



YOUTH AND PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

Opinion Articles



Youth in the young Latin America

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Latin America is one of the regions in the world with larger numbers of young population: about 38% of the population in Central America is young, a multicultural and multi-ethnic region, with quite significant development gaps between urban and rural areas and a region characterised by high migration flows.

Bearing in mind this combination of a demographic load and high diversity, young people of this region face even higher challenges: regarding access to the job market; the young unemployment rate is around 11%, in contrast to the average 5% in the general scale. This fact indicates the presence of informal and low-paid employment, as well.

Regarding this last, the transition from the school to the labour market that indeed was already raising challenges regarding access and permanence in the educative systems. Nowadays, it adds the uncertainties in regard to the schemes and fields of the job of the future, as well as some socio-economic conditions increasingly precarious.

In view of this situation, answers are needed for that young population who nowadays has incomplete education and who has a lack of educative and labour alternatives – population that is majority in our countries –. Also for the children and their communities who in the future should count with better capabilities for the continuing education and the adaptation.

The recommendations to address these gaps in the education and the labour structures include assuming the informality, which marks the path towards employment of young people

in order to create processes for a realistic formalisation of their work. While transforming in a big scale the training that does not meet the needs of young people from rural areas or low income young people who live in zones with more access to opportunities.

It is about crucial measures in light of the demographic bonus; that potential advantage that a society has during a period of time in which the number of people in a working age is higher than the number of economic dependent ones. During that period of time, theoretically, the productive potential of the economy is solid, the social and individual savings as well as the investment are sustainable and there is a window of a unique potential that is not simultaneous in all the countries and which is finite. In Central America, this period is expected to end between the years 2035 and 2050 in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Belize and El Salvador, while in 2020 in Costa Rica and Panama.

Once this period is concluded, “a society gets old”, people who are considered to be in a dependent age become majority and it gets challenging to promote the development rates: the growth of the GDP gets slower, there are less primary savers and whit it, less opportunities to accumulate and to invest. That is the situation that countries such as England, Italy, France, Germany and Japan are facing and that some countries like Canada, Australia, United States, Russia and Korea will be facing soon.

As we can see, our region is experiencing this potential stage with limitations that can drive us to higher exclusion gaps.



Strengthening institutionalism and policies through participation

Enhancing human development and social inclusion requires solid institutions, with an effective guiding capacity that encourages public investment. It requires an increasingly dynamic management that promotes the dialogue between the sectors and policies which impact we can evaluate and improve.

To face these challenges, in February of 2013, the Central America Integration System aimed to “have a regional space of convergence and generation of proposals of integral public policies for the youth.” Authorities and Youth representatives included, in the Agenda of the Regional Integration, the creation of a Central America Forum of Youth Institutions whose constitutive act raised the need of investing in the fields of health, employment, education, culture, sexuality and recreation

In Costa Rica, in 2017, once a higher participation from civil society and a variety of expressions in the institutional structures was acquired, the National Council of Youth was created, which the President of the Republic coordinates. This space brings together the National Assembly of the youth, the government authorities and observers from civil society for accountability and exchange.

Moreover, since 2018 our Council of the Youth introduced an updated public policy from a very consistent consulting process and our Vice ministry of Youth that works together with the Central America Agriculture Council on the attention of the young people in rural areas. This last associated with the strategies of two administrations: one focused on the eradication of poverty. The second one that evolves from there to an integral attention to the human security with some mainstays such as employment, agriculture promotion, violence prevention and the community development in vulnerable areas.

Only a public policy managed in an integral way and with sense or urgency in youth matters will prevent us to inherit a liability hard to handle for the new generations and a reality with high risks in which nobody, no matter their age, could feel secure.



Youth Policies in the European Union

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The European Union has a new Youth Strategy since the 1st January 2019 and for the period 2019-2027. It aims to empower young people and focuses on the 3 following areas of action: «engage, connect, empower». The new European Youth Strategy promotes the participation of young people in civic and political life, volunteering, different forms of mobility, solidarity, youth empowerment through quality, innovation and the recognition of youth work. Young people's opinion must be heard by policy because they are the ones who will live with the consequences of the decisions which are being taken now. For this reason, the Strategy is built upon the issues raised by European young people through the Structured Dialogue. It also seeks to provide young people from diverse social, economic and cultural background with the necessary means to address existing and new challenges.

