

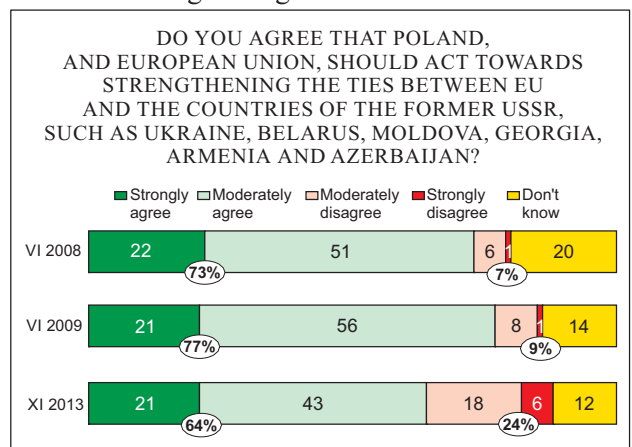
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## ATTITUDE TO THE INTEGRATION OF UKRAINE INTO EUROPEAN UNION

At the end of November 2013, the Eastern Partnership Summit took place in Vilnius. It was planned that association agreement between the European Union and Ukraine would be signed there. Although this did not happen, both sides expressed hope that it would be possible in the future. Association agreements were signed with Moldova and Georgia.

The Eastern Partnership program is a particularly important dimension of EU foreign policy from the Polish perspective. The idea of strengthening ties between EU and Poland with the countries of the former USSR is received positively by the society. In June 2008, 73% of respondents supported this project, and a year later the proportion rose to 77%. Immediately before the November summit of the Eastern Partnership the support for development of the cooperation with the countries of the former USSR was slightly lower. About two-thirds (64%) wanted more intensive cooperation with them, while about a quarter (24%) opposed this idea.



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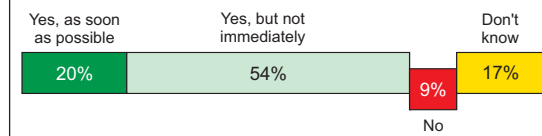
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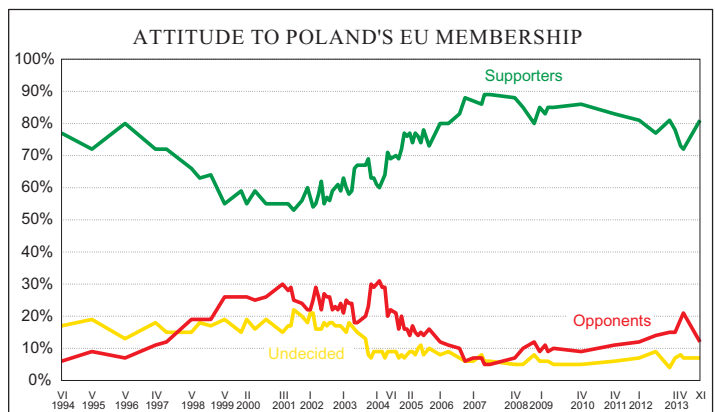
**SHOULD UKRAINE BECOME A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION?**



enter the EU as soon as possible, while one in eleven (9%) rejects the idea.

The positive attitude to cooperation between the EU and former USSR is partly related to the support for Poland's EU membership. After a period of a slight increase in euro-scepticism, the proportion of respondents positive about membership rose and is now at 81%. This means that the support returned to the level recorded in 2012. However, it is still lower than in 2007-2011.

