

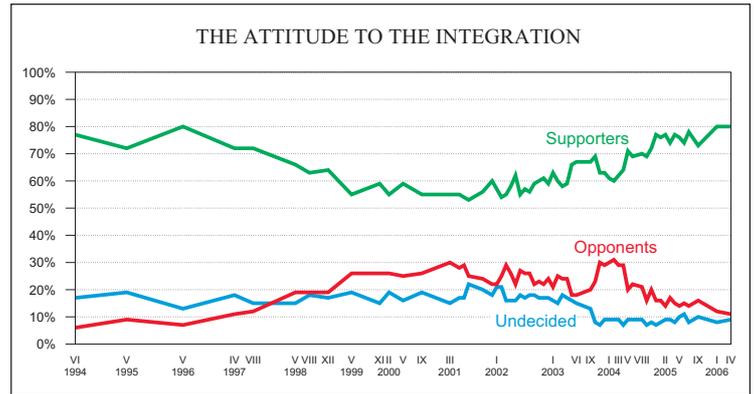
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### A SUMMARY OF THE TWO YEARS OF POLAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Currently 80% of the respondents support the membership of Poland in the EU and only one in nine (11%) are against it. During the two years following the accession, the percentage of the supporters of the EU membership grew by 16 percentage points, whereas the percentage of its opponents decreased by as many as 18 points.

Since the EU extension, the number of persons who express positive opinions about the effects of the integration for Poland has been growing systematically. After two years of Poland's membership in the European Union, the number of persons who believe that the integration brings Poland more gains than losses is three times as big as the number of those who express the opposite opinion. Feelings of personal gains associated with the EU membership are

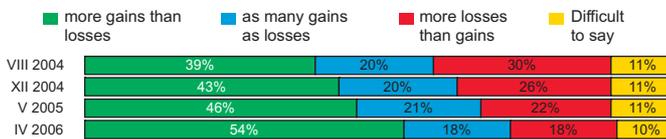


much less common than the belief in the overall positive impact of the integration on Poland. However, the feelings of personal gains are growing as well. The percentage of the respondents declaring that the EU membership brings them more gains than losses is currently more than twice as high as the percentage of those who experience mainly adverse effects of the integration. Although the opinions about the outcome of the integration are improving and more and more respondents personally experience its positive effects, the Poles invariably

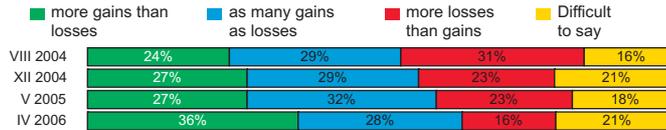
believe that the old Member States have gained more as a result of the EU extension than Poland.

Satisfaction with the membership of Poland in the European Union is associated mainly with the positive opinions about the economic effects of the integration. The first year of membership has already been evaluated as good for the Polish economy. Two years after the EU extension, the positive economic effects of the membership are even more visible. At present, more than half of the Poles (57%; 10 percentage points more than a year

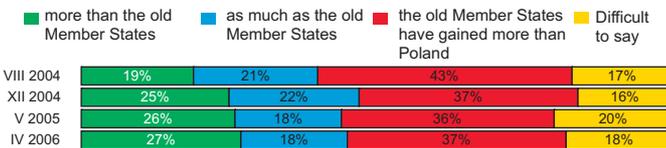
**THE INTEGRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS BROUGHT POLAND:**



**THE INTEGRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS BROUGHT YOU PERSONALLY:**



**POLAND HAS GAINED AS A RESULT OF THE ACCESSION:**



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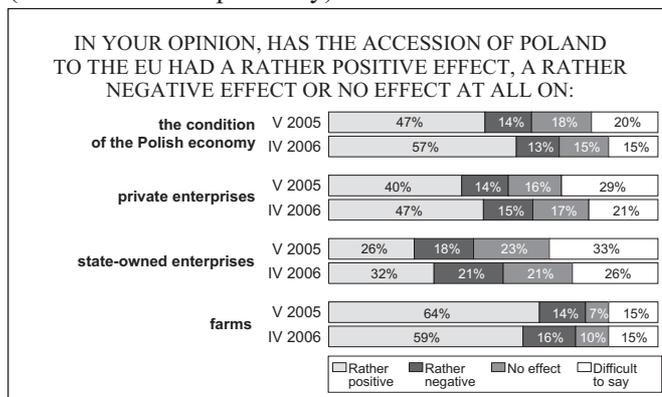
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ago) notice a positive effect of the integration on the condition of the Polish economy. The evaluation of the economic effects of Poland's membership in the European Union depends on the type of ownership and the sector of the economy. According to the public opinion, agriculture gained the most as a result of the integration, partly in connection with the EU system of direct payments for farmers. (The belief that the agriculture and farmers have gained the most as a result of the EU membership is, however, less common today than a year ago (a drop from 64% to 59%)). More and more respondents notice a positive effect of the integration on both private and state-owned enterprises. Nevertheless, according to the public opinion, the EU membership benefits private firms more than state-owned enterprises (47% and 32% respectively).

