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Youth Transitions through the Covid-19 pandemic

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Youth Partnership Symposium

***Navigating Transitions: adapting policy to
young people's changing realities***

Tirana, Albania

21-23 June 2022

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Background

Emerging concerns

Partnership work plan

Forming the team (PEYR and PEYR AG)



Call for Papers

Both **full papers & case studies**

Our interest in:

- geography
- sub-groups
- methods

Our request for abstracts:

- the story
- the emergent issues
- the policy implications

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Key questions

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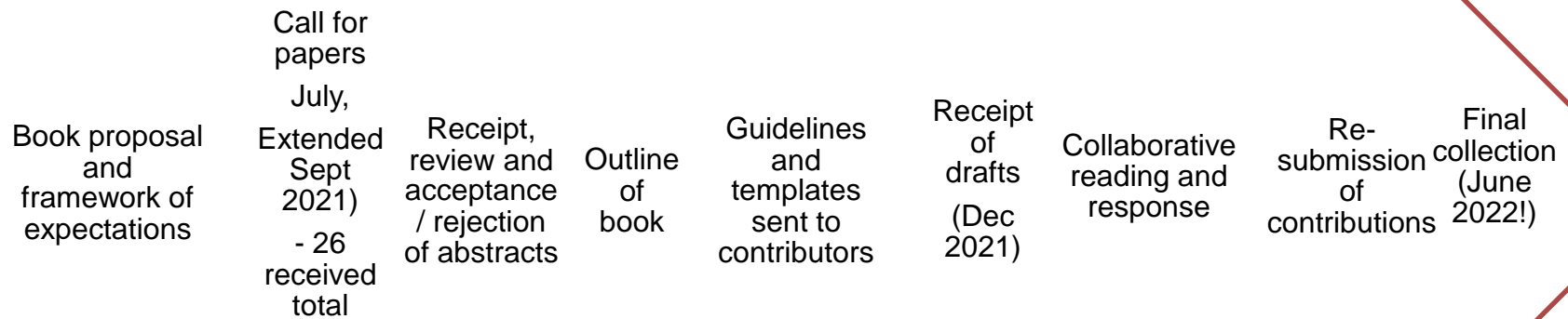
- What has been the **impact** of this pandemic experience on young people in European countries? What areas of life have been most affected? What groups have been particularly affected? What specific **risks** are young people facing?
- What particular **challenges** are young people now facing as they seek to negotiate and navigate various transitions? What are the perceived **benefits** of new pandemic conditions?
- What **strategies** have young people developed to deal with new circumstances, in particular , with new uncertainties in relation to the labour market, within education and in relation to learning mobility across both formal and non-formal sectors? How are young people showing **resilience** in the current situation?
- What **resources** do young people need to better face the consequences of the pandemic crises?
- What are the **policy responses** that aim at supporting youth transitions, their social condition, health, well-being, as both national and European authorities seek to ensure ‘recovery’ and to ‘build back better’?

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Process

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Contents of the book

- Housing in Poland
- Roma youth and education in Italy
- Youth im/mobility
- Migrant youth and the EU Youth Guarantee in Spain
- Vulnerable young people and social care support in the U.K.
- Young people, youth centres and EVS volunteers in Romania
- Vocational track young people in Germany
- Students in higher education in Wales
- Transitioning from public care
- The emergency response of youth organisations
- School students and mental health
- Support for young people with special educational needs
- Destroying the dream of mobility amongst rural youth
- Changing perceptions of the digital sphere
- Life satisfaction of young people in Finland
- Young people and the police during the pandemic

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Range

Categories of young people

- excluded (cf. Roma, migrants); special educational needs, students, rural youth, youth organisations, volunteers, young people in public care

Geographical coverage

- Poland, Romania, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, United Kingdom (England, Wales), Finland

Issues covered

- mental health, education/learning/training, housing, youth work, digital/online, regulation/support, aspirations, transitions

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Key Issues – the predicted

Rising inequalities – space, kit/resources, connectivity

Context matters – a scale of disruption and uncertainty

Co-ordination, consistency, communication – in policy and professional responses

Loopholes, time out, detours during ‘**waithood**’ – “stuck” / loss of capacity to realise plans / “pressing pause on independence plans” / life on hold

Compelled redirections or by choice? Classical questions of **structure and agency**



