

**Satisfaction from the Actions of the Local  
Governments: Research Report**

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**Robert Alberski**

University of Wrocław, Poland

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3529-2106>



**Abstract:**

In the article two main issues are depicted: the evaluation of activities of voivodes, mayors and also the evaluation of local government activities. In a research conducted from the end of 2018 until the beginning of 2019 we decided to verify 3 hypotheses. First one was: confidence towards the local government results from positive evaluations of voivodes and mayors activities. The results were compared with the data from previous research. The second hypothesis assumes, that positive evaluation of local government activities is not connected to the activities of single executive body, but is connected to how the whole system of local government works. Third one, however, assumes that local government on the level of voivodeship is rated lower than city (commune) government. Relatively high level of satisfaction about the activities of voivodes and mayors, that were recorded in 2012 research not only remained but even increased. This is the factor that strengthens confidence in local government and favors their positive evaluation. Also voivodeship governments are positively evaluated by the surveyed, however, the level of satisfaction is lower than those of other local authorities.

**Keywords:** 2018 local government election, local government, executive bodies of local government

***Introduction***

“And yet in commune lies the strength of free societies” Alexis de Tocqueville (1976: 134) wrote once, when analyzing how the USA democracy works. Those words could be used as a motto for the authors of the local government reform initiated in Poland at the turn of 1989/1990. In next three decades “restoration of local government as valued social appreciation and practical principles of the functioning of a democratic state” (Tomaszewska-Hołuż 2015: 23).

Rafał Lisiakiewicz (2015: 50) indicates “decentralization of Polish Republic is one of huge achievements of Polish reforms after the fall of communism. Most research of Polish local government in Poland highlights that this part of Polish reform gave a positive result and one can say about the success of Polish local government”.

However, the next stages of local government reforms, with the return of commune government in 1990 by Tadeusz Mazowiecki’s administration, with creating land and municipal districts along with voivodeship government by Jerzy Buzek’s administration in 1998/1999 and finally introducing direct election of voivodes and mayors since 2002, did not only receive positive opinions of experts, but were also relatively well received by Polish society, which was reflected in public opinions research. This positive attitude is not changing even with objections towards horizontal and vertical accountability of regional governments raised in many publications towards the topic<sup>1</sup> and also revealed from time to time scandals. Local governments are the part of public administration, that Polish people have the highest confidence in, leaving institutions like parliament, state government, courts and political parties far behind. For example in CBOS 2016 survey, 64% interviewees had confidence in local authorities (11% full confidence, 54% rather has confidence). Lack of trust to local authorities declared 23% of the surveyed (17% rather has no confidence, 6% lack of confidence). In the same research 38% interviewees declared confidence in government (8% “full”, 30% “rather), and 50% declared lack of confidence (30% rather had no confidence, 20% lack of confidence). Regarding Sejm and Senate 30% had trust and 54% had not. In reference to courts it was accordingly 45% and 42%. Of the 24 institutions included in this survey, local authorities were placed on the 8 spot (behind WOŚP – The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity, Caritas, Polish Red Cross, army, scouting, Roman Catholic Church and police), where courts were 15th, government 17th and parliament 20th. The lowest confidence interviewees declared for political parties, which is trusted by 20% (and only 2% have full confidence) and 65% did not trust (CBOS 18/2016). According to the data from table 1, this kind of situation persists since 20 years.

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<sup>1</sup> See: Hausner’s team remarks, in which attention had been paid for the factors that limits horizontal and vertical responsibilities of local government bodies. In reference to the first, degree of executive bodies dominance, authority and legislative position, position of other control and balance bodies. For second: degree of competition, position and independence of local media, transparency of authorities and the use of public funds (Bober et al. 2013: 28).

