

YOUNG COALITION FOR PREVENTION AND VACCINATION

ONLINE CONSULTATION ON YOUTH IN THE
HEALTH SECTOR & COVID-19



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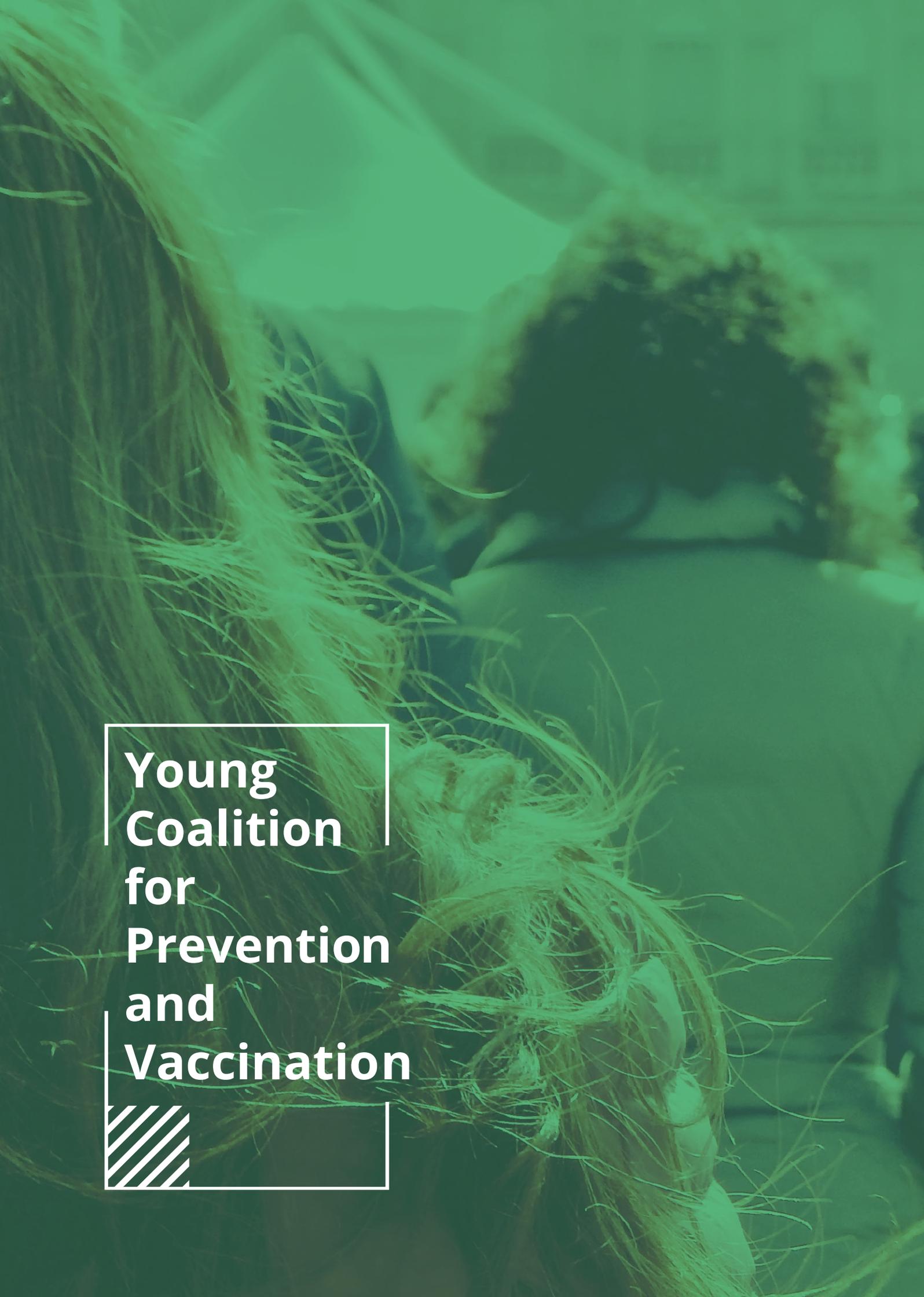
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Extended periods of 'lockdown' as a public health measure due to COVID-19 have had wide-reaching implications on a variety of social, political and economic issues. Education and employment shocks, mental health and well-being considerations, and reduced immunisation due to social distancing are some of the many current and future challenges being faced. These challenges vary between age groups, and in response to increasing calls to understand the direct impact of the pandemic on young people – this report showcases the views and experiences of youth in the health related sector as a result of COVID-19.

Approach & Methodology

The focus of this report was to investigate and analyse the real-life experiences of youth in the health sector as a direct result of the pandemic. Through an online consultation, it presents the views and experiences on issues ranging from education and employment, to recovery packages, vaccination, and the future of Europe.

Main Findings

1. Varied Impact on Education and Employment

While just over half found their situation to be largely the same (apart from being in confinement) – 23% noted their education was severely impacted, 18% had working hours cut, and 5% lost their job.

2. Concerned about Global Health and the Economy

Young people are most concerned about economic recovery, global health, and the potential for new waves of the pandemic.

3. Adapting to the 'New Normal' a Key Challenge

Mental health at the workplace, adapting to new modes of working, and the negative impact of uncertainty on motivation and drive are the biggest challenges for the future of work.

4. Keen to Vaccinate and Want Increased Pandemic Preparedness

71% are either likely or very likely to get vaccinated when possible, reiterating confidence in the role of vaccination in disease prevention. Ensuring greater pandemic preparedness is also key moving forward.

5. We Need to Build Back Better

Young people in the health sector want to see a 'healthy recovery' looking to the future. Instead of a return to the old normal, a boost to public health systems with the ability to respond to crises, and a focus on social safety nets and the role of essential workers is preferred.

Implications

Contributing to the growing insights on the impact of the pandemic on young people in particular – this report and the wider issues discussed reiterate the need for evidence-based policymaking focussed on the real life situations of youth. Young people are largely the most vulnerable to shocks like this, and are also likely to shoulder much of the future burden as a result of the economic impact. Based on this, continued research and analysis on the situation of youth both now and in the future is integral in alleviating many of the potential negative impacts moving forward.

SECTION 1: LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1 Introduction

COVID-19 has had severe and lasting economic and social implications across the globe, many of which are yet to be fully seen or realised. The virus has disrupted most aspects of life, as its impact extends far beyond the health risks associated with the pathogen itself. Across Europe, everyday services essential for health and well-being grinded to a halt as entire populations went into lockdown. This ranged from antenatal care and home visits for new parents to business closures, reduced employment and education opportunities, as well as school and university closures (UNICEF, 2020).