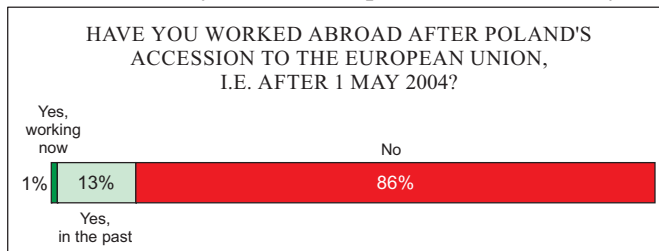
Poles support the European aspirations of Ukraine, although its full membership in the EU is a matter of distant future. The majority of respondents (54%) are convinced that Ukraine should become a member of the EU, but not immediately. One in five (20%) would like Ukraine to



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Before the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius", November 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2013, N=990. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

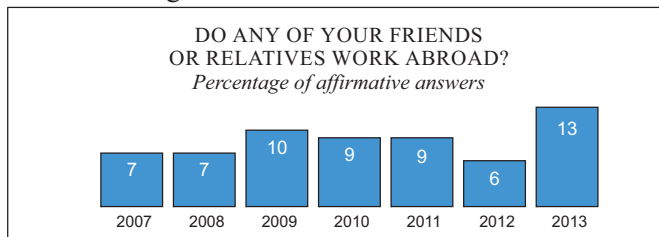
## POST-ACCESSION ECONOMIC MIGRATION

One-seventh of adults Poles (14%) admit having worked abroad after Poland's entry into the European Union. The information about experience with migration was primarily collected about the persons who went abroad for some time (several times for short periods or once for some period of time) and decided to return to Poland, i.e. about seasonal and returning migrants. It is very difficult to reach emigrants who currently live and work abroad: they are 1% of respondents in the survey.

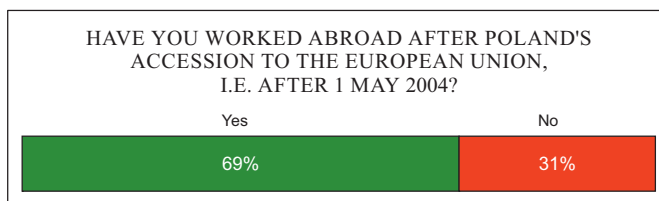


About a third of migrants (36%) worked in Germany, while a fifth (21%) were employed in the UK, and one-eleventh in Belgium or in the Netherlands (9% each). Significant numbers of post-accession migrants went to Italy or France (6% each). The United States remains an important destination (5%), in spite of the visa requirement for travelers. Other destinations are: Austria (4%), Norway (3%), Spain (3%), Ireland (2%), Denmark (2%), Switzerland (1%) and Greece (1%).

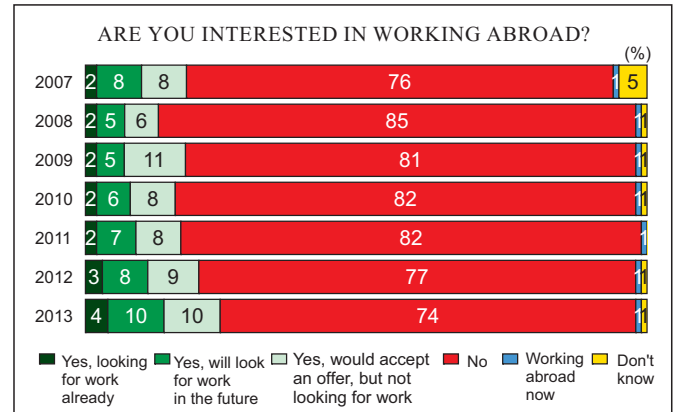
Emigration changed the lives of many Poles, not only migrants, but also their families. In 2013, about one-eighth (13%) admitted that a member of their household was employed abroad. This figure rose by 7 percentage points relative to the previous year, which indicates an increase in migration.



An important factor shaping migration is the network of personal ties. They constitute a type of capital which can be used when necessary. Such connections may increase migration by reducing costs and risks associated with moving. Over two-thirds of Poles (69%) have a relative or friend abroad.



