

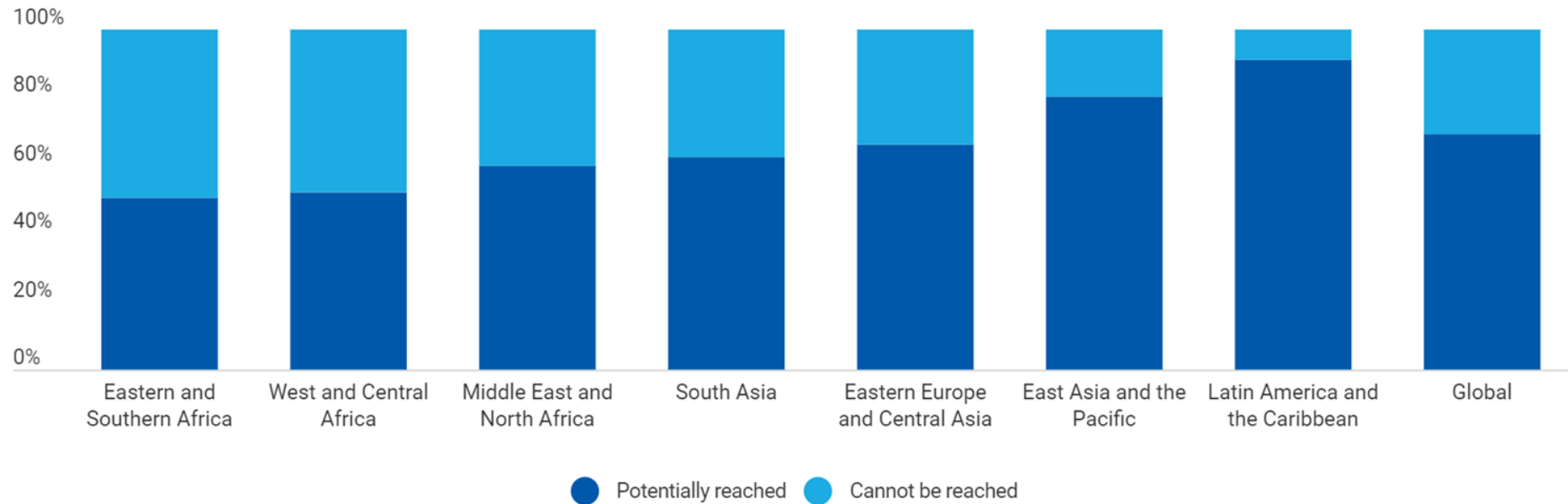
Preventing the lockdown generation

- 1) Unemployment
- 2) Education
- 3) Mental health
- 4) Digitalisation
- 5) What must be done
- 6) What are youth organisations doing?
- 7) European Youth Capital

Unemployment

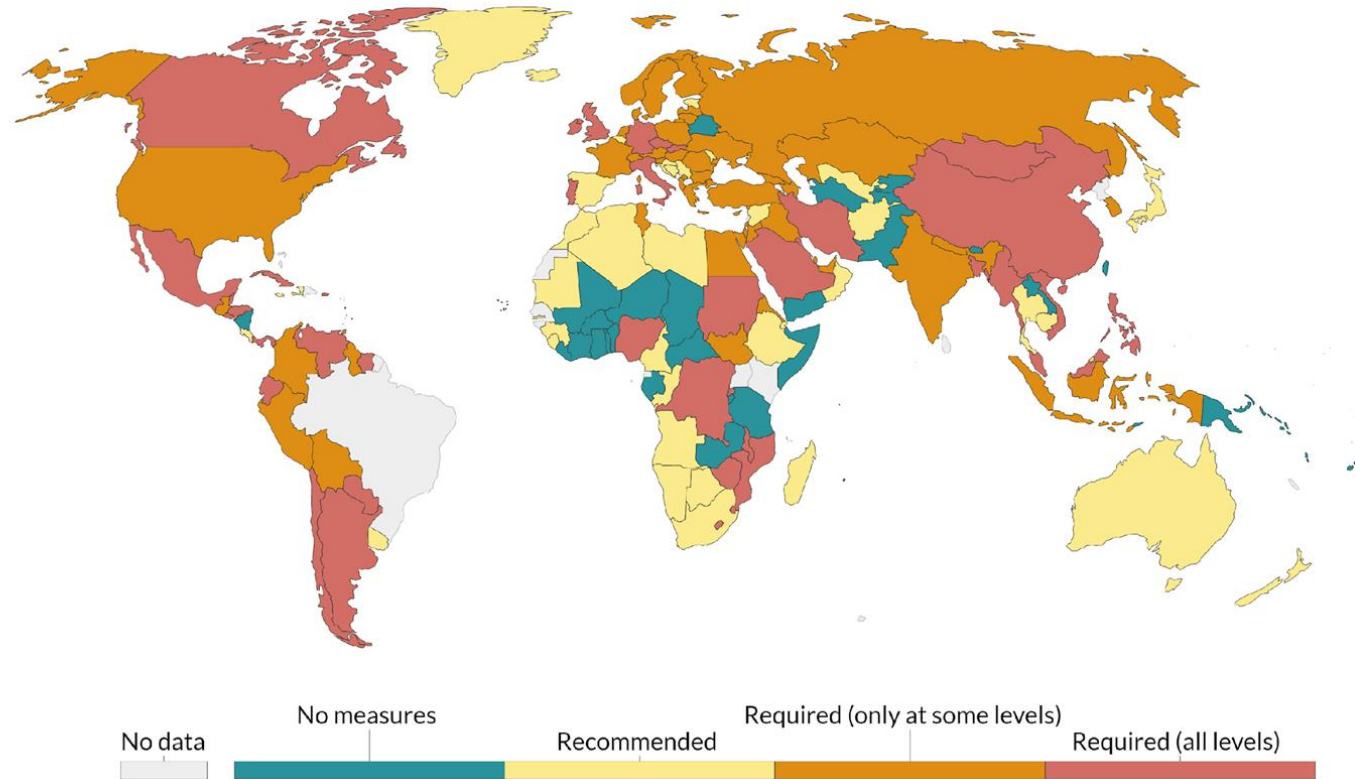
1. Since 2008, youth unemployed has been more than twice the EU average
2. During recessions, youth unemployment rises twice as fast as the overall unemployment rate
3. 13% of young people work without a contract Young people are overrepresented in the sectors most affected by Covid-19,
4. Minimum income schemes are hard to access due to minimum age requirements

