

SUMMARY
OF THE FINDINGS
OF NATIONAL
SURVEY

ATTITUDES OF UKRAINIANS TO ISSUES RELATED TO OVERCOMING NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ARMED CONFLICT IN UKRAINE





ЦЕНТР ПРАВ ЛЮДИНИ



ПРЕДСТАВНИЦТВО
ПРЕЗИДЕНТА УКРАЇНИ
В АВТОНОМНІЙ
РЕСПУБЛІЦІ КРИМ



The survey was conducted from March to April 2021 by Kharkiv Institute for Social Research in cooperation with ZMINA Human Rights Centre with the support of the Representation of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. It was commissioned by the Human Rights for Ukraine project, implemented by UNDP in Ukraine and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

METHODOLOGY

The sample size is 10,000 respondents. The sample is disproportionately stratified by regions of Ukraine – 400 respondents were interviewed in each oblast and the city of Kyiv^{1,2}. By type of construction, the sample is three-stage, combined, it is probabilistic at the stage of selection of settlements and range starting addresses for the survey routes and with quota screening at the stage of selection of respondents in households. In general, the sample represents the adult population of Ukraine (aged 18 and older). The statistical error with a probability of 0.95 does not exceed 1% for Ukraine as a whole and 5% for each individual oblast of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv³.

- 10,000 respondents were interviewed, of whom 45.2% were men and 54.8% were women.
- The age distribution is as follows: aged 18-29 – 16.1% of respondents; 30-44 years – 29.3%; 45-59 years – 25.4%, and 60 years and older – 29.2%.
- 40.6% of respondents reside in small towns, villages and settlements, every fourth person lives in a city in the region (25.7%), and a third of respondents (33.7%) live in regional centres.
- Slightly less than half of the respondents speak only Ukrainian (44.8%). Every third respondent uses both Ukrainian and Russian in everyday communication (32.1%). 22.8% of the survey participants speak only Russian.
- The vast majority of Ukrainians (65.4%) indicated that the armed conflict and occupation did not affect them personally or their family members. At the same time, every fourth citizen (25.6%) in the country has family members or acquaintances who were forced to leave the territories affected by the conflict. 4.3% of respondents became displaced persons themselves, and 5.5% took part in hostilities. In 4.4% respondents, the conflict took someone close to them.

1 The survey was conducted throughout Ukraine, with the exception of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, not-Government-controlled territories of Ukraine in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The text uses Crimea means the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

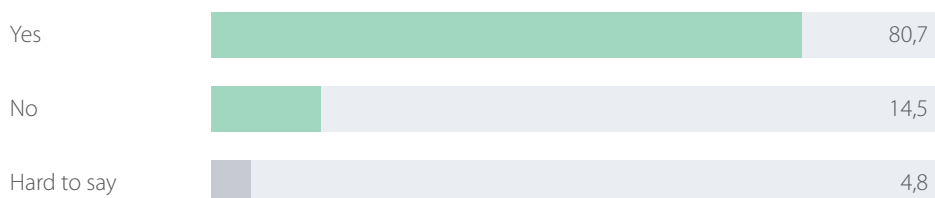
2 Non-government control area (NGCA) means separate districts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts that are temporarily not controlled by the Government of Ukraine.

