

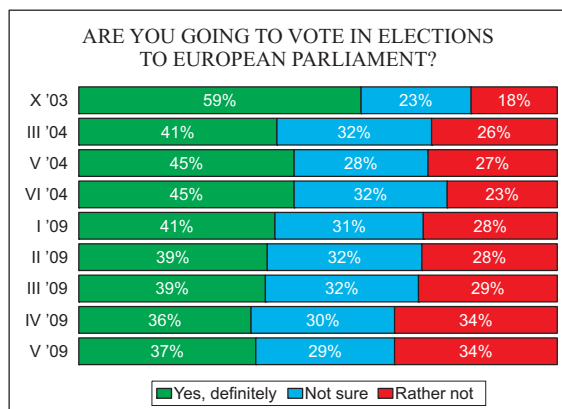
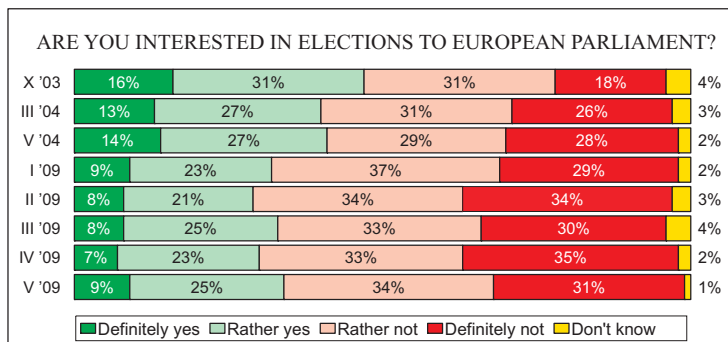
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## ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Only 34% of eligible voters are interested in the upcoming elections to the European Parliament. In spite of the approaching Election Day, the interest has risen only to a very limited degree. The declared interest is still lower than 5 years ago, i.e. before the first elections to EP in Poland.

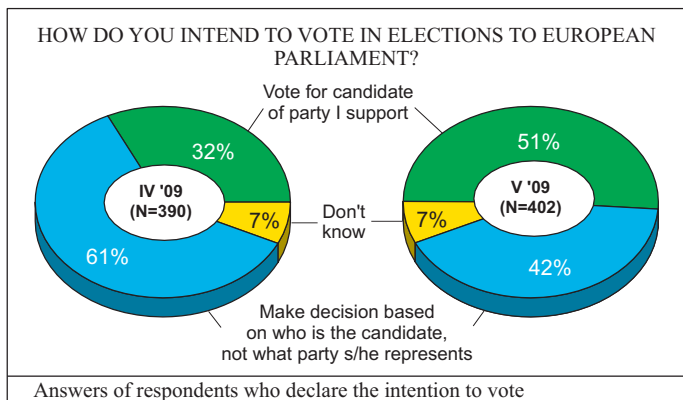
The number of people who intend to vote practically stays constant. Slightly more than one-third of Poles (37%) declare the intention to



participate in the elections. This number is lower than 5 years ago, when the actual turnout was 21%, with 45% declared intention to vote.

Most future voters in EP elections declare the intention to vote for candidates fielded by the party they support (51%), while a minority take primarily into consideration their own evaluation of the candidates, rather than party affiliation (42%). In the last month, the number of 'loyal' voters who are willing to trust the decisions of the party

leaders and will only support candidates recommended by them rose by 19 percentage points. The number of voters who want to make the decision based on their own evaluations dropped by the same margin. This changing orientation of future voters can be treated as evidence of increasingly partisan character of these elections, caused in part by electoral campaign that had little reference to European issues. The current partisan attitude of the voters is not a typical phenomenon. They generally prefer to base their decisions on their own evaluations. However, at present they may be doomed to make choices according to their party preferences due to the absence of substantive discussion, and to electoral competition played along party lines.

