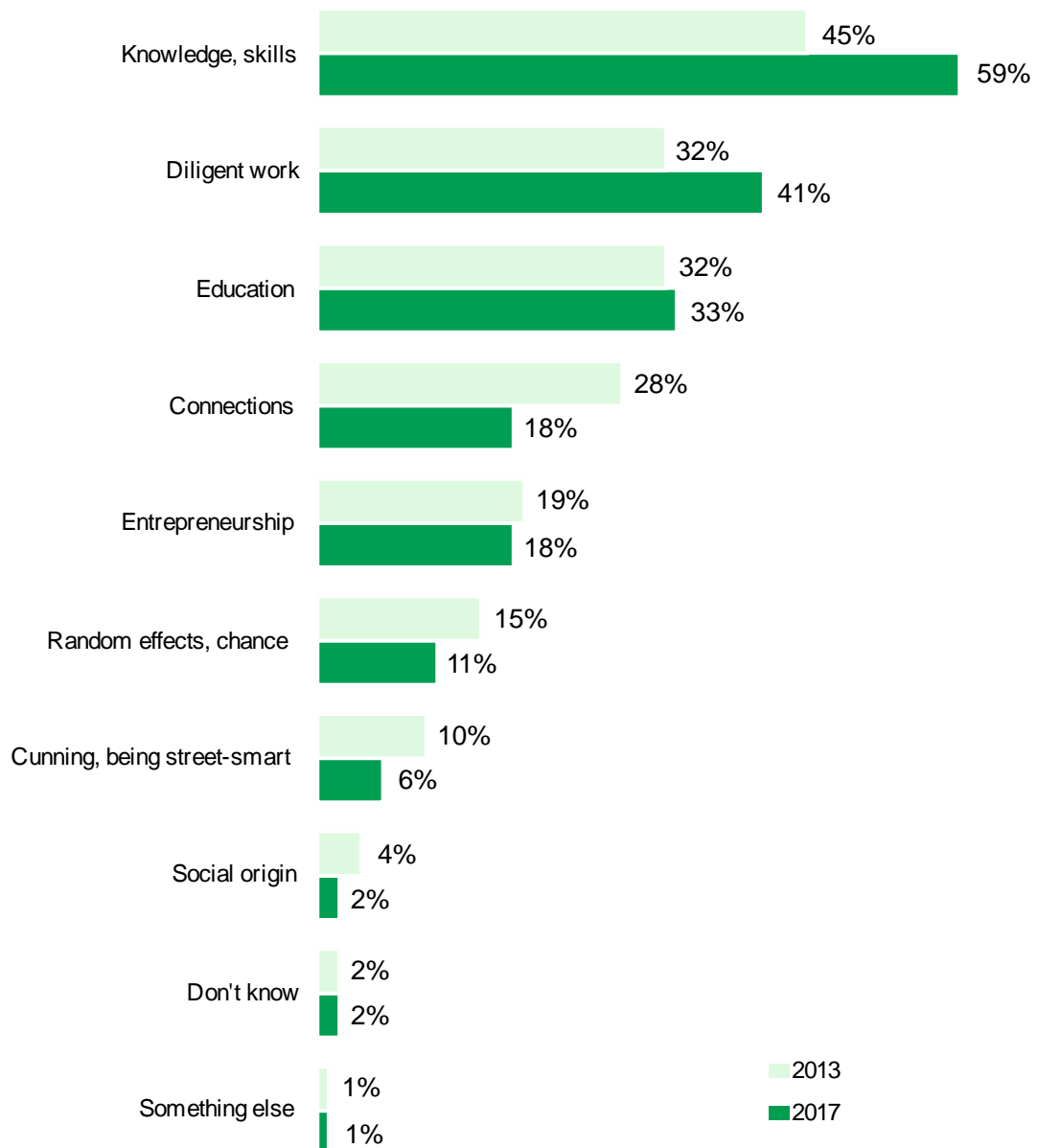


Factors of professional success

The hierarchy of perceived factors affecting success on the labour market has not changed over the last four years, i.e. since June 2013. The most important are the meritocratic competences: knowledge and skills. The second most important factor is diligent work, and the third is education. A significantly smaller proportion of respondents consider as key to professional success such factors as: connections, entrepreneurship, or random factors.

Although the hierarchy of factors of success has not changed, significant differences can be observed compared to the results of the previous study. The percentage of respondents indicating professional knowledge and skills as the most important determinants of success has increased by 14 percentage points, while the proportion mentioning diligent work is up by 9 points. The conviction about the role of connections declined by 10 points, and random factors are also mentioned less frequently (down by 4 points).

What has the greatest impact on professional success?



Two answers possible

Interestingly, respondents with higher education and those earning the most per capita are far less likely than others to consider education among the most important success factors. This is consistent with the observation that, in case of better paid professions, having a university diploma is increasingly becoming a barrier of entry noticeable above all to those who do not pass it. People belonging to these groups are much more likely to mention the role of their own entrepreneurship.

Professional career aspirations for:



Medicine is considered as the profession with the best career prospects, especially for women. As many as 30% of the respondents would like their daughter to choose a career in the field. The preference for sons is more divergent: the most popular professions require technical, IT, medical and legal education.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "How to Achieve Professional Success?", June 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2017, N=1034. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.