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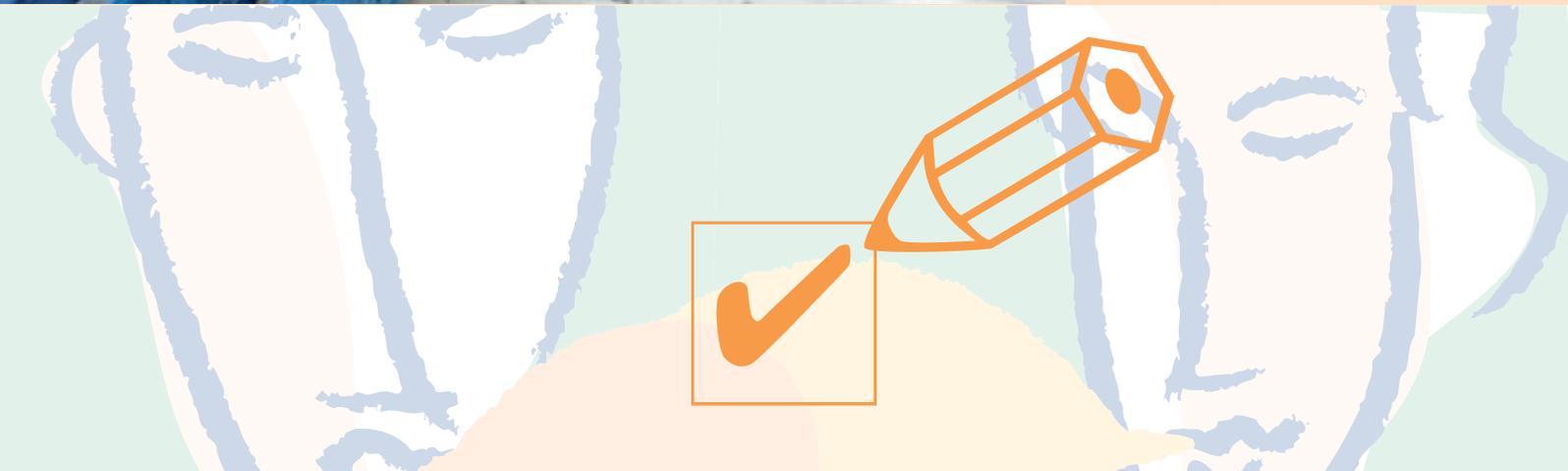
Committee of the Regions

Assessing "Youth on the Move"

Survey of the EU Local and Regional Authorities
Final Report



Regions and Cities supporting
Europe2020
Europe's growth strategy



EUROPE 2020
Monitoring Platform



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**Youth on the Move
Survey
Final Report**

This file note was written by Ecologic Institute (Tanja Srebotnjak with contributions from Krista Timeus and Sydney Baloue). It does not represent the official views of the Committee of the Regions.

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1 Basic Information

The Committee of the Regions (CoR), through its Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform, conducted a survey to assess the “Youth on the Move” flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 Strategy between 26 September, 2012 and 5 November, 2012.¹

The survey was motivated in part by the fact that the continuing economic challenges facing the European Union are particularly strongly reflected in the prospects for the young generation to gain and maintain employment or to advance their careers. Youth unemployment has been on the rise nearly everywhere and education, training and international mobility are seen as crucial to equip Europe’s youth with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed in a more rapidly changing, less secure and more globalised workplace. The Europe 2020 Strategy has, among others, specific headline targets for young people. They include a decrease in the **youth unemployment rate**, advances in the share of young people with **tertiary education** and a reduction in the **school drop-out rate**. In addition, short-term policies have been put in place to mitigate the negative impacts of the current economic crisis.

The survey summarised in this report assesses to what extent the Europe 2020 flagship initiative “Youth on the Move” has provided the intended benefits to communities and regions². The survey is also part of a broader monitoring and assessment exercise of all seven Europe 2020 flagship initiatives, which the CoR launched on 8 October 2012. The results of these individual assessments will provide the backdrop for seven conferences – one for each flagship initiative assessment – that will subsequently feed into the contribution of the Committee of the Region to the EU Commission’s mid-term review of the strategy due in 2014. The present survey report is based on 34 responses from 15 EU Member States (Figure 1). The findings of their analysis will be presented at the CoR conference on Youth on the Move on 13 December 2012.

¹ The questionnaire and basic background information can be found at <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Surveys/Pages/YouthOnTheMove.aspx>.

² More information about the Flagship Initiative available on the CoR website: <http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/europe2020/Pages/youth-on-the-move.aspx>.

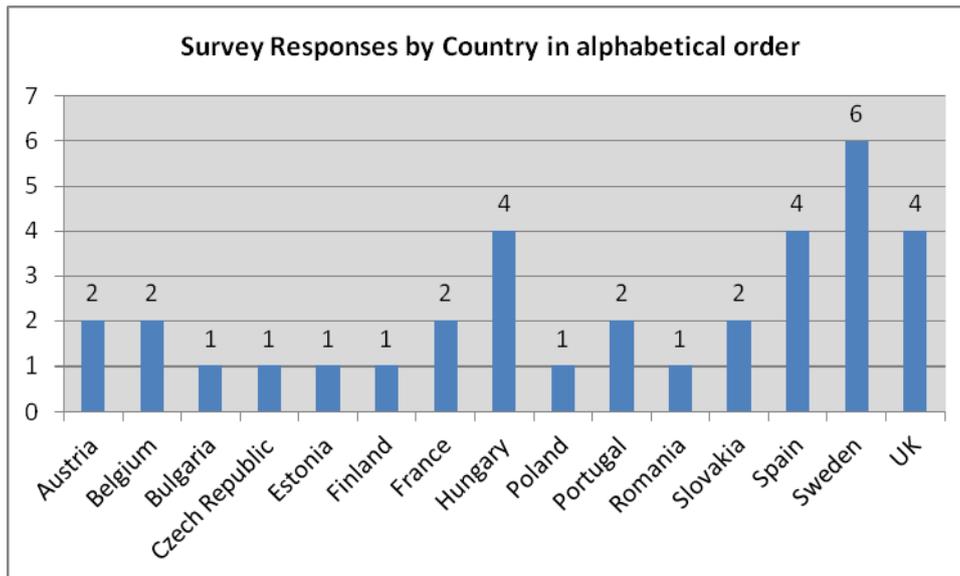


Figure 1: The number of responses received by EU Member State

The majority of responses came from or on behalf of regional authorities (53 percent), followed by cities/towns/municipalities (26 percent) and counties/provinces (9 percent). Fourteen of the respondents’ authorities are members of the Committee of the Region’s Monitoring Platform for the Europe 2020 Strategy (41 percent).

