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POLITICAL PREFERENCES

Parliamentary elections are due next year. Presently, nearly two thirds of adult Poles (65%) declare they want to take part in it.

If the elections were held today, they would be won by the Civic Platform (PO)- supported by slightly over two fifths of voters (41%). Even though the support for the ruling party has declined since the party won the elections three years ago, it still leads in the rankings.



The second most popular party is Law and Justice (PiS) - whom, if the elections were held today, 29% of voters would support. Since May 2010, the party led by Jarosław Kaczynski has maintained a relatively high degree of popularity. This increased voter approval was influenced by the Smolensk air crash that killed, among others, President Lech Kaczynski.

Other parties are far lower in the rankings at present. If the elections were held today, the only other party that would enter the Sejm would be the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD), chosen by 9% of voters. Polish People's

Party (PSL) - Platform's governing coalition partner - has maintained a poor popularity level for the last four months. Similarly to July, it would be supported by 3% of potential voters.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "*Political preferences in August*", August 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2010, N=986. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

TRADE UNIONS

Poland is one of the countries with low trade union membership. Only 7% of adult Poles (15% of employees) belong to a trade union. The most numerous union is Solidarity (NSZZ "Solidarność"), which represents 6% of employees.

As far as social and professional groups are concerned, trade unions most frequently consist of technicians and mid-level personnel. Nearly two in five members of this group (37%) are trade unionists. Moreover, the membership of skilled workers (19%), management staff and specialists with higher education (14%) as well as office administration workers (14%) is also above the average. There is a correlation between the type of ownership in a workplace and the level of trade unions' membership. It can be noticed that trade unions thrive better in state workplaces than in privately-owned ones. Among people employed in public institutions and companies owned by state, more than a third (35%) are trade unionists. Where there is a mixed type of ownership (state and private), there are significantly fewer trade union members (10%). Yet, definitely the smallest number of trade unionists is in privately owned workplaces (1%).

After political transformations in Poland, the number of trade unionists has visibly declined. Between 1991 and 1995 the membership of all adult Poles in trade unions fell from 19% to 11%. The numbers decreased for the second time between 2000 and 2002, and then

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POLISH PUBLIC OPINION

between 2006 and 2007. Within the last three years, no major changes have taken place - the number of members remains at a stable but low level.



Nearly one third (30%) of employees work in companies where trade unions are established. In about half the cases, there is more than one trade union in the worker's company. However, the majority (60%) are employed in places where there are no established trade unions. It has been noted that the percentage of people employed in places with established unions has decreased in the last seven years.



The effectiveness of trade unions, at a company level, is not very high. The most frequent opinion about them (44%) is that despite their efforts, trade unions make little impact. In workplaces where unions are present, a third of employees do not see any effects of their work. Every seventh (14%) respondent claims that they are effective and workers owe much to these organisations.



All in all, trade unions are perceived rather positively by the Polish society. Nearly two fifths of respondents (38%) believe that the present-day activity of trade unions is beneficial for the country. However, over a quarter (29%) think the opposite. In comparison to the previous survey conducted in 2008, the percentage of positive and negative opinions has decreased. Conversely, the number of undecided respondents has significantly increased.



The effectiveness of trade unions, on a national level, is perceived by the society to be definitely low. A quarter of respondents (26%) think that they are effective. Over a half (52%), however, believe the opposite. The percentage of undecided people is also very high on this issue (22%). In comparison to the period between 2002 and 2008, when we could see a slow increase in the number of people convinced about the effectiveness of trade unions' work, the number of positive opinions about this issue fell. These opinions are, none the less, noticeably better than ten years ago.



Poles, on the whole, would like to see the role of trade unions in governing the country increased. Presently, nearly half of adult Poles (49%) claim that trade unions insufficiently influence the decisions of the Polish Government. About one respondent in seven (15%) thinks that the influence is sufficient and every eighth (12%) believes that unions' impact is too strong. Between 2002 and 2008 there was a steady decline in the percentage of people expecting the role of unions to be increased. Presently, respondents' responses returned to 2007 level.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "*Trade unions and the violation of employee rights*", August 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2010, N=899. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

ATTITUDES TO ALCOHOL

Over three quarters of adult Poles drink alcohol (76%). However, two thirds of the group (65%) claim that they drink occasionally and every ninth states that he/she drinks frequently (11%). More than a fifth of respondents (22%) declare they do not drink at all. In the last thirteen years the number of non-drinkers has increased and the percentage of those who drink occasionally fell.



