



UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG Centre for Childhood and  
Department of Social Sciences Youth Research



# YAC

# Young People and COVID-19

Preliminary Results of a  
Representative Survey of  
Adolescents and Young Adults in  
Luxembourg

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## Introduction and approach

To successfully contain the COVID-19 pandemic, far-reaching measures (such as limitations on contact and hygiene regulations) have been introduced in recent months and have considerably changed our daily lives.

It is vital to examine the situations of young people<sup>1</sup> and their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as their everyday routines and structures are particularly affected. Schools, universities, sports complexes and leisure facilities are key to young people's development. Closures and reduced access to these institutions can have a significant impact on mental health and well-being, as well as on learning and professional development. Measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic can therefore significantly affect the important transitional phase between childhood and adulthood, which in our society lays the foundations for the rest of a person's life (Research-based analysis of European youth programmes 2020).

From a health science perspective, the period of youth is considered to have a formative impact on health in later life. In addition, adolescents and young adults have a particular responsibility when it comes to containing the coronavirus (Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2020; Klinzing 2020). For Luxembourg, this key role shows through the relatively large proportion of 15 to 29 year olds, who had to quarantine during the so-called 'second wave' from 22 June 2020 to 30 August 2020. On average 29% of the persons in quarantined during this period were from the 15 to 29 age group. Their proportion was thus the highest compared with those aged 0 to 14 (23%), 30 to 44 (24%), 45 to 59 (21%) and 60+ (3%) (Ministère de la Santé 2020).

The University of Luxembourg's YAC study therefore seeks to establish a comprehensive picture of the situation of young people aged 12 to 29 in Luxembourg during the pandemic. The people surveyed were selected via a stratified random sample from the National Registry of Natural Persons (RNPP). The relevant people were sent a letter inviting them to take part in an online survey. The survey (which is still ongoing) began on 2 July 2020, and more than 4000 people have taken part thus far. To make the results available as quickly as possible, a preliminary data set was created including the 3,768 participants who completed the survey in full up to 31 July 2020<sup>2</sup>. The participants were weighted by sex, age and residential

district to ensure they represent all 12 to 29 year olds living in Luxembourg.

This report sets out how young people in Luxembourg are coping with the situation as a whole, how worried they are about COVID-19, and how well informed they feel about measures to combat COVID-19. It will also examine how young people in Luxembourg comply with these measures, and their perception of them. Firstly, the key trends will be reported using the preliminary weighted data.

### YAC survey – preliminary data

Respondents:	Luxembourg residents (according to RNPP)
Age of respondents:	12-29 years
Number of respondents:	3,768
Survey period:	2 to 31 July 2020
Contacted:	by letter
Survey form:	online questionnaire

Secondly, for each of the aforementioned aspects, associations with sex, age, migration background<sup>3</sup> and socioeconomic status (SES) will be examined, the latter being measured via self-assessments of individual and family wealth. This will highlight social inequalities in handling and coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. As this analysis has been performed on preliminary data, only clear, highly statistically significant differences will be reported. Tables of the overall results can be viewed at <https://www.jugend-in-luxemburg.lu/yac-plus/>. The final data will be analysed in depth at a later date to examine more complex associations.

To make the results easier to interpret, reference studies tackling similar issues were identified. Wherever possible, we use national studies to place the results of our study in the context of the overall population of Luxembourg, and international studies to compare the preliminary results of the YAC study with findings regarding young people from other countries.

<sup>1</sup> Unless stated otherwise, 'adolescents' represents people aged 12 to 15, 'young adults' represents people aged 16 to 29, and 'young people' represents people aged 12 to 29.

<sup>2</sup> This only includes participants who stated that they completed the survey carefully.

<sup>3</sup> For 'migration background', people who were not born in Luxembourg are described as 'first generation' and people who were born in Luxembourg but whose parents were not both born in Luxembourg are described as 'second generation'.

To illustrate and complement the quantitative results, quotations have been selected from qualitative interviews with young people regarding COVID-19 and incorporated into the report. The results of the qualitative section of the YAC+ project will be published in the near future (Schulze et al. 2020)<sup>4</sup>.

'I BASICALLY JUST TRIED [...] TO ENDURE IT, THAT [NEGATIVE] FEELING. [...] BUT YOU JUST TRY TO THINK POSITIVE. YOU HAVE TIME FOR OTHER THINGS, THINGS YOU WOULDN'T OTHERWISE HAVE TIME FOR.'  
(LUC, AGED 18)<sup>5</sup>

## Coping with the current situation

First, we analyse how adolescents and young adults in Luxembourg were coping with the situation at the time of the survey, i.e. phase 3 of the 'déconfinement'.

Overall, they indicate that they are coping reasonably well with the current situation and potential changes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. On a scale of 0 (not well at all) to 10 (very well), the average answer is 6.79 (Figure 1). A non-representative survey in Austria produced similar results and reports that the majority of school pupils and students felt good despite the current circumstances (Schober et al. 2020b, 2020a).

