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

- Social Evaluation of the Organizational Side of Local Government Elections
- Perception of the Election Campaign and Political Activity on the Internet before Local Elections
- Local Elections – The Winners and Satisfaction with the Results
- Political Party Preferences in December
- Everyday Activity of Poles. Self-portrait and Picture of Social Environment in 1988-2018
- Motives of Voting in Local Elections 2018
- Opinions about Parliament, President, National Bank of Poland (NBP) and Polish Financial Supervision Authority (KNF)
- Attitude to Government in December
- Public Opinion on KNF Affair
- Trust in Politicians in December
- Social Moods in December
- Reasons behind Absenteeism in Local Elections 2018
- Evaluations of the Year 2018

### Poland in the European Union

A very high level of public support for Poland’s membership in the European Union persists, as 87% of respondents are in favour, while only 7% are against it.

Poles most often declare being advocates of maintaining the current state of integration (35%) or deepening it (35%), whereas 14% of respondents opt for limiting integration and increasing the role of nation states. Few support Poland’s exit from the EU (4%) or the emergence of a Europe of many speeds (3%). Since April last year, the percentage of supporters of closer integration has decreased by 6 percentage points, with a corresponding increase in the proportion of people who support the status quo (a 3-point rise).

There is a persistent disapproval of the adoption of the euro by Poland. At present 71% of adult Poles are opposed to this move. The introduction of the single currency is supported only by 22% of respondents. The largest support for replacing the PLN with the euro (64%) was recorded in January 2002, before Poland’s accession to the EU. After Poland joined the EU, the acceptance of our country’s accession to the euro zone weakened. In the first quarter of 2009, after Slovakia’s accession to the euro area and during the discussion on the feasibility and rationale of Poland’s early adoption of the euro, support for the introduction of the single currency decreased.

### Do you agree that Poland should replace the PLN with the euro?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Moderately agree</th>
<th>Moderately disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
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<td>35</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
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<td>19</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN 2009</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAR 2009</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>APR 2010</td>
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<tr>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 2014</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 2017</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 2018</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>44</td>
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</table>
increased again to over 50%. In the following years, when the financial problems of Greece and later other European countries were already known, acceptance of the introduction of the single currency in our country weakened.

Opinions about Poland’s policy on the EU forum are ambiguous, but more people rate it positively (43%) than negatively (30%). The perception of Poland’s policy on the EU arena varies depending on current events: in April 2017 it was evaluated more critically, while in April 2018 the assessment was better than now.

How do you assess Poland’s policy on the forum of the European Union?

Those who express their approval of Poland’s actions at the EU forum pay particular attention to the subjectivity of Polish policy. They emphasize the determination of Polish authorities to articulate their point of view, not succumbing to pressure, expressing their opinion clearly and being ready to defend it (20%). They assess that the policy on the EU forum serves the pursuit of Polish interests, is beneficial for our country (11%). In their opinion, the authorities defend the sovereignty and independence of Poland in the EU and take care to preserve the national identity (7%). In the opinion of this group, actions taken at the EU forum are conducive to strengthening Poland’s position in the Union, building more equal relations with the most influential countries (7%). Among the specific areas in which Poland wants to and should run its own policy, the immigration policy was mentioned above all (7%). Poland was rarely praised for good cooperation, seeking agreement and adherence to EU recommendations and requirements (3%). People who evaluate Poland’s policy well on the EU arena often justify their assessments with benefits related to membership in the Union (4%), the opposition was accused of reporting on specific issues, changes in the judiciary were mainly mentioned (7%). Some people (6%) accused the authorities of euroscepticism, the desire to move Poland out of the Union, and of being exclusively focused on financial benefits from membership. Other reservations regarding the actions of the current authorities concerned the weakness of Polish diplomacy (6%), the mismatch between internal policy and the position on the EU forum (2%) or were generally critical of governmental actions in the EU (9%) and inland (2%). Critical remarks concerned not only the current authorities but also the activities of the entire political class. Therefore, respondents mentioned lack of unity on the EU forum: party disputes to the EU arena (4%), the opposition was accused of reporting on Poland to Brussels (3%).

Almost three-quarters of respondents (72%) feel that Poland does not have sufficient influence on the decisions and actions of the Union. Only 17% of respondents believe that the impact of our country on EU affairs is satisfactory. Opinions in this matter have practically not changed since April 2017.

Which of the statements is closer to your own opinion?