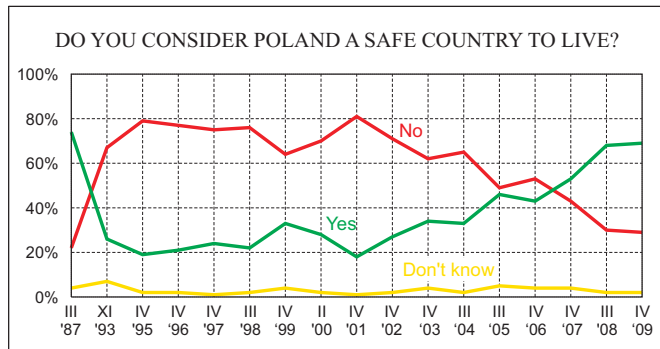


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish *Elections to European Parliament*, May 2009. Fieldwork: May 2009, N=1078. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

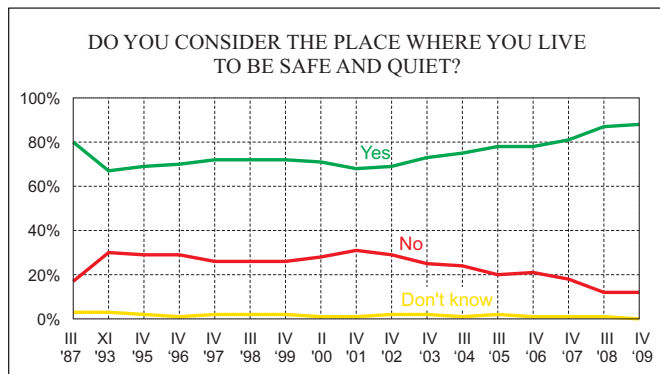
## SUBJECTIVE SAFETY AND OPINIONS ABOUT POLICE

Police statistics reveal a continuous fall in crime rate. Experts explain it by several factors. The drop in crime rate is attributed to demographic factors, economic emigration, improving standard of living and to improved police effectiveness. The last reason is quoted, perhaps, relatively less often.

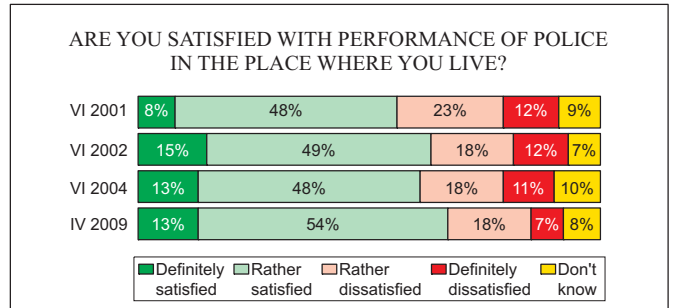
Most respondents (69%) consider Poland to be a safe country, while over a quarter (29%) think it is not. Similarly to last year, subjective safety on the level of the country is very high, especially if it is compared with previous results. The results are the best since the beginning of the 1990s. Improvement started in 2005, and in 2007 a plurality considered Poland a safe country.



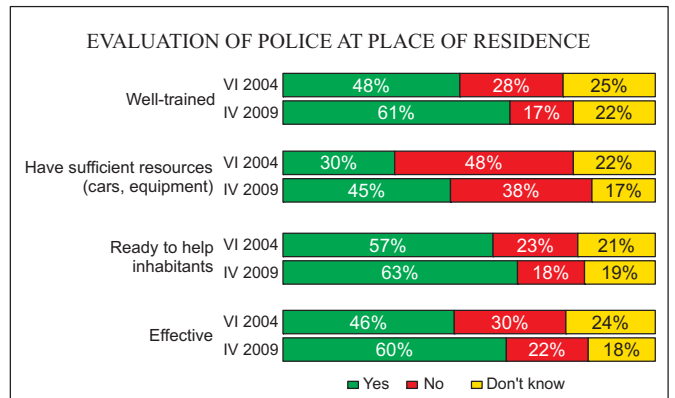
The subjective safety in the place of residence remains very high: 88% of respondents believe their place of residence is safe and quiet. It is worth noting that Polish people feel safer in their nearest neighbourhood than at the end of 1980s, before the systemic transformation.



