

Facing Youth Unemployment

What can the EU and the local-regional level do together?

Brussels, 5th of October 2012

Emilia-Romagna Region EU office - Avenue de L'Yser 19, 1040

Concept note

On average more than one in five young people on the European labour market cannot find a job, and in some member states youth unemployment rates are above 50%. Unemployment is rising to yet higher rates, and lasting longer and longer; while some 7.5 million young people are neither in employment, nor in education or training (NEETs). Effectively, the situation is bleak for young people and the European Union is seriously undermining its collective future. The consequences of Youth unemployment and poor employment (precarious, part-time, low end and dead end work) are long-term and, on this scale, potentially disastrous; we are at risk of a lost or 'scarred' generation, with major economic and social repercussions for society at large.

What is Europe doing about this? How can local and regional authorities best work with the Commission and most effectively act on the ground?

This seminar brings together key representatives from the most relevant areas of the European Commission and local and regional administrations to learn about current and unfolding **EU policies regarding youth employment and the initiatives, programmes, funds and support available**, or soon to be available, to support local and regional actors in their efforts to tackle youth unemployment and poor employment. Likewise, the seminar is an opportunity for the Commission to listen and learn from local and regional institutions, which are directly involved with the immediate realities and concerns of European citizens.



9h15 Registration

9h30 Introduction

- **Lorenza Badiello**, Head of the EU Office, Emilia-Romagna Region

09h40 Keynote speech

- **Nicola De Michelis**, Deputy Head of Cabinet, Cabinet Commissioner for Regional policies J.Hahn

Panel Discussion

Local Development Strategies to Advance Youth Employment

Chair – Luca Scarpiello, Vice-President European Youth Forum

10h00 speakers:

- **Valentina Polylas**, Policy Officer Education, Youth and Culture, Emilia-Romagna Region EU Office
- **Matteo Marchi**, Councillor for Employment, Regional Economy, Industry, crafts and Trade, University and Research, Youth policies and Vocational Training, Cesena Municipality (IT)
- **Lia Montalti**, Councillor for Environment Sustainability, Energy Policies and and European Affairs, Cesena Municipality (IT)
- **Andy Smith**, Councillor for Regeneration, Highways and Transportation, Thurrock Council (UK)
- **Del Goddard**, Councillor for Business and Regeneration, London Borough of Enfield (UK)

Panel Discussion

EU policies and programmes to support youth employment: 2013 and beyond

Chair – Ian Goldring- Lead Expert of the URBACT II JobTown Network & ProjectWorks director

11h00 speakers:

- **Robert Strauss** Head of Unit , Employment analysis, DG EMPL
- **Marko Curavic**, Head of Unit , Entrepreneurship, DG ENTER
- **Felix Rohn**, Coordinator for Transfer of Innovation projects, Leonardo da Vinci, DG EAC
- **Giorgio Guazzugli-Marini**, Programme Manager - EU policies - Youth in Action , DG EAC

12.30 End of the seminar and sandwich lunch