

The time that passed since the beginning of political transformations in Central and Eastern Europe allows us to look at many problems and social and political events of the last quarter of century from a greater distance. This distance makes us free of emotion, allowing us to make loss and gain balance without prejudice and evaluate the things society has managed to achieve and those that are yet to be achieved. These questions relating to the past are important by themselves, but the responsibility, shared by the researchers of society and politics forces us ask additional questions, concerning the future. The future of society and its political organization - that of a democratic country. This means that issues of continuity and change are of particular concern, and when considering these issues it is not possible to ignore the influence of the young generation.

It is important to note, that the new generation is continuously gaining importance in the political sphere. The generation of young people brought up and educated in conditions distinctly different from those known by their parents. People growing up, receiving education and shaping their political culture and social capital in free, democratic Europe that is undergoing the process of integration, losing borders, in a world undergoing globalization with modern technologies organizing and shaping their lives. World in which they live in is not free of problems and threats: both physical (war, terrorism) and financial (financial crisis, unemployment). Those youths are both the subject and the object of social change and they can become the catalyst of change, especially when taking into consideration the political culture and social capital. The question that remains unanswered is: will this potential be used?

This project involves multi-faceted research (quantitative and qualitative), aimed at diagnosing social and political attitudes and opinions that can be considered prevalent among youths (students) in Poland and Ukraine. An important factor in this research is its comparative nature. The authors are planning to describe and explain both the similarities and, more importantly, the differences in the researched matters: the question of feeling and understanding patriotism by young Poles and Ukrainians; their approach to the institution of State (respect, legitimization of the authorities, respecting the law etc.) and understanding and approach to democracy. This research will be conducted among students of several universities in Poland and Ukraine. This particular study will concern the identification of specific, extreme attitudes and views. For this purpose, a qualitative study of participants of Marsz Niepodległości (Poland) and Euromaidan (Ukraine) was designed.