

# PULSE OF THE WEEK

## #106

Researching public opinion on the most important events of the week

**January 11 to 17, 2025**



RESEARCHING PUBLIC OPINION SINCE 2011



# RUSSIAN TROOPS ARE ADVANCING TOWARDS THE DNIPROPETROVSK REGION

The front line in Ukraine has approached the borders of the Dnipropetrovsk region. As a result, the Russian occupants can carry out shelling with guided bombs and artillery.

This was announced by the chairman of the Dnipropetrovsk regional council, Mykola Lukashuk. "According to the data of the Deep State website, the distance from the front line to the borders of the Dnipropetrovsk region has decreased to less than 7 km," he wrote.

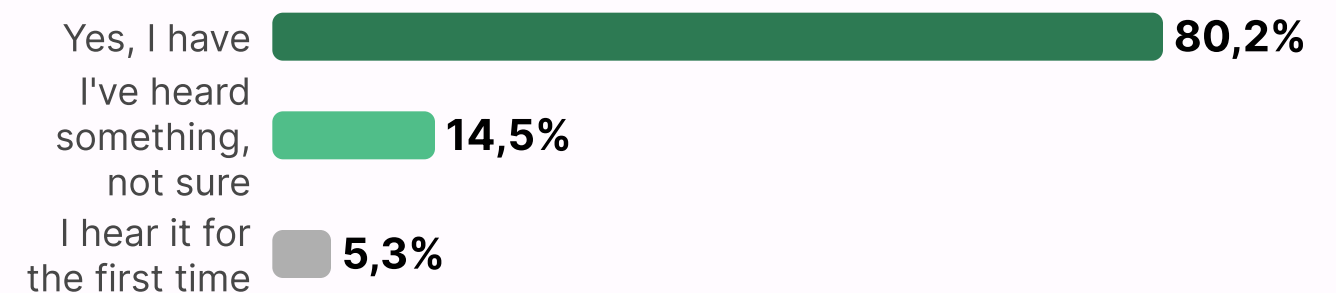
The Financial Times recalled that since the summer, Ukraine has been preparing for the battle for Pokrovsk, a key logistics and transportation hub for the rest of Ukrainian-controlled parts of the Donetsk region. However, Russian troops advancing from the south are now moving west of Pokrovsk and are less than 7 km from the exit to the highway leading to the Dnipropetrovsk region.

When asked whether the fighting in the Dnipropetrovsk region will really begin if the Russians cross the administrative boundary, military expert Ivan Stupak noted that "we must assume the worst. It is useless to believe that the Russians will not go there just because it is another administrative unit. They will go where the conditions are favorable for them, that is, where there are no swamps, no mines, no fortifications. Where it's easier for them. But it is also wrong to say that they will go to the Dnipropetrovsk region and 'go village by village,'" the expert said.

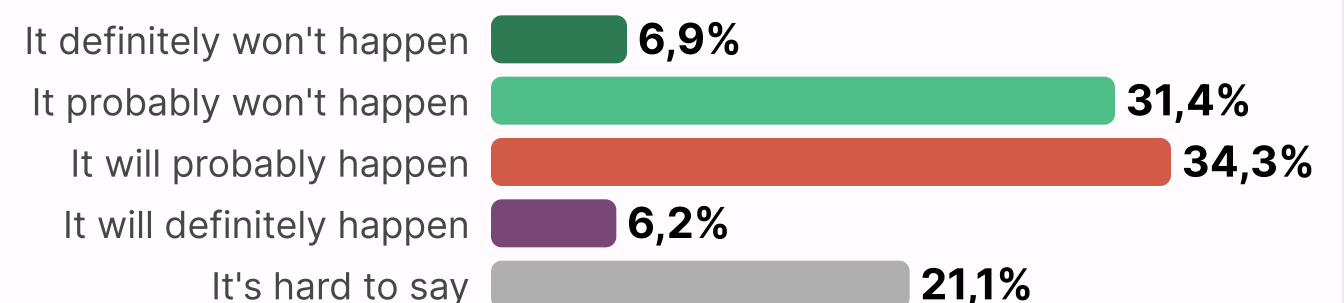
Another military expert, a former spokesman for the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Vladislav Seleznirov, recalled that "Putin's army will advance until the Ukrainian army stops the occupation by force of arms".

