

# Annual Youth Report 2006

		<b>SPANISH YOUTH OBSERVATORY</b>		



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# 1. YOUTH TODAY

## 1.1. Features overview

Spanish society has been experiencing major changes in recent years that affect the socialisation processes of its citizens in general and, in some cases to a greater extent, of young people in particular. The changes witnessed in young people have a bearing on both the evolution of the youth contingents and on their occupations, resources and needs.

The report presented here addresses some of the aspects of young people's current reality for the purpose of providing a brief and general overview of a number of situations, opinions and attitudes experienced by our youths.

The first section of this document provides information on the evolution of the youth population in the last few years and on how young people see themselves and their conditions of life.

In terms of population, the youth collective has been losing demographic weight in relation to the Spanish population as a whole. This decline is a result of the fall in the birth rate experienced in our country in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

This decline in the youth contingent would have been even greater had a major migratory phenomenon from less developed countries not taken place in the last few years: in 2005, the number of foreign youths in our country exceeded one million one hundred thousand, a number that represents more than 12% of the Spanish youth population as a whole.

The next issue addressed in this first section involves the generational perception that young people hold of their vital points of reference. The positive valuation of their personal relationships (with family members and friends) and of their conditions of life, lead us to believe that today's youth generations are highly satisfied with their lives, despite the difficulties that they are faced with.

The second section makes reference to young people's emancipation prospects, starting with their occupations and, more specifically, focusing on the conditions of youth employment. The conditions of remunerated employment (first jobs and current jobs) do not paint a very encouraging picture of young people's insertion into the labour market. Many jobs are known not to bear any relation with young people's academic qualifications, are often performed without a contract and are temporary as well as unstable.

As regards searching for a job, there is a clear imbalance between young men and young women. Young women take much longer to find a job compared with their male counterparts.

Youth unemployment continues to emerge as a serious problem in young people's existential horizon. In order to find a job that offers reasonable conditions young people manifest a willingness to change place of residence and even to lower their professional category.

This second section on emancipation also makes reference to young people's residence and housing situation. Young people's dependency with respect to housing is apparent in the fact that the majority of young people in Spain continue to live at home and that many of those who live independently still need financial help from their families. Despite these circumstances, young men and women in our country manifest their satisfaction with their living conditions.

Having one's own place seems to be the main reason for youth emancipation. In our country, emancipation continues to be closely associated with young people's capacity to purchase their own house, which, in the majority of cases, is dependent on financial help from the family as well as on very long-term mortgages.

The next subject addressed in this document is youth associationism. As in the past, in Spain, young people's relationship with associations largely continues to be based on sport and, to a lesser extent, cultural and recreational activities.

Young people's motivations for joining associations are based on satisfying their fun and leisure desires and fulfilling certain cultural and educational needs.

The report also addresses an aspect traditionally associated with youth surveys – political culture. The consolidation of the democratic sys-

tem among the youth population emerges as the only possible social scenario for co-existence. Young people's democratic principles are founded on such values as solidarity and respect for the laws and for different points of view.

Young people in Spain do not manifest a great deal of interest in politics. The last few years have seen a growing negative perception of politics and political leaders among young people. Nevertheless, despite this lack of interest and shrinking enthusiasm, young people feel that political parties and political participation through the vote are necessary as catalysts for political action, even though they feel that their interests are not adequately defended.

Young people feel that certain social transformations aimed at reducing social inequalities, defending public interests and respecting individual freedoms are particularly necessary.

Lastly, we have included a section on the values and attitudes of young people in our country. Solidarity and justice are the two social causes which young people consider worth making a strong effort and sacrifices for. Their tolerant attitudes on such issues as homosexuality and euthanasia sharply contrast the firmness they show towards certain illicit behaviour which endangers the smooth running of the society.

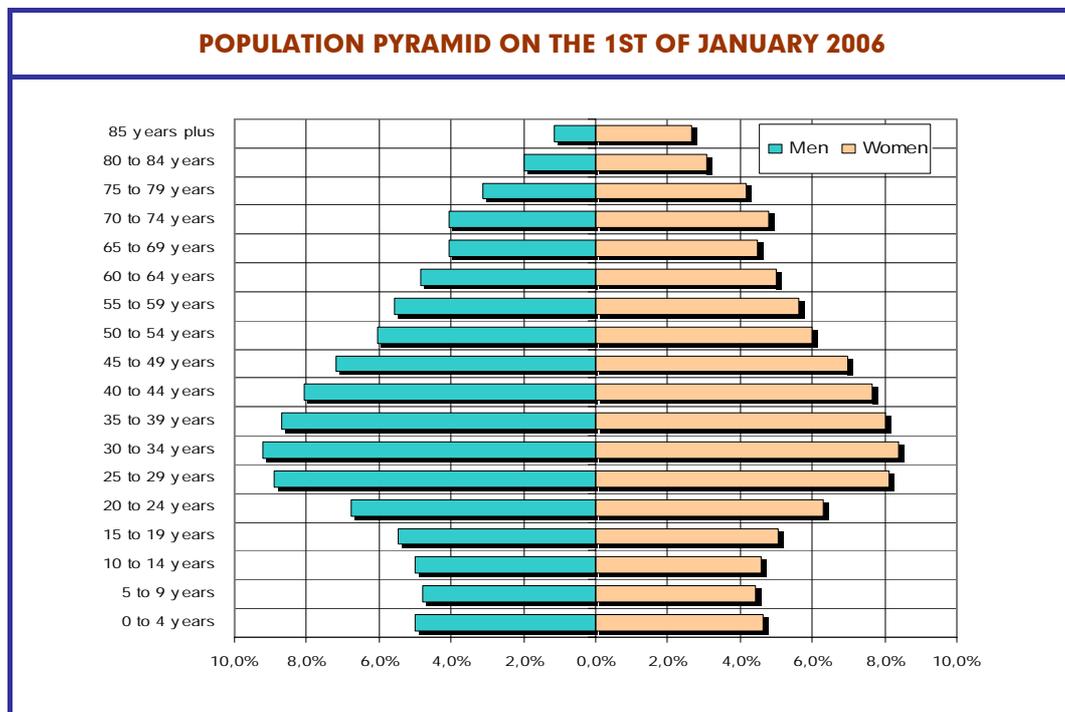
## 1.2. Population

### 1.2.1. Youth contingents in Spanish society

The data provided by the Municipal Population Register of the 1st of January 2006 reveal that the youth population aged 15 to 29 stands at 9.009.566,- inhabitants. The youth population slightly exceeds one fifth of the Spanish population as a whole (20.3%).

**THE YOUTH POPULATION IN OUR COUNTRY SLIGHTLY EXCEEDS ONE FIFTH (21%) OF THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE**

Since the year 2001, the youth population in our country has fallen by 140.000 youths. As a proportion of the Spanish population as a whole, this decline in the number of youths has entailed a reduction of approximately two percentage points (2.1%), shifting from 22.4% in 2000 to the above-mentioned 20.3% in 2006.



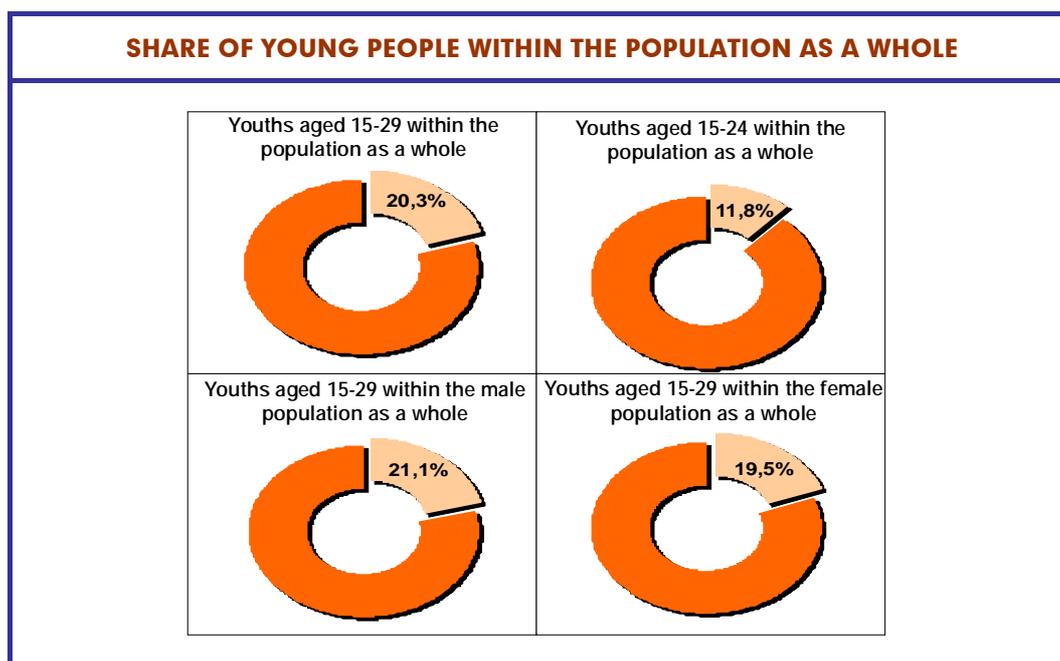
Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of the Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006

As has been the case since the start of the century, in 2006 the men outnumbered the women. The distribution between both genders is 21.1% (4.636.096) men compared with 19.5% (4.373.470) women.

