



MILLENNIAL & GEN Z VIEWS FOR A YOUTH-OWNED RECOVERY

EUROPE, THE NEXTGEN
ARE SPEAKING
EUROPE, ARE YOU
LISTENING?



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PROGRESIVA

SPAIN

A joint research project by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and ThinkYoung **analysing young European views on the future of Europe.**¹

The project classifies youth broadly as young people aged 16 to 38.

ABOUT BUILDERS OF PROGRESS

THE PROJECT AIMS TO

- Bridge the gap between policymakers and Europe's next generations who must work together to shape a better future for Europe.
- Shed light on the views of Gen Z (people born in and after 1995) and Millennials (people born between 1982 and 1994) on the most pressing topics on the European political agenda.
- Uncover how European youth want to 'build back better' after the pandemic.

THE REPORT COVERS SIX MAIN TOPICS, WITH A SECTION DEDICATED TO EACH.

The following fact sheet summarises the views of respondents living in **Spain**. It then compares them to the EU and European averages.

ABOUT THE RESEARCH²

The project had two main research phases. The first phase focused on social and political opinions in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. FEPS and ThinkYoung collected data through a survey and focus groups.

1 SURVEY 1

11 European Countries

Data collection between 9 November and 14 December 2021

11,000+ answers in total

The survey reached over **1,000 respondents aged 16 to 38 in each country**

2 FOCUS GROUPS

4 European Countries

Sessions took place online in February and March 2021

2 focus groups in each country

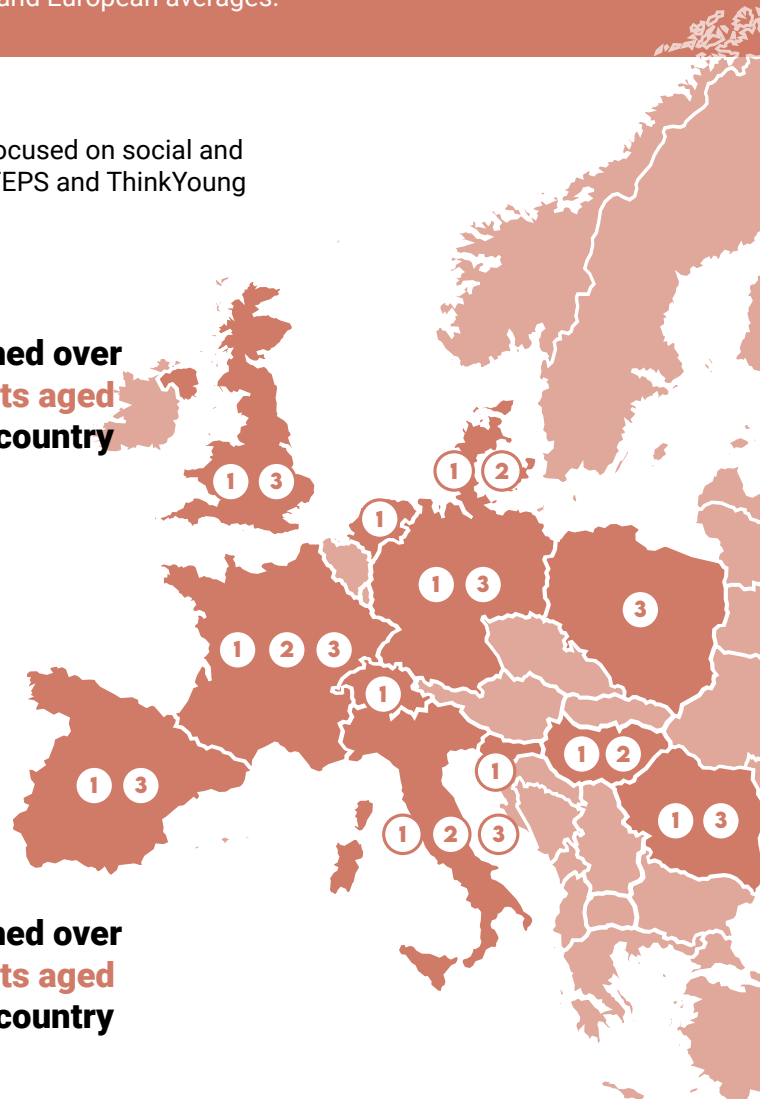
3 SURVEY 2

7 European Countries

Data collection between 25 March and 7 April 2022

7,000+ answers in total

The survey reached over **1,000 respondents aged 16 to 38 in each country**



1. The project is conducted by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) with the support of Anny Klawka-Morf Stiftung, Društvo Progressiva, Felipe González Foundation, Fondation Jean Jaurès and the Party of European Socialists (PES), and in co-operation with ThinkYoung – the research organisation that has co-ordinated the surveys and examination of the findings.

