



Working together for youth employment - From education to the workplace: a global challenge

Joint seminar of EU Agencies Cedefop, EU-OSHA, ETF, Eurofound
hosted by the European Parliament

30 June 2011 - 9:00-12:30
European Parliament – Room: JAN 6Q2 - Brussels

Programme

08:15 **Registration of participants**

9:00-9:20 **WELCOME AND OPENING**

Pervenche Berès, Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee

Juan Menéndez-Valdés, Director, Eurofound – on behalf of agencies' directors

9:20-10:10 **THEMATIC SESSION**

Young workers in Europe have been facing since a long time many difficulties in accessing the labour market and in particular finding a quality and secure employment, which should allow them to start a decent and independent life. Moreover, the financial and economic crisis has worsened their employment prospects significantly. Close attention is given by policy makers in Europe to the link between youth unemployment and social exclusion and its long-term destabilizing effects on society at large. Across Europe, specific initiatives by governments or social partners have been implemented such as developing work opportunities or policies aimed at increasing young people's employability and entry to the labour markets. However, some groups of young people are particularly disadvantaged: those who have experienced lengthy period of unemployment, young people with low levels of qualifications and educational achievement, those with health problems or disabilities, those from minority ethnic groups as well as young migrant workers.

Against this background, the EU agencies under the remit of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, present a multi dimensional perspective of youth employment related challenges today in Europe and its neighbourhood. Agencies' complementary research findings presentations focus on smooth transition from education to workplace, lifelong guidance for young people at risk, labour market participation of young, working conditions and safe and quality jobs for young workers, the NEETs (not in employment, education or training) phenomenon in Europe and its economic and social costs, the active inclusion of disadvantaged young and the global/international dimension of youth unemployment. These contributions set the platform for the panel discussion with EU policy makers and participants.

Chairperson: Pervenche Berès, Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee

What does it take to become employable? Guiding young people into the labour market

Pascaline Descy, Head of Research and Policy Analysis, Cedefop

'No work in sight?' The role of governments and social partners in fostering labour market inclusion of young people

Massimiliano Mascherini, Research manager, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions – Eurofound

“Safe start” – Occupational safety and health from school to work: Findings and recommendations

Sarah Copley, Project manager, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work - EU-OSHA

The global dimension of youth employment with special focus on northern Africa

Anastasia Fetsi, Head of Thematic Expertise Department, European Training Foundation, ETF

10:10-10:25 KEYNOTE SPEECH

Educating young people for tomorrow's jobs

Jan Trzuszczynski, Director General, Directorate-General for Education and Culture, European Commission

10:25-11:50 PANEL DISCUSSION
‘Securing Youth Employment in Europe and Abroad - The Way Ahead’

Moderator: Emilie Turunen, Member of the European Parliament

Agencies’ representatives:

Christian Lettmayr, Acting director, Cedefop

Juan Menéndez-Valdés, Director, Eurofound

Madlen Serban, Director, ETF

Jukka Takala, Director, EU-OSHA

Panellists

Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Member of the European Parliament

Marian Harkin, Member of the European Parliament

Raymond Maes, Acting Head of Unit - Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship, Micro-Finances – Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Pierre Mairesse, Director for Lifelong learning, horizontal policy issues and EU 2020 strategy, Directorate General for Education and Culture

Steven D'Haeseleer, Social Affairs Director, BusinessEurope

Juliane Bir, Youth Officer and ETUC advisor on Social Dialogue, ETUC

Luca Scarpiello, Vice-President, European Youth Forum

Panel discussion followed by an open exchange with participants

11:50-12:10 Special addresses

Saïd Aïdi, Minister of Vocational Training and Employment, Tunisia

Ahmad Hassan El Borai, Minister of Manpower and Migration, Egypt

12:10-12:25 CLOSING ADDRESS

László Andor – Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (tbc)

12:25-12:30 CONCLUSION AND CLOSING

Pervenche Berès, Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee

12:30-13:30 Reception