

Baltic Youth's visions, innovations and initiatives to Green Deal implemented in local communities

Understanding of the concepts of
community, cooperation, common good and sustainable development
by the generation of young people in Poland as a reflection of dynamic social, economic and environmental shifts.

Próba interpretacji zmian w rozumieniu pojęć
współpraca, dobro wspólne i zrównoważony rozwój
w pokoleniu Z jako odzwierciedlenie dynamicznych przemian społecznych, gospodarczych i środowiskowych.

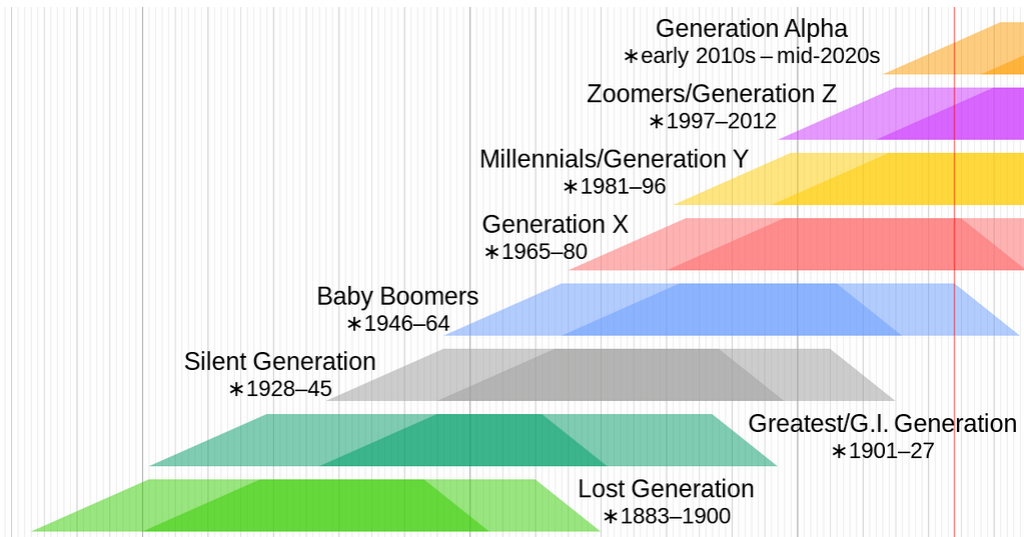
material for discussion

Old concepts through the prism of the latest global processes, key drivers
of change and the actions of young Poles who both respond to these
transformations and themselves influence them...



GDAŃSK, 14.03.2024.

The Zoomers



- They gain knowledge from the Internet,
- They have big plans for the future,
- They are enterprising,
- They are focused on quickly searching for information,
- They are willing to share knowledge on the Internet,
- They are open and direct,
- They have a great need for contact with peers,
- They are not afraid to travel and meet new people
- For many of them, building real interpersonal relationships is difficult

We know this generation, but that doesn't mean we can follow their understanding of the world....

BabyBoomers
Generation X
Millennials

vs.

Zoomers

an era of redefinition of everything

Observation:

Many phenomena are identical or very similar to the processes taking place in Europe, but some differences in Poland can be noticeable.

thesis:

Knowledge about the differences may be crucial in shaping actions, selecting strategies or working on projects with young people

Digital Transformation has changed almost everything!

The ongoing digital revolution is fundamentally changing the way the GenZ **create communities, collaborate and engage in activism**



Community

For the current young generation, the concept of community **extends beyond geographical boundaries** to include digital and global networks.

Social media and digital platforms have enabled young people to **form communities based on shared interests**, values, and causes rather than solely on physical proximity.

These digital communities offer a platform for activism, support, and engagement on **a scale previously unimaginable**, facilitating a broader sense of belonging and identity.



Cooperation

Cooperation among young people today is increasingly characterized by **horizontal**, rather than **vertical**, structures.

This shift reflects a preference for collaborative and participatory approaches to problem-solving and project development.

