

Hi Paul,

I hope it isn't too late to reiterate a few things I spoke about at the event a few weeks ago. I've also been discussing these with colleagues at UK Youth and Ambition, who support these points.

- 1) Young people value and gain enormously from international experiences. Increasingly the skills they develop from exposure to international issues are becoming invaluable to their future prospects; to borrow a phrase from NCVYS member Think Global, "education needs to help people understand the wider world around them and make the global connections between issues"
- 2) Global skills and knowledge are particularly important given that there is labour mobility in the EU. Young people in the UK need to be aware of the opportunities and threats that this creates for them.
- 3) Programmes such as Youth in Action and the new Erasmus+ programme (which has recognised a specific need for funding directed at youth projects), are necessary to ensure young people in the UK are best able to take advantage of these opportunities. A recent evaluation of Youth in Action showed that the programme "provides a space for new learning experiences for young people, youth leaders and youth workers... The learning environments created by YiA projects contribute to a great extent to the development of competences which are essential for active citizenship and participation in public and political life as well as in civil society, in particular in a European context"
- 4) It is vital that young people are involved in the decision-making of European institutions and continue to shape programmes and policies that impact on their experiences and those of the communities that they are part of.

I'll add one more thing since I've just been emailed by Think Global about an event I attended recently with 100 people from the youth and education sector.

At the event delegates voted on the top 3 threats to young people in the UK in preparing for their globalised future and found they were:

- Young people are not aware that employers value knowledge of the wider world more highly than degree classification or A-levels. More employers (79%) say knowledge and awareness of the wider world is important than the numbers of employers who say the following are important: degree subject and classification (74%), A-level results (68%), or A-level subjects (63%) according to an ICM poll of 750 business leaders
- Horizons and aspirations are too narrow to thrive in a globalised and multicultural economy
- Inward looking domestic concerns in the UK risks diminishing young people's relative breadth of perspective against peers in emerging economies who are increasingly globally literate

I think this only adds to the case we have presented around the importance of investment in voluntary and community youth projects which develop young people's global skills and awareness.

Kind regards,

Dominic Weinberg