DG COMM’s Public Opinion Monitoring Unit has assembled a range of recent surveys and polls from across the EU giving insight into how citizens see Russia’s war against Ukraine as well as its ripple effects. These polls were published from 27 September until 5 October 2022. Key findings are based on one multi-countries survey as well as on surveys conducted in Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovakia. Polls from Ukraine and Russia are also presented.

**The EU and NATO are considered important for national security:** A recent poll carried out across ten member states and their transatlantic partners, found that on average 81% of the EU citizens surveyed believe the EU is important for the national security of their country. The plurality of respondents in almost all the EU countries surveyed say that relations with Russia would be best managed through the EU. The same survey found that the share of respondents saying that NATO plays an important role in the security of their country is 78%, an increase of 11 points from 2021. Overall, 65% of respondents describe the EU’s influence as very or generally positive. This picture is confirmed by another survey carried out in France, which found that confidence in the EU is increasing markedly in the context of multiple crisis. In Poland, pollsters found that 60% of respondents want the NATO to go further by providing even more weapons and heavy equipment for Ukrainian troops.

**Support for Ukraine is mostly stable:** A multi-country survey found clear support for Ukraine becoming a member of the EU (63%) and of NATO (58%) among respondents. Ukrainians themselves are even more positive about these prospects, according to this survey. 86% are in favour of their country joining the EU, while 83% want to join NATO – the highest level ever recorded. In Germany, overall support for Ukraine is also unwavering, despite the rise in energy prices, see source. However, another poll found that there are some differences in levels of support between East and West Germans. The trend is somewhat different in the Netherlands, where people expressed lower levels of support for Ukraine following rising prices in September compared to six months ago (49% now versus 65% then), see source.

**Europeans remain tough on Russia:** Respondents to a multi-country survey strongly back action to hold Russia accountable through the prosecution of war crimes as well as economic sanctions. Support for both measures is strongest in Portugal (90% and 88% respectively) and Lithuania (81% and 78%). A different poll carried out among Russian speakers in Finland obtained similar results, finding that a two-thirds majority (64%) of those surveyed do not approve of Russia’s military operation in Ukraine. As regards sanctions, 60% of Polish citizens are against loosening them to lower energy prices, according to this survey. Italians too are largely supporting sanctions imposed on Russia, with 66% of respondents saying they are in favour, according to this survey. Research conducted in Lithuania found that almost two-thirds of the population support the decision of the Baltic states and Poland to close borders to Russians. Poles agree, with 57% stating that they do not want to allow Russian deserters to enter the country, see source.

**Climate change, war between countries, and Russia are seen as top security challenges:** Despite differences between individual countries, a multi-country survey found these three issues to be the most important challenges. In Italy and France, the most pressing issue is climate change, while in Portugal and Spain, the concerns about Russia and the risk of war are prioritized by 33% of Portuguese respondents and 30% of Spanish ones. In general, respondents in countries nearer Ukraine are more concerned about the security challenge from Russia and interstate war.
Energy security and rising prices continue to worry EU citizens: As the cost-of-living crisis unfolds, more than a third of Belgians (35%) said their purchasing power had deteriorated, mainly due to the cost of food, energy and transport, see source. In France, 54% are concerned about their purchasing power, according to this poll. The situation is similar in Germany, where a recent survey found that high prices are causing big problems for 57% of respondents. Almost a third of Germans expect temporary power cuts throughout fall and winter, see source. Italians expressed the same worries in a recent poll. Over 3 out of 4 respondents say they are affected by the continuous rise in general energy costs and prices. In Poland too, 87% of citizens intend to save energy this winter, according to a recent survey.

Within Russia, anxiety is increasing: A survey carried out by the independent Levada Institute found that nearly one in two Russians reacted fearfully and terrified to the announcement of partial mobilization. Concern about the “Ukrainian events” grew and reached peak values, with 88% of respondents in September saying that they are worried, compared to 73% in August. The share of those who said they support Russia’s “special military operation” fell to 72% - its lowest level ever (shortly after the war began, it stood at 80%). 44% of Russians believe that military operations should continue, while 48% of respondents want peace negotiations to begin.

Reactions to the War in Ukraine
A survey commissioned by the German Marshall Fund show very clear support for Ukraine becoming a member of the EU (63%) and of NATO (58%). Respondents also strongly back action to hold Russia accountable through the prosecution of war crimes as well as economic sanctions. Support for prosecuting Russia for war crimes and for more sanctions is strongest in Portugal (90% and 88% respectively), Poland (86% and 84%), and Lithuania (81% and 78%).

