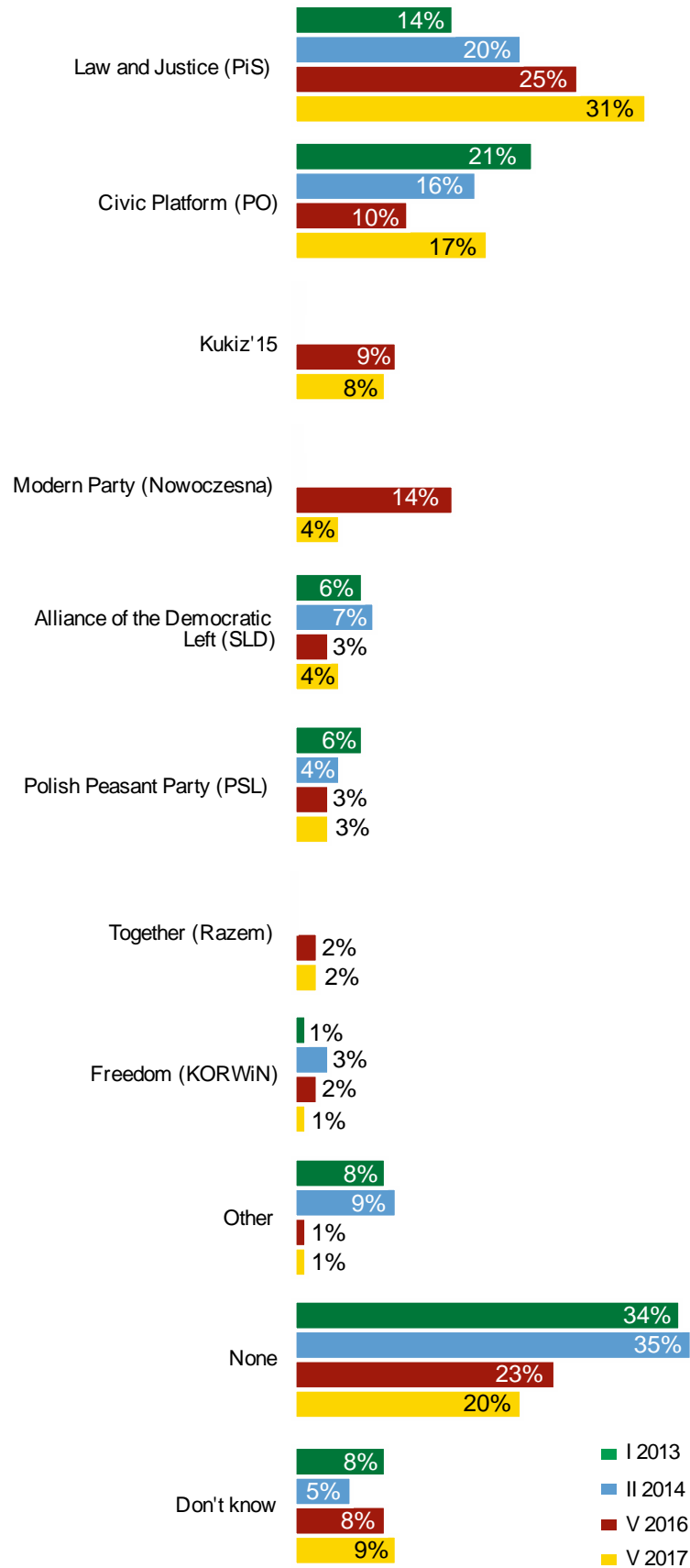


Representativeness of the political scene

Changes resulting from the last parliamentary elections, i.e. the formation of the government of Law and Justice (PiS) and the widening of party spectrum with new groupings, in particular the Modern Party (Nowoczesna) and Kukiz '15, have contributed to the increased sense of representativeness of the Polish political scene. Currently, a year and a half after the election, only one-fifth of respondents fail to find among the existing political parties one that represents their interests or expresses their views. Most (71%) identify their beliefs, interests, or expectations, at least to some extent, with one of the parties or political initiatives.

The plurality of almost one-third of the total adult population (31%) consider PiS as the best representative of their interests and views. More than half as many respondents view the Civic Platform (PO) as their political representation (17%). Every twelfth citizen eligible to vote sees Kukiz'15 movement as a vehicle of his or her views and interests (8%). The other groupings have fewer sympathizers who would identify with them on such basis.

Which of political party/grouping best expresses your views and interests?



Last year strengthened the ruling party as the best representative of the interests and views of Poles. In May 2016, approximately six months after PiS took government, we noted an increase in the sense of representativeness of this formation over the earlier period when the grouping was in opposition (as measured in 2013 and 2014). At that time PiS already had a clear advantage over the other groupings on post-election political scene. Significant changes over the last year also occurred on the side of the opposition. In the past twelve months, both main parties of the parliamentary opposition, PO and Nowoczesna, have swapped places. PO is the current leader of the opposition and it has increased its representativeness compared to last year (an increase of 7 percentage points). Nowoczesna, which in the last year has clearly lost support in polls, is now much less often regarded as the party which best represents the interests and views of Poles (down by 10 percentage points).

The balance of changes in the past year indicates increasing sense of representativeness of the ruling party among eligible voters, but also the loss of potential of the parliamentary opposition groups. PO and Nowoczesna constitute a counterbalance to the ruling party in this respect to a lesser extent than a year ago. In May last year, these two parties represented about a quarter of Poles (24%), almost the same number as PiS (25%). Currently, according to declarations, the two main opposition parties represent a total of 21% of all eligible voters, while the ruling party represents 31%.

It is noteworthy that among all eligible voters, the perception of being represented is greater for some groups than the size of the declared support in case of a possible election. The broad support of the governing PiS is now wider than the electoral support. Among all respondents the proportion of people who feel their interests and beliefs represented by this party exceeds by 5 percentage points the number of people who would be ready to go to the polls and vote for it. More respondents also feel represented by Kukiz'15 than are willing to support it in the election (by 4 percentage points).

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Representativeness of the Political Scene", June 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2017, N=1034. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.