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The Sense of National Identity of Young Poles Living in Ireland. Preliminary Diagnosis

Introduction

From the anthropological point of view, national identity defines belonging to an ethnic group. In political terms, it involves being a citizen of a country and the assent for individuals to be guided in their actions by a sense of responsibility, loyalty, and solidarity towards the country and other citizens (Błęszyńska, 2002, s. 245–255). However, in the opinion of the sociologist Antonina Kłoskowska (1996, s. 99), national identity “is a collective self-knowledge of the national community, its self-determination, creation of own image and all the contents of self-knowledge, rather than a picture of the character of a nation constructed from without”. The author also indicates that national consciousness exists in the individual (is the sense of belonging, a bond with a given nation) and collective dimension (the sense of a cultural and ethnic bond with awareness of historical continuity).

Although the identification of the elements that constitute national identity is not easy or unequivocal, many researchers are still trying to define them. For example, for Krystyna Błeszczyńska (2006, s. 65–82), the criteria of national identity include: a common language, knowledge of Polish history, loyalty to the country, ancestry, and a sense of belonging to a particular cultural community. In turn, according to Elżbieta Kornacka-Skwara (2011, s. 112–120), the factors contributing to building a national identity are as follows: national symbols, language, national colours, awareness of ancestry, history of the nation and its knowledge, national consciousness, blood ties, attitude to cultural heritage, culture and art, territory, and national character. In contrast, Samuel Huntington (2011, s. 147–149) indicates that national identity includes such elements as: national heritage, i.e., history that creates the separateness of a nation, cultural uniformity as opposed to cultural diversity, religion and faith, which are the values that facilitate cultural participation, social solidarity, conflict resolution and ethnocentrism. In turn, Zbigniew Bokszański (2007, s. 134–135) defines national identity as a complex system consisting of: a cognitive component, which contains the knowledge of “us” and of “others”, as well as the differences between “us” and “others”, a set of beliefs and the attitude towards one’s own nation manifested in the level of satisfaction over belonging to a given nation, as well as an emotional area that determines the strength of the relationship with a given nation. It is worth noting that Piotr Taras indicates that all identity factors of a given nation – including heritage and history, common social activities and symbols, and art and literature – may appear in Polish diaspora communities and help maintain Polish national consciousness (Taras, 1984, s. 47).

It is worth noting that contemporary changes in national identity are associated with globalisation. It can be observed that in formulating their own identity, people more often refer to global consciousness than to national determinants. The globalisation process also evokes defence mechanisms manifested, among others, in the pursuit of upholding one’s identity. An answer to the uniformisation of societies’ lives is the tendency to emphasise cultural signs and symbols that allow us to talk about otherness, diversity and specificity. This does affect the sense of belonging and, as a result, the sense of identity. And yet it is national identity that determines an individual’s existence in society, promotes acting for the common good, creates civil society, or simply fosters self-awareness and the categories that allow identifying others as “ours” (Domalewska & Urych, 2020, s. 196–221).

These observations have led to research on young Poles’ sense of national identity living outside their homeland. International research has begun in Ireland among students of local Polish schools.

Material and methods

The purpose of the study is to diagnose the sense of national identity of young Poles living in Ireland and attending Polish diaspora schools. The main problems of empirical investigations were contained in the following questions: (1) What is the sense of national identity of young Poles living in Ireland? (2) What are the characteristics of the national identity of the respondents? (3) What are the conditions underlying the national identity of Polish youth in Ireland? The formulated research problems mainly involved description and diagnosis, rather than verification tests. Therefore, the formulation of research hypotheses that could affect the final result of the conducted research was abandoned (Nowak, 2012).

Based on the analysis of the literature on the subject, the following elements of national identity were identified and diagnosed:

- goals that the young people surveyed want to attain in the future;
- the sense of the respondents' belonging to social groups;
- the actions that the respondents believe should be taken in Poland so that they would want to talk about them proudly to their colleagues;
- the sense of national pride of young Poles living in Ireland.

The diagnostic survey method was used for investigating the above categories. Given the type of variables highlighted in this work, the survey method was used for the questionnaire (Łobocki, 2006). The research tool used was the proprietary questionnaire with scaling, intended for young Poles living in Ireland and attending Polish weekend schools there. The desk research method was used to develop the research tool. Consultations were also carried out with residents of the local environment in Ireland and young people living in Poland. Preliminary versions of the questionnaire were also consulted with representatives of the scientific community of both countries.

