

## The Basque Youth Observatory has published issue 22 of the "Youth Portraits" series



### ***It focuses on young people's political opinions and their assessment of the current situation***

The Basque Youth Observatory has published issue 22 of the "Youth Portraits" series, which collects the opinions and attitudes of young people aged 18 to 29 in the Basque Country regarding politics and the general situation in the Basque Country and in Spain.

The report has been prepared by the Basque Youth Observatory based on data provided by the Sociological Survey Office of the Presidency of the Basque Government; more specifically, on information the Sociological Survey Office gathered in 2018 to prepare its *Basque Sociological Surveys*.

The document is structured into two main parts: political attitudes and assessment of the situation. Each of them consists of various questions. The answers given by youths aged 18 to 29 are compared to those given by people aged 30 and over, focusing on the evolution of the answers given by young people and disaggregating the results according to sex, age groups, and province of residence.

The goal is to provide a complete overview of the opinions and attitudes of young people, analyse their current positions, the evolution of their responses with respect to previous years, compare them with the opinions and attitudes of the population aged 30 and over, and detect any possible differences between the various groups of young people.

Among the conclusions of the study, it has been found that Basque youth are not particularly interested in politics and that politics mainly generates distrust among them. Only a minority of young people say they usually talk about politics at home, at work or school or with friends.

The political position of young people is quite moderate; they occupy intermediate positions on the left-right and nationalist perspectives, and they have no defined position in relation to the independence of the Basque Country.

Support for political parties is very low; few young people trust political parties, and most young people believe that none of them provides new solutions. None of the parties gets a pass (5 on a scale from 0 to 10) but EAJ-PNV, EH Bildu and Elkarrekin Podemos come very close.

Most young people trust Basque institutions (town councils, provincial councils, the Basque Government and the Basque Parliament) but not Spanish institutions (the Spanish Government, the Congress of Deputies or the Spanish monarchy). In general, the economic or political situation in the Basque Country is seen as better than the situation in Spain. In addition, the positive assessment of the situation in the Basque Country has improved in recent years. The functioning of democracy and respect for human rights are also better valued in the Basque Country than in Spain.

Young people believe that the main problems in the Basque Country are related to the labour market. They agree on this point with people aged 30 and over. However, young people are more concerned about education and studies than older people and less about pensions.