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Executive summary
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Introduction.

Towards a new social contract with youth

The new Youth Strategy 2030 “Building Blocks for a New Social Contract with Youth” (hereafter EJ2030) comes from a process of reflection on what country and society we want to have by the end of the decade, and how we can build a more egalitarian, sustainable and socially just present and future for youth, society and the environment in general. This is why we are proposing, with our sights set on 2030, an ambitious agenda in terms of both goals and methodology. This agenda is intended to be the common framework upon which to build the new social contract necessary to ensure that our young people are able to build independent lives and are not left behind.

Goal 1 of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 is “to enable young people to become the architects of their own lives, to support their personal development and their path towards independence, to strengthen their resilience and to equip them with life skills to cope in a changing world”. In line with the above, this Strategy seeks to promote a new social contract that guarantees, now and in the immediate future, the effective right of young people to design and implement their own life plans. This will be undertaken by promoting the conditions for their full social inclusion within an egalitarian socio-economic model that is fair and sustainable for human beings and the ecosystem, through access to public and inclusive education, decent, stable and well-paid employment, and access to affordable housing, paying particular attention to the needs of women, young mothers and groups at risk of discrimination and social exclusion.¹

The Youth Strategy 2030 takes into account the provisions of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (PRTR in Spanish) across all its axes. The PRTR adopts challenges and commitments that will have a major impact on the entire population in general, and on youth in particular. In this sense, the Youth Strategy is complementary to the PRTR in nature, as it also aims to be a reference framework and to set the roadmap for youth policies over the next decade.

¹ The wage devaluation experienced between 2008 and 2016 was concentrated in the lower age brackets: the average wage for those under 20 fell by 28%; the fall for those aged 20-24 was 15%; and 9% for those aged 25-29, according to the Annual Wage Structure Survey, thus excluding young people from the right to decent and stable work.

The crisis of 2008 and the entrenchment of youth as a discriminated group

The AROPE 2021 Report is dedicated to the “losers of the crisis”. While the at-risk-of-poverty rate for the population as a whole is now 1.8 percentage points higher than in 2008, for young people aged 16-29 and the unemployed, the average difference has increased six-fold. The relative poverty rate for young people stood at 30.3% in 2021, 7 percentage points higher than for the rest of the population. In addition, 52% of young people with no higher education (three times as many as university students) and 55% of children of foreigners from outside the European Union are at risk of poverty. The poverty rate in young families is 34%, 10 points above the average (24.4%) (INE, ECV, ECV: 2019). This means that almost a third of this age group experience deprivations in their standard of living that exclude them from the social standards of independence and leaving the parental home, quality of life and nutrition, socialisation and leisure that are essential for their all-round development and characteristic of a social state based on the rule of law.

Young people who grew up between 2008 and 2020, between two successive crises, are therefore the generation that has suffered the most. In training for employment and reaching adulthood in the context of the great financial crisis of 2008-2014, they were the most affected by the government’s response: a labour market reform that deepened the dual structure of the labour market, increasing the precariousness of their jobs, based on low pay, temporary and part-time work.² In the third quarter of 2012 our youth suffered the highest youth unemployment rates in history: 55.13%: 930,200 young people under 25 years of age were unemployed.

At the same time, young people were denied the possibility to leave home and to live an independent life: young Spaniards leave home at 29.5 years of age and, while in 2010 53.3% of young people between 18 and 34 years of age were still living with their parents, in 2019 64.5% were in this situation, 10 percentage points higher. This was compounded by a lack of stable housing, even on a rental basis. Home ownership, which is a pension supplement enjoyed by the vast majority of the elderly in our country, is de facto excluded for all our youth, adding even more uncertainty to their future.

² The wage devaluation experienced between 2008 and 2016 was concentrated in the lower age brackets: the average wage for those under 20 years of age fell by 28%; the fall for those aged 20-24 was 15%; and 9% for those aged 25-29, according to the Annual Wage Structure Survey, thus excluding young people from the right to decent and stable work.

The lack of housing is linked not only to the precariousness of youth employment, but also to the speculative nature of the economic and residential model promoted since the 1990s. As a consequence, all young people, especially if they formed part of a family with children or belonged to a vulnerable group, became a de facto discriminated group in our socio-economic system, with no guarantee of full inclusion or personal development.

A third area of social exclusion of youth is that of education. In recent decades, our education system has also been acquiring a dual character, as public schools have received fewer resources, the private and state-subsidised options have been strengthened and the scholarship system has stagnated. As a result, as the Injuve Youth Report (IJE: 2020) revealed, our current education system no longer promotes equity and tends to reproduce class differences, since the economic and educational resources available at home, as well as parental education, are the main predictors of educational success. As a result, young people from lower class backgrounds, without access to educational support in the classroom or at home, are particularly vulnerable to dropping out of school early³, a circumstance exacerbated by the pandemic⁴. In the meantime, vocational training is grossly undersupplied and, although tertiary education is accessible to those who manage to reach upper secondary school, many of them find themselves in jobs below their qualification level. However, the crisis has also left its mark on access to higher education, deepening the socio-economic bias of entry to this stage of education: the sharp increase in university fees, the creation of fees to study Higher Vocational Training in public centres in some communities and the reduction in the budget of the Ministry of Education's Scholarship and Aid programme have caused a decrease in university students, particularly affecting those from families with a lower level of education. While in 2013-2014 students with parents with basic education level accounted for 27.4% of those entering university, in 2016-2017 this percentage dropped to 25.2% according to the SIU (Integrated University Information System). This decrease is in favour of students whose parents have secondary or higher education, who form a higher percentage of the total number of those entering university. In any case, these percentages of students are still far from those of families with this level of education in society as a whole. It is necessary to strengthen public education across all levels, and to

³ Despite having substantially reduced the rate of early school leavers in recent decades, Spain has one of the highest rates in the European Union. One of the most important explanatory factors is the existing differences by socio-economic level of the household from which the young person comes. Three out of ten young people in poorer households drop out of school at the end of compulsory education, compared to only 0.4 out of 10 in better-off households, a difference of 7.5 (Report of the High Commissioner against Child Poverty: 2020).

⁴ 11.2% of students were deprived of resources and teachers during the COVID-19 strict lockdown and reported learning less than 50% compared to a normal year, deepening the education gap.

incorporate new models of transversal skills training, as necessitated by the complexity of our socio-economic system, based on the ability and versatility of individuals to act with empathy towards society and the world around them.

Discrimination against young people in their socio-economic rights is a consequence of the insufficient development of the principles of the welfare state and their low demographic and therefore political weight. The 7.3 million Spaniards aged 15-29 that the Spanish National Institute of Statistics (INE in Spanish) counted at the beginning of 2020 represents a decrease of almost 20% compared to the 9.1 million in 2005. But as is evident, the participation and new perspectives of young people are indispensable if our aim is to formulate social relationships and relations of production for the benefit of an inclusive, dignified and fairer world for all people and for the environment. It is therefore necessary to strengthen their role in the revitalisation of the democratic system, and to facilitate their incorporation into the public sphere by strongly supporting participation and lowering the voting age.

The welfare society paradigm was based on full employment, wages rising in line with inflation, increasing demand for labour and a life expectancy of ten years after retirement. In this context, young people were expected to be simultaneously capable of developing independent lives, raising the next generation of Spaniards and supporting their parents' and grandparents' generation through their taxes. The strategies put in place to weather the economic crisis definitively broke this model, awaiting a new paradigm that has yet to be decided. A paradigm that, in order not to further burden the future of young people and the planet, must be socially just and environmentally sustainable.

2020: A political shift for youth and social justice

2020 marked the start of a youth-focused policy cycle that, in the short time that has elapsed, has already borne tangible fruit. If in the 2008 crisis young people were abandoned by the government, in the 2020 crisis they found themselves fully supported. In response to the situation created by COVID-19, evictions without housing alternatives were prohibited; rental contracts were extended for 6 months; large landlords had to write off 50% of their tenants' debt or restructure the repayments over 3 years. Microcredit support lines were also opened for vulnerable people, the moratorium on mortgages was extended and the cutting off of basic utilities was prohibited. In order to guarantee the income of the most vulnerable groups, a contributory unemployment benefit and temporary suspension of employment contract (ERTE), an extra COVID subsidy for the

self-employed, and a benefit compatible with self-employment were implemented. In order to support families at risk of poverty with children, the MECUIDA Plan was set up.

In the meantime, this government continued to promote youth-focused initiatives. Among many others, the new education law, LOMLOE (Organic Law 3/2020, of 29 December, which amends Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May, on Education) and Organic Law 3/2022 on the Organisation and Integration of Vocational Training, whose purpose is to establish a revised legal system that increases educational and training opportunities for the entire population, contributes to improving the educational results of students, and meets the widespread demand in Spanish society for quality education for all.

In relation to employment, Royal Decree-Law 32/2021, of 28 December, structurally reformed the labour market with the aim of promoting employment stability and limiting the abusive, unjustified and disproportionate use of temporary contracts. In addition, the implementation of the Shock Plan for Youth Employment 2019-2021 continued, and the Strategic Youth Progress Plan (4.94 billion euros) has been approved, including the Youth Guarantee Plus Plan 2021-2027 for decent employment for young people (3.263 billion euros) aimed, among others, at young people who dropped out of school early and/or who have stopped looking for work. Other important measures in this area are contained in the “Plan for the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience of the Spanish Economy”⁵ which is to mobilise 72 billion in the general state budgets for the years 2021 and 2023, 50% of the resources available to Spain through the EU Next Generation programme. Thus, educational programmes such as the Programme for Guidance, Advancement and Educational Enrichment in Centres of Special Educational Complexity (PROA+ programme) and the programme to boost enrolment in the first cycle of pre-

⁵ In compliance with the provisions of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism and its implementing rules, in particular the Commission Communication Technical Guidance (2021/C 58/01) on the application of the principle of “no significant harm”, with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the evaluation of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, Transformation and Resilience Plan (CID) and its Annex document, as well as in the Decision on Operational Agreements (OA), all actions to be carried out under the PRTR in compliance with this Strategy must respect the principle of Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) and any associated climate/environmental labelling. This includes the fulfilment of the specific conditions assigned in the Components, as well as in the measures linked to this Strategy, both in terms of the DNSH principle and climate and digital labelling, and especially those contained in paragraphs 3, 6 and 8 of the Plan’s Component documents and in the Annex to the CID. In this regard, in 2021 the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge published a [HYPERLINK https://www.prtr.miteco.gob.es/content/dam/prtr/es/obligaciones-medioambientales/guidadnshmitecov20_tcm30-528436.pdf](https://www.prtr.miteco.gob.es/content/dam/prtr/es/obligaciones-medioambientales/guidadnshmitecov20_tcm30-528436.pdf) Guide for the design and development of actions in accordance with the principle of causing no significant harm to the environment.

school education with new places in state-owned centres and the programmes for digitalisation and digital skills in the educational system are being implemented.

In the area of healthcare, online betting and gambling were regulated and Royal Decree 958/2020 on commercial communications of gambling activities and the National Strategy on Addictions 2017-2024 were published. The LOPIVI, Organic Law 8/2021, has resulted in a strategic advance in the field of comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence. For women who are victims of abuse, new benefits such as the non-contributory orphan's benefit (4.9 million euros, 2021) have been introduced. With regard to the goal of reducing inequality and improving the protection of the Welfare State, the Minimum Vital Income (initially approved by means Royal Decree-Law 20/2020, and subsequently by Act 19/2021, of 20 December, with an allocation of 3,021,926,14 euros in 2022), the equalisation of paternity leave with maternity leave (Royal Decree-Law 6/2019), the National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion 2019-2023 and the National Strategy against Energy Poverty 2019-2024. In the field of participation, two new permanent national fora were opened: the Open Dialogue with Youth (Injuve) and the State Council for Child and Adolescent Participation (DGDIA).

PGE 2022: Youth Budgets

The Budgets for 2022 are those of the embodiment of a great commitment to young people, to their rights and their opportunities. The budgets foresee an 84.8% increase in public resources for youth, reaching an overall figure of 12.55 billion euros in measures to be promoted by thirteen different ministries. They will include 210 million euros for the new youth cultural voucher, 2,199 million euros for scholarships that will benefit more than 800,000 young people, 2075 million euros to promote vocational training, and 750 million euros for the youth employment plan. The Budgets will allocate 2.25 billion to housing, 373% more than in the current budget. On employment, the government has pushed for a major social agreement to raise the minimum interprofessional wage to €1000 per month. Royal Decree 62/2022 on making the requirements for vocational training courses leading to certificates of professionalism more flexible will facilitate lifelong learning for young people, and the entire vocational training system will be renewed through the Organic Law on the Organisation and Integration of Vocational Training. The Digital Agenda will be developed within the PRTR.

The forthcoming Housing Act⁶, the Royal Decree regulating the Youth Rental Voucher and the State Housing Plan 2002-2025 will mean a radical paradigm shift in the way young people's independence is approached. They strongly encourage young people to rent through direct subsidies, rental prices limits in high demand areas, and facilitate young people's access to home ownership in rural areas through direct subsidies. In addition, they guarantee access to housing or housing solutions for victims of domestic violence and evicted or vulnerable people, prohibit evictions without housing alternatives, and above all promote and protect public housing parks and social housing.

In turn, in the field of science, the reform of the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation foresees the provision of more resources, rights and stability for R&D&I personnel, with measures aimed at facilitating the entry of young people into the R&D&I system, reducing job insecurity and attracting talent, among others.

The Youth Strategy 2030 encompasses, organises and drives another large set of initiatives currently under development. These include the future Families Act, with six months' leave for fathers and a universal parenting allowance, as well as the National Action Plan for the implementation in Spain of the European Child Guarantee of the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030.