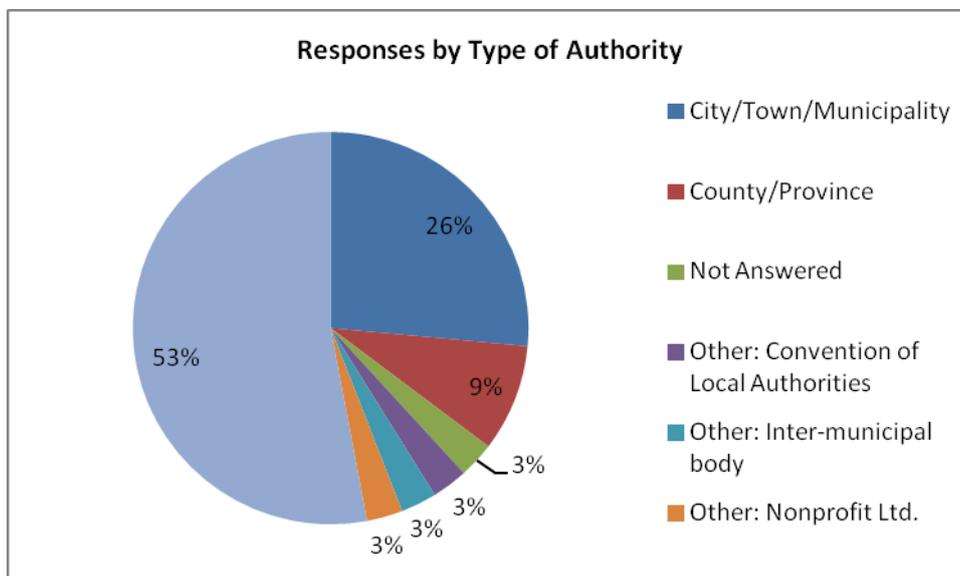


Figure 2: Survey responses by type of authority

The survey report is organised into sections in accordance with the blocks of questions included in the survey questionnaire. These sections are:

- Policy challenges and responses at regional and local levels.
- How is “Youth on the Move” relevant to your city or region?
- Are your country’s policies relevant to your city or region?
- Managing and funding “Youth on the Move”.

Each section summarises both the main trends emerging from the responses as well as particular perspectives and unique comments. They are further supplemented by examples of good practices that were reported or drawn from the Committee of the Region's Europe 2020 monitoring database.

2 Policy challenges and responses and regional and local levels

This section of the survey includes the following five questions.

1) What are the main challenges currently facing your region/city in terms of employment, unemployment, education and international mobility of young people?
2) Which of the aims of Youth on the Move (listed in box 1) are most relevant in view of the challenges currently facing your region/city?
3) To help meet these objectives, your country has set its own corresponding targets, which you can find at http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf . To what extent are the targets set by your country appropriate to your local situation? Please explain.
4) Please briefly describe what kind of policy programmes/actions are being implemented in your city/region to tackle the challenges addressed in Youth on the Move.
5) In the policy programmes/actions mentioned above, have you introduced additional indicators/targets? If so, please explain which ones and why they were necessary.

Table 1: List of questions included in the first thematic block of the survey

2.1 General Findings

All but one respondent (Upper Austria, Austria) stated that their **city/region is facing challenges** in providing their young people with a balanced and sufficient offering of work opportunities. Particularly acute is the situation in the **outermost regions of the EU**, i.e., the Canary Islands, Spain, Madeira, Portugal, **rural regions and cities/regions that have experienced a significant structural decline in their manufacturing-reliant economic base** (e.g., Trenčín self-governing region and Prešov Autonomous Region in Slovakia, Lille Métropole in France, Region Västra Götaland in Sweden).

While two respondents (Upper Austria region in Austria and Preston City Council, UK) said that they *currently* are not experiencing major obstacles in youth employment, they also say that the economic prospects and changing labour market needs are of concern to them and that they are working to optimise the match between people's skills and employers' demands.

Our aim is not just to maintain the high level of youth employment but to optimise it. In particular it is essential to train the highly skilled workers which Upper Austria's strongly export-orientated economy needs.(Upper Austria, Austria)

The majority of respondents have witnessed youth unemployment rise and youth employment decline or stagnate. In addition, the **changing nature of the labour market** also requires – in the view of many respondents – a rethinking of the skills and experiences taught in school, better preparation of young people to **transition from school to work**, more **specialised training** and continued **career advice**, increasing young people's **mobility**, and trying to reach marginalised young people, i.e., those who are not connected through to the conventional employment services agencies due to socio-economic, migration, and other factors. The overwhelming sentiment among the respondents was therefore that **all three aims of the Youth on the Move are relevant**.

Because of the generally growing concern regarding youth employment and the widespread recognition that an active labour market for young people generates multiple benefits for all age groups, all respondents said that their **city/region is engaged in programs** promoting objectives to such as **job creation, skill development and matching, mobility**, etc. The **approaches taken are very diverse and tailored** to the specific needs and characteristics of the city/region. Specific examples are given in the next section.

2.2 Specific Findings

Q1: What are the main challenges currently facing your region/city in terms of employment, unemployment, education and international mobility of young people?

All respondents answered this question and a few issues, strongly echoing the aims of the Youth on the Move initiative, dominated:

- Decreasing the youth unemployment rate
- Increasing the overall youth employment rate
- Reducing the school drop-out rate
- Better matching the skills and knowledge base of the youth with those demanded by employers

The **continued economic crisis is seen by many as a major cause for the problems**, the underlying reasons and explanations for the problems described are more varied and reflect the unique characteristics of each city, town or region.

Structural changes in the economic base, predominantly the drop in manufacturing and a continued **shift towards more service and knowledge based jobs in urban areas** on the one hand and the **declining appeal and economic viability of farming jobs in rural areas** have both contributed to job loss, changes in employment composition, creating an increasing **mismatch between the available skill base among young people and the expertise sought by employers** and in some cases the **outmigration** trend of young, highly skilled people to other parts of the country, the EU or internationally.

A few respondents said that while their region or city compares favourably to the rest of their country (Hargita County Council , Romania, Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain, Upper Austria, Austria, Preston City Council, UK) with respect to the Youth on the Move issues, they are still confronting growing risks to economic job growth and stability due to aging populations (Dalarna region in Sweden), a rising school drop-out rate (COSLA in Scotland) and too little flexibility and adaptation in the educational sector to train the skills of tomorrow (Upper Austria).

Many respondents pointed to the **inverse link between educational achievement and job prospects**, which calls for early intervention but also serves to illustrate the previously mentioned interaction among the aims of the Youth on the Move initiative. The Scottish Association of Local Authorities (COSLA) emphasized that disadvantaged youth, e.g., for reasons of poverty, disability, racial/ethnic discrimination, are particularly affected from the start because of diminished access to quality education.

In Hargita County the unemployment rate among university graduates is high, but at the same time there is a demand for skilled labour, of which there is a shortage in the county. This problem has a lot to do with education; young people have not adapted to labour market needs. Due to high unemployment, more and more young people are going to work abroad. (Hargita Province, Romania)

Q2: Which of the aims of Youth on the Move are most relevant in view of the challenges currently facing your region/city?

The question was answered by all respondents and improving youth education and employability and reducing youth unemployment were named most frequently (25 times each, 74 percent of all respondents), followed by increasing youth employment (19 mentions, 56 percent). In addition, the respondents named a few related issues as shown in Figure 3.

