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## **Opinions about TTIP**

Since 2013, the government of the United States and the European Commission have negotiated the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). It is meant to create a free trade zone between the USA and EU. It is based on the assumption that strengthening transatlantic economic ties will stimulate economic growth and create new workplaces. Supporters of TTIP claim that this agreement will benefit both the United States and the European Union member states. The consequences of this agreement for particular EU states will depend on the structure of their economies, the size and structure of their exports and, generally, on the economic ties to the USA. Opponents of TTIP are afraid that it will reinforce negative consequences of globalisation and believe that multinational corporations will be the main beneficiaries of this agreement. In this context, there is concern about including in TTIP issues related to investment protection and the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism.

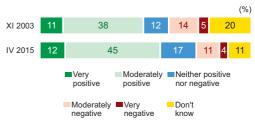
TTIP is a cause of social protests in many countries. The anxiety about it may have been initially caused by insufficient transparency of the negotiations and

lack of knowledge about specific proposals. Nevertheless, according to the Eurobarometer conducted in autumn 2014, the majority of EU citizens (58%) support signing TTIP.

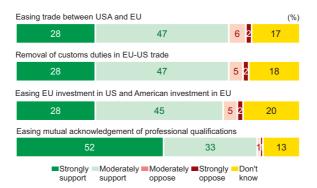
The draft TTIP agreement is an element of the globalising economy. The majority of Poles (57%) think that ever-closer economic ties and relations are a positive phenomenon, while 15% are critical towards globalization, and one-sixth (17%) refrain from evaluation and view it as neither positive nor

negative. In recent years, the attitude to globalization has improved, which is

Economies of different countries are increasingly tied and interdependent; there are many multinational companies active in several countries and the economy grows beyond national borders. How would you evaluate this phenomenon?



Do you support the following actions aimed at strengthening trade and investment relations between EU and USA?



reflected in increasing support and in declining opposition.

A vast majority of Poles support measures towards strengthening trade and investment relations between the European Union and the United States, such as: easing trade and gradual removal of customs duties (75% each), abolishing barriers to EU investment in

the USA and American investment in the EU (73%). Easing mutual acknowledgement of professional qualifications is even more popular (85%).

In public opinion, both sides will benefit from the agreement facilitating trade and mutual investment between the European Union and the United States. Over three-quarters of respondents (77%) expect TTIP to be beneficial for the US, while a slightly smaller group (71%) expect the EU as a whole to be the beneficiary. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) think that liberalization of trade and investment will have a positive effect on Poland. The benefits on the individual level are harder to imagine, as indicated by a high proportion of "don't know" responses; still, 45% of respondents expect personal benefits from a EU-US free trade zone.

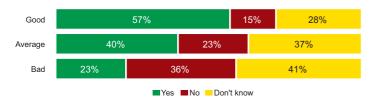
#### Do you agree that the easing trade and mutual investment between EU and USA will be beneficial for...



Opinions about strengthening trade and investment relations between the European Union and the United States depend on education and interest in politics, which is related. The better the education, the higher the support for easing trade, removal of customs duties, easing mutual investment between the EU and the USA and facilitating acknowledgement of professional qualifications.

Economic situation of respondents strongly influences the predictions about possible consequences of the agreement liberalising trade between the EU and the US and facilitating mutual investment. The better the evaluation of the household material standard of living, the more optimism there is in predicting the effects of the agreement. The influence is strongest in opinions about the individual-level effects on the life of respondents.

#### Will the agreement easing trade and mutual investment between EU and USA be beneficial for you personally



Responses of people who describe their material living conditions as: good, average, bad

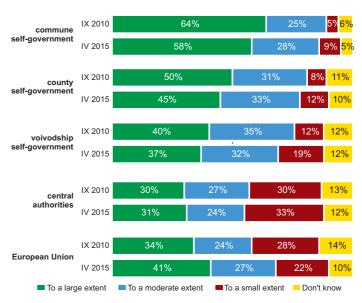
So far, little is known about the specifics of TTIP: how broad its scope will be, if and when it will be signed. At present Polish society sees the agreement between the European Union and the United States as an opportunity, rather than threat. The optimism expressed in Poland is not surprising given the experience of the last quarter of a century. Systemic change involved opening up to the world and, in consequence, acceding to the European Union. The possibility to participate in the common market has been perceived as one of the main benefits of EU membership. In spite of the recurring accusations of sell-out of national wealth and economic colonialization of Poland, the systemic change and opening to the world brought economic growth, improvement in material standard of living and increase in consumption.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership ", May 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2015; N=1027. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland

## Social evaluation of local self-government

Twenty-five years ago, local self-government was restored by Sejm after an interval that lasted half a century. Soon afterwards, in May 1990, first elections to the commune (gmina) councils were held. In 1999, the reform of administration introduced three levels of local government: counties (powiat) were called into existence and the number of voivodships was reduced from 49 to 16. These changes, among others, were supposed to build civicness: engagement and self-organisation which would make it possible to diagnose and fulfil the needs of local communities.

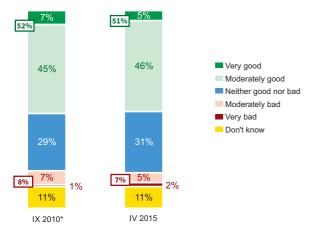
#### To what extent does the development of your town or village depend on...



