
EARA

Newsletter

European Association for Research on Adolescence

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From the President

From the President, May 2022

Dear EARA members,
Since the previous newsletter in November 2021 things in our society, that have strong impact on adolescents, have changed. First the good things: The virus that caused worries, anxiety and illness in many young people seems to have been beaten by tremendous efforts of many, including EARA scholars, that put the well-being of adolescents on the political agenda in this challenging crisis. Now young people can breathe again and meet each other whenever and wherever they want. Many adolescents in the end of secondary schooling are now looking forward to a long summer and a future life of work or study. I don't know how this experience was for you when you still were 18, but for me this was one of the best periods in life.

Unfortunately, many young people in Europe now are still anxious, because war is again plaguing our continent. All our thoughts are with the young people in Ukraine that suffer under everyday terror and anxiety, and with young people in Russia, that cannot speak out freely against this terrible war. Luckily, we see that many Europeans, including many youngsters, are showing solidarity with these victims of war, including gathering money and goods to send to Ukraine, or giving

shelter to refugees. Here again we see the good heart in all of us!

In the meantime, EARA is doing well. We all look forward to meet again physically in the end of August in the upcoming EARA Conference in Dublin! Under the supervision of Jennifer Symonds, the organization team has already taken many steps in setting up the 18th EARA conference. My train and boat tickets are already booked. Hope you all managed to register already, if not do it now! After a break in 2020 due to the virus, in the days before the conference, the EARA-EADP-SRA Summer School will take place from August 21 to 24, in Wicklow, a nice town near Dublin, Ireland. The summer school will be directed by Susan Branje, Lisa Kiang, Oana Negru-Subtirica, and Stefanos Mastrotheodoros. Senior Scholars participating this year will include (in alphabetical order): Toon Cillessen, Candace Currie, Nancy Hill, Lisa Kiang, Noona Kiuru, and Andreas Neubauer. Applications have already closed and many candidates have applied, so selection will be a tough job.

EARA's online webinars 2021-2022 are coming to an end. Still one webinar will take place on June 3, Tiaga Ferreira will introduce you to the open-source, free, and powerful statistical package R. Of course we still have to evaluate these webinars, but I personally think they were a success and these webinars are there to stay in future EARA's resources. Meanwhile EARA elections are on their way. Many thanks to Elisabetta Crocetti for organizing this so fluently. New candidates for president-elect, for the EARA council, and for the EARA Young Scholar Committee arrived at our desk. Soon the election ballot will be opened and you will hear more of this. And yes, we have a vacancy: We are looking for a new Secretary, because our current one is going for another role in the EARA council. Finally, in my last presidential letter, I want to thank some of our current council members for their long-lasting commitment to EARA. I would like to express my gratitude to Susan Branje, past-president and EARA's memory, Elisabetta Crocetti, meticulous secretary, and Metin Özdemir, treasurer

holding the purse strings. All three have been very active in our association for a very long time already, thereby providing a great contribution to the health of EARA! Thanks so much!

I look forward to see you all in Dublin in August!

Warmly,
Wim Beyers
EARA President

Special Issue:

Migrant Youth Integration & Empowerment (MIMY)

Summary from the Luxembourg MIMY team

Université du Luxembourg

In this newsletter, we will present the H2020 European project on “EMpowerment through liquid Integration of Migrant Youth in vulnerable conditions” (MIMY). MIMY is an EU-funded interdisciplinary project with 14 partners from different European countries – Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden and UK.

The aim of the project is to investigate the situation and integration processes of young non-EU migrants throughout Europe who are at risk of exclusion at individual, social, institutional and policy level. To account for specific local contexts, two case studies per country have been selected which target specific subgroups of young migrants in vulnerable conditions in order to formulate evidence-based policy recommendations for the benefit of migrants themselves and society as a whole.

The main research question is: How can the liquid integration processes of young migrants (especially in the age range between 18 to 29 years) in vulnerable conditions be supported to increase the social and economic benefits of and for migrants in Europe?

