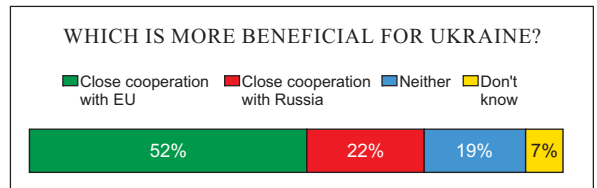


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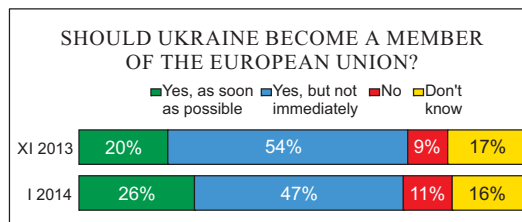
## UKRAINE: BETWEEN EU AND RUSSIA

Since 21st November 2013, there have been intensive social protests in Ukraine against the policy of the government. They were exacerbated by severe punishment meted out on the participants of the outlawed demonstrations. With the increase in tensions, the chances for closer cooperation between Ukraine and the EU become remote, which runs against hopes of many Ukrainians. The majority of Poles think that closer cooperation between Ukraine and the EU is beneficial for Ukraine: a little over half (52%) express this view. Slightly more than one-fifth (22%)



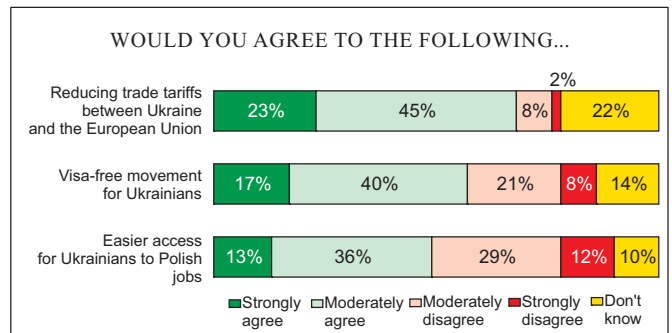
believe that Ukraine would benefit more from close cooperation with Russia. A similar group of respondents (19%) think that neither solution is good for this country.

Poles support the EU membership of Ukraine. Moreover, since November 2013,



there has been an increase in the proportion of people who would like Ukraine to accede as soon as possible (from 20% to 26%). The plurality (47%) tend to the opinion that Ukraine should eventually become an EU member, but there is no hurry. Only 11% reject Ukraine's EU membership.

The failed association agreement between EU and Ukraine envisaged the creation of a free trade zone between both sides, abolishing or reducing import duties. Such a solution is positively received in Poland: gradual reduction of trade tariffs is supported by over two-thirds of Poles (68%). Poland advocated visa-free movement for Ukrainians, which is a position supported by the majority of respondents (57%). The most controversial issue is employment of Ukrainians in Poland: 49% support giving them better opportunities to work in Poland, while 41% oppose it. It is worth noting that citizens of Ukraine, in addition to citizens of Russia, Belarus, Moldova and Georgia, have enjoyed privileged status in employment for several years. The simplified procedure for issuing work permits covers e.g. employees in personal care and nursing, as well as housekeepers, while seasonal workers are exempt from the necessity to obtain a work permit. Ukrainians are the nationality most commonly employed in Poland.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Ukraine: between EU and Russia", January 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2014, N=1067. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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

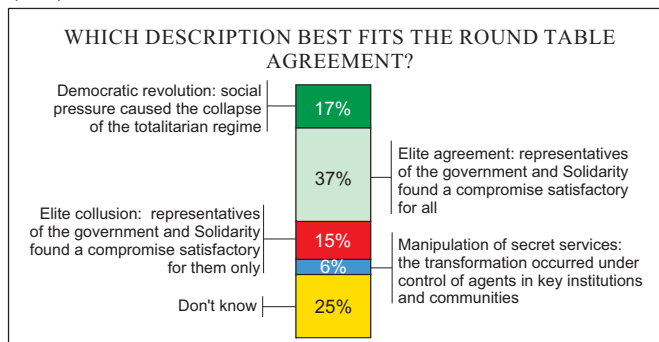
Translated by  
Michał Wenzel

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## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ROUND TABLE NEGOTIATIONS

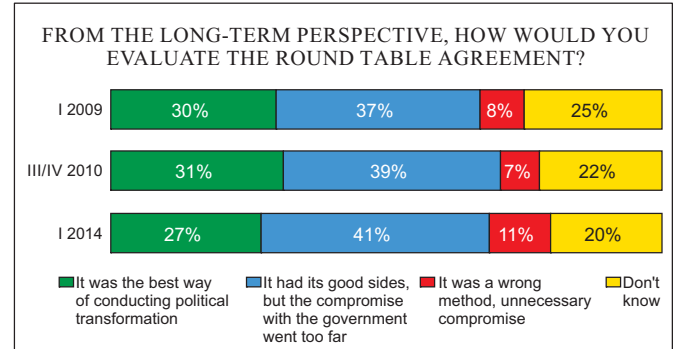
In February 1989, the Round Table negotiations between the representatives of the Communist government and Solidarity opposition started. They triggered a sequence of events that led to systemic change and, in consequence, to the collapse of the Communist system in Poland.

