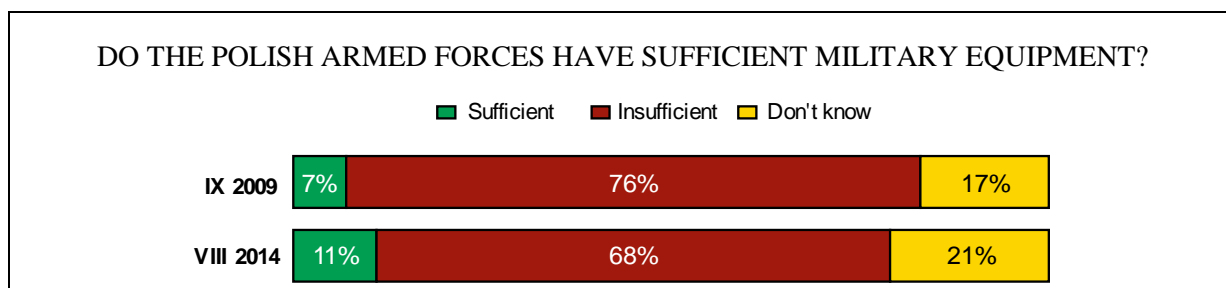


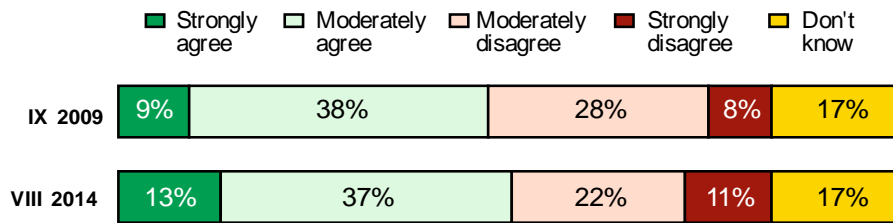
POLISH ARMED FORCES AND CITIZENS' PREPAREDNESS FOR INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

The conflict in Ukraine, which has continued for the past months, raises the issue of defence capabilities of Poland in case of open aggression from another country, the so-called hybrid war or terrorist threat. An important element determining the capacity of the armed forces is the military equipment. In public opinion, the Polish army is not very well equipped. The evaluation has improved somewhat relative to 2009, but the majority of respondents still think that the armed forces are insufficiently equipped.



Military preparedness of the Polish armed forces was supposed to be raised by participation in international missions. At present, about half of respondents share the opinion that Poland, due to participation in international military operations (e.g. in Iraq or Afghanistan), improved its forces in terms of training, experience and equipment. Compared with 2009, there has been an increase in conviction about military benefits from participation of Polish forces in international operations.

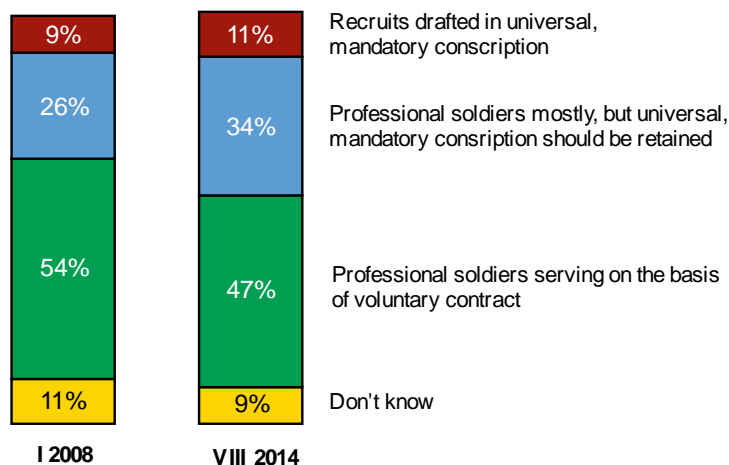
DO YOU AGREE THAT POLAND HAS GAINED MILITARY BENEFITS
(IN TRAINING, EXPERIENCE AND EQUIPMENT) FROM PARTICIPATION IN
INTERNATIONAL MILITARY OPERATIONS, E.G. IN IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN?



