

# Youth Partnership

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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



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## Impact of COVID-19 on young people and on the youth sector

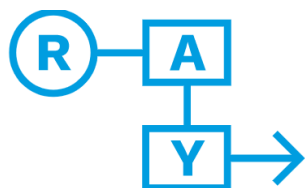
*September 2020*

# Exploratory reflection meetings on COVID-19 surveys in the youth field

## 6, 12 & 19 May 2020

European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP)

Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR)



Towards a better understanding of the COVID-19 impact on the youth sector



National Agencies of Erasmus+ Finland and Germany

European Commission

**E U**  
**20**  
**H R** Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Ministry of Demographics, Family, Youth and Social Policy, Croatia

Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) of the Council of Europe

European Steering Committee on Youth (CDEJ) of the Council of Europe

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# KNOWLEDGE HUB on COVID-19

European  
Knowledge Centre  
for Youth Policy  
(EKCYP)

Pool of European  
Youth Researchers  
(PEYR)



[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1V7LdVqq2BxISW2rFSyGY0V\\_zHBAPncgQ4AQ7oYn2kf4/viewform?ts=5f514b6b&edit\\_requested=true#responses](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1V7LdVqq2BxISW2rFSyGY0V_zHBAPncgQ4AQ7oYn2kf4/viewform?ts=5f514b6b&edit_requested=true#responses)

## **Towards a better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the youth sector**

The Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth is coordinating a research project "Towards a better understanding of COVID-19 impact on the youth sector", which involves, inter alia:

Conducting a questionnaire for data gathering from the networks of European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy (EKCYP) and the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) correspondents with a view to compiling and assessing data on the impact of COVID-19 on the youth sector - and in particular its impact on initiatives related to youth policy, youth work and supports for youth organisations - at national, regional and local level and sharing the resulting data, assessment and findings.

Given the present uncertainties with regard to the pandemic, EKCYP and PEYR correspondents are kindly asked, in light of their experience and expertise in the youth field in their respective countries, to give an informed and considered view, in responding to the questions, on how COVID-19 and the lockdown has impacted on and been responded to by the youth sector over the past six months. The aim is to get a snapshot in time of how young people in different countries across Europe have been impacted by COVID-19 and the lockdown and how the youth sector has responded in reaching out to, communicating with and informing young people and developing new and innovative approaches, particularly through youth inclusion and participation, digitalization, and youth work practice, to support them in this time of crisis.



**SUBMIT EVIDENCE**

# META ANALYSIS

Youth Participation

Social inclusion

National realities in Europe

Youth Policy

Youth Work

Youth organisations

Health, mental health and well being

Digitalisation and AI

Information and counselling

Employment and professional development

Education and skills



BRIEFINGS



RESOURCES

Impact of COVID-19 on learning mobility in the youth field

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# Covid-19 impact on young people and on the youth sector

*A reference page to research and knowledge development on the issue*

The covid-19 pandemic and related lockdown measures have produced significant interruptions in young people's lives, the impact of which is still to be analysed and understood in the future.

One youth research approach to developments in young people's lives is to look at transitions to adulthood and autonomy. For example, when growing up, young people transition to education, to employment, towards economic and financial independence, or to establishing their own family, to getting the right to vote...

Covid-19 has put into question all these transitions. While on the one hand, there is an attempt to identify the best ways to deal with the crisis, and document these practices, there is also an understanding that we are entering not a short period but a longer era of new normality that young people will have to cope with.

This new extended transition is also impacting the youth field actors, including policy-makers, practitioners, youth organisations and platforms for young people's participation but also youth researchers. While there is a clear emergence of the digital youth work and increasing use of digital tools in working with young people within both formal and non-formal education across Europe, there is also an understanding that there are needs of young people that have not been responded to, leaving many to face on their own issues related to social exclusion, discrimination and a redefinition of social and safety nets. There are also questions about changing relationships and behaviour, changing perspectives on connection to friends and community, impact on well-being and mental health, employment, participation, activism, youth organisations and many other areas of young people's lives.



## CALL FOR RESEARCHERS

**Towards a better understanding of COVID-19 impact on the youth sector**

- [Act of engagement](#)
- [Tender file](#)

**Deadline: 16 July 2020**

## RELATED RESEARCH

[Research on Covid and youth work](#)

[Research on covid and youth policy](#)

[Other research initiatives](#)

