

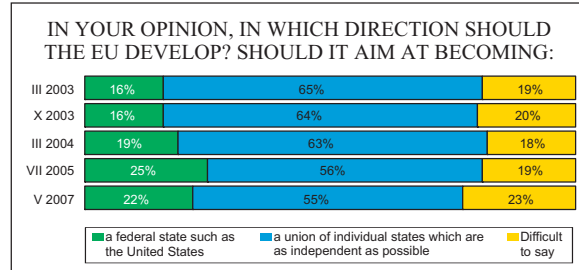
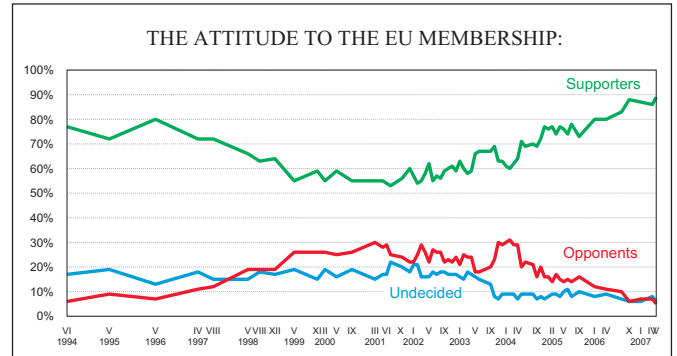
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OPINIONS ABOUT THE EU AND THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION

The public support for the membership of Poland in the European Union was higher in May than ever before. 89% of the Poles supported the membership and only 5% were against it.

The Poles invariably opt for a model of the integration in which the Member States would retain as much independence as possible. More than half of the

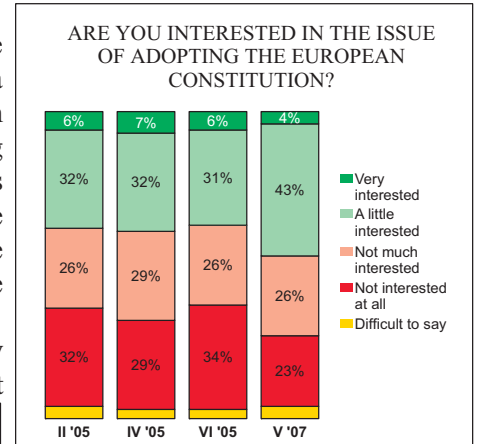


respondents support such a vision of the European Union. Slightly more than a fifth believe that the EU should aim at becoming a federal state such as the United States.

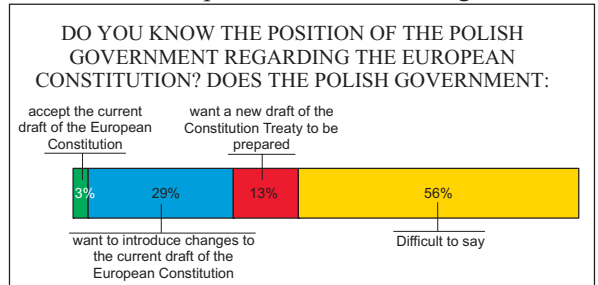
The public in Poland has never shown much interest in the issue of

adopting the Constitution Treaty for Europe. In the first half of 2005, when this issue was discussed a lot and the possibility of holding a referendum in Poland on the European Constitution was being considered, about two-fifths of the respondents declared an interest in this issue. Currently the Poles are even less interested in it. Slightly more than a quarter declare such interest and a definite majority declare a lack of interest.

More than half of the Poles declare that they do not know the position of the Polish government

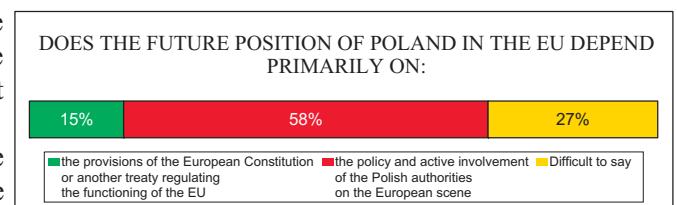


regarding the Constitution. The others usually think that the Polish government wants to introduce some changes in the current draft of the European Constitution. A smaller proportion of the respondents believe that it wants a new draft of the



Constitution Treaty to be prepared and very few believe that the Polish government accepts the current draft.

Most Poles believe that the future position of Poland in the



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European Union will depend primarily on the policy and active involvement of the Polish authorities on the European scene rather than on the provisions of the European Constitution or another treaty regulating the functioning of this organization.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *About the model of the European integration and the European Constitution*, June 2007. Survey executed in May 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=946.

