

31.01.2024 r.

Political parties in 2022

↓ 15,0%

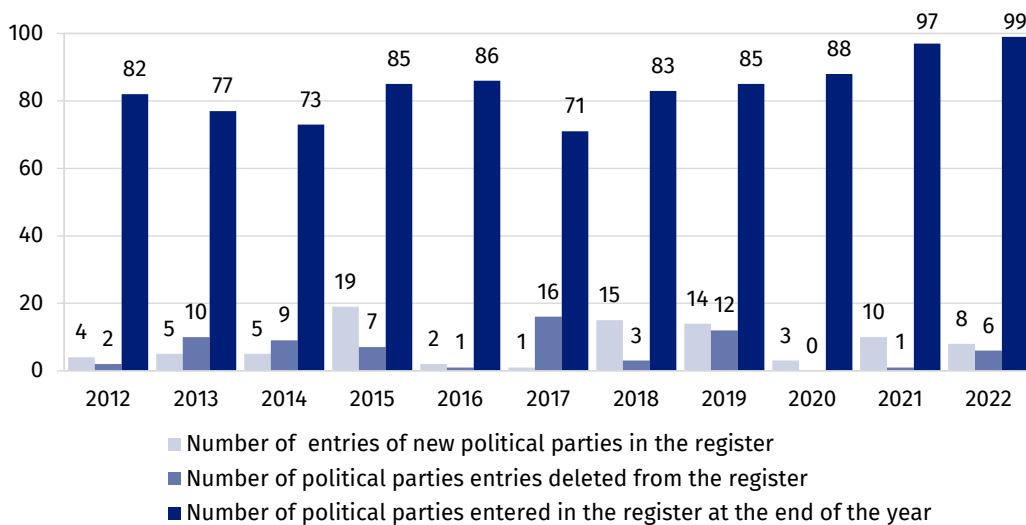
Decrease of the number of political party members compared to 2020

At the end of 2022, 99 groupings had an entry in the register of political parties, of which 66 parties were active. They had 203.8 thous. members, with 16.7 thous. people. Party revenues amounted to PLN 82.1 million.

Number of political parties

Political parties in Poland acquire legal personality with an entry in the register of political parties kept by the District Court in Warsaw. As of December 31, 2022, 99 groupings had an entry in the register, which means their highest number in the last decade (the average between 2012 and 2022 was 84). In 2022, the District Court in Warsaw registered 8 new political parties and 6 final and binding decisions were issued to remove a party's entry from the register.

Chart 1. Change in the register of political parties kept by the District Court in Warsaw



In the framework of the Statistics Poland survey confirmed the activity of 66 of the 99 political parties, that had an entry in the register at the end of 2022. Further analysis considers only active political groupings.

In 2022, representatives of 19 political parties were represented in parliament or government, 9 groupings only in local government bodies, while 38 parties had no representation in the authorities.

The majority of 66 political parties had their headquarters located in the Mazowieckie voivodship – 41 (of which 40 in Warsaw). Remaining parties were located in the following voivodships: Śląskie – 7, Małopolskie – 5, Łódzkie and Podkarpackie (3 for each), Pomorskie and Wielkopolskie – 2, Dolnośląskie, Lubelskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodships each had 1 registered party.

