POLISEI PUBLIC OPINION 2006

ISSN 1233 - 7250

IN THIS ISSUE:

- LIFE SATISFACTION OF THE POLES, HUNGARIANS, GEORGIANS AND UKRAINIANS
- ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN THE GLOBAL SITUATION
- EVALUATION OF THE OWNERSHIP TRANSFORMATION PROCESS
- THE ATTITUDES TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



4a Żurawia 00-503 Warszawa POLAND

Ph: (48 22) 629 35 69 (48 22) 628 37 04 (48 22) 693 46 91

Fax:(48 22) 629 40 89

E-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl http://www.cbos.pl

Editors: Krzysztof Zagórski and Beata Roguska

Translated by Kinga Pawłowska

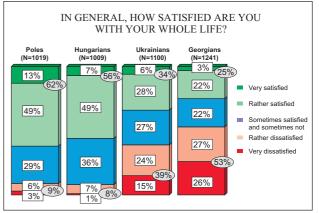
© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2006

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

LIFE SATISFACTION OF THE POLES, HUNGARIANS, GEORGIANS AND UKRAINIANS

The surveys conducted over many years show that the Poles' frame of mind is steadily improving, and their satisfaction with various aspects of everyday life is growing in most cases year after year. Social, political and economic changes since 1989 have had a positive impact on life satisfaction in Poland. Compared with the residents of such post-communist countries as Hungary, the Ukraine and Georgia, the Poles are characterized by the highest level of life satisfaction.

RANKING OF SATISFACTION WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF LIFE Poles Satisfaction with 93% children 86% marriage 71% place of residence 61% flat/house 51% job 51% state of health 50% social standing 35% conditions of living 34% prospects for the future 1/1% earnings Hungarians 93% children 91% marriage 66% place of residence 63% job flat/house 62% state of health 54% 41% social standing prospects for the future 29% conditions of living 28% earnings Ukrainians 90% children 61% 66% marriage 49% place of residence flat/house 42% conditions of living 31% iob state of health 31% social standing 31% 21% prospects for the future 12% earnings Georgians 89% childrer marriage 71% 60% place of residence 53% state of health 43% flat/house iob 42% 32% social standing 30% conditions of living 25% prospects for the future 9% earnings



More than three-fifths of them (62%) declare general satisfaction with their life. The percentage of the Hungarians who are satisfied with their life is slightly lower (56% of the population). The dissatisfaction prevails in the Ukraine and Georgia. Only one in three Ukrainians and one in four Georgians declare satisfaction.

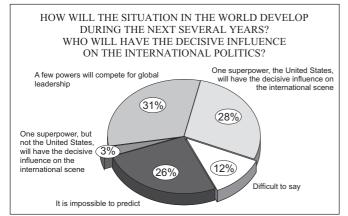
All four societies are satisfied with their family life the most. The Poles, Hungarians, Ukrainians and Georgians are satisfied primarily with their children, and then with their marriage. They also find their place of residence quite satisfactory. It ranks third among the most satisfactory aspects of life in all the societies compared. The people are the least satisfied with their earnings. Furthermore, they express a relatively low level of optimism as far as their future is concerned.

Although the order of the aspects of life in respect of satisfaction with them is similar in all four countries, the level of satisfaction is very different in each country. Similar to the general life satisfaction, the level of satisfaction with particular aspects of life is higher among the Poles and Hungarians than among Georgians and Ukrainians, in particular with respect to marriage, residence, job and social standing. Moreover, the Poles and Hungarians are a little more optimistic in their expectations for the future and a little more satisfied with their earnings.

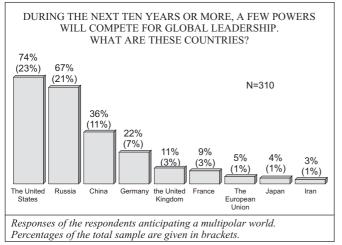
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Life satisfaction of the Poles, Hungarians, Georgians and Ukrainians*, **July 2006. Survey executed in 2005 as part of the research project** "Social tensions; Aspiration opportunity gap" financed by INKAS, Brussels (grant no. 04-79-7323). The following institutions participated in the project: GORBI (Georgia), SOCIS (Ukraine), TARKI (Hungary) and CBOS (Poland).

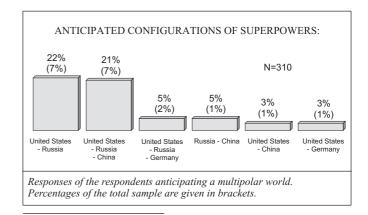
ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN THE GLOBAL SITUATION

Over almost half of a century following the end of the second world war, the international scene was bipolar. The fall of communism, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, marking the end of the "cold war", changed this situation dramatically. Only one superpower, the United States, was left on the international scene. The Poles are divided into three more or less equal groups as far as their predictions concerning the global situation in time perspective of more than ten years are concerned. Those who believe that the alignment of power on the international scene will be bipolar or multi-polar are the most numerous. Slightly fewer people believe that the alignment of power will not change, i.e. the United States will remain the only superpower. Finally, the third group consists of those who do not think it possible to predict what the world will look like several years from now.



Those who support the vision of a multipolar world usually expect Russia to regain the position it had during the cold war. In their opinion, the situation is likely to be the same as it was then, with Russia and the United States as the two superpowers. Some expect China to become a global superpower.



