

# PUBLIC OPINION

on Russia's war against Ukraine



15 June 2023

DG COMM's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit has assembled a range of 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. These polls were published from the **22 April** until the **13 June 2023**. Key findings are based on five multi-countries surveys as well as on surveys conducted in Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain. Polls from Ukraine, Russia and US are also presented. Summaries of all previous editions are available under this [link](#).

**EU's support for Ukraine:** According to a [Eurobarometer survey](#), 76% of Europeans approve of the EU's support for Ukraine, with highest approval rates in Sweden (97%), Finland (96%), Netherlands and Portugal (both 95%). Disapproval is more widespread in southeastern areas of Europe. In another [multi-country survey](#) across 52 countries, approximately 35% of respondents feel that the US, EU, and NATO have done too little to assist Ukraine during the Russian invasion, while 48% believe they have done the right amount. In Estonia, 67% of respondents favour Estonia contributing to Ukraine's post-war reconstruction, see [source](#). In Italy, 34% of respondents express confidence in President Zelensky's while 46% lack confidence, see [source](#). Moreover, 33.5% of respondents support the invitation for President Zelensky to visit Rome, while 23.5% find the reception excessive. However, 28.1% strongly oppose the invitation, blaming Ukraine for the war, see [source](#). In Poland, 65% of respondents believe that Poles should continue to help Ukrainians, while 35% disagree, see [source](#).

**Support for sanctions:** According to a [multi-country survey](#) conducted in Poland, Czechia, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Slovakia and Bulgaria, a majority of citizens in 6 out of 8 countries surveyed believe that economic sanctions towards Russia are effective and should remain in place until Russian soldiers leave Ukraine. However, in another multi-country survey conducted in 9 countries (Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Belgium, Greece and Spain), divisions exist within the EU regarding sanctions. In Europe overall, 51.8% of respondents support sanctions on all Russian entities, with lower support in Greece (29.2%), Austria (33.3%), and Italy (38.1%), see [source](#) and [source](#). In Estonia, the number of respondents supporting sanctions against Russia, even with potential price increases, reached 64%, see [source](#). In Germany, 42% believe the sanctions against Russia are insufficient, while 29% view them as appropriate and 20% consider them too far-reaching, see [source](#). Public support for U.S. sanctions on Russia in the course of a year has declined from 71% to 58%, see [Source](#) and [Source](#).

**Military assistance:** According to a [multi-country survey](#), in Poland, Lithuania, Czechia, Latvia, and Romania, most respondents believe providing military support to Ukraine helps defeat Russia. However, Slovakia and Bulgaria have different views. Overall, in Europe, a majority (56%) support arms shipments to Ukraine, with Spain at 61%. Greece and Italy show higher rejection, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). In Czechia, 91% are willing to defend neighbouring countries, see [source](#). In Estonia,

67% support allies providing military assistance, see [source](#). France is divided, with 57% seeing military support as beneficial and 43% concerned about conflict spread, see [source](#). In Germany, opinions vary, with 43% viewing support as appropriate and 37% believing it goes too far, see [source](#). Italy is divided, and 47% of Italians see sending F-16 fighter jets as reckless, while 23.6% see it as a necessary, see [source](#). In Spain, 61% favour military support, see [source](#) and [source](#). In US, support in providing weapons has decreased from 61% in mid-April 2022 to 50%, see [source](#) and [source](#) .

