

New Generation Dialogue

Representatives of New Generations in the Face of Future Challenges



Editing: Piotr Drzewiecki

Cooperating team: Nela Lejczak
Katarzyna Grajcar
Joanna Teysler
Paweł Potocki
Kaja Skrzypczak

Consultation: Marta Dzik
Barbara Moś
Tomasz Opar

Publisher: Instytut Rozwoju Edukacji Prawnej i Społeczeństwa Obywatelskiego
www.irepso.pl

Graphic design and typesetting: Tomasz Lamorski

Photographs:: Marcin Zieliński

Warsaw 2021.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or re-printed without a written consent of the Institute for the Development of Legal Education and Civil Society. The above also refers to the transfer of data to computer systems, making photocopies and micro-films.

ISBN: 978-83-963618-0-6

Spis treści

Introduction from Rafał Nasuto – President of the Management Board of the Institute	6
Message from Guests	7
Project Schedule and Key Events of Youth Policy	9
Project Activities	10
Dialogue Ambassadors	18
Partner Organisations of the New Generation Dialogue	22
Study Methodology	36
Study Results	38
Summary of Studied Areas	47
Recommendations	52
Activities of the Institute's Team	58
Recapitulation	60

New Generation Dialogue

Representatives of New Generation in the Face of Future Challenges

Report

Warsaw, December 2021

About the **New Generation Dialogue** Project

For almost 10 years, Poland has not had a document that would be a signpost for the young people who become engaged in social activities with a hope for their opinion to have at least a minimum impact on the reality surrounding them in the public sphere. Poland has lacked a youth strategy. A number of grass roots initiatives became a field for acquiring experience in self-governance and social activism - yet it has not been properly managed. The diagnosis above, which became the foundation of the New Generation Dialogue, relies on a detailed analysis of the hitherto actions initiated in the area of youth participation not only in Poland, but also on the international arena. Paradoxically, it was the time of the pandemic that became a period when a number of organisations, and also the government, found resources to start initiatives addressed to young people, taking a considerably active stance. In 2021, a number of actions fundamental

from the point of view of youth participation were initiated, such as the series of meetings 'Youth in the Palace' organised by the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, or the consultations of the 'Strategy of the Republic of Poland for the Young Generation', organised as part of the operation of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Young Generation. The aforementioned consultations undoubtedly expanded the debate onto issues concerning the young people. In spite of it, a uniform standpoint accounting for the needs of young Poles has not been worked out.

The New Generation Dialogue project is viewed as an attempt of taking things a step further. The studies carried out by the Institute, which acquired a solid substance in the form of this report, mark opening onto all young people who have the opportunity to identify with the presented study theses - even if they have not been interested in youth organisations and activities so far. Similarly to all young people, we care about the actual effects which impact the world here and now. However, we believe that it is only on the basis of reliable studies that we are able to implement the proposed solutions. Given the above, this report not only crowns the project, but also marks the beginning of changes that will be consistently pursued by the Institute for the Development of Legal Education and Civil Society.



Introduction from **Rafał Nasuto - President of the Institute's Management Board**



Dear Sir(s) and Madam(s),

The year 2021 was a time of intense work in our Institute. We started our operation with a bang from a debate titled 'Self-Governance of Youth in the New Legal State.' In the course of the debate - noticing the huge engagement of young people in social issues - we became convinced that the goal that we have set our eyes on makes sense. This goal is to support the voice of the young people in Poland. When opening one of the events organised as part of the New Generation Dialogue, I quoted the words attributed to Jan Zamoyski: 'Such will be the future Republic as the upbringing of its youth.' It goes without doubt that properly educated youth, aware of the significance of agency in the public life, will shape the reality surrounding us in the future. It is very important to effectively on-board young people to the mechanisms of operation of a civil society.

Implementing the New Generation Dialogue, we have managed to reach many youth milieus, social organisations and decision-makers. I am very happy that they showed trust to the Institute for the Development of Legal Education and Civil Society, which allows us to facilitate a dialogue between the young and the decision-makers. This is not an easy task. Our Institute, similarly to many non-governmental organisations, had to monitor the epidemiological situation on an ongoing basis and adjust to the reality changing by the day. A considerable part of the project was performed in a hybrid formula. Even though distance separated us, we were united by a joint goal: better future for the representatives of the young generation. We have not disappointed them!

Here, I would like to thank the Team of the Institute. We have started from a small group of enthusiasts, but have managed to find a number of ambitious, diligent and greatly talented young people. One of the opportunities for getting to know their ideas about improving the situation of the young people in our country was during a training and integration trip. It was then - surrounded by the beautiful Polish nature that motivated so many brilliant minds - listening to the discussions of people who are just entering the adult world that I was able to learn about their problems. I found out what changes they expect and how they see their own and their peers' future. This is when I understood the vastness of work still ahead of us. However, this does not change the fact that I am proud of what we have managed to accomplish so far. You can read more about it in this report. Once again, I would like to thank all the young people engaged in work as part of the New Generation Dialogue. Without their contribution, ideas and recommendations, we would not have been able to accomplish so much.

Rafał Nasuto

*President of the Management Board
of the Institute for the Development
of Legal Education and Civil Society*

Message from Guests



Dear Decision-Makers, Researchers, Observers and Readers,

The Institute for the Development of Legal Education and Civil Society has the pleasure of putting the report where the leitmotif is far-sightedness into your hands.

From the perspective of modern democracy and civil society, nobody needs to be taught about the necessity of taking care of the future of the young generation. The subsequent initiatives and the appointed youth consulting bodies or the local councils of young people that are set up are the best testimony of this. From the institutional point of view, there are no studies that would identify the problem issues in a long-term perspective and present a vision of our country by the young people in 5, 10 or 15 years - from their perspective.

This report is an exceptional tool supporting the process of decision making. Following hundreds of hours of work of the Institute's experts, thanks to the exceptional commitment of volunteers and persons who took part in the study, we have managed to capture the expectations of the young people with respect to the future challenges. The fruit of our labour should be the starting point for a further discussion and for searching for and implementing the solutions.

The report was prepared in the conditions of epidemiological hazard. Events related to the pandemic already constitute a peculiar generation trauma. This period, in spite of its tragic undertones, may be a turning point in a number of areas of our daily life. The present-day situation has thus to be interpreted as a certain risk, a threat and a chance. There is a potential risk that - after a spate of youth consulting bodies being set up - the voice of the young generation with respect to other problems that were brought forward will cease to be heard. The possibility of a bold change that may be made in the direction of a number of hitherto activities or facilitation of the hitherto mechanisms, which in the pandemic conditions have turned out to be imperfect or ineffective, is definitely a chance.

The combined evaluation of the hitherto processes and the aforementioned far-sightedness will allow us to deliver solutions that the young generation is waiting for. On the other hand, wherever the vision seems to be less optimistic, there is still time to implement repair activities and to counteract the potential crises.

I would like to thank everybody who made their valuable contribution of time and means to the preparation of this report. I would also like to thank everybody who shared their opinions with us, which allowed us to prepare a comprehensive study. Without you, this project would not have been possible.

Tomasz Opar

Chairman of the Council of the IREPSO Foundation

Message from Guests



Dear Readers,

A difficult year is behind us. It was a year of multiple sacrifices and hard work. I am happy that in spite of so many events on which we had no impact, it was possible to complete the work on this publication in compliance with the original plans. This would not have happened without the commitment of many people for whom the vision of the young people who have actual impact on the surrounding reality is dear. In this place, I would like to thank them heartily.

It is impossible to list all of them and that is why I refer you to the chapter devoted to our Partners in detail. We were intent on presenting youth organisations that can often be seen as a paragon. Thanks to the young and socially active people, the position of the young generation in our country is becoming stronger and more stable.

A lot of good was done for the young people in the last year: the Youth Council was set up by the President of the Republic of Poland; the Youth Justice Council was established, two large cycles of social consultations were under way, in the course of which the young people had the opportunity to present their ideas for Poland.

The activities of the Institute for the Development of Legal Education and Civil Society contribute to this trend. We hope that the interest in youth affairs will not subside but continue to grow.

I think that we can look into the future with optimism. If the premises of social participation are preserved, in line with the 'nothing about us without us' rule, I believe that the ideas that appear also in this publication will stand a chance for consideration. However, let us not rest on laurels; the results of questionnaire surveys indicate that the young people look into the future with pessimism. The decision-makers must carefully observe the issues and recommendations notified by the young people. After all, young people are the future.

Piotr Drzewiecki

*Social Participation Expert
Institute for the Development
of Legal Education and Civil Society*

Project Schedule and Key Events of Youth Policy

2021

III	■ 1 March	start of project performance
	■ 14 March	announcement of results of recruitment to the ambassador programme
	■ 24 March	first training and on-boarding meeting for the ambassadors
IV	■ 10 April	second meeting of the ambassadors
	■ 26 April	meeting titled 'How to Start a Career in Youth Consulting Bodies?' organised by Ambassador Nela Lejczak
V	■ 29 April	meeting titled 'Commitment is Worth Your While' carried out by Ambassador Michał Piatucha
	■ 9 May	meeting carried out by Ambassador Katarzyna Jankowska - discussion with medicine students about the modes of engaging young doctors in the life of local communities
VI	■ 1 June	ceremonious signing of the amendment act devoted to youth councils by Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland
VII	■ 15 July	Round Table for Climate Education
	■ 24 July	debate 'Self-Governance of Youth in the New Legal Reality'
VIII	■ 1 August	training trip of the ambassadors to Dadaj
	■ 21 August	conference 'Youth Vs. Climate: Role of Young Generation in Creating Sustainable Poland of the Future'
IX	■ 11 October	publication of analysis 'Young Poles in the Face of Climate Changes'
	■ 14 October	establishment of Youth Council by the National Development Council
X	■ 15 October	publication of analysis 'Legal Education as Efficient Mode of Forming Legal Awareness of Youth in the Area of Justice System'
	■ 28 October	publication of analysis 'Analysis of Regulatory Potential of Internship'
XI	■ 20 November	debate 'Youth Vs. COP'
	■ 25 November	presentation of report devoted to the internship in the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland
	■ 27 November	debate 'International Youth Engagement and Participation'
XII	■ 28 November	discussion devoted to civil participation of youth
	■ 5 December	publication of analysis 'Legal Determinants of Social Participation of Youth in Poland'
	■ 18 December	presentation of report 'New Generation Dialogue. Representatives of Young Generation in the Face of Future Challenges'
	■ 26 December	publication of analysis 'UN and Sustainable Development: Role of Youth'
	■ 31 grudnia	project recapitulation and completion

Project Activities

The New Generation Dialogue comprised a number of actions, implemented both 'live' and in a remote mode. This chapter presents them in detail in division into five basic categories: ambassador programme, accompanying events, studies, analyses and school classes. The detailed descriptions of initiatives taken in each category are presented below.



AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

The ambassadors' task during the project was ongoing support for the Foundation's team, participation in events organised by the Institute and engagement in broadly-understood promotional activities encompassing, in particular, sharing information with the local non-governmental organisations, educational establishments and youth milieus about the project, on-line meetings and performed studies. These actions were carried out both on-line and on-site. On their social media profiles, the ambassadors shared content devoted to the project, distributed leaflets among the representatives of the young generation

in the place of their residence along with information about the project and encouraged young people to take part in the project.

The activities of the ambassadors selected to take part in the New Generation Dialogue started with training sessions aimed at preparing them for the future functions. The first one was held in March 2021. The young researchers exchanged their opinions about the possibilities of promoting youth activism and got to know the team with which they worked later. The issues discussed back then referred to the presentation of the project assumptions along with plans of actions taken by the ambassadors at the first stage. All the ambassadors executed relevant volunteer agreements.

The second meeting was held on 10 April 2021 in a hybrid form: some ambassadors met in Warsaw, while others participated in a remote form. Furthermore, the ambassadors completed training on project risk management.





The third meeting took place on 27 April 2021; it had the form of training and referred to the internationalisation of youth activism. It was carried out in an asynchronous form by Agata Krząstek - the former Youth Delegate of the Republic of Poland to the UN, who discussed issues pertaining to international youth activism, operation of organisations bringing together young people from all over the world, as well as activation schemes of the European Union.

The classes intended for the project ambassadors were aimed at preparing them for the future challenges. During the meetings, apart from discussing the coordination issues, each ambassador could also say a few words, share their opinions about the state of legal awareness and indicate the directions of actions that were of special interest to them.

Between 31 July and 1 August, 2021 the ambassadors took part in a training trip to Dadaj (Warmińsko-mazurskie Province). During the trip, the team had the opportunity of participating in workshops on public speeches, work in front of the camera, as well as voice emission. The classes were taught by actors and graduates of the State Higher Film, Television and Theatre School of Leon Schiller in Łódź, Jakub Jakubiec and Wiktor Piechowski. The ambassadors also took part in a training session devoted to foresight of the organisations from the third sector, significance of development and mission in ongoing operation, as well as forms of participation of organisations of this type in court, administrative court and administrative proceedings.

Moreover, the ambassadors participated in the organisation of two hybrid events::

- Debate titled 'Self-Governance of Youth in the New Legal Reality' on 24 July 2021 (Warsaw),
- Conference 'Youth and Climate: Role of Young Generation in Building Sustainable Poland of the Future' on 21 August 2021 and three moderated debates carried out in a remote form:
- 'Youth Vs. COP: Debate Attended By Young Poles Attending the Climate Summit';
- 'International Youth Engagement and Participation' (in English) on 27 November 2021;
- 'Civil Participation of Youth' on 28 November 2021.

Apart from the above-listed events, the ambassadors carried out on-line meetings with young activists, e.g. residents of the Opole Province, Wrocław, young physicians and members of the Youth Climate Council court, administrative court



and administrative proceedings by the Ministry of Climate and Environment. A series of talks with the representatives of the young generation was held in the spirit of promoting these values and focused on the issues forming a general scope of interest of the project. The discussions were posted on the YouTube channel and pertained to such issues as: social engagement of young physicians and medicine students, first steps in youth consulting organisations, as well as the significance of youth activism from the perspective of young councillors. The talks offered a number of interesting conclusions and became one of the forms allowing for expanding knowledge about the scope of civil activities of young people.

The New Generation Dialogue Ambassadors also visited pupils in Warsaw general secondary schools - they offered classes on legal education, as described in detail in the section titled 'School Classes.' They were also responsible for testing the initial version of the study.

ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

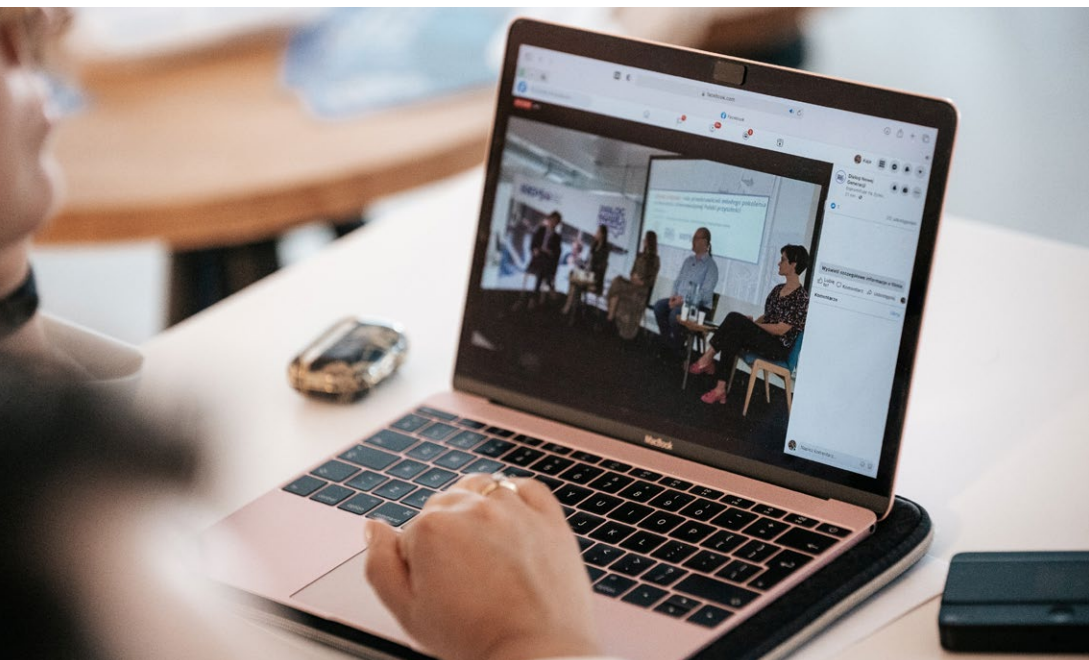
During the project, a number of events were held; their aim was to improve the level of legal awareness and promote civil society. One of such events was the debate 'Self-Governance of Youth in the New Legal Reality' combined with

workshops on 24 July 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to dispense doubts related to the application of the amended provisions on the commune and poviát youth councils and the youth regional assembly. Persons engaged in the operation of such authorities, members of youth councils, as well as all other persons who wanted to expand their knowledge about youth participation in the new legal reality were invited to take part in the free event.

