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 the 29 September until the 11 of October 2022. Key findings are based on two multi-countries surveys as well as on surveys conducted in Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia.

Support towards Ukraine: A multi-country survey found that a majority of respondents are in favour of the EU delivering weapons to Ukraine (60%), welcoming Ukrainian refugees (81%), and welcoming Ukraine into the European Union (66%). 55% of Austrians consider the fact that the EU member states are taking a unified line in support of Ukraine to be “rather important” or “very important”, see source. In Germany, the attitude regarding military support for Ukraine has changed slightly, a relative majority of 47 percent would like the German government to be restrained so as not to provoke Russia, according to this survey. For a relative majority of 36 percent of Germans (-1 percentage point compared to August) the current sanctions against Russia do not go far enough. A study shows that at least 79 percent of Polish respondents still support hosting of Ukrainian refugees by Poland (…) The percentage of respondents declaring that they or their households help Ukrainian refugees voluntarily and free of charge is now at 53%. Findings from another poll show, 47% of Slovaks wants Ukraine to win. However, around one fifth prefers the Russian side to win. A considerable change in attitudes can be seen when a “both parties making a deal” option is added to the possible responses. In such case, most Slovaks respondents choose the deal (60%).

EU countries national security worries: Currently, a slight majority of Germans (56%) are worried or very worried that Germany could be directly involved in the war against Ukraine. However, 43% have little or no concern in this regard, see source. According to a CBOS poll, 70 percent of respondents believe that the war in Ukraine threatens the security of Poland, 84 percent of those surveyed think the war will continue for at least a few more months, 60 percent believes that the fight should continue and not make any concessions to Russia.

A common European defence and security policy: When asked about whether the EU should deepen integration by creating, for example, a common European defence and security policy, Europeans overwhelmingly support such option (88%), see survey. A new survey shows that Dutch people are less likely than in July to think that the government should invest more money in its own army (50% September vs. 55% July). On the other hand, the share of Dutch people who think that a European army should be created as soon as possible has remained the same: there is support for this among two in five Dutch people (40%).

Majority of Europeans seek energy independence: 72% of Europeans are in favour of the EU becoming independent of energy supplies from Russia, even if this means rising costs. Support is highest in Poland (80%) and Italy (76%), it’s among the lowest in Germany (69%), see source. Particularly in Italy the need to guarantee energy supplies is at the top of national interests (53%). Furthermore, Italians when faced with eleven major challenges in the coming months and years, indicate “energy autonomy” (23%) as an absolute priority, see survey.
Europeans’ (energy) saving capacity: A recent poll found that 20% of French people believe that they have already made great efforts to reduce their energy consumption (housing temperature, lighting, etc.). In Finland, another poll confirmed that increasing inflation has led to savings measures in up to 42% of Finnish companies. Spending behaviour in the Netherlands has also been impacted by inflation. Two out of three respondents (65%) indicate that they have adjusted their spending pattern due to rising costs. To save money, the Dutch increased their energy saving behaviour (Sep: 75% vs. Aug: 67%) and now take shorter showers (Sep: 67% vs. Aug: 53%). Moreover, 12% of the Dutch also skip a meal due to rising inflation, see survey.

Rising costs of living still tops the list of worries: An EC Eurobarometer survey states that more than nine in ten (93%) respondents in the EU think that the level of energy prices is a serious problem for people in their country. In fact, the majority (58%) thinks this is a “very serious problem”. Eight in ten (80%) say the current cost of fuel for their transport needs is a problem, and for 47%, it is a serious one. Almost as many (79%) say the current cost of their household’s energy needs is a problem, with 44% describing it as a “very serious problem”. In 19 countries, at least half of all respondents think energy prices in their country are a “very serious problem”, with the highest proportions seen in Greece (89%), Cyprus (83%) and Ireland (79%). Another poll showed that Greeks remain mostly concerned about the economy (31%), followed by the cost of living (26%), the energy crisis (11%), foreign policy/Ukraine war (8%) and unemployment (6%). The share of Dutch people who think that the war will have negative consequences for their personal financial situation has risen. Whereas in July half of the Dutch (51%) thought that the war would have negative consequences for their personal financial situation, in September this share rose to almost two-thirds of the Dutch (62%). Four in five Dutch people (81%) indicate that they are worried about rising prices, a share that is comparable to that of recent months. Although concerns about rising inflation are shared among all Dutch people, the effect of inflation is felt most strongly by those with a low income, see source. A total of 37% Finish companies said that inflation has caused a significant pay increase pressure in their businesses based in Finland, according to this survey.

