

# PUBLIC**OPINION**

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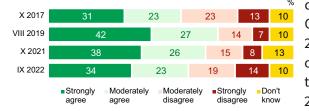
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# Opinions on reparations and Polish-German relations

On September 1 2022, Arkadiusz Mularczyk, an MP, presented the "Report on losses suffered by Poland as a result of aggression and German occupation during World War II 1939-1945", prepared by the parliamentary team under his leadership and experts in various fields. These losses were estimated at PLN 6,220,609,000,000. On September 14, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland adopted a resolution by a majority in which it called on the government of the Federal Republic of Germany "to unequivocally assume political, historical, legal and financial responsibility for all the consequences caused in the Republic of Poland and the citizens of the Republic of Poland as a result of the unleashing of World War II by the Third German Reich".

The announcements of Poland's demands for war reparations were positively received by the respondents from the very beginning. Currently, an application for compensation to Germany is supported by a total of 57% of the respondents,

# Do you agree that Poland should demand reparations from Germany for losses incurred during World War II?



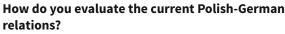
and one-third (33%) are against. Public approval for applying for reparations is currently higher than in October 2017, but lower than in 2019–2021. The largest number of supporters of taking action in this matter was recorded in July 2019 (69%).

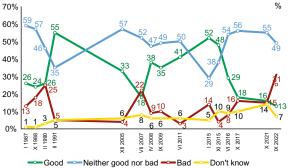
Poles are quite sceptical about the possibility of obtaining war reparations from Germany. Almost half (49%) believe that it is not possible at all, while 36% believe

that we will obtain compensation. Most of these people (i.e. 22% of all respondents) believe that their amount will be lower than the estimated losses.

# In your opinion, is it possible for Poland to obtain compensation from Germany?







Almost half of Poles (49%) perceive the current Polish-German relations as averageneither good nor bad. Nearly one-third (31%) think they are bad, and only 13% say they are good. Assessments of Polish-German relations are the worst in the history of CBOS research on this subject, conducted since 1987. So far,

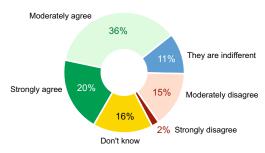
only once (in July 2007) did we note the predominance of negative over positive evaluations.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles on Reparations and Polish-German Relations", October 2022. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2022, N=1119. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

# The war in Ukraine and attitude to Russians

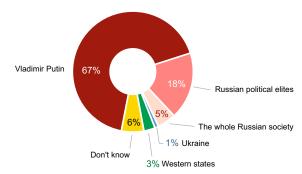
More than half of respondents (56%) believe that the majority of Russians support the invasion of Ukraine, while 17% are of the opposite opinion, and one-ninth (11%) think that the majority of Russians are indifferent to war.

## Do you agree with the opinion that the majority of Russians support the invasion of Ukraine?



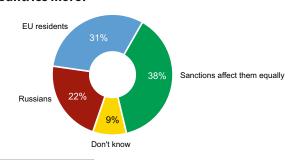
Despite the prevailing belief that Russian society supports the invasion, most Poles believe that one person is primarily responsible for the outbreak of the war, namely Vladimir Putin (67%). Almost one-fifth (18%) blame the Russian political elite in the first place, and only one-twentieth (5%) blame the entire Russian society. On the other hand, 3% of respondents assign the main part of responsibility to Western countries, and 1% blame the attacked Ukraine itself.

#### Who do you think is primarily responsible for the outbreak of the war in Ukraine?



In view of the energy crisis, the question arises whether the western sanctions imposed on Russia in connection with the invasion of Ukraine are more felt by Russians or for the inhabitants of the European Union countries. The most common belief in Polish society is that sanctions affect both parties equally (38%), but almost one-third (31%) believe that they are suffered more harshly by the inhabitants of European Union countries. Interestingly, the belief that the sanctions on Russia mainly hit Russians (i.e. those on whom they were imposed) is voiced least often (22%), if the "don't know" answers are omitted (9%).