66 of political parties were active

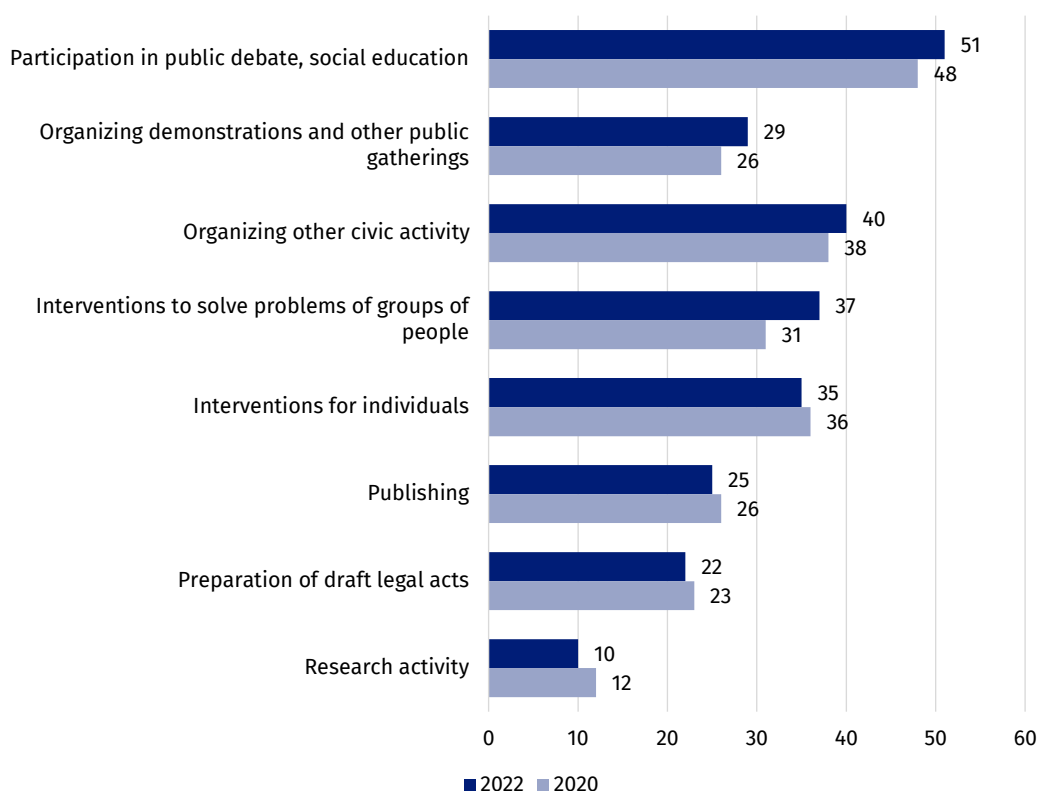
Organizational structures

More than a half of active political parties (38) declared having in 2022 field organizational units. In case of 17 groupings, the scope of operation of the lowest field unit covered gmina or a part of it. Another 10 parties indicated powiat, as the lowest level of field structures, 9 – indicated a voivodship and 2 – indicated the area beyond one voivodship. Among the groupings declaring to have field structures, the average number of lowest-level units was 152, and half of the parties indicated having no more than 26 field units.

Forms of activity

Pursuant to the Act on Political Parties, the purpose of a party's operation is to participate in public life by shaping the policy of the state or exercising state authority. These goals are achieved on the basis of the statute of a political party and may take various forms.

Chart 2. Forms of statutory activity conducted by political parties



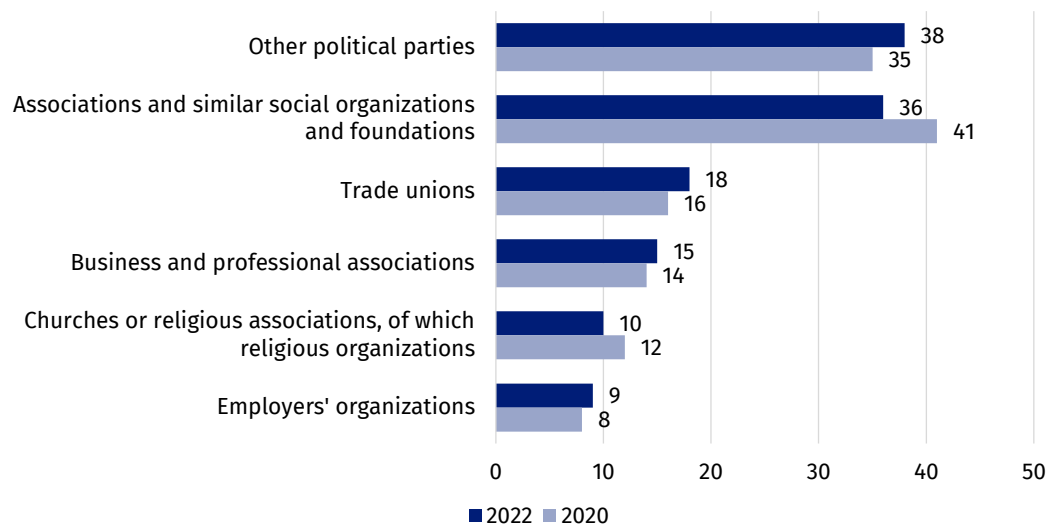
In 2022, the most frequently indicated form of statutory activity of political parties was participation in public debates and conducting educational activities. 51 parties declared conducting this type of political activity that consists of, among others, organizing press conferences, participating in television and radio programs, as well as conferences and seminars. Participation in public life in the form of organising demonstrations and other public gatherings was declared by 29 parties, and 40 parties took the initiative to organise other civic actions. More than half of the political parties undertook interventionist activities to solve the problems of specific social groups (37), as well as of individuals, coming forward for help (35). Another form of statutory activity of political parties was to carry out publishing activities, related to the distribution of factual publications and information materials on the party, which was declared by 25 groupings. The preparation of draft legislation, as an important element of statutory activity, was indicated by 22 parties.

