

IN THIS ISSUE:

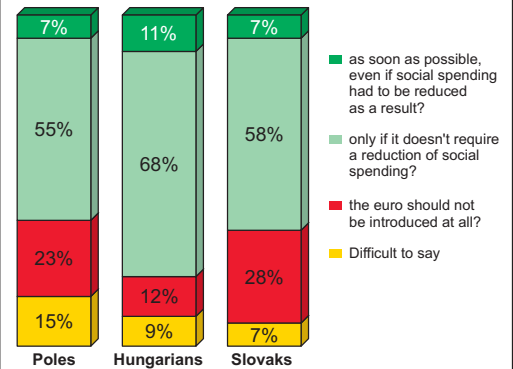
- THE ATTITUDES TO EURO IN VISEGRAD GROUP COUNTRIES
- POLISH POLITICS IN THE EU
- ON THE JOB MARKET
- RURAL AND URBAN LIFE

THE ATTITUDES TO EURO IN VISEGRAD GROUP COUNTRIES

The people in Poland, Slovakia and Hungary approach the introduction of euro, with caution. Maintaining social spending on the current level is more important for them than joining the euro zone. Most Hungarians, Slovaks and Poles agree to give up their national currencies only if it does not affect the scale of welfare expenditures. The opposition to the euro is the highest in Slovakia, slightly lower in Poland, and the lowest in Hungary.

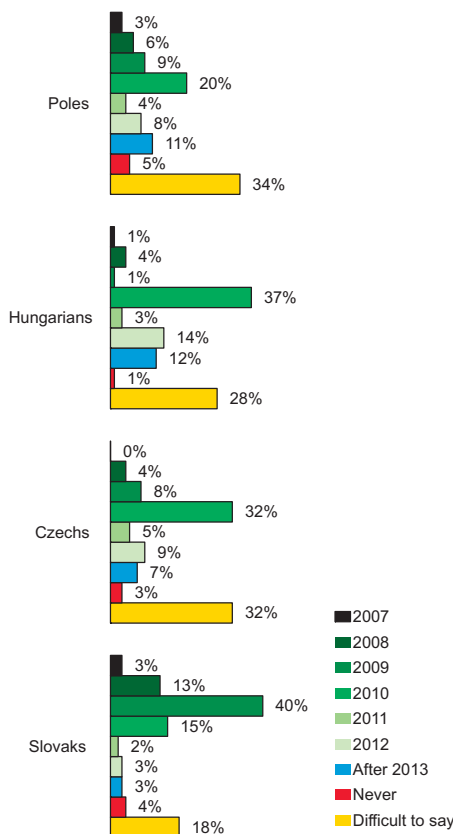
Quick introduction of the euro is expected mainly by the Slovaks. Most of them believe that the euro will replace their national currency in 2009 or even sooner. The Hungarians, Czechs and Poles usually believe

SHOULD EURO BE INTRODUCED:



Czech data unavailable

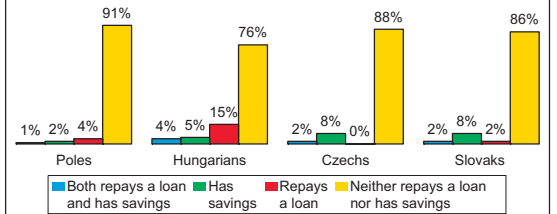
WHEN IN YOUR OPINION, WILL EURO BECOME THE LEGAL CURRENCY OF POLAND (HUNGARY, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA)?



that the euro will be introduced in 2010, i.e. in four years' time.

Compared with the other three nations, the Hungarians seem the most open towards the euro and the other European currencies. Almost a fifth of all Hungarians (19%) declare having a loan in euro or in another European currency, and almost a tenth (9%) have savings in such currencies. The group of persons who have loans or savings in euro or other European currencies is relatively the smallest in Poland.

DO YOU OR ANOTHER MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD REPAY A LOAN IN EURO OR IN ANOTHER EUROPEAN CURRENCY OR HAVE SAVINGS IN EURO OR IN ANOTHER EUROPEAN CURRENCY (OTHER THAN POLISH ZLOTYS/ CZECH KORUNA/ SLOVAK KORUNA/ HUNGARIAN FORINT)?



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The attitudes of the Poles, Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks to the euro*, September 2006. Survey executed in May 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=991. In the Czech Republic the survey was executed on a sample N=927 (CVVM), in Hungary (TARKI) on a sample N=1033, in Slovakia (FOCUS) on a sample N=1005.

