

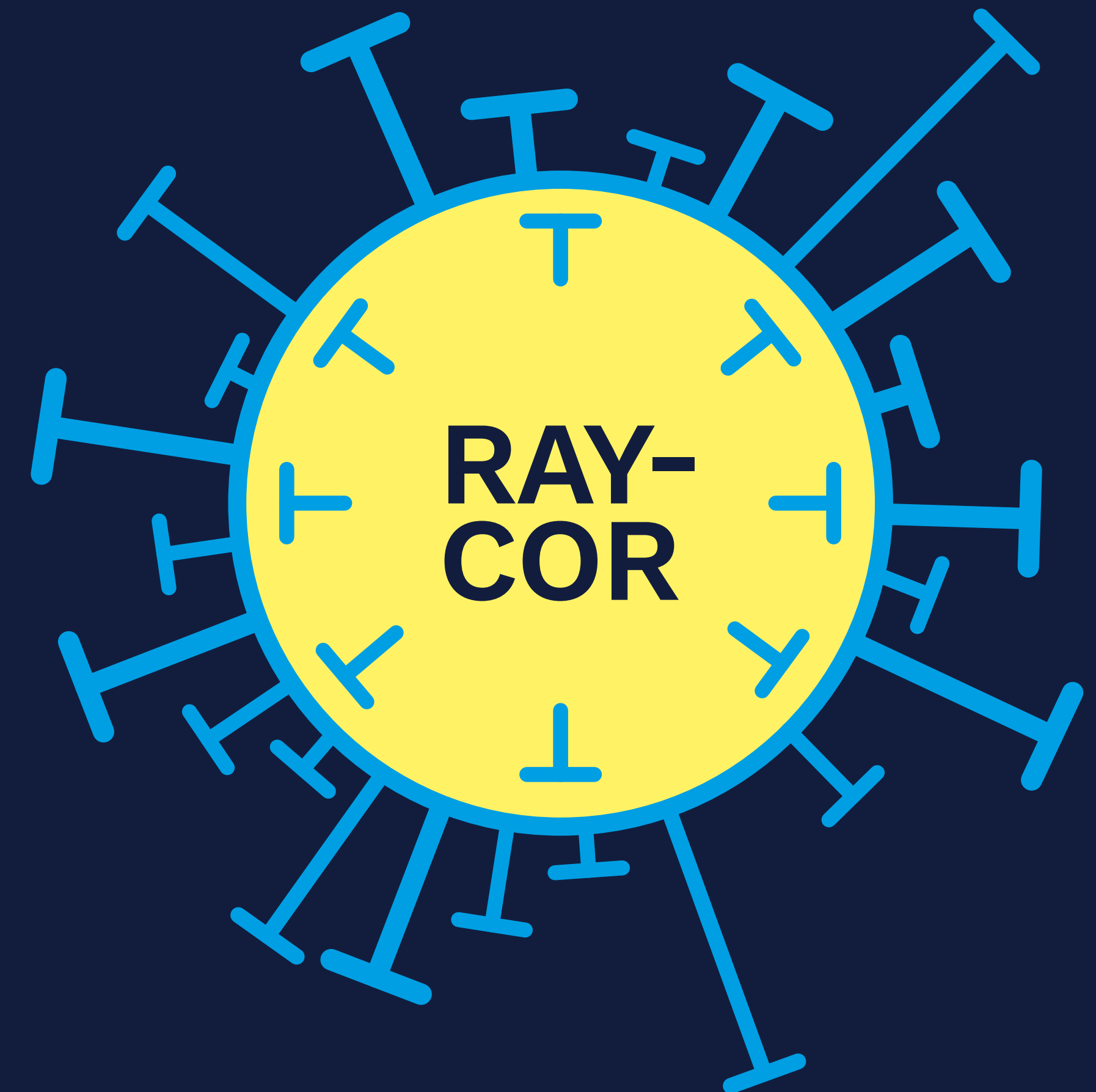
**YOUTH  
WORK  
RECOVERY  
CONFERENCE**

14.06.2022

# The impact of the corona pandemic on youth work – and why we need to do something about it



**Youth Work Recovery Conference**  
14. June 2022 | Helsinki | in person!



- A – STRUCTURAL IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC**
- B – PERSONAL IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC**
- C – SYSTEMIC ISSUES EXPOSED BY THE PANDEMIC**
- D – RECOVERY SUPPORT FOR YOUTH WORK**
- E – CRISIS RESILIENCE OF YOUTH WORK**

**“The aim of this research project is to document and analyse the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on youth work in Europe, including the European youth programmes, and the response of youth work across Europe to the pandemic and its effects.”**

## 20+ countries, 8+ modules

- 1 Literature snapshots (3)
- 2 Monolingual survey (Spring/Summer 2020)
- 3 Expert interviews & focus groups
- 4 Multilingual survey (Autumn/Winter 2020/2021)
- 5 Response of case studies
- 6 Analysis Recovery Facility
- 7 Recovery survey (Spring/Summer 2022)
- 8 Youth Work Recovery Conference

Young  
people

Youth  
workers



# YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

## Knowledge HUB: COVID-19 impact on the youth sector

**YOUTH  
WORK  
RECOVERY  
CONFERENCE**



*Shutterstock, Alessandro Biascioli*

*A reference section to research and knowledge development on the issue*

  
LATEST UPDATE AND  
ANALYSIS

  
TOPICS

  
GOOD PRACTICES  
DATABASE

  
SUBMIT EVIDENCE

  
WEBS OF INTEREST



# YOUTH FORUM & OECD

YOUTH  
WORK  
RECOVERY  
CONFERENCE



## “The Future We Want”: a message from young people

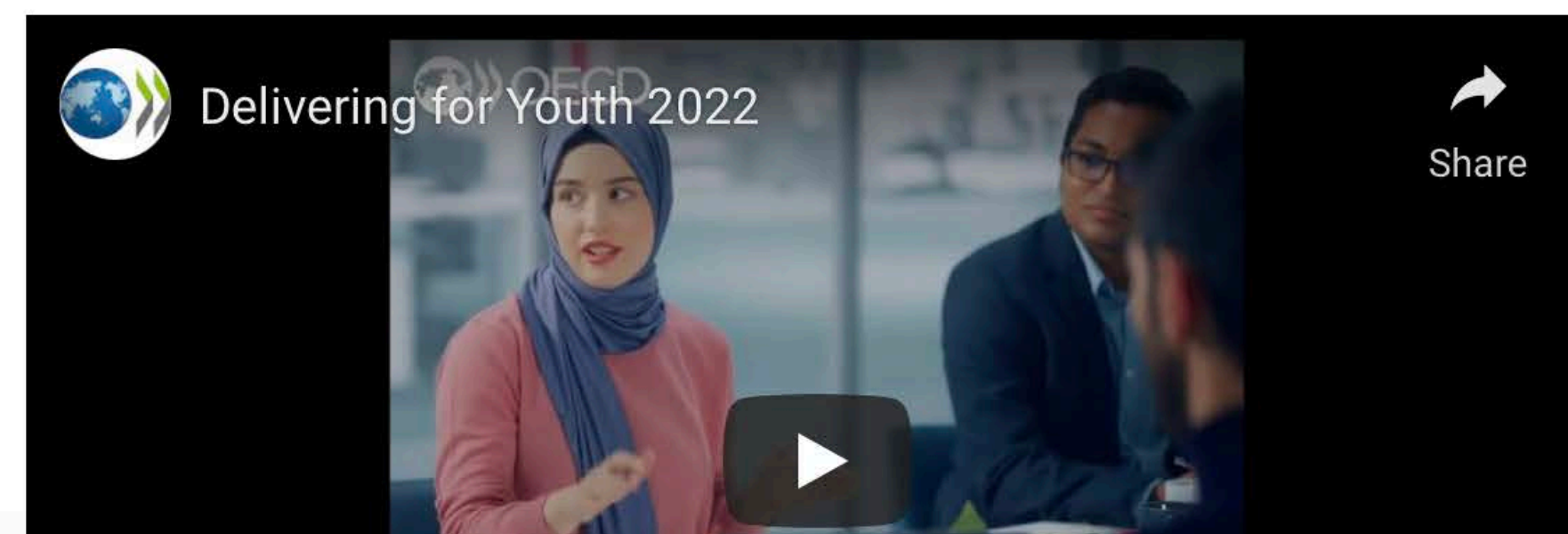
At the initiative of the Italian Presidency of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in June 2022, the OECD has stepped up efforts to put young people and the challenges they face at the heart of policy-making – including placing youth participation as a top priority to build a strong and inclusive recovery.

- > **The Future Youth Want: Elements of a Youth Manifesto** – Youthwise (the OECD’s youth advisory board), with help from youth organisations and OECD experts, presented their vision to OECD Ministers for the first time on 10 June 2022
- > **Creating Better Opportunities for Young People** – Recommendation of the OECD Council, adopted on 10 June 2022

### LATEST POLICY PAPER

## Delivering for Youth 2022

*Delivering for youth: How governments can put young people at the centre of the recovery* compiles the views of youth organisations from 72 countries on their experiences through the COVID-19 crisis and related government action.





# EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK AGENDA



3rd European Youth  
Work Convention

European Youth  
Work Agenda



**YOUTH  
WORK  
RECOVERY  
CONFERENCE**

**Growing  
youth work**

[Start / 3rd European Youth Work Convention / Convention resources](#)

## Convention resources

**Context**

**Objectives**

**Community of practice**

**Final Declaration - Signposts for the future**

[The final Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention \(365.99 kB, pdf\)](#), Bonn, 10 December 2020

[Press release \(205.72 kB, pdf\)](#), Bonn, 14 December 2020

# PADLET FOR QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

<https://padlet.com/beyondrecovery/questions>

**YOUTH  
WORK  
RECOVERY  
CONFERENCE**





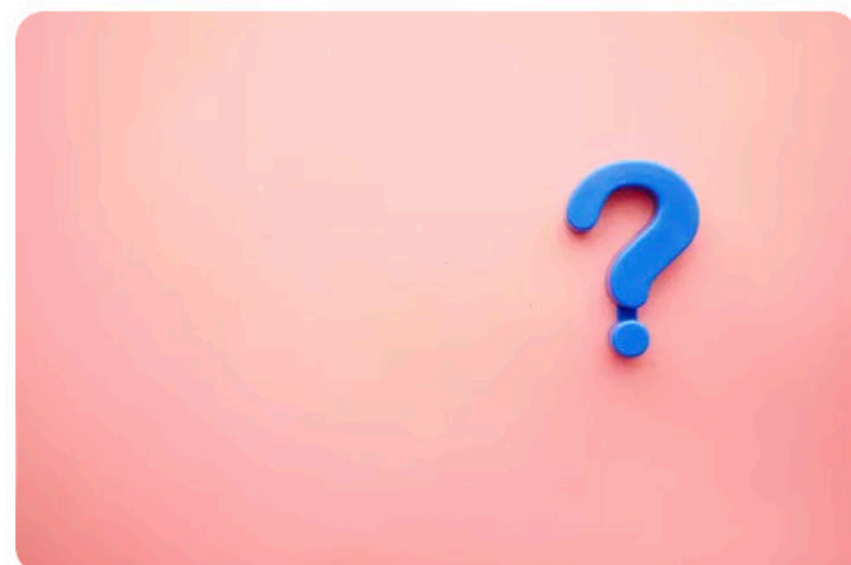
Andreas • 1m

## Q&A for the research team

Your questions and our answers

### Your questions

Add your questions on our research findings here



You can add your questions to the research team here

0

0

Add comment



### Answers in progress

While we work on an answer, we park them here



This is mostly so our team knows that someone is already answering the question and we do not produce duplicate answers

