

promoting youth involvement and social engagement

# Russia

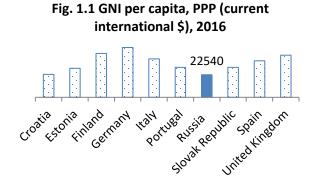
 Population	144.342.396
Population aged 15-29 years old	19,5%
Population aged 65 years old and above	13,8%
Birth Rate	13,3
International migrant stock as a percentage of the total	8,1%
population	

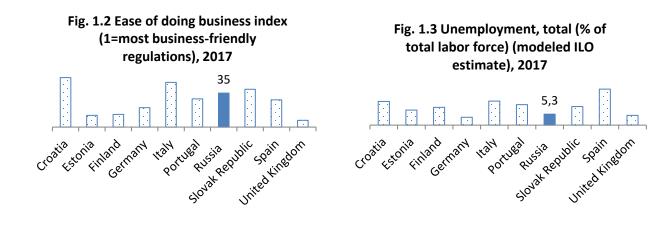


# 1. Standards of living in Russia<sup>1</sup>

The economic situation in the Russian Federation remains stable after a sharp decline of GNI in 2013. The crisis led to the fact that GNI in Russia in 2016 was close to that of 2009 and the lowest among the PROMISE countries. The rate of unemployment in 2017 was 5.3%, which is quite low comapred with other countries. At the same time, economic crises in Russia are rarely accompanied by partial or full release of labour resources (due to the complexity of dismissal on the part of the employer and serious losses that employers must bear in connection with such dismissals under labour law). Therefore the unemployment rate in Russia can rarely be seen as a good indicator of the intensity of economic crises. Most often, other strategies of adaptation to various economic transformations are chosen: a reduction in wages or a reduction in working hours. In addition, it should be clarified that a large segment of the Russian economy is in the gray zone  $(33.72\% \text{ for } 2015)^2$ , which in many ways makes it difficult to monitor the economic situation in the country (in the labour market in particular).

Russians, in comparison with the residents of other PROMISE countries, particularly strongly feel corruption, as well as most critically assess the effectiveness of the current government (Fig. 1.5). The average value of government effectiveness estimated for Russia during 2016 was, as usual, negative: -0.41 points (with a minumum of -0.73 points in 1998 and a maximum of -0.11 points in 2014).

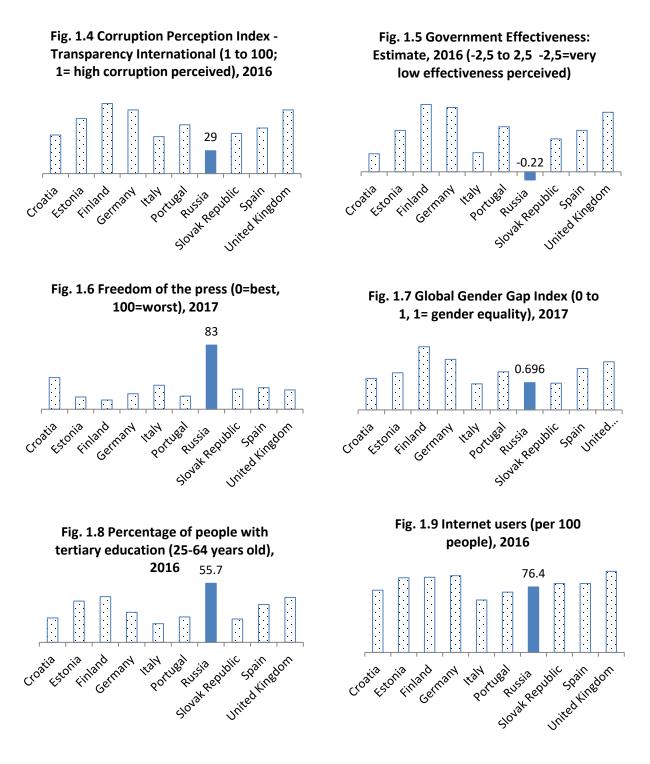




<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Last available data. Sources: World Bank; Transparency International; Freedom House; Global Gender Gap Report (World Economic Forum); Eurostat; OECDStats

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Medina L., Schneider F. Shadow Economies Around the World: What Did We Learn Over the Last 20 Years?. – 2018. P.74 https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=3124402

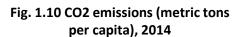


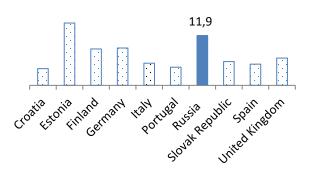




Russia is among the PROMISE countries with the lowest level of gender equality (Fig. 1.7). In the Global Gender Gap Report 2017 Russia occupies the 71st place in the overall ranking out of 144 countries<sup>3</sup>.

Considering the issue of freedom of the press/media, as one of the basic characteristics of an open civil society, comparing with other PROMISE countries, the Russian Federation in 2017 has the worst position. (Fig. 1.6). However, Russian citizens are active users of the Internet, which can become an alternative source of information (Fig. 1.9). And Russia takes the first place with the amount of people with higher education (Fig. 1.8).