2. For full findings, methodology, and data analysis see the main report: Builders of Progress: Europe's NextGen.

Many aspects of daily life were affected by COVID-19 and the resulting measures imposed, such as school closures and prolonged periods of confinement. This Building Block addresses the following questions:

- What are the key personal concerns of young Europeans?
- What are young people's views on working and studying from home?
- How have young people coped with the pandemic?



YOUTH IN SPAIN WERE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH & ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Top personal concerns (concern scale from 0 to 10)

Concerns for youth in Spain

1. Access to healthcare and health services **5.8**
2. Emotional and psychological well-being **5.6**
3. Physical health and well-being **5.6**
4. Employment opportunities **5.5**

Concerns for youth in Europe

1. Emotional and psychological well-being **5.9**
2. Physical health and well-being **5.9**
3. Income **5.8**
4. Employment opportunities **5.7**

YOUTH IN SPAIN EXTENSIVELY RELIED ON SOCIAL MEDIA & STREAMING SITES TO HELP THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING



Coping mechanisms during the COVID-19 pandemic

67% of Spanish youth used streaming services as a strategy, compared to a European average of 59%.

54% of youth used social media. This compares to a European average of 43%

Speaking with a psychologist

11% of youth in Spain relied on mental health professionals to help their psychological well-being during the pandemic. This is roughly the same as the European average of **10%**. Given that **58%** of young people in Spain and 61% in Europe were concerned about their mental health, our data suggest that a high proportion of youth in Spain and in Europe face barriers to accessing mental health services.



YOUTH IN SPAIN VALUE WORKING AND STUDYING FROM HOME

59% see working and studying from home positively. This is the same as the European average.

Working and studying from home has had some unexpected positives, and some negatives for youth (positivity scale from 0 to 10).

Unexpected positives for youth in Spain

Being able to use technology for work and study

7.4 vs 6.7 in Europe

Spending more quality time with family

7.0 vs 6.8 in Europe

Adapting to new situations

6.8 vs 6.5 in Europe

Biggest negatives for youth in Spain

Psychological or emotional well-being

5.5 vs 5.3 in Europe

Romantic & love-life

5.6 both in Spain and Europe

Motivation, drive and passion

5.8 vs 5.7 in Europe



DEMOCRACY & THE RULE OF LAW

Important aspects of European democracies are a lively political participation of citizens, the empowerment of these citizens, and the independence of state institutions based on the rule of law.

This Building Block addresses the following questions:

- How do young people participate in politics?
- Do young people want to be more involved and empowered by the EU in public affairs and economic policy?
- What is their view on the rule of law, and what role should the EU play in this regard?



THE MOST POPULAR FORM OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN SPAIN IS VOTING. 58% HAVE VOTED AT LEAST ONCE⁴

Preferred forms of participation in Spain

1. Voting **58%**
2. Going on strike **29%**
3. Demonstrating **28%**

Preferred forms of participation in Europe

1. Voting **56%**
2. Donating money for a cause **36%**
3. Petitioning (in person or on websites such as Change.org) **28%**

**72% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN BELIEVE THAT THE EU SHOULD INVOLVE AND EMPOWER MORE YOUNG PEOPLE IN EUROPEAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS
THIS IS ABOVE THE AVERAGE ACROSS THE EU COUNTRIES SURVEYED (67%).**

**77% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN BELIEVE POLITICIANS NEED TO BETTER COMMUNICATE TO CITIZENS WHAT THE EU IS DOING AND HOW IT IMPACTS DAILY LIFE.
THIS IS ABOVE THE AVERAGE OF YOUTH ACROSS THE EU COUNTRIES SURVEYED (71%).**

**62% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN BELIEVE THAT EU POLITICIANS SHOULD BE MORE DIVERSE IN TERMS OF RACE & ETHNICITY
THIS IS SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE THE AVERAGE ACROSS THE EU COUNTRIES SURVEYED (52%).**

**63% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN BELIEVE THE EU SHOULD STOP PROVIDING FUNDING TO MEMBER STATES THAT FAIL TO RESPECT DEMOCRATIC RULES
THIS IS ABOUT THE SAME AS YOUTH ACROSS ALL OTHER EU COUNTRIES SURVEYED (65%).**

⁴ These numbers reflect the percentage of respondents that choose each option from a list of answers. Respondents were asked to select all answer options that applied to their case out of a list of twelve options.



EQUALITY

The negative impact of the pandemic has hit youth hard due to increased vulnerability. It also highlighted social and gender-based inequality. This Building Block addresses the following questions:

- What are the main priorities according to young people to increase equality and ensure no one is left behind?
- What are the most pressing social policies and issues?
- What are seen as the best ways to combat gender inequality?