In public opinion, the best description for the Round Table agreement is “elite agreement”. Almost two-fifths of respondents (37%) share the opinion that the representatives of the government and Solidarity reached a compromise satisfying both sides and the Poles in general. A smaller group (17%) think that the agreement would have been impossible without the societal pressure on government; this factor decided about the collapse of the former system. Therefore, these events should rather be described as “democratic revolution”. A smaller proportion of respondents agree with the critical interpretation of these events, choosing the name “elite collusion” (15%), or expressing the view that the agreement was a front for a secret services operation enabling the elites to transfer to the free market system (6%).



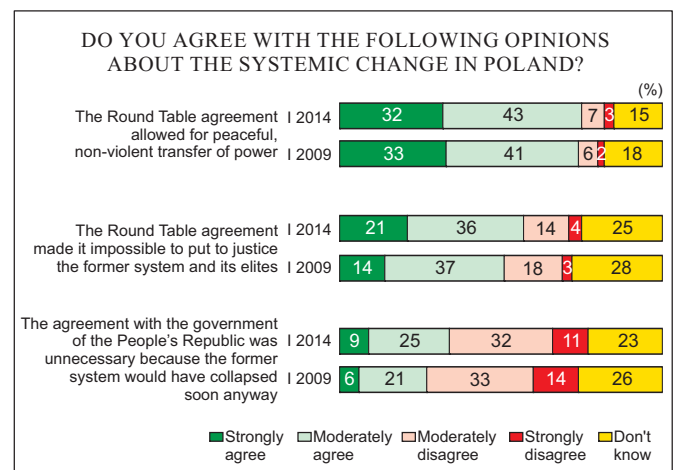
Current evaluations of the Round Table agreements are marked by moderate criticism. Over two-fifths of respondents (41%) agree that this mode of political transformation had its good sides, but that compromise with the government went too far. Over a quarter (27%) believe that it was the best and most appropriate method in those circumstances. Every ninth Pole (11%) evaluates the agreement negatively, considering it to be a wrong method of conducting political change.

From the perspective of the last five years, opinions about the Round Table evolve. The proportion of critical opinions increases. It concerns both the strong criticism, and the moderate version. At the same time, the number of respondents who think it was the best solution diminishes.



Three-quarters of Poles (75%) appreciate the fact that the Round Table agreement allowed for peaceful and non-violent transfer of power. At the same time, over half of respondents (57%) think that this agreement made it impossible to judge the former system and its elites. In the interpretation of past events, the belief in the role of the Round Table as a determinant prevails: more people disagree with the statement that it was unnecessary, because the system would have collapsed anyway (43%) than agree with it (34%).

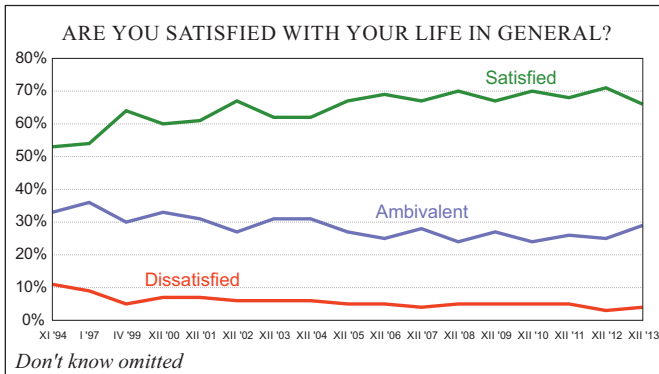
The comparison of current opinions with those recorded five years ago indicates that the conviction about the positive consequences of the Round Table remains unchanged. However, the perception of the negative sides, such as lack of judgment for the former elites, strengthens. Similarly, with the passage of time, the memory about the political constraints and the sequence of events starts to diminish. Instead, the presentist approach strengthens, in which the Round Table is interpreted as a part of an inevitable historical process. Compared with 2009, the proportion of people who think that the agreement was unnecessary because Communism would have soon collapsed anyway has increased.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Round Table negotiations", February 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: January 2014, N=1067. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## SATISFACTION WITH LIFE

