Basic information

2015/2351(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Assessment of the EU youth strategy 2013-2015 **Subject** 4.40.10 Youth	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture and Education	BOCSKOR Andrea (PPE)	28/10/2015
	Shadow rapporteur NEKOV Momchil (S&D) DZHAMBAZKI Angel (ECR) KYUCHYUK Ilhan (ALDE) CHOUNTIS Nikolaos (GUE/NGL) MARAGALL Ernest (Verts/ALE) ADINOLFI Isabella (EFDD) BILDE Dominique (ENF)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	VAUGHAN Derek (S&D)	01/12/2015
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	VANDENKENDELAERE Tom (PPE)	04/02/2016
REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	NAVRACSICS Tibor

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/09/2015	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2015)0429	Summary
21/01/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/07/2016	Vote in committee		
28/07/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0250/2016	Summary
27/10/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0426/2016	Summary
27/10/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
27/10/2016	Debate in Parliament		
27/10/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/2351(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/8/05384

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE575.158	22/03/2016	
Committee opinion	CONT	PE578.531	21/04/2016	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE580.527	27/04/2016	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE578.457	30/05/2016	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0250/2016	28/07/2016	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0426/2016	27/10/2016	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission document (COM)	COM(2015)0429	15/09/2015	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2017)54	29/03/2017	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2015)0429	05/04/2015	
Contribution	RO_SENATE	COM(2015)0429	04/01/2016	

Assessment of the EU youth strategy 2013-2015

2015/2351(INI) - 15/09/2015 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present the draft 2015 Joint Report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018).

BACKGROUND: the economic crisis has hit young people particularly hard. It has widened the gap between those with more and those with fewer opportunities.

This is why the Commission and the Member States continued working together in the period 2013-2015, to improve young people's employability, their integration in the labour market, their social inclusion and participation.

In the face of a growing socio-economic divide, it is necessary to **identify sustainable solutions to fight youth unemployment, strengthen social inclusion and prevent violent radicalisation**. This requires more systematic cooperation across a range of policies at EU and Member State level, such as employment, education, training, non-discrimination, social policy, citizenship (including citizenship of the Union) and youth, but also culture, sport and health.

This report evaluates progress towards the goals and priorities of the cooperation framework in the period 2013-2015, based on an assessment of young people's situation and policy measures taken at EU and Member State level.

CONTENT: youth employment and employability remained top priorities throughout 2013-2015. To improve educational outcomes, Member States took action under the European Semester to bring down early school leaving and **promote higher-education attainment** to reach the Europe 2020 headline targets.

The EU and Member States undertook to **reduce youth unemployment** by easing transitions from education to work. In 2013, the Youth Guarantee was introduced as a structural framework to offer young people a job, an apprenticeship, traineeship or continued education within four months of leaving school or becoming unemployed. The ESF and the YEI set aside at least €12.7 billion for youth activation and employment.

Further to the EU Security Agenda and the Paris Declaration, Member States undertook to **step up efforts to foster the inclusion and participation in society of all young people**. In response to concerns about the growing social exclusion of young people, nearly all Member States took measures to enhance the inclusion of NEETs (young person who is "Not in Education, Employment, or Training). Most undertook to improve young people's access to quality services and 80 % supported **youth work and youth centres**. However, youth work has suffered from budget cuts across Europe, while the growing share of youth at risk of poverty and exclusion increases the demand for intervention.

As regards **governance** and the implementation of the youth cooperation framework in 2013-2015, the framework encouraged cross-sectorial cooperation. Nearly all Member States now have **institutionalised mechanisms** to ensure a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy, such as inter-departmental structures and regular inter-ministerial meetings. The Structured Dialogue has yet to fulfil its full potential: It still fails to reach a wider group of young people with fewer resources and a weaker political voice.

Proposals for the way forward 2016-2018: the report noted that in 2016-2018, the cooperation framework for youth should aim to **empower more and more diverse young people**, especially those at risk of exclusion.

It should help them find **quality jobs and participate in social life**. EU funding under the Erasmus+ programme, European Social Fund (ESF) and the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) will complement policy cooperation on youth work, volunteering and participation in democratic life.

The future work cycle of the cooperation framework should prioritise:

1. **increased social inclusion** of all young people, especially those at risk such as NEETs and young people with a migrant background;
2. stronger participation of all young people, in particular those at risk of marginalisation;
3. **easier integration into the labour market for all young people**, with a special focus on the long-term unemployed and those in transition from education to work.

