

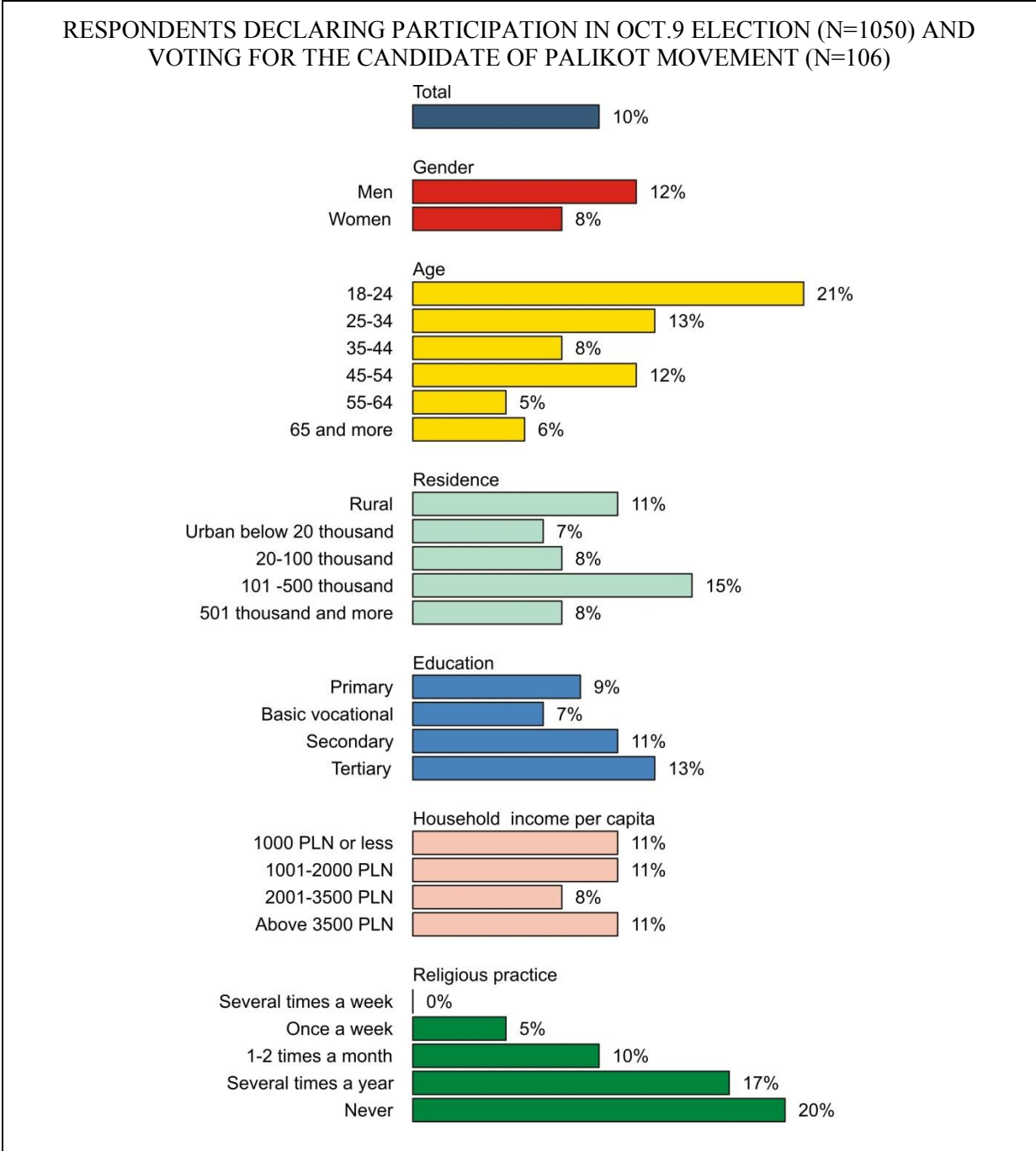
ELECTORATE OF PALIKOT MOVEMENT

In the parliamentary elections held in October, the party Palikot Movement achieved an unexpected success, receiving 10,02% of valid votes. It is a new player on the Polish political scene. It was formed by a former MP for the ruling Civic Platform, Janusz Palikot. Palikot Movement owes its success to correct understanding of needs and feelings of a rather small group of voters who previously did not have these feelings, or could not articulate them.

In the electoral campaign, Palikot Movement presented itself as, on the one hand, as one of the few non-systemic groupings, one that was not involved in broadly defined government, and therefore opposed to the existing forces on the political scene. On the other hand, it defined itself as an anti-clerical party fighting excessive influence of priests and religion (as seen by its members) in the public sphere, in particular in political and social issues. Palikot Movement defined itself as a “modern” and modernizing grouping for the young people. Its programme manifesto is entitled “The Modern State”. Finally, through selection of its candidates, the party presented itself during the electoral campaign as defending the rights of various minorities, i.e. people excluded or marginalized by different factors, including economic ones.

More than one-fifth (21%) of the voters aged 25 or less voted for Palikot Movement in the elections. It is especially popular among students: over a quarter (27%) voted for this party. Moreover, the popularity of this party increases with decreasing religiosity, expressed by the frequency of religious practice. A fifth of the voters who never attend religious service (20%) supported Palikot Movement, as did 17% of those who do it occasionally (several times a year). Every tenth (10%) person practicing once or twice a month voted for this party, and every twentieth (5%) person going to church once a week. People attending religious service more often than once a week did not support this party at all.

The other characteristics increasing the propensity to vote for the Palikot Movement are: residence in big (but not biggest) cities, i.e. those with population 100-500 thousand (15% of the vote), and higher education (13%).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “*Voters of Palikot Movement*”, November 2011. Fieldwork for national sample: October and November 2011 (N=1919). The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.