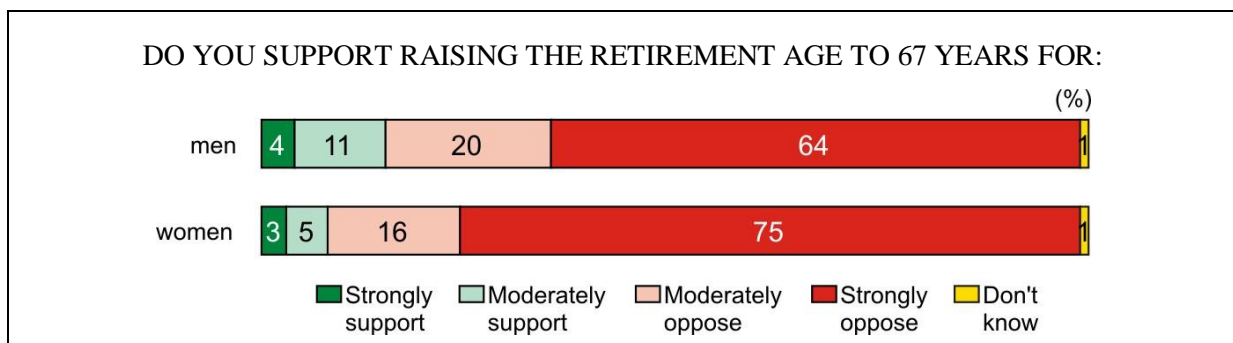


OPINIONS ABOUT RAISING THE RETIREMENT AGE

The government of Donald Tusk plans to extend the retirement age for both men and women to 67 years (at present it is 60 for women and 65 for men). Although this reform is necessitated by the growing disproportion between the number of employees paying dues into the system and retirees drawing benefits, there is widespread uncertainty about the social consequences of these changes. Therefore, coalition parties agreed to cushion the proposed reform with the possibility to take a part of the retirement benefits early.

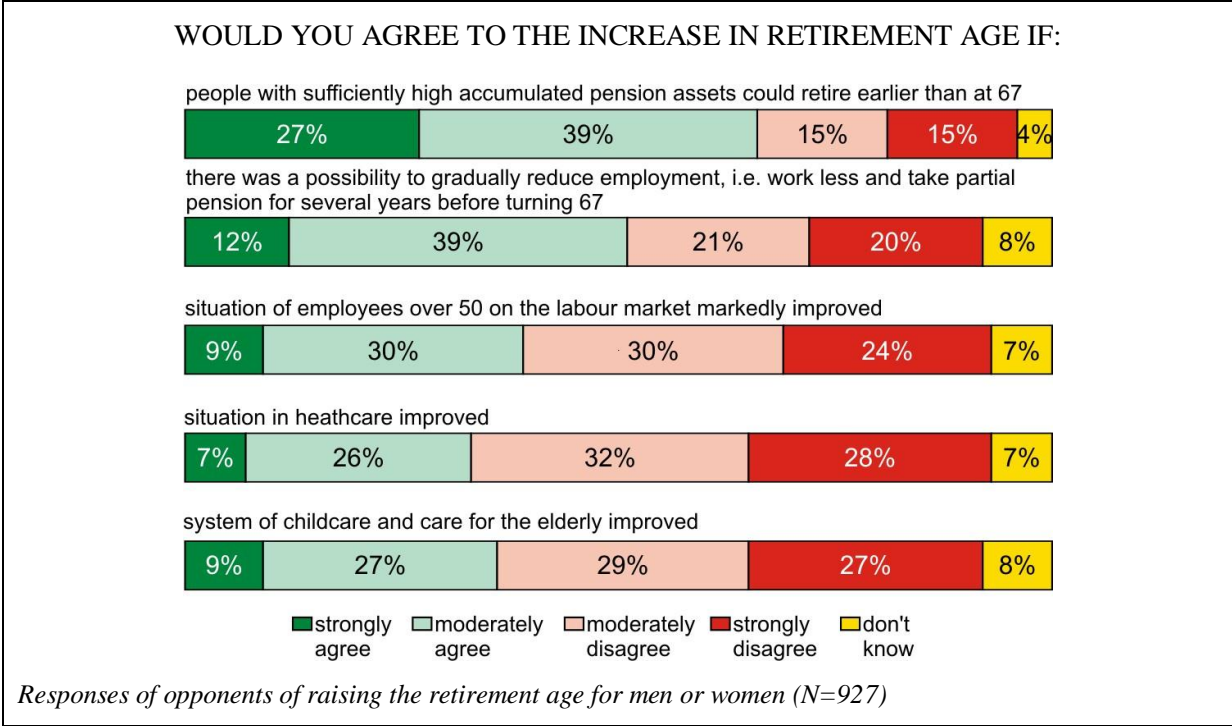
Raising the retirement age meets strong rejection in the society: 84% of Poles are opposed to raising the retirement age of men to 67 years (including 64% of strong opponents), while 91% are opposed to raising the retirement age of women (including 75% of strong opponents).



