



ESN PRIME CONFERENCE

Recognition – a Decisive Factor for Going Abroad?

23 January 2010, Brussels

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European Youth Forum

- **Youth-led PLATFORM = 99 National Youth Councils and International Youth Organisations from across Europe**
- **EMPOWERS** young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives
- **Represents and ADVOCATES** their needs and interests towards the EU Institutions, the Council of Europe and the UN

YFJ priorities in EDUCATION

Strategic priorities 2007 - 2012

Open education to other providers (YouthOrgs) and NFE methodologies barriers & simplify procedures

Work Plan 2009 - 2010

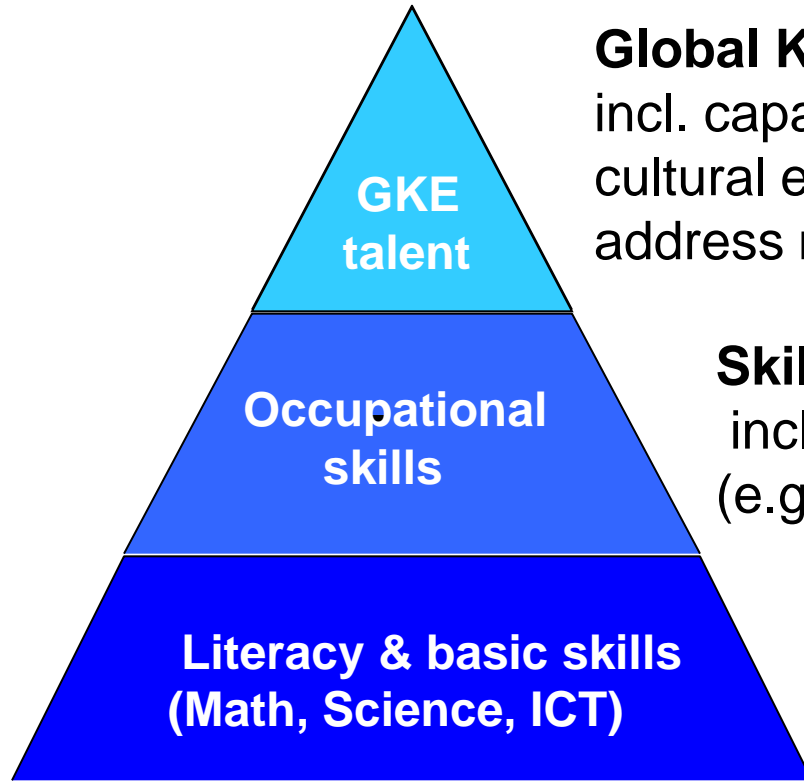
1. Equal access for all to quality LLL opportunities
2. Recognition of NFE and YouthOrgs as providers
3. Framework for quality in NFE
4. Youth mobility & exchanges

YFJ activities in EDUCATION

- Shaping ET2020 (e.g. benchmark on mobility)
- Holistic Approach to Education & Global Education
- Quality Assurance in NFE project
- Annual NFE Dialogue (10-11 December 2009)
- NFE Pathways 2.0
- Youth Entrepreneurship Forum
- Position Paper on VET
- Green Paper on Educational Mobility

**Can / should recognition
be a decisive factor?**

Skills Pyramid - Sustainable Job



Global Knowledge Economy Talents

incl. capacity to generate innovation, lead in cross-cultural environments, manage virtual teams, address new issues individually & collectively

