

## The perspective of the YOUNG POPULATION in today's world



4 out of 10 people in the world are under 25 years old.

Therefore, approaching the perspective of the young population helps to dimension the most relevant challenges of today in terms of employability, government and technology.

*"The Millennials (born between 1980 and 1994) and the members of Generation Z (born between 1995 and 2010) are making a difference on issues such as inequality, climate change, education and employment. Understanding their collective vision and values could help governments better address their needs and support their efforts to become engaged and proactive global citizens." (FEM, 2021)*

There is a belief that millennials have a high tendency to change jobs frequently and to not worry too much for work. However, the data collected by the last Global Shapers Survey<sup>1</sup> from the World Economic Forum provides a different perspective. More than 31.000 young people from 180 countries answered that the three principal criteria that they use when they consider job opportunities are:

- ▶ Salary / financial compensation
- ▶ Sense of purpose / impact on society
- ▶ Growth / professional development

That sense of purpose is a key factor when it comes to their job satisfaction and reinforces the message that young people care about others and their environment, and that they want their profession to offer them opportunities to learn and grow both professionally and personally.

It was also found that the majority of millennials feel that they do not have **equal access to opportunities**, but trust that the gender gap will improve over time. In addition, having opportunities (51.4%), the possibility of living without fear (32.2%) and the ability to live and work anywhere (25%) will make them feel freer in their societies. In this way, they are a socially conscious group that cares about the well-being of others and the future that they will share with them.

Likewise, almost half of the people surveyed indicated that their employers should guarantee a **balance between personal life and work**. However, this fact is greater in older millennials (the age groups between 27 and 30, and between 31 and 35), with more than a third of respondents in this age range choosing "I am willing to sacrifice my job and my salary to enjoy life" (35.5%), compared to younger millennials (age groups 18-21 and 22-26), where they scored a (29.3%)

Additionally, for the vast majority of young people who responded to the 2019 Global Trainers Survey, identity does not depend on region, geography, religion or ethnicity, but rather is about a simpler matter: being "human" (40.8%). This was the most popular response in all regions of the world. Many young people feel that they are united by the simple fact that they inhabit the same planet together. Both individually and collectively, they share similar desires and concerns: **their race is the human race**.

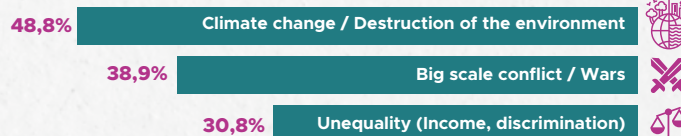
The narratives that the **media** constructs and the way they represent young people influence their perceptions of the world around them. Many young people understand themselves and their place in a community through a social lens, so it is important to have images, characters and role models for all members of society. The promulgation of negative stereotypes can alienate young people from the rest of the society and lead to discrimination. On the contrary, diverse representations can foster a greater sense of identity and pride within the represented groups and thus improve the psychological health of members.

Finally, the rapid pace of change driven by globalization and the technological advances have encouraged more people to become **entrepreneurs**. However, within traditional financial and business circles, young people, and especially the poor, often have difficulty accessing start-up capital. In many places, governments and the private sector have stepped in to facilitate financing and to create favorable conditions for entrepreneurship. Among the alternatives, educational programs such as Erasmus (from the European Commission) stand out, where young people join an entrepreneur with more experience in another country to learn new skills.

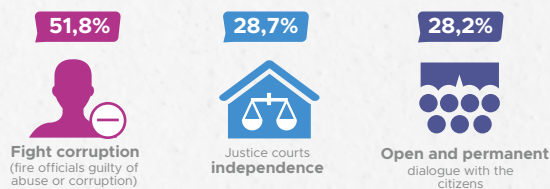
### What is having an impact in young people populations



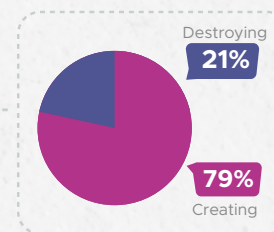
In your opinion, **What is the biggest problem facing the world today?**



In your opinion, **What are the most important ways a government can demonstrate transparency and accountability?**



In your opinion, **Is technology creating or destroying?**



**"Today's young people are characterized by a strong sense of equality and a desire for a future that is fair and inclusive. Ultimately, the data supports the idea that young people have a deep social conscience." (FEM, 2021)**

<sup>1</sup> Global shapers survey 2017, World Economic Forum (<http://www.shaperssurvey2017.org/>)

This Issues Note draws on the collective intelligence of the World Economic Forum network to explore the key trends, interconnections and interdependencies in the educational sector. It was found that between May and June 2021 the most relevant critical search factor for the topic of Education and Skills was Youth Perspective.

