

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru

Youth Transitions through the Covid-19 pandemic

Ewa Krzaklewska
Amy Stapleton
Frank Tillmann
Howard Williamson



Youth Partnership

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



Youth Partnership Symposium

***Navigating Transitions: adapting policy to
young people's changing realities***

Tirana, Albania

21-23 June 2022

Background



Emerging concerns

Partnership work plan

Forming the team (PEYR and PEYR AG)



Call for Papers

Both **full papers & case studies**

Our interest in:

- geography
- sub-groups
- methods

Our request for abstracts:

- the story
- the emergent issues
- the policy implications

Youth Partnership

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





Key questions



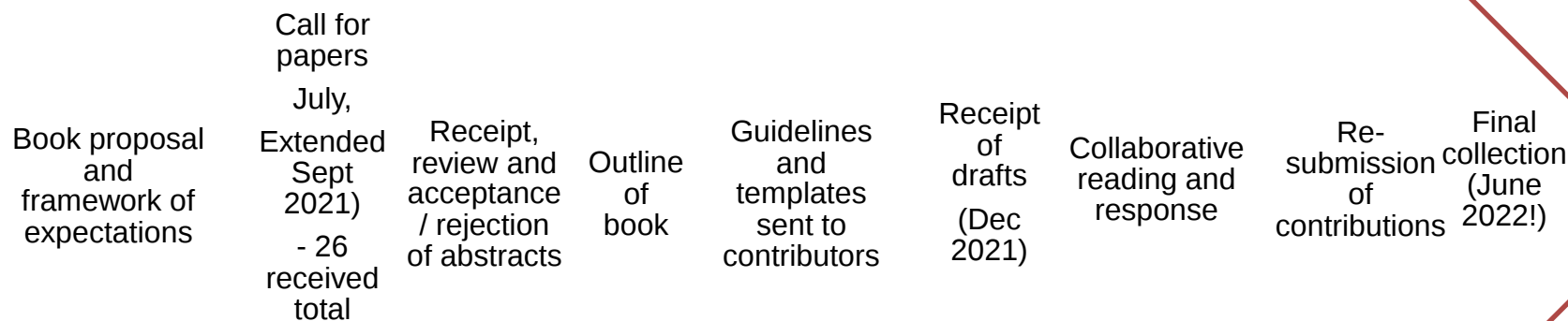
- What has been the **impact** of this pandemic experience on young people in European countries? What areas of life have been most affected? What groups have been particularly affected? What specific **risks** are young people facing?
- What particular **challenges** are young people now facing as they seek to negotiate and navigate various transitions? What are the perceived **benefits** of new pandemic conditions?
- What **strategies** have young people developed to deal with new circumstances, in particular, with new uncertainties in relation to the labour market, within education and in relation to learning mobility across both formal and non-formal sectors? How are young people showing **resilience** in the current situation?
- What **resources** do young people need to better face the consequences of the pandemic crises?
- What are the **policy responses** that aim at supporting youth transitions, their social condition, health, well-being, as both national and European authorities seek to ensure 'recovery' and to 'build back better'?

**University
of South
Wales**

Process

Youth Partnership

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



**University
of South
Wales**

Youth Partnership

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



Contents of the book

- Housing in Poland
- Roma youth and education in Italy
- Youth im/mobility
- Migrant youth and the EU Youth Guarantee in Spain
- Vulnerable young people and social care support in the U.K.
- Young people, youth centres and EVS volunteers in Romania
- Vocational track young people in Germany
- Students in higher education in Wales
- Transitioning from public care
- The emergency response of youth organisations
- School students and mental health
- Support for young people with special educational needs
- Destroying the dream of mobility amongst rural youth
- Changing perceptions of the digital sphere
- Life satisfaction of young people in Finland
- Young people and the police during the pandemic

Range

Youth Partnership

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



Categories of young people

- excluded (cf. Roma, migrants); special educational needs, students, rural youth, youth organisations, volunteers, young people in public care

Geographical coverage

- Poland, Romania, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, United Kingdom (England, Wales), Finland

Issues covered

- mental health, education/learning/training, housing, youth work, digital/online, regulation/support, aspirations, transitions



A cloud

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

Key Issues – the predicted

Rising inequalities – space, kit/resources, connectivity

Context matters – a scale of disruption and uncertainty

Co-ordination, consistency, communication – in policy and professional responses

Loopholes, time out, detours during ‘**waithood**’ – “stuck” / loss of capacity to realise plans / “pressing pause on independence plans” / life on hold

Compelled redirections or by choice? Classical questions of **structure and agency**



