

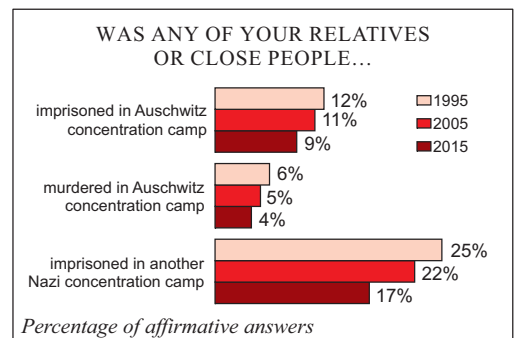
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## AUSCHWITZ – BIRKENAU IN COLLECTIVE MEMORY

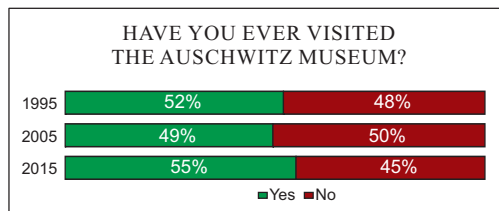
On 27 January was the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, which became a symbol of the genocide committed by the Nazis during World War II. In 2005, United Nations General Assembly designated an International Holocaust Remembrance Day on the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. Each year, there are international celebrations at the camp location whose special guests are former prisoners.

For a large proportion of Poles, Auschwitz-Birkenau is a part of the family tradition. Close to a tenth of respondents (9%) declare that someone close to them was a prisoner of that camp, while 4% lost someone there. Relatives of 17% were prisoners in camps other than Auschwitz-Birkenau.



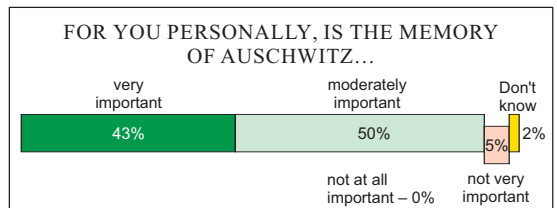
In general, close to a quarter of respondents (23%) had a family member in one of the Nazi concentration camps. With time, this proportion is decreasing.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau museum was visited by over half (55%) of respondents, i.e. slightly more than ten or twenty years ago.

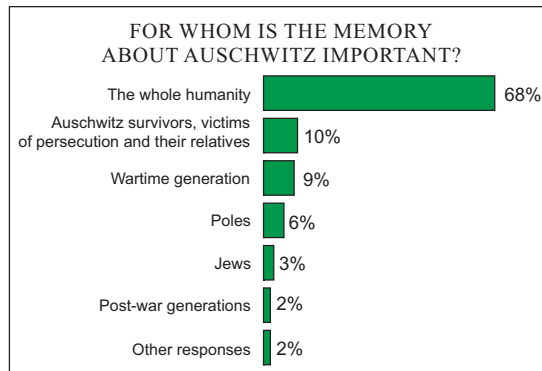


Almost all respondents (93%) claim that the memory about Auschwitz-Birkenau is important for them. Among them, 43% attach a lot of importance to it.

In the opinion of over two-thirds of respondents, the memory about the biggest Nazi concentration camp has a universal dimension and is important for the whole humanity.



A tenth (10%) think that the memory is important mainly for the people who survived this camp or other forms of wartime persecution, and for the families of the deceased. A similar group of people (9%) think that it is primarily important for the older generation, the people who lived during the war. Few respondents (2%) stress the importance for the post-war generations. There are infrequent references to different nationalities: 6% of respondents answer that the memory about Auschwitz-Birkenau is important mainly for Poles, while 3% think it is significant mostly for Jews.