(the same as throughout Europe)

Through initiatives like

- co-working spaces,
- collective action movements,
- and online collaboration platforms,

young people are redefining what it means to work together, emphasizing inclusivity, diversity, and mutual respect.



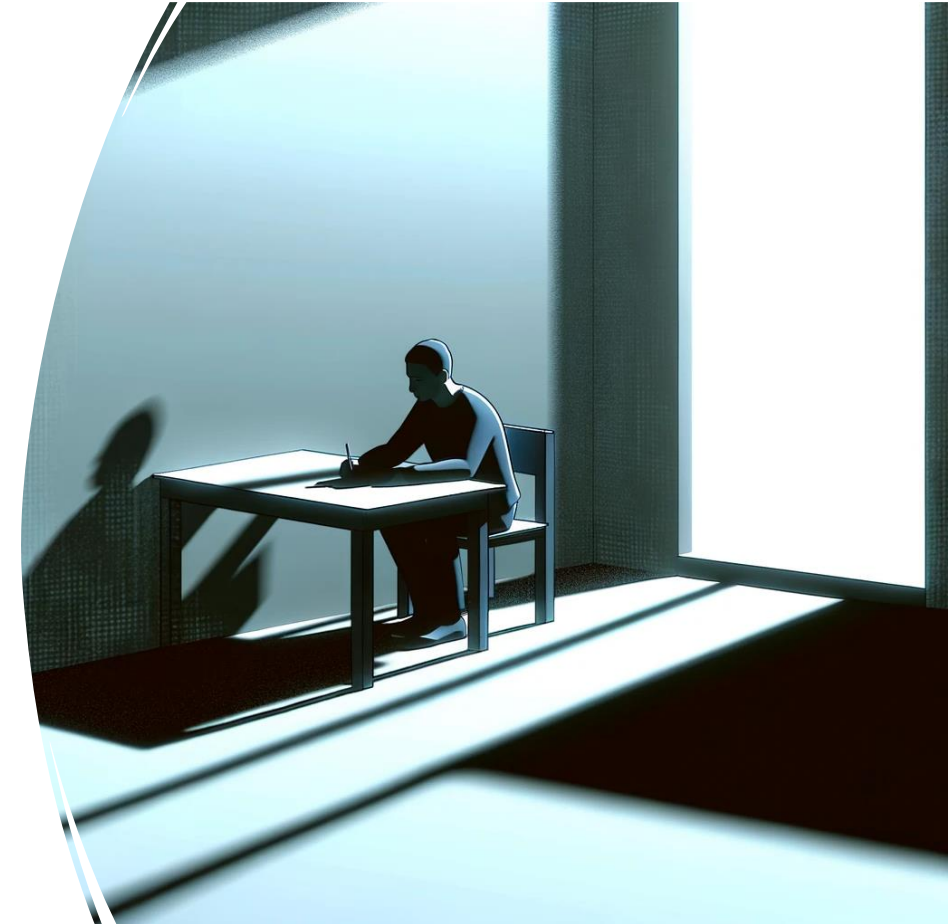
Cooperation ? Really?

in Poland

- more and more young people are struggling with identity problems, difficulties in establishing contacts and the increasingly serious effects of the growing feeling of "loneliness in the crowd"



