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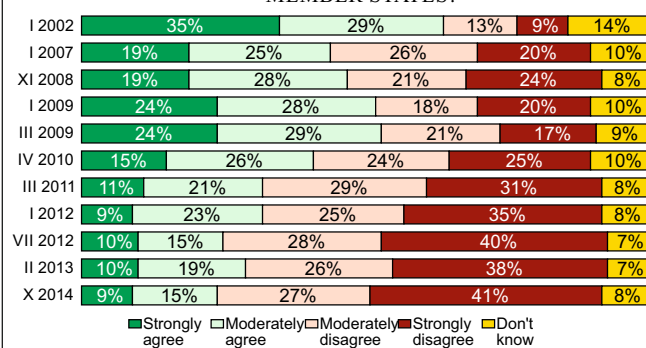
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CONCERNS RELATED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EURO

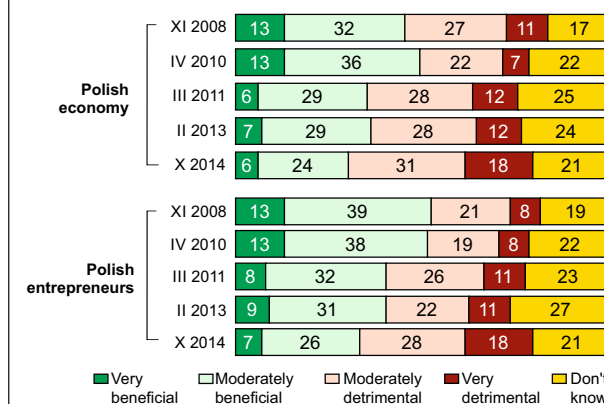
Poles have a more sceptical attitude to the introduction of the euro than ever before. Only less than a quarter of adults support changing the currency.

With increasing scepticism towards joining the eurozone, the predicted consequences of such a move have also deteriorated. At present, more people than in previous years question the economic benefits of sharing the

WOULD YOU AGREE TO REPLACE THE POLISH ZŁOTY WITH EURO, THE COMMON CURRENCY OF MANY EU MEMBER STATES?



PREDICTED CONSEQUENCES OF INTRODUCING THE EURO FOR...

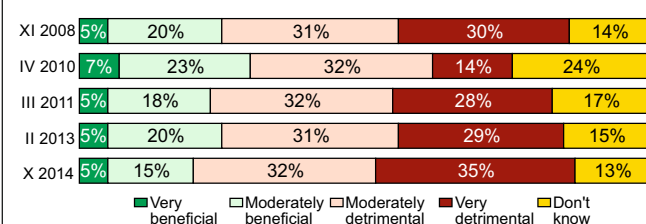


euro. Almost half of respondents (49%) are afraid that introducing the euro would harm the Polish economy, while 30% expect benefits. Close to half of respondents (46%) are of the opinion that Polish entrepreneurs will suffer losses as a consequence of the introduction of the common currency, while one-third (33%) expect benefits for businesses.

Even in times of relatively high social acceptance of the euro, when economic hopes related to it predominated, most respondents

believed that people like them would lose as a result of its introduction. At present, these fears are more widespread than ever before: 67% of respondents expect negative consequences for ordinary people. The opposite opinion is shared by one-fifth of Poles.

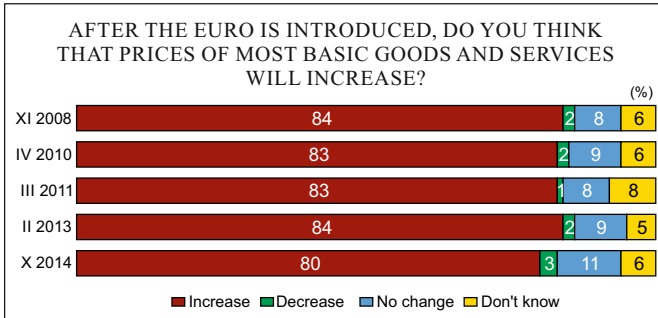
PREDICTED CONSEQUENCES OF INTRODUCING THE EURO FOR PEOPLE LIKE THE RESPONDENT



The conviction that prices of most goods and services would increase after the introduction of the euro is almost universal (80%).

