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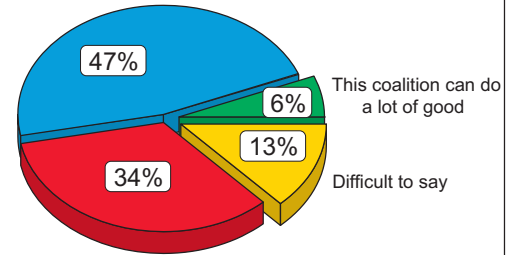
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## THE POLES ABOUT THE PIS - SELF-DEFENCE - LPR GOVERNMENT COALITION

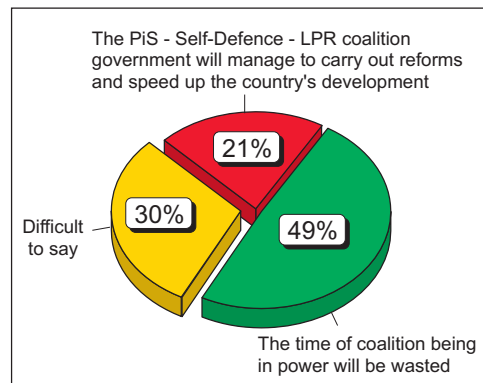
After six months of a minority cabinet formed by the Law and Justice (PiS), a majority coalition with the Self-Defence and the League of Polish Families (LPR) was formed. The Self-Defence and the LPR are often seen as populist and nationalist parties. The reactions of the public opinion, although less extreme than those prevailing in Polish and foreign media, are not favourable. The new coalition has been received by the Poles without much hope. Only 12% of the respondents were glad that it was formed, whereas more than three times as many (36%) were worried. However, the most

**WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE PIS - SELF-DEFENCE - LPR COALITION?**

It is too early to evaluate this coalition, let us wait for the effects of its work



One cannot expect anything good from the PIS - Self-Defence - LPR coalition



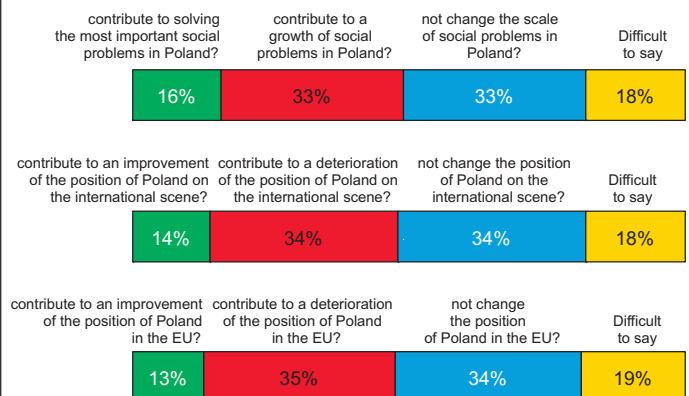
A belief that the rule of the new coalition is a waste of time for Poland is associated with a belief that it will not manage to take the opportunities to improve the situation in Poland, the relations of Poland with its neighbours, or Poland's position on the international scene. In the opinion of a majority of the respondents, it is rather unlikely that the present coalition will solve the most important problems of Poland. These respondents believe that the social problems will grow or remain at the same level.

common reaction to forming the new government coalition was indifference (43%).

The prevailing opinion is that people should wait with the evaluation of the new coalition until they see some effects of its work. Few Poles (6%) believe that the PiS - Self-Defence - LPR coalition can do a lot of good things, whereas one in three respondents claim that it will be unable to do anything good for Poland.

Almost half of the Poles are afraid that the time when the PiS - Self-Defence - LPR coalition is in power will be wasted.

**WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM THE PIS - SELF-DEFENCE - LPR COALITION? WILL THIS COALITION:**



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish): *The Poles about the PiS - Self-Defence - LPR government coalition*, May 2006, and *The expectations from the PiS - Self-Defence - LPR coalition*, June 2006. Survey executed in May 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=991.