In your opinions, do the western sanctions imposed on Russia affect Russians or the inhabitants of the European Union countries more?

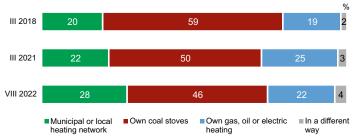


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles on War in Ukraine and Russians", September 2022. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2022, N=1043. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

#### **Energy crisis**

Although in recent years the percentage of people using their own stoves or coal-fired boilers has clearly decreased, it is still the most popular method of heating in Poland, currently used by 46% of respondents. Slightly more than a quarter (28%, 6 points more than a year and a half ago) use the municipal or local (e.g. housing estate) heating network, and more than one- fifth (22%, 3 points less than in 2021) use their own gas, oil or electric heating. People declaring a different type of heating (4%) use wood, pellets, or, less often, heat pumps.

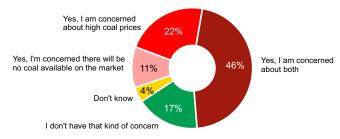
#### How is your flat / house heated?



At the beginning of the heating season, 40% of respondents who heat their apartments or houses using coal said that they had no coal reserves, while a further 35% admitted that they only had a small supply. The vast majority of respondents (79%) who use coal-fired stoves and boilers predict that their households will have problems with the supply of coal in the coming heating season. Most often, these concerns relate to both the lack of fuel on the market and its excessively high prices (46%). Less often, only excessive prices (22%) or solely the deficit of this fuel on the market (11%) were mentioned.

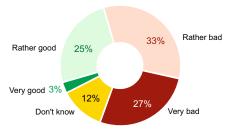
### Do you expect that your household will have problems with coal supply this heating season?

Answers of persons using their own coal stoves (N = 475)



Most respondents (regardless of how they heat their homes) negatively evaluate the government's actions aimed at limiting the increase in electricity and heating costs (60%), while the proportion of the satisfied with the government's activities in this area is less than half of the size of the number of the dissatisfied (28%).

## How do you evaluate the government's actions aimed at limiting the increase in electricity and heating costs?



In order to mitigate the increase in energy prices, the government introduced monetary allowances for households using various heating sources. Users are entitled to the allowance regardless of their income. Overall, two-thirds of adult Poles (65%) support the introduction of a carbon allowance for coal-heating households, and the introduction of cash allowances for households using heating sources other than coal is met with even greater public acceptance (71%).

## Do you support policies aimed at limiting the excessive increase in heating costs, such as:

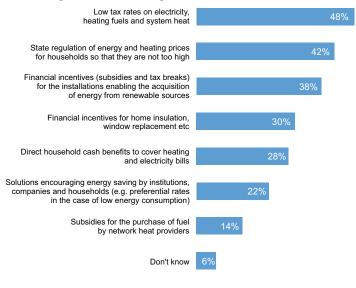


Respondents who support the introduction of cash allowances for households due to the increase in heating costs are divided as to whether they should be granted to all households or only to those with low income. Almost half believe that they should be available to all households, regardless of income (49%), and a slightly smaller group believe that they should be given only to those on low income (47%).

Direct cash supplements for households are assessed positively, but are not among the most preferred state instruments in the face of rising heating and electricity prices. Generally, Poles believe that the state should first of all ensure low tax rates on electricity, heating fuels and

system heat (48%), secondly that it should regulate the prices of energy and heating (42%), and thirdly, it should provide financial incentives (subsidies and tax relief) for the installations enabling the acquisition of energy from renewable sources (38%).

