

Mid-term Review of the Europe 2020 Strategy¹

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Abstract

Employment and unemployment, which has become a common problem of the globalizing World since 1990's, were the leading critical issues of labour market in the EU countries that were deeply affected from the global financial crisis occurred in 2008. The employment and unemployment problems that have become a common concern and interest of the Union have been built on an integrated approach including smart, sustainable and inclusive growth priorities and a business concept compatible with human dignity in 2010 through the Europe 2020 Strategy. The progress of achieving the targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy, which is almost at the end of its 5th year, and the efficiency of its policies requires a mid-term evaluation. This evaluation is considered as an important tool with respect to make a positive contribution towards the achievement of 2020 targets and priorities. In this context, the Europe 2020 Strategy was discussed in terms of its all aspects and then the targets of the strategy was subjected to a mid-term evaluation and ultimately how the development and progress over 5 years is reflected in labour market in the EU countries was analyzed in general.

Keywords: *Europe 2020 Strategy, Europe Employment Strategy*

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Introduction

The European Coal and Steel Community was founded by joint initiatives of Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Luxemburg and Netherland in 1951 and then named as the European Economic Community by the Treaty of Rome of 1957. The Europe Union, which has built its economic, political and monetary union by the Merger Treaty in 1965, the Single European Act in 1987, the Maastricht Treaty (EU Treaty) in 1992, the Amsterdam Treaty in 1997, the Nice Treaty in 2000 and the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007, has expanded seven times since 1973 and reached a supranational structure of 28 countries.

Employment and unemployment, which have become the common problem and policy area of the EU countries, was discussed as an employment strategy at the EU level through the Amsterdam Treaty and the Luxemburg and Lisbon summits. Although the Lisbon Strategy, which is the milestone of the Europe Employment Strategy, and its targets have led to important improvements, the European Council agreed on a new strategy in 17 June 2010 by considering the social-economic problems arising from the enlargement process, the reform needs, new conjuncture resulting from financial crisis and economic crisis and the union's future. Unlike other strategies, the Europe 2020 Strategy targets development through an integrated approach including smart, sustainable and inclusive growth priorities. The strategy, which completed half of the 2020 targets and of which positive and negative developments should be analyzed through a mid-term review, has been built on 3 priorities, 5 main targets and 7 main initiatives for policies on employment and fighting against unemployment. In the Article consisting of three parts, the Europe 2020 Strategy was discussed in terms of its all aspects and then development processes of the member countries were evaluated through monitoring the present situation on the 2020 targets of the strategy that was monitored for more than 5 years and ultimately the labor markets of EU countries developed under the 2020 strategy were analyzed.

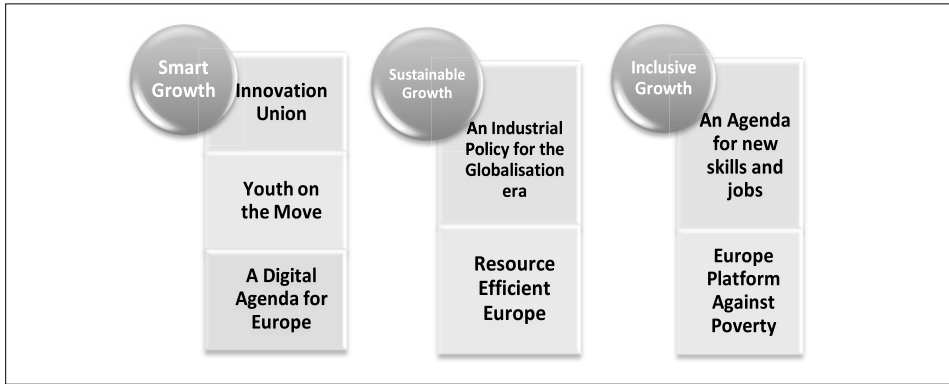
Europe 2020 Strategy

The Europe 2020 strategy document, which targets to overcome the effects of an economic crisis, make structural reforms and return to pre-crisis growth acceleration, and to build a much stronger Europe against the problems to be faced until 2020, includes complementary and supporting 3 priorities, 5 targets and 7 main initiatives to be implemented within this scope. The strategy document presented by Jose Manuel Barroso, the European Commission President, in 3 March 2010 has three priorities as follows: smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (European Commission A, 2010: 3). Considering these three priorities; *Smart Growth*: development of a knowledge and innovation-based economy

- Sustainable Growth: Promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy
- Inclusive growth: Fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion/integration.
- Five targets were set out for 2020 along with the strategic priorities (European Commission A, 2010: 10-11):
- Increasing employment rate of the population aged between 20-64 from 69% to 75%
- Allocating 3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the EU to Research and Development (R&D) activities
- Achieving “20/20/20” climate and environment targets; reducing carbon dioxide emission by at least 20% compared to 1990 (30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right), increasing the share of renewable energy in the gross energy consumption to 20% and ensuring 20% energy conservation
- Reducing the rate of early school leaving below 10% and increasing the rate of higher education graduation from 31% to 40% in the age group of 30-34
- Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty by 25% and lifting 20 million people out of poverty within the scope of poverty and social exclusion.

7 initiatives (flagship), which determine the scope of activities, plans and programs of the Europe Union for achieving these 5 targets for 2020 mentioned above and draw the route of the EU, were created. (Murat & Şahin, 2011: 272-273).

Figure 1: Europe 2020 Strategy 3 Priorities and 7 Initiative



- **Innovation Union:** To improve the environment conditions and to facilitate the access to financial resources for research and innovation and to turn the innovative ideas into goods and services in order to ensure sustainable growth and employment.
- **Youth on the move:** To enhance the performance of education and training systems and to facilitate the access of young people to the labour market and to create new job opportunities for youth.
- **A digital agenda for Europe:** To generalize the use of high-speed internet and to facilitate the benefits of the digital single market possibilities for households and companies.
- **An industrial policy for the globalization era:** To create a strong, sustainable and modern industry base capable of competing globally against the negative results of globalization.
- **Resource efficient Europe:** To increase the use of renewable energy, to ensure energy efficiency and conservation, to modernize the transportation sector and to develop policies for an environment-friendly economic growth through effective use of resources.
- **An agenda for new skills and jobs:** To improve lifelong learning and labor skills, to balance labor supply and demand and to improve participation in labor force and labor efficiency by modernizing the labor markets.
- **European platform against poverty:** To ensure social-economic and territorial cohesion within the scope of fighting against poverty and social exclusion and to bring the people experiencing poverty and social exclusion into a more active position in the community.

Mid-Term Evaluation of Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Targets

According to the data given in Table 1 showing the results obtained and progress made towards the Europe 2020 Targets, it can be seen that employment rate target of 75% of the population aged between 20-64 is still far from being achieved at 69.2% by 2014, also there is a downward tendency until 2014 in comparison with the employment rate of 70% obtained in 2008. On the other hand, there is an increase (+0.7%) in the employment rate of women aged between 20-64 years and a decrease (-2.8%) in the employment rate of men aged between 20-64 years between the years 2008-2014, respectively.

Significant progress was made in the target of allocating 3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to Research and Development (R&D) activities as well as the EU climate and energy targets reached 2.01% by 2014. According to the data of 1990, it was reached 82.1% in the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% at 2012. In addition, it was reached 15% in the target of increasing the share of renewable energy in gross energy consumption. In respect with the target of 20% energy efficiency, the primary and secondary energy consumption has reached 11.9% and 12.8% respectively.

Two targets on education were set. While the target of reducing the early school leaving of the population aged between 18-24 years by 10% was 14.6% in 2008, it reached 11.1% by 2014. On the other hand, while the target of increasing the participation of the population aged between 30 and 34 in higher education over %40 was 31.2% in 2008, it reached 37.9% by 2014.

There is an upward trend in the target of lifting at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2010. While 25% decrease is expected in the target of decreasing the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, the increases occurring should also be highlighted.

It is seen that 5 strategic targets set out for the European Union were revised on the country basis by taking social-economic conditions and differences of the countries into account.³

3 For detailed information on the countries' 2020 targets set out in the national programs: European Commission, "Europe 2020 Targets", (çevrimiçi) http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/annexii_en.pdf, 10.06.2015.

Data on such targets are shown under the titles of employment, research and development, climate change and environment, education, fight against poverty and social exclusion country-by-country.

Table 1: Europe 2020 Targets (2008 - 2014)

		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TARGET 2020
Employment	Employment Rate of Population aged 20-64 years (%)	70,3	68,9	68,6	68,6	68,4	68,4	69,2	75,0
	*Employment Rate of Woman aged 20-64 years (%)	62,8	62,3	62,1	62,3	62,4	62,6	63,5	-
	* Employment Rate of Men aged 20-64 years (%)	77,8	75,7	75,1	75,0	74,6	74,3	75,0	-
Research and Development	Share from Gross Domestic Product (% GDP)	1,85	1,94	1,93	1,97	2,01	2,01	-	3
Climate Change and Environment	Green Gas Emission (Index 1990=100)	90,4	83,8	85,7	83,2	82,1	-	-	80
	Renewable energy (in % of gross final energy consumption)	10,5	11,9	12,5	12,9	14,3	15,0	-	20
	Energy Efficiency*								20
	* Primary Energy Consumption (Million Tonne)	1.687	1.593	1.652	1.593	1.584	1.567	-	1.483
	(%)	2,8	8,3	5,7	9,4	10,4	11,9	-	20
	* Final Energy Consumption (Million Tonne)	1.173	1.107	1.158	1.104	1.102	1.105	-	1.086
	(%)	3,5	9,2	6,3	11,1	12,1	12,8	-	20
Education	Early School Leaving in % (population aged 18-24 %)	14,6	14,2	13,9	13,4	12,6	11,9	11,1	<10
	* Rate of early school leaving in women (population age 18-24 %)	12,6	12,3	11,9	11,5	10,8	10,2	9,5	-
	* Rate of early school leaving in men (population 18-24 %)	16,6	16	15,8	15,2	14,4	13,5	12,7	-
	Rate of participation in tertiary education (population aged 30-34 %)	31,2	32,3	33,8	34,8	36	37,1	37,9	≥40
	* Rate of participation in tertiary education in Woman (population aged 30-34 %)	34,4	35,7	37,4	38,7	40,3	41,4	42,3	-
	* Rate of participation in tertiary education in Men (population aged 30-34 %)	28	29	30,3	31	31,8	32,9	33,6	-
Poverty and Social Exclusion	People at Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion (Million)	116.566	114.560	118.007	121.314	124.060	122.897	-	96,6
	People at Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion (%)	23,8	23,3	23,7	24,3	24,7	24,5	-	-
	* Persons in households with low work intensity (%)	9,1	9,1	10,2	10,4	10,5	10,8	-	-
	* People at risk of poverty after social transfers (%)	16,6	16,4	16,4	16,8	16,8	16,6	-	-
	* Severely materially deprived people (%)	8,5	8,2	8,4	8,9	9,9	9,6	-	-

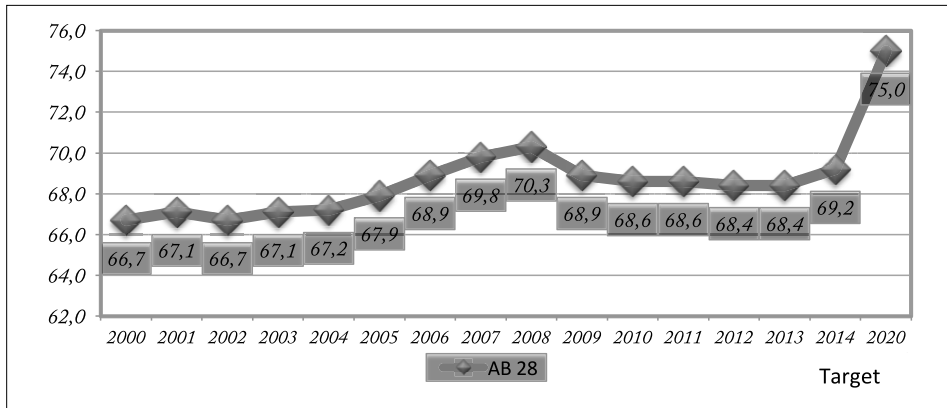
Source: EUROSTAT, “Europe 2020 Headline Indicators”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy/main-tables>, 10.06.2015. It was prepared using these data.

Employment

The European Union has made significant progress in increasing employment rates and reducing unemployment since 2000; however, interruption of this progression has become unavoidable because of the fact that the financial crisis of which effects have been felt progressively since 2008 also has an adverse impact on the employment rates.

Given the data in the Graph 1 showing the progression process for the EU 2020 employment target between the years 2002 and 2014, the employment rate, which was 66.7% in 2000 and reached 70.3% by 2008, has shown a decreasing trend after 2008 and caused moving away from the Europe 2020 employment target. In 2014, it is seen that acceleration has been gained through the employment rate of 69.2% and a positive progress has been made towards achieving the employment target, however it is still far from the target of 5.8% expected to reach.

Graph 1: EU 28 2020 Employment Target and Employment Rates for the Years of 2000-2014, (%)



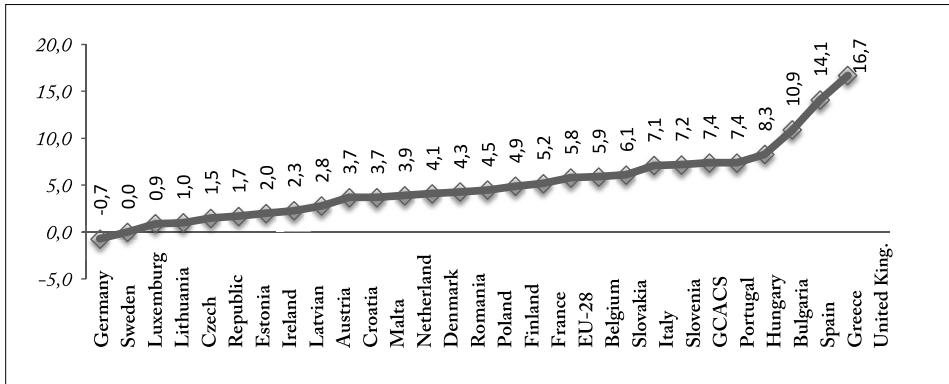
Source: It is prepared using the data presented in Table 2.

While these developments were taking place at EU level, as it is highlighted in Table 2, the EU countries have experienced an increase in employment until 2008; however, moved away from the national employment targets due to the financial crisis occurred in 2008. The employment

target set out as 75% in the age groups of 20-64 in the EU 2020 employment targets may differ in the national reform programs of the member countries. The targets that are set out by taking different social-economic conditions of the countries into account are shown in Table 2 on a country-by-country basis.

According to the data given in Graph 2 showing the progress required for EU countries to meet their own 'employment targets for 2020, it is seen that Germany and Sweden reached their 2020 employment targets by 2014, however Luxemburg (0.9%), Lithuania (1.0%), Czech Republic (1.5%), Estonia (1.7%) and Ireland (2%) are the countries closest to their targets. The countries farthest from their targets are Greece (16.7%), Spain (14.1%), Bulgaria (10.9%), Hungary (8.3%), Portugal (7.4%), GCACS (7.4%), Slovenia (7.2%), Italy (7.1%), Slovakia (6.1%) and Belgium (6.1%), respectively. United Kingdom with an employment rate of 76.2% has no employment target for 2020.

Graph 2: Progress Required for EU Countries to Meet Their 2020 Employment Targets, (2014), (%)



Source: It is prepared using the data in the Table 2.

Although the progress required for the EU countries to meet their employment targets provide some significant implications, this is not a sufficient indicator by itself. These data should be analyzed by considering the countries' employment targets and 2014 employment rates shown in Table 2. For example, some countries aim to reach an employment rate over 75% employment rate targeted at EU level such as Sweden, Denmark and Netherlands (80%), Finland (78%), Germany and Austria (77%), Bulgaria and Estonia (76%), respectively.

According to these data, although they are far from their employment targets, the 2014 employment rates were 75.9% in Denmark, 76.1% in Netherlands, 74.3% in Estonia, 74.2% in Austria, 73.1% in Finland. Among these countries, Bulgaria is remained behind its employment target.

On the other hand, the countries with the 2014 employment rates below 60% are highlighted in Table 2. Of these countries, Greece with an employment target of 70% reached an employment rate of 53.3%, Spain with an employment target of 74% reached an employment rate of 59.9%, Italy with an employment target of 67% reached an employment rate of 59.9% and Croatia with an employment target of 72.9% reached an employment rate of 59.2%, respectively. In this context, employment policies of these countries are considered as unsuccessful given both the progress required to meet the target and the data of 2014. Although United Kingdom set out no 2020 target, it has an employment rate of 76.2% by 2014.

