

YOUTH STAND FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Research Report

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The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Union.

Research Report: '**Youth stand for the future of Europe**'

10 November, 2021

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of the research conducted in the framework of the European Youth Card Association's project, **#STANDFORSOMETHING**. Its purpose is to investigate and describe the opinions and attitudes of young people towards the European Union and bring forward their ideas and priorities to be used as a reference point at the Conference for the future of Europe. The research combines quantitative and qualitative methodologies including participatory research and focus group methods, to shed light on the priorities and ideas of young people on the future of Europe.

The major issues that concern the youth of Europe and their

ideas for a better Europe in the future are clearly highlighted in the findings of the research. The youth's priority agenda is focused on **climate change, education, mental health, and freedom of self-expression**, while they ask for comparable decent living standards all over Europe.

Young people are lacking information about Europe's institutions and activities; they ask to be heard and to be more informed on how to make their voices heard. They are in favour of the EU and consider themselves Europeans but also ask to participate more in shaping their future through the existing European institutions.

WHAT DO YOUTH STAND FOR IN A NUTSHELL

9 out of 10

young people are **in favour of the European Union**, eight of whom feel that additional democratic changes should be made.

8 out of 10

young people believe that the Conference of the Future of Europe should lead to more **democratic changes** in the EU.

9 out of 10

respondents believe that the EU should have a stronger involvement in **mental healthcare** in order to ensure equal access to all people.

7 out of 10

participants believe that any form of abuse related to **gender identity and sexual orientation** should be punished by means of criminal law in the EU.

8 out of 10

young people believe that the EU should set a goal for **European digital access** and literacy by 2050.

8 out of 10

participants believe that all European citizens should have **comparable living standards**, regardless of their nationality and the economic situation of their country.

8 out of 10

young people believe that **education about European matters** should be compulsory in the school curricula.

8 out of 10

young people agree that a strict **common EU climate law** should be introduced for all Member States.

7 out of 10

respondents agree that the EU should introduce a **legal framework** on the consumption habits of citizens to help the environment.

8 out of 10

young people consider **climate change, health and education** as important priorities for the future of Europe.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This report is an initiative of the #STANDFORSOMETHING campaign coordinated by the European Youth Card Association and funded by the European Parliament. The campaign stands for youth engagement in the future of Europe and is thus organised in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe. The programme aims to mobilise the energy of young people and deliver their messages to European decision makers through the active engagement of 21 Youth Activists from 16 countries, eager to initiate conversations and activities concerning the future of Europe with young Europeans across the Member States.

In this framework, #STANDFORSOMETHING collected the opinions of 3000 young Europeans via an online questionnaire. The research ran in parallel with outreach events organised by the 21 youth activists

in order to hear the thoughts, ideas and priorities of young Europeans concerning the future of Europe. The knowledge generated was incorporated into the research through the organisation of focus groups with the youth activists. The key messages, along with the results of the research presented in this report, will be shared with European policy makers with the objective of constructing a fruitful environment for youth engagement, as well as strengthening the voice of young Europeans on their priority concerns.

The aim of the research is, thus, to investigate and capture the attitudes, ideas and proposals of young people for the future of Europe and collect their stance towards the European Union.

Therefore, the research is focused on three key research questions:

What are the issues of high priority for young people?

How do they feel about the European Union?

Which thematic areas do they rank as important to be prioritized in the Conference for the Future of Europe?

SURVEY METHOD

This report presents an analysis of the results from the research held in the period from June 2021 to September 2021. The research combines two methods:

- (a) A **quantitative** online survey, which took place from 21 June to 15 September, 2021;
- (b) A **qualitative** approach combining the results of the ideas and attitudes gathered through participatory research methods from the youth activists in events organised throughout the summer, that were later shared in a focus group to pass on their peer-to-peer experience.

Regarding the quantitative approach, a random sample of **3000 young people under the age of 29** throughout the European Union participated in the online survey. The questionnaire was generated in **English** and translated in **the languages of the 16 participant countries**, including regional languages and idioms, such as Catalan and Irish. The questionnaire was divided into three sections that included demographics, stance on the EU and ideas and priorities on the future of Europe. The survey questions included **key demographic questions**, investigating basic characteristics of young people, such as age, education level, etc. The second section of the questionnaire included questions regarding **attitudes towards the EU** (closed-ended questions), that covered the spectrum

from EU-national identity to views on the European Union as a whole, while the third section investigated their accordance with various proposals and **recommendations for the Conference on the Future of Europe**.

The qualitative part of the research included **participatory research methodology** through **peer-to-peer generated discussions**. The youth activists of the programme were trained to act as atypical participatory researchers throughout their field work (activities and events) in the summer. They observed and collected interesting ideas, views, opinions, and information **gathered through discussions with their peers**, making discussions **accessible and inclusive for young people all over Europe by bringing the EU closer to them and in their national (or regional) languages**.

The collective knowledge and experience were shared with the researchers via a **focus group**. In the focus group, a total of 12 of the youth activists shared their experiences and their impressions in an open discussion which was recorded and then analysed by the researchers.

This report gathers and cross-analyses the results of the quantitative and qualitative research.

SURVEY RESULTS

WHO ARE THE YOUNG PEOPLE: DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE SAMPLE

The survey participants were asked a series of questions related to their demographic characteristics namely: age; gender; country of origin; country of residence; level of education; employment status; type of region of residence.

The sample of the survey included 57,8% identified as female, 38,5% identified as males, and 2,2% non-binary. The primary age group of the sample is 18-21 (42%) with ages 22-25 comprising 32%. The participants of the survey come from the 27 EU countries, with countries such as Spain (13%), Hungary (10%), Romania (11%), Italy (10%), Portugal (9%) and Greece (7%) accounting for the majority of the sample, as shown in the map (Figure 3). The majority of respondents reside in Spain (13%), Romania (10%), Latvia (10%), Ireland (10%) and Portugal (9%).

The current employment status for 6 out of 10 participants is student, while only 16% are currently employed full-time, 9% part-time and 9% are unemployed. The level of education varies within the sample with most young people being currently enrolled in undergraduate university programmes (30%) and in high school (27%).

The sample includes young people who represent the pluralism of widespread regions of Europe in which they currently reside. Half of the participants currently live in city areas (capitals or major cities); half live in smaller cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

Figure 1. Gender (%)

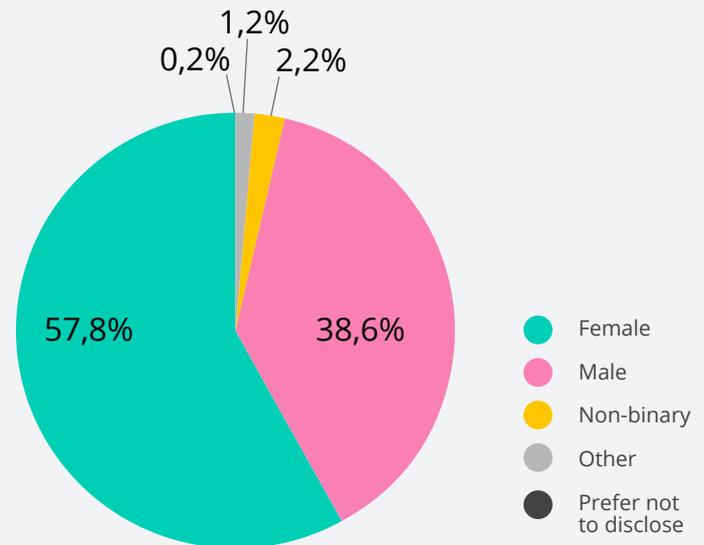


Figure 2. Age (%)

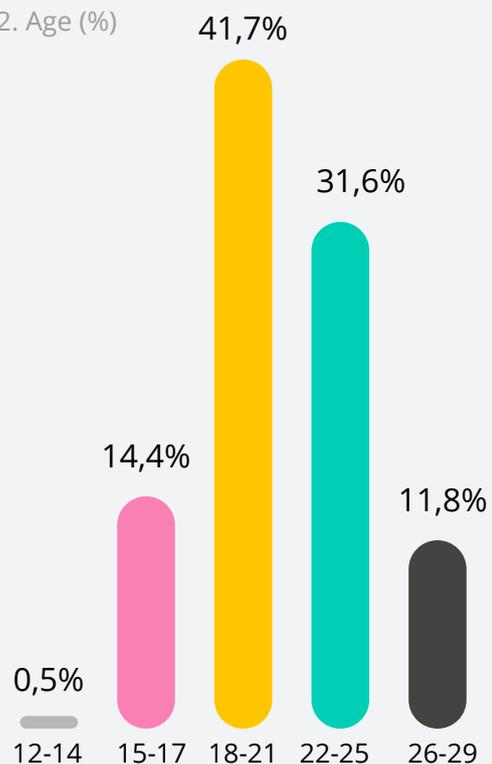


Table 1. Country of Origin and Country of Residence (%)

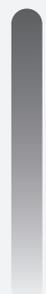
	Country of origin	Country of residence		Country of origin	Country of residence
Austria	5.6	6.4	Latvia	0.1	0.1
Belgium	2.3	2.6	Lithuania	0.1	0.0
Bulgaria	4.5	4.4	Luxembourg	0.1	0.2
Croatia	1.5	1.4	Malta	1.0	0.9
Czech Republic	3.7	4.0	Netherlands	2.0	2.5
Denmark	0.1	0.2	Other	3.9	1.1
Estonia	0.1	0.0	Poland	1.1	1.1
Finland	2.0	0.1	Portugal	9.0	8.8
France	4.1	2.0	Republic of Cyprus	0.6	0.6
Germany	7.0	4.3	Romania	10.6	10.1
Greece	10.1	7.0	Slovakia	0.2	0.2
Hungary	2.7	10.4	Slovenia	1.0	0.9
Ireland	9.7	2.8	Spain	12.6	13.3
Italy	0.1	9.5	Sweden	4.3	4.9

Figure 3. Map of research sample

Origin

Country of origin?

