

A photograph of three young people against a bright, cloudy sky. On the left, a young woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white ribbed sweater, looks slightly to the right. In the center, a young woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a blue denim jacket over a white t-shirt, looks down and to the left. On the right, a young man with short brown hair, wearing a white hoodie, looks to the right. The lighting is warm and golden, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

VALTION
NUORISO-
NEUVOSTO

INFOGRAPHICS:
YOUTH BAROMETER 2024

THREE DECADES OF YOUTH

The Youth Barometer, published on an annual basis, measures the values and attitudes of young people aged 15 to 29 years living in Finland. The Youth Barometer 2024 is our 30th anniversary publication that examines three decades of youth.

The Youth Barometer usually consists of an annual theme and reoccurring questions that enable us to monitor different trends. This anniversary barometer focused on examining time series related to youth policy and social policy in particular. Through these themes, the aim was to

also examine the change in the Finnish society over the last 30 years.

The Youth Barometer 2024, with responses from 2,353 young people, was implemented using two different data collection methods: telephone interviews and an online form. The data collection was carried out in early 2024.

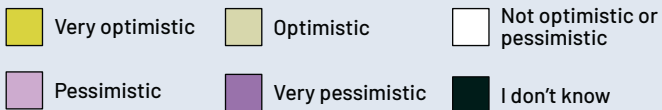
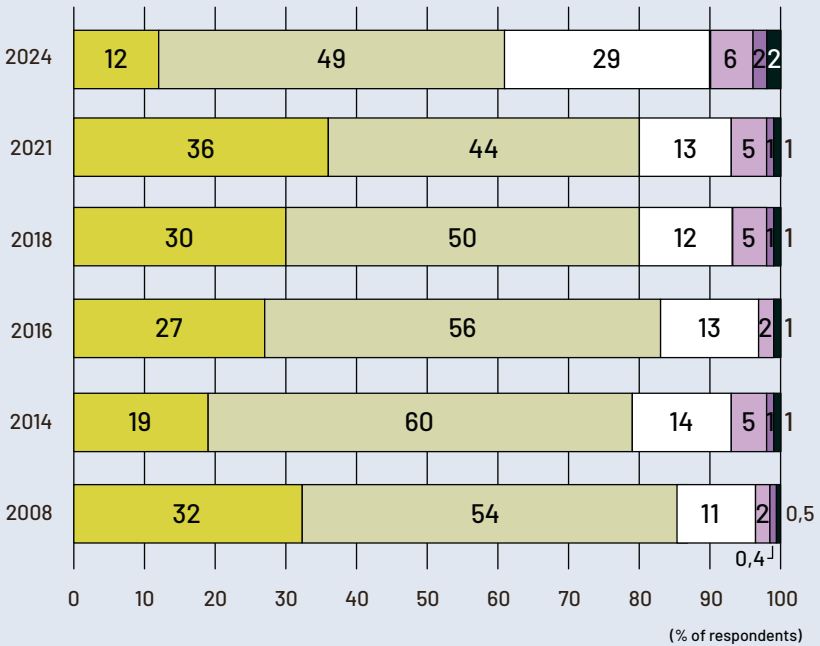
Due to the comparability of long time series, the responses to telephone interviews (n=1,006) have been used in this infographic. The data includes Swedish speakers starting from 2005 and other than Finnish or Swedish speakers starting from 2014.



OBSERVATIONS IN A NUTSHELL

1	YOUNG PEOPLE'S FAITH IN THE FUTURE HAS PLUMMETED Young people's faith in their future has been strong throughout the measuring history of the Youth Barometer. About 80% of young people have been optimistic or very optimistic about their futures. In 2024, this percentage is only 61%.
INTEREST IN POLITICS RISING The "allergy to politics" of the 1990s has changed into an increasing interest in politics and influencing. Different ways of exerting influence through e.g. purchasing decisions have become more popular.	2
3	SATISFACTION WITH THE FINANCIAL SITUATION HAS DECREASED In 2024, only 19% gave an excellent rating for their financial situation. 24% of the respondents gave a moderate or lower rating. Satisfaction has decreased considerably compared to previous years.

