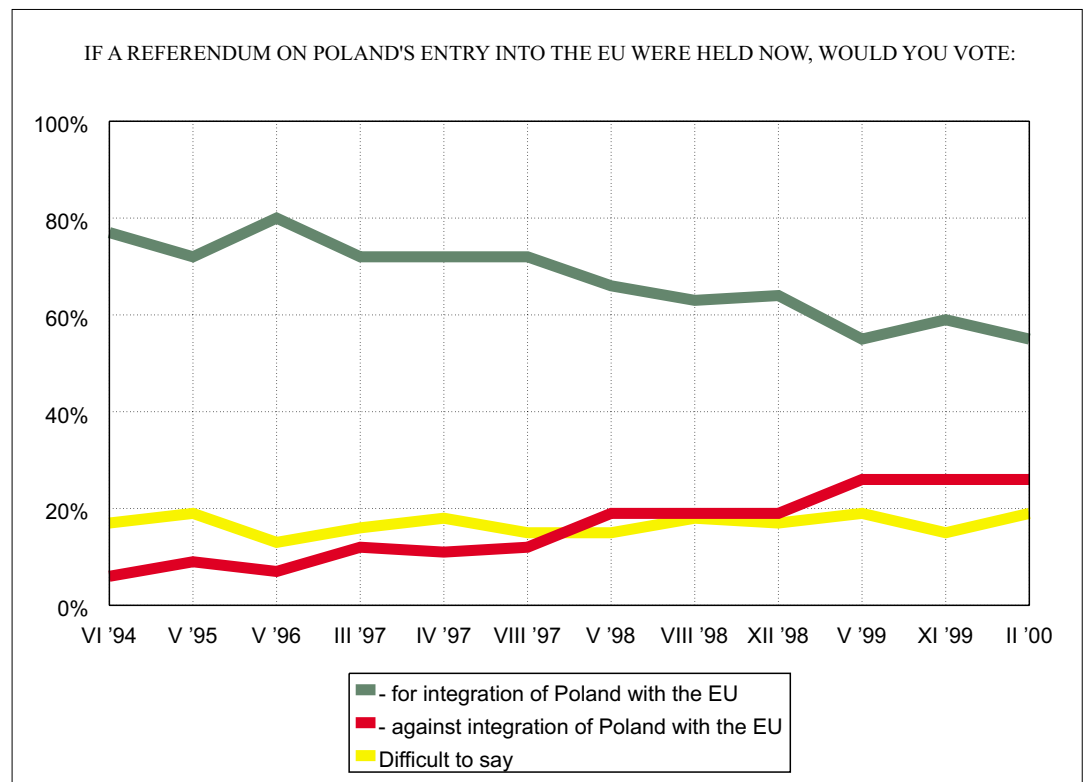


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SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

After a period of visible decrease, the support for Poland's integration with the European Union has been rather stable since last May. In November 1999 we recorded a slight increase in the percentage of respondents who intended to vote for integration if a referendum were held on this issue, but it was a temporary trend. In February 2000, as with a year ago, 55% of respondents would vote for the access of our country into the Union.



The support for European integration is the highest among persons with the highest material and socio-occupational status, as well as among young people.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Poles on the political situation in Austria and the integration of our country with the European Union", survey ordered by the Department of Information and European Education of the Office of the European Integration Committee, March 2000. Sample size: 1100.

ARE WE AFRAID OF JÖRG HAIDER? - POLES ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN AUSTRIA

Many controversies arose on the international scene about formation of a new Austrian government with the participation of Jörg Haider's extreme right Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ), often described as "populist". The European Union states took unprecedented actions aimed at preventing this party from participation in the government. When their efforts proved unsuccessful, they have introduced political sanctions against Austria.

All these facts did not give rise to any significant fears among Poles. One-third of respondents express anxiety in connection with the situation in Austria (32%), but most of them describe this anxiety as minor (23%). A prevailing proportion of respondents do not expect the access of Haider's party into the Austrian government to have any negative consequences for integration of Poland with the European Union.

