

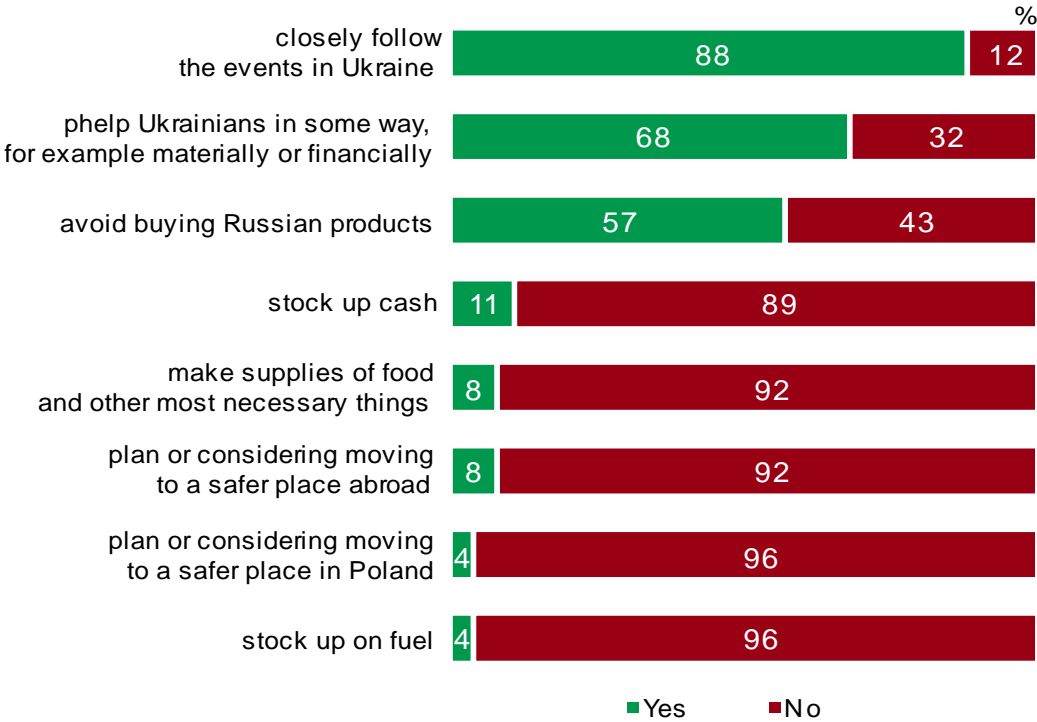
Opinions about the Russian invasion of Ukraine

On February 24, the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. Contrary to the predictions of many experts, the Russians undertook the war on a full scale. The international community has condemned Russia quite unanimously, many countries have imposed severe sanctions on it, as well as offering military, financial and humanitarian support for Ukraine. Poland is one of the countries most affected by the war taking place abroad, incl. due to the huge influx of refugees from Ukraine.

The vast majority of Poles (88%) closely follow the events in Ukraine. Over two-thirds of respondents (68%) declare that they help Ukrainians in some way, e.g. materially or financially. First of all, people who are at least minimally interested in political events offer help. The groups who help above-average are: the better educated and well-off, respondents aged 35 to 44, residents of the eastern macroregion (mainly the Lubelskie and Podkarpackie voivodeships bordering Ukraine), respondents participating in religious practices at least once a week, women more than men. More than half of respondents (57%) boycott Russian products. Buying Russian products is abandoned primarily by people interested in politics, the better educated and well-off, respondents aged 35 to 54, and residents of cities with at least 100,000 inhabitants. Fewer people (19% in total) admit that

