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 13 until 26 October 2022. Key findings are based on two multi-countries surveys and on surveys conducted in Austria, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain and Sweden. Polls from Ukraine and Russia are also presented.

**Fears of a military escalation are mounting:** Military conflict between nations (11%) has moved up three places from last month and is now on the 11th position on a list of 18 worries, a multi-country poll by Ipsos has found. Globally, this concern has increased by +3pp and has now overtaken Covid-19 as a worry. Poland and Germany still remain the most concerned. 41 percent of Czechs are concerned about international military conflict, see [source](#). A survey commissioned by Ilta-Sanomat shows that merely 15% of Finnish people would like to see direct NATO military operations against Russia. On the other hand, over a third (36%) of respondents indicated being worried about a possible Russian attack also on Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and a quarter (25%) feared that the escalation might reach Finland at some stage. Six out of ten Germans (59 percent) are afraid of a Third World War, see [source](#). The majority of Italians (67%) are afraid of a conflict on a global level, see [source](#). In Finland, 35% are ‘very much’ or ‘quite a lot’ worried about a possible expansion of the war (+9 pp since last month), 40% are ‘somewhat’ worried, see [source](#). Meanwhile 61% of Latvians are worried about a potential Russia’s aggression against Latvia, according to this [poll](#). The situation is similar in the Netherlands, where nearly half of the population (48%) is afraid of the use of nuclear weapons by Russia, see [source](#). Another [survey](#) shows that Latvians are mostly worried about the potential Russian invasion of Latvia (61%), a cyberattack (53%), and ethnic conflicts in the territory of the country (64%).

**EU’s military support is increasingly seen sceptically in some countries:** More than three-quarters (77 percent) of Hungarians did not agree with the European Union training Ukrainian soldiers, see [source](#). Almost one in two Italians (48%) are opposed to sending weapons to Ukraine, see [source](#).

**Doubts on sanctions targeting Russia are on the rise in some countries:** Greeks’ opinions on sanctions against Russia are split with 48% thinking they should be lifted and 46% saying they should continue, see [source](#). 43% of Italians believe that it is not right to continue economic sanctions towards Russia, on the other hand only 35% supports the sanctions, see [source](#).

**Russian mobilization and mercenaries’ involvement in the conflict:** In an IBRIS poll, respondents were asked whether Poland should accept Russians who do not want to fight Ukraine and flee the country before mobilization. "Definitely not" - answered 43.8 percent of respondents, and 23.9 percent answered - “rather not”, see [source](#). In Russia, 64% of Russian respondents have heard that mercenaries and private military companies (PMCs) take part in the fighting in Ukraine on the side of Russia. 63% of Russians consider the use of PMCs acceptable, [source](#).
Inflation, energy and cost of living are top worries: In a recent multi-country poll by Ipsos on “What Worries the World”, covering both EU Member and non-Member States, inflation has been pointed as the top global concern for the last seven months, with the level of worry about the cost of goods rising for the last 15 consecutive months, after a further two-point rise in October. According to the results of another Ipsos survey, two thirds of people in Czechia expect their expenses to increase further in the next three months as inflation rises, with 29 percent expecting the increase in spending to be significant. Inflation worries 59 percent of Czechs and around a third of Czech households would like to reduce their housing and energy costs but are no longer able to do so. However, 20 percent of people still plan to significantly reduce their spending in the next months. Almost one in two French people consider inflation to be the first priority and for 39% the wages, closely linked to inflation, are the second priority, see source. Another poll in Greece shows that cost of living is the first problem for Greeks at 29.2%. In Netherlands the rising energy prices (65% mention this) and 'the war between Russia and Ukraine' (64%) are seen as the most important crises that the Netherlands has to contend with, see source. Almost 60% of Romanians (59.5%) that took part in a survey said that their financial situation worsened compared to last year. The main causes were price increases for energy, food and fuel. In Sweden, more than one in three Swedes (35%) worry that household costs will increase over the next year. 50% of Swedes state that there has been a change in their savings buffer in the last 12 months, see source. According to another survey, the majority (78 %) of Latvians feel financial insecurity due to inflation. Respondents indicated that the primary financial difficulties for them this winter could be paying heating bills (53%), buying wholesome food (43%) and electricity bills (43%). Almost 95,5% of Spanish respondents states inflation and the cost of living as the first main problem for their country, strictly followed by the energy dependency (89%), see source. In Ukraine, 71% of Ukrainians said their standard of living was getting worse, up 21 percentage points since last year, see source.

