

19 March 2012

Eurofound sources (reports, articles, surveys, observatories, other) on Youth

Publications

Very soon –

Eurofound will publish after the summer two research reports on NEET and young people.

- The first will discuss in detail the concept of NEETs and the societal and economic costs of having a large share of the population of young people excluded from labour market and education.
- In the second report Eurofound will present the evaluation of the effectiveness of some of the recent policy measures implemented in selected MSs for re-engaging young people into labour market or education.

Eurofound is also starting the 2012 project which investigates young people transition from school to work.

Recent policy developments related to those not in employment, education and training (NEETs)

- Increasing the participation of young people in the labour market has become an urgent policy goal and in recent times the focus has been directed at the ‘NEET’ group – young people ‘not in employment, education and training’. This report summarises the findings from 28 national reports by experts from the ‘European Restructuring Monitor’ (ERM) network on the topic of public and social partner based measures aimed at re-engaging young NEETs (aged 15–29 years). The aim of the report is to explore the most recent NEET-specific policy interventions in the EU Member States and Norway, as well as other policy measures aimed at promoting the general employment participation of young people, which potentially impact on NEETs. The findings show that given the diversity of the NEET population, Member States have adopted policy measures addressing various NEET sub-groups in order to provide more tailored and personalised support. The study was compiled on the basis of individual national reports submitted by the ERM correspondents. The text of each of these national reports is available below. The reports have not been edited or approved by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. The national reports were drawn up in response to a questionnaire and should be read in conjunction with it. **7 February 2012.**

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/studies/tn1109042s/index.htm>

Young people and NEETs in Europe: First findings - In the context of its 2011 work programme, Eurofound has explored the situation of young people who are part of the NEET group: ‘not in employment, education or training’. The research was carried out by Eurofound’s Employment and Competitiveness unit, using the capacity of the Network of European Observatories. The aim was to investigate the current situation of young people in Europe, focusing specifically on those who are not in employment, education or training, and to understand the economic and social consequences of

their disengagement from the labour market and education. The preliminary results of the research are presented in this short document. Résumé available in 23 languages. **20 December, 2011**

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1172.htm>

Foundation Findings - Youth and work - The unemployment rate for young people aged between 16 and 24 years in the EU27 is twice as high as the overall rate of unemployment. The recession has exacerbated this problem significantly. Foundation Findings provide pertinent background information and policy pointers for all actors and interested parties engaged in the current European debate on the future of social policy. The contents are based on Foundation research and reflect its autonomous and tripartite structure. **30 June, 2011.**

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1140.htm>

Helping young workers during the crisis: contributions by social partners and public authorities

- This report examines the views and the actions taken by social partners aimed at (re)integrating or maintaining younger workers in the labour market, with a particular focus on relevant measures devised and put in place during the crisis. An [EIRO comparative analytical report](#) is available. **05 May, 2011.** <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef11291.htm>

Active inclusion of young people with disabilities or health problems - Background paper (02 February, 2010): This report reviews the evidence to support the contention that increasing numbers of young people (16 - 34 years) are entering the disability benefits system. It attempts to place this evidence within the context of the many factors that are known to influence the economic activity and labour market participation of young people with disabilities. The study also aims to document any measures targeted at young people with health problems to promote labour market inclusion and the ways in which these systems operate and interact. It makes specific reference to active inclusion measures, including the role of social, health and employment services, as well as educational systems and social partners. <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1013.htm>

Active inclusion for young people with disabilities or health problems - Eurofound has completed a review of existing incapacity benefits aimed at young people of working age in the EU Member States, including data on the take-up of benefits. What is worrying is a relatively new trend indicating a significant increase in their take up among young people – in the Netherlands, Denmark and Finland. The research shows that the reason for the increase has been predominantly various mental health problems. Research also indicates that debt is a much stronger risk factor for mental disorder than low income. Additionally, current employment patterns with long hours and more intense work are not conducive for people with health problems. There is also an issue of special education as it seems that in many countries people with health problems move directly from special education into incapacity schemes. To identify effective strategies to tackle this trend, there is clear need to understand the reasons. This is the focus of Eurofound research over the next two years which is paying particular attention to activation measures in health, social and employment services. The research is also looking at the role of incapacity benefits agencies, education systems, employers and trade unions.

