

## Youth Partnership

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



### Symposium

#### Navigating transitions

#### **Adapting policy responses to young people's changing realities**

##### *Concept note*

On 21-23 June 2022 the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth will organise a symposium bringing together between 100-120 participants to reflect on what paradigm shift is needed in youth research, youth policy and youth work to support young people's aspirations in the realities changed by the Covid-19 pandemic and related measures.

##### ***Rationale***

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant effect on the lives of young people across Europe and globally, creating gaps, demanding adaptation and encouraging new ways of dealing with reality. The crisis has particularly impacted on young people's transition to autonomy, including but not limited to: transition from education to employment, from being sustained by their families/care institutions to financial and economic independence in a new household, and/or having children/forming a family, to staying active and participating in societal concerns such as anti-racism, environment and climate change, precariousness and inequalities, as well as (re)defining connections and community, to name a few. The question of health transitions, as the newer cohorts have poorer health outcomes than previous ones (mental health and wellbeing issues, in particular) will be also explored.

The symposium will also look into the new forms of vulnerability that were generated or deepened by the Covid-19 pandemic, and their impact on young people's transitions. Youth divide, 'missing middle' and hard-to-reach groups will be also addressed.

How have young people been affected by the crisis and how has it impacted on their transition to autonomy? Which areas of young people's lives have been most affected, including education, employment, health and wellbeing and family situation? Have all young people been equally affected? What have been

the main policy responses to the situation of uncertainty and crisis and what can we learn from them for the future?

The event aims to build on the relevant strands of Youth Partnership's earlier work, in particular the research on the impact of Covid-19 on the youth sector and the new youth policy manual.

The symposium will make use of the data from EKCYP and the online Knowledge Hub on the impact of Covid-19 on the youth sector. In relation to the work of the European Union and the Council of Europe, the symposium will build on the findings of the surveys and research of the two partner institutions on the effects of Covid-19 on the youth sector and the responses by the Member States, including the 2021 EU Youth Report, particular looking at how the sector has adapted and developed new forms of policy and youth work responses during the pandemic and how they reached vulnerable young people and new audiences.

The symposium will be also a key event of the European Year of Youth, contributing to encouraging policy makers from European to local level to support young people in a post-pandemic perspective. It will also highlight the main measures of both partner institutions when addressing the impact of the pandemic on young people and on the youth sector.

### ***Purpose and expected outcomes***

The symposium will bring together European youth field stakeholders to encourage dialogue and reflection on what paradigm shift is needed in youth research, youth policy and youth work to support young people's aspirations in the changing realities.

The event aims to:

- address and explore the impact of Covid-19 on youth transitions to autonomy, including, but not limited to: transition from education to employment, from being sustained by their families/care institutions to financial and economic independence in a new household, from being to having children/forming a family;
- reflect on how to adapt traditional youth policy and youth work approaches in supporting active participation of young people, their engagement with societal concerns such as anti-racism, environment and climate change, precariousness and inequalities, as well as (re)defining connections and community;
- contextualise youth transitions in the context of Covid-19 but also other crises impacting transitions to adulthood (e.g. economic, financial, mental health, etc.);
- examine and reflect on policy measures needed to support young people in their transitions to adulthood;
- share good practices of effective and successful youth policy interventions in the context of youth transitions and the impact of Covid-19;
- connect actors working on these themes, from within and beyond the youth sector, to continue, develop or innovate in relation to that work.

Expected outcomes:

- analytical papers enhancing the understanding of the impact of Covid-19 and crises on youth transition to autonomy;
- practical conclusions and guidelines on the ways in which policy and diverse actors may support youth transitions;
- good practice sharing and promotion on youth policy, youth work and research approaches in the new context;
- study and Youth Knowledge Book.

### ***Participants***

The participants in the symposium come from different backgrounds and have diverse profiles:

- engaged young people
- civil society organisations
- policy makers
- youth workers, educators and teachers
- researchers
- other relevant stakeholders.

Symposium participants will both be selected through an open call and directly invited. The organisers will seek balance in terms of geographical representation, gender, bringing good practices or seeking to improve or to develop their practices.