

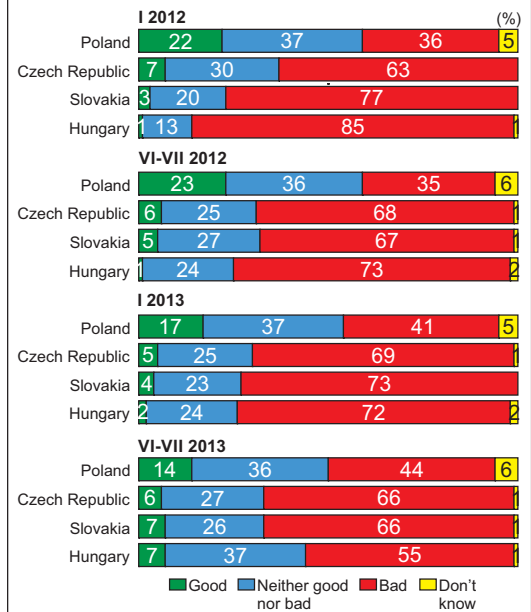
CONTENTS:

- ECONOMIC SITUATION AND MATERIAL LIVING CONDITIONS IN POLAND, CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY
- ATTITUDE TO ETHICAL NORMS AND DIFFERENT LIFESTYLES
- ETHICS OF THE POLITICAL ELITE
- PROFILE OF THE RURAL POPULATION

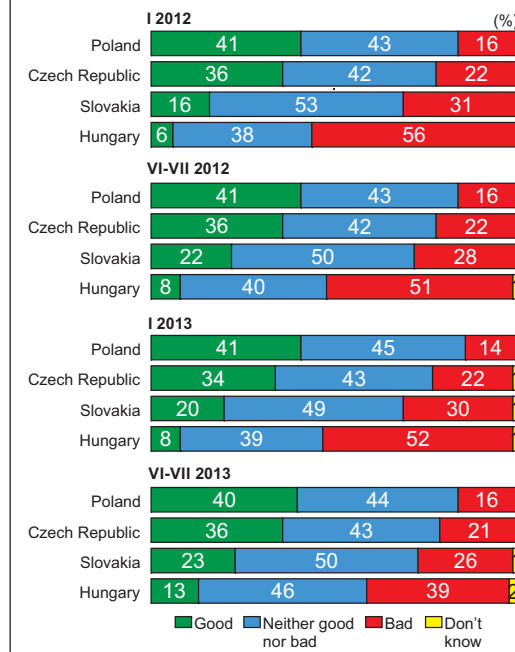
ECONOMIC SITUATION AND MATERIAL LIVING CONDITIONS IN POLAND, CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY

Compared with residents of the other countries of the Visegrad Group, Poles express relatively positive opinions both in the individual and national dimension. The evaluations of the economic situation of the country of residence are best in Poland, in spite of prevailing criticism. Negative opinions are far stronger in the other V4 countries, especially Czech Republic and Slovakia. Compared with the results from early 2013, negative ratings have strongly decreased in Hungary and opinions have also improved in Slovakia. The evaluations in Poland and Czech Republic are stable.

EVALUATION OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY



EVALUATION OF HOUSEHOLD MATERIAL LIVING CONDITIONS



Polish respondents differ from those in the other countries in that they have a better opinion about the material living conditions in their households. In July, two-fifths considered them good, a slightly bigger group thought they were average, and relatively few described them as bad. Czechs perceive their living standard slightly worse. Slovaks and Hungarians are far less satisfied, with respondents in Hungary especially negative about their personal economic situation. Since January, the evaluations in Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia have remained practically unchanged. Satisfaction improved markedly in Hungary, which is reflected in

the decrease in the number of respondents unhappy with their living standard and increase in the proportion of people who view it as average. The percentage of the satisfied Hungarians increased as well, albeit slightly.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Economic situation and material living conditions in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary", August 2013. Fieldwork for national sample in Poland: July 2013, N=1060; Czech Republic (CVVM – Sociological Institute): June 2013, N=980; Hungary (TARKI): July 2013, N=1011; Slovakia (FOCUS): July 2013, N=1055.

