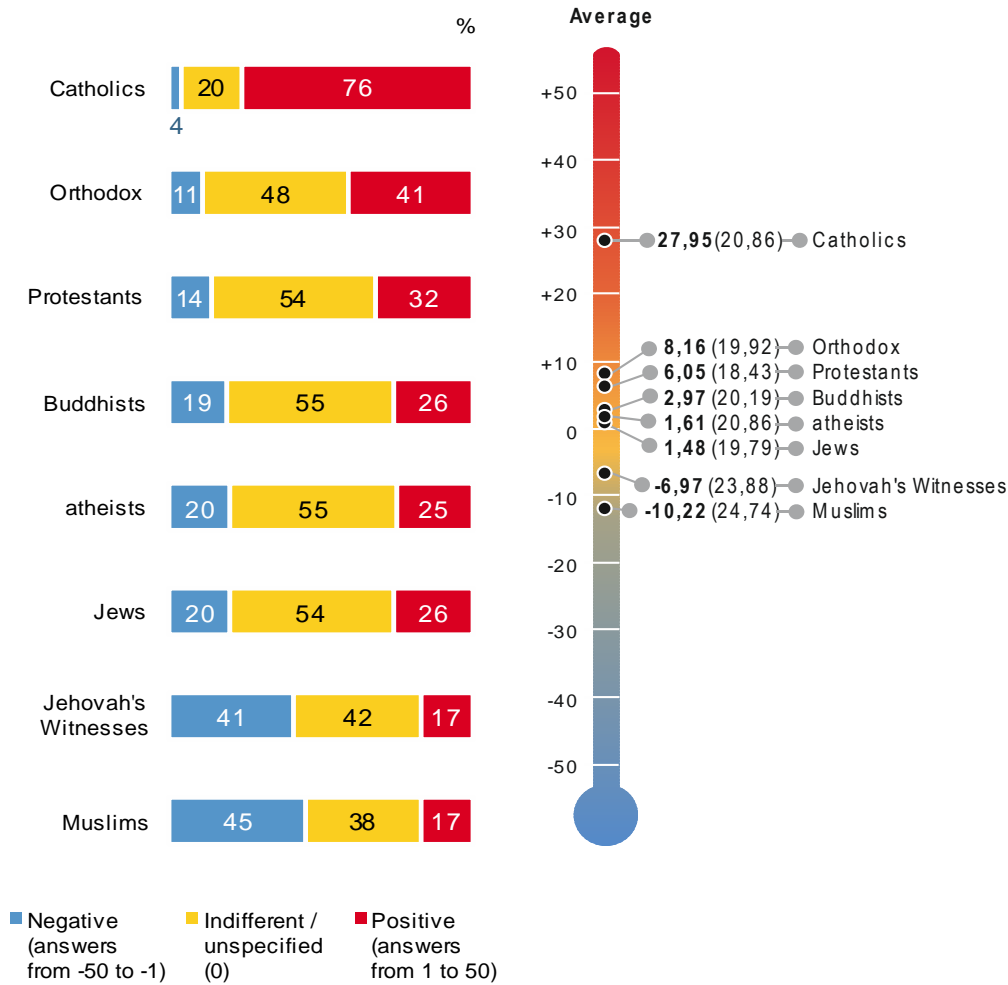


Attitudes towards Islam and Muslims

In Poland, the image of Islam and Muslims is not usually formed by direct contacts with people of this religion, because only one in seven respondents (14%) declares personal knowledge of a Muslim person. In other words: knowledge about them is usually mediated and comes mainly from the media.

Muslims arouse less positive feelings in Poland than followers of other religions. Almost half of Poles (45%) have a cold attitude towards them, and only 17% have warm feelings. The attitude of the others (38%) can be described as neutral or ambiguous. The average temperature of feelings is negative and amounts to -10.22. In addition to Muslims, negative feelings also prevail in relation to Jehovah's Witnesses. Catholics are best received, followed by other Christians: Orthodox and Protestants.

What is your attitude towards:

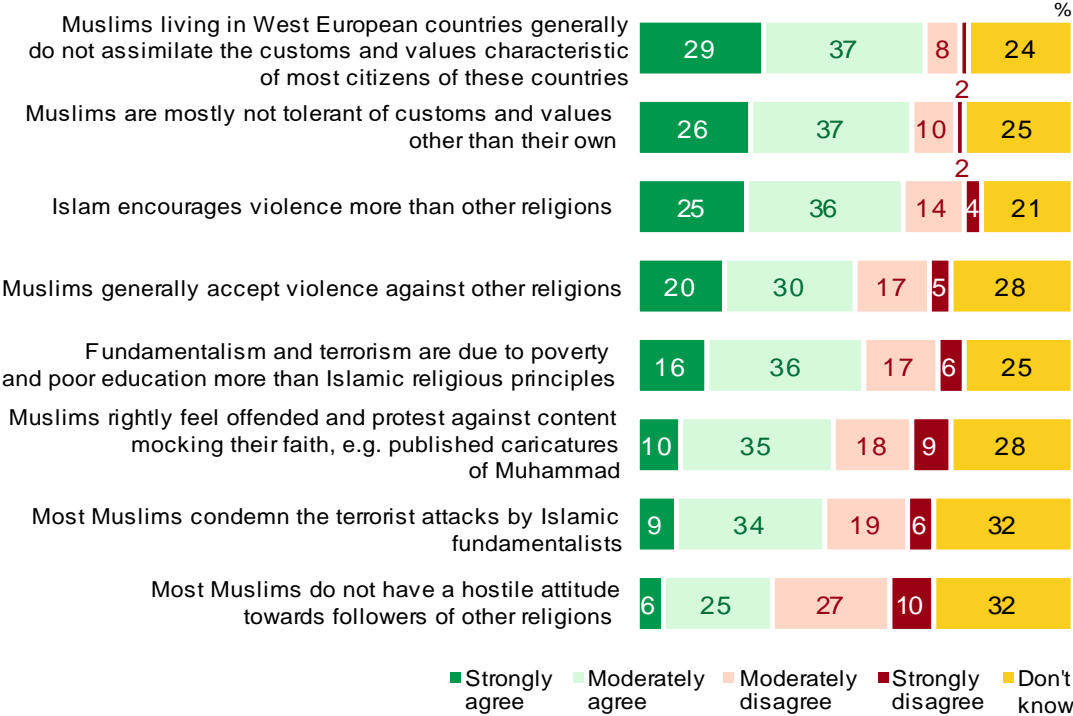


Compared to the results obtained four years ago, the attitude towards the followers of almost all religions has deteriorated, and we are dealing not so much with the intensification of negative feelings, as with a decrease in positive attitudes and an increase in ambivalent ones. The percentage declaring warm feelings for Muslims compared to 2015 decreased by 6 percentage points (from 23 to 17%), while ambiguous or indifferent attitudes increased by 5 points (from 33 to 38%).

Islamic fundamentalism and related phenomena, including terrorist attacks, translated into the image of this religion and its followers, perpetuating associations with intolerance and violence. Two-thirds of respondents (66%) believe that Muslims living in West European countries find it difficult to assimilate and do not absorb the customs and values characteristic of most of the inhabitants of these countries. Almost two-thirds of respondents (63%) agree that most Muslims are intolerant of customs and values other than

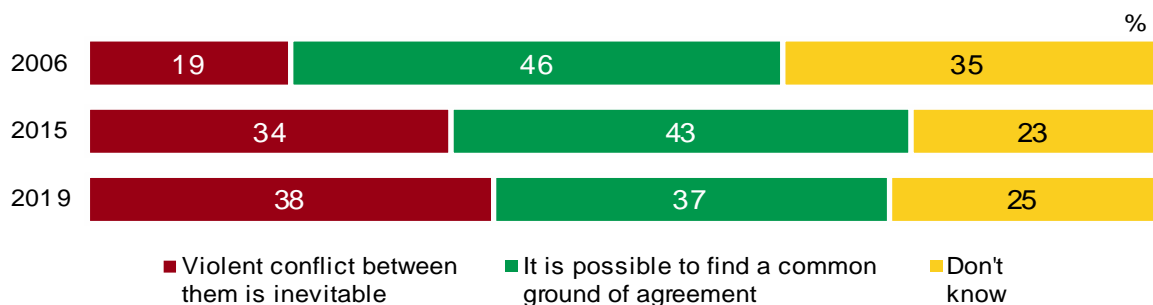
their own. A significant proportion associate Islam with violence: six out of ten respondents (61%) believe that this religion encourages its use, and half (50%) believe that Muslims generally accept violence against followers of other religions. At the same time, however, over half of Poles (52%) agree that poverty and poor education are more responsible for extremism than Islamic religious principles alone. In addition, more than two-fifths (45%) believe that Muslims rightly feel offended when their faith is presented in derogatory way (e.g. caricatures of Muhammad). Over two-fifths of Poles (43%) believe that the majority of Muslims condemn terrorist attacks by Islamic fundamentalists. The most diverse opinions are about the attitude of Muslims to followers of other religions. Less than a third of respondents (31%) believe that the majority of Muslims do not have a hostile attitude towards followers of other religions, but the plurality (37%) do not share this opinion.

Do you agree with the following statements?



Over time, more and more people are convinced that a violent conflict between Islamic and Western culture is inevitable. This opinion is currently shared by 38% of respondents. A similar percentage (37%) believe that it is possible to find a level of agreement between them.

Thinking about the relationship between Islamic and Western culture, which opinion is closer to your own view?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitudes towards Islam and Muslims", 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2019, N=974. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.