



Central European
Digital Media
Observatory



One Third of Czechs are Content with the Functioning of Democracy

Coffee Beans



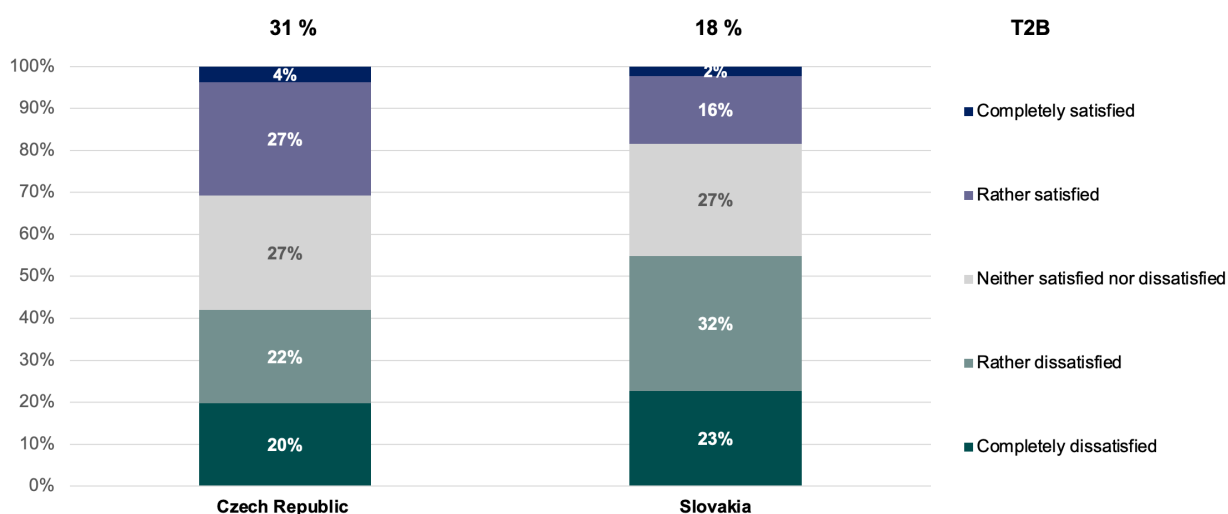
31% of the Czech population is satisfied with the state of democracy in the Czech Republic. Only 18% feel that elected representatives listen to what ordinary people think. This was shown in a survey conducted by Ipsos in cooperation with the Central European Digital Media Observatory (CEDMO) on a representative sample of the Czech population over the age of 18.

The research, which was carried out in parallel in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, covered several topics. In addition to satisfaction with the state of democracy in both countries, the respondents were asked about the perception of the information war waged by the Russian Federation, and the plausibility of several disinformation narratives currently present in the public space of both countries.

Satisfaction with the functioning of democracy is significantly lower in Slovakia

In the Czech Republic, 31% of the population is satisfied with the functioning of democracy, 42% is dissatisfied, and another 27% say that they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. In Slovakia, however, the figures differ significantly. While only 18% of the population is satisfied, dissatisfaction prevails among more than half of the population, namely 55%. Education is a key factor in both countries. People with university degrees are generally more satisfied, while in the Czech Republic there are also clearer differences between generations. People under 44 are more satisfied with the functioning of democracy than older generations.

Question: How satisfied are you with the functioning of democracy in the Czech Republic/Slovakia?

