



PULSE OF THE WEEK

#9

Researching public opinion on the most
important events of the week

October 28 to November 03, 2023 (No. 43)



RESEARCHING PUBLIC OPINION SINCE 2011



THE ARTICLE IN TIME MAGAZINE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE CAUSED QUITE A STIR

Simon Shuster's article, which appeared in Time on October 30, talks about world fatigue from war, corruption and the situation at the front. The material is widely discussed in Ukraine.

The journalist visited the Office of the President of Ukraine, talked with Volodymyr Zelenskyi and his entourage. On the basis of the information the author received, he summarized the results of Zelenskyi's visit to the USA, which was not too successful in his opinion, and also told about the difficult situation at the front, about corruption in Ukraine, and how the Ukrainian leader feels the world is tired of the war.

It was Vitaliy Shabunin, chairman of the board of the Anti-Corruption Center (ACC), who drew attention to aspects of corruption scandals in the article. "At that time, we in the ACC were shouting at the top of our lungs that whitewashing Reznikov would hit Western support much harder than, in fact, the corruption scandal itself," Shabunin noted.

Another problem, which Simon Shuster points out with reference to anonymous sources in the OPU, is that in some branches of the military, the shortage of personnel has become even more acute than the shortage of weapons and ammunition.

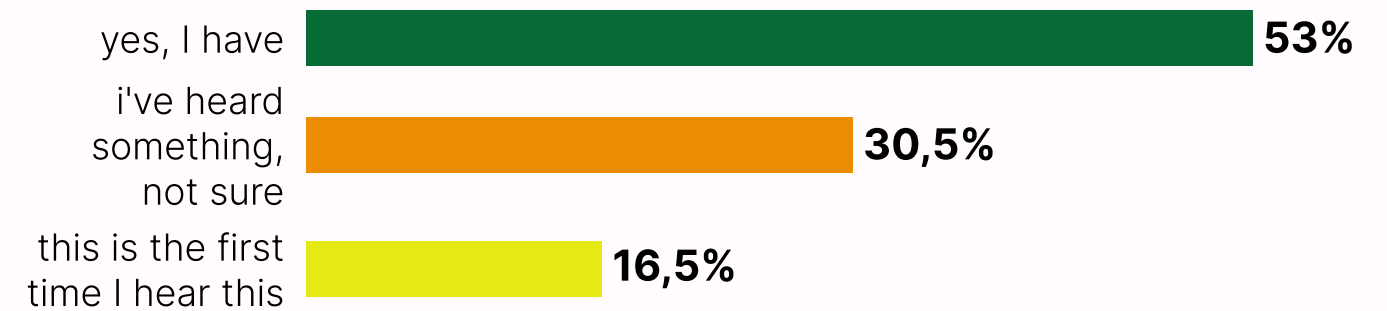
Mykhailo Podoliak, adviser to the head of the OPU, stated that the material presented "a subjective point of view of a specific journalist." And anonymous sources, in his opinion, are sometimes "people who do not have access to certain information, but who are somewhere around and want to increase their weight and pass their visions off as axiomatic knowledge." According to Podoliak, there is no "anger" or feeling of "betrayal" on the part of the partners, and the authorities of Ukraine speak openly about "objective things", such as the speed of arms deliveries.

