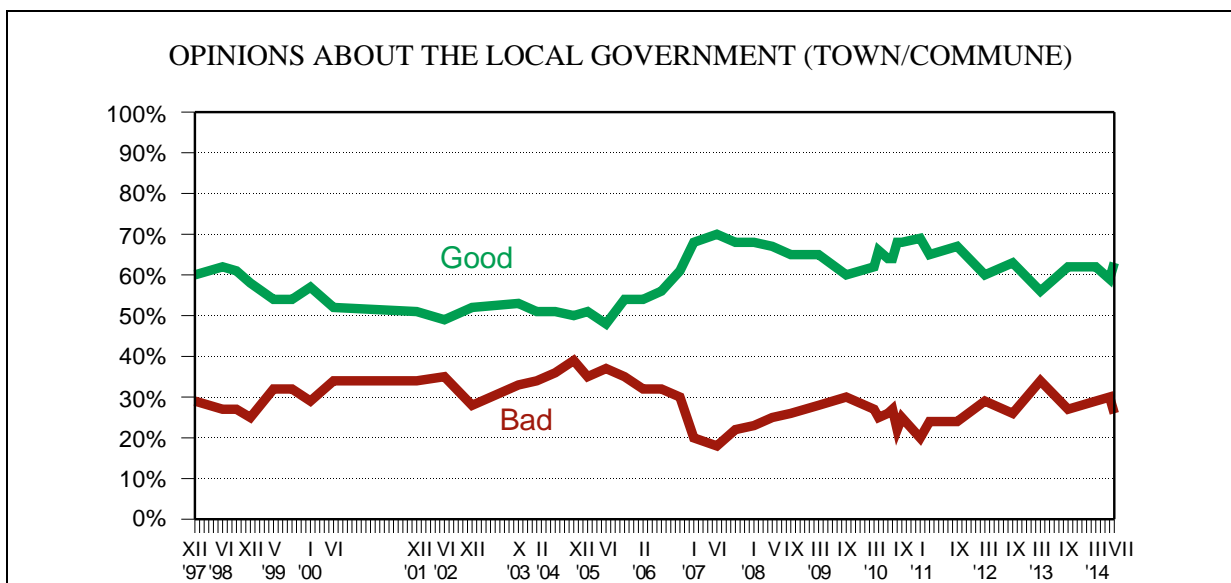
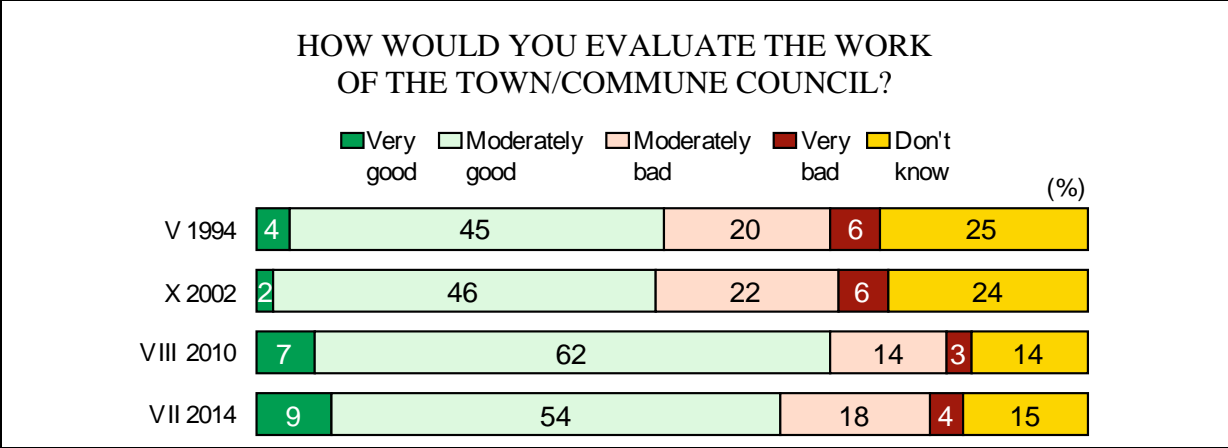


EVALUATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS

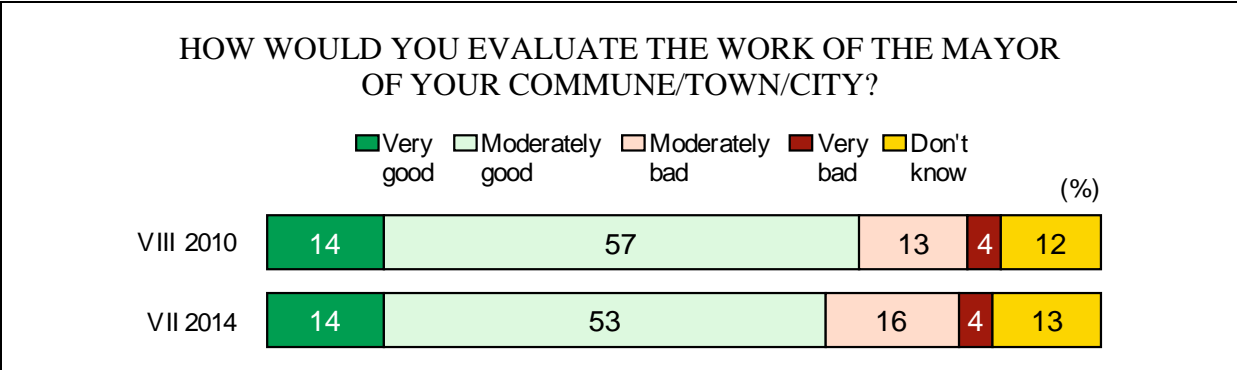
In November, Polish citizens will vote in local government elections for councillors on different levels and will elect mayors of towns and cities. In that way, they will democratically and directly rate the people exercising power in their towns, villages, communes (gmina), districts (powiat) and voivodships. Public opinion research indicates that the evaluation tends to be positive. In Poland the positive image of local government is deeply rooted in collective consciousness, as opposed to critical opinions about central government (parliament and government). The popularity of local government has also been improved by the increased local investment, possible through funds from the European Union.



Almost two-thirds of Poles (63%) have a good opinion about the local councils in their towns and communes, while only slightly more than one-fifth (22%) disagree. The current authorities do not enjoy the level of acceptance noted at the end of the previous term, but their rating is higher than evaluations given in 1994 and 2002.



The executive branch of the local government, i.e. mayors of communes, towns and cities, is rated even higher. Two-thirds of respondents (67%) are satisfied with their work, while a fifth (20%) evaluate their performance in office as poor.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Elections to the local government", August 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2014, N=943. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.