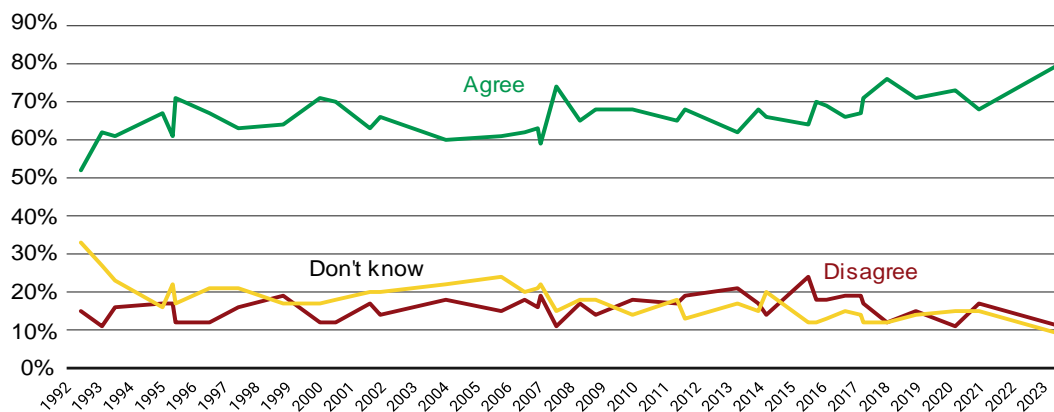


The attitude to democracy and the assessment of its functioning

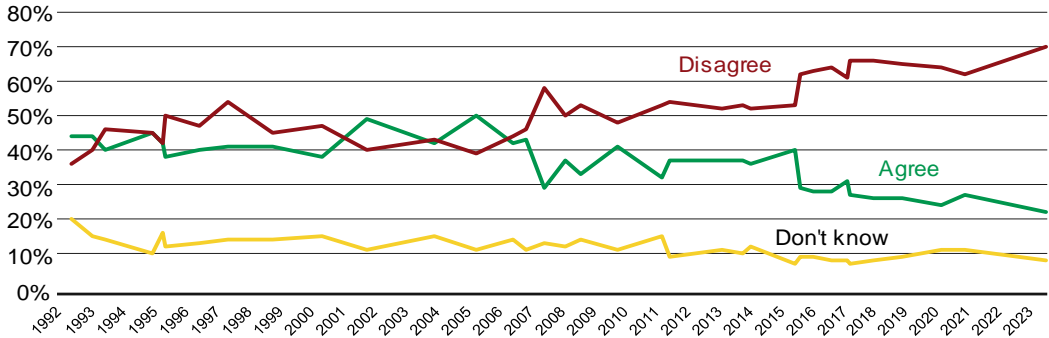
Since the early 1990s, when CBOS started measuring attitudes towards democracy, the prevailing belief among Poles has been that it is the best form of government. Currently, eight out of ten respondents agree with the statement that democracy has advantages over all other forms of government (80% compared to 11% who disagree), i.e. 12 percentage points more than in the previous survey over two years ago and the highest level in the history of our research.

Do you agree that democracy is superior to all other forms of government?



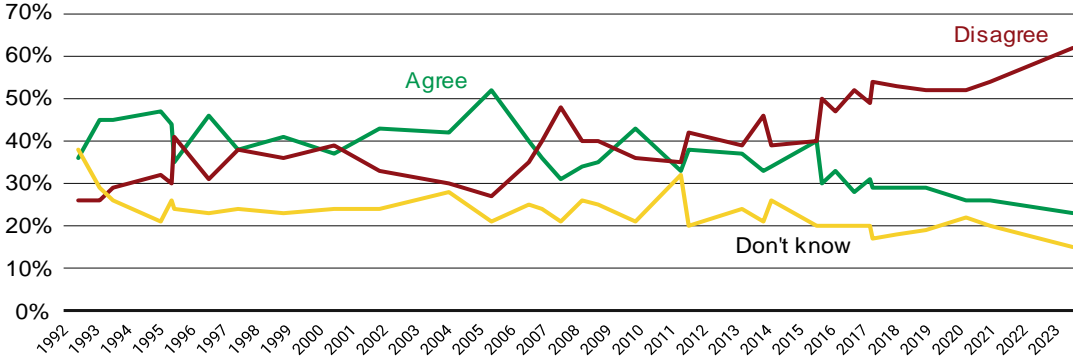
Since the beginning of 2016, the level of political alienation has remained relatively low compared to previous measurements, and the current result is the lowest ever recorded. Currently, people declaring that it does not matter to them whether the government in Poland is democratic or undemocratic constitute over one-fifth (22%, a decrease of 5 percentage points since the previous measurement in April 2021), while those claiming that it is important to them constitute over two-thirds (70%, an increase of 8 points).