## What should be the state policies towards the energy crisis and rising prices of heating and electricity?



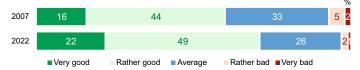
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles towards Energy Crisis", September 2022. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2022, N=1043. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

# Housing situation and preferences regarding the place of residence

More than two-thirds of Poles live in houses (43%) or flats (25%) owned by themselves or their spouses. About a fifth (19%) live in a house (11%) or flat (8%) owned by their parents or other relatives. Slightly more than one-twentieth (6%) occupy a council or company flat, and two out of a hundred (2%) live in a co-operative without ownership rights. Three out of one hundred respondents (3%) rent their flat or house. Regardless of the type of ownership of their housing, more than half of Poles (54%) live in houses, and more than two fifths (41%) live in flats in multi-family buildings.

Most Poles are satisfied with their living conditions. Seven out of ten respondents (71%) rate them as good. A quarter (26%) describe them as average, and only three in a hundred (3%) consider them as bad. Compared to the study from fifteen years ago, there has been a noticeable increase in number of people who are satisfied in this respect (an 11-point rise), with a decline in the number of the dissatisfied by 4 points, as well as a 7-point decrease in the proportion of people assessing their housing conditions as average.

#### How would you evaluate your living conditions?



"Don't know" and refusals were omitted.

Almost three out of ten respondents (29%) declare their intention to move to another house or flat, including 12% of the total wishing to do it within the next few years. The willingness to move is expressed more often than average by young respondents (80% of those aged 18 to 24), and least frequently, by those aged 65+ (4%). The plan to change the place of residence is most often voiced by respondents from the largest cities (48%), and least often by inhabitants of rural areas (21%).

The vast majority of Poles would prefer to live in a single-family house (77%), rather than in a block of flats (21%). These preferences depend primarily on the type of buildings currently inhabited. Almost all people living in single-family houses prefer to live in the house (94%). Opinions of people living in multi-family buildings are more divided, although the preference for a house prevails in this group as well (57% vs. 40%).

#### Regardless of where you currently live, would you prefer to live in a:



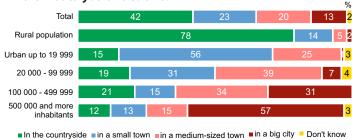
The analysis of socio-demographic differences also shows that people aged 35-44 would prefer to live in single-family houses (87%), whereas respondents aged 65 or more would relatively often like to live in multi-family houses (31%). Taking into account the place of residence, single-family houses are most often preferred by inhabitants of rural areas (91%), while inhabitants of the largest cities relatively often prefer multi-family buildings (32%).

Poles, when asked about the possibility of choosing a place of residence, prefer rural areas and smaller towns: the bigger the size of settlement, the lower the preference. More than two-fifths of respondents (42%) would like to live in the countryside, and only 13% in large cities.

Residence size preferences depend primarily on the current place of residence. The vast majority of rural

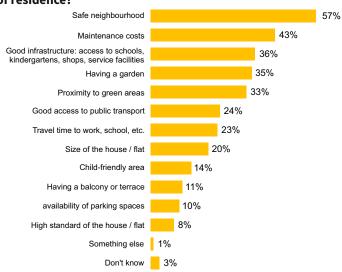
residents would like to live in the countryside (78%), and the majority of respondents from cities up to 20,000 residents would like to live in a small town (56%). In contrast, residents of larger cities prefer metropolitan areas. More than half of the inhabitants of the largest cities (57%) would like to live in a large city.

If you now had the option of choosing a place of residence, where would you like to live?



When it comes to choosing a place of residence, security issues are of key importance (indicated by 57% of respondents), followed by the cost of maintaining a flat or a house (43%). For a large group of respondents, good social infrastructure is important, i.e. access to schools, kindergartens, shops, service facilities (36%), as well as contact with nature: having a garden (35%) and proximity to green areas (33%). Another very important issue is good transportation in the area: good access to public transport (24%) and appropriate travel time to work, school, etc. (23%).

### What is the most important for you regarding your place of residence?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: "Housing Situation of Poles" and "How Would Poles Like to Live?", August 2022. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2022, N=1050. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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