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**CALL TO EUROPE VI
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME
'MILLENNIALS AND POLITICS'**

17 & 18 June 2016

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FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



CALL TO EUROPE VI

'MILLENNIALS AND POLITICS'

17th June

16th June – Speakers' arrivals and dinner

CONFERENCE DAY 1

Main plenary room: EUROPE (EN-FR)

Venue: Management Centre Europe (MCE) Conference Centre
Rue de l'Aqueduc 118, 1050 Ixelles

Overall conference moderation by: Ernst STETTER, FEPS Secretary General

Conference Report by: coordinated and prepared by FEPS Young Academics Network

08:30 – 09:00 **REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE**

08:50 – 09:05 **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE**

Video Screening – **The Millennial Dialogue Initiative**

09:05 – 09:35 **MILLENNIAL DIALOGUE: MAKING MILLENNIALS VOICES HEARD ACROSS THE WORLD**

David LEWIS, CEO and Founder AudienceNet, UK

Duduetsang MOKOELE Assistant Researcher, Knowledge Economy and Scientific
Advancement, MISTRA

Paul WACHE, Head of Department of Foreign Policy, Center for Strategic and International
Studies, Mozambique

Layla ZAIDANE, Managing Director, Generation Progress, US

09:35 – 10:00 **KEYNOTE SPEECH: Millennials, Europe and Political Engagement**

Frans TIMMERMANS – First Vice-President of the European Commission, the Netherlands

10:00 – 10:45 **THREE DECADES OF GENDER POLICIES CALL –**

NINETIES, NOUGHTIES, AND THE TWENTIES (*Fishbowl conversation*)

- **Zita GURMAI** – President of PES Women and Vice President of FEPS, Hungary
- **Olga ZRIHEN** – Vice-President of the PES Group, Committee of the Regions, Belgium
- **Marju LAURISTIN** – Vice-President of the Group of the Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

With closing remarks of:

Sergei STANISHEV – President of the Party of European Socialists (PES), Bulgaria

Moderation by Matthew Laza, Director, Policy Network, UK

10:45 – 11:00 **COFFEE BREAK**



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11:00 – 12:00

1st ROUND OF WORKSHOPS (World Café format)*

Workshop 1
(Room: London –
Madrid)

“Millennials and Employment”

Speakers:

Javi LOPEZ, S&D40 MEP, Spain

Conny REUTER, Secretary General, SOLIDAR, Germany

Wim VERMEERSCH, Stichting Gerrit Kreveld, Belgium

Moderator: Maria Freitas, FEPS Policy Advisor and Millennial Dialogue Coordinator

Workshop 2
(Room: Oslo – Paris)

“Millennials and Healthcare”

Martin EDOBOR, NHS Doctor and Chair of Young Fabians, UK

Elif ALDUMAN, President of KYM, International Non Profit Humanitarian Aid and
Development Organization, Belgium

Maria CHALHOUB, Programme Assistant, European Institute of Peace, Sweden

Moderator: Vassilis Ntousas, FEPS International Relations Policy Advisor

Workshop 3
(Room: Prague –
Roma)

“Millennials and Climate Change”

Speakers:

Alien De DEKEN, Youth Movement Climate Expert, Belgium

Sanjeev KUMAR, CEO & Founder of Change Partnership, UK

Bernadett BUDAI, Spokeswoman of MSZP National Presidium, Hungary

Moderator: Charlotte Billingham, FEPS Executive Advisor

Workshop 4
**“PES European
Youth Plan”**
Room: Amsterdam –
Athens

“PES European Youth Plan”

Workshop organised with the Party of European Socialists (PES)

Sergei STANISHEV, President of the Party of European Socialists (PES), Bulgaria

Laura SLIMANI, President of Young European Socialists (YES), France

Moderator: tbc

**More details about the workshops can be found at the end of this document*

12:15 – 13:15

2nd ROUND OF WORKSHOPS (World Café format)*

Workshop 5

(Room: London –
Madrid)

“Millennials and Gender Diversity”

Speakers:

Elisa GAMBARDELLA, Feminist Network Coordinator of YES, Deputy National Secretary Socialist Youth, Italy

Hugues BAYET, Member of the European Parliament, S&D40, Belgium

Kevin PEEL, Member of Manchester City Council, UK

Moderator: Hedi Giusto, FEPS Senior Policy Advisor

Workshop 6

(Room: Oslo – Paris)