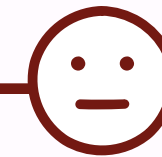
**Sources:** UNIAN, RBC-Ukraine, Fokus

## Have you heard that Russian troops are advancing towards the Dnipropetrovsk region?



## How do you assess the risk of the Russians taking at least a small part of the Dnipropetrovsk region?





## WILL FOREIGN PEACEKEEPERS BE SENT TO UKRAINE?

During the week, the issue of sending foreign military formations to the territory of our country, which would be able to perform the function of peacekeepers, was actively discussed.

On January 12, MP Fedir Venislavsky, a member of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on National Security, Defense and Intelligence, said that the Constitution of Ukraine allows for the adoption of such a decision. "This should be preceded by some guarantees from other sides, including the Russian Federation, confirming that it will cease fire and will not shell those foreign troops who will be on the territory of Ukraine," the deputy said, noting that this issue is complex and ambiguous.

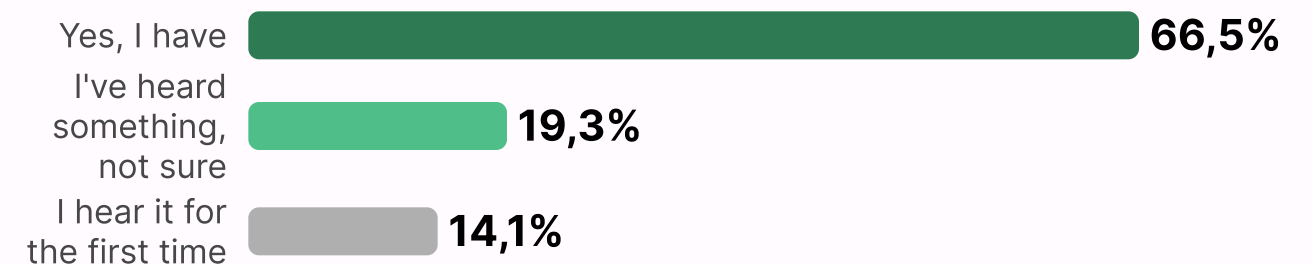
Western media noted that Ukraine's allies are actively discussing how NATO countries could deploy troops to assist in the demilitarized zone in the event of a peace agreement.

On 16 January, President Volodymyr Zelensky said that the deployment of a peacekeeping contingent in Ukraine could only be one element of realistic security guarantees. The head of state said that security guarantees for Ukraine are not being considered without the United States, and there has not yet been a "substantive conversation" about this with the new U.S. administration. "Only after these negotiations will we understand the desired security structure for Ukraine," Zelensky said.

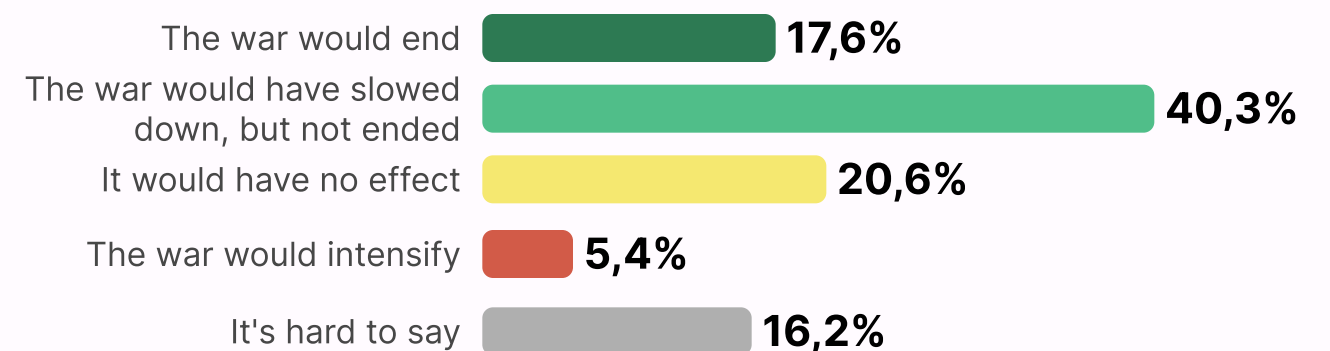
At the same time, the French initiative to deploy a contingent in Ukraine is being discussed. "We have discussed this in detail with French President Emmanuel Macron, we are talking with Poland, with our Baltic partners, and we are discussing it with the United Kingdom. It is too early to talk about details today," the president said.