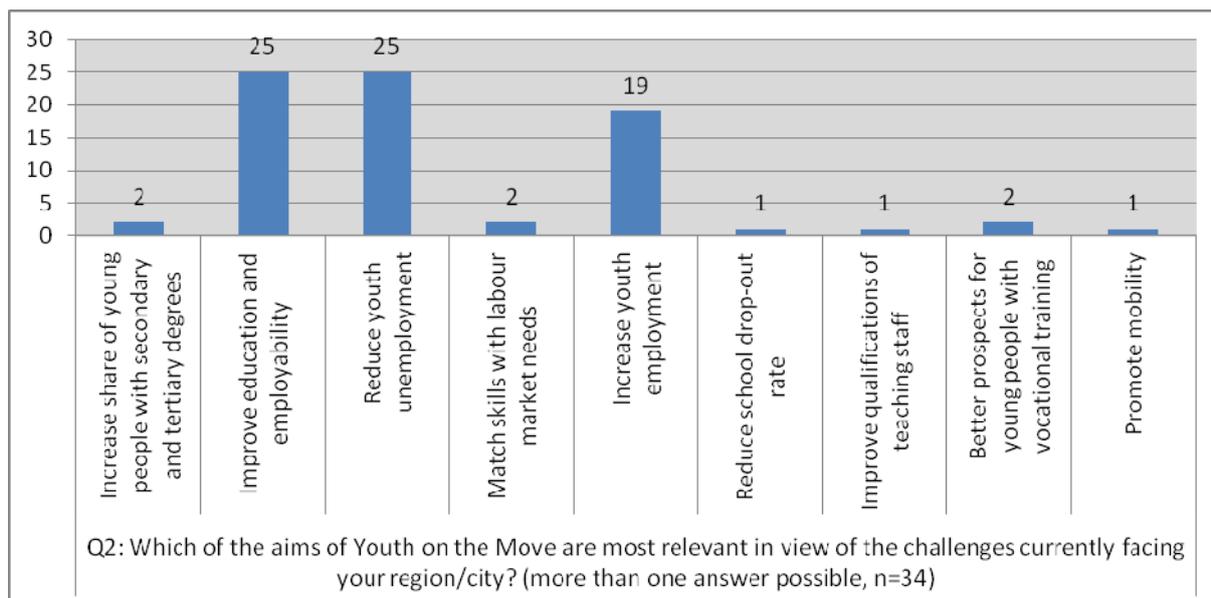


Figure 3: Summary of responses for question 2 of the Youth on the Move survey.

Q3: To help meet these objectives, your country has set its own corresponding targets, which you can find at http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/targets_en.pdf. To what extent are the targets set by your country appropriate to your local situation? Please explain.

The **country-specific targets** for the Youth on the Move initiative were found to be adequate by the majority of the respondents.

A small number (e.g., Regions Västra Götaland and Näringsliv Skåne in Sweden, Kose Council in Estonia, Canary Islands in Spain and Prešov Autonomous Region in Slovakia) stated that at least one of the targets is too ambitious vis-à-vis their local conditions.

National goals correspond to local situation, although local labour market is more vulnerable due to large automotive and manufacturing industry. (Region Västra Götaland, Sweden)
Targets set are largely without direct relevance to local situation and are national in context without prior stakeholder debate. (Kose Council, Estonia)

It is also noted that the national government of the United Kingdom has not set any targets in this area of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Q4: Please briefly describe what kind of policy programmes/actions are being implemented in your city/region to tackle the challenges addressed in Youth on the Move.

All respondents answered this question. As can be expected, the number and types of programs, actions and initiatives taken by the respondents' organizations to tackle the Youth on the Move related issues are very diverse but generally involve:

- Overhaul of existing curricula at secondary and tertiary schools to better match labour market needs
- Improve the usefulness of vocational training and increase the number of youth with a vocational certificate
- Promote mobility to increase job prospects
- Foster life-long learning opportunities to ensure that knowledge and skills keep up with the changing demands of the labour market
- Provide incentives to businesses to hire young persons, including the long-term unemployed

The following are specific examples of innovative and successful programmes put in place by the local or regional authorities. Those marked by an asterisk were taken from the Good Practices database of the Committee of the Regions.

City of Solna, Sweden

Umbrella

The aim of the Umbrella-project is to establish contact with all young people less than 20 years of age who have completed compulsory school, but are neither studying, working nor registered at the employment agency and assist them back to studies or to finding a job.

Solna Youth Café – Eurodesk

Solna Youth Café implements an extensive international mobility programme including Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Services etc. The café is also a contact point for the European Information Network Eurodesk and participating in the information campaign Information right now.

The young business idea of the year

The city and the local business community cooperate to encourage young people to start their own businesses. The winner of the award receives start-up capital for a limited company. All applicants receive guidance on business plans and accounting, administrative guidance as well as coaching.

***The Solna Model:**

The aim is to assist unemployed inhabitants to be self-supporting through work or by studying. The model has four components; individual coaching, good business contacts, tailor-made training and careful matching of competence and vacancies. The model has been developed over a number of years and is now an extremely successful method to tackle unemployment and prevent social exclusion and poverty. The target group are unemployed inhabitants in Solna.

***Work-based learning, Flemish Government, Belgium**

In Flanders, work based learning is being promoted, in all its forms, as a way to better prepare for the labor market. Therefore, a team is brought together, with members both from education and work area, on a policy-maker level. Within this team, “guidelines on high-quality work-based learning” have been developed. These guidelines have been published in a brochure, that has been dispatched to schools, companies, sectors, industry etc. In order to further promote the use of these guidelines, recently ten projects have been carried out, where the guidelines have been adapted to instruments, useful in specific contexts (levels and programs). In these projects, a wide range of different partners were involved: for instance adult education, higher education, secondary schools, sectors, industry etc. Next to this, the project team also found some legal problems (mostly on legal status of the learner in companies and on payment of the learner). Therefore a legal advice has been asked, on base of which directions have been written and spread (in collaboration with the federal level). Effort are also being done to solve some of the problems. In the covenants with the sectors, that are recently negotiated, work based learning was one of the central issues to be taken into account by the sectors.

***Pack Jeune Adulte (Young adult pack), Regional Council of Auvergne, France**

The "young adult pack" is a set of strong measures to support Auvergne's young people, defined as a major regional commitment.

The pack includes three levels of measures to ensure perfect social and regional equality:

a) General measures: for all young people between 16 and 30 years of age: Website for general information (www.info-jeunes.net), pack for young people setting up or taking over a business, One million euros for student accommodation, creating stepping-stone jobs in local and regional authorities, regional express transport (TER) tickets for EUR 1 to promote youth mobility.

b) Means-tested measures for young people between 18 and 25 years of age via a microchip card that is innovative and unique in France. A very modern form of technical support, which can be used as a simple payment card with many service providers or online and allows young people to manage their own needs independently and according to their priorities. A one-year renewable means-tested (their families' means for students and for young people who are dependent on their parents for tax purposes) financial allowance.

Several levels will be defined as soon as possible on the basis of budgetary simulations. At first, eight services, which will be developed according to yearly assessments, will be provided: an internet subscription, public transport subscription, a driving licence, insurance, housing insurance, contraception/morning-after pill, university canteen vouchers, and school expenses.

c) Regional measures to correct regional inequalities by supporting the activities of flagship projects in this field by the 16 Pays d'Auvergne and/or their EPCI (inter-communal cooperation bodies) and the 4 General Councils.

***Your first EURES job, Province of Rome, Italy**

Under the 'Your first EURES job' scheme, the European Commission has selected four employment services from Germany (Ministry of Employment), Spain (Ministry of Employment), Denmark (Metropolitan city of Arshaus) and Italy (Province of Rome) to help young people look for work in Member States other than their own. The pilot initiative will also serve as a testing ground for transforming EURES – the network of Member States' employment services – towards a pan-European employment service. As part of the scheme, young EU nationals between the ages of 18-30 will be provided with information and help for their recruitment, as well as the possibility of financial support for their application or training. Small and medium businesses, i.e. companies with up to 250 employees, may apply for financial support to cover part of the cost of training newly-recruited workers and helping them settle in.

Q5: In the policy programmes/actions mentioned above, have you introduced additional indicators/targets? If so, please explain which ones and why they were necessary.

This question was answered by 26 of the 34 respondents (76 percent). Ten respondents said that they did not specify additional targets: Kose Council, Estonia, Extremadura Parliament, Spain, Trenčín self-governing region, Slovakia, Regional Government of Madeira, Portugal, Prešov Autonomous Region, Slovakia, Lille Métropole, France, Sofia Municipal Council, Bulgaria, South Moravia Region, Czech Republic, Preston City Council and Scarborough Borough Council, UK.

