

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- OPINIONS ABOUT THE INSTALLATION OF THE ANTI-MISSILE SHIELD IN POLAND
- WORKING ABROAD ACTUAL EXPERIENCE AND PLANS
- PUBLIC TRUST IN THE YEARS 2002-2008
- SELF-IDENTIFICATION

### 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:  
Mirosława Grabowska  
and Beata Roguska

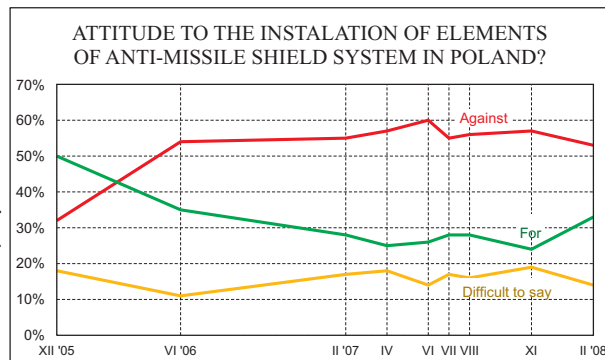
Translated by  
Kinga Pawłowska

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2008

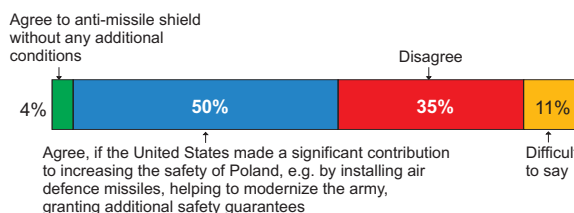
ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED  
WHEN ANY PART OF THIS  
PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

## OPINIONS ABOUT THE INSTALLATION OF THE ANTI-MISSILE SHIELD IN POLAND

Talks have been resumed between Poland and the United States about locating in Poland an American base with missile launchers, which would form a part of the so-called anti-missile shield, a system for eliminating nuclear missiles in case of an attack from the territory of one of the countries which support terrorism. Although most Poles (53%) are still against installing a base belonging to the anti-missile shield system in Poland, the percentage of the supporters of its construction has grown considerably in the last three months. Today, a third of the respondents (33%) support this initiative.



### CONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR ANTI-MISSILE SHIELD

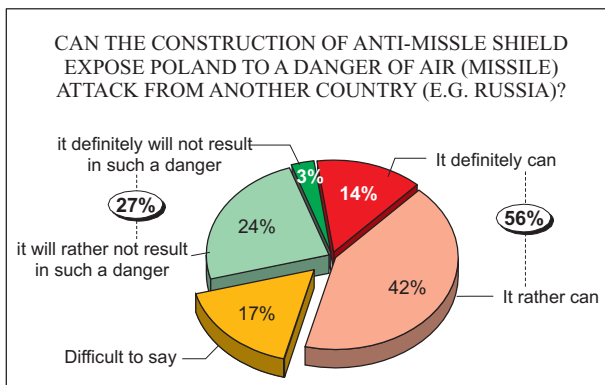


During its current negotiations with the Americans, the Polish government suggests that the construction of the shield should be linked to bigger efforts on the part of the United States to guarantee safety for Poland. The expected involvement of the United States in actions improving the safety of

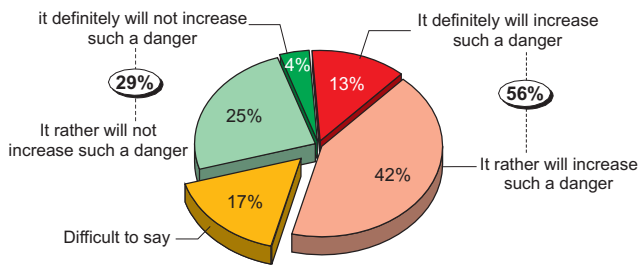
Poland, such as e.g. installation of air defence missiles, assistance in modernizing the Polish army, granting additional safety guarantees, has a positive effect on the public support for locating elements of the anti-missile shield in Poland. If the construction of the military base were associated with significantly greater efforts on the part of the Americans to increase the safety of Poland, the percentage of its supporters would grow to 54%. In such circumstances, roughly a third of the respondents would maintain their objection to locating elements of the anti-missile shield system in Poland.

The idea of building some elements of the anti-missile shield in Poland is opposed by the biggest neighbour of Poland. On many occasions, certain representatives of Russia more or less explicitly hinted at the possibility of a missile attack in response to the construction of an American military base in Poland. More than half of the Poles believe that a danger of an air attack from another country (e.g. Russia) is real.