**Sources:** Ukrinform, Censor, Liga

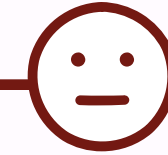
### Have you heard about the possibility of sending a peacekeeping mission to Ukraine after a hypothetical agreement to end the war?



### How could the presence of a peacekeeping contingent in Ukraine now affect the war?



The research was carried out by the company "Active Group" with the help of the online panel "SunFlower Sociology".  
 Method: self-completion of questionnaires by citizens of Ukraine 18+.  
 Sample: 1200 questionnaires (representative by age, gender and region of Ukraine).  
 Data collection period: January 11, 2025. The theoretical error at a confidence level of 0.95 does not exceed 2,9%.



## THE COMMAND TRIED TO TRANSFER AIRCRAFT TECHNICIANS OF THE UKRAINIAN AIR FORCE TO THE INFANTRY

Aeronautical and technical personnel of the Air Force of the Ukrainian Armed Forces have issued an appeal in which they emphasize that from today they are facing “a real challenge that could jeopardize not only our ability to perform combat missions, but also destroy the very basis of our aviation”.

“Our unit received a telegram about the transfer of almost all aircraft technicians to the infantry. This means that we will be left without technical personnel to maintain our aircraft,” the military said.

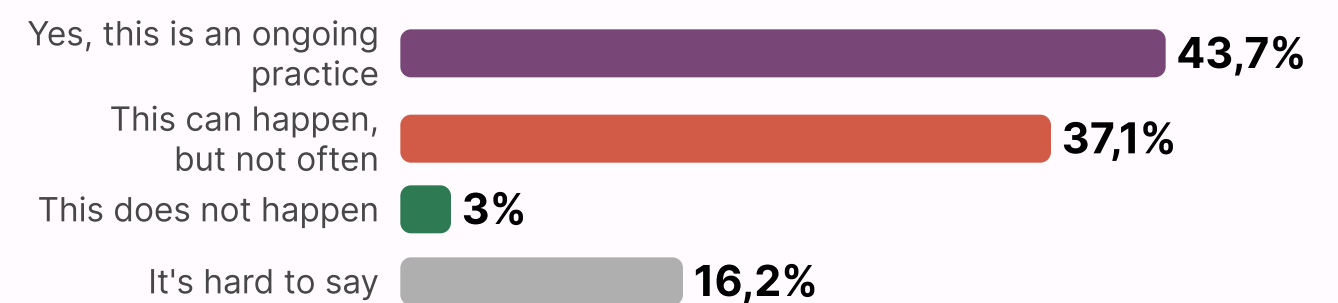
In response to the appeal, the acting commander of the Air Force, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Kryvonozhko, said that the AF is gradually transferring a certain number of personnel to ground units in order to strengthen brigades at the front. “However, this will not apply to scarce specialty qualifications and specialists involved in combat aviation missions,” he said.

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, responding to the scandal, said that he had instructed Kryvonozhko “not to reduce the number of specialists that the Air Force needs to perform combat missions of our aviation, air defense and mobile fire groups”.

