

Poles' opinions on the TTIP

Report by TNS Polska for the British Embassy Warsaw



Contents

1

About the Study 3

2

Summary & Conclusions 5

3

Globalisation 7

4

Transatlantic Trade and Investment
Partnership 12



1

About the Study



Poles' opinions on the TTIP

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About the Study



Timing: 5–11 February 2016



Sample: nationwide representative sample of 1002 Poles aged 15+



Technique: computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI) conducted within an omnibus survey

The results in percentages have been rounded off, which is why they may not add up to 100%.

2

Summary & Conclusions



Summary & Conclusions



Nearly a half of Poles (46%) positively view the increasing interconnection between national economies. The international growth of many companies has many more supporters than opponents. A majority of Poles report positive connotations around the notions of 'free trade' and 'globalisation'.



Nearly a half of Poles (48%) have heard about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, with 30% of the respondents not exploring this topic, 15% exploring it to a small extent and 3% showing major interest in it.



Poles express a similar degree of support (69%–72%) for various activities which fall within the scope of the TTIP, i.e. facilitated mutual recognition of professional qualifications, facilitated trade, gradual abolishment of customs duties in trade, facilitated EU investments in the USA and American investments in the EU, with equal conditions of operation for investors.



Poles think that the United States and the European Union (73%) will be the main beneficiaries of the TTIP. They are slightly less likely to say that Poland will also benefit from the TTIP. On the other hand, less than a half of the respondents expect benefits of this initiative for themselves personally. Consequently, Poles tend to think that the free trade agreement will bring more gains than losses to the parties of the TTIP, i.e. United States (47%) and the European Union (43%).

Poles' opinions on the TTIP

3

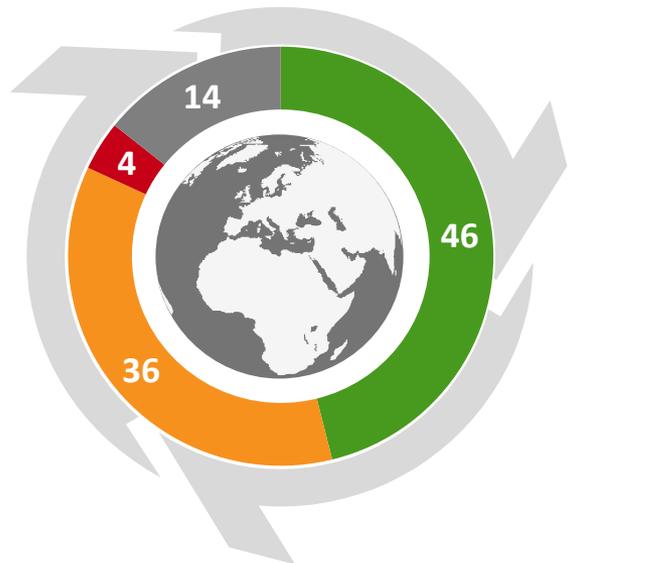
Globalisation



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Economies of different countries are increasingly interconnected and interdependent. There are many multinational companies operating in many countries, and the economy grows freely across national borders. In your opinion, is this a positive or a negative phenomenon?



■ positive
■ negative
■ neither positive nor negative
■ not sure

Nearly a half of Poles (46%) think that the increasing mutual dependence of economies in different countries and growth of enterprises across national borders is a positive phenomenon. One in three Poles (36%) has a neutral view on the subject. Only 4% of the respondents notice negative aspects of the increasing interdependence of national economies.

The increasing interdependence between national economies is viewed favourably mostly by the respondents with university degrees (56%), living in the smallest towns (55%), and having leftist views (61%) as well as centre-left views (63%).

Difficulties with assessing this issue were most commonly observed among the oldest respondents (20%) and people perceiving their financial situation as bad (22%).

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Poles' opinions on the TTIP

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There are many multinational companies operating in many countries, and the economy grows freely across national borders. In your opinion, is this a positive or a negative phenomenon?

