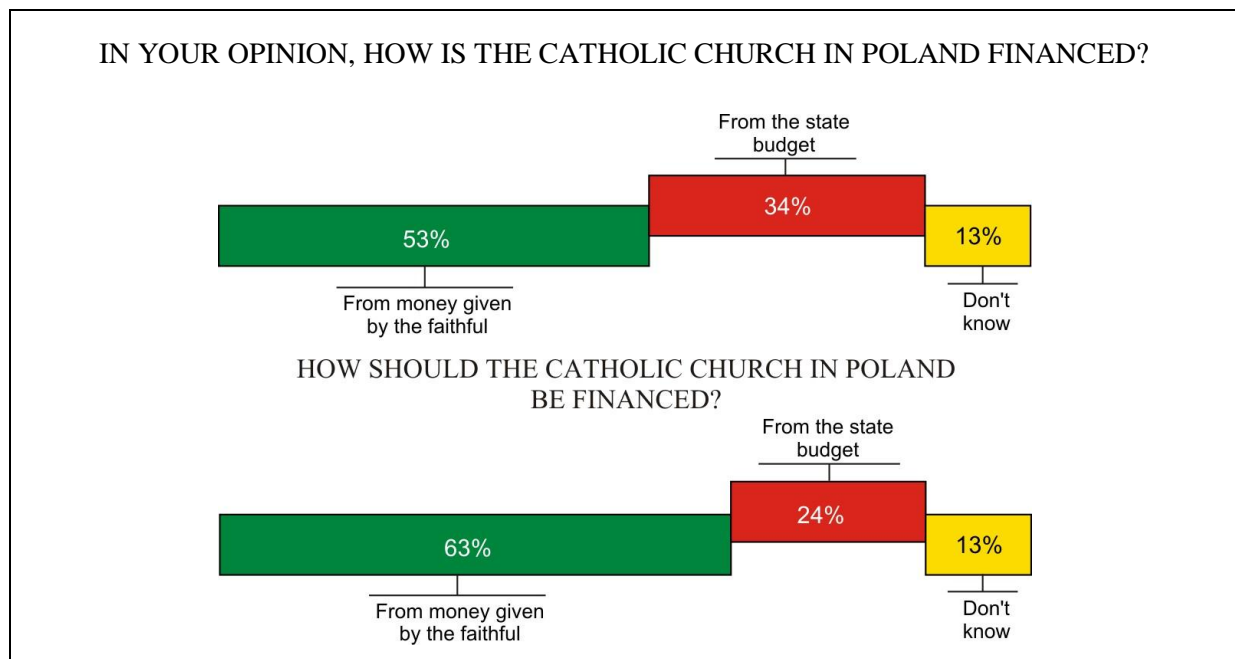
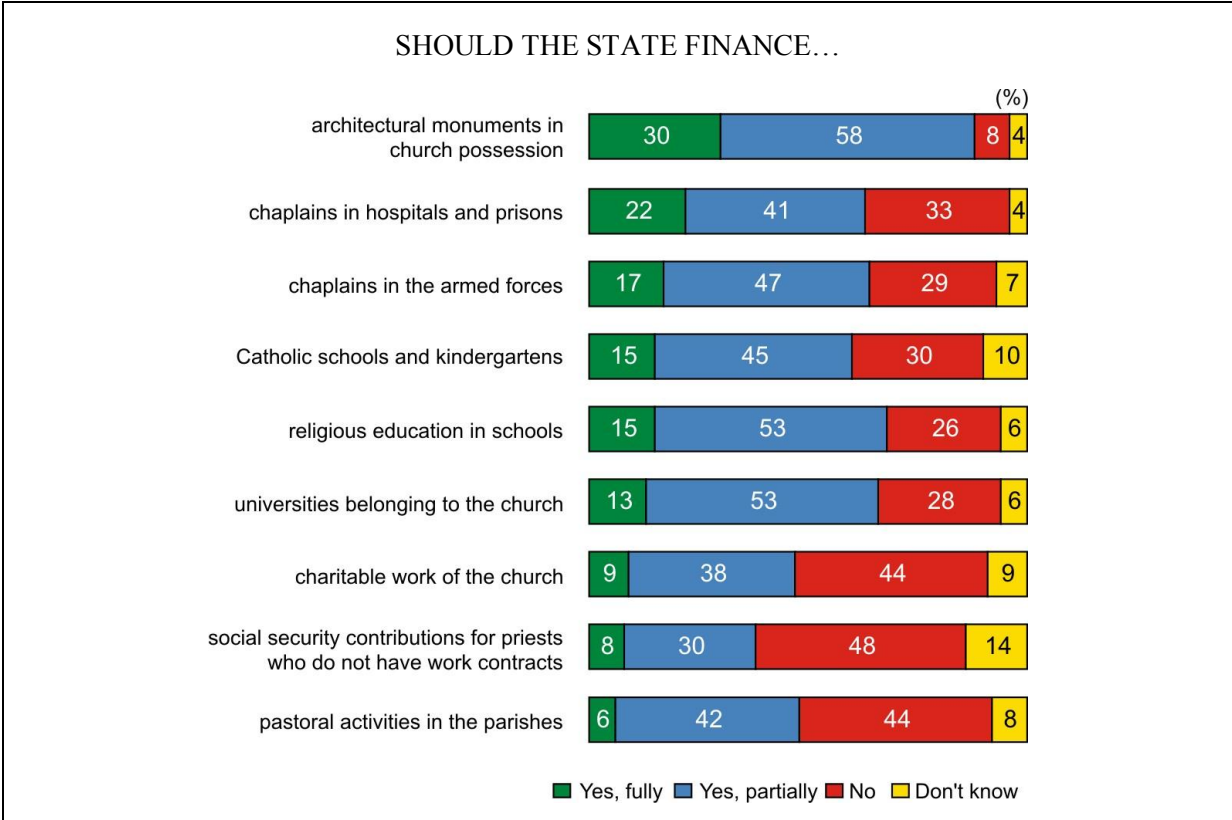


## FINANCING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Financing the churches takes different forms in Europe and around the world. The rules depend on national traditions and historical legacies of relations between churches and the state. In most cases, churches are both financed by the faithful (sometimes the state acts as an intermediary and collects the church tax) and, in some form, subsidised by the state.



Most Poles (53%) think the Catholic Church in Poland is mostly financed from donations of the faithful. Almost two-thirds (63%) think that members should be responsible for church finances.



Opinions about the appropriate level of state financing of the Catholic Church differ. The strongest agreement was recorded in case of (partial or total) financing of architectural monuments in church possession: 88% see the need to pay money for maintaining them. The majority support state participation in the cost of religious education in schools (63%), work of chaplains in hospitals and prisons (64%), chaplains in the armed forces (60%), Catholic schools and kindergartens (68%), and universities belonging to the church (66%). Less than half agree that the state should contribute to the cost of pastoral activities in the parishes (48%), and charity work (47%). The least agreement was noted in case of state paying social security contributions for priests who do not have work contracts (38%).

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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Financing the Catholic Church"*, May 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2012, N=1018. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.