Table 2: 2020 EU Countries' Employment Targets and Employment Rates between the Years of 2000-2014 (%), (Age: 20-64)

	2000	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2020	Uzaklık
EU 28	66,7	70,3	68,9	68,6	68,6	68,4	68,4	69,2	75,0	5,8
Belgium	66,3	68,0	67,1	67,6	67,3	67,2	67,2	67,3	73,2	5,9
Bulgaria	56,5	70,7	68,8	65,4	62,9	63,0	63,5	65,1	76,0	10,9
Czech Republic	70,9	72,4	70,9	70,4	70,9	71,5	72,5	73,5	75,0	1,5
Denmark	77,9	79,7	77,5	75,8	75,7	75,4	75,6	75,9	80,0	4,1
Germany	68,7	74,0	74,2	74,9	76,5	76,9	77,3	77,7	77,0	-0,7
Estonia	67,5	77,1	70,0	66,8	70,6	72,2	73,3	74,3	76,0	1,7
Ireland	70,1	72,2	66,9	64,6	63,8	63,7	65,5	67,0	69,0	2,0
Greece	62,1	66,3	65,6	63,8	59,6	55,0	52,9	53,3	70,0	16,7
Spain	60,6	68,5	64,0	62,8	62,0	59,6	58,6	59,9	74,0	14,1
France	67,4	70,4	69,5	69,3	69,3	69,4	69,6	69,8	75,0	5,2
Croatia	-	64,9	64,2	62,1	59,8	58,1	57,2	59,2	62,9	3,7
Italy	57,1	62,9	61,6	61,0	61,0	60,9	59,7	59,9	67,0	7,1
GCASC	72,0	76,5	75,3	75,0	73,4	70,2	67,2	67,6	75,0	7,4
Latvia	63,4	75,4	66,6	64,3	66,3	68,1	69,7	70,7	73,0	2,3
Lithuania	66,1	72,0	67,0	64,3	66,9	68,5	69,9	71,8	72,8	1,0
Luxemburg	67,5	68,8	70,4	70,7	70,1	71,4	71,1	72,1	73,0	0,9
Hungary	60,9	61,5	60,1	59,9	60,4	61,6	63,0	66,7	75,0	8,3
Malta	57,5	59,2	59,0	60,1	61,6	63,1	64,8	66,3	70,0	3,7
Netherlands	74,2	78,9	78,8	76,8	77,0	77,2	76,5	76,1	80,0	3,9
Austria	70,7	73,8	73,4	73,9	74,2	74,4	74,6	74,2	77,0	2,8
Poland	61,1	65,0	64,9	64,3	64,5	64,7	64,9	66,5	71,0	4,5
Portugal	73,4	73,1	71,1	70,3	68,8	66,3	65,4	67,6	75,0	7,4
Romania	70,5	64,4	63,5	64,8	63,8	64,8	64,7	65,7	70,0	4,3
Slovenia	68,5	73,0	71,9	70,3	68,4	68,3	67,2	67,8	75,0	7,2
Slovakia	63,0	68,8	66,4	64,6	65,0	65,1	65,0	65,9	72,0	6,1
Finland	72,3	75,8	73,5	73,0	73,8	74,0	73,3	73,1	78,0	4,9
Sweden	76,3	80,4	78,3	78,1	79,4	79,4	79,8	80,0	80,0	0,0
UK	73,9	75,2	73,9	73,5	73,5	74,1	74,8	76,2	-	-

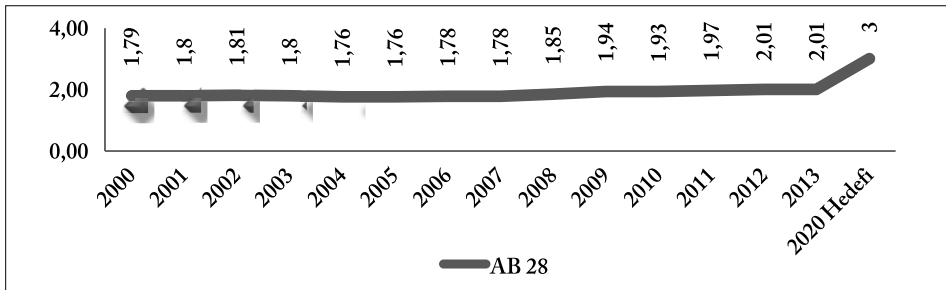
ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy/main-tables , 10.06.2015.; European Commission, “Europe 2020 Targets”, (online) http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/annexii_en.pdf , 10.06.2015.

R&D and Innovation

Another main target of the Europe Union within the scope of 2020 strategy is allocating 3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to Research and Development (R&D) activities and support innovation. Given the fact that rapid changes and innovations at the global level shape the conditions of competition and affect the economic development of the countries, R&D investments and supporting innovative ideas have an important role for the countries. Sustainability of productivity and effective use of resources is mainly based on innovative interests and supports.

According to Graph 3 showing the ratio of R&D investment expenses to GDP by years at EU level, it is seen that the share allocated for the investment tends to increase and, although it is far from the 2020 target by 2014, it reached 2.01%.

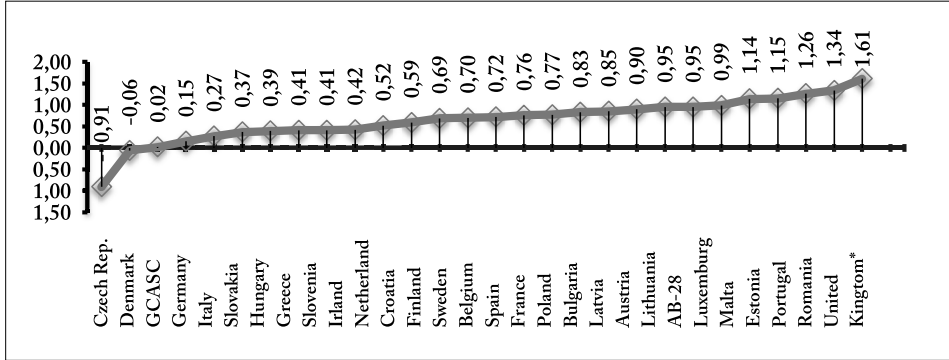
Graph 3: EU 28 R&D 2020 Target and 2000-2013 Years Expenditures (% GDP)



Source: It was prepared using the data in the Table 3.

It is seen that the member countries set out a national target below or above %3 depending on their own economic conditions as well as a target of 3% at EU level. Table 3 shows the R&D expenditures of the member countries between the years of 2000-2013 as well as their 2020 targets and progress required to meet these targets.

Graph 4: Progress Required for EU Countries to Meet Their 2020 R&D Targets (%), (2014)



Source: It was prepared using the data in the Table 3.

The Graph 4 includes the progress required for member countries to meet their 2020 targets with respect to the share of R&D investments in the GDP. According to these data, Czech Republic reached its target (1% public sector) and Denmark, GCASC, Germany and Italy are too close to their targets already. Romania, Portugal, Estonia, Malta, Luxemburg are the countries the farthest from their targets. No special R&D target for 2020 is set out for United Kingdom.

However, these progresses required are directly proportional to the varying targets of the countries. For example, the 2020 target of Finland and Sweden is 4% and the 2020 target of Austria is 3.76% while the other countries set their targets out below 3%. Of the countries sorted by the progress required to meet their targets, Denmark reached 3.06% and Germany reached 2.85% within the scope of the 3% target. In this context, 2020 country R&D targets and 2013 data given in the Table 3 should be evaluated together and the required progress for countries to meet their targets should be interpreted accordingly.

Considering an overall evaluation regarding the 3% and above targets of EU 2020, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Germany, France, Slovenia and Belgium may be considered as successful countries in terms of meeting their targets.

Table 3: 2020 R&D Targets and 2000-2013 Expenditures of the EU Countries (% GDP)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2020	distance to target
AB 28	1,79	1,8	1,81	1,8	1,76	1,76	1,78	1,78	1,85	1,94	1,93	1,97	2,01	2,01	3	0,99
<i>EU 15</i>	1,85	1,86	1,87	1,86	1,83	1,83	1,85	1,86	1,94	2,03	2,02	2,06	2,09	2,09	3	-
<i>Belgium</i>	1,93	2,03	1,89	1,83	1,81	1,78	1,81	1,84	1,92	1,97	2,05	2,15	2,24	2,28	3	0,72
<i>Bulgaria</i>	0,49	0,44	0,47	0,47	0,48	0,45	0,45	0,44	0,46	0,51	0,59	0,55	0,62	0,65	1,5	0,85
<i>Czech Rep.</i>	1,12	1,11	1,1	1,15	1,15	1,17	1,23	1,31	1,24	1,3	1,34	1,56	1,79	1,91	1	-0,91
<i>Denmark</i>	2,19	2,32	2,44	2,51	2,42	2,39	2,4	2,51	2,78	3,07	2,94	2,97	3,02	3,06	3	-0,06
<i>Germany</i>	2,4	2,39	2,42	2,46	2,42	2,43	2,46	2,45	2,6	2,73	2,72	2,8	2,88	2,85	3	0,15
<i>Estonia</i>	0,6	0,7	0,72	0,77	0,85	0,92	1,12	1,07	1,26	1,4	1,58	2,34	2,16	1,74	3	1,26
<i>Ireland*</i>	1,09	1,06	1,06	1,13	1,18	1,2	1,21	1,24	1,39	1,63	1,62	1,53	1,58	-	2	0,42
<i>Greece</i>	-	0,56	-	0,55	0,53	0,58	0,56	0,58	0,66	0,63	0,6	0,67	0,69	0,8	1,21	0,41
<i>Spain</i>	0,89	0,89	0,96	1,02	1,04	1,1	1,17	1,23	1,32	1,35	1,35	1,32	1,27	1,24	2	0,76
<i>France</i>	2,08	2,13	2,17	2,11	2,09	2,04	2,05	2,02	2,06	2,21	2,18	2,19	2,23	2,23	3	0,77
<i>Croatia</i>	-	-	0,95	0,95	1,03	0,86	0,74	0,79	0,88	0,84	0,74	0,75	0,75	0,81	1,4	0,59
<i>Italy</i>	1,01	1,04	1,08	1,06	1,05	1,05	1,09	1,13	1,16	1,22	1,22	1,21	1,27	1,26	1,53	0,27
<i>GCASC</i>	0,23	0,24	0,28	0,32	0,34	0,37	0,39	0,4	0,39	0,45	0,45	0,46	0,43	0,48	0,5	0,02
<i>Latvia</i>	0,44	0,4	0,41	0,36	0,4	0,53	0,65	0,56	0,58	0,45	0,6	0,7	0,66	0,6	1,5	0,90
<i>Lithuania</i>	-	-	-	-	0,75	0,75	0,79	0,8	0,79	0,83	0,78	0,9	0,9	0,95	1,9	0,95
<i>Luxembourg</i>	1,57	-	-	1,65	1,63	1,59	1,69	1,65	1,65	1,72	1,5	1,41	1,16	1,16	2,3	1,14
<i>Hungary</i>	0,79	0,92	0,99	0,92	0,87	0,93	0,99	0,97	0,99	1,14	1,15	1,2	1,27	1,41	1,8	0,39
<i>Malta</i>	-	-	0,25	0,24	0,49	0,53	0,58	0,55	0,53	0,52	0,64	0,7	0,86	0,85	2	1,15
<i>Netherland</i>	1,8	1,82	1,77	1,81	1,82	1,81	1,77	1,7	1,65	1,69	1,72	1,89	1,97	1,98	2,5	0,52
<i>Austria</i>	1,89	2	2,07	2,18	2,17	2,38	2,37	2,43	2,59	2,61	2,74	2,68	2,81	2,81	3,76	0,95
<i>Poland</i>	0,64	0,62	0,56	0,54	0,56	0,57	0,55	0,56	0,6	0,67	0,72	0,75	0,89	0,87	1,7	0,83
<i>Portugal</i>	0,72	0,76	0,72	0,7	0,73	0,76	0,95	1,12	1,45	1,58	1,53	1,46	1,37	1,36	2,7	1,34
<i>Romania</i>	0,36	0,39	0,38	0,38	0,38	0,41	0,45	0,52	0,57	0,46	0,45	0,49	0,48	0,39	2	1,61
<i>Slovenia</i>	1,36	1,47	1,44	1,25	1,37	1,41	1,53	1,42	1,63	1,82	2,06	2,43	2,58	2,59	3	0,41
<i>Slovakia</i>	0,64	0,63	0,56	0,56	0,5	0,49	0,48	0,45	0,46	0,47	0,62	0,67	0,81	0,83	1,2	0,37
<i>Finland</i>	3,25	3,2	3,26	3,3	3,31	3,33	3,34	3,35	3,55	3,75	3,73	3,64	3,42	3,31	4	0,69
<i>Sweden</i>	-	3,91	-	3,61	3,39	3,39	3,5	3,26	3,5	3,42	3,22	3,22	3,28	3,3	4	0,70
<i>UK*</i>	1,73	1,72	1,72	1,67	1,61	1,63	1,65	1,69	1,69	1,75	1,69	1,69	1,63	1,63	-	-

Source: It was prepared using the data EUROSTAT, “Europe 2020 Headline Indicators”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy/main-tables>, 10.06.2015.; European Commission, “Europe 2020 Targets”, (online) http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/annexii_en.pdf, 10.06.2015.. *During calculation of the distance of Ireland to the target, 2012 data was considered. UK stipulated no target for 2020 in its national program.

Climate Change and Energy

The European Union makes important regulations and performs controls on climate change and the use of energy resources as well as sets guiding targets at the Union and member countries level and develops the projections. Hence, it is considered that the climate change, environment and energy targets, which are also part of the integrated approach of 2020 strategy, will be at the top list on the EU agenda until 2020.

The climate and energy targets regarded as a part of sustainable growth and evaluated within the scope of efficient use of the sources can

be summarized as reducing green gas emission by 20% in comparison with the year of 1990, increasing the share of renewable energy resources in gross energy consumption by 20% and increasing energy efficiency in the primary-final energy consumption by 20%, respectively. These targets that are set out at the EU level may differ from each other at the countries level.

With reference to the data in Tables 1 and 4, it is seen that the EU's target of reducing green gas emission to 80% has reached 82.1% by 2012, the share of renewable energy increased to 15% by 2013 and the primary energy consumption reached 11.9% (1.567 mtoe / target 1.483 mtoe) and the final energy consumption reached 12.8% (1.105 mtoe / target 1.086 mtoe), respectively.

According to the member countries' performances given in Table 4, Sweden, Bulgaria and Estonia succeeded in the renewable energy targets while Ireland, Greece, Italy, GCASC, Latvia, Luxemburg, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Finland succeeded in the energy efficiency targets (primary and final consumption).

Table 4: Climate Changes and Energy 2020 Targets of the EU Countries

Countries	Green Gas Emission (%)* (AB 1990=100), (EU countries ESD 2005 Base Year) Million Tone		Share of Renewable Energy in Gross Energy Consumption (%)**		Energy Efficiency*** Primary Energy Consumption (Mtoe)		Energy Efficiency*** Final Energy Consumption (Mtoe)	
	2012	Target	2013	Target	2013	Target	2013	Target
	EU 28	82,1	80	%15,0	%20	1.566,5	1.483	1.104,6
Belgium	89,0	85	%7,9	%13	47,4	43,7	34,8	32,5
Bulgaria	108,4	120	%19,0	%16	16,3	15,8	8,8	8,6
Czech Repu.	99,1	109	%12,4	%13	39,6	39,6	23,9	25,3
Denmark	89,7	80	%27,2	%30	17,8	17,8	14,2	14,8
Germany	95,3	86	%12,4	%18	302,5	276,6	217,3	194,3
Estonia	99,9	111	%25,6	%25	6,5	6,5	2,9	2,8
Ireland	88,8	80	%7,8	%16	13,4	13,9	10,7	11,2
Greece	77,6	96	%15,0	%18	23,7	27,1	15,3	20,5
Spain	84,4	90	%15,4	%20	113,6	121,6	81,1	80,1
France	90,4	86	%14,2	%23	245,8	263,3	152,8	131,4
Croatia	-	111	%18,0	%20	7,3	-	5,8	7,0
Italy	81,9	87	%16,7	%17	153,7	158,0	118,7	124,0
GCASC	83,5	95	%8,1	%13	2,2	2,8	1,6	1,8
Latvia	100,3	117	%37,1	%40	4,4	5,37	3,9	4,5
Lithuania	98,2	115	%23,0	%23	5,7	6,485	4,7	4,3
Luxemburg	94,7	80	%3,6	%11	4,3	4,482	4,1	4,2
Hungary	78,6	110	%9,8	%13	21,0	26,6	15,0	18,2
Malta	103,0	105	%3,8	%10	0,8	0,825	0,5	0,5
Netherland	91,2	84	%4,5	%14	65,9	60,7	51,2	52,2
Austria	87,5	84	%32,6	%34	31,9	31,5	28,0	25,1
Poland	112,9	114	%11,3	%15	93,2	96,4	63,4	71,6
Portugal	88,0	101	%25,7	%31	21,3	22,5	15,8	17,4
Romania	93,5	119	%23,9	%24	30,9	42,99	21,8	30,3
Slovenia	97,3	104	%21,5	%25	6,7	7,313	4,8	5,1
Slovakia	90,1	113	%9,8	%14	16,2	16,2	10,9	9,0
Finland	89,8	84	%36,8	%38	32,8	35,9	24,6	26,7
Sweden	85,3	83	%52,1	%49	47,1	43,4	31,6	30,3
UK	91,4	84	%5,1	%15	194,6	177,6	136,4	129,2

Source: EUROSTAT, “Europe 2020 Headline Indicators”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy/main-tables> , 10.06.2015.; European Commission, “European Semester Thematic Fiche Climate Change And Energy”, s.10-13., (online) http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/themes/2015/energy_and_ghg_targets.pdf , 09.06.2015.

*For Information on ETS and ESD: European Commission, “ETS (Energy Trading System)”, (online) http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/ets/index_en.htm, European Commission, “ESD (Effort Sharing Decision)”, (online) http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/effort/index_en.htm, 10.06.2015.

** For detailed information on Renewable Energy: European Commission, “Renewable Energy Progress Report”, COM(2015) 293 Final, Brussels, 2015, (online) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:4f8722ce-1347-11e5-8817-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF , 10.06.2015.

***For energy efficiency: European Commission, “Energy Efficiency” (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/energy-efficiency> , 10.06.2015. **Mtoe:** million tons of oil equivalent.

