

ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVALS IN ROMANIA DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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***Abstract.** The organization of electronic music festivals was in a period of pause at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, in a medical and special context with a high degree of understanding from potential participants, who believe that festivals could be a way to spread virus. However, once the vaccination period has begun, future strategies for conducting electronic music festivals can take the first steps, by limiting the number of participants, ensuring the space necessary for physical distance, but also by testing participants. The attitude of the young people regarding the Anti-Covid vaccine is oscillating, they consider that a measure is not necessary to force the population to be vaccinated, but the emergency measures are much more relaxing, considering that any event or any daily activity can be a danger. . However, it is important to mention that a large part of young people agree that protection measures should be rigorous and respected by potential participants. The main objective of the study is to identify the attitude of young people regarding the possibility of organizing electronic music festivals in Romania, while the secondary objective is to identify potential discrepancies between the need for emergency measures and the degree of acceptance of the population. The main purpose of the study is to provide an overview of the attitude and responsibility of young people in a special medical context and can be a starting point in future research that studies the behaviors and attitudes of certain groups of people in crisis.*

***Keywords:** tourism, medical, Covid-19 pandemic, human geography, cultural*

INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic represented a challenge for all economic sectors, for the entire local and national administration of Romania, but also for small and medium businesses, as well as for event organizers, due to the impossibility of carrying out economic activities under normal aspects, offering implications in monthly income and in their ability to support themselves monthly and not need massive restructuring (Zhang et. al, 2021; Teodorescu, 2009; Ducman et. al, 2019; Sobaih et. al, 2021). Due to the need to support these event organizers and business owners, the Romanian

Government was in a difficult period of rethinking the national strategy to combat the virus, wanting the economy to function to the minimum necessary without producing irreversible changes in economic processes, but also to maintain national security in an important position (Teodorescu et. al, 2019; Teodorescu et. al, 2020; Škare et. al, 2021). The support of the event organizers was an obstacle for the economy, as the supplementation of the annual revenues could not be achieved, due to the fact that the international participants offered an extra capital, introducing external money in the local and national circuit. The attitude of young people from the beginning of the pandemic to the present has changed, achieving an increase in safety in terms of events, by the appearance of Anti-Covid vaccines, but also by the drastic decrease in the number of cases in certain territories. Tourism itself is in a period of crisis, generated by a virus that has a very rapid spreading capacity, which has caused irreparable damage to states that were closely dependent on tourism, forcing a national administration to be much more permissive with the acceptance of foreign tourists for a capital infusion in national incomes (Sigala, 2020; Sharma et. al, 2021). The attitude of young people towards the vaccine is oscillating, there are two categories of people: those who accept the vaccine, either have preferences regarding the vaccine manufacturer, or have indifference regarding the vaccine manufacturer, and the second category is people who vehemently refuse compulsory vaccination. New medical technologies have been promoted in the development of the Anti-Covid vaccine, which has led to global distrust, discussing the continued spread of conspiracy theories (scientifically unfounded), thus creating distrust among some young people (Dinca & Teodorescu, 2015). Also, the protective mask has gone through research processes, realizing that it can save the infection with the SARS-Cov-2 virus, if all people wear it, producing a limitation of the number of infections (Rădoi et. al, 2020; Pintilii et. al, 2017; Grecu et. al, 2019).

METHODOLOGY

The research, due to its character to develop based on the attitudes and behaviors of young people on the chosen subject, needed to address an application questionnaire, based on a sample of 171 people who have previously participated in electronic music festivals or intend to participate in these festivals, their age being between 18 and 32 years. To collect statistical data, the questionnaires were disseminated in Facebook groups for discussions about electronic music festivals in Romania, in which participants were asked to provide concrete answers and as close to reality

as possible, the degree of error being about 3%. After the statistical data collection campaign, they were centralized through the Microsoft Office bundle, especially Microsoft Excel, which were transformed into explanatory graphs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

