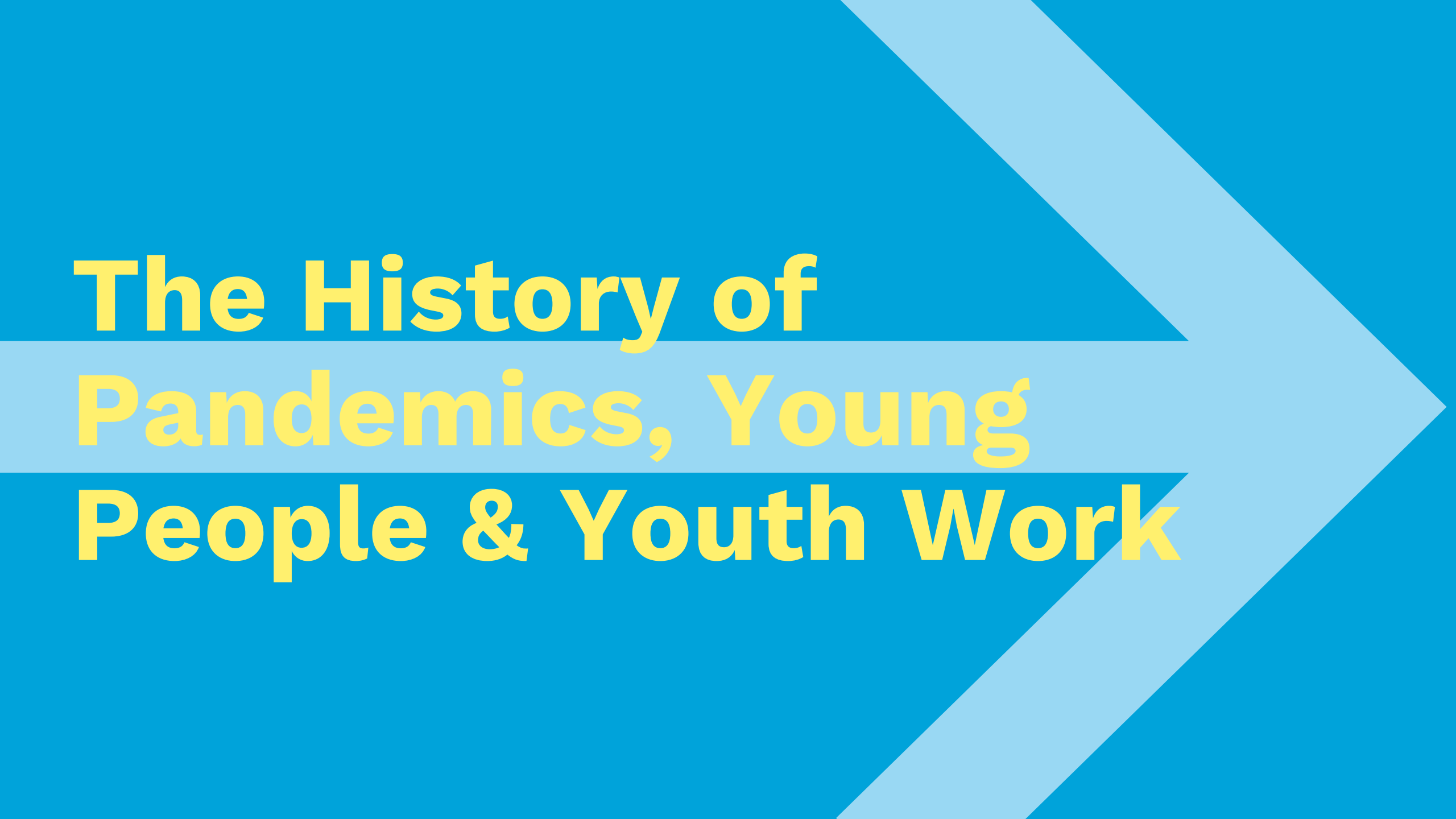


24.09.2020



RAY-COR: Key findings from the literature review

→ RAY Network Meeting | September 2020



The History of Pandemics, Young People & Youth Work

Previous studies are not common

- **Previous studies on the effects of pandemics specifically on young people and youth work are not common.**
- **Two dominate concentrations of literature**
 - HIV/AIDs pandemic in South African countries
 - Influenza-related pandemics in the 20th and 21st century



**Recent
Pandemics &
Young People**

Focus on mental health

- **HIV/AIDs Pandemic**
 - Focus on mental health and educational programs.
- **Influenza Related Pandemics**
 - Focus on policy suggestions to target short- and long-term effects

