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 between 20 January and 13 February 2023. Key findings are based on 3 multi-countries surveys as well as on surveys conducted in Austria, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland and Sweden. Polls from Ukraine, Russia and the US are also presented.

**Worries about military conflict are among the highest in European countries** as compared to other parts of the world. However, for most countries it is lower than it was in April 2022, see source. In France, more than 8 out of 10 people (82%) still feel worried about the current situation in Ukraine, a figure that is nevertheless down compared to the beginning of March 2022 (-10 pp), see source. In Germany, 85 percent are very concerned about the war in Ukraine. Concerns that Germany will be drawn into military conflicts have risen over the last year, as 63% of Germans are afraid of it. A year ago, it was only 37 percent, see source. Almost 80 percent of Poles believe that the war in Ukraine threatens Poland’s security, see source.

**European public opinion is rather divided over the arming of Ukraine**, according to a multi-country survey, see source. Germany is supplying Ukraine with Leopard battle tanks and the federal government gives other states permission to supply their own Leopard tanks: 52 percent are in favour of this while 39 percent see it as a mistake, see source. In Italy, when asked whether the country should keep on sending weapons to Ukraine, 45% were against, 30% in favour, and 25% don’t know, see source.

**Defence:** A multi-country survey carried out globally finds that most countries are ready to increase military spending. However, in the event of a military attack on Germany, only one in ten Germans would be prepared to defend their country with weapons, see source. Another survey finds that 57 percent of German citizens consider general conscription for women and men in the Bundeswehr to be sensible. Support for general conscription has remained relatively constant over the last year. (see source)

**NATO membership:** Over half of Fins would be ready to proceed with Finland’s NATO application without waiting for Sweden, which is struggling to proceed due to Turkey’s reluctance to ratify it, see source. 65% of Ukrainians think that Ukraine will never be safe outside of NATO, see source.

**Negative views of Russia:** In Germany, Russia is seen as the biggest threat to peace (82%) followed by China (60%). In contrast, attitudes towards the US have improved. Interesting to note that attitudes towards the US are significantly better in West Germany than in East Germany, see source.
Only 4 percent of Latvian population is now pro-Putin, see source. In France, 9% of respondents have a good opinion of Vladimir Putin, see source.

**Inflation and economic woes:** Inflation is the top global worry for the tenth month in a row: 40% of respondents say it is one of the top issues facing their country today. However, the concern is 2pp lower than in November, suggesting worry about rising prices may have peaked, see source. 86 percent of Germans are very worried about price increases due to inflation, making it their number one worry, see source. Every fifth respondent in Sweden has been forced to use their savings for buying food during the last six months. 88% of women and 84% of men state that inflation has changed their consumption habits, see source. Some 57% of respondents in the Czech Republic said that they have trouble making ends meet and 41% fear their financial situation will get worse, see source. Economic worries remain the number one issue also for US citizens, see source. Respondents in Austria were asked how willing they are to accept higher prices for household energy to achieve independence from Russian energy imports. 29% of respondents expressed a high willingness to accept higher energy prices while 68% expressed low willingness, see source.

**Outlook for the future:** In Hungary, nearly half of the respondents (49%) believe the conflict in Ukraine will drag on for years, and only a third (33%) expect the situation to be resolved in 2023 see source. In early 2023, 46% of Austrian were rather pessimistic about the year to come, 31% are rather optimistic and 23% cannot decide. However, more people are optimistic now than in the last quarter of 2022, see source.

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, please contact: dgcomm-pom@europarl.europa.eu