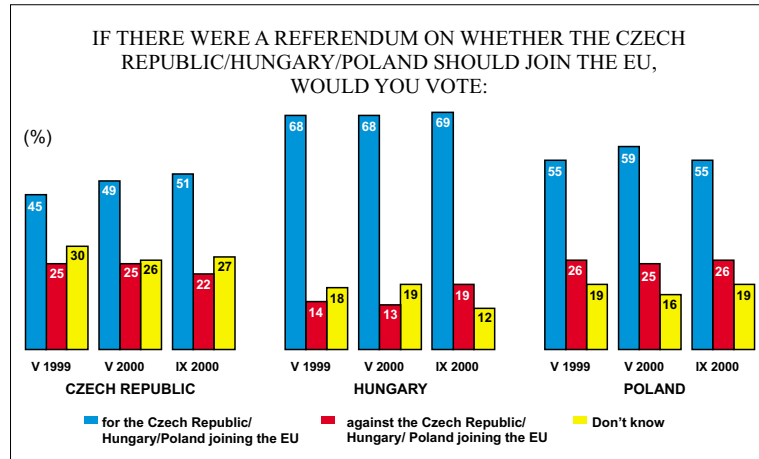


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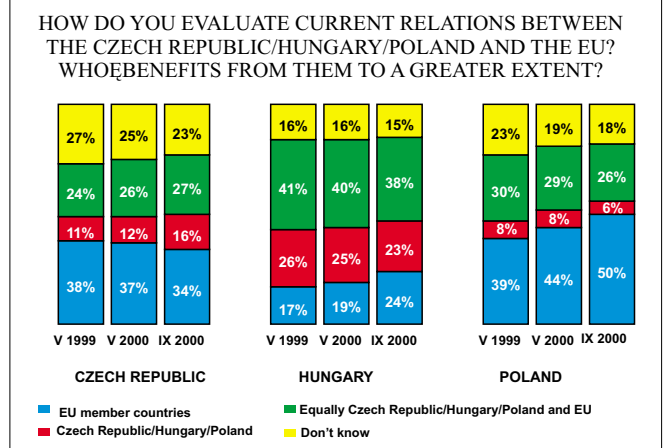
CZECHS, HUNGARIANS AND POLES ON THE EUROPEAN UNION



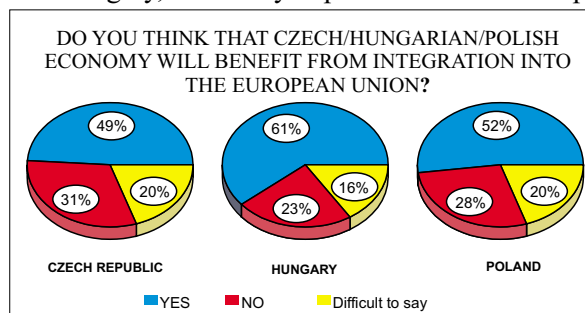
Public opinion in all three EU candidate countries: the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland is definitely pro-European. In each of these countries, the majority would vote for the EU membership if the referendum is organised nowadays. Hungarians are the most and Czechs are the least pro-European of the three countries. In all of them, however,

acceptance of the future EU membership is higher than average acceptance of the membership expressed in current member countries (higher than in Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Sweden and the United Kingdom). Since May 1999, the attitudes to EU membership improved in relatively more sceptical Czech society. It remains the same in Hungary and Poland.

Current relations between European Union and the three candidate countries are seen in very different lights in each of them. Almost two thirds of Hungarians believe that their current relations with the EU are beneficial either predominantly for Hungary or both for Hungary and the Union. Such opinion is expressed by less than half of Czechs and less than one third of Poles. By the same token, half of the respondents in Poland, one third in the Czech Republic and only one fourth in Hungary believe that current relations of their countries with European Union is predominantly beneficial for the latter. The evaluations show a tendency to deteriorate with time in Poland and Hungary, while they improve in the Czech Republic.



The majority of Hungarians and Poles and almost half of the Czechs expect their economies to benefit from integration with the European Union. Negative expectations are expressed by almost one fourth of Hungarians and about thirty per cent of Czechs and Poles.