Another kind of danger, which is mentioned in the discussions about building the American base belonging to the anti-missile shield, is the fact that it increases the chances for attacks by Islamic terrorists on Poland. Most Poles share such fears.



WILL THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANTI-MISSILE SHIELD SYSTEM INCREASE THE DANGER OF TERRORIST ATTACKS BY ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS ON THE TERRITORY OF POLAND?



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): About the participation of Polish soldiers in foreign military operations, the anti-missile shield, and the danger of terrorism, February 2008. Survey executed in February 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1137

## WORKING ABROAD: ACTUAL EXPERIENCE AND PLANS

According to the respondents' declarations, during the last 10 years almost every tenth adult Pole worked abroad. In fact, one percent of the respondents were employed abroad at the time of the survey. They had just come to Poland on a short visit or, alternatively, lived in Poland and commuted to work abroad.

In view of the fact that 1% of the sample represents 280 thousand persons in the whole population of grown-up Poles, it can be assumed that more or less 2.900 million Poles have worked abroad during the last 10 years (this number does not include those who were absent at the time of the survey due to their employment abroad and could not answer the questions).

HAVE YOU WORKED ABROAD DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS OR DO YOU WORK ABROAD NOW?

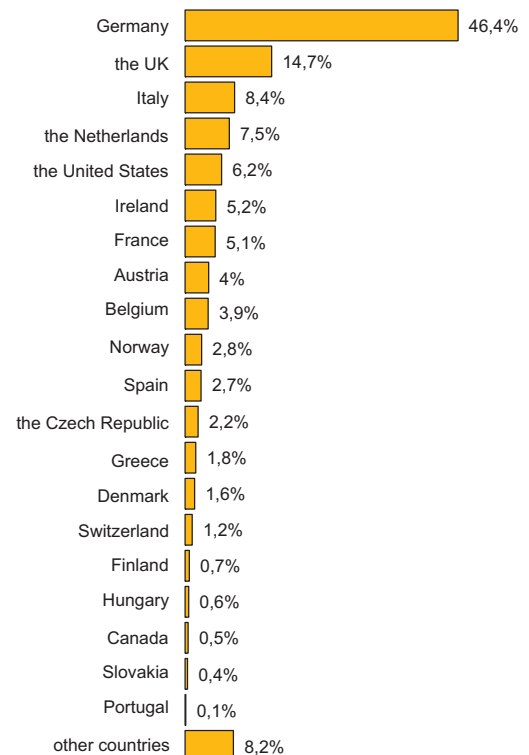


Men have worked abroad almost twice as frequently as women (13.7% and 7.1% respectively). People aged below 45 have such experiences more often than older respondents. Working abroad (now or at any time during the past ten years) is relatively the most common in the 25 to 34 age group. Education is an important factor affecting decisions to seek employment abroad. Persons with better education (with at least secondary education) work abroad more frequently than others. Working abroad is particularly common among the respondents with incomplete higher education (19.3%). Among the respondents with lower than secondary education, vocational school graduates have

such experience relatively the most frequently (11.3%, slightly above the average).

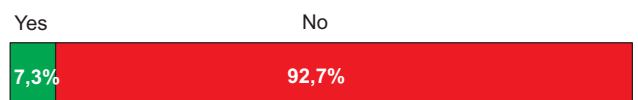
Almost half of the respondents who have worked abroad during the last 10 years declare that they were (or are) employed in Germany. A relatively large proportion have worked in the United Kingdom. As far as other countries are concerned, the following were mentioned relatively often: Italy, the Netherlands, the United States, Ireland and France.

IN WHICH COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES HAVE YOU WORKED (OR DO YOU WORK)? (RESPONSES OF THE RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE WORKED ABROAD DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS)



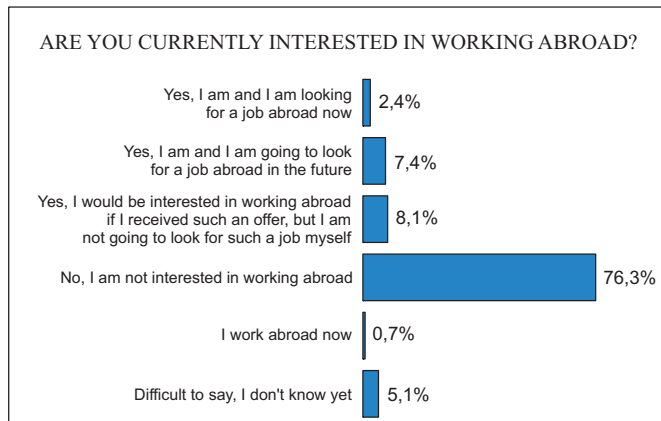
To supplement the information, we have calculated the percentage of households from which at least one person left Poland to seek employment abroad. Such households constitute 7.3% of the population. Since the total number of households in Poland is around 14 million, more than one million of the Poles currently work abroad. The total number of the Poles who work abroad now or worked there recently is close to 4 million.

