Attitude towards Ukrainian refugees

In April, there was a clear 10-point drop in the percentage of Poles supporting the acceptance of refugees from Ukraine (73% against 83% in March). Although supporters are still the vast majority of respondents, we have noted the lowest result since the outbreak of the war. Immediately after the start of the Russian invasion, Poles were almost unanimous on this issue and support for accepting refugees remained at a level close to or exceeding 90%, stabilizing after a few months around 80%. Almost one-fifth (19%, an increase of 8 points compared to March) are now opposed to accepting Ukrainian refugees, which is the highest result since the outbreak of the war. These changes can be associated with the uncertain economic situation, and in particular with the uncontrolled influx of cheap Ukrainian grain to Poland, which has recently sparked a wave of protests in our country.

Support for accepting Ukrainian refugees is less frequently declared by the following groups: the younger respondents (64% in the 18-24 age group, compared to 81% among the oldest), people living in small towns and villages (68% in rural areas compared to 80% in the largest cities), the less educated (60% respondents with primary or lower secondary education compared to 82% of respondents with higher education), and people assessing their financial situation negatively (50% among those assessing it as bad vs. 80% among people considering it as good).

In-depth analysis shows that mainly young women contribute to the lower support for accepting refugees among the youngest respondents. In fact, the level of support among young men aged 18-24 is relatively high (77%), while among women of this age it is as much as 30 percentage points lower (47%), which makes them stand out in society. As many as one-third of female respondents aged 18–24 (34%) are against accepting refugees. Perhaps the more reluctant attitude of young Polish women towards refugees from Ukraine is related to the fact that a significant part of the newcomers are young women who may be perceived as potential rivals in various fields.
Do you agree that Poland should accept Ukrainian refugees from the areas affected by the conflict?

The declared help for Ukrainian refugees has clearly decreased since the previous measurement (39% against 46% in March), reaching the lowest level since the outbreak of the war. A year ago, this proportion still exceeded 60%. Then, for the rest of 2022, it remained around 50%, dropped below this threshold at the beginning of the new year and now fell below 40% for the first time.

Do you or someone in your household offer help to refugees from Ukraine voluntarily and free of charge?

More than half of Poles (62%) believe that Ukrainians appreciate the help received from our country, but one-fourth (24%) are of the opposite opinion.

Do you agree that Ukrainians appreciate the help they receive in Poland?

According to declarations, the majority of adult Poles have had personal contacts with Ukrainians in recent months. As a rule, these contacts are assessed positively (response given by 51% of all respondents, i.e. by 86% of those who have had contact with Ukrainians). Only 7% (i.e. 12% of those who have had such contacts) described their experiences as negative.

How would you describe your personal contacts with Ukrainians in the last months?

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles about War in Ukraine and Ukrainian Refugees", May 2023. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2023, N=1081. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Opinions on Poland's membership in the European Union

In June 2022, we recorded record-high support for Poland’s membership of the European Union, reaching 92%. The results of this year’s April survey show that acceptance of EU membership has decreased, although it still remains very high (85%). One-tenth are against the presence in the Community, i.e. 5 points more than almost a year ago.

Attitude towards Poland's membership in the EU

The possibility of shaping a common policy in the EU is related to the transfer of part of the competences of member states to EU bodies. Strengthening integration therefore means limiting the sovereignty of member states (or transferring it) in many areas. The issue of sovereignty was often raised in Poland during the rule of Law and Justice (PiS), e.g. in the context of changes in the judiciary and the reservations of EU bodies regarding the observance of the rule of law. Despite the disputes surrounding these issues, the perception of Poland’s sovereignty in the EU did not change much until 2022. Then, the prevailing opinion was that EU membership did not limit Poland’s independence too much. Now that has changed. Currently, about the same number of people believe that the presence in the EU does not significantly violate the sovereignty of our country (44%, 11 points less than in June 2022) and the opposite opinion (45%, 12 points more than before).

Which opinion is closer to your own view?

The start of payments to Poland from the EU Reconstruction Fund is delayed. Another amendment to
the law on the Supreme Court is to bring an end to the dispute with the European Commission regarding the disciplinary system for judges. It stipulates that disciplinary cases of judges will be resolved by the Supreme Administrative Court (in place of today’s Chamber of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court) and clarifies the application of the test of judge’s independence. The entry into force of the amended regulations is questionable, because due to legal doubts - at the request of the president - their compliance with the Constitution is to be examined by the Constitutional Tribunal.

Most respondents (63% in total) support Poland withdrawing some of the changes in the judiciary so that payments to Poland from the EU Reconstruction Fund could be made, but this support is slightly lower than in May last year, when it reached 70%. At the same time, 16% are against concessions, compared to 12% previously.