Structured Dialogue has been an important part of the current Strategy which in the new Youth Strategy is known as European Youth Dialogue. It is a tool to ensure young people's participation in designating the youth policies of the EU. The feedback of the participation of 50.000 young people in Structured Dialogue were 11 Goals (Connecting EU with Youth, Equality of All Genders, Inclusive Societies, Information & Constructive Dialogue, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Moving Rural Youth Forward, Quality Employment for All, Quality Learning, Space and Participation for All, Sustainable Green Europe, Youth Organisations and European Programs) which are a substantial part of the Youth Strategy and identify areas that affect young people's lives.

The challenges that European young people face can be seen in a Eurobarometer published survey (March 2019). Young people were asked which priorities the EU should have. Their first four priorities for the European policies were the environment and fighting climate change (67%), improving education and training (56%), fighting poverty and economic and social inequalities (56%) and boosting unemployment (49%). All European countries do not face the same problems to the same extent. After the crisis of 2008 youth unemployment has been increased in the EU especially in Mediterranean countries like Greece (40%), Spain (31,7%) and Italy (30,5%). Youth unemployment is a huge issue in the EU, because it creates big inequalities among the European population. For this reason, European leaders have committed to bring at least 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion by 2020.

Among the measures that EU considers for tackling youth unemployment is the new Youth Strategy which provides a clear link between EU youth policy implementation and related program activities in Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. The EU Youth Strategy together with the funding programs strives to improve the living conditions of young people in Europe and diminish youth unemployment. Erasmus+ is the most successful European program. It is an efficient tool which promotes adult learning, especially for new skills and those skills that the labour market requires. Erasmus+ facilitates young people to learn a new language, familiarize themselves with different labour contexts, test themselves in other job markets, help them connect with people from all over the world. Solidarity Corps finances volunteering activities, training and



projects for young people all around European Union. The Solidarity Corps supports vulnerable people and contributes to the increase of solidarity for disadvantage young population. It is an extremely motivated experience for young people who want to help, learn and develop. Both programs support vulnerable people and are sources for youth empowerment, especially for young people with fewer opportunities.

According to the challenges that young people face, each Member State can identify its own fields of action to implement the Youth Strategy and build its own national and regional youth policy. The European Commission proposes the Member States should adopt National Action Plans with self-chosen targets and indicators. Young people should be involved in the whole procedure for the implementation of EU initiatives that affect them. A cross sectoral cooperation will contribute to successful implementation of the Strategy in European, national and regional level. Member States must find the means to reach a wider spectrum of young people especially those from disadvantage and hard to reach groups. In this part quality youth work and well training youth workers may successfully contribute to support and inform disadvantaged young people and those live in remote, rural areas about their chances for participation in European programs and ways for improving their knowledge and acquiring new skills to deal with the competitive demands of a new digitalized era. In addition, youth work and youth workers may have a significant role for the empowerment of young people, the prevention of discrimination, the eradication of youth poverty and the support of social inclusion.

The European Union sets out youth as a priority among different policy areas and promote cross sectoral cooperation in European and national level. It identifies the significance of Youth Strategy for strengthening European young people to reach their potential, face their challenges, increase their participation in policy making and contribute to a prosperous future for them and the European Union.



Modifying the status quo: Young people as actors for peace*

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International cooperation has been transforming itself in close Youth against the background of violent conflicts

One sixth of the world's population (that is, 1.2 billion people) are between 15 and 24 years old. The participation and inclusion of these young people in politics, the economy and society is a key challenge, especially for countries of the global South. Over recent decades, the United Nations (UN) has continually tackled the various challenges facing this section of the population. In its World Youth Report, it analyses both specific aspects and global themes, highlights their importance for young people and refers to the challenges presented by contexts of violence.