DOES ANY OTHER MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD WORK ABROAD?



Overall, 17.9% of the respondents declare interest in finding a job abroad. At present, 2.4% of the respondents seek employment abroad, and a further 7.4% are going to do so in the future. Some respondents say that

they would be interested in working abroad if they received a job offer, but they are not going to actively look for such an opportunity.



Interest in finding a job abroad is associated with age. The younger the respondents, the more interested in economic migration and determined to find employment outside Poland they are. Young people (aged up to 24) are one of the groups which are the most interested in finding employment abroad. At present, 4.4% of the youngest respondents seek employment abroad, and a further 21.7% plan to do so in the future. In addition to age, also the respondents' occupational status affects their plans. Therefore, students are among those who are the most interested in such employment (3.2% of them are already looking for a job abroad, and a further 26.3% have such plans). The same is true about the unemployed: 8.9% seek employment abroad and 13.6% plan to do so. Interest in working abroad is also associated with the respondents' financial situation. The lower the household income per capita, the bigger the interest.

Contact with Polish emigrants is one of the most significant factors affecting the decisions to go abroad to work. The fact that a household member is employed abroad makes such a decision significantly easier. More than a fifth of those who seek employment abroad (22.5%) declare that someone from their household already works abroad.

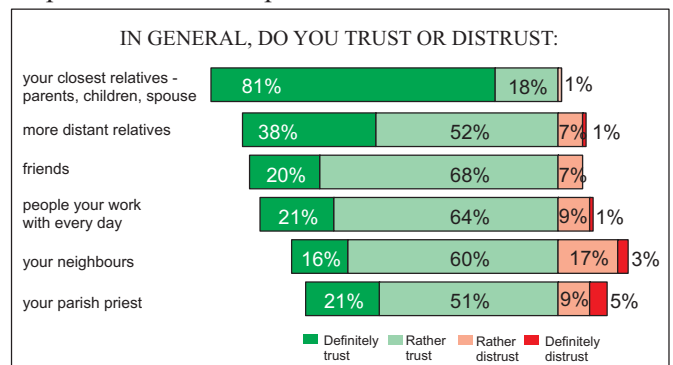
Previous experience of working abroad is another factor having a positive effect on such decisions. A considerable proportion of the persons who are interested in leaving Poland to make money abroad already worked abroad in the past. Such experiences are the most common among those who are the most determined to find employment abroad and actively seek such employment. More than two-fifths of such respondents (43.8%) have already worked abroad.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): Working abroad- actual experience and plans, February 2008. Survey executed in the period from September to November 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=38866

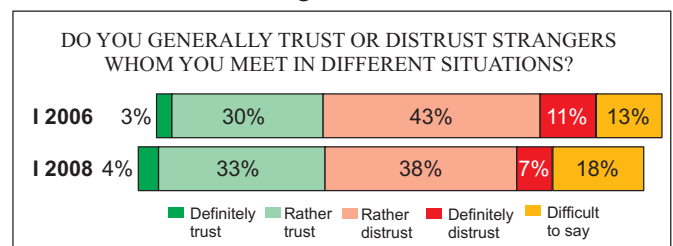
## PUBLIC TRUST IN THE YEARS 2002-2008

Low level of public trust is one of the major social problems in Poland, inhibiting the development of the civil society.

For years, the Poles have trusted their relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbours. The most common and the strongest trust is placed in one's closest relatives. The Poles commonly trust their more distant relatives as well, although significantly less strongly. The same could be said about trust in friends and colleagues. A significant majority of the Poles also trust their neighbours. Parish priests are somewhat less trusted. However, if they are, such trust is strong. Furthermore, few people distrust their parish priest and a significant proportion of the respondents have no opinion in this matter.

