

Forum : Labour

Subject : Empowering the youth to drive/ thrive/ embrace and match the requirements of the future labor market

Name of Citizen : _Sophie Verhoeven

Family situation • Married / dating ○ Single ○ With kids, if so how many :	Education level ○ Primary ○ Secondary • University
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1. How are you concerned by the subject?

I am a 51 year old professor at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, working with young adults on a daily basis. I recognize that youth unemployment and the rapid development of technology present significant challenges for them when entering the labour market. Undergoing rapid changes in technology and economical development have been happening, these changes present a significant challenges for young people entering the labour market. I have considered it essential for the young population to be able to change with the demands of the future labour market. Therefore, it has been supporting in strengthening the education system, digital skills and career opportunities for, young people.

There has been a stark increase in unemployment since 2020 with the rise of technology and AI. I recognize that youth unemployment and the rapid development of technology present significant challenges for young people entering the labour market. I am worried, with the stark increase of unemployment because of AI and the rise of technology, graduates haven't been able to find a job. Each year, the job market has become increasingly competitive for an insufficient number of positions, only to be rejected. The competition is intense, with applicants trying to find a decent paying job that insures applicants being financially stable. The jobless rate among 16-24 year-olds is 15.6% comparable to the 16.2% in the UK and the 15.1% in EU.

Between 2021-2025 the higher education has revoked 12,200 undergraduate programs viewing them as "obsolete" while introducing 10,200 new ones, leaving 30% of undergraduate programs affected by the restructuring according to Ministry of Education cited by Xinhua. Institutions have been encouraged to expand offerings in AI, robotics, semiconducting engineering and AI-driven advanced manufacturing. With fast developments to become a global leader in a slew of hi-tech "future industries" and solve a severe graduate job crisis, has left millions of young people struggling to find work.

The youth employment has been a persistent issue since 2020, it has not been "meaningfully improved" according to an Economist Intelligence Unit.

2. What do you suggest at your scale?

With that said, doing multiple career guidance would help young students navigate through the job market and especially have a simple foundation of what they'd like to do in the future, to help them reduce stress and the difficulties of finding one. With these career guidance, students will be informed

and navigated through multiple different careers, courses and specific jobs that not only would benefit the country but also ensure that every student is fond of the job or path that they choose. Multiple assemblies should be hosted every once in a while, with multiple speakers that work from different specializations and companies to reassure students about stability and encourage and build confidence in students.

Additionally, I suggest the plan that's already implemented is the comprehensive structural reforms to help its youth navigate an increasingly volatile, high-tech, and automated future labour market. The 15th 5 year plan period (2026-2030) clarifying the objectives, key tasks and policy measures for promoting high-quality and full employment. This plan includes maintaining overall employment stability, ensuring more adequate employment opportunities and creating a fairer employment environment. Increasing macroeconomic policies on employment has proved efforts to stabilize employment in labour-intensive industries, expand employment in the service sector and tap employment potential in emerging fields. For young people, especially college graduates, the plan seeks to expand their channels for employment and careers development. To resolve the severe "skills mismatch" where graduates hold humanities or "obsolete" fields that market does not require, the Ministry of Education is restructuring this by phasing out majors with low employment rate, introducing micro-majors and post-graduate technical integration. Not only that, but also thriving through "Digital Up-Skilling" and Green priorities. Partnering with UNICEF, colleges are integrating "green skills". Students are learning to develop solar powered smart agriculture and eco-friendly manufacturing. In addition, the government is embracing platform economies. The online platforms has grown to roughly 320 million people. Livestreaming, digital e-commerce, and regional tech coordination are officially recognized as vital contributors to the state's "new quality productive forces". But, time is of the essence for the millions of young people. Youth unemployment spiked up to 18.9% in mid 2026. For many the young people, the promise of prosperity that once accompanied education and hard work now feels increasingly distant.

Therefore, It has been proved to be a country rising rapidly in technology and AI and recognises the significant challenges needed for young people to enter the job market. Lastly, it has been adapting to employment opportunities and educational opportunities for the future of the labour market.