

SEDEC COMMISSION

EUROPEAN UNION



**Committee of the Regions**

**POLICY ANALYSIS MEMO**

for the CoR opinion on

**European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)**

Rapporteur: **Mr Csaba Borboly** (RO/EPP)

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Draft 2015 Joint Report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of  
the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)

## 1. Suggestions to the Rapporteur

It was highlighted several times in CoR opinions and members' activities that local and regional authorities (LRAs) have key responsibilities for youth issues and for most of the cross-sectorial policies, just as education and training, employment and sport LRAs build a bridge between EU and local levels. They are capable to reach out directly to citizens helping to implement the EU Youth Strategy in a more effective way. Therefore LRAs should play an important role in the implementation of the 2010-2018 priorities drafted by the Report.<sup>1</sup>

SEDEC work programme for 2015 also contains promoting integration and employability in the labour market, support young people's employability such as the Youth Guarantee or to strengthen their participation in democratic processes.

## 2. General context and background of the dossier

The EU Strategy for Youth (2009)<sup>2</sup> launches a framework for cooperation covering the years 2010-2018.<sup>3</sup> The Strategy respects Member States' responsibility for youth policy and sets out the overall objectives of the European cooperation in the youth field until 2018:

- creation of more and equal opportunities for all young people in education and in the labour market;
- promotion of active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity of all young people.

The Strategy is in favour of cross-sectorial approach, as youth policy covers several aspects of social policy, culture, education, health and sport issues as well.

The cooperation works through fields of actions in which initiatives should be taken:

- education and training,
- employment and entrepreneurship,
- health and well-being,
- participation,
- voluntary activities
- social inclusion,
- youth and the world,
- creativity and culture.

The 8 year period is divided to 3 year work cycles. For each work cycles priorities are chosen which contribute to the fields of actions. An EU Youth Report should be drawn up by the Commission at the end of the work cycle, which contains a joint Council-Commission report and supporting documents (statistical and analytical).

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<sup>1</sup> COM (2015) 429 final

<sup>2</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52009DC0200&from=EN>

<sup>3</sup> [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009G1219\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009G1219(01)&from=EN)

The aim of the cycle 2013-2015 is to strengthen the link between the strategy and EU2020. The overall themes are social inclusion, employability and integration to the labour market; strengthening participation and prevention of radicalisation.

## 2.1 Trends in Education and Training

In the field of education and training general positive trends are registered. "The proportion of young people with at least upper secondary level attainment and with tertiary degrees has risen, while the percentage of low achievers and early school leavers has declined."<sup>4</sup>

The role of education and training has very high importance in several aspects. Highly educated young people have a better situation in the job market and education has an important role in prevention of marginalisation and radicalisation. Education is also an important factor in migrant integration.

In 2013 in the EU-28, 81.1 % of young people aged 20-24 had completed at least upper secondary education; whereas only 66 % of people aged 55 to 64 had similar qualification levels<sup>5</sup> what means that this generation is **higher educated** than the previous one.

EU youth indicator: young people (aged 20-24) who have completed at least upper secondary education, by country between 2011 and 2014<sup>6</sup>:



The proportion of people aged 30-34 with tertiary level education attainment has grown over the last three years, but the division is very various across European countries.

The Report also highlights the more and more important role of non-formal education and learning outside the classroom. This way of learning can strengthen the motivation of pupils.

EU countries have committed to reducing the average share of **early school leavers** to less than 10% by 2020 in the EU2020 Strategy. According to the Report early school leaving is still a problem, although numbers are declining. In 2014 early school leaving (18-24 years old with at most a lower secondary education) was 11.1% of the EU28 population. The highest rate in 2014 (21.9%) was measured in Spain and the situation is the best in Croatia (2.4%)<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:d4b27e70-5b8a-11e5-afb-01aa75ed71a1.0001.05/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:d4b27e70-5b8a-11e5-afb-01aa75ed71a1.0001.05/DOC_1&format=PDF)

<sup>5</sup> Eurostat, online data code: edat\_lfse\_08. Data extracted on 16/03/2015.

<sup>6</sup> [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:d4b27e70-5b8a-11e5-afb-01aa75ed71a1.0001.05/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:d4b27e70-5b8a-11e5-afb-01aa75ed71a1.0001.05/DOC_1&format=PDF)

<sup>7</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/youth/data/database>

According to studies possible solutions to decrease early school leaving lay in policies that increase the number of compulsory years of schooling; policies that change the time of tracking; and policies that affect the organisation of teaching activities, both by changing the number of pupils per class and by changing curricula.<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless the effectiveness of these policies is diverse.

