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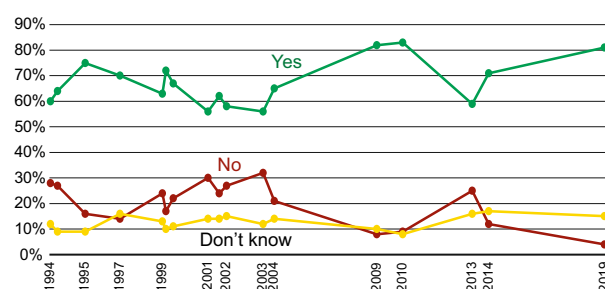
## Assessment of systemic transformation

30 years ago, on 4 June 1989, Poland held partly free elections, as a result of which our country became the first state of the Eastern bloc, where representatives of the democratic opposition gained a real influence on the exercise of power. These elections are for many a symbol of the beginning of the political transformation in Poland.

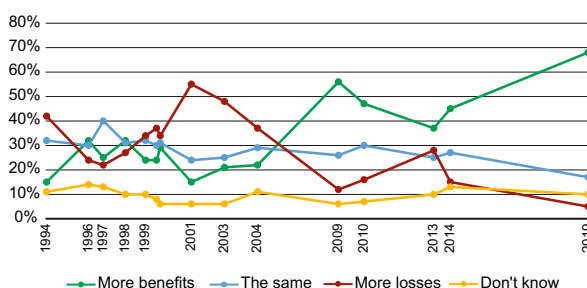
Over four-fifths of respondents (81%) think that in 1989 it was worth changing the system. Only four out of a hundred adult Poles think that it was not worth undertaking a systemic transformation.

The attitude to transformation is now much more enthusiastic than it was five years ago (increase in support by 10 percentage points). This year's result in terms of the level of support for political transformation is one of the best in the history of research on this issue. It is worth noting that the level of acceptance of political changes initiated in 1989 never fell below 56%.

**In retrospect, was worth changing the system in Poland in 1989?**



### Have the changes taking place in Poland since 1989 brought more benefits or losses to people?

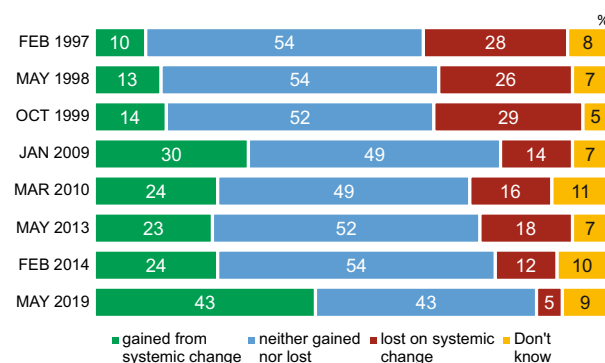


After more than 30 years, the assessment of the social effects of transformation is better than ever before. Currently, over two-thirds of respondents (68%) say that the changes that have taken place in Poland since 1989 have brought people more benefits than losses.

Only 5% believe that the transformation brought more losses than benefits to people in Poland.

The social effects of changes taking place in Poland since 1989 have been assessed to a large extent through the prism of individual experiences. At present, the largest group in the history of research count themselves and their families as those who have gained (43%). The same

### Have you and your family...



proportion of respondents believe that the transformation did not affect their situation in any way; this group is far less numerous than in previous studies, when such an opinion was prevalent. The group of respondents who believe that they and their families lost on changes is least numerous in history: currently only 5% say so.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Was It Worth to Change the Political System? Evaluation of Changes after Year 1989", June 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2019, N=1079. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## Material living conditions

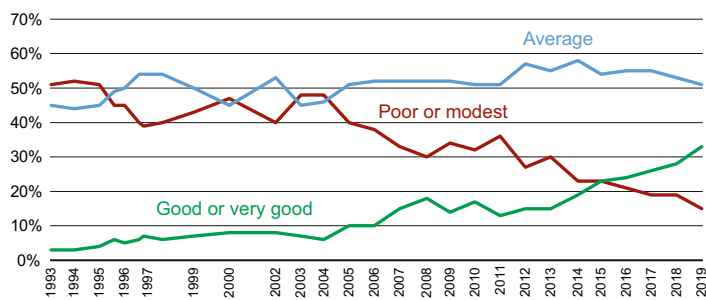
When characterizing their way of managing money, Poles most often declare that they live on an average level, i.e. they have enough for everyday expenses, but they must save for more serious purchases. A third of respondents have greater freedom in managing a home budget: they have enough without special savings or can even afford a certain amount of luxury. One-seventh of Poles declare living modestly: they must be very economical on a daily basis. Very few say they are very poor, i.e. they do not even have enough to satisfy basic needs.

