

"Are you ready?" – Generation Z is here

VIKTORIJA ILIESKA*, ANKICA SPASOVA[†],
METODIJA JANCHESKI[‡]

*Primary school "Kole Nedelkovski", Skopje

[†]Primary school "Tihomir Miloshevski", Skopje

[‡]Ss. Cyril and Methodius University,

Faculty of Information Sciences and Computer Engineering, Skopje

We live in the age of rapid developments in modern technologies. These transformations have impact on all social spheres in today's world. Different personal beliefs, social environment and generational affiliation are reflected in behavior, communication, attitudinal and motivational goals. Economic conditions, life values, cultural context of the environment, technological, educational and social possibilities in collective and individual world can lead to different needs and strategies of behavior even within the framework of the "generation" itself.

First we will give a few main characteristics for "XYZ - generations" according to the modern, classic concept suggested by the American authors, William Strauss and Nov, keeping them in mind: current/future teachers born in the X/Y generation (X / 41–55 years old, Y / 26 to 40 years old) and students born in the Z/Alpha generation (Z / 5 to 25 years old and Alpha are those born after 2015) and their specific on Balkan countries, especially in Macedonia (Results obtained from our conducted research on the topic "How much are our students dominant representatives of the Z-generation in primary and secondary education"). After we "look" in consumer perspective and psychological observations for generation Z, we will propose concrete strategies and work techniques on how teachers should work with them in order to build the new citizens of the 21-st century world. We will conclude with possible flows and aspirations of our approach as well as a brief on how these students can build certain skills to prepare for higher education, especially in mathematics. Generation Z students are increasingly striving for independence, valuing ideas, innovation and entrepreneurship - they are transforming the education system in many aspects which will require educators to adapt and handle these changes. And we are here to help them!