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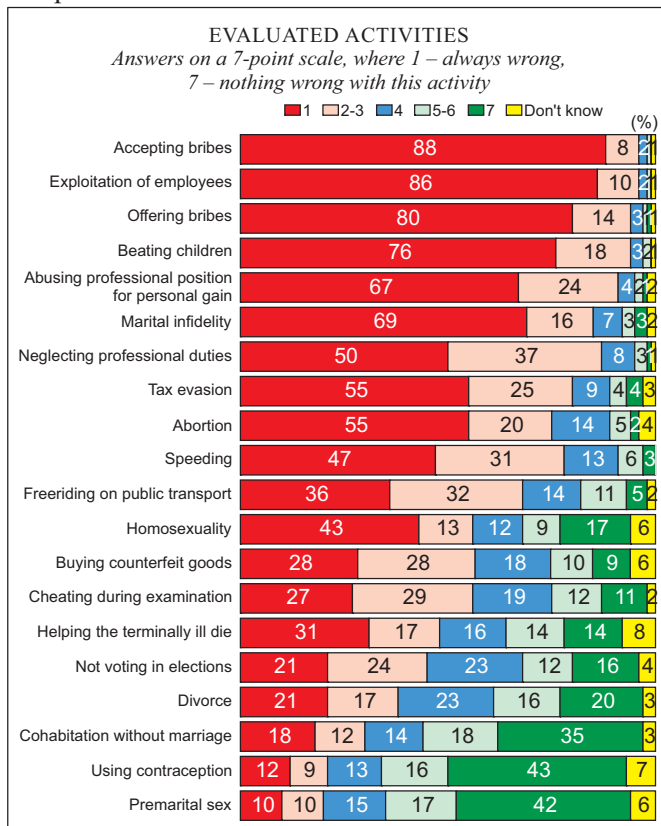
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ATTITUDE TO ETHICAL NORMS AND DIFFERENT LIFESTYLES

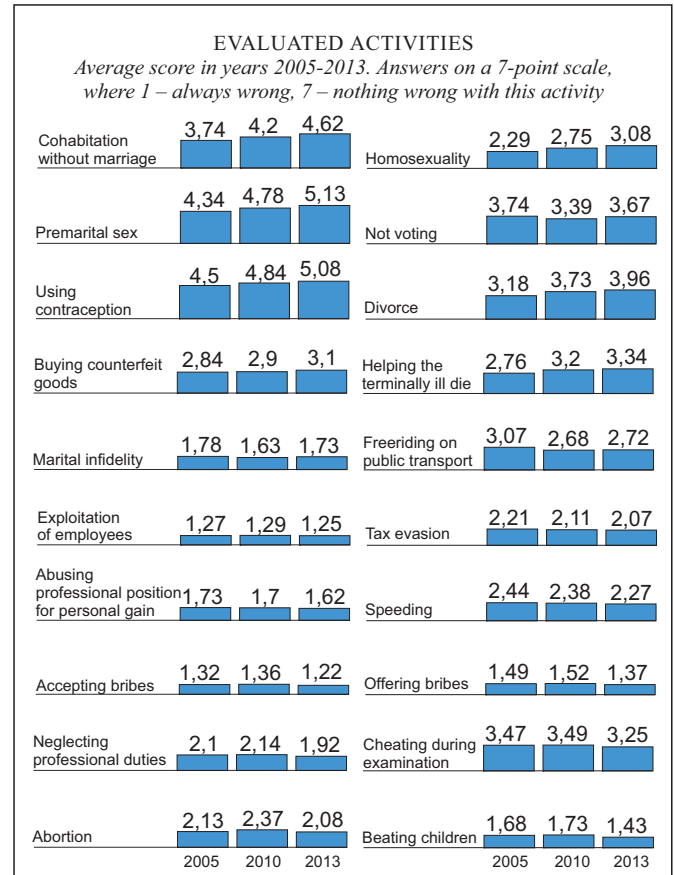
Some forms of behaviour are evaluated negatively by social or religious morality, in addition to being sometimes illegal, and yet are quite common in everyday life. Such activities may be controversial for some people, but accepted by others.