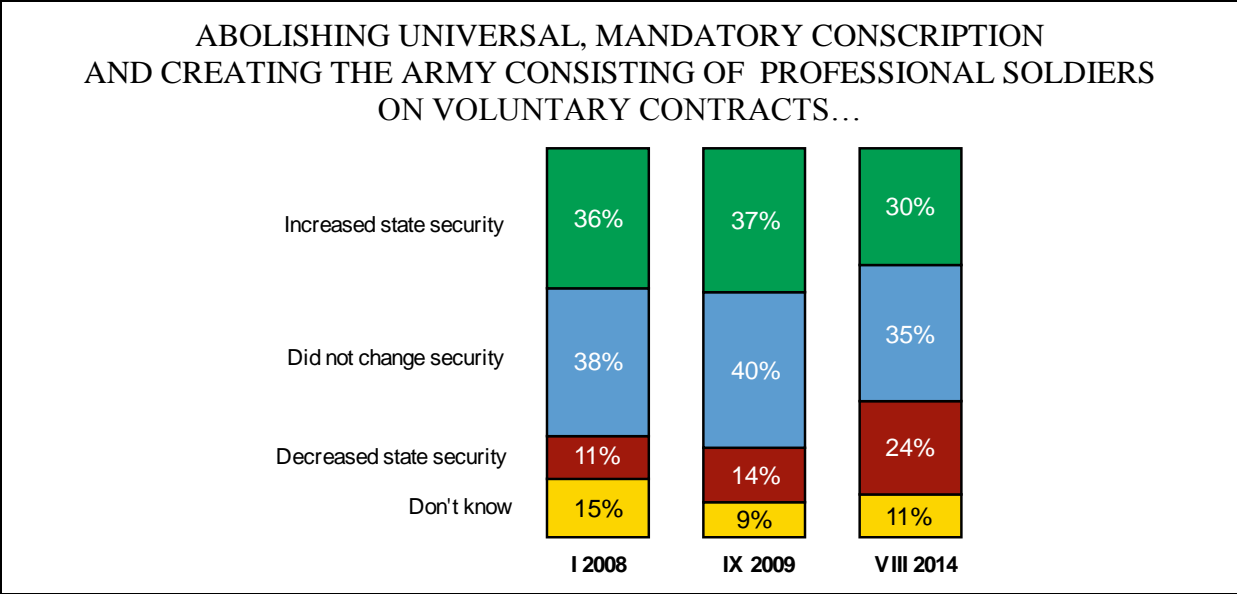
Professionalization of the army was one of the intended means of enhancing its combat capabilities. Since 11 February 2009, conscription to the armed forces has not been conducted, and the process of full professionalization of the army was finished in January 2010. As a result of these changes, the armed forces were reduced in size to 100,000 active service people and 10,000 members of National Reserve Forces. Increasingly, some military experts claim that complete professionalization of the army may have been a mistake, as most young people do not know the rules functioning in the forces and cannot handle weapons, which would be a problem in case of mass mobilisation.

At present almost half of Poles support full professionalization of the army, which is reflected in the agreement with the statement that Polish armed forces should consist of professional soldiers serving on the basis of voluntary contract. About one-third of respondents advocate partial retention of military conscription, while one-ninth believe that the forces should primarily be based on universal, mandatory conscription. It is worth noting that, although full professionalization remains the most popular option, the support for retaining partial mandatory universal conscription has increased since 2008.