“Millennials and Education”

Speakers:

Fernando PALOMARES, President of the European Students Union, Spain

Gokce GOKCEN, Vice President of YES, Turkey

Maria ZIEGLER, Project Manager at the Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission (*invited*)

Hanna HUUMONEN, President of Student Socialists Union, Finland

Moderator: Alain Bloedt, FEPS Communication Advisor

Workshop 7

(Room: Prague –
Roma)

“The Political Challenge of ‘Grand Coalitions’ – The Youth Perspective”

Workshop organised with Young European Socialists (YES)

Speakers:

Johanna UEKERMANN, President JUSOS, Germany

Joao ALBUQUERQUE, YES Vice-President, Portugal

Quentin HENAFF, National Secretary of Youth, MJS France (*invited*)

Moderator: Ania Skrzypek, FEPS Senior Research Fellow

Workshop 8

Room: Amsterdam –
Athens

“Millennials, Campaigning & Political Engagement”

Workshop organised with the Party of European Socialists (PES)

Speakers:

Dennis EIGHTEEN, Campaign Advisor to the Executive Board and Deputy Party Leader Chief of Staff, SPD, Germany

Marte INGUL, Adviser to Raymond Johansses, Mayor of Oslo, Norway

Alessia ROTTA, PD National Secretary for Communication, Member of Italian Chamber of Deputies, Italy

Moderator: Marije Laffeber, Deputy Secretary General of the PES

**More details about the workshops can be found at the end of this document*

13:15 – 14:15 **LUNCH BREAK & SPEED DATE YOUR MEP! (Foyer Area)**

Young people and politicians should be brought together more often, right? How about *speed dating* the younger Members of the European Parliament? Grab a bite and join the S&D40 members from all over Europe to a frank, informal, face-to-face discussion on the issues that matter to you!

Eva KAILI, S&D40 MEP, Greece
Momchil NEKOV, S&D40 MEP, Bulgaria (*tbc*)

Brando BENIFEI, S&D40 MEP, Italy
Virginie ROZIERE, S&D40 MEP, France (*tbc*)
And with many others (invited)

14:15 – 14:30 **INFO GRAPHIC SCREENING – MILLENNIAL DIALOGUE TOP LINE RESULTS**

14:30 – 17:00 **SESSION 1 – “HOW TO IMPROVE MILLENNIALS TRUST AND PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS”**

Moderator: Lorena LOMBARDOZZI, FEPS YAN

POLITICIANS

Brando BENIFEI, Member of the European Parliament, S&D40, Italy
Paul MAGNETTE, Minister-President of Wallonia, Belgium
Jutta BUYSE, Municipal Councilor Forest Commune, SP.A, Belgium
Balázs BÁRÁNY, Member of the MZSP National Presidium, Hungary

ACADEMICS

Hilary PILKINGTON, Prof. University of Manchester, UK
Fabio WOLKENSTEIN, Researcher European Institute, London School of Economics, Austria
Emma MURPHY, Professor, and Head of School in the School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University, UK

CIVIL SOCIETY

Petra PINTELEI, Volunteer Light Into Europe, NGO, Romania
Gul YUKSEL, Political activist, Turkey
Tom VRIJENS, President ETUC Youth Committee, Belgium
Sara CARRER, Senior Advisor, ThinkYoung & Senior Director EMEA, Burson-Marstelle
Lora LUBYENOVA, Youth Forum Vice-President

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Tomáš MEISNER, Vice-Chair Person, Youth Social Democrats, Czech Republic
Maxime FELON, President, Youth Socialist Movement, Belgium
Julia HERR, Chair of Youth Socialists, Austria
Grace WILLIAMS, Chairwomen of Labor Youth, Ireland

17:00 – 17:45 **THREE DECADES OF POLITICAL CALL: NINETIES, NOUGHTIES, AND THE TWENTIES**

- **Massimo D’ALEMA**, President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and former Prime Minister of Italy
- **Elio Di RUPO**, Leader of PS and former Prime Minister of Belgium
- **John CROMBEZ**, Leader of Sp.A, Belgium

17:45-18:00 **CLOSING OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE**



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CALL TO EUROPE VI

'MILLENNIALS AND POLITICS'

18th of June

CONFERENCE DAY 2

Main plenary room: EUROPE (EN-FR)

