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WORKING POLES ABROAD

A tenth of grown-up Poles declare that they have worked abroad during the last 10 years. Most such declarations concern the period when Poland already was in the EU, i.e. after 1 May 2004. 46% of the migrants (5% of all respondents) declare that they left Poland to work abroad after the accession. 21% (2% of all respondents) left before the accession and

continued to work abroad after Poland joined the EU. Almost onethird (31%, 3% of all respondents) worked abroad only before 1 May 2004. In view of the fact that 1% of the sample represents 280 thousand





persons in the whole grown-up Polish population, it can be assumed that at least 2,800 thousand Poles worked abroad during the last 10 years (this number does not include those who currently stay abroad). After the accession, i.e. in less than last three years, almost 2 million Poles worked abroad.

Men have worked abroad during the last 10 years twice as frequently as women (14% and

years (*N*=194). 7% respectively). Those who worked abroad fairly recently are usually aged below 45.

Persons aged 25 - 44 usually started to work abroad before 1 May 2004, or, although less frequently, after the extension of the European Union. On the whole, during the last 10 years 18% of the respondents aged 25-34 and 17% of those aged 35-44 worked abroad. The youngest respondents (up to 24 years of age) usually left Poland to work abroad after the accession (12%). In this group, very few people (2%) left the country earlier.

Representatives of the following sociooccupational groups found employment abroad the most frequently in the last years: managers and the intelligentsia (15%, although most of this group worked abroad before the integration of Poland with the EU), owners of businesses (16%) and skilled workers (17%). Also a significant percentage of the unemployed have worked abroad (18%).

Those who worked abroad during the last 10 years usually declare that they found employment in Germany. Significant though much smaller numbers of migrants worked in the UK, the United States, the Netherlands, Italy and France.



WORKING POLES ABROAD

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PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH CENTER - CBOS -

4a Zurawia 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

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ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED WHEN ANY PART OF THIS PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED Based on the information about the people selected for the survey who were not interviewed due to their absence, we can assume that at least 4% of grown-up Poles based in Poland currently work abroad. This would mean that at least 1,120 thousand grown-up Poles currently work or seek employment abroad. Most of them left after 1 May 2004.



The persons who worked abroad in the past usually chose Germany, whereas those who are abroad now mainly work in the UK. Large groups of the most recent economic emigrants live in Germany and Ireland. Others went to Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United States and other countries.



Therefore, it is estimated that since the accession no less than 3 million Poles have worked abroad for at least a short while. A vast majority of them were or are employed in one of the other Member States.

LIVING CONDITIONS OF POLISH FAMILIES

More and more people benefit from an improvement of the economic situation in Poland. Their opinions about living conditions of their families are improving. Persons satisfied with these conditions (33%) significantly outnumber the dissatisfied (19%). Almost half of the respondents (47%) declare that living conditions of their families is average (neither good nor bad).

The evaluations were the most critical in the early 1990s, when the dissatisfied significantly outnumbered the satisfied, although the largest group of the respondents evaluated their standard of living as average. We have observed a gradual improvement since 1993. The percentages of the negative and the positive evaluations became equal in 1996, and positive opinions prevailed in 1997 - 1998. However, the following years brought dissatisfaction with living conditions and the critical opinions prevailed in 2000-2003. The evaluations have been improving gradually again since 2004. In the second half of 2005 this trend became stronger. At present, the evaluations of the standard of living are as good as a year ago and among the best in the last fifteen years.



The changes described above concern general conditions of life, not only material ones. The evaluations of the material conditions are also improving. The people satisfied with their material situation (31%) clearly outnumber those who are dissatisfied (23%). Nearly half of the respondents (46%) describe the material conditions of their household as average.

