



VALTION
NUORISO-
NEUVOSTO

INFOGRAPHICS:
YOUTH BAROMETER 2023

BUILDING BLOCKS OF WORLDVIEWS

The Youth Barometer, published on an annual basis, measures the values and attitudes of young people aged 15 to 29 years living in Finland. The theme of Youth Barometer 2023 is worldviews and spirituality.

The Youth Barometer broadly surveys how young people perceive their experiences of meaningfulness in their everyday lives and what they think about different worldview-related issues. Besides an annually changing theme, the Youth Barometer includes recurring questions that remain unchanged, which make it possible to monitor trends.

The Youth Barometer 2023, to which 1811 young people responded, has now been implemented for the first time using two different data collection methods: approximately half of the data has been collected through telephone interviews and the other half using an online form. The data collection was carried out in early 2023.

Due to the change in the data collection method, this infographic uses data from telephone interviews (N=1001) in graphs that deal with time series and, in other cases, the average of online and telephone interviews.



OBSERVATIONS IN A NUTSHELL

1

WORLDVIEWS CAN BE SEEN

86% of young people think that everyone has the right to talk about their own worldview at school. 63% of young people believe that pupils in school should receive support for forming their own worldview. Young people think that students and teachers may express their views in speech and use religious symbols, for example in jewellery or dressing.

POLARISED VIEWS

The views of young women and men on the value map are increasingly divergent. The number of women who feel social-liberal has increased since 2018 while the proportion of men has remained fairly unchanged. Similarly, young people are more polarised on the left-right axis. Young people's responses can be interpreted as part of a societal development in which the political field becomes divided.

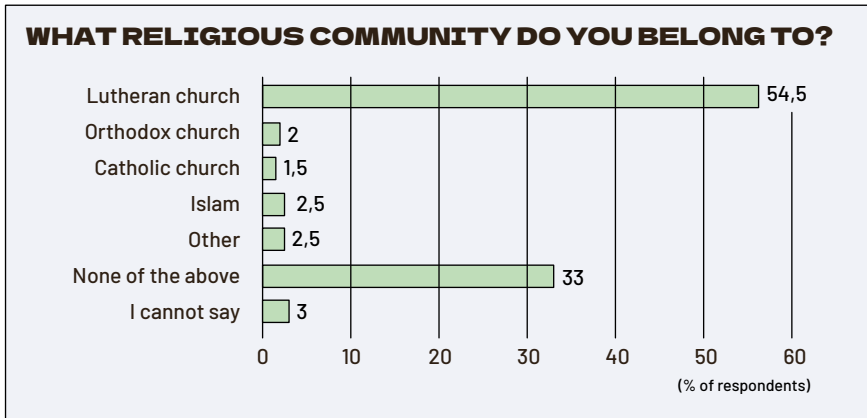
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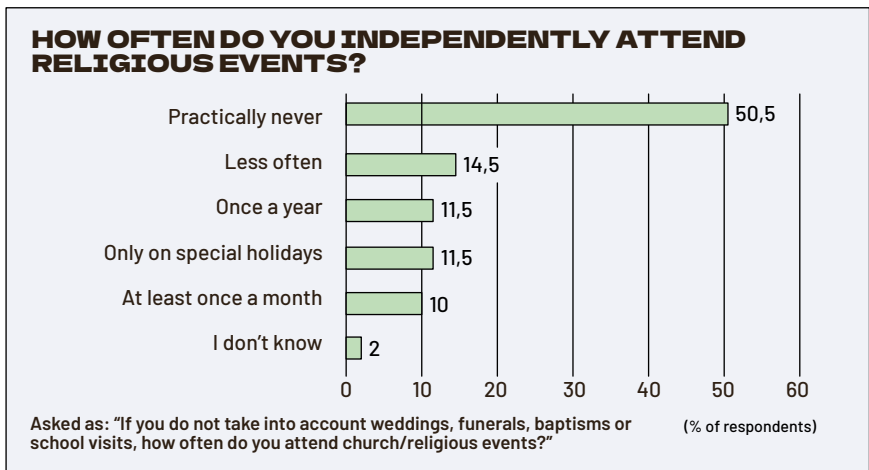
SATISFACTION WITH LIFE ON THE DECLINE

Young people's satisfaction with life has been declining in the longer term. Approximately four out of five young people still give their satisfaction with life a grade of eight, but a growing number of respondents to the Youth Barometer are more dissatisfied with their lives than before.

