

Summary of NDI Public Opinion Research on Key Topics

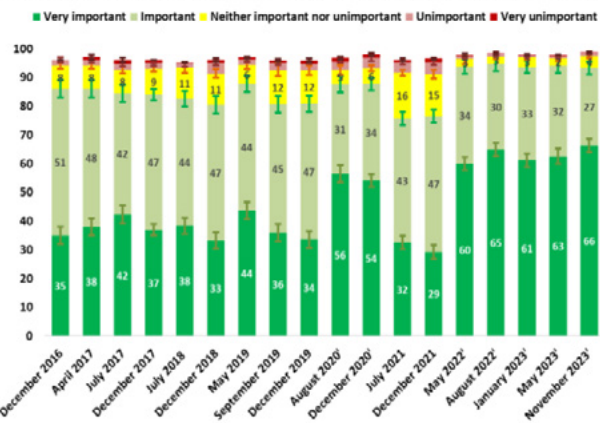
2016-2024

Since Ukraine's 2014 Revolution of Dignity, an outpouring of pent-up grassroots demand for reform, NDI has conducted semi-annual public opinion polling in Ukraine. These polls have provided a treasure trove of data related to Ukrainians' perceptions of democratic change; the West and Russia; key Ukrainian political actors and issues; and specific democratic values, such as gender equity. To mark the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, NDI has compiled a retrospective analysis of how views changed over the past eight years. The numbers paint a picture of a united Ukraine that is more determined than ever to fight for democracy and reject the authoritarian, backward-looking vision of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin.

IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRACY

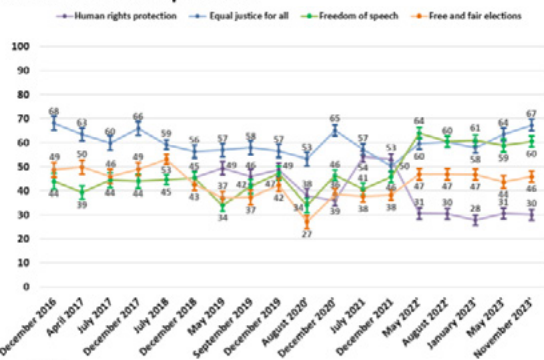
- ▶ Since 2016 the percentage of Ukrainians saying that it is important or very important to them that Ukraine becomes a functioning democracy has been consistently high.
- ▶ Since the start of the full-scale invasion in 2022, around 95% of the population indicate it is important or very important that Ukraine becomes a fully-functioning democracy. This is one of the highest agreement rates we have ever seen in our surveys in Ukraine. This increase may be partially due to the change of methodology from in-person interviews to telephone interviews. However, they are still higher than the results for this question acquired through the telephone interviews in 2020.
- ▶ There is also a visible change in the most recent waves: significant increase in the numbers of those who say it is very important that Ukraine becomes a functioning democracy and decrease for whom it is neither important nor unimportant.

How important is it to you that Ukraine becomes a functioning democracy?



- results of the telephone (CATI) surveys

There are many characteristics of a fully functioning democracy. Which three do you think are the most important?



- results of the telephone (CATI) surveys

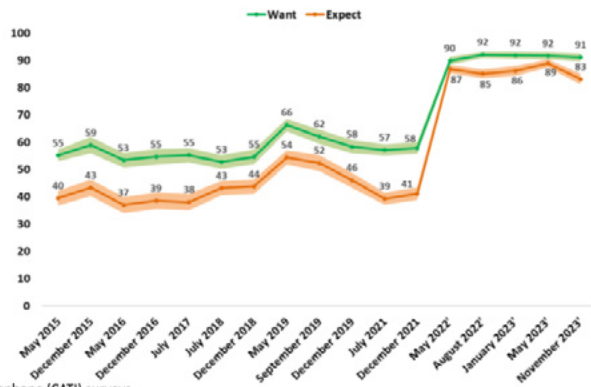
KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMOCRACY

- ▶ NDI's polls ask respondents to name the characteristics of a fully functioning democracy that are most important. Since the full-scale invasion, "equal justice for all" and "freedom of speech" have become the most popular responses.

