

CONTENTS:

- EVALUATION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN POLAND
- SATISFACTION WITH WORK
- OPINIONS ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS (GMCs)
- WITHHOLDING OR WITHDRAWING LIFE-SUSTAINING MEDICAL TREATMENT AND EUTHANASIA

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

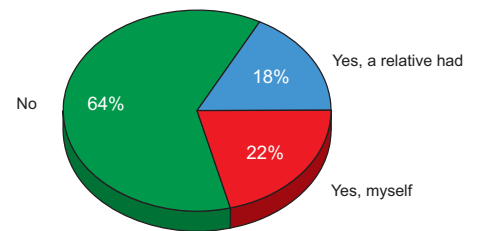
© COPYRIGHT BY CBOS 2013
ALL SOURCES MUST BE CREDITED
WHEN ANY PART OF THIS
PUBLICATION IS REPRODUCED

EVALUATION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN POLAND

In the last five years, close to a quarter of respondents (22%) had personal contact with a court of law. A smaller group (18%) admit that their relatives had such experience.

The most frequent reasons for the official contacts with courts were financial affairs. They were matters related to inheritance, property rights, legal title to real estate, etc. In total, 32% of respondents mentioning contacts with courts had business of this kind. A quarter (24%) of this group of respondents mentioned cases related to family law, e.g. divorce, child support, care for a family member. The third most common category of court cases are crimes and misdemeanours (17%).

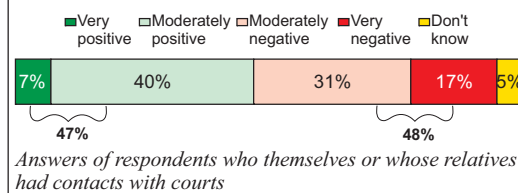
IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, DID YOU OR YOUR CLOSE RELATIVE HAVE OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH A COURT OF LAW?



About one-seventh of respondents reporting contacts with courts (15%) had a matter related to labour law, social insurance or commercial law.

The evaluations of courts based on personal experience are strongly differentiated. The relative number of those satisfied with court actions (47%) is the same as the proportion of the dissatisfied (48%). However, the percentage of respondents expressing strong dissatisfaction is larger than the number of very satisfied.

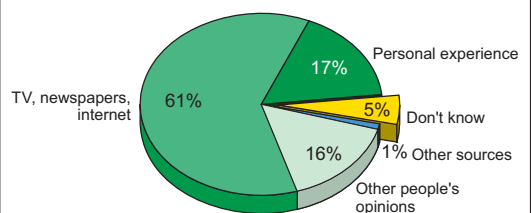
BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE COURT ACTIVITIES?



as the proportion of the dissatisfied (48%). However, the percentage of respondents expressing strong dissatisfaction is larger than the number of very satisfied.

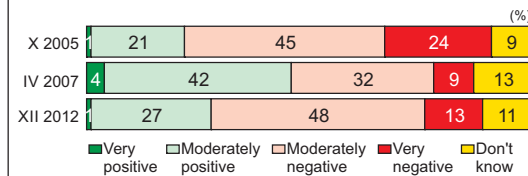
The limited frequency of official affairs with courts makes media coverage the dominant source of knowledge about the work of courts and judges (61%). Less than one-sixth of respondents (17%) admit drawing their knowledge about courts from personal experience, and a similar proportion (16%) use other people's opinion for information.

WHAT IS YOUR SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORK OF COURTS AND JUDGES?



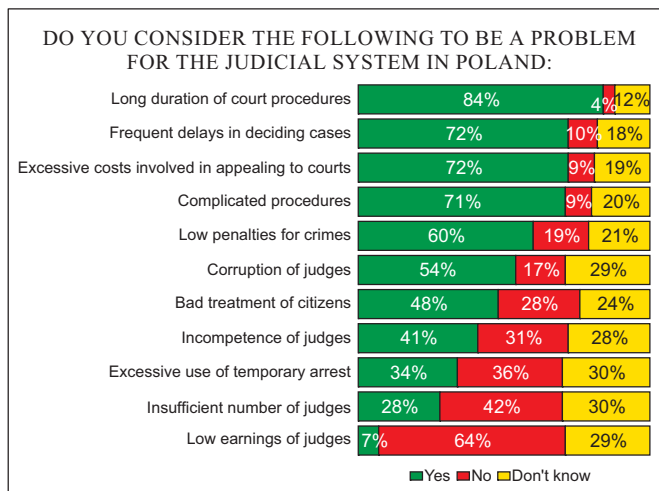
The evaluation of the justice system is usually negative (61%), while a quarter of respondents (28%) have a positive opinion. The performance of the judiciary is rated much worse than five years ago, when Law and Justice (PiS) was in power. Since 2007, the proportion of negative opinions rose by 20 percentage points, while satisfaction with

EVALUATION OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM
IN POLAND



this branch of government fell by 18 points. In spite of the deterioration, current evaluations are better than in October 2005.

