



# European Union (EU)



Topic:

Addressing Youth  
Unemployment in  
Europe: Developing  
Strategies to Enhance  
Jobs



**Committee:** European Union

**Topic:** Addressing Youth Unemployment in Europe: Developing Strategies to Enhance Jobs

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**Written by:** Marcelo Foster Peña

## **I. Quorum**

-Austria	-Germany	-Portugal
-Belgium	-Greece	-Romania
-Bulgaria	-Hungary	-Slovakia
-Croatia	-Ireland	-Slovenia
-Cyprus	-Italy	-Spain
-Czech Republic	-Latvia	-Sweden
-Denmark	-Lithuania	-United Kingdom
-Estonia	-Malta	
-Finland	-Netherlands	
-France	-Poland	



## **II. Committee Background**

The European Union is a group of 27 countries that work together. It was created after World War II to help European countries cooperate and avoid future wars. The EU started small in 1957 with just six countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Today, it helps millions of people live, work, and travel between the countries of the European Union. The EU uses one common currency in most of its countries, the Euro, making it easier for people to buy and sell things across borders. Over the years, the EU has grown bigger and stronger, becoming one of the most important organizations in the world.

The EU works like a big team with different parts that each have important jobs. The European Parliament is a congress where representatives from all EU countries meet to make decisions. The Council of the European Union is where the leaders of each country discuss big issues. The European Commission suggests new rules and makes sure countries follow them. Together, these groups work to fix major problems that affect all EU countries, like unemployment, climate change, and economic growth.

One of the EU's biggest concerns right now is helping young people find jobs. Since the big money crisis in 2008, many young Europeans have struggled to find work. In some EU countries, more than half of all young people couldn't find jobs at one point. To fix this, the EU has created special programs like the Youth Employment Initiative and the Youth Guarantee. These programs help young people get training, education, and work experience. The EU also runs exchange programs like Erasmus+, which lets students study in different EU countries. They spend billions of euros on these programs because they believe that helping youth succeed is key to making Europe stronger. The EU is trying to create a better future for the next generation by focusing on education, job training, and work opportunities.



### **III. History of Topic**

For years now, in Europe, there has been a problem with young people struggling to find jobs. The situation only worsened with time after World War II when things were more stable and employment was easier to come by even for the youth population; however, in the 1970s, everything changed as a result of the oil crises, causing unemployment rates to rise across the board and hitting young individuals especially hard. During the 1980s and 1990s, a wave of challenges arose as the focus shifted from manufacturing to service-oriented sectors, leading to a disconnect between the skills possessed by job seekers and those demanded by employers. There was also a shift in the job market following the fall of the Berlin Wall and the incorporation of European nations into the larger European economic framework.

At the beginning of the century, the European Union sought to tackle these challenges. They initiated the Lisbon Strategy in 2000 to enhance Europe's competitiveness and boost employment opportunities. Unfortunately, the worldwide financial downturn in 2008 significantly inhibited these initiatives. During the crisis onset, the European Union and specific nations put into effect initiatives to assist the youth population. Famously known as the Youth Guarantee. Established in 2013, this strategy aimed to guarantee that all individuals under 25 years old would be presented with a job opportunity, a chance for an apprenticeship, or an option for education within four months from their unemployment commencement or departure from formal education. Although these endeavors provided some assistance, the impact of their effectiveness differs among regions.

### **IV. Topic Information**

The problem of young people not being able to find jobs is still a big issue across the European Union. As I mentioned in the history section, this problem has been around for a while, getting worse after events like the oil crises in the 1970s and the 2008 financial crisis. Even though the EU has tried to help by doing plans like the Lisbon Strategy and the Youth Guarantee program, the youth unemployment rate is still much higher than the overall unemployment rate. According to the latest data, 15.1% of young



people in the EU were unemployed in 2022, which is more than double the regular unemployment rate.

