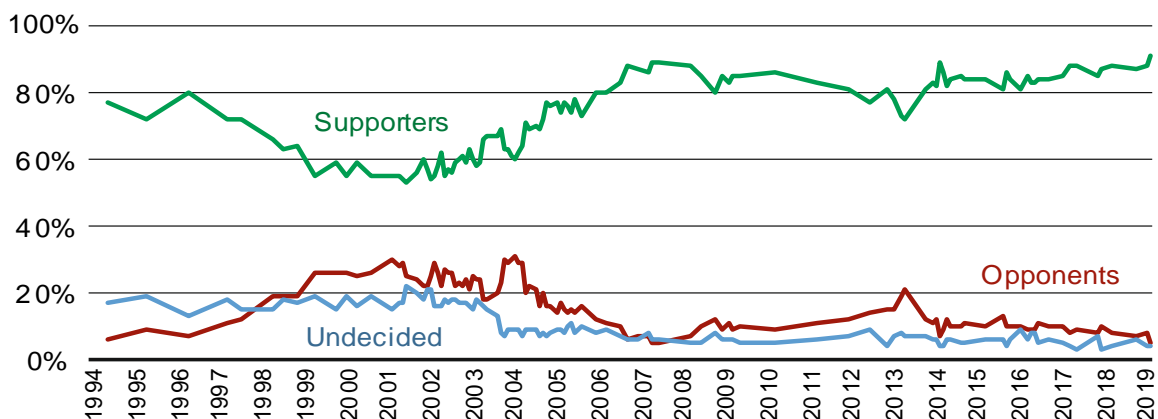


15 years of Poland's membership in the European Union

Support for Poland's membership in the European Union has been very high. Since 2014, the acceptance of Poland's presence in the EU has not decreased in CBOS surveys to a level below 80%. In March 2019, membership support reached a record high of 91%. Only one in twenty respondents is against membership in the EU.

Do you support Poland's NATO membership?

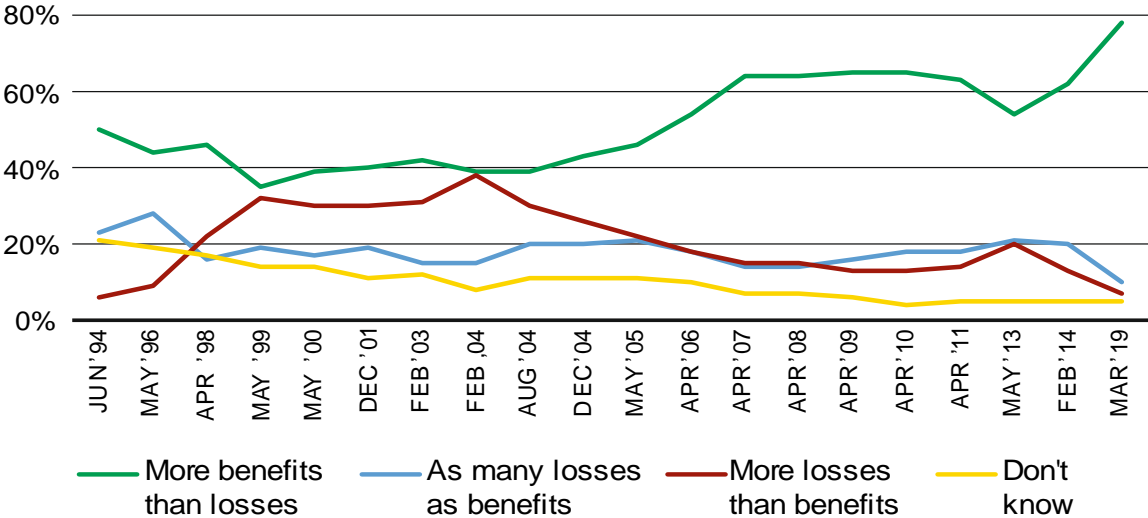


After 15 years of membership, public assessments of the balance of integration for Poland are definitely positive. Overall, over three-quarters of respondents (78%) believe that Poland's presence in the EU brings our country more benefits than losses. Every tenth thinks that the positive and negative effects of membership are equally strong, and only 7% think that losses prevail.

The effects of membership in the personal dimension are less clearly perceived. Nevertheless, positive evaluations (57%) prevail in this case. Nearly a quarter of respondents (24%) incline to the opinion that s/he has personally gained as much as lost from presence in the EU. Only relatively few (5%) believe that membership in the Union has brought them losses rather than benefits.