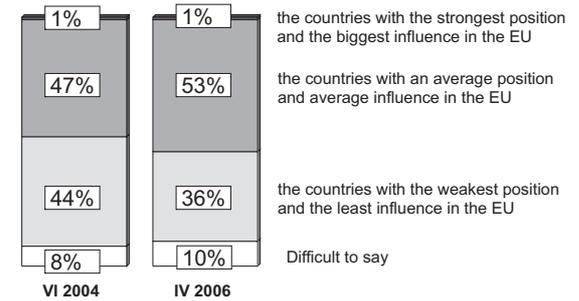


Although the Poles noticed the first positive effects of the integration on the economy after just one year of the membership, they did not see any changes for better on the domestic job market. On the contrary, they mentioned an increase rather than a decrease of unemployment. The proportion of the respondents who believe that the unemployment in Poland has decreased as a result of the integration (29%) is almost equal to the proportion of those who believe that it has increased (28%). The most common, however, is the opinion that the integration has had no effect on the level of unemployment in Poland (34%). While complaining about the high unemployment rate in Poland, the Poles highly appreciate the opening of the job markets by some of the Member States and the resulting opportunities for finding the work abroad. This is seen as one of the main benefits associated with the membership.

As the improvement of the economic situation is becoming more and more visible and the people gradually forget about the price increases in the first months after the accession, they begin to notice the positive effect of the integration on living conditions in Poland. Almost a third of all respondents have noticed it (30%, compared with 16% a year ago).

The public opinion sees the improvement of the position of Poland in Europe as a very important positive aspect of the membership.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE POSITION OF POLAND IN THE EU? IS POLAND ONE OF:



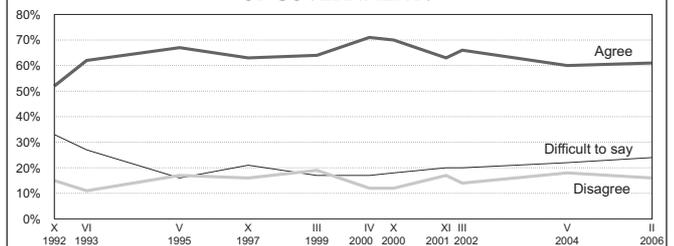
Although the effects of the membership of Poland in the European Union in the area of culture and civilization have been less manifest to date than those belonging to the economic sphere, they are also becoming more and more noticeable. In the group of persons who have noticed such effects, the largest proportion mentions an improvement in the condition of the natural environment (52%), an improvement in the attitudes to work (48%), an increase of knowledge and the level of education of the Poles (45%).

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *A summary of two years of Poland's membership in the EU*, April 2006. Survey executed in April 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1025.

## GOOD AND BAD SIDES OF POLISH DEMOCRACY

Since the beginning of the transformation, a majority of the Poles have supported the thesis about the superiority of democracy over all other forms of government. Moreover, most believe that democracy is universal and should be developed in all countries in the world, irrespective of their political tradition and culture.

DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT DEMOCRACY IS SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHER FORMS OF GOVERNMENT?



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT DEMOCRACY DO YOU AGREE WITH THE MOST?

Democracy should not be developed everywhere in the world, because it does not suit the political tradition and culture of some countries

40%

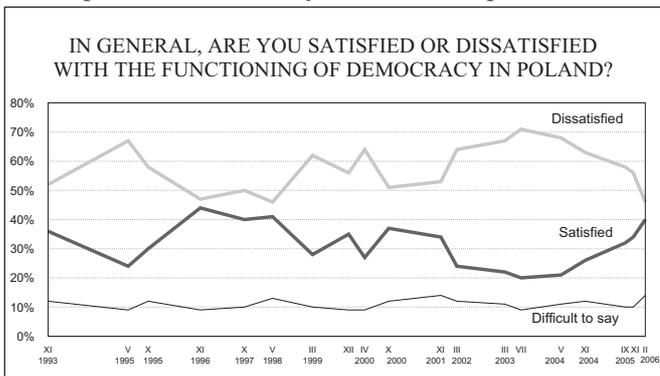
Development of democracy is desirable in all countries of the world, irrespective of their political tradition and culture

