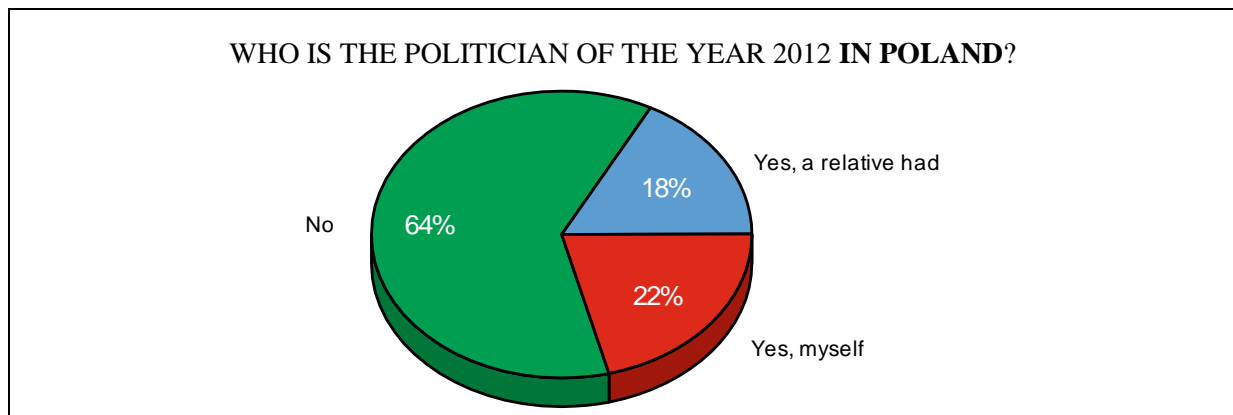


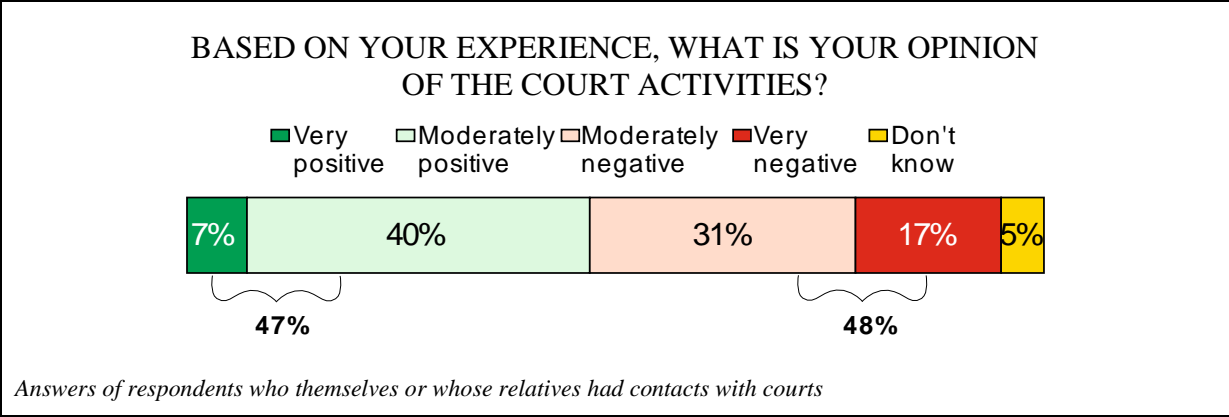
EVALUATION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN POLAND

In the last five years, close to a quarter of respondents (22%) had personal contact with a court of law. A smaller group (18%) admit that their relatives had such experience.

