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Patriotism in the perspective of 20-, 40- and 60-year-olds in Podkarpacie Voivodeship

Patriotyzm w perspektywie 20-, 40- i 60-latków na Podkarpaciu

Abstract

Patriotism is a category defining human life aimed at the common good. It depicts the emotional bond of individuals with their homeland and the sense of social and cultural bond with fellow citizens. It is based on universal values, including openness to other people, care and responsibility for the community, respect for history and national culture. The political, social and cultural changes taking place reveal new faces of love for one's homeland, which is why there is a need to reflect on the ways of understanding patriotism. Guided by these premises, this study presents ways of defining the concept of patriotism by three successive generations of Podkarpacie residents, i.e. young adults, middle-aged people and seniors. Seven areas of understanding patriotism were taken into account – historical, territorial, cultural, ethical, emotional, economic and ecological as well as numerous categories within them. The research was carried out in the paradigm of quantitative research on a representative group.

Key words: patriotism, types of patriotism, generation of 20-, 40- and 60-year-olds, Podkarpacie Voivodeship.

Streszczenie

Patriotyzm jest kategorią określającą życie człowieka ukierunkowaną na dobro wspólne. Obrazuje emocjonalną więź jednostki z ojczyzną oraz poczucie więzi społecznej i kulturowej ze współobywatelami. Oparty jest na wartościach uniwersalnych, w tym otwartości na drugiego człowieka, trosce i odpowiedzialności za wspólnotę, szacunku do historii i kultury narodowej. Dokonujące się przemiany polityczne, społeczne i kulturowe odsłaniają nowe oblicza umiłowania ojczyzny, dlatego też zachodzi potrzeba refleksji nad sposobami ujmowania patriotyzmu.

Kierując się tymi przesłankami, w niniejszym opracowaniu przedstawiono sposoby definiowania pojęcia „patriotyzm” przez trzy kolejne pokolenia mieszkańców Podkarpacia, to jest młodych dorosłych, osoby w wieku średnim i seniorów. Uwzględniono siedem obszarów ujmowania patriotyzmu – historyczny, terytorialny, kulturowy, etyczny, emocjonalny, ekonomiczny oraz ekologiczny, jak też liczne kategorie w ich obrębie. Badania zrealizowano w paradygmacie badań ilościowych na reprezentatywnej grupie.

Słowa kluczowe: patriotyzm, rodzaje patriotyzmu, pokolenie 20-, 40- i 60-latków, Podkarpacie.

Introduction

Love of the fatherland is not a new issue. Attempts to define patriotism can already be found in the works of ancient thinkers, such as Aristotle and Cicero. In the later historical periods, emphasis was put, depending on the socio-political situation, on defensive and military aspect, cultural humanism, freedom, or moral and spiritual behaviour¹. In each historical period, however, it was emphasized that patriotism is attachment to the fatherland, devotion to fellow citizens combined with love of one's own nation, respect for other nationalities, and, if necessary, readiness to give one's life for the country². Patriotism includes valuing the common good above personal or particular interests, co-creation of material and mental and axiological culture³. It allows a person to go beyond their own individuality, to place themselves in a broader community⁴, a sense of social and cultural bond with fellow citizens⁵. It refers to the community of culture, language, traditions and ways of life. It is a spiritual heritage⁶ and a way of thinking about the fatherland⁷.

A detailed analysis of the source literature allows us to distinguish four basic approaches to patriotism: axiological, pedagogical, social and psychological⁸. This study focuses on patriotism as a value and social attitude⁹. In the first sense, patriotism is perceived as an important, high, moral value¹⁰, a virtue linked to legal justice¹¹, conditioning personal development and the development of the common good, namely national life¹². The feeling of love, attachment to one's own country does not go hand in hand with hatred or hostility to others¹³. By practising patriotic values, a person demonstrates their belonging to the historical community and at the same time practises fundamental values related to everyday life and universal values related to the

¹ K. Chałas, S. Kowalczyk, *Wychowanie ku wartościom narodowo-patriotycznym. Elementy teorii i praktyki*, vol. II: *Naród. Ojczyzna. Patriotyzm. Państwo. Pokój*, Lublin–Kielce 2006, pp. 41–47.

² A.J. Sowiński, *Ojczyzna w refleksji pedagogicznej*, Cracow 2020, p. 23.

³ K. Chałas, W. Furmanek, K. Ożóg, *Niepodległość. Implikacje pedagogiczne i edukacyjne*, Rzeszów 2019, p. 67.

