



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

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

## **RECOVERY SURVEY // KEY FINDINGS**

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KEY FINDINGS FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION



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## 1. WHO GOT PUBLIC SUPPORT AND WHO DID NOT?

More than 40% of our respondents reported that they (as freelancers) or their organisations did not obtain any public support for their work with young people.

### Q1 » Were you able to obtain public support for your youth work since the coronavirus pandemic started?

<i>Response options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Yes, obtained public support	57	47,9%
Yes, obtained support but not sure whether it is public support	3	2,5%
Not yet, waiting for an answer to an application	7	5,9%
No	50	42,0%
Other, please specify in the comment box	2	1,7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

At the same time, over 70% of the respondents who did not obtain public support did not apply for it either. This means that, overwhelmingly, the main obstacle to obtaining public support was managing to apply for it in the first place. In section 5.4, we explore the specific struggles faced by respondents who attempted to apply for public support.

### Q3 » Did you try to obtain public support?

<i>Response options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	12	24%
No	38	76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

## 2. WHAT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT PROVIDED THE SUPPORT?

Public support came from all levels of government, with local and national governments being the most frequently mentioned as support providers. Note that some respondents indicated receiving support from various levels of government.

<b>Q2 » What level of government provided the support?</b>		
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Local	26	40,6%
Regional	20	31,3%
State (country area)	15	23,4%
National	25	39,1%
European	17	26,6%

### 3. WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT WAS AVAILABLE?

Respondents who obtained support most often applied for funding for digitalization, especially for expert advice or trainings related to digitalization. They applied the least often for support regarding mental health.

**Q5a » What kind of governmental support were you able to obtain since the coronavirus pandemic started? Note that one support program may fall under more than one of the following categories.**

	Digitalisation	Mental health	Youth work spaces	Better working conditions for youth workers	Improvement of reach to disadvantaged young	Better recognition and visibility of youth work	Other
Expert advice/trainings	30,0%	12,0%	18,0%	18,0%	18,0%	18,0%	6,0%
Mentoring/counselling	14,0%	12,0%	6,0%	12,0%	8,0%	10,0%	8,0%
General financial support	26,0%	24,0%	22,0%	24,0%	32,0%	30,0%	22,0%
Financial means to ge through a period of financial difficulty (bridging)	10,0%	0,0%	12,0%	16,0%	10,0%	2,0%	18,0%
Physical assets (e.g. rooms, computers)	14,0%	2,0%	16,0%	2,0%	6,0%	4,0%	6,0%
More streamlined communication with government agencies	6,0%	6,0%	6,0%	10,0%	8,0%	6,0%	10,0%
<b>Across all kinds of support</b>	<b>16,7%</b>	<b>9,3%</b>	<b>13,3%</b>	<b>13,7%</b>	<b>13,7%</b>	<b>11,7%</b>	<b>11,7%</b>

Interestingly, respondents who were not (or not yet) successful in their applications most often requested support with mental health while, in comparison with successful applicants, they requested little support related to digitalization.

**Q5b » What kind of governmental support were you able to apply for since the coronavirus pandemic started? Note that one support program may fall under more than one of the following categories.**

	Digitalisation	Mental health	Youth work spaces	Better working conditions for youth workers	Improvement of reach to disadvantaged young	Better recognition and visibility of youth work	Other
Expert advice/trainings	8,3%	25,0%	4,2%	8,3%	12,5%	12,5%	4,2%
Mentoring/counselling	12,5%	20,8%	0,0%	4,2%	8,3%	4,2%	4,2%
General financial support	16,7%	20,8%	16,7%	20,8%	16,7%	12,5%	8,3%
Financial means to ge through a period of financial difficulty (bridging)	4,2%	8,3%	16,7%	16,7%	12,5%	4,2%	12,5%
Physical assets (e.g. rooms, computers)	4,2%	4,2%	4,2%	4,2%	8,3%	4,2%	4,2%
More streamlined communication with government agencies	4,2%	4,2%	8,3%	4,2%	4,2%	4,2%	4,2%
<b>Across all kinds of support</b>	<b>8,3%</b>	<b>13,9%</b>	<b>8,3%</b>	<b>9,7%</b>	<b>10,4%</b>	<b>6,9%</b>	<b>6,3%</b>

In general, respondents often applied for support in the form of expert advice/trainings, mentoring/counselling and general financial support. They did not often apply for support to foster the visibility of youth work, probably because other areas, like mental health or caring for youth work spaces, appeared more relevant at the time (this is with the exception of successful applicants who applied for general financial support).

## 4. WHAT WERE THE OBSTACLES TO OBTAINING SUPPORT?

As described in section 5.1, it looks like one of the main obstacles to obtaining public support was managing to apply for it. But, what were the specific difficulties that respondents faced when trying to apply?

Respondents who did not apply for public support most often said that they did not know where to look for support offers, could not find offers where they did look for them and/or were not eligible for the public support offers that they did find.

### Q6a » How come that you did not try to obtain public support? More than one answer is possible

<i>Response options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Not enough working time to apply	3	6,5%
Unsure about how to apply	2	4,3%
Unsure about where to search for public support	9	19,6%
Could not find public support where we searched for it	7	15,2%
Not eligible for the needed public support	7	15,2%
Too many applicants, too little public support offer	4	8,7%
We got enough private support (including from non-profit entities like NGOs or associations)	4	8,7%
Did not encounter any difficulties	2	4,3%
Public support was not needed	6	13,0%
Other, please specify	2	4,3%

Respondents who did apply but were not (or not yet) successful told us a similar story. Their main struggles were not finding public support where they searched for it and not being eligible for the support they needed.

