

# PULSE OF THE WEEK

## #105

Researching public opinion on the most important events of the week

**January 04 to 10, 2025**



RESEARCHING PUBLIC OPINION SINCE 2011



# THE UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES LAUNCHED A NEW OFFENSIVE IN THE KURSK REGION

On January 5, it became known that the Ukrainian Armed Forces had launched a new offensive in the Kursk region. This operation was a complete surprise for the enemy.

This was announced by Andriy Kovalenko, the head of the Center for Combating Disinformation under the National Security and Defense Council. According to him, the armed forces are currently working on the development of the offensive.

On January 6, analysts from the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) reported that the Armed Forces had made a breakthrough and achieved tactical successes in three districts of the Kursk region. Analysts noted that the Ukrainian Armed Forces are using more effective tactics of conducting combined-arms operations in the Kursk region.

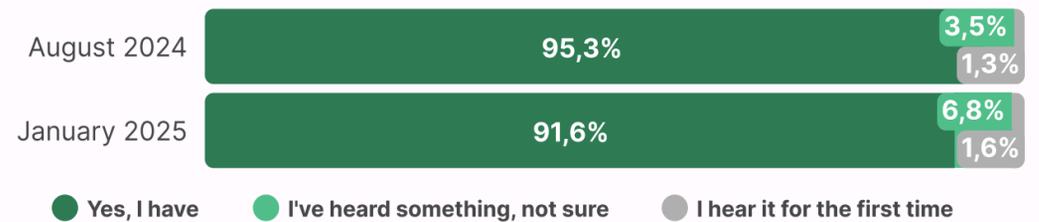
Dmytro Snehryiov, a military expert, noted that the operation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the Kursk region has already withdrawn 140,000-150,000 Russian troops from the front line in Ukraine. In addition, the offensive of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the Kursk region forced the aggressor country to allocate funds for defense fortifications, he added. "After the start of the operation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the Kursk region, record sums of money were allocated from the federal budget for defense facilities in the Bryansk region alone, up to 200 million dollars," the expert explained.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that Ukraine launched the operation in the Kursk region not to occupy Russian territory, but to ensure its own security.

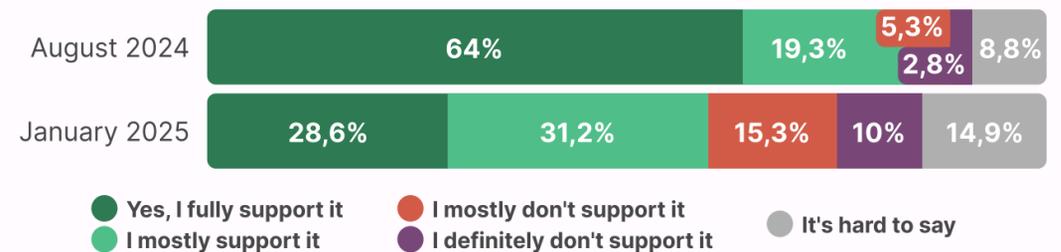
The former commander of the U.S. Army in Europe, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, expressed the opinion that this offensive allowed Ukraine to gain an important lever of influence "at the most fundamental level," since the offensive of the Ukrainian Armed Forces disrupted Russia's plans to retain the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories during possible negotiations in the future.

**Sources:** UNIAN, Voice of America, Espresso

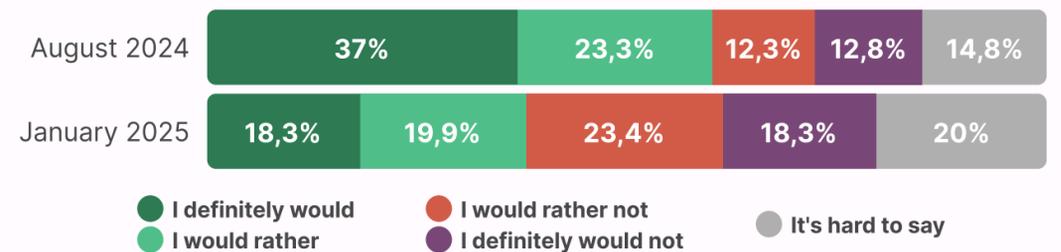
## Have you heard about the offensive of Ukrainian troops in the Kursk region of Russia?



## Do you support this offensive?



## Would you support a "referendum" on the declaration of independence of the Kursk People's Republic?



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# UKRAINE PREPARES TO HIT MOSCOW WITH ITS OWN MISSILES AND DRONES

Amid fears of cuts in military aid, Ukraine is rushing to arm itself for war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has ordered the production of at least 30,000 long-range drones in 2025. In addition, Ukrainian companies plan to produce about three 3,000 cruise missiles and missile drones, announced Denys Shmyhal, Ukrainian Prime Minister.

