

### **<Youth Unemployment Task Force- Netherlands >**

#### **General details**

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#### **Details of activity**

Background to the case study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The primary goal of the Youth Unemployment Task Force is to achieve 40,000 extra youth jobs for young unemployed people. The secondary goal is to return unemployed youths to school or work within six months.</li> <li>• In 2003 a plan was developed to tackle youth unemployment. The Dutch youth unemployment rate in 2003 was roughly twice as high as the overall unemployment rate. The Dutch government developed a ‘Youth Unemployment Action Plan’ and announced 31 measures. The creation of the Task Force was one of those measures.</li> <li>• The implementing organisation is the Youth Unemployment Task Force.</li> <li>• The Task Force is initiated and funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.</li> <li>• The Task Force is a project and as such will only remain active for a limited time. It will operate for four years (2004 –2007)</li> </ul>
Description of activity	Various activities are implemented by the Taskforce. The goals are achieved by, on the one hand, stimulating employers to make youth jobs available. On the other hand, by mobilising the participating organisations to place as many unemployed youths as possible. The main focus of the Task Force is on harnessing



	<p>existing resources, summarised in the ‘three C’s’ of: Co-operation, Communication and Campaigning.</p> <p>The Task Force consists of six experienced members drawn from industry, the education sector and trade unions. A team of 15 persons supports the Task Force and is involved in the daily activities.</p>
Policy context within which the programme operates	<p>Youth unemployment is one of the priorities of the Dutch government. Local and national parties are mostly very supportive towards the initiatives undertaken by the Task Force. First the focus of the Task Force was more curative; in 2006 the attention will be shifted towards a more preventive approach. Especially for early school leavers and the hard-core group of young people that needs additional guidance and support to become fit for the labour market.</p>
Geographical focus of the case study	The Netherlands
Impact	<p>Until the 14<sup>th</sup> of April the Task Force, together with its partners, has managed to realise 28.761 additional matches for young people.</p> <p>Several countries have visited the Netherlands to learn from our approach, amongst whom Denmark, Japan, Malta.</p>
Partners’ details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centre for Work and Income</li> <li>• Employers</li> <li>• Municipalities</li> <li>• Association of Centres of Expertise on Vocational Training and the Labour Market</li> <li>• Regional Training Centres</li> <li>• Regional Registration and Co-ordination Centres</li> <li>• Social partners</li> </ul>

### Theme-Specific Questions

Who was targeted by the programme?	Young people between the age of 18-23 years who are not working or going to school
Which levels of government were involved, informed or consulted?	National and local governments are both involved.



<p>What actions resulted in mainstreaming?</p>	<p>For instance, local organisations work together in youth helpdesks. The Centre for Work and Income, the municipality and a school attendance officer are working in close co-operation in guiding young people back to training or employment. The Task Force has drawn up a handbook for setting up youth help desks.</p>
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>The Task Force has gained a great deal of experience through its co-operation with its partners and in organising its actions. One of the themes for 2006 is passing on the knowledge it has acquired and making successful actions structural. Preparatory to the Lower House elections in 2007 the Task Force will advise its recommendations for combating youth unemployment</p>
<p>Successes / lessons learned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek for commitment of stakeholders in the region</li> <li>• Use media to communicate results</li> <li>• Actions should always be in addition to existing activities.</li> <li>• Shift from curative towards preventive actions.</li> </ul>

