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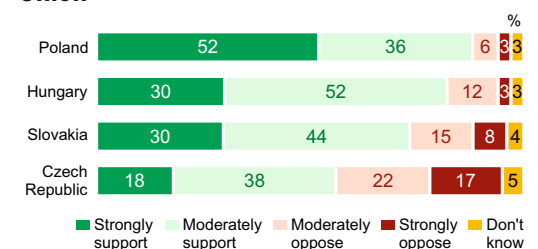
TO THE REPORTS REFERRED TO ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED RECENTLY (IN POLISH):

- Use of Mobile Phones
- Willingness to Vote and Interest in Politics
- Are Young Poles Right-Wing?
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- Left-Wing Voters since 2005
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- Opinions about Parliament and President
- Attitude to Government in the Second Half of August
- Social Moods in August

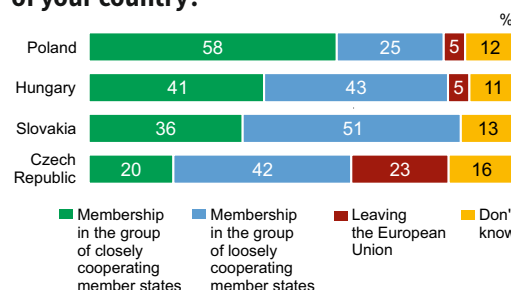
## Opinions about membership in the European Union in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary

Poland is the strongest supporter of the European Union among the Visegrad Group countries. Poles most frequently support their country's membership in the European Union and express their opinion strongest (88% in total, 52% strongly support). The majority of respondents from the rest of the region also support the EU: more than four fifths of Hungarians (82%), almost three quarters of Slovaks (74%) and more than half of Czechs (56%).

**Support for membership in the European Union**



**It is often said that a multi-speed Europe may emerge, with some countries working closely together and others which are more loosely related. What is in the best interest of your country?**

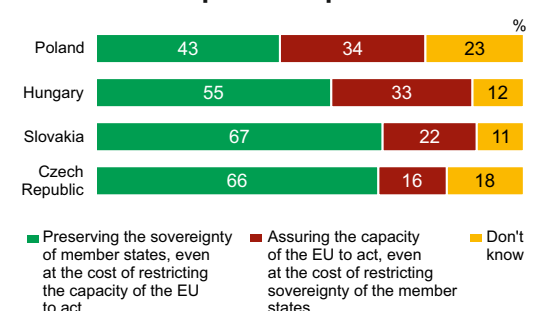


Of the four countries surveyed, Poland is the only one supporting close integration. In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the prevailing group advocate loose cooperation. In Hungary, groups of supporters and opponents of close integration are more or less equal.

In all the countries covered by the study, the protection of the

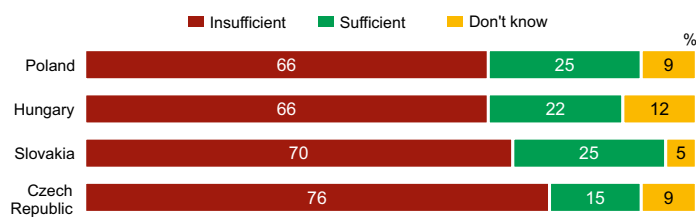
independence of the EU member states is seen as more important than ensuring the capacity of the entire Union to act effectively. Protecting national sovereignty, even at the expense of reducing the capacity of the Union as a whole, is a priority for two thirds of Czechs and Slovaks and for more than half of Hungarians. The choice between, on the one hand, state independence and, on the other, the EU's ability to act effectively is less clear in Poland than in other countries and often remains unresolved.

**What is more important at present?**



In all countries of the Visegrad Group, there is a sense of insufficient influence on decisions and actions of the European Union.

## Does your country have sufficient influence on decisions and actions of the European Union?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "The Poles, Czechs, Slovaks and Hungarians about European Integration", August 2017. Fieldwork for national samples: Poland (CBOS) June 2017 (N=1020); Czech Republic (CVVM Sociological Institute) June 2017 (N=983); Hungary (TARKI) July 2017 (N=1017); Slovakia (FOCUS) May/June 2017 (N=1012). Samples from Poland, Slovakia and Hungary are representative for the population aged 18+, while the sample for Czech Republic is representative for the population aged 15+.

## Democratic principles and their fulfilment in Poland

Understood narrowly, the term democracy refers to the way citizens choose their political representation. In general, however, especially in the current context, the definition of democracy is more extensive and far exceeds the procedural criterion.