The arguments of the opponents of the euro are more convincing than those put forward by its supporters. The fears related to the exchange rate at which the currencies will be converted is widespread: 80% of respondents think that Poles will lose as a result of the unfavourable exchange rate. Over two-thirds (68%) think that it is too early to introduce the euro, because the differences in economic development between Poland and the eurozone states are too big. As is commonly known, economic divergence between countries that use

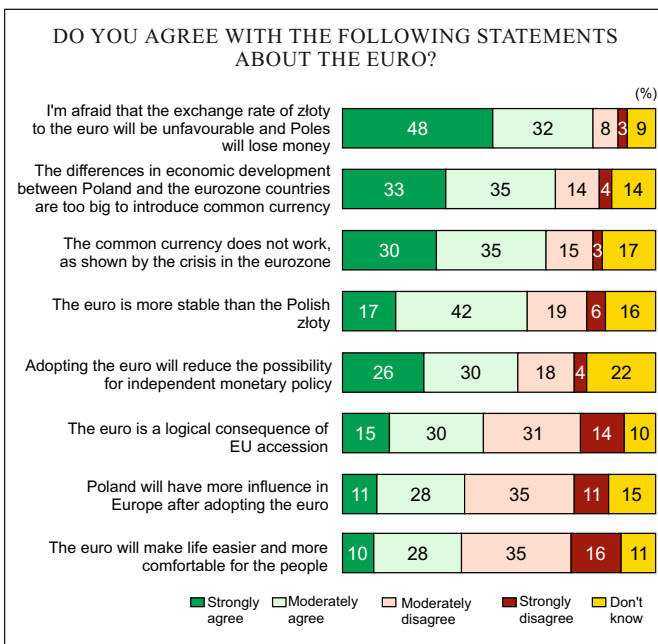
the euro contributed to the crisis in the eurozone. This crisis is another argument for a large part of the public opinion (65%) that the common currency does not function properly. There is slightly less agreement with argument that eurozone membership requires abandoning sovereign monetary policy: 56% of respondents agree with this rather obvious fact.



One of the benefits of the euro is the elimination of risks related to floating exchange rate of zloty. While Poles see fewer and fewer reasons to change the currency, they nevertheless agree (59%) that the euro will be a more stable currency.

Another frequent argument for a quick change of currency is the need to be in the mainstream of the European integration in order to have more influence on EU policy. Poles are not fully convinced that Poland will be more influential after adopting the euro: 39% agree and 46% disagree with such a statement.

When the Polish people decided to enter the EU, they also agreed (consciously or not) to adopt the common currency in unspecified future. Many people (45%) think that entering the eurozone is a logical consequence of the EU accession, it is the next step of the European integration. However, a group of the same size question this view.



The deteriorating climate around eurozone accession is also visible in the high proportion of people rejecting the view that the euro will mean that life will be easier and more convenient (51%). Less than two-fifths (38%) agree with this apparently uncontroversial opinion.

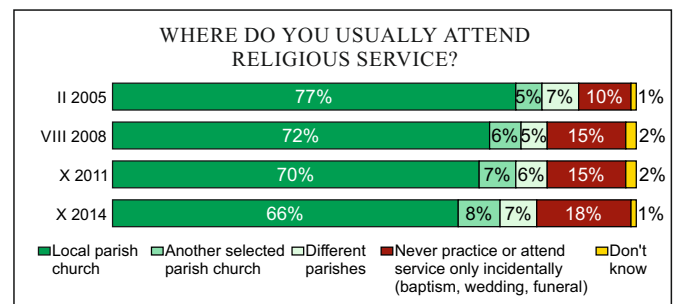
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Concerns related to the introduction of the euro", November 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2014, N=919. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE LOCAL PARISH

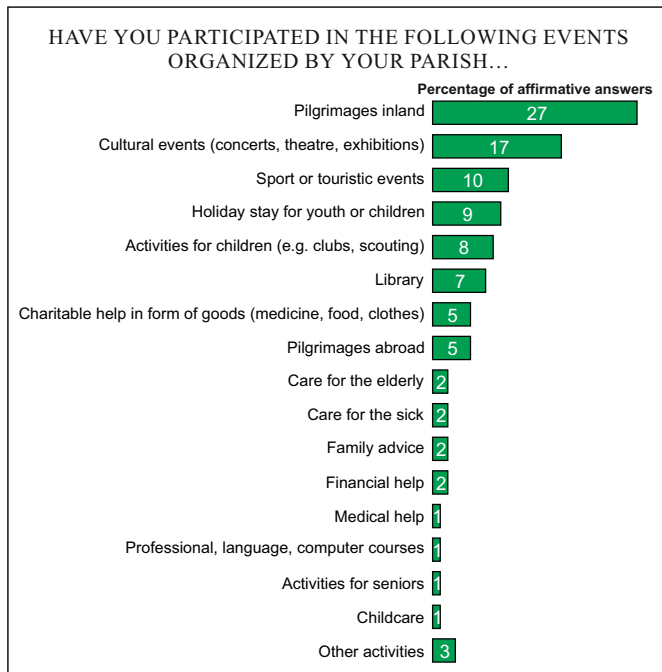
Religion is still an important dimension in the life of the Polish people. A vast majority of respondents (93%) consider themselves as believers (in which 8% are strong believers), and almost half (48%) attend religious service regularly, i.e. at least once a week. As far as the denomination is concerned, 89% of respondents describe themselves as Roman Catholics, and 5% as Christians. Agnostics, atheists and the non-denominational constitute 4% of all Poles.