The proportions between these two phenomena are difficult to study

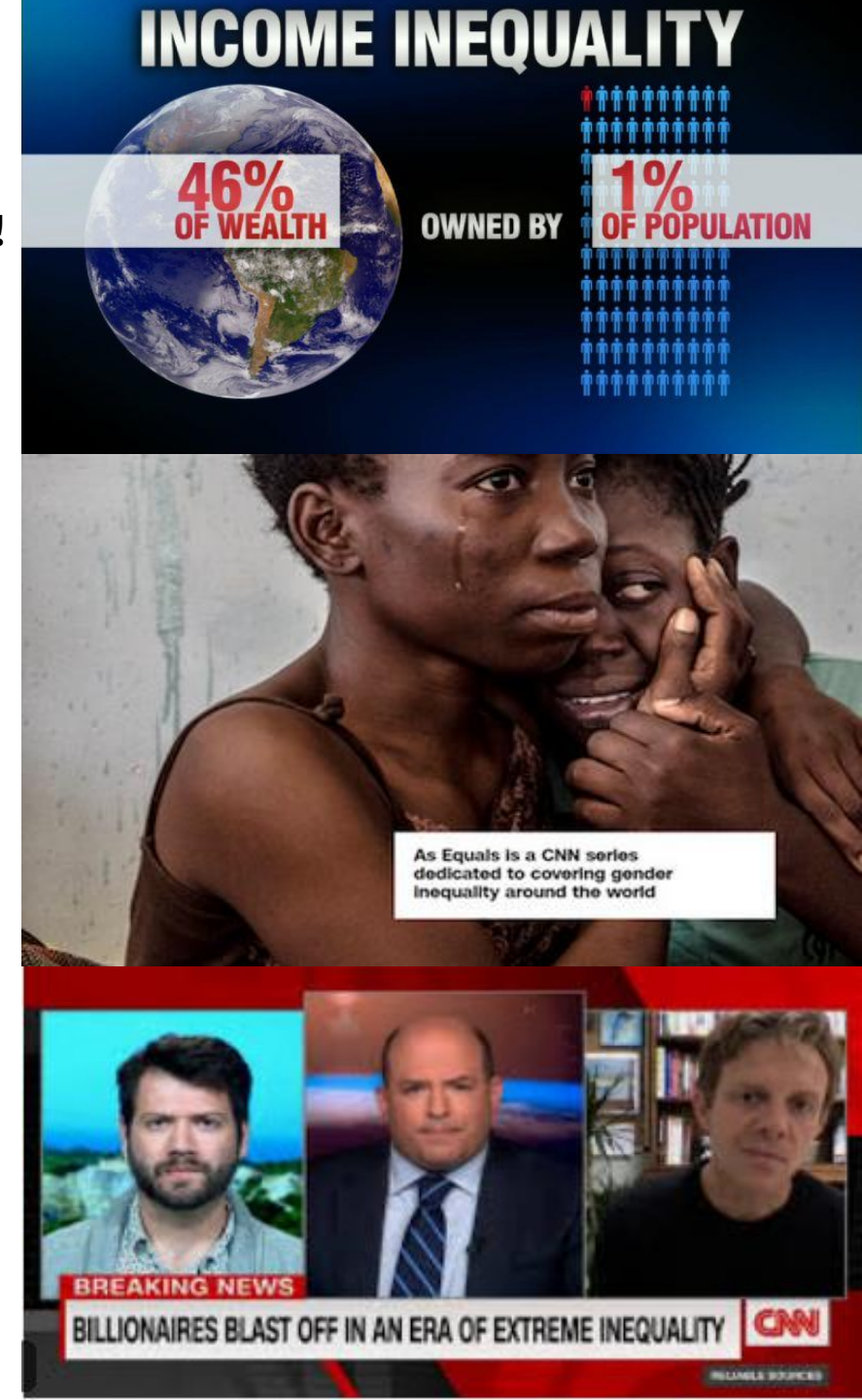


The understanding of the **common good** also has evolved !

...to encompass global challenges such as:
climate change,
inequality,
and social justice

Common Good for BB or Gen X ≠ Common Good for GenZ

GenZ views the **common good** not just in local or national terms, but as an interconnected **global issue** that requires **cooperative and comprehensive solutions**



GenZ in Poland today are more likely **to consider the global implications** of their actions, advocating for policies and practices that address global challenges.

The increasing awareness of **global interconnectedness** has broadened also the scope of what is **considered the common good**



Sustainable Development

This concern translates into action through **widespread participation in environmental activism** and demand for green policies and practices.

The decisions to engage **stem from the community's activism and impact** to a much greater extent than from established, substantive knowledge.

Young people are advocating for sustainable lifestyle choices, responsible consumption and protection of air quality.

More difficult and complex issues like sustainable urban planning are rather neglected.



The new understanding of Climate Crisis:

The urgency of the climate crisis has galvanized GenZ, leading to a more radical and urgent approach to sustainable development.