3 Theoretical error without taking into account the sampling design effect.

ATTITUDES TO THE CONFLICT AND THE WAYS TO SOLVE IT

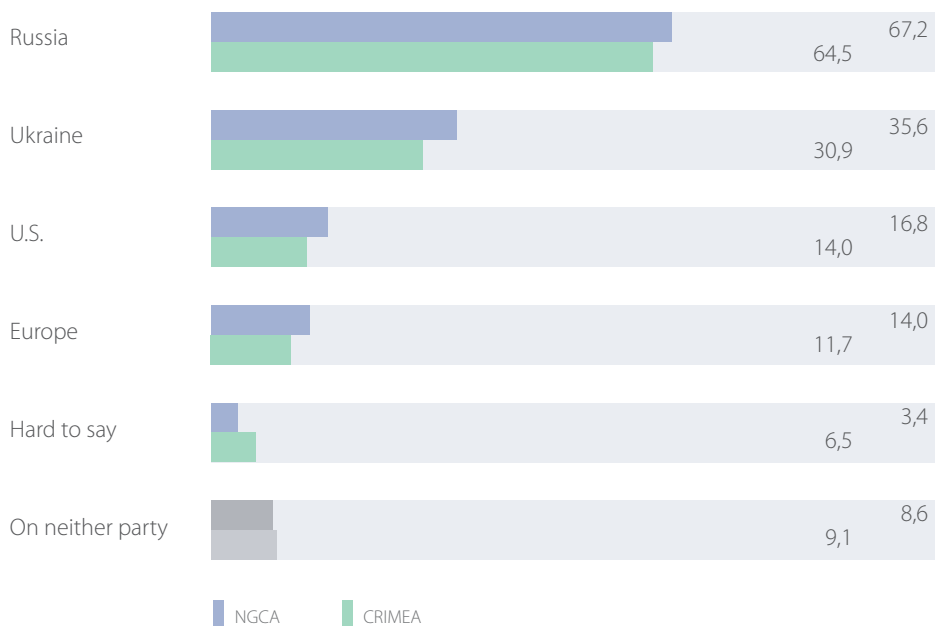
The vast majority of respondents (more than 80%) believe that Ukraine is in an armed conflict with Russia, but some respondents do not agree with this statement (14.5%), and another 4.8% are hesitant to answer. At the same time, most respondents consider that both the occupation of Crimea and the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are parts of one armed conflict with Russia (72.3% totally agree and another 12.2% rather agree with this statement).

DO YOU THINK THAT THERE
IS AN ARMED CONFLICT
WITH THE RUSSIA
ON THE TERRITORY
OF UKRAINE? (%)



The majority of Ukrainians (67.2% in relation to NGCA and 64.5% in relation to Crimea) believe that the end of the conflict will primarily depend on Russia and its position. About a third indicate that the conflict should be resolved by Ukraine (35.6% for NGCA and 30.9% for Crimea). Significantly fewer rely on the efforts of European countries (14.0% for NGCA and 11.7% for Crimea) and the United States (16.8% and 14.0% respectively).

IN YOUR OPINION,
ON WHOM DEPENDS
THE SOLUTION OF
THE ARMED CONFLICT
IN NGCA/CRIMEA? (%)
(multiple options can be
selected)

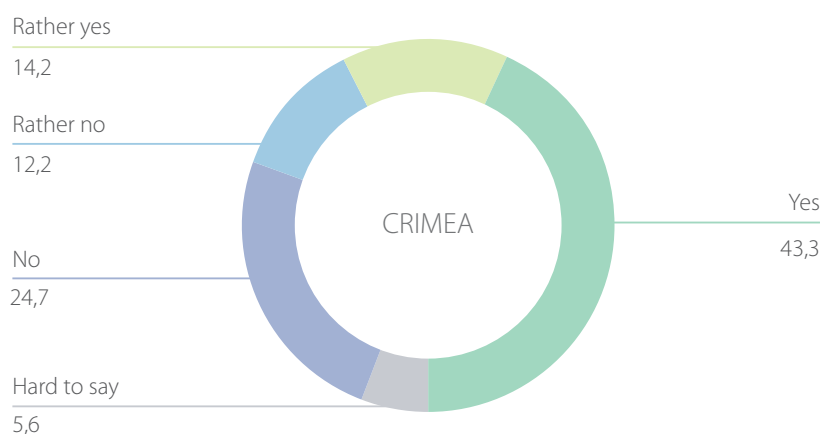
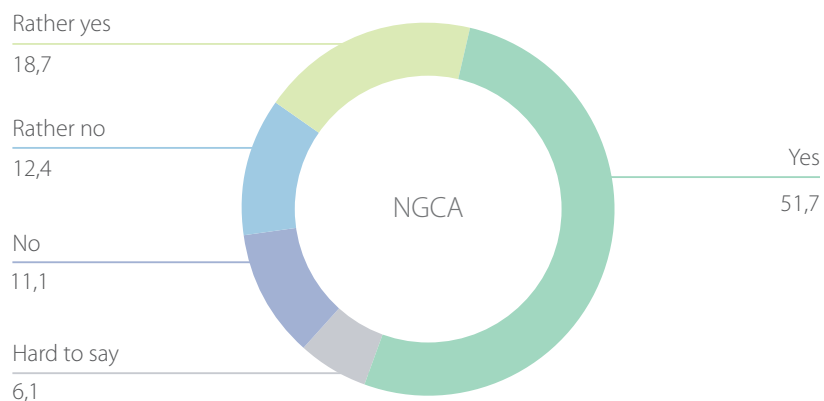


More than a half of the respondents (54.0%) indicate that Ukraine should not agree to compromises in order to end the armed conflict in NGCA. At the same time, among the possible compromises, the respondents noted:

- granting NGCA autonomy within Ukraine (13.0%)
- granting NGCA extended economic powers within Ukraine (9.2%);
- granting Russian the status of the second national language (8.5%);
- granting independence to the so-called “LPR” and “DPR” (5.0%);
- amnesty for all those who served in illegal armed groups in the occupied Crimea and/or NGCA (4.8%);
- Ukraine’s refusal to join NATO (4.1%);
- rejection of the European integration course of Ukraine (2.8%);
- recognizing Crimea as the territory of the Russian Federation (2.2%).