Venue: Management Centre Europe (MCE) Conference Centre
Rue de l'Aqueduc 118, 1050 Ixelles

Overall conference moderation by: Ernst STETTER, FEPS Secretary General

08:30 – 09:00 **REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE**

09:00 – 10:15 **3rd ROUND OF WORKSHOPS**

Workshop 9

"Youth UP - For more youth-inclusive politics"

organised with the European Youth Forum

(Room: London-Madrid)

*Moderator: Régis PRADAL,
Consultant for the European Youth Forum*

Workshop 10

"Referendum and the future of the EU"

organised with the Fabian Society

(Room: Oslo-Paris)

Martin EDOBOR, NHS Doctor and Chair of Young Fabians, UK
Caroline HILL, Chair of Young Labour, UK

Maya GOODFELLOW, Researcher and Writer, UK

Moderator: Charlotte Billingham, FEPS Executive Advisor

Workshop 11

Millennials and Music, Culture & Social Media"

organised by FEPS

(Room: Prague-Roma)

Pablo RODRIGUEZ SUANZES
Brussels correspondent for Spanish Newspaper El Mundo
(invited)
Victor NEGRESCU, Member of the European Parliament, S&D40, Romania

Moderator: Elena GIL, FEPS Social Media Advisor

10:15 – 10:30 **A Global Plan for Progressive Action for Millennials!**

A springboard towards a stronger connection between Millennials and Politics around the world by **Pascal LAMY**, Vice-President of FEPS and former Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), France



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10:30 – 13:00 **SESSION 2 – “POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE MILLENNIAL’S POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT”**

Moderator: Kuba JABLONOWSKI, FEPS YAN

POLITICIANS

Károly BEKE, Member of the MSZP National Presidium, Hungary
Sandrine DOUCET, Member of the Parliament, France (*invited*)
Pierre SANE, President of Imagine Africa Institute, Senegal
Spiros PENGAS, Deputy Mayor of the City of Thessaloniki, Greece
Evelyn REGNER, Member of the European Parliament, Austria
Pervenche BERES, Member of the European Parliament, France

CIVIL SOCIETY

Andrea GEROSA, Founder Think Young, Italy
Maryam PASHA, Founder of TEDxEastEnd, UK
Tamas BOROS, Co-Director, Policy Solutions, Hungary
Johanna C. WESTER, Writer and Researcher, Sweden

ACADEMICS

Carlo ACCETTI, Political Science Ass. Prof., The City College of New York, Italy
Tomaz DEZELAN, Politics Faculty Member, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Merja JUTILA ROON, Project Researcher, Kalevi Sorsa Foundation

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Nikolay BERICVSKI, Member of National Council of the Youth Union in Bulgarian Socialist Party, Bulgaria
Caroline HILL, Chair of Young Labour, UK
Ragnhild KASKI, Labour Party Secretary General, Norway
Pavlos CHRISTIDIS, Spokesperson of PASOK and Secretary General of PASOK Youth, Greece

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:15 – 15:15 **THE MESSAGE FROM YOUNG PROGRESSIVE LEADERS - Round 2**

(Dragon’s Den format)

With the opening remarks of: Massimo D’ALEMA, President of FEPS and former Prime Minister of Italy

- **Evin INCIR** – Secretary General of International Union of Socialist Youth
- **Benjamin LUCAS** – President Socialist Youth, France
- **Laura SLIMANI** – President of Young European Socialists (YES), France
- **Joao TORRES** - Secretary General, Socialist Youth, Portugal
- **Johanna UEKERMANN** – President JUSOS, Germany
- **Michele Masulli** – President of GD, Italy (*invited*)
- **Aaron OOMS**, President of Young Socialists, Belgium (*invited*)

Moderation by Matthew Laza, Director, Policy Network, UK

15:15 – 15:30 **CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE**



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THURSDAY 16th JUNE 2016

SPEAKERS AND ORGANISERS PRE-CONFERENCE WALKING DINNER

19h30 – 22h00

Brussels PentaHotel, Chaussée de Charleroi 38, 1060 Bruxelles



FRIDAY 17th JUNE 2016

CONFERENCE RECEPTION WITH DJ (OPEN FOR THE PUBLIC)

19h30 – 22h00

ArtBar "LaPlace33", Place du Chatelain 33 with DJ DenizErdo from Turkey



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SATURDAY 18th JUNE 2016

FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE

19h30 – 22h00

PARC DU CINQUANTAIRE (SCÈNE DU PARC)

Parc du Cinquantaire 11

1000 Bruxelles



MILLENNIALS AND POLITICS OVERVIEW

From the Country-based Surveys to a Global Plan for Progressive Action!

Introduction to Call to Europe 2016

It is high time to act and propose a progressive alternative to change the face of the contemporary institutionalised politics. If young people were to draw it today, it would be tired, wrinkled and in one shade of grey. Instead, learning from all what young people from across the globe told FEPS and its partners through a survey “Millennial Dialogue” – this already 6th edition of the Call to Europe will be a momentum to add colours, to lift the spirits and to make the eyes sparkle with excitement. So together with 100 young experts, young politicians and young participants we will look at how to make politics about passion, vision and mission. We will reflect on how to build a programme that represents now and the future, enjoying legitimacy across demographic strata. And finally, we will also discuss how to modernise the movement, so that being part of it becomes again a way to change the world and enjoy a lifetime experience.

This will be a conference like no other. There will be no long speeches, no plenaries without active participation of the audience and no conclusions without participants having a say on them. We are proud to confirm that also this year we will use our already infamous, interactive Call to Europe method for the plenaries, also with two Dragons’ Dens and a set of workshops in the World Café style. You will experience politics at its best and you will have a possibility to formulate a proposal that we, with the help of speakers and especially our FEPS Young Academics Network, will jointly carry on as a task to translate into reality after the event is over. You will have a chance to talk to the Members of the European Parliament and other invited politicians in a very informal setting, having a chance to tell them directly what you think, dream and want to fight for. We want it to be fun most of all and we hope you will be able to stay and join us for the cultural programme lined-up accompany the political work.

All you need to do to be on board of this amazing experience is to log on our [website](#) and register! Please also feel free to browse the background reading, check out our opinion survey results and do not hesitate to get in touch with FEPS team for more information. Register quickly! The number of places is limited, so grasp the chance now!

Background of the Millennial Dialogue Project

Amy McDonald, one of the young and promising British signers, sang that there is not much that the world knows about “the youth of today”. This is what prompts the misunderstanding, unfair judgements and lies at the core of the “negative press”. The journalistic diagnoses often depict young people as lazy, apathetic and politically disengaged. The breakdowns of the electoral participation records show that young people are also absent within the framework of institutionalized politics and conventional forms of political participation. Hence, a very negative narrative has been gaining momentum *vis-à-vis* the Millennial generation (those born between 1980-2000). However, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and its partners refused to give in to this worn-out story and engaged in a global discussion with young people, academic experts and politicians to demystify the Millennial generation by offering them a platform to express their views and to be heard. The many myth-busting and constructive findings of the Millennial Dialogue research have become a reference point across a wide-range of geographies from the Americas to Europe, from Africa to Asia and Australia. It is clear that young people in fact never withdrew from politics or became inactive, but instead decided to take up different forms of engagement.



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The pilot phase of the project was launched in December 2014. The original team of founding members comprised of FEPS and its US partners: the Centre for American Progress, Global Progress and Generation Progress. At the beginning the efforts focused on designing an online survey alongside the method that it would be conducted with. The founders followed here a **3P rule** that became a principal logic of the project. It referred to “**participatory, positive and progressive**”. **Participatory** – as it was about giving the floor to Millennials themselves. **Positive** – as it was about finding jointly a solution on how to re-engage young people into politics. And finally, **Progressive** – as the new agenda was aimed at bridging the gap between social democracy and young people.

The initiative has attracted many partners – in Europe and beyond. Since then:

- More than **20.000 young** people were interviewed
- **31 countries** across **6 continents** are involved in this **global discussion**
- The surveys completed at time of writing include: Italy, Poland, Germany, France, Ireland, Romania, Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, UK, Canada, USA, Chile, Norway

This means that at this point there is a vast database available regarding what Millennials think, desire and are ready to engage in. We have come to the point where we have collected a lot of research findings, but now we need to deliberate on how to use this knowledge to change the trends, to translate it into the guidelines for a political agenda and for organisational reform. This is precisely the drive that lies behind organising this years’ Call to Europe as a momentum of the “Millennial Dialogue”. For us it is not the culmination point, but rather a decisive time to get together and design jointly with young people the way that this initiative can continue serving in (re)building bridges between Millennials and progressive politics.

OVERVIEW OF PLENARY SESSIONS

SESSION 1 – “HOW TO IMPROVE MILLENNIALS TRUST AND PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS”

Today only 1034 out of 7043 Millennials said to be very interested in politics. This number reflects the conviction that politics is not the only way to change the world. Their engagement in other forms of activism, including especially volunteering is greater – as there they can feel their efforts translate into tangible effects. In politics, and especially within the traditional political party system, on the contrary, they feel underrepresented, disregarded and hence instead of empowered – powerless. To that end, asked about the qualities that they associate with the traditional parties, they see many of them as dull, unattractive and lacking sense of humour – which in a colloquial manner resonates how they feel about them and their representatives, many of whom they do not even remember or recognise by name. This negative evaluation should be seen as a warning and hence the pertinent question of this panel: what, from the long list of demands of the Millennials, needs to be addressed first in order to change the trend and encourage Millennials to reconsider their access to established, institutionalised forms of political activism?

SESSION 2 – “POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE MILLENNIAL’S POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT”

It has been observed in the last two years that Millennials would re-engage in politics, if they find a breakthrough in the existing ‘business model’ that the traditional parties hold in their everyday lives. This partially explains the phenomenon of Jeremy Corbyn or Bernie Sanders, who themselves belonging to the long serving members of movement became, like nobody else, a magnet to attract youngsters to re-enter the party. Against the concern of the Millennials that politics is no



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longer a tool to change the world, in those two specific cases they have shown readiness to reconsider. In that sense they find that the two restore value into politics, which should be about honour, consistence in political line and public service. This is also why they are clearly resentful to the professional politics and politicians, and hence the scandals like the Wiki Leaks or Panama Papers resonate among them particularly strongly. To that end, in their voting patterns the Millennials show a great volatility – which can be explained that they follow their hearts regarding the leaders and the issues that at the given moment they find the most convincing. With this session we want to create the opportunity for Millennials and invited experts to discuss how to move away from the institutionalised understanding of the parties and see into their transformation to modern, issues based movements. We will particularly focus on the mechanisms that could ensure that parties could open up, pour a tangible and attractive content to the notion of “a party member”, and to that end be the vehicles for interesting grassroots ideas to be debated on the local, regional, national and European levels.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Workshop 1: “Millennials and Employment”

Millennials are multilingual, they have a stellar education and are used to live in an inter-connected world. This should predestine them to live in prosperity and benefiting from quality employment and adequate high wages. However, this picture could not be further from the reality at hand. Instead, this generation is suffering from exclusion and polarisation of the labour market, from disregard of the value of skills and qualifications, from lowering social mobility and narrowing opportunities to advance. In short, the Millennials’ expectations while maturing, entering the labour market and trying to gain independence are not met. Not only they cannot see the promised prospective quality jobs created, but also in the existing ones they see little that would make them consider occupational activities at the source of safety, socialisation and fulfilment. This makes them say that politicians are not delivering on the necessary socio-economic policies to give them better chances for a stable future, even if they themselves are not ready to give up. **7043 of Millennials have a positive outlook onto the future, and this busts a myth about them: they are not apathetic, they just don’t think it is progressives, among others, who can offer better prospects. On that note, the workshop will look at how to reconnect, having in mind already existing attempts – such as the PES-inspired European Youth Guarantee and the new Plan for Youth. The desired outcome is to define the core elements of a political agenda in the scope of the Next Social Europe.**

Workshop 2: “Millennials and Healthcare”

Millennials as a generation are concerned about their well-being. The notions of happiness, success and good health come on the top of their priorities. Individually, they wish to be empowered to pursue a healthy life style. Politically they expect that the authorities on all levels (from local to European) will strengthen their efforts in pursuing a modern health agenda, which stretches between ensuring healthy environment and food to universal access to sports (which they indicate they are interested in); and between increased public investment in the public policies preventing illnesses (also at work place) and in the safety nets supporting them in case of sickness. In fact, **93% of Millennials conveyed that healthcare should be the first priority in terms of public spending. This result busts a myth about them: they are not finding the welfare state boring and unattractive, on the contrary they want to see it modernise and expand. They want to see Just Transition to decarbonisation taking place. On that note, the workshop will look at how to translate these principles into a tangible agenda for modern, high-quality public services and herewith put an end to the sacrifices and cuts that have been made on the back of the regrettable austerity strategy. The desired outcome is to define the way to go beyond the politics of limitations, reconnecting the numerous fragments of the grand progressive debate on future of social economy: the care economy and how to transition/move to more social, care friendly, sustainable, green society.**