Education faces new **challenges** in the last several years. The Commission also puts emphasis on education of the educators (training of teachers).<sup>9</sup> "In the past 20 years the importance of creativity as part of young people's education has increasingly been recognised. The stimulus for the growing emphasis on creativity has come from diverse sources including drives for greater national economic prosperity and enlightenment visions of young people's education."<sup>10</sup>

Another important aspect is the use of education to **prevent radicalisation and fight against marginalisation**. A Declaration on "Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education" was adopted by Education ministers in Paris on 17 March 2015, to be followed by actions at national and local level.<sup>11</sup> The CoR is an active member in the Steering Committee of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) established in 2011. Regions and cities have a strategic place in the fight against violent radicalisation. The CoR also considers it "crucial to invest in education and jobs for migrants so that they can enter the labour market in the EU, as well as in training and cultural diversity management in order to change attitudes in the population at large and improve social relations"<sup>12</sup>.

**New technological developments** and the "Digital Turn" also affect education. The Digital Turn is how the growing flood of digital media affects our lives and understanding of the world. As the use of constantly developing digital technologies and social media has a great effect on our daily lives and professional experiments we have to react on it, be attentive to its dangers and be as prepared as we can to its developments. That's why it is crucial to imbed digital technologies in education as a tool and develop "digital skills" of the future generations.

## 2.2 Trends in Youth employment

The Report explains the meaning of "young". However the terminology is used differently in EU countries according to the different socio-economic development and culture; it is common that the period of youth is the transition between child and adult. During these years several very important changes happen: transition from education to fulltime job, setting up one's own household, leaving the

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.izajolp.com/content/3/1/22#sec3>

<sup>9</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/education/library/policy/teaching-profession-practices\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/library/policy/teaching-profession-practices_en.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Dominic Wysea and Anusca Ferrari: Creativity and education: comparing the national curricula of the states of the European Union and the

United Kingdom; British Educational Research Journal; Vol. 41, No. 1, February 2015, pp. 30–47

<sup>11</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/cwt/files/dp\\_mobilisation\\_europeenne\\_20150317.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/cwt/files/dp_mobilisation_europeenne_20150317.pdf)

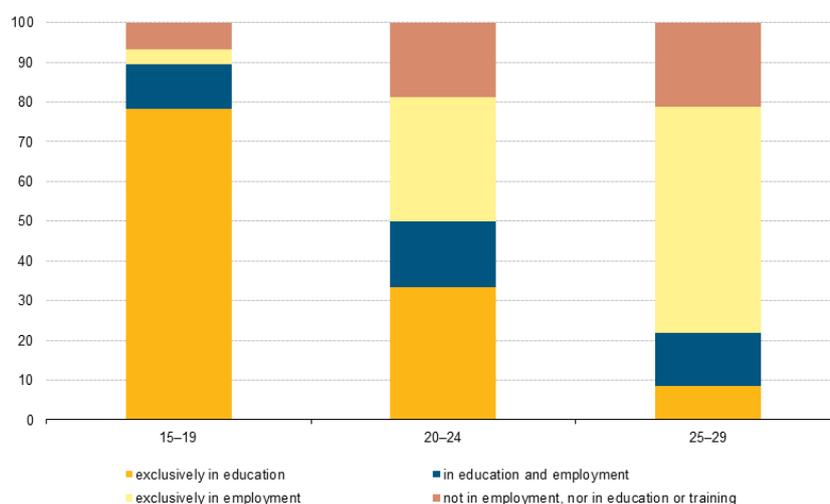
<sup>12</sup> CdR 8115/2013

family home and becoming financially independent. The period of youth is usually between the age of 15 and 29 years.

The effects of the crisis still strike heavily on young people, making the **transition from childhood to adulthood** more difficult and complex both from social and employment aspects. The age when young people move out from their family home differs from country to country. According to Eurostat data the EU28 share of young people living with their parents between the ages of 16-29 is 66.1% in 2013 which approximately stagnates since 2010.

Differences between possibilities of young people show a widening tendency. Those who came from a less advantageous background cumulate disadvantages in education, job seeking and financial independency.

2013 the education and employment patterns differ considerably according to age group



Employment and education patterns by age group, EU-28, 2013(%)

Source: Eurostat (edat\_ifse\_18)

