

Topic B: Employment

Introduction:

Twenty-seven million people around the world lost their jobs in 2010, the UN said in a report released on the opening of the World Economic Forum.

About 12 million of the newly unemployed were in North America, Japan and Western Europe, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said.

The jobless total jumped by nearly four million in both Eastern Europe and Latin America while unemployment rates were more stable last year in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

The figures point to the need for a "global jobs pact" to boost employment around the world, the ILO said.

It is inevitable to notice how the European Crises has affected employment rates in Europe as well as worldwide.

This year's Employment in Europe report, the 22nd in the series appears during a very important time for the European Union. Despite moderate signs of economic recovery, European labour market are still suffering from the aftermath of the economic crises and will continue to need to be supported by appropriate crisis exist strategies. Furthermore, it is necessary to reformulate policy priorities for the post -2012 period in line with the framework set by the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Europe 2020 initiatives :

Europe 2020 is the EU's growth strategy with five ambitious objectives - on employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy - to be reached by 2020.

The three [flagship initiatives](#) of the Europe 2020 strategy that fall under the areas of employment, social affairs and inclusion are:

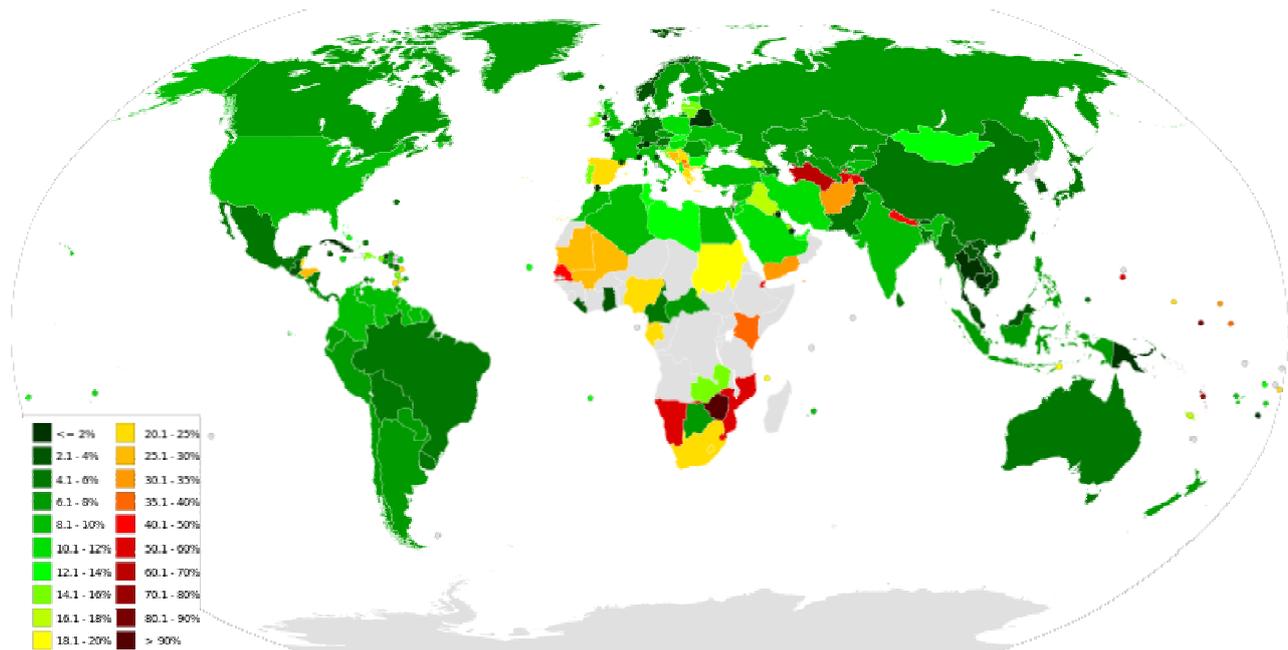
- ⤴ Youth on the move: aims to improve young people's chances of finding a job by helping students and trainees gain experience in other countries, and improving the quality and attractiveness of education and training in Europe;
- ⤴ An agenda for new skills and jobs: aims to give fresh momentum to labour market reforms to help people gain the right skills for future jobs, to create new jobs and overhaul EU employment legislation;
- ⤴ European platform against poverty and social exclusion: aims to bolster work at all levels to reach the agreed EU headline target of lifting at least 20 million people out of poverty and exclusion by 2020.

for more information go to: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

Responsibility for policy in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion is shared between the EU and its member countries. The European Commission:

- ⤴ coordinates and monitors national policies
- ⤴ promotes the sharing of best practices in fields like employment, poverty and social exclusion and pensions
- ⤴ makes laws and monitors their implementation in areas like rights at work and coordination of social security schemes.

