

## BALANCE OF COSTS AND BENEFITS OF EU INTEGRATION AND THE BUDGET FOR 2014-2020

Poland is a net beneficiary of the European Union: it receives more money from the Union budget than it pays into it. The majority of respondents (56%) are aware of this. More than one in eight (12%) think that the net balance is negative, while one-tenth (10%) believe it to be zero.



Before the EU accession there was widespread doubt about the ability to utilise the EU funds, failure of which would result in Poland paying more into the EU budget than receiving from it. Subsequent years proved these fears to be unfounded. According to the data from the Ministry of Regional Development, Poland has received over 80% of EU funds (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and Cohesion Fund) allocated for the years 2007-2013 to increase competitiveness and cohesion. The investment programs financed from EU funds are noticed by Poles. The majority (62%) are of the opinion that Poland is capable of using these sources of funding.

### HOW WELL HAS POLAND BEEN ABLE TO UTILIZE EU FUNDS SO FAR?



With time, Poles increasingly appreciate the usefulness of European funds. However, it is not the most important benefit from membership. According to the majority, the most important for the development of the country is the opportunity to participate in the Common Market based on the freedom of movement of people, capital, goods and services.

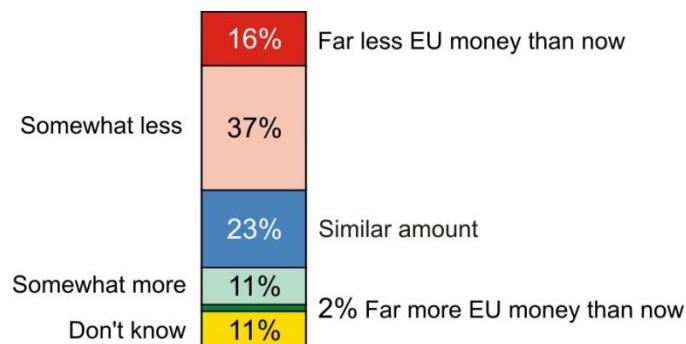
### WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLAND:

- The opportunity to participate in the Common Market, which allows for the freedom to invest, trade, offer services and work throughout the EU
- Acquisition of EU money in the form of various funds and subsidies
- Don't know



Polish people are aware of the possibility that the new budget may be less generous than the current one. The majority of respondents (53%) expect that in the years 2014-20 Poland will receive less money than now, while only 13% think that the new budget will be more beneficial. Close to a quarter (23%) believe that Poland will receive roughly the same.

### DO YOU THINK THAT IN THE YEARS 2014-20 POLAND WILL RECEIVE...



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Balance of costs and benefits of EU integration and the budget for 2014-2020"*, December 2012. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2012, N=1135. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.