

Excerpt of given answers from the applications for the Conference 'Youth in 2020 - the Future of Youth Policies' to the question:

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“What are the biggest challenges, in your opinion, when it comes to young people in 2020?”

⌘ I believe the biggest challenge is the effect that youth employment can have on economic recovery for years to come. Those youths beginning their adult lives without having had a part-time job are more likely to accept lower wages, and draw from welfare systems later in life. The expertise that a young person gains in the first stages of their career is often vital for the rest of their working life, and can also benefit society as whole.

⌘ Another issue affecting the younger generation is the undefined border between their private and public lives as a result of the impact of social media. Future generations will face more ethical dilemmas as technology improves and the boundary blurs further. It is important that we take the discussion and debate today in order that we can more effectively meet the challenges of tomorrow.

⌘ Finally, I believe the personal identity of a young person will be a major issue in 2020. What cultural themes will define them? Will political borders still be as vital an identifier as today, or will religion or other cultural factors play a larger role?

⌘ *from Norway (gov.)*

I think that the biggest challenges come from globalisation that, on one hand, offers lots of possibilities and experiences, but on the other hand, young people can become lost in this diversity. Another challenge is youth unemployment when young and talented people cannot find a place to utilise their skills and knowledge.

One more issue refers to health problems and spreading bad habits and dangerous addictions.

from Ukraine (NGO)

⌘ Most of the problems facing today's youth are not restricted to any one ethnic or religious group, but affect young people generally. Most discussions on youth have focussed on issues such as drug abuse, crime, violence, sexuality, poverty and political role.

⌘

These include:

⌘ 1. An Identity Crisis: Who am I?

⌘ 2. Lack of self confidence and low self esteem: I am worthless

⌘ 3. A sense of hopelessness: Where am I going?

⌘ 4. Confusion and ambiguity concerning moral issues: What is right and wrong?

⌘ 5. The negative impact of the electronic media: Entertainment ?

⌘ 6. Competitiveness in education: the uneven playing field: Excellence by whom? Not Me.

⌘ [...]

⌘ *from Palestine (media)*

In my opinion, the biggest challenge that faces young people is how to find an appropriate solution for the current problem in world politics especially because there is low level of communication among different nationality due to the lack of Global conferences and international seminars. most of the political activities are involved to those who already have got political position. this is why it is really difficult for the youth to actively participate in the global events. they will not be able to get with efficient outcome with this low level of experiences.

from Iraq (NGO)

- ⌘ In my opinion, the biggest challenge young people will have to face in 2020 and beyond is climate change and environment degradation. However, I am of the view that these challenges are also opportunities for my generation as a new economic model needs to be developed and put in place. There are a lot of opportunities for young people willing to think "out of the box" and to develop solutions for a world low in carbon and constrained by the first impacts of climate in developed and developing countries.
- ⌘ Without thinking that sustainability will be a sufficient answer to the current youth unemployment problem, I believe changing energy systems, adapting to the impacts, improving resources management could contribute to job creation in Europe.
- ⌘ *from France (research)*

I think the young have an interdisciplinary approach of task, is more creative and inventive. This particularities is very good for develop new ways for move before. But is an other part of medal - the responsability for decisions, for all what we doing. And for this we need cooperate, discover new experiences and obtain new knowledge.

from Moldova (NGO)

- ⌘ Most of the problems facing today's youth are not restricted to any one ethnic or religious group, but affect young people generally and they have to be tackled very carefully right now, otherwise all current challenges will remain and become even more problematic in the future.
- ⌘ First of all, it is necessary to overcome the lack of equal opportunities for young people especially in education in order not to face youth unemployment problem in Europe on 2020.
- ⌘ Besides, the current lack of youth involvement and active citizenship can last for years if today Europe does not take appropriate steps to promote youth participation in social, economic and political life.
- ⌘ *from Georgia (gov.)*

Big knowledges of young people from different countries, can't find the way to go out in the world. They have knowledges, but haven't opportunity to realise them. And the motivation is to give them chances to expand opportunities. To share their experience and find new knowledges.
from Azerbaijan (educ.)

↳ Considering the fact that young people are given a chance for formal education are deprived of rights to suitable and fair employment, at least in the country I come from they are left in the end left with a no-way situation. There are many private institutions of academic standards that provide students with education but nevertheless I think that the quality of better and skilful information and experience comes from non-formal education and lifelong learning. Young people are bearers of change and perspective globally and we need to give them a platform and enough space to be seen and heard. What I would like to see by 2020 is less educational institutions, more strict eligibility conditions and more job openings so we would have skilfull, less corrupted society and equal opportunities to do what we have been taught by our teachers, parents and professors.

↳ *from Bosnia and Herzegovinia (research)*

in my opinion the biggest challenge that young people are facing is corruption. this is why the Majority of youth find themselves on a crossroad looking for encouraging signals to proceed in right direction.

And that regardless of many challenges like unemployment
from Marocco (NGO)

- ⌘ 1. Providing social infrastructural facilities like schools, hospitals and housing to address the needs of the ever-growing youthful populations in our various countries.
- ⌘ 2. Ensuring there is adequate job opportunities to absorb the graduates of our educational institutions to prevent the youth from taking to crime to meet their needs.
- ⌘ 3. Putting structures in place to guide the youth to avoid youthful snares such as drug abuse, crime, prostitution etc.
- ⌘ *from Ghana (NGO)*

According to my opinion the biggest challenges for young people will be the youth work and work placements. As unemployment is increasing according to Eurostat (statistics May 2013) young people will face bigger difficulties on work. Also, another challenge is the social changes that crisis has brought to EU members as long as changes in education.

from Greece (NGO)

- ⌘ Due to bad conditions in Middle East and population that begs for problems as the baby boom will impose a package of challenges for families and the government. For example, increased population means more demand for jobs during wartime: A very tricky situation.
- ⌘ The most pressing issue is the mismatch between the level of education of youth and available jobs. Palestinian youth is considered one of the most educated in the Arab region, however, only to find harsh difficulties in securing a decent job. Due to the multi-angled nature of the topic, so in my opinion the challenges will be as follows:
 - ⌘ - population
 - ⌘ - education, school enrolment and women's enrolment
 - ⌘ - labor market entry and primary and secondary job searches
 - ⌘ - family formation
 - ⌘ - civil participation
 - ⌘ [...]
 - ⌘ *-from Palestine (NGO)*

1 - developmental challenges
2 - Economic Challenges
3 - Political Challenges
from Yemen (NGO)

⌘ democracy

⌘ *from Egypt (NGO)*

⌘ -INABILITY TO BE TAKEN AS PARTNERS IN SOLVING PROBLEMS THAT CONCERNS THEM BY RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS
-INABILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENGAGE THE LEADERS, BY EMPLOYING ACCEPTABLE MEANS, IN SORTING OUT CHALLENGES.
-CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES THAT MAY INCAPACIT

⌘ *from Zambia (NGO)*

⌘ “A range of issues: unemployment, health and wellbeing etc which needs to be addressed via more coordinated, connected and cohesive policy and practice”

⌘ *from Ireland (gov.)*