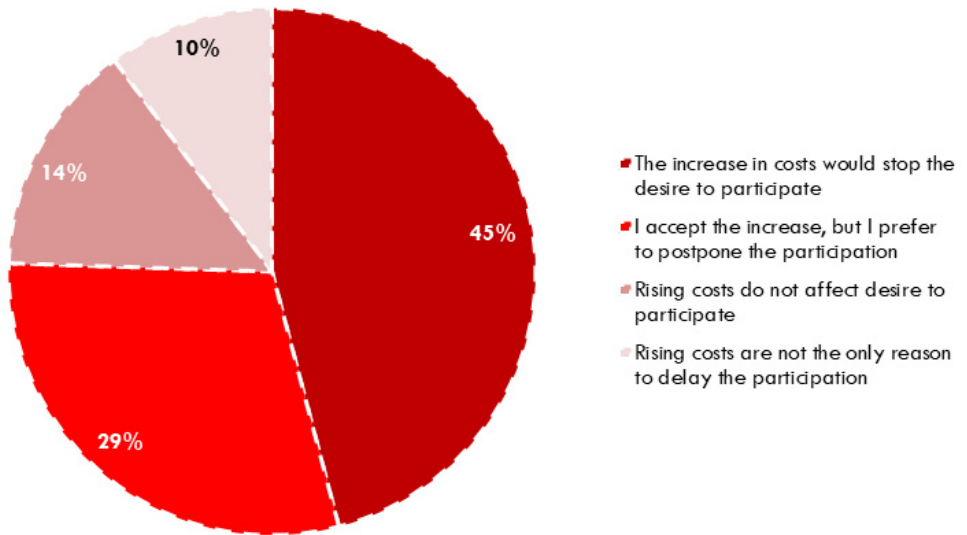


Figure 1. The attitude of the young people surveyed regarding the increase of participation costs

Due to the need to increase costs by festival organizers to develop profit due to the limited number of participants, 45% of respondents would not want to participate, while 29% would postpone participation for a period of lower costs. Only 14% of respondents would participate in an electronic music festival despite the rising costs, while 10% of respondents do not want to participate due to high costs, but also the desire to protect against the SARS-Cov-2 virus. (Figure 1)

The need to observe safety measures is accepted by most respondents, who understand the need to wear a protective mask and physical distance, but 28% of participants would not participate in an electronic music festival out of a desire to protect themselves against the SARS-Cov-2 virus. , and 18% of respondents do not want to participate even after the pandemic. 54% of respondents want to participate in an

electronic music festival where safety measures are observed, regardless of their degree of rigor. (Figure 2)

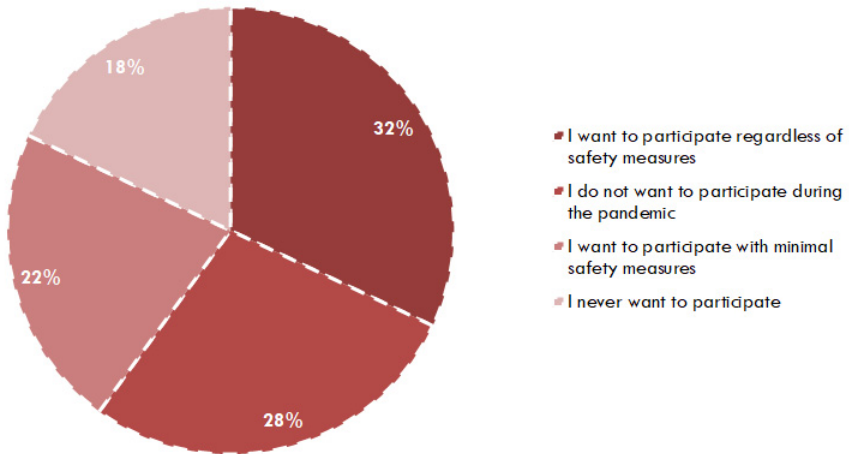


Figure 2. Degree of interest in participating in electronic music festivals during the Covid-19 pandemic