13%



0%



Figure 4. Education level (%)

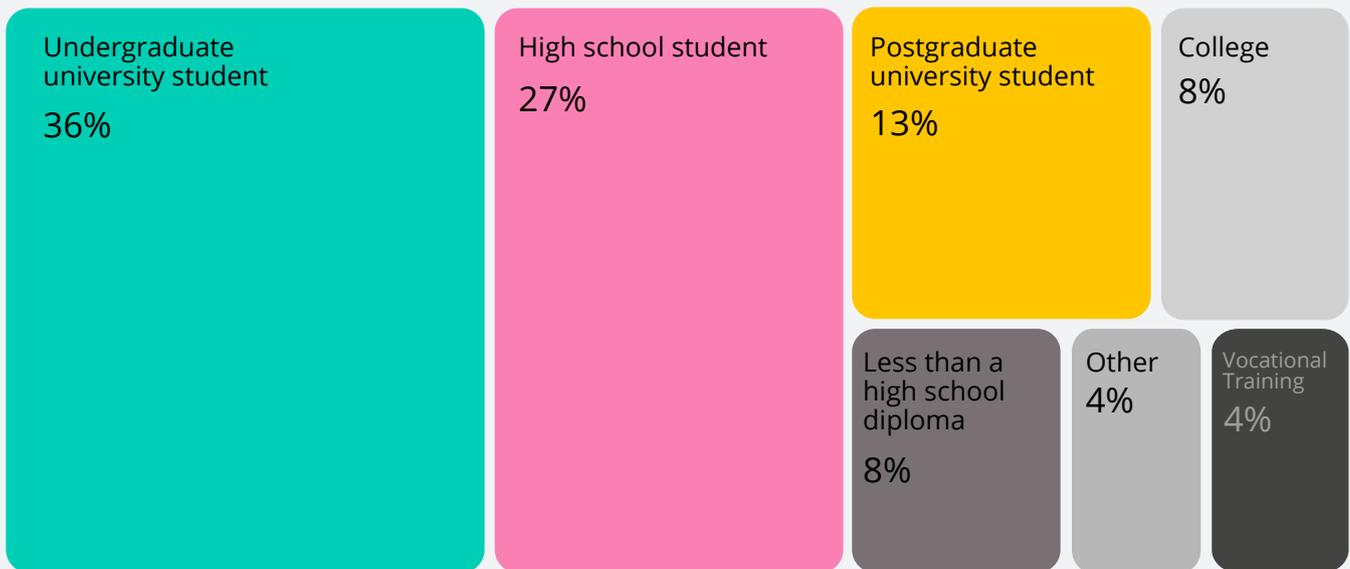


Figure 5. Current Employment (%)

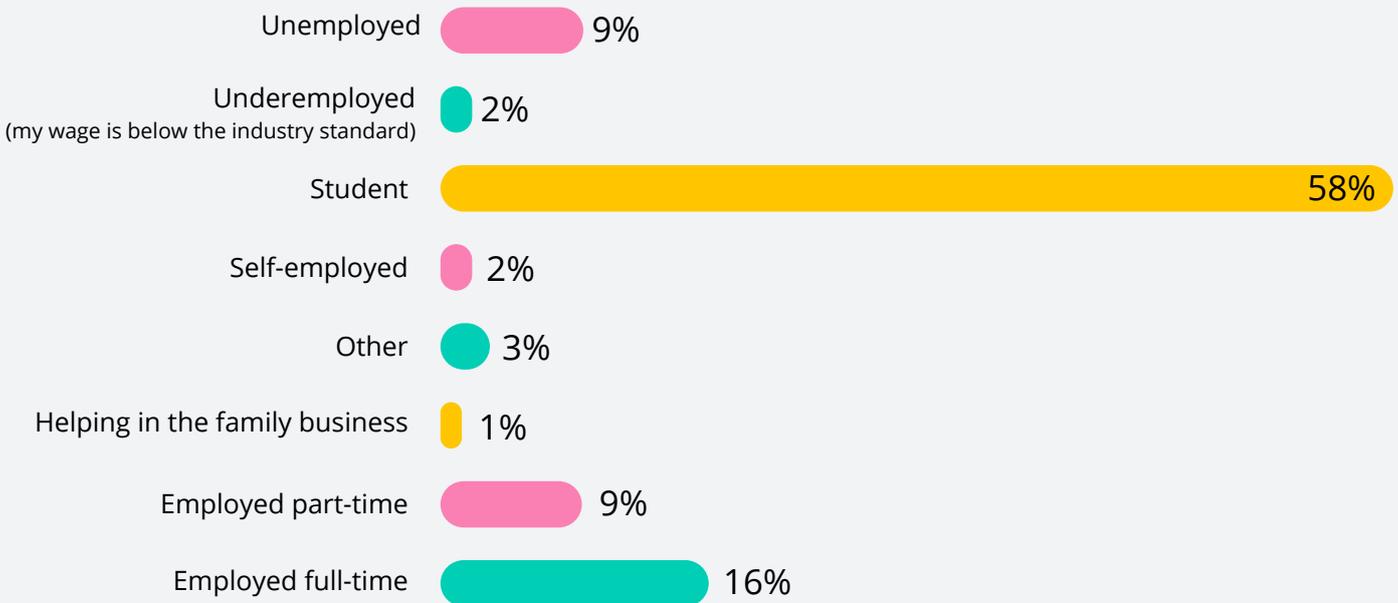
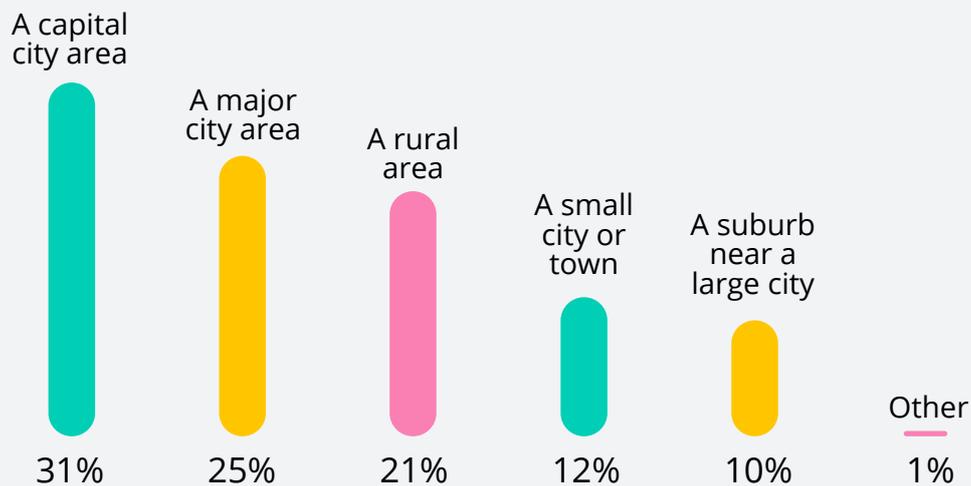


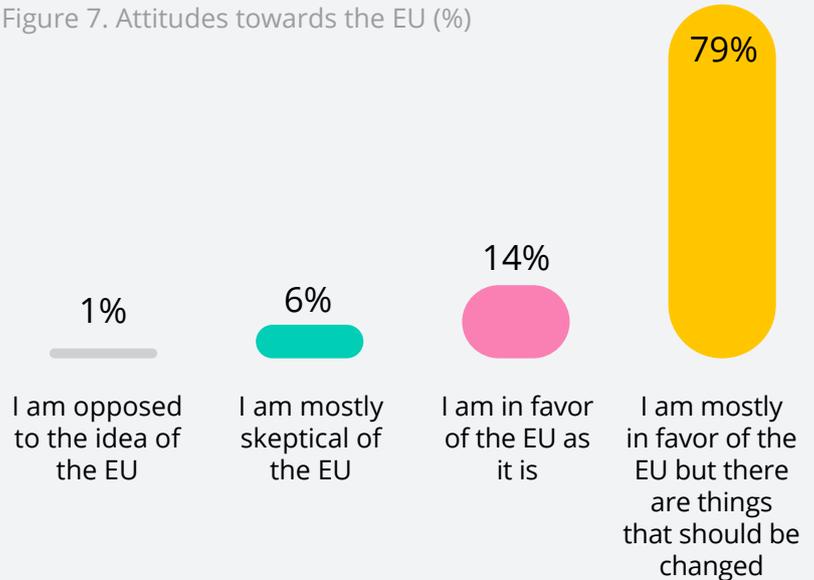
Figure 6. Type of Region (%)



EUROPEAN IDENTITY

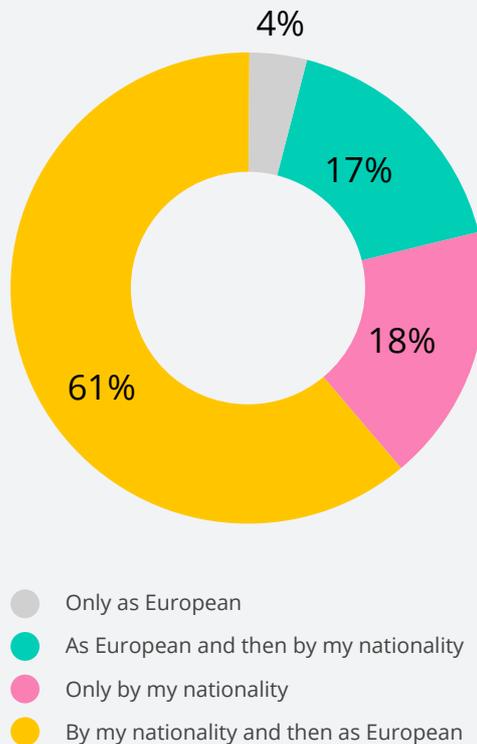
Young people seem to **feel close to the European Union**: 9 out of 10 participants are in favour of the EU. Specifically, 79% of the participants claim to be generally in favour of the EU but recognise that there are things that should be changed; 14% of the participants are in favour of the EU as it is, while only 7% are sceptical or opposed to the EU.