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**Table 1.** Distribution of answers to the question: *Do you, in general, trust or do not trust those institutions?*

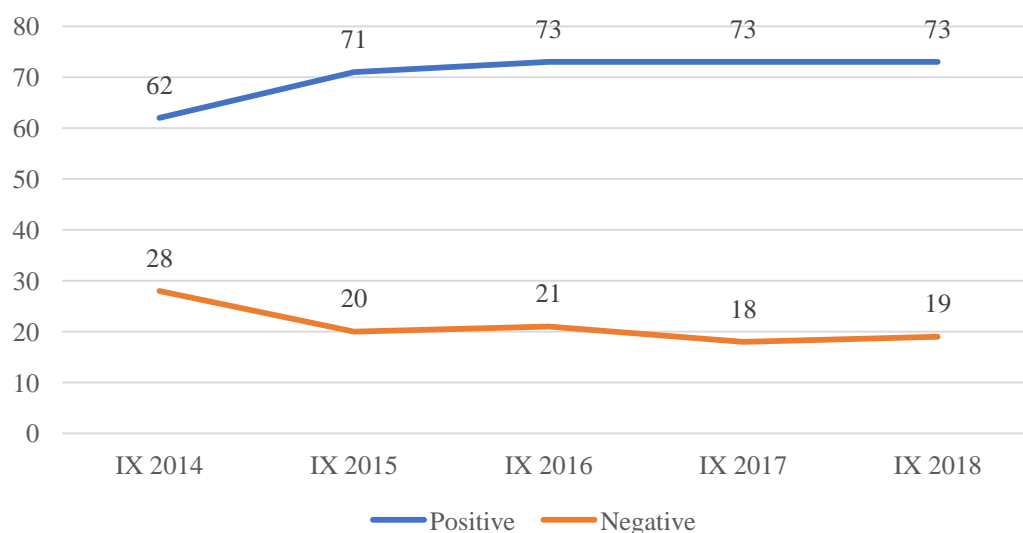
Institutions	I 2002		I 2004		I 2006		I 2008		I 2010		I 2012		I 2016	
	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Political parties	15	65	13	72	24	61	28	54	14	76	20	65	20	65
Sejm and Senate	28	54	21	67	30	54	39	44	21	68	29	55	30	54
State government	42	45	21	68	47	40	56	32	31	60	39	49	38	50
Courts	40	49	31	60	39	51	59	29	44	45	45	44	45	42
City/commune authorities	43	41	53	34	56	33	68	23	55	34	58	30	64	23

In table answers “I definitely trust” and “I rather trust” were summed up, replies “I definitely don’t trust” and “I rather don’t trust” were also summed up and answer “hard to say” was omitted.

**Source:** CBOS (18/2016). *Zaufanie społeczne*. Komunikat z badań CBOS nr 18/2016. Warszawa: Centrum Badania Opinii Społecznej.

Despite the fact, that when Law and Justice rose to power conflicts between local government and ruling political party were quite frequent (especially with those local authorities controlled by the opposition), it did not affect people confidence for the local authorities. On the contrary, during 2014-2018 term of office – according to the chart 1 – number of positive answers increased by 10 points.

**Chart 1.** Evaluation of city/commune authorities activities



**Source:** CBOS (121/2018). *Oceny działalności instytucji publicznych*. Raport z badań CBOS nr 121/2018. Warszawa: Centrum Badania Opinii Społecznej.

In the research conducted by “Political Preferences” project in 2012 I verified a hypothesis that confidence to local authorities is a result of positive evaluation of voyts nad mayors activities (Alberski 2013: 33-46). In 2018 I decided to repeat the research. Also two new questions were added to the questionnaire. One was to serve to clarify, if the positive evaluation of local government is only connected to the activities of one-man executive or it is connected to the whole system of local government. Second question referred to the evaluation of local government activities (on the voivodeship level). It served to verify a hypothesis assuming that local governments on the voivodeship level are rated lower than local governments working in the city (commune).

In case of analyzing the empiric data I created following research questions. First of them, whether the very positive evaluation of voyts and mayors activities indicated in 2012 research maintained in the situation, where their activities in 2014-2018 term of office were heavily criticized by the Law and Justice party? Second, how much positive and negative evaluation of regional authorities activities, formulated by political parties elite are reflected in the views of the supporters of individual political parties? Third, what kind of factors have an impact on more positive evaluation of local authorities by the interviewees than those on the voivodship level? Fourth and last, what sociodemographic variables have an impact on evaluating regional authorities in Poland.

The research was carried out between December 2018 and February 2019. The nationwide sample was selected in Poland in a quota-layered manner (970 people). The disjointed layers were voivodeships (N = 16), while the amount controlled variables were sex, age and place of residence (municipalities or countryside). The research was carried out using the questionnaire method.

