



Opinion Poll

Year 2007

CONCLUSIONS

Values, Attitudes and
Participation in Associations



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DE TRABAJO
Y ASUNTOS SOCIALES

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somos diferentes
somos iguales



**POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)**

**VALUES, ATTITUDES AND
PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS**

INDEX

	Page
<i>Presentation</i>	3
1. <i>Youth concerns and identities</i>	4
2. <i>Values and attitudes</i>	9
3. <i>Participation in associations</i>	13



**POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)**

**VALUES, ATTITUDES AND
PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS**

Presentation

The poll presented here makes reference to young people's opinions about their concerns, identities, values, attitudes and participation in associations:

1. The first of these opinions relates to young people's concerns and identities. The poll seeks to gain insight into young people's social and personal concerns, their assessment of the country's and their personal economic situation, their level of satisfaction with the current situation as well as their state of mind.
2. The second aspect addressed in this poll is young people's perception of the values and attitudes that are common to each generation.
3. Lastly, the poll deals with one of the aspects traditionally considered important in young people's social lives - their participation in groups and associations. Belonging to a group is one of the most universal social facts and the most common means through which human society manifests itself.



**POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)**

**VALUES, ATTITUDES AND
PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS**

I. YOUTH CONCERNS AND IDENTITIES

1.1. SOCIAL AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Perceiving social problems in our society is very widespread among young people. The vast majority (90%) affirms witnessing problems in their social environments.

In the first quarter of 2007, in the opinion of the majority of young people in Spain (28%), housing was the main social problem. Unemployment (26%), terrorism (25%) and immigration (19%) were the next issues to generate more mistrust and concern among young people.

**IN THE OPINION OF
YOUNG PEOPLE,
HOUSING,
UNEMPLOYMENT AND
TERRORISM ARE THE
MAIN SOCIAL
PROBLEMS**

Although to a lesser extent, other problems, such as lack of public safety/security (14%) and drugs (10%) also stood out.

Economic problems (8%) and other problems associated with employment (7%) as well as our political leaders and parties (7%) appeared as less important concerns.

Compared with the opinions held by young people in the previous two years, these data offer a number of changes that are worth taking into account.

	2005	2006	2007
Housing	18%	23%	28%
Unemployment	40%	35%	26%
Terrorism	30%	14%	25%
Immigration	8%	15%	19%

Source: Opinion polls 2005, 2006, 2007. INJUVE.

- The youth tendency of the last few years to rate housing as one of the main social concerns has consolidated. From the year 2005 to date, this perception has increased by ten percentage points.



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG (1st survey 2007)

VALUES, ATTITUDES AND PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

IN THE LAST FEW YEARS CONCERN OVER HOUSING AND IMMIGRATION HAS INCREASED, AND THE PERCEPTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT AS A SOCIAL PROBLEM HAS FALLEN

- **Unemployment**, traditionally considered the main problem in our society, **loses ground as a social concern among young people**.
- The perception of **terrorism** as a social problem evolves irregularly and it is closely associated with concrete events; it fell from 2005 to 2006 and has **picked up again in the last year**.
- Furthermore, in young people's opinion, **immigration** has gradually consolidated as a **growing social problem**.

The **housing problem** was particularly mentioned by young people of both sexes aged over 20 and by those who have already joined the labour market.

The perception of **unemployment** as a social problem was also particularly widespread among young people aged 20 to 29, the unemployed and the more highly qualified.

Slightly more men than women perceived terrorism as a problem and their numbers tend to increase as **they get older**. This perception is more widespread among **those who study and the more highly qualified**.

Concern for **immigration** appears evenly spread among young people in general; there are no apparent differences between the opinions of men and women or different age groups. It simply tends to increase as a social concern among **those who study and the more highly qualified**.

The majority of young people also manifested concerns associated with their own personal lives (81%). The main **personal problem** coincides with the one mentioned in the social problems category - **housing**, mentioned by **36% of those interviewed**. This problem was more frequently mentioned by those over 20 years old, and **particularly by those aged 25 to 29 (46%)**. As in the case of the social problems, the housing concern also increased as a personal problem, rising from 30% in 2006 to the above-mentioned 36% in 2007.