SUBJECTIVE CONDITIONS OF LIVING

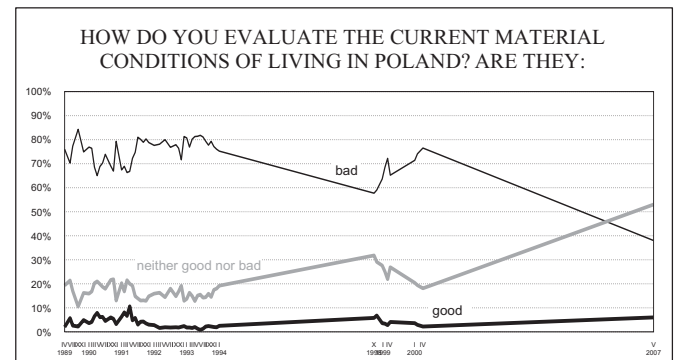
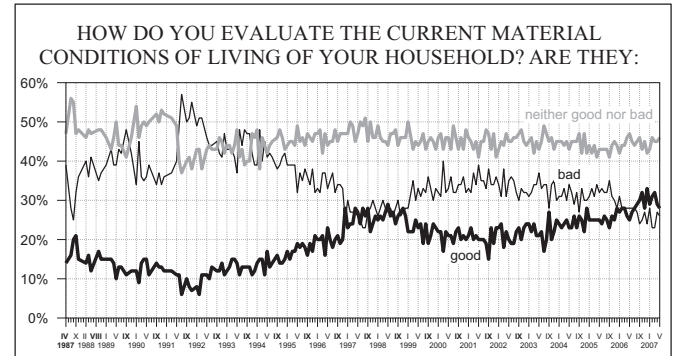
Recently, the Polish economy has been growing steadily, partly due to the accession to the European Union. For quite a long time (since mid 2003), the opinions about the economic situation of Poland have also been improving. In May 2007, for the first time since the beginning of the transformation in 1989, the percentage of the respondents describing the economic situation of Poland as good (31%) exceeded the percentage of those who described it as bad (24%).



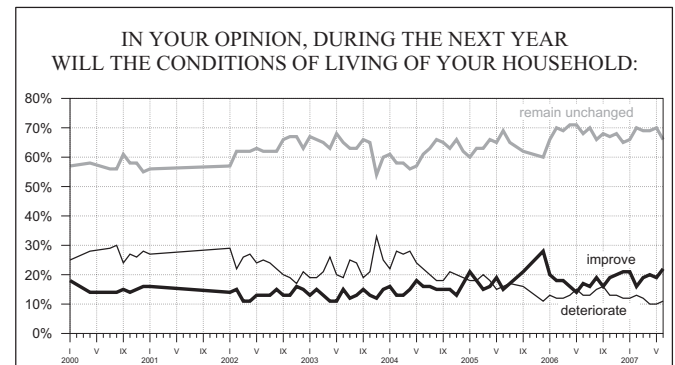
The more and more positive evaluations of the economic situation result in a gradual improvement of the opinions about the standard of living. The changes in this area are less manifest, but noticeable. Since August 2006, the percentage of the respondents describing the conditions of living of their households as good has been higher than the percentage of those who describe them as bad. However, the largest group of the respondents still describe their standard of living as average (“neither good nor bad”).

There is a clear disproportion between the perceived economic condition of the respondents' own households and the opinions about the conditions of living of people in Poland in general. The respondents' evaluations of their own economic status are much better than their evaluations of the standard of living of the society at large. In May, more than a quarter of the respondents (28%) evaluated the conditions of living of

their households as good, whereas only 6% said that the Poles have a good standard of living. Negative opinions were expressed by 26% and 38% of the respondents respectively. Nevertheless, the general opinions about the conditions of living of the Polish society are now much more positive than a few years ago, when the opinion that the conditions of living in Poland were bad prevailed. At present, the prevailing opinion is that the conditions of living in Poland are average – “neither good nor bad” (53%).



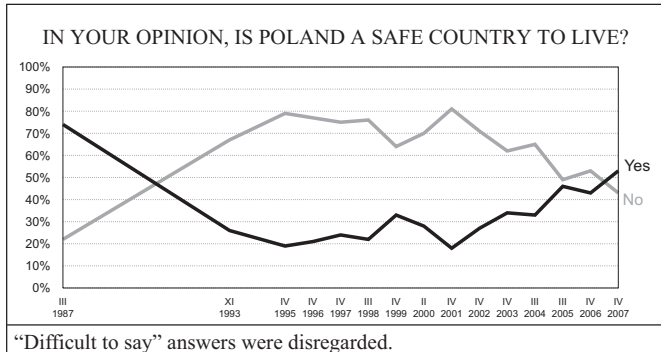
The respondents' forecasts concerning the conditions of living of their households have also improved recently. Since mid 2005, more respondents have expected an improvement in this area than deterioration. However, still the largest group of the respondents do not expect any changes in this respect in the nearest future.



