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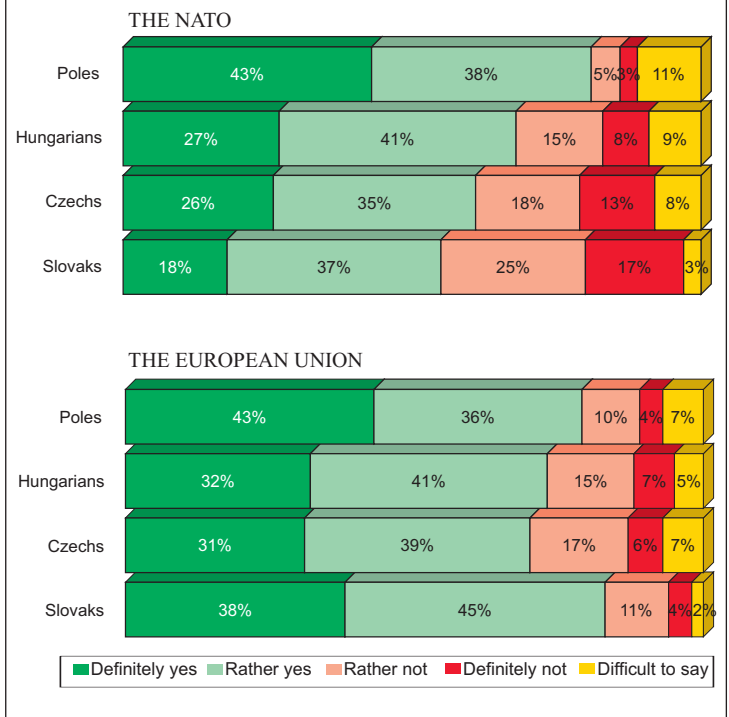
THE ATTITUDES OF THE POLES, HUNGARIANS, CZECHS AND SLOVAKS TO MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND EU

It will soon be a year since Poland and the other Visegrad Group countries joined the European Union. For Slovakia, this anniversary will almost exactly coincide with the first, and for Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic with the sixth anniversary of joining the NATO.

In each of the four Visegrad Group countries, the majority of the respondents accept the membership of their country in both the NATO and the European Union, although the level of this acceptance varies. The biggest differences are observed in the attitude to the NATO. The support for the membership in this organization is the highest

in Poland, and the lowest in Slovakia. The support for the membership in the European Union is the highest in Slovakia and in Poland.

DO YOU ACCEPT THE MEMBERSHIP OF POLAND (HUNGARY/ THE CZECH REPUBLIC/ SLOVAKIA) IN:



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The attitude of the Poles, Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks to membership in the NATO and EU*, April 2005. Survey executed in March 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N =1025. In the Czech Republic, the survey was conducted by CVVM Sociological Institute) on a sample N=972; in Hungary (TARKI) on a sample N=1105; in Slovakia (FOCUS) on a sample N=1047.

THE POLES ABOUT THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION

Although the referendum on adopting the European Constitution may be held in Poland this autumn, the Poles are less and less interested in voting on this issue. In February, two-thirds of the respondents (66%) declared their intention to vote, whereas now only 58% have such plans. The decrease of the interest in voting in the referendum seems particularly significant in view of the fact that the percentage of the respondents certain that they would vote has dropped. In February, we recorded 42% of such declarations, whereas nowadays only 34%.