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Global Gender Gap Report 2017 (Insight Report)P.8 http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\_GGGR\_2017.pdf

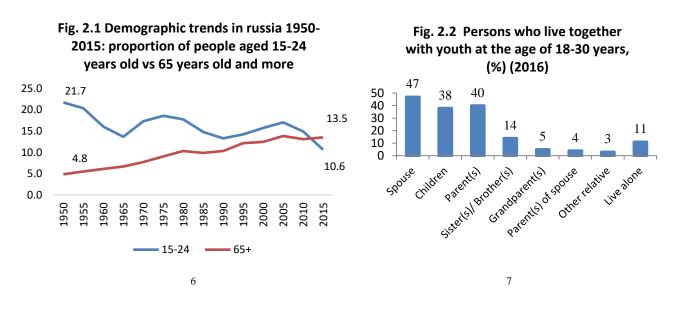


# 2. Being young in Russia

# 2.1 Demographic situation

According to the UN demographic classification for 2015, Russian society falls into the category of "ageing"<sup>4</sup>; the share of people over 65 years was 13.5%. A serious decrease in the share of the young population in 1990 practically equalized the proportions of the young and elderly population of the country. So, the period from 2010 to 2015 was marked by serious changes in the age structure of Russian society, and as a result, in 2015 the percentage of the elderly population exceeded the number of young people by 2.9%.

One of the most notable effects of the demographic transition for Russia was the increase in the age of marriage (Fig. 2.3). According to the Russian Federal State Statistics Service, the average age of marriage for men in 1990 was 27.5 years - against 31.5 years in 2016, and for women 23.6 years in 1990 - against 27.6 years in 2016<sup>5</sup>. Parallel to this, there is a high rate of young people living with their parents (and other relatives). The strategy of delayed maturation is typical not only for the modern youth of the Russian Federation. Similar trends can be seen among a number of other developed countries.



7 Public "Opinion Foundation" http://fom.ru/

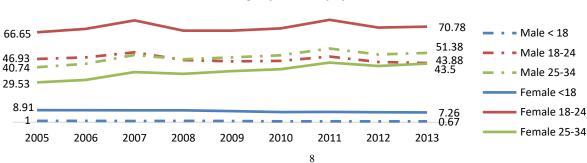
PROMISE (GA693221)

<sup>4</sup> The proportion of people over 65 years old exceeds the threshold of 7% of the total population of the country.

<sup>5</sup> Russian Federal State Statistics Service. Marriages and divorces in the Russian Federation "The average age of marriage in the Russian Federation" http://www.gks.ru/free\_doc/new\_site/rosstat/smi/prez\_love0707.pdf

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition. http://www.un.org/en/index.html

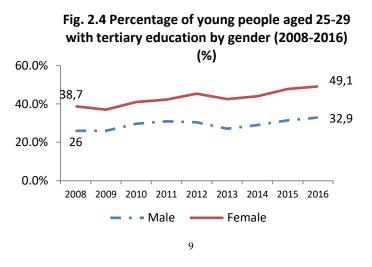




# Fig. 2.3 Age-specific marriage rates of young men and women (the number of marriages per 1000 population)

## 2.2 Education & Labour market in Russia

Traditionally, the proportion of Russians achieving a tertiary education remains quite high (Fig. 1.8), and consistently women more often than men receive higher education. In 2016, the percentage of young women with a higher education exceeded the number of men of the same age group by 16.2%. Despite this fact, high gender inequality is still present in Russia (Fig. 1.7).



According to the World Economic Forum <sup>10</sup> (2016), over the past 10 years the Russian Federation has reduced its ranking by 26 positions in the Global Gender Gap Index. This situation affects the wage level. According to Russian Federal State Statistics Service data for 2015, the average women's salary in all sectors of the economy is lower than that of men: the ratio of women's wages to men's is 72.6 in all sectors of the economy. Moreover, a higher education is not always associated with a high level of income and the position that a person will occupy after graduating from the university. The level of income will be determined rather by the sphere of the economy and the position held, rather than by the qualification level of the specialist

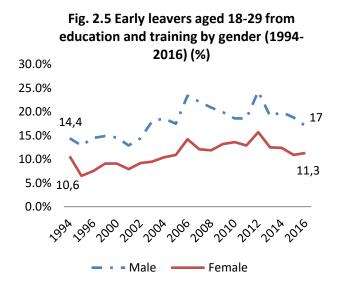
9 Data of the "Russian Monitoring of the Economic Situation and Health of the NRU HSE" https://www.hse.ru/rlms/reg

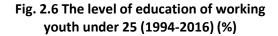
<sup>8</sup> Zakharov S. V. Marriages and divorces in contemporary Russia // Demoscope Weekly. – 2015. – №. 625-626. – P. 1-5. Author's calculations based on the data presented in the Demographic Yearbook of Russia 2013. Moscow: unpublished data of Russian Federal State Statistics Service.

