

POLISH PUBLICOPINION Solid and Professional 6/2017

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Representativeness of the political scene

Changes resulting from the last parliamentary elections, i.e. the formation of the government of Law and Justice (PiS) and the widening of party spectrum with new groupings, in particular the Modern Party (Nowoczesna) and Kukiz'15, have contributed to the increased sense of representativeness of the Polish political scene. Currently, a year and a half after the election, only one-fifth of

respondents fail to find among the existing political parties one that represents their interests or expresses their views. Most (71%) identify their beliefs, interests, or expectations, at least to some extent, with one of the parties or political initiatives.

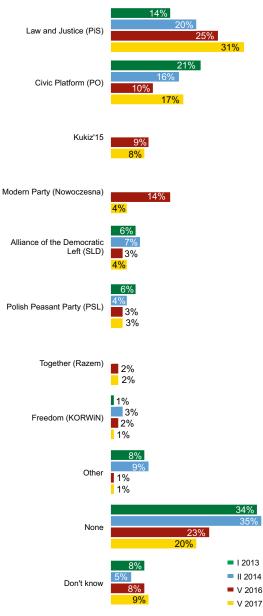
The plurality of almost one-third of the total adult population (31%) consider PiS as the best representative of their interests and views. More than half as many respondents view the Civic Platform (PO) as their political representation (17%). Every twelfth citizen eligible to vote sees Kukiz'15 movement as a vehicle of his or her views and interests (8%). The other groupings have fewer sympathizers who would identify with them on such basis.

Last year strengthened the ruling party as the best representative of the interests and views of Poles. In May 2016, approximately six months after PiS took government, we noted an increase in the sense of representativeness of this formation over the earlier period when the grouping was in opposition (as measured in 2013 and 2014). At that time PiS already had a clear advantage over the other groupings on post-election

political scene. Significant changes over the last year also occurred on the side of the opposition. In the past twelve months, both main parties of the parliamentary opposition, PO and Nowoczesna, have swapped places. PO is the current leader of the opposition and it has increased its representativeness

Which of political party/grouping best expresses your views and interests?

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compared to last year (an increase of 7 percentage points). Nowoczesna, which in the last year has clearly lost support in polls, is now much less often regarded as the party which best represents the interests and views of Poles (down by 10 percentage points).

The balance of changes in the past year indicates increasing sense of representativeness of the ruling party among eligible voters, but also the loss of potential of the parliamentary opposition groups. PO and Nowoczesna constitute a counterbalance to the ruling party in this respect to a lesser extent than a year ago. In May last year, these two parties represented about a quarter of Poles (24%), almost the same number as PiS (25%). Currently, according to declarations, the two main opposition parties represent a total of 21% of all eligible voters, while the ruling party represents 31%.

It is noteworthy that among all eligible voters, the perception of being represented is greater for some groups than the size of the declared support in case of a possible election. The broad support of the governing PiS is now wider than the electoral support. Among all respondents the proportion of people who feel their interests and beliefs represented by this party exceeds by 5 percentage points the number of people who would be ready to go to the polls and vote for it. More respondents also feel represented by Kukiz'15 than are willing to support it in the election (by 4 percentage points).

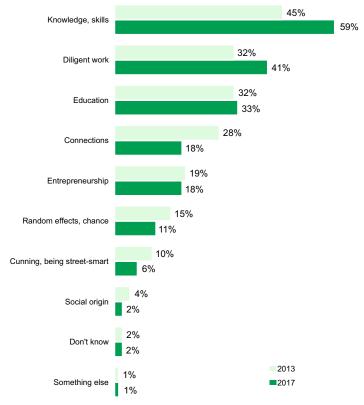
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Representativeness of the Political Scene", June 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2017, N=1034. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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).

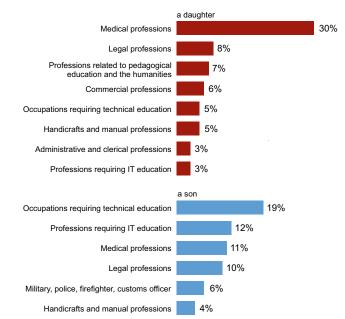
What has the greatest impact on professional success?



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

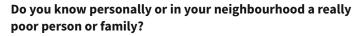
the respondents would like their daughter to choose a career in the field. The preference for sons is more divergent: the most popular professions require technical, IT, medical and legal education.

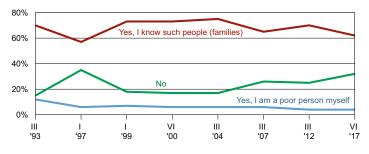
Social perception of poverty

According to data from the Central Statistical Office, from 2008 to 2015, the proportion of Poles living below the relative poverty line (marked by expenditure at 50% of average for all household) slowly but steadily decreased. Also in the monthly CBOS studies in recent years there has been a systematic improvement in the assessment of the economic situation in the country, as well as growing satisfaction with financial situation and a decrease in the subjective threat of unemployment. This is also reflected in the perception of poverty.

