

## Policy Paper **About the Youth Participation in the Labour Market**

The labour market is evolving rapidly and these changes create new challenges for young workers but also for companies as well, which are called upon to meet the new demands of the global market, the digitalization and the new forms of employment.

The participation of young people in the labour market generates the appropriate conditions for their professional, personal and social development. Therefore, the Cypriot youth movement through the General Assembly of the Cyprus Youth Council (CYC) are setting a number of priorities that will address critical issues in relation to the labour market and their demand from the official State (Government and Parliament of Representatives) the following:

- To promote policies that encourage the integration and reintegration of young people into the labour market.
- To address youth unemployment through the promotion of development policies, in a way that creates new jobs, both in the private and the wider public sector.
- To ensure the employment of young people in quality jobs, with decent wages and rights, away from any form of exploitation.
- The interconnection and adaptation of the education system with the future needs of the labour market, so as to avoid uncontrolled educational choices which increasing the unemployment and the underemployment.
- The strengthening of the school vocational orientation, so as to create in time the proper preparation of the young people regarding their future professional career and activity.
- The promotion of projects to encourage young entrepreneurship through targeted programs, especially in new professional activities based on green and blue growth.
- The introduction of a National Minimum Wage (EQM), in all professions, in order to prevent any form of exploitation of workers, especially the new entrants to the labor market
- Extending the coverage of Collective Bargaining Agreements to all sectors of the labor market, so as to ensure equal pay and equal rights for all employees in the same labor sectors.

-Take further safety and health measures at work, in a way that will ensure a work environment away from accidents at work and occupational diseases.

- The regulation of tele-working, on the basis of the agreement reached at European level by the Social Partners, in order to address the significant problems that have arisen in relation to the workers rights, their access to the structures of companies and their organizations , respect for private life and also, the health and safety issues.

-To take the necessary steps in order to achieve real gender equality in the labour market and to take the appropriate measures in order to address the issues of sexual and other forms of employment harassment.

-The promotion of policies and regulations, which will contribute to the reconciliation of professional and family life.

Finally, the young people of Cyprus, claim the right to participate in decision-making bodies at all levels and the guarantee of their unhindered access to all the socio-economic, political and cultural sectors of the country.