

**ANALYTICAL REPORT ON RESULTS OF SOCIOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF RESIDENTS OF SOUTHERN AND EASTERN OBLASTS OF UKRAINE,
CONDUCTED BY THE COMPANY GfK IN 2016-2017,
WITH THE SUPPORT FROM THE UKRAINIAN CONFIDENCE BUILDING
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Information sources and needs

The research aimed to identify the respondents' key sources of information about actions of the government, oblast and local authorities, level of their credibility, as well as the topics of most interest to the respondents, and information the respondents lack.

Characteristics of general sources of information about actions of the authorities and of sources of news

According to the data of the survey of 2017, the top five key sources of information about activities of the government, oblast and local councils are:

1. All-Ukrainian TV channels (80-29%);
2. Friends, relatives, acquaintances, colleagues (43-26%)
3. Local TV (31-8%)
4. Ukrainian websites (24-8%)
5. Social networks, printed media outlets, radio

Popularity of information sources significantly differs depending on the object of information.

The sources are the most diverse concerning events in populated localities, oblasts or the country. The hierarchy of sources follows the top five outlined above.

As to the Ukrainian government, the hierarchy of information sources looks different. The top position is still held by the Ukrainian national-level TV channels (74%). Surprisingly, friends, relatives, acquaintances, and Ukrainian websites share the second top position (19% each). Then follow social networks and radio (13 and 11%, respectively). Printed media outlets and local TV hold the fourth top position (8% each), and importance of local websites and Russian sources is insignificant (4% and 2-3%, respectively).

As to oblast councils, the role of national-level TV channels decreases significantly (down to 39%), although they still hold the top position. The second top position is held by local television (25%), and the third – by friends, relatives, and acquaintances (19%). The rest of sources play roughly the same role (9-11%). The Russian information sources become almost irrelevant (1%).

As to local councils, the role of national-level and local TV channels virtually evens (29 and 28%, respectively). Friends, relatives and acquaintances come in at a close second (26%), and the third top position is now held by local websites (12%), printed media outlets (11%) and social networks (10%).

Table. From what sources do you receive information about: (Which media outlets are the major source of news for you?) (in % to all the respondents surveyed in 8 oblasts of the East and South of Ukraine in 2017)

	...events in your populated locality, oblast, country	...the Ukrainian government	... the oblast council	...the local council	Major source of news
Ukrainian TV	80	74	39	29	57
Friends, relatives, acquaintances	43	19	19	26	1
Local TV	31	8	25	28	4
Ukrainian websites	24	19	11	8	11

Social networks	23	13	10	10	8
Radio	18	11	9	8	3
Printed media outlets	16	8	10	11	3
Local websites	15	4	9	12	3
Russian websites	7	2	1	1	1
Russian TV	6	3	1	1	1
I have no interest for this information	5	8	12	10	8
I don't use media to receive information	2	4	9	9	5

Finally, the structure of major sources of news differs substantially. The first position by a significant margin is held by national-level TV channels (57%). For one in every ten surveyed, the major source of news is Ukrainian websites (11%). Social networks enjoy a similar degree of popularity. The rest of sources play a negligible role.

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year since the first wave of the research, a series of shifts took place in popularity of information sources concerning general events, the government, oblast and local councils among the respondents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research.

Regarding all objects of information, local TV channels, Ukrainian websites, friends and acquaintances, and printed media outlets somewhat lost their popularity.

For local TV, the largest decrease was observed in the sphere of information about events in the populated locality, oblast and country (from 38 to 32%) and concerning the Ukrainian government (from 14 to 8%). For Ukrainian websites, the largest decrease was observed in the sphere of information concerning actions of the Ukrainian government (from 24 to 18%). For printed media outlets, the decrease was uniform and less steep regarding all objects of information (for instance, from 17 to 15% for events in the populated locality, oblast and country). The same is true for friends, relatives, and acquaintances.

Ukrainian TV channels lost some popularity as a source of information concerning events in the populated locality, oblast and country (from 83 to 79%), concerning the Ukrainian government (from 77 to 72%) and oblast council (from 44 to 42%).