### ***Satisfaction with the activities of voyt and mayor***

In the research conducted in 2018 almost half of interviewees (49,6) expressed satisfaction with the activities of voyt and mayor in their place of living (12% answers of “definitely yes”, 37.6% “rather yes”). Quarter of surveyed declared dissatisfaction (9.5% answers “definitely no”, 15.4% “rather no”). 25.5% had no opinion in the matter. Compared to the research from 6 years ago, number of satisfied people rose by 5 points, just as the undecided did. The number of dissatisfied from the activities of their voyt and mayor fell by 10.5 points.

**Table 2.** *I am happy about a voyt (mayor) activities in my place of living – answer percentage according to the place of living in 2012 and 2018.*

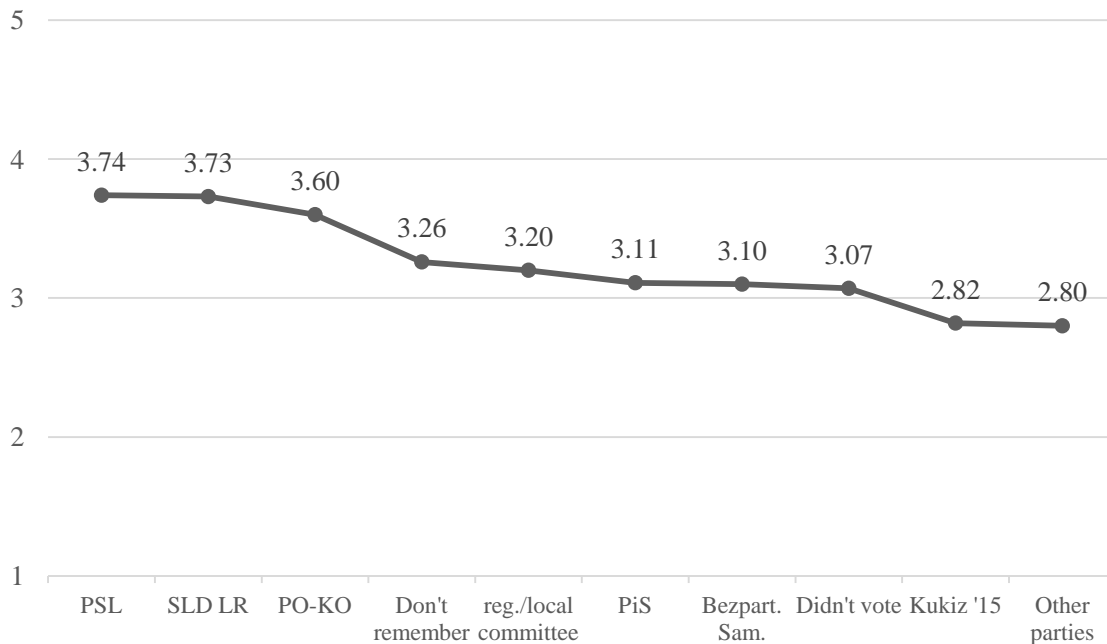
Place of living	Yes		No		Hard to say	
	2012	2018	2012	2018	2012	2018
Countryside	44.1	48.6	38.1	24.6	17.8	26.8
Municipality up to 20K inhabitants	47.5	51.0	39.6	20.2	12.9	28.8
Municipality between 20K-100K inhabitants	38.8	55.8	38.8	20.9	22.4	23.3
Municipality between 100K-200K inhabitants	52.8	47.6	24.1	27.4	23.1	25.0
Municipality with more than 200K inhabitants	42.3	46.6	32.9	29.9	24.8	23.5

In table answers “Yes” and “Rather Yes” were summed up as “Yes” and answers “No” and “Rather No” were summed up as “No”.

