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Expectations from politicians related to migration crisis

According to CBOS research, Poles are generally opposed to accepting refugees. In December 2016 more than half of respondents (52%) objected, and 40% agreed to give them temporary stay (until they could safely return to the country they came from), and only 4% agreed that we should allow them to settle in

Poland permanently. Poles are consistently sceptical about the relocation of refugees arriving in the European Union from the Middle East and Africa. This objection is based on the fact that they come mainly from the countries in which Islam dominates.

Do you agree that Poland should accept refugees from Muslim countries?



The vast majority (70%) of respondents are opposed to accepting refugees from Muslim countries in Poland

Due to the large influx of refugees to Greece and Italy in September 2015, the European Council decided to adopt an emergency mechanism to relocate some of them to other EU member states. The relocation was to include asylum seekers from Syria, Iraq and Eritrea. Importantly, for the first time in history, the decision on this forum was made by the majority vote, not unanimously. This was badly received by some members of the EU, as a disregard for the sovereignty of the member states. Most countries committed to relocation have received some of the refugees within the quotas set. The exceptions are Poland and Hungary, which did not accept a single person within the established relocation. EU countries most affected by the migration crisis show increasing impatience. There are also various proposals to enforce commitments, including the European Commission proposal from May 2016 about the introduction of a permanent refugee resettlement system and the possibility for a country to withdraw from participation for one year in return for 250,000 Euro for every unclaimed refugee. The prospect of financial penalties for non-compliant countries has returned in recent months. The possibility of reducing some of the EU funds already allocated to these countries has been muted. It appears that

Do you agree that Poland should accept refugees from Muslim countries, if refusal to do so would risk losing EU funds?



opposition to the reception of refugees from Muslim countries prevails (65%) even assuming that the refusal to do so would risk losing EU funds. A quarter of respondents (25%) are in favour of receiving these refugees under these conditions.

Most Poles believe that admitting refugees in Poland should be

decided by a national referendum (56%). However, there is a large group of respondents opposed to this idea (38%). Proponents of the referendum are more likely to be opposed to Poland accepting refugees (61%) than supporting such policy (45%).

Do you agree that Polish government should organize a national referendum about receiving refugees?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Expectations to Polish Politicians in Relation to the EU's Migration Crisis", May 2017. Telephone survey commissioned by CBOS and fielded by Kantar Public and Indicator in May 2017, N=2024. The sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Perception of corruption in Poland

A vast majority of respondents (76%) believe that corruption in Poland is a big problem, in which almost one third (31%) believe it is very severe. Every seventh respondent (15%) assesses the extent of corruption in our country as small, including a small group (1%) claiming it is almost not a problem at all.

Although the opinions on the scale of corruption indicate its high magnitude, in the last four years the percentage of respondents who consider it a major social problem has declined considerably (from 87% to 76%). The drop was especially steep in the group claiming that the corruption problem is very severe (8-point drop, down to 31%). At the same time, the number of people convinced that this phenomenon is not particularly significant has increased from 8% to 15%. The perception of corruption is now at the lowest level since 1991.

Is corruption a big problem in Poland?



In public opinion, the areas of social life in which corruption is most prevalent today are politics (48% of respondents), and healthcare system (38%). Approximately one third of respondents consider legal institutions (courts and prosecutors, 32%) to be among the most corrupt, as well as the local government (30%). According to respondents, corruption is less acute in central administration and ministries (21%), state companies (17%), police (16%) and private enterprises (12%).

Since June 2013, there has been a significant decline in perceived corruption in the areas most often associated with it: in healthcare (a decrease of 15 percentage points) and among politicians: party activists, councillors, MPs and senators (14-point drop). There is also a decrease in the perception of corruption in the police. At the same time, since the previous measurement, there has been a slight increase in the perception that corruption remains a problem in state and private companies, in municipal (gmina), county (powiat) and provincial (voivodship) offices, in central administration and ministries, and in banks.

In which of the following areas is corruption the most common? Several responses possible



The actions of the government of Beata Szydło in the fight against corruption are evaluated moderately positively. Half of respondents (49%) are satisfied in this regard, while negative ratings are given by a quarter of them (26%). The assessment of the actions of the current cabinet in the fight against corruption is better than that expressed in relation to the governments led by Donald Tusk, especially to his second cabinet.