Figure 7. Attitudes towards the EU (%)



While young people are generally in favour of the EU, as stated previously, **national identities still prevail over the common European identity**. Asked to identify themselves, most young people placed their national identity over the European one (61%) and 18% claim to not feel European at all. The European identity prevails for a percentage of around 20% and 17% of respondents feel firstly European and then national citizens; only 4% identify themselves as solely European.

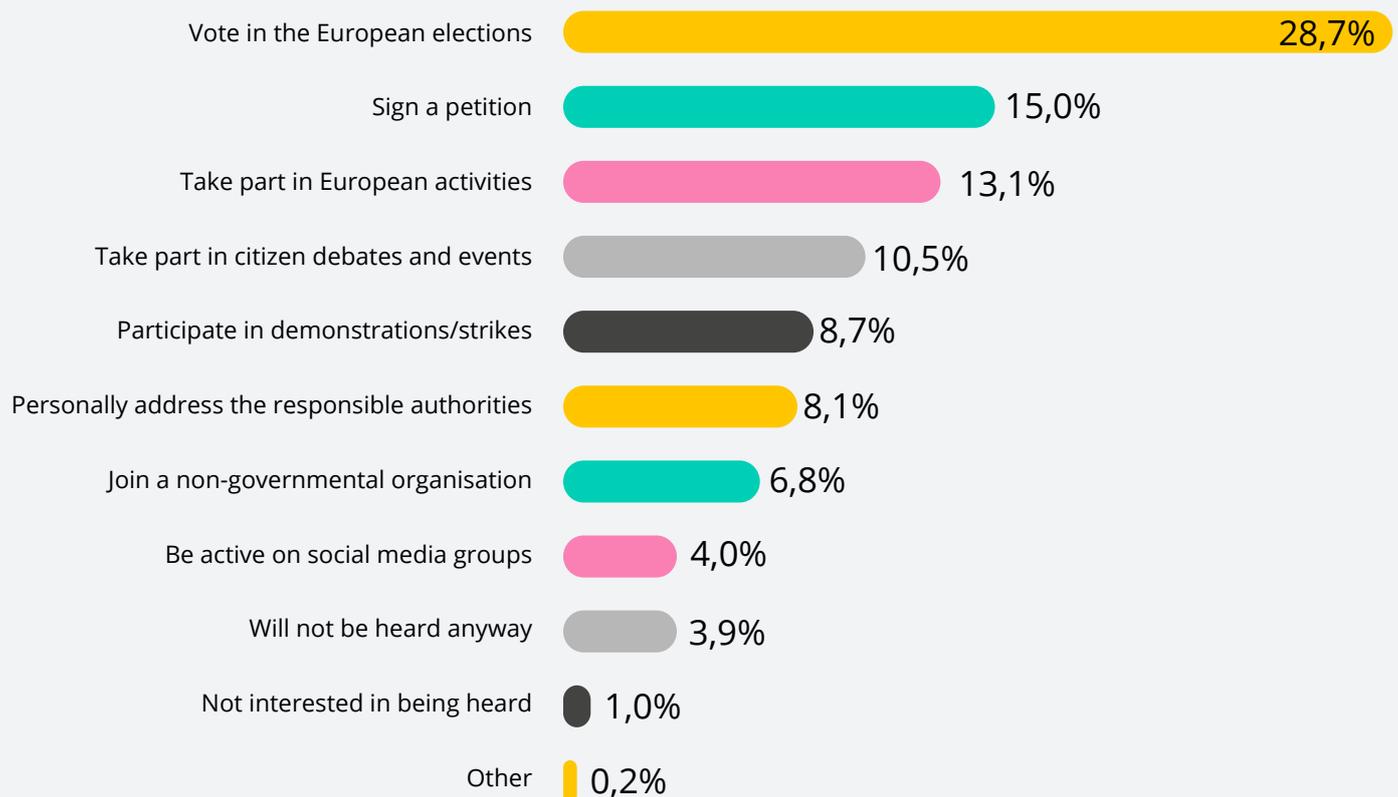
Figure 8. Self-identification of identity (%)



Young people were also asked to identify the ways they would personally choose to mobilise in order to be heard by decision makers in the EU. The results of this question present an interesting case. For 35% of the young people, **participation in the European elections** is the primary form of active involvement in EU politics. This has also been recorded in the 2019 elections, where the largest increase of young people under 25 and 25-39 has been recorded, according to the official European Parliament report.¹ Other than voting, young people believe that signing a petition (15%), taking part

in European activities (13%), taking part in citizen debates and events (11%), participating in demonstrations and strikes (9%) and personally addressing the responsible authorities (8%) could be effective in order to make their voices heard. Despite the frequent use of social media by young people, only 4% would consider social media activism to be heard by decision makers.

Figure 9. Means of mobilisation of young people (%)



1 <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190923IPR61602/2019-european-elections-record-turnout-driven-by-young-people>

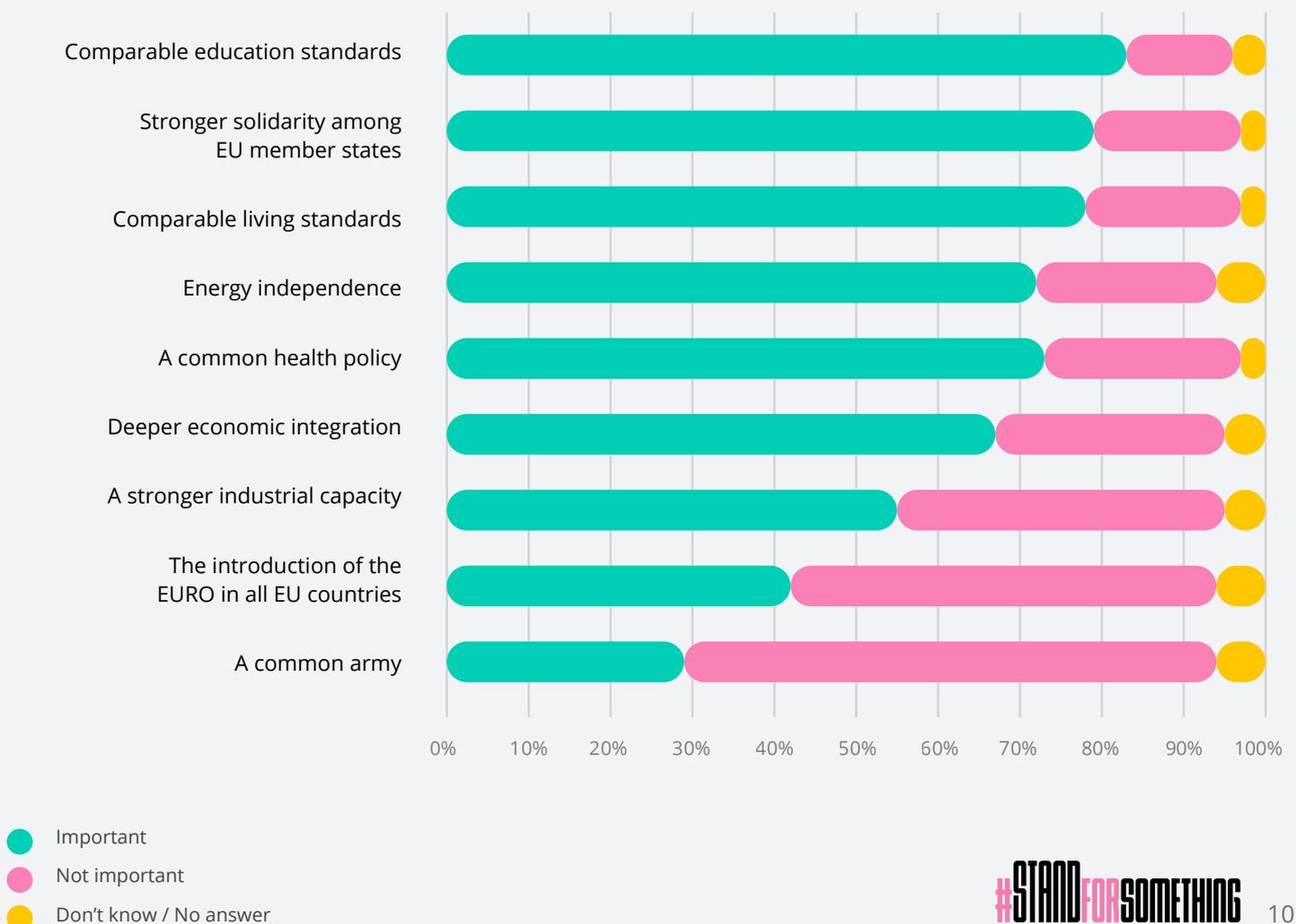
YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

The following questions showcase the perceptions of young people about Europe, the thematic priorities they set for the Conference on the Future of Europe and their positions.

When asked to assess the importance of the direction the future of Europe, 3 key characteristics emerge: **comparable education standards, stronger solidarity among EU Member States, comparable living standards.**

Most respondents also recognised the importance of energy independence, a common health policy and deeper economic integration. The industrial capacity and the common currency were deemed as not a clear priority, along with the common army, which most young people do not consider important.

Figure 10. Policy priorities for young people (%)



Young people were also asked to assess the eight **priorities**, as set in the platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe and select three. **Young people prioritise climate change and the environment and education, culture, youth and sport. A stronger economy, health and values are also recorded as significant.**

From the questions under this category, a clear distinction emerges, as generally it appears that young people are concerned mostly about topics that revolve around the environment, education and their employment and living standards. This can be explained through the relevance these priorities have for their current lives (e.g. education) and in the future (e.g. climate change). This understanding of priorities showcases that young people want the European agenda to include issues that might not be important or critical for older generations. The young perceive and value a future within the European Union, which for most of them is considered an

acquis, an opinion which in older generations is challenged. This also emerged from the focus group with youth activists (see Figure 11 below), as when discussing the priorities set by the Conference on the Future of Europe, the topics that were highlighted both per se but from the events also, match the results of the survey.

