

# Emerging topics in youth research

**Dr. sc. Dunja Potočnik**

Webinar - 02.11.2023

## Youth Partnership

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



# What are the new and emerging topics in the youth field?

Attendee's answers





# Factors influencing youth research topics

Prior research findings (needs, status and aspirations)

Geopolitics

Economic factors

Age group

Minority status

...

Who initiated the research

(bottom-up, collaborative process, top-down)





# Youth Partnership research topics



**Political  
participation**



**Social  
inclusion**



**Youth policy  
development  
and evaluation**



**Mental health  
and well-being**



**Access  
to rights**



**Sustainability  
and climate change**



**Digitalisation  
and AI**



**Youth and  
conflict**



**Strengthening  
youth work  
and its recognition**



**Training  
and education  
of youth workers**



# International youth research topics

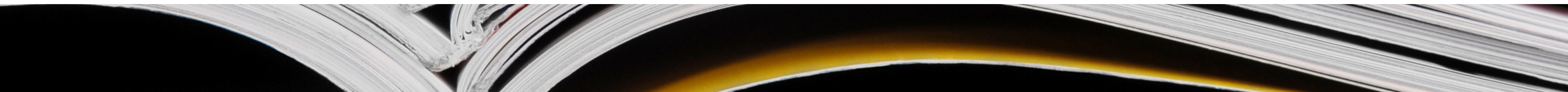
## International scientific journals with specific focus:

- Children and Youth Services Review - study of social service programs for children and youth
- International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies - study of services assisting children, young people and families
- Journal of Youth Development - education, social inclusion, mental health

## International scientific journals covering wide range topics:

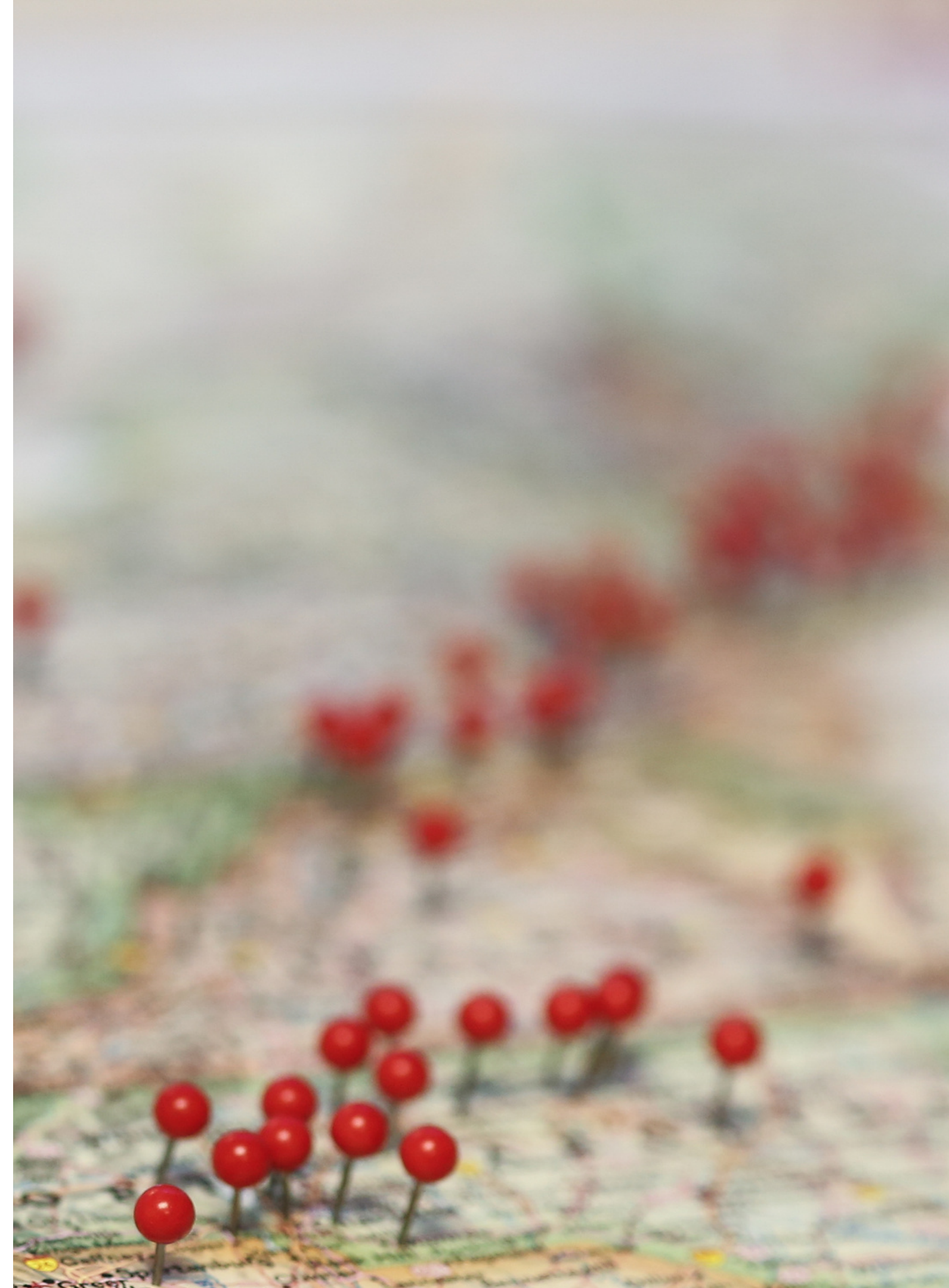
- International Journal of Adolescence and Youth
- Journal of Youth Studies
- Young: Nordic Journal of Youth Research