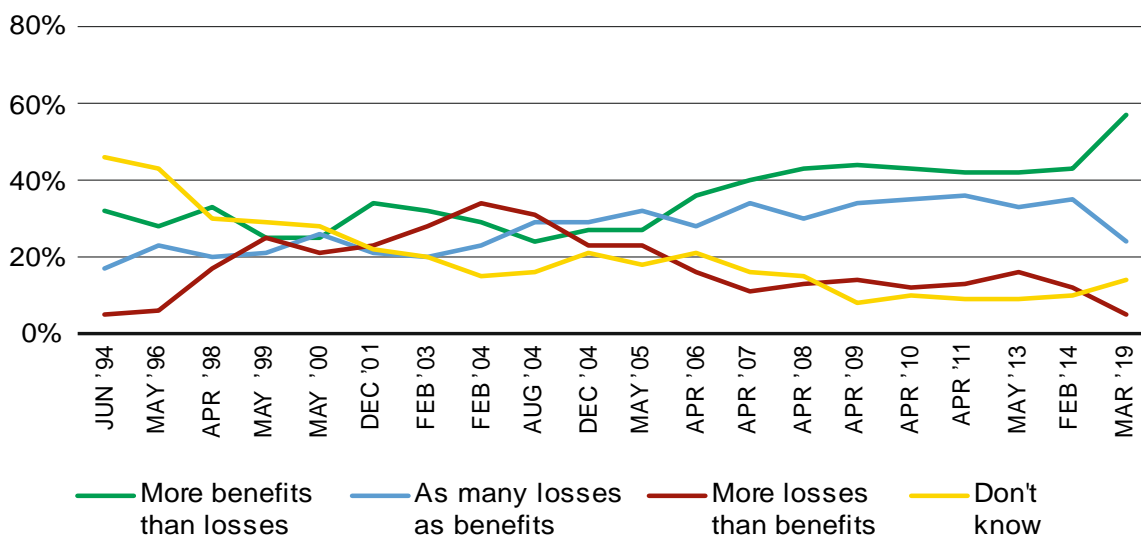
Similar questions about the perception of effects of integration have been asked many times, initially concerning expected results of EU accession. The results of these studies show that the perceived effects of integration have proved better than pre-accession projections. Already in the first years or even months of membership people were increasingly convinced of the positive effects of integration. During the first three years of our country's presence in the Union, the percentage of positive evaluations in the national dimension increased from 39% to 64%, while in the personal dimension it rose from 24% to 40%. Then the perception of the effects of membership stabilized (assessments of the effects of integration temporarily deteriorated in 2013, when there was economic slowdown in Poland). The current membership impact assessments are therefore record-breaking. The proportion of people satisfied with the integration effects for Poland has increased by 16 percentage points in the last five years. The percentage of those who are convinced that they personally benefit from their presence in the Union increased by 14 points at that time.

Assessment of the effects of EU membership / integration for Poland *



* Until February 2004 the question was about predicted effects of integration.

Assessment of the effects of EU membership / integration for the respondent personally *



* Until February 2004 the question was about predicted effects of integration.

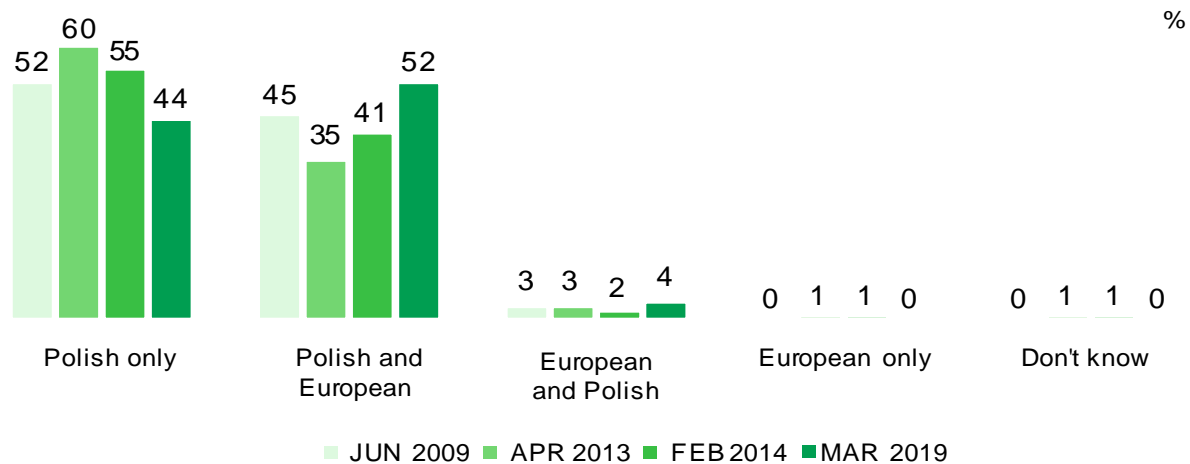
Poles primarily see the economic benefits of EU membership, related to the functioning of the single market and the acquisition and use of EU funds. The vast majority (74%) are of the opinion that if our country had remained outside the Union, Poland would be developing worse than it actually is.

On your opinion, if Poland had not become a member of the European Union, would it now be developing better or worse than it actually is?



In recent years, clear symptoms of strengthening identification with Europe can be observed. Poles are more likely today than earlier to consider themselves Europeans. For the first time in our research, over half of respondents declare that they feel European (56% in total). In general, European identity is secondary to national identity, it is rarely considered more important.

Do you consider yourself as...



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "15 Years of Polish Membership in European Union", April 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2019, N=982. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.