#### YOUTH POPULATION (15-29 YEARS) BY SEX AND AGE YEAR BY YEAR

<i>Ages</i>	<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
15 years	453.978	233.321	220.657
16 years	459.323	236.143	223.180
17 years	467.600	240.623	226.977
18 years	483.471	248.119	235.352
19 years	507.051	259.993	247.058
20 years	534.528	273.795	260.733
21 years	561.593	287.213	274.380
22 years	605.186	309.881	295.305
23 years	643.539	330.604	312.935
24 years	686.787	352.483	334.304
25 years	717.206	368.994	348.212
26 years	759.075	392.326	366.749
27 years	775.172	401.647	373.525
28 years	795.579	411.409	384.170
29 years	795.332	412.464	382.868
From 15 to 29 years	9.245.420	4.759.015	4.486.405
From 15 to 24 years	5.403.056	2.772.175	2.630.881

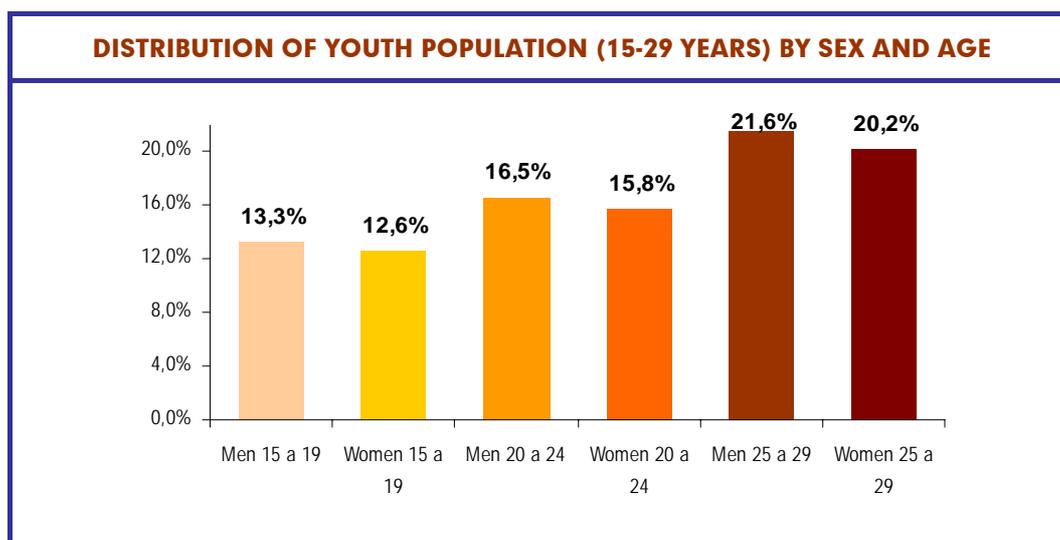
Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of the Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006



Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006

The breakdown in the youth population's demographic evolution experienced at the end of the last century still stands in 2006. The youths in the highest age group (aged 25 to 29) represent the largest youth population groups, both in absolute and relative terms. Whist from 19 years downwards, the youth segments have been falling in size uninterruptedly. This reduction in the new youth contingents is the result of the falling birth rate that we have witnessed since the second half of the 1970s.

The members of the youth population aged twenty and over are the offspring of a more fertile generation and, in turn, at least so far, they represent the least reproductive generations.



Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006

### 1.2.2. Distribution of the foreign youth population.

In the last few years, the foreign population in general and the foreign youth population in particular have been gradually increasing in our country. The data from the Review of the Municipal Population Register of 2006 reveal that, in Spain, of the 3.884.573,- individuals of foreign origin, 1.168.280,- were youths aged 15 to 29, representing 30% of the foreign population as a whole.

#### FOREIGN POPULATION AND FOREIGN YOUTH POPULATION (15-29 YEARS) ON THE 1ST OF JANUARY 2006 BY NATIONALITY

<i>Nationalities</i>	<b>Total foreign population</b>	<b>Foreign youths 15-29 years</b>	<b>% of youths in each nationality</b>
Total	3.884.573	1.168.280	30,1%
European Union	916.113	157.389	17,2%
Rest of Europe	645.634	234.811	36,4%
Africa	741.580	257.041	34,7%
Central America	117.313	36.866	31,4%
North America	44.709	12.753	28,5%
South America	1.214.388	404.939	33,3%
Asia	202.083	63.918	31,6%
Oceania	2.160	436	20,2%
Stateless	593	127	21,4%

Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006

As regards the youth population in our country, we find that of the 9.009.566,- youths aged 15 to 29 who lived in Spain in early 2006, 1.168.280 came from other countries. In percentage terms, this number of foreign youths represented 13% of the total number of youths living in our country; with the group of young males (618.043 individuals) being slightly larger than the group of young females (550.237).

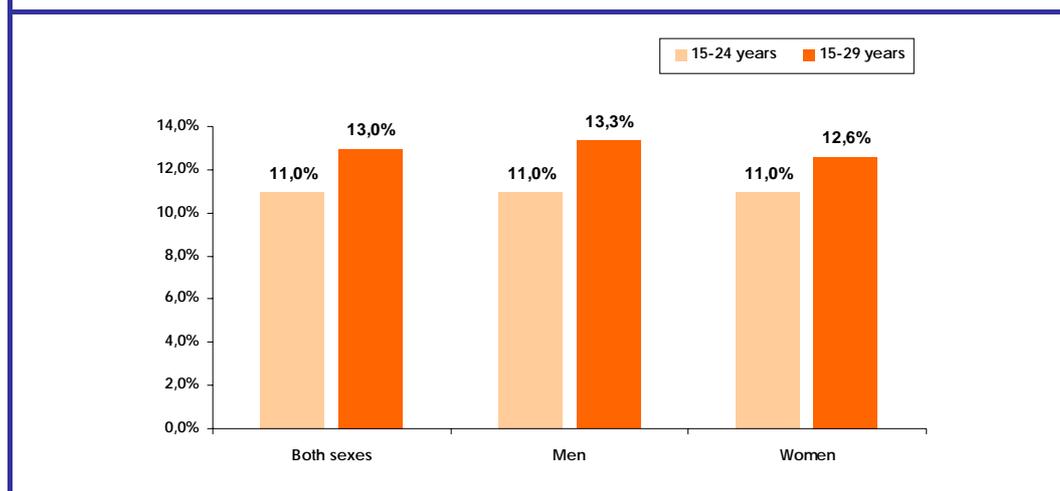
**FOREIGN YOUTHS REPRESENT 13% OF THE TOTAL YOUTH POPULATION IN SPAIN**

**FOREIGN YOUTHS IN THE YOUTH POPULATION AS A WHOLE BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS**

	<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Total 15 to 24 years	5.240.341	2.688.191	2.552.150
Foreigners 15 to 24 years	573.988	294.525	279.463
Total 15 to 29 years	9.009.566	4.636.096	4.373.470
Foreigners 15 to 29 years	1.168.280	618.043	550.237

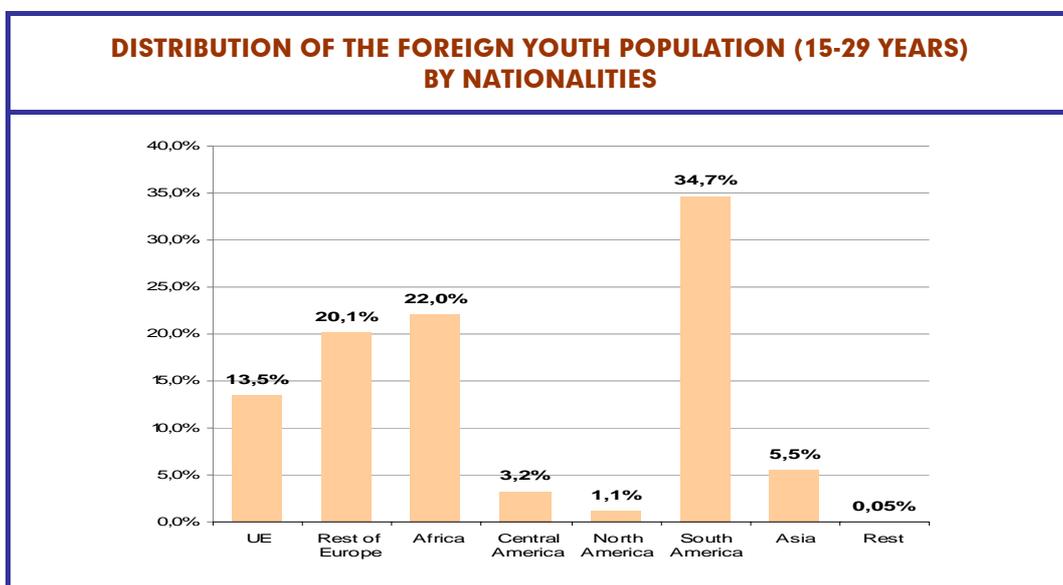
Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of the Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006

**% OF FOREIGN YOUTHS IN THE YOUTH POPULATION AS A WHOLE ACCORDING TO EACH AGE GROUP AND SEX**



Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of the Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006

As regards the areas and countries of origin of these foreign youths residing in Spain, the majority come from South America **\_35%\_**, (particularly Ecuador, followed by Colombia and, in fewer numbers, Argentina and Bolivia); the next largest collective comes from Africa **\_22%\_**, the vast majority come from Morocco; followed by youths from non- European Union European countries **\_20%\_**, this collective is mostly made up of Romanians; the collective of youths from the European Union is also worth mentioning, which represents 19%. Other geographical areas with less youth migratory weight are Asia **\_7%\_**, particularly China; as well as Central America **\_3%\_**.



Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006

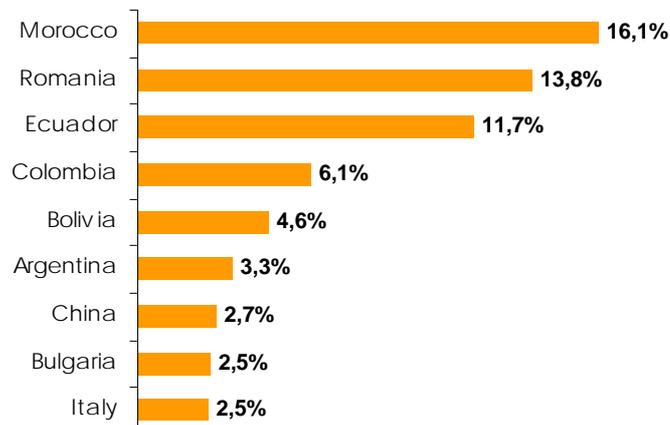
Morocco heads the list of the countries of origin of these foreign youths, with a total 188.352 youths, followed by Romania, with 160.993 youths, representing 16% and 14%, respectively, of the total number of foreign youths in our country. Morocco and Romania are followed by Ecuador, with 137.096 individuals **\_12%\_**, Colombia with 71.108 **\_6%\_**, and Bolivia with 53.702 **\_4%\_**.

**FOREIGN YOUTH POPULATION ACCORDING TO THE MOST NUMEROUS NATIONALITIES,  
BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS**

	Both sexes		Men		Women	
	15-29 years	15-24 years	15-29 years	15-24 years	15-29 years	15-24 years
Total foreign youths	1.168.280	573.988	618.043	294.525	550.237	279.463
Morocco	188.352	96.393	127.389	60.418	60.963	35.975
Romania	160.993	83.959	82.251	40.390	78.742	43.569
Ecuador	137.096	67.997	66.018	32.312	71.078	35.685
Colombia	71.108	35.501	31.156	16.991	39.952	18.510
Bolivia	53.702	25.744	22.293	10.433	31.409	15.311
Argentina	38.914	17.200	19.620	8.756	19.294	8.444
China	31.741	18.207	17.637	10.034	14.104	8.173
Bulgaria	29.600	15.055	15.783	7.650	13.817	7.405
Italy	29.154	12.426	16.556	6.797	12.598	5.629
Total 9 nationalities	740.660	372.482	398.703	193.781	341.957	178.701
% o/ total foreign youths	63,4%	64,9%	64,5%	65,8%	62,1%	63,9%

Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006

**DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN YOUTH POPULATION AGED 15 TO 29 ACCORDING  
TO THE MOST NUMEROUS NATIONALITIES**



Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006

**THE MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF YOUNG IMMIGRANTS IN SPAIN ARE MOROCCO (16%), ROMANIA (14%), ECUADOR (12%) AND COLOMBIA (6%).**

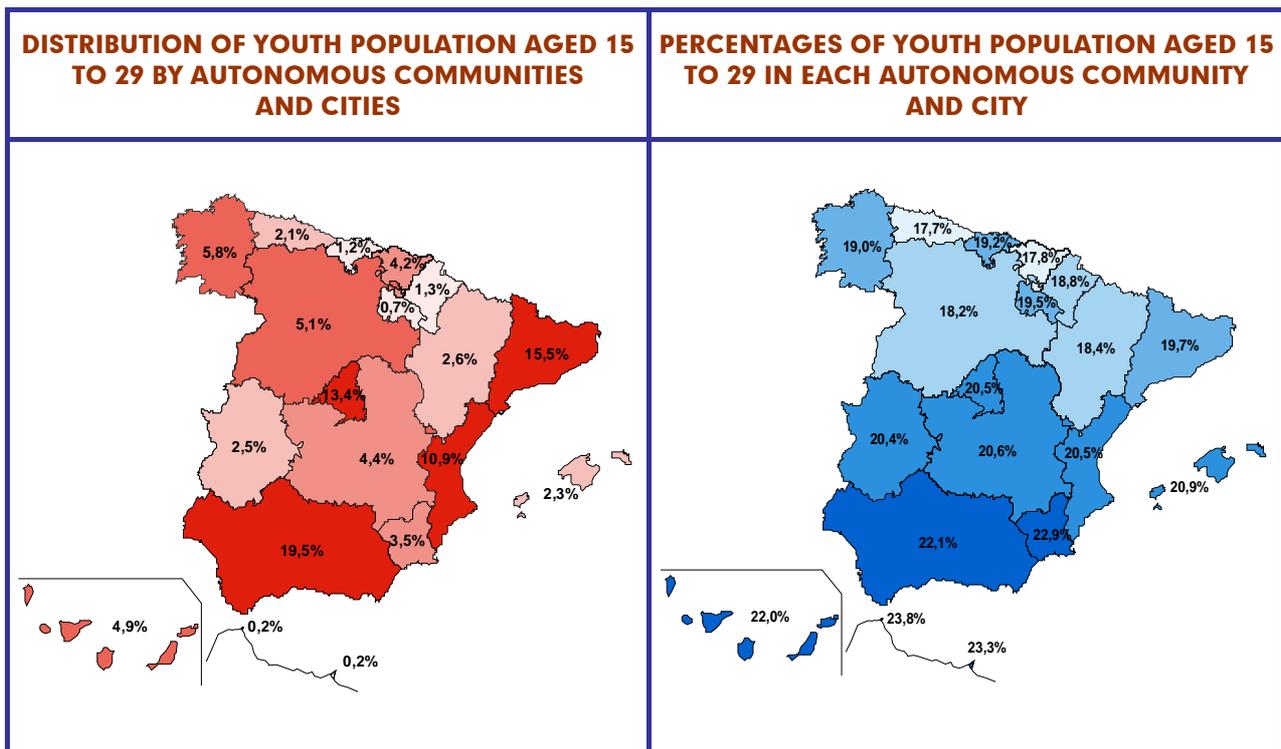
### 1.2.3. Distribution of youth population aged 15 to 29, according to autonomous community.

The distribution of the Spanish youth population in our territory is also asymmetrical. Approximately three out of five youths reside in three autonomous communities: Andalusia (19.5%), Catalonia (15.5%) and Madrid (13.4%), making up nearly half of the youth population. The Community of Valencia, with 10.9% of the youths, also stands above the average. The remaining 40% of the youths are spread among the rest of the autonomous communities.

#### YOUTH POPULATION IN AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND CITIES BY AGE GROUPS. BOTH SEXES

<i>Autonomous Communities and Cities</i>	<b>Total population</b>	<b>Youths 15-29 years</b>	<b>Youths 15-24 years</b>	<b>AGE GROUPS</b>		
				<b>15-19 years</b>	<b>20-24 years</b>	<b>25-29 years</b>
TOTAL	44.395.286	9.009.566	5.240.341	2.330.662	2.909.679	3.769.225
Andalusia	7.935.074	1.752.700	1.072.095	496.310	575.785	680.605
Aragón	1.269.927	233.677	134.759	59.631	75.128	98.918
Asturias (Principality of)	1.075.279	190.621	108.388	45.865	62.523	82.233
Balearic (Islands)	986.333	206.016	116.537	51.260	65.277	89.479
Canary (Islands)	1.984.672	437.330	257.833	116.990	140.843	179.497
Cantabria	566.678	108.940	62.405	26.876	35.529	46.535
Castilla y León	2.514.362	457.031	272.439	120.956	151.483	184.592
Castilla-La Mancha	1.924.200	396.066	242.612	113.081	129.531	153.454
Catalonia	7.083.618	1.397.085	773.630	333.802	439.828	623.455
Community of Valencia	4.772.403	977.814	560.576	248.633	311.943	417.238
Extremadura	1.084.599	221.744	142.300	68.829	73.471	79.444
Galicia	2.764.250	523.952	304.488	132.730	171.758	219.464
Madrid (Community of)	5.891.905	1.208.476	679.038	291.442	387.596	529.438
Murcia (Region of)	1.362.546	311.751	182.112	80.685	101.427	129.639
Navarra (Community of)	600.231	113.046	64.231	28.104	36.127	48.815
Basque Country	2.131.148	380.103	212.470	91.018	121.452	167.633
Rioja (La)	305.355	59.656	33.798	14.725	19.073	25.858
Ceuta	75.726	17.985	10.783	5.077	5.706	7.202
Melilla	66.980	15.573	9.847	4.648	5.199	5.726

Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of the Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006



Source: National Statistics Institute, Review of Municipal Population Register on the 1st of January 2006

### 1.3. GENERATIONAL VIEWS

#### 1.3.1. Young people's satisfaction with their lives

In 2006, young people continued to be generally satisfied with their lives: 20% affirmed that they were satisfied and 68% quite satisfied. This positive appraisal of young people's situation has improved slightly in comparison with previous years.

	2003	2005	2006
Satisfied	84%	84%	88%
Dissatisfied	15%	15%	12%

**THE LEVEL OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN'S VITAL SATISFACTION HAS INCREASED IN THE LAST YEAR.**

As in previous years, emotional aspects and interpersonal relationships continue to be the most satisfactory aspects for young people living in Spain. Ninety-six percent of those interviewed said that they were very or quite satisfied with their family and 94% with their friends.

