



## European integration of Ukraine: the dynamics of public opinion

*A nationwide public opinion poll was conducted by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation in collaboration with the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology on November 4 - 19, 2019. The survey was conducted in 110 settlements in all regions of Ukraine except the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. In the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, polls were conducted only in territories controlled by Ukraine. 2,041 questionnaires were collected. The theoretical sampling error does not exceed 2.3%.*

*The funding was provided by the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine.*

*For comparison, we provide the results of nationwide public opinion polls conducted by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation, in cooperation with our partners, the Razumkov Center and the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology.*

- The majority of citizens - 53% - believe that Ukraine should join the European Union in the long term; the Eurasian Union with Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan was selected by 13%, and 24% of respondents believe that Ukraine should join neither the European Union nor the Eurasian Economic Union. The foreign policy orientation toward Russia dropped significantly initially after the annexation of Crimea, and especially after Russia's military aggression in the Donbas. However, the majority and of those who had previously hoped to join the union with Russia moved into the ranks of those who believe that Ukraine should join neither the European nor the Eurasian Unions.
- The orientation towards the European Union is most strongly supported in the Western region (71%), clearly supported in the Central region (60%), but in the Southern and Eastern regions the opinions of residents are divided. In the Southern region 32% support the orientation towards the European Union; the same number - 31% - believe that Ukraine should join neither the European nor to the Eurasian Union, and 24% show their preference for Eurasian Union with Russia. A similar situation is in the East: 34% - for European Union, 30% - for not joining any of the Unions, and 27% - support the orientation towards the Eurasian Union.
- Party "Opposition Platform - For Life" stands alone among other political forces. 60% of its supporters emphasized that Ukraine should join the Eurasian Union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, and only 8% support orientation towards European Union. Instead, the biggest support of European integration is shown by voters of the party "European Solidarity" - 90%. Voters of the "Servant of People" party also show overwhelming support for Ukraine's movement to the European Union - 54%, and 22% prefer not to join any of these Unions.
- According to respondents the most significant factors that hinder Ukraine's membership in the European Union are corruption (44%), insufficient economic development of Ukraine (40%), and low living standards (34%). The war in the Donbas was noted by 20% of respondents.
- The main thing that the European Union should do to accelerate reforms in Ukraine is to "put more pressure on the Ukrainian authorities" - 22% of the population (34% in the Western). The other most popular advices are the following: the EU should "more openly confront Russia" (15%), "show greater interest in protecting Ukrainian border and give Ukraine

weapons" (14%), "provide more support to Ukrainian talented youth" (13%). It is notable that in the East a significant portion of respondents - 31% - could not answer this question.

## POLL RESULTS

**If you had only one option to choose, what Union do you think Ukraine should most likely join in the future?**

	May 2013	March 2014	May 2014	October 2017	August 2018	November 2019
European Union	41.7	45.3	50.5	49.3	50.7	52.6
Eurasian Economic Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan	31.0	21.6	21.4	10.8	10.9	12.9
Neither join the European Union nor the Eurasian Union	13.5	19.6	17.4	26.3	32.5	24.0
DIFFICULT TO ANSWER	13.7	13.4	10.6	13.5	5.9	10.5

**If you had to choose only one option, what Union do you think Ukraine should most likely join in the future? (November 2019)**

	<i>West</i>	<i>Center</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>East</i>
European Union	70.6	59.9	31.6	33.7
Eurasian Economic Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan	3.2	6.8	23.8	26.8
Neither join the European Union nor the Eurasian Union	17.5	22.3	31.2	29.4
Difficult to answer	8.7	11.0	13.4	10.1

**If you had to choose only one option, what Union do you think Ukraine should most likely join in the future? (November 2019)**

	The party you voted in the elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine		
	<i>Opposition Platform - For Life</i>	<i>European Solidarity</i>	<i>Servant of the People</i>
European Union	8.3	89.9	54.5
Eurasian Economic Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan	59.6	2.5	11.2
Neither join the European Union nor the Eurasian Union	29.4	6.7	22.8
Difficult to answer	2.8	0.8	11.5

