

Opinions on the development of nuclear energy

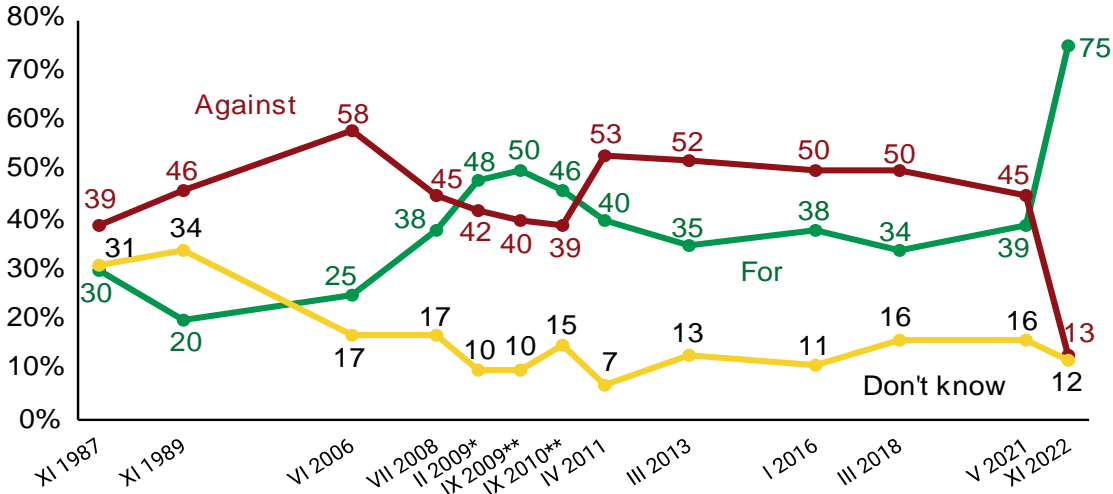
In recent months, the government has intensified its efforts to build nuclear power facilities in Poland. The first such power plant is to be built based on the American technology of the Westinghouse Nuclear company, and the first block of the power station is to be ready by 2033. The energy crisis has shown the relevance of the goals set out in the "Polish Nuclear Energy Program", such as ensuring energy security by diversifying the energy mix and reducing the increase in energy costs for consumers. At the same time, the decarbonisation of the power sector and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change remain an important goal.

The war in Ukraine, which caused problems on the fuel market and increased prices, contributed to the growing acceptance of the development of nuclear power in our country. While the increase in support for the construction of nuclear power plants is understandable, the scale of this increase may surprise. The percentage of supporters of the construction of nuclear power stations in Poland increased from 39% in May 2021 to 75% now, i.e. by as much as 36 percentage points. This means that support for the development

of nuclear energy in our country is now much higher than ever before, taking into account the results of CBOS research so far.

In recent years, the attitude of Poles to the construction of nuclear power facilities was generally rather unfavourable. The largest percentage of opponents of their creation was recorded in 2006 (58%). In the following years, public opposition to their construction decreased and in 2009 the supporters of developing nuclear energy gained a slight advantage. The Fukushima disaster in 2011 turned opinions on this subject again. For the following 10 years, the opponents of the construction of nuclear power plants in Poland constituted a larger group than the supporters of this solution. Only the ongoing energy crisis has changed the approach to this issue.

The construction of nuclear power plants has its supporters and opponents. If you were asked to take a clear position on the construction of such facilities in our country, would you be for or against?



