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A group of 35 young professionals from 12 European countries were invited to a conference in the European Parliament (Brussels), to address and discuss youth transition from several perspectives (education, employment, housing, founding a family, etc.). Previously, participants had the opportunity for networking and sharing views at an intensive preparatory workshop.

The whole project was organized by the National Association of Large Families in Hungary (NOE), MEP Gyorgy Holvenyi and the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD).

We propose to present the results in a side event during the 9th Economic and Social Council Youth Forum (1-2 April 2020) at UN HQ in New York, with the same concept note and the goal of disseminating the recommendations of it. With that purpose, we would count on 2 of the young professionals (1 from Netherland, 1 from Hungary) and the main organizer of it (from IFFD). The cost of the three trips would be covered.



From left to right, MEP Lukas Mandl, Austria; MEP Michaela Sojdrová, Czech Republic; Ignacio Socias, director of International Relations of IFFD; Paul Grass, moderator; Katalin Novak, State Secretary for Family and Youth Affairs of Hungary; Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic, Director for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission; Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic, Director for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission; and Katalin Kardosne Gyurko, president of NOE.



Preparatory workshop of the group of young professionals. The whole process was facilitated by [Grafacity Visual Services](#).

BACKGROUND NOTE

In the 20th century, the economy underwent a major restructure. Governments encouraged young people to complete secondary school, in an effort to increase the knowledge and education levels of the labour force. The result was mass education and a credentialed workforce with less full-time work available, but also youth unemployment/underemployment.

The three different types of ‘traditional transitions’ were considered widespread until the mid 1970s. The first type of transition is termed ‘school-to-work’, defined as ‘young people first leaving school at the minimum school leaving age and immediately, and with few difficulties, getting a job’. Secondly, there is what can be termed a ‘housing transition’ meaning that the young person leaves the family home and sets up a place of their own. Such transitions were possible because of the stability and security provided by a stable job career that enabled them to save and plan for a move. Lastly, on their traditional journey into adulthood, a young person underwent a ‘family transition’ in which form a relationship, get engaged, then married, and upon marriage leaving home to live with their spouse’.

Recently, the ‘traditional transitions’ have been transformed over the past 30 years to become more complex and less predictable, often termed as ‘extended transitions’ meaning that the process of moving from childhood (dependency) to adulthood (independence) is taking much, much longer. This means that leaving school and entering employment is much less common as 4 out of 5 young people stay now stay on in further education or training; similarly, there is an increased dependency on parents as 1 in 3 young people go onto University. The traditional ‘housing transition’ has also changed as it is more likely that young people will leave home not to set up a family home, as significant numbers do not to get married and move in with spouse – but to live alone, with a friend or at university. Social and economic factors mean that there is less affordable housing and an ever-decreasing availability of social housing. Recent studies show that of those aged 20-24, 1 in 3 men and 1 in 4 women lived at home with parents.

In 2020, young people are therefore required to navigate in a much more complex transitional terrain. Unlike their predecessors, they experience non-linear, fragmented and extended youth transitions. Family support can be the key to overcome difficulties, also avoiding social costs on public health and other consequences of social disintegration.



OBJECTIVES

The goals of this conference were to empower attendees to stand up, to open a dialogue and to discuss with experts and decision makers about the role of families in supporting youth transitions from school to work and, ultimately, youth employment outcomes, with a view on the Sustainable Development Goals; the role of family policies in helping families to fulfil that role; and the timing and ways of founding families for young couples. Consequently, it intended to provide clues for a better navigation in post-secondary education, job search, employment, family support and starting a family heading for a better future of the young.



During the press conference at the European Parliament.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, February 18th, 2020
10:00-12:00 – Room Amstrong
Hotel Siru
Brussels

Introductory Remarks
Ignacio Socias

General Discussion Paper:

https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef1392en_0.pdf

Guidelines for the use of Grafacity
Szilárd Strenner

Group Work

I. Inequalities Linked to Education

Luis Sancho - Spain (Rapporteur)
Luigi Di Marino - Italy (Acting rapporteur)
Emilija Senkutė - Denmark / Lithuania
Sabolta Batta - Hungary
Paul Graas - Nederland

Discussion Paper:

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/629204/IPOL_STU\(2019\)629204_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/629204/IPOL_STU(2019)629204_EN.pdf)

II. Decent Jobs and Underemployment

Franciszek Wiącek - Poland (Rapporteur)
Stefan Bertha - Sweden (Acting rapporteur)
Katalin Kakucs - Hungary
Inese Muceniece - Latvia
Ivan Arizmendi Meneses – Italy

Discussion Paper:
<https://journals.openedition.org/brussels/pdf/1202>

III. Adequate Housing

Giuseppe Di Giacomo Pepe - Italy (Rapporteur)
Ágnes Modrovich - Belgium (Acting rapporteur)
Mária Borbála Váczi - Hungary
Klaudia Koseła - Poland
Claudia Lienert - Sweden

Discussion Paper:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6472495/pdf/PSP-25-na.pdf>

IV. Work-family Balance

Coen Vermeij - Netherlands (Rapporteur)
Jakub Czugala - Poland (Acting rapporteur)
Janos Bösze - Hungary
Mónika Tolnai - Hungary
Chiara Ledda - Italy

Discussion Paper:
<https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=15763&langId=en>

