



## INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE

The S&D Group is committed to supporting young people. Europe must invest in their potential, in order to ensure the future of our societies.

But over 23% of young people in Europe are unemployed, under-employed or have no job security, especially in the current economic crisis. Youth employment must be seen as an important part of the recovery.

### S & D Group Initiatives

The S&D Group and the European Socialist family have long campaigned to tackle youth unemployment through the **European Youth Guarantee**, which the right-led European Commission and Council are finally supporting - even if with very inadequate funding. The European Youth Guarantee would guarantee that every young person in Europe is offered a job, further education or work-focused training at the latest four months after leaving education or after becoming unemployed. The S&D group is still fighting to ensure that the promises become a reality and that the €6 billion recently budgeted for it is just a start.

The most significant EU support for young people is the future Union Programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period of 2014 - 2020. The **S&D Group** has taken the lead not only in pressing for an increased support for learning mobility for young people but also in securing funding explicitly for youth exchanges, youth work, volunteering and youth organizations.

The **S&D Group** is also working on the evaluation of the present EU Youth Strategy and on defining its future shape so that it will respond to the recent sky-rocketing increase of youth unemployment and deepening youth crisis.

The S&D Group supports:

- more commitment by member states towards modernising and upgrading education and training systems to provide young people with the skills they need to find jobs on today's labour market;
- more effective collaboration between universities and the business world to better adapt curricula in the interests of both creativity and employability;

- increased opportunities for mobility through language learning, quality internships and periods of work experience abroad;
- increased support for youth organizations and their involvement in policy making;
- active participation of young people in society;
- continuous training through vocational training and lifelong learning programmes to enhance re-skilling and entrepreneurship.

The S&D Group will continue to work in support of young people and to address social exclusion, special needs and school drop-outs in order to ensure equal access to education for all young people.