

Attitude to other nationalities

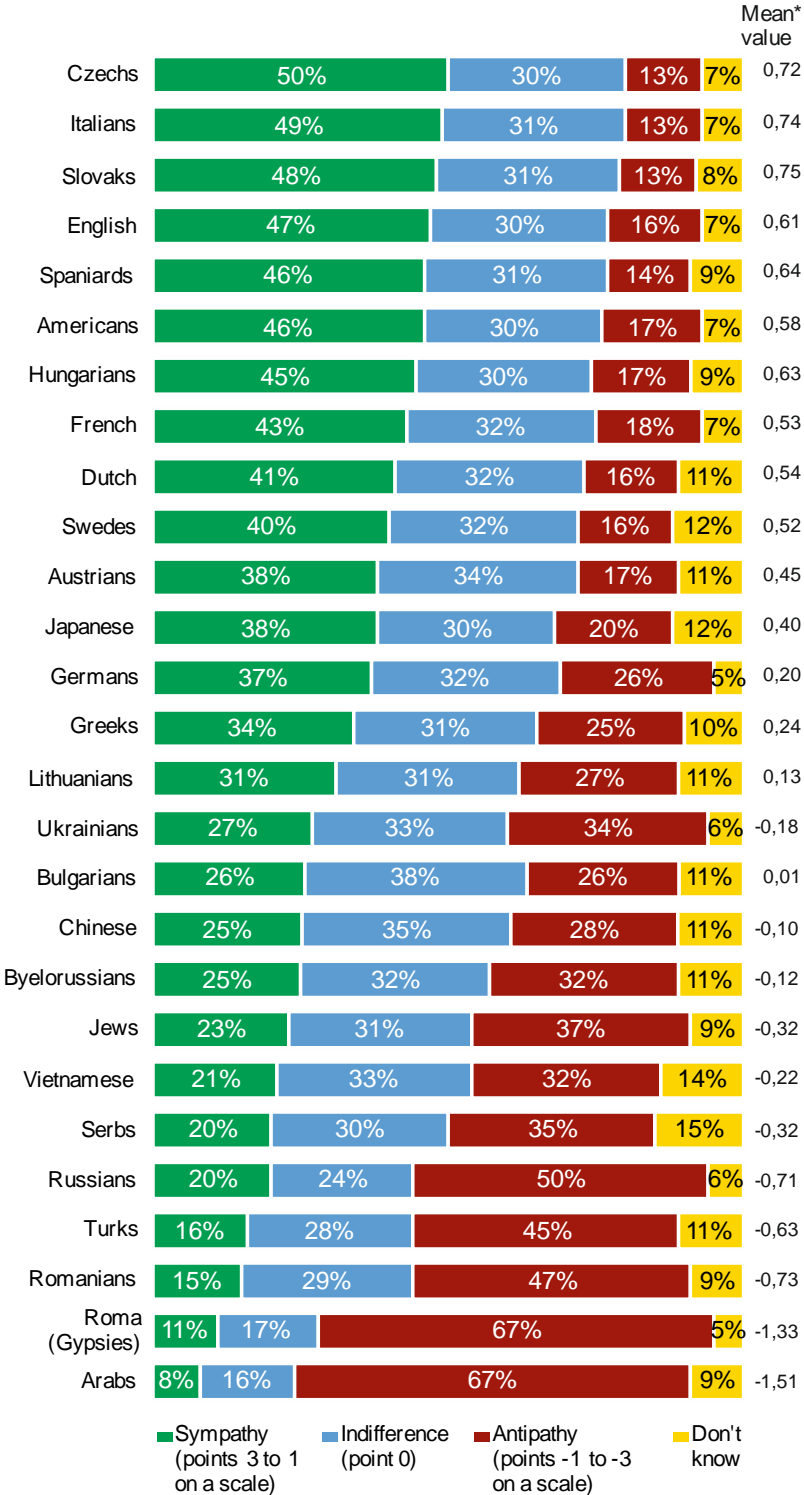
The best-liked nationalities are Czechs, Italians, Slovaks and the English. About half of Poles have positive attitude to them. At least two-fifths of respondents have good feelings for Spaniards, Americans, Hungarians, the French, the Dutch and Swedes. Almost two-fifths are positive about Austrians and the Japanese. Sympathy for these nationalities is more widespread than antipathy and negative feelings are expressed by no more than two-fifths of respondents. About a third of respondents have positive feelings about Germans, Greeks and Lithuanians, while about a quarter express bad emotions.

Negative feelings are equally common as positive or prevail in attitudes to the other nationalities in the study. About a quarter of respondents have positive attitude to Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Chinese, Byelorussians and Jews. In case of Bulgarians positive and negative emotions are equally common, while negative feelings prevail in attitudes to the other nationalities in this group.

A fifth of respondents have a friendly attitude to the Vietnamese, Serbs and Russians, but antipathy to Russians is far more common than to Serbs and the Vietnamese. Less than a fifth of respondents have warm feelings to Turks and Romanians, while almost half are

negative towards them. Dominance of bad emotions is clear in attitudes to the Roma and Arabs.

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*Average values on the scale from -3 (max. antipathy) to +3 (max. sympathy)

Attitude to other nationalities is influenced by many factors: national stereotypes, historical legacies, personal experience, current events and political relations between countries inhabited by the nationalities. Better attitudes are recorded for nationalities enjoying high standard of living, as they are a positive reference point, while feelings for nationalities characterised by lower standard of living are worse. The Pearson linear correlation coefficient between the mean attitude to a given nationality and the standard of living in the country inhabited by these people (measured by the Human Development Index, used by the United Nations for international comparison) is very high at 0.72 (Roma, Arabs and Jews were excluded from this calculation).

In the last year the attitude to most nationalities included in the survey became worse. The biggest decline was recorded in relation to Roma (a drop of mean value by 0.40 on a 7-point scale), Turks (decrease by 0.39), Greeks (decrease by 0.29), Ukrainians (decrease by 0.29) and Germans (decrease by 0.26). Moreover, the attitude towards Arabs decreased strongly in the last four years (decrease of the mean value by 1.00).

The deterioration of attitudes to many nationalities can probably be linked to the migration crisis and terrorist attacks. Analyses indicate that the attitude to other nationalities is related to the attitude to refugees. Respondents who support accepting refugees declare sympathy to other nationalities more often than Poles opposed to this policy (on average they expressed positive feelings to 10.5 and 7.4 nationalities, respectively), while antipathy is less common in supporters of accepting refugees than among opponents (antipathy to 6.2 and 9.1 nationalities, respectively).

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitudes towards Other Nations", April 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2016, N=1034. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.