Intergenerational transmission of values and cultural sustainability of small towns in Poland

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The purpose of the paper is to highlight a crucial aspect of intergenerational transmission of values as seen from the perspective of cultural policies practices of local, small urban communities in Poland. The nationwide research done in Poland in 2013 and a regional survey executed in 2014 brings important remarks on the essential aspects of cultural relations of elderly and young, their interaction and mutual interest in the context of the exchange of cultural values and skills. This has a key impact on a prospect of social, economic, cultural relations and environmental conditions for local communities of the future. The playgrounds in focus are selected small towns communities and its cultural policies in 16 regions of Poland researched in 2013 and than 30 towns in the region of Greater Poland researched in 2014. Polish small towns after 25 years period of political, economic and social dynamic change initiated by the fall of communist regime are surprisingly, very multi-dimensional, experimental cultural policy grounds, quite different to standards of North and West European conditions. The main part of the paper consists of the reflection on the perspectives, challenges, and most important tasks of local authorities facing demographic problems and a risk of generational divide and age group conflicts. Mutual share of values of cultural origin and a provision of tools and conditions for mutual understanding of elderly and youth is a key factor to obtain cultural balance in local cultural policies. Only cultural policies, that are sensitive to intergenerational dialogue, will provide conditions for small local urban communities sustainable development.

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