In spite of the unequivocally negative attitude to raising the retirement age to 67, the opponents could accept the changes if flexible choice of individual retirement age were introduced. Two-thirds of opponents of higher retirement age (66%) would agree to it, if employees with sufficient accumulated pensions had the choice of retiring before turning 67.

Most opponents (51%) would agree to the higher retirement age if it were possible to gradually reduce professional activity: work less and draw reduced pension for several years before turning 67.

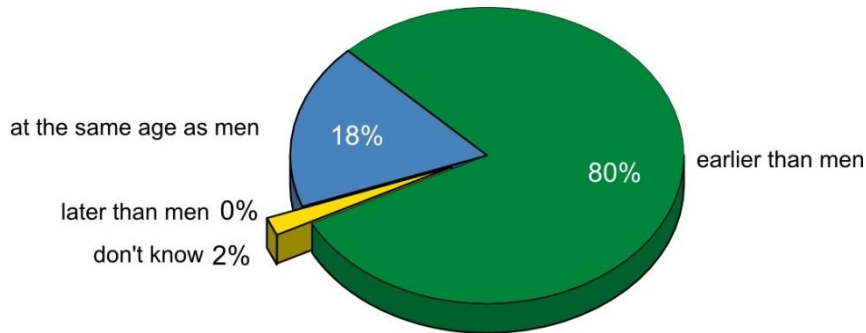
Opponents of longer working life are not convinced by arguments related to effective mechanisms enabling longer work. Most of them reiterate their attitude to the government proposal even assuming situation in healthcare markedly improves (60%), there is better care for children and the elderly (56%), and improvement of the situation of the over-50 on the labour market (54%).



The government plans for raising the retirement age affect women in particular. They are contrary to the societal habits and ideas about the role of women in the society, and require social policy enabling women to reconcile professional work with household duties and continue working past the age of 60. In particular, it is a question of improving childcare facilities and care for the elderly.

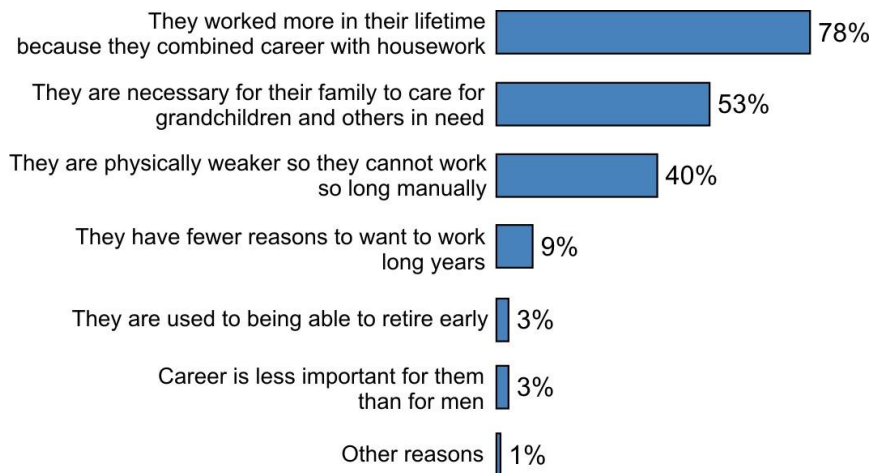
In general, four-fifths (80%) believe that women should retire earlier than men, while 18% think that retirement age should be the same for men and women. Significantly, men tend to support equal retirement age (23%) more often than women do (13%).

REGARDLESS OF THE PLAN TO RAISE THE RETIREMENT AGE,
DO YOU THINK THAT WOMEN SHOULD RETIRE:



People who believe that women should retire earlier than men usually justify their belief by women's overload of work resulting from the combination of professional and household duties. Another common argument is the need for women to be carers for children or other people in need of care, e.g. elder parents. A sizeable part of opponents of equal retirement age claim that women are physically weaker and cannot work manually as long as men.

WHY DO YOU THINK WOMEN SHOULD RETIRE EARLIER THAN MEN?



Responses of people thinking that women should retire earlier than men (N=810).

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about raising the retirement age and changes in the pension system", March 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2012, N=1015. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.