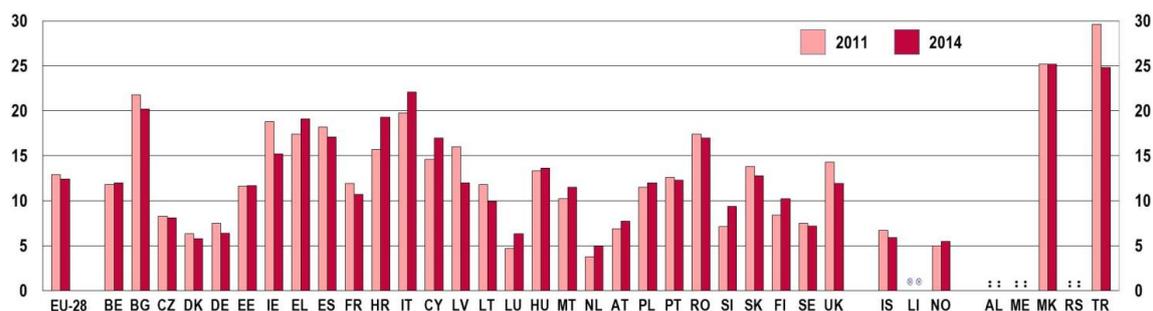
The “NEET” rate corresponds to the percentage of the population aged 15-24 who are not employed and not involved in further education or training. As the report says according to Eurostat data 2014 in total 13.7 million are neither in employment, nor in education or training. Those most at risk are young people having disabilities, coming from a migrant background, having a low level of education, living in remote areas, having a low household income, as well as young people with parents who experienced unemployment, have low levels of education or are divorced.<sup>13</sup> These young people face with social exclusion and marginalisation easily.

Eurostat data shows a more complex picture including also those, who are not willing to find a job, or are disabled or sick, therefore unavailable for work, or inactive by decision (traveling) to the group of NEETs. In 2014 in EU28 4.4% are not willing to work (15-29 years). The rate is the highest (10.2%) in Bulgaria and the lowest (1,2%) in Luxembourg.

<sup>13</sup> [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:d4b27e70-5b8a-11e5-afbf-01aa75ed71a1.0001.05/DOC\\_3&format=PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:d4b27e70-5b8a-11e5-afbf-01aa75ed71a1.0001.05/DOC_3&format=PDF)

The NEET rate was at its peak in 2012 (13.1%) and slightly declines since then. "Reducing NEET rates is a great challenge for governments, as youth who remain jobless for long periods typically come from more disadvantaged backgrounds, have low levels of educational attainment, and are in many cases inactive. There is substantial evidence, however, that even the most disadvantaged youth can benefit from a variety of targeted interventions, including for instance special education programmes and mentoring."<sup>14</sup>

Proportion of young people (aged 15 to 24) not in employment, education or training (NEET rate), by country, 2011 and 2014 (%)



Source: Eurostat LFS [edat\_lfse\_20]

According to Eurostat data, in 2014, the number of inactive persons as a percentage of the working age population in the EU-28 reached a new low of 27.7 %, continuing the downward trend of the previous years. This positive development is largely due to the increased participation of women in the labour market. The economically inactive population remains a heterogeneous group, e.g. as regards age, reasons for inactivity and the level of attachment to the labour market.

The crisis also shows its effects on youth **unemployment** rates, young people are still struggling with finding a job. The EU28 unemployment rate for 15-29 years old was 17.3% in 2014, which is just slightly better than in 2013 (18.4%) and far worse than in 2008 (11.8%).<sup>15</sup>

Long-term unemployed are those, who are unemployed for 12 month or more. The EU28 long-term young unemployed rate decreased a little from 2013 to 2014, but it shows an increasing tendency since 2008.

Employment and education are areas with a very strong territorial dimension, as implementation is mainly happening at local levels. The link between education and employment is that higher the education level the lower the unemployment rate registered. Nevertheless it is very important to assure in member states that university education is tailored to the needs of the labour market and developing sectors.

