



**BUILDERS OF
PROGRESS**
EUROPE'S NEXTGEN

Report Launch

**TUESDAY
11 October**

12:30 - 21:00

FEPS Head Quarters, Brussels

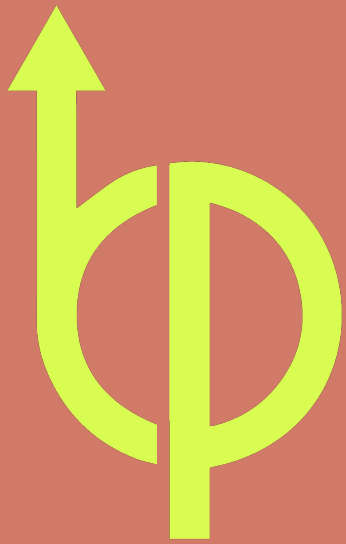


FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



ThinkYoung

#BuildersOfProgress



BUILDERS OF PROGRESS EUROPE'S NEXT GEN

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



*Think*Young

POLICY ANALYST ON DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION

Matteo Dressler

Ilaria Nilges

RESEARCHER

#BuildersOfProgress

Project Overview

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



*Think*Young

Background

- Largest research in Europe on young people and politics
- 19,000+ interviews in two survey waves
- 64 participants in focus groups
- Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, UK
- 2020-2022: COVID-19 & Ukraine



6 Building Blocks

- The COVID-19 Experience and the 'New Normal'
- Political Participation, Democracy, & the Rule of Law
- Equality
- Sustainability and Energy Independence
- Europe in the World (Ukraine)
- Building Back Better



#BuildersOfProgress

Building Block 1

The COVID-19 Experience and the 'New Normal'

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



ThinkYoung

The COVID-19 Experience and the 'New Normal'

Top societal concerns

1. Jobs and future employment
2. Poverty and inequality
3. Physical health and well-being in society

Top personal concerns

1. Emotional and psychological well-being
2. Physical health and well-being
3. Income



The COVID-19 Experience and the 'New Normal'

- 59% of young Europeans had an unexpected **positive experience** working and studying from home during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Unexpected positive aspects of working and studying from home included:
 1. Spending more time with family
 2. Reducing carbon footprint
 3. Adapting to new situations

#BuildersOfProgress

Building Block 2

Political Participation, Democracy & the Rule of Law

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



ThinkYoung

Political Participation, Democracy & the Rule of Law

Is the EU doing enough to involve young people in politics?

- 67% of young EU residents believe that the EU should involve and empower young people more in European public affairs
- 71% believe politicians need to better communicate to citizens what the EU is doing and how it impacts their daily life
- 65% believe the EU should stop providing funding to member states that fail to respect democratic rules.



Political Participation, Democracy & the Rule of Law

How do young people participate in politics?

- 56% of young Europeans said that they went to the polls at least once in their lives to vote
- Other popular forms of political participation among youth are:
 - donating money for a cause (36%)
 - petitioning (in person or on websites) (28%)
 - 20% have posted on social media, and 18% have either protested or 'boycotted'

#BuildersOfProgress

Building Block 3

Equality

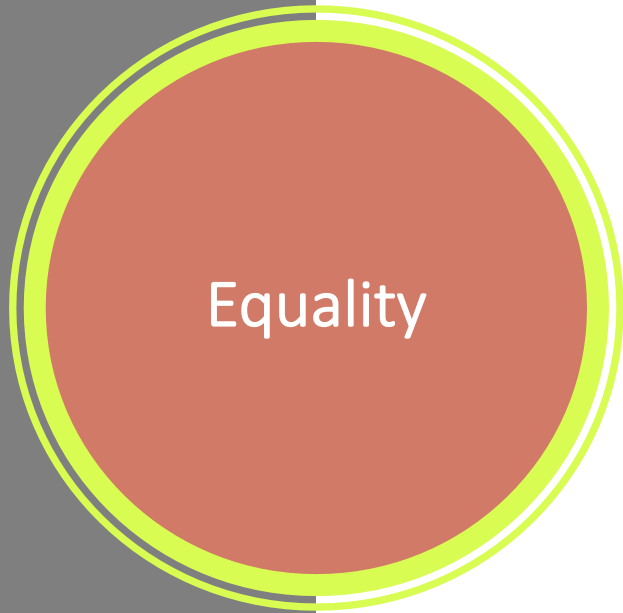
FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



