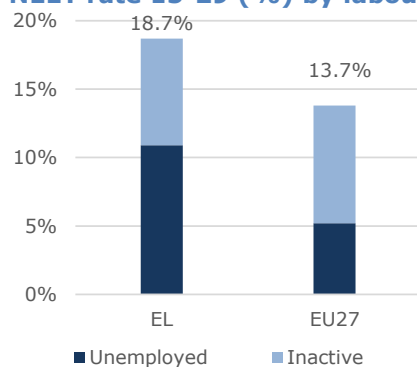
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

GREECE

The Greek Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan was first presented in December 2013 and updated in June 2014. The scheme, which covered the 15-24 age-group in line with the YG Recommendation, was based on a broader national strategy laid out in the "Partnership Agreement for the Development Framework, 2014-2020" and the "Action Plan for Creating New Jobs and Supporting Unemployed People" (May 2013). In November 2018, the coverage of the scheme was extended to include all persons aged under 30. The YG monitoring data cover young people registered with the public employment services (PES) as unemployed or as applicants for the PES apprenticeship programme (EPAS). However, in November 2020 the apprenticeship programme was suspended until May 2021 due to COVID so that there were very few participants in 2020³. The Greek YG scheme provided offers to subsidised employment, education, traineeships and apprenticeships. All offers, regardless of their duration, are considered as exits from the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Greece, 2020

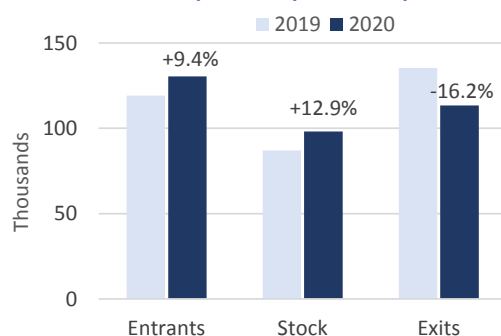


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Greece was 18.7%, slightly higher than in 2019 (+0.8 pp) and well above the rate of 13.7% seen at EU level. Indeed, the NEET rate in Greece is the second highest in the EU (after Italy, 23.3%). Although the Greek figure for inactive NEETs is slightly below the EU level (7.8% vs 8.6%), the unemployed NEET rate is more than double (10.9% vs 5.2%). Although there is still work to do, the situation is much improved since 2014 when the NEET rate stood at 26.7%.

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Greece, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

³ Compared to 2014, entrants reduced by 79.0%.

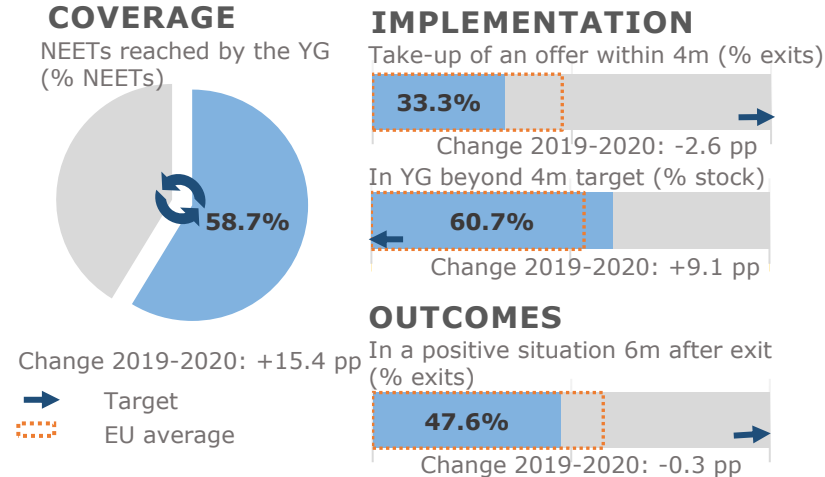
Although Greece has provided data for the 25-29 age-group as of reference year 2019, the methodology adopted for the 2019 data (all variables refer only to new entrants and do not cover any pre-existing stock) does not allow for meaningful comparisons over time except for observations of entrants (comparisons of stock and exits should, however, be possible after 2020). To assess the impact of COVID-19 for all the main variables, therefore, comparisons are restricted to the 15-24 age-group.

During 2020 the use of the YG increased compared to 2019. Although entrants to the PES apprenticeship programme reduced greatly, the higher number of new or re-registrations as unemployed resulted in a 9.4% increase in the number of YG entrants. At the same time exits from the YG decreased significantly (-16.3%), resulting in a significant net inflow and, therefore, an increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG in 2020 compared to 2019 (+12.9%).

Key results

- ❖ Three fifths (60.7%) of those registered in the YG scheme at any point during 2020 had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, a noticeably higher proportion than in 2019 (+9.1 pp) and well above the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Only a third (33.3%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took-up an offer within the 4-month target. This is a worse result than in 2019 (-2.6 pp) and well below the EU average of 47.6%. It is known, however, that positive results are understated to some extent as some destinations cannot be recorded.
- ❖ On average, 58.7% of NEETs aged 15-29 in Greece were registered in the YG preparatory phase at any point during 2020, a higher proportion than in 2019 (+15.4 pp) and well above the EU average of 40.3%.
- ❖ Of those that left the YG in 2020, approaching half (47.6%) were known to be in a positive situation 6 months after leaving, but still well behind the EU average of 58.1%. Data are known to be incomplete and may miss some of those in education or self-employment.

Key results, 15-29, Greece, 2019-2020



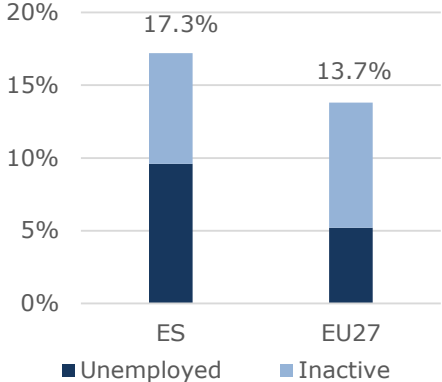
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

SPAIN

The Youth Guarantee (YG) scheme in Spain was launched in July 2014 and since 2015 has been available to all young people aged 16-30. The National PES (SEPE) is responsible for implementation and coordination of partnerships across different levels and sectors. Young people can register via a dedicated online platform, directly with the PES, or through a partnership process involving third sector organisations, youth Authorities, Chambers of Commerce and the regional PES. The Spanish YG is organised differently than in most other countries. Once registered, participants remain registered until they take up an offer or deregister voluntarily (since 2015). Those registered are then split into NEET and non-NEET groups based on whether they are known to be in employment or training (non-NEET) or not (NEET). Within the NEET group there is no differentiation between those available or not available for work at any point in time, which means that the numbers registered will tend to be higher than in countries where people are deregistered during inactive spells. It also means that negative exits (to unemployment or inactivity) cannot occur. The Spanish YG provides all types of offers (employment, education, traineeships, and apprenticeships).

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Spain, 2020

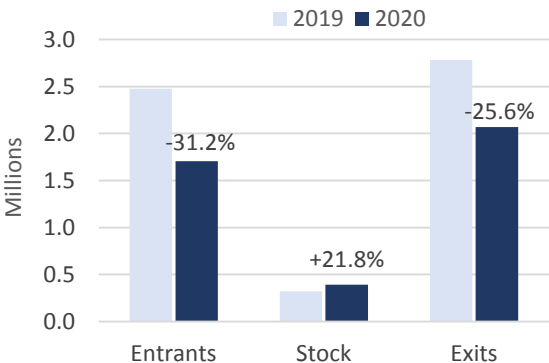


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Spain was 17.3%, up 2.4 pp compared to 2019 (14.9%), and well above the EU rate of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 9.6% of the population aged 15-29 (compared to 5.2% at EU level), while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 7.6% (8.6% at EU level). Although the rate of both inactive and unemployed NEETs increased compared to 2019, the increase was higher among the inactive component (+1.4 pp vs +0.9 pp).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Spain, 2019-2020



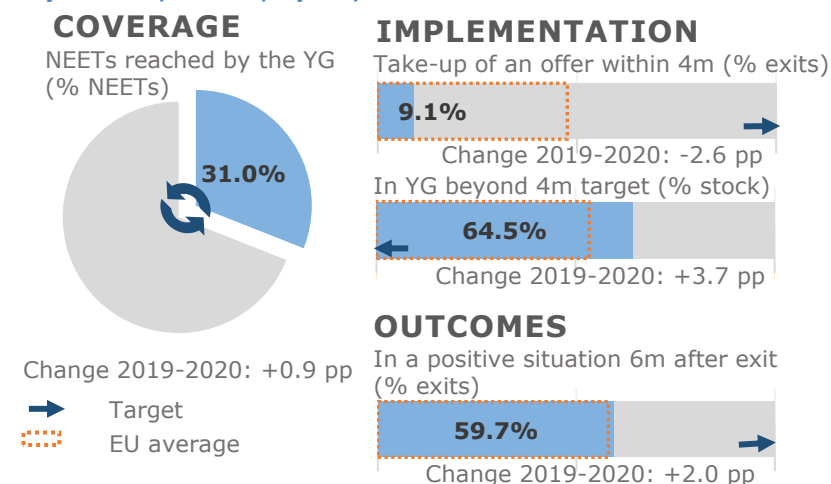
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

During 2020, there was a significant decrease in the use of the YG in Spain, despite increasing NEET rates. Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations in the YG scheme) fell by 31.2% overall and most notably for those aged 15-19 (-42.7%, vs -31.1% for the 20-24 age-group and -28.4% for those aged 25-29). Exits from the YG declined slightly less (-25.6%) but remain higher than inflows. Nevertheless, the average stock of young people registered in the YG during 2020 increased significantly (+21.8%), implying higher average durations.

Key results

- ❖ On average in 2020, nearly two thirds (64.5%) of young people aged 15-29 remained in the YG preparatory phase beyond the 4-month target, an increase compared to 2019 (+3.7 pp) and well above the EU average (53.4%). This difference is partly expected given the design of the scheme (see above).
- ❖ Only 9.1% of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, a slightly worse result than in 2019 (-2.6 pp) and a long way below the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ Just over three in ten (31.0%) young NEETs in Spain were covered by the YG scheme during 2020, below the EU average of 40.3%. Coverage is much better for the younger age group (64.5% for those aged 15-19) but declines with age (33.5% for those aged 20-24 and 18.4% for those aged 25-29).
- ❖ Six out of ten participants leaving the YG in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months after exit (59.7%). Long-term follow-up data from previous years show that these outcomes are generally maintained over time.

Key results, 15-29, Spain, 2019-2020



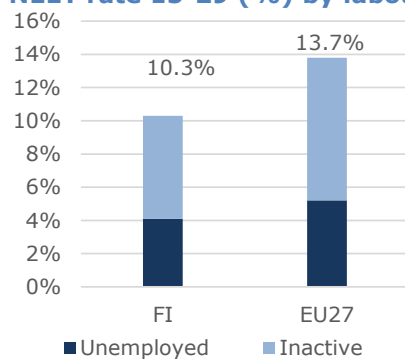
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

FINLAND

Preparation for the implementation of the Finnish Youth Guarantee scheme began in 2011 with the appointment of a dedicated working group. The scheme was launched in 2013 and combined a pre-existing “social guarantee”, implemented by the employment services since 2005, with an education guarantee. Initially, the YG was open to all young people aged under 25 and recent graduates aged under 30, but in 2019 the scheme was widened to cover all young people aged 30. Importantly, the Finnish YG scheme guarantees an offer within 3 months rather than 4 months as per the Council Recommendation. In 2020, the Finnish YG provided subsidised offers to all possible destinations (employment, education, traineeships and apprenticeships). All offers, regardless of their duration, are regarded as exits from the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Finland, 2020

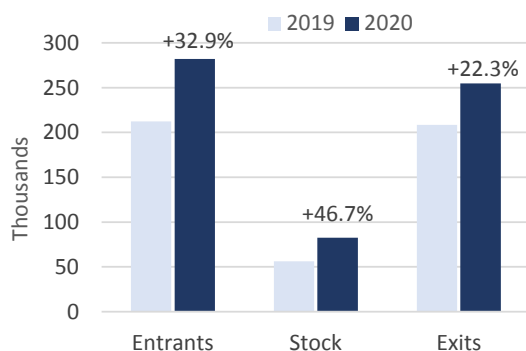


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Finland was 10.3%, somewhat lower than the EU rate of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 4.1% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 6.2% (8.6% at EU level). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased by 0.8 pp. Although the inactive NEET rate fell by 0.2 pp, the unemployed NEET rate increased by 0.9 pp.

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Finland, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

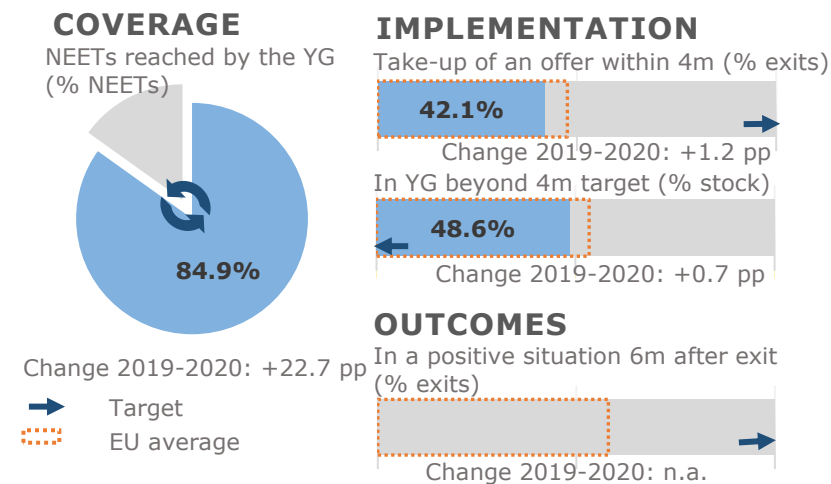
During 2020, there was a significant increase in the use of the YG. Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) increased by 32.9% overall and particularly for those aged 25-29 (+48.6% compared to +12.6% for the 15-19 age-group and +26.3% for 20-24).

Exits from the YG also increased during 2020, but by less than half the rate of inflows (22.3% vs. 48.6%) resulting in a significant increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year (+46.7%). Indeed, the average stock during 2020 was almost back to the level seen in 2015 when the NEET rate in Finland peaked at 12.4% (2.3 pp higher than in 2020).

Key results

- ❖ In 2020, 48.6% of young people aged 15-29 remained in the YG preparatory phase beyond the national 3-month target, a result that is below the EU average for the 4-month target (53.4%).
- ❖ Two fifths (42.1%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 3 months of registration, up 1.2 pp compared to 2019 but below the EU average for the 4-month target (47.6%).
- ❖ Overall, the small differences in the implementation indicators compared to 2019, tend to suggest that COVID-19 has not impacted too much on the YG processes in Finland.
- ❖ The Finnish YG scheme covered more than eight in ten (84.9%) of all NEETs aged under 29 in 2020. This represents much better coverage than the EU average of 40.3%. Compared to 2019, coverage has increased by 22.7 pp, reflecting the negative impact of COVID-19 on the labour market and increased demand for support.
- ❖ Follow-up data to assess the sustainability of outcomes are not available

Key results, 15–29, Finland, 2019-2020



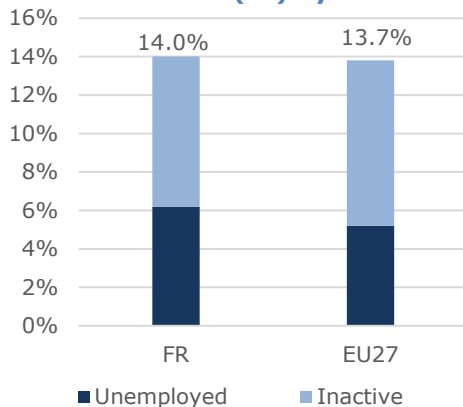
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

FRANCE

France presented a Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan on 22 December 2013 and the YG scheme was formally launched in January 2014. Monitoring data cover young people aged 16-25 registered as unemployed with Pôle Emploi (national public employment services, PES) or participating in one of the programmes provided by the Missions Locales (local PES). There is some risk of double-counting in case of participants registered with both providers, but the impact is thought to be small. In 2020, the French YG provided subsidised offers to all possible destinations with the exception of continued education⁴. All offers, regardless of their duration, are considered as exits from the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, France, 2020

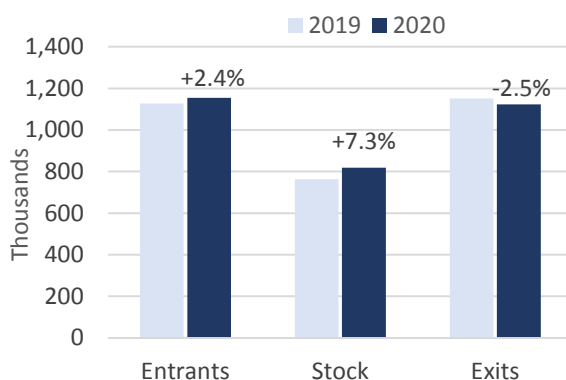


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in France was 14.0%, slightly above the EU rate of 13.4%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 6.2% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at the EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 7.8% (8.6% at EU level). The overall NEET rate increased by 1 pp since 2019, but was concentrated amongst inactive NEETs (+0.9 pp vs +0.2 pp for unemployed NEETs).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-24, France, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

⁴ Information refers to 2019 and is pending confirmation as a revised list of YG offers has not been provided yet.

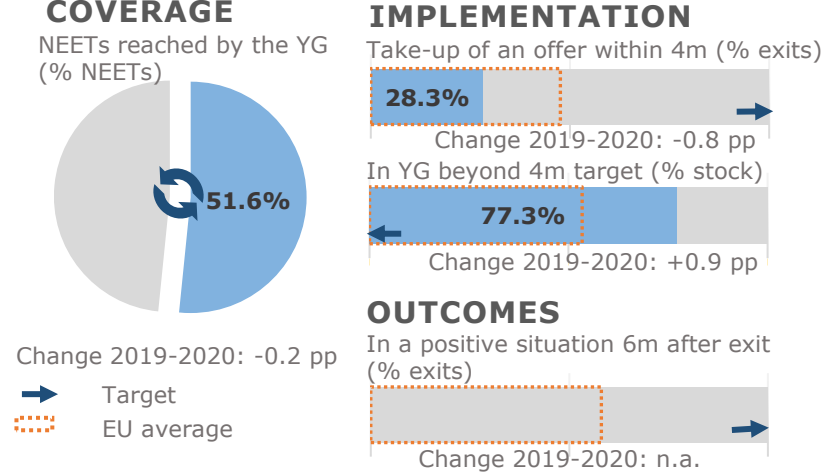
France has not yet provided data for the 25-29 age-group covered by the enlarged scope of the Reinforced YG. To assess the impact of COVID-19, therefore, comparisons are restricted to what is considered in the YG database the 15-24 age-group but which in France covers those aged 16-25.

During 2020, there was a slight increase in the use of the YG among young people aged 15-24. Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) increased by 2.4% overall, though there was some difference by age-group (-3.3% for those aged up to 19 and +5.5% for those aged 20-24). At the same time, exits from the YG decreased by -2.5%. Higher inflows combined with lower outflows implies longer retention times and the average stock of young people registered in the YG during 2020 increased by 7.3% compared to 2019.

Key results

- ❖ On average in 2020, three quarters (77.3%) of those registered in the French YG scheme at any point during the year had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months. This proportion is similar to 2019 (+0.9 pp) and remains a long way above the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ The difficulty to deliver timely offers is reflected in the fact that only 28.3% of those leaving the scheme in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, again similar to 2019 (-0.8 pp) and well below the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ In 2020, the YG scheme in France covered just over half of NEETs aged 15-29 (51.6%), though this low coverage reflects the fact that those aged 25-29 are excluded from the monitoring data. When the denominator of the coverage indicator is restricted to the 15-24 age-group, then more than nine in ten (92.9%) of young NEETs are reached by the YG, well above the EU average for that age-group (46.3%).
- ❖ Follow-up data to look at subsequent outcomes are not available.

Key results, 15-29, France, 2019-2020



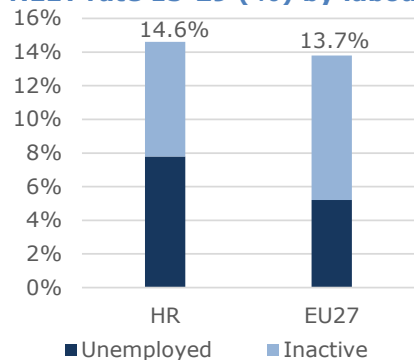
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

CROATIA

The Croatian Youth Guarantee (YG) implementation plan was presented in December 2013 and updated in June 2017. The YG scheme was formally introduced in January 2014 and covers all young people aged 15-29 who are registered as unemployed with the Public Employment Service (PES). In addition to the active labour market measures available to all registered unemployed, the YG in Croatia in 2020 provided access to targeted employment, traineeship, and education measures. All such measures are designed to last at least a month; however, the monitoring data apply no duration filter in the recording of positive exits.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Croatia, 2020

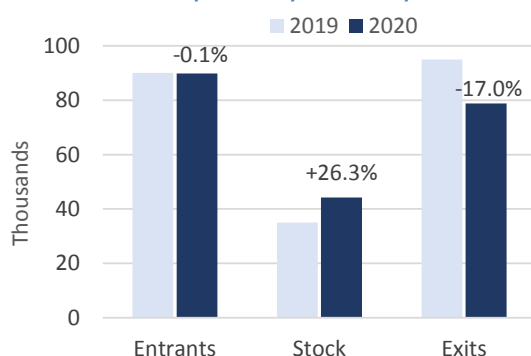


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Croatia was 14.6%, slightly higher than the EU rate of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 7.8% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 6.8% (8.6% at EU level). Although the overall NEET rate increased by just 0.4 pp compared to 2019, the unemployed NEET rate increased by 1.5 pp while the inactive NEET rate dropped by 1.1 pp.

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Croatia, 2019-2020



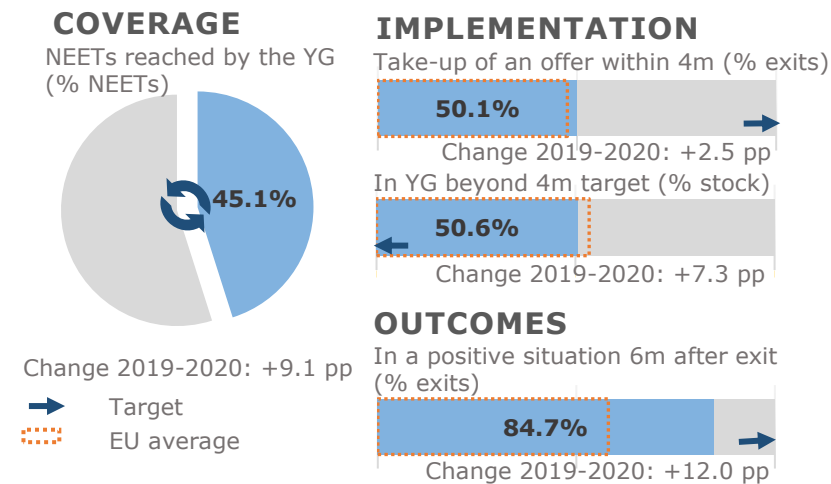
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

Use of the YG during 2020 was similar to 2019 in that the number of entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) hardly changed (-0.1% overall). There were lower inflows from the younger age-groups (-8.5% for those aged 15-19 and -0.3 pp for those aged 20-24) but increased inflows amongst those aged 25-29 (+3.9 pp). At the same time, however, the number of exits from the YG declined substantially (-17.0%), resulting in a significant increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year (+26.3%).

Key results

- ❖ In 2020, half (50.6%) of young people aged 15-29 remained in the YG preparatory phase beyond the 4-month target, noticeably more than in 2019 (+7.3 pp) but still slightly below the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Half (50.1%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4-months of registration, up by 2.5 pp compared to 2019 and above the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ The Croatian YG scheme covered 45.1% of all NEETs aged under 29 in 2020. This represents a better coverage than the EU average of 40.3%. Compared to 2019, coverage has increased by 9.1 pp, reflecting the increase of unemployed NEETs due to COVID-19.
- ❖ More than eight in ten (84.7%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months after exit, a noticeable increase from 2019 (+12.0 pp) and a long way above the EU average of 58.1%.

Key results, 15–29, Croatia, 2019-2020



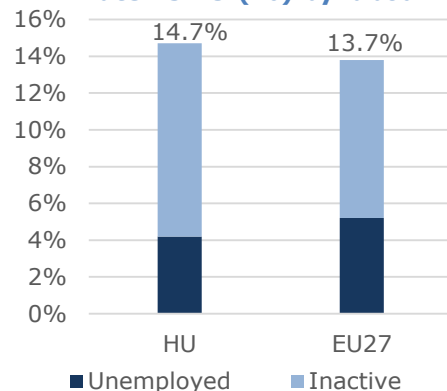
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

HUNGARY

The Youth Guarantee (YG) scheme in Hungary was formally launched on 1 January 2015 and was rolled-out progressively in three phases of implementation linked to target groups: until the end of June 2016 the Hungarian YG focused on long-term unemployed (LTU) youth, until end 2017 on those unemployed for at least 4 months, and since the beginning of 2018 the guarantee has extended to all young people. Since February 2017, registration can be performed online or via the PES. There are three programmes within the YG scheme (all co-funded by the ESF) providing the majority of the offers: the wage subsidy programme, the entrepreneurship programme and the traineeship programme. No minimum duration of participation is applied in the recording of positive exits (i.e. in order to discount early drop-outs).

