

Question for written answer E-008464/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
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Subject: Combating unemployment among the young

According to June 2013 figures, of the 26.4 million people unemployed in the EU, 5.5 million are under 25 years. Greece (58.2%), Spain (56.5%) and Portugal (42.1%) are the worst affected.

The growth strategy 'Europe 2020' recommends the implementation of a 'smart economy' to combat unemployment. Many people in the EU have difficulty acquiring the requisite coding skills in JavaScript, C++ and Python. By improving these skills, growth could be stimulated in the European software, games and internet sectors to improve employment opportunities in Europe.

In order to improve employment opportunities in Europe, what measures have the European Commission in place to encourage key skills training programmes such as coding?

There are 10.8 million people employed in the EU by media-content companies, a sector whose growth potential is 5.7%. What has the Commission done to encourage growth in this digital sector, which employs many young people, in order to compete with American and Asian companies?

There are more than 2 million vacancies in Europe that cannot be filled due to the disparity between the skills available in Europe and the skills required for these jobs. What is being done by the Commission to address this disparity?