It was unknown to the respondent for Kántorjános, Hungary, whether additional indicators were being used.

The remaining respondents often do not specifically mention the indicators they are using, how they are applied and for what purpose. It appears that in some cases, additional indicators are mainly used to promote accountability and monitoring as part of the programmes that are being or are planned to be implemented. Examples of the types of indicators used and the areas in which they are applied are shown in Table 2.

Local or regional authority	Indicators applied
Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland	The aim is to bring Southern Finland up from 67% to 80% (the overall Finnish rate is currently 75%, the objective 81%).
Generalitat de Catalunya	The inclusion of indicators is being finalised.
East Sweden Region, Sweden	Yes, within the strategy for entrepreneurship.
Marshal's Office in Lodz, Poland	Minimum employment success rate of 20% was set for each project
German-speaking Community in Belgium	Different targets of regional development concept refer to different requirements of young people in German-speaking Community.

Table 2: Examples of additional indicators used by the respondents and the context in which they are applied.

3 How is “Youth on the Move” relevant to your city or region?

This section includes the following three questions.

6) Which of the lines of actions shown in Box 2 are most relevant to you, in the sense that they have encouraged you to set more ambitious policy goals at regional/local level? Please explain your answers.

7) Overall, what are the points of strength and the points of weakness of "Youth on the Move" , as seen from your regional/local standpoint?
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8) Would you recommend any specific changes to the "Youth on the Move" flagship following Europe 2020's mid-term review in 2014?

Table 3: List of questions included in the second thematic block of the survey

3.1 General Findings

Life-long learning and improving the job prospects of young people are the main actions that the respondents’ authorities are concerned about. However, they generally did not specify to what extent they have set themselves more ambitious policy goals than those specified in the Youth on the Move initiative.

With respect to the **strengths** and weaknesses of the flagship initiative, views are generally positive and acknowledge the EU Commission’s comprehensive approach to youth. The respondents also believe that the initiative raises awareness and is a sound policy document that gives appropriate weight to regional development while offering sufficient scope in terms of regional development.

The main **weaknesses** of the initiative are seen to be a general lack of flexibility of funding instruments for participation and implementation of actions at local level. Respondents are call for greater recognition of the specific context of local and regional authorities (especially for the islands and outermost regions), lack of communication and visibility of the initiative, and that the practical implementation at local level often seems vague in terms of local realities and needs. For example, it is unclear how to concentrate on priorities such as youth mobility for vocational training, when this area is still lacking sufficient tools and resources.

3.2 Specific Findings

Q6: Which of the lines of actions shown in Box 2 are most relevant to you, in the sense that they have encouraged you to set more ambitious policy goals at regional/local level?

Thirty-three out of 34 respondents answered this question.

The most frequently named aims are:

- **Support life-long learning**
- **Increase young people’s employment prospects**
- **Promote learning mobility**

A sizeable number of respondents said that all four lines of actions are important. Entrepreneurism is seen by many respondents as a way to create jobs via self-employment, promote the independence of young people and spur creativity. Only one respondent, Upper Austria, said that there is too much emphasize on entrepreneurship and that focus should instead be placed on aligning the expectations of young people and their knowledge and skills with the local job market.

Figure 4 shows the distribution of actions and policies that the respondents viewed as most relevant. The chart includes the actions and programmes listed in Box 2 of the questionnaire as well as additional lines of action named by the respondents.

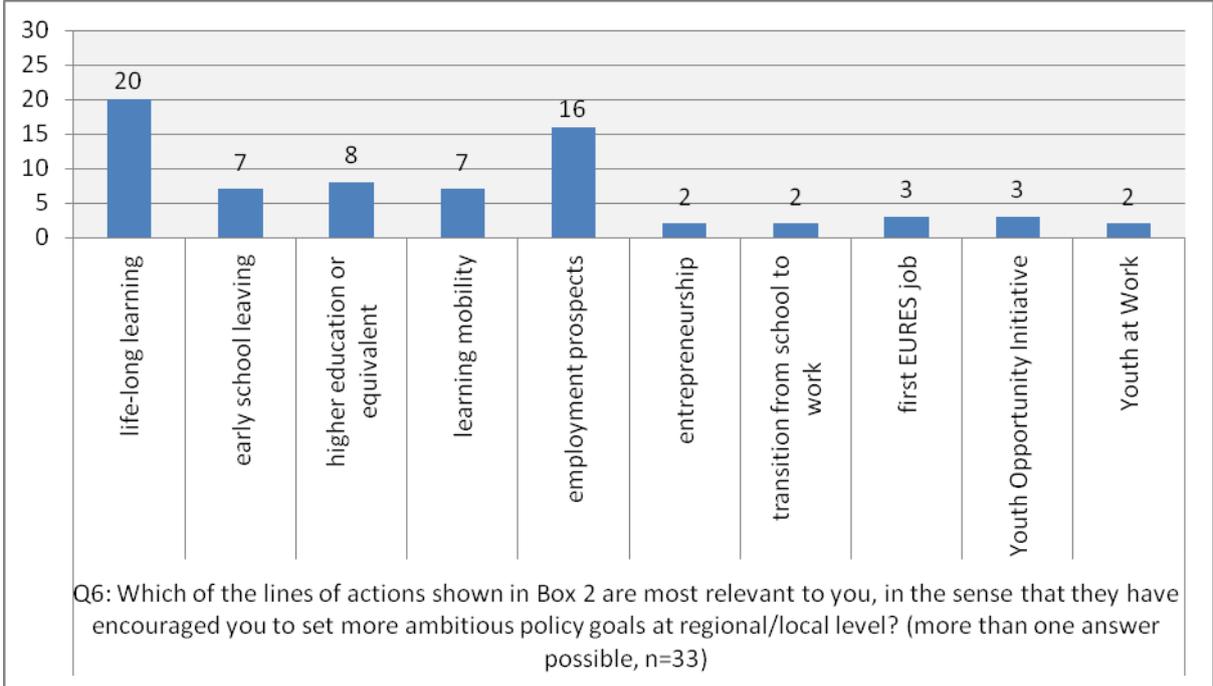


Figure 4: Summary of lines of actions that are most relevant to the respondents in the context of the Youth on the Move initiative.

Q7: Overall, what are the points of strength and the points of weakness of "Youth on the Move", as seen from your regional/local standpoint?

Thirty-one out of 34 respondents answered this question.

With respect to the perceived **strengths and weaknesses of the Youth on the Move** flagship initiative, respondents' views diverge and contradict each other to a certain degree. It appears that all respondents value the existence of the initiative because it responds to a real and growing problem in most parts of Europe.

However, different views emerge when it comes to the details of how to define the goals, how to prioritize and how to implement them. Table 4 and Table 5 provide summaries of the main responses.

While positive and negative aspects are nearly in the balance, the positive views tend to be more general in nature while the criticism focuses more on specific aspects related to financing, coordination and implementation.

Strengths	Authority
Overall comprehensiveness, linkage of action areas, implementation through variety of channels, getting at the heart of the European debate and reminds MS to focus on this part of the population	City of Solna, Sweden Municipality of Ferreira do Alentejo, Portugal Flemish Government, Belgium Lille Métropole, France Regional Council of Auvergne, France
Promotion of mobility among young people (for study, traineeships and work) through well-defined initiatives such as Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, European Voluntary Service, EURES, Youth Opportunities Initiative	Hargita County Council, Romania Trenčín self-governing region, Slovakia Government of Andalucía, Spain Belfast City Council, UK
Programmatically well designed, gives adequate assistance, adequate aims and targets, step in the right direction, aims and actions at national level are clear and sound and offer opportunity to share practices	Kántorjános, Hungary Educational Foundation, Hungary Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland Region Gävleborg, Sweden Innova Eszak-Alfold Innovation Agency, Hungary
Focus on entrepreneurship and flexibility among young people	Hargita County Council, Romania Madeira Regional Government, Portugal Municipality of Budapest, Hungary

Table 4: Perceived strengths of the Youth on the Move initiative as stated by respondents.