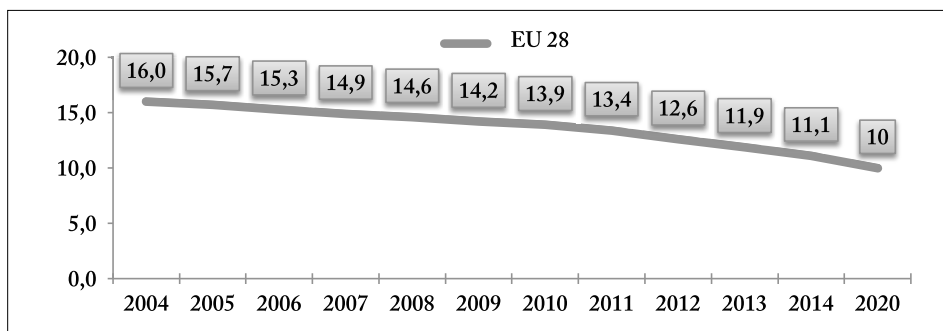
Education

As it can be seen in Table 12, the unemployment rates increase across the European Union and on the member countries basis due to the crisis of 2008. Financial crises affect labor markets and global competition as well as youth employment, unemployment and education. Hence, youth unemployment in the EU increased from 15.6% to 22% between the years of 2008-2014. Given the qualitative and quantitative significance of youth labor in the labor markets, the fact that the Europe 2020 strategy set some targets out with respect to the rates of leaving schools before graduation and participation in tertiary education for the purposes of increasing the nature of youth labor can be interpreted as a positive development. In the Europe 2020 strategy, it is aimed to reduce the rate of school leaving to 10% for the age group of 18-24 and increase the rate of higher education

graduation up to 40% for the age group of 18–40.

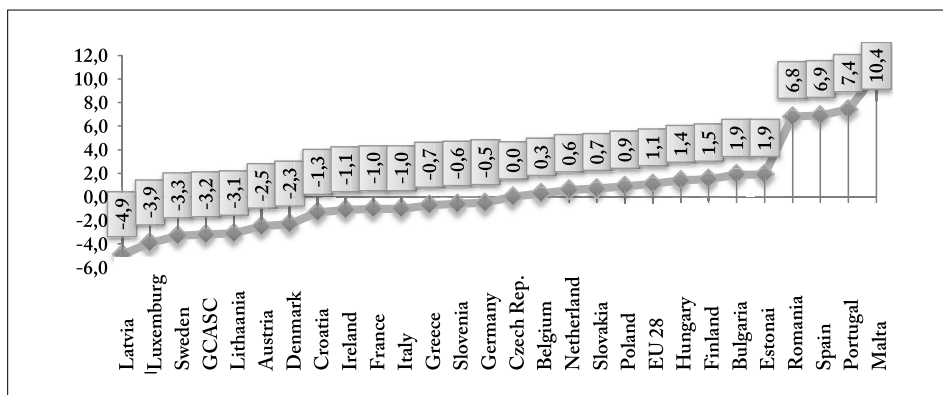
According to the Graph 5 showing the rate of early school leaving (age 18-24) in the EU, there is a decrease from 2004 to 2014. The reducing rate of school leaving from 16% to 11.1% is important since it implies that the reforms and implementations made for reaching the 10% target set out for 2020 have positive results.

Graph 5: EU 28 Early School Leaving Rates and 2020 Target (%), (18 -24 Age), (2004-2014)



Source: It was prepared using the data in the Table 5.

Graph 6: Progress Required the EU Countries to Meet the 2020 Targets on Early School Leaving (%), (18-24 Age), (2014)



Source: It was prepared using the data in the Table 5.

In spite of the 10% target at the EU level, the member countries may have different targets set out by considering their social-economic conditions. According to Graph 6 showing the progress required for member countries to meet their targets with respect to these targets given in Table 5, Latvia, Luxemburg, Sweden, GCASC, Lithuania, Austria, Denmark, Croatia, Ireland, France, Italy, Greece, Slovenia and Germany have even exceeded the targets they have set out.

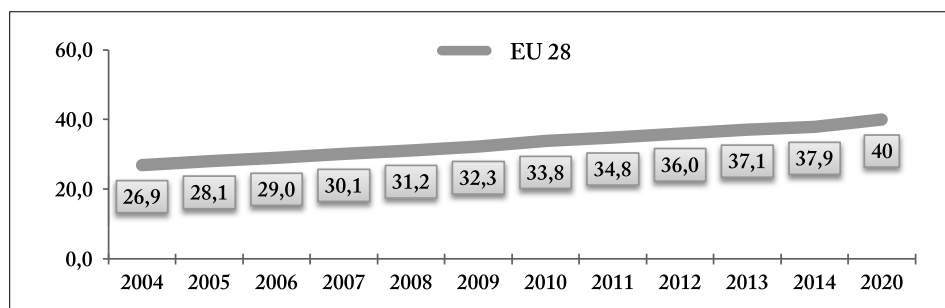
The countries, which have failed to reach the targets on school leaving, such as Romania, Spain, Portugal and Malta are still behind their targets. Although Netherland and Finland failed to reach the target set out as 8%, they are too close to reach the target. It is seen that they will likely reach this target until 2020. United Kingdom with a decreasing rate of school leaving over the years (11.8% in 2014) set out no target on school leaving for 2020.

Table 5: Early School Leaving Rates (%) and 2020 Targets of the EU Countries (18 - 24 Age), (2004 - 2014)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2020	Distance to Target
EU28	16,0	15,7	15,3	14,9	14,6	14,2	13,9	13,4	12,6	11,9	11,1	10	1,1
EU 15	17,7	17,5	17,2	16,7	16,5	15,8	15,3	14,6	13,7	12,7	11,7	-	
Belgium	13,1	12,9	12,6	12,1	12,0	11,1	11,9	12,3	12,0	11,0	9,8	9,5	0,3
Bulgaria	21,4	20,4	17,3	14,9	14,8	14,7	13,9	11,8	12,5	12,5	12,9	11	1,9
Czech Rep.	6,3	6,2	5,1	5,2	5,6	5,4	4,9	4,9	5,5	5,4	5,5	5,5	0,0
Denmark	8,8	8,7	9,1	12,9	12,5	11,3	11,0	9,6	9,1	8,0	7,7	10	-2,3
Germany	12,1	13,5	13,7	12,5	11,8	11,1	11,9	11,6	10,5	9,8	9,5	10	-0,5
Estonia	13,9	14,0	13,4	14,4	14,0	13,5	11,0	10,6	10,3	9,7	11,4	9,5	1,9
Ireland	13,1	12,5	12,2	11,8	11,4	11,7	11,5	10,8	9,7	8,4	6,9	8	-1,1
Greece	14,5	13,3	15,1	14,3	14,4	14,2	13,5	12,9	11,3	10,1	9,0	9,7	-0,7
Spain	32,2	31,0	30,3	30,8	31,7	30,9	28,2	26,3	24,7	23,6	21,9	15	6,9
France	12,1	12,2	12,4	12,6	11,5	12,2	12,5	11,9	11,5	9,7	8,5	9,5	-1,0
Croatia	5,4	5,1	4,7	4,5	4,4	5,2	5,2	5,0	5,1	4,5	2,7	4	-1,3
Italy	23,1	22,1	20,4	19,5	19,6	19,1	18,6	17,8	17,3	16,8	15,0	16	-1,0
GCASC	20,6	18,2	14,9	12,5	13,7	11,7	12,7	11,3	11,4	9,1	6,8	10	-3,2
Latvia	15,9	15,4	15,6	15,6	15,5	14,3	12,9	11,6	10,6	9,8	8,5	13,4	-4,9
Lithuania	10,3	8,4	8,8	7,8	7,5	8,7	7,9	7,4	6,5	6,3	5,9	9	-3,1
Luxemburg	12,7	13,3	14,0	12,5	13,4	7,7	7,1	6,2	8,1	6,1	6,1	10	-3,9
Hungary	12,6	12,5	12,5	11,4	11,7	11,5	10,8	11,4	11,8	11,9	11,4	10	1,4
Malta	42,1	33,0	32,2	30,2	27,2	25,7	23,8	22,7	21,1	20,5	20,4	10	10,4
Netherland	14,1	13,5	12,6	11,7	11,4	10,9	10,0	9,1	8,8	9,2	8,6	8	0,6
Austria	9,8	9,3	10,0	10,8	10,2	8,8	8,3	8,5	7,8	7,5	7,0	9,5	-2,5
Poland	5,6	5,3	5,4	5,0	5,0	5,3	5,4	5,6	5,7	5,6	5,4	4,5	0,9
Portugal	39,3	38,3	38,5	36,5	34,9	30,9	28,3	23,0	20,5	18,9	17,4	10	7,4
Romania	22,4	19,6	17,9	17,3	15,9	16,6	19,3	18,1	17,8	17,3	18,1	11,3	6,8
Slovenia	4,3	4,9	5,6	4,1	5,1	5,3	5,0	4,2	4,4	3,9	4,4	5	-0,6
Slovakia	6,8	6,3	6,6	6,5	6,0	4,9	4,7	5,1	5,3	6,4	6,7	6	0,7
Finland	10,0	10,3	9,7	9,1	9,8	9,9	10,3	9,8	8,9	9,3	9,5	8	1,5
Sweden	9,2	10,8	8,6	8,0	7,9	7,0	6,5	6,6	7,5	7,1	6,7	10	-3,3
UK	12,1	11,6	11,3	16,6	17,0	15,7	14,8	14,9	13,4	12,3	11,8	-	-

Source: EUROSTAT, “Europe 2020 Headline Indicators”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy/main-tables> , 10.06.2015.

Graph 7: EU 28 Higher Education Graduation Rate and 2020 Target (%), (30-34 Age), (2004-2014)

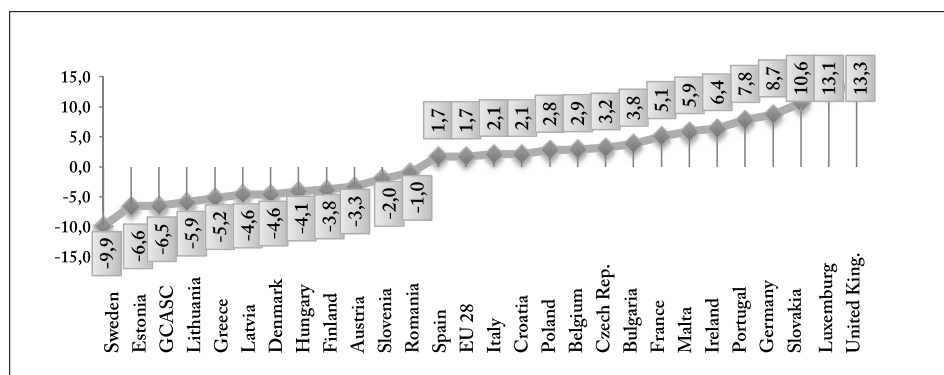


Source: It was prepared using the data in the Table 6.

As it can be seen in Graph 7, there is an upward trend in the target of exceeding 40% of the rate of higher education graduation in the age group of 30-34, one of the education targets of the Europe 2020 strategy, at the Europe Union level. While this rate was 26.9% in 2004, it has reached 37.9% in 2014 and approached to the 2020 target.

Considering the 2014 data on the higher education graduation rates of the member countries given in Table 6 and Graph 8, while Sweden, Estonia, GCASC, Lithuania, Greece, Netherland, Latvia, Denmark, Hungary, Finland, Austria and Slovenia are the successful countries; Luxemburg, Slovakia, Germany, Portugal, Ireland, Malta and France are the most unsuccessful countries. It can be said that other member countries are close to their targets.

Graph 8: Progress Required the EU Countries to Meet Their 2020 Targets on Higher Education Graduation (%), (30-34 Age), (2014)



Source: It was prepared using the data in the Table 6.

Table 6: Higher Education Graduation Rates and 2020 Targets of the EU Countries (%), (30-34 Age), (2004-2014)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2020	Distance to Target
EU28	26,9	28,1	29,0	30,1	31,2	32,3	33,8	34,8	36,0	37,1	37,9	40	2,1
EU 15	29,5	30,7	31,6	32,7	33,6	34,5	35,6	36,4	37,4	38,3	38,8	-	-
Belgium	39,9	39,1	41,4	41,5	42,9	42,0	44,4	42,6	43,9	42,7	43,8	47	3,2
Bulgaria	25,2	24,9	25,3	26,0	27,1	27,9	27,7	27,3	26,9	29,4	30,9	36	5,1
Czech Rep.	12,7	13,0	13,1	13,3	15,4	17,5	20,4	23,7	25,6	26,7	28,2	32	3,8
Denmark	41,4	43,1	43,0	38,1	39,2	40,7	41,2	41,2	43,0	43,4	44,1	40	-4,1
Germany	26,8	26,1	25,8	26,5	27,7	29,4	29,8	30,6	31,8	32,9	31,4	42	10,6
Estonia	28,3	31,7	32,5	33,5	34,4	36,3	40,2	40,2	39,5	43,7	46,6	40	-6,6
Ireland	38,6	39,2	41,3	43,3	46,3	48,9	50,1	49,7	51,1	52,6	52,2	60	7,8
Greece	25,1	25,5	26,9	26,3	25,7	26,6	28,6	29,1	31,2	34,9	37,2	32	-5,2
Spain	36,9	39,9	39,4	40,9	41,3	40,7	42,0	41,9	41,5	42,3	42,3	44	1,7
France	35,7	37,7	39,7	41,4	41,2	43,2	43,4	43,3	43,5	44,1	44,1	50	5,9
Croatia	16,8	17,4	16,7	16,8	18,5	21,3	24,5	23,9	23,1	25,6	32,2	35	2,8
Italy	15,6	17,1	17,6	18,6	19,2	19,0	19,9	20,4	21,9	22,5	23,9	26	2,1
GCASC	41,0	40,8	46,1	46,2	47,1	45,0	45,3	46,2	49,9	47,8	52,5	46	-6,5
Latvia	18,2	18,5	19,3	25,7	26,3	30,5	32,6	35,9	37,2	40,7	39,9	34	-5,9
Lithuania	30,9	37,7	39,4	36,4	39,9	40,4	43,8	45,7	48,6	51,3	53,3	48,7	-4,6
Luxemburg	31,4	37,6	35,5	35,3	39,8	46,6	46,1	48,2	49,6	52,5	52,7	66	13,3
Hungary	18,5	17,9	19,4	20,6	22,8	24,0	26,1	28,2	29,8	32,3	34,1	30,3	-3,8
Malta	17,6	17,6	20,7	20,8	21,0	21,9	22,1	23,4	24,9	26,0	26,6	33	6,4
Netherland	33,6	34,9	35,8	36,4	40,2	40,5	41,4	41,1	42,2	43,1	44,6	40	-4,6
Austria	20,9	20,7	21,1	20,9	21,9	23,4	23,4	23,6	26,1	27,1	40,0	38	-2,0
Poland	20,4	22,7	24,7	27,0	29,7	32,8	34,8	36,5	39,1	40,5	42,1	45	2,9
Portugal	16,3	17,5	18,3	19,5	21,6	21,3	24,0	26,7	27,8	30,0	31,3	40	8,7
Romania	10,3	11,4	12,4	13,9	16,0	16,8	18,3	20,3	21,7	22,9	25,0	26,7	1,7
Slovenia	25,1	24,6	28,1	31,0	30,9	31,6	34,8	37,9	39,2	40,1	41,0	40	-1,0
Slovakia	12,9	14,3	14,4	14,8	15,8	17,6	22,1	23,2	23,7	26,9	26,9	40	13,1
Finland	43,4	43,7	46,2	47,3	45,7	45,9	45,7	46,0	45,8	45,1	45,3	42	-3,3
Sweden	33,9	37,6	39,5	41,0	42,0	43,9	45,3	46,8	47,9	48,3	49,9	40	-9,9
United Kingdom	33,6	34,6	36,5	38,5	39,7	41,4	43,1	45,5	46,9	47,4	47,7	-	-

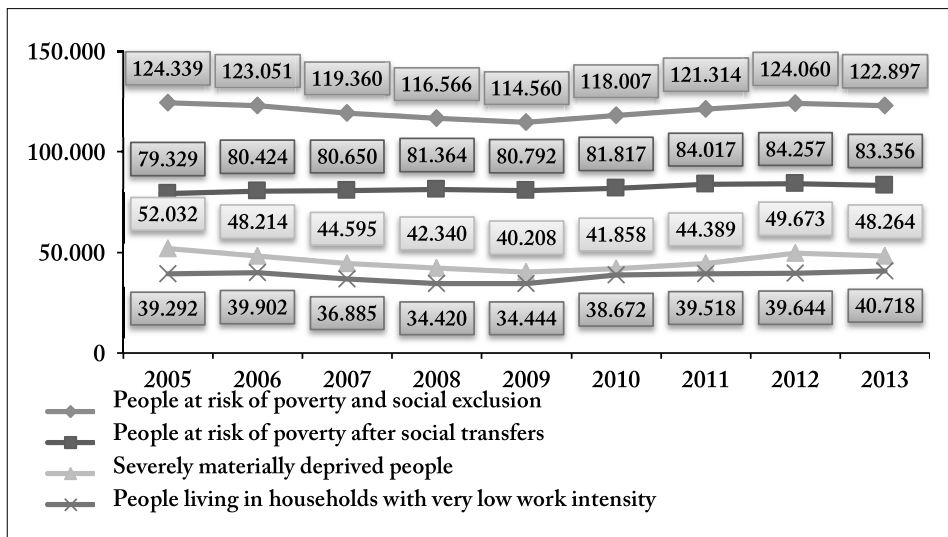
Source: EUROSTAT, "Europe 2020 Headline Indicators", (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy/main-tables>, 10.06.2015.

Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion

The main target of inclusive growth, one of the three priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy is to lift approximately 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion. The main initiative of inclusive growth is to build and agenda for new jobs and skills and to fight against poverty and social inclusion. In the target of fighting against poverty and social exclusion, while the people at risk of poverty and social exclusion are the main indicator, those at risk of poverty after social transfers, the severely materially deprived people and the people living in households with very low work intensity are the sub-indicators (Eurostat, 2015:136).

As it can be seen in the Graph 9, the number of people at risk of poverty across the EU between the years of 2005–2013 is far from the 2020 target. While the number of people at risk is expected to decrease by 20 million (from 116.566 to 96.566), it increased to 122.897 by 2013.

Graph 9: EU 28 Poverty and Social Exclusion Indicators (Thousand), (2005–2013)

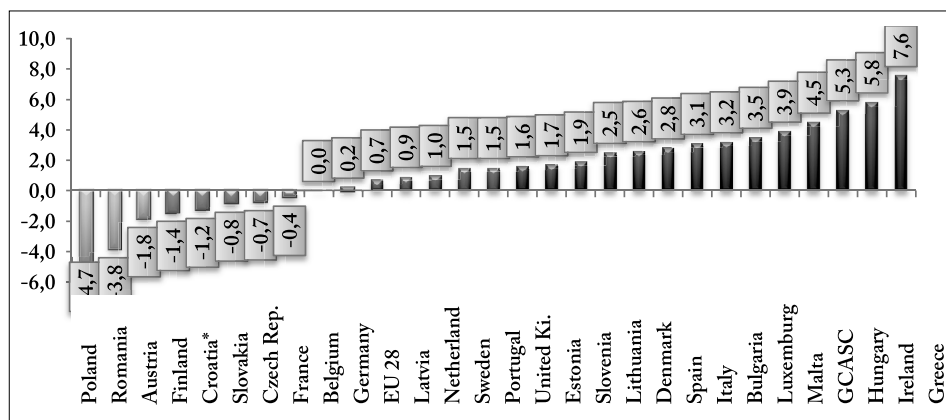


Source: EUROSTAT, “Europe 2020 Headline Indicators”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy/main-tables> , 10.06.2015. *It was prepared using the data on Poverty and Social Exclusion

Given the data showing the values in the Graph 9 as a percentage, 24.5% of the EU population is at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2013, 16.6% is at risk of poverty after social transfers, 9.6% is the severely materially deprived people and 10.8% is living in households with very low work intensity.

The Graph 10 includes the decrease and increase rates in the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the EU countries between the years of 2008-2013. According to these data, while the number of people at risk has decreased over the years in Poland, Romania, Austria, Finland, Croatia, Slovakia, Czech Rep. and France respectively, significant increases over 1.5% have been occurred in Greece, Ireland, Hungary, GCASC, Malta, Luxemburg, Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, Lithuania, Slovenia, Estonia and United Kingdom respectively.

Graph 10: People at Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion in the EU Countries (Change % between the years of 2008-2013)



Source: EUROSTAT, “Europe 2020 Headline Indicators Poverty and Social Exclusion”, It was prepared using the data on the poverty and social exclusion indicators (%) of the EU countries

In spite of the proportional changes in the last 5 years, the rates of the risk of poverty in total population should also be noted. Hence, given the percentage distribution, Bulgaria (48%), Romania (40.4%), Greece (35.7%), Latvia (35.1%), Hungary (33.5%), Lithuania (30.8%), Croatia

(29.9%), Ireland (29.5%) and Italy (38%) have a rate of poverty risk over the EU average (24.5%). The countries' 2020 targets and 2008-2013 poverty and social exclusion data are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Poverty and Social Exclusion Indicators and 2020 National Targets of the EU Countries (Thousand), (2008-2013)

Countries	People at Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion		People at Risk of Poverty and Social Exclusion after Social Transfers		Severely Materially Deprived People		People Living in Households with Very Low Work Intensity		2020 National Targets of the Countries (Thousand)*
	2008	2013	2008	2013	2008	2013	2008	2013	
EU 28	116.566	122.897	81.364	83.356	42.340	48.264	34.420	40.718	20.000
<i>Belgium</i>	2.194	2.286	1.554	1.652	595	561	967	1.190	380
<i>Bulgaria</i>	3.421	3.493	1.632	1.528	3.151	3.129	470	695	260
<i>Czech Rep.</i>	1.566	1.508	925	886	696	679	581	541	30
<i>Denmark</i>	887	1.059	643	690	107	215	347	522	22
<i>Germany</i>	16.345	16.212	12.389	12.845	4.442	4.281	7.044	5.744	320
<i>Estonia</i>	291	313	259	248	65	100	55	86	15%
<i>Ireland</i>	1.050	1.358	686	648	245	455	509	894	200
<i>Greece</i>	3.046	3.904	2.187	2.529	1.213	2.223	611	1.466	450
<i>Spain</i>	11.124	12.630	9.415	9.425	1.625	2.862	2.351	5.604	1.400-1.500
<i>France</i>	11.150	11.229	7.554	8.496	3.253	3.133	4.069	3.670	1.900
<i>Croatia</i>	-	1.271	-	830	-	624	-	478	150
<i>Italy</i>	15.099	17.326	11.149	11.648	4.494	7.585	4.344	4.908	2.200
<i>GCASC</i>	181	240	124	132	71	139	29	55	27
<i>Latvia</i>	740	702	559	387	416	480	91	149	121
<i>Lithuania</i>	910	917	672	611	402	476	152	246	814
<i>Luxemburg</i>	72	96	62	80	3	9	18	27	6
<i>Hungary</i>	2.794	3.285	1.226	1.399	1.771	2.623	943	939	450
<i>Malta</i>	81	99	61	65	17	39	28	28	6,56
<i>Netherland</i>	2.432	2.648	1.713	1.735	252	416	1.053	1.183	100
<i>Austria</i>	1.699	1.572	1.252	1.203	485	355	472	496	235
<i>Poland</i>	11.491	9.748	6.353	6.520	6.680	4.486	2.444	2.124	1.500
<i>Portugal</i>	2.757	2.879	1.967	1.966	1.029	1.148	517	950	200
<i>Romania</i>	9.418	8.601	4.988	4.777	7.023	6.070	1.413	1.079	580
<i>Slovenia</i>	361	410	241	291	130	134	105	125	40
<i>Slovakia</i>	1.111	1.070	588	694	636	554	225	328	170
<i>Finland</i>	910	854	709	632	181	132	296	351	770
<i>Sweden</i>	1.367	1.602	1.121	1.440	132	138	381	505	14%
<i>United Kingdom</i>	14.069	15.586	11.335	10.000	2.739	5.219	4.905	6.334	-

Source: EUROSTAT, “Europe 2020 Headline Indicators”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/europe-2020-indicators/europe-2020-strategy/main-tables>, 10.06.2015.

*National targets may differ from each other. Although the overall targets are set out generally on the basis of 2008 data for reducing the poverty and social exclusion, some countries have set out some special targets:

- Bulgaria, Reducing the poverty after social transfers by 260.000

- compared to 2008
- Denmark, Reducing the number of people living in household with very low work intensity by 22.000 compared to 2008
 - Germany, Reducing the number of long-term unemployed people by 320.000 (20%) compared to 2008.
 - Estonia, Reducing the poverty rate from 17.5% to 15% compared to 2010
 - Ireland, Reducing the poverty by 4% in 2016, 2% in 2020 and to-tally a minimum of 200.00 people.
 - France, Reducing by 1/6 or 1.900.000 people according to 2007 data
 - GCASC, Reducing by 150.000 people compared to 2011 data.
 - Netherland, Reducing the number of poor people aged 0-64 living in jobless households by 100.000 people compared to 2008
 - Sweden, Reducing the rate of people aged 20-64 not included in the labor force, long term unemployed woman and men below 14%.
 - For United Kingdom, the targets specified in the Child Poverty Act are valid. There is no special target for 2020.

EU Countries' Labor Market Outlook in the Context of Europe 2020 Strategy

Considering the changes and present situation in the five main tar-gets of the Europe 2020 strategy by 2014, it should be also investigated whether the strategy has been corresponded in the policies and implemen-tations in the labor market or not. In this context, the relation between em-ployment, unemployment and growth increases in the EU countries, the employment of woman and youth and progress made on unemployment, the change of long term unemployment in the labor market over the years through active and passive policies and the labor market policies in terms of participants and expense amounts are analyzed.

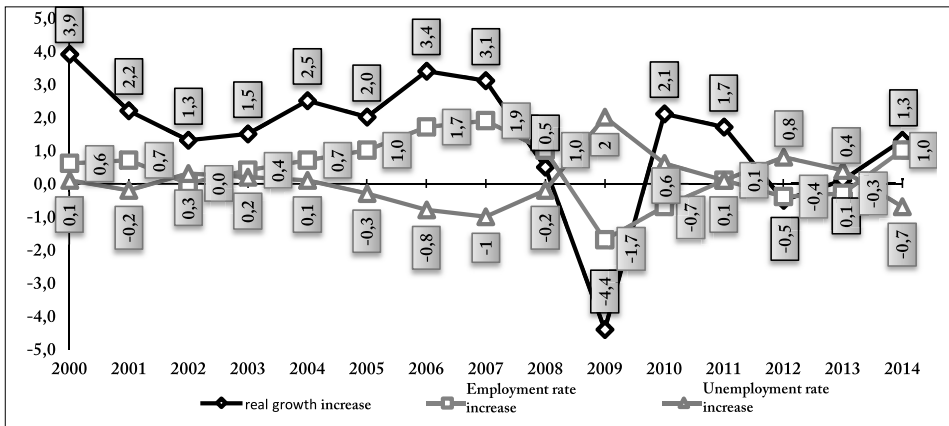
Employment, Unemployment and Growth

Analyzing how the targets, priorities, initiatives and measures for

the labor market evolved from 2000 Lisbon Strategy to the Europe 2020 strategy through an integrated approach reflecting on the data on employment, unemployment and growth of the Europe countries is considered as important in terms of mid-term review of the strategy.

The Graph 11 includes the employment, unemployment and growth increases at the EU level. On the basis of these data, there was an increase in growth and employment while there was a relative decrease in the rates of unemployment between the years of 2004-2007. The EU economy experienced a growth of 0.5% and an employment increase of 1% and an unemployment decrease of 0.2% in 2008 in spite of the financial crisis. However, the effect of the crisis became obvious by 2009 and while the EU economy has shrank by -4.4% compared to the previous year, the employment rate has decreased by -1.7% and the unemployment rate has increased by 2%. Although the EU economy has grown by 2.1% in 2010, the employment rate decrease and unemployment increase have been continued until 2011. Although the EU economy with a shrank rate of 0.5% in 2012 seem to eliminate the negative impacts of the financial crisis with an employment increase of 1.3% and unemployment decrease of 0.8%, it is still far from its performance between the years of 2004-2007.

Graph 11: EU 28 Employment, Unemployment and Growth (GDP) Increase (%), (2000-2014)



Source: EUROSTAT, “Annual National Accounts Statistics: GDP and Main Components (t_nama_10_gdp)”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/euro->

stat/web/national-accounts/data/main-tables, 12.06.2015.; “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Overall Employment Growth (tesem040)”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem040&plugin=1>, 12.06.2015.; “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Unemployment Rate (tesem120)”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem120&plugin=1>, 12.06.2015.

Considering the employment, unemployment and growth rates of the EU countries between the years of 2009-2014 in Table 8, it has been determined that Germany (growth: 4.5%, decrease in unemployment rate: 2.4%, increase in employment: 4.2%), United Kingdom (growth: 8.2%, unemployment rate: 0.5% and increase in employment: 3.7%), Sweden (growth 4.4%, unemployment rate: 1.7% and increase in employment rate: 3.8%) and Austria (growth: 18%, unemployment rate: 1.5% and increase in employment: 4.9%) have high growth rates, low unemployment rates or low unemployment increases and growth and employment increases even though the crisis come to the forefront. Ireland, Greece, Italy, Croatia and GCASC are the countries, which have shrunk at the most and of which employment rate have been decreased and unemployment rate have been increased at most between the years of 2009-2014. Ireland has shrunk 28.4% and had an unemployment rate increased by 4.9% and an employment rate decreased by 10.2%; Greece has shrunk -6.1% and had an unemployment rate increased by 18.7% and an employment rate decreased by 21.1%; Italy has shrunk 10.4% and had an unemployment rate increased by 6% and an employment rate decreased by 4%; Croatia has shrunk 8.1% and had an unemployment rate increased by 8.7% and an employment rate decreased by 11.9%; GCASC has shrunk 0.7% and had an unemployment rate increased by 12.4% and an employment rate decreased by 11.4%; Spain has shrunk 2.3% however had an unemployment rate increased 13.3% and an employment rate decreased 15.5% over 6 years, respectively.

Table 8: Increase of Employment, Unemployment and Growth (GDP) (%) in EU Countries Year-Over-Year, (2009-2014)

Countries	Employment Increase (%)						Unemployment Increase (%)						Growth Increase (%)					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EU 28	-1,7	-0,7	0,1	-0,4	-0,3	1,0	2,0	0,6	0,1	0,8	0,4	-0,7	-2,6	2,5	1,6	0,1	0,3	1,1
Belgium	-0,2	0,7	1,4	0,3	-0,3	0,4	0,9	0,4	-1,1	0,4	0,8	0,1	-5,0	0,7	2,0	0,5	1,1	1,7
Bulgaria	-1,7	-3,9	-2,2	-2,5	-0,4	0,4	1,2	3,5	1,0	1,0	0,7	-1,6	-4,8	2,3	2,0	-0,8	-0,7	2,0
Czech Rep.	-1,8	-1,0	-0,3	0,4	0,4	0,4	2,3	0,6	-0,6	0,3	0,0	-0,9	-5,1	1,6	1,2	-0,7	-0,5	1,1
Denmark	-3,0	-2,3	-0,1	-0,3	0,0	0,7	2,6	1,5	0,1	-0,1	-0,5	-0,4	-5,6	4,1	3,6	0,4	0,1	1,6
Germany	0,1	0,3	1,3	1,1	0,6	0,8	0,2	-0,6	-1,2	-0,4	-0,2	-0,2	-14,7	2,5	8,3	4,7	1,6	2,1
Estonia	-10,2	-5,0	6,5	1,7	1,2	0,8	8,0	3,2	-4,4	-2,3	-1,4	-1,2	-6,4	-0,3	2,8	-0,3	0,2	4,8
Ireland	-7,8	-4,1	-1,8	-0,6	2,4	1,7	5,6	1,9	0,8	0,0	-1,6	-1,8	-4,4	-5,4	-8,9	-6,6	-3,9	0,8
Greece	-0,6	-2,7	-6,9	-7,8	-3,8	0,7	1,8	3,1	5,2	6,6	3,0	-1,0	-3,6	0,0	-0,6	-2,1	-1,2	1,4
Spain	-6,3	-1,7	-2,5	-3,7	-2,6	1,3	6,6	2,0	1,5	3,4	1,3	-1,6	-2,9	2,0	2,1	0,2	0,7	0,2
France	-1,1	0,1	0,8	0,3	0,0	0,3	1,7	0,2	-0,2	0,7	0,4	0,0	-7,4	-1,7	-0,3	-2,2	-0,9	-0,4
Croatia	-0,7	-3,8	-3,9	-3,6	-2,6	2,7	0,6	2,5	2,0	2,3	1,3	0,0	-5,5	1,7	0,6	-2,8	-1,7	-0,4
Italy	-1,7	-0,6	0,3	-0,3	-1,8	0,1	1,0	0,7	0,0	2,3	1,4	0,6	-2,0	1,4	0,3	-2,4	-5,4	-2,3
GCASC	-0,4	-0,2	0,5	-4,2	-5,2	-1,9	1,7	0,9	1,6	4,0	4,0	0,2	-14,2	-2,9	5,0	4,8	4,2	2,4
Latvia	-14,3	-6,7	1,5	1,4	2,3	-1,3	9,8	2,0	-3,3	-1,2	-3,1	-1,1	-14,8	1,6	6,1	3,8	3,3	2,9
Lithuania	-7,7	-5,3	0,5	1,8	1,3	2,0	8,0	4,0	-2,4	-2,0	-1,6	-1,1	-5,3	5,1	2,6	-0,2	2,0	-
Luxemburg	1,0	1,8	3,0	2,4	2,0	2,3	0,2	-0,5	0,2	0,3	0,8	0,1	-6,6	0,8	1,8	-1,5	1,5	3,6
Hungary	-2,5	-0,3	0,0	0,1	0,9	3,1	2,2	1,2	-0,2	0,0	-0,8	-2,5	-2,5	3,5	2,1	2,5	2,3	3,5
Malta	0,0	1,7	2,8	2,3	4,2	4,5	0,9	0,0	-0,5	-0,1	0,1	-0,5	-3,8	1,4	1,7	-1,1	-0,5	1,0
Netherlands	-0,9	-0,7	0,9	-0,2	-0,9	-0,2	0,7	0,6	0,0	0,8	1,5	0,1	-3,8	1,9	3,1	0,9	0,2	0,3
Austria	-0,4	0,9	1,7	1,2	0,7	0,8	1,2	-0,5	-0,2	0,3	0,5	0,2	-2,6	3,7	4,8	1,8	1,7	3,4
Poland	0,4	-2,7	0,6	0,1	-0,1	1,7	1,0	1,6	0,0	0,4	0,2	-1,3	-3,0	1,9	-1,8	-4,0	-1,6	0,9
Portugal	-2,7	-1,4	-1,9	-4,1	-2,9	1,4	1,9	1,3	0,9	2,9	0,6	-2,3	-7,1	-0,8	1,1	0,6	3,4	2,8
Romania	-2,0	-0,3	-0,8	-4,8	-0,6	0,8	0,9	0,5	0,2	-0,4	0,3	-0,3	-7,8	1,2	0,6	-2,6	-1,0	2,6
Slovenia	-1,8	-2,2	-1,6	-0,8	-1,5	0,7	1,5	1,4	0,9	0,7	1,2	-0,4	-5,3	4,8	2,7	1,6	1,4	2,4
Slovakia	-2,0	-1,5	1,8	0,1	-0,8	1,4	2,5	2,4	-0,8	0,3	0,2	-1,0	-8,3	3,0	2,6	-1,4	-1,3	-0,1
Finland	-2,4	-0,7	1,3	0,9	-1,5	-0,4	1,8	0,2	-0,6	-0,1	0,5	0,5	-5,2	6,0	2,7	-0,3	1,3	2,3
Sweden	-2,4	1,0	2,1	0,7	1,0	1,4	2,1	0,3	-1	0,2	0	-0	-4,3	1,9	1,6	0,7	1,7	2,8
England	-1,6	0,2	0,5	1,1	1,2	2,3	2	0,2	0,3	-0	-0	-2	-2,8	2,5	1,6	2,3	2,2	2,4