EJ2030 also outlines the Spain Protects You Against Domestic Violence Plan, which will guarantee protection and care for all victims of all forms of violence against women and for female victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. In addition, the Organic Law for the Comprehensive Guarantee of Sexual Freedom is being processed, a great step forward in the integral protection of women, in their right to sexual freedom and in the eradication of all sexual violence. On the other hand, it is planned to approve the Law for the real and effective equality of trans people and for the guarantee of the rights of LGTBQ+ people, which will guarantee full equality and attention to the needs of these groups.

To boost the health and quality of life of young people, EJ2030 adds a series of measures under the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan C26.R1, C26.R2, C26.R3 and C26.I3. In addition, mental health is made a priority in the "Action Plan 2021-2024. Mental Health and COVID-19", endowed with 100 million euros and the new Working Group of the School Coexistence Observatory for Emotional Well-being. And within the framework

⁶ "Draft Law on the Right to Housing approved by the Council of Ministers at its meeting of 1 February 2022, which will be sent to the Spanish Parliament for emergency parliamentary processing.

of the PRTR, the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge is going to develop a package of 130 measures for the recovery of the territory and to combat rural depopulation.

In relation to migrant adolescents, young people in care and care leavers, this Strategy incorporates numerous initiatives. The Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030 is currently developing four strategies that will generate a new framework for them, from the perspective of rights and full inclusion: the EJ2030 itself, the Strategy for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (which introduces a rights-based approach), the Strategy for the Eradication of Violence and the Strategy for the Care of Unaccompanied Migrant Children. Royal Decree 903/2021 has been approved, which modifies the Regulation of the Law on the Rights and Freedoms of Foreigners in Spain, creating a specific regime for unaccompanied foreign minors and young people to favour their integration, and the Youth Guarantee Plus Plan 2021-2027, which provides for special attention to particularly vulnerable groups, such as migrants. Injuve contributes to this task with by creating of a resources map for young care leavers at national level.

These and other measures outlined in the Youth Strategy 2021-2030 and its future Action Plans form the basis of a new and updated social pact for and with young people.

Goals of the new social contract

- 1) Social justice. Recovery of civil, economic and social rights for adolescents, young people, women and children and other groups who face discrimination.*
- 2) Democratic renewal y new sustainable and environmentally responsible socio-economic model. A new social contract requires the participation of the classes most disadvantaged by the current socio-economic structure, and therefore more committed to the progressive transformation of the system.*

Scope of the Youth Strategy 2022-2030 of the General State Administration (AGE), referents and beneficiaries

The scope, legal framework, goals, main channels of participation and the development process of the General State Administration's Youth Strategy 2030 are in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 1923/2008, of 21 November, which creates the Interministerial Commission for Youth and regulates its functions, composition and operation.

In accordance with the provisions of this regulation, the AGE Youth Strategy 2030 (hereinafter, EJ2030) is the main instrument for guiding, proposing, programming and assessing public youth policies, within the scope of the AGE and with our sights in 2030. Due to the cross-cutting nature of youth policies, 22 Ministerial Departments and the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) have participated in its preparation and approval, so that the EJ2030 coordinates, brings together and provides coherence to the initiatives in this field of the entire AGE. In addition, every four years, it provides these departments with national and international sectoral benchmarks and a comprehensive analysis of the youth situation, in order to facilitate the adjustment of their policies to the evolving situation of our youth.

International and domestic points of reference

Among the main reference points of this Strategy are the **Agenda 2030 in its Sustainable Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030** as a roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain, approved by the Council of Ministers in June 2021.

NO POVERTY

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

QUALITY EDUCATION

GENDER EQUALITY

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Furthermore, the EJ2030 is aligned with the guidelines and recommendations set out in the **European Youth Strategy 2021-2027**, its three main pillars and eleven Youth Goals:

- 1) Engage: to provide young people with avenues for participation in everyday life and democratic life.
- 2) Connect: promoting community, relationships, cooperation, cultural and civic activities and exchange of experiences in a European context.
- 3) Empower: promoting training and recognition of formal and informal learning.



Connecting EU with Youth



Equality of All Genders



Inclusive Societies



Information & Constructive Dialogue



Mental Health & Wellbeing



Moving Rural Youth Forward



Quality Employment for All



Quality Learning



Spaces and Participation for All



Sustainable Green Europe



Youth Organisations & European Programmes

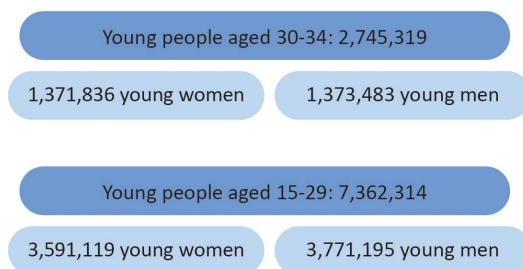
EJ2030 is a policy focused on the human rights of young people and, therefore, it incorporates in a cross-cutting manner the rights set out in the **European Social Charter (1996)** and the principles set out in the **European Pillar of Social Rights**. It also integrates the approach of the **International Human Rights Regime**, recognising and implementing the necessary measures to guarantee the exercise and effective enjoyment of civil and political rights (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), economic, social and cultural rights (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), women's rights (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW), the rights of migrant workers (International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families), the rights of persons with disabilities (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and, finally, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

In the field of women's rights and gender-based violence, EJ2030 reaffirms its commitment to the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)**. Finally, EJ2030 has guided its actions on the basis of the **Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (Yogyakarta Principles)**. Also the commitments of EJ2030 in relation to young LGBTIQ persons are in line with the **European Union Strategy for LGBTIQ Equality 2020-2025**.

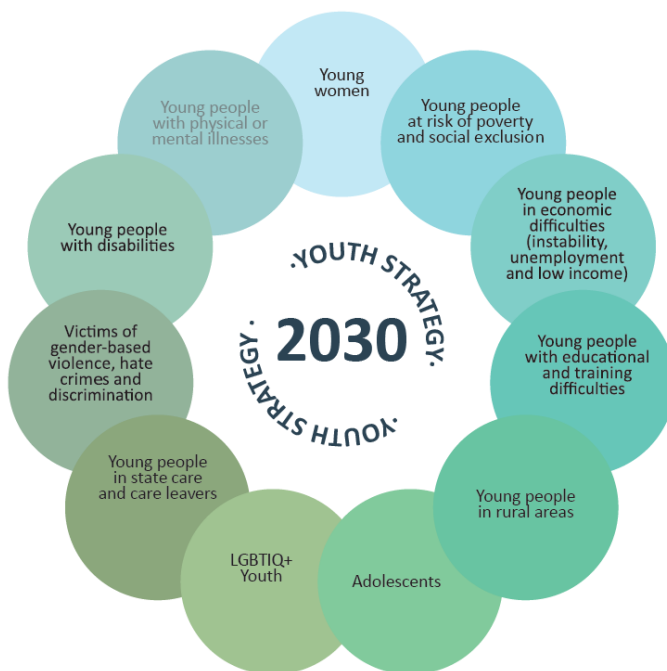
In terms of domestic points of reference, in the field of education, the Strategy coincides with and contributes to the development of the **Organic Law 3/2020, of 29 December, which amends Organic Law 2/2006 on Education**. In the field of employment, the **National Youth Guarantee System (Law 18/2014)** and the **Youth Guarantee schemes**. It also includes the main contributions of the **Youth Employment Shock Plan 2019-2021** and the **Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2021-2027**. In the area of social inclusion, the following have been taken as reference points **National Strategy for the Prevention and Fight against Poverty and Social Exclusion (2019-2023)**, the **Royal Decree Law 20/2020 of 29 May establishing the Minimum Vital Income and Act 19/2021 of 20 December on the Minimum Vital Income**. It also includes the provisions of the **Reform of the Regulation on Foreigners**.

Finally, the **Organic Law 1/2004 on Integral Protection Measures against Gender-based Violence** and the **State Pact against Gender-based Violence (2017)** have been implemented in a transversal manner.

EJ2030 is **aimed at youth**. For these purposes, youth is understood as the period of life that prepares our young people to access, in an effective and stable way, the milestones that mark their transition to adulthood. Thus, in general terms, **we take youth to mean people belonging to the 15-29 age group**. However, this general definition is sometimes altered to take account of sectoral specificities. Thus, in Axis 1 (Education) we analyse the situation of adolescents from age 12. In Axis 3 (Housing and life plan), the increase in life expectancy and the delay in the age of leaving the parental home and having children obliges us to extend youth to age 35. In Axes 3, 4, 7 and 8, which deal with research and rural youth, the age limit is raised to age 40, in line with the EU definition of young farmers, and the time it takes for a young researcher to enter a stable employment situation. This age framework will make it possible, on the one hand, to have an impact on early adolescence in order to prevent risks and cultivate essential habits for the future situation of young people and, on the other hand, to address social problems and situations of vulnerability that originate in youth and prevail after the age of 29.



In this way, the strategic goals are focused on the key moments of young people's lives, and are aimed at guaranteeing the development of their capacities with a view to building their life project. The Strategy has a special focus on **young people with fewer opportunities** and recognises the heterogeneity of young people, and has therefore established lines of action aimed at the diversity of groups and collectives that often experience greater difficulties in accessing opportunities and face multiple types of discrimination: **young women, LGBTIQ people, young immigrants, Roma people, young people with some kind of disability**, among many other vulnerable groups addressed in this Strategy and about which knowledge is expected to increase in the coming years until 2030.



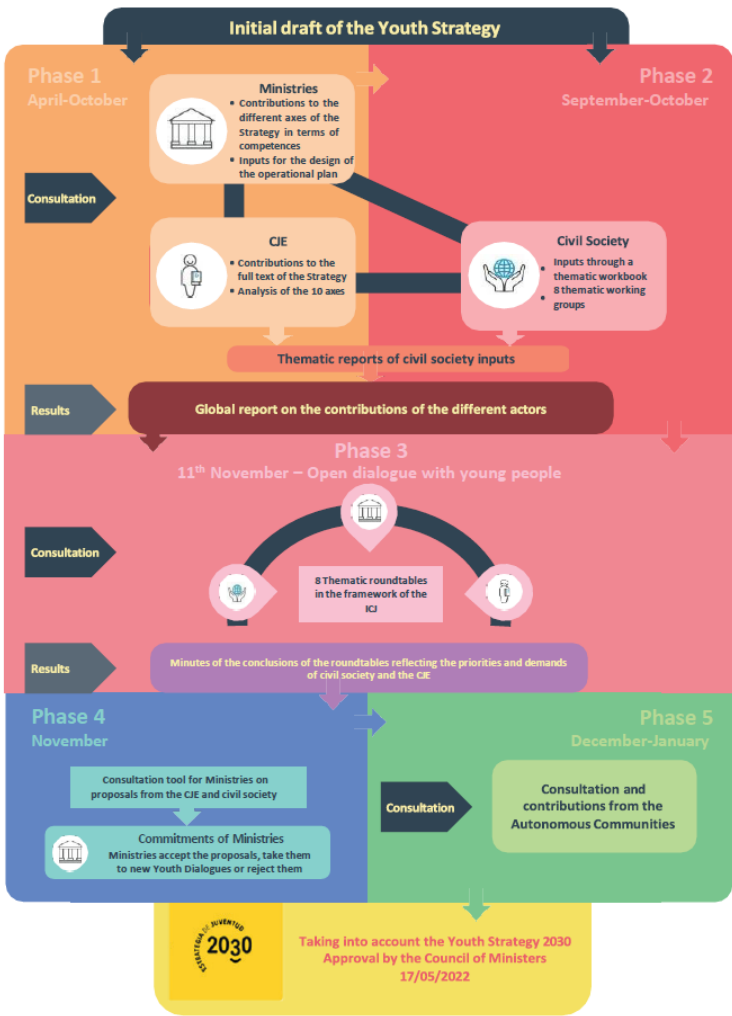
Participatory process and structure

The year 2030 is the horizon by which Spain should have achieved all the challenges set out in the Strategy, generating a new social contract for youth, which ensures that our young people in the present fully develop their potential and expectations, for the benefit of the productive, reproductive and transformative role in our society that corresponds to them.

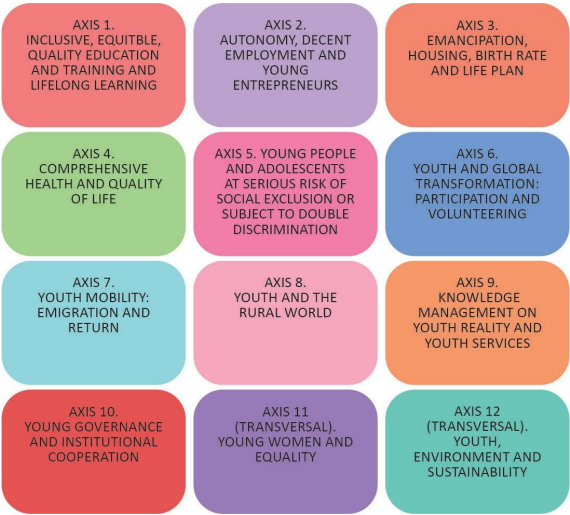
Following the methodology of the Open Government Partnership, the Strategy constitutes an instrument and a channel for open and constant dialogue with youth as never before in our country. It was developed in a participatory manner throughout 2021 and part of 2022, convening for the first time for its design all the Ministries of the General State Administration, the Directorates-General for Youth of the Autonomous Communities within the framework of the Interterritorial Youth Council, and a broad representation of youth civil society, made up of the Spanish Youth Council and more than 40 national youth organisations or those with a direct involvement with youth; it also incorporates the contributions of the participants in the European Union Dialogues with Youth programme.

All these actors will continue to collaborate in the enrichment, updating and monitoring of EJ2030 through the permanent working groups of the Interministerial Commission for Youth. Together with the planned interim evaluations, their collaboration ensures that the Strategy is adapted to current realities and needs.

