



International
Labour
Organization

The ILO's Programme on **Youth Employment**



▶ A global challenge ...

Youth employment remains a global challenge and a top policy concern worldwide.

Current trends reveal that it is not only the quantity of jobs but also the quality of jobs that matters, as few youth have access to productive employment opportunities that provide them with a decent wage, job security and good working conditions.

Unless immediate and vigorous action is taken to provide more and better jobs to young women and men, the global community may confront the legacy of a lost generation.

Overcoming the youth employment crisis is fundamental to the evolution towards wealthier economies, fairer societies and stronger democracies.



The time has come to unleash the potential of today's youth to become workers, entrepreneurs, citizens, and agents of change.

Opening up opportunities for young people is a priority on the policy agenda in all regions of the world and for the ILO's tripartite constituency.



Guy Ryder,
ILO's Director General



▶ ... and the ILO's response to it

The ILO has had a long-standing commitment to promote decent work for youth. Up to the mid-1970s, most of its youth-related work focused on the protection of young workers through normative efforts; later on, the ILO's approach has changed in recognition of the multifaceted nature of the youth employment challenge.

In 2005, the International Labour Conference resolved that tackling youth employment required an integrated strategy, one that combined supportive economic policies and targeted measures addressing labour demand and supply as well as the quantity and quality of employment. In 2012, the ILC adopted the Resolution "The youth employment crisis: A call for action" with accompanying conclusions which

supplement the Resolution of 2005. The Call for Action is meant to orient national strategies and interventions on youth employment. It advocates for a multi-pronged and balanced approach which fosters pro-employment growth and decent job creation through economic policies, education and training, labour policies, youth entrepreneurship and the respect of rights at work for young people. The Call for Action and its Follow-up Plan 2012-2019, drive the engagement of the ILO on youth employment.

Established in 2005, **the Youth Employment Programme (YEP)** constitutes the ILO's response to the global youth employment challenge.

► Worldwide...

73.3 million youth
(aged 15-24)



are **unemployed**

169 million youth



are **“working poor”**
i.e. living on less than US\$2 per day

75% youth workers



are **informally employed**

50% of young people



are either **overeducated**
or **undereducated**
for the employment they hold

In a number
of countries



young women have a more protracted
and difficult transition to working life
than young men

An increasing
proportion of



young men and women are neither in
education, employment nor training
(NEETs)

*...it is still not easy to
be young in today's
labour market.*

► Our Mission

We work to support national capacity to design, implement and evaluate context-specific youth employment policies and programmes which enhance decent job opportunities for young people.



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an opportunity to scale up action on youth employment. Goal 8 on the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, as well as several other SDG targets related to youth employment outcomes, provide a global platform and mandate for action.



► How we work

The YEP operates through a network of specialists from different ILO offices and technical units. The YEP Unit, a team located within the Employment Policy Department of the ILO in Geneva, coordinates policy research, analysis and the development of guidelines and practical tools on youth employment. It's also entrusted to ensure coherence in ILO's assistance in this area and to provide necessary backing to ILO staff and constituents.



Our sponsors include:

The World Bank Group, AfDB, the European Commission, the Governments of Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, Spain and Sweden, IFAD, the Mastercard Foundation, the Jacobs Foundation, Silatech and LUKOIL.

The comparative advantage of ILO's work on youth employment lies in its proven ability to influence policy change by reaching out and involving different stakeholders – including youth representatives – through extended social dialogue and participatory practices. Using the relevant international and national channels, we listen to the youth in order to understand their needs and aspirations and to devise appropriate solutions.

Over the years, we have built and consolidated relationships with a number of research and educational institu-

tions, and we have also enjoyed the support of other UN bodies, multilateral and bilateral agencies, regional institutions and some private companies.

Our activities are consistent with larger multi-stakeholder efforts like the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and the UN Inter-agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD).

▶ What we do

ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS

- ✓ Awareness-raising activities on decent work for youth targeted to ILO constituents and other actors including young people and their representative bodies;
- ✓ Networking with relevant think-tanks, academic and training institutions;
- ✓ Strategic partnerships on youth employment through the promotion of cross-country and global peer networks, inter-agency cooperation and collaboration between the private and public sectors.



KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION

- ✓ Collection and analysis of youth labour market data;
- ✓ Research on emerging issues in youth employment;
- ✓ Youth employment policy reviews;
- ✓ "What works" – measuring the results of youth employment interventions;
- ✓ Establishment and maintenance of knowledge platforms;
- ✓ Knowledge-sharing events.



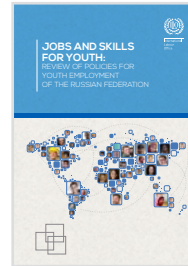
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- ✓ Production of policy guidelines, technical manuals and training modules on youth employment;
- ✓ Advisory services pertaining to: development of coherent and coordinated youth employment policies, strategies and implementation plans; formulation and assessment of youth employment interventions;
- ✓ Development and delivery of training activities for ILO constituents and other relevant development stakeholders.



Global Employment Trends for Youth

GET YOUTH is an internationally renowned annual report providing updated figures on global and regional youth unemployment. It also looks at working poverty rates and decent work opportunities in both developed and developing economies.



Reviews of policies and institutions for youth employment

These reports review youth labour market achievements over the past few years in a given country and assess existing policies and programmes for youth employment in order to offer recommendations on possible improvements. Countries surveyed include Indonesia, the Russian Federation and China.



Academy on Youth Employment

The annual 2 week Academy is designed to enhance the capacity of decision-makers and social partners to develop comprehensive strategies for tackling the multi-faceted dimensions of the youth employment challenge. The Academy expands opportunities for social dialogue and provides a space for the views of young people to be heard.
www.itcilo.org



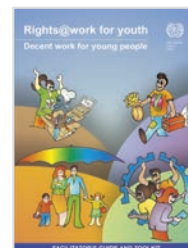
What Works on Youth Employment

The What Works in Youth Employment initiative aims to improve labour market outcomes of young people by strengthening results measurement and evidence-based policies and programmes. This is achieved through an iterative cycle of (i) capacity development, (ii) impact research and (iii) policy influence.
www.ilo.org/taqem



Online discussion platform on decent work for youth

The Decent Work for Youth platform (DW4Y) is an online meeting point to discuss youth employment issues. The Platform gathers young people from diverse background with a view to strengthening knowledge on decent work issues and supporting young advocates. The platform has three sections: learn, share and connect.
<http://www.decentwork4youth.org/>



Rights@Work for Youth

ILO guidance on Rights at Work seeks to assist young workers identify their role in contributing to, promoting and maintaining fair and productive work places and understanding national labour laws.
http://www.ilo.org/employment/Whatwedo/Instructionmaterials/WCMS_310206/lang--en/index.htm



Youth Employment Programme (YEP) Unit

Employment Policy Department
International Labour Office

Route des Morillons
4 CH-1211 Genève 22
Switzerland



ilo.org/youth



youth@ilo.org



facebook.com/youth.ilo



[@ILOYouth](https://twitter.com/ILOYouth)