0

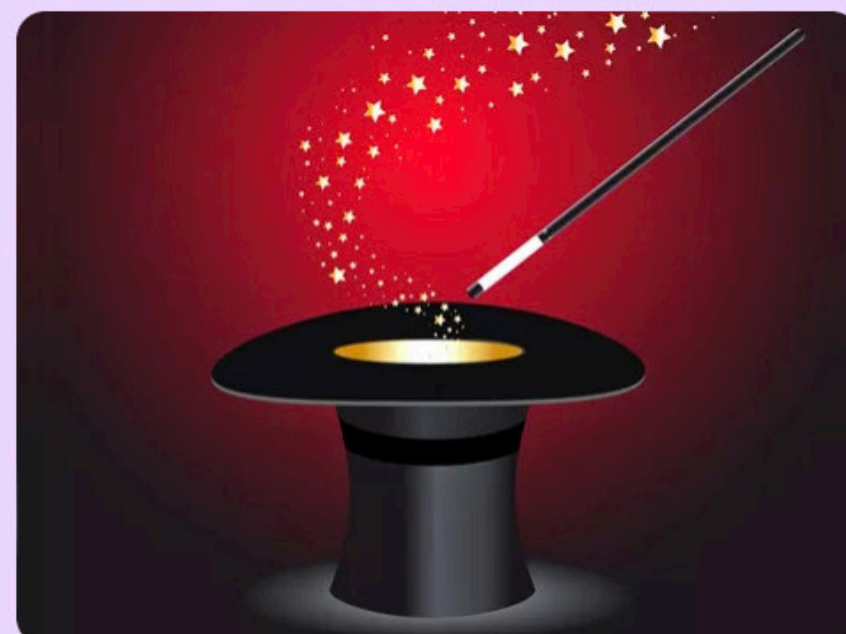
0

Add comment



### Answered questions

All answered questions will appear here



Once we have answered your question (as best as we can), they will appear here!

0

0

Add comment



### Pending questions

Unanswerable questions will be dropped here



If we cannot answer any of your questions right away (because we are missing the data, for example, or because time is running out), we will drop them in here so we don't forget them.

0

0

Add comment





Andreas • 1m

## Q&A for the research team

Your questions and our answers

### Your questions

Add your questions on our research findings here



You can add your questions to the research team here

♡ 0

💬 0

Add comment

### Numbers for Estonia?

Do you have numbers for Estonia specifically?

♡ 0

💬 0

Add comment

### Answers in progress

While we work on an answer, we park them here



This is mostly so our team knows that someone is already answering the question and we do not produce duplicate answers

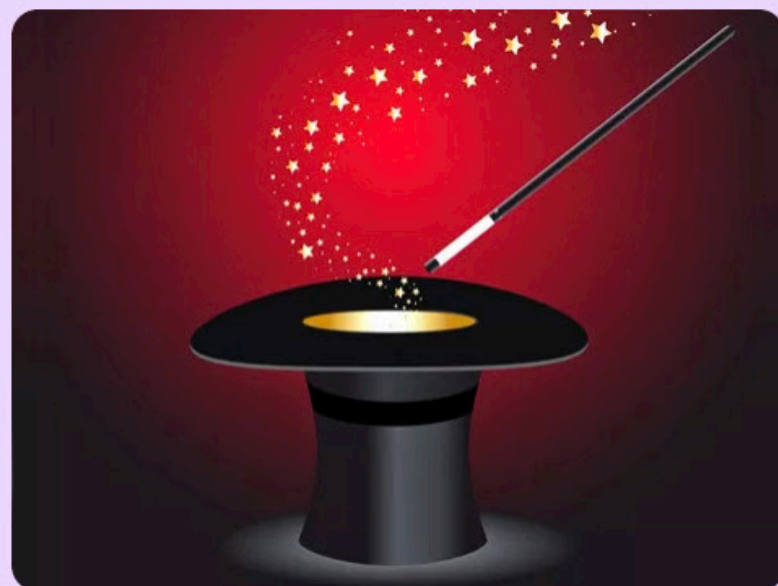
♡ 0

💬 0

Add comment

### Answered questions

All answered questions will appear here



Once we have answered your question (as best as we can), they will appear here!

♡ 0

💬 0

Add comment

### Pending questions

Unanswerable questions will be dropped here



If we cannot answer any of your questions right away (because we are missing the data, for example, or because time is running out), we will drop them in here so we don't forget them.

♡ 0

💬 0

Add comment



Andreas • 1m

## Q&A for the research team

Your questions and our answers

### Your questions

Add your questions on our research findings here



You can add your questions to the research team here

0

0

Add comment

### Answers in progress



This is mostly so our team knows that someone is already answering the question and we do not produce duplicate answers

0

0

Add comment

### Numbers for Estonia?

Do you have numbers for Estonia specifically?

0

1

Andreas 1m

Andreas is answering this at the moment.

Add comment

### Answered questions

All answered questions will appear here



Once we have answered your question (as best as we can), they will appear here!

0

0

Add comment

### Pending questions

Unanswerable questions will be dropped here



If we cannot answer any of your questions right away (because we are missing the data, for example, or because time is running out), we will drop them in here so we don't forget them.

0

0

Add comment



Andreas 1m

## Q&A for the research team

Your questions and our answers

### Your questions

Add your questions on our research findings here



You can add your questions to the research team here

0

0

Add comment



### Answers in progress

While we work on an answer, we park them here



This is mostly so our team knows that someone is already answering the question and we do not produce duplicate answers

0

0

Add comment



### Answered questions



Once we have answered your question (as best as we can), they will appear here!

0

0

Add comment

#### Numbers for Estonia?

Do you have numbers for Estonia specifically?

0

1

Andreas 1m

We do, and they are MAGNIFICENT

Add comment



### Pending questions

Unanswerable questions will be dropped here



If we cannot answer any of your questions right away (because we are missing the data, for example, or because time is running out), we will drop them in here so we don't forget them.

0

0

Add comment





# A: *STRUCTURAL* IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

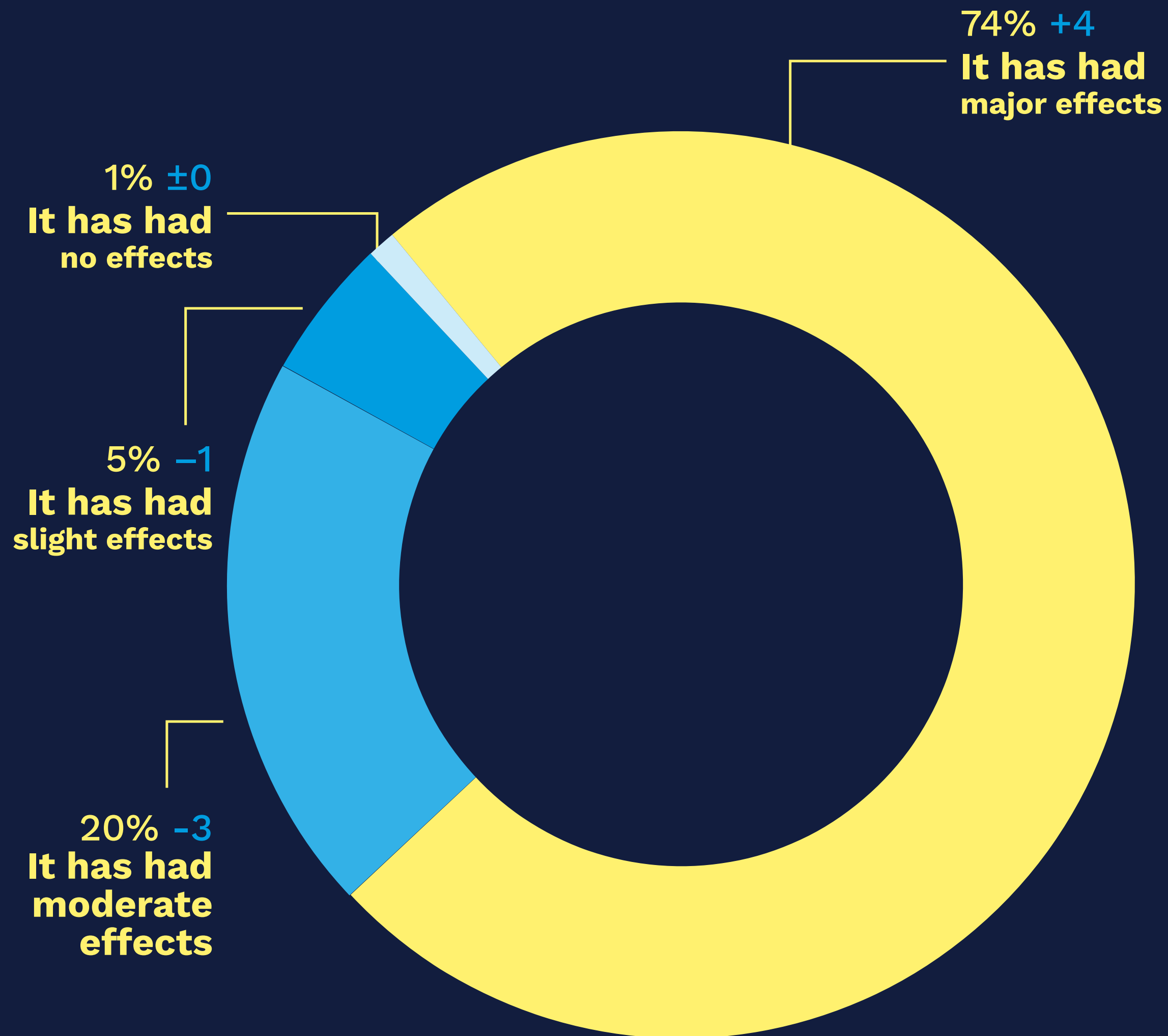






**THE PANDEMIC  
HAS TOUCHED  
YOUTH WORK  
PROFOUNDLY**

Q: Has the corona pandemic affected your youth work?



