

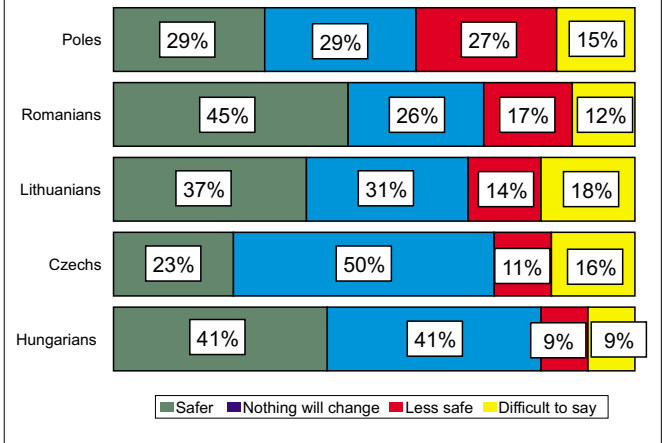
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ABOUT THE SAFETY OF FOOD - OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS FROM SELECTED CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The Poles, as most nations aspiring to the EU membership, do not have a clear idea of the effect of the membership on their life. Food is one of the areas where the opinions and ideas are diverse. On the one hand, food produced locally, especially without any imported ingredients, is considered to be much better than the products imported from the EU countries or the United States. On the other hand, the EU laws and regulations concerning the production and sale of food are seen in most countries as a positive factor improving the safety of food.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHEN POLAND [HUNGARY/ LITHUANIA...] JOINS THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ADOPTS THE EU STANDARDS OF PRODUCTION, STORAGE AND SALE, WILL FOOD IN POLAND [HUNGARY/ LITHUANIA...] BECOME SAFER OR NOT?



The hierarchy of the perceived threats related to food consumption is different in each of the countries compared. In Poland, Lithuania, Russia and Romania the risk of contracting Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (CJD) as a result of eating beef is mentioned the most frequently. The Romanians and Czechs are the least afraid of artificial food additives. In the remaining countries, over three-fifths of the respondents say that they are aware of this risk. In Russia, Lithuania and Romania, people are concerned about the risk of contamination of food with harmful bacteria significantly more frequently than in the other countries.

In the six countries discussed here, most respondents believe that the following information should be presented on the packaging of food products: the country of origin, production methods, ingredients, nutritional value and best before date. The relatively lowest proportion of respondents (although in each country exceeding 70%) see the need for indicating the production methods on the packaging.

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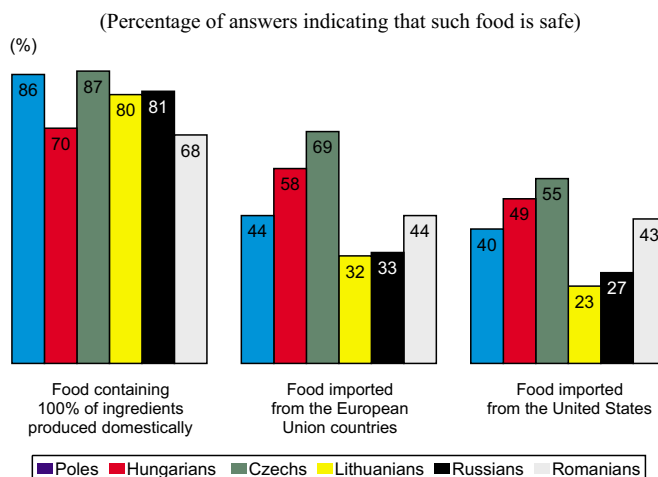
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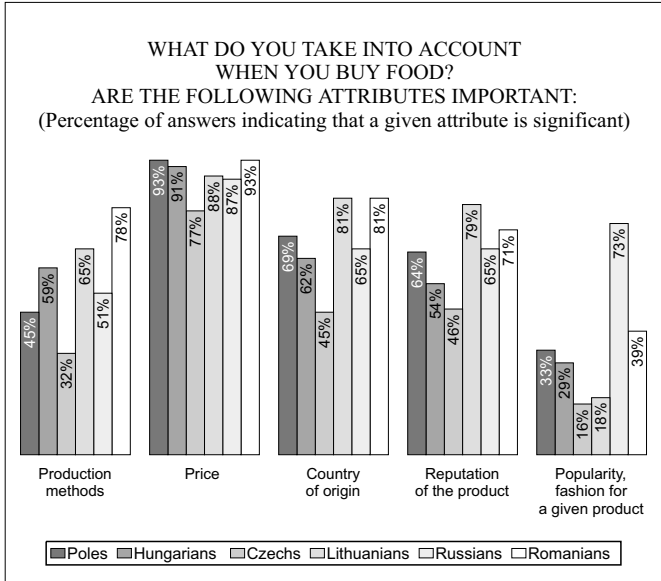
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IN YOUR OPINION, CAN [...] BE EATEN WITHOUT RISK? IS SUCH FOOD SAFE?

