

Student social workers interviewing young people about the financial crisis in Cyprus

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The current financial crisis is affecting many countries in Europe especially in the south of the continent. Cyprus is one of the countries affected by the aforementioned situation. Young people are a particularly vulnerable group as they have, at the start of their adult lives, to deal with the consequences of high percentages of unemployment in various European countries. As reported by Eurostat, youth Unemployment rate in averaged 16.75 percent from 2000 until 2015, reaching an all-time high of 40.30 percent in October of 2013 and a record low of 7.60 percent in January of 2002. During the data collection for this study in May and June 2015 the rate remained unchanged at 32.60 percent. It is in the researcher's opinion important to hear the voices of youth describing how the crisis is impacts on them and their families as this could assist practitioners and policy makers alike in their pursuit to identify and promote best practices.

This research was carried out by social work students who study at the European University Cyprus under the author's supervision as part of their training in qualitative research methods. They selected the topic and a topic guide for interviews was developed. The students recorded and transcribed interviews with young people. They were also trained to use the Flourishing scale that has been designed as a way to measure self-reported success in particular areas and is thus considered a good indication of psychological wellbeing. (see Diener, E., Wirtz, D., Tov, W., Kim-Prieto, C., Choi, D., Oishi, S., & Biswas-Diener, R. , 2009)

The qualitative analysis is currently run by the author and all findings will be shared during this presentation.