



WE & US PANEL - SURVEY REPORT

This report presents the results of a survey developed by a group of students and young professionals (Scientific Committee) coming from Italy and North Macedonia within the framework of the NEUEYT Erasmus+ Project and We & Us Panel Initiative. The initiative addressed different targets and had different aims. The project benefitted the Scientific Committee, who developed the enquiry while learning from this experience, the participants, who could voice their opinions and actively contribute to informing potential lines of action, and the policymakers, who are receiving new inputs to be used to inspire and develop prospective policy measures.



The following are the main results.

1. The survey was carried out over a sample of 210 participants from Italy and North Macedonia, ranging from 14-29 years old, of which 56% identified as male, 41% as female, and the remaining 3% identified with none of the above or preferred not to say.
2. Half of the target audience is aged 14- 18, whereas a quarter is aged 19-24 and 25-29, respectively. The overwhelming majority (60%) are High School students, followed by Bachelor's and Master's students represented by a proportion of ca. 10% each.
3. The top-three areas of interest considered most impactful in the respondents' day-to-day life are: Employment and working conditions; Fighting climate change and supporting sustainability, circularity and recycling; International mobility.
4. Conversely, the topics considered as least relevant are as follows: Democratization of cultural and natural heritage; Living public spaces in the city; Culture and creativity.

A third of the participants reported to be well-informed on the subjects, whereas over half of the respondents feel themselves relatively familiar, and are keen on deepening their knowledge about these topics.

The answers gathered in the open-ended questions show that employment is perceived as a crucial element for self-fulfillment. It is interpreted as a fundamental factor for economic, social, and psychological wellbeing. Young people should, therefore, be provided with more job opportunities to foster purpose and certainty. In close connection with this, equal job opportunities, alongside with respect for workers' rights and the guarantee of human dignity are also regarded as highly valuable and important. Sustainability and environmental protection, including respect for all forms of life, are considered crucial elements for our social progress, as they impact our wellbeing to the core. Young people believe that irreversible changes that are potentially fatal to the planet are happening every day. This course ought to be imminently and fundamentally challenged. This must be tackled through concrete actions. Change must start at the community level and reach the political sphere. Politicians must implement meaningful and straightforward action plans, invest money through incentives, but also impose sanctions on entities that object to the lines drawn. The vast majority of the participants stated they would like to learn more about their topics of interest, and a significant part even declared to be reading materials to further educating themselves. On a scale from 0-5, young people have expressed a strong need, desire, and hope (between 3 and 4) to bring a possible change.

Regardless of their geographic locations, young people in Italy and North Macedonia are sharing the same interests and concerns. Building a more prosperous world, where individuals can thrive through a diverse array of employment opportunities suiting their goals and aspirations is a primary concern.



Concerns for the climate emergency, environmental protection, and sustainability are expected to endure in the coming years; the youth is becoming increasingly sensitive and vocal on these issues, by asking for prompt actions and by holding the politicians accountable. Interestingly, culture and creativity are the least appealing topics amongst the respondents. This lack of interest should be further explored, and we should ask ourselves questions about the reasons behind such disaffection. In conclusion, this report aims at giving an insight into young people's broad interests and opinions. Policymakers are provided with inputs for policy actions, bearing in mind that establishing new forms of participatory governance in covenant with the young people, based on listening, dialogue, and continuous feedback models, is key for a fairer and thriving future.