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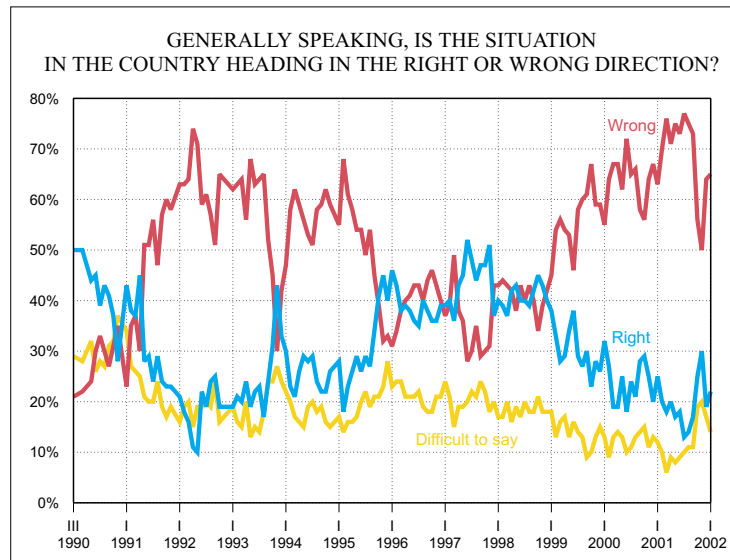
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THE MOODS OF POLES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR

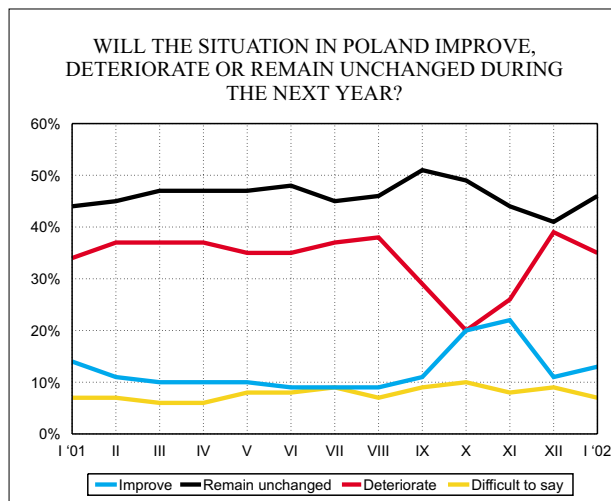
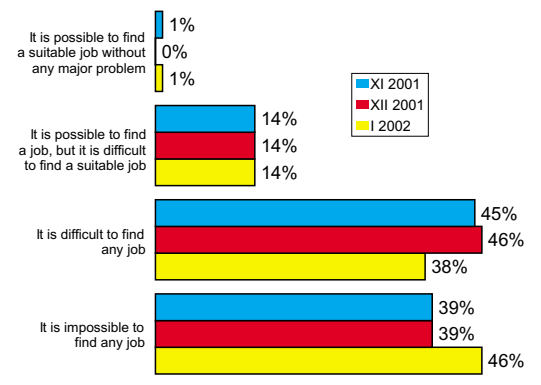


The moods of the Poles at the beginning of the year 2002 are not particularly good. Over two-thirds (65%) of the respondents believe that the situation in Poland is heading in a wrong direction and only slightly more than one-fifth (22%) express the opposite opinion. Negative opinions are prevailed in the evaluations of the situation in Poland for three years now. Until last autumn, the moods were

declining systematically. After the parliamentary elections held in September, a quite significant improvement was recorded as a result of the hopes associated with the new government. However, it was short-lived. The social spirit deteriorated considerably in December and remained at the same level in January. At present, the general evaluation of the situation in Poland is not much different from that recorded a year ago.

Evaluations of the situation in the country are different in different social groups – students, residents of the largest cities and persons with higher education

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE SITUATION ON THE JOB MARKET IN YOUR TOWN/ VILLAGE?



are relatively the most satisfied (37%, 32% and 29% of positive opinions, respectively). Skilled workers and the unemployed are the most critical (13% and 16%, respectively).