Supporters of far-right parties across Europe are less in favour of punishing Russia than those of centrist parties. Only 51% of Lega and Fratelli d’Italia supporters in Italy are for imposing sanctions compared to 82% of supporters of the centre-left Democratic Party. In Germany, only 36% of Alternative for Germany supporters favour sanctions while there is strong support for sanctions among supporters of the centrist parties and even among those of The Left (73%). In France, 62% of supporters of the National Rally favour sanctions compared to 89% of those of the centrist La République En Marche!. Supporters of far-right parties are also less likely to favour taking in Ukrainian refugees, including those of the National Rally (37%) and of Alternative for Germany (34%).

With climate change, war between countries, and Russia being the top security challenges, a majority of EU citizens surveyed consider the EU important for their country’s national security
Kantar | 29 September 2022 | Source
Fieldwork: June – July 2022
NOTE: The study focuses on the following EU countries: France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden as well as the following non-EU countries: Canada, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States.
Most important security challenges
In 2022, transatlantic publics consider climate change, war between countries, and Russia as top security challenges, although these rankings vary by country. Climate change is seen as the top security challenge in Italy (34%) and France (28%). In Portugal and Spain, where a plurality of respondents also consider climate change to be the most important challenge, Russia and the risk of war between countries rank very high.
high as well. Taken together, the concerns stemming from the Russian invasion of Ukraine are prioritized by 33% of Portuguese respondents and 30% of Spanish ones, above climate change.

Respondents in countries nearer Ukraine are more concerned about the security challenge from Russia and interstate war: 21% about Russia and 22% about war in Germany, 35% and 25% respectively in Poland, and 18% and 27% respectively in Romania. In general, immigration is a lesser concern, while pandemics, which ranked first in 2021 in a different list of options, have become a marginal concern despite the ongoing coronavirus crisis.
Importance of the EU for National Security

An average of 81% in member states see the EU as important for the national security of their country. In particular, respondents from Southern and Eastern European countries consider the EU as important for their national security. This is the case for 94% of respondents in Portugal and 82% in Spain, as well as for 88% in Romania, 87% in Lithuania, and 85% in Poland. While respondents in the Netherlands (77%), Sweden (76%), Germany (75%), Italy (75%), and France (73%) see the EU as important for their national security, this is slightly below the average across all EU countries (81%) surveyed.

The perception of the EU’s role in national security often correlates with age, with the oldest age group in most countries surveyed perceiving the EU as more important than the 18–24 age group. The biggest generational gap (18 points) is in the Netherlands (86% vs. 68%). There are also large such gaps in Germany (81% vs. 68%) and Lithuania (93% vs. 83%).

Importance of NATO

According to 78%, NATO plays an important role in the security of their country. This constitutes an increase of 11 points from 2021. Respondents in European “frontline countries”—that is, nearer Russia and Ukraine—place a particularly high value on NATO: 91% of Poles, 88% of Romanians, and 87% of Lithuanians see it as somewhat important or very important. In Poland, there has been a 23-point increase since 2021 in the share of respondents considering NATO as very important (66%). In Western Europe, Portugal (65%), Germany (53%), and the Netherlands (52%) also rank NATO as very important, with a 30-point leap in Germany.

Even countries that traditionally perceive NATO as less important for their security, such as France and Spain, show the same evolution: 72% of French respondents (vs. 52% in 2021) and 77% of Spanish ones (vs. 65%) consider the defence alliance as somewhat or very important. In Sweden, 34% of respondents see NATO as very important, up from 18% the previous year.

There is a significant generational gap in perceptions of NATO in some countries, with younger respondents generally less convinced of its importance. Almost two-thirds (65%) of Germans aged 18–24 compared to 87% of those aged 65+ say that NATO plays a somewhat or very important role in their country’s security. In the Netherlands the generational gap is 28 points.
Enlargement of NATO

Support for Sweden and Finland joining NATO is very high across all countries surveyed, ranging from 64% in Italy to 90% in Portugal. Majorities of respondents in Lithuania (64%), Portugal (63%), Romania (53%), and Poland (51%) as well as a plurality of respondents in the Netherlands (45%) “strongly agree” with this decision. In Sweden, long known for its neutrality, 65% favour joining the alliance. Support for Finland and Sweden joining NATO is high across age groups but most pronounced among the oldest respondents in many countries. NATO membership for Finland and Sweden also has support across the political spectrum in most countries, although it is generally lower among supporters of Europe’s far-right parties.