**“Everything has changed. All our structures, our framework, our support environment, our work – everything.”**

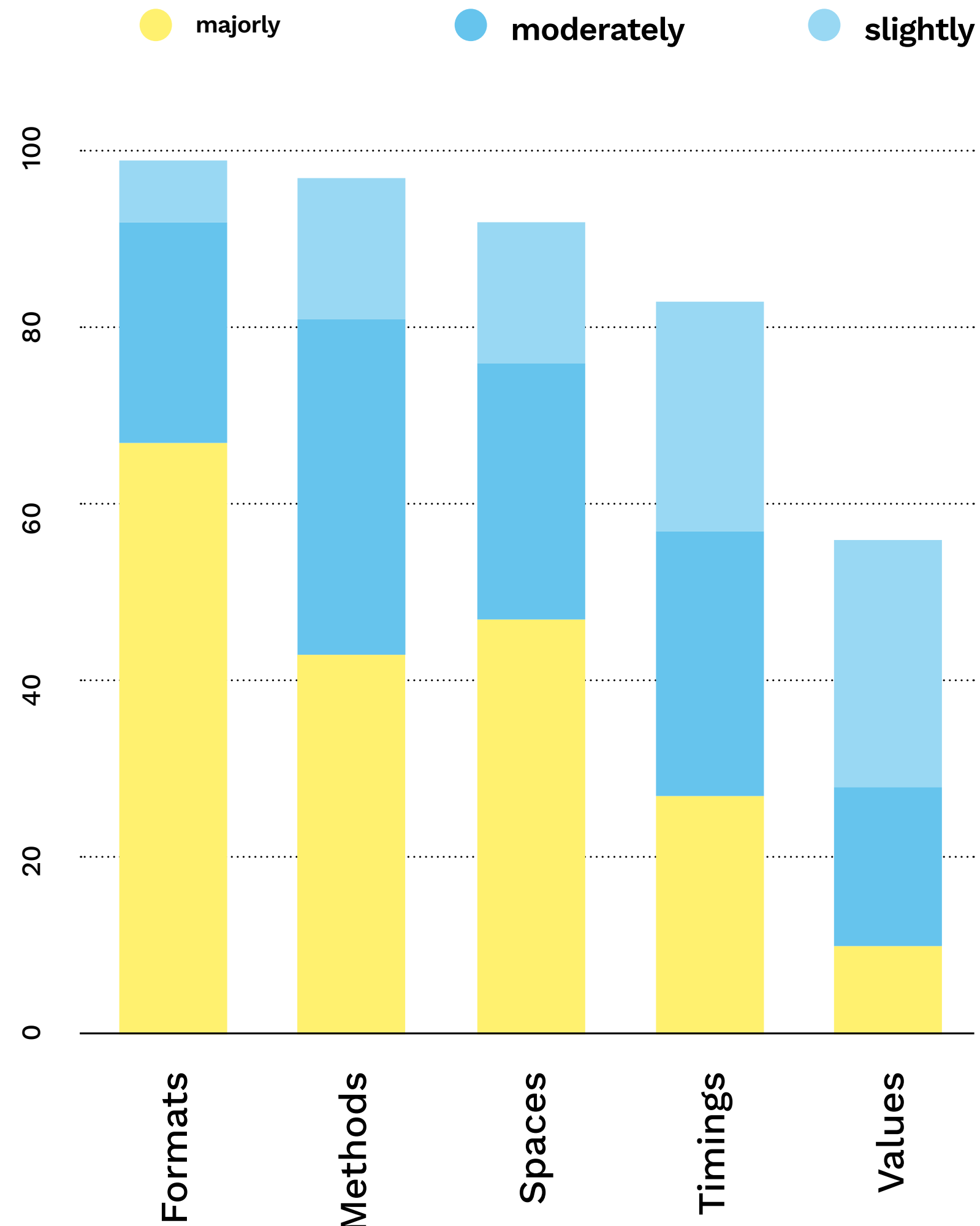
Online survey respondent



# **THE PANDEMIC HAS SHAKEN YOUTH WORK TO ITS CORE**

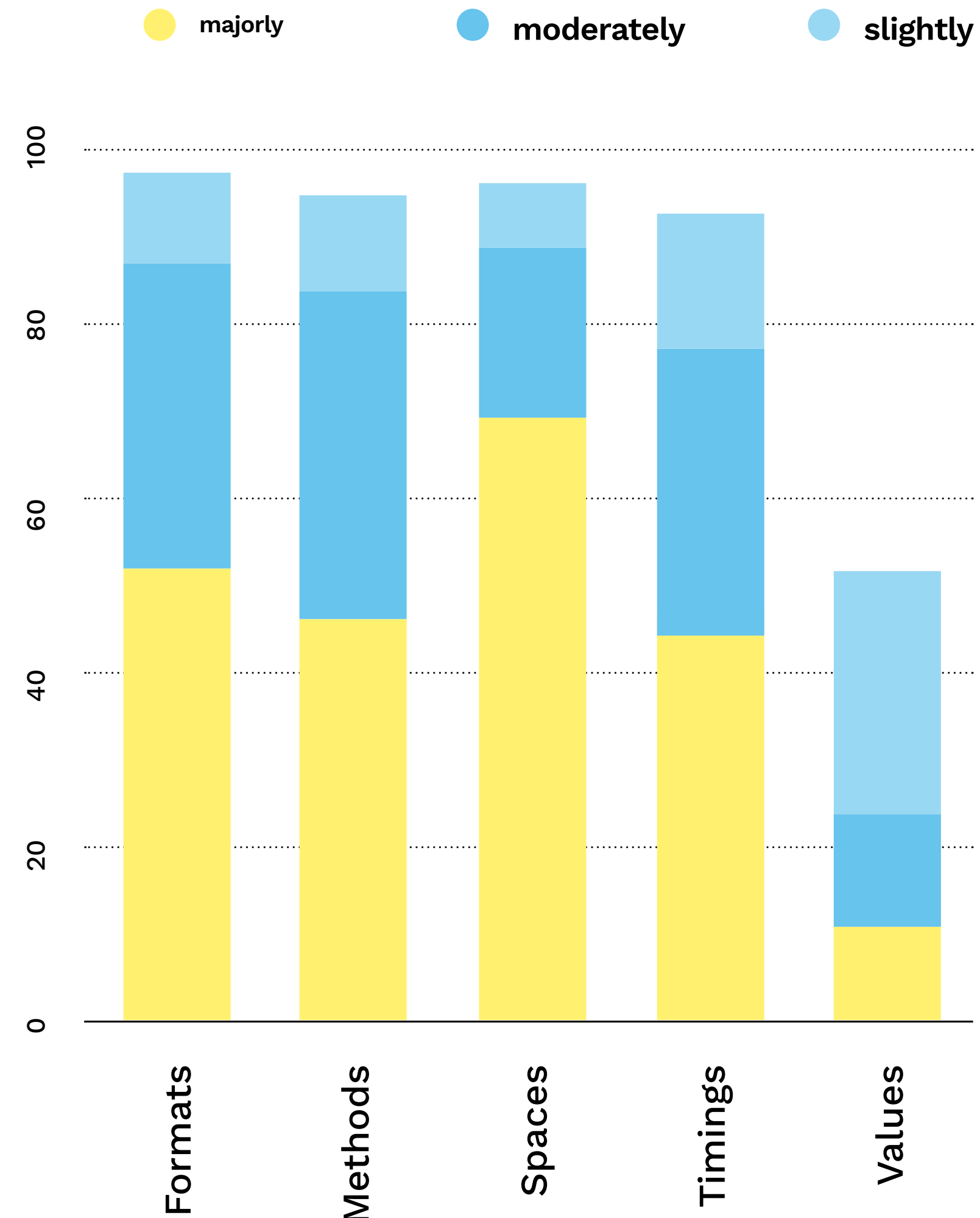


Q: Which aspects of your youth work have been affected?



Winter 2020/2021

Q: Which aspects of your youth work have been affected?



Spring/Summer 2020

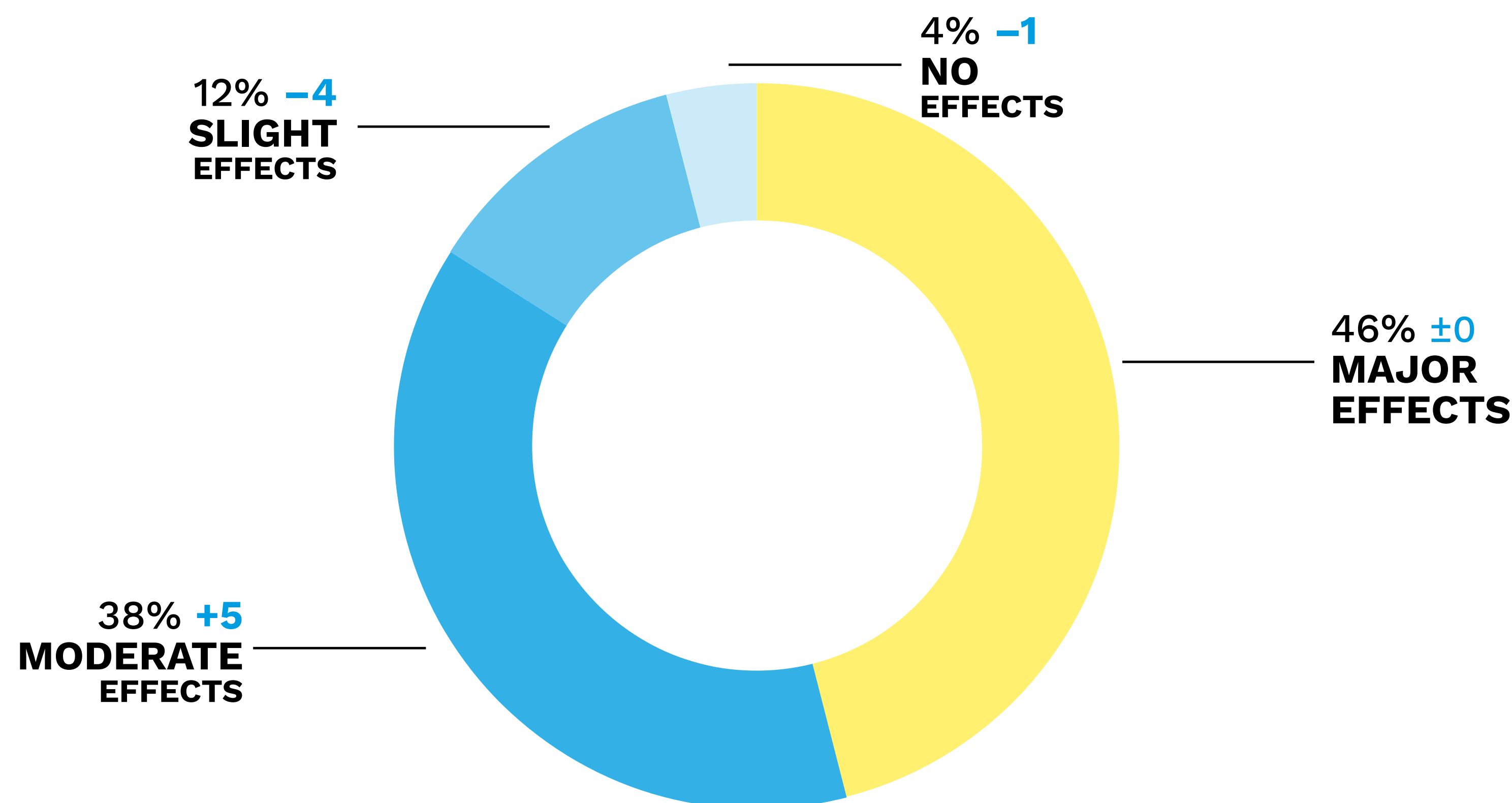






**THE PANDEMIC HAS  
QUICKLY ESCALATED  
VARIOUS RESOURCE  
CONSTRAINTS**

Q. Has the corona pandemic affected your own youth work structure – be that an organisation, an administration, a network, a department, a team?