Ukrainians continue to support armed resistance to Russia and their leadership: An overwhelming majority of Ukrainians believes the country should keep up its armed resistance to Russia’s invasion, even in the eastern regions of Kharkiv and Donetsk, which have seen far more fighting and are home to larger numbers of Russian speakers. 86% of those polled said it was necessary to continue fighting the invaders even if missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian cities persist, see source. According to another survey, a nearly universal 94% of Ukrainians express confidence with their armed forces. Ukrainians of all backgrounds have rallied behind their leaders as their country has come under attack. This unity is evident across all regions and demographic groups of Ukrainians, with the youngest adults most likely to express confidence. Geographically, Zelensky’s approval is the highest in Central and West Ukraine (91% and 89%, respectively), and it is lowest in the East but still at an unprecedented 78%.

DG Communication’s Public Opinion Monitoring Unit informs about relevant public opinion insights and analysis focusing 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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Inflation remains the top global concern for the seventh month in a row

IPSOS | 26 October 2022 | Source
Fieldwork: 23 September – 7 October 2022
NOTE: The study focuses on BE, FR, DE, HU, IT, NL, ES, SE, PL as well as Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Great Britain, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, and Turkey and the US.

The cost of living remains the biggest concern globally, with more than four in ten (42%) choosing inflation as one of the top worries affecting their country. Inflation has now been the top global concern in our What Worries the World survey for the last seven months, with the level of worry about the cost of goods rising for the last 15 consecutive months, after a further two-point rise in October.

Inflation: changes in reported concern
Change since the start of the year (Jan 2022 - Oct 2022)

Representative sample of c.19,505 adults aged 16-74 in 27 participating countries.
Source: Ipsos Global Advisor • Created with Datawrapper
Military conflict between nations (11%) has moved up three places from last month and is now 11th on a list of 18 worries. This concern has increased by +3pp globally and has now overtaken Covid-19 as a worry. Poland and Germany still remain the most concerned and have been since its addition to What Worries the World back in April 2022. Both countries’ figures have moved +5pp since September. It is Poland’s second biggest worry, behind inflation. However, it is still 6pp down on the figure from April 2022. Sweden (19%) and the Netherlands (18%) have both experienced a big jump of +11pp in worry in the last month. It is not in the top five concerns for the Netherlands but is joint fourth worry in Sweden, alongside health care.

Top global concerns over the past two years

October 2020 - October 2022 (Global country average)

Other Key findings

- 13 countries - Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, GB, Hungary, Poland, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, the US, and Turkey - cite inflation as their top worry.
- Worry for inflation in Poland (70%) is now higher than its worry for Covid at its peak in 2020.
- Across all countries, worry about inflation is followed by poverty & social inequality (32%), unemployment (27%), and crime & violence (26%), and financial & political corruption (26%) which together make up the top five global worries.
- Climate change remains seventh in the list of 18 worries with a global average of 17% choosing it as a concern.
- Concern for coronavirus is at its lowest level since it was added to What Worries the World in April 2020. In October only one in ten (10%) globally chose coronavirus as a worry, down 25 points from January this year.
- The pandemic is now 13th on our list of global worries. Only eight months ago in February, it was the top concern globally.
- Two in three people (64%) believe their country is heading in the wrong direction, rising to 89% in Peru and 88% Argentina.
Soaring Cost-of-Living Crisis Plagues European Countries
IRI I 24 October 2022 I Source
Fieldwork: Unknown

Nearly three-quarters of European consumers are cutting back spending on everyday items, including food, to make ends meet amid a worsening cost-of-living crisis. A new survey shows that 71% of consumers across six key markets in Europe (France, Italy, Germany, Spain, UK, Netherlands) have already made significant changes to how they shop as they battle to cope with inflation that is reaching levels not seen in decades.

