



Europe's Youth deserves more!

An Appeal to increase the speed and substance of the European Youth Guarantee Adopted by the PES Council on 22nd June 2013 in Sofia

In the EU, more than 26 million people are unemployed. Of those 5.6 million people are under 25. In the last year, unemployment rose in no fewer than 18 EU countries. Today, 12 of the 27 EU states have more than a quarter of young women and men unemployed. In some countries over half of the young people are without work.

In short, the real European crisis is Youth Unemployment.

Thanks to the campaign launched by the Party of European Socialists (PES) two years ago, the idea of a European Youth Guarantee is now taking shape. This scheme has the potential to stop Europe's youth sliding into the sinkhole of unemployment. Creating new jobs for young people and improving training, skills and further education can keep millions from the risks caused by long-term unemployment.

Conservative austerity only policies have caused the explosion of youth unemployment. Now conservatives are not willing to allocate the necessary funds to create new jobs for Europe's youth. The right wing majority in the European Council has meant that only 6 billion of the European budget will be allocated to the fight against youth unemployment. They allowed 1600 billion to go to European banks but don't see the injustice in allocating less than 0.3% of that sum to Europe's youth. And they block our proposals to relaunch growth in Europe, which would ensure that sustainable jobs for young people can be created.

This is not acceptable. Europe's right wing has forgotten that the EU was and should always be, built on a simple social pact with its people. We in the PES understand this pact.

Our demands

- To implement the European Youth Guarantee, the allocation from the European budget for the fight against youth unemployment must be significantly increased.
- More funds from the European Investment Bank (EIB) should be specifically and measurably tied to the creation of jobs or quality apprenticeships for young people. Such loans must complement, not replace the national and European grants which are desperately needed.
- Youth Employment Initiative funding must be made available now. It must be easily accessible and must be spend on tailor-made projects. Each country must have the freedom to identify how the money is spent, be it subsidies or incentives to create new jobs, investment in training and education or active labour market policies.
- Every Member State must speed up the introduction of a national youth guarantees.
- A quality framework must be introduced in order to ensure that education, training and jobs offered in the framework of youth guarantee schemes provide appropriate pay, working conditions and health and safety standards.
- Ambitious programmes and measures to relaunch sustainable growth in Europe must be implemented, allowing for a lasting reduction of youth unemployment.

Millions face the prospect of a future filled with squandered potential, frustration, disillusionment and anger. Right now, the clock is ticking.