**“Our budget has been cut in half. New funding is entirely uncertain. The financial impact is hitting us very hard at the moment.”**

Online survey respondent

**“The economic effects of the crisis have undermined our financial stability. We had to cut wages and reduce staff to be able to cope.”**

Online survey respondent

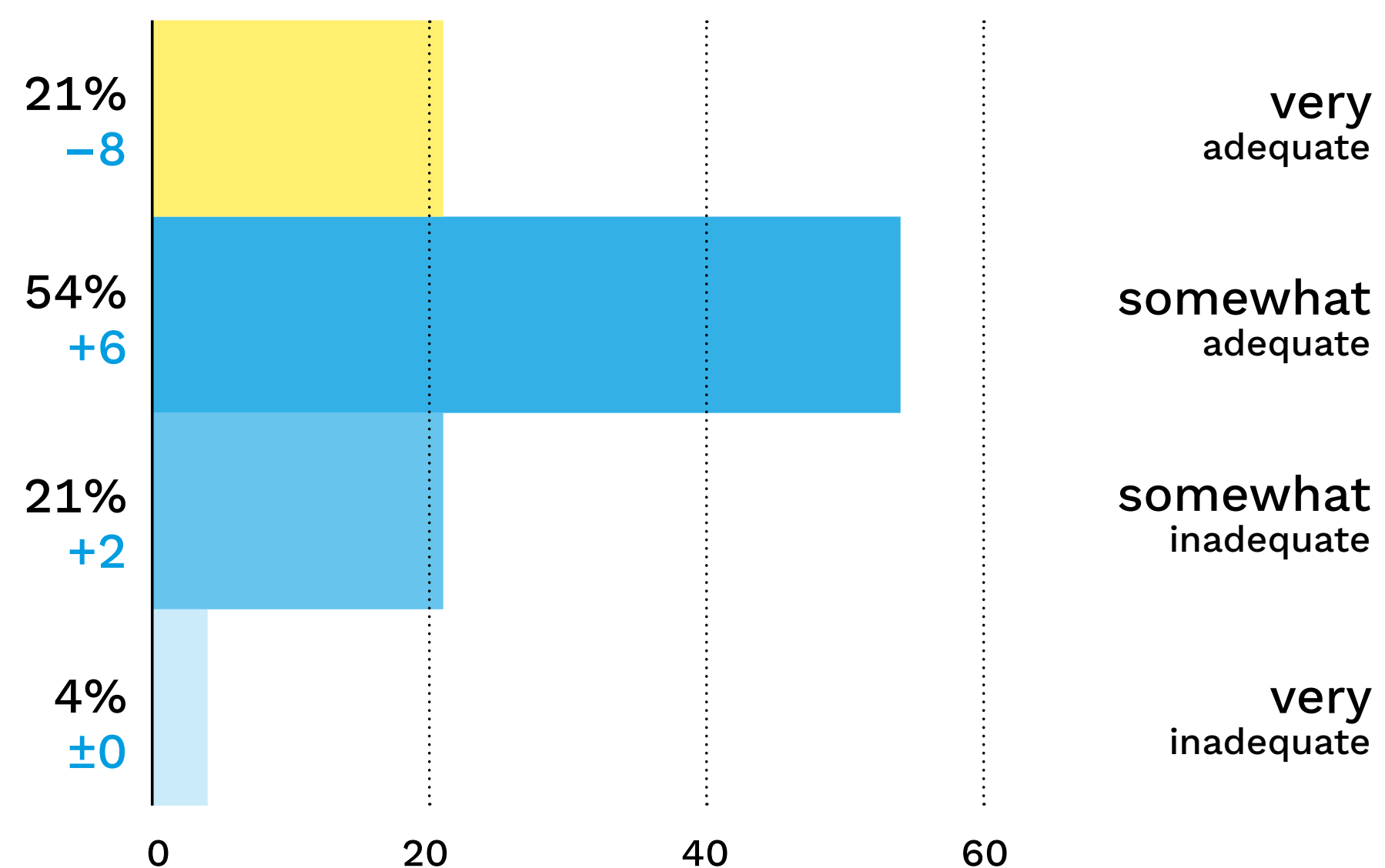




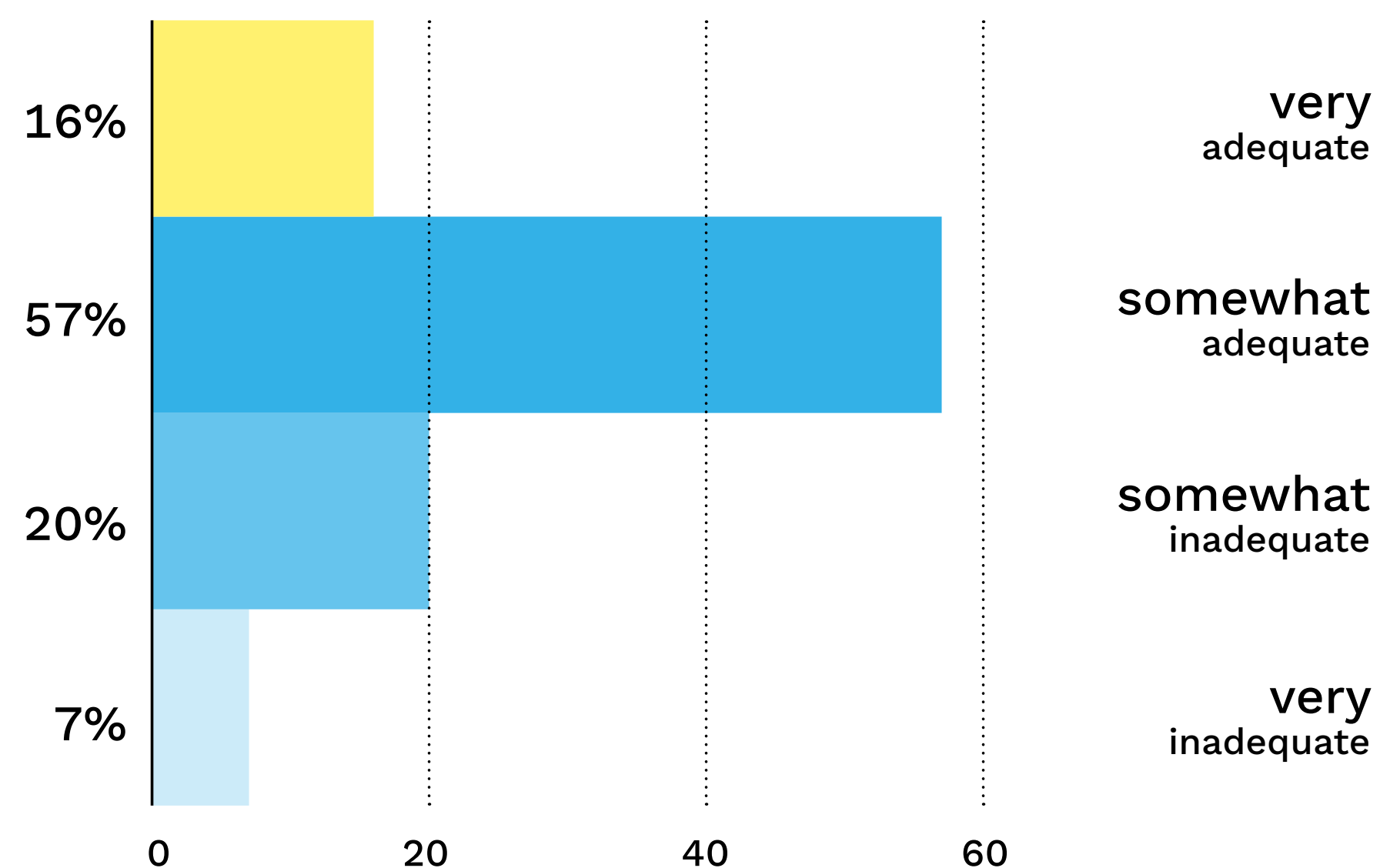


**YOUTH WORK HAS,  
YET AGAIN, RISEN  
TO THE CHALLENGE  
OF THIS CRISIS**

Q: In your opinion and context, how well has *youth work* as a field responded to the crisis so far?



Q: In your opinion and context, how well has *European youth work* as a field responded to the crisis so far?