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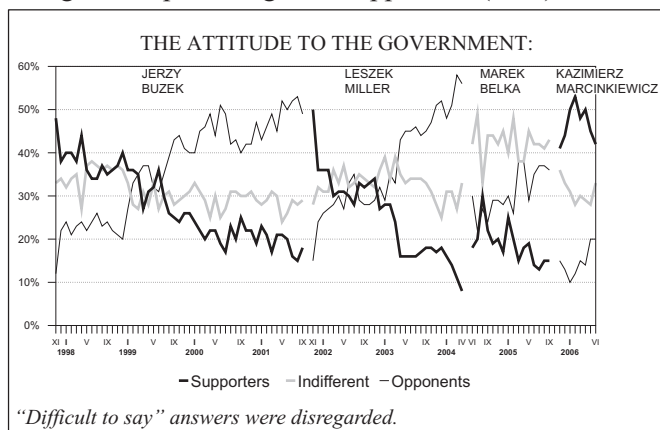
Translated by  
Kinga Pawłowska

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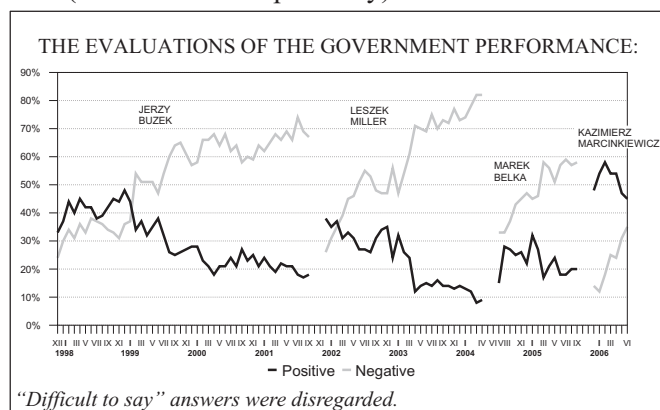
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## THE ATTITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT AFTER ITS RECONSTRUCTION

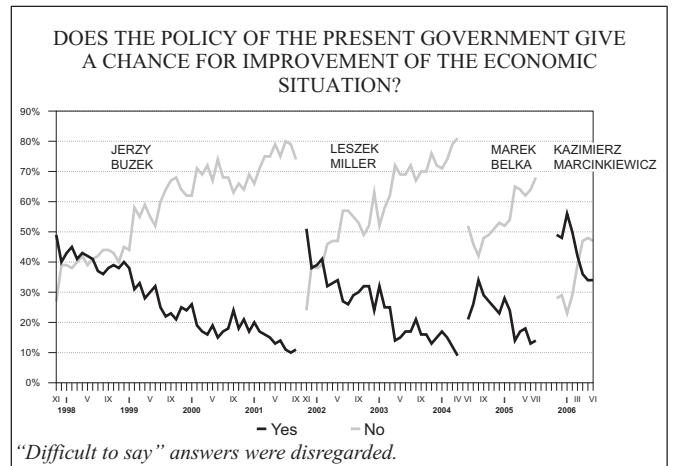
Due to the fears associated with the formation of the PiS - Self-Defence - LPR coalition and the following reconstruction of the cabinet of Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, the opinions about the government have deteriorated. Immediately after the coalition was formed, the support for the government dropped by 5 percentage points. After a month of its being in power, the support dropped by further three percentage points. Nevertheless, the government still enjoys considerable social support. The percentage of its supporters (42%) is more than twice as high as the percentage of its opponents (20%).



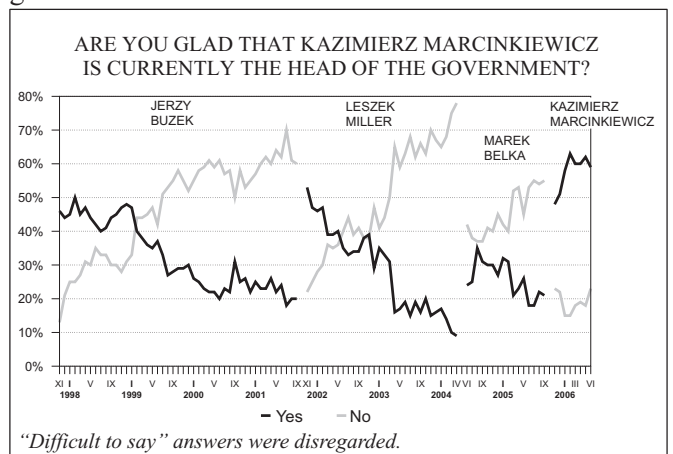
The evaluations of the government's work dropped to the lowest level since its appointment. However, positive opinions still prevail over negative ones (45% and 35% respectively).