A fast and resolute reaction of the European Union states to the situation in Austria, which otherwise brought about ambivalent comments, met with the approval of a majority of

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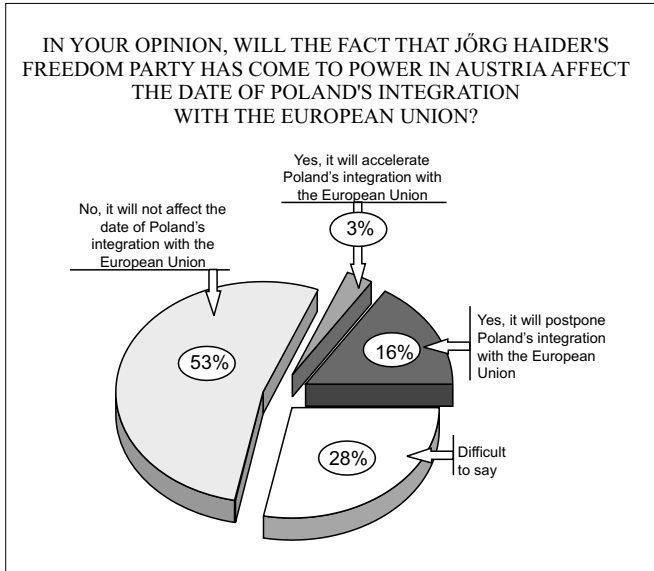
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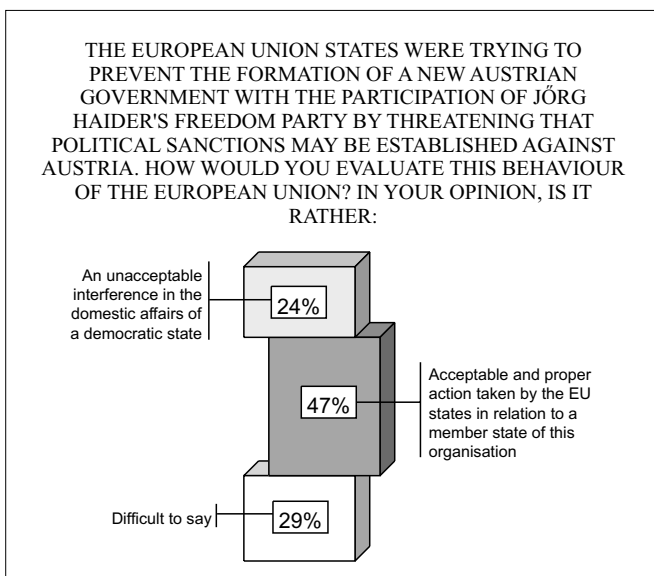
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Poles, including those who oppose the integration with the EU. A little more than half of respondents evaluated the actions taken by the EU countries against Austria as appropriate and less than half of this number expressed their disapproval. The actions taken by the EU states were understood as defending certain values rather than interfering in the domestic affairs of the independent Austrian state.

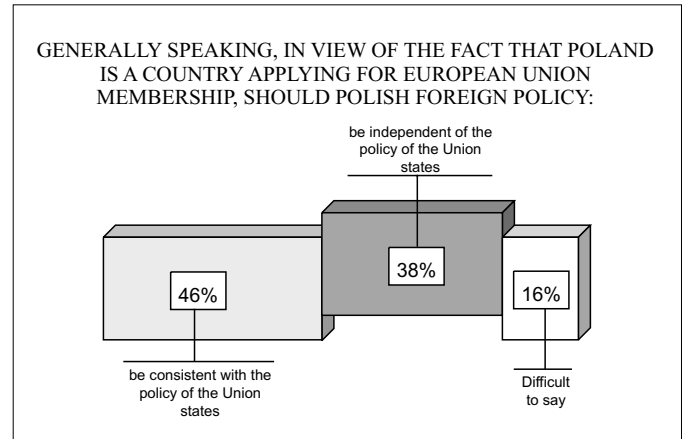


In view of the definite and resolute reaction of the EU states to the change of the political situation in Austria one should ask how Poland should behave in this situation. This problem is connected with the broader question to what extent our foreign policy should be consistent with the policy of the European Union. As a candidate for Union membership, should we adjust our foreign policy to that of the Union in every detail or should we take care of our independence in the first place? In spite of our support for the policy of the European Union, a large proportion of Poles are very attached to our newly regained political independence.



