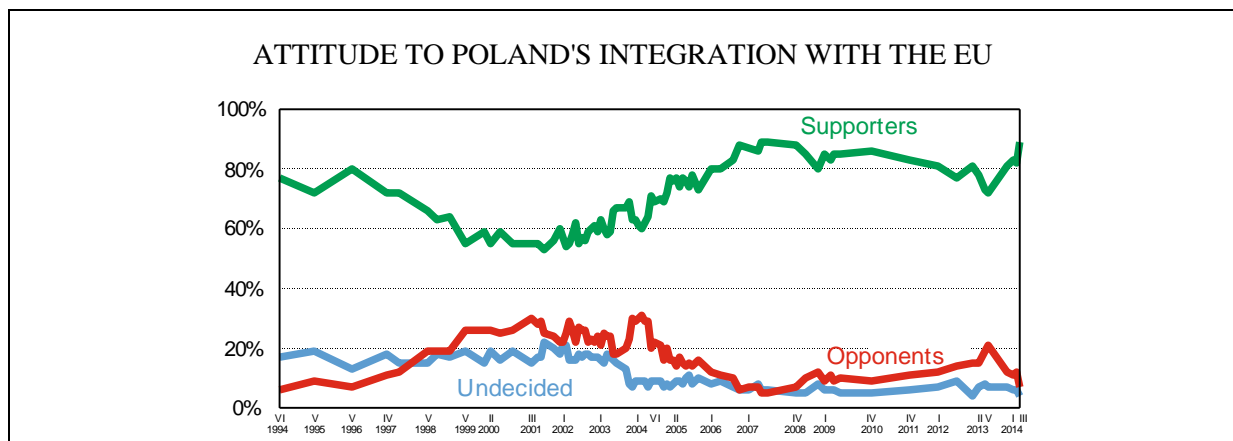


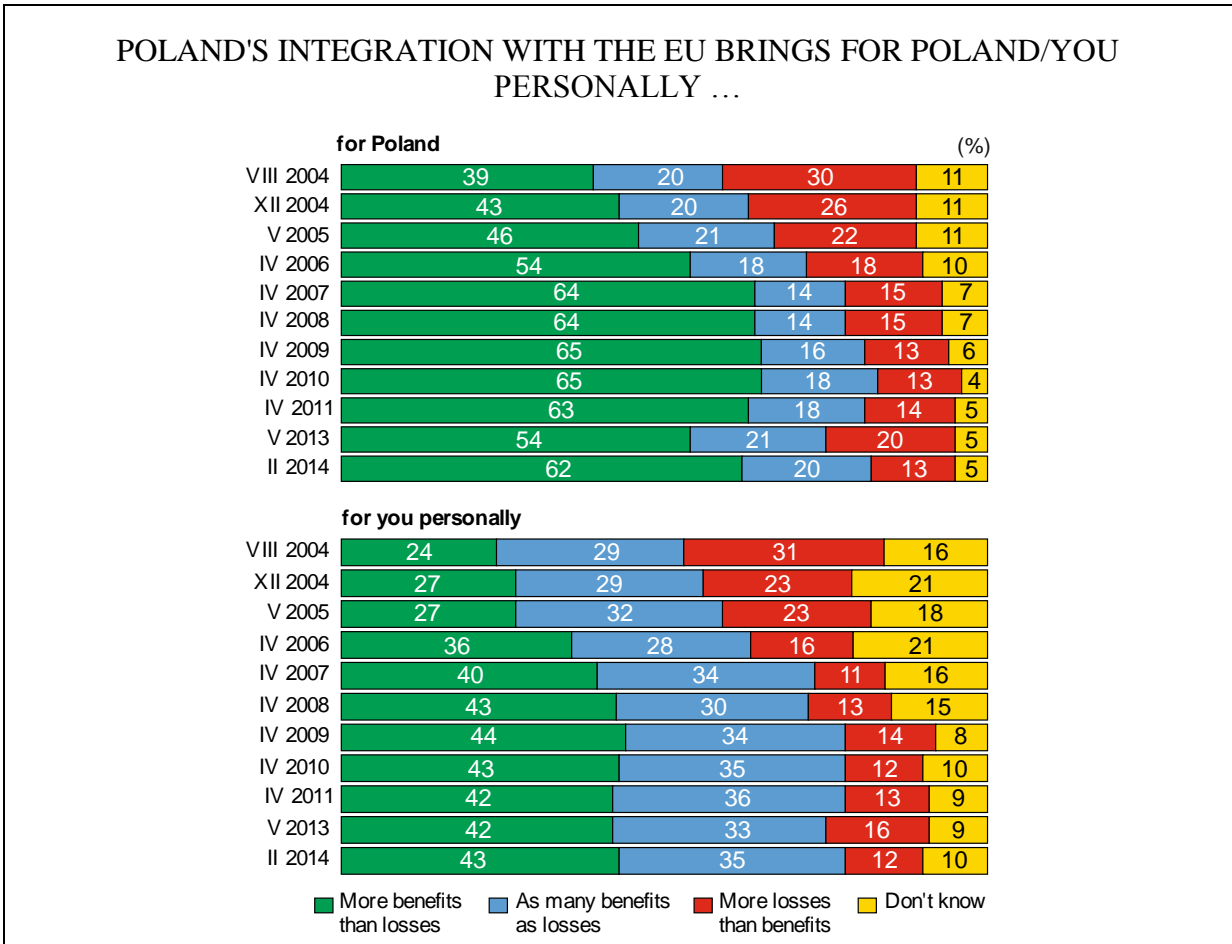
## 10 YEARS OF POLAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The acceptance of Poland's membership in the European Union is nearly universal. Although a decline in support for membership in the Community was noted in mid-2013, it rose in late 2013, reaching the present very high level of 89%. At the same time, the proportion of opponents of EU membership dropped to 7%. It appears that the strengthening pro-European attitude is a consequence of the events in Ukraine, which demonstrated to Poles the significance of accession. While the support for EU was never as unequivocally positive, the majority of respondents supported it since surveys started on this topic.