Young people in areas of violent conflict are viewed with ambivalence. On the one hand, children are the principal victims of violence and it is considered a violation of international humanitarian law to recruit them by force. On the other hand, young people are often perceived as potential aggressors. In areas without armed conflicts young people are seen as a major threat to security and stability, especially when they are poor and belong to marginalized social groups.

The way society treats young people is of crucial importance. Depending on the response they receive to their requests and suggestions, they may make a constructive contribution to social development or they may withdraw into parallel worlds of gangs, drugs or organised crime. However, UN Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security does not present young

people as a problem, but points to them as important actors for security, peace and constructive change.

Young people in post-conflict societies

Countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Mozambique, South Africa, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Cambodia and East Timor have something in common: after an internal war in the 90s, there is now a first post-conflict generation made up of people aged between 15 and 25.

After the war, the possibilities of formally involving young people improved in many countries. In the first decade of peace their attendance at secondary schools increased considerably and opportunities for them to participate politically also increased, especially where the armed conflict and its ending were accompanied by a regime change and an opening up.

The new generation is not apolitical, but they prefer other forms of participation such as social networks or show greater commitment to civil society. This also applies to the post-conflict societies of El Salvador, Nicaragua and South Africa. Young people principally become involved within civil society and their commitment to the political system is different from that of adults: their participation in elections is lower; on the other hand, they are more prepared to protest.

It cannot from any point of view be said that young people are not interested in politics. They have often expressed the feeling



of being 'manipulated' by politicians. Their trust of political parties is as weak as their hope of being able to change anything through elections.

Blocked transitions

All over the world young people are facing a level of unemployment triple that of adults. In El Salvador, Nicaragua and South Africa the greatest challenge lies in generating more jobs that would allow young people to take the step to economic independence. Young people say that education does not give them the knowledge and skills needed in the labour market and that earnings are usually too low for them to live on.

Young people in these countries are also sceptical of adult society and those responsible for taking decisions. They have little hope that their active participation might achieve any major change. As in other post-conflict societies, those who are within the armed conflict continue to control access to social and economic resources. A 'bottleneck' is then formed, through which only young people who join the dominant networks and submit to the (existing) structure can pass. This represents a time bomb for economic development and the future of democracies, which could explode at any time in the inter-generational conflict.

Participation of young people on an equal footing

The involvement and active participation of young people are essential in building peace. Consultations organised by the UN show that young people are well aware of the framework they need in order to make a contribution to peace and security.

In Colombia, four months after the agreement was signed between the Government and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), an attempt was made to find out what young people understood peace to be. According to what they said, that concept encompasses social reconstruction through reconciliation and memory, justice, guaranteed human rights and equal opportunities.

Generally speaking, there are two partially linked themes dominating the international debate: the prevention of violence and improved training, with the aim of facilitating the transition

from educational establishments into the labour market. It is assumed that if young people are not attending educational establishments and have not joined the labour market either, then they may easily be recruited by violent groups.

In reality, as has been shown in post-conflict societies, access to the labour market does not only depend on individual skills and 'fine-tuned' training, but is also subject to the power relations at political and social level. The main thing is to change social conditions so that those young people can play their part as autonomous political and social actors, with their desires, needs and ideas for the future. The latest World Youth Report (2015) suggests, among other things, strengthening joint management by and representation of young people (especially women) in parliamentary forums and other institutions responsible for taking decisions.

Young people are not asking for handouts or for a favour that can be granted or refused; they have rights they must be able to claim without fear of repression or criminalization.

*This is a summary of an article in German, published with the title "Den Status quo verändern - Jugendliche als Friedensakteure" in GIGA

Focus Global No 01, 3/2018, <www.giga-hamburg.de/de/publikation/den-status-quo-veraendern-jugendliche-als-friedensakteure>, urn:nbn:de:0168-ssoar-56619-4.

The full version was translated by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/nuso/14623.pdf>



Effective Youth Participation - “Young People and Agenda 2030”

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We have often heard that young people are not the future but the present. Yet what is the current situation of young people as leaders at the present time? Why is this important and how can we empower them?

Let us begin answering these questions with some figures. According to the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, 42% of the world’s population is under 25 years old, and 85% of the world’s young people live in developing countries.