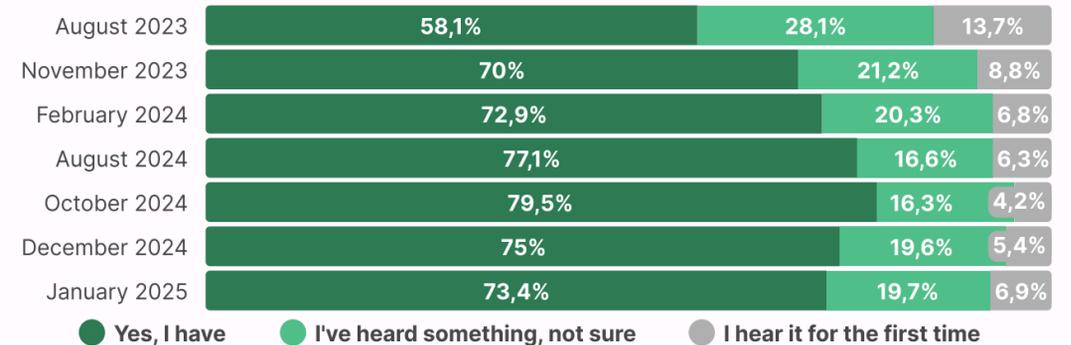
"A total of 2 trillion 230 billion UAH has been earmarked for defense and security. Every hryvnia of the taxpayer will be allocated to these needs from the state budget. Spending on weapons and military equipment will amount to at least UAH 739 billion," Shmyhal said, adding that Ukrainian defense enterprises plan to increase production capacity to \$30 billion.

Deputy Defense Minister of Ukraine Dmytro Klimentov said that in 2024, 60% of the state funds earmarked for the production of UAVs will be allocated for the purchase of Deep Strike attack drones, which strike deep into the enemy's territory. In 2025, more than 30,000 of them will be delivered.

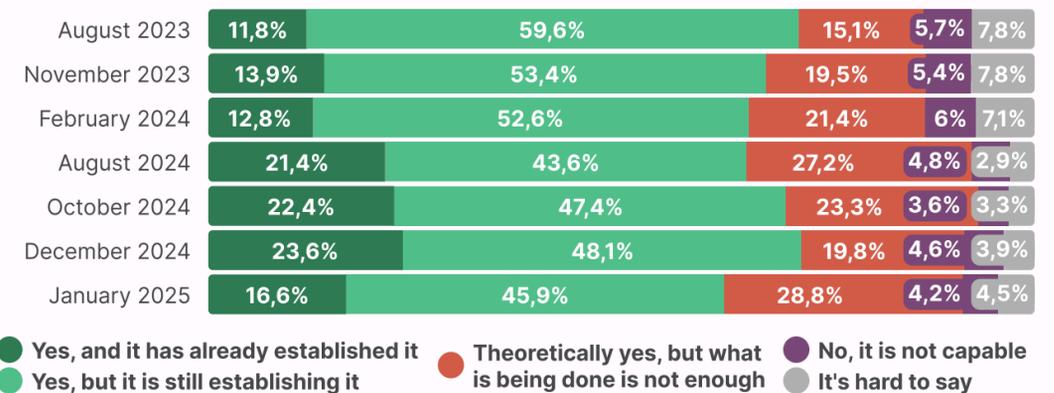
The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Oleksandr Syrskyi, reported that the operators of the Unmanned Systems Forces hit more than 54,000 enemy targets in December. "The enemy has increased the share of strikes with the UAVs based on the fiber optic control channel, which pose a threat to military equipment on the move. However, we are not standing still and have also begun to use FPV drones based on optical fiber, which expands the possibilities of hitting and destroying Russian military equipment and personnel," Syrskyi said.