On 21 August 2021, the second accompanying event took place in Warsaw: a conference titled 'Young People Vs. Climate: Role of Young Generation Representatives in Creating Sustainable Poland of the Future' organised by the Institute for the Development of Legal Education and Civil Society with the support of V4SDG - Visegrad for Sustainability (partner organisation of the project). On account of the increased risk of corona virus infections, the event was organised in a hybrid form (along with on-line transmission, yet with a smaller number of participants taking part in the real-life event). The account from the event is available on our website. The conference was meant to tackle issues significant in the 21st century and to offer young people a space for acquiring knowledge and discussion. After opening the event by Rafał Nasuto, President of the Management Board of IREPSO, Łukasz Rzepecki, Youth Advisor to the President of the Management Board took the floor and stressed the significance of youth participation in actions for the sake of climate, as well as expressed gratitude for the operation of the Institute for the Development of Legal Education and Civil



Society. The first part of the event was a debate devoted to the legal aspects of climate changes; it was attended by: attorney Maja Frontczak (GESSEL Law Firm), Marcin Kowalczyk (WWF Polska), Weronika Szyszka (United Nations Association – Poland) and Julia Kozakiewicz (ClientEarth – Lawyers for the Earth). The debate pertaining to the issue of climate suits was moderated by Piotr Drzewiecki from IREPSO. In the next part, Jakub Wiech, deputy editor-in-chief of Energetyka24, offered a presentation devoted to nuclear energy. The meeting ended with a discussion. Parts of the event were also edited and posted on YouTube.



In turn, on 20 November 2021, between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m., a debate titled 'Youth Vs. COP' was held with the participation of young Poles who represented Poland during the COP26 conference. The discussion offered an insight into their tasks carried out during the event and their subjective impressions about it. The debate was attended by the chairwoman of the Youth Climate Council by the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Sylwia Łyskawka. The recording from the event is available on YouTube.

Less than a week later, on 27 November 2021 between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m., another event was held: 'International Youth Engagement and Participation' focusing on a search for the true meaning of the still developing youth participation

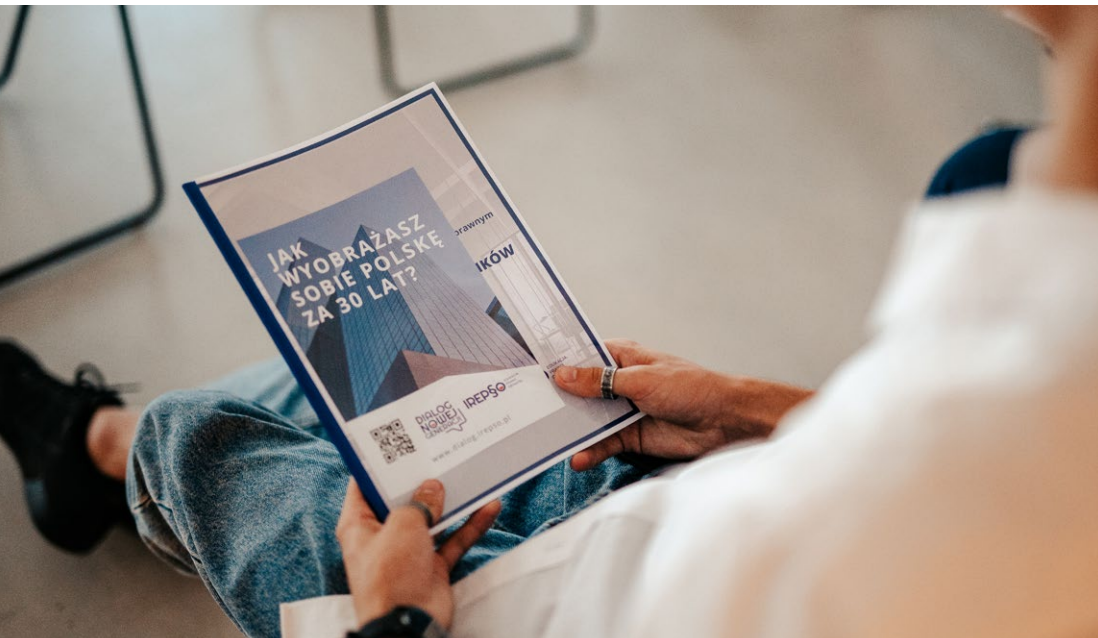
in social life. Also here, the discussion was attended by young activists, including the participants of COP26, who recounted their recent activities, as well as provided recommendations pertaining to the development of youth politics in the future. Vladislav Kaim, UN Secretary General's Youth Climate Advisor, shared his message for the participants of the event.



Another event attracting attention to the significance of youth activism was the debate organised on 28 November 2021 between 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. titled 'Civil Participation of Youth.' The meeting sparked a discussion and led to working out of joint criteria which provided a clue for the young councillors on how to set up and build youth consulting bodies in today's world and how to improve their functioning at the time of the pandemic and legislative changes. The areas that - from the councillor's perspective - deserve special attention were discussed, along with risks related to the next wave of SARS-CoV-2.

Our ambassadors who performed organisational and coordinating functions attended all the events, in this way acquiring experience along with improving their soft skills, greatly needed in today's world. As part of the accompanying activities, they also held numerous talks with the representatives of the young generation. Special attention should be paid to the talk of 29 April 2021 about

the future of youth councils, local governments and young people. The discussion was attended by Lidia Prabucka and Iwo Sara - former chairpersons of the Youth Council of Wrocław and activists engaged in various social initiatives. Given the pandemic situation, the discussion was held on-line and the main subject matter of the meeting was an attempt at answering the question how we should aim for making the voice of youth more audible and respected among the political decision-makers.



STUDIES

Studies carried out as part of the New Generation Dialogue focused on the analysis of convictions, beliefs and expectations of young Poles (between 15-24 years of age) with respect to social policy, justice system, as well as participation of youth. To this aim, an on-line survey was used; completing it lasted less than 20 minutes and one of the key tasks was answering the question about the shape of our state in the nearest future.

In relation to the promotion of the study, a competition was organised between 14 and 21 June 2021. The terms of participation stipulated answering the question which of the three areas that formed the subject matter of the discussion required

introduction of greatest changes. Based on the results received in the survey, numerous recommendations were prepared pertaining to the reinforcement of the role of the young generation in the formation of public policies. Detailed study results are presented in the Study Results chapter.

ANALYSES

Another goal of the project was preparation of analyses pertaining to the level of legal and civil education, the issue of free internship, as well as the current state of knowledge about climate education.

The first one, titled 'Young Poles in the Face of Climate Changes' where the level of liability and agency of the young was studied, along with the role of youth organisations at the central and local government level, as well as access to reliable information pertaining to climate changes, was published on 11 October 2021. Its author noted a high level of anxiety with respect to climate changes among young Europeans, which is accompanied by support for the idea of state intervention, but also drew attention to the fact that the awareness of climate crisis does not always translate to the engagement in any specific environmental practice. What differentiates the stances of young Poles is their attitude to progress and nature - greater scepticism with respect to the capitalist social





order is often accompanied by a deeper relationship to nature and greater belief in climate changes. On the one hand, insufficient and definitely unequal climate education in the Polish schools is noted. On the other, the exceptional form of participation of young people in public affairs is highlighted, namely youth councils, often performing activating and educating functions among peers with respect to the broadly understood environmental protection. However, these actions may be insufficient. The author of the analysis notes the necessity of greater engagement of young Poles in the public debate, expanding school education about climate and guaranteeing proper substantive support on the part of councillors and officials for youth councils. One of the main goals of actions taken should be fostering a sense of agency among the young, as well as creating conditions that allow for acquisition of reliable knowledge which in the future will allow them to take responsible election and consumer decisions.

The next analysis, titled 'Legal Education as Efficient Mode of Shaping Legal Awareness of Youth in the Justice System Area', appeared already on 15 October 2021. It encompassed an attempt at defining the concept of legal education and changes in its meaning in the era of civilisation changes. The author stressed

that it was one of the major instruments for creating a responsible civil stance, performing an adaptive function (formation of high quality legal awareness of an individual to face the legal challenges encountered in daily life), as well as emancipatory and critical role (development of own legal identity via active participation in the processes of creation, application and change of law). Nevertheless, the study has shown that the issue of developing legal education has been neglected - no coordinated actions are taken to improve it, while all the institutions that are in majority not professionally engaged in the area of analyses of this type have been using obsolete data for a number of years. At the present moment, youth activation programmes on the local government level



are missing, along with organisations engaged in the legal education of youth. The recommendations include the necessity of further studies on teaching efficiency of young people on the part of civil education teachers, as well as a review of effective changes in the system of education, accounting for a change in the core curriculum by the Ministry of National Education. The necessity of activating youth with the use of relevant measures was also noted; they should be adjusted to the reality of the digital age and implemented with the use of

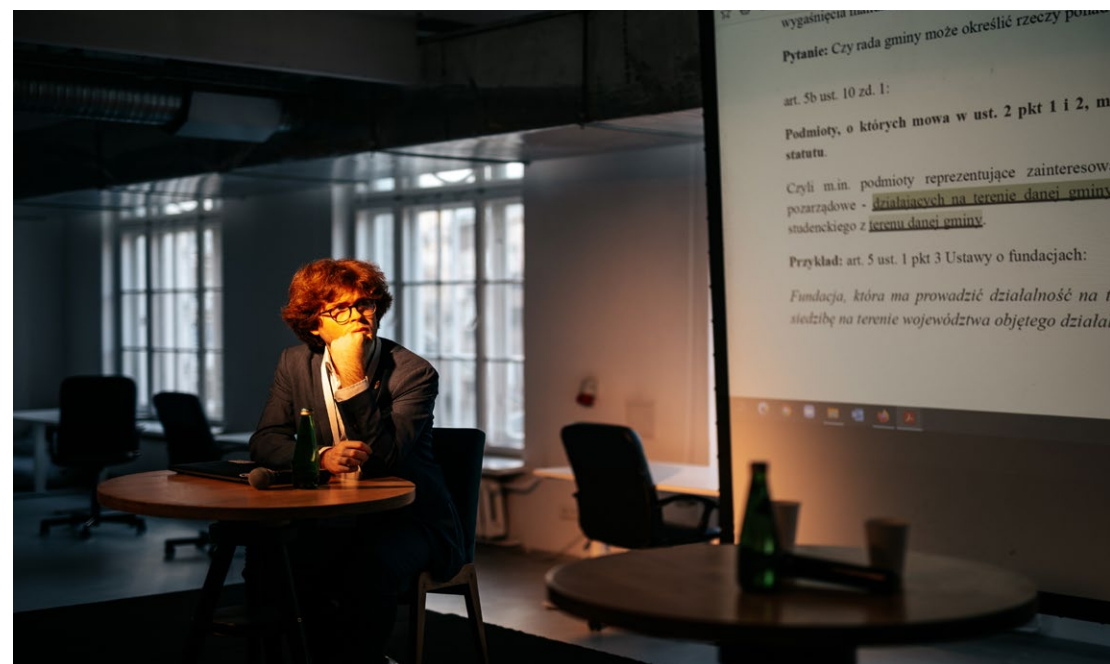


the Internet as a tool allowing for improvement of the methods of teaching and distribution of information.

The 'Analysis of Regulatory Potential of Internship' - the most recent theme addressed as part of the project performance - was published on 28 October 2021. One of the primary goals was a look at the issue of free internship offered to young people and its popularity not only in the country, but also in the entire European Union. The effects of this phenomenon were also analysed in order to propose specific changes. The authors note that only every second young Pole receives pay for the internship; however, in the majority of cases, it is not sufficient to cover even the basic costs of life. Here, the results of an action titled 'Internship. Check Before You Do It' and a study carried out by the European Law Students' Association, where as many as 78% of surveyed law students did not receive payment for the performed work or their hourly rate was much lower from the minimum salary, was brought forward.

The analysis stressed the lack of uniform EU legislation regulating the aspect of payment for internship completed by young people. This problem is also aggravated by diverse situation of young people in individual member states of the European Union, while the current legal state in Poland is definitely not

encouraging practical learning of a profession and reduces the attractiveness of internship. This implies a contrast between the reality and the assumption of training young employees, which in consequence delays their entry at the labour market and commencement of stable, gainful employment subject to social security contributions or even completely discourages them from it. The authors of the analysis, wishing to counteract this problem, proposed introduction of a ban on free internship in reference to constitutional principles and a recommendation of control of such regulations by the State Labour Inspection. The provisions of the act on minimum salary should also apply to internship, similarly to civil law agreements, while the maximum pay for internship, regulated by the act on graduate internship, would be abolished. Additionally, the necessity of introducing a ban on completion of internship based on payment for the sake of the accepting entity, along with specification of a deadline for issue of a certificate on completion of such training was also noted. The issue of extending the maximum period of internship was also raised and freedom as far as the work time system of the interns is concerned, attracting attention to their right to holiday. A proposal was also made to add the period of internship to the years of work, which affects, among others, the right to retirement. The performed analysis has clearly shown the ill-adjustment of the current state of internship regulations with respect to the reality of the contemporary world and the social





needs of young citizens, which in consequence leads to abuse and pathology. The necessity of considering potential amendments in legal regulations pertaining to internship was noted, accounting for the degree of complexity of the provisions, as well as the breadth and depth of statutory changes. The authors of the analysis expressed their conviction about the necessity of holding consultations with a broad group of entities and preparing regulations on the level of an act or a regulation of the Council of Ministers. The analysis was the object of a session of the Youth Council of the National Development Council operating as an advisory body by the President of the Republic of Poland. During the session, the Institute's experts handed copies of the analysis to the members of the council and the directors of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland.

The analyses that are available on the dialog.irepso.pl website, apart from indicating the current situation, also include a number of conclusions and recommendations of changes in the present-day state of affairs. Simultaneously, the authors expressed their hope that transformations are feasible, along with better adjustment of the world surrounding us to the modern reality. As part of the New Generation Dialogue, five analyses have been prepared to date.

SCHOOL CLASSES

The New Generation Dialogue ambassadors, expressing their conviction that the civil awareness is formed in schools, promoted social activism also in educational establishments. They visited the students of the 43rd Comprehensive Secondary School of Casimir the Great in Warsaw and the 23rd Comprehensive Secondary School of Maria Skłodowska-Curie in Warsaw, where they held classes on civil education and, via distribution of leaflets, encouraged the young people to take part in the survey.

PROMOTION AND ON-LINE PRESENCE

Throughout the period of its operation, the New Generation Dialogue has been present on-line. Project activities could also be followed in social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube and on the www.dialog.irepso.pl website. Apart from ongoing activities related to the project performance, we also informed the audience about events in the area of social participation, climate and the system of justice that are important for the young people. Thanks to these activities, we managed to reach over 200,000 respondents, increasing their awareness about the issue in question.



Dialogue Ambassadors

As part of the New Generation Dialogue, an ambassador programme was carried out, aimed at activating sixteen volunteers selected via open recruitment. The recruitment for persons wishing to act as the ambassadors of the project was carried out between 2 and 14 March 2021. Persons interested in participation in the programme applied by completing and sending (via an electronic system) a recruitment form available on the IREPSO Foundation's website. The recruitment was carried out in a single-stage procedure. Its task was to verify the selected competence of the candidates, among others their knowledge in the area identical with the subject matter of the programme, as well as skills and motivation to act for the sake of the civil society. Next, the competition jury evaluated the candidates - among 32 complete applications fulfilling formal requirements, 16 ambassadors were selected from various regions of Poland.



It must be stressed that every ambassador - before the start of the programme - had the possibility of offering a voluntary presentation and showing his/ her perspectives and ideas to other members of the Institute. The ambassador programme that was created had educational and workshop character. It was mainly focused on expanding knowledge and skills of the ambassadors and developing their soft competence. Thanks to effective and clear communication, via reciprocal and internal dialogue, a space has been created for discussion and work in the area of youth politics and civil issues for a number of young people.

To streamline the joint work of the ambassadors, deriving from various milieus and regions of Poland, a special cloud-based drive was created to store the useful materials and training content. Furthermore, every ambassador was provided with an individual e-mail address to facilitate direct contact between

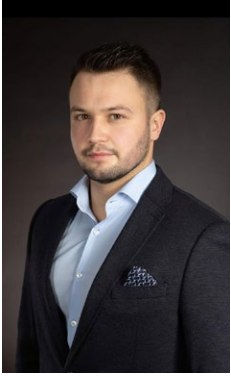
the recipients of the activities and the presented content. Thanks to the one-to-one relation, both the ambassador and the person who contacted the Institute could easily discuss the proposals of projects and postulates and determine technical issues.

