

ING supports the Exempt from Theory. The number of young people who work for their community is at an all-time high.

24 May 2024



About 7,500 young people implemented social projects in this school year as part of the record-breaking tenth edition of the Exempt from Theory Olympics. They taught others how to think independently, propagated sensory integration and created a guide on artificial intelligence for students and teachers. ING Bank Śląski and ING for Children Foundation are the project partners.

- The youth are getting more and more involved in their community – in the school year 2023/24, “Zwolnieni z Teorii” Foundation recorded a 25-percent increase in the number of participants who work on social projects.
- According to the Foundation’s data, the topics that are of most interest for the young people are as follows: education (34 percent), health and sports (19 percent), local community (18 percent) and ecology (12 percent).

*We are at a time and place where we, as employers and business representatives, strongly support the idea of making education open to changes. I believe that business acumen and the ability to translate knowledge into practical skills and apply them in practice so as to use it every day are of key importance, said **Brunon Bartkiewicz, President of the Management Board of ING Bank Śląski.***

We made another “Step ahead” and we encouraged young people to get involved into the implementation of social projects for their peers. The projects, as part of our “A step ahead” challenge, were implemented by 124 teams, and as many as 72 of them took advantage of

*the ING Mentors' support, said **Joanna Dymna-Oszek, director of the Management Board Bureau at ING Bank Śląski and the ING for Children Foundation President.***

Cooperation, innovativeness, willingness to change, empathy and empowerment – those are the skills that approx. 7,500 young people from nearly one fourth of secondary schools in Poland learned between September and May this year while implementing their own projects in teams. Students could choose any topic they wanted as long as they were able to prove that their project responded to a selected social issue. Young people implement their projects on their own, and schools that supported the youth in their own social activities were listed in the ranking of the Exempt from Theory Schools.

A school environment that finds the time and the space for social projects is an important aspect for students who learn competencies that are useful in daily life and in the future. That is why each year a ranking is built of Exempt from Theory Schools – the ranking is not about grades, but about the ability to build competencies of the future.

This year's finalists of the Olympics were selected during the Grand Finale of the 2024 Exempt from Theory Olympics which took place on 23 May in Warsaw. As many as 19 projects won the most important Golden Wolf award for the best social projects in Poland.

Brunon Bartkiewicz, President of the ING Bank Śląski Management Board and Joanna Dymna-Oszek, director of the Management Board Bureau at ING Bank Śląski and the ING for Children Foundation President, were among the members of the final jury who evaluated the projects.

More information at: [Ranking Szkół | Zwolnieni z Teorii](#)

ING Bank Śląski and ING for Children Foundation have supported the young project members as part of the Exempt from Theory Olympics for many years. During this year's edition of the event, participants were able to take part in workshops organised in ING zones and in ING expert panels. Participants could learn the following, amongst others: How to design their professional future; How to use Generative AI in their daily life without programming skills and about AI based on the Large Language Models and Python.