

# The impact of the Covid-19 crisis on young people

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# The COVID-19 crisis: A modern-day Cerberus

- What began as a **health** crisis, developed into an **economic** recession and profound **social** crisis.
- While the virus was most dangerous for older people, young people were significantly affected by economic and social consequences of government restrictions.
- Eurofound examined how young people aged 15–29, have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis in terms of employment, their economic situation, social exclusion, mental well-being and trust in institutions.



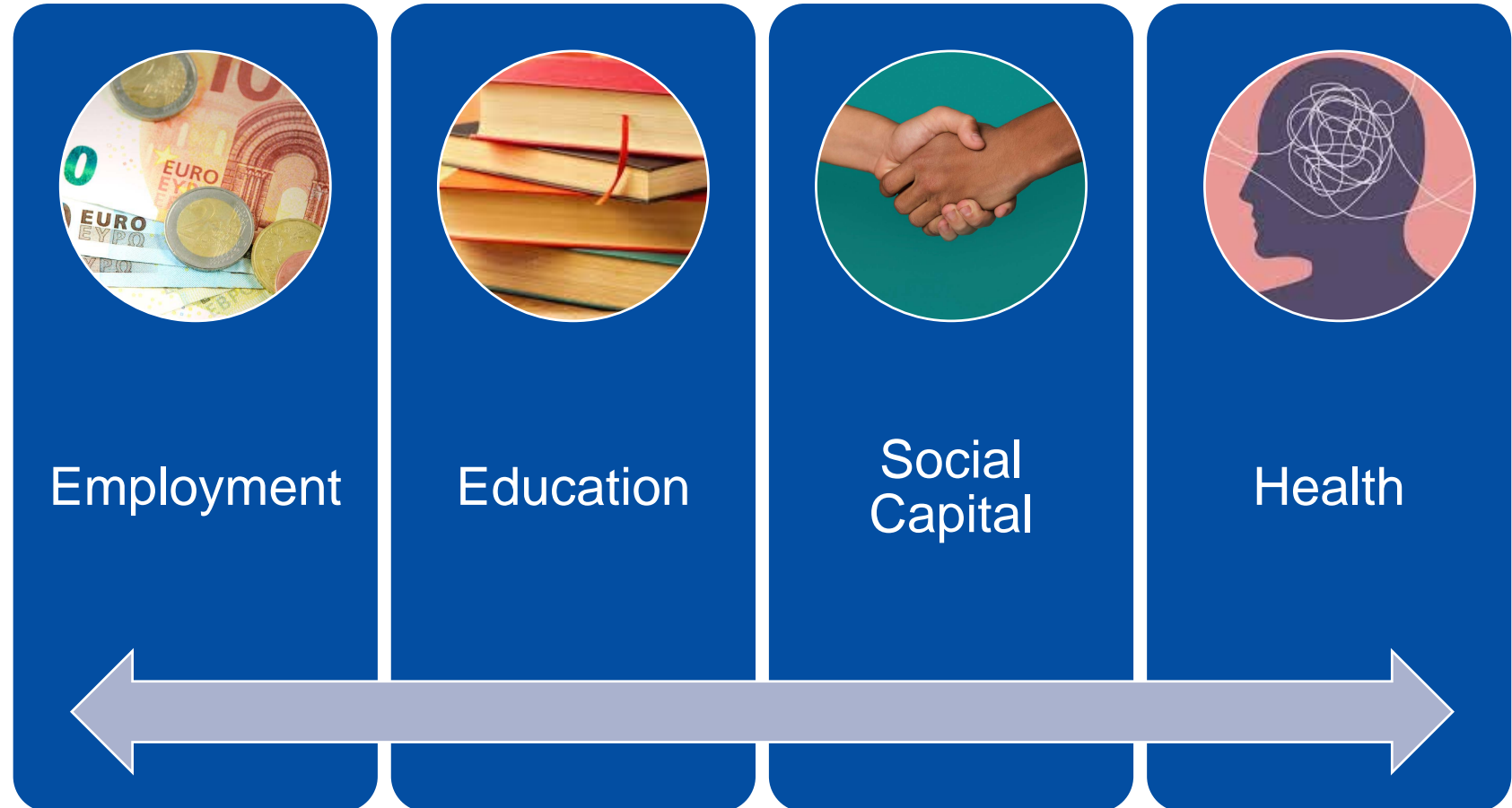


## The *Living, Working and COVID-19* online survey

- Round 1: 2020 spring – 68,000 EU respondents aged 18+
- Round 2: 2020 summer – 24,000 respondents
- Round 3: 2021 spring – 47,000 respondents
- Round 4: 2021 autumn – Panel only round with 19,500 respondents
- Round 5: starting 24 March 2022

# Youth and COVID-19

- Youth were more resilient to health outcomes
- Youth were vulnerable to the economic and social implications of restrictive measures (NPI).
- COVID-19 had multidimensional impact on youth which will affect their life course transitions.

