

Research-based
analysis of European
youth programmes

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

MULTILINGUAL SURVEY // KEY FINDINGS

WINTER 2020/2021 | TABULAR SUMMARY | VERSION 20220915

KEY FINDINGS FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
N = 1.097 YOUTH WORKERS AND YOUTH LEADERS

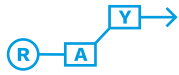


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1. MAIN EFFECTS ON YOUTH WORK

For 74% of the responding youth workers, the corona pandemic has affected their own youth work majorly.

Q » Has the corona pandemic affected your own youth work?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
It has had no affects at all	0,9%	0,8%	-0,1%
It has had slight effects	5,6%	4,7%	-0,9%
It has had moderate effects	23,4%	20,3%	-3,1%
It has had major effects	70,1%	74,2%	+4,1%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	

Youth work activities and events have been affected most, and then to lesser extents: places and spaces and methods and tools. Youth work principles and values have been affected least – in comparison to our initial survey, these effects seem to have stabilised (youth workers and youth leaders reported principles and values to be affected considerably stronger in our initial survey).

Q » Which aspects of your youth work have been affected?				
	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Slightly</i>	<i>Moderately</i>	<i>Majorly</i>
<i>Our youth work activities/ events have changed</i>	0,9%	6,2%	21,1%	71,8%
<i>Our youth work methods/ tools have changed</i>	2,8%	14,1%	35,8%	47,4%
<i>Our youth work places/ spaces have changed</i>	8,1%	14,2%	25,0%	52,7%
<i>Our youth work times/ timings have changed</i>	14,7%	26,7%	31,4%	27,2%
<i>Our youth work principles/ values have changed</i>	47,0%	28,4%	16,2%	8,4%

Almost 83% of responding youth workers say that they are addressing the corona pandemic and its effects in their own youth work – a value that has remained steady over time.

Q » Are you addressing the corona pandemic and its effects in your own youth work?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
Yes, we do address the pandemic and its effects in our youth work	83,6%	82,8%	-0,8%
No, we do not address the pandemic and its effects in our youth work	16,4%	17,2%	+0,8%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	

Practical advice and online group activities are most frequently used to address the corona pandemic and its effects in youth work. Discussion of news and fake news, which had been offered least frequently in the first months of the pandemic, plays a more important role now.

Q » How are you addressing the corona pandemic and its effects in your youth work?									
<i>08.2020 above 04.2021 below</i>	<i>change</i>	<i>Never</i>		<i>Rarely</i>		<i>Occasionally</i>		<i>Frequently</i>	
<i>We offer group chats to young people</i>	15,7%	-0,4%	14,0%	+2,1%	38,4%	-1,2%	32,0%	-0,6%	
	15,3%		16,1%		37,2%		31,4%		
<i>We offer 1:1 mentoring to young people</i>	15,2%	+5,6%	22,4%	-1,4%	37,6%	-4,9%	24,7%	+0,8%	
	20,8%		21,0%		32,7%		25,5%		
<i>We offer online group activities to young people</i>	9,1%	+2,5%	13,6%	+2,8%	33,8%	+1,8%	43,5%	-7,1%	
	11,6%		16,4%		35,6%		36,4%		
<i>We discuss news/fake news with young people</i>	16,3%	-5,8%	29,5%	-9,9%	38,4%	+0,2%	15,8%	+15,4%	
	10,5%		19,6%		38,6%		31,2%		
<i>We offer technical support to young people</i>	16,4%	-0,9%	31,0%	-5,8%	32,2%	+4,1%	20,4%	+2,5%	
	15,5%		25,2%		36,4%		22,9%		
<i>We share practical advice with young people</i>	4,0%	-0,4%	13,5%	-1,8%	43,5%	-7,2%	38,9%	+9,5%	
	3,6%		11,7%		36,3%		48,4%		
<i>We offer logistical support to young people</i>	18,6%	+3,6%	30,4%	-5,4%	29,8%	+2,2%	21,2%	-0,2%	
	22,2%		24,8%		32,0%		21,0%		

2. ESTIMATING IMPACT ON CURRENT YOUTH WORK

Delays and interruptions have decreased somewhat, but for half of responding youth workers, 60% or more of their youth work remains delayed or interrupted. The median is 60,0% (down from 70,0% in August 2020).

