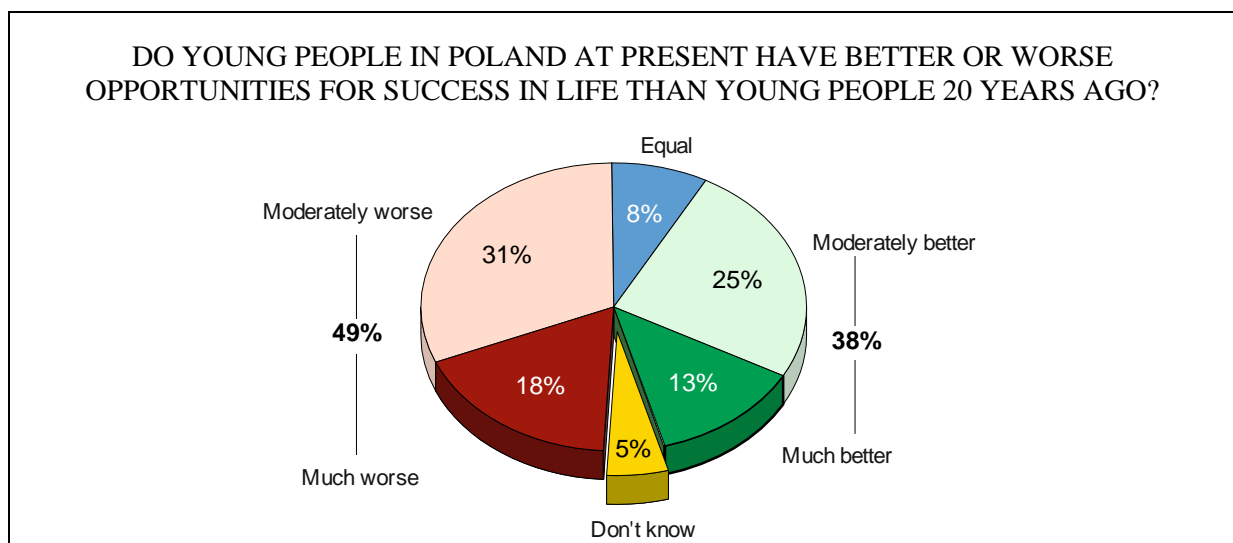
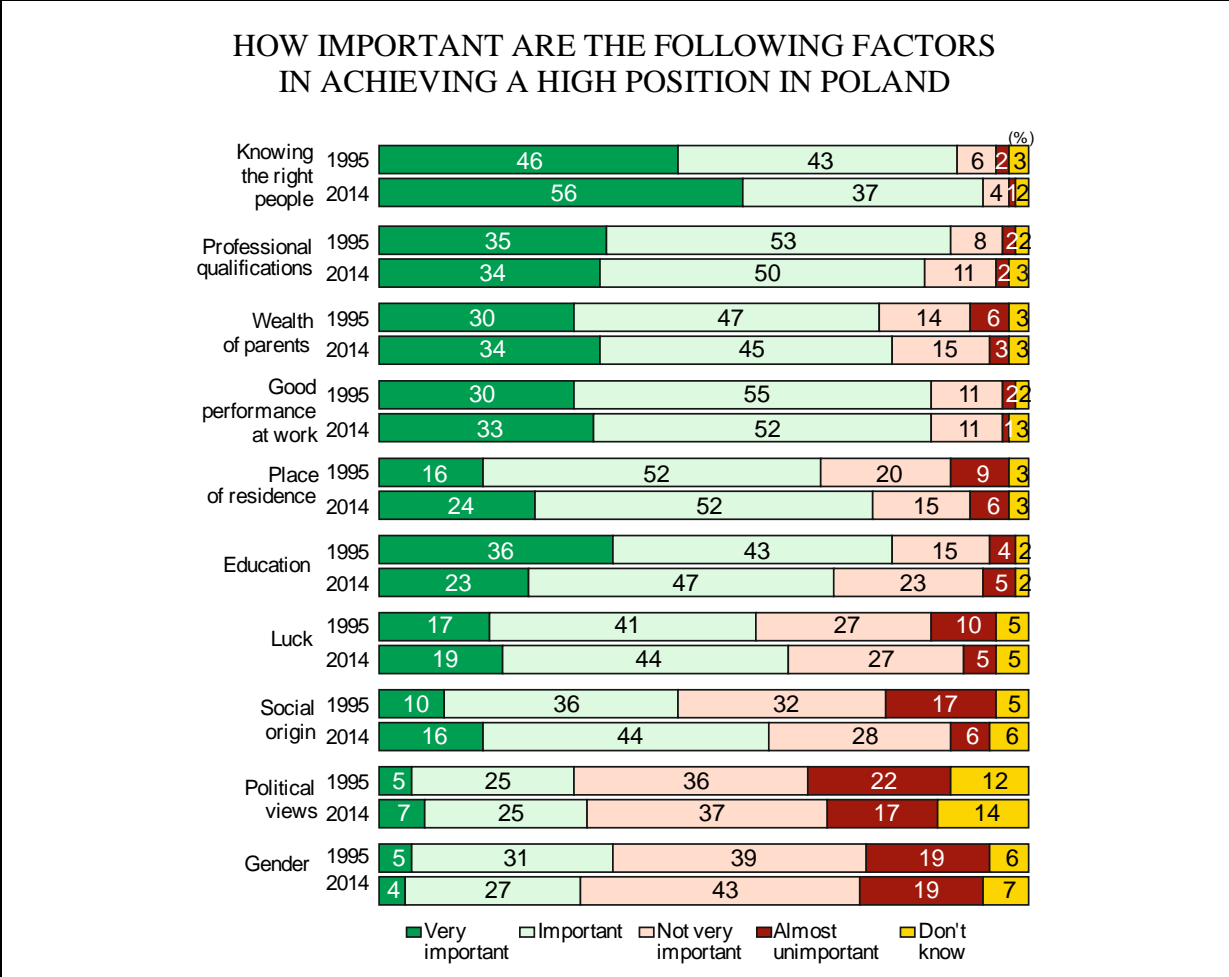


## FUTURE PROSPECTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLAND

With the systemic change in 1989, new paths of professional development and success opened for young people. Young adults in that periods had the opportunity to embark on spectacular career trajectories. The deciding factors were often entrepreneurship, hard work and the ability to learn, rather than formal education. At present, 25 years after systemic change, the situation of young adults is often discussed in the context of unemployment among graduates, atypical employment (e.g. civil law contracts) associated with lack of certainty about work, and economic migration. According to almost half of respondents (49%), in the mid-1990s young people had better opportunities for success than now. Almost two-fifths (38%) consider chances for success at present as better than 20 years ago, while one in twelve (8%) thinks that the chances are equal.



On top the list of factors that enable the achievement of high position in the society are connections, knowing the right people. In public opinion, the other important factors influencing the careers of young people are: good performance at work, professional qualifications, wealth of parents, place of residence, education, luck, and social origin. Respondents attribute little importance to gender and political views. In the last 19 years, there have been important changes in the perception of factors determining success in life understood as occupying high social position. The most important change is the increased importance attributed to social origin as a determinant of opportunities. This is probably associated with changes in social structure and increasing stratification of the society. More importance than before is attached to place of residence, connections, and luck. On the other hand, gender, education and professional qualifications are less important.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Future prospects of young people in Poland", October 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2014, N=980. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.