**Source:** Alberski (2013: 37) and own sources.

According to the data from table 2, the highest satisfaction from local authorities activities (in this case mostly mayors) declared residents of municipalities between 20K to 100K inhabitants (17.4% definitely yes, 38.4 % rather yes). In these group of interviewees in years 2012-2018 there was the largest increase in positive ratings (up by 17 points). To a lesser extent, satisfaction with the activities of a voyt or mayor was observed among respondents living in the countryside (+4.5 points), residents of municipalities up to 20K inhabitants (+3.5) and municipalities more than 200K inhabitants (+4.3). Only residents of municipalities between 100K – 200K inhabitants declared lower rate of satisfaction than six years ago (-5.2 points). Also only in these group the number of dissatisfied increased by 4,3 points. However, inhabitants of the biggest municipalities with more than 200K inhabitants are more critical to their mayors (9.3% of answers was “definitely yes”, 37.3% “rather yes”, 16.7% “rather not”, 13.2% “definitely not”)

**Chart 2.** Distribution of average answers to the question: *I am happy of a voyt (mayor) in my place of living*” in each electoral supporters in 2018 local election (full test: 3.27 people)



**Source:** own elaboration.

Satisfactory rate for the activities of voyt and mayor decreased with the increase in the level of education. “Definitely yes” and “rather yes” answers were chosen by 61.2% of interviewees with lower secondary education, 50% with vocational education, 49.7% with secondary education and 47.7% with higher education. In this last group we can also notice the highest percentage of “definitely not” and “rather not” answers (28.7%). The least frequently those answers were chosen by interviewees with vocational education (18.9%), however in this group we also have the highest number of people without an opinion (31.1% “hard to say”). In comparison to the already mentioned research from the end of 2012 (Alberski 2013: 37) satisfactory rate increased in all groups distinguished by the level of education – from 1.8 points in interviewees with higher education to 14.7 points in people with the lowest level of education. Also in all analyzed groups rate of dissatisfaction has dropped. Even in the most critical group of interviewees with higher education number of answer “definitely not” and “rather not” decreased by 5 points.

Comparing data from 2012 and 2018 one more variable should be mentioned – the age of the surveyed. In 2012 age did not differentiate interviewees’ answers. In 2018 three from six age

groups differentiated. Interviewees above age 65 express above average satisfaction from their voyts and mayors activities: 57.7% of “definitely yes” and “rather yes” answers and only 18.6% of “definitely not” and “rather not” responds. Most often moderate or high dissatisfaction declares interviewees from 18-24 years old group (30.4% of “definitely not” and “rather not” answers), however in this group also positive responses prevail (44.8 % of “definitely yes” and “rather yes” answers). Lower rate of satisfaction are expressed by the interviewees from the age group of 25-34: only 43.7% of “definitely yes” and “rather yes” answers. Also more than quarter of surveyed in this group (26.5%) have chosen “definitely not” and “rather not” answers. At the same time there was the highest number of undecided people in this age group with 29.8% of “hard to say” answer.

As for other variables, like gender, declared income level and religion did not significantly differentiate interviewees’ answers.

Similarly to previous researches, the variable differencing the satisfactory rate of the activities of a voyt and a mayor was political parties preferences. According to the chart 2, supporters of Polish People’s Party (PSL), Left Together and Civic Coalition have the highest satisfactory rate. In case of PSL even 20% of interviewees chose “definitely yes” and 47.7% “rather yes”. Only every tenth of PSL voter declares dissatisfaction. Even fewer dissatisfied responders are in left electorate – only 7.3%. In this group moderate satisfaction dominates (61% of „rather yes” answers). On the opposite side there are supporters of Kukiz’15 and other (smaller) parties. In those groups negative rating prevail over positive. Among Paweł Kukiz party supporters only 29.4% of interviewees gave answers “definitely yes” or “rather yes”, when 41.2% gave “rather not” or “definitely not”. In other parties supporters those percentages were 32.3% and 43.1% respectively. Among the surveyed that did not vote in 2018 local election, answers about their satisfactory level with the activities of a voyt and a mayor are very diverse. In this group 40.4% of answers were positive, 27.4% negative, and almost one third had no opinion (32.2% of “hard to say” answers).

It seems, supporters of political parties, which representatives more often perform or performed local government function, are happier with the executive authorities of local government, when supporters of new or smaller parties and also those who did not vote are more skeptical in their evaluation.

**Table 3.** *I am happy of a voyt (mayor) in my place of living* - answer percentage in electorate supporters of the two biggest political parties in 2012 and 2018.

Political parties	Yes		No		Hard to say	
	2012	2018	2012	2018	2012	2018
Citizen Platform (Coalition)	55.5	62.3	26.3	16.0	18.2	21.7
Law and Justice	36.8	44.3	40.8	31.4	22.4	24.3

In table answers “Yes” and “Rather Yes” were summed up as “Yes” and answers “No” and “Rather No” were summed up as “No”.

