

Views of young Poles

CBOS research shows an increase in the number of left-wing political self-identifications among young people in 2019-2020. The percentage of respondents aged 18 to 24 declaring left-wing political views increased during this period from 17% to 30%, while the percentage of people identifying with the right increased from 23% to 27%. The turn of young Poles to the left is noticeable especially in the context of the general public, where right-wing sympathies (37%) still clearly prevail over the left-wing (20%).

In connection with the observed changes in political identifications, we have looked in more detail at the views of young people on important socio-political issues and how they differ from the views of the general public. A comparison of the declarations of young people with the distribution of opinions among all respondents shows that the young generation of Poles is, above all, more liberal in thinking about the economy and the role of the state, as well as more liberal in terms of their worldview and more pro-European. Compliance with civil rights and freedoms is relatively more important for young people than for all adults.

The ideas of young people about the proper shape of the socio-economic order and the role of the state differ from the opinions of all respondents mainly with regard to taxes and privatization of the economy. Half of the people up to the age of 24 believe that everyone,

regardless of how much they earn, should pay the same percentage of income tax. Progressive taxes are supported by 37% of them. At the same time, the vast majority of young people (76%) expect the state to provide a high level of social benefits, such as health care or education. Contrary to the general population, among people aged 18 to 24 supporters of privatization of state-owned enterprises (44%) prevail over people who believe that a significant part of enterprises should remain state-owned (30%). More than two-fifths of young people (43%) believe that job security and protection of existing jobs are more important than the possibility of flexible employment and dismissal of workers depending on the situation of the workplace. The opposite opinion is shared by almost one-third of respondents up to the age of 24 (32%).

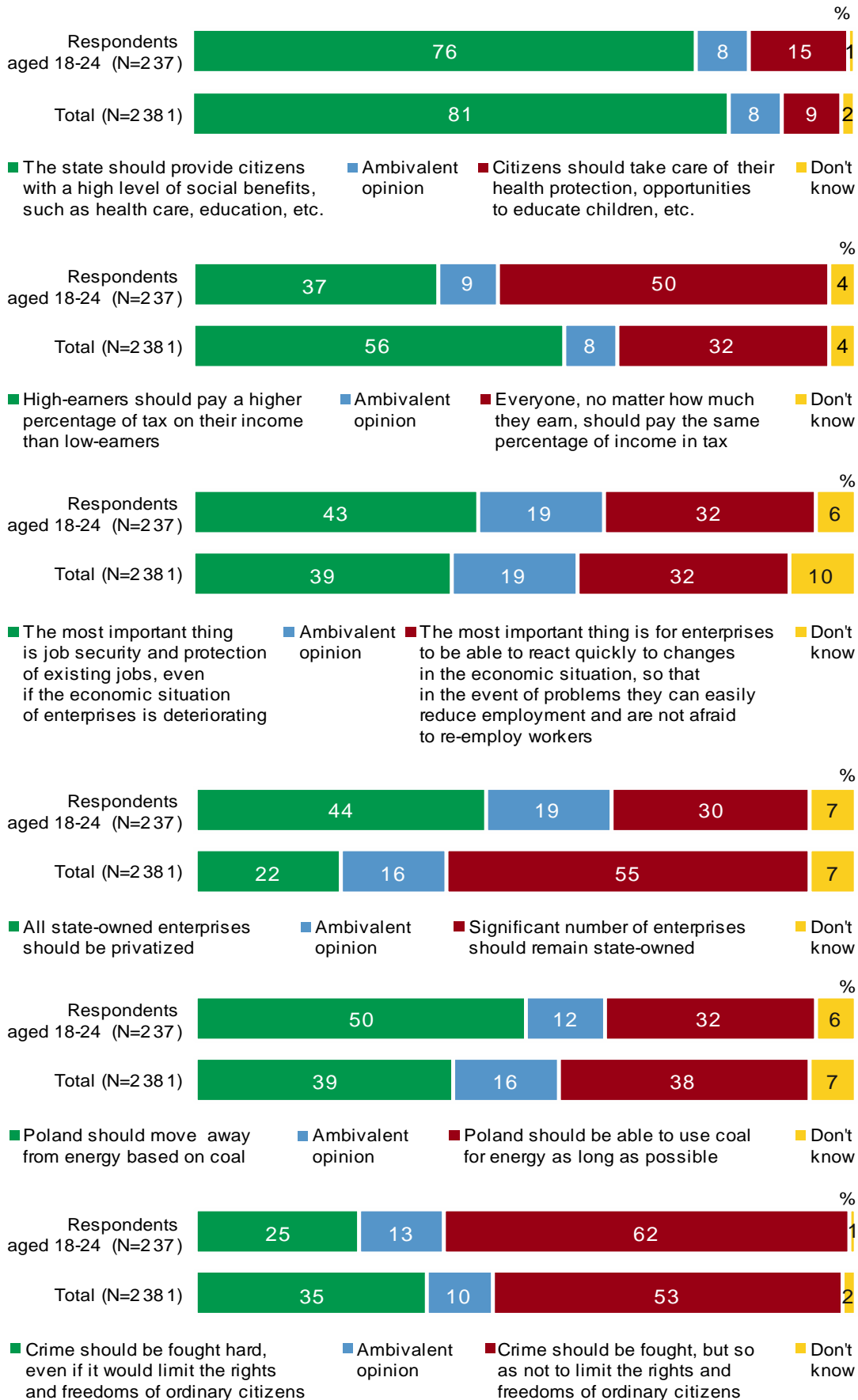
Young Poles more often than adults in general see the need to abandon coal-based energy as soon as possible (50%). On the other hand, almost one-third (32%) agree with the opinion that Poland should be able to use coal in the energy sector as long as possible.