US Involvement in the Defence and Security of Europe

The desire for US involvement in the defence of Europe has generally increased in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. An overwhelming majority across the countries surveyed (72%) want the United States somewhat or very involved, while 19% would rather it keep out. The increase is greatest in Sweden (72% in 2022 vs. 45% in 2021), but there are also noteworthy increases in Spain (71% vs. 60%) and the Netherlands (75% vs. 66%).
Sentiment about Russia’s Influence in Global Affairs
The public on both sides of the Atlantic is sharply critical of Russia’s influence in global affairs after its invasion of Ukraine. A cross-country average of 73% describe it as very or generally negative. This does not correlate with geographic proximity to Russia: the countries with the highest share of respondents seeing Russia’s influence as negative are Portugal (84%) and the Netherlands (81%), followed by Poland (80%), Sweden (78%), Lithuania (77%), the United Kingdom (77%), and Spain (74%). The comparatively least negative perceptions held by respondents in EU countries are found in Romania (64%) and Italy (62%).

In Europe, supporters of far-right and far-left parties have a more positive assessment of Russia’s influence. In France, 26% of supporters of the far-left La France Insoumise describe it as very or generally positive, compared to 16% for all respondents. There is a similar picture in Germany with 30% for supporters of the far-right Alternative for Germany compared to 14% for all respondents. Likewise, Russia’s influence is seen as more positive by Italian supporters of the Lega (29%) or of Fratelli d’Italia (27%) than the national average (21%). This is also the case in Spain, where 26% of supporters of Vox judge Russia’s influence as positive compared with the national average of 17%.

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Sentiment about the EU’s Influence in Global Affairs
65% of respondents describe the EU’s influence as very or generally positive. The EU is hence perceived to have a more beneficial influence than the United States (57%), and significantly more so than China (27%) and Russia (15%). Portuguese respondents hold by far the most positive view of the EU’s influence, with 87% describing it as very or generally positive. Likewise, significant majorities in Lithuania (78%), Romania (74%), Poland (71%), Sweden (70%), Spain, and the Netherlands (69% both) hold very or generally positive views of the EU’s global influence. Respondents in some other member states also perceive the EU’s influence as positive, if to a lesser extent: Germany (63%), Italy (60%), and France (58%). Canadian respondents hold a more positive view of the EU’s influence (68%) than do some EU ones.

The only noticeable pattern across countries is that supporters of far-right parties in the EU, which are usually Euroskeptic, tend to hold more negative views of the EU’s global influence than the national average. This is the case for respondents supporting the Alternative for Germany (58% negative vs. 21%
positive), the Party for Freedom in the Netherlands (30% vs. 17%), the National Rally in France (32% vs. 24%),
and Vox in Spain (27% vs. 21%).

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**Managing Relations with Russia and China**

A plurality of respondents in almost all the EU countries surveyed say that relations with Russia would be best managed through the EU. This includes 53% of Portuguese, 48% of Spaniards, 44% of Italians, 37% of Swedish, 36% of French, 33% of Germans, 32% of Lithuanians, and 30% of Dutch. Respondents in Poland (30%) and Romania (27%) prefer NATO.
The full article by the German Marshall Fund can be found here.
Health, purchasing power and housing are the three main concerns of Belgians
Cofidis | 30 September 2022 | Source
Fieldwork: 9 – 16 August 2022

As the cost-of-living crisis unfolds, Belgians indicate that their main concerns are health, purchasing power and housing. More than a third of respondents (35%) said their purchasing power had deteriorated, mainly due to the cost of food, energy and transport. Two-thirds did not think the situation would improve over the next five years, while 27% acknowledged that they had to be very careful with their expenses to make ends meet and 9% regularly ended the month in the red.

The purchase of new clothes, spending on leisure activities and energy consumption are three items on which Belgians save money. They also use postponing projects, such as works, holidays and events, as a way to deal with the crisis.

At the same time, the number of Belgians who are considering improving the energy performance of their homes to deal with soaring energy prices and the climate emergency, is increasing. This trend is mainly observed among respondents aged under 34.

Most Russian speakers in Finland oppose the Russian war in Ukraine
Cultura Foundation | 30 September 2022 | Source
Fieldwork: Unknown

A two-thirds majority (64%) of Russian-speaking people in Finland said they do not approve of Russia’s military operation in Ukraine. At the same time, 56% of those surveyed said they opposed sanctions against Russia and only 43% approved of accepting large numbers of refugees. Currently, there are some 87,500 people residing in Finland whose mother language is Russian. The number of Ukrainian refugees is currently around 40,000.