The Pandemic & Young People

Mental health at the forefront

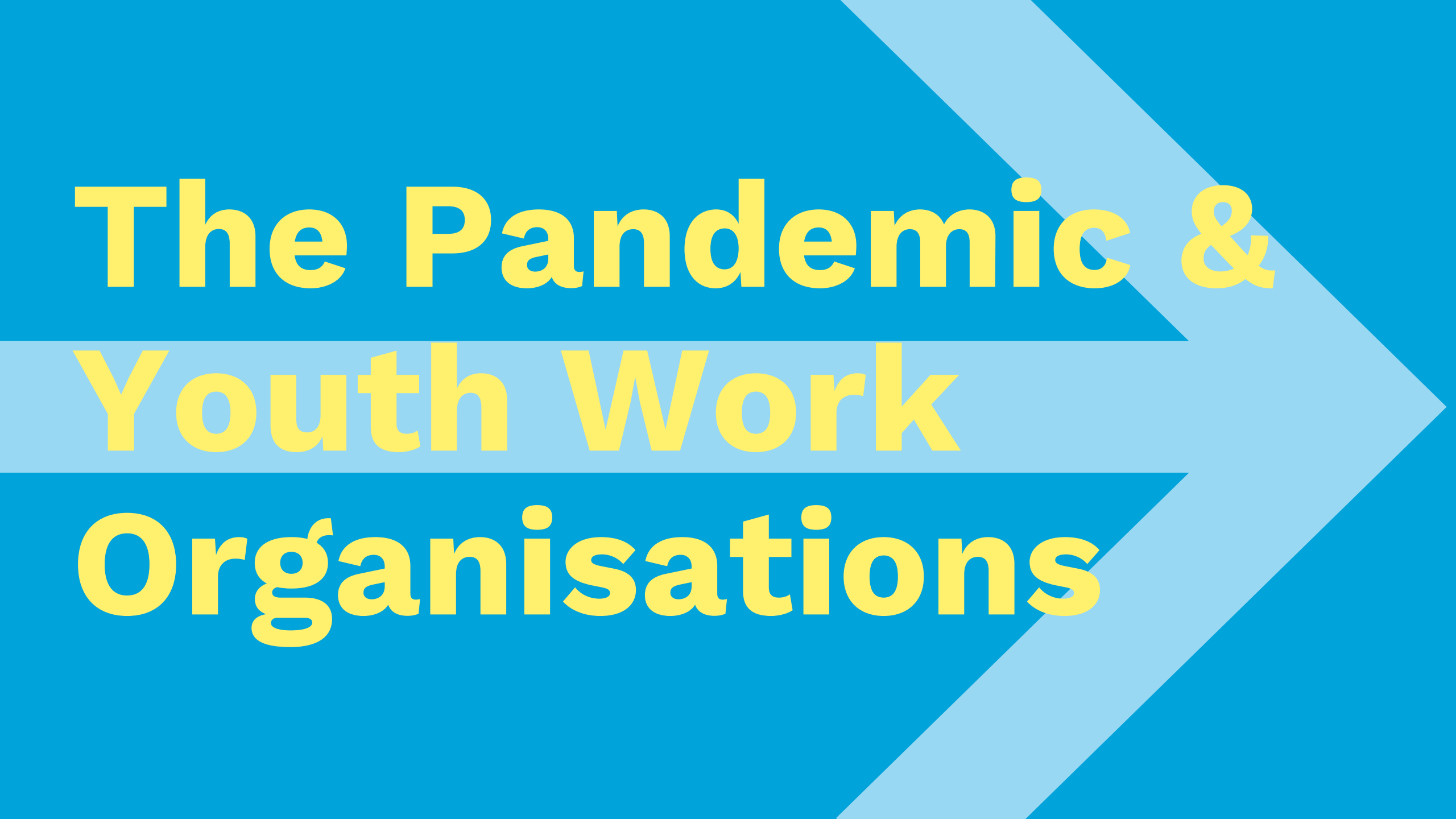
- **Mental Health & Wellbeing is at the forefront of the research.**
- **There is a growing mental health crisis that needs to be addressed.**



The Pandemic & Youth Policy

Education and employment in focus

- **Education shifts to digital formats have left some youth behind.**
- **Precarious employment opportunities for youth have only been exasperated in the wake of COVID-19.**
- **Response and recovery need an intergenerational focus.**