Movements like „School climate strike” highlight this shift towards more activist and [direct forms of engagement](#).

„In a hundred years it will be too late!”

„Without our anger there is no future!”



„First Nature, then final exams!”



two completely opposite phenomena can be noticed:

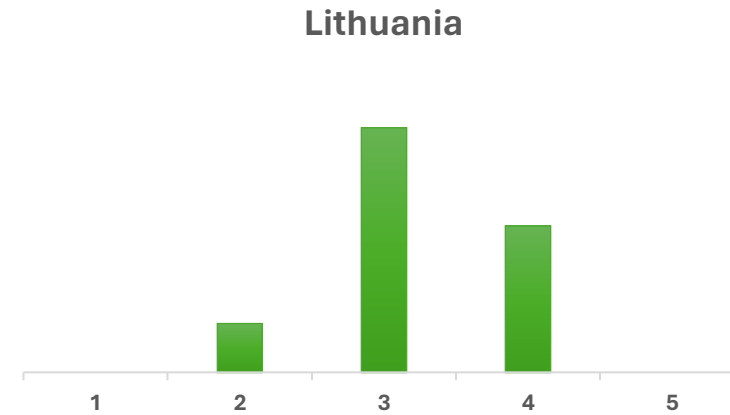
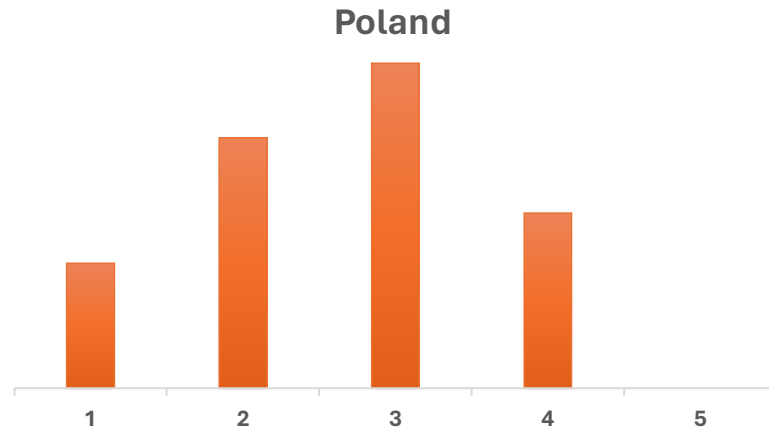
Young Poles are advocating for policies and practices that prioritize the welfare of the wider community and future generations over short-term interests.

Young Poles focused on their lives, live with the problems of their immediate surroundings. The need to compete, awareness of an uncertain career path, fear of independence dominates...

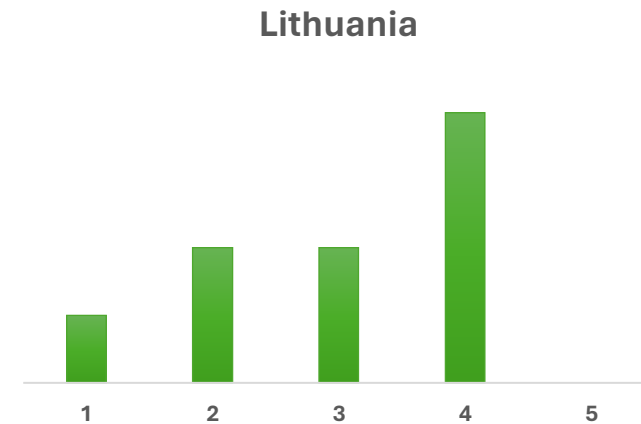
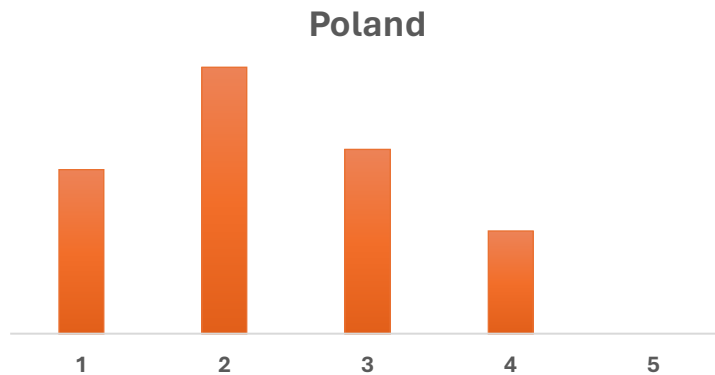
“Baltic Youth’s visions, innovations and initiatives to Green Deal implemented in local communities”

