

POLISH PUBLICOPINION Solid and Professional 12/2015

ISSN 2083-1714

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- Flows between Party Electorates from Year 2011 and 2015
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Terrorism threat after Paris attacks

The November terrorist attacks in Paris and Saint-Denis markedly increased the perception of threat of terrorism. Personal concerns about possible terrorist attacks in Poland have significantly increased since March 2015. At present, over half of respondents (51%, a 10-point increase) are afraid of them. The current level of anxiety is highest recorded in the last five years. However, it is still lower

than between December 2003 and August 2005, when public opinion was affected by spectacular attacks in Bali, in Moscow at Dubrovka Theatre, in a school in Beslan, and, above all, in Madrid and London, where Polish citizens were among the victims.





Subjective personal fear of terrorism is strongly related to respondents' gender. Women (59%) are afraid far more often than men (42%).

Do you agree that Polish authorities and institutions are well prepared for preventing terrorist attacks in Poland?



The evaluation of preparedness of Polish authorities and institutions for preventing terrorist attacks has markedly deteriorated since March, even though public opinion was predominantly sceptical even earlier. Presently the majority of Poles (61%) believe that Polish authorities are not well prepared to prevent terrorist attacks, while only one-fifth (20%) have a positive opinion.

As far as costs of increasing security are concerned, they can be both material and in terms of restricting civil liberties. Poles overwhelmingly agree to enhanced controls on the borders, at railways stations and airports (94%) and to more restrictive migration law (82%). Two-thirds of respondents (67%) declare their readiness to bear financial cost of increased expenditure on security. These three ways of increasing citizens' security are accepted more frequently than nine months ago. This concerns in particular restricting migration law (23-point increase).

On the other hand, a vast majority of respondents are opposed to increasing the power of authorities to control mail (65%) and monitor telephone conversations (61%). Over half oppose limiting media information about terrorist threat (56%). It is worth noting that, while the acceptance of state control of mail and telephone has markedly increased (10 points in both cases), the support for state censorship of media information on terrorist threat is relatively stable.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Terrorism Threat after the Attacks in Paris", December 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2015, N=989. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Attitude to refugees after terrorist attacks in Paris

In May, when the media still covered the aftermath of the disasters in the Mediterranean Sea, in which hundreds of refugees and migrants attempting to reach Europe died, the majority of Poles supported giving international protection to refugees from countries affected by armed conflicts. Most respondents supported giving them temporary asylum. Since August, when the huge scale of immigration from Africa and the Middle East became known, the proportion of people convinced that Poland should not accept refugees has started to grow. In December the number of opponents of accepting refugees (53%) exceeded the percentage of respondents willing to give them at least temporary asylum (42%). At present only 5% of respondents share the opinion that we should accept refugees from countries affected by war and allow them to settle. Almost two-fifths (37%) are willing to give them asylum until they can return to their own countries. The recent increase in the number of opponents of accepting refugees is probably partially caused by the Paris attacks inspired by the Islamic State.

Should Poland accept refugees from countries affected by military conflict?



Almost from the beginning the majority of Poles opposed the obligatory resettlement into Poland of some refugees arriving in Europe from the Middle East and Africa. In December the rejection intensified. At present almost two-third of Poles (64%) oppose resettlement of a part of refugees, while one-third (30%) support such actions.

Do you agree that Poland should receive a part of refugees arriving in Europe from the Middle East and Africa?



The attitude to Ukrainian refugees from areas of armed conflict has not changed. They have always enjoyed higher support than refugees from Africa and the Middle East. At present three-fifths of Poles (60%) support giving asylum to refugees from Ukraine. This proportion has remained practically unchanged since September. A third of respondents (33%) oppose this policy.

Do you agree that Poland should receive Ukrainian refugees from the armed conflict areas?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitudes towards Refugees after Paris Terrorist Attacks", December 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2015, N=989. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Attitude to immigrants in the Visegrad Groups countries

Respondents from the four countries of the Visegrad Group were asked to express their attitude to different opinions about negative consequences of the presence of a large number of immigrants in their countries. On a scale from -3 to +3 they indicated, to what extent they shared these anxieties. The responses allow for measuring the scope and strength of xenophobic attitudes, understood as fear of migrants.

