Youth Attitudes on Politics and Democracy in Central Europe
Methodology

Organizations responsible for polling in the four Visegrad countries:

**Poland:** Institute of Public Affairs, authored by Filip Pazderski

**Slovakia:** FOCUS - Center for Social and Marketing Analysis, authored by Martin Slosiarik

**Czech Republic:** STEM - Empirical Research for Democracy, authored by Martin Buchtík

**Hungary:** Political Capital, authored by Csaba Molnár and Kata Bálint

All mentions of 2018 polling reference public opinion polling conducted by the National Democratic Insitute, in Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, and is accessible at www.ndi.org.

Samples and polling

Statistically representative samples (gender, age, education level, settlement size and regions) of respondents aged 16-29 in all V4 countries participated in online pollings (Computer Assisted Web Interview - CAWI) in June 2020.

- Poland - 750 respondents
- Czech Republic - 1006 respondents
- Slovakia - 756 respondents
- Hungary - 750 respondents
Democracy & Interest in Public Affairs
Are you personally satisfied with the current political situation?

Less than one third of youth in Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic are satisfied with the political situation in their home country. Compared to NDI polling in 2018, there is a mild increase in satisfaction with the political situation in Hungary and a steep decline in satisfaction with the political situation in Poland.

Slovak youth are the most satisfied with the political situation in their country.
How interested in politics and public affairs would you say you are?

A majority of youth in the Visegrad countries are interested in politics and public affairs. The most interested youth are in Poland and Slovakia, followed by Hungary and the Czech Republic. In Slovakia and Hungary, NDI observed interest in politics and public affairs increase.
How involved in politics have you been in the last two years? Are you willing to get involved in the future?

⭐ The most frequent form of political participation in the Visegrad countries is voting, followed by signing online petitions. In Poland crowdfunding ranked second. Crowdfunding is one of the least common forms of political engagement in the Czech Republic.

A quarter of Polish and Slovak youth stated they would consider joining a political party. The Hungarian youth show to be less politically engaged than their counterparts in the region.
How involved have you been in the last two years? Are you willing to get involved in the future?

Participating in an online petition or protest:
- CZ: 41%
- HU: 31%
- PL: 39%
- SK: 43%

Signing a petition on the street or at another place not including the internet:
- CZ: 31%
- HU: 13%
- PL: 27%
- SK: 32%
How involved have you been in the last two years?
Are you willing to get involved in the future?

Supporting an online crowd-funding campaign
How involved have you been in the last two years?
Are you willing to get involved in the future?

Many more consider membership in the future

Membership in a political party

Contacting a politician or local political representative in relation to a particular public issue or official request

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>CZ</th>
<th>HU</th>
<th>PL</th>
<th>SK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Considering in future</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth Attitudes on Politics and Democracy in Central Europe

Youth Attitudes on Politics and Democracy in Central Europe
How involved have you been in the last two years? Are you willing to get involved in the future?

**Volunteering in COVID-19-related initiatives**
- **CZ**: 14%
- **HU**: 8%
- **PL**: 9%
- **SK**: 12%

**Volunteering (excluding COVID-19 related initiatives)**
- **CZ**: 14%
- **HU**: 17%
- **PL**: 27%
- **SK**: 21%
How involved have you been in the last two years? Are you willing to get involved in the future?

- Publicly sharing or expressing your ideas on politics or important public issues through blogs, comments to the media, social networks, public discussions, etc.
- Taking part in a demonstration

**Czech Republic (CZ)**
- Last two years: 23%
- Future involvement: 28%

**Hungary (HU)**
- Last two years: 11%
- Future involvement: 15%

**Poland (PL)**
- Last two years: 7%
- Future involvement: 11%

**Slovakia (SK)**
- Last two years: 13%
- Future involvement: 11%
Having a democratic political system in which decisions are made through legislative deliberation and public consultation.

