



# PULSE OF THE WEEK

## #8

Researching public opinion on the most  
important events of the week

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# THOSE RUSSIANS WHO VOLUNTARILY JOINED THE SIDE OF UKRAINE, WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

This week, the mass media has brought some information about some Russians voluntarily participating in the defense of Ukraine against Russia.

Among the Russians who defected to Ukraine, some gave up their Russian passports and decided to clear the Ukrainian territories which were freed from the occupiers. Andrii Yusov, a representative of the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense, told about this.

“Those who voluntarily sided with Ukraine are free citizens. Free citizens who made a voluntary choice of an absolutely free person. Today, a part of such Russians, who are already former Russians who have given up their Russian passports, are fighting in units that, together with the security and defense forces of Ukraine, are clearing our land from Russian invaders,” Yusov said.

He also reminded that the “I want to live” project, which helps Russian military personnel surrender voluntarily, continues to be active, and he also noted that during the exchange Ukraine does not provide information about the circumstances of the capture.

Also, according to the media, there is a “Siberia” battalion, which consists entirely of citizens of the Russian Federation, formed in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. It is known that before signing a contract, citizens of the Russian Federation undergo a thorough check, which can last up to a year. The battalion does not recruit captured Russian soldiers.

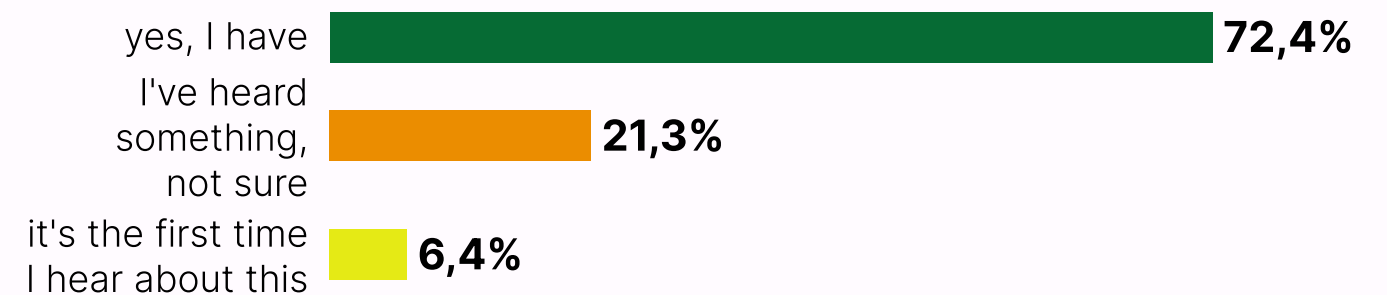
Dozens of Russians and representatives of ethnic minorities of the Russian Federation who came to Ukraine to join the ranks of the Ukrainian army serve in the battalion. Among them are the Yakuts and Buriats, who see Ukraine’s victory as an opportunity to gain independence from Russia.