⁴ J. Nikitorowicz, *Tożsamość – wielki wysiłek ku patriotyzmowi* [in:] *Patriotyzm i nacjonalizm. Ku jakiej tożsamości kulturowej?*, ed. J. Nikitorowicz, Cracow 2013, p. 34.

⁵ J. Gajda, *Racjonalny patriotyzm jako antidotum skrajnego nacjonalizmu* [in:] *ibidem*, p. 51.

⁶ K. Nycz, *Patriotyzm w katolickiej nauce społecznej*, Cracow 2014, p. 6.

⁷ M. Czerniawska, *Patriotyzm: jak znaleźć mu miejsce w mentalności społeczeństwa?* [in:] *Patriotyzm i nacjonalizm...*, p. 77–78.

⁸ J. Szczurkowska, *Ja patriota. Psychologia patriotyzmu*, Warszawa 2016, p. 22.

⁹ L. Dyczewski, *Tożsamość i patriotyzm* [in:] *Patriotyzm i nacjonalizm...*, p. 178.

¹⁰ J. Nowak-Jeziorański, *Patriotyzm i nacjonalizm* [in:] *Europa wspólnych wartości. Chrześcijańskie inspiracje w budowaniu zjednoczonej Europy*, ed. S. Zięba, Lublin 2004, p. 246.

¹¹ K. Chałas, W. Furmanek, K. Ożóg, *Niepodległość...*, p. 67.

¹² K. Chałas, S. Kowalczyk, *Wychowanie ku wartościom...*, p. 168.

¹³ J. Lackowski, *Polska szkoła a edukacja patriotyczna i obywatelska* [in:] *Wartości, rodzina, szkoła. Patriotyzm na co dzień i od święta*, ed. W. Baliński, Cracow 2010, p. 17.

creation of science and culture. It is the ability to combine loyalty to the fatherland with universal morality¹⁴.

Patriotism understood as a wise care for the fatherland, is a socio-political attitude. It refers to the knowledge and ability to understand the historical and cultural processes of one's own national group, interest in history, culture as well as traditions. It includes subjective experiences and preferences, based on such feelings as pride, respect, love attachment and loyalty to the nation. It involves a tendency to act in favour of the state the fatherland, even if it requires sacrifice and giving up one's own interests¹⁵. The development of patriotism requires systematic broadening knowledge of the nation and its culture, determines the motivation to build and develop responsibility for the fatherland, nation and state, and requires practical concern for national culture and its development.

The patriotic attitude is based on a strong emotional and social bond with the nation and state, ancestors, land and common history. Indicators of the patriotic attitude are: love of the fatherland and one's own nation, readiness to act in favour of the fatherland and respect for other people, appreciation for culture and national heritage, concern for peace and freedom, responsibility for oneself, for one's actions, the community in which one lives, active participation in the social and civic life of the family, local environment, workplace, region and country, showing respect for other nations¹⁶.

Today, the issue of patriotism seems particularly important in the context of the ongoing changes and the need to redefine the ways in which individuals and groups understand key pedagogical categories.

Different ways of understanding patriotism. From historical to ecological contexts

The literature distinguishes many approaches to patriotism, emphasizing historical, territorial, cultural, ethical, emotional, economic (economic) and ecological contexts.

From a historical perspective, many researchers describe behaviour of citizens in favour of the state and nation characteristic of a particular period, distinguishing patriotism characteristic of subsequent eras. Taking growing national consciousness as a criterion for typologization, we should distinguish early medieval patriotism, Renaissance patriotism, nobility patriotism, romantic patriotism, positivist patriotism, legion patriotism, Endecja patriotism, Home Army patriotism, and Solidarity patriotism¹⁷. An interesting historical approach of patriotism is presented by Andrzej

¹⁴ J. Szczurkowska, *Ja patriota...*, Warsaw 2016, p. 23.

¹⁵ M. Czerniawska, *Patriotyzm: jak znaleźć mu miejsce w mentalności społeczeństwa?* [in:] *Patriotyzm i nacjonalizm...*, p. 78.

¹⁶ A. Kozłowska, *Patriotyzm polski. Jaki powinien być?*, Warsaw 2001, pp. 35–36.

¹⁷ K. Chałas, S. Kowalczyk, *Wychowanie ku wartościom...*, p. 41.

