



|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Country:       | Switzerland                       |
| Member/Company | The Swiss Employers Confederation |
| Initiative     | <i>Check Your Chance</i>          |

## Overview

The Swiss Employers Confederation was actively involved in the founding of the association Check Your Chance and still holds the presidency of this NPO.

Check Your Chance makes a significant contribution to the prevention of youth unemployment and the integration of unemployed young people in Switzerland. Since 2010, more than 25,000 young people have been supported in vocational training and entering the labor market.

## Vision

- To be the most important umbrella organization nationally in the field of youth unemployment prevention and in the integration of unemployed young people.
- Bundling of the relevant forces
- Broad based membership of non-profit and recognized institutions throughout Switzerland
- To sensitize business, politics, authorities and the Swiss population to the issue of youth unemployment
- To support members in raising additional financial resources
- To actively promote exchange of know how among members in the field of youth unemployment.
- To develop innovative services for the prevention of youth unemployment and for the integration of unemployed young people and to introduce them nationally

## Success factors:

- Private-Public-Partnership (2/3 private donations release 1/3 public funding)
- 12 Members (NPOs)
- Nationwide / All language regions
- All political orientations
- Focus on prevention of youth unemployment and integration of unemployed young people
- Network of relevant, professional partners
- Close cooperation with the business community
- Continuous and timely action against youth unemployment
- Systematic exchange of experience
- Increased efficiency through benchmarking
- Members with great autonomy and independence

In the last couple of years the Goethe Institut and the Mercator Foundation (Germany) have additionally initiated StartNet ([start-net.org](http://start-net.org)) on the European level, bringing together organizations that all are active in integrating young people into the labor market.



## Key Messages

- As the youth unemployment rate is higher than the overall rate, it is often seen as a special case. Its causes are also different: young people, for example, suffer more from the vagaries of the economic climate, do not find an appropriate apprenticeship place or do not manage to enter the labor market after having obtained their diploma. At the end of their studies, their lack of professional experience prevents them from finding a permanent job.
- Obviously, it is frustrating for young people to feel, as soon as they enter professional life, that they are useless and rejected by the working world. After a few months already, if they are no longer firmly anchored in solid structures, they risk losing their footing, going adrift. In addition, “deskilling” threatens them: without daily practice, professional skills quickly depreciate. And any shortcomings in a resume must be justified when applying. This combination of frustration and deskilling is tragic for young people and quickly generates societal problems. Often, the transition between training and practicing a profession is not easy. Employers have expectations, young people have theirs, and they don't always match.