



Generational impact of the coronavirus pandemic

Executive summary

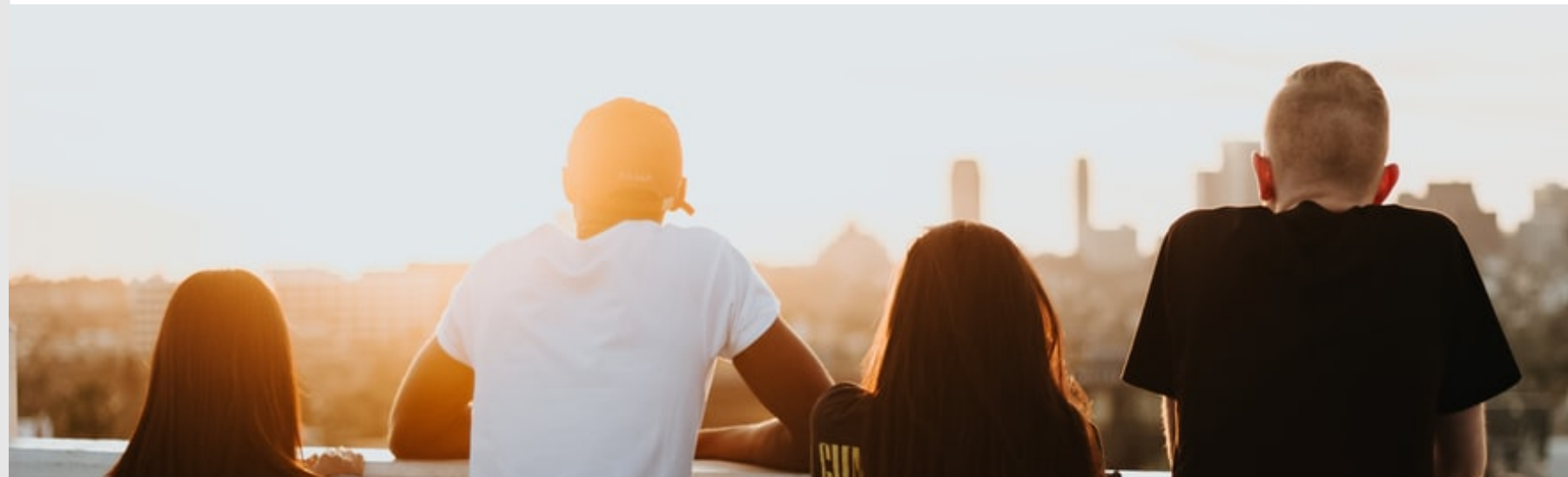
December 2020



With the financial support of:



European Parliament



Prepared by:

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About FEPS The Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) is the think tank of the progressive political family at EU level. Our mission is to develop innovative research, policy advice, training and debates to inspire and inform progressive politics and policies across Europe. We operate as hub for thinking to facilitate the emergence of progressive answers to the challenges that Europe faces today. FEPS works in close partnership with its members and partners, forging connections and boosting coherence among stakeholders from the world of politics, academia and civil society at local, regional, national, European and global levels. Today FEPS benefits from a solid network of 68 member organisations. In addition to this network of organisations that are active in the promotion of progressive values, FEPS also has an extensive network of partners, including renowned universities, scholars, policymakers and activists. Our ambition is to undertake intellectual reflection for the benefit of the progressive movement, and to promote the founding principles of the EU – freedom, equality, solidarity, democracy, respect of human rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity, and respect of the rule of law.



About Fundación Felipe González The Felipe González Foundation has a double purpose: learning from the past and contributing to the future. Based on this principle, it is responsible for managing the archive of Felipe González' documents so all citizens can access it, and organizes and supports activities and projects that push for progress and offer tools for society to tackle the challenges of the 21st century. The GENERA Intergenerational Forum project is an initiative of the Felipe González Foundation in collaboration with La Caixa Foundation, Public Agenda, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the Resolution Foundation that aims to be a meeting point between generations. By carrying out seminars and studies, it offers a better understanding of the current intergenerational disagreement in order to suggest the necessary changes to strengthen and renew the social contract between generations.



About 40dB 40 dB. is a research agency created in 2012 with the name of MyWord. Our primary resource is data. We work with advanced analytical techniques. We provide solutions. We invest in getting to know society. We carry out continuous studies. Our knowledge aims to benefit our clients. We have accumulated experience in almost all sectors. Thanks to the diversity of our trajectory we have a 360 degree view of society. We've been quoted on BBC and The Economist. We are one of the research agencies most frequently cited in Spanish media. In 40dB., sociologists, psychologists, methodologists, statisticians, economists, data scientists and mathematicians work together, rigorously and with empathy. We believe in diversity and practise reconciliation.

With the financial support of the European Parliament. The present study does not represent the views of this entity.



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December, 2020

Generational impact of the coronavirus pandemic

The **GENERA** project, promoted by FEPS and the Felipe González Foundation, among others, contributes to bridge the gap between generations through seminars, studies and debates. In this particular occasion, in the midst of a pandemic and in order to continue building on this intergenerational dialogue, we analyse **the generational impact of the coronavirus pandemic** from a multidimensional perspective, taking into account the experiences of young people and comparing them to those of the older generations.

The crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic is having a tremendous impact on the Spanish, European and world population. The latest **economic data and forecasts point to an unprecedented recession** in Spain, which is affecting the younger generations, **whose working conditions and economic capacity were already greatly damaged by the previous recession in 2008**.

Therefore, the so-called *millennials* – young people aged 24-39 and born between 1981 and 1996 –, who already had to face an economic crisis at an age when they were starting to emancipate and enter the labour market, coping with the lack of access to housing, unemployment, low wages, job insecurity, low levels of saving, etc., are now again bearing the brunt of this new recession, just at a time when many of them were starting to enjoy a greater material stability.

Experiencing two different crisis in such a short period of time will have a huge impact on their lives, their thoughts, their actions and their behaviours.



Segments for analysis

Overall population:
16-75 years old

N: 1,000

Generation Z
(born after 1997)
16-23 years old

N: 105

Millennials
(born between 1981-1996)
24-39 years old

N: 257

Generation X
(born between 1966-1980)
40-54 years old

N: 323

Young Boomers
(born between 1956-1965)
55-64 years old

N: 172

Older Boomers
(born between 1945-
1955)

65-75 years old

N: 143

This classification is based on the one made by the Pew Research Center. The main difference here is the splitting up of the Boomers' generation in order to grasp the varying nuances between the younger and the older group.

Main findings



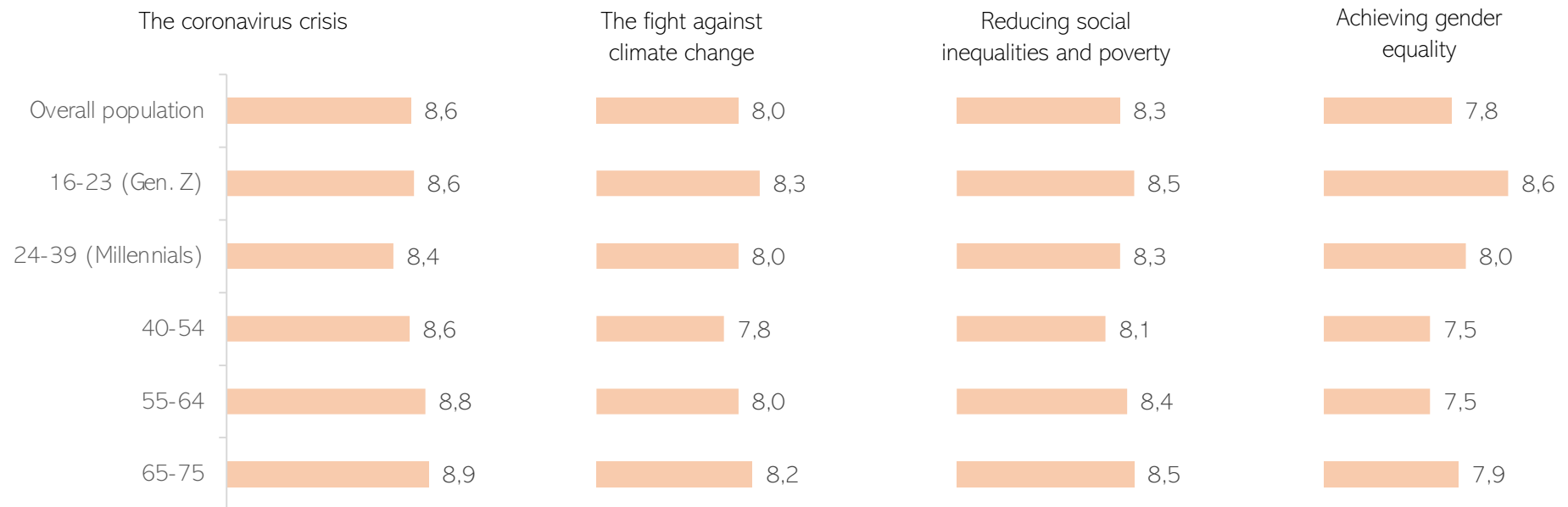
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#1 The coronavirus pandemic: the main concern of every generation.

Besides that, younger people (generation Z) tend to be more aware of social issues (climate change, poverty and inequality, gender equality) and the socioeconomic situation of youth than older generations. The older ones are more concerned about online privacy.