Walicki. Based on the history of patriotic attitudes in Poland, he typologizes patriotism, pointing to three positions that coexist and overlap. They are as follows: the concepts of: fidelity to the national will, manifested in the pursuit of internal and external sovereignty (the legacy of the democracy of the nobility), the national idea referring to the tradition of romantic thinking about the nation, which is realized in the future, and the national interest understood realistically (the legacy of *Endecja*)¹⁸. On the other hand, Andrzej Nowak points to republican patriotism understood as a community of fellow citizens, independence-imperial and modernization patriotism¹⁹.

Patriotism inevitably refers to the area, territory and space. S. Osowski points to two types of patriotism. The first one relates to a person's place of birth and residence, emotional connection: rooting in a place; this is local patriotism. The second one is based on a belief, concerning the participation of the individual in a larger territorial community. This is ideological patriotism²⁰, which enables an individual to identify nationally and to distinguish between their own and foreign communities. It gives rise to an awareness of the border, a willingness to defend borders in territorial and symbolic terms, and therefore some researchers refer to it as national. Writing about patriotism, we cannot ignore the question of the symbolic universe of the nation's culture²¹. The totality of scientific, social, artistic and technical values created by people, as well as norms, values, patterns of behaviour allow us to identify the nation and the country. Individuals are linked by a common past, language, tradition, customs and culture. We also need to note the connection of an individual with the region, ethnographic area, district of the country from which they come or where they live: regional patriotism, as well as the connection with European culture and civilization: civilization patriotism²².

Among the types of patriotism I. Primoratz distinguishes ethical patriotism, resulting from the belief in the internal moral strength of society, which is guided by such values as social justice, interpersonal solidarity, responsibility for the course of events, humanitarianism, respect for human rights²³. Ethical issues also allow for distinguishing blind and constructive patriotism. A fossilized attachment to the fatherland, the origins of the nation, as well as an uncritical, positive assessment and negation of criticism of the fatherland re characteristic features of blind patriotism. Individuals displaying such behaviour are not interested in socio-political issues in the country and do not engage in civic affairs. Constructive patriotism is

¹⁸ A. Walicki, *Trzy patriotyzmy*, Warsaw 1991, p. 7.

¹⁹ A. Nowak, *Polski patriotyzm wieku niewoli: trzy formuły?* [in:] *Patriotyzm Polaków. Studia z historii idei*, ed. J. Kloczkowski, Cracow 2006, pp. 91–94; A. Nowak, *Republika, imperium, modernizacja: trzy wzory polskiego patriotyzmu* [in:] *Patriotyzm wczoraj i dziś. Seminarium Polskiej Akademii Umiejętności*, vol. VI, ed. M. Kobos, Cracow 2011, pp. 45–47.

²⁰ J. Szczurkowska, *Ja patriota...*, pp. 27–28.

²¹ A. Kłoskowska, *Kultury narodowe u korzeni*, Warsaw 2005, p. 53.

²² A. Wiłkomirska, A. Fijałkowski, *Jaki patriotyzm?*, Warsaw 2016, p. 71.

²³ Eidem, pp. 73–74.

a characteristic feature of individuals who participate in political life, expand socio-political knowledge, and continuously analyse and draw conclusions concerning the national interest. They recognise the right to criticise and actively oppose the national majority²⁴. A citizen guided by ethical considerations reliably fulfils duties toward the fatherland, pays taxes, protects the environment, cares about the honour of the fatherland and the good name of compatriots.

The research into patriotism also takes into account the intensity of emotional commitment and social activities in favour of the fatherland. On this basis, we can distinguish four types of patriotism and place them on a scale from the highest to the weakest intensification of the trait. They are extreme, strong, moderate and limited patriotism²⁵.

Love of the fatherland is also manifested in positive action for the economic development of the country²⁶. Economic patriotism involves making conscious economic decisions that take into account their impact on the national community. It is externalized in a individual's conduct in the economic market, includes consumer behaviour related to attachment to goods manufactured in the country, support for domestic entrepreneurship, domestic companies and care for national goods and property.

The practical expression of love of the fatherland also includes an individual's concern for preserving the beauty of the native landscape and respect for nature. It is about the manifestation of comprehensive ecological behaviour, responsibility for the conditions of natural existence of future generations, love and respect of the ecosystem²⁷.