Q » How much of your youth work, in your rough estimate in percent, has been delayed or interrupted?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
0 percent (no delays or interruptions at all)	1,7%	0,6%	-1,1%
Between 1 and 10 percent	1,5%	0,4%	-1,1%
Between 10 and 20 percent	2,3%	4,2%	+1,9%
Between 20 and 30 percent	3,2%	4,8%	+1,6%
Between 30 and 40 percent	5,2%	9,4%	+4,2%
Between 40 and 50 percent	5,0%	9,2%	+4,2%
Between 50 and 60 percent	13,7%	13,8%	+0,1%
Between 60 and 70 percent	12,5%	10,4%	-2,1%
Between 70 and 80 percent	11,7%	16,2%	+4,5%
Between 80 and 90 percent	17,8%	14,6%	-3,2%
Between 90 and 100 percent	16,6%	12,8%	-3,8%
100 percent (all was delayed or interrupted)	8,7%	3,4%	-5,3%

The same data, organised in tertiles:

Q » How much of your youth work, in your rough estimate in percent, has been delayed or interrupted?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
All youth work was delayed or interrupted	8,7%	3,4%	-5,3%
Two thirds or more of youth work was delayed or interrupted	46,1%	43,7%	-2,4%
Between one and two thirds of youth work was delayed or interrupted	32,4%	34,1%	+1,7%
Less than one third of youth work was delayed or interrupted	11,1%	18,2%	+7,1%
No youth work was delayed or interrupted	1,7%	0,6%	-1,1%

While delays and interruptions have slowed down a little, the risk assessment of full cancellations has increased. In August 2020, more than 40% of all responding youth workers saw more than half of their current youth work activities at risk of being cancelled – this is now 50%. The median has changed from 40,0% to 50,0%.

Q » How much of your youth work, in your rough estimate in percent, has been or is at risk of being cancelled entirely?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
0 percent (no (risk for) cancellations at all)	7,0%	4,0%	-3,0%
Between 1 and 10 percent	3,5%	1,2%	-2,3%
Between 10 and 20 percent	10,2%	10,4%	+0,2%
Between 20 and 30 percent	12,5%	13,7%	+1,2%
Between 30 and 40 percent	10,2%	10,4%	+0,2%
Between 40 and 50 percent	7,9%	7,4%	-0,5%
Between 50 and 60 percent	13,1%	14,9%	+1,8%
Between 60 and 70 percent	5,0%	6,0%	+1,0%
Between 70 and 80 percent	8,7%	11,2%	+2,5%
Between 80 and 90 percent	7,3%	8,2%	+0,9%
Between 90 and 100 percent	7,0%	7,8%	+0,8%
100 percent (all was or is at risk to be cancelled)	7,6%	4,6%	-3,0%

The same data, organised in tertiles:

Q » How much of your youth work, in your rough estimate in percent, has been or is at risk of being cancelled entirely?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
All youth work was or is at risk to be cancelled	7,6%	4,6%	-3,0%
Two thirds or more of youth work was or is at risk to be cancelled	23,0%	27,3%	+4,3%
Between one & two thirds of youth work was/is at risk to be cancelled	26,2%	29,1%	+2,9%
Less than one third of youth work was or is at risk to be cancelled	36,2%	34,9%	-1,3%
No youth work was or is at risk to be cancelled	7,0%	4,0%	-3,0%



Less than a third of all responding youth workers say that they have transferred up to half of their youth work to online environments. 6% say they have transferred all of their youth work to online environments, whereas 9% say they have not yet transferred anything online. The Median is 30%.