EU AND NATO INTEGRATION

- ▶ The percentage of Ukrainians who want and expect Ukraine to become a member state of the EU has remained relatively stable throughout 2015-2021 (the differences are within the margin of error), with a slight increase in 2019, likely due to the expectations associated with the beginning of President Zelenskyy’s presidential term.

By 2030*, do you want/expect Ukraine to be a member state of the EU?

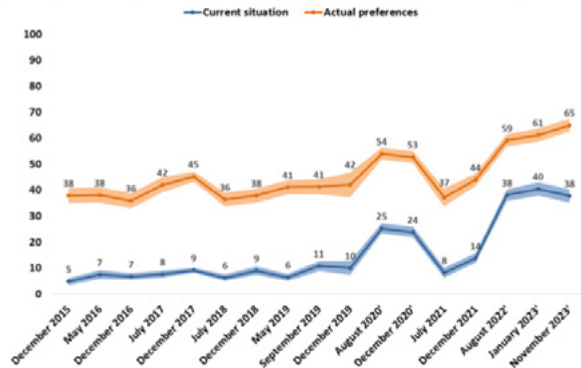


[†] - results of the telephone (CATI) surveys
* - before July 2018 the respondents were asked about their desires and expectations by 2020

- ▶ Although the wording of the question switched from “by 2020” to “by 2030” after July 2018 (inclusive), this has not influenced the responses.
- ▶ After the full-scale invasion, there was a sharp rise in the number of Ukrainians wanting EU membership. Prior to February 2022, support for EU membership hovered between 50 and 60%; since the full-scale invasion, support shot up to above 90% and has stayed consistent.

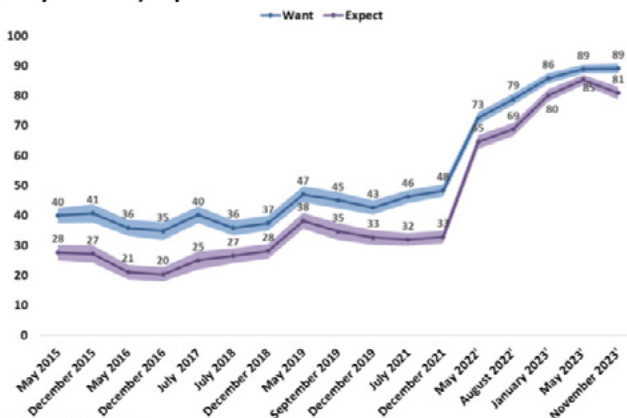
- ▶ Preferences (whether Ukrainians want to join the EU) and expectations (whether they expect to do so) tend to move together, with preferences generally being higher than expectations. Over the past two years, the gap between Ukrainians’ preferences and expectations has narrowed and virtually closed in the last wave of polling conducted in November 2023.

In your opinion, who is/should be more involved in political life, men or women?



[†] - results of the telephone (CATI) surveys

By 2030*, do you want/expect Ukraine to be a member state of NATO?



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* - before July 2018 the respondents were asked about their desires and expectations by 2020

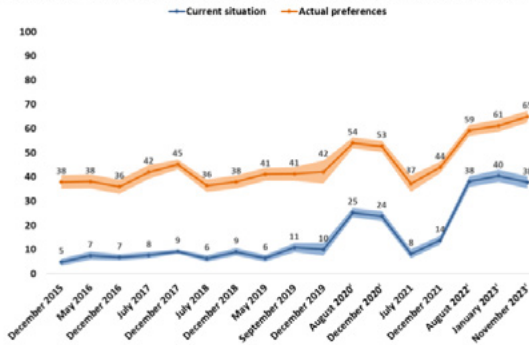
- ▶ As for NATO, fewer respondents want and expect membership compared with the EU. Nevertheless, the trend for NATO membership is similar to that of the EU, with a spike in 2019 and a drastic increase after the full-scale invasion. However, the increase in the percentage of respondents wanting NATO membership has been more gradual than that of the EU in the past two years. The gap between the two has almost closed in the last wave, with the overwhelming majority (89%) of Ukrainians expressing their preference for NATO membership.