### How would you describe your household's financial situation?



In comparison with last year's results, the percentage of poor, modest and average people has decreased, and the share of people living well or very well increased. Taking into account the long, twenty-five-year perspective, a very visible improvement in the financial situation can be seen. At the beginning of the 1990s, about half of respondents declared that they lived modestly or poorly, and far fewer were satisfied with their position (in 1993, 3% of respondents declared that they lived well or very well). Over time, the proportion of people satisfied with their own financial situation systematically increased, and the number of dissatisfied decreased. We registered a noticeable improvement in the material situation in 2004-2008. Also from 2014, the financial situation of Poles has been systematically improving. The results obtained this year are the best recorded so far.

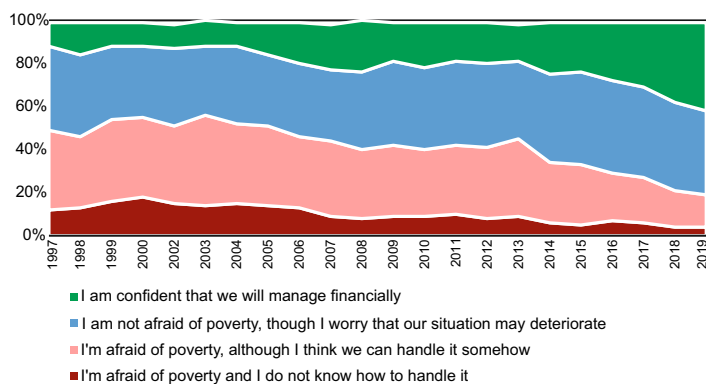
### How would you describe your household's financial situation?



Almost a fifth of respondents are afraid of poverty (19%), 15% of whom think that they can manage somehow and 4% feel helpless. The others (80%) do not have such concerns, with nearly two-fifths of respondents claiming that their financial situation may deteriorate (39%), while a similar group of respondents are calm about their financial future (41%).

Over the last year, the percentage of people fearing poverty has decreased slightly, and the numbers of people without such concerns has increased. The results obtained this year are part of a longer improvement trend. Starting from 1997, since when we have been monitoring this issue, the percentage of Poles who are afraid of poverty has decreased significantly. In the 1990s and in the first years of the 21st century, more or less half of respondents expressed such fears. However, in the following years, the percentage of Poles fearing poverty decreased more or less systematically and, at the same time, the share of those who remained calm about their financial future increased. Since 2014, ratings have been systematically improving, and this year's results are the best recorded so far.

### Which of the following statements best describes your household's current financial situation?



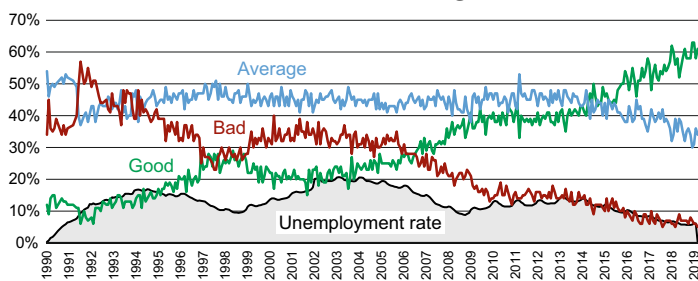
Don't know omitted

Currently, the majority of respondents (61%) positively assess the material conditions of their households, one-third (34%) rate it as average, and 5% have a negative opinion.

Over the past three decades, we have seen a strong improvement in the assessment of the material conditions of households. Thirty years ago, relatively few were satisfied with their financial condition. In

subsequent years, the perception of material conditions improved, and we recorded particularly dynamic improvement in periods of high economic growth. Since August 2006, the proportion of people satisfied with the material conditions is bigger than the number of the dissatisfied. For the last four years positive ratings have outweighed not only the negative, but also the average. For the last five years, the perception of material conditions has been improving dynamically: the percentage of negative and average marks is decreasing, and the positive opinions are increasing in number. Good assessments of material conditions correspond with a record low level of unemployment.