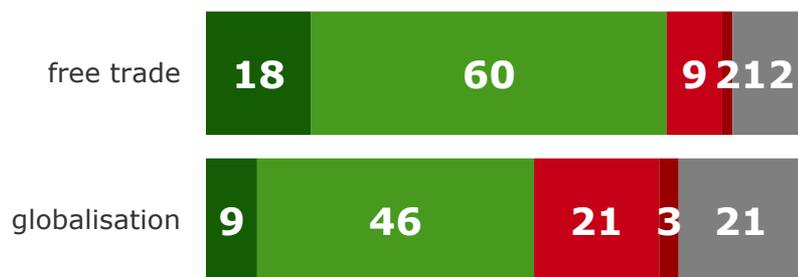
	Sept. 2003	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016*
Positive	49	57	46
Neither positive nor negative	12	17	36
Negative	19	15	4
Not sure	20	11	14

Well-defined opinions, whether positive or negative, regarding the free growth of national economies on the international arena are expressed less commonly than in previous years. On the other hand, the respondents are now more likely to choose neutral answers, which may mean that the topic has become less controversial.

This change may have been influenced by the recent developments in Europe and worldwide resulting in migrant flows, as well as the current political situation in Poland.

* Since the study conducted by CBOS covered a sample of Poles aged 18+, data from the table were recalculated to enable a comparison.

For each of the following notions, please tell me if it brings very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative connotations:



- very positive
- fairly positive
- fairly negative
- very negative
- not sure



The notion of 'free trade' evokes positive connotations for most Poles (78%), with 60% of the respondents reporting fairly positive connotations and 18% thinking of it very positively. One in nine respondents (11%) mentions negative connotations in connection with 'free trade'.

People with higher education are more likely than other respondents to report positive connotations in this case.

The notion of 'globalisation' is somewhat less likely to evoke positive connotations among Poles (55%). Negative opinions were mentioned by one in four Poles (24%). One in five respondents was unable to express a position in this case (21%).

Globalisation is more likely to evoke positive connotations among Poles with leftist or centre-left political views and among those who perceive their own financial situation as good.

N=1002

Poles' opinions on the TTIP



For each of the following notions, please tell me if it brings very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative connotations:

Free trade

	EB 82.3	Feb. 2016
Positive	76	77
Negative	16	11
Not sure / don't know	8	12

Globalisation

	EB 82.3	Feb. 2016
Positive	45	55
Negative	32	24
Not sure / don't know	23	21

In comparison with the Eurobarometer results obtained in 2014, the share of people who report negative connotations around 'free trade' has dropped by 5 percentage points. At the same time, the share of those who have positive connotations in this case has risen by 1 percentage point.

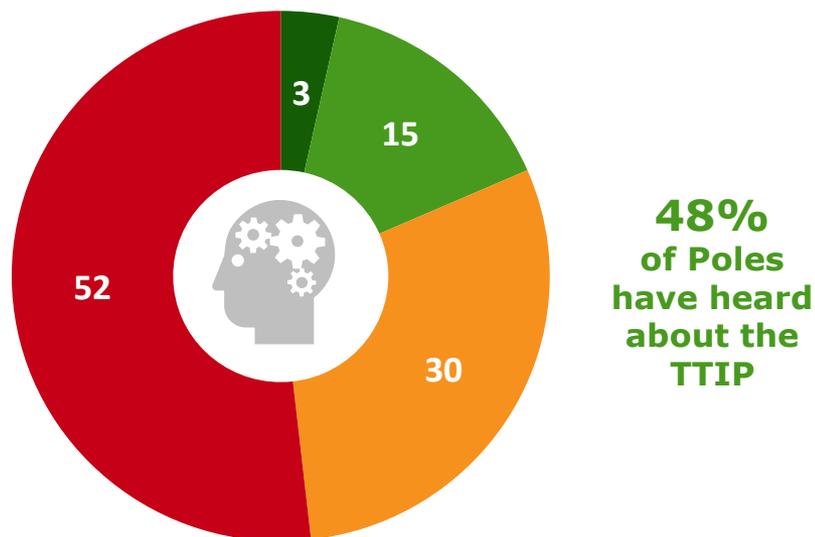
The notion of 'globalisation' is viewed positively by a higher percentage of Poles than in 2014. The share of the respondents reporting positive connotations around globalisation has gone up by 10 percentage points whereas the share of those who perceive it as a negative notion has dropped by 8 percentage points.