The survey was carried out in November 2022 among Polish youth attending weekend Polish schools in Ireland. Invitations to participate in the survey were sent out to all weekend Polish schools in Ireland. The selection of the surveyed youth was intentional.

The following criteria for selecting the group were adopted: Polish descent, participation in the weekend Polish community school, and age (13–15 years). The researchers intended to select a group that was highly representative of the population of Polish youth in Ireland, who are of an age that warrants sufficient skills to correctly interpret the content of a questionnaire. To this end, it was necessary to determine the size of the research sample. Thus, the minimum size of the research sample was calculated according to the following formula (Bodziany, 2016, s. 284):

where:

n_b – necessary sample size,

N – population size that is of interest to the researcher,

Z – standard value for a given materiality level p ($Z=1.96$ for $p=0.05\%$),

d – assumed estimation error ($4\%=0.04$).

The confidence level parameter (α) in social sciences was assumed to be constant and amounted to 1.96 at the confidence level of 0.05. The measurement error was adopted as a constant statistical indicator, ranging from 1% to 5%. The error value was put into the formula as an absolute value of 5% expressed in hundredths ($e=0.05$).

The population of students in the last classes of Polish weekend schools during the research phase amounted to $N=800$. This was the number of students attending grades VII–VIII in Polish weekend schools in Ireland in 2022.¹ Thus, the minimum size of the sample was $n_b=343$ people.

Meanwhile, only 104 people took part in the survey.² The results obtained are therefore not representative of the population surveyed. They can only constitute a preliminary diagnosis of the social identity of Polish youth attending Polish schools in Ireland and of trends in this respect.

A nonparametric chi-square (χ^2) test was used to analyse the results. The use of this test enabled us to check for correlations between qualitative variables (e.g., the sense of national identity and the goals respondents would like to achieve). The correlated variables had zero-one scales, where “zero” was assigned to answers “No” and “one” to answers “Yes”.

Results

The Sense of National Identity of Young Poles Living in Ireland

The analysis of research results enabled the diagnosis of Polish youth’s sense of national identity in Ireland (cf. Table 1).

¹ Data made available by Jarosław Płachecki, director of the Dublin Branch of the Old Polish Academy of Applied Sciences in Kielce.

² Participation in the survey consisted in filling in a questionnaire to be found at <https://forms.gle/SFs7ZftylicqDtIX8>. A link to the survey and a description of the surveying procedure were sent out thrice to all weekend Polish schools in Ireland. An invitation to take part in the survey was sent out on: 3 Nov. 2022; 10 Nov. 2022 and 17 Nov. 2022. Out of 70 schools, 13 took part in the survey.

Table 1. Sense of the respondents' national identity

CATEGORIES OF NATIONAL IDENTITY*	n	%
Polish	93	89.4%
Irish	38	36.5%
Citizen of Poland	23	22.1%
Citizen of Ireland	50	48.1%
Representative of a national minority in Ireland	26	25.0%

* *multiple choice option*

Source: own elaboration

The results indicate that the vast majority of young people surveyed (89.9%) feel Polish, while the vast minority (36.5%) – Irish. It is worth noting the opposite trend in terms of being a citizen of a given country. Only almost every fourth respondent (22.1%) described themselves as a Polish citizen, and almost half of them (48.1%) – as an Irish citizen. Interestingly, every fourth respondent (25.0%) feels a representative of a national minority in Ireland, and therefore a Pole living in Ireland.

Based on the research results, the categories of national identity of the respondents were determined by their place of birth (cf. Table 2) and their parents' education (see Table 3), with a dependency threshold of $p < 0.05$.

Table 2. Categories of national identity of the respondents depending on their place of birth

CATEGORIES OF NATIONAL IDENTITY*	Born in Poland (n=30)		Born in Ireland (n=74)		p
	n	%	n	%	
Polish	25	83.3%	68	91.9%	0.198
Irish	5	16.7%	33	44.6%	0.007
Citizen of Poland	3	10.0%	20	27.0%	0.044
Citizen of Ireland	10	33.3%	40	54.1%	0.049
Representative of a national minority in Ireland	2	6.7%	24	32.4%	0.006

* *multiple choice option*

Source: own elaboration

The respondents indicate that people born in Ireland more often than those born in Poland have a sense of awareness of being Irish, a Polish citizen,

an Irish citizen and a representative of a national minority in Ireland. The strongest correlation is observed between the first and last categories listed above.