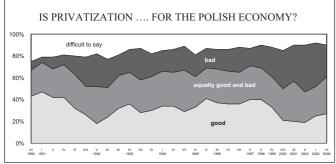


More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish): *Anticipated changes in the global situation*, July 2006. Survey executed in May 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=991

EVALUATION OF THE OWNERSHIP TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

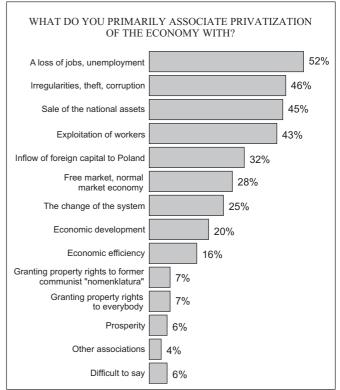
After sixteen years of the ownership changes in Poland, one can speak of significant progress made in this area. Out of 8453 state-owned enterprises existing on 31 December 1990, more than two-thirds (67.7%, i.e. 5726) have been covered by the ownership transformation processes: commercialization, privatization or liquidation. The public opinion about privatization was the most favourable in the early stages of the process. It was associated with hopes for an improvement of the condition of the Polish economy, which was inefficient during and right after the communist era. In January 1991, almost half of the Poles (47%) believed that privatization was good for the Polish economy, whereas only one in twenty (5%) expressed the opposite opinion. The prevailing opinion changed in the second half of 1991, when the Poles began to see privatization as bad for the economy. This change was due to a rapid growth of unemployment, which had been practically unknown before. The people associated unemployment with the privatization process. The unemployment rate grew from 0.3% to 12.1% from January 1990 to January 1992. In the following years, when the condition of the economy began to improve and the unemployment stopped growing and even started to drop, the opinions about privatization improved. In 1993-1998 and, despite a downturn in the economy, in the first months of 1999, the percentage of those who noticed economic benefits arising from privatization exceeded the number of those who believed that this process was detrimental. When the economic growth rate decreased and the unemployment increased again (to more than 20%) in the first half of the present decade, the belief that privatization was bad for

the Polish economy started to prevail again. Now the opinions about privatization are improving due to a boom in the economy and a decrease of unemployment. During the last eighteen months (since January 2005), the percentage of negative opinions on the effect of privatization on the Polish economy has dropped by 11 points. Although the percentage of the positive opinions has grown only slightly in this period (by two percentage points), such growth is more visible in a longer perspective (8 percentage points since October 2003). The public opinion about privatization is divided now the proportions of those who appreciate its effect on the Polish economy and those who believe otherwise are almost equal (27% and 29% respectively). A third of the respondents (34%) express ambivalent opinions about privatization.



Due to mass redundancies carried out during the early stages of the ownership transformation, the loss of jobs is the most common association with privatization (52%). Development of the private sector of the economy is associated not only with a growing threat of unemployment, but also with frequent violations of the labour law, i.e. (in popular terms) with exploitation of workers (43%). Privatization is also frequently seen as a criminogenic process, during which various irregularities and cases of theft and corruption occur (46%). Another aspect of privatization, which is seen in a very negative light, is the alleged sale of national assets, in the accumulation of which everybody participated and which are now distributed among few as a result of some unclear decisions (45%). Neutral or positive associations with privatization are much less common.

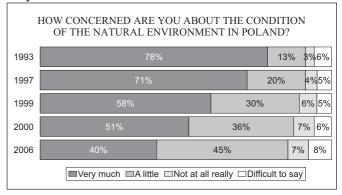
Although the privatization has strong negative associations in Poland, most respondents (54%) agree with the opinion that the economy needed privatization. Nearly one in three Poles (30%) express the opposite opinion. According to the prevailing opinion, privatization was more than a need it was a necessity. More than two-fifths of the Poles (42%) believe that it would be impossible to built a properly working market economy without the privatization of state-owned enterprises. The Poles' way of thinking about this issue seems to have changed substantially during the past year. The study performed by the Ministry of the State Treasury shows that a year ago the opposite opinion prevailed.



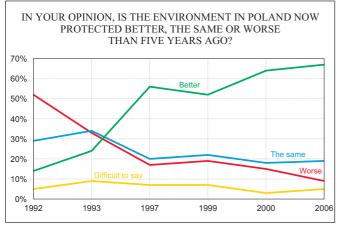
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish): *Evaluation of the ownership transformation process*, July 2006. Survey executed in June 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1041

THE ATTITUDES TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

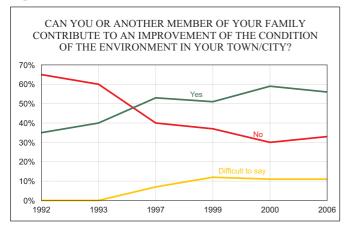
Since the first half of the nineties, the number of persons seriously concerned about the condition of the natural environment in Poland has been steadily decreasing. In 1993, 78% of the Poles were seriously concerned about it, in 2000 51% and now 40%. While a definite majority are still concerned about the environment, nearly half of them (45%) are concerned only a little.



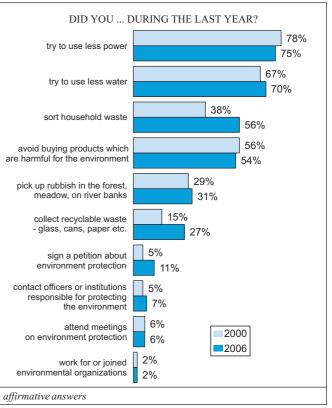
The fact that the concerns about the condition of the natural environment in Poland are becoming less common is associated with the more and more positive opinions about its protection.



During the last 6 years, the percentage of persons believing that they are able to affect the environment has decreased a little. Still, however, more than half of the Poles have a feeling that the condition of the natural world depends on their involvement.



Although the number of persons who feel that they have influence on the condition of the environment has decreased in 6 years, much more persons declare doing such things to protect the environment as sorting household waste or collecting recyclable waste. The most commonly declared actions aimed at preserving the environment include: saving power and water, sorting waste and trying not to buy harmful products.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS reports (in Polish): *The attitudes to the natural environment*, July 2006. Survey executed in June 2006. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=1041

