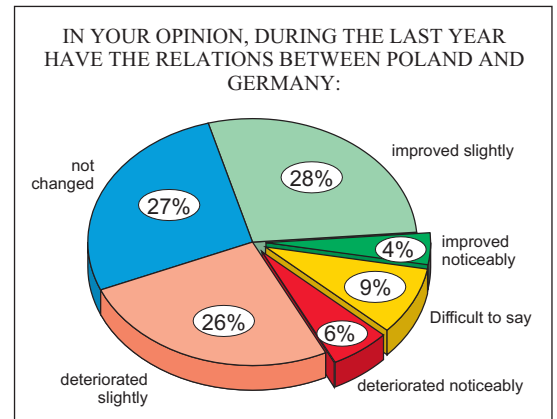


IN THIS ISSUE:

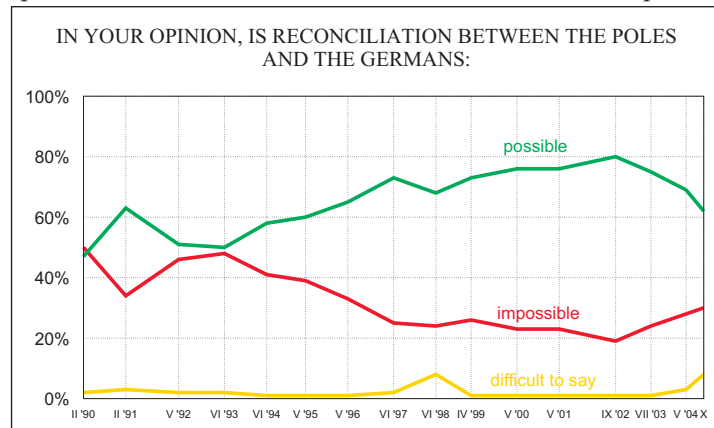
- OPINIONS ABOUT THE POLISH-GERMAN RELATIONS AND WAR REPARATIONS
- TRUST IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPE COUNTRIES
- CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND THE INTERNET: THE USE AND DANGERS

OPINIONS ABOUT THE POLISH-GERMAN RELATIONS AND WAR REPARATIONS

In September 2004, the Sejm unanimously adopted a resolution stating that to date Poland has not received war reparations from Germany and urging the Polish government to take action in this respect. Moreover, referring to the German property claims against Poland, the deputies declared that Poland has no financial obligations whatsoever with regard to the German citizens. The resolution of the Sejm caused controversy in Poland and predominantly critical reactions in Germany. The main arguments in favour of the resolution focused on the need to counteract any attempts at blurring the German responsibility for the outcome of World War II and presenting Germans as victims of the war. At the same time, the opponents of the resolution pointed out the dangers of engaging into „historical politics”, which seriously harm the Polish German relations.



In connection with the events of the recent months, mainly associated with the problem of mutual German and Polish claims, but also with the dispute around the method of making decisions by the Council of the European Union, some commentators began to speak about a crisis in Polish - German relations. Despite these troubling diagnoses, the



Poles did not notice any deterioration of the relations between Poland and Germany during the last year. Less than a third (32%) noticed adverse changes in these relations. Others believe that the Polish German relations have not changed (27%) or even improved (32%) during the last year.

Although most Poles did not notice a deterioration of Polish - German relations in the last year, the proportion of those who believe that reconciliation between the Poles and the Germans is possible has been decreasing gradually in recent years. From May to October 2004, the percentage of those who believe that such reconciliation is possible decreased by 7 percentage points, and since September 2002 by 18 percentage points. The number of respondents who are sceptical about it has increased from September 2002 until the present day by 11 percentage points. Current opinions about the likelihood of Polish - German reconciliation are nowadays the most pessimistic since May 1995. However, despite growing scepticism, a majority of the Polish society (62%) still believe that permanent reconciliation between the Poles and the Germans is possible.

