

EN

E-003000/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.9.2026)

The main EU policy framework to support young people's labour market integration and address the NEET (Not in education, employment or training) phenomenon is the Youth Guarantee. Created in 2013, it was reinforced in 2020¹ to respond to the rising youth unemployment figures caused by the COVID-19 crisis. Since 2013, the Youth Guarantee has helped more than 63 million young people in Europe.

Member States implement the Youth Guarantee through a variety of measures. The Commission supports them in these efforts, e.g. by monitoring the implementation and facilitating the exchange of best practices. As announced in the Anti-Poverty Strategy, by 2027, the Commission will develop a toolkit to strengthen the links between the Child and Youth Guarantees.

EU funds and other EU initiatives related to education, training and upskilling – e.g. the Union of Skills, Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, the ALMA initiative – also support young people in building skills and confidence and gaining work experience.

As regards young people with a migrant background, the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027² complements mainstream youth policies by addressing barriers to participation in education, training and employment. The 2025 mid-term³ review confirms that, despite progress, migrant young people continue to face disadvantages, including a higher risk of early school leaving and difficulties in accessing employment matching their skills.

In 2025 the NEET rate⁴ (15-29) stood at 11%⁵. The trend has been decreasing since 2013 (16.1%) apart from a peak during the COVID-19 pandemic (13.8% in 2020). In 2024⁶, the percentage of NEETs with a migrant background⁷ was approximately 16%.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2020.372.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AC%3A2020%3A372%3ATOC.

² European Commission, Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, COM(2020) 758.

³ European Commission, Mid-term review of the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/edat_ifse_20/default/table?lang=en.

⁵ Ranging from 5% in the Netherlands to 19% in Romania.

⁶ Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion own calculation, based on the latest available Eurostat Labour Force Survey microdata.

⁷ Individuals with a migrant background are born in a non-EU country.