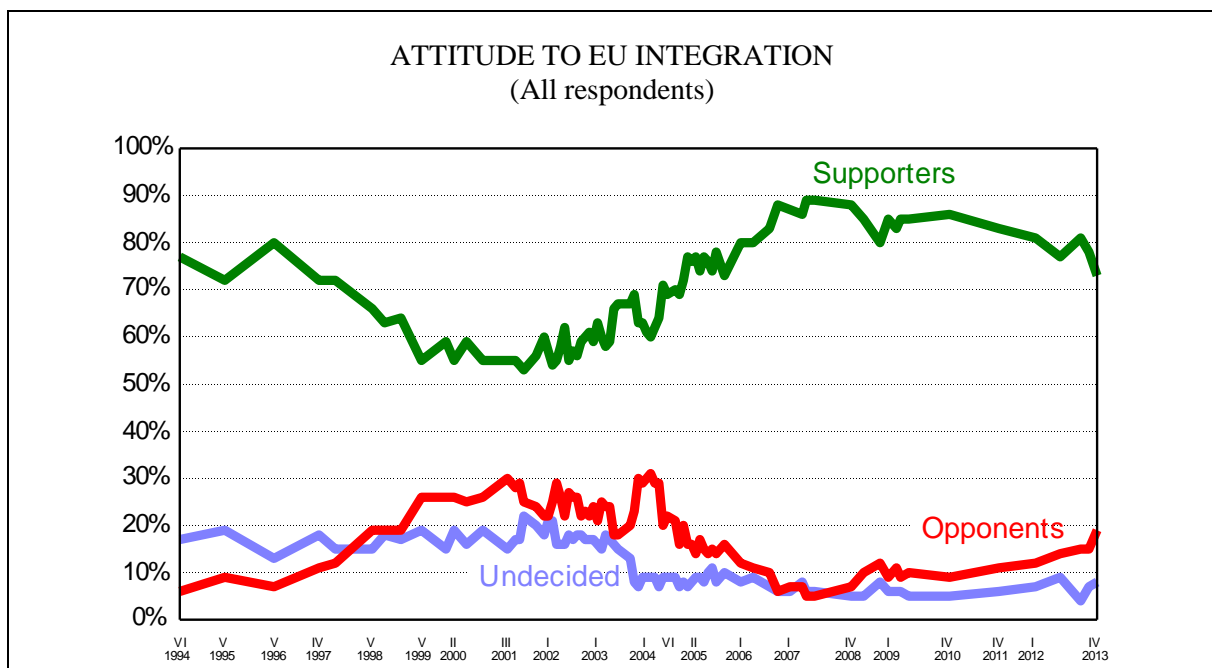
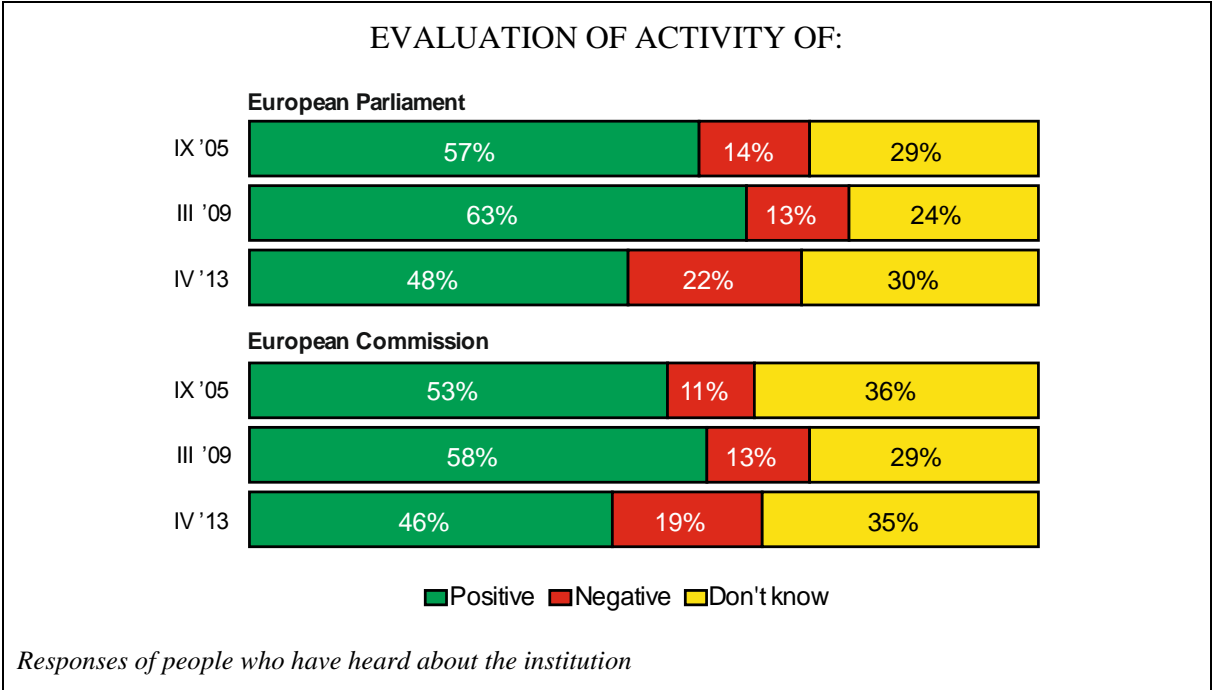


EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS AND CITIZENS

Economic problems in the European Union related to the financial crisis in some countries of the eurozone persist. They are the most probable reason for the decline in the societal support for EU membership. The symptoms of this process were visible last year already, and now they have increased in strength. From February to April the proportion of respondents supporting Poland's membership in the EU declined by 5 percentage points, to 73%. At the same time, the number of opponents increased from 15% to 19%. Consequently, the current level of support for EU integration is similar to the values recorded immediately after accession.

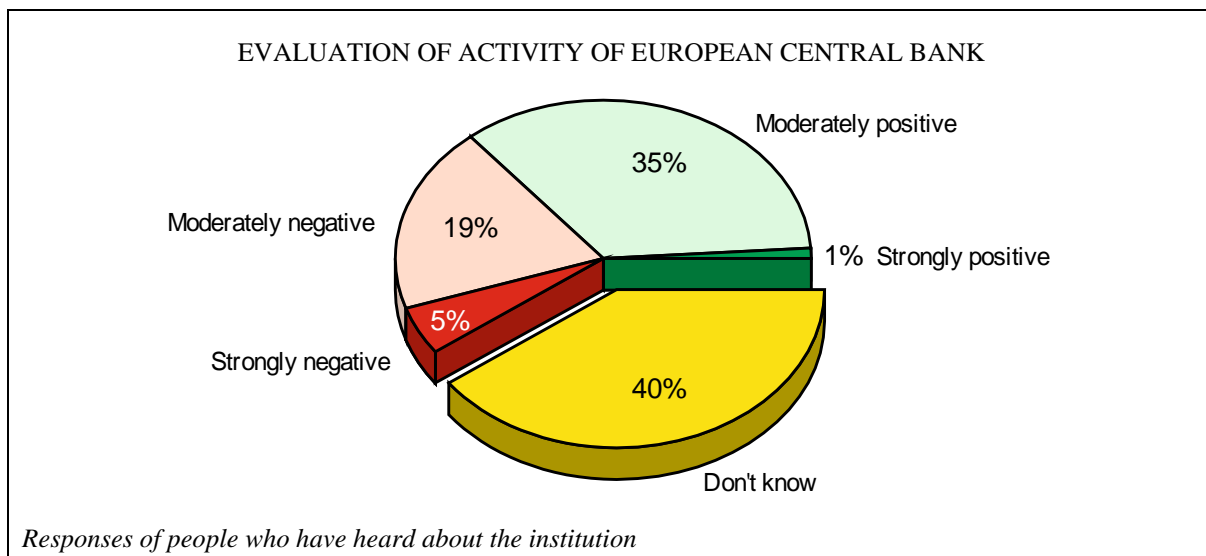


The names of European institutions are increasingly familiar to Poles. The European Parliament is known to 90% of respondents. Similarly, 87% have heard about the European Commission, while over three-quarters (76%) have heard about the European Central Bank.