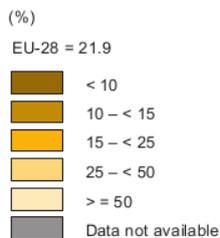
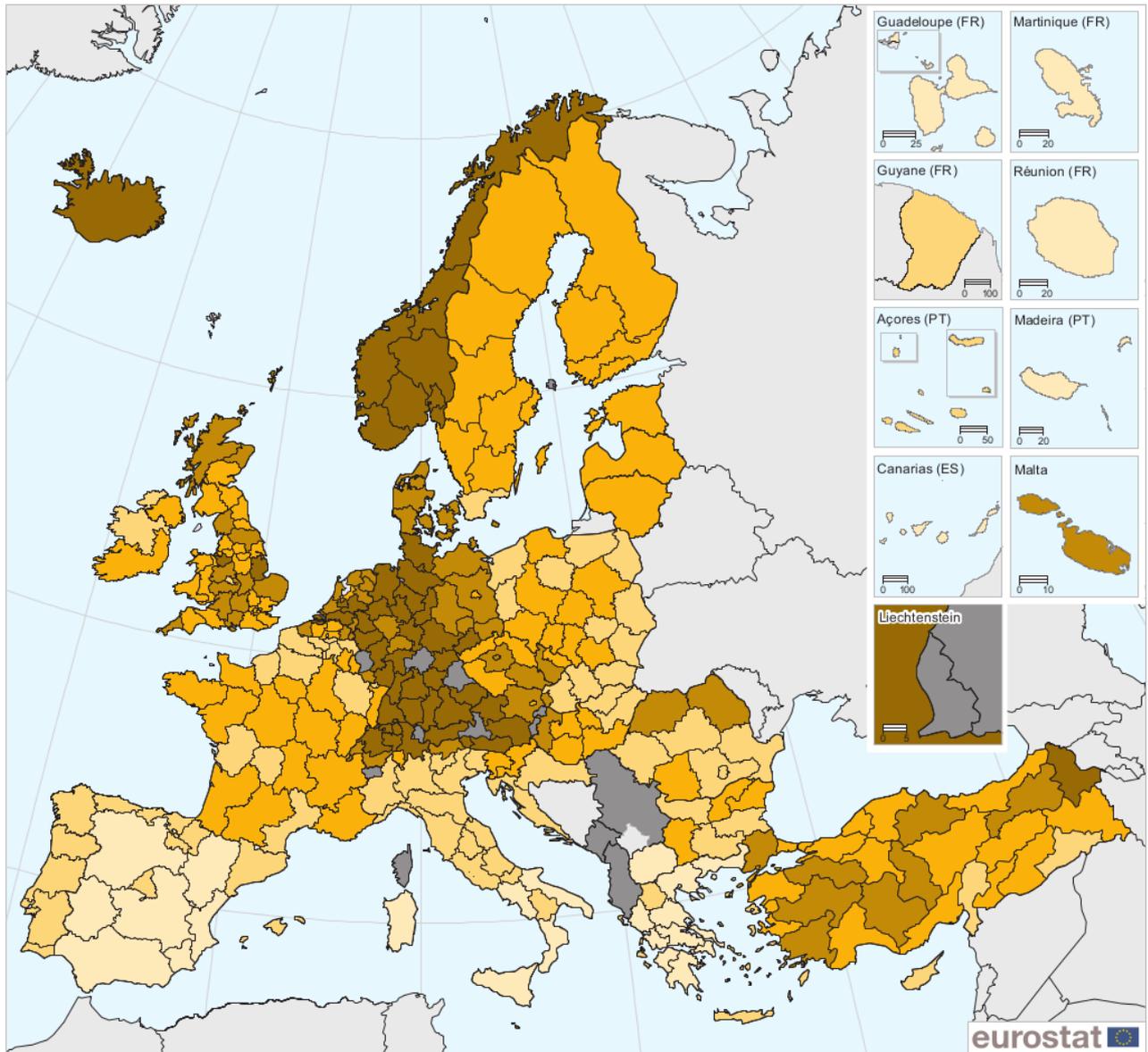
To illustrate youth unemployment's territorial dimension:<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Carcillo, S. et al. (2015), "NEET Youth in the Aftermath of the Crisis: Challenges and Policies", OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers, No. 164, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5js6363503f6-en>

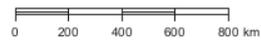
<sup>15</sup> Eurostat Youth database

<sup>16</sup> Eurostat

Youth unemployment rate, persons aged 15–24, by NUTS level 2 region, 2014 (\*)  
(%)



Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat  
Cartography: Eurostat — GISCO, 05/2015



(\*) Oberfranken (DE24), Schwaben (DE27), Saarland (DEC0), Chemnitz (DED4), Leipzig (DED5), Guadeloupe (FR91), Martinique (FR92), Guyane (FR93) and Réunion (FR94): 2013. Niederbayern (DE22) and North Eastern Scotland (UKM5): 2012. Data for several regions have low reliability (too numerous to document).  
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [lfst\\_r\\_lfu3rt](#))

More regional statistics can be found here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/regions/data/main-tables>

The crisis also changed the **working patterns of young people**. They are more likely to be employed on a temporary contractual or part-time basis than older generations.<sup>17</sup> Temporary contract could be a good transition between studies, traineeship and fixed employment status; however it intensifies insecurity in job seekers.

### 2.3 Trends in social inclusion and participation of young people in social and political life

One of the headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth is the reduction of poverty by lifting at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2020.

The crisis shows its effects in this area as well. Young people find **social inclusion** harder and their possibilities are limited, so the risk of marginalisation is high especially among young people coming from disadvantageous background. Young people are particularly vulnerable to poverty and unemployment after leaving family home and trying to establish financial independency. Another factors increasing poverty and exclusion risk are the level of education (the more educated young people are, the lower their risk of poverty)<sup>18</sup> and immigrant status. Specific groups of young people most affected by poverty or social exclusion include women, lower educated young people and migrants.

The at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate is the highest in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania, exceeding 40 %, and even 50 % in Bulgaria. The proportion of young people (aged 15 to 29) at risk of poverty or social exclusion surpasses 40 % in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania. The rates for children are the lowest in Finland and for young people in the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Austria, Slovenia and Iceland.<sup>19</sup>

On average in the EU28, the at-risk-of-poverty rate has been decreasing for children since 2010, but the risk of poverty is more common among children than it is for the population as a whole. Particularly when children live in households with a single parent, low degree of work and low level of education.

