

## ***Creating a “tool box” to fight youth unemployment in Europe***

- ***TUI Foundation and stiftung neue verantwortung launch joint project***
- ***Spanish Ambassador: “If you do not care about the next generation, you lose perspective”***

***Berlin, 2 April 2015.*** *The extremely high youth unemployment is one of the most urgent challenges confronting society today – in particular in many southern European countries. The rates are above 50 per cent in some countries. More than 5.6 million young people in Europe are unemployed.*

*In cooperation with stiftung neue verantwortung, the TUI Foundation has launched the project “Innovative Governance | Impact4Jobs”. The goal is to examine well-functioning models to qualify young people and help them into jobs to establish whether they can be transferred to other countries. “The dual system of vocational training that has proven its worth in Germany, which involves training in vocational training schools and on the job, is a model that is attracting a great deal of interest at the international level. The combination of vocational training schools and on-the-job training is very attractive for many countries. German companies, foundations, governmental organisations such as the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the German Foreign Office work closely together in many countries in order to export this dual training system,” said Thomas Ellerbeck, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the TUI Foundation.*

*Ideally, the joint project run by the TUI Foundation and stiftung neue verantwortung will create a “tool box” comprising practices and tools – models that have proven their worth and, above all, can be transferred to several other countries to help fight youth unemployment.*

*The event held at the launch of the project pinpointed the dramatic situation in many countries: Under the heading “Youth without Work, Europe without a Future”, politicians and scientists engaged in discussions with Pablo García-Berdoy, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Germany. In his welcoming remarks Thomas Ellerbeck, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the TUI Foundation, stressed the special relevance of the topic: “The future prospects of the young generation also constitute a matter of social peace, political stability and social cohesion – in the countries concerned but also for Europe.”*

*The Spanish Ambassador also referred to a real challenge for society: “In the years of plenty, we have neglected the ‘inter-generational contract’. That was and remains unfair. After all, if you do not care about the next generation, you lose perspective.” He pointed out that many Spanish citizens were migrating abroad, a move that also entailed opportunities for people and for Spain. In his view, gaining vocational experience abroad and drawing on that experience upon returning home to Spain is a process that strengthens the personality of each individual and enriches the country as a whole. By contrast, Gunther Kirchbaum, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the European Affairs Committee regards migration as a loss of highly-trained people for the crisis countries. He argued that job opportunities for young people should be created in their home countries in order to avoid a brain drain that the countries concerned would find hard to recover from. In his view, there is a threat of losing a whole generation, as that generation has left the country that needs them.*

*The panel discussion focused on the question as to this was a “lost generation”. Jakob von Weizsäcker, Member of European Parliament, used that phrase to emphasize the particular gravity of the situation. Mark Fliegauf, fellow of *stiftung neue verantwortung*, disagreed, suggesting that the phrase “generation of poverty” should be used instead. Weizsäcker called for better comparability and effective recognition of professional qualifications in the labour market.*

*The panelists agreed that this situation had been caused, above all, by structural problems, alongside economic problems. They pointed out that it was a matter of urgency now to use new strategies to address the problem so as to avoid further threats to social cohesion. The project jointly launched by the TUI Foundation and *stiftung neue verantwortung* will work out ways to resolve the problem in a European context and present concrete options for action to companies, policymakers and civil society.*

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