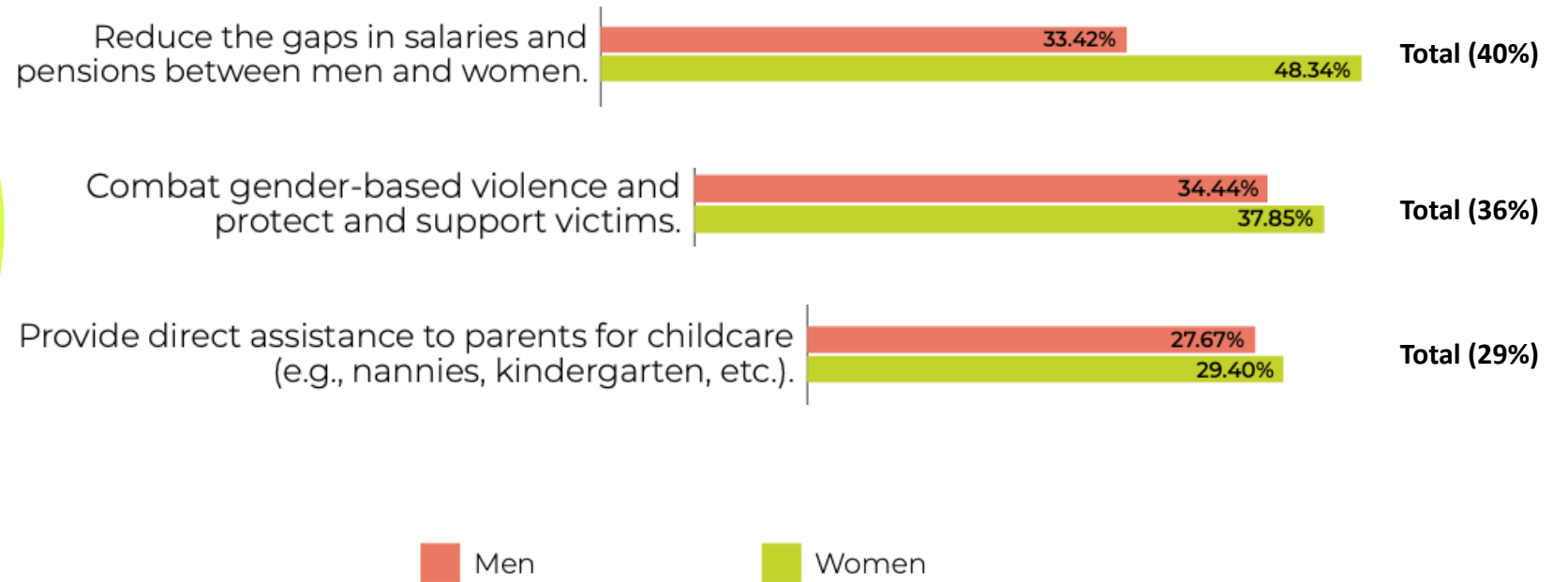
*Think*Young

Equality

- Tackling poverty and inequality is the second priority for the EU in the next 5 years
- 42% want to see assistance to those most in need to continue after the pandemic has ended (most chosen option)
- Support for EU-led socio-economic policies is high:
 - EU-wide minimum wage (69%)
 - Universal basic income (66%)
 - Decent unemployment benefits (58%)



To promote gender equality young Europeans want the EU to:



#BuildersOfProgress

Building Block 4

Sustainability and Energy Independence

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



*Think*Young

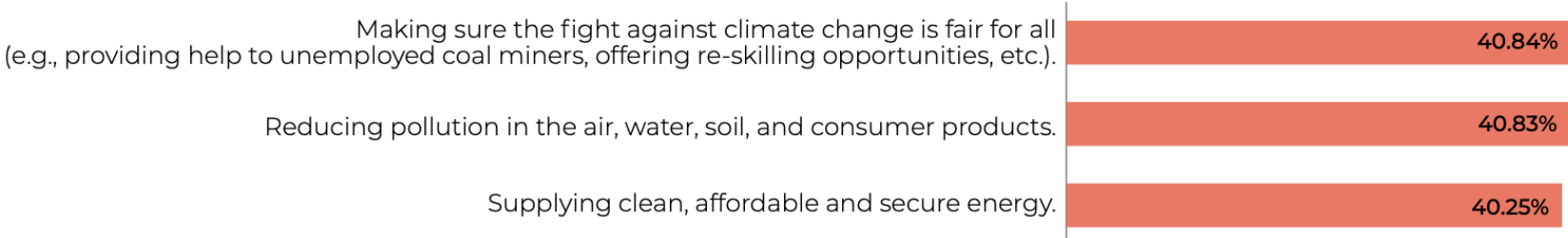
Sustainability and Energy Independence

- Combating climate change is the second most important priority for spending the COVID-19 recovery package
- 65% of youth agree that the EU is not doing enough for climate and the environment
- Interviewees tell us: climate change should be treated with a more urgent approach





What are the climate policy priorities for youth in Europe?



65% of young Europeans also want the EU to reduce energy dependency on outside sources

#BuildersOfProgress

Building Block 5

Europe in the World

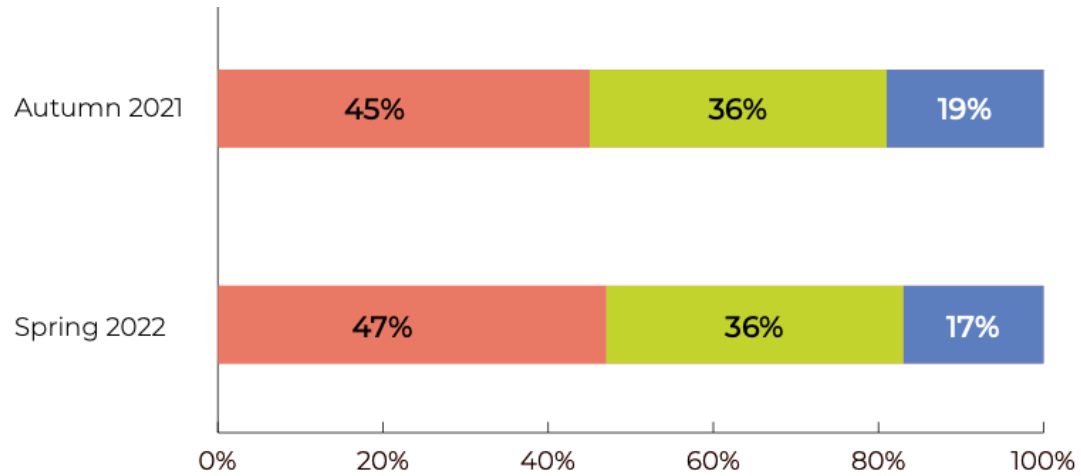
FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



*Think*Young

Europe in the World

- 52% believe the EU should have more powers to represent Europe with a single voice on the world stage
- 49% have a positive opinion about EU enlargement



- "All EU countries should merge their armies into a single European army"
- "EU countries shouldn't merge their armies"



Europe in the World (Ukraine)

- 55% are concerned that the ongoing war in Ukraine will spread to their country in the next five years
- 74% of European youth believe that welcoming Ukrainian refugees into their country is a crucial humanitarian measure
- 76% are in favour of maintaining the severe economic sanctions currently imposed on Russia
- 68% are in favour of sending (more) military aid to Ukraine

#BuildersOfProgress

Building Block 6

Building Back Better

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



*Think*Young



EU priorities for the next 5 years:

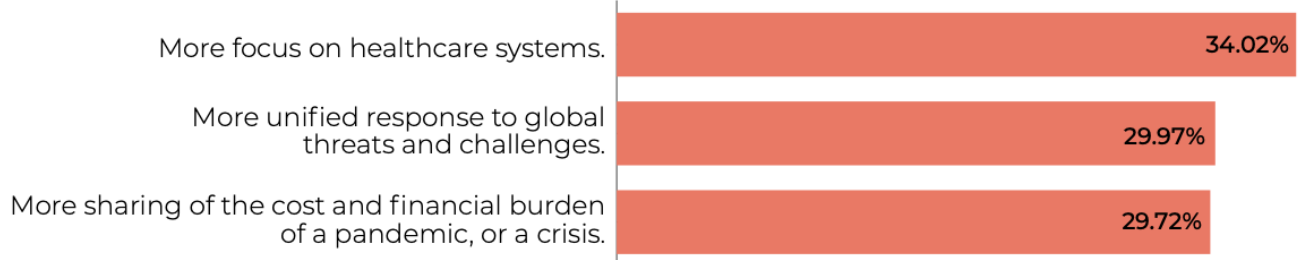


EU social policy priorities for the next 5 years:

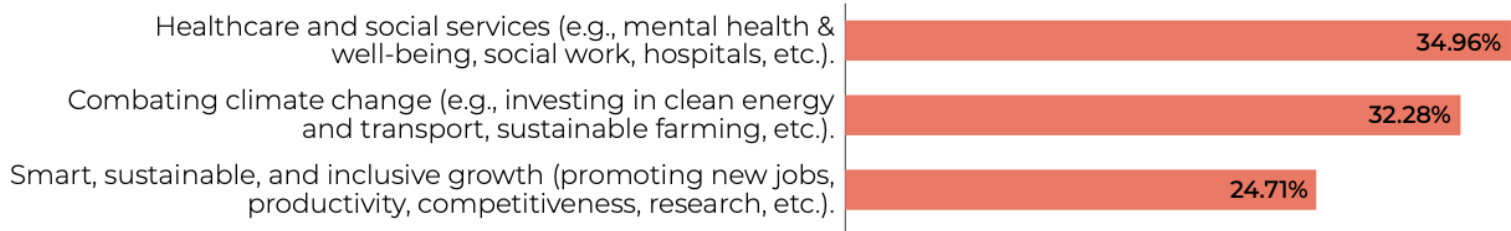




How should the EU change after the pandemic according to young Europeans?



Millennials and Gen Z want the EU to invest the recovery funds on:



But wait: What about Millennials and Generation Z?

- Millennials are slightly more concerned about jobs and income, Gen Z about physical and mental health and education
- Gen Z are 9% more likely than Millennials to support the promotion of the rights of the LGBTQI+ community as a social policy priority
- Social media use slightly more prominent among Gen Z:
 - 10% more likely to use as a coping strategy during the pandemic

#BuildersOfProgress

Conclusions

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



*Think*Young

Concerns

- **Main societal concern:** Jobs and employment
- **Main personal concern:** Emotional and psychological well-being
- Remote work & study is considered positively overall, but comes with caveats



Empowerment

- Young Europeans want to be more involved and empowered in European public affairs
- To do so they want politicians to better communicate with them
- Voting is the most important form of political participation



Solidarity

- The idea of not leaving anyone behind and fighting inequalities are recurrent priorities
- Young people want the fight against climate change to be fair for all and to no leave no one behind
- The war in Ukraine has raised concerns, but young Europeans show solidarity

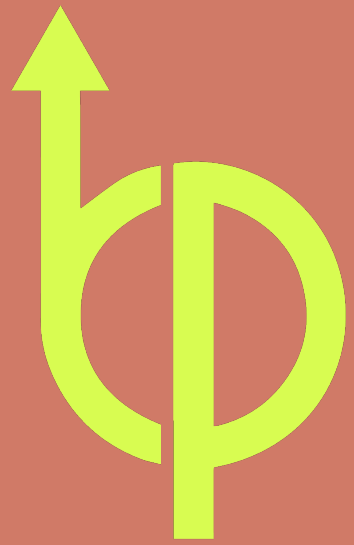


Policy

- Young people want more EU cooperation in response to global threats like a pandemic
- No return to the 'old normal': youth want access to better healthcare including focus on mental health and better social services, and decent jobs
- Recovery must leave no one behind. Youth want education and employment for the vulnerable, and support to those in need



#BuildersOfProgress



**BUILDERS OF
PROGRESS**
EUROPE'S NEXTGEN

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



*Think*Young

THANK YOU!



**BUILDERS OF
PROGRESS**
EUROPE'S NEXTGEN

Report Launch

**TUESDAY
11 October**

12:30 - 21:00

FEPS Head Quarters, Brussels



FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



*Think*Young