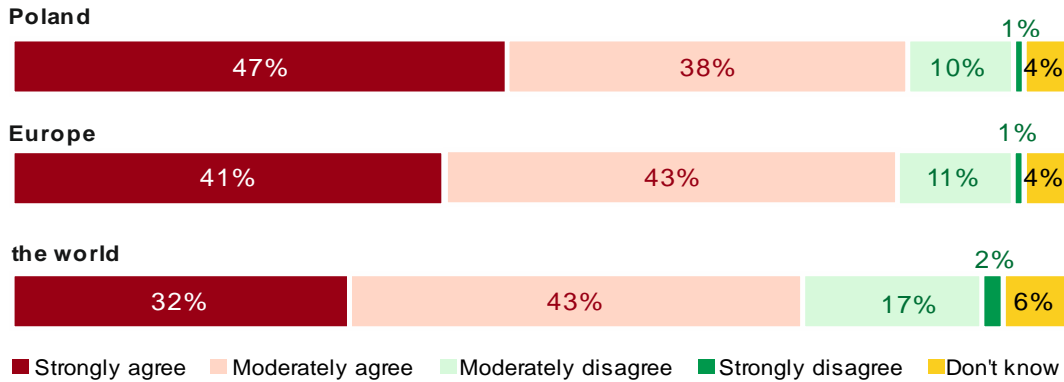
they undertake some measures to protect themselves and their family from the possible negative effects of war: 11% accumulate cash, 8% stock up food and other most-needed things, and 4% stock fuel (especially farmers). Some respondents (9% in total) plan or only consider going to a safer place inland or abroad; more people consider the possibility of leaving Poland (8%) than a change of their place of residence inside the country (4%). Moving to a safer place inland or abroad is taken into account primarily by younger respondents (up to 44 years of age), the better educated and affluent, inhabitants of large cities, women more often than men. Moreover, less religious people talk about the possibility of going abroad more often than the average.

In connection with the situation in Ukraine, do you do the following:



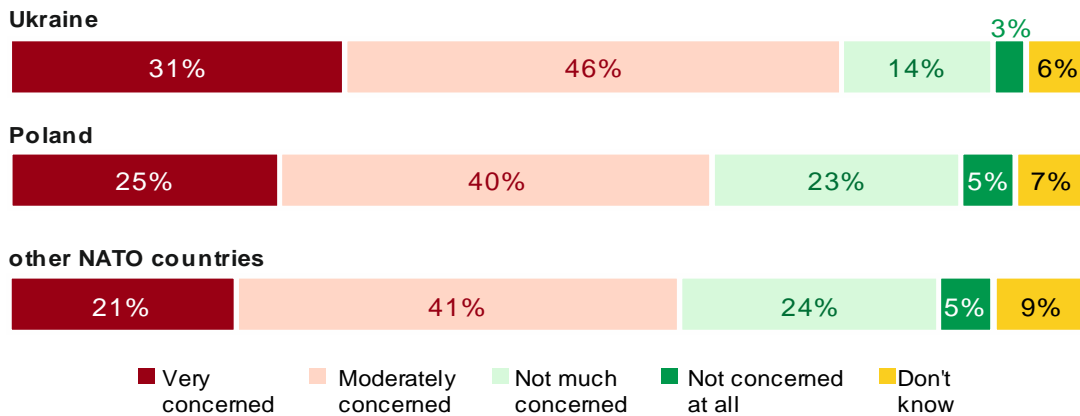
The level of concern related to the war in Ukraine is very high. The vast majority of Poles (85%) believe that it poses a threat to the security of our country, and nearly half (47%) strongly express this opinion. Almost the same number of people (84%) believe that the war in Ukraine threatens the security of Europe. Fewer, i.e. three-fourths of respondents (75%), perceive the risk of a global conflict. Relatively few respondents neglect the impact of this war on the security of Poland (11%), Europe (12%) and the world (19%).

Do you agree that the war in Ukraine a threat to the security of Poland / Europe / the world?



The belief that the war in Ukraine could spread to Poland or other countries or turn into a global war is associated with fears that Russia will use nuclear weapons. The possible use of nuclear weapons causes fear in most parts of Polish society. Concerns that it could be used against Ukraine are expressed by over three-quarters of respondents (77% compared to 17% who have no such concerns), two-thirds (65% concerned against 28% unconcerned) think it could be used against Poland, and 62 % (compared to 29% unconcerned) see the possible use against another NATO country.

Are you concerned that Russia could use nuclear weapons against Ukraine / Poland / other NATO countries?