The next personal concern mentioned by young people was **unemployment (30%)**. This issue seems to particularly worry young people aged 20 to 29 and those in employment.

IN SPAIN, HOUSING HAS BECOME THE MAIN CONCERN IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERSONAL LIVES, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE OLDER AGE GROUPS



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG (1st survey 2007)

VALUES, ATTITUDES AND PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

Other less frequently mentioned personal problems were those associated with employment (13%), economic problems (13%) studies and education (10%).

1.2. PERCEPTION OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY AND OF YOUTHS

Young people's perception of Spain's economic situation in early 2007 seems to have deteriorated slightly compared with the previous year. Half of the young people (50%) consider that the situation is so-so (neither good nor bad), but the number of those who consider it positive fell from 35% in 2006 to 29%, whilst the number of those who held a negative view increased from 17% to 20%.

ASSESSMENT OF SPAIN'S ECONOMIC SITUATION

	2006	2007
POSITIVE (Good+Very good)	35%	29%
NEUTRAL (So-so)	47%	50%
NEGATIVE (Bad+Very bad)	17%	20%

Source: Opinion polls 2006, 2007. INJUVE.

YOUNG MEN AND THE YOUNGER AGE GROUPS HOLD A MORE POSITIVE VIEW OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION

Young men hold a slightly more positive view of Spain's economic situation than young women; likewise, young people aged 15 to 19 tend to perceive the situation in a more positive light, whilst the negative view tends to increase as young people get older (from 20 to 29).

In terms of their perception of Spain's general economic situation one year from now, young people tend to be more pessimistic than optimistic. One out of four young people interviewed consider that that the situation will worsen (25%), whilst only 14% consider that it will improve.

When assessing their own personal economic situation, no significant differences come to light compared with the previous year. The majority see their personal economic situation as neither good nor bad (48%), followed by those who see it as good or very good (37%) and those who see it as negative (15%).



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)

VALUES, ATTITUDES AND PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

ASSESSMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S ECONOMIC SITUATION

	2006	2007
POSITIVE (Good+Very good)	39%	37%
NEUTRAL (So-so)	44%	48%
NEGATIVE (Bad+Very bad)	17%	15%

Source: Opinion polls 2006, 2007. INJUVE.

YOUNG PEOPLE RATE THEIR PERSONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION BETTER THAN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION

Young people in the younger age group (15-19 years) hold a more positive view of their personal situation.

As in previous years, young people rate their personal economic situation better than the country's economic situation. Thirty-seven percent rate their own economic situation as positive whilst only 29% rate the country's economic situation as positive.

In terms of the prospects of their personal economic situation one year from now, young people manifest more optimism towards it than towards Spain's general situation. Approximately 40% believe that it will improve, compared with 5% who believe it will worsen.

1.3 LEVEL OF SATISFACTION AND STATE OF MIND

IN THE LAST YEAR, YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEVEL OF GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH THEIR LIVES HAS FALLEN SLIGHTLY

In 2007, young people were generally highly satisfied with their lives, although in the last year the number of young people who affirmed that they were quite or very satisfied with their lives fell from 88% to 83%.

Young people's optimism about their future remains clearly consolidated, although it also seems to have fallen slightly in the last year. In 2006, 81% manifested that their lives would improve, whilst in 2007 this was manifested by just 75%, however, there are practically no young people who manifested that their lives may worsen in the future.

Having said that, there continues to be a significant minority, 15% of those interviewed, who show clear signs of dissatisfaction with their personal lives. These opinions fully coincide with those expressed in the last three years.



**POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)**

**VALUES, ATTITUDES AND
PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS**

**APPROXIMATELY TWO
THIRDS OF YOUNG
PEOPLE IN SPAIN
EXPRESSED BEING IN
A GOOD STATE OF
MIND IN THE LAST FEW
MONTHS**

As in previous years, young people in Spain continue to be in a **good state of mind**. This is evident by the fact that approximately **two thirds of young people (66%) describe it in positive terms, such as, happy, lively, etc.** This percentage has fallen slightly compared with the previous year (70%), breaking a tendency that had remained stable since 2003. On the other hand, there has also been a slight increase in the number of young people who **rate their state of mind as negative (35%), describing it as stressed, nervous, etc.**



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG (1st survey 2007)

VALUES, ATTITUDES AND PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

II. YOUNG PEOPLE'S VALUES AND ATTITUDES

2.1. YOUNG PEOPLE'S VALUES

HEALTH AND
EMOTIONAL
RELATIONS (WITH
FAMILY AND
FRIENDS) CONTINUE
TO BE THE MAIN
VALUES OF YOUNG
PEOPLE IN OUR
COUNTRY

In 2007, young people continue to hold **health and emotional relations (with family and friends)** as priority values. These priorities coincide with those expressed in previous years, which reinforces the **generational tendency** to rank these aspects as essential to the vital development of the vast majority of young people.

That same youth tendency also rates issues associated with occupation (**employment**), financial success (**earning money**), education (**studying**), and vital experiences (**leisure activities and sexuality**) as vitally important values (expressed by approximately nine out of ten.)

As we have been observing since the year 2003, in 2007, young people continue to rate **politics and religion** as not very relevant issues.

2.2. YOUNG PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES

IN 2007, THE VAST
MAJORITY OF
YOUNG PEOPLE
(83%) AFFIRMED
THAT NO POLITICAL
CAUSE CAN JUSTIFY
VIOLENCE

As experienced in 2005 and 2006, in the first quarter of 2007 the vast majority of young people (83%) believed that there is **no political cause that justifies violence**. This opinion is largely shared by women (88%) as opposed to men (78%).

In 2007, approximately **one out of eight young people (13%)** considered that **political reasons can justify violence**. This collective seems to have fallen slightly in size compared with the previous year. Whereas 18% of men considered that political reasons can justify violence, only 9% of women affirmed the same.

The reasons put forward to justify such violent attitudes include defending oneself against external aggressions (21%), defending one's freedoms (19%), terrorism (18%) and respect for human rights (17%).



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)

**VALUES, ATTITUDES AND
PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS**

**ISSUES ASSOCIATED
WITH SOLIDARITY
AND SOCIAL
JUSTICE ARE THE
MOST HIGHLY
RATED CAUSES BY
YOUNG PEOPLE**

As in previous years, in 2007, the most highly rated causes by young people as worth making sacrifices for are those associated with **solidarity and social justice**: defending human rights, combating hunger, freedom, peace, equality between sexes and nature conservation. Young people's willingness to fight for these **solidarity causes** is stronger among **young women than young men**. Likewise, as in previous years, causes associated with **religion, the revolution or Spain's defence** were not very highly rated by young people.

**YOUNG PEOPLE IN
SPAIN'S TOLERANT
ATTITUDE TOWARDS
HOMOSEXUALITY
SEEMS TO BE
FIRMLY
ESTABLISHED,
PARTICULARLY
AMONG WOMEN**

Young people's attitudes towards certain social issues give us an idea of their level of tolerance. The tolerant attitude towards homosexuality seems to be firmly established: **80% affirm that they would accept a close friend's homosexuality** and that it would not affect the relationship, **15% affirm that it would probably change the relationship**, and **only 3% affirm that they would never understand it** and that finding out about his/her friend's homosexuality would put an end to the relationship. This tolerant approach to homosexuality is **more widespread among young women (88%) than among young men (71%)**.

Young people's stance towards marriage between members of the same sex stands in this same light of respect towards differences. **Approximately three out of four young people (77%) declare themselves in favour of marriage between homosexuals**, whilst **16% are against it**. The levels of tolerance towards this new form of marriage appear to be more consolidated among young women (**84%**) than among young men (**69%**)

In terms of young people's attitude towards an issue as controversial as **abortion**, the majority of those interviewed (**60%**) **believes that the decision should fall exclusively on the woman concerned**, **19%** considers that society should place certain restrictions and **17%** declares being totally against abortion. The most pessimistic attitudes towards abortion are found among the eldest collective (25-29 years). The figures are very similar to last year's.