"HOW OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC ARE YOU ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?"



"HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU AT THE MOMENT WITH YOUR..."
THOSE WHO RESPONDED WITH 9 OR 10 (2024)

54%

HEALTH

YOUR SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

51%

44%

CURRENT LIFE IN GENERAL

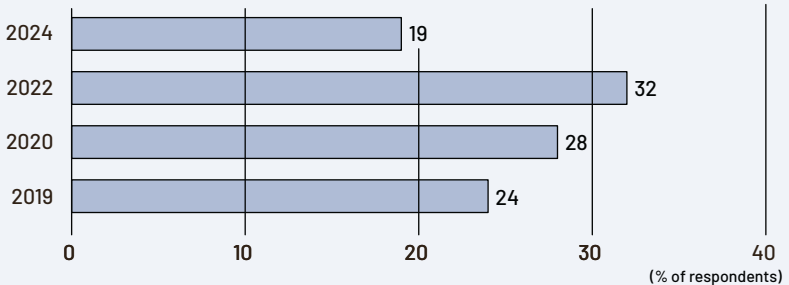
FREE TIME

30%

19%

FINANCIAL SITUATION

**PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION
TIME SERIES**



HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR YOU TO HAVE ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING BY THE TIME YOU ARE 35? THOSE WHO RESPONDED "VERY IMPORTANT" (2024)

85%

CLOSE FRIENDS

GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION

58%

54%

PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT

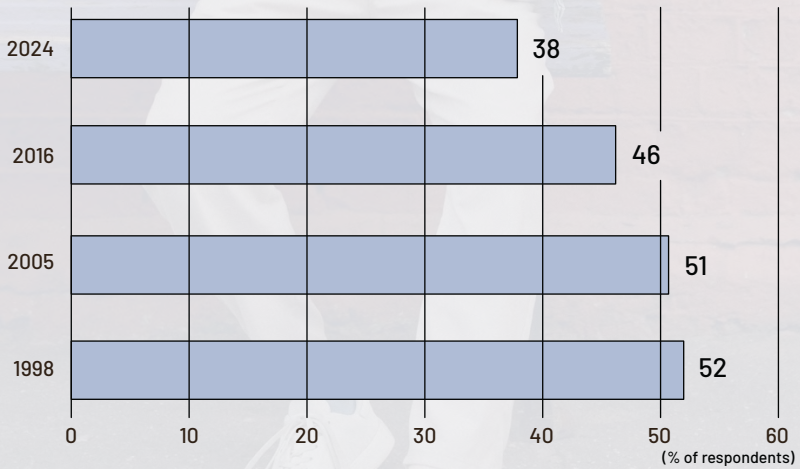
A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING

28%

38%

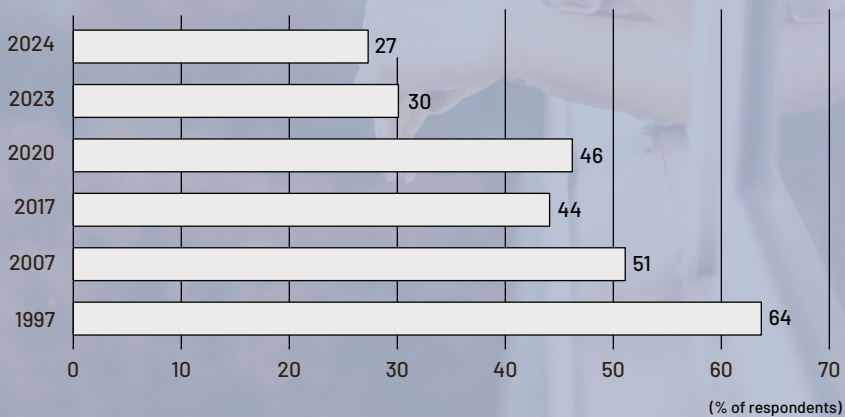
HAVING A FAMILY AND CHILDREN

**HAVING A FAMILY AND CHILDREN TIME SERIES,
THOSE WHO RESPONDED "VERY IMPORTANT"**

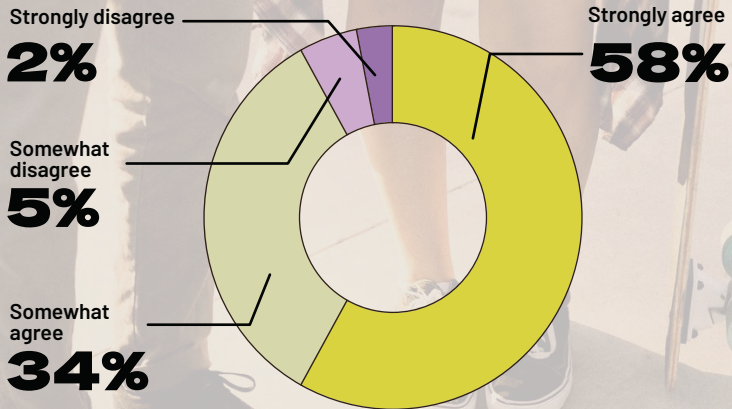




"SUCCESS IN LIFE IS UP TO MYSELF "
THOSE WHO RESPONDED "STRONGLY AGREE"

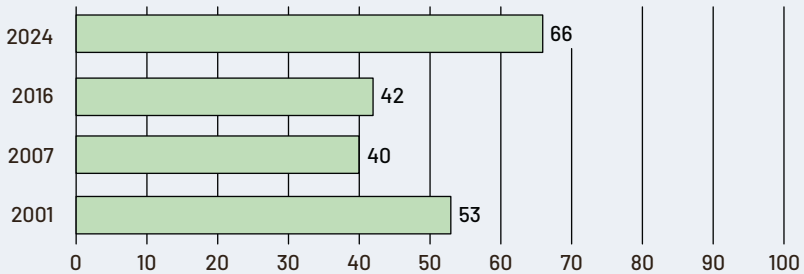


"EDUCATION SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES" (2024)

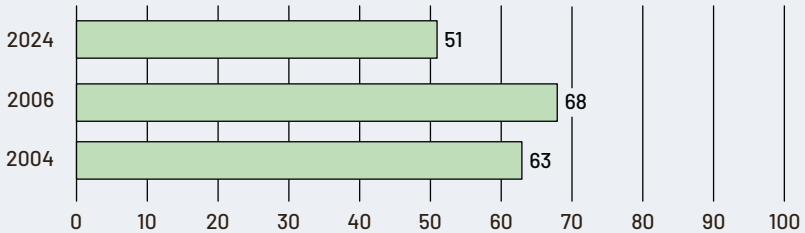


SHARE OF THOSE WHO AGREE IN DIFFERENT STATEMENTS

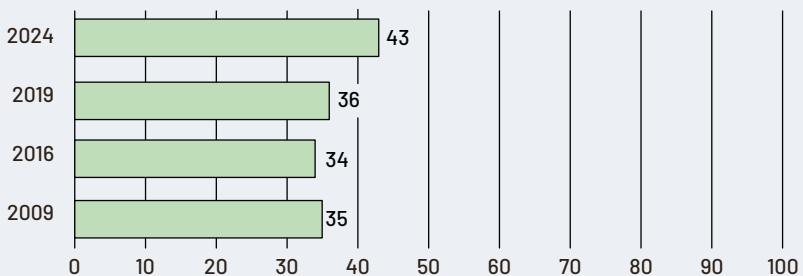
"FINNISH WORKING LIFE NEEDS MORE FOREIGN WORKERS"



"THESE DAYS, THE WORLD OF WORK IS SO DEMANDING TO THE WORKING POPULATION THAT MANY PEOPLE BURN OUT PREMATURELY"




"I AM CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER I CAN COPE WITH WORKING LIFE IN THE FUTURE"



The respondents who said they 'strongly agree' and 'somewhat agree' with the statements are added together in the graphs.