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Hungary, 2020

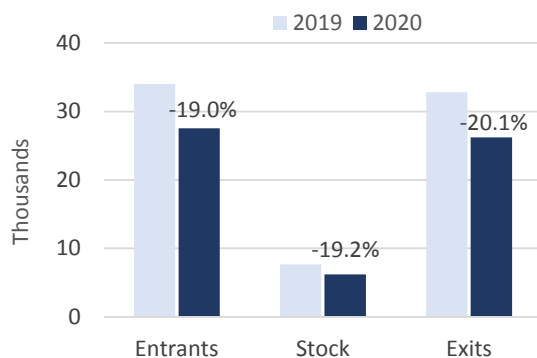


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Hungary was 14.7%, slightly higher than the EU rate of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 4.2% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 10.5% (8.6% at EU level). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased by 1.5 pp (+0.7 pp for unemployed NEETs and +0.8 pp for inactive NEETs). The NEET rate increased more for the older age-groups (+2.9 pp for those aged 25-29, +1.4 pp for those aged 20-24 but only +0.2 pp for those aged 15-19).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-24, Hungary, 2019-2020



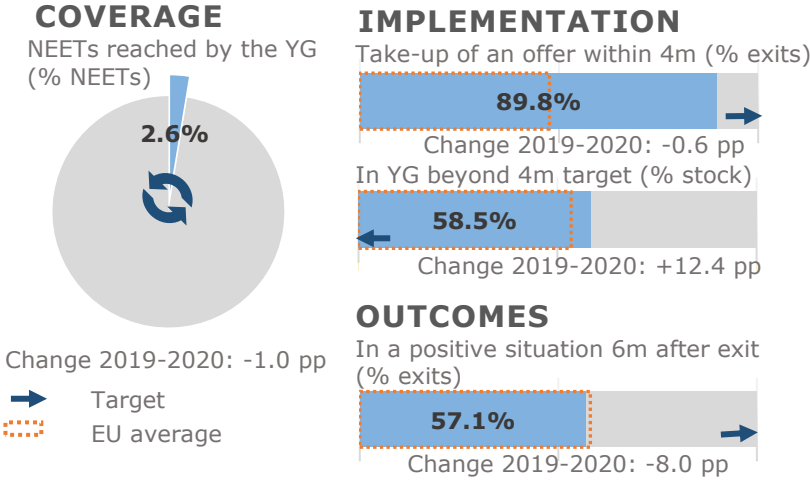
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

Hungary has not yet provided data for the 25-29 age-group so there are no data for the new wider coverage (15-29) of the Reinforced YG. To assess the impact of COVID-19, therefore, comparisons are restricted to the 15-24 age-group.

During 2020, there was a significant decrease in the use of the YG. Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) decreased by 19.0% overall, but particularly for those aged 15-19 (down by 29.8% vs 15.2% for the 20-24 age group). Exits from the YG reduced at a similar rate (-20.1%) but remained slightly higher than entrants such that there was a net inflow in the year. Nevertheless, the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year declined by 19.2%, which implies shorter average retention times, though this is not borne out by the data on stocks by duration. **Key results**

- ❖ In 2020, 58.5 % of young people aged 15-24 remained in the YG preparatory phase beyond the 4-month target, a significant increase compared to 2019 (+12.4 pp) and above the EU average (53.4%) for the 15-29 age group.
- ❖ Nine in ten (89.8%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4-months of registration, little changed from 2019 (-0.6 pp) and significantly above the EU average (47.6%) for the 15-29 age group.
- ❖ The Hungarian YG scheme covered only 2.6% of all NEETs aged under 29 in 2020. The low coverage partly reflects the fact that those aged 25-29 are excluded from the monitoring data. Nevertheless, when the denominator of the coverage indicator is restricted to the 15-24 age-group, then still only a 5.3% of young NEETs are reached by the YG, which is still well below the EU average for that age-group of 40.3%.
- ❖ Four in seven (57.1%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months after exit. This rate is close to the EU average of 58.1% for the 15-29 age group.

Key results, 15-29, Hungary, 2019-2020



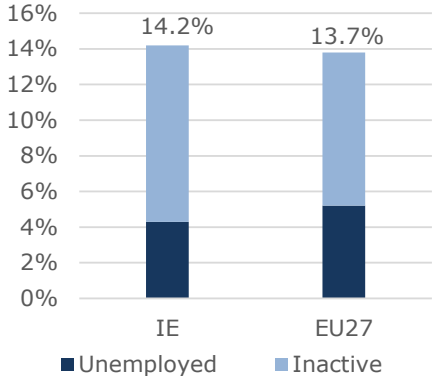
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

IRELAND

Ireland presented a Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan in December 2013. The intervention and activation process governing the Youth Guarantee is essentially a tailored version of the Pathways to Work activation model, which was launched in 2011 and updated in 2013. The YG scheme was introduced in January 2014 and targets two distinct groups: early school leavers aged under 18 and unemployed youth aged 18-24. Only the latter group is covered by the monitoring data. In 2020, the Irish YG provided subsidised offers to all possible destinations with the exception of apprenticeships. All offers lasting for more than seven days are considered exits from the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Ireland, 2020

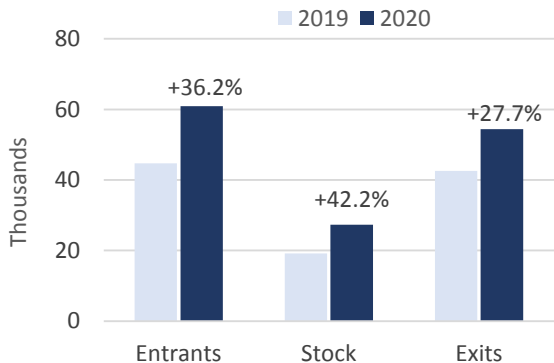


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for those aged 15-29 in Ireland was 14.2%, slightly above the rate seen at EU level (13.7%). Unemployed NEETs accounted for just 4.3% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 9.9% (8.6% at EU level). Compared to 2019, the NEET rate increased by 2.8 pp, mainly due to an increase in the inactive NEET rate (+2.1 pp vs. +0.7 pp for unemployed).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-24, Ireland, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

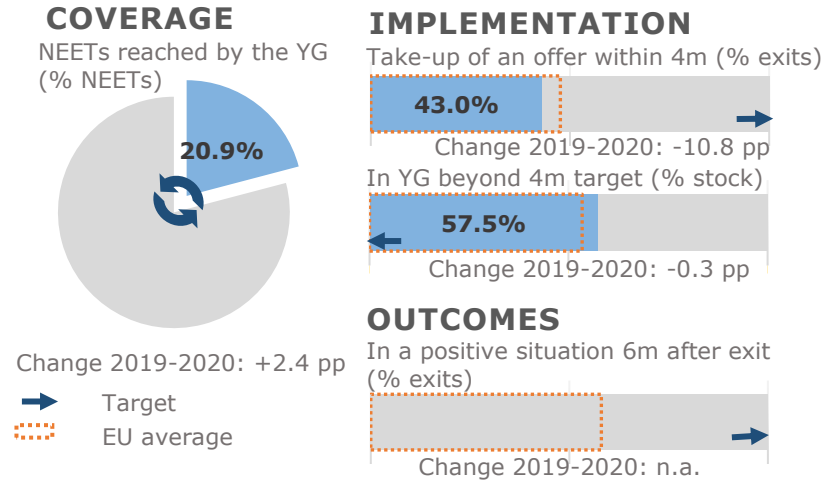
Ireland has not yet provided data for the 25-29 age-group covered by the enlarged scope of the Reinforced YG. To assess the impact of COVID-19, therefore, comparisons are restricted to what is considered in the YG database the 15-24 age-group, though the Irish data cover only those aged 18-24. During 2020, there was a significant increase in the use of the YG. Entrants (i.e. new or re-entries on the live register as a result of a

starting claim for Jobseekers Benefit or Jobseekers Allowance) increased by 36.2% overall and particularly for those aged 20-24 (+39.2% vs. +28.4% for the 15-19 age-group). This increase would have been higher but for the existence of other emergency supports such as the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP)⁵. Exits from the YG also increased, but by a lower rate than inflows (+27.7%) resulting in a significant increase in the stocks of young people registered in the YG at any time during the year (+42.2%).

Key results

- ❖ The Irish YG monitoring data cover do not yet cover those aged 25-29.
- ❖ On average during 2020, approaching three fifths (57.5%) of those registered in the YG scheme at any point during the year had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, above the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Two in five (43.0%) of those leaving the scheme in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, much reduced compared to 2019 (-10.8 pp) and now below the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ In 2020, the YG scheme in Ireland covered only one in five NEETs aged 15-29 (20.9%). This low coverage reflects the fact that the monitoring data do not yet include those aged 25-29 and are limited to those on the live register (persons in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payments only are not covered). When the denominator of the coverage indicator is restricted to the 15-24 age-group, then more than a third (36.1%) of young NEETs are reached by the YG. However, this is still well below the EU average for that age-group (46.3%).
- ❖ Ireland did not provide any follow-up data for 2020 or any longer-term follow-up data for those exiting in previous years. Follow-up indicators regarding outcomes after passing through YG cannot, therefore, be calculated.

Key results, 15–29, Ireland, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

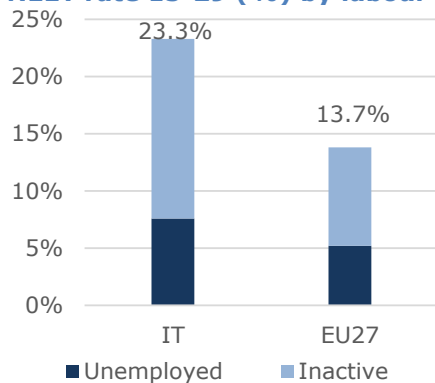
⁵ Note that the YG monitoring data refer only to those on the live register as a result of a starting claim for Jobseekers Benefit (JB) or Jobseekers Allowance (JA). In 2020, Ireland introduced support specifically for those who lost their employment due to the pandemic – i.e. Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP). PUP recipients were advised to also apply for JA or JB resulting in some (but not all) appearing on the live register.

ITALY

The Youth Guarantee (YG) scheme in Italy was launched in May 2014. It is managed by the National Agency for Active Labour Policies (ANPAL), in conjunction with the regional authorities that coordinate public employment services (PES) at local level. ANPAL is also the Managing Authority of the YEI Operational Programme and is responsible for the national YG database, which brings together data collected by the PES at local level. A dedicated website for the YG in Italy allows young people not already registered with the PES to sign up to the YG scheme. Young people registered with the PES but not in the YG may benefit from national or regional measures but are not included in the YG monitoring data. All types of offers (i.e. employment, education, traineeships and apprenticeships) are provided as part of the YG scheme (in the framework of the YEI OP). Most subsidised offers have duration of at least 1 month but the monitoring data do not apply any minimum time filter on participation in order to record only “quality” offers (i.e. to discount cases of early drop-out when an offer proves unsuitable).

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Italy, 2020

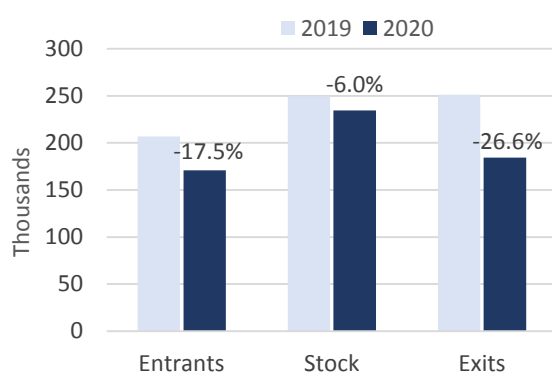


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

Almost a quarter (23.3%) of the population aged 15-29 in Italy was not in employment, education or training (NEET) in 2020. This is almost 10 pp higher than for the EU as a whole (13.7 %) and by some margin the highest rate seen among Member States. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 7.6% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 15.7%, well above the proportion in the EU as a whole (8.6%). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased by 1.1 pp, a change that is attributable to inactive NEETs (+1.7 pp) as the unemployed NEET rate fell slightly (-0.6 pp).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Italy, 2019-2020



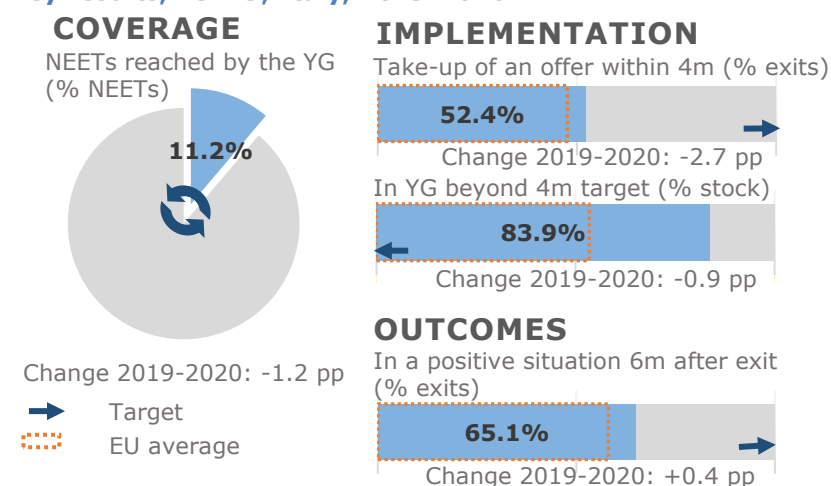
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

During 2020, there was a significant decrease in the use of the YG. Entrants decreased by 17.5% overall, but particularly in the younger age-groups (-27.5% for 15-19, -16.8% for 20-24 and -12.3% for 25-29). Exits from the YG fell even more (-26.6%), but because outflows in the year still exceeded inflows the average stock of young people registered in the YG during 2020 was slightly lower than in 2019 (-6.0%).

