

MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE CITIZEN AND THE STATE

In recent years, the expectations from the state have stayed stable. They remain high. Almost everyone thinks that the state should enforce the law: protect citizens from crime (99%) and protect private property (98%). In common opinion, the state should guarantee social security by providing minimum income for everyone (95%), as well as free healthcare (95%). A slightly smaller number of people (88%) think that the state ought to provide tertiary education free of charge. Compared with 1999, the number of respondents who think that the state should give housing to every citizens fell slightly, but such an expectation is formulated by a vast majority (84%, 4-point decrease).

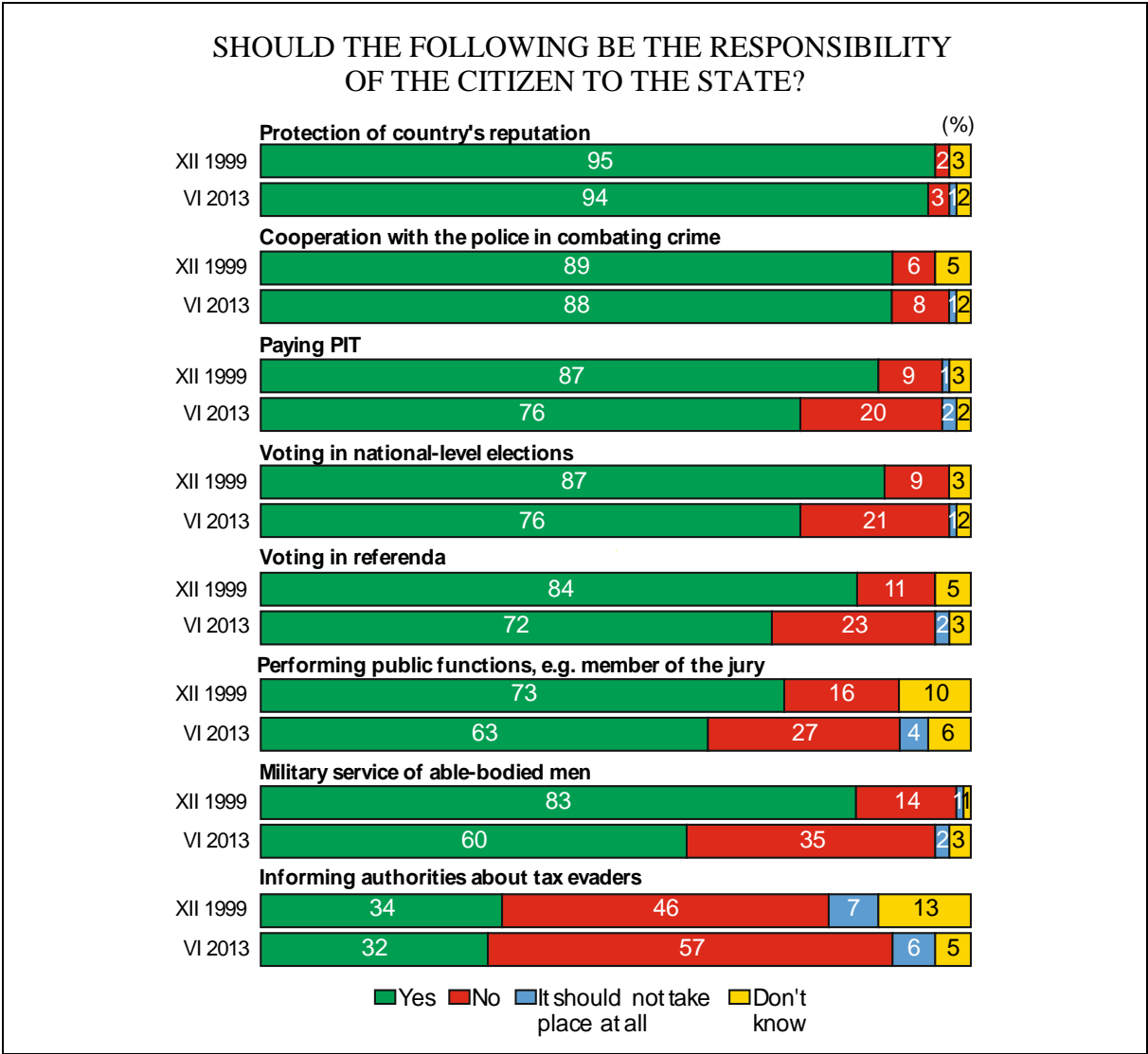
The state should be active in combating unemployment and synchronising the educational system with the needs of the labour market: a vast majority think that the state should not only provide work for everyone (80%), but also that jobs should match the qualifications (81%). A smaller group think that it should be the duty of the state to guarantee well-being for all, but such opinions are common nevertheless (53%). Political issues figure more prominently than in the past. A vast majority of respondents (88%, a 9 point increase since 1999) stress the necessity to give every citizen the possibility to voice political views. Four-fifths (81%) think that the state should provide religious education in school to the child of every citizen who wishes so.

The societal definition of the obligations of the state to its citizens is derived from a specific understanding of the role of the state. Polish citizens subscribe to the vision of the state as active creator of the socio-economic reality engaged in people's life. Faced with the choice of limited state guarding the rule of law and individual freedom and the welfare state, they strongly choose the latter.



While the expectations from the state remain high, the perceived duties of the citizens have diminished. It is a common belief (94%) that citizens should care for the reputation of the country. A vast majority of citizens (88%) believe that it is a duty of the citizen to help the

police find a criminal. Since 1999, there has been a drop in the proportion of people who think that civic duties include paying taxes. While the majority share this view (76%), a fifth of respondents (20%) question it. In recent years, there has been a drop in the number of people who think it is citizens' duty to vote in elections and referenda. Although the majority think that citizens should participate in voting, more than one-fifth do not share this view.



Fewer people than in 1999 think that a citizen should perform public functions, for instance as a member of the jury in court. Still, more respondents agree it should be the duty (63%) than disagree (27%). In the last years there has been a steep drop in the number of people who consider military service of able-bodied men as civic duty. It was undoubtedly caused by suspension of the military draft in 2010. At present, 60% think that military service of men belongs to the catalogue of civic obligations, while 35% disagree. A relatively small proportion (32%) consider it an obligation to inform relevant authorities about people who avoid paying

taxes. With the decline in the belief that paying taxes is a duty vis-à-vis the state, the number of respondents who think that informing about tax evaders is not a civic responsibility increased (57%).

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Mutual obligations of the citizen and the state"*, July 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2013, N=1010. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.