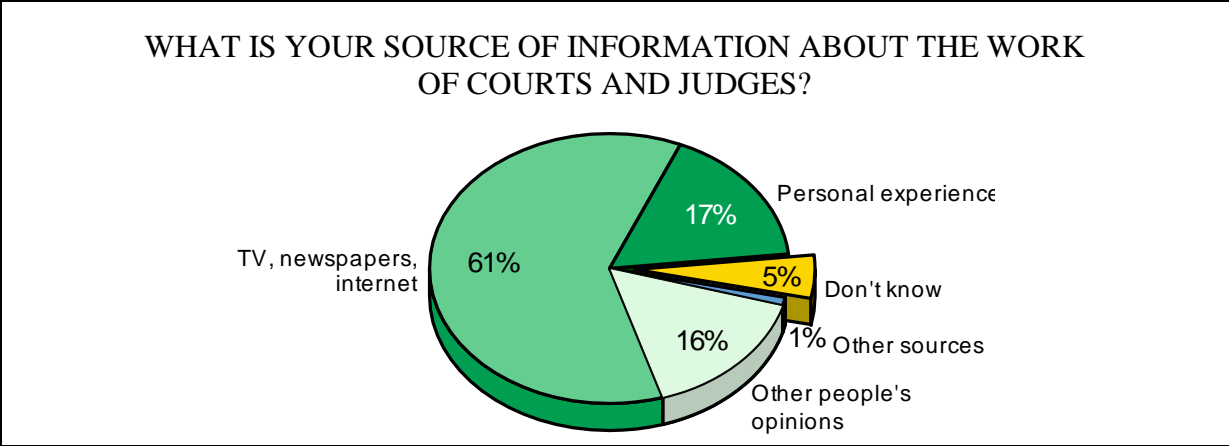


The most frequent reasons for the official contacts with courts were financial affairs. They were matters related to inheritance, property rights, legal title to real estate, etc. In total, 32% of respondents mentioning contacts with courts had business of this kind. A quarter (24%) of this group of respondents mentioned cases related to family law, e.g. divorce, child support, care for a family member. The third most common category of court cases are crimes and misdemeanours (17%). About one-seventh of respondents reporting contacts with courts (15%) had a matter related to labour law, social insurance or commercial law.

The evaluations of courts based on personal experience are strongly differentiated. The relative number of those satisfied with court actions (47%) is the same as the proportion of the dissatisfied (48%). However, the percentage of respondents expressing strong dissatisfaction is larger than the number of very satisfied.

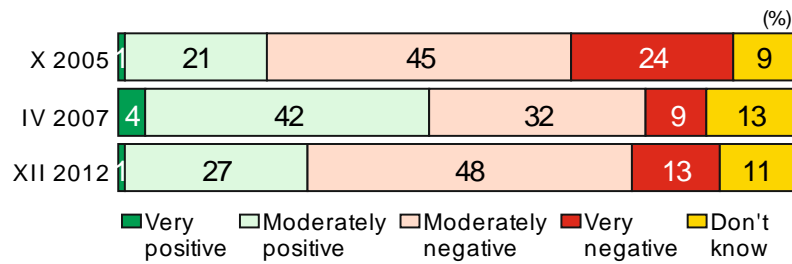


The limited frequency of official affairs with courts makes media coverage the dominant source of knowledge about the work of courts and judges (61%). Less than one-sixth of respondents (17%) admit drawing their knowledge about courts from personal experience, and a similar proportion (16%) use other people's opinion for information.



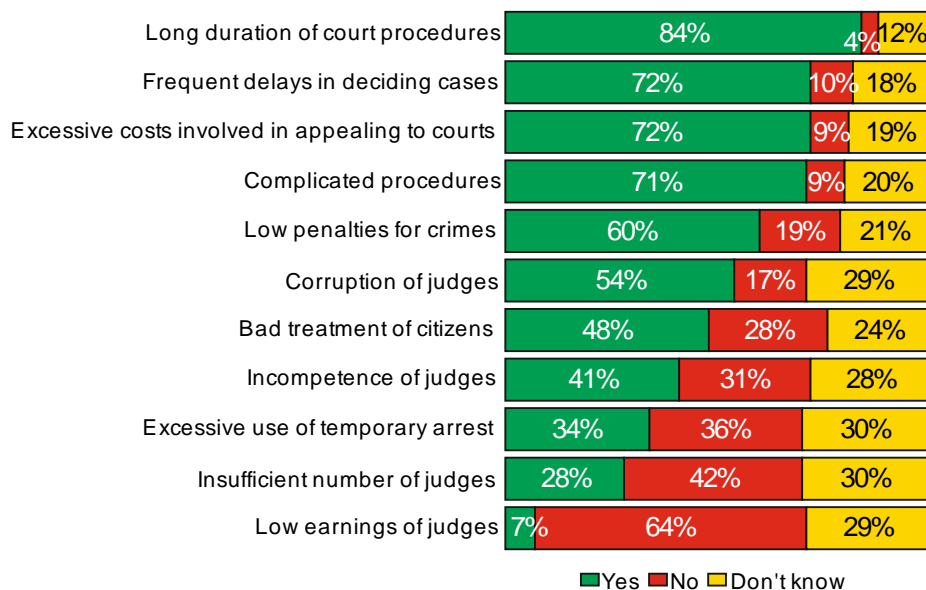
The evaluation of the justice system is usually negative (61%), while a quarter of respondents (28%) have a positive opinion. The performance of the judiciary is rated much worse than five years ago, when Law and Justice (PiS) was in power. Since 2007, the proportion of negative opinions rose by 20 percentage points, while satisfaction with this branch of government fell by 18 points. In spite of the deterioration, current evaluations are better than in October 2005.

EVALUATION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN POLAND



In the opinion of a vast majority of respondents (84%) the biggest problem of the legal system is the long duration of court cases. Secondly, respondents mentioned delay (72%), excessive costs (72%) and complicated procedures (71%). Over half of respondents think that penalties for crimes are too low (60%), and that judges are corrupt (54%). Fewer people complain about wrong treatment of citizens (48%) and incompetence of judges (41%). Every third Pole (34%) considers the use of temporary arrest to be excessive. Least often mentioned were: insufficient personnel (28%) and low earnings of judges (7%).

DO YOU CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING TO BE A PROBLEM FOR THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN POLAND:



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Law obedience and judicial system in Poland"*, January 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2012, N=1135. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.