The desired level of independence of Polish foreign policy is related to the evaluation of the policy of

Union states towards Austria. A majority of respondents expressing critical opinions on the actions taken by the EU states believe that Polish foreign policy should be independent of the policy of the Union (61%). On the other hand, a prevailing proportion of the respondents who accept the reaction of Union states believe that Polish foreign policy should be consistent with that of the Union (50%).



Although positive evaluations of the actions taken by the European Union against Austria did not result in an increase of support for Poland's access to this organisation (the attitude to integration and its changes mainly depend on economic factors), it seems that they may contribute to the creation of the image of the European Union as a community based not only on economic relations, but also on commonly accepted and observed values.

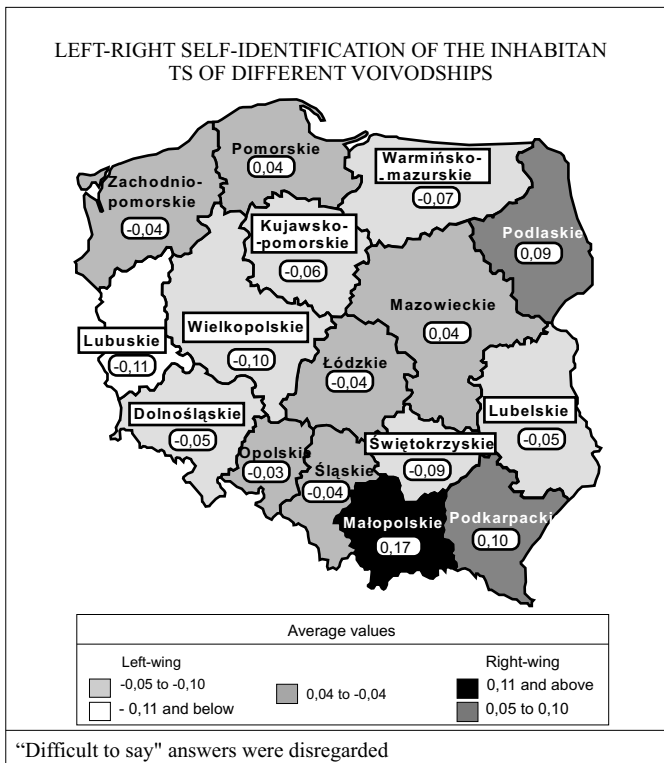
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Poles on the political situation in Austria and the integration of our country with the European Union". A survey conducted for the Department of Information and European Education of the Office of the European Integration Committee, March 2000. Sample size: 1100.

POLITICAL VIEWS OF THE RESIDENTS OF DIFFERENT REGIONS OF POLAND

Clearly defined differences between the political preferences of the inhabitants of different parts of Poland, reflected in their election behaviour and support for different parties and their representatives, have been visible in Poland since the beginning of democratic changes. These differences are to a very significant extent confirmed by the declared right- or left-wing political self-identification. It should be noted, however, that the terms "left-wing" and "right-wing" are associated in Poland with their traditional meanings to a limited extent only. (Leftist economic attitudes can be often found on the right side of the political spectrum). On the other hand, left-right self-identification is strongly connected with the perception of political divisions that originated in the past.

The ratio presented for each voivodship (the average from thirteen surveys conducted between January 1999 and January 2000) shows domination of right-wing or left-wing political views or a balance between them. Positive average values indicate that the right-wing

orientation prevails among the inhabitants of a particular voivodship and negative values show the prevalence of the left-wing orientation. Values close to zero indicate a relative balance between left- and right-wing views.



Right-wing views are declared by the inhabitants of South-Eastern and Eastern regions of the country. This orientation is particularly strong among the inhabitants of Małopolskie voivodship and (to a slightly smaller extent) among those living in Podkarpackie and Podlaskie. Political affiliations of the residents of seven out of sixteen voivodships are closer to the left than right, but the level of prevalence of the left-wing views is different. Lubuskie voivodship is the most "leftist". Wielkopolskie and Świętokrzyskie are next on this scale. The sympathy of the remaining voivodships, i.e. Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Dolnośląskie, Lubelskie and Łódzkie, for the political left is a little less apparent.