Study: « Fractures françaises »
Ipsos, Sopra-Steria, Le Monde, Cevipof, Fondation Jean Jaurès | 4 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 16 – 20 September 2022

A majority of 58% in France are unhappy about the political situation, of which 38% are angry. The feeling of belonging to a France that is “angry and very dissenting” is more spread than last year.
Above all, the French are concerned about purchasing power (54%), the environment (34%) and the future of the social system (26%).

However, confidence in the European Union is increasing markedly in a context of multiple crisis. Confidence stood at 27% in April 2016 and is now at 50%.
A majority of the French believe that France's membership of the European Union is a good thing and this number has increased compared to last year.

Support for Ukraine remains stable among Germans, despite the rise in energy prices. While 70% of Germans were in favour of continuing support for Ukraine in July, and 71% expressed support in August, the number of citizens saying that they continue to stand behind helping Ukraine has increased slightly in
September to 74%. One fifth (20%, July: 22%, August: 20%) would like to reduce or stop support in order to return to lower energy prices, among them the majority of AfD supporters (70%). **Opinions differ on the question of whether Germany should supply Ukraine with modern battle tanks:** 47 per cent are in favour, 43 per cent are against.

Nonetheless, **Germans are mostly concerned about security of energy supply and higher energy prices at the moment.** In July, 40% of respondents said high prices are causing them big problems personally. This proportion has now increased to 57% in September.

The negative view of the state of the economy in Germany continues with 33% describing it as bad, 15% as good and 51% are of split opinion.
Deutschland-Monitor – East and West Germans have different views on Ukraine policy
Info Institute | 28 September 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 26 July – 16 August 2022

Overall, 36% of Germans are satisfied with the government’s Ukraine policy, but there are clear differences between different parts of the country. While 39% of West Germans support the immediate stop of gas imports from Russia, this is only true for about a quarter of East Germans. Moreover, 54% of respondents in the West support heavy arms deliveries to Ukraine, while in the East the figure is only 32%.

RTL/ntv-Trendbarometer – A third of Germans expects energy shortages
Forsa | 04 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 29 – 30 September 2022

While 66% of respondents believe that the energy supply in Germany will be secure throughout fall and winter, almost a third of the population expects temporary power cuts. The share of those sceptical about energy security is significantly higher among Eastern Germans (40%) and AfD supporters (51%).

As regards gas supply specifically, 58% of Germans believe that the country will be able to obtain enough gas from elsewhere to meet the needs of private households and the economy in the coming fall and winter months following the complete halt in gas supplies from Russia. In contrast, 36% - again a majority of eastern Germans (51%) and AfD supporters (60%) - believe that this will not be possible.

A third of Germans (35%) say they have made provisions in case energy supplies to their own households are interrupted, e.g., by buying electric heating appliances, a wood-burning stove or a fireplace. 65% - regardless of whether they heat their households with gas or not - have not yet made any provisions.

Only a minority of Germans (10%) are in favour of shutting down the three nuclear power plants still in operation by the end of the year. Similarly, just 18% would favour keeping two of the three nuclear power plants in operation only temporarily until the end of March 2023. Instead, the vast majority (68%) supports the measure of using all three nuclear power plants to generate electricity until 2024.
Among the causes behind the current situation of high inflation and rising energy costs, speculation by energy giants (57%) and past choices on geo-political and energy issues (46%) are the main causes according to most of the sample. The inadequate management of contracts with Russia by the government and Europe was also quite impacting (47%). Contrary to expectations, the war in Ukraine is fourth in order of importance by the respondents and only 34% believe that it is a major cause of inflation. Many young people in the 18-34 age group believe that the management of the political crisis by the Italian government and more generally by the Europe has not been sufficiently adequate.

Overall, 66% of Italians are in favour of the sanctions imposed on Russia, even if 20% of these would review the attitude. Only 18% of the sample is openly opposed to the sanctions.
Over 3 out of 4 respondents say they are affected by the continuous rise in general energy costs and prices. This is even more felt by women, over 55, living in the North-East and in the Center of Italy.

For 3 out of 4 respondents, the energy price increases will have an important impact on the purchase of other products and services. For 37%, the effects will also be felt on essential products and services.