Table 3. Categories of national identity of the respondents depending on the education of their parents

CATEGORIES OF NATIONAL IDENTITY*	Parent's education: higher (n=50)		Parent's education: lower (n=54)		p
	n	%	n	%	
Polish	43	86.0%	50	92.6%	0.274
Irish	18	36.0%	20	37.0%	0.912
Citizen of Poland	13	26.0%	10	18.5%	0.358
Citizen of Ireland	22	44.0%	28	51.9%	0.423
Representative of a national minority in Ireland	14	28.0%	12	22.2%	0.496

* multiple choice option

Source: own elaboration

Based on the results, the lack of dependence of the national identity category of young Poles living in Ireland on their parents' education was also determined.

The Characteristics of the National Identity of Young Poles Living in Ireland

The research results regarding the national identity category were also correlated with independent variables, including the goals the surveyed youth want to achieve in the future (cf. Table 4) and their sense of belonging to social groups (cf. Table 5). The dependency threshold is $p < 0.05$.

The young people who identify themselves as Polish are more likely to set themselves the following goals: graduating from secondary school (very strong correlation), acquiring professional experience, getting a job (very strong correlation), purchasing an apartment/house, improving friendships/social relations and getting married/having a permanent partner in life. Those who identify as Polish citizens share the same goals, except the first one above, and instead strive to improve their professional qualifications. The same goals are also important for people who define themselves

Table 4. Correlation of national identity with the goals that the young people surveyed want to attain in the future

NATIONAL IDENTITY	GOALS														
	improvement of professional qualifications	graduating from secondary school	graduating from university	acquiring professional experience	getting a job	running a business	job security (continuity)	financially satisfactory job	financially satisfactory household standard	purchase of an apartment/house	improvement of Polish language proficiency	improvement of friendships/social relations	improvement of personal or family relations	become married/have a permanent partner in life	having children
	0.1275	0.3551	0.1934	0.1935	0.4501	0.0047	0.2045	0.1495	0.1827	0.2482	0.2503	0.2669	0.2098	0.2016	0.1485
	p=0.197	p=0.000	p=0.049	p=0.049	p=0.000	p=0.962	p=0.037	p=0.130	p=0.063	p=0.011	p=0.010	p=0.006	p=0.033	p=0.040	p=0.033
	0.2878	0.2355	0.1157	0.3270	0.2822	0.1516	0.2193	0.1169	0.1312	0.2264	0.1753	0.2719	0.3003	0.2302	0.1648
	p=0.003	p=0.016	p=0.242	p=0.001	p=0.004	p=0.125	p=0.025	p=0.237	p=0.184	p=0.021	p=0.075	p=0.005	p=0.002	p=0.019	p=0.095
	0.2511	0.1145	0.0607	0.3562	0.2103	0.1336	0.2316	0.1424	0.0719	0.2014	0.2692	0.2024	0.2903	0.2024	0.1750
	p=0.010	p=0.247	p=0.541	p=0.000	p=0.032	p=0.176	p=0.018	p=0.149	p=0.468	p=0.040	p=0.006	p=0.039	p=0.003	p=0.039	p=0.076
	0.2164	0.3237	0.2809	0.3305	0.4361	0.0883	0.2577	0.2742	0.2530	0.3637	0.3081	0.2729	0.3361	0.3131	0.2397
	p=0.027	p=0.001	p=0.004	p=0.001	p=0.000	p=0.373	p=0.008	p=0.005	p=0.010	p=0.000	p=0.001	p=0.005	p=0.000	p=0.001	p=0.014
	0.3012	0.2003	0.1471	0.2536	0.2351	0.1857	0.1905	0.0563	0.1581	0.2182	0.1261	0.2435	0.2334	0.1971	0.1348
	p=0.002	p=0.042	p=0.136	p=0.009	p=0.016	p=0.059	p=0.053	p=0.570	p=0.109	p=0.026	p=0.202	p=0.013	p=0.017	p=0.045	p=0.172

Source: own elaboration

as representatives of a national minority in Ireland (improving professional qualifications and acquiring professional experience are the goals with the strongest correlation among this group of respondents).

