



Pact & Youth

National Action Plan for Ireland

The objectives of Ireland's Pact for Youth National Action Plan (NAP) is to set out the goals and targets of the key stakeholders that lead, engage and support young people (15 to 24 year olds). It sets out what is hoped will be achieved during the period 2017 to 2020. It is our ambition to ensure the youth in Ireland are fully engaged and supported to reach their full potential so that our economy and society thrives to the benefit of everyone.



Pact & Youth - National Action Plan for Ireland

Ireland's 2016 Census confirmed that Ireland has one of the youngest populations in Europe with one-third aged 25 or younger. Ireland also has the highest percentage of 0-14 year olds in the European Union.

The latest census shows that the number of young people aged 10-24 will increase by 11.6% between 2015 and 2025. While it is true that Ireland, in line with most countries in the Western World, has a growing older population, these figures confirm that Ireland is also unique in that it has a large and growing youth population. With this as the backdrop it is a focus for all stakeholders to ensure that supporting youth is our country's priority.

Priority areas



Enhancing Skills – basic, soft, STEAM and entrepreneurship



Supporting young people in transitioning to jobs



Promoting apprenticeships



Helping companies attract and retain talent



Inspiring a myriad of career, education and work opportunities



Supporting schools, teachers and principals

Stakeholders, actors and agencies



Department of Education & Skills, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, IDA, Solas, Tusla, Education and Training Boards Ireland, National Skills Council, Apprenticeship Council, Business in the Community Ireland, Ibec, Junior Achievement Ireland, Young Social Innovators, Foróige, Údarás na Gaeltachta, CSR Forum, FIT, Quality & Qualifications Ireland, Higher Education Authority, Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Offices, trade unions and others. All are committed to supporting our European and national policies in the area of youth.

Top youth goals for Ireland



New apprenticeships

31,000 by 2020



Schools-business partnerships in all disadvantaged schools

210 by 2018



New traineeships

19,000 by 2020



Second level schools in social innovation programmes



50% by 2020

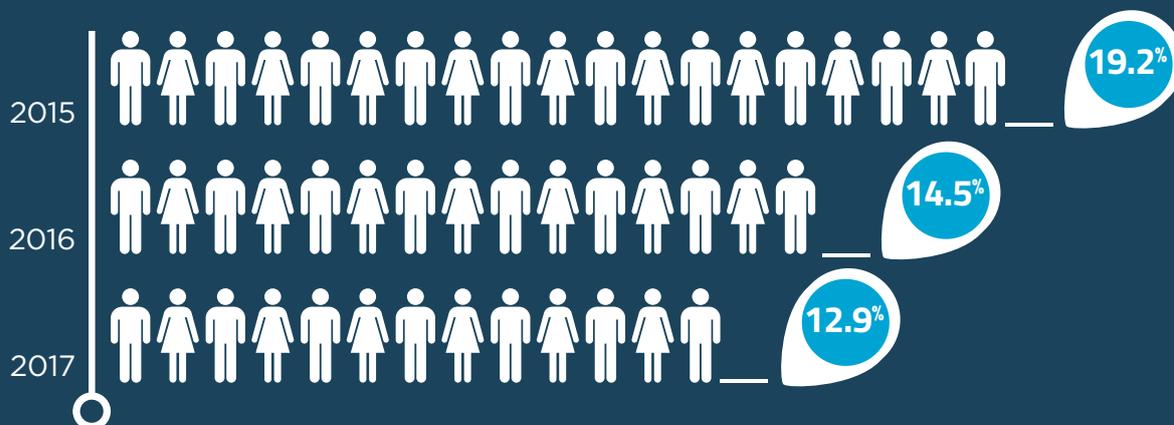


Annual engagement in entrepreneurship

96,200 by 2020

Youth unemployment rates in Ireland

At the end of 2015, the youth unemployment (15-24) rate stood at 19.2%, at the end of 2016 it stood at 14.5%, April 2017 12.9%.