Research methodology

The multiplicity of ways in which the category of patriotism can be defined and various typological approaches to the mentioned notion lead us, according to Jerzy Nikitorowicz²⁸, to focus on the varieties of patriotism and the ways of understanding them. Following these assumptions, in 2023 the research was undertaken within the ongoing project *Modele patriotyzmu w perspektywie doświadczeń biograficznych 20-, 40- i 60-latków na Podkarpaciu*²⁹ (Models of patriotism in the perspective of biographical experiences of the individuals in their 20s, 40s and 60s in the Subcarpathia

²⁴ J. Szczurkowska, *Ja patriota...*, p. 69.

²⁵ K. Chałas, W. Furmanek. K. Ożóg, *Niepodległość...*, p. 137.

²⁶ E. Łon, *Patriotyzm gospodarczy*, Poznań 2018, p. 33; A.K. Koźmiński, *Patriotyzm ekonomiczny w warunkach globalizacji* [in:] *Patriotyzm wczoraj i dziś. Seminarium Polskiej Akademii Umiejętności*, vol. VII, ed. M. Kobos, Cracow 2011, p. 208.

²⁷ G. Grochowski, *Miłość do ojczyzny według Jana Pawła II*, Szczecinek 2011, pp. 131–132.

²⁸ U. Lewartowicz, *Młodość i patriotyzm. Wyzwania dla edukacji* [in:] *Patriotyzm i nacjonalizm...*, p. 149.

²⁹ The project (ID 539392) is carried out by the author of the study within the framework of a program funded by the Ministry of Education *Science for Society*.

Province), which aimed to determine the manifestations of patriotism in three successive generations living in the Subcarpathia Province and the types of patriotism typical of the region³⁰. The main research problem was contained in the question about the dominant types of patriotism in the Subcarpathia Province. The research had a form of a survey³¹. The author used an independently prepared survey questionnaire.

This article presents an excerpt from the research relating to the ways in which the surveyed groups define patriotism in terms of their types. In an effort to capture the perspective of the respondents, taking into account the multiplicity and diversity of definitions of patriotism in the theory of literature, for the purposes of the study, seven areas of defining the term (historical, territorial, cultural, ethical, emotional, economic and ecological) were identified, and within each of them the respondents were offered five synthetic definitions. Such a solution resulted from the need to refer to the past, an individual's attitude to the territory and space, customs and habits and cultural products, attachment to values, display of feelings, respect for native nature and national products. A rank-based measurement³² was used and the respondents were asked to rank their answers in order of relevance.

The survey covered a 300-person group of residents of the Subcarpathia Province, in three consecutive age categories (from 18 to 35: the young adults, from 35 to 60: the middle-aged individuals, and over 60: the seniors). The surveys were conducted randomly³³ between 19th January and 10th February. Invitations were sent to a similar number of respondents in terms of gender according to the structure of the population based on CSO data. Thanks to the random nature of the sample, the authors could generalise the results from the sample to the study population using appropriate statistical tests, at a confidence level of 95%³⁴. The survey was responded to by 60.7% of women and 39.3% of men. The respondents under the age of 35 were mostly single (62% of the respondents), while older respondents were mostly married (65–67%). Nearly two-thirds of the respondents (63%) live in urban area. More than a half of the respondents in each age group have secondary education. While the highest percentage of individuals with higher education is among 60-year-olds (38%).

Study results and discussion

As written above, patriotism can be understood in various ways. Defining their attitude to the fatherland, an individual can accentuate many aspects of the functioning in a wider community. Referring to the source literature and taking into account

³⁰ J.W. Creswell, *Projektowanie badań naukowych. Metody ilościowe i mieszane*, Cracow 2013, p. 163.

³¹ T. Pilch, *Zasady badań pedagogicznych. Strategie ilościowe i jakościowe*, Warsaw 1998, p. 86.

³² H. Frankfort-Nachmias, D. Nachmias, *Metody badawcze w naukach społecznych*, Poznań 2001, p. 277.

³³ E. Babbie, *Badania społeczne w praktyce*, Warsaw 2007, p. 208.

³⁴ Detailed empirical data are available for review from the author.

the relationship between *I and we* for the purposes of the study, seven areas of defining the term in question were identified. They are: attachment to the fatherland and its history, connection to the place and territory, culture and national heritage, economy and national product, native landscape, as well as self-improvement and responsibility for oneself, others and the state. Within each area, categories of defining the notion of patriotism were identified. Respondents ranked the definitions. The collected data is presented in the following table.