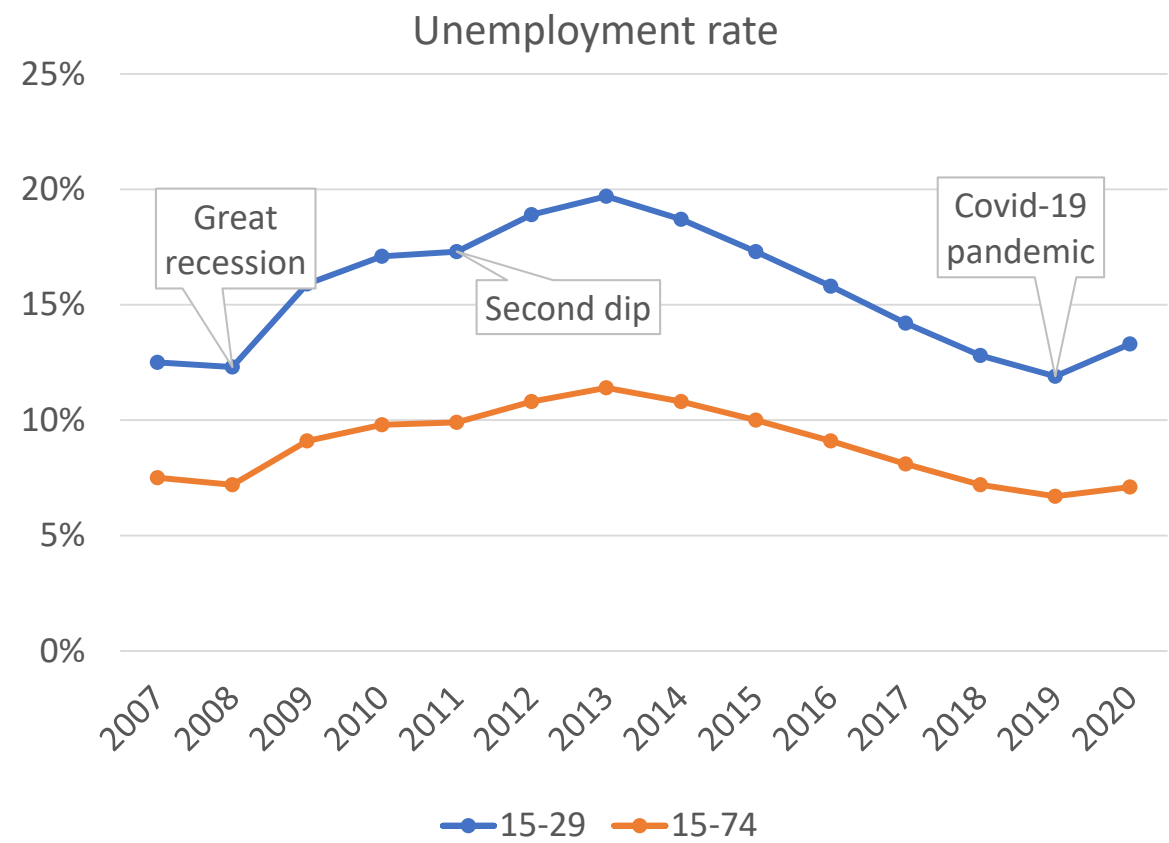
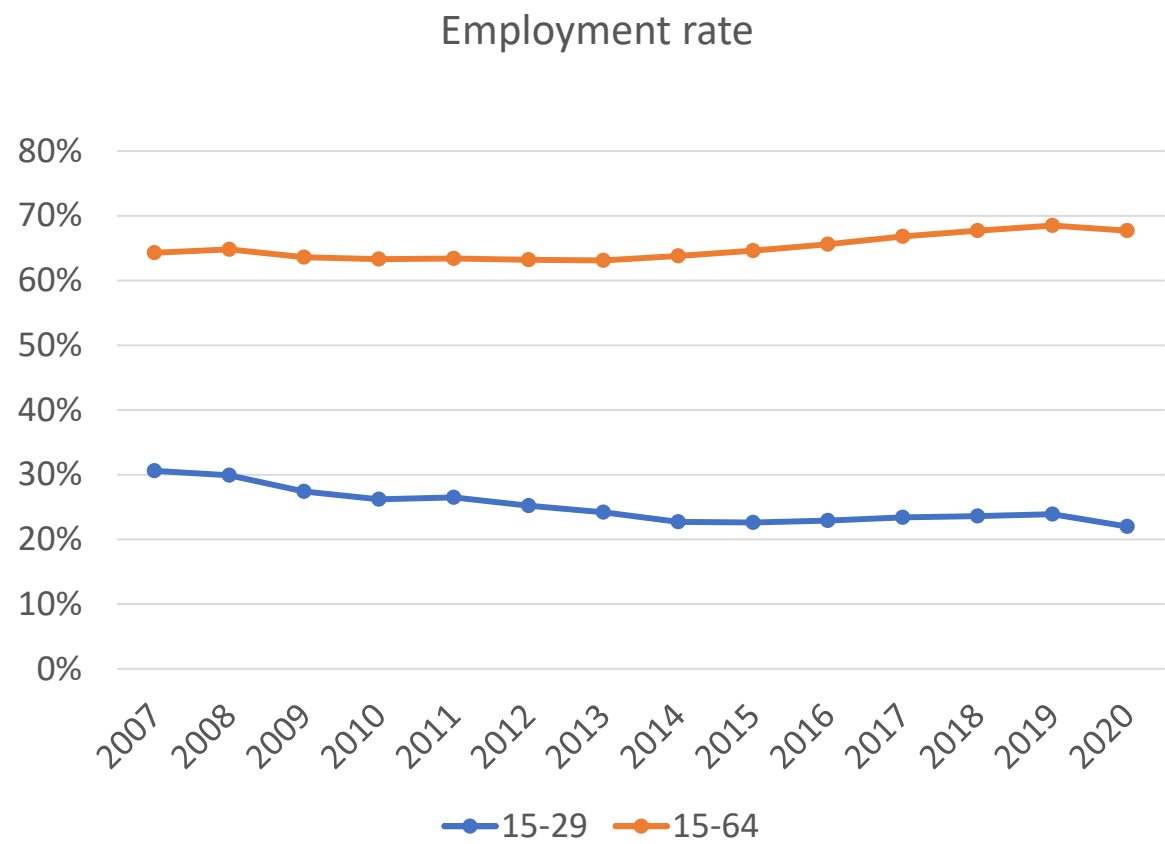


# Employment



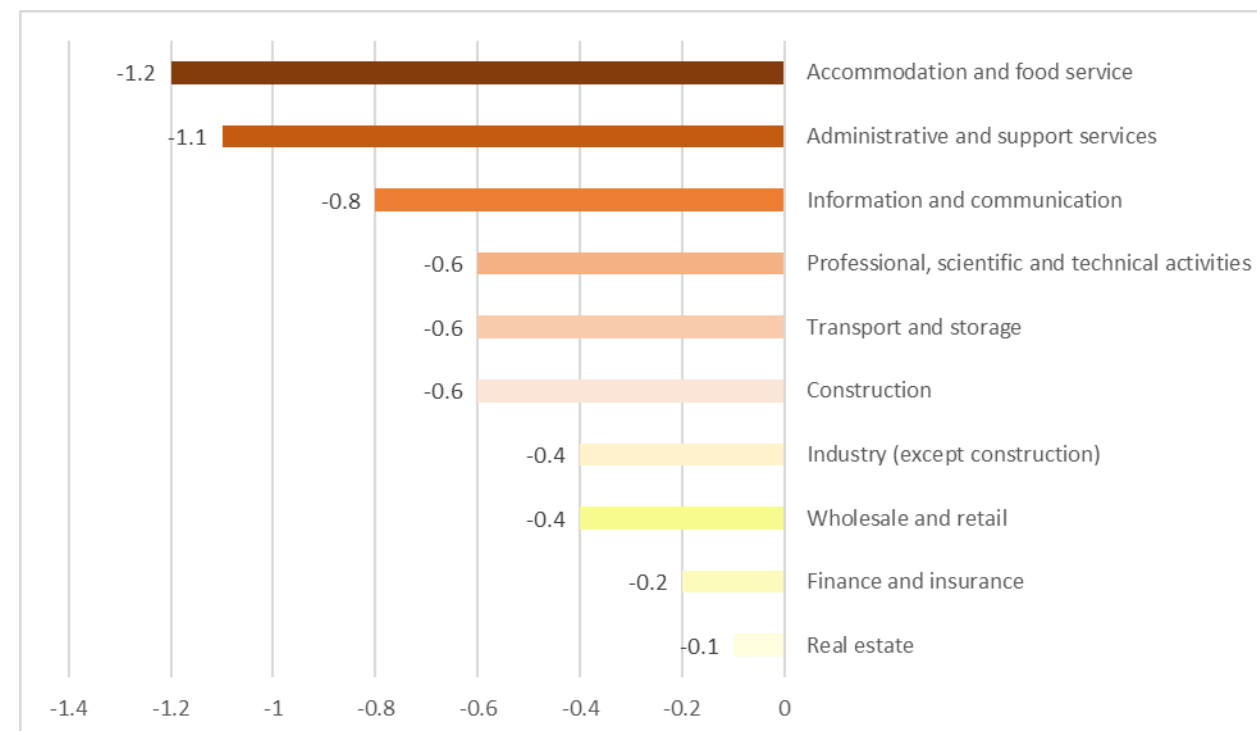


# Employment: is history repeating itself?



# Youth employment was overrepresented in sectors most affected by the pandemic

Decrease in the job vacancy rate between 2019 and 2020 by sector, EU27 (percentage points)