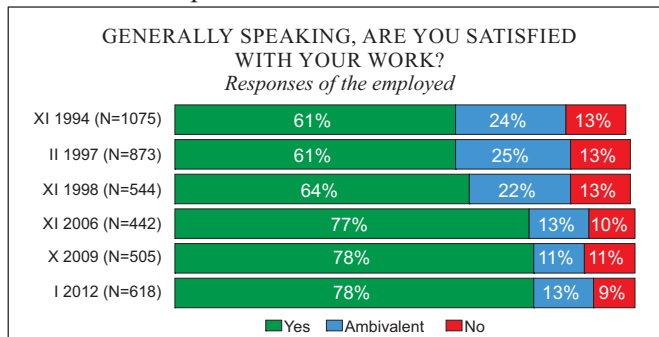
In the opinion of a vast majority of respondents (84%) the biggest problem of the legal system is the long duration of court cases. Secondly, respondents mentioned delay (72%), excessive costs (72%) and complicated procedures (71%). Over half of respondents think that penalties for crimes are too low (60%), and that judges are corrupt (54%). Fewer people complain about wrong treatment of citizens (48%) and incompetence of judges (41%). Every third Pole (34%) considers the use of temporary arrest to be excessive. Least often mentioned were: insufficient personnel (28%) and low earnings of judges (7%).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Law obedience and judicial system in Poland", January 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2012, N=1135. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

SATISFACTION WITH WORK

Three-quarters of professionally active Poles (78%) are satisfied with their employment. This figure has not changed significantly since 2006. One in eleven (9%) is dissatisfied, while one in eight (13%) expresses an ambivalent opinion.

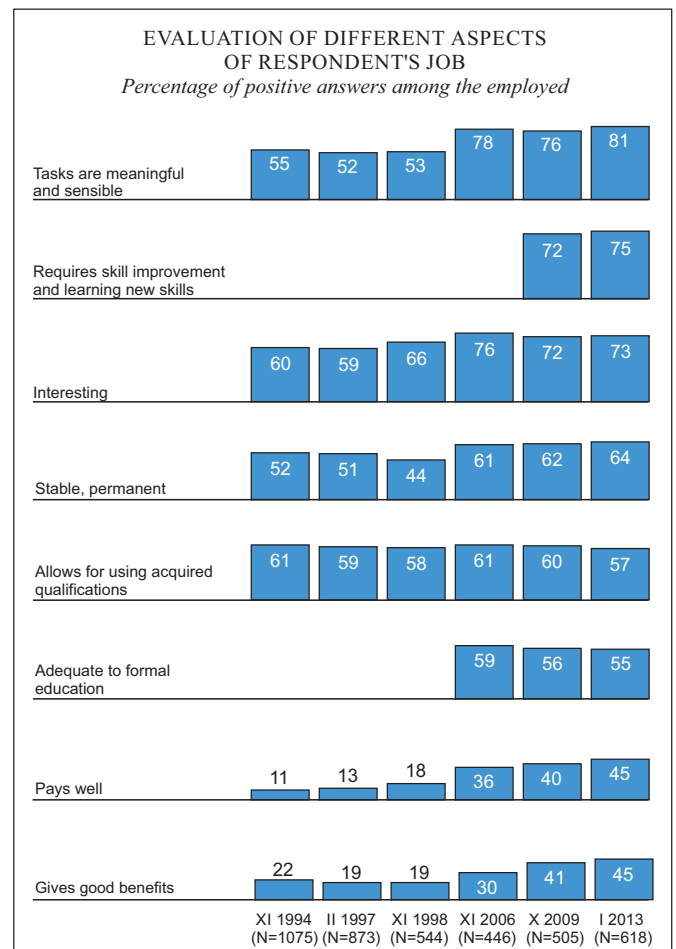


Although the level of satisfaction with work has been stable in recent years, from a long-term perspective it is possible to notice a significant improvement. Since 1994, the proportion of the satisfied employees increased

by 17 pct. points, with a 4-point fall in unfavourable evaluations of the work conditions.

In spite of the general satisfaction with work, opinions about different aspects of employment are quite strongly differentiated. Although positive answers prevail on all dimensions, it is clear that self-realisation is rated better than the material aspects of employment. Four-fifths (81%) of working people think that their tasks are meaningful and sensible. Almost three-quarters (73%) think that their job is interesting, while a similar proportion (75%) claim that work requires improvement of skills and learning new ones. Less frequently, the job is described as stable (64%), enabling the respondents to utilise their qualifications (57%) and adequate to formal education (55%). Employees are divided in evaluation of pay (45% satisfied, 30% dissatisfied) and benefits (45% satisfied, 41% dissatisfied).

