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POLES AND OTHER NATIONS

Among nations most liked by the Poles are Czechs and Slovaks. About half declare they like these nationalities. Slightly fewer people say they like the Spanish, Italians, Hungarians, the French and the Dutch. In all these cases positive opinions are several times more frequent than negative ones.

At least two fifths of adult Poles have positive opinions about the English, Americans, Greeks, Norwegians, Swedes, Belgians, Finns, the Irish and the Japanese. The number of positive opinions about Austrians, Danes, Croatians, Lithuanians, Georgians, Bulgarians, Estonians and Latvians is still higher than negative views but there are almost as many people who admit they have a neutral attitude to these nations. With regard to the Germans, there are more people who like this nationality than do not like it, but positive opinions outnumber the negative ones only by 11 percentage points.

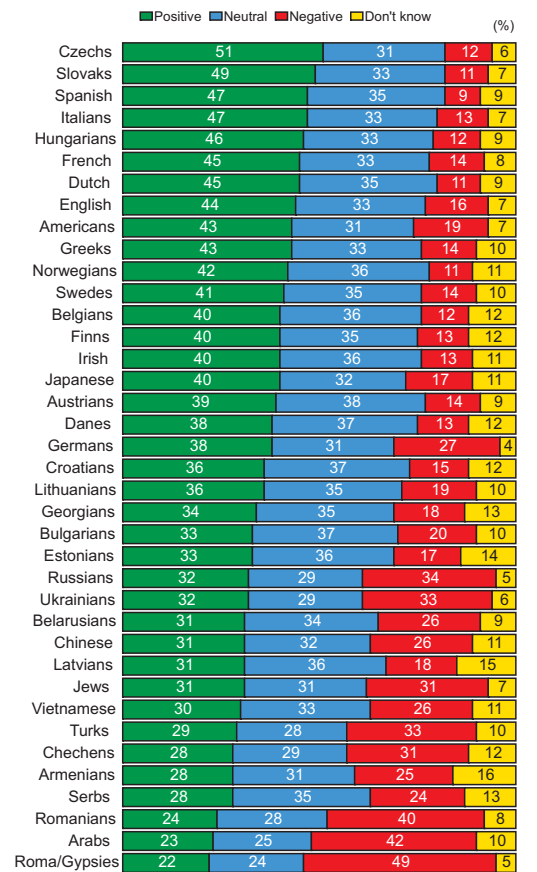
Neutrality is the most frequently expressed feeling towards Belarusians, the Chinese, the Vietnamese, Armenians and Serbs and positive opinions are only slightly more frequent than the negative attitude. In case of Russians, Ukrainians, Turks and Chechens, respondents are divided into three, comparably large, groups (negative feelings are expressed only slightly more often than positive or neutral feelings). However, with regard to Jews the division of opinions is perfectly even.

The Roma, Arabs and Romanians are the least liked nations of all the nationalities included in the survey.

If we compare this year's opinions to last year's ones we may notice that in case of thirty two of all thirty eight nationalities included in the survey there is a slight decline in the number of positive views. A small improvement of feelings can be noted with regard to the Chinese, Georgians, Turks and the Vietnamese but attitude to Jews and Chechens remains the same. On the other hand, however, the majority of this year's differences might be the result of a measurement error. Only in case of the English, the French, the Irish and Lithuanians may it be said that positive opinions evidently fell (by 6 percentage points).

Poles' opinions about different nationalities are shaped to a great extent by a generally held view that western countries are rich and civilized and eastern countries are poor and backward. The western countries serve as a positive point of reference with which Poles like to compare themselves and to which they would like to belong. The East is a negative point of reference - Poles prefer to distance themselves from the eastern countries

WHAT'S YOUR ATTITUDE TO OTHER NATIONS?



and not to be associated with them. Economic development of some of the Central and Eastern European countries allows Poles to feel they belong to the West and makes them value western countries more than in the past.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: „*Poles and other nations*”, February 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2011, N=989. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

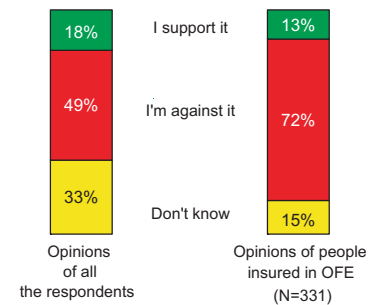
CHANGES IN THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