**Source:** Alberski (2013: 38) and own sources.

According to the data from the table 3, supporters of the two main parties still differ much from each other, when it comes to the level of satisfaction from a voyt and a mayor activities. Also in both supporters in years 2012-2018 similar changes appeared – level of satisfaction have increased (in Citizen Platform supports for 6.8 points, Law and Justice – 7.5 points) and the number of dissatisfied dropped (in Citizen Platform supporters for 10.3 points, Law and Justice – 9.4 points).

**Table 4.** *I am happy of a voyt (mayor) in my place of living* - answer percentage by declared political views in 2012 and 2018.

Declared political views	Yes		No		Hard to say	
	2012	2018	2012	2018	2012	2018
Left	49.4	60.4	32.3	19.8	18.3	19.8
Centre	48.1	56.1	29.1	17.7	22.8	26.2
Right	39.2	41.0	40.5	38.0	20.3	21.0
I don’t know/Hard to say	43.0	47.2	36.3	17.6	20.7	35.2

In table answers “Yes” and “Rather Yes” were summed up as “Yes” and answers “No” and “Rather No” were summed up as “No”.

**Source:** Alberski (2013: 39) and own sources.

In the research conducted in 2018, like 6 years ago, satisfactory rate of a voyt and a mayor activities was higher in interviewees that declare left and centre political views. Among respondents declaring right wing political views, opinions – according to data from table 4 – are much more polarized, however, in 2018 the number of satisfied people slightly increased. Although it can be seen that differences between interviewees with left wing or centre views and



right – wing in the described case increased in comparison to previous research. Noticeable changes appeared among respondents that cannot define their political views – in this group, in comparison to previous research, number of undecided significantly increased (by 14.5 points) and the number of dissatisfied dropped (by 18.7%).

Data from 2018 research indicates, like 6 years ago, that the majority of interviewees are satisfied with a vojt and a mayor activities in their place of living. Relatively higher level of satisfactory declares supporters of PSL, Left and Civic Coalition, respondents with left wing and centre political vies, inhabitants of municipality between 20K to 100K inhabitants and interviewees in age group 18 to 24 years old. 2018 local election supporters of Law and Justice declares slightly lower level of satisfaction of a vogt and a mayor activities than the general respondents, and significantly lower than supporters of PSL, Left and Civic Coalition. In comparison to 2012 research the declared level of satisfaction slightly increased in Jarosław Kaczyński’s party supporters. The interviewees that did not participate in local election seem to be the most undecided and also could not determine their position on the left – right political view axis.

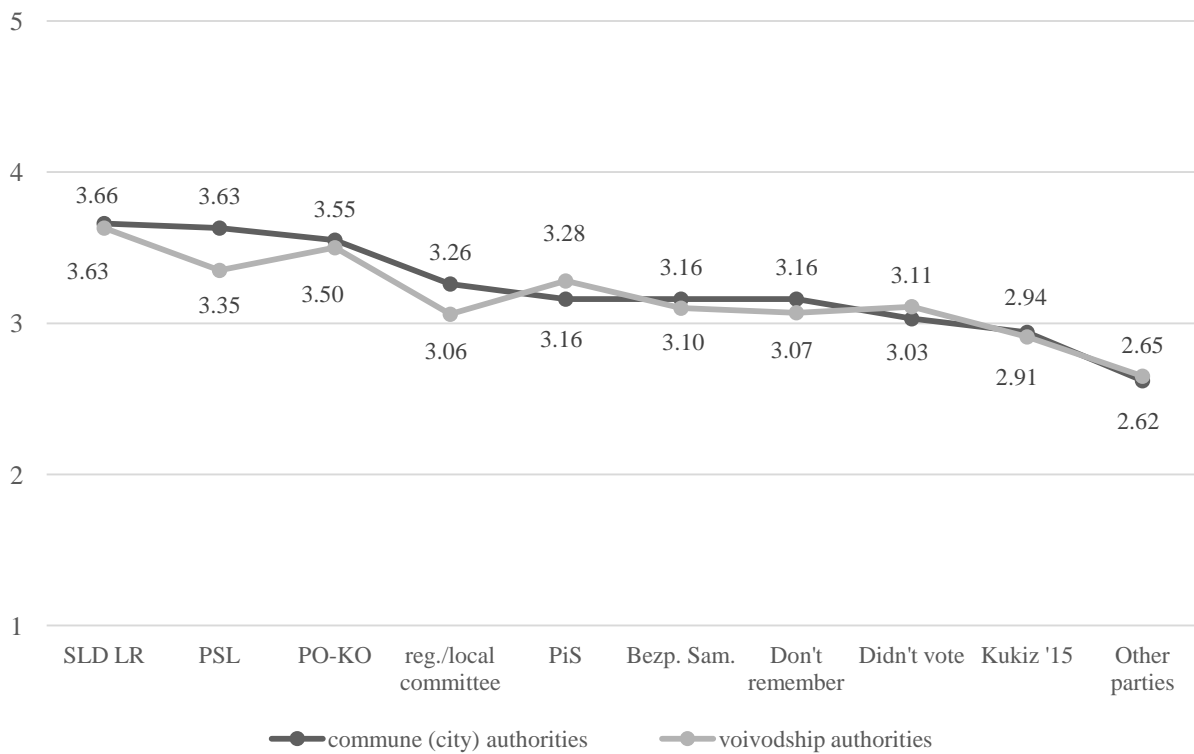
### *Opinions about the activities of local government*