Due to the unstable political situation the level of hope that the economic policy of the government will bring positive results have been decreasing since February. This trend has ended when the PiS - Self-Defence - LPR government coalition was formed. Nevertheless, according to the prevailing opinion, the steps taken by the present government do not give a chance for an improvement of the economic situation (47%). One in three Poles (34%) believe that they will be effective.



Initially, a deterioration of the opinions about the government after its reconstruction had not affected the opinions about the Prime Minister himself. After a month, however, his popularity dropped a little. Nevertheless, most Poles (59%) still express satisfaction that Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz is the head of the government. Below a quarter of the respondents (23%) do not accept him as the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has been the most trusted politician in Poland for several months. Even those who clearly disapprove of the PiS - Self-Defence - LPR coalition have a positive opinion about him, despite their criticism of the government and its work.

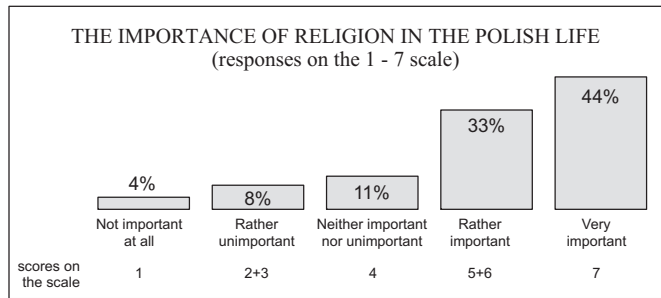


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The attitude to the government in June*, June 2006. Survey executed in June 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1041.

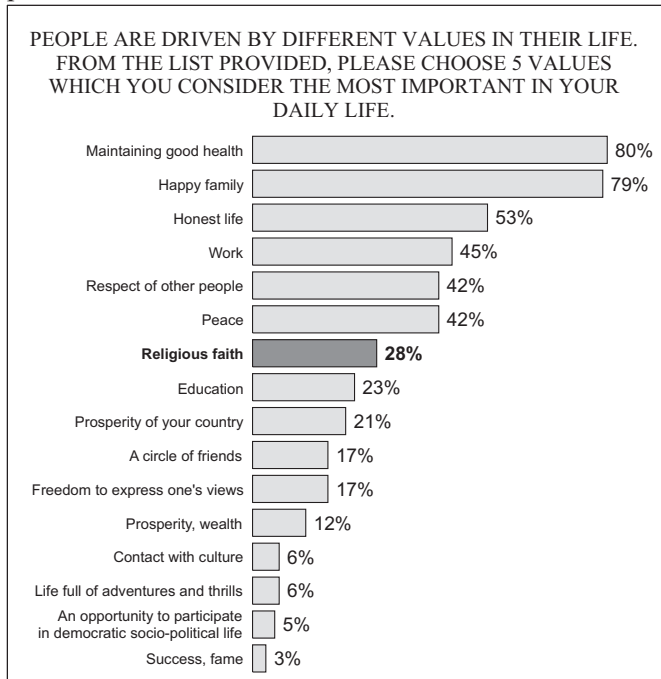
## THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION

Catholic faith constitutes an important element of the Poles' self-identification. A vast majority of the Poles (96%) identify themselves as Catholics; almost the same proportion (95%) describe themselves as believers, and almost two-thirds (63%) declare that they not only believe, but also follow the teachings of the Church. The Poles are quite strongly attached to religious practices. More than half of the respondents (56%) declare