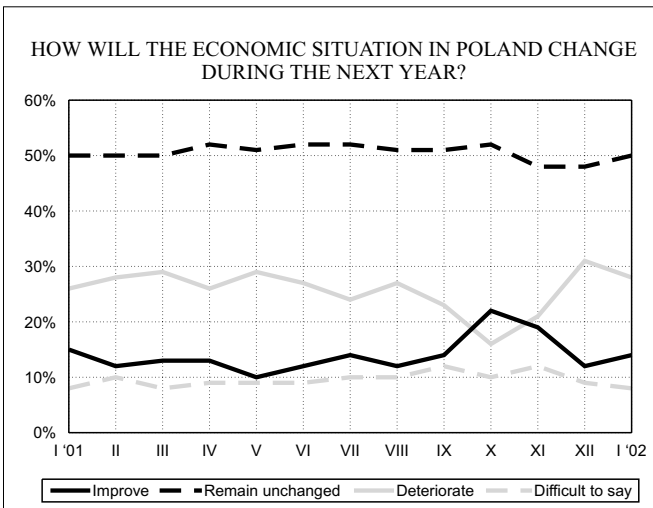
A certain improvement of the evaluations of the political situation was recorded in January, although two-fifths of the respondents still evaluate it as bad, the same proportion as neither good nor bad and only one-tenth describe the political situation as good. The opinions on the economic situation have not changed much as many as three quarters of the respondents

express negative opinions and only 3% describe the economy as being in a good shape. The opinions on the situation on the local job market have deteriorated.

The evaluations of the general living conditions of the respondents and their families have been stable for quite a long time. 20% describe their standard of living as good, 55% - as "neither good nor bad" and 25% - as bad.

Possible development of the situation in Poland during the coming year is also seen in dark colours, although the percentage of pessimists has decreased slightly since December. Only 13% of the respondents expect an improvement of the general situation. 35% expect a deterioration.

As far as the economic situation is concerned, the forecasts are still pessimistic, although the proportion of the respondents who expect a deterioration has decreased slightly since December. However, the hopes associated with the change on the political scene after the parliamentary elections have faded.

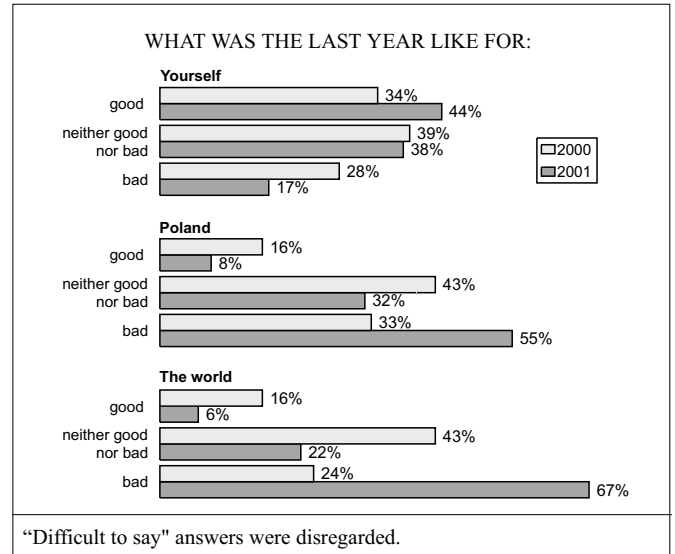


The expectations concerning the general living conditions of the respondents and their families were rather stable during the last year and they have not changed materially since. Approximately half (53%) of the Poles do not expect changes in this respect. Others much more frequently expect a deterioration (23%) than an improvement (14%).

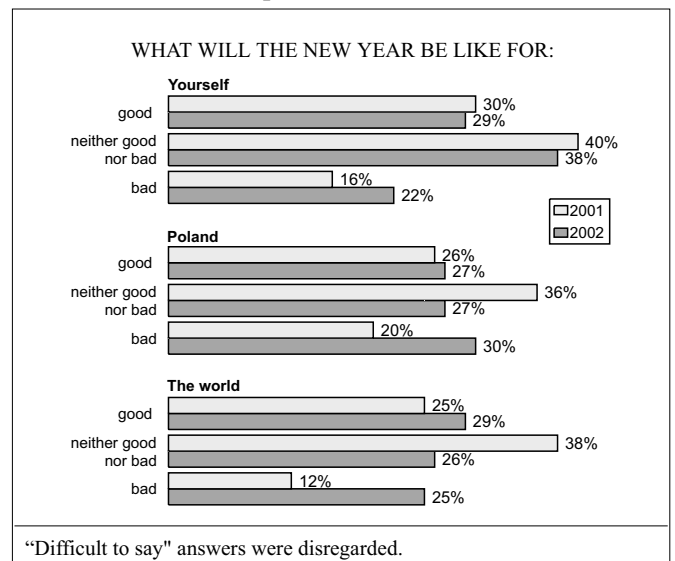
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Social moods in January", January 2002.