The name "Auschwitz" is associated primarily (45%) with a place of martyrdom of the Polish nation, and less frequently (33%) as a place where the Holocaust took place. Both associations are more common than ten and twenty years ago, while other responses (20%)

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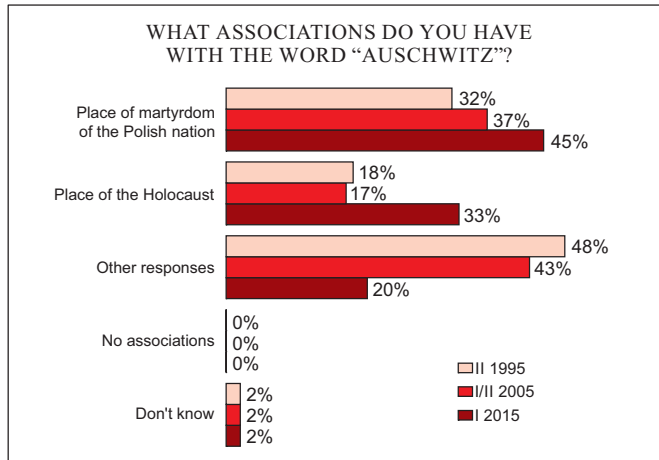
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occur less frequently. People who formulated their answers by themselves usually stressed the comparable dimension of the Jewish and Polish martyrdom, or stressed that people of many nationalities died there.