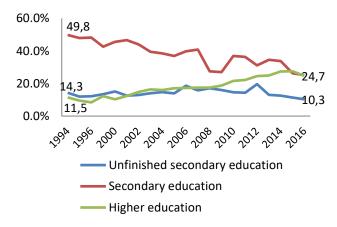
<sup>10</sup> Gender equality index // World Economic Forum URL: http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2016/

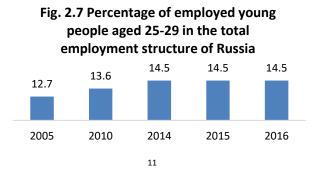


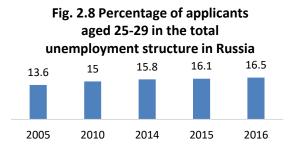
Almost a quarter of young people who are employed in Russia in 2016 have a higher education degree. In number they are almost equal to those in work holding a general secondary education (Fig. 2.6). This may be caused by the progressive increase in the proportion of University graduates since the 2000s, which is associated with the prestige of higher education in Russian society and the simultaneous stigmatization of people with education secondary as insufficiently motivated to get an education of good quality. In this regard, there is an increase in the segment of highly qualified specialists in the labour market of the Russian Federation. At the same time, the proportion of working incomplete youth with secondary an education has remained practically unchanged for the last 20 years, and there is a shortage of workers in the labour market









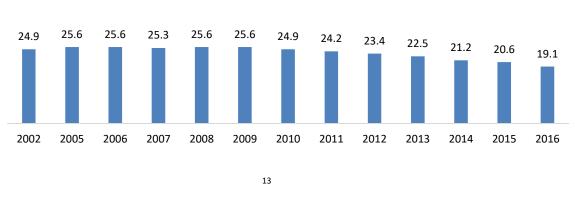


12

<sup>11</sup> Labor and employment in Russia. 2017: Statistical compendium / Russian Federal State Statistics Service – V.78 M., 2017. - 261 pp. P. 43

<sup>12</sup> Labor and employment in Russia. 2017: Statistical compendium / Russian Federal State Statistics Service – V.78 M., 2017. - 261 pp. P. 77





#### Fig. 2.9 Percentage of low-income youth at the age of 16-30

#### 2.3 Health and well-being

In general, the majority of Russian youth rate their health as good or very good, but there are some differences in the assessments of young women and men (Fig. 2.10).

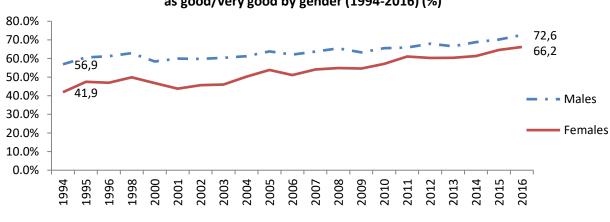


Fig. 2.10 Percentage of young people (15-29 years old) who perceive their health as good/very good by gender (1994-2016) (%)

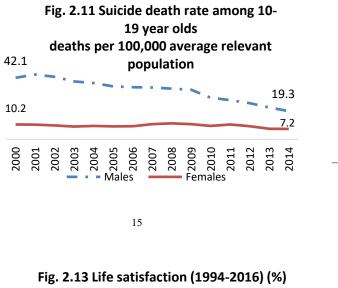
In 2016, males tend to be 6.4% more optimistic about their health than females and they are 4.2% less likely to experience depression (Fig. 2.12). However, young men are more likely to commit suicide (Fig. 2.11). Even considering the fact that the number of suicides among males is decreasing in comparison with the previous years, the difference between female and male mortality due to suicide remains significant and in 2016 composes 12.1%. For young women, the mortality rate per 100 000 people due to suicide remains stable.

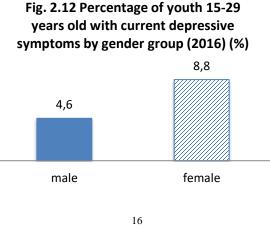
14

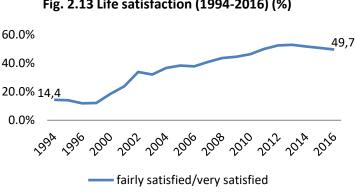
<sup>13</sup> Russian Federal State Statistics Service. "Inequality and poverty". The distribution of the number of the poor in terms of age and sex groups (based on a sample survey of household budgets) http://www.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat\_main/rosstat/ru/statistics/population/poverty/#

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Data of the "Russian Monitoring of the Economic Situation and Health of the NRU-HSE"https://www.hse.ru/rlms/reg









The level of life satisfaction among young people in Russia has increased by 35.3% over the past 20 years (Fig. 2.13), which may be due both to Russia's overcoming the long socioeconomic crisis of the 1990s caused by the collapse of the USSR and institutional restructuring in the country, and to generational changes in Russian society.

