

25 YEARS OF EUR•PE
JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

Young people facing the crisis: bouncing back with the EU

1

More than 1/8 young European is neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)

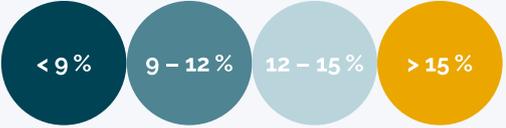
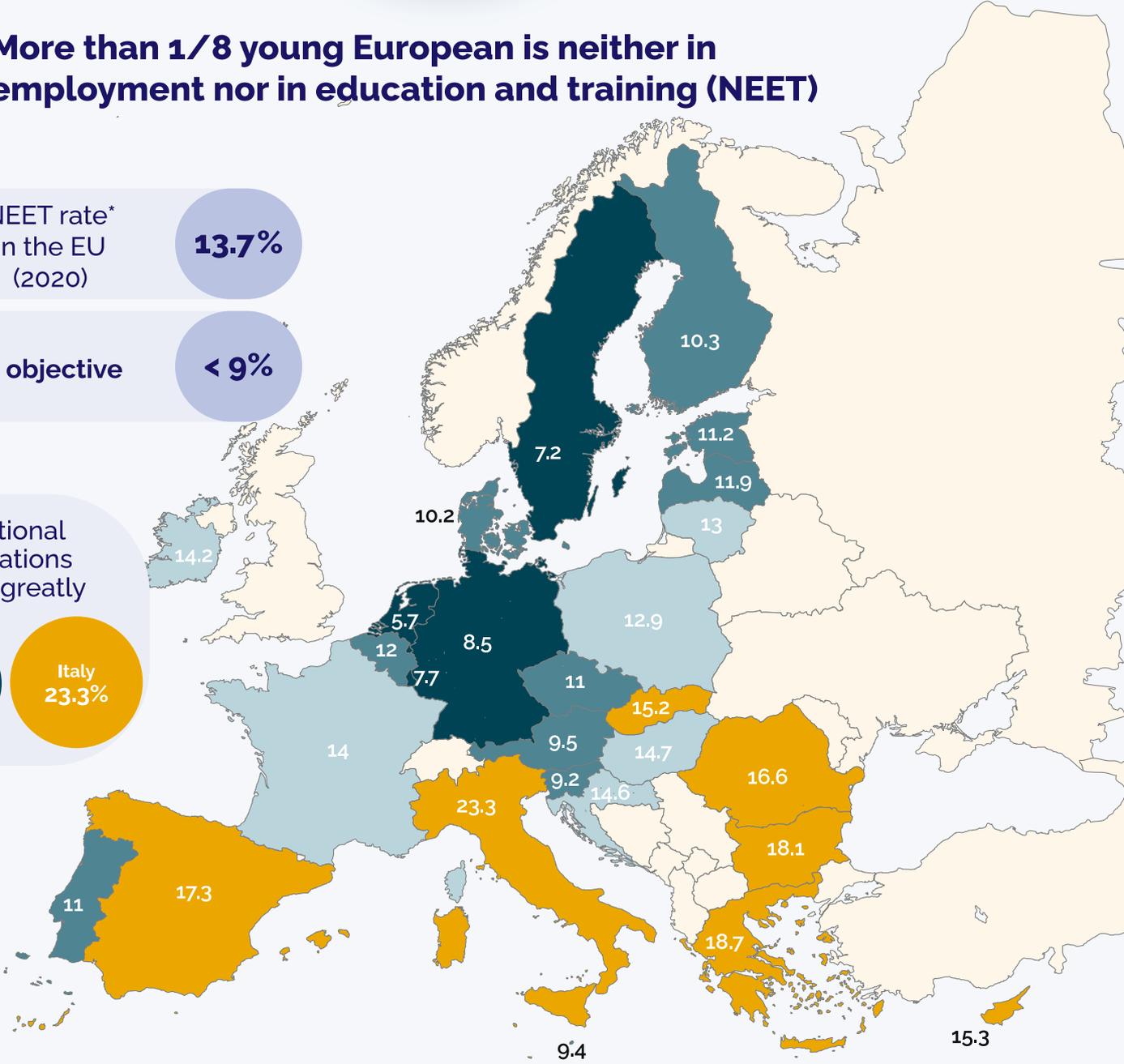
NEET rate* in the EU (2020) **13.7%**

2030 objective **< 9%**

National situations vary greatly

The Netherlands **5.7%**

Italy **23.3%**

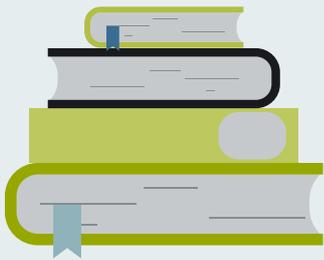


Source: Eurostat data
*Young people aged 15 - 29 neither in employment nor in education and training, 2020.

2 The COVID-19 crisis hit young people particularly hard

EMPLOYMENT

- Between 2019 and 2020, **youth unemployment** (15-24 years old) increased from 15% to 16.8%.
- Young people have **more precarious jobs** – part-time and temporary contracts, platform work – and are therefore more likely to be laid off first.
- Even those who managed to enter the labour market during the crisis were faced with **working conditions that are ill suited to a first job**, for instance because of teleworking.



EDUCATION

- Since the onset of the pandemic, **65% of young people** (18-29 years old) globally **reported having learnt less**, and **early school leaving** increased.
- Home schooling during lockdowns affected **equal opportunities**.
- 75% of young people's **mobility** activities were affected by the pandemic, with more than 50% that were temporarily suspended or cancelled.

LIVING CONDITIONS

- **Food aid** demand surged among youths in the EU.
- The crisis harmed young people's **mental health**, in particular due to the lack of social interaction. During the first wave of the pandemic, 55% of young people (18-34 years old) were at risk of depression.
- Young people are concerned about their future and the stigma associated with the "COVID generation".



3

The EU supports youth employment: taking a look at some initiatives

ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT



- **European Youth Guarantee:** all young people under the age of 30 can receive an offer of employment, education, apprenticeship or traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving education
 - More than **5 million** participants each year
- **€22 billion** from the European funds dedicated to **youth employment support**



JOB QUALITY

- European quality frameworks for **traineeships and apprenticeships**
- Protecting **non-standard workers**, including platform workers
- European framework for adequate **minimum wages**



EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Promoting apprenticeships through the **European Alliance for Apprenticeships**
- Setting up **European universities** to combine studies in several EU countries as well as **Centres of Vocational Excellence** to foster transnational cooperation between vocational education stakeholders.



MOBILITY

- Recognition of higher education degrees and professional qualifications
- **+ €26 billion for Erasmus +** (2021-2027), an increase of almost 80% compared to the previous budget



Mobility: a driving force to strengthen European citizenship and increase youth employability