In public opinion, the key features of democracy are the procedural aspects, such as free and fair elections (92% consider them very important for the state to be democratic), universal suffrage (86%), and the selection of the best people to govern (85%). Among the other fundamental attributes are: personal freedom (86%), freedom of expression and organization (76%) and equality, which includes not only equality before the law (88%), but also equal opportunities for education (87%). Responses indicate that the economic dimension of the functioning of a democratic state is also very important: financing of such areas as health care, education, culture (83%), government concern with well-being of citizens (80%) and the provision of adequate living conditions for the poorest (77%). The overwhelming majority of Poles recognize the responsibility of the state for the economic life of the country (75%), control of the government by independent courts (73%), civic participation in public life (72%), regular public consultation of important state decisions (70%) and parliamentary representation (70%). According to about two thirds of respondents, political pluralism is the cornerstone of democracy, that is, the ability to choose between programs of different groups (67%) and the rule of law (69%).

Not all the principles of democracy, in public opinion, are fulfilled in Poland. The following principles of democracy in Poland are insufficiently fulfilled: equality in the face of the law (55%), equal opportunities for education (52%),

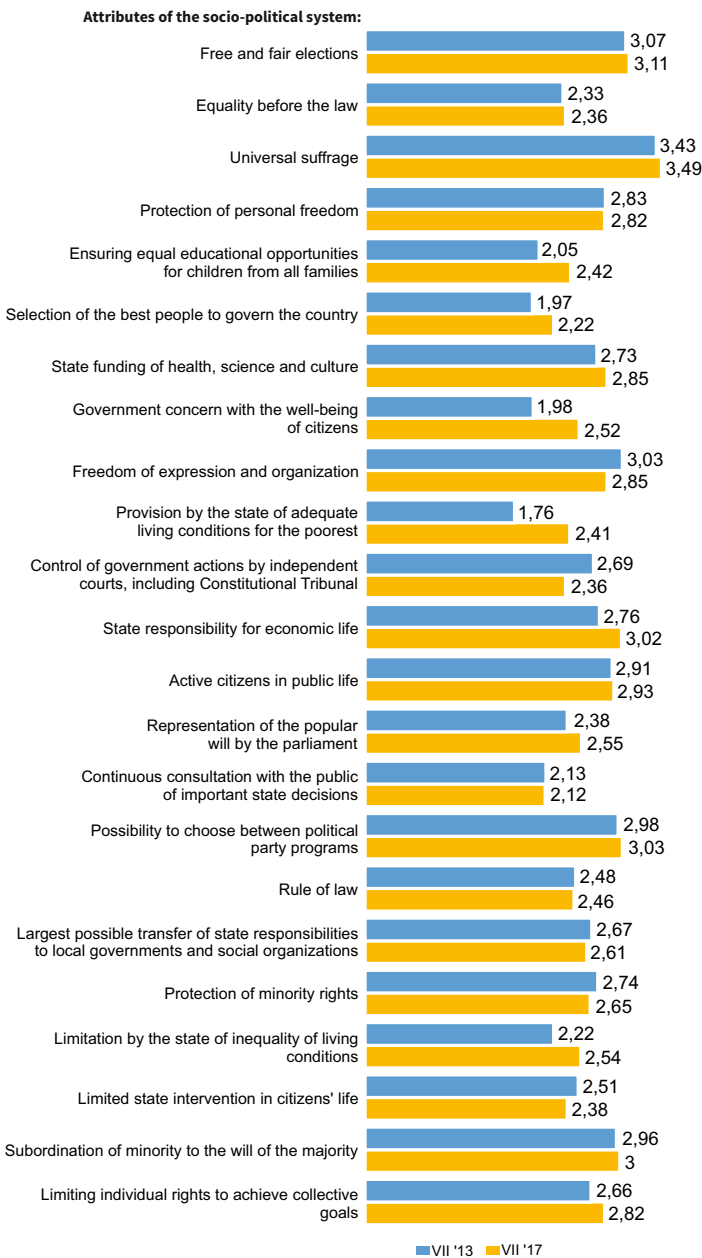
proper social policy towards the poorest (47%), selection of the best people to govern the country (55%), and consultation of important political decisions with the public (61%). A lot of people have reservations about the implementation of such principles as: controlling the activities of government by independent courts (42%), and the rule of law (46%).