Respondents were asked to evaluate different activities. The most widely condemned are: accepting and offering bribes, exploitation of employees by employers and beating children. A vast majority of respondents disapprove of such actions as: abusing professional position for personal gain, marital infidelity, neglecting duties at work, making fictitious donations and underreporting earnings in order to pay lower taxes, speeding, free-riding on public transport and abortion. More than half disapprove of homosexuality, conscious purchase of counterfeit goods and cheating during an examination. Almost half reject ending the life of a terminally ill person at his or her request and electoral absence. Divorce is accepted and rejected equally frequently. Acceptance prevails in case of behaviour such as: cohabitation without marriage, using contraception and premarital sex.



The moral evaluation of the listed activities changes in time. First of all, there is continuous

liberalization of the attitude to sexuality. In recent years, there is increasing acceptance of relationships between non-married people, premarital sex, homosexuality and divorce. Since 2005, disapproval of euthanasia has also declined. On the other hand, there is increasing disapproval of abortion, beating children, corruption, neglect of professional duties, cheating during exams and freeriding.

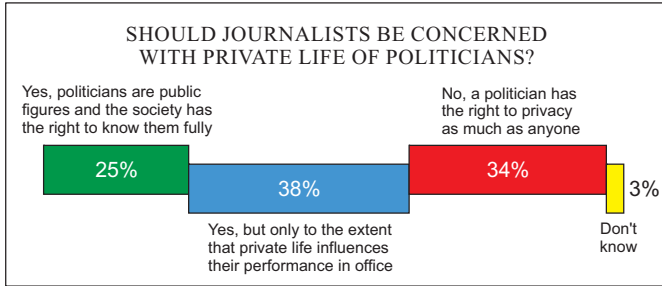


More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Norms and values", August 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2013, N=1005. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

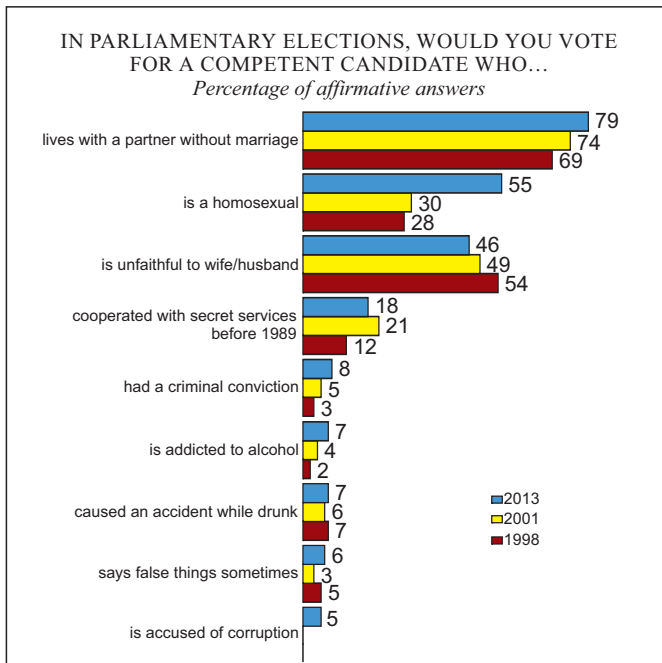
ETHICS OF THE POLITICAL ELITE

Politicians are public figures and, as such, are under stricter social control, exercised by the mass media, among others. The scope of this control is regulated by ethical norms, rather than law, and the boundaries of journalists' access are not strictly delineated. The opinions in the society are divided. The prevailing view holds that journalists should not pry too much in the private life of political elites. About two-fifths of respondents (38%) share the view that facts from politicians' private life should be made public only to the extent that they influence their performance in office, and one-third (34%) think that they should not be disclosed at all. A

quarter (25%) think that all facts about politicians, including private information, should be publically available due to the role they perform.