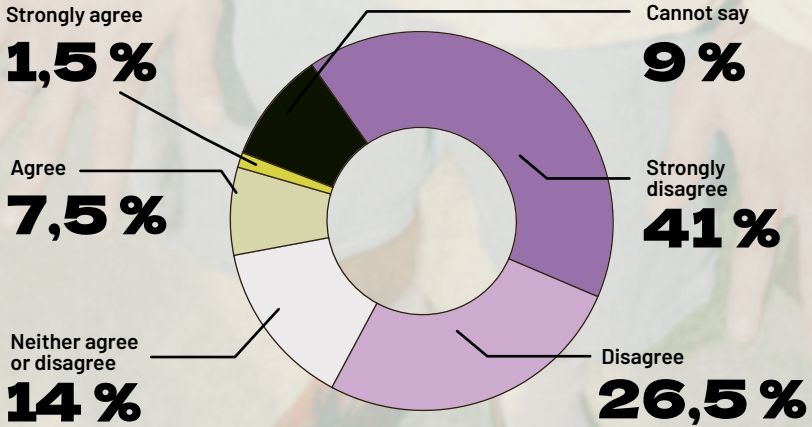
TWO THIRDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE BELONG TO A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY



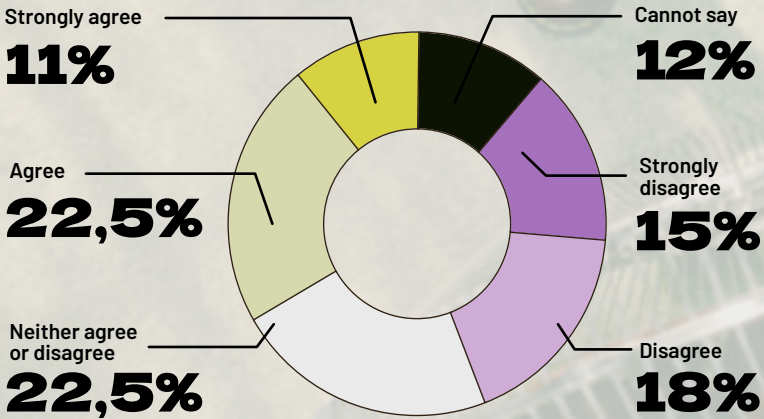
IN PRACTICE, HALF OF YOUNG PEOPLE NEVER ATTEND RELIGIOUS EVENTS



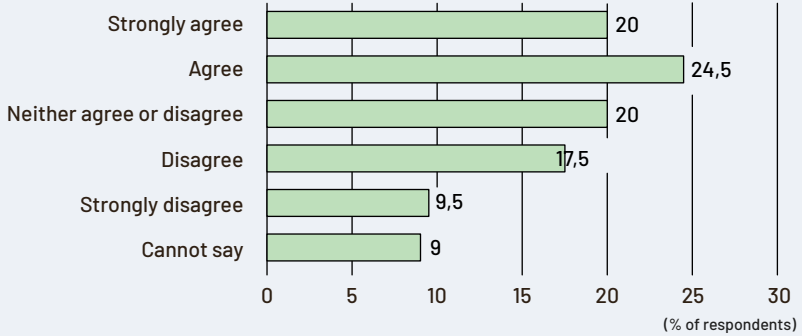
“PEOPLE’S AILMENTS CAN BE HEALED BY TRANSFERRING LIFE ENERGY TO THEM.”



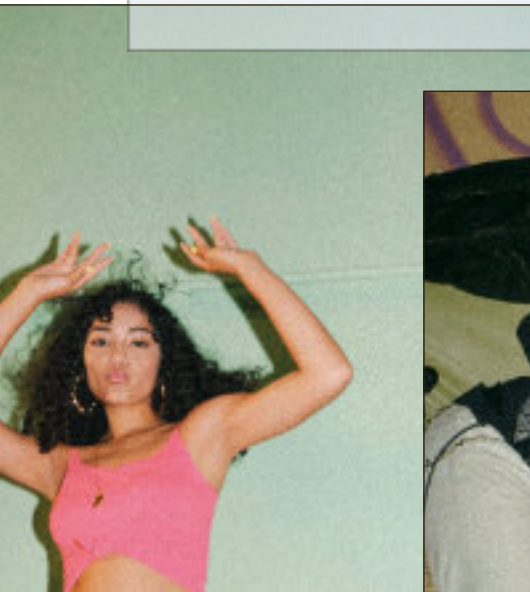
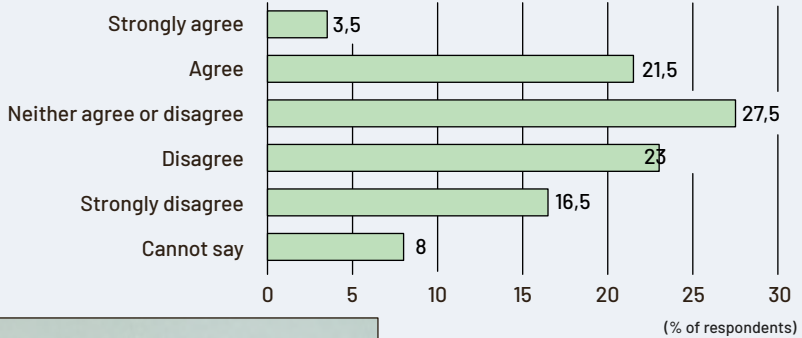
“PEOPLE HAVE A SOUL OR LIFE FORCE SEPARATE OF THE BODY”