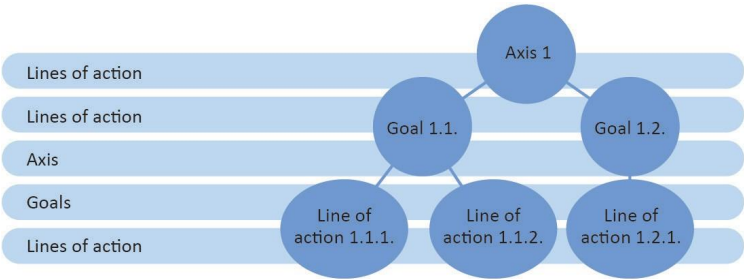
The process of consultation and input from the different actors has been developed in 5 phases distributed as follows:



This Strategy is articulated on the basis of ten specific axes and two transversal axes, in order to consider the material bases that sustain human life, and which are essential to understand the ecofeminist approach that guides us: eco-dependence and interdependence. We need nature to survive, and we need the care of others. EJ2030 will be implemented through three Action Plans, 2022-2023-2024, 2025-2026-2027 and 2028-2029-2030 with concrete measures and associated spending.



In turn, each of the axes defines different objectives that are deployed in lines of action, following the outline below:



Inclusive, equitable, quality education and training and lifelong learning

Goal

The aim of this axis is to guarantee the adolescent and youth population the right to education, training, and lifelong, inclusive and quality learning across all stages, through the development of new innovative environments focused on allowing the young person to promote their personal development and that of their potential talent. This is accompanied by the clear goal of empowering them and guaranteeing their comprehensive training through the acquisition of key values and skills appropriate to the complexity of the current socio-economic environment and necessary for the full development of their lives, and which enable them to participate and transform their surroundings to move towards environmental and social justice.

Situation analysis

Although the **school drop-out** rate is still a problem in Spain, the data have improved. In 2021, the early drop-out rate from education and training will be 13.3%, a decrease of 2.7 points compared to the previous year (EPA: 4T2021). This decrease in the dropout rate is the largest in terms of percentage change (17%) since the year 2000.

However, the rate of **socio-economic based school segregation** is at 0.31, making it the sixth most segregated European country (above the EU average). In the last ten years, the segregation rate in Spain has increased by 13.4%. What is more, 9% of Spanish schools have a very high level of concentration of pupils in poverty (more than 50%). A further 38% of the schools have high levels of pupil concentration (between 25% and 50%), and the vast majority of these are state-owned schools (SCH: 2018⁷). There are also important details that constitute gaps based on gender, diversity or rural settings.

In addition, there are cases of **physical and verbal violence** in schools across all ages and especially against the most vulnerable groups of students. Two out of ten teachers (21%) think that “violence is very present in their school” and 10.7% of students think.

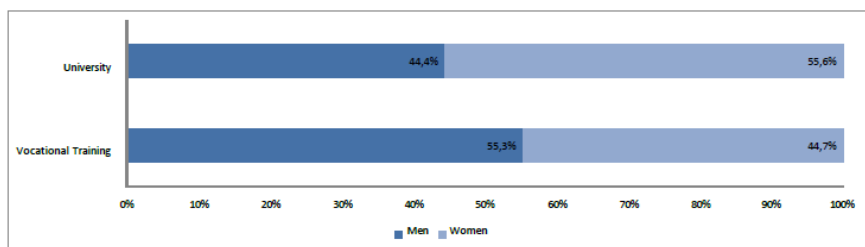
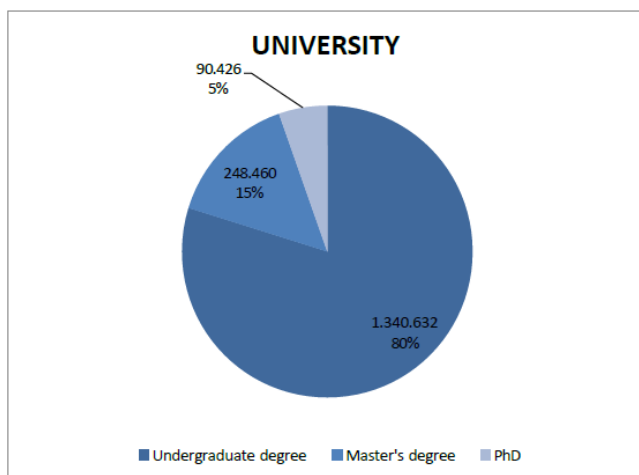
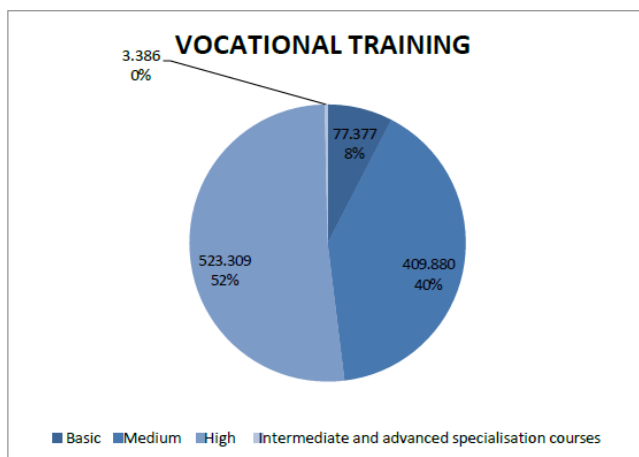
⁷ Source: PISA Report 2018. Programme for the International Student Assessment. Spanish Report

that school is not a place where they feel safe (LEP: 2022). The 2018⁸ data show 12.2% of adolescent boys and girls say they have been bullied in the last two months at school or college, and 17% of students say they have been bullied at least several times a month. According to ANAR data: 2021, 15.2% of pupils say that someone in their class is a victim of bullying. The **bullying** rate in OECD countries stands at 23%.

On the other hand, the position of **Vocational Training** in Spain is striking, with a low proportion of young people between 15 and 19 years of age choosing this type of training compared to other OECD countries. In fact, the choice of these courses (12%) is well below the OECD (25%) and the EU (29%) averages, despite the fact that those with a vocational training qualification have a higher employment rate (74%) than those with only a general qualification (63%, PMFP): 2020).

The training structure of the labour force in Spain reflects one of the essential problems that exist, which is that it follows a bi-modal model, with few intermediate qualifications, as opposed to the bell-shaped model that is required by the productive system and in which these intermediate qualifications are the most common. Prospective studies by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) predict an increase in demand for intermediate and higher-level qualifications at least until 2025, and a decrease in demand for low-educated workers. The greatest demand will therefore be for technicians who have undergone vocational training. Forecasts show that in 2025 in Spain, 37% of jobs will be for people with a high level of qualification, 49% for people with a medium level of qualification and 14% for people with a low level of qualification. In addition, more technical and STEM profiles will be required.

⁸ HSBC 2018 and PISA 2018 Study



For all these reasons, this goal includes: Recovering the role of education as a social elevator, through an education system with greater equity, that favours inclusive education, that develops a policy of scholarships and study aids to compensate for inequalities and promotes attention to educational well-being and mental health. Articulating measures to achieve lifelong learning and training, promoting formal and non-formal education, access to culture, educational leisure time and appreciation of diversity, sexuality, real equality and the environment. Expanding vocational training to incorporate new demands and open it up to all stages of life. Fostering a scientific culture and awaken STEM vocations by promoting initiatives that encourage interaction between researchers and young people, and to train new generations of scientists, technologists and innovators who develop their activity in academic and business environments.

- Goal 1.1. Guaranteeing universal, inclusive and comprehensive education in compulsory secondary education, baccalaureate and special education.
- Goal 1.2. Guaranteeing a public, accessible and quality university: prioritizing students.
- Goal 1.3. Promoting international mobility programmes in formal education.
- Goal 1.4. Promoting a single system for quality, inclusive, flexible and lifelong vocational education and training.
- Goal 1.5. Ensuring universal access to lifelong learning.
- Goal 1.6. Promoting, train and qualify new generations of scientific, technological and innovative personnel (cin).

Highlighted lines of action

- ▶ Reducing early leaving from education and training to 9%, in order to reach the target of the Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training 2030.
- ▶ Fostering the acquisition of skills for democratic citizenship and sustainable development, and to promote holistic personal health in coordination with healthcare services, respect for diversity, respect for animals and the prevention of violence, harassment and hate crimes.
- ▶ Promoting increased access to public universities.
- ▶ Promoting training in digital skills. Implementing the Plan for the modernisation and digitalisation of the university system.
- ▶ Supporting and develop foreign language learning programmes in all education systems.

- ▶ Promoting the official recognition and accreditation of basic and professional competences acquired through work experience, voluntary work or non-formal training. Reconoce Programme.
- ▶ Working to reshape the vocational training available and promote the participation of companies and economic and social agents in its design, development, evaluation and innovation.
- ▶ Promoting the pre-doctoral and post-doctoral recruitment of researchers, as well as their international and institutional mobility.

Autonomy, decent employment and youth entrepreneurship



Goal

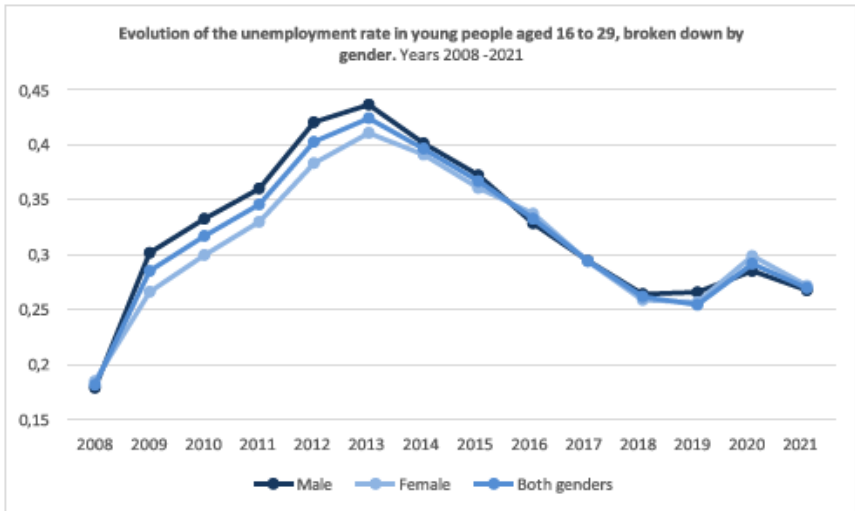
The aim is to provide young people with access to decent, stable and well-paid employment that allows them to develop their life plans, guarantees equal opportunities and a work-life balance.

Situation analysis

Young people were the sector of the Spanish population that suffered the most during the years of the economic crisis of 2008-2014. In 2013 the youth unemployment rate peaked at 42.4%, and in 2014 stood at 58% among the under 25s. However, the most significant factor is that the recovery of employment that began in 2014 was based, to a large extent, on increased instability in the working conditions of our youth, underwritten by the Labour Reform of 2012, which reinforced the dual structure of the labour market already characteristic of our country since the 1990s⁹. The COVID-19 pandemic reinforced a pattern whereby the mass dismissal of people on temporary contracts has become the standard way of managing economic uncertainty during crises: between February and June 2020, during the hardest months of the pandemic, more than 7 out of 10 jobs destroyed were temporary contracts. Due to the over-representation of youth in temporary employment, 6 out of 10 jobs destroyed had been held by people under 30 years of age.

As a result, young people in Spain are, together with children, the age group most at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Almost one young person in three under the age of 30 lives below the poverty line in our country. Behind the problem lie a dysfunctional labour market and a social protection system that does not do enough for them, and which is pushing an entire generation into instability.

⁹ Spain has a labour structure divided clearly into two parts. This means that part of the workforce is protected by stable and well-paid jobs. A second part, most often made up of young people, are vulnerable workers, whose working conditions are characterised by high rates of unemployment and underemployment, with a high incidence of temporary contracts and other atypical forms of employment, widespread instability in hiring and a predominance of low-paid jobs.



Source: EAPS ANNUAL DATA (averages of the four quarters of each year).

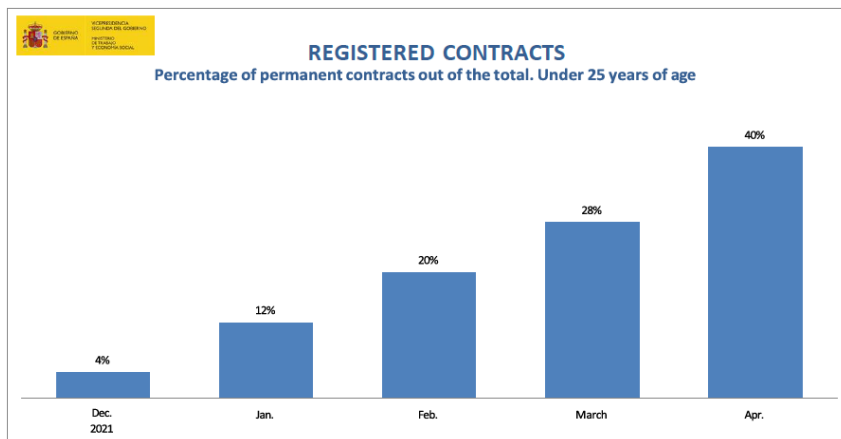
However, the trend is positive as in the last ten months of 2021 youth unemployment decreased by 143,809 people. Thus, unemployment among this group stands at 222,594 young people, closing the year with the lowest figure for a month of December in the entire historical series (EDEPTC: 2022)¹⁰.

Following the entry into force of Royal Decree-Law 32/2021 of 28 December on urgent measures for labour reform, guaranteeing employment stability and transforming the labour market, the positive trend has been consolidated.

With regard to the contract types, according to the latest data published by the Ministry of Labour and Social Economy for the month of April 2022, permanent contracts have increased in all sectors, in all autonomous communities, in both genders and in all age brackets. Of the 1,450,093 contracts signed, 698,646 were permanent. Four months ago these contracts represented 10% and now they are almost 50%.

¹⁰ Statistics on Jobseekers, Job Vacancies and Placements (EDEPTC) - Public Employment Service (SEPE). Unemployment data for December 2021 published on 4 January 202.

Unemployment among young people under the age of 25 fell by 10,952 people in April 2022 and 45% of the contracts signed were permanent.



