The situation of young people in Europe and policy answers: ITALY

1. What are the main urgent (policy-relevant) issues related to youth?
Disadvantaged amongst young generations are the long-term unemployed young people (the 15 to 24 years old ones) with low educational levels. They do not have enough of a voice for participating and influencing public policies aimed at tackling unemployment. The lack of well-targeted policies and sufficient financial resources to contrast youth unemployment has been highlighted by the relevant stakeholders.

2. How do existing policies address these challenges?
A general limitation of the existing public policies (definition, development and implementation), with an absence of adequate opportunities of available educational paths, in particular with reference to a lack of vocational training schools oriented to work has been highlighted. The implementation of the existing policies appeared often not integrated at the national and local levels. The young unemployed appeared not sufficiently involved in policy making. In addition, with the exception of the involved third sector provider and CGIL, employment support services, government policy makers and trade union representatives did not appear prone to favor an effective participation of youth representatives in policy making and in institutionalizing such grass-root practices.

3. How to increase capability-friendly policies in Italy?
There are several ways to increase capability-friendly policies in Italy: develop vocational schools more oriented to work; Increase financial funding for Academic studies; Reduce firms and work’s taxation; Assess the consequences of an excessive extension of temporary job contracts; narrowing down the types of temporary contracts and of introducing a minimum market entry level of labour costs; Improve planning, investments in innovation and research; Prevent discriminations and enhance equal opportunities in the labour market; Develop of capability friendly policies for a general lack of youth groups in influencing policies and governmental agendas towards youth’s need and priorities; Improve controlling and evaluating the outcomes with the involvement of new actors responsible for controlling youth unemployment policies’ implementation.

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