Q » How much of your youth work, in your rough estimate in percent, has been transferred to online environments?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
0 percent (no youth work transferred online)	6,8%	8,5%	+1,7%
Between 1 and 10 percent	3,5%	5,7%	+2,2%
Between 10 and 20 percent	10,6%	18,0%	+7,4%
Between 20 and 30 percent	10,6%	14,3%	+3,7%
Between 30 and 40 percent	10,9%	8,1%	-2,8%
Between 40 and 50 percent	7,9%	5,3%	-2,6%
Between 50 and 60 percent	8,2%	10,9%	+2,7%
Between 60 and 70 percent	5,0%	3,8%	-1,2%
Between 70 and 80 percent	7,4%	6,5%	-0,9%
Between 80 and 90 percent	5,6%	6,7%	+1,1%
Between 90 and 100 percent	6,5%	6,9%	+0,4%
100 percent (all youth work transferred online)	17,1%	5,5%	-11,6%

The same data, organised in tertiles:

Q » How much of your youth work, in your rough estimate in percent, has been transferred to online environments?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
All youth work was transferred online	17,1%	5,5%	-11,6%
Two thirds or more of youth work was transferred online	19,4%	20,0%	+0,6%
Between one and two thirds of youth work was transferred online	21,5%	20,6%	-0,9%
Less than one third of youth work was transferred online	35,3%	45,5%	+10,2%
No youth work was transferred online	6,8%	8,5%	+1,7%

For a third of responding youth workers, 60% or more of the young people they normally work with are currently out of reach. Youth work has been able to reach slightly more young people as the pandemic continued, but the small number of responding youth workers who say they still reach all the young people they normally work with has further decreased (now at 5%).

Q » How many of the young people you normally work with, in your rough estimate in percent, do you currently still reach with your youth work?

<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
0 percent (not reaching young people anymore)	3,1%	3,0%	-0,1%
Between 1 and 10 percent	3,7%	3,2%	-0,5%
Between 10 and 20 percent	8,0%	11,5%	+3,5%
Between 20 and 30 percent	12,8%	9,3%	-3,5%
Between 30 and 40 percent	11,0%	8,7%	-2,3%
Between 40 and 50 percent	10,4%	8,1%	-2,3%
Between 50 and 60 percent	12,2%	13,5%	+1,3%
Between 60 and 70 percent	8,0%	8,9%	+0,9%
Between 70 and 80 percent	8,9%	13,5%	+3,6%
Between 80 and 90 percent	9,8%	8,5%	-1,3%
Between 90 and 100 percent	3,7%	8,1%	+4,4%
100 percent (still reaching all young people)	8,6%	5,0%	-3,6%

The same data, organised in tertiles:

Q » How many of the young people you normally work with, in your rough estimate in percent, do you currently still reach with your youth work?

<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
All young people still in reach	8,6%	5,0%	-3,6%
Two thirds or more of young people still in reach	22,3%	28,8%	+6,5%
Between one and two thirds of young people still in reach	32,1%	31,3%	-0,8%
Less than one third of young people still in reach	33,9%	31,9%	-2,0%
None of previously reached young people still in reach	3,1%	3,0%	-0,1%



3. STRUCTURAL IMPACT ON YOUTH WORK

Close to 50% of the responding youth workers say that the corona pandemic has affected their youth work structure majorly – and the impact has been growing over time.

Q » Has the corona pandemic affected your own youth work structure – be that an organisation, an administration, a network, a department, a team?

<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
It has had no affects at all	4,6%	4,2%	-0,4%
It has had slight effects	15,2%	11,3%	-3,9%
It has had moderate effects	33,3%	37,2%	+3,9%
It has had major effects	46,9%	47,3%	+0,4%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	

4. BUDGETARY IMPACT ON YOUTH WORK

The budgetary impact of the pandemic differs considerably between levels of youth work. At local level, where youth work tends to be more stably financed, the financial impact of the pandemic has been less severe. In the context of international youth work, on the other hand, the budget has decreased for 60% of the responding organisations.

Q » Overall, including any Corona-related financial support, how has your youth work budget been impacted so far?

<i>Response options</i>	<i>Local level</i>	<i>Regional level</i>	<i>National level</i>	<i>International level</i>
Our budget has remained the same.	62,5%	58,0%	51,1%	33,8%
Our budget has decreased.	31,1%	35,7%	43,3%	59,5%
Our budget has increased.	6,4%	6,3%	5,6%	6,7%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

5. IMPACT ON YOUTH WORK TEAMS

The impact of the pandemic on teams has been profound. Working time of staff has decreased for a third of our survey respondents. Staff teams have been reduced for 17% of local youth work organisations and 36% of international youth work organisations. The impact on volunteering and for volunteers has been even more profound: For more than half of all respondents, overall engagement time of volunteers has decreased, and for almost half of all respondents the number of volunteers has decreased as well – with some variation between the spatial levels of youth work, as the table below shows.