In the long run, there is improvement on almost all dimensions of employment. The number of positive evaluations is diminishing only for the consistency of work with formal education.



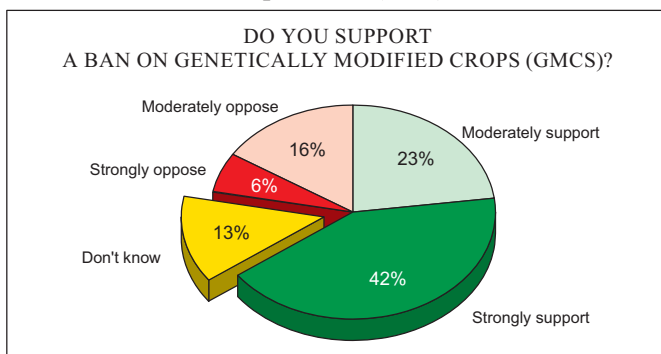
Analyses show that declared satisfaction with a job is strongly influenced by the fact that work is interesting, and that tasks make sense. The predictive power of utilization of qualifications, the possibility to

improve skills, job stability and earnings is lower. The least important predictors of satisfaction with work are: receiving non-wage benefits and whether the job matches formal education.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Satisfaction with work"*, January 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2013, N=1227. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

OPINIONS ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS (GMCs)

The prevailing view in Poland (65%) is the support for a ban on genetically modified crops (GMCs). The opponents of such a prohibition constitute slightly more than a fifth of respondents (22%).



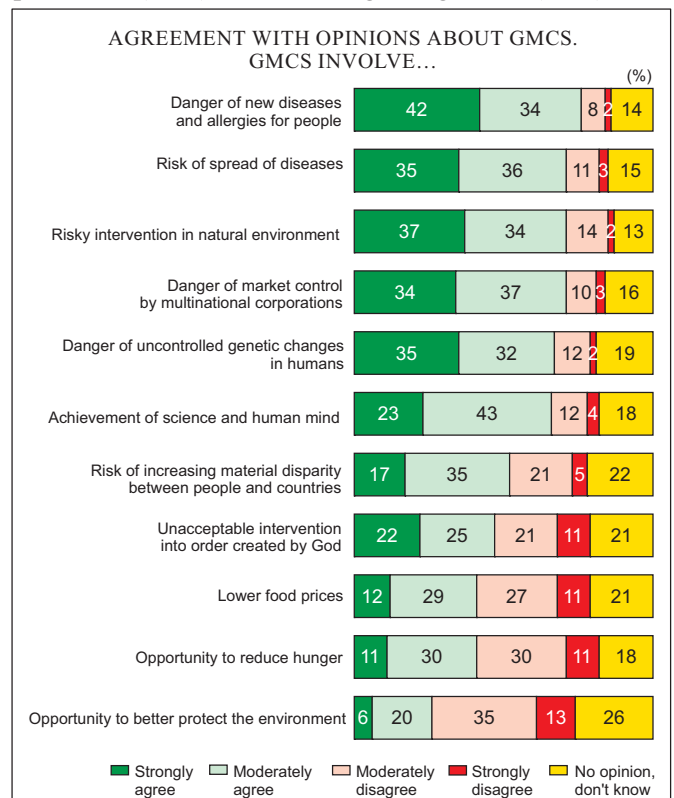
Opinion about GMCs indicate that the majority of Poles consider them to be a significant achievement of science and human mind (66%). However, most people are also afraid that their cultivation is associated with the danger of new diseases and allergies (76%). Many think it may cause the spread of various diseases (71%) and genetic modifications in humans (67%). A vast majority think that it is a dangerous intervention in the natural environment (71%). Almost half (47%) consider it to be an unacceptable intervention into the order created by God.

Patent rights to seeds of GMCs belong to companies which invested into research leading to their development. Opponents of GMCs consider this to be a potential threat for farmers and consumers. A large majority of respondents (71%) believe there is a risk of control of the market by multinational companies involved in cultivating GMCs. Over half (52%) share the opinion that GMCs may deepen material disparities between people and countries.

Data of GMC seed producers indicate that they give higher yield than plants grown in natural conditions. The public opinion, however, is divided on whether genetically modified crops may alleviate hunger: the proportions of people sharing this view and rejecting it are equal (41% each). The number of people hoping for a

decrease in food prices thanks to GMCs (41%) is slightly higher than the percentage of respondents who do not consider it to be the case (38%).

