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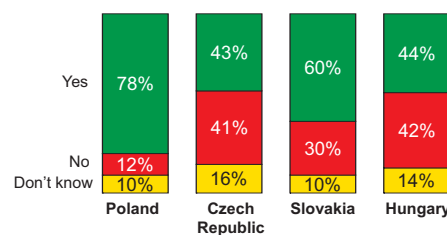
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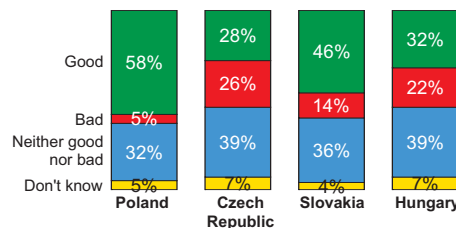
OPINIONS ABOUT EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN POLAND, CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY

Compared with the other Visegrad 4 societies, Poles are relatively positive about their country's EU membership. Almost four-fifths of CBOS respondents (78%) think that joining the Union brought benefits for Poland, while almost three-fifths (58%) believe that EU membership is good for the country. Slovaks are also convinced that the balance of integration is positive: 60% think that it brought benefits for Slovakia and 46% think that it is good for their country. Hungarians and Czechs are less enthusiastic: only slightly more than two-fifths (44% and 43%, respectively) perceive integration as beneficial and less than a third (32% and 28%, respectively) evaluate membership in union structures as good for the country.

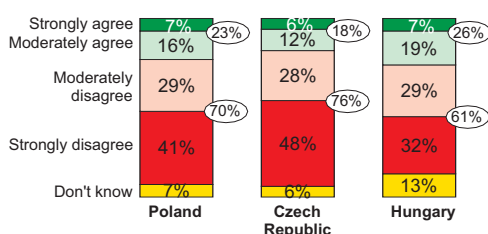
HAS YOUR COUNTRY BENEFITTED FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION?



OVERALL, IS MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION GOOD FOR YOUR COUNTRY?

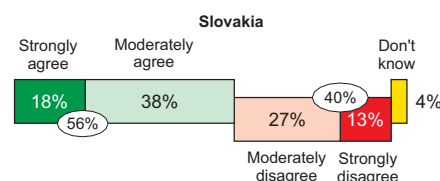


DO YOU AGREE THAT YOUR COUNTRY SHOULD INTRODUCE THE EURO CURRENCY?



Slovaks have used the euro for several years. Their opinions about the common currency are divided: the majority (56%) are satisfied with its introduction, but a sizeable minority (40%) evaluate this decision negatively.

DO YOU AGREE THAT INTRODUCING THE EURO CURRENCY WAS A GOOD DECISION?



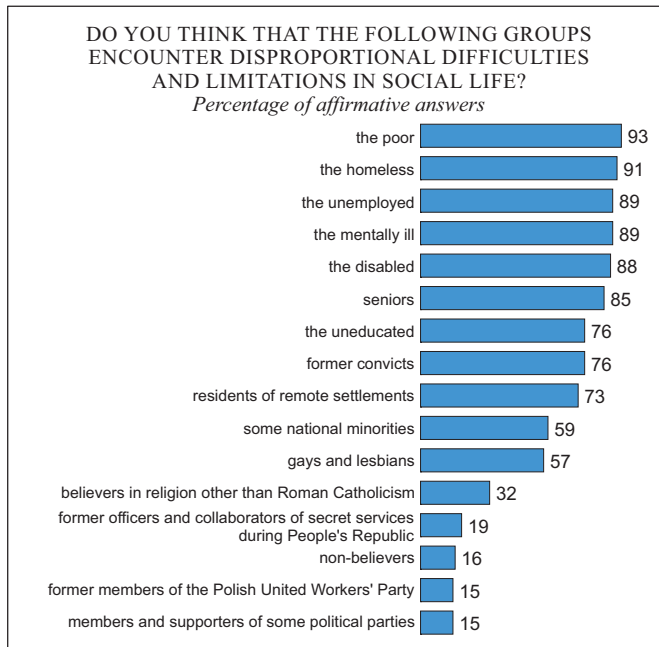
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about European integration in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary", October 2013. Fieldwork for national samples: Poland (CBOS) June 2013 (N=1010) and July 2013 (N=1005); Czech Republic (CVVM – Sociological Institute) September 2013 (N=991); Hungary (TARKI) June 2013 (N=1011); Slovakia (FOCUS) July 2013 (N=1055).

