



Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie project no. 101027291 ENCOUNTER:
EXPERIENCES OF YOUTH IN NATURAL MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS

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- **Institution:** Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic
- **Aims:** Project ENCOUNTER addresses experiences and percetions of natural mentoring relationships in general popula- tion of current young people (12-15 years) in the Czech/EU context

Research objectives:



- To examine the characteristics, dynamics, and perceived benefits of the natural mentoring relationships (NMRs) experienced by young people (12-15 years) in the EU context
- To contrast the functions, characteristics, and dynamics of natural mentoring among gender; and the features of NMRs experienced by young adolescents in the CZ and in an international context
- To conceptualize the theoretical, interdisciplinary youth-centered framework on natural mentoring phenomena

Methods:



A youth-centred qualitative in-depth approach with in several data co- llection methods, including qualitative questionnaire, in-depth semi- -structured interviews and art-based participatory research methods

Methods of selection of research participants:

1. Youth-centred animated video with a screenplay based on the lite- rature review on natural mentors and significant (trusted) adults to date, explains who natural mentors are
2. Questionnaire about the identified natural mentor with 65 open- -ended questions on who the natural mentors are and how the rela- tionship with them is

Data collection methods

1. Youth-centred animated video with a screenplay based on the literature review on natural mentors and significant (trusted) adults to date, explains who natural mentors are
2. Interview with the natural mentor
3. Interview with parents/guardians: for context and carers' perspective

Participatory arts-based method in data collection:

4. PhotoVoice: Young participants and their mentors meet together and take pictures of the meeting. The elicited photos are then subject of the group in- terview with researcher

Method of analysis

The interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) will be used with QSR NVivo 12 software to analyze 30 interviews with young people/10 case studies with all interview participants



Outcomes for youth and their participation:



1. Awareness of their natural mentors
2. Enhancement of the natural mentoring relationships
3. Photo exhibition on the photos elicited on natural mentoring meetings with short story describing the mentoring bond.

Preliminary research findings:



1. Most young people in our sample are able to identify a natural mentor with the explanation of Who the natural mentor actually is through youth-centred animation
2. Young people find their natural mentors among:
 - Extended family members
 - Leaders of the leisure-time activities
 - Imaginary and virtual HEROES
3. Young people often identify more than one mentor **who supports or inspires them, is im- portant/significant for them, and who they like, and can trust and turn to if they need**
4. Young people often identifies different mentors for different supports and interests
5. Some young people identified mentors as adults they don't see regularly who still are percei- ved as significant and important supports in their lives
6. Mentors don't need to be much older or in adult age but importantly are perceived as MORE EXPERIENCED in comparison to friends
7. Natural mentoring is often activity-focused and developes around shared interest



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 101027291.

Four BA Students and 1 MA student are trained in participatory youth-centred research methods and ENCOUNTER research themes during their final research projects. Two students participate in ENCOUNTER project as research assistants and are co-authors and konference presenters of this poster. Design by Jiri Makovsky®.