ISSN 1233 - 7250

IN THIS ISSUE:

- > THREE YEARS
 OF POLAND'S
 MEMBERSHIP IN THE EU
- THE ANTI-MISSILE SHIELD: AMERICAN OR NATO
- ➤ USING COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET
- > EVALUATIONS OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

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 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 2007

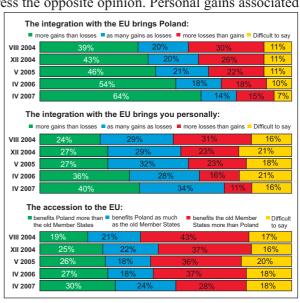
ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED WHEN ANY PART OF THIS PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

THREE YEARS OF POLAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EU

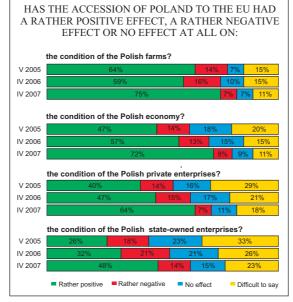
Three years after the accession to the EU, the support of the public opinion for the membership remains very high in Poland. 86% of the Poles support the membership and very few (7%) are against it.

Year after year, more Poles appreciate the benefits arising from the accession to the European Union. After almost three years of Poland's membership, the number of persons who believe that the integration brings Poland more gains than losses is more than four times as big as the number of those who express the opposite opinion. Personal gains associated

with the EU membership are much less common than the belief in the overall positive impact. However, the evaluations of the effects of the accession are improving in this area as well. After almost three years of the membership, the percentage of the respondents declaring that it has brought them more gains than losses is almost four times as big as the percentage of those who experience adverse effects of the integration. Although the opinions about the outcome of the integration are more and more positive and more many respondents personally experience its positive effects, the Poles commonly believed in the past years that old



Member States had gained more as a result of the EU extension than Poland. At present, those who believe that Poland is the main beneficiary of the EU extension for the first time outnumber those who express the opposite opinion.

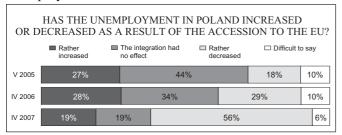


It seems that negative evaluations of EU membership effects resulted in the past more from the stereotypes and fears than from personal experience, since the latter improves these evaluations.

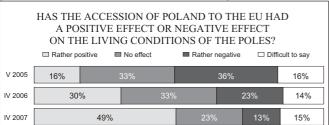
For Poland, the accession has accelerate economic development. The first year of membership was already evaluated as good for the Polish economy. With time, the economic benefits of the integration have become even more noticeable. At present, almost three quarters of the Poles (72% - 15 percentage points more than a year ago and 25 p.p. more than two years ago) notice a positive effect of the integration on the condition of the Polish economy. Agriculture is the sector seen as gaining the most and the fastest. Today, three quarters of the

respondents (75%, 16 p.p. more than in the previous year) notice that farms have gained as a result of the integration. More and more respondents notice a positive effect of the integration on both private and state-owned enterprises. Nevertheless, according to the public opinion, the EU membership benefits private firms more than state-own enterprises.

Although the positive impact of the integration on the economy could be noticed already in the first year of the EU membership, the Poles initially did not see any positive changes on the domestic employment market. On the contrary, they mentioned an increase rather than a decrease of unemployment. Two years after the accession, equal proportions mentioned a decrease and an increase in the unemployment. At present, after three years of membership, we can say that the hopes for an improvement of the situation on the employment market, which were associated with the accession, have been fulfilled. More than half of the respondents (56%, as many as 27 p.p. more than a year ago) believe that the EU membership has contributed to a decrease of the unemployment.

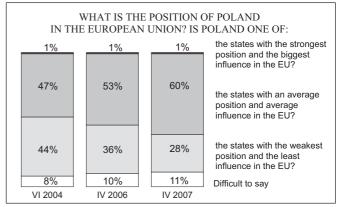


The condition of the Polish economy visibly improved after only a year of the membership, and the following year saw a noticeable improvement of the conditions of living. After three years of the EU membership, nearly half of the respondents (49%, 19 p.p. more than a year ago) believe that the accession has had a positive effect on the conditions of living in Poland.