Source: Prepared by using the data from: EUROSTAT, “Annual National Accounts Statistics: GDP and Main Components (t_nama_10_gdp)”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/national-accounts/data/main-tables>, 12.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Overall Employment Growth (tesem040)”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem040&plugin=1>, 12.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: UnemploymentRate (tesem120)”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem120&plugin=1>, 12.06.2015. >

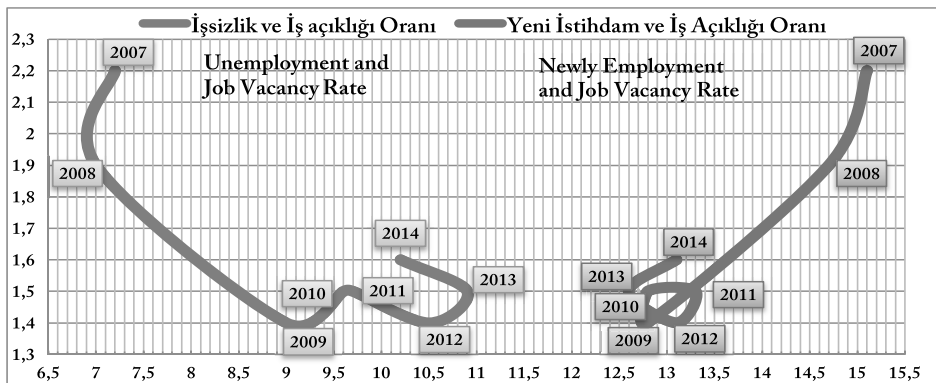
An Assessment on New Employment Rates and Job Vacancies: Employment and Unemployment Status of Women

Another important method in the analysis of labor market is the investigation of new employment rates and job vacancies. New employment

opportunities as EUROSTAT definition means individuals employed within 12 months while job vacancy rate is calculated on the basis of the ratio of the number of unfilled jobs to the number of current jobs occupied. In Graph 12, job vacancy rates are shown in the left axis, unemployment is in the left region and newly employment ratios are in the right region. While job vacancy rate, which was 2.2% in 2007 across EU, decreased to its lowest level in 2009, in which the effect of financial crisis is seen, unemployment rate has increased from 7% to 9% and the rate of people recently employed decreased from 15.1% to 12.8%. In 2010, while job vacancy rate increased to 1.5%, the rate of people newly employed remained constant and unemployment rate exceeded 9.5%. As regards to 2013, unemployment reached 10.9%, whereas job vacancy rate increased to 1.5% compared to 2012 and the rate of people newly employed decreased to 12.6%. The year of 2014 can be considered as a recovery for European Union. Thus, in Graph 12, it is seen that job vacancy rate increases to 1.6%, unemployment rate decreased to 10.2% and the rate of those newly employed reaches up to 13.1%, respectively.

As a general evaluation across the EU, the increase in unemployment rate caused the expected new employment to be insufficient despite the increase in job vacancy rate. In this sense, it can be said that the increase in job vacancy rate remained insufficient against the increased unemployment rate. In European Union, the effects of recovery can be clearly seen as of the year 2009 and recovery period is observed to be entered in 2014. The status of the member states of EU are given in Table 2.9.

Graph 12: EU 28 Job Vacancy, Unemployment and New Employment Rates (%), (2007-2014)



tistics”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/labour-market/job-vacancies/database> , 13.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Newly Employment (tesem200)”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem200&plugin=1>, 13.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Unemployment Rate(tesem120), (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem200&plugin=1>, 13.06.2015.

Considering the data presented in Table 9; it is observed that in Germany, which has the lowest unemployment rates compared to EU countries as of 2014, unemployment rate declined to 5% with a decrease rate at 2.4%, but new employment rate is decreased by 1.5% within the last 8 years and became 12.9% with the job vacancy rate that increased by 0.2%. In Greece, which is one of the countries having greatest unemployment rate, unemployment rate increased by 18.7% and reached 26.5% while new employment rate increased by 1.5% and reached 10.6% with an increase of 0.5% observed in job vacancy rate. In Spain, based on the data provided for the year 2014, it is seen that unemployment rate has reached 24.5% with an increase of 13.2%, job vacancy rate remained constant and new employment rate is found as 16.5% with a decrease of 4%, respectively. As of 2014, in Denmark, which is an EU country with the highest new employment rate, unemployment rate reached 6.6% with an increase of 3.2% and new employment rate has reached 21.1% with a decrease of 2.3%. In Sweden, new employment rate reached up to 18.4% with an increase of 0.1% while job vacancy rate has decreased by 0.4% and unemployment rate has reached 7.9% with an increase of 1.7%. In general, the decrease in job vacancies with an increase in unemployment rates cause a decrease in the new employment or in the increase rate of new employment across the EU compared to 2008.

Table 9: Job Vacancy, New Employment and Unemployment Rates in EU Countries (%), (2008-2014)

Countries	Newly Employment (%)							Job Vacancy Rate (%)							Unemployment Rate (%)			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2008	2010	2012	2014
EU 28	14,7	12,8	12,8	13,3	13,1	12,6	13,1	1,9	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,4	1,5	1,6	7,0	9,6	10,5	10,2
EU 15	15,1	13,2	13,2	13,8	13,5	13,1	13,6	-	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,6	1,6	1,8	7,2	9,6	10,6	10,5
Belgium	13,0	11,5	11,3	12,9	12,4	11,3	11,6	-	-	1,7	1,8	2,4	2,4	2,2	7,0	8,3	7,6	8,5
Bulgaria	13,5	11,5	10,1	11,2	11,9	12,2	11,3	0,9	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,7	0,6	0,7	5,6	10,3	12,3	11,4
Czech Rep.	10,8	10,7	10,8	11,1	10,4	10,0	10,4	3,2	1,1	0,8	0,9	1	0,9	1,3	4,4	7,3	7,0	6,1
Denmark	23,4	20,0	18,6	19,4	19,2	20,4	21,1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,4	7,5	7,5	6,6
Germany	14,4	13,5	13,8	14,1	13,8	13,0	12,9	3,1	-	2,6	2,7	2,6	2,6	2,9	7,4	7,0	5,4	5,0
Estonia	15,4	14,5	16,1	18,6	17,4	16,3	16,5	2,5	0,9	1	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	5,5	16,7	10,0	7,4
Ireland	15,9	11,7	10,8	12,1	12,8	13,4	14,2	1,2	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	6,4	13,9	14,7	11,3
Greece	9,1	9,2	8,5	7,5	7,1	8,5	10,6	1,4	1,7	1,1	1	0,7	:	0,9	7,8	12,7	24,5	26,5
Spain	20,5	16,6	16,0	15,8	14,8	15,0	16,5	0,6	0,6	1,2	1	0,8	0,8	0,6	11,3	19,9	24,8	24,5
France	15,0	13,4	13,7	14,3	14,2	12,2	12,4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,4	9,3	9,8	10,2
Croatia	10,7	9,1	7,7	9,4	9,1	9,6	12,2	-	-	-	-	1	0,8	0,9	8,6	11,7	16,0	17,3
Italy	12,0	9,9	9,9	10,2	10,1	9,5	9,9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,7	8,4	10,7	12,7
GCASC	18,3	17,2	16,8	16,7	16,7	16,5	19,4	4,1	-	1,6	1,1	0,6	0,4	0,7	3,7	6,3	11,9	16,1
Latvia	17,5	14,1	18,7	19,8	18,4	17,7	15,9	1	0,3	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,5	0,4	7,7	19,5	15,0	10,8
Lithuania	15,5	13,7	15,1	17,9	16,1	17,3	15,9	1,7	0,5	0,6	0,9	0,9	-	1	5,8	17,8	13,4	10,7
Luxemburg	9,2	12,6	11,2	12,9	12,2	12,1	13,0	0,6	0,4	0,6	0,8	0,8	0,7	0,9	4,9	4,6	5,1	6,0
Hungary	13,8	12,8	13,3	13,2	14,6	15,5	15,4	1,3	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,2	-	1,6	7,8	11,2	11,0	7,7
Malta	10,4	8,9	10,2	10,5	11,0	11,4	10,6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,0	6,9	6,3	5,9
Netherlands	8,7	7,4	9,0	13,3	12,9	12,3	12,6	2,9	1,7	1,5	1,6	1,4	1,2	1,4	3,7	5,0	5,8	7,4
Austria	15,0	14,4	14,4	15,6	14,8	14,9	14,4	-	1,5	1,9	2	1,9	1,7	1,7	4,1	4,8	4,9	5,6
Poland	15,9	13,5	13,8	12,9	12,7	11,9	12,6	1,5	0,6	0,6	0,6	0,4	0,4	0,5	7,1	9,7	10,1	9,0
Portugal	13,1	12,3	12,6	13,3	12,2	12,6	14,0	0,6	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,4	0,6	8,8	12,0	15,8	14,1
Romania	8,3	6,6	6,1	6,3	5,7	5,5	5,3	1,9	0,9	0,6	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,9	5,6	7,0	6,8	6,8
Slovenia	14,1	11,9	11,4	11,3	11,9	11,4	9,8	1	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,7	0,7	4,4	7,3	8,9	9,7
Slovakia	11,4	9,7	10,1	9,8	8,8	8,8	10,4	1,3	1	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	9,6	14,5	14,0	13,2
Finland	19,1	16,6	16,3	18,6	18,0	17,5	17,0	2,3	1,6	1,9	2,1	2,2	-	-	6,4	8,4	7,7	8,7
Sweden	18,8	16,4	17,1	19,4	18,6	18,3	18,9	1,2	0,8	1,2	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,6	6,2	8,6	8,0	7,9
England	16,4	14,0	13,7	13,9	14,2	14,5	15,6	2,2	1,6	1,7	1,7	1,7	1,9	2,3	5,6	7,8	7,9	6,1

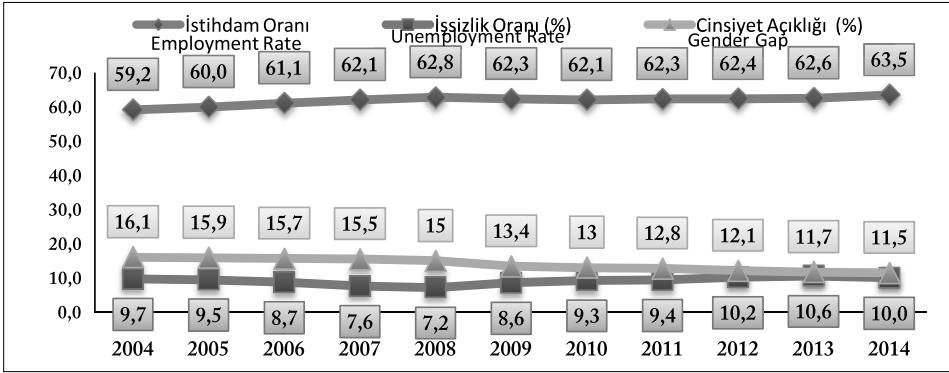
Source: Prepared by using the data from: EUROSTAT, “Job Vacancy Statistics”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/labour-market/job-vacancies/database> , 13.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Newly Employment (tesem200)”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem200&plugin=1>, 13.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Unemployment Rate(tesem120), (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem200&plugin=1>, 13.06.2015.

Employment Status of Women

Another employment target of European Union is improving the employment rate of women and reducing the gender gap between opposite sexes. In Graph 13, considering the change in women employment, unemployment and gender gap rates in 2004-2014 across the EU, women

employment is observed to increase by 4.2% and women unemployment is observed to increase by 0.3% and gender gap decreased by 4.6%, respectively. As of 2014, in EU, for the age group of 20-64, women unemployment is found to be 10%, women employment is 63.5% and the gender gap is 11.5%, respectively. Women unemployment, which was on the rise in 2009, has declined for the first time in 2010.

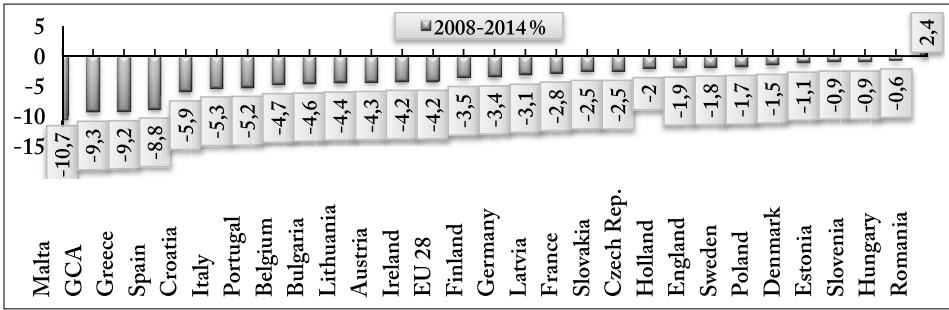
Graph13: EU 28 Women Employment, Unemployment and Gender Gap Rates (%), (ages of 20-64), (2004-2014)



Source: Prepared by using the data from: EUROSTAT, “Labour Force Surveys”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/data/database> , 13.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Unemployment Rate (tesem120), (online)<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem200&plugin=1>, 13.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Gender Employment Gap (tesem060)”,(online)<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/download.do?tab=table&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tesem060> , 13.06.2015.

According to Graph 14, which shows the effect of the 2008 financial crisis on gender gap in EU countries, it is observed that the gender gap only increased in Romania (2.4%) and it tends to decrease in other countries between the years in 2008-2014. It is understood from the Graph that Malta, GCASC, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Italy and Portugal seem to be closing the gender gap at most.

Graph 14: Gender Employment Gap Rate in EU Countries (%), (Change in 2008-2014)



Source: Prepared by using the data presented in Table 10.

The reason of this situation is that such countries have high gender gap rates as of the year 2008. Thus, as it can be seen in Table 10, as of 2008, Malta has a gender gap rate of 39.1%, whereas Greece has 275%, Italy has 24.7%, Spain has 19%, GCASC has 17%, Croatia has 15.9%, and Portugal has 12.3%, respectively.

Considering the data given in Table 10, in 2014, countries with highest women employment rates are Sweden (77.6%), Germany (73.1%), Denmark (72.2%), Finland (72.1%), Netherlands (70.7%), England (70.6%) and Lithuania (70.6%). On the other hand, the countries with lowest employment rates are Greece (44.3%), Italy (50.3%), Malta (51.9%), Croatia (4.3%), and Spain (54.8%). In Table 10, considering the unemployment rate in EU countries as of 2014, the countries with the highest unemployment rates are Greece (30.2%), Spain (25.4%), Croatia (18.3%), GCASC (15.1%), Portugal (14.5%) and Italy (13.8%). The lowest unemployment rates are observed in Germany (4.6%), Malta (5.4%), Austria (5.4%) and England (5.8%). The most increase in unemployment rates as of the years 2000-2014 is seen to be in Greece, GCASC, Portugal, Spain and Ireland.