There are arguments that GMCs require lower amount of artificial fertilisers and less chemical protection, and shallower ploughing of the fields, which reduces CO2 emission. However, Poles tend to reject the argument that GMCs allow for better environment protection (48%), rather than agreeing with it (26%).

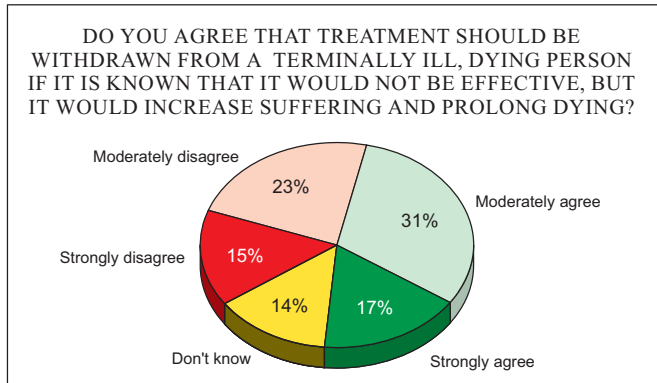


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Opinions about food safety and GMCs"*, January 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2012, N=1135. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland

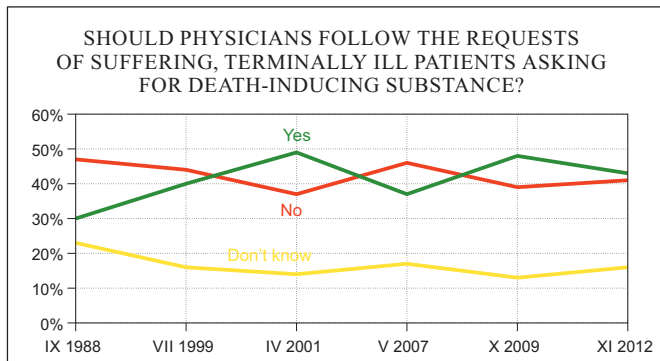
WITHHOLDING OR WITHDRAWING LIFE-SUSTAINING MEDICAL TREATMENT AND EUTHANASIA

Withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatment concerns, by definition, patients in terminal state. In their case, medical treatment does not lead to being cured, but lengthens the process of dying and entails additional suffering. Withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatment can be differentiated from the so-called passive euthanasia. The key distinction is the intention associated with stopping treatment: whether its goal is to end life or bring about the natural process of dying.

Both withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatment and euthanasia are controversial. Almost half of respondents (48%) are of the opinion that an incurably ill, dying person should not be treated if it is known that treatment would not be effective, but that it would increase suffering and prolong dying. The opposite view is expressed by 38% of respondents.

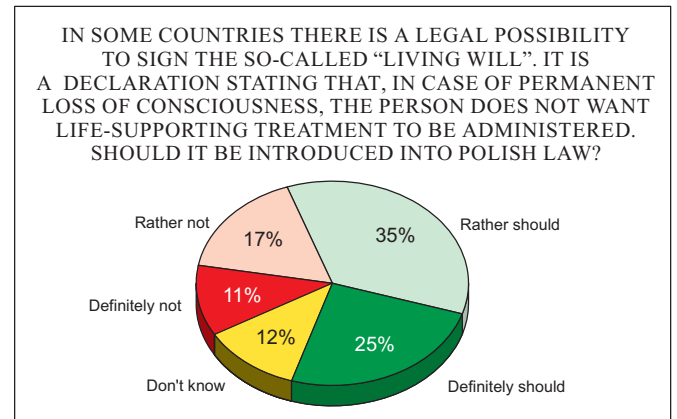


In the opinion of 43% of respondents, physicians should follow the request of a suffering, terminally ill patient asking for death-inducing substance. Disagreement is voiced by 41% of respondents.



Opinions about the acceptability of both acts are differentiated by the worldview, primarily by religious beliefs. Although the Catholic Church clearly differentiates withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatment from euthanasia, giving them very different moral evaluation, its position is not reflected in the opinions of the faithful. Respondents who participate in religious service at least once a week significantly more frequently condemn both euthanasia (considered as homicide by the Church) and withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, which is acceptable in its doctrine.

Most respondents (60%) support the introduction of the so-called "living will" into the Polish law. It is the possibility to sign a declaration stating that, in case of permanent loss of consciousness, the person does not want life-supporting treatment to be administered.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: *"Withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatment and euthanasia"*, January 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2012, N=952. 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):

- ◆ Life Satisfaction
- ◆ Party Preferences in January
- ◆ Social Moods in January
- ◆ Attitude to Government in January
- ◆ Opinions About Parliament and President
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in January
- ◆ Occupational Mobility and Elasticity

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: 70 copies

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