# Young people in Europe

A STATISTICAL SUMMARY

2022



LEAFLETS AND OTHER BROCHURES



# Young people in Europe a statistical summary 2022

Manuscript completed in September 2022

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#### Theme: Population and social conditions Collection: Leaflets and other brochures

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# Foreword

2022 is the European Year of Youth. It is a period to focus on the importance of European youth and to boost the efforts of the European Union, the Member States, and regional and local authorities to honour, support and engage with youth in a post-pandemic perspective. Throughout the European Year of Youth, several flagship initiatives have promoted a participative approach for European youth via policy dialogues, workshops and various events.

The European Year of Youth will last well beyond 2022 and mainstreams youth actions across all relevant Union policy fields in line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027. This strategy aims to support young people to develop their skills and competences further, and to encourage them to become active citizens and agents of solidarity and positive change inspired by EU values. It also goes hand in hand with NextGenerationEU, which reopens perspectives for young people, for example with



respect to quality jobs, education and training opportunities for the Europe of the future.

Harmonised European statistics provide facts and evidence about the situation of youths and are essential for effective policymaking. In this context, I am pleased to present the brochure *Young people in Europe – a statistical summary*. It gathers some of Eurostat's most interesting data on young people in the EU in the areas of demography, education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being, social inclusion, or the digital world.

Young people in Europe – a statistical summary is filled with data visualisations supported by concise texts. Through the six chapters, readers can form an idea about the profile of young people in the EU today. The COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions have impacted on almost every aspect of life in the EU (and further afield) since March 2020 and this is reflected in some of the data. Each chapter presents data for a few indicators; a great deal more information can be found when consulting Eurostat's website and its databases.

I hope that you find this publication interesting and useful.

**Christine Wirtz** Director of social statistics. Eurostat

### **European Year of Youth 2022**

*Young people in Europe – a statistical summary* is published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union (EU), to coincide with the European Year of Youth 2022. The Year of Youth will pursue four objectives.

- Renewing the positive perspectives for young people, with a particular focus on the negative effects the COVID-19 pandemic had on them.
- Supporting young people to acquire relevant knowledge and competences.
- Supporting young people to acquire a better understanding of, and activley promoting the various opportunities available to them.
- Mainstreaming youth policy across all relevant EU policy fields in line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027.

Young people in Europe – a statistical summary provides readers with an overview of youth-related statistics available on Eurostat's website and within its databases. It aims to offer a balanced set of indicators for a broad cross-section of information.

This publication refers to people aged 15–29 years or, for some indicators, 16–29 years.

### Data extraction and access

#### Data extraction and coverage

The statistical data presented in this publication were extracted in the second half of August 2022.

This publication presents information for the **EU** (a sum/average covering the 27 Member States of the EU) as well as the individual Member States and the *EFTA countries*. The order of Member States and countries in the figures reflects their ranking according to the values for (one of) the indicator(s) illustrated.

#### **Accessing European statistics**

The simplest way to obtain Eurostat's wide range of statistical information is through its website, which is updated daily.

Online data codes, such as *lfsi\_emp\_a*, allow easy access to the most recent data in Eurostat's online database. In this publication, these online data codes are given as part of the source for each data visualisation.

To make the indicators presented in this publication easily understandable, Statistics Explained provides a comprehensive online glossary with definitions for a broad range of statistical indicators, concepts and terms.

More statistical information about youth can be found on Eurostat's website within a section dedicated to youth, a dashboard on EU youth indicators and an interactive tool about young Europeans.