Respondents whose national identity is associated with being Irish are more likely to claim the following goals: having professional qualifications, acquiring professional experience, getting a job, and improving friendships/social relations, as well as personal or family relations (very strong correlation with all goals). In addition, these people identify with goals such as graduating from secondary school, purchasing an apartment/house, and getting married/having a permanent life partner. Those who identify themselves as Irish citizens more often claim the following goals: graduating from secondary school, graduating from university, acquiring professional experience, getting a job, financially satisfactory household standard, purchasing an apartment/home, improvement of Polish language proficiency, improvement of friendships/social, as well as personal or family relations, getting married/having a permanent life partner (very strong correlation with all goals), as well as having children.

It is worth noting that for all respondents, important goals are: acquiring professional qualifications, gaining professional experience, getting a job, purchasing an apartment/house, improving personal or family relationships, and getting married/having a permanent life partner.

The survey's results show that people who identify as Polish feel a sense of belonging to friends from Irish school (very strong correlation), friends from Polish school, Poles in Ireland, the Polish nation (very strong correlation), and Irish people. In turn, the respondents who define themselves as citizens of Poland have a sense of belonging to teachers from the Irish school and the Polish nation. At the same time, they have a very strong sense of belonging to friends from Polish school and Irish people.

Respondents whose national identity is associated with being Irish are more likely to feel a sense of belonging to: friends from the Irish school, teachers from the Irish school, friends from the Polish school (very strong correlation), Poles in Ireland, the Polish nation, and Irish people (very strong correlation). A sense of belonging to friends from the Irish school, Poles in Ireland, and Irish people (with a very strong correlation with the last two groups) is also characteristic of respondents who define themselves as citizens of Ireland.

For the young people who define their national identity as representatives of a national minority in Ireland, there is a specific sense of belonging to: teachers from the Irish school, friends from the Polish school, Poles in Ireland, and Irish people. A sense of belonging to these social groups strongly correlates with declared national identity.

Table 5. Correlation of a personal identity category with the sense of belonging to social groups

NATIONAL IDENTITY/SOCIAL GROUP	my family	neighbours	friends from the Irish school	teachers from the Irish school	friends from the Polish school	teachers from the Polish school	community of God's people/Catholics	Poles in Ireland	Polish nation	Irish people
Polish	0.1831	0.1383	0.2569	0.1434	0.2344	0.0464	0.1203	0.2045	0.3017	0.2189
	p=0.063	p=0.162	p=0.008	p=0.147	p=0.017	p=0.640	p=0.224	p=0.037	p=0.002	p=0.026
Irish	0.0165	0.1247	0.2260	0.2210	0.3261	0.1357	-0.0530	0.2193	0.2362	0.3594
	p=0.868	p=0.207	p=0.021	p=0.024	p=0.001	p=0.170	p=0.593	p=0.025	p=0.016	p=0.000
Citizen of Poland	0.0325	0.1467	0.1819	0.1978	0.3351	0.0618	0.0798	0.1848	0.2245	0.3012
	p=0.743	p=0.137	p=0.065	p=0.044	p=0.001	p=0.533	p=0.421	p=0.060	p=0.022	p=0.002
Citizen of Ireland	-0.0095	0.1101	0.2530	0.1887	0.3037	0.0885	-0.0009	0.2966	0.1757	0.4234
	p=0.924	p=0.266	p=0.010	p=0.055	p=0.002	p=0.372	p=0.993	p=0.002	p=0.074	p=0.000
Representative of a national minority in Ireland	-0.0476	0.0501	0.1581	0.2739	0.2840	0.1527	0.0909	0.3249	0.2335	0.3997
	p=0.631	p=0.614	p=0.109	p=0.005	p=0.003	p=0.122	p=0.359	p=0.001	p=0.017	p=0.000

Source: own elaboration

It is noteworthy that the feature of national identity of all young Poles living in Ireland is the sense of belonging to the Irish people. On the other hand, those who have a sense of belonging to a group of Poles in Ireland do not feel themselves to be citizens of Poland.

