

Opinions about World Youth Day Kraków 2016

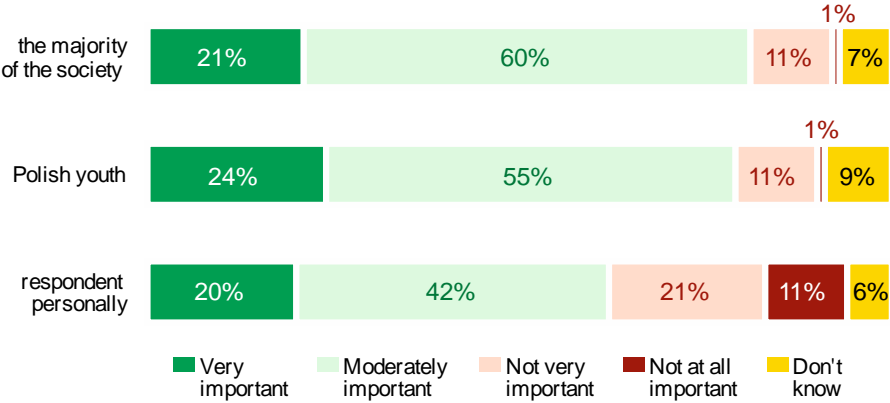
On 26-31 July 2016 World Youth Day was held in Poland. It was the second time that this event took place in Poland. It was conceived and initiated by Pope John Paul II. The first WYD was held in Rome in 1985, and subsequently every two or three years, as a rule alternately in Europe and in another continent.

In addition to events involving Pope Francis in the Kraków archdiocese, youth from around the world participated in events in various dioceses on 20-25 July. During this time young people were hosted in homes around Poland and parishes and dioceses organized pilgrims' time by preparing cultural, educational and religious events. The organization of WYD required engagement of many, not only religious institutions as well as individual people (as volunteers, hosts of pilgrims, organizers of events, and in other functions). According to declarations collected before WYD, 3% of Poles were in some way personally involved in preparation, organization or in running this event.

No more than a tenth of respondents declared participation in some event related to WYD: 4% declared participation in the Holy Mass with Pope Francis, 2% wanted to participate in another meeting with the pope, while 4% were going to take part in a WYD event without

pope's presence. Although a vast majority of Poles did not intend to go to any event organized in WYD, over two-thirds (68%) planned to follow them on television, radio or the internet.

Will World Youth Day be important for...



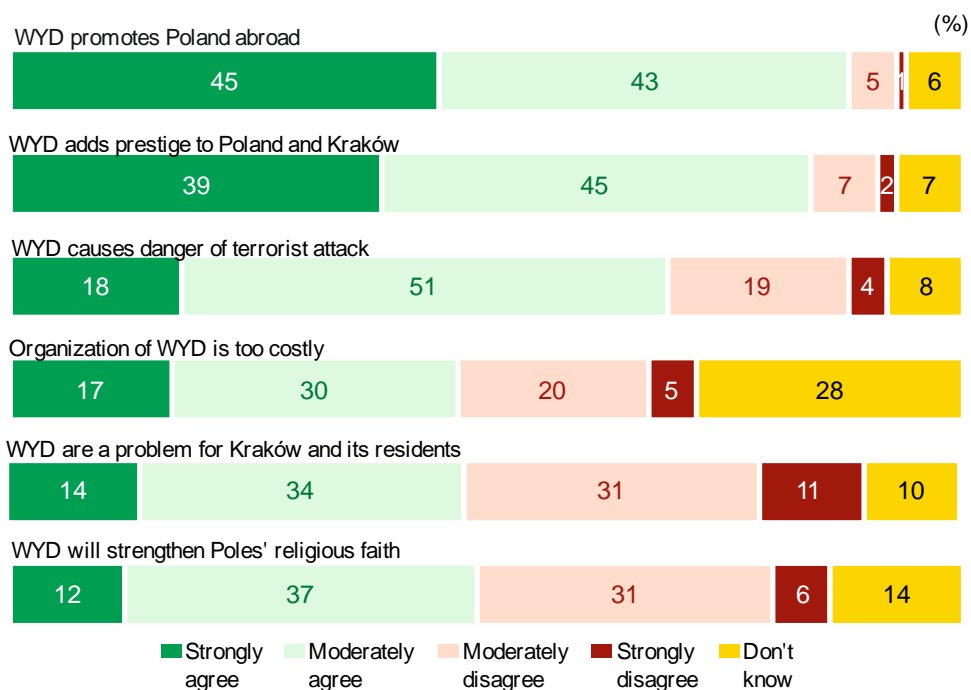
A large majority considered WYD as an important event for the whole Polish society (81%) and for the youth in Poland (79%). Less frequently (62%), respondents considered WYD as important for them personally.

Regardless of personal engagement and the perception of this event in religious terms, respondents appreciate the significance of the decision to host WYD in Poland in Kraków and appreciate the potential for international promotion of the host country. The conviction that WYD serves to promote Poland internationally is nearly universal. Likewise, respondents are convinced that hosting WYD adds prestige to Poland and Kraków (85%).

Almost half of respondents (49%) hope that WYD will increase Poles' religious faith.

As with other mass events of this type, there appeared concerns about financial expenses and organizational problems for the city and its inhabitants. Almost half of respondents (47%) complained that WYD costs too much and is a problem for Kraków and its residents (48%). Terrorist acts in Europe cast a shadow over WYD: the event was accompanied by concerns about the threat of a terrorist attack, voiced by 69% of respondents. The fears were usually moderate in strength.

Do you agree with the following statements?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Poles about World Youth Day in Krakow”, July 2016. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2016, N=983. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.