- ▶ As with EU membership, generally preferences towards NATO membership tend to outperform expectations of membership.
- ▶ Throughout 2015-2021, roughly between one-fifth to one-third of the respondents expected NATO membership. In the last wave of 2023, the percentage grew to 85%, resulting in only slight differences with the expectations for EU membership (i.e. almost as many Ukrainians expect NATO membership as EU membership).

SUPPORT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

- ▶ Support for equal participation of men and women in political life has consistently risen over time, rising from 38 to 65 percent between 2015 and 2023.
- ▶ The chart shows the results for *perceiving and preferring women and men to be equally involved in political life*. Other options not shown in the chart include slight or significant perception and preferences of one gender over the other.

In your opinion, who is/should be more involved in political life, men or women?



* - results of the telephone (CATI) surveys

- ▶ From 2015-2019, few Ukrainians believed that there was gender equality in political life. In 2020, both the estimate of the situation and the actual preferences of Ukrainians for gender equality increased. However, this is likely associated with the switch from in-person surveys to telephone surveys due to the global pandemic. In July-December 2021, NDI reverted to in-person surveys, and in 2022 again switched to telephone surveys due to the full-scale invasion. While the results of these two approaches have to be compared with caution.

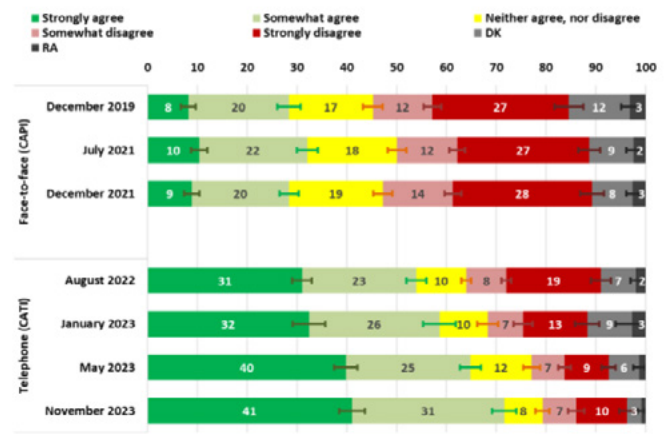
- ▶ Since the full-scale invasion, there has been a slight increase in Ukrainians' perception of and preference for gender equality to have gender equality. Although, as mentioned above, this can be partially explained by methodology change, the percentages are still higher than those in 2020 with similar methodology.

SUPPORT FOR LGBT+ RIGHTS

- ▶ Ukrainians' support for equal rights for LGBT+ people has increased in recent years. The latest data show that more than half (around 65%) of the respondents strongly agree or somewhat agree that LGBT+ people should have the same rights as others.

- ▶ The surveys used the wording "homosexual people (men and women)" until 2022. In January 2023, the sample was split. The results showed no significant difference in respondent's reactions to homosexual or LGBT+ people. Therefore, NDI has used the term "LGBT+ people" in subsequent waves of research.

LGBT+ people should have the same rights as others



- ▶ In May and November 2023, respondents were asked how much, if at all, they agreed or disagreed with the following statement: "LGBT+ people should have the same rights as others." In other research waves, we asked about the same rights as heterosexuals.

- ▶ As noted above, due to the coronavirus pandemic and full-scale war, NDI switched from the research method was changed from face-to-face (CAPI) to telephone interviews (CATI). This change may have impacted the results, so comparisons between these data should be made with caution and are sorted accordingly in this chartslide.

1 - Since July 2018 the respondents were asked about their expectations towards EU/NATO by 2030, instead of by 2020

' - Results of the telephone (CATI) surveys

* - Results of the omnibus surveys

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about these programs, contact:

www.ndi.org