In the research conducted in 2018 we asked interviewees in the questionnaire to give their view on two opinions: “local government in my commune (city) does its duties well” and “my voivodeship government does its duty well”. For the first opinion, 6.9% of the surveyed answers were „definitely yes”, 39.8% “rather yes”, 16.9% “rather not”, 6.1% “definitely not” and 30.3% of interviewees give “hard to say” answer. In reference to voivodeship governments the number of uncertain people is even higher – 43% of interviewees gave “hard to say” answer. Rest of respondents gave moderately positive responses, more than 1/3 of them answered “rather yes” (35.1%), 4.9% - “definitely yes”. 12.8% of interviewees gave “rather not” answers and 4.2% - “definitely not”.

Similarly to the question about voysts and mayors the most satisfied with the activities of local governments are supporters of the left, Civic Coalition and Polish People Party. In the case of the first two groups the assessment of activities of local governments are almost the same, however, PSL supporters seemed to be more critical about the local authorities. Similar situation appears between the supporters of local committees, but in this case the shift in the scale is

mostly determined by “hard to say” answers. 16% of interviewees chose this answer in the question about local government and in the case of voivodeship government the number of answers increased to 60%. Respondents that claimed to support Law and Justice and also the group of people who did vote the satisfaction of voivodeship government activities are slightly higher than for the local ones. The most critical of the local government’s activities are supporters of Kukiz’15 and other smaller parties. 30.3% of Kukiz’15 supporters chose “rather not” and “definitely not” to assess the activities of commune (city) authorities (27.7% interviewees of this group had opposite opinion).

**Chart 3.** Distribution of average answers for questions : “local government in my commune (city) does its duties well” and “ my voivodeship government does its duties well” in each supporter groups in 2018 local election (entire sample 3.24 for both questions)



**Source:** own elaboration

In reference to voivodeship government those ratings arranged similarly: 29.4% on “no”, 26.5% on “yes”. Even more critical were supporters of smaller parties. In this group of interviewees answers spread accordingly 49.2% and 21.5% in reference to local authorities, 44.6% and 23.1% in reference to voivodeship authorities. The obtained research results confirm that voters who relatively well evaluate activities of local government are willing to “reward” with their votes (at least in voivodeship election) those political parties, which so far dominate in those authorities. More critical voters, as can be assumed, search on political market for new, often extreme offers or resign from participating in the election at all.

According to data from the table 5, declared political point of view differentiates the interviewees’ assessments regarding the functioning of local government. The most positive ratings came from interviewees declaring left-wing views, little more critical are respondents with more centre views. Respondents with right-wing views are most divided in their assessments. Interviewees that cannot define their political views more often chose “hard to say” answer. In reference to voivodeship authorities this response was chosen from more than half of this group of respondents. It can also be noticed that for interviewees it is much easier to evaluate the activities of authorities on the level of commune (city) than voivodeship. The respondents avoided extreme answers – answers “definitely yes” and “definitely not” represent only a few percent of responses in each group.