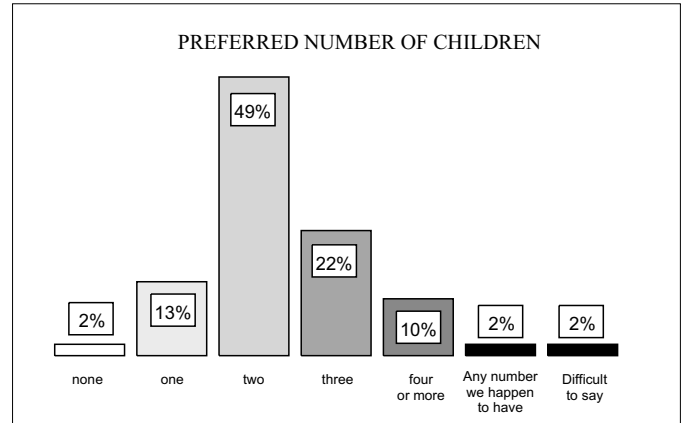
Declared political views directly affect political party preferences. In 1997, during the last elections to the Sejm, the parties whose image in the social opinion is leftist (the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) and the Polish Peasants' Party (PSL)) won the biggest support in the voivodships whose residents declare left-wing views. In the voivodships where most residents declare right-wing views a definite majority voted for the Solidarity Election Action (AWS).

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Political views and the attitude of residents of different voivodships to the government", March 2000. Total sample size: 14,164.

THE POLISH FAMILY THE PREFERRED MODELS, THE CURRENT SITUATION, EVALUATION OF THE STATE POLICY

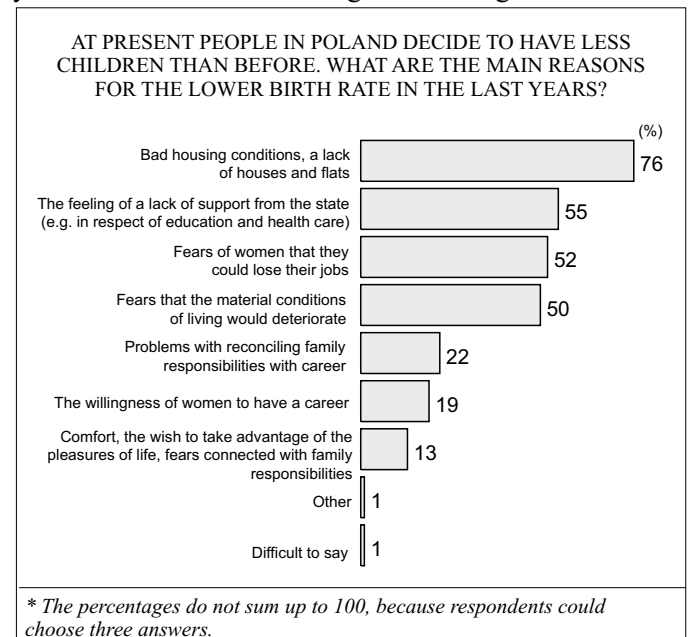
Poles like the traditional or partnership model of the family the most, usually with two children. Over

two-fifths of respondents (42%) prefer the family model where only the husband works (assuming that he earns enough to support the family) and the wife takes care of the home and brings up the children. Only a slightly lower percentage (38%) would prefer the partnership model, where both husband and wife work and share the responsibilities connected with bringing up children. (The rest are undecided).

