



MILLENNIAL & GEN Z VIEWS FOR A YOUTH-OWNED RECOVERY

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



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PROGRESIVA

FRANCE

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 **France**. 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

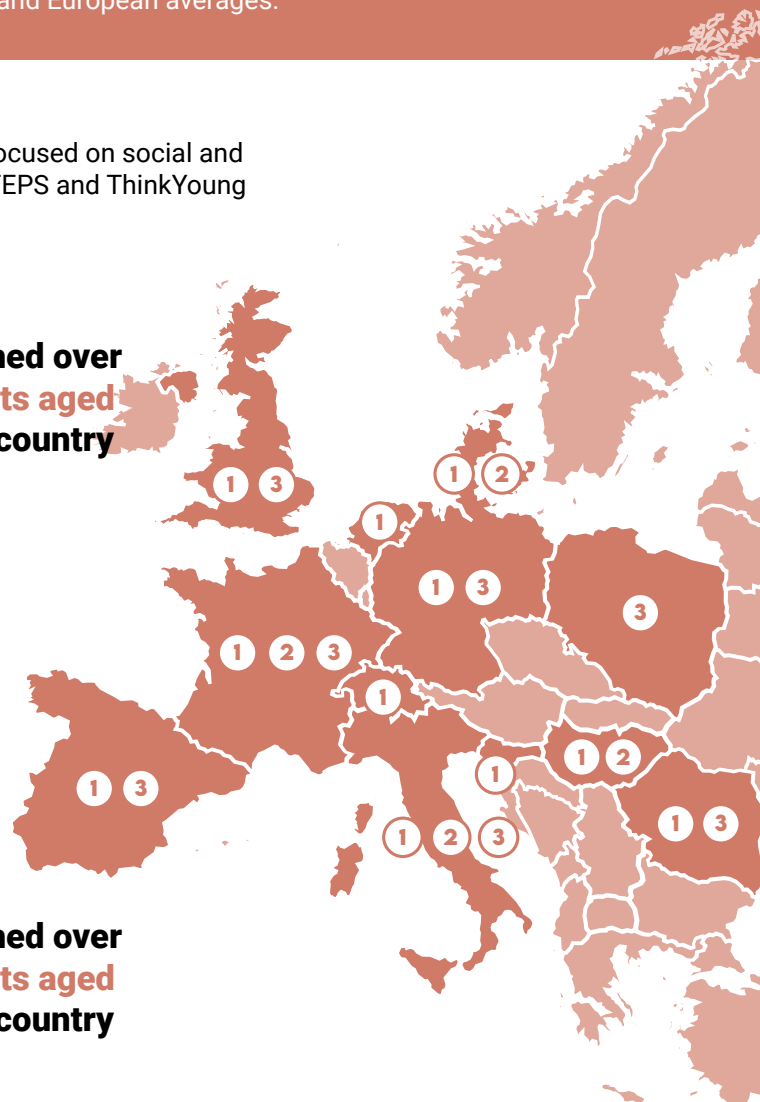
3 SURVEY 2

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 Klawa-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 FRANCE WERE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Top personal concerns (concern scale from 0 to 10)

Concerns for youth in France

1. Physical health and well-being **6.5**
2. Emotional and psychological well-being **6.4**
3. Income **6.3**
4. Access to healthcare and health services **6.1**

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 FRANCE FACE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



8.5% of youth in France relied on mental health professionals to help their psychological well being during the pandemic. This is below the European average of **10%**. **Given that 69% of young people in France and 61% in Europe were concerned about their mental health,**³ our data suggest that a high proportion of young people in France and in Europe face barriers to accessing mental health services.



YOUTH IN FRANCE HAVE MIXED VIEWS ON WORKING AND STUDYING FROM HOME

54% of youth in France see working and studying from home positively. This is below the European average of **59%**.

The 3 unexpected positives of working and studying from home and the 3 biggest negatives are similar in both France and across Europe (positivity scale from 0 to 10):

Unexpected positives for youth in France

Ability to reduce carbon footprint

7.0 vs 6.7 in Europe

Being able to use technology for work and study

6.7 both in France and Europe

Spending more quality time with family

6.5 vs 6.8 in Europe

Biggest negatives for youth in France

Speaking with friends or making new ones

5.1 vs 5.3 in Europe

Psychological or emotional well-being

5.3 both in France and Europe

Romantic & love-life

5.4 vs 5.6 in Europe

3. Concerned individuals are defined here as those choosing 6 or more on a 0 to 10 scale.



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 FRANCE IS VOTING. 53% HAVE VOTED AT LEAST ONCE⁴

Preferred forms of participation in France

1. Voting **53%**
2. Donating money for a cause **37%**
3. Not buying certain products based on ethical considerations (also known as boycotting) **30%**

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%**

57% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE BELIEVE THAT THE EU SHOULD INVOLVE AND EMPOWER MORE YOUNG PEOPLE IN EUROPEAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS. THIS IS BELOW THE AVERAGE ACROSS THE EU COUNTRIES SURVEYED (67%).

67% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE BELIEVE POLITICIANS NEED TO BETTER COMMUNICATE TO CITIZENS WHAT THE EU IS DOING AND HOW IT IMPACTS DAILY LIFE THIS IS SLIGHTLY BELOW THE AVERAGE OF YOUTH ACROSS THE EU COUNTRIES SURVEYED (71%).

54% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE BELIEVE THAT EU POLITICIANS SHOULD BE MORE DIVERSE IN TERMS OF RACE & ETHNICITY THIS IS SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE AVERAGE ACROSS THE EU COUNTRIES SURVEYED (52%).

62% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE BELIEVE THE EU SHOULD STOP PROVIDING FUNDING TO MEMBER STATES THAT FAIL TO RESPECT DEMOCRATIC RULES THIS IS SLIGHTLY BELOW THE AVERAGE ACROSS THE 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 FRANCE 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 France

1. Improving the quality of jobs and wages **45%**
2. Housing **30%**
3. Promoting healthier living, healthcare, elderly care, social care, and childcare **28%**
4. Supporting gender equality **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 FRANCE THINK REDUCING PAY GAPS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN WILL HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT ON GENDER EQUALITY IN EUROPE⁶



Top strategies for youth in France

1. Reduce the gaps in salaries and pensions between men and women **42%**
2. Combat gender-based violence and protect and support victims **42%**
3. Offer universal maternity and paternity leave for every citizen **29%**

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 FRANCE ASK FOR A MORE SOCIAL EU

61% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE BELIEVE THAT THE EU SHOULD GUARANTEE FAIR MINIMUM WAGES FOR ALL EUROPEAN WORKERS. THIS COMPARES TO THE EU AVERAGE OF 69%.

49% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE AGREE THAT THE EU SHOULD ENSURE DECENT UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR ALL EUROPEANS. THIS COMPARES TO THE EU AVERAGE OF 58%.

65% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE AGREE THAT THE EU SHOULD GET MORE INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN NEED IN EUROPE. THIS COMPARES TO THE EU AVERAGE OF 67%.

66% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE THINK THE EU SHOULD ENSURE ACCESS TO DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL CITIZENS. THIS COMPARES TO THE EU AVERAGE OF 69%.

61% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE AGREE THAT THE EU MUST DO MORE TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF LGBTQI+ PEOPLE. THIS IS THE SAME AS THE EU AVERAGE.

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 FRANCE

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

69% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE AGREE THAT THE EU IS NOT DOING ENOUGH FOR CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS PERCENTAGE COMPARES TO THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE OF 65%.

THE STRONG WILLINGNESS TO ACT IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT **57% OF FRENCH YOUTH SUPPORT THE IDEA THAT THE EU SHOULD PRIORITISE THE ENVIRONMENT OVER THE ECONOMY, EVEN IF THIS MEANS THE LOSS OF SOME JOBS.**

YOUNG PEOPLE IN FRANCE WANT THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE TO BE FAIR FOR EVERYONE⁷



Top climate policy priorities for youth in France

1. Making sure the fight against climate change is fair and equitable for all **44%**
2. Reducing pollution in the air, water, soil and consumer products **41%**
3. Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity **36%**

Top climate policy priorities for youth in Europe

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



FRENCH YOUNG PEOPLE WANT FAIR WAGES FOR FARMERS & TO REWARD THOSE WHO STRIVE TO IMPROVE THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT⁸

Top climate policy priorities for youth in France

1. Fair wages and pay/income help for farmers **36%**
2. Rewarding farmers for improving their environmental impact **32%**
3. More support for small farmers and local producers **30%**

Top climate policy priorities for youth in France

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?



HALF OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN FRANCE SEE THE BENEFITS OF BEING REPRESENTED BY THE EU ON THE WORLD STAGE, WHILE A MINORITY SEE THE ADVANTAGES OF BRINGING NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES INTO THE EU

50% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE 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.

39% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE AGREE THAT THE EU SHOULD DO MORE TO LET NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES JOIN. THIS IS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THE EU AVERAGE **49%**.

A MINORITY IN FRANCE IS IN FAVOUR CREATING A SINGLE EU ARMY



37% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE AGREE THAT ALL EU COUNTRIES SHOULD MERGE THEIR ARMIES INTO A SINGLE EUROPEAN ARMY. THIS COMPARES TO THE EU AVERAGE OF **45%**. THIS DID NOT CHANGE MUCH IN FRANCE FOLLOWING THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE (**38%**).



YOUNG PEOPLE IN FRANCE WANT SEE STRICT SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA MAINTAINED, BUT ARE LESS IN FAVOUR OF INCREASING EU AUTONOMY?

43% OF YOUTH IN FRANCE 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 **49%** ACROSS THE EU.

64% OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN FRANCE SUPPORT MAINTAINING THE STRICT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS CURRENTLY IMPOSED ON RUSSIA. THIS COMPARES TO **52%** 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 FRANCE SHARE SIMILAR VIEWS WITH THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG EUROPEANS ON HOW THE EU SHOULD CHANGE AFTER THE PANDEMIC¹⁰

Top EU changes post-pandemic for youth in France

1. More focus on healthcare systems **30%**
2. A more unified response to global threats and challenges **30%**
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 France

1. Healthcare and social services **36%**
2. Combating climate change **35%**
3. Security **27%**

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%**



FRENCH YOUNG PEOPLE WANT FAIR WAGES FOR FARMERS & TO REWARD THOSE WHO STRIVE TO IMPROVE THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT¹²

Top measures to keep for youth in France

1. Assistance to those most in need **42%**
2. Working from home and studying from home **37%**
3. Emergency funding for companies **26%**

Top measures to keep for youth in Europe

1. Assistance to those most in need **42%**
2. Working from home and studying from home **36%**
3. More public spending on research and development **26%**

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.