

The aim of the “**Work (in)stability and spatial (im)mobility from the perspective of young people on the move. Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic**” project (acronym: **INSIMO**) is to empirically examine the processes of meaning-making involving work (in)stability and the spatial (im)mobility in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic among young people, leading to an understanding of how young people perceive their lives looking forward, how they are (re)evaluating their lives in the present and reflecting on the past in relation to the recent Covid-19 crisis

Youth is considered as a life condition that is marked by unpredictability, vulnerability and reversibility. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the difficult situation young people find themselves in today, limiting their mobility, constraining their economic security and intensifying the conditions of uncertainty they are being forced to navigate. In both academic and public debates young people are portrayed as a ‘lockdown generation’ whose lives and future trajectories will be ‘interrupted’, ‘in limbo’ and subject to a ‘failure to launch’. **INSIMO’s research objectives concern the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the career and work, mobility and migration, and everyday life opportunities of young people today.**

The main research goals lead to **the main research questions:**

1. How did the Covid-19 pandemic affect young people’s sense of work (in)stability?
2. How did the Covid-19 pandemic affect young people’s sense of spatial (im)mobility?
3. What is the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the (re)interpretations young people’s lives and their perceptions of past, present and future?

Social researchers (Settersten et al., 2020) point out that there is a great need to conduct research examining the influence of the Covid-19 pandemic on different spheres of people’s lives. It is emphasized that the greatest data gains will be made by building upon ongoing longitudinal projects which combine information on life before the Covid-19 pandemic to experiences during and specific to the pandemic.

The INSIMO project precisely meets this need because its **empirical grounds are driven by a research re-visiting the 20 people** (born 1982-1995) – those with higher education degree and international mobility experiences that took part in three waves of the longitudinal project “Education- to domestic and foreign labour market transitions of youth: The role of locality, peer group and new media” (2016-2020, National Science Center, Sonata Bis 5, No.2015/18/E/HS6/00147). A research re-visit (**follow-up individual in-depth interviews, fourth meeting with the participants**) provides a unique opportunity to see how narrating, understanding and shaping different spheres of lives have changed since the impact of totally different social context. The INSIMO project will allow to explore how the perspectives of young adults (especially in reference to work (in)stability and spatial (im)mobility), including their values, aspirations, and identities, changed over time, with particular regard to the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Looking at the effects of the Covid-19 crisis with temporal orientation and a life-course perspective, I will be able to identify risks, vulnerabilities and inequalities which may affect young people’s lives.