Workshop 3: “Millennials and Climate Change”

Climate change is a reality that Millennials are deeply concerned with – **Almost half of those surveyed (49%) singled out environmental policies as a key factor in influencing our quality of life now and in decades to come.** Containing the effects of climate change requires changing habits and investing in policies that cuts out CO2 emissions, a fundamental part of this change regarding the sustainable development agenda will then be towards adopting much cleaner energy policies. Millennials are very knowledgeable about the challenges and their keen understanding makes them much more ready to engage in these issues. Many believe that climate action will create jobs and a better society. In what way then is a **Just Transition** to a sustainable, carbon-free society envisaged? Born in the age of globalisation, millennials readily see the effectiveness of internationalism in tackling these issues. The workshop will look at how Progressives should maintain ownership of what have become ‘green issues’, building on the **‘Progressives for Climate’** initiative that FEPS began. It will put into question our current socio-economic model of production and consumption and look at how a quality living standard means working in harmony with the environment.

Workshop 4: “PES European Youth Plan” *organised with the PES*

Millennials are paying a high price in the current difficult economic and social context. More than one in five young Europeans under 25 is still out of employment. More than a third of the young unemployed in Europe are long-term unemployed (more than 12 months). At the same time high levels of child poverty persist, even in Europe’s richest countries as shown by the latest UNICEF reports.

The consequences of these developments are dire, as is also confirmed by many of the findings of the FEPS Millennial Dialogue project. A number of young people are disconnected from active participation in politics and society, while the EU is losing popularity among parts of the youth. Many young people are attracted by populists or far right and extreme-right movements. This is why the Party of European Socialists (PES) will bring forward a major policy initiative to provide our youth with new jobs, hope, trust and re-engagement – a European Youth Plan.

This initiative will be based on four pillars:

- Employment: A permanent Youth Guarantee, with a €20 billion budget, extended to people up to 30 years all
- Education: “Erasmus for all” by broadening Erasmus+ for all secondary and vocational education and training school students
- Culture: A European Youth Culture Cheques empowering young people as culture consumers and creators
- Child Guarantee: Ensuring children’s rights to healthcare, education, childcare, housing and nutrition, with the creation of a dedicated fund.

The PES wants to hear your voice: Join the debate on how to lift Europe’s youth and children out of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion.

Workshop 5: “Millennials and Gender Diversity”

The Millennial generation is the grandchild of those who prompted the cultural revolution of the 1960s. They are therefore bound to be socially progressive, benefitting from the openings and the acceptance that their predecessors had to fight for. They were born into diverse societies, where the equality of gender is at least normatively well established and legally guaranteed by law. That is also why they feel so strong about anything that would jeopardise this – **3640 of Millennials believe that equality of opportunities for all, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation and ethnicity**



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should be protected and promoted by politicians. This translates into a number of issues. Millennials call for equal opportunities, which means, among others, that men and women should be enjoying the same chances to advance. This comes in line with the deliberations that FEPS has already also been promoting in the framework of projects such as Women Up or Transatlantic Gender Dialogue. Secondly, they believe in equal treatment – which is the lenses through which they approach the question of the LGBT rights. In the Irish Millennial Dialogue survey for instance, the Marriage Equality referendum brought a strong feeling of ‘can-do’ optimism. They stand strongly on the principle, but they do not connect these issues with any of the traditional ideologies in particular. This understanding helps busting another myth about them: the Millennials have clear political views, even if they do not find ways to associate these convictions with any of the traditional political forces. On that note, the workshop will look at how progressives could anchor themselves in this momentum, where there is so many inequalities and recognition agents for change. The desired outcome is the gender-proofing of the existing progressive agenda and the set of recommendations on how to advance with the proposals against the raising conservative and right-wing extreme tides.