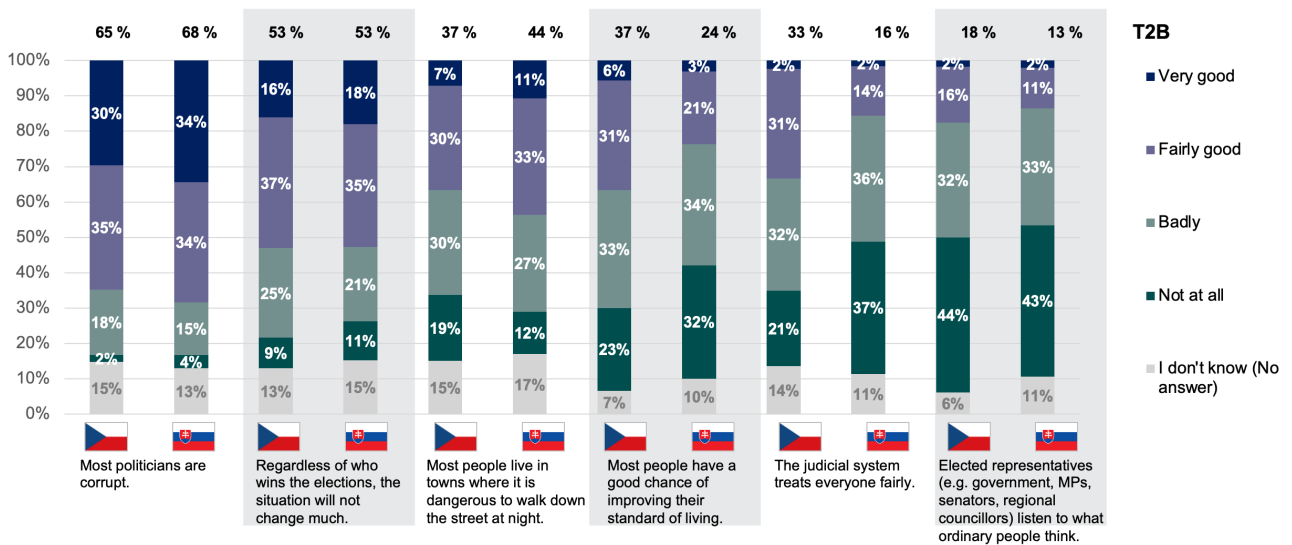


Neglecting ordinary people and the perceived impact of elections

The survey included a set of questions about the functioning of the democratic system and the role of society. Only 18% of Czechs feel that elected representatives listen to what ordinary people think. 53% agree that no matter who wins the election, not much will change. A third of the population thinks that the judicial system treats everyone fairly. In Slovakia, most statements about the state of democracy were rated skeptically by the population than in the Czech Republic.

"As Ipsos, we regularly monitor the political climate in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and these different results align with long-term trends. In Slovakia, we observe a generally greater scepticism towards the functioning of democracy, which is often reinforced by the strong position of anti-system parties or parties that question the geopolitical orientation of Slovakia and often publicly repeat current pro-Russian narratives. The situation is not helped by the great political instability and fragmentation of the parties," says Michal Kormaňák of Ipsos.

Question: To what extent do you think the following statements describe the situation in the Czech Republic?