Sources: Suspilne, Radio Svoboda, DW

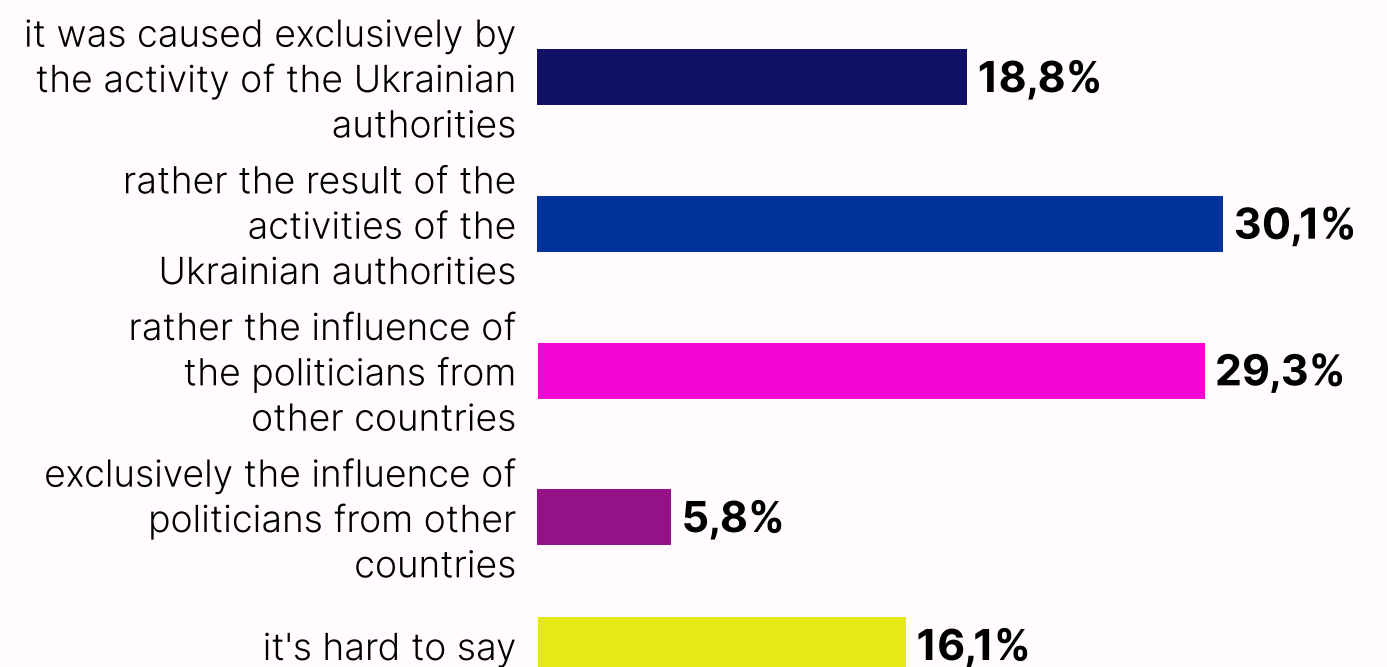


Public opinion

Have you heard of the criticism of the Ukrainian authorities by the Western media?



In your opinion, how much of the criticism of the Ukrainian authorities has been caused by Zelenskyi's activity, and how much by the influence of politicians from different countries (including russia)?



IN UKRAINE, THEY WANT TO INTRODUCE FINES FOR CURFEW VIOLATIONS

On October 30, the Verkhovna Rada registered a draft law on establishing administrative liability for violating curfew.

According to the authors of the initiative, the changes are necessary in order to bring “the violator to administrative responsibility.” Among the authors of the document are deputies from the ruling party, and it was prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Police.

If the draft law is adopted, a curfew violator, i.e. a person who is stopped by the patrol in the middle of the city without a special permit, will face a fine of 8.5 thousand to 17 thousand hryvnias. If the violator is arrested one more time within a year, the fine will reach 17-34 thousand hryvnias.

Fines for enterprises are even more significant. If they violate the light masking regime or work regime during martial law, they will be fined from 51,000 to 102,000 hryvnias. If the violation is recorded again within a year, the fine will increase to 170-340 thousand hryvnias.

Military experts say the curfew should be even stricter. Mykhailo Samus emphasized that it makes it possible to keep the activities of the enemy’s alleged sabotage and intelligence groups under control. Oleksandr Musienko explained that the curfew simplifies the redeployment of troops at night, and most importantly, it allows it to be done less visibly.

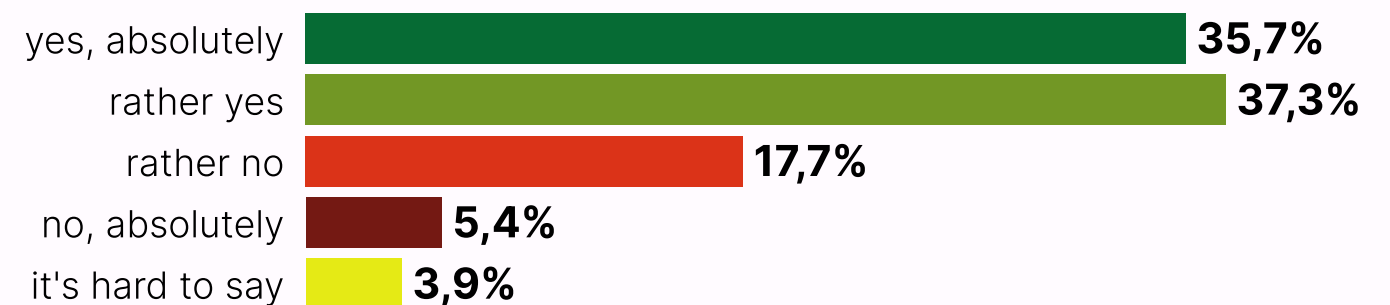
The initiative was criticized for not making exceptions for 24-hour pharmacies or special circumstances, due to which people can be on the streets when it is prohibited. For example, when getting home from the railway station, having arrived by night trains.