Weaknesses	Authority
Access and flexibility of funds, especially at local level	Kántorjános, Hungary Municipality of Ferreira do Alentejo
Initiatives exist already in other policy programs (e.g., Euro Plus Pact, Agenda for new skills and jobs), title of initiative is misplaced because lifelong learning involves not only youth	Flemish Government, Belgium
Implementation in the medium-term and under two multi-annual EU framework is difficult, practical implementation at local level often vague with respect to local realities and needs, greater emphasis on marginalised young people	Kose Council, Estonia Flemish Government, Belgium Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain Lille Métropole, France COSLA, UK
Lack of consideration of unique needs and situation of the outermost regions of the EU	Madeira Regional Government, Portugal Government of the Canary Islands, Spain
Need to improve visibility, awareness and communication of the initiative and from EU to local level Regions should be better informed about all Europe 2020 measures.	City of Solna, Sweden Madeira Regional Government, Portugal Prešov Autonomous Region, Slovakia Belfast City Council, UK Innova Eszak-Alfold Innovation Agency, Hungary Regional Council of Auvergne, France
Difficulty for local authorities to influence national decision-making, especially if national reforms are prerequisite for implementing Youth on the Move actions	Region Gävleborg, Sweden Region Dalarna, Sweden

Table 5: Perceived weaknesses of the Youth on the Move initiative as stated by respondents.

Q8: Would you recommend any specific changes to the "Youth on the Move" flagship following Europe 2020's mid-term review in 2014?

This question was answered by 25 out of 34 respondents and the results are summarized in Table 6.

Suggested changes to the Youth on the Move initiative	Authority
<u>Issues needing more attention:</u> Self-awareness and self-employment Demographic changes and older workers Changing needs of the labour market Non-formal learning and education	Kántorjános, Hungary Flemish Government, Belgium COSLA, UK Lille Métropole, France
<u>Implementation:</u> Development of specific implementation instruments Better information in which institutions are responsible for the implementation of measures Share best practices EU Commission could initiate experiments or transfer best practices for implementation in different European regions	Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland Prešov Autonomous Region Regional Council of Auvergne, France
<u>Participation of authorities and organisations:</u> Greater participation by NGOs Deepening cooperation between institutions at EU, national and local levels. Coordination between national and local level, communicate, have access to the financial means and be able to share experiences Better engagement with private sector	Municipality of Ferreiro do Alentejo, Portugal Sofia Municipal Council, Bulgaria Innova Eszak-Alfold Innovation Agency, Hungary Preston City Council, UK Scarborough Borough Council, UK
<u>Specificity and context:</u> The objectives should be more precise and specific for the outermost regions. Mobility support for the outermost regions	Government of the Canary Islands, Spain Madeira Regional Government, Portugal

Suggested changes to the Youth on the Move initiative	Authority
<p><u>Proposals for new actions:</u> Creation of Bursary Fund to support secondary school attendance by pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds Vocational training centers at secondary vocational schools to give practical instruction, provide life-long learning for teachers and others, offer specialised advice and information sharing Better mobility for regional development and growth Recognition of discriminatory, racist, xenophobic behaviours among young people</p>	Prešov Autonomous Region Region Dalarna, Sweden COSLA, UK
<p><u>Potential problems:</u> Local authorities would not wish to be monitored and would want to avoid duplication of efforts with respect to existing Scottish initiatives, e.g., Young Scot Cards.</p> <p>At present all young people without secondary school qualification are seen as early school leavers. We suggest that in the future, young people with certain types of higher qualifications of vocational certificates are not counted as early school leavers</p>	COSLA, UK German-speaking Community in Belgium

Table 6: Summary of suggestions for changes in the Youth on the Move initiative

4 Are your country's policies relevant to your city or region?

This section contains the following three questions.

9) Does your country's 2012 (current) **National Reform Programme³ (NRP) for Europe 2020 adequately respond to your regional/local needs** in the following areas: improving youth education and employability, increasing the youth employment rate, and reducing youth unemployment?

10) Did you have an **opportunity to contribute** to the drafting of your NRP in this specific policy field, even if only indirectly by way of the organisations representing cities and regions in your country? If yes, please state briefly how.

11) Looking forward to next year, would you suggest **any changes in your country's NRP for 2013**? If yes, please state briefly which changes.

4.1 General Findings

It is observed that the respondents' authorities or organisations generally desire a greater role in developing the actions and policies relating to the Youth on the Move initiative contained in the National Reform Programmes. About half of them have this opportunity to varying extent. Another area where the respondents see room for improvement and which is closely linked to their participation in the drafting of the NRP is the adequate reflection of local and regional contexts in both policies and targets. Noteworthy is the United Kingdom's lack of Youth on the Move related targets in the NRP, a result widely criticised by the respondents from the UK, but the inclusion of a section on employability and youth unemployment in the Scottish NRP.

4.2 Specific Findings

Q9: Does your country's 2012 (current) National Reform Programme⁴ (NRP) for Europe 2020 adequately respond to your regional/local needs in the following areas: improving youth education and employability, increasing the youth employment rate, and reducing youth unemployment?

This question was answered by 30 of the 34 respondents.

³ All available here: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm

⁴ All available here: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm

Twelve respondents said that the 2012 NRP adequately reflects the regional and local needs in the areas addressed by the Youth on the Move initiative. Only a few respondents, however, are fully satisfied with their national NRP (Auvergne in France, Budapest in Hungary, East Sweden Region, Sofia Municipal Council in Bulgaria, COSLA). The Flemish Government in Belgium states that Flanders has full autonomy over youth issues and that this is reflected in its NRP. The Canary Islands, Spain, and Madeira, Portugal, request that the next NRP takes their geographical location at the periphery of the European Union and their small island size into greater consideration.

Examples of how this was accomplished are given in the next box.

German-speaking Community in Belgium:

Yes, NRP in Belgium is a bottom-up approach, our input was the "regional development concept".

Flemish Government, Belgium:

Flemish government has full competence over education and training: has drawn up its own Flemish Reform Programme.

Regional Council of Auvergne, France:

Yes, the objectives set out in the National Programme of Reforms are consistent with regional goals.

Among those who answered that their national NRP is not adequate in addressing local and regional needs (e.g., Kose Council, Estonia, Catalonia, Spain, Prešov Autonomous Region in the Slovak Republic and Belfast City Council in the UK), the main reason that emerges from the responses is a general lack of consultation and cooperation. Some NRPs do not have a strong local component at all or the measures prescribed are so theoretical or abstract in nature that they cannot easily be implemented at local or regional level. Specific examples are given in the next box.

Kose Council, Estonia:

Not in every respect. There is barely a local dimension contained in the NRP.

Kántorjános, Hungary:

Gives theoretical answers/prescriptions, which cannot be implemented in practice.

Madeira Regional Government, Portugal:

NRP should adequately reflect the specific characteristics and conditions faced by Autonomous Region of Madeira

Prešov Autonomous Region, Slovakia:

No, NRP so far drafted by national government, so regional and local requirements taken into account only on limited basis.