#### 2.4 Use of Substances and Crime

In 2016, more than half of young people in Russia consumed alcohol at least once per month. Among young women this indicator is slightly lower, but also remains quite high (Fig.2.14). In Russia, there are no official statistics on the rate of drug use. In the optics of medical statistics, assessing the proportion of people with drug addiction, you can see only a gradual reduction in the number of officially registered patients. However, this indicator cannot fully represent the existing picture of drug use in the country, at least for reasons of high mortality among drug users outside medical records.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> UNICEF Monitoring the situation of children and women in Europe and Central Asia (Russian Federation Country Data, 1989-2015) http://transmonee.org/country/russian-federation/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Data of the "Russian Monitoring of the Economic Situation and Health of the NRU-HSE"<u>https://www.hse.ru/rlms/reg</u>



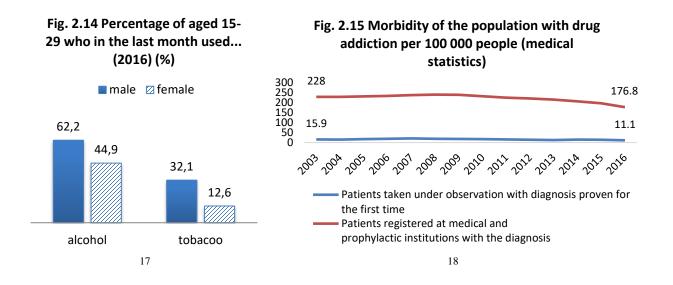
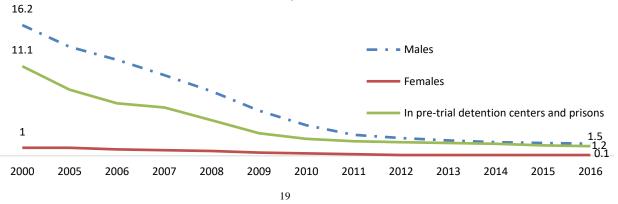


Fig. 2.16 Number of persons held in juvenile detention centres by gender, and General data on minors in pre-trial detention(thousands))



<sup>17</sup> Data of the "Russian Monitoring of the Economic Situation and Health of the NRU-HSE"<u>https://www.hse.ru/rlms/reg</u>

<sup>18</sup> Russian Federal State Statistics Service. "Health care" Drug addiction among the population

<sup>(</sup>Data of the Ministry of Health of Russia, calculation of Russian Federal State Statistics Service) http://www.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat\_main/rosstat/ru/statistics/population/healthcare/#

<sup>19</sup> Russian Federal State Statistics Service. « Law violation». The number of persons held in prisons (at the end of the year; thousands of people)

http://www.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat\_main/rosstat/ru/statistics/population/infraction/#

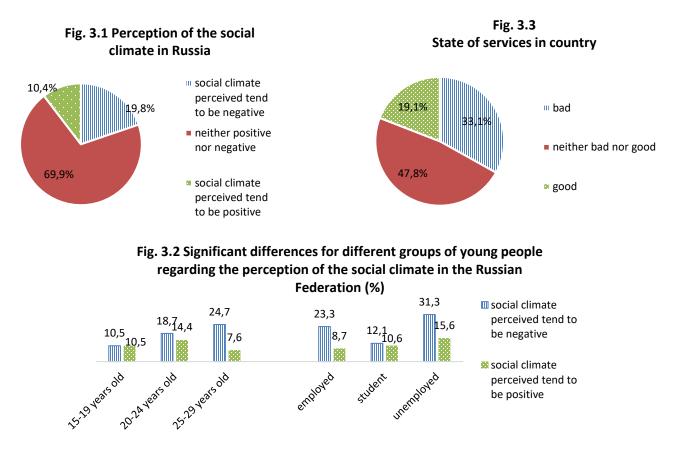


# 3. What do young people in Russia think and feel?

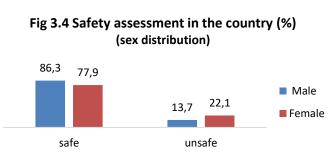
## **3.1 Perception of opportunity and constraints**

#### 3.1.1 Russia and European situation

According to ESS data, 19,8% of Russian youth claim that the social climate in the country is negative (Fig. 3.1). Such perception is significantly more widespread among young people aged 25-29 (24,7%), as well as among those who, at the time of the survey, defined themselves as "unemployed". But the majority of respondents (69,9%) were not able to clearly describe the social climate in Russia and have selected the middle position (neither positive nor negative).

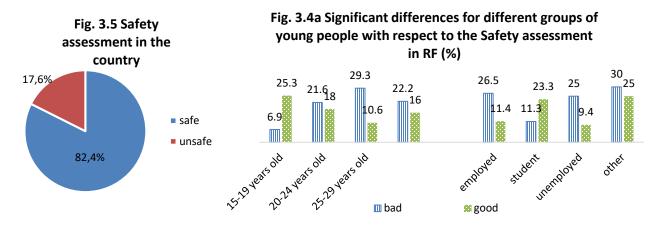


Regarding safety assessment in the Russian Federation, the majority of young people (aged 15-29) believe that they are safe (Fig. 3.5). But in the overall proportion of those who do not feel safe (17,6%), females prevail. They are significantly more likely to feel unprotected (22,1%) compared with males (13,7%) (Fig. 3.4).

