

## GROWING UP UNDER COVID-19

### OCTOBER 2020 – GOOGLE FORM RESULTS ON THE EDUCATION SECTOR



Remote learning, the new way kids and students are trying to cope with this pandemic. Many tech giants have already developed platforms to ensure progress throughout classes all over the world.

#### *Introduction*

The following presentation is part of the Research-Action project "Growing under Covid-19", conceived by the Ecorys organisation (UK) in collaboration with the University of Huddersfield (UK).

The aim of the following action-research project is to find out what the views of young people and the population are on the issue in this period of emergency caused by the New Coronavirus. In particular, the project deals with understanding what could be done and what can be done in anticipation of a future emergency, but also what problems have emerged from the management of the last period. This module was developed by one of the young people participating in the project, whose research focuses on the theme of education.

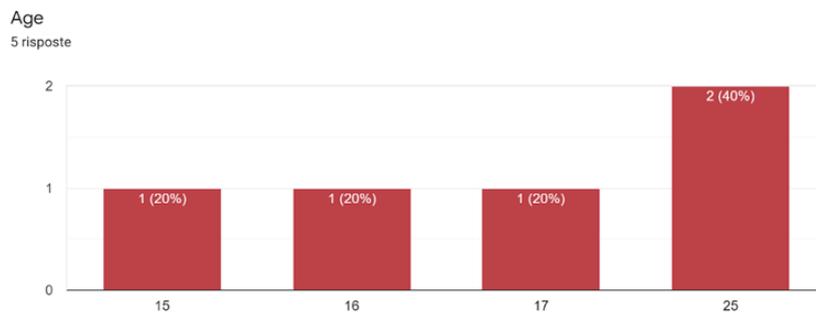
Participants were asked to fill in an online form on the mentioned topic (education). A huge number of people took part in this project, indeed more than 60 people from Italy, France, the U.S., the U.K. and China answered and gave some interesting ideas, thus surpassing the initial expectations. N.B. In order to reach the highest number of people within Education throughout these countries, two forms were created, the first one addressed to an Italian audience, whereas the second form, provided in English, was addressed to an international audience.

#### *Questions*

1. How has COVID-19 affected the education sector (both schools and universities) in your country?
2. In the future, do you think that distance learning will support face-to-face teaching or will replace it? What will be the advantages and disadvantages?
3. Many students, in particular those who sat the High School State Exam, have faced uncertainties about the school year/academic year trends and how to sit the exam. What could be done and what can be improved for the start of the new school year/academic year?

#### **ENGLISH VERSION**

*General overview on participants' personal information*



80 % of the participants resulted to be male while the remaining 20 % were female.

Most of the participants are currently attending school as both students and teachers, whilst only one person was out of the studied sector, but within the age to understand school dynamics.

Question 1 – Answers

In the first question, participants generally answered in a simple way, explaining their national situations, which were very similar to each other. Indeed, all students had to cope with remote learning during the first wave of the pandemic. On the other hand, there have been some discrepancies among national responses to ensure the right to in-presence education. Therefore, some countries maintained this method throughout the entire academic year, while other countries preferred to open gradually, especially high schools for all those graduating in 2021. However, now the goal has not been achieved due to an uptrend in COVID cases, which led to a partial lockdown in some countries, both in Europe and outside.

The alternation between home schooling and face-to-face education has lasted nearly a month. For instance, in Italy some regions closed schools before the national government did so at the end of October.

Question 2 – Answers

In the second question, participants' answers were very conflicting, especially on whether home schooling was sufficient to overcome the main issue or not. Besides, the common advantage of remote education concerns interest in school subjects and allow pupils expand certain topics within the studied area.

“Students actually are more active to interact with teachers via chat group; communication becomes more timely and immediate, and every message includes more information than face-to-face teaching”

However, it has been highlighted how younger students could encounter some issues, due to the use of internet devices as well as losing attention because of their maturity. In addition, some people could be excluded by general conversations among class members, because of their shyness.

Question 3 – Answers

At this point of the form, interviewees were asked to propose something to enhance the previous school ending along with some recommendations to better start the new academic year.

In general, interviewees showed a high grade of optimism regarding the beginning of the new year, probably because of the possible improvement in the education sector. It includes the study of every

single scenario by the Ministry of Education. It is then recommended to tell students graduating in 2021 how the state exam will be hold, so that youngsters can do their best and feel confident.

*References for photos*

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2Feducationblog.microsoft.com%2Fen-us%2F2020%2F04%2Ftop-5-ways-teachers-can-use-microsoft-teams-during-remote-learning%2F&psig=AOvVaw3qZgXvRNuUhObEmROqN1I&ust=1607104853243000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAMQjB1qFwoTCLDpq62ysu0CFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD>