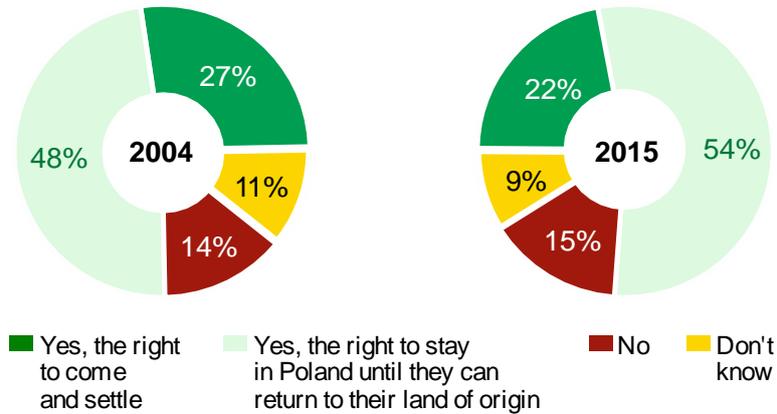


Opinions about refugee crisis

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), developed countries have now received a record number of asylum applications (highest in the last 22 years) due to the wars in Syria, Iraq and smaller conflicts. Many migrants who later apply for refugee status arrive illegally, mostly to the countries of southern Europe. In recent months, the European Union undertook resolute action towards relocating the incoming refugees into all member states. The European Commission proposal allocates a quota of 2,500 refugees to be received by Poland.

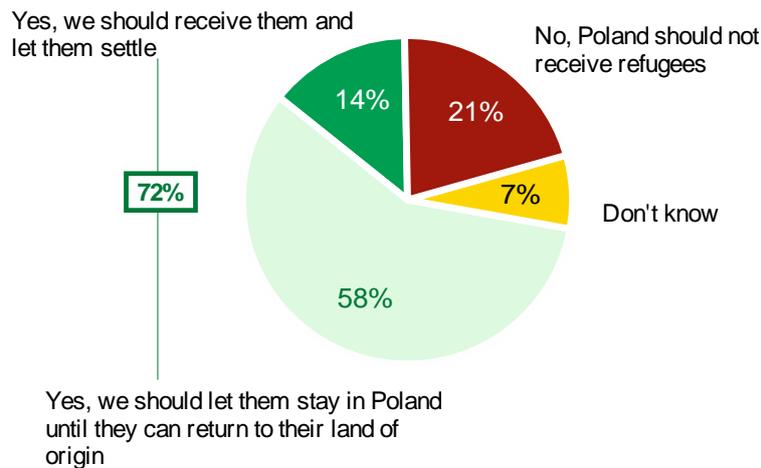
CBOS included questions about receiving political refugees for the first time in 2004. In spite of the fact that a decade has elapsed, opinions have changed very little. As before, three quarters (76%) believe that Poland should offer protection to people persecuted in their countries for their convictions or political activity. However, the proportion of people with a positive attitude not only to temporary protection, but also to giving them the right to settle in Poland has decreased from 27% in 2004 to 22% at present. On the other hand, the percentage of respondents who think that refugees should be given temporary protection until they can return to their own country has risen from 48% to 54%. About one-seventh (15%) oppose accepting political refugees.

Should foreign nationals persecuted in their countries for their views or political activity be given the right to live in Poland?



Most respondents agree with helping refugees from areas affected by military conflict. Three quarters (72%) support help for them, but only one-seventh (14%) think that they should have the right to settle in Poland.

Should Poland accept refugees from countries affected by military conflict?

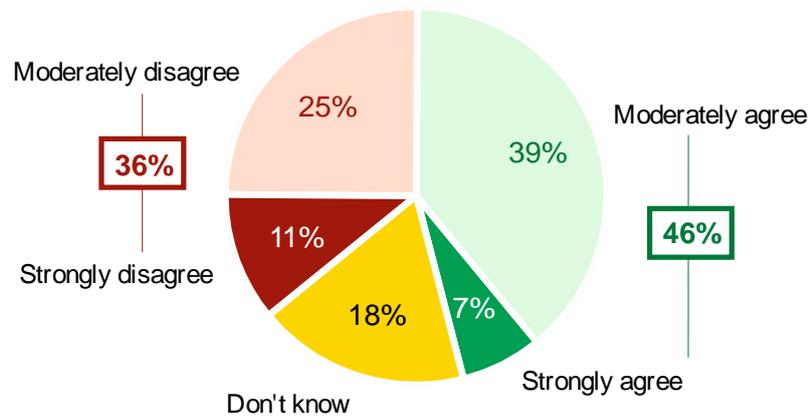


The attitude to refugees depends on education and subjective material standard of living. The worse the education and material situation, the more frequently respondents reject offering help to both political and other refugees. Negative attitude is most common among the oldest respondents.

In case of many respondents the positive attitude to help for refugees may be purely declarative: when confronted with specific situations in which Poland could offer such help, respondents accept engagement much less frequently. Almost half of respondents (46%) support granting international protection (asylum) to those Ukrainians from the area

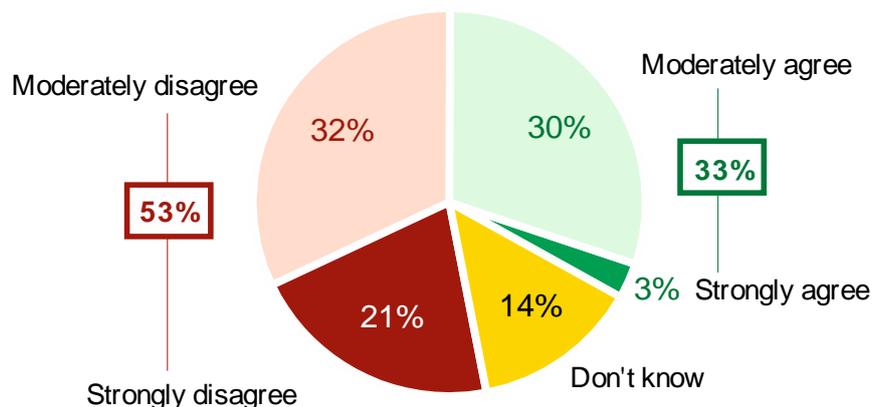
occupied by pro-Russian separatists who apply for such help in Poland. More than a third (36%) are against refugee status for Ukrainian nationals from the conflict area.

Do you agree that Poland should grant international protection to Ukrainian refugees from the armed conflict areas?



The attitudes to accepting a part of refugees arriving in southern Europe are less positive. A third (33%) share the opinion that Poland, within the EU, should feel obliged to share the burden related to the inflow of refugees into Europe. However, the majority (53%) are against offering international protection to refugees from the Middle East and Africa. It is noteworthy that socio-demographic attributes have little influence on the attitude to this proposal.

Do you agree that Poland should receive a part of refugees arriving in Europe from the Middle East and Africa?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitude to refugees", June 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2015, N=1048. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.