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### Production

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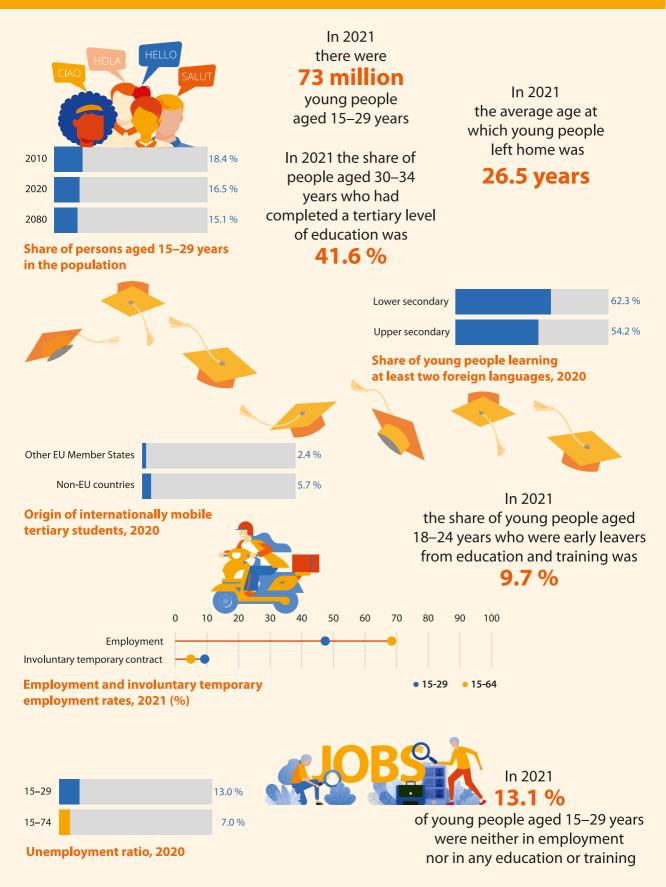
#### For more information please consult

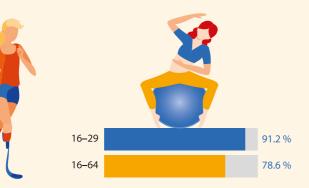
Eurostat's website: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat Statistics Explained: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained

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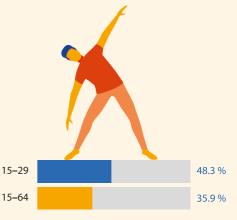
The editors of this publication would like to thank colleagues in Eurostat who were involved in its preparation.

### Young people in the EU – a snapshot

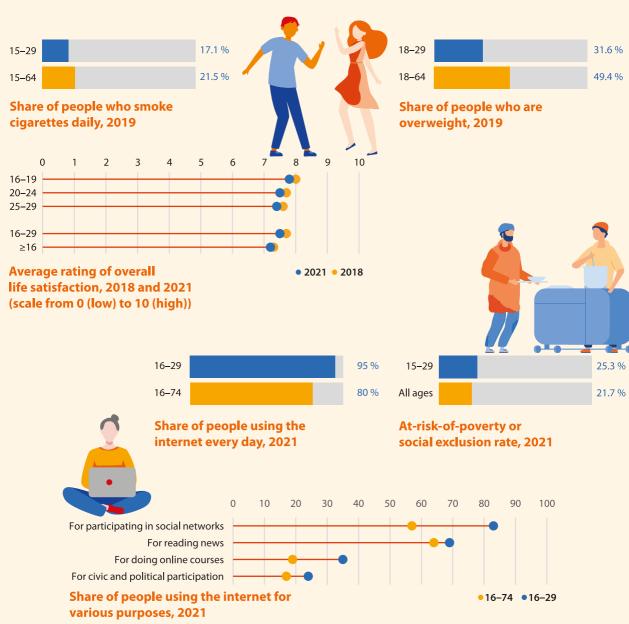




Share of people with self-perceived very good or good health, 2021

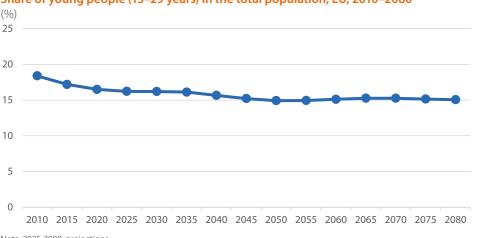


Share of people participating in health-enhancing aerobic physical activities for at least 150 minutes per week, 2019



### Demography

There were 73 million young people in the EU The share of young people in the EU's population fell from 18.4 % in 2010 to 16.3 % by 2021. This reflected relatively low and falling fertility rates over several decades combined with increasing life expectancy. The youth share is projected to fall further, reaching a low of 14.9 % by 2052.



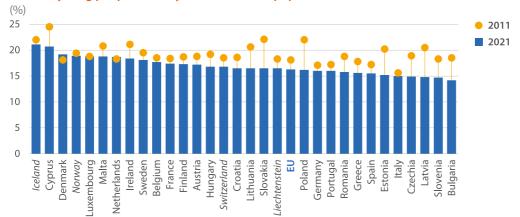
#### Share of young people (15–29 years) in the total population, EU, 2010–2080

Note: 2025-2080, projections.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: yth\_demo\_020 and proj\_19np)

#### The share of young people in the EU's population was 16.3 %

In 2021, the youth share of the population ranged among the EU Member States from 14.2 % in Bulgaria to 20.7 % in Cyprus. Denmark and the Netherlands were the only EU Member States who recorded a higher youth share in 2021 than they had in 2011.