This year, the interest in economic migration has increased. At present, a quarter of Poles (24%) declare readiness to take a job abroad: one-tenth (10%) claim they will look for a job themselves, while a similar proportion would accept an offer without actively seeking employment and 4% have already started looking for work. Three-quarters (74%) do not consider employment abroad.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Post-accession economic migration", November 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2013, N=990. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## PERCEPTION OF SOCIAL STRUCTURE

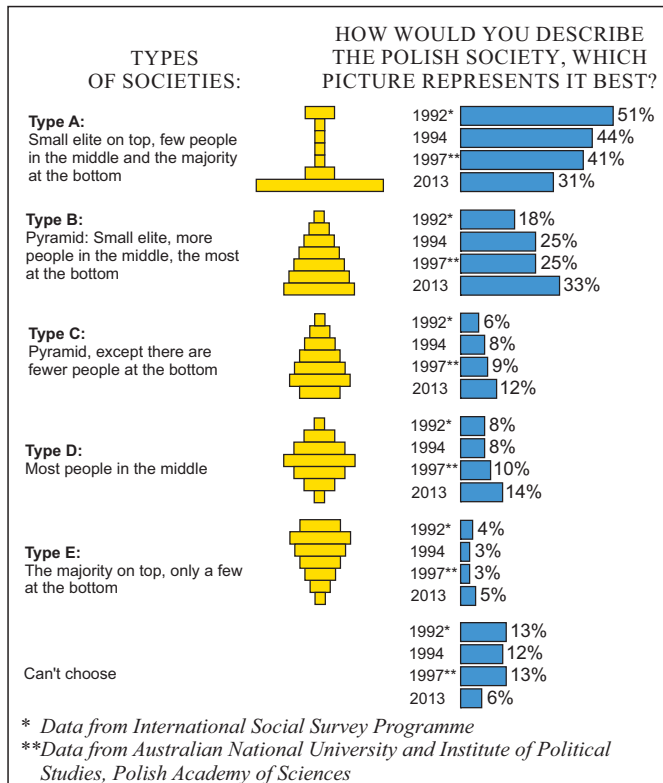
Systemic transformation changed the social structure. Econometric analyses prove that the transition period increased economic inequality. The income inequality rose until 2005, as indicated by the Gini coefficient, a commonly used measure of inequality. Since then, according to Eurostat, the values of Gini coefficient fell from 35.6 in 2005 to 30.9 in 2012, approaching the EU average. In 2005-2012, the minimum wage rose from 849 PLN to 1500 PLN (in 2013 it is 1600 PLN), and disposable income per capita rose from 761.46 PLN to 1270.28 PLN (data of Central Statistical Office). Simultaneously, the proportion of people in poverty fell from 20.5% to 17.1%, while the percentage of Poles threatened by social exclusion decreased from 45.3% to 26.7% (Eurostat data).

Economic data is confirmed by subjective evaluations of material living conditions. In the first phase of transformation, the number of people with a negative opinion about their material situation rose rapidly, reaching the bottom in the second half of 1991, when over half of respondents thought it was bad, and the proportion of positive evaluations fell below 10%. With time, the opinions started to improve. Starting with the second half of 2006, the number of people satisfied with the material living conditions of their household is larger than the proportion of the dissatisfied. In September

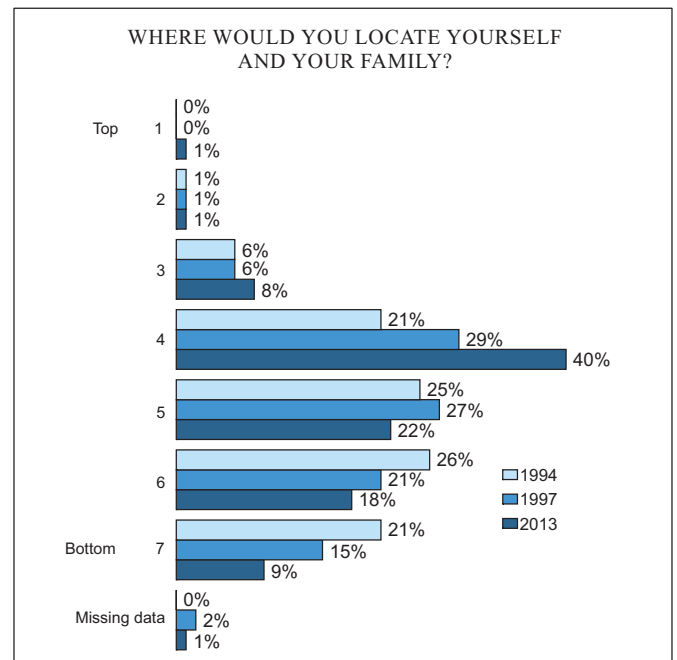
2013, 46% described their living standard as average, 42% thought it was good, and 12% said it was bad.