Commitment for democratic political system remains strong across the region, however a majority of respondents, in all four countries, stated that they would be willing to sacrifice some freedoms for health and safety, and better protection from terrorism and other threats.

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Strong support for democracy across the region

Czechia: 73%
Hungary: 79%
Poland: 71%
Slovakia: 81%
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

“Democracy is the best possible system of government.”

Czechia: 14% Disagree, 74% Agree
Hungary: 19% Disagree, 60% Agree
Poland: 23% Disagree, 66% Agree
Slovakia: 24% Disagree, 66% Agree
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

“It does not matter if the government is democratic or undemocratic.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Czechia</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Sometimes, human rights and civil liberties should be restricted in order to better protect people from terrorism and other threats.”

- **Czechia**: 31% Disagree, 58% Agree
- **Hungary**: 34% Disagree, 56% Agree
- **Poland**: 44% Disagree, 42% Agree
- **Slovakia**: 27% Disagree, 67% Agree
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

“I would be ready to sacrifice some civil liberties to secure higher standards of living.”

- Czechia: 54% Agree, 31% Disagree
- Hungary: 46% Agree, 39% Disagree
- Poland: 43% Agree, 37% Disagree
- Slovakia: 42% Agree, 48% Disagree
“I would be ready to sacrifice some freedoms for health and safety during the pandemic.”

Czechia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hungary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Poland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Slovakia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

“Democracy is the best possible system of government only when it can deliver economic security for people.”

- **Czechia**
  - Disagree: 26%
  - Agree: 55%

- **Hungary**
  - Disagree: 16%
  - Agree: 72%

- **Poland**
  - Disagree: 23%
  - Agree: 59%

- **Slovakia**
  - Disagree: 25%
  - Agree: 66%
Has the COVID-19 crisis increased your level of interest in politics in public affairs?

A majority of youth in the region declared that the COVID-19 pandemic increased their interest in politics and public affairs.

- Czechia: 51%
- Hungary: 53%
- Poland: 52%
- Slovakia: 65%

Slovakia is above average.
How satisfied are you with the government’s communication and information sharing on the COVID-19 outbreak?

There are significant differences between countries in the level of satisfaction with the government’s communication and information sharing, related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Youth in Slovakia are the most satisfied and the least satisfied in Poland. In Hungary and Czech Republic, youth respondents are nearly evenly split between those who are satisfied and dissatisfied.
The Slovak youth was the most satisfied with the work of government. In Czechia, Hungary and Poland, the majority was dissatisfied.

In Slovakia, President Čaputová ranked highest in satisfaction. On the contrary, the Czech President Zeman scored the lowest.
How satisfied are you with the work of the following institutions during the epidemic crisis?

High level of satisfaction with the work of mayors and municipalities across the region. In Czechia, Hungary and Poland youth were the most satisfied with their work to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

The majority of respondents in all four countries expressed satisfaction with the work of civil society organizations.

Mayor of the town/municipality where you reside

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HU</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Civil Society Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HU</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

European Union

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Satisfied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HU</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Can you name one good measure introduced by the national or local government in response to the pandemic?

Face masks were the most commonly mentioned good measure introduced by the governments in Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland. In Hungary it was curfew.
Do you approve of how your country respond to the pandemic?

The majority of youth approve of how their government responded to the pandemic.

![Pie charts showing approval rates in Central European countries.](chart)

- **Slovakia**: 84%
- **Czechia**: 75%
- **Hungary**: 60%
- **Poland**: 57%

Much higher compared to the rest of the region.
Do you agree or not that the government has favored the older generation at the expense of youth in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

More than half of Czech and Slovak youth believe the government favored the older generation at the expense of youth.

- Slovakia: 57%
- Czechia: 57%
- Poland: 44%
- Hungary: 42%
Governmental measures limiting individual rights of the citizens were reasonable and understandable to the situation.

In Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia a significant majority of youth respondents support the way the government handled the pandemic crisis and believe the measures limiting individual rights of the citizens were reasonable and understandable to the situation. In Poland the support is lower.
Almost half of the respondents in Poland believe that the measures the government proposed to stop the further development of the epidemic were too extensive, unduly threatening to the functioning of the economy. In remaining countries around 40% of respondents support the statement.
The majority of youth in Hungary and Poland think that the government used the pandemic crisis and extraordinary measures to misappropriate public money.

- Hungary: 57%
- Poland: 52%
- Czechia: 46%
- Slovakia: 35%

The government responded effectively to the pandemic
Due to the pandemic crisis I am concerned about my future professional and economic situation more than before.

The government responded effectively to the pandemic

- Poland: 64%
- Slovakia: 59%
- Hungary: 58%
- Czechia: 41%
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- COVID-19 originated in the Wuhan food market
- COVID-19 virus was released by Chinese scientists
- COVID-19 virus was released by US scientists
The Covid-19 pandemic has increased trust and cooperation between European Union member states.

Most of respondents don’t think that the trust and cooperation between the EU member states increased because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Sources of Information About Society and Politics
Facebook and online news outlets are the most popular sources of information in the region, but traditional media (TV, radio) are more trusted.
How frequently do you use the following as sources of information about society and politics, and how do you trust or distrust them?

- **Facebook**
  - Czechia: 63%
  - Hungary: 65%
  - Poland: 78%
  - Slovakia: 64%

- **Publicly available web portals**
  - Czechia: 62%
  - Hungary: 58%
  - Poland: 55%
  - Slovakia: 62%

- **Public television channels**
  - Czechia: 49%
  - Hungary: 43%
  - Poland: 52%
  - Slovakia: 59%

- **Private television channels**
  - Czechia: 49%
  - Hungary: 43%
  - Poland: 62%
  - Slovakia: 59%

- **Private radio broadcasting**
  - Czechia: 65%
  - Hungary: 58%
  - Poland: 55%
  - Slovakia: 62%

**Trust:**
- **Fully trust + somewhat trust**
  - Czechia: 78%
  - Hungary: 58%
  - Poland: 52%
  - Slovakia: 62%

- **Fully distrust + somewhat distrust**
  - Czechia: 63%
  - Hungary: 58%
  - Poland: 38%
  - Slovakia: 38%
How frequently do you use the following as sources of information about society and politics, and how do you trust or distrust them?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Trust: Very regularly + rather regularly</th>
<th>Fully trust + somewhat trust</th>
<th>Fully distrust + somewhat distrust</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public television channels</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Private television channels</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video blogs on Youube</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional print media outlets or their websites</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Private radio broadcasting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public radio broadcasting</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Alternative” media</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private blogs</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Czechia**
How frequently do you use the following as sources of information about society and politics, and how do you trust or distrust them?

Frequency:
- **Very regularly + rather regularly**
- **Fully distrust + somewhat distrust**
- **Fully trust + somewhat trust**

Trust:
- **Fully trust + somewhat trust**
- **Fully distrust + somewhat distrust**

- **Hungary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Trust</th>
<th>Youth Attitudes on Politics and Democracy in Central Europe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video blogs on Youtube</td>
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<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
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<td>21%</td>
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<td>Private blogs</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Alternative” media</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How frequently do you use the following as sources of information about society and politics, and how do you trust or distrust them?

### Poland

**Facebook**: 78%
**Publicly available web portals**: 55%
**Private radio broadcasting**: 52%
**Private television channels**: 51%
**Video blogs on YouTube**: 48%
**Public television channels**: 32%
**Private blogs**: 25%
**Twitter**: 23%
**Traditional print media outlets or their websites**: 18%
**Public radio broadcasting**: 18%
**“Alternative” media**: 16%
How frequently do you use the following as sources of information about society and politics, and how do you trust or distrust them?

