

# **Disabled Young People in Ireland during the Great Recession**

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# Research Question in search of an answer

- Data
- Ideas
- Hypotheses
- Research questions
- Options for investigating
  - Stats and data sets old and new
  - New research

# Towards a possible research approach

- Young people in Ireland 2008 – 2014
  - Young people in general
  - Disabled young people
  - Hypothesis of ‘double jeopardy’
  - Potential Case Study 1 Public sector employment
  - Potential Case Study 2 European Youth Guarantee
  - Way forward

# The impact of the great recession on young people in Ireland

- Catastrophic rise in youth unemployment
- Restructuring of the Irish labour market
- Adaptations by young people
  - Remaining in education (credentials inflation)
  - Large scale movements of young people
    - Emigrating (UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia)
    - Immigrants leaving eg back to Poland
  - Training/retraining/upskilling
  - Political action

# Youth Exodus from Irish workforce

Background:

2013

Total pop 15 – 24 = 543,900

Scale

Official youth unemployment increased

From 10% to 33% during the Great Recession

Numbers at work fell by 60%

# Restructuring of Irish labour market

- Sectors more affected than others eg Construction
- Occupations most affected eg
  - Building workers
  - Architects
  - Nurses
  - Other health professions
  - Skilled manufacturing workers
  - Retail workers

New 'flexibility' and insecurity

# Adaptations by Young People

- Education
- Large movements of young people
- Training/retraining for less affected sectors  
eg farming and software design
- Political action ('we're not leaving' campaign)

# Hypothesis

- Disabled young people: double jeopardy
- Austerity measures impacted in many ways
- However, equality legacy damaged but not entirely lost
- Some adaptations much more difficult eg emigration, extended education, internships

# Potential Case study 1: Public Sector Employment

- Sector as defined in Act accounts for around 15% of the Irish workforce
- 3% target in place since 2005 Disability Act
- Important positive action measure and example of good practice
- Part 5 dataset 2006-2014
- BUT recruitment embargo since 2009
- Small but increasing start to recruitment in 2014

# Learning what works 2006 -2014

- Leadership from the top
- Statutory requirement
- Monitoring and follow up actions
- Creation of inclusive workplace culture
- Attention to accessibility
- Networking and exchanging learning
- Workforce planning

# Potential Case Study 2: Disability proofing the EU youth guarantee for NEETs

- Access rules must not exclude eg those on DA
- Appropriate supports must be provided
- Reasonable accommodations eg working time
- Active inclusion and community supports
- Staff training and awareness raising
- Flexicurity esp issue of medical cards

# NEETS

- 1 in 3 young people categorised as not in training, education or employment said they were NEETS for reasons of disability
- NEETS regarded as especially vulnerable to being trapped in long term unemployment
- Significance of disability factor not recognised in the policies so far

# Inactive NEETS in Ireland

- Based on QNHS results 2012-2013
- Young people other than officially unemployed who are not in employment, education or training total 16,100
- Of whom 3,800 disabled
- Of whom 2,600 male, 1,200 female

# Possible Research

- Public Sector experience
- EU Youth Guarantee: impact on disabled young people across EU

# Question for Network

- Do either of these options fit with your plans and remit?