Both the level of religiosity and the frequency of religious practice, while still high, have declined systematically, if to a limited extent, since 2005, the year pope John Paul II died. Yearly data calculated for the period 2005-2014 show that the proportion of believers decreased from 97% to 93%, while the percentage of the non-religious increased more than twice, from 3% to 7%. The proportion of people participating weekly in a religious service fell by 8 percentage points (from 58% to 50%), and the relative number of people who never practice rose from 9% to 12%.

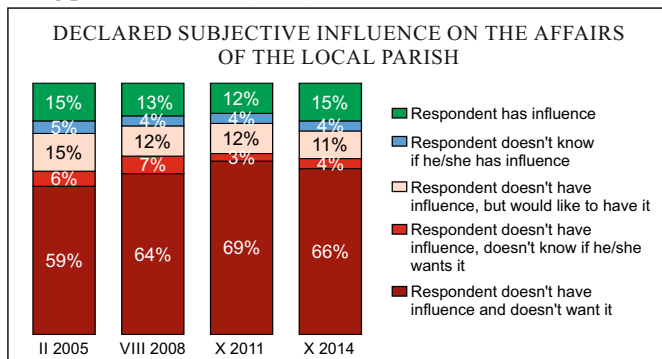
According to declarations recorded in October, for two-thirds of adult Poles (66%) the local community parish is the basic location of religious practice. Since 2005, the proportion of Poles attending the service in the local parish has systematically decreased (by 11 percentage points in total), with corresponding increase in the percentage of those attending service elsewhere (a 3-point rise) and never practicing (an 8-point increase).



The local parish not only satisfies religious needs, which is its primary role, but also fulfils other needs. Respondents most commonly claim that they themselves or members of their family participate in pilgrimages to places of religious cult inland or abroad. A sizeable part of families take part in cultural or sport and touristic events organized by the local parish. Somewhat less frequently, respondents have children who go on vacation organized by the parish, or participate in events in the church. Fewer families borrow books from the parish library or receive charitable help (goods or financial help). Very few people take part in other parish events.



Counting all activities, over two-fifths (43%) of respondents (including their family members) are beneficiaries of parish activities. The groups most commonly participating in parish activities are, in addition to people most commonly attending religious services: youngest respondents in the age group 18-24 (58% participate at least in one activity), students (60%), entrepreneurs (54%), farmers (53%), people with right-wing political views (54%).



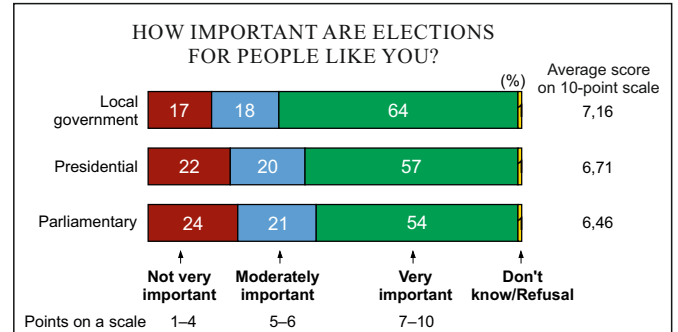
A vast majority of respondents (81%) feel that they have no influence on the affairs in the local parish,

while only one-seventh (15%) believe that they have. Although most people do not think they can influence the local parish life, a relatively small group (14% of the total) would like to have some say. This means that most people neither have influence on parish life, nor any ambition to have it.

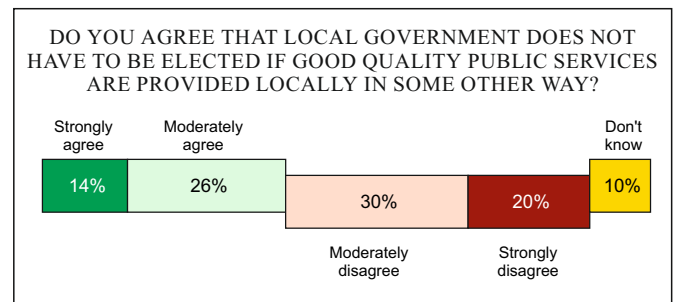
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Social significance and functions of the local parish", November 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2014, N=919. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

