

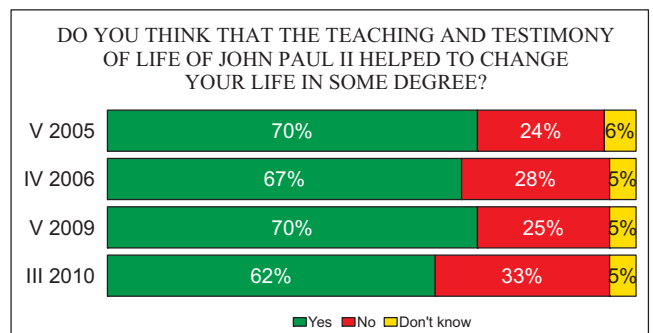
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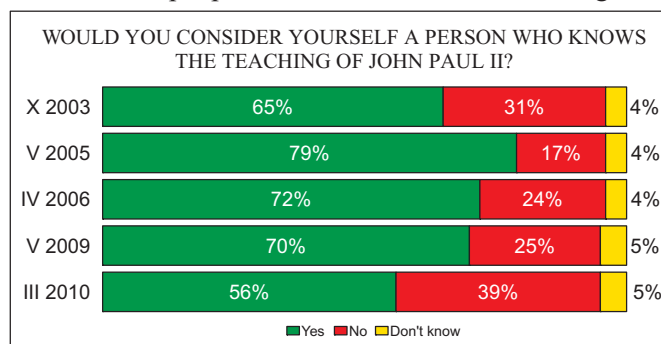
THE MEMORY OF JOHN PAUL II AND THE EFFECT OF HIS TEACHING

This year it has been five years since the death of the Polish Pope. There are numerous proofs that he holds an exceptional place in the minds of the Polish people. His visits to Poland were always welcomed with great enthusiasm and large numbers of people participated in the masses he celebrated. Over two fifths of adult Poles (41%) declare they met the Pope personally or saw him at least once during religious ceremonies, meetings, audiences, benedictions or on the route to his destination. As much as 94% of Poles admit he is a moral authority, yet it seems that, as the time passes, the effect of his teaching on people's lives decreases.

Five years after the death of John Paul II, the majority of Poles (62%) still claim that the teaching and the testimony of the Pope's life helped to change their lives in some degree. The opposite opinion is held only by every third respondent (33%). However, in comparison to last year certain negative changes occurred. The percentage of respondents who attribute the change in their behaviour to the Pope decreased by 8 percentage points.



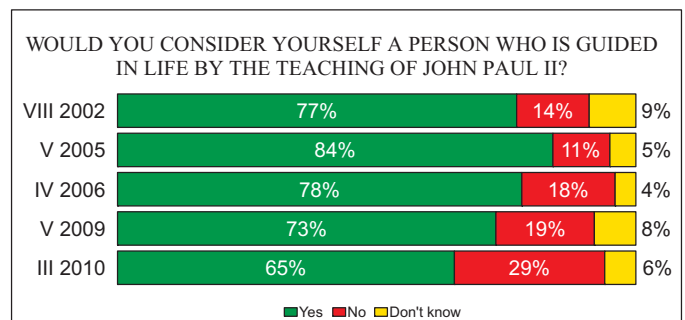
Fewer people declare to know the teaching of John Paul II. Since his death, the



number of respondents who admit they know his teaching has fallen by as much as 23 percentage points and more than twice as many people declare now they do not know the Pope's teaching (an increase from 17% to 39%). Still, the majority of respondents (56%) say they are, on the whole, familiar with the Pope's message.