Young people, compared to all respondents, are distinguished by a much more liberal approach to worldview issues. Two-thirds of them (67%) believe that the concordat between Poland and the Holy See is unnecessary, and the state should not privilege any religion or Church. Most people under the age of 24 (58%) support the legal admissibility of abortion. More than half (55%) believe that the law should allow for same-sex partnerships to enter into formal partnerships.

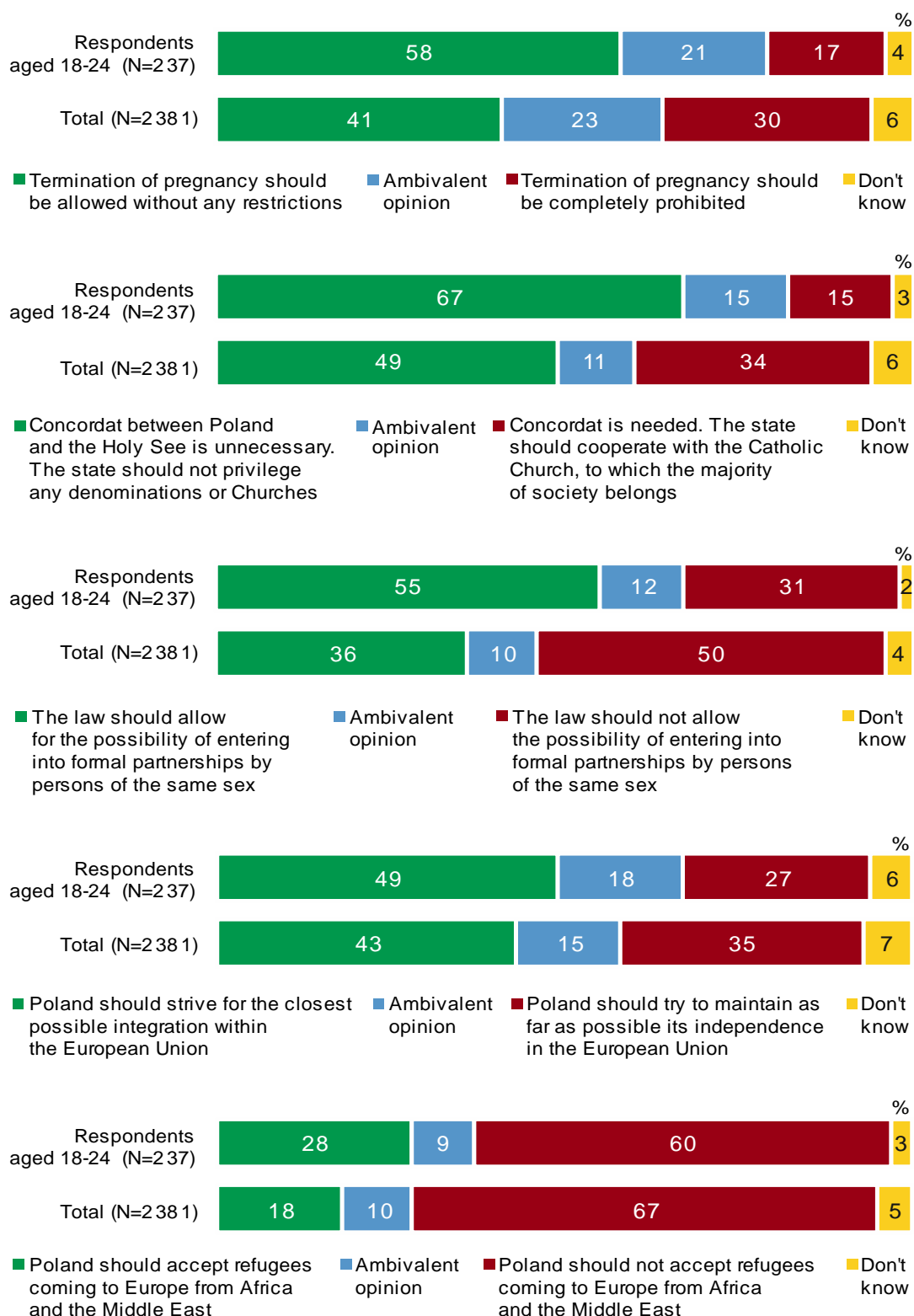
Young Poles support the development of European integration slightly more often than respondents in general. Almost half of them (49%) are in favour of deepening integration. Slightly more than one-fourth (27%) believe, on the contrary, that Poland should strive to remain as independent as possible in the European Union. Young people are less reluctant than the general population to accept refugees from Africa and the Middle East, but also in this age group the opposition dominates (60%).

People up to 24 years of age even more often than the general population express the opinion that the fight against crime cannot justify restricting the rights and freedoms of ordinary citizens: 62% of them are of this opinion.

Pairs of contradictory statements:



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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Young Poles on Important Socio-Political Issues", August 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2021 (N=1163) and June 2021 (N=1218). The random samples are representative for adult population of Poland.