Attitude to receiving refugees

On twenty-sixth of September 2017 the two-year program of mandatory relocation to member states of the European Union of refugees who arrived in Italy and Greece was completed and not extended. After this date, although refugees are no longer subject to compulsory relocation, they can be accepted on a voluntary basis. At the same time, migrants who had arrived before the program’s expiry and meet the appropriate conditions (i.e. refugees and not economic migrants) remain to be relocated. Member states, with the exception of Malta, generally accepted fewer people than the numbers assigned to them. Poland and Hungary did not participate in the relocation at all. In December, the European Commission launched a case at the European Court of Justice against Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in connection with the non-implementation by these countries of the decision on relocation of refugees.

Poles are generally opposed to receiving refugees, especially from the Middle East and Africa. The level of hostility is currently one of the highest since we started monitoring this issue. However, the attitude towards Ukrainian citizens fleeing from areas subject to armed conflict is completely different, the majority of respondents approve of accepting them, and the scale of this approval has recently increased. Our southern neighbours, i.e. Czechs and Slovaks, are more critical about the admission of refugees than Poles and, in a fundamental difference, are generally unwilling to accept Ukrainian citizens.

Hypothetical punishment (losing money from EU funds) does not significantly affect opinions regarding the admission of refugees from Muslim

Should Poland/ Czech Republic/ Slovakia accept refugees from countries affected by military conflict?

![Table showing percentages of attitudes towards accepting refugees from countries affected by military conflict, with data for Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia.]

Do you agree that Poland/ Czech Republic/ Slovakia should receive a part of refugees arriving in Europe from the Middle East and Africa?

![Table showing percentages of attitudes towards accepting refugees from the Middle East and Africa, with data for Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia.]

Do you agree that Poland/ Czech Republic/ Slovakia should receive Ukrainian refugees from the armed conflict areas?

![Table showing percentages of attitudes towards accepting Ukrainian refugees from armed conflict areas, with data for Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia.]

In addition

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

- Opinions about Public Offices and Their Staff
- Political Party Preferences in December, before the Resignation of Prime Minister
- Opinions about Parliament and President
- The Last Ratings of Beata Szydło’s Government
- Opinions about National Electoral Commission (PKW) and Proposed New Rules of Choosing Its Members
- Social Moods in December
- Trust in Politicians before the Change of Prime Minister
- After EP Resolution – Opinions and Concerns
- Christmas 2017
- Pole in a Public Office
- Attitude to Proposed Changes in the Election Code
countries. Despite the threat of Poland losing EU funds for not participating in the relocation program, three-quarters of respondents believe that we should not accept refugees from Muslim countries. Czechs and Slovaks are even more unequivocal in this matter.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Moderately agree</th>
<th>Moderately disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Attitudes towards Refugees”, December 2017. Fieldwork for national samples: Poland (CBOS) October 2017 (N=948); Czech Republic (CVVM Sociological Institute) October 2017 (N=934); Slovakia (FOCUS) October 2017 (N=1003). Samples from Poland and Slovakia are representative for the population aged 18+, while the sample for Czech Republic is representative for the population aged 15+.

### Evaluations of the past year and forecasts for 2018

According to declarations, the year 2017 was for Poles, their families and workplaces the best since 1989, which was the year of systemic breakthrough. Almost two-thirds of respondents say that the past year was good for them personally and their families (65% each). Almost two thirds of employees (65%) described it as good for their workplaces.

Statistical analyses show that the assessments of the last year in the private dimension depend primarily on the perception of the material conditions of the household. The greater the satisfaction with financial situation, the better the evaluation of the previous year. The scale of differences in the assessments of 2017 due to perceived material conditions is very high: 82% of people describing their living situation as good are satisfied with last year personally and for their families. Corresponding figures for people describing living conditions as bad are: 20% and 24%.

Evaluations of the balance of last year for Poland are more moderate than in the private and professional sphere, but also historically good. Almost half of respondents (49%) consider 2017 to be good for our country. The ratings of the past year are second only to those which pertained to 1989.

The assessment of 2017 for Poland is mainly differentiated by political orientation. The conviction that the past year was good for our country is expressed by the vast majority of respondents declaring right-wing political views (71%). This opinion is more rarely shared by respondents identifying themselves with the left (35%) or the political centre (40%).

The assessments of the global situation in the past year are diverse. Similar percentages of respondents describe it as good (27%), neither good nor bad (32%) and bad (30%). Despite ambiguous assessments, in the public opinion 2017 was better for the world than 2016.