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

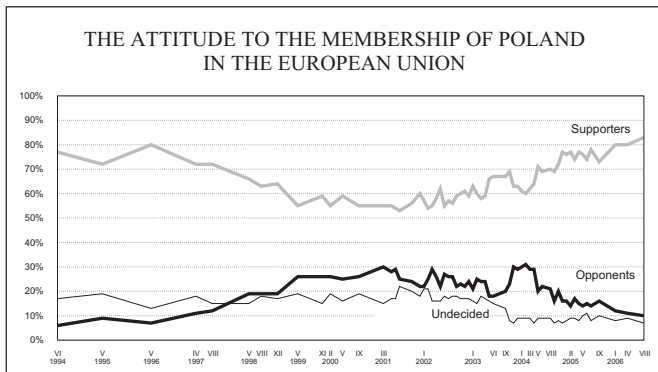
Translated by
Kinga Pawłowska

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2006

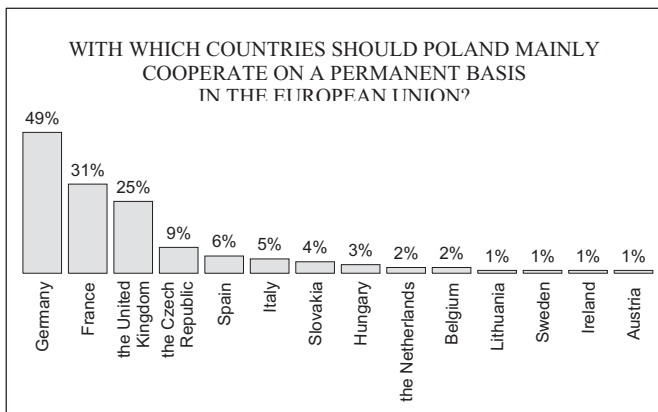
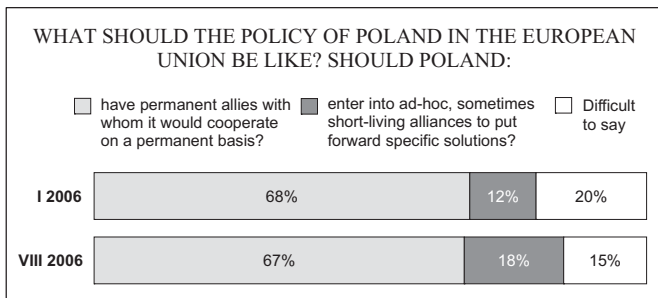
ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED
WHEN ANY PART OF THIS
PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

POLISH POLITICS IN THE EU

Public support for the membership of Poland in the European Union is currently the highest ever. 83% of the Poles support the membership and only one-tenth are against it. It means that the percentage of the supporters of the EU membership has grown by 19 percentage points since the accession (in April 2004, i.e. immediately before the accession, 64% of the Poles supported the membership). The percentage of the opponents dropped by almost two-thirds in the same period (29% of the respondents opposed the integration in April 2004).



To date, the policy of Poland in the European Union was focused on seeking allies among the Member States to solve current issues rather than building strategic long-term alliances. At the same time, a definite majority of the Poles believe that Poland should have permanent allies in the EU, with whom it would cooperate on a variety of issues.



Almost half of the respondents mentioned Germany as a country with which Poland should cooperate on an ongoing basis in the European Union. Relatively large groups of respondents also mentioned France and the United Kingdom.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *About the policy of Poland in the European Union*, September 2006. Survey executed in August 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=952.

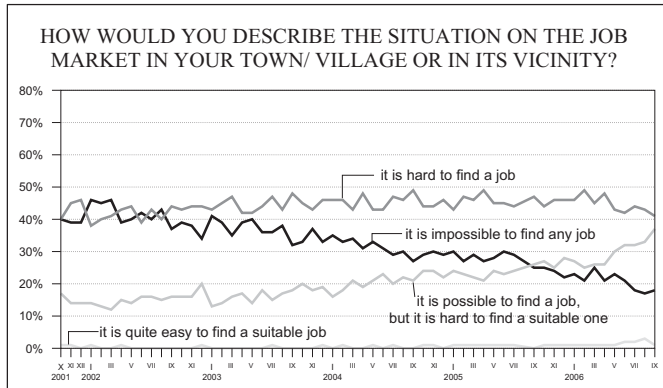
ON THE JOB MARKET

The unemployment rate in Poland is falling systematically. From January 2004 to August 2006 it dropped from 20.6% to 15.5%. This improvement is more and more noticeable for the Poles. Although most of them still express critical opinions about the situation on the Polish job market in general, the number of such opinions is decreasing and they are becoming more tentative. The situation was criticized the most in March 2002, when as many as 97% of the respondents evaluated the job market negatively (75% described it as very bad). In July 2005, the situation was still criticized by as many as 90% of the respondents (51% described it as very bad). In September 2006, "only" 71% of the respondents expressed negative opinions about the job market (24% described the situation as very bad). In the period from July 2005 to September 2006, the percentage of opinions that the situation on the job market is neither good nor bad grew from 7 to 18%. Still, very few Poles describe the situation as good (6%), although such opinions are more common now than several months ago (1% in July 2005).

