



Co-funded by  
the European Union



NETYOUTH

LOCAL EUROPEANISATION OF YOUTH THROUGH  
NEW COMMUNICATION TOOLS - 2022-1-DE04-  
KA210-YOU-000081406

## Local Issues and Youth Engagement: Trends and Insights from the NETYOUTH Project

November, 2023

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.





## List of Contents

Executive Summary .....	3
Introduction.....	4
A. Focus Group.....	5
B. Questionnaire .....	20
Social Media Engagement.....	63
Local Activities of Youth.....	65
European Values .....	66
Conclusion.....	67

### CREATIVE COMMONS LICENCE



©2024 by NetYouth Project is licensed under Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>.



## Executive Summary

The NETYOUTH project, supported by the Erasmus+ program, is dedicated to enhancing the inclusion and active participation of young Europeans through strategic communication and educational initiatives. This report explores the local issues that resonate most with young people in Spain, Germany, and Romania, based on comprehensive surveys and focus group discussions conducted throughout 2023.

The study highlights the critical role of social media platforms such as Instagram, WhatsApp, and Twitter in the daily lives of young Europeans. These platforms are pivotal for communication and information sharing, though the level of engagement varies by country. Despite their high online activity, youth participation in local government events remains low, with a preference for university and NGO-organized activities.

Young people strongly uphold European values such as democracy, human rights, and social justice. However, they face challenges related to equity and tolerance, particularly for minority and immigrant groups. The digital nature of their communication preferences, shaped significantly by social media algorithms and influencers, underscores the need for targeted digital literacy programs.

The report presents several recommendations to foster youth engagement and reinforce European values. For policymakers, it suggests developing policies to enhance digital literacy and support social media engagement, ensuring the promotion of European values, and addressing equity and tolerance issues to foster inclusivity. For educators, it recommends integrating lessons on European values and digital communication skills into educational curricula. For youth organizations, the report advises creating accessible platforms and events that encourage youth participation in local and European activities, promoting a sense of community and involvement.

By implementing these recommendations, the NETYOUTH project aims to empower young Europeans, equipping them with the tools and opportunities to actively engage in shaping their future and the future of Europe.



## Introduction

The NETYOUTH project, supported by the Erasmus+ program, is an initiative designed to close the communication gap between young Europeans and local entities, promoting more active participation in European integration processes. This report focusing on identifying and analyzing the local problems that resonate most with young people in Spain, Germany, and Romania. Through an extensive online survey and focus group discussions, the report gathers essential data on youth concerns and interests, aiming to utilize these insights to tailor educational materials and communication strategies that encourage more informed and active youth involvement in European civic life. By leveraging digital tools and face-to-face engagement, this report aims to provide a clear picture of the evolving trends in youth concerns, helping to shape interventions that are both effective and responsive.



## A. Focus Group

Within the NETYOUTH project, group meetings were held with young people aged 18-30 in three countries: Germany, Spain and Romania. The aim of the meetings was to collect young people's views on their use of social networks, their participation in local politics and their opinion on European values.

The focus groups were organized between April and May, 2023, and 32 youngsters participated (12 from Germany, 6 from Romania, 14 from Spain).

### Social networks that are mainly accessed or used.

Regarding the social networks participants get through, both young people in Germany and Spain say that the networks they use most are: Instagram and Twitter (WhatsApp as messaging). In the second level, the use of Facebook stands out, especially in Romania (3 out of 6) and other networks mentioned are LinkedIn, TikTok. There are specific cases of young people using Pinterest, Snapchat, Reddit and YouTube. In the following, we will point out some differences they establish in the use of the mentioned networks.

**Instagram.** It is a network on which absolutely all the young people participating in the focus groups, whether from Germany or Spain, as well as those from Romania (4 out of 6), have an open account. They use it to communicate with people, friends, share photos, places they have been to. In the case of students of foreign origin, they also think that Instagram is a network that they use very often and that allows them to connect with their friends in their home country (German 5 female 28 nonstudent foreigner FG1).

In some cases, among the younger ones, they follow Instagram as their main or only network and in addition to uploading their pictures or communicating with their friends. They follow news and social events for example, from their university (German 4 female 20 students FG1) and can sign up for the event on the same network; "also to follow the agenda" (German 4 male 22 student FG2); "to stay connected ..." Seeing beautiful pictures and following travel accounts" (Romania, Patrick. 2).

**WhatsApp.** It should be considered more of a messenger tool than a social network, although in some cases young people belong to groups or subscribe via WhatsApp to newsletters. It is used primarily to communicate and meet people. It is used most frequently by all young people.

There are some participants who also use **Telegram** messaging because they are in groups that communicate via Telegram. Or because "you have to subscribe because teachers send some material through it" (Spain, Alberto 18). And **Teams** is used in some cases. One participant mentions that it is used as a means of communication in the office where he works.

**Twitter.** It is mainly mentioned as a source of information to follow the news "all the information in one place" (German 3 male 26 students). They consider that it

facilitates access to information from different sources "compared to checking different news websites." German 5 female 28 foreigner nonstudent FG1 says about Twitter: "they are sharing information at the moment, when things are happening.



"Twitter for controversy and news" (Spain, José 26); "I follow news and discussions on various topics" (Romania, partic.4).

**Facebook.** It is still a network used by young people. In Spain it is more frequent among young people over 25; in Germany, it is used more by students of foreign origin on study trips; in Romania half of the participants use it frequently "to follow friends and to get involved in groups of common interest" (Romania, particip. 6); "I see friends' posts" (Romania, particip. 3).

In the case of Germany, for example, both an Armenian and a Turkish student indicated that Facebook allows them to keep in touch with their friends in their respective countries and is also a source of information to find Erasmus applications as well as to look for accommodation upon arrival in Germany.

In the case of Spain, as with LinkedIn, it is often the case that they have an open account, to connect to other networks or websites (Spain Victoria female 21 students) but it is considered a network used by those older than their own age.

On the other hand, Facebook is mentioned by several young people as a network that should be used in jobs or internships in companies because the company itself has an institutional account and uploading material can be part of the job (Spain Carlos 24, male student).

**LinkedIn.** It is a network that only young people who are working or who are students oriented towards their working life or looking for internships mention having an account and using it (Spain, Paula 21). "I am mainly using LinkedIn" (German 2 female nonstudent FG2); "looking for work or like professional networking" (German 7 female 27 nonstudent FG2); "LinkedIn I use it to build professional connections and find career opportunities" (Romania, partic.3). Overall, more participants have an open LinkedIn account than say they find it useful.

**Pinterest.** Some young people, in particular those who like photography, besides using Instagram, also use Pinterest (German female 22 student FG1).

**Tik Tok.** Few young people report using this network. Only 1 from German FG2 out of the total of 14 participants in the two groups. In the case of Spain, there were considerably more: a total of 5 out of the 14 participants are frequent users of TikTok. In the case of Romania, 1 out of 6 "Titokis use it to watch funny videos and choreographies" (Romania, participant 2).

**Other networks (Reddit, Snapchat, YouTube).** In the meeting, one case mentioned the use of "Reddit" "to follow trends and get informed rather than communicating" (German 5 female 23 student FG2); to discover interesting content and participate in various online communities" (Romania, particip. 6). In the case of Snapchat is used "to communicate with friends through photo or video messages" (Romania, particip. 5). In the case of YouTube "I watch tutorials and entertainment content" (Romania, partic. 7).

**Search engines.** All use Internet search engines. The Google search engine can also be a tool to find information on networks of a person or entity, since, by entering the name, their information on networks usually comes up. On the internet you go to pages or search for blogs (Spain, Paula 21). Sometimes, when you are in networks, you are in a news item, and it takes you to the internet (Spain, Ignacio 21).





### Main accounts or profiles followed on each of the networks.

Young people indicate that they prefer to follow (sign up as followers) people they know personally or because they have hobbies of their own. In other words, they mainly follow their friends and their posts, work mates, but also influencers, artists, singers, celebrities, restaurants, fashion bloggers, food bloggers or travel bloggers, etc., i.e. People they sympathise with because they are influencers in their hobbies. They also become followers of news accounts on Tik Tok, Twitter or Instagram. LinkedIn users follow colleagues at work or people in their professional field.

But when youngsters check daily information on networks, there are several patterns outside of the messaging:

- There is the case of daily consultation habits at the beginning of the day, such as those who in the morning check their daily horoscope page (Spain, Zahira) "which tells you what kind of day you are going to have", the forecasts of how the stars are for the day. Or those who look at the metro transport account to make sure they will get to their university without any incidents. There are also those who directly consult a news account.
- The different hobbies of young people are what guides them to select their favourite accounts, according to what they visit daily. In other words, some young people mention completely different favourite accounts than others.

For example, apart from following their friends, there are different hobbies:

- **Focus group Spain.** "Darko Ventura, who is a psychology kid and makes interesting videos... produces content" (Spain, Nadia); or "Thomas Sanders ... I follow him on YouTube, and I also get into his Instagram account". Or that of the American the musical "Beach Diles" (Spain, Carlos). Another participant likes "offers" pages and likes a lot on one of "logos that gives image advice in the field of law" or "Minerva, a page that uploads information on scholarships" (Ignacio). Another contributor follows LGBTI accounts, especially one from the USA and an influencer called MAXI (Spain, Miguel). Another favourite account is that of the Community Manager of Andalucía Directo (Spain, Ignacio).
- **Focus group Romania.** "I follow travel accounts in Instagram such as "Travel Inspire" and "Explore the World" (Romania, partic. 1); "Dance Moves in TikTok; in Instagram fitness and nutrition" (Romania, partic. 2); "Digi24 and Hot News in Facebook...; influencers in LinkedIn" (Romania, partic. 2); "Digi24 and Hot News in Facebook...; influencers in LinkedIn" (Romania, partic. 2). Influencers in LinkedIn" (Romania, particip 3); "BBC World and CNN on Twitter; gaming channels and travel blogs in YouTube" (Romania, particip 4). Fashion influencers and beauty tips in Instagram; comedy and entertainment accounts in Snapchat" (Romania, particip. 5). "Debating society and current affairs in Facebook; gaming and tech communities in Reddit" (Romania, particip. 6). "Artistic creations and Design Inspiration on Instagram; music channels and travel blogs in YouTube" (Romania, particip 7).
- **Focus group Germany.** "I like fashion...I follow some influencer and models (Germany, PART. 5 g1). "I follow some basketball or football players; I follow the layers because it is my field; some politicians; some reporters; newspapers" (Germany, PART. 2 g1). "I follow musicians, their tours, concerts; follow politicians and reporters" (Germany, PART. 3 g1). "Follow important people in law, school activities, social events and news channels" (Germany, PART. 4 g1). "Pioneers in



medicine or biology or chemistry... About science; corporate co-workers" (Germany, spec 7 g1). Celebrities Kim Kardashian, actors, singers, NGO pages" (Germany, PART. 7 g2). "Food places, restaurants, I love pictures of food" (Germany, PART. 5 g2). "Lifestyle or music related accounts, restaurants, news pages like Tigers" (Germany, PART. 3 g2). Travel and fashion bloggers; local communities about the upcoming organisation events (Germany, spec 4 g2).

