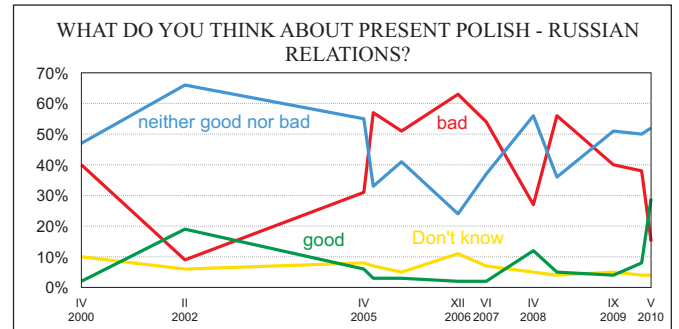


**CONTENTS:**

- POLISH - RUSSIAN RELATIONS
- THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT
- THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EURO IN POLAND
- INTERNET ABUSE

## POLISH - RUSSIAN RELATIONS

After the Smolensk air crash, the opinions about Polish - Russian relations have changed. So far they were perceived as rather cool than friendly but presently twice as many people see them as good (29%) rather than bad (15%). Still, the majority of respondents (52%) describe them as neither good

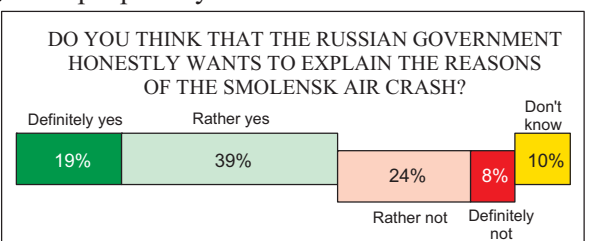


nor bad. In comparison to March, the percentage of positive opinions grew by 21 points and negative opinions fell by a similar number (23 points).

Nearly half of respondents (45%) say that the behaviour of the Russian Government and the Russian society after the Smolensk tragedy was what they expected. A considerable number think that the Russian Government and the Russian society behaved in an unexpectedly positive way. Few people say that the reaction of both the

Government and the society was insufficient.

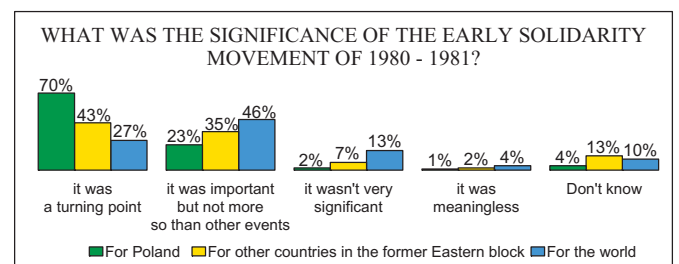
The majority of Poles (58%) believe that the Russian Government honestly wants to explain the reasons of the Smolensk air crash. However, one third (32%) are not certain about it.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Polish - Russian relations", June 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2010, N=1000. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

This year Poland will be celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of Solidarity (NSZZ „Solidarność”). The events of 1980 - 1981 (the so called early Solidarity) started the process which ultimately led to political transformations in Poland.



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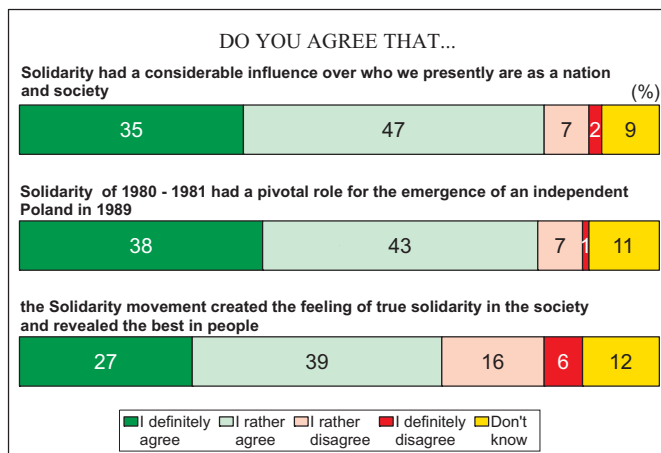
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The majority of Poles (70%) think that the early Solidarity movement of 1980 - 1981 was a turning point in Polish history. Nearly a quarter (23%) claim it was important but not more so than other events. Only a few people say that the movement was insignificant for Poland. Over two fifths of respondents (43%) believe Solidarity was meaningful for other countries in the former Eastern block. More than a quarter of respondents (27%) claim that it was also significant for the whole world.