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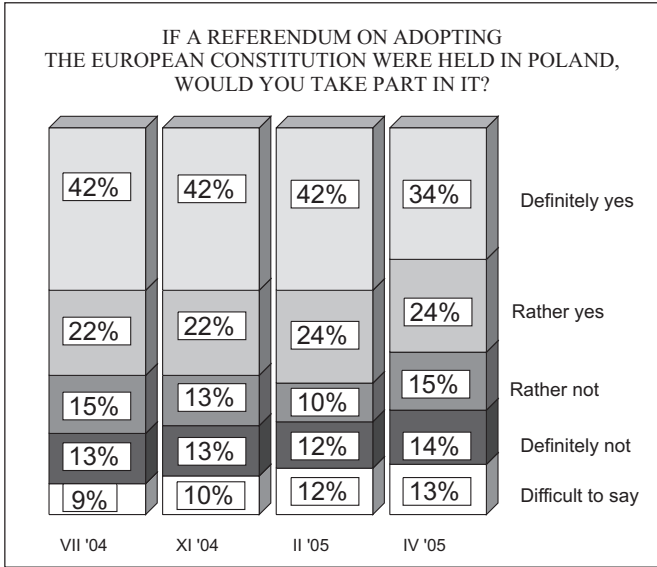
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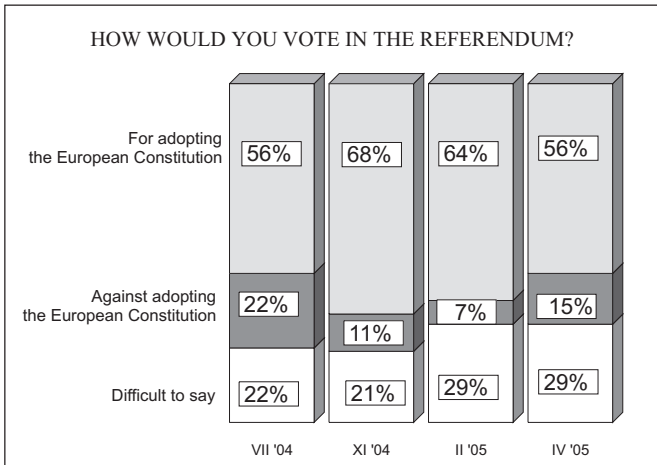
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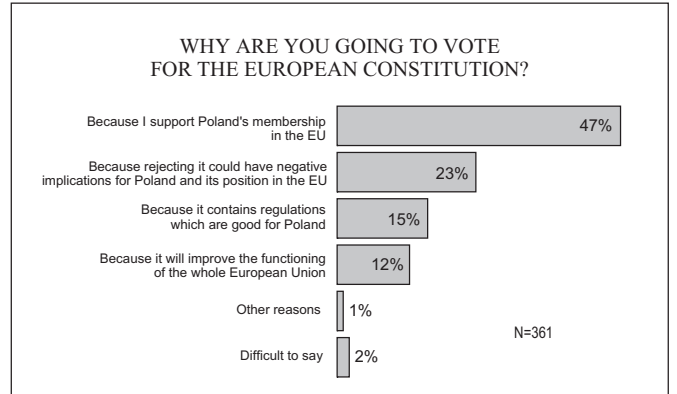


The drop in the declared turnout is accompanied by a decrease in the support for the European constitution. During the last two months, the percentage of the supporters of the Constitution shrunk from 64% to 56% and is now the same as in July 2004, whereas the proportion of opponents grew from 7% to 15% in the period from February to April 2005. Falling support for the European Constitution, accompanied by the high level of acceptance of Poland's membership in the EU, indicates a growing diversification of the attitudes to these issues.

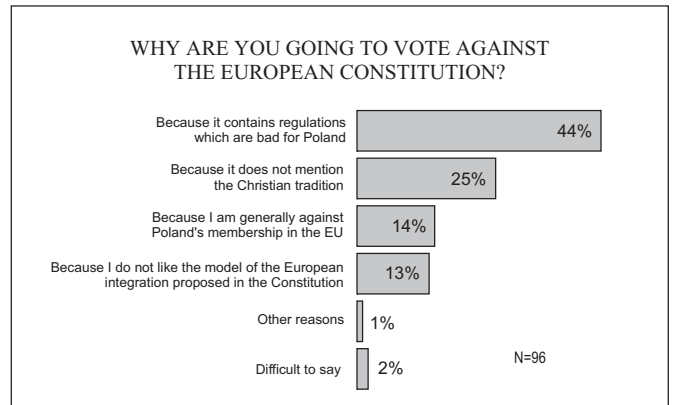


The support for adopting the Constitution does not seem to be based on the actual knowledge of its provisions. The belief that the support for the Constitution is a logical consequence of the decision to join the European Union plays a major role. The respondents who are going to vote for the European Constitution mention their support for Poland's membership in the EU as the main reason for their decision. Almost every fourth supporter of the Constitution is motivated mainly by fear that its rejection could have negative implications for Poland. Such motives as the hope that the Constitution will improve the

functioning of the whole European Union and the belief that its provisions are good for Poland are mentioned less frequently.

