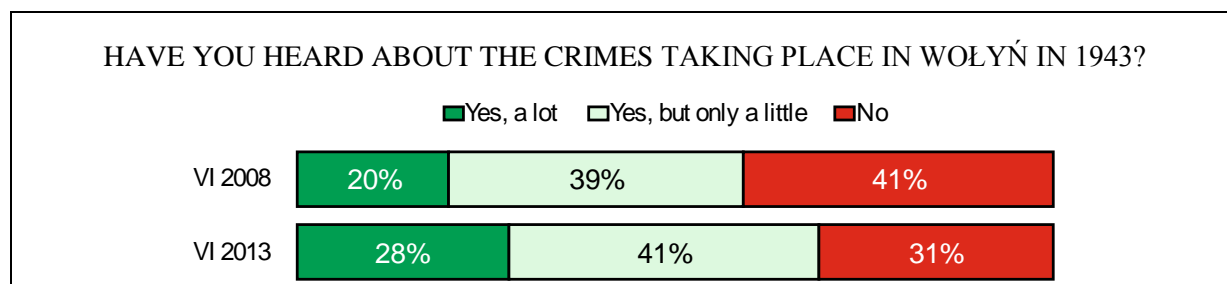
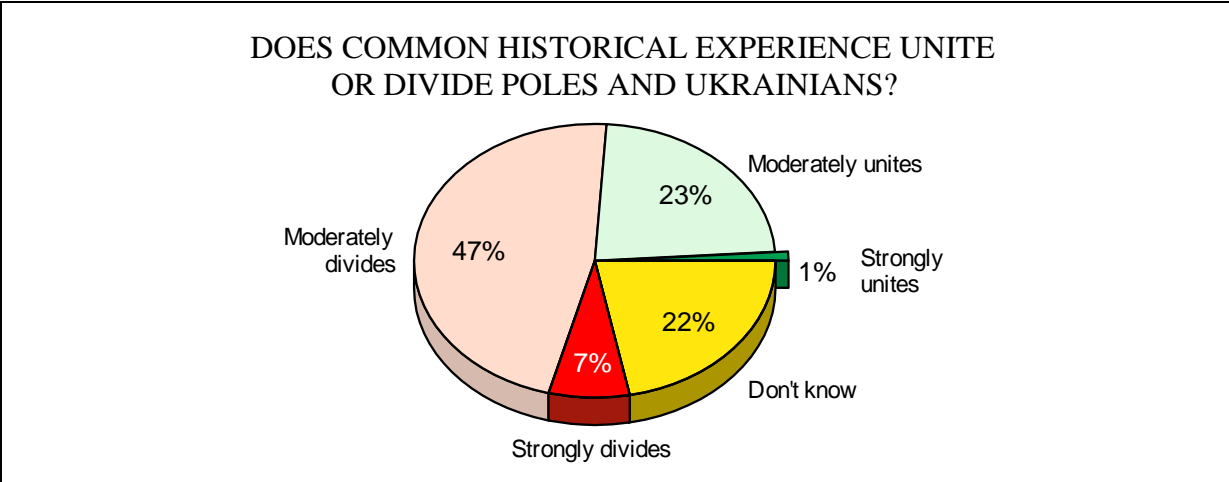


POLISH-UKRAINIAN RECONCILIATION

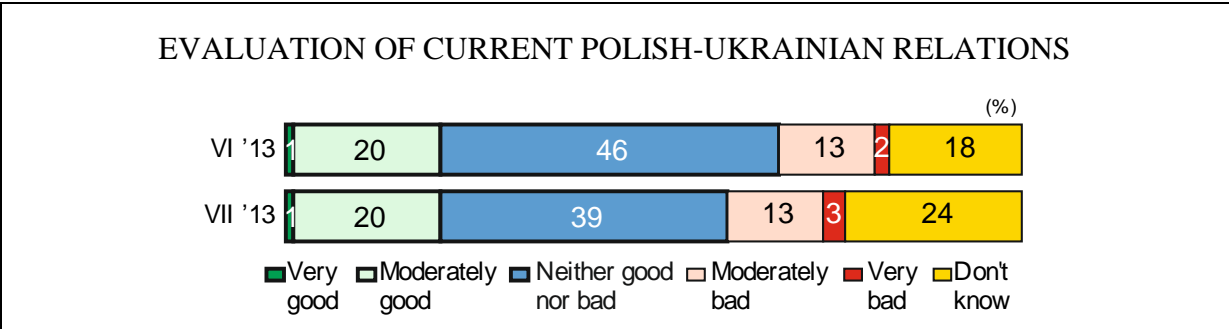
In July was the 70th anniversary of mass murder committed on the population of Wołyń by Ukrainian nationalists. About 100,000 Poles and several thousand Ukrainians died. For many years, this event was absent from the Polish historical memory. It was remembered by the families affected by this tragedy and, more broadly, by the circles associated with the former Eastern part of Poland. Only in the 1990s were these events extensively discussed. At present, more than two-thirds of adults (69%) declare at least some knowledge about the events taking place in Wołyń in 1943; over a quarter (28%) heard a lot about them. Compared with 2008, the proportion of respondents who know nothing about the Wołyń tragedy has decreased by 10 pct. points, to 31% at present. The number of people knowledgeable about this topic has increased. In particular, the proportion of the respondents declaring a high degree of knowledge rose significantly (an 8-point increase).



The common history of Poles and Ukrainians is seen as a potential source of conflict, rather than a basis of good neighbourly relations. The majority of respondents (54%) believe that common historical experience divides both nations, while only 24% share the opinion that history unites them.

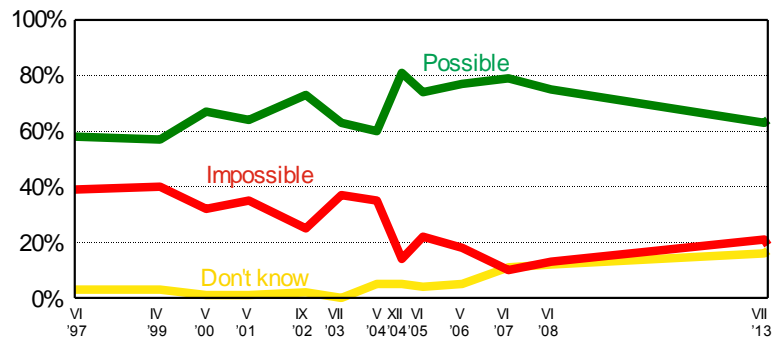


In public opinion on Polish-Ukrainian relations ambivalent evaluations prevail. Almost two-fifths of respondents (39%) think that the current relations between the two countries are neither good nor bad, and almost a quarter (24%) have no opinion. Every fifth respondent (21%) considers them good, and every sixth (16%) has a negative opinion.



In spite of the difficult common history, the majority of Poles believe in the possibility of reconciliation between Poles and Ukrainians (64%). Since the “orange revolution” in Ukraine, the optimism about the possibility of reaching full mutual understanding between the two nationalities has diminished. Nevertheless, the proportion of people sceptical about the future relations between them (19%) is far smaller than the number of optimists.

IS RECONCILIATION BETWEEN POLES AND UKRAINIANS...



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: *"Difficult legacy: Wołyń 1943"* and *"Polish-Ukrainian reconciliation"*, July 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: June and July 2013, N=1010 (June) and N=1005 (July). The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.