According to an OECD study<sup>20</sup> since 2000-2001, the number of **migrants** in OECD countries has increased. As of 2010-2011, the number of migrants aged 15 and older is 106 million and this represents a 38% growth. The same study states that education level of migrants remarkably improved in OECD countries in the last decade, however positive labour market trends fall during the crisis.

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<sup>17</sup> Eurofound, 2013a.

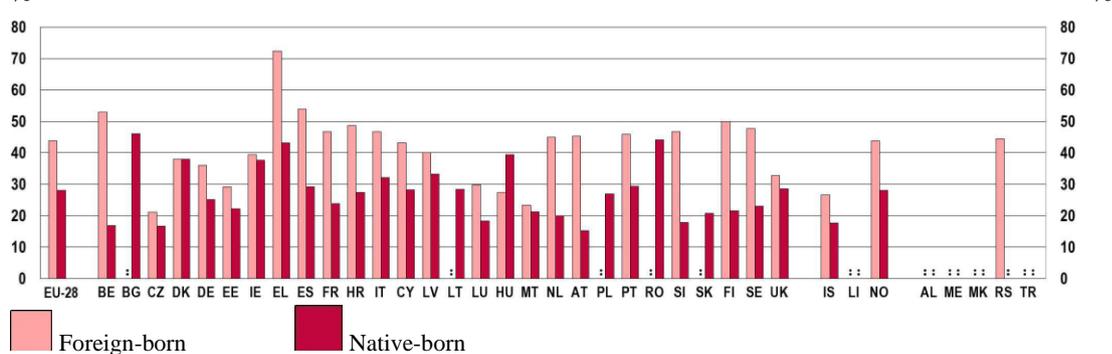
<sup>18</sup> Source: Eurostat SILC [ilc\_peps04].

<sup>19</sup> Eurostat, Statistics on income and living conditions (SILC) [yth\_incl\_010 and ilc\_peps01]

<sup>20</sup> Arslan, C. et al. (2014), "A New Profile of Migrants in the Aftermath of the Recent Economic Crisis", OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers, No. 160, OECD Publishing. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5jxt2t3nnjr5-en>

As the 2012 EU Youth Report pointed out, immigrants often lack the social capital (networks and information) needed for being fully included in society.<sup>21</sup> As a result they tend to be more vulnerable to social exclusion and poverty than the native born population. The rate of risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU-28 in 2013 was 43.8 % for immigrants and 28.1 % for native-born youth.

At-risk-of poverty or social exclusion rate of native- and foreign-born young people (aged 16-29), by country, 2013 %



Source: Eurostat [yth\_incl\_020]

"Given the trans-generational transmission of poverty, children from poor families are also more likely to stay in poverty when they become adults. Immigrant children and those from poorer families are more likely to leave school early and have fewer chances to attain higher education qualifications, leading to further disadvantages in their working lives. Therefore, special attention must be paid to the issue of educational integration for young people from immigrant families."<sup>22</sup>

Employment is one of the main causes for young people to migrate what is also an essential catalyst for well-being and social inclusion.

Young people are often accused of being inactive in **political and social life**. This is only true if we consider only traditional ways of social participation (voting on elections and engaging in political parties and organisations). The picture heavily changed here with the appearance of social media and the "Digital Turn". Internet became the new source of social participation and communication.

According to Eurostat data one third of young Europeans are interested in politics (very or quite) which is approximately the same level than a decade ago. The rate is higher in the Northern countries. Younger people tend to show stronger feelings towards European citizenship than older generations and would participate more in European level than in national.<sup>23</sup> Regarding elections young voters tend to vote on local elections in the highest rank, than national elections. Regional and European elections are not very popular among them. The number of elected young people to public offices is very low.

Young people rather choose more flexible ways of participating in social and political life, like supporting NGOs, taking part in local projects, manifestations, flash-mobs, boycotts, social networks,

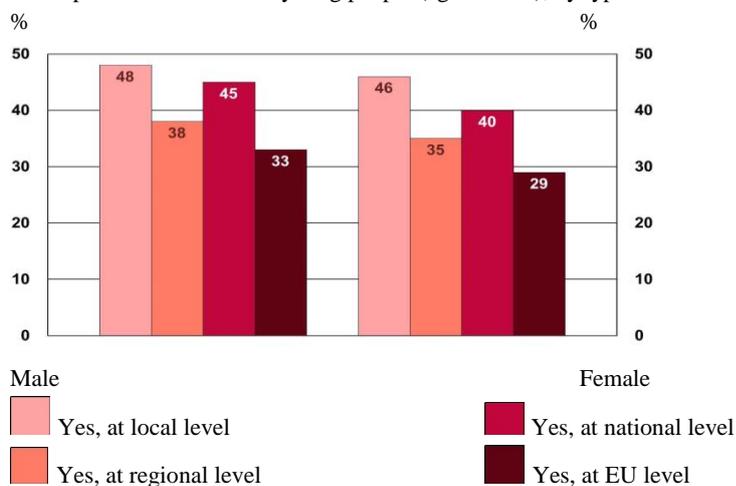
<sup>21</sup> European Commission 2012a, p. 213-214.