The return of NGCA under Ukraine’s control is believed to be a real possibility by 70.4% of respondents (23.5% are sceptical). Regarding the prospects for the re- turn of Crimea, 57.5% believe that such a return is possible, and 36.9% consider Crimea lost to Ukraine.

DO YOU BELIEVE
THE RETURN OF NGCA/
CRIMEA UNDER UKRAINE'S
CONTROL IS POSSIBLE? (%)
(only one answer to each line
is possible)

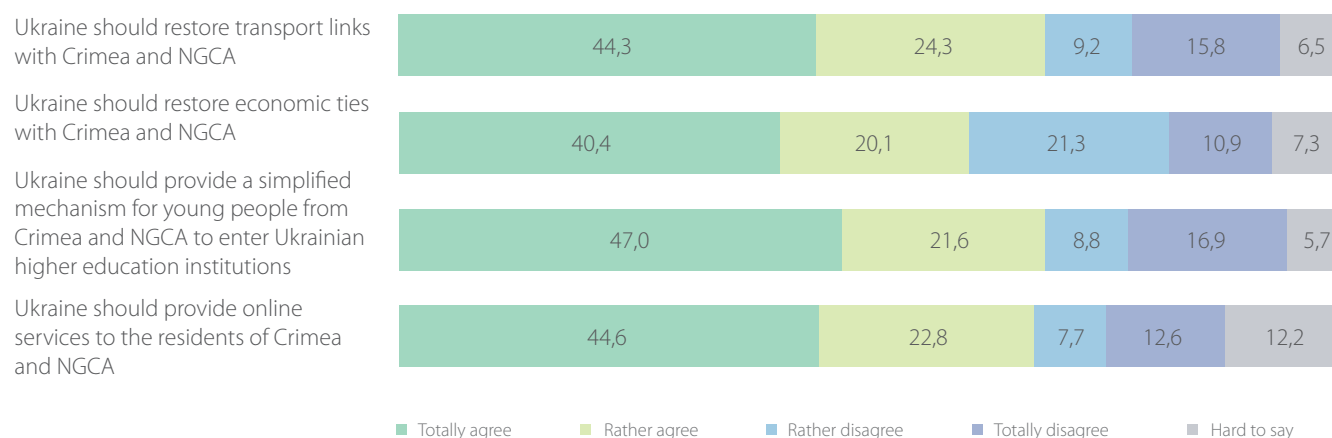


ATTITUDES TO THE SITUATION ON THE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED AND NON-GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED TERRITORIES

A significant percentage of respondents (46.6%) consider the residents of NGCA and Crimea to be victims of the conflict and believe that they need full support from Ukraine. The majority of respondents (72.4%) believe that it is necessary to ensure maximum access to public services for residents of NGCA and Crimea and to create conditions for maintaining ties and communication with the government-controlled territories of Ukraine. However, 12.9% of Ukrainians do not agree that resources should be allocated to maintaining ties with the residents of NGCA and Crimea, and 24.6% of respondents agree that the residents of Crimea and NGCA remained living in non-Government-controlled territories of Ukraine by their own decision and, therefore, Ukraine should not support them.

ATTITUDES OF RESPONDENTS TO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS (%)

(only one answer to each line is possible)



SHOULD UKRAINE RECOGNIZE DOCUMENTS (CERTIFICATES, ETC.) ISSUED IN CRIMEA AND ON NGCA?

