



A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR SOUTHERN EUROPEAN YOUTH

Adopted by FYEG General Assembly on 27 May 2017 in Madrid, Spain

Europe's Southern countries experimented a great political, social, cultural and economic progress since their entry in the European Economic Community during the eighties (with the exception of Italy). Nevertheless, despite the period of growth and stability in these countries within the context of a buoyant Europe, their structural problems concerning its productive systems and administrations weren't faced by the EU. What is more, this growth was built upon low skilled employment, bank credits, large infrastructure investment, etc.

Following the outbreak of the financial global crisis in 2008, the EU was dragged into an unprecedented debt crisis. Southern countries, which had not had the chance to build their economic system organically, were especially touched, as the sectors they had been relying on collapsed. From EU, neoliberals have imposed their austerity dogma and the deficit control above the rights of all European citizens. It is these austerity policies that are hindering the economic crisis since 2012, blocking public investment and not fighting tax evasion.

Southern European youth faces now another paradox: thousands of highly-educated young people are left unemployed or have to turn to low-skill jobs, that are poorly paid and unstable. This leaves little options for a full professional career, and new economic migration, or economic exile, trends are emerging within European countries. And not only that, more and more young people are in risk of poverty or cannot become independent from their parents.

Despite recurring calls for more R+D investment and concerns about the lack of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) graduates, in Spain and other countries, the situation is dramatic, with thousands of Spanish researchers having to leave the country in the pursuit of living opportunities.

These problems crystallise in the high unemployment rates of Southern countries. According to OECD, in 2016 the percentage of youth people between 15 and 24 years old that has been seeking for job accounted for 27,9% in Portugal, 37,8% in Italy, 44,5% in Spain and 47,4% in Greece (being the EU28 average a 18,7%).

In addition, we cannot despise the situation of the rest of European youth: the effects of austerity and the crisis are a matter of concern for the rest of Europe, as was stated in the previous FYEG resolution "How to end the crisis" in 2015, which demanded for a Green New Deal "with an emphasis in tackling youth unemployment".



Therefore, the FYEG urges the European Union to undertake actions addressing the job insecurity of Spanish and other Southern European youth, acting on:

1. The revitalisation of unions, encouraging workers to participate and organise themselves to protect their interests and rights.
2. The compulsory payment of internships in all the member states, so the abuse by companies can be stopped.
3. The establishment of labour reforms that protect workers' interests, facilitating the young people entrance to the labour market while protecting the older people, also in a precarious conditions if they are fired before reaching the retirement age.
4. The restoration of the quality, universal and free education system.
5. The promotion of a dual system: to place value on the professional training option, not only the university one.
6. The need to establish "return policies" in order to stop and reverse the brain drain, or economic exile, that have affected basically Southern European countries.

We, Federation of Young European Greens, demand for:

7. The safeguard an education system that is accessible, universal and offers quality instruction in all Member States.
8. We defend the establishment of an EU-wide law on internships and apprenticeships to guarantee a fair income and social protection to interns and apprentices. This law should also limit the possibility for employers to recruit interns instead of regular employees.
9. To secure investments in research and development (R&D) for job creation and finding solutions to societal challenges such as climate change and clean energy, security and active and healthy ageing.
10. The end of austerity policies and combat tax evasion.
11. That we establish the legal concept of "Ecological Golden Rule" to preserve the chances of young generations to actually have a future.
12. That we call for a European Constitutional Assembly so the young generations have a tool to democratically define the shape of the future.