There exist two main social insurance systems in the world: PAYGO and funded system. The former one is based on solidarity of different generations: those who work pay for pensions of retired people. The funded system means that retired people receive pensions from their individual accounts and the pensions are larger by the profits from investing. The reform of the retirement system started in 1999 replaced the PAYGO system with a hybrid of the two mentioned solutions. The new solution is compulsory for people born after 31 December 1968. A part of the contributions paid by people who work is submitted to the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS), booked and then paid out to retired people (the so called "first pillar" of the system). Some of the money is submitted, however, to private institutions - open pension funds (OFE or the "second pillar") - and then invested. Participation in the so called "third pillar" of the system is voluntary. The idea is to set some money aside with the help of the Employee Pension Programme and Individual Retirement Accounts (the "third pillar").

Donald Tusk's government decided to lower the gross contributions paid to OFE from 7.3% to 2.3% which meant that ZUS would receive more of the employees' money. There was much debate about this decision. The Government admitted that the immediate reason for introducing the changes was to lower the state's deficit but it also claimed that these transformations are supposed to bring profits for future pensioners. The opponents say that the changes would dismantle the whole retirement system and people who are insured in OFE will invariably lose due to them.

Poles assess the decision to lower contributions paid to OFE rather negatively. Nearly half (49%) are against it and less than a fifth (18%) support the idea. Every third respondent (33%) does not know what to think about it. The Government's plan was particularly criticised by people who are insured in OFE, i.e. people who are going to feel the consequences of this decision. Nearly three quarters assessed the changes negatively.

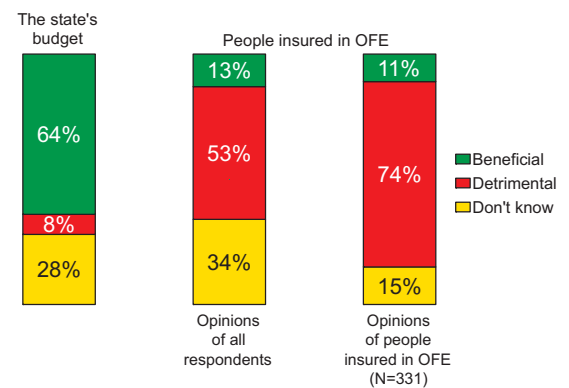
THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO LOWER (FROM 7.3% TO 2.3%) CONTRIBUTIONS PAID TO OPEN RETIREMENT FUNDS (OFE) WHICH MEANS INCREASING CONTRIBUTIONS PAID TO ZUS. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS DECISION?



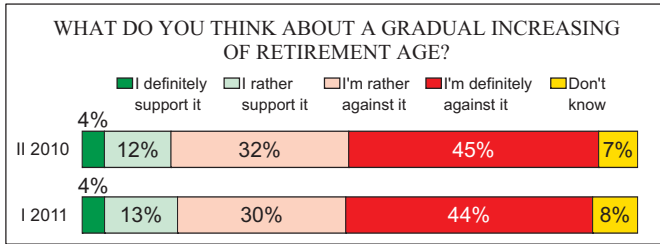
The Government has not succeeded as yet in convincing the society and particularly those insured in OFE that the proposed changes will be beneficial for them. Over half believe (53%) that if this decision becomes the law, it will bring losses to people insured in open retirement funds. Only 13% believe that the planned changes are beneficial for people insured in OFE and a considerable number of respondents (34%) do not know what to think about it.

People who pay contributions to the "second pillar" assess the plans particularly negatively. Nearly three quarters (74%) think that the changes are detrimental for them.

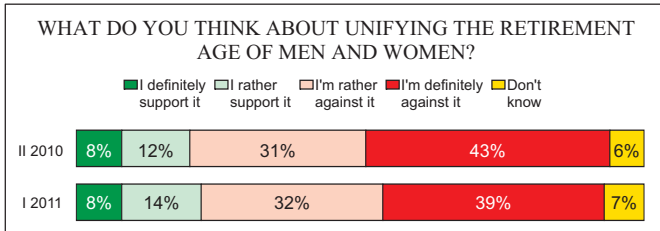
IS THE DECISION TO LOWER CONTRIBUTIONS PAID TO OFE AND TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS PAID TO ZUS BENEFICIAL FOR:



There is a lot of discussion about the need and, eventually, about the necessity to increase the retirement age and unify the retirement age for men and women. Demographic processes, such as the ageing of society, low birth rate and higher life expectancy fuelled the need to take measures to have more people active on the job market. However, the attitude of Polish society to the proposed changes is negative, albeit the number of people who oppose them is minimally lower than last year. The research conducted in January revealed that nearly three quarters of Poles (74%) are against increasing retirement age. The idea was supported by 17% of respondents.