Key results

- ❖ More than half (52.4%) of those leaving the Italian YG scheme in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, slightly above the EU average of 47.6% but reduced compared to 2019 (-2.7 pp).
- ❖ At the same time, more than eight in ten (83.9%) of those registered in the scheme at any point during the year had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, the worst result seen amongst Member States and way above the EU average of 53.4% (see [section Error! Reference source not found.](#) for more details).
- ❖ Despite gradual improvements in the recording of the data and methodological developments supporting the correct recording of re-entrants, the coverage of the NEET population remains low (11.2%).
- ❖ About two thirds (65.1%) of those leaving the scheme in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months afterwards. Longer-term follow-up data for those leaving in previous years show mixed results.

Key results, 15-29, Italy, 2019-2020



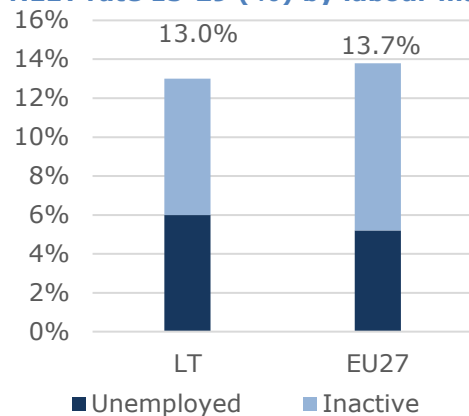
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

LITHUANIA

Lithuania presented a Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan in December 2013, which was most recently updated in February 2021. The national YG scheme was launched in January 2014. Monitoring data cover young people aged 16-29 registered with the PES as unemployed (including registered unemployed participating in the project “Enhancing Youth Social Competences”) and inactive participants aged 15-29 (not registered with the PES) that participated in the YEI-funded projects “Discover Yourself” (2016-2019) and “Let’s Move”. In 2020, the Lithuanian YG offered subsidised offers to all possible destinations. Offers have to last at least 28 days to be considered as an exit from the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Lithuania, 2020

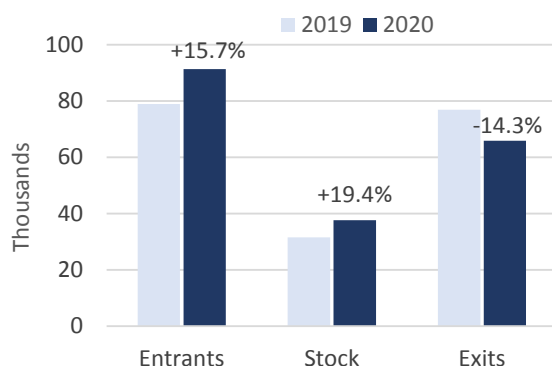


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate in Lithuania was 13.0%, an increase compared to 2019 (10.9%), but still below the rate of 13.7% at EU level. The increase derives primarily from the 20-24 age-group (+4.1 pp compared to -0.4 pp for those aged 15-19 and +2.0 pp for 25-29). Unemployed NEETs accounted for 6.0% of the population aged 15-29, slightly above the proportion at EU level (5.2%), while inactive NEETs accounted for 7.0% (8.6% at EU level). The unemployed NEET rate increased by 1.9 pp since 2019, while the inactive NEET rate rose by only 0.2 pp.

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Lithuania, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

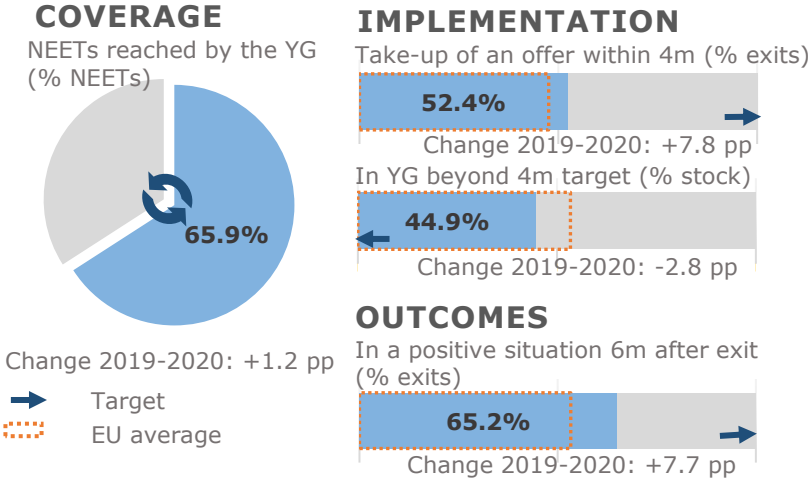
During 2020, there was a notable increase in the use of the YG. Entrants increased by 15.7% overall. There were increased inflows for all age-groups but most notably for those aged 15-19 (+43.0% vs 15.3% for the 20-24 age-group and 8.9% for 25-29),

though this young age-group accounts for only 15% of YG entrants. At the same time, exits from the YG decreased at a similar rate (-14.3%), resulting in a significant increase in the stocks of young people registered in the YG at any time during the year (+19.4%).

Key results

- ❖ On average, more than two fifths (44.9%) of those registered in the YG at any point during 2020 had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, slightly fewer than in 2019 (-2.8 pp) and well below the EU average (53.4%).
- ❖ Half (52.4%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, a noticeable improvement compared to 2019 (+7.8 pp) and above the EU average (47.6%).
- ❖ The Lithuanian YG scheme covered two thirds (65.9%) of NEETs aged under 29 in 2020, slightly more than in 2019 (+1.2 pp) and well above the EU average of 40.3%.
- ❖ Two thirds (65.2%) of those leaving the YG scheme in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months later. Longer term follow-up data provide a mixed picture but tend to suggest that not all outcomes are sustained over longer periods.
- ❖ Overall, the improvements in the results of implementation indicators compared to 2019, tend to suggest that COVID-19 has not impacted too much on the YG processes in Lithuania.

Key results, 15–29, Lithuania, 2019-2020



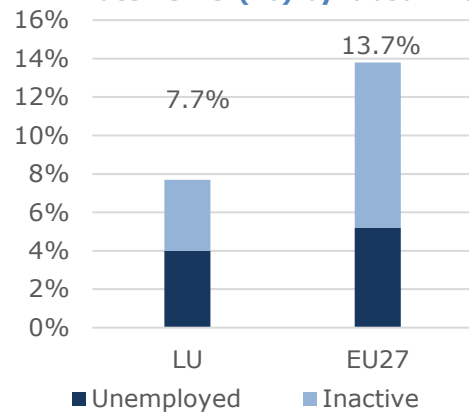
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

LUXEMBOURG

The Youth Guarantee scheme in Luxembourg was officially launched in July 2014 to cover those aged 15-24, but was expanded in 2019 to include also those aged 25-29. Up to 2018, young people could enter the YG only once, on first registration as unemployed, but this policy was changed in line with the spirit of the Recommendation so that young people can access support whenever needed. Despite the amendments in the YG scheme over time, monitoring data still cover only young people aged 15-24 registering with the PES for the first time (i.e. re-entrants are not counted). In 2020, the YG in Luxembourg provided subsidised offers to all possible destinations (employment, education, apprenticeships and traineeships). All offers, regardless of their duration, are regarded as exits from the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Luxembourg, 2020

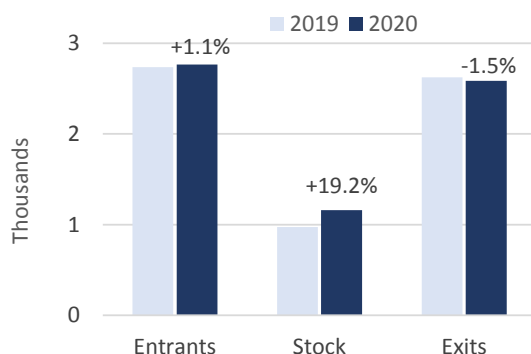


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, Luxembourg had the third lowest NEET rate in the EU after the Netherlands and Sweden. The NEET rate among young people aged 15-29 was 7.7%, well below the rate at EU level (13.7%) but slightly higher than in 2019 (+1.2 pp). Unemployed NEETs accounted for 4.0% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 3.7% (8.6% at EU level).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-24, Luxembourg, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

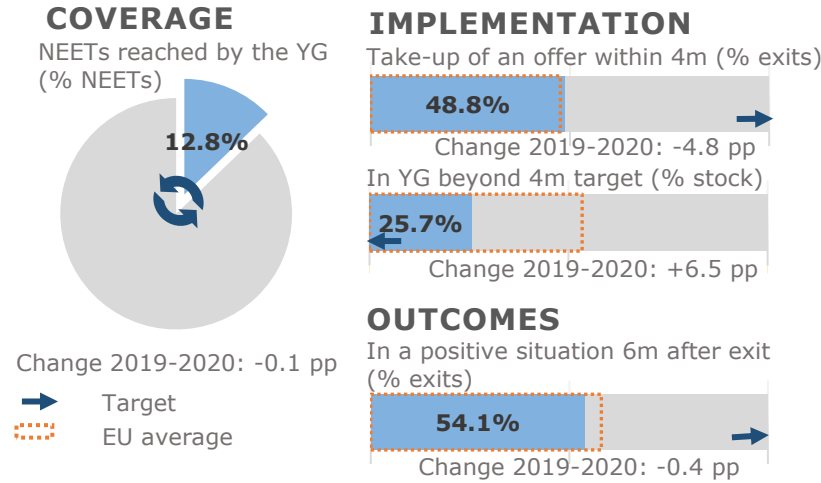
Luxembourg has not yet provided data for the 25-29 age-group. Thus, to assess the impact of COVID-19 data on the 15-24 age-group will be used. During 2020, there was a minor increase in the use of the YG among those aged 15-24. Note, however, that data on inflows in both 2019 and 2020 are understated as the monitoring data cover only new registrations with the PES (i.e. re-registrations are not covered). New registrations

increased by 1.1%, while exits decreased by 1.5%. At the same time, the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year increased by 19.2%, indicating increased difficulty to place young people in an offer.

Key results

- ❖ Young people aged 25-29 are not covered by the monitoring data, although they may participate in the YG.
- ❖ At the end of 2020, a quarter (25.7%) of those registered in the YG scheme in Luxembourg had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, noticeably more than in 2019 (+6.5 pp) but still only half the EU average of 53.4% (52.3% for those aged 15-24).
- ❖ Half (48.8%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 are known to have taken up an offer within 4 months, fewer than in 2019 (-4.8 pp), but similar to the EU average of 47.6% (48.2% for those aged 15-24).
- ❖ On average, just one in eight (12.8%) NEETs aged under 29 were registered in the YG scheme at any point during 2020, well below the EU average of 40.3%. The low coverage partly reflects the fact that those aged 25-29 as well as those aged 15-24 that re-register with the PES are excluded from the monitoring data. Nevertheless, when the denominator of the coverage indicator is restricted to the 15-24 age-group, then still only a quarter of young NEETs are reached by the YG (24.9%), which is still well below the EU average for that age-group of 46.3%.
- ❖ Follow-up data show that more than half (54.1%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months later, a minor decrease compared to 2019 (-0.4 pp) and below the EU average of 58.1% across the full 15-29 age-group and 56.0% for those aged 15-24.