Cooperation with other organizations

Conducting cooperation with other social economy entities was declared by 48 active political parties in 2022. The most frequently indicated cooperation partners were other political parties (38), followed by associations, similar social organisations and foundations

(36) - in 2020, the order of indications was reversed. The fewest political parties, as a cooperation partner in 2022, indicated employers' organisations (9 groupings).

Chart 3. Cooperation of political parties by type of partnership organisation

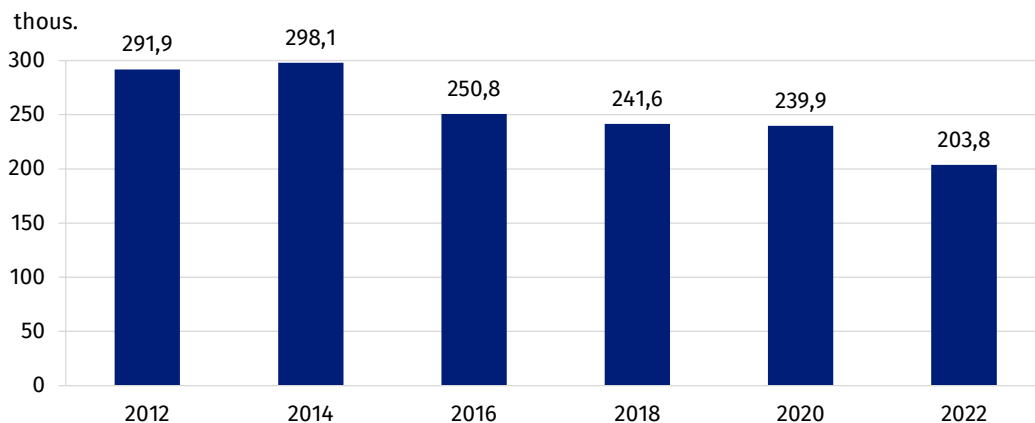


Membership base

At the end of 2022 the number of political parties members amounted to 203,8 thous. people, it means 15.0% less compared to 2020 and 30.2% less compared to 2012. The highest number of activists was recorded among groupings with representation in parliament, with over 90.0% of all political party members, although they accounted for just over 1/4 of active groupings.

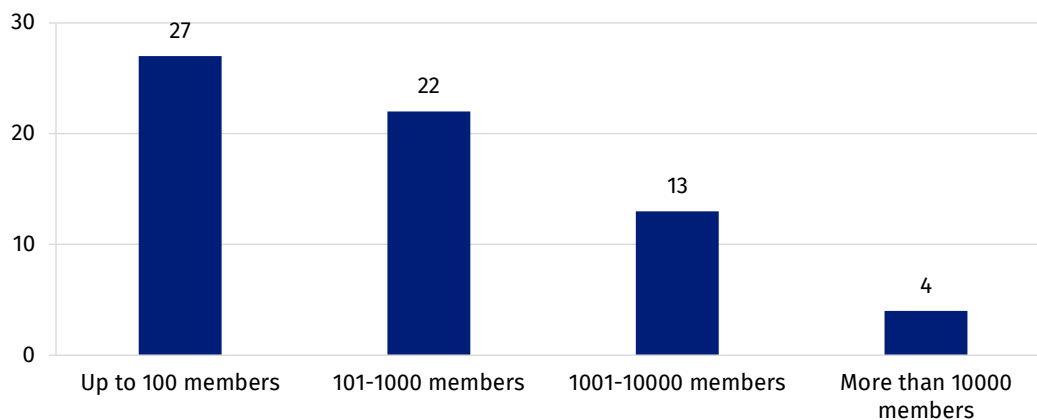
Political parties had a total of 203,8 thous. members

Chart 4. Number of political parties members



The average number of political party members was 3.1 thous. people (0.8 thous. less than in 2020 and 2.2 thous. less than in 2012). At the same time, half of the active political parties had no more than 0.2 thous. affiliates, indicating significant variation in the size of party membership. Nearly one in three active political parties had less than 100 members, while the level of 10 thous. activists was exceeded by 4 groupings.