Still on the subject of levels of satisfaction, the above-mentioned aspects were followed by the freedom they are given at home (93%), health (90%), the goods and objects that they possess (85%), their emotional relationships with partners – for those who have a partner (84%) - and leisure time (78%).

**THE ASPECTS THAT SATISFY YOUNG PEOPLE THE MOST ARE, IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE:**

- 1. INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS (FAMILY AND FRIENDS).**
- 2. CONDITIONS OF LIFE (LEVEL OF FREEDOM, LEISURE TIME, CONSUMPTION).**
- 3. EDUCATION/TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.**

### **1.3.2. How do they see themselves and their parents**

The positive aspects of the image that young people in Spain held of themselves in 2006 are their tolerance and supportive nature. The negative aspects that help define their self-image are basically their immaturity and dependence.

Young people's opinions on the contrasts between the current youth generation and their parents' generation remain unchanged. Young people see themselves as more tolerant, supportive and assertive than their parents. However, they also affirm that they are less mature and more dependent than their parents' generation.

<b>YOUTH GENERATION</b>	<b>PARENTS' GENERATION</b>
More tolerant	More mature
More supportive	More independent
More assertive	

**BASED ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S OPINIONS WE CAN GATHER THAT, IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, A NUMBER OF SOCIAL VALUES HAVE CONSOLIDATED AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE (TOLERANCE, SUPPORTIVENESS) BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS A DELAY IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERSONAL CONSOLIDATION PROCESSES (GAINING MATURITY AND INDEPENDENCE)**

Young people's vital points of reference or models, those that they would like to reflect or resemble, are based on clearly different models and spheres.

On the one hand, they have family points of reference (particularly mothers and fathers), involving models belonging to young people's more personal and closest sphere, where emotional relationships and values are particularly valued.

On the other, they have social models that are generally based on media personalities that portray socially accepted stereotypes as models of success.

<b>MODELS FROM THE PERSONAL SPHERE (FAMILY)</b>	<b>MODELS FROM THE SOCIAL SPHERE</b>
Personal sphere	Social sphere
Affectivity (values)	Media
Family models	Social success models
Changes in the long term	Changes subject to youth cultures and fashions.

## 2. EMANCIPATION

### 2.1. Employment

In 2006, young people in Spain exclusively dedicated their time to work (39%) or to studying (32%). Young people in unemployment made up 12% and those combining education with work made up 11%.

ONLY WORK	ONLY STUDY
More men	Slightly more women
Increase as they get older	Higher number in the lowest age collectives
With secondary education	
Lower socio-economic bracket	Belong, in a slightly higher proportion, to the highest socio-economic bracket
Live in urban and intermediate areas	Live in urban and semi-urban areas

**INCOME FROM YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, DESPITE YOUNG PEOPLE'S EXCLUSIVE DEDICATION TO THEIR JOBS, IS NOT ENOUGH TO ALLOW HALF OF THOSE WITH JOBS TO BE FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT**

There is a small collective of young people (3%) who declare being in a 'different situation' from the ones mentioned above. This collective mainly corresponds to housewives, which is basically made up of married women between the ages of 25 and 29.

**THE TRADITIONAL FEMALE OCCUPATION OF HOUSEWIFE IS GRADUALLY LOSING GROUND AS A YOUTH ACTIVITY (2%)**

### 2.1.1. First employment and changes in young people's initial labour opportunities

In 2006, approximately seven out of ten young people (71%) already had some kind of remunerated work experience, whilst 29% had still not held any kind of remunerated job.

<b>YOUTHS WITH SOME REMUNERATED WORK EXPERIENCE</b>
More men than women
Increases as young people get older

Experience in remunerated work is more frequent in men (75%) than in women (68%). And, as is logical, the number of those who have held remunerated jobs increases as young people get older, reaching practically all young people in the highest age group (95%).

**APPROXIMATELY ONE OUT OF FOUR YOUNG PEOPLE (22%) AGED 20 TO 24 HAS NOT HELD ANY KIND OF REMUNERATED JOB**

The average age in which young people in Spain had their first remunerated work experience stands at approximately 18 years, which is slightly below that age for men and slightly above for women.

The majority of young people were studying when they held their first remunerated job (55%), although the number of those who started to work after completing their studies is also high (45%).

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SITUATION WHEN THEY HELD THEIR FIRST REMUNERATED JOB**

Studying (55%)	After completing their studies (45%).
----------------	---------------------------------------

A large majority of young people affirm that their first job had little or nothing to do with their studies (79%), whilst the rest, one out of five (21%), declare that their first job was quite or very much associated with their academic background.

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE'S FIRST REMUNERATED JOB AND THEIR ACADEMIC BACKGROUND SHOWS A CLEAR IMBALANCE BETWEEN EDUCATION/TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.**

In the majority of cases (66%), first jobs are regulated by temporary contracts (work practice, for work and services rendered, seasonal, etc.). This temporality seems to respond to a structural problem in our country's labour market, given that it tends to affect young people of both sexes and of any age.

**OF ALL THE FIRST REMUNERATED JOBS HELD BY YOUNG PEOPLE, NEARLY ONE OUT OF FIVE (19%) IS FILLED WITHOUT A CONTRACT, AND THIS SITUATION IS MORE FREQUENT IN JOBS HELD BY WOMEN**

In the majority of cases the working hours of young people's first jobs were full-time (62%), whilst 37% of young people were employed on a part-time basis.

<b>TYPE OF WORKING HOURS OF FIRST JOBS</b>	
<b>Full time (62%)</b>	<b>Part time (37%)</b>
More young men than women Increase as young people get older	More young women than men. More common in younger ages.

**THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF WEEKLY WORKING HOURS OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S FIRST JOBS IS APPROXIMATELY 36 HOURS PER WEEK**

In general, young people's appraisals of their first jobs are not very positive: they grade salary and stability with a bare pass and give a fail mark to creativity, future prospects and relationship with their academic backgrounds.

**THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF REMUNERATED JOBS HELD BY YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THEIR WORKING LIVES IS FOUR**

### **2.1.2. Current jobs different to first jobs**

The data provided by young people in 2006 reveal that the relationship between education/training and employment tends to consolidate among young people from the highest age group (25-29 years), among those with higher qualifications (university degrees), those from a higher socio-economic bracket and those living in urban areas.

<b>TYPE OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS</b>	
Temporary contract	48%
Indefinite contract	40%
Self-employed workers	9%
Workers without a contract	7%

Levels of job stability tend to be closely associated with young people's age:

- The lower the age, the more jobs with temporary contracts and without contracts.
- The higher the age, the more indefinite jobs and self-employments.

**THERE ARE TWICE AS MANY YOUNG WOMEN (11%) PERFORMING JOBS WITHOUT A CONTRACT THAN YOUNG MEN (5%)**

Three out of four jobs currently held by young people (77%) are full time and 23% are part time.

<b>PROFILES IN TERMS OF TYPE OF WORKING HOURS OF CURRENT JOBS</b>	
<b>Full time (77%)</b>	<b>Part time (23%)</b>
More men	More women.
As age increases.	Lower age groups.
Financially independent youths.	Financially dependent youths.
Youths from lower socio-economic brackets.	Youths from higher socio-economic brackets.
Youths living in rural and semi-rural areas.	Youths living in urban areas.

**THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF WORKING HOURS OF JOBS HELD BY YOUNG PEOPLE STANDS AT APPROXIMATELY 37 PER WEEK**

Despite young people's quite positive appraisal of their current jobs: salary (6.8), job stability (7.0), creativity in the execution of the job (6.1) and future prospects (6.0), certain characteristics of the jobs performed by young people reveal poor job quality.

<b>GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT (FIRST JOBS AND CURRENT JOBS)</b>
Practically no relationship between education/training and jobs
Contract temporality
Predominance of full-time jobs
Number of weekly working hours very close to the official average of 40 hours.

**THE ASPECTS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CONSIDER MOST IMPORTANT IN THEIR APPRAISAL OF JOBS ARE SECURITY AND STABILITY**

### 2.1.3. Job hunting

There are more unemployed young women looking for work than young men and this gap increases as young women get older.

The average amount of time that young people had spent looking for work stood between five and six months (5.7 months).

**UNEMPLOYED YOUNG WOMEN TAKE TWICE AS LONG TO FIND WORK (7.5 MONTHS) THAN YOUNG MEN (3.5 MONTHS).**

Willingness of unemployment young people to make certain changes in relation to their employment situation.

	<b>MOST COMMON PROFILES.</b>
<b>Change residence for employment reasons (51%)</b>	More men than women. In the age group 20 to 25.
<b>Change profession or trade for employment reasons (78%)</b>	More men than women. As young people get older.
<b>Accept a lower income than would otherwise correspond to their qualifications (56%)</b>	More women than men.
<b>Accept a lower income than would otherwise correspond to their professional category (67%)</b>	More women than men

### 2.1.4. Causes of unemployment

In 2006, unemployment appears as a major problem for the vast majority of young people in our country; and this perception is even more stressed by women than men. In contrast with these, 8% of young people do not regard unemployment as a relevant social problem.

#### CAUSES THAT EXPLAIN THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S OPINION

Economic situation	82%
Government policies	77%
Poor management on the part of employers	75%
People's unwillingness to accept anything other than good jobs	67%
Lack of skills on the part of workers	63%

In the case of youth unemployment, the reasons put forward by young people to explain the problem of unemployment are, in order of priority, lack of experience (63%), lack of adequate education/training (14%), and lack of foresight when choosing what to study with respect to future employment opportunities (14%).

