

IN THIS ISSUE:

- THE POLES' SYMPATHIES

- THE GOVERNMENT OF JERZY BUZEK AFTER ONE YEAR IN OFFICE

- LONG-TERM OPINION TRENDS IN SELECTED AREAS OF SOCIAL LIFE

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH CENTER - CBOS -

4a Żurawia
00-503 Warszawa
POLAND

Ph: (48 22) 629 35 69
(48 22) 628 37 04
(48 22) 693 58 94

Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: cbos@pol.pl

<http://www.cbos.pl>

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 1998

ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED WHEN ANY PART OF THIS PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

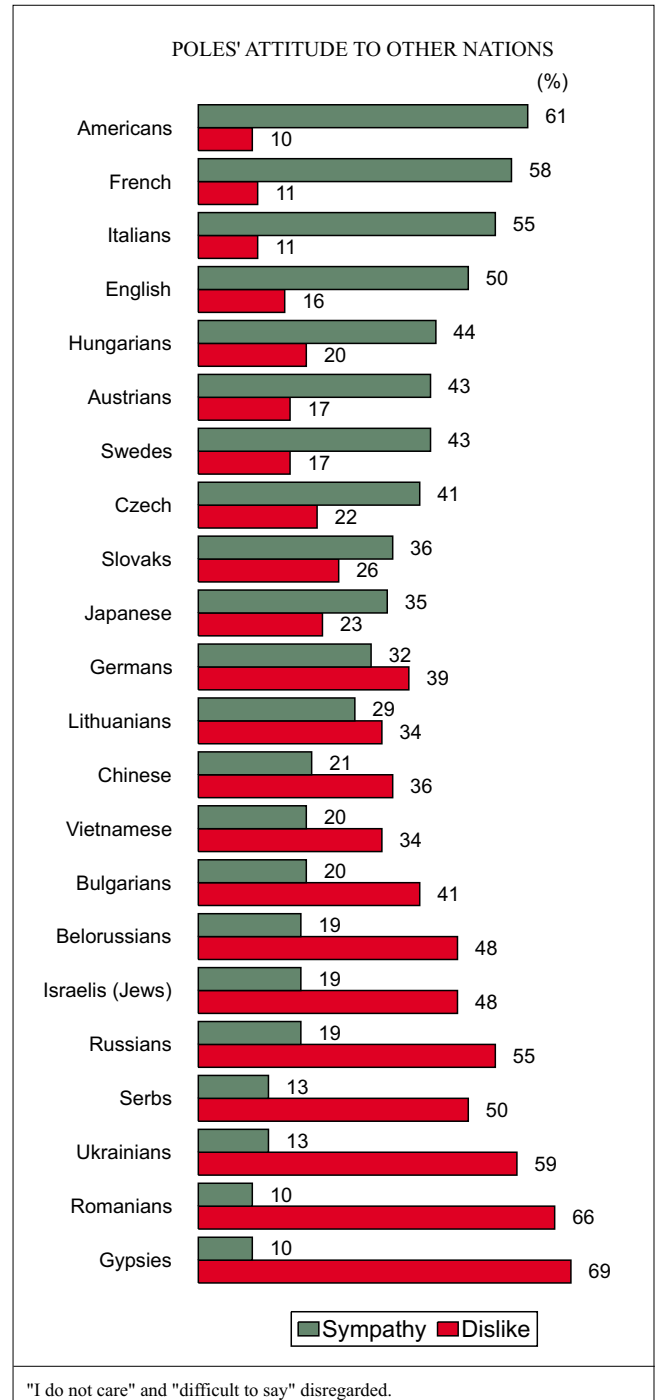
THE POLES' SYMPATHIES

For several years now the sympathies of Poles have not changed. We like Americans, the French and Italians most. Other nations that we like more than dislike include Austrians, Swedes, Hungarians, the Czech, the Japanese and Slovaks. On the other hand, Russians, Serbs, Ukrainians, Romanians and Gypsies are disliked by over half of respondents.

