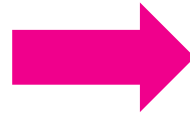


# Freed From Theory | zwolnieni <sup>z</sup> teorii

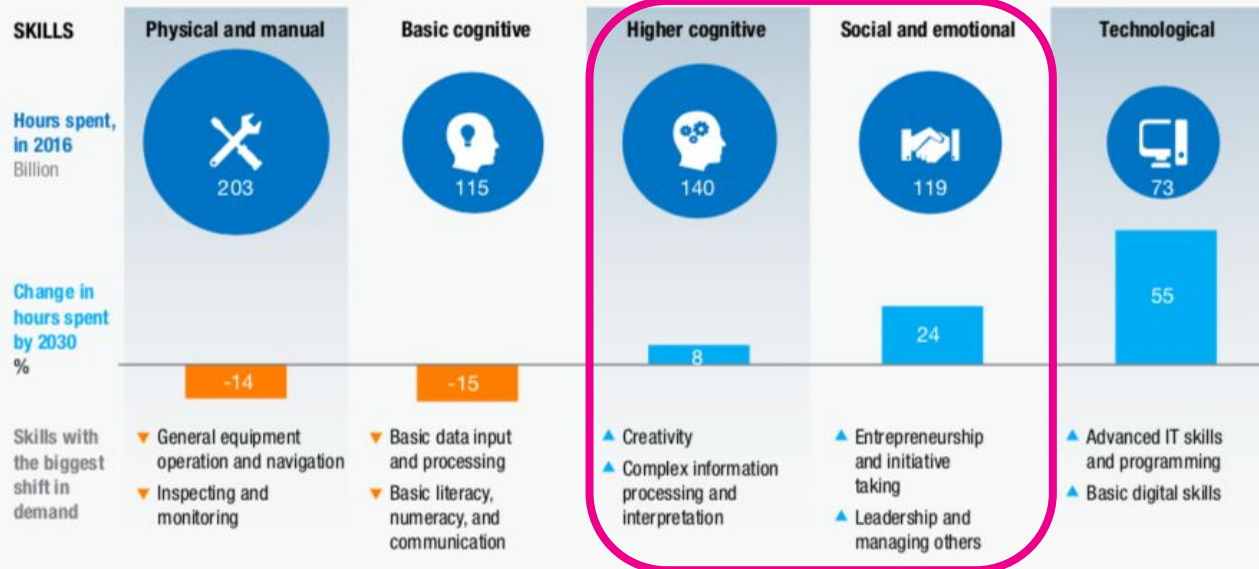
We run the biggest social skills program  
for youth in Poland



# What are the 21st century skills?

## Automation and AI will change the skills needed in the workforce

Total is for United States and 14 Western European countries



**Social & cognitive skills are essential in the future of the workforce.**

source: *Skill shift: Automation and the future of the workforce*, McKinsey Global Institute, May 2018

# What are the 21st century skills?

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*We have to teach our kids something unique, so that a machine can never catch up with us: values, believing, independent thinking, teamwork, care for others - the soft skills (...).*

Jack Ma, Davos 2018

What do we do? We teach teamwork and entrepreneurship skills through **real-life social impact projects**.

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1

students from **25% high-schools** register annually to take part in Freed from Theory



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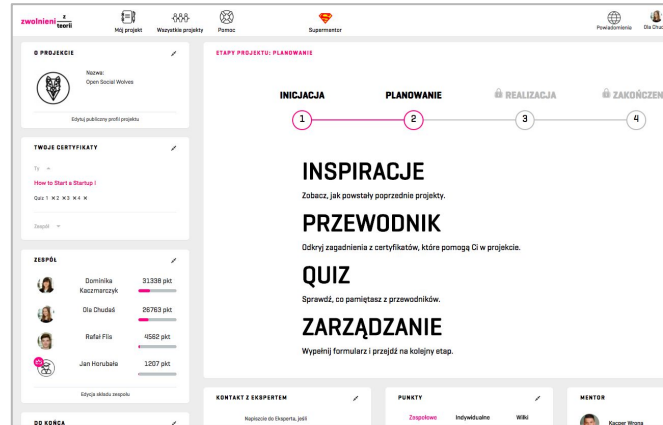
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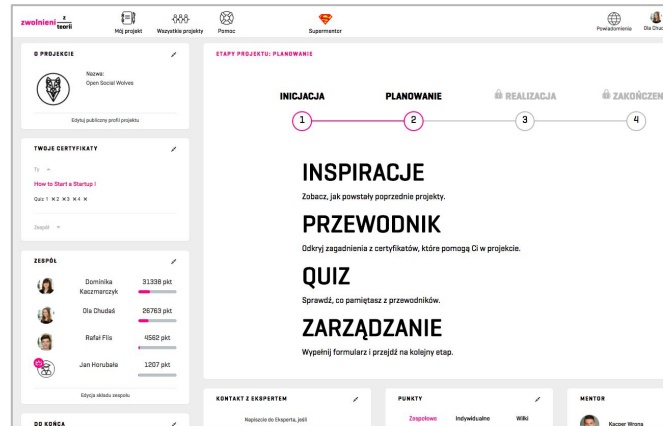
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3

students who finish their projects win certificates in project management signed by PMI R.E.P. and take part in the Grand Final



We assess projects by real-life achievements

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Number of beneficiaries



Forged partnerships



Communication reach



Budget raised



Number of sources  
confirming existence of  
a social problem

... and other

## Project example: "Mimesis - bionic prosthesis"





# Project example: "A colourful room for a dull world"



## Project example: "Phone hero"



# Project example: "Pollution finder"



In the last 6 years our participants completed in total **3k social impact projects** that reached **25 mln beneficiaries**.

