

## POLISH PUBLICOPINION Solid and Professional 11/2015

ISSN 2083-1714

# CONTENTS

Attitudes to refugees in Visegrad Group countries

Expectations from the new government

**Employment abroad** 

Interest in the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition

## IN ADDITION

#### TO THE REPORTS REFERRED TO ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED RECENTLY (IN POLISH):

- Forms of Employment in Poland
- Material Living Conditions and Employment Stability
- Opinions about Refugees "Online" and "Offline"
- Parents' Spending on Education of Children in School Year 2015/2016
- Between Church and Polling Place
- Opinions about Parliament, President and National Electoral Commission (PKW)
- Social Moods in November
- Trust in Politicians after Parliamentary Election
- Income Expectations in Poland
- Opinions about Polish-German Relations in the Context of 50th Anniversary of the Letter of Polish Bishops to German Bishops
- Reasons for Not Voting
- Expectations for the New Sejm
- Perception of Election Campaign and Political Activities on the Internet before Parliamentary Election
- Attachment to Place of Residence and Country

## Attitudes to refugees in Visegrad Group countries

Countries of the Visegrad Group for a long time maintained a common policy towards the proposal by the European Commission regarding refugees arriving in Europe. Eventually, Poland abandoned its opposition to mandatory relocation of 160,000 refugees among member states of the European Union. The other countries of the Visegrad Group opposed this decision, but it was adopted by a majority vote.

Survey results show that there are significant differences in the four Visegrad Group countries in the attitudes towards refugees. Hungarians, whose country

experienced movement of thousands of refugees in recent months, are the most open to giving at least temporary refuge to people fleeing areas affected by war. Poles a r e slightly more sceptical, bust still the majority (56%) express solidarity with refugees and agree with giving





them at least the right to temporary stay in Poland. Czechs are less favourable to such actions, as less than half (44%) approve of them. Sheltering refugees is the most controversial in Slovakia, where only one-third (33%) of respondents approve of giving even temporary protection.





As regards incoming refugees from Africa and the Middle East, opinions in the Visegrad Group countries are differently distributed. Poles are divided about accepting some of the migrants coming to Europe (the s a m e proportions support and oppose this), while Czechs, Slovaks and Hungarians are strongly opposed to such policies.

While there has been some increase in the number of Ukrainian nationals applying for international protection in the EU member states, the scale of this phenomenon is incomparable with the number of refugees arriving in Europe by sea. Nevertheless, the potential inflow of refugees from Ukraine to Czech Republic and Slovakia is rejected by the prevailing group of respondents. Poles are far more open to accepting refugees from Ukraine.

# Do you agree that your country should accept Ukrainian refugees from areas affected by armed conflict?



What was your emotional reaction to the result of October elections to Sejm and Senate?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitudes towards Refugees in Visegrad Group Countries", November 2015. Fieldwork for national sample in Poland: September 2015, N=972; Czech Republic (CVVM Sociological Institute): September 2015, N=953; Hungary (TARKI): October 2015, N=1003; Slovakia (FOCUS): September 2015, N=1003. The samples are representative for adult populations.

## Expectations from the government of Law and Justice (PiS)

For the first time since 1989, a single party won the majority of seats in Sejm and Senate, which enabled it to single-handedly form the government. Considering its earlier victory in the presidential elections, it has full responsibility for the state.

Reactions to the result of parliamentary elections were ambivalent. Happiness, satisfaction and hope were only slightly more common than negative feelings such as disappointment, discouragement and anxiety. The two dominant emotions, i.e. hope and anxiety, indicate the necessity for change while at the same time showing fear about the balance of this change, whether it will bring more benefits or losses. Both types of reactions differentiate the society in cultural and stratificational dimension. Hope is shared to the greatest extent by religious people, residents of rural areas, respondents with low education living in relatively bad material conditions. Anxiety is most commonly shared by the nonbelievers, residents of the biggest cities, respondents with higher education and highest income.

Law and Justice made a lot of specific pledges before presidential and parliamentary elections. Therefore, it hardly comes as a surprise that almost a fifth (19%) of respondents formulating expectations from the government of Beata Szydło in an answer to an openended question generally mention fulfilling pre-election promises. Up to two answers possible

As regards socio-economic issues, the primary concern is creating new jobs and reducing unemployment (15%). It is connected with the demand that economic emigration should be reduced and Poles working abroad should be encouraged to return to Poland (3%). Among the other expectations related to employment were the reduction of the scope of civil law contracts and, in general, improvement of employment conditions (2%). In the context of labour market and emigration respondents frequently drew attention to the situation of young people and the need to create for them better prospects for life and work in Poland (7%).

A large proportion of responses were related to the expected changes in the pension system, first of all to the return to previous retirement age as promised during campaign (60 years for women, 65 years for men) or to linking retirement age with total lifetime number of years in employment (7% in total).

A large number of expectations concerned the improvement of the economic situation in Poland, support for investment and entrepreneurs. Moreover, respondents demanded a tax decrease, an increase in tax-free income, as promised before elections, and a reduction in VAT (2%).