Presently, people who claim they are guided by the words of John Paul II constitute

two thirds (65%) of all the respondents. It is 19 points less than immediately after the Pope's death and 8 points less than a year ago. The percentage of those who are not guided in life by his words is systematically growing (from 11% in 2005 to 29% in 2010).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "The memory of John Paul II and the effect of his teaching on people's lives", April 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2010, N=995. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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>

Editor:
Beata Roguska

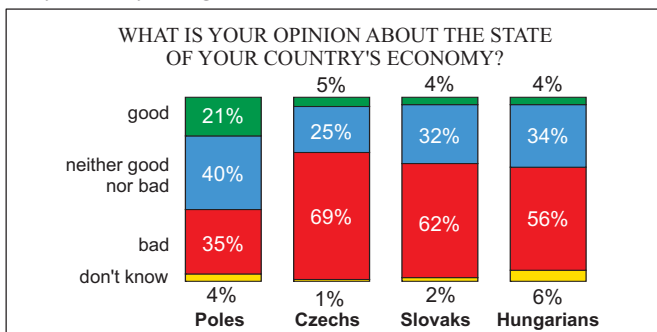
Translated by
Michał Wenzel

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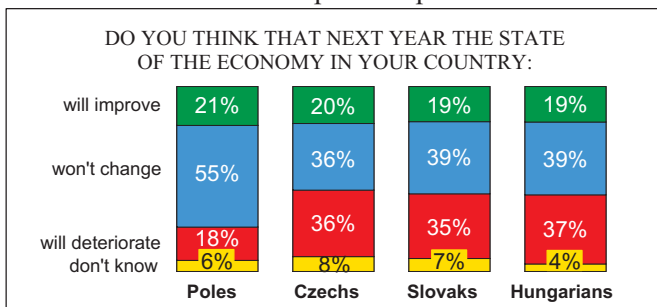
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THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION IN POLAND, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY

Negative opinions about the state of the Polish economy are more frequent than positive ones, but the majority of Poles believe that the situation is neither good nor bad. In comparison to other countries belonging to the Visegrád Group, Poland's economy seems to be in good shape. The Czechs, Slovaks and Hungarians typically describe the state of their countries' economy as bad and only few say it is good.



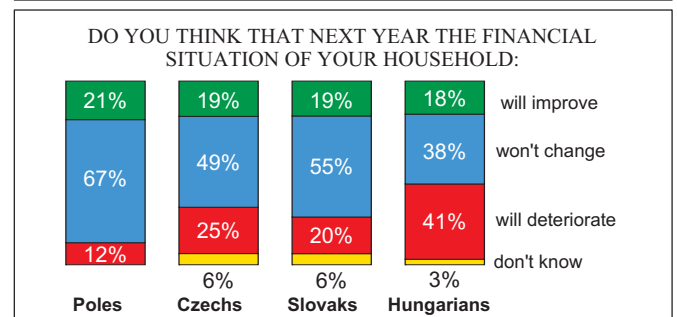
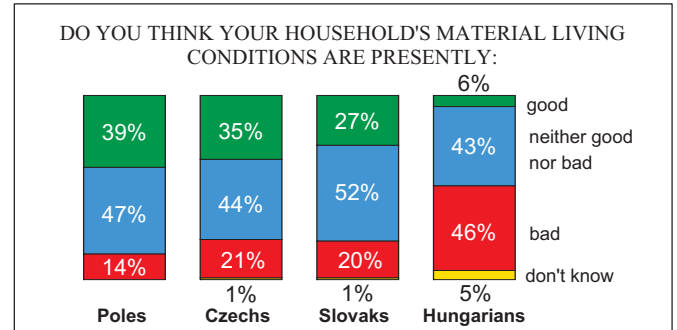
The majority of Poles believe that in 2010 the state of the Polish economy will not change. Positive opinions about the future of the country's economy are nearly as frequent as negative ones. In other countries of the Visegrád Group, people's predictions concerning the future of the economy are more pessimistic and there are far more people afraid that the situation will deteriorate than there are those who hope for improvement.



In all countries apart from Hungary, most respondents described their households' material conditions as neither good nor bad. If we compare the proportion of positive responses to negative ones, it is visible that Poles perceive their households' material situation best, the Czechs and Slovaks see it in a slightly worse light and Hungarians are most negative about their households' conditions.