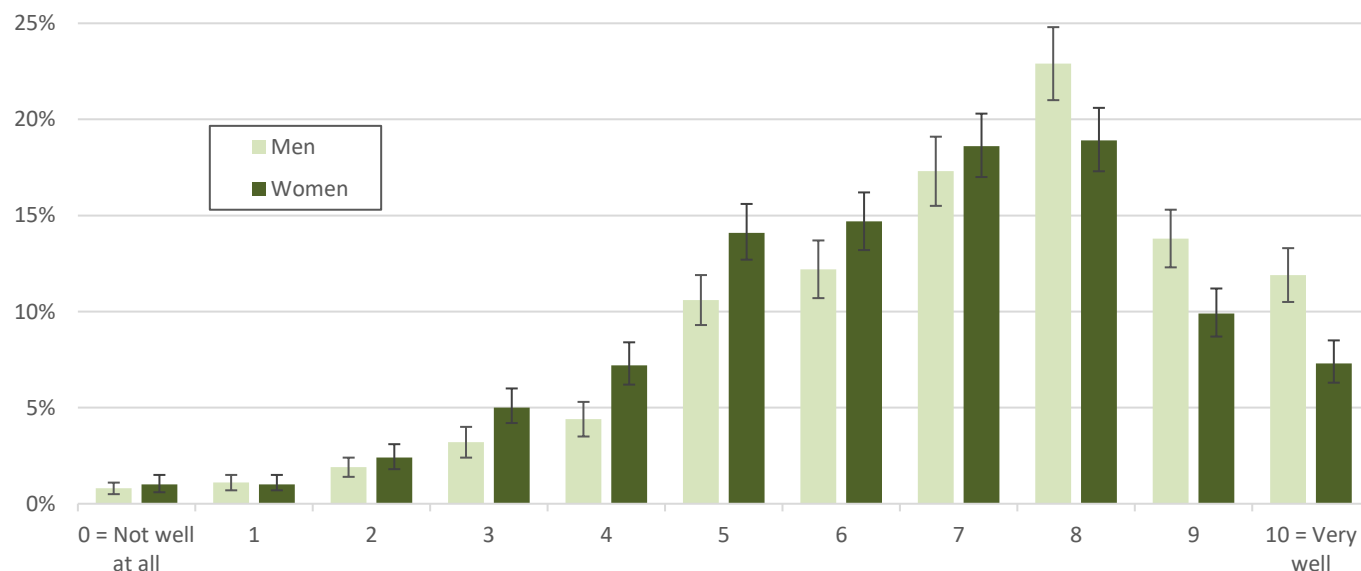
In our study, women indicate that they are coping with the current situation less well than men, at an average of 6.51 compared with men's 7.05 (Figure 1).

Furthermore, young people with a migration background (second generation: 6.70, first generation: 6.58) or with a low socioeconomic status (6.16) indicate that they are coping less well with the situation than young people without a migration background (7.14) or with a medium to high socioeconomic status (medium SES: 6.77, high SES: 7.09).

Young adults seem to be coping less well with the situation than adolescents.

This tendency is also reflected in a British study of all age groups. This shows an above-average decline in well-being as a result of the current situation for women compared with men and for young people compared with the middle aged and elderly (Schröder 2020).

Figure 1: Coping with the current situation, by sex



Source: YAC/YSL 2020, n = 3639, weighted data, mean for men: 7.05; mean for women: 6,5

<sup>4</sup> The YAC+ project includes specially designed qualitative data collection developed in close collaboration with YAC.

<sup>5</sup> Quotation from an interview with young people regarding COVID-19, translated from Luxembourgish (Schulze et al. 2020)

## Concern about COVID-19

Almost half (44.6%) of adolescents and young adults in Luxembourg state that they are quite worried about COVID-19 and potential changes as a result of COVID-19, and 9.1% state that they are very worried. On the other hand, 18.2% state that they are not very worried and 4.2% state that they are not at all worried (Figure 2). The extent of the concern felt by adolescents and young adults in Luxembourg seems to be very similar to that of young people in other countries (Götz et al. 2020; Huber et al. 2020).

In the YAC survey, women (48.4%) are more likely than men (41.0%) to state that they feel quite worried, and a higher proportion of men (22.2%) than women (14.3%) state that they are not very worried.

As Figure 2 shows, the proportion of young people who state that they are quite or very worried is higher among young adults with a migration background (second generation 47.2% and 8.6%, first generation 47.5% and 12.3%) than people without a migration background (38.2% and 5.8%).