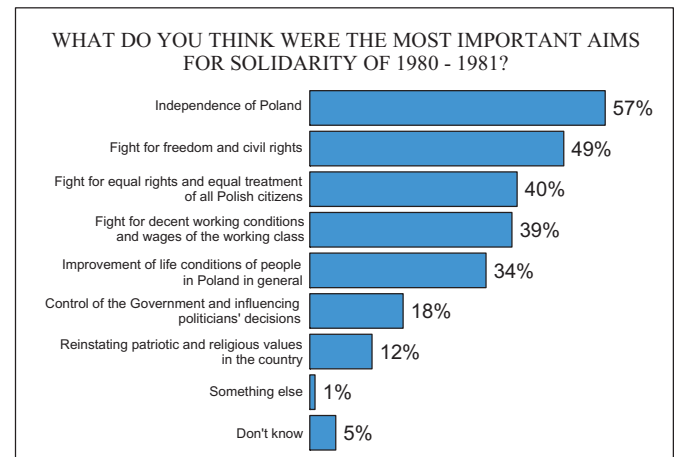
In the public opinion, the impact of early Solidarity was multidimensional and the effect it left lasted long after the first sixteen months after its founding (the so called "Solidarity Carnival"). Although many different factors led to the political transformations of 1989, Solidarity was - beyond doubt - one of them. It is also unquestionable that Solidarity had a pivotal role in the existence of an independent Poland. In the public opinion Solidarity helped to shape the identity of Poles. More than four out of five adult Poles (82%) think that the movement had a considerable influence over who we presently are as a nation and society. A vast majority of respondents (66%) say that the movement created the feeling of true solidarity in the society and revealed the best in people.



Solidarity was and is perceived as something more than a trade union. Such an attitude is evident in the way the respondents perceive the aims of this union. Poles do not see Solidarity as focussing on work and material issues only. In the public opinion, the early Solidarity was a movement fighting for independence and emancipation. The prevailing number of people mention the independence of Poland as one of the main goals on Solidarity's agenda. The second most frequently mentioned aim is fighting for freedom and the civil rights. The respondents claim that equality and justice were also crucial for the movement (two fifths of the surveyed people said equal rights and equal treatment of all citizens were among the union's major aspirations). Almost the same number mentioned fighting for the dignity of the

working class, namely: decent working conditions and wages. Only slightly fewer people said that one of the movement's main aims was the improvement of living conditions. In the public opinion, the desire to participate in governing the country (controlling the Government and influencing its decisions) was less meaningful. Few people perceive Solidarity as mainly patriotic and Catholic movement.

The respondents seem to have a rather lofty image of the early Solidarity. The movement united people because it referred to universal values rather than any particular views or political preferences. At the same time, it did not wish to govern the country or to secure the influence over politicians' decisions. If we were to mention three aims that in public opinion were most important for Solidarity we should mention: freedom, equality and dignity.



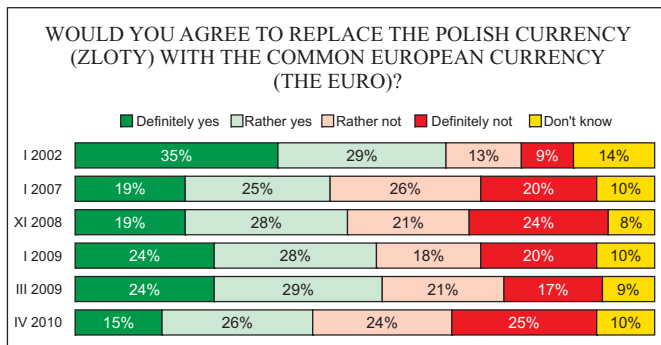
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"The historical significance of the Solidarity movement"*, June 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: March and April 2010, N=1803. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EURO IN POLAND

Joining the eurozone remains one of the major goals of the present government. At the beginning of the year, Donald Tusk's government revealed the plan for 2010 - 2011 that aims to repair the public finances. Its main intention is to reduce debt and budget deficit in order to fulfil the requirements set in the Maastricht Treaty which would allow Poland to join the eurozone in a few years.

When the euro was introduced in 2002 in most of the member countries of the European Union at that time, two thirds of Poles (64%) supported the replacement of the Polish zloty with the euro (it was still before Poland joined the EU). Yet after Poland entered the Union, the approval for joining the eurozone noticeably decreased.