In all the four countries participating in the poll, about every fifth respondent expects an improvement of his/her financial situation in 2010. Poles, on the whole, do not expect any changes in this respect and few people are

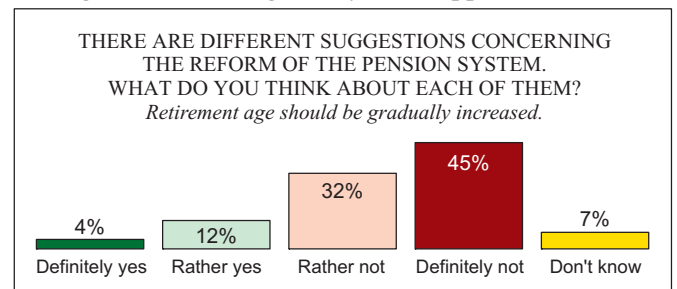
afraid of a downturn. The Czechs and Slovaks also do not think anything will change in their standard of life. The number of optimistic and pessimistic opinions is comparable. Hungarians hold most sceptic views - there are twice as many pessimists as optimists among them.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"The economic and financial situation in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary"*, March 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2009, N=1046. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland. The sample in the Czech Republic (CVVM - Sociological Institute): N=1023; Hungary (TARKI): N=1010; Slovakia (FOCUS): N=1030.

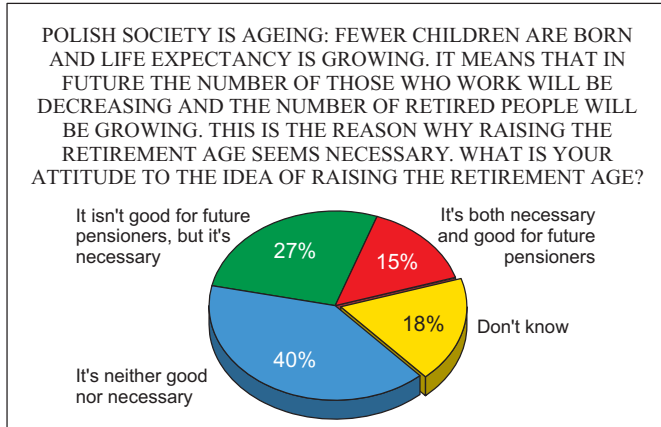
CHANGES IN THE PENSION SYSTEM

It has been suggested for many years now that the retirement age should be raised. Such a need is the effect of certain demographic trends: the ageing of society, low birth rate and growing life expectancy. However, the proposed changes are strongly rejected by the society. Over three quarters of respondents (77%) are against the raising of retirement age. Only 16% support this idea.

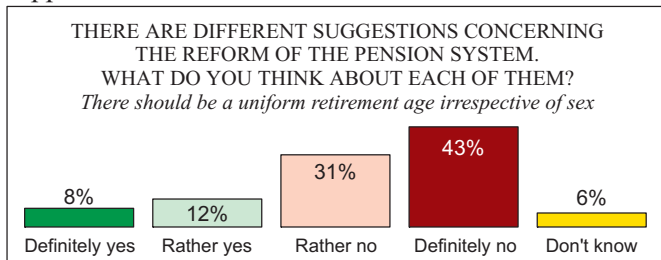


Even though there is a clear resentment against the raising of the retirement age, many people are conscious that changes in this respect are inevitable. The

majority of respondents (67%) do not think that raising the retirement age is good for future pensioners, yet many people (42%) consider it necessary.

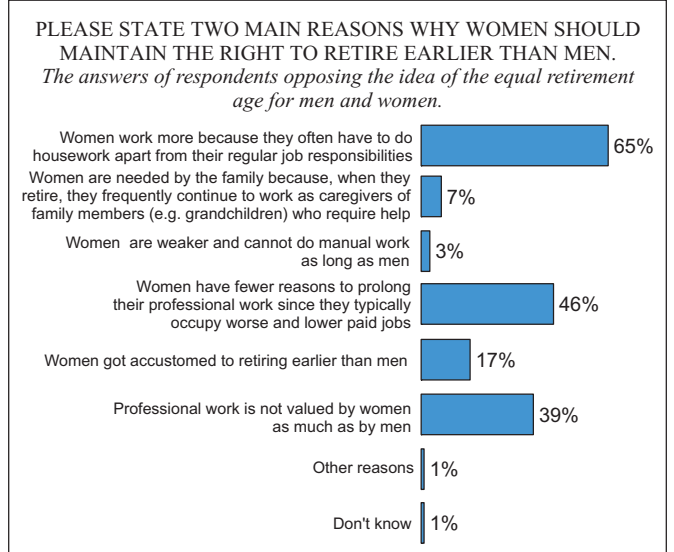


Presently, in Poland the retirement age for women is 60 and for men - 65. The idea to make a uniform retirement age irrespective of sex is strongly resented by the society. This suggestion is rejected by nearly three quarters of respondents (74%). Every fifth Pole (20%) supports this idea.