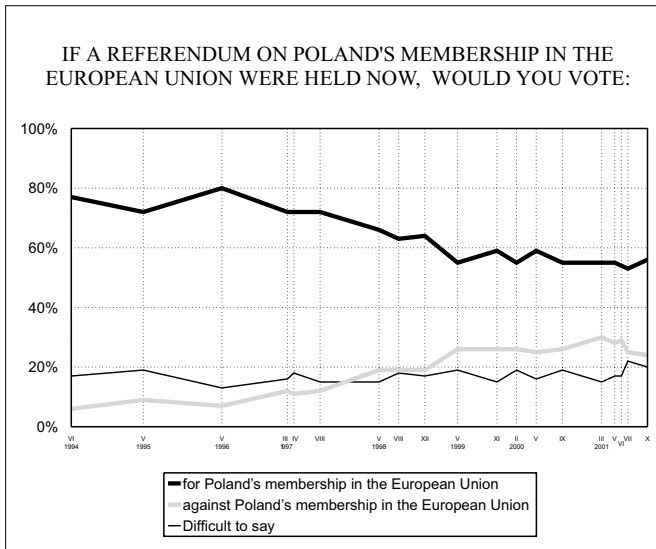




More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Safe food and the European integration the opinions of respondents from the selected Central and Eastern European countries", November 2001. As part of the joint CEORG project, surveys were conducted by: CVVM (the Czech Republic), TRKI (Hungary), VILMORUS (Lithuania), IMAS (Romania) and WCIOM (Russia).

SUPPORT FOR THE INTEGRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

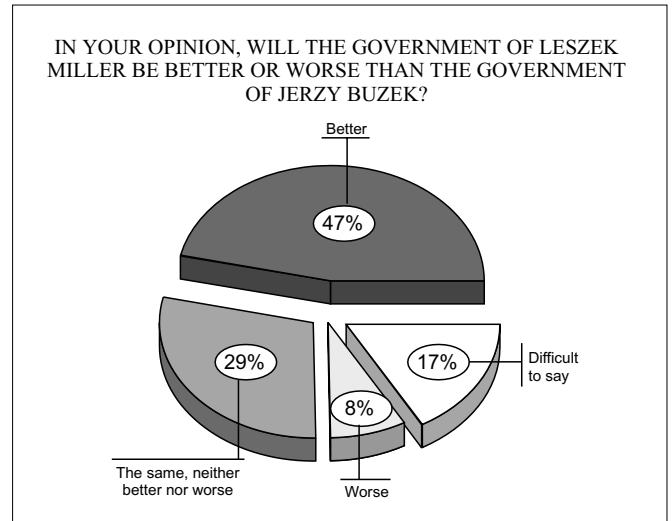
The number of supporters of Poland's integration with the European Union has not changed much since the previous survey in July 2001 and remains at a similar level since May 1999. Over half of the Poles (56%) opt for the membership in EU and a quarter (24%) are against it.



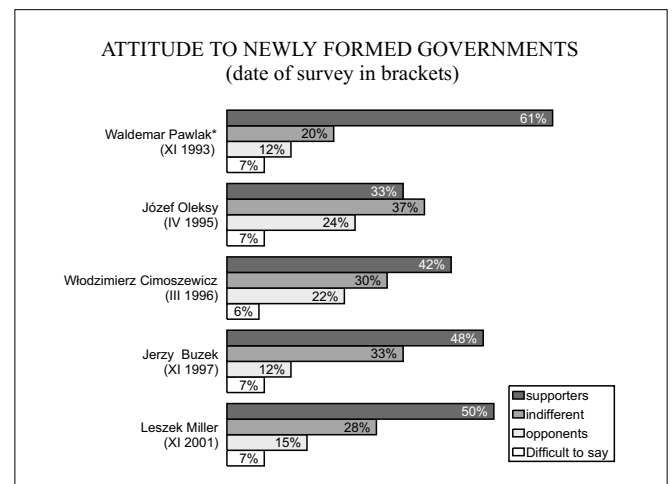
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Social support for the integration with the European Union", November 2001.

