

CONTENTS

20 years of Poland's membership in NATO

Opinions about the work of Polish Members of the European Parliament

Opinions about budget deficit

Acceptance of alternative models of family life

Preferences for the family model

IN ADDITION

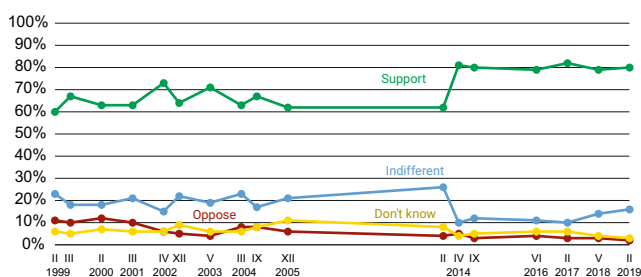
TO THE REPORTS REFERRED TO ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED RECENTLY (IN POLISH):

- Interest in Elections to European Parliament, Declared Participation and Significance
- Who Wants to Vote for Wiosna (Spring – Political Party)
- Poles about Smog
- Opinions on Maternal Pensions
- Political Party Preferences in March
- Structure of the Political Scene: Closer and Further Parties
- Interest in Elections to European Parliament and Voting Preferences
- Structure of the Political Scene: Likes and Dislikes in Electorates of Main Political Parties
- Social Moods in March
- Attitude to Government in March
- Trust in Politicians in March
- Opinions about Public Institutions

20 years of Poland's membership in NATO

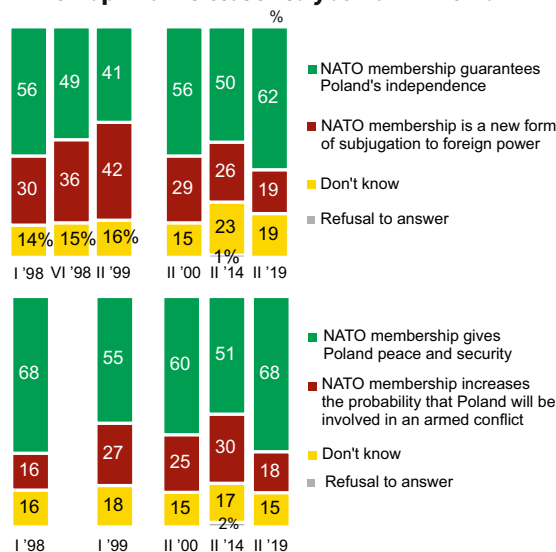
On March 12, 1999, Poland became a member of NATO. This event was accepted and approved of by the majority of Polish society. Currently, after two decades of NATO membership, 80% of Poles declare support for the presence of our country in the alliance. The Russian aggression towards Ukraine in 2014 contributed to the strengthening of support for NATO membership.

Do you support Poland's NATO membership?



Membership in NATO meets the expectations of Poles regarding the provision of sovereignty and security to our country. The fear that joining the alliance would be a new form of subordinating Poland to a foreign power was not confirmed: less than one-fifth of respondents think this way about joining NATO (19%). In the opinion of the majority (62%), membership in the alliance is a guarantee of Poland's independence.

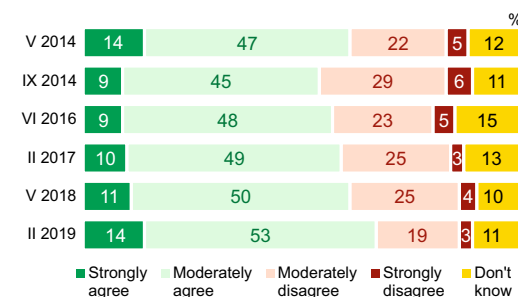
Which opinion is closer to your own view?



The percentage of people convinced that Poland can be sure of involvement of NATO allies in the possible defence of our borders is currently the highest recorded in CBOS surveys. Almost 67% of respondents believe in assistance from other NATO members (6 points more than in May 2018) whereas 22% have their doubts about this (7 points less than before).

