



**2015/2351(INI)**

21.4.2016

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgetary Control

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on Assessment of the EU Youth Strategy 2013-2015  
(2015/2351(INI))

Rapporteur: Derek Vaughan



## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgetary Control calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that the programming period 2014-2020 took some months to get started and that a first assessment of Union policies within this period, and in particular of those dedicated to youth, cannot be fully representative of their real impact;
2. Points out that in the previous programming period, the Court of Auditors estimated the error rate for transactions under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and the Youth in Action programme (YiA) at over 4 %; expects the Commission to have tackled those errors in the implementation of Erasmus+;
3. Notes the fact that in 2013 the budget execution rate for the 2007-2013 programmes, in particular the LLP, the Culture Programme, the MEDIA programme and the YiA programme, was 100 %; considers, however, that the execution rate alone is not a significant indicator of the effectiveness of programmes with a view to assessing their success;
4. Is concerned that at the end of 2013 the mismatch between adopted commitment and payment appropriations resulted in a shortfall of payments (for instance, in the case of the Erasmus+ programme to the sum of EUR 202 million), with negative repercussions for the following year; asks the Commission to ensure that this situation will not be repeated in the context of the new programmes;
5. Welcomes the fact that the Erasmus programme has surpassed the benchmark of 3 million students; notes the sustained success that this Union flagship programme has enjoyed since its inception, and believes it is important that this programme should continue to receive support;
6. Regrets the wide variations among Member States in terms of the numbers of Erasmus students both sent and received; recommends more assertive information campaigns and simplification of the rules;
7. Notes that in spite of a decrease in most Member States after its 2013 peak, youth unemployment remains a serious matter of concern in the EU, with around 8 million young Europeans being unable to find work and the proportion faced with long-term unemployment or involuntary part-time employment or traineeship status remaining high;
8. Recommends a stronger focus on entrepreneurship in the EU Youth Strategy as key to boosting economic growth; notes that in 2014 only one in five young Europeans wishes to start his or her own business, continuing to find the idea difficult; favours prioritising the development of an entrepreneurial culture at an early age, flexible work regulations allowing the combination of work and studies, dual education, and access to financing;
9. Recalls that the reluctance of young people to launch businesses also contributes to the slow rate of economic growth in Europe, and therefore considers it necessary to support

young people in starting their own businesses;

10. Welcomes the fact that more than EUR 12.4 billion from the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) have been earmarked for the fight against youth unemployment during the new programming period;
11. Notes with satisfaction that 110 300 unemployed young people participated in actions financed by the YEI in 2014; welcomes the fact that the EU heads of state and government have decided to allocate EUR 6.4 billion in Union funds (EUR 3.2 billion from the ESF and EUR 3.2 billion from a new budget line) to the Youth Guarantee (YG); stresses, however, that in some Member States there are still some difficulties in the implementation of the YG and YEI;
12. Reminds Member States that they should commit to extending national funding as a complement to the ESF and YEI appropriations, in order to ensure the necessary boost to youth employment; considers it necessary, furthermore, that the instruments used and the grants awarded should permit a dignified life; calls, therefore, for an assessment of grant levels in the light of the real cost of living in each Member State;
13. Highlights the need to enhance the role of the Erasmus for young entrepreneurs programme for achieving long-term quality employment; is of the opinion that job mobility is needed to unleash the potential of young people; notes that currently there are 217.7 million employed people in the EU, of which number 7.5 million (3.1 %) are working in another Member State; notes, in addition, that, according to EU surveys, young people are more likely to be mobile and to bring new skills and qualifications back home;
14. Recommends the inclusion of youth entrepreneurship in the MFF, and that Member States should work on developing national strategies aimed at achieving synergies between Erasmus+, the ESF, the EYI and Erasmus for young entrepreneurs, as well as on clear guidelines for impact assessment, to be provided to Member States by the Commission;
15. Asks the Commission to deploy a comprehensive monitoring scheme for the youth programmes which combines planned result indicators, concrete outcomes and long-term outputs;
16. Stresses that a focus on performance and results is needed, and is pleased to note that the new regulatory framework for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for the programming period 2014-2020 includes provisions for reporting on results from Member States;
17. Recalls that 68 % of the ESF budget goes on projects in which young people could potentially be one of the target groups;
18. Notes that youth policies and national strategies must be developed with and for young people;
19. Notes that the Court of Auditors' report on 'EU Youth Guarantee - Implementation in Member States', due to be completed at the beginning of 2017, will provide a clearer assessment of the programme's results.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	20.4.2016
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 21 -: 2 0: 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Nedzhmi Ali, Inés Ayala Sender, Zigmantas Balčytis, Dennis de Jong, Martina Dlabajová, Luke Ming Flanagan, Ingeborg Gräßle, Bogusław Liberadzki, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Dan Nica, Georgi Pirinski, Petri Sarvamaa, Claudia Schmidt, Bart Staes, Michael Theurer, Marco Valli, Derek Vaughan, Anders Primdahl Vistisen, Tomáš Zdechovský
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Richard Ashworth, Caterina Chinnici, Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Benedek Jávor, Karin Kadenbach, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Markus Pieper, Julia Pitera, Miroslav Poche, Patricija Šulin
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Georg Mayer