



Report on Measures to Combat Youth Unemployment in Estonia

Overview of the political situation with regards to youth unemployment

According to the Ministry of Social Affairs in 2008 there was 203 500 young people (aged 15-24) in Estonia, the majority of them were inactive (59%). Occupied rate was 36% and unemployed rate was 5%. In 2008 youth unemployed rate increased to 12%. In 2009 the rate continued to grow and by the end of second quarter the rate was 27%. During the peak of the economic crisis, at the beginning of 2010, youth unemployment rate was up to 40,6%. Within the next year youth unemployment rate decreased to 22,3%. In the second quarter of 2013 youth unemployment rate was 16,1%, what is substantially lower compared to last year (23,1%). Analysis by Eurofund show that in 2011 there was 14,9% NEET-youth of 15-29 year-old population in Estonia.

According to coalition contract, in order to decrease youth and long term unemployed unemployment, the following is necessary:

- a. The key of being successful in labor market is to gain competitive education. This is why it is important to pay attention to increasing people's education and vocational skills, which allows them to request better conditions at work and higher salary;
- b. Continue with projects like "TULE" and "KUTSE", as a result school drop outs (or student who did not graduate by their own choice) will be given a change to return to education;
- c. Continue and develop labor market services, depending on active labor market measures, including salary support, work practice, business start-up support, training for people with no vocational skills etc;

- d. Improve Estonian Employment Agency's ability to help people find new jobs, offer faster service, modern IT-opportunities and personal help;
- e. Support mothers to return to labor market, who have been away from labor market because of parental leave;
- f. Guarantee career training and counselling, for youth in general education school, vocational school and in universities;
- g. To ease Ida-Virumaa's long-term unemployment we offer through EAS individual large-scale industrial investment support package, which help to create new jobs in that region.

Measures brought in to address youth unemployment since 2008

Estonia Youth Council and Estonia Unemployment Agency have had great collaboration and we hope to continue to pursue. There has been several measures that ENL has proposed to Unemployment Agency in March 2013.

Unemployed Agency has developed an Individual Action Plan. It is presented to everyone who registers as being unemployed. This plan outlines the activities necessary to give unemployed the best chance of finding new employment. The plan also lists the labor market services that are offered.

The proportion of unemployed who receive labor market training has substantially increased due to the fall in the number of employed. Another very effective measure is training in workshops (incl specifically for job seeking skills) with other people, who have the same status. For example the workshops are compiled in view of person's background or experience in labor market. Demand for this type of measure has increased.

In addition Unemployment Agency has implemented a mobile consulting measure. During this project Agency's consultants travel across the country to region where unemployment rate is the highest.

Perspective of the National Youth Council of Croatia on what has been done so far

Estonia Youth Council has taken a strong interest in tackling unemployment through collaboration with government. ENL has expressed their views on reducing unemployment to Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education

and Research and also to its Youth Department. ENL has also draw attention to the seriousness of the youth unemployed problem through media.

There have been developments, but not nearly enough. As said, government has not started a process for planning a rights-based youth guarantee, only some individual measures. While the services for unemployed youth have developed, many suggestions like specializing some Unemployment Agency consultants specifically for with youth have not been adopted. While Youth in Action and structure funds have been used to develop some youth work for NEETs, most of the NEETs are not evolved or don't even know about the services offered to them (lack of youth information).

Other additional measures

Most of all, we want an organized process to draft a rights-based youth guarantee model in Estonia. Right now, we're only getting individual proposals from ministries under the "youth guarantee" label, but no overall plan. By writing a letter to minister of social affairs ENL was proposing on meeting to discuss preparations for Youth Guarantee in Estonia and about planning of structural funds in order to reduce and prevent unemployment. Especially with the emphasis on structural funds investment priority: "For youth integration to labor market primarily for those, who isn't occupied nor in employment, education or in training."

ENL wrote letter to Ministry of Finance about suggestions for planning structural funds, to reduce unemployment among young people through youth work. The aim for that letter was to let the ministry know that there is a mismatch and actually it seems to ENL that in reality youth isn't priority for them. Besides formal education, there was not enough necessary planned resources for youth. ENL took the position that it is crucial to fund youth integration to labor market in sufficient amount, in order to reach the goals set in that priority methods. ENL estimates that in new period the investment needed, for reducing and prevention of youth unemployment through youth work, is 35 millions from ESF which means 5 millions per year.

We also advocate for a whole host of supportive services like youth information, career counselling, etc.