WHAT WAS THE YEAR 2001 LIKE, WHAT WILL 2002 BRING?

As far as the personal affairs of the Poles are concerned, the year 2001 is generally evaluated as satisfactory. In this respect, the evaluations of the year 2001 are better than the evaluations of the year 2000. On the other hand, the respondents believe that it was a bad year for Poland and for the world. In both these respects, the opinions are much more critical than those concerning the preceding year.



The expectations concerning the current year are different. As far as their personal affairs are concerned, most Poles believe that the year 2002 will be the same as the previous year. In the remaining group, the respondents more frequently hope that it will be better than are afraid that it may be worse. As far as the situation in Poland and in the world is concerned, optimistic and pessimistic projections are more or less balanced. In the case of Poland, pessimism prevails slightly and in the case of the world the optimism does.



The proportion of the respondents who expect that the new year will be better than the previous one both for themselves and for the country is the same now as a year ago. On the other hand, slightly more respondents believe that the coming year will be better for the world. At the same time, the number of respondents who believe that the coming year will be worse for themselves, for the country and for the world is bigger now than at the beginning of the year 2001. Thus the number of ambivalent expectations has decreased.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "What was the year 2001 like, what will 2002 be like?", January 2002.

CANDIDATES' PERCEPTIONS OF CONSEQUENCES OF JOINING THE EU

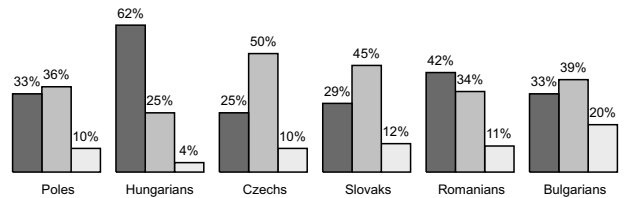
The opinions of the residents of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria on some of the consequences of the access of their countries to the European Union differ quite considerably. The residents of all these countries agree (although to a varied extent) on one issue only that the prices of energy, land and food will grow after the integration. However, in Bulgaria the respondents who think so about the prices of land and food only slightly outnumber those who believe that those prices will remain unchanged.



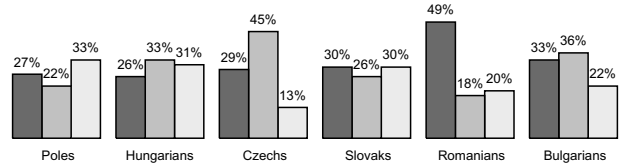
IN YOUR OPINION, HOW WILL THE FOLLOWING CHANGE AFTER THE ACCESS OF [POLAND, HUNGARY, ...] TO THE EUROPEAN UNION:

Legend: ■ increase □ remain unchanged □ decrease

Salaries and wages



Unemployment



"Difficult to say" answers were disregarded.

The proportion of the respondents who count on a **pay rise** is the highest in Hungary. In Romania, such opinions prevail slightly. In Bulgaria and Poland, the opinions that salaries and wages will not change prevail over the hopes for an increase, although the difference is not big.

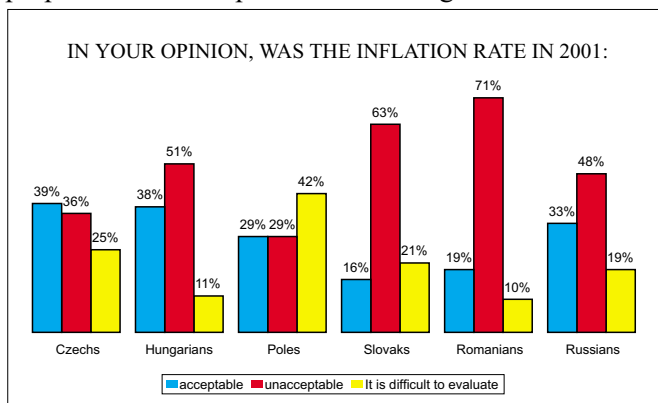
In Romania, most people fear that the rate of **unemployment** will grow. Such fears are also strong in Bulgaria, although the opinion that the level of unemployment will not change is slightly more common there. In Slovakia, the opinions are divided: equal proportions of the respondents expect a decrease and an increase of unemployment. The percentage of those who do not expect any changes in this respect is a little smaller. In contrast, the belief that the unemployment rate will not change clearly prevails in the Czech Republic. In Hungary, the proportion of the respondents who believe that the level of unemployment will remain unchanged is similar to the proportion of those who hope that it will decrease. The fear that it may increase is somewhat less common. Poland is the only country where the opinion that unemployment will decrease prevails, although the fear that it may grow is also relatively common.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "The economic implications of the access to the European Union the opinions of respondents from selected candidate countries", January 2002.

