

# Newsletter

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## Summary of Work Progress

During the past six months we have analyzed the institutional indicators (WP1) and the organizational data (WP2). In addition, some countries started the individual survey (WP3): France and Italy finished the interviews; Sweden and Germany are currently conducting them; Switzerland and Poland will be starting soon. We are also preparing the guidelines for the in-depth interviews with young long-term unemployed (WP4).

The results from the institutional and organizational analysis will be discussed during the first national workshop taking place in Paris on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. These results will also be available on the project website.

## Research Outputs

At this stage of the project we have completed the data collection and analysis related to the institutional indicators and to the networks of civil society organizations working in the field of unemployment and precariousness in the cities we study. Integrated reports comparing across countries and including national reports presenting the analysis for each country for these two axes of our research are available on the project website.

On the website we also provide the research instruments that we used so far: list of institutional indicators analyzed, both general and specific to the unemployment field; questionnaire for the organizational survey; questionnaire for the individual survey.

In the following sections we summarize some of the main findings from the institutional analysis and the organizational survey.

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

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## Institutional Analysis (WP1)

The institutional analysis shows that political opportunities for precarious and unemployed youth do not fit with a post-national model of politics. In other words, we have not found an increasing convergence amongst the various macro-level contexts which we have examined.

In fact, each dimension of the political context shows wide cross-national variations that could hardly be ignored. Thus, the analysis of unemployment regulations shows relevant differences between highly inclusive contexts such as France and Sweden and highly exclusive contexts such as Poland and Italy (with Switzerland and Germany providing an intermediate situation); the analysis of labor market regulations shows relevant differences between flexible contexts such as Switzerland and Sweden and rigid contexts such as Italy (with Poland, Germany and France providing an intermediate situation); the analysis of the general political opportunity structure shows relevant variations between high openness for Switzerland and high closure for France, Sweden and Poland (with Italy and Germany providing an intermediate situation); the analysis of unemployment-specific opportunities shows variations between high openness for Switzerland and Germany and high closure for Italy (with France, Sweden and Poland providing an intermediate situation); lastly, the analysis of opportunities in related issue-fields shows an important distinction between Sweden, France and Germany on the one hand (open) and Switzerland, Italy and Poland on the other hand (closed).

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## Organizational Analysis (WP2)

The organizational analysis shows that civil society organizations support the integration of young unemployed and precarious workers in two ways: by fostering individuals' engagement and political or public awareness on specific issues like unemployment; and/or by delivering services related to welfare provisions.

Civil society organizations provide concrete opportunities for youngsters' engagement. Through these possibilities of mobilization they increase awareness and capacity of individual change. Civil society organizations also provide

services that are poorly developed or scarcely funded. They complement the welfare state through services that public institutions cannot or do not provide. In some case, they nearly become part of the public welfare state.

Furthermore, civil society organizations work for better social cohesion and their work is influenced by their political and institutional embedding, by the local political and cultural tradition, by the type of relations they establish with their institutional counterparts or among themselves. Civil society organizations interact with local governmental levels to stimulate policy solutions via project proposals and even where access to policy making for civil society actors is restrained, their capacity to be active in liaison with local powers make them essential partners for policy change in the field of unemployment and precariousness.

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*Next phase of the  
research:*

*In-depth interviews with  
long-term unemployed*

*Analysis of the impact  
of European policies on  
local policies*

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## 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 2010.