There are other important aspects to be analysed, such as wages, education as a determining factor in youth employment, harassment at work and double discrimination at work against young women, or being LGTBIQ+, a young migrant, Roma or a disabled person affects young people. Attention must also be drawn to the current characteristics of the Spanish economy, which have a direct impact on the youth labour market, and which are those of a productive model of low productivity, structural unemployment, training duality and a legal framework which favours temporary employment. A number of new trends are at work:



Against this background, the following strategic goals have been set out:

- Goal A. Support and cooperation with the relevant ministerial department in the development of regulations and strategic framework to ensure quality youth employment.
- Goal 2.1. Support and cooperation with the relevant ministerial department for the development of new public policies for a dynamic, resilient and inclusive labour market.
- Goal 2.2. Cooperation with the relevant ministerial department for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee + 2021-2027.

- Goal 2.3. Development, together with the relevant Ministry, of the Youth Employment Shock Plan.
- Goal 2.4. Collaboration with the relevant ministerial department to increase the employability of researchers, technologists and innovators and to promote the consolidation of their professional careers.

Highlighted lines of action

- Developing and implement the measures foreseen in the Labour Inspectorate's Strategic Plan for 2021-2023.
- Strengthening young entrepreneurship with measures such as the approval of the Startups Act to create a favourable framework for the establishment and growth of highly innovative start-ups and a public-private NEXT-TECH fund to scale up startups in disruptive technologies.
- Developing in detail how the new Youth Guarantee Plan + 2021-2027 is to be implemented with measures such as training for youth employment in strategic sectors such as digitalisation, circular economy and green reindustrialisation.
- Ensuring that work dress codes do not discriminate on the basis of gender and establish protocols for action so that female employees can report abuse from customers, with the company being responsible for ensuring the prevention of such situations.
- Applying the general regulations on equal treatment, non-discrimination and work-life balance in the armed forces and security forces.
- Developing specific regulations against labour discrimination related to motherhood, which address and protect this social function, make dismissal due to expectation, pregnancy or maternity leave impossible, adapt the work performance of pregnant women, protect the right to full labour reinsertion without a change in working conditions, and preserve the rights of women before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth.
- To promoting mobility, the development of research careers and the incorporation of researchers and technologists in the professional sphere.

Leaving home, housing, birth rate and life plan



Goal

Make independence and the opportunity to leave home an option for all young people, guaranteeing their effective access to decent and affordable housing, stability, and freely chosen parenthood.

Situation analysis

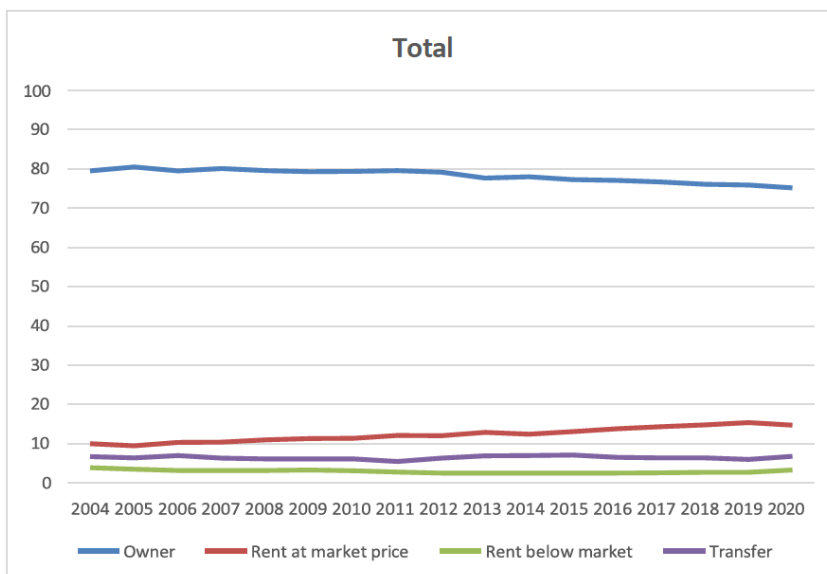
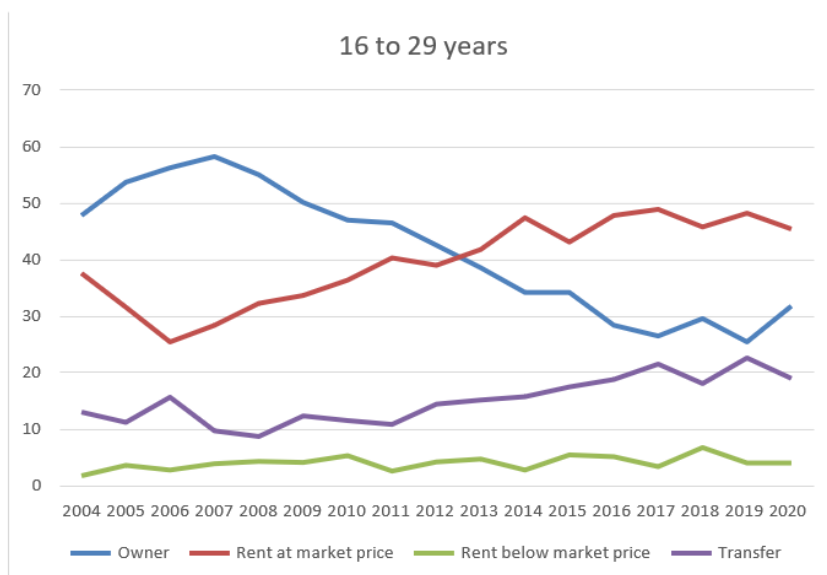
In the second quarter of 2021, only 14.9% of all young people in Spain had left their parental home by the age of 29.8 (Eurostat: 2021).

In terms of pathways to leave home, there has been a clear shift of young people towards renting in recent years. While in 2007, the most common option for young people who had left their parents' household was home ownership (58.1% compared to 28.4% renting), in 2020 45.4% lived in rented accommodation and 31.8% were homeowners. However, it should be noted that since 2020, a significant upturn in youth home ownership has started to be observed, with an increase of almost 6 percentage points (from 25.5% in 2019 to 31.8% in 2020).

Average rent is still very high for 16–29-year-olds, who have to spend 81.9% of their take-home pay on monthly rent alone. Compared to the difficulty of paying the rent, buying a house requires 51.2% of the salary to pay monthly mortgage instalments, in addition to the solvency requirements demanded by financial institutions. The deposit for the purchase of a house is 3.7 times the annual salary of a young person. As a result, one of the few effective ways to leave home is to share rented housing with other people or to form a household (SO: 1S2021).

Source: ECV (INE), 2021.

**Households by ownership status, Spain, 16-29 years.
2006-2020**

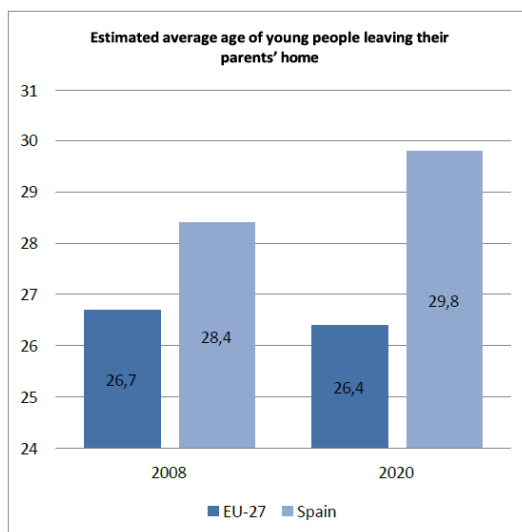


Source: ECV (INE), 2021.

In 2020, a young wage-earner would earn, if they remained in employment throughout the year, 8,680 euros (16-24 years), 12,588 euros (25-29) or 15,256 euros (30-34). The maximum permissible rent for a young employee (16-29) would therefore be around €290.85 per month. However, in 2020, the effective cost borne by a young household was €676 (with average monthly rent at €552.68 and housing utilities and services at around €123.68 per month).

One of the few ways out of the family home that young people in Spain can afford is to share rented accommodation with other people. The cost of renting a shared flat for a young, employed person would mean spending 25.6% of their income on housing (EO: 1S2021). According to the annual report on flat sharing in Spain by the portal pisos.com, 18- to 25-year-olds account for 51.24% of the total number of flat sharers, followed by the 26- to 35-year-olds, who account for 29.22%. Barcelona and Madrid are the cities where renting a room is the most expensive, at €453 and €426 per month respectively.

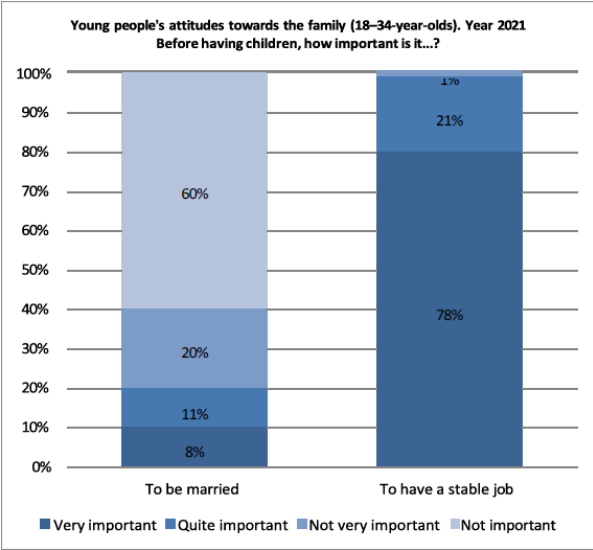
As a result of the housing and employment situation, the average age for leaving home of young people in Spain is 29.8 years, 1.4 years later than in 2008 and 3.4 years later than the EU-27 average. By gender, women leave home almost two years (1.9) earlier than men. In 2021, 14.9% of young people had left the parental household, the lowest figure in the last 22 years. The percentage of young people aged 18-34 living with their parents is 65.5% (total). (Eurostat: 2020)



Source: Eurostat 2020.

The increasing age at which young people leave home and the instability of the process hinder the viability of their life plans and reduces the birth rate. Spain is an ageing country, with very low birth rates and the age of new mothers that has moved back to 31.2 years, with an average number of children per woman of 1.18 (INE: 2020), one of the figures in the world well below the Generational Replacement Index of 2.1. In 2008, 88.1% of all 15–29-year-olds were childless, while in 2019 this percentage rose to 92.2%.

However, young people want to have children. According to the Metroscopia 2021 survey, 95% of young people in Spain wanted to have children and 65% said they wanted to have two.



Source: Metroscopia Poll, El País, 2021.

Against this background, we set out the following strategic goals:

- Goal 3.1. Guaranteeing young people's access to stable rental housing, regulating the national housing stock to be a social, affordable, adequate, efficient and healthy service.
- Goal 3.2. Encouraging home ownership among young people.
- Goal 3.3. Generating sufficient, affordable and energy-efficient public social rental housing for young people.
- Goal 3.4. Guaranteeing immediate access to housing for people and young families who are homeless, have been evicted or are at serious risk of social exclusion.
- Goal 3.5. Facilitating access to decent housing in rural areas for all young people.
- Goal 3.6. Implementing policies to help increase the birth rate among young people.
- Goal 3.7. Making the balance between work, family and personal life and co-responsibility in working time effective.
- Goal 3.8. Providing young people with guidance on support for leaving home, housing, having children and balancing work and family life.

Highlighted lines of action

- ▶ Developing a public rental housing stock that guarantees a sufficient supply of social housing for the young population, prioritising the most vulnerable groups and ensuring its long-term use as social housing, so that monthly rent never exceeds more than 20% of a tenant's income.
- ▶ Moving forward in social protection and aid for young families with measures to promote birth rate, work-life balance and shared responsibility, such as an income for child-rearing or the extension of maternity and paternity leave.
In compliance with Article 34 of the Charter of Rights of the European Union, ensuring immediate access to housing for young care leavers and other young homeless people at risk of social exclusion.
- ▶ Encouraging the settlement of the young population in the rural world through access to housing.

Comprehensive health and quality of life



Goal

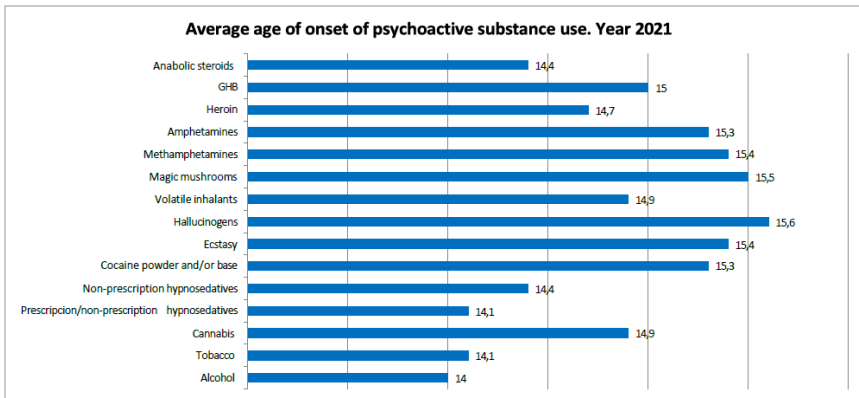
The aim of this Axis is to guarantee the right to comprehensive health and quality of life for all adolescents and young people.

To this end, effective equality of access to the National Healthcare System will be promoted for all young people, without exclusions or restrictions, adapting healthcare services to their needs through integrated attention to mental health problems, violence and suicide prevention, the prevention of addictions and the promotion of healthy and environmentally friendly lifestyles through a diverse range of leisure, cultural, physical activity and sports services. In addition, healthy relationships and the sexual health of adolescents and young people will be promoted through training and facilitating access to services that empower them and provide progressive autonomy in this area, preventing STDs, unwanted pregnancies and domestic violence in all its forms and degrees of severity. The right of young people to choose and shape their own identity, their digital rights and the protection of their own image will also be promoted.