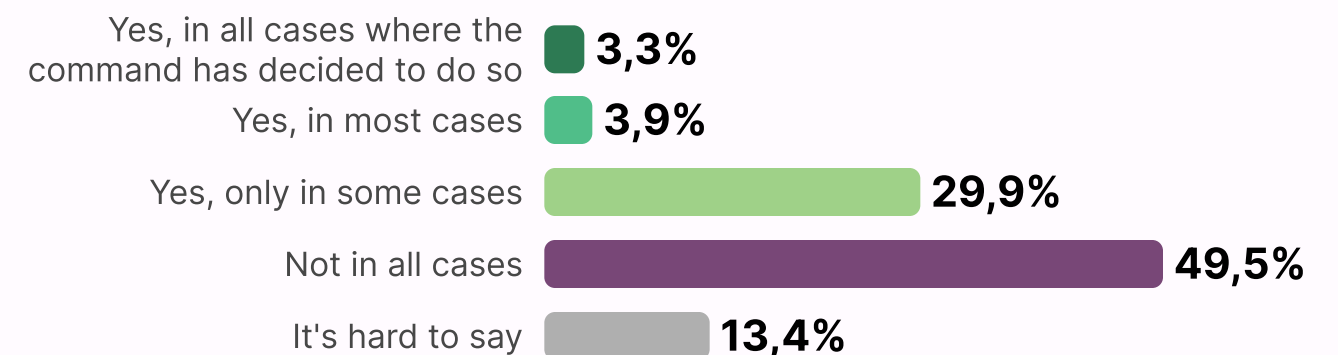
On January 16, it became known that the Air Force had created a special commission to study the situation regarding the transfer of servicemen. It was decided to prevent the transfer of military specialized qualifications to other branches and services of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. “At present, the Air Force Commission is examining whether there are any violations. If the cases of violations are found, decisions will be made to correct them,” the department said.

**Sources:** Censor, Suspilne, Ukrainska Pravda

### Have you heard of cases of valuable military specialists being transferred to the infantry?



### Is it acceptable to transfer military specialists to the infantry?



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## UKRAINE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM SIGNED HAVE SIGNED A 100-YEAR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The United Kingdom and Ukraine have signed a 100-year partnership agreement. The document covers security, defense, economic and technological aspects, as well as information and cultural interaction.

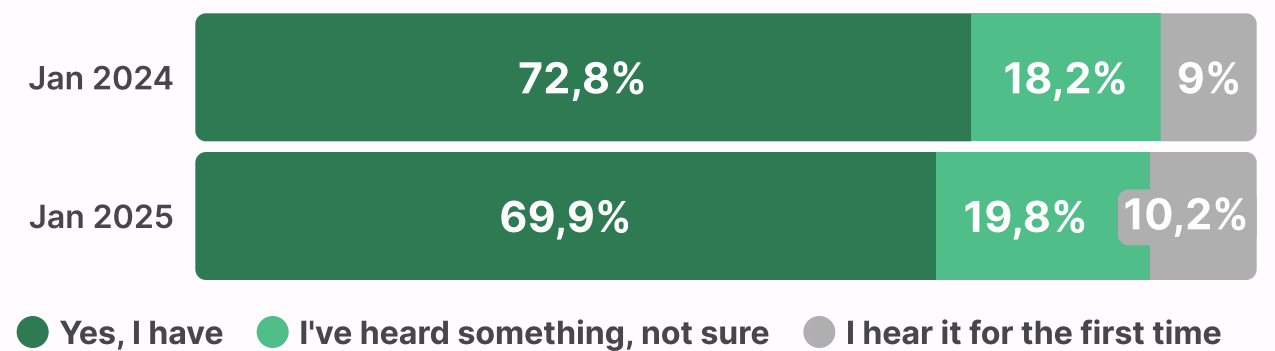
It states that the parties will seek to address long-term systemic threats and challenges to maritime security with a view to restoring freedom of navigation and developing areas of importance to Euro-Atlantic peace and stability that go far beyond wartime operations. Attention will be paid to improving the conditions for investment and trade in both countries, as well as cooperation in various sectors.

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky called the signing of the agreement a new level of relations between the countries. In particular, according to the head of state, at least \$ 3.6 billion of annual military aid to Ukraine is provided. "As long as it takes. In addition, a decision has been prepared in connection with another \$ 3 billion to be confiscated from Russian assets. This year alone, we need to reach \$6.6 billion provided by the UK," Zelensky added.

