



Central European  
Digital Media  
Observatory



# Czechs and Slovaks Struggle to Determine the Veracity of Information About the Energy Crisis and the War in Ukraine

Coffee Beans



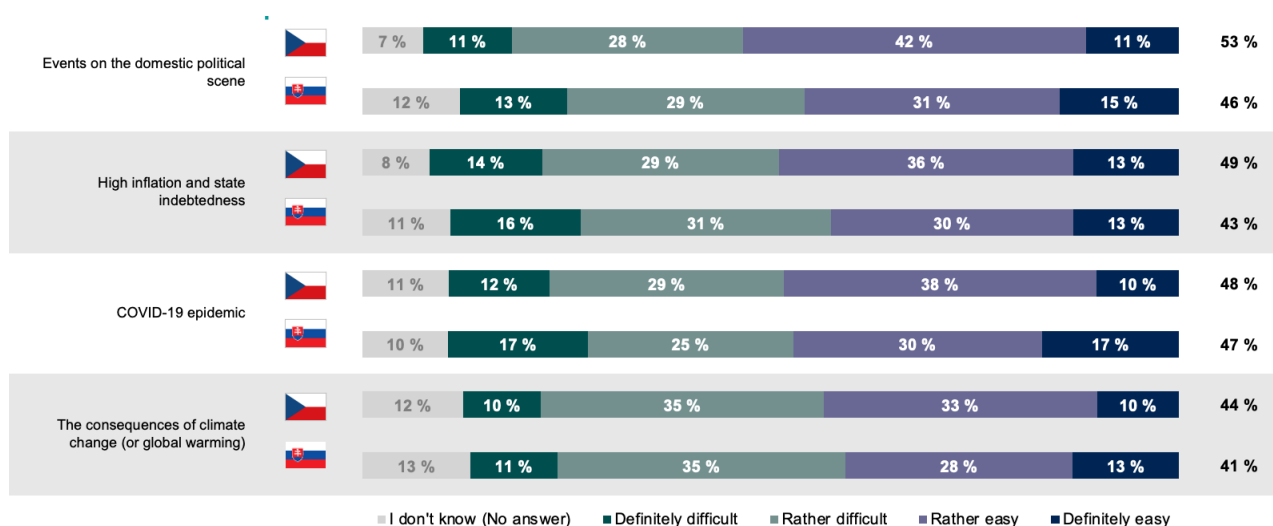
Almost half of both Czechs and Slovaks say that it is difficult for them to determine the accuracy of information about the energy crisis, the war in Ukraine or the European Commission's policy on the future of the automotive industry. 71% of Czechs identified Slovakia as a country that should be a very close and important partner of the Czech Republic. In Slovakia, the Czech Republic was chosen by 70% of the population.

## Determining Information Veracity

The research, which was carried out in parallel in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, mapped the degree of determining the truthfulness of information and attitudes towards selected countries and international institutions.

While it is easiest for the inhabitants of both countries to determine the veracity of information concerning high inflation and state indebtedness (49% Czech Republic, 43% Slovakia), the Covid 19 epidemic (48% Czech Republic, 47% Slovakia) or events on the domestic political scene (53% Czech Republic, 46% Slovakia), the found it difficult to determine the veracity of news about the energy crisis (43% CR, 36% SR), the war in Ukraine (42% CR, 37% SR) or the veracity of news about the European Commission's policy on the future of the automotive industry (35% CR, 34% SR).

**Question: When news/information reaches you about the following topics, how difficult do you find it to determine how true you think they are?**