The Pandemic & Youth Work Organisations

Cuts to staff, funding & services

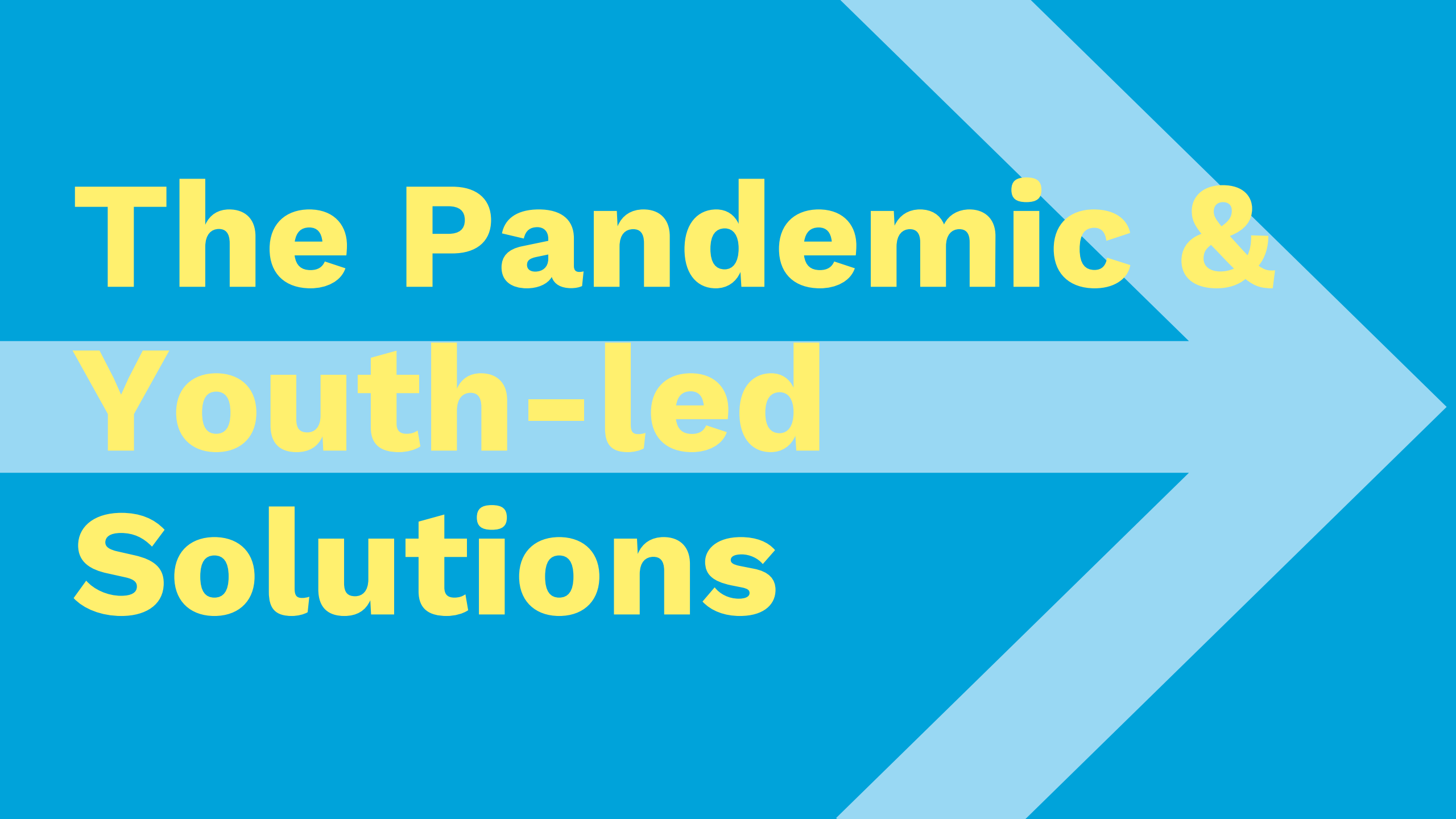
- **Technology and innovation are essential in future youth work.**
- **A vast majority of organisational respondents forecasted cuts to staff, funding and services in the post-COVID-19 world.**