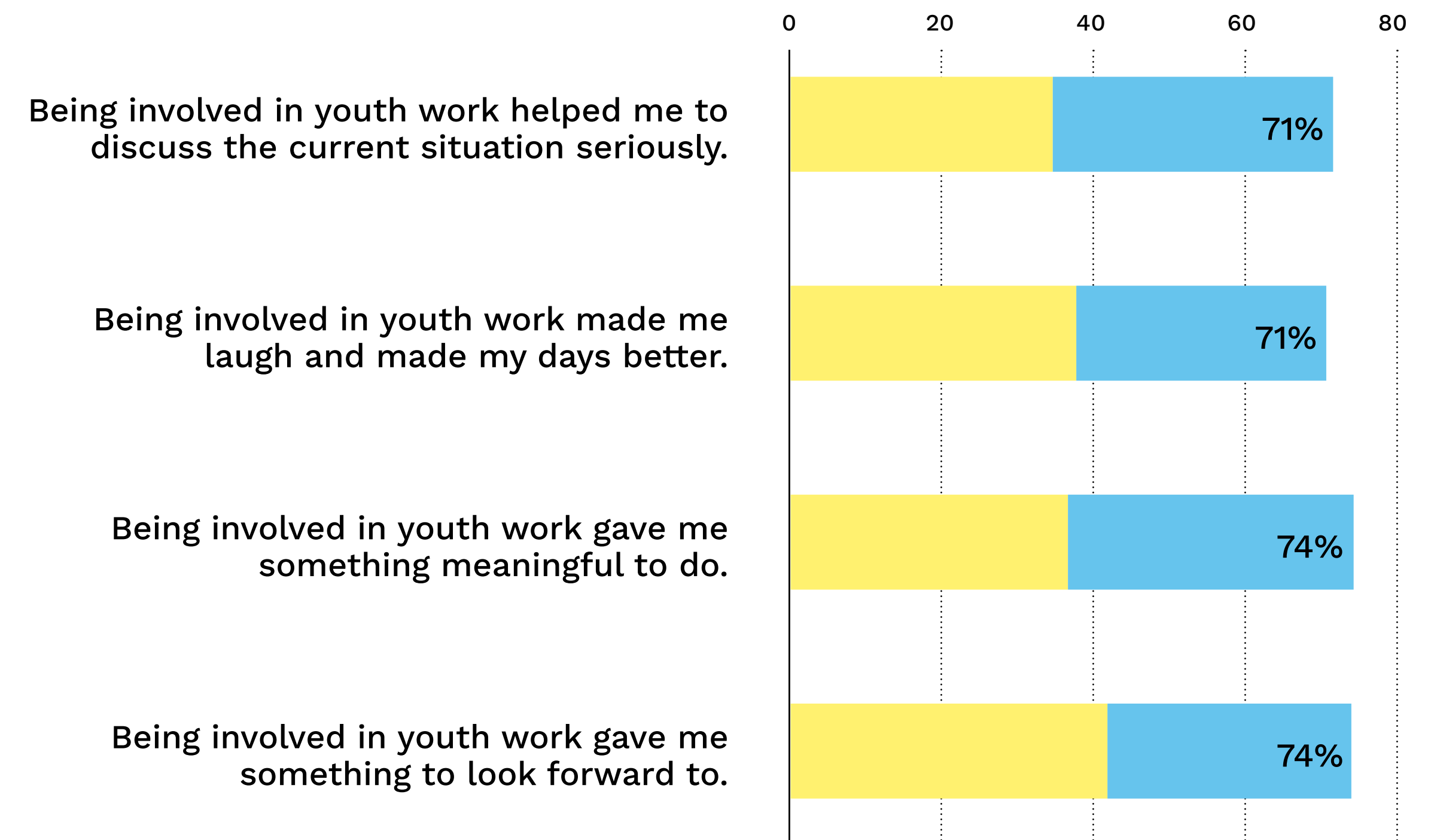
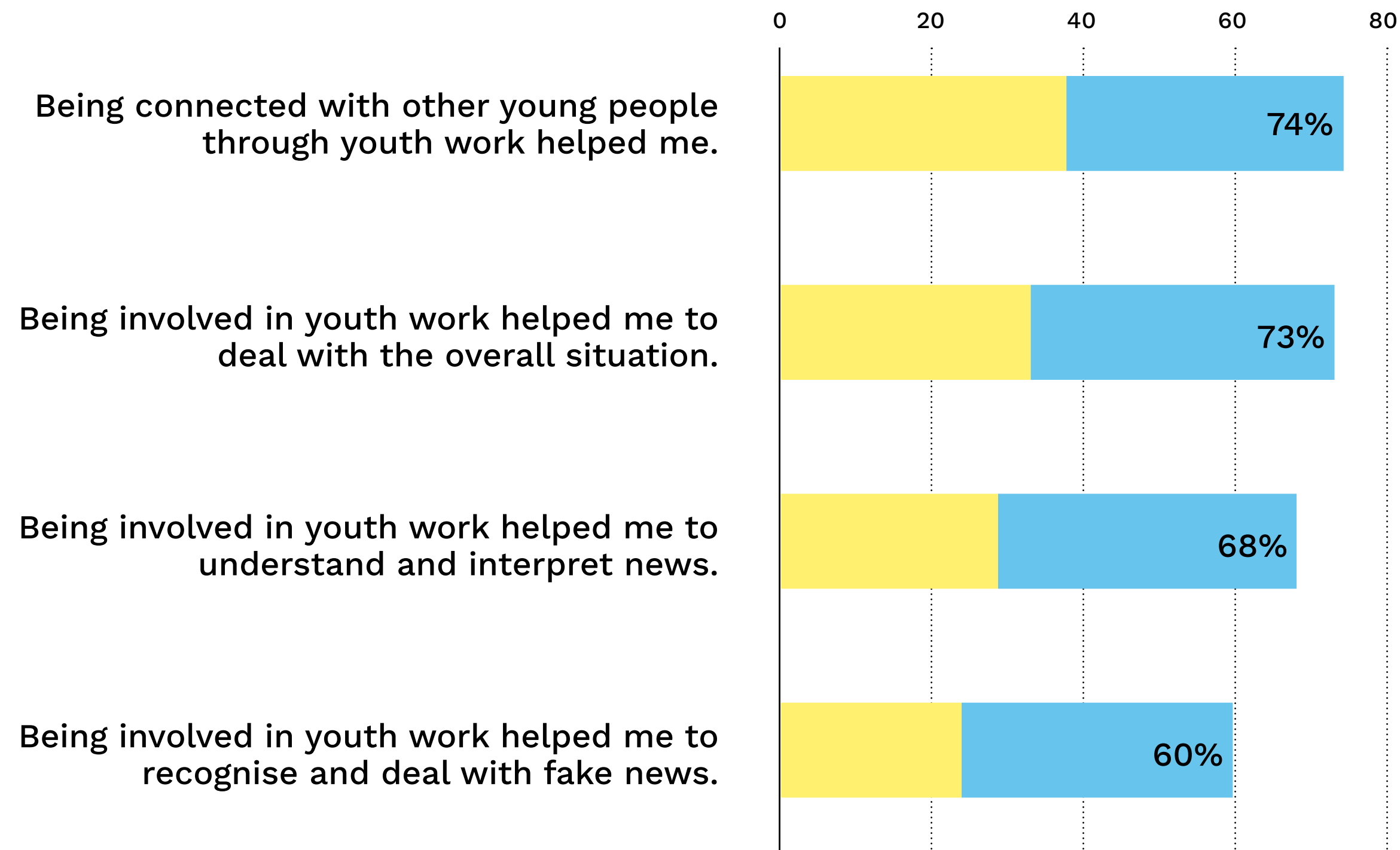






# **YOUTH WORK HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE TO NAVIGATE THE CRISIS**

Q: Has your involvement in youth work helped you during these times?



## **A STRUCTURAL IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC**

- 1 THE PANDEMIC HAS TOUCHED YOUTH WORK PROFOUNDLY**
- 2 THE PANDEMIC HAS SHAKEN YOUTH WORK TO ITS CORE**
- 3 THE PANDEMIC HAS QUICKLY ESCALATED RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS**
- 4 YOUTH WORK HAS, YET AGAIN, RISEN TO THE CHALLENGE**
- 5 YOUTH WORK HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE TO NAVIGATE THE CRISIS**

# **B: PERSONAL IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC**







# **MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT IS YOUTH- SPECIFIC DURING PANDEMICS**



**Research shows that pandemics have a larger effect on the mental health of young people compared to other age groups. In the past, pandemics have caused youth-specific mental health crises.**







**POLICY RESPONSES,  
HOWEVER, TEND TO  
IGNORE MENTAL  
HEALTH**



**Research also shows that youth policy responses during and after pandemics focus largely on education and employment, and tend to ignore or downplay questions of mental health and wellbeing.**