People of various ages are experiencing its consequences differently (OECD, 2020b). For young people, and in particular youth from more vulnerable backgrounds, the crisis poses a considerably more adverse risk when compared to others in society in relation to education, employment, mental health and well-being, alongside a whole host of other worries and considerations. Even before the onset of the crisis, the social and economic integration of youth across Europe was a challenge, reinforcing the potential long-lasting implications for youth post COVID-19 (ILO, 2020). Additionally, it is the younger generation, currently most at risk, who will shoulder much of the long-term negative social and economic impacts of the crisis looking to the future (OECD, 2020b). A further key consideration is the delivery and uptake of vaccinations against illnesses such as tetanus, diphtheria, measles, hepatitis B, and HPV during the pandemic. Despite the progress made, several EU and neighbouring countries are facing outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) due to a lack of coverage – with social distancing measures and confinement creating a further hurdle to overcome (EC, 2020b).

The following report seeks to delve deeper into some of these concerns for young people, and in particular youth linked to the healthcare sector through education or employment. Moreover, it aims to shed light on the impact both the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns have had on youth in relation to their education and work life, their

worries and concerns, their outlook for the future, and perspectives on how the EU can recover. It also analyses young healthcare sector professional views on the 'new normal' of daily life, remote and online working, as well as their views on a potential vaccine in the future.

1.2 Education, Employment, and Increasing Vulnerability

The disruption young people have experienced in their access to education and employment opportunities due to the economic downturn will most likely see youth on a volatile and unpredictable trajectory. Looking forward, this is expected to have a negative impact on securing stable jobs and gainful employment in the future (OECD, 2020b). Moreover, it is already well documented that during lockdown young people have reiterated the importance of employment, and education and training in providing routine, social connections, financial security and a sense of 'purpose' during the pandemic (Davies et.al, 2020). This routine as a stabiliser is further reinforced when the realities of life for young people are considered, particularly as it is the youth cohort who are the most vulnerable group in relation to losing jobs, or being furloughed. This is because they are more likely to work in sectors that are most negatively impacted, and in industries with high job losses. Resultantly, young workers and youth aged 18-24 are the most likely to have lost their job or had their working hours reduced, and therefore to have experienced income cuts (IFS, 2020).

Access to education is a further key consideration, with school closures having a detrimental impact on young people across the board. As an example, researchers found that in Bristol, United Kingdom, 57% of children and young people noted they had experienced a decline in the progress of their work and education, with 21% highlighting a 'significant decline' (Davies et.al, 2020). The transition to remote and online learning has often been chaotic, having a negative impact on children in terms of their knowledge acquisition, social and psychological



development, and even in terms of economic and food security (Groupe URD, 2020).

To further understand the potential impact of this, researchers have linked the current situation with learning outcomes during natural disasters. In doing so, they have predicted that students of varying ages will be far behind in their learning, particularly in STEM-related subjects – with people already falling behind or from vulnerable backgrounds becoming the most negatively impacted (Soland et.al, 2020). This sentiment has been echoed elsewhere, alongside highlighting the long-term impact this may have, with a predicted drop in tests results following confinement being linked with future issues in finding employment and stable income options (Groupe URD, 2020).

Along similar lines, already present gaps in the digital divide and social inclusion are amplified during confinement. As such, young people from more disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to have a quiet place to work or study, or access to the necessary technology (OECD, 2020a). Even access to the required technology does not guarantee effective learning, as young people from more advantaged backgrounds are more likely to benefit from guidance and help from parents with more technical knowledge and skills (Ibid).

1.3 Family Life and Parenting During COVID-19

While education, employment, and skills are crucial issues in their own right, confinement measures have broader implications for family life on the whole. This includes increased levels of stress - as parents, for the most part, have been made to keep their children at home with little to no alternatives available. Young people also have limited financial assets, putting those living in economically vulnerable households at increased risk of falling below the poverty line. Thinking about youth in particular, this is likely to have negative consequences for issues ranging from access to housing, to credit, and paying back school loans, to name a few (OECD, 2020b).

As a result, parents are feeling anxious or worried about the future, while individuals who are either unemployed or with financial insecurity are failing to cope well in particular (Mental Health Foundation, 2020). However, heightened stress levels are not limited to people who have lost their job. Working parents have also reported difficulties in balancing the demands of working with the needs of their child (Millar at.al, 2020). This is even more so for parents who are in more complex situations, with, for example, children with special educational

needs. These concerns are greater in single-parent households, raising the likelihood for stress, income insecurity, lack of child supervision, and the negative repercussions if the parent gets sick (OECD, 2020a)

Working Parents: The Key to Recovery

The impact of the pandemic has raised important discussions on recovery packages, assistance programmes, and how to prevent further economic downturn. Working parents are a crucial element of this. As such, ensuring parents of all ages are capable of juggling home life and childcare alongside keeping up with their contributions to the economy is essential to any recovery model (Bateman, 2020). This is because parents relying on childcare and school care are a major share of the global workforce, with viable options to alleviate the current uncertainty being crucial moving forward.

Promoting the Necessary Conditions for Parents and Youth

To alleviate the negative impacts of the pandemic on parents and young people alike, working parents need assistance ranging from family-friendly policies (e.g. parental leave, paid sick leave, flexible working arrangements) to access to affordable and reliable childcare (UNICEF, 2020). Moreover, parents knowing they have the flexibility to work in a way that best suits both their own professional needs alongside the needs of their home life and children, will reduce the stress caused by uncertainty. Employers can play a key role here, by both promoting and ensuring home and work hygiene and safety, and in helping workers and their families cope with stress due to COVID-19.

1.4 Mental Health and COVID-19

The need for multi-stakeholder efforts to help young people and parents deal with the pandemic is emphasised when the psychological impacts are considered. Young carers are a group that have been focussed on in particular due to the mental health issues related to confinement. A snapshot on the United Kingdom found that over half of young

carers¹ felt overwhelmed, and as a result suffered worsened mental health (Millar et.al, 2020). This led to further stress and insecurity in how young people could juggle their commitments as carers, with their school, university, or work commitments (Carers Trust, 2020).

Additionally, social isolation, coupled with poverty and income insecurity, exacerbate already present gaps in health and well-being—with children and young people with pre-existing mental health issues experiencing further decline (Davies et.al, 2020). This is not just a concern for young people. Parents are also seeing elevated stress levels, which raise worries for safety at home. While lockdown measures have seen a reduction in the spread of the virus, conversely, they have seen sharp increases in interpersonal violence, and forms of child abuse. Across the European region, 1 in 3 children have noted some form of violence by parents, caregivers, peers, or other family members (WHO, 2020b).