**Sources:** Hromadske, RBK-Ukraine, Radio Liberty

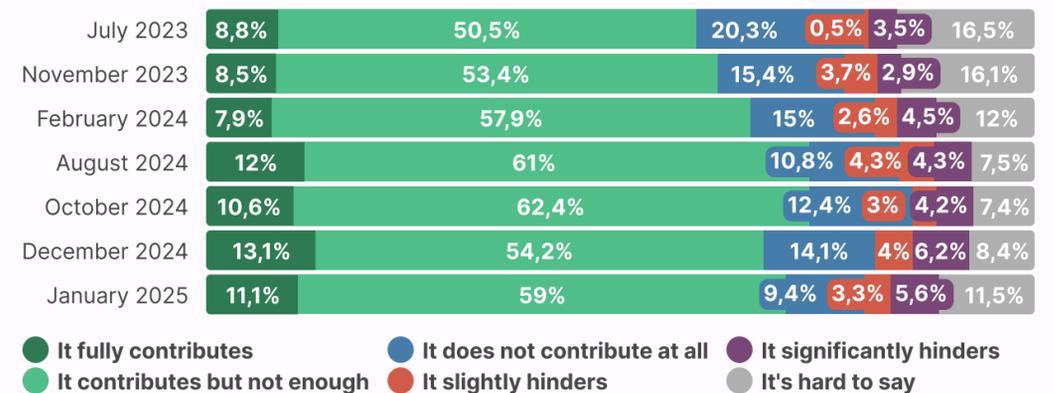
## Have you heard about the increase in drone production in Ukraine?



## In your opinion, is Ukraine capable of mass production of drones?



## In your opinion, does the government contribute to the production of UAVs in Ukraine?



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# THE 25TH GATHERING OF THE UKRAINE DEFENSE CONTACT GROUP WAS HELD

The 25th gathering of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, chaired by the United States, was held at Ramstein, the American military base in Germany. It was attended by the military chiefs of fifty countries, the President of Ukraine, the Secretary General of NATO, and other leaders.

At the beginning of the meeting, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced the allocation of \$500 million in military assistance to Ukraine. The new package includes AIM-7, RIM-7, AIM-9M air defense missiles; air-to-surface munitions; F-16 aircraft support equipment. It also includes armored bridge systems, secure communications equipment, small arms and ammunition, spare parts, ancillary equipment, services, training and transport.

The United Kingdom and NATO countries have pledged 30,000 FPV drones to Ukraine; Norway has pledged more than \$60 million for a drone procurement initiative for Ukraine; and Germany has pledged air defense systems, ammunition, and armored vehicles to Ukraine. At the same time, Canada said it would provide about \$330 million in military assistance to our country.

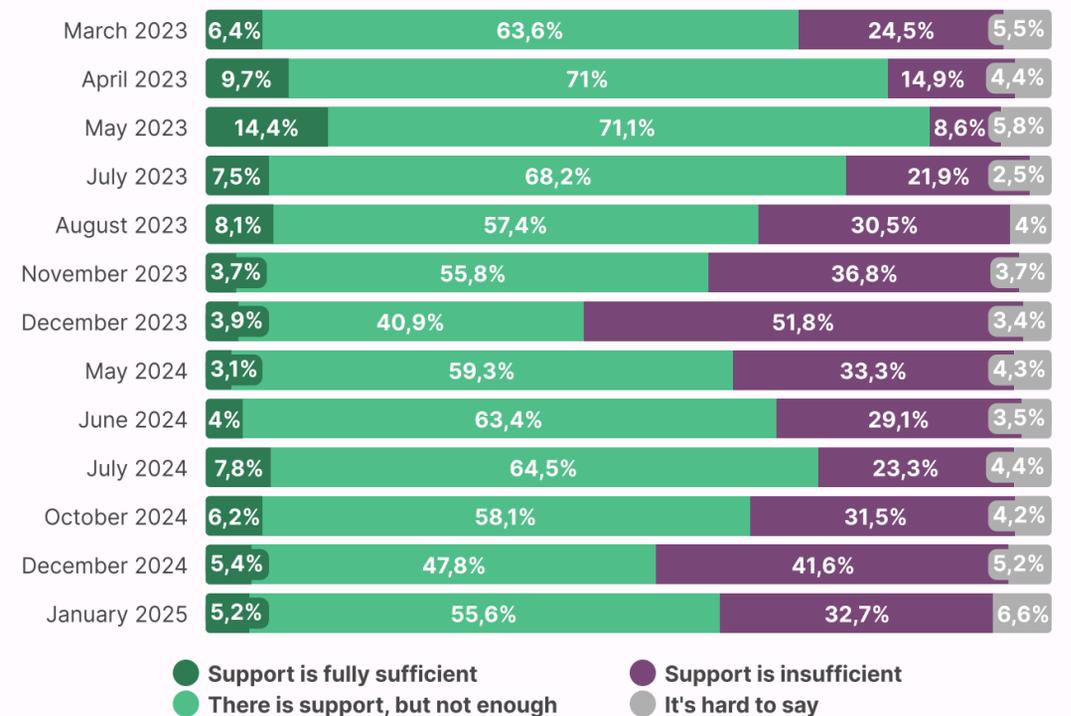
The participants of the meeting approved eight roadmaps defining the main goals of the Ukrainian Armed Forces until 2027.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte identified three objectives for the participants of the Ramstein meeting: to provide Ukraine with everything it needs to win the fight against Russian aggression, to share the burden among the Allies, and to respond to global challenges.