Situation analysis

Although in general the majority of young Spaniards aged 15-34 (around 90%) rate their physical health as good or very good, there are some concerning data.

During 2020, 70.5% of adolescents aged 14-18 had drunk alcohol, 30.7% had smoked tobacco and 19.6% had used hypnotosedatives. The average age of first use for all psychoactive substances analysed in the survey ESTUDES: 2021 (alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, hypnotosedatives, cocaine, ecstasy, hallucinogens, volatile inhalants, magic mushrooms, methamphetamines, amphetamines, heroin, GHB and anabolic steroids) is between 14 and 15.6 years.



Source: ESTUDES: 2021.

The use of alcohol and, to a lesser extent, other substances is experiencing a downward trend among the adolescent population aged 14-18. Thus, 70.5% of the people interviewed admit having consumed alcohol at least once in the last year (2020) and 53.6% in the last month. In 2019 these percentages were 75.9% and 58.5% respectively (ESTUDES: 2021).

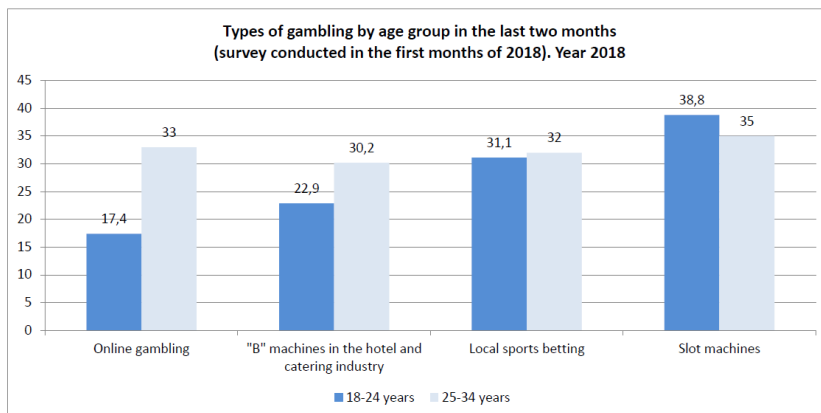
On the other hand, the digital world plays a fundamental role in the educational, cultural and social development of young people, which is why access to digital resources is crucial for their comprehensive development. 75% of youth aged 14-29 spent more than two hours a day online in 2019, and the 14-19 age group stands out in particular, with 60% of them online for more than three hours a day (INJUVE: 2021).

98.5% of secondary school students are registered on at least one social media and 83.5% on three or more. The two most popular social media platforms are clearly Instagram (79.9% of young people have an account) and TikTok (75.3%). This hyperconnectivity of the young population, however, hides other realities that have a direct impact on mental health.

48.8% of people who are bullied in school continue to be bullied outside the classroom via mobile devices (UNICEF: 2021). The number of cyberbullying cases doubles (58.8%) among non-heterosexual adolescents. Victims recognise that bullying or cyberbullying affects their mental health, particularly affecting their self-esteem (51%), their mood (38.8%), their desire to go to school (43%), their relationship with their families (14.2%) and friends (26.1%), and their eating (26.5%) and sleeping (26.4%) habits. The rate of major depression in victims of bullying is five times higher and the rate of suicidal

ideation is four times higher than in non-bullied students.

In terms of the profile of young gambling addicts, 26% of males participate in gambling in general, compared to 6.8% of females. When it comes to online gambling, the gap is wider: 19.5% of men compared to 4.6% of women. As age increases, so does the propensity to gamble. The average monthly spend is usually no more than €10, but 17% of players spend more than €30 each month. Such expenditure is higher among boys and towards the end of secondary school. (UNICEF: 2021).



Source: FAD: 2021.

Another issue to be taken into account when dealing with the comprehensive health of young people is eating disorders caused by the new eating and leisure habits of young people. These are being aggravated by the constant exposure to social networks, which expose and demand certain beauty standards, and by anxiety and stress caused by other causes, such as bullying or changes in rhythm and routines derived from the COVID-19 lockdowns.

On the other hand, the development of healthy romantic relationships and sexual health presupposes that all adolescents and young people can develop and recognise their sexual identity and enjoy their relationships and sexuality in freedom and with absolute respect for the desires and identity of others.

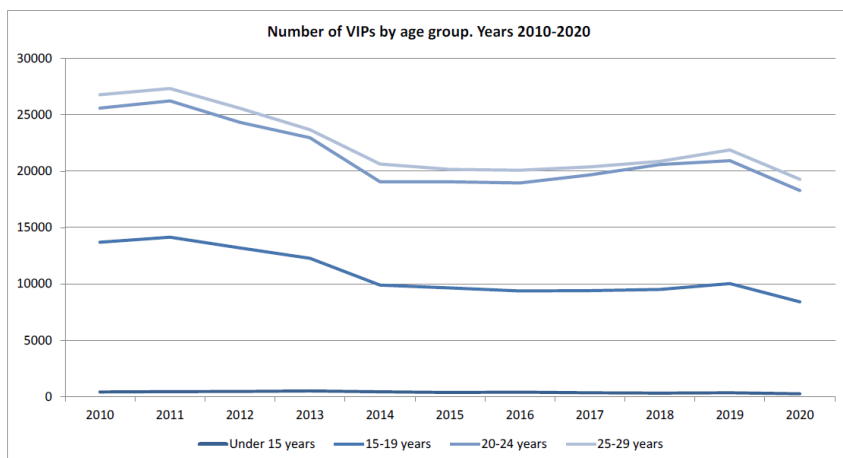
This requires a transformative educational and social context that supports these kinds of equal relationships. Where this is not the case, the likelihood of homophobia and discrimination increases.

53.8% of those surveyed had watched pornography for the first time between the ages of 6 and 12. This early access to porn constitutes a danger for the adolescent population. 15.6% of 13–17-year-olds have never received sex education at school, 51.7% have received only one to four hours of sex education, 17.1% have received five to eight hours and, lastly, only 15.6% have received more than nine hours of sex education (Save the Children, 2006): 2020).

With regard to sexually transmitted diseases, one of the most worrying situations at present is the prevalence of HIV among the young population. According to the study Epidemiological Surveillance of HIV and AIDS in Spain (VEVIH: 2019), of the total number of cases diagnosed in 2019 (2698 cases), 11.9% were aged 15-24 years and the highest age-specific rate was in the 25-29 age group.

The most common mode of transmission was sex between men (56.6%), followed by heterosexual transmission (32.3%) and, far behind, drug injection transmission (2.6%).

On voluntary termination of pregnancy, a total of 88,269 abortions were performed in 2020: 0.29% to women under 15, 9.52% to women aged 15-19, 20.72% to women 20-24 and 21.84% to women aged 25-29. After an abortion, women are at risk of suffering a range of physical and psychological side effects, including guilt and regret, depression and anxiety, and the feeling that they did not make this decision freely, but were forced to do so by the situation or their immediate environment. These problems are amplified for migrant women (Martínez and González, 2014: 182-183).



Source: Reports of Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy. Final data for the years 2010-2020. Ministry of Health.

As far as mental health is concerned, 7.4% of young people aged 15-24 have depressive symptoms and 7.7% of those aged 25-34, especially women (around 9% compared to 6% of men). On the other hand, 3.1% of young people (15-24 years) suffer from chronic anxiety. Quantitatively, the number of deaths by suicide or self-harm affects more young men than women. The highest incidence occurs in males aged 20-34 years. Between 2010 and 2020, 409 males aged 15-19, 840 males aged 20-24 and 1,120 males aged 25-29 died from by suicide compared to 184 females aged 15-19, 229 females aged 20-24 and 319 females aged 25-29.

We therefore set ourselves the following goals:

- Goal 4.1. Guaranteeing the mental wellbeing of young people, preventing suicide and ending the stigmatisation of mental health problems.
- Goal 4.2. Preventing drug use and addictions among young people.
- Goal 4.3. Adapting public services to the specific needs of adolescents and young people in order to improve their quality of life.
- Goal 4.4. Promoting actions aimed at encouraging healthy lifestyles and environments and promoting culture and healthy social leisure among the young population.
- Goal 4.5. Promoting the autonomy and sexual health of young people: healthy affective and sexual relationships, prevent sexual and gender-based violence and sexually transmitted infections, and facilitate free choice of motherhood.
- Goal 4.6. Promoting comprehensive digital skills of young people and prevent behavioural addictions and online violence.

Highlighted lines of action

- ▶ Providing appropriate healthcare for young people with mental health problems, promoting their emotional and personal development, and fighting mental health stigma and suicide through public health and education.
- ▶ Promoting alternative, social and healthy leisure policies to prevent and reduce the consumption of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and addictive substances.
- ▶ Promoting a voluntary front-of-pack labelling model that encourages consumers to make healthier purchasing choices.
- ▶ Preventing violence, racism, xenophobia, intolerance, LGBTIphobia and the defence of male gender violence in sport, through legal reforms or other means.
- ▶ Promoting the autonomy of young people so they can be in charge their sexual health and reproductive rights through access to comprehensive and accurate sexuality education and contraception.
- ▶ Promoting psychological care in the workplace and in education for pregnant teenagers and young mothers and fathers.
- ▶ Considering severe dysmenorrhoea occurring before or during menstruation to be a disabling health problem specific to women and give it importance in the work and academic environment.
- ▶ Promote general actions aimed at reducing the risk of internet addiction and at developing a critical attitude towards certain digital content such as fake news among the young population.

5

Young people and adolescents at serious risk of social exclusion or subject to double discrimination. Care economy and inclusion policies

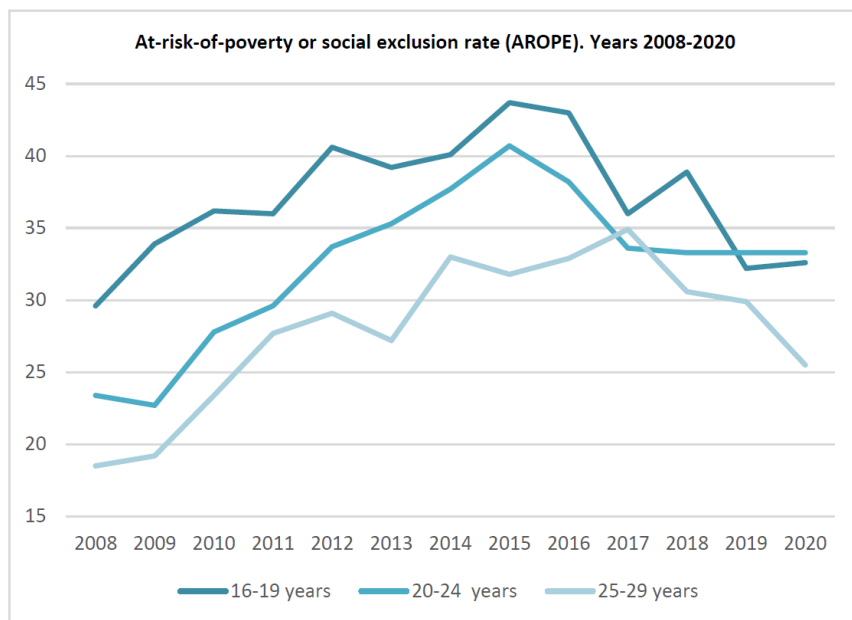
Goal

The aim of this Axis is to ensure the full inclusion of young people and adolescents at serious risk of social exclusion or subject to double discrimination. To this end, it is necessary to generate an effective, universal and quality system of social services, capable of meeting the specific needs of all young people, and especially those of groups at risk of suffering multiple forms of discrimination (in addition to age, ethnic or geographical origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, religion or political beliefs or opinions) so as to guarantee access to employment, social protection, education, social services and care, under conditions of full equality, making their full inclusion possible. The implementation of the Minimum Vital Income particularly significant for the population in general, and especially for young people entitled to it, either because they have family responsibilities, are orphans or have been under guardianship as a protective measure.

Situation analysis

The young population suffers from a higher risk of poverty and exclusion than the general population. This is also a relatively recent phenomenon, given that 12 years ago this rate was very close to the average, which shows **that young people have been particularly affected by the negative consequences of the recent crises**. In Spain, in 2020, the AROPE rate stood at 30.3% for young people, i.e. 3 out of 10 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, well above the average for the population as a whole (26.4%, SO: 2021). By territory, the worst figures for the risk of poverty or social exclusion in Spain in 2021 for young people aged 16-34 are found in Ceuta and Melilla (43.4%), the Canary Islands (42.1%), Extremadura (41.9%), Asturias (41%) and Andalusia (39.6%, AROPE): 2021).

As for the severe material deprivation rate among young people, it reached 9.3% in 2020, 2.3 points higher than the Spanish average, which is a steep increase compared to 2019, when it stood at 5.8% (AROE: 2021). The severe material deprivation rate in Spain is 1.9 points higher than the European average (EO: 2021).



Source: Eurostat, 2020.

In addition, the gender gap is widening in terms of exclusion, exclusion of young women has worsened by 8.5 percentage points (twice that of young men) in the 16-34 age group.

In terms of male gender-based violence, including non-partner violence, young women aged 16 to 24 suffer sexual violence in a higher proportion (11.0%) than women aged 25 and over (6.0%). They are also more aware: 89.2% of young women reported, sought formal help or discussed this violence with people around them, compared to 72.6% of women aged 25 and over. The prevalence of sexual harassment among women aged 16-24 is much higher than among women aged 25 and over: 60.5% have experienced it at some time and 34.7% before age 15, compared to 38.0% and 16.6% respectively among women aged 25 and over. The prevalence of stalking among women aged 16-24 is higher than among women aged 25 and over: 26.2% have experienced stalking at some time

and 13.0% before the age of 15 compared to 13.9% and 2.6% among women aged 25 and over (DGVG: 2019).