Generally speaking, the youngest respondents fear the use of nuclear weapons less often than others: the age group 18-24 (47% of them are not afraid it could be used against Poland and the same number are concerned) and students (51% unconcerned compared to 41% concerned). Apart from these groups, the scenario of a nuclear attack on Poland or another country of the North Atlantic Alliance is taken into account noticeably less often by

respondents declaring a great interest in politics and current events (in the case of Poland, 39% are not afraid of nuclear attack, compared to 57% with concerns, and in the case of other NATO countries - 40% are unconcerned vs. 55% concerned). In general, men show a lower level of anxiety than women. In the case of attack on Ukraine, 27% of them are not afraid of this, compared to 9% of women, in the case of Poland - 39% unconcerned men vs. 18% unconcerned women, and in case of attack on another NATO country - 38% unconcerned men vs. 21% unconcerned women.

We asked respondents to express their opinions on various activities of the international community aimed at helping Ukraine and persuading Russia to stop its military operations. The vast majority of Poles support diplomatic pressure on Russia (91%, including 72% strongly supporting it), complete political and economic isolation of Russia from the West (91%, including 69% strongly), providing financial assistance to Ukraine (93%, including 66% strongly) and supplying it with military equipment and armaments (90%, including 62% strongly). On the other hand, opposition is generally expressed to sending military units to Ukraine that would take part in the fighting (54% against, 30% approving of such action). The youngest respondents have different opinions from the general population. Among them, the approval of direct military involvement in the war in Ukraine prevails (51% for, 37% against).

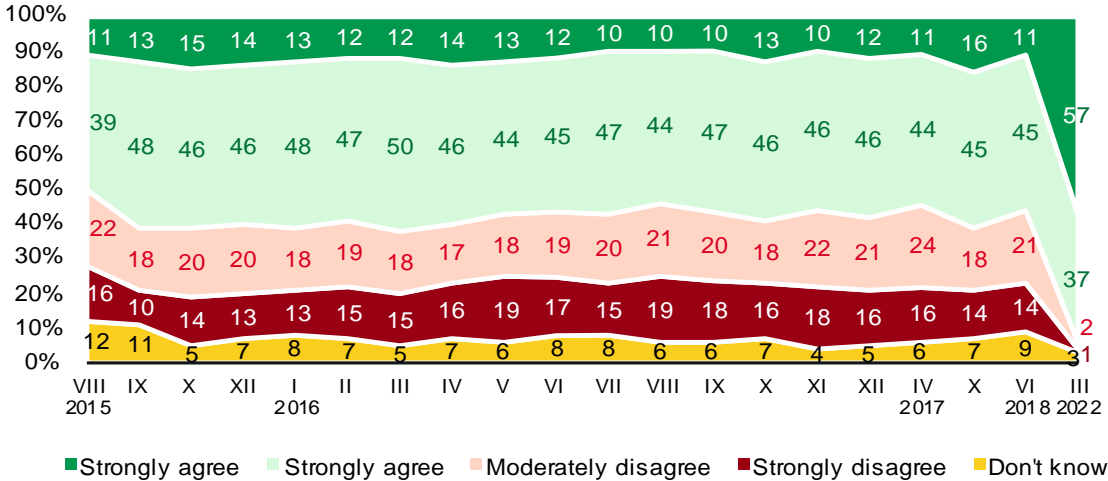
Do you support the following actions by the international community in the face of the war in Ukraine?



Poles are essentially unanimous about accepting refugees from Ukraine. The belief that our country should accept them is expressed by over nine out of ten respondents (94%), including almost three fifths (57%) categorically agreeing. Only three out of a hundred respondents (3%) are of the opposite opinion.

The attitude towards admitting asylum seekers from Ukraine has never been so unequivocally positive as it is today. Support for the acceptance by Poland of refugees from Ukraine prevails in all analysed socio-demographic and ideological groups.

