

# SPECIAL COMMITTEE



TOPIC: Measures to combat the youth unemployment

WRITTEN BY: Nazlı Aksay

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS: Nazlı Aksay

Selen Ayar

Seyhan Kara

Dear Delegates;

We would like to welcome you all to the 7th annual session of FIMUN. I am very excited to be with my chairmates Seyhan and Selen. Also, I'm proud to be your committee director this year. We wish you all to be prepared for the topics we've chosen for you. Before starting with the guide I'd like to say that further research is required for our topics and if you have questions you can always contact us. We'd be happy to help you.

Our emails are;

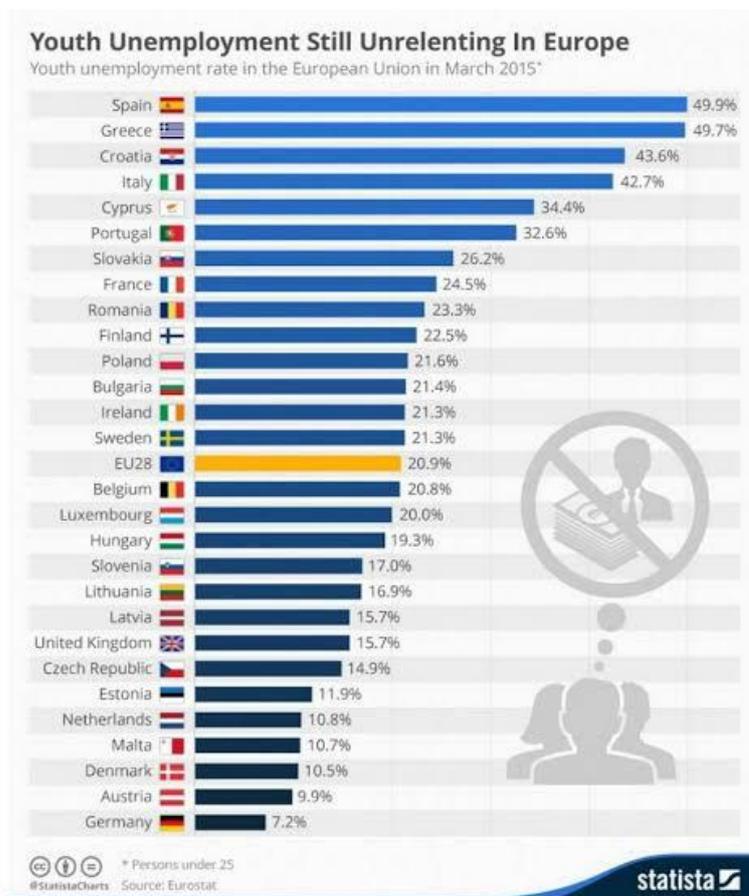
[nazli.aksay@gmail.com](mailto:nazli.aksay@gmail.com)

[seyhank03@hotmail.com](mailto:seyhank03@hotmail.com)

### ***Introduction to the topic***

Whether or not youth are enrolled in school, receiving training or working, has important implications for future economic growth, development and stability. If overlooked, youth unemployment has a potential to have significant and serious social repercussions. Youth unemployment can lead to social exclusion and unrest. Investing in decent job creation however, as well as in education and training opportunities for the youth, will help them find their place and contribute to more prosperous and stable societies.

As the debate broadens about the future of work in the context of the current industrial revolution, what seems clear is that the chronic unemployment and job instability affecting young people, in addition to their distrust of politics, hold devastating consequences for society as a whole.