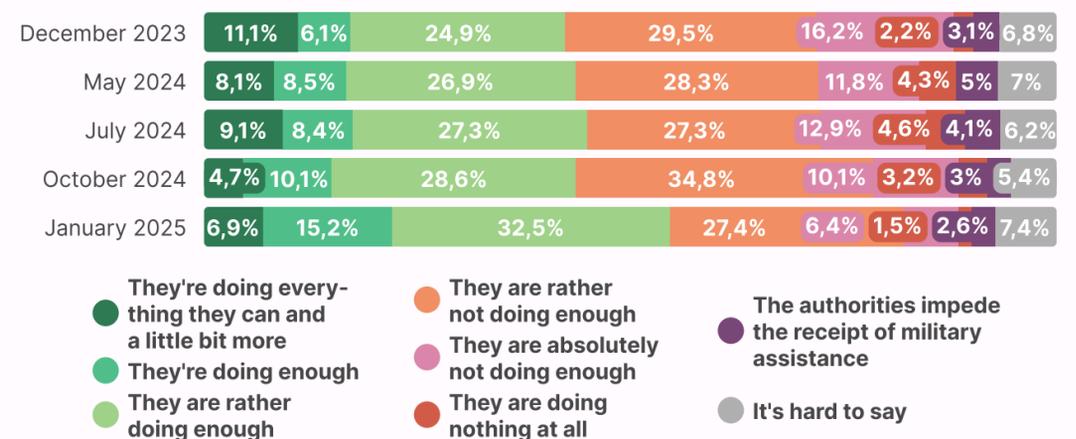
A special feature of the meeting in Germany was the personal participation of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who called on all Ramstein participants to sign security agreements with Ukraine.

**Sources:** Radio Liberty, Ukrinform, Suspilne

## In your opinion, is the world's military support to Ukraine sufficient?



## Are the Ukrainian authorities doing enough to get military assistance from other countries?



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## UKRAINE HAS STOPPED TRANSPORTING RUSSIAN GAS

On January 1, 2025, Ukraine officially stopped transporting natural gas from Russia through its own gas transportation system. This decision was made in the interests of national security, the Ministry of Energy reported.

"The power that allowed the Moscow empire to manipulate European politicians and entire countries has been removed," said Mykhailo Podoliak, Adviser to the Head of the President's Office.

It was noted that the infrastructure of the gas transmission system has been prepared in advance to operate in the zero transit mode and ensure reliable gas supply to Ukrainian consumers. The termination of gas transit to the EU has also been prepared. The European Commission noted that it has been working for more than a year to provide alternative supplies to the Member States.

However, Slovakia and Hungary insist on the resumption of gas transit. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has said that Slovakia is ready to impose a series of political and economic sanctions on Ukraine. Fico's government insists that Slovakia will lose up to 500 million euros in transit fees it previously earned by pumping gas to neighboring countries such as the Czech Republic and Hungary. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto hinted that his country would block Ukraine's accession to the EU because of the decision to stop transit of Russian gas.

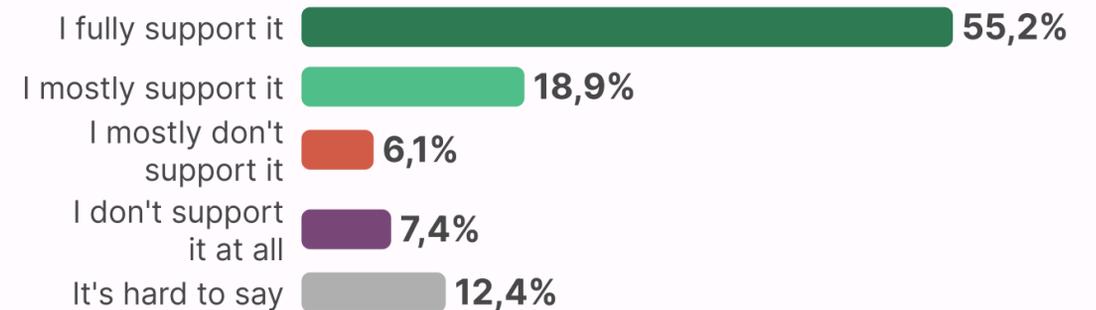
On January 9, White House adviser John Kirby said that Ukraine's decision to stop transporting Russian gas was one of Moscow's biggest and most costly defeats. According to him, it will cost Russia about \$6.5 billion a year.