Sources: Suspilne, BBC Ukraine

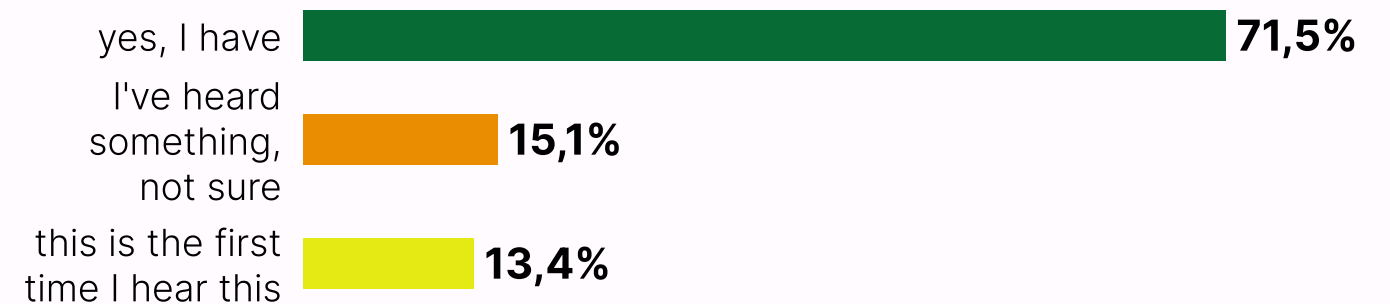


Public opinion

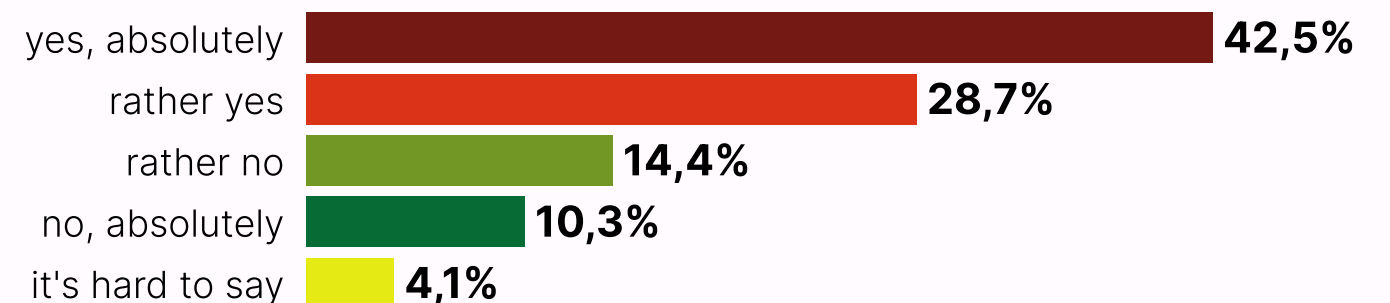
Do you consider curfew an effective means to ensure public order and safety?



Have you heard of an idea to introduce penalties for violating curfew?



Do you approve of the idea to introduce penalties for violating curfew?



IN KYIV, DURING THE WAR, THE GOLDEN DOMES OF ST. SOPHIA CATHEDRAL IN KYIV ARE BEING RESTORED FOR UAH 80 MILLION

On October 30, it became known that almost 80 million hryvnias will be allocated for the restoration of St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv through the “Prozorro” system.

The sources of funding for the works are state and charitable funds, as well as a special fund.

People in social networks began to criticize such an initiative to spend money during the war. After all, there is a widespread opinion that it is more efficient to use these funds to purchase weapons for the needs of the Armed Forces.

The Union of War Veterans appealed to the State Audit Service regarding the inappropriateness of financing such works during the war. “Budget funds should first of all be directed to the financing of the Defense Forces of Ukraine! This purchase is an inappropriate, inefficient, untimely, unreasonable use of budget funds,” the union’s appeal reads.

Besides the huge amount, the contractor who will be engaged in repairs, also caused a stir. In fact, there was no tender, because this organization was the only participant in the auction. Nearly nothing is known about the company itself.

The reserve “Sofia Kyivska” reacted to the scandal and explained how and when they plan to spend money there. The reserve insists that the domes of the cathedral and the crosses on them may collapse any moment and that is why the Ministry of Culture approved the restoration project.

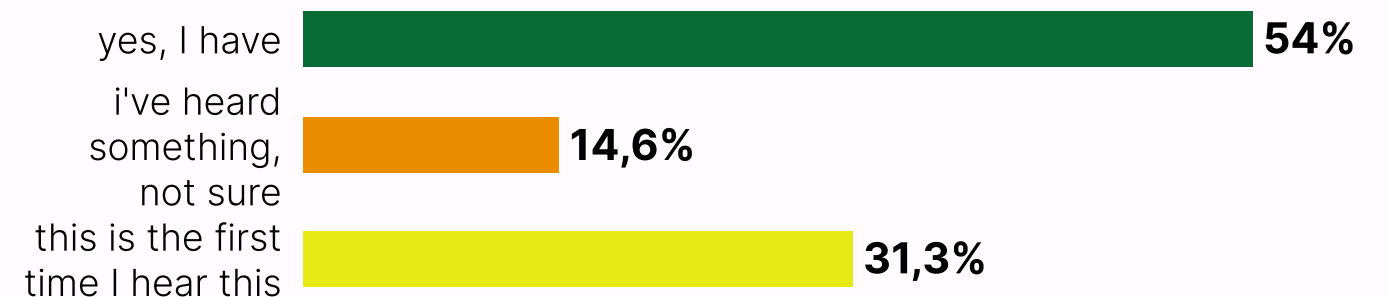
Specialists at “Sofia Kyivska” also draw attention to the fact that only 2 million hryvnias have been allocated from the budget for the renovation of the cathedral this year. They will be used to install crosses and replace structural fastening systems on all domes. Other works, including gilding, will be carried out after the end of martial law.