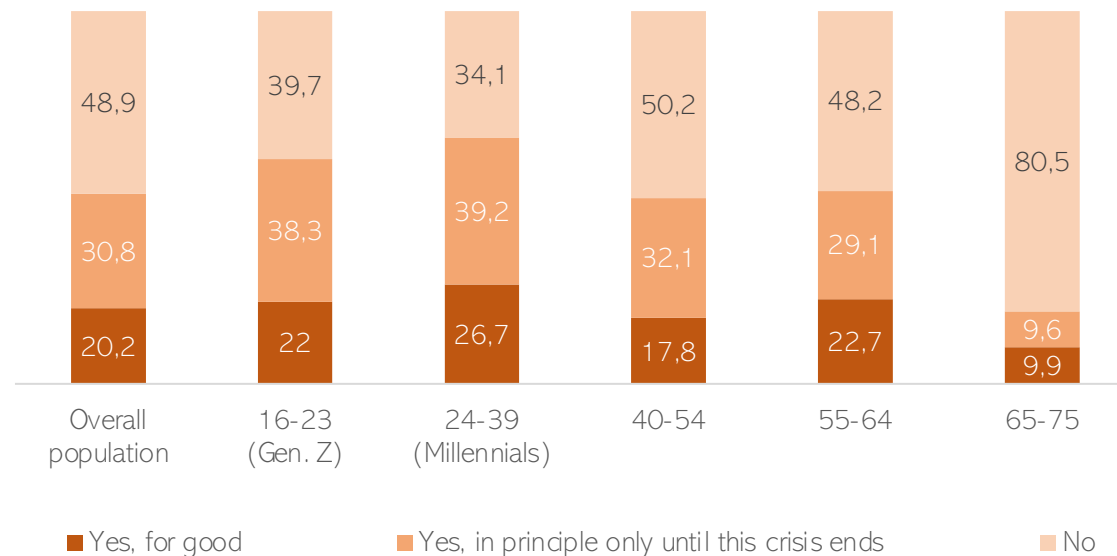
Generally speaking, how worried are you about...? Use a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is "Not at all" and 10 is "Very". (Average of 0-10)



#2 The *millennials*. The big losers of this crisis in terms of employment, economy and education.

In particular, *millennials* are the generation that mostly reports having experienced a reduction in their level of income due to the pandemic and that has been forced to reduce certain expenses to a greater extent. They are the most affected by job scarcity and reduced working hours. Besides that, many of them have had to cut down on education and training expenses or even drop their studies or a training course.

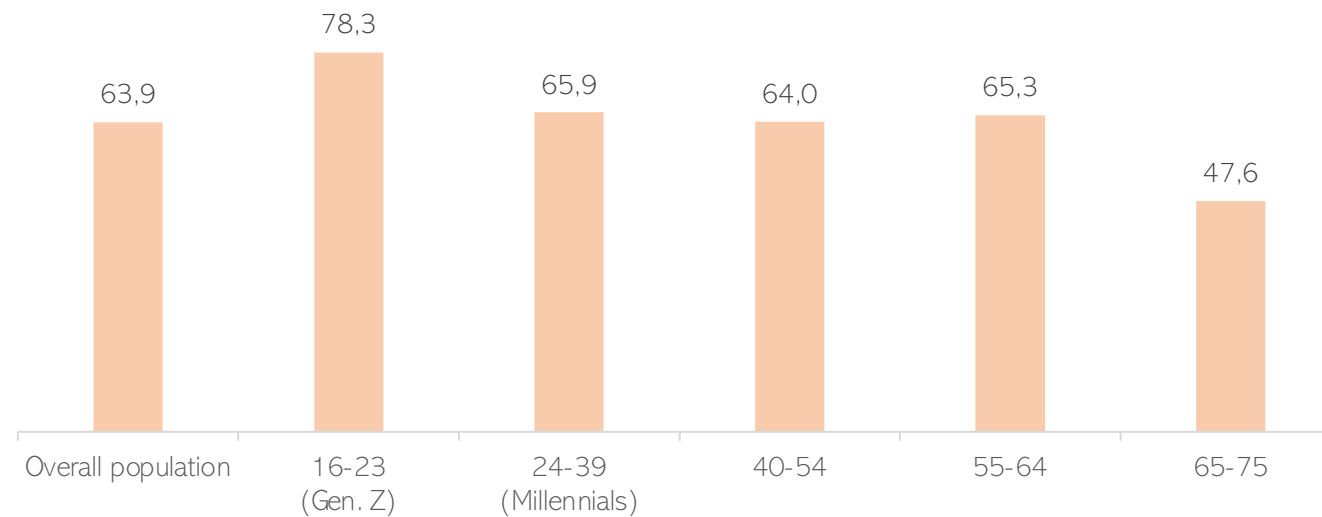
And, in particular, have you experienced a loss of income as a result of the health crisis?



#3 The strong impact on the emotional health of the younger ones.

Although they have taken greater advantage of the new situation by devoting more time to online entertainment and improving their digital skills, generation Z is the most emotionally affected: 80% feel disheartened and pessimistic.

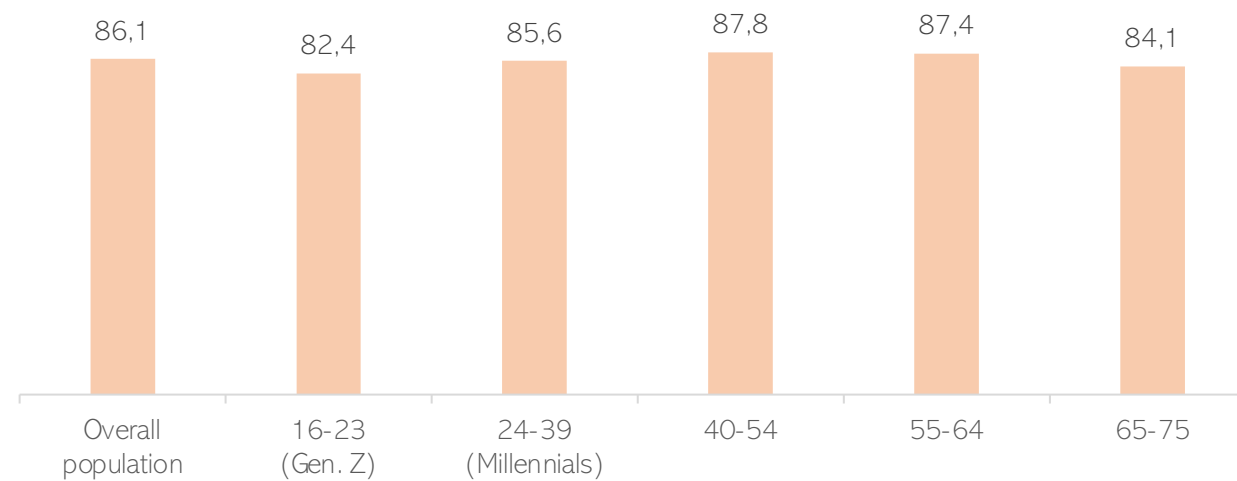
Would you say that you feel more disheartened and/or pessimistic due to the situation triggered by the coronavirus pandemic? (% Yes)