AN INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE ENDS WITH DEATH

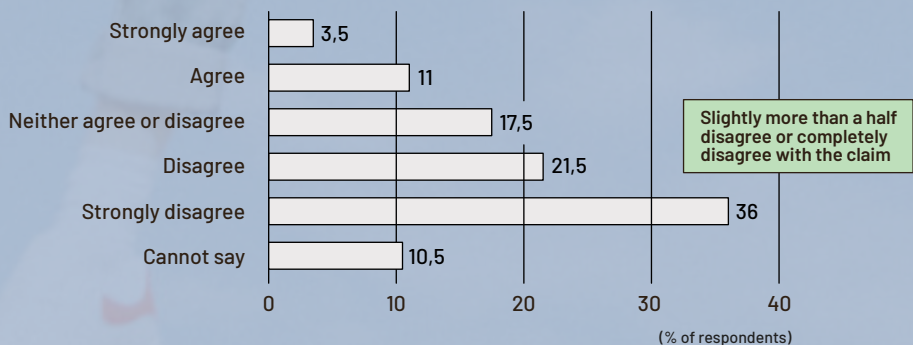


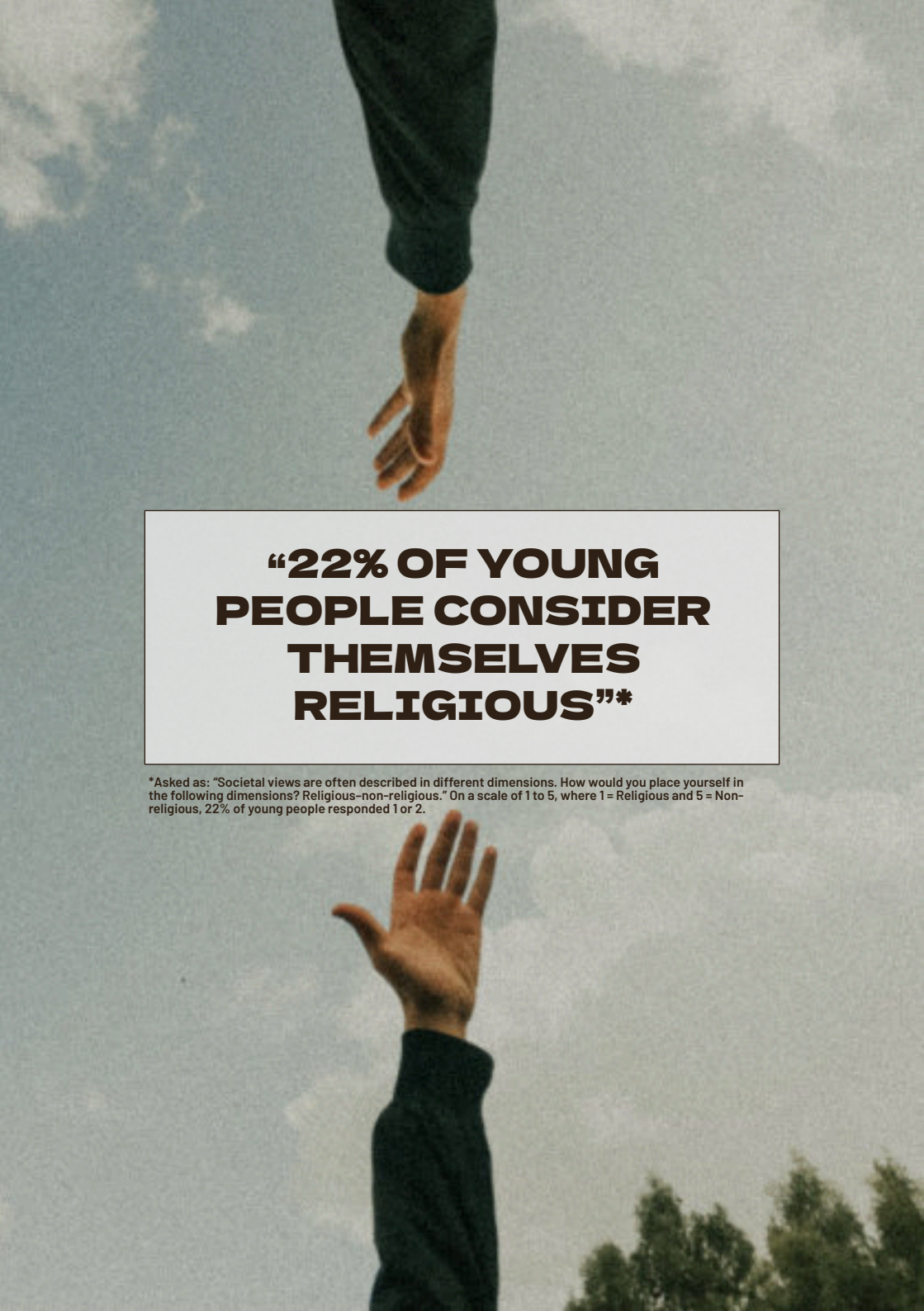
INTERPRETING DREAMS CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION ON REALITY





THE RELATIVE POSITIONS OF CELESTIAL BODIES AFFECT EVENTS ON EARTH.





