



YO-VID22¹: Final Project Conference

19 September 2025, University of Maribor, Koroška cesta 160

We are pleased to invite you to the YO-VID22 one-day conference dedicated to exploring the well-being of youth and the support structures that guided them before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Join leading experts, practitioners, and young professionals from Slovenia, Croatia, and beyond as we share insights, best practices, and policy recommendations aimed at strengthening youth resilience in the face of future crises.

Conference Objectives

Comparative analysis of youth well-being data from before (2018), during, and after COVID-19.

Assessment of the importance of social support systems (family, peers, institutions) in youth social inclusion.

Sharing best practices and innovative solutions to improve well-being during crises.

Development and presentation of policy recommendations for youth support at national and European levels.

Target Audience

Academic community

Educators, counsellors, and psychologists

Healthcare professionals and epidemiologists

Representatives of civil society organisations, youth centres, and public institutions

Young people and students.

Thematic Tracks

1. Educational Challenges and Digital Learning Environments

Well-being and mental health challenges related to hybrid and online learning

Accessibility of digital tools and platforms

2. Youth Mental Health

Prevalence of depression, anxiety, and stress during the pandemic

Strategies for providing support and resilience-building

3. Social Connectedness and Community

Family, partnership and peer circles

Civic engagement and activism under social restrictions

4. Transition to the Labour Market

Labour market insecurities and well-being

Entrepreneurship and innovation as crisis responses

5. Policy and Cultural Perspectives

Crisis management employed by civil society organisations

National strategies for youth support and crisis management.

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Conference programme

09:00-09:30	Opening Words	Andrej Naterer, University of Maribor, Department of Sociology Dunja Potočnik, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb
09:30-11:00	Keynote Session	Helena Jeriček Klanšček, National Institute for Public Health Sonja Mitter Škulj, SALTO South-East Europe
11:00-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-11:30	Housing and living conditions	Rudi Klanjšek, University of Maribor, Department of Sociology
11:30-11:45	Well-being and mental health	Darja Maslić Seršić, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, Department of Psychology
11:45-12:00	Educational trajectories and the labour market	Iva Odak, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb
12:00-12:15	Family and partnership	Danijela Lahe, University of Maribor, Department of Sociology
12:15-12:30	Social support and support service	Dunja Potočnik, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb
12:30-12:45	Civic and political participation	Anja Gvozdanović, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb
12:45-13:00	(Self)-expectation	Sandra Antulić Majcen, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb
13:00-13:15	Cultural context (values, attitudes, religion and trust)	Miran Lavrič, University of Maribor, Department of Sociology
13:15-13:30	Policy recommendations	Dunja Potočnik, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb
13:30-15:00	Lunch	Restaurant "Piano", University of Maribor
15:00-15:30	Panel discussion	Moderator and conference participants
15:30-16:00	Closing Remarks	Andrej Naterer, University of Maribor, Department of Sociology Dunja Potočnik, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb Minea Rutar, University of Maribor, Department of Psychology

Conference moderator: Lucija Dežan, University of Maribor, Department of Sociology