

Newsletter

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Introducing YOUNEX

Younex is a three-year research project on youth unemployment and exclusion funded by the European Union through the seventh framework program. The ambition of the research, which started in May 2008, is to provide a knowledge basis to better understand and respond to the exclusion of young adult from the labor market across Europe. We focus on long-term unemployment and precarious youth. We analyze social and political inclusion as well as individual well-being on a local basis in Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France, Sweden, and Poland. The project aims at improving knowledge on youth social and political exclusion, and proposing best practice for politicians and practitioners. More information about the project is available at www.younex.unige.ch.

The Project

The project addresses six different aspects that allow for an inclusive understanding of youth exclusion. In the first part of the project we analyze the political and institutional settings in each city in order to grasp the local political opportunity structure. In the second part we look at the networks of associations present in the localities studied so as to understand the organizational opportunities to be socially and politically active. In the third part we turn to the analysis of unemployed and precarious youth. Here we conduct an individual survey, in-depth interviews, and focus groups. These data will provide the basis for an understanding of social and political exclusion as well as individual well-being. Finally, we address the European-level institutional analysis. This part will offer an understanding of the role of the EU and its impact on local and national policies.

*YOUNEX at a glance:
Three-year European
Project to have better
insights of integration
and exclusion of young
adults.*

*For more information
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Newsletter:
www.younex.unige.ch*

Current activities

We are currently preparing the research instruments for the institutional analysis, the organizational survey, and the individual survey. Firstly, we analyze the local policies and institutions in order to be aware of the formal political context. Secondly, we try to get a broad picture of the organizational context, including all associations working with young unemployed and precarious youth. This will allow us to assess the role of local associations for their social and political involvement. Thirdly, we elaborate a questionnaire to be administered to representative samples of young unemployed and precarious youth.

Future activities

During the next months we will have the data on institutional and organizational levels collected and start writing national and comparative papers. The first results are expected around the end of the summer 2009. We will implement the individual survey and the in-depth interviews with long-term unemployed and precarious youth.

Greetings

The Younex team is happy to have you as a reader of the newsletter and hopes to keep you interested in our activities throughout the project. The next newsletter will be distributed in April 2009.