1.5 Routine Immunisation Services and COVID-19

An additional concern as a direct result of the pandemic has been the notable decline in immunisation services and programmes. Disruptions have taken place across the globe, which threaten to reverse the progress made in providing a wide range of vaccines to children and adolescents. This includes a substantial drop in the number of children completing three doses of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP3) – resulting in what could be the first time in 28 years the world sees a reduction in coverage (WHO, 2020c). Along similar lines, thousands of infants between the ages of 3-18 months in France have failed to be vaccinated against illnesses including tetanus, polio, whooping cough and meningitis, to name a few.

It is estimated that the deficit in vaccinations following just eight weeks of lockdown in France alone is 123,000 children for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), and 450,000 across all ages for tetanus. This trend is not just limited to children and

¹ Young carers are young people under the age of 18, who are responsible for and provide care for a parent or relative, or people within a community.

young people either, adults with chronic illnesses have also missed out on important vaccinations with health bodies making an urgent call for vaccinations to be made a priority (York, 2020).

Disruptions in immunisation services, even if only for short periods of time, run the risk of VPD outbreaks taking place due to an accumulation of susceptible individuals. These can potentially lead to VPD-related deaths and increased stress levels and burden on health systems already strained by the pandemic (WHO, 2020a). Resultantly, ensuring where possible that immunisation sessions are maintained is essential, and particularly amongst those most in need.

HPV Immunisation Targets at Risk

COVID-19 has also significantly disrupted HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccination programmes across Europe.² With over 200 different types of HPV present, and a likelihood of over 85% of sexually active women and men likely to catch it at some point in their lives – reductions in scheduled vaccination programmes are a key concern looking forward. In England, the closing of educational settings and pausing of the 2019/20 school immunisation programmes had a significant impact on the uptake of the HPV Vaccination programme for the academic year. This resulted in 64.7% of year 9 females (13-14 years old) completing the 2-dose HPV vaccination course, down from 83.9% in 2018/19. For females in the school year below, the number went down from 88% to 59.2%, while only 54.4% of males were covered (Public Health England, 2020). Along similar lines, HPV vaccination uptake in France following 8 months of the pandemic taking hold (up to the 22nd of November 2020) resulted in over 230,000 doses being missed (EPI-PHARE, 2020). One influential response has been to introduce drive-through vaccination clinics. Inspired by the innovative delivery systems of the Isle of Wight in the UK to overcome the drastic halt of childhood immunisation programmes following school closures, drive-through HPV vaccinations were also introduced in other areas of the U.K following the same model.

1.6 Policy Responses

Across the EU, Member States have taken it upon themselves to try and curb the detrimental impacts of COVID-19 on young people and families. These range from parental leave in Belgium (congé parental corona) geared towards parents with children under 12 or with special educational needs, to funding to support vulnerable groups in Denmark, and funding for youth counselling in Germany - to name a few (European Commission, 2020).

While many policy responses have been put in place, it is clear that more needs to be done particularly as the pandemic becomes more protracted and the impact becomes better known. In order to support families and young people, information is key in order to learn about coping mechanisms, how their situation has been impacted, and the initial and more long-term impact effects. This is necessary in order to further inform governments, employers, and the various stakeholders in better supporting their needs (Luna-Bazaldua & Pushparatnam, 2020). Based on this, adopting a 'life course' approach to the current, and future impact of COVID-19 on children, young people, parents, and families alike is key. Moreover, continuing to conduct rigorous research to identify and track both the long-term effects of both being infected by the virus, and of being affected by the economic and social consequences is fundamental (Lines, 2020).

In order to tackle the growing number of people failing to access their scheduled immunisation programmes – policy makers need to help sustain trust among the population on the role, impact, and importance of immunisation on health systems. Efforts also need to be placed on ensuring immunisation continues to be delivered, by providing safe options for restoring services where they have seen reductions, by helping health professionals communicate their importance, and by expanding routine services to reach missed communities and populations (WHO, 2020c). Moreover, stakeholders must continue to monitor the trend of community uptake of vaccines during the pandemic in order to evaluate the suitability of immunisation service delivery options.

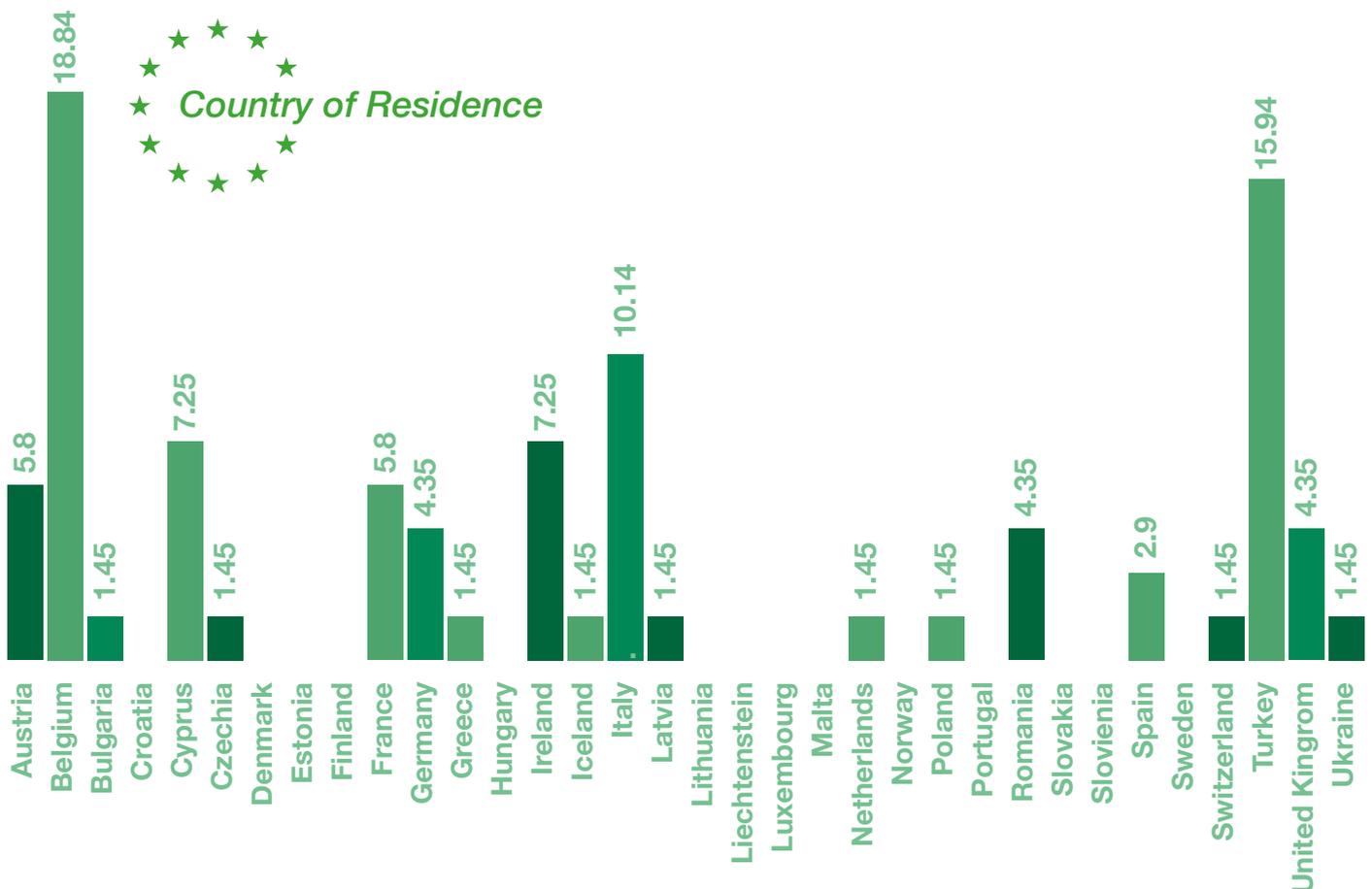
² HPV is a common sexually transmitted infection. It causes 4.5% of all cancers in women and men globally, and in Europe 2.5% of cancers are attributed to HPV. It is estimated that 85% of people will get an HPV infection in their lifetime, while infections that do not go away on their own have the potential to cause cancers of the cervix, vagina, and vulva in women, penis in men, and anus and back of the throat in both women and men (CDC, 2020).