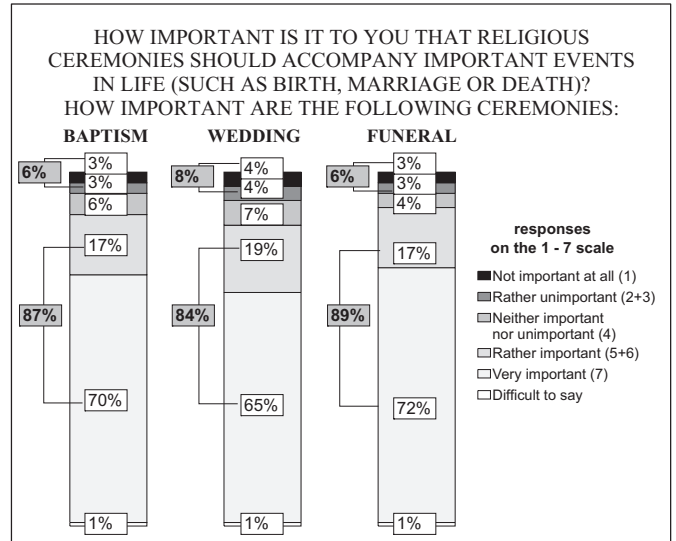
participation in holy masses, other religious services or religious meetings at least once a week. Almost a fifth (19%) declare participating in such practices once or twice a month, and one in six (17%) a few times a year. Only 8% of the respondents admit that they never participate in religious services. Religion is seen by the Poles as an important element of their daily life. More than three quarters declare that religion is important in their life (including more than two-fifths of those who describe it as very important).



Even though it is not the most important value, religious faith is considered more important in life than education, patriotism, friendship, freedom of speech or wealth. Moreover, it is much more valued than participation in culture, adventures and thrills, participation in democratic socio-political life or, in particular, success and fame.



Religious ceremonies associated with such events as birth, marriage or death are very important for the Poles. The respondents describing themselves as not religious and declaring absence or only occasional participation in religious practices contest the importance of baptism, religious wedding or funeral more frequently than others, but even they quite frequently consider these ceremonies important.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The importance of religion in the Polish life*, May 2006. Survey executed in April 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1025.

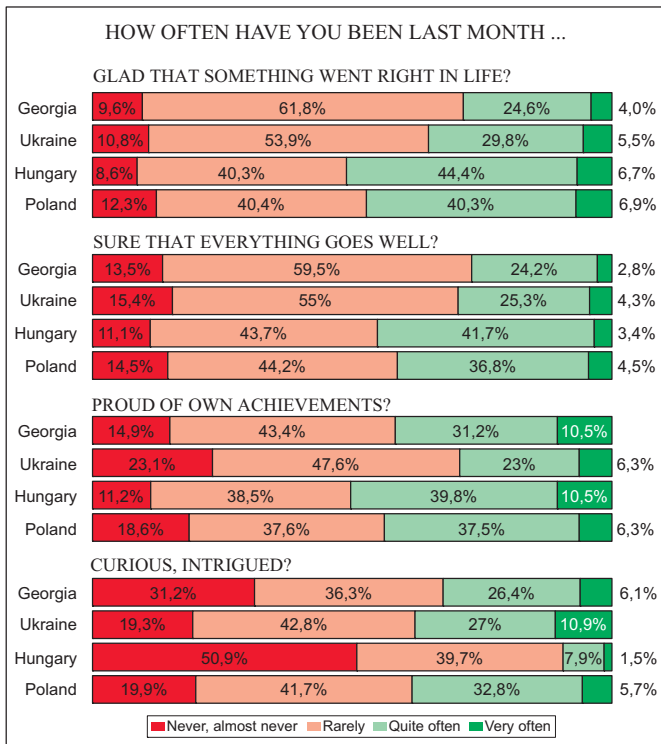
## PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS IN GEORGIA, THE UKRAINE, HUNGARY AND POLAND

An international research project sponsored by INTAS provided an opportunity to compare the psychological well-being in four transformation societies, two of them from the former Soviet Union (Georgia, the Ukraine) and two former Central European state-socialist countries (Hungary, Poland). It may be assumed that psychological tension and stress are associated with social and political conditions, which vary between different countries and partly depend on the advancement of the political as well as the economic transformation and on the stability of free market democracy. The survey questionnaire concerned, *inter alia*, various aspects of psychological stress and psychological well-being, measured by the frequency of particular feelings declared by the respondents. The scale ranged from 1 (never, almost never) through 2 (rarely), 3 (quite often) to 4 (very often).

