

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

# Youth on the Move

The perspective of regional and local authorities



Regions and Cities supporting  
**Europe2020**  
Europe's growth strategy



Brussels  
13 December 2012  
11:00-17:30

draft

programme

Conference of the  
Committee of the Regions



**Europe 2020**, Europe's growth strategy, puts young people at its centre. It has a special agenda for improving their education and employment, since the economic crisis in several EU member states puts youth in a very difficult situation. On average, over 22% of those under 25, who are available to work, cannot find a job. The percentage is over 50% in the worst-affected member states.

The event will be **the first in a series of seven CoR conferences in 2012/13 on the seven flagship initiatives, which are part of the Europe 2020 strategy**. A few days after the planned adoption of the "Youth Employment Package" by the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) will address the topics of employment, apprenticeships, training and mobility of young people from the perspective of Europe's regional and local governments.

The conference will involve representatives of regional and local authorities in order to discuss the flagship initiative "Youth on the Move" both from the EU and from the local and regional point of view. Participants will assess the state of play on the implementation of the Flagship, whilst regions and cities showcase best practices. Conclusions of the conference will feed into the **CoR's contribution to the mid-term evaluation of the 2020 Strategy**. This CoR contribution is to be adopted at the 2014 European Summit of Regions and Cities.

The event will provide for:

- Political input from regional and local authorities on the delivery of the flagship initiative;
- Information on EU activities linked to it such as the Youth Employment Package;
- Exchange of experience and good practice on how to fight youth unemployment;
- Information on the relevant opinions and works of the CoR.

## 11:00 - 13:00 **Opening session**

### **Keynote speeches**

- **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, *President of the Committee of the Regions*;
- **George Demosthenous**, *Minister for Education and Culture, Representative of Cyprus EU Presidency (tbc)*;
- **László Andor**, *European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*
- **Yves Leterme**, *Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD, in charge of Education, Social Affairs, Governance and Entrepreneurship (tbc)*;
- **Michel Delebarre**, *CoR political coordinator on Europe 2020, Results of the CoRtexturvey on Youth on the Move*.

**Moderator:** Mark Rogerson, Consilia Ltd.

## 12:30 - 13:00 **Debate with the audience**

## 13:00 - 14:30 **Networking lunch in the Foyer on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

## 14:30 - 15:00 **Keynote speech and discussion**

**Chair:** Mercedes Bresso, First Vice-President Committee of the Regions

- **Androulla Vassiliou**, *European Commissioner for Youth, Education, Multilingualism and Culture*

## 15:10 - 16:40 **Parallel workshops**

### **Workshop 1: Improving youth employment at local level**

The objective of this workshop is to discuss in particular:

- Youth Guarantees – What role for regional and local authorities?



- Inclusive youth employment: How does it work in the regions and cities?
- Results of EU projects in the regions and cities.

**Chair:** **Simone Beissel**, *Municipal Councillor of the City of Luxembourg, Chair of the CoR Commission for Economic and Social Policy*

**Panel:** **Max Uebe**, *European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*; **Shilpi Akbar**, *Assistant Director - Employment, Birmingham City Council, UK (Eurocities)*; **Matti Mäkelä**, *Youth guarantee, Project manager, City of Turku, Finland*; **Karolina Horbaczewska**, *Regional Office of Opolskie Region, PL (YES project)*; **Massimiliano Mascherini**, *Expert from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions, Dublin.*

### **Workshop 2: Education, training and apprenticeships: The role of regional and local authorities**

The objective of this workshop is to discuss in particular:

- Preventative measures against early school leaving on local and regional level;
- Reform of education systems to improve employability/access to apprenticeships;
- Alternative learning systems: Adapt school to pupils, not pupils to school.

**Chair:** **Jean-François Istasse**, *Member of the Parliament of the French-speaking Community in Belgium, First Vice-Chairman of the CoR Commission for Education, Youth, Culture and Research*

**Panel:** **Pavel Trantina**, *European Economic and Social Committee-rapporteur on 'Youth on the Move'*; **Ulrike Wisser**, *Youth for Europe, National Contact Point, Bonn, Germany*; **Eleonora Schmid**, *Senior expert Cedefop, European Center for the*

*Development of Vocational Training; Lucy Pyne, OECD LEED Programme.*

### **Workshop 3: Youth mobility in education and the workplace**

The objective of this workshop is to discuss in particular:

- 'Youth on the Move' and its local impact;
- How to promote mobility on local and regional level?
- Enhance graduate employment on local and regional level.

