

C6 A Brighter Future for Southern Youth

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Text

1 In order to enter the European Economic Community, countries willing to be
2 Member States had to conduct an industrial restructuring during the eighties to
3 achieve the compliance with the European requirements. Thereby,, the productive
4 system of countries such as Spain,, became seriously diminished and oriented
5 toward the service sector. Nevertheless, the entry into the Monetary Union and
6 the construction sector speculation during the conservatives' government allowed
7 Spain to grow at a great rate defined by low skilled employment, bank credits,
8 large infrastructure investment, etc.

9 Following the outbreak of the financial global crisis in 2008, the EU was
10 dragged into an unprecedented debt crisis. Southern countries, which had not had
11 the chance to build their economic system organically, were especially touched,
12 as the sectors they had been relying on collapsedFrom EU, neoliberals have
13 imposed their austerity dogma and the deficit control above the rights of all
14 European citizens. It is these austerity policies that are hindering the
15 economic crisis since 2012, blocking public investment and not fighting tax
16 evasion.

17 Southern European youth faces now another paradox: thousands of highly-educated
18 youngs are left unemployed or have to turn to low-skill jobs, that are poorly
19 paid and unstable. This leaves little options for a full professional career,
20 and new economic migration trends are emerging within European countries. And
21 not only that, more and more youngs are in risk of poverty or cannot become
22 independent from their parents

23 Despite recurring calls for more R+D investment and concerns about the lack of
24 STEM graduates, in Spain and other countries, the situation is dramatic, with
25 thousands of Spanish researchers having to leave the country in the seek of
26 living opportunities.

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28 **Therefore, the FYEG urges the European Union to undertake actions addressing the**
29 **job insecurity of Spanish and other Southern European youth, acting on:**

30 1. The revitalisation of unions, encouraging workers to participate and
31 organise themselves to protect their interests and rights.

- 32 2. The compulsory payment of internships in all the member states, so the
33 abuse by companies can be stopped.
- 34 3. The establishment of labour reforms that protect workers' interests,
35 facilitating the young people entrance to the labour market while
36 protecting the older people, also in a precarious conditions if they are
37 fired before reaching the retirement age.
- 38 4. The restoration of the quality, universal and free education system.
- 39 5. The promotion of a dual system: to place value on the professional
40 training option, not only the university one.

41 **We, Federation of Young European Greens, demand for:**

- 42 6. The safeguard an education system that is accessible, universal and offers
43 quality instruction in all Member States.
- 44 7. We urge all providers of internships and apprenticeships to commit a quality
45 code of conduct and clear quality guidelines for young Europeans for a better
46 implementation of quality internships. We advocate for paying interns an
47 appropriate salary. Furthermore we urge to the European Commission to implement
48 European Quality Charter for Internships and Apprenticeships.
- 49 8. To secure investments in research and development (R&D) for job creation and
50 finding solutions to societal challenges such as climate change and clean
51 energy, security and active and healthy ageing.
- 52 9. The end of austerity policies and combat tax evasion.

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Reason

The main challenge we face as youngs living in Spain is the lack of prospects about our professional future, as well as the risk of poverty and precarity. Although it is far more extended in Spain, where unemployment is skyrocketing, we believe that this is an European issue. Other Southern countries also have the same problem, which is rooted in the lack of a social perspective in the European Union and the prevailing of neoliberal interests over the people's needs.