The study of norms and values show that a vast majority of Poles disapprove of marital infidelity, more than half do not accept homosexuality and one-third reject cohabitation without marriage. These attitudes are reflected in the expectations from politicians. Almost four-fifths would not mind voting for an unmarried candidate living with his or her partner. Over half do not care if a politician is homosexual or not. However, the opinions about infidelity are divided: almost as many respondents would support someone cheating on his or her spouse if they considered him or her a good candidate, as would reject such a person. The factors which disqualify a politician are: cooperation with the secret services during the pre-1989 period, criminal conviction, alcohol addiction or causing traffic accident under the influence of alcohol, perjury, and being suspected of corruption.



In recent years, the ethical evaluation of different aspects of politicians' life changed significantly. Informal relationships are increasingly accepted. Homosexuality is less controversial, too. On the other hand, infidelity is rejected more than before: fewer Poles would accept it in a candidate for a member of parliament.

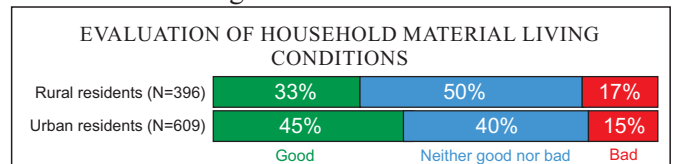
The attitude to cooperation with secret services during the People's Republic changed only to a small extent. The proportion of persons who do not consider it an important factor is slightly larger than in the 1990s, but smaller than in 2001. With each poll, there is an increase in number of respondents ready to vote for a politician with a criminal record and for someone addicted to alcohol.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Expectations from politicians: public functions and private life", August 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2013, N=904. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

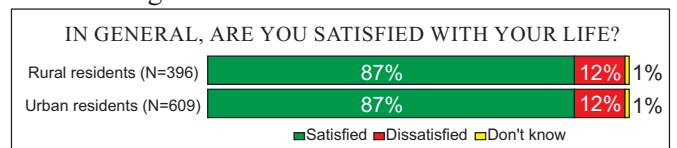
PROFILE OF THE RURAL POPULATION

Rural residents constitute about two-fifths of the total population of Poland. Villages are characterized by positive demographic balance: more young people live there and more children are born. In 2009, the net population growth rate was higher in villages than in towns and cities (1.2 and 0.6 per 1000, respectively). The balance of internal migration has also been positive for rural areas since 2000. However, better demographic indicators are accompanied by worse economic situation. On the macro scale, there are large differences in disposable per capita income between rural and urban residents (in 2009, 899 PLN and 1255 PLN, respectively). Compared with other EU countries, Polish villages are relatively unaffected by metropolitan influence. They are characterized by a high proportion of farmers and low percentage of people with tertiary education, who in 2009 constituted 8% of rural population. This figure is 16 percentage points lower than in towns and cities.

Half of the people living in villages (50%) describe the material living conditions of their household as average. One-third (33%) are satisfied with their standard of living, and 17% are dissatisfied. The evaluations correspond to financial situation of households. Higher income results in better opinions about material conditions, hence the lower levels of satisfaction in villages.

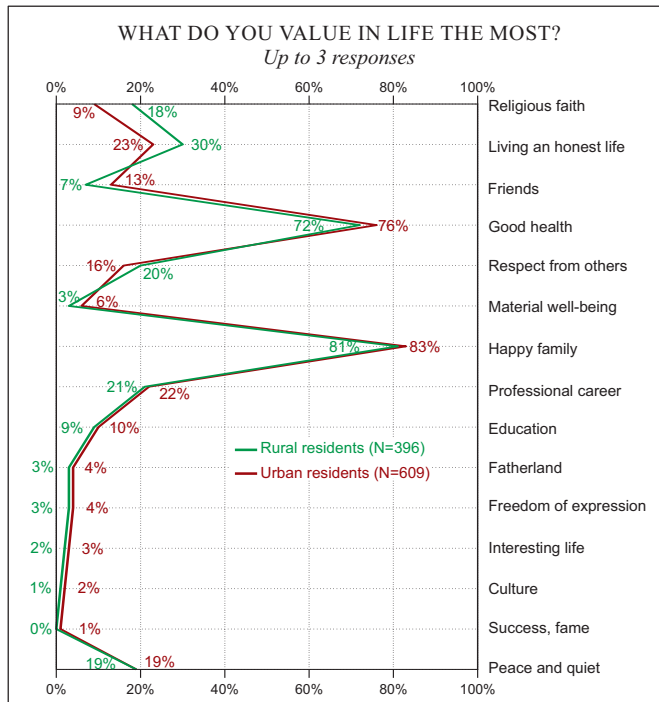


Economic situation does not influence the general life satisfaction, which is almost universal (87%) both in villages and towns.