<sup>22</sup> [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:d4b27e70-5b8a-11e5-afbf-01aa75ed71a1.0001.05/DOC\\_3&format=PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:d4b27e70-5b8a-11e5-afbf-01aa75ed71a1.0001.05/DOC_3&format=PDF)

<sup>23</sup> Standard Eurobarometer 81, Spring 2014

and blogs. They find very important to solve local problems and working for their local communities what also comes from a general disappointment in "bigger political issues".

Participation in elections of young people (aged 15-29), by type of election and by sex, EU-28 average, 2014



Source: Flash Eurobarometer 408 'European Youth', 2015

## 2.4 Most important implementation tools

### 2.4.1 Erasmus+<sup>24</sup>

The new Erasmus+ programme aims to support actions in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport for the period 2014-2020. The programme gives opportunities to over 4 million students, trainees, staff and volunteers to spend a period abroad to increase their skills and employability. It supports organisations to work in transnational partnership and to share innovative practices in the fields of education, training and youth. The actions of the Erasmus + programme are divided into decentralised actions and centralised actions. The Erasmus+ programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising Education, Training, and Youth work. The seven year programme has a budget of €14.7 billion; a 40% increase compared to current spending levels, reflecting the EU's commitment to investing in these areas.

It also supports national efforts to modernise Education, Training, and Youth systems. In the field of Sport, there will be support for grassroots projects and cross-border challenges such as combating match-fixing, doping, violence and racism.

### 2.4.2 European Social Fund (ESF)<sup>25</sup>

The ESF is one of the five European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). They are the main source of investment at EU level to help Member States to restore and increase growth and ensure a job rich recovery while ensuring sustainable development, in line with the Europe 2020 objectives.

<sup>24</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=35&langId=en>

The ESF is the main job supporting tool of the EU, financing 10 billion EUR per year for improving job prospects for millions of Europeans, in particular those who find it difficult to get work.

From 2014, the role of the ESF will be reinforced:

- Together with the 3 billion € special allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative, this means that more than 80 billion € will be invested in Europe's people over the next 7 years;
- Allocating at least 20% of the Fund to social inclusion;
- Promoting equality between women and men and equal opportunities for all;
- Combating youth unemployment;
- Greater support will be provided to social innovation;
- ESF will be implemented in close cooperation with public authorities, social partners and bodies representing the civil society at national, regional and local levels throughout the whole programme cycle.

Objectives for 2014-2020 regarding young people: helping young people into the labour market and better education.

### **2.4.3 Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)<sup>26</sup>**

The Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) was created in February 2013 to combat youth unemployment, especially in EU regions with youth unemployment rates above 25%. With a budget of €6.4 billion (half from a dedicated budget line and at least half more from the European Social Fund) the YEI is intended to support in particular young people not in education, employment or training. Member States have difficulties to provide the necessary payments to start funding activities and measures and governments have to pre-finance projects from their national budgets before being reimbursed from EU funds. That's why in spring 2015, the EU institutions agreed to increase the Youth Employment Initiative pre-financing rate in its 2015 budget allocation from 1-1.5% to up to 30%. The YEI typically supports the provision of

- apprenticeships,
- traineeships,
- job placements and
- further education leading to a qualification.

It is one of the main EU sources to finance Youth guarantee schemes. All measures of YEI target individual persons, rather than systems or structures for which other ESF support can be used. The YEI, on the contrary, including its ESF component, will target directly measures for individuals and in the regions concerned (NUTS 2 level, youth unemployment rate above 25%). The aim is to directly work with the young people to place them within or close to the labour market. In practice, this means that a young person can apply to the Public Employment Service and should almost immediately receive a set of employment, training or coaching measures, depending on their individual background and needs. However, both the YEI and any other ESF measures supporting youth employment should contribute to the overall implementation of the Youth Employment Package and the Youth Guarantee.

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<sup>26</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1176&langId=en>

#### **2.4.4 Youth guarantee<sup>27</sup>**

Member States have committed in April 2013 to ensure that, within 4 months of leaving formal education or becoming unemployed, people under 25 should receive a good-quality offer of employment, further education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship.

As such, the Youth Guarantee is not a jobs guarantee, but seeks to activate young people within the shortest possible time, thus keeping them in touch with the labour market, or ensuring further education. It requires strong cooperation between public authorities, employment services, career guidance providers, education & training institutions; youth support services, business, employers, trade unions, etc.