Furthermore, a sub-page of the New Generation Dialogue programme was designed and made available at the following address: www.dialog.irepso.pl, where the Ambassadors' tab features photos of all ambassadors along with their contact details.

During the programme, the ambassadors took part in trainings devoted to statistical studies, dialogue with KOLs and public presentations, as well as integration and organisational meetings, described in detail in the Project Activities chapter.

The ambassadors formed a well-integrated team; they jointly discussed the actions taken, planned and organised events and analysed completed activities. However, each of the ambassadors had their own place in the project and dealt with individual tasks. Thanks to this, the actions taken by the Institute were diverse and guaranteed a broad choice for diverse recipients. The interested persons were able to find something matching their interests. At the same time, it should be noted that the programme provided added value for the ambassadors, as testified by their opinions - they were asked to summarise their participation in the project and to list benefits that they gained from it.





Wiktor Ciachera

The New Generation Dialogue is a unique opportunity to expand knowledge about the development of legal education and operation of NGOs. Comprehensive trainings, combined with work with an active team, offer the desired effects not only in the area of theory, but also practice.

The workshops devoted to the issue of public presentations were particularly useful; hosted by professionals, they brought interesting effects.

I heartily encourage you to take part in such projects.



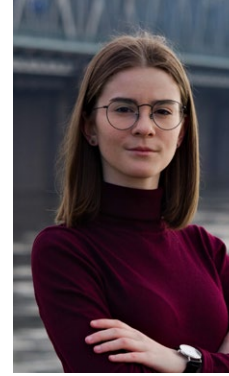
Katarzyna Grajcar

Participation in the ambassador project was a greatly valuable and interesting experience for me; thanks to it, I not only improved my competence, but primarily got to know some wonderful, inspiring people who - just like me - want to change the reality surrounding us. The programme gave me an opportunity of acting for the sake of young people, their legal education and social participation. It also allowed me to see how important it is to listen to the young, and to talk to them not only because they are the next generation of leaders and creators of the future, but also because they have the capacity of introducing changes and improving the current situation of their society.



Rafał Kazik

The New Generation Dialogue has been intent on developing young people since the very beginning. Our task was to draw attention of the young to the problems that we are facing nowadays. Participation in the Dialogue allowed us to reach out to the young people and to assess whether the view on the problems identified by us is the same in the eyes of the young. From the ambassador's perspective, participation in the project was an opportunity for me to develop my soft skills, to expand knowledge in the area of law and youth politics and to meet young people.



Aleksandra Klicka

The desire to continue activities in areas related to the young generation, its participation in the public life and needs that should be diagnosed and addressed were my primary incentive to join the New Generation Dialogue. My knowledge about the Institute and the individual persons who make up IREPSO additionally solidified my conviction that a project like the New Generation Dialogue makes sense and may bring real changes. Participation in the project allowed mQCe to develop my interests and expand knowledge in the area of youth participation, in particular by taking part in the debates, workshops and trainings organised by

the IREPSO. The possibility of meeting the representatives of youth advisory bodies and talking about their operation, great projects, but also problems and needs were a valuable experience for me.



Katarzyna Jankowska

I think that the project was great! The main assumption was to reach out to the largest group of young people possible in order to learn their opinions about climate policy, justice system and youth participation. Apart from it, the Foundation fulfilled the educational part of the project excellently.

During the project, I was engaged in a number of initiatives, including promotion of issues that I am involved in, for example writing a popular science paper about vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 when a lot of young people wondered about the differences between the preparations offered by different companies,

drafting a note about loans for medical studies when the Council of Ministers adopted a draft amendment to the Law on Higher Education and Science and an interview with young active students from the Collegium Medicum of the Jagiellonian University, where I study, about their activities and motivation to become engaged in the life of the university.

The Foundation allowed me to grow on a number of levels. I have very good memories of the integration trip to Mazury, in the course of which we focused on our soft skills and learnt how to perform in front of a camera and what to pay attention to during presentations and how to practice pronunciation. Additionally, I had the pleasure of participating in the Poland 2.0 Summit conference in Warsaw, in the course of which I could compare the nature of problems of the Polish students studying in Poland and students in other countries.

Last but not least, I received a number of gifts from the IREPSO Foundation: a warm jumper, a thermal mug and a power bank that has accompanied me during multiple trips.



Maciej Kubiak

In my opinion, acting for the benefit of young people is worthwhile because young people are the most valuable investment with which we can cooperate on a daily basis; a young man needs inspiration, assistance and support in accomplishing his goals. The accomplishments of young people give me optimism as far as the future of Poland and the world is concerned. As the ambassador, I handled cooperation with other members of the project and performance of tasks assigned by them.



Nela Lejczak

It is good to demand from others, but you primarily have to make demands from yourself. Let's be willing to change, to offer help; let's get involved in the social life in our communities. This is the only way in which we can create a better future - for ourselves and for the others. Thank you for the opportunity of participating in the project that made me aware that we have to listen to one another and in particular to young people.



Mikołaj Niedźwiadek

I took part in the New Generation Dialogue because the project focused on the core problem, which is, first and foremost, lack of awareness among the young that they not only can, but should speak up in the public life, that their voice is important and should not be neglected or assessed as less valuable on account of lack of experience. Thanks to the participation in the project, I had the opportunity of taking part in very valuable conferences and meetings of representatives of youth city councils, non-governmental organisations and social activists. They have definitely contributed to the development of the voice of the young generation in the public realm.



Maciej Pastor

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of taking part in such seminal project! The programme allowed me to develop my soft skills and to meet people with similar values and the desire to act pro publico bono. With our joint forces, we were able to popularise issues that we all share, irrespective of differences in views and denomination and to promote interesting specialist knowledge in an accessible way during numerous debates and actions in the social media. I will always go back to the time with IREPSO with pleasure.





Fundacja na rzecz Praw Ucznia

Foundation for the Rights of Students (Fundacja na rzecz Praw Ucznia)

The Foundation for the Rights of Students was set up by a minor student. On 1 June 2019, he started to work on the establishment of the foundation; just two months later, one of his parents filed an application to allow a minor to perform legal actions exceeding the ordinary scope of management. The notarial deed setting up the Foundation was prepared on 23 October 2019. On the same day, an application was submitted to the commercial court in Poznań for registration of the Foundation in the National Court Register. The entry was made on 18 November 2019. This is how the Foundation for the Rights of Students was set up: a non-governmental organisation run by a student for other students. The Foundation is not only its president - there is also a group of volunteers, always ready to act.

The goals of the Foundation include, among others: popularisation of knowledge about the rights of students, bodies guarding the law and other important issues related to education, support and joint creation of initiatives and projects of natural and legal persons, public and private partnerships and public and social partnerships, as well as innovative educational, diagnostic, analytical and scientific projects, performance of activities within the scope of provision of free legal aid, protection of freedom, human rights and civil liberties, sustaining the national tradition, activities for the sake of national and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, promotion of volunteer services and activities for the sake of families.



Youth City Council of Białogard

The Youth City Council of Białogard was set up in 1997. For a number of years, it has served as the voice of the youth and a bridge between public institutions and the young generation in Białogard. It is also an advisory and consultative body. Young councillors are supported both by the local City Office and the City Council.

As part of their obligations, the youth councillors from Białogard are engaged in a number of initiatives: they actively join the assistance for the local community, among others the Szlachetna Paczka event, organise events and represent the young in the public sphere. They cooperate closely with the Youth Secretariat in the Zachodniopomorskie Province and other youth councils from all over the country. Youth councillors participate in ongoing consultations referring to issues pertaining to the young generation.



Youth City Council of Elbląg

The Youth City Council of Elbląg was set up on 30 May 2019. This is when the first session of the Youth City Council was held. Since that time, the council has participated in the social and political activities in the city. It comprises 56 pupils from Elbląg primary and secondary schools; the term of office lasts two years.

The Youth Council is the voice of the young and was set up to articulate the needs of Elbląg residents. One of its tasks is to convince the city council to become involved in the performance of projects worked out during the sessions of the Youth Council. Hence, it functions as a connection between the generations. It closely cooperates with the Euroregion Bałtyk Association of Communes of the Republic of Poland and the Civil Polonus Foundation. It receives support from city authorities, among others the mayor and the city council. The Council members took part in the SB YCGN project, which gave them an opportunity of comprehensive development and efficient actions. Another activity of the Council was the Round Table implemented together with Euroregion Bałtyk, in the course of which a number of conclusions were reached, discussed with experts and presented to the decision-makers. The subject matter was the Civil Budget. Additionally, the young councillors took part in such conferences as 'Pros and Cons of the Internet' and 'Europolis: Cities for the Young.' As a Council, they also represent the youth during celebrations and marches and get involved in charity events.

Youth City Council of Kędzierzyn Koźle

The Youth City Council of Kędzierzyn Koźle is a local government authority which comprises 18 young councillors from all primary and secondary schools in the city. Each school has one elected representative. The history of the Youth City Council goes back to 1997. The Council operated until 2005 when the city suspended its operation. It was re-established in 2011 and has been functioning to-date.

The Youth City Council represents the interests of the youngest members of the local community. It also provides them with a possibility of participating in the process of making decisions that are important for the commune. It actively participates in the life of the city and influences events that take place in the municipal space.

The Council focuses its activities in such areas as: culture and education, sport and recreation, ecology and healthy lifestyle. A significant part of the Council's operation was the time of the pandemic. However, it was not an impediment in its operation. The Council organised three on-line concerts and a number of interviews with artists and local social activists. It also prepared a report about remote education in the city, as well as joined the national events. The young councillors also cooperated during the preparation of Summer Discussions at the Forum and took part in the Second Opole Youth Congress. The councillors are constantly developing their skills and acting for the benefit of the local community.





Youth City Council of Kołobrzeg

The Youth City Council of Kołobrzeg represents studying youth from the Kołobrzeg area. Constituencies are located in schools - primary and secondary ones. The term of office of the council lasts two years and starts on 1 January. The operation of the Youth City Council is free and apolitical. The Council performs a consultative role. One of its main goals is to develop, support and popularise the idea of self-governance among the youth. The youth council also sets up thematic committees - for ecology, social policy, education and promotion - which are responsible for carrying out activities of the Council in respective areas.

The young councillors get involved in numerous initiatives in the city and join events that are organised in the city. One of them is the 'Open Mike' action, which took place before Christmas and allowed every resident of the city to say their Christmas wishes at Plac Ratuszowy. The event was greatly popular among the city's youth.



Youth Council of Cracow

The Youth Council of Cracow was set up thanks to the initiative and resolution of the Cracow City Council. Its task is to bring together representatives of school councils of the Cracow secondary schools. The council reviews ideas and problems of Cracow youth and acts to improve their situation in the city. It is the city's response to the growing popularity of youth councils in Poland. Youth councillors are the voice of the young generation in the Cracow City Council.

The Youth Council of Cracow, as part of its operation, organised a charity concert engaging Cracow schools. Every year, the Youth Council of Cracow organises a Christmas meeting with the Cracow student councils. It is primarily used for the integration of youth, exchange of experiences and showing young people the possibility of being active. The meeting is also attended by the Cracow councillors and activists.

The Youth Council of Cracow is the initiator of the National Congress of Youth Councils in Cracow. The Congress was an ideal event to establish and to reinforce cooperation among youth councils operating throughout Poland. In 2020, the National Ecological Congress of Youth Councils was also held. At the Congress, young councillors had an opportunity of learning about climate changes and holding discussion panels with experts on environmental protection.



Youth City Council of Lublin

The Youth City Council of Lublin was set up in 2006 to reinforce civil stances of young people from Lublin and to offer education as part of democratic processes. The structure, the goals and the measures of the youth council were constructed in a way to support development of young people with respect to the activities for the sake of the local community and learning the mechanisms of democracy. Elections for the youth council rely on the same principles as the elections to a parliament or a local government.

The Youth City Council of Lublin gets involved in various initiatives aimed at reinforcing the civil stances and supporting the activity of young residents of Lublin. It supports local associations of students in their activities by organising trainings, conferences and projects. In the project 'Youth in Politics - Politics for Youth', the councillors in cooperation with members of student unions have worked out recommendations for the mayor of Lublin within the scope of youth activity, operation of student councils and vocational counselling.

The Youth City Council of Lublin was an initiator of setting up a Youth Civil Budget of Lublin. The postulate of setting up the budget was one of the recommendations of the aforementioned project. The Youth Council also joined the performance of the Lublin - European Youth Capital 2023 initiative.



Youth Council of Piekary Śląskie

The Youth Council of Piekary Śląskie is a youth organisation that engages in educational and consulting activities and forms a part of the local government. It has been operating incessantly since 2004. It comprises 14 youth councillors; they are pupils of Piekary Śląskie middle and secondary schools, elected in general elections. Thanks to this, they can represent the standpoint of the young before the city authorities. The Youth Council of Piekary Śląskie is elected for a term that lasts one school year; in line with the statute, the term of office elapses at the end of the school year.

The goal of the Youth Council, apart from representation of its voters, is also to form and to solidify democratic stances and to support and popularise the local government idea among the young. The young councillors initiate and coordinate actions for the sake of young residents of Piekary Śląskie, in particular in the area of science, culture and sports. The Council carries out information activities in the area of operation of the local government. As part of the Youth Council, the young generation can express its opinion on social and educational issues.



Młodzieżowa Rada Miasta Rybnika

Youth City Council of Rybnik

The Youth City Council of Rybnik has been operating for almost twenty years. The Council represents the youth from the city of Rybnik, encourages it to action and promotes the idea of local governance. The councillors receive support from city authorities, among others the mayor and the education department.

The members of the Youth Council implement a number of initiatives, such as the 'St. Claus' Hat' which is aimed at offering assistance to the most needy, or the City Youth Council discount card, which authorises students to receive discounts in partner points. The councillors also encourage active participation in the life of Rybnik schools, organising participation budget, which engages students in creation and implementation of own projects. The amount of co-financing for the initiatives of school youth is PLN 10,000.

The youth City Council of Rybnik closely cooperates with other youth councils from the region, among others Mikołów, Tychy and Jastrzębie-Zdrój. The young councillors took part in the Congress of Youth Councils in Gliwice, in the 'Europolis' conference and in the 'Young Eagles' Oxford debates. They also participated in the 'Youth Councils; Advisers or Activists' project and continuation of the 'Youth Councils: Advisers or Activists Together' project. During these events, the young councillors had the opportunity of presenting the Council on the international arena, exchanging good practice, working out solutions to problems and shaping their leader competence.



Młodzieżowa Rada Miasta Sanoka

Youth City Council of Sanok

The Youth City Council of Sanok was set up to act for the sake of the young residents of Sanok, to promote the local government's ideas among the young and primarily to increase the activity of young people in the local environment. Participation in the Council is also aimed at integration of youth environments.

The councillors are cooperating closely with the school governments and with the Youth Regional Council of the Podkarpackie Province.

As part of the Youth City Council, the following teams were set up: cooperation with school governments, health, sports and tourism, promotion, development and information, education, science and culture.

The Youth City Council of Sanok becomes engaged in a number of initiatives and consults youth milieus. It issued opinions on the draft bill on amendments in the act on commune government, the act on powiat government and the act on province government, accounting for the youth councils. The young councillors supported the opening of a mini skate-park and joined the organisation of the 'Skating Weekend.' They also prepared surveys for schools pertaining to the demand for extracurricular classes. As part of their operation, they organise outdoor games together with the scouts.



Youth City Council of Tychy

The Youth City Council of Tychy is an organisation set up by a group of young people elected as representatives of youth in democratic elections organised in schools and candidates from the so-called free mandates. The Youth Council's task is to represent the Tychy youth and to activate it.

The councillors are involved in a number of interesting initiatives, such as: diverse volunteer events, Oxford debate tournaments, assistance during organisation of the Tychy Young Talents competition and the Tychy Typing Competition, organised by the Youth Council from scratch. The Youth City Council primarily comprises young people who want to break the schemes and to fight with the stereotypes about youth.



Youth City Council of Zielona Góra

The Youth City Council of Zielona Góra was set up in 2015. It is involved in consultations and advisory activities with respect to the operation of the city council and the magistrate. The Youth Council sets up the standards of youth policy, supports and promotes civil activation and social initiatives. As part of its operation, it organises a vine-harvesting zone of the young - Chill Fest. The Youth Council prepared a draft of youth consultations, 'Youth Speaks.' The members of the Council are engaged in numerous actions and happenings in the city.

The Youth City Council of Zielona Góra has initiated a programme of discounts and rebates for the young. The Youth Card authorises the holders to special offers from local entrepreneurs and municipal institutions. This is a project that all members of the Youth Council have been engaged in.

Youth City Council of Kłodzko

The Youth City Council of Kłodzko brings together people fascinated in the world that surrounds them, wishing to do good for others.