Two-thirds of Lithuanians support closing borders to Russians
Vilmorus | 03 October 2022 | Source
Fieldwork: 15-24 September 2022

Almost two-thirds of Lithuania’s population support the decision of the Baltic states and Poland to close borders to Russians. 34% said they fully supported the decision, while 28% said they were generally in favour. Meanwhile, 11% percent disagreed completely and 13% said they generally disagreed with the government’s policy of barring Russian citizens with tourist visas from entering the country. A further 13% of respondents indicated that they had no opinion on the matter.
Unconditional support for Ukraine is decreasing

EenVandaag Opinion Panel | 27 September | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 26 - 27 September

In face of rising prices, unconditional support for aid to Ukraine is decreasing. Six months ago, two-thirds of people in the Netherlands (65%) were in favour of supporting Ukraine, even at their own cost. Now that number is significantly smaller (49%).

A quarter of citizens (24%) still support sanctions against Russia, but only if there are no additional price increases. 1 in 5 (20%) is against sending aid to Ukraine. Lower and middle incomes in particular are feeling the effects of the war and sanctions and unconditional support for aid to Ukraine has therefore declined most drastically among this part of the population. In contrast, a large majority (64%) of people with a higher income still support Dutch aid to Ukraine, even if that means that their expenses increase.

Poles against easing sanctions against Russia to lower energy prices

SW Research | 2 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 27-28 September 2022

60% of respondents disagreed with the statement that in order to lower energy prices, the West should ease or withdraw sanctions imposed on Russia. Meanwhile 16% were in favour while 24% said that they have no opinion on this matter. Opposition to a possible loosening of sanctions is expressed more often by men (67%) than by women (54%). The percentage of respondents who are critical of the idea of withdrawing sanctions imposed on Russia increases with age (43% - people under 24, 68% - people over 50).
Poles do not want conscription to be restored
IBRiS | 2 October | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: Unknown

In response to the question “Given the conflict escalation in the East, should compulsory conscription be restored in Poland?” 36% of survey participants gave a positive reply, while 57% are against this. Others have no opinion. The voters of the United Right (56%) who obtain information from TVP’s News (67%) are mostly supporters of the restoration of conscription. The poll also shows that in recent months, after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the percentage of people accepting the restoration of compulsory military service has decreased.

Most Poles are against accepting refugees from Russia
Social Changes | 2 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 23-26 September 2022

Poles were posed the question of whether Poland should let into the country Russians who do not want to fight on the side of Russia in Ukraine and are fleeing from drafting them into the army. Before replying respondents were asked to keep in mind state security and the ongoing war in Ukraine. In the end, 57% of Pols are against admitting Russian deserters (34% - “definitely not”, 23% - “rather not”). The opposite opinion is shared by 24% (18% - “rather yes”, 6% - “definitely yes”). 19% indicated that they had no opinion on the matter.

The majority of Poles expect NATO to provide more support
United Surveys | 28 September 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 23-25 September 2022

Most Pols (60%) believe that NATO countries should provide even more weapons and heavy equipment for Ukrainian troops. 17% are maintaining support at current levels, while 11% of respondents believe that the current commitment is too high and should be lowered. 5% of Pols say that they are in favour of further increased support, including supplying more weapons, heavy equipment and sending NATO soldiers to Ukraine.

Poles are planning to save energy
BioStat | 27 September 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 20-23 September 2022

Due to rising costs, almost half of Poles pay more attention to the amount of energy they use. 87% of citizens intend to save energy this winter and the older the respondents are, the more they are planning to save. The survey found that 40% of households perceive the increased energy costs to be a burden. As a consequence, 55% of Poles expect energy subsidies regardless of the heating system installed in their building. 41% indicated that they have to significantly reduce other expenses in order to pay their energy bills, with just 7% not having to change their habits due to rising energy costs.

When asked how they intend to save energy in the next six months, survey participants most often indicated that they would limit the use of certain energy consuming appliances (68% of responses). To reduce energy consumption, 42% of respondents will give up additional amenities, and 39% will lower the temperature in the apartment.

64% of Poles believe that the state is not efficiently solving the energy crisis
United Surveys | 27 September 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 24-25 September 2022

In view of the energy crisis, governments of many European countries are introducing savings plans and solutions aimed at reducing energy prices for households. This is also happening in Poland. Interviewers asked therefore Poles how they were assessing state’s reaction to the crisis.
To the question: "Is the state efficiently solving the energy crisis?" the answer "definitely not" was chosen by 46% of survey participants, and "rather not" 18%. Only 8% believe that the state is efficiently resolving the crisis, and almost 27% of the respondents chose the options "rather" efficiently.

