

PUBLIC OPINION

on Russia's war against Ukraine



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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 **12th of June** until the **10th of July 2023**. Key findings are based on four multi-countries surveys as well as on surveys conducted in Austria, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy and Poland. Polls from Ukraine, the United States and Russia are also presented.

Military support: According to the latest Eurobarometer survey, 64% of Europeans agree with purchasing and supplying military equipment to Ukraine with Sweden (93%), Portugal (90%) and Denmark (89%) having the highest approval rates. On the other hand, Bulgaria (30%), Cyprus (36%) and Slovakia (37%) have the lowest approval rates, see [source](#). In Poland, almost half of respondents say that Poland should assume the role of safeguarding Ukraine's security in the future, on the condition that all NATO member states offer similar assurances, see [source](#). In Germany, a recent poll shows that 42% of respondents are in favour of unchanged military support for Ukraine by the West and 30% call for greater involvement. 23% are in favour of reducing the military aid, see [source](#). In a recent poll in Hungary, 64% disagree with the decision to provide additional EU funds to Ukraine, see [source](#). Two in three Americans say that the U.S. should provide weapons to Ukraine (65%) and three in four say that aid to Ukraine shows U.S. competitors that the U.S. has the will and capability to protect their interests (76%), see [source](#).

Future of the war: In Hungary, 75% of respondents are in favour of an immediate ceasefire in the Russian war against Ukraine and this is equally high among different age groups, see [source](#). In Russia, 73% support the Russian armed forces in Ukraine. Although, the share of respondents who support the continuation of hostilities decreased (40% vs 48% in May) at the benefit of supporters of the transition to peace negotiations (53%). Moreover, 66% declare to be concerned about the counteroffensive from Ukraine and 81% are also concerned about Western weapons supply to the Ukrainian army, see [source](#). About three in five Americans say Russia is losing the war in Ukraine (61%), see [source](#). In another survey, most Americans (62%) described the current state of the war as a stalemate, seeing neither Ukraine nor Russia as currently winning the war. Fifty-seven per cent held this view, while more said Ukraine (30%) rather than Russia (12%) is winning, see [source](#).

NATO enlargement: According to a survey in Estonia, 82 per cent of Estonians are in favour of Estonia's membership in NATO which is 2 points higher than last year. In the case of a confrontation, 48 per cent of respondents say NATO would provide direct military aid, while 29 per cent believe NATO membership would prevent a military conflict from occurring in the first place, see [source](#). In Finland, a survey shows the same strong support with 82% of respondents considering NATO membership as positive. Furthermore, 82% of Finns support sending Finnish soldiers if another NATO member state is attacked, substantially exceeding the 67% average among NATO states according to a survey from spring 2022. However, Finns are more divided when it comes to permanent NATO military bases on their soil, with 42% of respondents being against it. Moreover,

the majority of Finns (77%) reject nuclear weapons being stationed in Finland, and 61% oppose such weapons being transferred across the country, according to the survey, see [source](#). For German respondents, 18% believe that the two per cent target (in reference to the NATO's contribution) is too much, 45% that it is enough and 21% that it should be higher, see [source](#). In Poland almost half of respondents (47,7%) believe that Ukraine should not be admitted to the alliance at the moment, see [source](#). Finally, according to a recent poll, 89% of Ukrainians want their country to become a NATO member ranging from 79% in eastern regions to 93% in the western regions, see [source](#). Most Americans are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the NATO alliance (73%) and continuing aid to Ukraine (67%), see [source](#).

Defence and territorial integrity: Following a multi-countries survey, more than 75% of Europeans want a stronger joint European foreign policy. At the national level, the figures are lowest in France, Hungary, Czech Republic and Austria, but still above 75%. On the other hand, Belgium, Spain and Finland have 89%, 91% and 95% of support. There is similar support for increased defence and security cooperation, see [source](#). In Italy, 13% of respondents believe that their country should increase its military spending while 46% think that they should maintain their military spending at a stable level and 25% suggest decreasing Italy's military expenditure, see [source](#). A recent survey in Estonia shows that 69% of the population is satisfied with Estonia's national defence. Furthermore, 83 % of respondents would either definitely or rather consider it necessary to put up armed resistance in the event of an attack by a foreign state, see [source](#). A majority of Americans (62%) continue to support the effort in helping Ukraine regain all of its lost territory, even if that means a more prolonged conflict, see [source](#). In another survey, 56% American respondents said European allies are not doing their fair share to assist Ukraine, see [source](#).

Support for sanctions: Based on the latest Eurobarometer, 72% of Europeans agree with imposing economic sanctions on Russian government, companies and individuals, see [source](#). An Italian survey shows that 60% of Italians express the desire to maintain sanctions against Russia, see [source](#).

Concern on conflicts: Based on a multi-country survey, conflict between nations only ranks 12th on the list of global concerns, inflation still ranks first. However, Poland is the most concerned about conflicts between nations, with 29% saying that it is a worry, see [source](#).

Russia's image/Putin : According to a recent poll in Germany, following the attempted coup by the Wagner group in Russia, 44 % of respondents see President Putin as weakened, while 43% expect no change and 8 % think he is strengthened after this uprising, see [source](#). In Italy, a survey shows that 75% of respondents express concern following the Wagner mutiny and its implication, while 14% do not share this concern and 11% declare not to have enough information to have an opinion, see [source](#). According to a recent poll from Russian Levada Center, 68% of Russians want Vladimir Putin to be re-elected in the 2024 presidential election, see [source](#).

EU enlargement: According to the latest Eurobarometer, 64% support the EU awarding Ukraine candidate status, with 27% saying they "totally agree." and 28% 'disagree'. A majority in 25 Member States agree with granting this status, although the proportion ranges from 90% in Portugal, 85% in Sweden and 84% in Lithuania to 42% in Bulgaria, 47% in Austria and Cyprus, see [source](#).

Solidary / Refugees: According to the latest Eurobarometer, 88% of Europeans agree with providing humanitarian support to the people affected by the war. Moreover, 86% agree with welcoming war refugees into the EU, 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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