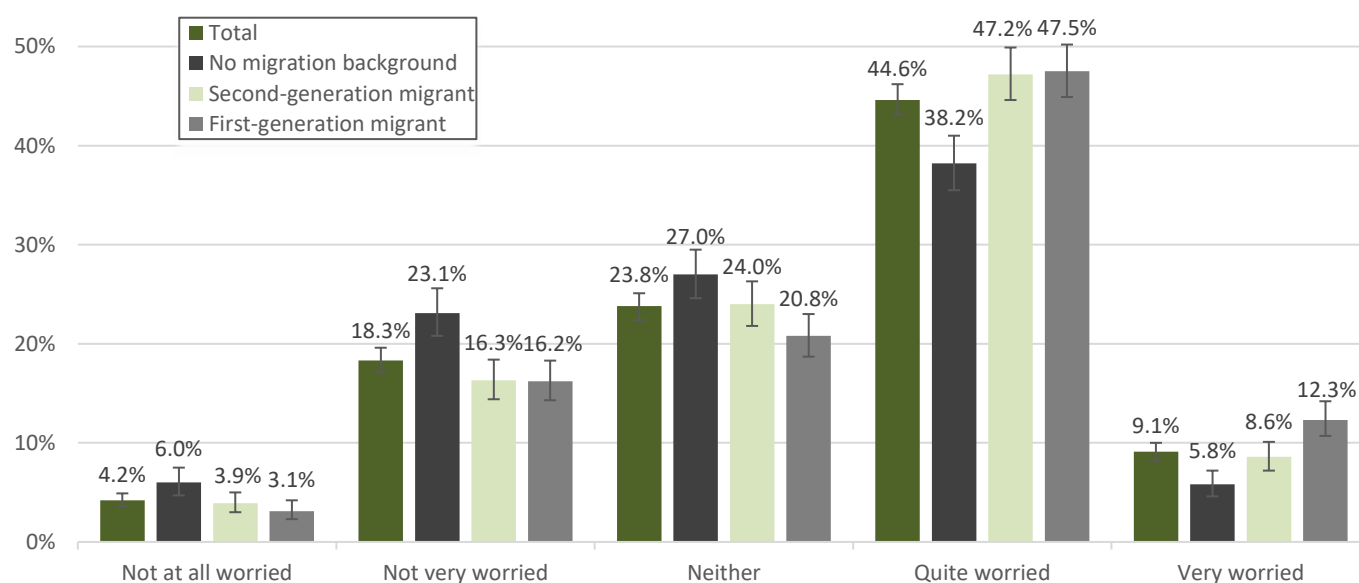
The level of concern in young adults seems to be higher than that in adolescents. People with a low socioeconomic status are also more likely to state that they are quite or very worried than people with a high socioeconomic status.

'YES. [...] THERE IS A SLIGHT WORRY: "OKAY, THERE COULD BE A SECOND WAVE. OKAY, SO WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THERE IS A SECOND WAVE?" [...] BUT IN GENERAL LESS THAN WHEN WE WERE IN LOCKDOWN.'  
(SANDRA, AGED 24)<sup>6</sup>

There are many national and international studies dealing with the psychological consequences of the pandemic, in terms of mental health and anxiety. For example, a study conducted by STATEC for the overall population of Luxembourg shows that more young adults state that their mental health has deteriorated during the COVID-19 pandemic than people who are middle aged or elderly (Peroni and O'Connor 2020).

International studies also show that the risk of suffering from anxiety in the current situation is higher for young people than for the middle aged and elderly. The same goes for women compared to men, for people with a migration background compared to people without a migration background, and for people with a low income compared to people with a high income (Smith et al. 2020; Levita 2020; Wang et al. 2020; Qiu et al. 2020; Park et al. 2020).

Figure 2: Concern about COVID-19, by migration background



Source: YAC/YSL 2020, n (total) = 3741, n (by migration status) = 3722, weighted data

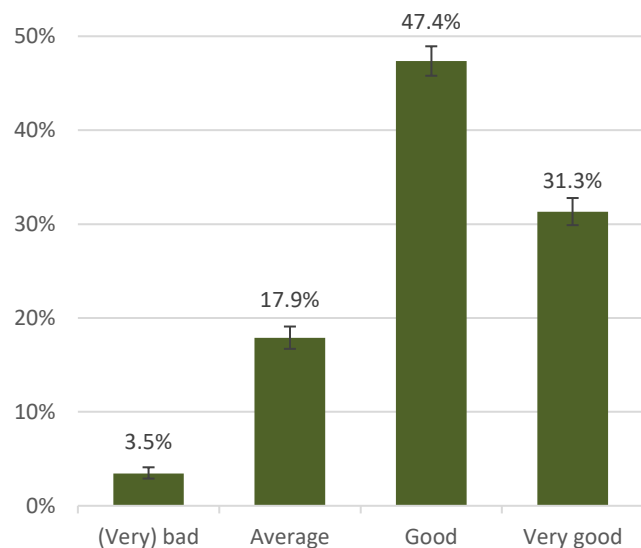
<sup>6</sup> Quotation from an interview with young people regarding COVID-19, translated from Luxembourgish (Schulze et al. 2020)

## Perceived level of information<sup>7</sup> regarding measures to combat COVID-19

More than a third of adolescents and young adults in Luxembourg (31.3%) state that they feel very well informed about measures to combat COVID-19. Almost half (47.4%) state that they feel well informed and a fifth (17.9%) state that they feel averagely well informed. Only 3.5% felt (very) badly informed (Figure 3). On average, adolescents and young adults in Luxembourg therefore seem to feel similarly well informed as shown by other studies (e.g. Schober et al. 2020a; Schober et al. 2020b).

'TO START WITH I WAS ALL ... I LOOKED EVERY DAY TO SEE HOW MANY NEW CASES THERE ARE, WHAT ARE THE NEWS [...] BUT IT ALL GOT A BIT MUCH AND I WANTED TO TAKE A BIT MORE DISTANCE. NOW I JUST LOOK ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK.'  
(VERA, AGED 20)<sup>8</sup>

Figure 3: Perceived level of information regarding measures to combat COVID-19



Source: YAC/YSL 2020, n = 3739, weighted data, '(very) bad' combines the categories 'bad' and 'very bad'

<sup>7</sup> The perceived level of information does not indicate the objective level of information or the quality of the information received.