YOUTH IN SPAIN WANT THE EU TO PRIORITISE IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF JOBS AND WAGES. THEY ALSO SEE SUPPORT FOR GENDER EQUALITY AS A MORE URGENT PRIORITY THAN THE EU AVERAGE⁵

Top social policy priorities for youth in Spain

1. Improving the quality of jobs and wages **50%**
2. Housing **37%**
3. Supporting gender equality **28%**
4. Public services **28%**

Top social policy priorities for youth in the EU

1. Improving the quality of jobs and wages **41%**
2. Housing **32%**
3. Promoting healthier living, healthcare, elderly care, social care, and childcare **32%**
4. Improving education standards **26%**

YOUTH IN SPAIN THINK COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WILL HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT ON GENDER EQUALITY IN EUROPE⁶



Top strategies for youth in Spain

1. Combat gender-based violence and protect and support victims **45%**
2. Reduce the gaps in salaries and pensions between men and women **39%**
3. Offer universal maternity and paternity care to every citizen **33%**

Top strategies for youth in Europe

1. Reduce the gaps in salaries and pensions between men and women **40%**
2. Combat gender-based violence and protect and support victims **36%**
3. Provide direct assistance to parents for childcare **29%**

A LARGE MAJORITY OF YOUTH IN SPAIN ASK FOR A MORE SOCIAL EU

76% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN BELIEVE THAT THE EU SHOULD GUARANTEE FAIR MINIMUM WAGES FOR ALL EUROPEAN WORKERS. THIS COMPARES TO THE EU AVERAGE OF 69%.

66% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN AGREE THAT THE EU SHOULD ENSURE DECENT UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR ALL EUROPEANS. THIS COMPARES TO THE EU AVERAGE OF 58%.

74% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN AGREE THAT THE EU SHOULD GET MORE INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN NEED IN EUROPE. THIS COMPARES TO THE EU AVERAGE OF 67%.

75% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN THINK THE EU SHOULD ENSURE ACCESS TO DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL CITIZENS. THIS COMPARES TO THE EU AVERAGE OF 69%.

66% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN AGREE THAT THE EU MUST DO MORE TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF LGBTQI+ PEOPLE. THIS COMPARES TO THE EU AVERAGE OF 61%.

5. The numbers show the percentage of respondents that choose each answer option. Respondents selected three priorities from eleven options.

6. The numbers show the percentage of respondents that choose each answer option. Respondents selected three priorities from ten options.



SUSTAINABILITY

Climate change has been a hot topic at the European level, with the Commission announcing the European Green Deal in 2019 and the war in Ukraine bringing energy independence to the centre of the discussion. This Building Block addresses the following questions:

- Do young people think the EU is doing enough to tackle climate change?
- What should be the priorities for achieving a transition to climate neutrality?
- What are the views of young Europeans on the role of local food chains?



COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR YOUTH IN SPAIN

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE SHOULD BE THE **SECOND SPENDING PRIORITY** FOR THE EU'S COVID-19 RECOVERY PACKAGE ACCORDING TO YOUTH IN SPAIN AND ACROSS THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SURVEYED.

70% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN THINK THAT THE EU IS NOT DOING ENOUGH FOR CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS IS THE HIGHEST VALUE AMONG THE 11 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SURVEYED. THIS COMPARES TO THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE OF 65%.

THE STRONG WILLINGNESS TO ACT IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT **59% OF YOUNG SPANIARDS SUPPORT THE IDEA THAT THE EU SHOULD PRIORITISE THE ENVIRONMENT OVER THE ECONOMY, EVEN IF THIS MEANS THE LOSS OF SOME JOBS.**

YOUNG SPANIARDS WANT THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE TO BE FAIR FOR EVERYONE⁷



Top climate policy priorities for youth in Spain

1. Making sure the fight against climate change is fair and equitable for all **47%**
2. Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy **44%**
3. Reducing pollution in the air, water, soil and consumer products **40%**

Top climate policy priorities for youth in Europe

1. Reducing pollution in the air, water, soil and consumer products **41%**
2. Making sure the fight against climate change is fair and equitable for all **41%**
3. Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy **40%**



YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN WANT FAIR WAGES FOR FARMERS & SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD SECTOR⁸

Top climate policy priorities for youth in Spain

1. Fair wages and pay/income help for farmers **43%**
2. Protecting the environment and modernising farming practices **32%**
3. Encouraging young people to participate in the agricultural and food sector **31%**

Top climate policy priorities for youth in Europe

1. Fair wages and pay/income help for farmers **36%**
2. More support for small farmers and local producers **28%**
3. Protecting the environment and modernising farming practices **28%**

7. The numbers show the percentage of respondents that choose each answer option. Respondents selected three priorities from nine options.

8. The numbers show the percentage of respondents that choose each answer option. Respondents selected three priorities from eleven options.