The respondents have no unified attitudes to this question:

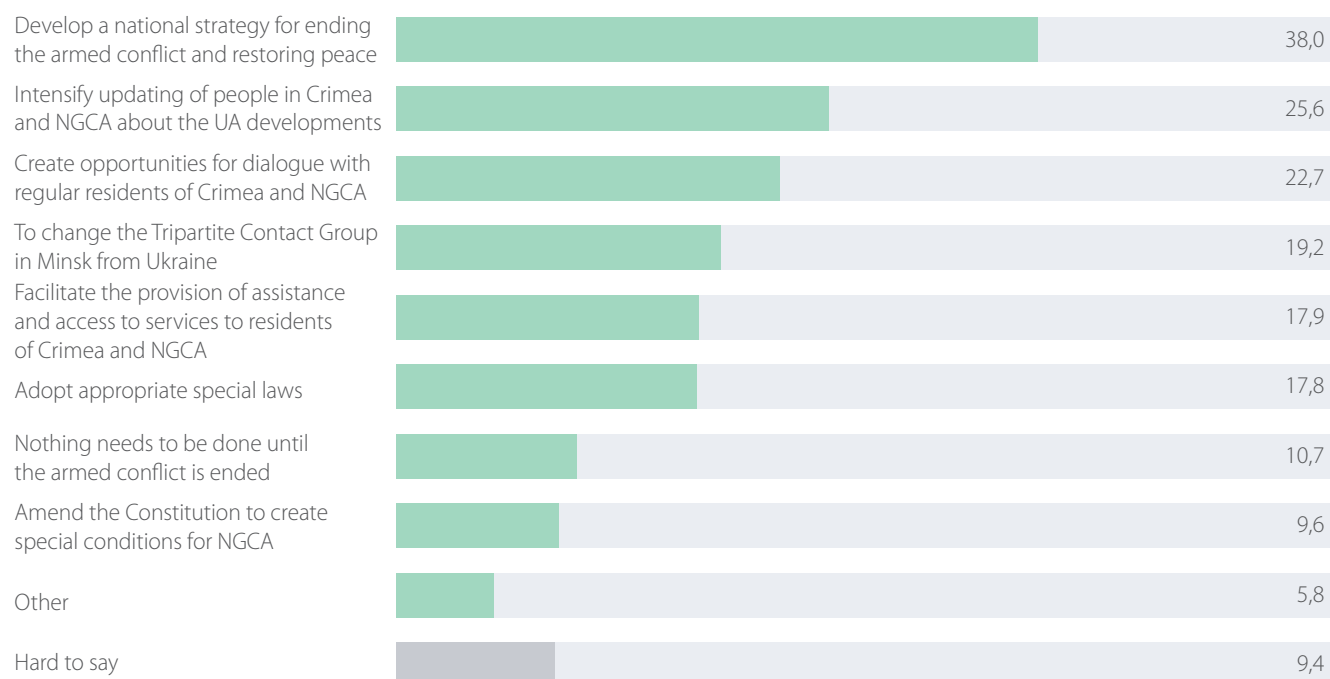
- 24,3% — support the full recognition of documents issued in NGCA and Crimea;
- 21,5% — are ready to agree that it is possible to recognize some of the documents that were issued in NGCA and Crimea;
- 11,5% — can support the recognition of information from such documents and the issuance of relevant Ukrainian documents;
- 35,3% — generally object recognizing documents that were issued in NGCA and Crimea as valid in Ukraine.

ATTITUDES TO THE RESTORATION OF PEACE AND OF THE TERRITORIES

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THAT CAN BE DONE NOW ON THE WAY TO RESTORE PEACE IN UKRAINE? (%)

(multiple options can be selected)

Among the most important steps towards restoring peace in Ukraine, respondents indicated the need to develop a national strategy for ending an armed conflict and restoring peace (38.0%) and intensify updating of people in Crimea and NGCA about the developments in Ukraine (25.6%). Some respondents (22.7%) indicated that it is necessary to create opportunities for dialogue with regular residents of Crimea and NGCA. **According to a large proportion of respondents (74.4%), the President of Ukraine should initiate drafting of a national action plan for the transition from a state of armed conflict to peace.** A much smaller number of respondents expect this from the Cabinet of Ministers (31.0%) and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (34.3%). At the same time, every tenth Ukrainian (10.7%) does not consider it necessary to do something until the end of the armed conflict, and the same number of respondents (9.4%) do not have an opinion on this issue.