57%

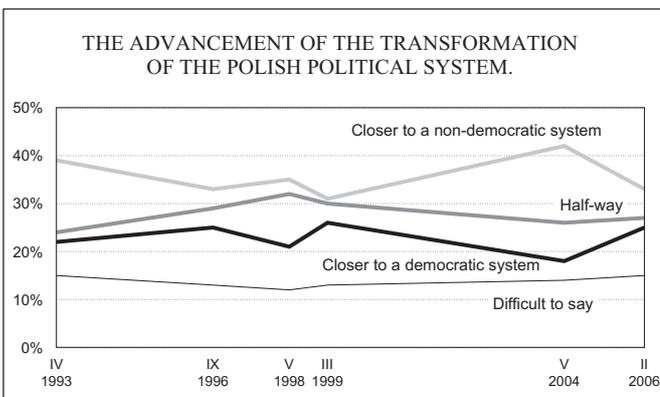
Difficult to say

3%

The freedom of speech is seen as the biggest advantage of democracy (32%). The other positive characteristics of a democratic system include political freedom - political pluralism, free election, the ability of the people to decide about the affairs of their country (14%), civil rights and liberties (14%) and equality (11%). As far as the shortcomings of democracy are concerned, the Poles usually mention bad government - power in the hands of the wrong people, conflicts between political parties (11%), abuse of freedom (10%), unemployment (10%), social stratification (8%), pathological aspects of power such as corruption, political cliques, pathological links of interests between people in power (8%) and poverty (6%). The negative aspects of democracy as seen by the respondents are to a large extent associated with their criticism of the current situation in Poland and reflect acute social problems. In spite of a growth in the satisfaction with the functioning of democracy in Poland recorded early this year (a typical reaction to an election), dissatisfaction with the development of democracy in Poland still prevails.



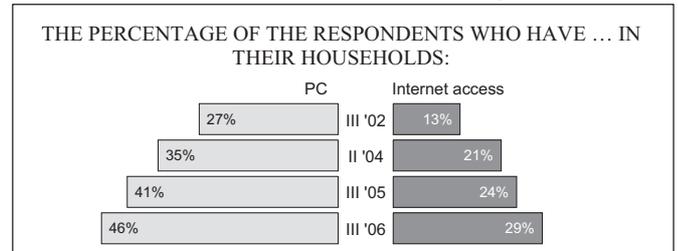
Criticism of the democratic practice in Poland is accompanied by a belief that the transformation of the Polish political system is not particularly advanced. Despite an improvement in this area, still more people believe that Poland is closer to a non-democratic system than to a democratic one.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Good and bad sides of Polish democracy*, April 2006. Survey executed in February 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1011.

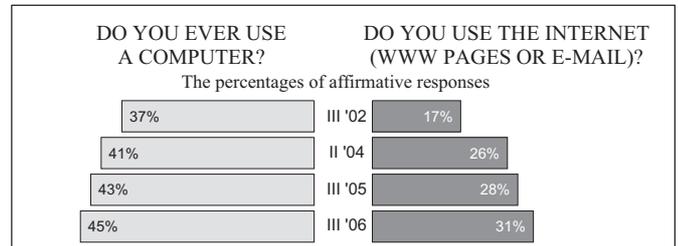
## USING COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET

The percentage of the respondents who have computers in their households is growing. From March 2002 to March 2006 it almost doubled. The number of people who have access to the Internet is growing even faster. It more than doubled in the last four years.



The number of computer users is growing systematically. According to the respondents' declarations, today almost half of the adult Poles use a computer (usually at home - 36%). More than a quarter (27%) use a computer at work or school, and one in six (16%) use it in other places (e.g. a library, Internet café, at friends').

The number of the Poles who use the Internet is growing fast. During the month preceding the survey 30% of the respondents surfed the Internet and a quarter of adults used e-mail.