The goal of the Youth City Council is to share information about the needs of young people with the local government authorities, who are not indifferent to the voice of the young. The Youth Council is a consultative and advisory body, often issuing opinions on draft resolutions pertaining to youth affairs. The Council also vigorously operates in the area of promotion of culture and care for the environment.

The greatest successes of the Youth Council are two large initiatives - the Kłodzko Day of Positively Wound Up Youth and the national challenge #dzienmisiaMRMK which had over 200 attendants.

Young councillors become willingly engaged in actions promoting health care and clean environment, to which they are invited by the members of youth councils from other regions of Poland. The Youth Council also organises city games and competitions for the young community.



Youth City Council of Mikołów

The Youth City Council of Mikołów was set up on 17 September 2019 via a municipal resolution. Twenty-one councillors were elected among the Mikołów pupils for a term of office of three years. During the next months of work of the Youth Council, four commissions were set up: a revision commission controlling the work of the presidium, the commission for ecology, the commission for promotion and the commission for volunteer services, offering assistance in charity actions.

The Council cooperates with the Regional Youth Council of Śląskie Province, the Polish Council of Youth Organisations, 'Agere Aude' Foundation of Knowledge and Social Dialogue, TDJ Foundation and other youth councils, primarily from the Śląskie Province.

The young councillors have organised a number of actions in various areas and participated in numerous events. It all started from a plogging action 'Challenge: Cleaning!' consisting in collecting garbage in the green areas in Mikołów. After the outbreak of the pandemic, the activities moved to the on-line world, and the first project was promotion of a water saving action, 'Do Not Neglect the Drought: 14 Days of Water Saving Awareness.' Two other activities were organised in the social media: a depression awareness campaign and 'Fit Before Christmas.' There are also a number of charity actions - the Youth City Council of Mikołów participated in fairs and charity matches in the area of the city. Collection of mineral water for a Covid division in the Province Specialist Hospital in Tychy was also greatly successful. Several competitions were also organised upon the initiative of the Council.





Youth City Council of Karczew

The Youth Council of Karczew was set up in 2015. The councillors encourage initiation of actions pertaining to the life of youth in the country, for example within the scope of science, entertainment, culture and sports and organise cultural, sports, pro-environmental and charity events and competitions. The Youth Council also cooperates with the 'adult' municipal and commune authorities - it provides the local government authorities with opinions about issues pertaining to the young people, submits applications to the municipal council and the mayor for the performance of tasks which facilitate and make the life of youth more attractive. The councillors also organise training sessions, seminars and conferences, take part in them and invite their peers to participate. An important area is cooperation of the Council with school associations, domestic and foreign youth organisations, youth councils of other cities and communes, youth regional councils from provinces and the Youth Council of the Republic of Poland.



Youth City Council in Kunów

The Youth City Council in Kunów was set up in 2015. The most important goal of operation of the Youth City Council is to boost the interest of young people in local government issues and to engage them in public affairs. The Youth City Council of Kunów also has its representatives in the Youth Local Assembly of the Świętokrzyskie Province. Together with the young people from the region, they participate in the process of jointly creating the Province Development Strategy 2030+.

The Youth City Council in Kunów is engaged in a number of charity actions and supports youth initiatives. The members of the Youth City Council refurbished the storage room of the library by the Municipal and Commune Public Library in Kunów. This was an example of an activity carried out during the pandemic for the sake of the local environment. Furthermore, the youth councillors are active on every field and in every space: they help as volunteers, for example at summer camps for children with disabilities, during the International Children's Day or the summer harvest festival.



Youth City Council of Łódź

The Youth City Council was set up by a resolution of the Municipal Council in Łódź in 2007. It is a consultative and advisory body and at the same time representation of the Łódź youth. The term of office of the youth City Council lasts two years and the rules of its operation and structure are modelled on the operation of commune councils. Thanks to it, before becoming adults, young people can actively participate in the life of the city and initiate actions such as: cultural events, sports events, pro-environmental events or community events.

Some of the valuable initiatives of young people include: Competition of Knowledge about the Local Government, Concert of Young Talents 'Heart Rhythm', creation of a map of dangerous places in the area of Łódź, as well as setting up a national network of wireless Internet as part of Łódź Civil Budget. The young councillors have also joined action against hate speech.

Youth City Council in Oborniki

The youth City Council in Oborniki comprises 21 councillors and is a local government authority set up at the initiative of the mayor and the Local Government Coalition - Club of Councillors. The council is an advisory body that aims to represent the interests of young people and communicate the needs pertaining to young residents.



One of the greatest initiatives of the Youth Council is a project encouraging the Oborniki schools to launch the mLegitymacja project. In the city, the Council became known thanks to the organisation of Anti-Valentine's Day (i.e. a horror marathon), the Oborniki Eco Day and the first outdoor book exchange station. The members of the Youth Council try to expand the municipal infrastructure by putting forward their ideas, e.g. construction of shelters by the schools, a playground for dogs and nesting boxes for birds and a network of defibrillators. Additionally, the young councillors are engaged in volunteer activities and support other non-governmental organisations.



Youth Self-Government Forum of the Paczków Commune

The Youth Self-Government Forum is a youth council performing a consultative role for the mayor of the Paczków Commune. Its statute was adopted on 29 December 2016. The goal of operation of the Youth Self-Government Forum of the Paczków Commune is promotion of the local government idea among the young people in Paczków, boosting social activities of the young people in their local community and fostering a sense of civil liability by joining the local government's actions.

The Forum represents the interests of young people with respect to the commune authorities. Its tasks include integration of youth milieus and popularisation of issues pertaining to the young people. The councillors are intent on initiating dialogue with local organisations, the public and the private sector. They engage in activities which popularise the rules of operation of commune authorities. As youth representatives, they share and present own initiatives of actions for the sake of their peers. The Forum monitors the needs of youth and carries out information and education activities about the functioning of the council within the structures of the local government.

The Youth Self-Government Forum comprises seven persons from various environments: pupils of primary and secondary schools and social activists older than 18.

Youth Council of Lower Silesia

The Youth Council of Lower Silesia has been operating since 2013. It is a youth consultative and advisory body of the Lower Silesia Regional Assembly.

The Youth Council represents the young residents of Lower Silesia. It analyses problems of youth from all poviats of the province, fights with transport exclusion, environmental pollution and smog. It also focuses on issues related to the system of education and the issue of inequalities. The councillors propose specific solutions which, in the form of resolutions, are shared with the board of the province and the Lower Silesia Regional Assembly.

The mission of the Regional Assembly members is to share knowledge with the young people about the activities of commune, poviats and province governments. The councillors offer trainings on how to reduce smog, how to effectively take care of the environment and how to be active in associations, foundations and youth councils. They organise the annual Congress of Youth Councils and events supporting the activities of the young. They actively join the sessions of the committees of the Lower Silesia Regional Assembly. They represent youth at numerous meetings, youth events and congresses in the country and abroad, for example: Dialog pod Chmurką, Youth Parliament of the Republic of Poland, Third Congress of Negotiators of the Academy of Student Councils, 'Time4Youth' workshops, session of Youth Regional Network (YRN) in Spain, youth exchange 'Volunteer Meet Up' in Georgia. They also cooperate with other youth regional councils and the business sector.





Youth Council of the Province of Silesia

The Youth Council of the Province of Silesia has been operating incessantly since 2017. The Youth Council comprises 62 councillors aged 15 to 24 who are elected based on applications submitted by the youth councils, student unions and individual persons. The actions of the Youth Council are related to the initiation of changes for the sake of the young generation or exciting young people's interest in issues related to self-governance.

At the present moment, the actions of the Youth Council focus on the work of four committees: revision, promotion, youth councils and event organisation. To date, a number of events have been organised; among them, it is necessary to list the Congress of Youth City Councils, Communes, Poviats and Village Districts of the Silesia Province, plogging in Park Śląski and initiation of charity events. Furthermore, adoption of a programme for the young, participation of representatives of the Youth City Councils in the Youth Summit of the Regional Weimar Triangle or networking of youth councils are also the actions that the Youth Council is proud of.

Attention should also be paid to the interventions during the pandemic, which has also affected the operation of the Youth Council of the Province of Silesia. During the pandemic, the Youth Council organised, among others, the 'Young Eagles' Tournament of Oxford Debates, the Envelope of Life action, a tree planting action and a fine art competition 'Oczami Powstania.'



Youth Council of Rzeszów

The Youth Council of Rzeszów has been operating since 1993, when it was set up as an advisory body by the Rzeszów City Council. It comprises pupils of secondary and primary schools (for a term of office of two years), who represent their schools at weekly meetings and numerous national symposia, where they act as the representatives of the young Rzeszów residents.

At the sessions, they discuss issues related to the problems of the Rzeszów youth and work on solving them. They encourage young people to take part in the life of the city by supporting numerous social initiatives and cultural events, among them Amnesty International Letter Writing Marathon, charity concerts, Winter Holidays in the City, local headquarters of WOŚP. As part of its social activities, the young people organised a Christmas meeting for the young patients from Province Hospital No. 2 in Rzeszów. The Council is the originator and the organiser of such projects as 'Cinema Under the Stars' and 'Youth School Personality.' It also assisted during the organisation of Rzeszów middle school fair and the Kolorowe Emocje event. Furthermore, the Youth Council of Rzeszów played a significant role in building the new skate-park in the area of the Rzeszów boulevards.



Polish National Youth Council (Polska Rada Organizacji Młodzieżowych, PROM)

The Polish National Youth Council is the largest and the most diversified federation of non-governmental organisations representing the opinions and needs of youth in contacts with decision-makers at the national level. Additionally, it is the only organisation that has the status of the National Youth Council within the understanding of the European law and international agreements. PROM is a part of the Parliamentary Team of Support for Youth Councils by the units of local government.

The statutory goals of the Polish National Youth Council include, among others: joint creation of policies for young people; popularisation of the idea of youth participation in the public life, representation of member organisations with respect to the public sector and other environments; advocacy for youth interests, organisations for the young and acting for the sake of youth with respect to the public administration and other milieus; popularisation of information and promotion of activities of youth organisations and non-associated youth; supporting joint actions, exchange of information and experiences among organisations; facilitation of liaison among Polish organisations and partners abroad; supporting development of Polish youth organisations and organisations that bring young people together.

PROM is a youth organisation with advocacy features. Its daily activities rely on creation of space for a debate about the most important issues for the young people and ongoing monitoring of legislation and advocacy. The main tool of the Council is organisation of debates, discussions, panels and workshops which - thanks to the use of inclusive, participatory methods of moderation and engagement of decision-makers and experts - build social activity of the young people, but also try to encourage greater engagement of the young generation in the local and national issues. With the use of talks, working out recommendations and postulates, the Council is building awareness of the young pertaining to liability for their own living space on the local, national and international level.



Szkoła 2.0

OD UCZNIÓW DLA UCZNIÓW

School 2.0

School 2.0 is an organisation that acts for the sake of development of education in Poland at various levels; School 2.0 was set up at the end of 2020. In spite of the passage of time, practically no progress is visible in the system of education which is the basic element of the state. For a number of years, no central authority has introduced any significant reforms; when such reforms appear, they are usually implemented chaotically and without consultations. The goal of School 2.0 is to influence the Polish system of education in a grass roots mode, via the citizens. This is possible thanks to the performance of social projects in this respect, organisation of workshops for teachers, and primarily talks with all the stakeholders.

The main mission of the organisation focuses on education. The members of School 2.0 take actions that try to transform schools into places to which the students come with a smile, and leave with knowledge internalised in a friendly way. To this aim, they support pupils, teachers, headmasters, school associations, school psychologists and other members of school personnel. To date, they have prepared eight projects with which they want to start; however, this is definitely just a beginning.



V4SDG

V4SDG (Visegrad for Sustainability) is a non-profit organisation led by young professionals from the Visegrad Group, whose priority and dream is to inspire to action and to foster cooperation within the area of the UN sustainable development goals.

V4SDG was set up to pave the way to accomplishing the goals of sustainable development in Central and Eastern Europe. The founders of the organisation, i.e. four young professionals, realised that entities acting for the sake of sustainable development in the region are not sufficiently linked, in particular among sectors, and are not properly integrated with the global trend of sustainable development issues.

That is why the young specialists became involved in training and education and share the best practice pertaining to the issues of sustainable development. Great emphasis is put on building inter-sectoral relations and combining projects related to sustainable development. V4SDG is involved in organising community events as part of V4 and supports numerous grass roots initiatives. Additionally, the organisation offers advice for the decision makers and companies within the scope of the sustainable development strategy.

wPRAWIEni

wPRAWIEni is a social project organised as part of the 'Zwolnieni z Teorii' school competition, which aims to show young people that law surrounds us on a daily basis and familiarity with it greatly helps us in life.



The purpose of the wPRAWIEni project is to present, in an accessible way, the basic information and institutions related to law. The project comprises activities addressed to young people. It responds to the need of making them aware and showing them a legal path to solving specific problems. The young people engaged in the project are involved in promoting general legal awareness in teenagers, so that they can enter the adult life as conscious citizens.

The law concerns all of us and affects us in a number of daily situations. Lack of familiarity with it causes a number of problems. With the use of articles, interviews and graphics, the project communicates a number of tidbits from the area of law in order to make the young people interested in it and to expand their theoretical knowledge in a friendly and easy way. Thanks to this, the stereotypes concerning the law and persons working in the area of law are dismantled.

Study Methodology

As part of the New Generation Dialogue, the Institute for the Development of Legal Education and Civil Society carried out studies pertaining to the opinions of the young residents of Poland about the current condition of three areas:

- Climate and environment;
- System of Justice;
- Social Participation.

The impressions of young people about the ideal condition of the aforementioned areas to which the state policy should aim were equally important. The purpose of the study carried out among young people aged 15-24 was to compile data about their convictions, beliefs and expectations pertaining to the main study areas.

The studies comprised several elements, such as:

- Meetings with representatives of the young generation, carried out in the form of in-depth interviews;
- A questionnaire that allowed the recipients to complete a properly constructed survey;
- Other forms of activities allowing for compilation of opinions of the young, such as participation in events and official meetings.

The survey had an exploratory and descriptive nature and focused on procuring answers to three main study questions:

- How do the young people living in Poland assess the system of justice, climate policy and environmental protection and the status of participation of young people in Poland?

- How do the young people imagine the condition of these policies in 30 years' time?
- To which degree are the young people ready to get involved in the realisation of these visions as part of the studied areas?

Each of the study goals as part of the three thematic areas was specified by the structure of detailed questions, both in the survey and in the course of in-depth interviews - in line with the 'from the general to the specific' rule. Detailed questions from specific areas allowed for the provision of precise answers in a given area and were aimed at procuring substantive youth postulates and recommendations.

A significant part of the study was a survey carried out as part of the project and addressed to youth aged 15-24, living in Poland and planning to stay here in a longer perspective of time. The survey was carried out with the use of CAWI method (the interviews were carried out on-line). The survey form prepared for this purpose was circulated electronically via a generated link. Participation in the survey was possible until the end of November 2021.

The survey contained 37 questions in total; the first five were closed-ended questions (demographic data - allowing for the identification of the group of respondents). The next questions focused on selected issues highlighted as part of the study areas. This group of questions had a mixed nature - it comprised both quantity and quality questions and questions containing category-based responses. In some closed-ended question, the answer 'other' was also offered, with the option of providing information that was not included in the proposed catalogue. Furthermore, the survey featured an image question with respect to the general opinion of the respondents about the condition of the Polish politics, where the responses were presented in the form of images. The final two questions in the survey referred to the respondent's declaration as to the willingness to participate in an in-depth interview or a group interview with a possibility of providing the e-mail address - in case the respondent was interested in participation.

The survey was shared on the website of the social project of the New Generation Dialogue and was distributed via social media, via leaflets containing a special QR code transferring the reader to the website with the survey form and via direct contact. The average time for completing the survey lasted from 15 to 20 minutes. The survey was anonymous and in line with the intention of the authors, it was meant to allow the respondents to express their opinions freely.

The concept of the survey and its main goals required an interdisciplinary approach and application of both quantity and quality study techniques. With the use of a tool adjusted to the needs of the Institute, data about the assessment of public policies by the young people were procured, as well as their opinions about the future.

Using in-depth individual and focused group interview, issues pertaining to the beliefs and the role of young people in striving for an ideal state in the area of the analysed public policies and recommendations have been elaborated on. A multi-dimensional analysis of the compiled information allowed us to assess the expectations, beliefs about selected areas of public policies, as well as the willingness of the young people in Poland to create them. These data can be found in the chapter titled *Study Results*.



