

Youth Unemployment Task Force

Title	Youth Unemployment Task Force (<i>Taskforce Jeugdwerkloosheid</i>)
Coverage	Netherlands
Organization/enterprise	Youth Unemployment Task Force has been set up by the State Secretaries for Social Affairs & Employment and for Education, Culture & Science.
Topic	Youth employment promotion
Target group and outreach	Young people aged 16 to 23
Purpose	The national initiative was established to combat rising youth unemployment. Due to a stagnating economy, youth unemployment has been rising significantly since 2000. The Youth Unemployment Task Force aims at offering young people job opportunities and thereby supporting them to become active participants in society.
Key features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Based on an integral approach from local to national level (2) Multi-stakeholder initiative including private sector, trade unions and education sector (3) Encourages private sector to create jobs for youth (4) Collects best practices
Strategy and approach	<p>In 2003 the State Secretaries for Social Affairs & Employment and for Education, Culture & Science established the Youth Unemployment Task Force to tackle more efficiently youth unemployment at the local, regional and sectoral levels. Participants include representatives of employers (Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers - VNO-NCW), education (ROC) and trade unions (FNV).</p> <p>The Task Force promotes cooperation between all stakeholders involved in the labour market and education. Together they organize several initiatives aiming to include young people in the labour market through regular employment, or alternatively internships, to enable them to acquire practical work experience.</p> <p>The Task Force advocates the need to create youth employment by making employers aware of the advantages and importance for them to hire young people. Employers are encouraged to make jobs available for youth and to register vacancies. Further contacts between young people and companies are promoted and matchmaking by mediators is supported.</p> <p>At national level the Task Force is able to increase knowledge sharing by promoting best practice examples. The Task Force also conducts valuable research on youth employment. Through special events (TV shows, competitions, activity days, etc.) the initiative is able to bring the youth employment challenge not only to the political agenda but also to the attention of the public. At regional, local and sectoral level, the Task Force joins and supports existing cooperation between stakeholders.</p> <p>Through its website, the Task Force provides information to youth and employers on opportunities, regulations and available subsidies.</p>

Partners	The Task Force was established by the Ministries of Social Affairs and Education but operated independently. It collaborated with all stakeholders involved in the labour market and education, in particular VNO-NCW (Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers), the Centre for Work & Income (CWI), the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MKB) Action Teams, employment agencies and employers from all across the Netherlands.
Major achievements	<p>The Task Force aimed at creating 40,000 jobs from 2003-2007. However, during this period, the Task Force actually managed to create 44,000 jobs for youth under 23 years.</p> <p>Major findings of research on unemployed youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study confirmed that the greatest proportion of unemployed young people (about 2/3) who were registered with the CWI went to school or found work within a few months • A core group of 35,000 unemployed young people had been seeking work for over six months. This group represents the greatest challenge • Information on choice of profession is important since 30 per cent of young people who have been long-term unemployed indicated that they had no idea what jobs they were looking for <p>The Task Force was dissolved in June 2007, but its work will be continued by other organizations.</p>
Additional information	<i>Take a bite – 2007 Youth Unemployment Task Force Action Plan. 2007. 15 pages (PDF)</i>
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Source: Youth Unemployment Task Force