The participants of the survey were then asked to respond to a set of questions revolving around these eight key thematic areas (from the platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe), namely: **European democracy; health (physical and mental); values, rights and the rule of law; digital transformation; a stronger economy, social justice and jobs; education, culture, youth and sport; climate change and the environment.** The results are presented below.

EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY

The views of young people on European democracy can be deemed as progressive and pro-European, as 60% of young participants agree that the President of the European Commission should be directly elected by the citizens. For the Conference of the Future of Europe, 77% of young people believe it should lead to more democratic changes in the EU, while 58% also consider democratic changes as an important priority. The introduction of transnational lists for EU elections is also seen positively and considered important by 54% of participants in the survey. As to the age limit for voting, 45% agree that it should be lowered to the age of 16; 30% disagree. A majority of national parliaments should have the power to reject/“veto” EU legislation.

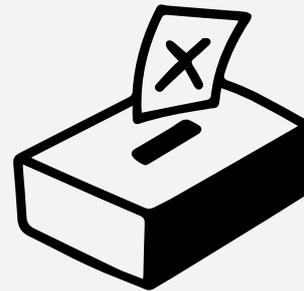
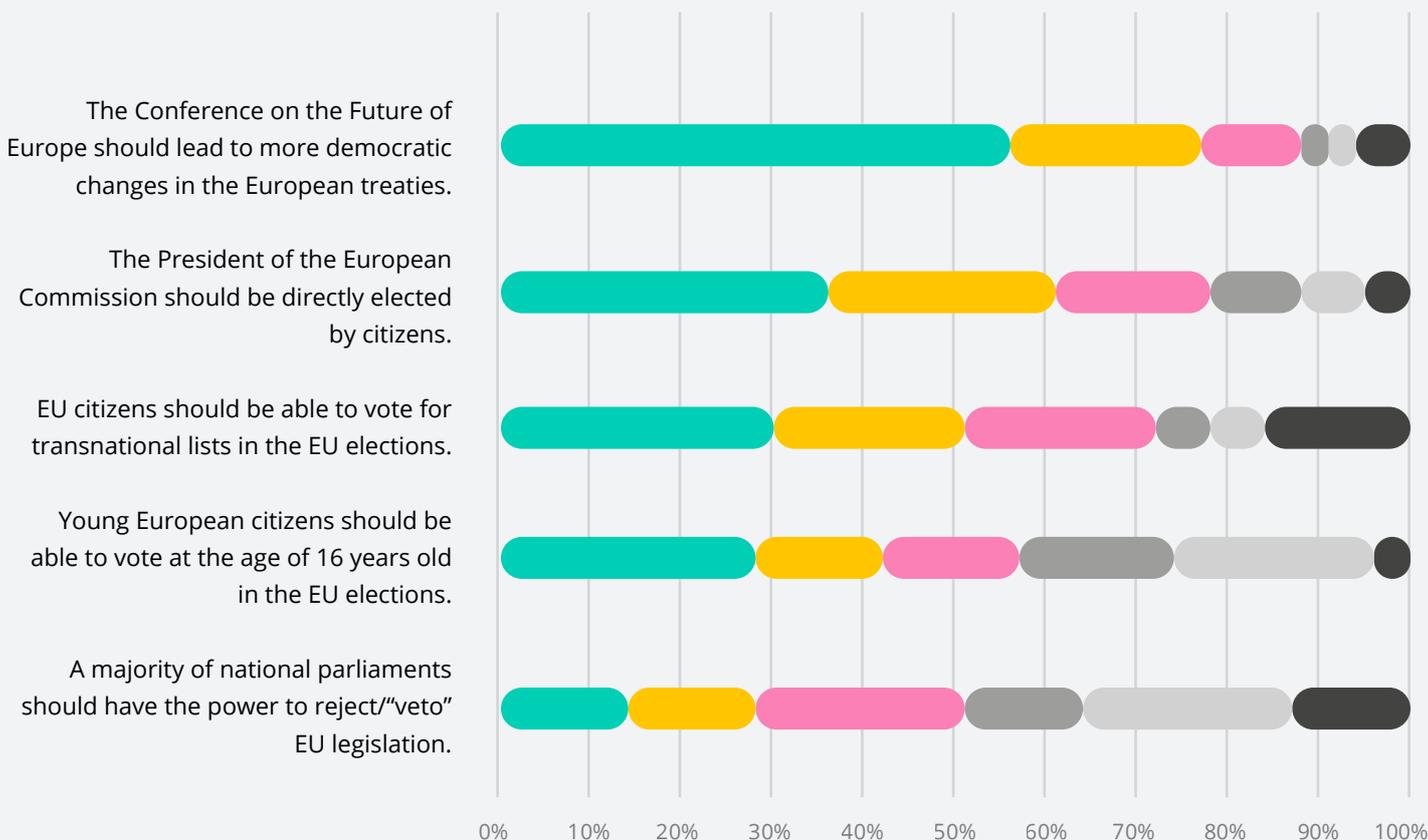
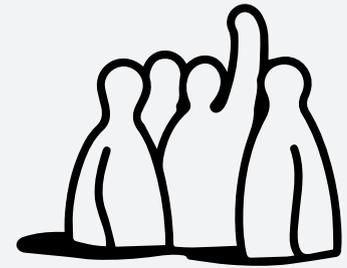


Figure 11. Perceptions on European democracy (%)



- I strongly agree and it is important to me
- I agree but it is not important to me
- Neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree but is not important to me
- I strongly disagree and it is important to me
- Don't know / No answer

HEALTH - PHYSICAL AND MENTAL



The pandemic has raised the question of healthcare and the role of states and the EU in protecting citizens. At the same time, the effects of the pandemic and specifically the quarantine on young people has shed light on the impact of mental health in our everyday life. This also reflects in the sample of participants in the survey.

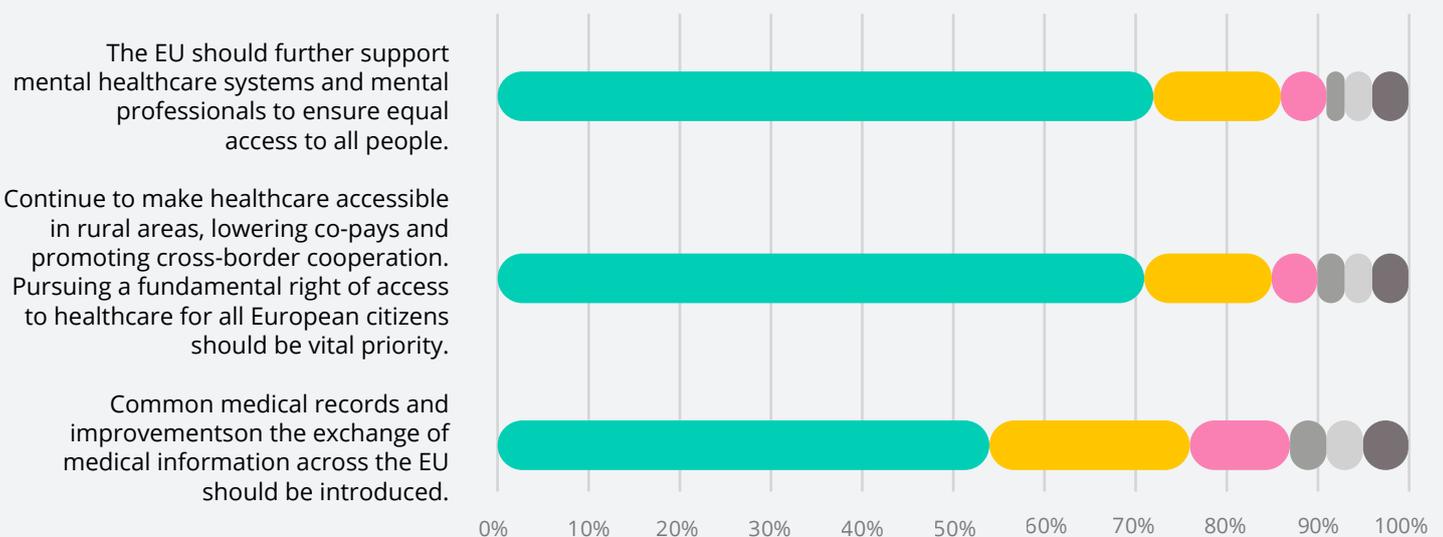
When asked to assess the role of the EU in the promotion of mental health and the establishment of mental health care facilities, almost 9 out of 10 respondents believe that the EU should have a stronger involvement in order to ensure equal access to all people.

Furthermore, regarding the introduction of common medical records in order to improve the exchange of medical information across the EU, 76% of young people are strongly in favour of the measure; they also consider it important for themselves. Lastly, when it comes to the accessibility of healthcare and treatment in rural areas by lowering

co-pays and promoting cross-border cooperation, participants agree and find pursuing a fundamental right of access to healthcare for all European citizens a vital priority, as 71% are in favour of this and also consider it important.

The importance of healthcare, physical and mental, emerged also as a key priority for young people during the focus groups with young activists. The activists stressed the importance of providing the necessary attention to mental health and to equipping healthcare systems with the necessary capacity to support people who struggle with their mental health. It is significant that the issue of **mental health is highlighted both in the online survey and by the youth activists**, as it is a topic that older generations still consider to be a taboo.

Figure 12. Perceptions on health (%)



- I strongly agree and it is important to me
- I agree but it is not important to me
- Neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree but is not important to me
- I strongly disagree and it is important to me
- Don't know / No answer

VALUES, RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW

The section concerning values, rights and the rule of law includes a set of questions about migration, European values and freedoms of citizens. Regarding EU solidarity on migration, 59% of the participants agree that asylum seekers should be redistributed across the EU based on a quota system; 47% consider it important. Regarding unaccompanied minors, 70% of young people agree that the EU should introduce a transnational action plan for URM who turn 18 within the EU. Furthermore, young people do not have a clear attitude towards the right of Member States' governments to reintroduce border controls on the Schengen areas, as almost 40% disagree, 30% neither agree nor disagree and 30% is in favour.