Key results, 15-29, Luxembourg, 2019-2020



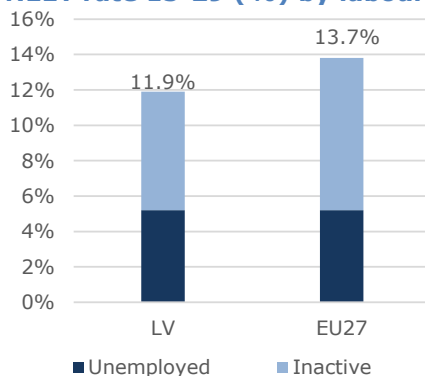
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

LATVIA

The Latvian Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan was presented in December 2013 and updated in April 2014. The scheme started with the launch of a dedicated ESF- funded Youth Guarantee programme in January 2014, targeting young NEETs aged 15-29. Operating under the responsibility of the Ministry of Welfare and delivered by the State Employment Agency (public employment service - PES) and the State Education Development Agency (SEDA), young people were able to register via the PES, or via vocational and educational training (VET) schools. At the same time, outreach measures implemented by the Agency for International Programs for Youth, municipalities and youth organisations (Know and Do! project) contact unregistered NEETs and refer them to relevant support⁶. The Youth Guarantee project ended on 31 December 2018, while the SEDA trainings came to end in January 2021 with enrolments stopping in 2019 (and very few in 2020⁷). Thus, monitoring data for 2020 cover mainly young people registered with the PES as unemployed.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Latvia, 2020



Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Latvia was 11.9%, below the EU rate of 13.7%) but higher than in 2019 (+1.6 pp). Surprisingly, the NEET rate decreased for those aged 20-24 (-0.3 pp) and the overall increase derives from the 25-29 age-group (+5.7 pp)⁸. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 5.2% of the population aged 15-29, much as at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 6.7% (8.6% at EU level). Compared to 2019, both the inactive and the unemployed NEET rate increased, but the increase was more prominent for the unemployed (+1.3 pp vs +0.4 pp).

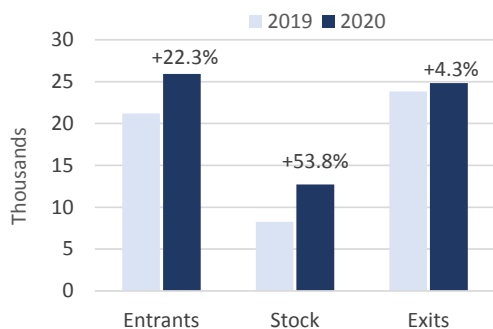
Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Latvia, 2019-2020

⁶ See <http://jaunatne.gov.lv/en/jauniesu-garantija/about-project-know-and-do>; also <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/36-integration-young-people-labour-market-latvia> and Box 1 in https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_613351.pdf

⁷ In 2020 there were only 19 entrants.

⁸ Data on the 15-19 age group are not available due to small sample size but estimation by difference from known data (15-29 - (20-24 + 25-29)) suggests a significant decline in the number of NEETs aged 15-19 (-36%).



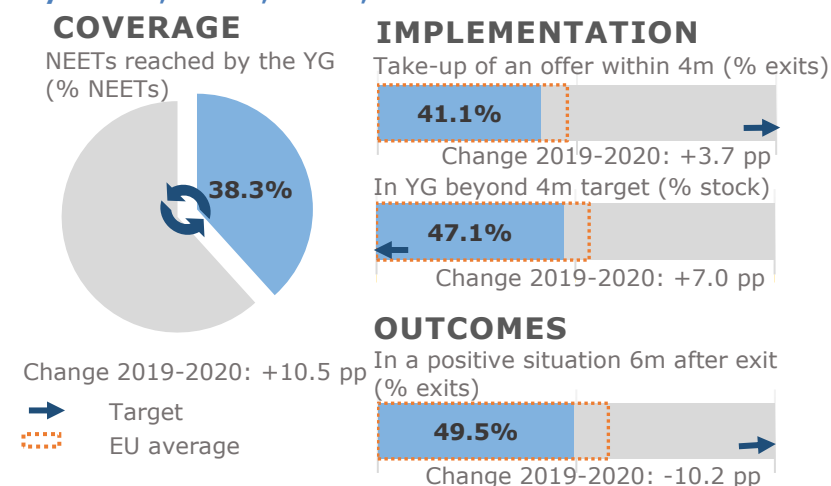
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

During 2020, there was a significant increase in the use of the YG, despite the SEDA trainings coming to an end. Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) increased by 22.3% overall and most notably for those aged 20-24 (+34.7% vs +13.4% for the 15-19 age-group and +15.4% for 25-29). Exits from the YG also increased, but by less than a fifth the rate of inflows (22.3% vs. 4.3%) resulting in a significant increase in the average stock of young people registered as unemployed during the year (+53.8%).

Key results

- ❖ On average, 47.1% of those registered in the YG at any point during 2020 had been registered for more than 4 months, a notable increase compared to 2019 (40.1%), but still well below the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Two fifths (41.1%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, a slight improvement compared to 2019 (37.4%) but below the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ The number of people aged 15-29 registered in the Latvian YG scheme in 2020 was, on average, 38.3% of the number of NEETs in this age-group according to the Labour Force Survey, slightly below the EU average (40.3%). That result is much improved compared to 2019 (+10.5 pp) reflecting the increase in unemployed NEETs.
- ❖ Follow-up data were provided but are not in line with the YG monitoring framework.

Key results, 15-29, Latvia, 2019-2020



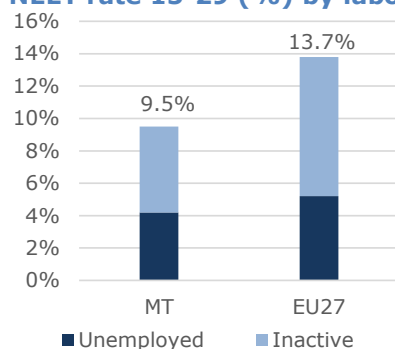
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

MALTA

The Maltese Youth Guarantee scheme was established in July 2014. Malta has adopted a dual approach comprising both preventative and reactive measures. Preventative measures focus on reaching young people who have not completed their education or are at risk of early school-leaving - most of whom will not have registered with the PES as unemployed - and encouraging them to complete courses and sit exams, return to education or prepare for work. This support is delivered through three main programmes - the NEETs activation scheme (which is also open to those that are already registered), SEC revision classes, and ICT summer courses, though the latter have not been implemented since 2018⁹. As of 2020, the monitoring data also cover participants in the work exposure scheme (WES), but only when they have a positive exit (traineeship or employment). The reactive measures include subsidised employment, further education/training, traineeships and apprenticeships (though the latter are not widely used in the YG context) and primarily target young NEETs aged under 25, though people aged 25-29 can also apply. Access to the schemes is via the PES or contacts provided in the YG dedicated section of the PES website. In the monitoring data, no duration filter is applied in the recording of offers, which may be as short as 10 days (60 hours course).

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Malta, 2020



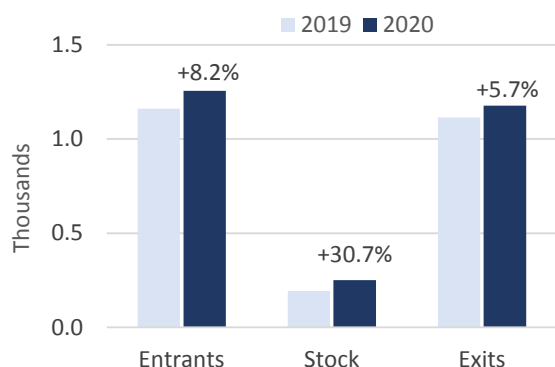
Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for people aged 15- 29 in Malta was 9.5%, higher than in 2019 (7.9%) but still well below the EU level rate of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 4.2% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 5.3% (8.6% at EU level). The increase in the overall NEET rate observed in the last year is a result of increases in the two older age-groups (+1.8 pp for those aged 20-24 and +2.6 pp for those aged 25-29), while the NEET rate for the 15-19 group dropped by 1 pp.

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Malta, 2019-2020

⁹ The ICT summer courses were not implemented 2019 and though it was planned to be continued in 2020 they were suspended due to COVID-19.



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

During 2020, there was a small increase in the use of the YG as entrants increased by 8.2%. Although the inclusion of participants in the WES contributed to that increase, the impact was minor due to the limited number of participants. Exits from the YG also increased, but by a smaller rate than inflows (5.7%) resulting in an increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year (+30.7%).

Key results

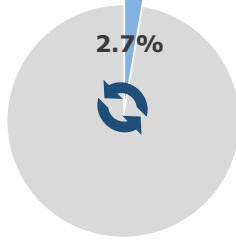
- ❖ Six in ten (59.3%) of those aged 15-29 that left the Maltese scheme in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months, slightly fewer than in 2019 (-2.0 pp) but still well above the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ At the same time, more than half (55.8%) of those registered in the YG during 2020 had been waiting more than 4 months for an offer, slightly above the EU average of 53.4%. In combination with the previous indicator, this result hints at two YG streams – one that is efficiently processed and quickly provided with an offer, and a second that needs more support and therefore stays longer in the preparatory phase.
- ❖ Despite the outreach efforts that are made, the available data indicate that the Maltese YG scheme covered only 2.7% of all NEETs aged under 29 in 2020, a result that is much in line with previous years. Due to the focus of the Maltese YG scheme to promote return to education and training, coverage is particularly low for the 25-29 age-group¹⁰ (0.1% vs 2.1% for the 20-24 and 9.3% for the 15-19).
- ❖ 67.9% of those leaving the scheme in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months afterwards. That is much reduced compared to 2019 (-11.6 pp) but still above the EU average of 58.1%. Longer-term follow-up data for previous years suggest that outcomes are sustainable.

Key results, 15–29, Malta, 2019-2020

¹⁰ The focus in 2020 was not on the 25-29 age group but rather on the 15-24 age cohorts as in previous years. In 2020, persons aged 25 and over and who were unemployed for more than 12 months were covered by the Long-Term Unemployed Recommendation. As from 2021, interventions targeting this age-group will be included in the YG monitoring data.

COVERAGE

NEETs reached by the YG
(% NEETs)



Change 2019-2020: +0.2 pp

- Target
- ⋯ EU average

IMPLEMENTATION

Take-up of an offer within 4m (% exits)



Change 2019-2020: -2.0 pp

In YG beyond 4m target (% stock)



Change 2019-2020: +0.6 pp

OUTCOMES

In a positive situation 6m after exit
(% exits)



Change 2019-2020: -11.6 pp

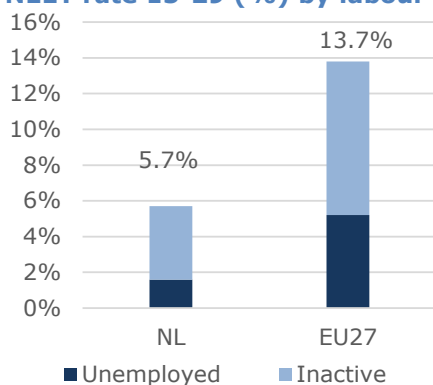
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

NETHERLANDS

The Dutch Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan was delivered in April 2014, though monitoring data cover the period since January 2014. Youth unemployment in the Netherlands is tackled comprehensively by departments of the Ministries of Education, Culture and Science, and Social Affairs and Employment, together with the municipalities, employers, unions and educational institutes. Monitoring data cover all young people aged 15-24 registered with the social security agency (UWV) or municipalities for (respectively) an unemployment benefit (WW) or social assistance benefit (WWB). Thus, the data cover inactive NEETs in receipt of social assistance benefits as well as unemployed NEETs. The Dutch YG scheme provides all types of offer. Only those lasting more than 28 days are considered as exits.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Netherlands, 2020

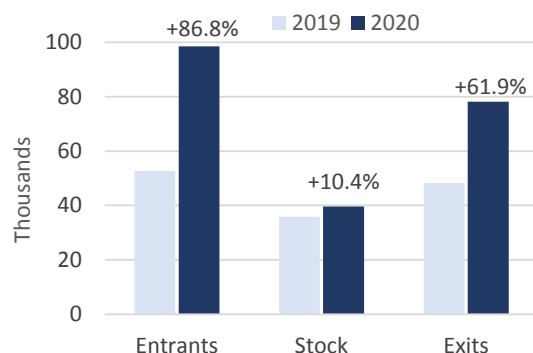


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for those aged 15-29 in the Netherlands was the lowest of all Member States (5.7% compared to 13.7% for the EU27). Unemployed NEETs accounted for just 1.6% of the population aged 15-29 (5.2% at EU level), while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 4.1% (8.6% at EU level). The overall NEET rate remained unchanged compared to 2019, though there was a slight shift towards unemployed NEETs from inactive NEETs by 0.2 pp.