**Table 5.** “Local government in my commune (city) does its duties well” and “ my voivodeship government does its duties well” – answer percentage distributions in context of declared political views

Declared political views	Local government	Yes	Not	Hard to say
Left	Commune (city)	59.4	18.4	22.2
	Voivodeship	50.0	13.6	36.4
Centre	Commune (city)	50.3	18.2	31.5
	Voivodeship	45.1	14.0	40.9
Right	Commune (city)	39.8	33.2	27.0
	Voivodeship	33.0	24.7	42.3
I don't know/hard to say	Commune (city)	42.8	17.6	39.6
	Voivodeship	37.2	12.4	50.4

In table answers “Definitely yes” and “rather yes” were summed up as “Yes” and answers “definitely not” and “rather not” were summed up as “Not”

**Source:** own elaboration.

From other considered variables, it is worth to notice age and place of living. In case of the first one the oldest voters (65 years old and more) stand out. They gave the highest marks for local authorities. 43.3% of answers in this group gave “rather yes” answers and 7.2% “definitely yes” about local government activities. The opposite opinion had only 15.5% (9.8% “definitely not” and 5.7% “rather not”) of the oldest interviewees. In reference to regional government the oldest voters have also high marks (37.1% of “rather yes” answers, 6.7% “definitely yes” to 9.8% “rather not” and 5.7% “definitely not”).

In reference to local authorities interviewees in age group from 18 to 24 rarely make positive assessments (38.1% of “rather yes” answers and 4.8% “definitely yes”). The highest number of negative answers gave respondents in age group of 55-64 (22.4% of “rather not” answers, 6.4% “definitely not”). The lowest number of positive marks to the activities of regional government gave interviewees from 35-44 years old (31.7% of “rather yes” answers and 3.8% “definitely yes”). The most critical are the youngest respondents from 18 to 24 (14.3% of “rather not” answers, and .6% “definitely not”).

According to the data from the table 6, local authorities’ work is appreciated by inhabitants of small and medium municipalities. In group of respondents living in municipalities up to 20K inhabitants 45.2% of surveyed gave “rather yes” answer and 4.8% “definitely yes”. In municipalities between 20K and 100K inhabitants it was accordingly 38.4% and 10.5% of respondents. In those groups there was the smallest number of critical responses. In case of evaluating the work of voivodeship authorities, the interviewees living in municipalities of 100K to 200K inhabitants stand out. Almost half of them gave positive evaluation of regional government authorities (44.4% of “rather yes” answers and 4.8% “definitely yes”). It is about 10 points higher than in other respondents groups. The mentioned group is also the only one that is more positive about the activities of voivodeship authorities than those of local government. Perhaps it is due to the fact that interviewees living in big municipalities are more oriented in voivodeship government activities. Also in this group we also can observe a relatively small number of “hard to say” answers (34.7%).

**Table 6.** “Local government in my commune (city) does its duties well” and “ my voivodeship government does its duties well” – answer percentage distributions by place of living.

Place of living	Local government	Yes	Not	Hard to say
Country-side	Commune (city)	45.0	24.5	30.5
	Voivodeship	39.0	18.4	42.6
Municipalities up to 20K inhabitants	Commune (city)	50.0	22.1	27.9
	Voivodeship	37.5	19.2	43.3
Municipalities between 20K-100K inhabitants	Commune (city)	48.8	18.0	33.2
	Voivodeship	37.8	8.7	53.5
Municipalities between 100K-200K inhabitants	Commune (city)	46.0	21.0	33.0
	Voivodeship	49.2	16.1	34.7
Municipalities above 200K inhabitants	Commune (city)	46.6	26.5	26.9
	Voivodeship	39.2	21.1	39.7

In table answers “Definitely yes” and “rather yes” were summed up as “Yes” and answers “definitely not” and “rather not” were summed up as “Not”

**Source:** own elaboration.

Also other variables, like gender, level of education or declared religion did not remarkably differentiate the answers for questions regarding the evaluation of local authorities.