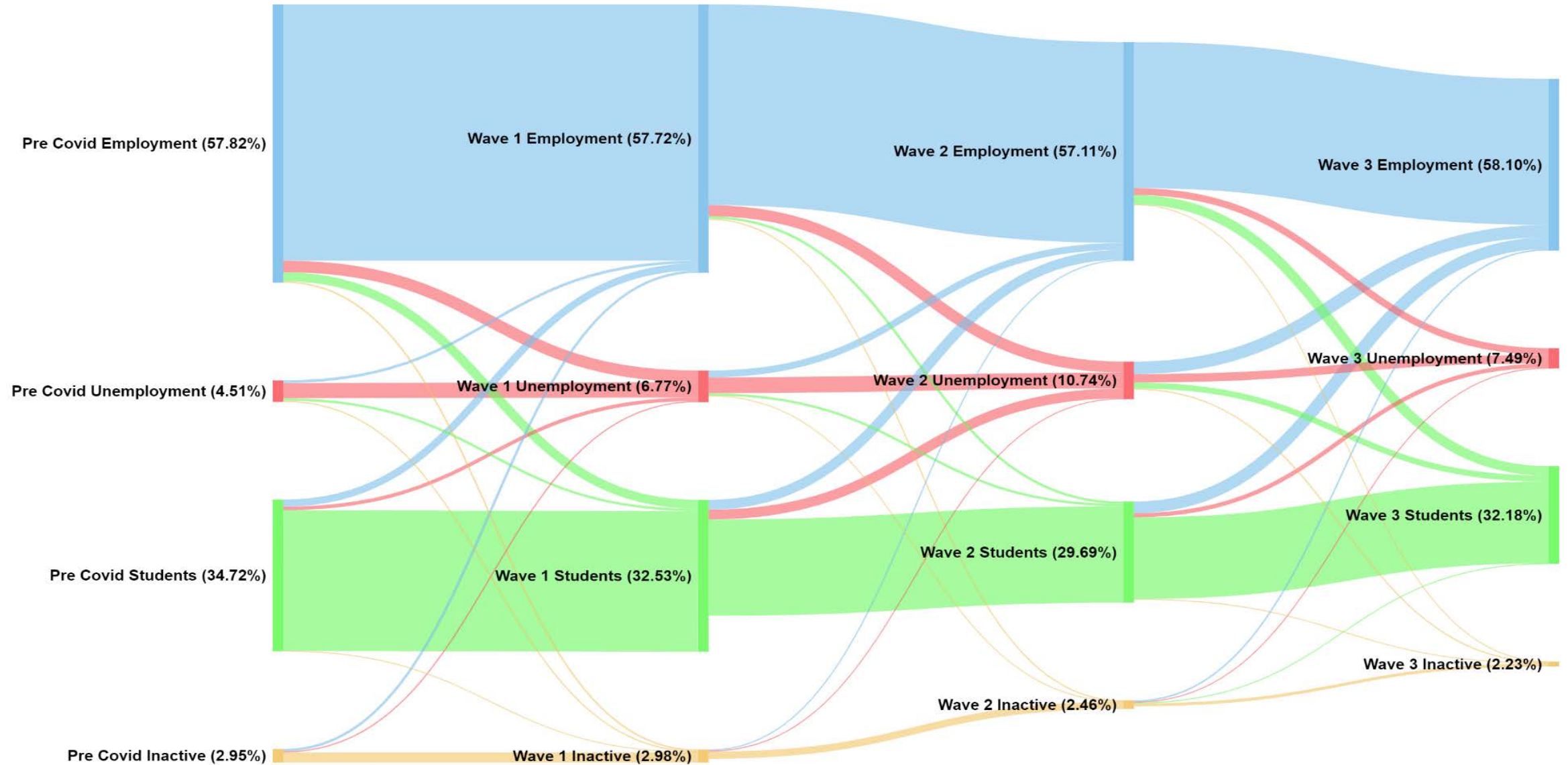


Proportions of workers aged 15–29 and aged 30+ employed by sector, 2019 (%)

Sector	15–29	30+
Agriculture , forestry and fishing	9	13
Industry (except construction)	4	5
Construction	3	3
Wholesale and retail	11	9
Transport and storage	3	2
Accommodation and food service	13	5
Information and communication	4	3
Finance and insurance	1	1
Real estate	1	2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	5	8
Administrative and support services	8	8
Public administration	3	4
Education	9	11
Health and social work	11	12
Arts, entertainment and recreation	10	7
Other services	4	4
Other	1	2