#### WILLINGNESS OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES WITH RESPECT TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

	Unemployed youths searching for work	All youths
Changing place of residence for employment reasons	51%	60%
Changing profession or trade for employment reasons	78%	57%
Accepting a job with an acceptable salary but below the amount that would otherwise correspond to their qualifications	56%	42%
Accepting a salary below the amount that would otherwise correspond to their professional category	67%	45%

**THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD BE WILLING TO CHANGE PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND TO LOWER THEIR PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY FOR A JOB WITH GOOD CONDITIONS**

Unemployed young people are more receptive than the youth population as a whole to accepting jobs that entail lowering their professional category and salary.

**YOUNG MEN ARE MORE WILLING THAN WOMEN TO ACCEPT JOBS WITH WORKING HOURS THAT ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THEIR PERSONAL AND FAMILY LIVES**

## **2.2. Housing**

### **2.2.1. Residential situation**

The majority of young people (51%) aged 18 to 34 live in the family home, 42% live in their own house (purchased or rented) and 5% share a flat with friends or colleagues.

**THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 18 TO 34 CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THE FAMILY HOME (51%), ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY IS QUITE HIGH (42%)**

Obviously, the number of those who live independently increases as young people get older. However, it is only in the higher age groups where the number of young people who live independently exceeds the number of those who live with their parents. It is as of the age of 25, and particularly as of the age of 29, when the adequate conditions that lead to the definite emancipation process are produced. In terms of the place where they would like to live, the majority of young people (more than eight out of ten) manifest that they would prefer to live independently in their own purchased or rented home.

The desire to live independently appears in high numbers once young people reach their 20th birthday, and it consolidates throughout their

twenties until reaching practically all young people aged 30 to 34. As young people get older, the price of housing emerges as an increasingly mentioned obstacle in the way of young people managing to finally live independently. Nearly two thirds (64%) of young people aged 18 to 34 live off their own income, although half of them need financial help from other people. More young men than young women live off their own income and the number increases for both sexes as young people get older.

**AMONG THE GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY THERE CONTINUES TO BE A LARGE NUMBER WHO STILL NEED FINANCIAL HELP TO LIVE.**

It is worth highlighting that in the higher age groups, including after young people's thirtieth birthday, a large number of young people (more than 20%) require some or full financial support from others to live.

The standard family model consists of the young individual who lives with his/her parents and a brother/sister. Although as young people get older, there are increasing numbers of households made up of two members (the young interviewee and his/her partner).

**IN THE LOWER AGE GROUPS, THE PERSONS LIVING WITH THE YOUNG INDIVIDUAL ARE MOSTLY PARENTS AND A BROTHER/SISTER AND, LATER, A SPOUSE OR PARTNER**

Spanish young people aged 18 to 34 affirm that they are satisfied with the conditions of the houses they live in. Approximately half of the young people feel that their living conditions are satisfactory; three out of ten affirm that they are very satisfied; approximately 10% feel that their houses are acceptable. Young people who manifest their dissatisfaction with their living conditions make up approximately 5%.

**YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTRY BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 TO 34 SAY THAT THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE HOUSES THEY LIVE IN**

### 2.2.2. Experience of young people living in their own home

Young people who no longer live with their parents left home at the average age of 23. The main reason for leaving home was to get married or to live with a partner (56%). The second reason put forward by young people was their desire to be independent and to have their own home (20%), followed by other reasons, such as moving because of their jobs (12%) and their studies (10%).

**THE MAIN REASON WHY YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVE HOME IS TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN HOME, EITHER BECAUSE THEY GET MARRIED OR BECAUSE THEY WANT TO LIVE WITH A PARTNER**

Many more young women than young men leave the family home to get married or to live with a partner, whilst more young men tend to leave the family home in search of independence or for work reasons.

#### RESOURCES FOR PURCHASING ONE'S OWN HOUSE

Own savings	67%
Partner's savings	51%
Mortgage	52%
Financial help from parents or parents-in-law	35%
Requirement of bank guarantee	22%
Aid from Public Administrations	9%

Comparing the house where young people currently live with the house they lived in when they lived with their parents, we note that, in the majority of cases, their current home is located closer to the place where they work or study (49%) and closer to the city or town centre (45%).

Forty percent of young people feel that they enjoy more comforts in their current homes compared with their parents' homes, although in the majority of cases their current homes are smaller.

### **2.2.3. Expectations of those who still live at home**

More than half of the young people consulted who live with their parents manifest their intention to live in their own homes in the next three years, as opposed to 38% who affirm that they do not plan to leave home within that timeframe.

Obviously, there are more people in the higher age group (25-34 years) who still live with their parents who manifest their intention to leave the family home.

Irrespective of sex and age, more than half consider that the wish or intention to leave home will be difficult to fulfil (53%) and approximately 10% feel that it will be very difficult or practically impossible. Contrary to these pessimistic youths, there is a large group of young people who consider that the emancipation process will be easy (21%) and 7% feel that they will live independently in less than one year's time.

**THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WISH TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY ADMIT THAT THEY WILL NEED FINANCIAL HELP FROM THE FAMILY TO BUY OR RENT A PLACE**

## 2.2.4. Purchased or rented property

<b>PROPERTY TENANCY SYSTEM OF YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN-DEPENDENTLY</b>	
Rented property	32%
Purchased property with outstanding payments	48%
Fully paid purchased property	11%
Inherited or donated own property	4%

Young people who have purchased their property but still have outstanding payments to make on their mortgages have many years of payments ahead of them (the average is approximately 20 years). The average monthly mortgage payment stands at just below five hundred euros (460 euros).

**THE IMMENSE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN (90%) PREFER TO BUY A PROPERTY RATHER THAN TO RENT IT (7%)**

The main reason put forward by young people for preferring to purchase rather than to rent a property is that “rentals are expensive and, with a little more effort, I can manage to buy my own property”; this view is shared by approximately half of non-independent young people. The second reason for preferring to purchase a property is the socially consolidated desire to own one’s own house (44%).

## 2.2.5. Access to housing, knowledge, valuation factors, prospects

Although the majority of young people consulted declare that they do not know everything there is to know about mortgage interest rates (54%) a large number of young people (46%) affirm that they are familiar with such matters.

The majority of young people seem to be unaware of the subsidies in place for purchasing a property; this was affirmed by 63%. The rest declare that they are aware of the subsidies in place.

**APPROXIMATELY TWO OUT OF THREE YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN ARE UN-AWARE OF THE PUBLIC SUBSIDIES IN PLACE FOR PURCHASING A PROPERTY**

Only 11% affirm that they hold a home-savings bank account. A vast majority (approximately three out of four) holds a general savings account, and 4% affirm that they hold a savings account specifically destined to buying a property. There is also a minority of young people (10%) who declare that they do not hold a saving account of any type (this is particularly so in the 15 to 24 age group).

The main problems or obstacles in the way of young people gaining access to a property are, in order of importance, property prices, low salaries and lack of job stability.

When thinking about a future property, the factor that young people consider most important is that price of the property adapts well to their financial possibilities (47%). The next factors that are important to them when thinking about their future property are: the location of the property, which should be close to their place of work or study (19%), the quality of the property (17%), the fact that the property should be close to their parents' or parents-in-law's house (8%) and the payment method (6%).

## 3. ASSOCIATIONISM AND PARTICIPATION

### 3.1. Youth Associationism

Young people in Spain's relationship with associations has not differed in the last few years. The percentage of young people who belong to some type of association or organisation continues to stand at 37% (approximately four out of ten). One out of five young people (20%) have belonged to an association in the past but no longer do. More than four out of ten have never belonged to an association.

**MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATIONS ARE MORE WIDESPREAD AMONG MEN, THE LOWEST AGE GROUPS, STUDENTS, YOUTHS WITH MORE FINANCIAL RESOURCES, YOUTHS WITH HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS AND YOUTHS LIVING IN LARGE CITIES**

The youth practice of belonging to associations is determined by youth independence processes. Whilst young people are dependent, living at home and studying, it is easier for them to allocate part of their leisure time to participating in organisations and associations. However, as they get older and start to take on job responsibilities, it is less likely that they will find time for associations or organisations.

#### TYPE OF ASSOCIATIONS WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN

Sports	50%
Cultural	20%
Recreational	15%
Student	15%
Religious	13%
Outings	11%

**AS HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR YEARS, YOUNG MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATIONS MOSTLY PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS ORGANISATIONS**

Gender, age and qualifications seem to have a bearing on the type of association young people belong to. The profile of the typical participant varies according to the aim of the association.

<b>Sports Asso- ciations</b>	<b>Cultural Asso- ciations</b>	<b>Student Asso- ciations</b>	<b>Recreational Associations</b>	<b>Religious As- sociations</b>	<b>Outings Asso- ciations</b>
Men.	Women.	Men.	Men.	Women.	Men.
Aged 15 to 17.	As of the age of 18.	Aged 15 to 17 and 20 to 24.	Aged 20 to 29.	Aged 15 to 17.	Aged 15 to 17.
With primary or compulsory secondary edu- cation.	With post- compulsory sec- ondary educa- tion.	With primary, post- compulsory secondary edu- cation and higher educa- tion.	With primary education.	With primary education.	