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:
Philipp M. Schulmeister, Head of Public Opinion Monitoring Unit philipp.schulmeister@ep.europa.eu or dgcomm-pom@europarl.europa.eu
More than nine in ten (93%) respondents in the EU think the level of energy prices for people in their country is a serious problem. In fact, the majority (58%) thinks this is a “very serious problem”. Eight in ten (80%) say the current cost of fuel for their transport needs is a problem, and for 47%, it is a serious one. Almost as many (79%) say the current cost of their household’s energy needs is a problem, with 44% describing it as a “very serious problem”. At a national level, more than three-quarters of respondents in each Member State say that the level of energy prices in their country is a serious problem for people in general. All respondents in Greece (100%) think this way, as do 99% in Spain, Cyprus and Portugal and 98% in Ireland, compared to 76% in Malta, 82% in Sweden and 83% in Finland. In 19 countries, at least half of all respondents think energy prices in their country are a “very serious problem”, with the highest proportions seen in Greece (89%), Cyprus (83%) and Ireland (79%)
Europeans’ support for Ukraine continues unabated
Bertelsmann Stiftung | 5 October 2022 | Source
Fieldwork: 11-23 March and 3-26 June of 2022

When asked about measures in support of Ukraine, Europeans generally support delivering weapons to Ukraine (60%), welcoming Ukrainian refugees (81%), and welcoming Ukraine into the European Union (66%). Support for EU enlargement more generally has seen the biggest shift compared to pre-war attitudes, with a majority of EU citizens now in favour of welcoming new member states to the European Union (71%).

While Europeans remain in favour of delivering weapons, they express greater caution regarding this issue. We also see important differences between member states. Interestingly, more Europeans are in favour of the EU delivering weapons (60%) than they are of their home countries doing so (54%). When asked about whether the EU should deepen integration by creating, for example, a common European defence and security policy or by becoming more energy independent even if it comes at a cost, Europeans overwhelmingly support such steps (88% and 72%, respectively). Remarkably, however, younger Europeans are less supportive than their older cohorts when it comes to the second issue.
There are almost no time effects. **Even as the war progresses, opinions and attitudes remain remarkably stable.** French public opinion shows the most changes, which might be attributed to the country’s extended electoral season. This is all the more noteworthy in light of the worsening financial situation of European citizens. **Asked about their most pressing personal worries, the rising costs of living crisis very clearly tops the list.** Asked whether their personal outlook on the future is positive or negative, 46% EU-wide say it’s negative, compared to just 37% this time last year. Again, French and Italian citizens are most pessimistic with 59% and 55% having a negative outlook.

Responding to the energy crisis, **72% of Europeans are in favour of the EU becoming independent of energy supplies from Russia, even if this means rising costs.** Support is highest in Poland (80%) and Italy (76%). It is among the lowest in Germany (69%) whose dependence on Russian gas is particularly high. However, the comparative figures from March 2022 show that overall support for energy independence tends to decline as the scale of the cuts becomes clearer. Despite almost no changes on the European level as a whole (2 percentage points decline), there are clear shifts within member states. The decline is most pronounced in the Netherlands (-7 percentage points) and Poland (-6). They are followed by France and Belgium (-5).

The full report can be found [here](#).
The majority of Austrians support Ukraine
Market-Institut I 6 October 2022 I Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 26 – 28 September 2022

29% of Austrians believe that sanctions against Russia should be further tightened. 20% consider the measures taken so far by the EU to be sufficient. About a quarter (26%) consider the measures to be too harsh, and another quarter are unsure.