The improvement in living standard influenced the perception of the social structure compared with the 1990s. The number of people on the lowest levels of the social hierarchy decreased, while the proportion of occupants of higher positions increased. In the 1990s the most commonly selected visual representation of the social structure was the pyramid with a wide base and a crown. It represented the society in which the majority are at the bottom, the intermediate strata are not numerous, and the elite is clearly separated (type A). In 1992, such a characteristic of the Polish society was indicated by 51%, in the second half of 1990s by 41%, and this year by 31%. At present, diversified models of the society, indicating egalitarian relations, are much more frequently chosen to describe the social structure. Nevertheless, Poland is still perceived as a country where the majority of people are in the lower part of the social hierarchy. A third of respondents (33%) compare the Polish society to a pyramid (type B), in which each subsequent higher level is narrower (less numerous) than the one below it. Some respondents (12%) choose the shape of a pyramid (type C) in which the lowest stratum is smaller than the one above.

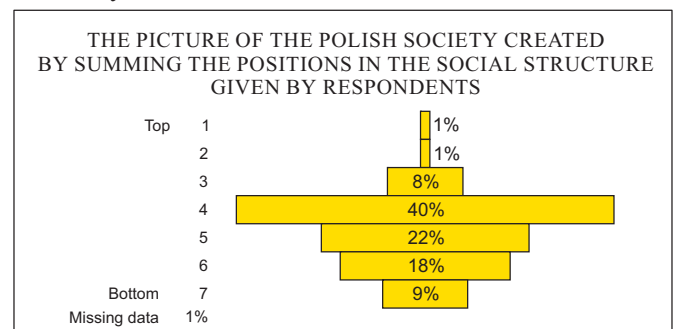
In spite of the changes in perception of the social structure, only a relatively small group of respondents (14%) thinks that the most numerous are the middle strata (type D). The least commonly chosen model was type E, in which the majority of people are on top, and very few at the bottom.



As in the 1990s, respondents were asked to indicate where they would place themselves in the picture they selected. The perceived location in the social structure has improved. Two-fifths of adult Poles (40%, 11 pct. points more than in 1997 and 19 points more than in 1994) locate their families in the middle of social hierarchy. The others tend to see themselves below, rather than above the middle. It is worth noting that only 9% of respondents think they occupy the bottom position, while 15% had this opinion in 1997 and 21% did in 1994. At present, 27% of respondents locate themselves in one of the two bottom layers. The corresponding number in 1997 was 36% and in 1994 it was 47%.



The image of the society created on the basis of self-evaluation of respondents' position in the social hierarchy is better than their idea of the social structure.