More and more respondents notice positive effects of the accession on the position of Poland on the international scene. Year after year, the belief that Poland is safer in the European Union than outside this organization becomes stronger. At present, 58% of the respondents notice a growth of the national safety of Poland. Furthermore, the proportion of those who believe that the position of Poland in Europe improved due to the EU membership increased compared with the prior years. Every year more respondents describe Poland as a

country with an average position (influence) in the European Union. At the same time, the number of those who believe that Poland is a country of little importance in the EU is decreasing.



Every year, more respondents notice a positive effect of the integration in the sphere of civilization and culture. Many of them also point to the positive effect of the accession on the condition of the natural environment in Poland. Already more than half of the Poles believe that the EU membership contributes to an improvement of the level of knowledge and education. Thus, the evaluations of the membership are both good and improving.

More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The evaluation of the effects of the accession of Poland to the EU after three years of membership*, April 2007. Survey executed in April 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 937.

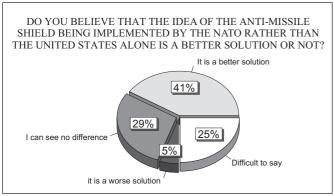
THE ANTI-MISSILE SHIELD: AMERICAN OR NATO

Polish - American talks about locating a missile launcher in Poland as part of the American anti-missile shield system have entered the decisive phase. Meanwhile, the support of the Poles for this project is decreasing. The number of the respondents who accept the construction of an element of the anti-missile shield on the Polish territory is now precisely half as big as it was eighteen months ago (in December 2005). It should be noted, however, that the opposition is not growing as fast as the support is declining, since the proportion of the respondents who do not have an opinion on this issue has been growing in the last year. This indicates that the whole issue is seen as more and more controversial and confusing.

It has been proposed that the anti-missile shield should be implemented as a joint NATO project rather than an American-only system. This concept has met with a rather positive response of the Poles. More than two-fifths of the respondents believe that this is a better solution.

THE TALKS BETWEEN POLAND AND THE UNITED STATES ON LOCATING AN AMERICAN MILITARY BASE WITH A MISSILE LAUNCHER IN POLAND AS PART OF THE SO-CALLED ANTI-MISSILE SHIELD - A SYSTEM FOR DESTRUCTING NUCLEAR MISSILES IN CASE OF AN ATTACK FROM THE TERRITORY OF ONE OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORT TERRORISM - ARE UNDER WAY. ARE YOU FOR OR AGAINST LOCATING A MISSILE LAUNCHER BELONGING TO THIS SYSTEM IN OUR COUNTRY?

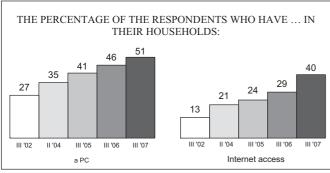




More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *The anti-missile shield: American or NATO*, April 2007. Survey executed in April 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 937.

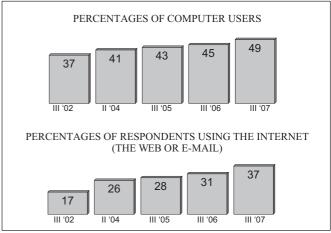
USING COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET

The number of people who have PC computers in their households is growing steadily year by year. The proportion of such households almost doubled in the last five years and exceeded 50%. The number of people who have Internet access at home is growing even faster. It has grown more than threefold between March 2002 and March 2007. More than a quarter of the persons who have Internet access at home have had it no longer than for a year.



At present, nearly half of all grown-up Poles (49%) use a computer. Two-fifths of the respondents (41%) declare using a computer at home. A quarter of grown-ups (25%) use a computer at work or school, whereas 16% use it in other places (e.g. in an Internet café, at friends', in the library).

