

# Employment and Social Inclusion in Europe: *Ways Forward for the Young Jobless Generation*



**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre,  
Brussels



# Employment and Social Inclusion in Europe: Ways Forward for the Young Jobless Generation

## Overview

According to the European Commission, unemployment reached 24.6 million people in August 2014, out of which 5 million are aged 15 and 24. Millions of youngsters across Europe are struggling to find a job or to further their education, facing a world from which they increasingly feel disconnected with. The economic recession has forced many to accept unpaid internships or become long-term unemployed – which leads to a lack of confidence, social exclusion, poorer health, depression and even suicide. Without doubt, youth unemployment is a profound challenge to the future of Europe, with the costs of NEETs (young people not in education, employment or training) rising up to €153bn (1.21% of GDP) a year – in benefits and foregone earnings and taxes, according to Eurofound.

There is a need to promote urgent, targeted measures supporting young people's school-to-work transition, while investing in longer-term structural reforms. With a budget of €6 billion for the period 2014 - 2020, the Youth Employment Initiative aims to support NEETs in EU regions most affected by youth unemployment. Inspired by the national scheme in Finland, EU Member States are currently developing national Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans, to ensure that all youngsters under 25 receive a good-quality offer within 4 months of leaving education or becoming unemployed. Nevertheless, delivering on the objectives of a Youth Guarantee requires reforming education and training systems and reinforcing partnerships for reaching out to inactive young people not registered with an employment service. Thus, following the Council and European Parliament's Decision to improve the effectiveness of public employment services through closer cooperation, the Public Employment Services Network was launched in September 2014. It aims to support Member States further coordinate their policies and actions against unemployment.

This timely International Symposium provides an invaluable opportunity to discuss the challenges behind current unemployment trends in the EU. Delegates will have the opportunity to examine initiatives and innovative projects that have been implemented to tackle youth unemployment and social exclusion at national and EU levels. This Symposium will also allow delegates to exchange best practices and discuss solutions to boost employment in the EU.

**“ The labour market in Europe is constantly evolving. Therefore, also the skills, competences, and qualifications that people need change over time. People need to have a variety of skills and in particular transversal skills for employability and active citizenship, such as digital competences, entrepreneurship, etc. Unfortunately, evidence tells us that too many people in the EU still do not have these competences.”**

- Godelieve Van den Brande, European Commission, DG Education and Culture.  
November 2014

**“ Well-functioning and efficient Public Employment Services are essential to facilitate quick access to jobs and training for unemployed people across Europe. The new Network will contribute to their modernisation and reform across the EU. A number of Member States also need to reform their public employment services to successfully implement the Youth Guarantee and to help young unemployed and inactive people get a job or training. The new Network sends yet another strong signal that Europe is using all available tools to fight unemployment.”**

- László Andor, former Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
September 2014

## Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre  
Avenue du Boulevard 17  
1210 Brussels  
Belgium



## Why Attend?

- ✓ Explore solutions to encourage jobs creation in the EU and to increase the attractiveness of youth entrepreneurship
- ✓ Discuss the role of employment services in tackling youth unemployment
- ✓ Assess trends and causes for skills mismatch and its impact on the labour market
- ✓ Share best practices in the field of innovative and experimental policy-making and implementation

## Who Should Attend?

- Ministries of Employment and Social Affairs
- Social Services
- Employment Agencies
- Youth Organisations
- Social Funds
- Training Managers
- Recruitment Advisers
- Human Rights Groups
- Trade Unions
- Research Institutes
- Social Innovation Centres
- National Departments for Social and Family Affairs
- Lifelong Learning Institutes
- Social Advisers
- Active Ageing Organisations
- Voluntary Organisations
- Local Authorities
- Employment and Social Inclusion Institutes
- Labour Economy Research Centres
- Labour Market Institutes
- Academics
- PhD Candidates
- European Social Organisational Science Consultancies
- European Employment Associations
- Social Partners
- Pension Organisations
- Associations of Social Enterprises
- Sheltered Employment and Labour Integration Organisations
- Physical and Social Rehabilitation Centres
- Disabled People's Rehabilitation and Employment Unions
- Vocational Training Centres
- Innovation and Personal Development Centres
- Special Employment Unions

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## Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Addressing Youth Unemployment: Current EU Policy Framework**
- Implementing the Youth Employment Initiative – Challenges and Ways Forward
  - Implementing the EU Youth Guarantee Schemes: Progress Made and Lessons Learned
  - Transforming Young People from 'NEET' into 'Ready to Work'
  - Recommendations for Future Actions
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **The Role of Employment Services in Supporting the Young Unemployed**
- Improving Cooperation between the Different Employment Services at Regional Level
  - Providing Effective, Personalised and Coordinated Support and Career Advice at Every Key Transitional Period
  - Reaching Youngsters not Registered with an Employment Service
  - Sharing Best Practices: Insights from the Public Employment Services Network
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Addressing Skill Mismatches: Reinforcing the Links between Employers and Schools**
- Mapping Bottleneck Occupations: Main Trends in the EU Labour Markets
  - Anticipating Mismatches: Aligning Education and Training with Labour Market Needs
  - Implementing Key Competences in School Education
  - Exchanging Knowledge and Best Practices
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Promoting Entrepreneurship as an Attractive Career Path**
- Fostering Positive Attitudes Towards Entrepreneurship Amongst Young People: Changing the Cultural Stigma of Failure in Europe
  - Supporting Self-Employment and Micro-Enterprises: Providing Tailor Made Business Support and Services to Young Entrepreneurs
  - Current Examples of Innovative Projects
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Close

## Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

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or email [info@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk](mailto:info@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk)

## Event Details

- Date:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015  
**Time:** 10:00am – 4:30pm  
**Venue:** Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels



## Speakers Include:

- ✓ **Stefanie Ledermaier**, Research Officer, Eurofound
- ✓ **Fons Leroy**, CEO, VDAB (the Flemish Public Employment Service), Board Member, European Network of Public Employment Services
- ✓ **Andrea Gerosa**, Founder & Chief Thinker, ThinkYoung

## Forthcoming Events

- ✓ Free from Fear, Free from Pain: Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation in Europe  
*20th January 2015*
- ✓ Europe 2020 Bridging the Digital Divide: Securing Equal Access to High-Speed Internet  
*21st January 2015*
- ✓ eHealth in Europe: Empowering Patients and Offering Better Connected Healthcare Services  
*27th January 2015*
- ✓ Supporting Cultural and Creative Industries in Europe: Towards Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth  
*18th February 2015*
- ✓ Occupational Health and Safety in Europe: Fostering Healthy Workplaces for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth  
*24th February 2015*
- ✓ Eliminating Domestic Violence in Europe: Implementing Strategies for Protection and Prevention  
*25th February 2015*
- ✓ The World's Top Destination: Driving Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Across Europe  
*17th March 2015*