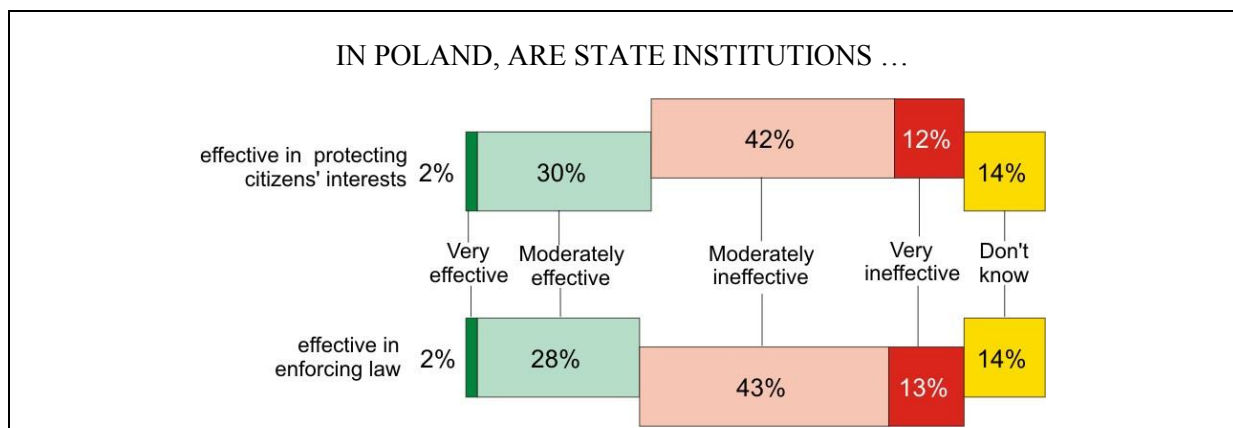


OPINIONS ON THE RULE OF LAW

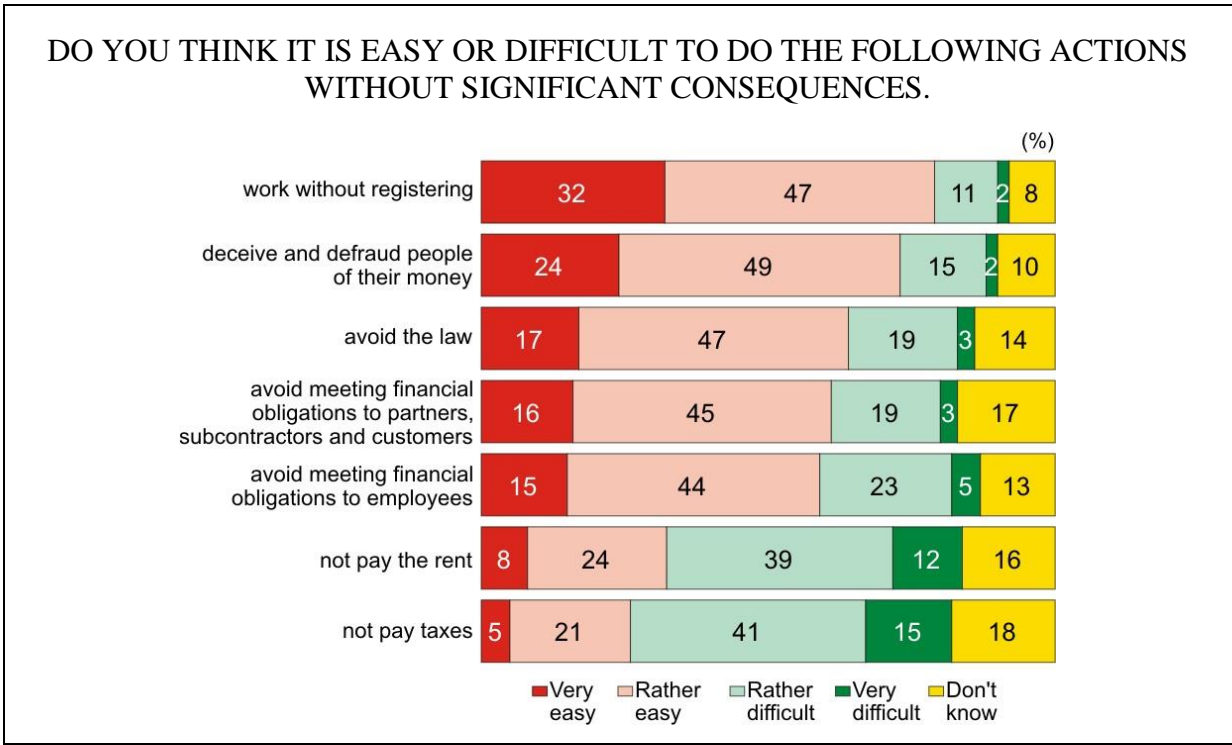
In recent months, a lot of attention was drawn to the collapse of Amber Gold, a quasi-banking firm acting as a Ponzi scheme. The company advertised high-interest gold deposits, which attracted a large group of customers. The collapse of Amber Gold triggered a wave of criticism at the functioning of the state, which was reflected in the deterioration of opinions about the government of Donald Tusk. Institutions such as: Ministry of Justice, Office of Competition and Consumer Protection, Internal Security Agency and Central Anti-corruption Bureau were accused of inaction, improper procedures and negligence.

The majority of respondents (54%) think that the state institutions do not properly protect citizens' rights, while one-third (32%) express an opposing view. Over half of respondents (56%) are critical about the prosecutor's offices and police: they think that state institutions are ineffective in detecting and pursuing crime. Only one-third of respondents (30%) consider law enforcement as effective.



The Amber Gold scandal fractured the belief in legal order and in the financial safety of the citizens. Almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) believe that, at present, in Poland it is easily possible to deceive investors and defraud their money without major consequences. Among common forms of illegal activity, only one is mentioned more frequently: 79% of respondents think that it is easy to work on the black market, violating the tax code and labour law. A general belief in the weakness of law enforcement and absence of sanctions for breaking the law is held by two-thirds: 64% of respondents think it is easy to avoid the law in general. A large group (61%) think that it is easy to avoid outstanding payments to partners and subcontractors. A slightly smaller group (59%) think it is easy for employers to avoid paying wages.

In public opinion, the state is effective when it has its own material interest, or when ordinary people are required to pay. A majority think it would be difficult to avoid paying rent (51%) or taxes (56%).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Closed eyes of justice: responsibility for Amber Gold scandal", October 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2012, N=985. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.