These are two interesting statistics that enable us to identify not only characteristics of young people as a world group, but shared challenges. Almost half the world is under 25 years of age and of this population group, 85% are geographically located in countries considered to be developing nations.

Let us focus on Latin America and the Caribbean, where approximately 18% of the population is under 30 years old. To go into greater detail, according to official figures, approximately 21.63% of the population of member countries of the Andean Community of Nations is within the age range of the population considered young by their respective legislations: Peru with a youth population of 26.5%, Colombia with a youth population of 12.73%, Bolivia with a youth population of 23.61%, Chile with a youth population of 24.3% and Ecuador with a youth population of 20%.

These figures clearly reflect the importance of young people to the population, both at global and national level, and the plan-

ning required by governments, not only to meet the specific demands and requirements of this group of the population but also to involve them directly in the process of designing these interventions.

But let us return for a moment to the international arena, and examine the mechanisms for youth participation. The United Nations, recognising the demographic importance of young people and their capacity for generating social development, has undertaken various initiatives from the international community to empower young people in their role of achieving Sustainable Development. The first United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, held in 1992 – “The Earth Summit”, recognised that achieving sustainable development would require the active participation of all actors in society.

The Agenda 21 document formalized this participation via nine sectors recognised by the United Nations as valid channels of communication and for channelling requests, whose participation will be facilitated in United Nations activities related to sustainable development. These are known as “Major Groups” and have been referred to in various resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly as “Major Groups and other Stakeholders”. The Major Group for Children and Youth is one of these nine Major Groups officially recognised by the United Nations and it receives its mandate through the General Assembly of the United Nations, bilateral agreements and/or terms of reference with specific entities.



At the level of global agendas, the Global Forum on Youth Policies in Baku – Azerbaijan, the World Conference on Youth in Colombo – Sri Lanka and more recently, the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the Youth Forum in Portugal – Lisbon, reflect this commitment of the international community to establishing a common agenda for youth development.

The Peruvian government is not indifferent to this commitment. During 2018, I had the opportunity to serve as National Director of Promotion, Organisation and Management at the National Secretariat for Youth, a leading body in youth policy in the Peruvian government.

From this Secretariat we designed, along with the National Centre for Strategic Planning – CEPLAN, a process for the participation and double accountability for youth within the framework of constructing the 2050 vision of the country. This was the first time young people had the opportunity to play a formal role in formulating this process.

The process made it possible to establish 26 decentralised forums in each region of the country and in the Lima Metropolitan area, where young people had the opportunity, along with local government, to identify a common agenda of prioritised demands from young people, framed within the Sustainable Development Goals. They also chose delegates to a national plenary meeting. At the national plenary, they undertook a democratic exercise to re-establish national priorities for youth, identifying as priorities Gender Equality, Sustainability and Integrity. These were formalised in Ministerial Resolution 523-2018-MINEDU, which formally turned them into policy and created the Working Group responsible for drawing up the action lines and goals to achieve integrated development and exercise the citizenship of the Young person by 2021.

But in addition we managed to establish a double accountability mechanism as, once priorities have been identified, the Peruvian State will go back to the regions and to the Lima Metropolitan area via the decentralised forums, where it will report on the progress of these priorities. Youth organisations will similarly report on their actions concerning the fulfilment of requests they themselves have prioritised.

We have been able to observe the demographic importance of youth and the trend from global to local level of dealing with this group not just as a beneficiary group but also as a group with decision-making ability.

The experience of Peru proves that it is possible to create a national agenda for youth by starting from young people themselves.



Youth and participation in the labour force in the European Union and in Latin America and the Caribbean

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The world labour market has seen a deterioration over the past 25 years in its principal indicators, revealing a deepening of social divides.

The level of labour force participation among the adult population has gone down from 70% in 1993 to 66.9% in 2018. But the decline is steeper among young people (between 15 and 24 years old), from 56.9% to 42.0% respectively over the same years. The 2018 unemployment level was 17.6 % in LAC and 17.1% in the EU, tripling the adult levels in their respective regions.

In 2018, 61% of the active population were working in the informal economy. The precarious nature of the labour market is even more marked in countries of low and medium income, where a quarter of the working population live in conditions of extreme or moderate poverty.