Hungarians and Poles more often than Georgians and Ukrainians declare such positive feelings as being glad that something went right in life, proud of their own achievements and sure that everything goes right.

On the other hand, Georgians and Ukrainians more often than Hungarians and Poles say that they are frequently unhappy or depressed, nervous and annoyed, angry or aggressive, bored and fed-up.

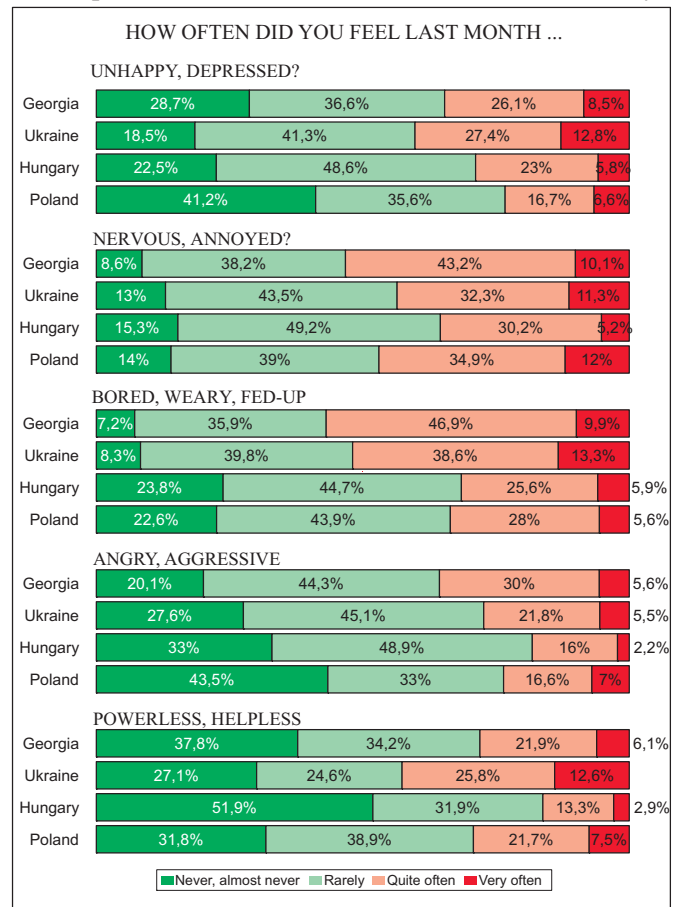
In most respects Ukrainians are more similar to Georgians than to Hungarians or Poles, who in turn, differ less between themselves than from the two other countries.



The composite index of stress, computed as a mean of the points of negative feeling scales and reverse positive feeling scales (with the exception of curiosity indicator, inconsistently correlated with the others), indicate that the "post-Soviet" Ukrainian society is the most stressed. The psychological condition of the people is only somewhat better in Georgia, still better in Poland and the best in Hungary.



The means, though not as different as it could have been expected, support the hypothesis that psychological well-being may be related to the development and stabilization of free market democracy.



The project „Social tensions: Aspiration-opportunity gap” was sponsored by INTAS (International Association for the Promotion of Co-operation with Scientists from the Newly Independent States of the Former Soviet Union), Brussels, the grant number 04-79-733. The research was designed and executed in 2005 in cooperation between public opinion research institutes from all participating countries: GORBI (Georgian Opinion Research Business International), Tbilisi; SOCIS (Center for Social and Political Research), Kiev; Social Research center TARKI, Budapest and CBOS (Public Opinion Research Center), Warsaw.

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

- ◆ What is the most important in life?
- ◆ Foreign capital in Poland
- ◆ The public image of the Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz
- ◆ The feeling of safety and the opinions about summary justice
- ◆ The attitude to animals
- ◆ Political party preferences in May
- ◆ Pope Benedict XVI in the homeland of John Paul II
- ◆ Opinions and expectations concerning the situation in Poland
- ◆ Trust in politicians in May
- ◆ The attitude to the government after the formation of the PiS - Self-Defence - LPR coalition
- ◆ Opinions about the work of the President and the Parliament

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