Popularity of social networks and radio stayed virtually the same.

Local websites somehow increased their popularity as a source of information concerning events in the populated locality, oblast and country (from 12 to 15%) and concerning local councils (from 9 to 12%). As to the rest of the objects of information, their positions stayed the same.

Over the year, no significant shifts in the structure of major sources of news happened.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

As to sources of information about actions of the Ukrainian government, the following peculiarities by the oblasts were identified. National-level TV channels enjoyed in 2017 the highest popularity among the respondents of Khersonska (84%), Mykolayivska (82%), and Dnipropetrovska oblasts (78%).

From Ukrainian websites, the ones that most often received information concerning actions of the government were the respondents of Mykolayivska, Kharkivska (23% each) and Dnipropetrovska oblasts (21%).

Local television was the most important for the respondents of Donetska oblast (16%), and the least important – for the respondents of Khersonska, Luhanska, and Odeska oblasts (3-4%).

Local websites were the least used by the respondents of Khersonska (1%), Kharkivska, and Zaporizka oblasts (2% each).

Printed editions and radio enjoyed the highest popularity among the respondents of Dnipropetrovska oblast (13 and 17%, respectively).

As to sources of information about actions of local authorities, the following peculiarities were observed:

Local television enjoyed the highest popularity in Donetska (36%) and Dnipropetrovska oblasts (33%), and the lowest – in Luhanska oblast (15%).

Ukrainian websites were of the highest importance for the respondents of Kharkivska oblast (15%).

Local websites mattered the most for the respondents Mykolayivska (16%) and Kharkivska (15%) oblasts, and the least – for the respondents Zaporizka oblast (4%).

Finally, printed media outlets as a source of information about local authorities were the most popular among the respondents of Khersonska oblast (20%).

As to major sources of news, several oblast-level peculiarities were identified. National-level TV channels enjoyed the lowest popularity in 2017 in Kharkivska (41%) and Donetska (49%) oblasts. The highest – in Mykolayivska and Zaporizka oblasts (69% each).

Ukrainian websites were least popular in Khersonska (6%) and Zaporizka (7%) oblasts. Among all 8 oblasts, Kharkivska stood out: in it, the largest share of the respondents (15%) named Ukrainian websites as the major source of news.

Popularity of social networks has no significant oblast peculiarities.

Local television had meager popularity in Khersonska oblast (1%).

Radio was the least important source of news for the respondents in Khersonska and Donetska oblasts (each 1%).

Printed media outlets were almost never used as a source of news by the respondents of Mykolayivska oblast (1%).

Finally, local websites had meager popularity in three oblasts: Zaporizka, Kharkivska, and Khersonska (1% each).

Sociodemographic factors had a rather predictable influence over consumption of these or those information sources or media. Online media enjoyed the highest popularity among the respondents with higher education of a younger age, urban dwellers, and the lowest – among pensioners and people over 55, as well as rural dwellers. As to the rest of information sources, no significant differences were found.

Russian media outlets as a source of information concerning the Ukrainian authorities and a source of news.

Russian TV and websites had certain significance only as a source of general information about events in the populated locality, oblast or country (6-7%). As to actions of the Ukrainian government, their importance is almost twice as little (2-3% of the surveyed), and concerning actions of oblast or local councils – meager (1%).

They constitute a major source of news for a meager share of the surveyed residents of 8 oblasts of the East and South of Ukraine (1%).

Over the year, among the respondents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research, the role of Russian media outlets as information sources concerning events in the populated locality, oblast and country, as well as concerning actions of the government decreased.

For comparison, in 2016, for 9% of the surveyed, Russian television was the source of information concerning general events, and for 5% - concerning the government's actions, and in 2017, these shares were only 6 and 2%. Importance of Russian websites has also dropped – from 8 to 7%, and from 5 to 3%.

The role of Russian media outlets as a major source of news stayed at a meager level (1%).