World map of countries by rate of unemployment



European employment strategy:

In order to speed up to the economic growth and react to the crises, Europe needs to focus its goals in a coordinated manner and with an eye on priorities.

The Annual Growth Survey (AGS) charts a clear direction on where Europe should be heading in the next cycle of the "European Semester", changing the way governments shape their economic and fiscal policies.

In line with the Europe 2020 strategy, the European Employment Strategy seeks to create more and better jobs throughout the EU.

To reach these objectives, the EES encourages measures to meet three headline targets by 2020:

- ▲ 75% of people aged 20-64 in work
- ▲ school drop-out rates below 10%, and at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education
- ▲ at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The actions outlined in the flagship initiative "An Agenda for new skills and jobs" are essential to meet these targets.

How does it work?

... it is very much about monitoring progress, coordinating and reporting

The European employment strategy provides a framework (the "open method of coordination") for EU countries to share information, discuss and coordinate their employment policies.

Every year, these national governments (through the Employment Committee) and the European institutions produce the "employment package":

- ▲ the **Employment Guidelines**: guidelines for national employment policies proposed by the Commission, agreed by the national governments, and adopted by the Council set out common priorities and targets

^ the National Reform Programmes (NRPs): reports delivered by the national governments and describing their employment policies, to be analysed by the Commission for compliance with the Europe 2020 targets and flagship initiatives

^ the Joint Employment Report (JER): a Commission report with a forward looking analysis, expanding on key employment messages contained in the Annual Growth Survey. It is based on the employment situation in Europe, the implementation of the Employment Guidelines, and the results of country examination of the draft National Reform Programmes by the Employment Committee.

^ Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs): Commission recommendations to national governments, accompanying the Joint Employment Report

^ The Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) (replacing the [Employment in Europe report](#)): produced on an annual basis it provides the basic analytical and statistical background to underpin the Joint Employment Report as well as other instruments key to the European Employment Strategy. Previous issues of the report can be found in the document database.

In parallel to this procedure, there is an ongoing dialogue between the Commission, national governments, trade unions, employers' bodies and the other European institutions (European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee, Committee of Regions, etc.).

... and major challenges in different action areas

Strategic objectives to promote the Commission response to unemployment and low levels of labour market participation in the EU with fore-front and innovative policy concepts are:

^ launching a “new momentum for flexicurity”, engaging all stakeholders in the reinforcement of the flexicurity components and reinforcing the monitoring mechanisms of flexicurity national arrangements

^ developing, in cooperation with EU countries and social partners, a new concept of quality of work

^ exploring the impact of employment policies, namely wages, taxation and make work pay, on the macro-economic situation of EU countries and for the EU as a whole.

^ developing guiding principles towards policies supporting job creation

^ exploring the impact of climate change on labour markets

^ youth employment

^ self-employment

... while being assisted by a number of useful sources, all contributing to the development of the EES

● European Employment Observatory (EEO): a network of independent Labour Market experts

● Mutual Learning Programme (MLP) to encourage mutual learning at all levels and to enhance the transferability of the most effective policies within key areas of the EES

EU funding programmes

The main programmes for employment and social policy are:

^ the [European Social Fund \(ESF\)](#)

^ the [PROGRESS programme](#)

^ the [European Globalisation Adjustment Fund \(EGF\)](#)

^ the [European Progress Microfinance Facility](#)

EU countries are primarily responsible for employment and social policy. EU funding in this field only aims to support and complement national efforts.

The Job Crisis in the Eurozone

http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/videos/video-news-releases/WCMS_185016/lang--en/index.htm

Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xi1Iua9s4BQ&feature=player_embedded

UN Women calls for more women and social protections in the workplace as key to global economic recovery

UN Women is calling for the urgent enforcement of policies and practices that ensure more women enter the labor market in jobs with decent working conditions and social protections

<http://www.unwomen.org/2012/07/un-women-calls-for-more-women-and-social-protections-in-the-workplace-as-key-to-global-economic-recovery/>

ILO-International Labour Organisation

official website: <http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/lang--en/index.htm>

Topics to think about, how to:

- ♣ make labour markets function better
- ♣ equip people with the right skills for employment
- ♣ improve job quality and working conditions
- ♣ create jobs.
- ♣ More women entering labor market ,social protection, gender equality