**Do you support Poland’s withdrawal from some changes in the judiciary so that it would be possible to start payments for Poland from the EU Reconstruction Fund?**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Moderately support</th>
<th>Moderately oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Opinions about Poland’s Membership in European Union”, May 2023. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2023, N=1081. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

### Legal regulation of abortion

Currently, abortion is legal in Poland only when the pregnancy is the result of a prohibited act (e.g. rape or incest) and when the pregnancy threatens the woman’s life or health. In October 2020, the Constitutional Tribunal issued a judgment that the existing provision in the act allowing for termination of pregnancy when prenatal tests or other medical grounds indicate a high probability of severe and irreversible fetal impairment or incurable disease is contrary to the Constitution. Results of the research show that the change was made against the opinion of a large part of society.

The vast majority of respondents believe that abortion should be allowed by law when life (82% in total) or mother’s health (80%) is at risk. It is quite common to support the possibility of abortion when the pregnancy is the result of a prohibited act, i.e. rape or incest (80%). Nearly two-thirds of Poles (62% in total) accept abortion when it is known that the child will be born handicapped. Admissibility of abortion in other situations covered by the study is supported by a definite minority of respondents. Most people are against the possibility of abortion when the woman is in a difficult financial situation (65% in total) or is in a difficult personal situation (65%). The greatest opposition (69% of all respondents) is raised by the legality of termination of pregnancy in a situation when a woman simply does not want to have a child.

### Should abortion be legal if...

<table>
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<th>Moderately oppose</th>
<th>Strongly oppose</th>
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<td>35</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definitely should**: 59, **Rather should**: 49, **Rather not**: 57, **Definitely not**: 36

Compared to November 2020, public opinion on the legal status of abortion has not changed much. From a long time perspective, covering the last two or three decades, it can be seen that the consent to perform abortions for personal and economic reasons has decreased. The most rigorous approach to this issue was observed in 2012-2016.

### Should abortion be legal if...

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: „Attitude to Abortion”, April 2023. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2023, N=993. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

### Financial situation of households

More than half of respondents, characterizing money management in their household, claim that they live on an average level - they have enough money on a daily basis, but they have to economize to save for more serious expenses (54%). More than one-fourth believe that they live well or even very well, i.e. they can afford a lot without saving much (24%) or they can afford some luxury (3%). One-sixth claim that they live modestly - they have to manage their money very sparingly on a daily basis (16%),
and very few say that they are very poor - they do not even have enough to meet their basic needs (2%).

**Which of the following terms best describes money management in your household?**

Compared to last year, the assessment of the standard of living has slightly deteriorated. The percentage of respondents declaring that their living is good or very good has decreased from 30% to 27%, while the proportion of those who live frugally or modestly has increased from 15% to 18%. In the last few years, the perception of the standard of living has deteriorated. The largest share of respondents who live well or very well was recorded in 2019, while the lowest percentage of those declaring a poor or modest life was recorded in the second half of 2020. Despite some deterioration in recent years, taking into account a longer 30-year perspective, a clear improvement can be seen. Until 2015, the percentage of poor people was higher than the proportion of those living well, and since 2016 the percentage of the latter has invariably prevailed.

Currently, nearly one-third are afraid of poverty (32%), including 28% who believe that they will manage somehow, and 4% who feel helpless. More than two-fifths (41%) are afraid of the deterioration of their financial situation, and one-fourth (25%) are completely calm about their financial future.

After a marked increase in the number of people fearing poverty recorded last year (a rise from 24% to 30%), this year the percentage of people with this type of fear increased only slightly, from 30% to 32%. In general, it can be seen that since 2020 the share of adult Poles who are afraid of poverty has been gradually increasing, and the percentage of those expressing such fears recorded this year is the highest since 2015. However, taking into account the longer, twenty-five-year perspective, it can be said that the fear of poverty has significantly decreased. The lowest level of fear in the history of our research, and at the same time the highest percentage of people who are completely calm about their financial future, were recorded in 2019.

**Which of the following statements best describes your household’s current financial situation?**

Slightly more than half of respondents (54%) say that their households have savings, which is a 4-point decrease compared to the previous year. Until the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, this percentage grew year by year, reaching in March 2020 a level almost three times higher than in 2007, when we first asked Poles these questions (61% vs. 23%). With the coronavirus pandemic, the upward trend clearly broke down, but the share of respondents having savings never fell below 50% during this time and still remains higher than before 2019.

**Does your household have savings?**

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: “Financial Situation of Households” and “Poles about Their Debts and Savings”, April 2023. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2023, N=993. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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