FIRST EVALUATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LESZEK MILLER

The government of Leszek Miller has been well received by the Poles. In the opinion of nearly half of the respondents, it will be better than the previous cabinet of Jerzy Buzek. The level of expectations associated with the current government is higher than in the case of Jerzy Buzek's government in November 1997.



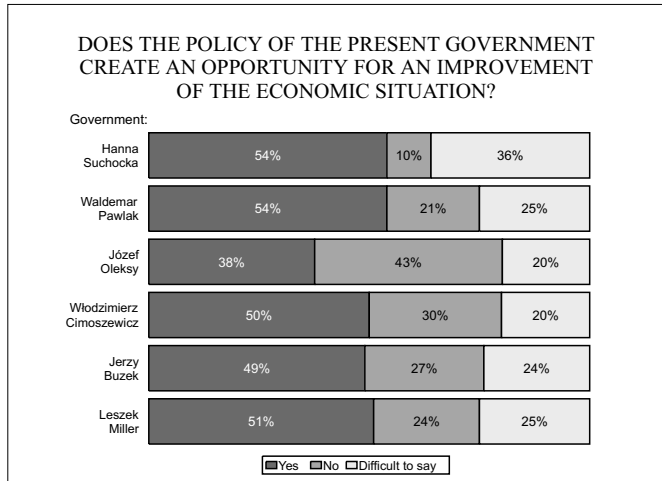
Almost half of all respondents hope for an improvement under the new government and only 15% expect that the situation in Poland will change for worse. People tend to associate their hopes with every change of power, but the degree of this tendency has been changing as the Poles have gained more and more experience of democracy.



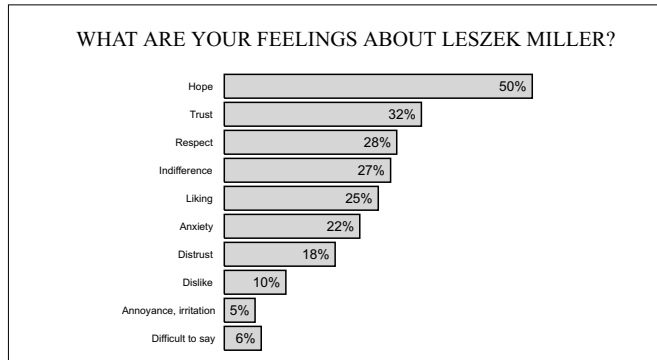
* This question has been asked since December 1992, so a comparison with the support for Hanna Suchocka's government (and the previous ones) in the first month of their term is impossible.

At the end of its term (in September 2001), the previous government had the support of less than one-fifth of the respondents (18%). Half of the respondents

(49%) were its opponents. At the beginning of its term, the government of Leszek Miller enjoys a much higher level of social acceptance - the proportions of its supporters and opponents are almost opposite to those concerning the last months of the previous government. However, at the beginning of the term of the previous government the percentage of its supporters was quite similar to the proportion of those who presently support the cabinet of Leszek Miller.



The current economic situation of Poland is criticised very strongly by the respondents. Every other respondent hopes that it will improve under Leszek Miller's government. At the beginning of the term of the previous cabinet, the hopes for an improvement of the economic situation were similar.

