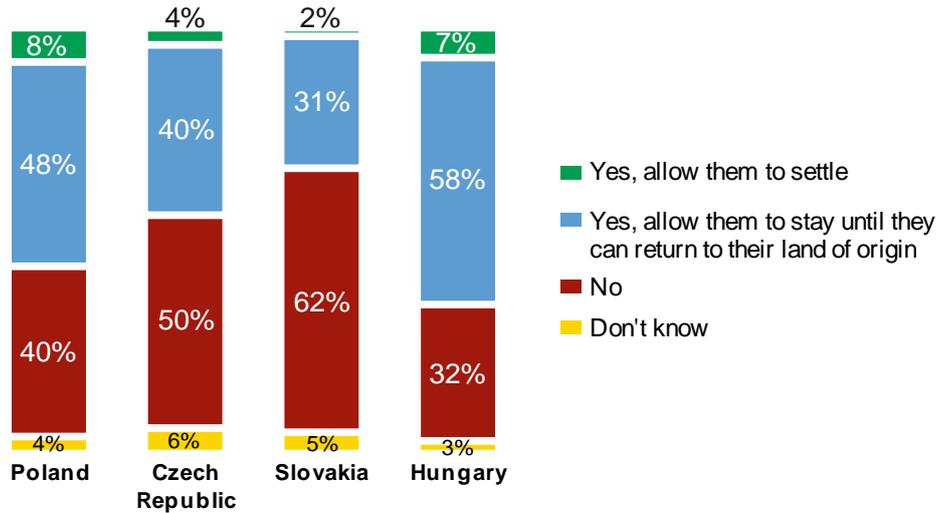


Attitudes to refugees in Visegrad Group countries

Countries of the Visegrad Group for a long time maintained a common policy towards the proposal by the European Commission regarding refugees arriving in Europe. Eventually, Poland abandoned its opposition to mandatory relocation of 160,000 refugees among member states of the European Union. The other countries of the Visegrad Group opposed this decision, but it was adopted by a majority vote.

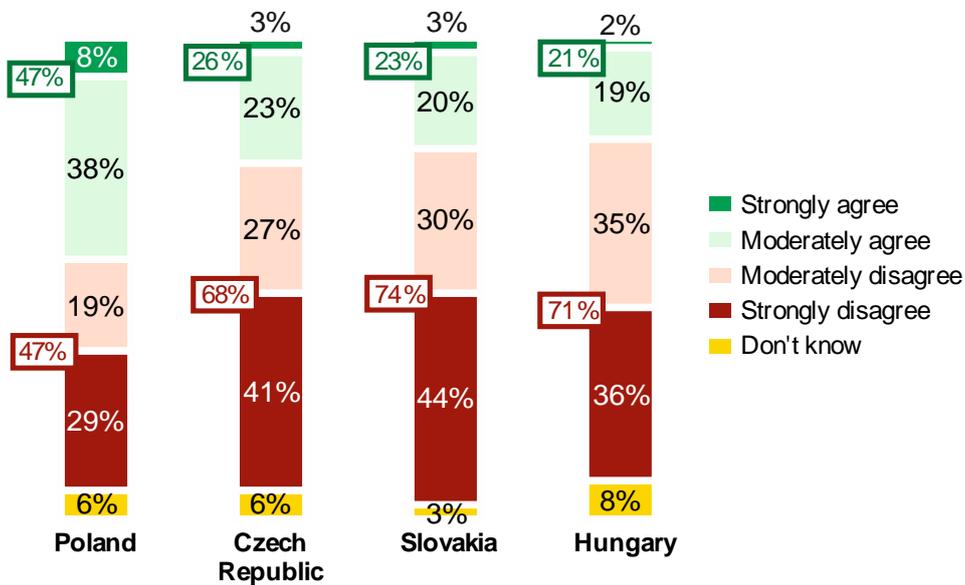
Survey results show that there are significant differences in the four Visegrad Group countries in the attitudes towards refugees. Hungarians, whose country experienced movement of thousands of refugees in recent months, are the most open to giving at least temporary refuge to people fleeing areas affected by war. Poles are slightly more sceptical, but still the majority (56%) express solidarity with refugees and agree with giving them at least the right to temporary stay in Poland. Czechs are less favourable to such actions, as less than half (44%) approve of them. Sheltering refugees is the most controversial in Slovakia, where only one-third (33%) of respondents approve of giving even temporary protection.

Should your country accept refugees from countries affected by armed conflicts?



As regards incoming refugees from Africa and the Middle East, opinions in the Visegrad Group countries are differently distributed. Poles are divided about accepting some of the migrants coming to Europe (the same proportions support and oppose this), while Czechs, Slovaks and Hungarians are strongly opposed to such policies.

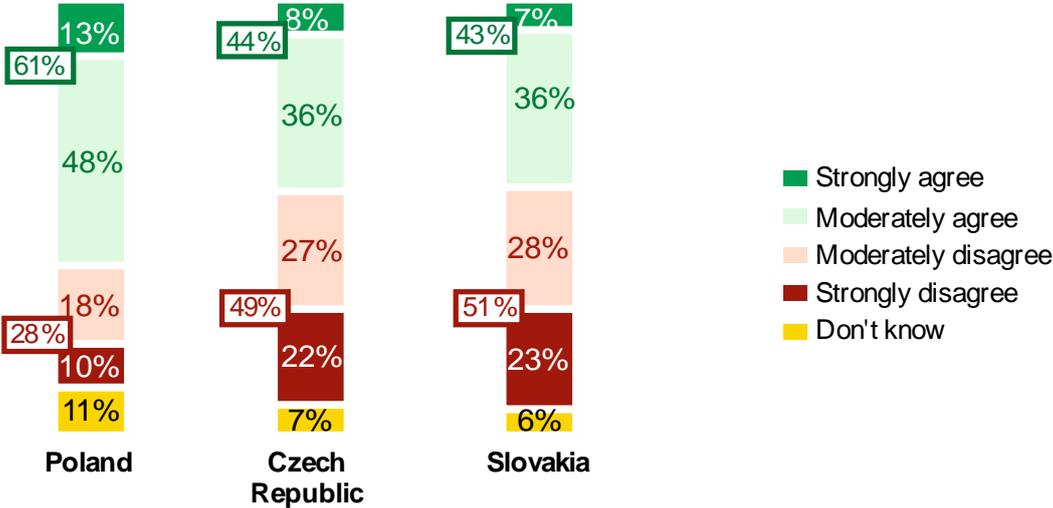
Do you agree that your country should accept some refugees coming to Europe from Africa and the Middle East?



While there has been some increase in the number of Ukrainian nationals applying for international protection in the EU member states, the scale of this phenomenon is incomparable with the number of refugees arriving in Europe by sea. Nevertheless, the potential inflow of refugees from Ukraine to Czech Republic and Slovakia is rejected by the

prevailing group of respondents. Poles are far more open to accepting refugees from Ukraine.

Do you agree that your country should accept Ukrainian refugees from areas affected by armed conflict?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitudes towards Refugees in Visegrad Group Countries", November 2015. Fieldwork for national sample in Poland: September 2015, N=972; Czech Republic (CVVM Sociological Institute): September 2015, N=953; Hungary (TARKI): October 2015, N=1003; Slovakia (FOCUS): September 2015, N=1003. The samples are representative for adult populations.