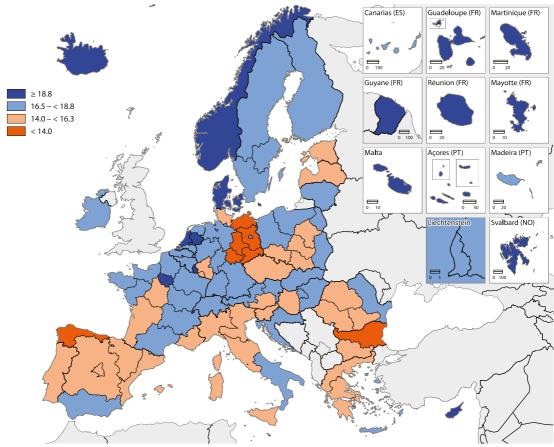


#### Share of young people (15–29 years) in the total population, 2011 and 2021

Source: Eurostat (online data code: yth\_demo\_020)

Brandenburg in Germany had the lowest regional share of youth: 11.1 % Looking among the EU regions at NUTS level 1, the four lowest youth shares (12.0 % or lower) were all in Germany, with the lowest share (11.1 %) in Brandenburg. Along with Cyprus (20.7 %), the Belgian capital (Brussels) region (20.5 %) recorded the highest youth shares at just above one fifth.

# Share of young people (15–29 years) in the total population, NUTS level 1 regions, 2021 (%)



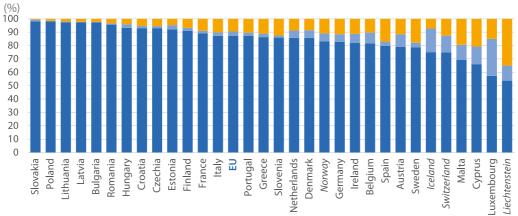
Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo\_r\_pjangroup)

Administrative boundaries: @ EuroGeographics @ UN–FAO @ Turkstat Cartography: Eurostat – IMAGE, 08/2022





87.2 % of young people in the EU lived in the Member State where they were born Native-born people, in other words those born in the EU Member State where they live, accounted for 87.2 % of the young people in the EU in 2020. People born outside the EU made up a 9.5 % share and the remaining 3.3 % were born in a different Member State from where they lived. The highest shares of young people who were native born were in Slovakia (98.1 %) and Poland (98.0 %), while the lowest share was in Luxembourg (57.3 %).

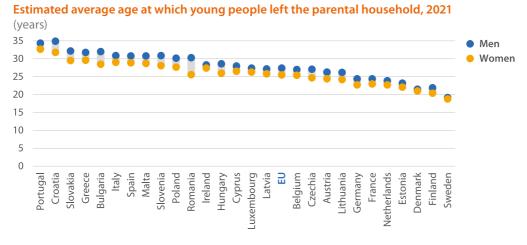


#### Country of birth of young people, 2020

Note: shares are calculated from a total excluding people with unknown country of birth. *Source*: Eurostat (online data code: yth\_demo\_060)



On average, young women in the EU leave home earlier than young men In 2021, the estimated average age at which young people stopped living with one or more of their parents was 26.5 years: for women, the age was 25.5 years; for men, it was 27.4 years. The highest average ages for leaving the parental home were observed in Portugal (33.6 years) and Croatia (33.3 years), while the lowest were in Denmark (21.3 years), Finland (21.2 years) and Sweden (19.0 years).



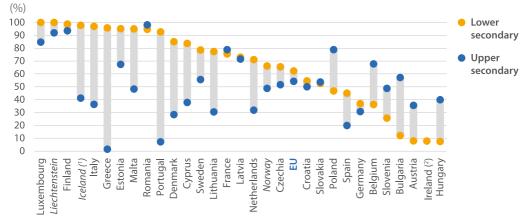
*Source*: Eurostat (online data code: yth\_demo\_030)



### **Education and training**

More than half of upper secondary pupils in the EU were learning at least two foreign languages The ability to speak more than one language promotes intercultural dialogue and improves employability. In 2020, 62.3 % of lower secondary pupils in the EU learnt two or more foreign languages. For upper secondary pupils, the share was somewhat lower at 54.2 %.