The Pandemic & Erasmus/European Programmes

Blended mobility on the rise

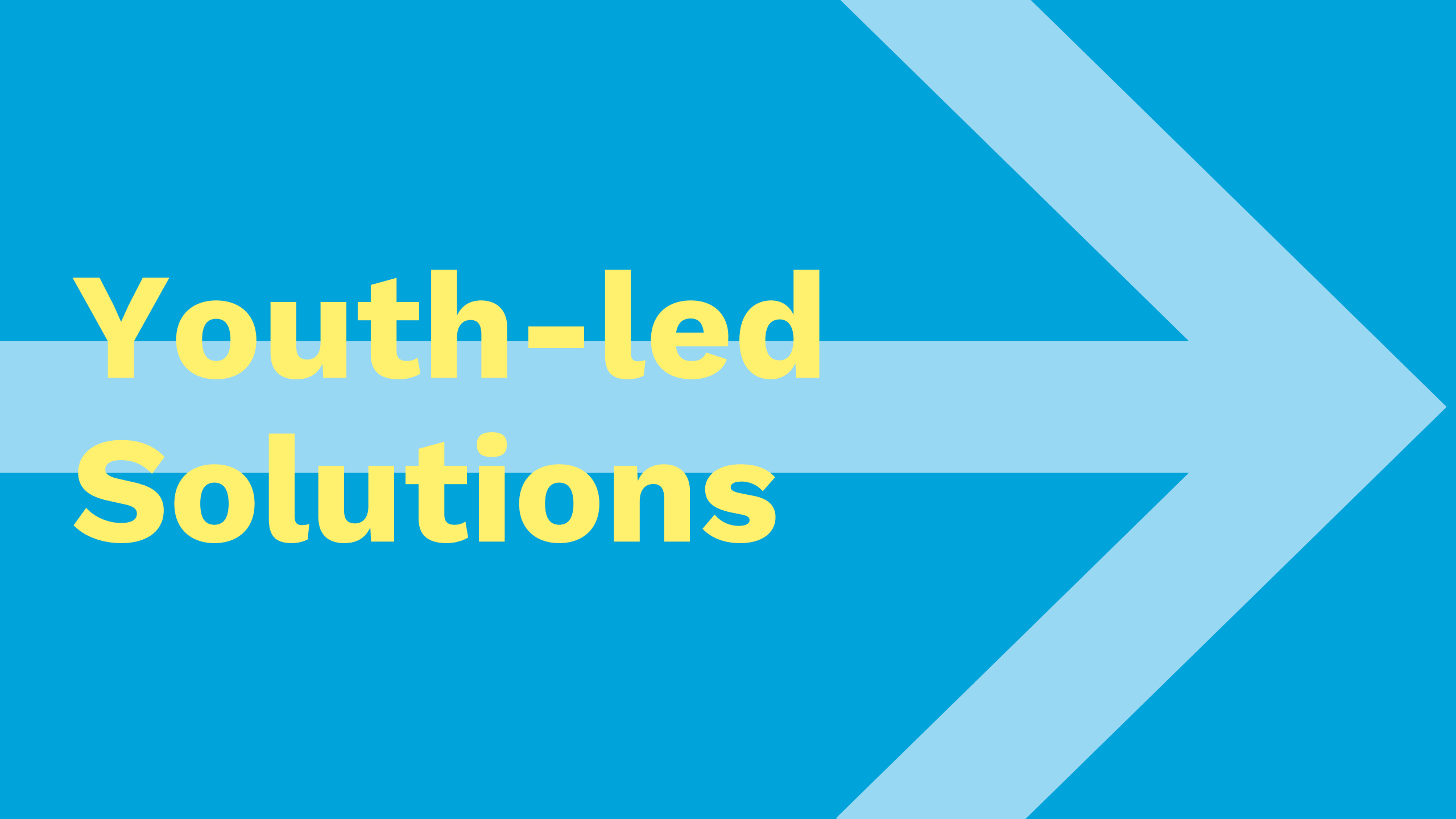
- **Open communication was vital to addressing mobility and student exchange challenges.**
- **Blending mobility formats were a popular adaptation suggestion.**



The Pandemic & Youth-led Solutions

Active citizenship during a pandemic

- **Youth are not just in a passive role during the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Youth are organizing to tackle issues of misinformation, sanitation and hygiene needs, and community support for those most vulnerable in the pandemic.**



Youth-led Solutions

Examples of youth-led solutions

Restless Development, Center for Countering Digital Hate and youth researchers have performed a study to identify the true extent of the Coronavirus 'infodemic' on social media.

In Tanzania, Girls Let's Be Leaders programm has used soap making as a business opportunity to empower young women while ensuring adequate local supplies of personal hygiene products needed to fight the virus.

The Outbreak of Generosity campaign in Europe provides tools for young people to provide support to vulnerable people and each other in a completely safe manner.



Conclusions

Conclusions on research and practice

In research:

Data should be disaggregated by age to capture the experience of young people.

Research on the pandemic's effects in marginalized and vulnerable groups as well as beyond the Global North are needed.

In practice:

Young people should be empowered to provide response solutions in their local community.

Youth policy needs to include young people in post-COVID-19 recovery discussions.

Youth Work Organizations should adapt pandemic response policies that facilitate open communication, digital innovation, and greater flexibility.

**Thank you
very much!**