Conditions Underlying National Identity of Polish Youth in Ireland

The research results obtained regarding the category of national identity were also correlated with the conditions of this identity. They were defined as two independent variables: actions that respondents believe should be taken in Poland, which they would like to discuss proudly with their colleagues (cf. Table 6), and national pride (cf. Table 7). The dependency threshold is $p < 0.05$.

Basing on the results obtained, it can be concluded that the young people who define their national identity as Polish would like the following actions to be taken in Poland: ensure peace and order in the country (very strong correlation), provide everyone with free basic education, provide everyone with basic health services, ensure a decent standard of living for older people, provide women and men with equal opportunities in politics, control environmental pollution, control prices (very strong correlation), support integrity and moral behaviour of citizens of the country. In turn, the respondents describing themselves as citizens of Poland pointed to such activities as: provide everyone with free basic education, provide everyone with basic health services, ensure a decent standard of living for older people, provide women and men with equal opportunities in politics, increase wages and salaries, change the tax system.

The surveyed youth who define their national identity as Irish pointed to the following actions that should be taken in Poland so that they would proudly tell their colleagues about them: provide everyone with free basic education (very strong correlation), provide everyone with basic health services, provide women and men with equal opportunities in politics, control environmental pollution (very strong correlation), increase wages and salaries, control prices, reduce living costs, change the tax system, ensure a decent standard of living for the unemployed, support integrity and moral behaviour of citizens of the country (very strong correlation), provide industrial enterprises with the assistance they need so they can grow. In turn, for the people who identify with the citizens of Ireland, important are such actions as: ensure peace and order in the country (very strong correlation), provide everyone with free basic education, provide everyone with basic health services (very strong correlation), control environmental pollution

Table 6. Correlation of the national identity category and the actions that the respondents believe should be taken in Poland, so that they would want to talk about them proudly to their colleagues

NATIONAL IDENTITY/ACTION	ensure peace and order in the country	provide everyone with free basic education	provide basic health care services	ensure a decent standard of living for older people	provide women and men with equal opportunities in politics	provide women and men with equal opportunities in politics	control environmental pollution	reduce differences in people's incomes and wealth	provide work to anyone who wants to work	raise wages and salaries	control prices	reduce living costs	reduce rentals and purchasing prices of apartments	change the tax system	ensure a decent standard of living for the unemployed	support the integrity and moral behaviour of citizens of the country	support the return of immigrants to the country	provide industrial enterprises with the assistance they need so that they can grow
Polish	0.4847	0.2123	0.2182	0.2016	0.1973	0.1630	0.2045	0.0806	0.1485	0.0852	0.2750	0.0287	0.1780	-0.0219	0.1495	0.1973	-0.0247	0.1697
	p=0.000	p=0.031	p=0.026	p=0.040	p=0.045	p=0.098	p=0.037	p=0.416	p=0.133	p=0.390	p=0.005	p=0.772	p=0.071	p=0.825	p=0.130	p=0.045	p=0.804	p=0.085
Irish	0.2037	0.2543	0.2446	0.1885	0.1933	0.0955	0.2999	0.0692	0.0839	0.2456	0.2052	0.2316	0.1894	0.2394	0.2051	0.3139	0.1052	0.2506
	p=0.038	p=0.009	p=0.012	p=0.055	p=0.049	p=0.335	p=0.002	p=0.485	p=0.397	p=0.012	p=0.037	p=0.018	p=0.054	p=0.014	p=0.037	p=0.001	p=0.288	p=0.010
Citizen of Poland	0.1320	0.2188	0.2324	0.2024	0.1947	0.1553	0.1848	0.1828	0.1281	0.2218	0.1750	0.1651	0.1832	0.2471	0.1864	0.1947	0.1520	0.1882
	p=0.182	p=0.026	p=0.018	p=0.039	p=0.048	p=0.116	p=0.060	p=0.063	p=0.195	p=0.024	p=0.076	p=0.094	p=0.063	p=0.011	p=0.058	p=0.048	p=0.124	p=0.056
Citizen of Ireland	0.2557	0.1725	0.2780	0.1925	0.1595	0.0860	0.2577	-0.0015	0.1618	0.2397	0.2397	0.1826	0.2069	0.1109	0.1689	0.2370	0.0970	0.1556
	p=0.009	p=0.080	p=0.004	p=0.050	p=0.106	p=0.385	p=0.008	p=0.988	p=0.101	p=0.014	p=0.014	p=0.064	p=0.035	p=0.263	p=0.087	p=0.015	p=0.327	p=0.115
Representative of a national minority in Ireland	0.1580	0.1444	0.1762	0.1507	0.1118	0.0679	0.2353	0.0222	0.1348	0.2697	0.2247	0.2142	0.1826	0.2247	0.3067	0.2906	0.1222	0.2444
	p=0.109	p=0.144	p=0.074	p=0.127	p=0.259	p=0.494	p=0.016	p=0.823	p=0.172	p=0.006	p=0.022	p=0.029	p=0.064	p=0.022	p=0.002	p=0.003	p=0.217	p=0.012