Key issues – the unexpected

The visibility and appreciation of **youth work**

The importance of **adults** and social / family / peer
local networks

The **everyday decisions** of ‘street-level
bureaucrats’; adaptive initiatives by adults

The **resilience** of students in accepting alternative
forms of learning

New forms of **control** and disciplining

Enterprise and initiatives by young people – online
social and business entrepreneurship

The **safety and securities** of lockdowns (for some
young people)

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Conclusions: research & case studies

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose

Worsening inequalities / impact on the most disadvantaged groups (minorities, migrants)

- lack of / limited access to services and support
- learning loss
- mental health
- connectivity & technological competence/commitment

Creativity in adversity

- young people – resilience and motivation
- professionals working with young people
- youth work

Maintaining opportunities

- for the most disadvantaged
- youth work / social work
- calibrating layers and levels of exclusion/inclusion
- differentiating the 'disengaged'

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Conclusions: the policy development context

The contributions to the book underline the challenges for youth transitions in disadvantaged contexts
– the Covid-19 pandemic has generally made things worse

For many young people, however, there have been ‘anchors’ and ‘cushions’; variable ‘scaffolding’ and support

Policy responses need to pay attention particularly to:

- both **spatial** and **relational** issues
- **material** and **emotional** concerns
- **accelerated** and **compressed** transitions
- the longer-term effects of **sociability denied**

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Conclusions

A policy agenda

Strengthen **community**-oriented and consultative practices

Listen to the **diversity** of experiences through youth voices

Ensure maintenance of **person-centred** rather than bureaucratically determined responses

Recognise that many young people became 'tired, withdrawn and anxious' – ongoing **mental health** issues

Remember the contribution and greater recognition of **youth work** – working alone and in partnership

Learning and wider recovery must accommodate both formal education *and* non-formal education and learning

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PART I Navigating support and institutional response

Hemming, Karen & Irene Hofmann-Lun, **Feeling (un-)certain? Future worries and uncertainty during school-to-work-transition in times of the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany**

Kajta, Justyna, Paula Pustulka &, Jowita Radzińska, **Young Adults and Housing in Poland: Short- and Long-term Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Briggs, Daniel, **Covid-19, vulnerable children and young people, and the discontinuation of social care support**

Ciampa, Adriana, Francesco Chezzi & Monica Grassi, **Supporting Roma children and young people in the COVID-19 pandemic. Findings from the Italian National Project**

Pandolfi, Luisa, Sara Degl'Innocenti, Valentina Rossi & Cristina Calvanelli, **Care leavers in transition to adulthood: effects of the pandemic in Italy, strategies and policy responses**

PART II Spaces, mobility, digital

Cairns, David & Mara Clemente, **New Dilemmas in Young People's Mobile Transitions during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Giardiello, Mauro & Rosa Capobianco. **How pandemic affected “the dream of mobility”. The different transitions of young people in rural Italy**

Leone, Stefania, Miriam Della Mura & Andrea Orio, **The digital immersion during the COVID-19 lockdown – impact on youth transitions in the eyes of young Italians**

Papanicolaou, Georgios & Dora Giannaki, **Young people and the police during the pandemic: The case of Greece**

PART III Support and organising

Escamilla, Alsonso & Marta Molina, **The Youth Guarantee: learning from the experiences of young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Spain**

O'Brien, Niamh & Anna Dadswell, **Listening to young people with disabilities about their experiences of support during the Covid-19 pandemic**

Bautista, Ryan Oliver & Gabrielė Žalpytė, **Wings of Don Bosco: Youth Organisation as a Youth-empowered Emergency Response to the Pandemic**

Lonean, Irina, **Youth centres and youth workers impact on young people transitions during COVID-19 pandemic in Romania**

PART IV well being, mental health, education and social life

Salasuo, Mikko & Jenni Lahtinen, **'At the moment I'm not happy with my life' .**

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and social restrictions on the satisfaction of Finnish young people and signals of disruption in youth transition

Gyurovicsova, Veronika & Howard Williamson, **Transitioning through higher education: how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the learning pathways of university students**

Isernia, Gilda, **Mental Health and Assessments. The students' perspective and implications for youth transitions**

Munro, Emily R., Seana Friel, Claire Baker & Fiona Newlands, **Adapting services and support for young people negotiating the transition from care to adulthood in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic**

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