

## Socialists of all ages, unite!

While age groups are far from being homogeneous excluding de facto a “one size fits all approach”, we, Socialists of all ages, believe that Europeans, old and young face many common challenges. Because we believe in a society of equals, we want to provide answers to all generations.

As the Young European Socialists (YES), the European Senior Organisation (ESO) and the Party of European Socialists (PES) we reaffirm the commitment for solidarity between generations.

European integration is the ground on which we want to strengthen democracy, and promote social progress through fair welfare redistribution. Unfortunately, these objectives are being severely challenged today. On the one hand, today's young people are a generation with worse prospects than the previous one, on the other hand pension systems are less and less capable of maintaining older people out of poverty. We do not accept this situation. We will continue our common fight for social progress and democracy to remain a cornerstone of our society for the current and future generations. To the common challenges, we propose common solutions:

We want **decent jobs for everyone**, and we fight to put an end to precarious contracts. Employees, regardless of their age, cannot be considered as a commodity that can easily be made redundant. We want to guarantee the possibility to work and live in good health ensuring good working conditions to all. We are ready to take into account the arduousness of occupations, with regards to work-life balance and pensions. The effective possibility to remain in employment should be used as core criteria to define working life duration.

Education is a public good that benefits the whole of society. It should be accessible regardless of age and social conditions. This is why PES European Youth Plan calls for broader access to the Erasmus programme. This is why we are convinced of the necessity to establish **life-long learning as a right**, recognising that access to affordable high quality education, formal and non-formal for people of all ages is a precondition to strengthen participation in society, increase social inclusion and reduce discrimination. We support in-work education programmes that strengthen adaptability to economic developments. We want to ensure digital literacy and ICT skills are promoted from primary education to pension. We are convinced that businesses can win a lot from developing the individual skills of employees of all ages.

A society of equals means a **relentless fight against all forms of discrimination**. We refuse all age-based discrimination may it be against hiring older workers or lowering down wage standards for the young. We also cannot accept the high risk of poverty among elderly, especially women, and the unfair existing wage and pension gap: gender equality remains a clear priority.

We are convinced that strong, **quality public services** are the most efficient way to ensure (intergenerational) solidarity in our societies. We will strive to ensure all in Europe have access to health care, income support and subsistence security. We will defend **investment in care services**: Quality must be the key word in early children care and elderly care, and guarantee all who need it are given the care they deserve.

Not only do we propose common solutions to common challenges, we also want to implement these proposals together.

**Mentoring in jobs should be further promoted**, as a way for the older worker to share their

experience and for the younger one to update their colleagues on new technologies, enabling an intergenerational knowledge transfer.

**Child- and elderly care are sectors that create many jobs** and can be mutually beneficial for the young and the older generation. This is why our family proposes a Child Guarantee to protect children from poverty.

We should **build on the early success of the Youth Guarantee** to develop similar employment policies towards the elderly, installing tailored, individualised support as the standard for helping jobseekers people of all ages to find a job.

Finally, we support an inclusive society. A key strategy to facilitate this inclusion is to make our world more age-friendly. An **age-friendly world** enables people of all ages to actually participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age.

As Socialists we are determined advocates of a strong European social model that builds on solidarity between its members. For such model to be sustainable, fair and widely supported by all Europeans, it is essential that it offers a clear vision of social progress from one generation to the other. This requires a strong social bond between the young and their elderly and the political will to put intergenerational solidarity at the heart of EU policies.

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