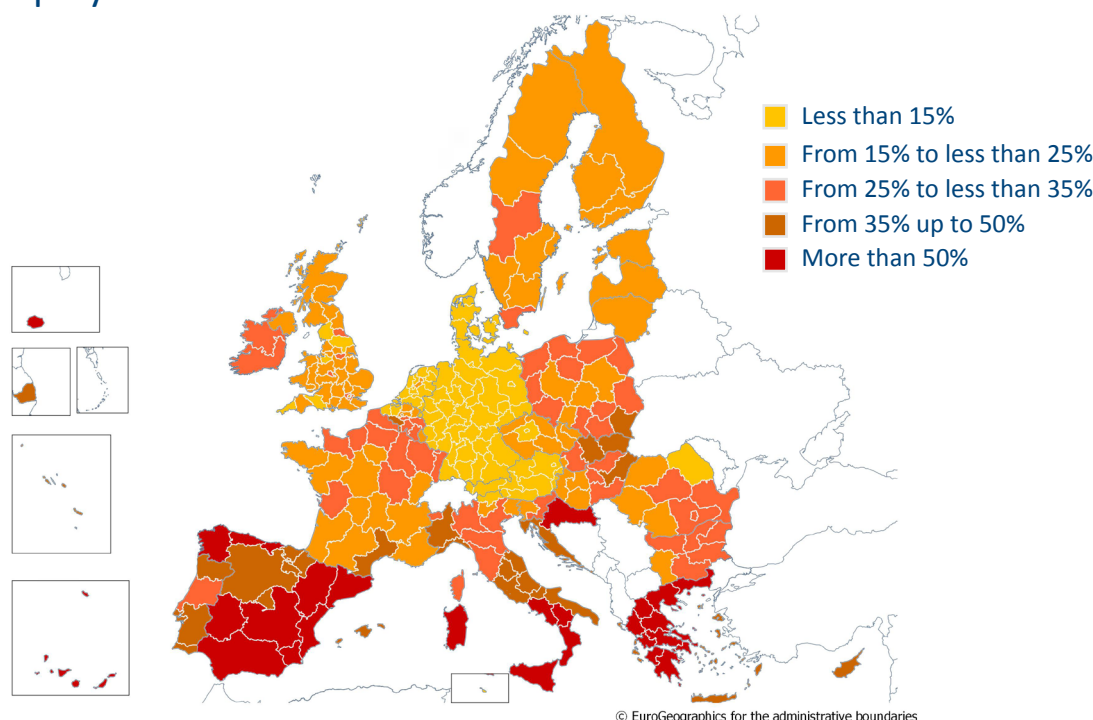


Youth Employment Initiative

Since 2008, youth unemployment has increased rapidly. Moreover, the gap between the Member States with the highest and lowest rates of unemployed young people remains particularly high (see map 1). To-day, there is a difference of more than 50 percentage points between Germany - the Member State with the lowest rate of youth unemployment (7.7% in 2013) - and Greece, with the highest (58.1%). The next highest rates are in Spain (54.8%), Croatia (49.5%), Cyprus (41.9%), Italy (39.7%) and Portugal (37.8%). To support youth employment measures at national and regional level, the European Union launched the "Youth Employment Initiative" in 2013 (see map 2).

1. Youth unemployment rate 2013



In February 2013, the European Council agreed to create a Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) to strengthen the European Union's fight against youth unemployment. This financial instrument concentrates on young people not in employment, education or training - the so-called NEETs - aged below 25, living in regions (NUTS 2 level regions) with youth unemployment rates above 25% in 2012, and in Member States where the youth unemployment rate (at least 20% in 2012) increased by more than 30 percent in 2012. Member States can also choose to broaden the target to all those aged under 30 years.

In financial terms, the YEI brings together €3.2 billion from a specific EU budget line dedicated to youth employment combined with a further €3.2 billion from the European Social Fund (ESF). Those €6.4 billion have been made fully available from 1 September 2013 for the period up to and including 2015. They are to be topped up by additional ESF and national investments.