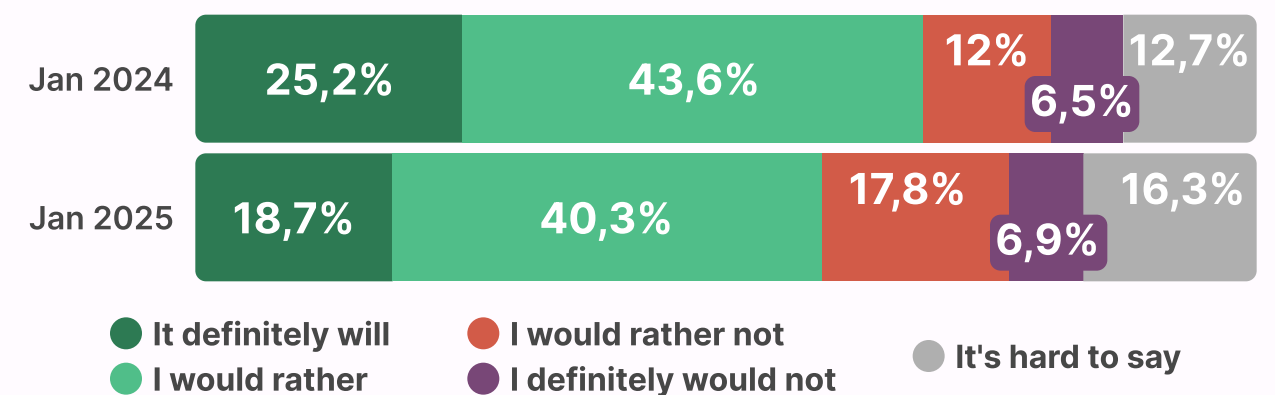
During his visit to Ukraine, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a new military aid package. "I am pleased to announce that we are providing 150 artillery barrels, which will be manufactured in the UK for the first time in more than 20 years, and will be delivered to Ukraine in just a few weeks. We will also supply Gravehawk, a new mobile air defense system, the production of which is co-financed with Denmark," the politician said.

**Sources:** Europeyska Pravda, Radio Liberty, Ukrinform

### Have you heard about the partnership agreement between Ukraine and the United Kingdom?



### In your opinion, will this agreement strengthen Ukraine's defense capabilities?



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# NEARLY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE LEFT UKRAINE AND DID NOT RETURN IN 2024

In 2024, Ukrainian citizens crossed the border of Ukraine more than 30 million times, according to the Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. 443,000 of them did not return home, said Opendatabot.

During the year, the number of non-returners to Ukraine increased 3.3 times compared to 2023. It is noted that the largest number of people last year was “lost” in June — 194,000. Only three months of 2024 had a positive trend, when there were more citizens who returned to the country than those who left it. Among them, April had plus 58,000, July had plus 23,000, and August had plus 89,000.

In total, about 3 million citizens have not returned to Ukraine for almost three years. This is almost the same number as in the 11 years before the full-scale Russian invasion, that is, from 2011 to 2021 (3.3 million).

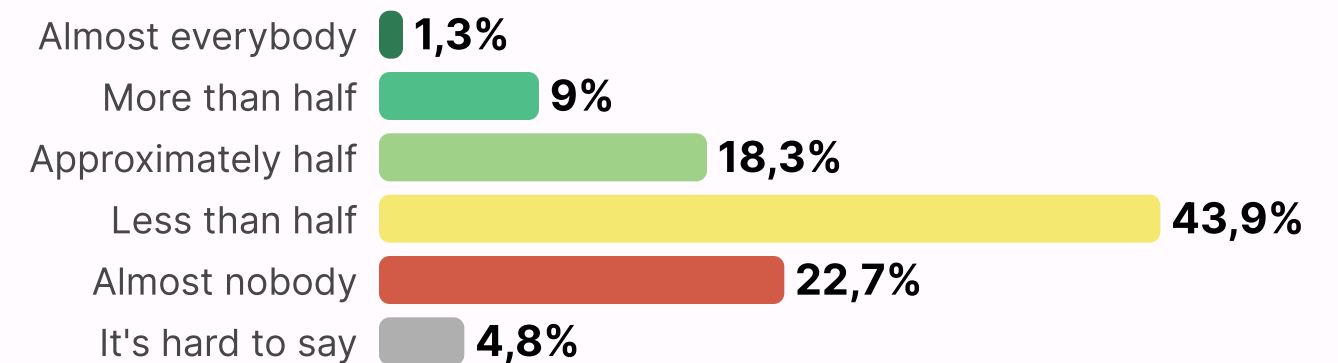
At the same time, analysts emphasize that the data of the Border Guard Service reflect only information about citizens who crossed the Ukrainian border at official checkpoints. Currently, there is no reliable data on Ukrainians who left the TOT or left the country illegally.