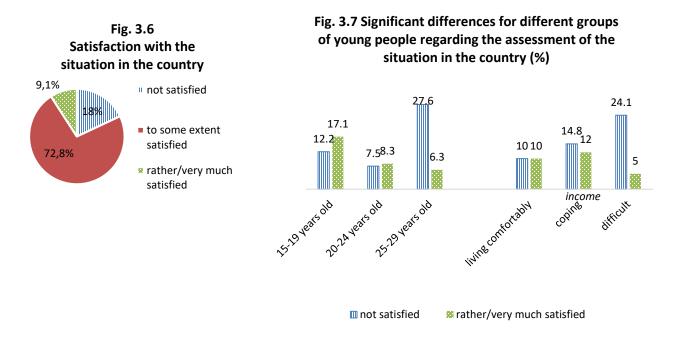


PROMISE (GA693221)

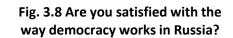




More than 80% of young people are satisfied ('to some extend', and 'rather/very much') with the situation in the Russian Federation (Fig. 3.6). The majority of those who are not satisfied, are those aged 25-29 and who feel that their financial situation is 'difficult' (Fig. 3.7).



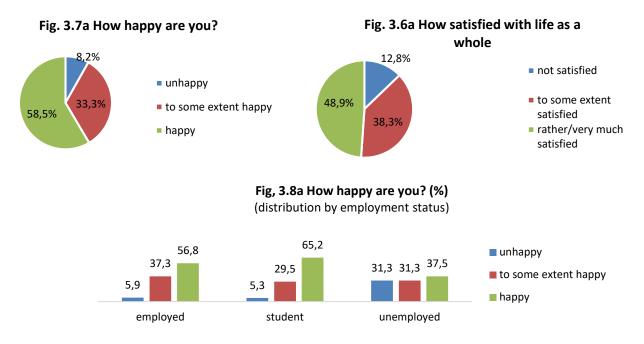
Almost half of young people from Russia are 'to some extent' satisfied with the work of democracy in the country, although 27.4% are completely satisfied and 20.4% completely unsatisfied. In general 79.2% of respondents, one way or another, support the democratic development of Russia (Fig. 3.8)





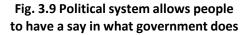


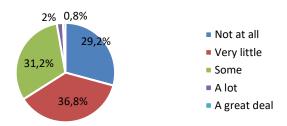
The majority of young respondents consider themselves happy people (Fig.3.7a). Among them, students feel themselves happy significantly more often than others (65.2%). About one third of unemployed people consider themselves unhappy (Fig 3.8a).



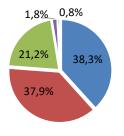
## 2 Relation with authority

## 3.2.1 General opinion on institutions





# Fig. 3.11 Political system allows people to have influence on politics



#### Fig. 3.10 Those who believe that political system allows people to have a say in what government does only very little or not at all (%)

52,9	60,4	68,3	
15-19 vears old	20-24 vears old	25-29 vears old	

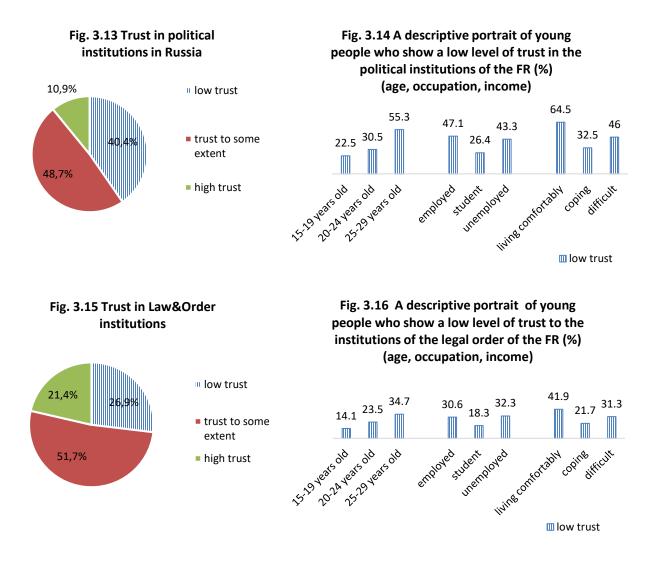
#### Fig. 3.12 Those who believe that political system allows people to have influence on politics only very little or not at all (%)

Not at all				
Very little	70,7	82,5	68,6	
Some	70,7		08,0	
A lot				
	big city	suburbs or small city	country village or	
A great deal	. 3,	······································	countryside	



## **3.2.2 Trust in institutions: Lawℴ and political institutions (not civic society)**

Only 10.9% of young people have trust in the country's political institutions. A few more express (21.4%) trust in the institutions of law and order. However there is a decrease in the level of trust with the increase in the age of the respondents for both indicators (Fig 3.14, Fig 3.16). This may be caused by the fact that at the age of 18 young people are formally included in the political life of the country, have the right to vote and to participate in elections, in protests and actions, to join parties, etc. The older respondents become, the higher level of legal awareness and personal socio-political experience is obseved. In general, we can say that young Russians have only partial trust in state structures. These institutions function in Russia largely without the basic support of the population and without the active participation of young people in their activities. As the data demonstrate almost half of the respondents cannot form a clear attitude to these structures (trust only to some extent: 48.7% and 51.7%).

