



Youth Work Ireland

**Press Release**  
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**“Training and Education Commitments in Government Programme must Increase to Maintain Impact on Youth Unemployment Figures” says Leading Youth Organisation in response to Live Register Figures**

Youth Work Ireland has said that today’s live register figures illustrate that training and education commitments in the Jobs Initiative need to increase to continue to address the youth unemployment figures. The group, which represents 22 local voluntary youth services around the country, has said young people should be given a range of options including quality training, second chance programmes, further education, work experience and starting a business if jobs are scarce at home. The youth organisation believes that the Government internship programme and other measures need to be well targeted to repeat this months decrease in youth unemployment. The organisation believes more emphasis should be placed on quality education and training. In its own 10 Point Plan for Youth Employment the organisation suggests investing funds from the pension reserve fund in employment and training for young people.

“The commitments in the Programme for Government for the internship programme are much higher than what has been provided for in the Jobs Initiative. The current internship programme needs major expansion if we are eventually to fill 60,000 places on the programme. 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 a return to 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 are unable to access CAO or PLC courses. 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

“We all know unemployment is the number one issue in Irish society today but youth unemployment needs special attention as nobody wants to see a whole generation cast aside during this recession. If young people drift into long term unemployment in substantial numbers it may be hard to rescue that situation when any recovery occurs. It is also relatively easier to target young people for education and training measures during the recession as they are closer to the education and training system. We also 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” said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

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