But there are several common patterns:

- Priority is given to friends, colleagues (at school or work) and family; people they know personally.
- News feeds. The participants like them pre-selected by networks or by algorithms, to catch up quickly. They prefer news summary accounts to having to go to every single newspaper to get the latest news. And, for example, "a newscast that comes about her city, in TikTok which is a good summary" (Spain Paula 23 female student). To find out about the news, I use Twitter as a summary" (Spain, Jaime). Twitter is also the network where a young man from Romania who follows the BBC and CNN follows the news (Romania, participant 4).
- Algorithm as pre-selection. "Getting carried away by algorithms and the selection that prepares you according to what the algorithm offers" is frequently mentioned in the case of Spain, in relation to what they have been interested in lately. "I also get carried away by the algorithm of social networks" (Spain, Zahira). "I look at the topics. I don't go to one account. I look at themes rather than specific people. By the algorithm, news, psychology" (Spain, Paula 23 female student).
- Regarding the accounts on the networks. The participants indicate that they can be divided into two types: the ones that publish and the ones that upload stories. "You have to go into the profile to see how the story of a video continues" (Spain, Alberto). On Instagram, it is common to check daily the "stories", which are 15-second videos (maximum 60 seconds) in vertical format that disappear after 24 hours. "It depends, on Instagram I see the stories that last 24 hours and you can spend all the time; to find out the latest news I go to Twitter... You get the latest news on Twitter... You go to the trending section and what the algorithm gives you" (Spain Jaime 20 student).

## Comments concerning the monitoring of Local Authorities or information on European Institutions

*Regarding local government information.* If you have been connected to any activity or viewed local government accounts, chances are that for some time, the algorithm itself will keep presenting you with news from these administrations.

A young woman from Spain says that she follows the account of the City Council at the suggestion of her mother. Another young person from Spain receives municipal information via email, but not via networks: "I have a European youth card that gives me discounts on events and some transport and that is how I receive emails every time I use it".





In the Germany group, one young person (Germany 4 male 22 student FG2) indicates that he follows local communities and that they have Instagram pages "they allow us to connect each other and this way I feel aware of myself about the upcoming organisations' events".

*Regarding the European Union.* The less information they receive is within the news accounts they follow. One young woman says that she receives information about the European Union and its values through the companies or brands she follows and where they talk about their social responsibility in line with EU requirements.

**How were these accounts chosen (recommendation of friends, advertising of the network itself, ...) (Cases of local government accounts or local and EU information)?**

The way they select accounts and profiles they acknowledge that they have been influenced first by recommendations from friends and family, which prompts them to try. And choose them influenced by recommendations from social network algorithms (based on their previous activities) or from "influencers" or content creators (Romania, particip. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7). Also by recommendations in discussions in online communities (Romania, particip. 6).

Example of recommendations from friends that lead you to select accounts is when friends follow someone and send you a meme from some account that might be funny, and you decide to follow them too (German 3 female 25 student FG2). In general, it is confirmed that you pay attention to people who follow your good friends or people you already follow. It is important to differentiate between the algorithm and advertisements. *Advertisements are usually rejected and never liked or followed.*

The groups of young people from Spain and Germany have the same opinions as those from Romania. Group 2 from Germany adds the aspect of the evolution of who they follow, by the fact that depending on what they like or what they are interested in, the algorithm makes new suggestions or sends them advertisements that they open and eventually follow (Germany G2, participants 6,5,3,2,7, 3,4). "I am looking at tattoo artists (sp.2); "I am interested more in cooking this month" (sp.7); "aesthetic study pictures" (sp.3).

Group 2 of young people from Germany also pointed out that the criteria for following also vary according to the type of social network in question. Because the social network it asks you questions about what you want to use it for when you create your account. Thus, they

differentiate again between Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. So, Twitter "for political stuff and news" (speak 5); LinkedIn "companies or law firms that I want to work with... Really important in the field " (PART. 2, 4); Instagram " people I know or I found... In seminars or common courses (PART. 4, 7).

They also highlight the aspect of evolution over time, or they change in tastes, interests, purposes or projects, in the use of networks (e.g. One young person acknowledges that in the beginning he used twitter to follow his favourite music group, but then stopped following them (Germany G2, spec 5). Or another young person who wanted to know where to go out and have fun when he arrived in Germany, and then registered on the pages of music venues and consulted friends from class about their preferences and where they went (Germany G2, PART. 3).



### Local government or local and European information websites

The group of youngsters from Spain was asked what inclined them to follow local government or European Union websites or accounts that reinforce these values. The following is a summary of the most salient opinions:

- It seems that having been signed up to a related page (because they signed up to a European volunteering page (they subsequently got a post on Tik Tok). When they were interested in a legislative aspect of the EU and the US (for a while they got a lot of European Union stuff). Whilst you follow people who have been followers of local administrations (you get recommendations of pages/accounts that they follow) (Spain: Carlos and Miguel).
- Another experience is that of a young person who has the European card which "gives you discounts on monuments, on some transport" ("there are times when you receive information, especially in the email associated with the card, and they warn you about the uses you can make of the card") (Spain, Jaime, 20).
- Information about Europe and European values reaches some young people who follow companies or brands and their corporate social responsibility (Spain, Jaime). Or because they follow political parties: "I follow one political party and all the others will come to me" and that is where they get news (Spain, Jose). Also, in cases where they follow ministries and follow an account called "Spain on the web" and through them they can receive European information (Spain, Jose). "The accounts of politicians... In the campaign I follow them to study what they are like" (Spain, Jose). "What I get from Europe at the European level is usually criticism, the little flag and that's it" (Spain, Jose).
- In general, most of them receive the information selected by the "algorithm" for each person, which is conditioned by what each person has been interested in or interacted with in previous periods.
- Another young person says that the local accounts of interest to him are "Sevilla Secreta, to know curiosities about our city" (he says it is an official page) and he also follows "emergencies in Seville" (Spain, Alberto).

### Reasons why they would follow local administrations

"I follow people I know physically (Miguel, Cristina...). "If I knew for example the mayor... I would follow him on Instagram ..." (Spain, Miguel, 18). "It's that there is no proximity in politics... Because if we knew them locally, I would follow him... If I don't know him in person, no" (Miguel).

In the case of another young man, he decided to follow the mayor of his city on Twitter and Instagram because he met him at a party in the same place he was. And then he became interested in following the city council to observe the change in the new mayor's communication.



### **Form and pattern of use and access (daily schedules, weekends, etc.), automatic browsing or specific visit.**

Young people differentiate between consulting information about their family, friends and colleagues at school or work and consulting information, news, events or viewing content. The former is done via messaging such as WhatsApp and in some cases with Instagram and is what they use to start the day. On Instagram to see "if they are talking about something". Regarding the second, the social networks on which they have accounts tend to be consulted every day, but the times of day when they are consulted vary. In general, both the former and the latter are done on the mobile device and exceptionally on the personal computer or their tablets.

Thus, messaging such as WhatsApp is consulted at all times of the day, as well as Telegram in some cases, but they consider it "communication". And when it comes to social networking, young people recognise that they are aware that it takes up too much of their time and that in some cases they make an effort to limit the amount of time they spend on social networks.

In their language, they differentiate between "smart user" and "addicted" to social networks. Some recognise themselves as "addicted" without any doubt, and others point out their efforts to reduce the time of use. Temporarily switching off when they are doing something that seems important to them, etc. They may even have taken periods of time off to break the addiction, but say that as soon as they return, they quickly feel addicted again.

One young person admits to having taken a break from TikTok because he became aware of his addiction. Both young people in Germany and Spain point to TikTok as one of the networks they force themselves to limit because they find it very attractive and tend to spend a lot of time looking at its logs. The same tends to happen with reels on Instagram or other networks, which are 15-second videos.

The use of NETFLIX starts to be commented on by young people when they are asked how often they use the networks and in what way. Some consider themselves addicts and who have up to 7 hours of screen time a day because they also watch the content on Netflix.

### **Peculiarities among the groups of young people in the different countries**

The group of young people from Romania almost all agree that they access social networks "in the daily breaks between activities (free time), evenings and especially on weekends: time to explore the contents in more detail" (Romania, partic. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7). There is one case where she says she has "dedicated moments where I sit to browse content and participate in debates. I like to explore specific themes on topics in Depth" (Romania, partic. 6). Regarding the channel they use, 2 out of 7 use their laptops to connect to social networks, in addition to their mobile phones.

In the case of Group 2 from Germany, there are cases where they are totally available and even addicted (AI sp.7,3), always open to look at the notifications they receive from WhatsApp or Instagram. Although they emphasise that the use of WhatsApp is for "communication". Some in Group 2 in Germany specify their number of hours of screen time: 7 hours per day, 3 hours, 10 hours (adding Netflix use), 8 hours (2 "to watch something in the iPad"). In the group of young people in Spain, also some give screen time figures: (7 hours on average per day per week, Miguel).



In the group of young people in Spain, some highlight their use first thing in the morning: "it depends on how the day is going", but rather in their free time: when they get up and have breakfast. They check social networks a bit, in the bathroom, in the free time between activities during the day and preferably when they are alone (Spain, Cristina: "I am more aware if there is an event that is going to happen at a specific time").

And if they are special contents that require more time to watch or could be in another language, they choose quiet moments in the evening or weekends to watch them.

### **Weekends**

"My habits change a bit at weekends, because I need time to watch social networks... Actively... I follow Americans in English... Just as people look for time to live or to play video games, I look for time to watch social networks" (Spain, Veronica).

"We waste a lot of time, and it is not comparable to the newspaper because we are not really getting information about news, we are getting information about our surroundings, about our family, about my environment" (Spain, Nadia).