(% of respondents)

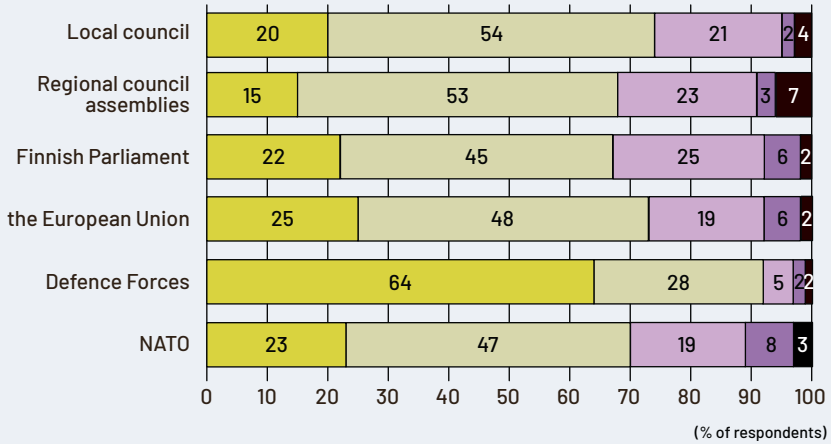
A young man with a bandana is sitting on a ledge, looking up towards a modern building with large windows. The scene is bathed in a teal and blue light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The man is wearing a light-colored hoodie and white socks. The building behind him has a grid-like pattern of windows.

**INCREASINGLY MORE
YOUNG PEOPLE
BELIEVE THAT
FINLAND NEEDS MORE
FOREIGN WORKERS**

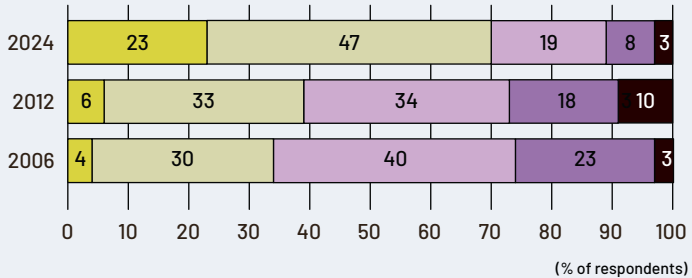


**TRUST IN NATO HAS
INCREASED AS A
RESULT OF JOINING
THE MILITARY
ALLIANCE**

"HOW MUCH TRUST DO YOU HAVE IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE FOLLOWING SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS?" (2024)

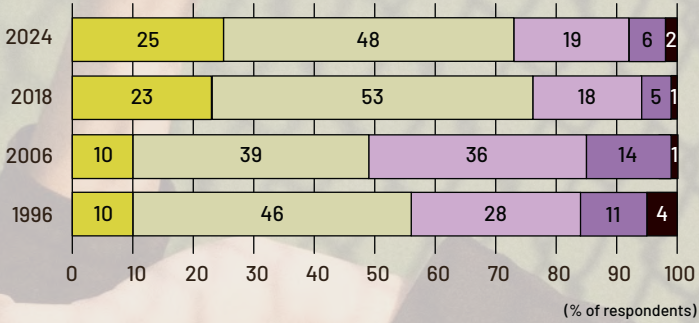


TRUST IN NATO IN DIFFERENT YEARS



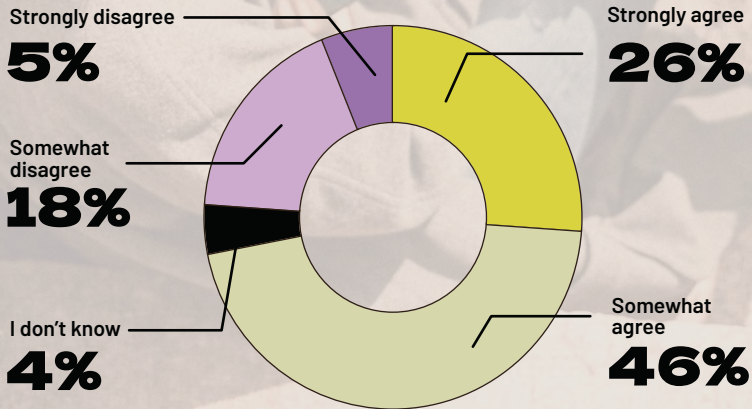
A lot
 Somewhat
 Little
 Not at all
 I don't know

"HOW MUCH TRUST DO YOU HAVE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION?"