Public opinion on possible effects exerted on agriculture by accession to the European Union differs very much between the three countries. The Polish society, which is much more rural than the Czech and Hungarian ones, is also the most divided in this respect. More Poles than Hungarians and Czechs expect that the Polish agriculture will benefit more than the agriculture of the present EU member countries. However, also more Poles than Hungarians and Czechs share the

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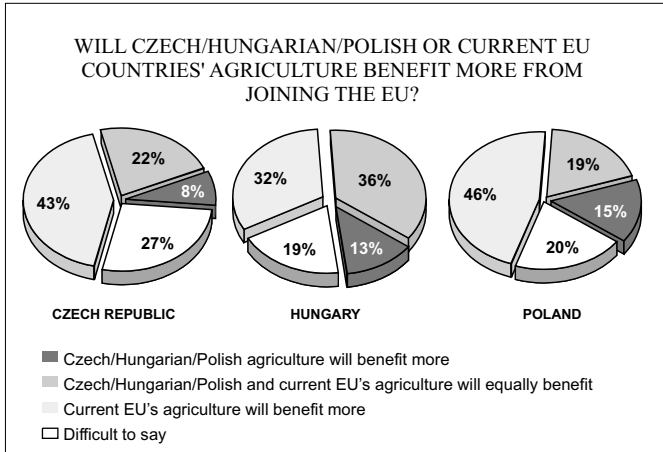
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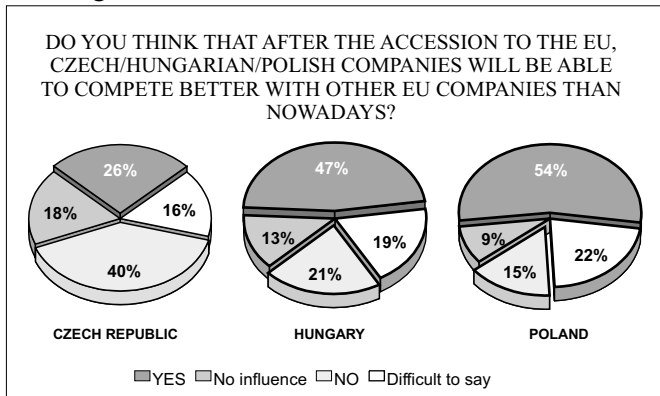
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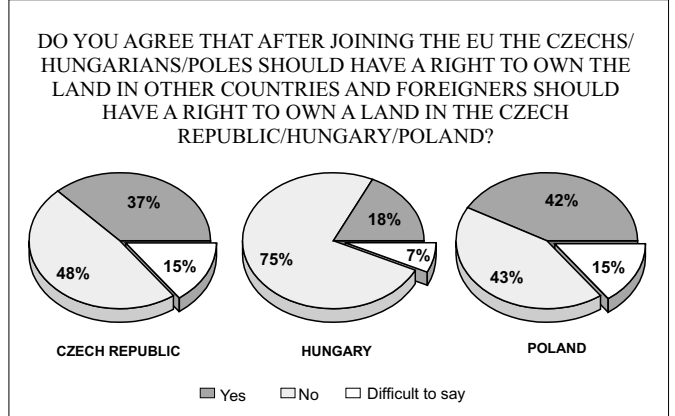
opposite opinion that the EU agriculture will benefit more. This finding may reflect the fact that possible future conditions for agriculture is a subject of the much heated discussion in Poland and creates potentially more difficult problem than in Hungary and in the Czech Republic. It constituted also one of very difficult, though recently solved, problems during EU negotiations with Poland. The Czechs do not expect much benefit for the Czech agriculture and quite often express no opinion. That may be caused by a relatively small role played by agriculture in Czech economy as compared to Hungarian and especially to Polish case.



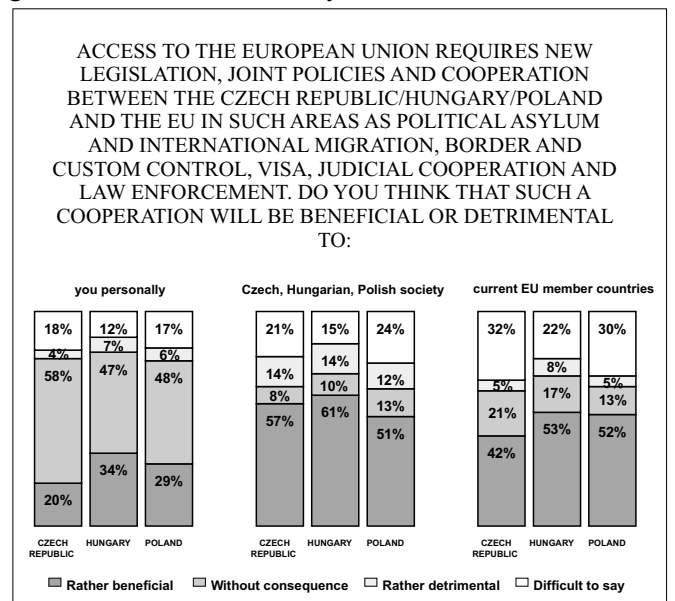
Public opinion about accession effect on competitiveness of domestic companies at the European market differs between the three countries not the same way as the opinion about effect on agriculture. The majority of Polish respondents expect Polish companies to be able to compete better than nowadays, while such opinion is expressed by less than half of the respondents in Hungary and about a quarter in the Czech Republic. It seems that the more industrialised the country is, the less benefit for the national industry its society expects from the integration.