Overall, it is important to note the declining percentages of negative connotations versus the situation two years ago, both for free trade and globalisation.

4

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Have you heard about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – a treaty between the European Union and the United States of America, aimed at enhancing the trade and investment relations between the EU and the USA?



- yes, I heard about it and explored it a lot
- yes, I heard about it and explored it a little
- yes, I heard about it but did not explore it
- no, I haven't heard about it, I don't know anything

Nearly a half of the respondents (48%) have heard about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, with 30% having heard about it but not exploring it further. One in seven respondents has heard about the initiative and explored this topic a little whereas 3% have heard about it and explored it a lot.

More than a half of Poland's residents (52%) have not heard anything and do not know anything about this free trade agreement.

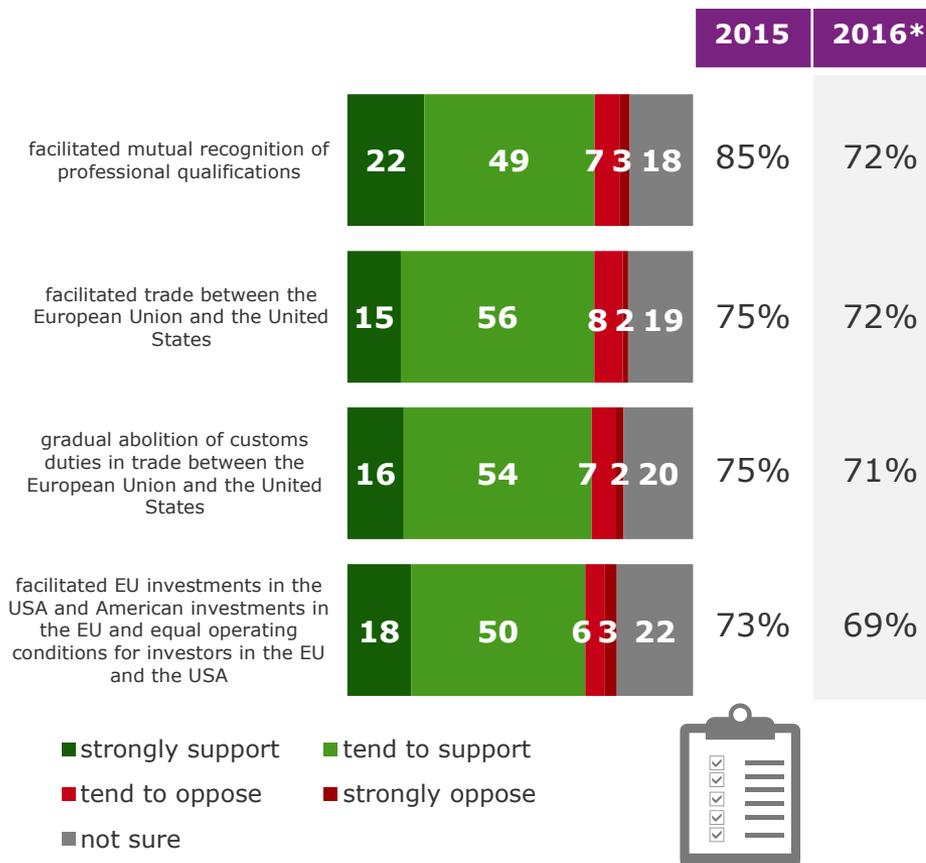
In comparison with others, interest in this topic was more likely to be explored by the respondents in their fifties and those who perceive their financial situation as good.

Knowledge about the subject, but without exploring it further, is more likely to be admitted by the respondents aged 30-39, with higher education, and those who voted for the Civic Platform (PO). Lack of knowledge about the TTIP was more likely to be admitted by Poles with primary education, those who voted for Law and Justice (PiS), and who perceive their financial situation as bad.