**Chair:** **Marc Schaefer**, *Member of Vianden Municipal Council, Luxembourg, CoR rapporteur 'Youth on the Move'*

**Panel:** **Filip Van Depoele**, *European Commission, DG Education and Culture*; **Luca Scarpello**, *Vice-President European Youth Forum*; **Rui Bettencourt**, *Regional Director for Employment, Vocational Training and Consumer Protection, Azores (PT), (Assembly of European Regions)*; **Mariachiara Esposito**, *Policy Officer Tuscany regional office in Brussels, (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions).*

### **16:45 – 17:30 Closing session**

**Chair:** **Mercedes Bresso**, *First Vice-President Committee of the Regions*

**Moderator:** **Mark Rogerson**, *Consilia Ltd.*

The chairs of the three workshops **Simone Beissel**, **Jean-François Istasse** and **Marc Schaefer** report briefly to the closing session (20 min.)

Debate with the audience until 17.30

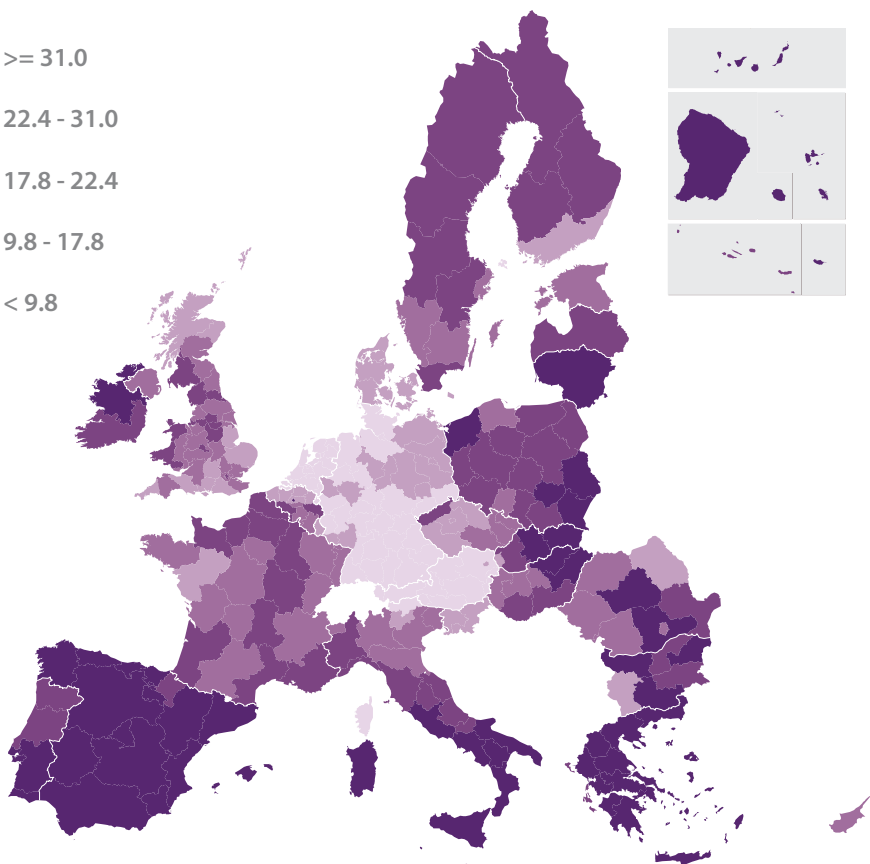
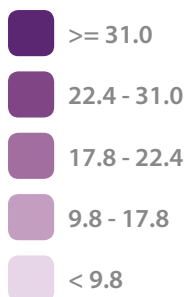
**Exhibition** in the Foyer on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor on good practices in regions and cities

More information and registration:  
[www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020](http://www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020)

live web-streaming:  
<http://webcast.cor.europa.eu/>

## Youth unemployment map

> people aged between 15 and 24 in %, 2011



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