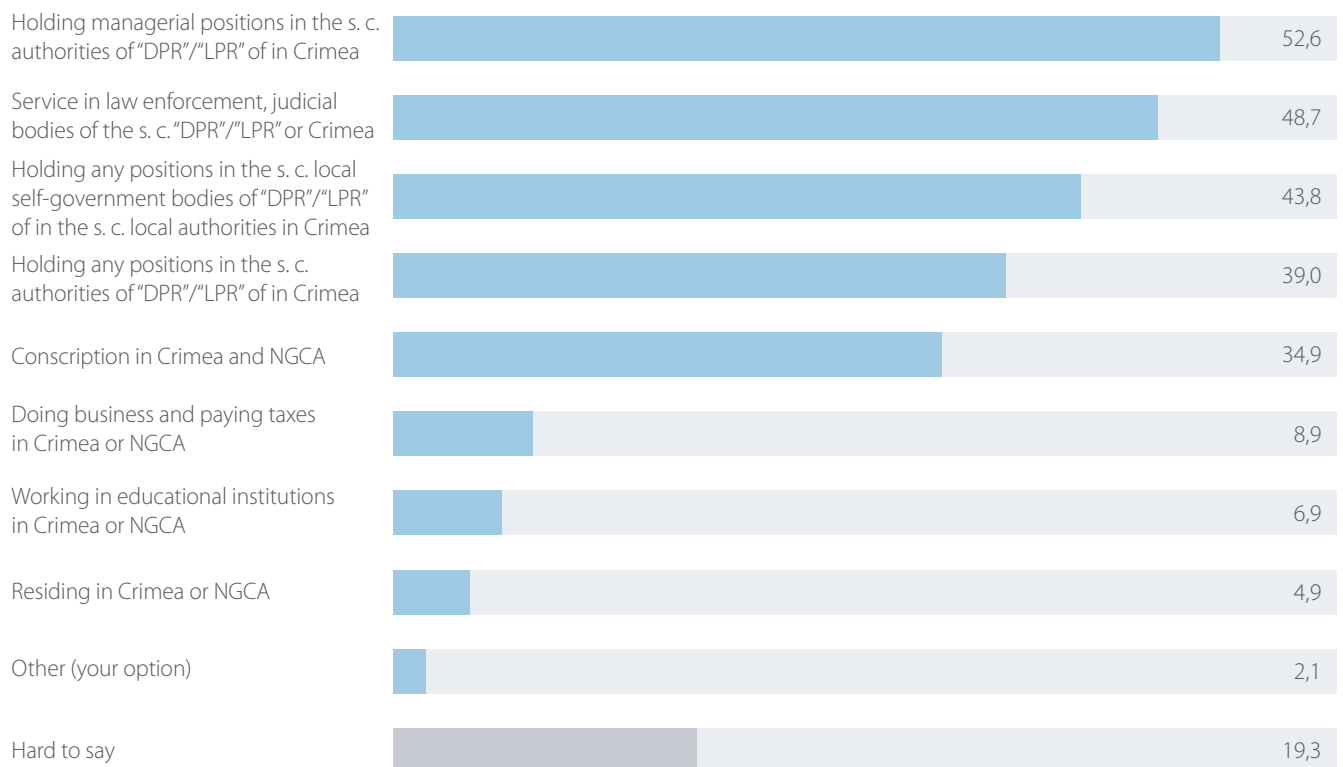
A total of 45.8% of respondents think that NGCA residents acquire Russian citizenship because it "helps people survive in these territories" (47.4% share understanding attitudes to Russian citizenship of Crimean residents, respectively). And 25.6% do not consider it citizenship at all. At the same time, 11.5% of respondents consider Russian citizenship acquired by NGCA residents to be a crime. The attitudes to Russian citizenship acquired in the temporarily occupied Crimea is almost identical – 25.1% are not ready to recognize it as citizenship; 9.9% consider it a crime.

Residing on the temporarily occupied territories, working in educational institutions is not something that the vast majority of Ukrainians condemn, and a half (50.1%) of respondents agree that there should be no restrictions on the rights of residents of NGCA and Crimea after these territories return under the control of Ukraine. Only 9.8% believe that the residents of non-Government-controlled territories should be restricted in their voting rights, and 19.6% believe that those who lived in Crimea and NGCA will have to go through the procedure of confirmation of Ukraine's citizenship.