The report by IRI found that 58% of consumers already report that they have cut down on essentials, with 35% dipping into their personal savings and taking out loans to pay bills. The severe “inflation fatigue” facing the European consumer is forcing a range of “coping behaviors”, including missing meals, switching to discount grocery chains, buying private-label items and reduced products, as well as out-of-date goods.

Funding measures to fight inflation more important than increase of federal army’s budget
Unique research I 22 October 2022 I Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 17-20 October 2020

More than one in three would prefer to use the army's funds for measures against inflation. This emerges from a recent survey carried out by the opinion research institute Unique-research for the news magazine profil: 17% categorically reject the increase in federal army funds. 37% believe the money would be better invested to compensate for inflation and rising energy costs. 36% think the increase was about time. The rest gave no information. There is only clear agreement in one group of voters: 54% of the ÖVP (EPP) voters are in favour of increasing the defense budget, compared to only 32% of the FPÖ voters, although the latter traditionally have a positive attitude towards national defence.

Study: Majority of the population in favour of strengthening the Federal Armed Forces
Market-Institut I 22 October 2022 I Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 29 July bis 15 August 2022

In Austria, an absolute majority of the population is in favour of stronger national defence. According to a study conducted by the Ministry of Defense in cooperation with the Linz Market Institute in the summer, 63 percent of respondents are in favor of increasing spending on the armed forces, while 56 percent are in favor of increasing the number of soldiers. Support for the increase in national defense spending has increased by eight percentage points compared to the previous year and now reaches 63 percent. For the first time, a majority of 56 percent is in favour of increasing the number of soldiers. Compared to the previous year, this corresponds to an increase of 13 percentage points. With regard to strengthening the Federal Armed Forces, the highest approval ratings since the beginning of the series of studies were thus collected.

The survey also revealed a pessimistic assessment of the security situation: while in 2021 more than 70 percent assessed the security situation in Austria as very or rather safe, this proportion is now 50 percent. The global security situation is assessed by 57 percent of respondents as very or rather uncertain.
The concerns of the population relate primarily to rising prices (70 percent feel strongly or rather threatened by this), tensions between the West and Russia as a result of the Ukraine conflict (60 percent strongly or rather threatened) and climate change (57 percent strongly or rather threatened). While 75 percent are in favor of greater independence from Russian gas supplies, a relative majority of 46 percent favors Austria restricting its economic relations with Russia. This is viewed critically by a quarter (26 percent). The approval of neutrality is largely unchanged: 58 percent completely agree with the statement that Austria should remain neutral, 15 percent tend to agree.

Two-thirds of people fear that their expenses will continue to rise
IPSOS I 24 October 2022 I Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 29 July bis 15 August 2022

Inflation worries 59% of people, 41% of the Czech population is concerned about international military conflict and 38% are concerned about poverty and social inequality. On the contrary, climate change worries 14% of respondents and 12% are worried about unemployment. Compared to the previous wave of surveys in June, five percent fewer people are worried about inflation. 94% of people are worried about having to pay more for housing in the near future, a similar proportion are afraid of higher spending on food. Over 80% of people are also worried about higher spending on accommodation, transport or health.
Majority of Finns do not want to see direct NATO operations against Russia
Ilta-Sanomat 25 October 2002 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: Unknown

A mere 15% of Finnish people would like to see direct NATO military operations against Russia, a survey commissioned by Ilta-Sanomat found. Behind the survey’s results are fears of the war in Ukraine spilling over to the Baltic States and Finland. Over a third (36%) of respondents said they were worried about the possible Russian attack also on Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. A quarter (25%) feared that the escalation might reach Finland at some stage. As for supporters of the populist and nationalist Finns Party, which also has a pro-Russian agenda, some 25% of supporters said they would support direct action against Russia involving NATO. Most critical of such involvement were the Greens and the Left Alliance voters. Both sex and the level of education played a role in the survey’s outcome. Women were considerably more concerned than men that the war could spread into the Baltic States and Finland. And those with lower education proved to be more worried than those with higher degrees.