**“22% OF YOUNG
PEOPLE CONSIDER
THEMSELVES
RELIGIOUS”***

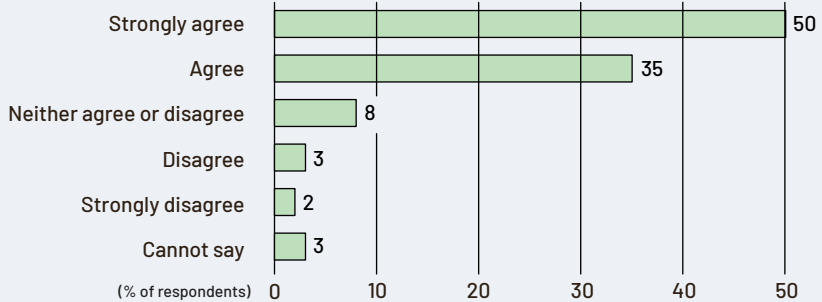
*Asked as: “Societal views are often described in different dimensions. How would you place yourself in the following dimensions? Religious–non-religious.” On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = Religious and 5 = Non-religious, 22% of young people responded 1 or 2.

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OPEN TO THE VISIBILITY OF WORLDVIEWS AND RELIGIONS AT SCHOOL

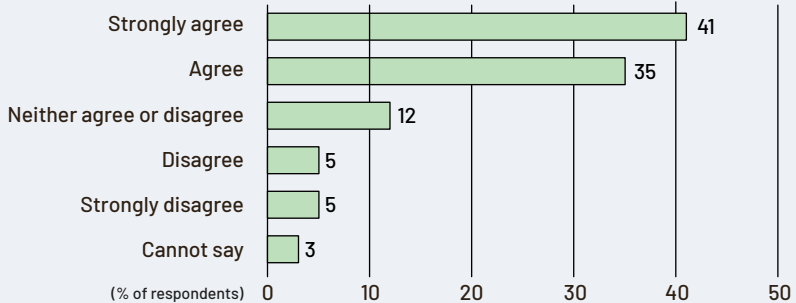
SHARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FULLY OR SOMEWHAT AGREE WITH THE CLAIM	
86%	"EVERYONE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK ABOUT THEIR RELIGION AND WORLDVIEW AT SCHOOL."
"AT SCHOOL, PUPILS SHOULD RECEIVE SUPPORT FOR FORMING THEIR OWN WORLDVIEW*."	71%
63%	"VOLUNTARY RELIGIOUS EVENTS CAN BE PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE"
"RELIGION AND OTHER WORLDVIEWS SHOULD NOT BE VISIBLE AT ALL AT SCHOOL"	13%
11%	"SINGING THE RELIGIOUS SUVIVIRSI HYMN AT THE COMMON SPRING FESTIVAL OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IS NOT SUITABLE."

*Religious or non-religious

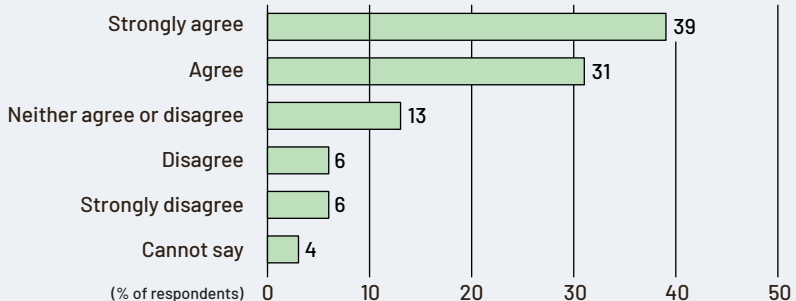
STUDENTS MUST BE ABLE TO WEAR SMALL RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS, SUCH AS CROSSES IN A NECKLACE, IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS




STUDENTS MUST BE ABLE TO WEAR VISIBLE RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS, SUCH AS HEAD-COVERING SCARVES, IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