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-24, Netherlands, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

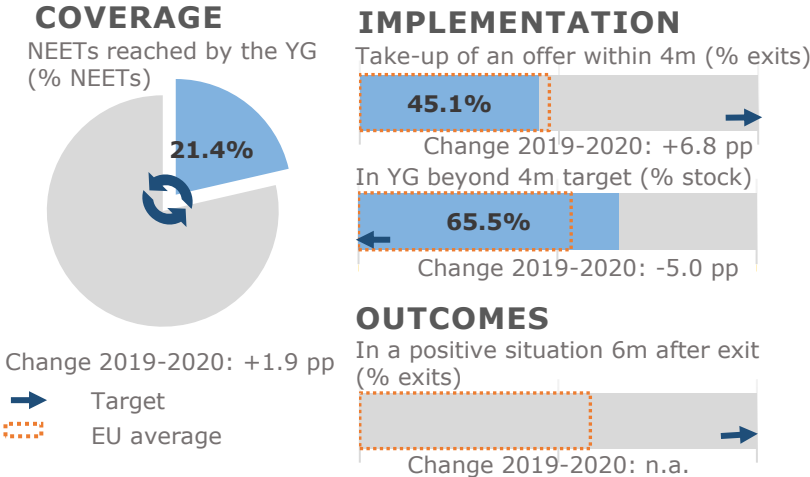
The Netherlands has not yet provided data for the 25-29 age-group so there are no data for the new wider coverage (15-29) of the Reinforced YG. To assess the impact of COVID-19, therefore, comparisons are restricted to the 15-24 age-group.

Data for 2020, show a significant increase in the use of the YG compared to 2019. Entrants (start of unemployment and social assistance benefits) increased by 86.8%. There are no separate data for the two age-groups (15-19 and 20-24), but data by sex suggest that inflows increased more for women than men (+96.0% vs +78.5%). The increase in entrants at least in part reflects a change in the Participation Law¹¹, which underpins access to benefits. The previously obligatory 4-week search period for people under 27 (to try and find work or training) has been suspended due to COVID-19. Exits from the YG also increased, but less than inflows (+61.9%), resulting in an increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year (+10.4%).

Key results

- ❖ The Dutch YG monitoring data cover do not yet cover those aged 25-29.
- ❖ Over two thirds (65.5%) of those registered in the Dutch YG at any point during 2020 remained in the preparatory phase for more than 4 months, fewer than in 2019 (-5 pp) but still well above the EU average of 53.4%. Although that seems to imply that the Dutch YG scheme is relatively ineffective in delivering an offer within 4 months, it should be recognised that the NEET rate in the Netherlands is the lowest in the EU and that the small NEET population includes a high concentration of those furthest from the labour market.
- ❖ More than two in five of those leaving the YG in 2020 (45.1%) took up an offer within 4 months of registration, improved compared to 2019 (+6.8 pp) but still slightly below the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ On average, only one in five (21.4%) NEETs aged under 29 were covered by the YG scheme in 2020 (i.e. were in receipt of a benefit), below the EU average of 40.3%. The low coverage reflects the fact that those aged 25-29 are not yet included in the monitoring data. When the denominator of the coverage indicator is restricted to the 15-24 age-group, 41.4% of young NEETs are reached by the Dutch YG, still below the EU average for that age-group of 46.3%.
- ❖ No follow-up data are available to assess the sustainability of outcomes.

Key results, 15–29, Netherlands, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

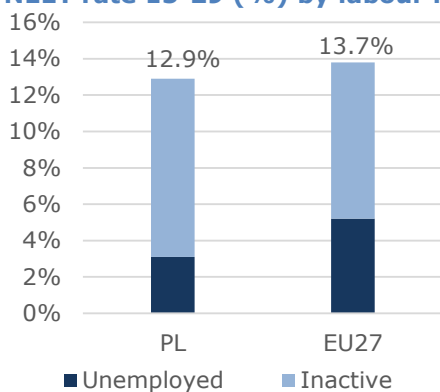
¹¹ <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/bijstand/vraag-en-antwoord/welke-regels-gelden-er-voor-de-bijstand-voor-jongeren>

POLAND

The Youth Guarantee (YG) scheme in Poland started in January 2014. The main implementing organisations are the public employment services (PES), including labour offices at regional and local level, the Voluntary Labour Corps (VLC) and the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK), a state financial institution involved in providing finance for start-up opportunities. However, the VLC project was not implemented in 2020 as funds were redirected to COVID-19 related projects aimed at protecting life and health. Initially the Polish YG scheme was open to young NEETs aged 15-24 but coverage was extended in autumn 2015 to include young people up to 30 years old. The YG in Poland provides access to employment, traineeships and apprenticeships. There is no minimum duration required for treating participants as positive exits (e.g. in case of drop-out).

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Poland, 2020

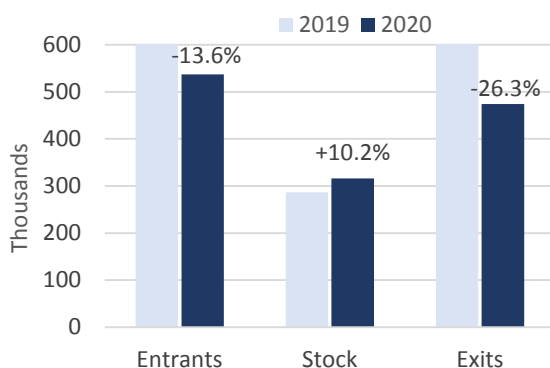


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate in Poland was 12.9%, a small increase of 0.9 pp since 2019 and slightly below the EU27 rate of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for just 3.1% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 9.8% (8.6% at EU level). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased by 0.9 pp (+0.1 pp for unemployed NEETs and +0.8 pp for inactive NEETs).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Poland, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

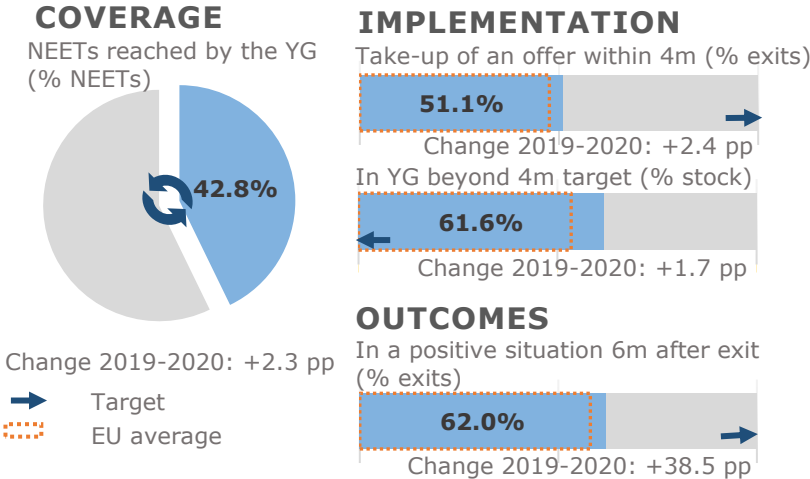
During 2020, there was a notable decrease in the use of the YG. The number of entrants decreased by 13.6% overall, a change that was not connected to the suspension of the VLC programme, which accounted for just 0.25% of all entrants in 2019. The biggest decrease was seen in the 15-19 age-group (-21.4% vs -14.1% for the 20-24 age-group

and -10.8% for the 25-29). The number of exits from the YG decreased twice as much (-26.3%) resulting in a net inflow in the year and an increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG (+10.2%).

Key results

- ❖ During 2020, on average, six in ten (61.6%) of those registered in the YG scheme at any point during the year had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, a slight increase from 2019 (+1.7 pp) and well above the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Half (51.1%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, up from 2019 (+2.4 pp) and a little better than the EU average (47.6%).
- ❖ On average, the YG scheme reached four in ten (42.8%) of all NEETs aged under 29 during 2020, a slight increase compared to 2019 (+2.3 pp) and above the EU average of 40.3%.
- ❖ Three in five (62.0%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months later. That result represents a significant improvement compared to 2019 (+38.5 pp), which appears to be attributable to improved data quality since the share of YG participants in an unknown situation has been reduced from 62.5% in 2019 to 25.1% in 2020.

Key results, 15–29, Poland, 2019-2020



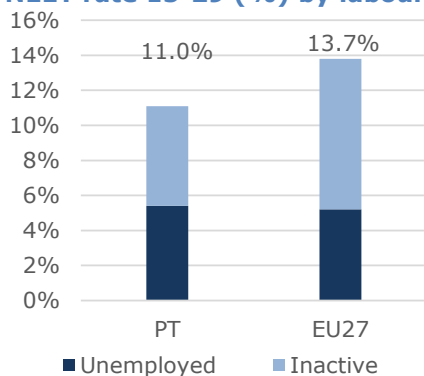
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese Youth Guarantee (YG) scheme, open to NEETs under the age of 30, was introduced in March 2014. The public employment services (PES) are responsible for management of the scheme and for coordinating partnerships across all levels and sectors of the country. Implementation involves ministries, youth organisations, trade organisations, as well as social partner organisations and other relevant institutions working in the fields of education, vocational training and social inclusion. Participants who are not registered with the PES are approached by the Employment and Vocational Training institute, working in partnership with other entities. Individuals can also register for the YG through a dedicated online portal. All types of offer (employment, education, traineeship and apprenticeship) are available through the Portuguese YG. No minimum duration filter is applied in the recording of positive exits.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Portugal, 2020

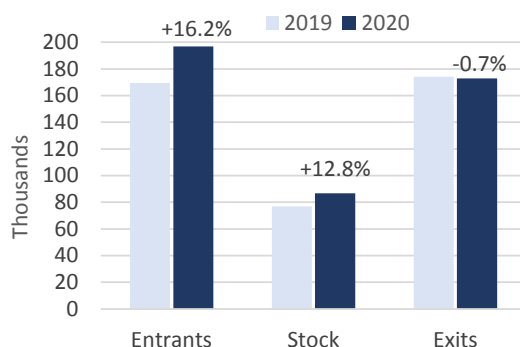


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate in Portugal was 11.0%, some way below the EU27 rate of 13.7%. This represents an increase of 1.8 pp compared to 2019. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 5.4% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 5.7% (8.6% at EU level). The increase compared to 2019 is attributed mainly to an increase in the inactive NEET rate (+1.3 pp) rather than unemployed NEET rate (+0.6 pp).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Portugal, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

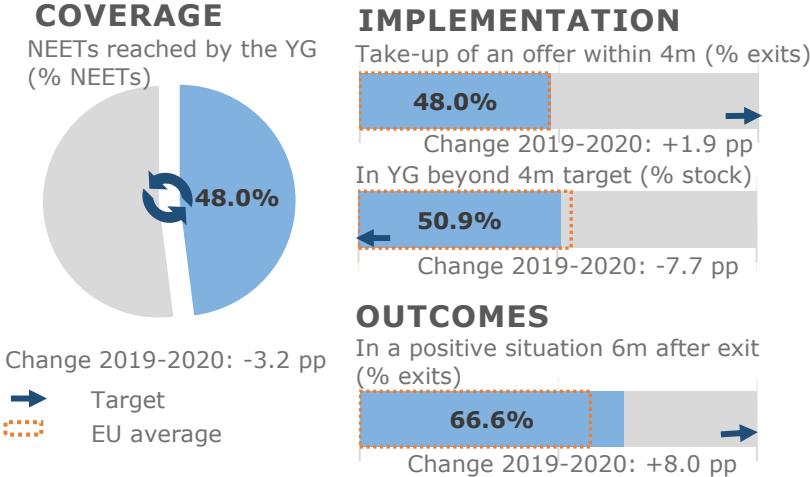
During 2020, there was a significant increase in the use of the YG. Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) increased by 16.2% overall and, in particular, for those aged 25-29 (+25.0% vs 18.6% for the 20-24 age-group and a decrease of 14.8% for those aged 15-19). At the same time, exits from the YG fell slightly (-0.7 pp) resulting in

a significant increase in the stocks of young people registered in the YG at any time during the year (+12.8%).

Key results

- ❖ Half (50.9%) of those registered in the Portuguese YG at any point during 2020 had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, reduced compared to 2019 (-7.7 pp) and below the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ At the same time, half of those leaving the YG in 2020 (48.0%) took up an offer within four months of registration, more than in 2019 (+1.9 pp) and similar to the EU average (47.6%).
- ❖ Overall, the improvements in the implementation indicators compared to 2019, tend to suggest that COVID-19 has not impacted too much on the YG processes.
- ❖ On average during 2020, less than half (48.0%) of all NEETs aged under 30 were registered in the Portuguese YG scheme. Although that is less than in 2019 (-3.2 pp), coverage remains well above the EU average of 40.3%.
- ❖ Two thirds of those leaving the YG in 2020 (66.6%) were known to be in a positive situation 6 months later. Longer-term follow-up data for those leaving in previous years suggest that outcomes are sustainable.