As a source of general information about events in the populated locality, oblast and country, Russian television was most often used by the respondents of Khersonska (12%), Odeska (8%), as well as Mykolayivska and Luhanska oblasts (7% each). Russian websites serves as such a source most often for the respondents of Kharkivska, Dnipropetrovska (9% each) and Khersonska oblasts (8%).

However, as a source of information about actions of the Ukrainian government, Russian TV enjoyed the highest popularity only among the respondents of Khersonska (7%) and Odeska oblasts (4%). Probably, a relatively high popularity of Russian TV among the residents of Khersonska oblast can be attributed to accessibility of the TV signal from Crimea.

The ones to receive information from Russian websites about the Ukrainian government most often were the respondents of Dnipropetrovska, Odeska, and Kharkivska oblasts (3% each).

Finally, importance of Russian TV and websites as major sources of news is equally meager for the respondents all oblasts of the South and East.

No significant dependence of preference for Russian media outlets was identified for any of the sociodemographic factors, except for the ethnic self-identification.

For instance, for 11% among the respondents, who consider themselves Russian, Russian TV is a source of information about events in their populated locality, oblast or country, and among Ukrainians, this share constituted 6%. However, for Russian websites there is no such connection (corresponding indicators – 8 and 7%).

Popularity of official sources of information and level of their credibility

A half of the surveyed in 2017 said that they received information about the government's actions from official sources (49%).

Table. Do you receive information about the government's actions from official sources (that is, statements of officials and their representatives, official media outlets (state or municipal TV channels, newspapers, websites or official pages on websites of social networks))? (in % to all the respondents)

	Yes			No			It is difficult to answer		
	2017	2016	2017 (6 oblasts)	2017	2016	2017 (6 oblasts)	2017	2016	2017 (6 oblasts)
Government	49	55	46	40	31	42	11	14	13

Oblast council	43	48	41	44	37	45	13	16	14
Local council	41	46	40	45	37	46	14	17	14

A significantly smaller share of the respondents said the same concerning information about actions of oblast (43%) and local councils (41%).

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, popularity of official sources of information concerning activities of all listed bodies of authority has significantly declined.

In 2016, more than a half (55%) of the respondents from the six oblasts of the South and East of Ukraine were using official sources of information to learn about actions of the government, and early in 2017, this share shrank to 46%. The same trend emerges as well concerning official sources of information about activities of oblast (from 48 to 41%) and local councils (from 46 to 40%).

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

Official sources of information enjoy the least popularity among the respondents of Donetska and Kharkivska oblast. This applies to all three levels of bodies of authority.

For instance, official sources of information concerning the government's actions in Donetska oblast were used only by 39%, and in Kharkivska oblast – 37%, and concerning activities of local councils – 35% and 30%, respectively.

Notably, it is in Donetska oblast that the highest share of the respondents abstained from giving a clear answer to the question (21-22% for all bodies of authority).

Official sources of information enjoy the highest popularity among the respondents of Khersonska and Mykolayivska oblasts. Still, this applies only to information sources concerning the government and oblast councils. For instance, 70% of the respondents in Khersonska and 60% in Mykolayivska oblasts receive information about the government's actions from official sources (the shares for oblast councils – 54% and 52%, respectively).

No significant dependence of popularity of official sources of information from key sociodemographic factors was identified.

According to the results of the survey of 2017, the **level of credibility of information from official sources** (from the government, oblast and local councils) is characterized as follows.

Roughly one in every five / one in every four completely or rather trust information from listed bodies of authority (22%, 23% and 27%, respectively).

The level of incredulity varies from almost a half (47%) concerning the government information to 40% for information from local councils.

Table. Do you trust information you receive from official sources? (in% to those of the respondents, who receive information from official sources)

	From the government			From oblast councils			From local councils		
	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*
Yes, I do completely	2	4	2	2	4	2	4	5	4

I rather trust it	20	25	19	21	25	20	23	26	22
I trust in general	22	29	21	23	29	22	27	31	26
I rather do not trust it	29	29	29	26	25	26	24	23	25
I don't trust it at all	18	17	18	18	19	17	16	16	16
I don't trust it in general	47	46	47	44	42	45	40	39	41
Difficult to say	30	26	31	33	30	33	33	30	33

*marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research

About one in every three found it difficult to decide on their opinion.

