



Results of the 2nd Youth Barometer 2020 (conducted during November-December 2020)

The second Youth Barometer for 2020 has been conducted during November-December 2020. The survey results, which have been processed by IMR-University of Nicosia, are presented below. As in the first Youth Barometer 2020, the aim of the survey was to identify the current situation of young people in Cyprus and to explore their views and perceptions on different topics. In fact, the second Youth Barometer re-examined the views of young people on the following: lifestyle, education, employment, active participation. This survey focused also on the effects of the pandemic COVID-19 and the participation of young people in democratic life, in view of the 2021 parliamentary elections, held in May.

In the second Youth Barometer, a comparison with the results of the first Youth Barometer was realized. In general, the results of both surveys do not show significant differences, except for the degree of Cyprus youth's satisfaction (in the second Youth Barometer 64% seem to be satisfied with their lifestyle, compared to 85% in the first Youth Barometer), the fact that among the problems they face is the future of their country and finally the significant decrease of the level of optimism about their future which fell from 80% to 51%. An interesting aspect of the survey is the findings on the topic of youth participation, which focuses on young people's voting preferences in the 2021 Parliamentary elections, the reasons for which it is important to go to polls, as well as the reasons for which they prefer to abstain from election procedures.

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.

The main survey findings

The majority of young people (64%) are satisfied with their lifestyle in Cyprus. However, the rate of satisfaction is lower than that of the first Youth Barometer (85%).

Career prospects (76%) and seeking a job (68%) remain the two most important issues that concern young people, while their concern about the future of their country comes third in place (65%).

The pandemic caused by COVID-19 and the restrictive measures imposed have had significantly affected the daily life of the vast majority of young people (86%).

Asked about their main concern in the post-pandemic period, 73% of the survey participants mentioned that the likelihood of a new economic crisis is high, while 66% highlight the increase of youth unemployment and 55% the prospect of having to adapt to a new lifestyle with restrictive measures.

Asked about which domains of their lives have been mostly affected by the pandemic, young people mentioned firstly entertainment and recreation (8.21/10), and secondly mental status (6.99/10) and education (6.02/10).

When it comes to social media, Instagram and Facebook are the two most popular platforms. 88% of young people stated that they use Instagram while 84% of them use Facebook.

When it comes to employed young people, 63% of them claim to be satisfied with their current job, unlike 76% of people in the first Youth Barometer. 15% of employed youth claim that their professional state has worsen in comparison to the previous year. Moreover, 59% of young people state that their current job is not related to their academic background.

An important survey finding is that 89% of young people value the importance of lifelong learning.

The level of trust towards various government foundations and political parties is relatively low, with a rate at 2.50- 4.33/10. The same low rates have been recorded in the first Youth Barometer. Moreover, the percentage of young people being interested in politics is quite low, as 65% of them show little or no interest in politics (68% in the first Youth Barometer).

Regarding youth active participation in civic life, Cypriot youth's involvement with social activities remains at low levels, as in the first Youth Barometer. The highest levels of participation are traced in the areas of volunteerism (29%) and team sports (31%).

Regarding youth's intention to participate in the 2021 Parliamentary elections, 31% state that they will *definitely* vote in the elections while 20% of them state that they will *probably* vote.

58% from those who stated that they do not participate in elections, when asked to justify why they do not participate in elections, they stated they do not trust politics or politicians.

Among young people who said that they would not vote, 19% of them stated that they would definitely vote if they had the opportunity to vote online. In addition, 23% of them, stated that they would definitely go to the elections if horizontal voting was an option.

Among the reasons that would encourage young people to go to the polls in the next elections, the two most popular answers were the following. 46% of young people expressed their desire to feel more cared by politicians while 43% stated that they would go to the polls if they felt that their vote would make a change.

51% of young people state that they feel very or quite optimistic about their future, a rate which is lower than that of the first Youth Barometer (80%). When asked about their goals for the next five years, young people stated professional success (79%), being financially independent (68%), self-fulfillment (69%) and owning a private residence (63%).

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.