Cooperation with the occupation administrations in Crimea and NGCA is perceived as a criminal offense by the majority (62.1%) of respondents. Among the most condemned actions are holding managerial positions in the so-called authorities (52.6%), or holding any positions in the local self-government bodies of the so-called "DPR"/"LPR," Crimea (43.8%) and the service in law enforcement, judicial bodies of the so-called "DPR"/"LPR" or Crimea (48.7%). Also, 34.9% are ready to consider conscription in Crimea and NGCA a crime.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT CAN BE CONSIDERED COOPERATION WITH OCCUPATION ADMINISTRATIONS IN CRIMEA AND NGCA THAT SHOULD ENTAIL CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY? (%)

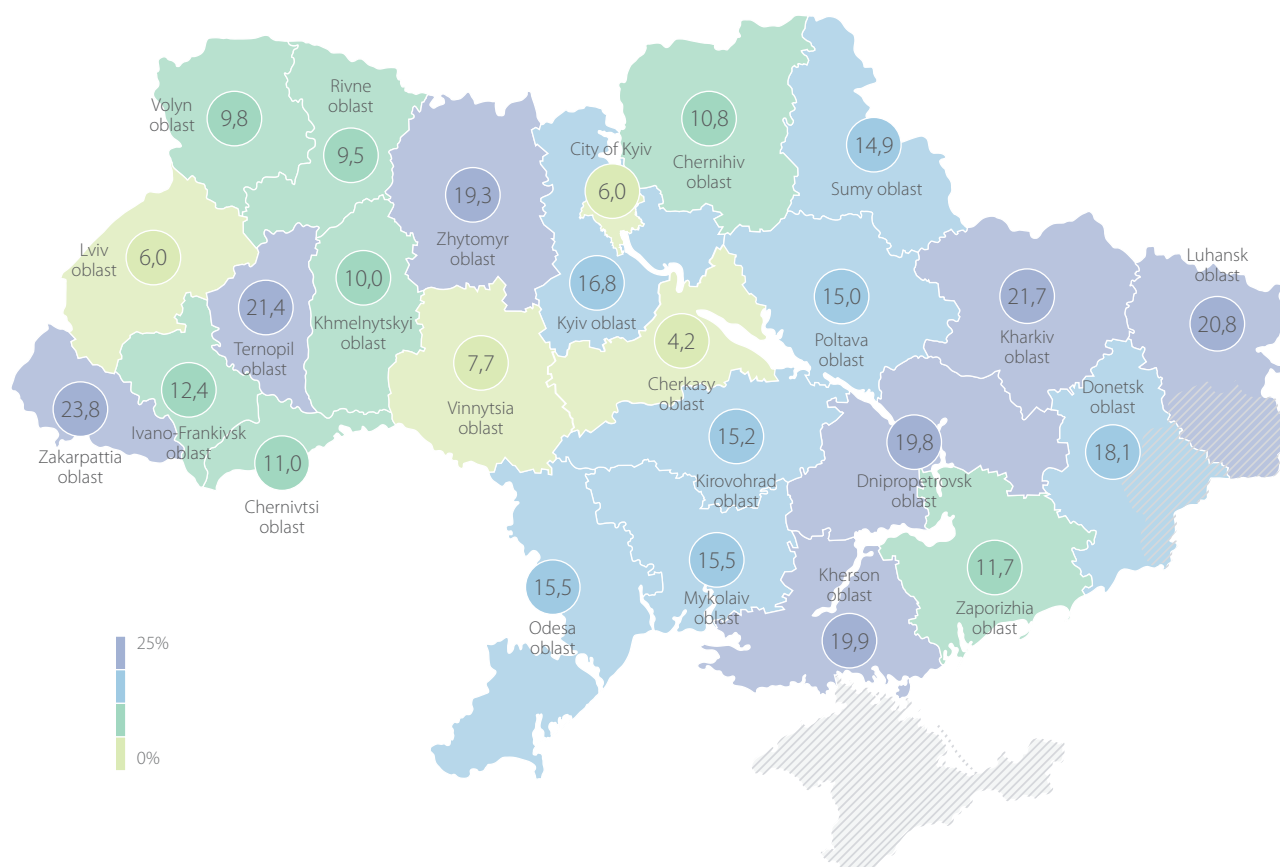
(multiple options can be selected)



SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFLICT AND TRUST TO THEM

PERCENTAGE OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT INTERESTED IN INFORMATION ABOUT CRIMEA AND/OR NGCA AT ALL

Although the vast majority of respondents (69.8%) are somehow interested in information about Crimea and/or NGCA, there is still a significant percentage of those who are not (29.4%). The highest percentage of those who are not interested in information about Crimea and/or NGCA at all reside in Zakarpattia (23.8%), Luhansk (20.8%), Ternopil (21.4%) and Kharkiv (21.7%) oblasts.