V. Access to New Technologies

Everard Van Weede - Netherlands (Rapporteur)
Martin Péter Molnár - Hungary (Acting rapporteur)
Sara Ciaci - Italy
Maciej Lis - Poland
Antonina Waszkiewicz - Poland

Discussion Paper:
<https://bit.ly/38BQECg>

VI. Social Policies and Social Integration

Getter Rang - Estonia (Rapporteur)
Mária Mile - Hungary (Acting rapporteur)
Nóra Rebeka Molnár - Hungary
Roelof van Holthe - Nederland

Discussion Paper:
<https://rm.coe.int/policy-paper-on-social-inclusion-through-youth-participation-eng/16809391e0>

VII. Financial Difficulties

Bénédicte Colin - France (Rapporteur)
Viktor Molnár - Hungary
Agata Skibińska - Poland
Maria Elvira Dursio - Italy

Discussion Paper:
<https://cordis.europa.eu/docs/results/613/613256/final1-style-613256-final-report-nov-2017.pdf>

General discussion
Rapporteurs

Closing Remarks
Ignacio Socias



**Tuesday, February 18th, 2020
15.00-18.30 – Room JAN 6Q1
European Parliament
Brussels**

SESSION I

Moderator
Paul Graas

György Hölvényi
Member of European Parliament
Hungary

Katalin Novak
State Secretary for Family and Youth Affairs
Hungary

Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic
Director for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission

Katalin Kardosne Gyurko
President of the National Association of Large Families in Hungary (NOE)

Ignacio Socias
Director of International Relations of the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)

Michaela Sojdrova
Member of European Parliament
Czech Republic

Lukas Mandl
Member of European Parliament
Austria

Karlo Ressler
Member of European Parliament
Croatia

Kinga Gal
Member of European Parliament
Hungary

NOE INTERNATIONAL AWARD CEREMONY

Presentation
Kinga Joo

Janos Makuk

Director of Charity Service of the Order of Malta at the Beregovo District, Ukraine

Luciano Malfer

Director of the Family Agency of the autonomous province of Trento (Italy)



SESSION II

Moderator

Paul Graas

Kinga Joo

Vice-President of the National Association of Large Families in Hungary (NOE)

Ignacio Socias

Director of International Relations of the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD)

Balazs Molnar

Vice-President of Maria Kopp Institute for Demography and Families (KINCS)
Hungary

Bénédicte Colin

Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe (FAFCE)
France

Maria Waszkiewicz

European Large Families Confederation (ELFAC)
Poland

Statements by teams

Luis Sancho (Spain)

Franciszek Wiacek (Poland)

Coen Vermeij (Netherlands)

Everard Van Weede (Netherlands)

Getter Rang (Estonia)

Bénédicte Colin (France)

Q&A



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Inequalities Linked to Education

Education is essential to economic growth, poverty reduction, gender equality, public health, conflict resolution and the transformation to sustainable production and consumption. Ensuring equality in education can further accelerate the achievement of these and other Sustainable Development Goals. We need a consensus as to which education indicators, inequality measures, individual characteristics and data sources should be emphasized.

II. Decent Jobs and Underemployment

There needs to be a focus on linking schools, universities and employers together. For that, it is important to reassess the value of unpaid internships; to ensure that all secondary schools have active partnerships with employers; to implement an effective earlier career guidance; to create new and modern apprenticeship opportunities, particularly for those furthest from the labor market; to provide fair opportunities for disadvantaged youth; and to encourage entrepreneurship with adequate tax benefits and learning opportunities.

III. Adequate Housing

Adequate housing is more than four walls and a roof. It is the right of every woman, man, youth and child of a safe and secure home and community in which to live in peace and dignity. A more progressive tax system for youth would prevent costs associated with housing to compromise other basic needs. Houses should provide safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, energy for cooking, heating and lighting, sanitation and washing facilities, means of food storage, refuse disposal, etc.; their location should also allow access to employment options, health-care services, schools, child-care centres and other social facilities and should not be built on polluted sites nor in immediate proximity to pollution sources.

IV. Work-family Balance

Finding a meaningful balance between professional life and personal life can bring many benefits for young workers and their families. To make it possible, there should be topics in the educational curriculum to better understand family formation and dynamics; a map of conciliation and family-friendly services should be provided at the local level; and there should be more attention to the needs of mothers and the role of fathers to achieve gender equality.

V. Access to New Technologies

The new complex social environment we live in requires new ways of looking at universal accessibility and methodologies to guarantee it. The information society (equipment and services) must not only be designed for all, but also by all. This means that users must be integrated not only in the phase of requirement analysis, but as actors in designing and implementing solutions.

VI. Social Policies and Social Integration

There is a growing trend to restrict social inclusion policy to the idea of “social integration” through better access to the labour market. While this is very important, young people have to face greater challenges and longer transition to autonomous life. Solid guaranteed social protections packages should include universal entitlements to basic income grant, without conditions attached to employment status, and appropriate disability and child allowances for the social and cultural environment.

VII. Financial Difficulties

Including financial education as part of the school curriculum would be a fair and efficient policy tool. Also, youth still face many barriers in accessing financial services, including restrictions in the legal and regulatory environment, inappropriate and inaccessible products and services, and low financial capabilities. Adapting the system and finding ways to overcome those barriers and eliminate restrictions would be key to solve that gap in their lives.