Source: own elaboration

(very strong correlation), increase wages and salaries, control prices, reduce rentals and purchasing prices of apartments, support integrity and moral behaviour of citizens of the country.

On the other hand, the respondents who feel themselves to be representatives of a national minority in Ireland would like to the following actions to be taken: control environmental pollution, increase wages and salaries (very strong correlation), control prices, reduce costs of living, change the tax system, ensure a decent standard of living for the unemployed (very strong correlation), support integrity and moral behaviour of citizens of the country (very strong correlation), provide industrial enterprises with the assistance they need so that they can grow.

Elements of national pride of the respondents who define themselves as Poles are: attachment to historical traditions, patriotism/love of the homeland (very strong correlation) and the belief that society can grow quickly if it gets a chance, as well as solidarity (very strong correlation with the last two elements of national pride). The respondents who identify as Polish citizens also reported attachment to historical traditions, the belief that society can grow quickly if given a chance, and solidarity (a very strong correlation). In addition, there is a relationship here with the feeling that family can be important and strong. Alas, it can also be seen that the sense of Polish identity correlates with the opinion that there are no elements of national pride (response "nothing").

On the other hand, the elements of national pride among respondents who identify as Irish include the belief that women can be daring in life and that society can quickly develop if given a chance. In turn, citizens of Ireland show a relationship with elements of national pride, such as attachment to historical traditions and solidarity.

The survey also allowed us to determine the relationship between representatives of a national minority in Ireland and the following elements of their national pride: attachment to historical traditions (very strong correlation), women can be daring in life, relations between people can be open and cordial, and society can grow quickly if it gets a chance. Like respondents who define their national identity as citizens of Poland, Poles in Ireland also do not identify any elements of national pride (response: "nothing").

Discussion

The presented research results allowed for making a preliminary diagnosis of the national identity of Polish youth in Ireland who attend Polish weekend schools. The survey results are consistent with the expected impact of continental processes, including Europeanization in many directions (Wysocki,

Table 7. Correlation of the national identity category and elements of national pride

NATIONAL IDENTITY/ NATIONAL PRIDE	attachment to historical traditions	family can be important and strong	women can be daring in life	patriotism/love of the homeland	one can be faithful to the rules even in difficult situations	religious faith can be vital and deep	relations between people can be open and cordial	society can grow quickly if it gets a chance	solidarity	democracy	nothing
Polish	0.2422	0.0579	0.1867	0.3184	0.1303	0.1174	0.0479	0.2664	0.2603	0.1250	0.0600
	p=0.013	p=0.559	p=0.058	p=0.001	p=0.188	p=0.235	p=0.629	p=0.006	p=0.008	p=0.206	p=0.545
Irish	0.1484	0.1017	0.1937	0.1387	0.0585	0.0881	0.1031	0.2372	0.1129	0.1035	0.1745
	p=0.133	p=0.304	p=0.049	p=0.160	p=0.555	p=0.374	p=0.298	p=0.015	p=0.254	p=0.296	p=0.076
Citizen of Poland	0.2308	0.1680	0.0748	0.1108	0.1108	0.1319	0.1425	0.3529	0.1014	0.0879	0.2223
	p=0.018	p=0.088	p=0.451	p=0.263	p=0.263	p=0.182	p=0.149	p=0.000	p=0.306	p=0.375	p=0.023
Citizen of Ireland	0.2465	0.1188	0.1703	0.0742	0.0742	0.1118	0.0530	0.1292	0.1982	0.0889	0.0698
	p=0.012	p=0.230	p=0.084	p=0.454	p=0.454	p=0.259	p=0.593	p=0.191	p=0.044	p=0.369	p=0.482
Representative of a national minority in Ireland	0.2739	0.1782	0.2342	0.1782	0.1336	0.1565	0.2577	0.2408	0.1565	0.1739	0.2462
	p=0.005	p=0.070	p=0.017	p=0.070	p=0.176	p=0.113	p=0.008	p=0.014	p=0.113	p=0.077	p=0.012