- Lower job security, temporary contracts, part time and lower pay

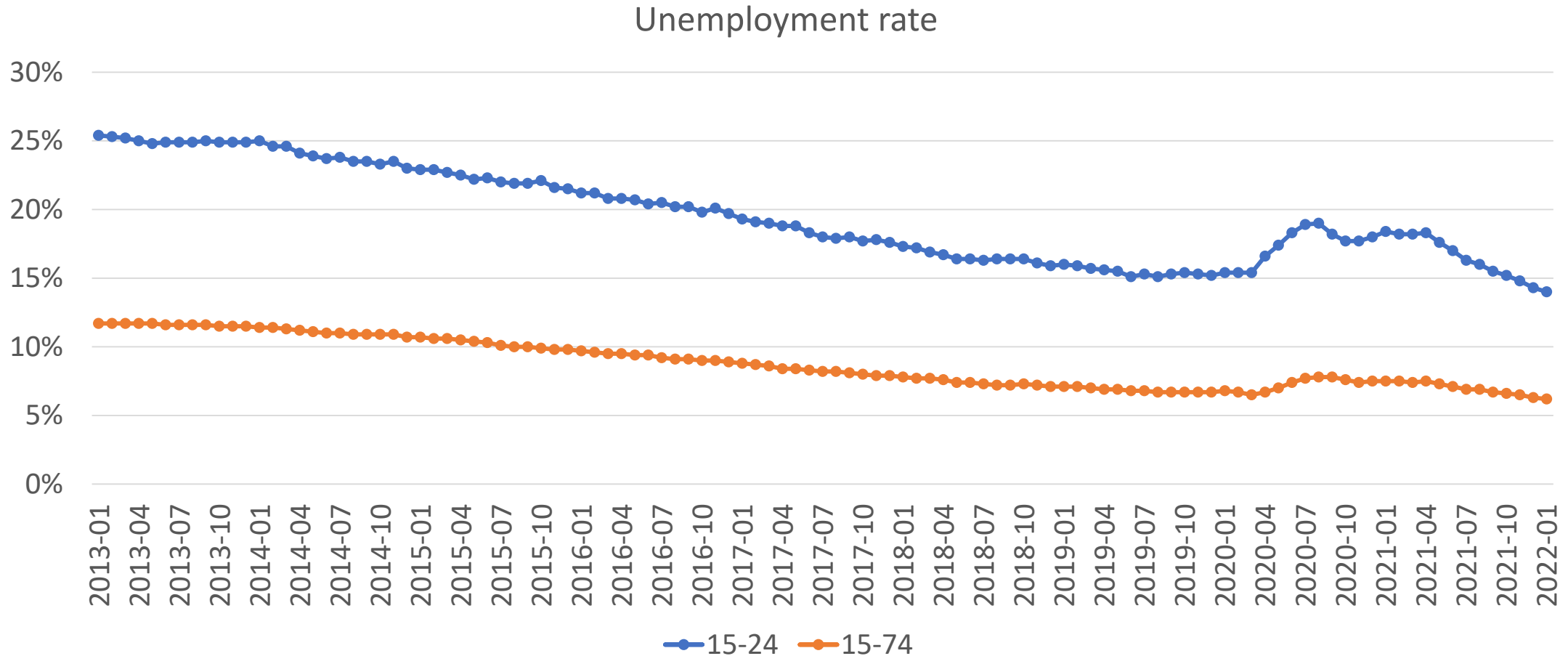
# Employment transitions of young people in the Living, Working and Covid-19 panel



12% job loss (Greece), 12% students transitioned to unemployment (Ireland)



# Unemployment: short-term shock



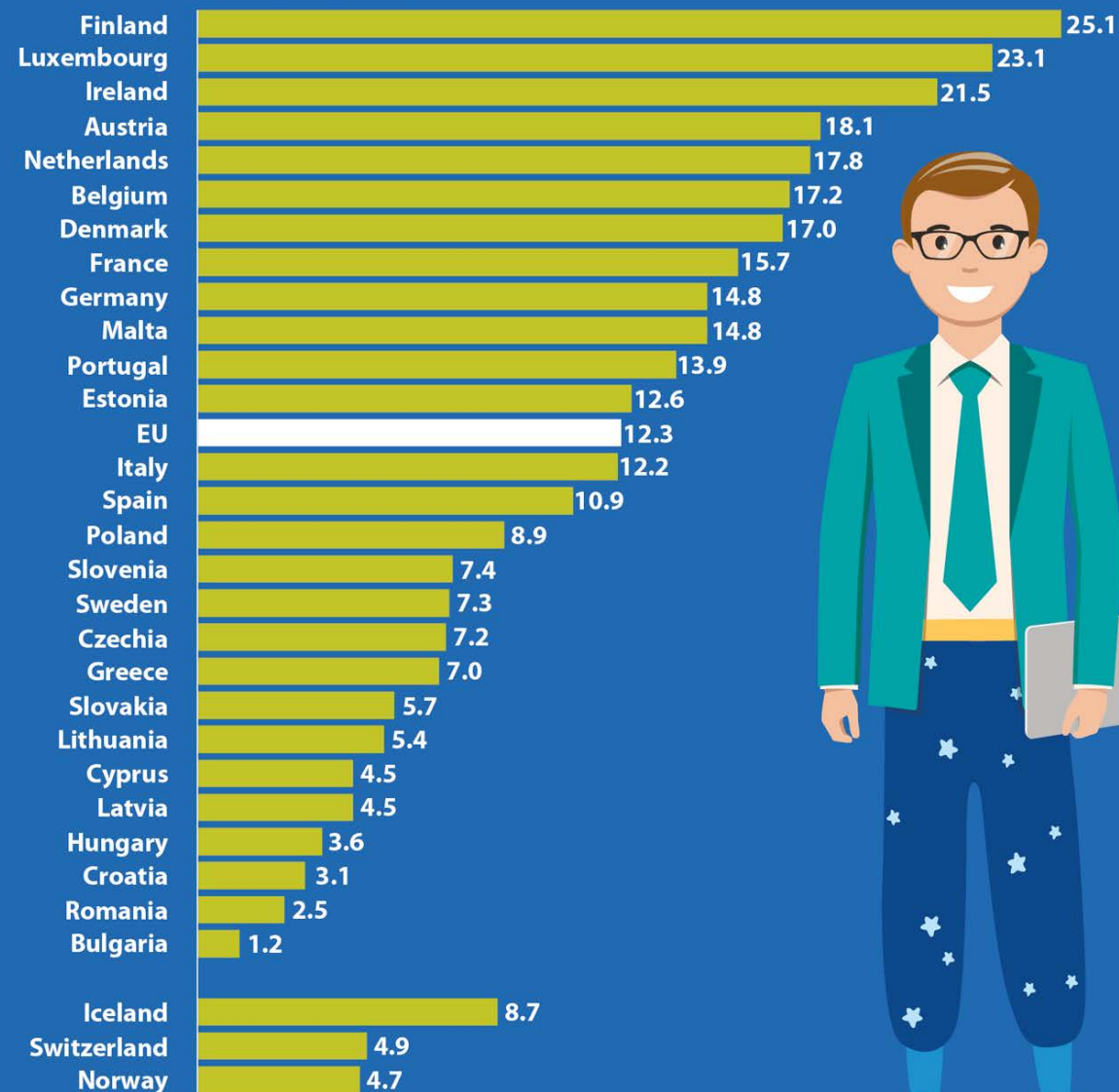
# The surge of telework

In 2020, **12.3% of employed people aged 15-64** in the EU usually worked from home, although this share had remained constant at around 5% over the past decade.

Young people were less likely to work from home in 2020: only **9% of those aged 15-29** reported that they usually worked from home.