The survey - "What kind of society are we?"

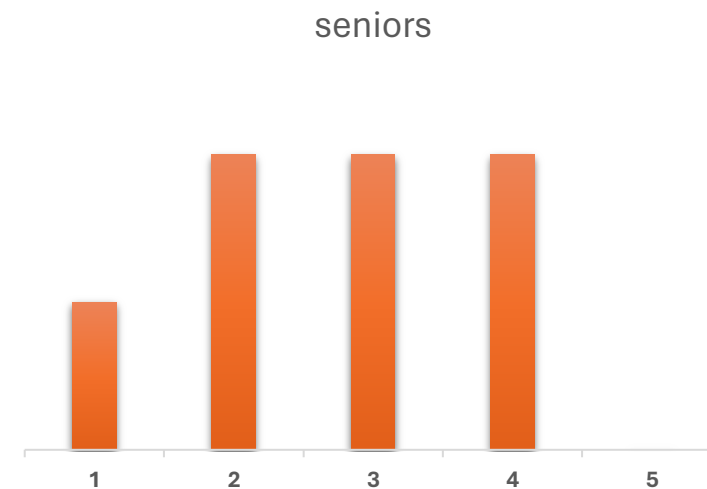
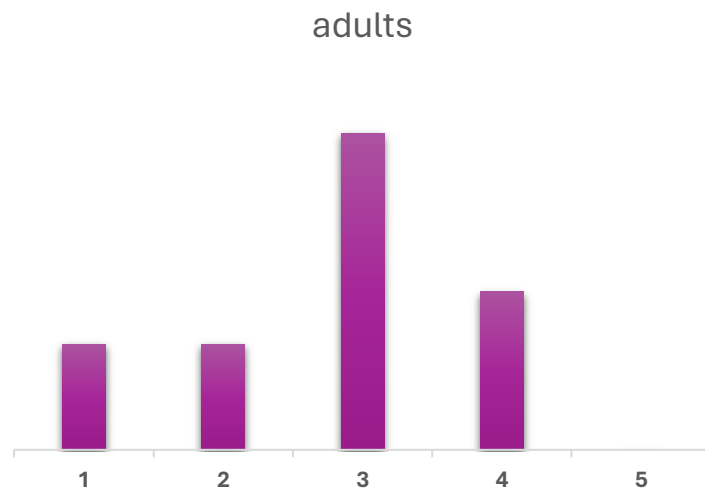
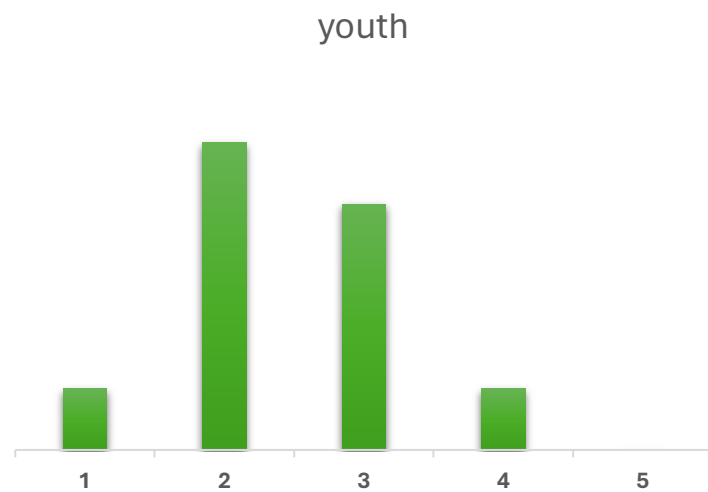
How do you rate the willingness of the residents of your neighborhood to cooperate



