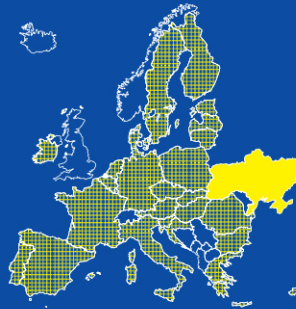


PUBLIC OPINION

on Russia's war against Ukraine



11 May 2023

DG COMM's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit assembles recent surveys and polls from across the EU and beyond giving insight into how citizens see Russia's war against Ukraine as well as its ripple effects. Polls covered by this edition were published between **March 15** and **May 8, 2023**. Key findings are based on a multi-countries survey as well as on surveys conducted in Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. Polls from Ukraine, Russia, US, and Georgia are also present in this edition. Summaries of all previous editions are available under this [link](#).

Russia's image: According to a multi-country survey, 57% of respondents say they do not approve Russian leadership, which is a major jump from 38% in 2021 and the highest number ever recorded since 2007. Today, Russia's leadership is supported by one out of five adults in the world. In 2022, the approval rate for Russia's leadership declined to 21% from a median of 33% in 2021. In both 2021 and 2022, 84 countries and territories saw disapproval of the Russian leadership increase by at least 10 percentage points. The largest increase was in Lithuania, a NATO member and former Soviet republic, whose disapproval rate rose from 44% in 2021 to 91% in 2022. High-income, Western-leaning democracies tend to have the highest disapproval of leadership scores, with over 90% in the United States (93%), Canada (91%), and 10 European countries. Moreover, approval of Russian leadership has fallen sharply in Kazakhstan, a key ally which has traditionally been closely aligned with the Kremlin, see [Source](#).

Future of the conflict: In Hungary, 54% of respondents think that the war against Ukraine could lead to a world war. Furthermore, 55% believe that in that case nuclear weapons will be used by either side in a war, see [Source](#). For Italians, 45.2% believe that there will probably be a counteroffensive, but it won't significantly change the front lines, resulting in continued stalemate. In addition, 21.6% of respondents believed that there won't be a counteroffensive since Ukrainians lack the means for a real offensive, see [Source](#). In the Netherlands, the concern that respondents themselves or relatives will be involved in a war in the next five years went from 10% in 2021 to about 1/3. This concern is more salient for older people than for young people, see [Source](#). 84% of respondents in Russia believe that the events in Ukraine are of concern, with half very worried, and 34% are rather worried. In addition, 62% are concerned about a potential counteroffensive led by the Ukraine army, with 28% worried, 34% rather worried, see [Source](#). For Ukrainians, over 67% say the war with Russia can only end with Ukraine's victory and that compromise with Russia is unacceptable, 22% of respondents say they can make some compromises, see [Source](#).

Military assistance: In Germany, 45% of people are in favour of military support to Ukraine as it has been delivered by the West so far, 28% are calling for a stronger engagement and 22% for less engagement, see [source](#). 64% of respondents in Romania believe that the country should not provide Ukraine with weapons and ammunition, see [Source](#). 60% of Slovaks think their country should not send Mig-29 fighters to Ukraine (26% think they should, 14% don't know), see [Source](#). In the US, 46% of Americans believe that their country should support Ukraine only for one or two years and 38% state that it could be as long as needed. Moreover, the public is split on the amount spent in support of Ukraine, with 33% of respondents believing it to be excessive and 30% believing it to be about right. Only 12% of respondents argued that it was insufficient, see [Source](#).

Enlargement of NATO: According to respondents in Austria, if a referendum on Austria's accession to NATO was scheduled in the next days, 61% would be against it and only 21% would be in favour, see [Source](#). In the Caucasus region however, Georgians deem Russia as the major political (87%) and economic (76%) danger. A vast majority of Georgians (80%) are supporting their country's membership in NATO with 50% of them believing that they should pursue a pro-European/Western foreign policy, see [Source](#)

Poland's grain crisis: In a context of falling grain prices due to imports which recently lead to a blockage, nearly 70% of Poles had a negative opinion of the government's handling the grain issue and the entry of Ukrainian goods, see [Source](#). As a result, 74% of Poles believe that Poland should not accept grains from Ukraine, whereas 26% percent of Poles are of the opposite opinion, see [Source](#). On the accountability aspect, 52 % of respondents attribute this situation to the Polish government, 11,6% of respondents to the European Union, 22.2% to all parties and 3.6% of respondents to the Ukrainian government, see [Source](#).

Energy independence: Only 38% of French citizens (-21 points since 2021) think their country is energy independent, see [Source](#). For Polish respondents, 63% believe that key factors of the energy transition are the price of energy, 48% the care for the environment and 44% the independence from Russia, see [Source](#).

DG COMM's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit informs about relevant public opinion insights and analysis focussing on multi-country surveys as well as on surveys conducted in individual Member States.
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