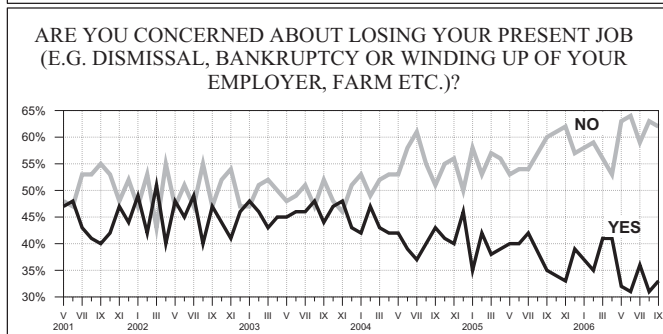
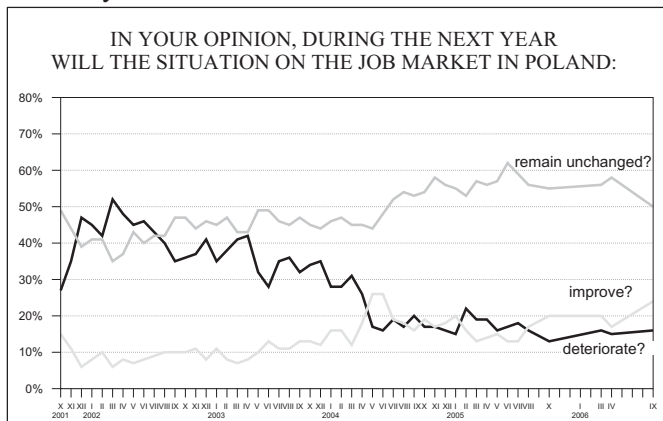


The evaluations of the situation on the local job markets are also improving gradually, although very slowly. They are still very critical. More than two-fifths of the respondents (41%) believe that it is hard to find a job locally, and almost a fifth (18%) say that it is impossible to find any employment there. Only one in

one hundred respondents believe that it is possible to find a suitable job (consistent with one's aspirations and needs) in their place of residence or in its vicinity. Almost two-fifths (37%) believe that some employment (although not necessarily suitable) is available.



The improvement of the opinions about the situation on the job market is accompanied by a long-term growth of optimism as regards the changes in this respect. The hopes for a drop in the unemployment rate started to grow visibly at the beginning of 2004. In April 2004, the percentage of respondents expressing optimism about the job market perspectives exceeded the percentage of those who were afraid of further adverse changes. Today nearly a quarter of the Poles (24%) expect the situation on the job market to improve, whereas 16% are afraid of a deterioration. The most persons (50%) believe that the situation on the Polish job market will not change during the next year.



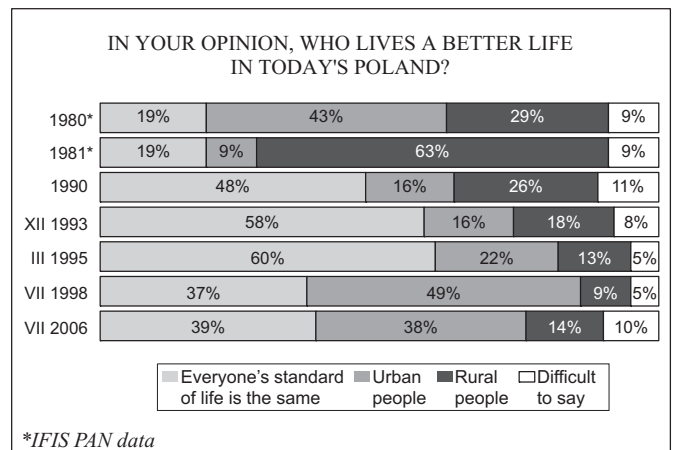
The improvement of the situation on the job market is accompanied by a growing feeling of employment security. The percentage of employees who are afraid of losing their job has been falling gradually since 2004. Presently, one in three working persons (33%) have fears connected with retaining their employment. Most working Poles (62%) are not afraid of unemployment.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Changes in the opinion about the job market and security of employment*, September 2006. Survey executed in September 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 937.

