

ATTITUDE TO OTHER NATIONALITIES

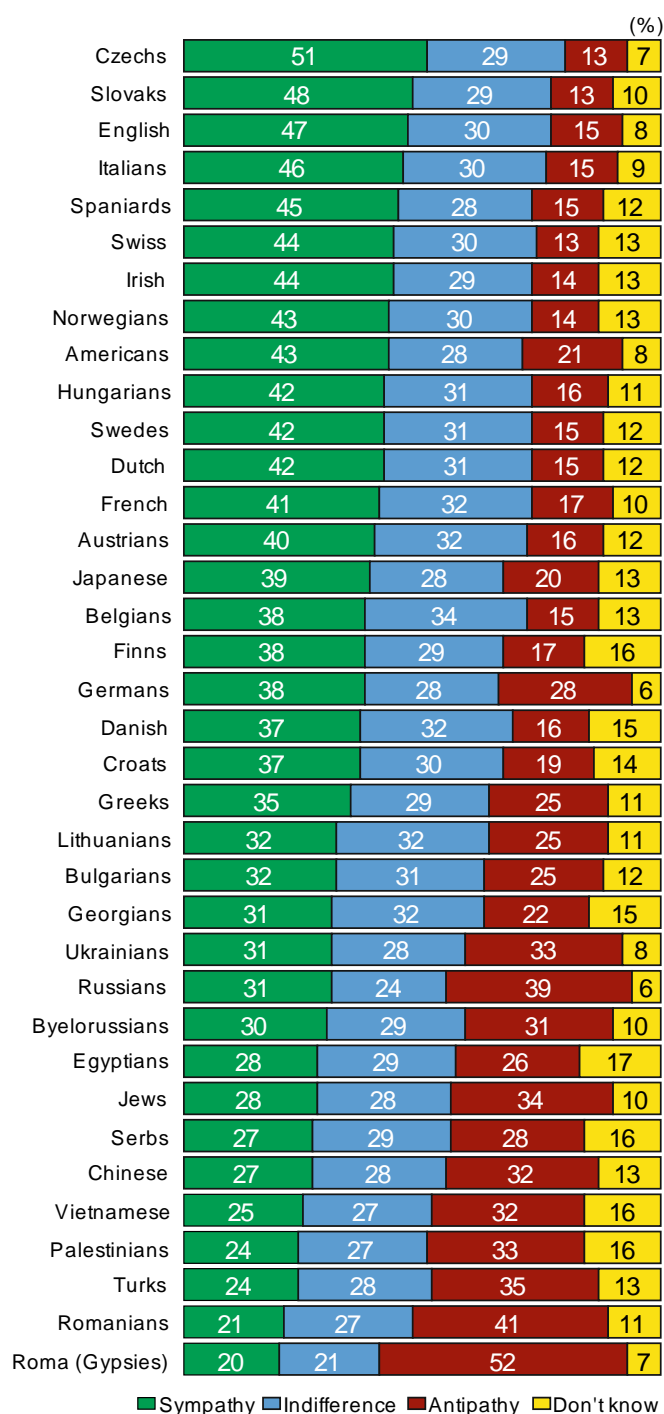
The favourite nationalities for the Poles are Czechs and Slovaks. Positive attitude to them is expressed by about half of respondents. The other well-liked groups are the English, Italians and Spaniards. At least two-fifths of respondents are friendly to the Swiss, Irish, Norwegians, Americans, Hungarians, Swedes, the Dutch, the French and Austrians. Among them, the most controversial are Americans, as they attract more negative feelings than the others.

Almost two-fifths of respondents have sympathy for the Japanese, Belgians, Finns, Germans, the Danish and Croats. Among these nationalities, Germans attract more negative feelings than the others.

The attitude to Greeks, Lithuanians, Bulgarians and Georgians is more frequently positive than negative. However, in case of Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Egyptians and Serbs sympathy and antipathy are equally common.

Negative attitudes prevail towards the Chinese, Vietnamese, Palestinians, Jews, Turks and Russians. The least liked nationalities are Romanians and Roma. They attract negative feelings much more often than positive.