SECTION 2: CONSULTATION & METHODOLOGY

The data collection exercise was conducted between July and September 2020 through an online questionnaire targeting youth and young professionals in the health sector aged 18 to 31. The consultation reached 69 respondents in total. Amongst the young professionals consulted, occupational focus ranged from healthcare professionals to pharmacists, third sector representatives, and students in the medical field.

The consultation reached young professionals residing in 20 countries as detailed below, while the gender breakdown saw a higher number of female respondents when compared to male (68% and 32% respectively).

We split the consultation questionnaire into two main sections. The first focussed on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the young professional sample, alongside their concerns and views on response mechanisms. The second focussed on the future of Europe, looking into views on a potential vaccine, potential recovery packages, and the long-term effects of the virus.



SECTION 3: RESULTS & FINDINGS

The following section presents the key findings from young professionals in the health sector on their knowledge of COVID-19, experiences of lockdown, concerns for the future, education and work status, and the greatest challenges being faced.

3.1 COVID-19: Impact, Response, and Perception

As detailed in section 1, the pandemic has had a particular impact on young people in relation to their education and working situations. This is especially true of those working in more precarious environments, or within industries prone to job losses. This uncertainty has an impact on their outlook for the future, views and opinions on government and institutional responses, and also

their worries and concerns for future employment. Lastly, the knowledge levels and information young people have on health, COVID-19, and information sources have an impact on their views on a potential vaccine.

Knowledge on COVID-19

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the majority of young people surveyed who are linked with the health related sector report a high level of knowledge on COVID-19 (68%). Along similar lines, only 32% state basic knowledge levels, while none of the respondents have little to no understanding of the pandemic.



Knowledge Levels

How much knowledge do you have on COVID-19 and the impact of the pandemic?





Ability to Distinguish Factual Information

Do you feel that you are capable of distinguishing truthful information from false information online surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic?

77.61%

Yes

5.97%

No

16.42%

Don't know/ Not sure

Much like knowledge levels, a significant majority of young health professionals (78%) are confident in finding factual information on the pandemic, and knowing when information is either false or untruthful. Additionally, only 6% have reservations about being able to distinguish between the two, while 16% are unsure.

When searching for reliable and impartial information, healthcare professionals and doctors or GPs are overwhelmingly chosen by 80% as the most reliable source. This is followed by 73% using the information from government sources. The least chosen sources of information are social media (12%), HR advice from employers (10%) and most drastically family and friends (1%).

News and Media	26.87%
Social Media	11.94%
Government website	73.13%
Family and friends	1.49%
Healthcare professionals/ Doctor or GP	80.60%
HR department of my company	10.45%

Lockdown: The Youth Experience



Impact on Education & Employment

Since the beginning of the pandemic, how has your education or employment situation been impacted?

53.85%

My situation has been largely the same just from home

23.08%

My education was severely impacted

18.46%

I had my current working time & hours reduced/cut

4.62%

Lost my job, internship and/or current work arrangement



Biggest Concerns due to COVID-19

While the majority of young people (54%) surveyed found their situation stayed largely the same as before the onset of the pandemic, 23% noted that their education was severely impacted. Along similar lines, 18% had their working hours cut and resultantly income reduced – while 5% lost their job, internship, or current working arrangement completely.

Worries about global health, the potential for a second wave of cases following lockdown (at the time of the consultation), and the impact of the pandemic on the economy, are the top three concerns amongst those surveyed (58%, 58% and 62% respectively). The impact of the pandemic on people's mental health and well-being (37%) and the negative repercussions for education and employment opportunities (31%) are further key concerns.

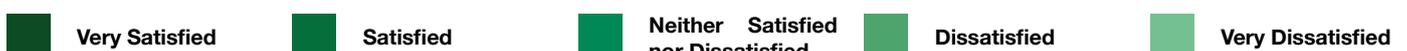
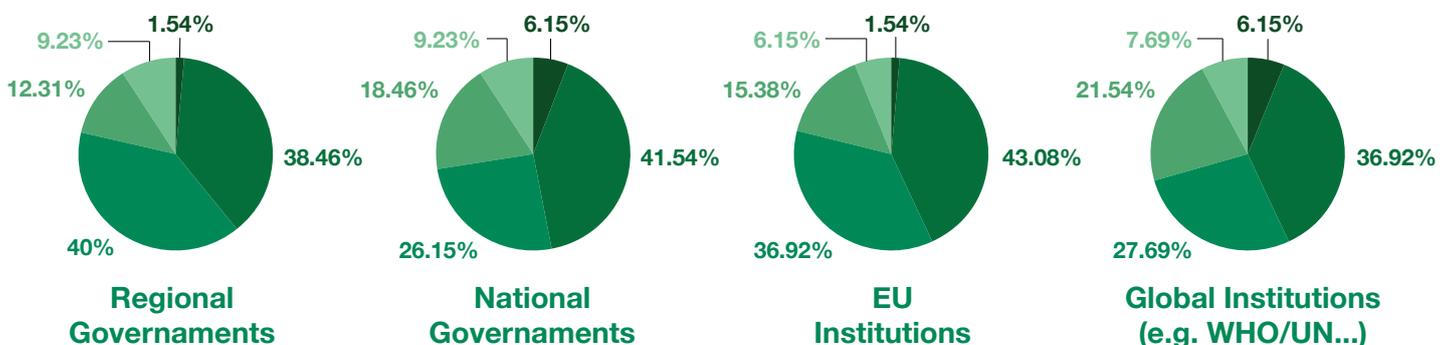
Analysing perceptions on the response mechanisms adopted by the different institutional actors, varied results are seen. In terms of overall satisfaction levels, 48% are either satisfied or very satisfied with national governments, 45% for the EU, 43% for global institutions, and regional governments come last with 40%. Conversely, overall dissatisfaction levels are highest for global institutions at 30%, followed by 27% for national governments and 21% for both regional and national ones.