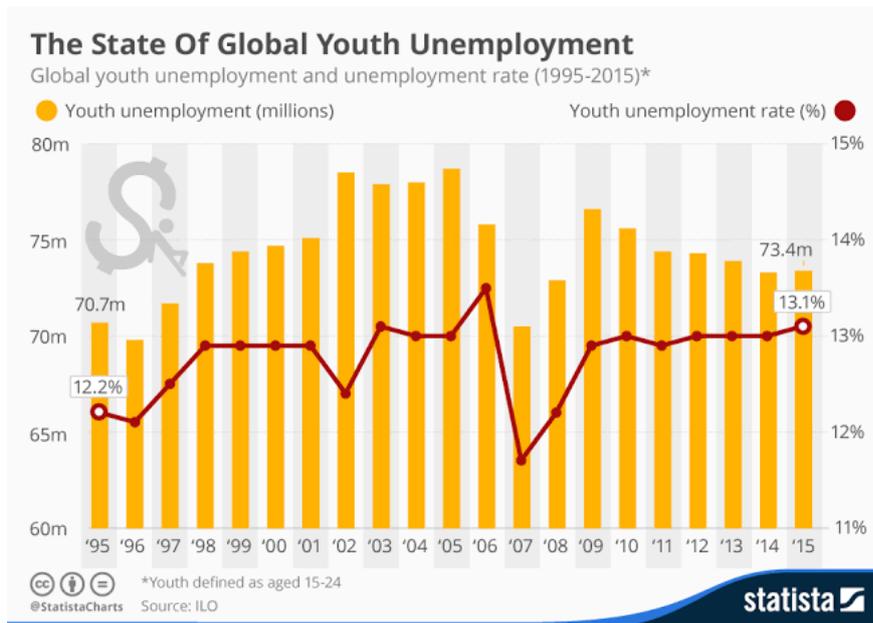
Youth have special importance for all the countries worldwide. Youth can be seen as an engine for achieving development goals. Youth is more energetic, talented, creative, open-minded, productive and dynamic and it also forms future workers, entrepreneurs, consumers and producers.

All these potentials of youth are precious resources for economies.

Better world will be created by creative and dynamic youth.

Thus, excluding youth from economies, societies and labour market is impossible.

Youth must be integrated into labour force and economies in order to achieve development goals. Higher youth unemployment is not a local or developing countries' only problem, it's a real global challenge. Therefore, it must be battled globally.



## Keywords

**Labor:** Workers in general; the working class, the workforce; sometimes specifically the labor movement, organised labor

**Youth:** childhood, child, young person, youngster; young people in a collective manner; early period of anything

**Employment:** The work or occupation for which one is used, and often paid, the state of being employed

**Empowerment:** The process of supporting another person or persons to discover and claim personal power

## Reasons of youth unemployment

### Poverty

One of the causes of unemployment among the youth today is poverty. Some areas of the country have issues with poverty. In those areas finding jobs is often more difficult for young people. They may have to stay at home to watch and raise their younger siblings while both of their parents work. Or, their communities may have few businesses available to offer vacant positions. Bringing resources to these neighbourhoods is important.

Schools could also look into developing more programs to help alleviate some of the struggles. For example, offering care for disadvantaged youth before and after the school day can give older siblings more time to seek work.

### **Poor Schools**

Young people spend a great deal of time in schools; therefore, they are seriously affected by their environments. If schools have trouble with violence or drugs, the students can become absorbed in these issues as opposed to encouraging them to find jobs.

The academics at some schools may suffer because the teachers are not provided with the necessary resources. Holding fundraisers to provide basic supplies for these schools can seriously help.

Schools can implement programs to reduce or entirely halt violence and drug usage. Parents can also work with their children at home on enrichment activities.

### **Gang Violence**

Teenagers go down a variety of different paths in life. Some of them graduate and go to study at prestigious universities. After that, they get jobs.

Others, however, become involved in gangs. They may feel as though they do not have any opportunities in the job world. Instead, they turn to gangs for a sense of safety.

One of the strategies to solve unemployment is for schools to be aware of the presence of gangs in their environment. Schools should work with parents to help keep the children safe.

When gangs and their influence are reduced, students can begin to see the benefits of taking a different path again.

### **Lack of Skills**

For a variety of reasons, young people might not have the skills necessary to get a job. Whether they were raised in a household that did not emphasize unemployment or they have attended schools

that do not have the proper resources, they may not know what it takes to obtain a job.

For example, they might not know what skills they need to develop for specific job opportunities. Or they may be unaware of how to present themselves on interviews. One solution is to prepare them through programs. Having a specific program dedicated to training for a job can encourage students to take the process seriously.

### **Difficult Requirements**

Some young people are looking for jobs, but they are running into problems because they do not have the required experience. They often wonder how they can possibly obtain experience if no one is willing to give them a chance to get it. Unfortunately, that same question has been asked for decades, by each earlier generation as they grew up.

Another way of how to reduce youth unemployment is to encourage businesses in the community to hire the youth. Stimulating the growth of business can assist in accomplishing this goal.

When more local businesses come into an area, they should make it their mission to hire individuals from the neighbourhood, and many local businesses are willing to hire young employees.

### **Lack of Motivation**

While some individuals are struggling to find jobs, others have all of the opportunities available for them; they just choose not to take these opportunities.

Developing courses to teach teenagers about the benefits of working is one approach. Also, some of these changes have to take place at home.

Parents who want their teenagers to work should consider providing an incentive for doing so. For example, parents may state that they are willing to pay for half of their children's first car but only if they get jobs first.