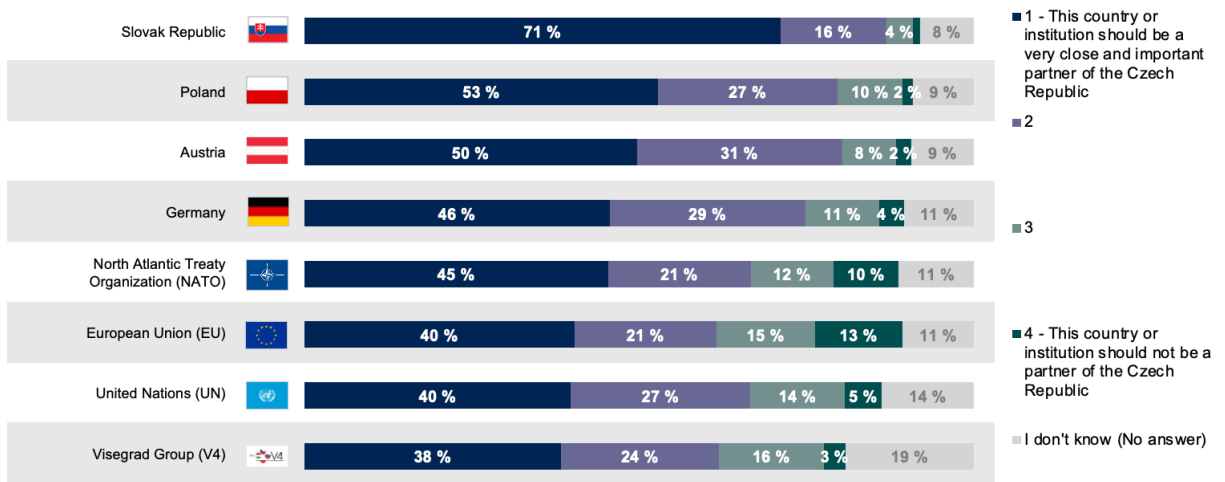


## Who should be the closest partner of the Czech Republic and Slovakia

According to Czechs, Czech Republic's closest partners should be mainly neighbouring countries, followed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union.

Half of the population thinks the Russian Federation should not be a partner of the Czech Republic. The Eurasian Economic Union (39%) and China (23%) are also among the rejected states and international institutions.

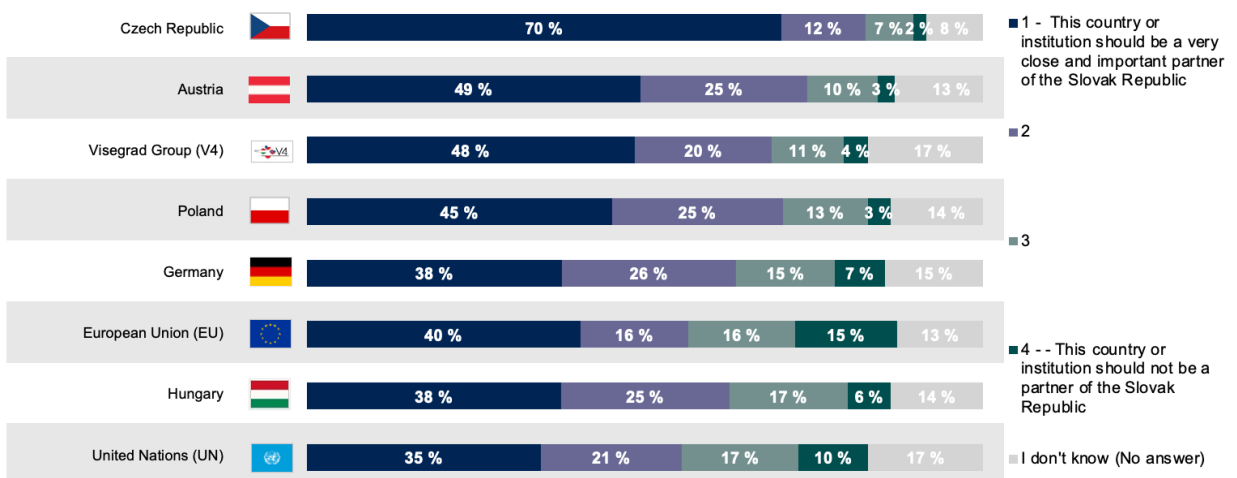
**Question: To what extent do you think the following countries and international institutions should be the Czech Republic's closest partners?**



Slovaks primarily refer to the Czech Republic as a desired close and important partner of the Slovak Republic, in the same way the Czechs refer to the Slovak Republic. Almost half of the population then mentions Austria or the Visegrad Group as a very close and important partner. Poland was chosen by 45%, and Hungary would be welcomed as a close partner by 38% of respondents.

On the contrary, almost a third of Slovak citizens say that the country or international institution that should not be a partner is the Russian Federation. There is also a lower willingness to partner with the Eurasian Economic Union (27%), the United States of America (27%) or, for example, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (19%).

**Question: To what extent do you think the following countries and international institutions should be the Slovak Republic's closest partners?**



## **ABOUT THE SURVEY**

*The research was carried out between 16 May and 16 June 2023 on a representative sample of the internet population of the Czech Republic and Slovakia over 18 . A total of 1,047 respondents in the Czech Republic and 1,004 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).*