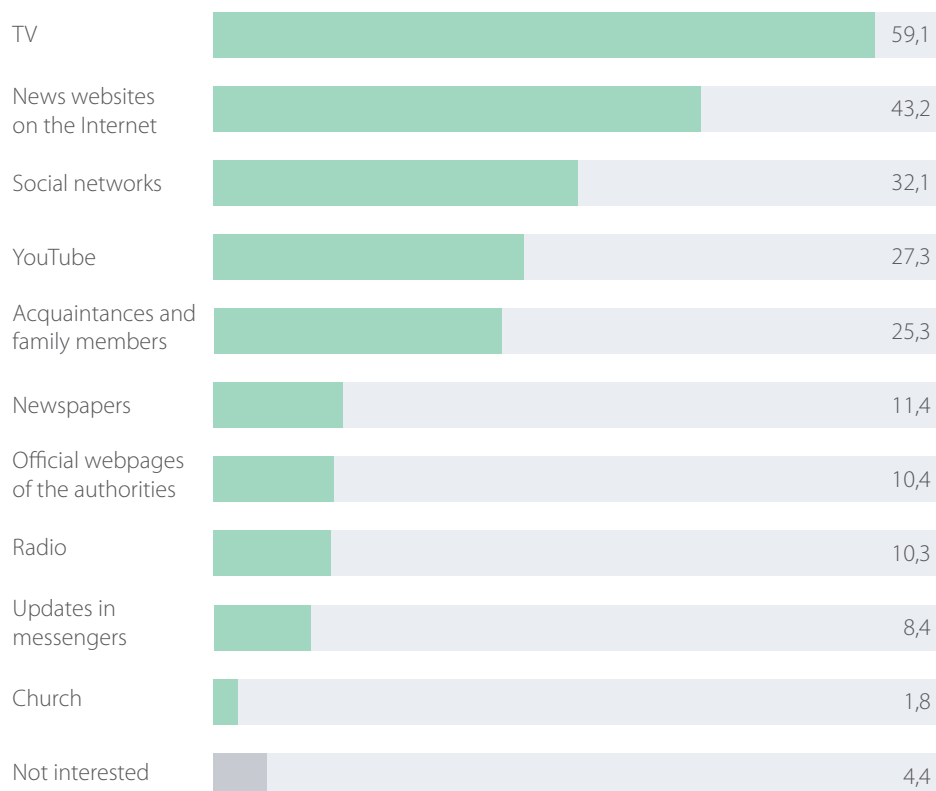


The most demanded information about NGCA and Crimea for the respondents is information about how people live there now (35.6%). Other 32.7% want to know about the plan of Ukrainian authorities to end the armed conflict and restore peaceful life thereafter, and 28.5% want to know about possible consequences of return of the territories under Ukraine's control (including the economic ones). It should also be noted that 31.1% of respondents wanted to know what the people of Ukraine (including in Crimea and NGCA) think about restoring peace. At the same time, certain percentage of respondents (18.6%) do not want to know anything on this topic because they are "not interested".

Television remains a key source of information about NGCA and Crimea for 59.1% of Ukrainians. However, the role of the Internet is growing: 43.2% of respondents receive information from news websites on the Internet; 27.3%, from YouTube; 32.1%, from social networks. Acquaintances and family members (25.3%) are also a source of information for certain respondents.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT NGCA/CRIMEA (%)

(multiple options can be selected)