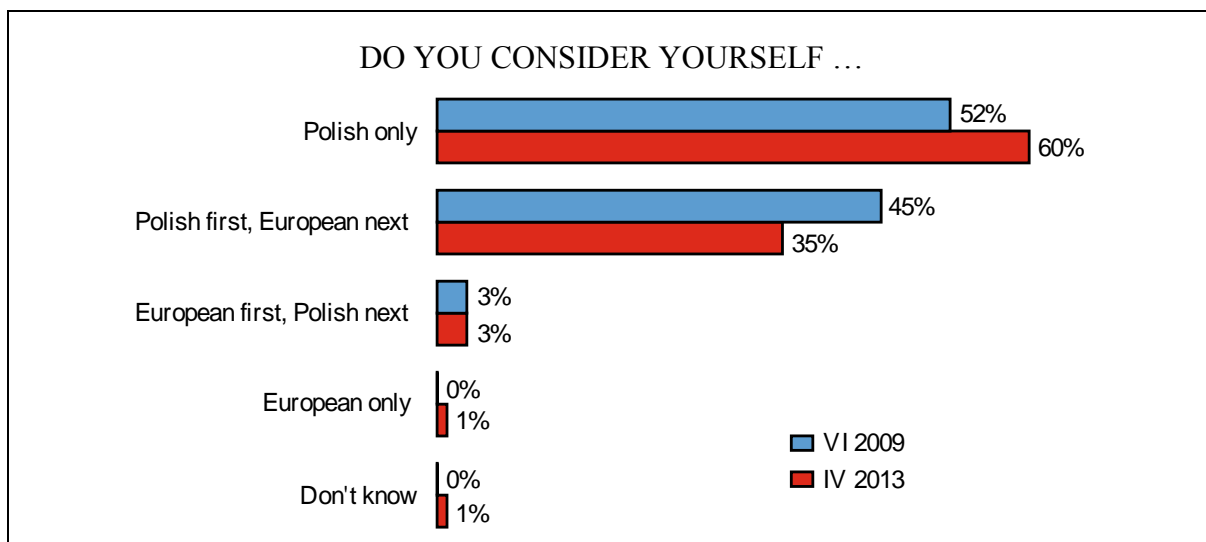


In recent years, the decline in support for Poland's EU membership was accompanied by deteriorating opinions about the two main EU institutions, the European Parliament and the European Commission. Nevertheless, their activities are still evaluated positively. The performance of the EP is perceived favourably by 48% of respondents who have heard about it and negatively by 22%. The opinions about the Commission are similar: 46% positive, 19% negative.

The evaluation of the European Central Bank is more difficult. Moreover, its performance is more controversial than the EP and EC, which is indicated by smaller proportion of unequivocally positive ratings. The performance of the ECB is approved of by 36% of respondents, with 24% critical towards it.