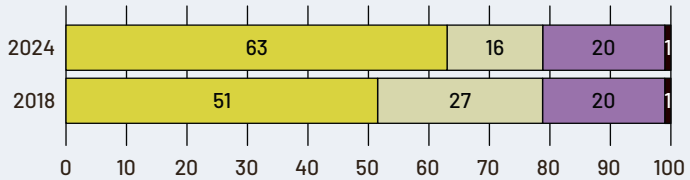
A lot **Somewhat** **Little** **Not at all** **I don't know**

"THE EU MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL TO FINLAND" (2024)

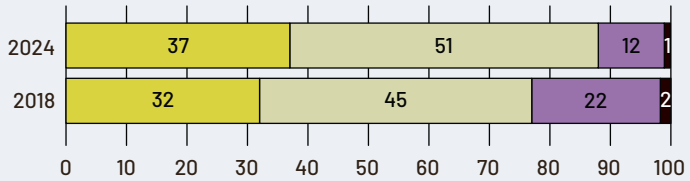


"HAVE YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS?"

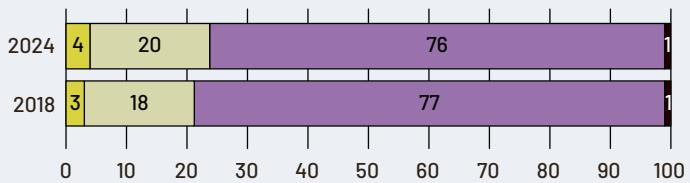
VOTING



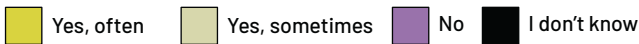
PURCHASE DECISIONS



PARTICIPATING IN A DEMONSTRATION

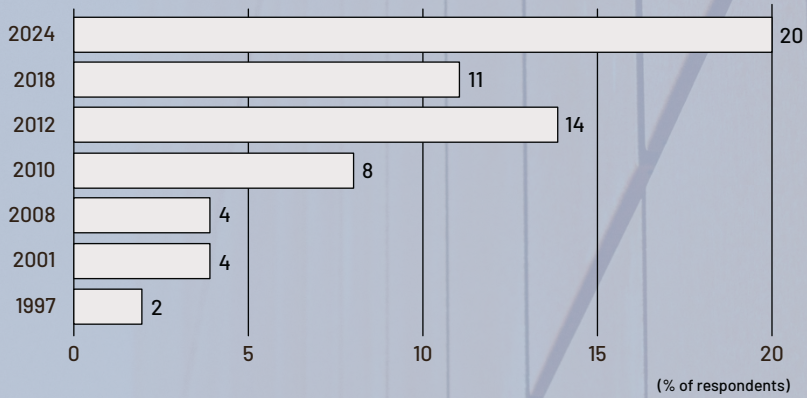



(% of respondents)



"HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU IN POLITICS?"

THOSE WHO RESPONDED "VERY INTERESTED"

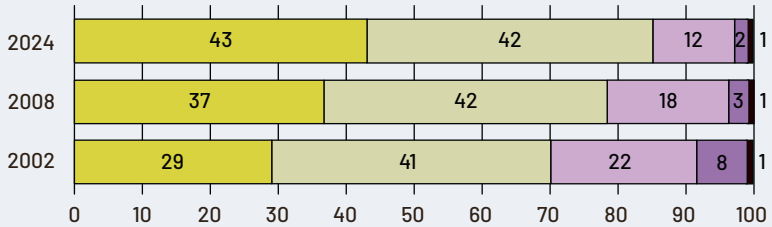




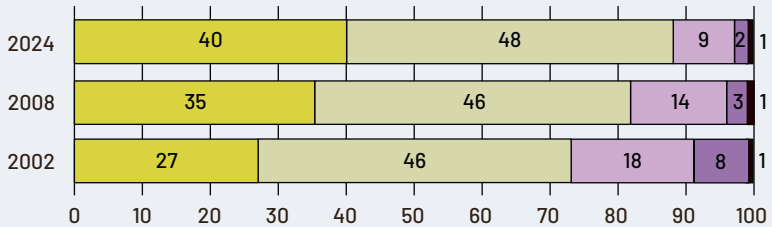
**A CLEAR MAJORITY OF
THE RESPONDENTS FELT
THAT YOUTH WORK
SERVICES ARE
IMPORTANT**

"HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO YOU THAT YOUR MUNICIPALITY OR CITY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING?"