Chart 5. Political parties by the number of members in 2022



Women accounted for 31.8 per cent of all political party members (64.8 thous.). Their share decreased by 0.7 percentage points compared to 2020.

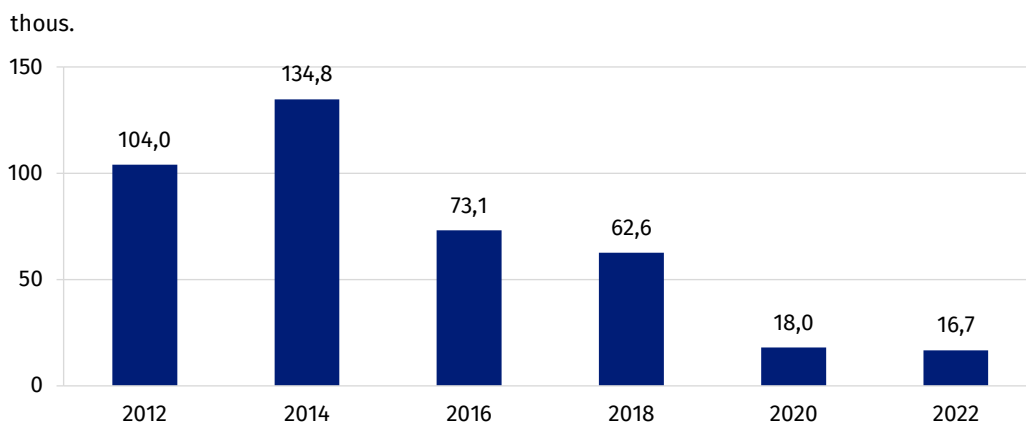
In 2022, 20 political groupings declared that they had youth associations - organisational units bringing together young people, including minors, to support party activities. They either constituted a separate structure within the party (13) or functioned as separately registered associations (7). As of 31.12.2022, the youth associations had 7.1 thous. people (0.5 thous. more than in 2020), of which more than 90.0% of active youth belonged to parties represented in parliament. The average youth caucus had 0.4 thous. people, and in half of them the number of affiliates did not exceed 0.1 thous. people. Women accounted for 30.7 per cent of youth members and minors for 20.5 per cent.

Volunteer work

All active political parties benefited from the voluntary work of their members in 2022, and 17 groupings additionally engaged external volunteers. Voluntary and unpaid work for the parties was provided by a total of 16.7 thous. people, of whom 25.7% were women. Compared to 2020, the number of voluntary workers decreased by 1.3 thous. people (7.1%) and by 87.3 thous. (83.9%) compared to 2012. The average political party used social work of 0.3 thous. people, while half of the parties had no more than 19 people doing unpaid work.

Unpaid work for political parties was provided by 16.7 thous. people

Chart 6. Number of volunteer workers in political parties



In 2022, the largest group of people doing voluntary work for parties were party members - 93.7%. External volunteers represented 6.3% of those engaged in voluntary work for political parties. For groupings with representation in parliament, social work was undertaken by 14.9 thous. people. Groupings with representatives only in local authorities were supported free of charge by 0.2 thous. people, and the other parties benefited from social work by 1.6 thous. people.

Paid work

The majority of political parties did not rely on paid work in 2022. Taking 66 units into account, 13 declared employing paid personnel – 8 parties employed on the basis of an employment contract and 5 paid personnel consisted of civil contract workers only. At the end of 2022 parties employed only 217 persons carried out their work on the basis of an employment contract (2.3% less than in 2020). For the entire reporting year, the number of those providing work on the basis of civil law contracts amounted to 295 people, an increase of 38.5% compared to 2020. Women accounted for 50.7% of full-time employees and 35.3% of those on civil law contracts.

Revenues of political parties

In 2022, revenues of political parties amounted to PLN 82.1 million (PLN 81.1 million less than in 2020). The vast majority of revenues (88.0%) were public funds provided under the subvention, as defined by the law on political parties. In total, parties received PLN 70.4 million from the state budget compared to PLN 149.2 million in 2020. The difference between the years is due to the fact that in 2020 a one-off subjective subsidy was paid to the parties for the parliamentary elections held in 2019.

The average value of revenue received by a political party in 2022 was PLN 1.4 million. Half of the active groupings declaring to have revenues, achieved revenues not exceeding PLN 6.0 thous. By comparison, in 2020, the average and median were PLN 3.0 million and PLN 10.2 thous. respectively. Revenues higher than PLN 10 thous. were declared by 25 parties, of which 5 achieved revenues exceeding PLN 1 million. In contrast, 32 surveyed parties declared that their revenues did not exceed PLN 10 thous.