This unemployment problem for young people is causing big economic and social problems, and it's making existing inequalities even worse. That's why it's so important for the EU to come up with good strategies to create more job opportunities and help young people develop the right skills. Thankfully, many companies and organizations are helping to address the issue of youth unemployment in Europe, providing solutions and assistance to help the efforts of the European Union. Some of these associations include:

The European Youth Forum serves as a critical platform where youth councils work together to help young people's needs and ensure their voices are included in important policy decisions. The European Alliance for Apprenticeships focuses on making it easier to have a job after you are done with school, making it easier for young people to not struggle to find a successful job.

Another major initiative is the Erasmus+ program, which has successfully helped many students gain international experience and develop professional skills through its exchange and training opportunities. These groups, among others, collaborate with the European Union in developing solutions to help young Europeans find jobs and build their careers.

## **V. Current Issues**

### **Spain:**

One of the biggest issues that Spain is trying to solve is the problem of young people not being able to find a job. For the time being, approximately 28% of youngsters in Spain do not have a long-term job, which is a very large percentage compared with other European countries. In this respect, Spain began with the program entitled "Youth Guarantee Plus" to assist persons under 30 years of age so that they can find employment and obtain proper training. That program has given a chance for over a million people to get jobs and learn new skills.



Spain is receiving support from the European Union, too. The moment they asked for their aid, they gave them a lot of money to open up more job opportunities for the youth. Something great they were able to do with that money was to create something called "First Professional Experience", paying interns to help young people have their first work experience. That has been helpful, as most of the companies are very unwilling to hire people without previous work experience, so getting that first job is super important.

**Germany:**

While comparing Germany to most European countries, it is doing very well in terms of youth employment. Only about 6% of its young people do not find jobs, something that is very low. This is mainly because of their unique system of education whereby students can learn theoretically at school and practically on actual jobs simultaneously. It is called the dual system and helps approximately 1.3 million people gain job experience while studying.

Germany is so successful in employing its youth that other countries would like to follow their footsteps. They even invite young people from other European countries to come to Germany and learn from them. More than 100,000 young people have come from all over different EU countries to learn how to work in various professions, which is something quite cool.

**Greece:**

Greece is having it extremely rough with youth unemployment, and about 30% of the youth there cannot find jobs. This, compared to a couple of years ago, is an improvement, but this is still a big problem. Greece, in trying to fix this, has come up with a new plan called "Greece 2.0" and is spending lots of money to get young people working and learning new skills.

Greece also collaborates with large European banks to finance small businesses that employ youngsters. It has helped establish more than 15,000 new jobs for them, and plans to establish 25,000 more in the coming years. They also teach young people skills that are considered crucial, such as computer skills and working in eco-friendly



occupations, because they believe these will be highly important for their employment in the future.

## **VI. UN Actions**

The EU is a committee that specializes in solving all of the problems there are in their countries. For youth unemployment, they work closely with the United Nations and other big international organizations. The International Labour Organization, which is part of the UN, helps the EU create better plans for youth employment and shares important information about what works in different countries. They work together on something called the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, which tries to give young people more opportunities.

The EU has created its programs to help solve this problem, too. Their biggest program is called the Youth Guarantee, which has helped over 24 million young people get jobs or training. They also work with the World Bank to get money for youth programs and share what they learn with other countries through the UN's Economic and Social Council. Right now, they're using 88 billion euros to create more jobs for young people, and they tell the UN about what works best so other regions can learn from Europe's experience.

## **VII. Conclusion**

In conclusion, youth unemployment is a really big problem in Europe and the whole world. One of the reasons that this problem grew this much was the 2008 financial crisis, which made it hard for many young people to find jobs. Different countries handle this issue in many different ways. For example, Germany has a really good training system that helps young people find jobs easily, while places like Spain and Greece still have a high unemployment rate among young people living there.

The EU, along with organizations like the United Nations, are working hard to fix this global problem. Programs like the Youth Guarantee and Erasmus+ are important because they provide young people with job offers, training, and work experience. With billions of euros being invested, these companies have a goal to support those who need it the most. While there's still a lot of work to do, it's clear that the EU is dedicated to making sure the next generation has better chances for their careers.





## VIII. Guiding Questions

1. Does your country suffer from youth unemployment?
2. What organizations are helping your country?
3. How is your country trying to solve the matter?
4. Is your country deeply affected by this?
5. What are the youth in your country currently doing?

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