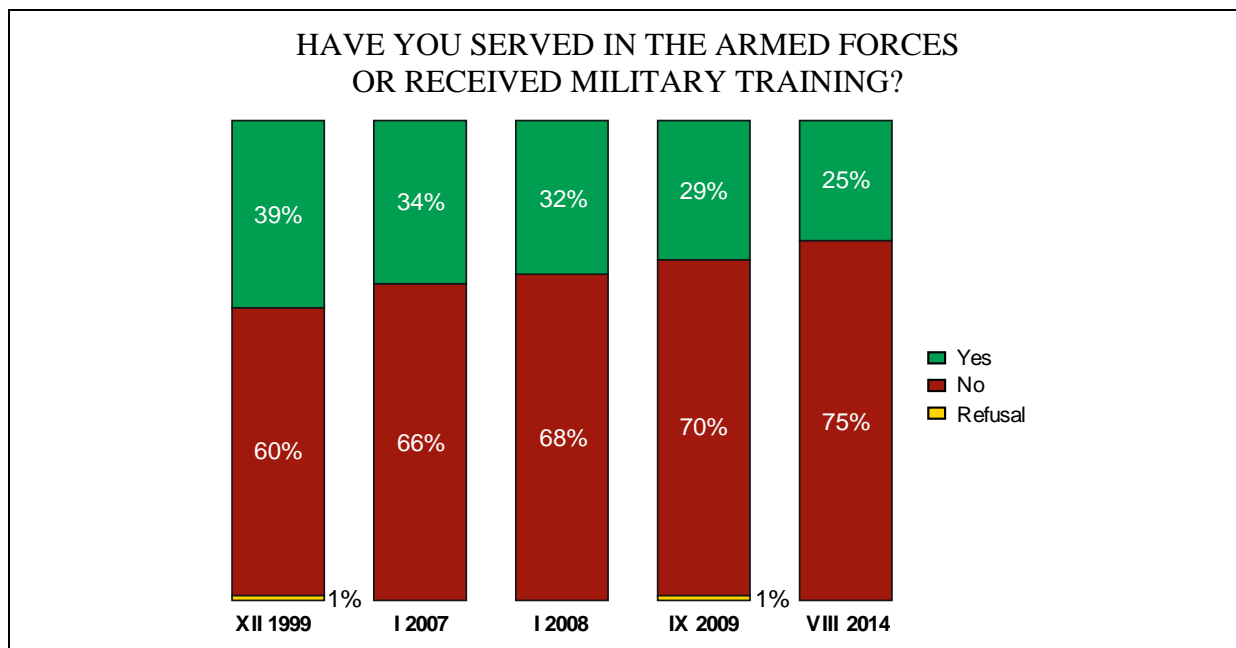
SHOULD POLISH ARMED FORCES CONSIST OF...



The first years of functioning of the army based solely on professional soldiers have not increased the support for such as arrangement. On the contrary, doubts about the level of security provided by the professional army have increased. At present, only three out of ten respondents consider the abolishing of universal, mandatory conscription and creation of the professional army as a factor increasing the security of the state. It is a significant drop relative to 2008 and 2009, i.e. the last year of the draft and the first months of after it was abolished. At the same time, there has been a rise in the number of respondents who think that state security has decreased.



Abolishing universal conscription and professionalization of the armed forces resulted in the decrease in the proportion of Poles with experience in military service or training. At present, a quarter of respondents declare having had this kind of training, whereas in 1999 almost two-fifths had had such experience. Military service or training is declared by 45% of men and 6% of women. The declarations are associated with respondents' age, which is a direct result of abolishing the draft and professionalization of the army. Over half of respondents with experience in the forces (52%) is over 55 years of age, including almost a quarter (24%) in retirement age, while only 9% of them are below 35.



It appears that the end of the cold war reduced the intensity of training, exercises and other activities whose goal was preparing people for self-defence in case of natural or environmental disasters, terrorist threat or war. At present, only 22% of adults declare having participated in such training. Overall, 41% of adults (61% of men, mostly elderly, and 22% of women) have some training in defence. This figure includes both military service and Voluntary Fire Brigades or civil defence training.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Polish armed forces and citizens' preparedness for mass threat"*, September 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2014, N=980. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.