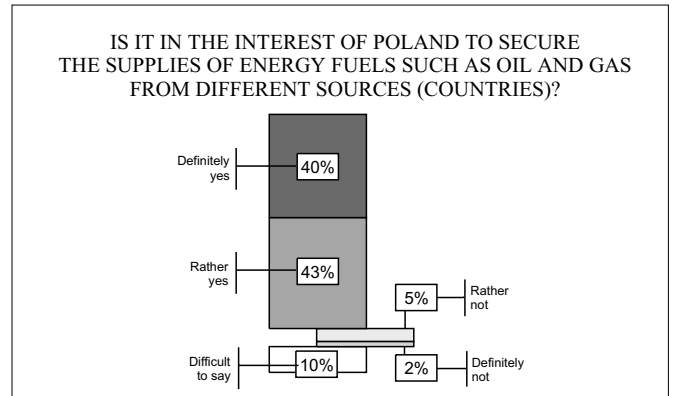


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "First evaluations of the government of Leszek Miller", November 2001.

SHOULD WE BUY GAS FROM NORWAY?

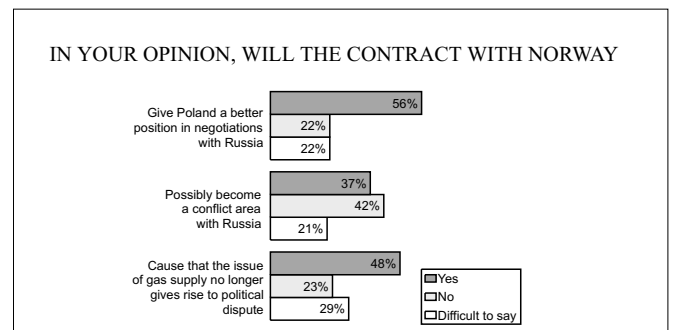
In September 2001, the representatives of the Polish authorities signed a contract with Norway for the supply of natural gas to Poland in the period from 2008 to 2024. It gave Poland an opportunity to diversify its sources of gas supplies. What do the Poles think about the implications of the contract with Norway?

A definite majority of the respondents believe that it is in the interest of Poland to have different sources of supply of energy fuels, i.e. buy such fuels from different countries.

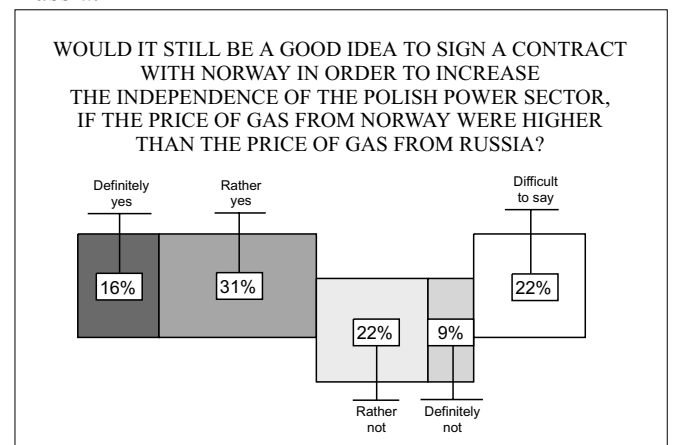


Over two-thirds of the respondents (69%) believe that the energy security of Poland will increase as a result of signing the contract with Norway. At the same time, most Poles (76%) share the opinion that the contract with Norway will make the Polish market of gas supplies competitive. 10% think the opposite.

The respondents who believe that signing of the contract with the Norwegian supplier is good for Poland usually mention the following arguments supporting their opinion: alternative sources of supply will be available in case of discontinuation of the supplies from Russia (96%), Russia could dictate the price for gas due to its monopolistic position (90%), Russia is economically and politically unstable (68%).



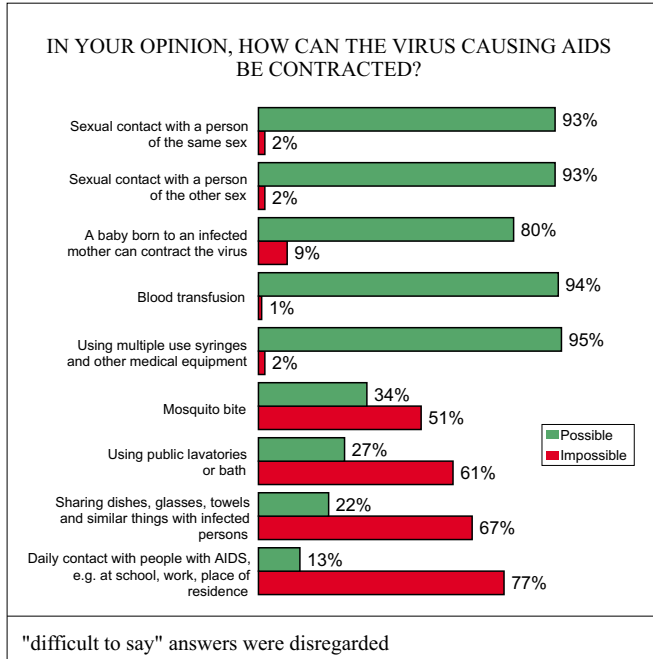
Nearly half of the respondents (47%) think that the contract with Norway should have been signed even if the price had been higher than the price of gas from Russia.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report: "The public opinion on the contract with Norway for the supply of gas to Poland", November 2001.