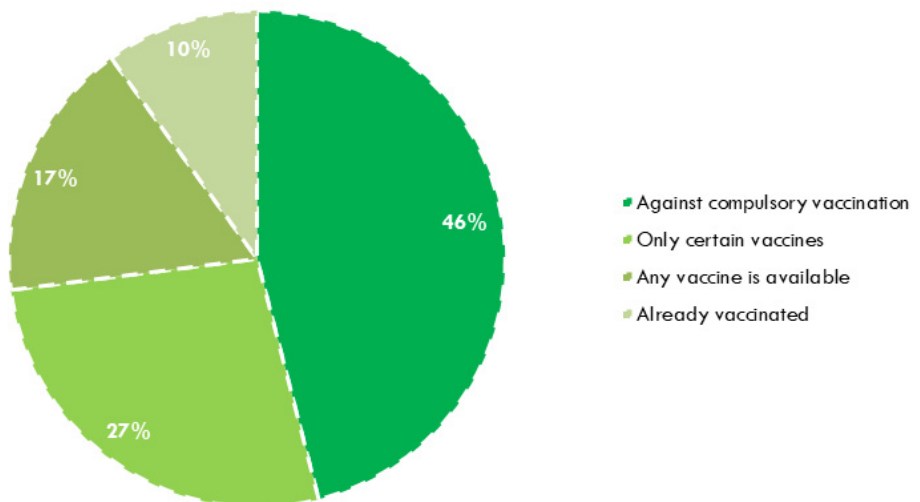


Figure 3. Degree of acceptance of Anti-Covid vaccines

54% of respondents are positive about accepting the Anti-Covid vaccine, 9% of respondents already taking at least one dose of the vaccine, while 46% of respondents do not want to feel constrained about the decision to accept the vaccine. Of the total respondents who accept the vaccine, 17% of them would prefer only certain types of vaccine, especially new mRNA technologies. (Figure 3)

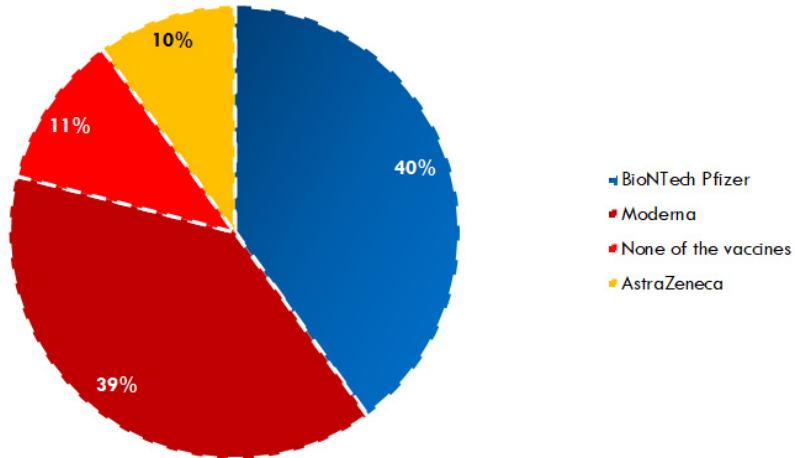


Figure 4. Respondents' preferred Anti-Covid vaccine manufacturer

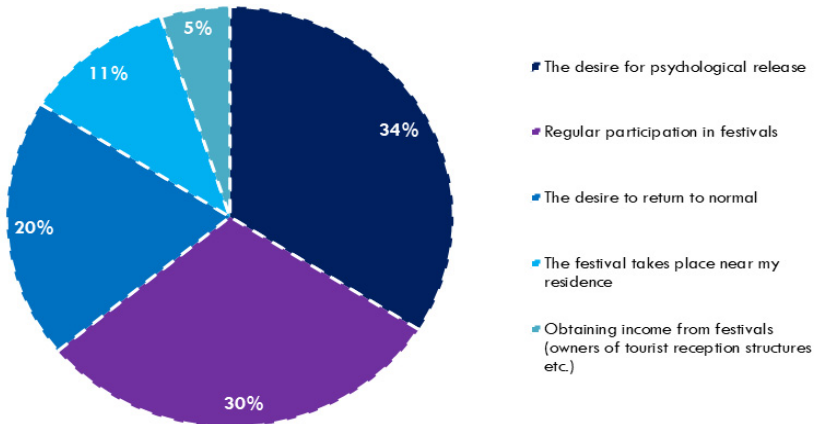


Figure 5. The main motivation of the respondents to participate in the electronic music festivals

79% of respondents prefer to be vaccinated through new mRNA vaccine manufacturers, with overwhelming confidence in the vaccines produced by BioNTech Pfizer and Moderna, while only 10% of respondents want to be vaccinated with a traditional vaccine, namely AstraZeneca (made by doctors in Oxford). 11% of participants do not have a preferred vaccine and would refuse vaccination. (Figure 4)

The desire to escape psychologically is the main motivation of the respondents to participate in an electronic music festival, 34% of them considering that they need a relaxation in an extremely pressing context. 30% of the participants consider that they are regular participants of the festivals, while 20% of the participants want their life to take place as before the Covid-19 pandemic. 16% of the respondents are in areas of frequent organization of electronic music festivals, and 5% of them obtain income based on them. (Figure 5)

