



Millennials in Spain

The catalysts for renewal of contemporary politics?

Madrid, Spain, 1-2 June 2017

FEPS Activity Report



FEPS

ACTIVITY REPORT
June 2017

 Fundación
Felipe González

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



The Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) together with the Fundación Felipe González launched the [Millennial Dialogue report Spain](#) on the 1-2 June 2017 in Madrid. The launch event featured the presentation of the main research findings about the ways in which Millennials (youth aged 15-35, born between 1980-2000) are engaging with politics and political systems in Spain.

The presentation of the Spanish Millennial Dialogue report took place at the Claudio Coello University Residence on the 1 June 2017 and was attended by Ernst Stetter, Secretary General of the FEPS; Rocío Martínez-Sampere, Director of the Felipe González Foundation; Lucía González, Editor-in-chief of Verne.es (EL PAÍS) and Santiago Castelo, Coordinator of the research team of "Millennials in Latin America".

The event, intended for a Millennial audience, counted with the participation of more than 40 young people. During the debate, many myths and stereotypes attributed to this generation were outlined, discussed and rebutted. In fact, both the report findings as well as the opinion of the experts went beyond the usual negative narrative attributed to young people and their engagement with politics. If on the one hand, youth in Spain showcases a large degree of dissatisfaction with politics and political parties they are ready to engage and mobilize in democratic life but in their own terms. Here, experts and participants outlined the various ways of civic mobilisation performed by Millennials such as civic activism for social causes, public manifestations and the role of the internet and of technology in empowering this generation.

At the end of the event Borja Terrés, Secretary General of the Socialist Youth of Madrid also briefly intervened in order to provide participants with his own experience as a Millennial in the engagement with political parties and party-structures. Whilst the young Terrés did convey that certain challenges and barriers had to be overcome in order to be heard, Terrés explained that initiatives such as the Millennial Dialogue were very important in raising awareness of the expectations that the Millennial generation is having with regards to politicians and politics of today – a more positive, youthful and forward-looking one.

The discussions about political engagement of youth continued the next day, the 2 June 2017 with a breakfast meeting in cooperation with Public Agenda. Representatives of FEPS and Fundación Felipe González as well as journalists, researchers and academics took part in this meeting and drew some examples of the similarities and differences between the civic engagement and youth turnout behaviour in five member states - Italy, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Germany – where the Millennial vote mattered (case of France) and debated about the crucial importance of Millennials in the upcoming country-specific elections.

For a detailed political analysis and summary of the breakfast meeting in cooperation with Public Agenda, Ignacio Martín Granados, collaborator of the Foundation, published the following radiography of the Millennials in Spain (<http://agendapublica.elperiodico.com/radiografia-politica-los-millennials-espanoles-desconfianza-los-politicos-no-la-politica/>). The blog post which had 3,000 visits on its first day and is among the most read articles on Public Agenda.