

The highest youth independence rates in Europe occur where the investment in public housing, employment and social protection policies is highest

The Basque Youth Observatory presents ‘Crisis and youth independence in Europe. An analysis based on Welfare State models’

With this new research paper, the Basque Youth Observatory intends to highlight the impact the crisis is having on youth independence throughout Europe and to study the connection between employment and housing policies and the residential independence of young people in various European countries.



The comparison of the various situations found throughout Europe is based on **five groups of countries** that represent various Welfare State models, understanding as such the way the state ensures the well-being of the population through the provision of public services.

It analyses the reality of Finland and Sweden, as representatives of the so-called *social-democratic welfare state model*, the situation in France and Belgium under a *corporatist model*, the UK and Ireland to exemplify the *liberal model*, the Czech Republic and Hungary as *post-communist* countries and, finally, Italy and Spain reflect the reality of countries under the *Mediterranean Model*, which is also the one that applies to the Basque Country.

In order to prepare this paper, the Basque Youth Observatory was assisted by **Jordi Bosch Meda**, expert in public housing policies and a member of various European research networks on these issues, who has used a number of European data bases to analyse and compare the independence processes and the housing conditions of young people in Europe.

Although independence patterns are the result of the interaction of multiple structural and individual factors, housing and employment policies are, without doubt, the sectoral policies that most directly affect and facilitate independence.

Research confirms that **there is a strong statistical relationship between higher rates of independence and certain instruments such as investment in active employment policies and public employment services, aid toward the payment of housing costs or the promotion of social housing.**

The countries that show lower rates of young people living with their parents are those that combine both policies, employment and housing. We must not overlook, however, the influence of the macroeconomic context, especially regarding unemployment and the effects of the real estate bubble, as well as the development of the Welfare State in each country.

Independence in relation to employment and housing policies based on Welfare State models (2011 data)

Welfare State Model	Countries studied	% of young people aged 18 to 34 who live with their parents	% of GDP dedicated to active employment policies	% of independent young people living in social rental housing	% of independent young people who receive aid to pay housing costs
Social-democratic	Finland	19,9	0,84	26,1	38,9
	Sweden	25,7	0,80	No data	9,2
Corporatist	France	33,3	0,68	25,0	35,1
	Belgium	40,9	1,39	9,7	2,4
Liberal	Ireland	43,8	0,74	15,4 (2)	15,6 (2)
	United Kingdom	38,6	0,04 (1)	18,2	14,2
Post-communist	Czech Republic	52,8	0,18	16,3 (2)	3,1
	Hungary	61,9	0,35	5,6	12,2
Mediterranean	Italy	62,3	0,31	4,1	3,8
	Spain	53,3	0,69	2,8	5,4

(1) 2009; (2) 2010

Source: Prepared by the Basque Youth Observatory based on the study "Crisis and youth independence in Europe"

In addition to showing the relationship between these policies and youth independence, the research describes the living conditions of independent young people in each country and **provides information on specific programmes and actions** to promote employment and the empowerment of the young.

As stated by the **Director of Youth and Sports of the Basque Government, Jon Redondo**, in the introduction to the book: "Based on the analysis of the results of the policies implemented in these countries, we believe we can draw conclusions and lessons that will help us to continue making progress in establishing effective measures to ensure young people enjoy their right to autonomy and independence".

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