#4 Fear of coronavirus in every generation.

Every generation feels fearful: a majority has stopped doing many things and leaves the house as little as possible.

Would you say that you have stopped doing many things and leave the house as little as possible due to the situation triggered by the coronavirus pandemic? (% Yes)



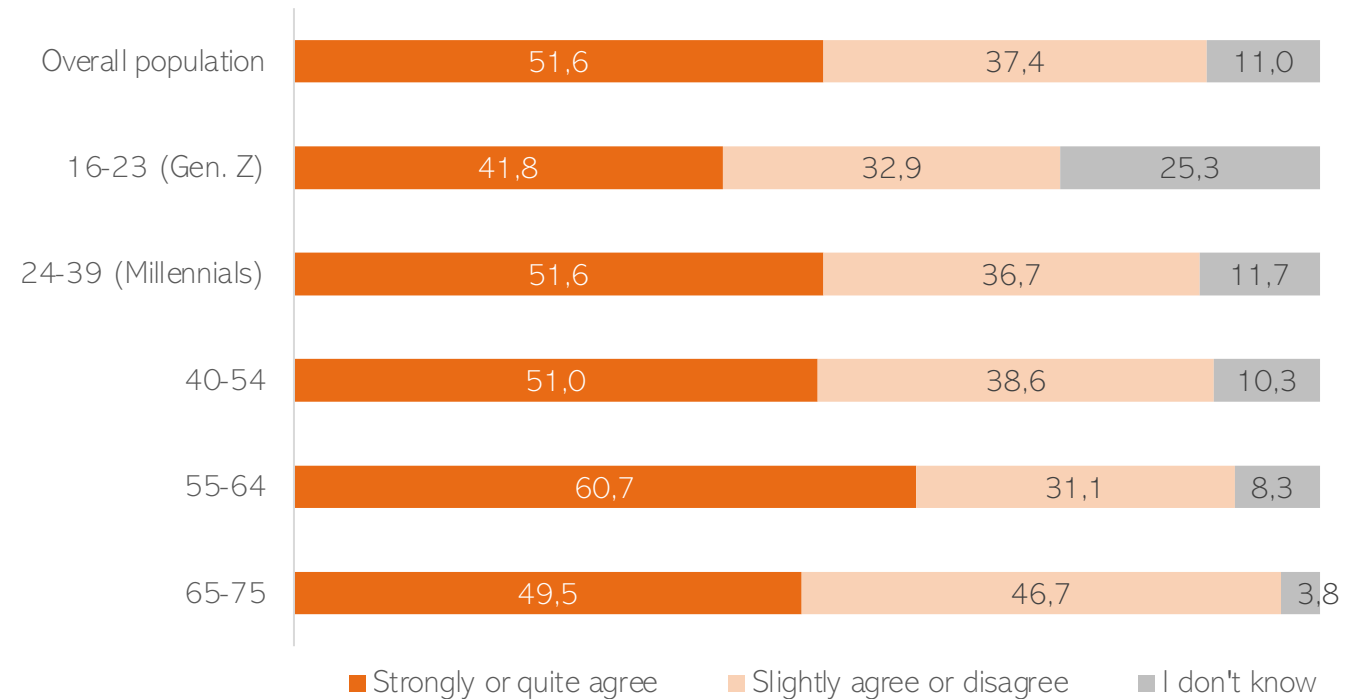
#5 More social protection now than in 2008

Every generation believes that greater social protection measures have been put in place in this crisis than in the previous one



To which extent do you identify with the following statement? (%)

In comparison with the crisis of 2008, greater social protection measures have been put in place this time

