

CONTEMPORARY EDUCATION: BETWEEN DIGITAL REALITY AND THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE NEW GENERATION

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Abstract. *The society of the 21st century is characterized by intensive social, economic, and technological transformations that redefine the role of education and outline new priorities in its development. This article explores the challenges faced by educational systems in the context of the digital era and the impact of Generation Z's characteristics on the learning process. It presents an analytical overview of leading international documents and studies that define strategic directions for the development of competence-based and technology-oriented education. The focus is placed on the need to transform the learning environment through innovative pedagogical approaches, among which project-based learning occupies a key position as a tool for developing digital competence, critical thinking, and creativity. The paper discusses current trends in modern education-personalization, gamification, collaboration, and multimodality – that create conditions for active, motivating, and practice-oriented learning. It concludes that effective education for the future requires the integration of technology, pedagogy, and value engagement, preparing young people for the dynamic and interconnected world of the 21st century.*

Key words: Contemporary Education, Generation Z, Digital Competence, Project-Based Learning, Innovation.

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