**What do you think prevents Ukraine the most from becoming a member of the European Union? No more than 3 answers.**

	December 2007	December 2011	November 2015	August 2018	November 2019
Insufficient economic development of Ukraine	51.8	34.5	41.3	37.7	<b>40.0</b>
Problems with democracy, human rights in Ukraine	17.6	22.6	19.8	17.4	17.1
Low standards of living of the population of Ukraine	48.0	32.4	36.4	27.5	<b>34.2</b>
Problems with corruption	- *	- *	43.2	42.5	<b>44.4</b>
The position of Western states who do not want to support Ukraine's membership in the EU	12.9	18.7	22.0	11.6	5.6
The position of leaders of the Ukrainian state who are not willing to join the EU	6.2	17.6	14.6	10.0	7.2
Reluctance of Ukrainian citizens	13.4	8.9	6.7	4.2	3.9
The reluctance of EU member states to spoil relations with Russia	- *	- *	- *	6.2	6.5
War in the Donbas	- *	- *	27.0	21.0	20.3
Nothing prevents Ukraine from joining the EU. It is ready for that	1.3	5.0	2.9	1.6	1.1
Ukraine does not need to become EU member	17.2	14.5	10.5	13.5	7.5
Other		0.9	0.9	0.7	1.1
HARD TO SAY	11.0	11.2	8.6	6.6	10.5

- \* There were no such options in the questionnaire during these years

**What do you think prevents Ukraine the most from becoming a member of the European Union? (November 2019)**

	West	Center	South	East
Insufficient economic development of Ukraine	40.1	37.3	42.4	43.0
Problems with democracy, human rights in Ukraine	20.0	17.4	13.9	15.3
The low standards of living of the population of Ukraine	36.5	31.7	39.0	33.7
Problems with corruption	49.4	45.6	45.5	37.5
The position of Western states who do not want to support Ukraine's membership in the EU	6.0	6.0	5.6	4.6
The position of the leaders of the Ukrainian state who are not willing to join the EU	10.9	8.4	2.6	3.6
Reluctance of Ukrainian citizens	2.6	3.3	8.2	4.2
The reluctance of EU member states to spoil relations with	10.7	6.3	6.1	2.9

Russia				
War in the Donbas	24.8	20.7	20.8	15.3
Nothing prevents Ukraine from joining the EU. It is ready for that	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.0
Ukraine does not need to become an EU member	1.8	4.3	14.3	14.7
Other	1.4	1.3	0.4	1.0
Hard to say	5.2	11.9	8.7	14.3

**What do you think the European Union should do to accelerate reforms in Ukraine?** Choose the three main options.

	August 2018	November 2019
The EU should give more money	7.1	10.0
The EU should send more advisors	6.2	9.7
The EU should put more pressure on the Ukrainian authorities	<b>28.0</b>	<b>21.7</b>
The EU and its member states should confront Russia more openly	<b>16.3</b>	<b>15.2</b>
The EU should show greater interest in protecting the Ukrainian border and providing Ukraine with weapons	<b>14.7</b>	<b>13.7</b>
The EU must give the prospect of membership to Ukraine	13.7	10.2
The EU should support civil society. non-governmental organizations that influence the reform of the country	13.0	8.2
The EU should provide more support for talented youth - Ukraine's future	13.1	<b>12.6</b>
The EU should initiate long-term professional exchange programs	11.2	8.3
The EU has to stop giving money because the authorities are stealing it	<b>16.5</b>	9.6
The EU is doing enough. Now it is time for the Ukrainian authorities to act	9.7	5.1
I believe more in American assistance. not the European Union one	1.4	1.3
I am strongly against EU assistance	12.1	4.3
Our future is with Russia	3.8	3.9
No one will help Ukraine	6.4	4.8
Other	0.7	1.1
HARD TO SAY	11.8	<b>21.7</b>

**What do you think the European Union should do to accelerate reforms in Ukraine?** Choose three top options (November 2019)

	West	Center	South	East
The EU should give more money	16.5	6.1	10.0	9.8
The EU should send more advisors	16.3	8.7	7.4	5.9
The EU should put more pressure on the Ukrainian authorities	33.7	22.1	20.8	9.9
The EU and its member states should confront Russia more openly	23.6	15.7	10.0	8.6
The EU should show greater interest in protecting the Ukrainian border and providing Ukraine with weapons	15.9	17.0	11.3	7.6
The EU must give the prospect of membership to Ukraine	11.1	9.2	13.4	9.4
The EU should support civil society. non-governmental organizations that influence the reform of the country	9.9	8.2	8.2	6.7
The EU should provide more support for talented youth -	13.1	12.8	10.0	13.0

Ukraine's future				
The EU should initiate long-term professional exchange programs	6.5	8.4	7.8	9.9
The EU has to stop giving money because the authorities are stealing it	10.3	9.8	9.5	8.4
The EU is doing enough. Now it is time for the Ukrainian authorities to act	6.0	7.3	3.0	1.9
I believe more in American assistance. not the European Union one	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.5
I am strongly against EU assistance	1.2	3.1	10.0	6.7
Our future is with Russia	0.2	1.3	6.9	9.9
No one will help Ukraine	3.6	5.5	7.8	3.4
Other	0.8	1.0	0.0	1.9
HARD TO SAY	9.9	24.8	16.0	31.0