Ahead of the European elections in May 2014, Europe still finds itself in the midst of a crisis triggered by reckless financial speculators. Young people, in particular, are paying the price for a crisis they did not cause.

Our future is at stake, and it is not for sale!

The youth organisations of Europe’s Trade Union Federations stand united in their demand for immediate action from EU policy makers.

#back2ourfuture
Access to education and training is a universal right that should not depend on somebody’s financial means!

The skill needs of the labour market are changing more quickly in the age of globalisation. Access to lifelong learning programs and advanced education should depend on somebody’s qualification and not on one’s ability to pay for them. The attractiveness of the EU as a location for industry highly depends on the qualification of its workforce. Only by investing in training of the employees can Europe’s innovation potential be fully exhausted.

Mobility should be a choice and not a necessity for finding work!

Freedom of movement is one of the biggest accomplishments of the European Union. However, social cohesion amongst Europe’s member states must be advanced before accepting that there will be winners and losers in the competition for skilled workers. Many skilled young people are forced to take their search for work outside of the EU altogether, devastating their home communities and families and leaving a skills vacuum in the EU. Every EU citizen should have the possibility to find a decent job in his or her home country.

Stop precarious work!

Young workers – especially women and migrants - are abnormally and unacceptably concentrated in precarious forms of employment, often becoming trapped in a vicious cycle of dead-end, low-paid, fixed-term and poorly protected jobs and internships. Whilst companies boost their profits, the economic costs of increasingly precarious work for the EU are enormous and undermine public social security and health care systems and endanger the European social model.

Respect for Social Partners’ agreements!

Constructive Social Dialogue safeguards jobs and employment. Strong social partnerships are a core competence of the EU labour market and have a key role to play in integrating young workers into the labour market. The EU institutions are expected to actively support Social Partners in their role and refrain from blocking any Social Partners’ agreements.

Recruiting young people to the labour force should always be a key component of Collective Bargaining!

Trade Unions have a particular responsibility for giving a voice to those who are struggling to be heard. We call on our Social Partners to include the issue of creating quality jobs for young workers as a priority in Collective Bargaining negotiations.