30% of Austrians consider the fact that the EU member states are taking a unified line in support of Ukraine to be “very important” and 25% think it is “rather important”. For 13% of those surveyed, it is “rather not important” and for 14% “not important at all”. Almost a fifth did not comment on this (18%).
42% of companies in Finland have introduced savings measures
Taloustutkimus Oy | 5 October 2022 | Source
Fieldwork: September 2022

Accelerating inflation has led to savings measures in up to 42% of Finnish companies. However, only one in five companies plans to postpone their fixed investments. One in three respondents expect higher interest rates to have a significant impact on their business, while 46% think that higher interest rates will have no major impact on business. One in three companies expect the current uncertainty and challenges in the market to weaken their profitability. Almost half of respondents expect the company’s profitability to remain unchanged in the next year. A total of 37% said that inflation has caused a significant pay increase pressure in their businesses based in Finland.

20% of French claim to have made great efforts to reduce their energy consumption
Opinionway | 09 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: unknown

20% of French people believe that they have already made great efforts to reduce their energy consumption (housing temperature, lighting, etc.). 45% of respondents say they have not yet favored soft mobility (public transport, bicycle, carpooling, etc.). In terms of responsible practices, 22% say they are ready to give up taking a bath, but only 5% want to deprive themselves of screens (Internet, telephone, etc.).

ARD Deutschlandtrend: Satisfaction with Ampel coalition at a new low point
Infratest Dimap | 06 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 03-05 October 2022

Currently, a slight majority of Germans (56%) are very worried or very worried that Germany could be directly involved in the war against Ukraine. 43% have little or no concern in this regard.
This could also be a reason why the attitude regarding military support for Ukraine has changed slightly. Thus, a relative majority of 47 percent would like the German government to be restrained so as not to provoke Russia. This is four percentage points more than in June. A current 43 per cent of respondents want the German government to act decisively and show toughness towards Russia - seven points less.

There are clear differences between the western and eastern federal states: In the West, 47 percent of the population are in favour of decisive action, 44 percent are in favour of restraint. In the east, six out of ten eligible voters (60 per cent) would like to see restraint, while just under one in three (31 per cent) would be in favour of decisive action.

Currently, 54 per cent of Germans would support accepting Russian conscientious objectors in Germany - 35 per cent are against it.

The current sanctions against Russia do not go far enough for a relative majority of 36 percent (-1 percentage point compared to August). For 31 percent, they are appropriate (-3). The group of eligible voters for whom the sanctions go too far has grown slightly compared to August (+3), but remains in the minority at 24 per cent.
The economy remains Greeks’ main concern – war in Ukraine at fourth place
Metron Analysis | 29 September 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 22 – 26 September 2022

Greeks remain mostly concerned about the economy (31%), followed by the cost of living (26%), the energy crisis (11%), foreign policy/Ukraine war (8%) and unemployment (6%). Compared to June 2022, all indicators have remained stable except for the cost of living which has fallen by 9 pp and the energy crisis which has gained 8 pp.

56% of Greeks say their country is going in the wrong direction against 38% who say it is going in the right direction.

Hungarians are sceptical about the effect of sanctions imposed on Russia
Századég | 30 September 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: September 2022

In response to the question “In your opinion, are the following countries the winners or losers of the economic consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and the sanctions?”, more than four-fifths of Hungarians replied that the European Union (81%) and Hungary (87%) are losers. Only 52% of respondents consider Russia to be worse off because of the sanctions.
For the majority of Italians (53%) the need to guarantee energy supplies is at the top of national interests. This result is strongly growing if compared to last year, when it stood at 11%.
Faced with eleven major challenges in the coming months and years, Italians indicate "energy autonomy" (23%) as an absolute priority for the new elected chambers, even before “supporting the economy” (20%), “fighting the climate emergency” and “fighting against poverty” (13% in both cases).

**Worries about the war in Ukraine and inflation concerns persist among the Dutch**

IPSOS | 11 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: September 2022

The Dutch continue to follow the news about the war in Ukraine. Today 23% of the Dutch follow the war intensively (the same percentage as in July) and three in five Dutch people (62%) follow the news a bit (in July it was 61%). The share of Dutch people who think that the war will have negative consequences for their personal financial situation has risen. Whereas in July half of the Dutch (51%) thought that the war would have negative consequences for their personal financial situation, in September this share rose to almost two-thirds of the Dutch (62%).

