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The Socio-Demographic Determinants of Youth Unemployment in Italy: Evidences from National Labor Force Survey

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ABSTRACT

Italy is one of the European countries with the highest youth unemployment rate. According to Eurostat, in 2017 the unemployment rate of young people between 15 and 29 stood at 26,7% corresponding to over one million people - a datum that is only slightly lower than those recorded in Spain (29,4%) and Greece (35,6%). A long-term permanence in a state of unemployment might generate a "scarring-effect" at the individual level, making the employment inclusion progressively more difficult. In fact, keeping young people at the margins of the labour market represents a waste of human potential (Brain Waste) that can negatively impact on Italy's economic development prospective. Given these premises, the present contribution intends to analyze the socio-demographic factors (gender, age group, marital status, citizenship, educational qualification, family conditions, etc.) that affect the unemployment within the Italian youth population (ages 15 to 29). This analysis will lead to the creation of an econometric models of logistic regression referred to 2017 micro-data of the "Labour Force Survey" produced by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and will allow some reflections on how policy-makers can act in order to promote youth employment.

KEYWORDS Youth Unemployment; Labour Market; Brain Waste; Scarring Effect

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