**Sources:** UNIAN, Suspilne, Radio Liberty

### Have you heard that Ukraine has stopped transporting Russian gas to Europe?



### Do you support stopping the transit of Russian gas to Europe through Ukraine?



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## TRUMP MADE A STATEMENT ABOUT THE TIMING OF ENDING THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND NEGOTIATING WITH RUSSIA

On January 7, US President-elect Donald Trump said that Russia's war against Ukraine could escalate in the future. However, he hopes it will be possible to end it within six months.

When asked how soon he planned to meet with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin to discuss the war, Trump said he could not say. He also mentioned that the West understands that Ukraine cannot be in NATO. The Republican added that he himself adheres to this position.

In addition, Trump said that he "can understand the feelings" of Russia in connection with the fact that the current head of the White House Joe Biden allegedly violated the "agreement" on the refusal to accept Ukraine into NATO.

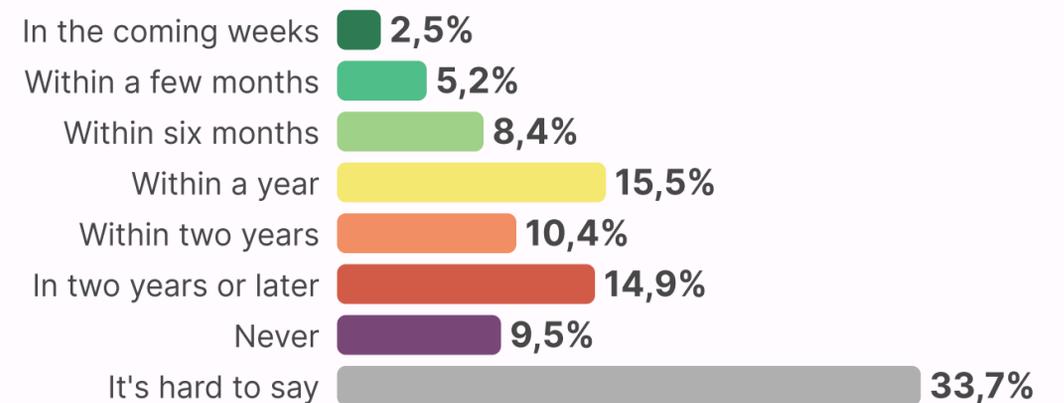
Commenting on these statements, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged not to immediately draw "certain conclusions" about US policy. "Remember how Ukrainians were told that Patriot systems could and did exist only in NATO countries... Well, either we've been in NATO for a long time, or we shouldn't jump to conclusions. It was the same with Patriot systems, it was the same with missile systems and other NATO weapons," the head of state recalled.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Andriy Sybiha noted in his commentary that the best format for the exchange of views between the Presidents of Ukraine and the United States is the format of direct communication.

On January 8, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen, expressed her conviction that Ukraine will become a NATO member in the future. She added: "NATO is first and foremost a defensive alliance. It is not a threat to Russia."

**Sources:** UNIAN, Liga, Priamyi

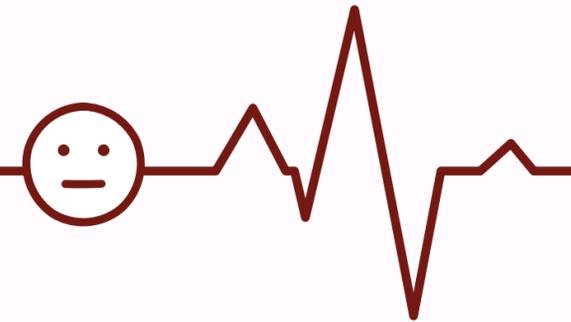
### When do you think the Russian-Ukrainian war will end?



### In your opinion, how will the election of Donald Trump to the US presidency affect the Russian-Ukrainian war?



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## ZELENSKY SAID WHEN THE ELECTIONS MAY BE POSSIBLE

In Ukraine, it is impossible to hold elections while the war continues, or else parliamentarians will have to change the law, but society is against it, said President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky.

In an interview with Lex Friedman, he recalled that due to martial law, presidential elections were not held in the spring of 2024, and parliamentary elections in the fall.

"That is, everyone in Ukraine understands that this cannot be done until the war is over, or otherwise the law must be changed. I believe that the elections will be held immediately after the end of martial law. This is in accordance with the law," Zelensky said.

The president explained that society is against holding elections before the end of the war, since it would be necessary to create infrastructure to ensure the voting of 8.5 million Ukrainians who have moved abroad. He also recalled that millions of people remain in the occupied territories. "What can we do with these people? This is a difficult question. And it is one of the most unfair questions, how to hold elections without a million soldiers. That is, it is impossible," Zelensky stressed.