During the last year the attitude of Poles to other nations has slightly changed for the worse. The percentage of respondents declaring sympathy for other nations has on average decreased by 4%, while the group declaring their dislike for other nations has on average grown by 3%. As compared to the last year, the attitude towards Israelis (Jews) has deteriorated the most. The number of respondents declaring their sympathy for them has dropped by 9%, compared to a 7% growth in the group of those declaring their dislike. We also noted a relatively high increase of the number of respondents declaring their dislike for the Japanese, Serbs and Germans (from 5 to 9%). It should be noted that the increasing antipathy to Israelis and Germans is a departure from a long-term tendency observed in the years 1993-1997, when the Poles' attitude to these nations was improving.

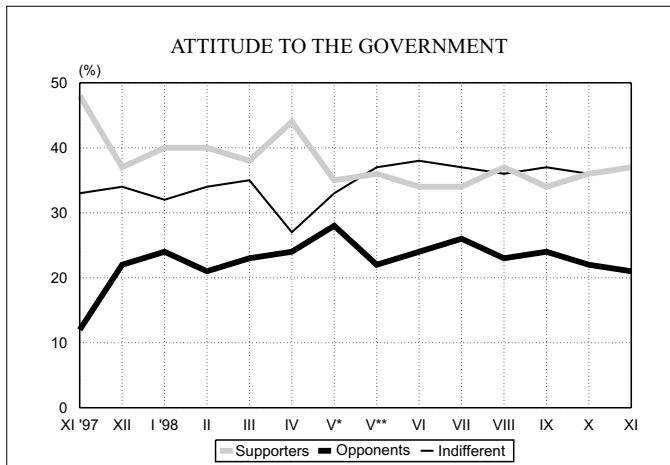
The slight rise in xenophobic moods can be associated with a decrease of social support for Poland's integration with the European Union. During the last year the number of persons expressing their support for our country joining this organisation has dropped from 72% of respondents declaring voting for our entry if a referendum were held on this issue in 1997 to 63% in 1998.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "The Poles' attitude towards other nations", November '98.

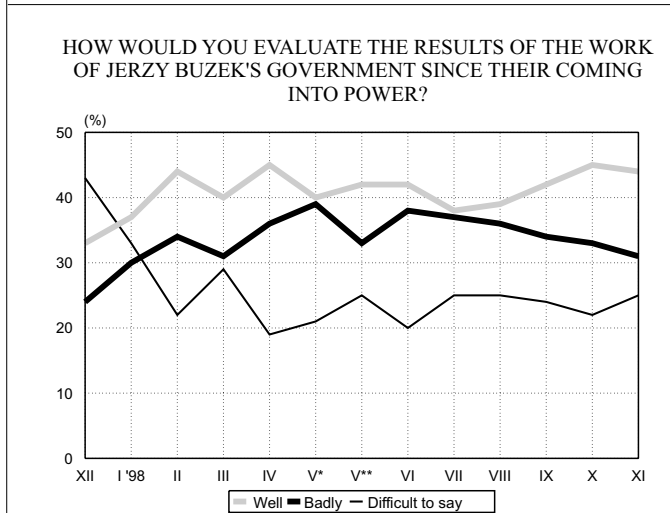


THE GOVERNMENT OF JERZY BUZEK AFTER ONE YEAR IN OFFICE

It has been a year since Mr. Jerzy Buzek was appointed Prime Minister and the AWS (Solidarity Election Action) UW (Freedom Union) coalition formed the government. Like other cabinets, Jerzy Buzek's government enjoyed the biggest social support immediately after its formation. However, during the first year of its activity the government lost relatively few supporters and long-term results for both the government and the Prime Minister personally in terms of social support are rather stable. It seems that the government to a large extent meets the expectations of its electorate: a significant majority of persons who in the last elections voted for the UW and AWS still declare their support for the government (66% and 57%, respectively). Only among those who voted for the SLD (Democratic Left Alliance) are there more opponents than supporters of the government. Most of those who supported other parties or did not vote are rather indifferent.