Q10: Did you have an opportunity to contribute to the drafting of your NRP in this specific policy field, even if only indirectly by way of the organisations representing cities and regions in your country? If yes, please state briefly how.

This question was answered by 28 of the 34 respondents and 11 respondents said that their authority or organisation contributed to the drafting of the NRP, although the degree of participation rates vary from marginal consultation (Prešov Autonomous Region, Slovakia) to formalised membership in the process leading to the development of the NRP (Vienna, Austria). In Sweden the Swedish Association for Local Authorities and Regions (SKL) is involved. The Educational Foundation in Hungary did not know about any opportunities to contribute to the drafting of the NRP.

Prešov Autonomous Region, Slovakia:

Yes, region submitted comments on draft 2011 and 2012 NRPs. Few of which were accepted.

Q11: Looking forward to next year, would you suggest any changes in your country's NRP for 2013? If yes, please state briefly which changes.

This question was answered by 23 of the 34 respondents and five of those said they do not have any suggestions. Among the remaining 18 respondents, the proposed changes vary widely and are presented in Table 7.

Proposed changes	Authority proposing the changes
Lack of flexible structures in education system that put labour market and students' needs first and which would promote lifelong learning. Need to up more avenues to the labour market.	Region Västra Götaland, Sweden
Adding a local dimension and involving local levels.	Kose Council, Estonia
In addition to the quantitative indicators it would be useful to have qualitative indicators and measures for qualitative growth.	Kántorjános, Hungary
Reduce the administrative burden for joining the NRP drafting process.	Educational Foundation, Hungary

Proposed changes	Authority proposing the changes
The NRP objectives are still up-to-date today. Opportunities for implementing them on a regional basis must be developed.	Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland
Flanders is closely involved in development of NRP. No need for changes.	Flemish Government, Belgium
Using regional authorities to develop it because many of the competencies and authorities rest with them or are shared with the national government in the youth sector.	Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain
National objectives should more closely reflect regional conditions. Establish partnership between national and regional levels would offer added value.	Regional Government of Madeira, Portugal
2013 NRP should cover rural development.	Prešov Autonomous Region, Slovakia
System for assessing the situation and qualifications of the workforce is necessary, currently there is no such information available. Standards need to be set for various professions to support the curriculum.	Sofia Municipal Council, Bulgaria
More emphasis on targets on Devolved Regions and how they are performing. Consultation with local authorities	Belfast City Council, UK
Regions of France would like to be better integrated in upstream target setting based on realities encountered in the field.	Regional Council of Auvergne, France
Youth Employment Strategy will need to be cross-referenced with Europe 2020 Youth on the Move initiative and how this strategy would be related to the next NRP. Recommend that the Scottish and UK NRP have clearer interface with the Common Strategic Framework and its thematic objectives.	COSLA, UK

Proposed changes	Authority proposing the changes
Recognition of creativity and activism created by partners in this area at local and regional level and more active consultation in the process.	Preston City Council, UK
NRP document is very limited in space. Perhaps it is useful to only describe one measure per flagship initiative and region in detail instead of many measures in a superficial way. This would allow better evaluation and mutual learning. NRP should stimulate the quality of the measures	German-speaking Community in Belgium
Setting targets for benchmarking purposes.	Scarborough Borough Council, UK

Table 7: List of changes proposed by the respondents for their countries' 2013 NRP.

5 Managing and funding “Youth on the Move”

This section contains the following seven questions:

12) Are any of the actions you have taken to implement Youth on the Move (stated in response to question 4) being carried out in partnership by different tiers of government ? If yes, please explain briefly.
13) Was any multilevel-governance agreement adopted? If yes, please describe briefly.
14) With respect to your actions on Youth on the Move (stated under question 4), how are they funded ?
15) Are you experiencing difficulties in funding these actions due to fiscal consolidation policies?
16) What is the role of the EU Structural Funds in funding actions related to Youth on the Move objectives ?
17) How should education and youth employment issues be addressed in the forthcoming Partnership Contract to be signed between your national government and the European Commission for the management of the Structural Funds under a Common Strategic Framework 2014-2020 ?
18) Please make here any further comments you might wish on the matters dealt with in this questionnaire.

5.1 General Findings

Overall, it can be said for this thematic block that both cooperation across different levels of government (as well as horizontally) and accessing a variety of funding sources to put policies and projects into place are of vital importance to the respondents’ cities and regions. All respondents stated that they are engaged in partnerships with other tiers of government as well as a variety of organisations and businesses but few have adopted formal multi-level governance agreements.

The economic crisis and resulting shortage of public funds in many of the countries represented by the respondents have – in the majority of cases – led to a concern about the ongoing viability of programs and actions. If anything, this has strengthened the role of the European Structural Funds and since education and youth employment are seen as priorities for the forthcoming Partnership Contract, their maintenance at least at current levels was requested repeatedly.

5.2 Specific Findings

Q12: Are any of the actions you have taken to implement Youth on the Move (stated in response to question 4) being carried out in partnership by different tiers of government?

This question captures the extent to which the respondents' organizations **engage with other levels of government** to combat the problems at the heart of the Youth on the Move initiative. Six responses did not answer the question. Of the remaining responses, only five said that they are not carrying out any relevant actions in partnerships with other tiers of governments. These are: Region Västra Götaland in Sweden, Extremadura Regional Parliament in Spain, Trenčín Self-governing Region in Slovakia, the Government of Andalucía, Spain, and the Marshal's Office in Lodz, Poland.

All others work together with other tiers of government, typically on a range of projects. A strongly formalized agreement exists in Scotland where the Scottish model of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) between the Scottish local government and the Scottish Government could be helpful in developing a European approach in similar areas of shared competencies.

Q13: Was any multilevel-governance agreement adopted?

Eleven out of 34 respondents did not answer this question and 14 state that they have not adopted any multi-level government agreement. Examples of multi-level governance agreements or similar forms of cooperation are given in the next box.

The German-speaking Community in Belgium:

On 6 December 2011a new funding decree for youth work in the German-speaking Community entered into force.

COSLA, UK:

The Scottish model of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) between the Scottish local government and the Scottish Government could be helpful in developing a European approach in similar areas of shared competencies.

The Regional Council of Auvergne, France:

Adopted agreements with the General Councils and the counties in corresponding territories.

Region of Västra Götaland, Sweden:

Its engagement with the skills and competence platform is a form of multilevel-governance but that no formal agreement has been signed.

Q14: With respect to your actions on Youth on the Move (stated under question 4), how are they funded?

A total of 29 respondents answered this question. For the majority of respondents Youth on the Move related actions and policies are funded through a combination of local and regional as well as EU sources. However, every response also appears to be unique in the approaches taken. A general tendency that emerges is that the respondents from the more recent members of the EU tend to rely more strongly on EU funding, especially the Structural Funds (ESF and ERDF). In contrast, the regions in the most affluent EU Member States (e.g., Sweden and the UK) can draw more heavily on their own and/or central government funding. The respondents from Spain and Portugal state that funding has become increasingly difficult due to the extremely difficult economic situation in their countries. The Madeira Regional Government requests access to EU financial support, especially for the 2014-2020 period, at least at current levels essential to meet the targets. Selected examples are shown in the next box.

Region of Västra Götaland, Sweden:

Different funding schemes, including EU Social Fund, regional, local and state funds.

Uusimaa Regional Council, Finland:

The summer job campaign is funded by budget resources from Uusimaa Regional Council and the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment.

Upper Austria, Austria:

In our area funds are provided by the province of Upper Austria.

Madeira Regional Government, Portugal:

Financial resources from associations, local institutions, regional government and EU funds.