WHO HAS THE HARDEST LIFE IN POLAND

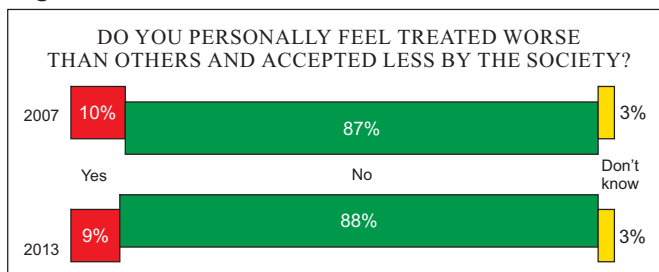
Research in social exclusion clearly indicates that, while it is not synonymous with poverty, it is generally caused by low living standard. Another important factor is health. Poverty (with phenomena accompanying it, such as unemployment and homelessness), disability and long-term illness are the key factors hampering the satisfaction of needs, and,

consequently, excluding from social life. These findings were confirmed by survey research.

A vast majority of respondents counted the following groups as socially excluded: the poor (93%), the homeless (91%), the unemployed (89%), the mentally ill (89%), the disabled (88%) and seniors (85%). About three-quarters of respondents count such groups as the uneducated (76%), former prisoners (76%) and people living away from big cities (73%). The majority also include some national minorities (59%, primarily the Roma), and gays and lesbians (57%). One-third (32%) think that believers in religion other than Roman Catholicism are excluded. Less than one-fifth think that marginalisation affects groups such as former officers and collaborators of secret services of People's Republic (19%), the non-believers (16%), former members of Polish United Workers' Party (15%), and members and supporters of some political parties (15%).



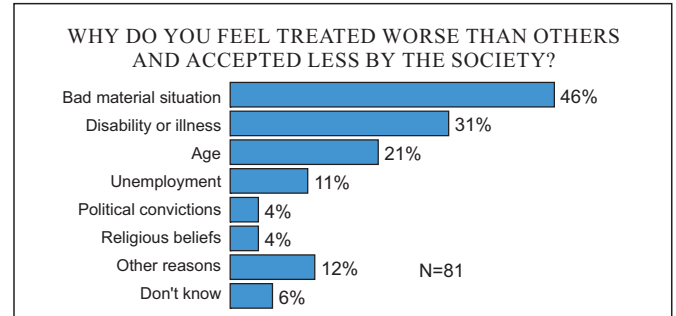
About one in eleven Poles (9%) feels excluded him or herself, i.e. treated worse and accepted to a lesser degree.



The strongest identification with the marginalised groups was noted among the respondents describing their living conditions as bad (27%) and among those on disability benefits (26%). Education influences subjective exclusion as well: respondents with

primary (10%) and basic vocational education (13%) feel treated worse than others far more often than people with higher education (4%).

Respondents confirmed the importance of the above-mentioned factors when they gave justification for being excluded. According to declarations, they are not accepted due to their material situation (46%) or disability or illness (31%). Quite frequently, they mention age (21%) and unemployment (11%). Relatively few of them feel marginalised because of their political convictions (4%) or religion (4%).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Who has the hardest life in Poland", October 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2013, N=911. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

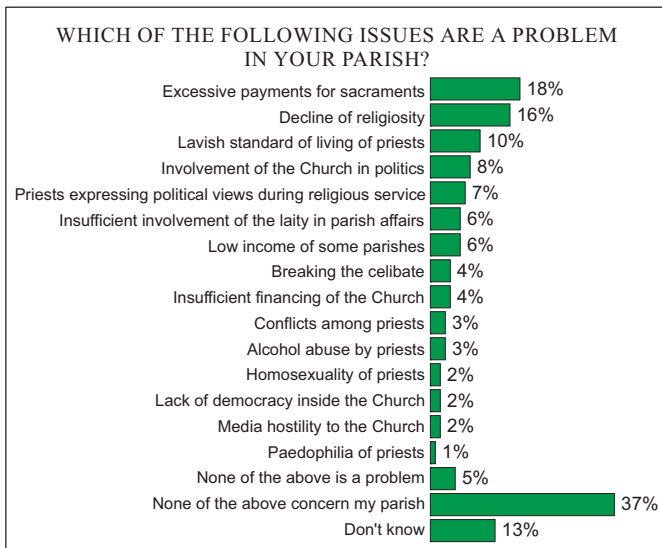
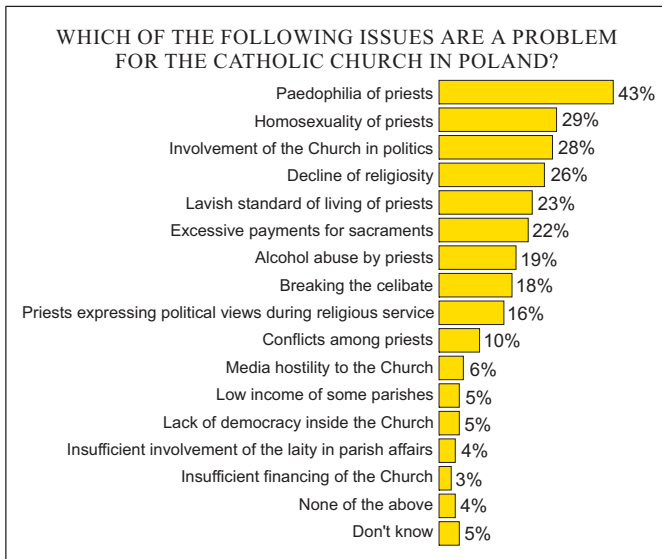
PROBLEMS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The problems of the Catholic Church most commonly mentioned by respondents are related to misbehaviour of priests and issues related to their sexuality. Over two-fifths of respondents (43%) consider cases of paedophilia among priests to be the biggest problem facing the Church. More than a quarter (29%) consider homosexuality of priests to be such an issue. In this context, the failure to live up to the vow of celibacy seems to be a less glaring problem (18%).

