



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release

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“Cap on Student Numbers and Medium Term Fiscal Statement Imply Emigration is now Government Policy” says Leading Youth Organisation

Reports of a potential cap on student numbers at third level and most of the forecasts in the recently published Medium Term Fiscal Statement illustrate that emigration is now part of Government policy according to Youth Work Ireland. The organisation has said the level of demand for third level places and other education and training measures has never been higher and this should be accommodated rather than further restricted. The group, whose members run a number of programmes for early school leavers, says a number of students will emigrate for educational purposes if numbers are restricted here. Youth Work Ireland also said it was disappointing that the most recent significant economic document from the Government effectively built emigration into its forecasting.

“This recession is really hitting young people more than anybody else. There are limited job prospects and education and training is one of the few effective responses that the Government can control. We have seen countless young people who cannot get PLC courses or their CAO choices. There has not been a sufficient expansion in the provision of education and training places to date and any cap on places will certainly mean even more emigration for young people who will inevitably have to look abroad for their preferred courses. A knowledge economy needs more and better graduates restricting places is a blow to any economic recovery. The last thing young people need now is a rathceting up of the points race due to less places” said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

“Such a prospect is even more worrying when examined in the light of the recently published ‘Medium Term Fiscal Statement’. For example the document states ‘net outward migration and weaker labour force participation – should see the unemployment rate fall to 14%’ this effectively means more emigration and more dropping out of economic activity. The CSO has shown that any emigration will be concentrated amongst the mobile youth population. There is of course no extra provision for the number of jobless that will result from restrictions in the education field once more illustrating that emigration is the implied solution. The Government needs to have a strategy to tackle youth unemployment and emigration rather than relying on it” Mc Loughlin added

ENDS

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