The concept of liquid integration (see e.g. Skrobanek et al., 2020) is adopted here in order to reflect the dynamic nature of integration as a life-long open-ended process of change and adaptation. In this perspective, integration refers to an individual adjustment to changes over the whole lifespan that depends on temporal stability, order and change of institutional and structural constraints. This perspective provides a broader view compared to common approaches to integration which are often based on the assumption that the integration process can be characterized by a certain end point where persons or groups will be integrated into an existing social body. In fact, migrants adapt to a new living context while facing developmental tasks within their specific life phase, and the context to which they adapt is in continuous development too.

The interdisciplinary and multi-level perspective of MIMY allows to:

- Analyse the social and economic effects of successful or failed integration of young migrants through qualitative and quantitative data within the EU and the nine case study countries;
- Investigate social, economic and cultural integration processes of migrant youth in vulnerable conditions and the role of institutions in enabling or constraining liquid integration;
- Examine factors that can foster or hinder the integration processes of young migrants within the host community;
- Investigate how diverse social actors and institutions can help to strengthen resilience and resistance strategies of young migrants and empower them to become active in their host society;
- Capture the interdisciplinary synergies within the consortium and provide detailed insights into liquid integration processes from a trans-disciplinary perspective;
- Develop a handbook on good practices to improve integration policies

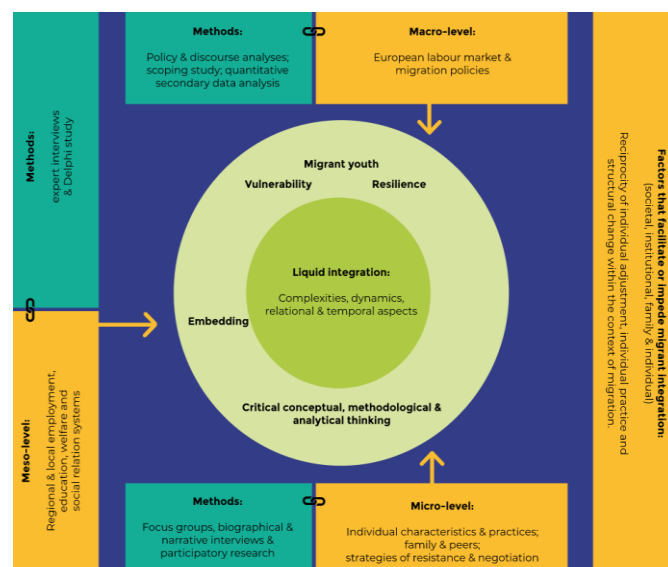
providing evidence-based recommendations for stakeholders and policymakers.

MIMY adopts a mixed-methods approach which combines secondary quantitative data analysis with qualitative empirical data, focusing on different levels – from macro level EU migration policies, meso level regional economic and social systems to micro level individual practices.

It should also be highlighted here that MIMY applies innovative participatory methodologies to approach young migrants in vulnerable conditions, whereby there is a strong focus on youth empowerment (Skrobanek et al., 2021).

Figure 1 gives a summary of the complex conceptual, analytical and methodological framework of MIMY:

Figure 1. *MIMY framework*



In the following paragraphs, we will summarize some first selected findings from public reports of the MIMY project to different levels of analysis. Detailed reports are available online (<https://www.mimy-project.eu/outcomes/public-deliverables>). The study is currently ongoing and further reports on qualitative data analysis and further research questions will follow.

What we know so far - Experiences of young vulnerable migrants and related policies

A literature review regarding earlier research on experiences and resilience of young vulnerable migrants and their integration trajectories in Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom has been carried out during the first months of the MIMY project (for the full report see Lind, 2021). In this earlier research, certain groups of migrants are considered “vulnerable”, and a look at which groups are categorized as “vulnerable” in the relevant research showed that various and heterogeneous categorizations are used (on the notion of vulnerability see also Gilodi et al., 2022). Most often, asylum seekers, refugees/refugee youth or unaccompanied migrants/minors were focused on in research from the included countries, as well as to some extent third country nationals, young undocumented migrants, and young stateless migrants. Further categorizations pertaining to various vulnerable conditions in the reviewed research referred to LGBTQIA+ refugees, victims of trafficking, women migrating alone, labour migrants, education migrants, family migrants, irregular migrants, rejected asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection or recently arrived migrants.

When it comes to the main findings, the literature review revealed that specific “vulnerable conditions” have been focused on in earlier research and will be outlined below.