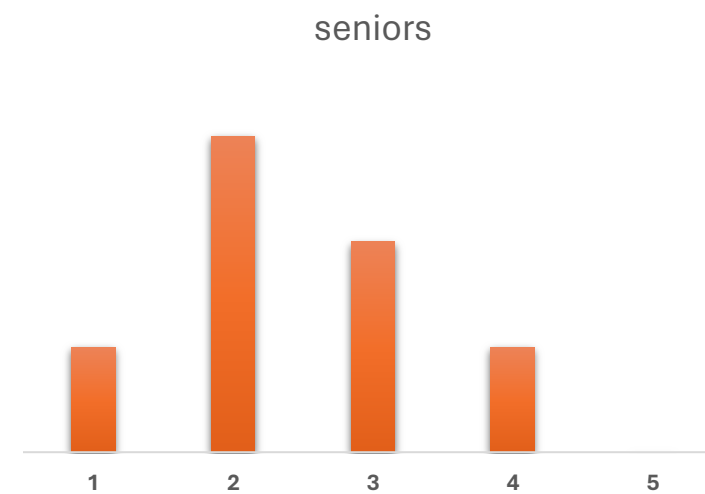
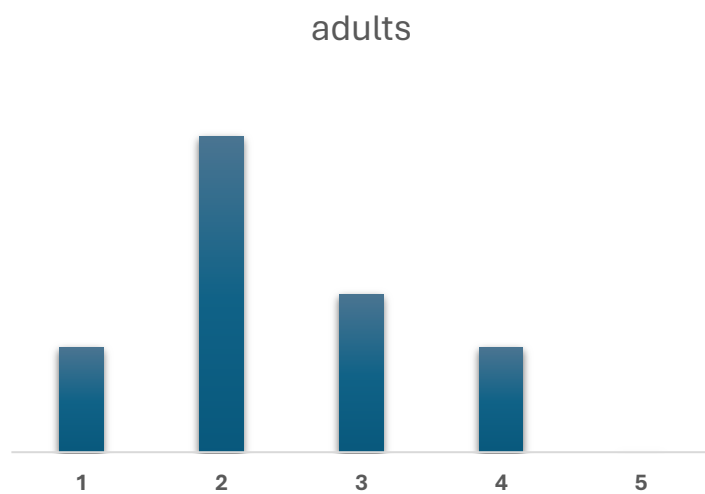
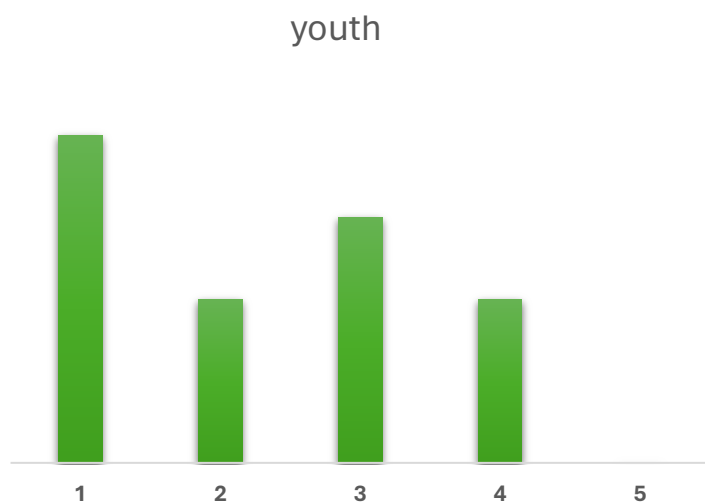
How do you assess the level of understanding of the concept of "common good" in the society of your country?



How do you rate the willingness of the residents of your neighborhood to cooperate in Poland?



How do you assess the level of understanding of the concept of "common good" in Polish society?



