

Citizen's attitudes to the situation in Donbas

Survey Results

The survey was conducted by the Razumkov Centre Sociological Service in the period from 9 to 14 September 2016. Responses were obtained from 2,018 respondents aged 18 and above across all Ukrainian regions, except for Crimea and the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions on the sample that is representative of adult population of Ukraine in key socio-demographic parameters. The design is a multi-level, random sampling with quote-based selection of respondents in the final phase. The survey covered 118 settlements (67 urban and 51 rural settlements). The theoretical sampling error (without design effect) does not exceed 2.3% with probability 0.95.

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As regards granting special status to Donbas, 50% of surveyed Ukrainian citizens do not support such special status and 22.7% are in favour of this idea. Special status for Donbas is not supported by the majority of residents in the Western and Central regions, and by relative majority of residents in the Southern region. In the Eastern region and Donbas (the part controlled by the Ukrainian government), the shares of proponents and opponents of such special status are approximately equal.

Conducting elections on the occupied territories of Donbas before regaining control by the Ukrainian government is not supported by 50.6% of respondents and 23.9% are in favour of this idea. It is not supported by the majority of residents in the Western and Central regions, and by relative majority of residents in the Southern region. In the Eastern region and Donbas, the shares of proponents and opponents of such elections do not show statistically significant difference.

Ukrainian citizens are more inclined to oppose (38.5%) than support amnesty for all participants of separatist movements who have not committed serious felony. This idea is not supported by the majority of residents in the Central region, and by relative majority of residents in the Western region, whereas the majority of respondents in the East and Donbas are in favour of it. In the Southern region, the shares of proponents and opponents of amnesty do not show statistically significant difference.

42.1% of citizens support suspension of any economic ties between Ukraine and territories of the so-called DNR and LNR (including payments of social benefits, energy supply, purchase of coal, etc.) until the Ukrainian government restores full control over these territories, and 36% do not support this. The majority of respondents in the Western and Central parts of the country are in favour of such regime whereas absolute and relative majorities in the remaining regions do not support it.

The proposal to recognize occupation of the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions on legislative level and isolation of these territories until official control of territories is regained by Ukraine is supported by 42.9% of respondents whereas 31.4% are against. The proponents are the majority of residents of the Western region, relative majority of inhabitants of the Central and Southern regions, while relative majority of residents in the East and more than half of Donbas residents are against it.

44.2% of respondents support the idea of bringing up the issue of status of temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions for the nationwide referendum (32.8% are against it). This proposal is supported by relative majority of the Western, Central and Eastern regions. Among residents of the Southern region and Donbas, the shares of proponents and opponents of this idea do not show statistically significant difference.

Generally, selecting between three strategy options of the Ukrainian governments regarding temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, Ukrainian citizens most frequently support the strategy involving official recognition of occupation of these territories and their isolation until official control of territories is regained by Ukraine: such actions of the government would gain support of 30.1% of respondents, 21.1% of respondents would support granting a special status to these territories, amnesty for participants of separatist movements who have not committed serious felony and elections on the occupied territories before establishing official control by the Ukrainian government; 18.6% support continuation of ATO until full control of Ukraine is restored over territories seized by separatists.

The relative majority of respondents (39.1%) have negative appreciation of current results of Minsk agreements about the situation in Donbas. The share of those who have positive appreciation is 11.9% while the share of those with neutral views is 21.1%. Negative appreciation of current results of Minsk agreements is expressed by more than half of population in the Western region, relative majority in the Central, Southern and Eastern regions. Only in Donbas, the shares of those with positive and negative appreciation do not show statistically significant difference

The data in tables are presented in percentages unless indicated otherwise.

One-dimensional distribution of responses in questionnaires

Currently, the following proposals are being voiced for development of the situation in Ukraine. Do you support the following proposals?

	I support	I do not support	Difficult to say
Suspension of any economic ties between Ukraine and territories of so-called DNR and LNR (including payments of social benefits, energy supply, purchase of coal, etc.) until the Ukrainian government restores full control over these territories	42.1	36.0	21.9
Granting special status to Donbas	22.7	50.0	27.3
Conducting elections on the occupied territories of Donbas before regaining control by the Ukrainian government	23.9	50.6	25.4
Amnesty for all participants of separatist movements who have not committed serious felony	34.0	38.5	27.5

Do you support the proposal of some Members of Parliament to recognize occupation of the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions on legislative level and isolation of these territories until official control of territories is regained by Ukraine?

Yes	42.9
No	31.4
Difficult to say	25.6

Is it necessary to bring up the issue of status of temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions for the nationwide referendum?

Yes	44.2
No	32.8
Difficult to say	23.0

Which of the options presented below for the Ukrainian government actions as regards temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions would you support to a larger extent?

Granting a special status to these territories, amnesty for participants of separatist movements who have not committed serious felony and conducting elections on the occupied territories before establishing official control by the Ukrainian government	21.1
Official recognition of occupation of these territories and their isolation until official control of territories is regained by Ukraine	30.1
Continuation of ATO until full control of Ukraine is restored over territories seized by separatists	18.6
Difficult to say	30.2

How would you evaluate the current results of Minsk agreements about the situation in Donbas?

Positive	11.9
Negative	39.1
Neutral	21.1
I know nothing about them	11.5
Difficult to say	16.5