Foreign ownership of land constitutes one of controversial issues in many EU member countries and - not surprisingly - is widely discussed in candidate countries. This is especially important problem for those Poles and Czechs, who are afraid of a possible inflow of Germans to the territories formerly inhabited by them. Despite such fears, the attitudes to foreign ownership of land are much more positive in Poland and the Czech Republic than in Hungary.



Possible consequences of introducing the EU legislation and policies on the flow of people and goods across the borders are seen by aspiring societies in very different ways, depending on private, their own country's or EU countries' perspective. The candidate societies are expected to gain the most, EU current member countries are expected to gain a bit less and private citizens of candidate countries are expected to gain the least from the unification. However, in all three respects, the foreseen gains exceed the losses many times.



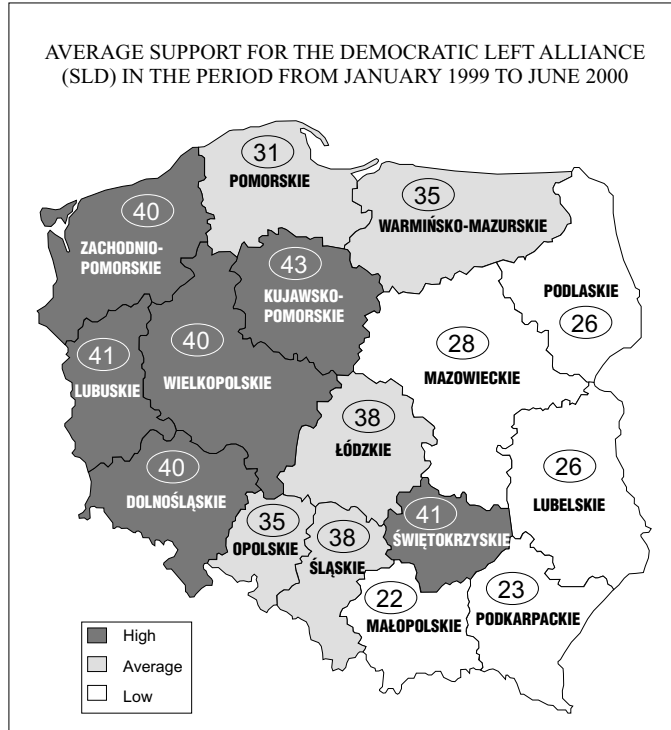
TERRITORIAL DIFFERENCES IN THE SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES^{a)}

The elections that took place during the last ten years show that Poland is quite clearly divided with regard to political choices. In some regions the political groups whose origins are associated with the former anticommunist opposition enjoy a significantly greater support than elsewhere. In other parts of the country the

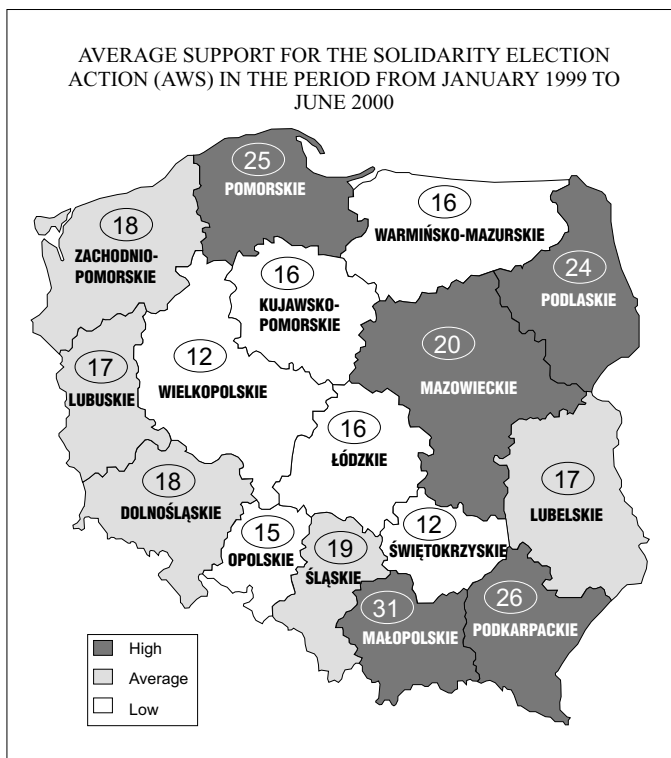
a) Percentages concern the average proportions of potential voters, who would vote for a given party. The analysis is based on the aggregate data from monthly surveys from January 1999 to June 2000.

parties whose legacy is associated with the communist system meet with significantly greater trust of voters.