#### Share of young people learning at least two foreign languages, 2020



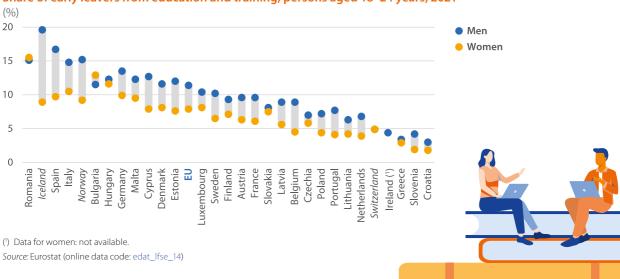
(1) 2019.

<sup>(2)</sup> Upper secondary: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: educ\_uoe\_lang02)

#### Young men in the EU were more likely to be early leavers from education and training

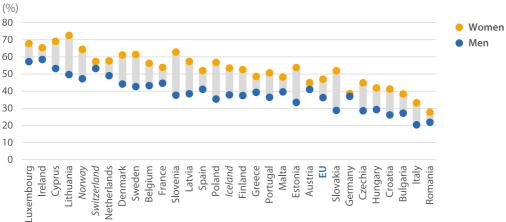
Early leavers from education and training are young people aged 18–24 years who had completed, at most, lower secondary education and who were not involved in further education or training. In the EU in 2021, 9.7 % of young people were early leavers from education and training: for women, the share was 7.9 %; for men, it was 11.4 %.



#### Share of early leavers from education and training, persons aged 18–24 years, 2021



EU were more likely than young men to have a tertiary level of education Among people aged 30–34 years, just over two fifths (41.6 %) of the EU population had completed at least one level of tertiary education. This share was notably higher for women (47.0 %) than for men (36.3 %). The largest gender gap was in Slovenia (where the share for women was 25.2 percentage points above that for men), while the smallest gap was recorded in Germany (1.6 points higher for women).

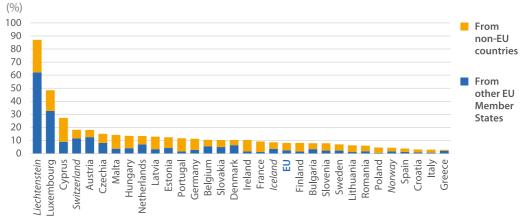


#### Tertiary educational attainment, persons aged 30-34 years, 2021

Source: Eurostat (online data code: yth\_educ\_020)

#### 5.7 % of all tertiary education students in the EU were from non-EU countries

In 2020, the overwhelming majority of students who continued their studies after secondary education did so in the same EU Member State as where they had completed their secondary education; 8.1 % of tertiary education students came from another country. More than two thirds of these internationally mobile tertiary students (5.7 % of all tertiary students) were from non- EU countries.



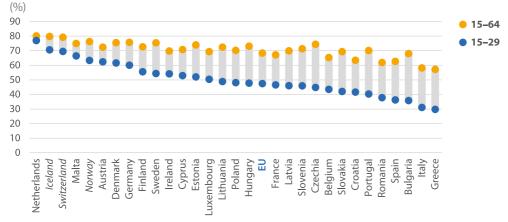
#### Origin of internationally mobile tertiary students, 2020

Source: Eurostat (online data code: educ\_uoe\_mobs03)

# **Employment and entrepreneurship**

Just under half of young people in the EU were in employment The employment rate indicates the proportion of people who are in employment. In the EU, more than two thirds (68.4 %) of people aged 15–64 years were in employment in 2021. For young people, the share was just under half (47.4 %), reflecting the fact that many young people were still in education. The youth employment rate in the Netherlands was more than double the rate in Romania, Spain, Bulgaria, Italy or Greece.

#### **Employment rate, 2021**

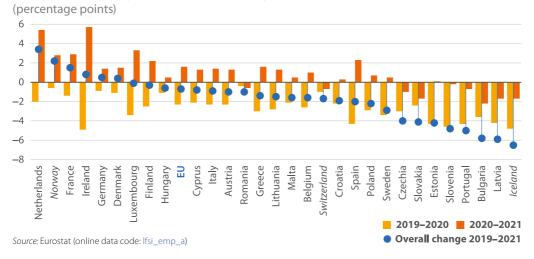


Source: Eurostat (online data code: lfsi\_emp\_a)