Fins worried about possible extension of the war and support reception of Ukrainian refugees
Valtioneuvosto statsradet 13 October 2002 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 5 – 10 October 2022

35% of Finns are ‘very much’ or ‘quite a lot’ worried about a possible expansion of the war (+9 pp since last month), 40% are ‘somewhat’ worried (no change) and 25% are ‘just a little’ or ‘not at all’ worried (-11). However, 63% say that their feeling of security has increased since Finland has applied for NATO membership (and 6% that it has decreased). 78% of Finns support the reception of Ukrainian refugees (+5 pp since September).
French have very high expectations towards government on issues related to their purchasing power
BVA-group | 21 October 2002 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 19 – 20/10/2022

In this autumn of 2022, inflation is clearly the primary concern of many French people. Among the various problems currently facing France, 48% consider inflation to be a priority. As a result, wages, closely linked to inflation, are the second priority subject in the eyes of the French, cited by 39% of them, ahead of insecurity (35%) and the climate and the environment (34%), relegated to 4th place.

More than seven out of ten French people (71%) believe that the government is badly managing the current fuel crisis (shortage in certain service stations following the strike action by certain Total and ExxonMobil employees).

Globalement, diriez-vous que le gouvernement gère bien ou mal la crise actuelle des carburants (pénurie dans certaines stations-service suite au mouvement de grève de certains salariés de Total et d’ExxonMobil)?
Majority of Germans afraid of World War Three
Insa | 21 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: Unkown

The war in Ukraine is influencing the mood in Germany. Six out of ten representative respondents (59 percent) are afraid of a Third World War. Fear predominates in all voter groups and income groups, but there are differences: women (69 percent) and respondents with household incomes below 2,000 euros (63 percent) are significantly more likely to say that they are afraid of a Third World War than men (47 percent) and respondents with a household income of 4,000 euros or more (51 percent). The fear of a Third World War is represented in all political parties. Yet, voters of the Left Party are slightly more afraid (62 percent) as are those of the CDU/CSU, SPD and AfD (60 percent). The voters of Bündnis 90/Die Grünen (51 percent) and FDP (54 percent) are somewhat more optimistic.

ZDF Politbarometer: Coalition loses majority
Forschungsgruppe Wahlen | 21 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 18 – 20 October 2022

Germans were asked about their opinion on continued western military support for Ukraine. 39% wish for stronger support, 34% would like to see current support continued and 21% said support should decrease.

Asked about the danger of Russian sabotage 59% said that they believe it is large, while 37% disagreed and 4% don’t know.
The German government wants to help citizens and companies in Germany with a 200 billion relief package because of the increased energy costs. In this context, other EU countries accuse Germany of going it alone, giving German companies an advantage in European competition. This accusation is considered justified by 26 percent and unjustified by 65 percent. Similar to six months ago, 84 percent of all respondents would consider it very important or important for Germany to become economically more independent from China. Only 13 percent consider it not so important or not important at all.

**Increasing prices/cost of living considered an ‘imported’ problem**

Interview | 20 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: October 2022

Cost of living appears to be the number one problem for Greeks at 29.2%, while the economy comes second at 15.7%. The share of Greeks who follow Turkish provocation with great concern reaches 13.8%. Asked about who is to blame when it comes to inflation (energy and other goods), the majority (62.5%) say it is due to international circumstances, while 33.8% believe that the government is to blame. On what the government can do to tackle rising energy prices, 55% believe the solution is to reduce Excise Duty and VAT, for as long as necessary. 35% suggest a price cap, while just 6% think the government should continue to support society with benefits.