### **Addiction? WhatsApp at all hours of the day**

They believe that social networks are "a useful tool, but, of course, in doses".  
I just wake up and open my eyes and look at the networks"... "We have a dependence on our mobile because that is where we have all the social networks" (Spain, Paula); "I sleep with my mobile, I have it on my pillow, that is, and I get up and see if I have received a notification" (Spain, Zaira).

"Notifications: ... Putting the Do Not Disturb option is a trick, because I start to study and I leave my mobile phone... But I spend more time looking at it to see who has notified me.... (Spain, Cristina), "it's getting worse and worse... a lot of time is wasted with all the social networks ...".

"WhatsApp, messaging is at all times... Because it is a tool for communication, for work" (Spain, Nadia). "For the family, which is not an obsession, it's for peace of mind" (Spain, Miguel).

### **The good and the bad of networks (Observation on future generations)**

A young man observed, from his experience of work experience in a secondary school with young people in the second year of ESO (13-14 years old) that there is a group that needs a lot of stimuli and on the networks they watch two videos at the same time ("making a duo"). And they said that otherwise they would get bored. But he also noted that there are other teenagers who spend 4 hours listening to a super-dense history podcast "the podcast is an instrument that can be used to entertain them or also, of course, to learn. There are lectures and things that interest us" (Spain, José). The podcast is now booming, they have more and more subscribers on social networks (Spain, Nadia).

### **Self-publishing activities on networks, sending, replying, taking part in debates.**





The most frequent posting activities among young people are posting their photos in the context of news or stories about their activities or environments in which they are active. Another way of posting is to "like" or repost from their network accounts what they find interesting or approve to spread.

Using their accounts as their own means of communication to create content of collective interest is something that very few do, but there are some cases, sometimes with secret identities.

The pattern of posting or interacting with networks varies according to the social network. They mainly post on Instagram, but they can participate in debates on different networks. Some are afraid to enter debates because of the conflicts or reactions that may arise; in the case of Twitter, for example. But the most value positively the experience of exchanging opinions on networks and the reactions to their posts.

So the most common options for ways of interacting or posting on networks are:

- Signalling their preferences, by "likes", which can be done on all social networks.
- Retweeting, which is done on the Twitter network and consists of publishing on your own account, a content that you have liked.
- Sending your friends a meme or something funny for them to see.
- There is also the option of writing a comment or response to a news or information (Twitter or Facebook cases).

### Special features Focus Group Germany

More consumers of content than posters declare themselves. "I post a story maybe once or twice a week. I am just consuming (PART. 3). "My page is completely blank; I don't even share my stories (PART. 4). I only post on Instagram, quite a bit I have like phases. "I like to look back on my own posts and what I have done" (PART. 6). Only on Instagram, on LinkedIn or Facebook they don't post (PART. 5, 6).

It is said that posting is equivalent to creating a photo album, making a diary or storing memories (PART. 5, 6). He posts frequently because he likes to see his archive and what he did previously. They post stories because it is easier and also faster.

There is also the case of someone who posts a lot and with many followers (PART. 7): "I post a lot, a couple of stories a day on Instagram. "I have a bunch of followers and I like to keep my followers updated." You have the function activated and what you post on Instagram is automatically published on Facebook. On Facebook you have family and childhood friends and on Instagram you have new friends, classmates and colleagues. He also uses Twitter.

The case of the one who posts a lot of what he does and immediately, on Instagram and Twitter uses it as an intimate diary that he DOES NOT share and in which he writes down his particular things. And uses LinkedIn to share their resume, upload their degrees and photos of graduation ceremonies and things that enhance possible professional hires (PART. 5).

The case of those who post on Instagram at the end of the day, in a more relaxed manner, selecting the photos or activities that they have recorded throughout the day (PART. 6).





The case of the Turkish student who only posts something about his life every month or every three months and who uses his Twitter to read others and avoids liking or retweeting, which in Turkey is punishable in certain cases (PART. 2).

The case of the one who doesn't post much or forgets to post when he goes out and has fun. But he feels the pressure that he should do so to prevent others from thinking that he is unsociable, extra introverted or that he might have a boring life. And with Twitter, he no longer shares, although he used it a lot when he was a teenager and now he only uses it to follow what is happening in his country and in the world (PART. 3).

The case of those who share things but not about themselves but about the environments that they visit, museums, or share things such as videos, memes and photos that may be of interest (PART. 7).

A case of someone who shares their things infrequently on Instagram, once every two months and because they like to look at it as an album of what they have done in the past (almost nothing on LinkedIn) (PART. 4).

### Particularities of the Romanian Group

All young people in Romania gave their opinion about their experiences sharing content on networks. All of them valued very positively both the experience of having received positive comments and likes for the content they have published on networks, and the experience of having participated in debates or discussions giving their opinion "respectfully and constructively" (Romania participated 1).

"I had interesting conversations with others" (PART. 2). "Beautiful experiences of interacting and connecting people who share common interests" (part.3). "I commented on posts that addressed political or social topics and expressed my opinion" (part. 4). I posted poems and short stories and received positive feedback... Encouraged me to continue sharing my creation" (part. 5). "Discover people's

perspectives on different topics" (part. 6). "We had interesting interactions and learned a lot from other users" (part. 7).

### Spain Group Particularities

The pattern varies depending on the networks and the young people: "each social network works in a different way. Instagram for example. I see all the stories, I react, or I don't react. For me to publish, I'm starting to be careful about what I post on Instagram because it's a bit superficial. On Twitter it is more political and controversial... And Tik Tok is just to see and if there is something interesting..." (Spain Jose 26 male).

A similar criterion is that of other participant (Spain, Paula), who use different networks for different purposes: Twitter to read; TikTok gives you videos you like. "On Tik Tok if I like a video so that another one from the same singer appears again" (Spain Paula 21 female student). And above all, she publishes her well-chosen photos on Instagram to take care of her image (more posts than stories) and she also uses Instagram to comment positively on the posts of her friends.



There are those who exclusively react on networks with “like” for publications from friends or information on networks (Spain, Zahira; Miguel; Nadia). The “like” is also a way of selecting content that reaches them because it acts as a guide so that similar content reaches them by algorithm.

“Instagram is for whatever you want to use it for... There are those who are dedicated to uploading his life, and there are those who don't upload anything and those who upload special moments. I upload stories but when I'm with a friend or my girlfriend, not alone (Spain, Jaime 20 male student).

There are those who use Instagram “on a one-person basis”, to communicate with only one person at a time (Spain, Carlos).

The case of using Instagram as an “information channel”: he publishes small reports of events at his university, with added music and also reports of his trips (Spain, Paula). She also publishes and recommends things (Spain, Verónica), but avoids reacting “I'm very scared because there are people who feel attacked.”

### **Common particularities in all countries regarding LinkedIn and TikTok**

**LINKEDIN.-** Those who upload material to their account on this network say that they are photos of their graduation, to accompany the information about obtaining their university degree, for example. Material that can support your job search. Some mention an opportunity to upload things when they obtain some certification or recognition. In some cases, they acknowledge that they would like to upload more things than what they do at work or related to their universities, but in general they are not very active on this network.

**TIK TOK.-** It is rare to find young people who upload material to TikTok. It is more common to save something of interest or forward links to friends, as well as “like.” So giving “like” is a way to influence the algorithm or act on the automatic preselection that the website will make in your favour.

### **INTEREST IN LOCAL POLITICAL LIFE AND EUROPEAN VALUES**

In this second part of the report on the results of the debates of groups of young people from European countries, their opinions on two issues are summarized: their participation in local activities and European values.

#### **Participation in local government activities or in the local life of your municipality.**

The vast majority of young people in the discussion groups of the three countries (Spain, Germany and Romania) are active and participatory although the activities in which they participate, only in some cases, are organized by Local Administrations. Mainly from their places of origin and participate less in events organized by Local Administrations of the places where they now reside, the localities where they are studying or working.

The activities in which they currently participate are usually organized by associations created within the Universities where they study, followed by those organized by various NGOs or by Governments in the case of political elections in which they vote.



Regarding the type of local activities in which they participate, those in the political, sports, solidarity, cultural or religious fields stand out. Regarding the ways to participate, the following stand out: volunteering in the organization of local sporting or cultural events, attending NGO meetings and supporting activities (e.g. Food Bank), actively participating in demonstrations or political elections.

Below, the analysis of youth participation in local activities is broken down in more detail, differentiating three aspects: which entities mostly organize the activities in which young people participate; what type of activities they are; and the ways in which young people can participate.

### **Who organizes the activities in which they participate?**

The activities in which the most youngsters participate are those organized by associations of the Universities where they study. In the case of the group of young Spanish people, there are those who participate in the Student Delegation and Culture Classroom of their University (Spain, Paula and Ignacio); in educational volunteering in the community (Spain, Carlos); in activities with the Chamber of Commerce; volunteering, and sports activities organized by SADUS (Spain, Alberto).

Young Germans, like Spaniards, when it comes to local activities, also participate especially in those organized by entities of their universities or study centres. There are those who participate in the student clubs of their study centres, including the writing club (Germany, PART. 4, 7, 6 gr.1). And there are also those who are members of the International Student Organization ZIS (Germany, PART. 6, 3 gr. 1 and PART. 5 gr.2). In addition, there are those who participate in sporting events organized by the University (Germany, PART. 3, 7 Gr. 2) and in the ASTA (Germany, PART. 3, 7 Gr.2) meetings of the University, or of the DAD "scholarship association" (Germany, PART. 7, Gr.2).

After university associations, participation in local activities organized by NGOs or associations of various kinds stands out. Thus, there are those who participate in international young people Organizations that organize excursions and other events and in activities organized by Bar Associations (Germany, PART. 2 gr. 1); in activities organized by the Church or local religious fraternity (Germany, PART. 5 gr.2 ; Romania, participant 3); or by Food Sharing or Food Bank associations (Germany, PART. 2 gr.2; Spain, Alberto; Spain, Jaime); in Sexual Health and Sanitation Association (Spain, José); "local sports club" (Romania, part 1, 7), local cultural association (Romania, part 2).

With regard specifically to events organized by local administrations, participation is low and consists mainly of volunteering at sporting events or participate in competitions. Spain Case, Nadia: in a cultural event on education, a contest; Spain, Victoria: in popular races, helping the organizers, as volunteers; Spain, Cristina volunteers in popular races; Romania, participated. 7: in volunteer activities organized by the local community; Spain, s.n.: in the career of women in my town.

There are also cases of young people who say they are informed about the activities of local administrations, because they like to follow the news in general, but who do not participate (Germany, PART. 4 gr.2; Spain, Paula, José, Cristina).