**Q6b » What happened when you/your organisation tried to obtain public support?  
More than one answer is possible.**

<i>Response options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Not enough working time to apply	5	17,2%
Unsure about how to apply	2	6,9%
Unsure about where to search for public support	1	3,4%
Could not find public support where we searched for it	8	27,6%
Not eligible for the needed public support	7	24,1%
Too many applicants, too little public support offer	3	10,3%
We got enough private support (including from non-profit entities like NGOs or associations)	2	6,9%
Did not encounter any difficulties	0	0,0%
Public support was not needed	0	0,0%
Other, please specify	1	3,4%

Successful applicants, however, told a different story. They most often said that their main struggle was with finding time to apply.

**Q6c » Did you face any of these difficulties when trying to obtain public support? More than one answer is possible.**

<i>Response options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Not enough working time to apply	25	20,5%
Unsure about how to apply	10	8,2%
Unsure about where to search for public support	12	9,8%
Could not find public support where we searched for it	11	9,0%
Not eligible for the needed public support	15	12,3%
Too many applicants, too little public support offer	27	22,1%
Did not encounter any difficulties	14	11,5%
Other, please specify	8	6,6%

As part of the program schedule, we often survey youth workers who have participated in the European youth programmes. They tell us that they struggle, in general, with having to





complete a lot of work in a short time, which makes it more difficult to deal with the bureaucracy of applying for the programmes.<sup>1</sup> In this survey we had the chance to approach the situation from another point of view: that of the youth workers who did not obtain public support. Even though they also struggle with high workloads, the main obstacle to managing to apply for public support this time was not being able to find suitable offers.

In order to explore this situation further, in Q7 we asked respondents to rate how difficult they found it to (a) find and to (b) obtain public support it two different scales. We see below that more respondents rated it as difficult to very difficult to find (60% rated difficulty above 6 on a scale from 0-10) than to obtain support (40%). Also, more respondents rated it as relatively easy to obtain support (14% rated difficulty to obtain support below 4 on a scale from 0-10) than respondents rated it as relatively easy to find (9%).

<b>Q7a1 » In general, on a scale from 0 to 10, finding public support was...</b>		
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Question not relevant	18	15,1%
0 - Very Easy	0	0,0%
1	1	0,8%
2	9	7,6%
3	2	1,7%
4	7	5,9%
5	20	16,8%
6	6	5,0%
7	14	11,8%
8	15	12,6%
9	5	4,2%
10 - Very Difficult	22	18,5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> As an example, see RAY-LEARN report from the RAY Network



<b>Q7a2 » In general, on a scale from 0 to 10, obtaining public support was...</b>		
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Question not relevant	22	18,5%
0 - Very Easy	0	0,0%
1	0	0,0%
2	5	4,2%
3	2	1,7%
4	6	5,0%
5	17	14,3%
6	12	10,1%
7	11	9,2%
8	15	12,6%
9	4	3,4%
10 - Very Difficult	24	20,2%
No answer	1	0,8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

## 5. HOW USEFUL WAS PUBLIC SUPPORT DURING THE PANDEMIC?

We know that many youth work structures suffered greatly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic: they faced space closures, budget cuts, volunteer reductions disadvantaged youth falling out of reach and a wave of mental health complications among young people and youth workers, among others<sup>2</sup>. It does not surprise us, then, to find that over 60% of the youth workers who got public support found it useful or very useful (rated over 6 on a 0-10 scale) while only 3% found it not useful (rated 0)

### Q7b » In general, on a scale from 0 to 10, in terms of usefulness, public support was...

<i>Response options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Question not relevant	2	3,2%
0 - not useful	2	3,2%
1	0	0,0%
2	2	3,2%
3	2	3,2%
4	6	9,7%
5	3	4,8%
6	6	9,7%
7	4	6,5%
8	10	16,1%
9	6	9,7%
10 - very useful	19	30,6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

<sup>2</sup> see RAY-COR documentation from the RAY Network

## 6. WHAT SUPPORT WILL BE NEEDED IN THE FUTURE?

In our last question, we asked what support youth workers will need looking forward. We see that the strongest concerns are building a strong basis to help those who need it the most: youth workers most often said they'd need support to improve their working conditions and youth engagement spaces and to reach out to disadvantaged young people. For this, they'd prefer general financial support. Support for digitalization, especially in the form of providing devices, was mentioned relatively often as well, as was general financial support towards fostering the visibility of youth work. At the same time, the demand for support to manage the mental health of young people and youth workers was relatively lower than for the other areas of concern.

### Q8 » Considering all the help that you were able to obtain since the coronavirus pandemic started, what other help would you find the most useful looking forward?

	Digitalisation	Mental health	Youth work spaces	Better working conditions for youth workers	Improvement of reach to disadvantaged young people	Better recognition and visibility of youth work	Other
Expert advice/trainings	31,9%	30,3%	16,8%	26,9%	39,5%	24,4%	6,7%
Mentoring/counselling	23,5%	31,9%	12,6%	18,5%	24,4%	19,3%	5,9%
General financial support	36,1%	31,9%	47,9%	45,4%	39,5%	37,0%	7,6%
Financial means to go through a period of financial difficulty (bridging)	18,5%	20,2%	31,9%	36,1%	26,9%	24,4%	7,6%
Physical assets (e.g. rooms, computers)	37,8%	13,4%	41,2%	27,7%	16,8%	15,1%	5,9%
More streamlined communication with government agencies	21,8%	16,8%	24,4%	30,3%	24,4%	32,8%	7,6%
<b>Across all kinds of support</b>	<b>28,3%</b>	<b>24,1%</b>	<b>29,1%</b>	<b>30,8%</b>	<b>28,6%</b>	<b>25,5%</b>	<b>6,9%</b>