On whether Europe should continue or lift some or all the sanctions against Russia to normalise Russia-West relations, opinions are split with 48% thinking they should be lifted, while 46% say they should continue. When asked about the Greek-Turkish situation, 63% believe that if Turkey is faced with sanctions, then its provocation will be greatly reduced, while 24% said that this possibility will "add" more "fuel to the fire".
Hungarians sceptical about EU providing training for Ukrainian armed forces

Századvég | 20 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: August 2022

More than three-quarters (77 percent) of the respondents did not agree with the European Union training Ukrainian soldiers.

Ön inkább egyetért vagy inkább nem ért egyet azzal, hogy az Európai Unió ukrán katonákat képezzen ki? (%)
43% of Italians believe that it is not right to continue to support economic sanctions towards Russia, on the other hand only 35% supports the sanctions. Almost one in two Italians (48%) are opposed to sending weapons to Ukraine. The majority of Italians (67%) are afraid of a conflict on a global level.

The majority of Italians (53%) believe that the main national interest of Italy is to ensure energy supplies. The growth of 42 percentage points compared to 2021 is clearly linked to the heavy impact that the war in Ukraine and the sanctions against Russia are having on the energy supplies of European countries.

The second greatest concern of the Italians is related to a possible nuclear war (8.1) and the third one to the tensions between the West and Russia (7.9) which, to a greater extent than in the past, are considered as cause of worry. These data testify the importance that Italians attribute to the war in Ukraine as a threat to the country's security.
Latvians worried about potential Russian aggression against Latvia
Latvian Insurers Association | 18 October | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 31 August – 2 September 2022

61% of respondents are worried about a potential Russia’s aggression against Latvia. 64% are also concerned about ethnic conflicts in Latvia and 53% about cybersecurity.

More than half of Latvians are afraid to fall into poverty
ERGO | 18 October | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 31 August – 2 September 2022

The majority (78 %) of Latvians feel financial insecurity due to inflation. More than half or 53% of those surveyed are concerned that rising prices could lead to poverty, while 6% believe they are already living in poverty. Primary financial difficulties for respondents this winter could be paying heating bills (53%), buying wholesome food (43%) and electricity bills (43%). Fears of not being able to pay for utilities have increased by 11 index points this year: -17 points versus -6 points in 2019. To address financial insecurity, 66% of the population admits that they have started saving more this year, while 39% - to save. This year, citizens' fears about national security have grown most rapidly. Respondents are worried about the potential Russian invasion of Latvia (61%), a cyberattack (53%), and ethnic conflicts in the territory of the country (64%). More than ever, citizens fear that a severe economic crisis and political instability may occur in Latvia, which could lead to the decline of the country (82%). Under the influence of the Ukrainian war, 16 % of the population have considered joining the National Guard in order to defend the country in case of military conflict, but 3 % at the time of conducting the survey admitted that they have already joined the National Guard.
Most important crises are rising energy prices and war in Ukraine
I&O Research | 20 October | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 14 – 18 October 2022

The ‘rising energy prices’ (65%) and ‘the war between Russia and Ukraine’ (64%) are seen as the most important crises that the Netherlands has to contend with.

More attention for war, half of the population fears nuclear attack
I&O Research | 22 October | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 14 – 17 October 2022

The number of Dutch people following the events in Ukraine is increasing for the first time since the start of the war. 70 percent say they follow the war closely or in general, which is more than in July, when 65 percent did so. People are also more worried: 84 percent indicate that they are very or somewhat worried about the war in Ukraine. This is a slight increase compared to July this year.