Education



- 150 million additional children do not have access to education or health services
- School closures have affected more than 91% of students worldwide – around 1.6 billion children and young people

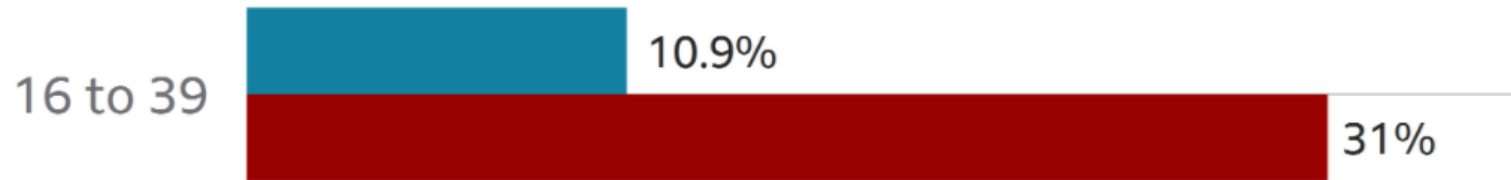
School closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, Feb 23, 2021



- On 10th April 2020, there were 188 country-wide closures with almost 1.6 Billion students affected.

Mental health

- Depression has increased by 20%

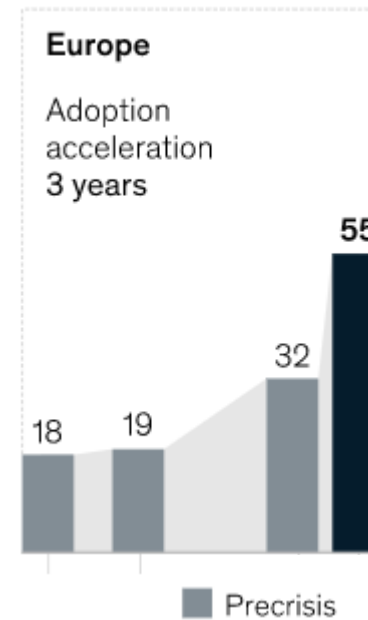


- More than 50 per cent of the population reported considerably elevated levels of distress specific to the pandemic.

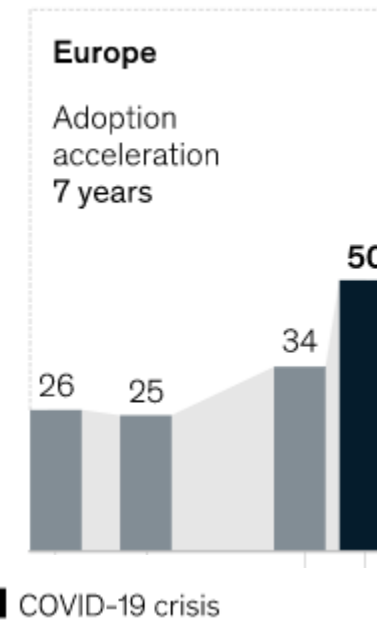
Digitalisation

- Rapid digitalisation has forced the world to change before some people were ready for it
- But it must also be part of the solution

Average share of customer interactions that are digital (%)



Average share of products and/or services that are partially or fully digitalised (%)



What must be done

1. Invest in young people

- High quality jobs- social protection
- Inclusive education catch up

2. Rights based recovery

- Protect social rights
- Mainstream youth rights intersectionality
- Ban unpaid internships

3. Youth participation

- Bring young people into decision making
- Strengthen youth participation mechanisms
- Citizenship education

What are youth organisations doing?

The European Students' Union

- Published a thorough review of the human rights violations during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The National Youth Council of Ireland

- Organised “The Solidarity Conversations”, a series of training sessions, to discuss COVID-19 and what it means for youth work; and provide a space for youth practitioners and youth workers to share, question, reflect and connect online.



The Big 6 Youth Organisations

- YMCA, YWCA, WOSM, WAGGGS, IFRC, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award put together six toolkits to support local communities during the pandemic.



The European Youth Capital



EUROPEAN
YOUTH
CAPITAL



An innovative way to face challenges

- How can young people contribute to major issues?
- The EYC title provides opportunities to cities to involve youth within the decision-making process
- Local policy responses better fit to young people's needs and inspirations for the future
- Youth seen as a resource, and not a burden for the society

Best practices from the EYCs

- **Braga EYC 2012:** volunteering activities to support mental health and fight isolation
- **Thessaloniki EYC 2014:** digital services created in cooperation with young citizens to better adjust to their needs
- **Varna EYC 2017:** municipality-led centre for career development to connect local employers, universities and young people
- And many more...

“A Europe without youth is a Europe without a future. Therefore it is fundamental to make the youth a priority in our public policies.”

Marie-Hélène Bouchez, Deputy-Mayor of Amiens,
European Youth Capital 2020

The bigger picture

- Covid-19: employment, education, mental health
- Climate crisis: existential
- Digitalisation: AI/automation/surveillance
- Democracy: systemic challenges



european
youth forum

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