Regarding European values and freedoms, 50% of young people agree that gender quotas should be introduced in EU elections for equal representation in the European Parliament. A clear pattern of agreement emerges on the punishment of any form of abuse related to gender identity and sexual orientation, as 70% agree and consider it important.

Figure 13. Perceptions on values, rights, and the rule of law (%)

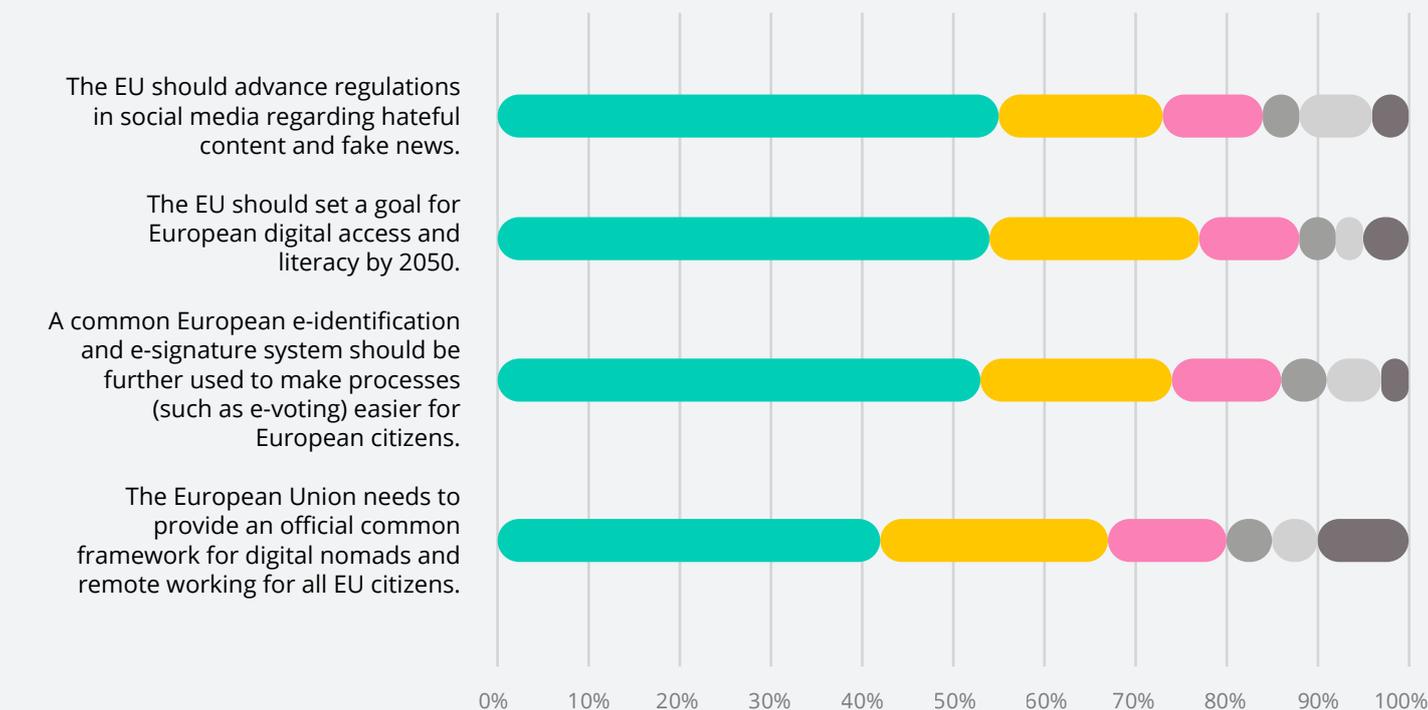


DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Digital transformation is also considered a “young” theme and as seen from the survey results, is also considered a priority of high importance for the future of Europe. On digital transformation, 68% agree that the European Union needs to provide an official common framework for digital nomads and remote working for all EU citizens. The establishment of a common European e-identification and e-signature system that will be further used to make processes (such as e-voting) easier for European citizens is considered important by a percentage of 74%, while setting a goal for European digital access and literacy by 2050 is a priority for 77%. When it comes to regulating social media, 73% agree that the EU should advance regulations in social media regarding hateful content and fake news.



Figure 14. Perceptions on digital transformation (%)



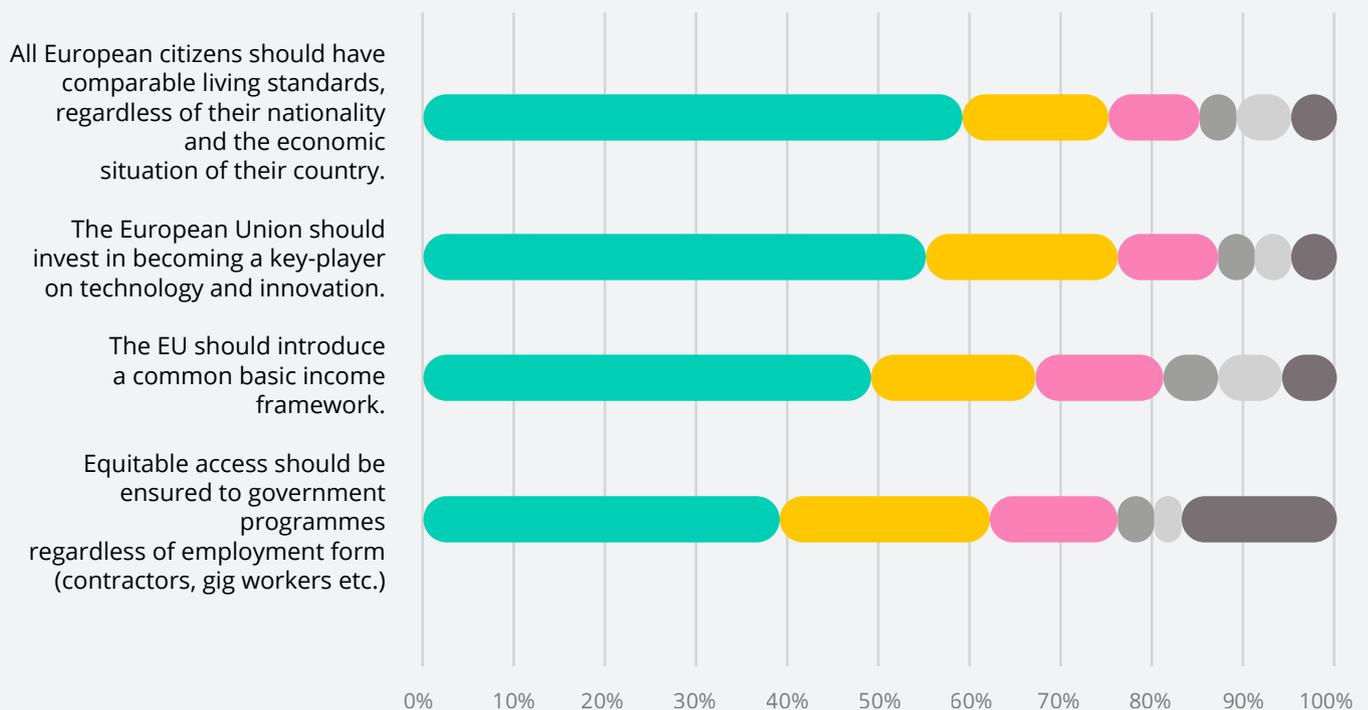
- I strongly agree and it is important to me
- I agree but it is not important to me
- Neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree but is not important to me
- I strongly disagree and it is important to me
- Don't know / No answer

A STRONGER ECONOMY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND JOBS

The economy, social justice and jobs section covers policy priorities, such as the common basic income and living standards, that have a direct effect on young people's future. A percentage of 62% of respondents, strongly agrees and considers it important to ensure an equitable access to government programmes regardless of employment form, e.g. contractors, gig workers, etc. The introduction of a common basic income framework is deemed as important by 54% of the respondents, while 76% believe that all European citizens should have comparable living standards, regardless of their nationality and the economic situation of their country. Regarding the role of the European Union as a key-player in technology and innovation, 77% of the respondents agree that it should be pursued.



Figure 15. Perceptions on economy, social justice and jobs (%).