**Sources:** Livyi Bereh, Ukrainska Pravda, BBC

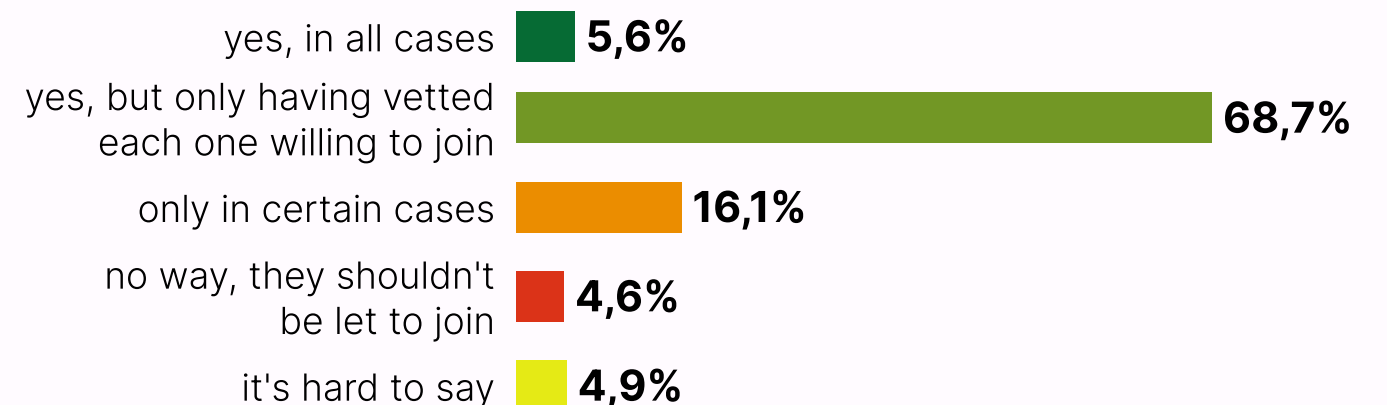


## Public opinion

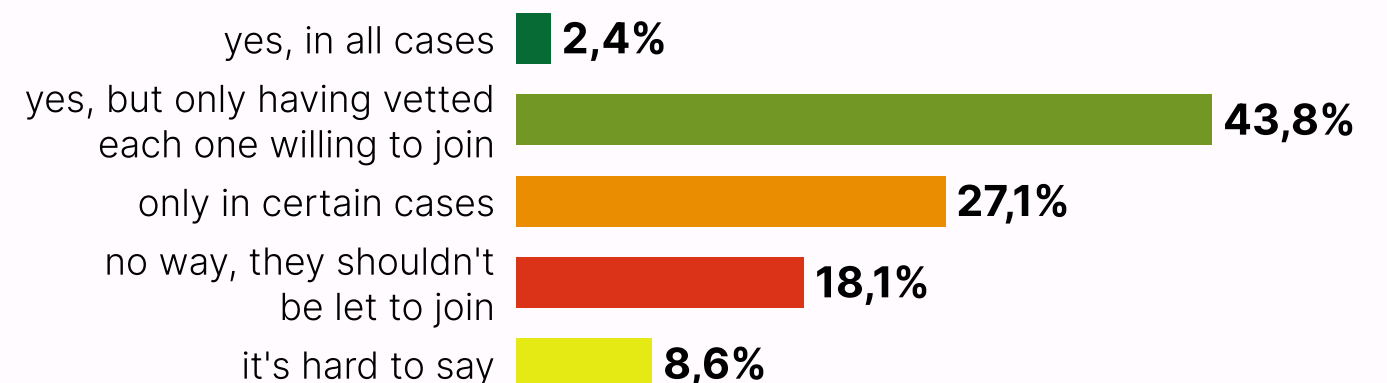
### Have you heard of the Russians who are going over to the side of Ukraine?



### Should we let the Russians who want to fight on the side of Ukraine join the Ukrainian Army?



### Should those Russians who were captured and then said that they want to fight on Ukraine's side, be let to join the Ukrainian Army?



## UKRAINE WANTS TO INTRODUCE MULTIPLE CITIZENSHIP

The head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, stated that there is a need to introduce multiple citizenships in Ukraine.

He is confident that a “double” passport is a necessity that many Ukrainians need. First of all, we are talking about people who were forced to escape to the territory of other states because of the war, said Kuleba.

“It is absolutely necessary to preserve their connection with the Motherland. This is about the future of Ukraine and Ukrainianness. Therefore, multiple citizenship should become one of the elements of state policy aimed at preserving and developing the global Ukrainian community,” the official said.

In this context, Dmytro Kuleba pointed out that we should be guided by the power of our state passport, and not be afraid that Ukrainians will receive citizenship of other countries of the world. He reminded that after Ukraine’s accession to the European Union, the Ukrainian passport will have the same status as neighboring countries, which means that it will not be inferior to them in any way. At the same time, there will be one ban - Ukraine will not allow dual citizenship with Russia and other countries that support its aggressive war against Ukrainians.

“Any dual citizenship with an aggressor state or unfriendly countries should be prohibited,” said the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