Most Poles claim to know poor people: 19% know one or two such persons or families, while 44% know more such people. One-third of respondents (32%) say that they do not know a single poor person, and four out of a hundred (4%) themselves identify as poor.

Compared with 2012, the percentage of respondents who know poor people or families has decreased. The value of this indicator is lower not only than in 2012, but also lower than ten years ago when we recorded a significant decline.

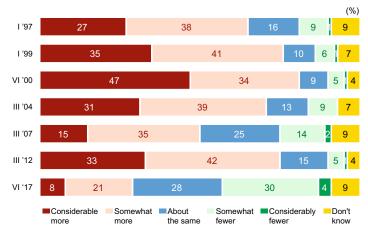




As respondents view it, about 28% of Poles are poor. The assessments if much higher when made by people who rated their own financial situation as bad (45%), those having a monthly per capita income of up to 649 PLN (39%), people with primary education (35%). On the other hand, the proportion of the poor in society is lower in the perception of people with university degree (22%) and those with highest per capita income (23%).

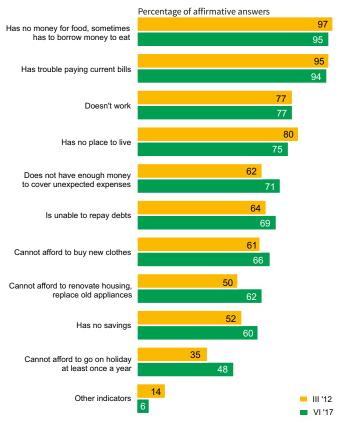
When in 2012 respondents were asked whether, in their opinion, in the next few years in Poland poverty would increase, pessimism dominated. This year we record a significant change of attitudes. At present, more than a third of respondents (34%, up 28 percentage points compared to 2012) say that in the coming years there will be fewer poor people in our country, and 28% predict no change. The percentage of pessimistic respondents decreased by 46 percentage points compared with the previous measurement and is now at 29%.

In the next few years, how many really poor people will there be in Poland compared to the present?



Criteria for characterizing someone as a poor person are now defined more broadly than 5 years ago. Changes in the perception of poverty are probably a result of the improvement in the standard of living.

How would you describe a poor person? It is a person who...



In all previous measurements, Poles recognized unemployment as the main factor leading to poverty. In this year's survey there is a clear change in hierarchy: lack of work is only ranked fifth in the list of causes of poverty (decrease of by 25 percentage points compared to 2012).

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.

Most respondents argue that the main factor hindering exit from poverty is laziness, unwillingness to work. Next in importance are: alcoholism, poor orientation in the world and poor health (illness, disability).

The change in the hierarchy of factors was probably influenced by the improvement of the labour market situation and the decrease of unemployment. Finding a job has become easier, which has contributed to the belief that unemployment is more likely a result the unemployed person's fault, rather than external conditions.

18% 35% Laziness, unwillingness to work 42% 56% 31% 40% Alcoholism 43% 52% 31% Poor orientation in the world 37% inability to look after 46% one's business 49% 23% 27% Illness, disability 34% 41% 79% 53% Unemployment 53% 28% 27% 22% Low pensions 14% 21% 38% 39% Lack of education 21% or professional qualifications 20% 35% 24% Lack of support from the state 15% 11% 4% 3% Lack of support from the family 5% **-** III '04 6% **-** III '07 III '12 5% VI '17 5% Bad luck 2% 3%

What causes some people to be unable to exit poverty?

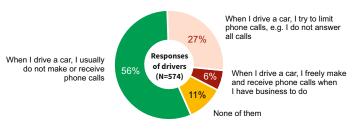
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Perception of Poverty", June 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2017, N=1020. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Use of mobile phones in cars

Polish law forbids the driver to use a phone that requires holding the handset or microphone in hand while driving a car.

When describing their driving style, only a few drivers declare that, when driving their car, they freely receive and make phone calls when they have business to do (6%). More than one-fourth try to restrict telephone calls (27%), and the majority in general neither make nor receive phone calls (56%).

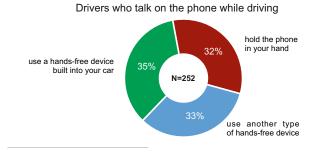
Which statement best describes your driving style?



In total, more than two-fifths of drivers (44%) say that when driving a car they sometimes speak on the phone. Using mobile phones while driving for other purposes is relatively uncommon. Every seventh driver (14%) sometimes reads or checks text or e-mail messages, while half as many (7%) declare that, when driving the car, they write or send messages. Fewer people (4%) say that they use their mobile phone to browse the internet while driving.

One-third of the drivers who speak on the mobile phone behind the wheel (32%) declare that they generally hold a mobile phone in their hand; others use the hands-free device built into the car (35%) or another type set of hands-free device (33%).

When talking on the phone while driving, do you...



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Using Mobile Phones behind the Wheel", June 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2017, N=1020. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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