

GENERATIONS IN POLAND



Approach to tradition in culture, national heritage, family.

- **Grandparents:**

- - cultivate tradition in culture : _always 12 dishes without meat at Christmas Eve supper
- -tradition in national heritage: they commemorate anniversary of important national events in a special way for example they are hanging the national flag and passing knowledge about our nation and tradition
- - cultivate tradition in family : every Sunday, after the Holy Mass we have family meal.

- **Youth:**

- - not care much about tradition in culture: prefer various dishes during Christmas Eve supper, 12 is not important .
- - tradition in national heritage: it is enough for us to remember an important national events and we keep the knowledge about our nation to ourselves.
- - tradition in family: once in a while a family gathering for meals on Sunday after mass

- **Parents:**

- -Tradition in culture: they usually follow cultural and religious customs as 12 dishes at Christmas, wet Monday, etc.
- -tradition in national heritage: remember about hanging the national flag and celebrate important national events
- -tradition in family: the family often meet in a large company; such regular family gatherings are disappearing and are limited to Sunday meals.

Religion



- Religion is an important element of both the life and the culture of our country. In Poland in the ancient times these were typically Slavic beliefs, however, after the baptism of Poland, we adopted Christianity.
- Religion nowadays is becoming less important, and often even forgotten, especially by the youth. The young generation either do not go to church or do not quite strive to strengthen our faith.
- The situation is completely different with our grandparents, who usually go to church very often and practice their faith in every possible way, starting from daily prayers and attending meetings of various religious groups.
- Parents raised by our grandparents' generation, where faith was and is an important element of life, treat religion seriously. . Most go to church every Sunday with their children and during holidays.

Attitude to work or study, to technological innovations.

- **Grandparents:**

- - attitude towards learning: they never postpone education or educational duties.
- - attitude to work: always ready; when they start work, they try to do as much as possible.
- - attitude towards technological innovations: grandparents often cannot cope with the world of technology and often, even after being taught by younger people they do not keep up with technology.

- **Youth:**

- - attitude to studies: learning is often not very important for us, because: *you can always do it later*
- - attitude to work: ... if it is beneficial.... , but usually we wait till the end of the work and the break.
- - attitude to technological innovations: we are always up to date so we know very well about most of new technologies.

- **Parents:**

- - attitude to work or study: our parents' generation was more interested in learning and working. There was no Internet so you had to do everything yourself, thanks to the books, the help of teachers or parents. There was a different attitude to teachers, there was more respect for this profession than we have now.
- - attitude to technological innovations: there was limited access to technology, currently parents are still learning from us how to operate the latest gadgets, in their youth.

In our country, all mixing of cultures, threats or the impact of changes in the world is terribly divided depending to the generation.- o co chodzi?

- **Grandparents:**

- -Although they happen to keep up with bringing foreign customs to our country, they are mostly lost in this topic, because in their time, when communism reigned in the country, adopting foreign habits from other communistic countries was considered as something very bad, sometimes as treason.
- -Due to difficult times, grandparents were less obedient, because they could be threatened at any time, so nowadays they are much more cautious.
- -As for the changes in the world, they do not have much impact on our grandparents because they are very loyal to the state and both in the times of the People's Republic of Poland and today they do not think about leaving the country as they didn't do that before.

- **Youth:**

- -Mixing cultures and adopting foreign customs is quite natural for us, and the best example is the celebration of Halloween that was not celebrated in the past.
- -We live and grow up in times which are rather peaceful and we do not have to worry about any threats, which is why we are relaxed and are not afraid to take risks
- -Changes around the world, especially in our country, mean that young people are increasingly emigrating to other countries in search of greater prospects for the future, work or a place where we can settle permanently or for some time.

- **Parents:**

- -Due to very bad economical situation (after communism) many from the older generation decided to find work abroad. Our parents flew to the USA, to the UK or other european countries. But after some time most of them decided to come back. As they saw different cultures, they are more open to new trends and customs, however they mostly value national habits and products.

Ways of spending free time, interests and their durability.



- **Grandparents:**

- - as a rule, in their spare time or during the holidays, they somehow tried to earn money for new books for school and help parents at work. However, if there was no work, they rode bikes or played simple games (football, etc.). At present, they often work in their gardens, take care of grandchildren, meet friends.
- - interested in reading, watching sports or soap operas, cultivate crafts.

- **Youth:**

- -we have much more free time than our grandparents so we spend it in different ways. Most often at the computer or console or on the phone, but we have the opportunity to go to the swimming pool, ice rink to the cinema for shopping, etc. We can also travel, so we use this opportunity (Hi Bilbao!)
- -interest, e.g. swimming, running however, regularity depends to our mood. In our generation, the most interesting is playing computer games.

- **Parents:**

- -many of our parents grew up during the communist system. Parents still remember the days when they had to stand in queues long hours or even days, buy items with special coupons, while the shelves in the stores were practically empty. That means they didn't have much free time. Now they love travelling, practicing sports (i.e. golf), they enjoy various activities.
- -our parents' main interests were listening to music, watching TV series and, above all, spending time mainly outside.

Communication between generations

- The generations of grandparents, parents and the youngsters can get along but there are also problems with it.
- For example, parents are much better at understanding our interests, because grandparents were not given the opportunity to learn many things from even the world of pop culture. But the grandparents have more time for us and are better listeners.
- Parents, however, have a problem with understanding our problems: they simply prefer us not to disturb them, but grandparents will always help us solve most of our problems.
- We all communicate in a similar way, but each generation has an easier way to get along with each other than with another generation. The older often complain about our poor and rude language.
- We know well what are the parent-child / youth contacts these days.
- In Poland, when our parents were born in a time of ancient regime - they had different views than we do now. For them, the word of Father, Mother - was something important and even holy. Different system of education (communistic times) but also strict habits, religious background and noble origin created very specific pattern of a Polish person – which is still visible.

Traveling and means of transport.

- **Grandparents:**

- -at a time when our grandparents were young it was almost impossible to travel to a neighboring country, especially the capitalistic one. Only few people had private cars, so public transport was mostly used.
- - only those who were very rich or were connected with communistic party, could have a private car and travel abroad.

- **Youth:**

- -Today, all you need to do is get a passport or ID, fill up your car and you can go to european countries or buy a plane ticket and explore the whole world.
- -now every family has at least one car, often bicycles and sometimes electric scooters.

- **Parents:**

- -in the times of our parents' youth, the borders were opened and they could travel – usually traing to reduce costs
- -they had cars, but there was one smaller car for a whole family and often quite old (not like today that most families have at least 2 cars)