ISSN 1233 - 7250

IN THIS ISSUE:

- > OPINIONS ON REPRIVATISATION
- THE CIVIC
 PLATFORM
 A NEW POLITICAL
 MOVEMENT
 ON THE POLISH
 SCENE
- ➤ EVALUATIONS
 OF SYSTEMIC
 REFORMS
 TWO YEARS
 AFTER THEIR
 IMPLEMENTATION
- > POLISH
 AND AMERICAN
 EXPERIENCE
 WITH DOCTORS

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: sekretariat@cbos.pl

http://www.cbos.pl

© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2001

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

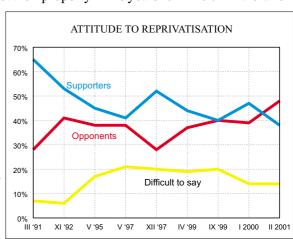
OPINIONS ON REPRIVATISATION

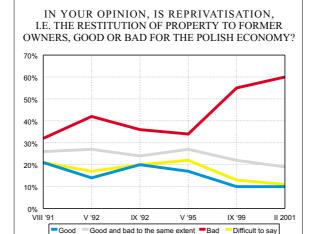
Poland is the last country in Central and Eastern Europe that has not carried out reprivatisation yet. The Polish Parliament has recently passed a reprivatisation act, but it is up to the President to decide whether it will finally become law or not, since Parliament may be unable to overrun his possible rejection. In accordance with this act, only the present citizens of Poland (or their heirs), who lost their property in the years 1944-1962 in violation

of the law of the day will be able to pursue their claims. They will be entitled to a compensation in kind or in reprivatisation bonds. However, in both cases only half of the value of the nationalised property will be returned.

The support for reprivatisation was the strongest at the beginning of the transformation. During the last year the number of opponents of reprivatisation has increased and the number of its supporters has decreased. In 2001, for the first time the opponents of reprivatisation (48%) outnumbered its supporters (38%).

The attitude to reprivatisation is quite strongly related to the political





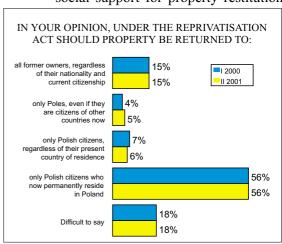
views of the respondents. A vast majority of the respondents identifying themselves with the political left are against reprivatisation (68%), while over half (53%) of those with right-wing views support it.

At present most Poles (60%) believe that the reprivatisation process may weaken the Polish economy and only one in ten believes the opposite. At the same time, almost half of the society regard reprivatisation as a moral obligation of the state to the individuals who were treated unjustly. This group is more than three times as big as the group of those who believe the opposite. The resent decrease in the social support for property restitution

may indicate that economic arguments related to the condition of the Polish economy start to prevail over moral

Over half of respondents (56%) believe that only Polish citizens permanently residing in Poland should receive their property back. Another 6% believe that property restitution should be restricted to Polish citizens, but their place of residence should not be taken into account. Thus over three-fifths of respondents (62%) opt for reprivatisation restricted to people with current Polish citizenship.

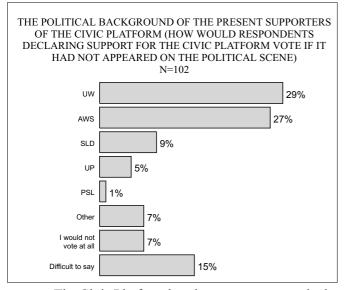
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on reprivatisation", February 2001.



THE CIVIC PLATFORM A NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT ON THE POLISH SCENE

In the last presidential election an independent candidate Mr Andrzej Olechowski gained over 17% of votes and reached the 2nd position before Marian Krzaklewski, the leader of the ruling party - the AWS (Solidarity Election Action). A relatively high support for a politician without a political background and without official support of any of the existing parties gave rise to a question about the representativeness of the political parties present on the Polish political scene. Early this year, Andrzej Olechowski with the speaker of the Sejm Mr Maciej Płażyński from the AWS and Mr Donald Tusk, a liberal from the UW (Freedom Union), quite unexpectedly announced the establishment of a new group called the Civic Platform.