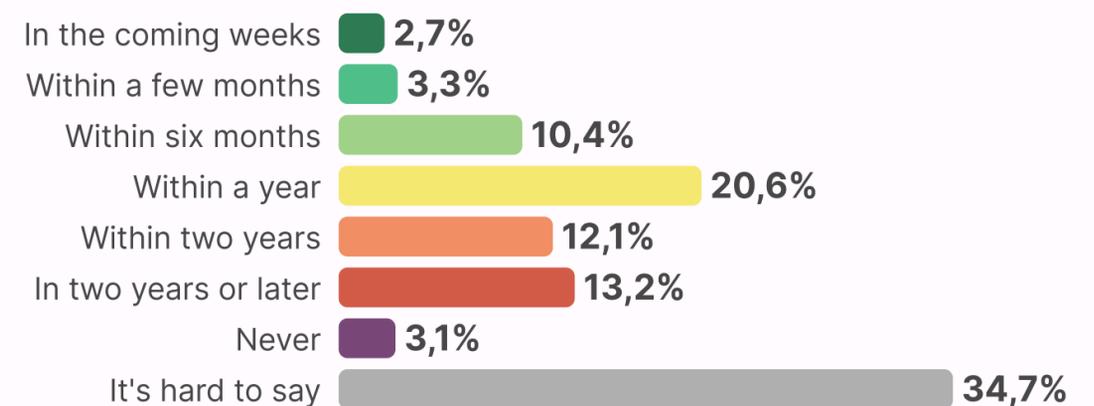
He recalled that in order to hold elections during the war, the voting systems would have to be changed, in particular by thinking about online voting, but everyone is afraid of it "because of certain attacks, cyber-attacks and so on".

The president also said he would like to hold elections in the year the war ends. "We can end the war in 2025 and then hold elections in 90 days," Zelensky believes.

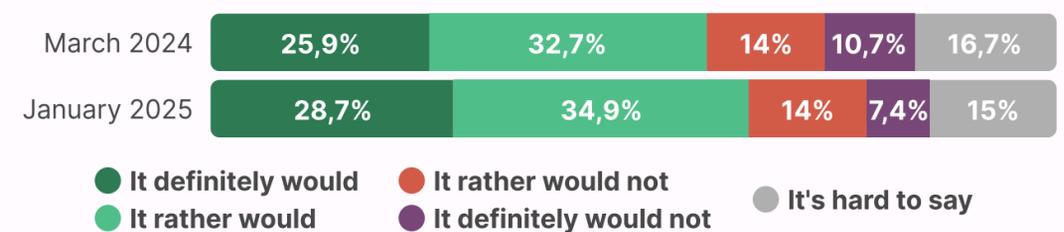
The President stressed that he had not yet thought about whether to run for a second term because of the war. He noted that for now it is worth thinking about what is happening now.

**Sources:** Suspilne, Ukrainska Pravda, Interfax-Ukraine

### When do you think the next parliamentary elections can be held?



### Would it be appropriate to hold parliamentary and presidential elections at the same time?



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# UKRAINIAN LAWMAKERS PROPOSE NEW INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF IDPS

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky has signed Law No. 7283, which expands the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in local communities.

The document gives IDPs the official status of residents of the communities where they live, which allows them to participate in general assemblies, initiate local initiatives, and influence the allocation of local budget funds.

MP Pavlo Frolov noted that this law is important because many IDPs cannot return home, and their adaptation in new communities involves not only temporary residence, but also creating a sense of stability and the opportunity to participate in community life.

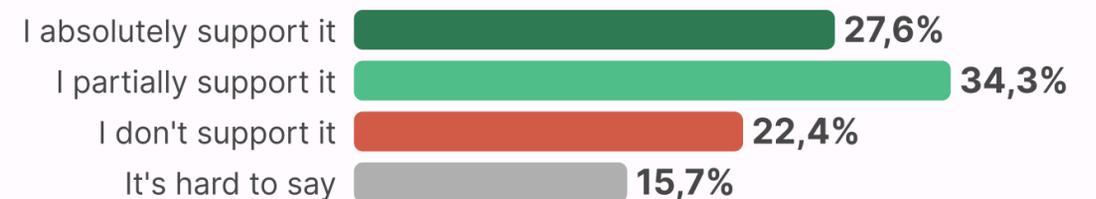
In addition, a draft law proposing updates in the area of social protection and housing for IDPs has been registered. Starting in 2025, a program of subsidized rental housing will be introduced. If rental costs exceed a certain percentage of income, the difference will be covered by the state budget. "The provision of preferential loans, the provision of various mechanisms for co-financing housing are envisaged," added co-author of the bill Pavlo Frolov.