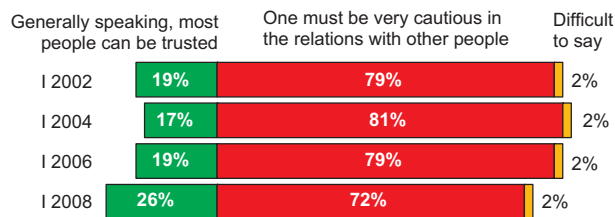


However, respondents' attitude to strangers is much worse than the attitude to their relatives and other people from their social circle. In this case, distrust prevails. Nearly half of the respondents declare that they distrust strangers. However, the fact that the attitude to strangers improved in the last two years allows some optimism. In the first place, the proportion of people declaring distrust decreased. The percentage of those who declare trust did not grow as much.



In general, the opinion that one should be very cautious in the relations with most people prevails in the Polish society. Still, it is less common now than two years ago. The reasons behind this increase in public trust could include an improvement of the economic situation and the conditions of living and the improvement in psychological well-being of the Poles, including growth in self-confidence.

## WHICH OPINION IS CLOSER TO YOUR OWN VIEWS?

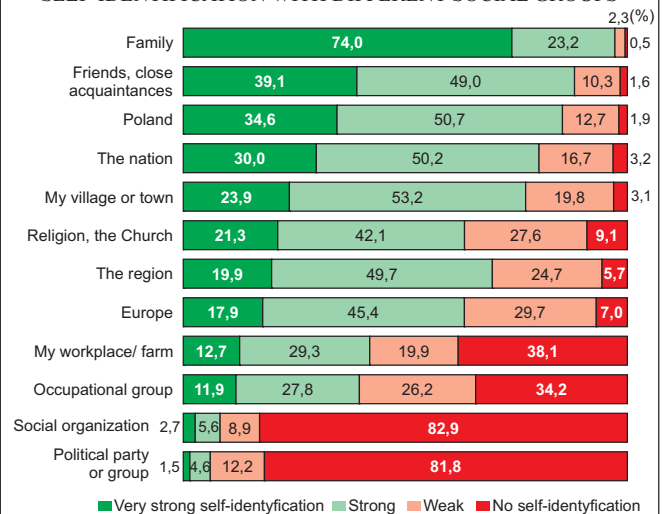


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): Public trust in the years 2002-2008, February 2008. Survey executed in January 2008. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=890

## SELF-IDENTIFICATION

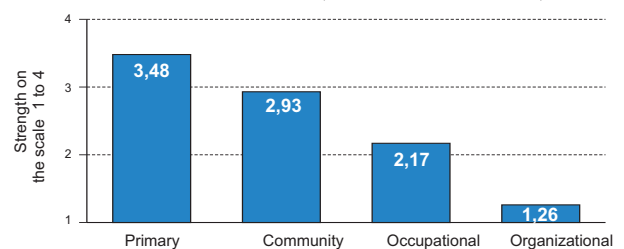
For more than twenty five years, the Polish sociologists have believed in the existence of the so-called social void between the nation or the country on the one hand, and the family or the social circle, with which the Poles strongly identify, on the other. According to this belief, the Poles do not feel any significant ties with the groups or institutions which are located between these two extremes. This belief is not, however, fully backed by research. It is true that the identification with one's relatives and friends is the strongest, and with a political party, group, association or another public organization is weakest. It is not true, however, that the Poles only identify with their family and friends on the one hand and with Poland and the nation on the other. Their ties with the Church, their place of residence, their region and with Europe are also strong. A relatively low level of identification with the occupational groups and workplaces is to a large extent associated with the fact that quite large proportions of the Poles do not work or have no trade or profession.

## SELF-IDENTIFICATION WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL GROUPS



Generally, the primary identification is the strongest in the Polish society; the community ties are somewhat weaker, although not as weak as the occupational ties. The organizational (socio-political) identification is by far the weakest.

## THE STRENGTH OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOCIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATIONS (ON THE 1 TO 4 SCALE)



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): Social ties and mutual help, February 2008. Survey executed in the period from September to November 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=38866

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

- ◆ The Poles about military service
- ◆ The Poles about their involvement in the community life
- ◆ Trade union membership
- ◆ Political party preferences in February
- ◆ Regional and social differences affecting psychological wellbeing and satisfaction with life
- ◆ A drop in government ratings
- ◆ Opinions about the work of the President and the Parliament
- ◆ Subjective evaluations of living conditions and satisfaction of needs
- ◆ Trust in politicians in February
- ◆ Deterioration of social moods
- ◆ Using health services
- ◆ The first assessment of the achievements of Donald Tusk's cabinet
- ◆ The working life of the Poles
- ◆ Savings and debts of the Poles
- ◆ The unemployed

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: 70 copies

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