Do you agree that, for people like you, it does not really matter whether the government is democratic or undemocratic?



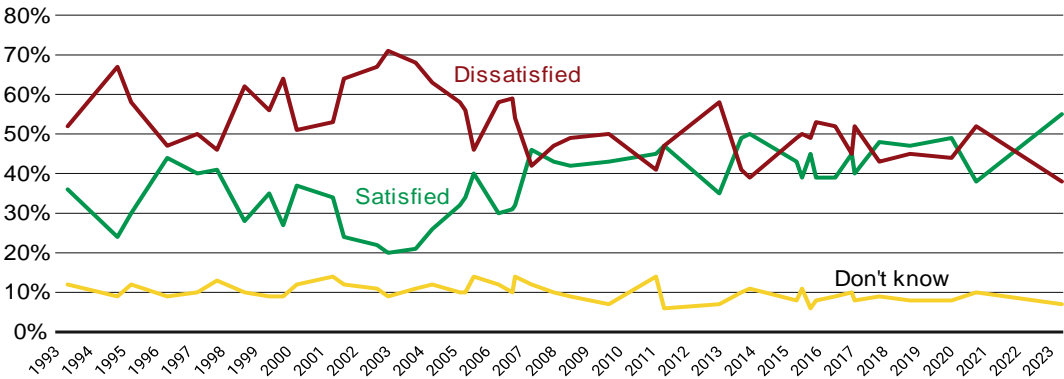
Currently, the level of consent to undemocratic governments is also at the lowest level in the history of our research, and at the same time, opposition to undemocratic government is at a record high. Less than a quarter agree that in some situations non-democratic government are better than democratic (23%, a decrease of 3 percentage points since the previous measurement in 2021), and more than six in ten (62%, an increase of 8 points) reject such an idea.

Do you agree that undemocratic government can sometimes be better than democratic?



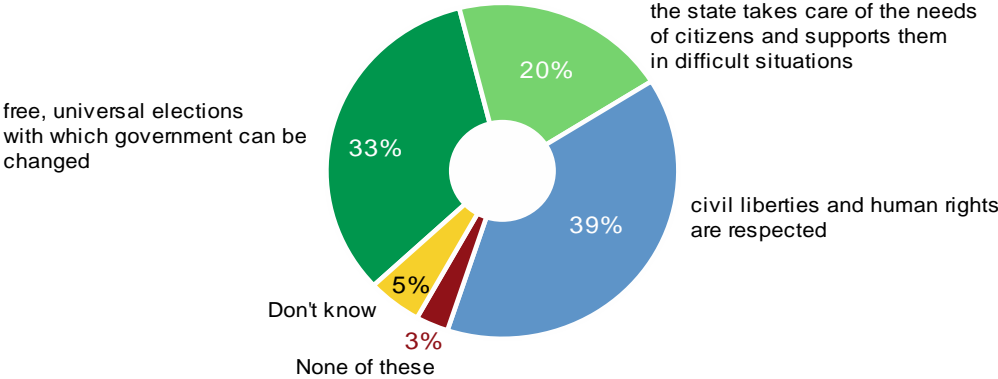
Opinions about the quality of democracy in Poland recorded one month after the October parliamentary elections are better than ever in the history of CBOS research. Currently, over half of Poles (55%, an increase of 17 percentage points since the previous measurement in 2021) express satisfaction with the functioning of democracy in our country. Less than two-fifths are dissatisfied (38%, down 14 points). From the first half of the 1990s to the parliamentary elections in 2007, in all measurements, respondents who were disappointed with the functioning of democracy in Poland outnumbered those who assessed it positively. After the 2007 election there was a short-term improvement. Until the parliamentary elections in 2015, the results were mixed - we recorded satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the functioning of democracy more or less equally often. For two consecutive years, 2016 and 2017, we generally recorded a quite clear prevalence of dissatisfaction with democracy. In 2018, ratings improved for a while. Their significant deterioration was recorded in April 2021. It was probably a result of the lack of a sense of influence on the political reality after social protests in response to the judgment of the Constitutional Tribunal tightening the abortion law in Poland.

Evaluation of the functioning of democracy in Poland



In the public opinion, the guarantees of civil liberties and human rights primarily constitute a democratic system (39%). For one-third (33%), free, universal elections enabling a change of government are crucial. The fewest people (20%) consider the state's welfare functions to be constitutive of democracy.

In your opinion, what is most important for a country to be considered democratic?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitude Towards Democracy and Assessment of its Functioning", December 2023. Fieldwork dates for the sample: November 2023, N=1072, mixed-mode interviews. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.