Q » How have employees and volunteers been impacted by the crisis so far?				
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Local level</i>	<i>Regional level</i>	<i>National level</i>	<i>International level</i>
Work time of our staff decreased	28,0%	26,7%	34,8%	32,9%
Number of paid staff decreased	17,1%	17,7%	24,3%	36,1%
Volunteering time decreased	56,5%	60,4%	58,1%	67,6%
Number of volunteers decreased	47,0%	47,2%	45,6%	56,3%

6. RESPONSE OF YOUTH WORK

20% of responding youth workers consider the response of the youth work field to the crisis so far as very adequate, and 56% as somewhat adequate. 19% consider the response of the field as somewhat inadequate, and 5% as very inadequate.

Q » In your opinion and context, how well has youth work as a field responded to the crisis so far?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
The response of youth work so far has been very adequate.	29,1%	20,4%	-8,7%
The response of youth work so far has been somewhat adequate.	47,7%	56,1%	+8,4%
The response of youth work so far has been somewhat inadequate.	19,0%	18,9%	-0,1%
The response of youth work so far has been very inadequate.	4,2%	4,6%	+0,4%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	

7. RESPONSE OF EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK

16% of responding youth workers consider the response of **European** youth work to the crisis so far as very adequate, and 57% as somewhat adequate. 19% consider the response of the field as somewhat inadequate, and 8% as very inadequate.

Q » In your opinion and context, how well has European youth work as a field responded to the crisis so far?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
The response of youth work so far has been very adequate.	n/a	16,1%	--
The response of youth work so far has been somewhat adequate.	n/a	57,1%	--
The response of youth work so far has been somewhat inadequate.	n/a	18,8%	--
The response of youth work so far has been very inadequate.	n/a	8,0%	--
Total		100,0%	

8. SUPPORT OF YOUTH WORK

46% of responding youth workers consider the support that youth work as a field has received during the crisis as very or somewhat adequate – whereas more than 54% say that the support that youth work as a field has received during the crisis has been somewhat or very inadequate.

Q » In your opinion and context, how well has youth work as a field been supported during the crisis so far?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
The support of youth work so far has been very adequate.	15,0%	6,9%	-8,1%
The support of youth work so far has been somewhat adequate.	35,5%	38,7%	+3,2%
The support of youth work so far has been somewhat inadequate.	29,5%	36,2%	+6,7%
The support of youth work so far has been very inadequate.	20,1%	18,2%	-1,91%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	

9. SUPPORT OF EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK

46% of responding youth workers consider the support that youth work as a field has received during the crisis as very or somewhat adequate – whereas more than 54% say that the support that youth work as a field has received during the crisis has been somewhat or very inadequate.

Q » In your opinion and context, how well has European youth work as a field been supported during the crisis so far?			
<i>Response options</i>	<i>Percent (08.2020)</i>	<i>Percent (04.2021)</i>	<i>2020 vs 2021</i>
The support of youth work so far has been very adequate.	15,0%	6,9%	-8,1%
The support of youth work so far has been somewhat adequate.	35,5%	38,7%	+3,2%
The support of youth work so far has been somewhat inadequate.	29,5%	36,2%	+6,7%
The support of youth work so far has been very inadequate.	20,1%	18,2%	-1,91%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	

10. SUPPORT OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth work helped young people to navigate the coronavirus pandemic and crisis in a number of important and relevant ways. Notably, youth work managed to help young people to recognise and deal with fake news somewhat less, compared to the other aspects of support.

Q » In your experience, how has youth work helped young people to navigate the coronavirus pandemic?		
<i>Response options (clustered)</i>	<i>strongly or somewhat agree</i>	<i>strongly or somewhat disagree</i>
<i>Being involved in youth work helped young people to ...</i>		
... understand the overall situation	85,8%	14,2%
... deal with the overall situation	80,4%	19,6%
... stay connected during lockdown	81,2%	18,8%
... understand and interpret news	72,1%	27,9%
... recognise and deal with fake news	66,8%	33,2%
... discuss the current situation	87,5%	12,5%
... have something useful to do	80,7%	19,3%
... have something to look forward to	80,7%	19,3%