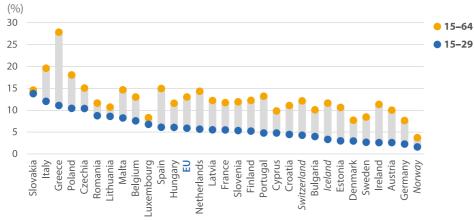
#### The youth employment rate in the EU was below its pre-COVID-19 rate

The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on labour markets across the world; for the EU, the youth employment rate fell 2.3 percentage points between 2019 and 2020 but recovered some of these losses in 2021, up 1.6 points; as such, the youth employment rate in 2021 was 0.7 points below its pre-pandemic (in 2019) level. Five EU Member States recorded higher youth employment rates in 2021 than in 2019: the Netherlands, France, Ireland, Germany and Denmark.

#### Change in the employment rate for persons aged 15–29, 2019–2021



5.9 % of employed young people were self-employed Just over one in eight (13.0 %) people aged 15–64 years in employment in the EU were self-employed in 2021; this was more than double the share among young people (5.9 %). Slovakia (13.8 %), Italy (12.0 %) and Greece (11.1 %) had the highest shares of self-employment among young people, while Germany (2.3 %) had the lowest.



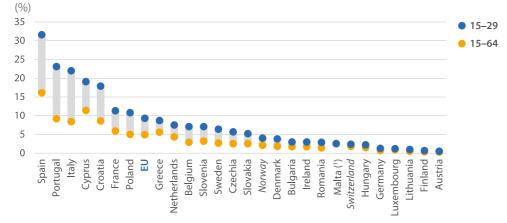
#### Share of self-employed within employment, 2021

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: yth\_empl\_040 and lfsa\_egaps)



Young employees in the EU were more likely to be involuntarily in temporary employment In 2021, close to 1 in 10 (9.3 %) young employees in the EU worked involuntarily with temporary contracts (they wanted to have a permanent job but could not find one). This was nearly double the average for all people aged 15–64 years (4.9 %) and illustrates the difficulties that some young people face to make a first step into the labour market. The highest share of such contracts among young people was in Spain (31.6 %), while shares below 1.0 % were observed in Finland (0.7 %) and Austria (0.5 %).

#### Share of employees with an involuntary temporary contract, 2021

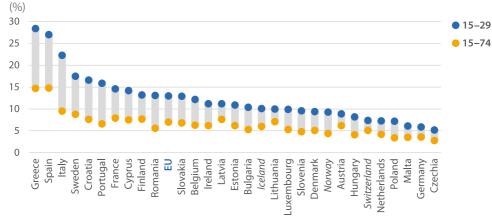


Note: Estonia and Latvia, not available. (<sup>1</sup>) 2020. *Source:* Eurostat (online data code: Ifsa\_etgar)



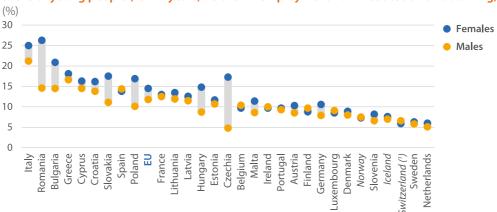
The unemployment rate of people aged 15–29 years in the EU was nearly twice as high as the overall unemployment rate In 2021, 7.0 % of people aged 15–74 years in the EU's labour force were unemployed, while the unemployment rate of those aged 15–29 years was nearly twice as high (13.0 %). In Greece (28.4 %) and Spain (27.0 %) more than one quarter of the labour force aged 15–29 years was unemployed. In addition, a substantial proportion of young people are outside the labour force, for example in full-time education.

#### Unemployment rate, 2021



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: yth\_empl\_100 and une\_rt\_a)

Young women in the EU were more likely to be neither in employment nor in education and training Combining data on education and employment status provides information on the transition from one to the other. In 2021, 13.1 % of young people in the EU were neither in employment nor in education and training: for females, the share was 14.5 %; for males, it was 11.8 %.



#### Share of young people (15–29 years) neither in employment nor in education and training, 2021

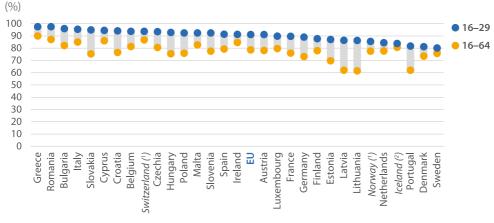
(1) 2020.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: edat\_lfse\_20)

## Health and well-being

Young people in<br/>the EU were moreSelf-perceived health is a subjective assessment by people of their general health<br/>(from very good to very bad), including physical and psychological symptoms. In<br/>likely to assess theirlikely to assess their<br/>general health as2021, around 9 in 10 (91.2 %) young people aged 16–29 years in the EU declared their<br/>health as very good or good, a higher share than for all people aged 16–64 years<br/>very good or good(78.6 %).