The economic growth seen in the last 25 years in the countries of the EU and LAC have made it possible to achieve better levels of schooling among the young, better access to health and greater life expectancy, the participation of women in the labour market, and the development of social security systems, among other things. However, the increase in the dependency ratio and economic projections for future years at global level have set new challenges in terms of the way work is organised and resources are distributed in society.

Young people should not be viewed as a homogeneous social group. Yet they do obey a social construction. The situation of young men and women varies throughout the course of their lives in line with the social, cultural, economic and geographical conditions of the society in which they live.

As a result of the effects of globalization, recurrent economic crises and the structural problems that already exist in the countries of both regions, the trajectory of the younger population increasingly fluctuates between educational systems, unemployment, work, family chores, and inactivity. On the other hand, popular consciousness and legal regulations contribute to the exclusion of young women from public life. In periods of economic crisis, they are more likely to be unemployed and to carry greater burdens of unpaid work. Women's level of participation at global level has gone down since 2005, when it averaged 50.2%, to 47.9% in 2018, while the rate for men has remained around 75%.

Because of their gender, women face inequalities compared to their male colleagues, and these are seen beyond the divide in participation alone, in greater unemployment levels, over-qualification for the posts they do access, workplace segregation, unpaid work, casual work, salary differences, and workplace bullying, among other things.



As unequal gender relationships are at the centre of our societies, the absence **of policies to tackle unpaid care work** which is mainly done by women from a young age, may be the main element hindering progress in society.

Faced with these realities and aware of the setbacks and exclusion suffered by young people, the various different actors (Governments and civil organisations of the countries of the EU and LAC) have developed actions to help remove some of the obstacles identified in the labour market. Among these we may highlight: the design of policies that incorporate the younger population in employment strategies; greater investment in improving young people's qualifications to the level sought by employers; the development of professional careers guidance services and advice to boost entrepreneurship; the promotion of training and employment opportunities abroad; support for quality internships and apprenticeships; improvements to structures for nurseries and childcare.

In 2018, the EU-LAC Foundation and EuroSocial+ carried out a public consultation to identify good practice in the inclusion of young women in the labour market, for the purpose of stimulating dialogue and mutual learning between organisations of both regions (EU and LAC). The results were published by the Foundation and are available at: <https://eulacfoundation.org/en/documents/good-practices-and-innovations-inclusion-young-women-labour-market-latin-america-caribbean>

All the initiatives have innovative conceptual and methodological approaches that can be the basis for exchange and reflection on the factors for success and for making an impact on public policy to include young women in the labour market. Among these we may highlight initiatives which seek to ensure women can access decent employment. In the face of the volatility of formal employment and policies to make work more flexible, these therefore promote the development of inclusive internships or work experience schemes with businesses, which help develop the skills of the people involved. They promote initiatives in corporate social responsibility with a gender focus as preparation for the fulfilment of labour rights.

To overcome the gender digital divide, they encourage educational processes so that young women can master basic computer and IT skills. They highlight innovative experiences that

promote university education for women in scientific sectors and their inclusion in technical posts and in the management of institutions in the public sector.

Some practices focus their attention on the social tolerance of violence aimed at maintaining the sexual division of work. In this connection they promote gender awareness among women to help them break the cycle of violence by using their own empowerment and give them the technical knowledge to develop economic enterprises which will help them generate their own income.

In accordance with evaluations made of the policies and actions implemented by various actors, it has been possible to observe that in some cases these did succeed in having an effect on the causes of inequality, but efforts are as yet insufficient, as seen in labour market indicators for the world's population of young people.

To sum up, there is no single recipe for including the younger population in the labour market. Policy design depends on the nature and characteristics of the context of each country. Governments and social partners are the actors who must identify the options for viable policies to promote youth employment.

Policies must take as their starting point the heterogeneous nature of youth populations. They must be comprehensive policies, integrated into the economic, social and environmental spheres, linking the multi-level actions between different actors.