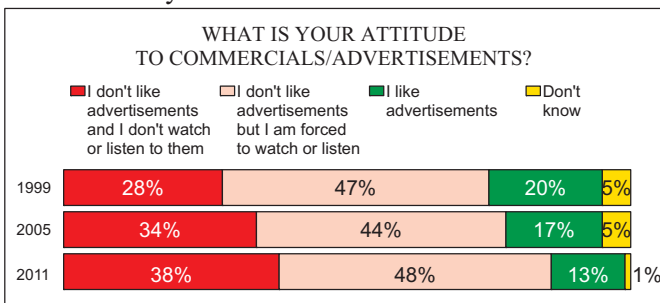
The attitude to unifying the retirement age of men and women is nearly as negative as in case of raising the retirement age. This solution is rejected only slightly less frequently than a year ago, but we cannot claim that any major changes in public opinion have taken place. Against this motion are 71% of Poles and little more than a fifth (22%) approve of the idea. The negative opinion about it prevails in all social and demographic groups. It can be noted that more men (27%) than women (18%) are in favour of this motion.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Changes in the retirement system", February 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2011, N=989. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

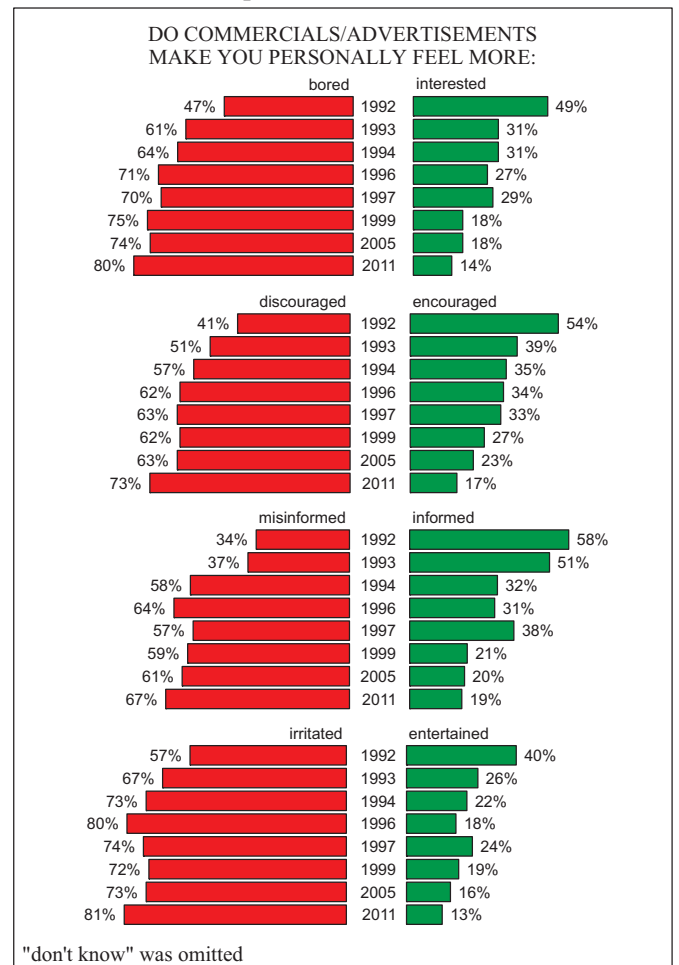
ADVERTISING

A vast majority of Poles dislike advertising and only one eighth (13%) feel positive about it. Respondents most frequently mentioned (48%) that they feel forced to watch advertisements even though they do not like them. Nearly two fifths (38%) avoid watching or listening to advertisements because they dislike them. If we compare the results of this year's survey with the results from six and twelve years ago, we may notice a visible increase in the percentage of people who dislike advertisements and avoid watching or listening to them. Simultaneously, there are significantly fewer respondents who claim they like advertisements.