Sources: Telegraph, UNIAN, BBC Ukraine

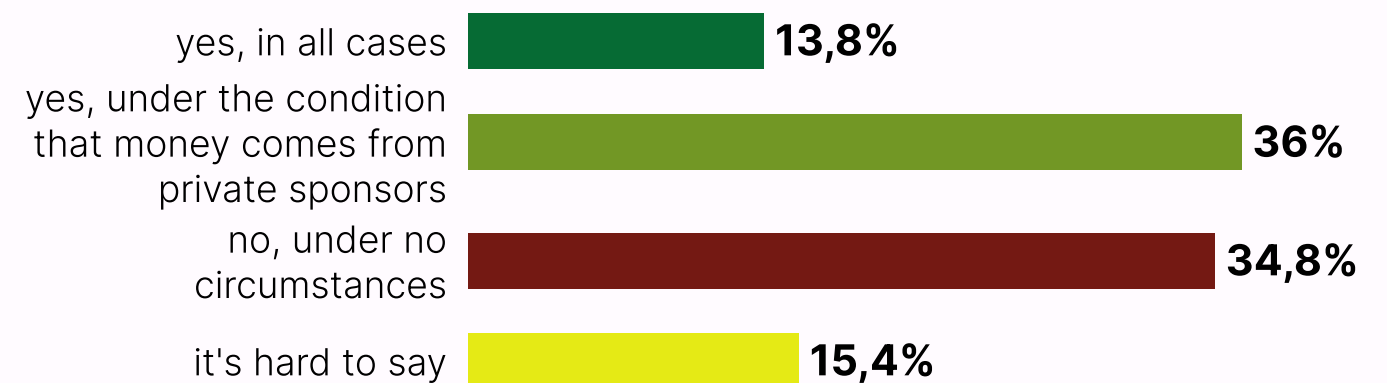


Public opinion

Have you heard of the plans to allocate 80 million hryvnias for reconstruction of the St. Sophia Cathedral domes?



Do you consider it appropriate to conduct restorative works like that during martial law?



THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY WANTS ALL PURCHASES WITH FUNDS FROM FOREIGN DONORS BE MADE THROUGH PROZORRO

The Ministry of Economy strives to ensure that all purchases with funds from foreign donors are made through the Prozorro system.

The Government of Ukraine will work to make the public procurement system Prozorro a mandatory tool for procurement of goods, services or works financed by donors or international organizations. This was reported by the press service of the Ministry of Economy.

“We strive to ensure that all purchases with funds from foreign donors are made through the Prozorro system and have no limits. For international organizations, the advantage is that Prozorro is the only platform that works as a “constructor”. Flexible approaches allow each donor to use the system according to their own rules.

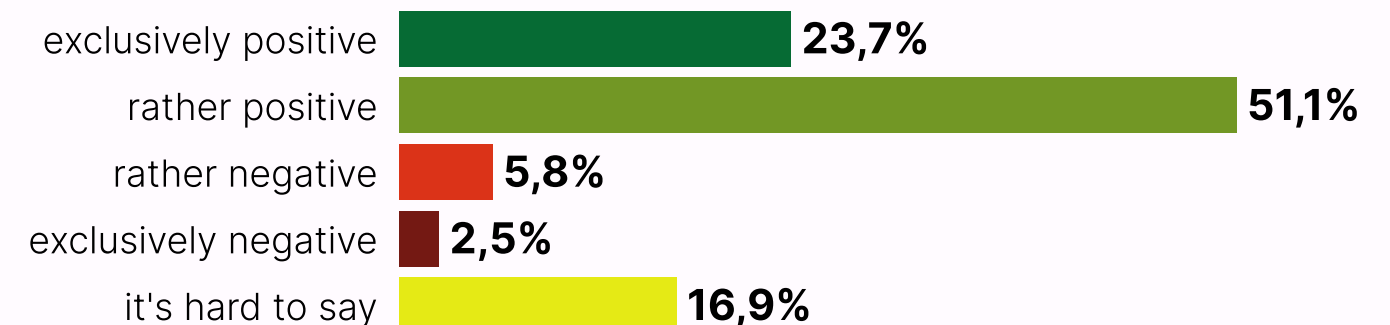
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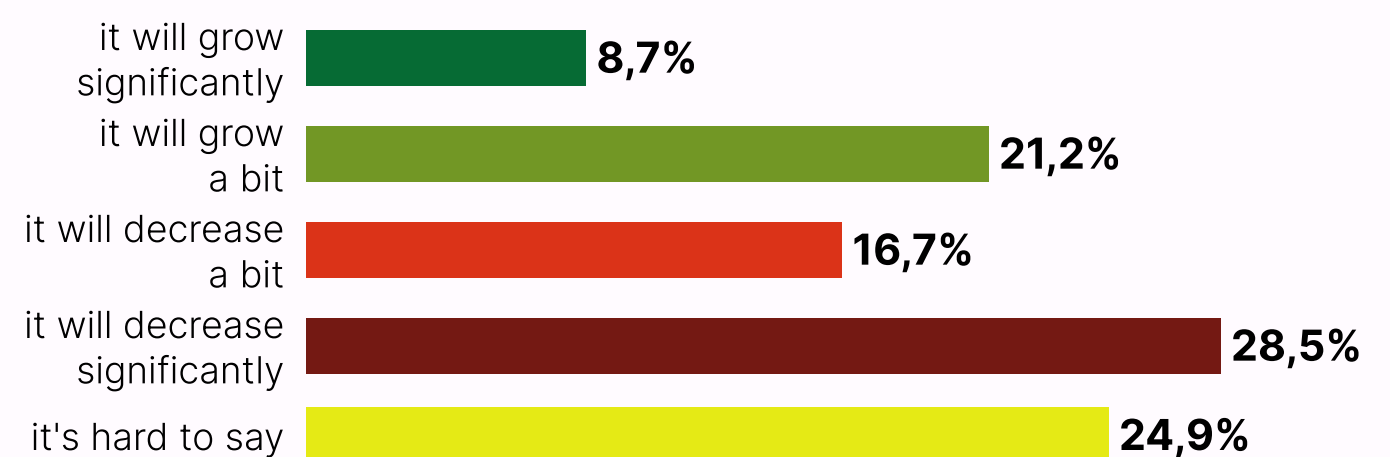