**Putin's/Russia's image:** According to a [multi-country survey](#), people in 23 out of the 52 countries surveyed show a preference for cutting economic ties with Russia rather than maintaining them. Another [multi-country survey](#) reveals that the majority of respondents in most of the countries surveyed (6 out of 8) hold Russia responsible for the war against Ukraine, except for Slovakia and Bulgaria, where a third of respondents believe the West provoked Russia. Furthermore, a recent [multi-country survey](#) indicates a significant increase in the number of respondents viewing Russia as Europe's "rival" or "adversary," while sympathies towards Russia have declined. Bulgaria stands as the only surveyed country where the majority still sees Russia as Europe's "ally" or "partner." In Czechia, 40% of the population believes that the country is involved in Russian information warfare against Western countries, see [source](#). In Hungary, we see an increase of respondents attribute the outbreak of the war to Russia (40%), [source](#). However, only 31% of Slovaks believe Slovakia participates in Russian information warfare against Western countries, see [source](#). In Ukraine, 84% of Ukrainians believe there are no problems with using the Russian language in the country and that Russian-speaking citizens are not oppressed, see [source](#) and [source](#). However, 84% of Ukrainians hold a negative attitude toward Russian citizens, with 34.6% believing Russians are collectively responsible for the war with Ukraine, see [source](#). 62% of Americans see Russia as an enemy and only 8% have a favourable view of Putin, [source](#) and [source](#).

**Territorial integrity:** In a recent multi-country survey, in all countries surveyed 48% of citizens support a swift resolution to the conflict, even if it involves Ukraine relinquishing territories. However, 32% of Europeans oppose sacrificing territories for expediting peace. Austria and Germany show the highest support for a quick end, while the Netherlands, Poland, and Portugal have the lowest levels of support, [source](#) and [source](#). The French hold a pessimistic view, with only 9% believing the conflict will end by the end of 2023, while a majority of 41% believe it will persist until at least 2024, see [source](#). In Spain, half of the citizens believe the war in Ukraine should end soon, even with territorial sacrifices, see [source](#) and [source](#). In Ukraine, 84% oppose making territorial concessions to Russia, see [source](#) and [source](#). Additionally, 95% of Ukrainians believe Ukraine will repel the Russian attack, and 37% think it will take 6 months to a year to defeat the aggressor, see [source](#) and [source](#).

**Diplomatic efforts:** A majority of 55% of Germans feel that their government's diplomatic efforts to end the war are insufficient, see [source](#). In Hungary, 37% of respondents attribute the absence of a peace agreement to Russia, while 22% point to the EU, see [source](#). In Ukraine, 68.5% of Ukrainians believe that reconciliation with Russia is impossible, while 21.6% remain optimistic. Regarding direct negotiations with Russia for peace, 63.9% of Ukrainians oppose them, while 23.1% support them, with 13% finding it difficult to answer, see [source](#).

**EU/NATO enlargement:** In Austria, only 24% of respondents would welcome Ukraine's EU accession, 49% percent reject it, see [source](#). 52% of Germans support Ukraine's long-term membership in the European Union, while 37% disagree, see [source](#). However, 54% of Germans oppose NATO inviting Ukraine to join the Western defence alliance, see [source](#).

**Refugees' situation/Humanitarian aid:** In Austria, 42% of Ukrainian refugees hope to return to Ukraine in the future, but only 4% believe it will happen within three months, see [source](#). In Estonia,

73% support admitting Ukrainian war refugees, see [source](#). In Latvia, 41.9% of respondents donated to support Ukrainian and war refugees, see [source](#). In Poland, 40% describe the relationship between Poles and Ukrainians as "very good" or "good.", see [source](#). 68% of Poles support accepting more war refugees from Ukraine and 55% believe current welfare support for Ukrainians in Poland is adequate, see [source](#).

**Economic situation:** In Italy, 81% of respondents believe the war has economic repercussions, see [source](#). According to another survey, the majority of Italians (71%,) believe that Italy is not effectively managing the current increase in prices, see [source](#). In Portugal, 80.5% refrain from buying goods due to the rising cost of living, see [source](#).

**Russian citizens' vision on the war:** As Russian troops make gains in Bakhmut, support for continuing hostilities rises to 48% among respondents. 71% of Russian respondents believe the military operations will last over six months, see [source](#). 82% of Russians respondents approve the activities of Putin as President of Russia, see [source](#). Most Russians believe the Russian leadership is not ready to use nuclear weapons in the Ukrainian conflict and consider such a step unjustified, 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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