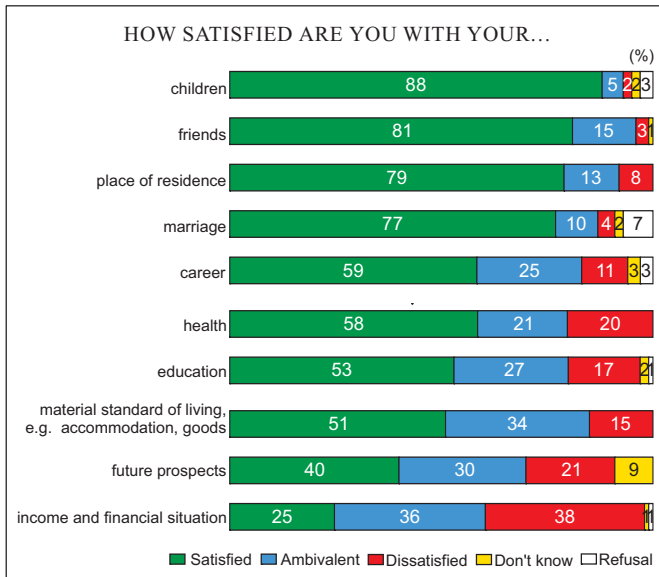
Compared with 2012, the Polish people are less satisfied with life. At present, positive feelings are expressed by two-thirds of respondents (66%, a 5-point drop). In the last 12 months, there has been a 4-point increase in the number of people who describe their satisfaction as average (29%). Only very few people (4%) are dissatisfied.



The most important sources of satisfaction are family and friends. A great majority of parents are happy with their children (88%), while three-quarters of married people (77%) are satisfied with their marriage. Over four-fifths (81%) have a positive opinion about their friendship ties. A vast majority (79%) are happy with their place of residence.

Most Poles are happy with their career (59%), health (58%), education and qualifications (53%) and material standard of living, i.e. accommodation, durable goods, etc. (51%).

Only two-fifths (40%) are optimistic about their future prospects, while one-third (30%) are ambivalent in this respect and one-fifth (21%) see the future pessimistically.



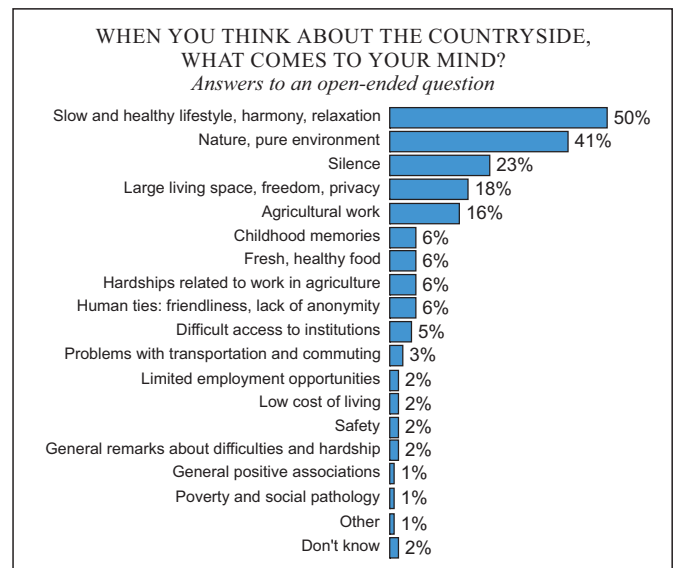
The lowest levels of satisfaction are recorded for financial situation and income. At present, a quarter of respondents (25%) are satisfied, while the others are dissatisfied (38%) or see their financial situation as average (36%).

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Good and bad luck, satisfaction with life", January 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2013, N=910. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## COUNTRYSIDE AND PREFERENCES FOR PLACE OF RESIDENCE

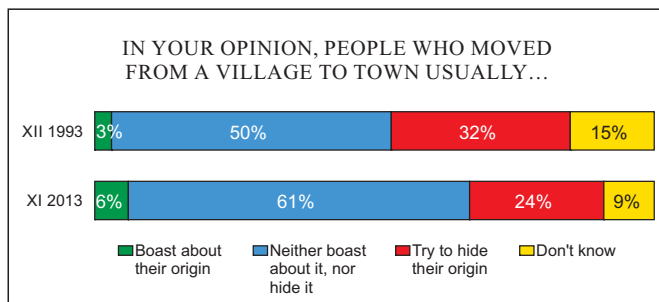
The societal image of the countryside is positive, overall. The first association with rural areas is pure nature (41%): natural landscape, rustling trees and humming birds. Many people associate the countryside with silence (23%) and quiet life: slow pace of living, harmony and stabilization (50%). One-fifth associate rural areas with vast expanses, comfortable living space, freedom and privacy (18%). For some, rural areas are primarily fresh and healthy food (6%) and less costly life (2%). Some people (6%) mention close relations with family and neighbours and lack of anonymity, unheard of elsewhere. For 2% rural life is synonymous with safety.