I am concerned about my education and/or employment opportunities	30.77%
I am concerned about global health	58.46%
I am concerned about my own health	18.46%
I am concerned about a second wave of cases following the easing of lockdown	58.46%
I am concerned about the economy and recovery	61.54%
I am concerned about climate change and the environment	6.15%
I am concerned about quality of life moving forward	24.62%
I am concerned about mental health and well-being	36.92%
I am not any more or less concerned than before the pandemic	1.54%



Satisfaction with Response Mechanisms

How satisfied have you been with the response of each of the below institutions/actors to COVID-19



Work and the Future of Employment

Moving onto how youth in the health sector perceive the future of work, the biggest impact of the pandemic will be on the need to focus on resilience in the workplace (55%). This ranges from flexible working arrangements, to skills development and multi-faceted and cross-department collaboration. The joint second-biggest impacts are seen to be the rise in part-time work, and evolving employee and work monitoring for health and productivity (43% each). These are closely followed by the negative impact likely to be felt in relation to higher risks at the office or working environment (42%).

Along similar lines, young people view adapting to new modes of work and the 'new normal' as the greatest challenge looking forward (58%). This is closely followed by both mental health and well-being at work, and ensuring people still have motivation and high levels of productivity even with growing levels of uncertainty (55% each). 38% also see the availability of different forms of work as a key challenge.

Chosen by 62% of the young people sampled, flexible working arrangements are the most expected change in work life moving forward. This is coupled with half believing the 'new normal' will be working from home. Offices adapting to the pandemic by changing the layout, seating arrangements, and safety and hygiene levels are the biggest change for 37%, while the restructuring of teams is chosen by 28%.



Biggest Impact on the Future of Work

Boost in non-traditional employee monitoring (e.g. health data/productivity)	43.3%
Increase in contingent workers, part-time work and talent sharing	43.3%
Negative impact on employees from a de-humanising perspective	41.7%
Focus on resilience in the workplace (flexible roles and working arrangements)	55%
Don't know/not sure	8.3%



Biggest Challenges for the Future of Work

Mental health at the workplace	55.00%
Motivation, drive, and productivity due to uncertainty	55.00%
The digital divide and widening skills gaps/mismatch	35.00%
Access to opportunities (VET/apprenticeships/ salaried work)	38.33%
Adapting to new modes of work (home working/ teleworking, etc.)	58.33%
Other (please specify)	5.00%



Expected Changes to Office Life

I expect to have flexible working arrangements	61.67%
Working from home/ teleworking to be the norm	50.00%
Changing office layout, seating arrangements, and cleaning	36.67%
Re-structuring of teams and deliverables	28.33%
Changing commuting schedules and office hours	21.67%
Re-definition of essential office work	26.67%
Changes in shared/ communal office spaces	26.67%

3.2 Future of Europe

As the real impact of the pandemic in the short-term, and better insights into the long-term effects come to light, how do youth and young professionals see the best routes to recovery? COVID-19 will continue to have a detrimental impact on a whole host of different sectors and areas of life, and the right programmes and policy interventions will be needed to make the transition as smooth as possible. Moreover, the role of research and development with particular reference to the creation, testing, and roll out of a safe vaccine accessible to all but in particular to those most vulnerable will be key. The crucial role vaccines will play in recovering from COVID-19 also reiterates the need to tackle vaccine hesitancy, and to avoid the wider public health issues that surround under-vaccinated or non-vaccinated groups.