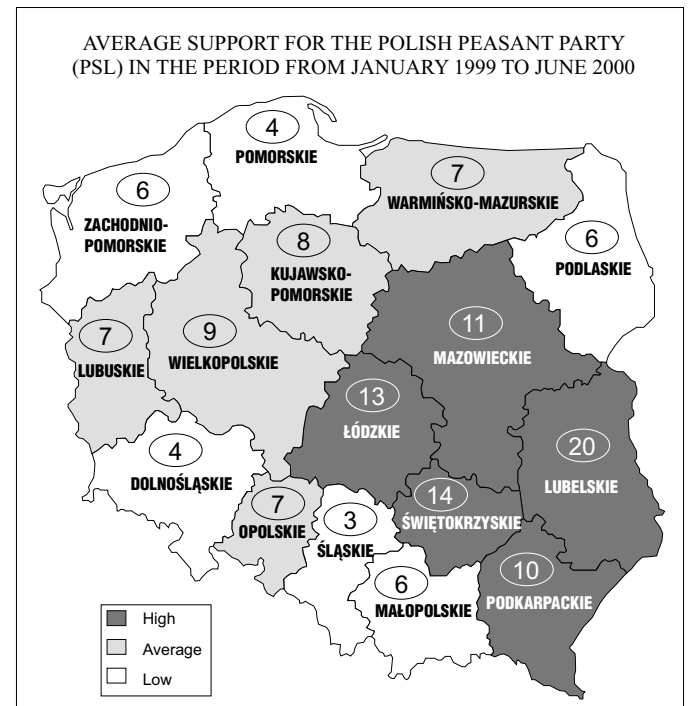
The Democratic Left Alliance (SLD), a political alliance with historic roots in former communist party, currently enjoys the greatest support of Poles (34% potential votes).



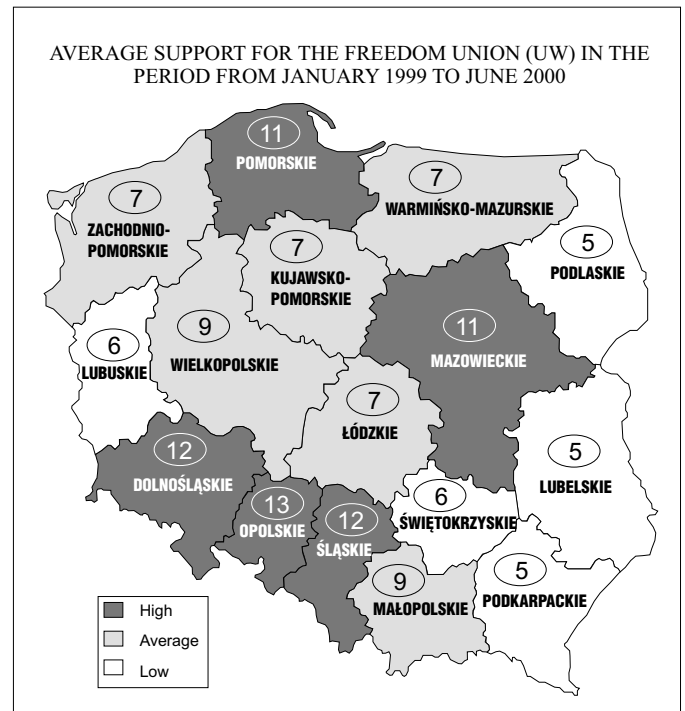
The Solidarity Electoral Action (AWS), which forms a minority government nowadays, is perceived as the main political adversary of the SLD. It has lost some of its popularity during last months (19% votes).



The Polish Peasant Party (PSL), although its origins go back to the communist era, has become the strongest representative of rural Poland also in the present political system (8% of all potential votes).