Table 1. Ways of defining patriotism by the individuals in their 20s, 40s and 60s living in the Subcarpathia Province

Ways of defining		N	Mean	Standard deviation	Standard error	ANOVA test p
1		2	3	4	5	6
Patriotism in historical perspective						
dedication to the fatherland	up to 35 years of age	100	2.45	1.282	0.128	0.314
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.37	1.284	0.128	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.64	1.291	0.129	
	In total	300	2.49	1.287	0.074	
willingness to give one's life for the fatherland	up to 35 years of age	100	2.50	1.411	0.141	0.743
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.57	1.409	0.141	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.66	1.591	0.159	
	In total	300	2.58	1.469	0.085	
struggle to preserve national distinctiveness	up to 35 years of age	100	3.42	1.216	0.122	0.123
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.13	1.368	0.137	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.48	1.275	0.128	
	In total	300	3.34	1.293	0.075	
ancestral memories	up to 35 years of age	100	3.30	1.322	0.132	0.699
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.33	1.349	0.135	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.18	1.306	0.131	
	In total	300	3.27	1.323	0.076	
attachment to the state	up to 35 years of age	100	3.33	1.518	0.152	0.022
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.60	1.303	0.130	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.04	1.435	0.143	
	In total	300	3.32	1.435	0.083	
Patriotism in territorial perspective						
sense of specificity/ individuality of one's own nation	up to 35 years of age	100	2.99	1.527	0.153	0.962
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.97	1.547	0.155	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.93	1.578	0.158	
	In total	300	2.96	1.546	0.089	
sense of belonging to a group in a given territory	up to 35 years of age	100	2.95	1.351	0.135	0.405
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.14	1.371	0.137	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.89	1.392	0.139	
	In total	300	2.99	1.371	0.079	

	1	2	3	4	5	6
cultivation of regional traditions	up to 35 years of age	100	3.01	1.374	0.137	0.222
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.04	1.333	0.133	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.31	1.323	0.132	
	In total	300	3.12	1.346	0.078	
identification with the history and culture of the "small fatherland"	up to 35 years of age	100	3.17	1.311	0.131	0.491
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.00	1.341	0.134	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.96	1.310	0.131	
	In total	300	3.04	1.319	0.076	
sense of being attached to the nation through the place of birth	up to 35 years of age	100	2.88	1.513	0.151	0.960
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.85	1.486	0.149	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.91	1.443	0.144	
	In total	300	2.88	1.476	0.085	
Patriotism in ethical perspective						
caring for the welfare of the fatherland	up to 35 years of age	100	2.35	1.417	0.142	0.910
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.39	1.476	0.148	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.44	1.520	0.152	
	In total	300	2.39	1.467	0.085	
selfless actions in favour of the fatherland and the nation	up to 35 years of age	100	2.59	1.326	0.133	0.538
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.59	1.280	0.128	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.41	1.349	0.135	
	In total	300	2.53	1.317	0.076	
self-improvement for the sake of the fatherland	up to 35 years of age	100	3.22	1.307	0.131	0.298
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.23	1.302	0.130	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.47	1.243	0.124	
	In total	300	3.31	1.285	0.074	
following moral principles	up to 35 years of age	100	2.90	1.159	0.116	0.227
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.18	1.290	0.129	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.15	1.321	0.132	
	In total	300	3.08	1.261	0.073	
valuing actions in terms of good and evil	up to 35 years of age	100	3.94	1.317	0.132	0.065
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.61	1.385	0.138	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.53	1.218	0.122	
	In total	300	3.69	1.316	0.076	
Patriotism in emotional perspective						
love of the fatherland	up to 35 years of age	100	2.16	1.475	0.148	0.512
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	1.94	1.205	0.120	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.08	1.383	0.138	
	In total	300	2.06	1.357	0.078	
attachment to the fatherland	up to 35 years of age	100	2.42	1.174	0.117	0.810
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.53	1.267	0.127	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.46	1.193	0.119	
	In total	300	2.47	1.209	0.070	