PUBLIC OPINION
RESEARCH CENTER
- CBOS -

4a Żurawia
00-503 Warszawa
POLAND

Ph: (48 22) 629 35 69
(48 22) 628 37 04
(48 22) 693 46 91

Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl
<http://www.cbos.pl>

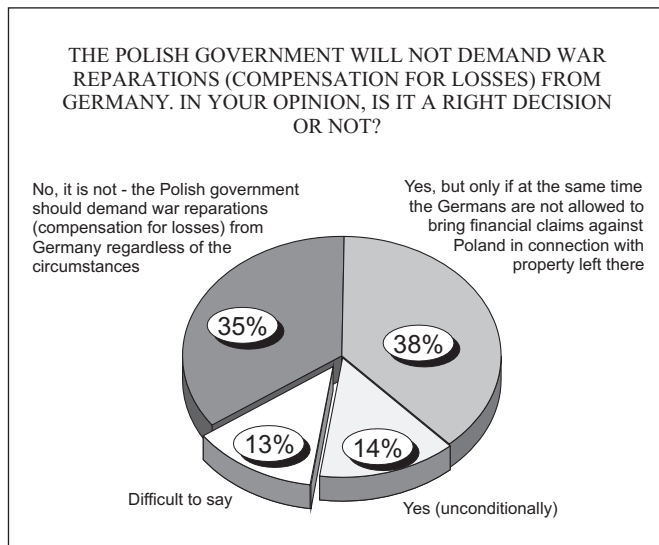
Editors:
Krzysztof Zagórski
and Beata Roguska

Translated by
Kinga Pawłowska

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2004

ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED
WHEN ANY PART OF THIS
PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

The Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka said that his government would not demand war reparations from Germany. Over half of the Poles (52%) tend to agree with this decision of the Polish government: 14% support it unconditionally, and 38% on the condition that the German citizens are not allowed to bring financial claims against Poland in respect of property left in Poland. More than a third of the Poles (35%) believe that the Polish government should demand war reparations from Germany irrespective of the ultimate outcome of the German financial claims. It seems that adopting the so-called zero option and closing the issue of mutual claims once and for all, as the governments of both countries wish, would satisfy the Poles.



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) *Opinions about Polish - German relations and war reparations*, October 2004. Survey executed in October 2004. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=988.

TRUST IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPE COUNTRIES

In four out of five countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and the Ukraine), the Presidents rank the highest among all public institutions. Over half of the Poles declare trust in their President Aleksander Kwaśniewski. Three-fifths of the Slovaks trust Ivan Gasparovič. The Hungarian President Ferenc Mádl and the Czech President Vaclav Klaus enjoy even greater trust. The situation is quite different in the Ukraine, where almost two-thirds of the respondents distrust President Leonid Kutshma.

The heads of the governments of Poland, Slovakia and the Ukraine are distrusted more frequently than trusted. The Prime Ministers of Hungary and the Czech Republic are distrusted and trusted by almost equal proportions of the citizens. Relatively positive evaluations of Ferenc Gyurcsány and Stanislav Gross are probably due to the fact that they have been in power for a very short time: in Hungary, the survey was executed just after the nomination (and before the swearing-in) and the Czech Prime Minister Stanislav Gross has been in office for about six weeks only. Both still have a credit of trust given to them by the people. The Prime Ministers who have been in office longer are distrusted more frequently than trusted: Marek Belka is trusted by a third of the Poles, Viktor Yanukovich by slightly more than a third of the Ukrainians, and Mikulas Dzurinda (who has been in office the longest, since 1998) is trusted by one in five Slovaks.

Citizens of all countries discussed here do not trust their Members of Parliament. In each of these countries, most respondents distrust them, particularly in Poland, where as few as less than one-tenth of the respondents trust the MPs.

Likewise, most citizens have a negative opinion about political parties. In all five countries discussed here, most of them distrust the parties. The parties are particularly distrusted in Poland (only one in ten adults trust them), whereas in Hungary they meet with the relatively greatest trust (29%).

The level of trust in judges varies considerably between the countries. Only in Hungary most adults trust them. In the Czech Republic, over two-fifths of the citizens trust the judges and 50% distrust them. In Slovakia, the Ukraine and Poland most of people declare their distrust in judges.

