



NEXT-UP PROJECT OVERVIEW

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Basic project information

- **Title:** NEXT-UP: Navigating the Next Normal: Innovative Approaches to Enhancing Youth's Education-Employment Transitions in Post-COVID-19 Europe (NEXT-UP)
- **Consortium:**
 - Eleven organisations coordinated by Tampere University
 - Nine countries: Finland, Norway, Portugal, the Netherlands, Spain, Spain, Italy, Germany, Estonia and Austria
- **PI:** Prof. Jussi Kivistö
- **Co-Investigator:** Prof. Yuzhou Cai
- **Duration:** 01/2025 – 06/2028



**Funded by
the European Union**

Who we are

**Universitat Autònoma de
Barcelona (UAB)**

Tallinn University

University of Trento

Tampere University

Universität Heidelberg

**SAMOK (Finnish Student Union)
Union)**

University of Twente

University of Stavanger

Universidade de Aveiro

European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

CIPES (Centre for Research in Higher Education Policies)

Research questions

Main Research Question

How can we understand and address the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on youth transitions from education to employment education to employment (YTSTW) to develop future-oriented policies and practices?

Impact Analysis:

How have societal changes caused by the COVID-19 crisis—such as shifts in educational curricula, learning strategies, labour market skills, working modes, and governmental policies—impacted YTSTW over the long term?

Perception and Experience:

How have the perceptions and experiences of young people, educators, and employers evolved in the post-pandemic context?

Social Innovation:

What social innovations can foster improved collaboration among key stakeholders—educational institutions, employers, governments, and youth organisations—to enhance YTSTW outcomes and policies?

Research gaps

- 1** Lack of long-term data on COVID-19's impact on impact on youth transitions (YTSTW).
- 2** Limited use of advanced tools like agent-based based modelling and machine learning for future future labour market predictions.
- 3** Existing policies focus on short-term challenges, challenges, missing structural and future-oriented oriented solutions.
- 4** Insufficient attention to inequalities (e.g., gender, gender, socio-economic status) in youth transitions. transitions.
- 5** Weak collaboration among youth, educators, employers, and policymakers.
- 6** Little exploration of AI's effects on education-to-work pathways.

Work Packages (1/2)

- 1 WP 1: Structural changes in education and labour market environment in the post-COVID era**
 - Lead: Dian Liu, Uni Stavanger
 - *Literature review, interviews (employers, educators) and agent-agent-based modelling* to analyse how structural changes in in education interact with labour market shifts in the post-COVID-COVID-19 landscape forming the context of YTSTW
- 3 WP 3: Impact of COVID on education-to-labour market transition paths**
 - Lead: Teresa Carvalho, University Aveiro
 - *Literature review and statistical analysis* to explore patterns and typologies in YTSTW across Europe, distinguishing them from trends observed before the COVID-19 pandemic

- 2 WP 2: Perceptions of youth**
 - Lead: Lara Maestriperi, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
 - *Literature review and longitudinal/life-course interviews to interviews* to empirically explore the impact of the COVID-COVID-19 crisis on young people's experiences and perceptions of transitions
- 4 WP 4: Predicting future scenarios of education-to-work transitions**
 - Lead: Ivano Bison, Uni Trento
 - *Machine learning classifiers and social-media-based psychometric surveys* to predict labour market skill demands and potential discrepancies between educational offerings and labour market requirements over the next decade

Work Packages (2/2)

WP 5: Policy development

- Lead: Renze Kolster, Uni Twente
- *Systematic literature review and policy design* to evaluate EU and national policies that have facilitated youth transitions since 2019 and leverage this analysis to formulate evidence-based, forward looking policy recommendations.