## People usually working from home, 2020

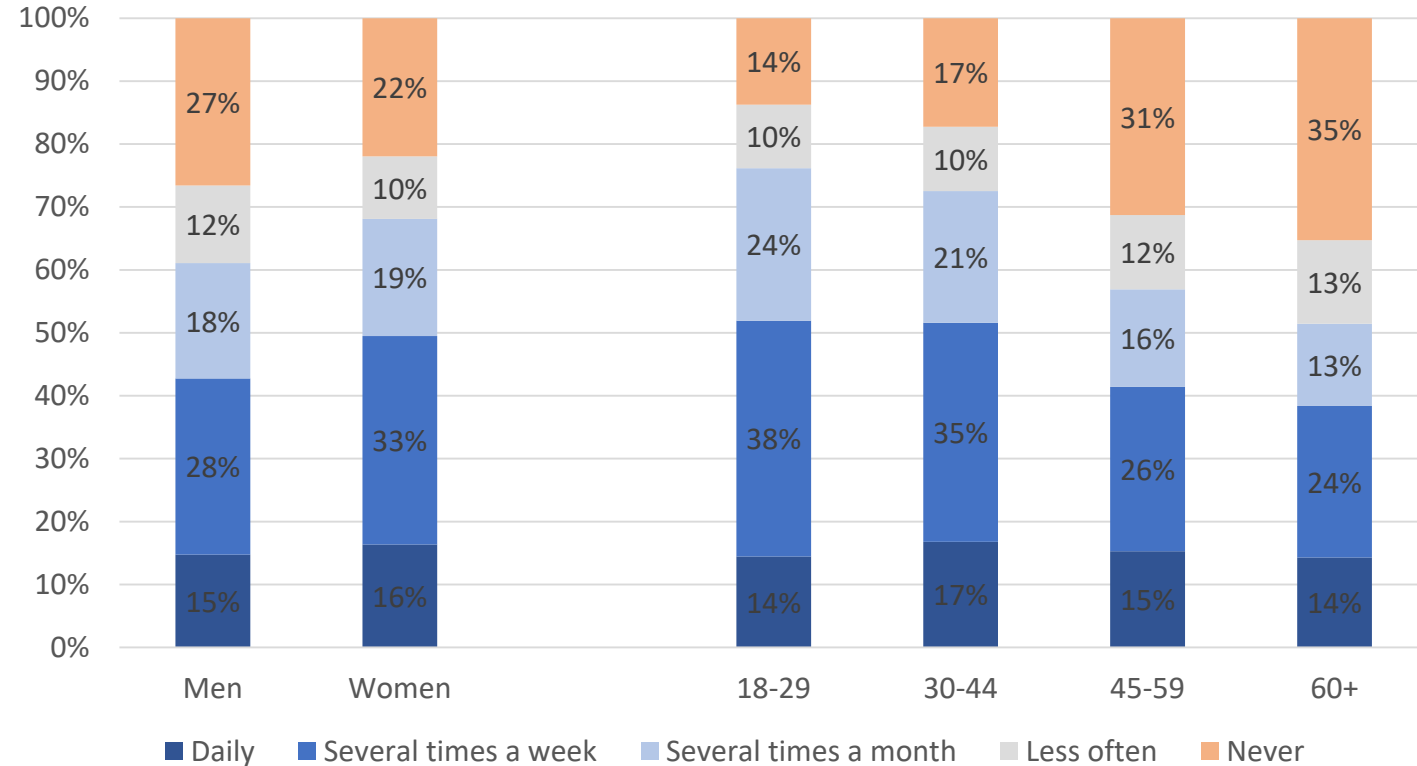
(% of employed people aged 15-64)



Germany: provisional data with low reliability.

# Working from home preferences by age and gender

If you had the choice, how often would you like to work from home if there were no restrictions due to COVID-19?



Source: Living, Working and Covid-19 survey, Round 3 - spring 2021

But by 2021 autumn, **64%** of **18-29 year-olds** in the panel had completely returned to the office.



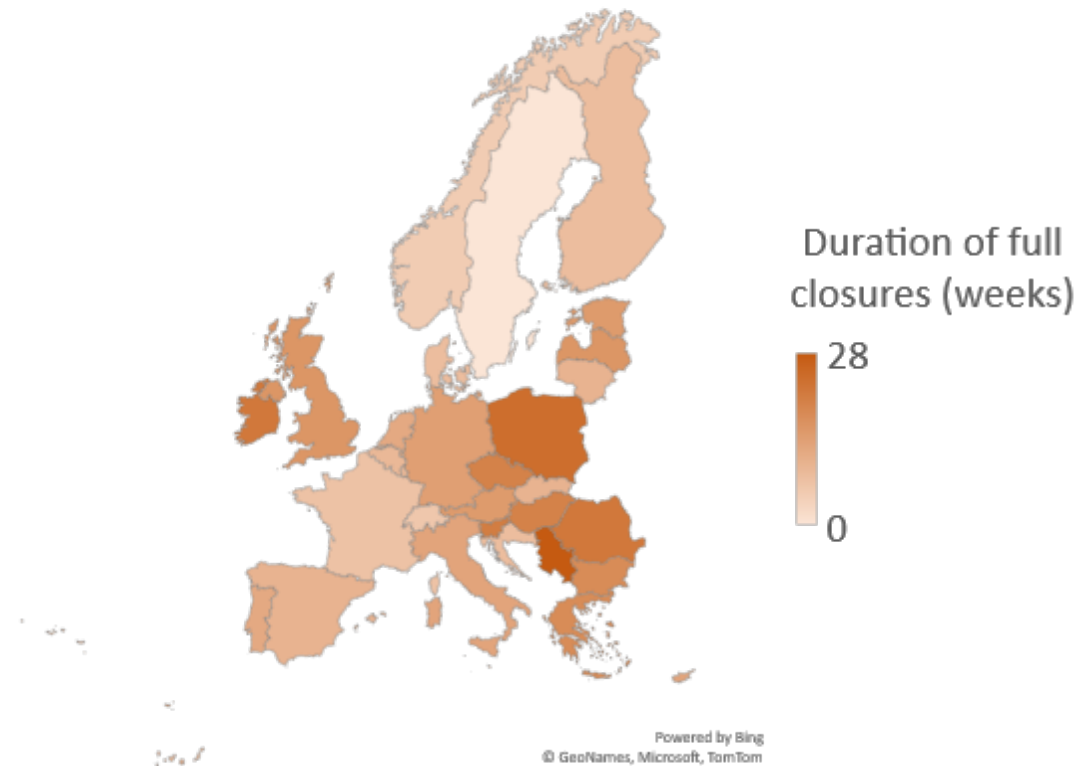


Education

# Impact on education

- Disruption, uncertainty, learning loss
- Inequality in access and support, digital divide
- Impact on skills and human capital accumulation
- Impact on (working) parents