Compared with respondents without a migration background (25.9%), the YAC data shows that respondents with a migration background (second generation 32.2%, first generation 35.1%) are more likely to feel very well informed about measures to combat COVID-19. No statistically significant differences were observed between the sexes.

'I HAVE TO SAY, I HAVE NOT LOOKED AT THE NEWS THAT OFTEN. I ALSO [...] WATCHED A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE BEGINNING, BUT NOT AGAIN AFTER THAT [...] BECAUSE I GOT MORE INFORMATION LIKE FROM PEOPLE AROUND ME, WHO TOLD ME WHAT WAS GOING ON.'  
(ESTHER, AGED 21)<sup>8</sup>

It should be noted that as well as feeling well informed, participation and feeling listened to by politics and the media are important for adolescents and young adults as regards their satisfaction with the consideration of young people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Studies in Germany and Australia have shown that young people do not feel listened to in political decision-making and feel under-represented in discussions about COVID-19 and the future (Andresen et al. 2020; UNICEF Australia 2020).

Whilst an international study by Götz and colleagues (2020) comes to the conclusion that children<sup>9</sup> with a higher objective level of information regarding COVID-19 worry less, the statements from participants in the qualitative YAC+ study show that they felt overburdened by information from the media and felt that the information only increased their level of concern.

Another international study correlates a higher level of information about COVID-19 with a more positive attitude and compliance with hygiene and safety measures (Zhong et al. 2020).

<sup>8</sup> Quotation from an interview with young people regarding COVID-19, translated from Luxembourgish (Schulze et al. 2020)

<sup>9</sup> The study covered children aged 10 to 15.



## Easiness of adhering to measures to combat COVID-19

Almost a third (28.4%) of adolescents and young adults in Luxembourg state that in general, they find it very easy to adhere to measures to combat COVID-19, and 47.9% state that they find it easy. Only 8.6% of adolescents and young adults state that they find it (very) difficult to adhere to the measures (Figure 4).

'SO WEARING A MASK IS SOMETIMES A BIT DIFFICULT BECAUSE I WEAR GLASSES AND [...] THEY STEAM UP [...] BUT DISINFECTING MY HANDS, KEEPING MY DISTANCE ARE NO PROBLEM.'

(ISABELLE, AGED 18)<sup>10</sup>

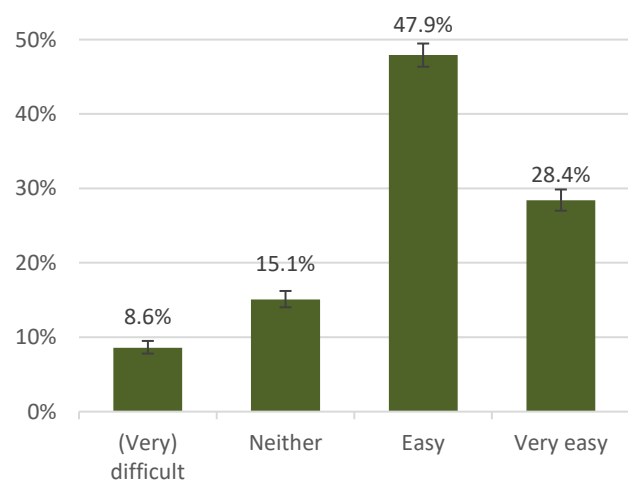
No statistically significant differences between sexes or ages were observed as regards easiness of adhering to measures.

The preliminary results indicate that young people who describe their own financial situation as good are more likely to say that they find it easy to adhere to measures.

'I FOUND IT VERY DEMANDING, I HAVE TO SAY. BECAUSE HERE I ALSO LIVE IN A VERY SMALL STUDIO, APARTMENT.'

(KATHARINA, AGED 29)<sup>10</sup>

Figure 4: Easiness of adhering to measures to combat COVID-19



Source: YAC/YSL 2020, n = 3.734, weighted data, '(very) difficult' combines the categories 'difficult' and 'very difficult'

### Note: Affinity for school and school stress

A separate analysis was performed of students aged 12 to 20 who attend secondary school or are completing vocational training.

#### Affinity for school

To the question of how they felt about school before COVID-19, 54.1% of students answer that they liked it more then than now, 28.0% liked it the same amount and 17.9% liked it less then than now. This is consistent with the results of a study covering Germany, Austria and Switzerland (Huber et al. 2020).

Although there does not seem to be any difference by sex, older students tend to be less likely to report a change in their feelings about school than younger students.

'I JUST SLEPT IN A BIT LATER. WHEN WE HAD HOMEWORK, I DID HOMEWORK, AND STUDIED A BIT. AND THEN I WENT BACK TO PLAYING. SADLY, THERE WASN'T MUCH TO DO, OTHERWISE I WOULD HAVE DONE MORE.'

(NOAH, AGED 14)<sup>10</sup>

#### Stress from school work

Students were also asked if COVID-19 had changed the pressure they feel about schoolwork.