N=1002

Poles' opinions on the TTIP

Do you support or oppose the following actions/moves aimed at enhancing the trade and investment relations between the European Union and the United States:



Generally speaking, most Poles support each of the listed ideas activities aimed at enhancing the trade and investment relations between the European Union and the United States. Facilitated mutual recognition of professional qualifications, facilitated trade between the European Union and the United States, as well as gradual abolition of customs duties in trade between the European Union and the United States are supported by 70–71% of the respondents. The respondents are only slightly less likely (69%) to support facilitated EU investments in the USA and American investments in the EU, and equal rules of operation for investors in the EU and the USA.

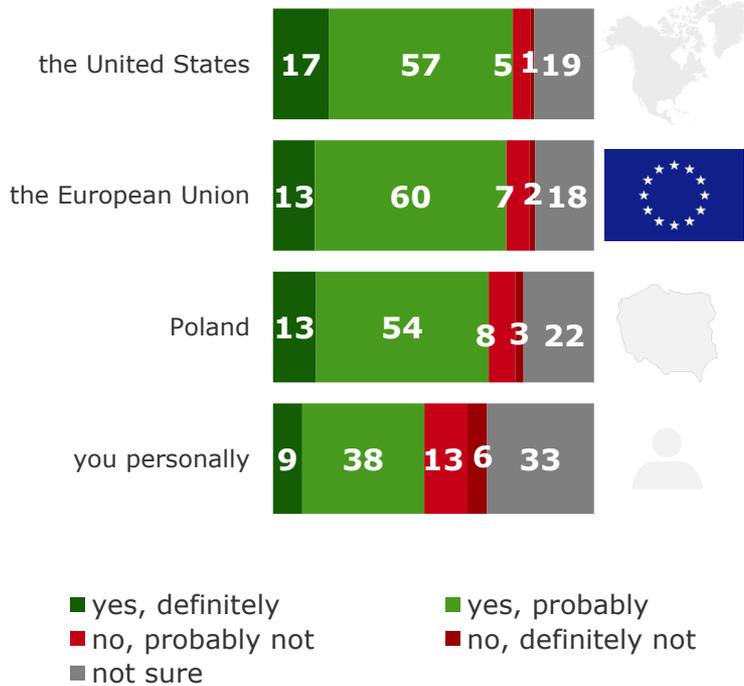
In comparison with the findings published by CBOS in May 2015, the support for all the presented activities has declined. The most radical decline is observed in the case of facilitated recognition of professional qualifications (by 7 percentage points), and a less radical decline has been recorded with regard to gradual abolition of customs duties in trade between the European Union and the United States, as well as facilitated investments (4 percentage points in each case). The weakest decline was observed with regard to facilitated trade (down by 3 percentage points). These changes of opinions in Poland may have been driven by the events related to the immigration crisis in Europe.

*Since the study conducted by CBOS covered a sample of Poles aged 18+, data from the table were recalculated to enable a comparison.
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Will the entry into force of the treaty facilitating trade and mutual investments between the European Union and the United States of America be favourable for:

Poles are most likely to admit that the parties to partnership, i.e. the United States (75%) and the European Union (73%), will be the beneficiaries of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. The opinion that Poland is going to benefit from the new partnership is slightly less widespread (67%). The respondents are least likely to say that this initiative will be beneficial for them personally (47%). At the same time, the highest percentage of the respondents (33%) were unable to say whether the treaty will be favourable or unfavourable for them personally.

The respondents in their twenties, people with university degrees, those with centre-left political views, those assessing their financial situation as medium and those who have heard about the TTIP and explored it a lot are more likely to claim that this free trade treaty will be beneficial for the European Union. Benefits for the United States are more likely to be mentioned by the respondents with university degrees, centre-right political views and those who have heard about the TTIP, regardless of how much they explored the subject. The entry of the TTIP into force would be favourable for Poland – this view is more likely to be shared by people with university degrees, respondents with centre-left views and those who perceive their financial situation as good. On the other hand, the treaty is more likely to be seen as personally beneficial by the respondents with university degrees, those from cities with 100-500 thousand residents, with centre-left views and perceiving their financial situation as good. Moreover, the more interested the respondents are in the topic, the more likely they are to mention benefits for Poland and for themselves personally.



