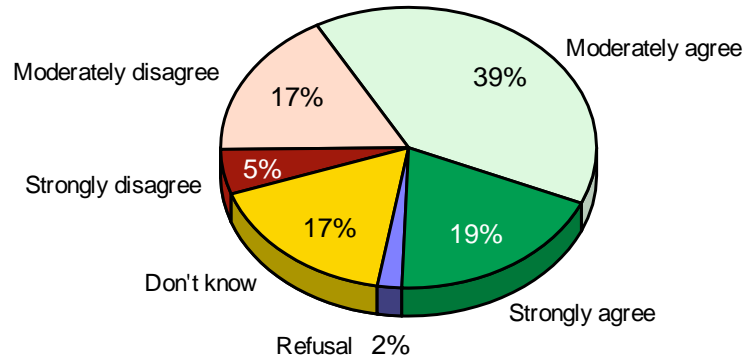


TRUST IN ELECTORAL PROCEDURES

In November, local government elections were held in Poland. The official results of elections to voivodship councils, which are the highest level of local government, caused a lot of controversy. Unexpectedly, Polish Peasant Party achieved a very good result, gaining in total nearly as many mandates as each of the two main political parties (Civic Platform and Law and Justice). It also happened that the results announced by the National Electoral Commission differed from the exit poll. One of the reasons for this discrepancy was a high proportion of invalid votes, reaching almost 18% of the total. Moreover, the National Electoral Commission had difficulties counting votes, which delayed the announcement of the official results. All of these events gave rise to voices questioning the credibility of the results announced by the National Electoral Commission, and even accusations of electoral fraud.

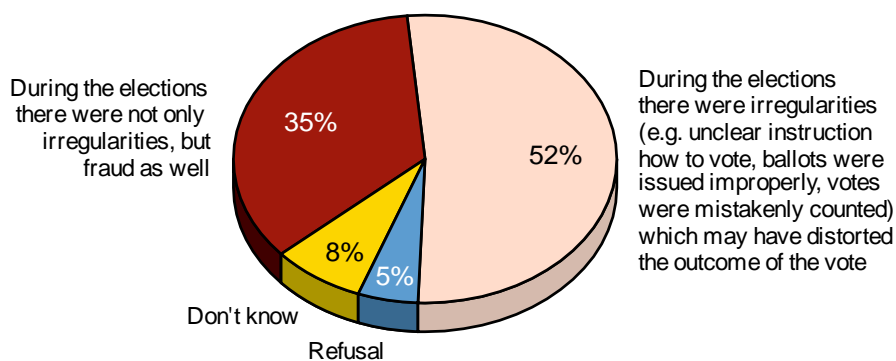
Over half of respondents (58%) consider the results announced by the National Electoral Commission as credible, while 22% do not believe them. Additionally, a large proportion of people refrain from expressing an opinion, which may signal some doubts about the results.

DO YOU AGREE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS TO VOIVODSHIP COUNCILS ANNOUNCED BY THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION ARE CREDIBLE?



People questioning the official results usually argue that, during the electoral process, there were irregularities which may have distorted the outcome of the vote. A relatively small group (one-third of people questioning the official results, i.e. 8% of the total) claim that electoral fraud took place.

WHY DO YOU CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF ELECTIONS TO VOIVODSHIP COUNCILS AS NOT CREDIBLE?

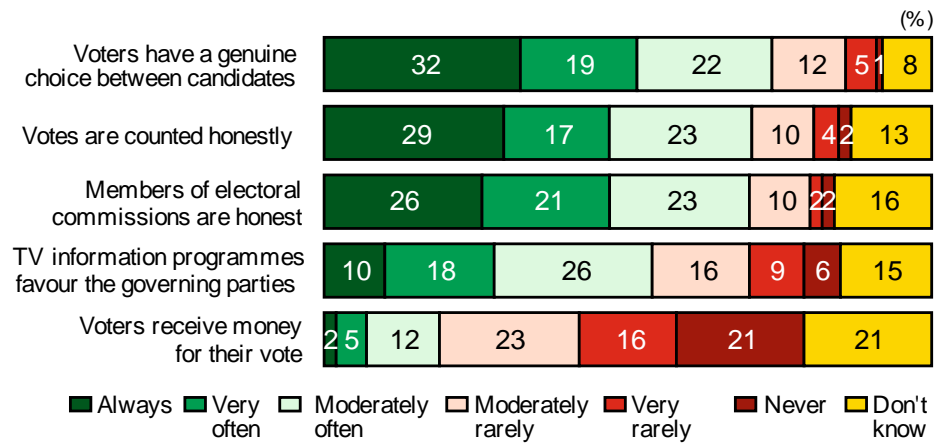


Responses of people questioning the official results announced by the National Electoral Commission

In general, most people share the opinion that electoral procedures function properly in Poland. Almost three-quarters of respondents (73%) think that voters have a real choice of candidates. A slightly smaller proportion (70%) think that members of electoral commissions are usually honest and votes are counted properly (69%). The majority of Poles (60%) believe that buying votes never occurs or happens only incidentally.

The opinion about the neutrality of the mass media is far worse. According to the majority (54%), information programmes on television favour the candidates of the governing parties.

HOW OFTEN DO THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS OCCUR DURING ELECTIONS IN POLAND?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Trust in electoral procedures"*, December 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2014, N=936. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.