Economic policies must promote the generation of employment and adequate coordination of actions with the private sector, including from the perspective of environmental sustainability. Social policies must generate better employment opportunities for young people, overcoming gender prejudices with policies of joint responsibility in unpaid work and promoting comprehensive social protection policies (strategies for decent work for the active population, and conditions for dignity in old age when people retire from the labour market).

Greater and better participation by the younger population in the labour market also requires renewed regulatory frameworks that lead to policies that are rights-based, inclusive, par-



ticipatory, with a gender perspective and based on evidence. This presupposes the need to ensure sufficient resources for them to be implemented and for accountability processes to be drawn up. The sustainability of the results achieved by these policies will be the most appropriate vehicle to achieve SDG 8: **Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.**

One of the principles of Agenda 2030 is that of “not leaving anyone behind”. In this sense it is essential for governments of the countries now making up the EU and LAC to be aware of what could happen if they do not place the needs of young people at the centre of their policies. A younger population which today lacks opportunities for development will in the future be unable to make much contribution to the wealth of nations and therefore overcome their current situation of social exclusion.



Youth in Europe

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In 2019, Europe finally regained a stable path towards recovery, with growth in the economies of all Member States. Participation in the labour market consolidated its increase in all Member States, and, at 68.6%, it is now higher than before the economic crisis. Similarly, the unemployment rate for the general population decreased for the fifth year in a row and is drawing below to the pre-crisis rate (7.2%).

While the situation varies greatly among Member States, the recovery in labour market participation has not been the same for all groups, and age has been the main driving factor here. In fact, while the employment rate of older workers, aged 50–64 years, has increased remarkably, from 55.4% in 2007 to 66.2% in 2018, the participation rate of young people (15–24 years) are below pre-crisis levels. In particular, the employment rate of young people is now still at 35.4%, against a rate of 37.2% in 2007.

Similar trends are recorded in unemployment statistics. While the unemployment rate is now below the level recorded in 2007 for all age groups, the level of unemployment is still higher for young people (15.2% in 2018 against 15.7% in 2007) than for prime-age (6.3% against 6.3% in 2007) and older workers (5% against 5.2% in 2007).

These data provide a brighter picture of labour market participation in Europe than previously, with considerably lower unemployment rates and higher employment rates than during the crisis, but young people are still struggling to get a foothold

in the labour market in this time of recovery. This is particularly the case in South Mediterranean countries that were hit harder by the economic crisis. While the European average unemployment rate for youth is 15.2% in 2018, this level is still 39.9% in Greece, 34% in Spain, 32.2% in Italy. Similarly, against a youth employment rate in EU equal to 35.4%, the share of young people at work in Greece is only 14.4%, 17.7% in Italy, 21.1% in Spain, this indicates that labour market inclusion of youth has deteriorated due to the crisis, with divergent trends against the EU average. Furthermore, it is important to highlight that in these countries the entrance of young people in the labour market is characterized by high level of precarization, with short term temporary or part-time contracts, confirming their propensity of being the last to enter and the first to exit in case of economic downturns.

While spending a limited period in unemployment may be considered a stressful but normal part of the school-to-work transition for young people, protracted disengagement from the labour market or education can seriously damage their employability and future careers. In fact, it is well established in the research literature that lengthy periods when they are not working or studying may scar young people for life. These scars can have a negative effect on future employment outcomes and earnings, as well as on physical and mental well-being, with the risk of a general disengagement from life and society.

This is the case of NEETs, young people who are Not in Employment, Education and Training. According to the latest Eu-



rostat data, in 2018 the share of young people aged 15–24 in Europe who were not in employment, education or training was 10.5%. In absolute numbers, this corresponds to around 5.5 million young people who belonged to the NEET group. The prevalence of NEETs varies substantially among Member States. The Netherlands, Germany, Czechia and Luxembourg record the lowest NEET rates (around 6%). Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Italy record the highest NEET rates (greater than 13%), which implies that around one out of six young people in these Member States is not in employment, education or training. In absolute terms, the population is highest in Italy, with more than one million young people belonging to the NEET group.