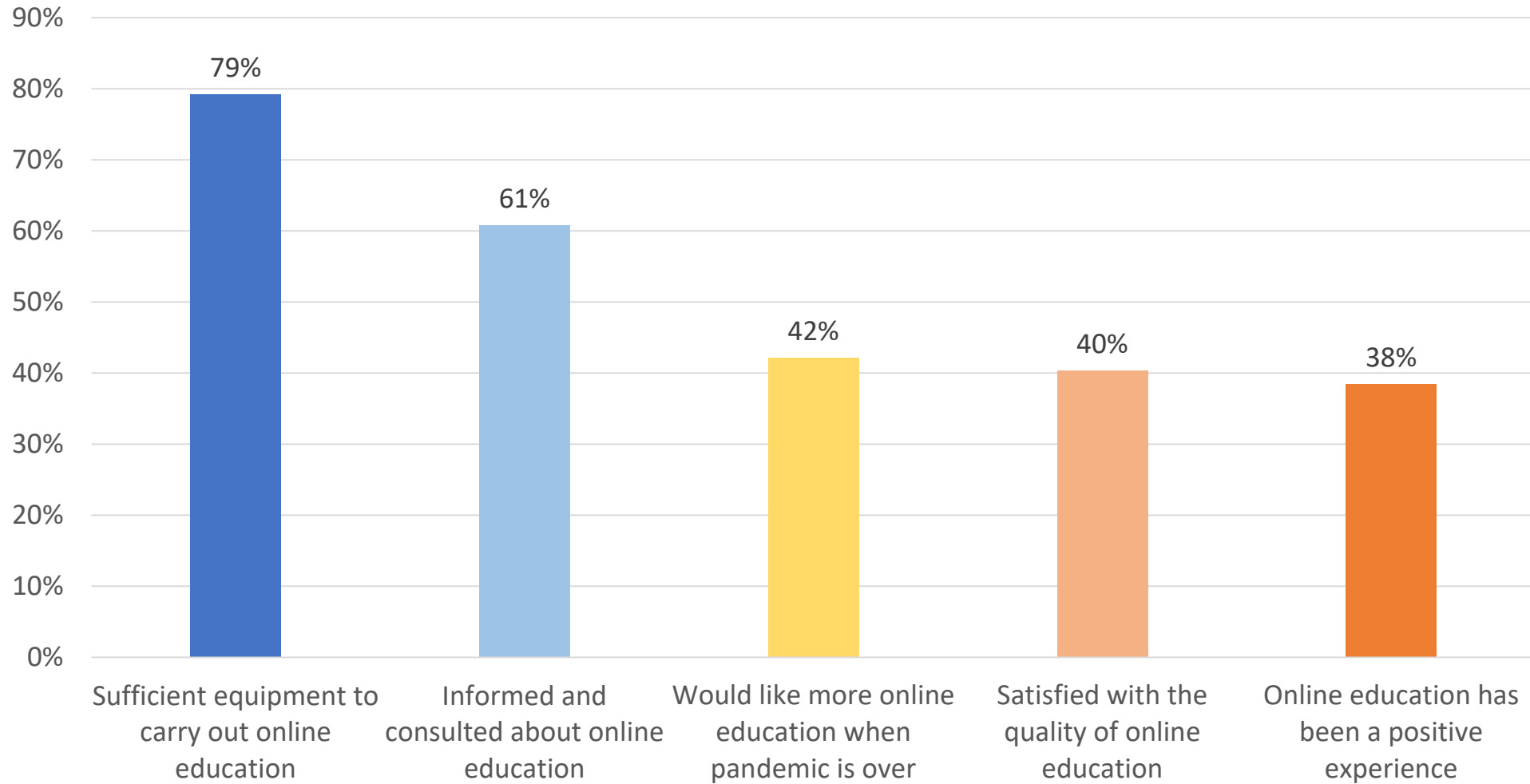
Total duration of full school closures



Source: UNESCO

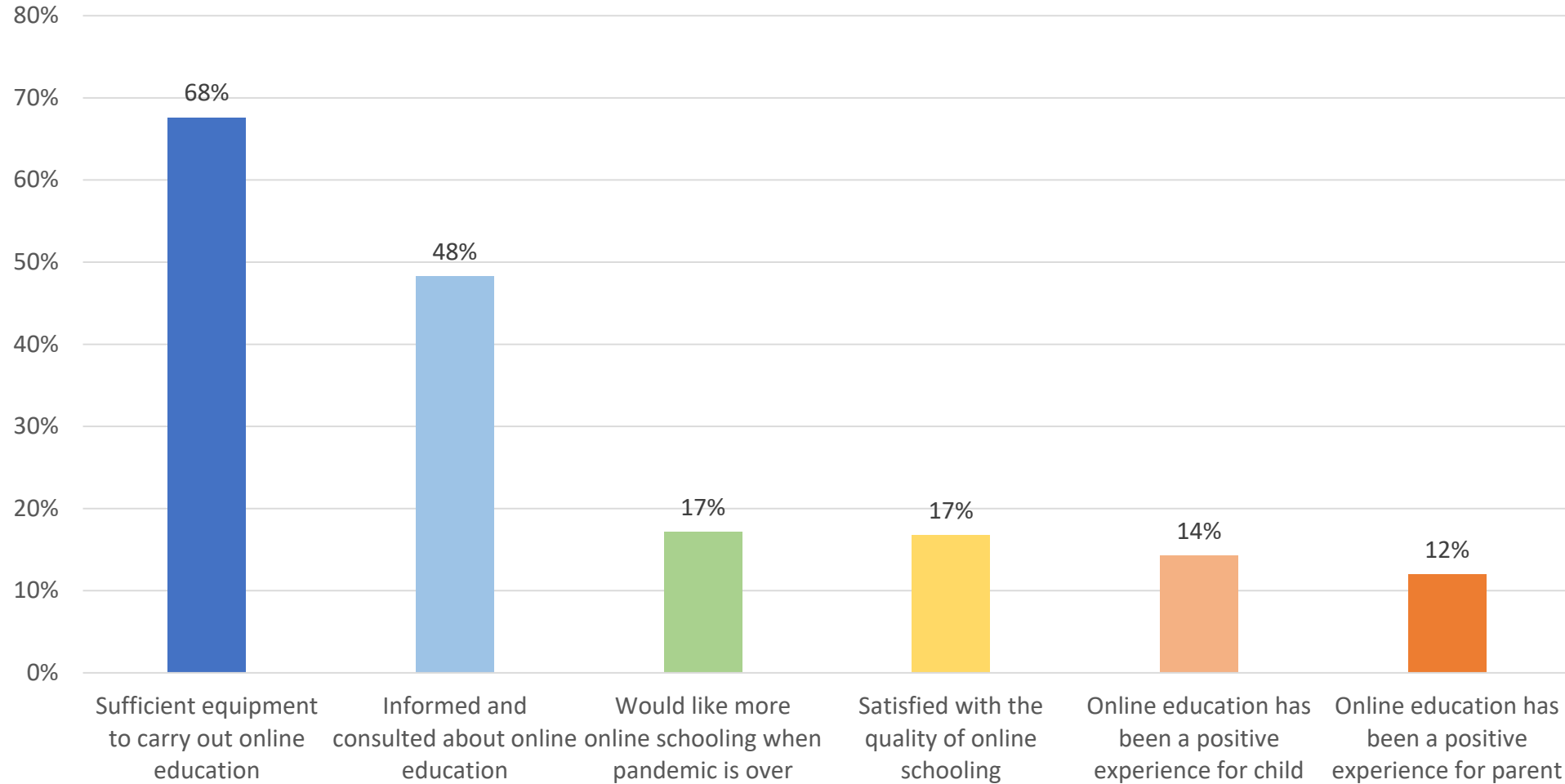


# Students' experience of online education during the pandemic



Source: Eurofound – Living, working and COVID19 survey – Round 2, 2020 summer

# Young parents' experience of children's online schooling (18-34 year-olds)







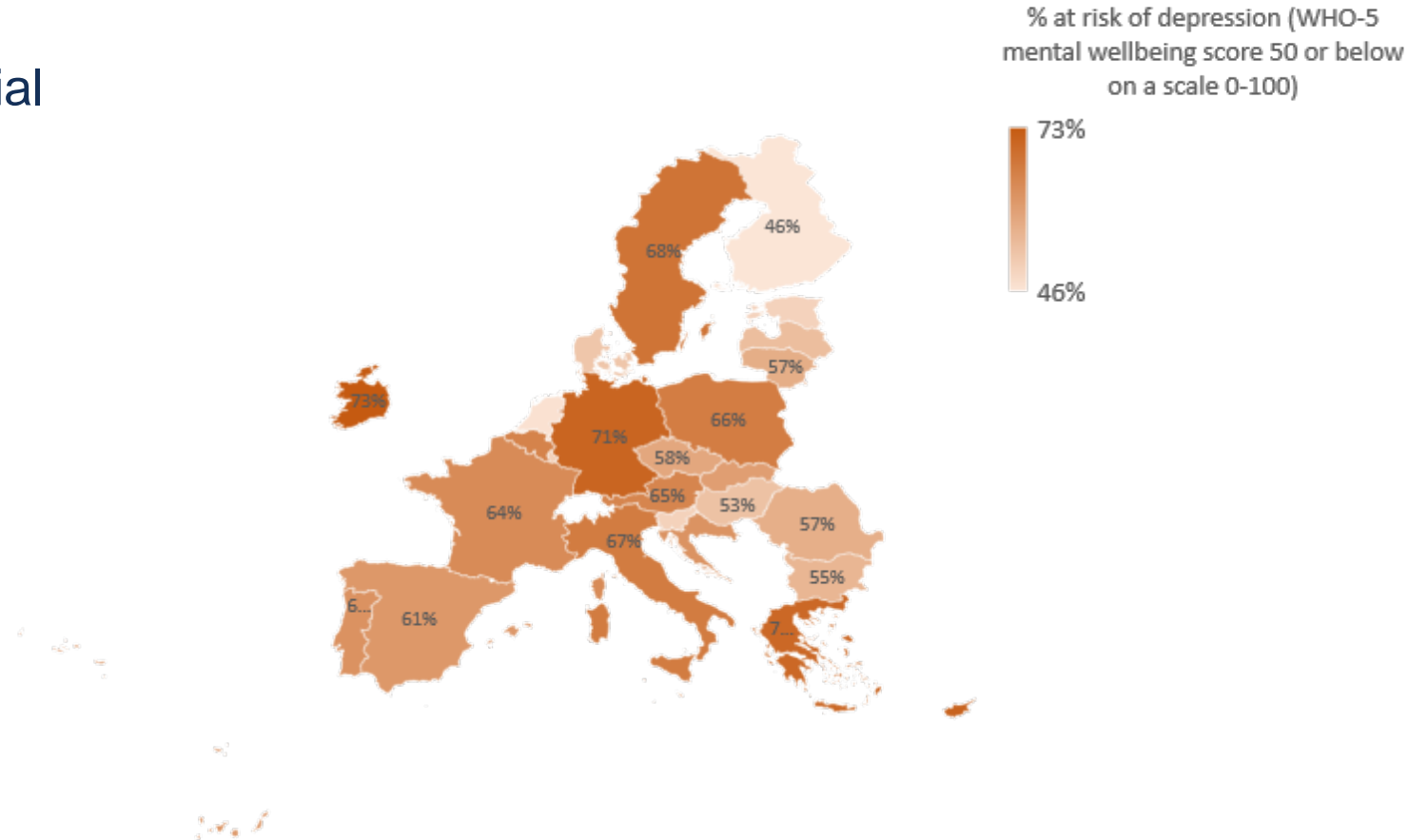