In this context, one of the most affected groups is the LGTBQ+ community. Against this background, the Social Media against Hate Observatory recorded 971 cases of hate crime compared to the 259 complaints collected by the Ministry in 2018. It also shows that 70% of the victims were gay men and 68% were between 19 and 35 years old. The most frequent type of incident was verbal aggression or insults (31% of cases), followed by harassment/bullying (27%) and physical aggression (17%). Violence is particularly prevalent among young people and, in fact, 68% of victims are in the 19-35 age range. In relation to the profile of the aggressor, in 85% of cases the aggressor was male (FELGTB: 2019).

Exclusion is also strongly influenced by disability or ethnicity. For all these reasons, it is worth looking beyond the rates of risk of poverty and exclusion common to all young people and take a deeper look in greater detail at the most vulnerable groups.

Young people of foreign origin residing in Spain encounter different obstacles that hinder their full inclusion in society and in all spheres of life. In 2020, 3,307 unaccompanied foreign minors arrived in Spain by sea in small boats or other fragile vessels, 15.1% more than in 2019 (2,873).

- Goal 5.1. Guaranteeing comprehensive care for youth and young families, through a system of improved legal, social and economic protection for families and the recognition of family diversity and the development of the minimum vital income.
- Goal 5.2. Guaranteeing and protection of adolescent girls and young women who are victims of gender-based violence and sexual violence or at serious risk of social exclusion.
- Goal 5.3. Guaranteeing the full inclusion of young people and adolescents with disabilities and guarantee the right to independent living.
- Goal 5.4. Guaranteeing the protection and inclusion of LGTBQ+ youth and adolescents and fight against all forms of discrimination and hate speech.
- Goal 5.4 (b). Guaranteeing the protection and inclusion of young people belonging to vulnerable groups and fight against all forms of discrimination and hate speech.
- Goal 5.5. Guaranteeing the full social inclusion of Roma youth.
- Goal 5.5 (b). Guaranteeing the full social inclusion of African and Afro-descendant, Asian, Arab, Latin American, Amazigh or Indo-Pakistani youth, and fight against all forms of discrimination and hate speech.
- Goal 5.6. Providing homeless youth with appropriate accommodation and services in order to promote their social inclusion.

- Goal 5.7. Guarantee the human rights and full inclusion of young and adolescent migrants in care, care leavers and unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, promoting fair and supportive immigration policies.
- Goal 5.8. Develop specific actions and implement comprehensive treatment programmes for young people deprived of their liberty.

Highlighted lines of action

- ▶ Passing a state pact against hate speech, putting an end to any form of institutional or social discrimination against groups at risk of social exclusion.
- ▶ Passing the new Framework Act on Social Services.
- ▶ Passing the Families Act.
- ▶ Including homeless young people as preferential beneficiaries of the new Youth Guarantee+ programmes and promote their access to the Minimum Vital Income.
- ▶ Passing and implementing the Act for integral protection of sexual freedom and for the eradication of sexual violence, which promotes and guarantees awareness, prevention, detection, attention, protection and reparation for all victims. In progress. (IGD)
- ▶ Suspending the visiting rights for parents or legal guardians who are serving sentences, or have been granted precautionary measures, for serious crimes of gender-based violence or committed the presence of their children, in line with the State Pact against Gender Violence and the Istanbul Convention.
- ▶ Strengthening the implementation of the programme Being a woman programme for the prevention of gender-based violence among young women deprived of their liberty.
- ▶ Recognising LGBTIphobia in the family as a cause of violence in the Organic Law for the protection of children and adolescents against any form of violence, in line with the modification made by Organic Law 8/2021, of 4 June, on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents against violence (LOPIVI) of Organic Law 1/1996, of 15 January, on the Legal Protection of Minors, partially amending the Civil Code and the Law on Civil Proceedings.

- ▶ Supporting the presence of universal accessibility in public policies and public services such as health or education, as well as in business strategies, addressing the needs of people with disabilities.
- ▶ Promoting the social inclusion of young Roma people and other ethnic groups, encouraging access to and permanence in the education system and the labour market, and ensuring access to social services and resources, especially for young Roma women.
- ▶ Reforming the welcoming model for asylum seekers and humanitarian protection, to adjust welcoming capacity and strengthen the efficiency of the system.

Youth and global transformation: participation and volunteering



Goal

The aim of this axis is to enhance the participation of adolescents and young people in all spheres as agents of socio-political transformation.

It is about young people becoming their own socio-political actor, socially visible and active, influential and with the capacity to make their situation and expectations known, setting the social and political agenda and the immediate future.

Situation analysis

Contrary to the common misconception that young people do not participate in politics, recent research has shown the opposite to be true. Young people are as involved in politics as adults. In 2004, the percentage of young people very or fairly interested in politics was 24%, rising to almost double in 2012 with 40% and falling to 37% in 2019. The youth raised in the economic crisis maintains high levels of interest in politics, decreasing among those raised in the post-crisis period (IJE: 2021).

According to the 2019 Eurobarometer, only 44% of the Spanish population is satisfied with the functioning of democracy. However, contrary to what is often assumed, young people are not more critical of political institutions than adults, nor are they less satisfied with the functioning of democracy. It is common, in fact, for them to be fairly closely aligned with adults.

As for young people's political positioning, on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being "left" and 10 "right", most young people position themselves in the ideological centre (scale 4 to 6), which accounts for 37.1%. Meanwhile, 33.9% are on the left and 15.5% identify with the right. In addition, the percentage that does not identify with any position (don't know/didn't answer) or does not want to express it, adds up to 13.4% (INJUVE: 2021).

The issues they are most interested in are, on a scale of 10 to 1, work and education (9), gender equality, security, housing, climate change and animal rights (8), the economy, LGBTIQ+ rights, immigration and social policies (7).

Young people in general consider gender-based violence to be one of the most important social problems, with 89.6% of women and 77.1% of men supporting the cause, and also recognise that gender discrimination persists, although women are more aware of this problem: 82.7% of women consider that “discrimination against women is a problem in Spain”, compared to 68.7% of men.

The young people most likely to be politically active had the following characteristics: being female (in line with the recent feminist mobilisations), perceiving an open atmosphere in the classroom during their formative years, and having politics discussed at home. Those who are highly educated, have left home, students and those who are interested in politics are also more likely to have participated in politics. Conversely, being of immigrant origin, not having higher education, not having become independent, not having been exposed to political information and not having discussed political issues in the family and school, and not having parents with higher education, imply a lower probability of participation. The great differences found could result in a generation that is more unequal than previous ones, unless political education and participation is promoted from school and in all political, social and cultural spheres.

Both the IJE data: 2020 as well as those of the European Social Survey 2019, confirm the well-known preference of young people for protest participation over institutional participation. Leaving aside elections, which are largely seen as a moral or ethical obligation, 72% of young people have taken part in some political activity in the last 12 months, of which signing petitions and political demonstrations on the internet, and attending demonstrations or strikes stand out, with percentages between 25% and 22%. They speak out most often about climate change (15%), education (15.5%) or gender equality (38% added), IJE: 2021).

With regard to youth associations, if we compare the data on adhesion to associations between 2017 and 2019, we can see that the rates of participation and membership in groups and associations have increased compared to 2017. The largest increases are found in membership of sports, cultural and leisure groups (24.5% in 2019 vs. 19.8% in 2017) and in membership of political parties, where participation has increased by almost 4 points compared to 2017 (7.5% in 2019 vs. 3.9% in 2017) (Centro Reina Sofía: 2019).

However, the number of associations is growing very slowly. In 2020, only 9 new youth associations were registered in the National Register of Associations (RNA). Article 11.4 of Organic Law 1/2002, of 22 March, regulating the Right of Association, restricts the capacity to be a member of the representative bodies of an association to persons of legal age.

Against this background, we set ourselves the following goals:

- Goal 6.1. Promoting creation of and participation in youth associations, adapted to the digital environment.
- Goal 6.2. Promoting volunteering and the associated values of charity.
- Goal 6.3. Considering lowering the age for active and passive suffrage to 16 and 17, balancing the demographic and electoral weight of young people and promoting young leadership.
- Goal 6.4. Bringing the European Union closer to young people and developing international volunteering, training and employment programmes.

Highlighted lines of action

- ▶ Promoting public debate on lowering the age for active and passive suffrage to 16 and 17 years respectively, following the proposal of the Council of Europe, as a way of giving weight and influence on a segment of the population discriminated against in many areas and under-represented in social and economic policies.
- ▶ Creating a Youth Participation Law.
- ▶ Ensuring citizen participation in decision-making processes. For example, on climate change, through the Citizens' Climate Assemblies.
- ▶ Increasing designated safe spaces for child and adolescent participation, both in person and in the digital environment.
- ▶ Promoting systems for the recognition and accreditation of basic skills acquired through experience in non-formal activities and youth volunteering through the Reconoce programme and others.

- ▶ Consolidating international volunteering, training and employment programmes, improving their accessibility and management, such as the European Solidarity Corps, Discover EU or Erasmus+ Youth in Action.

Youth Mobility: Emigration and Return



Goal

To guarantee the rights of young migrants, both when they leave Spain and during the return process. To have an impact on the recovery of Spanish talent by encouraging the return of young people who have emigrated.

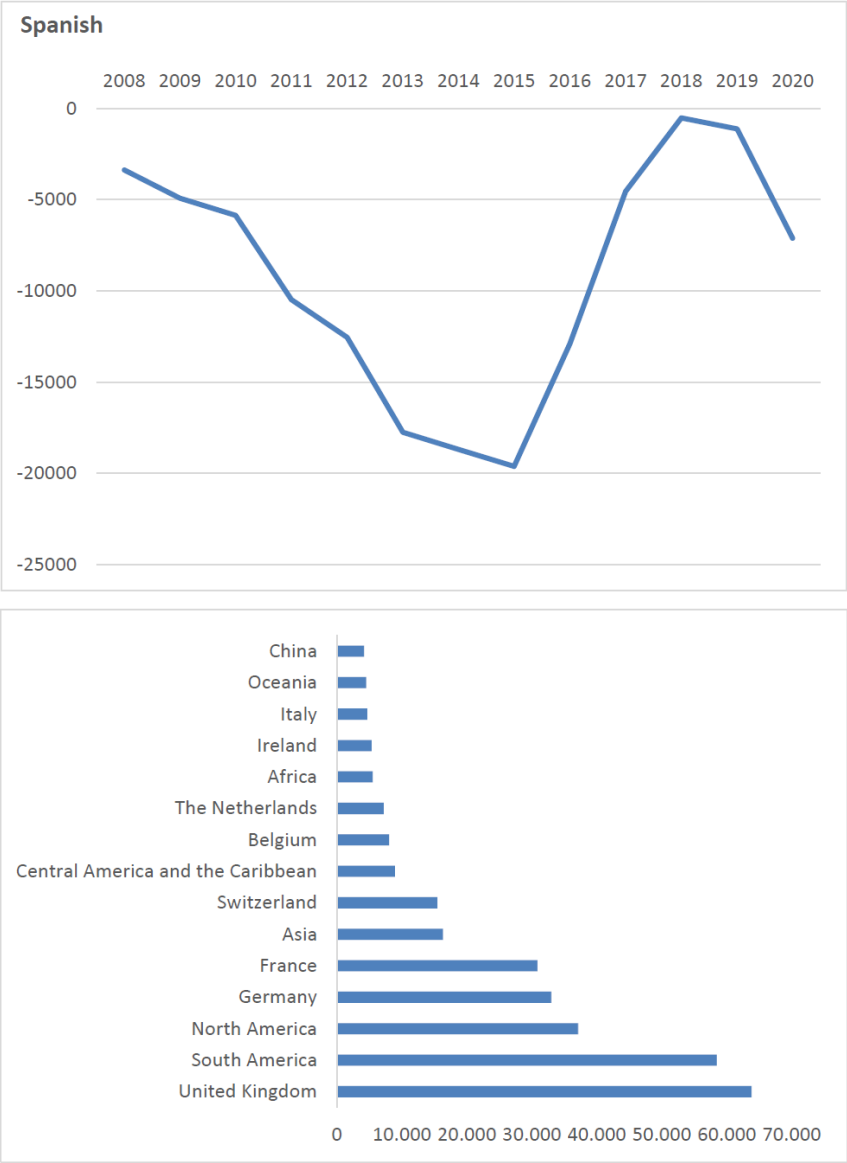
Situation analysis

The fact that one in four people aged between 20 and 24 were born outside Spain, and that almost a third of them are Spanish, is descriptive of the process of demographic transformation that Spain is undergoing. The percentage of naturalised foreigners is expected to grow in the coming years, which will establish multiculturalism as a core element in our society.

Spain's migratory balance with the rest of the world is clearly influenced by the economic situation, being very positive at times of employment growth, and negative during the worst years of the past economic crisis. In contrast to the foreign population, the balance has generally been negative in recent years, indicating that even in years of (relatively) improved employment situation, more young Spaniards emigrate than return¹². A total of 322,348 Spaniards (15-34 years old) have emigrated to a country between 2008 and 2020. If return is taken into account, the data show a negative migration balance of 119,432 Spaniards in the same period. Their destinations were mainly Europe, although almost one in three people emigrated to the Americas, mainly South America (18.1%).

¹² It is important to bear in mind that Migration Statistics are based on residential variations in municipal patterns. In this sense, the motivation of many young Spanish emigrants to communicate their change of residence could be limited, due to the uncertainty of their migration plan and the lack of incentives to do so. Therefore, the actual figures may be higher than those shown. Ramos and Royuela (2016), "Graduate migration in Spain: the impact of the great recession on a low mobility country". IREIA, Research Institute of Applied Economics.

Migratory balance of young people with Spanish nationality (age 15-34) and main countries of Spanish emigration (cumulative 2008-2020)



Source: Migration Statistics. INE.