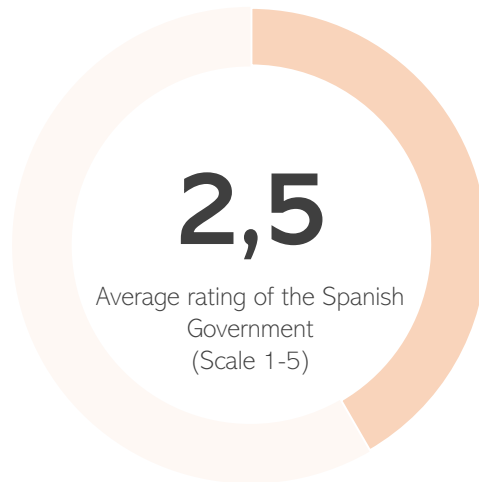


#6 Broad support to the leading measures of the Spanish Government

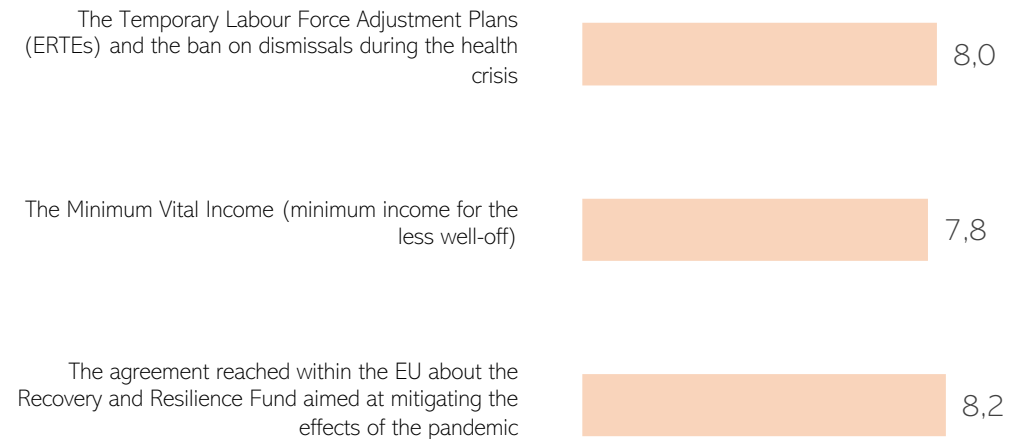
The assessment of the Government does not achieve a passing grade, but the great majority of the population considers that measures such as the ERTES (temporary layoff), the Minimum Vital Income or the European Recovery Fund are needed.

Generally speaking, how would you rate the management of the coronavirus crisis by the following institutions?

The Spanish Government



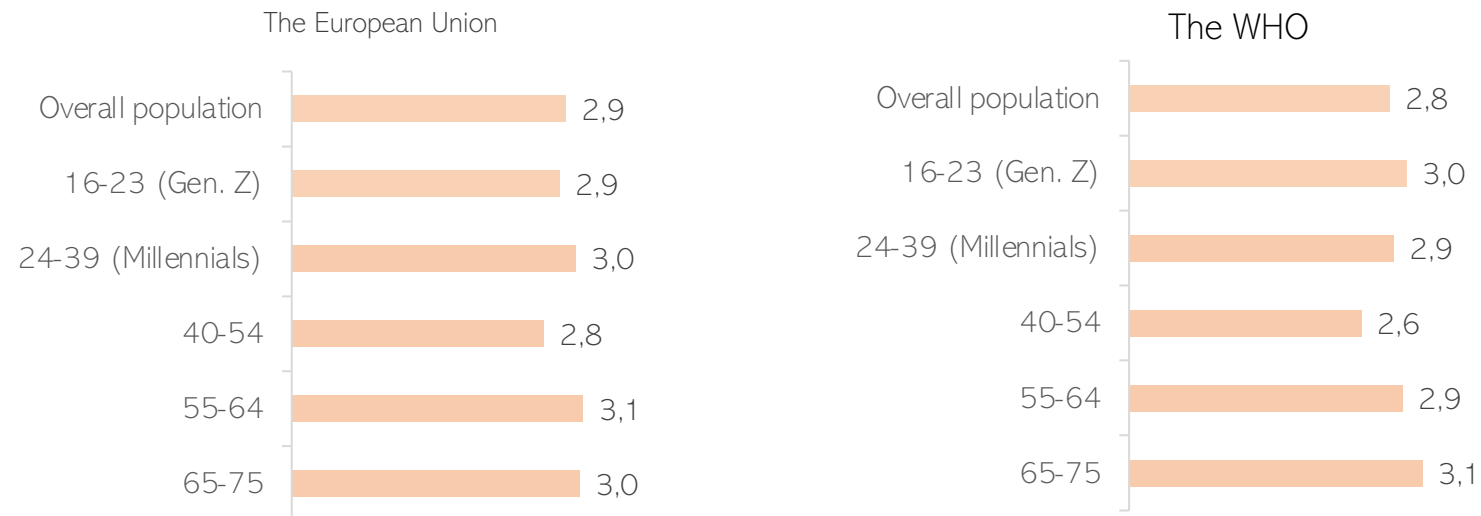
How necessary do you think the following measures or arrangements implemented so far by the Government to face the current crisis are?
Use a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is "Not necessary at all" and 10 "Absolutely necessary".
(Average 0-10)



#7 The European Union and the WHO almost get a passing grade on their action on the Covid crisis.

Society rates the management of the pandemic by the EU and the WHO with almost a pass mark. Millennials give a pass mark to the EU's management of the Covid crisis, and generation Z gives the OK to the WHO.