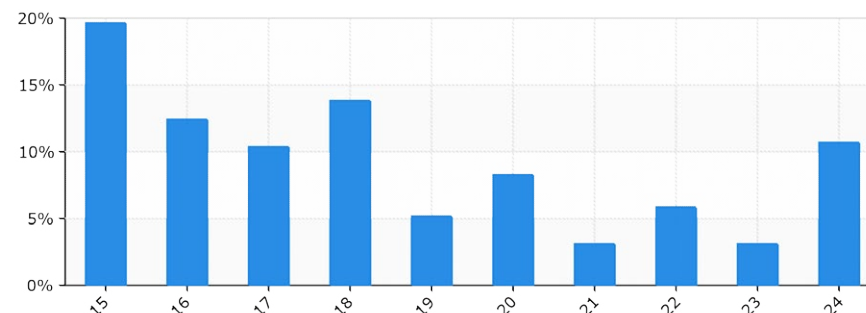
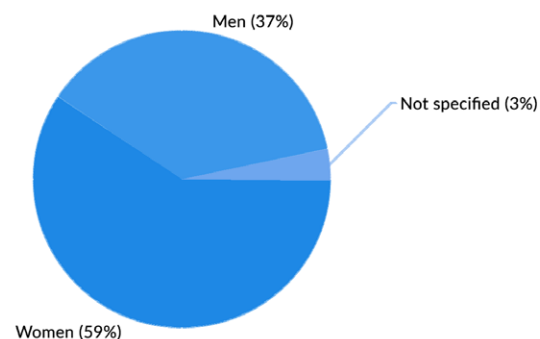
Study Results

Introduction: Survey Structure Description

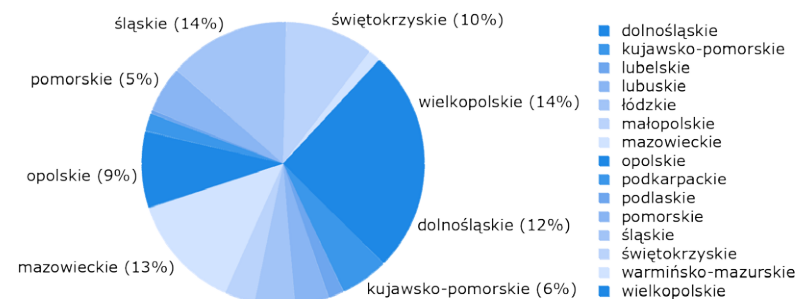
The survey shared with the young people comprised nine parts. In the first part, the respondents provided demographic information. The second part contained a general opinion on the Polish politics. The third, the fourth and the fifth part were devoted to three areas of operation of the state: the legal system, climate and environment, as well as social participation of young people. The sixth, the seventh and the eighth part focused on the future visions of young people with respect to the three areas listed above. The last, ninth part of the survey delved into perception of the respondents' agency with respect to public issues and declaration of willingness to become engaged in social activities. Furthermore, it contained information about the types of sources from which young people derive information about politics.

Demographics

1,538 young people aged 15-24 took part in the survey as part of the New Generation Dialogue project. The compiled answers derive from 59% of women and 38% of men. There were 3% of persons in the sample who did not provide information about their gender. A definite majority of the respondents were teenagers (younger than 20). With respect to age, fifteen year-olds were dominant in the survey (22%). Also many sixteen year-olds (14%) and eighteen year-olds (16%) took part in the survey. The third group with respect to the size were twenty-four year olds (12%).



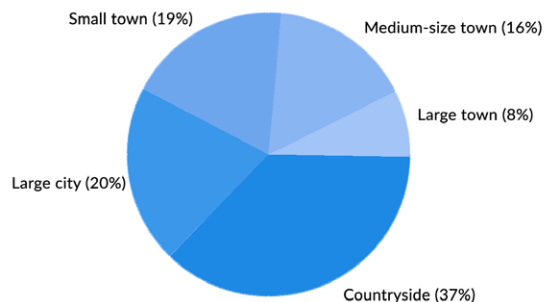
A significant study factor was to guarantee equal geographic distribution of responses. It was essential that the participants represented young people from all over Poland and that they came from different parts of the country, as well as resided in places of various sizes. According to the compiled data, the most numerous represented provinces were: Wielkopolskie (14%), Śląskie (14%), Mazowieckie (13%) and Dolnośląskie (12%). The respondents included residents of almost all other provinces.



With respect to the size of the respondents' locations, they came from: countryside (37%), large cities (21%), small towns (19%), medium-sized towns (16%) and large towns (8%).

Young people participating in the survey also specified what they were doing on a daily basis. It turned out that almost a half of the respondents attended

a general secondary school (46%). Among the remaining respondents, there was a large group of working persons (21%) and persons studying at public universities (19%). Some survey participants declared that they attended a technical secondary school (12) or courses and trainings (9%). The other young people said that they were studying at private universities and various types of schools.



of the respondents chose image No. 8, Flattering the Voters. On the other hand, a definite minority of the survey participants believe that Polish politics can be described with the use of images titled 'Way to Enrichment', 'Caring for the Common Good', 'Preparation of Solutions Based on Evidence' or 'Posturing.' Based on the results of this part, it may be concluded that young people perceive politics in Poland as a field for rivalry among various political parties and an area where ostensibly a lot is happening, but little changes.

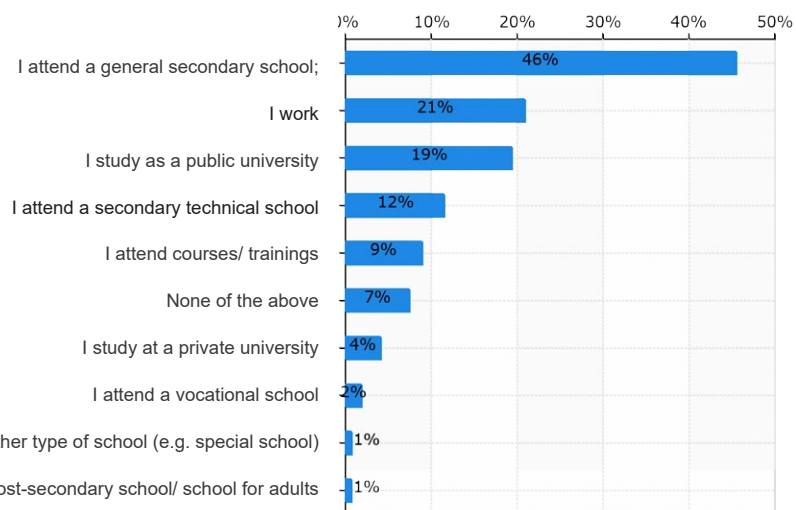
System of Justice

In the first part of the survey, the young people had the task of assessing the functioning of the Polish system of justice at various levels of organisation. The young people had the opportunity of expressing a general opinion about the operation of the system of justice and the opportunity of assessing individual aspects of its operation. The representatives of young people could also indicate major problems in this area and identify their potential causes.

A comprehensive outlook on the system of justice by the young has turned out to be pessimistic. Young people claim that the operation of the Polish courts is bad (37%) or very bad (20%). Furthermore, some respondents (31%) expressed ambivalent opinions about this area of operation of the state. It turned out that only 12% of the respondents positively see the system of justice in Poland. The overall negative assessment of the system of justice in Poland is reflected in the partial assessment of individual aspects of the system. Most grades assigned to the individual areas of the system of justice indicate dissatisfaction with them. The aspect that the young assess most critically is the society's trust to the system of justice. As many as 82% of the respondents claim that the citizens do not trust the courts and the officials that guard the law.

The second most serious accusation raised against the system of justice is the inadequate legal education of citizens. As many as 73% of the respondents are dissatisfied with its level.

The only area of operation of the system of justice that is satisfactory for the majority of the young people (55%) is the aspect of guaranteeing safety, i.e. fighting with crime and terrorism. The respondents do not see criminals and terrorists as a threat; they feel protected by the state authorities. The youth assesses the general access to information and legal aid on a relatively good level. 41% of the respondents declared satisfaction with the level of accessibility of legal aid (as compared to 40% of the respondents who assessed such access negatively and 19% of the respondents who did not answer the question).



General Opinion About Politics in Poland

The association method was used to assess the general opinion about politics in Poland. The respondents were asked to select one out of eight presented images, which in their opinion most accurately described the state of Polish politics. Fig. 1 presents the aforementioned images along with their interpretation. It turned out that the majority of the respondents (40%) believe that the state of politics in Poland is best described by image No. 2 titled 'Tribe Wars.' Slightly fewer respondents (20% and 19%, respectively) believe that this issue is best described by image No. 1, 'Blind Acts' and No. 3 'Intellectual Task.' Only 13%

It is quite worrying that many young people have no opinion and manifest ambivalence and lack of knowledge about many areas of operation of the system of justice. Such tendency seems to coincide with young people's conviction about lack of education for the citizens provided by the state as far as legal issues are concerned. Some young people refrained from expressing their opinion and were unable to assess such aspects of operation of the system of justice as: operation of public prosecution offices (approx. 30% of young people have no opinion about this aspect), efficiency of expending funds intended for the operation of the system of justice (35% persons were not able to assess it), level of priority of the system of justice and services in the context of state management (28% of the respondents refrained from expressing their opinion). It also turned out that over 25% of the young people who took part in the survey were unable to assess the accessibility of the courts for the citizens or the level of digitisation of the system of justice (30%).

In a further part of the survey, the respondents were asked to determine the most urgent problems in the area of operation of the system of justice. The greatest problem is inequality of citizens with respect to the law, i.e. privileged position of some groups as compared to other Poles (caste system). 34% of the respondents assigned this issue with definite priority. The other most significant problems were:

- Slow operation of the system of justice: the problem was listed as first or second with respect to importance by 49% of the respondents;
- Lack of social trust to the system of justice and its officials: 45% of the respondents claim that this is the most important or second with respect to importance problem;
- Bad (with respect to quality and quantity) legal education of the society - educating the citizens about legal issues once again appears in the lead of the problems. The level of education was assessed as difficulty No. 1 or 2 by 42% of the respondents.

Inne pilne problemy związane z obszarem wymiaru sprawiedliwości to:

- Overburdening the employees with tasks from this area - according to 36% of the respondents, this is the most important or important problem;

- Under-financing of the system of justice from the state budget: according to 36% of the respondents, this is the most important or important issue;
- Complexity of legal provisions: the problem turns out to be the most important and important according to 34% of the young;
- Insufficient digitisation - also according to 34% of the survey participants;
- High costs of seeking justice for the citizens: a significant problem for 32% of the respondents.

The remaining problems with respect to priority include perception of persons making up the system of justice as a hermetic and inaccessible group (very important and important problem according to 25% of the respondents) and difficult access to professional legal aid (18% of voices deeming this issue most urgent or urgent).

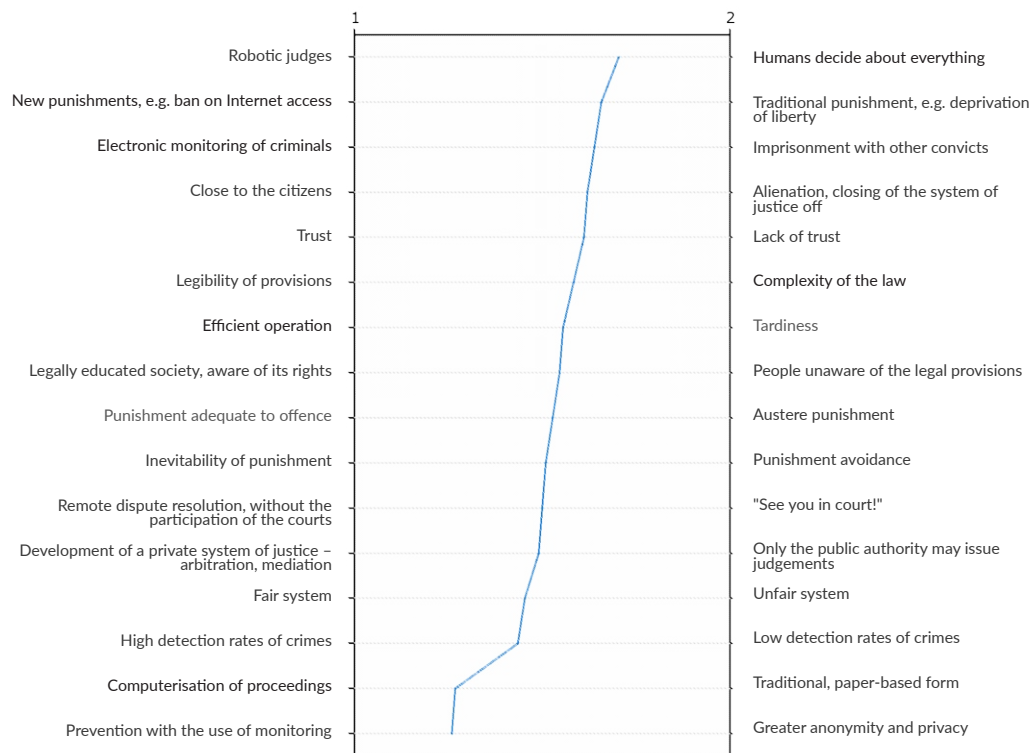
In response to the question about other significant problems that the Polish system of justice is struggling with, some young respondents indicated problems that, according to them, are particularly important. These issues, freely listed by the individual respondents, referred primarily to: corruption, dependence, subjectivity, impartiality and politicisation of the system of justice.

Other problems listed by the young include: promotion and reinforcement of the negative image of the system of justice in the society, overly complex procedures for completing the legal training, lack of engagement of the court employees in their work and citizens being treated like objects by the system's officials.

The young, when asked about the most probable causes of the current problems of the system of justice, indicated lack of legal education in schools (as declared by 64% of the respondents) and scandals in the public sphere with the participation of representatives of legal professions and related to the system of justice (opinions expressed by 52% of the respondents). The results above induce a conclusion that the lack of trust to the system of justice and its representatives along with a conviction about inequality of citizens with respect to the law and an opinion about too slow operation of the system result from the fact that people lack proper legal education and also from the fact that the society comes across news about scandals involving legal system functionaries. Other causes of problems of the system of justice, according to the young, may be: citizens' unwillingness to solve disputes amicably (as declared by 37% of

the respondents), insufficient interest in the system of justice on the part of politicians (according to 35% of the respondents) and bad (illegible, too complex, illogical and inappropriate) legal structure (in the opinion of 34% of youth). In the next part of the survey, the young once again were allowed to indicate the factors that - in their opinion - underlie the identified problems of the system of justice. According to some respondents, the problems of this area result from the immunity of the functionaries heading the system and insufficient engagement of the employees in proper operation of the system of justice.

The final parts of the survey focused on learning the vision of the system of justice in 30 years' time from the perspective of the young. The respondents were asked to evaluate the individual aspects of operation of the system of justice in the future with the use of antonyms. The respondents' task was to choose one term from every pair of sentences which, according to them, most accurately describes the probable shape of the system of justice in the future.



The most clearly marked are the convictions of the young people that:

- The state will monitor the citizens (74% of responses) as opposed to guaranteeing them privacy and anonymity;
- The system of legal proceedings will be modernised (in the opinion of 73%) which means that the proceedings will not be held in a traditional and paper-based mode, but that the electronic form will become predominant;
- Detection rates of crimes will be high (according to 56%) and not low;
- The system will be fair (according to 55%) and not unfair.

The young people also voiced their convictions about the following issues:

- Judgements will be issued by people and not by the IT system (according to 70%);
- In the future, traditional punishment will be predominant, such as deprivation of liberty, as opposed to modern ones, such as a ban on accessing the Internet (according to 66% of the respondents);
- The convicts will serve their sentences in prison, and not with the use of electronic supervision (according to 64% of respondents).

Unfortunately, in the perspective of 30 years' time, the young people forecast alienation and closing of the system of justice (according to 62% of the respondents) instead of reducing the distance and moving closer to the citizens. According to them, the society will not trust the system of justice (61%), but will be mistrustful towards its structures. According to the young, in 30 years' time the law will become intricate (58%) i.e. inaccessible and illegible for an average citizen.

The discussed part of the survey, similarly to the prior stages, allowed the young people to freely share their vision of an ideal system of justice in 30 years' time. According to the young, the ideal system should primarily be: fair (punishment adequate to the offence, harsher sentences for paedophiles and child murderers; judgement issued after presentation of indisputable evidence, to avoid convicting innocent people; everybody equal with respect to the law); modernised (integrated with artificial intelligence and modern technologies; electronic monitoring of convicts); efficient in operation (no prolonged proceedings), less bureaucratic, free of corruption ('it should not be the case that certain issues

are handled better or that more lenient judgements are issued simply because one knows the right people'). According to the youth, legal provisions should be more transparent and legible for ordinary citizens, while legal education of the society should be better with respect to quality and quantity (without an educated society, no pillar of democracy can be improved because the shape of the current system depends on the citizens). The respondents also claim that in the future, the courts should encourage the parties to mediation to a greater degree. Furthermore, the young people would like the system of justice to have proper reputation, which would encourage the citizens to make full use of its potential (the system of justice should not frighten the citizens; the word 'court' should not be scary; the system should be more friendly for the people, less formal, similar to the Anglo-Saxon system).