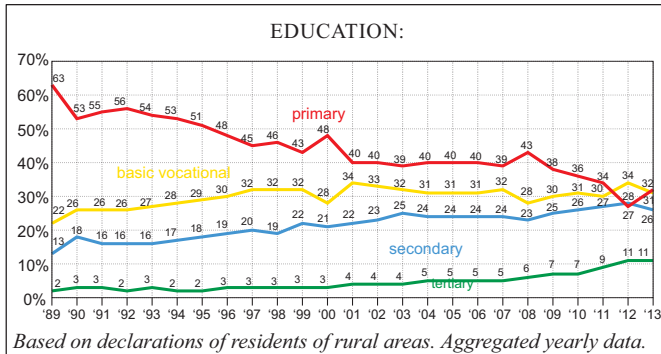
Subjective evaluation of the position in the social structure is closely related to the satisfaction with living standard. The better the evaluation, the higher the position in social hierarchy.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Perception of social structure", October 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: September 2013, N=911. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## CHANGES IN RURAL AREAS

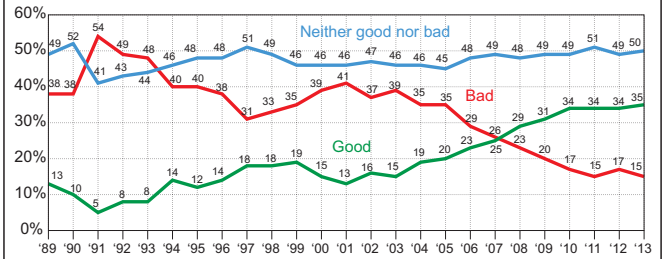
The rapid transformation taking place in the last decades changed the system and opened the country to the West. These phenomena had significant influence on the rural areas.

During the last 24 years, the level of education of rural population has increased. In the beginning of the 1990s, the dominant group had only primary education. By 2013, the proportion of the least educated residents decreased by half. At present, basic vocational and secondary education are equally common. As in the country as a whole, there has been an increase in the number of people with higher education.

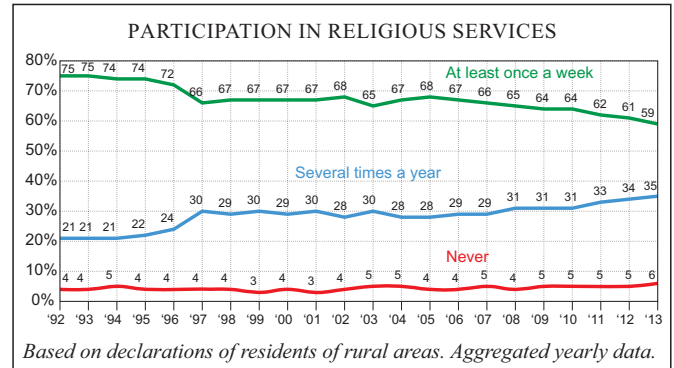


Since 1989, the evaluation of household material living conditions has improved. The proportion of residents of villages satisfied with their standard of living increased from 13% to 35%. The improvement did not progress linearly. Shortly after the onset of transformation, the opinions deteriorated strongly. They started to improve in the mid-1990s. The biggest change was noted after the EU accession in 2004. The evaluations stabilized after 2010.

### EVALUATION OF HOUSEHOLD MATERIAL LIVING CONDITIONS



The intensity of religious practice decreased systematically in the period under study. Since 1992, the proportion of rural residents attending religious service at least once a week has fallen from 75% to 59%, with the corresponding rise in irregular practice from 21% to 35%. In spite of the decline, only few respondents declared never attending religious service.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Rural Poland: 20 years of changes", November 2013. Aggregated data from CBOS surveys from 1989-2013 (until October)

#### In addition to the reports referred to above, the following have been published recently (in Polish):

- ◆ The 7th Term Sejm after Two Years of Activity
- ◆ Opinions about the Work of Ministers and Cabinet Reshuffle
- ◆ Successes and Failures of Second Cabinet of Prime Minister Donald Tusk
- ◆ Party Preferences in November
- ◆ Attitude to Government in November
- ◆ Opinions About Public Institutions
- ◆ Trust in Politicians Before Cabinet Reshuffle
- ◆ Social Moods in November
- ◆ Perception of One's Place in the Social Structure
- ◆ Occupational Prestige
- ◆ Family and Material Situation of the Young Poles and Their Consumer Attitudes

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