In order to promote policies to reintegrate young people into the labour market and to reduce the risk of long term exclusion, the European commission and its Member States has started to implement the Youth Guarantee since 2014. With the common target of reducing the NEET rate, the aim of the Youth Guarantee is to ensure that all young people under the age of 25 receive a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education. Through early activation and a personalised and integrated approach, the Youth Guarantee disaggregates the policy offer and aims to offer each NEET the measure most adapted to their needs – whether work, education or training.

While Member States have been making considerable efforts to deliver on the Youth Guarantee, some important challenges persist such as reaching youth and involve them in the programme as well as to provide them quality offer of job and education. For this reason it is important that the new President of the European Commission, Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen, has confirmed the intention of making the Youth Guarantee as a permanent instrument to fight youth unemployment and to ensure that it delivers the promise of integration of young people in the labour market.

EU-LAC Foundation's Activities



EU-LAC Foundation, CIDOB, CRIES, GIGA (2019)

Why should the European Union have any relevance for Latin America and the Caribbean?

EU-LAC Foundation: Hamburg

[...]

EUROSociAL, EU-LAC Foundation (2019)

How to generate employability for Youth? Innovative experiences of formation alternance in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union. In Spanish:

EUROSociAL: Madrid.

[...]





Catherine Paquette, IdA, AFD, EU-LAC Foundation, IRD (2019)

The Sustainable City, a key driver for social transformation in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean

Institut des Amériques, Agence Française de Développement, EU-LAC Foundation: Paris Vicente Donato y Christian Haedo (2019)

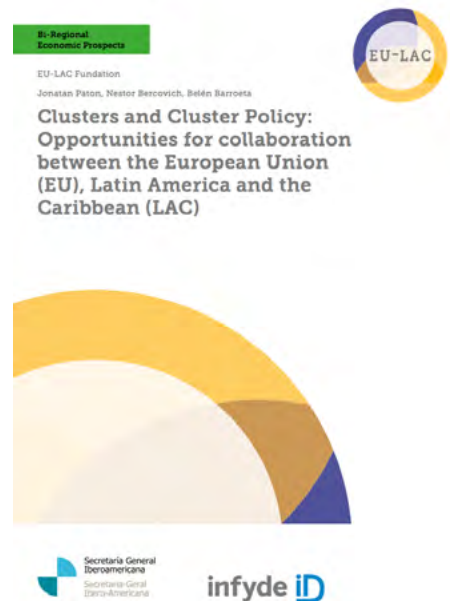
[...]

EU-LAC Foundation, SEGIB, INFYDE (2018)

Clúster y políticas de clúster: oportunidades de colaboración entre la Unión Europea (UE), América Latina y el Caribe (ALC).

EU-LAC Foundation: Hamburg

[...]



EU-LAC Foundation, GIGA, FLACSO Chile (2018)

Clusters and Cluster Policy: Opportunities for collaboration between the European Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

EU-LAC Foundation: Hamburg

[...]





Maria Rosa Renzi (Coordinator)

Good practices and innovations for the inclusion of young women in the labour market in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union



Fundación EU-LAC, EUROsociAL (2018)

Good practices and innovations for the inclusion of young women in the labour market in Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU

EU-LAC Foundation: Hamburg.

[...]

Events of the Foundation



Hamburg, Germany. September-November.

Latin America and the Caribbean Fall Festival 2019 Edition.

The “Lateinamerika Herbst” Festival takes place every year in Hamburg since 2014. Its aim is to promote knowledge and visibility of Latin America and the Caribbean through a wide range of events and activities. For the third consecutive year, the EU-LAC Foundation coordinated the activities, with the support of the City of Hamburg, the Latin American and Caribbean Embassies in Berlin and their Consulates in Hamburg. The central theme of the 2019 edition was “Science & Knowledge”, which included 90 events attracting around 11,500 spectators.

Design of the official image:

Javier Sepúlveda, student at Universidad de Concepción, Chile.

[...]



Hamburg, Germany. 24-25 September, 2019.

“Youth and Citizenship in the UE and LAC” Seminar with the GIGA Institute.

The EU-LAC Foundation and GIGA-ILAS (Germany) organised the International Seminar “Youth and Citizenship in the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean”, with the aim of creating a broad debate on the challenges, opportunities and deficits for the active participation of young people in different political and social spaces.