The International Social Survey Programme - ISSP (adults) - modules: citizenship; environment; family and changing gender roles; health and health care; leisure time & sports; national identity; religion; role of government; social networks; social inequality and work orientation



# National level

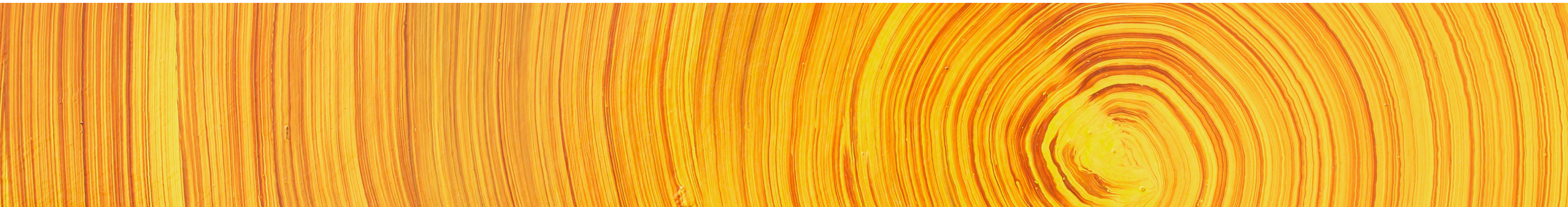
- Estonian Youth Work Centre - youth work, social inclusion and education (not limited)
- Finnish Youth Research Society - wide range
- Planet Youth, Iceland - substance abuse, leisure time and sport
- Institute for Social Sciences, Portugal - wide range
- Youth Institute, Germany - wide range
- Institute for Social Research, Croatia - wide range
- The Anna Lindh Foundation - Euro-Mediterranean region - education, democracy