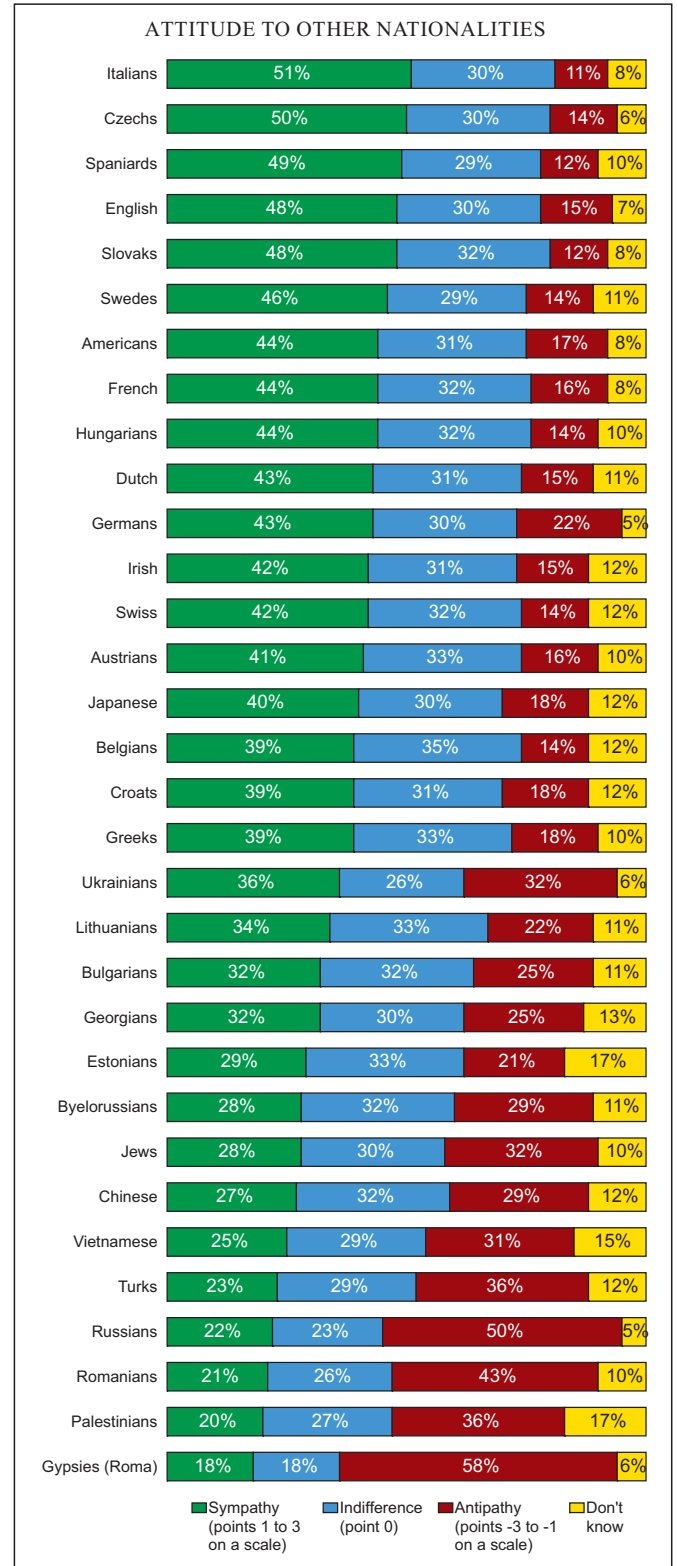


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Auschwitz-Birkenau in collective memory"*, January 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2015, N=1005. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

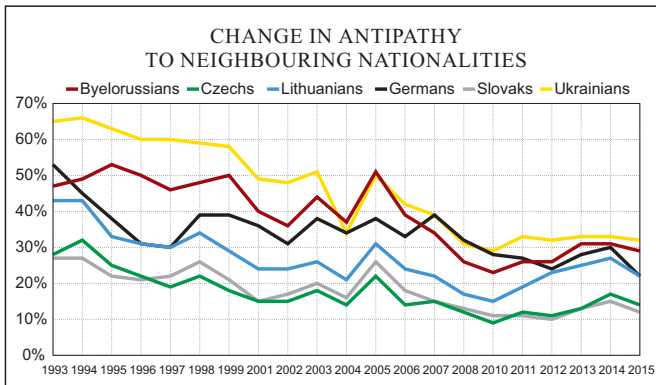
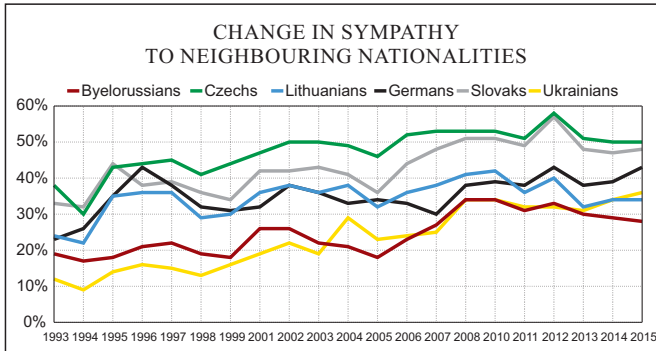
## ATTITUDE TO OTHER NATIONALITIES

The best-liked nationalities are Italians, Czechs, the Spanish, the English, Slovaks and Swedes. About half of Poles have positive attitude to them. At least two-fifths of respondents have good feelings for Americans, the French, Hungarians, the Dutch, Germans, the Irish, the Swiss, Austrians and the Japanese. In this group Germans are the most controversial, as negative feelings for them are relatively common. Almost two-fifths are positive about Belgians, Croats and Greeks. Sympathy for these nationalities is more widespread than antipathy. Sympathy is more prevalent than antipathy in case of Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Georgians, Bulgarians and Estonians. In this group Ukrainians elicit the most emotions, both positive and negative. Negative feelings prevail in attitudes to the remaining nine nationalities in the study. Their prevalence is relatively low in case of Byelorussians, Chinese, Jews and Vietnamese. Dominance of bad emotions is clearer in attitudes to Turks, Palestinians, Romanians, Russians, and, above all, the Roma.

For the last twenty years, Poles' favourite neighbours have been Czechs and Slovaks. The least liked have been Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians. In the 1990s and early 2000s, the least liked nationality were Ukrainians, but with the "orange revolution" the attitude towards them improved. Recent years, in particular the year 2014, deteriorated the attitude to Russians. They register the highest negative attitude among neighbouring nationalities.



At the same time, it is worth noting that the attitude to all neighbours, including Russians, is now better than in the beginning of the 1990s. Then, sympathy prevailed only in case of Czechs and Slovaks, while the others were usually viewed with antipathy. Today, negative emotions are more common than positive only with regard to Russians.



