

# France, Germany seek 'New Deal' for Europe's youth

France and Germany want a 'New Deal' for Europe's young jobseekers that will aim to tackle the continent's soaring youth unemployment rate

They want to use six billion Euros in loans pledged by the EU to help fund apprenticeships, encourage mobility and provide credit to small and medium-sized businesses. The announcement by the two governments has been welcomed by youth organisations. "The countries where they have a very low unemployment rate, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, are the ones that implement these apprenticeship schemes," said Andrea Gerosa, the founder of Think Young, a group which lobbies for the interests of young people. "We very much welcome this initiative and we think that it's key that not only the politics is involved but also companies (and) the European Investment Bank."

The latest figures indicate 5.7 million people under the age of 25 years old are out of work across the EU. The European Commission says all member states need to take action. Olivier Bailly, EU Commission spokesman, said, "We see a lot of ideas floating around, some actually many of them echoed what the Commission has been proposing for the past 18 months, but it's time to implement what has been al-



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ready agreed." The European Commission's Youth Guarantee proposes offering a job or training to young people four months after leaving education or being out of work. EU leaders will put youth unemployment at top of their agenda at the next summit in June.

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tion. The global recession, followed by the austerity response to Europe's debt crisis, meant jobless rates have skyrocketed. And there is no end in sight. A recent report from the UN's International Labour Organisation forecast youth unemployment in Europe will not fall below 26 percent before 2015. Many who are in work have no job security, with 40 percent of young Europeans on

temporary contracts.

Greece has the biggest problem, youth unemployment there was as a record of 64.2 percent in February. Nearly 56 percent of Spain's under 25-year-olds were jobless in March; in Portugal it was 38.3 percent. Throughout the Eurozone, almost one in four young people is without a job. By comparison — the rate in the United States is just over 16 percent.

In response, European governments are also keen to increase youth training and internships as well as help young people relocate to find work. That is because some EU countries — particularly Germany — have large numbers of unfilled jobs. One proposal is to provide more money for the young to travel for training, perhaps by expanding the Erasmus foreign study programme.

## Eurozone confidence improves

**Consumer and business confidence in the Eurozone bounced back in May after a sharp drop in April — with Portugal the most upbeat**

European Commission surveys showed the upturn was in all business sectors, except for construction, driven by a much more positive assessment of the current level of order books. Confidence improved in all of the 17-nation bloc's largest economies — Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. Country by country, the confidence reading rose 1.8 points in Portugal, 1.5 points in Italy, 0.9 points in France and 0.6 points in Germany. But economists pointed out sentiment is still muted and fragile with big variations between countries. For the full 27-member European Union, the index rose 1.1 points to 90.8, after a drop of 1.8 points in April.

Falling prices — particularly in Germany and France — pulled Eurozone inflation to its lowest for three years in April. The sharp drop — to 1.2 percent — was confirmed by the EU's statistics office Eurostat. Cheaper oil was a big factor. Energy prices fell one percent in April from March in the region, that was the single biggest drop in Eurostat's index.

With households not spending and companies not investing, the Eurozone as a whole is now at risk of deflation.

## Mary Rose museum opens in Portsmouth

**A £35m purpose-built museum for Henry VIII's flagship, the Mary Rose, will be officially opened later in Portsmouth**

The 16th Century hull will once again be on display at the Historic Dockyard museum — yards from where the Tudor warship was built 500 years ago. The new museum finally reunites the Mary Rose with many thousands of the 19,000 artefacts found with it. The ship was discovered in 1971 and raised from the seabed of the Solent in 1982.

Faces of some of the crew have been recreated by forensic science experts using skulls found with the wreck. The areas of the ship where they lived and worked, such as the surgeon's cabin and the gun deck have also been recreated. Up to 500 men and boys died when the ship sank and the new museum has been dedicated to them. A day of events to mark the opening started with the laying of a wreath at the spot where it sank. The Reverend Monsignor Andrew McFadden said, "Today is as much about the men as it is about the ship. Simi-



A visitor to the Mary Rose Museum

lar prayers would have been said on the Mary Rose. The skeletons represent the spirit of those people who gave their lives on the Mary Rose, and the bell represents a continuation of them and the ship today."

The Mary Rose Bell was then taken by Naval escort from the wreck site and into the museum. A giant Tudor flag will cover the mu-

seum until it is lowered to a fanfare by the band of the Royal Marines. The day-long event will mark the symbolic journey of the ship's bell as the last artefact to be placed into the new Mary Rose museum ahead of its public opening.

Since it was brought up, the hull has been constantly sprayed with water and wax chemicals, but the jets were turned off last month.

## Samsung launches Galaxy S4 Mini

**Samsung has launched the Galaxy S4 Mini, a smaller and cheaper version of its flagship smartphone**

The device has a 4.3in (10.9cm) screen, which is slightly bigger than its predecessor, the S3 Mini. The company will show off the smartphone at an event next month, but has not yet given a date for when it will go on sale. The 5in (12.5cm) S4 phone launched in April, and according to Samsung has sold more than 10 million units. The mini version, the specifications of which were leaked online earlier, will need to convince consumers that it is not simply an underpowered phone sold with the help of Samsung's 'premium' Galaxy brand.

Last year, the company released the S3 Mini, which was criticised at the time for being much less powerful than its bigger sibling. The S4 Mini has an eight-megapixel camera on its rear, compared with the S4's 13 megapixels. The Mini's 1.7GHz dual core processor is also less powerful than the quad-core chip found in the larger model. But such hardware downgrades were understandable, said Nick Dillion, mobile analyst for



Ovum. Samsung said many of the software functions shown off at the S4's glitzy launch earlier this year would be available on the cheaper model.

The S4 Mini is the company's latest move in its strategy of offering a smorgasbord of shapes and sizes of its devices to customers — rather than Apple's one-iPhone-per-year approach. At a recent conference, Apple boss Tim Cook said his company did not want to get 'defocused' on having multiple lines, but did not rule out future variants of the iPhone. "It takes a lot of work, a lot of really detailed work to do a phone right when you manage the hardware, the software and the services around it," Mr. Cook said.