**Figuur 0.1 - In hoeverre bent u het eens met de volgende stellingen?**
*Ik volg de oorlog in Oekraïne op de voet of op hoofdlijnen/ Ik maak me veel of enige zorgen over de oorlog in Oekraïne.* Basis: n=2,638

**Figuur 0.2: Ik ben bang dat Rusland kernwapens gaat gebruiken.** Basis: n=1,355
Nearly half think that the Netherlands should invest even more in defence than it currently intends to. Four out of ten agree with the current plans and are not in favour of investing more or less. Only 6 percent believe that the Netherlands should invest less in defence than it currently intends to.

**Figuur 0.4: Op dit moment geeft Nederland 1,5% uit aan defensie. In 2023 stijgt dit naar 1,7%. Het is de bedoeling dat Nederland vanaf 2024 de 2% norm haalt (volgens NAVO-richtlijnen). Wat vindt u?**

Basis: n=2.638

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**Poles on accepting Russians fleeing mobilization**

IBRiS | 19 October | [Source](internal translation)

Fieldwork: 7-8 October 2022

Respondents were asked whether Poland should accept Russians who do not want to fight Ukraine and flee the country before mobilization. "Definitely not" - answered 43.8 percent of respondents, and 23.9 percent answered - “rather not”. In turn, 13.9 percent of respondents believe that “definitely yes”, and 11.2 percent - “rather yes”. "Nearly 70 percent of Poles accept the decision of the government, which does not allow citizens of the Russian Federation to enter the country". 179 percent of respondents who think so, are the PiS voters, and 30 percent - the opposition voters.

**How do Poles evaluate the draft act freezing electricity prices? Will it be effective?**

IBRiS | 19 October | [Source](internal translation)

Fieldwork: 11-13 October 2022

How do Poles evaluate the draft act to freeze electricity prices presented by the government? A survey conducted by IBRiS shows that 24.6 percent of the respondents assessed the government’s decision “very good”, and 45.8 percent “rather good”. A second question was also asked during the survey: "Will this proposal help to alleviate or exacerbate the effects of the energy crisis on your household?" Again, the opinions are in favour of the solutions presented by the government. 11.2 percent of respondents believe that the solutions will “definitely mitigate” the effects of the crisis. As much as 44.3 percent of respondents is convinced that the act, when it enters into force, will “rather mitigate” the negative effects of the increase in energy prices.
Almost 60% of Romanians (59.5%) that took part in a survey said that their financial situation worsened compared to last year. The main causes were price increases for energy, food and fuel. The figure represents a 10% increase from an average of 49.4% in the previous two trimesters. And the future does not look any better for those interviewed. Slightly more than half said that they expected their situation to worsen in the coming period, up from just over 40% a few months ago.

The prices of utilities (gas, electricity) were pinpointed by over a third of respondents as the main causes that led to the deterioration of their financial situation. Roughly one-third of respondents said the same about increases in food prices, while over 20% said that they were most affected by hikes in fuel prices. Only 9.4% declared themselves affected by the increase in interest rates, while 40.5% of respondents declared that they had at least one loan. The risk of the devaluation of savings was mentioned by only 6.23% of the respondents. A similar ranking can be found in the list of reasons for concern according to the respondents. The price of utilities, mainly gas and electricity, are the main concern of roughly a quarter of respondents, while 18.7% are the most concerned by the increase in consumer prices. Under 9% of respondents cite the war in Ukraine as a concern, and only 6% do so for the pandemic.

77% of respondents say that they are preoccupied by the war in Ukraine, 4 pp more than in early September.

Almost 95.5% of Spanish respondents' states inflation and the cost of living as the first main problem for their country, strictly followed by the energy dependency (89%).
One in three Swedes is worried about their household finances
Kantar Public | 19 October 2022 | Source
Fieldwork: 18-22 August 2022