The initiative also simplifies the procedure for registering IDP status and receiving social benefits. In particular, it is planned to create a single database of IDPs, which will allow obtaining extracts for the provision of services regardless of the place of residence.

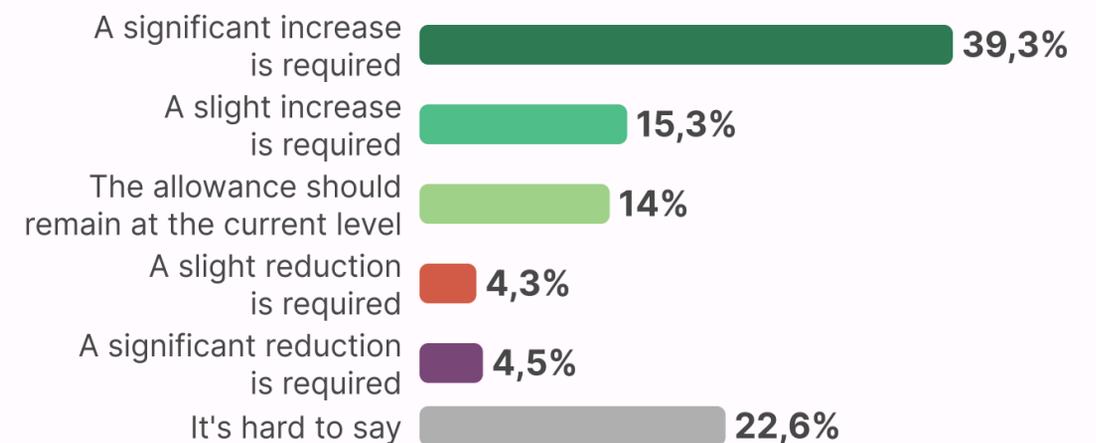
Psychological support, rehabilitation and education for IDP children will also be provided, and the rights of IDP councils will be expanded. They will be given more opportunities to participate in solving local problems.

**Sources:** Suspilne, Zmina.info, Ukrinform

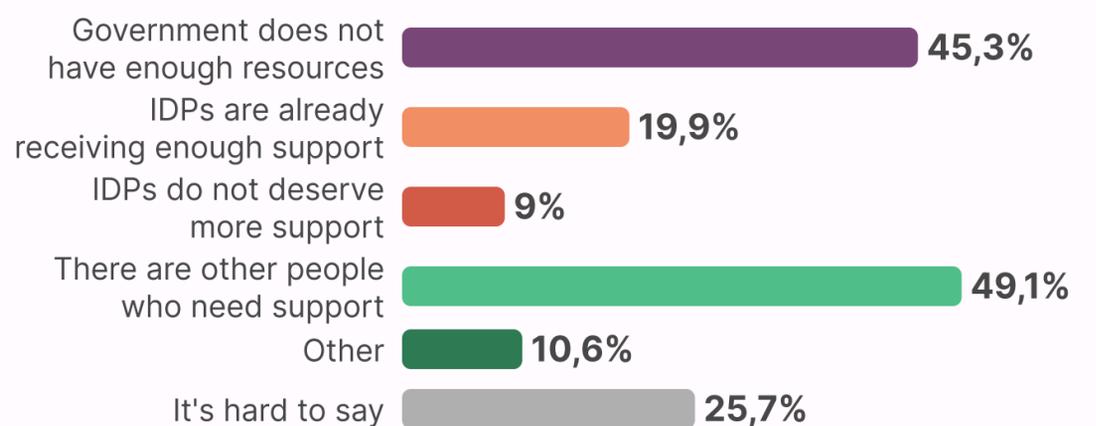
## Do you support the empowerment of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to influence decision-making in your community?



## Do you think it is appropriate to change the amount of the IDP allowance?



## Why do you think some people think the IDP allowance should not be increased?



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## UKRPOSHTA WAS ACCUSED OF FORCIBLY COLLECTING FUNDS FOR CHARITY

When parcel deliveries are paid by customers, the state-owned Ukrposhta charges an additional 1 UAH as a charitable contribution for the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to the Kyiv School of Economics Charitable Foundation.

This was reported by MP Nina Yuzhanina, member of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Finance, Tax and Customs Policy.