In public opinion, local situation depends on the lowest-level structures to the greatest extent, i.e. the commune. The role of county and voivodship self-government is seen as far less important. The perceived role of central authorities is even less significant. It is interesting to note that, in public opinion, the European Union plays a bigger role in the development of the local Poland than the central government. It is probably related to changes related to the implementation of programs supported by EU funds, e.g. building infrastructure.

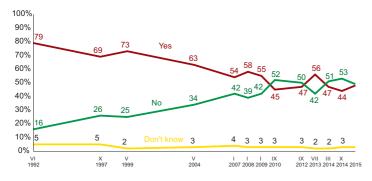
After 25 years of self-government, half of respondents have a positive opinion about its performance. One-third are ambivalent, and only a few evaluate it negatively.

# How, on balance, do you evaluate the performance of local self-government?



In twenty years following the systemic change until the end of the first decade of 21st century, the subjective influence on local affairs strengthened. Since 2010, the proportion of respondents who think that people like them have influence on the affairs of their town or commune has remained stable. About half of respondents share this view.

# Do people like you have influence on the situation in your town or commune?

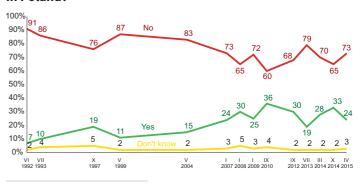


The strongest determinants of civic subjectivity are education and material standard of living. Wealthier and better-educated respondents are much more frequently convinced that their needs and opinions are important for local authorities. The feeling of civic agency is also stronger among youngest respondents (18 to 34 years old)

and among residents of biggest cities with population of at least 500,000.

While a large group of Poles feel that they are able to influence the affairs of their town or commune, there remains widespread conviction about the lack of influence on the situation in Poland as a whole. Although opinions have greatly improved since the 1990s, the levels of this indicator of influence remain low. At present, a quarter (24%) of respondents are convinced that they have influence on the situation in Poland.

# Do people like you have influence on the situation in Poland?

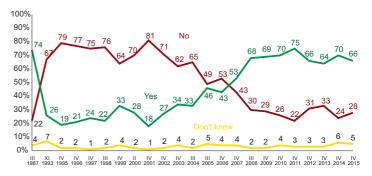


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "25 years of civic state. Social evaluation of local self-government", May 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2015; N=1027. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland

#### Perceived threat of crime

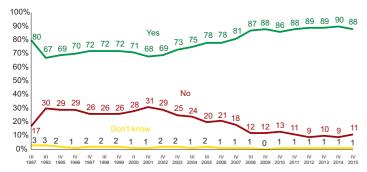
Opinions about the level of safety in Poland have radically changed in the past several years. In the 1990s the majority gave negative evaluation. The size of this majority started to systematically fall in 2002, and since 2007 positive opinions have prevailed. In 2008 the proportions of good and bad opinions stabilized. In April 2015, two-thirds of Poles (66%) felt that Poland is a safe country to live.

#### Is Poland a safe country to live?



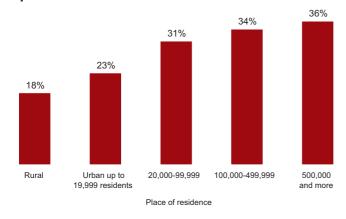
Compared with the 1990s, the opinions about safety in the place of residence have also improved. Since 2008, about 9 in 10 respondents have repeatedly answered that their neighbourhood is safe and quiet.

#### Is your neighbourhood safe and quiet?



About one-sixth of Poles (17%) have had something stolen in the last 5 years. One-tenth (10%) report burglary into their house, flat, cottage etc. Four out of a hundred (4%) have been mugged, while 2% report robbery. One-twentieth (5%) have been victims of another crime, such as: damage to private property, cyber-crime, assault not ending in physical harm or financial fraud. Residents of villages are victims least often; the crime rate is twice as high in towns and cities above 500,000 residents.

#### Proportion of victims of a crime



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about safety in Poland and in the neighbourhood", May 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2015; N=1027. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland

### Situation of the unemployed

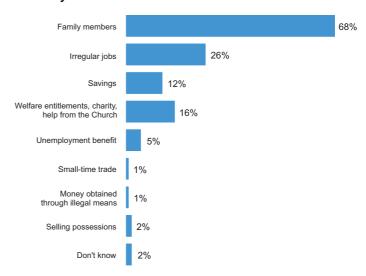
According to official statistics, unemployment is falling in Poland. In April the registered unemployment rate was 11.2%, whereas a year ago it was 13% and two years ago it was 14%. The improvement noted in the last two years is

also reflected in CBOS research. It indicates that in the past year unemployment, based on respondents' declarations, has fallen slightly. At present 23% of households are affected; 12% of Poles self-describe as unemployed; 7% do not work, look for employment and are ready to take a job if offered one.

Most respondents who call themselves unemployed have been out of work longer than a year (65%), in which one-fifth (19%) have been unemployed between 2 and 5 years and over a third (37%) have not worked over 5 years. It can be assumed that a large proportion of them have given up looking for work altogether. Furthermore, being long-term unemployed is associated with older age and poor education.

A vast majority of the unemployed claim that their subsistence is provided by other members of the family. About a quarter of self-declared unemployed live off their own work, usually odd jobs or small-time trade. For 16% the main source of income are welfare entitlements and charity. One-eighth live off their savings, while the unemployment benefit is the main source of income for one-twentieth.

What is your main source of income or subsistence?



Answers of respondents self-described as unemployed. N=244

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Situation of the unemployed", May 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: March and April 2015. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland. N=2089 (total), in which the unemployed: N=244

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