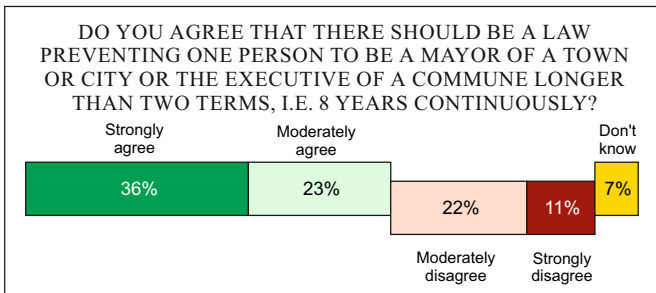
In November, local government elections were held in Poland. In practice, it means that several different votes were held in each unit of local government. Citizens elected executives of the communes (gmina), mayors of towns and cities, and councillors in communes, counties (powiat) and voivodships. According to the survey, these elections are at least as important as parliamentary and presidential elections: 64% of respondents consider them as very important. Local and regional elections are significantly more important for people living in small towns (up to 20 thousand inhabitants) and villages than for residents of the biggest cities.



Although Poles think that local government elections (especially the vote for the executive in towns and communes) are important, 40% of respondents would be willing to abolish them if good quality public services were provided to them in some other way. However, the prevailing opinion opposes abolishing local government elections.



Local government in Poland is evaluated relatively well and it is often re-elected. Mayors in towns and cities and commune executives sometimes remain in office several terms, for a very long period of time. Some commentators consider this as evidence of stability of power, which is a positive factor for development. Others, however, see this as a proof that local government is monopolized and there is no effective political competition, causing the atrophy of democracy. In public debate, term limits for mayors and commune executives were proposed. The majority of Poles (59%) would like term limits to be obligatory.

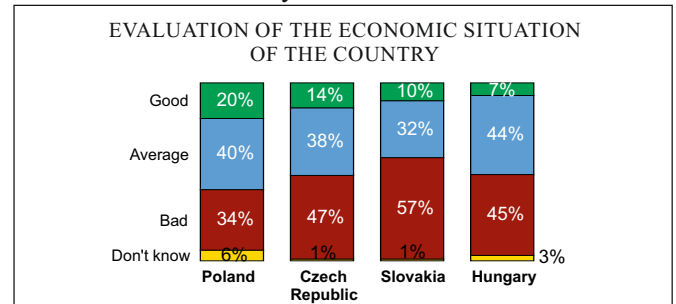


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: "Opinions about elections to local government" and "Rank of local government elections and interest in decisions of different levels of government", November 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2014, N=919. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

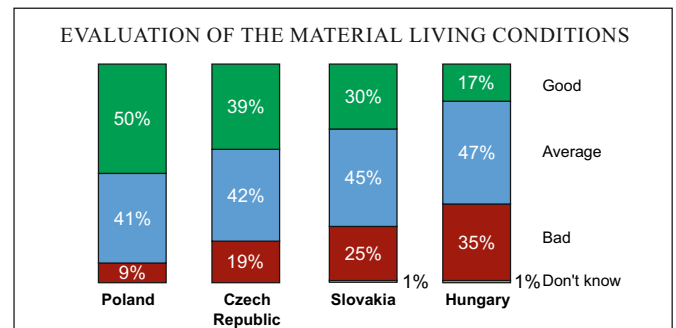
ECONOMIC SITUATION AND MATERIAL LIVING CONDITIONS IN POLAND, CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY

In the summer of 2014, evaluation of the economic situation in Poland was better than in the other Visegrad countries, although the opinions were predominantly average or bad. Satisfaction with the

economic situation was expressed by one-fifth of Poles, one-seventh of Czechs, one-ninths of Slovaks and one in fourteen Hungarians. In Poland, less frequently than in the other surveyed states, the condition of the economy was described as bad. Slovaks were particularly negative: three-quarters were dissatisfied with the economic situation of their country.



Out of the four countries, Poles most commonly declared being satisfied with their material living conditions. The second place in terms of subjective living conditions is occupied by Czechs. In Slovakia, the predominant group describe their living conditions as average, and the proportions of people describing them as good and bad were of equal size. Hungarians are least satisfied: they usually describe their material conditions as average or bad.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Future prospects of young people in Poland", October 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2014, N=980. 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):

- ◆ The Limits of Tolerance and Attitude toward Certain Minorities
- ◆ Before the Local Elections
- ◆ Law and Morality - Opinions about Controversial Behaviours
- ◆ Party Preferences in November
- ◆ Opinions about Parliament, President and Local Authorities
- ◆ Attitude to Government in November
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in November

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