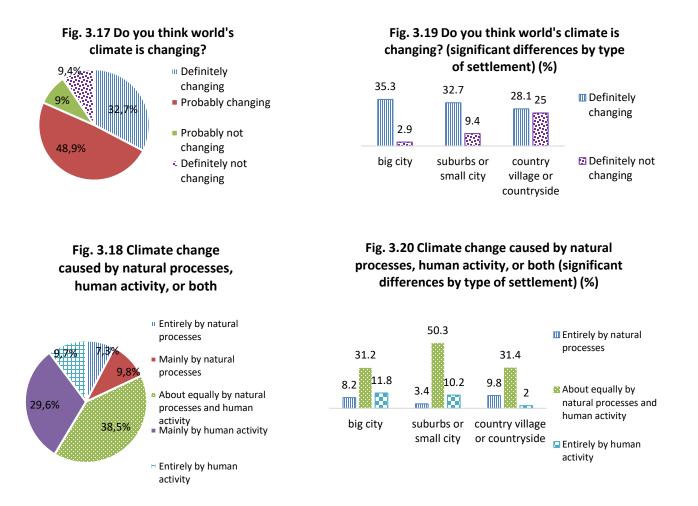




#### **3.3 Sustainable values (opinions on social issues)**

#### 3.3.1 Environment

According to the results of the survey in Russia 81.6% of respondents to some extent feel climate change. Among the many factors relevant to the assessment of climate change the type of settlement in which informants live is significant. People living in villages (25%) feel more than others the change in climate, while more than a third (35.3%) of residents of large cities do not notice climate change at all. The larger the settlement is, the more often respondents mention such a factor of influence on the environment as "human activity"





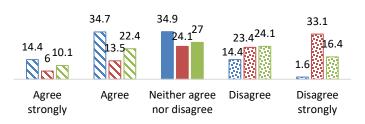
## 3.3.2 Equality/Social inclusion

As mentioned above, contemporary Russia is the country with a high level of gender inequality (Fig 1.7). Thus, 32.5% of young respondents more or less agree with the statement that «Men should have more right to a job than women when jobs are scarce» (Fig. 3.21). Among those who, on the contrary, do not agree with this statement, there are significantly more women, 51.9% (Fig. 3.23). It is also important to note that a third of the respondents (33.1%) expressed their strong disagreement with the statement that «Gays and lesbians are free to live life as they wish», another 23.4% noted that LGBT people probably do not have this right. In general, this indicates a fairly high level of homophobia in Russia.

> Fig. 3.23 People who disagree/strongly disagree that men should have more right to job than women when jobs are...

20.0	51,9		
30,8			
Male	Female		

# Fig. 3.21 human rights and gender tolerance in Russia (%)

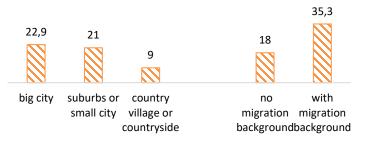


For fair society, differences in standard of living should be small

Gays and lesbians free to live life as they wish

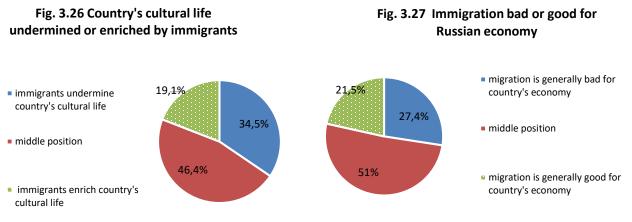
Men should have more right to job than women when jobs are scarce

#### Fig. 3.22 People who agree/strongly agree that gays and lesbians free to live life as they wish (%)



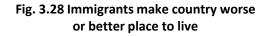
#### 3.3.3 Migration

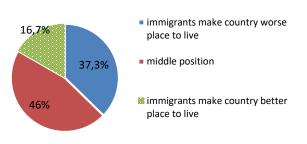
The migration experience, or its absence, as well as age, significantly affects young people's attitudes toward migrants.



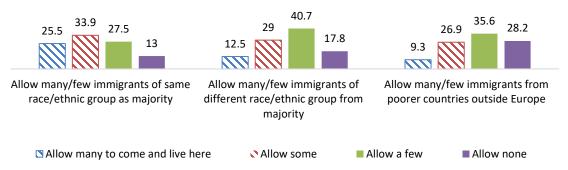


Respondents in the 25-29 age-group, were significantly more likely than younger respondents to believe that migrants negatively affect the economic and cultural life of the country and the living conditions in general (Fig. 3.25). At the same time those with a migration experience tend to be more loyal to migrants. With the statement that "immigrants undermine a country's cultural life", being significantly more expressed by young people without a migration experience (36,6%). Students (24.8%) significantly more often