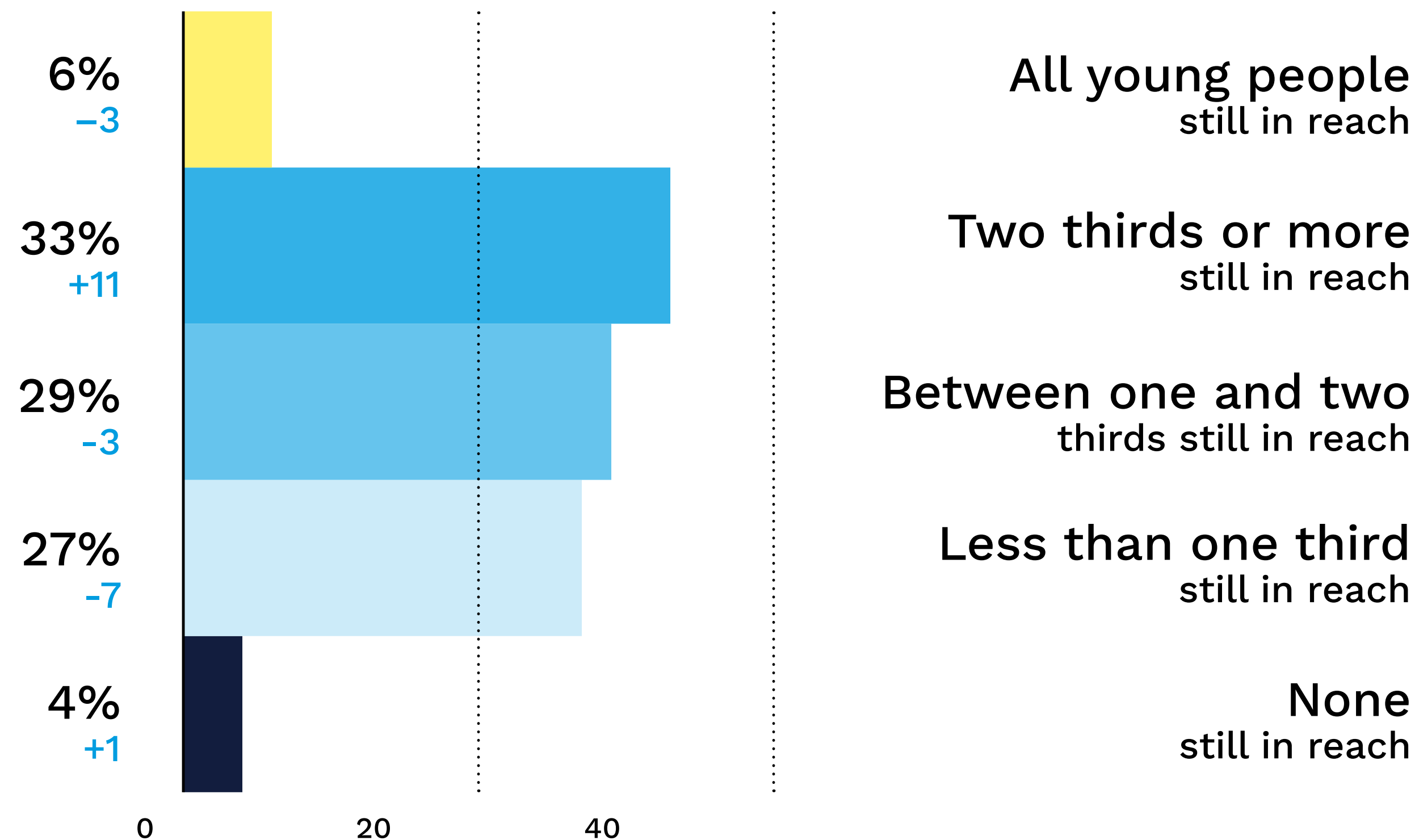




# **YOUTH WORK DROP OUTS ARE WEAKENING THE SECTOR**



Q. How many of the young people you normally work with do you currently still reach with your youth work?



Median 50%  
Mean 53 %

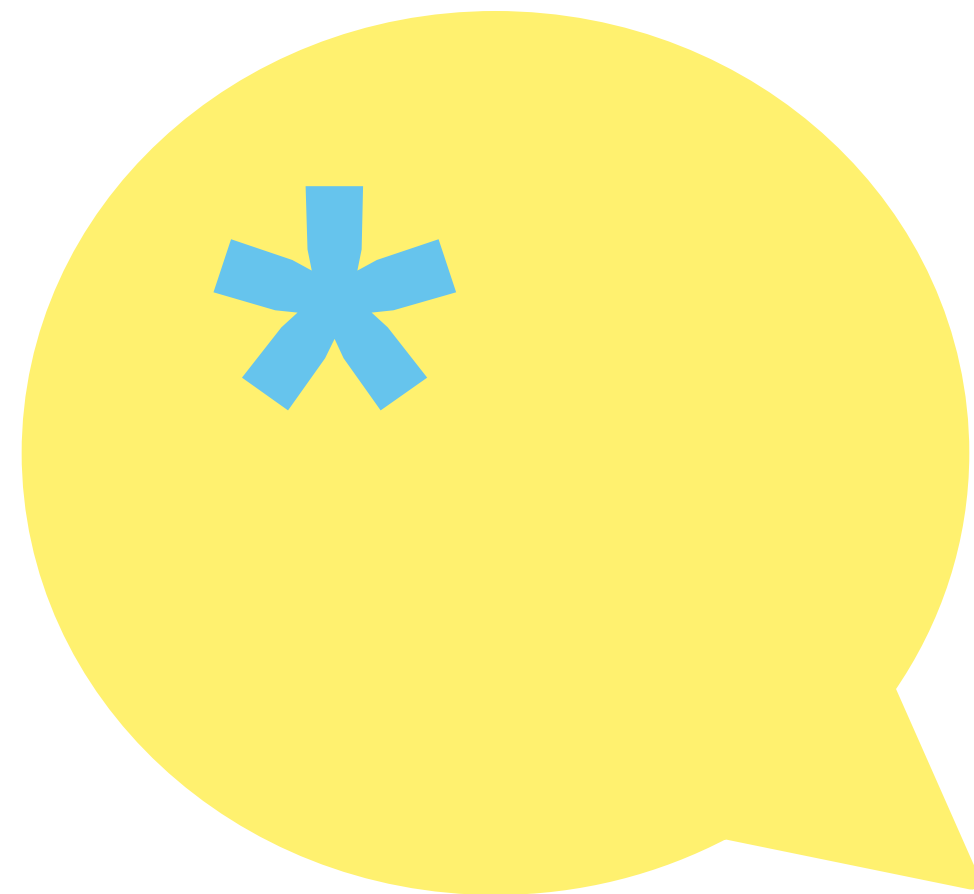






# **MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS YOUTH SECTOR VOLUNTEERS AND PROFESSIONALS**





**“It is those young people we care most about in our daily work that we cannot get in touch with anymore. They have almost completely disappeared from our work. I am worried.”**

Online survey respondent







# **BRAIN DRAIN IS ALSO WEAKENING THE SECTOR**



**“In the broader context of the European youth work sector, I feel alone. There is no reliable network at this level which would allow for solidarity or support. Some youth workers I know are considering leaving the field entirely. We should not be forced to decide between doing youth work or a secure future.”**

Online survey respondent



## **B PERSONAL IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC**

- 1 MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT IS YOUTH-SPECIFIC DURING PANDEMICS**
- 2 POLICY RESPONSES, HOWEVER, TEND TO IGNORE MENTAL HEALTH**
- 3 YOUTH WORK DROP OUTS ARE WEAKENING THE SECTOR**
- 4 MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS VOLUNTEERS AND PROFESSIONALS**
- 5 BRAIN DRAIN IS ALSO WEAKENING THE SECTOR**



# C: *SYSTEMIC ISSUES EXPOSED BY THE PANDEMIC*







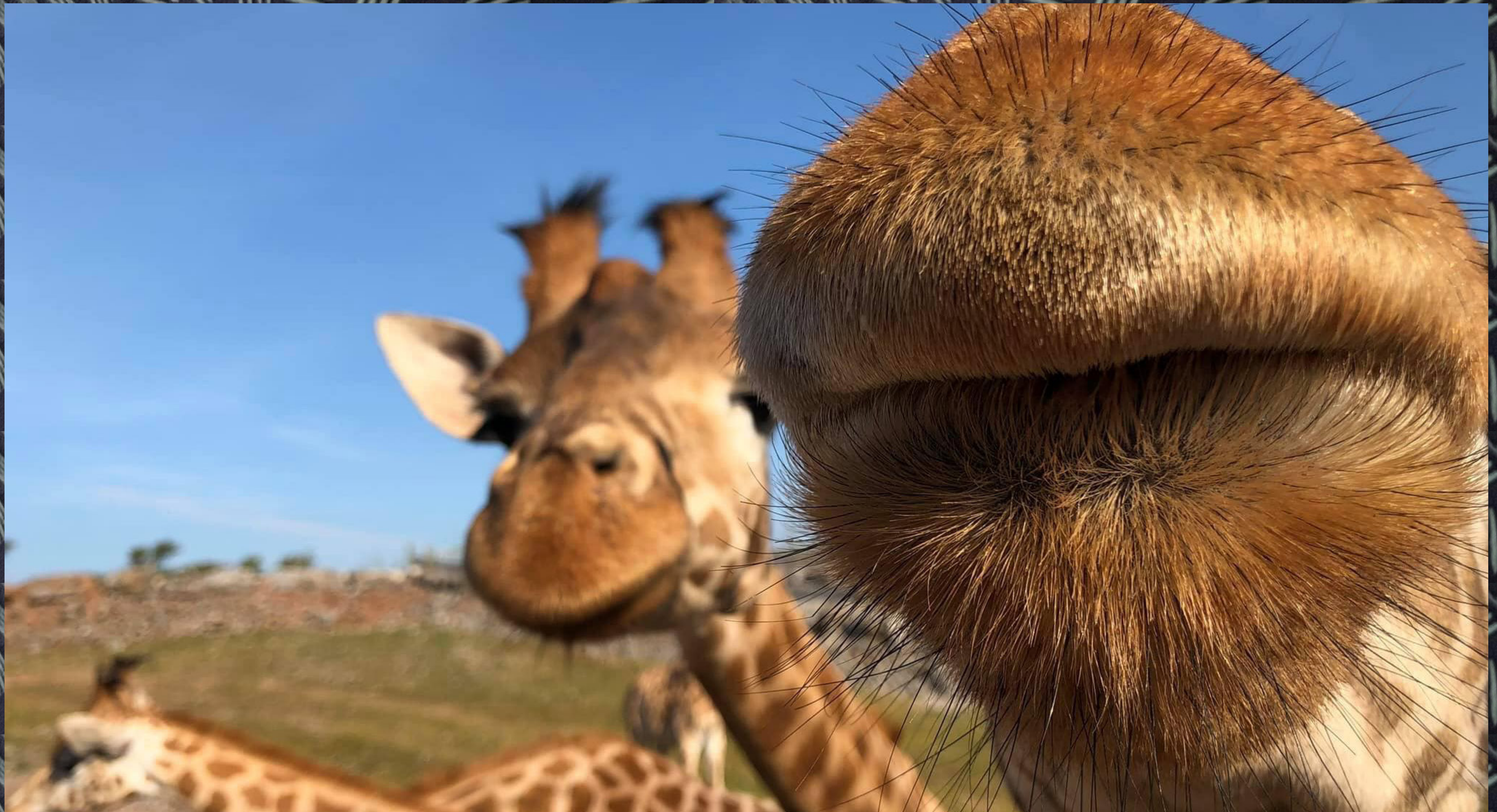
**PROJECT FUNDING  
IS NOT SUFFICIENT  
TO BUILD SOLID  
FOUNDATIONS**



**The organisers of the European Youth Work Convention called for “providing adequate capacities and framing conditions, notably sufficient human resources, premises, equipment and infrastructure, scope for realisation, decent working conditions for paid and volunteer youth workers”.**

EYWC Hosts (2021). Growing Youth Work across Europe: Making the European Youth Work Agenda happen.







**YOUTH WORK  
REMAINS A VASTLY  
UNDERRECOGNISED  
FIELD ACROSS EUROPE**



**“If youth work was everything [...] proclaimed to be, it would not have to struggle to secure its place within political advocacy and youth policy development. But rarely, if ever, has this yet been the case. Winning hearts and minds beyond those already converted to the value of youth work remains the ultimate ‘political’ challenge for youth work.”**

Howard Williamson (2021). Cornerstone Challenges for European Youth Work and Youth Work in Europe.







**QUALIFICATION AND  
PROFESSIONALISATION  
REMAIN VASTLY  
UNDERFUNDED**



**The organisers of the European Youth Work Convention called for “strengthening of professional approaches in youth work practices by strengthening learning of organisations and systems, the transfer of research and by cross-sectoral co-operation” as well as “developing a framework for education and training of paid and volunteer youth workers”.**

EYWC Hosts (2021). Growing Youth Work across Europe: Making the European Youth Work Agenda happen.







# **HUGE INEQUITIES IN YOUTH WORK AVAILABILITY PERSIST**



**“The empirical material for the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Youth Work Convention revealed enormous unpredictabilities in the evolution of youth work [...]. Some countries with no traditions of youth work had quite dramatically embraced the concept and the practice. In contrast, others, with long traditions of youth work had, equally dramatically, chopped youth work resources.”**







**ADEQUATE RESOURC-  
ES FOR YOUTH WORK  
NEED SECURING –  
*AND SUSTAINING***



**“Advocating, securing and then sustaining an adequate (or sufficient) resource base for youth work across Europe is, therefore, a critical challenge for the European youth work sector. It has been argued that a useful yardstick of ‘adequacy’ in the national financing of youth work should be 2% of the national budget for formal education.”**

Howard Williamson (2021). Cornerstone Challenges for European Youth Work and Youth Work in Europe.