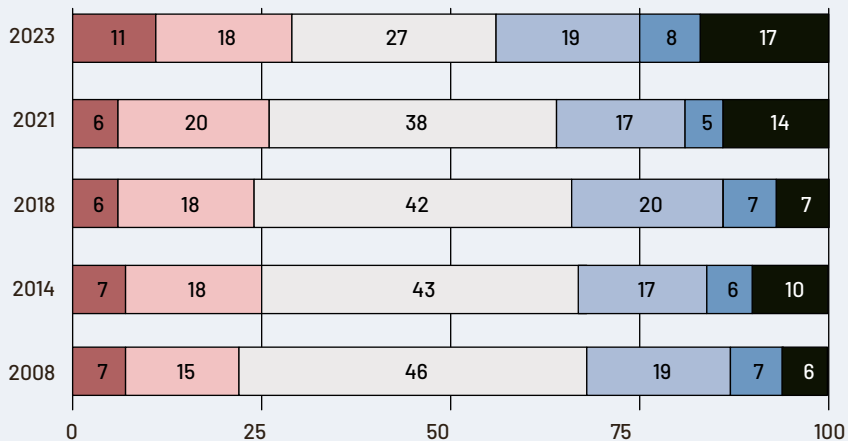
TEACHERS MUST BE ABLE TO WEAR VISIBLE RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS, SUCH AS HEAD-COVERING SCARVES, IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS





**“70% OF YOUNG PEOPLE
DEEM THAT TEACHERS
MAY WEAR VISIBLE
RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS.”**

ON THE LEFT-RIGHT AXIS, YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MORE POLARISED THAN BEFORE*

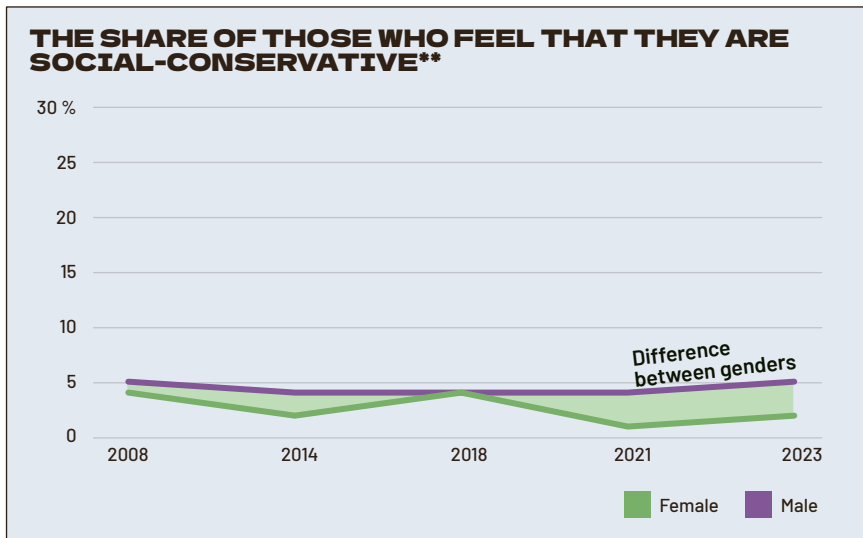
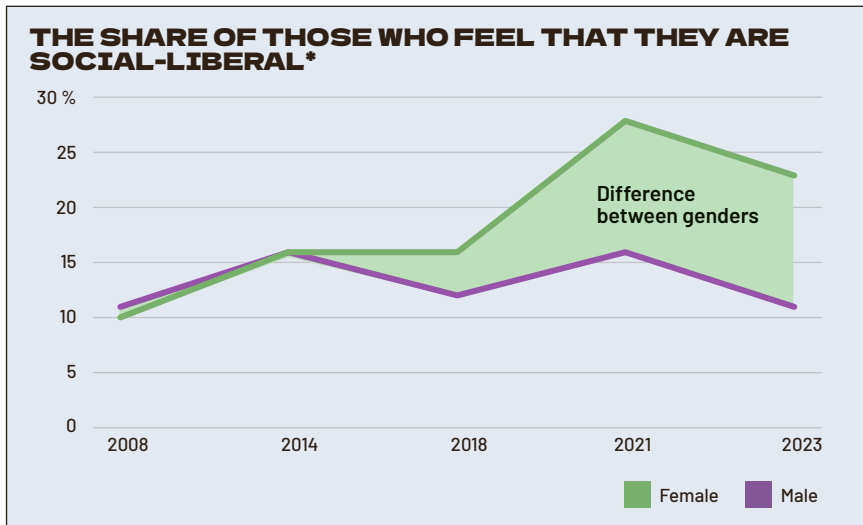


Asked as: "Societal views are often described in different dimensions. How would you place yourself in the following dimensions? Left wing-right wing." (% of respondents)