Table 10: Women Employment, Unemployment and Gender Gap Rates in EU Countries (%), (Ages of 20-64), (2000-2014)

	Employment Rate (%)					Unemployment Rate (%)					Employment Gender Gap (%)				
	2000	2008	2010	2012	2014	2000	2008	2010	2012	2014	2008	2010	2012	2014	2008-2014
EU 28	57,3	62,8	62,1	62,4	63,5	10,0	7,5	9,6	10,5	10,3	15	13	12,1	11,5	-3,5
<i>Belgium</i>	56,4	61,3	61,6	61,7	62,9	8,5	7,6	8,5	7,4	7,9	13,4	11,9	11	8,7	-4,7
<i>Bulgaria</i>	51,7	65,4	61,7	60,2	62,0	16,2	5,8	9,6	10,8	10,4	10,7	7,4	5,6	6,1	-4,6
<i>Czech Rep.</i>	61,8	62,5	60,9	62,5	64,7	10,6	5,6	8,5	8,2	7,4	19,5	18,7	17,7	17,5	-2
<i>Denmark</i>	73,3	75,5	73,0	72,2	72,2	4,8	3,7	6,5	7,5	6,8	8,4	5,6	6,4	7,3	-1,1
<i>Germany</i>	60,7	67,8	69,6	71,6	73,1	8,3	7,6	6,5	5,2	4,6	12,3	10,5	10,5	9,2	-3,1
<i>Estonia</i>	64,0	72,9	65,9	69,4	70,6	13,3	5,1	14,1	9,1	6,8	8,6	1,9	5,7	7,7	-0,9
<i>Ireland</i>	57,5	64,2	60,2	59,4	61,2	4,2	4,9	9,9	11,0	9,4	16	8,9	8,7	11,8	-4,2
<i>Greece</i>	45,7	52,6	51,8	45,2	44,3	17,1	11,5	16,4	28,2	30,2	27,5	24,2	19,8	18,3	-9,2
<i>Spain</i>	44,4	58,9	56,3	54,6	54,8	17,5	12,8	20,2	25,1	25,4	19	12,9	10	10,2	-8,8
<i>France</i>	60,0	65,5	64,8	65,1	66,2	8,7	7,9	9,5	9,8	10,0	10	9,1	8,8	7,5	-2,5
<i>Croatia</i>	-	57,0	56,4	52,6	54,2	17,1	10,4	12,4	16,1	18,3	15,9	11,5	11,1	10	-5,9
<i>Italy</i>	42,0	50,6	49,5	50,5	50,3	13,6	8,5	9,6	11,8	13,8	24,7	23,2	21	19,4	-5,3
<i>GCASC</i>	58,5	68,2	68,8	64,8	63,9	7,1	4,3	6,4	11,1	15,1	17	12,9	11,3	7,7	-9,3
<i>Latvia</i>	58,7	71,9	64,5	66,4	68,5	13,3	7,1	16,3	14,0	9,8	7,4	-0,5	3,6	4,6	-2,8
<i>Lithuania</i>	64,4	68,7	65,0	67,9	70,6	14,0	5,6	14,5	11,6	9,2	6,9	-1,5	1,2	2,5	-4,4
<i>Luxemburg</i>	53,8	60,1	62,0	64,1	65,5	2,9	5,9	5,5	5,8	6,2	17,1	17,2	14,4	12,9	-4,2
<i>Hungary</i>	53,6	54,8	54,6	56,2	60,2	5,6	8,0	10,7	10,6	7,9	13,9	10,9	11,1	13,3	-0,6
<i>Malta</i>	33,5	39,4	41,6	46,6	51,9	7,4	6,8	7,1	7,3	5,4	39,1	36,6	32,6	28,4	-10,7
<i>Netherlands</i>	64,0	72,2	70,8	71,9	70,7	5,1	4,5	5,5	6,2	7,8	13,3	12	11,3	11,4	-1,9
<i>Austria</i>	62,2	67,6	68,8	69,6	70,1	4,2	4,4	4,6	4,8	5,4	12,5	10,2	9,7	8,2	-4,3
<i>Poland</i>	54,5	57,3	57,3	57,5	59,4	18,2	7,9	10,0	10,9	9,6	15,7	14	14,5	14,2	-1,5
<i>Portugal</i>	65,2	67,1	65,6	63,0	64,2	5,0	9,0	12,2	15,6	14,5	12,3	9,8	6,8	7,1	-5,2
<i>Romania</i>	64,8	57,3	56,5	56,7	57,3	6,9	4,4	6,2	6,1	6,1	14,3	16,6	16,1	16,7	2,4
<i>Slovenia</i>	64,1	68,5	66,5	64,6	63,6	7,0	4,8	7,1	9,4	10,6	8,9	7,5	7,2	8	-0,9
<i>Slovakia</i>	56,9	60,3	57,4	57,3	58,6	18,7	11,0	14,7	14,5	13,6	17,1	14,5	15,5	14,6	-2,5
<i>Finland</i>	69,0	73,1	71,5	72,5	72,1	10,6	6,7	7,6	7,1	8,0	5,3	3	3	1,9	-3,4
<i>Sweden</i>	74,4	77,2	75,0	76,8	77,6	5,3	6,6	8,5	7,7	7,7	6,3	6,1	5,1	4,6	-1,7
<i>England</i>	66,6	68,8	67,9	68,4	70,6	4,8	5,1	6,9	7,4	5,8	13,1	11,4	11,6	11,3	-1,8

Source: Prepared by using the data from: EUROSTAT, “Labour Force Surveys”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/data/database> , 13.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Unemployment Rate (tesem120), (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem200&plugin=1> , 13.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Gender Employment Gap (tesem060)”,(online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/download.do?tab=table&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tesem060> , 13.06.2015.

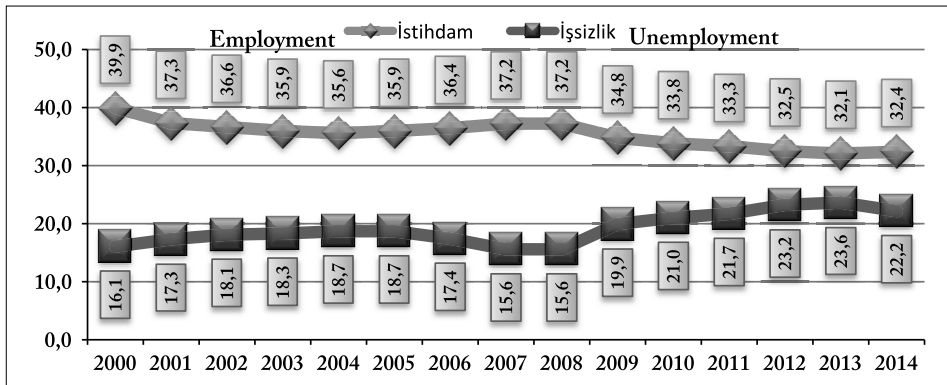
Employment Status of Youth

European Union has been developing a range of important policies for youth employment and unemployment (vocational education, fight against early school leavers, life-long learning and etc.) in particular. It is as important as the education level that the young people should be able to

find job opportunities and be employed in accordance with their qualifications in the labor market.

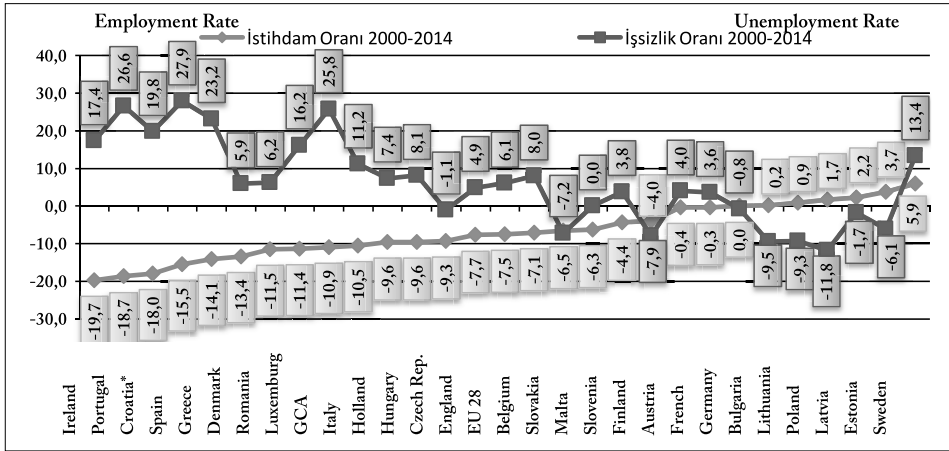
Considering Graph 15 showing the reflection of the youth policies, which have been developed within the scope of 2020 targets in EU level on the data in 2000–2014, it is evident that the youth employment decreased from 39.9% to 32.4% and youth unemployment increased from 16.1% to 22.2%, respectively. However, these increase and decrease trends were not permanent. Thus, the employment rate, which gained acceleration in 2012, is found as 37.2% in 2008 and 32.4% in 2014. Similarly, the unemployment rate, which had a trend to decrease, was 15.6% in 2008 and reached 22.2% in 2014, respectively.

Graph 15: EU 28 Youth Employment and Unemployment (%), (Ages of 15-24), (2000-2014)



Source: Prepared by using the data from: EUROSTAT, “Labour Force Surveys”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/data/database>, 13.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Youth Unemployment Rate (tesem140)”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem140&plugin=1>, 14.06.2015.

Graph 16: Change in Youth Employment and Unemployment Rates in EU Countries (%), (Ages of 15-24), (2000-2014)



Source: Prepared by using the data given in Table 11.

*Employment and unemployment data of Croatia for 2000 (2002).

In Graph 16, the change in youth employment and unemployment rates in EU countries between the years 2000-2014 are shown as ranked. Considering these data, unemployment increased while employment decreased in EU countries except Sweden. In Czech Republic, both youth unemployment and youth employment are seen to be decreased. In Sweden, youth unemployment rate is increased by 13.4% in a year while employment has shown an increase by 5.9%. The largest decrease in youth employment and the largest increase in unemployment rates are observed in Ireland, Portugal, Croatia, Spain, Greece, Denmark, Romania, Luxembourg, GCA SC and Italy.

According to Table 11, the countries with the highest youth unemployment rate as of 2014 are Spain (53.2%), Greece (52.4%), Croatia (45.5%), Italy (42.7%), GCASC (36%), Portugal (34.8%), Slovakia (29.7%) and France (24.2%). The lowest unemployment rates are observed in Germany (7.7%), Austria (10.3%), Malta (11.8%), Denmark (12.6%) and Netherlands (12.7%). The highest employment rates are encountered in Netherlands (58.8%), Denmark (53.7%), Austria (52.1%) and England while the lowest employment rates are observed in Greece (13.3%), Spain (15.6%), Italy (16.7%) and Croatia (18.3%).

Table 11: Youth Employment and Unemployment Rates in EU Countries (%), (Ages of 15-24), (2000-2014)

	Employment Rate (%)								Unemployment Rate (%)							
	2000	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2000	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
EU 28	39,9	37,2	34,8	33,8	33,3	32,5	32,1	32,4	16,1	15,6	19,9	21,0	21,7	23,2	23,6	22,2
<i>Belgium</i>	30,3	27,4	25,3	25,2	26,0	25,3	23,6	23,2	15,2	18,0	21,9	22,4	18,7	19,8	23,7	23,2
<i>Bulgaria</i>	20,5	26,3	24,8	22,2	22,1	21,9	21,2	20,7	33,3	12,7	16,2	23,2	25,0	28,1	28,4	23,8
<i>Czech Rep.</i>	36,4	28,1	26,5	25,2	24,5	25,2	25,6	27,1	17,0	9,9	16,6	18,3	18,1	19,5	19,0	15,9
<i>Denmark</i>	67,1	66,4	62,5	58,1	57,5	55,0	53,7	53,7	6,7	8,0	11,8	14,0	14,2	14,1	13,1	12,6
<i>Germany</i>	46,1	46,6	46,0	46,2	47,9	46,6	46,9	46,1	8,5	10,6	11,2	9,9	8,5	8,0	7,8	7,7
<i>Estonia</i>	29,6	35,9	28,3	25,3	31,1	32,3	32,4	33,3	21,1	12,0	27,4	32,9	22,4	20,9	18,7	15,0
<i>Ireland</i>	48,1	46,2	36,9	31,5	29,5	28,2	29,0	28,4	6,5	13,3	24,0	27,6	29,1	30,4	26,8	23,9
<i>Greece</i>	27,4	23,5	22,8	20,1	16,1	13,0	11,8	13,3	29,2	21,9	25,7	33,0	44,7	55,3	58,3	52,4
<i>Spain</i>	32,2	36,0	28,0	25,0	22,0	18,4	16,8	16,7	25,3	24,5	37,7	41,5	46,2	52,9	55,5	53,2
<i>France</i>	28,2	31,3	30,3	30,0	29,5	28,4	28,3	27,9	20,6	18,6	23,2	22,9	22,1	23,9	24,0	24,2
<i>Croatia*</i>	36,3	28,0	27,1	24,2	20,6	17,4	14,9	18,3	25,7	23,7	25,2	32,4	36,7	42,1	50,0	45,5
<i>Italy</i>	26,1	24,2	21,5	20,2	19,2	18,5	16,3	15,6	31,5	21,2	25,3	27,9	29,2	35,3	40,0	42,7
<i>GCASC</i>	36,7	38,0	34,8	33,8	30,1	28,1	23,5	25,8	10,2	9,0	13,8	16,6	22,4	27,7	38,9	36,0
<i>Larvia</i>	30,3	37,0	27,5	25,4	25,8	28,7	30,2	32,5	21,3	13,6	33,3	36,2	31,0	28,5	23,2	19,6
<i>Lithuania</i>	26,7	26,0	20,6	18,3	19,0	21,5	24,6	27,6	28,6	13,3	29,6	35,7	32,6	26,7	21,9	19,3
<i>Luxemburg</i>	31,8	23,8	26,7	21,2	20,7	21,7	21,9	20,4	6,4	17,9	17,2	14,2	16,8	18,8	15,5	22,6
<i>Hungary</i>	33,1	20,2	18,1	18,3	18,0	18,4	20,1	23,5	12,3	19,5	26,4	26,4	26,0	28,2	26,6	20,4
<i>Malta</i>	52,4	46,6	44,1	44,2	45,0	43,8	46,0	46,1	11,8	11,7	14,5	13,2	13,3	14,1	13,0	11,8
<i>Netherlands</i>	68,4	69,3	68,0	63,0	61,3	61,1	60,1	58,8	5,3	5,3	6,6	8,7	10,0	11,7	13,2	12,7
<i>Austria</i>	52,5	54,4	53,1	52,8	53,9	53,7	53,1	52,1	6,3	8,5	10,7	9,5	8,9	9,4	9,7	10,3
<i>Poland</i>	24,1	27,3	26,8	26,4	24,9	24,7	24,2	25,8	35,7	17,3	20,6	23,7	25,8	26,5	27,3	23,9
<i>Portugal</i>	41,1	34,1	30,8	27,9	26,6	23,0	21,7	22,4	8,2	16,7	20,3	22,8	30,3	37,9	38,1	34,8
<i>Romania</i>	34,0	24,8	24,5	24,3	23,4	23,7	22,9	22,5	17,8	18,6	20,8	22,1	23,9	22,6	23,7	24,0
<i>Slovenia</i>	31,2	38,4	35,3	34,1	31,5	27,3	26,5	26,8	16,4	10,4	13,6	14,7	15,7	20,6	21,6	20,2
<i>Slovakia</i>	28,3	26,2	22,8	20,6	20,0	20,1	20,4	21,8	36,9	19,0	27,3	33,6	33,4	34,0	33,7	29,7
<i>Finland</i>	45,4	44,7	39,6	38,8	40,4	41,8	41,5	41,4	28,4	16,5	21,5	21,4	20,1	19,0	19,9	20,5
<i>Sweden</i>	36,9	42,2	38,3	38,8	40,9	40,2	41,7	42,8	9,5	20,2	25,0	24,8	22,8	23,6	23,5	22,9
<i>England</i>	55,8	52,0	47,9	46,8	45,8	46,2	46,3	48,1	12,0	15,0	19,1	19,9	21,3	21,2	20,7	16,9

Source: Prepared by using the data from: EUROSTAT, “Labour Force Surveys”, (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/data/database> , 13.06.2015.; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Youth Unemployment Rate (tesem140), (online) <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem140&plugin=1> , 14.06.2015. * Employment and unemployment rates of Croatia for the year 2000 are the data of 2002.

An Assessment on Long-Term Unemployment Data

In line with Europe 2020 targets, analysis of the change of long term unemployment share for the age group of 20-64 in total unemployment by years is important for especially in terms of the success of active employment policies. Long term unemployment is defined as the unemployment that lasts for at least 12 months. The percentage of the long term unemployed individuals exceeds 50% of total unemployed individuals across the EU.

In Graph 17, the status of the share of the long term unemployment in total employment and its ratio to the labor force in 2000-2014 across the EU is shown. Considering these data obtained, the long term unemployment, which was 47.3% in 2000, increased up to 41.5% with an increase of 5.9% in 2010 since the duration of the unemployment exceeds one year due to the effect of crisis in 2009. While an increase is observed until 2014, 51.2% of total unemployed individuals in EU as of 2014 have been unemployed for at least 12 months. This situation is important since it indicates that the active employment policies remain insufficient across the EU or their increasing success remains insufficient against the unemployment growth.

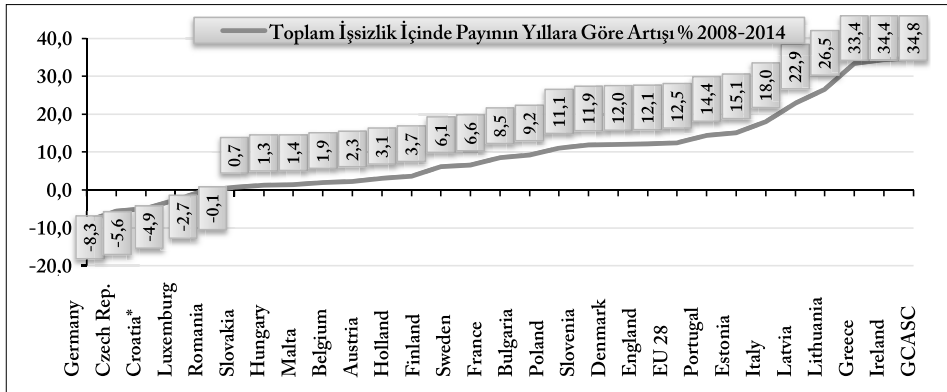
Graph 17: EU 28 the Share of the Long Term Unemployment in Total Unemployment (Ages of 20-64) and Its Ratio to Labor Force (%), (2000-2014)



Source: Prepared by using the data from Table 12.

According to Graph 18, considering the change of the share of the long term unemployment in total unemployment in EU countries in 2008-2014 (in order to see the effect of the crisis) by years, it is observed that the share of the long term unemployment decreases in Germany, Czech Republic, Croatia, Luxemburg and Romania. Spain (+34.8%), GCASC (+34.4%), Ireland (+33.4%), Greece (+26.5%), Lithuania (+22.9%), Latvia (+18%), Italy (+15.1%), Estonia (+14.4%) and Portugal (+12.5%) are the countries showing a long term unemployment above the average of the EU (+12.1%).