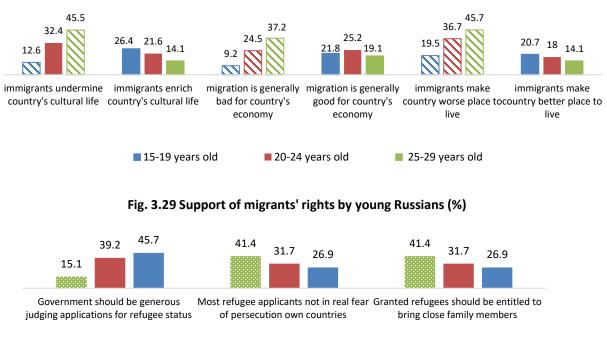


believe that "migration is generally good for our country's economy" (perhaps because they are more mobile than employed or unemployed informants), while the opposite view is held by unemployed young Russians (40.6%). Almost half of unemployed young people (46.9%) are also confident that 'immigrants make the country a worse place to live'. 40% of the respondents with an experience of migration agree with the statement "Government should be generous judging applications for refugee status", and almost the same number (47.8%) of the respondents without the experience of migration expressed their disagreement with this statement. In turn, 60.6% of respondents with experience in migration supported the idea that "Granted refugees should be entitled to bring close family members", which is a significantly higher proportion than young people without such experience (39.7%).



#### Fig. 3.24 Attitudes towards migrants in Russia (%)





# Fig. 3.25 The ratio of young Russians to some migration effects: extreme values by age groups (%)

■ agree strongly agree ■ neither agree nor disagree ■ disagree/strongly disagree

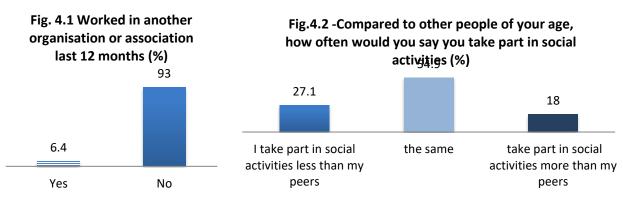


# 4. Engagement and Social Change

In this section we provide information about young people's social and political engagement in Russia. We adopt the concept of social and political engagement as defined in D4.1, including aspects of civic engagement, formal political participation, activism, and everyday engagement. In most of the cases, questions relate to the forms of participation that young people think are the most effective.

#### 4.1 Civic engagement

The civic engagement analysed in this section is operationalised as *subjective assessment* of participation in different types of social activity and voluntary.work.



The majority of young people (54.9%) believe that they have the same level of participation as their peers (Fig. 4.2). However, based on the formulation of the question, it is difficult to evaluate this level: is it high or low? Is this majority active or passive? 27.1% of respondents define themselves as more active participants in social activities comparing with others, however only 6.4% of young people actually volunteer in organisations (Fig. 4.1). Based on what we can conclude that "systemic" civic engagement (as it is operationalised in this section) is not a common practice in Russian society. However, political actors try to involve young people in the voluntary movement in different ways. At the same time, the presence of a migration experience has a significant impact on civic engagement: migrants are less likely to be involved in various manifestations and are less willing to identify themselves with the majority.

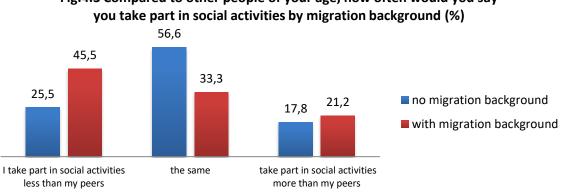


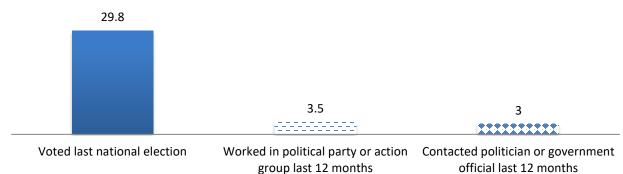
Fig.4.3 Compared to other people of your age, how often would you say



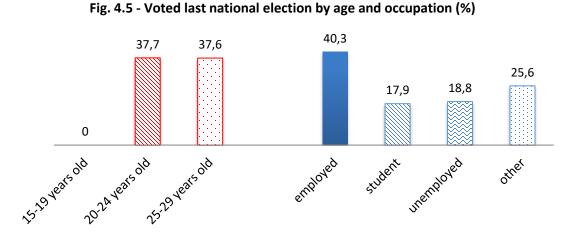
## 4.2 Formal political participation

When considering the participation of young people in "official/institutionalised" political life (political participation), it can be noted that among young people from 15 to 29 years 29.8% took part in the elections (if we exclude minors from the sample <sup>20</sup>, who do not have the right to vote under the legislation of the Russian Federation, the number of active voters will increase to 38%) (Fig 4.4).





As shown in figure 4.5, the probability of participation in elections correlates with the employment status of respondents: young employees are almost twice as active as students or unemployed people, which indicates the interrelations of political and economic activities - young people begin to be more actively involved in the political processes at the time of entering the labour market and gaining their own source of income and independence.



In Russia, there are also several other opportunities for young people to participate in formal political life: become a member of youth divisions of political parties or participate in the projects of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (through youth councils and governments), supported by regional (local) authorities and designed to involve young people in political life. However, according to the ESS, only about 3% of young Russians interacted with official political

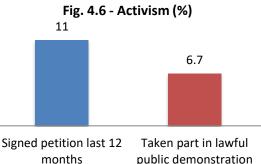
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> adulthood in Russia comes at the age of 18



structures: 3.5% worked in political parties, 3% interacted with politicians and authorities in working processes.

