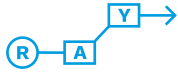


**Research-based
analysis of European
youth programmes**

RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE IMPACT OF THE CORONA PANDEMIC ON YOUTH WORK IN EUROPE (RAY-COR)

CONCEPT NOTE FOR 2021

7 JULY 2021



1. CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The world is going through unprecedented times: the coronavirus pandemic has taken people, governments, societies initially by surprise – and youth work was no exception. Some of the immediate consequences of the pandemic, and the policy responses to the pandemic, have intermittently gained some visibility in the youth field in Europe. In the meantime, the discussion has begun to shift to the mid- and long-term impact, and crucially to the underlying systemic challenges for youth work that are being exposed through the pandemic.

In recognition of the extraordinary circumstances, the RAY Network has started a dedicated research project on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on youth work in Europe in 2020. In doing so, the network charted new ground by looking at youth work in its entirety – including the European youth programmes. In 2021, the research project will necessarily continue, with a focus on exploring successful youth work responses to the pandemic, and identifying core conditions for such responses to succeed.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. OVERALL AIM OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The aim of this research project is to document and analyse the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on youth work in Europe, including the European youth programmes, and the response of youth work and the youth sector across Europe to the pandemic and its effects.

2.2. KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The key objectives of this research project are to

- explore the short- and mid-term effects and projected longer-term impact of the coronavirus pandemic on youth work in Europe;
- explore responses of youth work to the coronavirus pandemic and its effects on young people and youth work across Europe;
- explore key differences between responses of different youth work structures, contexts, frameworks, types and approaches;
- develop recommendations for European youth programmes and European youth policies on how to better support youth work in responding to the effects and impact of the pandemic on young people and youth work.

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

3.1. CORE RESEARCH QUESTIONS OF THE PROJECT

The core research questions of the project are:

- What are the effects and impact of the coronavirus pandemic on youth work in Europe? How do effects and impact vary between different youth work contexts in Europe, including the European youth programmes?



- What are the responses of youth work to the coronavirus pandemic and its effects? How do responses vary between different youth work contexts in Europe, including the European youth programmes?
- What role can European youth programmes and European youth policies play in supporting youth work to navigate the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and to actively develop responses to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on young people across Europe?
- What are the key systemic conditions that create an enabling environment for youth work to successfully respond to a pandemic, and more generally to and in crisis situations? How can such conditions be created and youth work be strengthened?

4. RESEARCH DESIGN AND INSTRUMENTS

The project will continue to combine quantitative and qualitative social research methods in four modules, all of which are continuations from 2020:

4.1. MODULE 1: ROLLING LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review and key stakeholder interviews to map existing and emerging research on the coronavirus pandemic and its effects on young people and the youth field at European and international level. The literature review will be amended on a rolling basis to keep track of new research findings.

4.2. MODULE 2: STANDING MULTILINGUAL SURVEY

Multilingual survey to explore and study mid-term effects and projected longer-term impact of the coronavirus pandemic on youth work in Europe and enduring response strategies of youth work to the coronavirus pandemic. Bimonthly data snapshots will provide insights on developments over time.

4.3. MODULE 3: MAPPING OF KNOWLEDGE

- *Component A:* Content and data analysis to map research on the coronavirus pandemic and its effects on young people and youth work at national and, where possible, subnational level across Europe.
- *Component B:* Focus groups and key stakeholder interviews to complement the research mapping on the coronavirus pandemic and its effects on young people and youth work at national level across Europe.

4.4. MODULE 4: CASE STUDIES OF YOUTH WORK RESPONSES

Case study research to analyse and explore successful responses to the coronavirus pandemic and its effects on young people and youth work, across diverse youth work contexts in Europe.

5. RESEARCH SCHEDULE

The following table provides an overview of main activities¹ at transnational and national level for the envisaged duration of the research project:

Time period	Activities at transnational level	Activities at national level
01.2021 – open end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of existing and emerging research on the coronavirus pandemic and its effects on young people and the youth field at European level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of existing and emerging research on the coronavirus pandemic and its effects on young people and the youth field at national level
01.2021 – 06.2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case study research on successful responses in youth work
07.2021 – 09.2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transnational analysis of case studies and report (policy or practice report) 	
05.2021 – 09.2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of European and national Resilience and Recovery Plans and their approach to youth work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support of the analysis of national Resilience and Recovery Plans and their approach to youth work
01.2021 – 12.2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy and practice reports on key themes emerging from all research activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translation (optional) and dissemination of policy report

Additional research activities may be added if required by the evolving situation.

6. RESEARCH OUTLOOK

The research project will (hopefully) conclude in 2021.

7. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

The contributions to the research project by project partners are shown in the table above.

8. RESEARCH PARTNERS

Research partners of this project are the RAY Network partners in Austria, Belgium (Flemish Community, Belgium (French Community), Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. Further partners are always welcome to join.

¹ Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, this research schedule is more tentative than usual.