As in the case of 2006, young people's opinions on a series of issues considered controversial, which generate heated social debates, have also been gathered in 2007.



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG (1st survey 2007)

VALUES, ATTITUDES AND PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

The consumption of drugs appears as a particularly alarming issue for society in general and especially for young people. The majority of young people interviewed are **in favour of always penalising the consumption of drugs (47%)**. This opinion is shared by more women than men, although 32% are inclined towards only penalising the consumption of hard drugs and 17% believes that drug consumption should not be penalised.

Another such issue is **the occupation of empty housing**. The number of young people who are against it (58%) clearly exceeds the number of those in favour (34%). The tendency since 2005 reinforces the **negative view of the majority of young people towards this form of occupation**; in the last year the percentage of young people against the occupation of empty housing increased by nine percentage points.

THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN ARE IN FAVOUR OF EUTHANASIA FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS WHO REQUEST IT AS WELL AS OF GENETIC SELECTION FOR THERAPEUTIC ENDS

In relation to **the application of the death penalty** on persons who have committed very serious criminal offences, compared with the previous two years the percentage of young people against this measure has fallen, shifting from 60% in 2005 to **56% in 2007**; and, at the same time, **the number of those in favour has increased (37%)**, among whom, there are more men than women.

Euthanasia is currently highly topical our country. The poll has gathered young people's opinions on **helping terminally ill patients, who request it, to die**. As in the case of 2006, in 2007 approximately three out of four young people (**75%**) were in favour of the application of euthanasia in such serious cases and 15% were against.

Another issue that has recently generated interest in our society is the **genetic selection of persons for therapeutic ends**. The **majority of young people (64%) are in favour** of such genetic selection, whilst 17% are against. There are no differences on this subject compared with the previous year.

ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE (52%) DEFEND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE (34%) ARE AGAINST IT.

Young people's opinion about **religious education in schools** has also been gathered. In this respect, **the majority (52%) are in favour of religious education in schools**, although the number of those who consider that this subject should not be taught in schools is also very significant (34%).

The attitude of young people in our country towards **certain types of antisocial and delinquent behaviour** is absolutely clear. In every case,



**POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)**

**VALUES, ATTITUDES AND
PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS**

the **majority** are **against** behaviour like destroying street furniture, confronting the police, hiring foreign workers under worse employment conditions, shop lifting, cheating in exams, not paying public transport fares, smoking in public buildings, disturbing the neighbours with noise or getting drunk in public places.



YOUTH
PARTICIPATION IN
ASSOCIATIONS
APPEARS TO HAVE
FALLEN SLIGHTLY IN
THE LAST TWO
YEARS.

III. PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

3.1. PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

The knowledge that young people in our country have on youth associations seems to be very polarised between **one half who affirms having knowledge of some youth association or organisation (49%)** and the other half (50%) who affirms having no knowledge of any type of youth association or organisation. A high level of education seems to have a direct influence on young people's knowledge of associations.

As regards young people's **connections with associations**, the data obtained show that the majority of young people have never been members (46%). **Twenty-eight percent affirm that they were members at the time of the survey and 27% that they were members in the past but no longer were at the time of the survey.**

Among the **young members**, the majority are men (32%) as opposed to women (23%), those aged 15 to 19 (32%), students with **higher levels of education** and those who attended **primary school in religious or secular schools.**

PARTICIPATION (CURRENTLY AND IN THE PAST) IN ASSOCIATIONS

	2005	2007
Sports	50%	37%
Cultural	20%	14%
Recreational	15%	10%
Student	15%	13%
Religious	13%	11%
Outings	11%	10%

Source: Opinion polls 2005, 2007. INJUVE.

The last two years have seen a **fall in youth participation in associations and organisations.** Although those associated mostly continue to participate in the same type of organisation, such as **sports (37%), cultural (14%), recreational (10%), student (13%), religious (11%) and outings associations (10%),** all the associations show a lower level of participation compared with 2005.