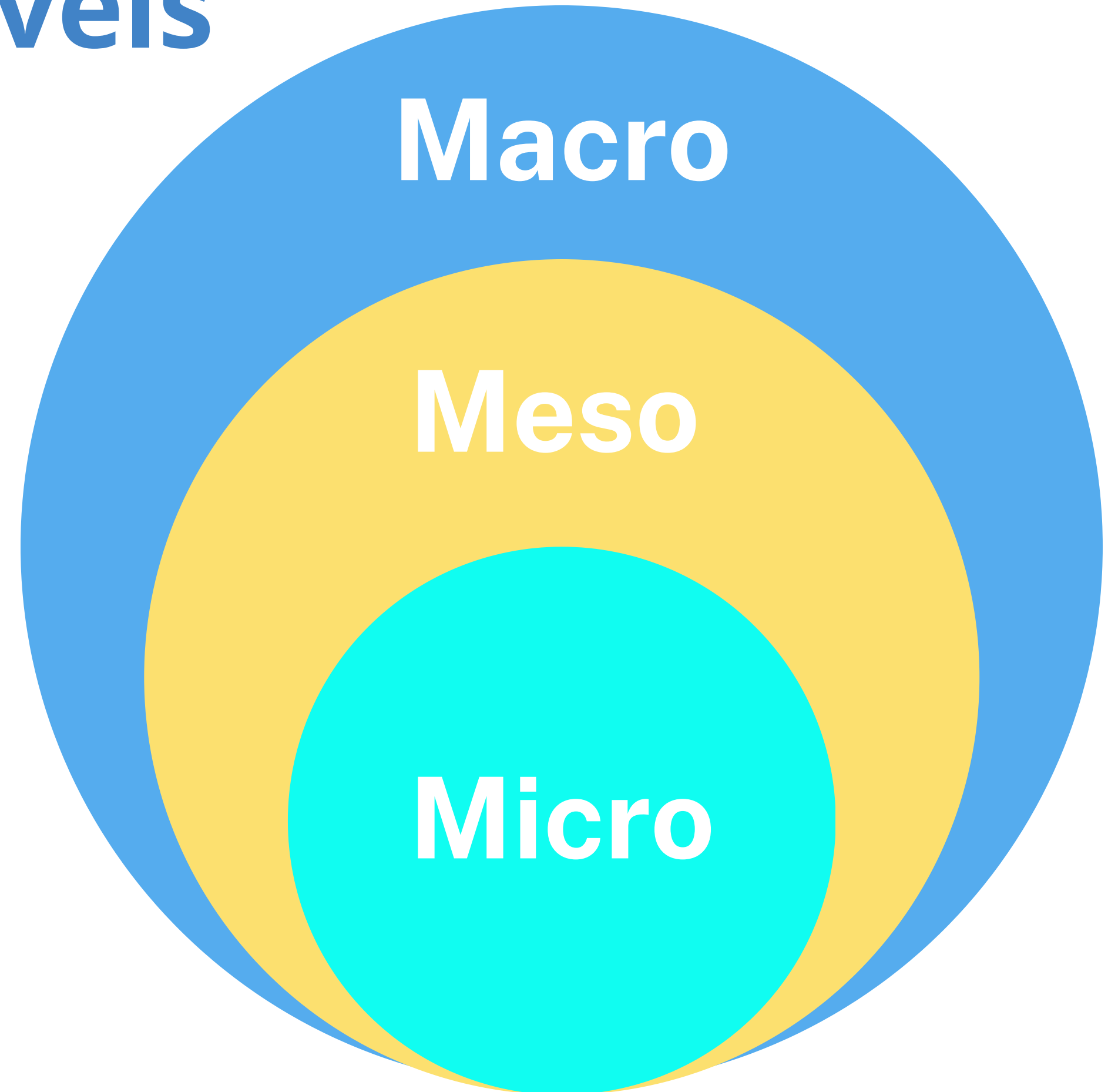


# Traditional research topics

- Social structure and intergenerational mobility
- Value orientations
- Education (formal, non-formal, informal)
- (Un)employment
- Entrepreneurship
- Skills and jobs for the future
- Youth transitions (to labour market and to independent life)
- Leisure time
- Social inclusion
- Political participation
- Physical health
- Substance abuse
- Sexuality
- Pregnancy and early parenthood
- Discrimination
- Gender equality
- Migrations
- Refugee and asylum seeker status
- Impact of war conflict on young people and their families
- Volunteering
- Delinquency and juvenile crime
- Religion



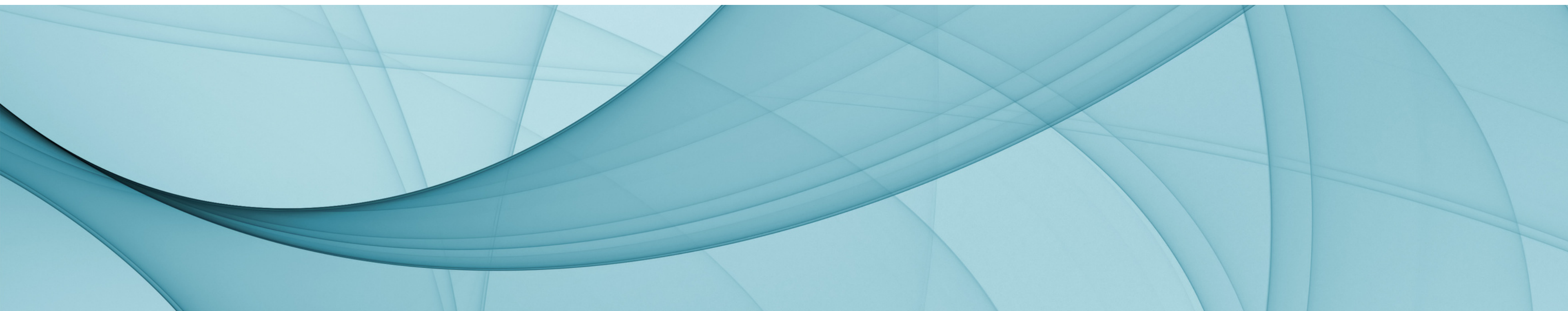
# Different focus levels





# Macro-level topics that are getting on recognition

- Mental health
- Pandemics
- Youth and climate change
- Trust in science and scientists
- Financial literacy
- Young people in rural areas
- Quality of life
- Fostering supportive environments
- Providing meaningful opportunities



