



Central European
Digital Media
Observatory



CEDMO Trends: How Would You Like the Conflict in Ukraine to End?

Coffee Beans



MEDIAN

The conflict in Ukraine has been an ongoing concern in both domestic and international affairs for over a year now. The latest insights from longitudinal panel design CEDMO Trends have revealed how the Czechs perceive the conflict. The survey sheds light on the impact of different political values on the perception of the conflict and the general concerns of the Czech population.

How would you like the conflict in Ukraine to end?

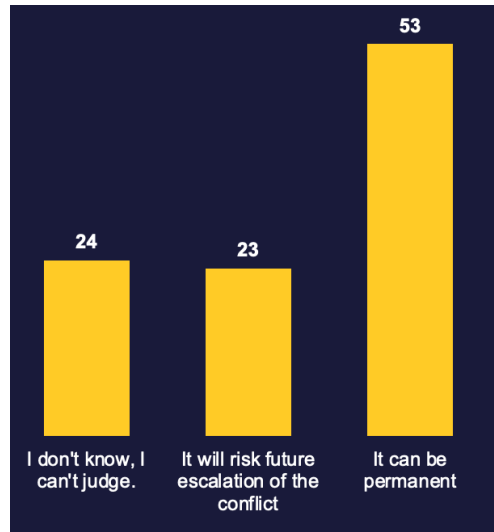


The survey shows a clear preference for the Ukrainian victory, with 42.7% of respondents wanting to see a conclusive victory for Ukraine and another 14.5% preferring a victory for Ukraine. The support is highest among the younger population (under 24) and university-educated population, as well as respondents from Prague and the Central Bohemian Region. This suggests a divide in perceptions of the conflict between generations, urban and rural areas and different education levels of the Czech population. However, only a small percentage of respondents (3.2%) want a definite victory for Russia, indicating that support for the Russian side is generally low.

On the other hand, it is feasible that a significant portion of the population is tired of the conflict and its consequences, with 27.2% of respondents wanting temporary peace without either side prevailing. This

view was more prevalent among women, who also appeared to be generally less decisive in their preference for Ukraine's victory.

Do you think that such a temporary peace can be permanent or will it risk a future escalation of the conflict?



Opinions were divided on whether a temporary peace could be permanent, with 53% being optimistic about the potential for a long-term resolution and 23% concerned about the sustainability of a temporary peace. Nearly a quarter of respondents were unsure, suggesting that the conflict is too complex and unpredictable for many in the Czech Republic.

The survey has also shown that political values play a crucial role in forming opinions on the conflict. Liberal and right-wing voters overwhelmingly prefer a victory for Ukraine (74.9% and 75.6%, respectively). Conservatives and left-wing voters are still supportive, although to a lesser extent (54% and 47.1%, respectively). Furthermore, left-wing voters are significantly more likely than right-wing voters to wish for temporary peace without the victory of one party.

One factor shaping perceptions of the war could be anti-western sentiments. Parties like KSČM, SPD, and TSS have been vocal in their criticisms of the EU and NATO, and some have expressed an understanding of the Russian geopolitical narrative. Indeed, the survey found that a significant number of respondents who voted for these parties expressed a desire for a Russian victory. Additionally, supporters of KSČM and SPD were more likely to favour a temporary peace without either side achieving victory.

In contrast, the vast majority (over 80%) of voters of Petr Pavel, SPOLU – ODS, KDU-ČSL, TOP 09, and PIRÁTI a STAROSTOVÉ, express support for Ukraine's victory. Notably, there appears to be a connection between Petr Pavel's voters (in the last presidential elections) and their preference for Ukraine's victory, potentially due to Pavel's background in NATO.

The survey also shows that the main concern for the Czech population is that the conflict will continue for many years, followed by concerns about Chinese involvement and the destabilisation of political

systems in Central and Eastern Europe, including the Czech Republic. Voters of SPD are particularly worried about the destabilisation effects of the conflict. People are least concerned about Ukraine taking the war to the Russian territory or Russia conquering the entire Ukrainian territory. A significant number of people (29.4%) responded they were unsure whether Ukraine would try to liberate Crimea.

Based on the survey results, it can be concluded that political values, urbanisation, age, and education all have an impact on how people perceive the conflict in Ukraine. The survey also indicates that the primary concern for people is when the conflict will end, which may be influenced by the fact that the conflict has been ongoing for over a year. Nevertheless, the survey shows that a majority of Czechs support the Ukrainian side in the conflict.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Sample size: 3 036 respondents aged 16 or older

Survey date: March 15-27, 2023

Survey method: quota sampling, online panel interview (CAWI)

Representativity: the survey is representative of the general population of the Czech Republic aged 16 years and older according to basic socio-demographic variables (gender, age, education, region and size of place of residence), according to employment status and past electoral behaviour (elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic in 2021, second round of the presidential elections 2023)

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