

Avoiding a 'pandemic scar' on young people

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WORK & INCOME

- **Marginalised young people more than twice as likely** to have stopped working.
- **More than 1 in 4 young workers** saw their **income decrease**.

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

- **Around $\frac{3}{4}$ of marginalised youth** believed they were learning less.

MENTAL HEALTH

- In most European countries, **mental health problems** among young people (15–24-year-olds) **have doubled** the last two years as a consequence of the pandemic.
- **Young women** and **marginalised youth disproportionately affected**.

POLICY RESPONSES

While **youth was overlooked** at the start:

- Less than 1% of all national economic policy measures targeted youth specifically

The situation has improved since:

- EU Member States have had to submit **national plans** to explain how they will spend the funds from the Resilience and Recovery Facility: one of the pillars is “**policies for the next generation**”
- In early 2022: 29 of 32 OECD countries with a comparable national response and recovery plan in place **include specific policies, programmes or other commitments for young people in their plans**, with 10 of them also elaborating how young people have been **consulted** in the process.



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Legacy of the European Year of Youth
2. Youth Test - impact assessment
3. Involve youth organisations
4. Implement an intersectional framework - look at inequalities!
5. Prioritise quality
6. Ensure access to social protection and income support
7. Better use existing tools
8. Tackle challenges linked to digitalisation
9. Ensure quality mental health services are accessible to all young people
10. Recognise and address the links between mental health/well-being and socio-economic factors



Youth Test

- The Youth Test is an impact assessment tool on policies and legislation that includes:
 - Meaningful engagement with relevant youth stakeholders
 - Impact assessments of draft proposals
 - Mitigation measures to address adversities on young people, with a special focus on groups living in vulnerable situations
- Solution for:
 - Lack of youth perspective outside of youth policy
 - Lack of trust of young people in policy making
 - Disruptive impact of policies on the life of young people and future generations
 - Lack of youth data



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“Beyond Lockdown: the pandemic scar on young people” (European Youth Forum, 2021)

Specific impact on **young people in Europe**, including marginalised youth

Medium-long term consequences on youth



Based on **survey** responses from 4,500 young people and **focus groups**

Look at **policy responses** & potential gaps