## **Lack of Transportation**

When people live far away from the jobs, it's often difficult for them to get there. Promoting and supporting programs that keep major hubs of transportation alive is a way to encourage more young people to work. If they don't drive, they rely on public transport to get them to their positions. Assistance to youth in the transition to the world of work is crucial in this situation.

## **Assistance to youth in the transition to the world of work**

A number of studies have shown that young people are not sufficiently advised on work related opportunities, necessary skills and career pathways. Before they leave education, it appears critical that they have access to this information to be better prepared for what to expect and what is expected of them. Good quality career guidance along with labour market prospects should help young people make better career choices.

## ***Effects of youth unemployment***

### **A lost generation**

Unemployed youth has been called "a lost generation": not only because of productivity loss but also because of the long-term direct and indirect impact unemployment has on young people and their families. Unemployment has been said to affect earnings for about 20 years. Because they aren't able to build up skills or experience during their first years in the workforce, unemployed youth see a decrease in lifetime earnings when compared to those who had steady work or those who were unemployed as an adult. A lower salary can persist for 20 years following the unemployed period before the individual begins earning competitively to their peers.

Widespread youth unemployment also leads to a socially excluded generation at great risk for poverty. For example, Spain saw an 18% increase in income inequality.

## **Political unrest and increased public spending**

The rise of political unrest and anti-social behaviour in the world has been recently attributed to youth unemployment. During the course of 2011 it became a key factor in fuelling protests around the globe. Within twelve months, four regimes (Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen) in the Arab World fell in the wake of the protests led by young people. Riots and protests similarly engulfed a number of European and North American cities (Spain, France, United Kingdom between 2008 and 2011 for example). The lack of productive engagement of young people in wider society, underlined by high levels of unemployment and under-employment, only serves to add to this feeling of disenfranchisement. Youth unemployment also dramatically increases public spending at times when economies are struggling to remain competitive and social benefits increase along with an aging population. Youth unemployment has direct costs such as increased benefit payments, lost income-tax revenues and wasted capacity. "In Britain a report by the London School of Economics (LSE), the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Prince's Trust puts the cost of the country's 744,000 unemployed youngsters at £155m (\$247m) a week in benefits and lost productivity". Similarly, the economic loss from youth unemployment in Europe is estimated at €153 billion or 1.2% of GDP in 2011.

## **A lack of innovation**

The economic crisis has led to a global decrease in competitiveness. "There is a risk of loss of talent and skills since a great amount of university graduates are unable to find a job and to put their knowledge and capabilities into producing innovation and contributing to economic growth". Excluding young people from the labour market means lacking the divergent thinking, creativity and innovation that they naturally offer. This fresh thinking is necessary for employers to foster new designs and innovative ideas. Fighting youth unemployment is therefore key to maintaining the economic performance of a country.

## ***Major Parties Involved***

### **Africa**

African countries define youth as someone from as young as 15 to someone well into their mid thirties, which varies from the standardized definition of the United Nations. Africa has the youngest population of any continent which means that the problem of youth unemployment there is particularly relevant. Although youth unemployment is high, this does not necessarily make the causes of unemployment youth-specific; many of the causes of unemployment, such as poor infrastructure or insufficient educational qualifications, affect older and younger Africans alike. Approximately 200 million people in Africa are between the ages of 15 and 24. This number is expected to double in size in the next 30 years.

### **Canada**

Canada's economy has braved the global recession better than many others. But last year, 14.3 percent of Canadian youth were unemployed, up from 11.2 percent in 2007 and double the current national jobless rate of 7.2 percent, according to Statistics Canada. That amounts to the biggest gap between youth and adult unemployment rates since 1977. In Canada's largest province, Ontario. The rate of unemployment for Ontarians between the ages of 15–24 is hovering around 12 to 13 per cent. The percentage of youth in Ontario who actually have a job hasn't climbed above 52 per cent this year. Toronto's youth unemployment rate is at 18 per cent, but only 43 per cent of the area's youth are employed, the lowest rate in the province.

### **European Union**

The growth of youth unemployment, which reached new heights of 22.5% across the European Union, as well as the precarisation of labor market conditions reveals that the gap between labor market 'outsiders' and 'insiders' is widening. One of the most dramatic

possible consequences of this growing divergence could arguably be the disenfranchisement of labour market outsiders, especially young people, from social and political participation. Some critics argue that the decrease of the youth unemployment began even before the economic downturn, countries such as Greece and Spain.

