Young people deserve all possible opportunities to develop their full potential to shape the future of the EU and to thrive in the green and digital transitions. Young people often face a difficult start in the labour market, and this has been emphasised by the coronavirus pandemic.

Youth unemployment in April 2020 reached 15.4%, still more than double the average general unemployment rate. Now many fear a spike just ahead.

The EU is helping Member States tackle this challenge head-on by proposing:

- **A Bridge to Jobs – reinforcing the Youth Guarantee**
- Future-proofing the EU’s vocational education and training policy
- A renewed impetus for apprenticeships
- Additional measures supporting youth employment

Tens of billions of euros powering the recovery plan for young people

**Member States to prioritise investments that can help young people in the short and medium term**
A BRIDGE TO JOBS: REINFORCING THE YOUTH GUARANTEE

If you sign up to the Youth Guarantee, you will receive an offer of employment, education, apprenticeship or traineeship within four months.

The EU created the Youth Guarantee in 2013 and has since built bridges to the labour market for more than 24 million young people.

The new and improved Bridge to Jobs will:

- Cover young people aged between 15 and 29
- Be more inclusive, with a wider outreach focusing especially on disadvantaged groups
- Link in with the needs of companies, especially SMEs, providing the skills required - in particular those for the green and digital transitions
- Provide tailored counselling, guidance and mentoring

FUTURE-PROOFING THE EU’S VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICY

Vocational education and training helps young people get ready for their first job and allows adults to learn new skills and develop their careers. It will be an essential part of helping young people enter the workforce during the recovery. With its proposed Recommendation, the Commission is taking a fresh approach to vocational education and training, making it more modern, attractive, flexible and fit for the digital age and green transition.

See more

A RENEWED IMPETUS FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are a win-win:

- Companies get the skilled labour force they need for the future
- Young people develop their skills and find work

EU action will help boost apprenticeship offers, for example by incentivising support to SMEs and mobilising local and regional authorities. The European Alliance for Apprenticeships has been instrumental in creating more than 900,000 apprenticeship opportunities for young people since its launch in 2013. The Commission will renew it to trigger fresh commitments for digital and green apprenticeships.
The Commission also urges Member States to step up youth employment support through NextGenerationEU and the future EU budget. The overall ambition is that Member States invest EU funding of at least €22 billion in youth employment:

For example, the EU can help fund:

- Start-up grants and loans for young entrepreneurs, mentoring schemes and business incubators
- Bonuses for SMEs hiring apprentices
- Training sessions to acquire new skills needed on the labour market
- Capacity-building of public employment services
- Career management training in formal education
- Investments in digital learning infrastructure and technology
- Bonuses for SMEs hiring apprentices
- Training sessions to acquire new skills needed on the labour market