Many respondents mentioned expectations concerning the improvement of material living conditions (9%), pay rise (10%) and increase in pensions and disability benefits (7%). It is interesting to note that demands related to wage increase and improvement in the standard of living were formulated less frequently than eight years ago, when Donald Tusk formed his first cabinet. Presently more stress was put on the need for the state to support families: in this context respondents mentioned the promise of 500 PLN for a child, stressed the need to support families with many children and demanded free crèches and kindergartens (5% in total). A quite lot of answers (4%) concerned better social policy, welfare benefits and the improvement of the situation of the poorest. Expectations related to other spheres of social life focused mostly on healthcare. There were multiple voices calling for better availability of medical services: easier access to specialist physicians, reducing waiting time (7%). Moreover, respondents mentioned changes in the system of education, hoped for improvement in the quality of schooling, supported the PiS plan to abolish middle schools (gimnazjum) and return to the pre-reform age of starting school (2% in total).

A sizeable part of responses concerned foreign policy, including international security (7% in total). Expectations in this sphere were very different, sometimes contradictory, and reflected hopes and fears related to the expected PiS moves. First, there were demands for wise foreign policy, good representation of Poland abroad, improvement of position and image of Poland. Respondents, on the one hand, talked about the need to defend Polish interests in the EU and on the international scene and supported greater independence from the EU, but on the other hand stressed the need for good cooperation within the EU and with Poland's neighbours. There were visible concerns about confrontational attitude in international relations and provoking conflicts, and fear of war with Russia was explicitly stated. A few voices mentioned the refusal to accept refugees and the need to improve Poland's safety.

A large proportion of responses concerned public life and the methods of governing. In this group the directly and indirectly voiced concerns about PiS government were the most common. There was general hope for good government, competence and effectiveness and a focus on genuine issues (5%). Some respondents appealed for morality in politics: honesty, transparency, prevailing state over party interest (5%). Others mentioned the concepts forming the party name: justice (5%) and law (2%). There were repeated calls for peace, stabilization, avoidance of radical change (4%), warnings not to waste the achievements (2%). Respondents relatively often voiced their hope that the new government would listen to the people and their appeals and would not be arrogant (4%). Some people demanded consensus, stressed the need to avoid conflicts and maintain good cooperation both within the authorities and between the government and opposition or appealed to the government to avoid divisions within the society (3% in total). Concerns were reflected in demands for the observance of civil rights, tolerance for different views and preserving democracy (2%).

The evaluation of the situation in which full power is in the hands of one political camp is ambiguous and depends largely on political views. According to 45% of respondents it is good for Poland, while a slightly smaller group (43%) consider it bad.

Do you agree that it is good for Poland that Law and Justice has the majority in the Sejm and Senate and that government and president are from the same political camp?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: "Between Hope and Fear – the Reactions on Results of Parliamentary Election", and "Expectations for the New Government", November 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2015, N=951. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

### **Employment abroad**

The number of Poles who have worked abroad is increasing. A sixth of respondents (16%) declare employment abroad in the last ten years, while 1% still work there, but were at home for interview.

#### Employment abroad in last 10 years



Men have such experience more often than women (20% v. 13%). Respondents in the age groups 25-34 years (30%) and 35-44 (21%), i.e. young and mobile people who make the most use of freedom of movement within the EU, are most likely to work outside of Poland. Work abroad is particularly common for respondents with basic vocational education (20%), skilled workers (30%) and unskilled workers (32%). A third of the unemployed (30%) have worked in another country in the last ten years.

About one-eighth of respondents (13%) admit that a household member is employed abroad. The number of such declarations has increased since 2013, which indicates that the number of economic migrants is increasing again.

#### Does any member of your household work abroad?



One-tenth of respondents are interested in working abroad and are ready to take steps to find a job (3% are looking for work outside Poland while 7% plan to do it in the future). Young people are particularly willing to go abroad to work: about a third (32%) of respondents aged 24 or less plan to look for a job outside of Poland or are already doing it. Men (13%) are more willing to go than women (7%).

Migration plans are strongly influenced by past experience of employment abroad. Respondents who have worked outside of Poland in the last ten years are four times more likely to look for work again. Migratory experience of household members is also important in this respect. Respondents from households that have a member working abroad are three times more likely to plan to go themselves than people from households in which no-one is employed outside of Poland.

The main motive for planned employment abroad is low pay in Poland.

# Why do you plan to look for work abroad? Please indicate the main reason



Responses of people who are looking for a job abroad or are planning to do it

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: "Work Abroad", November 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: October 2015, N=1114. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

### Interest in the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition

Almost half of respondents (47%) declare listening to classical music. Relatively few do it often, while most do it incidentally or rarely.

#### Do you listen to classical music?



On 1-23 October the 17th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition was held in Warsaw. According to declarations, almost three-tenths (29%) of respondents followed the competition coverage. It is worth noting that not only fans of classical music were interested in the competition: its media coverage was followed by onethird of people listening to classical music only incidentally and by one-tenth of respondents who do not usually listen to this type of music.

#### Did you follow the media coverage (on TV, radio or online) of this year's 17th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition?

Percentage of affirmative answers



The most important medium for following the Competition was television. The proportions of people following it on the radio or online were much smaller.

# What medium did you primarily use to follow the Chopin Competition?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: "The Interest in Chopin Piano Competition", November 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2015, N=951. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:

#### CBOS

5/7, Świętojerska, 00-236 Warsaw, Poland

Phones: (48) 22 629 35 69, 22 628 37 04 Fax: (48) 22 629 40 89 e-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl www.cbos.pl Yearly subscription rate for "Polish Public Opinion" is 80 USD Circulation: 70 copies

#### **CBOS EXPERTISE**

in providing professional, accurate and timely research has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.

All sources must be credited when any part of this publication is reproduced

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS, 2015