Graph18: The Increase of the Share of the Long Term Unemployment in Total Employment in EU Countries (Aged between 20-64), (%), (2008-2014)



Source: Prepared by the data from Table 12.

In Table 12, the EU countries with the highest long term unemployment rates as of 2014 are Greece (74.2%), Slovakia (71.6%), Italy (62.1%), Ireland (61.3%), Portugal (61.1%), Bulgaria (61.0%), Croatia (60.9%), Slovenia (54.9%), Spain (53.69%) and Belgium (51.2%). The countries with the lowest long term unemployment rate are Sweden (22.2%), Finland (25.3%), Denmark (28.2%), Luxemburg (28.4%), Austria (28.4%) and England (39.1%).

Table 12: The Share of the Long Term Unemployment in Total Employment in EU Countries (%), (2000-2014)

Countries	Share in Total Unemployment % (Ages of 20-64)										Ratio to Labor Force (%)									
	2000	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2008-2014	2000	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2008-2014		
EU 28	47,3	39,1	34,6	41,5	44,6	46,0	48,9	51,2	12,1	4,1	2,6	3,0	3,9	4,1	4,7	5,1	5,1	2,5		
Belgium	58,9	49,3	45,6	50,5	49,9	45,9	47,0	51,2	1,9	3,7	3,3	3,5	4,1	3,5	3,4	3,9	4,3	1,0		
Bulgaria	59,8	52,5	44,5	47,3	56,8	56,2	58,3	61,0	8,5	9,4	2,9	3,0	4,8	6,3	6,8	7,4	6,9	4,0		
Czech Rep.	51,6	50,3	30,6	41,7	41,5	44,4	44,2	44,7	-5,6	4,3	2,2	2,0	3,0	2,7	3,0	3,0	2,7	0,5		
Denmark	21,6	16,3	10,5	23,1	27,7	31,7	28,6	28,2	11,9	0,9	0,5	0,6	1,5	1,8	2,1	1,8	1,7	1,2		
Germany	52,5	54,0	46,5	48,6	49,5	46,8	45,9	45,7	-8,3	4,1	3,9	3,5	3,3	2,8	2,4	2,3	2,2	-1,7		
Estonia	49,1	31,8	27,3	46,0	59,1	56,3	45,7	46,2	14,4	6,7	1,7	3,7	7,6	7,1	5,5	3,8	3,3	1,6		
Îreland	41,9	27,9	29,8	50,6	61,3	63,6	62,8	61,3	33,4	1,6	1,7	3,5	6,8	8,7	9,1	7,9	6,7	5,0		
Greece	57,8	47,7	40,8	45,0	49,9	59,8	67,8	74,2	26,5	6,2	3,7	3,9	5,7	8,8	14,5	18,5	19,5	15,8		
Spain	43,8	18,8	24,2	37,3	42,4	45,0	50,4	53,6	34,8	5,0	2,0	4,3	7,3	8,9	11,0	13,0	12,9	10,9		
France	40,9	38,7	36,3	41,1	42,5	41,4	41,5	45,3	6,6	3,3	2,8	3,2	3,7	3,8	3,9	4,1	4,4	1,6		
Croatia*	-	65,8	58,8	57,8	62,9	65,8	65,9	60,9	-4,9	-	5,3	5,1	6,6	8,4	10,2	11,0	10,1	4,8		
Italy	62,7	47,0	45,4	49,4	52,7	54,0	57,7	62,1	15,1	6,2	3,1	3,5	4,1	4,3	5,7	6,9	7,8	4,7		
GCASC	26,4	14,1	10,4	20,9	21,3	30,3	38,4	48,5	34,4	1,2	0,5	0,6	1,3	1,6	3,6	6,1	7,7	7,2		
Latvia	58,4	25,3	26,4	45,8	55,9	53,7	49,4	43,3	18,0	8,3	1,9	4,5	8,8	8,8	7,8	5,8	4,7	2,8		
Lithuania	50,9	22,2	24,3	42,2	52,8	50,0	43,3	45,1	22,9	8,0	1,3	3,3	7,4	8,0	6,6	5,1	4,8	3,5		
Luxemburg	21,3	31,1	24,4	29,8	29,4	31,4	31,1	28,4	-2,7	0,5	1,6	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,6	1,8	1,6	0,0		
Hungary	48,7	47,0	42,0	49,3	48,0	45,9	49,4	48,3	1,3	3,0	3,6	4,2	5,5	5,2	5,0	4,9	3,7	0,1		
Malta	62,6	48,5	46,6	49,4	52,5	52,2	50,2	49,9	1,4	4,5	2,5	2,9	3,1	3,1	3,1	2,9	2,7	0,2		
Netherlands*	-	40,2	27,2	30,9	37,5	38,0	38,9	43,3	3,1	1,0	1,3	1,1	1,4	1,7	2,0	2,6	3,0	1,7		
Austria	28,9	26,1	22,6	26,8	27,4	26,0	25,4	28,4	2,3	1,1	1,0	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,5	0,5		
Poland	45,5	34,3	31,1	31,8	38,0	41,3	43,3	43,5	9,2	7,4	2,4	2,5	3,0	3,6	4,1	4,4	3,8	1,4		
Portugal	46,8	48,6	45,4	53,6	49,9	50,0	57,9	61,1	12,5	2,1	4,1	4,7	6,3	6,2	7,7	9,3	8,4	4,3		
Romania	52,2	42,6	32,7	35,5	42,2	45,6	46,5	42,5	-0,1	3,9	2,3	2,1	2,4	2,9	3,0	3,2	2,8	0,5		
Slovenia	65,4	43,8	31,0	44,1	44,9	48,4	51,5	54,9	11,1	4,1	1,9	1,8	3,2	3,6	4,3	5,2	5,3	3,4		
Slovakia	57,5	70,9	54,6	65,1	69,3	68,3	71,3	71,6	0,7	10,3	6,7	6,5	9,3	9,3	9,4	10,0	9,3	2,6		
Finland	31,0	21,6	19,2	27,5	25,4	24,6	23,8	25,3	3,7	2,8	1,2	1,4	2,0	1,7	1,6	1,7	1,9	0,7		
Sweden	32,0	16,1	15,7	21,7	22,9	22,1	21,7	22,2	6,1	1,4	0,8	1,1	1,6	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	0,7		
England	31,3	27,1	26,2	35,3	36,5	37,4	39,2	39,1	12,0	1,4	1,4	1,9	2,5	2,7	2,7	2,7	2,2	0,8		

Source: Prepared by using the data from: EUROSTAT, “Long-term unemployment (12 months or more) (lfsa_upgan)” (online) http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lfsq_upgal&lang=en,15.06.2015; EUROSTAT, “Employment Performance Monitor Indicators: Long-term unemployment (tesem130)”,(online)<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tesem130&plugin=1,15.06.2015>. * No data available for Croatia and Netherlands for 2000.

Participatory Movements of Labor Market Policies

The efficiency of the labor market policies of member states and the compliance with the targets of the Union are assessed in analyses and searches conducted in order to achieve the employment goals of Europe 2020 Strategy. Services, measures and supports characterized as Active and Passive labor market policies in the literature have been collected under the titles of Labor market services, Labor market measures and Labor market supports by EUROSTAT (European Union Statistical Office). While labor market services involve areas of responsibilities of public employment organizations such as job placement, consultancy, etc., labor market measures characterized as active policies are categorized as training, employment incentives, sheltered employment and rehabilitation supports (includes disadvantageous groups), direct job creation supports and business establishment/entrepreneurship incentives. Passive labor market supports are categorized as non-business income and care services (including unemployment insurance benefits) and early retirement (European Commission B, 2015:7).

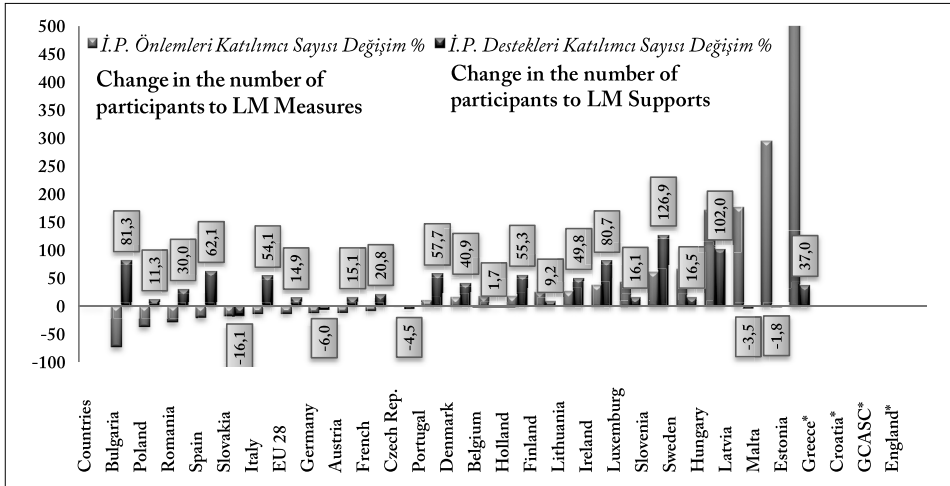
Labor market policies should be analyzed and discussed in terms of participants and expenses as well as indicators such as employment, unemployment and job vacancies. Europe which is under the effect of the financial crisis especially in 2008 is expected to increase the unemployment benefits that are characterized as passive policies, and to decrease the participation and expense ratios regarding the policies for the prevention of unemployment, which are characterized as active (Uşen, 2007:69).

Considering Graph 19 showing the changes in the number of participants to labor market measures and supports in European countries in 2008-2012, it is observed that the number of beneficiaries of labor market supports increased by 14.9% in EU 28. While the number of participants benefiting from labor market supports showed a very significant increase in Latvia (+175.6%), Malta (+294.6%) and Estonia (+510%), which are exclusions for such increase, the number of beneficiaries of support services is decreased. In Hungary, the number of participants benefiting from measures (+170.6%) and supports (+102%) both showed an increase. Generally, as it is seen in Graph 19 showing the countries ranked in ascending order

in terms of labor market measures, it can be said that the unemployment, which increased after the crisis across the EU apart from exceptions, increased the demand for passive labor market policies and decreased the participation to active labor market policies.

The countries with highest decrease in the participation to active labor market are Bulgaria (-71.6%), Poland (-35.6%), Romania (-28%), Spain (-20%), Slovakia (-16.9%), Italy (-12.9%), Germany (-11.6%), Austria (-10.3%), France (-7.4%) and Czech Republic (-1%). Decreases are observed in participations to both supports and measures of labor market in Slovakia, Germany and Czech Republic.

Graph 19: The Change in Number of Participants to Labor Market Measures and Supports in EU Countries (%), (2008-2012)



Source: Prepared by using the data from EUROSTAT, Labour Market Policy Statistics.

* No data available for Greece, Croatia, GCASC and England for 2011-12-13.

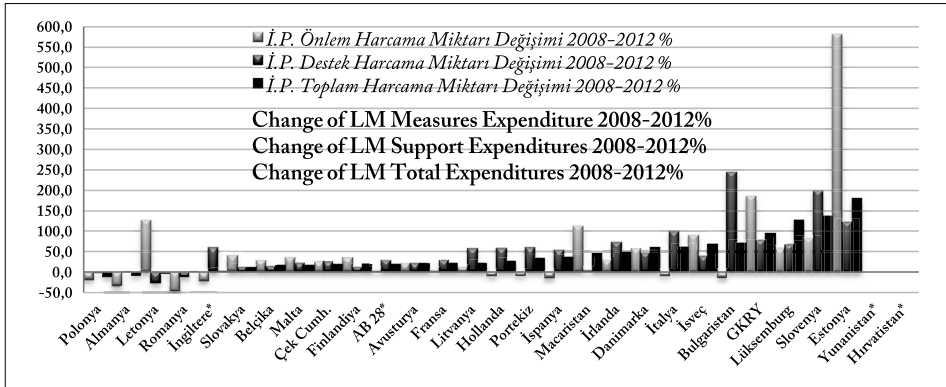
Distributions and Amounts of Expenditures in Labor Market Policy

It is possible to analyze the labor market policies in terms of amount in million Euros for labor market expenditures of the member states by

dividing to gross domestic product and in terms of the amount of expenditure when it is requested to work based on the purchasing power standard (PPS) per capita.

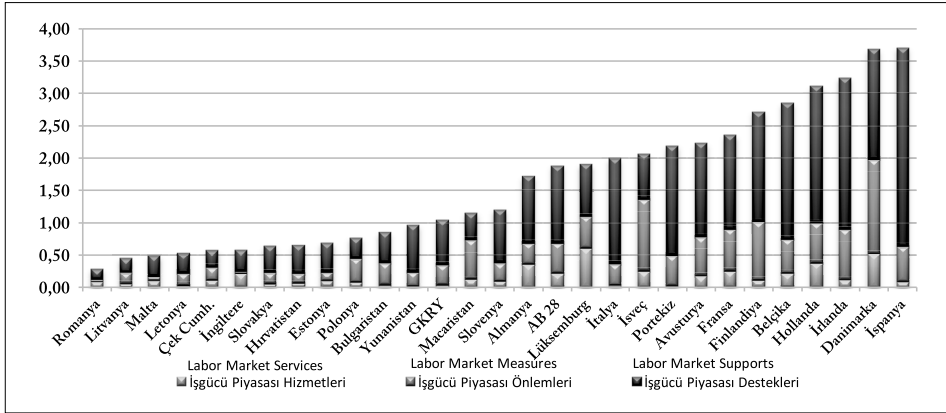
In Graph 20, which ranks the total labor market expenditures of EU countries in 2008–2012 in ascending order, changes in expenditures of labor market measures and supports (active–passive) are shown in terms of quantities. According to these data, the highest increase in total labor market expenditures are observed in Estonia, Slovenia, Luxemburg, GCASC, Bulgaria, Sweden and Italy, respectively. Among these countries, in Estonia, GCASC and Sweden, the share of labor market measures and in other countries, the share of labor market supports seem to have the highest impacts in total expenditure. In Poland, Germany, Latvia and Romania, decreases in total expenditure amounts were seen. However, the amounts of expenditures and the rates in GDP for the member states are as important as such increases.

Graph 20: The Changes of Labor Market Measures, Supports and Total Expenditure Amounts in EU Countries (%), (2008–2012)



Source: Prepared by using the data from EUROSTAT, Labour Market Policy Statistics. * No data available for Greece and Croatia in 2011–12–13 and the change in 2008–2011 was calculated for England, EU 28 and GCASC.

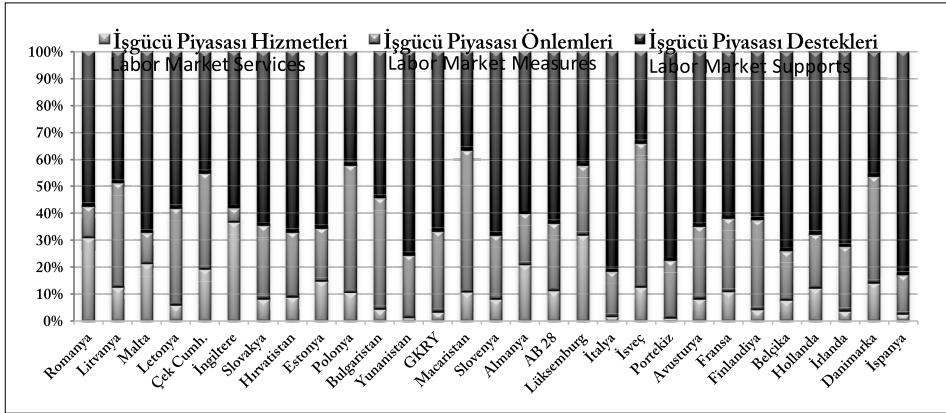
Graph 21: The Share of Labor Market Expenditures in GDP in EU Countries (%), (Services, Measures, Supports), (2013)*



Source: Prepared by using the data given in Table 15.* 2010 data were calculated for Greece, 2011 data for EU 28, GCASC and England, and 2012 data for Denmark, Spain, France, Croatia, Luxemburg, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Romania.

As it is shown in Graph 21, considering the labor market expenditures of EU countries in terms of their ratios to GDP, it is observed that labor market support expenditures (passive) have the highest share in GDP in all countries except Hungary and Poland, while labor market measures are in the second position and labor market service expenditures containing public employment services are at the lowest levels. These data show that most of the investments fighting against unemployment in EU countries are made for passive measures against the problems caused by unemployment. Thus, given the data in Table 13, Spain (3.07%), Ireland (2.37%), Netherlands (2.11%), Belgium (2.11%), Denmark 1.70%), Portugal (1.70%), Finland (1.69%), Italy (1.63%), France (1.45%) and Austria (1.45%) are the EU countries with the highest ratio of support expenditures which are above the EU average (1.20%) to passive (GDP), respectively. On the other hand, Denmark (1.46%), Sweden (1.11%), Finland (0.91%), Ireland (0.77%), France (0.64%), Netherlands (0.63%), Hungary (0.61%), Austria (0.60%) and Spain (0.55%) are the countries with the highest ratios of expenditures of labor market measures (active) to GDP and these countries are above the EU average (0.47%).

Graph 22: Percentage Distribution of the Share of Labor Market Expenditures in GDP in EU Countries (%), (Services, Measures, Supports), (2013)*



Source: Prepared by using the data given in Table 13. * 2010 data were calculated for Greece, 2011 data for EU 28, GCASC and England, and 2012 data for Denmark, France, Croatia, Luxemburg, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Romania.