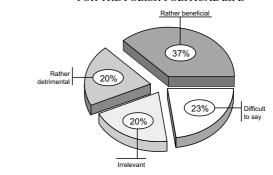
In February, Civic Platform was ranked second with 16% support (the SLD, supported by 38% of potential voters, remains on the top position). The respondents' declarations show that both the liberal UW and the right AWS have lost their potential voters to a similar extent. However, the new political initiative also attracted a certain group of people who had been unable so far to find a party that would adequately represent their views.



The Civic Platform has the most supporters in the social groups to which the most important points of its programme are addressed: over a third of business people and self-employed persons (36%) want to vote for it. Managers and the intelligentsia also declare their support for the Platform much more frequently than other social groups (26%). The support for the Civic Platform is relatively the weakest among farmers (5%), pensioners and semi-manual workers (8% each). The higher the respondents' education, the more frequently they are willing to vote for the Platform. Among persons with primary education only one in twenty potential voters (5%) declares support for the Platform. In the group of respondents with secondary and tertiary education, this

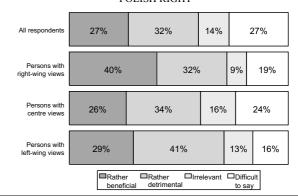
percentages are 20% and 29%, respectively. The Civic Platform is also relatively popular among persons with higher than average income per person in the family.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ANDRZEJ OLECHOWSKI, THE SPEAKER OF THE SEJM MACIEJ PŁAŻYŃSKI FROM THE AWS AND DONALD TUSK FROM THE UW DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A NEW POLITICAL GROUP THE CIVIC PLATFORM. SOME PROMINENT POLITICIANS FROM THE AWS AND UW ARE JOINING THEM. IN YOUR OPINION, IS THE INITIATIVE GIVING RISE TO THE FORMATION OF THIS POLITICAL MOVEMENT OR GROUP BENEFICIAL OR NOT FOR THE POLISH POLITICAL LIFE



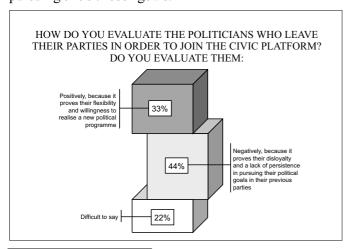
More people believe that the establishment of the Civic Platform will be beneficial for political life than its impact will be detrimental. The evaluations of the consequences for the right-wing parties are less optimistic. The percentage of respondents who believe that the formation of the Civic Platform will have a negative effect on the Polish political right (32%) is slightly higher than the percentage of those who think that it will have a positive effect (27%). Interestingly enough, the farther the respondents' views from the political right, the more frequently they tend to have a pessimistic opinion in this respect.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ANDRZEJ OLECHOWSKI, THE SPEAKER OF THE SEJM MACIEJ PŁAŻYŃSKI FROM THE AWS AND DONALD TUSK FROM THE UW DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A NEW POLITICAL GROUP THE CIVIC PLATFORM. SOME PROMINENT POLITICIANS FROM THE AWS AND UW ARE JOINING THEM. IN YOUR OPINION, IS THE INITIATIVE GIVING RISE TO THE FORMATION OF THIS POLITICAL MOVEMENT OR GROUP BENEFICIAL OR NOT FOR THE POLISH RIGHT



One in three respondents evaluates the decisions of the politicians who have left or are leaving their political parties to join the Platform positively. A larger part (nearly two-fifths) of respondents believe, however, that loyalty is virtue in politics and a change of

membership in a political organisation should be treated as a fault on a politician's profile, because it indicates a lack of loyalty and persistence in overcoming difficulties and pursuing one's chosen goals.

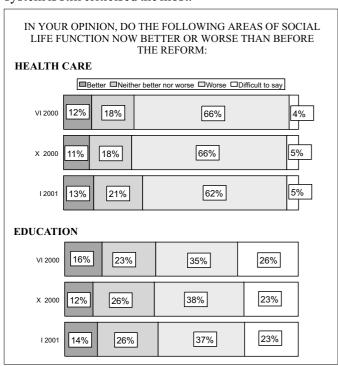


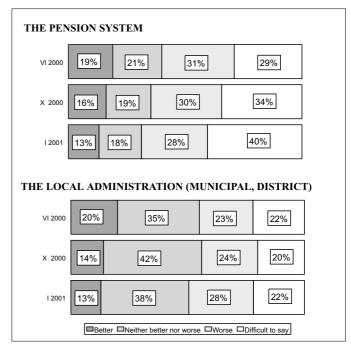
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports "Political party preferences in February who votes for the Civic "Reactions to the establishment of the Civic Platform", February 2001.