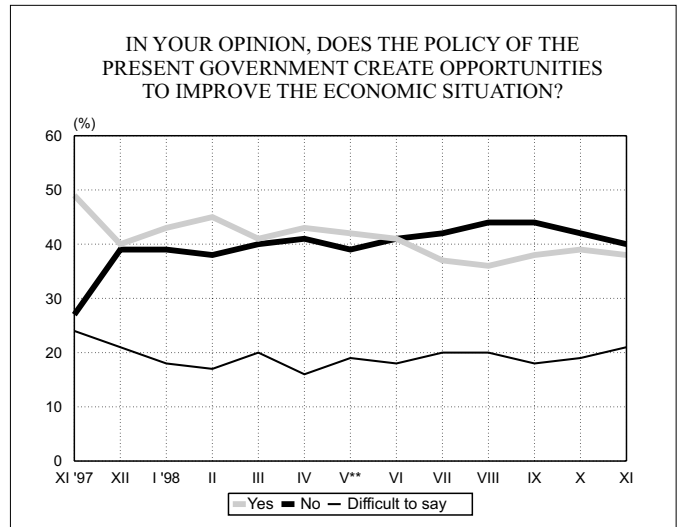


"Difficult to say" disregarded

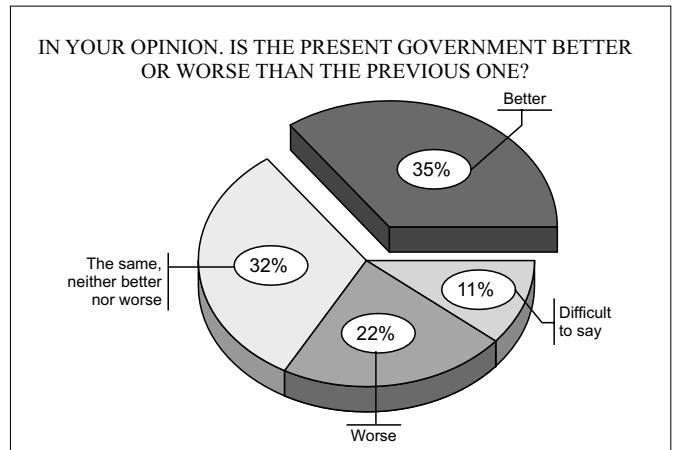


Over two fifths of respondents positively evaluated the achievements of the present government, compared to only one third of those who expressed their criticism. The worst opinions on the government were

recorded in the period between May and July, which was probably connected with controversies over the administrative reform of the country. Since July these opinions have been improving systematically, although slightly. The most positive opinions on the results of the cabinet's work are expressed by managers and the intelligentsia, while farmers are the most critical. Opinions on the government clearly depend on the subjective assessment of a respondent's living conditions. However, the strongest link can be observed between the evaluation of the government and political views of respondents. Positive opinions are twice as frequent among persons identifying themselves with the right than among those identifying themselves with the left.

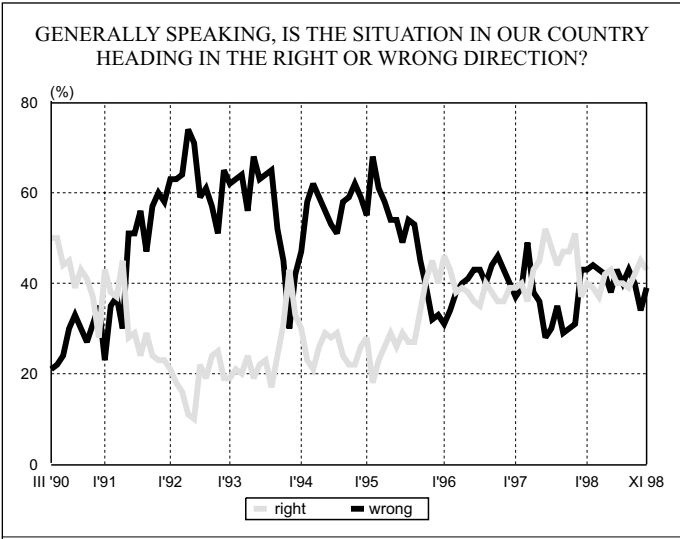


With the whole year in view, the agrarian policy of the government was evaluated the lowest. Over half of respondents (52%) described it as unsatisfactory. Similarly, the following areas of the government's activity evoked growing criticism: social care (41% of unsatisfactory ratings) and fighting crime and protecting citizens from danger (57% of unsatisfactory ratings). On the other hand, foreign policy was evaluated the highest. In the respondents' opinion, the government should now focus primarily on solving the problems of the coal industry, fighting crime, health care reform and preventing unemployment.