In the initial years of membership, the proportion of people convinced about positive effects of integration increased. Crisis in the Eurozone, which triggered economic slowdown in Poland, resulted in weakening of the conviction that Poland benefits from the integration. In 2014, the evaluation of the results of accession improved. Most people (62%) share the view that presence in the EU brings more benefits than losses, while 13% think the balance is negative. One-fifth (20%) believe costs and benefits to be roughly equal.

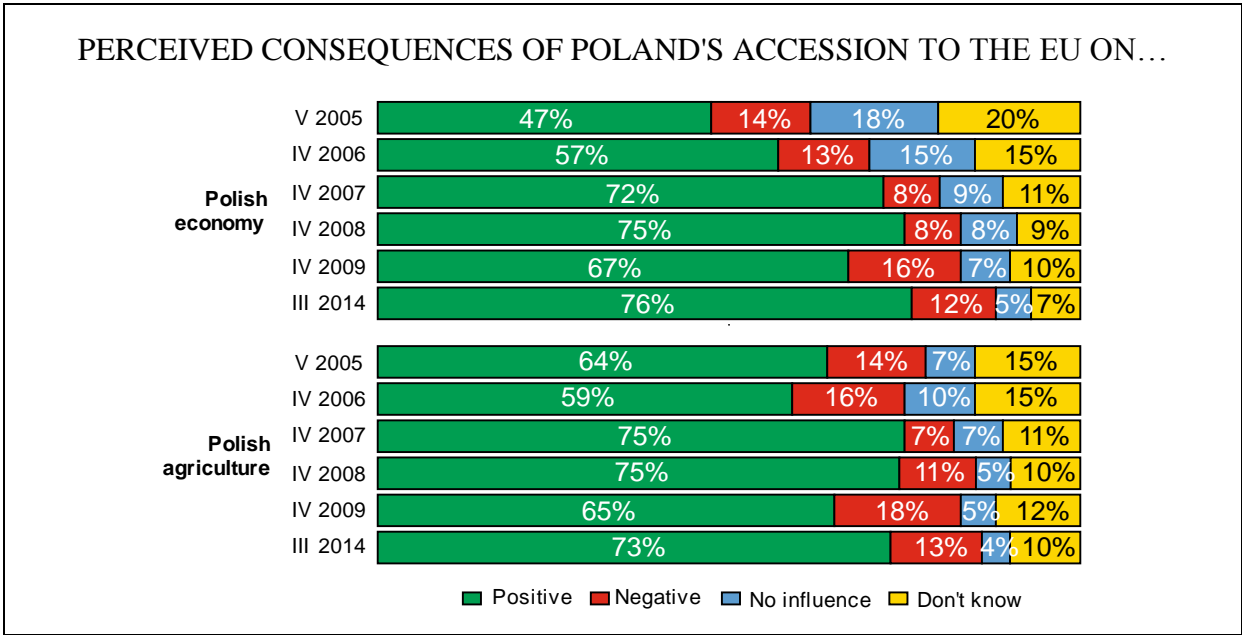
Since the beginning of CBOS surveys on perceived effects of EU membership, respondents evaluated the consequence of integration for Poland better than for themselves. This holds true today, too. Over two-fifths (43%) think that the balance of costs and benefits is positive from individual perspective, while 12% experience negative effects and more than one-third (35%) are ambivalent.



