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Regional focus: The increasing unemployment rates in UK

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Statistical overview on Youth unemployment in the UK and social inclusion.

Regional focus: Youth unemployment

- **Little history**

Bhagavat Educational Trust has chosen to dedicate its efforts in fighting youth unemployment and towards social inclusion in the UK and Europe. We adopt the principle of Mutual assistance or how 2 marginalised groups assist each other to the mutual benefit of both.

Very concerned for the increasing rates and the bad financial situation not only in the UK but in Europe overall, we concentrated our efforts and we dedicated our work to transferring our ethos and Modus operandi on offering possibilities for the young people, a chance for internship in the most needed countries i.e the chance to participate in a program that will develop their skills, help them gain new ones and increase their chances for getting into employment as well as their chances for social inclusion. We provide the young people with CVs, Motivational Letters, Certificates and Language passports which only increase their motivation and their willingness to develop a career or improve their lives.

Operating for more than 10 years in the field, we have experienced our success and the benefits from our Leaving and learning abroad program and most importantly we made hundreds of young people part of it.

Between 2011 and 2013 we developed the first Transfer of innovation project that was tremendous success not only for Bhagavat, but also for all parties involved.

- **The new reality**

The economic downturn in Europe and UK raises unemployment across the board, but is particularly severe among young people between 18- 25 who lack the experience and expertise to complete successfully for job vacancies. Not in vain Jacob Funk Kirkegaard compares the youth unemployment in the Eurozone with "**social and economic disaster**". On his research on youth unemployment in Europe published 13 October 2012 he comes up with the conclusion that

"... 30%, 40%, even 50% of young people sitting on their hands instead of building skills and experience.."¹

It will take time to come up with the exact numbers for youth unemployment in UK, however despite that the higher levels of youth unemployment are a serious problem and it should concern not only the society of the certain country but also every European citizen:

"Despite the 'true level' of youth unemployment in a given country, the poor job opportunities for youth in many countries is still a serious concern, because of the negative impact on lifetime earnings and career paths that an early spell of unemployment might inflict on affected young people (the so-called 'scarring effect' in economic jargon)."²

¹ <http://www.voxeu.org/article/youth-unemployment-europe-it-s-actually-worse-us>

Not in vain Gina Lund, state secretary at the Minister of Labour calls the youth unemployment "Waste of resources"

"...Labour is the most important action to fight poverty... we are worried about those who are left outside. And it's more likely that those who don't graduate from high school will be left outside. Education is a key",³ she says.

- **The sad reality**

All this stresses our interest and desire to keep working and try to fight the problem with social inclusion, concentrating on the biggest bruises of the UK regarding youth unemployment. Statistics are clear:

"963,000 people aged 16-24 were NEET in the fourth quarter of 2014, 13.1% of people in this age group. Current Government schemes with elements aimed at reducing the number of young people who are NEET include: raising the participation age, the Youth Contract and the Work Programme."⁴

- **Social Inclusion**

"Social inclusion must come down to somewhere to live, something to do and someone to love. It's as simple - and as complicated as that" (Fraser 2003, cited in Grove 2008, p.2 footnote 1).

According to the World Health Organization, the the more a group is marginalized, the more vulnerable it is. It is a fact that that socially inclusive approaches are essential to reducing inequalities:

"we cannot live in a society in which health is equal for all. We can live in an inclusive society that limits inequality, in which all who need it have the opportunity to be employed, and in which the diversity of human conditions is catered for, and even celebrated" (Piachaud et al 2009, p.56).

In Bhagavat we promote Social inclusion in labor market. We challenge attitudes, to enable people to fulfil their aspirations and to significantly improve opportunities and outcomes for everyone. It is our responsibility to lead on all equality, diversity, community cohesion, financial, and social inclusion issues which may affect citizens. It also plays a key role in developing and maintaining our relationship with the community and voluntary sector.

² <http://www.voxeu.org/article/youth-unemployment-europe-it-s-actually-worse-us>

³ <http://www.unric.org/en/youth-unemployment/27413-mass-immigration-to-norway>

⁴ <http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN06705/neet-young-people-not-in-education-employment-or-training>