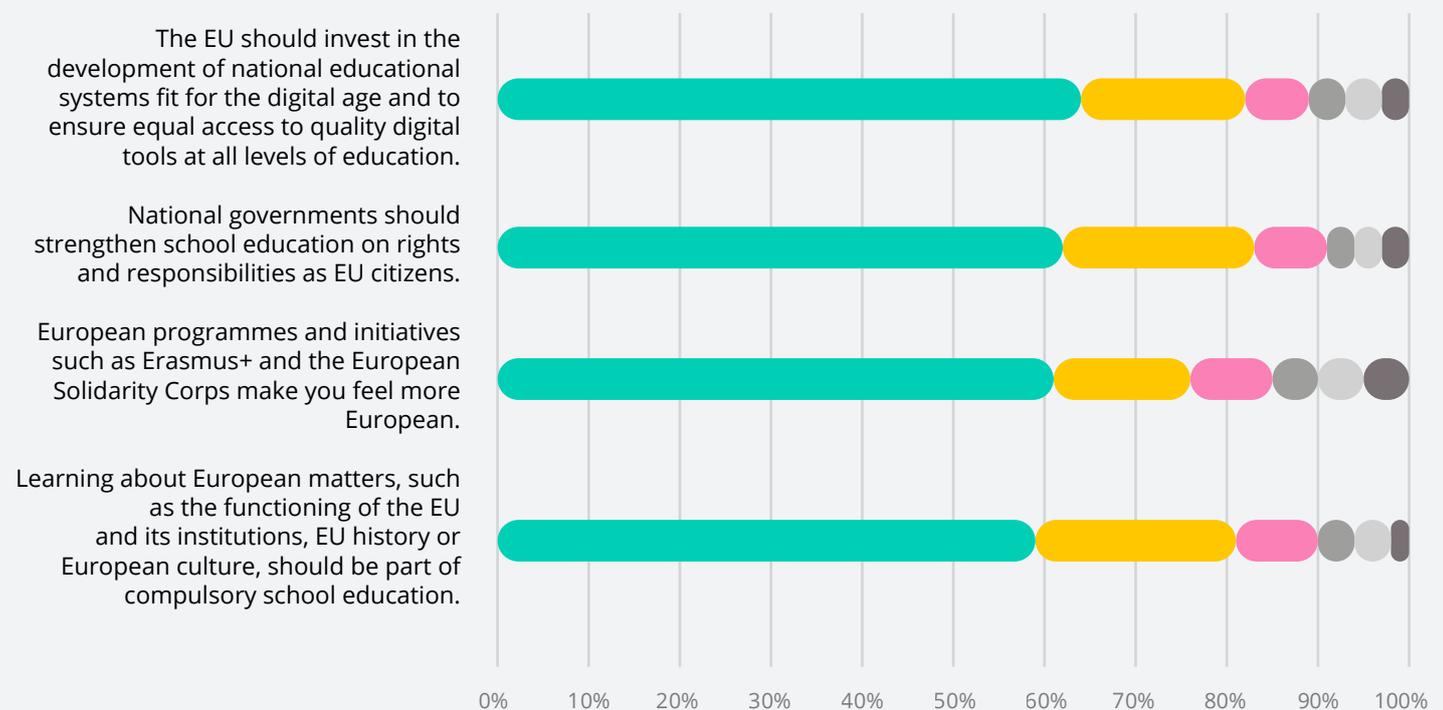
- I strongly agree and it is important to me
- I agree but it is not important to me
- Neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree but is not important to me
- I strongly disagree and it is important to me
- Don't know / No answer

EDUCATION, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

The combined theme of education, culture, youth, and sport has been viewed generally as one of the key priorities for young people on the future of Europe. Regarding education about European matters, such as the functioning of the EU and its institutions, EU history or European culture, 81% of the participants in the survey agree that it should be part of compulsory school education, while 60% also consider it an important addition to school curricula. European programmes and initiatives such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps are considered to boost the European Identity by 77% of the survey participants. When it comes to the EU's responsibility for national educational systems, 83% of the sample agrees that the EU should invest in development systems fit for the digital age and to ensure equal access to quality digital tools at all levels of education. The responsibility of national governments to strengthen school education on rights and responsibilities as EU citizens is highlighted by 82% of young people.



Figure 16. Perceptions on education (%)



- I strongly agree and it is important to me
- I agree but it is not important to me
- Neither agree nor disagree
- I disagree but is not important to me
- I strongly disagree and it is important to me
- Don't know / No answer

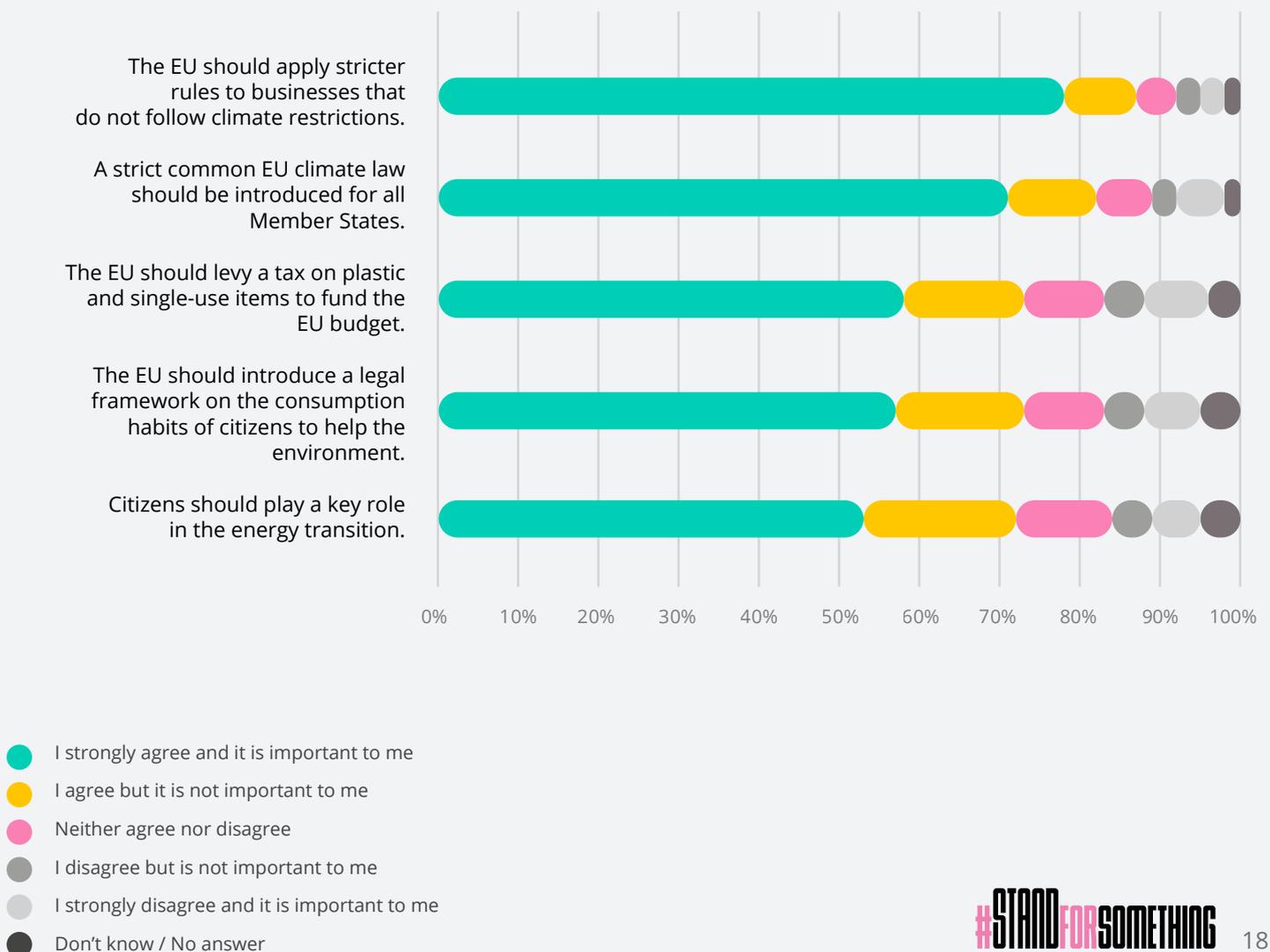
CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change and the environment, grouped together, is a key area for young involvement in politics and activism. This is also highlighted in the survey results, as **climate change emerged as the most significant priority for the future of Europe**. Specifically, 72% of the young people in the survey agree that citizens should play a key role in the energy transition, while 74% agree that the EU should introduce a legal framework on the consumption habits of citizens to help the environment.



Related to plastic waste and single-use items, 73% of the young people agree that the rules should be made stricter and believe the EU should levy a tax that will help fund the EU budget on climate directly. When assessing the possibility of common EU climate laws and stricter rules for governments and businesses, 83% of young people agree that a strict common EU climate law should be introduced for all Member States; 87% also agree that the EU should apply stricter rules to businesses that do not follow climate restrictions.

Figure 17. Perceptions on climate change and the environment (%)



PRIORITIES ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Summing up the above-mentioned positions on the future of Europe, we have aggregated the perceptions of young people on the thematic clusters as presented above. Generally, participants request a stronger involvement of the EU and stronger policy proposals. The assessment in the axis is based on a scale of agreement and a scale of importance. The combined results per topic showcase that young people would like a stronger presence of the EU in all key areas and consider the EU important, specifically in **climate change, health, and education**.

Figure 18. Priorities on the agreement-disagreement axis (%)