## What kind of activities?

Regardless of who organizes the activities in which the young people participate, the theme of the events is observed to differ a lot as varied as the hobbies and tastes of different young people.

Sports (Romania, part 1, 7): amateur football team, basketball team. Others participate in a non-specific way (Germany PART. 3); Spain, Cristina, Victoria: Volunteering in organizing popular races; (Spain n.c.) Participated in races; Spain, Jaime: organization of indoor soccer tournaments, 24-hour tournaments.

Solidarity or social (Romania part. 7), local cultural associations (Romania part. 2, Germany gr.1, PART. 4, 7, 6, 2, 3); Food Sharing or Food Bank (Germany, PART. 2 gr.2; Spain, Alberto); Film Festivals (Spain, José); Museums (Spain, Paula); Association Against Cancer (Spain, Alberto).

Political: unions in your workplace (Romania, part 5) or in a local political party (Romania, part 4; Spain, José); and the vast majority follow political information and vote in local and general elections.

## What ways to participate?

Regarding the ways of participating, for example, in participation in sporting events, there are two options: those who participate as players or competitors in tournaments or those who participate as support volunteers in the organization of the events.

Those who participate in political parties sometimes participate in meetings, discussions, campaigns to disseminate the values and ideas (Romania part. 4). And those who are on the lists as a candidate (Spain, Jose); or who participate in organized street demonstrations (España, Jose; España, Carlos).

Among those who participate in solidarity activities. Solidarity or social, organized by the local community such as cleaning parks, organizing events and contributing to social projects (Romania part. 7); or help people (Spain, Jaime).

Whoever participates in unions at work (Romania part. 5) Gets involved in negotiations, participates in protests and as a candidate for representative "fight for better working conditions".

Who participates in local religious fraternities (Romania part. 3, "engages in charity events or volunteer activities to help people in need by sharing their religious values".

Who participates in local cultural associations (Romania part. 2) "Help to organize exhibitions and attend shows and concerts, promoting art in their community".

## Opinion on shared European Values

Among all young people from different countries, the attitude of surfing online responsibly and in line with European principles and values, which they consider to be of the utmost importance, stands out.





## What values do you consider most relevant and support in networks?

Some young people emphasize more the importance of some values instead of others: The values that they consider most relevant "respect for the rule of law and democracy" (Germany, PART. 5, gr.1; Romania part.4). "Freedom, democracy and respect for human dignity" (Germany PART. 2, 5, gr.1; Germany PART. 2 gr.2). "Respect for human rights and the rule of law" (Germany, PART. 4, 5, 3, 7, gr.1). Democracy, freedom of expression, tolerance and diversity (Romania part 1, 4). Some of them support accounts and profiles that promote human rights, gender equality, cultural diversity and mutual respect (Romania, part 2, 4). "I follow and participate in online communities that promote diversity, inclusion, constructive dialogue and mutual respect (Romania part. 3); human rights, democracy, social justice and environmental protection (Romania, part. 5); tolerance, diversity, mutual respect and social responsibility (Romania part. 6); human rights and respect for human dignity (Germany, PART. 3 gr.2); human rights of different minorities (Germany, PART. 7 gr.2); democracy and equality (Germany, PART. 6 gr.2); equality and human dignity (Germany, PART. 5 gr.2); equality, respect for fundamental rights (Germany, PART. 4 gr.2).

In the Spanish group, all important values are considered, and the discussion revolves mainly around why and how to ensure that they are internalized and fulfilled; especially: equity and tolerance.

## Education in European values

Many subscribe to the opinion that the main guarantee for these values to spread is education in the family "every child from a young age at home with their parents: there are people you don't like, of the same sex or of a different sex or someone of a different skin colour... You don't have to discriminate, there is no discrimination. You don't like it, period.

But you don't have to violate their rights because you don't like them, neither on networks nor off networks" (Spain, Jaime).

It is believed that it does address the fact that we belong to a European society, but we are very involved in our own country. Apart from the history of Europe in high school, there is not much teaching about Europe either in high school or at university. "We should have that commitment to have an education from different countries, to give ourselves content that comes with all the extras, about youth issues, as seen in other countries..." (Spain, Nadia).

## Problems with equity

Regarding equity, it is pointed out that the European institutions should demand that European countries have the same legislation of rights and prevent them from "legislating against", for example in Italy, the LGBTI community being able to adopt or in Hungary approving a law that a neighbour, anonymously, can denounce other for uncivil practices for being homosexual" (España, José).

Others suggest that the tendency is for immigrants, from other countries, to have European values and rights less guaranteed in our territories, that they are put in trouble or obstacles with papers or requirements (Spain, Zahira).





## Problems with tolerance

It is said that there is a tendency to classify and judge by the way they dress, by symbols. A young woman comments that because she carries the Spanish flag in a notebook to class, they call her a "fascist" and that she shows her pride in her country, just as Americans do with her flag. Other comments on the verbal attacks and recordings of networks in the street received by a friend, because of how he was dressed and others he encountered assigned an ideology to him.

It is said that the networks reflect the hundreds of sides that exist and that they should advocate for these values of respect for the opinions of others. "The thing is, I can't marry an ideology and I don't want to. The advantage of rights is that the law protects us." (Spain, Nadia).

It is also pointed out that people who appear on networks that are sometimes so radical would probably die of shame 15 years later if they had expressed themselves that way because their minds change over time. And another aspect is that sometimes in networks there is a big confrontation over some issue that one follows "but then you go out on the street, and no one talks about that issue, no one gets involved with it, in other words it has been allowed to run away" (Spain, José).

## European values criteria in the selection of accounts on social networks

"Try to avoid content that promotes discrimination, incitement to hatred or violation of human rights" (Romania part 1). Avoid profiles and accounts that promote hate speech, intolerance and prejudice (Romania part. 3, 4). Avoid discrimination and abuse (Romania part. 5). Avoid discrimination, extremism or human rights violations (Romania, partici 7).

"I have stopped using applications because of certain people who went against those values (España, Carlos).

In the group from Spain, the participants agree that European values must be defended on the networks since social networks are where the biggest stupid things are said and there is no punishment for that. These people feel free to blurt out the first stupid thing that comes to mind" (Spain, Zahira). Opinions are given on how to behave in the face of discriminatory comments: "we must defend those rights and prevent " certain people from taking likes for comments..." (Spain, Carlos). Some believe that it is best to avoid liking comments. Others believe that you have to report it so that the accounts can be blocked. "When there is a problem in a social network of this type of discrimination, we must give it the importance it has" (España, Paula).

Regarding reporting, there are also those who think that it is better to ignore them and not give them a like or anything because if they are reported, they become more famous and they can also open different accounts at any time and continue. "I didn't give him a complaint out of laziness or because with my position my complaint is already there. Am I going to give it publicity? ... So, it is true that I do not report, but I have stopped using an application or account because of what it said" (Spain, Cristina).

## B. Questionnaire

An online questionnaire was sent to young people (between 18 and 30 years old) from Spain, Germany and Romania. A total of 518 valid questionnaires were received.

The description of the respondents is:

- 59.5% were females, 35.1 % males, and the rest prefer not to say their gender.
- 27% were born between 1993 and 1999 and the rest between 2000 and 2005.
- 83.8% were never married and never registered partnership.
- 87.1% live 4 or less people regularly at their household.
- 60.4% has secondary studies and 36.7% has university studies.
- 62.5% no have paid employment and 17.6% are working 30 hours a week or more.

### Country

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Germany	44	8,5
	Spain	395	76,3
	Romania	79	15,3
	Total	518	100,0

Please say, for each of the following, how important it is in your life. [Politics]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		3	,6	0,6
	very important	67	12,9	13,5
	quite important	240	46,3	59,8
	not important	172	33,2	93,1
	not at all important	36	6,9	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

We analyse next the main topics dealt with in the survey.

In general, 46.3 % of respondents declare that politics is quite important in their lives and 33.2 % declare that it is not important for them.

## Descriptives

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Germany	44	2,36	0,883
Spain	395	2,29	0,791
Romania	76	2,63	0,709
Total	515	2,34	0,792

Anova test indicates significant differences in this question by country, Romanian young people give less importance to politics in their lives than Spanish ones.

**In political matters, people talk of 'the left' and 'the right'. How would you place your views on this scale, generally speaking?**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Left	46	9,1	9,1
	2	47	9,3	18,5
	3	85	16,9	35,3
	4	41	8,1	43,5
	5	104	20,6	64,1
	6	38	7,5	71,6
	7	47	9,3	81,0
	8	46	9,1	90,1
	9	24	4,8	94,8
	Right	26	5,2	100,0
	Total	504	100,0	
Missing	System	14		
Total		518		

In general, 35.3% of respondents position themselves as 1,2,3 (left), 9.1% place themselves as 8,9,10 (right) and the rest are located in the centre of the scale.

## Descriptives

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Germany	44	3,75	1,278
Spain	383	4,88	2,652
Romania	77	5,79	2,098
Total	504	4,92	2,527

Anova test indicates significant differences in this question by country, German sample are more oriented to left than Spanish and the most oriented to centre-right are Romanians.

**On this question you see an opposite view on an issue. How would you place your view on this scale?**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Individuals should take more responsibility	15	3,0	3,0
	2	24	4,7	7,7
	3	58	11,5	19,2
	4	64	12,6	31,8
	5	101	20,0	51,8
	6	59	11,7	63,4
	7	65	12,8	76,3
	8	52	10,3	86,6
	9	25	4,9	91,5
	The state should take more responsibility	43	8,5	100,0
	Total	506	100,0	
Missing	System	12		
Total		518		

In general, the majority of respondents position themselves in the mid-points of the scale, 20.0% (5 score), 12.6% (4 score), 11.7% (6 score), etc.

## Descriptives

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
On this question you see an opposite view on an issue. How would you place your view on this scale?	Germany	44	5,45	2,017
	Spain	384	5,42	2,200
	Romania	78	7,15	2,668
	Total	506	5,69	2,344

However, Anova test indicates significant differences in this question by country, Romanian sample tend to be more oriented to high values of the scale than Spanish and German respondents. Therefore, Romanian youngsters tend to think that the state should take more responsibility to guarantee the welfare of people.