Key results, 15–29, Portugal, 2019-2020



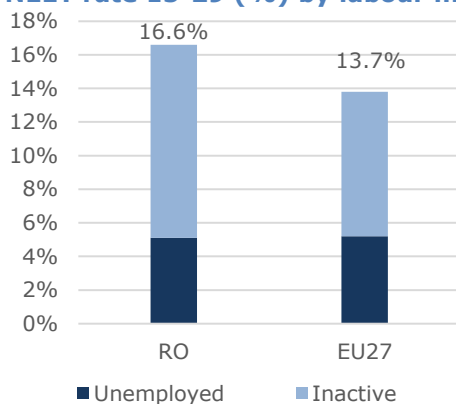
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

ROMANIA

The Romanian Youth Guarantee (YG) scheme was launched in January 2014. Measures to support the labour market integration of young people aged up to 25 revolve around three main reforms: 1) the modification of the unemployment insurance system and employment stimulation act, 2) the amended workplace apprenticeship act and 3) a new traineeship act (targeted at higher education graduates). Implementation is coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, in partnership with stakeholders (including business, civil society and unions), while young people can register through the public employment services (PES). Note that the YG monitoring data cover all young people registered as unemployed with the PES, aged 16-29. All types of offers are provided within the YG scheme. All offers regardless of their duration are regarded as exits from the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Romania, 2020

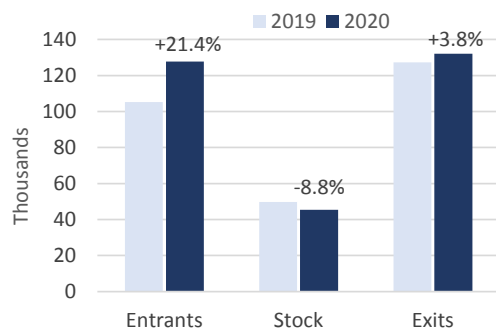


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for those aged 15-29 in Romania was 16.6%, above the rate of 13.7% at EU level and among the five highest rates seen amongst Member States. The unemployed NEET rate of 5.1% was on a par with the EU level (5.2%) but there was a significantly larger proportion of inactive young people among the population aged 15-29 (11.5% vs 8.6%). It is worth noting that the NEET rate among young women was double that of young men (22.1% vs 11.4%). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate decreased by 0.2 pp. Although there was a slight increase in the unemployed NEET rate (+0.6 pp), the inactive NEET rate reduced by 0.8 pp.

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Romania, 2019-2020



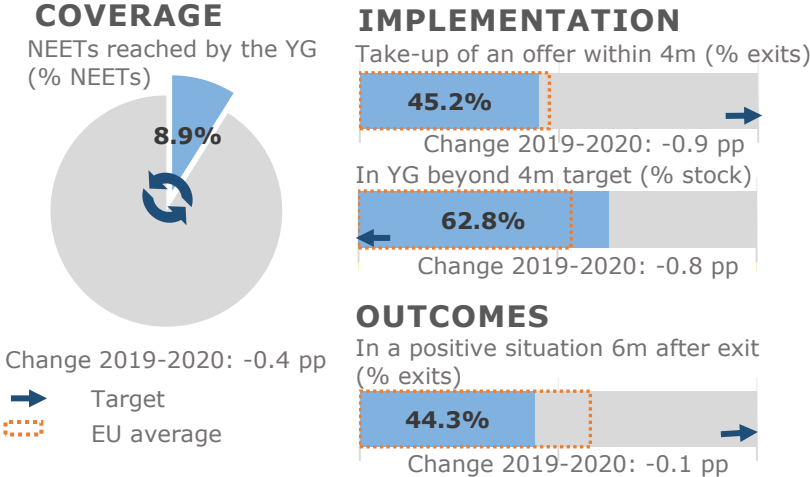
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

During 2020, there was a significant increase in the use of the YG. Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) increased by 21.4% overall. The increase was more pronounced for the two older age-groups (+34.3% for those aged 20-24 and +27.6% for 25-29 but only +9.5% for 15-19). Exits from the YG increased only slightly (+3.8 pp) but remain higher than inflows such that the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year decreased by 8.8%.

Key results

- ❖ Six in ten (62.8%) of those registered in the YG at any point during 2020 had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, much as in 2019 (-0.8 pp) and still well above the EU average of 53.4%
- ❖ The proportion leaving to take up an offer within the 4-month target has also remained stable at 45.2% (-0.9 pp), slightly below the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ Coverage of the NEET population remains poor with only 8.9% of all NEETs aged 15-29 covered by the Romanian YG in 2020. That is less than a quarter of the EU average (40.3%)
- ❖ About two in five (44.3%) of those that exited the YG in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months after exit. However, follow-up data do not comply with the specifications of the YG Indicator Framework and have limited coverage because of a lack of capacity to track people that are not directly in contact with the PES.

Key results, 15–29, Romania, 2019-2020



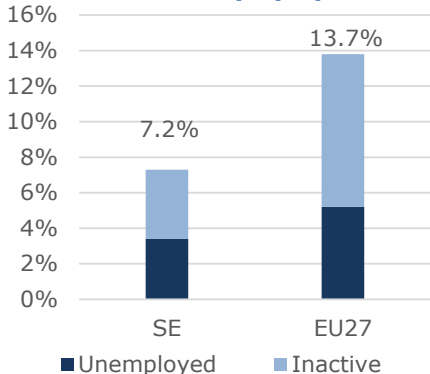
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

SWEDEN

The Swedish Youth Guarantee (YG) Implementation Plan was presented to the European Commission in April 2014, but implementation started already in January of that year. The Swedish YG builds on existing policies - Sweden has had a strategic policy for promoting youth employment in line with the Council Recommendation on establishing a Youth Guarantee since 2006 and a job guarantee scheme (Youth Job Programme, UGA) in place since December 2007. The YG monitoring data cover all young people aged 15-29 (15-24 up to 2019) registered as unemployed with the public employment service (PES). Employment, education, and traineeship offers are provided. Apprenticeships were available within the YG framework only until the end of 2017. There is no minimum duration requirement for offers to be recorded as positive exits in the monitoring data.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Sweden, 2020

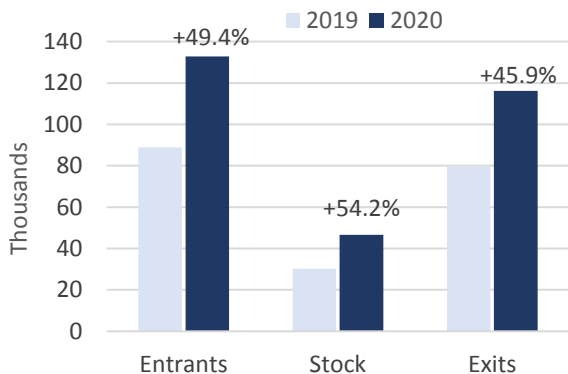


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate for young people aged 15-29 in Sweden was 7.2%, the second lowest rate among Member States and well below the EU rate of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for just 3.4% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 3.9% (8.6% at EU level). Compared to 2019, the overall NEET rate increased by 0.9 pp, a change that derives entirely from an increase in the unemployed NEET rate.

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-24, Sweden, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

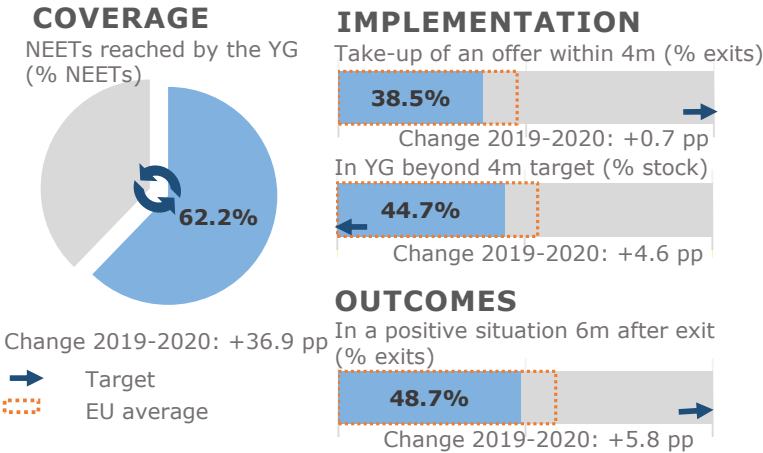
Sweden provided data for the 25-29 age-group for the first time in relation to reference year 2020 so there are no historical data for the new wider coverage of the Reinforced YG. To assess the impact of COVID-19, therefore, comparisons are restricted to the 15-24 age-group.

During 2020, there was a significant increase in the use of the YG for the 15-24 age group. Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) increased by 49.4% overall and were most prominent for those aged 20-24 (+53.4% vs 40.3% for the 15-19 age-group). Exits from the YG also increased but not as much as entrants (45.9%) and there was a net inflow during the year. As a result, the previously low average stock of young people registered in the YG increased substantially (+54.2%).

Key results

- ❖ Sweden provided data for the 25-29 age-group for the first time. Comparison through time for the wider age-group supported by the Reinforced YG (15-29) is thus not yet possible.
- ❖ In 2020, 44.7 % of young people remained in the YG preparatory phase beyond the 4-month target, a better (lower) result than the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Almost two in five (38.5%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, below the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ The Swedish YG scheme covered around three in five (62.2%) of all NEETs aged under 29 in 2020, well above the EU average of 40.3%. Data for the 15-24 age-group shows that coverage has improved significantly compared to 2019 (from 47.5% to 62.0%), most likely reflecting the difficult labour market conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic that will tend to result in more young people needing help to find work and registering with the PES.
- ❖ Almost half (48.7%) of those leaving the scheme in 2020 were known to be in a positive situation 6 months after exit. This rate is well below the EU average of 58.1%.

Key results, 15–29, Sweden, 2020



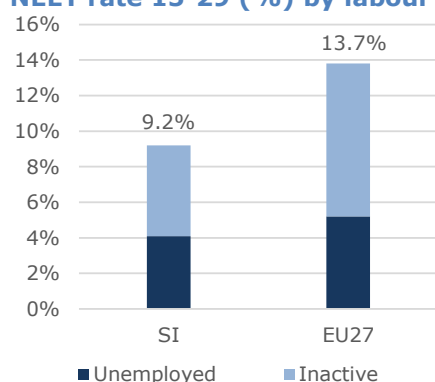
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.
Notes: The change between 2019 and 2020 is not applicable as reference data are different (15-24 in 2019 vs 15-29 in 2020).

SLOVENIA

Slovenia presented a Youth Guarantee implementation plan in January 2014. An updated version covering the period 2016-2020 was adopted in May 2016¹². The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities is in charge of establishing, managing and coordinating the YG, while the Employment Service of Slovenia (i.e. the PES) is the main implementing institution although some other organisations are also involved in providing services. Monitoring data cover all young people aged 15-29 registered with the PES as unemployed. In 2020, the Slovenian YG provided subsidised offers to all possible destinations with the exception of apprenticeships. All offers regardless of their duration are regarded as exits from the YG.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Slovenia, 2020

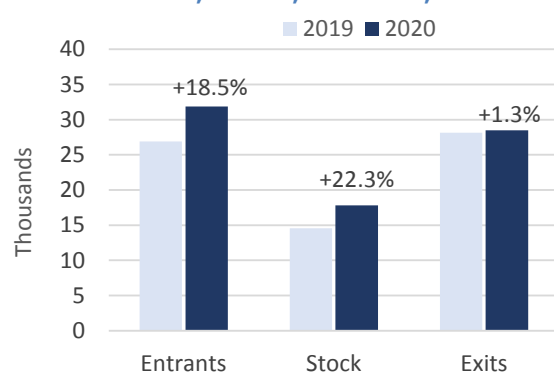


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020, the NEET rate in Slovenia was 9.2%, a slight increase compared to 2019 (8.8%) but still well below the EU level of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 4.1% of the population aged 15-29 (up from 3.5% in 2019) compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 5.1% (5.3% in 2019) compared to 8.6% at EU level. The increase in the overall NEET rate compared to 2019 derives entirely from the 20-24 age group (+2.2 pp) as the NEET rate for those aged 15-19 decreased (-1.1 pp) and the rate for those aged 25-29 hardly changed (+0.1 pp).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Slovenia, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

During 2020, there was a noticeable increase in the use of the YG. Entrants (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) increased by 18.5% overall but were most prominent for

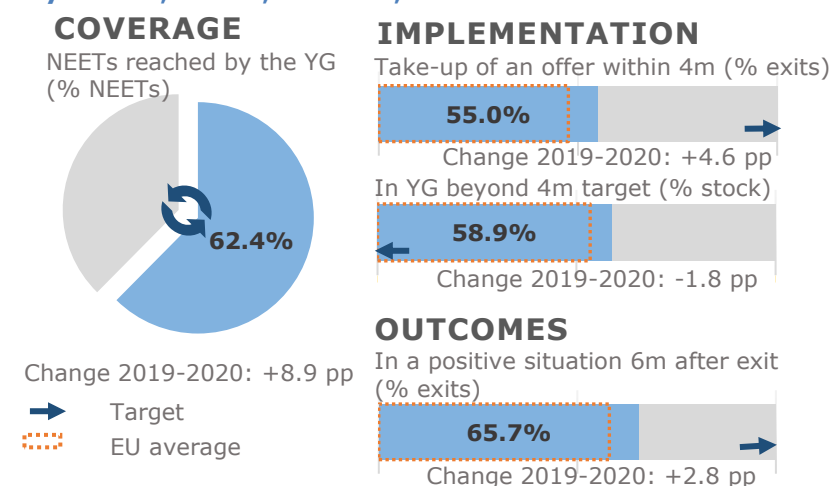
¹² More information about the Slovenian YG can be found in the dedicated website: <https://www.junakizaposlovanja.si/jzm-ukrepi/>

those aged 20-24 (+24.7% vs +3.3% for those aged 15-19 and +17.4% for those aged 25-29) and for men (+24.3% vs +13.4% for women). At the same time, the number of exits from the YG remained at a similar level to 2019 (+1.3%) resulting in a significant increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year (+22.3%).