EVALUATIONS OF SYSTEMIC REFORMS TWO YEARS AFTER THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

Poles criticise the functioning of all four areas of social life that currently undergo major structural reforms: the health care system, the pension system, education and local administration. Each of them is evaluated negatively more frequently than positively.

Despite a slight improvement, the health care system is still criticised the most.



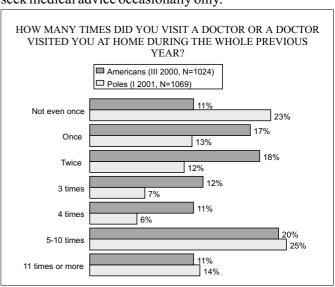


Two years after the start of the pension and local administration reform most respondents believe that they do not concern an average citizen (39% and 45% of indications, respectively). Moreover, as far as the local administration reform is concerned, the popularity of this opinion has been growing systematically since June 1999.

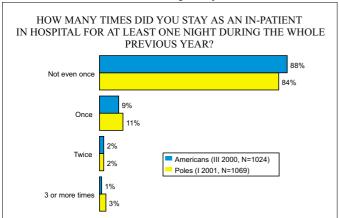
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "The four reforms in the social opinion", January 2001.

POLISH AND AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WITH DOCTORS

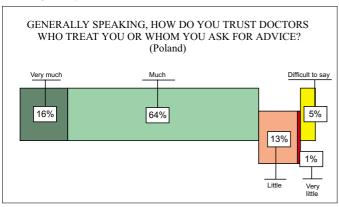
A definite majority of adult Poles (77%) visited a doctor last year. Usually they paid more than one visit. Over half of Polish respondents (52%) visited a doctor at least three times during that period. More Americans than Poles use the health services, but on the other hand less Americans visit a doctor very frequently and more of them seek medical advice occasionally only.



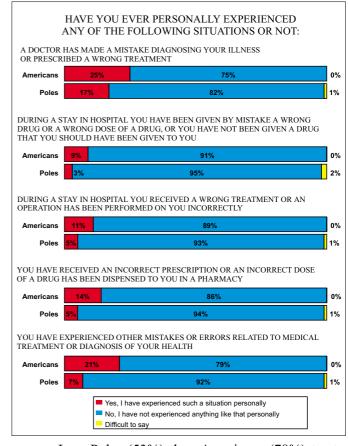
A much smaller proportion of respondents undergo hospital treatment. The differences between Poland and USA are not big in this case. A little more persons are treated in hospital in Poland and they receive this kind of treatment more frequently.



A definite majority of Poles trust their doctors, although only one in six describes their trust as definite.



Most Polish respondents (68%) declare that personally they have never come across a medical error, negligence or a lack of due care that resulted in a harm to a patient's health. One in four respondents (25%) has been a victim of such medical errors and mistakes.



Less Poles (53%) than Americans (78%) try to obtain a second opinion of another doctor. Many Poles (15%) look for books, magazines or other sources of additional information on their disease and treatment.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report "Opinions on medical errors and trust in doctors" February 2001. The results of surveys concerning Americans are taken from F.Newport "Majority of Americans Think That Medical Mistakes Are Rare, Although Four out of Ten Report Having Experienced Medical Errors in Their Own Health-Care Treatment", The Gallup Poll Monthly, April 2000, No 415.

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

- ◆ The Poles' attitudes to the media a regional approach
- Opinions on the health care after two years of the reform
- ◆ The hopes and fears of Poles in 2001
- ◆ Hope or uncertainty the pension system after the changes
- ◆ The school system and the education reform after three terms
- ◆ Opinions on the functioning of local administration
- ◆ Social moods in February
- Opinions on the work of the government, President and Parliament

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

Yearly subscription rate for "Polish Public Opinion" is 80 USD

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