Climate and Environment

In the second part of the study, the young assessed the status of the climate policy in Poland, taking its various aspects into account. The respondents had the opportunity of expressing general opinions on the issue above, as well as assessing individual spheres of its functioning. The representatives of the young generation were also given the option to indicate the most important, in their opinion, problems in the area of climate policy and identify potential causes of such problems.

The overall perception of the status of climate policy in Poland has turned out to be negative. The majority (57%) of the respondents assess the position of climate policy as very bad or bad. It is interesting to note that as many as 28% of the respondents manifested indecision in assessing this area. Such assessment indicates the conviction of the young people about average - neither good nor bad - state of the Polish climate policy. It turned out that only 16% of the respondents positively assess this area of the state's operation.

The overall negative assessment of the climate policy was confirmed in the partial evaluation of individual components of this policy. The young respondents are particularly dissatisfied with the insufficient attention that is paid to the climate policy, as well as the overall protection of climate (which is understood as plans and actions for the sake of this area) - such opinion, in both cases, was expressed by 63% of the respondents. According to them, the issues of climate policy are perceived as of little significance, and the state addresses them to an insufficient degree. Another area that clearly dissatisfied the young people is the protection from air pollution (opinion of 67% of respondents). What is more, a similar percentage of the respondents (62%) critically evaluated protection from other pollution (e.g. soil or water). According to the young, such protection is definitely

insufficient and ineffective. Furthermore, as many as 62% of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the level of climate education among the citizens. As is clearly visible, the issue of education appears again, this time in the realm of climate and environment. In this respect, special attention should be paid to these aspects. The last field of activity that met with dissatisfaction of the young people is the energy transformation - reduction of emission levels and use of renewable energy sources (56% of the respondents have negative opinion on the issue). A part of the survey that focused on energy safety rendered interesting results. As many as 23% of the respondents have no opinion about the issue. This may offer a clue that when planning the climate education for the young, attention should primarily focus on the issue of energy safety.

In the next part of the study, the young people's task was to arrange the problems of the Polish climate policy in order of priority. The two major problems in this area are: too high share of energy from non-renewable sources in the overall production of energy (a priority problem according to 57% of the respondents) and too slow development of nuclear energy (most significant problem according to 52% of the respondents).

The second problem with respect to importance as far as the climate policy is concerned according to the young was lack of reliable information about climate changes in the public space with a very high share of fake news (according to 43% of the respondents). Young people seem to be confused with the amount of untrue, unconfirmed and often conflicting information pertaining to climate changes in the world.

Other important problems that the Polish climate policy is struggling with are, according to the young:

- Low climate education of the society (issue listed as 1 or 2 with respect to priority according to 44% of the respondents);
- Mass tree logging (problem on the first or the second place according to the degree of priority according to 44% of the respondents);
- Pollution of major Polish rivers, in particular the Vistula (problem marked as first-rate or second-rate in total by 40% of the respondents);
- Failure to prevent the causes and the consequences of natural disasters, such as droughts, floods or forest fires (problem marked as primary or secondary with respect to importance by 40% of the respondents).

In the discussed section, the young people had the opportunity of independently indicating important problems that the climate policy is facing in their opinion. In the quality part, the young people wrote about: politicisation of climate issues and their use in political campaigns, coupled with absence of actual activities, excessive use of plastic and single-use materials, vastness of pollution generated by factories and large companies, ignoring the voice of the young with respect to the climate and environment and lack of Poland's willingness to abandon coal-based energy industry. As can be seen, some of the problems above may result from the absence of proper legal regulations on issues related to environmental protection.

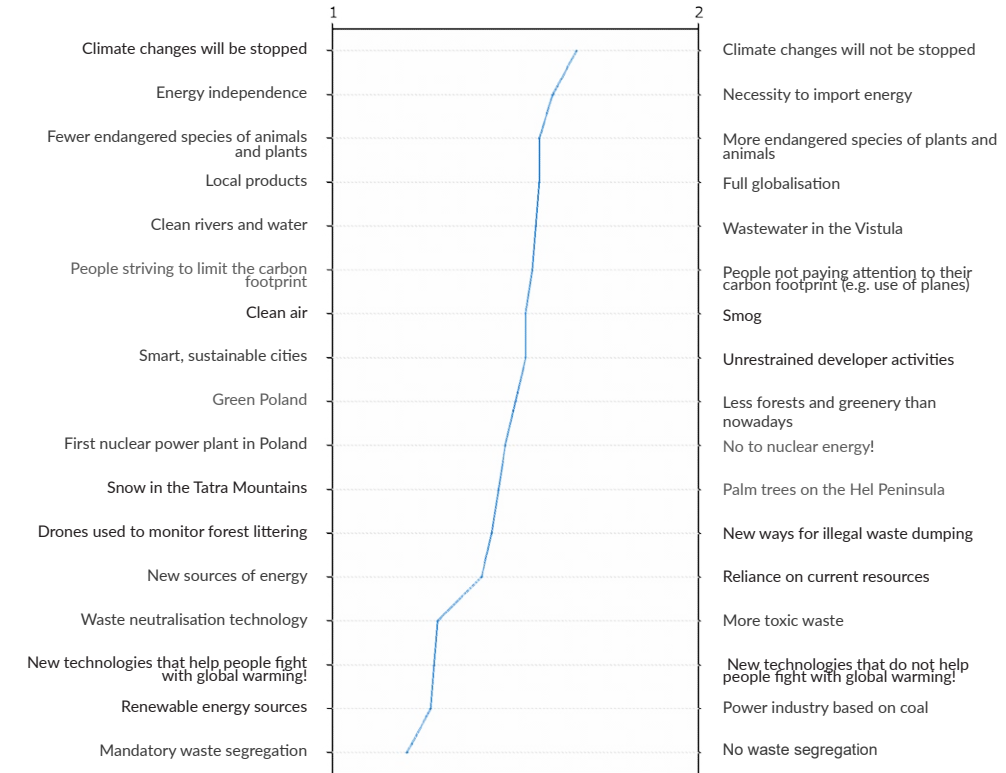
The next part of the survey focused on potential causes of the above-listed challenges that the climate policy has to face. Over a half of the survey participants believe that the climate problems listed above result from:

- Absence of a proper policy within the scope of preventing climate changes (62%);
- Lack of a sense of liability among the citizens for their share in climate changes (62%);
- Insufficient education of the citizens with respect to climate changes (59%);
- Generally understood attachment to the energy deriving from combustion of coal (57%).

The other important sources of problems indicated by the respondents and related to the environmental policy are the consumer-oriented economy (in the assessment of 50% of the respondents) and generally understood actions of politicians (according to 49% of the respondents). Furthermore the young - both in the survey and spontaneously - listed the potential sources of such problems, such as improper financing and lack of investments in technologies used for environmental protection and absence of proper legal regulations pertaining to climate.

The final parts of the survey, similarly to the section about the system of justice, were aimed at learning the vision of the climate policy in 30 years' time from the perspective of the young. The respondents were asked to evaluate the individual aspects of climate policy in the future with the use of antonyms. Their task was also to choose one term from every pair of sentences which, according to them, most accurately describes the probable shape of the climate policy in 30 years' time. The clearest convictions of the young pertaining to the status of the climate policy in the course of the next 30 years are:

- A belief that waste segregation will become mandatory (as claimed by 80% of the respondents), while dumping all waste into the 'mixed' container will no longer be possible;
- A vision that energy will rely on renewable energy sources (according to 73% of the respondents) and not on coal;
- A conviction that new technologies will help people fight the global warming (according to 72% of the young people), as opposed to the vision where such technologies have no role in it;
- A belief that waste will be neutralised with the use of new technologies (in line with the opinion of 71% of respondents) and not subjected to toxic transformation processes;
- A vision where new sources of energy will play a role (according to 59% of the respondents) as opposed to the currently known and used ones.



Unfortunately, the vision of the young as far as the climate policy is concerned in 30 years' time also creates an image where:

- It is impossible to stop the climate changes (according to 67% of the respondents);
- Energy has to be imported (in line with the opinion of 60% of the respondents) - as opposed to the vision of energy independence;
- The number of endangered species of plants and animals is constantly growing (according to 56% of the young people).

The currently discussed part of the survey, similarly to the previous stages, allowed young people to freely share their own visions of the ideal climate policy in Poland in 30 years' time. The elements of the ideal picture of climate policy in 30 years' time indicated by the respondents of the survey include:

- Very high share of renewable energy sources in the power sector - primarily nuclear plants, but also solutions relying on wind energy and hydro-electric power plants (nuclear plants of newest generation; a country that generates energy for itself, e.g. from wind, off-shore turbines);
- Numerous qualified experts and initiation and performance of thought-through actions, compliant with Polish interests;
- Investments in technologies and studies and real actions based on study results;
- Environmental protection as one of the priority issues in politics;
- Precise and effective legal regulations pertaining to climate (addressed in particular to factories and large companies);
- Use of local products, reduction of import and carbon footprint;
- Education of the society on a high level, informing the citizens about the status of climate and the environment (the citizens' awareness about the imminent threats should be higher);
- Sustainable development in such areas as city development, proportion between green areas and residential and exploited areas;
- Dominance of green energy and electric vehicles in cities, as opposed to fuel vehicles.

To complete the part of the study focused on climate policy, attention should be paid to the greatest differences between the actual and the ideal vision of the young with respect to this area of the state's operation. Young people nourish a great hope and strongly believe that in the near future, waste segregation will become mandatory, that renewable energy sources will dominate the non-renewable energy sources and that actions for the sake of climate will be supported by modern technologies. It is quite worrying that a number of young people have only a tiny glimmer of hope that energy will not be imported and that it will be possible to stop climate changes.

Youth Participation

In the third part of the study, the young people were asked to assess the social participation of the young in the social and political life in several aspects. They had the option of expressing a general opinion about participation of the young in the public life and the opportunity of assessing various dimensions of participation. The representatives of the young generation could also list the most important problems of this area and identify their probable sources.

At the beginning of this section, the participants of the survey assessed the shape of the described area of social life. It turned out that the majority of the respondents (51%) had a neutral opinion on the overall form of social participation of the young in the social life. Such approach may follow from limited knowledge of the respondents about this area, as well as its lack of popularity. Those who positively assessed the status of participation of the young were at 29%. Only 20% of the respondents negatively assessed the discussed issue.

In the next part of the survey, the young people were asked to assess the modes of including the young in the decision-making process. In over a half of the assessed aspects, a significant number of respondents marked the 'I have no opinion' answer. As it turned out, as many as 41% of the respondents do not seem to have an opinion about the functioning of the EU Youth Dialogue in Poland. It may be assumed that the Polish youth is not aware of the existence of such initiative in our country. Furthermore, approx. 1/4 of the respondents have no opinion about such aspects of participation of the young as: advocacy activities of youth organisations (23%), share of youth postulates in the programmes of political parties (22%) or the amount of attention paid to the discussed area on the part of politicians (26%). The discussed survey results may, on the one hand, indicate the young people's lack of interest to learn about the programmes of the political parties which refer to their age group. On the other hand, those who are familiar with the aforementioned parts of political programmes declare that

they are dissatisfied with them (51%). Moreover, many respondents do not have an opinion about priority of the social participation of the young. In turn, those who have the knowledge in this area assess that too little attention is paid to the issue of participation of the young in the public life (52%). It is interesting that in spite of the fact that a sizeable group of young people has no knowledge about advocacy activities, very many young people who have their bearings on the issue assess this aspect positively. This means that as many as 47% of the respondents are satisfied with the mode and the form in which persons, affairs and values are represented by the young. Equally positive is the fact that almost a half of the respondents (45%) are satisfied with the activities of the youth councils operating by the units of local governments. Alternative forms of civil engagement of the young people were assessed positively. Many young people (57%) are satisfied with happenings or social movements organised by their peers. It may be assumed that the representatives of the young generation show interest in similar forms of activities - they are aware that such actions take place and also take part in them.

Unfortunately, the young people manifested dissatisfaction with several areas of social participation. The aspects that do not satisfy the respondents include.

- Openness of the public authorities to the contribution of the young to decision-making processes (57% of responses);
- Civil education of the youth (55% of opinions);
- Percentage of young people in the parliament and other state offices (50% of votes).

Summing up the pessimistic part: young people do not see that the authorities are open to the ideas and opinions of their representatives. Hence, participation of the young people in making important decisions and proper peer representation in state institutions (such as, for example, the Sejm) is missing. Also in this part, the young people drew attention to the inadequate civil education.

In the next part of the survey, the respondents were asked to arrange the selected problems related to social participation of youth in order of importance. The problems that were marked as priority most often were:

- Too few forms of social engagement of the youth (according to 37%);
- Strong social polarisation and radical stances among the youth (according to 33%);
- Ageism, i.e. discrimination on account of age (in line with the opinion of 28%).

Other problems marked as high rank included: instrumental treatment of the young by the politicians during elections (according to 20%); inadequate overall perception of voluntary activities and other forms of free commitment to the social issues (according to 19%) and lack of possibilities for the young people to become engaged in social life in smaller municipal centres and in villages (in line with the opinion of 18%). All the above problems were also treated by the majority of the respondents as difficulties of secondary importance. This fact should solidify the conviction that the above-listed issues really form a significant problem for a considerable portion of young people.

An important secondary problem that was not listed above is the conviction about the lack of impact that young people have on the surrounding reality. 23% of the respondents believe that the young people are not capable of acting effectively to influence the immediate environment.

In the section allowing the young people to present the problems that - according to them - have the greatest significance in the context of social participation, a number of persons indicated: lack of willingness and motivation of the young to become engaged in the political life, lack of proper senior guides and mentors that would show the way to the young and the mode of participation, divergence of ideas between the older and the younger generation, as well as the overall aversion of the young people to politics influenced by the mode of its portrayal in the media.

The next part of the survey referred to the probable sources of the above-listed problems. The most frequently marked causes were: stereotypical thinking about the young on the part of people who hold power (according to 69% of the respondents), objectified perception of the youth by the politicians (58% of votes) and inadequate perception of the young by the decision-makers (in line with the opinion of 55% of the respondents). As may be noted, young people are convinced that their own voice, as well as the voice of their representatives - peers - is not heard because the decision-makers reduce the significance and the value of such opinions, appeals or ideas.

The other probable sources of difficulties described above include, according to the young:

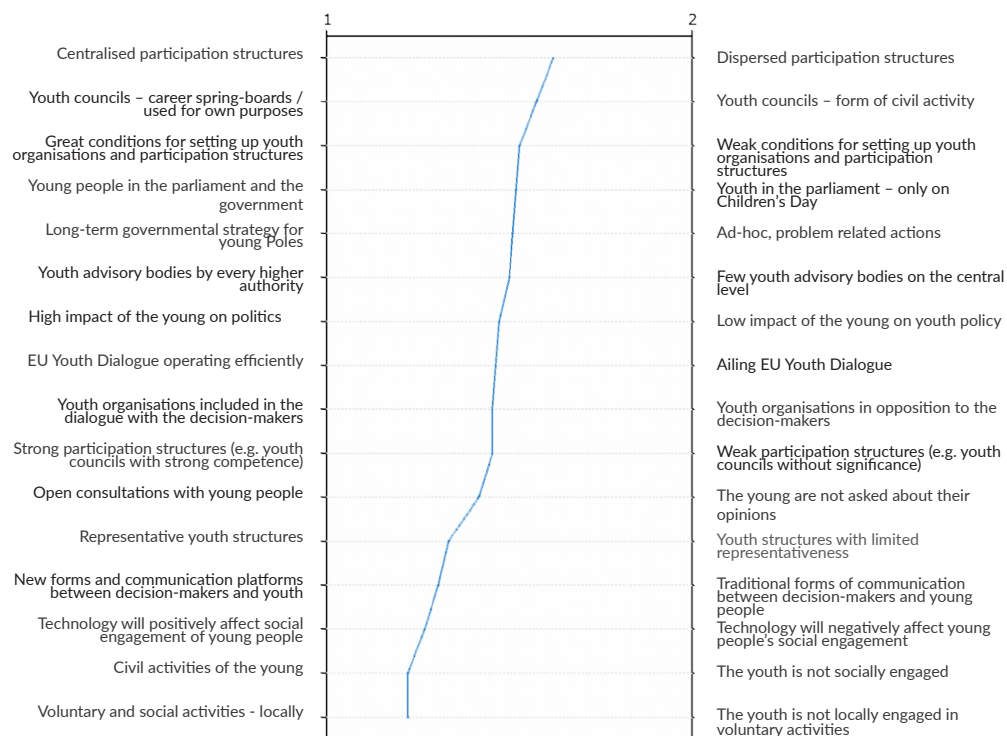
- Exclusion of the young from the creation of legal provisions (51%);
- Young people's fear of becoming engaged (according to 48%);
- Lack of a defined governmental strategy for the role of the young generation (47%);
- Lack of time and potential that the young people need to become engaged in the social issues and too many obligations, e.g. studies (47%).