As of November 30, 2024, about 4.23 million Ukrainian citizens from outside the European Union who had fled Ukraine as a result of Russian aggression against Ukraine received temporary protection status in the EU.

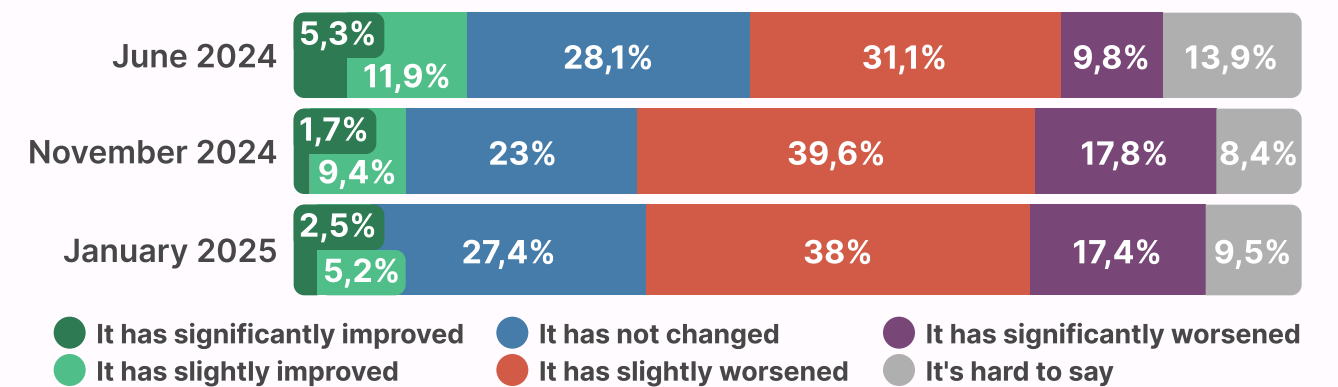
In November last year, the number of persons under temporary protection in the EU increased by 36,010 (by 0.9%), according to the latest Eurostat data. The largest increases in the number of persons enjoying temporary protection in the EU were recorded in Germany (+11,915; +1%), the Czech Republic (+5,820; +1.5%) and Poland (+4,045; +0.4%).

**Sources:** Censor, Forbes.Ua, Radio Liberty

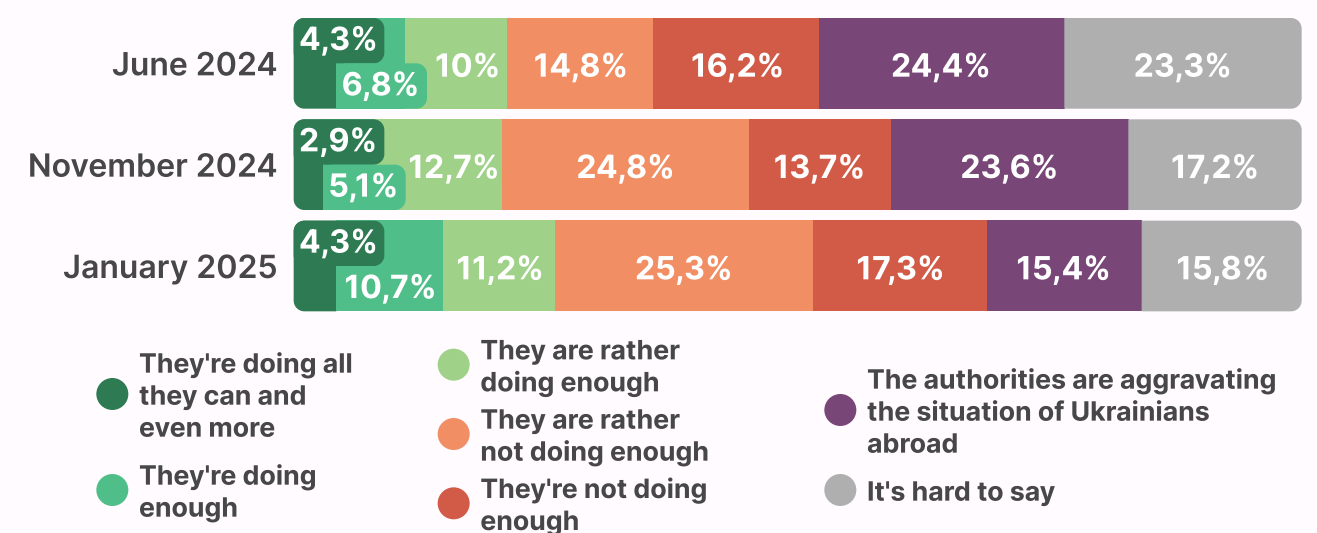
## In your opinion, how many people who left Ukraine for abroad will return after the end of the war?