## **France**

In 2017 the youth unemployment rate in France was 22.3%, relatively high compared to the overall unemployment rate of 8.9%. France has one of the highest rates of youth unemployment among the EU countries, trailing behind Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal. The level of education is a factor that affects unemployment for the French youth population. Those who do not enter into higher education programs have an employment rate of 30% which is exceedingly low compared to an employment rate of more than 80% for those who entered into higher education. France also experiences a large high school drop out rate, resulting in a high population of low-skilled youth workers. Lacking vocational training or adequate skills that employers look for, many French youths are without options for employment.

## **India**

The youth unemployment rate was around 10 percent in 2005, but they haven't reliably reported statistics to the United Nations over the years. However, there has been an increase in young adults remaining in school and getting additional degrees simply because there aren't opportunities for employment. These youth are typically of a lower class, but it can represent a wide variety of individuals across races and classes. They call the phenomenon 'timepass' because the youth are simply passing time in college while waiting for a paid employment opportunity. In India, the employment system is often reliant on connections or government opportunities.

## **South Africa**

Starting in the 1970s, youth unemployment has been rising at a steady rate in South Africa. Today, South Africa is ranked as the fourth country with the highest percentage of unemployed youth in the world. As of 2014, 52.6 percent of the people aged 15–24 actively looking for a job were unemployed. Furthermore, youth unemployment is unequally distributed throughout different segments of the population. While unemployment between young whites amounts to 12%, this number skyrockets to a troubling 70% between young blacks. It may be that remnant effects of the apartheid era has led to jobs centres being located farther away from typical homes of black communities compared to white communities. This, lingering discrimination, and unequal backgrounds are among the many reasons for the lopsided distribution of unemployment among young white and black South Africans. South African youth also face problems of education. Many exit the schooling system early. Others face a lack of skill recognition from employers, "even if they have qualifications in the fields that are considered to be in high demand.

## **United Kingdom**

Youth unemployment in the United Kingdom is the level of unemployment among young people, typically defined as those aged 18–25. A related concept is graduate unemployment which is the level of unemployment among university graduates. Statistics for June 2010 show that there are 926,000 young people under the age of 25 who are unemployed which equates to an unemployment rate of 19.6% among young people. The high levels of youth unemployment in the United Kingdom have led some politicians and media commentators to talk of a "lost generation.

## **United States**

The general unemployment rate in the United States has increased in the last 5 years, but the youth unemployment rate has jumped

almost 10 percentage points. In 2007, before the most recent recession began, youth unemployment was already at 13 percent. By 2008, this rate had jumped to 18 percent and in 2010 it had climbed to just under 21 percent. The length of time the youth are unemployed has expanded as well, with many youth in the United States remaining unemployed after more than a year of searching for a job. This has caused the creation of a scarred generation, as discussed below. An estimated 9.4 million young people ages 16 to 24 in the United States (12.3 percent) are neither working nor in school.

## **Greece**

Youth unemployment levels in Greece remain one of the highest in the world. According to one source, between 2000 and 2008, youth inactivity increased from 63 percent to 72 percent. A different source using the harmonized definition of unemployment lists the unemployment rate of youth up to 24 years of age as 24.2% in Greece during 2009. In addition to youth unemployment (namely those up to 25 years of age), Greece also faced severe graduate unemployment of those 25–29 years of age. In 1998, Greece had the highest level of unemployment of higher education graduates in the 25-29-year-old age group. This was due to a lack of demand for highly educated personnel at the time. This trend of low employment among those with higher educational qualifications continues on today. As recently as 2009, "one in three higher education graduates, two in three secondary graduates, and one in three compulsory education graduates have not found some form of stable employment. This lack of employment is thought to have contributed to the feelings of frustration among youth that eventually led to the 2008 Greek riots.

### ***Previous attempts to solve the issue***

- i. To energize the global job market, a plan to “unleash the dynamism of youth,” considered the first-ever UN system-wide response to the global youth employment crisis, was launched. Addressing the Forum, Guy Ryder,

the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), said the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth will generate decent jobs for them and assist in their transition from school-to-work. He described the initiative as a unique partnership with governments, the UN system, businesses, academic institutions, youth organizations and other groups to scale-up action to create new opportunities and avenues for quality employment in the global economy.