**Have you come across any related initiative?**

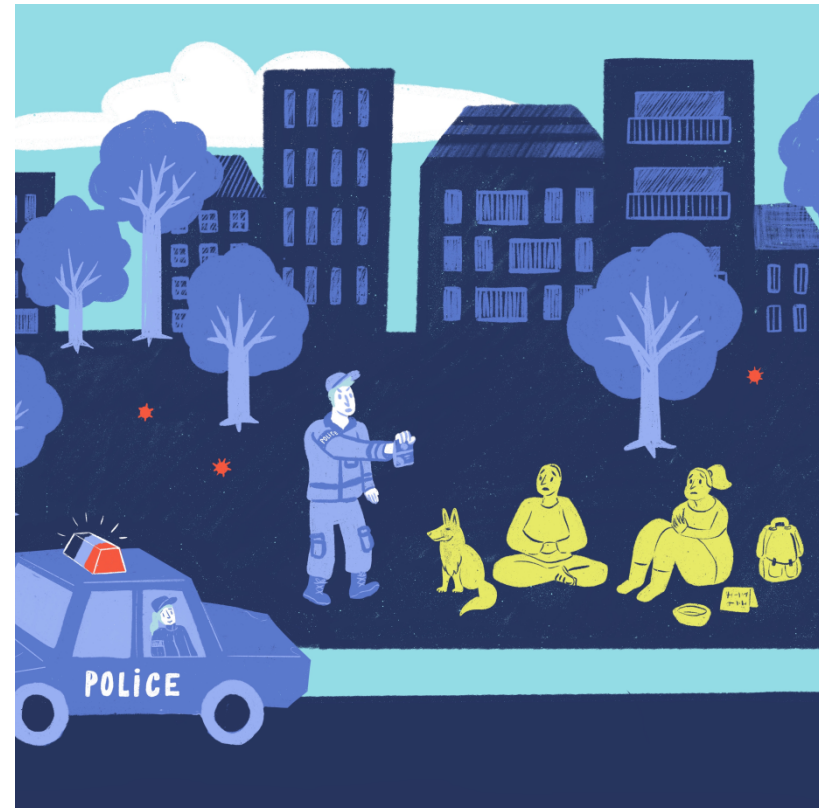
[Please share it with us](#)

## PERSPECTIVES ON COVID-19

# Perspectives on COVID

## PERSPECTIVES ON COVID-19

- ▶ Youth inclusion, digital solutions and the global pandemic, by Veronica Ștefan and Adina Marina Șerban
- ▶ “Flattening the Curve” while Flattening Emissions, by Kevin Buckland
- ▶ Youth Homelessness in Generation Covid19. How does Covid19 impact on vulnerable and already marginalised young people experiencing homelessness? By Robbie Stakelum and Miriam Matthiessen



## INTERNET ACCESS

95% of young people use the Internet daily

91,3% (1.6 bil) of the world's enrolled learners have been impacted by lockdown.

43% of EU citizens lack basic digital skills

Distance learning vs. online learning

65% of young people believe they learned less since the pandemic began

## EDUCATION & SKILLS

### SOLIDARY RESOURCE SHARING

Inspiration and support to specialists, educators and young people  
European Commission, Council of Europe, UNESCO, Education Nation, LearningPark, Digi Youth Portal, Mitteformaalne, EDU-HUB Distance Learning Platform, ...

25% of young people felt the misinformation around the pandemic was limiting their right to access information

### PROVIDING GUIDANCE

- Relationship issues (couple, friendship, family)
- Emotional well-being and self-esteem
- Rights of young people

WatWat, Kellimni, Umo, Youmo, Ungdomar, Ciao/Tschau, Mind of My Own, ...

## INFORMATION & COUNCLING

Greater risk of online harms such as sexual exploitation, cyberattacks, cyberbullying, misinformation, fraud and breach of private data

Tools, recommendation and guidelines on **RISK PREVENTION**

Digital Security in Youth Work Guideline, Working Safe Online Guideline, ...

## USE OF TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET

93% entertainment activities

31% search/apply for jobs

93% participation in social networks

60% seeks health information

## DIGITAL PLATFORMS

# BEYOND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

## SOCIAL INCLUSION

## SAFETY & SECURITY ONLINE

## HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH

≥ 50% of youth organisations provide advice on mental and physical health online

Suspension of social and medical services, lack of availability of telemedicine

20% of young people felt lonely  
50% of young people are at risk of depression

30% increase in domestic violence

### INFORMATION & GUIDANCE

- For youth with disabilities
- Emotional crisis, depression & suicidal behaviour
- Substance and alcohol abuse
- Sexual activity or HIV services
- Reporting of domestic violence & legal protection support

Live advisor, BeWarned, Dobrá Linka, Pretežno vedro, Tubakainfo, Kooth, Sekasin chat, Mind.se, ...

### PRODUCTIVITY PLATFORMS

Collaboration, tasks and project management, conferencing and messaging  
Google drive, Dropbox; Slack, Trello; Webex, Zoom, Skype; Whatsapp, Viber, ...

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Career guidance, learning and employment opportunities  
I do it myself, MiFutureApp, VIVET, ...

43% of young people started to telework  
49% had their working hours reduced  
23% lost their jobs temporarily

56% have insufficient savings to cope without an income

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## EMPLOYMENT & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this work, commissioned by the European Union – Council of Europe youth partnership, are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of either of the partner institutions, their member states or the organisations co-operating with them.

Infographic by Mireille van Bremen

# Supporting the work of the EU

**Analysis and report of the questionnaire run by the Croatian Presidency of the EU in period between April and June 2020, assessing the immediate implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the youth field and the responses of the EU Member States to the crisis**

July - Participation in the **EU webinar** on the COVID-19 impact on the youth sector for the EU Youth Strategy Stakeholders Platform

**THE COVID-19 IMPACT  
ON THE YOUTH SECTOR**



**#EUYOUTHSTRATEGY**



# Supporting the work of the Council of Europe - The Joint Council on Youth

\* The effects of [COVID-19](#) across youth work and youth activities



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Youth

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COVID-19 Response

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## Young people and government representatives working together to mitigate COVID-19 effects



Mitigating the negative effects of the current COVID-19 crisis on the rights of young people, youth civil society, youth policy and youth work has been the focus of our work since the start of the pandemic in Europe.

Together with our partners, including the governmental and non-governmental representatives of our co-managed decision-making system, we are drawing the attention of our member states to the need to continue to guarantee the protection of young people's fundamental and human rights and uphold the Council of Europe's values.



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