

## TRANSPYRENEAN YOUTH FORUM

The **Trans-Pyrenean Youth Forum** is an initiative coordinated by the Working Community of the Pyrenees (CTP) in collaboration with the youth areas of its members: Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Occitanie, Euskadi, Aragon, Navarra, Catalonia and Andorra. It aims to share the reflections of Pyrenean young people in order to convey their needs and interests to institutional representatives and strengthen the impact of youth participation in public policies in the Pyrenean territories.

## MANIFESTO OF THE PYRENEAN YOUTH

The members of the **Trans-Pyrenean Youth Forum** have met from 1st to 3rd October 2021 in the municipality of El Pueyo de Jaca (Aragon). The members have worked in the following cross-border thematic committees: Labor and Emancipation; Feminism, LGBTIQ+ Rights; Racism; Culture, Language & identity, Tourism & Mobility; and Nature and Sustainability.

After debating and exchanging on these issues, the Trans-Pyrenean Youth Forum would like to make the following statements agreed in each Cross-border thematic Committee:

### 1) Committee “Labour and Emancipation”

The **Trans-Pyrenean Youth Forum** observes that in our territory there is a great difficulty of access to housing, the economy is scarcely diversified and numerous bureaucratic barriers persist.

This situation provides difficult living conditions for young people. We propose the following actions in favour of a sustainable growth of the Pyrenean region:

1. Promote access to public housing through the creation and promotion of public housing exchanges and building rehabilitation and renovation programs;
2. Diversify the economy by decentralizing public institutions and by delocalizing renewable energy production processes to rural areas;
3. Facilitate entrepreneurship and trans-Pyrenean labour and social flows by streamlining administrative bureaucracy.
4. Considering the Digital Agenda, we request the implementation of these correlated lines of action in a circular economy model.

## 2) Committee of Feminism, LGTBIQ+ rights

The problems encountered by this Committee are mentioned below:

Firstly, there is a reproduction of cultural & regulatory frameworks, in the audio-visual and literary domain; there is a lack of representation of gender diversity collectives in sparsely populated or rural areas and the current system continues to focus on the Binary Gender.

We, therefore make the following proposals hoping that they will be incorporated into future territorial policies:

5. Creation of new materials with representation of diverse gender collectives.
6. Creation of *Safe Spaces* for expression and efficient partnerships. Intervention of experts on the subject in rural areas.
7. Focus on the name and their background rather than on their orientation..

## 3) Committee Anti-Racism

Externalization of borders, illegal refoulement, Islamophobia, detention centres for foreigners, ethnic-racial discrimination, institutional racism, dehumanization... are some examples of human rights violations that are systematically and structurally present in the Pyrenean territories.

The **Trans-Pyrenean Youth Forum**, would like to highlight the work of anti-racist groups such as #RegularizacionYa, Sindicato Manteros and EsMenas because they are applicable to the Pyrenean community.

We request:

8. Legal repercussions of hate speech and hate crimes references in Political programs, in Parliament, in the media and elsewhere.
9. Promote preventive and multidisciplinary work to identify possible situations of social disengagement in which young migrants, that find themselves outside the protection system, may find.
10. Promote anti-racist education, training and awareness raising in formal education, in the media, in public institutions, in private companies and in State security forces.
11. Guarantee the application of human rights and full judicial guarantees to migrants, ethnic minorities and racialized groups.

"In a racist society it's not enough to be non-racist, you have to be anti-racist," Angela Davis.

#### 4) Committee Culture, Languages, Identity, Tourism and Mobility

We are the young people of the **Trans-Pyrenean Youth Forum**, we are young entrepreneurs, enthusiastic and eager to take the future of Europe forward and to make a better Europe.

The Committee of Culture, Languages, Identity, Tourism and Mobility identifies the following problems:

The loss of local languages in border territories. Culture is by nature a dynamic phenomenon. Its innovative construction cannot be stopped. Each generation has the challenge of facing evolution and being *hybridized*, avoiding nationalist discourse. There is a lack of knowledge of the traditions and of their common origin, a great lack of cooperation between the French, Spanish and Andorran administrations on the Pyrenean territory and a degradation of the Romanesque heritage of the Pyrenees. The non- recognition of the nations of the trans-Pyrenean community, is a problem that has been longstanding and that society has been demanding for years. Finally, it is necessary to increase the tourist offers aimed at young people.

And that is why we would like:

12. Make the culture of neighbouring regions known through, for example, film and theatre productions, exhibitions or by creating a Trans-Pyrenean cultural voucher.
13. Create a Network in its own circuit of common cultural production.
14. Encourage the creation of itinerant intercultural festivals in the Pyrenees and between all the territories of the CTP.
15. Request the education departments of each community to finance and protect the access of students to exchanges between universities, schools and colleges throughout the Pyrenees region.
16. Recover and include the cultures that are being lost in order to build a Common Pyrenean Identity.
17. Communication and understanding being the basis of all solutions, we demand to establish a dialogue table between nations and institutions; where cultural ties between regions (Euskadi, Navarre and Aquitaine, for example) can be strengthened or where contentious problems in the recognition of nations can be dealt with.

Having said that, we hope that the meeting of the Trans-Pyrenean Young Europeans will bear fruit and that we young people can continue to sound and walk as unique and unrepeatabe notes in the melody of life.

## 5) Committee Nature and sustainable development

The Trans-Pyrenean Youth Forum Committee for Nature and Sustainability would like to launch proposals on the following topics (based on an analysis of weaknesses, threats, strengths and opportunities (SWOT):

18. Networks and Infrastructures. We propose an improvement of transport networks and infrastructures towards sustainable models, through the extension of the inter-territorial railway network as an alternative to road transport.
19. Awareness raising. Education. Action. Institutional campaigns on the energy consumption model, recycling and greater institutional pressure on companies for a change towards a sustainable production model.
20. Energy transition. Creation of local energy production cooperatives towards energy sovereignty to respond effectively to the demands of each territory, as well as greater investment in research to exploit new types of sustainable energy (hydrogen, biomass, geothermal energy, etc.).
21. Conservation and regeneration. Well-management of Forest Land, Flora and Fauna. We propose to expand the protected territory and the creation of a great park of the Pyrenees, without borders and with tougher legislation.
22. Sustainable production model. We propose to promote sustainable agriculture and livestock farming, implementing aid programs for cooperatives and small producers. As for tourism, we propose to regulate it according to the possibilities and limitations of each territory.

As young people we feel the burden of having to demand all these issues, as they have a direct impact, not only on our future, but also on the present. We ask the institutions for a real, ambitious and clear commitment to address the problem. We want you to take us into account in this process so that together we can build our future.

We can't wait any longer. It is urgent.

El Pueyo de Jaca, 3rd October 2021