- ii. Giraffe is a mobile application that received many good reviews in 2016. Its role is simple; it aims to connect young people who are looking for employment with companies that require certain profiles. Its creators say they have been able to reduce the time spent by young people out of work by 10 and they say they received 50,000 applicants only in 2016.
- iii. A widespread measure in Germany, one of the EU member states with the lowest youth unemployment rate. In the German case, companies pay for a large part of student training and the Federal Government pays for the rest. A very useful measure that is being exported to other countries, such as the United States or Great Britain.
- iv. The Korean Government has launched an ambitious plan which aims to accommodate more than 25,000 young people in the public sector. In addition, they have promoted 41 establishments dedicated to providing young people with advice on certain issues, such as empowerment, counselling or entrepreneurship.
- v. A program launched by architects in Northland, New Zealand, involves young people in designing real projects in their community; how to design a local marae or a campaign for the health and safety of women. The idea is to combine creativity, community and designed to help young people discover their purpose and, at the same time, make their communities better places to live and become more sustainable. A five-year commitment recently announced by the North Foundation will allow

AKAU to hire 2,800 more young people, according to a press statement.

## *Possible solutions*

### **Encourage Entrepreneurship**

It's no secret that entrepreneurs are pivotal to creating wealth and driving economic growth, innovation and employment. With the latest federal budget announcing that it will support small businesses, there has never been more support for entrepreneurs. Teaching children the skills to start, manage and operate their own businesses would be the first step in creating a more independent and driven generation of youth.

### **Reassessing the Value of Unpaid Internships**

While internships can help lay the foundation for a career, unpaid placements can also leave interns embittered towards the concept of work. Interns must receive high standards of training and supervision, and organizations should offer some form of minimal pay to engage young adults.

### **All secondary schools should have active partnerships with employers**

By developing partnerships between schools and employers, schools will be able to align their curriculum and the skills of students with employer needs.

## **Earlier Career Guidance**

Career advisers at schools should be meeting students earlier on in their schooling to tap into their skills and help steer them on a career path. Students need to be provided with a sense of direction regarding career pathways and be made aware of the vast opportunities out there for them.

## **A new standard for work experience**

There needs to be an increase in work experience opportunities for students across a variety of industries. Students should engage in a number of different workplace environments to get a real feel of what the workforce will be like. This will broaden their minds on the opportunities available and help provide them with a well-rounded sense of direction for their career path.

## **Providing fair opportunities for disadvantaged youth**

The Greens have recently announced a newly funded local infrastructure program to create around 15,000 new high quality jobs and training opportunities for youth in disadvantaged areas. The money is being spent on local councils with high unemployment to help create jobs and build community infrastructure. Initiatives such as this need to continue to drive business growth and create more opportunities for youth in disadvantaged areas.

## **Increased uptake of work-related learning and qualifications in the senior phase of school**

Even before entering an apprenticeship, schools need to take responsibility for developing the skills students need to enter the

workforce. It's all about making the transition of the world of school to the world of work easier.

### **A national levy scheme for skill shortage areas**

Similar to the UK, Australia should be shifting towards a levy scheme to recruit and train young people in skills shortage areas. The construction industry is one area which has started seeing success, achieving consistent, ongoing investment in training young entrants and reaping the benefits of having a consistently skilled workforce.

### **Social media**

Awareness has been raised around youth unemployment and it appears clearly that cross-sector collaboration is needed to tackle this issue. Policy makers but also entrepreneurs are trying to address the causes listed below. Best practices and key success factors are now identified and discussed on many forums, such as [Decent Work 4 youth](#), an initiative by the International Labour Organization. Social entrepreneurs have also invested the field with the creation of new online platforms and applications.

Internet has been seen as a new world of opportunities for youth unemployment. With the use of social networks such as Facebook, Aboutme, LinkedIn, Twitter, young people are actively building their informal networks. New web applications are being designed today to use these networks to better match job seekers with employers, training volunteers and other forms of placement or mentoring. The Internet has contributed to redefining traditional forms of communication and young social entrepreneurs are now thinking about designing a job application that fits more with today's online presence and use of new technology. For example, the introduction of 1-minute videos to send to potential employers is being tested. Serious games to mimic the world of work or provide an online "smart" coach are also being developed.

***Bibliography:***

[https://www.equaltimes.org/the-global-youth-unemployment?lang=en#.Xd\\_Bi3BLBK](https://www.equaltimes.org/the-global-youth-unemployment?lang=en#.Xd_Bi3BLBK)

<https://plan-international.org/eu/youth-unemployment-facts>

<https://www.careersonline.com.au/7-reasons-youth-unemployment-can-solve/>

<https://www.wikizeroo.org/index.php?q=aHRocHM6Ly9lbi53aWtpcGVkaWEub3JnL3dpa2kvWW91dGhfdW5lbXBsb3ltZW50>

<http://www.youthemploymentdecade.org/en/repor/9-initiatives-that-are-reducing-youth-unemployment/>