EUROPE IN THE WORLD

The EU's role globally has been a hot topic. Issues of security, defence, and European integration have been further raised following the war in Ukraine. This Building Block answers the following questions:

- What do young people think about the EU on the world stage?
- What should be done about EU enlargement?
- Are young Europeans for or against the creation of a single European army?
- What are young Europeans' views on the war in Ukraine?



THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN SEE THE BENEFITS OF BEING REPRESENTED BY THE EU ON THE WORLD STAGE, AND OF BRINGING NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES INTO THE EU

67% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN AGREE THAT THE EU SHOULD HAVE MORE POWERS TO REPRESENT EUROPE WITH A SINGLE VOICE ON THE WORLD STAGE. THIS IS COMPARED TO **52%** ACROSS THE EU.

57% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN AGREE THAT THE EU SHOULD DO MORE TO LET NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES JOIN. THIS IS COMPARED TO **49%** ACROSS THE EU.

HALF OF RESPONDENTS IN SPAIN FAVOUR THE CREATION OF A SINGLE EU ARMY



50% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN AGREE THAT ALL EU COUNTRIES SHOULD MERGE THEIR ARMIES INTO A SINGLE EUROPEAN ARMY. THIS IS COMPARED TO **45%** ACROSS THE EU. THIS DID NOT CHANGE MUCH IN SPAIN FOLLOWING THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE (**48%**).



YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN WANT TO SEE INCREASED EU AUTONOMY & STRICT SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA MAINTAINED IN RESPONSE TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE⁹

52% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN AGREE THAT THE EU SHOULD INCREASE ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND MOVE AWAY FROM ITS RELIANCE ON OTHER COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE IN AREAS LIKE DEFENCE, TRADE, AND DIGITALISATION. THIS COMPARES TO **52%** ACROSS THE EU.

76% OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN SUPPORT MAINTAINING THE STRICT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS CURRENTLY IMPOSED ON RUSSIA. THE SAME FIGURE IS SEEN ACROSS THE EU.



BUILDING BACK BETTER

In July 2020, the European Council approved a EUR 800 billion emergency recovery package for the post-COVID-19 Europe. This package represents an opportunity to reinvent and transform Europe and to 'build back better'. This Building Block answers the following questions:

- How should the EU change after the pandemic?
- How would young Europeans like the recovery package to be spent?
- Which pandemic response measures should be kept for the future?



YOUTH IN SPAIN SHARE SIMILAR VIEWS AS THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG EUROPEANS ON HOW THE EU SHOULD CHANGE AFTER THE PANDEMIC¹⁰

Top EU changes post-pandemic for youth in Spain

1. More focus on healthcare systems **43%**
2. A more unified response to global threats and challenges **37%**
3. More focus on social safety nets and protecting vulnerable people/groups **29%**

Top EU changes post-pandemic for youth in Europe

1. More focus on healthcare systems **34%**
2. A more unified response to global threats and challenges **30%**
3. More sharing of the cost and financial burden of a pandemic, or a crisis **30%**

HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES ARE THE TOP COVID-19 RECOVERY SPENDING PRIORITY¹¹



Top priorities for youth in Spain

1. Healthcare and social services **40%**
2. Combating climate change **33%**
3. Reducing social and economic inequalities **32%**

Top priorities for youth in the EU

1. Healthcare and social services **35%**
2. Combating climate change **32%**
3. Smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth **25%**



YOUTH IN SPAIN WANT TO SEE HELP TO THOSE IN NEED AND PUBLIC SPENDING ON RESEARCH CONTINUED POST-PANDEMIC¹²

THE THREE MOST CHOSEN PANDEMIC RESPONSE MEASURES TO KEEP IN BOTH SPAIN AND ACROSS EUROPE ARE: **ASSISTANCE TO THOSE MOST IN NEED, MORE PUBLIC SPENDING ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND WORKING AND STUDYING FROM HOME.** HOWEVER, SOME DIFFERENCES EMERGED:

IN SPAIN WOULD KEEP THE GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE ECONOMY AS A PANDEMIC RESPONSE MEASURE. THIS COMPARES TO THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE OF 21%.

22% OF YOUTH IN SPAIN WOULD KEEP THE STRONGER COLLABORATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO COMBAT GLOBAL THREATS AND CHALLENGES IN THE FUTURE. THIS COMPARES TO THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE OF 25%.

EUROPE, THE NEXTGEN SPOKE, EUROPE, TIME TO ACT!

¹⁰. The numbers show the percentage of respondents that choose each answer option. Respondents selected two priorities from a list of six options.

¹¹. The numbers show the percentage of respondents that choose each answer option. Respondents selected three priorities from a list of twelve options.

¹². The numbers reflect the percentage of respondents that choose each answer option. Respondents selected up to three priorities from a list of ten options.