## On this question you see an opposite view on an issue. How would you place your view on this scale?

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Incomes should be made more equal	32	6,3	6,3
	2	21	4,1	10,4
	3	28	5,5	15,8
	4	55	10,7	26,6
	5	67	13,1	39,6
	6	50	9,8	49,4
	7	74	14,5	63,9
	8	76	14,8	78,7
	9	40	7,8	86,5
	There should be greater incentives for individual effort	69	13,5	100,0
	Total	512	100,0	
Missing	System	6		
Total		518		

We can see here that respondents tend to position themselves to high values of the scale, 14.8% (8 score), 13.5% (10 score), and only 6.3% (1 score) or 4.1% (2 score) positioned in low values.



## Descriptives

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
On this question you see an opposite view on an issue. How would you place your view on this scale?	Germany	44	5,00	2,113
	Spain	389	6,12	2,598
	Romania	79	7,46	2,505
	Total	512	6,23	2,613

Again, Anova test indicates significant differences in this question by country, Romanian sample tend to be more oriented to high values of the scale than Spanish and German respondents. Romanian respondents think that there should be greater incentives for individual effort, than Spanish. And German sample are more oriented to believe that incomes should be made more equal.

The majority of respondents think that the aim of their country should be to achieve a high level of economic growth (59.5%), followed by seeing that people have more to say about how things are done at their jobs and in their communities (33.8%).

**Please look at this options and answer, for each item listed, how much confidence you have in them, is it a great deal, quite a lot, not very much or none at all?**

### [The education system]

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	7	1,4	1,4
1	40	7,7	9,1
2	178	34,4	43,4
3	235	45,4	88,8
4	58	11,2	100,0
Total	518	100,0	



**[Parliament]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	9	1,7	1,7
1	16	3,1	4,8
2	142	27,4	32,2
3	253	48,8	81,1
4	98	18,9	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[Town hall]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	8	1,5	1,5
1	31	6,0	7,5
2	204	39,4	46,9
3	212	40,9	87,8
4	63	12,2	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[The European Union]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	9	1,7	1,7
1	92	17,8	19,5
2	261	50,4	69,9
3	114	22,0	91,9
4	42	8,1	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

### [Health care system]

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	7	1,4	1,4
1	105	20,3	21,6
2	259	50,0	71,6
3	130	25,1	96,7
4	17	3,3	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

### [The justice system]

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	15	2,9	2,9
1	41	7,9	10,8
2	198	38,2	49,0
3	214	41,3	90,3
4	50	9,7	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

### [Political parties]

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	11	2,1	2,1
1	7	1,4	3,5
2	61	11,8	15,3
3	243	46,9	62,2
4	196	37,8	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

[Social media]

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	8	1,5	1,5
1	27	5,2	6,8
2	107	20,7	27,4
3	260	50,2	77,6
4	116	22,4	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

Based on the tables above, we can see that the respondents have more confidence and trust on: 1) health care system, 2) European Union, 3) the justice system, 4) Town Hall, 5) the education system, 6) the parliament of their country, 7) social networks and, 8) political parties.

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
[The education system]	Germany	44	2,59	,816
	Spain	388	2,68	,761
	Romania	79	2,27	,828
	Total	511	2,61	,789
[Parliament]	Germany	44	2,55	,730
	Spain	386	2,85	,750
	Romania	79	3,01	,776
	Total	509	2,85	,759
[Town hall]	Germany	44	2,41	,658
	Spain	387	2,58	,782
	Romania	79	2,81	,802
	Total	510	2,60	,781
[The European Union]	Germany	44	2,36	,780
	Spain	386	2,13	,811
	Romania	79	2,48	,904
	Total	509	2,21	,832
[Health care system]	Germany	44	2,23	,803
	Spain	388	2,02	,695

[The justice system]	Romania	79	2,51	,918
	Total	511	2,12	,762
	Germany	42	2,07	,558
	Spain	383	2,60	,762
	Romania	78	2,50	,894
[Political parties]	Total	503	2,54	,782
	Germany	44	2,84	,713
	Spain	385	3,31	,650
	Romania	78	3,12	,897
[Social media]	Total	507	3,24	,711
	Germany	44	3,05	,714
	Spain	388	2,94	,783
	Romania	78	2,72	,910
	Total	510	2,91	,802

### ANOVA

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
[The education system]	Between Groups	11,297	2	5,648	9,364	<,001
	Within Groups	306,425	508	,603		
	Total	317,722	510			
[Parliament]	Between Groups	6,173	2	3,086	5,452	,005
	Within Groups	286,479	506	,566		
	Total	292,652	508			
[Town hall]	Between Groups	5,224	2	2,612	4,342	,013
	Within Groups	304,974	507	,602		
	Total	310,198	509			





[The European Union]	Between Groups	9,027	2	4,514	6,661	,001
	Within Groups	342,898	506	,678		
	Total	351,925	508			
[Health care system]	Between Groups	15,923	2	7,961	14,430	<,001
	Within Groups	280,265	508	,552		
	Total	296,188	510			
[The justice system]	Between Groups	10,869	2	5,435	9,181	<,001
	Within Groups	295,962	500	,592		
	Total	306,831	502			
[Political parties]	Between Groups	10,056	2	5,028	10,299	<,001
	Within Groups	246,066	504	,488		
	Total	256,122	506			
[Social media]	Between Groups	3,936	2	1,968	3,088	,046
	Within Groups	323,093	507	,637		
	Total	327,029	509			

According to ANOVA results, for all the variables of this analysis there are significant differences by country. Spanish respondents are less confident with the educational system than German and especially Romanian youngsters. However, the last are less confident with their parliament than Spanish and German respondents, the same occurs for Town Halls. Spaniards are more confident to the European Union than German and Romanian respondents. In relation to the health care system the Spanish young people are the most confident with it, but the most confident with the justice system are German, the same occurs for political parties and social media.



**How important is it for you to live in a country that is governed democratically? On this scale where 1 means it is “not at all important” and 10 means “absolutely important”**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	3	,6	0,6	0,6
	3	1	,2	0,8	0,8
	4	7	1,4	2,2	2,2
	5	25	4,9	7,1	7,1
	6	12	2,4	9,4	9,4
	7	22	4,3	13,8	13,8
	8	65	12,8	26,5	26,5
	9	80	15,7	42,2	42,2
	10	294	57,8	100,0	100,0
	Total	509	100,0		
Missing	System	9			
Total		518			

The majority of respondents think that it is absolutely important to live in a country that is governed democratically, almost 75% position themselves in scores from 8 to 10.

**And how democratically is this country being governed today? Again using a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that it is “not at all democratic” and 10 means that it is “completely democratic,” what position would you choose?**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1	12	2,4	2,4
	2	8	1,6	4,0
	3	24	4,7	8,7
	4	29	5,7	14,4
	5	63	12,5	26,9
	6	66	13,0	39,9
	7	109	21,5	61,5
	8	122	24,1	85,6
	9	48	9,5	95,1

30 of 67

	10	25	4,9	100,0
Total		506	100,0	
Missing	System	12		
Total		518		

In this case only 14.4% of respondents think they live in a completely democratic country.

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Germany	44	7,39	1,528
Spain	383	6,56	2,033
Romania	79	6,46	2,123
Total	506	6,62	2,020

According to ANOVA results German young respondents think that their country is more democratic in comparison to what Spanish and Romanian declare for theirs.

**You can read various types of political systems, what you think about each as a way of governing this country. For each one, would you say it is a very good, quite good, fairly bad or very bad way of governing this country? [Having a strong leader who does not have to bother with parliament and elections]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20	3,9	3,9
1	23	4,4	8,3
2	63	12,2	20,5
3	197	38,0	58,5
4	215	41,5	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[Having experts, not government, make decisions according to what they think is best for the country.]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	14	2,7	2,7
1	104	20,1	22,8
2	283	54,6	77,4
3	90	17,4	94,8
4	27	5,2	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[Having the army rule the country]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18	3,5	3,5
1	10	1,9	5,4
2	42	8,1	13,5
3	164	31,7	45,2
4	284	54,8	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[Having a democratic political system]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	17	3,3	3,3
1	287	55,4	58,7
2	191	36,9	95,6
3	18	3,5	99,0
4	5	1,0	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

The people that participated in the survey, declared that having a democratic political system is the best way of governing their countries followed by having experts making decisions. However, 12.4% of respondents declared that having a strong leader who does not have to bother with parliament and elections is the best way.

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
[Having a strong leader who does not have to bother with parliament and elections]	Germany	44	3,39	,784
	Spain	377	3,29	,772
	Romania	77	2,71	,985
	Total	498	3,21	,836
[Having experts, not government, make decisions according to what they think is best for the country.]	Germany	44	2,16	,608
	Spain	381	1,99	,750
	Romania	79	2,44	,843
	Total	504	2,08	,771
[Having the army rule the country]	Germany	44	3,61	,579
	Spain	381	3,52	,683
	Romania	75	2,96	,861
	Total	500	3,44	,732
[Having a democratic political system]	Germany	44	1,45	,504
	Spain	381	1,44	,593
	Romania	76	1,72	,741
	Total	501	1,48	,618

According to ANOVA test, there are significant differences by country for these questions. Romanians positioned themselves as more oriented to having a strong leader who does not bother with parliament and elections or having the army rule the country than Spanish and German respondents. Having experts to make decisions is more preferred by Spanish than German nor Romanian youngsters.

**People have different views about themselves and how they relate to the world.**  
**According to the following options, would you tell me how close do you feel to...?**  
**[your town or city]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	13	2,5	2,5
Very close	225	43,4	45,9
Close	181	34,9	80,9
Not very close	76	14,7	95,6
Not close at all	23	4,4	100,0
Total	518	100,0	100,0



**[your region ]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	14	2,7	2,7
Very close	195	37,6	40,3
Close	200	38,6	79,0
Not very close	66	12,7	91,7
Not close at all	43	8,3	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[your country]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	13	2,5	2,5
Very close	149	28,8	31,3
Close	217	41,9	73,2
Not very close	109	21,0	94,2
Not close at all	30	5,8	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[Europe]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	14	2,7	2,7
Very close	82	15,8	18,5
Close	223	43,1	61,6
Not very close	139	26,8	88,4
Not close at all	60	11,6	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

Most respondents declared they felt closer to their town or region (over 75%) than to their country. In addition, they felt less close to Europe (less than 60%).

Anova test do not show differences by country for these variables.

