



MILLENNIAL & GEN Z VIEWS FOR A YOUTH-OWNED RECOVERY

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



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PROGRESIVA

SWITZERLAND

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 **Switzerland**. 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

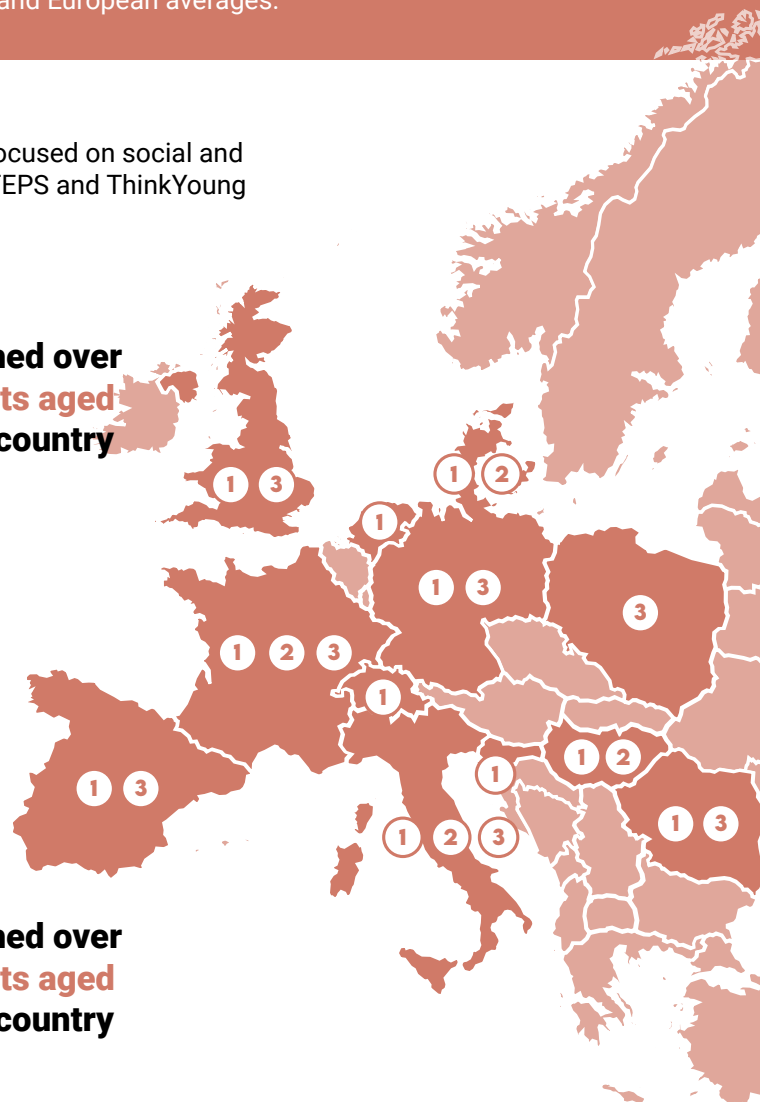
3 SURVEY 2

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 SWITZERLAND WERE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH AND INCOME

Top personal concerns (concern scale from 0 to 10)

Concerns for youth in Switzerland

1. Physical health and well-being **5.3**
2. Income **5.3**
3. Emotional and psychological well-being **5.2**
4. Employment opportunities **5.1**

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**

SPEAKING WITH A PSYCHOLOGIST



11% of youth in Switzerland relied on mental health professionals to help their psychological well-being during the pandemic. This is about the same as the European average of **10%**. Given that **50%** of young people in Switzerland and **61%** in Europe were concerned about their mental health, our data suggest that a high proportion of young people in Switzerland and in Europe face barriers to accessing mental health services.



YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND HAVE POSITIVE VIEWS ON WORKING AND STUDYING FROM HOME

About **64%** of youth in Switzerland see working and studying from home positively. This is above the European average of **59%**.

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

Unexpected positives for youth in Switzerland

Ability to reduce carbon footprint

7.0 vs 6.7 in Europe

Spending more quality time with family

6.9 vs 6.8 in Europe

Ability to use technology for work and study

6.7 in both in Switzerland and Europe

Biggest negatives for youth in Switzerland

Speaking with friends or making new ones

5.0 vs 5.3 in Europe

Psychological or emotional well-being while working or studying

5.7 vs 5.3 in Europe

Motivation, drive and passion

5.8 vs 5.6 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 SWITZERLAND IS VOTING. 57% HAVE VOTED AT LEAST ONCE⁴

Preferred forms of participation in Switzerland

1. Voting **57%**
2. Donating money for a cause **44%**
3. Not buying certain products based on ethical considerations (also known as boycotting) **27%**

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%**

**61% OF YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND BELIEVE POLITICIANS NEED TO BETTER COMMUNICATE TO CITIZENS WHAT THE EU IS DOING AND HOW IT IMPACTS DAILY LIFE
THIS IS SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW THE AVERAGE ACROSS THE EU COUNTRIES SURVEYED (71%).**