ATTITUDES TO AIDS

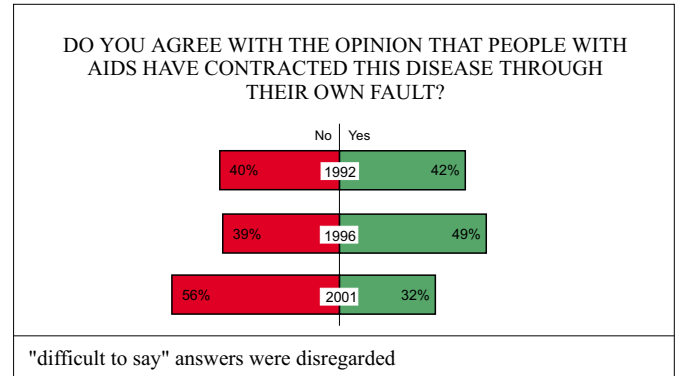
The number of people suffering from AIDS and infected with HIV is growing systematically in all parts of the world. The fact that behind the Eastern border of Poland the number of AIDS cases has grown dramatically in recent years presents a significant threat for Poland. Do Poles have sufficient knowledge to protect themselves?



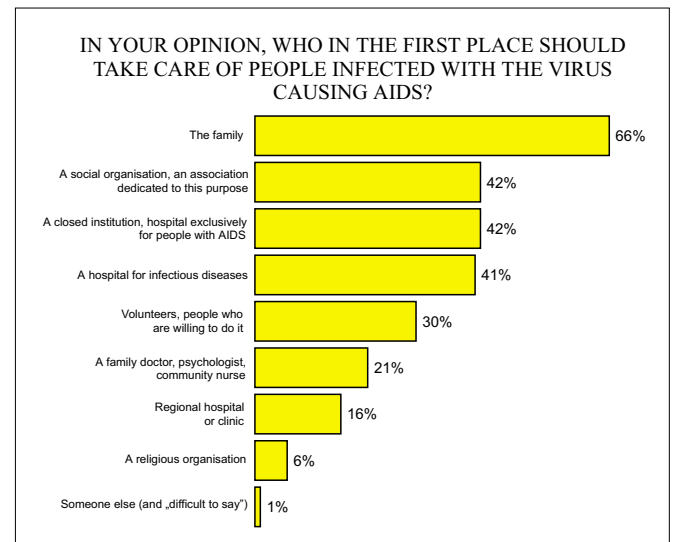
It seems that a definite majority of Poles are well informed about the real sources of HIV infection. However, a significant proportion of the respondents (over one-fifth) still have false ideas about this disease and the sources of infection.

The Poles commonly believe that people with AIDS are entitled to our help (94%), compassion (91%) and care (89%). Furthermore, for the first time since 1992 the percentage of the respondents who agree with the

controversial opinion that people with AIDS have contracted this disease through their own fault is lower than the percentage of those who reject it.



Over half of the respondents (54%) believe that the most important problem related to AIDS in Poland is a lack of money for prevention and care for the people infected with HIV.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report: "The attitude of the society to people with AIDS", November 2001.

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

- ◆ The expenses of parents on the education of schoolchildren
- ◆ Reactions to the results of the parliamentary elections
- ◆ Hopes associated with the new government
- ◆ Financing of households: savings, deposits, debt, loans, hire purchase
- ◆ Justifications of not voting
- ◆ Opinions on the government draft of the PIT act
- ◆ Old or new *matura* (final secondary education exam)?
- ◆ Knowledge about breast cancer prevention

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