Polish people generally have a good opinion about the local police. Two-thirds (67%) are satisfied with its performance, while a quarter (25%) have a negative opinion. This year's evaluations are much better than in the years 2001-2004. In the last five years, the number of positive evaluations increased, and criticism fell. An even greater change in perception of this institution can be noticed if present results are compared with the 2001 measurement.



Police officers are well rated for their effectiveness, readiness to help the inhabitants, and for their training. As far as resources at their disposal are concerned (cars, equipment), a plurality (45%) consider them sufficient, but a large group (38%) think they are insufficient. In the last 5 years, the evaluation of the police performance improved in all dimensions.

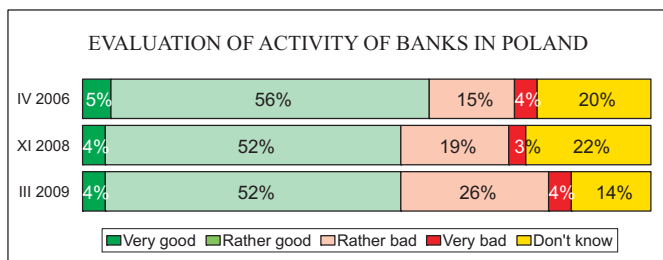


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish *Subjective Safety and Opinions About Police*, May 2009. Fieldwork: April 2009, N=1094. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

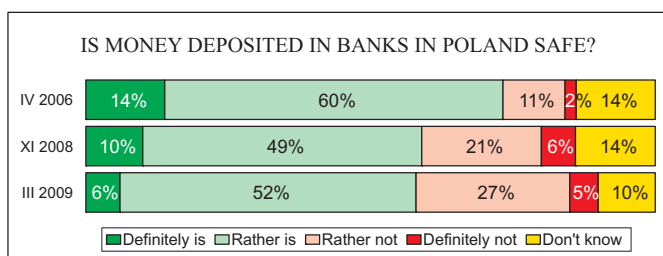
## TRUST IN BANKS

The international financial crisis changed the situation of banks in Poland. The crisis had an impact on Polish banks partly due to the fact that most of them have foreign owners, and their Polish divisions have only limited capital. The new situation resulted in the need to reduce costs, search for new sources of capital, and, most importantly, restrict loan policy. Availability of credit fell both for companies and individual clients, while interest and markup on loans rose.

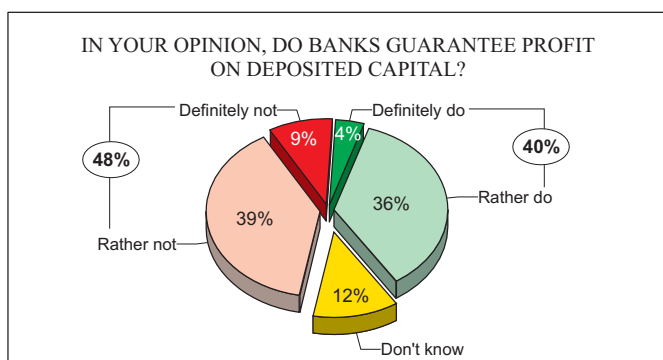
The majority of Poles have a positive opinion about the activity of banks in our country. In spite of the difficult times, the proportion of positive evaluations is the same as in Nov. 2008, and only slightly lower than in April 2006, which was a time of economic boom. Less than one-third (30%) have a negative opinion about banks, and these opinions are usually moderate. Since 2006, there has been an increase in criticism of the banks, increasing especially in the last months.