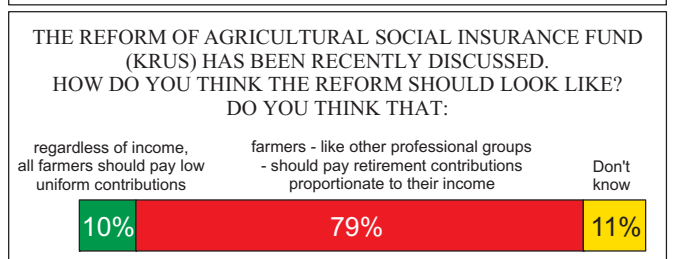
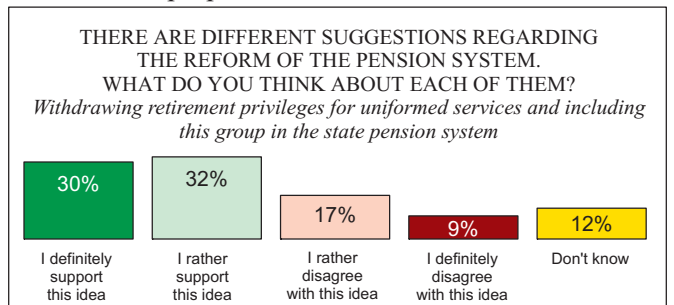


The opponents of raising retirement age for women notice that the amount of work women have to do is greater since, apart from their regular job responsibilities, they often have to do housework as well. Moreover, retired women are frequently needed by their family and continue to work taking care of other family members, such as their elderly parents or grandchildren. Another argument mentioned by many respondents pointed out that women are weaker and cannot do manual work as long as men. Other reasons against changing the existing retirement law for women were not so frequent. Less than every fifth respondent said that women have fewer reasons to prolong their professional work since they typically occupy worse and lower paid jobs. Very few people stated that professional work is not valued by women as much as by men. The argument that women got accustomed to retiring at the age of 60 was also very rarely mentioned.

Some professional groups in Poland are outside the state pension system. Pensions of the members of uniformed services, attorneys and judges are financed from the country's budget and people are eligible to receive them after 15 years of work. Farmers are insured by Agricultural Social Insurance Fund (KRUS) and, regardless of income, they pay low uniform contributions.



The majority of Poles believe that the retirement law should be changed with regard to all these professional groups. The idea to make the national insurance compulsory for the members of uniformed services is approved by 62% of respondents. The support for changes in the pension system for farmers is even greater. A vast majority of respondents say that farmers, like other professional groups, should pay retirement contributions proportionate to their income.