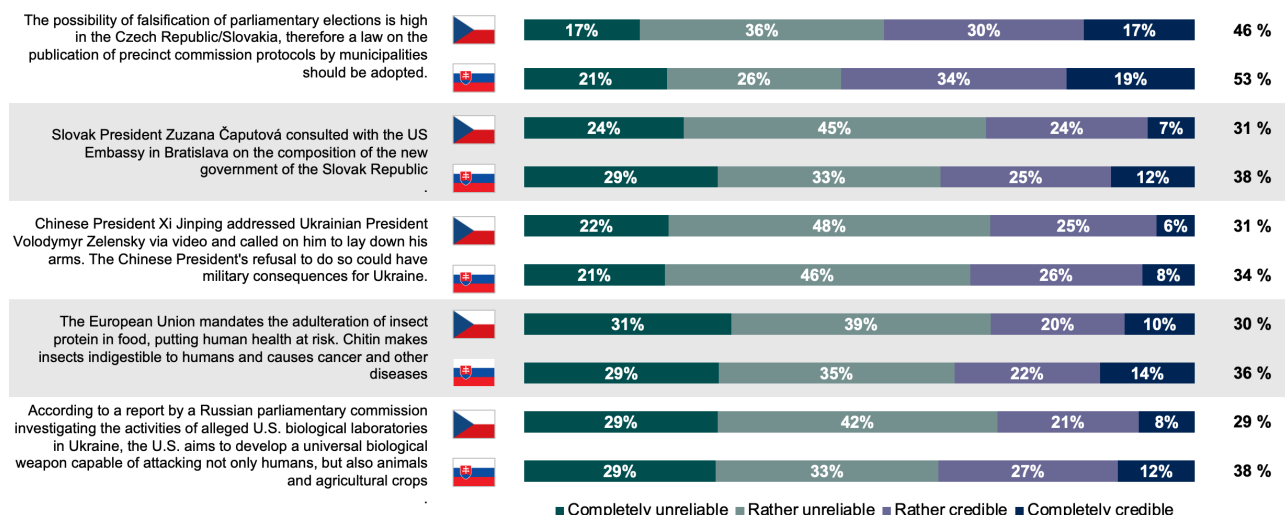


More than half of Slovaks admit the possibility of election fraud

53% of Slovaks and 46% of Czechs agree with the statement that the possibility of rigging parliamentary elections is high in the Czech Republic/Slovakia, which is why a law should be adopted on the publication of precinct commission protocols by municipalities. 38% of Slovaks believe that President Zuzana Čaputová consulted the composition of the new caretaker government with the US Embassy in Bratislava. A similar percentage in both countries finds credible the statement that Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky via video and called on him to

lay down arms and that the rejection of the Chinese president's call may have military consequences for Ukraine. In the Czech Republic, 31% of the population found this statement credible, followed by 34% in Slovakia.

Question: To what extent do you consider the following reports to be unreliable or credible?



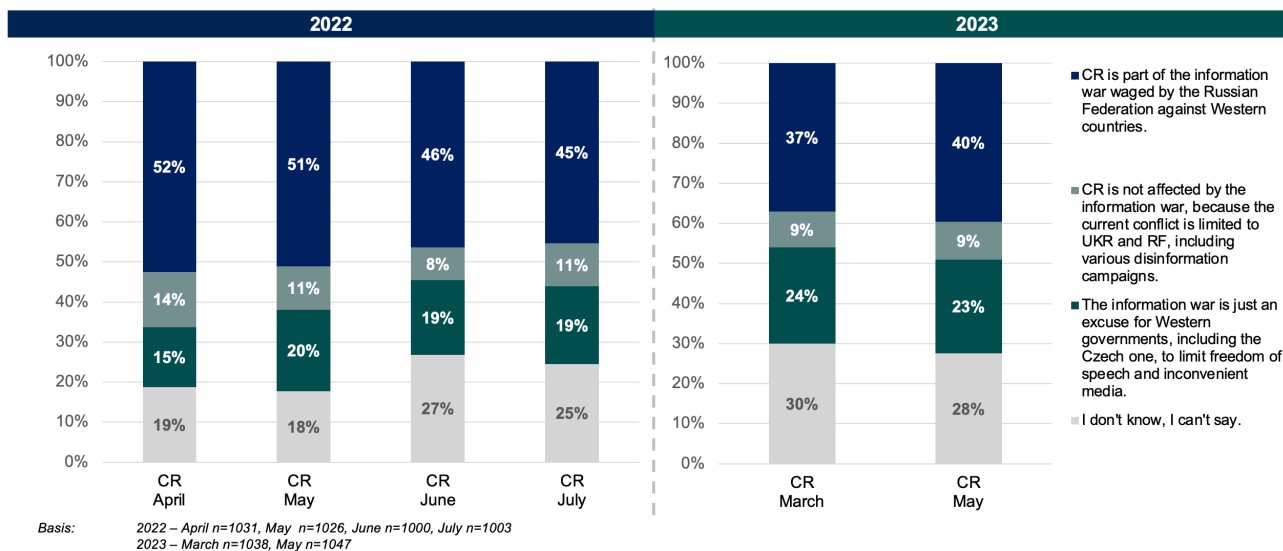
"In the Czech Republic, approximately one-third of the population usually considers various disinformation narratives true. In Slovakia, the numbers are even slightly higher, and often the current disinformation narratives relate to the political situation in the country. There is a great fear among the people about the possibility of election fraud, which may be a deliberate tactic of some parties to make the elections less credible in case of failure", says Václav Moravec, coordinator of the CEDMO research consortium from Charles University.