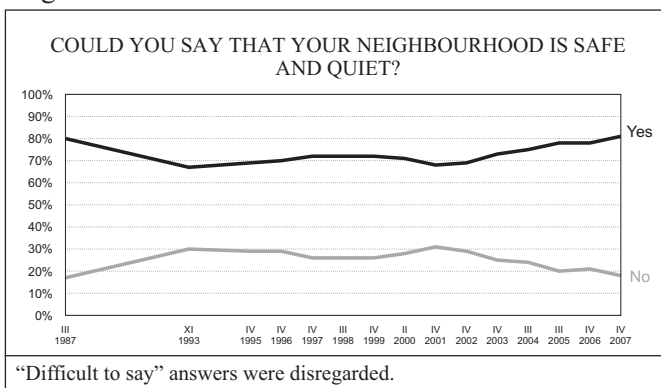
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Improvement of social moods*, May 2007. Survey executed in May 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=946.

DO WE FEEL SAFE IN EVERYDAY LIFE?

The side effects of the economic and political transformation in Poland include a significant growth of crime and a change of its nature. Before 1989 the Poles described their country as a safe place to live, whereas in the first half of the 1990s most of them expressed negative opinions in this respect. Throughout the 1990s the stereotype of Poland as a country which is not a safe place to live prevailed among the Poles. Free flow of information was one of the factors that contributed to the establishment of this stereotype. The free and at the same time commercially-oriented media published a lot of sensational information on different types of criminal activity, which had a particularly strong effect on the unaccustomed readers. The public image of Poland as a country with high crime rates dominated until 2001, when as many as four-fifths of the respondents (81%) said that life in Poland was unsafe. Since then the social range of this stereotype has been shrinking and the number of those who believe that it is safe in Poland has been growing gradually. This year, for the first time since the end of the 1980s, most respondents share this belief (53%). However, a significant proportion of the Poles (43%) are still not convinced that life in Poland is safe.



Even though a significant proportion of the Poles express negative opinions about the general level of safety in Poland, a vast majority (81%) feel safe in their neighbourhood.



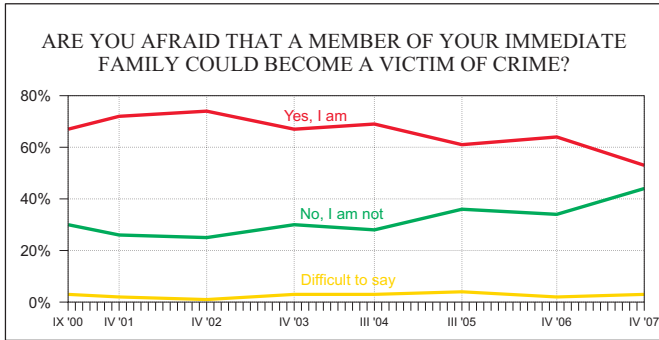
The respondents have always had a better opinion about safety in their neighbourhood than about safety in the country at large. In 1987 the difference between these two aspects of safety was insignificant, though. It was the shock of the first years of the transformation (when the image of Poland as a country with high crime rates was established) that caused a big difference between the evaluation of safety on a nationwide level and the evaluation of safety in the respondents' immediate surroundings. Even in the second half of the 1990s, when three quarters of the respondents expressed the opinion that life in Poland was not safe, most Poles believed that their neighbourhood was safe and quiet. This belief has been growing slowly, but steadily during the last five years. Now it has reached the level from 1987.

Whether people feel safe in their neighbourhood or not to a large extent depends on the nature and size of their town or village. Those who live in the country feel the safest in their neighbourhood (91%). The inhabitants of towns with the population up to 20,000 come next (85%). A definite majority of people living in large cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants (70%-72%) also describe their cities as safe and quiet.



A visible improvement of the opinions about the safety in Poland and in the respondents' neighbourhood is accompanied by a decrease in the number of those who are concerned about their own and their family's safety. The feeling of safety has grown particularly during the last year. At present, more than two-fifths of the Poles (44%) are afraid of becoming victims of crime. People are concerned about the safety of their family more than about their own safety. More than half of the respondents (53%) are afraid that a member of their immediate family could become a victim of crime.