Generally speaking, how would you rate the management of the coronavirus crisis by the following institutions? (Average 1-5)*

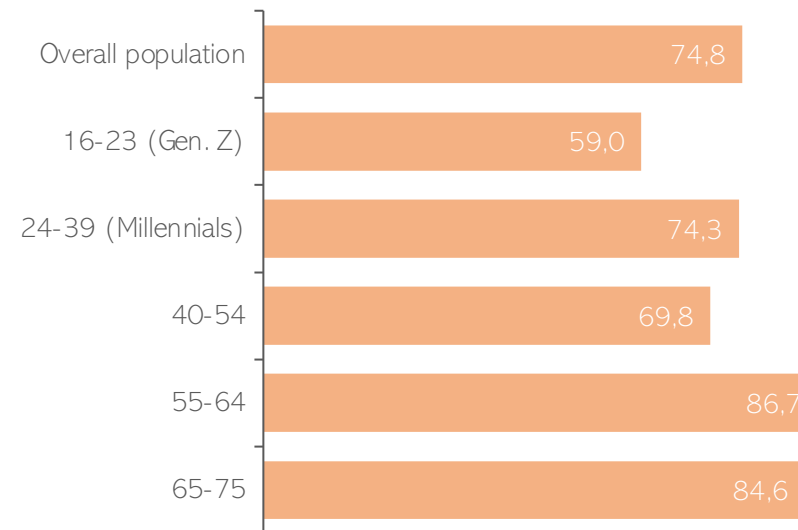


*The following values have been assigned in order to determine the averages: Very good (5), Good (4), Fair (3), Bad (2), Very bad (1).

#8 Lessons learned from the crisis: the need for social policies.

Nearly 75% of the respondents believe that the Covid crisis is showing that social policies are more necessary than ever.

Do you think this crisis is proving that social policies are more necessary than ever? (% Yes)

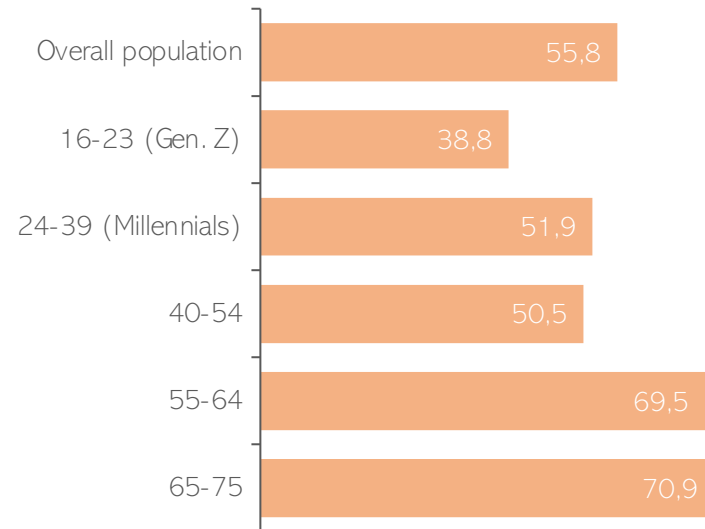


#9 Lessons learned from the crisis: the need for international institutions?

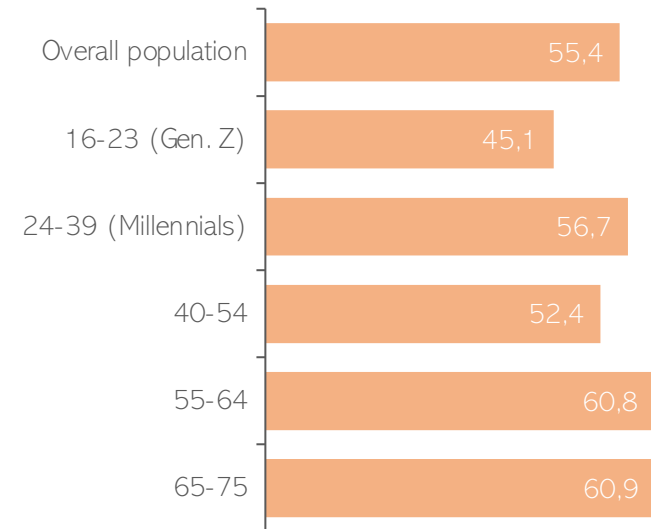
Likewise, more than half believe that the pandemic also shows the need for bodies institutions like the EU and the WHO.

Do you think this crisis is proving that...? (%)

The European Union is more important than ever



The WHO is more important than ever



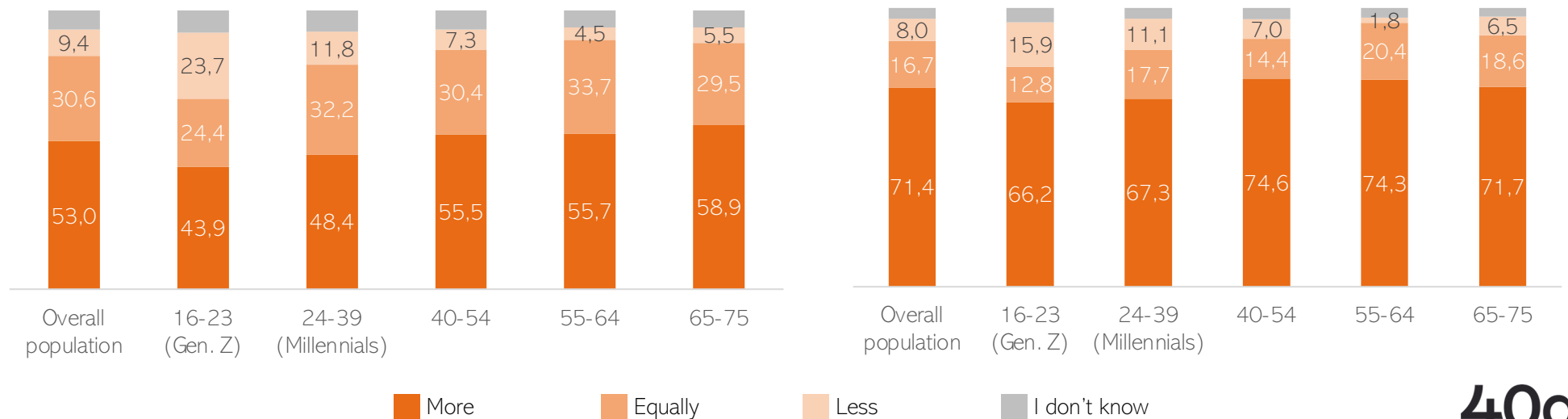
#10 Our society after the pandemic: greater economic and generational inequality.

