



Results of the 1st Youth Barometer 2020 (conducted during January-February 2020)

The 1st quantitative survey “*Youth Barometer*” was conducted by IMR-University of Nicosia on behalf of the Youth Board of Cyprus, during January-February 2020. The main findings of the survey are presented below.

The aim of the survey was to capture the current situation of young people in Cyprus and explore their perceptions, views and values on the following domains: lifestyle, education, employment, gender equality, society, environment, active participation, faith and religion, immigration, international relations, EU and future expectations.

1000 young people aged between 14-35 took part in the survey. The survey statistics have been gathered through random sampling. Telephone and one-to-one interviews have been conducted through a specific questionnaire.

Research findings

The vast majority of young people aged 14-35 (85%) seem to be satisfied with their life in Cyprus.

Their main concerns are related to the issues of employment prospects, such as finding a job (58%) and career advancement (21%). These domains are of utmost importance for young people, and this is proven by their objectives. Their main goals include the successful completion of their studies, finding a job and being financially independent.

Interpersonal relationships play an important role in young people’s lives, and they consider them to be the most important aspect of their lives. The most valuable interpersonal relationships are those with the family (58%) and friends (45%).

Moreover, for a significant number of survey participants, aspects relating to career (36%) and education (24%) are of great importance in their lives.

Instagram and Facebook are the most popular social media sites among young people, accounting for 84% and 77% accordingly. In fact, *Instagram* is the pre-eminent tool used by young people aged 14-17(93%) and *Facebook* is the predominant site for the age group 25-34 (88%). Among younger people, there is an increase in the use of other social media sites, like *Snapchat* and *TikTok* (43% and 33% accordingly).

The majority of the employed young people (76%) are satisfied with their current job, although 48% state that their job is not related to their educational background.

Moreover, 93% of young people believe that lifelong learning is of great value.

Regarding gender equality, 70% believe that there is no equal representation of the sexes in the decision-making institutions.

Only a small percentage of young people put their trust in governing institutions and political parties. Their interest in politics is also reduced, with 68% of them showing little or no interest.

Regarding participation, the involvement of young Cypriots in social activities remains low. In fact, the highest percentages have been recorded in the field of volunteering (26%) and team sports (24%).

Regarding religion and faith, seven out of ten claim to be closely attached to religious institutions.

When it comes to immigration, the vast majority of young people recognize the importance of free movement (97%) and the protection of migrants' human rights (94%).

Regarding Cyprus-EU relationships, the majority of young people consider that Cyprus' membership to the EU has benefited the country (66%) more than it did young people on a personal level (56%). However, the level of proximity between youth and EU is relatively moderate (4,76/10).

Finally, 80% of young people feel very or quite optimistic about their future. On the contrary, when it comes to the future of the next generation, 64% have stated that they have little or no optimism about young people's prosperity. The three most common answers to the question of what their goals are in the next five years, were: successful completion of their studies (61%), self-fulfilment at work (59%) and having financial independence (42%).

The results of the survey are available in Greek in the e-library of the website of the Youth Policy Department youthpolicy.onek.org.cy.