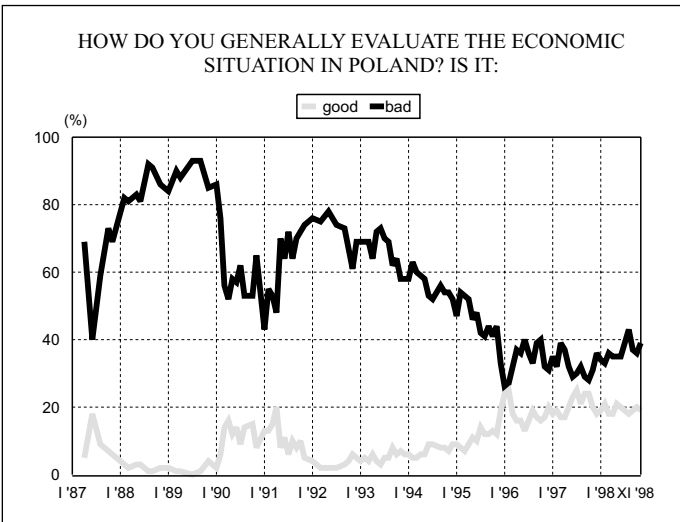


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Attitude to the government and the evaluation of its activity", November '98.

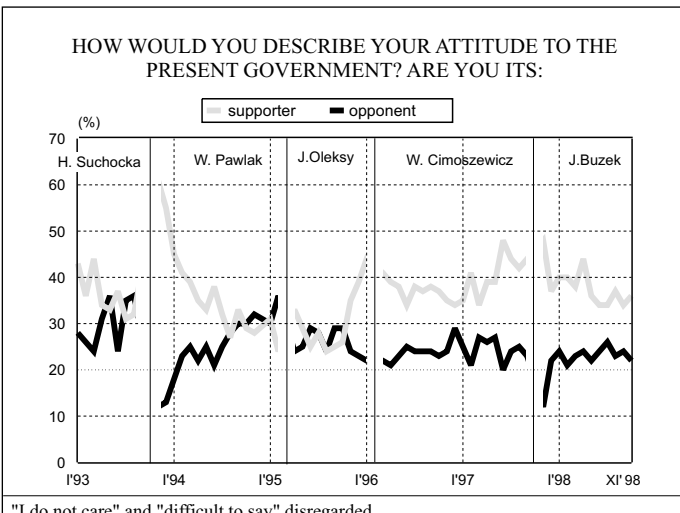
LONG-TERM OPINION TRENDS IN SELECTED AREAS OF SOCIAL LIFE



