



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
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“Increased Youth Emigration Figures Illustrate Need for Jobs Initiative to be Revisited – Urgent Action Now Needed” Says Leading Youth Organisation

Youth Work Ireland has renewed its call on the Government to revisit its Jobs Initiative in light of today’s emigration figures from the CSO showing 33,000 under 25s left the country in the last year. The youth organisation has warned that this is a major economic as well as social issue as the loss of a key productive sector of the population will hamper any future recovery if growth returns. The group, which represents 22 local voluntary youth services around the country, has said young people should be given a range of options including work experience, further education and starting a business if jobs are scarce at home. It also advocates investing funds from the pension reserve fund in employment and training for young people.

“With economic growth returning in other major economies Ireland is now experiencing a substantial rise in emigration particularly amongst young people. There must be a dedicated jobs strategy for young people if we are to avoid the effects of the massive emigration of the 1980s which so decimated communities. Young People are desperately seeking employment, education and training but the options are simply not there. Thousands were unable to access CAO or PLC courses this year. Young people can be the innovation that drives a new economic recovery in smart industries but policies must facilitate greater capacity in the education and training system so that in the future certain areas can grow and succeed providing qualified young people with a chance in this country.” said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

“The spectre of emigration is a major social tragedy and seems to be accepted as almost an Irish solution to an Irish problem, this must be challenged. Increased emigration amongst young people is a major economic issue as this group has been very well educated, now a different country will reap the benefit of this investment and Ireland will lack the people and the skills to built a smart economy. We need to see young people as a resource for example in starting new smart tech companies in new economic areas. These measures can generally be achieved quite cheaply if social welfare savings are applied in keeping these young people off the dole queues” Mc Loughlin added

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