

Youth first!

EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS AND SOCIAL POLICIES THAT WORK FOR YOUNG EUROPEANS IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

8 September 2022 10:00-13:00 (CEST) European Parliament/Spinelli 1E2



About the event

In Europe, we recognise the importance of the development, well-being and participation in society and the labour market of young people. We do that by investing in their potential, supporting their labour market integration, promoting quality jobs, facilitating skills development and mobility, and fighting economic and social exclusion.

Employers need people to fill newly created green and digital jobs. Many young Europeans are motivated to contribute to change and have the skills and capacities needed for ‘the future of work’. The problem for young people is often accessing opportunities. On the road to recovery and resilience, we need to address such difficulties, make opportunities more visible and enable youth to build a better future – greener, more inclusive, and digital. That is what the European Year of Youth 2022 is about!

Five EU agencies join forces to support a better future for young Europeans

Intentions, strategies, and policy packages have become more ambitious over time, but we can still do better to help youth to be the best they can be. Five European Agencies join forces to support EU institutions, Member States and other stakeholders. Through their work they support young people and their (potential) employers in identifying opportunities, addressing policy challenges and capitalising on practices that work in times of disruption and transition. Bringing together their complementary expertise, the Agencies will:

- Present key lessons learnt from their work on:
 - Measures targeting young people not in employment, education, and training
 - Quality of employment and working conditions of young people
 - Challenges and opportunities in teleworking and hybrid work
 - Access to education, training, quality work experience programmes and skills for the green and digital transitions
 - Opportunities for cross-border mobility in employment, education and training, including improved matching of skills
 - Health and safety risks at work, including mental health and well-being
- Discuss realities in EU neighbouring countries and interdependence with the EU
- Debate how evidence and insight can support policy makers in their efforts to provide opportunities to young people – not in the remote future but now
- Reflect on how to best support EU and national stakeholders in shaping youth-centred employment, skills and social policies

Practical information

- **Venue:** European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, Brussels, Room Spinelli 1E2
- **Language regime:** The debate will be held in English. The event will take place on-site, and the live debate will be web streamed.
- [Click on this link: to join the online live web stream event. Please add this event to your calendar.](#)

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Programme – 8 September 2022

- Moderator:** Clara Drammeh, Trainer and expert, European Youth Forum
- 10:00-10:20** **Welcome and introduction**
MEP Dragoş Pîslaru, Chair of the EMPL Committee, European Parliament
Joost Korte, Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- 10:20-10:35** **Panel 1 – Importance of young people’s participation in society and on the labour market**
Let’s discuss why we should put youth first!
- **Ivailo Kalfin**, Executive Director, Eurofound
 - **Mara Brugia**, Deputy Director, Cedefop
 - **Cosmin Boiangiu**, Executive Director, ELA
- 10:35 – 11:00** **Panel 2 – Providing opportunities for young people**
Getting a job and developing the right skills for a changing world of work
Discussion on how to create opportunities for jobs, education, training, quality work experience programmes and skills for the twin transition despite all of the challenges. Taking advantage of the cross-border European labour markets and reflecting on European youth policies and the world.
- **Jürgen Siebel**, Executive Director, Cedefop
 - **Irene Mandl**, Head of Unit, ELA
 - **Xavier Matheu**, ad interim Director, ETF
- 11:00 – 11:20** **Invited comments and Q&A with MEPs and audience**
- 11:20 – 11:40** **Coffee break**
- 11:40 – 11:50** **Meeting the expectations of young Europeans**
Maria Rodriguez Alcázar, Board Member, European Youth Forum
- 11:50 – 12:15** **Panel 3 – Shaping a future that works for young people**
Supporting youth facing different challenges: investing in job quality, well-being and health and safety matters
A reflection on who really is in this group of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) and how to design adequate support measures to meet their needs. Examining young workers’ job quality, wellbeing and sharing of good practices to protect the health and safety of young people in the workplace.
- **Maria Jepsen**, Deputy Director, Eurofound
 - **William Cockburn**, Interim Executive Director, EU-OSHA
 - **Francesca Rosso**, Coordinator for Skills Demand Analysis, ETF
- 12:15 – 12:35** **Invited comments and Q&A with MEPs and audience**
- 12:35 – 12:55** **European Agencies – Working together for the future of youth in Europe**
- **Jürgen Siebel**, Executive Director, Cedefop
 - **Ivailo Kalfin**, Executive Director, Eurofound
 - **Cosmin Boiangiu**, Executive Director, ELA
 - **William Cockburn**, Interim Executive Director, EU-OSHA
 - **Xavier Matheu**, ad interim Director, ETF
- 12:55 – 13:00** **Conclusions by the Chair of the EMPL Committee and close**

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About the Agencies



The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) was founded in 1975 and is based in Greece since 1995. Cedefop supports the promotion, development and implementation of the Union policy in the field of vocational education and training (VET) as well as skills and qualifications policies by working together with the Commission, Member States and social partners. To this end, it enhances and disseminates knowledge, provides evidence and services for policymaking, including research-based conclusions, and facilitates knowledge sharing among and between EU and national actors.

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/>



The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) is a tripartite European Union Agency based in Dublin, whose role is to provide knowledge to assist in the development of better social, employment and work-related policies. Eurofound provides information, advice and expertise on working conditions and sustainable work, industrial relations, labour market change and quality and life and public services, to support the EU Institutions and bodies, Member States and Social Partners in shaping and implementing social and employment policies, as well as promoting social dialogue on the basis of comparative information, research and analysis.

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/>



The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) is the European Union information agency for occupational safety and health and is based in Bilbao. The agency's work contributes to the European Commission's Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027 and other relevant EU strategies and programmes. EU-OSHA works to make European workplaces safer, healthier and more productive — for the benefit of businesses, employees and governments and promotes a culture of risk prevention to improve working conditions in Europe.

<https://osha.europa.eu/>



The European Training Foundation (ETF) is a European Union agency, based in Turin, Italy and operational since 1994, that helps transition and developing countries harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems, and in the context of the EU's external relations policy.

<https://www.etf.europa.eu/>



The European Labour Authority (ELA) was established in July 2019 and has been created to help strengthen fairness and trust in the internal market by assisting Member States and the European Commission to ensure that EU rules on labour mobility and social security coordination are enforced in a fair, simple and effective way. ELA also has an important role to play in facilitating and ensuring effective labour mobility in Europe, in particular by activities of the European Employment Services (EURES).

<https://www.ela.europa.eu/>