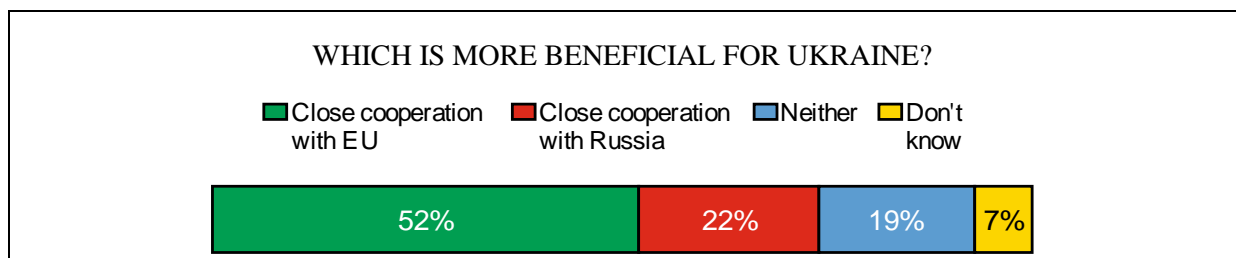


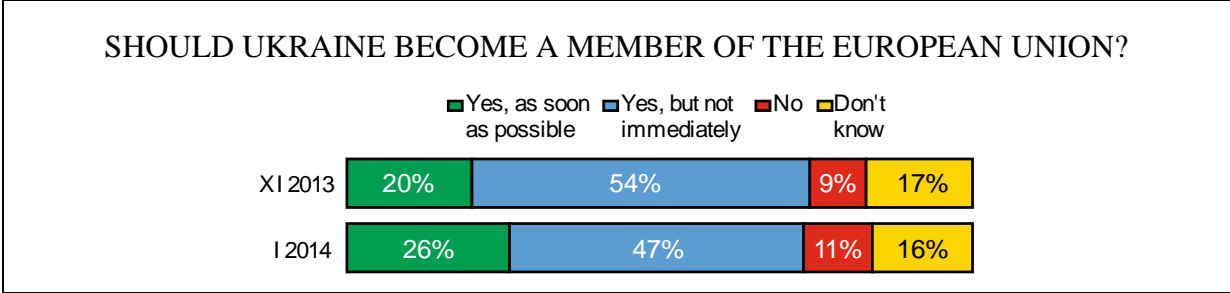
UKRAINE: BETWEEN EU AND RUSSIA

Since 21st November 2013, there have been intensive social protests in Ukraine against the policy of the government. They were exacerbated by severe punishment meted on the participants of the outlawed demonstrations. With the increase in tensions, the chances for closer cooperation between Ukraine and the EU become remote, which runs against hopes of many Ukrainians. The majority of Poles think that closer cooperation between Ukraine and the EU is beneficial for Ukraine: a little over half (52%) express this view. Slightly more than one-fifth (22%) believe that Ukraine would benefit more from close cooperation with Russia. A similar group of respondents (19%) think that neither solution is good for this country.

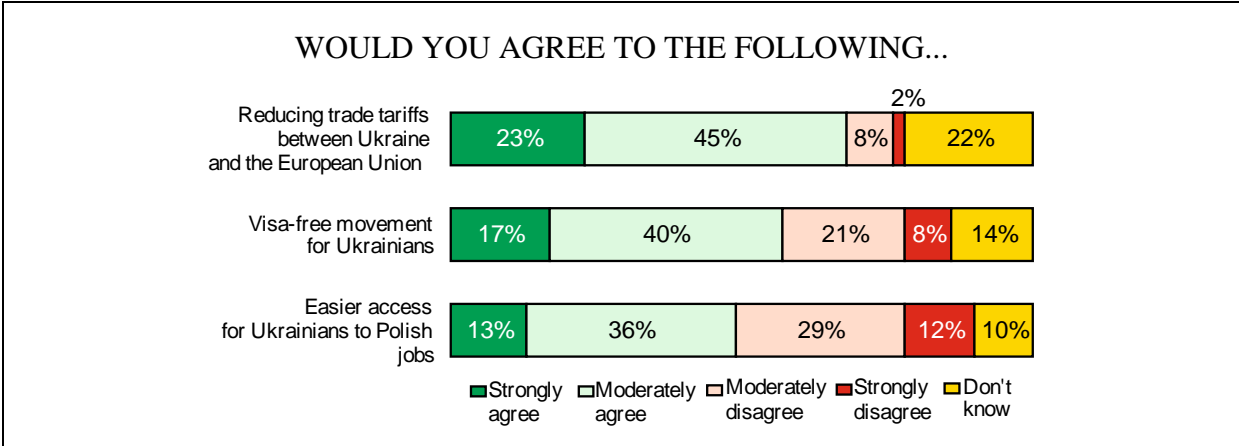


Poles support the EU membership of Ukraine. Moreover, since November 2013, there has been an increase in the proportion of people who would like Ukraine to accede as soon as possible (from 20% to 26%). The plurality (47%) tend to the opinion that Ukraine should

eventually become an EU member, but there is no hurry. Only 11% reject Ukraine's EU membership.



The failed association agreement between EU and Ukraine envisaged the creation of a free trade zone between both sides, abolishing or reducing import duties. Such a solution is positively received in Poland: gradual reduction of trade tariffs is supported by over two-thirds of Poles (68%). Poland advocated visa-free movement for Ukrainians, which is a position supported by the majority of respondents (57%). The most controversial issue is employment of Ukrainians in Poland: 49% support giving them better opportunities to work in Poland, while 41% oppose it. It is worth noting that citizens of Ukraine, in addition to citizens of Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Georgia, have enjoyed privileged status in employment for several years. The simplified procedure for issuing work permits covers e.g. employees in personal care and nursing, as well as housekeepers, while seasonal workers are exempt from the necessity to obtain a work permit. Ukrainians are the nationality most commonly employed in Poland.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Ukraine: between EU and Russia", January 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2014, N=1067. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.