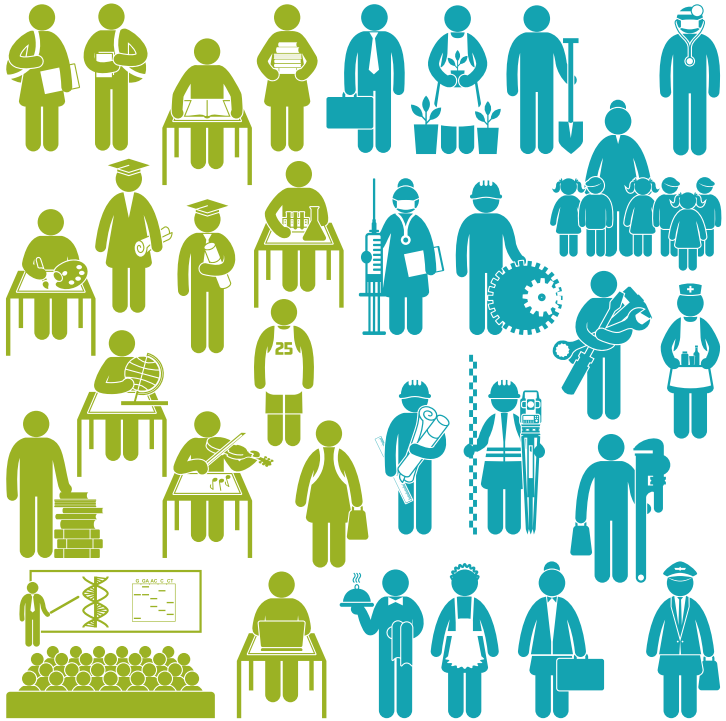
EDU LAB | European Youth in Transition to Education and Labour



A Horizon Europe collaborative project (2025-2027)
Grant Agreement # 101177428
Project Duration: 2025–2027

Funded by the European Union

Youth Voices from Finland:

Key Challenges and Solutions in Education and the Transition to Work: Preliminary Findings

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Case Study Locations in Finland: Helsinki and Tampere region (CS1-2)

Helsinki

- Urban area and diverse population
- Extensive education provision
- Youth unemployment has increased in recent years

Tampere region

- Urban centre surrounded by smaller cities, towns, and rural areas
- Diverse education provision
- Youth unemployment has increased in recent years



Participants

FG participants by location

Helsinki	46
Tampere region	54

Gender

Female	70
Male	29
Non-binary	6
Don’t want to say	5

Age

15-18 years	43
19-23 years	36
24 or > years	30
Missing	1

Country of Birth

Finland	85
Other	25
Missing	

Other (countries): Afganistan, England, Eritrea, Estonia, France, Germany, Irak, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Somalia, Sweden, Syria, Türkiye, Ukraine, Venezuela

Migration Background

No migrant background	67
Migrant background	43
Missing	0

Ethnic Minority Background

No ethnic minority background	87
Ethnic minority background	24
Missing	6

Participants

Disability Status

No disability	92
Disability	7
Missing/Prefer not to say	8

In education (E&T)

In E&T	86
Not in E&T	19
Missing	5

Employment situation

Only studying	45
In employment (full-time or part-time)	26
Not in employment and/or is seeking employment	18
Other/Prefer not to say/ Missing	21

Participant profile in FGs

ISCED 3 – Upper secondary school	27
ISCED 3 – Upper secondary vocational education (VET)	15
ISCED 4–5 – Post-secondary non-tertiary /short-cycle tertiary / non-formal education	4
ISCED 6 – University of applied sciences	9
ISCED 7–8 – University (master's and doctoral degrees)	15
In employment or seeking a job	8
NEET & dropout youth	18

Perceived socio-economic background

High	7
Medium	63
Low/Very Low	34
Missing/Prefer not to say	6

Preliminary data analysis on key challenges and solutions

Study Aim

To examine and summarise the participatory workshop (PW) data to identify

a) key challenges and obstacles young people face in participating in education and transitioning into working life (PW1)
b) key solutions and proposals young people co-created (PW2-4).