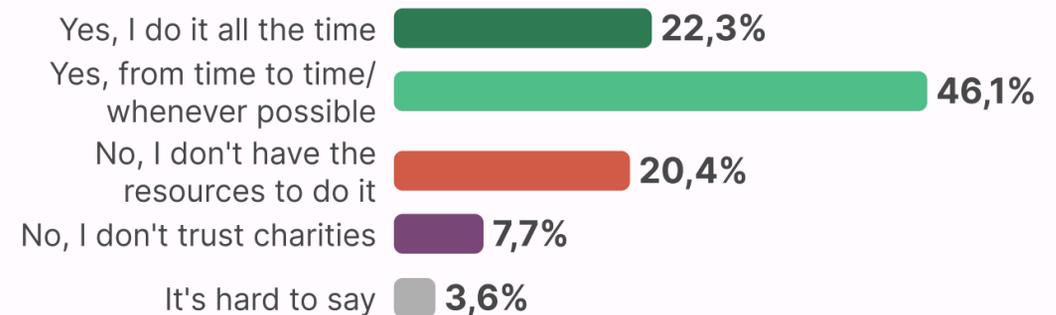
"It is impossible to refuse to pay it, because this fee is built into the Ukrposhta software. The founder of this charitable foundation is the Kyiv School of Economics Corporation of Tymofii Mylovanov, who is also the chairman of the board of this charitable foundation," the MP said. According to her, "such an arrangement will bring Mylovanov's charitable foundation at least 50 million UAH a year".

The General Director of Ukrposhta, Ihor Smiliansky, responded that these funds, which are collected for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, bomb shelters, shelters and hospitals, are carefully controlled by international auditors and law enforcement officials. He noted: "JSC Ukrposhta as a company with state participation has no right to engage in charitable activities in accordance with the company's charter. Good or bad, but that's the way it is". That is why, according to him, cooperation with KSE Foundation was chosen. The Foundation immediately receives all the funds, helps to purchase everything necessary, takes care of all the checks, administration and auditing.

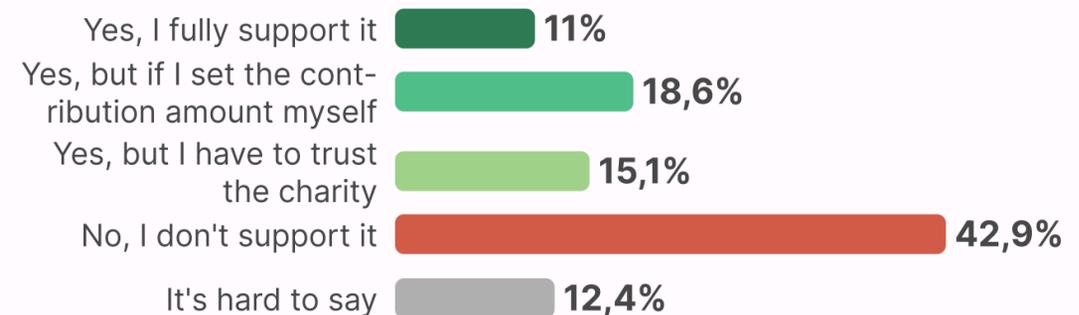
He also stressed that the company added an option to voluntarily donate 1 hryvnia on each package. "Donation is voluntary. So if you send 50 million parcels, we will collect 50 million hryvnias for the Armed Forces of Ukraine," added the general director of Ukrposhta.

**Sources:** UNIAN, Forbes.ua, Glavkom

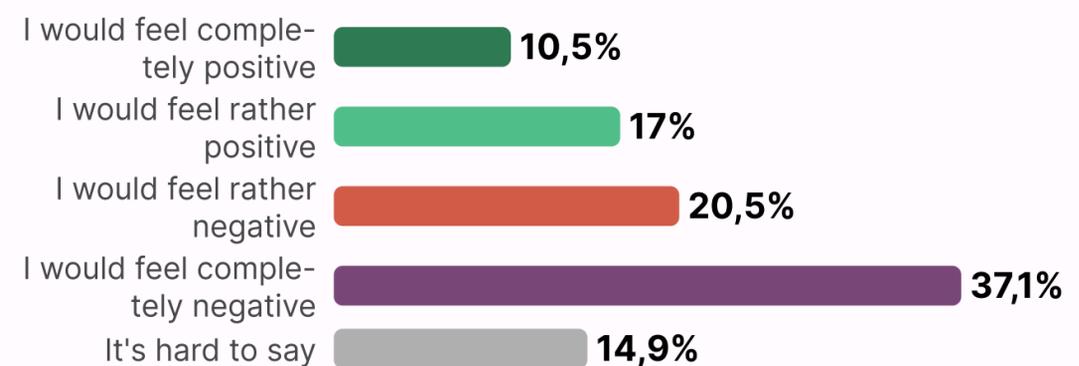
### Do you do any charitable work now (donations, deductions, transfer of resources)?



### Do you support the idea of including charitable donations in payments for goods or services?



### If the mandatory deduction of UAH 1 to the Kyiv School of Economics Charitable Foundation was included in the payment for sending parcels by Ukrposhta, how would you react to such an initiative?



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