Lille Métropole, France:

Local initiatives receive local funding (towns, region, departement) and also national funding (Ministry of Education, Youth Protection, etc.). EU funds sometimes top up these financial sources (ESF, Youth in Action, Leonardo programmes, etc.)

Municipality of Budapest, Hungary:

Initiatives included in Social Policy Concept of Budapest are planned to be funded from central budget, from ESF and from budget of the Municipality of Budapest.

Regional Council of Auvergne:

Measures in the Young Adult Pack are self-funded. The AUDACE project is supported by the Education and Training program at Long Life / Action Leonardo, amounting to approximately 75%. The Regional Plan for the

Development of European Mobility benefits from 60% co-financing of the European Social Fund (Sub-measure 433.1 of the Regional Operational Program), the remaining 40% are contributed by the region.

COSLA, UK:

All of the mentioned activities are funded by the Scottish public sector.

Q15: Are you experiencing difficulties in funding these actions due to fiscal consolidation policies?

This question was answered by 24 respondents and four of them answered no. Only six respondents say that they do not experience increased difficulties in obtaining funding as a result of fiscal consolidation policies. These are Region Västra Götaland in Sweden, Extremadura Regional Government in Spain, Upper Austria in Austria, South Moravia region in the Czech Republic, Trenčín Self-governing Region in Slovakia and the German-speaking Community in Belgium.

The response for the Extremadura Regional Parliament in Spain said that these actions are so vital for the region's recovery that their funding is ensured. All other respondents confirmed that the economic difficulties and fiscal consolidation put some or many of their programmes, actions, and future plans at risk.

South Moravia region in the Czech Republic anticipate problems in the future due to the worsening state of the Czech economy and cuts in public spending.

Q16: What is the role of the EU Structural Funds in funding actions related to Youth on the Move objectives?

This question was answered by 31 of the 34 respondents and all of them confirmed the importance of the ESF to fund the activities relevant for achieving the goals of the Youth on the Move initiative. Many of them, especially from cities and regions in Eastern and Central Europe, the Canary Islands and Madeira, the ESF is a critical source of funding to get projects off the ground and to maintain them, whereas for some respondents from the UK, Sweden, Austria and Belgium the ESF contributes to their programme activities by allowing their enhancement or expansion but are not the primary source of funding.

Examples of the role of ESF for Youth on the Move are given in the next box.

Region of Västra Götaland, Sweden:

EU Structural Funds are important to meeting Europe 2020 strategy, including YoM. They also bring different stakeholders together and work towards a common goal that would otherwise not be possible.

Educational Foundation, Hungary:

Without of EU Structural Funds we could realize our plans only in local level. But with the help it could be in EU level.

Government of Upper Austria, Austria:

None at regional level.

Trenčín self-governing region, Slovakia:

The EU structural funds are the main instrument for financing activities related to youth employment and education (N.B. about 75% of public investment in Slovakia is carried out using the structural funds).

Flemish Government:

Limited ESF budget was used to fund certain projects on transitioning from education to work

Q17: How should education and youth employment issues be addressed in the forthcoming Partnership Contract to be signed between your national government and the European Commission for the management of the Structural Funds under a Common Strategic Framework 2014-2020?

This question was answered by 26 of the 34 respondents. Among the responses received, the majority agrees that education and youth employment should be retained as priorities, if not strengthened. Education and youth employment could be presented as factors for growth and development, creativity and renewal and hence be tied more strongly to other topic areas.

Many also call for a greater participatory role of local and regional authorities. The City of Solna in Sweden, for example, says that the youth issues should be based on truly active dialogue between national, regional and local governments. And Kose Council in Estonia states that the local dimension should always be taken into consideration and continued consultation with local authorities should take place.

With respect to the ESF, the respondents feel a need to clarify its role, simplify the rules, to make it more flexible, and to increase its size.

Belfast City Council, UK, calls for the development of concrete impact assessment indicators that relate to Europe 2020. A new focus area requested by several respondents are people with migration background and/or socio-economically disadvantaged and marginalised youth.

The Educational Foundation, Hungary, would like to include new fields of action for Youth on the Move.

Q18: Please make here any further comments you might wish on the matters dealt with in this questionnaire.

The comments received have been integrated into the appropriate previous section.

6 Conclusions

The survey set out to assess to what extent the Europe 2020 flagship initiative “Youth on the Move” has provided the intended benefits to communities and regions. A total of 34 responses were received from 15 countries.

The analysis of the 18 questions presented in the previous sections leads to a preliminary set of conclusions:

- Overall, Youth on the Move is seen as an important initiative to focus attention on education and youth employment. It raises awareness among the different actors and provides a means to collaborate to tackle the issues.
- Youth on the Move also provides additional value by addressing multiple, interrelated issues in concert: higher education and vocational training, life-long learning, mobility, employment and unemployment.
- The Youth on the Move initiative addresses key socio-economic issues in the European Union: young people are important constituents and drivers of economic growth as well as part of the social fabric. Their active participation in the education sector and labour market must be promoted, secured and rewarded.
- The ongoing economic crisis playing out throughout the EU but more critically in Greece, Spain, and Portugal is having significant adverse effects on today’s youth in terms of their employment and unemployment rates. They have risen in virtually all respondents’ localities. The peripheral regions, especially the islands, have suffered more than the central and more affluent regions.
- Globalization and systemic changes in the labour market require a rethinking of education at secondary and tertiary levels, vocational training, and life-long learning opportunities. In order to succeed, young people today must critically choose their field of study/work, be prepared to be flexible, motivated and active in continuing to build their knowledge and skill base.
- Mobility is an important means through which youth can broaden their skills and gather useful experiences. Migration for job reasons is more prevalent now than it has been in the recent past, although it can have negative effects for the regions losing skilled workers.
- Dropping out of school is one of the strongest inverse predictors for job prospects. Especially among disadvantaged youth, who experience additional forms of exclusion and discrimination, staying in school is a critical step towards gaining successful entry into the job market.
- The initiative addresses the key problems and is seen as useful because it views the different aims and strategies in tandem and not as insulated

- policy measures. Indeed, the survey shows how interrelated the issues of education, youth employment, mobility and life-long learning are.
- In the context of the actions and policies developed as part of the Youth on the Move initiative, cooperation between different tiers of government is critical because the EU and national governments can and should set the broader parameters of policy while the details of implementation and their adaptation to local circumstances is best done by local authorities. In reverse, the local and regional authorities need to communicate back to the national and EU levels about what works and what does not.
- Funding the actions under the Youth on the Move initiative is diverse but should continue to mobilize local, national and EU funds. The EU Structural Funds, especially the European Social Fund, are critical especially for resource-strapped countries and regions.
- Monitoring of the Youth on the Move initiative is important and the national targets are widely seen as appropriate with a few important exceptions: the outermost regions may require adjustments as do some rural areas that are hard hit by economic and systemic shifts in the types and availability of jobs as well as labour force.