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG (1st survey 2007)

VALUES, ATTITUDES AND PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

THE MAJORITY OF
YOUNG PEOPLE WITH
EXPERIENCE IN
ASSOCIATIONS
PARTICIPATE OR HAVE
PARTICIPATED IN THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE
ASSOCIATIONS AS
ACTIVE MEMBERS

The sex variable offers some differences in terms of youth participation in associations:

- Sports and recreational associations hold a higher participation of males.
- Religious, cultural and student associations hold a higher participation of women.

The level of participation of young people with experience in associations (currently participate or have done so in the past) is mainly as active members who participate in the activities of the organisations (65%). It is also relatively frequent to find members who only participate occasionally in such activities (28%); and it is infrequent to find members who only contribute financially (4%) or participate as mere supporters (3%)

Active members of associations tend to be men and young people aged 15 to 19.

The majority of members who only participate occasionally are women and their numbers tend to increase as they get older.

IN ASSOCIATIONS,
YOUNG PEOPLE
MAINLY SEEK TO
PRACTICE THE
ACTIVITIES THAT
THEY FEEL
COMFORTABLE
WITH AND LIKE AND,
TO A LESSER EXTENT,
TO HELP OTHERS

The reason most often given by young people as justification for participating in associations continues to be that of dedicating their leisure time to the activities they enjoy (42%); this percentage is higher than last year's, when 38% of those interviewed gave this reason. This is followed by altruistic reasons, such as feeling useful by helping others (14%). Other important reasons for participating are to do with young people's affinities and interests: being with people who think alike (11%) and because friends belong to the association (10%).

Other reasons for participating in associations are to enjoy the benefits provided by the association (9%) and to defend their rights and opinions (8%)

To a large extent, sex and age determine the reasons put forward for joining.



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)

VALUES, ATTITUDES AND PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

REASONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN ASSOCIATIONS

MEN and YOUNGER AGES	WOMEN and OLDER AGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dedicating time to activities of interest - friends are members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Altruistic reasons (helping others, - Defending rights and opinions.
LEISURE AND PLAY REASONS	INSTRUMENTAL AND END-ORIENTED REASONS

Source: Opinion poll 2007. INJUVE.

- The data show that when joining associations **young men and the younger age groups** mostly seek spaces for **leisure and play (activities and relations)**.
- On the other hand, **women and the older age groups** join associations for **end-orientated (helping others) and instrumental reasons (defending their rights and opinions)**.

The most frequent aims of the associations to which young people belong or have belonged are **providing services to all those who request them (43%)** and **only providing services to members and affiliates (36%)**.

Participation in associations that aim to provide services to social collectives with problems (8%) or to influence and support social issues (6%) is less common.

The main objectives of the associations to which young people belong are, in their opinion and in order of importance, **entertaining and amusing (53%)**, **educating and shaping individuals (15%)**, **helping others (14%)** and **improving society (9%)**.

Young people's perception of the objectives of the associations to which they belong is, once again, clearly determined by the sex and age variables.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSOCIATIONS TO WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE BELONG IS, AS EXPRESSED BY THEM, ENTERTAINING AND AMUSING



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)

VALUES, ATTITUDES AND PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

PERCEPTION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS' OBJECTIVES

MEN AND YOUNGER AGES	WOMEN AND OLDER AGES
- Entertaining and amusing	- Helping, educating and improving society
LEISURE OBJECTIVES	END-ORIENTED OBJECTIVES

Source: Opinion poll 2007. INJUVE.

AS THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF BEING A MEMBER, YOUNG PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCE IN ASSOCIATIONS MENTIONED BEING ABLE TO PRACTICE THEIR FAVOURITE SPORT (49%).

Young people with experience in associations were also asked about the advantages of being a member. As main advantages, the majority mentioned being able to practice a favourite sport (49%), helping to improve as a person (28%), being able to practice hobbies (cultural, outings...), being able to make friends (27%), being able to talk to people who think the same (23%) and feeling useful to others (22%).

Although to a lesser extent, other advantages mentioned by young people included meeting people who could help them in their social or professional lives (11%) or contributing towards improving young people's situation (10%).

Most young men mentioned advantages like being able to practice sports and making friends whilst most young women mentioned helping others, improving as people, practicing hobbies and being with people who think the same.