The YEI aims to invest in concrete projects and actions to support young peoples' access to the labour market or to upgrade their skills. The YEI supports similar interventions to the ESF, relating to quality apprenticeships and traineeships, job and training mobility, second chance programmes, support for young entrepreneurs, etc.

2. Regions eligible under the Youth Employment Initiative

SWEDEN:

Mellersta Norrland, Norra Mellansverige, Sydsverige

BELGIUM:

Hainaut Province, Liège Province, Région Bruxelles Capitale

IRELAND:

Border, Midland and Western, Southern and Eastern

UNITED KINGDOM:

Inner London, Merseyside, South Western Scotland, Tees Valley and Durham, West Midlands

FRANCE:

Aquitaine, Auvergne, Centre, Champagne-Ardenne, Haute Normandie, Languedoc-Roussillon, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Picardie, Mayotte, Guadeloupe, Guyane, Martinique, Réunion

PORTUGAL:

Alentejo, Algarve, Centro (PT), Lisboa, Norte, Região Autónoma da Madeira, Região Autónoma dos Açores

SPAIN:

Andalucía, Aragón, Canarias, Cantabria, Castilla y León, Castilla-La Mancha, Catalunya, Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta, Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla, Comunidad de Madrid, Comunidad Foral de Navarra, Comunidad Valenciana, Extremadura, Galicia, Illes Balears, La Rioja, País Vasco, Principado de Asturias, Región de Murcia

ITALY:

Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardia, Marche, Molise, Piemonte, Puglia, Sardegna, Sicilia, Toscana, Umbria, Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste

POLAND:

Dolnoslaskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Łódzkie, Lubelskie, Lubuskie, Malopolskie, Podkarpackie, Swietokrzyskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Zachodniopomorskie

CZECH REPUBLIC:

Severozápad

HUNGARY:

Dél-Alföld, Dél-Dunántúl, Észak-Alföld, Észak-Magyarország

SLOVAKIA:

Stredné Slovensko, Východné Slovensko, Západné Slovensko

ROMANIA:

Centru, Sud-Muntenia, Sud-Est

BULGARIA:

Severozapaden, Severozentralen, Severozapaden, Yugoiztochen, Yuzhen

SLOVENIA:

Vzhodna Slovenija

CROATIA:

Jadranska Hrvatska, Kontinentalna Hrvatska

GREECE:

Anatoliki Makedonia - Thraki, Attiki, Dytiki Ellada, Dytiki Makedonia, Ipeiros, Kentriki Makedonia, Kriti, Notio Aigaio, Peloponnisos, Sterea Ellada, Thessalia, Voreio Aigaio

LATVIA, LITHUANIA, CYPRUS

Further information

Item	Data source
Youth unemployment rates	<u>Eurostat</u> . Youth unemployment rate shows unemployed persons aged 15 to 24 as a percentage of the active population. Reliability of data for the regions below is flagged as low: Belgium: provinces of Brabant Wallon and Luxembourg. Bulgaria: Severozapaden, Severen tsentralen. Germany: Niederbayern, Oberpfalz, Unterfranken, Bremen, Gießen and Trier. Greece: Voreio Aigaio. Spain: La Rioja, Ceuta, Melilla. France: Franche-Comté, Limousin and Guyane. Italy: Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste. Netherlands: Zeeland. Austria: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol and Vorarlberg. Poland: Podlaskie, Lubuskie, Opolskie and Warmiński-Mazurskie. Finland: Åland. United Kingdom: Cumbria, Cheshire, North Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, North Eastern Scotland and Highlands and Islands.
Youth Employment Initiative-Eligible Regions 2014-15	NUTS level 2 regions that had youth unemployment rates of more than 25% in 2012, and regions with youth unemployment rates of more than 20% in 2012 in Member States where the youth unemployment rate had increased by more than 30% in 2012.

This document updates the statistics of the *Youth Employment Initiative - "At a glance"* note of 27 March 2014.

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