7 Annex I – List of Respondents

No	Country	Local or regional authority	Type	Member of Monitoring Platform
1	France	Conseil regional d’Auvergne	Region	No
2	Czech Republic	Jihomoravský kraj	Region	Yes
3	Spain	Directorate-General for Youth of the Canary Islands Government Ministry for the Presidency, Justice and Equality	Region	Yes
4	Sweden	Region Dalarna	Region	No
5	Slovakia	Prešov Autonomous Region	Region	Yes
6	Sweden	City of Solna	City/Town/Municipality	Yes
7	Sweden	Region Västra Götaland	Region	No
8	Austria	Vienna	City/Town/Municipality	Yes
9	UK	COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities)	Other: Convention of Local Authorities	No
10	Estonia	Kose Council	City/Town/Municipality	No
11	Sweden	Näringsliv Skåne	Not Answered	No
12	Hungary		Region	No
13	Spain	EXTREMADURA REGIONAL PARLIAMENT	Region	No
14	Portugal	Municipality of Ferreira do Alentejo	City/Town/Municipality	No
15	Sweden	Region Gävleborg	Region	No
16	Hungary		Region	No
17	Finland	Uusimaa Regional Council	County/Province	Yes
18	Romania	Harghita County Council	County/Province	No
19	Austria	Amt der Oö. Landesregierung (Office of the Upper Austria Provincial Government)	Region	Yes
20	Slovakia	Trenčín self-governing region, Regional development department	Region	Yes
21	Belgium	Flemish Government	Region	Yes
22	Spain	GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA	Region	No

No	Country	Local or regional authority	Type	Member of Monitoring Platform
23	Portugal	Vice-Presidency of the Regional Government of Madeira	Region	Yes
24	France	Lille Métropole	Other: Inter-municipal body	No
25	Bulgaria	Sofia Municipal Council, Social Affairs Department	City/Town/Municipality	No
26	Spain	Dirección General de Fondos Europeos de la Junta de Andalucía	Region	No
27	UK	Belfast City Council	City/Town/Municipality	No
28	Sweden	East Sweden Region	Region	Yes
29	Hungary	INNOVA Eszak-Alfold Regional Innovation Agency	Other: Nonprofit Ltd.	No
30	Hungary	Municipality of Budapest	City/Town/Municipality	No
31	Poland	Marshal's Office in Lodz	County/Province	Yes
32	UK	Preston City Council	City/Town/Municipality	Yes
33	Belgium	German-speaking Community in Belgium	Region	Yes
34	UK	Scarborough Borough Council	City/Town/Municipality	No

8 Annex II – List of Local/Regional Initiatives reported in Contributions

Country	Authority	Initiative
Sweden	City of Solna	Umbrella The aim of the Umbrella-project is to establish contact with all young people less than 20 years of age who have completed compulsory school, but are neither studying, working nor registered at the employment agency and assist them back to studies or to finding a job.
Sweden	City of Solna	Solna Youth Café – Eurodesk Solna Youth Café implements an extensive international mobility programme including Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Services etc. The café is also a contact point for the European Information Network Eurodesk and participating in the information campaign Information right now.
Sweden	City of Solna	The Young Business Idea of the Year The city and the local business community cooperate to encourage young people to start their own businesses. The winner of the award receives start-up capital for a limited company. All

Country	Authority	Initiative
		applicants receive guidance on business plans and accounting, administrative guidance as well as coaching.
Austria	City of Vienna	Vienna Apprenticeship Guarantee All young Viennese who are looking for an apprenticeship will receive one.
Austria	City of Vienna	Vienna Qualification Packet is in the works.
Sweden	Region of Västra Götaland	New Strategy for Growth 2014-2020 Currently being developed by region and 49 municipalities in it. It puts an emphasis on youth by strengthening relationships between schools and working life and better adaptation of education to meet labour market needs. Also focuses on implementation of National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and docking it to EQF to increase mobility.
Hungary	Kántorjános	Development of a youth strategy
Spain	Extremadura Regional Parliament	3Es Plan Employment, enterprise and entrepreneurship that allows young people to start their own business.
Hungary	Educational Foundation	Programs to support 1. mothers so that they can get a job, 2. new job creation, 3. working parents, and 4. continued education of parents.
Finland	Uusimaa Regional Council	European Entrepreneurial Region Part of the European Entrepreneurial Year 2012 Youth entrepreneurship and employment are being promoted. Its summer job (Kesäduuni) campaign also aims to remove obstacles to young people entering the labour market.
Spain	Canary Islands	Canary Islands Education and Employment Strategy 2012-2014
Romania	Hargita County Council	Traineeship Programme Intended to help university graduates and other students to apply for traineeships in various fields: engineering, administration, international relations, culture, sociology and economics.
Austria	Upper Austria	Job Coaching Project is intended to provide young people with advice and support when seeking jobs or apprenticeships. The aim is to prevent young people from building up false hopes or choosing unsuitable careers.
Slovakia	Trenčín Self-governing Region	Policy (to 2013) of developing work with young people
Spain	Generalitat de Catalunya	Development of Spanish national youth independence network and other services and facilities for young people
Spain	Generalitat de Catalunya	Regional initiatives and programmes such as school-work transition, youth formula, getting young people to move back to rural areas.
Portugal	Madeira Regional Government	EURES Network promoted by Madeira Employment Service

Country	Authority	Initiative
Portugal	Madeira Regional Government	Eurodissey promoted by Regional Department for Youth and Sport
Portugal	Madeira Regional Government	Grundtvig, promoted by Regional Secretariat for Education and Human Resources
Portugal	Madeira Regional Government	Erasmus promoted by University of Madeira
Portugal	Madeira Regional Government	Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs promoted by Association of Young Entrepreneurs of Madeira (AJEM)
Portugal	Madeira Regional Government	Youth in Action, jointly promoted by Regional Department for Youth and Sport and National Youth in Action Programme Management Agency
Portugal	Madeira Regional Government	Leonardo da Vinci promoted by University of Madeira
Portugal	Madeira Regional Government	CIRCULUS promoted by University of Madeira
Portugal	Madeira Regional Government	Vocational Training Periods Abroad under Madeira Employment Service
Bulgaria	Sofia Municipal Council	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sciences plans to implement following projects between 2011-2014: Pupil and student placements Updating higher education curriculae to meet requirements of labour market Jobs for young people in Bulgaria
UK	Belfast City Council	Investment Programme To stimulate economy by investing in local communities
Sweden	East Sweden Region	Region also has a strategy for entrepreneurship and is co-funding several initiatives in this area in schools
France	Regional Council of Auvergne	Young Adult Pack initiative Includes - Young Pack designers/small business owners: support for entrepreneurs under the age of 30. - Acceptance of apprentices in high schools, to encourage apprenticeship training. - Startups - Civil Service - Young Adult Pack Job Discovery - The New World Youth Card including partial funding for driver's licenses and school-related fees (mobility + education)
France	Regional Council of Auvergne	AUDACE To improve personal and professional skills of less skilled job seekers, the region with the support of the LEONARDO program offers eight week business internships in Europe.
Sweden	Dalarna Region	Employment for the Young initiative
Sweden	Dalarna Region	Stay in Dalarna initiative
UK	COSLA	Workforce Plus

Country	Authority	Initiative
		Local Employment Partnerships since 2006
UK	COSLA	In January 2012 the Scottish Government launched its Youth Employment Strategy
UK	COSLA	16+ Learning Choices
UK	COSLA	Youth Employment Action Plans
Czech Republic	South Moravia Region	Implementation of own Youth in Action programme to support mobility and non-organised groups of young people
Poland	Marshal's Office in Lodz	job start programmes improve and broaden skill sets
UK	Preston City Council	Education and Skills Act of 2008 Enters into effect in 2013, it is compulsory for young people up to age 19 to be in education, training or in a job (with training)
UK	Preston City Council	Youth Contract scheme Available to firms in Preston, take-up unknown and investigated at present
UK	Scarborough Borough Council	Working with schools and businesses to develop Yorkshire Coast Employability Charter to provide young people with a passport detailing all employability related achievements in a form useful to employers
UK	Scarborough Borough Council	Reinvigoration of Job Brokerage Service to support the forthcoming construction and other jobs