

# PUBLIC OPINION

*on the war in Ukraine*

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DG COMM's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit assembles 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. The recent collection draws on polls published from the 20 until the 28 of November 2022. Key findings are based on two multi-countries surveys as well as on surveys conducted in Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain. Polls from Ukraine, Russia and Moldova have also been taken into account. The summary follows below.

**Levels of support for Ukraine differ but solidarity broadly continues:** A [poll](#) carried out in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Poland found that the latter shows the strongest solidarity with Ukraine. For example, 56% of Poles express clear support for Ukraine's admission to both the EU and NATO, whereas support ranged between 18% and 25% in the other states surveyed. Moreover, Poles strongly support boycotting products from Russia, while in Hungary over 42% of citizens were not interested in providing aid for Ukraine. Even so, a large majority (73%) of opposition voters in Hungary agreed that their government is right in rejecting the annexation of Ukrainian territories by Russia (32% of government voters think so), see [source](#). In Germany, 67% of citizens think that Germany can cope with more refugees coming from Ukraine during the winter, according to this [survey](#). A [poll](#) in Portugal found that 58% of the population believe that Ukraine should continue fighting and not cede territory to Russia in order to achieve peace.

**NATO remains central to security considerations:** In Finland, support for NATO membership rose to 78%, compared to 60% in March, see [source](#). The Spanish are also dedicated to the alliance with more than three in four respondents (77%), saying that all NATO Member States including Spain must respond united in case any other NATO Member State is attacked by Russia, according to this [poll](#).

**Economic difficulties ahead:** According to a [survey](#) conducted in France, Germany, Italy and Spain, half of the citizens questioned fear that they will have difficulty paying their electricity bills and/or heating their homes this winter. In France, 91% of respondents say they are afraid of seeing purchasing power decline in the coming months, see [source](#). Meanwhile, nearly one in five people in Germany (19%) have had to draw on their savings to cover everyday costs, according to this [poll](#). Among Greeks, rising electricity prices (88%) and increased fuel prices top the list of concerns (88% and 87%, respectively), following this [survey](#). According to a [poll](#) in Poland, 55% of respondents believe that the economic situation of their family will get worse in 2023. Similarly, in Portugal, 71% of the population has already started to reduce their monthly expenses and 70% try to save on energy, gas or electricity, see [source](#). In Romania, too, three out of four managers believe that the national economy is now worse than it was half a year ago, according to this [survey](#) and this [poll](#).

**Pessimism reigns in:** A majority of French people are pessimistic about the future, with 83% of them perceiving it as worrying, according to [pollsters](#). In Lithuania, more than eight out of ten people think that the situation in the country is getting worse, while 15% believe it is getting better, see [source](#).

**Russians standard of living is also affected while those expressing critical attitudes about the war remain in the minority:** A recent [survey](#) found that over a third of Russians try to reduce their bills, while another [poll](#) found that 29% of Russians report a decrease in their standard of living. The same survey shows that 29% of those questioned believe that the 'special military intervention in Ukraine' should not have been started (55% say that it was necessary). 46% of Russians believe that the "military operation" should be continued, compared to 41% of respondents who support a transition to peace talks.

**Ukrainians remain resilient in the face of reduced access to heating, electricity and water:** Across a number of front-line and recently liberated cities surveyed, only 37% of respondents indicate to have access to hot water and 43% to heat, see [source](#). Another [poll](#) found that 65% of Ukrainians are determined to remain at their current place of residence in the event of a power outage, while 14% of respondents intend to go to other regions of Ukraine or abroad, and another 20% have not decided.

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.

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