The Seminar was the inaugural event of the 2019 edition of the Latin American and Caribbean Fall, whose ceremony took place in the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

[...]

Buenos Aires, Argentina. 17-18 October, 2019.

Meeting of the Social Circus: “Successful experiences in working with young people in situations of social vulnerability.”

This event was organised by Circo del Sur (Argentina) and Carampa Escuela de Circo (Spain) and selected by the EU-LAC Foundation in the framework of an Annual Call for Co-financing of events on topics relevant to the Bi-Regional Association between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of the event was to present successful experiences in activities with young people in situation and social vulnerability.

[...]





Montevideo, Uruguay. 2-3 October, 2019

IX EU-LAC Reflection Forum: “Building inclusive societies under the new development paradigm”.

The Forum was organised by the Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the OECD Development Centre, the EUROsociAL+ Programme, ECLAC and SEGIB.

The Forum aimed to address how social cohesion remains one of the main issues on both sides of the Atlantic to advance sustainable development, specifically examining the capacities of States, and highlighting how national policies and international cooperation efforts are evolving or could evolve further towards reducing vulnerabilities and inequalities.

[...]

Hamburg, Germany. 24 October, 2019.

Debate on the Internationalisation of the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean SMEs.

Organised by the EU-LAC Foundation in cooperation with Lateinamerika Verein (LAV- Germany) at the Bucerius Law School. From a study on the internationalisation of SMEs commissioned and supported by the EU-LAC Foundation, Professor Florence Pinot de Villechenon, Director of the Centre d'Études et de Recherche Amérique Latine Europe (CERALE-France), discussed the incentives for Latin American companies to access the European market, as well as the barriers they have.

[...]



Bayreuth, Germany. 25 October, 2019.



Establishing transnational business partnerships between Latin America and Caribbean and the EU through SMEs: Challenges and Opportunities.

This event was organised by the EU-LAC Foundation in cooperation with University of Bayreuth (Germany) and its institute for research on SMEs Betriebswirtschaftliches Forschungszentrum für Fragen der Mittelständischen Wirtschaft e.V. (BFM) with the support of the BAYLAT network (Germany). From a study on the internationalisation of 225 SMEs from nine Latin American countries, professor Pinot de Villechenon, Director of the Centre d'Études et de Recherche Amérique Latine Europe (CERALE), reported on the ways and means of Latin American companies in the European market. From this, opportunities for greater cooperation between European, Latin American and Caribbean SMEs were discussed with the public.

The Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, Paola Amadei, presented the mandate of the Foundation and its activities.

[...]

Genoa, Italy 13-14 November, 2019.

X EU-LAC Reflection Forum: ‘The role of culture and creative sectors in the bi-regional relation’.

This event was held under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Italy and Regione Liguria, with the support of Comune di Genova, Camera di Commercio di Genova and Regione itself.

The Forum took the form of a two-day discussion session of Senior Officials of the 61 EU-LAC member States and of the European Union, from the Departments of Culture of the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs and from the respective Ministries of Culture or other relevant Governmental Agencies, as well as with a few cultural experts and managers and further relevant programmes.

The objective of this Forum was to contribute to the reflection that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both regions initiated during the II Meeting in July 2018 in Brussels, in whose declaration “(the Ministers) mandated senior officials to carry out reflection and consultations with relevant partners on the role of the cultural and creative sectors in the bi-regional relation”.

[...]





Sevillae, Spain. 14-15 November, 2019.

In-betweeners in Turbulent Times: Migrants in the Epicentre of Crises in Europe and Latin America.

This event was selected by the EU-LAC Foundation in the framework of the Annual Call for Co-financing of events on topics relevant to the Biregional Partnership between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The event, organised by a group of researchers from both regions of the IMISCOE research group with the support of the University of Seville and the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) Ecuador, aimed to promote an open and intense debate on the wider implications of current migration trends for Latin America and Europe. Building upon existing knowledge, it situated the topic in both a global, regional and inter-regional perspective, bringing about novel and interdisciplinary perspectives on such trends and their implications as well as policy responses.

[...]



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