Shift in Values:

What direction of change will be dominant?

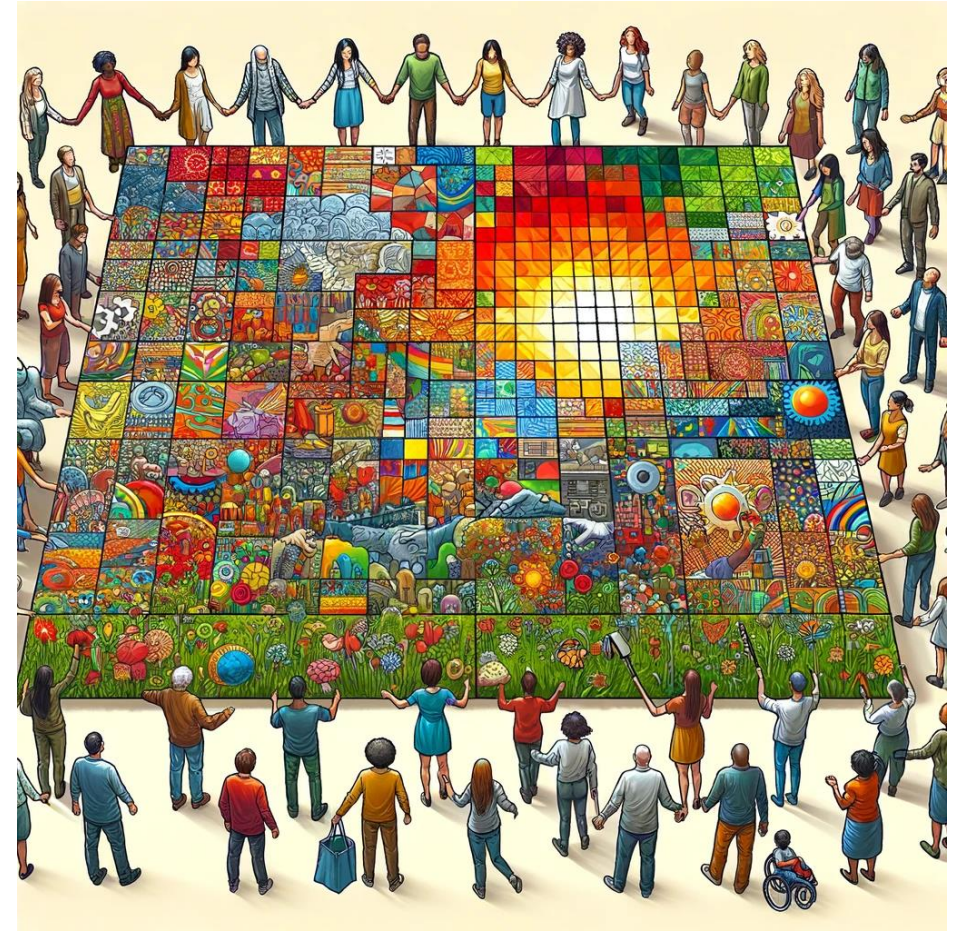
What values will shape the new paradigm of the world?

How can older generations more effectively influence the direction of these transformations?

Conclusion

The current young generation in Poland is redefining the concepts of community, cooperation, common good, and sustainable development in response to digital transformation, global challenges, and a shifting values landscape.

Their approach is characterized by inclusivity, activism, and a global perspective, reflecting a deep commitment to addressing the pressing issues of our time. As this generation continues to shape these concepts through their actions and advocacy, they offer new pathways for addressing complex global challenges.



The tradition of learning from the older generation remains an essential aspect of cultural and knowledge transmission, despite the profound impact of new technologies and the global exchange of behaviors and experiences.

While it's undeniable that these advancements have transformed the ways in which knowledge is accessed and shared, they complement rather than replace the fundamental role of intergenerational learning.

In summary, the tradition of learning from the older generation continues to hold significant importance. It provides a foundation upon which the opportunities offered by new technologies and the exchange of global experiences can build, leading to a more comprehensive and enriched learning experience.