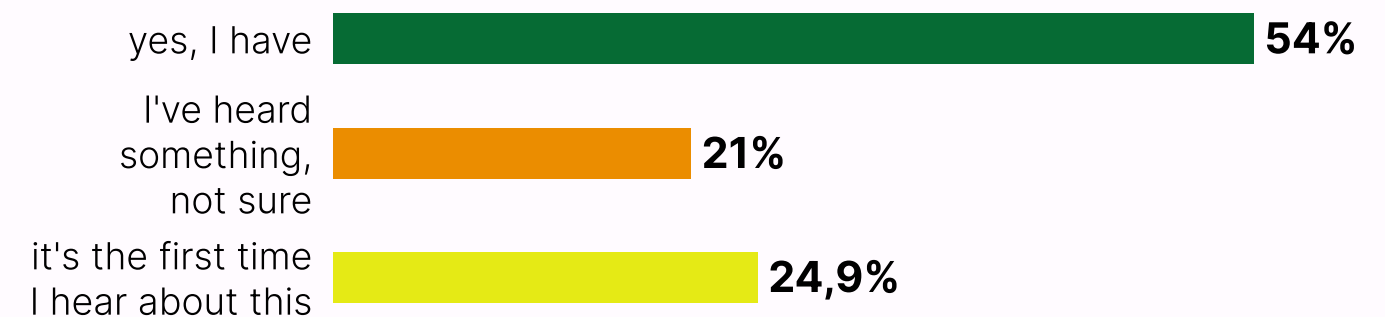
In September, People’s Deputy of Ukraine Yaroslav Zhelezniak said that in the near future the parliament may consider in more detail two draft laws on the introduction of dual citizenship, which are registered under numbers 6368-d and 6369-d and provide for a certain liberalization of this issue.

**Sources:** Suspilne, Ukrinform, UNIAN

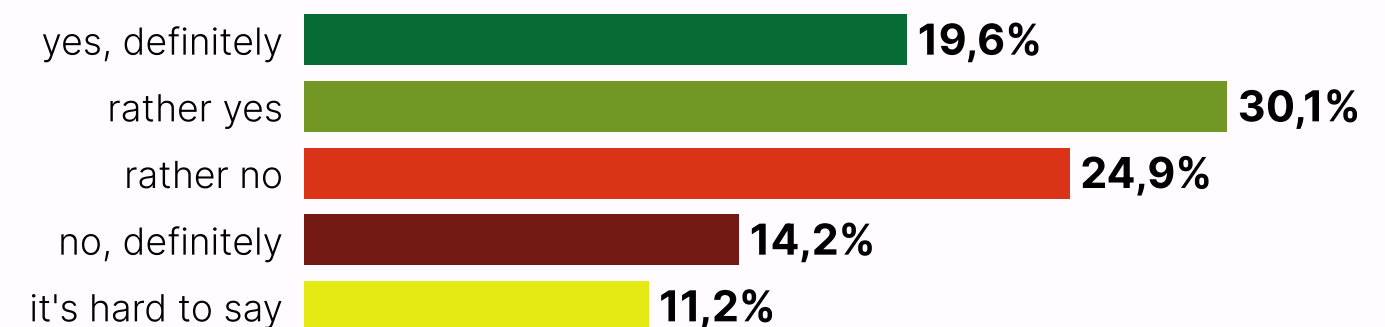


Public opinion

### Have you heard of the initiative to allow Ukrainians to have multiple citizenships?



### Would you support this initiative?





# HUNGARY AND SLOVAKIA BLOCKED THE ALLOCATION OF EU'S AID TO UKRAINE

The Prime Ministers of Hungary and Slovakia blocked the allocation of 50 billion euros of aid from the EU to Ukraine.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that EU support is not working, and newly elected Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico alluded to the problems of corruption in Ukraine.

It is noted that in order to update the EU budget, the support of all 27 member states is required. Previously, regarding this matter Brussels faced only the fierce resistance of Hungary, but now Slovakia has joined it too. Robert Fico declared that he would support "zero military aid to Ukraine." "They'd better have 10 years of peace talks than 10 years of killing each other without any results," Fico said. Also, the official once again called the hostilities in Ukraine a "conflict" caused by "attacks of Ukrainian fascists on the civilian population of Russian nationality."

At the same time, the decision to update the bloc's budget must be made by the end of the year, since the current EU funding for Ukraine should end at that time. European Council President Charles Michel said EU leaders are "determined" to demonstrate unity and "unwavering" support for Ukraine.