- **Facebook**: 64%
- **Private television channels**: 62%
- **Publicly available web portals**: 59%
- **Private radio broadcasting**: 50%
- **Public television channels**: 42%
- **Traditional print media outlets or their websites**: 33%
- **Video blogs on Youtube**: 31%
- **Public radio broadcasting**: 29%
- **Private blogs**: 18%
- **“Alternative” media**: 14%
- **Twitter**: 10%
Identities
To what extent do you identify yourself or not identify with the following entities?

**My nation**
- Hungary: 75%
- Czechia: 74%
- Slovakia: 73%
- Poland: 70%

**Europe**
- Hungary: 73%
- Slovakia: 73%
- Czechia: 61%
- Poland: 60%

**My local community**
- Hungary: 72%
- Slovakia: 66%
- Czechia: 55%
- Poland: 51%

**My religion**
- Slovakia: 64%
- Poland: 55%
- Hungary: 32%
- Czechia: 12%

**The political party I have voted or would vote for**
- Slovakia: 48%
- Poland: 47%
- Hungary: 37%
- Czechia: 18%

- Strong European identity across the region after the national one.
- Identification with the local community ranks third across the region.
- Very strong identification with religion in Slovakia and low in Czechia.
Country
Issues
How serious problems are these issues in your country?

The most serious problems for youth in the region are corruption alongside rising prices and cost of living.

In Hungary, Poland and Slovakia the other leading problems are unemployment and healthcare.

Environment and climate change are among top 5 issues for youth in the region, higher compared with 2018 research.
How serious problems are these issues in your country?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Hungary 2019</th>
<th>Hungary 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rising prices, costs of living</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic recovery</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic decline and rising authoritarianism</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian military buildup and Russian aggression against its neighbors</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Pandemic</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to traditional culture</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolving gender roles</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
<td>Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How serious problems are these issues in your country?

- **Rising prices, costs of living**: 78%
- **Corruption**: 73%
- **Environment**: 71%
- **Climate change**: 68%
- **Economic recovery**: 65%
- **Pensions**: 61%
- **Education**: 60%
- **Healthcare**: 59%
- **COVID-19 Pandemic**: 58%
- **Unemployment**: 55%
- **Democratic decline and rising authoritarianism**: 55%
- **Crime**: 52%
- **Russian military buildup and Russian aggression against its neighbors**: 48%
- **Immigration**: 46%
- **Threats to traditional culture**: 40%
- **Terrorism**: 35%
- **Evolving gender roles**: 28%

**Czechia**
How serious problems are these issues in your country?

- Rising prices, costs of living: 2018 78%, 2018 87%
- Healthcare: 2018 81%, 2018 86%
- Unemployment: 2018 49%, 2018 78%
- Environment: 2018 52%, 2018 78%
- Climate change: 2018 43%, 2018 75%
- Pensions: 2018 43%, 2018 76%
- Education: 2018 58%, 2018 73%
- Economic recovery: 2018 58%, 2018 73%
- COVID-19 Pandemic: 2018 59%, 2018 55%
- Corruption: 2018 58%, 2018 65%
- Democratic decline and rising authoritarianism: 2018 59%, 2018 70%
- Crime: 2018 55%, 2018 66%
- Russian military buildup and Russian aggression against its neighbors: 2018 63%, 2018 64%
- Immigration: 2018 57%, 2018 58%
- Terrorism: 2018 45%, 2018 55%
- Threats to traditional culture: 2018 43%, 2018 50%
- Evolving gender roles: 2018 37%, 2018 43%

Youth Attitudes on Politics and Democracy in Central Europe
How serious problems are these issues in your country?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rising prices, costs of living</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic recovery</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Pandemic</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic decline and rising authoritarianism</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats to traditional culture</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian military buildup and Russian aggression against its neighbors</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolving gender roles</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth Attitudes on Politics and Democracy in Central Europe

Very serious problem + somewhat of a problem