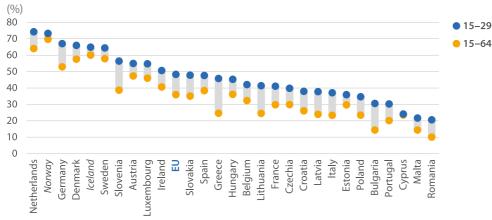
(1) 2020.

<sup>(2)</sup> 2018.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth\_silc\_01)

Nearly half of young people in the EU participated in at least 2 ½ hours of weekly physical activity One determinant of health status is physical activity, such as sport, fitness training or recreational activities. Nearly half (48.3 %) of young people in the EU participated in at least 150 minutes (two and a half hours) of such activities per week in 2019, higher than the share for all people aged 15–64 years (35.9 %).

# Share of people participating in health-enhancing aerobic physical activities for at least 150 minutes per week, 2019



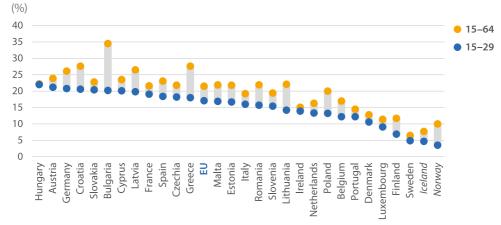
Note: Finland, not available.

*Source*: Eurostat (online data code: hlth\_ehis\_pe2e)

#### One in six young people in the EU were daily smokers of cigarettes

In 2019, just over one in six (17.1 %) young people in the EU were daily smokers of cigarettes; the equivalent share for all people aged 15–64 years was around one in five (21.5 %). A lower share for young people was observed in all EU Member States although the difference was relatively small in Hungary (0.2 points).

#### Share of people who are daily smokers of cigarettes, 2019

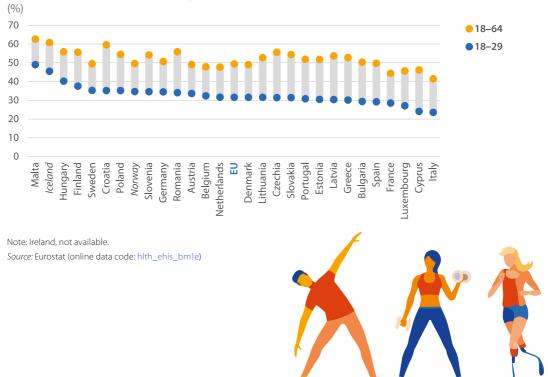


Source: Eurostat (online data code: hlth\_ehis\_sk3e)

#### 3 in 10 young people in the EU were overweight

Being overweight (either pre-obese or obese) is also a health determinant. Based on the body mass index, around 3 in 10 (31.6 %) young people in the EU were overweight in 2019, compared with nearly half (49.4 %) of all people aged 18–64 years.

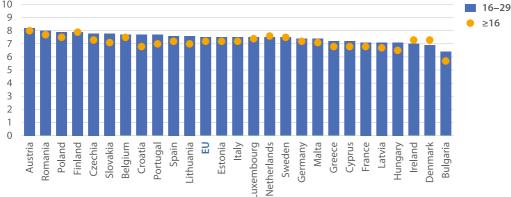
#### Share of people who are overweight, 2019



On average, young people in the EU were somewhat more satisfied with life than older people Life satisfaction can be quantified subjectively from 0 (not satisfied at all) to 10 (fully satisfied). The average rating for young people aged 16–29 years in the EU in 2021 was 7.5, compared with 7.2 for all people aged 16 years or over. Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands were the only EU Member States where the life satisfaction rating was lower for young people.