### Evaluation of household material living conditions

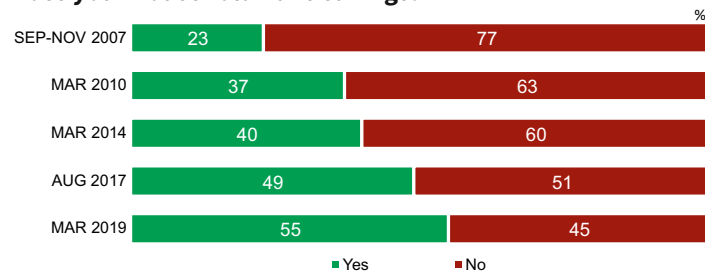


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Material Living Conditions", May 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2019, N=1046. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## Debts and savings

For the first time in CBOS research, more than half (55%) of respondents declare that their households have savings. In the last year and a half, the share of people with savings has increased by 6 points. However, taking into account a longer perspective, compared to 2007 this percentage has more than doubled.

### Does your household have savings?

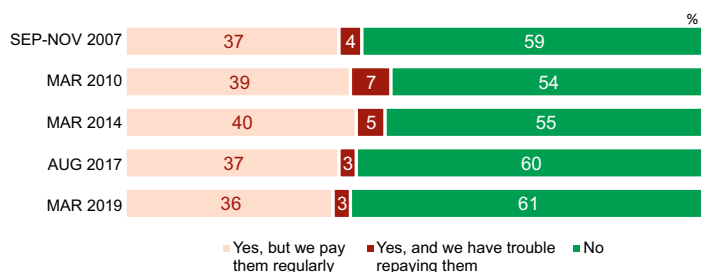


Three out of four respondents with savings (75%) would be able to live on the accumulated financial resources without lowering their current standard of living for at least two months; this includes close to a quarter (23%) who could live like that for more than half a year. One-tenth (10%) have enough for about a month, and only a few (3%) have less than that.

Despite the fact that over the last year and a half the percentage of respondents declaring having savings has increased, the share of households with debts to pay off

has remained unchanged. Currently, 39% of respondents declare that their households have some debts or loans, of which 3% currently have a problem with their repayment.

### Does your household currently have to pay off instalments, debts or loans?

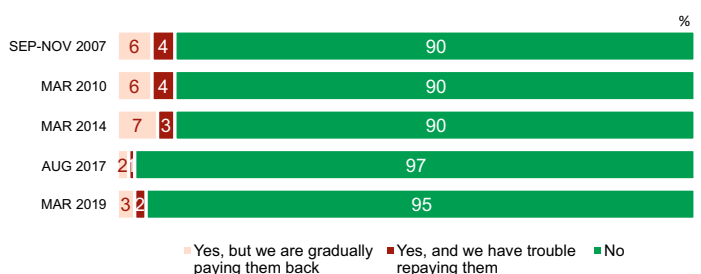


Debtors are relatively often residents of the largest cities, respondents aged 35-54, university graduates. Although the material situation does not diversify household debt so strongly, it does have a significant impact on the repayment capacity. Respondents living poorly or modestly have to pay some instalments, loans or other debts as often as those who live on average or good standard. However, people in a more difficult financial situation have greater difficulties in paying off their obligations.

Poles most often indebted themselves in banks (90%), much less often in other non-banking institutions (7%), in enterprises (9%) or with private persons (7%). Where respondents take out debts depends on their financial situation. People living poorly or modestly more often than others are in debt to non-banking creditors and private individuals. It can also be noticed that respondents who have a problem with paying off their debts are much more likely than other debtors to owe money to payday loan firms and private persons.

Respondents' declarations show that relatively few households (5%) have any arrears in current payments, such as rent, electricity, telephone, overdue taxes; 2% have problems with their repayment. The percentage of households with problems paying off their outstanding debts is at a similar level to levels recorded in 2017, and lower than in 2007-2014.

