

Newsletter

In this number:

- 1 Summary of work progress
- 2 Institutional indicators
- 3 Organizational survey
- 4 Individual survey
- 5 Introducing a new partner
- 6 Future activities
- 7 Greetings

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

Summary of Work Progress

During the past six months we have been working on three main tasks: the analysis of the institutional context for the social and political exclusion of unemployed and precarious youth (WP1); the survey of the activities and networks of organizations active in the field (WP3); and the survey of representative samples of young long-term unemployed and youth with precarious jobs (WP3).

Institutional Analysis (WP1)

This workpackage aims to gather information on state policies and practices towards unemployment. We developed a grid for gathering cross-nationally comparable institutional indicators on four main dimensions: (1) the context of the unemployment issue field; (2) the context of the labor market; (3) the general political opportunity structure; and (4) the context of overlapping issue fields (e.g. human capital formation, child care, discrimination). Although the general basis of our analysis is the local level, we also gather systematic information at the national level when this is a relevant level of policy-making.

There are two main steps in our analysis: (1) collecting information to describe each city across the selected indicators and (2) standardizing information along the continuum -1 to +1 for comparative purposes. The first step is definitely more qualitative in its nature, providing the kind of strong basis on which the second quantitative step is grounded.

We are currently in the process of finishing the first step, which results in a national report in each country. The second step will be completed before the summer and will result in the integrated report comparing the six cities.

Organizational Survey (WP2)

This workpackage aims to gather information on the activities and networks of organizations involved in the unemployment issue field. In a first step, we mapped the most relevant organizations in each city. We targeted four main kinds of organizations: (1) political parties, (2) trade unions, (3) civil society organizations dealing with unemployment and precariousness, and (4) service centers for unemployed. Around 30 organizations were retrieved in each city.

The second step consists in carrying semi-structured interviews with all the organizations retrieved. To do this, we have built an organizational questionnaire that comprises five main parts: (1) basic information about the organization; (2) its main activities and strategies; (3) its board and membership composition; (4) its resources; and (5) its networks (both vertically with political institutions and horizontally with other organizations).

We are currently starting doing the interviews, most of which are planned to be completed before the summer. We will thereafter write a national report in each country, which will form the basis for the integrated report comparing the situation of the organizational context in each city.

Individual Survey (WP3)

This workpackage aims to gather information on the social and political exclusion of unemployed and precarious youth at the individual level. This is done, firstly, by generating representative samples of young long-term unemployed and youth with precarious jobs in each city and, secondly, by doing a survey of the two targeted groups and a control group of young with a regular job.

We built an individual questionnaire structured around five main dimensions: (1) employment situation (e.g. duration of unemployment or type of contract), (2) a political dimension (e.g. political attitudes and behaviors), (3) a social dimension (e.g. social embeddedness and relations), (4) a well-being dimension (e.g. physical and mental health), and (5) background questions (e.g. socio-demographic profile). The information thus gathered will allow us to ascertain the

*For more information
and to subscribe to the
Newsletter:
www.younex.unige.ch*

degree of social and political exclusion of the targeted groups and link it to certain individual characteristics such as socio-economic status, level of education, and the duration of the situation of exclusion.

We have now completed the questionnaire, which is being translated in the national languages. The survey will be carried in May and June in some of the cities, while in others it will be done next fall due to a longer time needed to obtain the lists for generating the samples.

New partner:

Centre for Public
Administration

Technical University of
Lisbon

Introducing a New Partner

A new partner has joined our research team. Maria Vitória Mourão of CAPP – Centre for Public Administration and Policies at ISCSP, Technical University of Lisbon, will be responsible for carrying the study in Portugal, focusing on the city of Lisbon. We welcome this new collaboration, which is an important added value to the project.

Future Activities

During the next six months we will complete the institutional analysis and write the integrated report, complete the organizational survey and write both the national and the integrated report, and carry the individual survey in all six cities. In addition, we will conduct the first focus group (WP6) and organize a national workshop in each country.

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 October 2009.