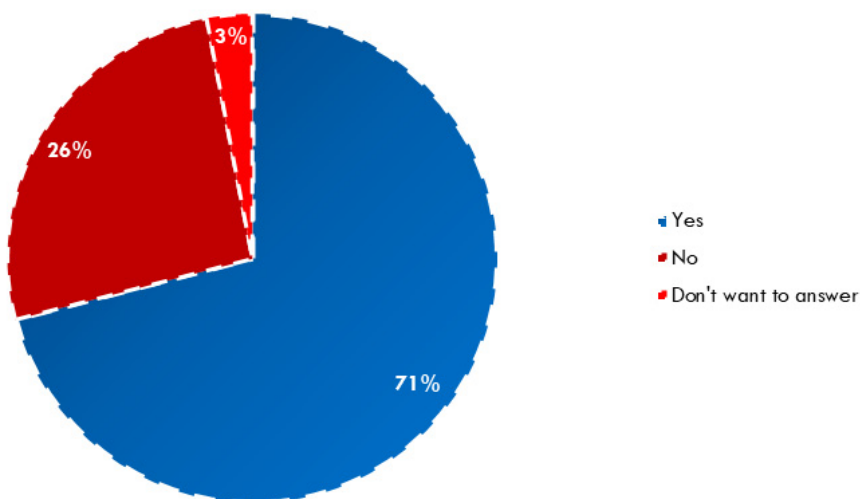


Figure 6. Previous degree of participation in electronic music festivals

Going through an extremely difficult period has increased the interest of young people in participating in electronic music festivals, despite the fact that before the appearance of the SARS-Cov-2 virus the level of interest was low. 26% of respondents have never participated in an electronic music festival, but most would participate if they could, and 71% of respondents are frequent participants in these music events. (Figure 6)

86% of respondents are positive about PCR testing before participating in the festival, of which only 10% would pay the full costs of the PCR test to participate, the rest wanting free or included in the cost of the ticket. 14% of respondents do not want PCR testing, considering that this aspect could prevent them from participating. (Figure 7)

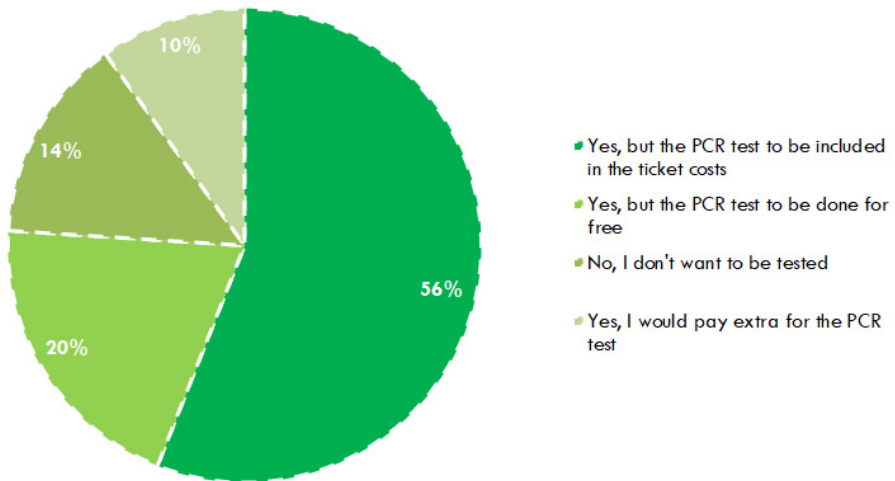


Figure 7. Degree of acceptance of the PCR test in participation in electronic music festivals

CONCLUSION

The Covid-19 pandemic produced significant changes in the level of interest of young people in participating in electronic music festivals, which manifested themselves differently from individual to individual. The general trend is to increase interest for people who have not previously participated and to decrease interest for people who have participated in such an event at least once. Also, most respondents accept that safety measures are required to be observed by the participant, but the degree of rigor is not generally accepted, some respondents consider that wearing a protective mask is sufficient. The study reveals that just over half of respondents have high confidence in anti-Covid vaccines, especially those with a new mRNA technology (produced by BioNTech Pfizer and Moderna), while only 10% of respondents prefer traditional medical methods. made by doctors in Oxford (AstraZeneca). At the same time, the

increase in participation costs could be a decisive reason to stop interest in participating in festivals, but also an additional reason to postpone, in addition to the desire to protect against the virus. The desire to test the participants was confirmed by 86% of the respondents, who considered that performing the tests could lead to a lack of spread of the virus during the festival, correlating with compliance with protection measures. The pressures generated by the continuous news flows based on the Covid-19 topic and the desire to return to normal are the main motivations of young people to participate in an electronic music festival held during the pandemic. The study manages to meet the objectives set initially, thus identifying the main trends of attitude of the participants and opens new opportunities to enrich the literature for the subject.

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