Earlier studies have clearly revealed the importance of legal status, whereby a precarious legal status has negative effects on most other areas of young migrants’ “integration trajectories”, but literature provides also examples of “successful integration” of different groups over time. These studies also point to the importance of considering both individual and structural factors when studying facilitators and problems regarding migrants’ integration in their receiving societies over the life course.

The reviewed literature points to accommodation as a key issue for young migrants and youth in general, whereby difficulties for migrants can relate to initial accommodation centers but also to later transition to other locations in the receiving communities. Not only the physical nature of housing is important here but it turns out that also the establishment of a “sense of home” is highly relevant for the well-being of young migrants.

Language acquisition and education play a key role in research on youth integration in all countries included in the literature review, whereby a lack of access to education was generally identified as a main source of migrant vulnerability. Interestingly, as schools provide the opportunity for young people to meet peers and establish new contacts, creating separate classes for newly arrived young people to foster language learning can have negative secondary effects such as school segregation. It was also shown in the literature review that for some TCN students, for instance in Eastern Europe, poverty and discrimination could be sources of increased vulnerability.

A further key issue identified in most reviewed literature was labour market inclusion, whereby it was found that young migrants have a higher risk compared to non-migrants to be employed below their education levels in lower paid jobs. Also, more young migrants were neither employed nor in education or training (NEET). Several studies pointed also to experiences of discrimination from different actors on the labour market that young migrants encounter.

Main migrant health issues referred to in the literature regard mental health such as PTSD and depression. Also, it is reported that access to health is made difficult by a number of reasons, whereby the resilience of young migrants who have experienced severe hardships is also a topic of literature on migrant health. Again, a precarious legal status is shown to have a negative impact on

mental health of young migrants across Europe.

As far as aspects of identity and intergroup contact are concerned, studies point to their importance for integration processes whereby different enablers are mentioned, such as school and leisure activities, pointing again to the importance of education in young migrants' "integration trajectories".

When it comes to support structures and local participation, especially unaccompanied minors are focused on. Here, it is important to bear in mind that the labelling as "unaccompanied minors" or "newly arrived" etc., can also bring the risk of stigmatization of young migrants in different contexts. It is shown that community involvement and activities can be sources of young migrants' well-being, whereby migrant associations can provide essential support.

The issue of human trafficking is a further key aspect pertaining to migrant vulnerability, with irregular migrants being at a particular risk of being victims of forced labour, according to the literature. Interestingly, though, representations of vulnerability in this context can also mask structural factors of inequality.

Finally, discrimination and racism are recurrent problems in young people's "integration trajectories" across Europe. Even in rather "multicultural" contexts, there can be different sources of discrimination and racism in society. Some categorizations such as "unaccompanied minors" can be related to negative representations and have detrimental effects on young migrants. These issues continue to have an impact on young migrants' everyday lives across their "integration trajectories" and throughout their life courses.

Macro- and micro-level indicators

To describe characteristics and dynamics of youth migration to Europe and the socio-economic integration of young migrants as well as the perceptions and attitudes of the local populations with regard to migrants (for the full report see Roman et al., 2020), MIMY has drawn on macro-level data from EUROSTAT and other national public sources, as well as micro-data (at individual level) from the European Social Survey. The final compiled data set covers a core period of 10 years (2010-2019) and 29 countries: EU27 (2020), Norway, and the United Kingdom. The aim of these analyses was to provide an overview of the migration processes in Europe focusing on four key dimensions of integration¹ of young migrants (between 18 and 29) who arrived from third, non-EU countries: (1) labour market integration, (2) education, (3) social inclusion and (4) housing conditions and health.

The analysis of macro data has shown that over 17 million immigrants from low and medium human development index (HDI) non-European countries live in the EU28 countries plus Switzerland, Iceland, and Norway, whereby most live in UK (22%), followed by France (16%), Italy (12.3%), Germany (12.1%), and Spain (10%). On the other side, Central and Eastern European countries show lower numbers with less than 1% of Third Country Nationals (TCN) in their population.