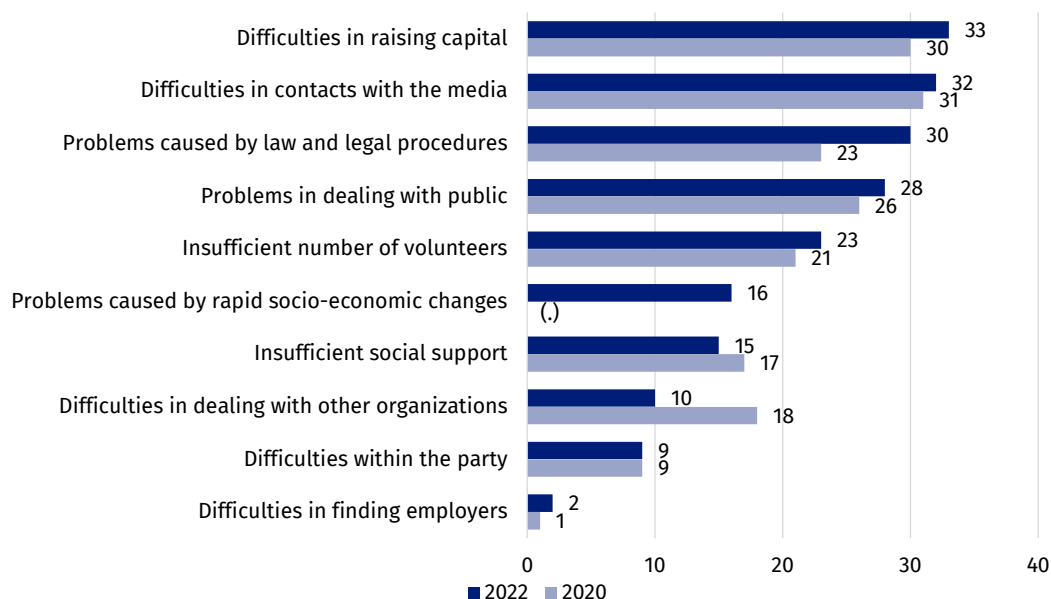
Parties with representatives in the parliament, acquired revenues equalling PLN 161.6 million, which accounted for 99.4% of the total amount of revenues of all active political groupings.

Revenues of political parties amounted to PLN 82,1 million

Problems connected with conducting activities

In 2022, the majority of political parties (55) declared the existence of at least one problem related to the conduct of their activities. The most frequently pointed obstacles included difficulties in raising capital (33), difficulties in dealing with the media (32) and problems caused by law and legal procedures (30).

Chart 7. The most common problems in conducting activities of political parties



(.) lack of information, necessity to respect statistical secrecy or it is impossible or inexpedient to fill in the item

Involvement in providing support due to hostilities in the territory of Ukraine

In 2022 10 political parties undertook additional activities in support of those in need due to the hostilities conducted on the territory of Ukraine. Individuals were the main recipients of assistance, with 8 parties providing support. In total, approximately 2.5 thous. people were assisted.

The most frequently indicated forms of assistance included the provision of food and accommodation - declared by 9 and 6 political parties respectively. In addition, the parties offered legal assistance, as well as information activities or assistance in organisational matters (5 indications each).

Methodological information

This news release was compiled on the basis of the Statistics Poland survey *Political parties* completed by the Statistical Office in Cracow in 2023 by means of the SOF-3 form *Report on the activities of political parties in 2022*, as well as with the assistance of administrative data (from District Court in Warsaw, National Electoral Commission and Social Insurance Institution). The survey covered 99 parties present in the Register of Political Parties. As a result of the verification conducted as part of the survey and using National Electoral Commission data, it was determined that 66 parties were active and data on the SOF-3 form was obtained for them.

By means of the research form SOF-3 data regarding, among other subjects, the organizational structure, territorial scope and statutory form of party activity, membership, volunteer work, cooperation with other organizations and conditions, in which parties conduct their activities. On the other hand, administrative data allowed to establish information with regard to:

- the number of parties in the Register of Political Parties (data from the District Court in Warsaw),
- the revenue structure, including sums from the state budget (data from National Electoral Commission),
- the scope and type of employment (data from the Social Insurance Institution).

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