Key issues – the unexpected

The visibility and appreciation of **youth work**

The importance of **adults** and social / family / peer
local networks

The **everyday decisions** of ‘street-level
bureaucrats’; adaptive initiatives by adults

The **resilience** of students in accepting alternative
forms of learning

New forms of **control** and disciplining

Enterprise and initiatives by young people – online
social and business entrepreneurship

The **safety and securities** of lockdowns (for some
young people)

Youth Partnership

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



Conclusions: research & case studies

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose

Worsening inequalities / impact on the most disadvantaged groups (minorities, migrants)

- lack of / limited access to services and support
- learning loss
- mental health
- connectivity & technological competence/commitment

Creativity in adversity

- young people – resilience and motivation
- professionals working with young people
- youth work

Maintaining opportunities

- for the most disadvantaged
- youth work / social work
- calibrating layers and levels of exclusion/inclusion
- differentiating the 'disengaged'

Youth Partnership

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



Conclusions: the policy development context

The contributions to the book underline the challenges for youth transitions in disadvantaged contexts
– the Covid-19 pandemic has generally made things worse

For many young people, however, there have been ‘anchors’ and ‘cushions’; variable ‘scaffolding’ and support

Policy responses need to pay attention particularly to:

- both **spatial** and **relational** issues
- **material** and **emotional** concerns
- **accelerated** and **compressed** transitions
- the longer-term effects of **sociability denied**

Youth Partnership

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



Conclusions

A policy agenda

Strengthen **community**-oriented and consultative practices

Listen to the **diversity** of experiences through youth voices

Ensure maintenance of **person-centred** rather than bureaucratically determined responses

Recognise that many young people became 'tired, withdrawn and anxious' – ongoing **mental health** issues

Remember the contribution and greater recognition of **youth work** – working alone and in partnership

Learning and wider recovery must accommodate both formal education *and* non-formal education and learning

Youth Partnership

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



PART I Navigating support and institutional response

Hemming, Karen & Irene Hofmann-Lun, **Feeling (un-)certain? Future worries and uncertainty during school-to-work-transition in times of the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany**

Kajta, Justyna, Paula Pustulka & Jowita Radzińska, **Young Adults and Housing in Poland: Short- and Long-term Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Briggs, Daniel, **Covid-19, vulnerable children and young people, and the discontinuation of social care support**

Ciampa, Adriana, Francesco Chezzi & Monica Grassi, **Supporting Roma children and young people in the COVID-19 pandemic. Findings from the Italian National Project**

Pandolfi, Luisa, Sara Degl'Innocenti, Valentina Rossi & Cristina Calvanelli, **Care leavers in transition to adulthood: effects of the pandemic in Italy, strategies and policy responses**

PART II Spaces, mobility, digital

Cairns, David & Mara Clemente, **New Dilemmas in Young People's Mobile Transitions during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Giardiello, Mauro & Rosa Capobianco. **How pandemic affected “the dream of mobility”. The different transitions of young people in rural Italy**

Leone, Stefania, Miriam Della Mura & Andrea Orio, **The digital immersion during the COVID-19 lockdown – impact on youth transitions in the eyes of young Italians**

Papanicolaou, Georgios & Dora Giannaki, **Young people and the police during the pandemic: The case of Greece**

PART III Support and organising

Escamilla, Alonso & Marta Molina, **The Youth Guarantee: learning from the experiences of young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Spain**

O'Brien, Niamh & Anna Dadswell, **Listening to young people with disabilities about their experiences of support during the Covid-19 pandemic**

Bautista, Ryan Oliver & Gabrielė Žalpytė, **Wings of Don Bosco: Youth Organisation as a Youth-empowered Emergency Response to the Pandemic**

Lonean, Irina, **Youth centres and youth workers impact on young people transitions during COVID-19 pandemic in Romania**

PART IV well being, mental health, education and social life

Salasuo, Mikko & Jenni Lahtinen, **'At the moment I'm not happy with my life' . The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and social restrictions on the satisfaction of Finnish young people and signals of disruption in youth transition**

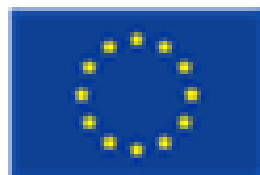
Gyurovicsova, Veronika & Howard Williamson, **Transitioning through higher education: how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the learning pathways of university students**

Isernia, Gilda, **Mental Health and Assessments. The students' perspective and implications for youth transitions**

Munro, Emily R., Seana Friel, Claire Baker & Fiona Newlands, **Adapting services and support for young people negotiating the transition from care to adulthood in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic**

Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