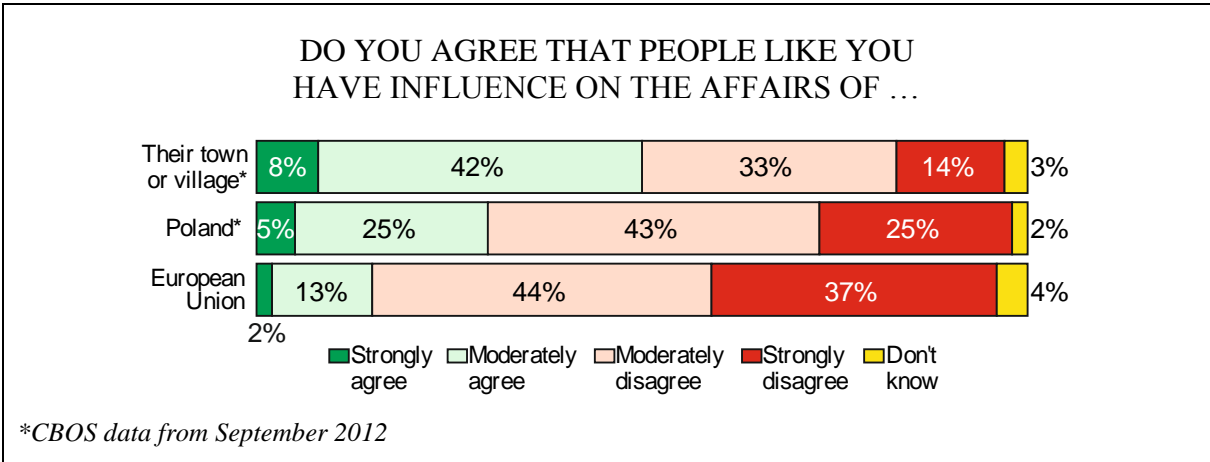


The European Parliament, acting on the proposal of the Commission, declared 2013 to be the European Year of Citizens. The efforts towards creating the European demos and strengthening the identification of citizens of the member states on the European level are, so far, rather ineffective. Poles identify with Europe less than a few years ago. The majority (60%) consider themselves as Poles only. A little more than one-third (35%) feel Polish first, European next. Only a few (4%) declare that their European identity prevails, or that they feel exclusively European.

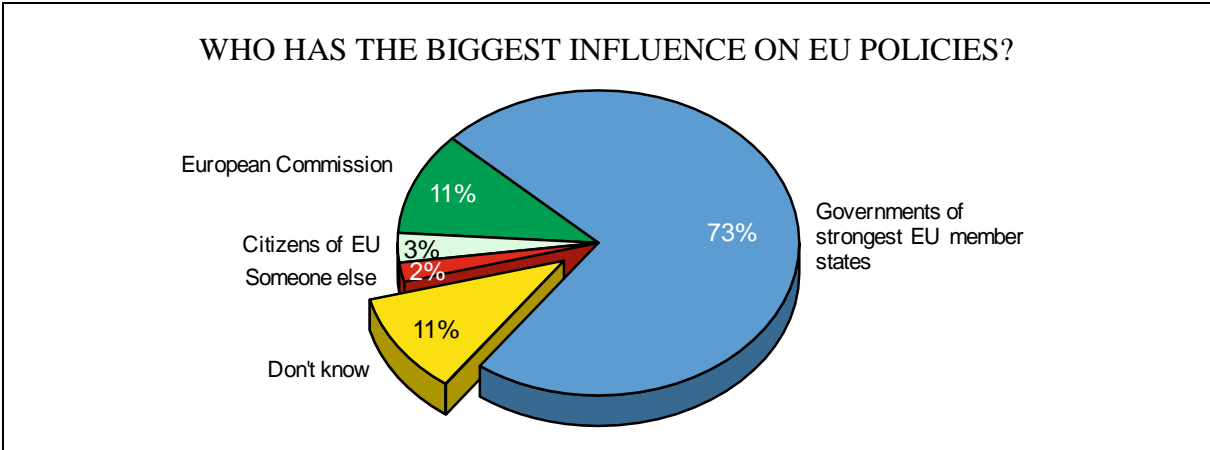


Relatively few people (15%) feel that they have influence over the EU affairs. On the other hand, in September 2012 30% of respondents reported having subjective influence over the national affairs, and 50% felt that they had influence on the local level. Clearly, the further

the organizational level is from the citizen, the weaker the subjective influence on decisions, which contributes to alienation.



The low level of civic subjectivity is accompanied by the common belief that the EU policies are shaped by the strongest member states. One in nine respondents thinks that the EC plays the main role, and only a few ascribe this role to the EU citizens.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "EU institutions and citizens", April 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2013, N=1150. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.