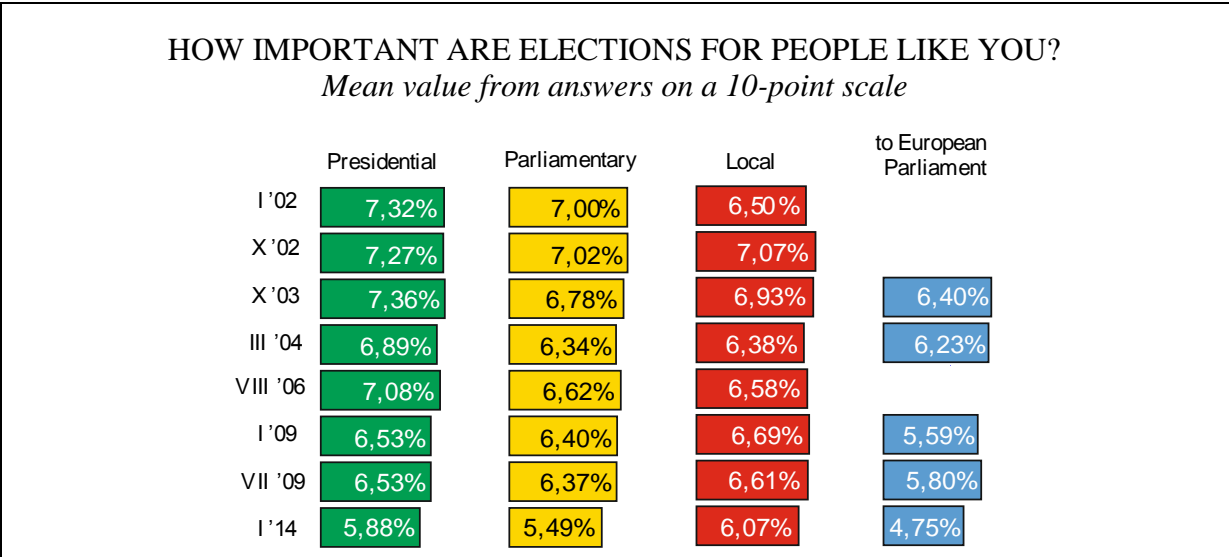
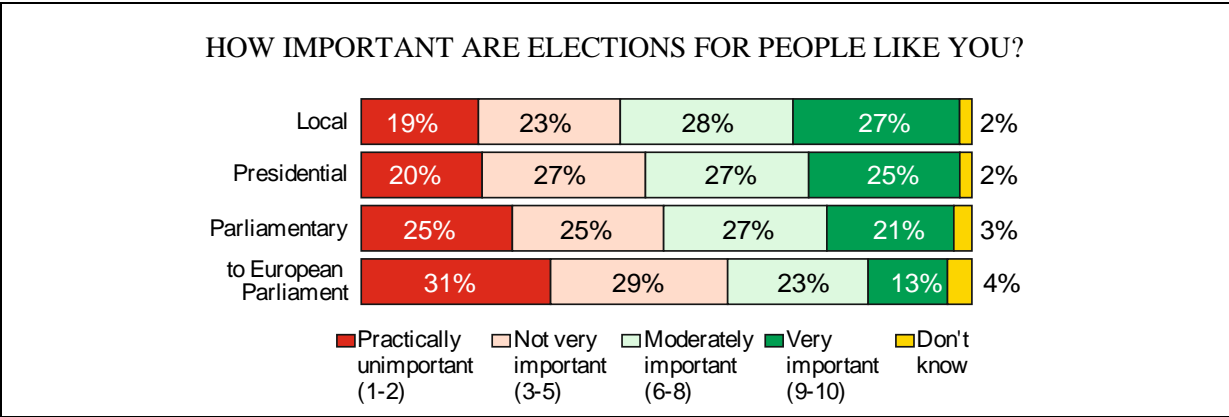


INTEREST IN ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In May 2014, elections to the European Parliament will take place. It will be the third time that Poles will vote in them. So far, European elections did not attract a lot of interest in the Polish society. In the first EP vote, in 2004, the turnout was only 20.87%. It was lower than in most countries of the EU; out of 25 countries where the vote was held, Polish turnout was second lowest, ahead of Slovakia only. In the subsequent election, in 2009, the turnout was only slightly higher, at 24.53%. The survey indicates that this time it will be very low as well.

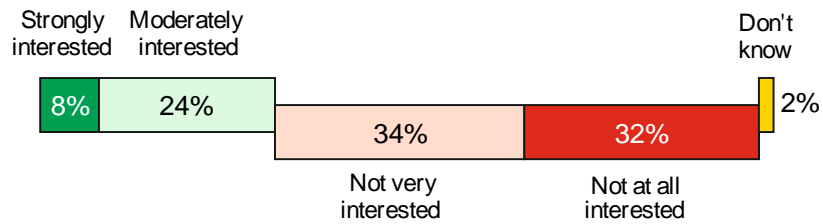
Poles do not consider the EP election to be especially important. In their opinion, it is the least important of the elections held in Poland. It is considered by far less significant than the vote on national and regional level (parliamentary, presidential and local). Only about one-third (36%) of people eligible to vote consider it important who will be elected from Poland to the European Parliament. The majority (60%) dismiss this vote's significance, attaching low (29%) or even negligible (31%) importance. From the perspective of Polish citizens, the most important are local elections (55%), followed by presidential (52%) and parliamentary (48%).

Current evaluation of the significance of the EP election is lower than ever before. It is worth noting that European elections were considered most important before Poland's EU accession. Later on, their perceived importance declined strongly. This drop was particularly steep since the last EP election. Compared with January 2009, i.e. the time before the previous vote, the proportion of respondents considering the election as important declined by 14 percentage points (from 50% to 36%), while the average score on a 10-point scale fell by 1.05 points. This decrease in perceived significance of the elections to the European Parliament is related not only to their specificity, but also to a more general tendency of decline in importance of representative bodies, as perceived by the public opinion. This tendency is gaining in strength.



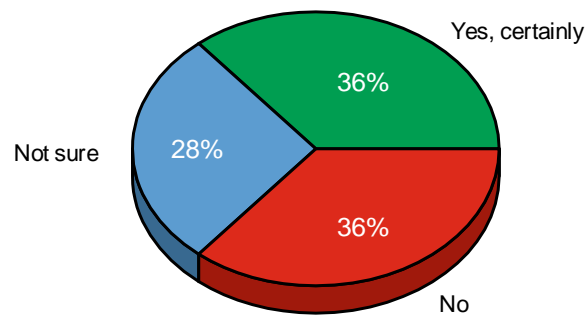
So far, the Polish society is not very interested in the approaching elections to the European Parliament. According to declarations, about a third of adult Poles (32%) express interest.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
TO BE HELD IN SPRING THIS YEAR?



Over one-third (36%) of eligible voters declare their intention to vote in the EP election. A similar group (36%) claim that they will not go to the poll, while over a quarter (28%) do not yet know whether they will vote. Usually, actual turnout is much lower than the level declared in public opinion surveys.

WILL YOU VOTE IN ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Interest in elections to European Parliament"*, February 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2014, N=1046. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.