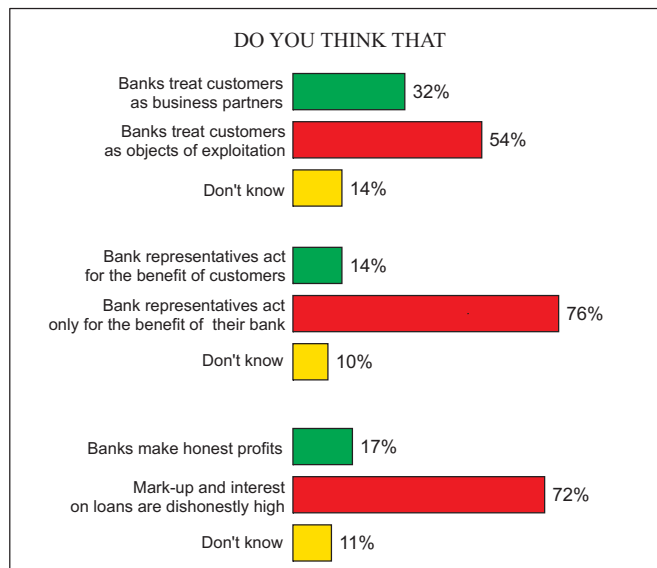
Most respondents (58%) are convinced that bank deposits are safe, while about one-third (32%) have doubts. While the perception of safety is still high, it is much lower than in 2006. It has to be stressed, however, that the drop occurred in the period 2006-2008, and the change has been negligible since Nov. last year. At the same time, since 2006, there has been an increase in the number of people who do not fully trust banks when it comes to the safety of deposits. This increase can be noted in the last months.



Safety of deposits does not mean that they are necessarily profitable. Almost half (48%) of the Polish people believe that depositing money on a bank account means freezing it, because it will bring no profit. A smaller group are of the opinion that banks guarantee profit on the deposited funds.



In spite of the positive evaluations of the banks, Poles have no illusions about the motives of these institutions. The majority (54%) is of the opinion that a bank client is not treated as a business partner, but as a source of profit, or even as an object to be exploited. Few respondents believe that bank representatives act for the benefit of the customer when they give advice, while the majority (76%) think they only act according to bank strategy and offer products which bring profits for the bank, not the customer. Close to three quarters (72%) consider mark-up and interest on loans as too high.



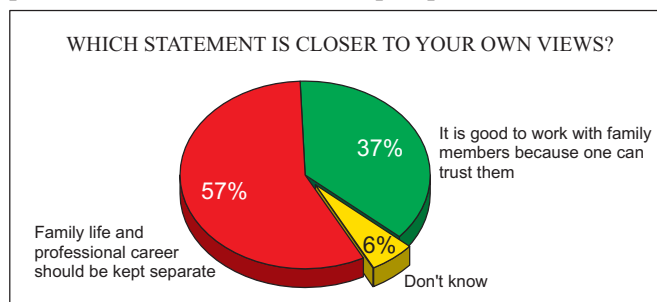
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish *Trust in Banks at Beginning of Financial Crisis*, May 2009. Fieldwork: March 2009, N=979. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## NEPOTISM

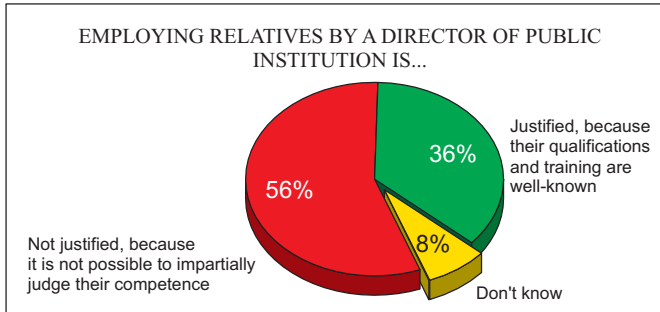
Polish people attach a great deal of importance to family ties, while identifying with the nation as well. Social relations based on voluntary association are less important. The domination of family ties over all others may lead to nepotism.

Nepotism, or giving preference to family members in distribution of some kind of resources, is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, and evaluation of its cases often depends on interpretation or point of view. Nepotism as pathology of the public sphere is only possible in modern societies, if modernity is understood as separation of function or office from person performing this function. If competence, rather than belonging to a social category, is the postulated criterion for filling a vacancy, employing family or friends may raise suspicions as to whether the selection was based on merit. The controversies surround employment and cooperation with family members undertaken by individuals in charge of publicly owned resources.

Most respondents believe that family life and professional career should be kept separate.