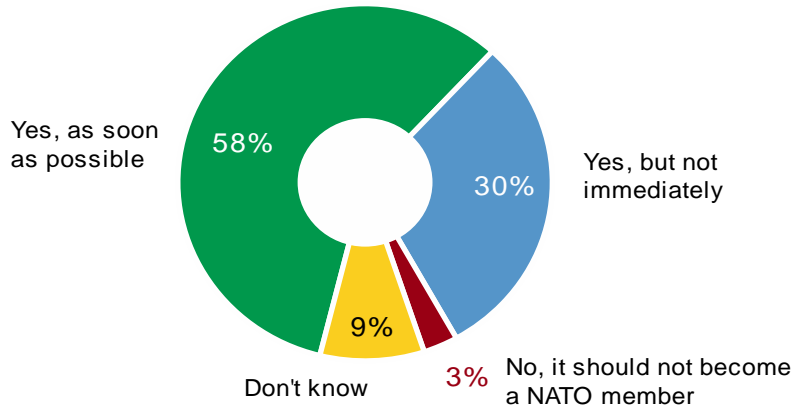
Do you agree that Poland should accept Ukrainian refugees from the areas affected by the conflict?



With the war in Ukraine, the question of Ukraine's pro-Western aspirations returned to the public debate: joining NATO and joining the European Union.

In the past, Poland and Poles supported Ukraine's efforts to join the North Atlantic Alliance. In the study in April 2008, conducted shortly after the NATO summit at which the President of the United States, George W. Bush, proposed opening NATO to Ukraine, a total of 67% of respondents supported the idea that Ukraine should cooperate with NATO and then become a member of the alliance. Support for Ukraine's accession to NATO is now widespread in Poland, with 58% of respondents believing that the country should be admitted to the Alliance as soon as possible, and 30% believing that there is no rush to do so.

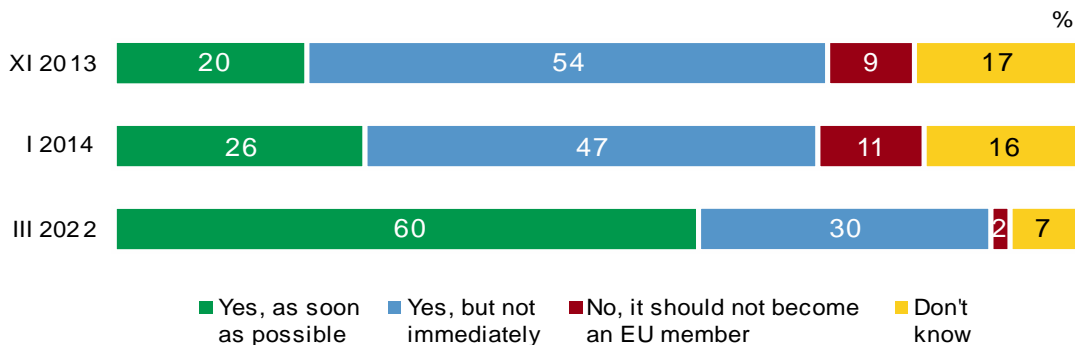
Do you think that Ukraine should become a NATO member in the future?



The belief that Ukraine should join NATO in the short or long term prevails in all socio-demographic groups. This issue does not raise major political controversies, either: Ukraine's admission to the North Atlantic Alliance, preferably sooner rather than later, is supported from the left to the right by supporters of all political groups currently enjoying the greatest popularity.

Poles also widely express their support for Ukraine's membership in the European Union: 60% support quick accession, and 30% believe that there is no need to rush it. This signifies a big shift in the opinions on the possible accession of Ukraine to the European Union. In November 2013, before the planned association agreement between the EU and Ukraine, and in January 2014, when Viktor Yanukovich resigned from signing it, the support of Poles for Ukraine's membership in the European Union was not only lower than it is now, but also expressed much weaker.

Do you think that Ukraine should become a member of the European Union in the future?



The possibility of Ukraine joining the European Union, as well as its possible membership in NATO, do not cause much controversy in Polish society. Ukraine's membership in the European Union is supported by people of different political orientations and party sympathies.

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Poles on Russian Invasion of Ukraine", March 2022. Fieldwork for national sample: March 2022, N=1078. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.