The Commission and Member States will take action in these areas, including through the framework's instruments and cooperation with other policies as appropriate, to promote:

- **social inclusion and outreach practices** to reach young people of diverse backgrounds, especially those suffering from disadvantages;
- the capacity of youth work, youth organisations and networks and the recognition of quality youth work;
- **evolving skills demands**, including citizenship, media and digital literacy, critical judgment and intercultural understanding;
- **volunteering**, including through EU programmes such as the EVS and the new EU aid volunteers initiative.

Assessment of the EU youth strategy 2013-2015

2015/2351(INI) - 28/07/2016 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted an own-initiative report by Andrea BOCSKOR (EPP, HU) on the assessment of the EU Youth Strategy 2013-2015, in response to the 2015 Joint Report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018).

General recommendations: Members recommended the EU, national, regional and local authorities to make sure that the **different programmes** at EU level dealing with youth policies are well communicated, implemented, coordinated, in order to respond to new needs with a view to the social and educational challenges to come. It views the **open method of coordination** as an appropriate but still insufficient as a means for framing youth policies that needs to be complemented by other measures.

Given the EU's alarmingly high youth unemployment, the high and widely varying percentages of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs), and the challenges of youth poverty and social exclusion, Members stressed that the **next cycle (2016-2018)** should contribute to the two objectives of the EU Youth Strategy:

- by identifying and tackling the causes of youth unemployment, such as **early school leaving** (the Europe 2020 headline target whereby the proportion of early leavers from education and training should be less than 10 %);
- by fostering **entrepreneurship** among young people;
- by **investing in education, internships, apprenticeships and vocational training** in the skills that reflect labour market opportunities, needs and developments;
- by facilitating the **transition to the labour market** in terms of measures ensuring better coordination of education programmes, employment policy and labour market demands.

The report noted that it is essential that the next cycle of the EU Youth Strategy should include **young refugees and asylum seekers**.

Effective implementation of the EU Youth Strategy should be closely linked to achieving the Europe 2020 headline targets, particularly those of having **75 % of the population aged 20 to 64** in employment and lifting as many young people as possible out of poverty and social exclusion. The report stressed the importance of changes made to the **European Job Mobility Portal** (EURES), in order to improve youth employment opportunities and achieve greater social cohesion.

The EU and the Member States are called upon to take advantage of those technologies to **strengthen the dialogue with young people** and their capacity to participate in society. In this regard, the report stressed the importance of involving young people and youth organisations in shaping the priorities and drafting a new EU Youth Cooperation Framework after 2018.

Employment and education: Members called on the Member States to make the best use of available EU and national policies and financial frameworks in order to promote appropriate investment in young people and the creation of quality and secure jobs. They insisted on the need to:

- fully implement the Erasmus+ programme, especially its apprenticeships facet;
- improve opportunities for vocational education and training (VET) students to do **work placements in neighbouring countries** in order to foster a better understanding of other Member States' labour and training practices;
- **boost information and communication technologies (ICT) training** in order to equip all young people with the relevant e-skills useful for the labour market, for example by reallocating funding within the Youth Employment Initiative;
- pursue youth and education programmes that **empower young women and girls** and facilitate their entry into traditionally male-dominated sectors where they are under-represented, such as entrepreneurship, ICT, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);
- ensure that young people have the opportunity to attain at least **basic digital skills** and acquire knowledge and understanding about the media, in order to work, to learn and to participate actively in modern society;
- continue the **Youth Employment Initiative** (YEI) and ensure better coordination at all levels between education and training curricula and the needs of the changing labour markets;
- implement measures to facilitate young people's **transition from education to work**, including by ensuring quality internships and apprenticeships;
- take measures to **incentivise entrepreneurship** by creating a more entrepreneur- and start-up-friendly environment for the launch of business start-ups, which could include schemes and measures for easy provision of credit by banks, simplified regulation and tax relief schemes and measures enabling young people to go ahead with their own business ideas.

Financial resources: Members underlined the importance of strategic investment, including from the **European Structural and Investment Funds**, in particular the European Social Fund, for regional development, competitiveness and the creation of high-quality traineeships, apprenticeships and sustainable jobs.

Members called for **targeted and simplified measures** to enhance Member State capacity to make use of available funding through the European Structural Funds, the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Cohesion Fund, the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI), the Youth Employment Initiative, Youth on the Move, Your First Eures Job, Horizon 2020 and programmes and actions in the area of citizenship.

Member States are urged to fully **implement and monitor the effectiveness of the Youth Guarantee**. This guarantee should also focus on education and training for unskilled or low-skilled unemployed young people, so as also to cover young graduates and those who have completed vocational training. The age limit under the Youth Guarantee should go from 25 to 29.