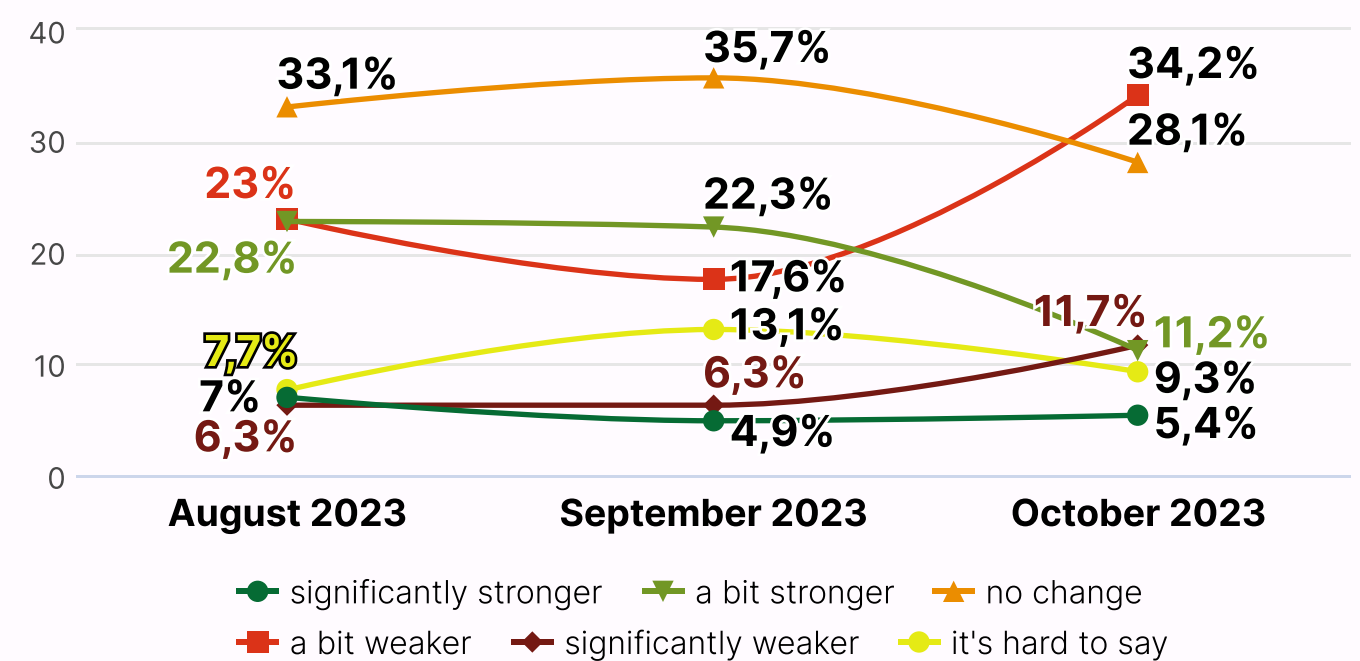
This very week, Viktor Orbán made quite a statement saying that his country's membership in the EU is similar to Soviet occupation. To these words, the Vice President of the European Commission, the High Representative of the EU for foreign policy and security policy, Josep Borrell, replied that he had not seen a single tank in Hungary. "No one obliges Hungary to be a member of the EU," Josep Borrell summed up.

**Sources:** Censor, Livyi Bereh, UNIAN

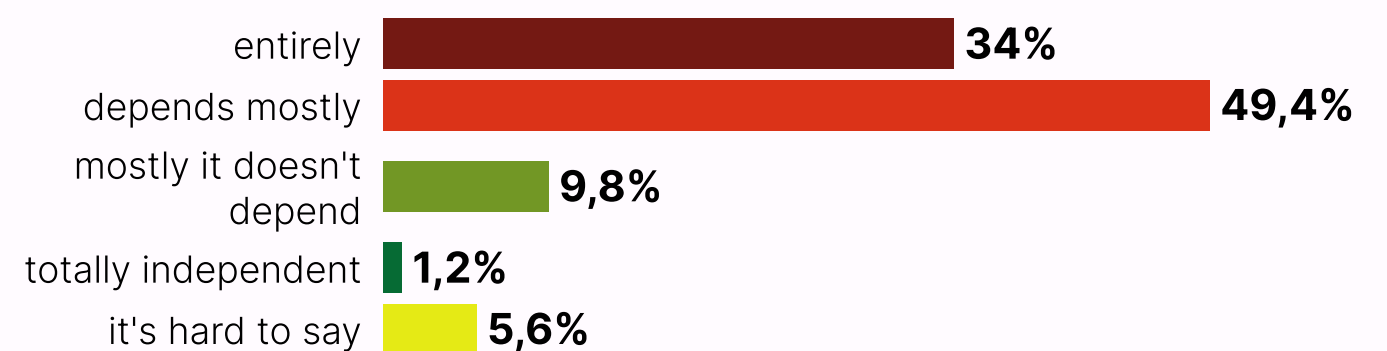


Public opinion

**In your opinion, has the international support of Ukraine become stronger or weaker over the past months?**



**In your opinion, how much does the international support depend on the Ukrainian government?**



## UKRAINE AND GERMANY WILL LAUNCH THE FIRST JOINT DEFENSE ENTERPRISE

The German defense concern Rheinmetall and Ukrainian Defense Industry have formed a joint venture.