**When elections take place, do you vote always, usually or never? Please tell me separately for each of the following levels[Local level]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	13	2,5	2,5
Always	298	57,5	60,0
Usually	137	26,4	86,5
Never	52	10,0	96,5
Not allowed to vote	18	3,5	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[Regional level]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	14	2,7	2,7
Always	317	61,2	63,9
Usually	119	23,0	86,9
Never	49	9,5	96,3
Not allowed to vote	19	3,7	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[National level]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	13	2,5	2,5
Always	363	70,1	72,6
Usually	92	17,8	90,3
Never	33	6,4	96,7
Not allowed to vote	17	3,3	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

[European level]

	Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Valid	16	3,1
Always	245	50,4
Usually	114	72,4
Never	106	92,9
Not allowed to vote	37	100,0
Total	518	

In relation to the participation in elections, participants affirm they participate more to the National elections, followed by regional, and local elections. But only 47.3% of respondents always vote in European elections.

**People differ in what they think it means to be European. In your view, how important is each of the following to be European? [To be born in Europe]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	19	3,7	3,7
Very important	112	21,6	25,3
Quite important	212	40,9	66,2
Not important	120	23,2	89,4
Not at all important	55	10,6	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[To have European ancestry]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20	3,9	3,9
Very important	49	9,5	13,3
Quite important	132	25,5	38,8
Not important	202	39,0	77,8
Not at all important	115	22,2	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[To be a Christian]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	17	3,3	3,3
Very important	42	8,1	11,4
Quite important	78	15,1	26,4
Not important	153	29,5	56,0
Not at all important	228	44,0	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[To share European culture]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	16	3,1	3,1
Very important	178	34,4	37,5
Quite important	246	47,5	84,9
Not important	62	12,0	96,9
Not at all important	16	3,1	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

In relation to these questions, the respondents declare that to share European culture and to be born in Europe are the most important elements to be European and that to be a Christian is not at all important (44%).

**Descriptives**

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
[To be born in Europe]	Germany	42	2,76	,878
	Spain	378	2,18	,930
	Romania	79	2,22	,827
	Total	499	2,24	,923
[To have European ancestry]	Germany	44	3,05	,861
	Spain	375	2,86	,902



[To be a Christian]	Romania	79	2,20	,791
	Total	498	2,77	,915
	Germany	44	3,55	,730
	Spain	378	3,28	,894
	Romania	79	2,22	,872
[To share European culture]	Total	501	3,13	,965
	Germany	44	1,61	,579
	Spain	379	1,85	,790
	Romania	79	1,86	,693
	Total	502	1,83	,761

According to Anova test, there are significant differences in the first three variables but not in the last one. To be born in Europe is more important for Spaniards and Romanian than for Germans. To have European ancestry is more relevant for Romanians than for the other groups. Also, to be a Christian is much more important for Romanians than for the sample of Spain and Germany.



**[... on the radio]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	16	3,1	3,1
Every day	27	5,2	8,3
Several times a week	45	8,7	17,0
Once or twice a week	54	10,4	27,4
Less often	160	30,9	58,3
Never	216	41,7	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[... in the daily papers]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18	3,5	3,5
Every day	27	5,2	8,7
Several times a week	63	12,2	20,8
Once or twice a week	64	12,4	33,2
Less often	125	24,1	57,3
Never	221	42,7	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[... on social media]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	17	3,3	3,3
Every day	149	28,8	32,0
Several times a week	134	25,9	57,9
Once or twice a week	93	18,0	75,9
Less often	76	14,7	90,5
Never	49	9,5	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

Valid	18	3,5	3,5
-------	----	-----	-----

39 of 67



Every day	81	15,6	19,1
Several times a week	134	25,9	45,0
Once or twice a week	102	19,7	64,7
Less often	113	21,8	86,5
Never	70	13,5	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

According to these questions, young people follow politics more frequently on social media, and TV than on the radio or daily newspaper.

**What importance do you attach to the following principles? [All human beings should be born free and equal in dignity and rights.]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	24	4,6	4,6
Very important	446	86,1	90,7
Quite important	45	8,7	99,4
Not important	3	,6	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

7

### [Freedom of movement]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		29	5,6	5,6
	Very important	359	69,3	74,9
	Quite important	119	23,0	97,9
	Not important	10	1,9	99,8
	Not at all important	1	,2	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

### [Respect for private life]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		25	4,8	4,8
	Very important	416	80,3	85,1
	Quite important	73	14,1	99,2
	Not important	4	,8	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

### [Freedom of thought]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		27	27	5,2
	Very important	424	424	87,1
	Quite important	64	64	99,4
	Not important	3	3	100,0
	Total	518	518	

### [Freedom of religion]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		24	4,6	4,6
	Very important	367	70,8	75,5
	Quite important	107	20,7	96,1
	Not important	16	3,1	99,2
	Not at all important	4	,8	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

### [Freedom of assembly]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		30	5,8	5,8
	Very important	358	69,1	74,9
	Quite important	111	21,4	96,3
	Not important	17	3,3	99,6
	Not at all important	2	,4	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

### [Freedom of expression]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		23	4,4	4,4
	Very important	410	79,2	83,6
	Quite important	78	15,1	98,6
	Not important	6	1,2	99,8
	Not at all important	1	,2	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

### [Freedom of information]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		26	5,0	5,0
	Very important	413	79,7	84,7
	Quite important	76	14,7	99,4
	Not important	3	,6	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

### [Right to vote in elections]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		26	5,0	5,0
	Very important	414	79,9	84,9
	Quite important	72	13,9	98,8
	Not important	6	1,2	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	



**[Right to stand as a candidate in elections]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		25	4,8	4,8
	Very important	264	51,0	55,8
	Quite important	167	32,2	88,0
	Not important	54	10,4	98,5
	Not at all important	8	1,5	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Equal rights for all citizens before the law]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		24	4,6	4,6
	Very important	448	86,5	91,1
	Quite important	42	8,1	99,2
	Not important	2	,4	99,6
	Not at all important	2	,4	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Law and justice are upheld by an independent judiciary]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		36	6,9	6,9
	Very important	321	62,0	68,9
	Quite important	141	27,2	96,1
	Not important	17	3,3	99,4
	Not at all important	3	,6	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**Descriptives**

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
[... on television]	Germany	44	3,23	1,255
	Spain	378	2,82	1,310
	Romania	78	3,18	1,246



**[Judgements have to be respected by all]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		27	5,2	5,2
	Very important	311	60,0	65,3
	Quite important	159	30,7	95,9
	Not important	18	3,5	99,4
	Not at all important	3	,6	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[The right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		24	4,6	4,6
	Very important	437	84,4	89,0
	Quite important	47	9,1	98,1
	Not important	8	1,5	99,6
	Not at all important	2	,4	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[The right to get access to justice]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		25	4,8	4,8
	Very important	433	83,6	88,4
	Quite important	57	11,0	99,4
	Not important	3	,6	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[The right to the protection of your personal data]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		27	5,2	5,2
	Very important	412	79,5	84,7
	Quite important	69	13,3	98,1
	Not important	10	1,9	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	



	Total	500	2,91	1,303
[... on the radio]	Germany	44	3,66	1,140
	Spain	379	4,11	1,144
	Romania	79	3,56	1,227
	Total	502	3,98	1,176
[... in the daily papers]	Germany	44	3,55	1,210
	Spain	378	4,00	1,258
	Romania	78	3,60	1,132
	Total	500	3,90	1,246
[... on social media]	Germany	44	2,02	1,089
	Spain	379	2,42	1,304
	Romania	78	3,04	1,353
	Total	501	2,49	1,318

Anova test indicates significant differences in the four variables. Spanish respondents follow politics in TV more frequently than the other 2 groups. Germans and Romanians follow more frequently politics on the radio and newspapers than Spaniards, and German sample follow politics more frequently on social media than the others.

The 3 least important principles for the respondents are: Right to stand as a candidate in elections, Judgements have to be respected by all and Law and justice are upheld by an independent judiciary. However, the three most important values for the participants are: Equal rights for all citizens before the law, all human beings should be born free and equal in dignity and rights and the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

### Descriptives

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
[All human beings should be born free and equal in dignity and rights.]	Germany	44	1,14	,462
	Spain	373	1,08	,286

45 of 67



[Freedom of movement]	Romania	77	1,18	,388
	Total	494	1,10	,324
	Germany	44	1,59	,658
	Spain	366	1,27	,475
	Romania	79	1,22	,523
	Total	489	1,29	,510
	Spain	369	1,13	,357
	Romania	78	1,15	,363
	Total	491	1,14	,367
[Freedom of religion]	Germany	44	1,59	,726
	Spain	371	1,27	,539
	Romania	79	1,30	,585
	Total	494	1,31	,571
[Freedom of assembly]	Germany	44	1,50	,591
	Spain	366	1,30	,566
	Romania	78	1,24	,461
	Total	488	1,31	,555
	Spain	370	1,16	,371
	Romania	78	1,14	,350
	Total	492	1,17	,389
[Right to vote in elections]	Germany	44	1,34	,479
	Spain	369	1,14	,395
	Romania	79	1,20	,404
	Total	492	1,17	,408
[Right to stand as a candidate in elections]	Germany	44	1,80	,594
	Spain	371	1,62	,780
	Romania	78	1,42	,614
	Total	493	1,61	,746
	Spain	359	1,37	,568
	Romania	79	1,46	,595
	Total	482	1,38	,587

[Judgements have to be respected by all]	Germany	44	1,68	,561
	Spain	368	1,42	,604
	Romania	79	1,23	,505
	Total	491	1,42	,595
[The right to the protection of your personal data]	Germany	44	1,41	,583
	Spain	370	1,16	,406
	Romania	77	1,17	,441
	Total	491	1,18	,435

Anova test show significant differences for some variables, but not for all of this part of the questionnaire. Concretely, for Romanian respondents is more important the judgements have to be respected by all and the freedom of movement than for the other 2 groups.

**To what extent do you think social networks are important in promoting the following values:[Human Dignity]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	23	4,4	4,4
Very important	277	53,5	57,9
Quite important	150	29,0	86,9
Not important	50	9,7	96,5
Not at all important	18	3,5	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[Freedom]**

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	22	4,2	4,2
Very important	314	60,6	64,9
Quite important	135	26,1	90,9
Not important	31	6,0	96,9
Not at all important	16	3,1	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

**[Democracy]**

47 of 67



	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	24	4,6	4,6
Very important	227	43,8	48,5
Quite important	175	33,8	82,2
Not important	72	13,9	96,1
Not at all important	20	3,9	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

### [Equality]

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	23	4,4	4,4
Very important	302	58,3	62,7
Quite important	144	27,8	90,5
Not important	31	6,0	96,5
Not at all important	18	3,5	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

### [Rule of law]

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	25	4,8	4,8
Very important	213	41,1	45,9
Quite important	169	32,6	78,6
Not important	94	18,1	96,7
Not at all important	17	3,3	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

### [Human rights]

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	23	4,4	4,4
Very important	292	56,4	60,8
Quite important	151	29,2	90,0
Not important	38	7,3	97,3



Not at all important	14	2,7	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

Concerning the question related to what extent do they think social networks are important in promoting the values, the order of importance is: 1) freedom, 2) equality, 3) human rights, 4) human dignity, 5) democracy, 6) rule of law.