Between 2007 and 2008 the percentage of supporters and opponents was similar. However, in the first quarter of 2009 - when Slovakia joined the eurozone and Poland was discussing whether or not the country should swiftly introduce the euro- the support for the common European currency grew to 52%. Presently, doubts concerning euro introduction are yet again rising - two fifths (41%) support the planned introduction of the euro and nearly half (49%) oppose it. Perhaps the case of Greece, standing on the verge of bankruptcy, made Poles realize that entering the eurozone is not in itself a guarantee of economic and financial stability of the country. It is also probable that some Poles realise that Poland does not fulfil at present the criteria to join the eurozone.

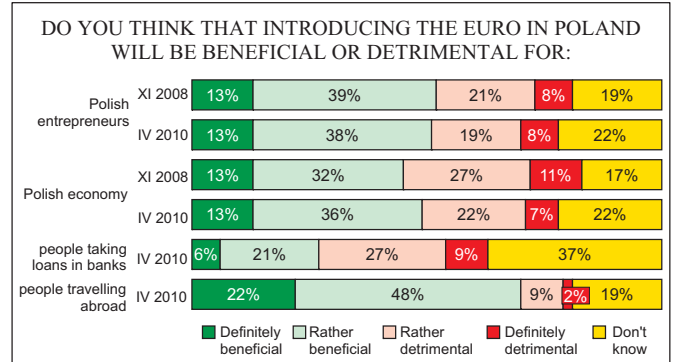


Among those who support joining the eurozone, the majority believe (68%) that it should not be done in a hurry and 28% say it should be done as soon as possible.

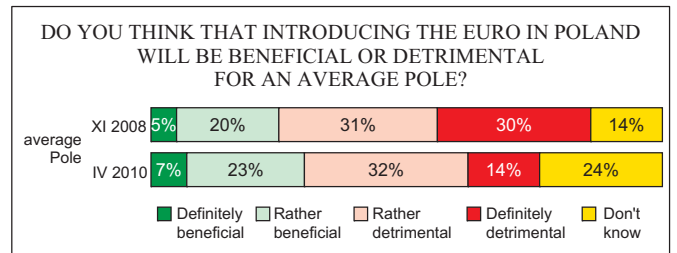
Economists, on the whole, agree that Poland and the country's economy will benefit from joining the eurozone, despite some necessary costs involved. This view is shared by nearly half of respondents (49%) and 29% expect negative consequences as a result of joining the eurozone. The fears concerning negative effects that euro introduction could possibly have on Polish economy are significantly lower in comparison to November 2008. Opinions about the impact of euro introduction on Polish entrepreneurs are almost parallel to opinions about the impact of this process on Polish economy (51% say entrepreneurs will benefit from entering the eurozone and 27% oppose this view).

There is much uncertainty about the effect the introduction of the euro will have on debtors. Only slightly more than a quarter (27%) think that people who took a loan will benefit from joining the eurozone. However, more respondents (36%) are convinced about the opposite. Nearly two fifths of respondents (37%) do not hold an opinion about this subject.

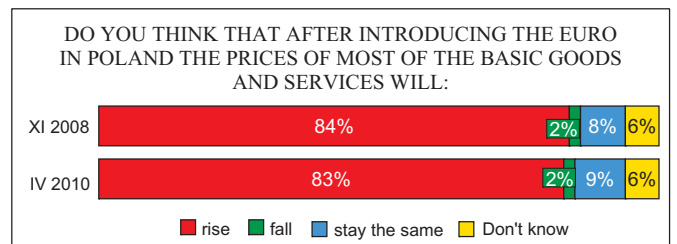
The respondents were most unanimous about the effects that euro introduction will have for people travelling abroad. Over two thirds of Poles (70%) think that the common European currency would be beneficial for these people and only one in nine (11%) claim the opposite.



The effects that euro introduction might have for an average Pole are seen in a relatively unfavourable light. Nearly half of respondents (46%) believe that for a typical Pole replacing the zloty with the euro would be disadvantageous and 30% expect the introduction would benefit them and other people like them. It is worth noticing that between November 2008 and April 2010 fears concerning the effects that joining the eurozone might have for an average Pole decreased significantly.



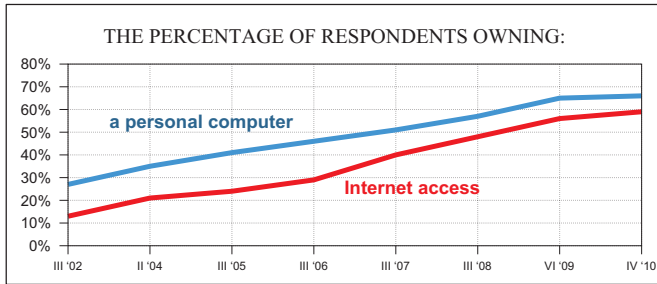
It is highly probable that the opinions about negative effects of joining the eurozone are the consequence of a widely held belief (83%) that the introduction would mean higher prices for most goods and services.



