



European  
Commission

# UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S SKILLS

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#EuropeanYearOfSkills

Young Europeans have potential and skills that can help address labour shortages and invigorate the declining EU workforce. They should be given every possible opportunity to **thrive in the green and digital transitions and help shape the future of the EU**. The EU helps to empower young people through policies, initiatives and funding that facilitate their integration into the labour market and improve the training opportunities available to them.

## THE SITUATION

**Vocational education and training, traineeships and apprenticeships** help young people get ready for their first job and enable them to learn new skills and develop their careers.



**68% of young trainees** found a job after completing a traineeship.



Since 2014, **more than 36 million young people** in Youth Guarantee programmes have secured jobs, apprenticeships/traineeships, or continued education.



Since 2013, the European Alliance for Apprenticeships has helped **more than 1.3 million young people** find an apprenticeship.

**Young people in the EU are well suited for jobs in the digital and green economy.** The green transition alone could create up to 1 million additional jobs in the EU by 2030.



**71%**

have at least basic digital skills, **17% more than the general population.**



**64%**

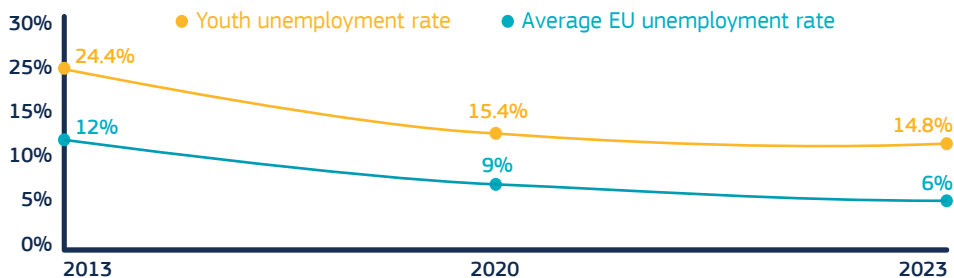
think having a job that helps the green transition is important, **9% more than the general population.**



**55%**

believe their current skills **can contribute to the green transition.**

## The youth unemployment rate is more than twice the EU unemployment rate



In addition, 8 million young people aged 15 to 29 are not in education, employment, or training.

### EU INITIATIVES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

- ✓ The **reinforced Youth Guarantee**, including the **Youth Employment Initiative**, ensures that young people under 30 receive a quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship, or traineeship within four months of becoming unemployed or leaving education.
- ✓ **The 2020 Council Recommendation on vocational education and training (VET)** defines key principles for ensuring that VET adapts swiftly to labour market needs. This helps to provide quality learning opportunities for young people in particular.
- ✓ **The 2014 EU Quality Framework for Traineeships** aims to help young people find employment through work experience gained in traineeships. It set out principles for Member States to ensure high-quality traineeships. The Commission will revise the current EU framework to ensure that traineeships are of good quality and offer fair remuneration, social protection, and equal opportunities to young people.
- ✓ **The European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA)** brings together governments, social partners and key stakeholders such as companies and VET providers to strengthen the quality, supply, and overall image of apprenticeships across Europe. It has offered more than 1.3 million apprenticeships since its creation in 2013.
- ✓ **ALMA** (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve) offers young people who are not in employment, education or training a supervised work-related experience in another EU Member State, accompanied by coaching, counselling, and training opportunities.
- ✓ **Youth FIRST** provides technical support to help Member States design policies that give young people from disadvantaged backgrounds the education and opportunities to become active citizens and actors for positive change.
- ✓ The **European Solidarity Corps** offers young people aged 18 to 30 the opportunity to engage in volunteering, traineeships, jobs, and solidarity projects while gaining valuable skills. In 2021–2022, the programme created 40,000 opportunities for young people. 65% of the programme's participants were women and 35% were young people with fewer opportunities.
- ✓ **Learning mobility** helps young people gain knowledge, skills and competences for professional development, as well as social inclusion.

### EU FUNDING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

**€10.9 billion**

The **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)** is the EU's main instrument for investing in people. It provides funding to improve youth employment and help young people learn new skills.

**€8.1 billion**

The **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)** requires Member States to promote skills-related measures specifically addressing the next generation as one of their six pillars, in line with the reinforced Youth Guarantee.

**€26.2 billion**

**Erasmus+** allocates funding for education and training initiatives for young people. This includes reinforcing the quality of informal education (i.e., learning from daily life experience and the surrounding environment) and of non-formal learning (i.e., outside the formal education system).

**€14 million**

**Horizon Europe** provides earmarked funding targeting young people. The 2023–2024 work programme offers young people opportunities for the chance to engage in democratic dialogue as well as education opportunities for an effective transition to the labour market.