RURAL AND URBAN LIFE

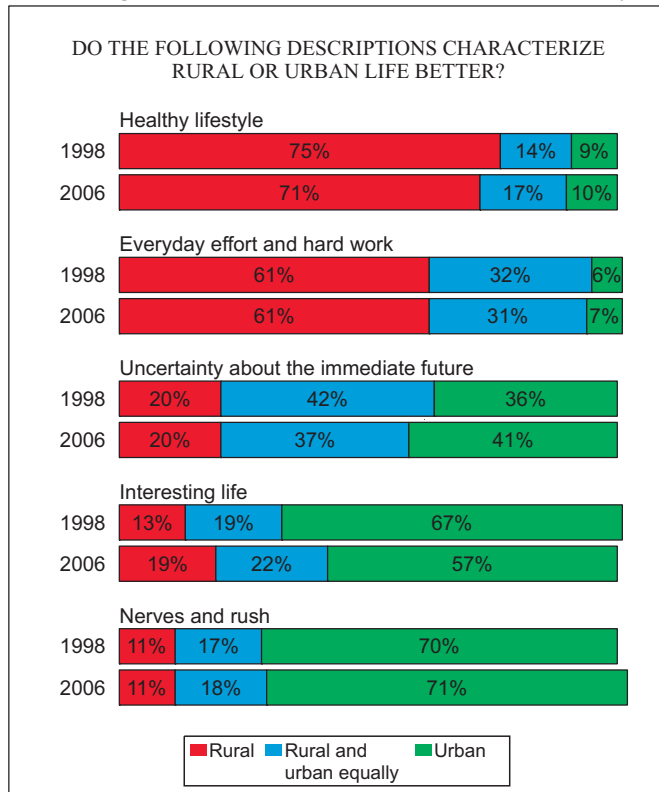
The Poles' opinions about the standard of living in the country and in the city have been undergoing significant, sometimes even dramatic changes during the last 25 years. Whereas in 1980 the opinion prevailed that urban life was better, in the following year most Poles believed that the standard of living was better in the countryside. This change was due to a rapid deterioration of the conditions of living in Poland in that period and the shortages of basic consumer goods (mainly food).

From the early 1990s, i.e. from the first years of the transformation, until 1998 the belief in a higher standard of living in the countryside was gradually declining, whereas the opinion that urban life was better was growing noticeably. At present, the percentage of the respondents who believe that the standard of living is higher in the cities has decreased again. However, more people still believe that urban life is easier.



Both rural and urban lifestyle has its advantages and disadvantages. Countryside is associated with a healthy lifestyle, but also with everyday effort and hard work. Urban life is perceived as hectic and hurried, but also interesting; at the same time, it is characterized by uncertainty about the future.

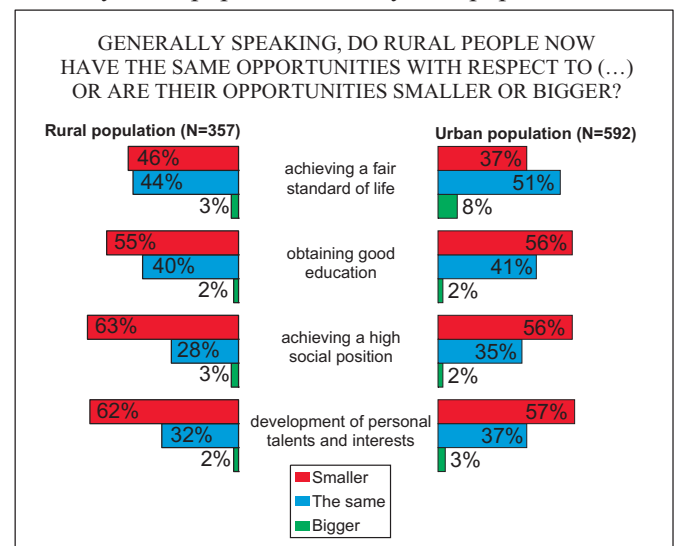
The attractiveness of urban life has decreased during the last 8 years. Today it is less frequently seen as interesting, and more often associated with uncertainty.



According to the public opinion, the place of residence to a significant extent determines the opportunities one has in life. Rural people are seen as significantly underprivileged compared with urban people. Perceived inequalities are related to chances for self-fulfilment and self-development, access to high social positions and, although to a smaller extent, good education. In all these areas, the opinions that rural people

have fewer opportunities prevail. The prospects of rural people are seen the best as far as achieving a fair standard of living is concerned. Most respondents see no difference between the rural and urban population in this respect.

Life chances of people in countryside are seen as better by urban population than by rural population.



Although the respondents still believe that rural people have fewer opportunities, the opinions in this respect have improved compared with eight years ago. In the first place, more respondents believe in the chances of rural people for achieving a proper standard of living and, although to a lesser extent, a high social position, self-development and self-fulfilment.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The Poles about rural and urban life opinions from the years 1998 and 2006*, September 2006. Survey executed in July 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 950.

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

- ◆ About local elections
- ◆ Political party preferences in September
- ◆ Opinions about the parliamentary investigation committee for banks and banking supervision
- ◆ Social moods in September
- ◆ Government ratings in September
- ◆ Opinions about the work of the President and the Parliament
- ◆ Trust in politicians in September
- ◆ Interest in the elections to local authorities

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 has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.