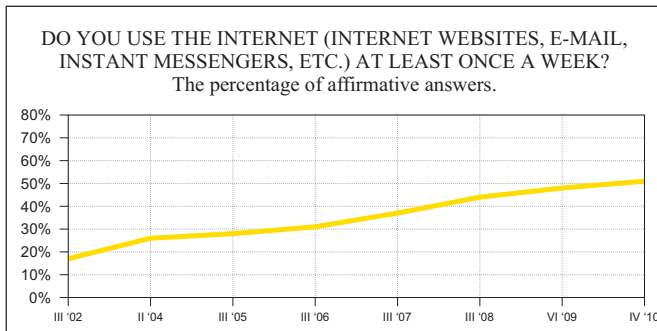
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Support, effects and knowledge about the introduction of the euro in Poland", June 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2010, N=1056. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## INTERNET ABUSE

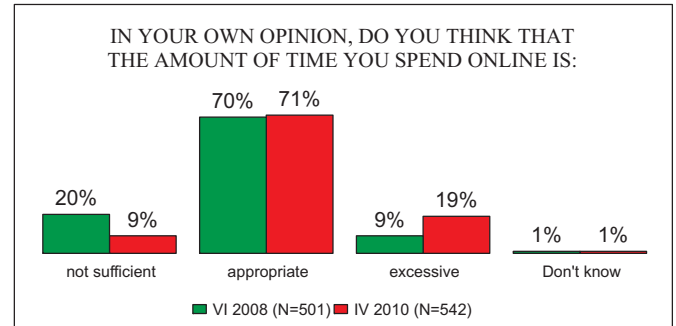
Similarly to last year, two thirds of respondents (66%) have a personal computer in their households. In comparison to 2009 the number of people with Internet access grew only slightly - up to 59% (a 3 point increase). In both cases, the growth in computer ownership or Internet access is not dynamic any longer.



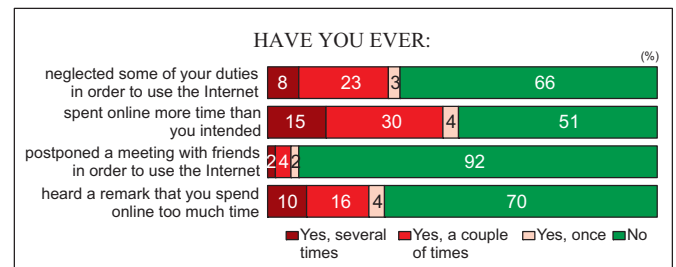
This year's survey shows that more than a half of adult Poles (51%) use the Internet - it is a 3 point rise in comparison to last year.



The majority of Internet users (71%) state that they spend an appropriate amount of time on the Internet. However, nearly one in five (19%) admit they are online too much time. Few declare (9%) they do not spend enough time on the Internet. In comparison to 2008 survey the percentage of people convinced they spend too much time online grew by 10 points and the number of people who feel the opposite fell by 11 points.



Half of respondents (49%) admit they were online for more than they intended and 15% say it happened several times. The Internet was the reason for one in three respondents (34%) to neglect some of their duties. Slightly fewer people (30%) heard a remark that they spend too much time online. Only few declare (8%) that they postponed a meeting with family or friends in order to use the Internet.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Computer and Internet use", June 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2010, N=1056. 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):**

- ◆ Opinions About Polish Authorities and Political Class After Smolensk Air Disaster
- ◆ Young Generation About Solidarity Movement
- ◆ Before Presidential Election - Evaluation of Candidates' Chances and Voters' Likes and Dislikes
- ◆ Opinions About Extra Saving for Retirement
- ◆ Poland and Poles After Smolensk Air Disaster
- ◆ Subjective Safety and Crime Risk
- ◆ Opinions About President Lech Kaczyński
- ◆ Preferences in Presidential Election
- ◆ Party Preferences in June
- ◆ Opinions About Public Institutions
- ◆ Attitude to Government in June
- ◆ "First Solidarity" Experience
- ◆ Social Moods Before Presidential Election
- ◆ Martial Law and Underground "Solidarity" Experience
- ◆ Trust in Politicians Before Presidential Election
- ◆ Aid for Flood Victims and Fighting Flood Effects
- ◆ Solidarity Movement and Transformation in Poland and other Eastern Bloc Countries

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