

Youth Partnership

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



Symposium

NAVIGATING TRANSITIONS

Adapting policy to young people's changing realities

21-23 June 2022

Tirana International Hotel & Conference Centre
Scanderbeg Square no. 8, Tirana

Draft Programme



21 June	My Transition Journey
17:00 – 19:00	Registration and welcome session – My transitions
19:00	Networking Dinner
22 June	Societal challenges impacting on young people’s transitions
9:30 – 11:00	<p>Official Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clotilde Talleu, Manager, EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership - Matjaz Gruden, Director, Directorate of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe (video input) - Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot, Director, Directorate for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission (video input) - Erion Veliaj, Mayor of Tirana, European Youth Capital 2022 <p>Understanding the context and impact on young people Introducing the <i>Solidarity with young people affected by Conflict</i> Introducing the <i>Visioning wall</i> on what policy changes are needed to support young people’s transitions. Reflection among the participants.</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Keynote Inputs: Being young in Europe in 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gersi Hohxa, youth activist, Albania - Ilaria Pitti, University of Bologna - Large societal challenges and their impact on young people’s lives - Shunta Takino, OECD - Policies supporting young people’s transitions
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	<p>Reflections in groups: impact on young people’s political, social, economic, personal transitions Participants will work together how different aspects of their lives are affected by large societal phenomena such as Covid-19 pandemic, war, climate change, digital and AI, rights and services. One workshop will focus on young people affected by conflicts in Ukraine and elsewhere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covid-19 overall impact on young people - Political impact on young people’s transitions - Social impact: research on youth transitions in post-pandemic Europe - Socio-economic impact: access to services (health, housing, youth services) - Economic impact: access to rights (employment, education) - Regional realities of supporting young people’s transitions (in Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe) - Digital and AI impact on young people’s transitions - Young people in conflict
16:00 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 18:00	<p>Te Rrapi – participant-led session Learning from others under the main village tree Participants are invited to present and learn from each other’s initiatives on young people’s transitions. Closing of the day.</p>
19:00	<i>Solidarity with young people affected by conflict - flashmob dance action</i>
19:30	Dinner hosted by Tirana - European Youth Capital 2022

23 June	Looking forward – developing ideas for how policies should change
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Visions for the future Testimonies and inspirational inputs looking to the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maria Rodriguez, European Youth Forum - The European Youth Blueprint To Recovery - Howard Williamson, PEYR Advisory Group, Professor of European Youth Policy – Imagined Youth in the Future <p>Vision wall – integrating learning and adding ideas on change</p>
10:00 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 12:30	<p>Workshops - developing messages on how policies should change</p> <p>Participants will work in groups to develop messages on policy changes needed to facilitate better personal, social, economic and political transition.</p> <p>The workshops will integrate the causes and themes young people are concerned with in contemporary Europe (shrinking space and political participation, services (health, mental health, housing, employment, education), connection to community and society.</p>
12:30	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Visions for the future: exchange with policymakers on the changes needed</p> <p>Sharing messages from the workshops and insights into discussions from the general rapporteur Interactive panel with policy makers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maria-Carmen Pantea, PEYR Advisory Group, Symposium Rapporteur - Insights from the symposium - Clementina Barbaro, Head of Youth Policy Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe - Spyros Papadatos, Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe - Babis Papaioannou, DG Education and Culture, European Commission - Katrin Olt, Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia, CDEJ Bureau member
15:30 – 16:00	Break – final visit of the visioning and solidarity walls
16:00-17:00	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Reflections on the main learnings from participants representing policy, practice, youth activist, researcher roles</p> <p>Evaluation</p> <p>Closing of the symposium by the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership.</p>

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.

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. political, economic, social, personal, 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.