Around a quarter (27.9%) of students state that they did not feel a change. Similar proportions of students report feeling more pressured or less pressured by schoolwork before COVID-19, at 38.1% and 34.0% respectively.

Older students are more likely to say that they felt more pressured by schoolwork before COVID-19 than now. No statistically significant differences could be identified by migration status.

In general, female students are more likely to say that they felt more pressured by schoolwork before COVID-19 than male students are. The level of stress experienced by female students seems to have fallen compared with previously.

This is consistent with the results of the American GENYOUth study (2020), in which students described positive changes such as more sleep, less stress at school, and a more relaxed schedule, despite the discontinuity in the school system. However, there are other negative effects that need be considered.

The report from Huiart and colleagues (2020) informs about infections at schools in Luxembourg.

<sup>10</sup> Quotation from an interview with young people regarding COVID-19, translated from Luxembourgish (Schulze et al. 2020)

## Perception of measures to combat COVID-19

Young adults aged 16 to 29 were asked what they think about the measures to combat COVID-19<sup>11</sup>.

Overall, young adults in Luxembourg demonstrate a relatively high level of approval for the measures in place at the time of completing the survey<sup>12</sup>. The majority (63.8%) state that they consider the measures justified or reasonable. Around a fifth (19.3%) of young adults in Luxembourg state that they consider the measures somewhat not strict or far-reaching enough. One in twenty (5.1%) even states that the measures are not strict or far-reaching enough. Only 11.8% of young adults in Luxembourg state that they consider the measures to be (somewhat) excessive at the time of completing the survey (Figure 5).

Men (14.4%) are more likely than women (9.3%) to find the measures excessive. There is no statistically significant difference in how different age groups perceive measures to combat COVID-19.

'YES, WELL, SOMETIMES I FIND IT A BIT CONTRADICTIONARY [...] WHEN I SEE, OKAY, ONE WEEK THERE IS A CONFINEMENT, SO EVERYTHING IS SHUT, AND THE NEXT WEEK SO MANY RULES ARE ALREADY RELAXED AGAIN.'

(PIT, AGED 23)<sup>13</sup>

'SO, I THINK THESE RULES ARE GOOD, INCLUDING FOR US YOUNG PEOPLE, AS WE COULD ALSO BE CARRYING THE VIRUS. [...] I THINK EVERYONE SHOULD FOLLOW THE RULES THAT APPLY TO THEM AND CONTINUE LIVING THEIR LIVES THAT WAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SO THAT PERHAPS ONE DAY WE CAN GET RID OF THE VIRUS.'

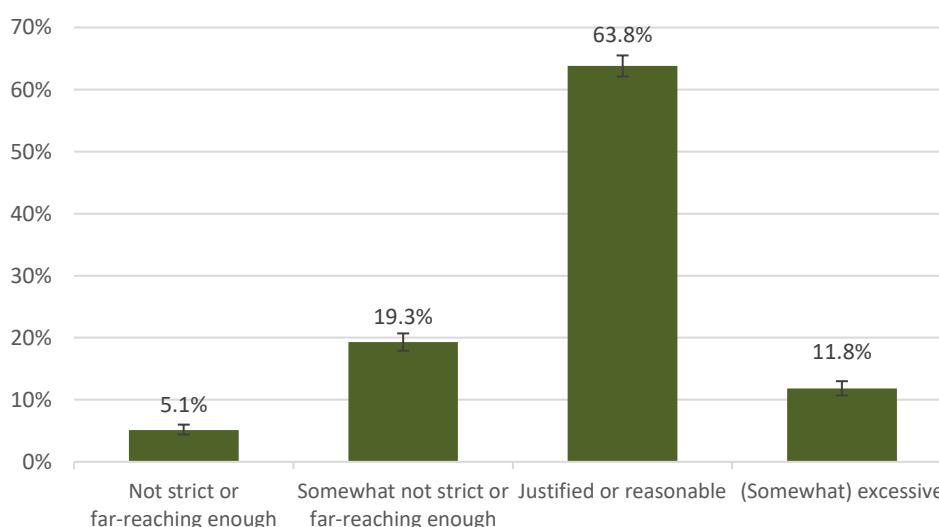
(ISABELLE, AGED 18)<sup>13</sup>

Young people's high level of approval for measures to combat COVID-19 could be related to the high level of trust in the government and health service's ability to tackle the pandemic, as reported by the Come-HERE study across various age groups for Luxembourg (Vögele et al. 2020).

'I THOUGHT LIKE, OKAY, THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING THE DECISIONS NOW, AND EVEN IF I DON'T NECESSARILY LIKE SITTING HERE AT HOME ALL DAY, THEY KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING. [...] BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME THAT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE STAY HEALTHY, AND IF I CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THAT THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN MY OWN OPINION.'

(KATHARINA, AGED 29)<sup>13</sup>

Figure 5: Perception of measures to combat COVID-19



Source: YAC/YSL 2020, n = 2901, weighted data, '(somewhat) excessive' combines the categories 'excessive' and 'somewhat excessive'

<sup>11</sup> Adolescents aged 12 to 15 were not asked this question.