Source: own elaboration

2015, s. 83–96). They can also be a result of globalisation processes (Giddens, 2001), emigration (Dyczewski, 2011, s. 9–29) and reproduction of identity (Vertoves, 2001, s. 573–582).

As a result, these processes change the shape of Polish national identity, especially among Poles living abroad. Immigration is often accompanied by a change in identity (Heilbrunn et al., 2016, s. 236–247) or formation of a bicultural identity (Tikhonov et al., 2023, s. 959–967). John W. Berry (2001, s. 615–631) rightly notes that intergroup contact poses a dilemma: whether to preserve one's own cultural identity or to strengthen intercultural contact and actively participate in the social life of the dominant group.

The analysis allowed us to conclude that Polish youth's awareness of their national identity in Ireland is primarily related to Polish nationality (89.9% of the surveyed youth feel themselves to be Polish). It is worth recalling here that the strong sense of ethnic identity protects one against perceived adaptive stress (Espinosa et al., 2018, s. 155–163). In addition, the research shows that about one half of the respondents have a sense of national Irish social identity (48.1% of them feel being citizens of Ireland, and every third (36.5%) – Irish). The research results in this area can be justified by the conclusions of Lauren McLaren's studies (2017, s. 379–399), which indicate that immigrants adopt a more exclusive approach to national identity when living in countries that are relatively open to their inclusion in the national political system.

A feature of the national identity of all young Poles living in Ireland, regardless of their personal awareness of it, is a sense of belonging to the Irish people. Individuals adapt to the new social environment and assimilate and integrate into its culture (Paleczny, 2008). On the other hand, those who have a sense of belonging to a group of Poles in Ireland do not feel themselves citizens of Poland. Moreover, the survey shows that people born in Ireland are more likely than those born in Poland to feel Irish, Polish, and Irish citizens, and to identify as a representative of a national minority in Ireland. The strongest correlation is observed between the first and last social groups mentioned above. This state of affairs can be explained by the fact that identity is closely related to belonging to many social groups that have a significant influence on an individual (Szacki 2004, s. 9–40). In addition, according to the theory of social identity of Henri Tajfel and John Turner (1986, s. 7–24), an individual has several social identities that arise from belonging to various social groups, when membership in these groups is valued and emotionally charged. The sense of national identity of young people who are ethnically associated with another region is stronger within the social group with which they share more visible features, as is the case with our respondents (Rodríguez-García et al., 2021, s. 838–860).

The goals the young people surveyed want to achieve are primarily: acquiring professional qualifications, gaining professional experience, getting a

job, purchasing an apartment/house, improving personal or family relationships, and getting married/having a permanent life partner. The similarity of the goals of various individuals is characteristic of social identity (Sztompka, 1990, s. 63–81), a particular kind of which is national identity (Bokszański, 2007). Zbigniew Bokszański (2007, s. 133) explained this similarity as follows: “The similarity of the cognitive content, attitudes and emotions of many individuals organised around the bond with the parent national community makes it possible to define the characteristics of this community”.

In turn, the actions that the respondents believe should be taken in Poland so that they would want to talk about them proudly to their colleagues include, in particular:

- ensure peace and order in the country – in the opinion of respondents identifying themselves as Polish;
- control environmental pollution and support integrity and moral behaviour of citizens – in the opinion of respondents identifying themselves as Irish;
- ensure peace and order in the country, ensure basic health services to everybody and control environmental pollution – in the opinion of respondents identifying themselves as citizens of Ireland;
- control prices, ensure a decent standard of living for the unemployed and support integrity and moral behaviour of citizens of the country – in the opinion of respondents identifying themselves as representatives of a national minority in Ireland.