Do you agree with the following statements?*





I am afraid that in case of war or other political tensions immigrants will be loyal to their country of origin



* -3 strongly agree, -2 agree, -1 moderately agree, 1 moderately disagree, 2 disagree, 3 strongly disagree

The most common reservations are related to immigrants' attitude to receiving countries. A vast majority of respondents in all four countries doubt that immigrants will prioritise the interests of the receiving country and are afraid that, in case of war or political tensions, they will be loyal to their country of origin.

In Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia there are also fairly widespread fears that the increase in immigration will lead to deterioration of the way of life and that immigrants will spread atypical diseases. In Poland such concerns are less frequent, but are nevertheless shared by a large proportion of the society.

Do you agree with the following statements?

I am concerned that immigration will cause our way of life to deteriorate



I fear that migrants may spread atypical diseases



The smallest differences between the Visegrad Group countries are in the scale of concerns about the situation on the labour market. In all four countries the majority of citizens share the opinion that immigrants take jobs away from the native population. The fears are least pronounced in Poland.

Do you agree with the following statements?

Immigrants take away jobs from the people who live here



The biggest differences between the societies concern the control over immigration. It is the only issue in which Slovaks are the least concerned. Hungarians, on the other hand, more often than others are afraid that immigration has slipped out of control. It is understandable in the context of recent events, when Hungary became a transit country for the masses of migrants and refugees heading for Germany.

Do you agree with the following statements?

Immigration to our country is out of control



In Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia there are widespread concerns about the increase in criminality and threat to culture due to immigration. In Poland slightly less than half of respondents share the fear of criminality or threat to culture due to the influx of immigrants.

Do you agree with the following statements?

Immigrants contribute to the increase in criminality



I am afraid that we will lose our culture due to increased immigration



There is less fear about personal contact with immigrants. In Poland a quarter of respondents are uncomfortable, in the other countries more than a half.

Do you agree with the following statements?

I am uncomfortable in contacts with immigrants



The composite index of anxiety about consequences of immigration (mean value of all answers on the scale from - 3 to +3) shows that the concern is highest in Czech Republic (-1.40), slightly lower in Hungary (-1.13) and Slovakia (-1.09), and lowest in Poland (-0.43).

Index of anxiety about consequences of immigration



Mean on the scale from -3 to +3, where -3 indicates highest degree of xenophobia and 3 lowest $% \left({{\rm A}} \right)$

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitudes towards Immigrants in Visegrad Group Countries", December 2015. Fieldwork for national sample in Poland: October 2015, N=1114; Czech Republic (CVVM Sociological Institute): October 2015, N=1045; Hungary (TARKI): October 2015, N=1003; Slovakia (FOCUS): October 2015, N=1032. The samples are representative for adult populations.

Future of Polish coal mining industry

At the UN climate change conference, which ended in December 2015, the agreement was made to keep the global warming to 2 degrees Celsius compared to the preindustrial period. The agreement does not enforce any specific actions to be taken by the states which are parties to it. Instead, it is based on voluntary declarations to reduce greenhouse gas. The agreement does not contain the goal of de-carbonisation, but less far-reaching carbon neutrality, which is consistent with goals of Poland, among others. Poland is the largest producer of coal in the European Union and it is our key source of energy. According to government policy, keeping Polish coal as the source of energy is the foundation of energy security.

Although coal is presently the most important source of energy for Poland, most respondents (61%) believe that it should gradually be replaced by other sources of energy.

In the next 20-30 years, should Poland...



Privatisation of enterprises engaged in mining commodities used for producing energy has been discussed since the beginning of transformation. However, two-thirds of Poles (66%) are of the opinion that a significant part of coal mines should remain under state control.

Which opinion is closer to your own view?



Polish coal mining industry is plagued by financial problems. Their direct cause is the decrease of global coal prices. Some loss-making mines are threatened with closure and miners face unemployment. Almost half of respondents (46%) support closing unprofitable mines. A significant proportion of respondents (41%), however, believe that mines should not be closed, even if they do not make any profit. In the last twenty years there has been an increase in the number of people who support closing unprofitable mines.

Which opinion is closer to your own view?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "What's Next for Polish Black Coal Mining", December 2015. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2015, N=951. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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