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year, the level of credibility of information from any of the three levels of bodies of authority went down, if we compare the results of the survey over the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research.

For the government information, the share of those, who trust it completely or rather trusts it, dropped from 29% in 2016 to 21% in 2017; for information from oblast councils – from 29 to 22%, and for information from local councils – from 31 to 26%.

However, shifts in the level of incredulity were not that significant. For instance, the level of incredulity to the government information increased only from 46 to 47%.

On the other hand, the share of those, who found it difficult to decide on their answer, has increased.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

In two oblasts, the respondents' attitude to credibility of official sources of information significantly differs from other oblasts. These are Donetsk and Odeska oblasts.

Donetska oblast had the highest share of the respondents, who abstained from giving a clear answer to all three questions. It was equal to or exceeded a half of the surveyed in the oblast.

In all cities of Donetsk oblast included into the survey sample, it is no less than 43% (Mariupol). In the front-line Volnovakha, it reaches 77% (the question concerning credibility of information from the local council). In Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, it constitutes 51-55% and, notably, the latter share is for the question about credibility of information from the oblast council (Kramatorsk is an administrative center of Donetsk oblast).

As the section below suggests, the most probable explanation of an exceedingly high share of those, who abstains from, or refuses, answering in Donetsk oblast, is the tense sociopsychological and political situation that is connected, first of all, with the armed hostilities on the territory of the oblast. Consequently, many people are afraid to express their opinions openly even to sociologists.

Odeska oblast stands out among other oblasts due to the highest level of incredulity to information from any of the three levels of bodies of authority. Of information from local councils rather or completely not trust 52%, from oblast council – 59%, and from of the central government – 63% surveyed. In Odesa, these indicators vary from 55% to 58%, and in Podolsk / Kotovsk – from 62% to 64%.

No connections were identified between the level of credibility / incredulity of official sources of information and key sociodemographic factors.

Assessment of sufficiency of information from bodies of authority and desired information

A half of the surveyed said they receive a sufficient amount of information about actions of the government, and less than a half (46%) – about actions of oblast or local councils.

Table. Do you receive enough information about actions: (in % to all the respondents)

	...of the government			... of the oblast council			...of the local council		
	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*
I receive too much information	6	4	6	5	3	5	5	3	6
I receive enough information	51	51	50	46	46	46	46	45	46
I receive little information	14	18	15	16	19	16	16	19	16
I receive almost no information	12	12	12	15	15	15	14	16	14
Difficult to say	17	15	17	18	17	18	18	17	18

*marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research.

At the same time, one in every four said that they receive little or almost no information about the government's actions (26%), and almost one in every three – about actions of the oblast council (31%) or local council (30%).

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, no significant shifts took place in assessment by the respondents of the six oblasts of the South and East of sufficiency of information about actions of this or that body of authority.

Some increase was observed in the share of those, who believe they receive too much information about the government's actions (from 4 to 6%), oblast (from 3 to 5%) or local council (from 3 to 6%). The share of those, who believe they receive enough information, has virtually not changed.

On the other hand, some decrease happened to the shares of those, who believe they receive little or almost no information, concerning the government's actions – from 30% to 27% in 2017, concerning actions of the oblast council – from 34 to 31%, and concerning actions local council – from 35 to 30%.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

In three oblasts, residents' assessment of sufficiency of information from bodies of authority differs significantly from other oblasts. These are Kharkivska, Luhanska, and Khersonska oblasts.

In these oblasts, the highest shares of the surveyed indicated that they receive little or almost no information about actions of the authorities. In Kharkivska oblast, this applies to all three levels of bodies of authority: 32% of the surveyed shared this opinion on information about actions of the government, and 37% each – about actions of the oblast and local council.

In Luhanska and Khersonska oblasts, such extremely high shares were identified only for assessment of information about actions of the oblast and local councils (34-37%).

On the positive side, in Donetsk and Mykolayivska oblasts, the highest shares of the surveyed said regarding all three bodies of authority that they receive enough information about their activities (the highest in Mykolayivska oblast, where 62% said this concerning information about actions of the government).