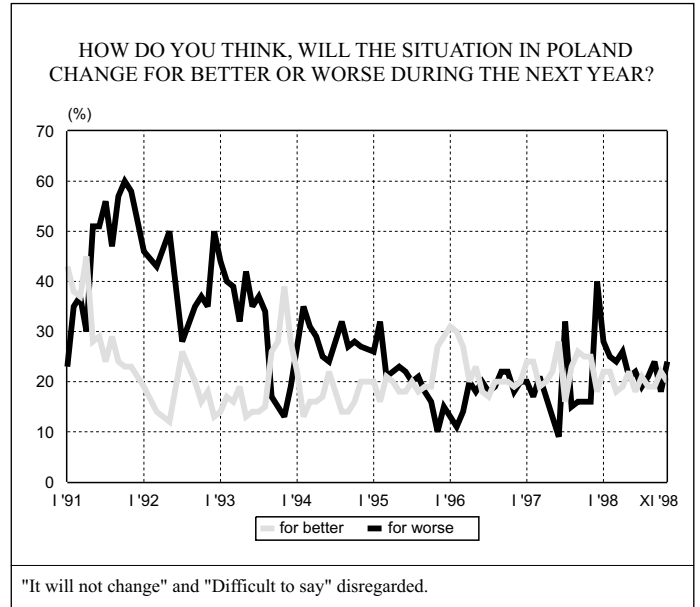
"Difficult to say" disregarded



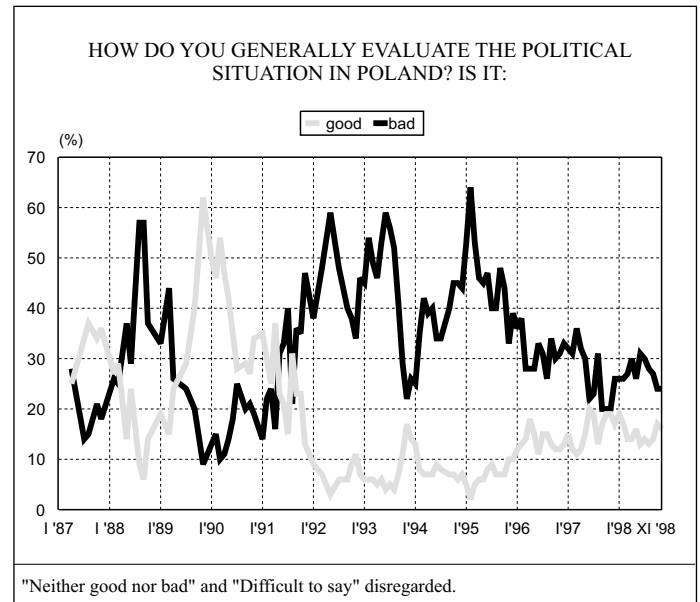
"Neither good nor bad" and "Difficult to say" disregarded.



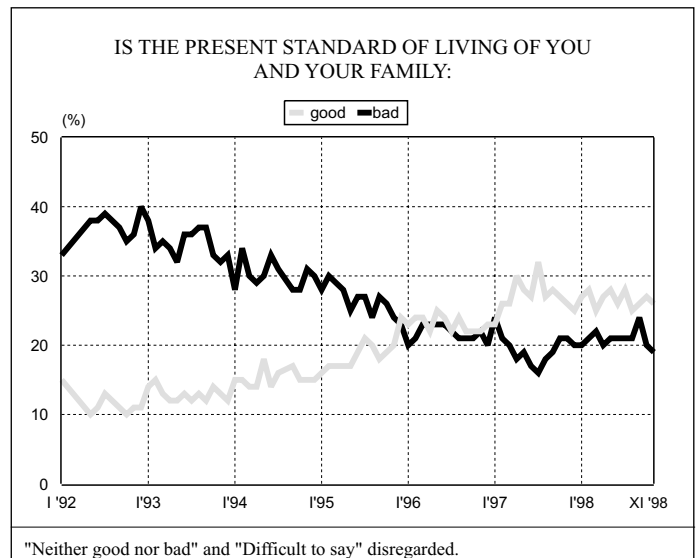
"I do not care" and "difficult to say" disregarded.



