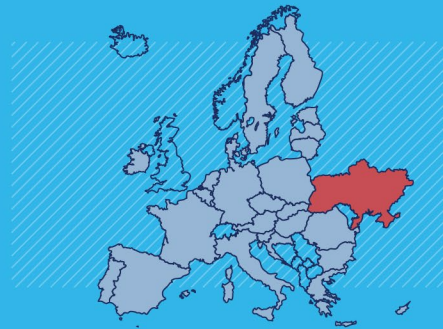


PUBLIC OPINION

on the war in Ukraine

17 March 2023



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 23 February until 16 of March 2023. Key findings are based on one multi-country survey as well as on surveys conducted in Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. Polls from Ukraine are also presented.

Military support: According to 66% of Estonians, western allies must continue to offer military support to Ukraine. 85% of Estonians favour military support for Ukraine, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). In another [survey](#), 49 percent of Germans feel that the delivery of heavy weapons to Ukraine will increase the risk of a Russian attack on western states, while 45 percent do not fear this. Nevertheless, according to another [survey](#), Germany's military support for Ukraine is supported by a relative majority of 47 percent. In Hungary, 76% of those surveyed do not agree that the European Union and its members should buy more weapons for Ukraine. 72% oppose the European Union training Ukrainian soldiers, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). In Italy, 50% of respondents are against any further shipment of arms to Ukraine, see [Source](#). 42% of Romanians support the idea to send more weapons, see [Source](#) & [Source](#). 60% of Spaniards support the shipment of weapons, see [Source](#).

Support for sanctions: A majority of Estonians (61%) still support sanctions against Russia even if it means a significant increase in energy and food prices, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). In Germany, the proportion of those for whom sanctions against Russia do not go far enough has increased by five percentage points to 43%, only 33% think they are appropriate, see [Source](#). According to a survey, 70% of the Hungarian respondents said that the sanctions introduced as a whole tended to cause damage to Europe, including Hungary, see [Source](#) and [Source](#).

The diplomatic way: Austrians see China's potential role as a mediator more realistic than it was a year ago, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). According to a recent [survey](#), 66 percent of Germans think it is good that Germany is working closely with the USA, while 28 percent are critical of this. Regarding China's offer to mediate between Russia and Ukraine, a large majority of Germans (86 percent) do not believe that the country would be a neutral mediator in this conflict. In another [survey](#), a majority of 53% of Germans currently say that diplomatic efforts to end the war do not go far enough. Moreover, 73% of Germans believe that Ukraine must first and foremost decide for itself when to enter into negotiations with Russia. In Hungary, the majority of respondents, between 54 percent and 74 percent, said that pro-war statements could result in the escalation of the conflict rather than promoting peace talks, see [Source](#).

Fear of economic consequences of the war: According to a [multi-country survey](#), the cost of living now is seen as the biggest threat in the EU's three largest economies of Germany, France, and Italy. 65% of Austrians think that the war in Ukraine could lead to a serious economic crisis in Europe, more than half classify the economic consequences as (rather) threatening, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). Nowadays, the most important priority for Finns is to preserve their welfare state, see [Source](#) and [Source](#).

Conflict evolution: More than three-quarters (76%) of Hungarians are concerned that in the near future the conflict could escalate into a third world war, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). In Austria, 26% think Ukraine will win the war and 26% think Russia will-win, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). In Hungary, 62% of those surveyed believe that in the end, neither side can emerge victorious from the war, [Source](#) and [Source](#). In Italy, 69% of Italians are worried about a nuclear escalation of the conflict, see [Source](#). 37% of Polish respondents believe that the war

will end with Ukraine giving up part of its territory, 22% believe that Russia will withdraw from the attacked territories, see [Source](#).

13% of Romanians have thought of leaving the country, and almost 30% are considering leaving the country if the war extends to Romania, 37% believe the conflict in Ukraine will end within five years, see [Source](#) & [Source](#). 67% of Ukrainians believe Russia is exhausting its resources and that it is realistic for Ukraine to win, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). In a multi-country survey, a plurality of Europeans think that Russia is weaker now than they say they thought it was before the war, see [source](#).

Deterioration of Putin's/Russia's image: According to multi-country survey, in every country polled the prevailing opinion is now that Russia is an adversary (ranging from as little as 32 per cent in Romania to 77 per cent in Estonia), see [source](#). More than half (55%) of Austrians believe that Russia is harming itself the most by attacking Ukraine, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). According to a recent poll, Russian President Vladimir Putin was viewed negatively by 71% of Hungarian respondents, [Source](#) and [Source](#). In Slovenia, Russia was named as the main culprit of the Ukraine war by 71%, [Source](#) and [Source](#).

Ukraine in Europe and NATO: Only 24% of Austrian think that Ukraine will benefit from a fast-track procedure in becoming a member of the EU, [Source](#) and [Source](#). In Romania, the EU and NATO expansion are supported by the majority of Romanians, 72% agreed to some or a great extent that Ukraine should become a member of the European Union, see [Source](#) & [Source](#). Ninety-two per cent of Ukrainians favour EU membership by 2030 and 86% NATO membership by 2030, [Source](#) and [Source](#).

Humanitarian aid and refugees' acceptance: 80% of Estonians think Estonia must continue to offer humanitarian aid to Ukraine, however support for accepting Ukrainian refugees has fallen to 67 percent from the 74% in December, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). In Poland, 81% of respondents support accepting refugees, in addition, 46% declare that they or someone from their household help refugees voluntarily and free of charge, see [Source](#).

Hesitation between Ukraine's territorial integrity and giving up land to achieve peace: According to a recent [multi-country survey](#) carried out in ten European countries, the desire that war ends as soon as possible becomes less popular among Europeans in several countries – Estonia, Poland, Denmark, France and Great Britain now prefer that Ukraine regain all of its territory. Only in Italy and Romania a majority thinks the war should end as soon as possible.

Another recent [survey](#) finds that 41% of Germans believe that the West should pressure Ukraine to accept territorial losses if this could end the war, on the other hand the same percentage (41%) are in favour of helping Ukraine recapture all Russian-held territories, including the Crimean Peninsula

Italians were asked whether "Is it more important to stop the war or to safeguard the integrity of Ukraine?" 52.3% of Italians answered stop the war, while 29.1% the integrity of Ukraine, see [Source](#). In Romania, the majority of survey respondents agreed that humanitarian aid should be provided (92%), that their nation should assist refugees from its neighbour (91%), see [Source](#) & [Source](#). In Ukraine, only 9% of Ukrainians are generally ready for concessions, while 87% of Ukrainians are against any concessions, and 60% of Ukrainians think Ukraine should try to liberate all territories, see [Source](#) and [Source](#).

War impact on Ukrainians lives: A recent survey finds that 50% of Ukrainians experienced a deterioration of physical health, 46% separation from family, 37% the loss of friends and family, 29% the loss of job, and 9% the loss of home. Half report that they lack electricity in their home all the time or many times. The lack of an Internet connection is a common issue for 26%, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). The number of Ukrainian speakers increased to 71% from 64% in 2021, see [Source](#) and [Source](#). In another survey, more than half of the mothers stated that the announcement of air alerts, blackouts, or lack of Internet were the reasons for their children for missing classes almost every day or several days a week, 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