**YOUNG MEN BELONGING TO SOCIAL ASSOCIATIONS OR ORGANISATIONS SEEK TO SATISFY THEIR PLAY AND LEISURE WISHES, WHILST WOMEN MOSTLY SEEK TO FULFIL CULTURAL, EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS NEEDS**

Belonging to associations or organisations is more frequent among young people aged 15 to 17. The rates of youth membership fall once young people come of age; new chores and responsibilities, as well as new leisure preferences lead some young people to give up their associations and dedicate their leisure time to other activities.

The majority of young members (61%) belong to organisations specifically aimed at youths, whilst 34% belong to organisations that are not specifically aimed at youths.

The most frequently mentioned reason put forward by young people to justify their participation in associations continues to be that of dedicating their free time to the activities they enjoy (38% of those interviewed put forward this argument). This was followed by altruistic reasons, such as being useful by helping others, which was mentioned by 16%, the joint

defence of rights and common opinions (12%), and to share hobbies and interests (12%).

As in previous years, young people who do not participate in any association (six out of ten) mainly justify their absenteeism by arguing that they do not have time (34%) or that they have not given it serious thought (30%).

### 3.2. Participation in NGOs.

As regards young people in Spain's willingness to participate in non-government organisations (NGOs), the number of those interviewed who affirm that they participate in NGOs continues to stand at 5%, one out of four (19%) say that they would like to participate but have not found an NGO that fully convinces them. However, the large majority of young people (47%) say that they do not have enough time to participate in NGOs. Seventeen percent manifest no interest in the causes defended by NGOs.

<b>PARTICIPATE OR ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN NGOS</b>	<b>DO NOT PARTICIPATE OR HAVE NO INTENTION OF PARTICIPATING IN NGOS</b>
Aged 25 to 29.	Younger age groups.
Live independently.	Live at home.
Combine work with studying.	Only study or work.
With higher qualifications.	Lower qualifications.
Reside in or around urban areas.	Live in rural or intermediate areas.

As in previous years, young people in Spain's interest for collaborating in voluntary activities does not reveal any clear preferences for different areas of voluntary work. The majority of the aims (fighting AIDS, helping the disabled, looking after the elderly, defending the environment, assistance to third world countries, etc.) are of interest to young people. But it is worth mentioning that there is still a considerable minority of young people who are not interested in helping or collaborating with immigrants (19%) or drug addicts (15%).

## 4. YOUTHS AND DEMOCRATIC CULTURE

### 4.1. Young people's attitudes towards democracy

In the last few decades, support and identification with the democratic system has gradually consolidated among our country's different youth generations. In 2005, approximately eight out of ten young people (79%) affirmed that "*democracy is better than any other system of government.*" Only one out of nine young people consulted (11%) manifested their indifference towards the political system that they would like to live under. And only a minority of 5% felt that "*sometimes, an authoritarian system is preferable.*"

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S IDENTIFICATION WITH DEMOCRACY

	1997	2005
Democracy is better than any other system of government	75%	79%
Sometimes, an authoritarian system is preferable	7%	5%
No inclination for any system	13%	11%

**IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, DEMOCRACY HAS CONSOLIDATED AMONG SPANISH YOUNG PEOPLE AS THE PREFERRED FORM OF GOVERNMENT, WHILST THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY WITH AN AUTHORITARIAN REGIME SEEMS TO BE FALLING.**

#### 4.1.1. The concept of citizenship

Young people's participation as citizens, or rather 'good citizens', can be measured by their opinions on certain social behaviour.

In general terms, we can affirm that Spanish young people show a strong disposition towards citizen participation, if we base ourselves on the positive appraisal that they make of the majority of practices associated with the concept of citizenship.

	(Scale of 1 to 7)
Helping people in our country who live under worse conditions than you	6,2
Helping people who in other parts of the world live under worse conditions than you	6,0
Trying to understand people who do not share our opinions	5,9
Not evading taxes	5,9
Always respecting laws and regulations	5,8
Choosing consumer goods that, although more expensive, do not harm the environment	5,7
Always voting in elections	5,3
Remaining well informed on the actions of the Government	4,6
Participating in social or political associations	4,0
Being willing to serve in the army in times of need	3,4

In light of young people's opinions on their participation in society as 'good citizens', we can affirm that solidarity towards people in our country and outside our borders who '*live under worse conditions*' is very widespread among Spanish young people.

Solidarity is followed by tolerance towards other people and their ideas. The value that young people give to tolerance is portrayed in the rating they give to '*trying to understand people who do not share our opinions*'.

**WOMEN AND THE LOWER AGE GROUPS ARE THE ONES WHO ARE MORE CONCIENTIOUS ABOUT SOLIDARITY TOWARDS THE MOST DISADVANTAGED**

In the scale of citizen values, tolerance is followed by values associated with respect towards the legislation in force in our society. Young people consider that '*always obeying the laws and regulations*' and '*not evading taxes*' are very important values.

**YOUNG PEOPLE GIVE INCREASING IMPORTANCE TO DEFENDING ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

As regards the values and attitudes associated with political participation, the first position is occupied by electoral participation through the vote: young people consider that it is important to '*always vote in elections*'.

Young people in our country do not manifest an attitude of rejection towards political participation, as the dominant social debate seems to suggest. This is demonstrated by the importance that young people give to an element of the democratic system as fundamental as electoral participation through the vote. The breakdown between that interest and real participation is produced by the lack of motivation and identification that current forms of political participation generate in young people, as illustrated below.

## 4.2. Political knowledge and interest

### 4.3. Political interest

When young people are questioned about their political interest in general, it becomes apparent that the majority of Spanish young people are not interested in politics.

	2005
Very or quite interested in politics	24%
Not very or not at all interested in politics	76%

**THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS.**

In 2005, the majority of Spanish young people felt mistrust towards politics (50%). This majority was followed by young people who affirm that politics arouses indifference (35%) and boredom (29%) in them.

**TWENTY-THREE PERCENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE AFFIRM THAT THEY ARE INTERESTED IN POLITICS; THIS INTEREST APPEARS MORE WIDESPREAD AMONG THOSE AGED 20 TO 24**

### FEELINGS GENERATED IN YOUNG PEOPLE BY POLITICS

	1985*	1990*	2005**
Boredom	22%	28%	29%
Enthusiasm	2%	2%	6%
Irritation	4%	8%	18%
Interest	31%	23%	23%
Indifference	17%	17%	35%
Passion	1%	--	--
Displeasure	4%	--	--
Commitment	2%	4%	--
Mistrust	15%	15%	51%
Did not know/Did not answer	2%	3%	--

(\*) Portrays the opinions of young people aged 18 to 29.

(\*\*) Portrays the opinions of young people aged 18 to 29 taken from a variable of a multiple response question with a maximum of two answers, therefore the total exceeds 100.

Source: 1985 and 1990: Sociological Research Centre (CIS), Survey no. 1.461 and 1870.  
2005: INJUVE, Opinion polls (2nd survey 2005)

In 2005, negative feelings towards politics, such as mistrust, irritation and boredom, were much more common among young people in our country (98%), than positive feelings like interest and enthusiasm (29%).

POSITIVE FEELINGS	NEGATIVE FEELINGS
Enthusiasm Interest	Mistrust Irritation Boredom
Total: 29%	Total: 98%

**IN THE LAST TWENTY YEARS FEELINGS OF MISTRUST, INDIFFERENCE AND IRRITATION TOWARDS POLITICS HAVE INCREASED AMONG SPANISH YOUNG PEOPLE**

	1985*	1990*	2005**
Mistrust	15%	15%	51%
Indifference	17%	17%	35%
Boredom	22%	28%	29%
Interest	31%	23%	23%
Irritation	4%	8%	18%

(\*) Portrays the opinions of young people aged 18 to 29.

(\*\*) Portrays the opinions of young people aged 18 to 29 taken from a variable of a multiple response question with a maximum of two answers, therefore the total exceeds 100.

Source: 1985 and 1990: Sociological Research Centre (CIS), Survey no. 1.461 and 1870.  
2005: INJUVE, Opinion polls (2nd survey 2005)

#### 4.2.2. The role of politics in young people's conversations

Currently (second quarter of 2005) political issues continue to fail to occupy a prominent place in the personal conversations of the vast majority of Spanish young people with family and friends.

	Con la familia	Con amigos	Con compañeros
Frecuentemente	12%	10%	9%
Algunas veces	35%	29%	26%
Raramente o nunca	54%	60%	64%

The nuclear family appears as the space where politics is most often discussed, whilst the work and education environments are where conversations about political issues are less frequent.

**POLITICS SEEMS TO BE A MORE PRIVATE RATHER THAN A PUBLIC ISSUE FOR SPANISH YOUNG PEOPLE**

The hesitance to talk discuss politics with friends and particularly with work or college/university peers seems to reinforce the idea that the political debate is excluded from young people's conversations, perhaps to avoid possible conflict generated by opposing ideas, or perhaps because these relations are based on emotional (in the case of friends) or

professional (in the case of work or college/university colleagues) bonds where politics plays an insignificant role.

### 4.2.3. Opinions on politics

Political participation and influence through the vote seems to be consolidated among Spanish young people. Seventy-three percent of young people agree with the statement that *'Through the vote, people like me can influence politics'*, compared with 24% who do not agree with this statement.

Despite young people's positive opinion about their active participation in public life through the vote, Spanish young people manifest a great deal of mistrust towards political leaders. First of all, the majority of young people (73%) do not feel that their concerns are shared by political leaders and, in this respect, they agree with the statement *'politicians do not care much about what people like me think'*.

