



NEWSLETTER ISSUE #1

EDITORIAL

By Birte Nienaber (Coordinator)



In MIMY we focus on the integration of young non-EU migrants (between the age of 18-29). We are aware that integration is a very political and normative term which often produces misunderstandings and conflicts in political, public, and scientific debates.

That is why we apply the new concept of „[liquid integration](#)“, which we conceive as a system of dynamic and complex processes of change and adaptation, of both individuals and of the context in which they live, which remain open ended. Following this approach in our project we include a number of different local actors including stakeholders and service providers, young locals and young migrants themselves.

However, we started our project in February 2020, right at a time when the corona virus started to spread in Europe. The pandemic has affected all of us in the consortium as individuals and researchers but has had a particular impact on young migrants living in Europe in vulnerable condition, the group our project wants to understand better. Therefore, despite the challenges the pandemic has posed for our project it has also reaffirmed our commitment to put the experiences of young migrants in their new local surrounding at the heart of our activities.

In our first year, we have set the stage of MIMY. We have elaborated the [theoretical framework](#) of our project and of our main concept of liquid integration and we have created a statistical overview of the dimensions, characteristics and dynamics of youth migration to Europe as well as of the socio-economic integration of young migrants. We have also analysed integration policies and opportunity structures both at the EU level and in our 9 countries and have engaged with and interviewed local and national stakeholders in all our 18 case studies (2 per country).

The effects of the pandemic still pose challenges to our research process and limit our interactions but have also pushed each member of our consortium to come up with creative solutions and we are proud of our achievements. Now, we are conducting group discussions and interviews with young migrants and their parents, but also with local young residents in all our 18 case studies. Next year, we will organise local workshops and art events in collaboration with young migrants involved in our project as peer researchers. We thank you, readers, for your interest in our project and we hope you will continue to follow us in this journey.

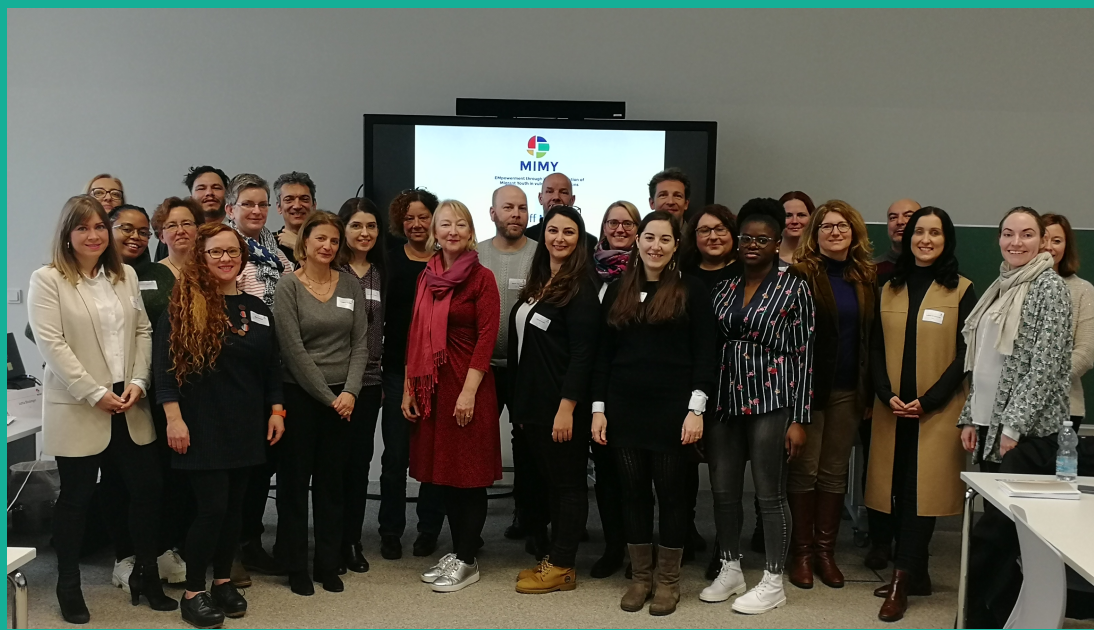
[Please contact us](#) if you have any questions, ideas or if you would like to contribute to our Policy Handbook by sharing practices from your local or regional area.

