Well, Well, Well... Wellness. Young professionals and the spirit of well-being

GenY: what do we know?

GenY prioritizes "meaningful work" over high pay.

GenY prefers career growth over hierarchy.

GenY picks social consciousness over profit.

GenY values flexibility, work-life balance, and family.

GenY has valued remote working long before the pandemic.



Compromising or just growing up?

Harsh times have forced millennials to compromise.

Their employers have failed to deliver on diversity and work-life balance.

Gradually, GenY priorities resemble these of GenX.

Pragmatism trumps principle.



What we wanted to learn

Do Greek millennials cherish the same principles?

Have the crisis & the pandemic affected their views?

What do they think about their employers?



Online survey, April 2021 427 responses – Sample ID



Findings

Which of the factors below affect your well-being at work, negatively?



Anxiety over my professional safety / security.

Anxiety for my personal finances and my financial management.

Anxiety to keep up with professional demands.

Remote working deprives me from the opportunity to learn next to more experienced colleagues.

Everyday stress and pressure at work.

No time and / or no mood for social or personal relationships outside work.

No time and / or no mood for exercise.

There is conflict and / or lack of communication with my peers.

There is conflict and / or lack of communication with my supervisors or with leadership teams.

My professional commitments extend beyond my working hours, taking from my personal time.

Significant effect



Which of the factors below would improve your well-being at work?

How effectively do you think you claim your well-being?





Well-being & career progression: what is your view?



Career progression brings more well-being, because prosperity and influence increase (53,4%)

Career progression reduces well-being because it comes with responsibilities and stress (20,4%)

Career progression does not affect well-being. Well-being depends on the individual (19,4%)

How has the pandemic affected your sense of well-being in your workplace?



- Very positively
- Somewhat positively
- Somewhat negatively
- Very negatively
- Not at all

Their comments?

Employers should foster well-being – this is win-win

Tiny rewards and incentives have huge psychological impact

Salaries, bonuses, benefits come at the expense of employee rights

Employers do not care about well-being or burn-out

Well-being is first and foremost about making a living

The pandemic does not help new employees blend and learn

Women need to try harder to achieve as much as men



Their 2 cents?

Progress is good but not at the expense of personal life

Progress increases well-being when you aim at fulfillment, not just money. Well-being is multifaceted.

Progress comes with more stress

Nothing more important than free time and empathy.



Conclusion

Greek millennials cherish work-life balance and well-being.

They know this is not about the money, but they still can't make a living. However, they are willing to invest in the future.

Their employers do not deliver. Our respondents feel overworked & underpaid; nobody cares for their development, if they will ever have a family, or are on the verge of burn-out.

Remote work is an advantage; isolation & lockdowns are not.

They value flexibility in working conditions but stability in terms of employer principles, growth schemes and working relationships.



Discussion & proposals

Provide purpose	Support future growth	Approach wellness holistically	Foster flexibility	Promote work integration	Address new parenthood
the socially responsible employer brand matters.	lifelong training, mentoring, career planning.	in a tech-savvy manner.	in working conditions- not in employment terms.	Work no longer occurs in a separate place & time. Make GenY feel at home when at work.	The GenY dad is not just a bread-winner; the GenY mom is not just a low ambition employee.



Thank you!

Georgia-Zozeta Miliopoulou, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Deree ACG gmiliopoulou@acg.edu