The majority of respondents (80%) claim that advertisements bore them and only one in seven (14%)

say they are interesting. Advertisements are believed not to be particularly successful. Nearly three quarters of the surveyed people (73%) say they are discouraged by advertisements and only one in six (17%) admit they are encouraged by them to buy. The informative value of commercials is also assessed negatively. Two thirds of respondents think that they misinform rather than inform. A vast majority of respondents (81%) believe that they do not provide good entertainment. On the contrary, they rather irritate. Only one in eight (13%) say that watching commercials relaxes or entertains them. In the last nineteen years opinions about commercials have deteriorated in all aspects.



Even though a negative attitude towards commercials is widespread, they still manage to fulfil their task: they draw people's attention to some specific products which might be otherwise overlooked during shopping. Nearly a third of respondents (31%) admit that if they are to choose from similar products, they buy the one they know from advertisements. A fifth (20%) admit they sometimes regret being influenced by advertising in choosing products because their expectations were not fulfilled. Nearly one in seven claim (15%) that they might decide to buy some products for the first time on the spur of the moment because they are influenced by advertising.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Boring, irritating, misinforming - opinions about advertising"*, February 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2011, N=989. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY IN 2010

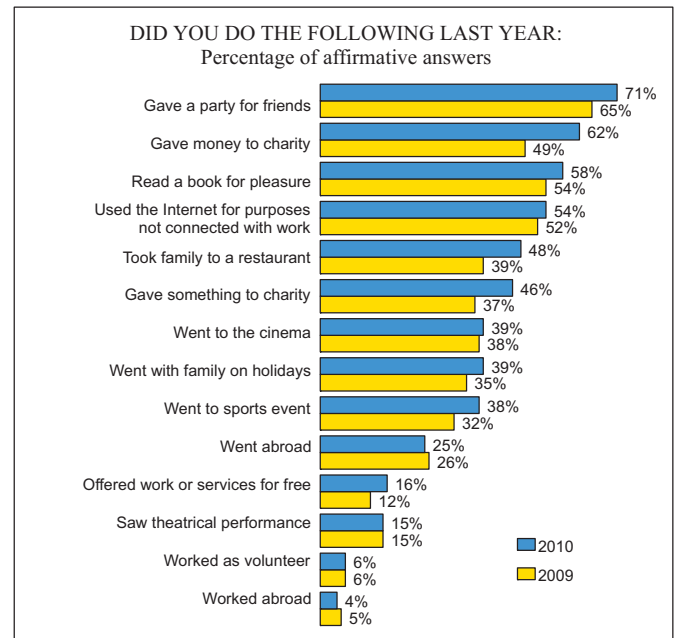
The year 2010 turned out to be exceptional in terms of Poles' commitment, both financial and material, to help the victims of serious floods that occurred in the country. It may be stated, on the basis of the declarations, that last year the majority of respondents tried to help in some way people in need. Nearly two thirds of the surveyed people (62% - an increase of 13 points in comparison to 2009) gave money to charity at least once. Nearly half (46% - an increase of 9 points) helped materially by giving, e.g. clothes or books. One in six (16% - a 4 point increase) offered somebody their work or service for free. Work as volunteer is far less popular (6% - the figure remained at the same level).

Different forms of family and social interaction were more popular in 2010 compared with the previous year. In the previous year a vast majority of respondents held a party for their friends at least once (71%, a 6-point increase). Nearly half of Poles (48%, a 9-point increase) went with their family to a restaurant one time or more. Over a third (35%, a 4-point increase) went with their family on holidays at least once.

Almost two fifths of respondents (38%, a 6-point increase) were present at some sports event. The changes in cultural activity are less pronounced. Over half of the surveyed people (58%, a 4 point increase) read a book for pleasure at least once last year. Similarly to previous year, four out of ten respondents went to the cinema (39%). Going to the theatre is less popular. As in the previous year, 15% of adult Poles admitted they watched some theatrical performance.

The percentage of Poles using the Internet is gradually growing. Last year, more than half of respondents used it for purposes not connected with work (54%, an increase of 2 points).

The number of people who went abroad has changed insignificantly. On the whole, a quarter of respondents (25%) have gone abroad and 4% worked outside Poland.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Personal experiences of Poles in 2010"*, February 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2011, N=989. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- ◆ Party Preferences in February
- ◆ Opinions About Parliament, President, ZUS and OFE
- ◆ Changes in Psychological Profiles of Party Electorates
- ◆ Attitude to Government
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in February
- ◆ Social Moods in February

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