



## Perspectives on Youth

### Young people's autonomy

7-9 November 2022

European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary

The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth will organise a Perspectives on Youth seminar on 7-9 November 2022, at the European Youth Centre Budapest, in Hungary. The event will bring together 30-35 participants to discuss and reflect on the topic of young people's autonomy and independence, in the context of economic, political and social uncertainty, financial crisis and precarity. This event is organised as one of the key activities under the European Year of Youth 2022.

#### Background and rationale

[“Perspectives on Youth”](#) is an online series on youth policy, research and practice supported by the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership, moving forward debates on youth and having a European and international relevance. Its purpose has been to act as an innovative forum of discussion on emerging topics relevant for the youth field today and stimulate critical and anticipative debates on youth issues that need to be considered by youth policies in Europe to ensure their relevance for and positive impact on young people.

The series includes research articles, well-founded essays, opinion pieces, infographics, graphic recordings, podcasts, videos, animated videos and webinars on a variety of topics, including young people's [social and political engagement](#), [climate crisis](#), [digitalisation](#), [digital youth work](#), [new technologies and artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#), [economic uncertainty](#), [gender](#), health and mental health, education, migration and other relevant and emerging themes. It has aimed to function as a reflection and dialogue forum on European developments in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work. [Four printed volumes](#) of the series were produced between 2014 and 2018.

In the context of increasing economic, financial, social and political uncertainty, rising inflation and cost of living, post-Covid-19 recovery, high levels of youth unemployment and precarious nature of work, young people's economic and financial autonomy are extremely fragile. As many as 2 million of young Europeans (15-29) lost their job in 2020<sup>1</sup>. Young people were easily displaceable and overrepresented in labour market segments that were service-oriented and precarious, less protected by job and income supports and other welfare schemes, especially when working part time<sup>2</sup>. Research shows that young people from socially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, young people in non-standard employment and young women were up to twice more likely to become unemployed during this period<sup>3</sup>.

### **Purpose of the seminar**

The seminar will stimulate critical discussions around young people's autonomy and search for economic and financial independence, in the context of economic, political and social uncertainty, financial and economic crisis and precarity. It will cover topics such as youth unemployment rates, contemporary nature of work, including contractual precarity, unpaid labour/internships, gaining experience, quality of jobs for young people, and the resulting social and economic issues, that need to be addressed by the youth policy and practice, such as in-work poverty, housing and home ownership and lack of financial literacy. Finally, it will explore the potential policy instruments and practices, such as targeted youth employment programmes, training and mentoring.

The seminar will keep in mind the existing and growing gaps and inequalities within the youth population, and it will draw on some of the findings from the previous research on these topics, including the outcomes of the [Symposium Navigating Transitions: adapting policy to young people's changing realities](#) and previous [Perspectives on Youth research on young people's social rights](#).

**Main questions** to be explored during the seminar will be:

- What is the current nature of youth employment in Europe which impacts on young people's autonomy, including the availability of jobs, fair employment, quality of work, income and in-work poverty, precarity, etc.?
- What are the main consequences and impact on young people's independence and social rights, such as the availability and the cost of housing and living conditions of young people?

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<sup>1</sup> Eurostat (2021) *Key figures on Europe 2021 edition*, available at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/13394938/KS-EI-21-001-EN-N.pdf/ad9053c2-debd-68c0-2167-f2646efeaec1?t=1632300620367>, accessed 7 July 2022.

<sup>2</sup> OECD (2021) Summary of the Youth Consultation on the building blocks of the proposed OECD Youth Recommendation, 20 September 2021, OECD Youth Week.

<sup>3</sup> Moxon, D., Bacalso, C., and Şerban, A. (2021), *Beyond the pandemic: The impact of COVID-19 on young people in Europe*. Brussels. European Youth Forum.

- How are young people with multiple disadvantages experiencing the path to autonomy?
- What are some of the existing policy instruments and practical approaches that can support young people's autonomy, such as the targeted programmes, youth guarantee, availability of training and mentoring, and development of young people's financial literacy and capability?

#### Expected outcomes:

- sharing of good practices and promotion on youth policy, youth work and research approaches to the topic;
- publication of reflection and analytical papers, briefings, short oral or written statements and interviews, webinars, podcasts and discussions;
- recorded summaries of the debates disseminated to the European youth field;
- practical conclusions and guidelines on the ways in which policy and diverse actors may support young people's autonomy.

#### Participants

The participants in the seminar will come from different backgrounds and have diverse profiles: researchers, practitioners - youth workers, educators, representatives of civil society organisations, young people, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders.

30-35 participants will 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.

If you would like to apply to attend the seminar, and/or present your research, practice or policy intervention, please complete the [online application form](#) by **20 September 2022**. Selected applicants will be informed of the results by 5 October 2022. Travel and accommodation costs of selected participants will be covered by the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership.

For questions related to the seminar, please contact Lana Pasic: [ana.pasic@partnership.eu-coe.int](mailto:ana.pasic@partnership.eu-coe.int).