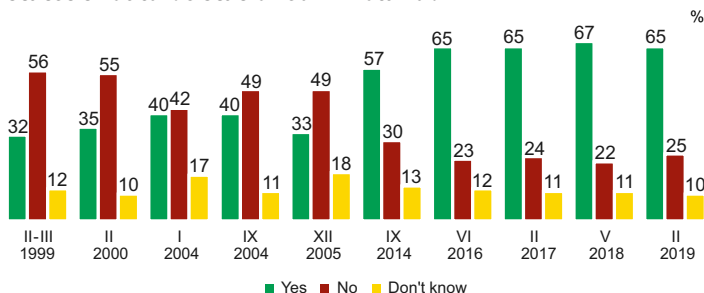
Over two-thirds of respondents (68%) believe that presence in NATO provides Poland with peace and security. Only one-fifth (18%) think the opposite, that membership in this organization increases the possibility of Poland's involvement in armed conflict. Perceiving the presence in NATO as a guarantee of independence and as a factor contributing to ensuring peace and security for Poland strengthened after the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Do you agree that Poland can be sure that NATO allies would engage in case of a need to defend our borders?



Since June 2016, the percentage of supporters of stationing the troops of other NATO members in Poland has remained stable and high (65%). Opinions in this matter have changed dramatically after Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Do you agree that armed forces of other NATO member states should be stationed in Poland?

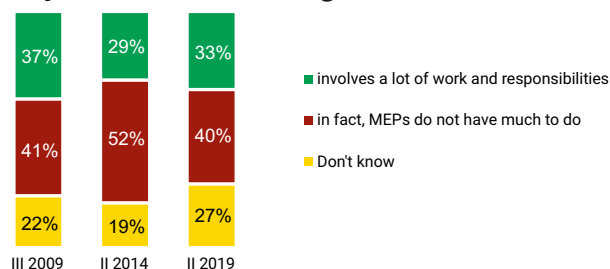


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "20 Years of Poland's Membership in NATO", March 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2019, N=968. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Opinions about the work of Polish Members of the European Parliament

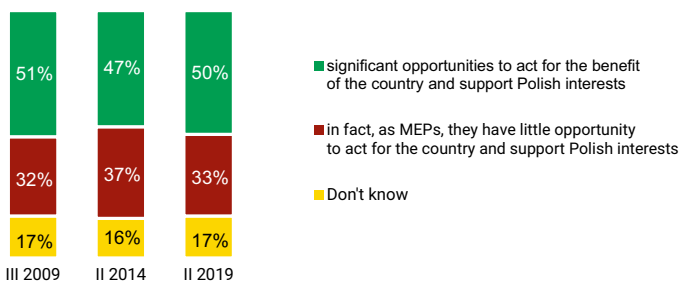
In the minds of many Poles, work in the European Parliament is not very demanding: two-fifths (40%) of respondents believe that MEPs do not really have much to do. Slightly fewer, (one-third of the respondents, 33%) think that it involves a lot of work and responsibilities.

Do you think that exercising the mandate of an MEP...



Half of respondents (50%) believe that holding the mandate of MEP gives politicians significant opportunities to support Polish interests. One third (33%) are of the opposite opinion, as they believe that their ability to act for the benefit of the country is small.

Do you think that exercising the mandate of an MEP gives Polish politicians...



The results obtained this year are similar to findings from 2009, when Polish MEPs ended their term for the first time. Five years later, respondents' opinions were more critical, as they more often claimed that politicians in the European Parliament had little to do, and assessed their possibilities of supporting Polish interests as small. However, the perception of MEPs' work did not change between successive measurements in a fundamental way.