	1	2	3	4	5	6
conscientious performance of one's duties	up to 35 years of age	100	3.41	1.319	0.132	0.483
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.35	1.242	0.124	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.20	1.239	0.124	
	In total	300	3.32	1.266	0.073	
sacrificing oneself for compatriots	up to 35 years of age	100	3.30	1.243	0.124	0.495
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.25	1.234	0.123	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.45	1.242	0.124	
	In total	300	3.33	1.239	0.072	
tolerance towards national and religious differences	up to 35 years of age	100	3.71	1.200	0.120	0.457
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.93	1.249	0.125	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.81	1.277	0.128	
	In total	300	3.82	1.242	0.072	
Patriotism in economical perspective						
working for the sake of the nation in the territory of the country	up to 35 years of age	100	2.52	1.460	0.146	0.087
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.69	1.509	0.151	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.23	1.476	0.148	
	In total	300	2.48	1.489	0.086	
fair payment of taxes	up to 35 years of age	100	3.31	1.339	0.134	0.099
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.97	1.439	0.144	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.93	1.320	0.132	
	In total	300	3.07	1.373	0.079	
respecting laws	up to 35 years of age	100	3.15	1.313	0.131	0.310
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.00	1.318	0.132	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.87	1.244	0.124	
	In total	300	3.01	1.293	0.075	
choosing domestic manufacturers when making daily purchases, e.g. fruit, vegetables, cold cuts	up to 35 years of age	100	2.63	1.353	0.135	0.000
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.87	1.236	0.124	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.35	1.258	0.126	
	In total	300	2.95	1.314	0.076	
promoting a national brand of products	up to 35 years of age	100	3.39	1.406	0.141	0.509
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.47	1.466	0.147	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.62	1.384	0.138	
	In total	300	3.49	1.418	0.082	

1		2	3	4	5	6
Patriotism in cultural perspective						
knowledge of the nation's history and culture and its promotion in the society	up to 35 years of age	100	2.48	1.352	0.135	0.032
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.68	1.399	0.140	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.17	1.378	0.138	
	In total	300	2.44	1.388	0.080	
care for the mother tongue	up to 35 years of age	100	2.16	1.187	0.119	0.030
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	1.91	1.147	0.115	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.34	1.103	0.110	
	In total	300	2.14	1.156	0.067	
knowledge of Polish literature	up to 35 years of age	100	3.19	1.125	0.113	0.192
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.05	1.095	0.110	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.91	1.036	0.104	
	In total	300	3.05	1.088	0.063	
respect for national traditions	up to 35 years of age	100	2.90	1.235	0.124	0.618
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.02	1.146	0.115	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.06	1.213	0.121	
	In total	300	2.99	1.196	0.069	
supporting Polish sportsmen and sportswomen	up to 35 years of age	100	4.27	1.188	0.119	0.248
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	4.34	1.094	0.109	
	over 60 years of age	100	4.52	0.979	0.098	
	In total	300	4.38	1.092	0.063	
Patriotism in ecological perspective						
energy saving	up to 35 years of age	100	2.75	1.403	0.140	0.374
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.01	1.494	0.149	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.99	1.474	0.147	
	In total	300	2.92	1.457	0.084	
reduction of carbon dioxide emissions (greenhouse effect)	up to 35 years of age	100	2.64	1.411	0.141	0.076
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.06	1.399	0.140	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.98	1.341	0.134	
	In total	300	2.89	1.391	0.080	
waste segregation and recycling	up to 35 years of age	100	2.67	1.223	0.122	0.154
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.68	1.238	0.124	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.38	1.262	0.126	
	In total	300	2.58	1.245	0.072	

	1	2	3	4	5	6
reducing water consumption and keeping rivers and lakes clean	up to 35 years of age	100	3.09	1.311	0.131	0.116
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	2.82	1.290	0.129	
	over 60 years of age	100	2.73	1.213	0.121	
	In total	300	2.88	1.277	0.074	
promoting ecological solutions in agriculture and production	up to 35 years of age	100	3.85	1.373	0.137	0.032
	from 35 to 60 years of age	100	3.43	1.546	0.155	
	over 60 years of age	100	3.92	1.323	0.132	
	In total	300	3.73	1.429	0.083	

Source: own research results.

The first of the identified areas of defining patriotism refers to historical aspects related to love of the fatherland, including devotion to the fatherland, declarations of readiness to sacrifice for the country and even to give one's life, undertaking the struggle to preserve national distinctiveness, ancestral memories or attachment to the state. Ranking the submitted definitions, the young adults participating in the study indicate that in their opinion the most accurate understanding of patriotism is the struggle to preserve national distinctiveness. The indicator is 3.42. Subsequent definitions are attachment to the state, ancestral memories, willingness to give one's life for the fatherland, and dedication to the fatherland. The indicators range from 3.33 to 2.45. In the middle-aged research group, the distribution of responses is slightly different. The respondents consider attachment to the state (3.60) as the most pertinent definition of patriotism, and then emphasize the importance of keeping ancestral memories (3.33). Patriotism as a struggle to preserve distinctiveness takes third place in terms of relevance of definitions with the indicator of 3.13. For the surveyed group over 60 years of age, the most accurate definition of patriotism, just like among the youngest respondents, is a struggle to preserve national distinctiveness. The indicator is 3.48. Then the respondents indicated ancestral memories (3.18), attachment to the state (3.04), willingness to sacrifice one's life for the country and dedication to the fatherland (the indicators are 2.66 and 2.64, respectively). A relationship was found between the age of the respondents and the category of historical patriotism: attachment to the state. The respondents between the ages of 35 and 60 find this definition more accurate than respondents over 60.