<sup>12</sup> At the time of completing the survey, Luxembourg was in phase 3 of 'déconfinement'. The lockdown had been lifted and most institutions had reopened (with adjustments and new rules of conduct). Restrictions remained in place on public events and the

number of people from multiple households that were permitted to meet up. <https://msan.gouvernement.lu/dam-assets/covid-19/exit/phase-3/Flyer-Phase-3.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Quotation from an interview with young people regarding COVID-19, translated from Luxemburgish (Schulze et al. 2020)



## Measures to combat COVID-19

Young adults aged 16 to 29 were also asked to say what measures they have implemented to combat COVID-19<sup>14,15,16</sup>.

The vast majority of young adults accept and implement the hygiene recommendations from the health authorities (covering mouth and nose, washing hands as well as avoiding touching and close contact – for details of the recommendations see Direction de la santé 2020). As Figure 6 shows, 94.8% of young adults state that they wore a face mask. More than

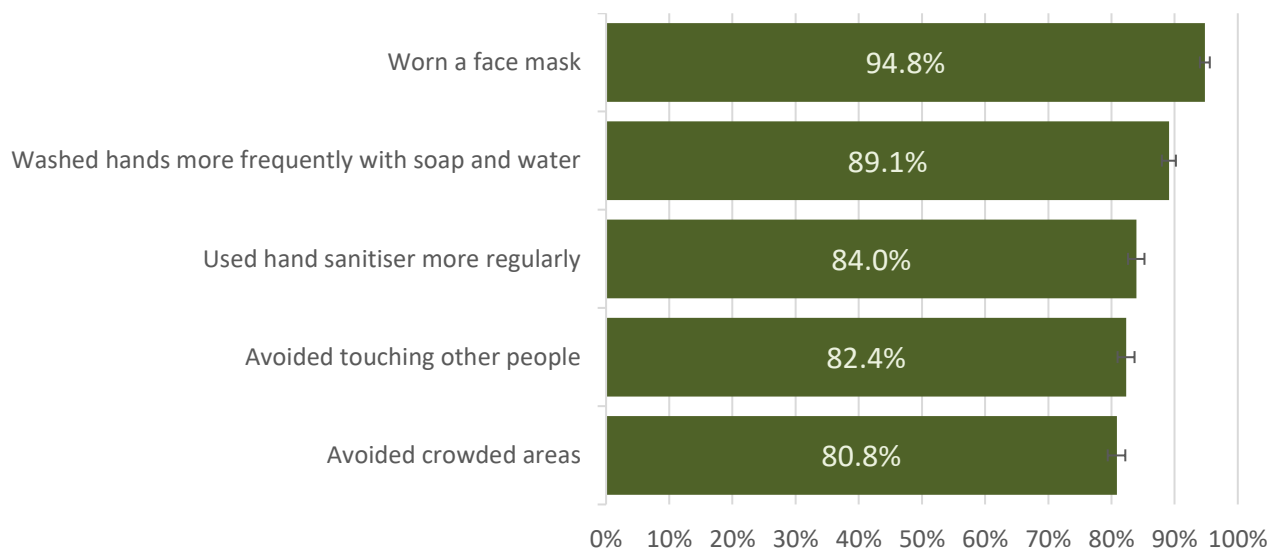
'YOU SHOULD WEAR A MASK AND WASH YOUR HANDS, AND ALSO IF YOU THINK "OKAY, I SOMEHOW HAVE A SORE THROAT, A HEADACHE, A COUGH", IT'S BETTER TO SAY "OKAY, I'LL GET TESTED TO CHECK, AND NOT GO OUT TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE ANYWAY WHEN I MIGHT HAVE THE VIRUS"... SO JUST LIKE BEING MORE CAUTIOUS AND ALSO LISTENING TO YOURSELF.'  
(JEANNE, AGED 20)<sup>17</sup>

80% of respondents state that they washed their hands more frequently (89.1%), used hand sanitiser more regularly (84%), avoided touching other people (82.4%) and avoided crowded areas (80.8%).

'I ALWAYS WORE A MASK, EXCEPT FOR WHEN I WENT RUNNING ON MY OWN, I DON'T THINK IT WAS MANDATORY FOR THAT, BUT YES ON THE TRAIN AND YES AT SCHOOL. I TRIED TO ALWAYS GO HOME LIKE IMMEDIATELY AND NOT ALWAYS GO OUT WITH MY FRIENDS. YES, I WOULD SAY, MOST... I HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO STICK TO EVERYTHING WELL.'  
(CONSTANT, AGED 18)<sup>17</sup>

Recommendations regarding limiting contact seem to have been implemented at lower levels by young adults (for details of the recommendations see Direction de la santé 2020). At least two thirds of young adults state that they have avoided social events (78.4%), kept a two-metre distance when meeting people (74%) and avoided meeting people who do not live with them (65.5%).

Figure 6: Top five measures implemented to combat COVID-19 (proportion of implementing participants)



Source: YAC/YSL 2020, n = 2893, 2892, 2892, 2892, 2893, weighted data

<sup>14</sup> Adolescents aged 12 to 15 were not asked this question.

<sup>15</sup> Only measures concerning the majority of people were included. Measures concerning only a minority, such as not sending children to school or not going to work, were not included.