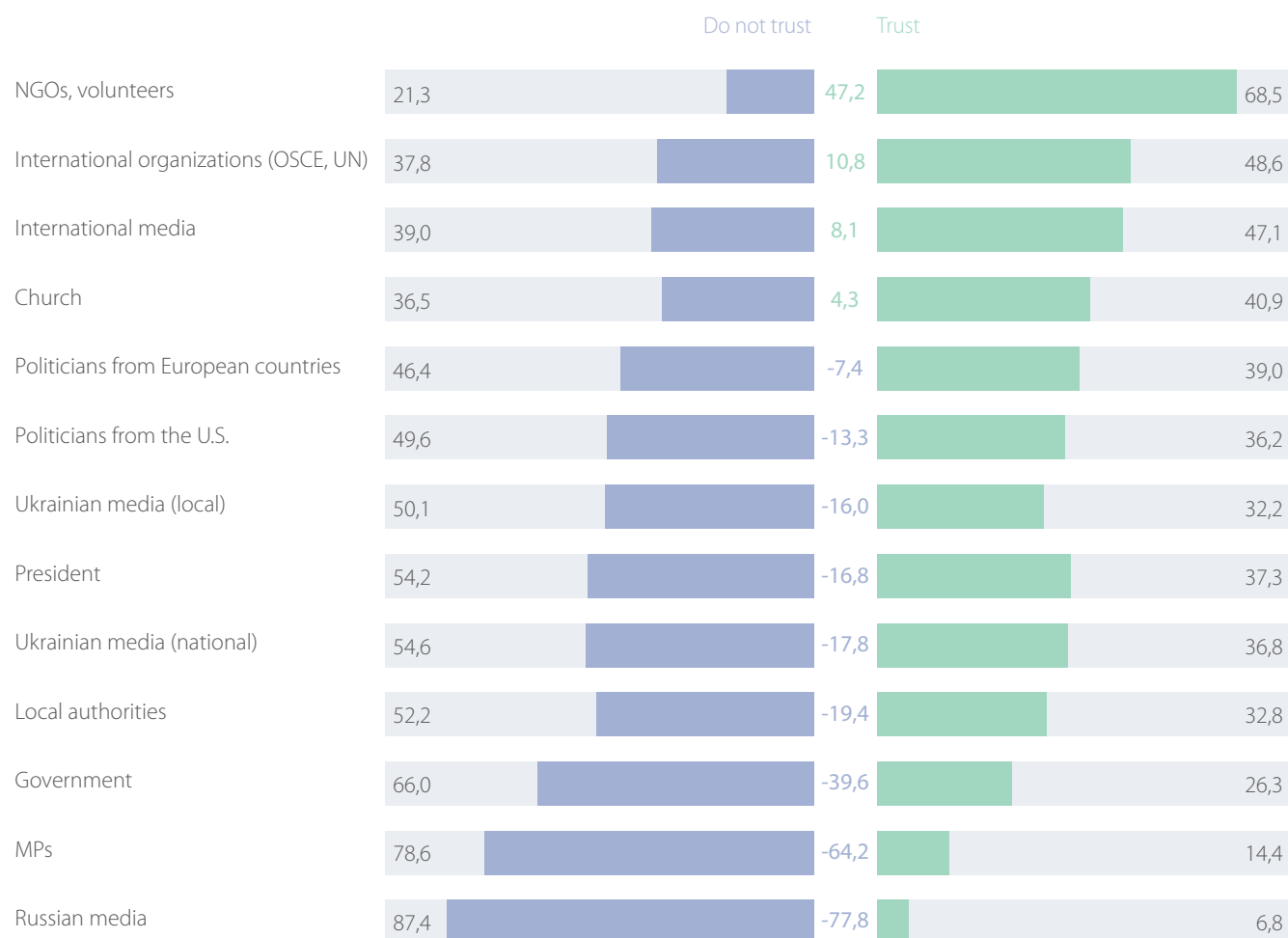


Only 6.8% of Ukrainians trust information about the temporarily occupied territories if it comes from the Russian media. Residents of regions closer to Russia – Donetsk (19.3%), Zaporizhia (11.9%), Luhansk (17.1%) and Kharkiv oblasts (12.5%) – demonstrate more trust to the information about the conflict from the Russian media.

Among this category of respondents, the percentage of those who do not think that the occupation of Crimea and NGCA is taking place nowadays is much lower (22.0%). A significant part of Ukrainian audience of the Russian media considers it impossible to return NGCA (44.5%) and Crimea (66.2%). At the same time, one in four of this category supports local residents in obtaining Russian citizenship in NGCA and Crimea. But even among those who trust the Russian media in terms of information about NGCA, not many are willing to compromise for the sake of peace. Thus, 26.0% support granting the autonomy to NGCA; 16.0%, expansion of economic powers for NGCA; and 18.0%, granting Russian the status of the second national language.

TRUST TO INFORMATION ABOUT NGCA/CRIMEA FROM VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS (%)

It is emblematic that the level of trust in institutions and organizations that broadcast information about NGCA and Crimea is rather low. The most trusted are sources such as NGOs and volunteers – 68.5% of respondents trust them (21.3% do not trust them); international organizations (48.6% trust, 37.8% do not trust); church (40.9% trust; 36.5% do not trust) and international media (47.1% trust; 39.0% do not trust). Among the authorities, the President is trusted the most (37.3%), but the percentage of those who do not trust him is much more significant (54.2%). The Government enjoys even lower level of trust (26.3%, distrust is 66.0%). The level of trust to information from the MPs is quite low, 14.4%. But the source of information about NGCA and Crimea that Ukrainian trust the less are Russian media (6.8% trust; 87.4% do not trust).



TO WHAT EXTENT YOU TRUST TO THE INFORMATION ABOUT NGCA/CRIMEA FROM THE PRESIDENT?