Another controversial issue is excessive political activity of the institutional Church (28%). When the activities of individual Church representatives is added to this, e.g. expressing political views during religious service (16%), the problem of political involvement in political life appears to be a significant weakness of the Catholic Church.

A little more than a quarter of respondents (26%) perceive the process of secularization of the society (decrease in religiosity and in the number of believers) as a serious challenge for the Church. A slightly smaller group is appalled by the excessive, in their opinion, standard of living of the priests (23%), and too high financial expectations from the faithful, connected, for instance, with administering sacraments (22%). About a fifth (19%) consider alcohol abuse by the priests to be a serious challenge.

It appears that the hierarchy of problems facing the Catholic Church in Poland is related, on the one hand, to the weight of the issues and their prominence in the media and, on the other hand, to inability of the Church to credibly handle such cases. Although cases of paedophilia are incidental, they appear to the public opinion as particularly significant and appalling, as they concern the people entrusted with educating the younger generation. Inaction or inappropriate reaction of senior priests to such cases aggravate the problem. Homosexuality of the priests is increasingly in the focus of interest of journalists and artists and becomes an issue for the public opinion.



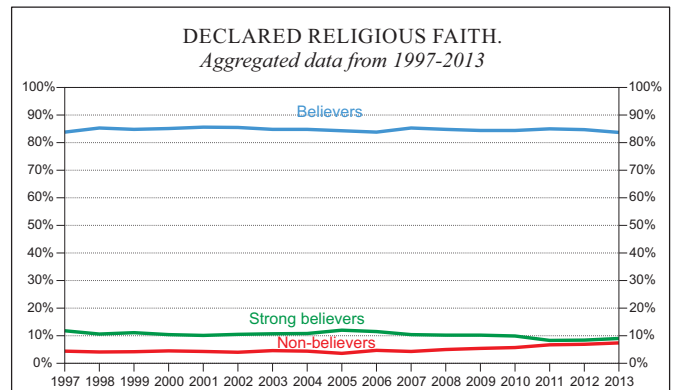
The problems of the Church look different from the perspective of the parish. The most important problems on the national level appear insignificant or low in hierarchy when seen locally. The most important problems of the Church from the perspective of a member of a local parish are, on the one hand, financial: excessive required donation for administering the sacraments (18%) and opulent living standard of the priests (10%).

On the other hand, respondents mention the decline in religiosity and falling numbers of the faithful (16%). Next in importance are political involvement of the Church (8%) and politicization of the religious service (7%).

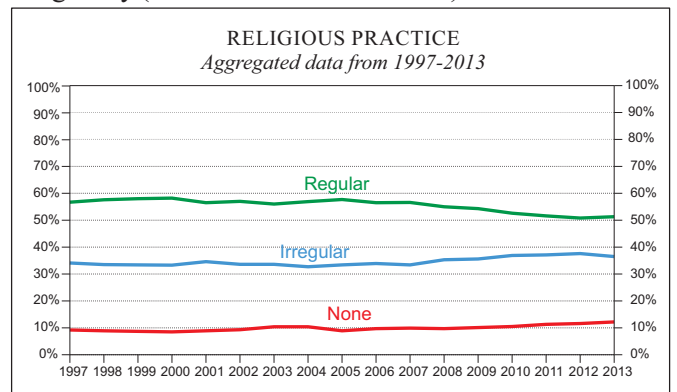
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Problems of the Catholic Church", October 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2013, N=904. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

NON-BELIEVERS IN POLAND

Religious faith is a fairly constant attribute of the Polish society. For the last 20 years it has changed little and remained very high. According to regular CBOS surveys, since the late-1990s over 90% of respondents (between 93% and 97%) describe themselves as believers. Within this group, about one-tenth (lately one in eleven or one in twelve) describes his or her faith as strong. The proportion of people who describe themselves as moderate or strong non-believers remains on a relatively low level (3%-7%); however, since 2005 this group has become more numerous.