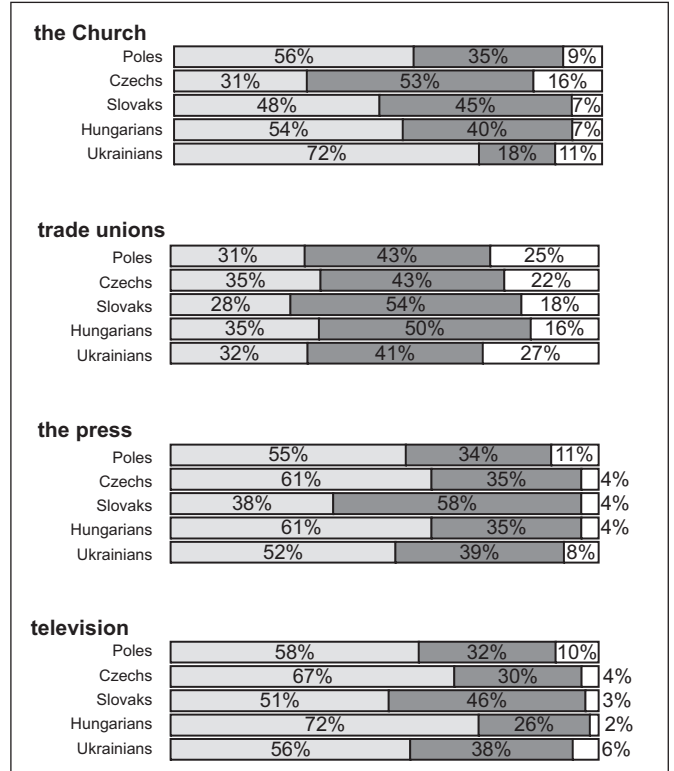
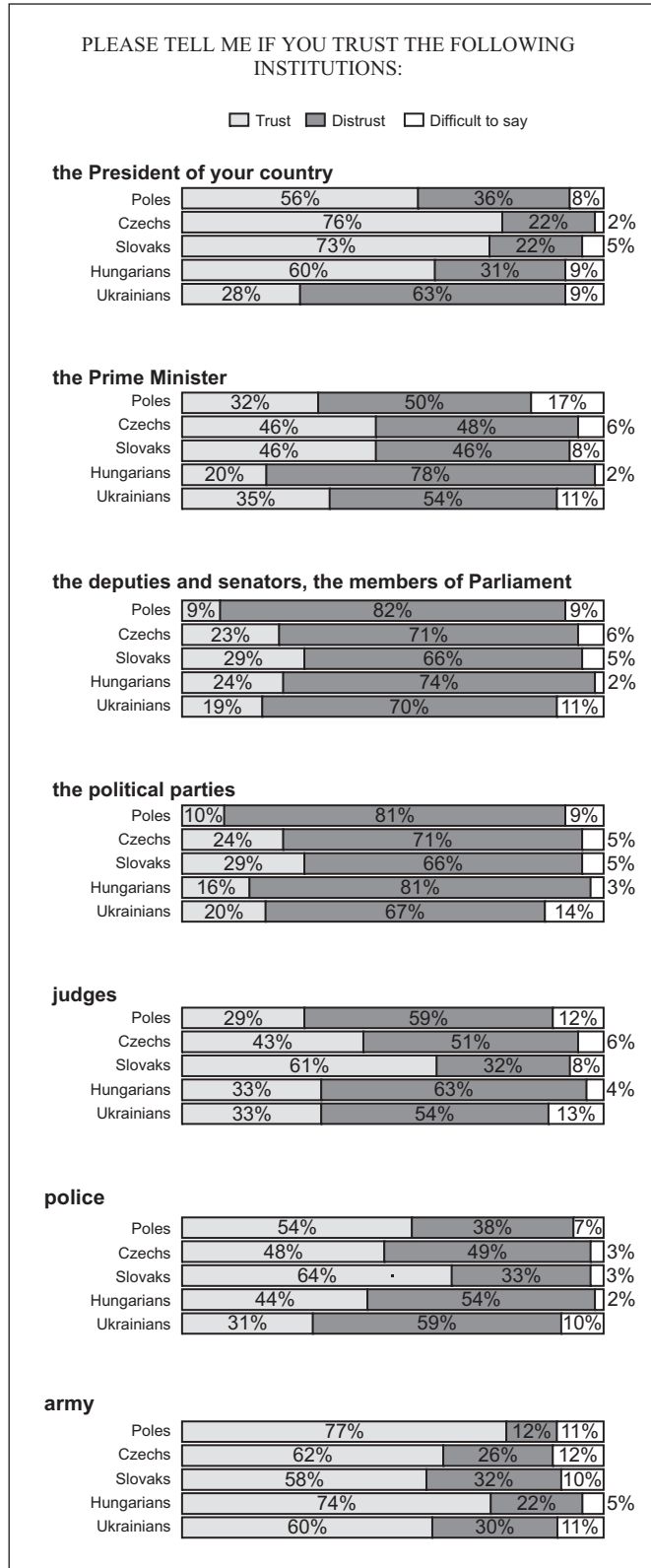
All the societies discussed here declare trust in the army, particularly the Poles (77%) and the Slovaks (74%). The level of trust in the police is more varied. A majority of the Hungarians and the Poles and half of the Czechs and Slovaks trust the police. In the Ukraine, however, less than a third of the society trust this institution.