Citizens feel that inequality between generations and economic inequality will increase.

Do you think the coronavirus crisis will lead to a society that is...? (%)

Unequal between the younger and the older generations

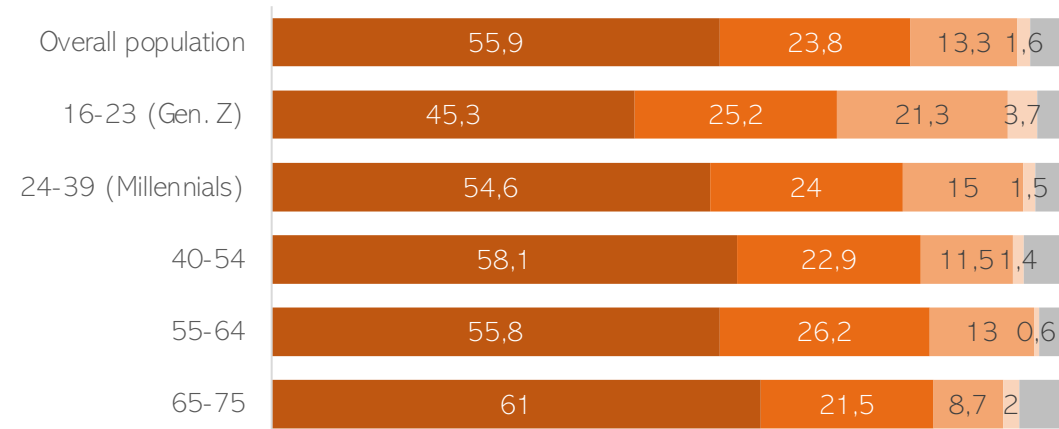
Economically unequal



#11 Compared to that of 2008, this crisis will have an even greater negative impact on young people.

Compared to that of 2008, it is considered that this crisis will have a greater negative impact on the quality of life of young people, even though they tend to be a bit more optimistic in this regard.

And, comparing this crisis to that of 2008, do you think the current one is having/will have a greater or lesser negative impact on the quality of life of young people? (%)

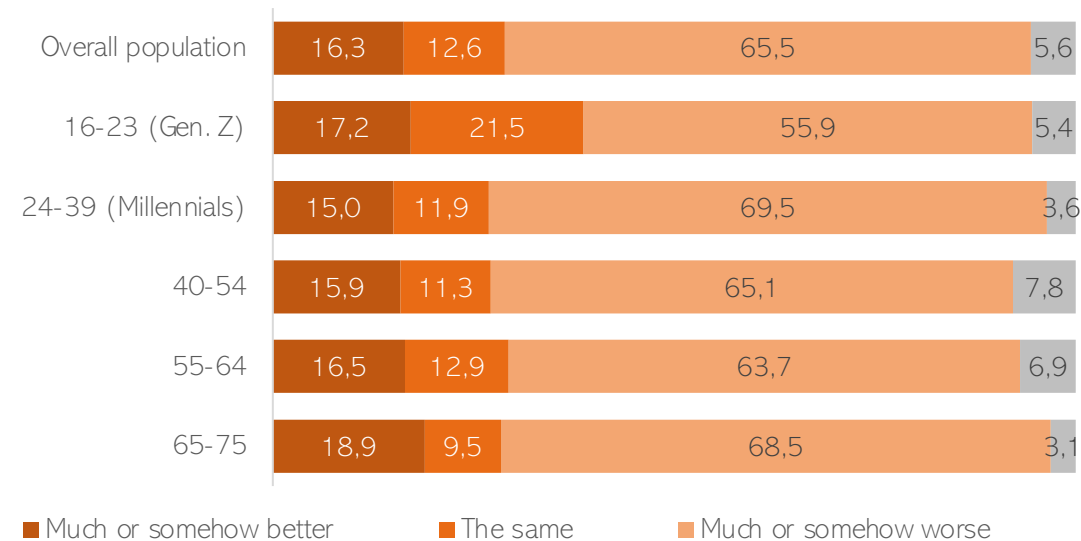


■ Greater negative impact
 ■ Equal
 ■ Lesser negative impact
 ■ It did not have nor will have a negative impact
 ■ I don't know

#12 Clear consensus on the future of youth: their quality of life will be worse than that of their parents.

It is generally agreed that today's young people will have a worse quality of life than their parents, although generation Z is a bit more optimistic about their long-term future.