Patriotism is inevitably linked to a specific space, territory, land and place. Such a personal attitude to the place of birth, the region and the country more broadly is understood by the respondents in a very interesting way, yet, we need to note a broad range of opinions. The youngest of the surveyed groups, those under 35, indicated that it is important to identify with the history and culture of a place (3.17) and cultivate regional traditions (3.01). For the middle-aged respondents, the most pertinent definition refers to being rooted in a place, and thus they define

patriotism as a sense of belonging to a group in a given territory (3.14). Moreover, this group of respondents, just like the young adults, find it important to cultivate regional traditions (3.04) and identify with the history and culture of a place (3.00). The seniors believe that a specific region creates the culture of a place, and popularizing it is a leading task of a citizen. Therefore, they consider cultivating regional traditions (3.31) and identifying with the history and culture of a place (2.96) to be the most accurate definition.

Building up patriotism is connected with the quality of life, understood in terms of practised values, such as goodness, selflessness of action, self-improvement. It therefore includes ethical aspects of human functioning. The respondents from all surveyed groups understand patriotism in the moral dimension as valuing action in universal categories of good and evil (young adults: the indicator of 3.94; middle-aged 3.61; seniors 3.53) and adherence to moral principles as determinants in life (the indicator ranging from 3.22 to 3.47). Similar results were obtained by M. Gulda, who studied young people, trying to determine how they manifest patriotism³⁵.

Patriotism is a feeling, mutual love between people settled in a given territory. Emotional attitude toward other people co-creating the community is expressed in love, care, conscientiousness, tolerance, sacrifice. It is a strong emotional bond with fellow residents of a particular territory, the basis of social relations. Indicating the most apt definition of patriotism in emotional terms, the respondents refer to a certain universe characterizing social relations based on acceptance of national and religious differences. In all surveyed groups, a definition emphasizing tolerance of national and religious dissimilarities was identified as the most accurate. The indicators for this category are high, which means that the representatives of all groups have similar opinions. The highest numerical indicator was obtained by the above mentioned definition in the group of middle-aged individuals: 3.93. The seniors gave this definition a weight of 3.81, and the young people 3.71. Perhaps the emphasis on openness to others is conditioned by both the history of the region and the current situation (the proximity of the war in Ukraine). Furthermore, the young people under the age of 35 and middle-aged individuals pointed to a definition referring to conscientious performance of one's duties for the country (the indicators of 3.41 and 3.35, respectively) and seniors to the importance of sacrificing for compatriots (the indicator of 3.45).

The subsequent identified area of defining patriotism is connected with the economic functioning of the country, the consolidation of Polish ownership in various spheres of the national economy. The respondents agree that patriotism in this dimension primarily involves building wealth based on promoting the national brand of products. Such a task is referred to by all the surveyed groups. The highest indicator of the relevance of the definition was recorded among the seniors:

³⁵ M. Gulda, *Młodzież wobec przyszłości*, Gdańsk 1990, pp. 111–112.

3.62. In the group of the middle-aged respondents it is 3.47, and among the young adults it is 3.39.

For the respondents over 60, it is also important to choose national manufacturers when making daily purchases (3.35). It indicates a kind of consumer ethnocentrism among the seniors, although the actual affiliation of marks and brands in the market remains an open question in the process of globalization. Other groups indicate the importance of fair payment of taxes (the young adults: 3.31) and respecting laws (the middle-aged respondents: 3.00). In addition, compared to the youngest and middle-aged respondents, the respondents over the age of 60 consider choosing national manufacturers when making daily purchases, such as fruit, vegetables and cured meats, as a more accurate definition of patriotism in economic terms.