<sup>16</sup> Getting tested was not explicitly named as a measure in the survey's list of measures, but was nevertheless named as further

measure to combat COVID-19 by participants in the qualitative YAC+ study.

<sup>17</sup> Quotation from an interview with young people regarding COVID-19, translated from Luxemburgish (Schulze et al. 2020)

However, some young adults also reported behaviour that could have an adverse impact on their health. 41.4% of respondents avoided going to the doctor, hospital or other healthcare settings, and 55.8% avoided going out in general.

For almost all measures, men are less likely than women to indicate that they have implemented them. Only avoiding taking public transport, moving to the countryside, and avoiding travelling abroad did not show a statistically significant difference between the sexes.

Statistically significant differences by age are primarily found in the implementation of measures limiting contact: adolescents are less likely than young adults to report that they have adhered to social distancing regulations.

Young people with a migration background are statistically significantly more likely than young people without a migration background to report that they have adhered to seven of the measures. These measures are hygiene recommendations and measures relating to public areas (e.g. avoiding touching your own face, disinfecting your home, avoiding crowded areas, and avoiding going into shops and supermarkets). By their own reports, young people with a migration background seem to be more cautious in domestic and public spaces than young people without a migration background.

For washing hands, disinfecting the home and avoiding going outside, complex differences emerged based on socioeconomic status. Further analysis is required to explore these relationships.

Our results fit the findings of international studies, including from France, China and the USA (Park et al. 2020; Brouard et al. 2020; Zhong et al. 2020; Atchison et al. 2020). Young people are less likely than the middle aged and elderly to implement and adhere to measures, and men are less likely to do so than women. It should be noted that in general, readiness to adhere to measures and regulations is high.

## Note: Economic impact of COVID-19 and measures to combat COVID-19

### Short-time work

Of the young adults who are in full-time, part-time, or temporary employment, 17.8% state that they have been placed on short-time work for at least a week as a result of COVID-19. Men (at 22.8%) are more likely than women to indicate that they have been placed on short-time work for at least a week. Young adults with a migration background (second generation 16.5%, first generation 23.1%) are also more likely than young adults without a migration background (11.9%) to report that they have been placed on short-time work for at least a week. In addition, short-time work was more likely among those with a low socioeconomic status (25.3%) than those with a high socioeconomic status (15.2%).

In a STATEC report on workers of all ages living in Luxembourg, Sarracino (2020) states that since the COVID-19 measures have been put in place, around a quarter of workers living in Luxembourg have been placed on short-time work as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This would mean that young people are no more likely than the middle aged or elderly to be placed on short-time work as a result of COVID-19.

### Income changes

By their own assessment, the individual income of 15.4% of adolescents and young adults has changed since March 2020. Household income has changed for 24.1% of respondents that do not live alone or in a shared apartment.

Changes to individual or household income are more frequently reported among young people with a migration background than young people without a migration background, and are more frequently reported among young people with a low rather than high socioeconomic status.

Of the 15.4% of young people whose individual income has changed, around half (53.1%) have seen their income fall. The other half state that their individual income was now higher. Of the 24.1% of young people whose household income has changed, around three quarters (74%) have seen their income fall. The remaining quarter states that their household income is now higher.

Young people with a high socioeconomic status are more likely than young people with a low socioeconomic status to report that they have seen their individual or household income rise.

## Impact of measures to combat COVID-19

Adolescents and young adults in Luxembourg were asked how they had been affected by COVID-19 and the measures to combat COVID-19. Some examples cited of measures to combat COVID-19 were 'stay at home', 'wear a mask', 'wash your hands frequently' and 'do not meet friends'.

Almost half (45.0%) of adolescents and young adults state that COVID-19 and the measures to combat COVID-19 have had neither a positive nor a negative

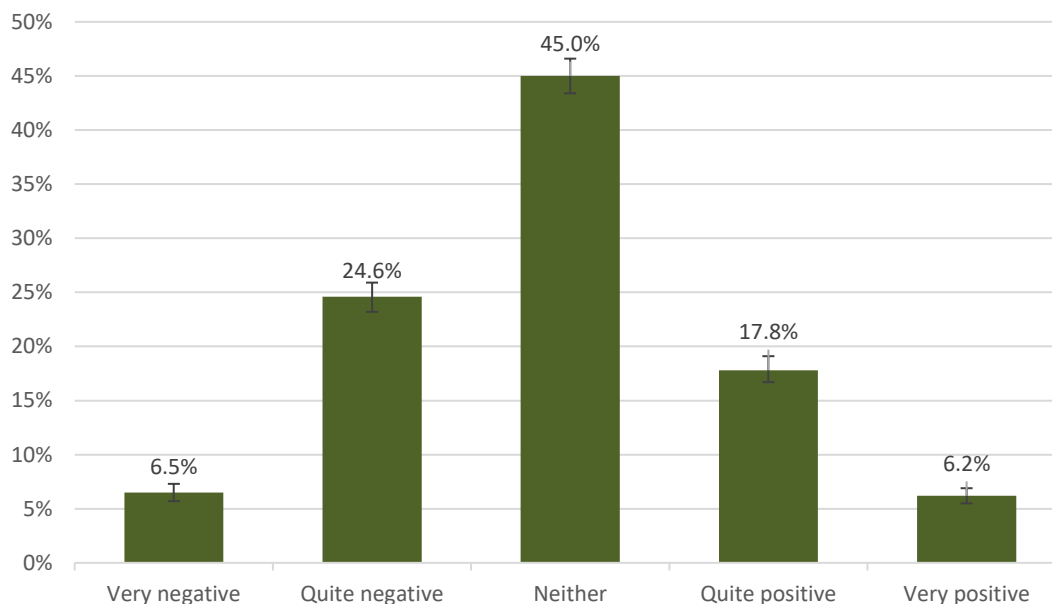
'IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BE WITH PEOPLE, I MEAN, YOU COULD TELL WHO WAS INTERESTED AND WHO WASN'T. AND THEN YOU EVEN GET TO THE POINT WHERE YOU SAY "PAH, THAT'S A BIT DIFFICULT TO COPE WITH", [...] BUT THEN WE ADJUSTED WITH SEEING EACH OTHER ONLINE, FACEBOOK MESSENGER, MOBILE PHONE VIDEO CHATS.'  
(CYNTHIA, AGED 25)<sup>18</sup>

