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Setting up co-operatives to reduce youth unemployment

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Young people were amongst the hardest hit by the economic and financial crisis. According to Eurostat the unemployment rate of people aged 15-24 years in the European Union rose from 15% in 2008 to 24% in early 2013, with peaks in Greece (60%), Spain (56.2%), Croatia (49.8%), Italy (44.1%) and Portugal (40.7%).
Youth unemployment in the EU has dropped from a peak of 24% in 2013 to 15.1% in May 2018,

while the share of 15-24 year olds not in work, education or training fell from 13.2% in 2012 to 10.9% in 2017. The unemployment rate remains higher than among the general population. To oppose youth unemployment, EU countries agreed in 2013 to launch the Youth Guarantee, an EU initiative to give everyone under 25 a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education"
The Youth Employment Initiative remains the foremost EU tool to help finance measures and programs, put in place by EU countries to carry out Youth

Guarantee schemes, such as training and assistance for the young to find their first job, along with incentives for employers. The initiative targets regions in the EU that have a youth unemployment rate above 25%. This concerns more than 120 regions in 20 EU countries, including Ireland and the UK.
The EU launched a number of initiatives aimed at reducing youth unemployment and the European Parliament is pushing for more funds in the EU's 2019 budget for programs such as Erasmus+ and the Youth Employment Initiative.
A new call aims to improve the development of cooperatives and promote their image among young people. It seeks to insert cooperative entrepreneurial education in secondary and higher education as well as

outside the educational environment. The Commission seeks to support projects that are innovative, transnational and implemented with a clear purpose of replication. Projects should make results public and available for any actor interested in the cooperative business model and entrepreneurial training.
The deadline to participate is 25 June 2019.
Particularly, the objectives intend to stimulate the transfer and development of competences of the cooperative entrepreneurship in countries where the cooperative tradition is weak and where benefits offered by the cooperative model are not sufficiently well known and struggling with high youth

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unemployment.

To achieve the expected results, the action will be built around 3 different topics

Topic 1: Delivering pilot training courses for students in secondary/higher education level
Topic 2: Cross-European workshops to share knowledge and learn from practitioners (‘train the trainers’).
Topic 3: Fostering the entrepreneurial mind-sets of young people to create cooperatives outside the educational environment.

Eligible applicants must be established in one of the current 28 EU countries.

British applicants have to be aware that eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring, in particular, that British applicants continue to be eligible, they will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of article II.17.3.1 of the grant agreement. The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at €1,950,000. The maximum duration of project is 18 months.
https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/growth/item-detail.cfm?item_id=648248

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