**Latvia: NEET numbers down due to youth guarantee and VET**

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**Since 2014, the situation in the labour market for young people aged 15 to 29 has improved as more NEETs (not in employment, education and training) have become economically active.**

The number of young NEET people has decreased by 36% since 2014.

In 2014-18, in total 146 000 NEETs were engaged in the youth guarantee programme: 137 651 NEETs participated in job search activities; and 29 526 were provided with long-term support (one- and one-and-a-half-year vocational education programmes, continuing vocational education and professional development programmes, non-formal education programmes, work experience in a subsidised job or non-governmental sector).

These long-term vocational education programmes (more than 150 qualifications at EQF levels 3 and 4) are provided by 30 vocational education institutions.

This support will continue until 2020. Its current [**ex-post evaluation**](http://sf.lm.gov.lv/f/files/2014_2020/Noslguma_izvrtjums_Jaunieu_garantija.pdf) already indicates the positive impact of activities on the return of NEETs to the labour market, especially after completing initial and continuing vocational programmes.