The survey reported here was co-ordinated by CEORG (Central European Opinion Research Group) to which CBOS (Poland), CVVM (the Czech Republic) and TARKI (Hungary) belong. CEORG was established to carry out comparative public opinion research projects in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The present survey was carried out in co-operation with public opinion research institutions from Slovakia (FOCUS), Romania (IMAS) and Bulgaria (MBMD).

OPINIONS ON INFLATION AND REAL INCOME IN CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

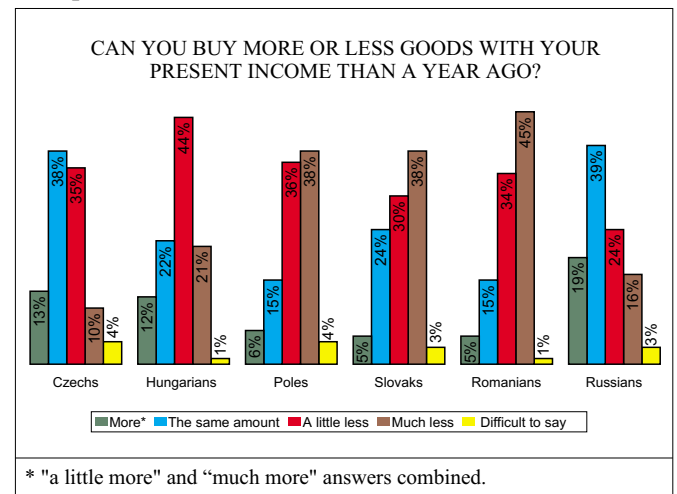
Among the six countries participating in this survey, the opinion that the inflation rate in 2001 was acceptable prevails (though insignificantly) in the Czech Republic only. In Poland the opinions in this respect are divided and the number of the respondents who were unable to evaluate this issue was bigger than in the other countries. In the remaining countries the respondents evaluated the inflation level as unacceptable. The proportion of such opinions was the highest in Romania.



As far as the expectations concerning the price changes in 2002 are concerned, the Russians are the most optimistic. 7% of them expect deflation and almost a third (31%) believe that the inflation rate will be close to zero. The Czechs are somewhat less optimistic (approximately one-third expect negative or zero inflation). In Hungary and Poland, the expectations are more pessimistic. Over ten percent of the respondents believe that the rate of inflation will be close to zero and the prevailing opinion is that in a year time one will buy a little less goods than now for the same amount of money. The Slovaks and the

Romanians are the most pessimistic. Nearly half of them believe that a year from now they will buy much less goods for the same amount of money.

In all countries participating in this survey except Russia and the Czech Republic, the absolute majority of the respondents declared a reduction of their real income. In the Czech Republic, the biggest proportion of the respondents believe that the purchasing power of their income is lower than a year ago, but the combined number of those who declared an increase and stabilisation of their real income is bigger than the number of those who declared a reduction. Among the other countries, the Hungarians are relatively the most satisfied with the changes in their income - most of them believe that it has decreased only "slightly". The Romanians are the least satisfied - nearly half of them say that they can buy "much" less goods than a year ago with their present income.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Evaluations and projections concerning the real income opinions of the respondents from the Central and Eastern European countries", January 2002. Survey co-ordinated by CEORG, participants: CBOS (Poland), CVVM (the Czech Republic), TARKI (Hungary), FOCUS (Slovakia), IMAS (Romania) and WCIOM (Russia).

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

- ◆ The politician of the year 2001
- ◆ The attitude to the main points of the law on trade in farmland
- ◆ Public institutions in the social opinion
- ◆ The Poles on schizophrenia and patients with schizophrenia (1). The social understanding of the word "schizophrenia"
- ◆ Political party preferences in January
- ◆ Evaluations of the work of the government, the Parliament and the President
- ◆ How should mayors and other senior local government officials be elected?
- ◆ Trust in politicians in January
- ◆ Afghanistan: the mission of the Polish soldiers and the opinions on the NATO action
- ◆ Do Poles want Euro?

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