In second place, young people are very convinced that the interests of politicians are basically personal – this opinion is backed by 78% of those interviewed.

**YOUNG PEOPLE MANIFEST A GREAT DEAL OF MISTRUST TOWARDS POLITICAL LEADERS AND THEY BELIEVE THAT POLITICIANS ARE BASICALLY MOTIVATED BY PERSONAL INTERESTS**

### 4.2.3. Political knowledge through the media

The majority of young people manifest that they are not well informed on political matters; 64% affirm that they have little or no information on the subject, whilst the remaining 35% affirm that they are quite well or very well informed on what happens in the political arena.

**YOUNG MEN CONSIDER THEMSELVES BETTER INFORMED THAN YOUNG WOMEN AND, AS YOUNG PEOPLE GET OLDER, THEY CLAIM TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON POLITICAL ISSUES**

The most usual form of obtaining political information is, by far, through the television, 78% of young people affirm that they frequently watch the news on television. These are followed by young people who declare that they normally get informed on political issues through the political section of the press (38%), through the radio (27%) and through Internet (10%).

The variable of obtaining political information through Internet is particularly surprising given that, although young people are the most frequent users of Internet, it seems that obtaining information on political issues via this means is not among the normal uses that young people make of Internet.

	Press	Radio	Television	Internet
Very frequently (3 or more days a week)	19%	17%	63%	5%
Frequently (1 or 2 days a week)	19%	10%	15%	5%
Occasionally	23%	22%	12%	16%
Never	39%	51%	10%	73%

### 4.3. Young people's political participation

#### 4.3.1. Young people's participation in political life through political parties

Political parties are the main channel of political participation in democracy. The need for political parties as a means of participating in political life is shared by the majority of Spanish young people (65%) who agree with the affirmation '*it is thanks to political parties that people can participate in political life*'. However, there are also large numbers of young people (30%) who disagree with this statement.

**DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE AFFIRMATION**  
***"it is thanks to political parties that people can participate in political life"***

	<b>1980</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2005</b>
	(18-29 years)	(18-29 years)	(18-29 years)	(18-29 years)	(15-29 years)
Agree	63%	69%	67%	64%	65%
Disagree	18%	20%	19%	27%	29%
Did not know/Did not answer	19%	11%	14%	9%	6%

Source: 1985, 1990,1995,: Sociological Research Centre (CIS), Survey nos. 1.237, 1.461, 1.870 and 2.154  
 2005: INJUVE, Opinion polls (2nd survey 2005)

**DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE AFFIRMATION**  
***"democracy cannot exist without political parties"***

	<b>1985</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2005</b>
	(18-29 years)	(18-29 years)	(18-29 years)	(15-29 years)
Agree	71%	69%	69%	72%
Disagree	17%	16%	18%	20%
Did not know/Did not answer	12%	15%	13%	6%

Source: 1985, 1990,1995,: Sociological Research Centre (CIS), Survey nos. 1.237, 1.461, 1.870 and 2.154  
 2005: INJUVE, Opinion polls (2nd survey 2005)

**THE EXISTENCE OF DEMOCRACY IN ASSOCIATION WITH POLITICAL PARTIES  
 APPEARS VERY GENERALISED AND ASSIMILATED AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE  
 IN OUR COUNTRY IN THE LAST TWO DECADES**

#### **4.3.2. Participation in elections and the right to vote**

Young people's active participation in political life is essentially associated with electoral participation through the vote.

### AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF AFFIRMATIONS CONCERNING THE VOTE

	Agree	Disagree
Anyone who does not vote does not have the right to complain about the government	41%	45%
Not voting is as legitimate as voting	67%	19%
One more vote is not going to make any difference	19%	65%
All votes are important in democracy	85%	4%

Source: INJUVE, [p]inión polls (2nd survey 2005)

#### 4.3.3. The possibility of reducing the age for the right to vote

The majority of those consulted (44%) consider that eighteen is the appropriate age to begin to exercise the right to vote and are therefore against reducing that age. However, there are large numbers of young people (36%) who are in favour of reducing that age to sixteen, at least in some elections like the municipal ones.

**THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE CONSIDER THAT THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN IS THE APPROPRIATE AGE TO BEGIN TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT TO VOTE**

#### ARGUMENTS AGAINST REDUCING THE VOTING AGE

'Young people are not mature enough to vote'. (60%)

'Young people's vote would be very influenced by the family.' (70%)

#### ARGUMENTS FOR REDUCING THE VOTING AGE

'By granting the vote to sixteen year olds, young people's interest in politics would be stimulated' (42%)

'Giving sixteen to eighteen years olds the right to vote would be a major step forward for democracy'. (29%)

Young people's opinion about reducing the voting age from eighteen to sixteen

AGREE	DISAGREE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slightly more men than women</li> <li>• More among individuals in the lowest age group (15-19 years)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More women than men</li> <li>• More individuals in the higher age groups, particularly in the highest (25-29 years).</li> </ul>

#### 4.4. Other forms of social and political participation

In democratic societies like ours, political parties have traditionally acted as a channel for institutional political participation. However, there are large numbers of young people who employ other alternative forms of political participation. In some cases, young people are pioneers in these new forms of socio-political participation as they involve informal channels that are more familiar to them.

	Has partici- pated	Would be willing	Would not be willing
Attend demonstrations	58%	32%	10%
Collect signatures for political demands	45%	43%	10%
Boycott or purchase certain products for political reasons or to protect the environment	21%	54%	23%
Attend political meetings	22%	43%	35%
Give or collect money for a social or political cause	20%	50%	29%

All these alternative forms of political action are more widely accepted by young women than young men and participation in them is more frequent as young people get older, particularly as of the age of twenty.

#### 4.5. Young people's ideological identification

One of the ways to measure young people's ideological position is based on how close they feel to the different political parties that make up the national and regional political spectrum. Among the national political parties that young people were questioned on, the PSOE was the one to arouse more sympathy, 31% of young people manifested that they felt close or very close to the PSOE's political ideology. The PSOE was fol-

lowed by the People's Party, which 16% of young people identified with; a similar percentage (16%) manifested their closeness with the political ideology of Izquierda Unida.

**YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN TEND TO IDENTIFY MORE WITH POLITICAL PARTIES OF A LEFT-WING IDEOLOGY, AND THEY ARE LESS ATTRACTED TO THE PROPOSALS OF CONSERVATIVE PARTIES**

One particularly relevant piece of data concerning the efforts made by political parties to defend the interests of young people is that the majority of young people (28%) feel that no political party properly defends their ideas, problems, concerns and interest. This lack of confidence towards political parties among young people in Spain increases as young people get older.

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S OPINION ON THE PARTY THAT DEFENDS THE INTERESTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE BETTER**

	<b>2005</b>
PSOE	26%
PP	12%
Izquierda Unida	7%
None	28%
Did not know	18%

Source: INJUVE, Opinion polls (2nd survey 2005)

**TWENTY EIGHT PERCENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN BELIEVE THAT NO POLITICAL PARTY PROPERLY DEFENDS THE IDEAS, PROBLEMS, CONCERNS AND INTERESTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

In the last twenty-five years, young people in our country situate themselves in moderate ideological positions, although slightly towards the left. In this respect, the way they position themselves in the political scale has experienced very few changes, as can be observed from the table below; although possibly in the last five years they have shifted a little closer towards the left.

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S IDEOLOGICAL POSITION ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN (LEFT/RIGHT)**

1980	1985	1990	1995	1999	2005
(General population)	(18-29 years)	(18-29 years)	(18-29 years)	(18-29 years)	(15-29 years)
4,4	4,8	4,5	4,8	4,9	4,4

Source: 1985, 1990,1995,: Sociological Research Centre (CIS), Surveys nos. 1.237, 1.461, 1.870, 2.154 and 2316 2005: INJUVE, Opinion polls (2nd survey 2005)

In 2005, young people were also asked to place on that political scale the position which, in their opinion, was held by their parents. Young people placed both their fathers and mothers positions at the centre of the scale, i.e., the politically moderate position, slightly more towards the right than their own positions.

**IDEOLOGICAL POSITION OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR PARENTS ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN (LEFT/RIGHT)**

Young people	Father	Mother
4,4	4,9	4,8

Fuente: 2005. INJUVE, Sondeos de opinión (2ª encuesta 2005)

**4.6. Young people's perception of society****4.6.1. Young people's vision of society**

The majority of young people (45%) believe that our society '*needs profound reforms*'. This point of view is shared by more women than men, perhaps due to their perception of the gender inequalities that they often encounter, which they possibly associate with those profound changes. This opinion is also increasingly backed by individuals in the higher age groups.

The above-mentioned majority is closely followed by a group of young people (43%) who feel that our society '*would function better with a few small changes*'. This optimistic view of society is mostly shared by young people in the lowest age group (15-19 years).

**THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT OUR SOCIETY NEEDS PRO-FOUND CHANGES (45%), CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT ONLY A FEW SMALL CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO IMPROVE IT (43%)**

Young people were also asked to rate the importance of the objectives that should be addressed by society in the coming years. As priority objectives most young people mentioned *'reducing social inequalities'* (45%) – a priority particularly mentioned by the lowest age group (15-19 years)-, *'combating unemployment'* (44%) and *'improving education and the public health system'* (40%) – mostly mentioned by women over 20 years old -.