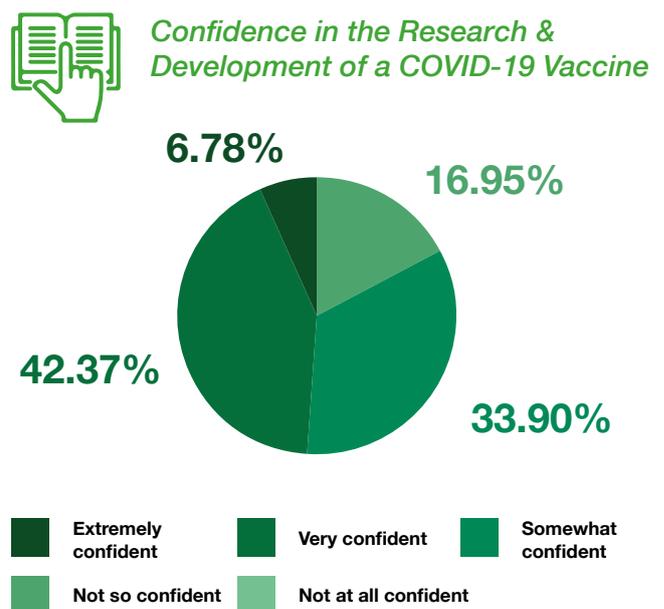
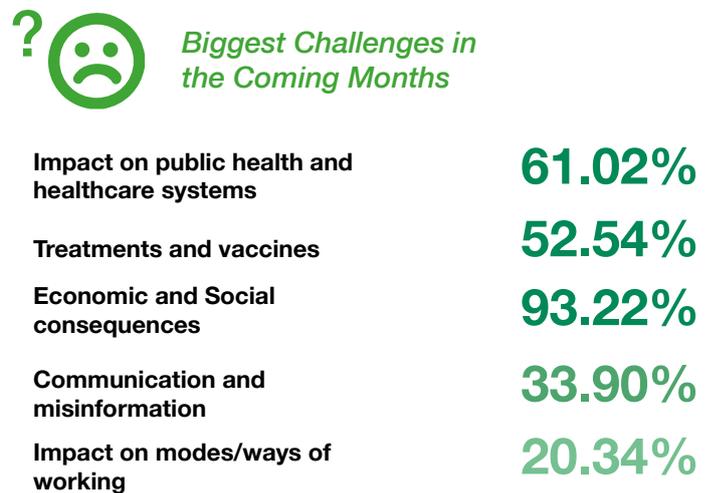
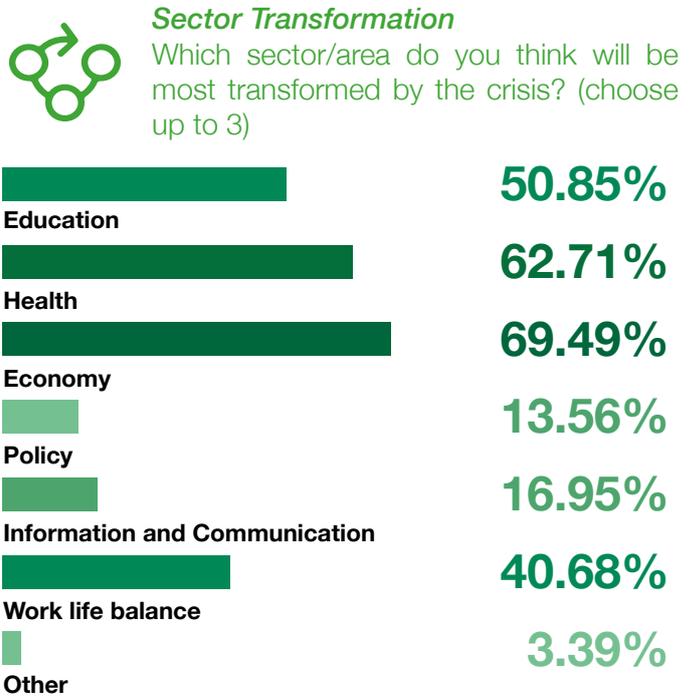
Sector Transformation & the Crisis

Perhaps unsurprisingly, at 69% and 63% respectively - economy and health are viewed as the sectors or areas that will be most transformed because of the pandemic. Education is not far behind with just over half (51%) choosing this sector, while work-life balance is seen as being most transformed by 41%. The policy arena is seen as the least impacted at 14%.

At the time of answering the questionnaire, an overwhelming majority of the young professional respondents saw the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 as the biggest upcoming challenge (93%). This was followed by the impact on public health and healthcare systems (61%), and the production of a vaccine (53%).

Future Focus

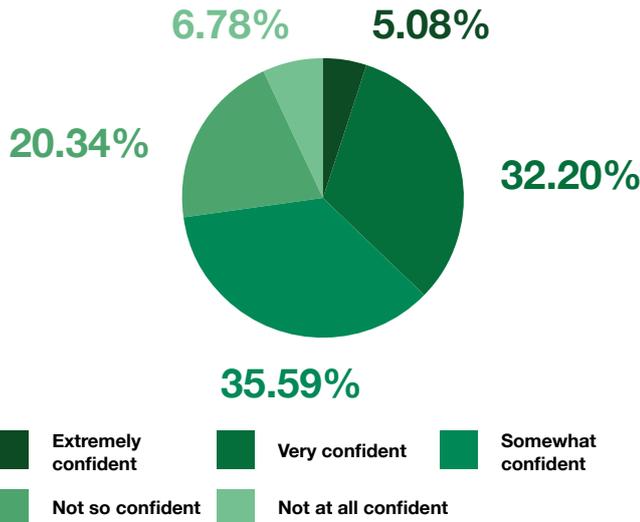
Confidence levels in a vaccine following research and development is relatively high amongst the youth sample, with 76% being either very or somewhat confident. Only 17% show lower levels of confidence and none of the young people have little to no confidence in the research and development of a vaccine.³



³ At the time of publication, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has authorised following scientific evaluation and approval the use of three separate vaccines to prevent COVID-19. These are the Comirnaty, the AstraZeneca and the Moderna vaccines (EMA, 2021).



Confidence in the Safety & Efficacy of a COVID-19 Vaccine



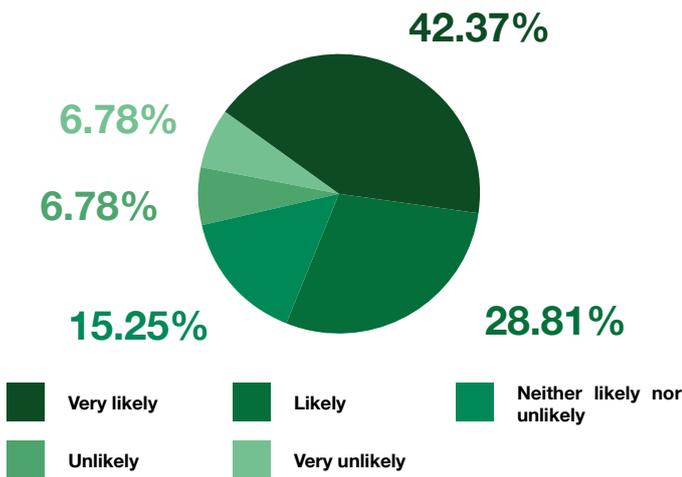
In terms of the efficacy and safety of an eventual vaccine, more polarised opinions are expressed. While 68% are either somewhat or very confident towards a vaccine being effective and safe to use, 20% show concerns. Moreover, a higher number (7%) show strong reservations when compared to those who are extremely confident (5%).

Delving into the likelihood of young people to get vaccinated, if and when a vaccine is available in the future, a large majority are likely to do so (42% very likely, 29% likely). While 15% seem unsure of whether they would be vaccinated or not, only 7% are unlikely, and a further 7% very unlikely.

The last consideration on a potential COVID-19 vaccine is whether it should be mandatory for people to take. A contentious topic, unsurprisingly it has yielded mixed responses from young people. While 37% believe it should be mandatory, a close 31% are against it, and a further 32% are not sure either way.