Level of fulfilment in Poland	Significance of system attributes for defining it as democracy	
	Very important	Less important
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free and fair elections</li> <li>Universal suffrage</li> <li>Protection of personal freedoms</li> <li>State funding for health, science, culture</li> <li>Authorities concerned with the welfare of citizens</li> <li>Freedom of expression and organization</li> <li>State responsibility for economic life</li> <li>Active citizens in public life</li> <li>Representation of the popular will by the parliament</li> <li>Choice between political party programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Largest possible transfer of responsibilities to local governments and social organizations</li> <li>Protection of minority rights</li> <li>Limitation by the state of inequality of living conditions</li> <li>Subordination of the minority to the will of the majority</li> <li>Limiting individual rights to achieve collective goals</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equality before the law</li> <li>Ensuring equal educational opportunities for children from all families</li> <li>Selection of the best people to govern</li> <li>Provision by the state of adequate living conditions for the poorest</li> <li>Control of government activities by independent courts, including Constitutional Tribunal</li> <li>Continuous consultation with the public of important state decisions</li> <li>Rule of law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited state intervention in citizens' life</li> </ul>

Understanding democracy has not changed significantly in the last four years. Significant changes, not only in relation to the previous measurement but also to earlier ones, have been observed in the assessment of the implementation of certain democratic principles in our country. The economic involvement of the state and social policy are more often appreciated. The belief has strengthened that equal educational opportunities for all citizens are guaranteed, that the state finances important areas of life, reduces social inequalities, is concerned with the well-being of citizens, cares about the worst off and takes responsibility for the economy. Competence of the authorities and the representation of the popular will by the legislature are evaluated better than in previous years. Moreover, in the opinion of respondents, now more than previously individual interests are subordinated to pursuing collective goals, although this does not belong to the most essential criteria defining the democratic system. Compared with previous measurements, respondents less often believe that freedom of expression and association are protected in Poland, that the rights of minorities are protected, the state is trying to minimize interference with citizens' life and that government action is controlled by independent courts.

## Evaluation of the fulfilment of attributes of democracy in Poland

Average on a scale from 1 to 4. The higher the value on the scale, the better the perceived performance.



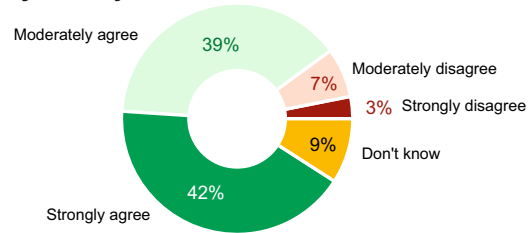
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Principles of Democracy and Their Implementation in Poland", August 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2017, N=977. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## Opinions about presidential vetoes to changes in the judiciary

The laws on judiciary, adopted in July by the Polish parliament, aroused many controversies and caused social protests. The most serious allegations concerned violation of the constitutional principle of the separation of powers. Eventually, president Andrzej Duda vetoed two of the three laws: on the Supreme Court and the National Judicial Council.

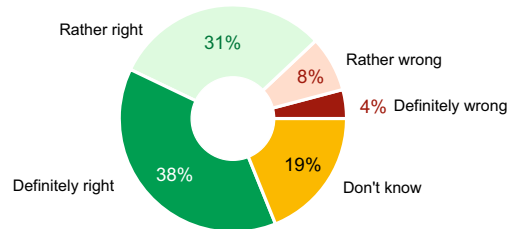
Poles are quite widely convinced about the need for judicial reform. In August, more than four-fifths of the respondents (81%) supported the reform of the judiciary.

### Do you agree that there is a need for reform of the judiciary?



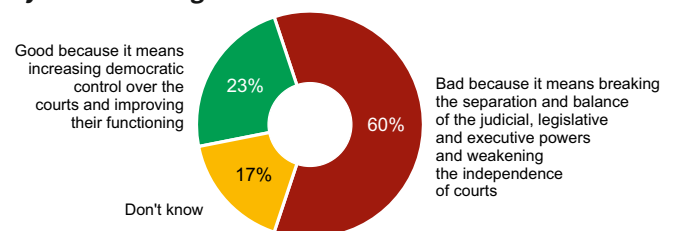
Despite the perceived need for changes in the functioning of the Polish judiciary, more than two thirds of Poles (69%) believe that the decision of president Andrzej Duda to veto two of the three laws on change in the judicial system was correct. This opinion is also shared by most voters of the ruling party (56%).

### Was the decision of president Andrzej Duda to veto two of three laws changing the judicial system right or wrong?



Laws adopted by the parliament assumed increased influence of politicians on the courts of law. Proponents of the proposed changes argued that this meant increasing democratic control over courts and improving their functioning. Opponents saw in this the violation of the principle of separation of powers and weakening of the independence of courts. The arguments of opponents of the solutions adopted by the parliament appear to be more convincing to the public opinion. Three fifths of respondents see increasing the influence of politicians on courts as threatening to separation of powers, and only less than a quarter consider it as strengthening democratic control over courts and improving their functioning.

### Reform of the judiciary proposed by Law and Justice (PiS) assumed increased influence of politicians on the courts. Do you think it is good or bad?