N=1002

Poles' opinions on the TTIP



Will the entry into force of the treaty facilitating trade and mutual investments between the European Union and the United States of America be favourable for:*

	2015	2016**
the European Union	71%	73%
the United States	77%	75%
Poland	67%	67%
you personally	45%	48%

In comparison with the last year, Poles generally expressed very similar opinions about the benefits of the TTIP for the European Union, the United States, Poland and themselves personally.

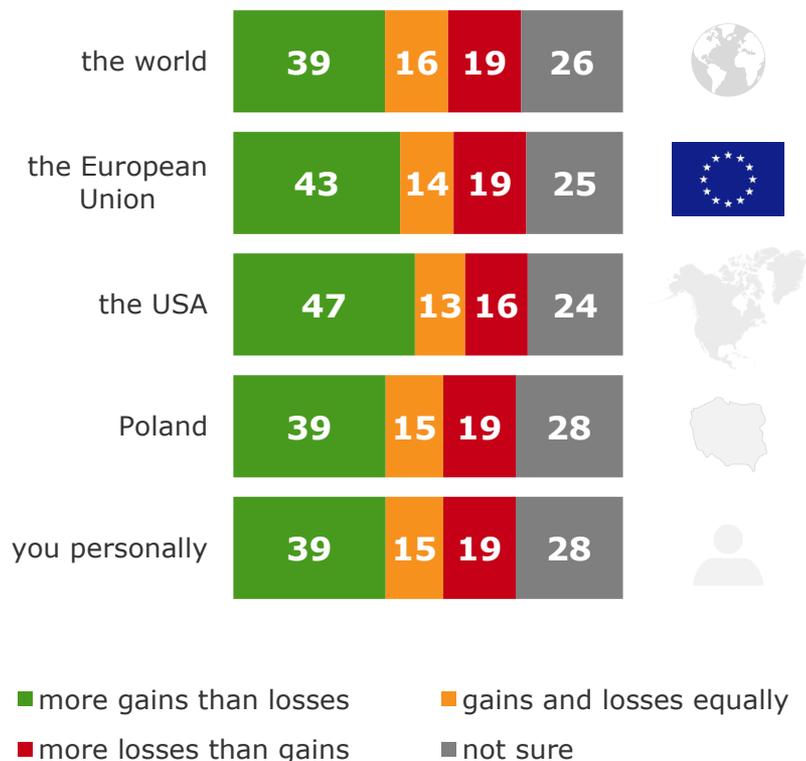
At present, Poles are slightly more likely to believe that the free trade treaty will be beneficial for the European Union (up by 2 percentage points) and themselves (up by 3 percentage points but are less likely than last year to think that the benefits will be gained also by the United States (down by 2 percentage points).

*A comparison of percentages of the respondents who believe the entry into force will be beneficial

** Since the study conducted by CBOS covered a sample of Poles aged 18+, data from the table were recalculated to enable a comparison.

Poles' opinions on the TTIP

In your opinion, is the signing of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) likely to bring more gains or losses for:



What do Poles think about the overall balance of gains and losses resulting from the signing of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) for various areas? The respondents are most likely (47%) to claim that the USA will derive more benefits than losses from the treaty. Also the European Union is thought to be more likely to gain than to lose (43%). Poles are less certain that the world, Poland and they themselves will experience a positive balance of the treaty (39% in each case). People with tertiary education and those who perceive their financial situation positively are more likely to think that the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership will bring more gains than losses. Those who are more interested in the topic are more likely to believe that positive effects will prevail over negative ones in areas which are closest to them (i.e. more gains than losses to Poland and themselves personally).

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Poles' opinions on the TTIP



Contact data



Anna Trzasałska

Junior Research Executive Associate
anna.trzasalska@tnsglobal.com
22 598 97 05



Urszula Krassowska

Account Director
urszula.krassowska@tnsglobal.com
22 598 97 11

TNS Polska S.A.
ul. Wspólna 56
00-687 Warszawa

www.tnsglobal.pl
www.facebook.com/tnspolska