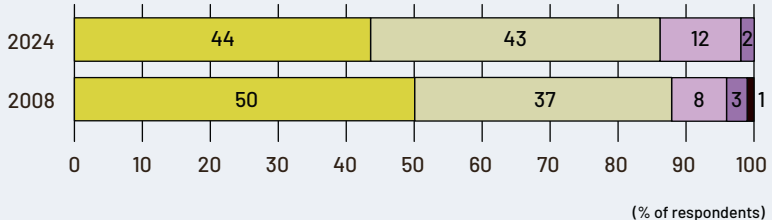
YOUTH WORKER



FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS



THE POSSIBILITY OF GATHERING INDOORS IN AN INFORMAL MANNER



THE STATE YOUTH COUNCIL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1

FEWER AND FEWER YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR FUTURE

According to the 2024 Youth Barometer, only 61% of young people are still optimistic about their future. Young people's faith in the future has remained stable in the 16 years prior to this barometer. About 80% of young people have been optimistic or very optimistic about their future.



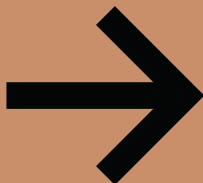
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Decision-makers should take concrete steps to restore young people's confidence in the future and instil hope rather than incite crises.
- To improve the lives of young people, a parliamentary Youth 2035 strategy spanning several government terms should be prepared. A policy focusing on the wellbeing of young people requires long-term decision-making.
- A youth impact assessment in all decision-making concerning young people should be prepared. Ensuring intergenerational fairness should be a key consideration in the assessments.

2

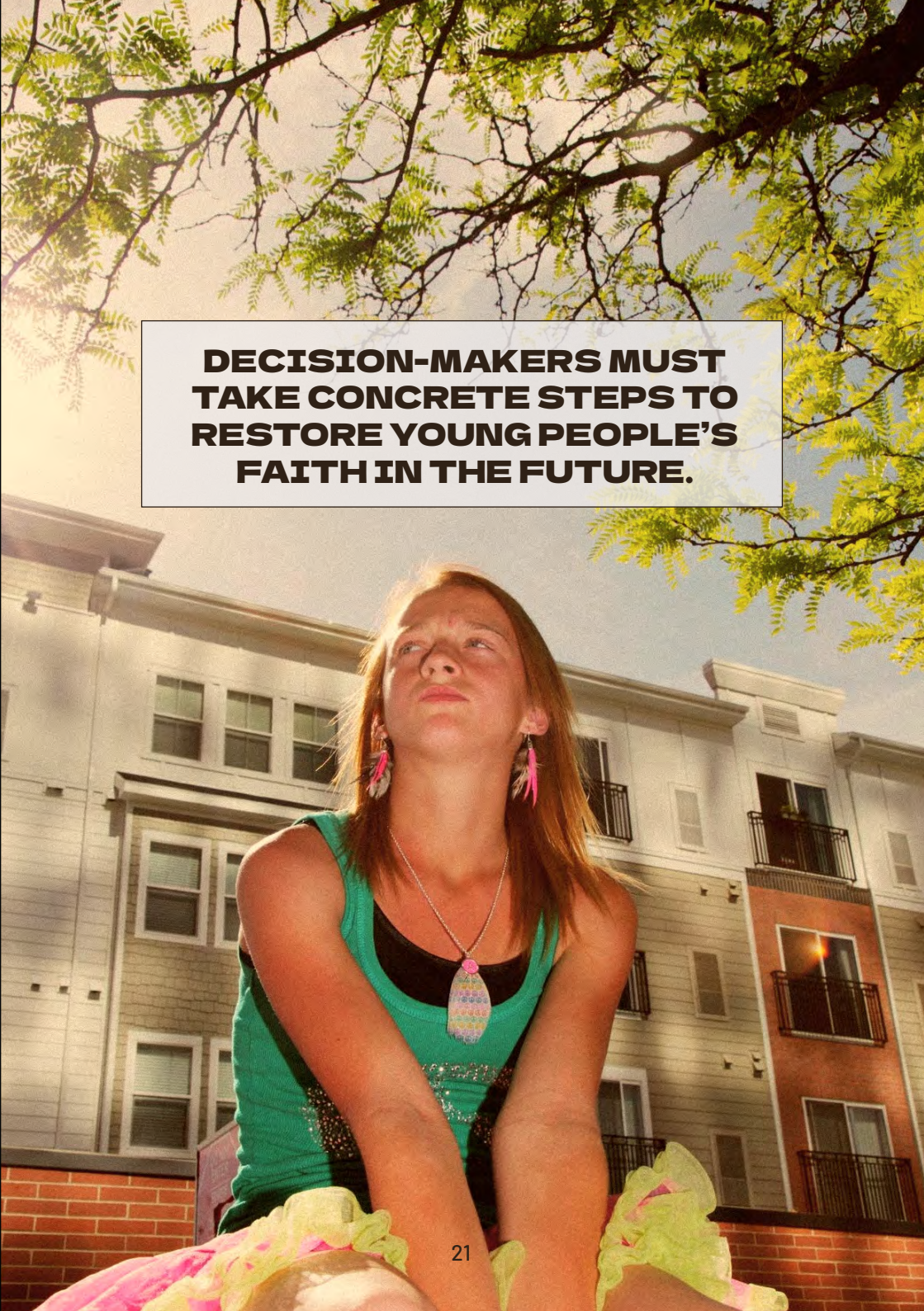
FINLAND SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE WANT TO START A FAMILY