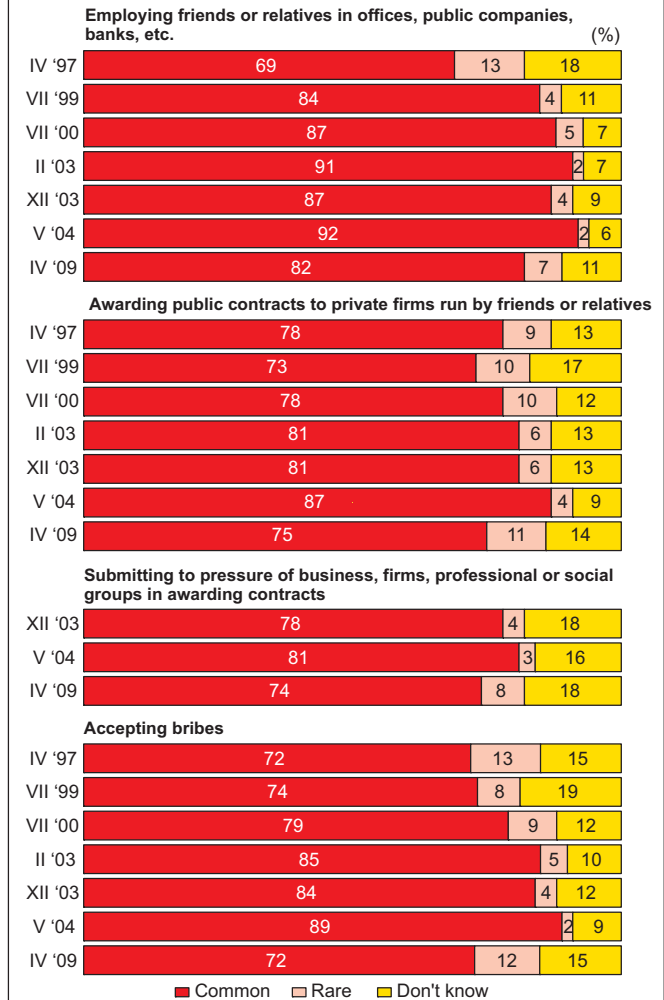
The majority of Polish people believe that a director in state or public institution should not employ relatives, because s/he cannot impartially evaluate their competence. However, a large group of respondents agree with the opinion that employing appropriately qualified relatives is justified because their qualifications and training are well-known.



Different forms of nepotism are, in public opinion, widespread among political elites. Over four-fifths (82%) think that high state officials and politicians often employ their own relatives, friends and acquaintances in offices, public companies, banks etc., and three-quarters (75%) suspect that officials award public contracts to private companies run by their friends or family. Most Poles consider irregular lobbying to be widespread. Close to three-quarters (74%) believe that politicians and officials submit to pressure of business, firms, professional or social groups in deciding about government orders, awarding contracts, etc. A vast majority of Poles (72%) consider corruption (accepting bribes in return for solving a problem) to be a common phenomenon among high-level officials and politicians.

In the last four years, the perceived scope of nepotism (as well as corruption and irregular lobbying) shrank. This year's results are similar to the ones obtained at the end of 1990s. The conviction that corruption is widespread strengthened in 2004, after several high-profile scandals were revealed and publicised.

ARE THE FOLLOWING PHENOMENA COMMON AMONG HIGH-LEVEL STATE OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish *Nepotism*, May 2009. Fieldwork: April 2009, N=1094. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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

- ◆ Candidates in Election to European Parliament
- ◆ Experience with and Attitude to Corruption
- ◆ Educational Aspirations and Motivations in 1993-2009
- ◆ Public Morality and Attitude to Antisocial Behaviour
- ◆ Party Preferences in May
- ◆ Electoral Alternatives and Negative Electorate
- ◆ Attitude to Government in May
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in May
- ◆ Social Moods in May
- ◆ Opinions About Parliament and President
- ◆ 1989 Parliamentary elections: Long-term Perspective
- ◆ Opinions About Government of Tadeusz Mazowiecki: 20-Year Perspective

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