Gender is the factor mostly determining drinking habits of respondents. Most men (84%) drink alcoholic beverages. Among women, a third (30%) do not drink at all. Another important determinant in this issue is age. The youngest age group - between 18 and 24 years old – drink most frequently (89%). Of all people under the age of 55 at least eight out of ten sometimes drink alcohol. This percentage is smaller (72%) among respondents in the age group between 55 and 64 years old and the smallest among the oldest respondents (49%).

The alcohol consumed most frequently is beer, with 52% of drinkers choosing it. In the last three years, its popularity has increased. It is worth mentioning that in case of wine, which is drunk relatively often (21%), the popularity is similar to three years ago. - unlike in case of vodka, whose consumption is far lower now (a fall from 24% to 17%). The number of people drinking quality spirits remains the same (6%).



Respondents' alcohol preferences differ according to the age and sex of respondents. The majority of men who declared they drink alcohol choose beer (70%). In case of women it is less than a third (30%). The opposite is true for wine. This beverage is chosen far more frequently by women (38%) than men (6%). We can also notice that beer's popularity diminishes as the age of the respondents grows. The oldest respondents much more often choose vodka or other strong spirits, like brandy or whisky.

Wine is relatively more popular among the inhabitants of biggest cities and people with higher education, and with regard to professional groups, among managers, highly skilled specialists and private entrepreneurs. Farmers, however, drink vodka noticeably more often than the average.

The majority of alcohol-drinkers claim (62%) they never get intoxicated. Every twelfth respondent admits (8%) that he/she is drunk at least once a month - yet half of this group is intoxicated more often. Nearly a third of alcohol-drinkers (31%) say they are under the influence of alcohol once a year or less often.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "*Attitudes to alcohol*", August 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2010, N=899. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

PREFERRED AND ACTUAL LIVING CONDITIONS

Judging from the responses, it may be inferred that Poles live in two types of buildings: in detached houses with a plot of land or a garden (41%) or in a block of flats in housing developments (40%). Only one respondent in nine lives in a tenement house (9%). Relatively few of the questioned people live in multifamily houses with a plot of land or a garden. People who claimed they live in terrace or semi-detached houses are less numerous (2%).



Over half of respondents live in a house that is their property or the property of their family member (51%). Every fifth person (20%) lives in a premise that belongs to a housing co-operative. The percentage of people inhabiting buildings owned by housing associations (co-owned by multiple private owners; 12%) or council buildings (11%) is comparable. One respondent in twenty claims (5%) that the house he/she occupies is private, but it is neither his/her property, nor the property of a family member.

Compared to 2003, there are slightly fewer people living in co-operatives and council flats. However, the number of people inhabiting buildings owned by housing associations has increased, possibly indicating increasing importance of this type of housing. Company housing has become non existent - buildings of this kind were disposed of mostly during restructuring process.



For the surveyed people, the most important feature in choosing the apartment is its functionality - amenities, space and sun exposure (56%). This factor influences house/apartment decisions of consumers to a larger degree than in 2005. The second most important feature determining the choice of an apartment is low maintenance costs (48%). This aspect kept its second place in the ranking even though it has been mentioned by the questioned people fewer times than in 2005. It can be

concluded, on the basis of conducted surveys, that presently people are less interested (33%) in their potential neighbourhood's safety since their overall feeling of safety increased. The same percentage of people (33%) consider the location of the building itself important - how big is the open space and how much green space surrounds it. Poles pay more attention (21%)now to the exterior of a building and its architectural design than in 2005. It turned out that transport connections between particular districts or localities are slightly less important (21%). The number of respondents for whom the existence of schools and kindergartens in the neighbourhood is meaningful somewhat increased. Similarly, more people (13%) take into account whether there is public space (marketplace, park, square) available in the vicinity.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "*Preferred and actual living conditions*", September 2010. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2010, N=977. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.



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