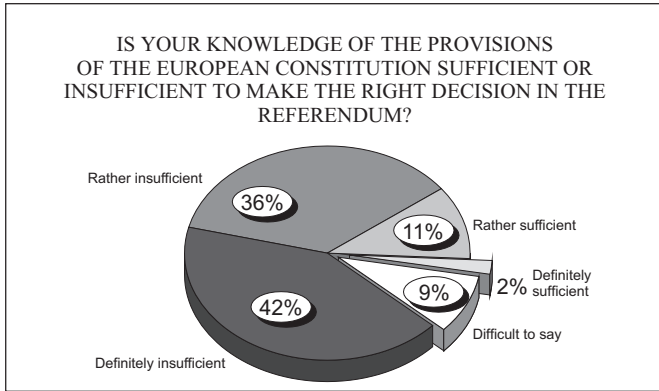


Those who are going to vote for rejecting the Constitution, are mainly motivated by the fact that its provisions are, in their opinion, bad for Poland. A quarter of the opponents of the Constitution mention the lack of reference to the Christian tradition as the primary reason. Such reasons as dissatisfaction with the EU membership or with the model of the European integration proposed in the Constitution are declared less frequently.



Most Poles feel that they lack sufficient knowledge to make an informed decision regarding the European Constitution. Only 13% of all respondents believe that they have sufficient knowledge to make such a decision. The supporters and the opponents of the Constitution are equally satisfied with their knowledge in this respect (27% and 25% respectively).

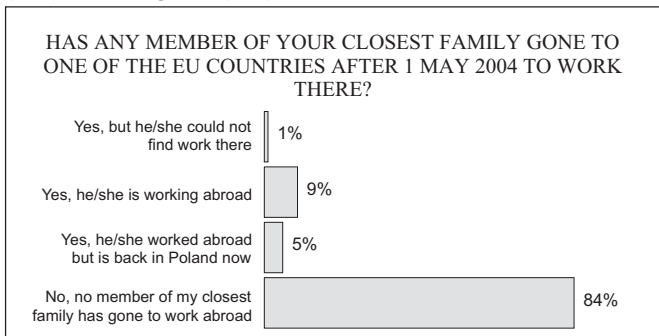
Although most respondents evaluate their knowledge of the European Constitution as insufficient, they at the same time believe (61%) that familiarity with the provisions of the Constitution is necessary to make the right decision in the referendum. On the other hand, one in four respondents (26%) believe that they will be able to make the right decision on the basis of the opinions of competent persons whom they trust. The belief that the opinion of an authority is sufficient to make the right decision is more common among those who intend to vote for the Constitution (35%) than among those who intend to vote against it (20%).



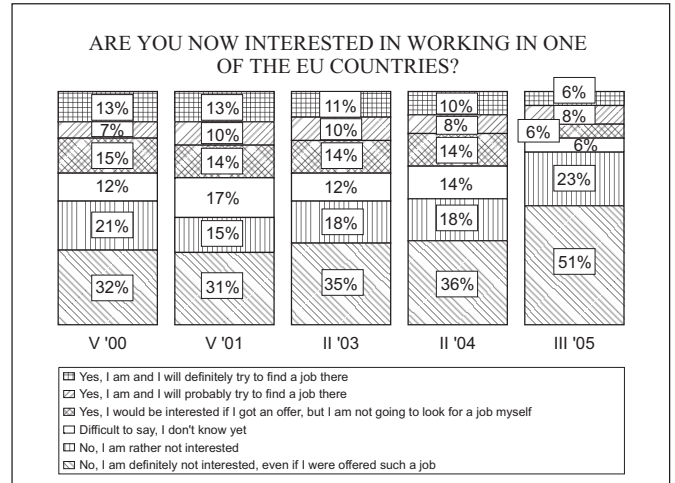
More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The Poles about the European Constitution*, April 2005. Survey executed in April 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1100.