All EU countries have presented comprehensive Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans, complying with the deadlines set by the European Council. The plans identify measures to be taken to implement the Youth Guarantee. They outline the timeframe for youth employment reforms and measures, the roles of public authorities and other organisations, and how it will be financed. Some Member States dedicated efforts at upgrading public employment services' support to young people (e.g. Belgium, Romania). In Spain the aim was to improve service standards and coordination throughout the regional levels. Some Member States support start-up incentives, or targeted hiring incentives (for example tax rebate or social insurance contribution), or school to work facilitating measures.<sup>28</sup>

The total estimated cost of establishing Youth Guarantee schemes in the Eurozone is €21bn a year, or 0.22% of GDP. The EU will top-up national spending on these schemes through the European Social Fund and the €6bn Youth Employment Initiative.

An effective coordination across regional and national levels of government in terms of the implementation of the Youth Guarantee is crucial, as the main actions will take place at local and regional level.

#### **2.5 Priorities for 2016-2018**

According to the Report social inclusion, participation and integration into the labour market remains among priorities for the next period. The text highlights increasing the fight and measures against marginalisation and long-term unemployment. Cooperation with youth organisations and new, flexible forms of participation in social and political life should be promoted by the European Commission and Member States.

### **3. Local and regional relevance/Importance for CoR**

The 2009 Council resolution on the framework of European cooperation in the youth field<sup>29</sup> also highlights the need for strengthening cooperation with local and regional authorities among the aims and possible initiatives. Therefore for a more efficient implementation of the youth cooperation, territorial dimension should also be taken into consideration.

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<sup>27</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079&langId=en>

<sup>28</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/2015/jer2015\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/2015/jer2015_en.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009G1219\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009G1219(01)&from=EN)

In the opinion on Erasmus for All<sup>30</sup> the substantial role of LRAs in education and training is underlined. It also mentions their importance in the transition from education to work. The role and importance of LRAs was also mentioned in the fight against unemployment and helping young people in the labour market.<sup>31</sup>

The CoR organises a conference on 18 November 2015 on "Think European – act local: Youth 2015 – recommendations for Europe" - second CoR-Youth for Europe conference on the EU Youth Strategy. In the concept note of the event it is underlined that in many EU Member States, responsibility for youth work and youth policy is exercised by local and regional authorities. As they set the legal framework, implement rules from central governments, promote youth work and draft youth policies, LRAs influence the framework and content of youth policy and youth work. As the representative of regional and municipal levels, the Committee of the Regions can effectively support youth policy issues and play a central role in the further development of the EU Youth Strategy.

#### **4. Subsidiarity and proportionality analysis**

According to the CoR Rules of Procedure, "*Committee opinions on proposals for legislative acts not falling within the Union's exclusive field of competence shall express a view on the proposal's compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Other Committee opinions may refer, if necessary, to the application of the subsidiarity and proportionality principles whenever appropriate.*" (Article 55 §2).

Not applicable.

#### **5. Previous CoR opinions**

This section contains a non-exhaustive selection of statements from previous CoR opinions (in reversed chronological order). For the convenience of eventual subsequent translation, the paragraphs retain the original numbering in the respective opinions. The full text of CoR opinions is available from <http://www.toad.cor.europa.eu/CORWorkInProgress.aspx>.

*In the opinion "Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States"*<sup>32</sup> the Committee of the Regions:

6.(amendment) The Member States and the European Union should provide an appropriate framework for the more effective and efficient use of EU instruments to support local and regional authorities in fulfilling their responsibilities in implementing social and economic inclusion policies to guarantee appropriate forms of social protection that counter poverty and social exclusion and to remedy the serious unemployment problem,

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<sup>30</sup> CdR 400/2011

<sup>31</sup> CdR 2392/2012

<sup>32</sup> CdR 2015-1419

especially regarding long-term and youth unemployment, through their social and employment services.

*In the opinion "Quality Framework for Traineeships"<sup>33</sup> the Committee of the Regions:*

16. points out that the best results with youth employment can be seen in countries and regions where young people have the opportunity to undertake good-quality traineeships or apprenticeships and where established traineeship and work placement schemes are an inseparable part of the education and employment system; it is important for education institutions to collaborate with the entrepreneurial sphere to ensure the mutual benefits of a traineeship programme are realised;

*In the opinion "Youth Employment Package"<sup>34</sup> the Committee of the Regions:*