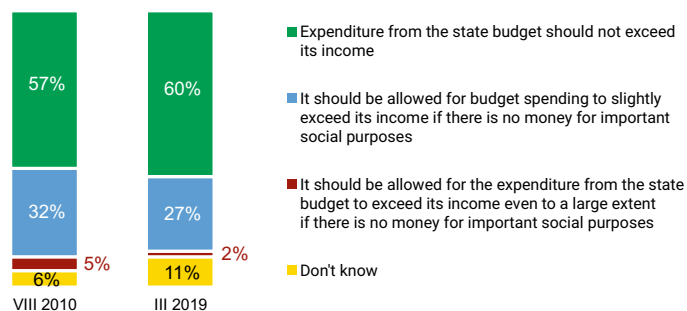
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about Work of Polish MEPs", March 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2019, N=968. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Opinions about budget deficit

Law and Justice (PiS) leader Jarosław Kaczyński announced the introduction of new social programs during the February electoral convention in Warsaw. In the so-called 'Kaczyński five' are: benefit from the Family 500 Plus program for each child, payment of a one-off supplement to pensions in the amount of the lowest public system (ZUS) pension, zero PIT for employees up to 26 years of age, reduction of labour costs and restoration of local bus connections. It is estimated that the implementation of all announced programs will cost the state budget an additional PLN 40 billion, which may significantly contribute to increasing the budget deficit in Poland.

Although all the solutions presented were received favourably (support ranges from 73% for zero PIT for employees ≤ 26 to 84% for pension supplement), opinions about whether Poland can afford them are divided. In total, 45% of respondents think that Poland can afford to finance new solutions, but only slightly fewer people (38%) are of the opposite opinion.

In your opinion, should it be allowed for spending from the state budget to exceed its income?

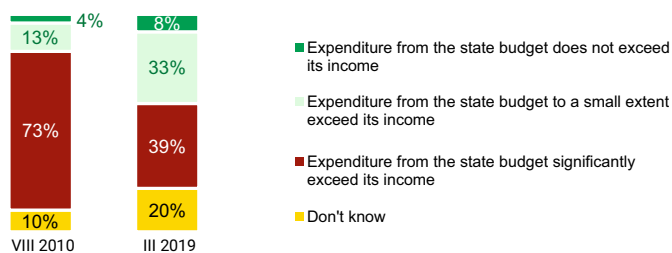


In general, the majority of Poles believe that spending from the state budget should not exceed its income (60%), whereas a fourth allow for the expenditure to exceed the income to a small extent if there is no money for important social goals (27%). There is no social consent for the expenses to exceed the income to a large extent (such a solution is accepted by only 2% of respondents). Currently, Poles are in favour of more financial discipline

than in 2010, when the deficit was much higher than at present. In 2010, public deficit in relation to GDP was 7.3%, in 2017 it was 1.4%, and, according to estimates, in 2018 it was even lower.

Respondents, when asked about the current situation in Poland, in the vast majority believe that currently expenditure from the state budget exceeds income, but opinions about the size of the deficit are divided. The conviction that the deficit is significant prevails over the opinion that it is small (39% v. 33%). A comparison of this year's results with assessments of the budgetary situation from nine years ago shows that Poles have a general idea of the state of public finances. In 2010, the vast majority of respondents (73%) believed that the deficit in Poland was significant.

How do you assess the situation in Poland?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Reactions to the Kaczyński New Five Proposals", March 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2019, N=968. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

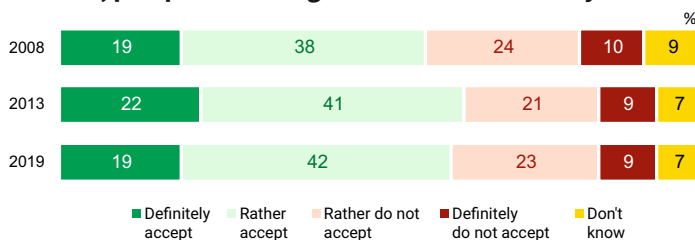
Acceptance of alternative models of family life

The family has undergone significant changes in the last three decades. The average age of getting married has moved. The number of divorces and separations is rising. People increasingly decide to live by themselves. Alternative forms of marital life are also becoming more and more popular, including mainly cohabitation. Incomplete families, single parents raising children and reconstructed families (so-called patchwork families) are becoming more and more frequent. In connection with the above trends, the ways of thinking about marriage and family are also changing. Liberalization concerns opinions on various phenomena and behaviours related to both marital and family life.