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poland in European Union", December 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2018, N=999. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Evaluation of democratic electoral mechanisms

Poles have a good opinion on the functioning of electoral mechanisms and procedures in our country. Opinions on this matter are generally better than four years ago. Both
surveys, in 2014 and 2018, were fielded shortly after the local government elections in Poland. At present, nearly half of respondents (47%) believe that, during elections in Poland, voters always have a real choice to select for whom to vote (in comparison with 2014 an increase of 15 percentage points). Since December 2014, the percentage of such opinions expressed strongly has increased from 19% to 23%.

In comparison with December 2014, more people are convinced that votes are always counted honestly in Polish elections (increase from 29% to 42%). The group of people who think that it happens often has also increased (rise from 17% to 23%). To a lesser extent, there has been an increase in the percentage of people who are convinced about the integrity of electoral commission members (an increase from 26% to 33% in the proportion of respondents who think they are always honest, while as regards the answer “very often honest” there is a rise from 21% to 25%). Compared to December 2014, there is an increase in the number of respondents convinced that voters in Poland are never bribed (up from 21% to 30%). Similarly to the survey conducted four years ago, respondents share it). Opinions about whether banks' activities are supervised properly or not are divided, but the prevailing opinion is that this supervision is properly exercised (42%).

In your opinion, how often do the following situations occur during elections in Poland? The question is generally about elections, not only about the last local elections.

Confidence in the banking system

The vast majority of Poles (84%) use banking services. Respondents are generally clients of one bank (64%), much less often two (16%) or more (4%). Compared to 2012, there has been a 5-point increase in the percentage of respondents declaring the use of banking services.

Do you use banking services?

The majority of respondents (74%) declare trust in banks operating in Poland. In recent years (since 2012) confidence in banks has increased significantly.

Do you trust banks operating in Poland?

Over two-thirds (68%) believe that money deposited in banks in Poland is safe. The last few years have strengthened the belief about the security of financial resources in banks. However, it is still less frequent than in 2006, before the outbreak of the global financial crisis.

Do you agree that money deposited by people in banks in Poland is safe?

The conviction that the state should protect the safety of citizens’ savings in banks is practically undisputed (95% of respondents share it). Opinions about whether banks' activities are supervised properly or not are divided, but the prevailing opinion is that this supervision is properly exercised (42%).

Are the activities of banks properly supervised?

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Assessment of the Functioning of Democratic Electoral Mechanisms and Procedures in Poland”, December 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2018, N=999. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.
Subjective well-being in 2018

Over three fifths of Poles (61%) often (including very often) felt satisfied last year that they were successful in their lives. Almost the same percentage (60%) often felt that everything was going well. Just over half of Poles (52%) were often proud of their achievements, and half of people were particularly interested, excited many times in 2018 (50%). These positive emotions accompanied Poles more often than negative ones. Nevertheless, two-fifths of respondents (40%) were frequently nervous, annoyed over the past year. About one-fourth (26%) experienced repeatedly discouragement, weariness, and more than a fifth (22%) felt helpless. Fewer people in the past year felt often unhappy, depressed (18%) or angry (16%). Only very few (1%) had suicidal thoughts.

Emotions prevailing among Poles in 2018 do not differ significantly from those we observed the year before. Nevertheless, more Poles often felt curious, excited (increase by 6 percentage points), there has also been a slight increase in confidence that everything is going well (up by 3 points). At the same time, slightly more people than a year earlier declared being unhappy (an increase of 2 points).

Respondents declaring they felt the following emotions often:

In the long-term perspective, it is clear that the well-being of Poles is systematically improving. Since the beginning of the 1990s, the percentage of people frequently experiencing positive emotions has been increasing, and the proportion of respondents who often experience negative feelings has been decreasing.

The indicator of Poles' well-being built on the basis of average intensity of experienced emotions (both positive and negative) shows a gradual improvement in the psychological well-being.

Subjective well-being in 1988-2018

Standard of living measured by the self-assessment of material living conditions has a clear impact on emotions. Respondents who perceive the material conditions of their households as bad much less often than others experience positive emotions, and significantly more often feel bad. In the group of people convinced that they live in good material conditions, all positive emotions are much more common than negative ones. The frequency of feeling pleasant emotions in the past year is related to age: the highest percentage of people indicating positive states of mind was recorded in the age groups 25-34 and 35-44 years. Then, with age, there is a decrease in the share of people declaring that they often experience confidence that everything is going well, they have succeeded in life, feel pride in their own achievements and curiosity, excitement. In the case of negative feelings, the relation is not so clear.

Education is also important in this context. The higher the education, the higher the percentage of people experiencing often positive emotions, and the lower the share of respondents who have experienced negative feelings.

The relationship between emotions and gender is interesting. Women and men equally often experience positive emotions, but at the same time women significantly more often than men have negative feelings.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Psychological Wellbeing in 2018“, December 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2018, N=942. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.