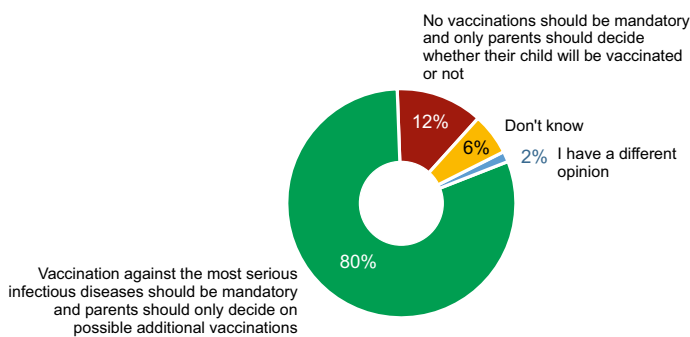
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Scenery after Presidential Veto", September 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2017, N=1009. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

# Opinions about mandatory vaccination of children

According to the data of the National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene, the number of parents who have evaded compulsory vaccination has been gradually increasing for the last several years. While in 2006-2010 annually about 4 thousand refused to have children vaccinated, in 2016 the number exceeded 23 thousand. Data on evasion of mandatory vaccination are disturbing: they indicate crossing the safety barrier, understood as a proportion of the unvaccinated population, which is a threat to the so-called herd immunity. As a result, local outbreaks of infectious diseases may begin to appear.

The number of adult Poles with children who claim that their child (children) has not been vaccinated for at least one year is estimated at 3%. The most frequently declared reasons for avoiding vaccination are: fears about consequences of vaccines (40%) and medical contraindications (39%).

**With each year, there are more parents who do not vaccinate their children against infectious diseases because they are afraid of vaccines. On the one hand there are arguments about parents' rights to decide, and on the other hand arguments about the risk of return of many serious infectious diseases. Which of the following statements is closer to your own view?**



Despite the noticeable and increasing activity of the anti-vaccination movements and various concerns about the composition of vaccines and possible risks associated with their administration, the vast majority of Poles accept the status quo in the field of childhood immunization. The prevailing view holds that vaccination

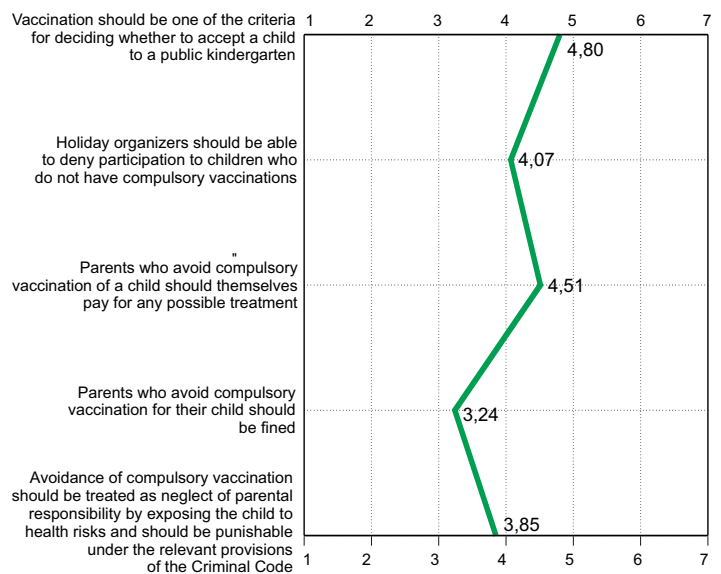
of children against the most severe diseases should be mandatory and that parental discretion should only apply to possible additional vaccination. Only every eighth respondent supports changing the compulsory nature of the vaccination and leaving the matter for parents to decide.

Failure to administer compulsory vaccination to children without medical contraindications is sanctioned with a fine for the parents. In response to the growing phenomenon of vaccination avoidance, proposals are being made to widen the range of sanctions.

In public opinion, the most appropriate action against parents who avoid compulsory vaccination of children should be to treat vaccination as one of the criteria for admission to a public kindergarten. There is also a wide acceptance of the obligation for parents who refrain from vaccination to independently finance the treatment of a child. Respondents also approve of giving holiday organizers the right to refuse to accept a non-vaccinated child. Disapproval prevails with regard to financial and criminal sanctions imposed on parents who do not have children vaccinated.

## To what degree do you agree with the following statements?

Average on scale 1 (definitely disagree) - 7 (definitely agree)



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Obligation to Vaccinate Children", August 2017. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2017, N=977. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

**For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:**

**CBOS**

5/7, Świętojska, 00-236 Warsaw, Poland

Phones: **(48) 22 629 35 69, 22 628 37 04** Fax: **(48) 22 629 40 89**

e-mail: **sekretariat@cbos.pl** **www.cbos.pl**

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