



Davos Laboratory: Global perspectives of young people

From the World Economic Forum, the Davos Lab¹ initiative is carried out, an approach that seeks to understand the changes in opinion and expectations of the youth regarding society, the government and companies.

 **19.079** people from **187 countries** responded to the survey

 **344** dialogues in **66** countries.

This issues note compiles the main findings of the first version of the survey carried out in 2021, which summarizes 40 public policy recommendations that are organized into the following ten thematic pillars:

PILLAR 1

Green consumption



The current level of consumption requires approximately 1.6 planets.

Hence the need to conserve and protect resources for generations to come. To acquire a product or service, in addition to the price, young people take into account factors such as the treatment that companies give their employees, the carbon footprint, water consumption and the place where companies decide to invest.

PILLAR 2

Digital Access



About 3.5 billion people live without an internet connection.

The lack of digital access results in an increase in inequalities, for this reason 89% of people who responded believe that digital access should be a fundamental human right.

PILLAR 3

Digital literacy



The massification of information has generated a large amount of disinformation and content that tends to accentuate polarization and feelings of hatred and apathy.

To create spaces such as an improved data protection legislation and accessible communication channels to share agreements, where big tech companies are also involved, is essential to protect human rights and dignity.

PILLAR 4

The Future of Politics



The 2021 Edelman Trust Barometer shows a global average of 50% unfavorable views on government actions.

There is a growing mistrust because of moral and technological vulnerability and corruption. The people surveyed propose taking into account that it is necessary to improve the training of public officials, to include new demographic and diversity profiles among politicians. Young people call for the importance of youth representation and for a better interest in innovation in the public sector, where technology is a tool to solve problems in society.

PILLAR 5

Inclusive Jobs



37.4% of young people say that although they have the necessary qualities to perform their current job, they recognize that they need to acquire more skills during the rest of their careers.

The dialogues identified three key priorities: equal labor rights for vulnerable and informal groups, strong support for labor markets severely affected by COVID-19, and the need for employers to take responsibility both for teaching new skills within a same job profile (upskilling), as well as acquiring new skills for labor mobility (reskilling).

¹ Davos Lab (2021). Youth Recovery Plan. Insight Report. Available in: <https://www.weforum.org/reports/youth-recovery-plan>

² According to the UNDP, it implies intensifying efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and the ability to adapt to the impacts caused by the climate.

³ Refers to the factors that are taken into account because they may affect the valuation of an investment in the future.

PILLAR 6

Mental Health



Due to the pandemic, 93% of the countries reported an interruption in critical mental health services.

COVID-19 accentuated the problems of uncertainty, loss, pain and isolation, therefore governments must work on laws and regulatory frameworks to guarantee universal access to mental health services and destigmatize people with mental illnesses.

Young people also call on private actors to promote and encourage actions through the areas of human resources that allow the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems, and that spaces are promoted in the academic field to prepare future professionals to take care of their mental health.

PILLAR 7

Zero Emissions



80% of young people recognize the need for governments to accelerate climate action².

According to the results of the survey, actions such as investment in renewable energy projects, ecosystem restoration, sustainable agricultural practices and accelerating innovation are necessary to alleviate the climate crisis.

PILLAR 8

New ESG Generation



85.9% of young people agree or strongly agree that governments should create regulations to guide the use of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) in order to mitigate the ethical risk involved in the misuse of technologies themselves.

The ethics of the use of technology must be situated in ESG considerations (social, environmental and good governance commitment) so that high-value start-ups and innovative products of technology companies contribute to a fairer, more equitable and sustainable world, including indicators of transparency, privacy and inclusion for companies.

PILLAR 9

Public health.



More than 190 million people were infected by COVID-19

This situation reflected the lack of preparation and gaps in social protection systems, which has led to greater inequalities. Young people are calling for a greater effort from world health authorities to develop a more robust, transparent system with sustainable schemes to coordinate health resources and services.

PILLAR 10

Public Safety



Security continues to be an issue for women, members of the LGBTQI+ community, and people of African descent.

For this reason, young people ask to generate greater awareness of violence and channels for reporting all kinds of abuses.

In addition, the call of the young people is to convene coalitions to think about how to achieve police equity and avoid heavy-handed actions that compromise the safety of the population in their protests.

It can be concluded that the slogan: we need a change, unites millions of young people from different parts of the planet. Compared to a previous generation, young people are more aware of the need to review the forms of production and consumption to achieve a world that is more sustainable and fair with the needs of other people and future generations.

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 February and April 2022 the most relevant critical search factor for the topic of Education and Skills was the perspective of young people.