In the section concluding the survey, the respondents shared their visions about the probable condition of youth participation in 30 years' time. The majority of the young said that young people will be greatly engaged in local voluntary activities and overall social activities (78%), which means that they will not remain passive with respect to helping others and acting for the sake of the community. Furthermore, many people (73%) declared that technology is going to help and facilitate engagement of young people in social and civil initiatives, which testifies to the fact that it will have an overall positive impact on this aspect of young people's social life. What is more, a large group of respondents (69%) believe that in 30 years' time, new forms and platforms of communication between the decision-makers and the young will be designed and function. Hence, the traditional forms of communication will become obsolete and cease to be used. Many young people (67%) also believe that over the decades, the youth structures will become representative and will advocate for the actual needs of the young. It is interesting to note that the respondents (57%) also believe that in 30 years' time, the youth councils as an organisational unit will become a pure form of civil activity and not a career spring-board or a tool used for own purposes. The last, clearly marked vision of the young for the future is

perception of the future structures of youth participation. Many respondents (62%) believe that the aforementioned structures will be dispersed and not centralised.

In the last part of the 'In 30 Years' Time' section, the respondents were asked to outline the ideal shape of social participation of the young people in the near future. The respondents' free statements about the ideal state of engagement of the young may be grouped into several categories:

- the voice of the young listened to and taken seriously by decision-makers (the opinion of the young should be taken into account and the young should be more involved in the development of the country; young people are respected and understood by adults in power),
- educated youth with values and a sense of responsibility for the the future of the country (more civic education in schools and increased social awareness of youth),
- representative youth representatives in parties (so that politics addresses our problems),
- Youth encouraged to be active and involved, subsidizing the activities of the youth (every high school student should know that there are youth councils; promoting social involvement among youth).



It is quite promising that the realistic vision of the young with respect to the shape of youth participation in 30 years' time to a great extent coincides with the ideal vision of this form of activism in the future. The respondents believe and hope that within several years, the adolescents and young adults will become engaged in social, political and volunteer activities and new technologies will assist them. The respondents are hoping for efficient and respectful communication between the young and the decision-making centres in the country. They are also hoping that the needs, views and ideas of the young will be comprehensively represented at the state arena.

Summary of Studied Areas

System of Justice

The young see the system of justice in negative terms. The young people are especially critical with respect to three areas. According to them, the society does not trust the system of justice, and the system of justice does not respect the citizens' rights. Furthermore, young people believe that Poles are not properly educated with respect to legal issues. It is interesting to note that the identified problem pertaining to the insufficient social knowledge in this area was also confirmed in a further part of the survey. A significant group of young people was not able to assess the level of operation of individual elements of the system of justice, such as the activities of the public prosecution offices or efficiency of expending funds intended for the system of justice.

It is quite uplifting that many young people were satisfied with the level of safety that the system of justice provides the citizens with and expressed a favourable opinion about the system's fight with crime and terrorism.

When asked about the major problems faced by the system of justice, the majority of the young indicated: inequality of the citizens with respect to the law, lack of trust of the citizens to the system and insufficiently educated society. As is easily noticeable, the aspects critically assessed by the young coincide with the most significant problems of the system of justice indicated by them. The case is similar as far as the probable causes of the aforementioned difficulties are concerned. It seems that it is the inadequate level of teaching about the law and the scandals involving representatives of the legal system that are responsible for the society's low knowledge about the modes of proceedings, organisation and operation of the discussed area and the lack of trust to it.

As far as the future perspective is concerned, the young people claim that in 30 years' time, the state will primarily monitor the citizens and the entire system will have been modernised. Furthermore, the young people believe that in spite of the modernisation, people will make the key decisions in the future and the punishment awarded by the court will have a traditional form (deprivation of liberty) and not a modern one (e.g. ban on Internet access).

In this part of the survey, the young were asked to share their visions about the ideal system of justice. In their opinion, this system should be: fair, modernised, efficient, deprived of bureaucracy and corruption, transparent, legible, accessible and citizen-friendly, as well as endorsing mediation and negotiations.

Climate Policy

The condition of the Polish climate policy was also assessed negatively by the majority of the respondents. Unfortunately, the young people show ignorance about many environmental and climate-related aspects also in this area. Those that voiced their dissatisfaction stressed that the most problematic aspects of this dimension include the insufficient attention on the part of the politicians and unsatisfactory general plans and actions for the sake of environmental protection taken by the state. An area with an equally negative assessment was protection from pollution - air, water and soil.

The most significant problems of climate policy identified by the respondents include excessive share of non-renewable energy sources in the overall production of energy and too slow development of nuclear energy. It is important that in this section, the young also stressed too low level of the society's education with respect to climate issues, as well as the rapid spreading of false information about the climate and the environment.

In the section of the survey focused on climate policy, the problems corresponded to their sources, similarly to the part pertaining to the system of justice. The young claim that the problems of the climate policy result from absence of a proper plan for this policy, from ignorance and thus absence of the citizens' responsibility for climate changes, along with reliance on coal-based energy.

The vision of the young pertaining to the shape of the climate policy in Poland in 30 years' time focuses, to a predominant degree, on four areas. Young people believe that in the near future, such actions as waste segregation will become obligatory for all citizens. Furthermore, the respondents believe that in three decades' time, the Polish energy system will rely on renewable energy sources and new technologies will assist climate protection. The respondents also note that in the future, there will be new sources of energy as opposed to the ones that we know today.

The above visions of the reality in 30 years' time seem to be positive. Unfortunately, in this perspective the young people do not manifest optimism in two areas. They claim that in the near future, it will not be possible to stop climate changes and that energy will have to be imported.

On the other hand, the fantasies of the young about the ideal shape of the climate policy comprise several important elements. Perfect functioning of this area, according to the young, consists in: very significant share of renewable sources of energy (deriving primarily from nuclear power plants) in the overall production of energy, work of highly specialist personnel, climate issues given priority by the decision-makers, environmental education of the society and actions consistent with the sustainable development concept.

Youth Participation

The overall assessment of the area of youth participation turns out to be neutral. Such result may follow from unpopularity of this area and thus limited knowledge of the respondents about the discussed issue. The results of the subsequent parts of the survey have shown that the youth is actually unable to assess this issue and thus probably does not know about such form of engagement of the young as the EU Youth Dialogue in Poland or advocacy activities. However, it is interesting that the majority of the respondents manifested dissatisfaction with a number of youth postulates in the political programmes and the politicians' neglect of the issues of the young generation.

On the other hand, a number of young people seem to be satisfied with the form in which their active peers represent the values and issues pivotal for the young and the mode of operation of youth councils by the units of local government. Most of the respondents are also satisfied with the events and social movements organised by the young generation. Unfortunately, a significant percentage of the young people are dissatisfied with too small share of representatives of the young in the process of making important decisions in the country, lack of openness of the public authorities to include the young in such decision-making processes and with insufficient civil education of the young.

As far as the major problems with respect to the area of participation of the young are concerned, these are such difficulties as: insufficient social engagement of the young, strong and unfavourable polarisation and radical stances among the young, as well as ageism, i.e. discrimination of the young on account of age.

The main sources of the above problems, according to the respondents, are: overlooking the young during establishment of the law, young people's fear of becoming engaged, lack of time for such initiatives, as well as absence of a governmental strategy for the role of the young generation in the political life.

As far as the vision of the young pertaining to the discussed area in 30 years' time is concerned, most respondents claim that in the near future, their peers will become engaged in voluntary and social activities, and the technology will assist and facilitate engagement of the young in social and civil initiatives, as well as expedite contacts between them and decision-makers.

The realistic vision above coincides with the ideal beliefs of the young about youth participation in three decades' time. The respondents see perfect participation of the young as an area where the voice of the young is heard and respected, while the young are comprehensively educated and guided by values, while the decision-makers encourage the young to act by promoting the concept of participation and financial incentives.

Sources of Information about Politics

A significant part of the survey was aimed to show the overall picture of the sources of youth knowledge about the current politics. It turned out that the young people predominantly derive their overall knowledge about the current affairs in Poland from the broadly defined Internet (91% of the respondents) and social media (78% of answers). A smaller portion of the respondents learn about current politics from talks with friends (53%) or with the family (48%). It turns out that 51% of the young gain knowledge about politics from television. Other sources of information that the young people often use are schools or universities (35%) and the radio (32% of declarations). In turn, a definitely smaller percentage of the respondents declared that the knowledge about the current politics is acquired from newspapers (15%).

The next question in the survey referred to the press. It turned out that the titles that the young people read most often (15% of the respondents) to learn about current affairs are *Gazeta Wyborcza* (57%) and *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna* (52%). Slightly less popular among youth are such magazines as: *Newsweek* (38%) or *Polityka* (38%). The following titles enjoy even less interest: *Tygodnik NIE* (33%), *Agora* (33%), *Super Express* (29%), *Rzeczpospolita* (29%), *Fakt* (29%), *Wprost* (29%) and generally understood international press (29%). As it turns out, only 24% of the respondents reach for such publications as *Do Rzeczy* and *Gazeta Polska*.

In a further part of the survey, the share of websites in building knowledge about political issues in the group of the young was assessed. It turned out that a definite majority of the respondents acquire knowledge about current affairs from national news websites (68%). In the second place, young people reach for the local news websites (40%) or on-line television (40%). Least popular among the representatives of the young generation are blogs and vlogs (25%), local government websites (23%), governmental websites (20%), industry websites (20%), discussion groups such as *Wykop* or *Reddit* (20%). In the place devoted to independent specification of websites which are the sources of information about the current politics, the young people listed such virtual spaces as Facebook groups or websites where memes are posted.

The next section of the survey focused on television channels that young people watch to acquire information about the current political events. It turns out that most young people watch news programmes on TVN (64%), TVN24 (57%) and Polsat (56%). Definitely fewer respondents declared that they choose such stations as TVP1 (27%) and TVP INFO (26%) as sources of information about the current political events. 21% of the respondents indicated the international television stations as the medium from which they gain their political knowledge.

As far as the radio is concerned, the young expand their knowledge about politics based on information broadcast primarily by RMF FM (81%). The remaining young listeners listed to the political news on Radio Zet (44%) and local stations (33%). Other stations that deliver information about politics are: TOK FM (16%), international stations (16%), Antyradio (14%), *Jedynka – Polskie Radio* (12%) and Radio Plus (12%).

The last question from the part analysing the individual sources of information about politics pertained to social media. It showed that most young people check Facebook to acquire such information (82%). Fewer persons look for political information on websites such as YouTube (56%) and Instagram (50%). Social media with a lower level of popularity include Twitter (37%) and TikTok (21%).

Summing up the part of the survey pertaining to the sources of information about politics, it is worth noting that the young people acquire knowledge in this area primarily from the Internet. The respondent group most often visits social media (primarily Facebook) and national news websites. Furthermore, a significant portion of the young gain knowledge about current political events from talks with the family and from television.

Young People's Willingness to Become Engaged in Politics

In the survey, the young people were asked about their own impact on public affairs, and their willingness to become engaged in politics along with an assessment of efficiency of various forms of youth participation.

The opinions about the perceived degree of impact of the respondents on the public life were divided. Slightly over a half of the survey participants (57%) declared that they had no impact on the social and political life. A slightly smaller group of respondents (37%) concluded that they had influence on the discussed area. 7% of the respondents declared that they had no opinion on the issue. As far as the readiness of the young to participate in the public life is concerned, the most desired forms of engagement included:

- Activism (according to 55% of the respondents);
- Setting up or joining a non-governmental organisation that acts for the sake of the declared values (according to 51% of the young);
- Being active in a youth council operating by a local government unit (according to 50% of the respondents);
- Participation in social consultations (in line with the opinion of 49% of the study participants).

Less popular forms of potential engagement of the young in the public life were:

- Activity in a youth council operating by a central authority, including ministries (according to 37% of the respondents);
- Participation in local government elections/ parliamentary elections (according to 35% of the respondents);
- Influencer activities in the social media (in line with the declaration of 33% of the young).

In the area of efficiency of individual forms of participation of the young people, the majority of the respondents indicated high efficiency of such actions as:

- Setting up or joining a non-governmental organisation acting for the sake of the interested person (to 69% of the declarations);
- Being active in a youth council by a local government unit (68% of the responses);
- Influencer activities in the social media (65% of the responses);
- Activism (64% of the declarations).

In turn, according to many young people, less efficient forms of socio-political engagement of the young include:

- Participation in local government elections/ parliamentary elections (59% of the responses);
- Being active in a youth council operating by a central authority (57% of the responses);
- Participation in social consultations (57% of the responses).

Hence, as can be seen above, the willingness of the young to become engaged in individual forms of activities for the sake of the public life does not necessarily coincide with the perceived efficiency of these activities. This conclusion allows for claiming that the young people's willingness to take part in socio-political activities is not only affected by the perceived efficiency of these forms of activism, but remains under the impact of other factors. Young people may find the general knowledge about specific activities or the perceived organisation and atmosphere related to individual forms of engagement important.

Recommendations

These recommendations have been compiled as the finalisation of the process accounting for the results of surveys, in-depth interviews, meetings with the young people and experience of the Institute's experts in the area of youth policies. They are divided into three thematic areas identical with the areas to which the New Generation Dialogue was devoted.



1. Climate

1.1. Fight with Fake News, Promotion of Reliable Scientific Knowledge in the Area of Climate Changes

Young people manifest great awareness in the area of climate changes, yet such knowledge is often superficial and limited to the awareness of the phenomenon as such, yet not its effects and consequences. Due to this, it is necessary to continue actions that are aimed at eliminating fake news from circulation. Furthermore, reliable studies that rely on trustworthy scientific sources should be promoted.

1.2. Development of Comprehensive Climate Education

It is necessary to introduce climate education, starting from early school education and ending with universities. The issues related to climate, environment, sustainable development and reciprocal impact of the elements listed above must constitute an important element of teaching. Only then will it be possible to increase the awareness of the young along with gradual enhancement of the complexity and advancement of the communicated content.

1.3. Education Devoted to the Necessity of Carrying Out Just Transformation, Explanation of Its Rules and Principals Compensating the Social Cost of the Ecological Policy

More emphasis should be put on the issues related to the social significance of just transformation in order to explain the complexity of the process of abandoning the fossil fuels and the necessity of taking into account the voices of various groups of interest. Very often, this aspect is marginalised in the media discussion, while in many places in our country (in particular in Silesia), this is an actual problem.

1.4. Necessity of Counteracting Smog and Air Pollution

Recently, social awareness has been on the rise (including awareness of the young) with respect to smog and other types of air pollution. The courts are examining the so-called smog suits, thus setting up a line of judicial decisions. The Supreme Court has taken a stance on the issue in case with ref. No. III CZP 27/20. This tendency will also be visible in the future. On this account, it is necessary for the state to take actions aimed at eliminating the problem of smog and compensating persons who were harmed as a result of air pollution.

1.5. Promotion of Ecological Stances, Local Activism of the Young, e.g. Collecting Garbage in the Woods

The young people in local communities often became engaged in activities related to the care for forest areas. One of such activities recently was carried out under the name #SadziMY. It is necessary to increase the awareness of the young as far as the nature surrounding them is concerned and to indicate potential actions that they can take to protect it and to preserve its recreational and leisure assets.

1.6. Teacher Training about Climate Education and Guaranteeing Proper Didactic Aids Supporting the Teaching Process

Introduction of a comprehensive climate education also calls for trainings for the teachers in this respect. It is also necessary to deliver proper didactic aids, which will comply with the current state of knowledge in this respect

1.7. Recognition of 'Climate Depression' As a Significant Problem in the Area of Mental Health of the Young Generation and a Factor Affecting the Decisions Made by Them, e.g. Work and Setting Up a Family

One of the major problems concerning many representatives of the young generation is the bad mental state and the lack of access to proper psychological assistance. Depression caused by climate changes as an issue affecting mental condition of the young people is diagnosed more and more often. In a longer perspective, it is also necessary to work out system solutions to counteract this socially negative phenomenon.

1.8. Promotion of Less Waste as a Style of Life and Waste Recycling

How to live 'less waste'? More and more young people are asking this question. Greater care for the choice of clothes, local food products and emphasis on smaller amount of 'generated' plastic becomes a domain of an ever growing group of persons. On this account, actions contributing to this tendency and intended to increase social awareness of the young within the scope of local products, Polish brands and significance of waste processing are recommended.

1.9. Care for Good Quality of Soil and Water

The issue of quality of surface waters has appeared in the social discussion along with the failure of the 'Czajka' waste treatment facility. More emphasis should be paid to controls in places where there are problems with water pollution. Care for the quality of water also entails reduced consumption of water and small-scale water retention. It is necessary to expand the youth's awareness in the area of water footprint of products that they use.

