

The Youth Guarantee Programme... three years on

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Europe's youth are high on the EU's political agenda. EU youth policy places particular emphasis on increasing the social inclusion of all young people, on encouraging them to participate in democratic life and on making their transition to adulthood easier, in particular, easing their integration into the world of work. In 2013, in the midst of a crisis that had a severe impact on youth employment, the Member States committed themselves to a comprehensive approach to tackle youth unemployment with immediate effect.

The Youth Guarantee Programme was therefore established to provide all young people under the age of 25 with a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, or an apprenticeship within four months of finding a job or leaving formal education.

The European Commission has taken action to put jobs, growth, investment and social fairness at the core of the agenda of the EU and has made the fight against unemployment, in particular youth unemployment, a top priority. In spite of some improvement, the level of youth unemployment and inactivity is still higher than pre-crisis levels (Malta's 7.1% youth unemployment rate in July 2016 was the lowest in the EU, Eurostat figures show).

The Youth Guarantee Programme has opened up the path for more effective support to young people in their transition between education and the labour market.

The online magazine is available [here](#).