Accession to the EU stimulated economic growth in Poland. It was highest in 2006-2007, when it exceeded 6% a year, and unemployment steadily decreased (decline from 18% in Jan. 2006 to 8.8% in Oct. 2008). Economic benefits from EU membership were associated

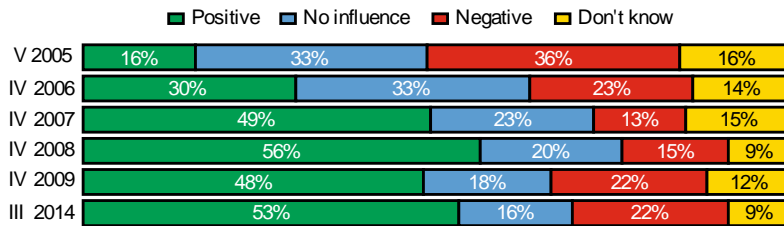
with foreign investment, increase in foreign trade and utilization of EU funds. In spite of the economic slowdown, Poland avoided recession which affected other EU member states. Poles have been aware of the economic benefits of integration from the beginning. According to surveys, the gains were especially visible in the years 2007 and 2008. Financial and economic crisis deteriorated the perceived economic consequences of EU membership, but, nevertheless, positive opinions remained prevalent. At present, in spite of relatively weak economic growth in 2012 and 2013 (below 2% yearly) and high level of unemployment (14% in January 2014), the perceived economic consequences of membership are better than in early 2009, at the beginning of the crisis. Positive opinions are expressed by 76% of respondents, while 12% are critical.

The balance of integration for agriculture is quite clear. Almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) think that EU membership improved the conditions for farming, while 13% express the opposite view. Positive views prevail over negative among farmers as well (76% v. 17%).



One of the most commonly noted results of accession is economic migration: 92% of respondents share the opinion that, after entering EU, more Poles started working abroad.

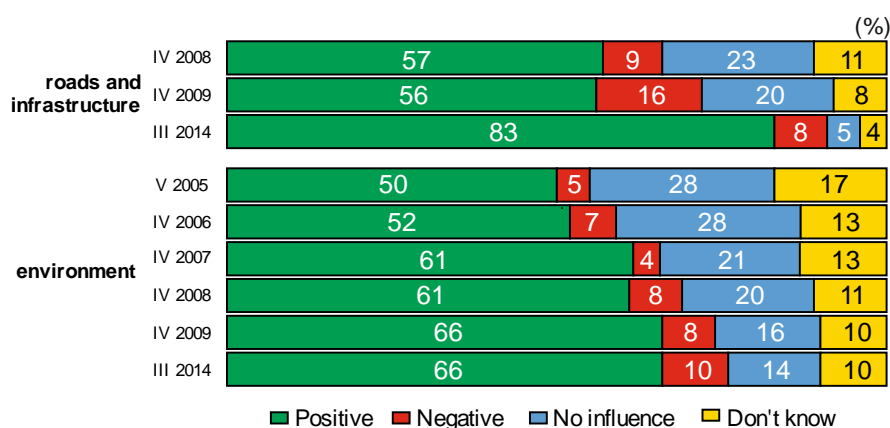
## PERCEIVED CONSEQUENCES OF POLAND'S ACCESSION TO THE EU ON MATERIAL LIVING STANDARDS OF POLISH PEOPLE



The improvement of the economy, noted already a year after the moment of accession, resulted in the improvement of material standard of living. In April 2008, over half of Poles noted the positive influence of integration on material living conditions. After the breakout of the financial crisis this opinion became less common. Today, from the perspective of 10 years of EU membership, positive consequences of integration on living standards are appreciated by 53% of respondents, while 22% are convinced the results were negative.