# Mental wellbeing



# The impact of pandemic on youth mental health

- Parallel epidemic
- Fear from illness, uncertainty, financial hardship
- Isolation, family tensions
- Related to strictness of lockdowns
- Longer lasting

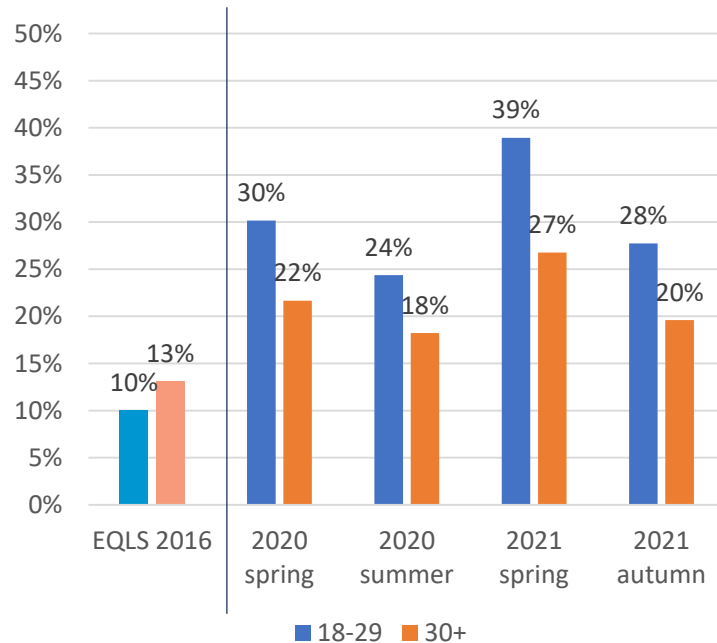
Risk of depression among young adults



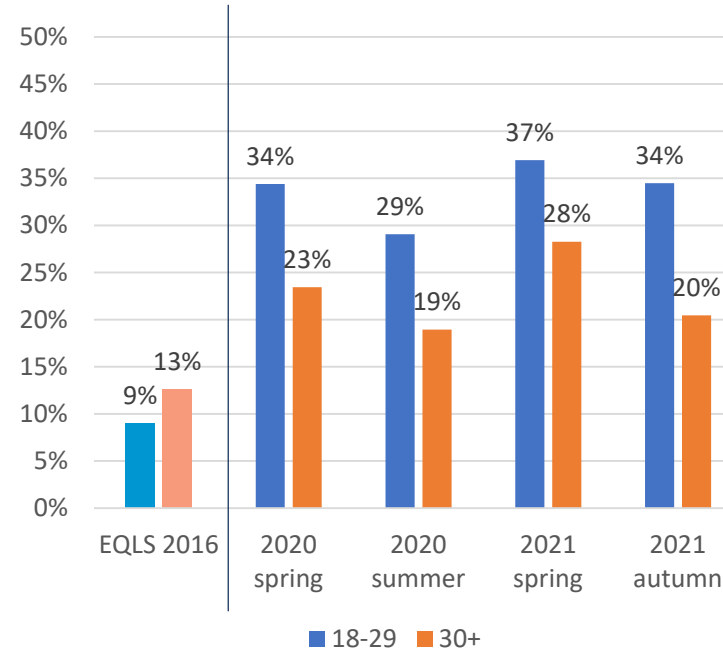
Source: Eurofound Living, Working and COVID19 Round 3, 2021 spring