ABOUT MIMY

The EU-funded MIMY project (**EM**powerment through liquid **I**ntegration of **M**igrant **Y**outh in vulnerable conditions) is a comparative, interdisciplinary study of migrant integration to empower young non-EU migrants in vulnerable conditions and support successful integration strategies in the EU. The project brings together 11 disciplines and 13 partner institutions to study integration policies and processes at the EU, national and local levels across nine countries.

[Learn more about the project](#)





The MIMY partners

The project includes 13 partner institutions from nine European countries (Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, UK, Hungary, Poland, and Romania). The University of Luxembourg is the lead partner, and 10 partners are Universities and research institutes. Besides, EURICE - European Research and Project Office GmbH supports the project coordinator in all aspects of project management, and the European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC) disseminates project results through its wide youth network.

[Discover our consortium](#)

THE DESIGN OF MIMY: OBJECTIVES, METHOD AND IMPACT

The MIMY project is as complex and it is ambitious. Through its multi-disciplinary, multi-level, multi-method and comparative approach MIMY aims not only at capturing the complex and multi-faceted processes of integration young migrants face in specific local context but also at bringing concrete positive change in the societies where they live as well as in their own lives, fostering empowerment.

[Discover more about our goals and approach in our position paper](#)

OUR WORK

During the first year of the project, MIMY

- elaborated a theoretical framework based on the concept of 'liquid integration' and previous literature,
- provided an overview of statistical data on young migrants in vulnerable conditions in the EU,
- examined integration policies and opportunity structures targeting young migrants in the EU, and
- mapped local services available to young migrants in the nine partner countries.



MIMY case study contexts identified

MIMY in-country research with young migrants and wider communities will take place in two comparative case study locations in each country. MIMY takes a contrasting case approach, allowing for comparability between factors that influence integration processes. The 18 case study contexts presented here provide a starting point for this comparative analysis.

RESEARCH INTERVIEWS WITH STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS EUROPE

MIMY in-country research teams have undertaken 18-25 in-depth interviews in each of the above-named case study locations to understand stakeholder perspectives on the local dynamics affecting integration. The analysis of these 200+ interviews will produce country-specific and cross-context knowledge on the provision of services to migrant youth, and the relational dynamics within local populations that interplay with integration processes. Some preliminary findings will be shared at the [IMISCOE conference](#).

This knowledge will inform ongoing research, as well as policy and practice recommendations within the project. A report on the role of the local population through a study of their attitudes towards young migrants in vulnerable conditions will be published later this year.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



Our partner ECYC together with MIMY researchers created the “**Migrant Youth research and policy Network**” (called MYN). MYN is an informal group comprised of young migrants and youth workers that will participate in discussions and activities related to future European integration strategies and policies that can better support the empowerment of young migrants, particularly those who live in vulnerable conditions.

Get to know more on our [website](#)

Our **peer research** approach within MIMY is a central pillar of our commitment to youth-led and migrant centred research. All partners attended a training led by the University of Luxembourg and London Metropolitan University, with support from the University of Sheffield. HAWK in Germany are coming to the end of their collaboration with their first cohort of peer researchers, who will be sharing experiences and reflections on the MIMY Peer Research blog later in 2021.

Follow us on Twitter [#MIMY](#) and [Facebook](#) for further announcements!

UPCOMING EVENTS



MIMY @ 18th IMISCOE Annual Conference – ONLINE 7-9 July 2021

We are happy to announce that the MIMY project will be featured prominently at this year's IMISCOE online conference hosted by the University of Luxembourg and chaired by MIMY's PI, Birte Nienaber!

The researchers of our consortium in collaboration with other scientists in the field have organized 3 panels, 1 workshop and 1 individual paper to present first empirical findings of MIMY, reflect on important theoretical questions and capture different local realities.

**MIMY's contributions to IMISCOE
2021**



POLICY Roundtable, September 2021

The following H2020 projects ([MATILDE](#), [MERGING](#), [MIMY](#), [WELCOMING SPACES](#), [WHOLE-COMM](#)) will organise a joint policy roundtable in Brussels focusing on local development and immigration. The main purpose of the event is to obtain some commitments from the EU policymakers about the topic of immigration and local development in Europe, with respect to concrete political actions.

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