Phase I of the study has been completed in six Member States - Denmark, Finland, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom (see below).

Phase II research is currently underway in five further countries. The final national reports and overview report will be published in 2012.

- **Active inclusion of young people with disabilities or health problems – Netherlands** - In the Netherlands growing numbers of young people and adolescents are in receipt of special education, mental health care services and benefits because of long-term illness, handicap or chronic disease. The most alarming increase is in those covered by the Disablement Assistance Act for Handicapped Young Persons (Wajong). In 2001, 120,000 people received a Wajong benefit. By 2010, this figure had risen to almost 200,000. **10 February, 2012**
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef11354.htm>
- **Active inclusion of young people with disabilities or health problems: Finland** - The situation of young people in the labour market in Finland worsened during the recent economic recession. It has subsequently improved, but these positive changes don't cover all job seekers, for example young people with health problems or disabilities. The employment rate of people with disabilities remains low, and the trend seems to be that the number of subsidised workplaces has decreased, while vocational training and similar activities have increased. There have been some improvements recently, but many young people with health problems or disabilities are still not part of the labour force. **10 February, 2012**
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef11353.htm>
- **Active inclusion of young people with disabilities or health problems: Denmark** - Denmark is a welfare society. The current aspiration of Danish disability policy is equal treatment for all, regardless of physical or mental capacity. This objective is the result of an evolutionary process, the effect of which is that people with disabilities are increasingly integrated into society and into the open labour market. In Denmark, labour market policy is targeted at integration and retention. Based on the principle of compensation, society offers people with disabilities a range of services in order to limit the consequences of impairment as much as possible and also to provide disabled people, as far possible, with equal opportunities on the open labour market. The social system therefore offers a combination of income protection and employment activation. **24 February, 2012**
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef11357.htm>
- **Active inclusion of young people with disabilities or health problems: Poland** - In Poland policy relating to people with disabilities does not differentiate between different groups – all groups are treated equally. There are no policies or programmes that particularly promote the participation of young people with disabilities in the open labour market. As in many other countries, young people face significant challenges entering the job market (especially the open market). Moreover, the Polish labour market still has relatively few jobs for people with disabilities. Most are employed in sheltered workshops. According to the employment records of people with disabilities, almost 93% of those employed in the sheltered labour market have regular employment contracts. **10 February, 2012**
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef11352.htm>
- **Active inclusion of young people with disabilities or health problems: Spain** - In Spain disability is officially recognised when the competent evaluation services assess a person as having a minimum 33% disability level. This evaluation is carried out by regional governments and there are differences among regions, which can result in a person obtaining a disability certification in one region when they may not in another. Integration in education and employment remains a challenge for institutions and organisations, as many disabled

students and workers are still segregated. Fear of change and also fear of losing benefits if they enter into employment remain big barriers to inclusion. **10 February, 2012.**

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef11355.htm>

- **Active inclusion of young people with disabilities or health problems: United Kingdom** - As in many other countries in Europe, the number of young people not in employment, education or training in the UK has risen in recent years. Information collected by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) provides a picture of increasing reliance on benefits by these young people. The number of young people in receipt of any benefit rose from 12.2% to 16.1% between 2002 and 2010. Between 2003 and 2010, the combined number of young people with health problems or disabilities claiming specific disability benefits (Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance) rose from 21.5% to 33.3% of all benefit claimants. This should be viewed within a context where the absolute number of people with disabilities in the UK did not increase over the same period. **02 March, 2012**

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef11356.htm>

Event - Working together for youth employment - From education to the workplace: a global challenge - On 30 June 2011, a seminar on Youth and Employment was hosted by the Employment and Social Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, and jointly organised by four European agencies: Cedefop, ETF, EU-OSHA and Eurofound. The agencies highlighted the complementarity of their work by each presenting different aspects and perspectives related to youth employment in Europe and its neighbourhood countries. Topics included the transition from education to the workplace, guidance for young people at risk, safe and decent jobs for young people, the 'NEETs' phenomenon and its economic costs, the active inclusion of disadvantaged young people in employment and the global dimension of youth employment. Full [speakers presentations](#) are also available.

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef1185.htm>