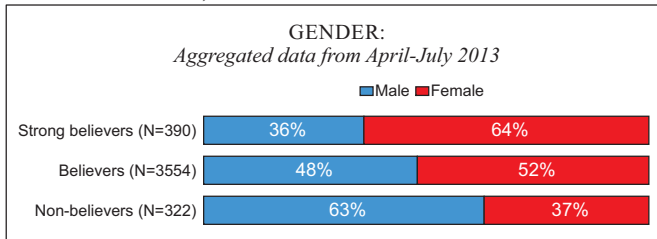


The level of religious practice was relatively stable in 1997-2005, and declined afterwards. Since 2005, the proportion of respondents attending religious service at least once a week fell from 58% to 51%, while the number of people who never go to church rose from 9% to 12%. More people attend religious service irregularly (increase from 33% to 37%).

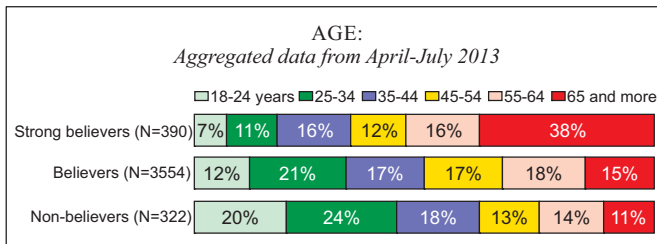


Aggregated data from four national surveys conducted in the period April-July 2013 allow for characterising the people who describe themselves as non-believers and comparing them with strong believers and believers.

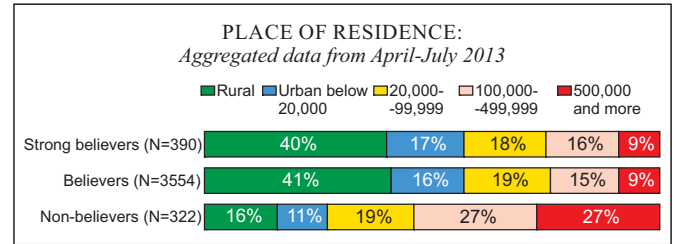
As far as gender is concerned, women prevail among strong believers (64% of them are women and 36% are men), while among non-believers the proportions are almost exactly opposite (37% are women and 63% are men).



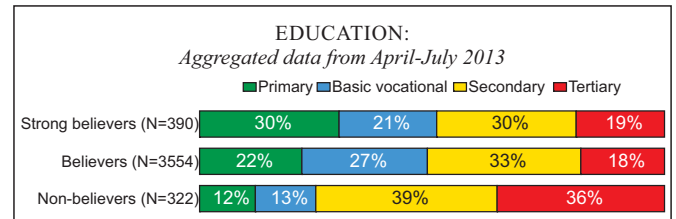
When age is taken into account, the non-believers are predominantly young. Over two-fifths are in the age 18-34 years. In contrast, over half of people whose faith is strong are at least 55 years old.



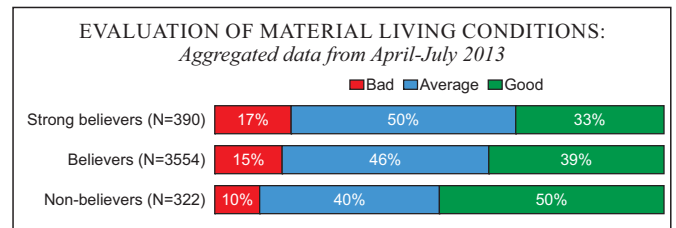
The majority of people admitting to having no religious faith are residents of big cities (of at least 100,000 residents). The reverse is true about the believers and strong believers: three-fifths live in villages and small towns.



People declaring no religion are also characterised by their level of education. Three-quarters of non-believers have at least secondary education, whereas about half of believers and strong believers have primary or basic vocational education.



Education is related to the material living conditions of the respondents. Non-believers evaluate them better than believers.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Non-believers: who they are, what are their norms and values", October 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: April-July 2013. Aggregated random samples representative for adult population of Poland. Total N=4266.

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

- ◆ School Students Vacation - Holiday Trips and Paid Work
- ◆ Swearing in Everyday Life
- ◆ Polish Village - Characteristics of the Agricultural Population
- ◆ Party Preferences in October
- ◆ Social Conflicts in Poland A. D. 2013
- ◆ Opinions about Public Institutions
- ◆ Financing Public Media
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in October
- ◆ Social Moods in October
- ◆ Attitude towards Trade Unions' Protests
- ◆ Attitude to Government in October
- ◆ Perception of Social Structure
- ◆ Opinions about Causes of Smolensk Air Disaster. Would Expert Conference Resolve Doubts?
- ◆ Parents' Spending on Education of Children in School Year 2013/2014
- ◆ Changes in Perception of Crisis and Economic Behaviours in Poland

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