## **C SYSTEMIC ISSUES EXPOSED BY THE PANDEMIC**

- 1 PROJECT FUNDING IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO BUILD FOUNDATIONS**
- 2 YOUTH WORK REMAINS A VASTLY UNDERRECOGNISED FIELD**
- 3 QUALIFICATION & PROFESSIONALISATION VASTLY UNDERFUNDED**
- 4 HUGE INEQUITIES IN YOUTH WORK AVAILABILITY & OPPORTUNITIES**
- 5 ADEQUATE RESOURCES NEED SECURING – *AND SUSTAINING***



## B PERSONAL IMPACT

- 1 MENTAL HEALTH YOUTH-SPECIFIC
- 2 POLICY IGNORES MENTAL HEALTH
- 3 YOUTH WORK DROP OUTS
- 4 MENTAL HEALTH YOUTH WORKERS
- 5 BRAIN DRAIN WEAKENS SECTOR

## C SYSTEMIC ISSUES

- 1 PROJECT FUNDING NOT SUFFICIENT
- 2 YOUTH WORK UNDERRECOGNISED
- 3 QUALIFICATION UNDERFUNDED
- 4 HUGE INEQUITIES IN AVAILABILITY
- 5 RESOURCES NEED *SUSTAINING*



# **D: RECOVERY SUPPORT FOR YOUTH WORK**







# **EUROPEAN RECOVERY SUPPORT STARTED OUT PROMISING FOR THE YOUTH SECTOR**



---

Q. How do national recovery and resilience plans cover young people and/or youth work?

## SIX PILLARS

**“Recovery should be achieved, and the resilience of the Union and its Member States enhanced, through the support for measures that refer to the policy areas of European relevance structured in six pillars (the ‘six pillars’),” including *Policies for the next generation*.”**

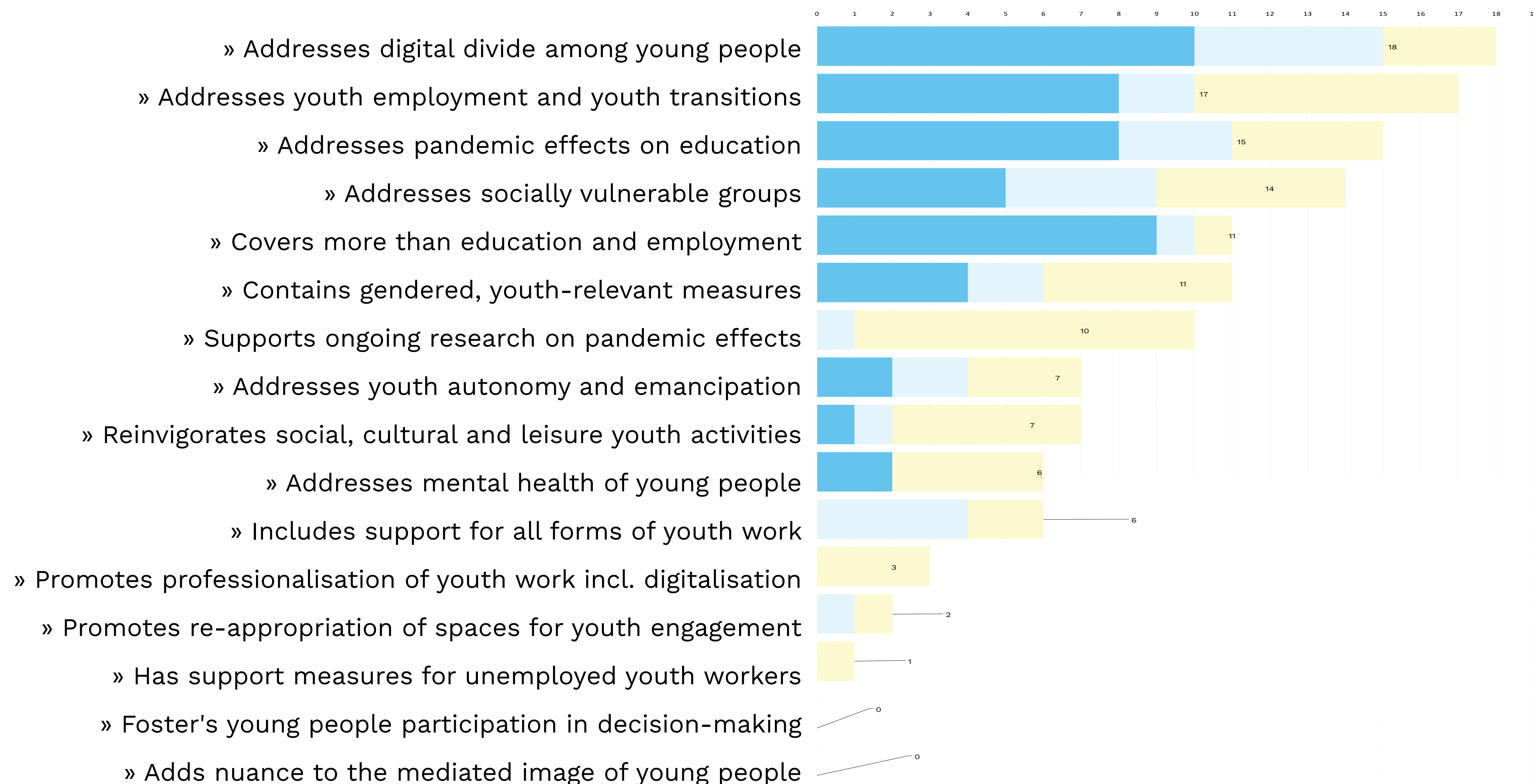






**THE POTENTIAL OF  
THE RECOVERY AND  
RESILIENCE FUND IS  
YET TO MATERIALISE**





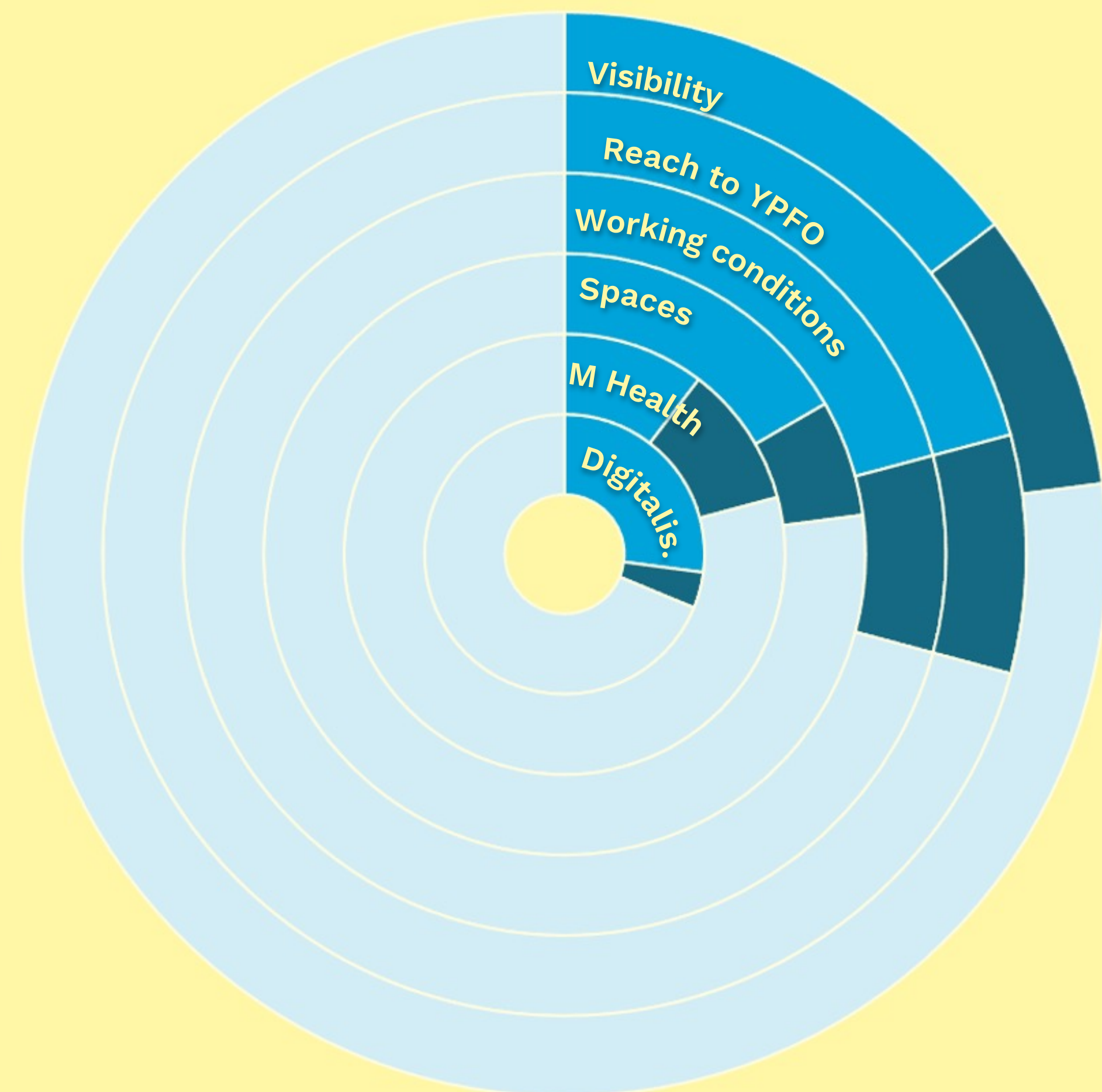






**YOUTH WORK IS QUITE  
GOOD AT OBTAINING  
PUBLIC SUPPORT  
WHERE AVAILABLE**





**APPLICATIONS  
SEEM QUITE  
SUCCESSFUL...**

**BUT THERE IS  
NOT ENOUGH  
OF THEM**





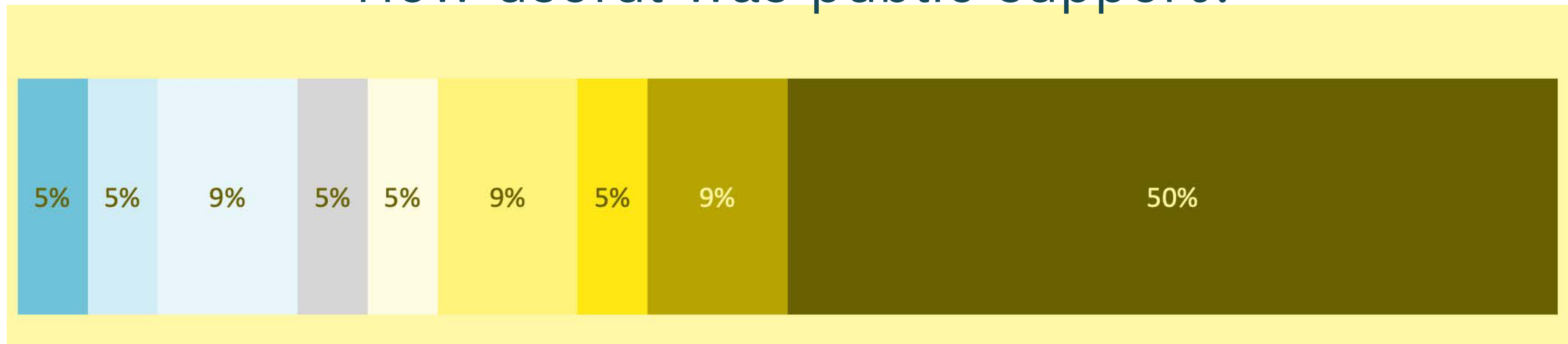




**PUBLIC SUPPORT, IF  
AVAILABLE, IS BOTH  
USEFUL & NECESSARY  
FOR YOUTH WORK**



## How useful was public support?



■ 0 - not useful ■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 ■ 6 ■ 7 ■ 8 ■ 9 ■ 10 - very useful