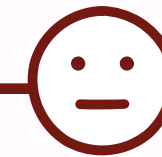
## In your opinion, how has the attitude of European countries towards Ukrainians changed in recent months?



## Are the Ukrainian authorities doing enough to improve the situation of Ukrainians abroad?



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# THE GOVERNMENT ALLOCATED ANOTHER 5 BILLION UAH FOR THE PAYMENT OF “ZELENSKY'S THOUSAND”

The Cabinet of Ministers has allocated an additional 5 billion UAH from the State Budget Reserve Fund to pay one thousand hryvnia to Ukrainians under the “Winter e-Support” program.

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal made the announcement on January 13. “Today, the Government has allocated an additional 5 billion UAH from the State Budget Reserve Fund for the implementation of the ‘Winter e-Support’ program. Thus, all applications submitted by Ukrainians for this aid will be fulfilled, people will receive funds and will be able to spend them on utilities, medical, educational and other services,” the official wrote.

Shmyhal noted that the mechanism of payments for people over 60 years of age, people with disabilities of groups I and II who receive a disability pension or social assistance through banking institutions, and for incapacitated persons at the request of a guardian has also been improved. These citizens will receive their 1,000 UAH through Ukrposhta.

In addition, the government regulated the procedure of information exchange between institutions implementing the “Winter e-Support” program. According to the Prime Minister, this will contribute to the generalization of data and increase the awareness of Ukrainians.

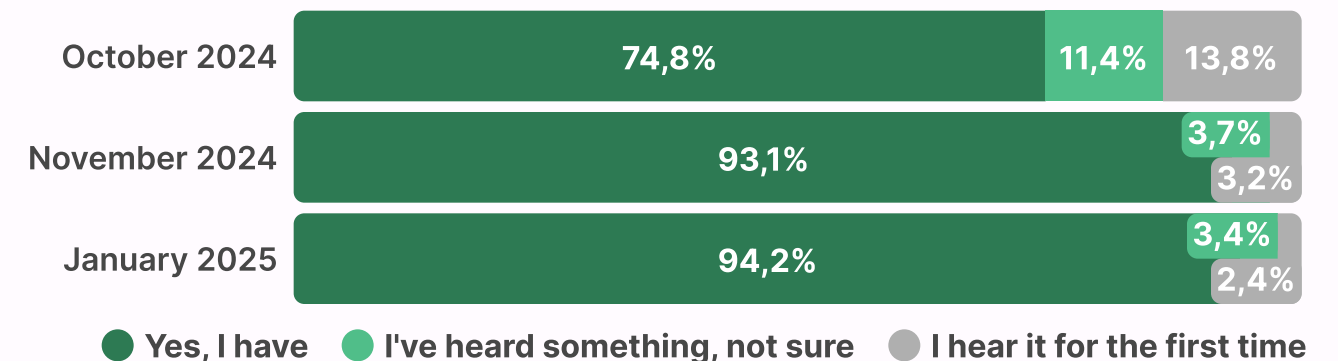
On January 17, the Prime Minister said that 8.2 million people had already received the aid. “The number of applications for assistance submitted in the Diia application has exceeded 10 million. Such figures and results of this and other ‘Winter e-Support’ programs show how timely and important the initiative is,” Shmyhal said.

He added that the authorities will continue to expand and improve the support programs in accordance with the existing challenges.