Postponing the decision to marry or complete rejection of the possibility of formalizing a relationship are increasingly practiced and, as it turns out, quite widely socially approved of. Almost two-thirds of respondents (61%) accept the fact that young people temporarily or definitively choose not to marry. It is incomprehensible for every third respondent (32%). Since 2013, acceptance of such an attitude has weakened slightly, but it is still higher than in 2008.

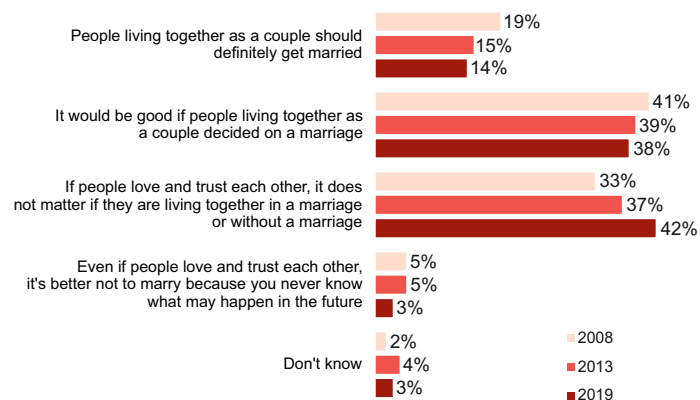
Acceptance of the decisions of young people to postpone or resign from marriage is largely connected with the religiosity of respondents and the frequency of participation in religious practices. Delaying marriage is accepted by 30% of people participating several times a week in religious practices and by 85% of non-practitioners.

Do you accept the fact that young people, for various reasons, postpone marriage or decide not to marry at all?



In opinions on the need to formalize cohabitation, Poles are quite divided. Almost equal groups of respondents assume that if people love and trust each other, it does not matter if they get married (42%), and think that marriage is desirable, although not obligatory (38%). Every seventh respondent (14%) is more categorical in this respect and believes that people living in a relationship should definitely get married. However, only a few (3%) express the opposite view, claiming that even if people love and trust each other, it is better not to marry because you never know what may happen in the future. Over time, a group of people for whom cohabitation is an equal alternative to marriage is growing.

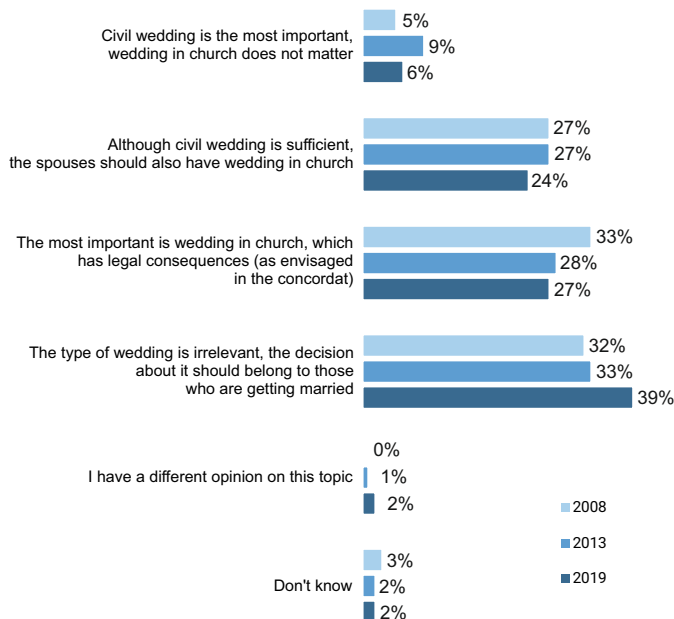
Which opinion is closer to your own view?



