Youth in the EU

Highly skilled young people: Excellence across the generations

The economic crisis that began in 2008 had a disproportionate impact on young people, NEETs emerged as one of the most vulnerable groups following the 2008–2013 economic crisis.

Youth issues will be an important priority in the debate on the future of Europe.

In 2020, the age range covered in youth unemployment was extended from 15–24 to 15–29.

The reinforced Youth Guarantee will be crucial in responding to the COVID-19 crisis and avoiding another sharp increase in youth unemployment.

While restrictions on movement were a necessity in response to the COVID-19 health crisis, the effects on young people's professional and financial futures hit hardest by restrictions are overrepresented in the sectors affected.

Looking to the future

Optimism and trust: The good side of the story?

In March 2021, young people still slightly more optimistic than other age groups among the over-30s.

In May 2020, women were more optimistic compared to men.

In March 2021, young men were the most optimistic, with 43%, 48% and 40%, respectively.

Despite the crisis, young people remain optimists by age groups.

Youth in the EU

Key data for measures to support young people

Youth unemployment in the EU has recovered in recent years, reaching pre-crisis levels in 2019.

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