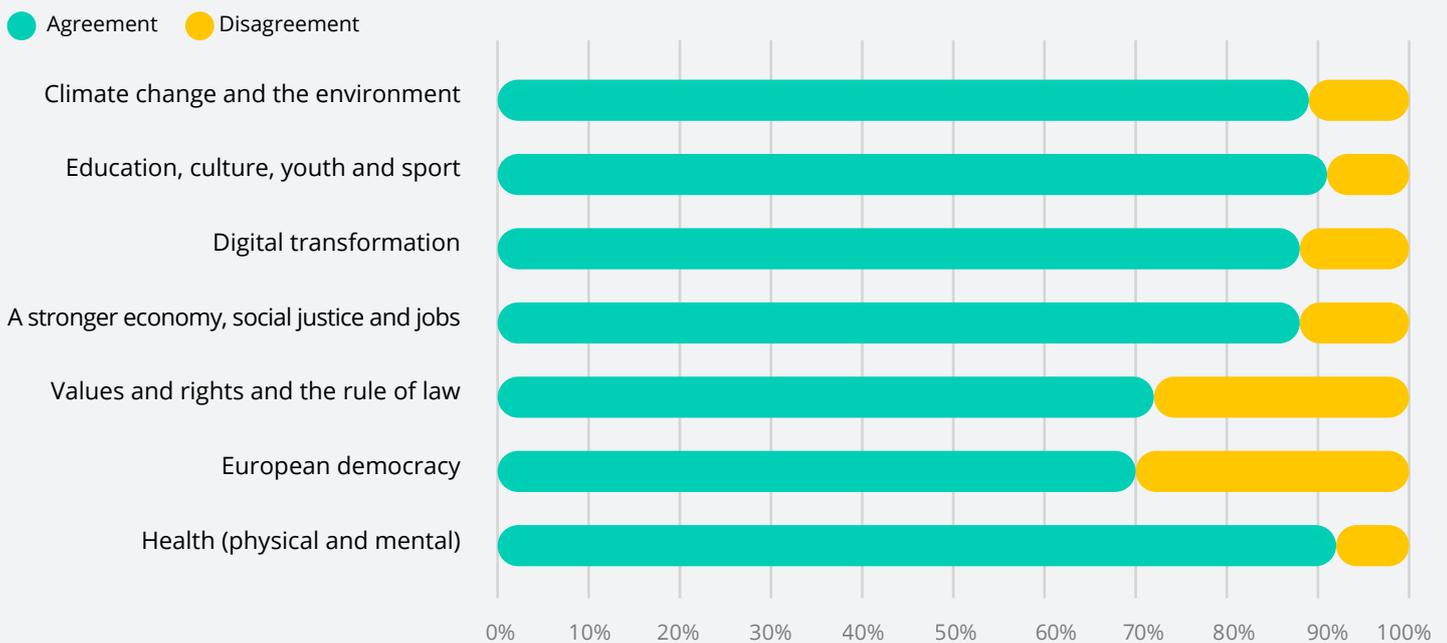
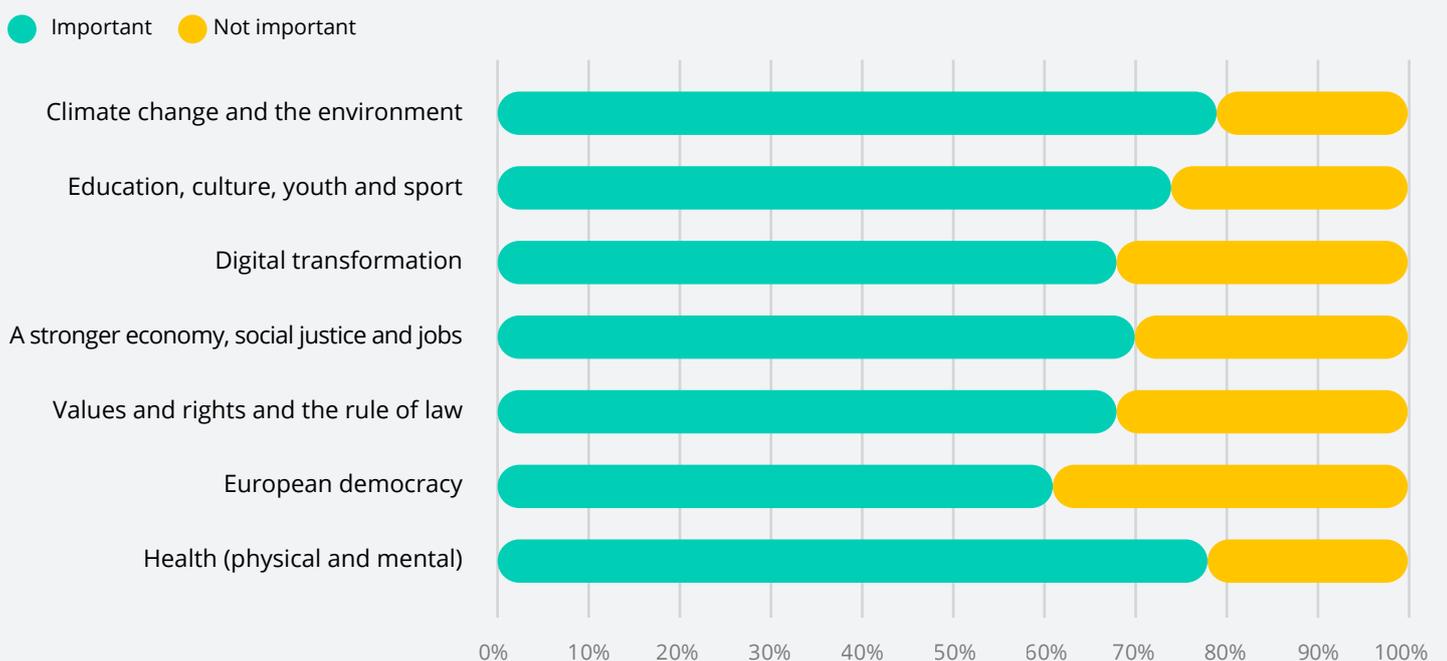


Figure 19. Priorities on the important-not important axis (%)



WHAT IS WORTH STANDING FOR?

FINDINGS OF THE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

In this section we briefly describe the findings of the qualitative research which was carried out in parallel with the quantitative survey exploring the views of young people in Europe. Methodologically, it was attempted to follow a more innovative participatory process in which, following training, the youth activists of the programme were called to act as “participatory research agents” by taking an active part in discussions with their peers. They recorded their observations about the views, attitudes, speculations, complaints, ideas and proposals of other young people during the events they attended throughout summer 2021.

What followed next, at the end of August, was a **focus group** which was organised and supervised by leading researchers of the project. In this setting, the youth activists who had operated as participatory observers, were able to convey the information they had gained from their experience in a fruitful, open discussion.

The discussion strengthened the findings of the overall research and highlighted the issues that stand at the top of the youth agenda. It should be noted that most of the young participants reported similar findings and experiences, while highlighting

similar patterns of prioritisation on the same themes, although some areas seem to be absent within the young audience. The results of the online survey present interesting parallels with the generated focus group outputs.

The environment and climate change emerged as the topic of the first and utmost priority, with an emphasis on ideas concerning ecology and sustainable consumption. This can be further elaborated from the quantitative analysis results, which indicates very high percentages both in agreement to further involvement on an EU, national, local and individual level and in importance.

Education is also a high priority for young people. More specifically, it is reported by young people that the content of education in most countries is outdated, insufficient and not in line with their era, age, their concerns, and the skills they will need in the modern world. Social skills and cultivation of civic education in many countries is inadequate, leading to inactive young citizens and abstention of youth from political and social procedures and processes. Furthermore, the need for a more targeted education on important issues such as mental health and European values is highlighted in the results of the quantitative survey.

Equally important appears to be mental health: youth activists have made constant references to the issue, even combining it with other thematic areas (including but not limited to economy and social justice). The activists highlighted the lack of attention given to this issue while the young generation has particularly high needs in this sector. Specifically, the participants addressed the need for mental health to be included in the school curricula and further be added in EU, national and local campaigns. Furthermore, the participants referred to the existence of EU and national support lines for mental health that should enhance their online presence and outreach to young people. The issue of health and specifically the need of support for mental healthcare was also considered of significant importance in the results presented above.

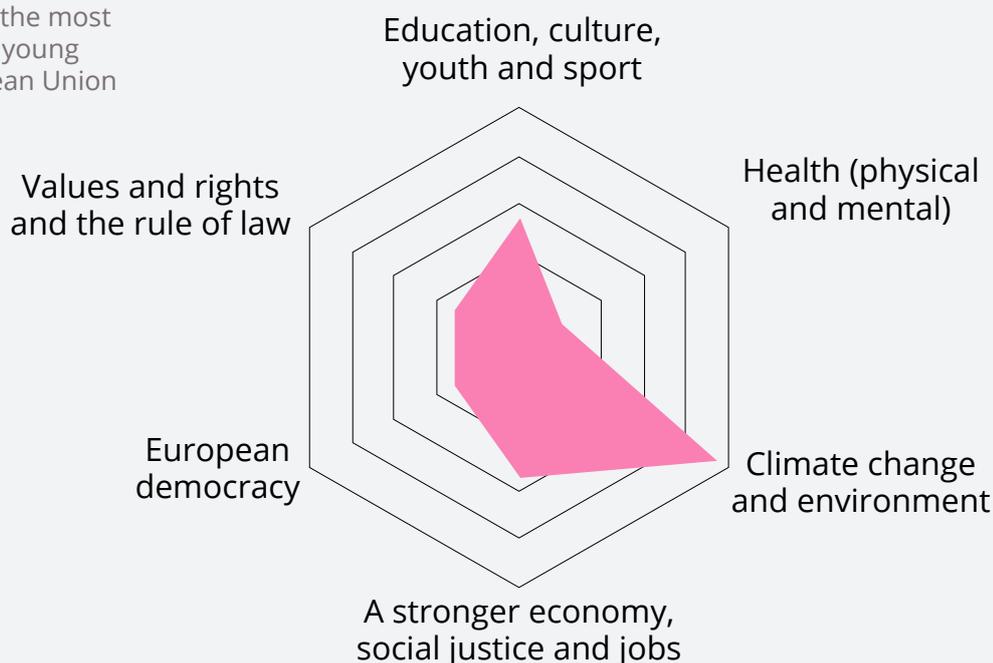
Another deeply concerning issue for young people is gender equality as well as freedom in self-determination and expression accompanied by the discussion on gender rights and diversity. This was also reflected in the online survey, as questions referring to gender representation and equality

and stricter punishments for abuses based on gender and sexual orientation gathered strong interest among the participants. Furthermore, during the focus group, the activists highlighted the need for sex education in school curricula.

Finally, a recurring concern of young people is to have common and fair living standards in European countries and the role of the European Union in safeguarding these standards. Currently, many disparities occur among European countries. Some young people, especially those living in countries with GDP below the EY mean, reported difficulties financing basic needs such as housing and studying and some even struggle with expenses for basic goods.

Figure 20 presents the perception of priorities of the young audience, showcasing the gravity of the importance of climate change and education. This result is directly linked to the results of the survey, as analysed above, and specifically aligned with the priorities on the future of Europe, as assessed by young people (see Figures 18 and 19).

Figure 20. Gravity of the most important issues for young people in the European Union



In closing, we must bring attention to a specific issue which arose in the descriptions of almost all participants in the qualitative research: **young people want to be informed about ways they can take an active part in the policy-making process.** Furthermore, focus group participants feel that they do not have the opportunity to participate in any process (for example, deliberation) to help shape their future. A prime example: almost all young people who encountered a youth activist did not know about the Conference for the Future of Europe. More specifically, they often report that they do not know much about the institutions and the role of the European Union; in fact they heard

about them for the first time during this process. Without information and opportunities to participate in discussing and shaping future policies that concern them, they feel distanced from political processes and the European Union institutions.

Even so, young people feel confident in the European Union and consider it a positive factor for the betterment of their future. As stated previously, they want to be better informed about the possibilities for their participation in its various institutions and actions. On the next page, we summarise the ideas young people believe are worth standing for, as presented during the focus group.