#### Average rating of overall life satisfaction, 2021

(0–10, 10 is highest) 10



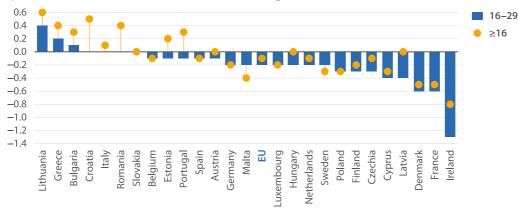
Note: Slovenia, not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc\_pw01)

Overall life satisfaction of young people declined between 2018 and 2021 in nearly all EU Member States Between 2018 and 2021, the life satisfaction rating for young people aged 16–29 years decreased from 7.7 to 7.5, compared with a decrease from 7.3 to 7.2 for all people aged 16 years or over. Note that the data for 2021 reflect the situation during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted not only on physical health but also on many aspects of life, including education, work, leisure activities, travel and relationships.

#### Change in average rating of overall life satisfaction, 2018–2021

(points difference, based on a scale of 0–10, 10 is highest)



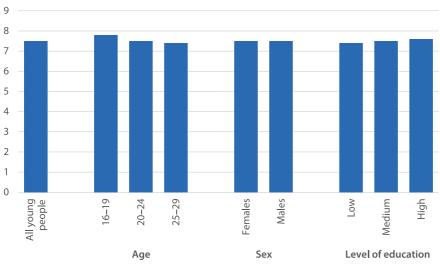
Note: Slovenia, not available.

*Source*: Eurostat (online data code: ilc\_pw01)

Among young people in the EU, those with a higher level of education were more satisfied with life The average life satisfaction rating for young people in the EU in 2021 ranged from 8.0 among the youngest age group (16–19 years) to 7.6 among those aged 25–29 years. There was no observable difference in the average rating of young people in terms of their sex. When analysed by education level, the lowest average rating (7.5) was observed for young people with, at most, lower secondary education; the highest rating was for young people having completed a tertiary level of education.

#### Average rating of overall life satisfaction of young people, EU, 2021

(0–10, 10 is highest) 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_

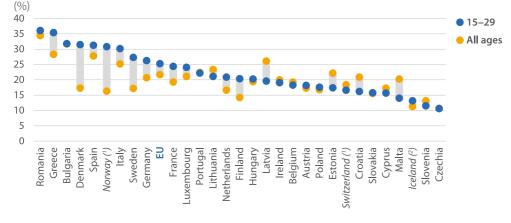


Note: low level of education, at most lower secondary education; medium level of education, upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education; high level of education, tertiary education. *Source*: Eurostat (online data code: ilc\_pw01)



# **Social inclusion**

One quarter of young people in the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion One quarter (25.3 %) of young people in the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2021; for people of all ages, the share was lower, at just over one fifth (21.7 %). In 16 of the EU Member States (including the four largest), the share was higher for young people than for people of all ages, while in 11 others the reverse situation was observed. The highest share among young people was recorded in Romania (36.1 %) and the lowest in Czechia (10.6 %).



#### At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate, 2021

(<sup>1</sup>) 2020. (<sup>2</sup>) 2018.

()2010.

Source: Eurostat (onlinde data code: ilc\_peps01n)

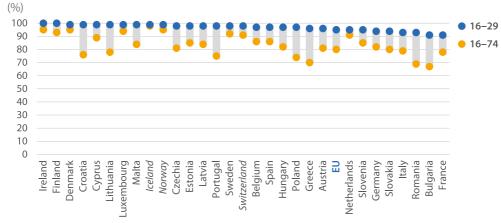




## **Digital world**

19 in 20 young people in the EU used the internet on a daily basis In 2021, 19 in 20 (95 %) young people aged 16–29 years in the EU used the internet on a daily basis (<sup>1</sup>); by contrast, this share was four in five (80 %) for all people aged 16–74 years. Among the EU Member States, the share of young people using the internet on a daily basis was lowest in France and Bulgaria (both 91 %) and highest in Ireland and Finland (both 100 %).

(') All data about internet use and digital skills relate to activities during the three months prior to the 2021 survey. Methodological changes might impact the comparability of data for Ireland in 2021.