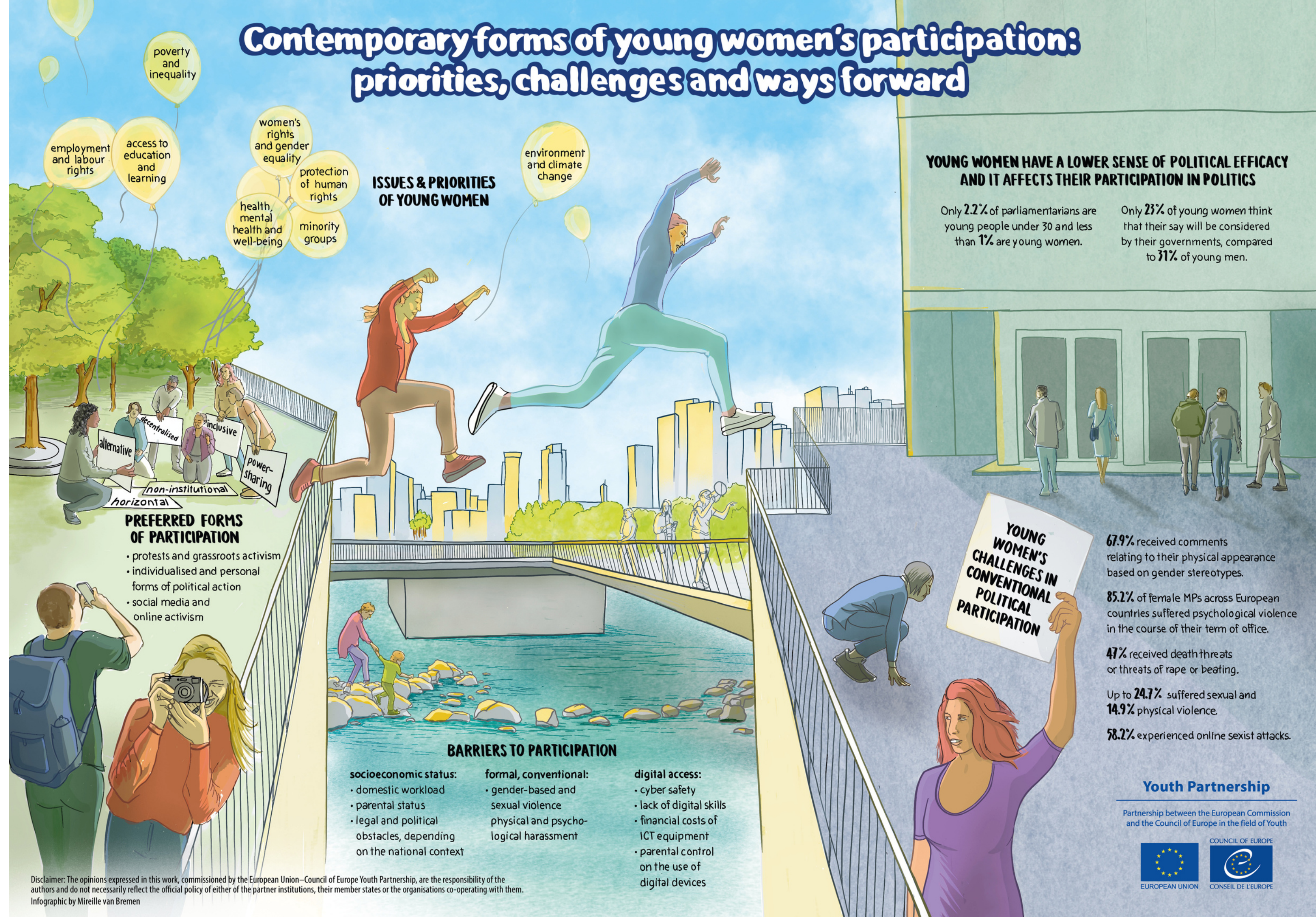
# Meso-level topics that are getting on recognition

- The right to self-determination
- Peer pressure
- Depression and suicide among young people
- Education and academic pressure: balancing success and well-being
- Early career guidance
- Precarious employment and meaningful jobs
- Reconciliation of private and work life
- Impact of virtual reality and social networks on different aspects of young peoples' lives: education, family life, relations with peers and friends, physical activity, self-image and identity building, mental health
- Influencers
- Bulling among peers
- Cyberbullying
- On-screen violence
- Today's celebrities and how they shape lifestyles and life choices of the youth
- Gender identity and stereotypes
- Perception of one's own sexuality
- Adapting life choices to environmental changes
- Impact of war conflict on young people
- Youth culture and subcultures
- Ethnic elements in youth culture
- Radicalisation and violent conflicts





# Example





# Stay informed: follow the Youth Partnership!



@eucoeyouth



Under 30' podcast series