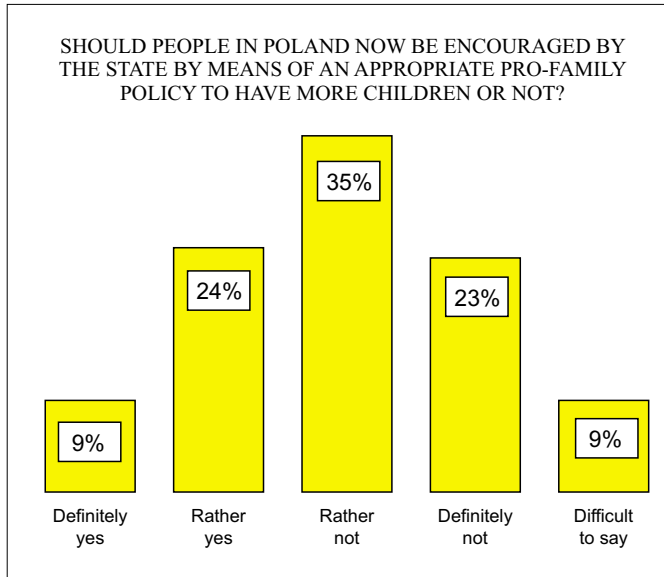


Almost all Poles declare that they want to have children. The largest proportion of respondents (49%) declare that they would like to have two children, over one-fifth (22%) - three children and 13% would like to have only one child. One in ten respondents would like to have four children or more (10%). We can notice a very slight decrease of the aspirations in respect of procreation since 1996, as the percentage of Poles who want to have only one child has grown a little.

In the respondents' opinion, the present decrease in the birth rate is mainly a result of difficult socio-economic conditions, such as the insufficient number of flats and houses, difficult material situation of families and a threat of unemployment. Many respondents believe that the falling birth rate is also a reflection of a lack of support for the family by the state. Half of respondents see the fear of deterioration in material conditions of living as yet another factor contributing to the falling birth rate.

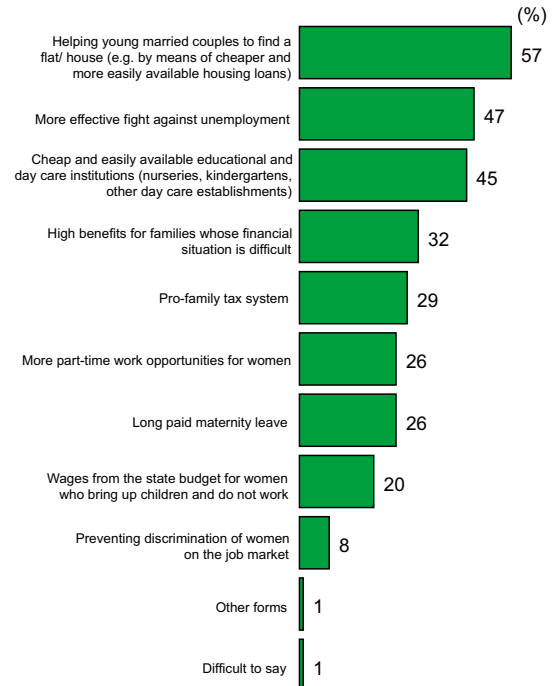


Despite the birth rate decreasing in Poland, most respondents do not accept the postulate that the state should actively encourage people to have more children. We may suppose that such opinions stem from the conviction that the number of children is a matter of individual choice with which state institutions should not interfere. On the other hand, the negative attitude to pro-family actions taken by the state may be connected with the evaluation of the present pro-family policy as ineffective.



Almost half of respondents (46%) regard the actions taken by the state to help families as insufficient. Over two-fifths (41%) believe that they are barely satisfactory. The present opinions on the state policy with regard to families are more critical than those expressed in September 1996, under the previous ruling coalition. The respondents' preferences as to the most appropriate methods of supporting families by the state are focused on the improvement of living conditions. The respondents are for the policies that would give the families material independence and support those families which are unable to maintain themselves on their own.

WHAT FORMS OF SUPPORT ARE IN YOUR OPINION THE BEST TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO HAVE MORE CHILDREN



* The percentages do not sum up to 100, because respondents could choose three answers.

Comparing the present situation to the period before 1989, the respondents believe that the conditions are worse now than before the transformation. In social perception, the quality of life deteriorated the most in the following spheres: material living conditions of families with children (76%), their housing situation (69%), social welfare for families in a difficult financial situation (60%), leisure time activities available to children and adolescents (63%) and the availability of educational and day care establishments (53%).

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "The situation of Polish families - evaluations and recommendations", March 2000. Sample size: 1100.

In addition to the bulletins referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- Hopes and fears of Poles in the year 2000.
- Savings and purchases.
- The reform of education - first experiences, hopes and fears.
- Charity help for people in need.
- The reform of education - public information and social support.
- Opinions on the possible developments of the political situation in our country and the stability of the present government.
- Public opinion on pornography.
- Political party preferences in March.
- Social moods in March.
- Consumer behaviour.
- The attitude to the government, the Prime Minister and the President in March.
- Trust in politicians in March

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