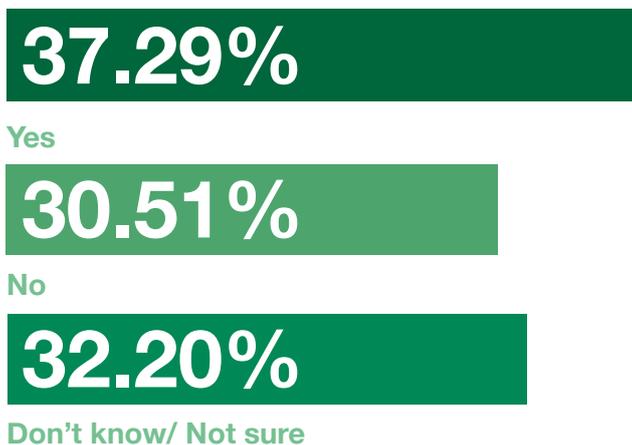


Likelihood to be Vaccinated



Mandatory Vaccination

Should a vaccine for COVID-19 be mandatory?

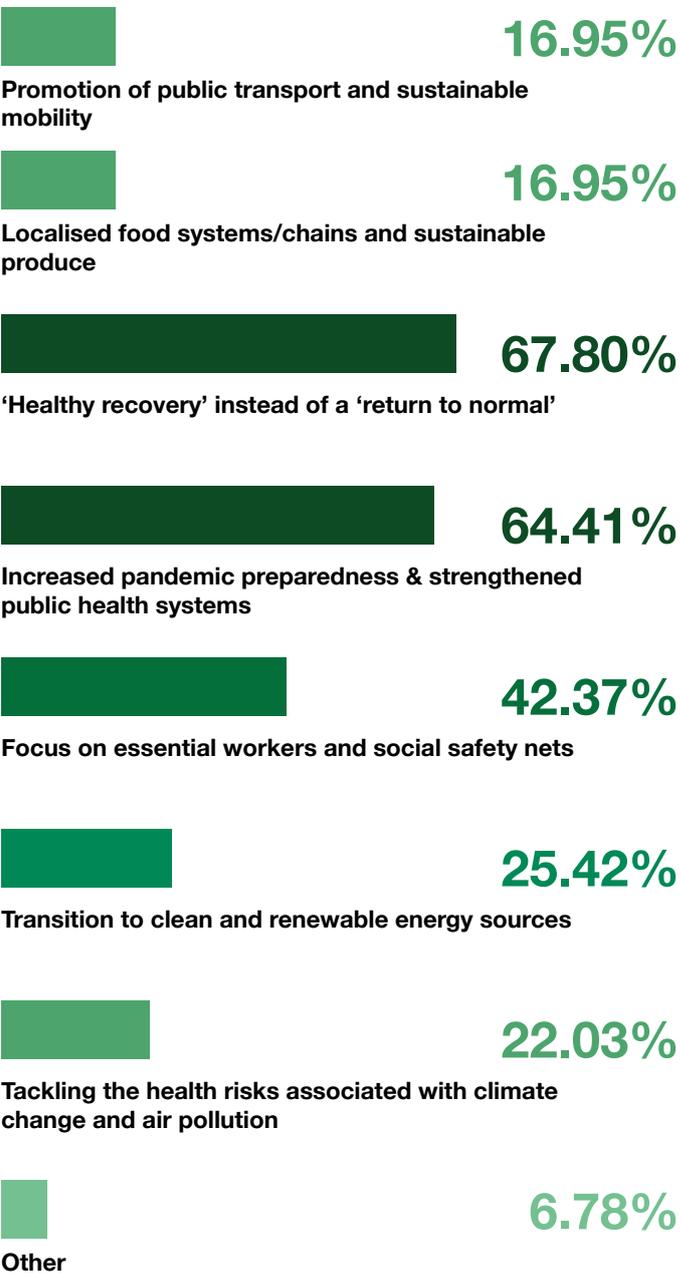




Thinking about the best means of recovering from the negative economic and social impacts of the pandemic, focussing on a healthy recovery instead of returning to the status quo is the top choice with 68%. This is closely followed by 64% who want to see a boost in public health systems and resultantly their ability to respond to these kinds of crises in the future. The importance of essential workers and the social safety nets as a support mechanism are a further top choice (42%), while 25% want to see clean and renewable energy moving forward.



