

European University for Well-being (EUniWell) Policy Commission

Young People and the Covid-19 Pandemic

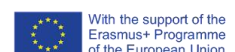
January 2022

Introduction

The European University for Well-being ([EUniWell](#)) is an alliance of seven universities (Birmingham, Cologne, Florence, Leiden, Linnaeus, Nantes, and Semmelweis) and associate partners brought together with the mission to understand and increase well-being in their organisations and regions. As part of a work package focused on the civic engagement activities of the network (led by the University of Birmingham), EUniWell will conduct a series of Policy Commissions that explore how universities and their partners can collaborate to address inequalities in individual and social well-being. A particular focus of this series will be the long-term effects of the COVID-19 crisis in entrenching or widening these inequalities in different national contexts. The EUniWell Policy Commissions will therefore be positioned to help shape future pan-European and cross-sector policy responses as part of the post-pandemic recovery.

To support the EUniWell alliance with this task, a group of commissioners has been assembled with representatives from each of the seven universities and their regional partners (see appendix). In consultation with these commissioners, the theme of **the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on different groups of young people (15–24-year-olds)** has been selected as the topic for the first Policy Commission. This theme recognises that young people

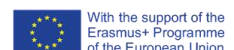
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across Europe have been especially affected by disruption to education systems, employment practices, and social life over the past two years brought by the COVID-19 crisis. The Policy Commission will consider the impacts on their mental well-being through the pandemic, progression in education and/or work, and ability to plan their future careers and lives (see lines of enquiry below). It will be especially interested in evidence of uneven effects on different groups of young people along lines of socio-economic background, gender, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability. The Policy Commission will draw recommendations that are aligned with the strong focus in the European Commission's [Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#) have on seeking to ensure that young people across these different groups have equal opportunities in education/training and the labour market as part of the post-pandemic recovery. The EUniWell Policy Commission will make a distinctive contribution to this agenda by highlighting the educational, pastoral, and civic role of universities across Europe in supporting young people in different stages of education and work.

Lines of enquiry

As part of the EUniWell Policy Commission process we are inviting members of the EUniWell universities and their national or regional partners to submit evidence relating to the above theme of how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected inequalities in individual and social well-being among young people. In particular, we have identified the following intersecting lines of enquiry:



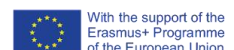
1) The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on different groups of young people in terms of their:

- a) Educational performance and outcomes
- b) Labour market opportunities
- c) Housing and living conditions
- d) Mental well-being
- e) Future life and career planning

2) How universities can work with partners from the public, private, and civil society sectors to address the above lines of inequality as they affect different groups of young people who are:

- a) Their own (domestic and international) students and recent graduates
- b) Pre-university secondary education students
- c) School leavers who do not enter or complete higher education

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How to Contribute

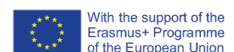
We invite members of universities and other organisations within the EUniWell network to contribute to this call with evidence relating to one or more of the lines of enquiry outlined above. These submissions can take the form of evidence from research studies (published or ongoing) on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people, examples of best practice in policy or institutional practice in response to the inequalities above, or other forms of expert knowledge and experience that are relevant to the theme of the Policy Commission.

Responses can be made through [this online portal](#). This will ask for some basic information about the person submitting the evidence and their organisational affiliation, the lines of enquiry to which the evidence relates (selected from a number of given options), and a short-written summary (in English) of the evidence supplied (up to 750 words). The responder will then have the option of connecting their submission with the research or other documentation underlying the evidence by providing a weblink to a published source. If this is not possible, accompanying documents can be emailed separately to euniwell@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Any information submitted will only be accessed by members of the team leading the Policy Commission at the University of Birmingham. The evidence will be reviewed, collated, and analysed by members of this team. A summary of key findings by theme will be presented to the Policy Commissioners for feedback before a final report with policy recommendations is published in the summer/autumn of 2022. The portal will include options for responders to

indicate if they would prefer their submission not to be directly quoted from and/or for them to remain anonymous in the outputs from the Policy Commission.

The call for evidence will remain open until **the 8th of April 2022**. Any questions relating to the Policy Commission can be directed to Dr Paul Vallance, Research Fellow, University of Birmingham at p.vallance@bham.ac.uk.



Confidentiality and Data Protection

Information provided in response to this call for evidence, including personal information, may be subject to publication or release to other parties or to disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or any successor legislation). There is also a statutory Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the FOIA with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us what information you regard as confidential and why you regard it as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding.

We will process any personal information provided in response to this call for evidence in accordance with the requirements of the DPA (or any successor legislation).

Appendix – List of EUniWell Policy Commissioners

Chair

Stefano Manservigi, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Global Development and former Director General for International Cooperation and Development at the European Commission.

Executive

Professor Robin Miller, Director of Global Engagement for the College of Social Sciences, University of Birmingham

Dr Erica Arthur, EUniWell Project Manager, University of Birmingham

Hannah Stretton, EUniWell Project Coordinator, University of Birmingham

Dr Paul Vallance, EUniWell Research Fellow, University of Birmingham

Commissioners

Professor Matthew Broome, Director Institute of Mental Health, University of Birmingham

Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health, Birmingham City Council

Professor Daniele Vignoli, Professor of Demography, University of Florence

Dr Fabio Bacchini, Senior Researcher, Head of Econometric Studies and Economic Forecasting Division, iSAT

Professor Joachim Koops, Chair of Security Studies and Scientific Director of Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA), University of Leiden.

Professor Dr. Kim Putters, Director of the SCP (Social Cultural Planning) Agency and Professor School of Health Policy & Management, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Maria Arnholm, Governor of Kronoberg County, Kronoberg County

Professor Gunlög Fur, DVC responsible for Sustainability, Linnaeus University

Séverine Misset, Lecturer in Sociology, University of Nantes

Clémence Montagne, Care Design Lab, Ecole de Design Nantes Atlantique

Dr Veronika Müller, Deputy Director of the Department of Pulmonology, Semmelweis University

Professor Zoltán Vokó, Director of Centre for Health Technology Assessment, Semmelweis University.