The societies vary with regard to their attitude to the Churches. The proportion of the respondents declaring trust in the Church is the biggest in the Ukraine. It is slightly lower in Poland and Hungary. The Slovaks and Czechs are more distrustful towards the Church than the other nations discussed here.

Trade unions are not particularly trusted. The respondents who declare distrust towards trade unions prevail in all five countries.

In most Central and East European countries, the mass media are highly trusted. Over half of the Poles, Czechs, Slovaks and Ukrainians trust the press. Only in Hungary, most respondents distrust the press.

Television is trusted by at least half of the respondents in each of the five countries. The Czechs and Slovaks trust their television slightly more frequently than the Poles and Ukrainians. In Hungary, the proportion of those who trust the television is only minutely bigger than the proportion of those who distrust it.

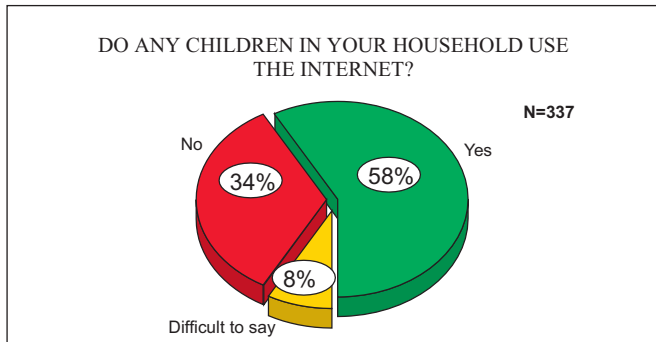


More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) *Trust in public institutions in the Central and Easter European countries*, September 2004. Survey executed in September 2004. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 969. The surveys in the other countries were conducted in September by: CVVM in the Czech Republic (N=1053), Focus in Slovakia (N=1016), TARKI in Hungary (N=1001) and SOCIS in the Ukraine (N=1200)

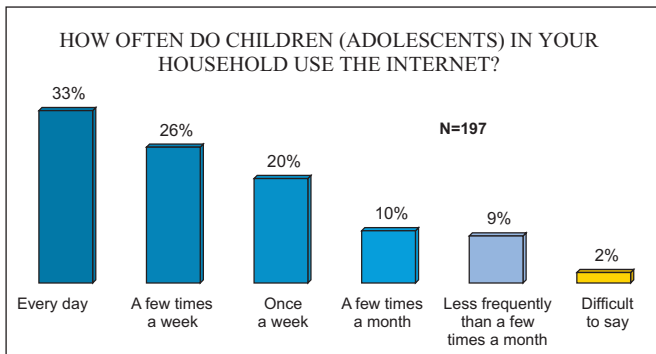
CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND THE INTERNET: THE USE AND DANGERS

Access to the Internet depends very strongly on the social position of an individual in Poland. The financial situation and education have an enormous impact on both access and the readiness to use the Internet. Another important factor is age. The older the respondents, the less frequently they use the Internet. In the oldest age group, a big percentage of the respondents have access to the Internet in their households, but do not use it, whereas a big proportion of the youngest adults use the Internet, even if they do not have access to it at home.

