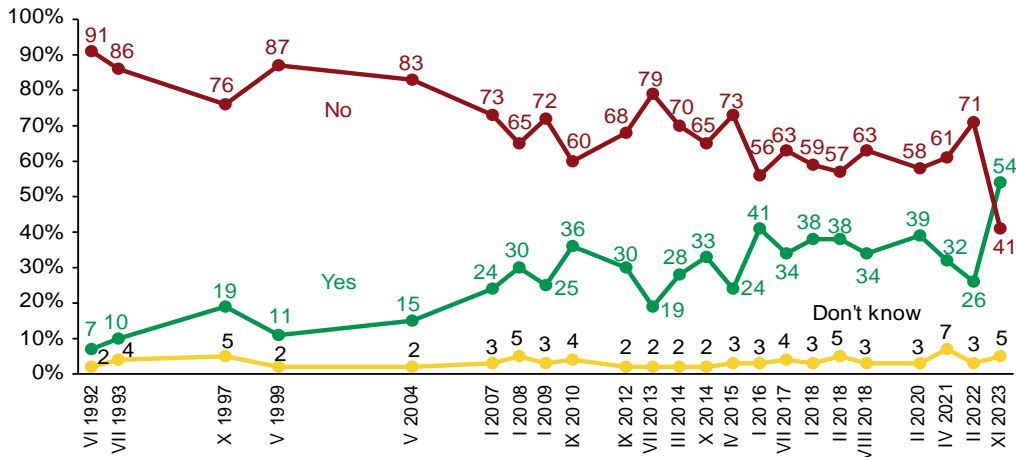


Perception of influence on public affairs

On October 15, elections to the Sejm and Senate were held in Poland, as a result of which, after eight years of rule by Law and Justice (PiS), the coalition of the Civic Coalition (KO), the Third Way and the New Left took power in Poland. This contributed to strengthening Poles' sense of civic subjectivity. After the October elections, over half of Poles (54%) believe that ordinary people can influence the course of affairs in the country. In the minority (41%) are those who do not have a sense of agency and claim that what is happening in the country does not depend on them or people like them. The current declarations are the best since 1992, when we first conducted research on the sense of civic subjectivity. Never before has the sense of citizens' agency on national issues been as great as it is now, and what is more, until now, Poles have been more or less convinced that ordinary citizens, i.e. people like them, have no influence on the course of events in the country.

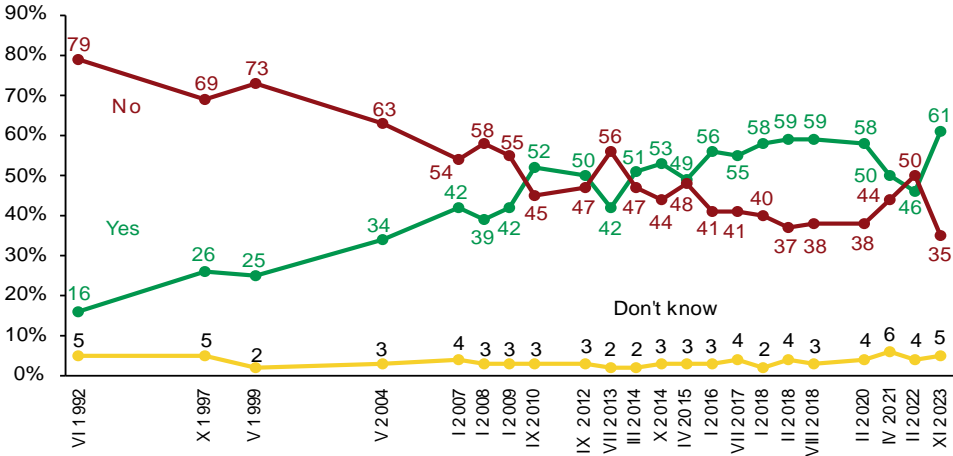
Do you think people like you have influence on the national affairs?



Currently, men (58%) are more likely than women (50%) to believe that citizens can influence Poland's affairs. The sense of civic subjectivity is clearly fostered by younger age, higher level of education, as well as higher per capita income and positive assessments of one's own financial situation. The people most likely to feel positive about the ability of citizens to influence what is happening in our country are young people, between 18 and 24 years of age (68%), respondents with a university degree (66%), residents of large cities from 100,000 to 500,000 (64%) and the largest metropolitan areas over 500,000 (65%), respondents assessing their financial conditions as good (60%) and those declaring income per person in the family of over PLN 4,000 (64%).

For years, Poles have been more likely to be convinced of the possibility of ordinary citizens influencing what is happening in their immediate surroundings (a city or commune) than what is happening at the national level. Also currently, more people have a sense of agency at the local level than at the national level. Three-fifths of respondents (61%) believe that they can influence what is happening in their city or commune. People who feel helpless in this respect are in the minority (35%). Also in this dimension, current ratings are definitely better than those last recorded, in February 2022, and also slightly better than the best ones recorded so far.

Do you think people like you have influence on the affairs of their town or commune?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Citizens' Sense of Influence on Public Affairs”, December 2023. Fieldwork dates for the sample: November 2023, N=1072, mixed-mode interviews. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.