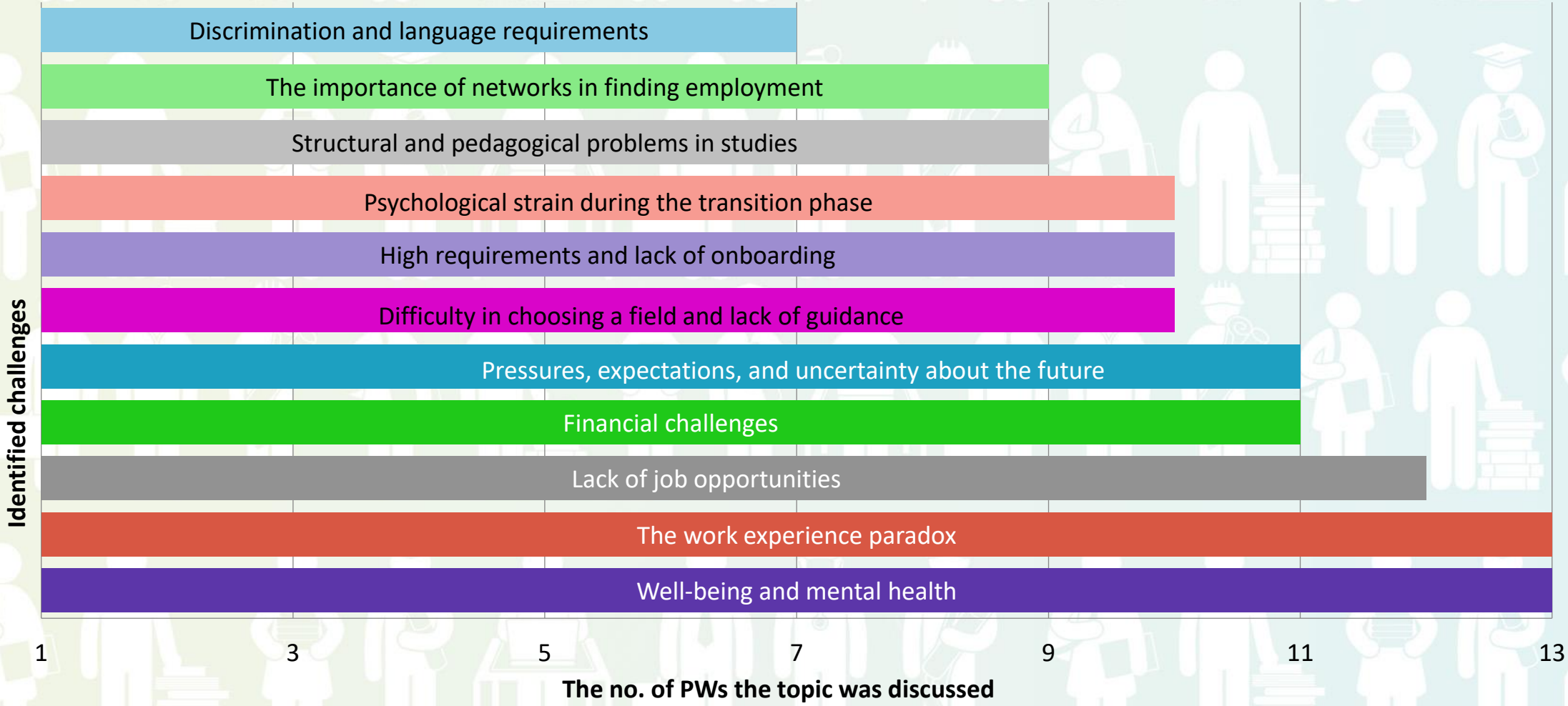
Findings from

- ✓ CS locations: Helsinki & Tampere region
- ✓ Data: Summaries of each PW sessions: 24 + 27 = **51** sessions (13 chains of 4 PWs)
- ✓ Total number of participants (N): 39 + 51 = **90**

Preliminary analysis

All PW 1 session summaries and PW2-4 session summaries were compiled. --> Copilot was used to create an overall summary and to calculate the frequencies of similar emerging themes concerning (a) challenges and obstacles and (b) solutions and proposals.

Key challenges in participating in and completing education and transitioning into the labour market



Key solutions and policy proposals

Policymaking

- Increase young people's financial security and stop reducing the amount of, and tightening the conditions for, study and housing benefits
- Provide sufficient financing to educational institutions

Education programmes and institutions

- Provide low threshold support for mental health issues
- Provide sufficient orientation and support for the development of study skills
- Provide early support for learning difficulties
- Provide support for career choices and opportunities to become acquainted with working life
- Enable acquiring work experience during studies
- Enable networking and meeting employers

Employers

- Ensure equity in recruitment by using anonymous recruitment
- Provide sufficient onboarding and support
- Enable learning Finnish at work

Conclusion

Key take-home message 1

Young people's transition challenges are interconnected: economic insecurity, limited access to work and uncertainty about the future can undermine well-being, while mental health difficulties can further hinder educational and labour market transitions.

Key take-home message 2

While transitions can be supported most effectively in educational institutions, policymakers should ensure adequate funding for education. Employers are expected to act fairly and provide supportive working environments to make transitions smoother.

In sum:

Rather than expecting young people to navigate transitions alone, stronger bridges between education and working life, as well as effective support systems within educational institutions, are needed, especially in the difficult economic and labour market situation Finland is currently facing.

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Thank you for your attention!

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