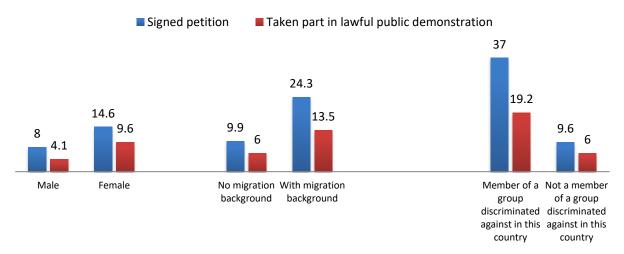
#### 4.3 Activism

Activism in this report is defined as a participation in various kinds of political 'informal' actions: signing petitions, participation in demonstrations. Such actions are more attractive for young people compared with participation in institutionalized politics: almost twice as many young people participated in demonstrations as in the work of political parties. During 2016, petitions were signed by 11% of the total number of Russian youth, while 6.7% of young people participated in protests and demonstrations (Fig.4.6). However, we cannot argue that political activism is widespread among Russian youth.



public demonstration last 12 months

# Fig.4.7 - Activism by gender, migration background and membership of a group discriminated against in this country (%)



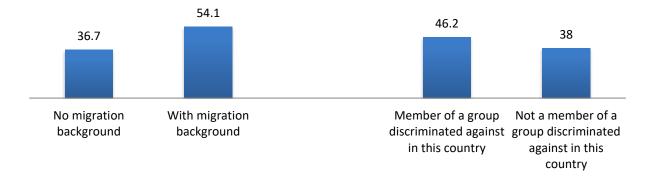
At the same time, as it follows from figure 4.7, young women tend to demonstrate their position more actively than young men. In addition, people with a migrant experience and representatives of different discriminated minorities participate in such actions more often. As noted in section 4.1, migrants feel less involved in civic processes.

## 4.4 Everyday Engagement

Everyday engagement, operationilised through an interest in politics, consumer participation and environmental worries, is more common in Russian society than direct (formal and informal)



participation in political events. Thus, 38.1% of young people are interested in politics. Among them people with a migrant experience and members of discriminated groups are more interested in politics compared with other young people (Fig. 4.8).



# Fig.4.8 - Interested in politicsby gender, migration background and membership of a group discriminated against in this country(%)

Only 14.6% of respondents are very worried about climate change, however almost half of young

people are ready to change their behaviour for more responsible and conscious actions (Fig.4.9): 31.3% feel personal responsibility for minimizing harmful emissions into the atmosphere, 32.5% are constantly taking measures to reduce energy consumption, and 48% are ready to buy more energy-efficient electrical appliances, 28.4% are sure that they could consume less energy than they do at the moment. The most active in this activity are again the people with the experience of migration (Fig.4.13)

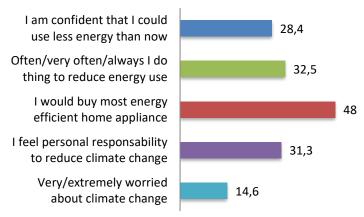
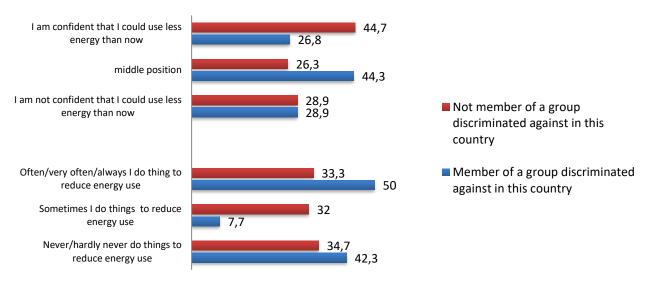


Fig.4.9 - Worried about climate change (%)



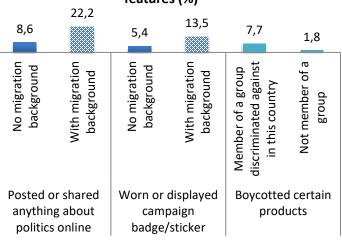


#### Fig.4.13 - Caring about the environment by social features (%)

About 10% of young people posted information on political topics online (Fig 4.10). Migrants and members of discriminated communities were again the most active in consumer participation (Fig. 4.12).

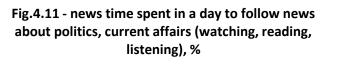


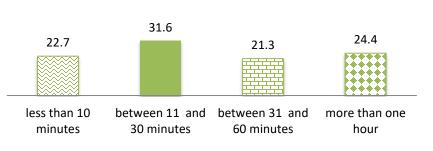
# Fig.4.12 - Consumer participation by social features (%)



One third of young people (31.6%) spend 10-30 minutes per day studying the political news agenda, while another 22.7% consumenews for less than 10 minutes a day. A further half of young people

PROMISE (GA693221)







(45.7%) spend more than 30 minutes a day consuming the news. Social characteristics that significantly affect the interest in daily reading of the political news have not been identified.