**Percentage of people assessing the past year as good for:**

- Their families
- Them personally
- Their workplace (only employed)

Expectations for 2018 are moderately optimistic, with hopes for improvement primarily relating to family life and personal matters. Over two fifths of respondents expect that this year will be better for them (46%) and for their families (45%) than the previous year. The rest generally predict that it will be the same as 2017 (38% and 39% respectively). Predictions about personal and family life depend mainly on age. Younger respondents look into the future with more optimism than older ones. For example, 65% of respondents aged 18 - 34 expect improvement in personal life, and only 29% of respondents aged 65+ do. Positive outlook to the year 2018 is also related to good assessment of the financial situation of the household: 19% of those poorly assessing their financial situation expect a better year, whereas 55% of people describing it as good look forward to the future.

Employees expect that 2018 will be the same as the past (43%) or better (36%) for their workplaces.

In predictions about Poland, there is moderate optimism. The plurality of respondents (41%) expect that 2018 will be better for our country than the previous, the others generally think that it will be the same as 2017 (31%). Optimistic predictions about the development of the
situation in Poland in 2018 are expressed more often than a year earlier. Predictions about the development of the situation in the country, as is the case with its assessments, are mainly related to political orientation. Optimism about the situation in the country is expressed mainly by respondents declaring right-wing political views (55%), much less often by those who identify with the left (35%) or the political centre (36%).

In public opinion, this year appears to pose slightly worse prospects for the world than for Poland, although the expectations for improvement (34%) or no change (31%) are the most common in this case. Also in this dimension, there is more hope for improvement compared to the previous year.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Evaluations of the Year 2017 and Forecasts for the Year 2018”, December 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2017, N=925. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

**Disabled in the society**

Perception of the situation of disabled people depends on the level of knowledge of their problems, which is related to contacts with such persons. Only every ninth respondent (11%) declared that he or she did not come into contact with such people. Every tenth respondent claimed to be a disabled person (10%), nearly two fifths have had such family members (36%), every second (50%) has had such persons among friends, and the vast majority (74%) know such people by sight. Comparing this year’s data with those from ten years ago, there is a certain increase in the percentage of respondents declaring knowledge of persons with disabilities. These changes may be related to aging of society and longer life expectancy.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “People with Disabilities among Us”, December 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2017, N=1016. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who helps you in everyday matters?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nearest family .......................... 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends .................................. 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social services ........................ 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbours ................................ 7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid help ................................ 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distant family .......................... 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations, non-governmental organizations 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone else ............................ 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers .............................. 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know ............................... 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not need help ..................... 6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers of disabled people

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “People with Disabilities among Us”, December 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2017, N=1016. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.
Attitude to people of homosexual orientation

Currently, every third respondent (32%) declares knowing personally a gay or lesbian. This is by 7-8 percentage points more than in 2010-2013 and twice as many as in the previous decade. Assuming that the percentage of gays and lesbians is stable in the population, this increase can be associated with the rising social acceptance of homosexuality, which translates to some extent into the scale of coming-outs.

Do you personally know a gay or lesbian?

Acquaintance with someone of homosexual orientation is more common for women than men, and most frequent in case of youngest respondents (18–34 years, especially the 18–24 group), inhabitants of big cities, the best educated people from households with high income per capita and respondents identifying themselves with the left. It probably does not mean that in these social circles homosexuality is more frequent than in others, but it likely results from differences in the scale of its disclosure.

One sixth of respondents (16%) regard homosexuality as something normal. Currently, this approach is not much more frequent than four years ago (an increase of 4 percentage points), but twice as common as in 2008-2010 and at least three times more frequent than in the first half of the previous decade. Over half of Poles (55%) treat homosexuality as a deviation from the norm which should be tolerated, while every fourth respondent (24%) thinks that it should not be tolerated. The last attitude in this decade is much less frequently expressed than previously.

Do you think that...

The perception of homosexuality is affected by personal contact with people of this orientation. Those who know a gay or lesbian, more often than others, perceive this sexual orientation as something normal and express the need for tolerance, while they are less likely to treat it as a deviation that should not be accepted.

Most Poles are reluctant to extend to homosexual couples norms and rights of heterosexuals. Over the years, however, we have seen some change in this respect. One-third of respondents (32%) are in favour of same-sex couples publicly showing their way of life. Slightly fewer approve of their right to enter into marriages (30%), and one-ninth (11%) think that they should have the right to adopt children. In recent years, the scale of acceptance of homosexual marriages and the adoption of children has slightly increased. In general, currently more Poles than ever before in the history of CBOS research manifest an inclusive attitude towards homosexual relationships.

Do you think that gay and lesbian couples should have the right to:

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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Attitude towards Gays, Lesbians and Civil Unions”, December 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2017, N=1016. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:

CBOS
5/7, Świętojerska, 00-236 Warsaw, Poland
Phones: (48) 22 629 35 69, 22 628 37 04 Fax: (48) 22 629 40 89
e-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl www.cbos.pl

Yearly subscription rate for “Polish Public Opinion” is 80 USD
Circulation: 70 copies

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