Evaluation of government actions in the fight against



*In 2009-2010 question concerned the first cabinet of Donald Tusk, in 2013 his second cabinet

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions on Corruption in Poland", June 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2017, N=1034. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Poland: a divided country

In social analysis, for some time now, there is a view that extremely deep political divisions separate Poles. Based on the declarations of respondents, it can be argued that Poles are now divided into three similarly numerous groups: supporters of the ruling camp (33%), supporters of the opposition (30%) and the amorphous group that can be called the audience, in the sense that they do not identify with either side (34%).

Do you tend to support the government, the opposition or neither side?



Worldview (declared political views and religiosity) has the deciding influence on the support for the ruling camp or the opposition. The government enjoys the support of more than two thirds of right-wing citizens. More than half of respondents identifying with the left and two fifths of the centrists sympathize with the opposition.

Political views:





Support for the Law and Justice (PiS) government increases with the participation in religious practices. Among the respondents participating in religious service several times a week, almost two thirds sympathize with the government, and only one-eleventh support the opposition. In the most numerous group of people, i.e. those taking part in religious service once a week, the ruling camp also has more followers than the opposition. The opposition enjoys more support than the government among the non-practicing or practicing sporadically (several times a year).

Religious practice



Socio-economic status is less important than political and ideological orientation. Nevertheless, it can be seen that the government has the strongest support among people with primary and basic vocational education, where the percentage of government supporters is two times bigger than the proportion of supporters of the opposition. Conversely, citizens with higher education sympathize with the opposition more than twice as often as with the current government.

Support for the opposition is also facilitated by good financial situation, i.e. relatively high per capita income. Low income is associated with distance from the political conflict, rather than support for the government.

Education:



Per capita household income:



Moreover, the ruling camp has significantly more supporters in rural areas than in towns and cities. Among residents of villages there is also a relatively large number of people living outside of the political disputes. The opposition supporters prevail in large and medium-sized cities.

Place of residence:



Support for the government increases with age. It is highest among people aged 65+. This does not mean that the youth identify with the opposition. Among young people, especially among respondents aged 18 to 24, distance towards political conflict is the most common attitude. Age:



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Divided Sovereign - Sympathizers of Rulers versus Sympathizers of the Opposition and Non-aligned", June 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2017, N=1034. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Distance to media coverage

Poles usually draw information about events inland and in the world from television (64%), and secondly from the internet (about a third as frequently as TV, at 21%). Radio is the main source of information for relatively few (8%), and printed press serves this purpose for even smaller group of respondents (4%). According to CBOS research, news and commentary of the largest television broadcasters have recently lost credibility, are less likely to be seen as impartial, and more often as either supporting the government or the opposition. Online news sources are a little more reliable than television, in public opinion.

Generally speaking, Poles are quite sceptical about the content of media reports. Approximately one in three respondents (32%) is of the opinion that most media in Poland are impartial, while more than half (53%) disagree. The better educated, younger respondents living in large cities are relatively critical in their assessments. Importantly, generalized opinions on media objectivity are in essence independent of political views, measured on the left-centre-right scale. Taking into account the main sources of information, it can be said that distrust to the media is most often reported by internet users, and least often by people whose primary sources are television and radio.

Almost all respondents (92%) believe that different sources of information should be used to form their opinion about current events. A vast majority (79%) claim that the media coverage of the same events is so different in different sources that it is hard to tell where the truth lies.

Do you agree with the following statements?



The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage is working on a bill on the ownership of media in Poland. The intended purpose of the proposed legislation is to increase the pluralism of opinion by reducing the concentration of capital in the media. This is supposed to contribute to partial repolonisation of the media. It seems that the proposed legislation largely meets the public expectations. A vast majority of respondents (73%) believe that it is important for the media functioning in Poland to belong to different owners. In addition, half (50%) believe that the share of foreign capital in the media market in Poland is too large, while a much smaller group (17%) express the opposite view.

Do you agree with the following statements?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Detachment from the Media Coverage", June 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2017, N=1075. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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