4. would stress the key role that local and regional authorities play in framing and implementing measures to combat unemployment, providing young people with opportunities and support, and exchanging good practice, and would also stress the importance of actively involving young people and youth organisations when drawing up strategies;
11. would stress the importance of acting boldly to address Europe's growing problem concerning young people not in education, employment or training, and assess its short- and long-term cost, while not overlooking the social and economic impact and the social and demographic consequences and risks (in terms of social and democratic order) associated with these young people's lack of autonomy;
17. encourages the Member States and the bodies responsible to put together training programmes that support and anticipate the school-work transition so as to prevent young people from remaining too long in the education or training system without prospects. Earlier entry onto the labour market must nevertheless be backed up by opportunities to return to training to improve or convert skills, within the framework of life-long learning; at the same time, recommends drawing up and implementing regional employment and vocational training strategies in cooperation with local and regional authorities, bodies involved in education and training, as well as government job centres and the business world, so as to facilitate employment integration within a context of integrated economic systems;
25. would argue that it is necessary to meet the specific needs of SMEs, as they could help to give young people the skills that the labour market demands but have limited resources and come up against ever increasing organisational, bureaucratic and cultural barriers;
47. stresses the importance of cooperation with the institutions at local and regional level on designing the strategy for the overall planning and management of youth employment

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<sup>33</sup> CdR 2014-111

<sup>34</sup> CdR 789/2013

policies. Innovative integrated youth employment policy management systems could be developed to nurture the link between public bodies, the younger generations and the business world;

48. would underline the need to involve local and regional authorities fully in defining and implementing new initiatives, as they are best placed to assess the needs and requirements of local areas not least with regard to employment and programmes geared towards young people;

*In the opinion "Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan"<sup>35</sup> the Committee of the Regions:*

60. underlines that Europe should present entrepreneurship to young people as a viable and promising future career path, thus reigniting the entrepreneurial spirit;
61. underlines that local and regional authorities have a mandate to support education while incorporating an entrepreneurial dimension;

*In the opinion "Rethinking Education"<sup>36</sup> the Committee of the Regions:*

37. local and regional authorities have key responsibilities for education and training policy and they play an important role in the fields of youth and employment policies. It is important in the area of transversal skills development to foster within the education system the attitudes and skills of young people to self-employment by developing personal qualities such as creativity, responsibility, risk-taking, problem solving and team work;

*In the opinion "Erasmus for All"<sup>37</sup> the Committee of the Regions:*

54. stresses that a very high-priority issue for the CoR is social integration, through which the programme can have far-reaching impact. This concerns large, heterogeneous groups of students needing different types of support as a result of learning difficulties, social vulnerability and marginalisation, or of growing up in a country or culture that is foreign to them. At the moment, a large number of young people interrupt or leave school with inadequate basic skills. There should be opportunities to support development of methods and exchange of skills in order to support local, regional and national decision makers in this area;

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<sup>35</sup> CdR 2447/2013

<sup>36</sup> CdR 2392/2012

<sup>37</sup> CdR 400/2011

*In the opinion "Youth on the Move"<sup>38</sup> the Committee of the Regions:*

2. fully supports the objective of improving young people's knowledge, skills and experience to facilitate their entry into the labour market and exploit their potential to the full, thereby enabling the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy to be attained; nonetheless points out that education is about more than simply improving employability, and should have the broader goal of developing the person as a whole;
5. notes that young people's educational and training must help them to obtain, develop and update key professional skills and such knowledge as will encourage them to become active in society;
11. notes that education must be at the heart of youth mobility;
12. notes that there are more barriers to youth mobility for those not in university education or who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, including those who do not have equal access to mobility because of the geographical location of their home region;
24. would highlight the close link between poor attainment at school and socio-economic disadvantage which are key determinants to the number of young people neither employed nor in education or training. Breaking this cycle is a challenge for local and regional authorities across Europe and must be seen as a priority within this initiative;

## **6. CoR timetable and work of the other institutions**

### **6.1 CoR procedure and timetable**

<b>Title</b>	Opinion on the implementation of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018)
<b>Reference(s)</b>	Own-initiative opinion
<b>Legal basis</b>	Articles 165 and 166 TFEU
<b>Procedural basis</b>	Rule 41 b) i))
<b>Date of Council/EP referral/Date of Commission letter</b>	n/a
<b>Date of Bureau/President's decision</b>	12 October 2015
<b>Commission responsible</b>	SEDEC
<b>Rapporteur</b>	
<b>Discussed in commission</b>	Foreseen for 19 November 2015
<b>Date adopted by commission</b>	Foreseen for 19 November 2015

<sup>38</sup> CdR 292/2010

<b>Result of the vote in commission (majority, unanimity)</b>	
<b>Date adopted in plenary</b>	Foreseen for 10-11 February 2016
<b>Previous Committee opinions</b>	
<b>Date of subsidiarity monitoring consultation</b>	N/A

## 6.2 Inter-institutional framework

### European Commission

The 2015 EU Youth Report was published on 15 September 2015.

### European Parliament

EP CULT Committee will take the lead with the contribution of EP EMPL and REGI Committees. CULT Committee hasn't decided yet to draft a report on the dossier. Coordinators will probably decide at the 15 October CULT meeting.

### Education, Culture, Youth, Sport Council

The Joint EU Youth Report is prepared by the Commission and adopted by the Council, following discussion among the relevant national authorities. The COM aims for adoption at the Council meeting on 23 November.