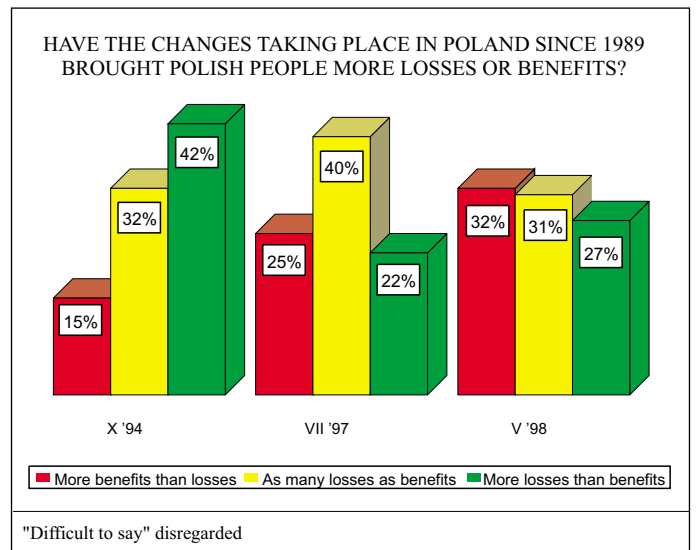
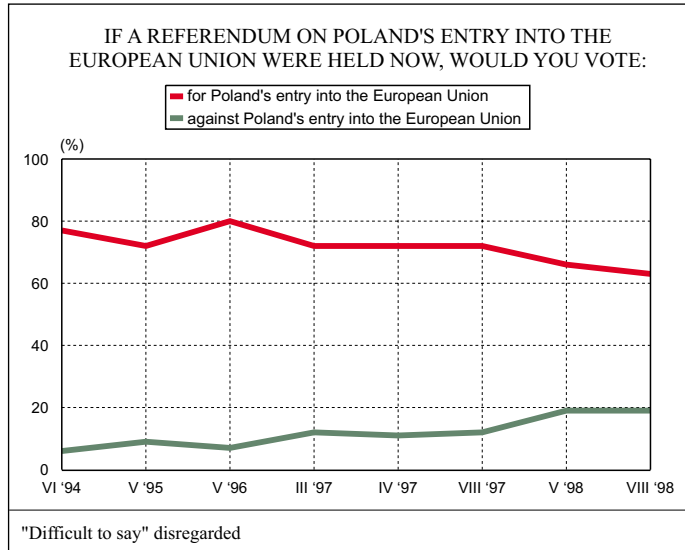
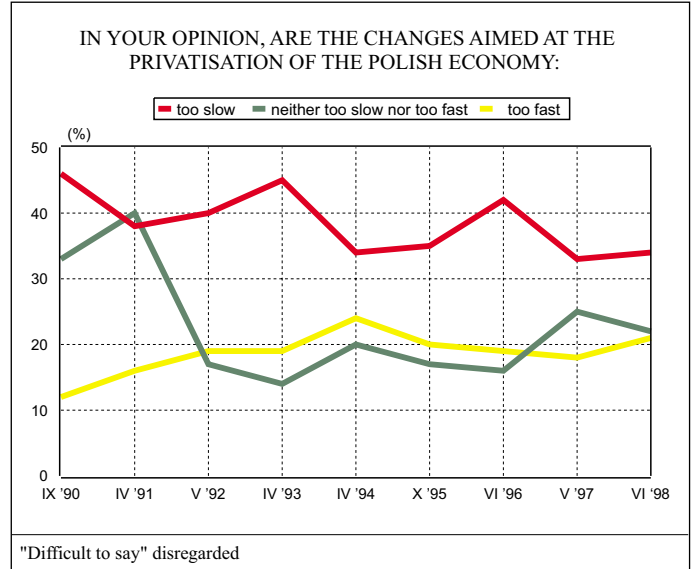
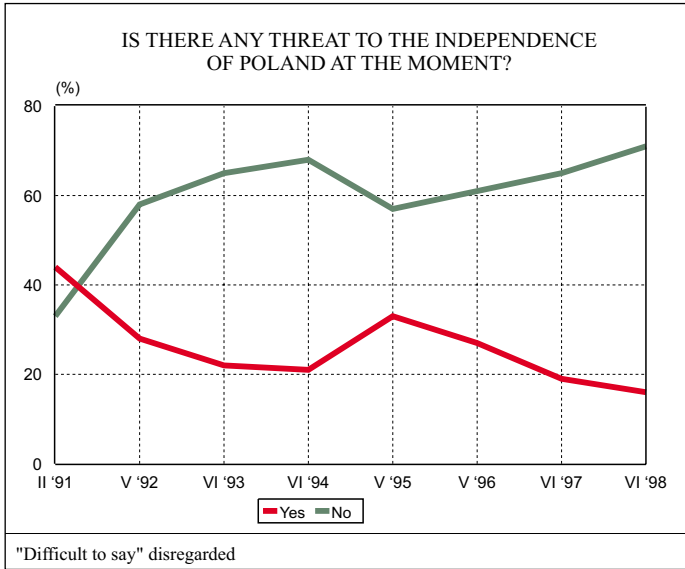
"It will not change" and "Difficult to say" disregarded.



"Neither good nor bad" and "Difficult to say" disregarded.



"Neither good nor bad" and "Difficult to say" disregarded.



In addition to the bulletins referred to above, the following have been published recently:

- "Social moods after the local elections"
- "Participation of Polish soldiers in the possible NATO mission in Kosovo"
- "The most competent politicians and possible presidential candidates"
- "Evaluation of the election campaign"
- "Political party preferences in November"
- "Social moods in November"
- "After the local elections"
- "Reactions to the results of the elections and opinions on local coalitions"
- "Opinions on the priorities and spending from the state budget"
- "Attitude to the government and evaluation of the activity of political institutions"
- "Opinions on parents' behaviour towards adolescents"
- "Opinions on the reasons for unemployment and the unemployed"
- "Bringing up children in a family and taking care of them"
- "Savings and purchases"
- "Women's awareness and behaviour in respect of breast and cervix cancer prevention"

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:

CBOS POLAND
4a, Żurawia, 00-503 Warsaw
Phones: (48 22) 629 35 69, 628 37 04
Fax: (48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl

<http://www.cbos.pl>

CBOS expertise in providing professional, accurate and timely research studies has made us the leading authority in political, social, international and consumer research concerning Poland.