

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system. Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

| PROJECT | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Participant: | Projekt: Polska - Poland |
| PIC number: | 953473917 |
| Project name and acronym: | Bruised but not broken: reviving the appeal of the EU in the minds of V4 citizens. — ReviveEU |

| EVENT DESCRIPTION | |
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| Event number: | 2.1 |
| Event name: | Public consultations on the rule of law and Covid-19 |
| Type: | Public consultations |
| In situ/online: | In-situ |
| Location: | Regions of Poland (specified by NUTS 1 division) |
| Date(s): | 10-23.04.2023 |
| Website(s) (if any): | http://reviveu.net/activities/research/citizens-attitudes-towards-rule-of-law-and-the-covid-19-pandemic/ |
| Participants | |
| Female: | 175 |
| Male: | 132 |
| Non-binary: | 1 |
| From country 1 [Poland]: | 308 |
| From country 2 [name]: | |
| From country 3 [name]: | |
| ... | |
| Total number of participants: | 308 |
| From the total number of countries: | 1 |
| Description | |
| <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i> | |
| <p>The second round of public consultations in Poland, on the topics of Covid-19 and the Rule of Law, were once again carried out in multiple locations in the whole country. For the purpose of the project, Poland was divided into seven macroregions following the NUTS 1 distinction (South, North-West, South-West, North, Central, East and Mazovia) and participants from all these regions participated in consultations. Consultations took place in small villages, towns, and big cities (including capital Warsaw). As with the first round, they were structured as personal interviews led by professional sociologists on one-on-one basis, format chosen to create an environment where the participants would feel comfortable with sharing their opinions, and with the results of the consultations supplemented by online survey. On average, one consultation in the form of the interview took between 25 and 32 minutes, with about three thirds of the time dedicated to the scripted interviews, and the remaining time left for the questions and feedback of the participants.</p> | |

The vast majority of participants (65%) are pessimistic on the dimension of "social openness" (OTS indicator) regarding Poland - negatively assesses the transformations after 1989, looks to the future with pessimism, believes that most people cannot be trusted. Within this indicator, 72% believe that Poland's situation is heading in the wrong direction, 48% feel a lack of satisfaction with the changes of 1989 (52% feel satisfaction, but only 12% definite satisfaction), 59% believe that most people cannot be trusted (of which 23% feel this strongly). At the same time, as many as 77% express a positive assessment of the European Union (EUA indicator) - 85% confirm that they feel European and 60% confirm that Poland's interests coincide with the interests of the European Union. For 82%, Poland's place is in Europe and in a hypothetical referendum on Polesxit, they would vote to remain in the EU European Union.

The consultations show that Poles have the most confidence in 3 institutions: NATO (81%), the military (76%) and the European Union (67%). The least: toward television public television (72% distrust), the Sejm (68%) and members of the government (68%). Interestingly, the majority, as many as 70% of participants, believe that it is necessary to include independent institutions in the decision-making process, even if those decisions will be made more slowly - 30% support a more authoritarian stance, indicating that it is more effective to have a "strong leader" who will sometimes break the rules to achieve a goal. There is growing conviction regarding the unfairness of the upcoming parliamentary elections. While the 2019 elections are assessed by 44% of Poles as unfair, towards the fall 2023 elections such an opinion is already presented by 52% of respondents. According to 57% of consultations participants, courts are not independent of financial influences, political and other influences.

¼ of participants agreed with the statement that "The media in my country are very biased, and most of them consistently take a pro- or anti-government stance". Surprisingly, those who are optimistic about Poland's development into an open society are more likely to agree with banning the media from publishing information that could cause social unrest. In contrast, those who positively view the European Union do not agree with government interference in media coverage.

According to 58% of consultations participants, minority rights are an important part of democracy. Interestingly, participants believe that the least protected minorities in Poland are people with disabilities (46%) and the homeless (46%). In the case of the LGBT+ community, 36% say it is not protected enough.

Almost half of consultation participants – those who are optimistic about the block – believe the European Union should have more capacity and power to counter the pandemic and not wait for individual decisions by other countries. The opposite opinion was expressed by 1/3 of them. According to participants, COVID-19 has had the greatest impact on mental health of the society. Almost half of them believe that the post-pandemic recovery should be financed with EU loans. Citizens consulted in this round of consultations seemed relatively more interested than the first round, given the inclusion of the topic of Rule of Law and the importance of this topic in Poland.