# What competences do they train?

---

[ among others: ]

Personal, social competences  
and learning competence

teamwork

time management

self-confidence

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problem solving and  
creativity

Cultural awareness and  
expression competence

understanding local  
context

communication

empathy



## How they assess their experience?

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**95,1%** Assess participation in Freed from Theory as a positive experience

Why? Top responses:

1. It **taught me a lot** / I understood that... (mostly regarding to teamwork, time management, problem solving etc.)
2. **Valuable experience** - prepares for the adulthood
3. Learnt **how to work in a team** - especially how to manage conflicts
4. **Social impact**
5. New or deeper **relationships**
6. **Self-confidence** - which covers becoming more open to other people, stretching the comfort zone, getting to know oneself, recognizing one's strengths
7. **Certificates**

Where is **school** in all that?

We work with teachers from **10% high-schools in Poland**

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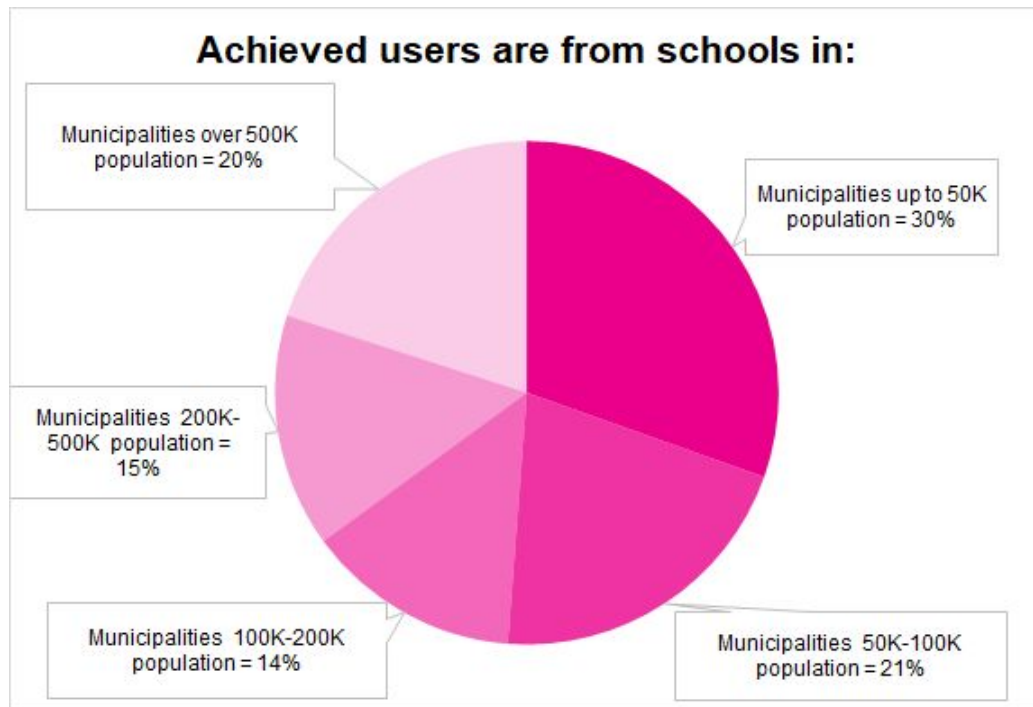


We train teachers in:

- ✓ motivation
- ✓ feedback
- ✓ communication
- ✓ conflict resolving
- ✓ mentoring

Through a school year we support teachers with an online platform and community managers - teachers themselves.

# Teachers enable us to reach more underprivileged students



Wiktoria, 17, from Olsztyn

“ Last year I was afraid to take part in the program, I didn't believe I can make it. This year the program was included in my curriculum, so I joined. I'm still impressed I succeed! And that success made me believe I can organize large project professionally after school! ”

# What surprising have we learnt about teachers?

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1. 'Freed from Theory' teachers have on average **19 years of service** - there are almost no young ones!

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# What surprising have we learnt about teachers?

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1. 'Freed from Theory' teachers have on average **19 years of service** - there are almost no young ones!
2. The **subject** they teach **has little relevance**.
3. Freed from Theory has a **long-lasting impact** on how teachers do their job - they give their students more space and develop deeper relationships with students.

# The problem with external motivation





“

The **biggest problem** of developing pro-innovative competences at school **is the examination system** that harms both the innovativity of teachers and creativity of students.

”

*“School for the innovator” report, Ministry of Economic Development, 2018, p. 31*



**Thank you for your attention**



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