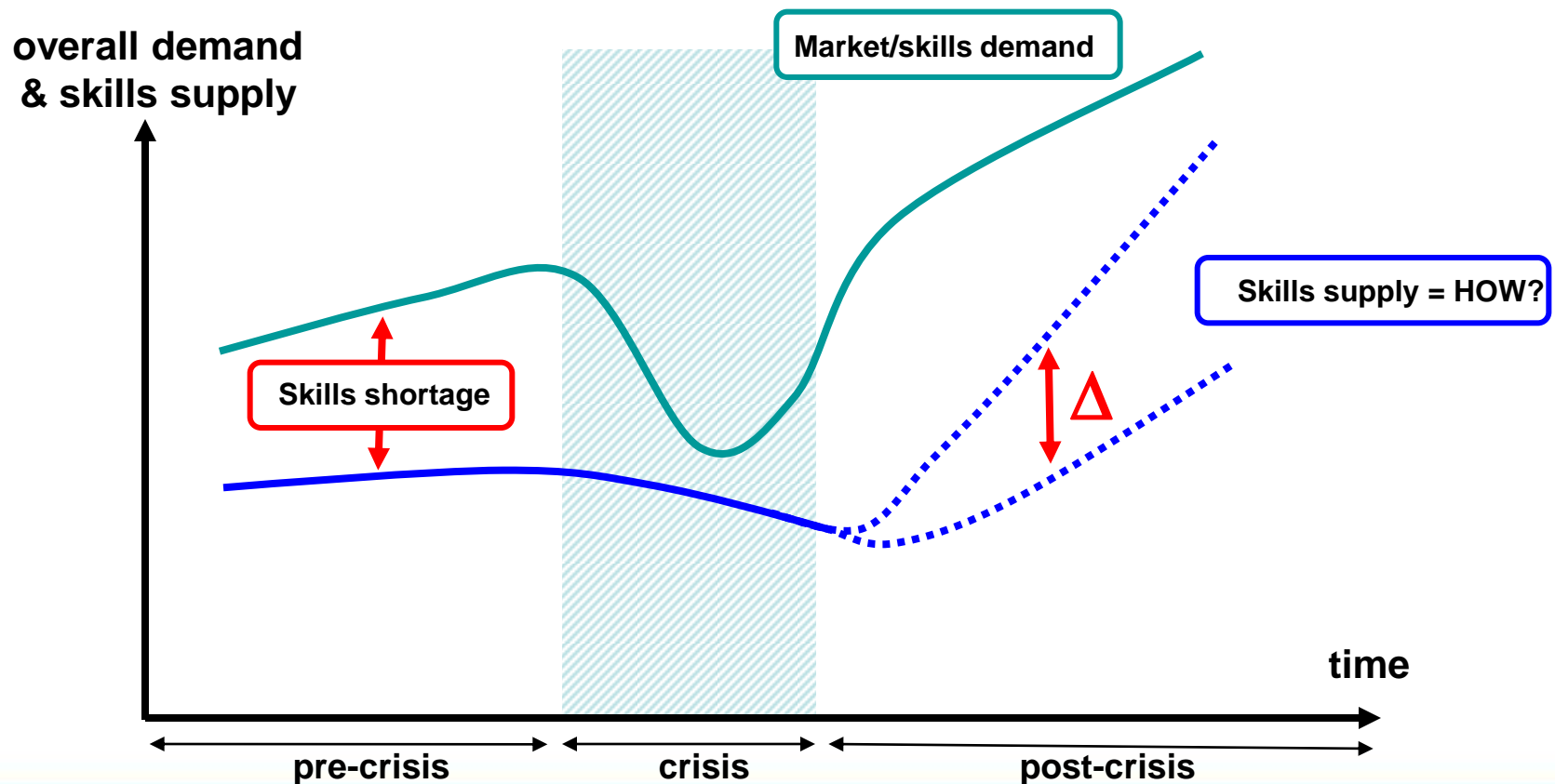
Skills related to specific sector needs

incl. sector specific & cross-sector skills (e.g. accountants, legal/HR)

Skills required for social inclusion

incl. literacy (writing/reading, basic scientific and math. knowledge, ICT literacy) and minimal cross cultural disciplines such communication

Has crisis impact on skills?



How? European Skills Pact

1. Develop **EU-wide alliance between public & private sector** to ensure re-skilling
2. Re-focus European Structural Funds to sectors ensuring EU competitiveness
3. Enhance interest of young people in MST and in engineering, green and ICT careers
4. Develop high level **business universities partnerships** to generate needed Global Knowledge Economy
5. Encourage **skills mobility** within Europe, and worldwide
6. Foster innovative approaches to education (e-learning e.g.)

Impact of exchanges I.

Dr. Michell Hammer & American University (2005)

AFS exchange programs enable young people:

- Become more competent in crossing cultures
- Feel more confident around other cultures
- Build more friendships with people from other cultures
- Become fluent in the foreign language
- Know more in general about the host culture

Impact of exchanges II.

Bettina Hansel, PhD. – AFS Long Term Impact Study (08)

After 20 – 25 years AFS returnees:

- Have achieved higher education level
- Speak more languages
- Have spent more time (study / work) abroad
- Have more positive relationship towards other cultures
- Motivate their children to intercultural experience

Impact of exchanges III.

	No UNI abroad	UNI abroad	AFS with no UNI abroad	AFS with UNI abroad
Freidns from other cultures	23%	26%	30%	39%
Professional network from other cultures	30%	37%	37%	46%

What does it mean?

- 1. Competencies & skills acquired through NFE in YouthOrgs are integral part of Skills Pyramid = conditions for sustainable career**
- 2. Global knowledge Economy Talent can not be developed without YouhOrgs & exchanges**
- 3. Businesses & Universities recognize this trend**
- 4. Researches prove it**

So what about recognition?

We can fully / partly recognise many aspects:

- **Credits**
- **Language competencies**
- **Intercultural competence**
- **Soft skills**

a...but barriers in recognition are / should NOT be the decisive factor!

Thank you for your
attention