Key results

- ❖ Nearly six in ten (58.9%) of those registered in the Slovenian YG scheme at any point during 2020 had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, a slight improvement (decrease) compared to 2019 (-1.8 pp) but still above the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Over half (55.0%) of those leaving the scheme in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, up from 2019 (+4.6 pp) and above the EU average (47.6%).
- ❖ Despite the increased use of the YG, the positive results in terms of the implementation indicators tend to suggest that COVID-19 has not impacted adversely on the YG processes in Slovenia.
- ❖ On average during 2020, the YG scheme covered three fifths (62.4%) of NEETs aged under 29, a significant increase compared to 2019 (+8.9 pp) and well above the EU average of 40.3%.
- ❖ More than six in ten (65.7%) of those that left the YG in 2020 were found to be in a positive situation 6 months afterwards. Outcomes are sustained over time, as longer-term follow-up data for previous years show similar results.

Key results, 15–29, Slovenia, 2019-2020



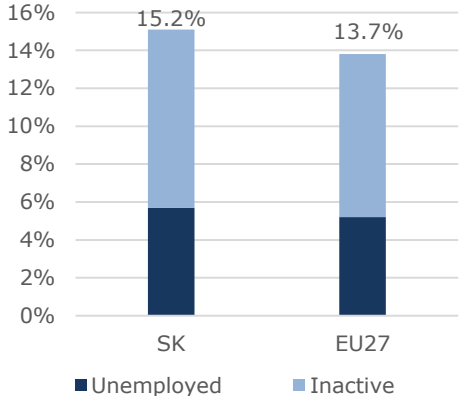
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

SLOVAKIA

The Youth Guarantee scheme in Slovakia started in February 2014. It is provided by the Public Employment Service (PES) and is available to young people aged under 29. It especially targets those affected by long-term unemployment and has special provisions for young disabled persons. To further strengthen the preparatory phase, the PES initiated the “Be active, get a job” programme offering information services as well as individualised and group counselling to help young people under 29 find a suitable offer. Further reforms are planned in response to the Reinforced YG Recommendation, including the establishment of some one-stop-shops for youth and the reintroduction of a previously successful mentored employment programme. The Slovakian Youth Guarantee scheme covers all forms of offer, including apprenticeships delivered through a dual system of vocational education and training introduced in 2015 (though take-up remains limited). Whilst all employment and traineeship offers have a minimum duration of at least 1 month, some education courses can last less than 28 days. There is, however, no minimum duration of participation for recording positive exits in the monitoring data.

Context for implementation

NEET rate 15-29 (%) by labour market status, Slovakia, 2020

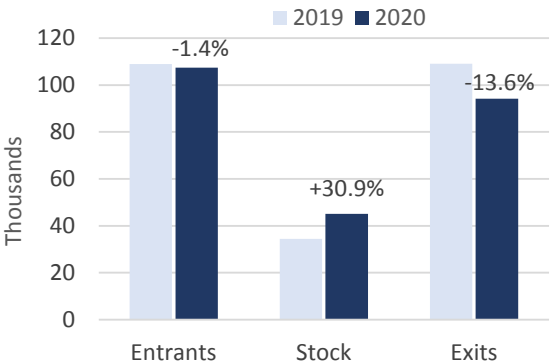


Source: Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

In 2020 the NEET rate for those aged 15-29 in Slovakia was 15.2%, above the EU level figure of 13.7%. Unemployed NEETs accounted for 5.7% of the population aged 15-29 compared to 5.2% at EU level, while inactive NEETs accounted for a further 9.4% (8.5% at EU level). Compared to 2019, the NEET rate slightly increased (+0.7 pp) due to the increase in unemployed NEETs (+1.0 pp, the rate of inactive NEETs reduced by 0.4 pp).

Flows through the YG in the context of COVID-19

Main variables, 15-29, Slovakia, 2019-2020



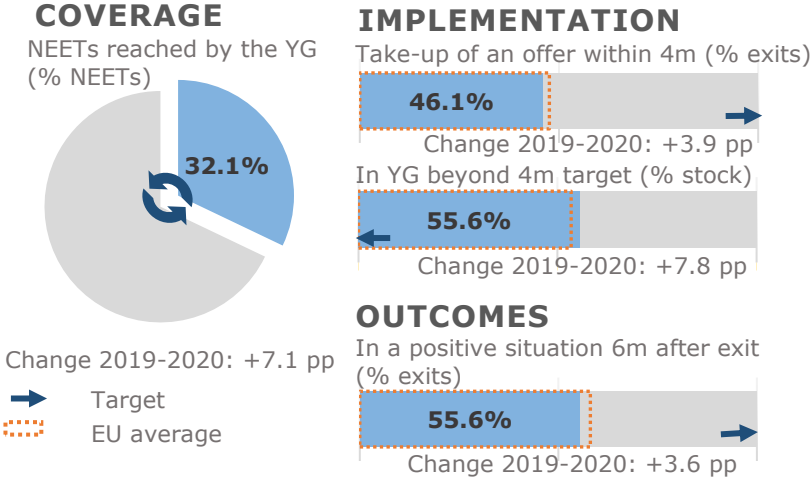
Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

During 2020, entrants to the YG (i.e. new or re-registrations as unemployed) remained at similar levels as in 2019 (-1.4 pp). The number of entrants aged 15-19 actually reduced substantially (-16.5%) as some of this age-group extended their participation in education, whereas entrants and re-entrants of the older age-groups remained stable due to measures to maintain job places. At the same time, the number of exits from the YG fell by 13.6%, resulting in a significant increase in the average stock of young people registered in the YG during the year (+30.9%).

Key results

- ❖ On average during 2020, more than half (55.6%) of those registered in the Slovakian YG scheme had been waiting for an offer for more than 4 months, up from 2019 (+7.8 pp) and just above the EU average of 53.4%.
- ❖ Approaching half (46.1%) of those leaving the scheme in 2020 took up an offer within 4 months of registration, slightly more than in 2019 (+3.9 pp) and on a par with the EU average of 47.6%.
- ❖ Overall, the results of the implementation indicators tend to suggest that COVID-19 has not impacted significantly on the YG processes in Slovakia. There is some evidence of increased retention in the YG preparatory phase beyond the 4-month target, but only to a level similar to the EU average.
- ❖ The YG scheme in Slovakia covered just a third (32.1%) of NEETs aged under 29, a higher proportion than in 2019 (+7.1 pp) but still below the EU average of 40.3%.
- ❖ Follow-up data show that more than half (55.6%) of those leaving the YG in 2020 were known to be in employment, education or training 6 months later. Outcomes are sustained over time, as longer-term follow-up data for previous years show similar results.

Key results, 15–29, Slovakia, 2019-2020



Source: DG EMPL, YG monitoring database, data extracted on 16 November 2021.

ANNEX – NOTES ABOUT THE DATA

Comparability. Data are compiled on the basis of a common methodology - the Indicator Framework for Monitoring the Youth Guarantee and the accompanying methodological manual – and are therefore considered broadly comparable between countries. Nevertheless, it is important to bear in mind that the data for direct and follow-up monitoring are derived from national administrative registers that are designed to support and monitor specific national systems, which vary in terms of the processes followed and definitions applied and may, therefore, result in some inherent differences between countries. These differences are, however, relatively minor and more important differences are those that derive from the way in which YG schemes have been implemented and the capacity of countries to provide complete data.

In relation to implementation, the size and composition of the population registered in the YG is different for countries that implemented the YG as a completely new approach and monitored inflows starting from zero, compared to countries that implemented the YG as a reinforcement of existing processes and monitored inflows accumulating with the existing stock. Countries in the former group will tend to have a smaller stock with lower average duration. Differences that result from this artefact of the data are guaranteed to reduce through time. Indeed, evidence of convergence was apparent already in the 2015 data and continued in following years.

The capacity of countries to monitor what happens to young people on leaving the YG impacts on the quality of data for both exits and follow-up but particularly the latter.

Follow-up data. Although the provision of data has improved through time, still six Member States either provide no follow-up data (4 countries) or do not know the subsequent situation of the large majority (at least 90%) of young people passing through the YG (2 countries)¹³. The problem derives from a lack of capacity to routinely link administrative registers or legal restrictions to do so. In Romania and Latvia the data are not aligned with the specifications of the YG Indicator Framework¹⁴. Moreover, even where data are available, they do not necessarily reflect the true situation because of a lack of capacity to track people after exit (i.e. the situation is unknown for a high proportion). The results should be interpreted accordingly.

Note that where follow-up data are collected before everyone that exited in the reference period had reached the observation point (e.g. the 12 month situation of people that exited in year n can only be fully known in January of year $n+2$) then results are calculated only for the sub-group for whom the observation is valid (i.e. excluding those that had not yet reached the observation point).

EU level data. Figures labelled “**EU average**” are unweighted averages of all available country data (i.e. average of indicator values). These are most relevant for comparison of indicator results between countries. Figures labelled “**EU27_2020**” (or in the case of follow-up data, “**EU agg**”) are based on EU level aggregates that take into account all affected NEETs in all countries for which data are available (i.e. indicator results calculated using an aggregate of the underlying numbers, effectively producing a

¹³ The following countries failed to provide follow-up data (6m after exit in 2020) in the latest collection: Czechia, France, The Netherlands, Finland. Note that data for Germany are also missing at the current time but this relates to a timing issue (data are not released until it is possible to know the situation of all those that left in the reference year) and will be provided later. In Estonia and Ireland the situation 6m after exit in 2020 was unknown for more than 90% of cases reported.

¹⁴ Follow-up data are intended to show the situation of each young person at fixed intervals (6, 12 and 18 months) after their specific date of exit from the preparatory phase. Data for Romania describe the situation of all persons that had reached at least 6 months after exit at the end of the reference year. Data for Latvia refer to young people that found employment within 6 months of joining the YG.

weighted average of indicator results at country level). These figures describe the overall situation of NEETs in the EU but can be significantly influenced by the situation in a small number of large countries. In 2020, for example, approaching two thirds of both the total inflows to the YG in 2020 (63.2%) and the total stock (aged 15-29) (62.1%) came from just 4 Member States: Spain (22.0% of entrants, 10.7% stock), France (22.5% and 14.9%), Germany (19.4% and 20.2%), and Poland (6.9% and 8.7%). In relation to the destination of exits and follow-up data, the EU averages are liable to be understated due to significant numbers of unknown destinations or subsequent situations in some countries.

Coverage indicator. The second supplementary indicator for direct monitoring measures the proportion of the NEET population (average across the year) that is registered in the YG preparatory phase (annual average stock). Whilst data for the numerator are derived from administrative data in each country, the only available comparable data on the size of the NEET population that can be used as a denominator derive from the EU Labour Force Survey. This uses a definition of NEETs that is common across countries¹⁵ but which may vary from the definitions applied in the context of national YG schemes and in the administrative data used to monitor these. Results should thus be interpreted as an estimation, rather than a definitive measurement, of the extent to which YG schemes achieve the objective of reaching all young people that become, or are already, NEET. In exceptional cases, the coverage indicator could even exceed 100% if the criteria governing access to the national YG scheme are more relaxed (in terms of being out of work or education/training) than those applied in the LFS.

In line with the expanded coverage of the Reinforced YG, the data used in this summary covers the full 15-29 age-group where available even though the monitoring data for five countries do not yet cover the 25-29 age-group (Ireland, France, Luxembourg, Hungary, The Netherlands). For most of the direct and follow-up level indicators the lack of data for the 25-29 age-group for these countries has only a minor impact, reflecting the different characteristics of this group compared to those aged 15-19 or 20-24. For the coverage indicator, however, countries not yet covering those aged 25-29 will clearly be disadvantaged.

¹⁵ See [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Young_people_neither_in_employment_nor_in_education_and_training_\(NEET\)](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Young_people_neither_in_employment_nor_in_education_and_training_(NEET))