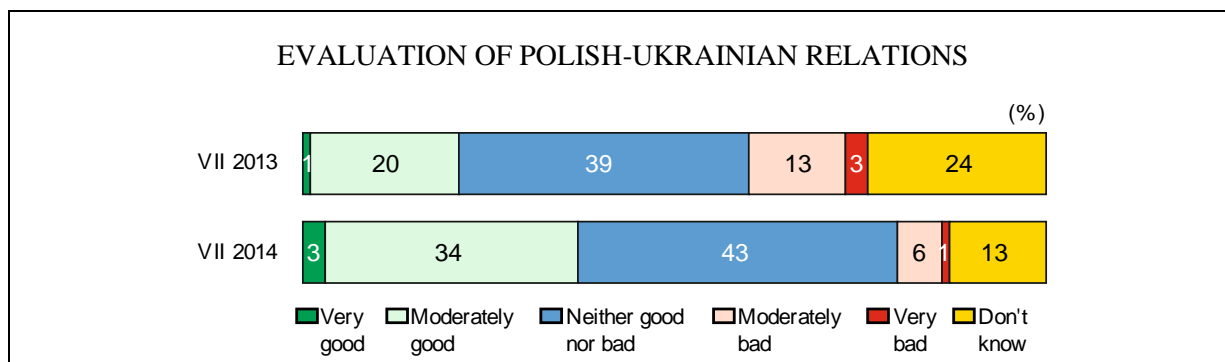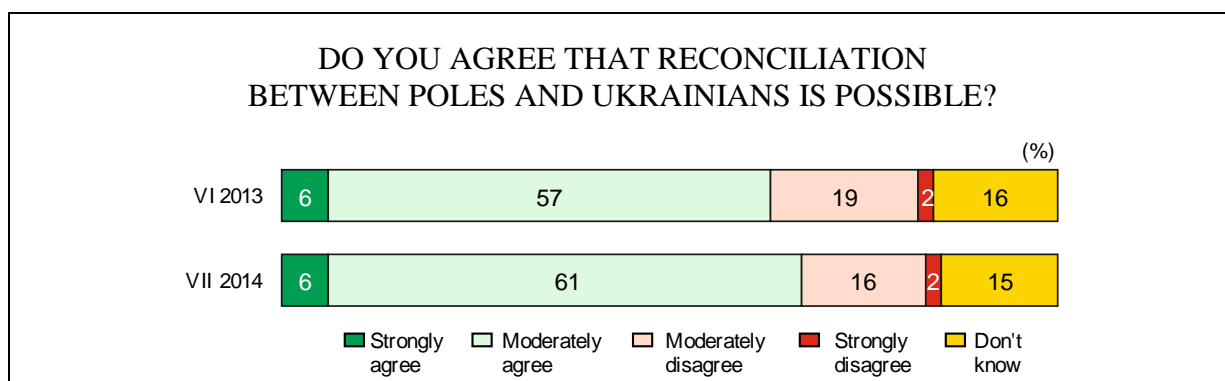# POLISH-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS

Polish-Ukrainian relations are burdened by difficult recent history. There are still witnesses to the events in Wołyń in the years 1943-44, when troops of Ukrainian Insurgent Army attacked Polish villages located in the former Polish territory (currently in Ukraine) and murdered civilians, often brutally.

A year ago, slightly more than one-fifth of respondents had a positive opinion about Polish-Ukrainian relations. Last year's events improved the evaluation. The rise was caused by the protests which started in November 2013, after the Ukrainian government refused to sign the association treaty with the European Union, which led to the change of government. The increase was also influenced by the engagement of Polish politicians in negotiations to solve the conflict, by the pro-European policies of Poland's eastern neighbours and by international solidarity with Ukraine in difficult time. At present, almost two-fifths (37%, a 16-point rise from last year) consider the relations between Poland and Ukraine as good, while a slightly bigger group think they are average (43%) and only a few (7%) consider them as bad.

EVALUATION OF POLISH-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS

(%)

VII 2013 | 1 | 20 | 39 | 13 | 3 | 24

VII 2014 | 3 | 34 | 43 | 6 | 1 | 13

■ Very good □ Moderately good ■ Neither good nor bad □ Moderately bad ■ Very bad □ Don't know

The opinion about Polish-Ukrainian relations is strongly related to the level of interest in the events in Ukraine. The more the respondents are interested, the better the evaluations. People who are not curious about these events tend to refrain from expressing an opinion about bilateral relations.

Compared with last year, the opinions about the possibility of reconciliation between Poles and Ukrainians have improved. The proportion of respondents who think it is possible rose by 4 points (reaching 67%), while the percentage of pessimists decreased by 3 points (down to 18%).

DO YOU AGREE THAT RECONCILIATION BETWEEN POLES AND UKRAINIANS IS POSSIBLE?

(%)

VI 2013 | 6 | 57 | 19 | 2 | 16

VII 2014 | 6 | 61 | 16 | 2 | 15

■ Strongly agree □ Moderately agree □ Moderately disagree ■ Strongly disagree □ Don't know

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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Attitude to the sides of the conflict in Ukraine"*, July 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2014, N=943. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.