The pollsters also asked how the state should behave in the face of rising energy and gas prices. More than half of the survey participants (55%) believe that the prices of raw materials should be frozen by subsidizing them from the budget. 23% say that the state should pay benefits to citizens. Almost every tenth participant (9%) does not want any reaction from the government and 13% participants have no opinion on this matter.

75% of Slovaks Are Worried about Expensive Energy
Nielsen Admosphere | 29 September 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: Unknown

Almost 75% of Slovaks are concerned about energy prices, with just 2% of respondents not being worried about expensive energy. Hence, it is little surprising that the energy prices are also the biggest motivation for reducing their consumption in the household. Almost 7 out of 10 Slovaks are willing to reduce the heating temperature at their home by at least 1 degree as part of energy-saving measures, while roughly the same proportion wants to buy energy-saving appliances.

When it comes to the coming months, almost half of Slovaks (47%) are greatly worried about rising energy prices with women (52%) worrying more than men (42%). "People with lower education (53%) are more concerned. A quarter of respondents are a little less worried about rising energy prices, and 22% of Slovaks were in the middle of the scale," added Nielsen Atmosphere Slovakia spokeswoman Eliska Morochovicova. Most Slovaks (37%) use natural gas to heat their households. Central heating placed second being the main source of household heating for 31% of those polled followed by wood, which is primarily used for heating by 15% of respondents. 11% use electricity for this purpose.
Half of Russians feel anxious and horrified about mobilisation
Rating Group | 3 October 2022 | Source
Fieldwork: 1-2 October 2022
NOTE: Rating Group is considered an independent agency that follows recognized social science principles. The survey was carried out among the population of Ukraine aged 18 and older in all regions, except for the temporarily occupied territories of Crimea and Donbas, as well as territories where there was no Ukrainian mobile connection at the time of the survey. The results were weighted using current data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine. The sample (2000) is representative by age, gender and type of settlement. CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews) were employed as the survey method.

The level of support for joining NATO among Ukrainians is currently the highest ever recorded in polling. It is noted that 83% of respondents would support joining the alliance in a referendum, 4% would oppose it, and 9% would not vote. In June by comparison, only 76% of respondents favoured joining. Similarly, 86% of respondents would support Ukraine’s accession to the European Union in the event of a referendum. Only 3% would oppose it. Unlike joining the EU, joining NATO is perceived somewhat more cautiously by residents of the east of the country: 69% are in favour of joining, 9% are against and 17% would not vote. Despite this, compared to the previous survey, favourability towards joining the alliance has increased among residents of the east. In June, 55% indicated support, compared to 20% against and 22% who would not vote.

Half of Russians feel anxious and horrified about mobilisation
Levada | 29 September 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 22-29 September 2022
NOTE: Levada is considered an independent agency that follows recognized social science principles. The institute has been named a “foreign agent” by the Russian government. Nonetheless, in the current situation all polls are to be taken with a grain of salt.

Nearly one in two Russians reacted fearfully and terrified to the partial mobilization ordered by Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin. 47% of respondents described their emotional state after Putin’s speech just over a week ago as "anxious, fearful and horrified". In contrast, 23% said they were “proud of Russia.” At the end of September, the share of people closely monitoring the situation around Ukraine increased significantly: 32% follow “very closely” (in August - 21%) and another 34% follow “quite closely” (30% in August).
Concern about the Ukrainian events also grew and reached peak values. In September, 88% of respondents agreed to be worried about the current events. Among those 56% said that they were "very worried" about current events (in August: 37%), another 32% - "rather worried" (in August: 37%).

The share of those who said they support Russia's war against Ukraine, fell to 72%, its lowest level ever. Shortly after the war began, it had stood at 80%. Among those who support: 44% "definitely support" the
actions of the Russian armed forces and another 28% "rather support". A total of 21% of respondents do not support it (in August was 17%).

![Graph showing public opinion on actions of Russian armed forces in Ukraine]

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Mar.22</th>
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<th>Jul.22</th>
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44% of respondents believe that military operations should continue, among which 29% are "definitely" sure of that and 15% are "rather" sure of it. On the contrary, 48% of respondents believe that peace negotiations should begin. In August, 48% of respondents were in favour of continuing hostilities and only 44% were in favour of starting peace negotiations. Support for continuing hostilities is lower in the 18-24 years old group - just over a quarter (26%) support that. On the contrary, the greatest support is found among respondents aged 55+ (52%).

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

We welcome all comments and input to our work.

If you want to know more about what the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit can do for you in this time of crisis, please contact:

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