The Idea of Lifelong Learning –
Polish Experience and Reality

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When planning for a year, plant corn.
When planning for a decade, plant trees.
When planning for life, train and educate people
(Bauman, 2012, p. 26)

Abstract
The presented study addresses the issue of the concept of lifelong learning based on Polish experience, on the basis of the latest research: the international programme: Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (Study on an international scale, realised for the first time in Poland on a sample of more than 9 thousand people) and Polish reports: Report on the State of Education 2013 – Teachers Matter, and Social Diagnosis 2013 – the Labour Market and Social Exclusion in the Context of the Perception of Poles.

The presented study and the authors’ considerations revolve around the concepts of: learning, schooling, undertaking educational activity by adults, which, as clearly indicated by the research results, constitutes an insignificant part of Polish society. This situation puts our country on one of the last places in the ranking of highly developed countries.

Keywords: education, the idea of lifelong learning, modern personality, characteristics of modernised societies, civilization competence, educational research: PISA, PIAAC, Social Diagnosis 2013, Report on the State of Education 2013

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1 A Chinese proverb quoted by Zygmunt Bauman.