The percentage of services, measures and supports in the ratios of expenditures of the countries to GDP was calculated in Graph 22 by following the order of magnitude of the ratio of labor market expenditures to GDP given in Graph 21 for EU countries. According to these data, these countries, in which the percentage of the labor market support expenditures in GDP is the highest and above the EU average (63.7%), are Spain (82.9%), Italy (81.8%), Portugal (77.5%), Greece (75.5%), Belgium (73.9%), Ireland (72.5%), Slovenia (68.3%), Netherlands (67.9%), Malta (67.3%), Croatia (67.0%), GCASC (66.6%), Estonia (65.1%), Austria (64.8%) and Slovakia (64.4%), respectively. The lowest percentage is found to be in Sweden (34.1%).

Given the labor market measure expenditures, the countries with the highest percentage and above the EU average (25.1%) are Luxemburg (25.8%), Austria (27.1%), Slovakia (27.2%), France (27.4%), GCASC (30.2%), Finland (33.5%), Czech Republic (35.6%), Latvia (35.8%), Lithuania (39.1%), Denmark (39.7%), Bulgaria (41.4%), Poland (47.5%), Hungary (52.9%) and Sweden (53.7%), respectively. England (5.4%) has

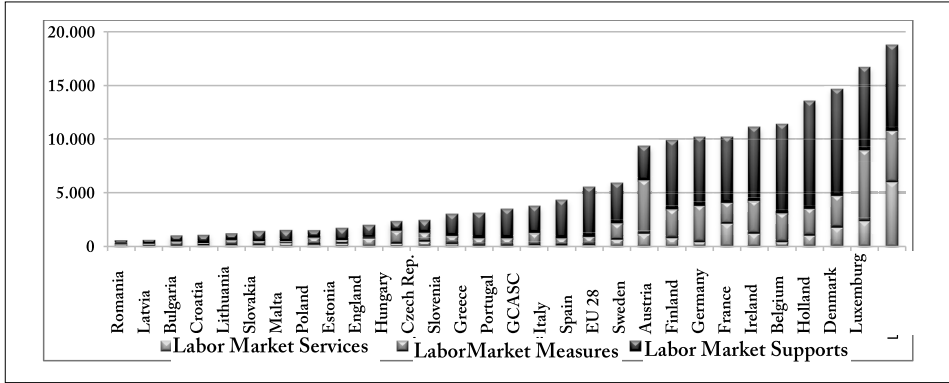
the lowest percentage. England (20.7%), Luxemburg (21.1%), Romania (30.8%), Malta (31.9%) and Germany (36.6%) have the highest and Portugal (0.9%), Greece (1.1%), Italy (1.5%) and Spain (2.3%) have the lowest percentages in labor market employment services, respectively.

Table 13: The Share of Labor Market Expenditures in GDP in EU Countries (%), (Services, Measures, Supports), (2008-2013)

Countries	Labor Market Services (%)		Labor Market Measures (%)		Labor Market Supports (%)		Total Labor Market Expenditures (%)	
	2008	2013*	2008	2013*	2008	2013*	2008	2013*
EU 28	0,20	0,21	0,46	0,47	0,94	1,20	1,60	1,88
Belgium	0,20	0,22	0,50	0,53	2,00	2,11	2,70	2,85
Bulgaria	0,05	0,04	0,25	0,35	0,15	0,46	0,45	0,84
Czech Rep.	0,12	0,11	0,11	0,20	0,19	0,26	0,42	0,57
Denmark	0,23	0,52	0,96	1,46	1,21	1,70	2,40	3,68
Germany	0,34	0,36	0,57	0,33	1,05	1,03	1,95	1,72
Estonia	0,04	0,10	0,03	0,14	0,21	0,45	0,28	0,69
Íreland	0,22	0,12	0,55	0,77	1,34	2,35	2,10	3,24
Greece	0,01	0,01	0,14	0,22	0,47	0,73	0,63	0,96
Spain	0,10	0,08	0,61	0,55	1,89	3,07	2,60	3,70
France	0,21	0,25	0,64	0,64	1,18	1,45	2,03	2,35
Croatia*	-	0,06	-	0,16	-	0,44	-	0,65
Italy	0,05	0,03	0,38	0,33	0,81	1,63	1,23	1,99
GCASC	0,04	0,03	0,11	0,31	0,41	0,69	0,56	1,04
Latvia	0,05	0,03	0,08	0,19	0,35	0,31	0,48	0,53
Lithuania	0,08	0,06	0,16	0,18	0,15	0,22	0,39	0,45
Luxemburg	0,05	0,61	0,36	0,49	0,55	0,81	0,96	1,90
Hungary	0,09	0,12	0,26	0,61	0,37	0,42	0,72	1,15
Malta	0,13	0,10	0,05	0,06	0,31	0,33	0,49	0,49
Netherlands*	0,30	0,37	0,72	0,63	1,11	2,11	2,13	3,10
Austria	0,16	0,18	0,51	0,60	1,16	1,45	1,83	2,23
Poland	0,09	0,08	0,47	0,36	0,35	0,32	0,91	0,77
Portugal	0,13	0,02	0,41	0,47	0,99	1,70	1,52	2,19
Romania	0,03	0,09	0,06	0,03	0,17	0,16	0,27	0,29
Slovenia	0,09	0,10	0,09	0,29	0,27	0,82	0,45	1,20
Slovakia	0,11	0,05	0,15	0,17	0,43	0,41	0,69	0,64
Finland	0,11	0,11	0,67	0,91	1,34	1,69	2,13	2,71
Sweden	0,16	0,25	0,67	1,11	0,58	0,70	1,41	2,06
England	0,30	0,21	0,04	0,03	0,20	0,33	0,54	0,58

Source: Prepared by using the data from: EUROSTAT, “Labour Market Policy Statistics”, (online) http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/labour-market/labour-market-policy/database?p_p_id=NavTreeportletprod_WAR_NavTreeportletprod_INSTANCE_pISN6unmqWuR&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-2&p_p_col_count=1 , 18.06.2015. * 2010 data were calculated for Greece, 2011 data for EU 28, GCASC and England, and 2012 data for Denmark, Spain, France, Croatia, Luxemburg, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Romania.

Graph 23: Distribution of Labor Market Expenditures per People Willing to Work (PWW) in EU Countries, (Services, Measures, Supports and Total Expenditures) (PPS: According to Purchase Power Standard), (2013)*



Source: Prepared by using the data given in Table 14. * 2010 data were calculated for Greece, 2011 data for EU 28, GCASC and England, and 2012 data for Denmark, France, Croatia, Luxemburg, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Romania.

Another analysis method for labor market expenditures is the calculation of the expenditure amount in terms of purchasing power standard per people willing to work. Purchasing power standard (PPS) here is important since it enables to make a healthier assessment between the countries theoretically and eliminates the price differences between these countries to be assessed. The expression ‘people willing to work’ includes the unemployed individuals and labor force reserve. Labor force reserve refers to individuals who are excluded from the labor force and are suitable to work under current conditions and are willing to work; (European Commission B, 2015:19), (Gagel, 2008:3).

Given the data in Graph 23, in which the labor market expenditures per people willing to work in terms of purchasing power standard (PPS) are ranked in ascending order, expenditure per capita is above the EU average (5.901) and highest compared to other countries such as Luxemburg (9.355), Denmark (9.869), Netherlands (10.171), Belgium (10.27), Ireland (11.091), France (11.352), Germany (13.546), Finland (14.607), Austria (16.669) and Sweden (18.785), respectively. The lowest expenditure per

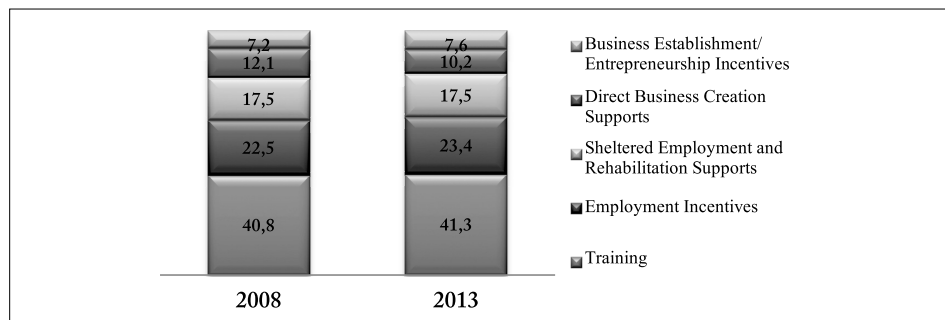
capita is in Romania (529), Latvia (578), Bulgaria (998), Croatia (1.024) and Lithuania (1.164).

Table 14: Distribution of Labor Market Expenditures per People Willing to Work in EU Countries (PWW), (Services, Measures, Supports and Total Expenditures), (PPS: Satin According to Purchasing Power Standard), (2008-2013)

Countries	Labor Market Services		Labor Market Measures		Labor Market Supports		Total Labor Market Expenditures	
	2008	2013*	2008	2013*	2008	2013*	2008	2013*
EU 28	762	661	1.729	1.482	3.537	3.759	6.028	5.901
Belgium	1.181	1.027	3.019	2.501	11.964	10.018	16.164	13.546
Bulgaria	96	43	470	412	279	543	845	998
Czech Rep.	575	456	563	844	935	1.073	2.073	2.373
Denmark	1.682	2.342	6.961	6.614	8.712	7.713	17.355	16.669
Germany	1.428	2.124	2.418	1.962	4.444	6.140	8.291	10.227
Estonia	118	252	89	339	653	1.115	860	1.706
Íreland	1.460	416	3.673	2.706	9.007	8.231	14.140	11.352
Greece	62	35	771	729	2.538	2.361	3.371	3.125
Spain	301	126	1.761	819	5.493	4.572	7.555	5.517
France	1.192	1.195	3.696	3.036	6.783	6.859	11.671	11.091
Croatia*	-	90	-	248	-	686	-	1.024
Italy	123	63	1.017	711	2.177	3.480	3.316	4.255
GCASC	267	119	855	1.126	3.039	2.486	4.160	3.731
Latvia	62	33	90	209	398	337	549	578
Lithuania	204	143	427	453	404	568	1.035	1.164
Luxemburg	996	5.981	7.413	4.836	11.509	7.967	19.917	18.785
Hungary	213	242	643	1.215	899	839	1.756	2.296
Malta	451	312	172	170	1.104	990	1.726	1.472
Netherlands*	2.549	1.759	6.069	2.941	9.355	9.907	17.973	14.607
Austria	747	795	2.366	2.676	5.322	6.399	8.435	9.869
Poland	155	155	824	700	614	622	1.593	1.477
Portugal	493	32	1.589	747	3.845	2.692	5.927	3.472
Romania	77	163	134	63	389	302	599	529
Slovenia	405	237	442	717	1.268	2.038	2.115	2.991
Slovakia	314	113	431	377	1.242	891	1.987	1.381
Finland	557	411	3.263	3.406	6.561	6.354	10.381	10.171
Sweden	868	1.153	3.599	5.017	3.090	3.185	7.558	9.355
England	1.329	725	171	108	893	1.147	2.393	1.981

Source: Prepared by using the data from: EUROSTAT, “Labour Market Policy Statistics”, (online) http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/labour-market/labour-market-policy/database?p_p_id=NavTreeportletprod_WAR_NavTreeportletprod_INSTANCE_pISN6unmqWuR&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-2&p_p_col_count=1 , 18.06.2015. * 2010 data were calculated for Greece, 2011 data for EU 28, GCASC and England, and 2012 data for Denmark, France, Croatia, Luxemburg, Hungary, Malta, Poland and Romania.

Graph 24: The Share of Sub-indicators of Labor Market Measures (Active) in Total Labor Market Measure Expenditures in EU 28 (%), (PPS/PPW) (2008-2013)

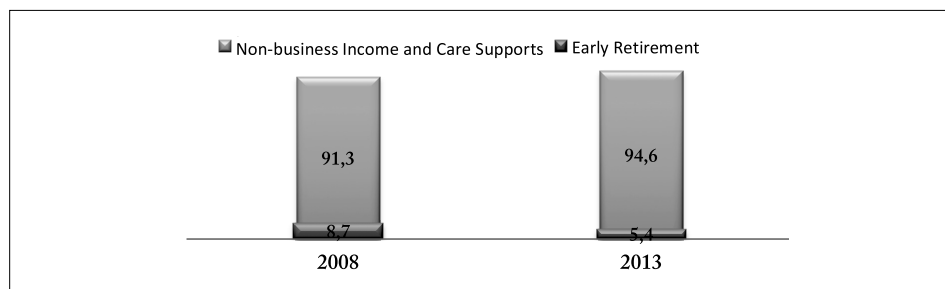


Source: Prepared by using the data from EUROSTAT, Labour Market Policy Statistics.

As it can be seen in Graph 24 showing the change of expenditures shares per capita in sub-categories of labor market measures across EU in 2008-2013, the highest expenditure per capita as of 2013 was made for training services (41.3%). While expenditure of employment incentives reached 23.4%, sheltered employment (disadvantageous) and rehabilitation services remained at 17.5%. Expenditure shares of direct business creation supports (10.2%) and business establishment supports (7.2%) were decreased.

Given the sub-indicators of labor market supports across the EU in Graph 25, it is observed that non-business income and care supports are increased to 94.6% in 2013 and early retirement expenditures (5.4%) are decreased as in all countries.

Graph 25: The Share of Sub-Indicators of Labor Market Supports (Passive) in Total Labor Market Support Expenditures (%), (PPS/PWW), (2008-2013)



Source: Prepared by using the data from EUROSTAT, Labour Market Policy Statistics.

Conclusion

Employment and unemployment issues and policies, which have become one of the common concerns of the Europe since 90s, have formed the European Employment Strategy with primarily Treaty of Amsterdam, Luxemburg and Lisbon Summits. 2010 targets, which could not be achieved after 2008 financial crisis, have been transformed into a new employment policy and strategy paper containing an inclusive growth by maintaining sustainable development by protecting education, environment, technological and digital development, economic growth and global competition conditions, climate and environment, and by fighting against poverty and social exclusion. This policy titled “Europe 2020 Strategy” has reached to a midterm as of 2015 and has been ready to be analyzed and revised if necessary.

Considering the findings obtained in the light of developments of which details are given in the paper, as regards to employment targets across the EU, it is seen that the target of employing 75% of the population aged between 20-64 remained at 69.2% as of 2014 and according to 70% employment level, which was obtained in 2008, a trend for decrease can be observed. On the other hand, there is an increase (63.5% with an increase of +0.7%) in the employment rate of women aged between 20-64 years and a decrease (75.0% with a decrease of -2.8%) in the employment rate of men between the years 2008-2014, respectively.

Europe 2020 targets may differ in each member country in the Union. This situation can be clearly seen in national reform programs of the countries. Given 2020 employment targets specified by such countries for people aged between 20-64 and present situation in 2014, Germany and Sweden seem to have achieved their 2020 employment targets and Luxemburg (0.9%), Lithuania (1.0%), Czech Republic (1.5%), Estonia (1.7%) and Ireland (2%) seem to be the countries that are closest to their targets. The countries seem to be far away from their targets are Greece (16.7%), Spain (14.1%), Bulgaria (10.9%), Hungary (8.3%), Portugal

(7.4%), GCASC (7.4%), Slovenia (7.2%), Italy (7.1%), Slovakia (6.1%) and Belgium (6.1%), respectively. England with an employment rate of 76.2% does not have any employment rate target for 2020. However, these data do not allow making an assessment sufficiently.

In this context, the analysis should be carried out by considering the employment targets and 2014 employment rates of the countries. For example; Sweden, Denmark and Netherlands with employment target of 80%, Germany and Austria with 77% and Bulgaria and Estonia with 76% have aimed to achieve an employment target above the targeted rate at EU level which is 75%. According to these data, 2014 employment rates were 75.9% in Denmark, 76.1% in Netherlands, 74.3% in Estonia, 74.2% in Austria and 73.1% in Finland despite there is progressed required for these countries to reach their goals in terms of employment rates. Among these countries, Bulgaria is really far from its employment target.

On the other hand, in some countries, 2014 employment rates are remarkably less than 60%. Among these countries; Greece has achieved an employment rate of 53.3% with an employment target of 70%, Spain has achieved 59.9% with an employment target of 74%, Italy has achieved to 59.9% with an employment target of 67%, and Croatia has achieved to 59.2% with an employment target of 72.9%, respectively. In this sense, the employment policies in such countries can be considered as unsuccessful given the progress required to meet their targets and the data provided for the year 2014. England has an employment rate of 76.2% as of 2014 and it has not set an employment target for 2020.

Consequently, Europe 2020 Strategy, which has already completed its five years, can be considered as successful since labor markets got rid of the effect of the global crisis as of 2010 compared to 2008, and since it provides a new motivation on the basis of union as well as activating the financial and administrative employment and unemployment policies. However, this achievement cannot be observed in all Strategic targets. Poverty and social exclusion indicators showed a negative development despite the success in education. At this point, policies, support and measures of active-passive labor market should be revised; registered employment and new jobs should be increased; holistic and more inclusive policies and targets aiming a sustainable, qualified and less gender gapped employment

should be developed and implemented.

Within the scope of fighting against poverty and social exclusion, accessing to labor market and finance sources should be easier as well as undertaking a venture/enterprise. At this point, individuals out of labor market should be employed as registered workers and their employment should be permanent, qualified, sufficient and compatible with human dignity. Development of studies and inspections for the participation of women in labor force and employment of any individual compatible with human dignity is considered as important in terms of achievement of 2020 targets of the strategy.

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