Apprenticeships & traineeships targets for Ireland

The Action Plan for Education commits to double apprenticeship and traineeship activity by 2020 and to enrol 50,000 people on apprenticeship and traineeship programmes in the period 2016-2020. Set out below are the targets contained in the Action Plan to Expand Apprenticeship and Traineeship in Ireland 2016-2020 which set out how the commitments in the Action Plan for Education in the area will be met.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Craft-based apprenticeships – new registrations p.a	3,390	4,147	4,697	5,087	5,587
New apprenticeships – new registrations p.a.	82	800	1,500	2,297	3,413
Total target apprentice registrations p.a.	3,472	4,947	6,197	7,384	9,000

= 31,000 cumulative new apprenticeship registrations by 2020 and forecast (as of October 2016) of new registrations on craft-based apprenticeships provided by Skills and Labour Market Research Unit (SLMRU) and Apprenticeship Services Unit, SOLAS

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Existing traineeships – new enrolments p.a.	2,400**	2,400	3,000	3,500	3,500
New/relaunched traineeships – new enrolments p.a	100	200	900	1,500	1,500
Total target trainee enrolments p.a.	2,500	2,600	3,900	5,000	5,000

=19,000 cumulative new traineeship registrations by 2020; *Source: FARR database, SOLAS as of July 2016

**2,400 trainees in 2016 is an estimate by Education and Training Boards of participation numbers as of July 2016

Entry level jobs & labour market activation supports

Through the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection there are a number of job activation supports for youth. The main ones are: **The Youth Guarantee scheme** providing a good quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within 4 months of becoming unemployed. The **INTREO** service offers practical, tailored employment services and supports for jobseekers and employers alike. **First Steps Programme** for those with little or no experience of work provides the opportunity to learn basic work skills and social skills while on a placement which is part of the EU Youth Guarantee. **Jobs Plus for Young People** encourages employers to offer employment to jobseekers on the Live Register by giving employers financial incentives. The **Employment and Youth Activation Charter** encourages companies to consider those on the Live Register when recruiting and to engage in CSR projects with jobseekers. **Community Employment** enhances the employability and mobility of the disadvantaged and unemployed by providing work experience and training opportunities for them within their communities. The Department also engages in a number of collaborative projects and initiatives with industry to support young jobseekers.

Schools – business partnerships

Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI)

has established one to one school-business partnerships nationwide supporting the Government's agenda on educational inclusion and student retention. The retention rate in Ireland has increased from 80% in 2000 to 90.3% in 2017. In 2015, 22% of all post primary schools in Ireland had a business partner involving an average of 3, 800 students each year. Students most at risk are supported through its Mentoring and Skills @ Work programmes. The goal is to provide business partners to all targeted post primary schools by 2018. BITCI also provides high level supports for principals and teachers via its: Management Excellence for Principals and Teachers programmes, STEM Seeing is Believing events for STEM teachers to visit industry. BITCI also provides business executive insights on leadership, performance management, marketing and other areas with proven strong impacts. BITCI aims to have engaged 85% of school principals by 2018



Supporting entrepreneurship

Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) engaged 12, 882 students aged 15-18 during 2016/17 in key programmes: Success Skills, Enterprise in Action, Finance Your Future, and Learn to Earn. JAI runs a range of other initiatives in which business volunteers get involved to inspire and motivate young people under the banner of employability and work-readiness, including: Skills for Success, STEM Zoo and Career Ready. Projected growth in student reach over the next three years should see more than 70,000 young people involved in JAI programmes annually.



Young Social Innovators (YSI) promotes social innovation education in Ireland. It has a unique pedagogy to engage teenagers in learning and practice of social innovation. YSI has engaged 130,000 teenagers in youth led social innovation since 2001. Over the past 2 years, 20,000 have taken up the challenge to innovate for social good. Its ambition is to engage 50% of second level schools, circa 355 schools, in social innovation programmes each year by 2020.



Foróige develops key 21st century skills in young people, enhancing their employability and competitiveness using a 'Learning by Doing' methodology. The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) is a youth entrepreneurship education and development programme has been shown to improve the business, academic and life skills of young people. It develops the core skills in business and enterprise of young people to unlock their individual talents and potential. 800 young people participated in 2016 and this will increase to 1200 in 2018. Foróige also provides a Leadership for Life Programme and a Youth Citizenship Programme.

The Student Enterprise Programme is an annual event, run by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices, attracting the participation of over 150,000 secondary school students since 2003. The purpose of the Programme is to encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship and develop links between the education system and the real economy, equipping students with the skills, expertise and practical knowledge of business operations that will enable them to consider self-employment as a career option. The aim is to attract the interest of 25,000 students per year by 2019.