

PUBLIC OPINION

on the war in 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 4 until 17 January 2023. Key findings are based on six multi-countries surveys as well as on surveys conducted in Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, and Spain. Polls from Ukraine are also presented.

General support for Ukraine persists, but Europeans are increasingly impatient to achieve peace:

According to a [multi-country research](#), almost half of respondents from 9 EU countries are in favour of ending the war in Ukraine as soon as possible, even at the cost of annexing some areas by Russia. Dutch, Portuguese and Polish are the ones opposing this idea. However, shipment of arms to Ukraine has the support of 56% of citizens asked in the 9 EU countries. This is confirmed by another survey in Germany regarding the government decision to supply Marder infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine: 59% of all respondents think this is right, only 33% are against it, see [source](#). In Hungary, 85% of the citizens of the capital would immediately end the Russian-Ukrainian war and bring the parties to the negotiating table, see [source](#). Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, 56% of Latvia's population has so far donated to Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees, see [source](#). In Spain, 57,3% think that Spain should support Ukraine to become a member of NATO, see [source](#).

Pessimism and worries over the new year: A global [multi-country survey](#) shows that only 40% agreed with the statement "my family and I will be better off in five years" compared to 50% a year before. In Italy, 55.9% of Italians are pessimistic about the economic situation of their families in the coming months, on the contrary only 29.2% are optimistic, see [source](#). Another survey in Italy confirmed that for 45% of Italians, the main concern for the new year is high bills and inflation, for 18% it is instead the lack of work, another 15% say they are worried about the conflict between Moscow and Kiev, while 11% say they are particularly concerned about the consequences of climate change, see [source](#) and [source](#). In Spain, 75% of Spaniards declare to be worried about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, see [source](#). In Finland, worries about climate change and the war nearby are having an impact on the willingness of Finns to reproduce, 15% of people between the age of 20 and 45 do not wish to have children, see [source](#).

Cost of living crisis remains central: According to a [global survey](#), 48% of respondents cut back on living expenses with Greece and Ireland being most affected in Europe (70%). Another [multi-country survey](#) confirmed that about 90 percent of European consumers are worried about price increases. The greatest concerns were recorded in Portugal (96,6%), Greece (96%), Spain (92.2%), Netherlands (91.6%) and Italy (90.9%), on the other hand, "less worried" countries are France, Austria and Poland. A survey in Italy confirmed that the biggest concern for the new year 2023 for Italians is the rising cost of living (82%), see [source](#).

Recognition of Poland's role: Europeans in 9 countries surveyed most often indicated Poland (29%) as the EU country which helped most Ukrainian refugees, see [source](#). However, Polish people are increasingly concerned about their security as confirmed by a new [survey](#) where almost half of the respondents believe that only the enlargement of the army and the purchase of weapons and military equipment can ensure Poland's military security.

Russia's global perception: Globally speaking nearly every country around the world has a more positive view of Ukraine than Russia. However, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam hold more positive views towards Russia than Ukraine. Considering Europe, German and French adults dislike Russia, but they have also a net negative view of Ukraine, see [source](#). In Hungary, 82 percent of those surveyed in the capital had an unfavourable opinion of Russian President Vladimir Putin, while 52 percent expressed a negative opinion of Volodymyr Zelensky, see [source](#).

Ukrainians have high trust in their social institutions and expect victory within one year: Overall, 96% of Ukrainian respondents, answered that they trust the Armed Forces of Ukraine the most. The poll emphasized that the level of trust in the military has increased significantly during the year. In December 2021, it was 72%. The second position in the trust rating is shared by the President of Ukraine and volunteers – 84%, see [source](#). Another [survey](#) confirmed that 59% of Ukrainians respondents named the incumbent President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, the politician of the year 2022. More than 95% of Ukrainians believe in Ukraine's victory in the war with Russia. At the same time, the vast majority of respondents (63.2%) expect victory to be achieved over the next year or even faster. Only 26% answered that the war would last more than a year, see [source](#). More than two-thirds of Ukrainians (69%) do not think it is possible to start peace negotiations with Russia on the condition that Ukraine refuses to join NATO, see [source](#) and [source](#).

DG Communication's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit collects 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 the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit, please contact:

dqcomm-pom@europarl.europa.eu