

Youth Business International

Title	Youth Business International (YBI)
Coverage	International
Organization/enterprise	Youth Business International (YBI)
Topic	Entrepreneurship development
Target group and outreach	Disadvantaged young people aged between 18 and 35 who want to become entrepreneurs
Purpose	<p>YBI, a programme of the International Business Leaders Forum, helps young people to become entrepreneurs by providing business mentoring and access to start-up finance. The YBI Network is a global network of independent initiatives known as Youth Business Programmes (YBPs) that assist entrepreneurial youth to start and grow businesses when they are unable to find support elsewhere. Through these activities, the network provides a practical response to the urgent need for youth employment opportunities, and represents an important contribution to the global agenda on employment, poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>YBI's core principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with disadvantaged young people, typically aged 18-35 • To provide successful applicants with a volunteer business mentor and full access to the organization's local and national business support network • To provide access to financial support to those young people with a viable business proposition who are unable to find support elsewhere
Key features	<p>(1) Offers direct contact with successful entrepreneurs</p> <p>(2) Provides access to the business community/network</p> <p>(3) Combines training with guidance</p> <p>(4) Provides access to financing opportunities</p>
Strategy and approach	<p>YBI's role is to build the capacity of its programmes and to act as an international advocate for the network. It provides training and guidance on setting up YBPs, on recruiting and managing volunteers and on establishing benchmarks and standards. Through its network it provides a comprehensive and innovative source of expertise on helping young people to discover entrepreneurship. YBI encourages best practices and a culture of continuous improvement within its programmes, and works to develop a global database of performance indicators to help monitor standards and create a system of universal benchmarks.</p> <p>Finance: YBPs provide access to seed funds that enable young people to start their business. These have to be repaid and a nominal administration charge is made. Amounts range between US \$250 -\$10,000.</p> <p>Mentoring: a volunteer businessperson acts as a friend, guide and coach to the young entrepreneur over the first 3 years of the new venture.</p> <p>Advocacy: promoting enterprise development as part of the global youth agenda, working with multilateral and non-business institutions that can expand the YBI network. Proactively developing new programmes.</p> <p>Operations: supporting programmes in the field and optimizing the ability</p>

	of the network to circulate and deliver best practices and efficient use of network resources. Overseeing and coordinating the accreditation process and establishing standard operating procedures.
Partners	YBI has created a number of partnerships with international organizations such as the ILO, the UN Youth Employment Network, international development agencies and financial institutions, and national and multinational corporations.
Major achievements	<p>To date, 38 countries have YBI programmes that deliver an enormous range of benefits, from building the employability of young people to generating a culture of entrepreneurship and dynamism in the local economy.</p> <p>Over 18,000 young people have been set up in business around the world. These, in turn, are offering employment to many thousands of others.</p> <p>Over 70 per cent of the new businesses started by young entrepreneurs are still successfully trading in their third year.</p>
Additional information	<i>Youth Business International: Bridging the gap between unemployment and self-employment for disadvantaged youth.</i> 2002. (Chambers, Rachel and Anna Lake. ILO InFocus Programme on Skills, Knowledge and Employability. Geneva. 25 pages)
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