Many Swedes worry about their household finances while not knowing how to prioritize in order to reduce their housing costs. More than one in three Swedes (35%) worry that household costs will increase over the next year. Women between the ages of 30 and 49 are most worried about increased household costs (43%). The survey results also show that one in four (25 percent) do not know what to prioritize to reduce their housing costs. 50% of Swedes state that there has been a change in their savings buffer in the last 12 months. For 27% it has increased and for 23% it has decreased. 23% of all respondents state that they have at some point been without money before the end of the month. 15% of respondents have cancelled one or more major planned purchases in the past year due to the uncertainty in the economy. 42% state that electricity consumption is a cost they would primarily prioritize to reduce housing costs. 20% of women buy second-hand products to a greater extent than before. The corresponding figure for men is 9%.
Most Ukrainians back continued armed resistance to Russia
Kyiv International Institute of Sociology | 24 October 2022 | Source
Fieldwork: 21-23 October 2022
Note: KIIS is considered an independent agency. However, the current situation means that fieldwork takes place in restricted circumstances.

An overwhelming majority of Ukrainians believes the country should keep up its armed resistance to Russia’s invasion, according to a survey published on Monday after two weeks of heavy shelling of cities including the capital Kyiv. 86% of those polled said it was necessary to continue fighting the invaders even if missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian cities persist.

The proportion of people backing continued armed resistance remained high, at 69%, even in the eastern regions of Kharkiv and Donetsk, which have seen far more fighting and are home to larger numbers of Russian speakers.

- It is necessary to continue armed resistance to Russian aggression, even if shelling of Ukrainian cities continues
- It is necessary to proceed to negotiations in order to stop the shelling of cities as soon as possible, even if this means making concessions to Russia
- Difficult to say
Most Ukrainians Expect to Join NATO and EU in Next Decade; The Country Rallies despite Economic Hardship

Gallup | 21 and 20 October 2022 | Source and Source
Fieldwork: 2-11 September 2022

Note: Gallup collected these data across all regions of Ukraine, including the Donbas, as the country's military successfully retook swathes of Russian-held territory but before the recent retaliatory missile attacks across the country.

Gallup surveys in Ukraine in September show the war has pushed the country closer towards NATO and the West. Most Ukrainians now not only see their country becoming part of the alliance but also joining the European Union in the next decade.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>When do you expect that Ukraine will be accepted into NATO -- within 10 years from now, 10 to 20 years from now, more than 20 years from now, or never?</th>
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<th>Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of NATO?</th>
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<td>Approve</td>
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<td>Disapprove</td>
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Just over half (54%) of Ukrainians approve of the job NATO leadership is doing. Almost a third, however, disapprove.

This is a strong first reading, but it still pales in comparison to the approval Ukrainians give their own leadership -- 84% approve of the job Zelenskyy is doing. The country's military elicits even more support than the president. A nearly universal 94% of Ukrainians are confident in their armed forces.

Unity is evident across all regions and demographic groups of Ukrainians, with the youngest adults most likely to express confidence. Geographically, Zelenskyy’s approval is the highest in Central and West Ukraine (91% and 89%, respectively), and it is lowest in the East but still at an unprecedented 78%.

At the time of Gallup's survey in September, 71% said their standard of living was getting worse, up 21 percentage points since last year.
PARTICIPATION OF PMCS IN THE UKRAINIAN CONFLICT
Levada | 24 October 2022 | Source (internal translation)
Fieldwork: 22-28 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.

64% of Russian respondents have heard that mercenaries and private military companies (PMCs) take part in the fighting in Ukraine on the side of Russia. 63% of Russians consider the use of PMCs acceptable: 30% believe that it is absolutely permissible, a third – which is rather acceptable. About a quarter (26%) consider this unacceptable. The highest level of support for PMCs is represented among residents of Moscow (81% in total) and respondents with higher education (69% in total). The least number of respondents who consider the use of mercenaries on the side of the Russian Federation permissible is concentrated among residents of cities with a population of up to 500 thousand people (about 60%) and among respondents with lower-secondary education (42%). There are no significant differences in other parameters.

What are your views on using mercenaries/PMCs on the side of Russia?
As % of respondents per size of place of residence

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<th>Totally acceptable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher education</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Lower-secondary education</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
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</tbody>
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