Public opinion

What is the influence that non-governmental organisations, independent of state bodies, have on the development of Ukraine?



If state authorities strengthen control over the activities of non-governmental organisations, how, in your opinion, will this impact the effectiveness of the activities?



THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY WANTS ALL PURCHASES WITH FUNDS FROM FOREIGN DONORS BE MADE THROUGH PROZORRO

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It is only necessary to set the necessary parameters: should the preliminary qualification of the participants be required, should there be a need to hold an auction, etc.," said First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine - Minister of Economy Yulia Svyrydenko.

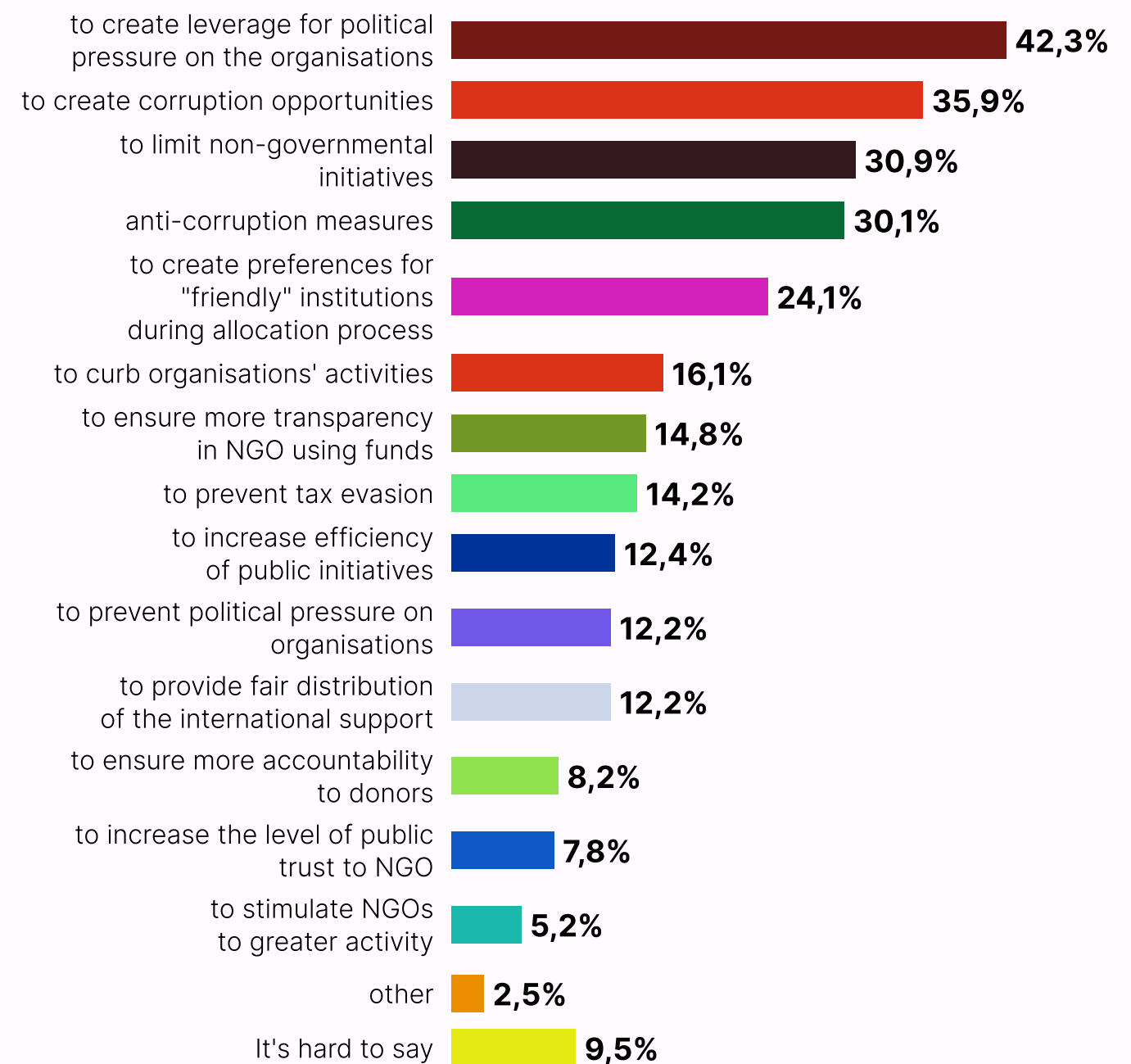
In addition, according to the official, four financial organizations have agreed to apply a joint approach to procurement in Ukraine - the Development Bank of the Council of Europe (CEB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the World Bank. The memorandum they signed provides for the use of Prozorro for small tenders that do not exceed the thresholds of 130,000 euros for goods and services, and 5 million euros for works in projects financed by these organizations.