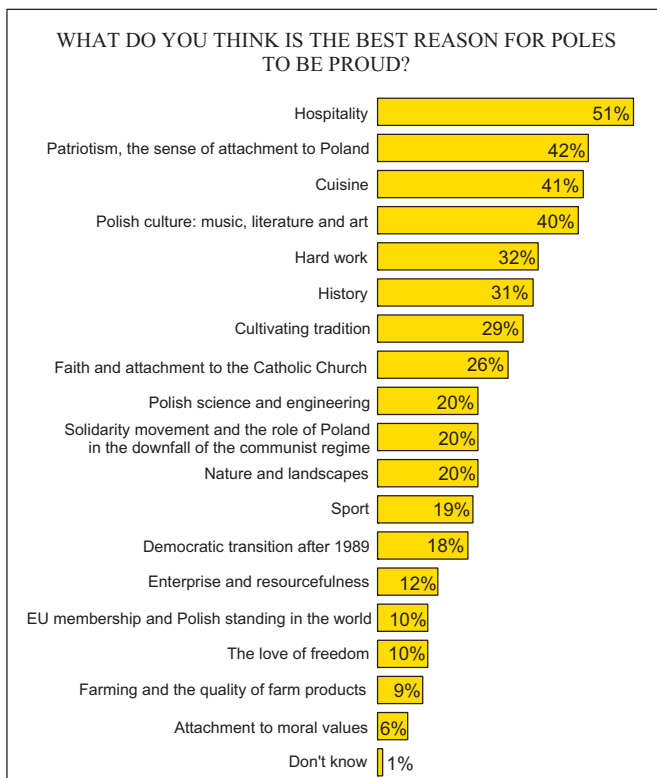
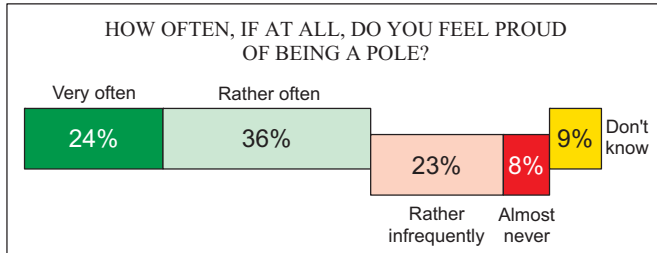


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Changes in the pension system", March 2010 and "The retirement age for men and women - the same or different?", April 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2010, N=1021. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

REASONS FOR NATIONAL PRIDE

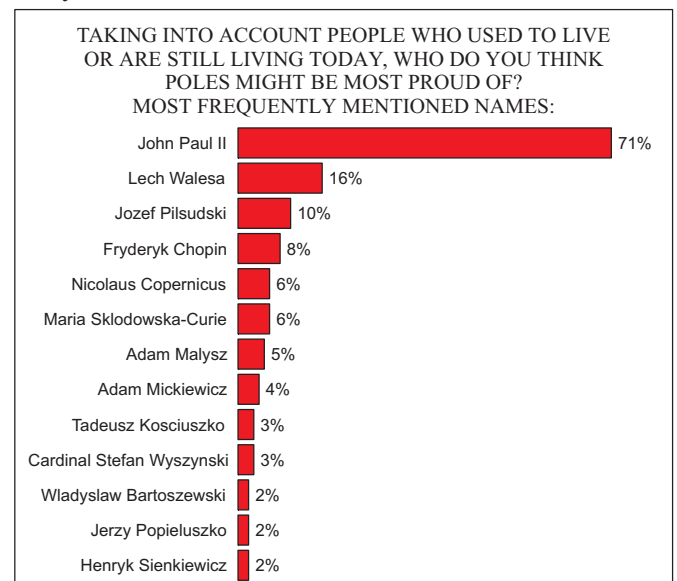
For the majority of Poles (60%), the sense of belonging to the Polish nation is the reason to be proud of.

Nearly every fourth respondent claims that he/she feels proud about his/her nationality very frequently, and more than every third is proud of being a Pole relatively often. Nearly one third of respondents is rather infrequently (23%) or almost never (8%) proud of his/her nationality.



The quality which is seen as the best reason for national pride is the Polish hospitality. Other mentioned features were: patriotism, the sense of attachment to Poland, Polish cuisine and cultural heritage. The respondents rather frequently mentioned also hard work, history, cultivating tradition, faith and attachment to the Catholic Church.

Of all the people who used to live or are still living today, Poles most often mentioned Pope John Paul II as the person whom they are most proud of. Other names were definitely less frequent. Among them, the respondents named such political leaders as: Lech Walesa and Jozef Pilsudski. Poles also named people of different epochs and professions, e.g. Fryderyk Chopin, Nicolaus Copernicus, Maria Sklodowska - Curie and Adam Malysz.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Reasons for national pride and shame"*, March 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2010, N=1052. 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):

- ◆ Mobility and Migration Preferences of Poles
- ◆ Opinions About Possible Changes in Healthcare System
- ◆ Preferences in Presidential Election After Donald Tusk's Resignation
- ◆ Social Trust
- ◆ Party Preferences in March
- ◆ Willingness to Cooperate
- ◆ Attitude to Government in March
- ◆ Presidential Election 2010
- ◆ Social Portrait of President Lech Kaczyński
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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

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