Key integration dimensions

Regarding integration dimensions, the analyses of labour market indicators revealed that in spite of an increasing trend in employment and activity rates among young TCN immigrants (from 38% to 45%), rates are still below non-immigrant youth. Also, TCN immigrants were found to be confronted with less stable and more precarious forms of employment (part time and temporary employment) or unemployment. TCN immigrant youth encounter also more

¹ along the dimensions of the Zaragoza declaration, see <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/library->

[document/declaration-european-ministerial-conference-integration-zaragoza-15-16-april-2010_en](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/library-document/declaration-european-ministerial-conference-integration-zaragoza-15-16-april-2010_en)

difficulties with regard to education compared to their native peers, as compared to natives, they are twice as in this age group (18-24) to leave education early, before reaching secondary diploma, and they are also exposed to a higher poverty risk. Interestingly, differences between countries were found indicating that in some countries TCN immigrants might profit less from social policy measures than their native peers.

As the micro data show, low income and housing conditions which are worse for TCN migrants compared to EU-migrants are main vulnerability factors. Also, it has been shown that youth vulnerability can be one-dimensional (migrants being affected by only one of the four aforementioned dimensions of integration) or multi-dimensional (being affected by difficulties in more than one dimension of integration).

Attitudes toward migrants

As far as the receiving societies' attitudes and perceptions regarding migrants are concerned, a clear East-West gradient was found, although also among Western and Eastern countries variability exists. In some Western European countries like Germany, Norway and Sweden, only a small share of the population seems to hold that TCN immigrants should not settle in their countries, whereas in others a larger minority (10-21%) was of this opinion. Whereas in some Eastern European countries such as Hungary, Czechia and Slovakia the receiving population seemed most unwelcoming, countries like Poland and Lithuania as well as ex-Yugoslav countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro) are significantly more open to immigrants.

Although large differences among European countries were found regarding the dimensions and trends of the flows of migrants in vulnerable conditions, in all of the European countries there are indicators that suggest a lack of integration on one or several dimensions, as confirmed by both micro and macro analysis (37% of young migrants face the risk of vulnerability in one

of the four dimensions and 21% face vulnerable conditions along more dimensions of social integration).

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Project Identity

Project name: Empowerment through liquid Integration of Migrant Youth in vulnerable conditions

(MIMY)

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The University of Sheffield (United
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Office GmbH (Germany)

Europese Confederatie van Organisaties
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Duration February 2020 – January 2023
(36 months)

Website <http://www.mimy-project.eu>

MIMY Blog: <https://www.mimy-project.eu/mimy-youth-blog>

Updates from EARA Young Scholars

*Submitted by Susanne Schulz (Utrecht
University)*

Dear EARA members,

We would like to update you on the EARA Young Scholars, the network for all EARA students and early career researchers.

Looking forward to EARA 2022

After four long years, we are beyond excited to finally meet again in person! Together with the brilliant young scholars from the EARA 2022 conference committee, we are planning several exciting activities directed at young scholars.

With special thanks to the input of our EARA young scholars and national representatives, we organized five pre-conference workshops. Do you want to polish your academic and grant writing skills, acquire statistical knowledge about longitudinal models, learn how to conduct qualitative research, how to conduct a meta-analysis, or get insights into recruiting diverse samples? Then sign up for one of our pre-conference workshops!

During the conference, there will be more intriguing events for young scholars: We will host a Meet-the-Editor session with editors of relevant, highly competitive journals in the field of adolescent research who will uncover hidden tips and tricks for publishing your research. We further invite you to an inspiring networking evening to kick off the conference by connecting with other young scholars through mutual (research) interest and ideas. Of course, there will also be the EARA Young Scholars Poster Award, so make sure to submit your posters in time. And last but not least, don't forget to come together for our famous young scholars' dinner and social activity... We won't reveal too much, but we hope you enjoy scavenger hunts.

Committee news

We also have some committee news to share: Our social media expert and woman behind the spotlight Flore Geukens has left the Young Scholars committee. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Flore for all of her work in strengthening our wonderful network of young scholars. All the best for the future, Flore! Furthermore, we are very happy to that Anna-Maria Mayer will be helping out in our committee. Welcome and thank you, Anna!

Stay updated!

The monthly spotlights on recent work of EARA's young scholars together with interesting announcements, such as open vacancies, conference calls, and upcoming summer schools, are posted on our [Facebook page](#) (@earayoungscholars) and [Twitter page](#) (@EaraYoung). So, follow us and stay updated!