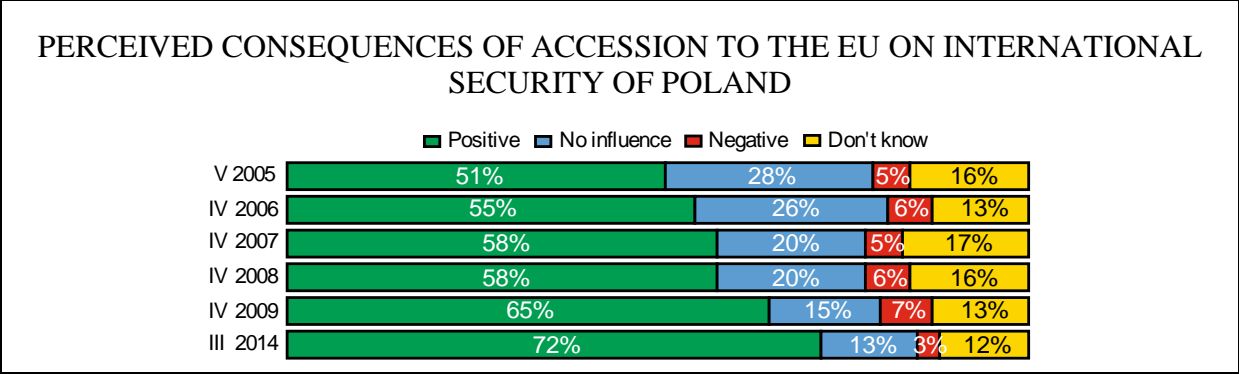
Among the most commonly noted positive consequences of membership is the improvement of roads and infrastructure. In the last 5 years, the proportion of people noting progress in this area increased by 27 percentage points (from 56% to 83%). As in the survey fielded 5 years ago, 66% of respondents consider the influence of EU on the environment to be positive.

## PERCEIVED CONSEQUENCES OF POLAND'S ACCESSION TO THE EU ON:

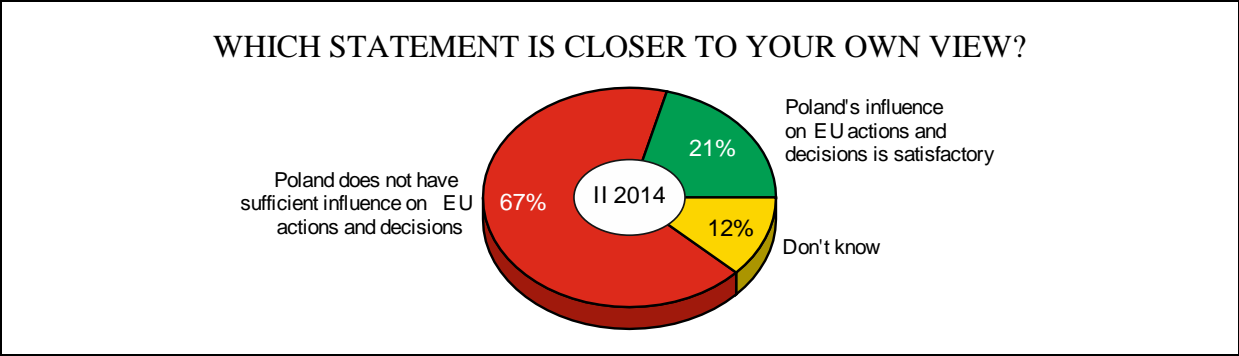


In public opinion, EU accession had positive consequences for Poland's international position. Today, more frequently than in previous years, Poles tend to note and appreciate the

improved security after EU accession. Almost three-quarters think that, as a member of the EU, Poland is more secure than before.

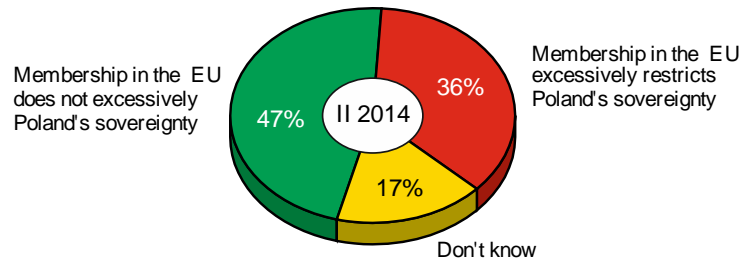


In spite of the widespread conviction that EU membership increased the importance of Poland in Europe (74% agree with this), the current position of Poland in the EU is not on the par with expectations. According to two-thirds of respondents (67%), this country does not have sufficient influence on actions and decisions of the Union. Only about one-fifth (21%) see the influence as sufficient.



Although Poland's influence on EU activities is perceived as insufficient, the plurality of respondents (47%) think that membership in this organization does not excessively restrict Poland's sovereignty. However, a sizeable group (36%) thinks otherwise. It appears, therefore, that while Poles note restrictions on sovereignty resulting from EU membership (especially as Poland's influence is seen as insufficient), the fears are not very strong. It is probably the result of the positive evaluations of the balance of membership in the EU, and from the conviction that benefits of membership far outweigh in importance the limitations associated with being a part of the EU.

## WHICH STATEMENT IS CLOSER TO YOUR OWN VIEW?



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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"10 years of Poland's EU membership"*, April 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: Feb. 2014 (N=1020) and March 2014 (N=1098). The random address samples are representative for adult population of Poland.