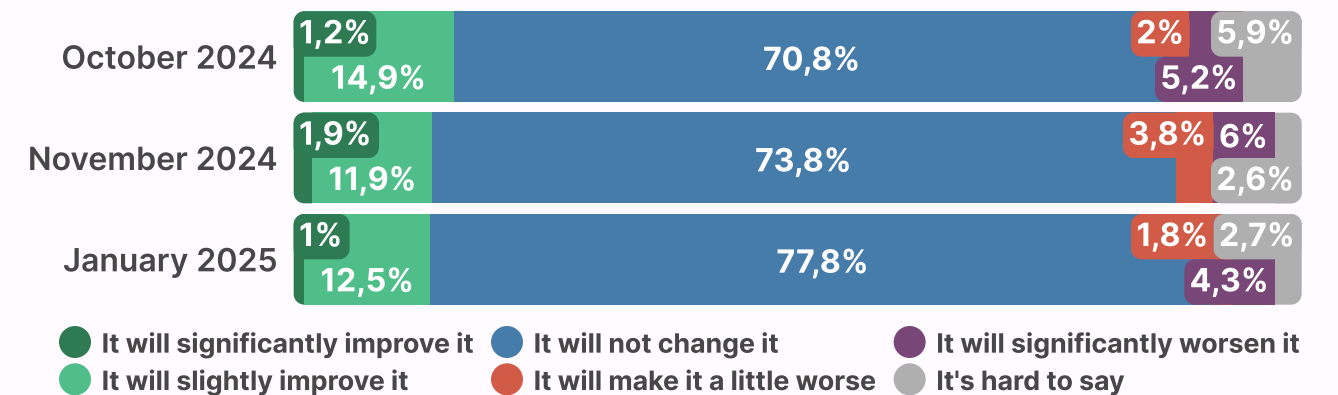
Applications for assistance will be accepted until February 2025.

**Sources:** Censor, Suspilne, Hromadske

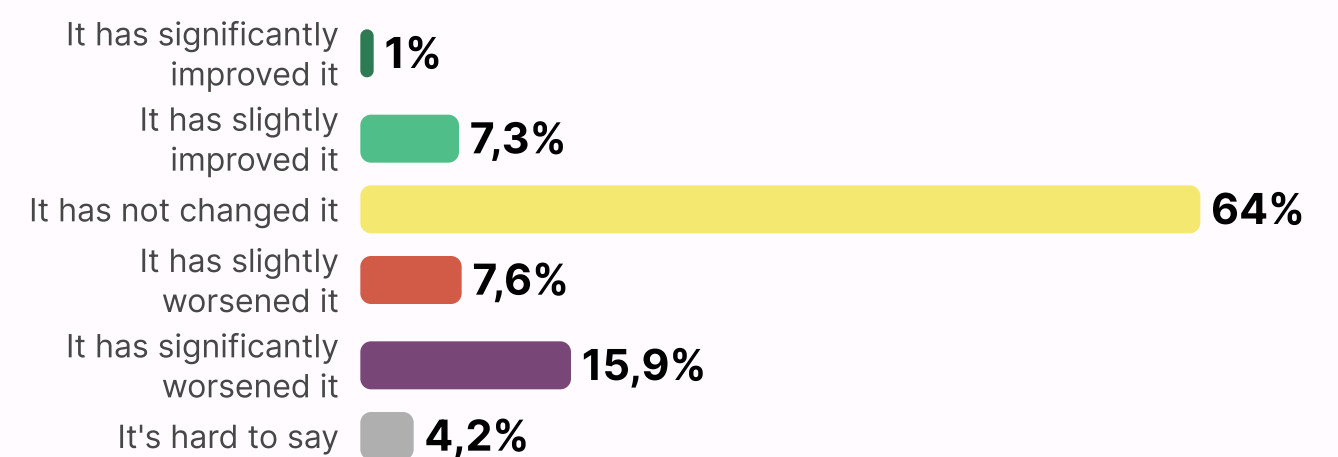
## Have you heard about President Zelensky's initiative to give 1,000 UAH to each Ukrainian as part of the Winter e-Support program?



## How will this initiative change the financial situation of Ukrainians?



## How has this initiative changed your personal attitude towards the current Ukrainian authorities?



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