An improvement of the perceived level of safety, which has been observed recently (in particular during the last year), is due to objective factors, such as a gradual decrease of crime rates recorded in the last few years, as well as to subjective ones. The feeling of safety is probably reinforced by the rhetoric and the actions of the present government, which mentions reducing the crime in Poland among its main objectives. On the other hand, the Poles seem to "have got used to" the new reality and the higher crime rates than before 1989.

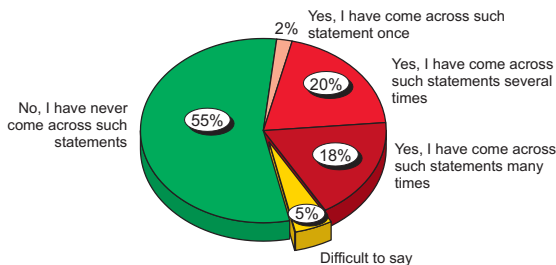


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Do we feel safe in everyday life?*, May 2007. Survey executed in April 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 937.

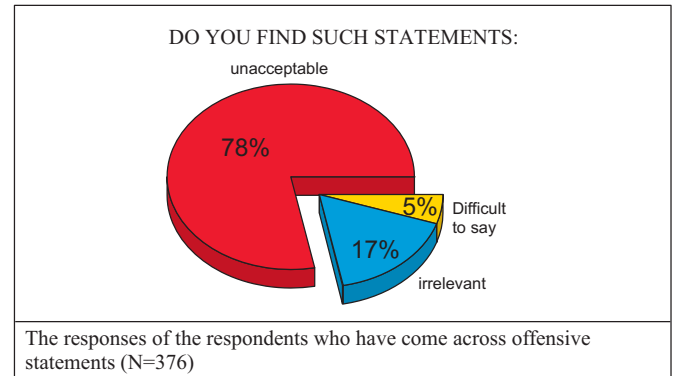
PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF VERBAL ABUSE AND HATE SPEECH

Two-fifths of the Poles (40%) admit that they have come across some statements made in public, which offended certain people by referring to their race, colour, nationality, sexual preference etc., at least once.

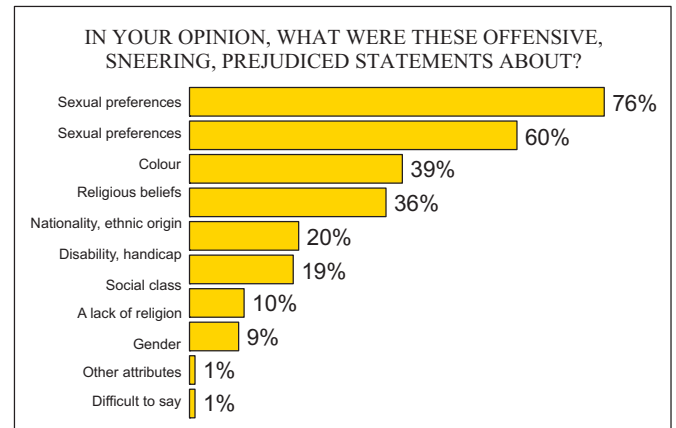
HAVE YOU EVER COME ACROSS ANY STATEMENTS (ORAL OR WRITTEN), WHICH OFFENDED, DERIDED OR DISCRIMINATED AGAINST OTHER PEOPLE FOR REASONS WHOLLY OR PARTLY INDEPENDENT ON THEM, SUCH AS RACE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, SOCIAL CLASS, SEXUAL PREFERENCES ETC.?



A definite majority of the Poles who have witnessed hate speech (78%) admit that they find such statements unacceptable and only 17% say that they do not care about them.



According to those who notice verbal abuse, offensive or sneering verbal behaviour is mainly focused on sexual preferences or colour; it also frequently refers to religious beliefs or ethnic origin.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Public perception of verbal abuse and hate speech*, May 2007. Survey executed in April 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 937.

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

- ◆ Is it worthwhile to study?
- ◆ Which parties are close to us and which are not - the Poles' identifications
- ◆ Perception of verbal aggression and hate speech by the public opinion
- ◆ Democracy - evaluations and attitudes
- ◆ The Poles' opinions about the Constitution Court
- ◆ The Poles' attitudes to the Church and the teachings of Pope Benedict XVI two years after death of John Paul II
- ◆ The use of bank cards in Poland, Slovakia and Hungary
- ◆ Political party preferences in May
- ◆ The attitude to the government
- ◆ Trust in politicians in May
- ◆ Tax settlements for the year 2006
- ◆ The attitude of the Poles to democracy
- ◆ Opinions about the work of public institutions
- ◆ Can people be trusted?

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