### How often do you use this Social Networks? [Twitter (X)]

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20	2,9	3,9
Every day	163	3,9	35,3
Several times a week	70	31,5	48,8
Once or twice a week	48	13,5	58,1
Less often	71	9,3	71,8
Never	146	13,7	100,0
Total	518	28,2	

### [Instagram]

	Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	15	2,9	2,9
Every day	411	79,3	82,2
Several times a week	48	9,3	91,5
Once or twice a week	17	3,3	94,8
Less often	14	2,7	97,5
Never	13	2,5	100,0
Total	518	100,0	

### [Facebook]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		18	3,5	3,5
	Every day	89	17,2	20,7
	Several times a week	36	6,9	27,6
	Once or twice a week	37	7,1	34,7
	Less often	95	18,3	53,1
	Never	243	46,9	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

### [Tik Tok]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		16	3,1	3,1
	Every day	281	54,2	57,3
	Several times a week	60	11,6	68,9
	Once or twice a week	27	5,2	74,1
	Less often	26	5,0	79,2
	Never	108	20,8	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

### [YouTube]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		18	2,9	2,9
	Every day	15	48,5	51,4
	Several times a week	251	23,4	74,7
	Once or twice a week	121	13,3	88,0
	Less often	69	11,0	99,0
	Never	57	1,0	100,0
	Total	5	100,0	

## Descriptives



[WhatsApp]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		18	3,5	3,5
	Every day	477	<b>92,1</b>	95,6
	Several times a week	14	2,7	98,3
	Once or twice a week	3	,6	98,8
	Less often	3	,6	99,4
	Never	3	,6	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

[LinkedIn]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		17	3,3	3,3
	Every day	29	5,6	8,9
	Several times a week	57	11,0	19,9
	Once or twice a week	73	14,1	34,0
	Less often	94	<b>18,1</b>	52,1
	Never	248	<b>47,9</b>	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

[Pinterest]

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		18	3,5	3,5
	Every day	40	7,7	11,2
	Several times a week	63	12,2	23,4
	Once or twice a week	73	14,1	37,5
	Less often	140	<b>27,0</b>	64,5
	Never	184	<b>35,5</b>	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

N	Mean	Std. Deviation
---	------	----------------



**[Reddit]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		18	3,5	3,5
	Every day	7	1,4	4,8
	Several times a week	23	4,4	9,3
	Once or twice a week	27	5,2	14,5
	Less often	56	10,8	25,3
	Never	387	74,7	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Snapchat]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		17	3,3	3,3
	Every day	46	8,9	12,2
	Several times a week	9	1,7	13,9
	Once or twice a week	28	5,4	19,3
	Less often	51	9,8	29,2
	Never	367	70,8	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

[Human Dignity]	Germany	44	2,00	,863
	Spain	372	1,59	,808
	Romania	79	1,52	,749
	Total	495	1,61	,811
[Democracy]	Germany	44	1,95	,714
	Spain	372	1,80	,879
	Romania	78	1,53	,697
	Total	494	1,77	,845
[Equality]	Germany	44	1,93	,900
	Spain	372	1,50	,765
	Romania	79	1,42	,653
	Total	495	1,53	,771

[Rule of law]	Germany	44	2,25	,781
	Spain	371	1,83	,861
	Romania	78	1,58	,782
	Total	493	1,83	,856
:[Human rights]	Germany	44	2,00	,863
	Spain	373	1,51	,735
	Romania	78	1,44	,713
	Total	495	1,54	,757

Anova show significant differences by country for all these variables except freedom. Romanians declare that social networks are more important in promoting more human dignity, democracy, equality, rule of law and human rights than Spanish and German respondents.

In relation to the question about How often do they use this Social Networks? WhatsApp is the most used, followed closely by Instagram and YouTube not so close. Snapchat, Reddit and LinkedIn are the least used by respondents.

## Descriptives

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
[Twitter (X)]	Germany	44	3,80	1,665
	Spain	381	2,62	1,612
	Romania	73	4,07	1,194
	Total	498	2,93	1,663
[Instagram]	Germany	44	1,98	1,438
	Spain	381	1,16	,565
	Romania	78	1,92	1,256
	Total	503	1,35	,880



**Do you follow any social media accounts of any of these institutions? [City council]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		20	3,9	3,9
	No	268	51,7	55,6
	Yes	230	44,4	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Youth Association]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		26	5,0	5,0
	No	329	63,5	68,5
	Yes	163	31,5	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[European Union]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		24	4,6	4,6
	No	390	75,3	79,9
	Yes	104	20,1	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

[Facebook]	Germany	44	2,98	1,502
	Spain	378	4,27	1,160
	Romania	78	1,55	1,015

54 of 67



**[Trade union]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		25	5,2	5,2
	No	346	81,5	86,7
	Yes	147	13,3	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Political party]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		25	4,8	4,8
	No	346	66,8	71,6
	Yes	147	28,4	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Educational institution]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		20	3,9	3,9
	No	193	37,3	41,1
	Yes	305	58,9	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Sport institution]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		25	4,8	4,8
	No	241	46,5	51,4
	Yes	252	48,6	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

	Total	500	3,73	1,544
[Tik Tok]	Germany	44	3,89	1,660
	Spain	380	2,09	1,575



**[NGO institution]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		21	4,1	4,1
	No	333	64,3	68,3
	Yes	164	31,7	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Religious institution]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		25	4,8	4,8
	No	383	73,9	78,8
	Yes	110	21,2	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**How often do you use the social networks to...? [Watch videos]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		17	3,3	3,3
	Every day	358	69,1	72,4
	Several times a week	107	20,7	93,1
	Once or twice a week	18	3,5	96,5
	Less often	14	2,7	99,2
	Never	4	,8	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	



**[Upload photos]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		18	3,5	3,5
	Every day	69	13,3	16,8
	Several times a week	92	17,8	34,6
	Once or twice a week	101	19,5	54,1
	Less often	206	39,8	93,8
	Never	32	6,2	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[View my friends' photos]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		16	3,1	3,1
	Every day	265	51,2	54,2
	Several times a week	138	26,6	80,9
	Once or twice a week	52	10,0	90,9
	Less often	40	7,7	98,6
	Never	7	1,4	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Update my profile]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		19	3,7	3,7
	Every day	75	14,5	18,1
	Several times a week	98	18,9	37,1
	Once or twice a week	78	15,1	52,1
	Less often	215	41,5	93,6
	Never	33	6,4	100,0
	Total	19	100,0	

	Romania	78	2,04	1,463
	Total	502	2,24	1,644

**[Comment on profiles/photos/videos posted by friends]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		21	4,1	4,1
	Every day	144	27,8	31,9
	Several times a week	125	24,1	56,0
	Once or twice a week	99	19,1	75,1
	Less often	98	18,9	94,0
	Never	31	6,0	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**How often do you use the social networks to...? [Play games]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		18	3,5	3,5
	Every day	83	16,0	19,5
	Several times a week	73	14,1	33,6
	Once or twice a week	49	9,5	43,1
	Less often	124	23,9	67,0
	Never	171	33,0	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Find information about local activities and events]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		19	3,7	3,7
	Every day	131	25,3	29,0
	Several times a week	174	33,6	62,5
	Once or twice a week	102	19,7	82,2
	Less often	81	15,6	97,9
	Never	11	2,1	100,0
	Total	518	100	



**[Find information about European issues]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		19	3,7	3,7
	Every day	43	8,3	12,0
	Several times a week	70	13,5	25,5
	Once or twice a week	88	17,0	42,5
	Less often	179	34,6	77,0
	Never	119	23,0	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Create groups]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		18	3,5	3,5
	Every day	55	10,6	14,1
	Several times a week	64	12,4	26,4
	Once or twice a week	78	15,1	41,5
	Less often	215	41,5	83,0
	Never	88	17,0	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

**[Consult my friends' profiles]**

		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		19	3,7	3,7
	Every day	184	35,5	39,2
	Several times a week	160	30,9	70,1
	Once or twice a week	68	13,1	83,2
	Less often	79	15,3	98,5
	Never	8	1,5	100,0
	Total	518	100,0	

[YouTube]	Germany	44	1,55	,951
	Spain	381	2,06	1,121

	Romania	78	1,31	,610
	Total	503	1,89	1,082
	Germany	44	1,18	,843
	Spain	380	1,04	,309
	Romania	76	1,21	,618
[WhatsApp]	Total	500	1,08	,442
	Germany	44	3,32	1,360
	Spain	381	4,07	1,211
	Romania	76	3,72	1,391
	Total	501	3,95	1,272
[LinkedIn]	Germany	44	4,07	1,156
	Spain	382	3,73	1,305
	Romania	76	3,53	1,270
	Total	500	3,73	1,292
	Germany	44	4,09	1,378
[Pinterest]	Spain	380	4,77	,607
	Romania	76	3,96	1,280
	Total	500	4,59	,892
	Germany	44	3,64	1,511
	Spain	381	4,66	,951
[Reddit]	Romania	76	3,32	1,618
	Total	501	4,37	1,248
	Germany	44	3,64	1,511
	Spain	381	4,66	,951
	Romania	76	3,32	1,618
	Total	501	4,37	1,248
[Snapchat]	Germany	44	3,64	1,511
	Spain	381	4,66	,951
	Romania	76	3,32	1,618
	Total	501	4,37	1,248
	Germany	44	3,64	1,511
	Spain	381	4,66	,951
	Romania	76	3,32	1,618
	Total	501	4,37	1,248

Anova test show significant differences by countries for all variables of this part or the questionnaire. In Spain the respondents used the following social networks more than the other groups: X, Instagram, WhatsApp. The Romanian sample are the first using Facebook (with a huge difference with the other countries), YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat, Pinterest, and Reddit. German sample lead the use of LinkedIn in comparison to the other 2 groups.





The counts of social networks more followed by respondents are related to educational institutions, sport institutions and city council but only in a limited way. The institutions with less implication in their social media accounts are trade union, European union, and religious institutions.