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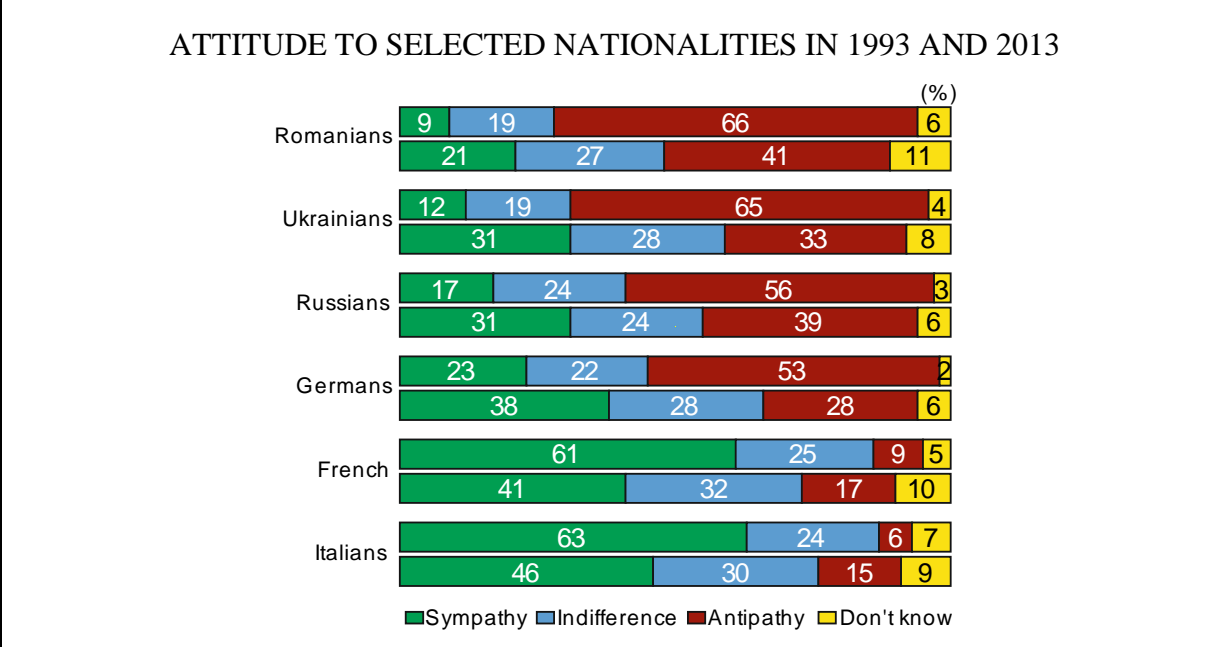


The attitude to other nationalities depends on many factors. In general, Poles have positive feelings for nationalities that are a positive reference group, i.e. those who represent their goals and ambitions, those who constitute the world they themselves want to belong to, and partially already do. Therefore, sympathy predominates for nationalities living in countries with higher socio-economic status than in Poland. This general rule is supplemented

by other influences, such as cultural similarity, historical legacies, current socio-economic events and personal experience related, for instance, to foreign travel for tourism or work.

In the last 20 years, positive changes occurred in the attitude of Poles to other nationalities. From a long-term perspective it is clear that, overall, the perception of others has changed for the better. On the one hand, the attitude to the nationalities which enjoyed the highest sympathy in the early years of the transformation is slightly less positive, but, more importantly, the antipathy to the least liked has decreased. The improvement in the attitude to other nationalities is probably related to the increase in education and the improvement of the material standard of living in Poland, as education and income have a significant impact on this attitude.

It seems that the feelings about others are increasingly shaped less by the stereotypical images, and more by personal experience. Poles travel abroad in ever larger numbers: in 1993, less than half of CBOS respondents declared having been abroad; in 2012 the figure was 69%. They are more self-confident and comfortable about their place in Europe. With less insecurity, they feel less need to distance themselves from poorer or culturally distant nationalities.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitude to other nationalities", February 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2013, N=1227. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.