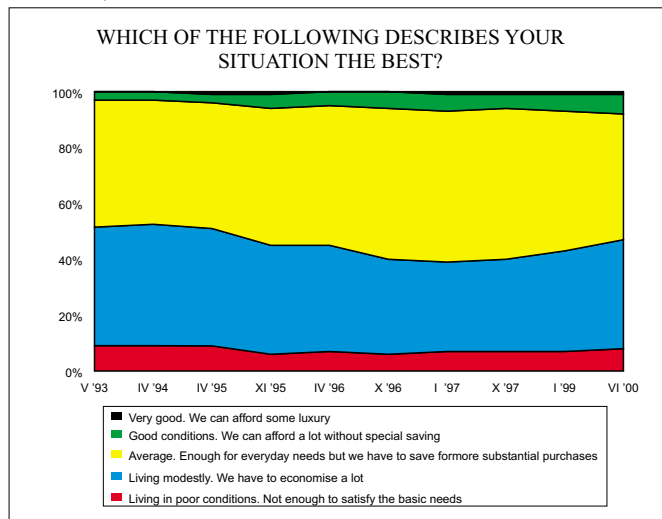
As compared with other parties, the popularity of the liberal Freedom Union (UW) is less determined by the geographical location. It is known from other sources that the support for this party is the strongest among the urban intelligentsia (9% of all potential votes).



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Support for political parties and trust in their leaders in different voivodships", September 2000.

OUR POVERTY

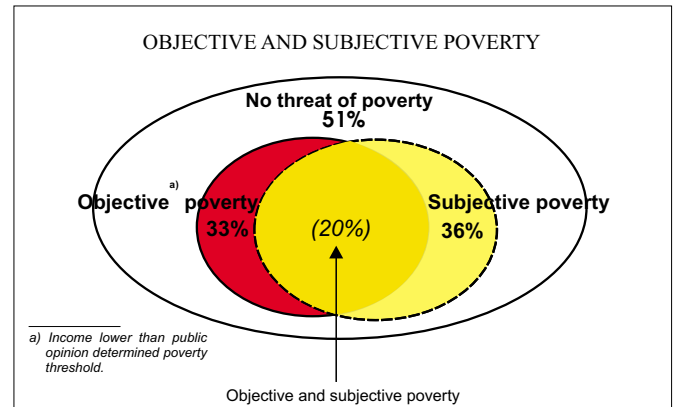
The evaluations of the material conditions of living of Polish families have changed over the recent years. After a long period of growth, there is a slow, but steady decrease of the percentage of persons who evaluate the living conditions of their families positively. That is accompanied by an increase of the percentage of those who are dissatisfied with their standard of living. At the same time, the proportion of respondents who evaluate their living conditions as average has remained relatively stable. The group of respondents who feel economically disadvantaged has also increased over the last two years.



Since the second half of 1997 the number of families describing their conditions of living as modest or poor has been slowly growing (from 40% in 1997 to 47% now). However, that growth concerns the group living in modest conditions, who have to be very careful about their everyday spending, is growing. At the same time, the percentage of respondents who evaluate the standard of living of their families as very poor does not change.

Perception of the scale of poverty has also changed. In the social opinion, the sphere of poverty has expanded since 1997. The respondents estimate that really poor people currently constitute 40% of the society.

Last June the respondents estimated that PLN 378 (approximately USD 89) a month per family member was the minimum below which people lived in poverty. The average monthly income per family member declared by our respondents was PLN 543 (approximately 126 USD), so it was by 44% higher than the threshold of poverty.



Using the threshold of poverty indicated by respondents as a criterion and assuming that the respondents' declarations concerning their income are true, we could estimate that approximately 33% of respondents live in families whose income does not exceed the poverty threshold, i.e. these respondents are threatened by poverty.

At the same time, 36% of respondents belong to the subjective sphere of poverty, i.e. regard themselves as poor. These are first of all clearly people and those with poor education. Among the working population farmers are in the worst situation (according to their own declarations). As many as 74% of them regard themselves as poor. Two-fifths of unskilled workers (40%), almost one-third of skilled workers (31%) and over a quarter of semi-manual workers (27%) declare living in poverty.

If we adopt a more rigorous approach and take into consideration the persons whose income is lower than the estimated threshold of poverty and who at the same time regard themselves as poor, we will find out that 20% of Poles live in poverty.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "The extent of poverty and the perception of poor people in Poland", September 2000.

In addition to the bulletins referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- ◆ Presidential candidates and their chances to win the election certainty of support, election alternatives, negative electorates
- ◆ The interest in the election and the level of support for presidential candidates
- ◆ Opinions on the work of the government, President and Parliament
- ◆ Opinions on the integration of Poland with the EU
- ◆ The Olympic Games in Sydney
- ◆ Major expenses of households
- ◆ Before the presidential election. The chances of particular candidates, the hypothetical second round of the election.
- ◆ Trust in politicians in early September.

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