In relation to the question about How often do they use the social networks to do thinks, the three most used activities are: 1) watch videos, 2) view their friends' photos, and 3) consult their friends' profiles. The least used activities are: 1) create groups, 2) find information about the European Union, and 3) play games.

## Descriptives

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
[Watch videos]	Germany	44	1,36	,718
	Spain	379	1,35	,663
	Romania	78	1,67	1,101
	Total	501	1,40	,759
[Upload photos]	Germany	44	3,50	,952
	Spain	379	3,04	1,173
	Romania	77	3,01	1,313
	Total	500	3,08	1,183
[View my friends' photos]	Germany	44	2,32	1,235
	Spain	380	1,66	,936
	Romania	78	2,06	1,097
	Total	502	1,78	1,014
[Update my profile]	Germany	44	3,70	,878

	Spain	380	2,98	1,216
	Romania	75	3,12	1,315
	Total	499	3,07	1,221
[Comment on profiles/ photos/videos posted by friends]	Germany	42	3,26	1,127
	Spain	378	2,37	1,221
	Romania	77	2,65	1,393
	Total	497	2,49	1,265
[Play games]	Germany	44	3,89	1,280
	Spain	379	3,48	1,493
	Romania	77	3,06	1,525
	Total	500	3,45	1,491
[Find information about local activities and events]	Germany	44	2,73	1,065
	Spain	379	2,27	1,061
	Romania	76	2,39	1,255
	Total	499	2,33	1,098
[Find information about European issues]	Germany	44	3,66	1,010
	Spain	377	3,62	1,210
	Romania	78	2,97	1,338
	Total	499	3,52	1,236
[Create groups]	Germany	44	3,89	,945
	Spain	378	3,38	1,196
	Romania	78	3,44	1,482
	Total	500	3,43	1,232
[Consult my friends' profiles]	Germany	44	2,64	,942
	Spain	377	2,02	1,101
	Romania	78	2,38	1,230
	Total	499	2,13	1,126

Anova test show significant differences for all the variables of these questions by country. Spanish sample are the first in the frequency of use of 7 in 10 activities in comparison to



German and Romanian samples. Romanian respondents are the first in the frequency of uploading photos, playing games, and finding information about the European Union.

**Of all the social networks, which one do you like the most?**

	Frequency	%
Bereal	2	0,42
Facebook	25	5,23
Instagram	200	41,84
ka	2	0,42
LinkedIn	2	0,42
Pinterest	13	2,72
Snapchat	3	0,63
Spotify	1	0,21
Telegram	2	0,42
TikTok	70	14,64
Tumblr	1	0,21
TWITCH	1	0,21
Twitter (X)	69	14,44
WhatsApp	45	9,41
YouTube	42	8,79
	478	

Finally, in relation to what social network like the most to the respondents, Instagram is the winner, followed by TikTok and Twitter (X).

## Social Media Engagement

Regarding the social networks that the young people interviewed mainly belong to and access, they say that the networks they use most are: **Instagram and Twitter (X) (WhatsApp as messenger), and Facebook by Romanian participants.**

They also indicate that they prefer to **follow people they know personally** or because they are part of their hobbies. In other words, they mainly follow their friends and their posts, work colleagues, and influencers, although they mention completely different favourite accounts for some young people compared to others.

63 of 67



They like the **news pre-selected by the networks or by algorithms**, to catch up quickly. They prefer news summary accounts, which indicates a passive search for what the algorithms offer them rather than an active search for what they would prefer to be informed about.

Some **recognise themselves as “addicted”** without any hesitation and others point to their efforts to decrease usage time, temporarily switching off when they are doing something that seems important to them, and so on. They may even have taken periods off to break the addiction, but say that as soon as they return, they quickly feel addicted again.

In the way they select accounts and profiles, they recognise that they have **been influenced primarily by recommendations from friends and family**, who encourage them to try them out, and they also choose them influenced by recommendations from social network **algorithms** (based on their previous activities) or from “influencers”.

They also highlight the aspect of **evolution over time** or their change in tastes, interests, purposes or projects, in the use of networks. It should be noted that podcasts are now booming, some are also about history, science or education, and have an increasing number of subscribers on social networks.

The most frequent posting activities on social networks among the young people interviewed consist of **posting their photos** in the context of news or stories about their activities or the environments in which they carry them out. Another way of posting is to **“like” or repost** from their network accounts what they find interesting or approve to spread.

Using their accounts as their means of communication to **create content of collective interest is something that only a few do**, but there are some cases, sometimes with covert identities. The pattern of posting or interacting on networks varies according to the social network: they mainly post on Instagram, but they can participate in debates on different networks. Some are **afraid to enter into debates because of the conflicts** or reactions that may arise; in the case of Twitter (X) for example. But most of them value positively the experience of exchanging opinions on networks and the reactions to their posts.

### **Some highlights about social media and youth:**

- Instagram is the preferred social network of young people.
- The three most frequently used activities in the social networks are: 1) watch videos, 2) view friends' photos, 3) consult friends' profiles.
- The institutional social network counts more followed are: 1) educational institutions, 2) sport institutions, 3) city councils.
- WhatsApp, Instagram and YouTube are the most used social networks, but there are some important differences by country. For example, Romanian most used SNS is Facebook that is in clear disuse for the respondents from Spain and Germany.
- There are some principles or values that youth believe that can be promoted adequately by social networks, the order of importance is: 1) freedom, 2) equality, 3) human rights.

### **Recommendations:**



- The information about activities and events of the organization better in WhatsApp, Instagram or YouTube (Facebook also in Romania).
- Use videos instead of text or news.
- Look for partnerships with sports and educational institutions of your municipality.
- Try to achieve dissemination of the messages through family and friends.
- All the topics related to freedom, equality and human rights will cause more impact than other values.

## Local Activities of Youth

The majority of the **young people are active and participative**, although the activities in which they participate, only in some cases, are organised by Local Administrations; **mainly from their places of origin** and they participate less in events organised by Local Administrations in the places where they now reside, where they are studying or working. Rather, the activities in which they currently participate are usually organised by associations created within the Universities where they study, followed by those organised by various NGOs or by Governments in the case of political elections in which the majority vote.

In terms of the type of local activities in which they participate, **political, sporting, solidarity, cultural or religious activities** stand out. In terms of how they participate, the following stand out: volunteering in the organisation of local sporting or cultural events, attending NGO meetings and supporting activities (e.g. Food Bank), and actively participating in demonstrations or political elections. Regardless of who organises the activities in which young people participate, the themes of the events are as diverse as the hobbies and tastes of the different young people themselves: sporting activities, social activities, trade unions or political parties.

However, there are some common patterns in terms of the accounts or characters they follow on social networks. The priority is **friends, classmates or workmates and family members**; people they know personally. They also like news feeds pre-selected by the networks or by algorithms to catch up quickly. They prefer news summaries to having to go to every single newspaper to get the latest news.

### **Some highlights about local activities and youth:**

- To look for information about local activities and events is not a preference for young people.
- Town Hall social network accounts is among the three most interesting institutions for youngsters.
- Local and European elections arouse less interest among youth.
- Young people feel a great closeness to their municipalities, much more than to their country or to Europe as a whole.
- Young people have intermediate trust in local and municipal authorities, above other territorial or political spheres.
- Politics produces a certain interest in young people, but the problem is that they do not trust politicians or political parties.





### **Recommendations:**

- Young people are not going to make an effort to find information about local activities and events. Therefore, the effort must be done by the institutions to reach these young people through social networks.
- City councils generate a certain confidence in young people, not so much their politicians. Try to offer the information through technicians and managers of sports clubs or cultural associations.
- Local issues generate important feelings among young people; local issues must be integrated with European values. This must be done more with informal activities such as games, gymkhanas, sports competitions, prizes than using written messages.

## European Values

Among all young people from different countries, the attitude of surfing online responsibly and in line with European principles and values, which they consider to be of the utmost importance, stands out.

In general, most of the participants take the information they receive about local entities, or the European Union selected by the “algorithm” for each individual, which is conditioned by what each person has been interested in or interacted with in previous periods. As far as the European Union is concerned, the **little information they receive** is within the news accounts they follow.

Regarding equity, it is pointed out that the European institutions should demand that European countries have **the same legislation of rights** and prevent them from “legislating against”. Others suggest that the tendency is for immigrants, from other countries, to have European values and rights less guaranteed in our territories.

European values must be defended on the networks since social networks are where the biggest stupid things are said and there is no punishment for that.

### **Some highlights about European values and youth:**

- A high level of economic growth should be the priority for countries according to the feelings of young people.
- The UE is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most confident institution for youngsters. This reveals the respect that the institution brings about. But at the same time is seen like an institution that is not close to young people. Only 47.3 % always vote in European elections.
- Having a democratic political system is the best way of governing their countries followed by having experts making decisions according to the feelings of the respondents.
- To share European culture and to be born in Europe are the most important elements to be European.
- It is absolutely crucial to live in a country governed democratically, but only 14.4% think they live in a completely democratic country.





- The 3 least important principles for the respondents are: Right to stand as a candidate in elections, Judgements have to be respected by all and Law and justice are upheld by an independent judiciary.
- The 3 most important values for the participants are: Equal rights for all citizens before the law, all human beings should be born free and equal in dignity and rights and the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

### **Recommendations:**

- Young people have a centre-left political tendency, so messages regarding European values must take this characteristic into account. Although for young Romanian respondents this trend is less pronounced.
- The European authorities should make a huge effort to engage young people on social accounts oriented and directed to them. YouTube, Instagram, TikTok are the best SNS for this population.
- Values related to equality, freedom and no discrimination arise more interest than others related to law and justice, or to be candidate in an election.

## Conclusion

This report represents a foundational step in the NETYOUTH project's ongoing efforts to understand and engage young Europeans more effectively. The analysis of survey and focus group data has illuminated key trends and local problems that capture the attention and concern of young individuals across Spain, Germany, and Romania. Issues such as employment, political engagement, and social inclusion stand out as areas of significant interest and concern. The insights gained are invaluable for the NETYOUTH project, guiding the development of targeted educational tools and resources that not only inform but also empower young people. Moving forward, it is imperative that the project continues to evolve its strategies based on these findings, enhancing communication methods and educational content to foster a robust sense of European identity and active citizenship among the youth. In doing so, NETYOUTH aims to make a tangible impact on reducing the communication barriers and increasing the participation of young people in the shaping of a more inclusive, democratic, and integrated European community.