In recent years, more and more couples who decide to marry have only a civil ceremony, rejecting religious wedding or postponing it for a later date. This phenomenon is particularly noticeable in the largest cities. Regarding the opinions of Poles about the type of wedding, they are consistently quite divided. There has been an increase in the conviction that the type of wedding is irrelevant and should only be the decision of the people who are getting married. Currently, 39% of respondents think so, which is 6 percentage points more than six years ago. Over a quarter of respondents (27%) assume that the most important is the church wedding which has legal consequences, as stipulated by the

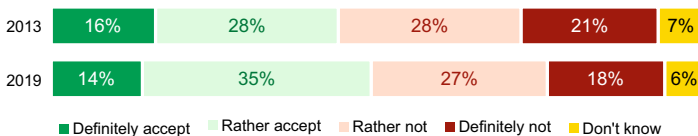
concordat. A slightly smaller percentage (24%) consider that civil marriage is sufficient, but it is advisable to conclude a church wedding as well. Every sixteenth respondent (6%) claims that the church wedding is of no great significance and the most important is the civil marriage.

Which opinion is the closest to your own view?



Opinions about living alone as a single are divided: 49% of respondents express acceptance of such a lifestyle, while 45% disapprove. Since 2013, the number of people who are positive about singles' lifestyle has increased.

Do you personally accept the fact that some people live alone as singles?



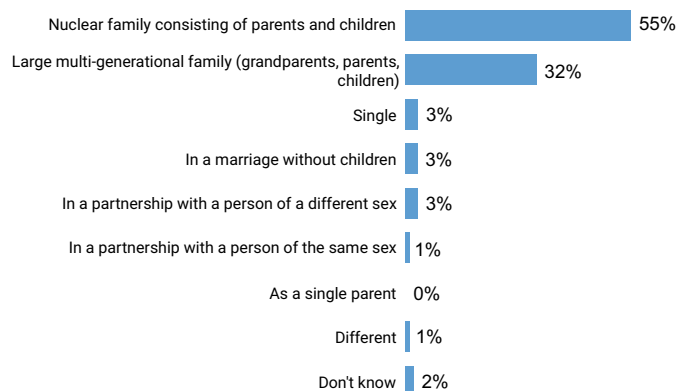
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about Alternative Models of Family Life", March 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2019, N=928. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Preferences for the family model

Regardless of how they live, Poles most often consider it best to live in a nuclear family consisting of parents and children. Over half of adults (55%) indicated such a model.

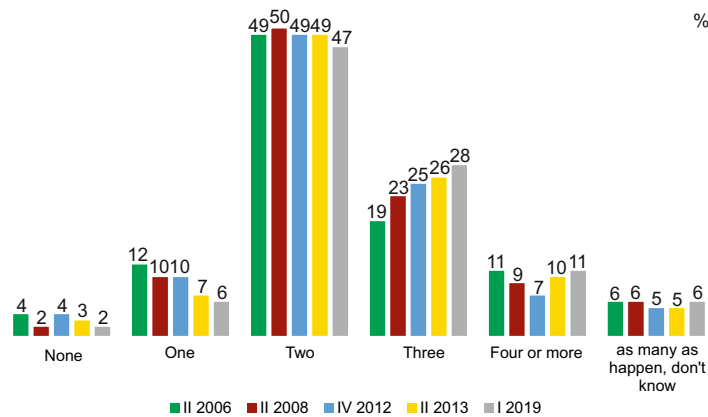
Almost a third (32%) prefer life in a large, multi-generational family. Other models were rarely chosen as optimal.

Regardless of how you yourself live, what style of life would you consider the best for you?



Almost all adult Poles declare that, regardless of the actual situation, they would like to have children. As in previous years, most people (47%) think that having two children is optimal. More than a fourth (28%) would like to have three children, and one-ninth (11%) would like four or more. One child would be sufficient for 6% of respondents. From a longer perspective, it can be seen that over the years there are more people who would like to have three children, while fewer people declare the desire to have only one child.

Regardless of your marital status, how old are you, and whether or not you have children, how many children would you like to have in your life?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Preferred and Actual Family Models", March 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2019, N=928. 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**

Circulation: 50 copies

CBOS EXPERTISE

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

All sources must be credited when any part of this publication is reproduced

© COPYRIGHT BY **CBOS, 2019**