'I NOTICED A BIT THAT ONE OF THE THINGS I REALLY MISS IS JUST SITTING IN THE CAFETERIA AT LUNCH, CHATTING TO MY LEFT, CHATTING TO MY RIGHT, JUST INTERACTING A BIT WITH PEOPLE, I MISS THAT A BIT [...] COMING ACROSS PEOPLE HERE AND THERE, THAT'S THE MAIN THING I MISS.'  
(PIT, AGED 23)<sup>18</sup>

impact on them. Around a quarter (24.6%) state that the overall impact they have experienced has been quite negative. By comparison, the proportion of young people who state that the effect has been quite positive is somewhat lower (17.8%). The proportions of young people who state feeling a very negative (6.5%) or very positive (6.2%) impact from COVID-19 and measures to combat COVID-19 were almost identical (Figure 7).<sup>18</sup>

No statistically significant difference was observed between the sexes. Preliminary analyses show first differences relating to age, migration background and socioeconomic status, which require more in-depth examination.

Figure 7: Impact of measures to combat COVID-19



Source: YAC/YSL 2020, n = 3708, weighted data

<sup>18</sup> Quotation from an interview with young people regarding COVID-19, translated from Luxembourgish (Schulze et al. 2020)

## Summary

Analysis of the preliminary, weighted, representative data gathered during the YAC study enables some initial observations to be made regarding the situation of young people aged 12 to 29 during the COVID-19 pandemic in Luxembourg.

Our findings show that, overall, young people in Luxembourg are coping rather well with the current situation. Around half of young people state that they are worried about COVID-19, and around a third have been negatively affected by COVID-19 measures. Satisfaction regarding the level of information about COVID-19 and corresponding measures to combat it are reported to be high. In addition, the majority of respondents state that they consider the measures justified, and the vast majority of adolescents and young adults state that they are implementing hygiene recommendations. The preliminary results indicate that young people are a bit less likely to implement measures to limit contact than hygiene recommendations. Comparisons with the few reference studies already available from other countries show that young people in Luxembourg and their foreign contemporaries are coping similarly with the pandemic.

Despite their preliminary nature, the findings already show some considerable sociodemographic and socioeconomic inequalities:

- The answers given by women regarding concerns and coping with the situation tend to be more negative than those given by men. Male respondents are less likely to say that they consider COVID-19 measures to be justified and that they are adhering to them.
- Young people with a migration background are less likely than young people without a migration background to report that they cope well with the situation and more likely to report that they are concerned. They are also more likely to be well informed and to be implementing measures to combat COVID-19.
- Young adults are less likely than adolescents to be coping well with the situation and more likely to be worried about COVID-19. Furthermore, they are more likely than adolescents to be implementing measures to limit contact.

- Young people with a low socioeconomic status are less likely than young people with a high socioeconomic status to be coping well with the current situation, and more likely to be worried about COVID-19. They are also less likely than respondents with a high socioeconomic status to find it easy to adhere to measures to combat COVID-19.

JUST LIVE WITH IT. THAT'S HOW IT IS NOW. YOU CAN'T CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT IT. ALL YOU CAN DO IS AVOID IT LASTING LONGER BY NOT INFECTING OTHERS IF YOU CATCH IT.'  
(LUC, AGED 18)

## Conclusion

Overall, the preliminary results of the representative survey of adolescents and young adults in Luxembourg paint a complex picture. In general, young people seem to be aware of their responsibility to contain the coronavirus. The majority have the necessary information and opportunities to act in a way that reflects this responsibility. There are suggestions of negative impacts stemming from COVID-19 and measures to combat COVID-19, but these do not appear to be the prevailing dynamic at the time of completing the survey.

However, it is likely that negative effects will increase the longer the COVID-19 pandemic lasts and the more individual and social resources are depleted. There are already detectable beginnings of sociodemographic and socioeconomic differences in how people are coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. It is therefore important to continue to provide young people with support for mastering the transition between childhood and adulthood despite COVID-19 and to responsibly provide them with the opportunities and spaces this requires. This process must pay particular attention to inequalities that are developing and being reinforced.

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