The Dutch are not only concerned about the consequences for their own situation: four out of five Dutch people also fear that the war in Ukraine will have negative consequences for the economic situation in the Netherlands.

At the same time, the Dutch are less likely than in July to think that the government, because of the situation in Ukraine, should invest more money in its own army (50% September vs. 55% July). On the other hand, the share of Dutch people who think that a European army should be created as soon as possible has remained the same: there is support for this among two in five Dutch people (40%).

Four in five Dutch people (81%) indicate that they are worried about rising prices, a share that is comparable to that of recent months. Although concerns about rising inflation are shared among all Dutch people, the effect of inflation is felt most strongly by those with a low income. Three-quarters (76%) of the Dutch with a low income indicate that they have more difficulty making ends meet as a result of rising inflation. For middle income households this is 44%, and it is 30% for those with a high income.

Spending behaviour in the Netherlands has also been impacted by inflation. Two out of three respondents (65%) indicate that they have adjusted their spending pattern due to rising costs (see figure below for a trend line).
To save money, the Dutch increased their energy saving behaviour (Sep: 75% vs. Aug: 67%) and now take shorter showers (Sep: 67% vs. Aug: 53%). 12% of the Dutch also skip a meal due to rising inflation (among Dutch people with a low income 26% do so).

According to 70 percent of respondents, the war in Ukraine threatens the security of Poland
CBOS | 4 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 5-15 September

70 percent of respondents believe that the war in Ukraine threatens the security of Poland, according to 84 percent of those surveyed, the war will continue for at least a few more months, 60 percent believes that the fight should continue and no concessions to Poland should be made, according to a CBOS poll.

In September, CBOS asked respondents about their opinions on the development of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, as well as on the aid provided to Ukrainian refugees. The survey shows that the percentage of respondents who feel that the war in Ukraine threatens Poland’s security is 70 percent (-5pp in relation to the measurement from a month ago): 26% of respondents definitely think so, 44 percent – rather so. The opposite opinion is shared by 24 percent of respondents (+4 pp).
When asked about the attitude that should be adopted towards Russia, 60 percent respondents replied that the fight against Russia should continue, and no concessions should be made. 25 percent of respondents believe that the main goal is to end the war, even at the cost of territorial concessions. 15 percent has no opinion on this matter.

In the first half of September, 53 percent of respondents believed that the war in Ukraine would not spread to other countries (+13pp compared to July). The percentage of people predicting an escalation of the conflict was 20%. In turn, the percentage of respondents who did not have an opinion on this subject was 27%.

CBOS also asked about the expected duration of the conflict: 84 percent of respondents claim that the war will last a long time, at least a few months (+15pp compared to April). 4 percent believe that the war will end in the next few weeks (-10pp). 12 percent of respondents chose the answer "hard to say".

The study also shows that at least 79 percent of respondents still support hosting of Ukrainian refugees by Poland (…) The percentage of respondents declaring that they or their households help Ukrainian refugees voluntarily and free of charge is now at 53%. Assistance is not provided by 47 percent. Finally, 61 percent of the respondents assessed that the aid offered by Poland to Ukrainian refugees is sufficient and 30 percent consider it excessive.

Slovens want Ukraine to win the war, not Russia
Globsec | 5 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 21-27 September

47% of respondents wants Ukraine to win. However, around one fifth prefers Russian side to win.

At the same time, there is a strong degree of apathy in society. Around a third of respondents does not care or cannot really express an opinion on the war, which is rather surprising given the scale of impact of the conflict on the country’s security and prosperity. The apathy looks strongest among younger generations. 33% of those aged 18-34 responded “I don’t care” to the question “How would you want the war in Ukraine to end”, compared to 23% of those aged 35-54 and 19% of respondents older than 55 years.

If the “definitely” and “rather” options are merged, the results are as follows:
A considerable change in attitudes can be seen when a “both parties making a deal” option is added to the possible responses. In such case, most respondents choose the deal. Even with the options below, however, almost three times as many respondents choose the victory of Ukraine over the victory of Russia.

A slight fatigue from the topic of war can be observed in society, as it was the case during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, people have concerns about the increasing prices of energy and other economic consequences of the war. With the aim of preserving personal well-being and standard of living, they opt for the quickest way out of the conflict.