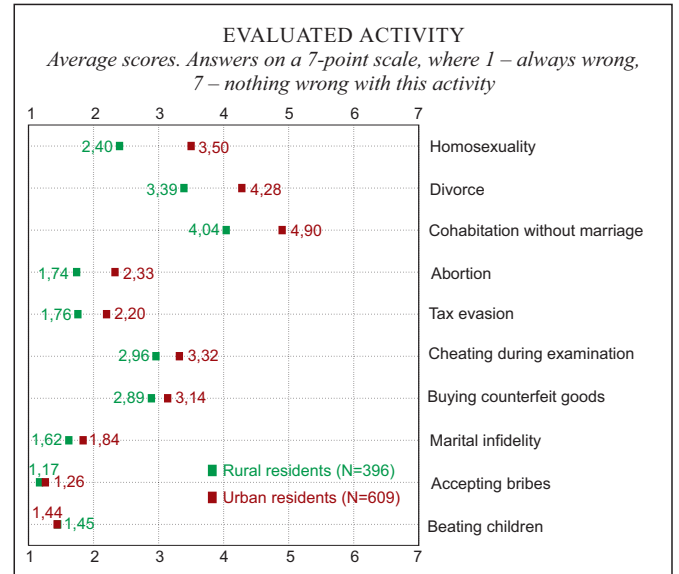


For a vast majority of inhabitants of villages, the most important values in life are a happy family (81%) and good health (72%). Almost one-third (30%) values honesty in life, while one-fifth mention career (21%), respect from other people (20%), peace and quiet (19%) and religious faith (18%).

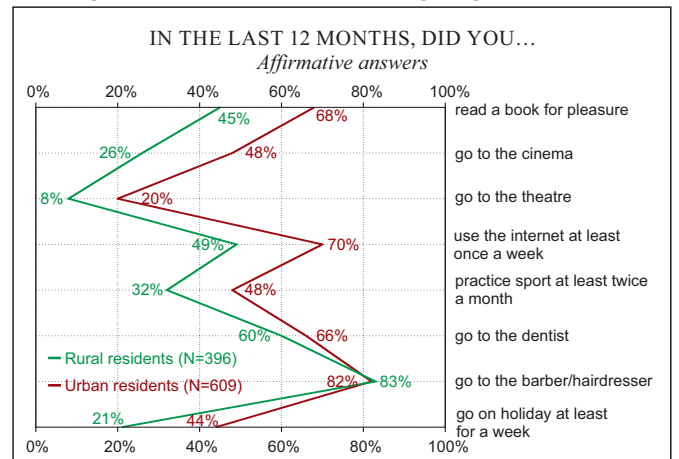
Although the hierarchies of values are similar in towns and villages, rural residents attach more importance to religion, honest life and respect, while relatively less often mentioning friendship and health.



Moral views are, in general, more conservative in villages than in towns and cities. In particular, there are differences in views on the private sphere and lifestyle. Attachment to traditional values is clear in declarations of rural respondents. Fewer accept homosexual orientation, divorce, cohabitation without marriage and abortion. Attitudes to public morality are similar, with the exception of more rigorous views on tax evasion among the rural population.



Inhabitants of villages have less contact with culture, a smaller proportion use the internet and, in general, they do fewer activities in their free time. Two activities that do not depend on the place of residence are visiting the hairdresser/barber and going to the dentist.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Rural Poland: attitudes and lifestyle", August 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2013, N=1005. 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):

- ◆ Family Policy – Evaluations and Proposals
- ◆ Party Preferences in August
- ◆ Attitude to Government in August
- ◆ Social Moods in August
- ◆ Opinions About Parliament and President
- ◆ Trust in Politicians in August
- ◆ Polish Countryside – Native and New Residents

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