Situation of youth unemployment in Spain: Current challenges and proposals for improvement

PhD. Juan Carlos Álvarez Cortés
Dpt. Labour Law and Social Security
University of Málaga (Spain)
Index

1. Situation - in figures - of the level of youth unemployment in Spain, itemized by sex and academic or training levels
3. Active policies developed and in force, distinguishing among training, access to the labour market, entrepreneurship or self-employment and internationalization
4. Data on the use of these measures by Spanish young people
5. Identification of current challenges
6. Proposals for improvement
1. Situation - in figures - of the level of youth unemployment in Spain, itemized by sex and age

- **Total unemployment** figures in Spain (Reference month: February 2017): 3,750,876

- **Total** unemployment figures for **men under 30** years of age: 306,698 (8,18%)

- **Total** unemployment figures for **women under 30** years of age: 339,076 (9,03%)

- Unemployment figures for **men between 16 and 25** years of age: 155,516 (4,15%)

- Unemployment figures for **women between 16 and 25** years of age: 146,117 (3,89%)

- Unemployment figures for **men between 25 and 30** years of age: 151,182 (4,03%)

- Unemployment figures for **women between 25 and 30** years of age: 192,959 (5,14%)

“‘It’s a nightmare being a young person with a job - everyone keeps staring at me.’

• **Main ideas 2014 Council Recommendation**
  1. Provide good quality offers of employment, apprenticeships and traineeships
  2. Implement the new educational schemes to increase the quality of primary and secondary education
  3. Enhance guidance and support for groups at risk of early school leaving
  4. Enhance the cooperation with employers and supporting the training of trainers and tutors

• **Main ideas 2015 Council Recommendation**
Take steps to increase the quality and effectiveness of job search assistance and counselling, including as part of tackling youth unemployment

• **Main ideas 2016 Council Recommendation**
  1. Take further measures to improve labour market integration, by focusing on individualised support and strengthening the effectiveness of training measures
  2. Take further measures to improve the labour market relevance of tertiary education, including by incentivising cooperation between universities, firms and research institutions
3. Active policies developed and in force, distinguishing among training, access to the labour market, entrepreneurship or self-employment and internationalization (I)

• TRAINING

1. Part-time contract with a formative aim: Reduction of 100% of the Social Security fee for enterprises with less than 250 workers. When the companies have more than 250 workers, the reduction will be of 75% (24 months max.)

2. Training Contract: Reduction of 50% of the Social Security fee throughout the term of the contract

3. If they come from an employment agency and the new company makes a permanent contract: 1500€ of reduction of the Social Security fee for men and 1800€ for women if they have had a contract for training and learning. 500€ of reduction of the Social Security fee for men and 700€ for women if they have had a contract for training.
3. Active policies developed and in force, distinguishing among training, access to the labour market, entrepreneurship or self-employment and internationalization (II)

• ACCESS TO THE LABOUR MARKET

1. **Microenterprise and self-employed** that hire young people will received a 100% reduction of the Social Security fees during 12 months.
2. **Social Economy enterprises** that hire young people will receive 1650€/year – during the first year- and 800€/year – during the last 2 years-.
3. **Companies that make permanent contracts to young people who proceed from employment agencies**, will receive 500€/year for each man and 700€/year for each woman during 3 years.
3. Active policies developed and in force, distinguishing among training, access to the labour market, entrepreneurship or self-employment and internationalization (III)

• ENTREPRENEURSHIP OR SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Young men under 30 years and women under 35 years will...

- Have to pay only 50€/month – during 6 months - as Social Security fee.

- Have a reduction of 80% of the Social Security fee during the next 6 months.

- Have a reduction of 50% of the Social Security fee during the next 6 months.

- Have a reduction of 30% of the Social Security fee during the next 18 months.
3. Active policies developed and in force, distinguishing among training, access to the labour market, entrepreneurship or self-employment and internationalization (IV)

• INTERNATIONALIZATION (Strategy “Your EURES-ESF Job”)

It is a project of the State Public Employment Service (SPES) cofinanced by the ESF to provide financial support to young unemployed workers to perform job interview(s) or to join a job, learning or practice in a country of the European Economic Area and Switzerland, other than residence, and/or to undertake a language course linked to the needs of the job.
4. Data on the use of these measures by Spanish young people

2016 Employment rate increases among people aged between 40 and over, and it is reduced among people under this age. The largest increased is observed in the group out of 50-54 years (45,300 more employees than 2015) and the biggest drop in the 20-24 years (55,500 less employees than 2015).

Employment Rate February 2017
1. Training: 3
2. Access to the labour market:
   Micro-small enterprises: 2,339
   Social Economy: 4
3. Self-employment: 9,364
4. Internationalization: 42
5. Identification of current challenges

1. **Educational Rate** (Having into account young people among 16–34 years. Data from 2014)
   - 39.4% (Primary School)
   - 28.7% (Secondary School)
   - 31.9% (Bachelor and Doctorate)

2. **Fragmented business fabric** (Data from February 2017)
   - Micro-small enterprises: 1,268,000 (44.60%)
   - Self-employed: 1,547,000 (54.41%)
   - Total enterprises: 2,843,000

3. **Temporality rate** (Among young people. Data from February 2017):
   41.18%
6. Proposals for improvement

- Increase of public policies (and their evaluation) related to the promotion of young people employment BUT focused on creating and enhancing bridges among training, formation and work.
- Development of actions oriented to implement the introduction of *subjects related to self-employment and entrepreneurship* in every educational level.
- Augment measures to reduce the temporality rate as, for example, *increasing the economic help for companies that hire young people with a permanent contract.*
thank you so much