Do you think the quality of life of today's young people in Spain will be better, worse or the same as that of their parents?



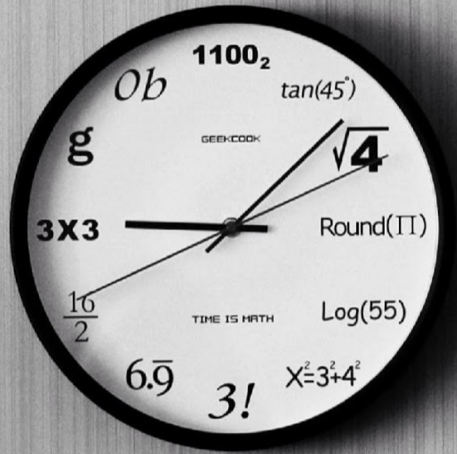
Technical
information



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SCOPE

National including the island provinces and excluding Ceuta and Melilla.



SAMPLE SIZE

1,000 interviews



TIME FRAME

From the 27th to the 30th November 2020



WEIGHTING

Gender by age, autonomous community by age, socioeconomic level and population size.



UNIVERSE

Population residing in Spain from 16 to 75 years old.



SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Online interviews based on a panel (Internet community).

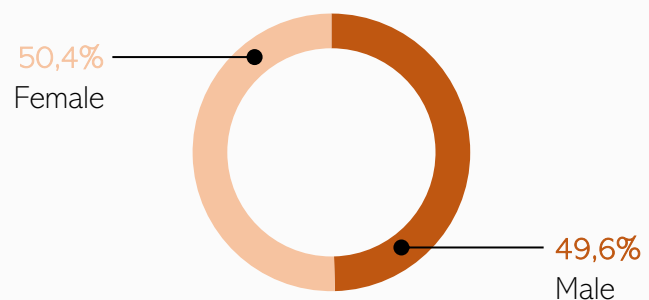


SAMPLING ERROR

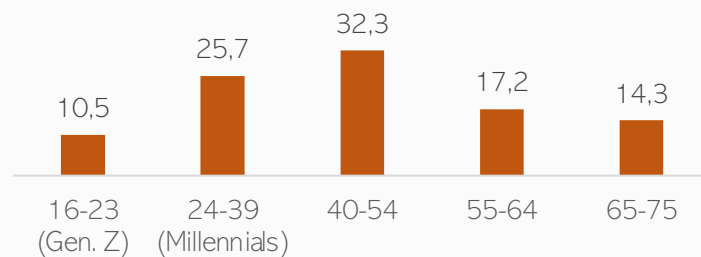
$\pm 3,10$ p.p., where $p=q=50\%$ and a confidence level of 95,5% under the assumption of simple random sampling.

Composition of the sample

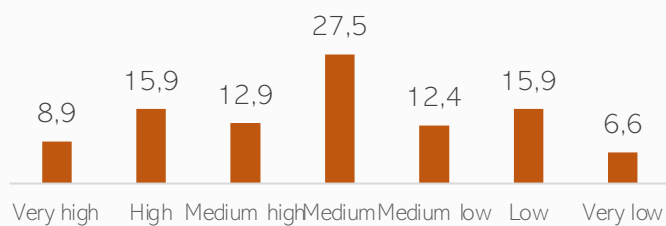
GENDER



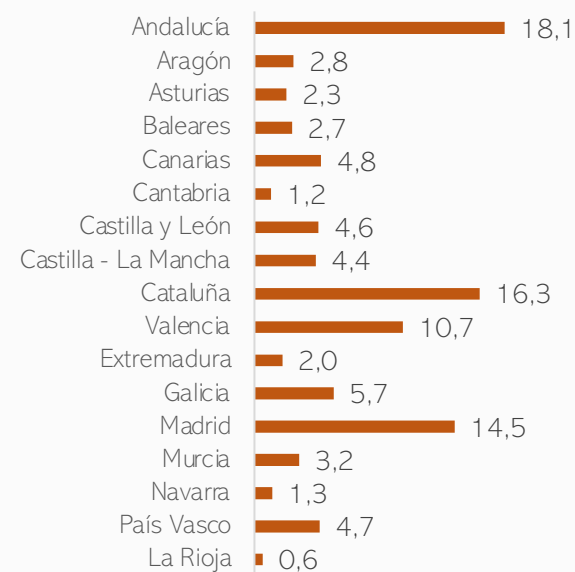
AGE



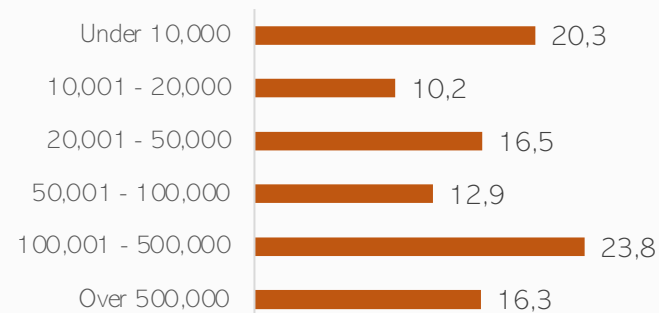
SOCIOECONOMIC LEVEL



AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY



SIZE OF THE MUNICIPALITY



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