Sources: UNIAN, Ukrinform



Public opinion

In your opinion, what is the goal of the Ukrainian authorities when it wants to increase control over the finance of non-governmental organisations?



THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO LAUNCH A NATIONAL PROGRAM TO POPULARIZE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN UKRAINE

The government plans to launch a comprehensive and accessible English language learning program, Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal said.

“[A program] Open for everyone, regardless of financial status or place of residence. With an individual approach and open access to educational resources,” Shmyhal said in the wake of the presentation of the national program for the promotion of the English language in Ukraine.

According to him, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyi, has already submitted a draft law to the parliament to officially establish the status of English as the language of international communication in Ukraine.

“Ukrainians who speak English have already reaped the benefits in the labor market. Those are a higher salary, more career opportunities,

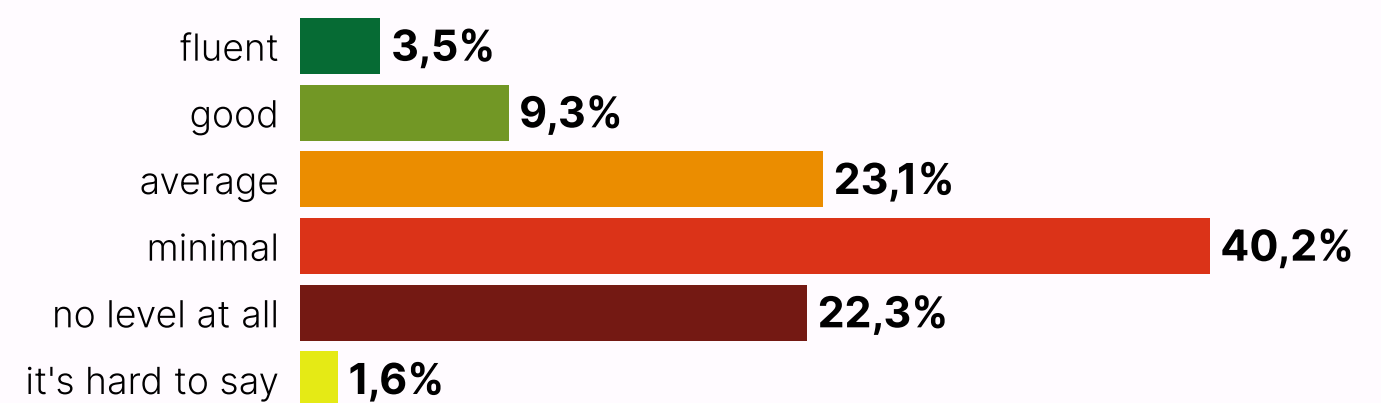
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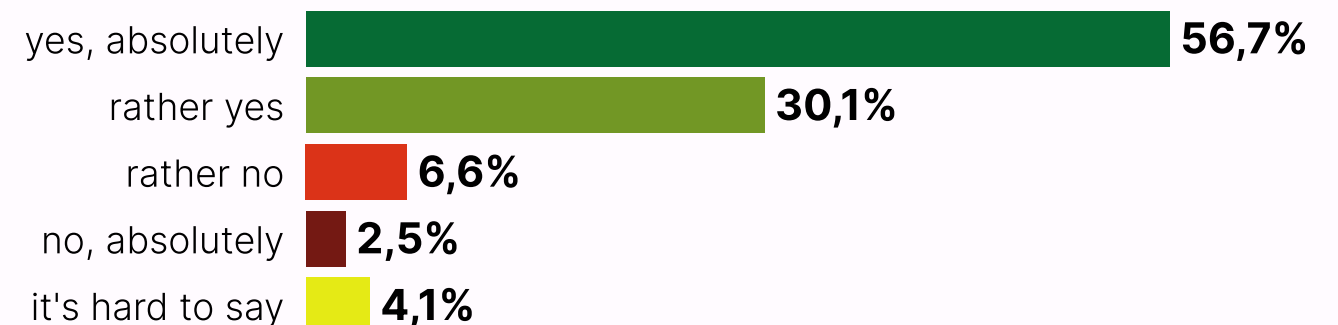


Public opinion

How would you rate your level of English on a scale of 1 to 5?



