



Gender differences and politics in Generation Z

Equality talk among precarious youth in Europe and Greece

10 September 2026, 18:00 – 20:00

ETERON, Leokoriou 38-40, Athens, 105 53, Greece

Background

Young men are moving right; young women are moving left. This is a familiar claim in emerging academic analysis and media narratives about Generation Z's political attitudes and voting behaviour. This FEPS event, in cooperation with ETERON, takes that assumption as a starting point for a discussion of what holds up, what doesn't, and why, regarding Gen Z's "gender divide".

Presenting an analysis of recent European Social Survey data, alongside detailed insights from 17 focus groups with young people in five countries (Germany, Greece, Poland, Spain, Sweden), the FEPS-led project Equalize adds nuance to the discussion. The project's findings show clear gender differences in some domains (notably left-right orientation and attitudes to gender equality), but far less divergence in others (including migration and general views on democracy). Building on these findings, and in conversation with participants, this event will explore how young people themselves make sense of these differences. The event spotlights the project's Greek case study and features the official launch of a FEPS Policy Brief summarising key insights from the Greek focus groups.

Beyond presenting Equalize results, including country examples and implications for policy, the side event will also engage a crucial question: how should progressives frame gender equality and feminism when speaking with younger generations, not only in Europe, but beyond, and what does this mean for strengthening democratic trust and participation across genders?



Agenda

18:00 – 18:30 **Registration and refreshments**

18:30 – 18:40 **Opening**

Nicolas Schmit, President, Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Antonis Galanopoulos, Project coordinator, ETERON

18:40 – 19:00 **Research Insights: Gender, politics, and the understanding of equality among Generation Z in Greece and Europe**

Georgios Samaras, Assistant Professor, King's College London

19:00 – 20:00 **Panel discussion with the audience**

Andrea González Henry, President, Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España)

Marta Zarańska, Director of the Parliamentary Office of Katarzyna Kotula MP, former Polish Minister for Equality; County Councillor, Sztum (Pomerania)

Petros Apostolakis, Co-Founder, Youth Initiative Greece (Prwtovoulia Newn)

Vasia Madesi, Gender Equality and Inclusion consultant, working on EU research projects

Moderation: **Matteo Dressler**, Policy Analyst, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

The project that this event is part of is led by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies in cooperation with Eteron.