For the last twenty years, about half of the Poles have described the material conditions of their households as average ("neither good nor bad"), while the proportions of the positive and the negative evaluations have been changing. In the first half of the 1990s, the negative evaluations clearly outnumbered the positive ones. The proportions became more or less equal in the last months of 1996. The beginning of 1999 brought a deterioration again - the negative evaluations started to

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The work of the Poles abroad*, March 2007. Surveys executed in January and February 2007. Representative random samples of adult Poles. N=922 and N=931.

prevail over the positive ones. This situation lasted until the second half of the year 2005, when the proportions became equal again. Since September 2006, the positive opinions have slightly outnumbered the negative ones. It should be noted that present evaluations are the most positive in twenty years.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The Poles about the conditions of living of their families, opinions from the years 1987-2007*, March 2007. Survey executed in February 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=931

ATITUDES TO DEATH PENALTY

Although the last execution took place in Poland in 1988, the death penalty was not formally abolished until 1998, when a new criminal code entered into force. By eliminating death penalty from the criminal code and subsequently joining the European Union, Poland became a member of the international coalition of death penalty opponents. However, it is suggested from time to time that the capital punishment should be reinstated. At least some of the politicians from the ruling parties support capital punishment in specific circumstances. The social support for executing the perpetrators of the gravest crimes is still very strong in Poland, although not as overwhelming as three years ago. The percentage of the death penalty supporters is now as many as 14 percentage points lower than in 2004 (a drop from 77% to 63%). At the same time, the number of the opponents has grown by 12 p.p. to 31%.



The decrease in the support for the capital punishment is, on the one hand, associated with the fact that the Poles feel more secure, and on the other - with growing awareness of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, which opposes the death penalty. Our analysis shows that the persons who frequently participate in religious practices and those who declare right-wing political views disagree with the suggestion that the death penalty should be reinstated more frequently than the others.

The international human rights treaties forbid sentencing to death and executing persons who were below 18 at the time of committing the crime. Most death penalty supporters also believe that minors should not be sentenced to death. However, almost a third of those who accept the death penalty believe that it should also be applied to minors who committed qualifying crimes.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): Opinions about the death penalty, March 2007. Survey executed in March 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=931

SMOKING AND DRINKING IN POLAND

The number of grown-up Poles who smoke cigarettes decreased during the last 10 years. 31% of the respondents admit to smoking (a 6 p.p. decrease compared with 1997). This drop is mainly due to a decrease in the number of male smokers, since the proportion of smoking females is almost the same as 10 years ago. A possible interpretation is that women become addicted to certain substances (including nicotine) faster and their addition is stronger. Besides, woman may find it more difficult to quit smoking, because, as some surveys show, they associate smoking with weight control.



A vast majority of those who smoke cigarettes (84%) are regular smokers. They constitute a quarter of

all adult Poles. Other smokers, i.e. 16% (5% of the whole population) reach for a cigarette under special circumstances only, i.e. occasionally. Habitual smokers are more frequently male (91%) than female (76%).

The habit of drinking alcohol has not changed significantly in the last 10 years. Most adult Poles still declare that they consume alcohol in moderate quantities on special occasions. Men drink more frequently than women. Furthermore, abstinence is almost three times as common among women as among men (28% and 10% respectively). Young people (aged up to 24), students and the unemployed drink alcohol more frequently than the others. Alcohol abstinence is the most common among elderly people, pensioners and the respondents with low education.



Beer is the favourite and most frequently consumed type of alcohol. The second most popular is vodka, the third - wine.

Preferences in this respect are closely related to gender. Beer is the favourite drink of most men (62%) and a quarter of women (24%). Women declare that they

prefer to drink wine much more frequently than men (38% and 5% respectively). There is a consensus of opinions when it comes to vodka - one in four men (25%) and almost the same proportion of women (23%) drink it more frequently than other alcoholic beverages.



Beer is usually preferred by young people, and the percentage of those who prefer it to other types of alcohol decreases with age. A reverse relationship can be observed in the case of vodka - the older the respondents, the more they like it. High quality liquors, such as cognac, whisky and similar beverages, are mainly popular among older respondents, as well as among the persons with better education, managers and the intelligentsia and the well off. Wine is also consumed mainly by the persons with higher education. Blue-collar workers and farmers practically do not mention it - their favourite drink is beer.

4% of adult Poles have tried illegal psychoactive substances. Although it is a small group compared with the total population of Poland, it should be noted that it consists almost entirely of persons aged up to 34, mainly men. More or less one in ten adults aged up to 34 has tried illegal drugs (17% of men and 4% of women in this age group).

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The attitudes to selected psychoactive substances*, March 2007. Survey executed in February 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=931

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