The study “Balance and future of the migration of young Spaniards: Mobility, emigration and return” (INJUVE: 2018), conducted among 1,616 young people, yielded the following data:

- The main motivation for leaving Spain is to look for better opportunities for professional development or to gain work experience.
- The main perceived barrier to deciding to live in another country for young people who have never lived abroad is the lack of financial resources to undertake a mobility project. Among the mobility experience group, the main perceived barrier is the state of mind, related to fears and stress generated by international experiences.
- Being abroad for more than two years increases expectations of staying abroad. Returnees are mostly those who have spent 2 years or less living abroad.
- As for investments in Spain, just over 10% of residents abroad do invest in Spain, mainly on a regular basis (6.8%). With respect to the benefits received from Spain, there are large differences. While 84.4% of returnees say that they never obtained a Spanish benefit during their stay abroad, 41.5% of those abroad did, although 34.2% did so sporadically.
- All respondents agree with the statement that Spaniards are perceived as good workers abroad, although among those who have lived outside Spain the degree of agreement with this statement is higher. Moreover, on the whole, they agree with the perception of Spaniards’ solidarity in extreme situations such as terrorist attacks abroad.
- The percentage of young people living in Spain, both those with and without overseas mobility experience, who think it is fairly or very likely that they will lose their job is more than double that of young people living abroad.
- 65% of young people living abroad at the time of the survey would like to return to Spain.
- As far as Spanish state benefits to facilitate return are concerned, the measures most familiar to young people abroad are the “contribution for years worked abroad” and the “contributory unemployment benefit”.

With regard to Erasmus mobility opportunities in particular, the European Commission granted a total of 384,646 mobility placements at university level between 2014 and 2020 in Spain under the Erasmus+ programme. In 2014, funding was granted for 44,718 student mobility opportunities and in 2020 the figure of 67,393 has been reached, the highest ever (MEFP).

Against this background, the following goals have been set:

- Goal 7.1. Encouraging the free movement of Spanish youth to other countries and help young people to develop their migration plans.
- Goal 7.2. Encouraging and facilitating the return of young emigrants and recover their talent.

Highlighted lines of action

- ▶ Promoting the National Return Strategy and encourage the Autonomous Communities to apply the Return Passport, offering help and support to young people who wish to return.
- ▶ Encouraging the return of young researchers as foreseen in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan.
- ▶ Mobility for learning and the promotion of life skills and active citizenship through programmes such as Erasmus+ in formal education and non-formal education.
- ▶ Promotion of volunteer programmes such as the European Solidarity Corps.

Youth and the rural world

8

Goal

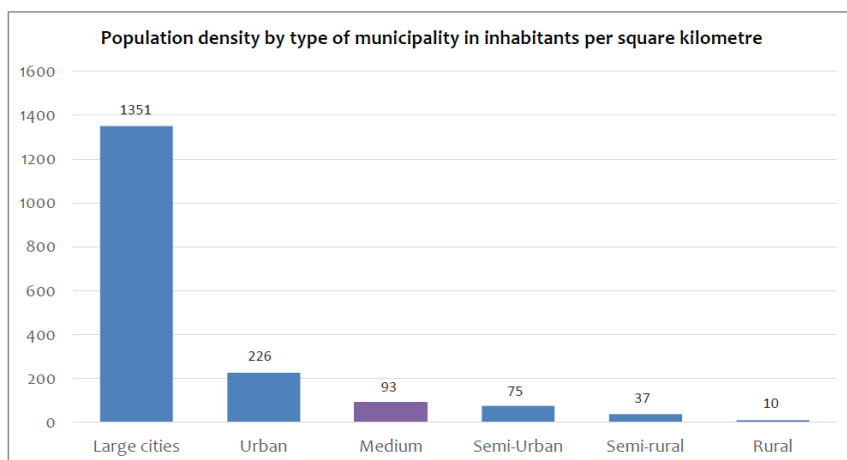
The aim of this strategic axis is to make the rural environment a space of opportunities for young people and to promote the green transition. This means improving the conditions of the rural environment in order to allow young rural population to settle and prevent their emigration, guaranteeing equal opportunities and rights for this group in comparison with the urban environment, and converting the rural world into an option for effectively improving living conditions for young urban dwellers through public services that meet the comprehensive needs and expectations of young people, while generating new opportunities for sustainable employment and entrepreneurship.

Situation analysis

Only 14.5% of the population living in medium and small rural municipalities (1,330,000 people) are young people between 15 and 29 years old. Rural youth represent only 3.5% of the total population (Vázquez and Peligros, 2018). Since 2000, 63% of the more than 8,000 municipalities in Spain have lost population, while the country's population has grown by nearly 6.2 million people. By the year 2000, 29% of the inhabitants of rural municipalities were over 65 years old, while the national average was 17% (Sevilla, 2021).

The ease of access to services in a country or region can be seen as an indicator of its level of economic and social development. In this respect, the Banco de España (BE: 2021) states that, in Spain, rural areas have worse accessibility to services than their European counterparts, particularly in terms of access to local services.

According to AROPE: 2020, in the year 2019, 25.3% of the Spanish population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Of those affected, one in three live in a rural or sparsely populated area, far more than the rate that would apply if poverty were evenly distributed across areas (Seville, 2021).



Source: Registry of Local Entities of the Ministry of Territorial Policy and Public Function:
<https://ssweb.seap.minhap.es/REL/frontend/inicio/municipios/all/all>

In addition, rural areas have a higher school drop-out rate (19.6% in 2021 compared to 15.3% in large urban areas). This is a consequence of the lower skill levels in demand in rural areas, the direct and indirect costs of further training, and the higher educational levels of parents in urban areas (CES: 2021; Sevilla, 2021).

One reason young people migrate to big cities is to search for jobs that do not exist in the rural world, jobs that are diverse, with high added value and better paid. According to the Living Conditions Survey 2020, the median income of the population in cities (50th percentile) is no less than 2,400 euros higher than in the countryside.

Rural women suffer from many other factors that push them to emigrate: the property structure that traditionally favoured men, the male-dominated agricultural productive structure, the traditional productive and reproductive (care) role assigned to women, the lack of diversification of the rural productive sector and the lack of infrastructures and services in the rural world. In addition, rural women are more highly educated, making them more mobile (CES: 2021). As a consequence of the high exodus of women from rural areas, the masculinisation of rural areas and thus of agricultural activities is reinforced. According to the 2014 census data, the male rate in rural municipalities is 107.9%, while the national rate is 96.6%. Moreover, the shortage of young women hinders the demographic and social sustainability of rural Spain, limits the formation of new households, reduces the number of births, minimises the rate of natural increase

and contributes to increasingly regressive population pyramids from a demographic point of view and to significant deficits from a social point of view.

Therefore, among the factors that make it difficult for young people to settle in rural areas are: inadequate training and employment opportunities that do not meet the expectations of young people's needs, the problems derived from reduced connectivity, the difficulty of accessing information, especially in the institutional sphere and in terms of aid or job offers, the deficient transportation infrastructure and basic services and leisure facilities in some rural areas and, on a more personal level, the difficulty of establishing and maintaining social relations and privacy.

Against this background, we set ourselves the following goals:

- Goal 8.1. Guaranteeing equal opportunities for young people regardless of whether they live in rural or urban areas.
- Goal 8.2. Achieving a technological, business and working environment conducive to the professional development of young people throughout the territory.
- Goal 8.3. Promoting favourable environment for rural women.
- Goal 8.4. Guaranteeing that young people in rural areas are actively involved in decision-making processes and in the co-creation of public policies, by enabling appropriate public-social cooperation channels.

Highlighted lines of action

- ▶ Promoting adequate infrastructure that provides appropriate public service delivery, data connectivity and housing opportunities.
- ▶ Ensuring equal access to education, high quality training and lifelong learning for young rural people.
- ▶ Enabling the digital transition and full territorial connectivity. Ensure access to telephone, landline, mobile and internet connections.
- ▶ Developing a network of territorial innovation centres.
- ▶ Promoting access to sustainable and high-quality jobs for young people in rural areas.
- ▶ Establishing programmes for the equality and social and professional advancement of rural women.
- ▶ Encouraging active participation and promote the incorporation of young people into institutional governance in rural areas.

Knowledge management on youth issues and youth services



Goal

The goal of this axis is to deepen our knowledge of youth. To know and make known the reality of young people's issues: their needs and current situation, the contexts, expectations and values of young Spaniards, the current and future challenges they face, and the policies and services aimed at them, through the alliance of research teams and organisations, and by promoting multidisciplinary research on youth, as well as the transversal nature of the youth approach in sectoral research.

Situation analysis

Increasing importance is given to understanding the reality of youth for the design of youth policies and programmes and their evaluation. Solid and rigorous analyses of the situation of youth are necessary, both with a sectoral approach, as an age group, and taking into account all the groups that make it up and carried out with the most appropriate approaches and disciplines in each case (economics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, etc.). It is also essential to assess policies aimed at young people and to analyse them as a starting point for the implementation of policies that meet their needs and guarantee their rights.

The main national structures and actors playing a role in the generation, collection, transfer and dissemination of knowledge about youth are very diverse: public and semi-public organizations, university departments, private companies, statistical offices, non-governmental organisations generating knowledge on youth, national knowledge (research) networks supporting youth policies, and researchers or youth experts.

A culture of analysis and evaluation needs to be established in the development of youth policy. There is already a consensus that youth policies should be based on evidence, i.e. that the development of all stages of youth policy needs to be informed by data and reliable, independent and meaningful research, in order to reflect the needs and realities of young people (EYF: 2016).

There is no centralised, integrated and regularly updated state statistical system of data on young people. The third sector is creating interactive data panels, which are provided in different formats for reuse and the generation of new knowledge:

- **Scpio Project and Basque Youth Observatory.** Panels that collect data as indicators to understand the situation of young people.
- **Queen Sofia Centre for Adolescence and Youth.** Microdata from open research (CRS: 2021).
- The **INE** and some government agencies provide data for some subjects disaggregated by age or age groups.

We therefore set ourselves the following goals:

- Goal 9.1. Developing Injuve's Youth and Young Women's Observatory as a national centre for the management of knowledge on youth.
- Goal 9.2. Developing a state system of youth indicators to provide an overview of the reality faced by young people with basic data.
- Goal 9.3. Improving monitoring and knowledge transfer between the fields of research, policymaking and practice by collecting, monitoring, retrieving and disseminating information on youth in Spain and its environment.
- Goal 9.4. Disseminating knowledge about youth.
- Goal 9.5. Strengthening and promoting Injuve's ecosystem for sharing knowledge on youth, seeking synergies and optimisation of resources.
- Goal 9.6. Evaluating and systematising data and information on youth programmes, policies and services.
- Goal 9.7. Promoting youth research in the field of youth.
- Goal 9.8. Incorporating a youth perspective in all research in the field of the AGE.
- Goal 9.9. International cooperation in youth knowledge programmes.

Young governance and institutional cooperation



Goal

The aim of this axis is to incorporate young people and youth associations as actors in their own right in the co-governance of youth policies.

The aim is to promote the youth agenda (employment, education, gender equality, security, health, housing and climate change) from public administrations and national and international organisations, in direct collaboration with young people and youth organisations, systematically and on an equal footing with social and institutional actors.

Situation analysis

As stated in the European Youth Strategy 2019-2027, we must make youth a strategic actor in “multi-level governance”. All decision-making structures, levels and processes, sectoral and cross-sectoral, that have an impact on youth policies, should involve young people or youth organisations as key actors, so that decisions are made with the commitment of all actors, both horizontally and vertically (EEJ 2019-2027; Council 2021).

Therefore, the following goals have been set:

- Goal 10.1. Establishing synergies, coherence and effective practices in the General State Administration (AGE) in the field of youth.
- Goal 10.2. Facilitating and making effective the right of young people to participate in the monitoring and development of policies related to the AGE’s youth agenda.
- Goal 10.3. Informing the Autonomous Communities of the National Government’s youth policies and actions. Goal 10.4. Coordinate, at Injuve, the youth perspective in the strategies, plans and regulations of the National Government. Goal 10.5. Promote international institutional cooperation in the youth field.
- Goal 10.4. Coordinate, at Injuve, the youth perspective in the strategies, plans and regulations of the National Government.

- Goal 10.5. Promote international institutional cooperation in the youth field.
- Goal 10.6. International cooperation for the participation of Spanish youth in the monitoring and development of youth policies.

Highlighted lines of action

- ▶ Promoting the Interministerial Commission for Youth and the Interterritorial Youth Council.
- ▶ Convening the Governing Council of INJUVE that integrates the CJE to articulate youth participation in public policies.
- ▶ Convening the participation forum “Open Dialogue with Youth” on a regular basis and give it continuity.
- ▶ Coordinating of the Youth Information Centres Network (SIJ Network) and the Eurodesk network.

Young women and equality

Goal

To incorporate a feminist perspective in all youth policies, guaranteeing full and effective equality for all women, the development and respect of their rights in all areas and attention to their specific needs, and promoting their active participation in all decision-making processes.

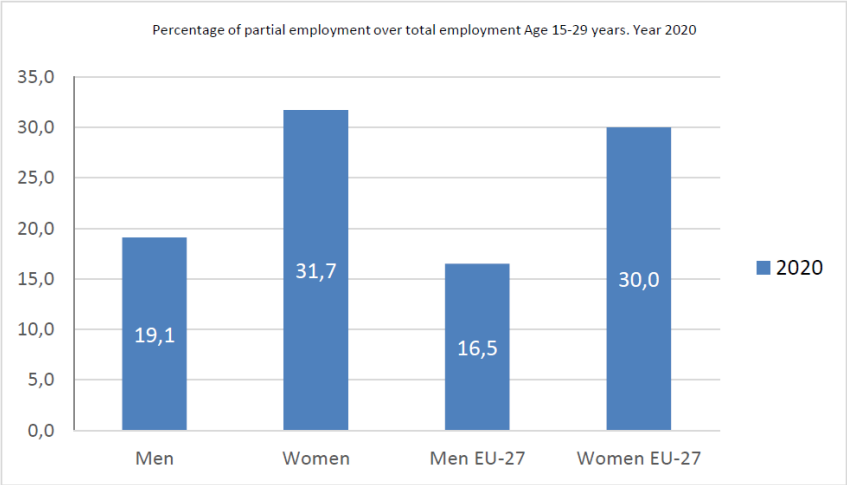
Situation analysis

Young women face greater challenges than young men and face discrimination because of both their gender and youth. Their increased participation and performance in education is not reflected in positions of equality in professional and employment terms, as would be expected.