The percentage of adults using the Internet is also growing every year. In the period from March 2002 to Match 2007 it more than doubled.



The Internet is gaining importance fast as a channel for distribution of goods and services. Internet shopping is becoming more and more popular. During the month preceding the survey, almost every fourth Internet user bought something in the Web (24%, i.e. 9% of all adult Poles). Moreover, during the month preceding the survey almost 31% of the Internet users (i.e. 11% of all respondents) used on-line banking services. More than two-fifths of the Internet users downloaded free software, music or films (43%, i.e. 16% of all respondents). On the other hand, using paid content available through the Internet, such as e.g. newspaper archives or photographs, is rather uncommon. Few Internet users (6%, i.e. 2% of all respondents) used paid content in the month preceding the survey.

The Internet is gaining importance as a forum where people create communities, make contact, discuss or present their own views, works and achievements.

Almost two-thirds of the Internet users (65%, i.e. 24% of all adults) have contacted someone during the last months using this channel. More than a quarter of adult Internet users (28%, i.e. 10% of all respondents) participated in discussion forums. A quarter of adult Internet users (25%, i.e. 9% of all adults) talked on the telephone in the month preceding the survey using Internet chat software such as e.g. Skype. A quarter of adult Internet users (25%, i.e. 9% of all respondents) met someone on the Internet. It seems that quite a considerable proportion of Internet users publish some content (photographs, films, reviews, comments, literary works, blogs and similar) on their webpages. 7% of Internet users (i.e. 3% of all respondents) declare doing

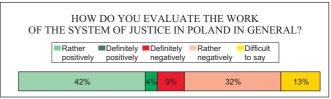
this. It means that approx. 700,000 - 750,000 adult Poles popularize their own creative work in the Web.

The traditional media (the press, radio and television) use the Internet as an access channel to their content more and more commonly. Almost half of the Internet users (45%, i.e. 16% of all respondents) read the on-line versions of daily newspapers. A third of all adult Internet users (32%, i.e. 12% of all respondents) listen to the radio through the Internet, and more or less one in eight (13%, i.e. 5% of all adults) watch TV through the Internet.

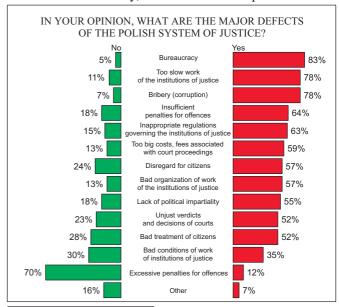
More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Using the Internet and computers*, April 2007. Survey executed in March 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N=931.

EVALUATION OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Fighting crime effectively, as well as improving the effectiveness of law enforcement and administration of justice, were among the main catchphrases used by the Law and Justice (PiS), now the leading coalition party, during the election campaign in autumn 2005. Based on the respondents' opinions, it seems that the Poles believe that these objectives are being implemented. The evaluations of the work of the system of justice in Poland have improved significantly in the last eighteen months. The number of persons who positively evaluate the work of the institutions of justice more than doubled (from 22% to 46%) and the percentage of their critics dropped by 28 percentage points (from 69% to 41%).



Although the opinions on the system of justice in Poland are improving, there is still a lot to do in this respect according to the public opinion. As far as the greatest defects of law enforcement and administration of justice are concerned, the Poles mention primarily excessive bureaucracy, slowness and corruption.



More information on this subject can be found in the CBOS report (in Polish): *Opinions about the work of the system of justice,* April 2007. Survey executed in April 2007. A representative random sample of adult Poles. N = 937.

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

- The unemployed about their situation
- The Poles about possible changes in the health protection system
- Family history, memory, tradition
- Political party preferences in April
- Improvement of government ratings
- Social moods in April
- Trust in politicians in April
- Opinions about the work of the President and the Parlament
- The Sejm of the fifth term after six months of work
- Opinions about the round-the-clock courts
- Globar public opinion about globalization and international trade
- Opinions about the scale of poverty in Poland

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

Circulation: 210 copies

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