Nearly one young person in five considered starting a family and having children more important in the Youth Barometer 2005 than in 2024. We need a society in which young people want to start a family and have children.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Young people and their families should be prioritised in economic policy. This would strengthen young people's faith in the future and support them as they move towards independence.
- The reasons why starting a family and having children is not a high priority for young people should be investigated and measures should be taken to correct the situation.



**DECISION-MAKERS MUST
TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO
RESTORE YOUNG PEOPLE'S
FAITH IN THE FUTURE.**

3

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN INFLUENCING SOCIETAL ISSUES AND IN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

According to the Youth Barometer, young people have become significantly more interested in politics over the past three decades. In addition to voting, different ways of exerting influence, such as purchasing decisions and participation in demonstrations, have become more popular.



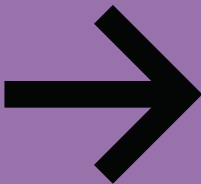
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Active civic engagement of young people should be encouraged and supported by ensuring the economic viability of civil society.
- Voting age should be lowered to 16 years.

4

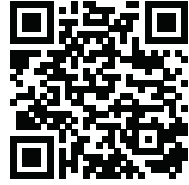
BELIEF IN EDUCATION REMAINS STRONG AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

Belief in education among young people has remained strong throughout the 30-year history of the Youth Barometer. More than 80% of the respondents still believe that education significantly improves employment opportunities.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Post-comprehensive education should remain free of charge. Free education is an investment in the future.
- Equality of opportunities should be guaranteed in education: every young person regardless of their background should have the opportunity to receive the education they want.



**FRESH DATA, DEEPER
UNDERSTANDING**

**READ THE UPDATED
STATISTICS AND GRAPHICS
ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF
YOUNG PEOPLE AT:**

[INDIKAATTORIT.TIETOANUORISTA.FI](https://indikaattorit.tietoanuorista.fi)

FINNISH YOUTH RESEARCH SOCIETY



VALTION
NUORISO-
NEUVOSTO



Youth Barometer 2024 in its entirety at:

<https://tietoanurista.fi/julkaisut/nuorisobarometri-2024/>

(Konsta Happonen & Tomi Kiillakoski (edit.) Three decades of youth. Youth Barometer 2024)

The Youth Barometer is published by the State Youth Council and the Finnish Youth Research Society.