The school drop-out rate is lower for girls than for boys, 20.2% for boys compared to 11.6% for girls, according to INE data in 2020. 84% of female students graduate from Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO) and 63.1% from Baccalaureate (equivalent to A-levels); those percentages are much higher than their male counterparts, with 73.8% of males graduating from ESO and 47.6% from Baccalaureate. They are also in the majority (55.6%) among university students, but they enrol less in engineering, industry and construction (29%) and computer science (13.4%) and more in education (77.9%) and health and social services (71.8%) (MEFP: 2021). This gender gap in the STEM field, in favour of care-oriented careers, especially in higher education, ends up translating into a lower presence in professions with greater social projection and better economic conditions in the labour market.

The precariousness in this area suffered by young women is also related to the high rates of temporary and part-time work, and both phenomena are in turn related to women bearing the burden of caring for children and dependents. As the INE data for 2020 reported in the IJE 2020 show, in the last quarter of 2020, part-time employment affected 45.4% of women aged 20-24 and 25% of women aged 25-29. For men, the figures were 29.8% and 13.8% respectively. Temporary employment among young people reached 52.1%, rising to 55.6% among women (IJE 2020): Executive Summary). At the same

time, of those who have stopped working to care for their own or their partner’s child, according to a study by the Queen Sofia Foundation/FAD (2021), 87% of men did so for a maximum period of six months. For women these periods are more uneven, with 50% taking a six-month leave, 21% between six months and one year and 10% for more than 5 years.



Source: Eurostat 2020.

With regard to young women and the rural world, the most notable aspect is that young women show lower employment rates and higher unemployment rates in all age groups than women in other areas and show greater negative differentials with respect to the rates of men in rural areas, according to the Economic and Social Council, in a report published in 2021. Thus, the employment rate of rural women stood at 54.3% in 2019, compared to 60% for women in urban areas, and with a gender differential of 14 percentage points (9 points in urban areas) (ESC 2018). Related to this issue are the difficulties in gaining access to ownership of agricultural and livestock farms, even if they are family owned.

With regard to birth rates, the CRS/FAD study (2021a) includes data from Eurostat (2019), which show that in Spain the percentage of births occurring within marriage among young women has fallen from 74% in 2000 to 37.6% in 2016. There has also been a general delay in the age at which the first child is born, from an average age of 30.9 years in 2004 to 32.1 in 2017; and there is a noticeably lower percentage of mothers

under 35, from 82.1% in 2004 to 37.3% in 2016. Another change is that there are fewer children per woman of childbearing age (15-49 years), from around 2.7 in 1976 to 1.3 children per woman in 2016.

At the same time, there has been a notable delay in the age of leaving the parental household, due to job insecurity and problems of access to housing. 61.8% of young women and 62.1% of young men under 29 live with their parents according to a 2020 CRS/FAD study.

In short, young women have a slightly earlier desire than men to start their own independent life, but they are currently facing considerable difficulties, especially if we take into account the aforementioned data and precarious employment.

In relation to health among young women, of particular concern is the increase in mental health related conditions such as depression and, especially significant among women, eating disorders (ED). In females aged 14-19, these conditions are increasingly prevalent, including anorexia nervosa (0.5-1%) and bulimia (1-4.5%, the latter 10 times more common in females than in males).

Social pressure related to physical stereotypes is much stronger on young women than on any other age group or on men. Data from the Barometer of Youth and Gender of the Queen Sofia Centre for Childhood and Adolescence and FAD (2021) show that 52% of young women feel a high pressure to be physically attractive compared to 45% of young men, a fact that undoubtedly contributes to eating disorders (CRS/FAD): 2021b).

Also in relation to mental health, INJUVE's COVID-19 survey (2020) showed that the psychological impact of lockdowns was much more intense among women than among men. Women felt 10 points more tense, 15 points lower in morale, 10 points more depressed, 15 points more stressed and 3 points lonelier than men (INJUVE: 2021).

With regard to relationships and sexual health, a specific approach is needed that is adapted to its particularities in order to improve knowledge, treatment and consideration of conditions such as dysmenorrhoea or illnesses linked to the reproductive-sexual cycle in terms of work and performance.

In a study of 1628 adolescents aged 14-19 years in Barcelona, 81% were found to suffer from dysmenorrhoea, which increased significantly with age (from 68% at 14 years to 92% at 19 years). Dysmenorrhoea was severe (with limitation of daily activities) in 9% of young women (Curell and Parera, 2019).

Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy, which is another issue that specifically affects women and their reproductive health, has already been covered above under Axis 4 of Integral Health and Quality of Life.

An important issue related to the sexual health of our young women that has become problematic in recent years is that of consent in sexual relations. A study by the Instituto de la Juventud (Youth Institute) addressed this issue and the results show that **young men outnumber women by 8 points when it comes to having had desired sex**, however, women are almost twice as likely as men to have done things they were unsure about. Also, according to this study, the percentage of young women who have had relations they did not want to have is slightly higher (INJUVE: 2021).

The group of young women brings together many other circumstances and traits that make them victims of multiple forms of discrimination, such as origin, ethnicity, refugee status or political asylum seeker, belonging to LGBTBI+ groups, being disabled, or being a victim of gender-based violence.

With regard to young women victims of male harassment, according to a study by the DGVG, 71.2% of women aged 16 to 24 and 68.3% of women aged 25 to 34 have suffered some kind of violence during their lives, compared to 42.1% of women aged 65 and over, which shows that youth is an aggravating factor in the risk of suffering violence.

A worrying phenomenon is the increase in social media harassment, which particularly affects this age group. Another recent study by the DGVG revealed that the most common forms of harassment suffered by girls between 14 and 20 years of age on the internet are showing (48%) or asking (43.9%) for pictures of a sexual nature; and 23.4% of girls receiving requests for cybersex online (43.9%). This study shows that this form of harassment is not perceived by them as such, as the percentage of girls who say that they have suffered it is significantly higher than the percentage of boys who admit to having perpetrated it (only 17.1% of boys admit to having asked for pictures of a sexual nature).

Sexual harassment situations experienced by girls online	Never	Once	Twice	Three times or more
I have been asked for cyber-sex	76.6%	8.1%	4.7%	10.7%
I have been asked to continue talking about sex after asking to stop	81.3%	7.6%	4.3%	6.8%
Rumours have been spread online about my sexual behaviour	88.4%	5.5%	2.3%	3.8%
I have been asked for pictures of myself of a sexual nature online	56.1%	12.6%	9.4%	21.9%
I have been shown sexual images online	52.0%	13.8%	10.8%	22.5%
I have received unwanted e-mails or sexual messages	63.2%	11.5%	7.9%	17.4%

7.4% of boys admit that they have asked for cybersex (DGVG: 2021).

Source: Government Delegation against Gender Violence (2021).

As regards the perception of the existence and seriousness of gender-based violence, boys seem to be increasingly less concerned by this problem. This is reflected in the comparison between 2019 and 2021 data from the CRS/FAD survey (2021). While the percentage of girls aged 15-29 consider it a very serious social problem (from 72.4% to 74.2%) among boys this perception has decreased from 54.2% to 50.4%. Furthermore, while 54.4% of women perceive that male violence has increased in recent years, only 30.1% of men do.

Another problem affecting women, especially migrant women, is that of prostitution and trafficking for sexual purposes. In Spain, in 2020, 420 people were victims of sexual exploitation, 95.53% of whom were women (FGE: 2021). Most of the victims are young women who have been recruited in their countries of origin by organised criminal networks that take advantage of their hopes for a better life to bring them to Spain through deception, threats and other forms of coercion, in order to subject them to different types of exploitation (TRABE: 2021).

To fight against inequalities and for a better future, participation is particularly important. In this respect, young Spanish women are more active than their male counterparts. Voting in elections stands out, an initiative which, according to data from the INJUVE

2020 survey, is high among Spanish youth, but especially among women, with 82.1% participation compared to 77.9% among young men.

Against this background, we set out the following strategic goals:

- Goal 11.1. Ensuring equality and non-discrimination in education. To provide education in gender equality and against gender discrimination through the transversal implementation of the principle of co-education.
- Goal 11.2. Young women and empowerment, decent employment and entrepreneurship: redressing strong inequalities in employment, occupation, entrepreneurship and empowerment between young women and young men.
- Goal 11.3. Implementing active support policies that enable young women to leave their parents' home at the desired age and to have access to decent housing in order to start building their own lives, including becoming mothers if they wish.
- Goal 11.4. Promoting relationship and sexual freedom and autonomy, the prevention of all male gender-based violence and the adaptation of public and health services to the specific needs of young women.
- Goal 11.5. Promoting a system of social and economic protection and care for families and women who are victims or at serious risk of social exclusion.
- Goal 11.6. Strengthening the participation of adolescent girls and young women in all spheres as agents of socio-political transformation.
- Goal 11.7. Turning the rural environment into a space of opportunities for young women and prevent their emigration, guaranteeing equal opportunities and rights for this group in comparison with the urban environment and making the rural world an option for effectively improving their living conditions.
- Goal 11.8. Improving research and knowledge management on young women's collectives.

Highlighted lines of action

- Developing programmes and initiatives aimed at promoting the attraction of female talent to scientific and technological areas and, in particular, to the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- Promoting coexistence and fighting school violence in all its manifestations with special attention to male gender-based violence.
- Preventing and fighting gender discrimination in the workplace by fostering a comfortable working environment, especially for young women, and by promoting actions that

encourage work-life balance and co-responsibility. For example, implementing mechanisms such as the Shared Responsibility Plan.

- ▶ Promoting social housing plans for particularly vulnerable youth groups and young families; in this sense, it was proposed to make use of the state-owned Sareb housing and other public resources with special attention to women and young families at risk of eviction.
- ▶ Introducing the gender perspective in the field of occupational health by proposing the consideration of dysmenorrhoea as a disabling health problem specific to women as a step prior to sick leave.
- ▶ Improving mental health care measures to tackle problems such as suicide among young people or the development of illnesses such as eating disorders (ED), depression, etc.
- ▶ Promoting the defence of young women's reproductive rights through the implementation of measures such as the new law on abortion.
- ▶ Eradicating male gender-based violence and guaranteeing comprehensive and quality care for adolescent and young victims of gender violence by working to improve care services and including victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- ▶ Suspending the visiting rights of parents or legal guardians who are serving sentences, or have been granted precautionary measures, for serious crimes of gender-based violence or committed in the presence of their children, in line with the State Pact against Gender Violence and the Istanbul Convention.
- ▶ Fighting against all forms of discrimination and hate speech and ensuring that LGTBQI+ youth have full access to resources and social services tailored to their needs.
- ▶ Supporting programmes for equality and the social and professional progress of rural women by promoting female entrepreneurship and facilitating information, obtaining and using resources, as well as supporting measures to combat male gender-based violence in rural areas.



Goal

The aim of this axis is to achieve, through young activism and leadership, a society in which all young people are environmentally active, educated, prepared to face environmental challenges and able to apply climate-friendly and sustainable behaviours in their daily lives.

Situation analysis

In recent years, environmental issues have gained prominence among young people. In fact, 80% (FSM: 2021) considers environmental protection a priority and 64.2% believe that they can play a key role in protecting the environment. Even so, eight out of ten young people (83%) perceived, reporting levels of medium (31.5%) and high (51.5%) agreement (FAD: 2019), that environmental issues directly affect their daily lives. In addition, 15% of young people regularly demonstrate against climate change (IJE: 2020).

Spanish society has undergone a major change in awareness of environmental issues, especially among young people. In this sense, recent studies show that the Spanish population supports the development of ambitious public policies, even more so now after the impact of COVID-19.

In this context, the goal is to involve youth as key actors in the leadership of the transformation processes initiated in the past three years with the Climate Change and Energy Transition Law, the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan, the Just Transition Strategy, the Energy Poverty Strategy, the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the Long-Term Strategy for a Modern, Competitive and Climate Neutral Economy in 2050. All of this constitutes the Government's Strategic Energy and Climate Framework that will guide actions in this area with the aim of reorienting the production model by promoting decarbonisation, improving resilience, promoting energy efficiency, the deployment and integration of renewable energies, the electrification of the economy, the development of energy storage efforts and the circular economy. In this sense, the challenges to be addressed should be directed, among other aspects, towards the promotion of green

infrastructures in Spain, the generation of more accessible and inclusive, breathable and sustainable, smart and dynamic urban environments, the construction of social rental housing with the highest quality and efficiency standards and the promotion of renewable energies.

- Goal 12.1. Participation. Leading sustainability and environmental policies through youth and adolescent activism.
- Goal 12.2. Education. Empowering youth to develop a shared environmental awareness upon which to act as agents of change for environmental and sustainable development.
- Goal 12.3. Housing. Promoting sustainable social renting, housing rehabilitation and rural repopulation.
- Goal 12.4. Rural world and environment. A commitment to sustainability.
- Goal 12.5. Production and mobility model. Curbing the consumption of natural resources.

Highlighted lines of action

- ▶ Creation of Youth Climate Assemblies.
- ▶ Fostering more accessible and inclusive, breathable and sustainable, intelligent and dynamic urban environments (Plan for sustainable, safe and connected mobility in urban and metropolitan environments).
- ▶ Promoting on the construction of social rental housing that comply with the highest quality and energy efficiency standards.
- ▶ Improving the sustainability, competitiveness and resilience of the agri-food sector, from an economic, environmental and social point of view, as well as reconversion processes focused on the green economy to avoid ecocides such as the one in the Mar Menor.
- ▶ Boosting adaptation to climate change, in order to reduce the potential impacts and risks arising from climate change and achieve a safer and more resilient country, while at the same time reducing the economic impact of more expensive energy on household economies by promoting renewable energies.