Would you like to have a better level of English?



THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO LAUNCH A NATIONAL PROGRAM TO POPULARIZE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN UKRAINE

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... the ability to develop faster and, if necessary, acquire a new profession,” the Prime Minister added.

Shmyhal emphasized that Ukrainians create competitive products and services, and the English language will be the driver of their promotion and will guarantee self-realization for thousands of people.

Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov noted that the Future Perfect program provides products and services that will help to learn English. The first of them are the Empower platform and the language learning platform Promova.

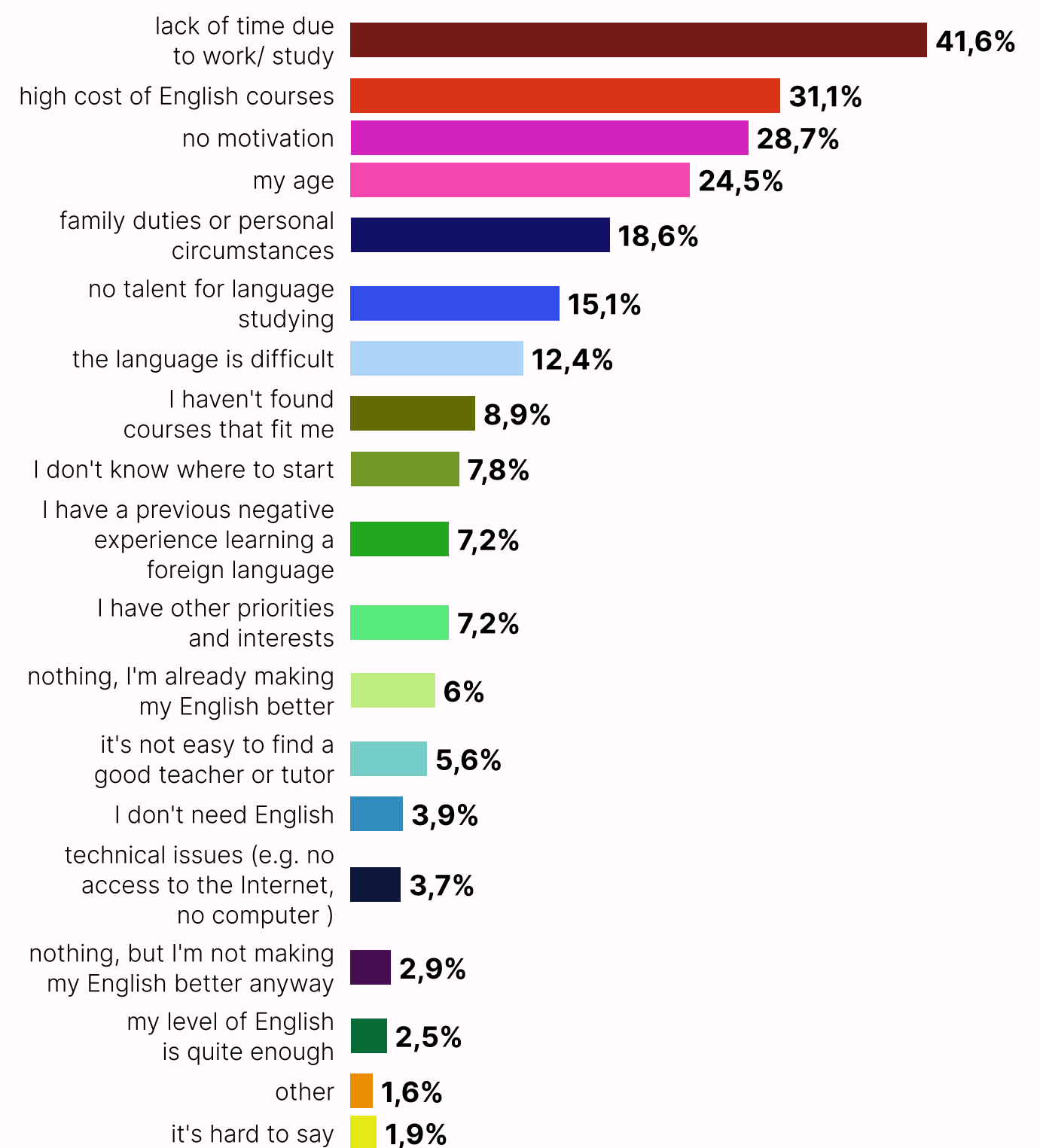
Promova, a language learning platform with a personalized approach, offers Ukrainians Premium access to all language courses for three years. And the online platform for learning English Empower from the University of Cambridge is available for Ukrainian teachers and students.

Sources: Censor, Interfax-Ukraine



Public opinion

What prevents you from making your English level better? (several options of answers)



THE MALTESE AUTUMN OF THE PATRIARCH: WE NEED A PLAN B

On October 28-29, a summit on Zelenskyi's peace formula was held in Malta. Looking at the degree of interest in this event among the world and Ukrainian mass media, we can say it did make it to the top news, but not in prime time and not on the front pages of newspapers. Experts were not really excited to comment on the third round of the peace formula summit. And even the emotional Ukrainian community was unable to organize more or less decent hype on the topic in social networks.