Lastly, Members called on all Member States to introduce a **minimum guaranteed income**, in order to offer young people who have finished school and university the resources they need to live decently until they find work.

Assessment of the EU youth strategy 2013-2015

2015/2351(INI) - 27/10/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 432 votes to 131 with 55 abstentions a resolution on the assessment of the EU Youth Strategy 2013-2015, in response to the 2015 Joint Report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018).

To recall, the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018) has **eight main fields** of action in which initiatives should be taken – education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being, participation, voluntary activities, social inclusion, youth and the world as well as creativity and culture.

General recommendations: Parliament recommended making sure that the different programmes at EU level dealing with youth policies are well communicated, implemented, coordinated, in order to respond to new needs with a view to the social and educational challenges to come. It views the **open method of coordination** as an appropriate but still insufficient as a means for framing youth policies that needs to be complemented by other measures. Members reiterated their call for **closer cooperation and exchange of best practices** on youth issues at local, regional, national and EU level, as well as **clear indicators** and benchmarks in order to allow for monitoring of progress.

Priorities for the next cycle (2016-2018): given the EU's **alarmingly high youth unemployment**, the high percentages of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs), and the challenges of youth poverty and social exclusion, Parliament stressed that the next cycle (2016-2018) should contribute to the two objectives of the EU Youth Strategy:

- by identifying and tackling the causes of youth unemployment, such as **early school leaving** (the Europe 2020 headline target whereby the proportion of early leavers from education and training should be less than 10 %);
- by **fostering entrepreneurship** among young people;
- by investing in **education, internships, apprenticeships** and vocational training in the skills that reflect labour market opportunities, needs and developments;
- by facilitating the **transition to the labour market** in terms of measures ensuring better coordination of education programmes, employment policy and labour market demands.

The resolution also stressed the importance of the following:

- guaranteeing that young people are either in employment, in education or undergoing vocational (re)training **at the latest, four months** after leaving school;
- ensuring that the next cycle Strategy includes **young refugees and asylum seekers** under its objectives;
- ensuring the inclusion of youth with **disability** in employment;
- lifting as many young people as possible out of **poverty** and social exclusion;
- high-quality cooperation, geared to the needs of the individual child or young person, including between families, religious communities and schools, and local communities, in **guiding young people towards full integration** in society;
- strengthening **dialogue with young people and their capacity to participate in society**, and involving young people and youth organisations in shaping the priorities and drafting a new EU Youth Cooperation Framework after 2018;
- promoting a **EU dimension in education** with the aim of preparing learners to live and work in an increasingly complex and integrated Union.

Employment and education: Parliament called on Member States to make the best use of available EU and national policies and financial frameworks in order to promote appropriate investment in young people and the creation of quality and secure jobs. It insisted on the need to:

- fully implement the Erasmus+ programme, especially its apprenticeships facet;
- improve opportunities for vocational education and training (VET) students to do **work placements in neighbouring countries** ;
- **boost information and communication technologies (ICT) training** in order to equip all young people with the relevant skills and basic digital skills useful for the labour market;
- pursue youth and education programmes that **empower young women and girls** in traditionally male-dominated sectors where they are under-represented, such as entrepreneurship, ICT, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);
- continue the **Youth Employment Initiative** (YEI) and ensure better coordination at all levels between education and training curricula and the needs of the changing labour markets;
- ensure better coordination at all levels between education and training curricula and the needs of the changing labour markets;
- implement measures to facilitate young people's **transition from education to work**, including by ensuring quality internships and apprenticeships;
- take measures to **incentivise entrepreneurship in all forms of education** by creating a more entrepreneur- and start-up-friendly environment for the launch of business start-ups, and enhance the role of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme;
- encourage Member States to establish quality dual education and vocational training systems.

Financial resources: Parliament underlined the importance of strategic investment, including from the **European Structural and Investment Funds**, in particular the European Social Fund, for regional development, competitiveness and the creation of high-quality traineeships, apprenticeships and sustainable jobs.

Members called for **targeted and simplified measures** to enhance Member State capacity to make use of available funding through the European Structural Funds, the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, the European Cohesion Fund, the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI), the Youth Employment Initiative, Youth on the Move, Your First Eures Job, Horizon 2020 and programmes and actions in the area of citizenship.

Member States were urged to fully **implement and monitor the effectiveness of the Youth Guarantee**. This guarantee should also focus on education and training for unskilled or low-skilled unemployed young people, so as also to cover young graduates and those who have completed vocational training. The age limit under the Youth Guarantee should go from 25 to 29.

Lastly, Parliament felt that the European Job Mobility Portal (EURES) required changes, in order to improve youth employment opportunities and achieve greater social cohesion.