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75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Nearly 75 years ago, an uprising broke out in the Warsaw ghetto. Almost everyone has heard about it (94%), but only a few (11%) know the date of its

outbreak. Six out of a hundred people (6%) do not know anything about this event. Ignorance is slightly less common than five years ago when we asked about it for the first time.





The Home Army (Armia Krajowa) and other underground organizations gave the insurgents some support, including weapons and help in getting people out of the ghetto. Six out of ten respondents who have heard about the uprising in the

in the Warsaw ghetto? Responses from people who have heard about the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto

Did Poles help the Jews during the fight



Warsaw ghetto think that Poles helped Jews to a great extent, and one third said the help was minor. A marginal group believe there was no support. In comparison to the results from the previous m e a s u r e m e n t, th e involvement of the Polish side in the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto is more often described as large, rather than as small.

In public opinion, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising is important primarily for Jews. Half of them say that the ghetto uprising is important for Poles, and one third believe in its significance for the older generation. In comparison to 2013, the significance of the uprising for all Poles is much more often stressed, while there is less stress on its importance for Jews and older generations. For whom is the today? Responses from ped in the Warsaw ghet For Polish people For older generation Only for people whose life is related to Warsaw For others There are few people uprising today Don't know

For whom is the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising important today?

Responses from people who have heard about the uprising in the Warsaw ghetto



Respondents who have heard about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, in the vast majority (83%) consider it to be an important event for themselves, of which one-third (32%) describe it as very important. For one-tenth (10%) it does not matter. In the last five years, the importance of this uprising in collective memory has increased slightly.

For you personally, is the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising... *Responses from people who have heard about the uprising*

in the Warsaw ghetto



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Knowledge about Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and Its Significance", April 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2018, N=1092. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Polish foreign policy: assessments and expectations

Assessments of foreign policy of the government created by Law and Justice (PiS) are divided. The number of people who evaluate Poland's foreign policy since PiS took power well is practically the same as the proportion of people who have a negative opinion about it (40% and 41% respectively).

How do you evaluate Poland's foreign policy since the Law and Justice (PiS) took power?



Both those who assess foreign policy since PiS took power as good and bad were asked to justify their opinions. Respondents did not choose prepared answers, but formulated their opinions in a completely free manner.

People who have a good opinion of Poland's foreign policy after 2015 paid particular attention to the intentions of the ruling camp and expressed their conviction that PiS acts in defence of national interests, for Poland's good (18%). It was emphasized that those currently in government in Poland are pursuing sovereign foreign policy (9%). The determination of the current authorities was emphasized: their firmness, tenacity, not yielding under pressure from other countries (11%). Independence and the defence of Poland's sovereignty at the European Union level were noticed (2%). In the opinion of some supporters of the current foreign policy, it brings effects: the position of our country on the international arena is improving, and other countries have started to recognize Poland's importance (6%).

Some people indicated generally good relations and contacts between Poland and other countries, absence of conflicts (8%). Some noticed the improvement of international relations, better understanding with our foreign partners after changes in the government (3%). Speaking about Poland's good relations with specific foreign partners, the most important was the alliance with the United States (6%) and relaxation of the recent conflict with the European Union (5%). Sometimes, the Three Seas Initiative (1%), good relations with Hungary (1%) and improvement of relations with Germany (1%) were praised.

Among specific issues in the field of foreign policy, the decision on not accepting refugees to our country (7%) was pointed out with approval, as well as actions to ensure the security of Poland, such as signing a contract for the delivery of the American anti-aircraft and missile defence system "Patriot" (3%). Moreover, respondents mentioned development of economic and commercial relations, e.g. attracting new investments and seeking new export markets (3%) and better job opportunities abroad (2%).

Some attention was also paid to good representation of Poland abroad and improvement in this area in recent period (3%).

Some people limited themselves to general foreign policy approval (12%) or the entire work of the current team (4%).

People criticizing Poland's foreign policy accused the government of, above all, lack of cooperation and understanding with other countries and pointed to the negative effects of such a policy. Respondents focused on excessive intransigence in foreign policy, inability to get along with others, causing conflicts and disputes (23%). As a result, this led to deterioration and even to the disruption of Poland's relations with other countries (9%), deterioration of the image of Poland and Poles (7%), and, as was pointed out less often, to marginalization of our country (2%). Some pointed out that Poland is currently alone in the international arena, it has lost its allies (7%). There were also opinions about the discredited image of Poland on the international arena caused by those currently in government, a sense of shame for what is happening in the country (3%).

By far the most visible area of conflict is the dispute with the European Union (18%). In this context, respondents talked, among others, about Poland's failure to comply with European Union law, the unsuccessful vote for the head of the European Council, and even about the policy to bring Poland out of the EU. They mentioned international consequences of the adoption of the law on the Institute of National Remembrance (2%) and the related deterioration of relations with Israel (3%) and the United States (2%). Moreover relations with neighbours have worsened (3%). There are also concerns about bad relations with Russia, which, in the opinion of some, may even pose a threat of the outbreak of war (4%). Deterioration of relations with Germany (2%), Ukraine (1%) and France (1%) was also noticed.