This was announced by Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal during the German-Ukrainian business forum in Berlin, specifying that the company will carry out maintenance and repair of equipment supplied to Ukraine by our partners. "The production of leading models of Rheinmetall AG pieces of equipment will also be localized at this enterprise," the head of government noted.

"The creation of a joint enterprise is, without exaggeration, a landmark event that takes the cooperation between our countries to a qualitatively new level and will allow us to build the arsenal of the free world together," Shmyhal added. He also said that he had a meeting with Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz, and in their conversation they focused on multifaceted support for Ukraine.

"Germany plays an important role in strengthening Ukraine's defense capabilities, as well as in cooperation with the European Commission. We thank you for this and count on your continued unwavering support. I also highlighted the issue of using frozen Russian assets. In particular, through the international compensation mechanism," Denys Shmyhal said.

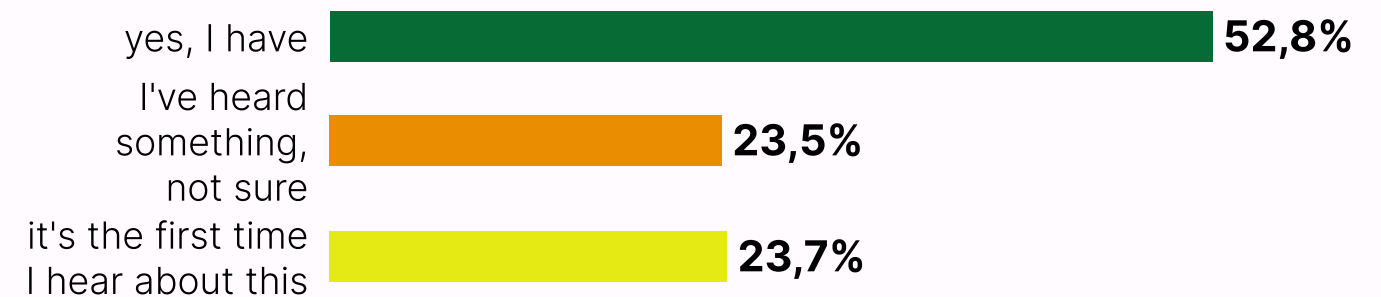
According to Olaf Scholz, Germany will accompany Ukraine on the path of reforms to membership in the European Union. In addition, he announced that Berlin is preparing a new aid package for Kyiv worth about 1.4 billion euros, which will include, in particular, air defense systems. "Whoever invests in Ukraine now is investing in a future EU member," Scholz affirmed.

**Sources:** RBK-Ukraine, UNIAN, Ukrinform

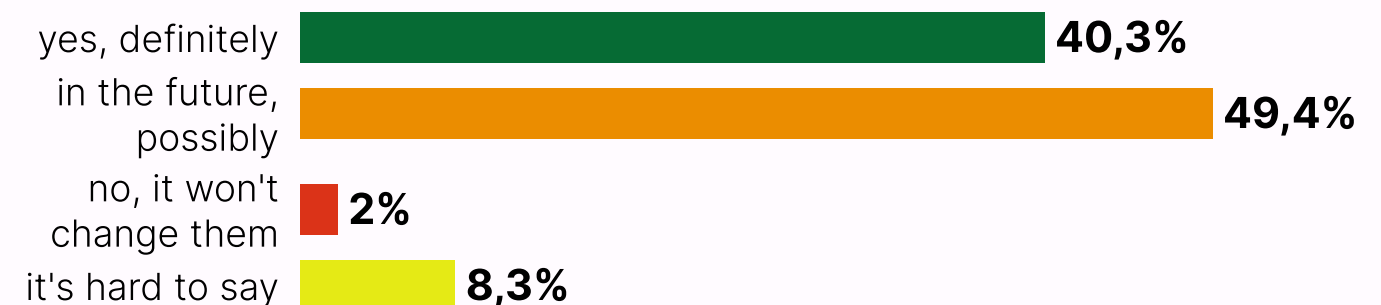


### Public opinion

#### Have you heard that Ukraine and Germany are creating a joint defense enterprise?



#### Will this project strengthen the defense capabilities of Ukraine?



#### Should Ukraine involve foreign arms manufacturers?

