

# Youth Guarantee in Ireland

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# Overview

## Labour Market Context

## Policy Responses to Youth Unemployment

- Pathways to Work
- Action Plan for Jobs
- Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan

## What is the Youth Guarantee in Ireland?

- Who is covered?
- Supports and services
- Programmes

# Labour Market Context

Young unemployed particularly hard hit by the recession

- Youth unemployment peaked at 31.1% (70,500) in 2012

Economic recovery - latest QNHS (Q4 2016)

- Unemployment rate now 15.2%
- Employment rate improving

But still high

- Overall unemployment 7.1%
- Youth unemployment 2.2:1 adult rate

# Policy Responses to Youth Unemployment

## Macro-policy: Promote economic recovery, growth

- Pathways to Work (PtW)
  - Irish active labour market strategies since 2012
  - 2016-2020 strategy published January 2016 - commits to consolidating previous reforms (2016-2017) and expanding to other working age adults (2018-2020)
- Action Plan for Jobs: Economic growth, job creation
- APJ to create jobs; PtW to ensure as many of these taken up by jobseekers (in receipt of social welfare jobseeker payments)

## Additional Measures

- Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan (YGIP) - January 2014

# What is the Youth Guarantee in Ireland?

- Ireland already had most of the elements of a Youth Guarantee as set out in the EU recommendation
- Therefore Irish Youth Guarantee builds upon existing services and programmes with tailoring for youth
- Main plank is to help newly unemployed young people find and secure jobs.
- Pathways to Work 2016-2020 has additional commitments:
  - Increase the share of workplace-based interventions for youth unemployed;
  - Ensure that monthly engagement, at a minimum, is consistently applied/maintained
  - Restructure First Steps programme
  - Implement the Defence Forces Skills for Life programme

# What is the Youth Guarantee in Ireland?

## Who is covered?

- Pre-existing universal means-tested benefit for youth (plus social insurance benefits) allows targeting of YG
- Separate approach for under 18s and 18-25
  - For under 18s - second chance education
  - For 18-25s full Guarantee for all
- Young people with a disability have a range of additional supports and services e.g.
  - EmployAbility
  - Specialist Training

# What is the Youth Guarantee in Ireland?

## Supports and Services

- Earlier and enhanced engagement within Intreo process.
- Group engagement session followed by a 1 to 1 meeting with a case officer.
- Development of a personal progression plan (living document)
- Monthly meetings with case officers.
- If employment is not secured then other offers are available.

# What is the Youth Guarantee in Ireland?

## Programmes Available for Youth Unemployed

- JobsPlus and JobsPlus for Youth
  - Pays a subsidy to employers for hiring jobseekers
  - Eligible to young jobseekers who are unemployed 4+ months
- ‘First steps’ Developmental Programme
- Reserved places on Further Education and Training courses including VTOS and former FAS/SOLAS courses
- Reserved places on Tus, Gateway, Community Employment
- Back to Work Enterprise Allowance
- Experience your Europe programme/ EURES (EU Employment Services)
- Youthreach/Community training workshops

### Also:

- Apprenticeships
- Range of second-chance education opportunities



# European Court of Auditors Special Report 5/2017

## *Youth unemployment - have EU policies made a difference?*

- ECA audited 7 MS on their progress in identifying and registering NEETs; the sustainability of and approach to YG; and contribution of YEI to achievement of objectives
- IE audited with a week-long visit in February 2017
- ECA findings in short
  - YG falls short of initial expectations; some progress but has not ensured that all NEETs could take up an offer within 4 months
  - Contribution of YEI limited

### **BUT MS and Commission have several concerns**

- Remit of ECA; examination of a ‘soft’ guarantee by ‘hard’ audit methods
- Significant and unrevised misunderstandings of national contexts, data collection, definitions and approaches
- Therefore recommendations to be noted, in particular the need for continued focus on youth unemployed, with realistic and achievable objectives and targets

Thank you.  
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