1.10. Further Inclusion of Young People in Decision-Making Processes in Administrative Divisions such as Climate and Environment

One of the most active consultative bodies bringing together representatives of the young generation is the Youth Climate Council. It is necessary to ensure further tools that will positively affect social participation of the young in such key areas of social life. One of the examples may be the regularly held consultations and studies related to learning the opinions of the young in the problem areas. Good practice is also participation of the young generation (experts, not necessarily activists) in high rank events. In such case, the young act as ambassadors, simultaneously representing the 'youthful' point of view in the discussion and providing their peers with the information about the decisions made.

2. System of Justice

2.1. Introduction of Legal Education to Schools

At the present moment, elements of legal education are present in school subjects such as civil education, history and social education. However, these are insufficient solutions, especially bearing in mind the low legal awareness of the young generation. Given the above and as confirmed by the results of studies carried out as part of the New Generation Dialogue, it is necessary to take actions aimed at introducing legal education to schools, both on the level of primary and secondary schools.

2.2. Promoting Engagement of Representatives of Legal Professions in Actions Increasing Legal and Social Awareness of Young People (Social Activities of Representatives of Legal Professions)

The representatives of legal professions do not enjoy significant social trust in our society. Setting the causes of this state of affairs aside, actions where lawyers are engaged in legal education definitely may constitute best practice. Meetings with judges, prosecution attorneys, lawyers or representatives of other legal professions and the young people may highlight the 'human side' of the system of justice and reduce the distance. Naturally, engagement of the representatives of legal professions will translate to increase of legal awareness.

2.3. Increasing Legal Awareness of the Young with the Use of Non-Formal Education Methods and Organisation of Contests, Trainings and Educational Projects Devoted to Legal Education

Increase of legal awareness among the young is the major recommendation from this module. It is necessary to remember to highlight the innovative and direct forms of reaching the young people. Such actions may be more effective if they supplement the basic legal education, offered in the form of school classes. By using the solutions of both formal and non-formal education, it is possible to create a synergy effect, translating to an increase in legal awareness of the representatives of the young generation.

2.4. Coordination of Activities within the Scope of Legal Education

Sample activities within the scope of legal education, which - according to the Institute - may contribute to a significant improvement of the legal awareness of the representatives of the young generation were listed above. Nevertheless, it seems that efficient legal education requires coordinated activities taken by diverse entities. As of the present moment, the ministry of justice, the ministry of education, legal profession associations and third sector organisations are responsible for various aspects and actions taken as part of legal education. An interesting solution could be setting up a working group comprising representatives of the entities listed above and representatives of the young generation.

2.5. Performance of Cyclical Studies in the Area of Legal Awareness of the Young Generation

Similarly to other problem areas, it is necessary to guarantee ongoing monitoring of needs, challenges and problems of the young people within the system of justice. Regularly performed studies will allow the decision-makers to update the priorities of the policies in a given area, accounting for the problems and suggestions that are indicated by the representatives of the young generation.

2.6. More Study Visits and Practical Classes in Courts and Other Institutions of the System of Justice

At the secondary school level, the pupils should have an opportunity of participating in study visits in courts or other institutions of the system of justice. Study visits, by assumption, allow for getting to know the visited locations and their intended use. Young people would have the opportunity for understanding the selected rules of the system of justice and observing 'law in action.' Top-down guidelines and recommendations with respect to such visits should be prepared.

2.7. Counteracting On-line Crime, Making the Young Aware of the Significance of Cyber-security

The young people are particularly active in the virtual realm. Unfortunately, legally ignorant persons are susceptible to on-line fraud (the so-called 'scam'). Bearing in mind the cyber-security of the younger Internet users, and with a view to counteracting crimes committed with the use of this medium, it seems necessary to create proper didactic aids and information campaigns in this respect.

2.8. Computerisation of the System of Justice

Many young people indicated insufficient computerisation of the system of justice as a considerable problem that affects that efficiency of proceedings in our country. Further actions (especially in the face of post-pandemic changes) should be aimed at adjusting the existing infrastructure to holding the proceedings in a remote mode.

2.9. Transparent Legal Provisions (in Particular in Reference to the Young)

The language of a legal text is often illegible even for a seasoned lawyer, not to mention a person who previously had no contact with the law. In spite of the absence of such 'direct' contact, young people are predominantly subject to the same prohibitions and obligations as the 'adult' members of the society. On this account, in the process of law establishment, more emphasis should be put on its legibility and clarity. Provisions pertaining to, in particular, family relations, the rights of a minor as an aggrieved party and issues in the area of alimonies should be treated as a priority in this respect.

2.10. Reduced Distance Between the System of Justice and Citizens

The final recommendation of general nature is that when taking the actions proposed above, a reduced distance between the system of justice and the citizens ought to be taken into account at all times. Obviously, this is not a goal in itself, but definitely a significant element of an efficiently operating system of justice and, in consequence, an efficiently operating state.



3. Social Participation

3.1. Support for Youth Councils

It is still possible - in spite of the pandemic caused by Sars-COV-2 - to observe significant activity of youth councils on the level of communes, poviats and provinces, which are particularly visible in the area of activating the representatives of the young generation on the local level. Essentially, a good step - used to support the youth councils - was the amendment of the local government acts in this respect. However, ongoing monitoring of changes taking place in the area of youth participation is necessary, diagnosing the emerging problems and compiling recommendations of solutions.

3.2. No to Tokenism in Relations with the Young

Tokenism can be described as a negative practice of performing only symbolic actions for the sake of including representatives of dominated groups in the institutional structures that have so far been composed of the representatives of dominant groups. Such inclusion is often limited in nature and the effect of tokenism offers a false impression of equality of the social status of representatives of specific groups and lack of discrimination. The young are an equal partner in the discussion and it is necessary to provide them with the possibility of taking the floor in all the issues that refer to them. This is expressed by the rule: 'nothing about us without us.' Unfortunately, there are still programmes or events that treat the representatives of the young generation instrumentally, e.g. by giving them an opportunity to speak, yet expecting only affirmative answers, or through non-representativeness of advisory authorities.

3.3. Local Government Representatives Listening to the Voice of Youth Advisory Bodies on the Local Level

The youth councils are an excellent tool for examining social activity of the young and exciting the interest of the young in the issues of a commune. Setting up a youth council as an entity authorised to put forward legislative initiatives has increased the significance of youth councils on the local government level. Providing the young with proper tools that enable efficient social participation is now the task of the local governments. This also entails the necessity of taking into account the voice of the young in issues related to the past of a given community. The communes that are friendly towards the young are a natural milestone in the process of social participation of the young.

3.4. Increased Participation of the Young on the Central Level

Youth advisory bodies should be set up in areas that are directly connected to issues important for the representatives of the young generation. This does not entail thoughtless copying of the already existing solutions. Promotion of a decentralised model of youth policy and diversified specifics of public administration divisions require a tailored approach, which is possible by making use of the experience of experts and third sector organisations involved in social participation. Use of tailored solutions will lead to developing the consultative and advisory potential of the youth advisory bodies to a better degree.

3.5. Popularisation and Promotion of Best Practices in Youth Participation

Creation of a White Book of Youth Participation, which would compile the experiences from the recent years of consultations with the young and the changing tendencies in youth policies, would definitely be a desired activity. Such tool would be greatly needed by the decision-makers who are active in areas of key importance from the perspective of the representative of the young generation.

3.6. Development of Organisations and Structures Supporting the Operation of Youth Councils

The growing activity of youth councils is not accompanied by a greater number of possibilities of trainings, consultations and meetings with experts and representatives of the third sector, which could increase the efficiency of operation of youth councils. Due to this, it is necessary to put more emphasis on institutional support - most often for NGOs - that are involved in work with the young people and mechanisms of efficient participation. Thanks to this, the youth councils could be equipped with tools that have a positive impact on performance of their advisory and (first and foremost) opinion-forming nature.

3.7. Support for Youth Authorities from Local Governments and Separate Budgets or Guarantee of Basic Services for the Youth Councils

An idea worth considering is setting up a fund dedicated directly to the support for youth councils. The operator of the fund would be responsible for year-round mini-grant activities that would allow the young people

from the youth councils to cover the costs of additional trainings, trips, substantive and promotional materials and to support other initiatives.

3.8. Striving for a National Association of Youth Councils

In spite of the existence of a significant number of youth councils in communes, poviats and province governments, so far no organisation has been formed which would democratically represent the interests of all youth councils in Poland. Such institution - by assumption representative and not related to any political party - could bring together representatives of youth councils from all over the country, exerting a positive impact on the institutional continuity of their actions.

3.9. Internationalisation of Youth Actions

Many solutions that are implemented in Poland (also within the scope of social participation of the young) are not new. They are often copies of foreign models. Bearing this in mind, it is impossible not to appreciate the significance of the exchange of best practices directly by the young. For example, international meetings of young people could be organised based on partner cities.

3.10. Constructive Dialogue Instead of Empty Activism and Counteracting Radical Stances Among the Young

The last postulate, as opposed to the ones formulated above, is addressed directly to the young people. Even though participation in protests, social activism and happenings often allow for focusing the social opinion's attention on a given issue, it is impossible to overestimate the significance of expert back-up and professional support for the formulated solutions (or at least recommendations of solutions). Non-constructive criticism definitely has a reduced value and at the same time may be easily refuted. On this account, it is necessary to indicate actions that allow the young to formulate postulates and to present them to the decision-makers with a view to initiate a dialogue.



Activities of the Institute's Team

The assumption of the New Generation Dialogue was to survey the opinions of young people about their vision of the future of youth policies in the selected areas of the public life in Poland. However, presentation of a full picture of the Institute's activities would not have been possible without showing the activities of the team of experts which, apart from daily work, were present at many events important from the perspective of youth policy in Poland. The presence of the Institute's experts allowed for procuring numerous responses to studies as part of in-depth interviews and learning the general opinion of the young people about the situation in Poland. Some of the events important from the point of view of the young people in Poland in 2021 are outlined below.

Amendment of the Act on Youth Councils

On 1 June 2021, our experts had the pleasure of participating in the ceremonious signing by Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland, of act of 20 April 2021 on amendments in the act on commune government, act on poviast government, act on province government and act on public benefit activities and on volunteer activities. The act has significantly improved the position of the youth councils; many of such youth councils are our partners as part of the project. The event, as well as the press briefing organised by the President's Chancellery, was also attended by Piotr Drzewiecki, who cooperated in this project.

Round Table for Climate Education

The Round Table for Climate Education, organised by the United Nations Global Compact, was attended by the representatives of governmental and local government administration, representatives of the UN system, the world of politics and science, teachers, youth and non-governmental organisations. Tomasz Opar, president of the Institute, was also present. Przemysław Czarnek, Minister of Education and Science and Michał Kurtyka, Minister of Climate and Environment, also confirmed their presence. President of the Republic of Poland penned a letter to the participants.

'Fit for 55: Chance or Threat for Poland' Debate

The 'Fit for 55: Chance or Threat for Poland' debate was organised by the Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Bogna Janke. The panel members included: Jacek Ozdoba – Secretary of State in the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Adam Guibourgé-Czetwertyński – Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Paweł Sałek – advisor to the president for environmental protection, Wojciech Myślecki – chairman of the supervisory board of Ekoenergetyka - Polska, Mariusz Ruszel, Ph.D., professor at the Rzeszów University of Technology and Joanna Maćkowiak-Pandera, Ph.D., president of Forum Energia. Łukasz Rzepecki, presidential advisor, was also present. The discussion was also attended by journalists, experts from think tanks, as well as representatives of the Youth Climate Council.

16th Economic Forum of Young Leaders

Since the very beginning of its existence, the forum has been striving for including the young in the discussion about the future of Europe and the world, as well as the decision-making processes shaping our reality. During fifteen editions, thanks to the space for talks, networking and integration, the participants have been able to establish international partnerships, implement joint projects and even find their dream jobs. For the last 15 years, the Forum's programme has equipped young people with knowledge, self-confidence, inspiration for acting and offered perspectives and new contacts. Thanks to this, many participants keep returning to the Forum over several years - as partners of the event, experts and speakers.

Establishment of Youth Council

On 14 October 2021, Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland, appointed members of the Youth Council. The council is an apolitical body that will operate as part of the National Development Programme. During the event in the Presidential Palace, nominations from the president were handed out to 24 persons representing various organisations and youth milieus, among them educational, climate, ecological, international, persons with disabilities, agricultural, sports, employee and offering psychological and psychiatric support.

It was an event of exceptional significance because to date, such advisory body by the President of the Republic of Poland has not operated. This is the first initiative of this type. Establishment of the council crowns over one year of consultations titled 'Youth in the Palace', in the course of which 100 meetings were held, attended by over 160 organisations representing youth milieus. The first inauguration session of the Youth Council took place in the Presidential Palace and was attended by Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland. The title of the session was 'The Young and the Challenges of the Future.'

Internship as the Subject Matter of the Youth Council Session

At the end of November 2021, the Youth Council operating as part of the National Development Council discussed the internship for young people who are entering the labour market. The session that was held in the Belvedere Palace, was hosted by Łukasz Rzepecki, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Poland and simultaneously the chairman of the Council. The session, apart from the Council members, was also attended by Bogna Janke - Secretary of State in the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Błażej Spychalski and Marcin Drewa, advisers to the President of the Republic of Poland.

During the session, the members of the Council and the officials from the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland had the opportunity of listening to a presentation by the expert for social participation from the Institute for the Development of Legal Education and Civil Society, Piotr Drzewiecki, who presented the issue of internship for the young people entering the labour market. The current situation was outlined, but also the possible or even the expected directions of changes. The so-called reverse payment mechanism was also presented – a pathological solution sometimes present at the labour market, when a student has to pay for the opportunity of completing an internship.

During individual presentations by the Council members, special attention was attracted to the new solutions pertaining to the internship, including development of best practice, as well as potential changes in the legal provisions, which would improve the conditions in this area. Benefits that result from the properly organised and carried out internship for young participants and employers were also highlighted.

Poland 2.0

A part of the team of our Institute had the pleasure of participating in the Poland 2.0 Summit conference, which was held on 30 October 2021 in Warsaw. The event was aimed at dissuading young people and inspiring professionals from thinking that they are too young to be successful. In turn, for the representatives of companies, Poland 2.0 Summit was an excellent opportunity for meeting creative Poles, as well as a platform for exchanging remarks and expectations about the modern labour market.

The first Poland 2.0 Summit took place six years ago in London. This year we met in Poland for the first time in the history of the conference. Poland 2.0 Summit is an event organised by students for students and refers to challenges in the area of law, finance, health, energy and entertainment that the young generation has to face. In this year's agenda, the main themes were: Futuristic Trends, Technological Transformations and Social Impact Solutions. In their discussions, experts from various areas addressed such issues as ethical aspects of using social intelligence, fighting fake news, climate crisis and sustainable development.



Recapitulation

We would like to thank our partners for their trust. This publication is the crowning of the New Generation Dialogue, the flagship project of the Institute for the Development of Legal Education and Civil Society in 2021. However, this does not mean that our work in the area of the system of justice, climate and environment and social participation is complete - on the contrary. Information and conclusions that we have managed to compile as part of the New Generation Dialogue have designated the direction of our activities for years to come. The conclusions of our studies indicate clearly that it is necessary to intensify efforts in the area of education (including informal education).

Young people often do not know in which areas they could be socially active. They do not know what their peers active in youth advisory bodies on the central level or in youth local governments are doing.

Hence, it is difficult to expect conscious social participation if the existing tools are not fully used. The Youth Climate Council - an advisory body operating by

the Ministry of Climate and Environment may serve as an example. This body could share its activities and engagement with several other organisations, yet the awareness of the existence of this institution remains unsatisfactory. Many processes that recently focused on supporting the representatives of the young generation are not fully recognized by the young as efficient methods of joint creation of youth policies in Poland. That is why we believe that it is necessary to reinforce the message to the young. Underprivileged milieus - young people living in smaller towns and in rural areas - still cannot enjoy the same benefits as their peers in large cities.

We hope that further actions and innovative social projects are the way to reduce inequalities and to build the social awareness of the young. Everybody who cares about working with young people and participatory inclusion is welcome to contact us and to act for the sake of young people in Poland. Let us jointly make the future in our country bright.





**SFINANSOWANO ZE ŚRODKÓW NARODOWEGO INSTYTUTU WOLNOŚCI –
CENTRUM ROZWOJU SPOŁECZEŃSTWA OBYWATELSKIEGO**
W RAMACH RZĄDOWEGO PROGRAMU FUNDUSZ MŁODZIEŻOWY NA LATA 2022–2033
PROGRAM POD PATRONATEM PEŁNOMOCNIKA RZĄDU DS. POLITYKI MŁODZIEŻOWEJ

Translation was financed by National Freedom Institute. Centre for Civil Society Development.

IREPSO

EDUKACJA.
PRAWO.
OBYWATEL.

**DIALOG
NOWEJ
GENERACJI**