



Youth Workshops

Possibility for young NEETs to trial different vocational programmes

LATVIA

Title of the practice (in original language)

Darbnīcas jauniešiem

Who is/was implementing the practice?

The State Employment Agency (PES)

Which other organisations are/were involved in the practice?

Vocational education and training institutions

What are/were the main objectives of the practice?

To help young NEETs with insufficient level of education or without work experience to make an informed decision about their future education and employment choices and to develop their skills, including literacy and numeracy skills.

When was the practice implemented?

The measure started in January 2014 (following a pilot implemented in 2012) and is ongoing.

Who is/was targeted by the practice?

The target groups include the following young people, aged 15-24 years, who are registered as unemployed:

- without vocational training or
- without work experience or
- with work experience in low-skilled jobs.

What activities are/were carried out?

Low-skilled young jobseekers are given a possibility to try out one, two or three different vocational programmes. They spend an average of two weeks in each programme in one or more vocational education institutions.

Participants to this measure are selected through a profiling system which assists Latvian PES counsellors in determining the most appropriate active labour market policy measures for registered unemployed¹.

A young person participates in the measure full time (5 days a week for at least 6 hours per day), supported by a monthly allowance of EUR 60 (EUR 90 for young unemployed with disabilities) during their participation.

At least 60% of the vocational programme is composed of practical classes and the remaining 40% of theoretical classes.

¹ For further details about the Combined Econometric and Self-Assessment Motivational Profiling of jobseekers in Latvia, please see: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1206&langId=en>

What are/were the sources of funding?	The measure is jointly funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) – 45%, the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) – 40% and the state budget – 15%.
What are/were the outputs: people reached and products?	During the period 2014-2017, 2 154 young unemployed took part in this measure.
What are/were the outcomes: medium-term results or effects?	According to the OECD ² , Youth workshops, in parallel with the second chance vocational education programmes, are a useful complement to ensure that participants are motivated for the profession they are qualifying for. These workshops can act as pre-apprenticeships and could help bridging gaps in educational schedules while improving literacy or numeracy skills, building motivation, making young people familiar with a work rhythm and possibly providing short spells of work experience.
What are/were the lessons learnt and success factors?	<p>Lessons Learnt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is essential to provide this kind of support in different educational institutions in order to give young people experience in several vocational fields. Support should be complemented with other measures, such as regional mobility support, vocational training measures, vocational guidance etc. <p>Success Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The profiling of young people by PES helps to provide support in a more targeted way, ensuring that particularly low-skilled young people participate in this measure. Awareness raising activities are important to attract those young people who most need this kind of support.
What are key sources of information?	<p>http://www.nva.gov.lv/index.php?cid=1&mid=548&txt=4624</p> <p>² https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/investing-in-youth-latvia_9789264240407-en#page1</p>