THE WORK OF THE POLES IN THE EU COUNTRIES

One of the hopes most commonly expressed by the Poles before the accession concerned better opportunities to find work abroad. At present, working in the EU countries is one of the most frequently mentioned positive effects of Poland's membership in this organization for the Polish families. On the whole, more than one in seven respondents (15%) have at least one close relative who after 1 May 2004 went to work in one of the European Union countries. Most of these people went to work in Germany (28% those who work) or in the United Kingdom (21%). Relatively large groups of the Poles went to Italy (11%), Ireland (7%), the Netherlands (7%) and Belgium (6%).

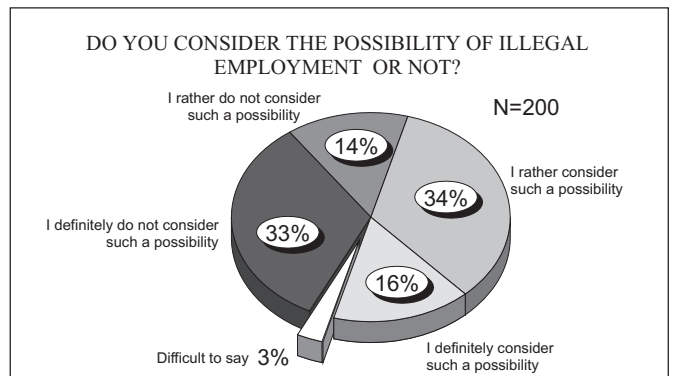


Partial fulfilment of the plans related to working abroad, and, on the other hand, unsuccessful attempts at finding work there, probably contributed to the fact that the Poles are now less interested in working in the European Union countries than a year ago (i.e. before the accession). On the whole, a fifth of the Poles express such interest, of which 14% declare that they are going to actively seek employment in one of the EU countries and 6% are not going to look for a job abroad, but would accept one if it were offered to them. The interest in finding a job in the EU is relatively common among students and the unemployed.



Persons interested in working abroad usually would like to work in Germany (32%) or in the United Kingdom (27%). Since the restrictions with regard to the citizens of the new Member States wanting to work in the UK were abolished, this country has become considerably more attractive. Among the other EU countries considered as potential places of work, the respondents mentioned Ireland (6%) and the Netherlands (6%) the most frequently.

Nearly a half of the respondents declaring interest in working in the EU countries (48%) consider the possibility of illegal employment.

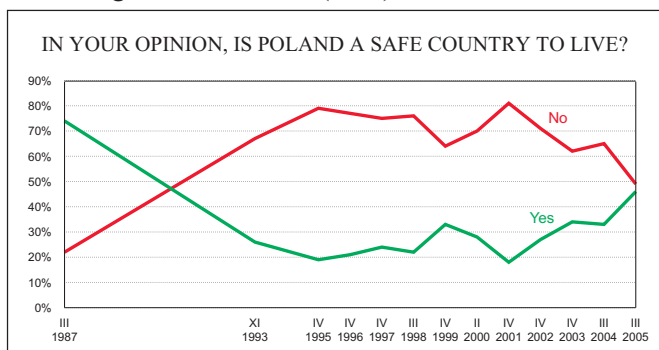


More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The work of the Poles in the EU countries plans and actual experience*, April 2005. Survey executed in March 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1025.