**COVID-19 Recovery Package
Focus Points**



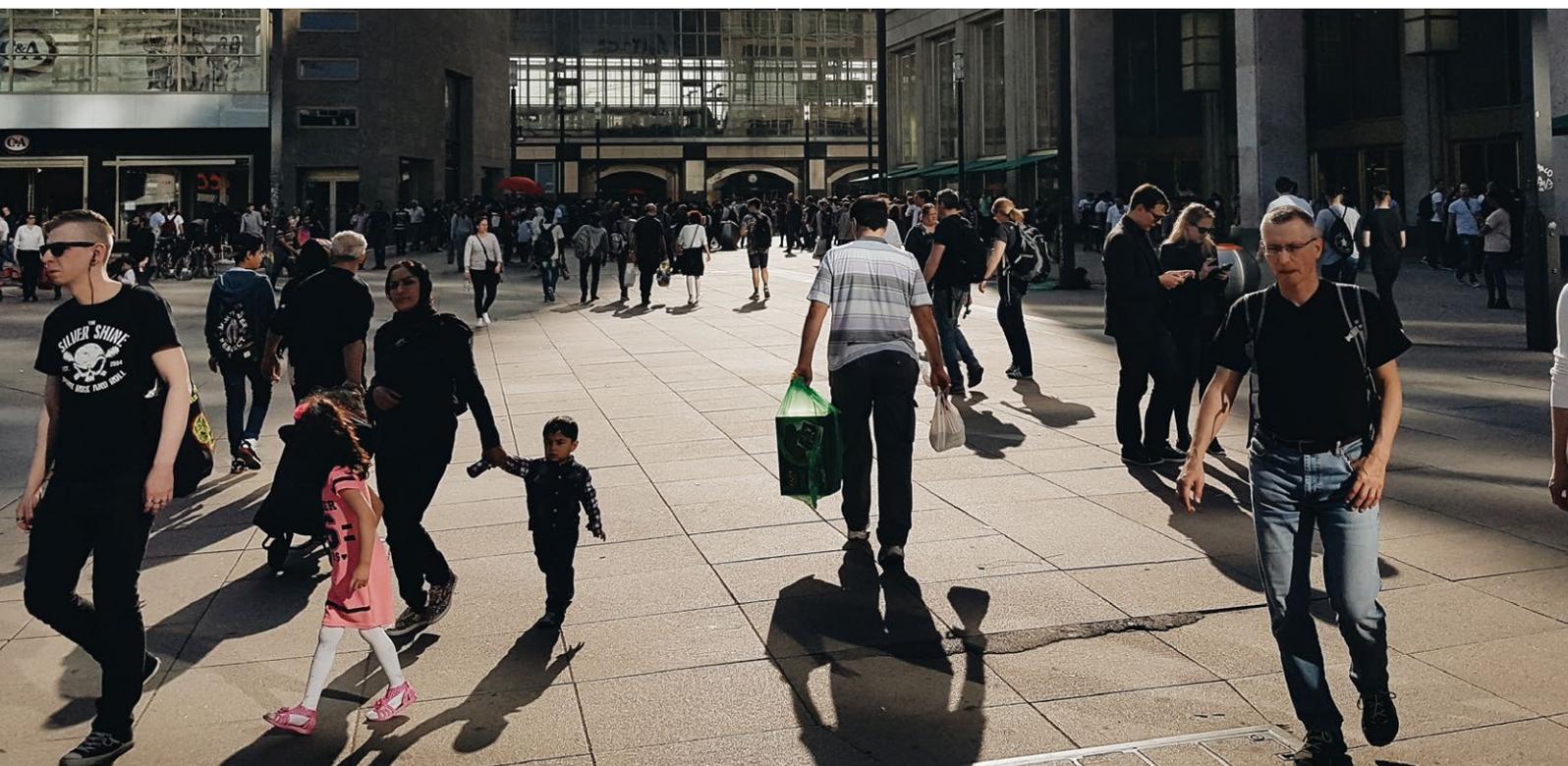
SECTION 3: RESULTS & FINDINGS

The preceding analysis has sought to provide an overview of the varying economic and social impacts of the pandemic on young people, and its effect on young professionals in the health sector. This ranges from discussions on education and employment, to mental health and well-being, the transition to working and learning online, and the wider impact on family life. Amongst the key insights gained from this consultation, the COVID-19 pandemic - in line with the wide array of literature on both the global and European impact - has had a detrimental effect on youth within the health sector. More specifically, they note the negative effect on education and employment opportunities, and experiences of job losses and working hour reductions. Moreover, they are concerned about the long-term impact on the economy, the wider global health issues present, mental health at the workplace, and adapting to the 'new normal'.

Looking to the future, youth in the health sector appear to view the biggest long-term effects being on the economy and public health. In line with this, they see the biggest challenges moving

forward relating to the ability of public health systems and social services to respond to crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recovery models put in place to prevent long-term negative repercussions on youth. With this in mind, they hope to see policies and programmes geared towards change rather than a return to normal, with a focus on resilience and preparedness, as well as improved social safety.

The findings of this report, and the wider discussions included, reiterate the need for further and continued research on youth and the pandemic. Evidence-based policymaking, considering the real-life situations and experiences of young people, is crucial in creating targeted and impactful recovery interventions. Moreover, 'life course' approaches to crises like the current pandemic are critical in fostering multi-stakeholder projects and programmes understanding the negative impact on youth on education, employment, health and well-being. They will be paramount moving forward to alleviate some of the negative impacts of the pandemic in the future.



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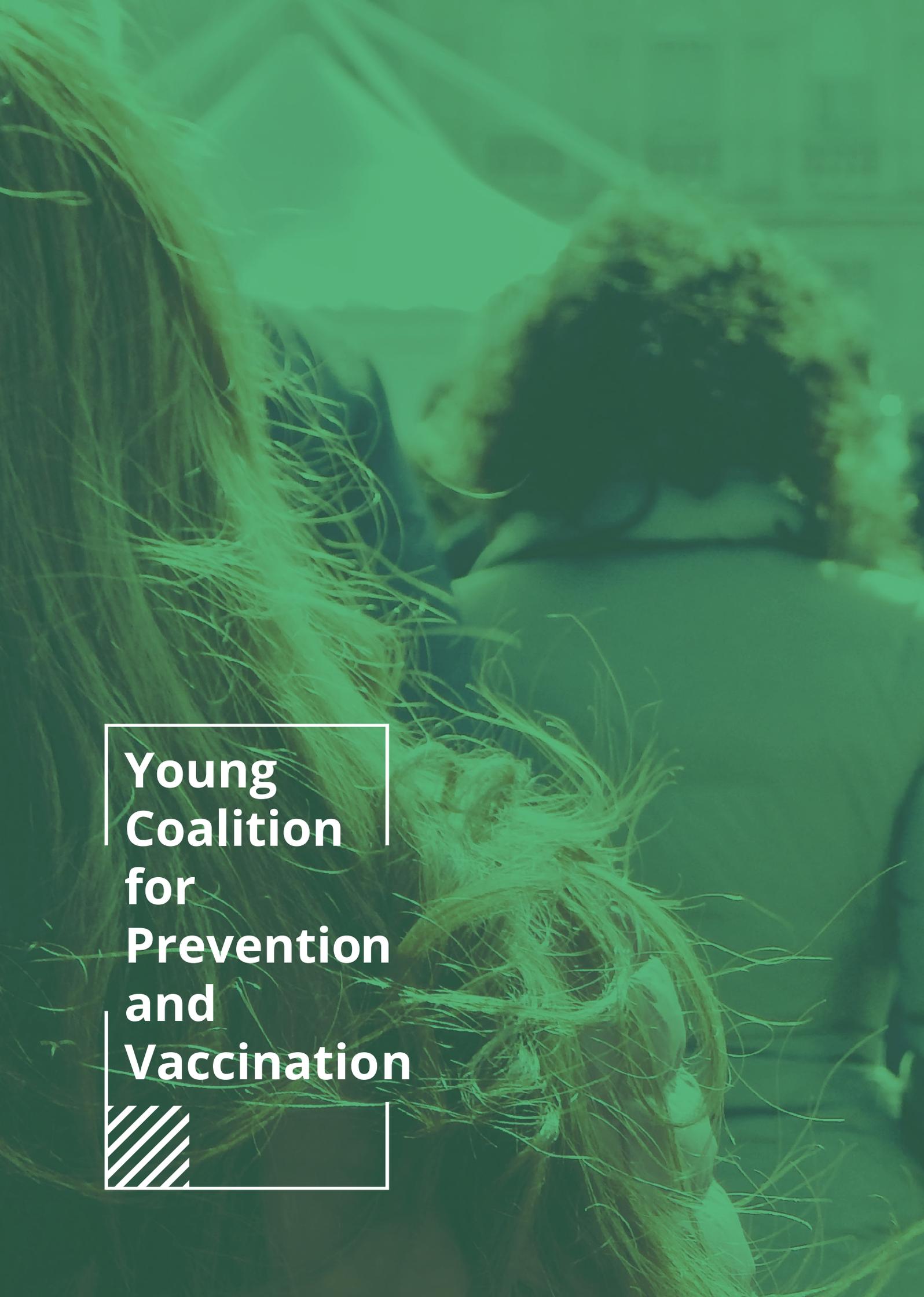
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