How can be expected, satisfaction in the activities of voyts and mayors is strongly connected with positive remarks of local governments work. In group of people who were satisfied from the executive body in the commune (city), 88.8% of interviewees were also satisfied about local government activities (opposite opinion had 1.7% respondents of this group). Also, among those who were unsatisfied from the activities of a voyt or a mayor, 81.3% of respondents were also unhappy about local government activities, satisfied – 2.2%. This relation is not so clear in reference to voivodeship governments. In groups satisfied from the executive body activities in commune (city), satisfaction from voivodeship government work declare 63.8% of respondents, 5.2% are unhappy and 31% have no opinion. In group unsatisfied from the activities of vogts and mayors majority (51.1%) are also displeased with voivodeship government work. 15.2% of interviewees in this group are satisfied and more than one third (33.7%) have no opinion.

Results from the presented research indicates, that positive assessments of local government more often are expressing supporters of Left, Polish People Party and Civic Coalition in the 2018 voivodeship government election, people with left and centre political

views, voters from age group more than 65 years old and supporters satisfied from the activities of voivodeships and mayors in their place of living. Relatively more critical are supporters of smaller parties, Kukiz'15, those who did not vote in 2018 voivodeship government election and also voters with right wing political view, and those who are unsatisfied from the activities of voivodeships and mayors. Local governments are generally evaluated more positively than voivodeship authorities, but in the second case, it has to be pointed out the high number of "hard to say" answers. However in some group of respondents the reverse is true. This is especially true for the Law and Justice supporters, those who did not vote and citizens of municipalities between 100K-200K inhabitants.

### *Summary*

Referring to the hypotheses presented at the beginning, it can be said that they had been confirmed. Relatively high level of satisfaction in voivodeships and mayors activities, recorded in 2012 research, not only persisted in 2018, but even slightly increased. This might be a factor that increases confidence to local authorities and promotes their positive assessment. Also voivodeship governments are evaluated positively by interviewees, but level of satisfaction is generally lower in comparison to other local authorities.

Referring to the research questions raised in the beginning of the article, it has to be said, that the Law and Justice critic of regional authorities activities during electoral campaigns in 2014 and 2018, and also during 2014-2018 term of office, did not decrease the satisfaction of interviewees in voivodeships and mayors' activities. Moreover, in 2018 research the satisfactory level increased a little. The high number of positive remarks was not even hurt by the increasing conflict between the government and some regional authorities (represented in particular by presidents of the biggest cities) since 2015. However, it has to be remembered that during the time of the research a tragedy took place – President of Gdańsk, Paweł Adamowicz was assassinated during the final event of Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (Wielka Orkiestra Świątecznej Pomocy - WOŚP). This circumstance could have some influence on some responders and their answers. Referring to the second research question, it has to be said, that in the evaluation of voivodeships and mayors' activities, and also regional authorities the difference between political parties supporters is much smaller than the difference between those individual parties leaders. What is important, the number of positive responses on regional authorities'

activities increased even in the supporters of Law and Justice, when negative decreased. The same tendency occurred in the supporters of Civic Platform.

Regarding two last research questions, the collected data does not allow to formulate categorical theses. In reference to the difference between the evaluation of local and voivodship you can get the impression that voivodship activities are lesser known by interviewees (as evidenced by the high number of “hard to say” answers). According to the research results, influence on the evaluation of regional authorities activities have variables like age, level of education, place of living and – in lesser extent – declared political view. However to answer these two questions required more detailed research.

Analyzing the results of described research there are two additional factors to consider. First, expectations of local governments, especially those on the lower level, systematically increase. It is confirmed by CBOS surveys conducted in 2017, which indicate that 58% of surveyed agreed that “state should pass more authority to local government and social organizations” is important and 28% as slightly important (CBOS 107/2017). In analogous survey conducted in 2010, only 46% of surveyed considered the stated issue as very important (CBOS 60/2010). However, still less than a half of interviewees recognizes that this rule is respected by the state (7% of “definitely yes” answers, 37% - “rather yes”). Opposite opinion had almost one third of respondents (24% of “rather not” answers, 6% - “definitely not”) (CBOS 107/2017). Secondly, in the last decade local governments became another place of political rivalry between the ruling party and opposition. This situation promotes two things: an increased interest in local political conflicts and also strengthens the recognition and position of local leaders. Frequently work on the local government level is shown as “unpolitical” and conducted for social interest in contrast to activities on the state level. All of this helps to build a positive image of local governments, which is reflected in assessments made by the surveyed.

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