IDEAS WORTH STANDING FOR

That we need to focus on improving individual values and creating a more understanding society in order to start improving world issues such as climate change

European app for public transport

Development of local communities

Reforming the CAP

EU wide CO² tax for companies

More strict legislation regarding climate and environment protection

Review education systems - many are old & curriculums are not good/ up to date. All countries should have basic sex education, including queer & disabled; sign language & first aid, as well as financial education. Each EU country should be following a basic criterion of what should be taught in each country

There is no European Union without a strong European democracy. Every other topic depends on this one.

Good education which includes a variety of topics is crucial, especially in relation to when new laws are being considered and voted upon

Social rights among youth

New property law that makes buying houses as an investment property a lot less expensive so housing for young people is realistically available

Youth employee rates by law

More taxes & restrictions on companies - focus more on the major polluters rather than individuals - less waste by companies

We need to make European citizens understand the importance of fighting Climate change and to ensure it is a priority for them

We need more casual conversations about mental health and sexuality

Eu wide toolkits for sexual and mental health

Mandatory paid internships and work training programmes

Better EU mental health system.

There is still too much to be done in order to reach social justice

European army

Teachers' exchanges as a way of teaching foreign languages

APPENDIX

#STANDFORSOMETHING Survey - Contribute to the future of Europe!

#STANDFORSOMETHING is a youth engagement campaign coordinated by the European Youth Card Association and funded by the European Parliament. The following questionnaire is an opportunity to contribute to the Conference on the Future of Europe. Results will be shared with European policy makers with the objective of bringing issues of priority for young people to the agenda.

The survey takes 3-5 minutes.

Have your say on the future of Europe!

D1. How old are you?

1	15-17	
2	18-21	
3	22-25	
4	26-29	
5	Other	

D2. Gender: How do you identify yourself?

1	Female	
2	Male	
3	Non-binary	
4	Prefer not to disclose	
5	Other	

D3. What is your country of origin?

1	Austria		15	Italy	
2	Belgium		16	Latvia	
3	Bulgaria		17	Lithuania	
4	Croatia		18	Luxembourg	
5	Republic of Cyprus		19	Malta	
6	Czech Republic		20	Netherlands	
7	Denmark		21	Poland	
8	Estonia		22	Portugal	
9	Finland		23	Romania	
10	France		24	Slovakia	
11	Germany		25	Slovenia	
12	Greece		26	Spain	
13	Hungary		27	Sweden	
14	Ireland		28	Other	

D4. What is your current country of residence?

1	Austria		15	Italy	
2	Belgium		16	Latvia	
3	Bulgaria		17	Lithuania	
4	Croatia		18	Luxembourg	
5	Republic of Cyprus		19	Malta	
6	Czech Republic		20	Netherlands	
7	Denmark		21	Poland	
8	Estonia		22	Portugal	
9	Finland		23	Romania	
10	France		24	Slovakia	
11	Germany		25	Slovenia	
12	Greece		26	Spain	
13	Hungary		27	Sweden	
14	Ireland		28	Other	

D5. What is your highest level of education?

1	Less than a high school diploma	
2	High school student	
3	College	
4	Vocational training	
5	Undergraduate university student	
6	Postgraduate university student	
7	Other	

D6. What is your current employment status?

1	Employed full-time	
2	Employed part-time	
3	Self-employed	
4	Unemployed	
5	Under-employed (my wage is below the industry standard)	
6	Helping in the family business	
7	Student	
8	Other	

D7. What type of region do you live in?

1	A capital city area	
2	A suburb near a large city	
3	A major city area	
4	A small city or town	
5	A rural area	
6	Other	

EU1. Please rate the degree to which you agree with each one of the following statements.

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know/ No Answer
1	I feel that my opinion counts in the European Union.						
2	My country's opinion counts in the European Union.						
3	I feel that I have enough information on the institutions and policies of the European Union.						
4	I trust the European Union.						
5	The European Parliament should have more power.						
6	There is in fact no common European policy. Each country looks at its own interest.						
7	European citizens should be more involved in policymaking.						
8	I am proud to identify as a European citizen.						
9	During the coronavirus pandemic, I feel safer because I live in an EU member state.						

EU2. How would you identify yourself in terms of identity?

1	Only by my nationality	
2	As European and then by my nationality	
3	By my nationality and then as European	
4	Only as European	

EU3. Which two (2) of the following ways would you choose to be heard by decision makers in EU?

1	Vote in the European elections	
2	Personally address the responsible authorities	
3	Sign a petition	
4	Take part in citizen debates and events	
5	Participate in demonstrations / strikes	
6	Join a non-governmental organization	
7	Take part in European activities	
8	Be active on social media groups	
9	Not interested in being heard	
10	Will not be heard anyway	
11	Other (please specify)	

EU4. Which of the following positions do you most relate to?

1	As European and then by my nationality	
2	By my nationality and then as European	
3	Only as European	

EU5. How would you rate the following priorities for the future of Europe, on a scale from 1 to 5 (where 1 is not important at all and 5 is extremely important)?

		Not at all important			Extremely important			
		1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know/ No answer	
1	Comparable living standards							
2	Stronger solidarity among EU member states							
3	A common health policy							
4	Comparable education standards							
5	Energy independence							
6	Deeper economic integration							
7	A stronger industrial capacity							
8	A common army							
9	The introduction of the EURO in all EU countries							

EU6. In your opinion, which three (3) of the following topics should be a priority during the Conference for the Future of Europe?

1	European democracy	
2	Values and rights and the rule of law	
3	Climate change and the environment	
4	A stronger economy, social justice and jobs	
5	Digital transformation	
6	Health (physical and mental)	
7	Education, culture, youth and sport	
8	Migration	

EU7. Can you think of another topic that should be of priority during the Conference for the Future of Europe? Please specify.

EU8. Please rate the degree to which you agree with each one of the following statements.

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know/ No Answer
1	A majority of national parliaments should have the power to "veto" EU legislation.						
2	The President of the European Commission should be directly elected by citizens.						
3	The Conference on the Future of Europe should lead to more democratic changes in the European treaties.						
4	Any form of abuse related to gender identity and sexual orientation should be punished by means of criminal law (with potential implications for freedom of expression) in the EU.						
5	Asylum seekers should be redistributed across EU countries based on a quota system.						
6	Young European citizens should be able to vote at the age of 16 years old in the EU elections.						
7	EU countries should be allowed to reintroduce border controls within the Schengen area, when it is deemed necessary by a government.						
8	A representative quota for women in European elections should be introduced.						
9	The EU should introduce a transnational action plan for unaccompanied refugee minors (URMs) who turn 18 within the EU.						
10	The EU should levy a tax on plastic and single-use items to help fund the EU budget.						

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know/ No Answer
11	The EU should apply stricter rules to businesses that do not follow climate restrictions.						
12	Citizens should play a key role in the energy transition.						
13	Learning about European matters, such as the functioning of the EU and its institutions, EU history or European culture, should be part of compulsory school education.						
14	A strict common EU climate law should be introduced for all Member States.						
15	The EU should introduce a common basic income framework.						
16	EU citizens should be able to vote for transnational lists of candidates in the EU elections.						
17	Equitable access should be ensured to government programmes regardless of employment form (contractors, gig workers, etc.).						
18	The EU should advance regulations in social media regarding hateful content and fake news.						
19	The EU should set a goal of European digital access and literacy by 2050.						
20	A common European e-identification and e-signature system should be further used to make processes (such as e-voting) easier for European citizens.						

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know/ No Answer
21	Continue to make healthcare and treatment more accessible by encouraging healthcare in rural areas, lowering co-pays and promoting cross-border cooperation. Pursuing a fundamental right of access to healthcare for all European citizens should be a vital priority.						
22	Common medical records and improvements on the exchange of medical information across the EU should be introduced.						
23	The EU should further support mental healthcare systems and mental professionals to ensure equal access to all people.						
24	European programmes and initiatives such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps make you feel more European.						
25	National governments should strengthen school education about rights and responsibilities as EU citizens.						
26	The EU should invest in the development of national educational systems fit for the digital age and to ensure equal access to quality digital tools at all levels of education.						
27	The EU should introduce a legal framework on the consumption habits of citizens to help the environment.						
28	All European citizens should have comparable living standards, regardless of their nationality and the economic situation of their country.						
29	The European Union should invest in becoming a key-player in technology and innovation.						
30	The European Union needs to provide an official common framework for digital nomads and remote working for all EU citizens.						

Q. 9 Do you want to participate in the Social Media competition? You will have a chance to win amazing prizes!

Yes

Please include a link to your social media profile below and don't forget to order the special edition of the European Youth Card. It's for free and **you can get it here!**

I agree with the personal data processing.

Disclaimer: We care about the protection of your privacy while participating in the EYCA project "I Stand For..." and we process your personal data that you provide below by your given consent. Here's what you need to know to be able to make a choice:

- **Who we are:** European Youth Card Association Euro
26 - Centre Dansaert, Rue d'Alost 7-11, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.
Contact: mail@eyca.org.
- **Purpose of data collection:** We collect your data to conduct research with the purpose of understanding youth priorities on the future of Europe as part of the Conference on the Future of Europe process.
- **What kind of information we collect:** Personal data that you submit in the survey form. You have the right to withdraw consent for processing your data at any time. If you wish to do so, please contact us at mail@eyca.org. Please read more in our Privacy Policy.

No

Thank you for your participation!

EUROPEAN YOUTH CARD ASSOCIATION

European Youth Card Association (EYCA) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit association of 40 member organisations that issue the European Youth Card to over 7 million young people in 38 countries across Europe. Together they work to empower Europe's youth.

www.eyca.org

#StandForSomething is EYCA's initiative to mobilise and engage young people in the process of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Co-financed by the European Parliament, the project is implemented with the support of EYCA's youth card organisations and Youth Activists in 16 Member States of the European Union.

www.istandfor.eu

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