1. Left wing-5. right wing 1 2 3 4 5 Cannot say



THE SHARE OF WOMEN WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES SOCIAL-LIBERAL HAS INCREASED

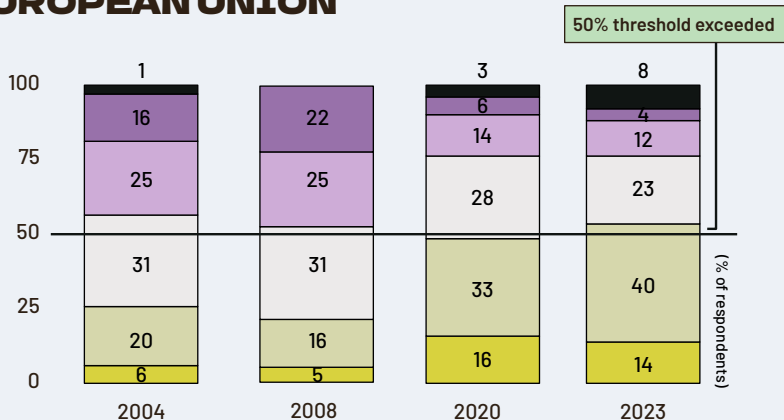


How would you place yourself in the following dimensions? Social-liberal–social-conservative.

*The share of respondents who answered 1 = Social-liberal.

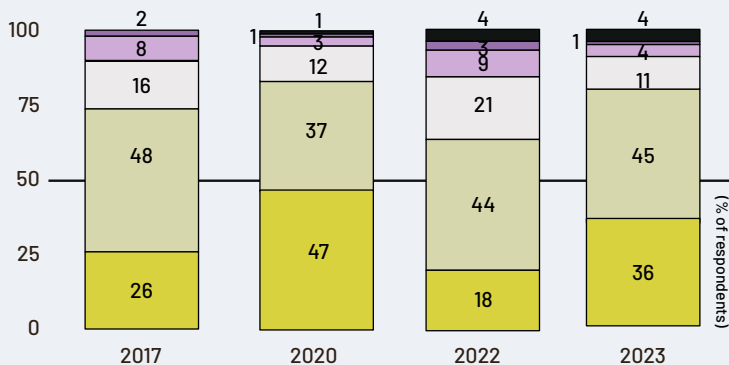
**The share of respondents who answered 5 = Social-conservative.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, MORE THAN HALF FEEL THAT THEY BELONG TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

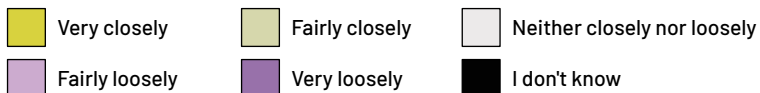


Asked as: "How closely connected do you feel with the following? The European Union."

YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL THEY BELONG TO FINNISH SOCIETY

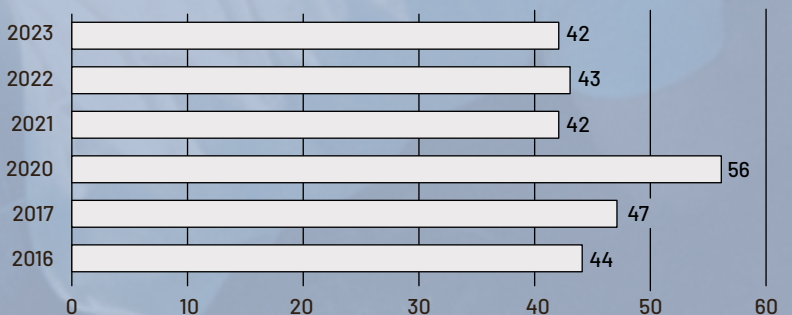


Asked as: "How closely connected do you feel with the following? Finnish society."



"A GROWING GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MORE DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR LIVES"