REDUCED FEAR OF CRIME

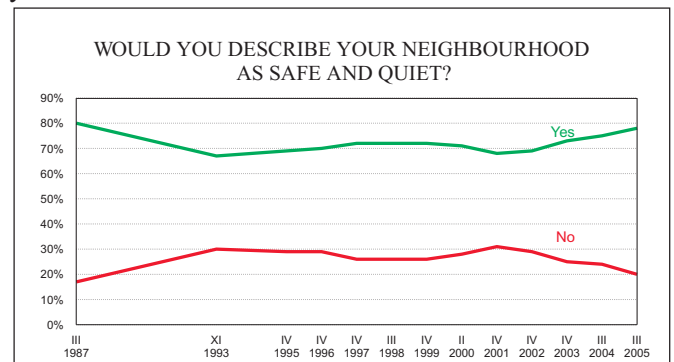
The early 1990s were characterized by a rapidly growing fear of crime. In the survey conducted in 1993, the proportion of the respondents who expressed a belief that Poland is not a safe country to live was three times as big as in 1987. It was a combined effect of several side effects of the political and economic transformation. Firstly, the crime rate in Poland did actually increase after 1989. The second reason was the noticeable change in the nature of crime - some forms of crime which were

previously unknown or very rare in Poland appeared (particularly organized crime), criminals became more brutal and new, spectacular forms of crime appeared. The free media, with their excessive coverage of criminal acts, also contributed to the conviction of the Poles that they should be afraid of crime. During the last decade, the proportion of the respondents believing that life in Poland is safe, varied from two-thirds to three quarters. In 2001, as many as 81% of the respondents believed that Poland was not a safe country to live. The following two years brought a visible decline of this "black" stereotype. However, the respondents believing that Poland was a safe country to live were still a relatively small minority. This year's survey reveals a surprising change. The number of the respondents who see Poland as a country with a high crime rate has dropped rapidly and is now almost equal (49%) to the number of those who believe that living in Poland is safe (46%).

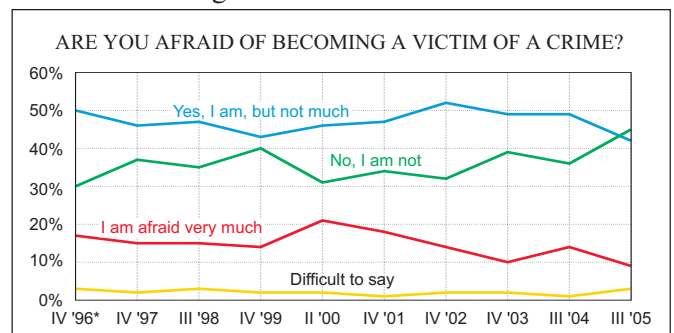


A big discrepancy between the evaluations of safety on the nationwide and local level points to the fact that the image of Poland as a country with a high crime rate is a stereotype based on media reports rather than on the observations and everyday experience of the people. Although the proportion of the respondents who see their neighbourhood as safe and quiet dropped from four-fifths in 1987 to about two-thirds in the 1990s, this drop is considerably lower than the decrease of the opinion that

Poland is a safe country to live. A majority of the Poles (78%) still describe their neighbourhood as safe and quiet. This belief has become stronger in the last four years.



The recent decrease of the fear of crime is also reflected by the fact that now fewer respondents have fears related to their own safety than in the previous years. In the last ten years, more or less one in seven respondents felt a strong fear for their safety, whereas around a third of the respondents declared having no such fears. Now only one in ten respondents (9%) are significantly concerned for their own safety, whereas almost half (45%) are not afraid of becoming victims of a crime.



More information about this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Reduced fear of crime*, April 2005. Survey executed in March 2005. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1025.

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

- ◆ Desired changes in the United Nations - opinions of the respondents from 33 countries
- ◆ Unemployment in the family and in the personal experience of the Poles
- ◆ The unemployed about their situation
- ◆ Perception of the prices of goods for everyday use and its impact on consumption
- ◆ Internet and computers: equipment of households, use, development perspectives
- ◆ Political party preferences in April
- ◆ What kind of political party do the Poles need?
- ◆ The attitude to the government, the Prime Minister and the parliamentary opposition
- ◆ Declared turnout and preferences in the presidential election
- ◆ Opinions about the presence of Polish troops in Iraq and about other military interventions
- ◆ Opinions about the participation of the Polish President in the 9 May celebrations in Moscow and about the Polish-Russian relations
- ◆ Opinions about the job market and the perceived threat of unemployment in April
- ◆ Opinions about the work of the Parliament and the President

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