Attitude to other nationalities is influenced by many factors. Beyond doubt, it is shaped by national stereotypes, historical legacies, personal experience, current events and political relations between countries inhabited by the nationalities. The deteriorating attitude to Russians is clearly linked to events occurring last year, in particular Russian policy towards Ukraine.

For many years it has been clear that better attitudes are recorded for nationalities enjoying high standard of living, as they are a positive reference point. Poles want to belong to this group. On the other hand, respondents separate themselves from poorer nationalities characterised by lower standard of living, which constitute a negative reference point.

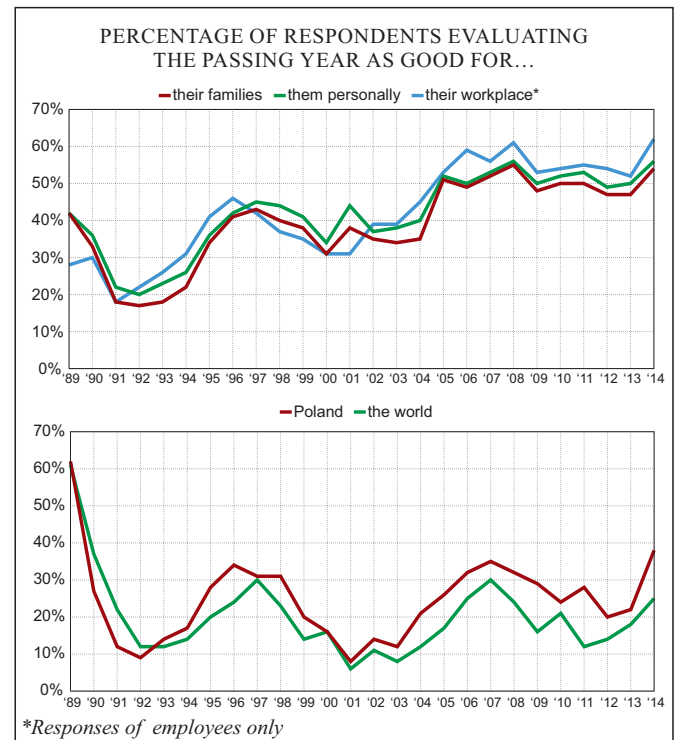
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Attitude to other nationalities"*, January 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2015, N=1005. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## EVALUATION OF THE YEAR 2014

The majority of Poles consider the year 2014 as good for their place of work (62%), for themselves (56%) and for their families (54%). The level of satisfaction in personal, family and professional sphere is at present among the highest since its measurement started, i.e. since late 1980s. Comparable results were obtained only once before, in December 2008. Compared with the evaluation of 2013, the increase was strongest for the situation in the workplace (a 10-point increase in positive

assessment). The percentage of people evaluating the past year as good for their families rose by 7 points, while the relative number of positive assessments of personal situation increased by 6 points.

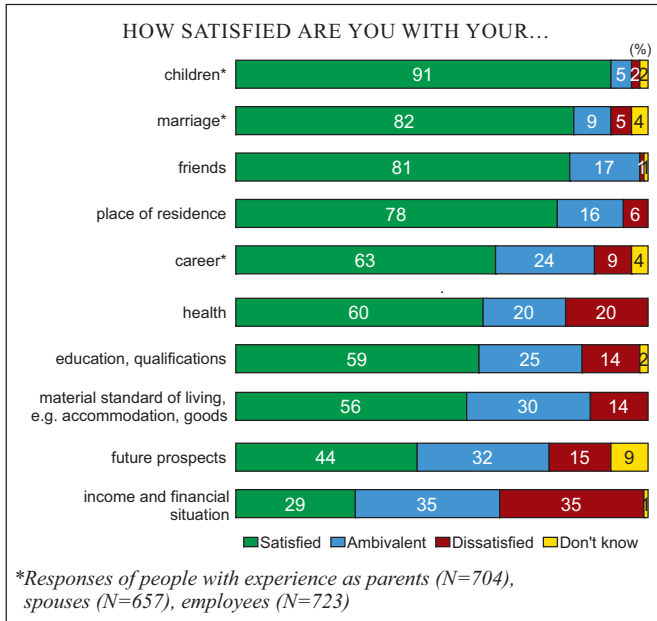
The evaluations on the national and global level are worse, which is a normal situation. Less than two-fifths (38%) think that the year 2014 was good for Poland, while a quarter (25%) believe it was good for the world as a whole. Evaluation in these dimensions are better than a year ago. In particular, there is a strong subjective improvement of the situation in Poland. The proportion of people who think that the passing year was good for Poland increased by 16 percentage points. Opinions in this dimension are among the best recorded since 1980s.