The choice of different kinds of services available through the Internet and the number of their users are growing fast. Internet shopping is gaining popularity. In the month preceding the survey, almost a quarter of the Internet users (7% of all Poles) bought something in the Net. It is nearly twice as many as a year ago. The popularity of Internet banking is growing fast as well. During the last month, a third of the Internet users (i.e. 10% of all adult Poles) used it. Almost half of the Internet users (14% of all respondents) downloaded free software, music or films. On the other hand, using paid content available in the Internet, such as e.g. newspaper archives, photos, films, is not popular. Only 3% of the respondents used it in the month preceding the survey. Internet has become an important source of information for many users. About half of the Internet users (16% of all respondents) read daily newspapers online. A quarter (8% of all respondents) listen to the radio, and one in seven (4% of all adults) watch TV through the Internet. Talking to friends using chat software is also more and

more popular. Almost two-thirds of Internet users (19% of all adults) did it during the last month. One in four adult Internet users (8% of all respondents) have used an Internet forum. A quarter of adult Internet users (8% of all respondents) have met someone through the Internet. More or less half of such contacts led to a meeting in the real world.

Despite its growing popularity, there are still very big disproportions between socio-occupational and age groups in the access to and use of the Internet. The Internet is mainly the medium of the educated, well-off urban population. At the same time, it is mostly a tool used by young people, although the social position affects the frequency of use in the youngest age group as well. Many older persons do not use the Internet although they have access to it in their households, whereas a large proportion of the youngest age group use it, although they do not have access at home.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Internet and computers: equipment of households, methods and purposes of use*, April 2006. Survey executed in March 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1081.

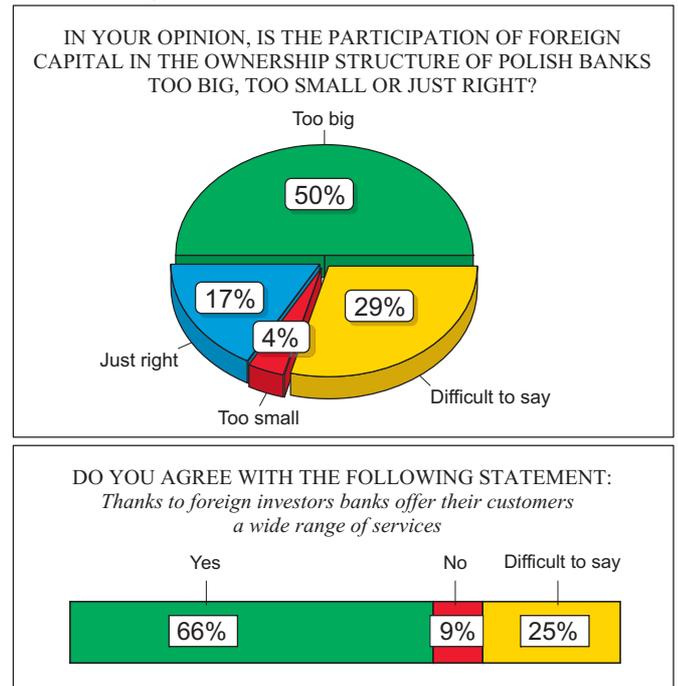
## OPINIONS ABOUT THE BANKING SECTOR

The operations of banks in Poland have recently been the subject of a heated political dispute, and a parliamentary investigative committee will probably be set up to examine the functioning of the banking sector in the last sixteen years. At the same time, however, most Poles (61%) express positive opinions about the banks operating in Poland. More than half of adult Poles (57%) have personal bank accounts. A vast majority of this group (88%) express positive opinions about their bank.

More than half of the Poles believe that banks have contributed to the development of the Polish

economy in the last 16 years. Half of the respondents believe that banks operating in Poland are managed well. Almost three quarters (74%) feel that their deposits are safe. At the same time, most respondents (75%) complain about excessive bank fees.

In Poland, as in the other countries of the region, most banks have foreign owners. The Poles' opinions about their role are ambivalent. On the one hand, most respondents think that the participation of foreign capital is too big, but on the other they appreciate its role in modernizing the banks.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Opinions about the banking sector*, April 2006. Survey executed in April 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1025.

### In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- ◆ Evaluations of different aspects of the work of the government
- ◆ Opinions on the work of President Lech Kaczyński
- ◆ Poles about the early election and the PiS - Samoobrona coalition
- ◆ Political party preferences in April
- ◆ Opinions about the political life and the PiS plans
- ◆ Opinions about the situation on the job market and the fear of unemployment
- ◆ Trust in politicians in April
- ◆ Religious aspects of Easter and opinions about salvation
- ◆ Social moods in April
- ◆ The attitude to the government
- ◆ Opinions about the work of the President and the Parliament
- ◆ Goals and pursuits of the Poles
- ◆ The unemployed about their situation
- ◆ Opinions about the Voting Law. How to elect heads of district and provincial governments
- ◆ The ties of the Poles with John Paul II, the Church and religion
- ◆ Protection of farm animals and pets against bird flu
- ◆ Opinions about the parliamentary investigation committees

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