# The impact on mental wellbeing

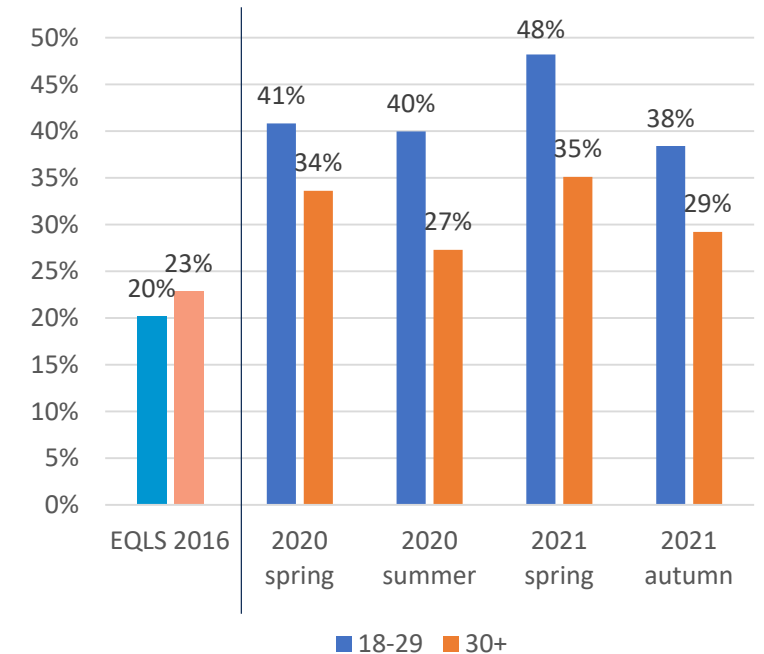
## Feeling downhearted and depressed



## Feeling lonely

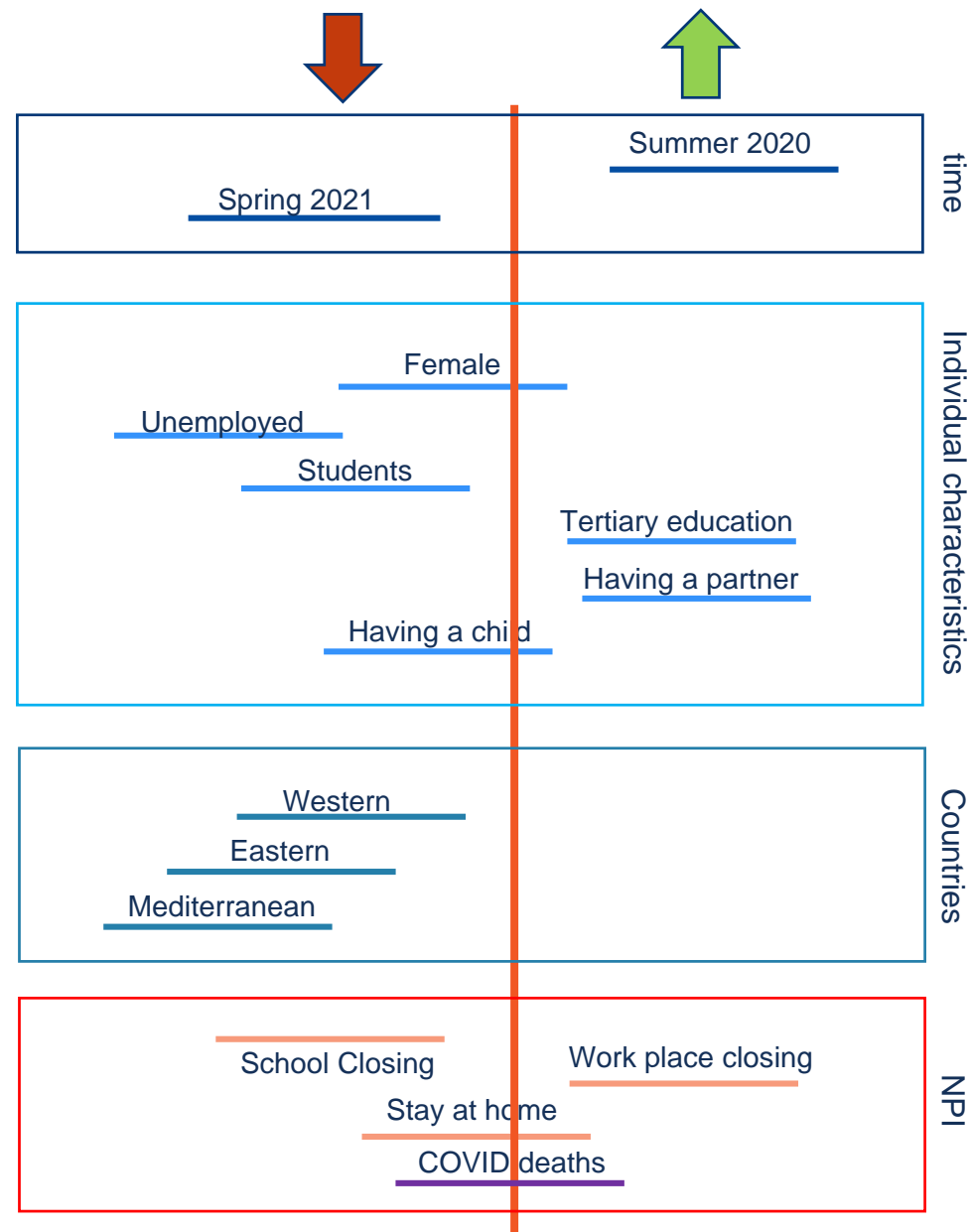


## Feeling tense





# School closures had the strongest negative relationship with mental wellbeing



# Conclusions

- The economic and social consequences of the pandemic impacted young people at a higher level than other groups.
- EU policy responses allowed a quick **economic recovery**, it is important to avoid a long-term scar on young people, and help those whose life was interrupted to **get back on track**
- Pandemic accelerated the **digital shift**, which posed difficulties to **education** institutions and **youth service** providers
- Important lessons learnt regarding **telework** preferences and working time flexibility, as well as **gender** differences in **work-life balance**
- **Mental health** professionals highlighted the severity of the impact of restrictive measures on youth. Providers highlighted the issue of **urgent need, but difficult adaptation**, and those most vulnerable were the most hard to reach
- Concerns around impact of **uncertainty** on young people's ability to get back on track and their mental health