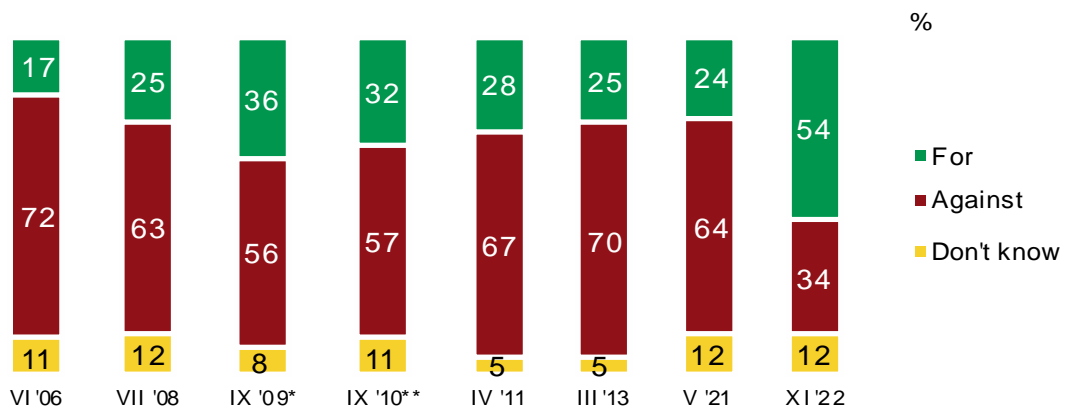
*Study commissioned by the British Embassy;
 **Study commissioned by the Ministry of Economy

Currently, support for the construction of nuclear power plants in Poland dominates in all socio-demographic groups. However, it still remains significantly lower among women (64%) than among men (87%).

Along with the growing understanding of the need to develop nuclear energy in Poland and support for its development, the attitude to the construction of a nuclear power plant in the vicinity of the place of residence has changed dramatically over the course of a year and a half. The percentage of those approving of such an investment increased by 30 percentage

points and the proportion of opponents decreased by the same amount. Currently, more than half of respondents (54%) would support the decision to build a nuclear power plant near their place of residence, whereas a third would be against (34%). Thus, the general approval for the construction of nuclear power plants in our country is still greater than the support for locating such an investment near the respondent's own place of residence.

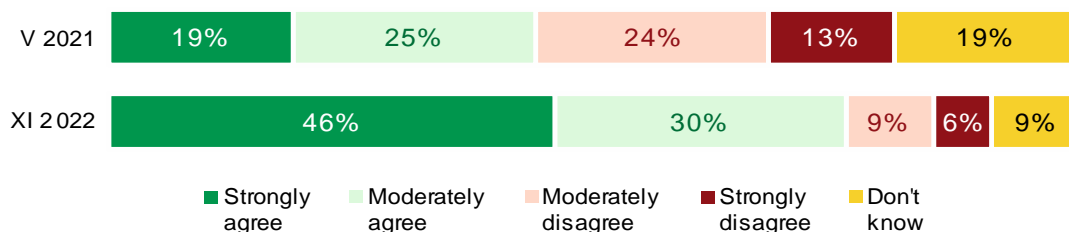
If a nuclear power plant were to be built near your place of residence, would you be for or against?



* Study commissioned by the Ministry of Economy

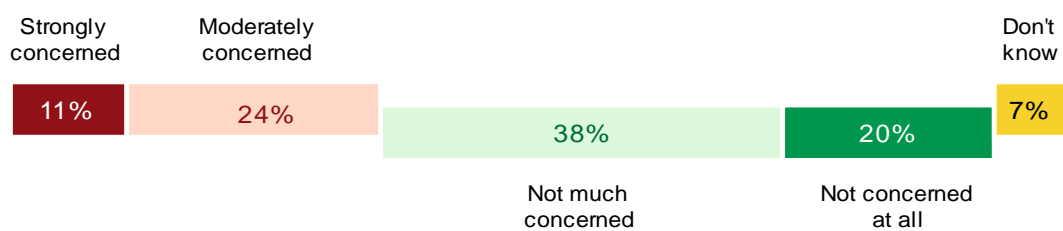
Poles believe that investing in the development of nuclear energy is necessary if we want to move away from coal-based energy: more than three-quarters (76%) share this opinion. This statement did not seem so obvious in May 2021, when only 44% of respondents (32 percentage points less than now) were convinced of the need to develop nuclear energy.

Do you agree with the opinion that the development of nuclear energy in Poland is necessary if we want to move away from coal-based energy?



Most respondents (58%) declare that they have no concerns about the operation of nuclear power plants in Poland. Slightly more than one-third (35%) express such fears. Women significantly more often (42%) express anxiety related to the construction of nuclear power plants than men (26%).

Are you concerned about the operation of nuclear power plants in Poland or not?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles about Development of Nuclear Energy", December 2022. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2022, N=1038. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.