Some other specific issues, apart from the abovementioned, with negative connotations were: refusal to accept refugees (1%), insufficient concern for economic contacts (1%) and putting historical settlements on the agenda at the international level (1%).

People negatively assessing the government's actions in the international arena referred to insufficient experience and incompetence of the current team in conducting foreign policy (6%). They pointed to chaotic, illconsidered moves and low effectiveness of actions (4%). They occasionally remembered embarrassing or awkward incidents (1%).

Some people criticized all PiS actions on the international arena (5%), sometimes speaking about the loss of the achievements of previous governments in foreign policy (3%). In addition, general dislike for PiS and its policies was expressed (2%).

In public opinion, the priority of Polish foreign policy should now be to improve cooperation within the European Union. The second most important is to maintain the strategic alliance with the United States. Relatively many people have listed, among the most important postulated goals of Polish foreign policy, development of regional cooperation within the framework of the Three Seas Initiative.

What should be the main goals and directions of Poland's foreign policy at present?



In public opinion, Poland's actions on the international scene should now be focused on reaching agreement and improving cooperation with other countries, even if it requires a compromise, rather than on advancing our own goals and interests, even if it is criticized by other states and entities. In general, do you think that Poland's foreign policy should be focused on...



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Polish Foreign Policy – Assessments and Postulates", April 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2018, N=1140. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

Cooperation between local authorities and residents

Self-government is intended to contribute to the wider dialogue between local authorities and residents. This dialogue should include as many people as possible and increase residents' involvement in local affairs, while at the same time ensuring their participation in the decisionmaking process and the actual impact on decisions made by local authorities. In an increasing number of Polish municipalities and cities, such a process is carried out through various forms of cooperation and specific programs enabling residents to participate in decisionmaking, e.g. public consultations, citizens' initiatives or participatory budgets.

Most respondents (64%) feel that in their municipality / commune authorities take into account their voice when making decisions.

Do you agree that the voice of the inhabitants of your municipality / commune is taken into account by the local authorities when making decisions that concern residents?



Although the majority of Poles are convinced that inhabitants of their towns/villages have influence on decisions of local authorities, only one third (34%) are able to indicate any specific opportunities and tools for cooperation of residents with local authorities to improve the situation of the local community.

Are you aware of any possibilities and tools for cooperation between the inhabitants of your place of residence and local authorities in order to improve the situation of the local community?



People who have declared knowledge of specific forms of cooperation between local authorities and residents in their localities most often (35% of indications) mentioned the possibility of direct meetings and talks with councillors and representatives of the authorities, including open meetings for residents. A quarter (24%) pointed to the possibility of initiating solutions and inhabitants' participation in the implementation of specific investments through civic initiatives, social campaigns, etc., while one-sixth (17%) mentioned participation of residents in determining a part of public expenditure, e.g. through participatory budget. Less frequently mentioned tools for dialogue between local authorities and residents are: submitting letters and petitions (10% of responses), operation of district councils and housing communities aiming to improve the situation of the local community (5%), public consultations (4%), local council sessions open to residents (4%), local NGOs monitoring the activity of the town / commune authorities (4%) and activities of various types of entities subordinated to the local authorities which involve residents in cooperation with the office (4%). Less frequently, respondents pointed to social research of residents (3%), referenda (2%) or Internet communication with representatives of authorities (2%).

Material living conditions

Respondents describing their way of managing money most often declare that they live on an average level – they have enough to pay for daily expenses, but they must save for more serious purchases (53%). More than a fourth have more freedom in managing the home budget, declaring that they have enough without special savings (26%) or can even afford a certain degree of luxury (2%). Fewer than a fifth declare living modestly: they have to economize on a daily basis (17%), and a few say that they are very poor, not having enough money to cover basic needs (2%).

In comparison with last year's survey, more respondents have declared that they live well (increase by 2 percentage

For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact: CBOS 5/7, Świętojerska, 00-236 Warsaw, Poland Phones: (48) 22 629 35 69, 22 628 37 04 Fax: (48) 22 629 40 89 e-mail: sekretariat@cbos.pl www.cbos.pl points), while fewer have described their standard of living as average (decrease by 2 points). Taking into account the longer perspective, in twenty-five years there has been a very noticeable improvement in selfassessments of the financial situation of Poles.

Which of the following best describes money management in your household?



The vast majority of respondents are not afraid of poverty (78% in total), with two fifths (41%) expressing concerns that their situation may deteriorate, whereas a slightly smaller group (37%) are confident that they can handle their financial situation. One fifth of respondents are afraid of poverty (21%), of which 17% think they can manage somehow and 4% feel helpless.

Over the last year, the percentage of respondents worried about poverty has decreased (by 6 percentage points), and the number of those who did not express such concerns has increased (by 6 points). There are more people who are completely calm about their financial situation (increase by 7 points).

Which of the following statements best describes your household's current financial situation?



Don't know omitted

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Material Living Conditions", April 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2018, N=1092. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Cooperation between Local Authorities and Residents", April 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: February 2018, N=1057. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.