Although Poles have, in general, positive associations with the countryside, some of them do note specific problems affecting the rural population. Respondents mention hard work and unregulated hours (6%) and difficulties arising from life away from cities: limited access to institutions (5%), commuting problems (3%), limited employment opportunities (2%) and generally worse prospects relative to urban population (2%).



Some respondents (6%) reach back in memory to their childhood, remembering their home and family. One-sixth (16%) associate rural area with different type of work, i.e. agriculture. Only very few people (1%) think of villages as pockets of poverty, or a synonym of social pathology.

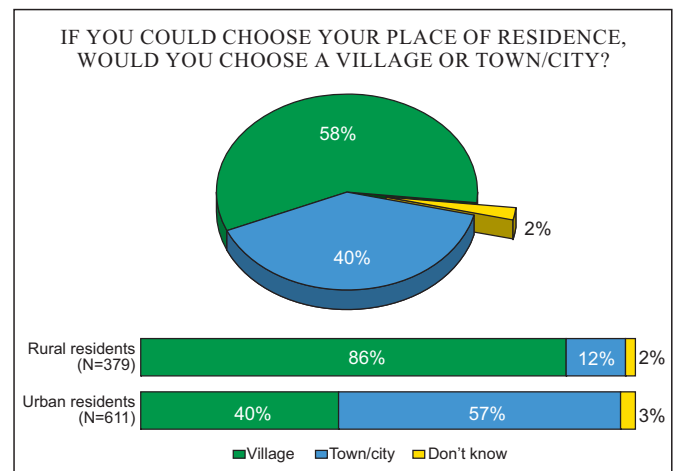
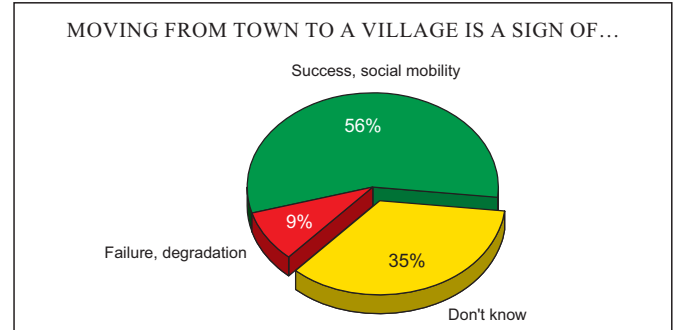
Living out of town is now better appreciated than 20 years ago. Three-fifths of respondents (61%) think that people coming from rural areas neither boast about their origin nor hide it, while a quarter (24%) think that they are ashamed of where they come from. In the last twenty years, the proportion of respondents convinced that people from the countryside are ashamed of it fell by 8 points, with a corresponding rise in the proportion of people who think there is no stigma attached to rural origin (a 14-point increase from 53% to 67%).



For the majority of respondents (56%), moving out of town is a sign of success and social mobility. A similar group (58%) declare that, given a choice, they would rather live in a village than town. Urban residents are more willing to change the place of residence.

Apparently, the vision of a house in the countryside does not appeal to people who associate moving out of town with success, i.e. the wealthiest and

best educated. These people prefer living in towns or cities. Apart from the rural population, living in a village is attractive for those lower on the social ladder, i.e. people in bad material living conditions and poorly educated.



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Stereotypes about rural Poland", January 2014. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2013, N=990. 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):**

- ◆ Polityk roku 2013 w Polsce i na świecie
- ◆ Religijność polskiej wsi
- ◆ Preferencje partyjne w styczniu
- ◆ Oceny działalności parlamentu i prezydenta
- ◆ Nastroje społeczne w styczniu
- ◆ Zaufanie do polityków w styczniu
- ◆ Igrzyska w Soczi w cieniu zagrożenia terrorystycznego
- ◆ Stosunek do rządu w styczniu
- ◆ Polska regionalna
- ◆ Zainteresowanie igrzyskami w Soczi oraz ocena szans medalowych Polaków

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:

CBOS POLAND  
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Phones: (48 22) 629 35 69, 628 37 04  
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