Moreover, all opinions of the surveyed teenagers regarding the economic and social obligations of the Polish state, regardless of their sense of national affiliation, underscore the need for actions to maintain the stability of product prices. The results regarding the first duty of the Polish state are consistent with those of research conducted in 2004 by Roman Dolata, Krzysztof Koseła, Anna Wiłkomirska and Anna Zielińska (2004, s. 88–89) among teenagers from 29 countries, including Poland. The difference between our results and those of the above team concerns the need for price control, which was noted by 35% of teenagers in Poland and 43% of fourteen-year-olds in the international sample.

The national pride of young Poles living in Ireland who define themselves as Poles is primarily (a very strong correlation) belief in such values as patriotism/love of the homeland, faith in it, that society can grow quickly if it gets a chance and solidarity, while those who define their national identity as Polish citizens are convinced that society can grow quickly if it gets a chance. The results of the survey are in line with the conclusions of Dorota Domalewska and Ilona Urych (2020, s. 196–221), namely that secondary school youth more often than young adults confirmed their love for the homeland, assigning it a mission in Europe, opting for imposing Polish values and national rules on

other countries, which, according to the surveyed youth, would allow them to achieve professional successes on the international arena.

In turn, for representatives of a national minority in Ireland, pride stems from attachment to historical traditions. Similar elements of national pride were identified during the study of young Poles' opinions on what the Irish could learn from Poles (Koseła et al., 2002, s. 222). A positive image of one's own group translates into higher self-esteem (Domalewska, 2016, s. 15–31). The obtained research results are, at the same time, contrary to the survey results among young people in 28 countries, which indicate that young Greeks, Portuguese, and Poles think that history gives us little reason to be proud of (Koseła, 2003, s. 102).

Finally, one more conclusion from the research, formulated during the research process and in conversations with teachers from Polish schools in Ireland, should be cited. They believe that among Polish secondary school youth, there is a noticeable trend to study in Poland in the future. However, such studies appear to be difficult to put into practice. Young Poles living in Ireland (often born outside their homeland) do not feel sufficiently prepared (also linguistically) to cope with the high level of education at prestigious universities in Poland. Taking care of their future, the parents of these children, try – as far as their financial means allow – to provide the best possible preparation for such studies. However, young people often lack knowledge and skills, as well as faith in their own abilities. Such a situation seems to be characteristic of many young people whose parents emigrated to another country (Yakhnich et al., 2023, s. 1426–1444). In this context, it seems reasonable to organise academic summer courses in Poland for youth of Polish origin living in Ireland. However, these cannot be online courses, because those do not support interactivity (Zhou et al., 2023). Such activities have the potential to strengthen national identity of young Poles living in Ireland, although founded on the diverse premises on which the vision of national coexistence is based and the changing rules of integration into a national community (Nowicka & Łodziński, 2021, s. 68). The influence of education and upbringing is irreplaceable here – should be even more conducive to the development of students so that they become creative participants of the social, cultural, national and global community, and, at the same time, that they are able to achieve self-fulfilment, preserve separateness and create individual identity that will not be at variance with the national identity (Domalewska & Urych, 2020, s. 196–221).

Even if young people participating in such a program did not decide to study in Poland, they would certainly gain new experience and a current perspective on Poland – broader than the one shaped by the environment of their origin, from which their parents emigrated for some reason. Given the research on identity, it is important that Poland's image be positively

strengthened. This can happen when a visit to Poland is associated with good memories (positive emotions). That is why a summer stay in the homeland should be attractive – combined with, for example, peer meetings, visiting natural attractions, and interesting events. As demonstrated by Niclas Berggren and Therese Nilsson (2015, s. 371–389), such initiatives are particularly valuable because, in the global world, economic, social, and personal development is increasingly dependent on constant interactions with others.

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Abstract

The purpose of the article is to present research on the diagnosis of the sense of national identity of young Poles living in Ireland and attending Polish schools (N=104). The research was carried out using the diagnostic survey method and the questionnaire technique. A nonparametric chi-square (χ^2) test was used to analyse the results. Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the personal awareness of the identity of the surveyed youth is mainly related to the sense of belonging to the Polish nation. All respondents also entertain a sense of belonging to the Irish. The analyses also show that the goals of the surveyed young people centre on the following issues: acquiring professional qualifications, acquiring professional experience, getting a job, purchasing an apartment/house, improving personal or family relations, and getting married/having a permanent life partner.

Keywords: national identity, education, security, migration, Poles, youth

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