Your EARA Young Scholars committee,

Susanne Schulz, Savaş Karataş, and Daráine Murphy

EARA ***Announcement***

THE 2022 EARA-EADP-SRA SUMMER SCHOOL

Preparations for the 2022 EARA-EADP-SRA summer school are well underway! We found 6 renowned researchers of different topics of adolescent development willing to participate in the school. Their names are (in alphabetical order): Toon Cillessen, Candace Currie, Nancy Hill, Lisa Kiang, Noona Kiuru and Andreas Neubauer. Also, last month the different selection committees of the three organizations each selected 8 PhD students

from around the globe to participate in the summer school. In total 24 PhD students out of 60 applicants were selected based on their academic records, research experience, letters of recommendation, and overall evidence of scientific aptitude and competence.

Thanks to the EARA2022 conferences, we found a great location for the summer school: the site for the school will be in the Glenview hotel in Wicklow, a nice town nearby Dublin, Ireland. The summer school will take place directly before the conference so that participants can join the conference afterwards.

The summer school includes preparatory readings and four intensive days of research training. The training includes exposure to innovative and creative research, as well as workshops focusing on professional skills. The participating PhD students will also present and get feedback on their PhD studies. The summer school is organized by Susan Branje, Lisa Kiang, Oana Negru-Subtirica, Stefanos Mastrotheodoros and Muge Artar.

Covid-19 Adolescent Developmental Dataverse **Spread the Word on the Virus**

The scientific response to COVID-19 ushered in collaborative structures, teams, and tools designed to increase the breadth, efficiency, and speed of progress. In this same vein, the SRA COVID-19 Response Team, announces our latest initiative targeting scholars who have or are looking for data pertaining to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on adolescent development writ large. The COVID-19 Adolescent Development Dataverse (CADD) is a data opportunity repository in which scientists can advertise or deposit their data as well as search for opportunities to connect and collaborate with other scholars who share their interests.

Do you have data on COVID-19 and adolescent development? We encourage you to upload a description of your data so others can contact you about collaborations. You are not obligated to deposit any data directory nor are you obligated to agree to any inquiries for collaboration. The more scientists who upload data opportunities in CADD, the more likely we are to engender cross-lab as well as cross-national collaborations. If you have already deposited your data in another depository, you may also list that opportunity in CADD (and include the doi listing associated with your original data depository.) A video and tools to support creating your data opportunity entry are posted on our website: <http://www.fjcolab.org/cadd>.

Are you looking for data on COVID-19 and adolescent development? We plan to be the place to look for collaborations, though we first need to encourage scholars to list their data opportunities. If you want to be sure to keep abreast of developments with CADD, please join our listserv by sending an email to: sracovid-subscribe@fjcolab.org. For more details or to get started in listing your data opportunity, visit our website at <http://www.fjcolab.org/cadd>. (Sponsored by the Templeton Foundation, the Society for Research on Adolescence and the Family Journeys Co-Lab).

Benefits of EARA membership

With the EARA conference in Dublin approaching, we would like to point to the benefits of an EARA membership for those whose membership may have (recently) expired. EARA offers many advantages for researchers in the domain of adolescent development, such as

- Reduced fees for the Association's Biennial Meetings: <https://www.eara2022.com>
- Possibility to nominate your colleagues or being nominated for the EARA prestigious awards
- Possibility to run for EARA elections of the Council and Young scholars committee
- Possibility to apply for EARA special issues published in the Journal of Adolescence
- Possibility to apply for EARA summer schools and training opportunities for young scholars, such as the EARA webinars (<https://www.earaonline.org/resources/webinars/>)
- Free Newsletter twice a year
- Up-to-date information on congresses, research, and grant opportunities via the mailing list
- Free electronic Membership Directory
- 20% discount on the volumes in the Studies in Adolescent Development (SIAD) book series (published by Psychology Press)
- An active network of young scholars in research on adolescence (<https://www.earaonline.org/young-scholars/about/>)

More detailed information on how to renew your membership or join EARA can be found here:

<https://www.earaonline.org/membership/joinrenew/>. In case of further questions, please contact Katharina Eckstein (membership secretary) – katharina.eckstein@uni-jena.de

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EARA Publications

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***We look forward to
meeting you all at the
18th EARA Conference,
2022 in Dublin!***