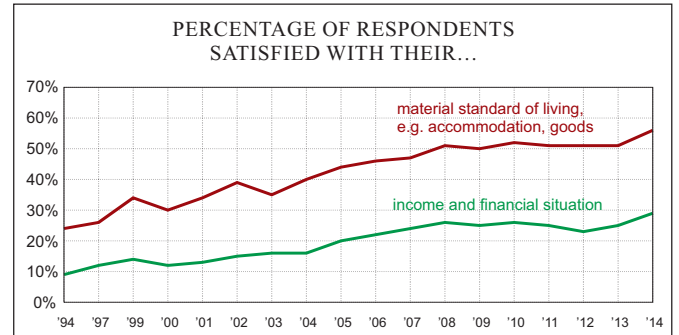
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Evaluation of the year 2014 and predictions for 2015"*, January 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2014, N=936. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## SATISFACTION WITH LIFE

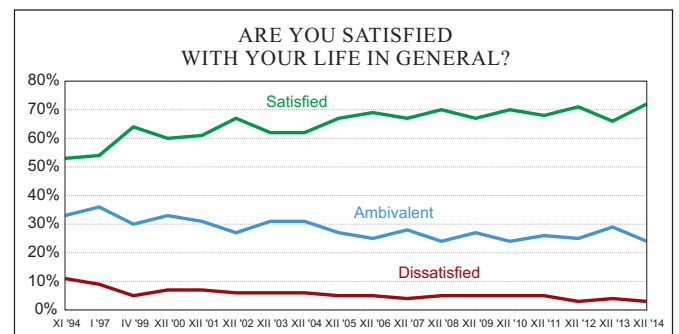
The most important sources of satisfaction are children, marriage, friends, and place of residence. Most working Poles are happy with their career, and most respondents are satisfied with their health, education and material standard of living. There is less optimism about future prospects, as well as financial situation and income. In 2014, satisfaction with health, education, financial situation, material living conditions and future prospects was the highest ever recorded in CBOS surveys.



From a long-term perspective, the most spectacular changes are in evaluation of financial situation and material living standard. During systemic transformation, in the year 1994, only 9% of respondents were satisfied with their income, while a quarter (24%) were happy about their standard of living. In subsequent years, satisfaction with this sphere increased. After 2008, during the last financial crisis, the percentage of people satisfied with their finances and living standard was stable, but last year it rose again.



In general, almost three-quarters of Poles (72%) are satisfied with their life. A quarter (24%) are ambivalent, while 3% are generally dissatisfied with their life. The level of satisfaction is now on one of the highest levels since 1994.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Satisfaction with life", January 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2014, N=936. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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

- ◆ Psychological Wellbeing in 2014
- ◆ Event of the Year 2014 in Poland and in the World
- ◆ Party Preferences in January
- ◆ How to Ensure the Proper Conduct of Elections?
- ◆ Opinions About Parliament, President, National Electoral Commission (PKW) and National Health Fund (NFZ)
- ◆ Social Moods in January
- ◆ Attitude to Cabinet of Ewa Kopacz after 100 Days of Activity
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in January
- ◆ Activities and Experiences in 2014
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