Andrii Yermak officially, in flawless clerical language delivered: "The third meeting of national security advisers and foreign policy advisers on the implementation of V. Zelenskyi's peace formula was held in Malta. Representatives of 66 states and international organizations took part in it.

It became a logical continuation of the meetings of the corresponding format in Copenhagen (Denmark) in June of this year and in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) in August.

It's important that the number of participants and international support is growing. Representatives of many countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America joined the meeting in Malta. For comparison, 42 delegations participated in the previous event.

The specific areas of the Peace Formula were considered, as well as the work on their implementation."

Indeed, there have been more delegations, but... "Beijing's absence has become a disappointment for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyi, who is trying to gain international support for his plan to achieve a lasting and just peace," – Bloomberg reported.

Very briefly, not without sarcasm, the Insider writes about the forum: "The heads of the Ukrainian delegation, Zelenskyi

and Yermak, are actively promoting the establishment of peace on Ukraine's terms. I really want to believe that the Formula will bring the maximum effect and there will be peace that everyone wants so much. We need peace on Ukrainian terms: the leadership of Russia should be in cages, and reparations should also be paid."

The results of the two days of negotiations were officially provided by Yermak in the same formal language: "Preliminary consultations at the level of advisers made it possible to form a common vision of the prerequisites for peace and security guarantees. According to the results of meetings at the level of ambassadors in Kyiv, specific plans were developed and international working groups were created, which will focus on technical issues of implementing the points of the Formula."

Experts have predicted that it would not be possible to reach a comprehensive agreement, but certain points of the Formula could be discussed. The participants of the meeting focused on the issues of nuclear, food and energy security, the release of prisoners and deportees, and the restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine. They worked hard for two days, and...

According to the AFP agency, the organizers of the summit hoped to conclude it with the signing of a joint declaration – a document that did not come into existence after previous similar meetings in Jeddah (August), and before that – in Copenhagen (at the end of June).

As Reuters reports, the participants were supposed to agree to hold a large-scale international summit, where world leaders will approve general principles for settling the war. But none of that happened. The third attempt to sign the final document, which would have determined the joint course of action, was not successful as well.

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THE MALTESE AUTUMN OF THE PATRIARCH: WE NEED A PLAN B

They got together. They talked. And then they parted. But there are details and trends. And they need to be defined.

Expert Yury Romanenko briefly summarized: “There is nothing to define there. It’s all empty words.”

Political technologist Viktor Bobyrenko commented to “Focus”: “What can be positive for us is that Ukraine will be talked about. Currently, the events in Ukraine are in the shadow of Israel, the topic of Ukraine has disappeared from the front pages of newspapers. Now they are talking about a possible third world war, possibly China and Iran entering into it. We need to start talking about Ukraine. We need to remind everyone that Ukraine is at war. That it is exactly on our territory that the main front of the battle between good and evil is taking place. And what will become of this conversation is another question. There will definitely be no peace. The two sides are not ready for peace.”

Journalist Serhii Liamets: “I have no idea what the Yermak-McFaul group or negotiators in Malta are doing. To me, this is a complete bubble, as is the investment conference in London.

There is no informative work. We haven’t noticed it until now, because the USA and Britain have been piggybacking us. They formed the world information policy. Everyone supported Ukraine, because that was the narrative from Washington and London. But now they are gradually getting tired of Ukraine. If, God forbid, the US position becomes neutral, we’ll find ourselves in an information blockade.

Another truth is emerging: all this time we ourselves did nothing to sway the Western elites to our side. This is a consequence of Zelensky’s main vulnerability - the personnel issue. He surrounded himself with incompetents, capable only of PR victories within the “United Marathon”. But wars are not won that way. It’s not too late to start the hard work. Yes, many chances are lost. But not all of them.”

There are not many comments on social networks, for the general public this event went almost unnoticed, but this handful of commentators who did speak out, they were very precise in formulating the points where the foreign policy of the Ukrainian authorities slipped:

“There is a bad feeling that plan A has started to skid, and there is no plan B. Unfortunately. Because success must be prepared in advance.”

“You just have to have a plan B for any situation. You won’t get much out of them with just trips.”

“On October 9, the third day of the war in Israel, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the opposition parties to form a coalition government to oppose Hamas. While in our country, just like before, the “servants” are managing the rescue efforts to save the country. These “management geniuses” have long shown their inability.”

Simon Schuster’s material in the Times, Valery Zaluzhny’s interview with “Glavkom”, the summit in Malta - these are all pieces of the puzzle that add up to an unattractive picture. The period of enthusiasm and emotions that gave carte blanche to Ukraine has passed. Now they want us to make sober calculations and deliberate actions. Now the country is stuck in a bubble of uncertainty. And the Malta summit is the quintessence of this situation - when instead of actions we only have conversations.

This fall, we should have had something to count, at least some victories, but unfortunately, we are still counting failures and mistakes. And if we do timely and correct work on mistakes, and that plan B starts working, which should push the country to a new level, then we will have a chance to change the situation.