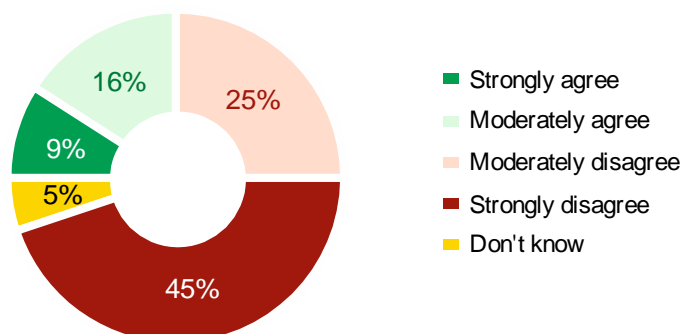


Expectations from politicians related to migration crisis

According to CBOS research, Poles are generally opposed to accepting refugees. In December 2016 more than half of respondents (52%) objected, and 40% agreed to give them temporary stay (until they could safely return to the country they came from), and only 4% agreed that we should allow them to settle in Poland permanently. Poles are consistently sceptical about the relocation of refugees arriving in the European Union from the Middle East and Africa. This objection is based on the fact that they come mainly from the countries in which Islam dominates.

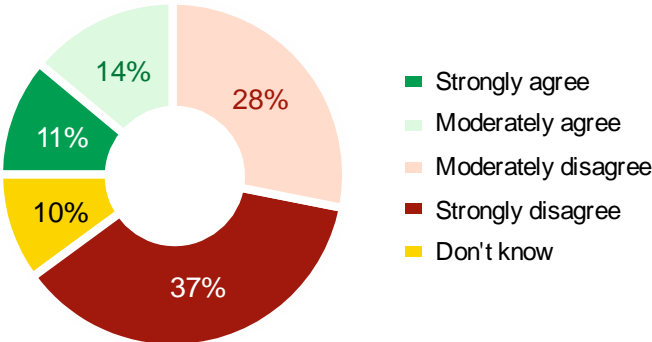
The vast majority (70%) of respondents are opposed to accepting refugees from Muslim countries in Poland.

Do you agree that Poland should accept refugees from Muslim countries?



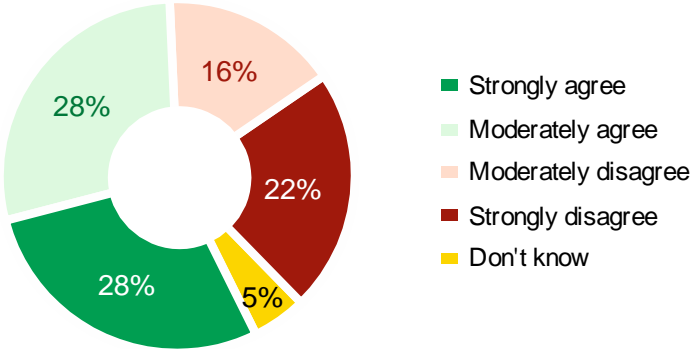
Due to the large influx of refugees to Greece and Italy in September 2015, the European Council decided to adopt an emergency mechanism to relocate some of them to other EU member states. The relocation was to include asylum seekers from Syria, Iraq and Eritrea. Importantly, for the first time in history, the decision on this forum was made by the majority vote, not unanimously. This was badly received by some members of the EU, as a disregard for the sovereignty of the member states. Most countries committed to relocation have received some of the refugees within the quotas set. The exceptions are Poland and Hungary, which did not accept a single person within the established relocation. EU countries most affected by the migration crisis show increasing impatience. There are also various proposals to enforce commitments, including the European Commission proposal from May 2016 about the introduction of a permanent refugee resettlement system and the possibility for a country to withdraw from participation for one year in return for 250,000 Euro for every unclaimed refugee. The prospect of financial penalties for non-compliant countries has returned in recent months. The possibility of reducing some of the EU funds already allocated to these countries has been muted. It appears that opposition to the reception of refugees from Muslim countries prevails (65%) even assuming that the refusal to do so would risk losing EU funds. A quarter of respondents (25%) are in favour of receiving these refugees under these conditions.

Do you agree that Poland should accept refugees from Muslim countries, if refusal to do so would risk losing EU funds?



Most Poles believe that admitting refugees in Poland should be decided by a national referendum (56%). However, there is a large group of respondents opposed to this idea (38%). Proponents of the referendum are more likely to be opposed to Poland accepting refugees (61%) than supporting such policy (45%).

Do you agree that Polish government should organize a national referendum about receiving refugees?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Expectations to Polish Politicians in Relation to the EU's Migration Crisis", May 2017. Telephone survey commissioned by CBOS and fielded by Kantar Public and Indicator in May 2017, N=2024. The sample is representative for adult population of Poland.