

POLICY BRIEF

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE YOUTH GUARANTEE FIELD WORK

BACKGROUND

North Macedonia has already established itself as a success story being the first non-EU country to implement this policy, and to do it successfully. In the 2018 Country Report, the European Parliament has welcomed the partnership between the government and the country's National Youth Council in the implementation of the Youth Guarantee Scheme as a good mechanism of cooperation between young people and decision-makers in the formulation and implementation of youth policies. Since 2018 onward, NYCM has been one of the implementing partners of the Youth Guarantee, specifically in regards to the field work.

These past years, the NYCM has identified that when it comes to reaching out to NEET youth, the local authorities lack the capacities to reach out to them, in addition to lacking trust from youth.

Based on the experiences of the engaged field workers, and the representatives of the relevant institutions responsible for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, several key recommendations were highlighted that refer to the improvement of the Youth Guarantee.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE YOUTH GUARANTEE

- Conduct a baseline study on NEET youth, as potential beneficiaries of the Youth Guarantee;
- Provide more inclusive criteria to engage youth without a high school diploma, or NEET youth that have been previously registered at the ESA;

- Allocate active measures for employment that are only accessible to Youth Guarantee beneficiaries;
- Intensify the intersectoral cooperation between field workers, institutions and youth organizations in ensuring effective implementation of the Youth Guarantee, and exchange of accurate information, regarding active measures, to unregistered NEET youth;
- Simplify and digitize the access to measures offered by the ESA, so youth is not deterred from complex administrative procedures.
- Support to institutions working in the field of education and training in order to increase the delivery of practical and quality courses and workshops part of the Youth Guarantee.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE YOUTH GUARANTEE FIELD WORK

- Allocate annual budget from the ESA for youth civil society organizations to implement outreach and field activities;
- Develop the capacities of the field workers and the personnel in the key institutions for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee;
- Coordinate the implementation period of the field work with the period of open calls for active measures available in Youth Guarantee;
- Utilize social media promotion to reach youth, and less printing papers;
- Adapt the field work's approach and targets to the situation in the different regions;
- Implement the field and outreach activities consistently throughout the year, not just specific months.