



# We need more data!

## Exploring multiple discrimination through quantitative research

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*European youth comprises people with a range of sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions; cultures; religions; linguistic, racial and ethnic groups as well as factors such as disability, financial means and family composition or responsibilities, among others.*

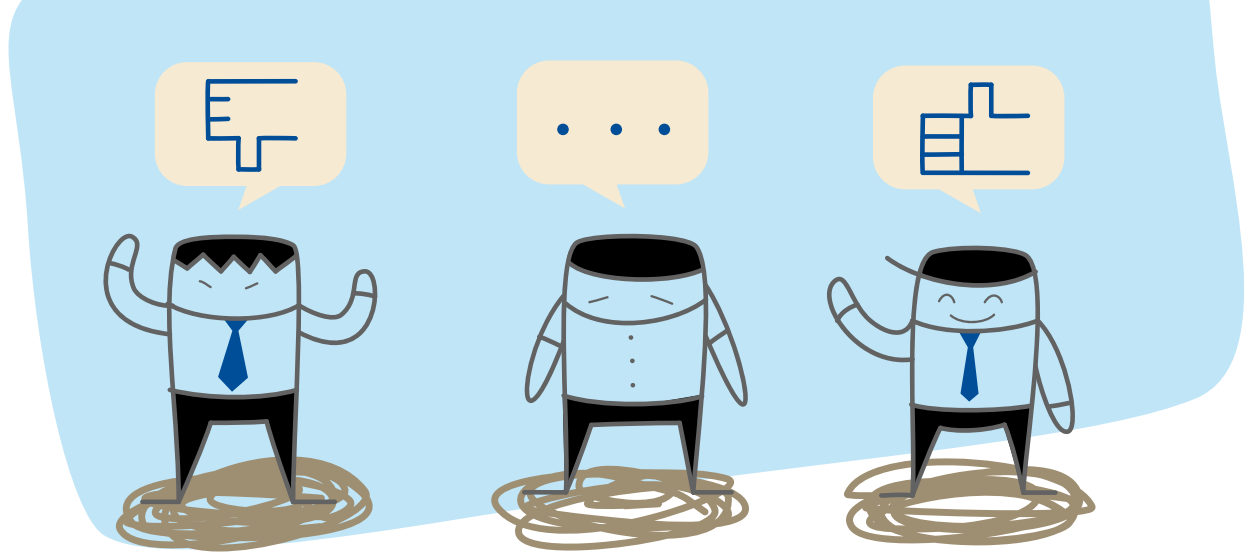


Instead of being a resource, this diversity sometimes leads to multiple discrimination against those young people perceived or defined as “others”. Young people in Europe can face discrimination based not only on their age but also on sexual orientation and/or gender identity, faith, race, ethnicity, gender, disability and other grounds. The main issue lies in the fact that antidiscrimination laws provide only fragmented protection from unequal treatment because they are based on the assumption that recognised grounds for discrimination are objectively identifiable, mutually exclusive and internally homogenous.

The European Youth Forum<sup>1</sup> aims to adopt a full rights-based approach to youth policy that integrates the norms, standards and principles of the international human rights system into the development, implementation and evaluation of youth policy. To do so, the European Youth Forum works to:

- ensure that young people are not negatively discriminated against on the grounds of age or any other factor;
- promote a youth policy that encourages the participation and autonomy of young people in a cross-sectoral manner and ensures that youth-specific concerns are taken into account in all sectoral policies (mainstreaming);
- promote the recognition, access and monitoring of youth rights by continuing to strive for the adoption of legal tools targeted to the specific needs of young people;
- fight against social exclusion and discrimination based on age and multiple discrimination experienced by young people.

1. The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is an independent, democratic, youth-led platform, representing 98 national youth councils and international youth organisations from across Europe. The YFJ works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives by representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations at the European Institutions, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.



In this context, in order to plan more consistent lobbying activities aimed at fighting youth discrimination and active policies promoting inclusion, the Youth Forum launched an exploratory online survey in March 2014 with the aim of collecting information at European and national levels about multiple discrimination based on age and related grounds.

Two researchers Barbara Giovanna Bello (University of Milan) and Dunja Potocnik (Institute for Social Research of Zagreb) were appointed to design the survey integrating their background knowledge on multiple discrimination, intersectionality and applied social science, as well as to analyse the data consistently. In the period between December 2013 and February 2014, the methodology was planned and the questionnaire was set up.

For the aim of this explorative survey, the umbrella term “multiple discrimination” was adopted, in order to explore three ways in which multiple discrimination occurs (multiple discrimination, additive or compound discrimination and intersectional discrimination).

The questionnaire was divided into four sections. The first one gathered information about the respondents; the second delved into cases of discrimination experienced by respondents; the third section zoomed in on discrimination on one or more grounds affecting young people in the country where respondents live. The last section

gathered information on respondents’ awareness and knowledge of antidiscrimination law and policy in their countries and in Europe.

The survey has some constraints of which the team of researchers is well aware: quantitative methods do not leave much space for respondents’ narration; the questionnaire was available only in English and only online, therefore excluding those young people without access to the Internet; the questionnaire length could also discourage some respondents.

Young people – from the European Youth Forum’s member organisations or not – replied individually and around 500 replies were collected at the closure of the online survey (5 July 2014). The questionnaire was very in depth and answering the questions took about 60 minutes. All answers were processed in an anonymous way. Everyone aged between 18 and 35, and living in one of the member countries of the Council of Europe, could join the survey. A few participants expressed their availability to discuss some of the survey results during a semi-structured Skype interview.

The online collection of data was complemented by a focus group carried out by Professor Barbara Segatto and Professor Alessio Surian of the University of Padua (Italy), who expressed their interest in discussing the issue of multiple discrimination with around 15 students at the university’s Department of Sociology. The data analysis will be ready for the end of 2014.

See more at:

[www.youthforum.org/latest-news/stop-discrimination-against-young-people/#sthash.E4XQbTKI.dpuf](http://www.youthforum.org/latest-news/stop-discrimination-against-young-people/#sthash.E4XQbTKI.dpuf)