In terms of age, we find that the younger members mostly highlight the advantages of practicing sports, making friends and improving as persons; whereas as they get older, they tend to highlight feeling useful to others and being able to practice hobbies (cultural, outings, etc.).

LACK OF CONVINCEMENT AND TIME ARE THE MAIN REASONS PUT FORWARD BY YOUNG PEOPLE FOR NOT JOINING ASSOCIATIONS

The main reasons put forward by young people who currently do not collaborate with any association are mainly not having given it serious thought (35%) and lack of time (30%). Other less important reasons for not participating are preferring activities with friends (8%), can't be bothered (7%) and not having enough information on associations (7%).

More women than men affirm that they have not given serious thought to participating in associations and this is particularly mentioned by the



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)

**VALUES, ATTITUDES AND
PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS**

**NEARLY ONE OUT OF
FOUR YOUNG
PERSONS (23%) WHO
HAVE NEVER
BELONGED TO AN
ASSOCIATION AFFIRM
THAT THEY WOULD
LIKE TO PARTICIPATE
IN ONE.**

younger age groups, whilst lack of time is particularly mentioned by the older age groups.

In the majority of cases, those who **have never belonged to an association** -nearly half of all those interviewed (46%)- do not intend to join in the future (57%); 17% of young people are not sure whether they would like to join and 23% **affirm that they would like to.**

The young people willing to join an association show a slight preference for **organisations that are just for youths (50%)**, as opposed to those who do not care whether the associations are youth-oriented (43%). Women and the younger age groups show more willingness to belong to youth associations or organisations.

Those who have never belonged to an association but would like to do so mentioned the following hypothetical advantages listed in order of preference: **being able to talk to persons who think the same (40%)**, **being able to make friends (37%)**, **being able to practice hobbies of a cultural and outings nature (33%)**, **being able to practice a favourite sport (33%)**, **feeling useful to others (30%)**, **helping to improve as a person (29%)**. Other less mentioned advantages include meeting people who could help them in their social and professional lives (23%) or defending one's interests (10%).

There are large differences between the opinions on the advantages of being a member of an association put forward by those who belong to an association and those who do not belong but would like to do so.



POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)

VALUES, ATTITUDES AND PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS

OPINIONS ON THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING A MEMBER

	Members	Non members (would like to be)
Being able to talk to people who think the same	23%	40%
Being able to make friends	27%	37%
Being able to practice hobbies (cultural, outings...)	25%	33%
Being able to practice a favourite sport	49%	33%
Feeling useful to others	22%	30%
Helping to improve as a person	28%	29%
Meeting people who could help in one's social or professional life	11%	23%

Source: Opinion poll 2007. INJUVE.

3.2. KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH COUNCILS.

A large majority of young people in our country have not heard of the Youth Councils; contrary to them, **20% declares having knowledge of their existence**. Among the collective of young people who said that they had knowledge of the youth councils, the majority are women (23%) as opposed to men (18%).

NEARLY 20% OF YOUNG PEOPLE SAID THAT THEY HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE YOUTH COUNCILS

Young people who have heard of the Youth Councils mostly consider that they are quite or very useful as a co-ordination platform for youth associations and organisations (58%). Again, it is women who hold a more positive view of these entities (60%, as opposed to 56% of the men).

Half of those interviewed (50%) who had knowledge of the existence of the Youth Councils believe that they defend the interests of young people. As opposed to them, 27% do not believe that the Youth Councils defend the interests of young people and 22% are not sure.

Those who believe that these institutions defend the interests of young people are mostly women once again (52%) as opposed to men (46%) and this opinion is particularly held in the youngest age group (15-19 years).



**POLL ON THE OPINION AND SITUATION OF THE YOUNG
(1st survey 2007)**

**VALUES, ATTITUDES AND
PARTICIPATION IN ASSOCIATIONS**

Lastly, those interviewed were asked whether they believe that the Youth Councils are supported by the Public Administrations: **the majority believes that they are not supported enough or not supported at all (54%), as opposed to 23% who believe that they are supported.**