4 out of 10 Czechs think we are in an information war

In the Czech Republic, 40% of the population agrees with the statement that the Czech Republic is part of the information war waged by the Russian Federation against Western countries. This figure is similar to the previous wave of the survey conducted in March this year but is still lower than in the previous spring. 23% of the population believes that the information war is just a pretext for Western governments to restrict the freedom of speech and curb inconvenient media; 28% have no opinion or cannot judge.

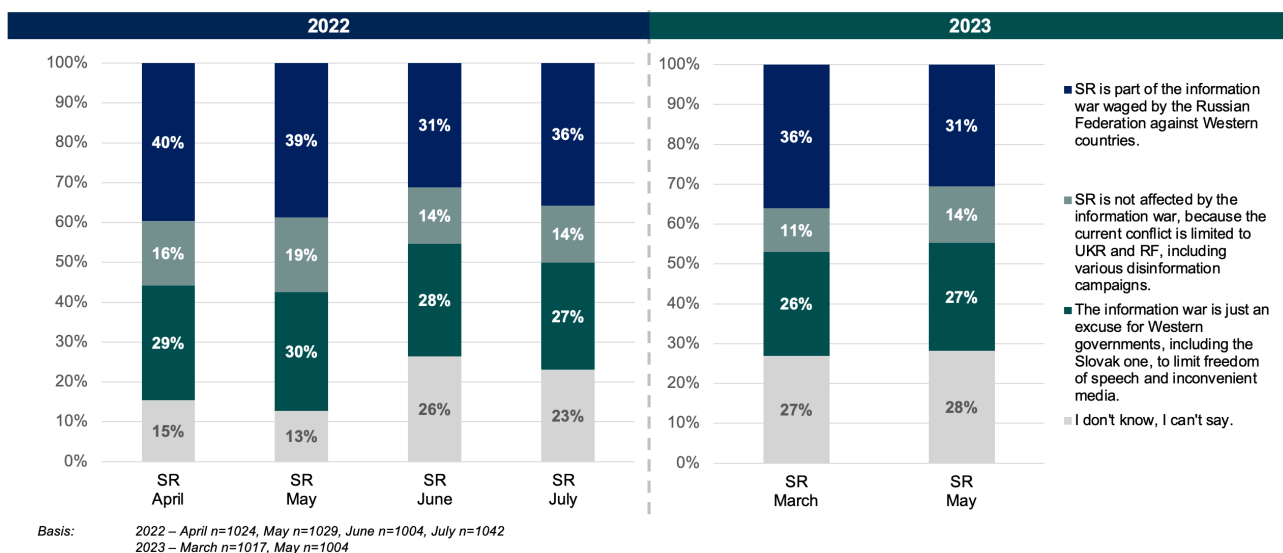
Voters of the current government parties, but also voters of the Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD), think that the Czech Republic is part of the information war waged by Russia. On the contrary, as many as 6 out of 10 SPD voters see the information war only as a pretext for Western governments. Voters of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSČM) and less educated voters more often agree with this opinion.

Question: Which of the following statements best describes your view of the war in Ukraine and its impact on the Czech Republic?



The results for Slovakia are also different on this issue. Only 31% of Slovaks think Slovakia is part of the information war waged by the Russian Federation against Western countries. In comparison, 27% agree with the statement about the Western governments' pretext to restrict freedom of speech and curb inconvenient media. Similarly to the Czech Republic, 28% of the Slovak population has no clear opinion on this issue.

Question: Which of the following statements best describes your view of the war in Ukraine and its impact on Slovakia?



INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURVEY

The research was carried out 11.5.-16.5.2023 on a representative sample of the population of the Czech Republic aged 18 years and older and 16.5.-19.5.2023 on a representative sample of the population of the Slovak Republic aged 18 years and older.

A total of 1047 respondents in the Czech Republic and 1004 respondents in Slovakia participated. The data collection tool was Ipsos online panels Populace.cz and Populacia.sk.

The research was carried out in cooperation with the Central European Digital Media Observatory (CEDMO).