WP 7: Dissemination & Communication

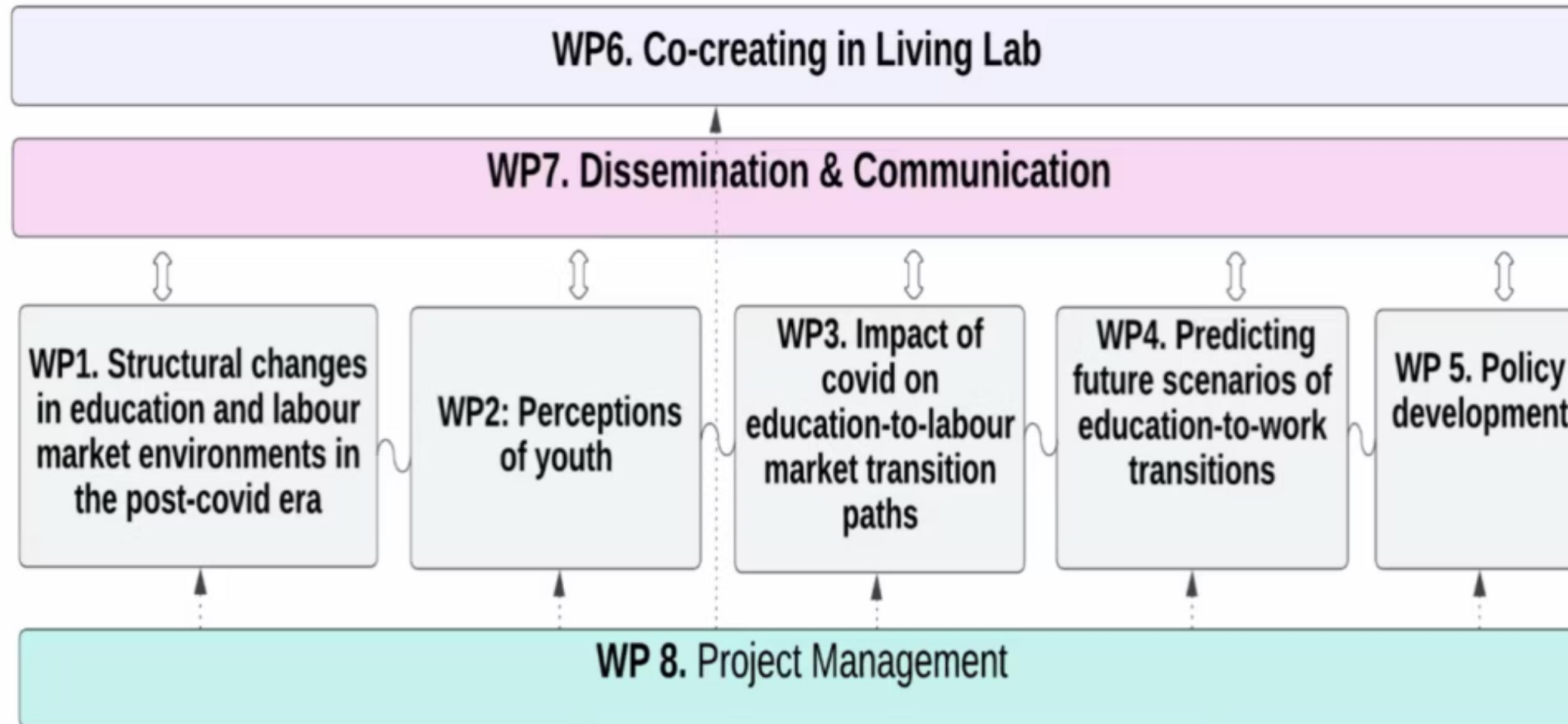
- Lead: Georg Mildenberger, Uni Heidelberg
- To build a network of academics, policy makers and practitioners practitioners in education and counselling for young persons to persons to utilise the insights, methods and tools of NEXT-UP in NEXT-UP in Europe and develop project's dissemination and and communication strategy.

WP 6: Co-creating in the Living lab

- Lead: Yulia Shumilova, Tampere Uni
- *Living Lab* to collaboratively design innovative approaches that enable educational institutions, national and supranational governments, and youth associations to enhance the transition of youth

WP 8: Project management

- Lead: Jussi Kivistö & Yuzhuo Cai, Tampere Uni



Contact us!

Project website <https://www.nextup-project.eu/>

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