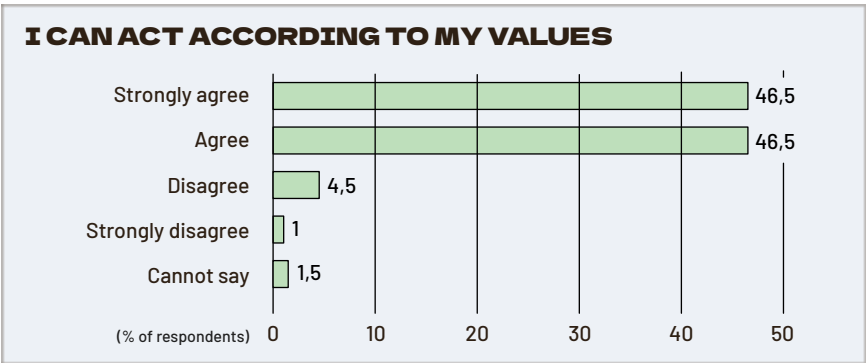
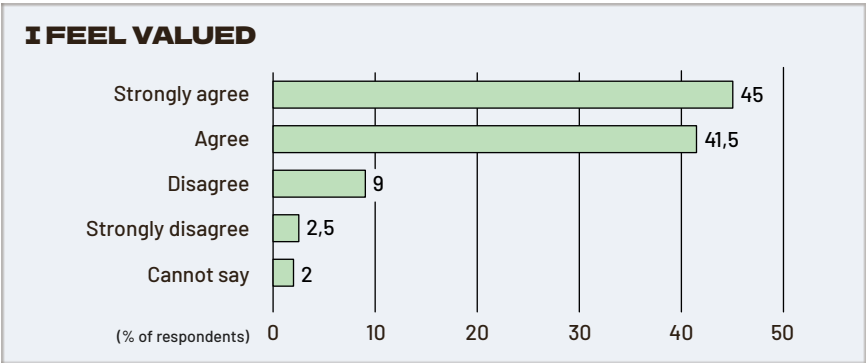
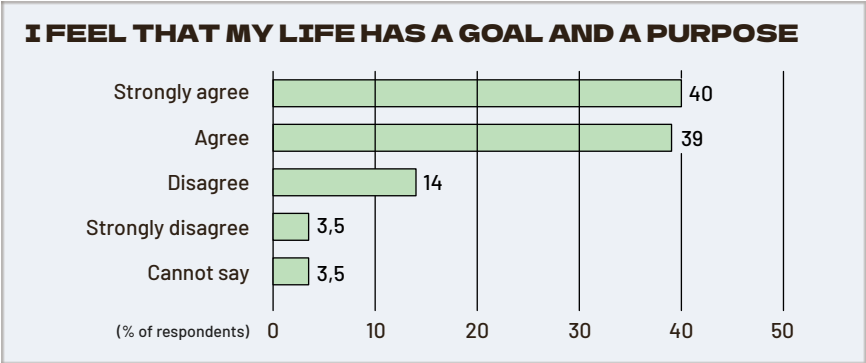
THE PROPORTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SATISFACTION WITH LIFE SCORED AS 9 OR 10 ON A SCALE OF 4 TO 10*



*Asked as: "How satisfied are you with your life on a scale of 4 to 10?"
Total of respondents with a score of 9 and 10.

(% of respondents)

A CLEAR MAJORITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL VALUED AND ABLE TO ACT ACCORDING TO THEIR VALUES



“SUCCESS IN LIFE IS UP TO YOU”

Strongly agree

29,5%

Cannot say

2%

Strongly disagree

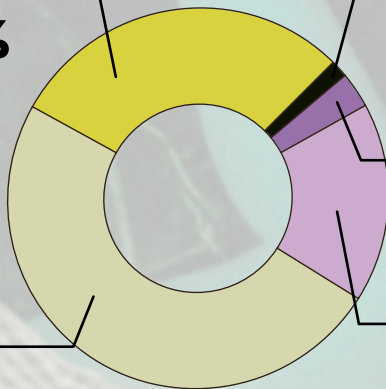
3%


Agree

49%

Disagree

17%



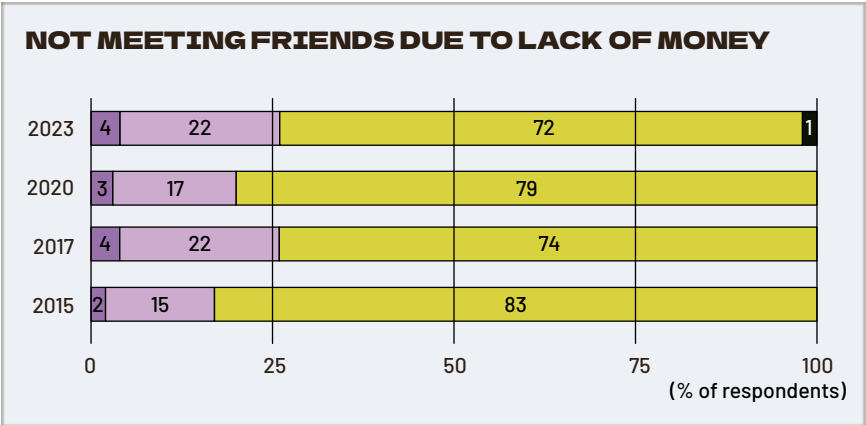
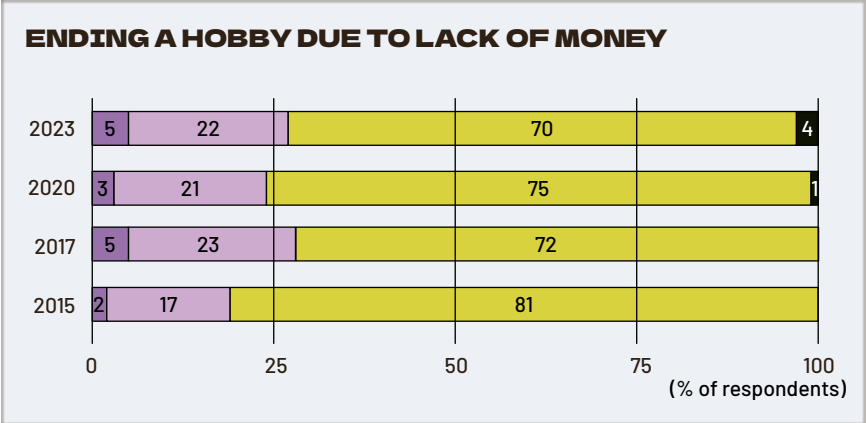


**“MORE THAN 60% OF YOUNG
PEOPLE THINK THAT THE
MEANINGFULNESS OF LIFE
COMES FROM CONSIDERING
FUTURE GENERATIONS AND
HELPING OTHERS”**

THE MEANINGFULNESS OF LIFE IS CREATED...

SHARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO FULLY OR SOMEWHAT AGREE WITH THE CLAIM	
66%	"BY HELPING THOSE WHO HAVE IT WORSE."
"THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE'S PREREQUISITES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS."	63%
31%	"BY TAKING CARE OF PAST GENERATIONS AND THEIR HERITAGE."
"FROM RELATIONSHIP TO GOD."	16%
10%	"BY BEING MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN OTHERS."

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE TO COMPROMISE ON HOBBIES OR MEETING FRIENDS BECAUSE OF A LACK OF MONEY



Yes, often
 Yes, sometimes
 No
 Cannot say



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE YOUTH COUNCIL

1

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SATISFACTION WITH LIFE IS DECLINING

Young people's satisfaction with life has been declining in the longer term. Some four out of five still grade their satisfaction with life as eight, but a growing group is more dissatisfied with their lives than before. This deserves attention in Finnish youth policy. In all decision-making, the impacts on young people's satisfaction with life should be taken into account, and the methods used to increase young people's well-being should be extensively considered.



RECOMMENDATIONS

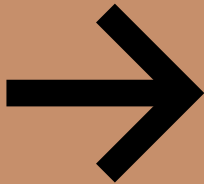
- Carry out a youth impact assessment in all decision-making concerning young people in ministries. As the leading party in youth welfare work, the Ministry of Education and Culture should compile youth impact assessments and publish a summary of the results of the evaluation annually.
- The declining trend in life satisfaction among young people should also be taken into account in central government adjustment measures from the perspective of intergenerational fairness.

2

WORLDVIEWS AND RELIGIONS MAY BE VISIBLE IN SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL

86% of young people think that everyone should have the right to talk about their religion or worldview at school, and only 12% of young people think that religion and other worldviews should not be visible at all at school.

Society is becoming more heterogeneous and young people are open-minded about the coexistence of different worldviews. It is important to support and strengthen the coexistence and dialogue between parallel perspectives and worldviews. Young people must have the right to general knowledge of other religions, cultures and ways of thinking.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Teaching of religious and worldview subjects will be reformed into a common subject, which will increase knowledge of different religions and worldviews and at the same time provide a space for reflecting on one's own worldview.
- Ensure that young people are genuinely heard as part of planning the teaching of worldview subjects.

3


SUPPORT MUST BE PROVIDED FOR WORLDVIEW FORMATION

More than 60% of young people need support in forming their own worldview. It is important to support equal rights to speak and not to speak about one's own worldview both during and outside school hours. Those working with young people need training in encountering different worldviews and discussing them with young people.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support and strengthen skills in the education and youth sector and employees' skills in encountering different worldviews. This should be taken into account especially when developing education and training in the field of education and youth and when providing continuing education for those working with young people.
- Encourage those working with young people to offer safe facilities for discussions with young people on religious and worldview topics. In addition, municipalities, congregations and organisations will encourage engagement in closer dialogue with young people and local cooperation between different actors when encountering young people in the daily life of youth work.

A photograph of a bouquet of colorful flowers, including yellow, pink, and purple blooms, resting on a light-colored car seat. The seat has horizontal orange stripes. A white rectangular box with a thin black border is overlaid on the center of the image, containing a quote in bold black text. The background shows the interior of a car with a red door panel and a window with horizontal orange stripes.

**“INVESTMENTS IN YOUNG
PEOPLE WILL BEAR FRUIT
THROUGHOUT AN ENTIRE
LIFE.”**

FINNISH YOUTH RESEARCH SOCIETY
FINNISH YOUTH RESEARCH NETWORK



VALTION NUORISO- NEUVOSTO



Tomi Kiilakoski (ed.) Building blocks of worldviews. Youth barometer 2023.

ISBN 978-952-372-061-9 (nid.), 978-952-372-062-6 (PDF). Publications (Nuorisotutkimusseura), nro 250,

Field Online publications (Nuorisotutkimusseura) ISSN 1799-9219 (nid.), 1799-9227 (PDF), nro 187.

Publications of the State Youth Council 76.

Helsinki: State Youth Council and Finnish Youth Research Society and Ministry of Education and Culture.

Publication details:

<https://nuorisotutkimus.fi/julkaisut/nuorisotutkimusseuran-julkaisut/nuorisobarometri2023/>