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## **Governments have to take action now to prevent creating a lost generation**

7.5 million young people aged 15-24 – roughly the total population of Switzerland were not in employment, education or training across the European Union in 2013. Some young people are on the margins of society for different reasons. They are not in education, not in training and don't have a job either. These people have disappeared from the system. They can be school dropouts, unemployed people not receiving unemployment benefits or homeless youngsters who cannot find a way to services and help, they can be people living in illegal situations or people alienated from society.

Many of the young people in Europe are leaving their home country to find jobs and security that their government can't offer them. Adopting Youth Guarantee has been a step forward, but there is still a lot more that governments can do in their own countries.

This must be the number one priority for every country because the future of economics depends on that. The economic cost of not integrating NEETs is estimated at over €150 billion, or 1.2% of GDP, in 2011 figures. Some countries, such as Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia and Poland are paying 2% or more of their GDP.

In order to prevent the creation of the so called lost generation, we must invest more in the support-system of children and youth. Together with that governments should consider raising the compulsory education gaining secondary education or vocation. That means that every young people will gain proper skills to cope in the job market and in society. Last report of the OECD showed that the next biggest challenges will be lack of qualified labour.

Governments have to start a long-term strategic approach to reach these disenfranchised young people who are excluded from the system and see how we can reconnect them to society and improve their opportunities in life.