In over half of the households with children or adolescents aged from 7 to 19, the young people use the Internet. In a third of the households, minors do not have such an opportunity. Thus, adolescents use the Internet much more frequently than adults (only 26% of adult Poles use the Internet). Among minors, the proportion of Internet users grows with age: 48% of children aged 7 to 12, 69% of children aged 13 to 15 and 71% of adolescents aged 16 to 19 use the Internet.



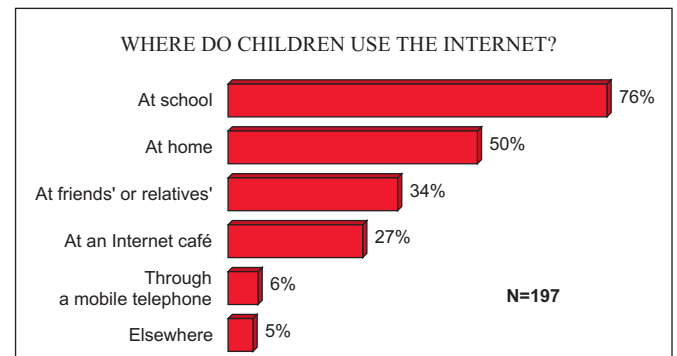
Children and adolescents usually use the Internet a few times a week or even every day (in total, 59% of indications in the households with children or adolescents using the Internet).



Children and adolescents use the Internet primarily at school (76% of indications), as well as at home, at friends' or relatives' or, less frequently, at Internet cafés. As far as the methods of connecting with the Internet are concerned, the respondents occasionally mentioned mobile telephone and other possibilities, usually the respondent's workplace.

The adults believe that they know quite well for what purposes their children use the Internet. In almost two-fifths of households (38%) the adults declare that they know it very well. In more than two-fifths of the households with children (45%) they know it quite well. In only one-sixth of such households (17%) the adults

admit that they hardly know or do not know at all the purposes of using the Internet by their children. The older the children living in the household, the poorer the respondent's knowledge about their Internet activities.



Most adult Poles (61%) are afraid of dangers that children can come across on the Internet. Only one in five respondents (20%) do not have such fears. Those who are afraid that young people could be in danger, because they use the Internet, mentioned sexual dangers in the first place (67% of this group, 42% of all respondents): demoralization, access to pornography, erotic websites unsuitable for children, contact with paedophiles. Nearly one-third of the Poles who have such fears (31%, i.e. 19% of all respondents) are afraid of losing control over their child's acquaintances. In the opinion of these respondents, the children could meet unsuitable people through the Internet, make undesirable friends and be influenced by them, or become acquainted with people who pass themselves off as someone else. Other dangers associated with using the Internet mentioned by the respondents include: access to information unsuitable for children, violence, contact with drug dealers, fraud and embezzlement through the Internet.

More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish) *Adolescents and the Internet: the use and dangers*, October 2004. Survey executed in September 2004. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 969.

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

- ◆ Political party preferences in October
- ◆ Opinions about health care after the enactment of the new law
- ◆ The attitude to the government in October
- ◆ The Poles about the vote of confidence for Marek Belka's government
- ◆ Self-identifications and national pride of the Poles
- ◆ Social moods in October
- ◆ Situation on the job market and the threat of unemployment in October
- ◆ The attitude to politicians in October
- ◆ The Poles' opinions on price increases and how to deal with them
- ◆ The style and culture of driving in Poland

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:

CBOS POLAND
4a, Żurawia, 00-503 Warsaw
Phones: (48 22) 629 35 69, 628 37 04
Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl

Http://www.cbos.pl

Yearly subscription rate for "Polish Public Opinion" is 80 USD

Circulation: 210 copies

CBOS expertise in providing professional, accurate and timely research studies has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.