**TOO MANY YOUTH  
WORK ORGANISATIONS  
ARE CURRENTLY NOT  
ELIGIBLE**



# Public support is useful and very necessary for youth work



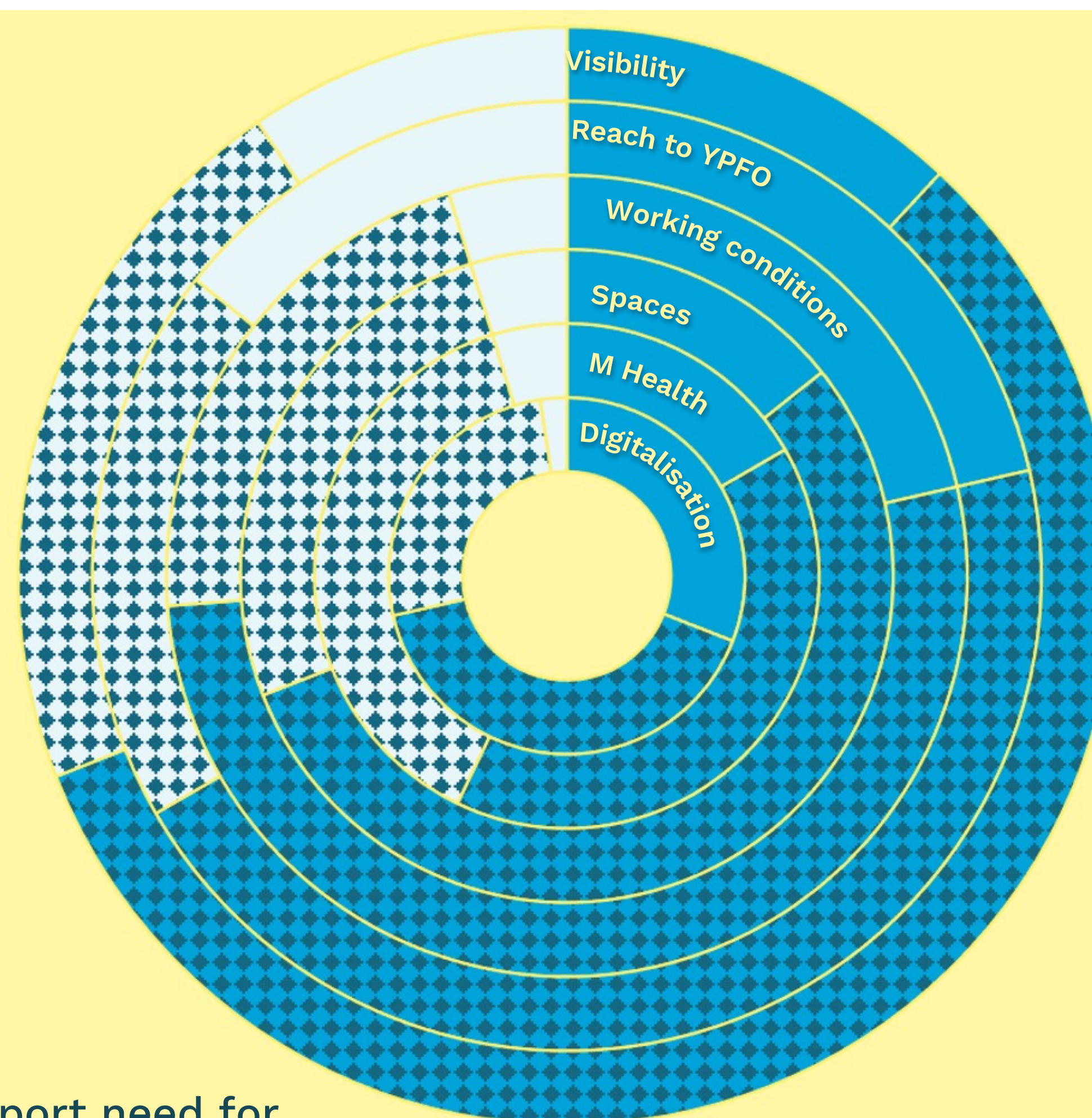
Did not apply for public funding in the past



Reported need for support in the future



Did not report need for support in the future





## **D RECOVERY SUPPORT FOR YOUTH WORK**

- 1 EUROPEAN RECOVERY SUPPORT STARTED OUT PROMISING**
- 2 THE POTENTIAL OF THE RRF IS YET TO MATERIALISE**
- 3 YOUTH WORK IS QUITE GOOD AT OBTAINING PUBLIC SUPPORT**
- 4 PUBLIC SUPPORT, IF AVAILABLE, IS BOTH USEFUL AND NECESSARY**
- 5 TOO MANY ORGANISATIONS ARE CURRENTLY NOT ELIGIBLE**



# **E: CRISIS RESILIENCE OF YOUTH WORK**







# **FORCED MIGRATION HAS AN ENORMOUS IMPACT ON CHILD & YOUTH WORK**



**“The so-called summer of migration caused a profound political crisis within Europe. Due to the demographics of the refugees, the youth sector was particularly affected. Youth work was part of the immanent crisis management, but also had to deal with the new societal developments that resulted from the 2015 crisis in the long term.”**

Schwenzer, Horta Herranz & Strecker (2022, forthcoming). Migration, crisis and youth work.







**YOUTH WORK OFTEN-  
TIMES COMPENSATES  
FOR OVERWHELMED  
STATE INSTITUTIONS**



**“Youth work’s role with regard to migration is and has been multifaceted. Where state institutions were overwhelmed, civil society pitched in, youth work included. Youth work is an ideal space to respond to the specific needs and challenges young refugees have to tackle. The flexibility of youth work to always adapt to new target groups and social change helps.”**

Schwenzer, Horta Herranz & Strecker (2022, forthcoming). Migration, crisis and youth work.







# **MIGRATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS TENDS TO HAVE A GENDER DIMENSION**



**“During the so-called 2015 refugee crisis, young, male and unaccompanied minors were disproportionately represented. Looking at the demographics of today’s situation, the face of migration is predominantly female.”**

Schwenzer, Horta Herranz & Strecker (2022, forthcoming). Migration, crisis and youth work.







**CRISES WILL  
INTERTWINE,  
OVERLAP AND  
REINFORCE**

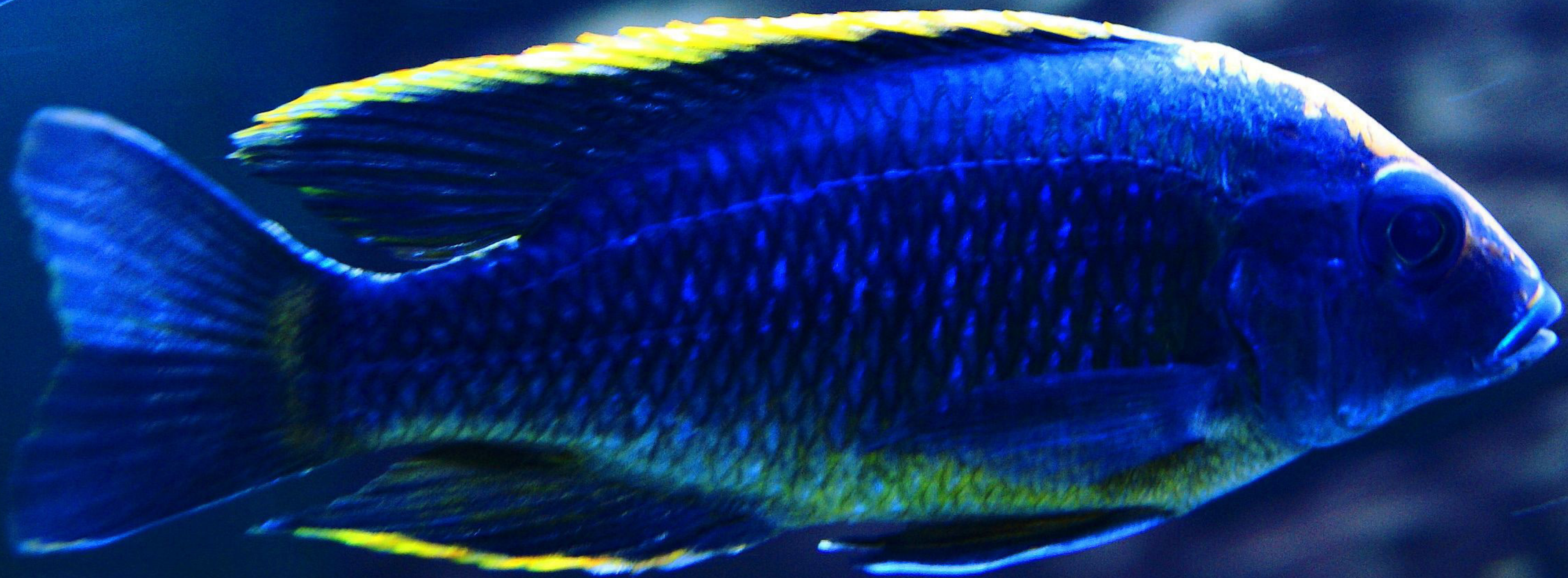


# UN chief warns against 'sleepwalking to climate catastrophe'



© Unsplash/Paul Gilmore | Emissions from a power plant in Koln, Germany.







**YOUTH WORK IN TIMES  
OF CRISIS IS MULTI-  
FACETED – BUT NOT  
YET INTERSECTIONAL**



**“The crisis triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine hits Europe at the end of the Corona crisis. The current increase of young people in need for youth work is therefore hitting the youth sector at a time when it is already struggling and trying to recover from the previous crisis.”**

Schwenzer, Horta Herranz & Strecker (2022, forthcoming). Migration, crisis and youth work.



## **E CRISIS RESILIENCE OF YOUTH WORK**

- 1 FORCED MIGRATION HAS ENORMOUS IMPACT ON YOUTH WORK**
- 2 YOUTH WORK COMPENSATES FOR OVERWHELMED STATE**
- 3 MIGRATION IN TIMES OF CRISIS IS OFTEN GENDERED**
- 4 CRISES WILL INTERTWINE, OVERLAP AND REINFORCE**
- 5 YOUTH WORK IN TIMES OF CRISIS IS NOT YET INTERSECTIONAL**



## **D RECOVERY SUPPORT**

- 1 EUROPEAN RECOVERY PROMISING**
- 2 RRF POTENTIAL THEORETICAL**
- 3 GOOD AT OBTAINING SUPPORT**
- 4 SUPPORT IS USEFUL & NECESSARY**
- 5 ELIGIBILITY IS A KEY CHALLENGE**

## **E CRISIS RESILIENCE**

- 1 IMPACT OF FORCED MIGRATION**
- 2 COMPENSATING FOR STATE**
- 3 GENDERED EFFECTS OF CRISES**
- 4 INTERTWINE, OVERLAP, REINFORCE**
- 5 YOUTH WORK NOT INTERSECTIONAL**