

Including Young People not in Education, Work and Training in Society: A Youth-Friendly Summary Report

What is this report about?

This report tells you what the Department of Children and Youth Affairs found out in consultations (interviews, meetings, workshops, surveys and events) about how young people who are out of education, work and training can be better included in society. 'Being included in society' means feeling like you are an important part of and involved in the world around you, for example, with your family and friends, in your school, area and clubs.

Why did we do this research?

The consultations were part of a programme run across Europe called 'Structured Dialogue' which aims to let young people have a say in creating youth policies in the European Union (EU).

Who did we speak to?

We spoke to young people, youth workers and experts (people who make policies and decisions in government, youth organisations and other organisations).

How did we speak to them?

- 274 young people who attended the Youth Day event in Croke Park in May 2013 had the chance to have their say in workshops and by leaving comments on large placemats in a special 'zone' during the day.
- 13 focus groups (group interviews) were carried out with 84 young people who are:
 - not in employment, education or training
 - from the Traveller community
 - parents
 - in care
 - in a Youthreach programme
 - graduates (finished college)
 - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT)
- Youth workers filled out a survey.
- Experts got together to talk.

What did we find out?

Here is a summary of what we found out from the consultations:

What helps young people with making changes?

The main things we found that could help young people with making the following changes in their lives were:

Primary to secondary school:

- Learning more hands-on subjects and life skills in secondary school
- Better teaching methods
- Support from family and friends
- Open days
- 'Buddy' systems

Secondary school to college/training:

- Free education and grants
- Better career guidance
- Changing the 'points system'
- Open days
- Access programmes that help young people go on to college
- Transition programmes that help young people settle into college

Education to getting a job:

- Help with getting ready for interviews and writing CVs
- Work placements
- Learning business skills in all college courses
- More information on careers and jobs in schools and colleges
- More jobs for young people who have finished school/college
- Support from family and friends

Living at home to moving out:

- Grants and cheap rent
- Learning social skills and life skills in school/college
- Support from family, friends and your community
- Information about living on your own, e.g. leaflets and websites aimed at young people
- Help with finding somewhere to live and living on your own for young people who do not have family to support them, e.g. young people in care

What are the effects of young people being out of education, work and training?

The key effects of young people being out of education, work and training on families, communities, the economy and Ireland were:

Families and communities:

- Not having enough money
- Stress, fighting and relationships breaking up in families
- Mental health problems among young people
- Drink and drug problems
- Young people leaving Ireland to find work
- Homelessness
- Crime, anti-social problems, racism
- Young people leaving school early
- Teenage pregnancy
- Positive effects of young people being out of education, work and training included the chance to learn new things, start a business, travel, get involved/help in local projects, spending more time with your family and communities working together to help young people

The Economy:

- Less taxes for the government
- More people on social welfare
- Businesses closing
- Poor education and skills among people looking for jobs
- Young people leaving Ireland to find work
- Lack of foreign companies setting up business in Ireland because of poor education and skills among the workforce

Ireland:

- More mental health problems
- Lack of confidence and self-esteem among people
- More crime and anti-social problems
- Need for more social welfare benefits and pressure on government services
- People leaving Ireland to get work
- People have no money
- Young people leaving school early

What helps young people stay in education, work and training?

The research found that the following things could help and encourage young people to stay in school, college and training, get jobs and stay in work and take part in youth programmes and other projects:

Stay in school, college and training:

- Change the way young people learn in school, e.g. less exams, continuous assessment, more project work, more fun, personal development courses, online learning
- Support from family and friends
- More information and career guidance on higher education courses and training from teachers/guidance counsellors
- Free education and grants paid on time
- Better relationships between pupils and teachers and better teacher training
- More information on the importance of staying in school
- More work experience
- More sport in schools
- More Youthreach places
- Extra supports for young people who need it, e.g. young people with learning difficulties, young people with mental health problems
- Anti-bullying, anti-racism and anti-discrimination policies in schools
- Better preparation for college/training in schools
- Give young people a voice, e.g. through student councils

Get jobs and stay in work:

- More work experience for young people when they finish school/college
- Limit social welfare payments for those out of education, work or training
- Better pay, rights and opportunities for young people in work
- More information on finding jobs and work rights
- Career guidance in schools
- Help with interviews and CVs
- Free courses, e.g. personal development, youth leadership, job training, how to start your own business
- More jobs for young people with no work experience
- Pay young people who volunteer
- Youth exchanges
- Lower tax rates for young people and companies who take them on
- Equal work laws for all young people

Take part in youth programmes and other projects:

- More information and better advertisement of youth projects and programmes, e.g. through schools, colleges, Facebook and Twitter
- Get young people to help design and run programmes and projects
- If it is friendly, welcoming, fun and free
- No bullying, discrimination or racism and everyone is included
- Wheelchair access
- Trips away and youth exchanges
- Lots of good programmes and projects to choose from

- Well-trained, friendly young leaders
- Good food
- Create links with schools and colleges
- Proper transport
- Activities to suit different age groups

How can access to services for young people be improved?

We found that following things could help improve young people's access to services, e.g. going to the doctor, finding somewhere to live, getting information, help and social welfare payments, to make sure they are not left out:

- Up-to-date information aimed at young people on how to access services, e.g. websites, leaflets and walk-in information services
- Better advertisement and spreading of information on how to access services, e.g. through TV, Facebook and Twitter
- Easier access to mental health services
- Make social welfare services and staff more young people friendly
- Help young people with filling out forms

How can youth organisations help young people be included?

Organisations working with young people can make sure they are better included in society in the following ways:

- Consult with young people in a meaningful way
- Work together with other organisations
- Share information on projects and programmes with young people and those working with them, e.g. through Facebook and Twitter
- Provide good, easy to access, youth friendly services for all young people
- Give support to young people who need it when projects and programmes finish
- Stand up for young people

What happens next?

The findings from these consultations will feed into a Youth Conference being held in Lithuania in September 2013 as part of the Lithuanian EU Presidency where this topic will be discussed by young people, youth representatives and policy-makers across the EU.