

OBJECTIVES

The first objective is **to generate a new body of data** on the personal life of young unemployed and precarious youth by focusing on: their perception of their situation; their life projects; their identity development; the intensity and quality of their social relations; their political participation; and their attitudes toward political institutions and society at large.

The second objective is **to advance theory and extend knowledge** on social and political exclusion of young unemployed and precarious youth. We aim to understand better whether unemployment and precariousness necessarily leads to the marginalization or exclusion of young people from social and political life. We assume that exclusion is the outcome of the interplay between situational characteristics of youth, the particular structure of local civil societies, and public institutions and policies.

The third objective is **to provide practical insights** into the potential paths for social and political integration of young unemployed and precarious youth. These findings could be used both by public authorities and non-state welfare organizations to improve youth inclusion in social and political life.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The overall design of the research has **three main components**:

A **multidimensional theoretical framework** that integrates different explanatory factors (public policies and institutions, organized civil society, and the situation of individual unemployment) while taking into account various dimensions of exclusion (political exclusion, social exclusion, and individual well-being).

A **cross-national comparative design** that includes six European cities in countries with different institutional approaches to unemployment:

- Geneva · Switzerland
- Cologne · Germany
- Turin · Italy
- Lyon · France
- Karlstad · Sweden
- Kielce · Poland

An **integrated methodological approach** based on multiple sources and methods, both quantitative and qualitative.

WORK PLAN

1. **Institutional analysis.** Gathering information on state policies and practices towards unemployment and precariousness.
2. **Organizational survey.** Gathering information on activities and networks of organizations dealing with unemployment and precariousness.
3. **Individual survey.** Gathering information on young unemployed and precarious youth about their situation, their attitudes, and their behavior.
4. **In-depth qualitative analysis.** Providing a more detailed account of the social and political exclusion of young unemployed and precarious youth based on a qualitative analysis of their individual trajectories.
5. **EU-level analysis.** Studying the goals, strategies and problems of EU policies and practices on youth unemployment and precariousness.
6. **Policy and practical implications.** Spelling out the policy and practical implications of our research, including running three focus groups.

SUMMARY

Younex aims at providing new knowledge on the causes, processes, and perspectives for change related to **social and political exclusion of unemployed youth**. It will provide an **integrated approach** to the study of unemployment effects on youth exclusion from social and political spheres.

The project has three main objectives:

- to generate a **new body of data** on young long-term unemployed and precarious youth;
- to **advance theory and extend knowledge** on unemployed and precarious youth social and political exclusion;
- to provide **practical insights** into the potential paths for social and political integration of young unemployed and precarious youth.

Three important features of the proposed research underscore its innovative impact: its **comparative approach** allowing bench-marking and best-practice analysis; its **multidimensional approach** allowing to consider the mediating impact of local, national, and European public policies and civil societies on the way people cope with their joblessness and precariousness; its **interactive research process** spurring policy-learning by bringing together different expertise and knowledge, and at the same time allowing transfer of scientific findings into policy recommendations.

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