Patriotism understood by the respondents in the cultural perspective, namely respect for language, tradition, literature, history and religion, shows its specific character. Support for sportsmen and sportswomen imbued with numerous national symbols was also included in the category of modern culture. It was assumed that the successes, trophies of sportsmen and sportswomen become a common asset of the nation, an element of history and culture. It should be noted that when describing the cultural aspect of patriotism as the most apt definition all surveyed groups of the respondents, pointed to supporting Polish sportsmen and sportswomen (the indicator from 4.52: the seniors to 4.27: the young adults). For respondents under 60 years of age, knowledge of Polish literature is also a valuable dimension of patriotism (the indicators of 3.05 and 3.19, respectively). For the senior group, on the other hand, respect for national traditions is important, so they rank this definition in second place in terms of relevance. Interestingly, the middle-aged generation is least likely to point to caring for the mother tongue as a way of understanding patriotism (the indicator of 1.91 on a five-point scale). A definition of patriotism in cultural terms as “knowledge of the nation’s history and culture and its promotion in the society” is closer to the respondents from 35 to 60 years of age, while “care for the mother tongue” is closer to those above 60.

The last aspect identified in the course of the research, namely ecological patriotism, understood as love of one’s native nature, noticing the beauty and admiration of the landscape, communing with nature and, above all, caring for the use of environmentally friendly solutions, is also being pointed out more and more often. Its importance is also emphasized by the surveyed groups. Referring to the most pertinent definition of love of the fatherland in this dimension, the respondents point out the promotion of ecological solutions in agriculture and production. The highest rank is attributed to this definition by the senior with the indicator of 3.92 and young people under 35 with the indicator of 3.85. Interestingly, the oldest group of the respondents also emphasizes the importance of global problems, including energy saving, reducing carbon emissions and water consumption. According to

the respondents, patriotism is associated with active involvement in such activities. Young adults connect patriotic behaviour with caring for clean water and saving water consumption.

Conclusion

The considerations presented in this paper represent a small part of a broader study. The obtained research material allows us to formulate the following conclusions and generalisations:

1. Patriotism is associated with particular historical and cultural heritage, deeply connected with love of the fatherland, readiness to take up arms in its defence, and even to give one's life for the freedom of the nation. For the young adults (the indicator of 3.42) and seniors (the indicator of 3.48), the notion in historical terms means the struggle to preserve national distinctiveness. It is a way of understanding patriotism rooted in the romantic perception of the fatherland. The middle-aged residents of the Subcarpathia Province (from 35 to 60 years of age) accentuate the accuracy of another definition of patriotism, namely attachment to the state. This approach is closer to the positivist view.
2. The love of the fatherland refers to a specific territory: a place of residence, region, province and state. Attachment to a region, ethnographic land is understood by the studied groups quite variously. in a quite varied way. In the perspective of the young adults, territorial patriotism means identification with the history and culture of a place (3.17). For the middle-aged respondents, it is a sense of connection with a group in a given territory (3.14), while for seniors it is the cultivation of regional traditions (3.31).
3. Patriotism is based on values. And the welfare of humanity is a central value, not in conflict with the interests of the nation. In terms of ethics, all the surveyed groups unanimously relate patriotism to individual actions and valuing social involvement in universal ethical categories of right and evil. They consider this definition the most appropriate, assigning it the indicator of up to 3.53 (the seniors) to 3.94 (the young adults).
4. Pride, respect, love, devotion, loyalty to the nation are only selected feelings and emotions accompanying a person guided by the value of patriotism in life. Interestingly, regardless of age of the respondents an important feature of the mentioned concept is tolerance towards national and religious differences (the indicator from 3.71 to 3.81).
5. Functioning in a certain country often involves attachment to goods manufactured there, as well as products sold by national brands. According to all the groups surveyed, promoting national products is the most apt definition of economic patriotism (the total indicator of 3.49).

6. A bond with the fatherland and the nation is formed on the basis of a common culture, language, tradition, style of life. It includes interest in the nation's history, art, rituals. According to the surveyed groups, an element of culture that motivates people to join the community is supporting Polish sportsmen and sportswomen (the indicator ranging from 3.71 to 3.93). Their achievements, successes are part of the country's history and have a forward-looking dimension. It should also be noted the very low indicator: 1.91 attributed by the generation of 40-year-olds to the definition of patriotism depicting care for the mother tongue, and the overall low indicator in this category of 2.14. Conclusion: it is necessary to intensify activities to make the society more sensitive to the beauty of the mother tongue and care for the aesthetics of speech, its importance for the identity of the nation.
7. Caring for native nature: ecological patriotism is, for the groups surveyed, primarily the promotion of ecological solutions in agriculture and production (an overall indicator of 3.73).

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