### Does your household have any outstanding arrears to pay (e.g. rent, electricity, telephone, overdue taxes, etc.)?



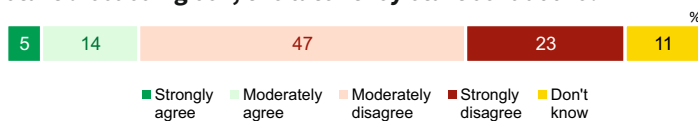
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles about Their Debts and Savings", May 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2019, N=1046. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

# Sex education in schools

In February 2019, the mayor of Warsaw Rafał Trzaskowski signed a declaration under the name "Warsaw urban policy for the LGBT+ community" in short called the LGBT+ charter. The strongest emotions were aroused by the provisions contained in point II of the Declaration entitled "Education", where it promises to "introduce anti-discrimination and sex education in every school, taking into account issues of psychosexual identity and gender identity, consistent with the standards and guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO)". In this way, the charter intensified discussion about sexual education in Polish schools. Communities voice different positions in this matter, from ultra-conservative to ultra-liberal.

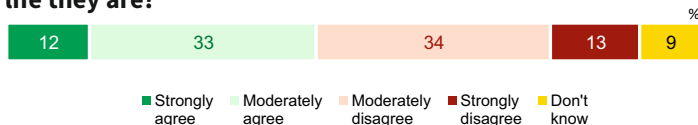
There is an opinion that sex education arouses children's interest in sex and influences the age of initiation: 19% of respondents agree to a greater or lesser extent with this view, while the majority (70% in total) do not see this relationship.

## Do you agree with the statement that the later children start discussing sex, the later they start sexual life?



Opinions are divided on the validity of the view that the sooner children talk about sex, the better they will be prepared to start a sex life. Almost as many people agree with the above statement (45%), as are of the opposite opinion (47%).

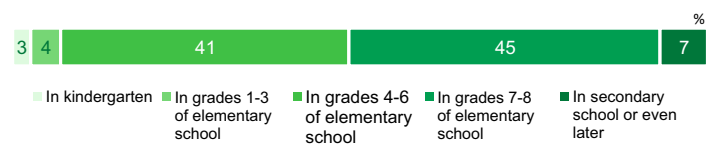
## Do you agree with the statement that the sooner children start discussing sex, the better prepared to start a sexual life they are?



Controversies concern the age of starting sex education, i.e. what "early" means exactly. The majority of respondents think that children should become familiar with human sexuality between the ages of 10 and 14, with 41% believing that it is best if it is between 10 and 12 years old, corresponding to 4-6 grade of primary school, while

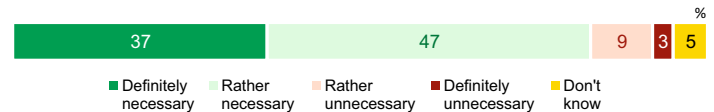
45% think that the older age is better: 13-14 years, corresponding to 7-8 grade.

## When should children start their education about sex life?



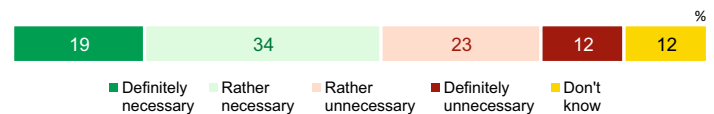
The vast majority of Poles (a total of 84%) believe that, in general, providing children at school with knowledge about the sexual life of a human being is necessary.

## Is it necessary to provide children in school with knowledge about sexual life?



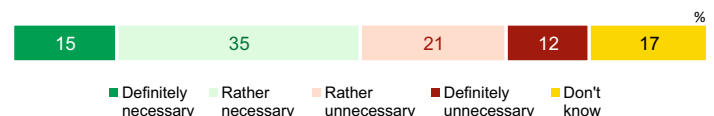
A smaller group (a little more than half of Poles, 53% in total) believe that the introduction of the topic of discrimination based on sexual orientation is needed, while 35% of respondents disagree.

## Is it necessary to introduce sex education in schools regarding discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation?



Results are similar regarding the need to introduce issues of alignment between the biological and psychological gender. Half of respondents are in favour of this solution, while a total of 33% are against.

## Is it necessary to introduce sex education in schools regarding alignment between biological and psychological sex?



It can be seen that although the vast majority of Poles support sex education of children and youth in schools, they are less likely to accept the introduction of LGBT+ related topics.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about Warsaw's LGBT+ Declaration and Sex Education in Schools", May 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2019, N=1064. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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