Workshop 6: “Millennials and Education”

During the twentieth and twenty-first century social democrats successfully presented a renewed agenda focused on delivering equal opportunities. The objective then was to make Europe the most competitive economy based on knowledge, for which reason there was a commitment to broadening access to education and training. Although the intention did not materialise as planned and there are so many qualified youngsters described as NEETs (Neither in Employment, Education or Training), **Millennials haven’t lost the hope in a plea that qualifications is the only way to equip them in the age of aggressive expansion of market capitalism onto the global level. In fact, 79% believe access to education has a very big effect in their future quality of life, as well as improving and maintaining good educational facilities.** This busts another myth about the Millennials: they remain faithful and ready to make an effort, hoping that this will translate into their emancipation as individuals, as citizens, and as members of the community that they are part of and wish to contribute to. On that note, the workshop will look at what sort of goals should be at the top of the progressive agenda in order to reaffirm commitment of the movement to enhancement of both formal and informal education and learning. That is especially the light of analysis by FEPS on emerging Digital Economy Union, which will require a new sort of cyber literacy from each and everyone. The desired outcome is a proposal for a new agenda regarding education (in all its aspect from civic education, through formal, vocational and up to informal learning). Alongside those, the participants will be charged with a question on how to come up with an adequate recognition of skills and knowledge, which would stop commodification of research on one hand, and on the other help develop a socially-just scheme to set proportions between middle-incomes and the top 1%.

***Workshop 7: “The Political Challenge of ‘Grand Coalitions’ – The Youth Perspective”** *organised with the Young European Socialists (YES)*

Workshop 8: “Millennials, Campaigning & Political Engagement”

organised with the PES

Millennials do not feel a connection with the contemporary partisan system, but they are ready to imagine themselves as an initiator or as part of a campaign. **Millennials feel that their priorities are “lost in translation”, but nevertheless still exhibit readiness to mobilise and join or launch a political action.** They are very clear in what ways they find efficient to communicate a message and rally support. As a generation living in a digital era, they do consider internet an important medium – but that does not make them disregard neither traditional broadcasters or the power of one-to-one meetings. **That should be of a relief to the parties, which should herewith feel that the assumed tensions between i.e. canvassing and Internet door knocking is simply not real.** Therefore, how can progressive political parties and Millennials be re-engaged on common fights through political campaigns?

**More information about the workshops and their list of speakers to come*



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***Workshop 9: “Youth UP - For more youth-inclusive politics”** *organised with the European Youth Forum*

***Workshop 10: “Referendum and the future of the EU”** *organised with the Fabian Society*

Workshop 11: “Millennials and Music, Culture & Social Media”

Millennials make their own personal brand online through social media. They are all about social amplification, discoveries and creating virtual communities. In fact, **9251 Millennials stated to be very interested in new technology, music and social media.** But the culture of Millennials is at odds with the one manifested by the traditional political parties. Even though they get mobilised for diverse online campaigns, different methods applied by the political actors to knock their virtual doors have not substantially raised the numbers of young people engaging politically in reality. Asked why, the Millennials themselves underline that the most important thing is the ability to trust and hence a direct contact with a politician. This is why they value the local politics above any other dimensions. This busts another myth about them: the Millennials are neither alienated nor individualistic. To the contrary, they value group activities and want to belong to communities, which would allow them to share a certain collective experience. On that note, the workshop will look at how to reunite culture and politics, ensuring that the progressive movement relaunches its debate on the how to make their organisations spaces encouraging creativity, innovation and enabling a development of a distinctive collective reference point. The desired outcome is the set of proposals that would enable describing in what language and with what media progressive should communicate to convince the Millennials that they are ready to open up and become their space to share.

**More information*

Millennial Dialogue Reports conducted by AudienceNet

Australia - Per Capita and Chifley Center

Austria – Renner Institut

Belgium - Stichting Gerrit Kreveld

Belgium - Institut Emile Vandervelde

Bulgaria - INEP

Canada - Broadbent Institute

Chile

France - Fondation Jean Jaures

Germany – FES Berlin

Hungary – Policy Solutions and Tancsics

Italy - EYU

Ireland – the survey is completed in cooperation with the PES

Mozambique – CEEI

Norway - Labour Party

Poland

The Republic of South Africa - FES South Africa, GPF, MISTRA and NDI

Romania - Foundation for a Democratic Left

Senegal - Imagine Africa Institute and GPF

Spain - Fundacion Felipe Gonzalez

Turkey - Progressive Thought Institute

The UK - Fabian Society

The US - Centre for American Progress

In cooperation with FEPS member foundations and partners:




1.  2.  3. 

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#MILLENNIALVOICES

**MILLENNIAL DIALOGUE AND POLITICS :
YOUTH TAKING CONTROL**

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