Occupying second rank were objectives geared towards *'keeping order in the country'* (30%) – particularly mentioned by the lowest age group -, *'progressing towards a more humane society'* (29%) – mostly mentioned by those aged 20 to 25- and *'stopping inflation'* (27%) – a priority particularly mentioned by those over 20 years of age-.

Another group of social priorities which young people consider quite important are those geared towards *'protecting freedom of expression'* (23%) and *'increasing citizen participation'* (19%).

On the other hand, young people confer less importance to issues like *'improving public security/safety'* (14%), and *'progressing towards a less capitalist society'* (12%). They also consider less important *'promoting citizen participation'* (8%) and *'keeping the cities and the countryside well kept'* (5%).

	%
Reducing social inequalities	45%
Combating unemployment	44%
Improving education and the public health system	40%
Keeping order in the country.	30%
Progressing towards a more humane society	29%
Stopping inflation.	27%
Protecting freedom of expression.	23%
Increasing citizen participation.	19%
Improving public security/safety	14%

Source: INJUVE, Opinion polls (2nd survey 2005)

Young people in Spain's priorities for the coming years involve defending key social principles like *equality, defending public interests, order and freedom*. And, at the same time, young people also rate certain aspects of their daily lives such as *economic problems associated with employment and consumption* as priority issues.

#### 4.6.2. The government's role in the development of society.

Young people's opinion on the role of the government in our society mostly leans towards the view that *'it is responsible for the well-being of all citizens'* (59%). Twenty-two percent of young people believe that the government *'is responsible for the well-being of the most disadvantaged'* and 14% exempt the government of responsibility and believe that *'individuals themselves should be responsible for their own well-being'*.

**THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD BE TO ENSURE THE WELL-BEING OF ALL CITIZENS**

Faced with the hypothetical choice between freedom and social equality, more young people prefer social equality (46%) compared with those who prefer freedom (41%).

<b>YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHOICE BETWEEN EQUALITY OR FREEDOM</b>	
<b>Prefer equality (46%)</b>	<b>Prefer freedom (41%)</b>
More women than men More in the lower age groups (15-24 years)	More men than women More in the higher age group (25-29 years).

## 5. VALUES AND ATTITUDES

### 5.1. Young people's values

Spanish young people currently hold health and emotional relationships (with family and friends) as their priority values. These priorities practically fully coincide with those expressed in previous years, which reinforces the generational tendency to consider these aspects of essential importance for the vital development of the immense majority of Spanish young people.

After health and emotional aspects, a large majority of young people rate aspects associated with occupations (work and education) and with vital experiences (leisure practices and sexuality) as important.

As in the case of two years ago, in 2005 politics and religion continue to emerge as not very important to young people.

Although these ratings hardly differ throughout the different groups of young people, at least two issues are worth highlighting:

The first is that many more women (92%) than men (83%) confer importance to education, which highlights the female youth collective's concern and drive to acquire social and labour skills.

The second is the gradual decline in the importance that young people confer to religion (it has fallen from 26% in 2003 to 23% in 2005). This decline is much shaper among young men than young women; and after they come of age.

As regards the causes which, according to young people in Spain, would justify making big sacrifices for, in the last few years causes to do with justice and solidarity, such as combating hunger, defending human rights, freedom, peace, gender equality and defending nature, have headed the list. On this issue of collective values it is also worth mentioning that more young women than men manifest a close affinity with these solidarity causes.

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

The youth tendency in the last few years reveals progress in the social justice and solidarity values and a retreat in the political and religious points of reference. Young people have little confidence in politics as a social transformation mechanism and believe in the new solidarity values as an engine of change in society.

**THE MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE AFFIRM THAT THERE IS NO POLITICAL CAUSE THAT JUSTIFIES VIOLENCE**

## **5.2. Young people's attitudes**

Young people's attitudes towards certain social issues offer an indication of the level of tolerance of young people in Spain.

The vast majority hold a tolerant attitude towards a close friend's homosexuality. Eighty-three percent declare that they would accept a friend's homosexuality and that it would not change their relationship; one out of eight young people (12%) say that the relationship would probably change and only 3% would end the relationship on finding out about his/her friend's homosexuality. Once again, women hold a more tolerant attitude than men towards homosexuality, and this attitude consolidates as young people coming of age. On the other hand, the most intolerant attitudes are observed in the lowest age group (15-17 years) and in more men than women.

Young people's attitude towards an issue as topical as marriage between people of the same sex also stands within this line of tolerance. Approximately three out of four young people (76%) manifest that they are in favour of marriage between homosexuals, 16% are against and 7% do not have a clear opinion on the subject.

<b>IN FAVOUR OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN HOMOSEXUALS</b>	<b>AGAINST MARRIAGE BETWEEN HOMOSEXUALS</b>
More women.	More men.
Aged 21 to 24.	The lowest age group (15-17) and the highest age group (25-29).
Those who work and study.	Those who only work.
Those with higher qualifications.	Those with lower qualifications.
Those with no religious conviction.	Those with religious convictions.
Those who position their ideology on the left.	Those who position their ideology closer to the right.

**YOUNG PEOPLE IN SPAIN'S TOLERANT ATTITUDE TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY SEEMS TO BE CONSOLIDATED**

This tolerant attitude does not extend to a social issue as controversial as penalising the consumption of drugs. The majority of young people (44%) consider that the consumption of drugs should always be penalised, 32% consider that only the consumption of hard drugs should be penalised and 20% believe that the consumption of drugs should never be penalised.

<b>IN FAVOUR OF PENALISING THE CONSUMPTION OF DRUGS</b>	<b>AGAINST PENALISING THE CONSUMPTION OF DRUGS</b>
Más mujeres.	Más hombres.
Entre los 15 y los 17 años.	Quienes compatibilizan trabajo y estudio.
Quienes viven en casa propia.	Quienes tienen estudios superiores.
Con menor nivel de estudios.	Los no creyentes.
Creyentes en materia de religión.	Situados ideológicamente más a la izquierda.
Ideológicamente a la derecha.	Nivel socioeconómico superior.
Nivel socioeconómico bajo o medio-bajo.	Quienes viven en entornos urbanos.
Que viven en entornos rurales.	

Another social issue that arouses conflicting opinions is young people's opinion on abortion. Although as in the case of previous years, the majority of young people believe that only the woman concerned should

decide (64%), the number of those who believe that the State should place certain restrictions is quite significant (20%). Twelve percent of young people are totally against abortion (12%).

<b>YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROFILE IN RELATION TO THEIR OPINION ON ABORTION</b>		
<b>The woman's decision</b>	<b>State restrictions</b>	<b>Against abortion</b>
More women.	More men.	More women.
Aged 15 - 17 and as of the age of 20.	As of the age of 18.	Aged 18 - 20.
Single.	With secondary and further education.	Married.
With higher qualifications.	With religious convictions.	With lower qualifications.
Without religious convictions.	Ideologically in the political centre.	With religious convictions.
Ideologically towards the left.		Ideologically towards the right.

With respect to helping a terminally ill person to die, the majority of young people (80%) affirm that they are in favour of such help, compared with 15% who are against this kind of help.

Another issue which has generated interest in our society in recent times is genetic selection for therapeutic ends. The majority of young people (64%) are in favour of genetic selection, 19% are against and 16% are not sure.

Most young people in Spain are against the application of the death penalty (60%), although the number of those in favour makes up one third of those interviewed.

<b>IN FAVOUR OF THE DEATH PENALTY</b>	<b>AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY</b>
<b>To a higher extent</b>	<b>To a higher extent</b>
Married.	Single.
Financially independent.	Living at home.
Workers.	Students.
With lower qualifications.	As the level of qualifications rises.
With religious convictions and indifferent.	No religious convictions.
Ideologically towards the right.	Ideologically towards the left.
Lower socio-economic level.	Middle to high socio-economic level
	Live in large cities.

**IN 2006, THE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN FAVOUR OF THE APPLICATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY ON PERSONS WITH VERY SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENCES STOOD AT APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD OF ALL THOSE INTERVIEWED**

As in previous years, young people consider that certain types of behaviour that put in danger the smooth running of society are particularly inadmissible; therefore, most of them are against such behaviour as destroying traffic signs and street furniture, hiring foreigners under worse employment conditions, violently confronting the police or shop-lifting in department stores.

<b>LEVEL OF ADMISSIBILITY TOWARDS CERTAIN ILLICIT CONDUCT</b>	
<i>(destroying traffic signs and street furniture, hiring foreigners under worse employment conditions, violently confronting the police, shop-lifting in department stores, smoking in public places, disturbing the neighbours at night ...)</i>	
<b>HIGH LEVEL OF ADMISSIBILITY</b>	<b>LOW LEVEL OF ADMISSIBILITY</b>
More men than women.	More women than men.
In the lowest age group (15-17 years).	As the age increases.
Students.	Workers.
Financially dependent.	More among the financially independent.
Low socio-economic level.	Those with a higher socio-economic level.
More among those without religious convictions.	More among those with religious convictions.
More among those ideologically towards the left.	More among those ideologically towards the right.
Living in urban areas	Living in rural areas.
<b>YOUNG ADOLESCENTS</b>	<b>YOUNG ADULTS</b>

Admissibility towards this type of offensive and illicit behaviour is more widespread among the so-called young adolescents, i.e., young people who are more dependent and still have not taken on social responsibilities. Whilst as young people begin to gain housing, family and financial independence they increasingly tend to regard such behaviour as inadmissible.