**50% OF YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND 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%).**

**58% OF YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND BELIEVE THE EU SHOULD STOP PROVIDING FUNDING TO MEMBER STATES THAT FAIL TO RESPECT DEMOCRATIC RULES
THIS IS 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 SWITZERLAND WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITISE IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF JOBS AND WAGES⁵

Top social policy priorities for youth in Switzerland

1. Improving the quality of jobs and wages **38%**
2. Housing **35%**
3. Promoting healthier living, healthcare, elderly care, social care, and childcare **34%**
4. Protecting the elderly and their pensions **30%**

YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND THINK REDUCING PAY GAPS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN WILL HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT ON GENDER EQUALITY IN THEIR COUNTRY⁶



Top strategies for youth in Switzerland

1. Reduce the gaps in salaries and pensions between men and women **43%**
2. Provide direct assistance to parents for childcare (e.g., nannies, kindergarten, etc.) **33%**
3. Provide cash for parents for childcare **32%**

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%**

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 SWITZERLAND

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE SHOULD BE THE **SECOND SPENDING PRIORITY** FOR THE EU'S COVID-19 RECOVERY FUNDS ACCORDING TO YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND.

WHEN ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION'S ROLE IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE, **59% OF YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND AGREE THAT THE EU IS NOT DOING ENOUGH. THIS COMPARES TO THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE OF 65%.**

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



Top climate policy priorities for youth in Switzerland

1. Reducing pollution in the air, water, soil and consumer products **39%**
2. Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy **37%**
3. Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity **34%**

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%**

31% IN SWITZERLAND WANT TO MAKE SURE THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IS FAIR AND EQUITABLE FOR ALL. THIS IS BELOW THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE OF 41%.



CONCERNING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SWITZERLAND WANT TO ENSURE FAIR WAGES FOR FARMERS & TO IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE⁸

Top climate policy priorities for youth in Switzerland

1. Fair wages and pay/income help for farmers **34%**
2. Protecting the environment and modernising farming practices **30%**
3. Encouraging young people to participate in the agricultural and food sector **29%**

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..

SWITZERLAND IN THE WORLD

Switzerland's role in Europe and the world has been a hot topic. Issues of security, defence, and European integration have been also raised following the war in Ukraine. This Building Block answers the following questions:

- What do young people in Switzerland think about European integration?
- What should be done about EU enlargement?
- What do young people think about Switzerland and the EU on the world stage?
- What are young Europeans' views on the war in Ukraine?



YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND ARE MORE SCEPTICAL ABOUT EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND (5.0) ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS IN FAVOUR OF FURTHER EUROPEAN INTEGRATION THAN THE AVERAGE ACROSS EUROPE (5.7). YOUTH IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (5.8) ARE IN COMPARISON MORE FAVOURABLE TO EUROPEAN INTEGRATION THAN YOUTH IN THE SWISS CONFEDERATION.

ONLY 30% OF YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND AGREE THAT THE EU SHOULD DO MORE TO LET NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES JOIN. THIS PERCENTAGE IS SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW THE EU AVERAGE OF 52%.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN SWITZERLAND ARE RELUCTANT TO COORDINATE MORE WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHEN NEGOTIATING WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD



ONLY 33% OF YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND AGREE THAT THE SWISS CONFEDERATION SHOULD COORDINATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHEN NEGOTIATING WITH LARGE COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE USA, RUSSIA, INDIA, NIGERIA, BRAZIL OR CHINA. THIS COMPARES WITH THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE OF 52%.



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

52% OF YOUTH IN EUROPE 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.

76% OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN EUROPE SUPPORT MAINTAINING THE STRICT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS CURRENTLY IMPOSED ON RUSSIA.

9. Respondents were asked to select the number that best described their position on further European integration on a scale of 0 to 10 (with 0 indicating complete opposition and 10 maximum support).

10. For full results see the dedicated policy paper, Builders of Progress: Europe's Next Gen. The War in Ukraine through the Eyes of Youth



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 SWITZERLAND SHARE SIMILAR VIEWS AS THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG EUROPEANS ON HOW THE EU SHOULD CHANGE AFTER THE PANDEMIC¹¹

Top Europe and EU changes post-pandemic or youth in Switzerland

1. A more unified response to global threats and challenges **32%**
2. More focus on healthcare systems **29%**
3. More focus on social safety nets and protecting vulnerable people/groups 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 PRIORITY¹²



Top priorities for youth in Switzerland

1. Healthcare and social services **37%**
2. Combating climate change **34%**
3. Smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth **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%**

YOUTH IN SWITZERLAND WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE POSSIBILITY TO WORK & STUDY FROM HOME POST-PANDEMIC¹³

Top EU changes post-pandemic for youth in Switzerland

1. Working from home and studying from home **47%**
2. Assistance to those most in need **40%**
3. Stronger collaboration with other governments in order to combat global threats and challenges **27%**

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%**

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

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

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

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