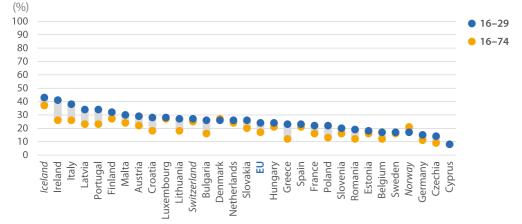


#### Share of people using the internet every day, 2021

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc\_ci\_ifp\_fu)

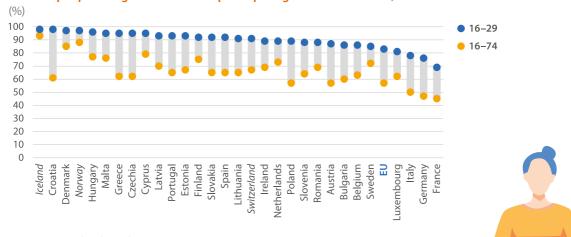
One quarter of young people in the EU used the internet for civic and political participation In 2021, nearly one quarter (24 %) of young people aged 16–29 years in the EU used the internet for civic and political participation – expressing opinions online or participating in online consultations/petitions. For comparison, the share among people aged 16–74 years was less than one fifth (17 %). Young people in Ireland (41 %) were most likely to engage in this type of online participation, while those in Cyprus (8 %) were least likely to do so.

#### Share of people using the internet for civic and political participation, 2021



Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc\_ci\_ac\_i)

Four fifths of young people in the EU participated in social networks More than four fifths (83 %) of young people aged 16–29 years in the EU used the internet to participate in social networks in 2021; for comparison, the share among people aged 16–74 years was less than three fifths (57 %). Young people in Croatia (98 %), Denmark (97 %) and Hungary (96 %) were most likely to use social networks, while those in Italy (78 %), Germany (76 %) and France (69 %) were least likely to do so.

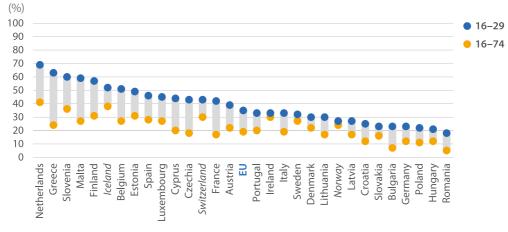


#### Share of people using the internet for participating in social networks, 2021

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc\_ci\_ac\_i)

More than one third of young people in the EU followed online courses

The share of young people in the EU following online courses increased from 13 % in 2019 to 35 % in 2021. The share in 2021 for young people was nearly twice the share among people aged 16-74 years (19%). Young people in the Netherlands (69%) were most likely to follow online courses in 2021, while those in Romania (18 %) were least likely to do so.

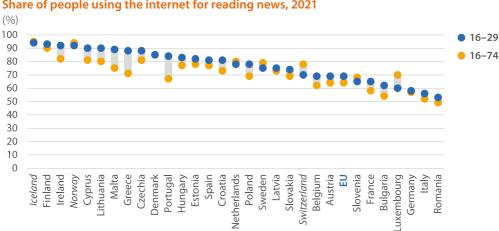


#### Share of people using the internet for doing online courses, 2021

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc\_ci\_ac\_i)

Just over two thirds of young people in the EU read the news online

Reading the news is one of the online activities where participation rates are quite similar for young people and for people aged 16–74 years: the shares recorded for the EU in 2021 were 69 % and 64 % respectively. Young people in Finland (93 %) and Ireland (92 %) were most likely to read the news online, while those in Romania (53 %) were least likely to do so.



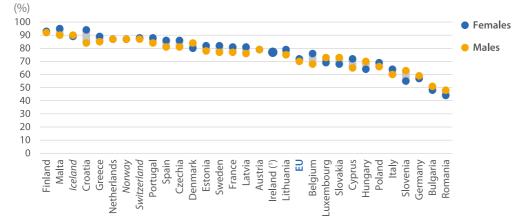
#### Share of people using the internet for reading news, 2021

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc\_ci\_ac\_i)

#### **Digital world**

72 % of young females and 70 % of young males in the EU had basic or above basic digital skills The statistical assessment of digital skills starts from self-reporting a range of activities done for private, educational or work purposes on any type of electronic device; example activities are downloading/installing software or writing code in a programming language. Skill levels – above basic, basic, low, narrow, limited, none – are identified from these activities. In 2021, 72 % of young females in the EU had basic or above basic digital skills, compared with 70 % of young males. For people aged 16–74, the shares were 52 % for females and 56 % for males.

#### Share of young people (aged 16–29 years) with basic or above basic digital skills, 2021



(1) Data by sex are not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: isoc\_sk\_dskl\_i21)





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# Young people in Europe – a statistical summary

Young people in Europe – a statistical summary provides readers with an overview of youth-related statistics available on Eurostat's website and within its databases. It aims to offer a balanced set of indicators for a broad cross-section of information.

For more information https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/

