

- **QUESTION 1 -What are the greatest threats to your country related to climate change?**

One of the greatest threats to Poland about the climate change is the increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, storms, and heatwaves. Poland, because of its geographical location in Central Europe, is exposed to various consequences of these phenomena.

1. **Floods:** Poland is one of the European countries most vulnerable to floods. Climate change can increase the frequency and intensity of rainfall, which increases the risk of river floods and flash floods. Floods can lead to material losses, threats to public health, loss of human life, and damage to infrastructure. In recent years, the character of rainfall in the warm season has also changed. They are more intense, short, and destructive. The consequence of this are sudden floods (flash floods) and urban floods. Experts point to flood dangers (including urban floods and flash floods) as the most dangerous and unpredictable threats to Poland. Flash floods also affect smaller communities, for example villages.
2. **Droughts:** Climate change can lead to a decrease in precipitation in certain regions of Poland, increasing the risk of drought. Droughts can have a negative impact on agricultural production, especially in rural areas, leading to yield reductions, financial losses for farmers, and food price increases. Rising air temperatures, shorter periods of snow cover, and prolonged periods of precipitation deficit intensify drought. We will face consequences of that in the coming years.

We can experience not only agricultural damages but also the potential lack of access to water, which could ruin the operations of many businesses and institutions. Decreasing water levels in rivers and lakes, or their drying up, can lead to restrictions on electricity production and consequently to an increase in its price.

In Poland, prolonged hydrological drought can lead to geological changes like land falling or landslides.

3. **Extreme Temperatures:** Climate change can also lead to extreme temperatures, including heatwaves and frost. Heatwaves can increase the risk of health problems and lead to increased energy consumption for air conditioning, which results in greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Climate Report of 2023, from 1951 to the present, the average temperature in Poland has risen by over 2.0°C.
4. **Impact on Agriculture:** Poland is agriculturally important, so climate change can have a impact on the agricultural sector. Rising temperatures, changes in rainfall, and extreme weather events can negatively affect yields, soil quality, and the health of crops and livestock/ farm animals.
5. **Changes in the Marine Environment:** Poland has access to the Baltic Sea, which is also vulnerable to climate change. Sea level rise, ocean and temperature changes can have a negative impact on marine ecosystems, fishing, and coastal infrastructure.
6. **Threats to Public Health:** Climate change can increase the risk of health dangers to the population, such as an increase in cases of insect-borne infectious diseases, air pollution, and heat stress.

7. **Extreme Weather Phenomena:** Another challenge facing Poland are strong winds, hurricanes, or even tornadoes. It is also a threat to wind energy. Extreme weather phenomena such as hurricanes increase the risk of damage to transmission and distribution lines, which can limit the delivery of electricity.

- **QUESTION 2 What do you think your country should do to prevent climate change? (Explanation included)**

Preventing climate change requires action at the national, regional, and global levels.

1. **Emission Reduction:** Poland should reduce greenhouse gas emissions by:

- Investing in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and biomass.
- Modernizing the energy sector by phasing out coal
- Promoting energy efficiency in industry, construction, and transportation.
 - Introducing regulations and financial motivation for businesses and houses that want to reduce emissions.

2. **Sustainable Transport:** Poland can reduce emissions from transportation by:

- Developing infrastructure for public transportation, including railways and cycling.
- Promoting electric vehicles through financial motivation
- Limiting car traffic in city centers

3. **Protection of Natural Resources:** Poland should protect its forests, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems, which play a important role in absorbing CO₂, improving air quality, and preserving biodiversity.

4. **Adaptation to Climate Change:** It is important for Poland to prepare for the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, by:

- Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, such as flood protection systems and water management.
- Developing plans for sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and public health.

5. **International Cooperation:** Poland should actively participate in international climate change negotiations, and support developing countries in their adaptation efforts.

6. Education and Public Awareness: Poland can promote environmental education in schools, informational campaigns, and programs encouraging environmentally friendly behavior.

• *QUESTION 3-Regarding what your country should do to adapt to climate change (+ explanation):*

1. Risk Analysis and Adaptation Planning: Poland should make a detailed analysis of climate change-related risks, identifying areas most vulnerable to extreme weather events and other climate change impacts.

2. Investment in Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: Poland should invest in infrastructure resilient to extreme weather events, such as flood protection systems, wetland drainage, retention reservoirs, and sewage and drainage networks.

- 4. Support for Climate-Vulnerable Sectors:** Poland should support sectors of the economy most vulnerable to climate change, such as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Poland can use adaptation programs, investments in technologies and agricultural practices resilient to droughts and extreme temperatures, and protection of forest and marine areas.
- 5. Education and Awareness Raising:** Increasing public awareness of climate change and the need for adaptation is important. Poland can organize workshops, conferences, exhibitions, and other educational events on ecology and climate change.
- 6. International Cooperation:** Poland should cooperate with other countries by international initiatives on climate change adaptation, exchange experiences, and support each other in climate risk management .

• *QUESTION 4-What can your region/school do? Have you been inspired by examples from other countries and would like to try something similar?*

a) Podkarpackie Voivodeship:

1. Risk Analysis and Adaptation Planning: The Voivodeship should make a detailed analysis of climate change risks in its area and develop adaptation plans for the Podkarpackie region, such as droughts, floods, or soil erosion.

2. Investment in Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: The Voivodeship can invest in expanding flood protection, drainage, to prevent the region from extreme weather events.

4. Collaboration with Local Communities: The Voivodeship can involve local communities in the planning and implementation of adaptation actions, supporting social initiatives and local groups.

5. Education and Public Awareness: Increasing public awareness of climate change and the need for adaptation is important. The Voivodeship can organize workshops, conferences, exhibitions, and other educational events on ecology and climate change.

b) School Youth:

1. Peer Education: Youth can involve in peer education by organizing workshops, presentations, and discussions on climate change in their schools and local communities.

2. Environmental Actions at School: Youth can take environmental actions in their schools, such as reducing energy and water consumption, waste sorting, tree planting, or promoting eco-friendly practices among peers and teachers.

3. Social Activism: Youth can involve in social activism for environmental protection by organizing protests, petitions, or informational campaigns on climate change .

4. Collaboration with Local Authorities: Youth can collaborate with local authorities and other institutions to promote pro-environmental actions at the local level.