

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.



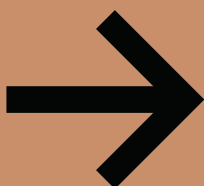
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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.

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.



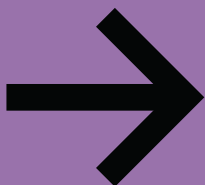
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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.