On top of that, in Luhanska and Khersonska oblasts, a rather high share of the surveyed said that they receive enough information about activities of the government (54 and 56%, respectively).

Some cities show their own peculiarities in perception of sufficiency of information about activities of the bodies of authority.

A uniquely high share of the surveyed residents in the front-line Volnovakha, Donetsk oblast, said that they receive little or almost no information about activities of the authorities: 71% – concerning actions of the oblast council, 68% – concerning actions of the local council, and 47% – concerning actions of the central government. No other city is even approaching such degree of negative assessments.

Conversely, several cities showed a comparatively high satisfaction with sufficiency of information on activities of the authorities. Among them, it was residents of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk (75%) and Kherson (66%), who expressed the highest level of satisfaction as to receiving of information about activities of all three levels of bodies of authority.

On top of that, the surveyed residents of Mykolayiv (59-68%), Mariupol (47-49%), Izmayil (47-51%) and Kharkiv (50-52%) also appraised comparatively highly sufficiency of information about activities of all three levels of bodies of authority.

No dependence of the above-listed assessments from key sociodemographic factors was identified.

What information would the residents of the East and South of Ukraine like to receive from the government, oblast and local councils? Among the suggested options, information about distribution of the budget enjoyed the highest popularity – from 40% (from the government) to 44% (from local council) – would like to receive it.

Information about major actions, instructions and laws is in demand for the one third of the surveyed (34%), when it is information from the government, and for one in every four – from the local council.

Table. What information would you like receive from: (in % to all the respondents surveyed in 2016 and 2017)

	...the government			...oblast council			...local council		
	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*
About distribution of the budget	40	42	41	37	38	37	44	44	43

About major actions / instructions / laws	34	34	33	30	33	30	25	27	26
About major appointments in bodies of authority	17	17	17	14	14	14	17	16	18
Difficult to say	33	28	34	36	31	36	36	30	35

*marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research.

Information about major appointments in bodies of authority was of interest for from 17% (from the government and the local council) to 14% of the surveyed (from the oblast council).

However, a rather large part of the surveyed found it difficult to decide, whether they need such information (33% from the government; 36% each from councils).

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Shifts in demand for this or that kind of information, which took place over the year, do not line up into any observable trends. Information about the budget is still the most interesting for the respondents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research. Relevance of information about major actions and alike from oblast councils has somewhat shrunk (from 33 to 30%). The biggest shifts took place among the group of those, who found it difficult to decide on their opinion. The corresponding shares have grown for all types of information from all bodies of authority.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

The surveyed residents of Dnipropetrovska oblast expressed significantly more interest towards the issues of distribution of the budget from all three levels of bodies of authority, compared to other seven oblasts. More than a half of the surveyed (54%) in the oblast would like to receive such information from the government (the closest share – 44% – was identified among residents of Mykolayivska oblast) and from the city council (56%; the closest share was identified among residents of Khersonska oblast, 55%); somewhat less than a half of the respondents (45%) would like to receive such information from the oblast council (the closest share was identified among residents of Kharkivska oblast – 41%).

Information about the budget from the central government was in the highest demand among the surveyed residents of Starobelsk, Luhanska oblast (67%), Kryvyi Rih (53%), and Dnipro (50%).

Information about the budget from the oblast council was of the highest interest for the surveyed residents of Starobelsk (49%), Kharkiv and Kryvyi Rih (43% each), Kherson (42%), Mykolayiv (39%), Dnipro (37%), and Odesa (36%).

Finally, information about the budget from the city council was of the most interest for the surveyed residents of Kherson (58%), Starobelsk (52%), Kryvyi Rih (50%), Dnipro (48%), and Kharkiv (47%).

A uniquely high share of the surveyed in Donetsk oblast abstained from giving a clear answer to the questions on all types of information from all bodies of authority (at least 60%).

No dependence level of demand for this or that kind of information from key sociodemographic factors was identified.

Information topics of the highest interest for the respondents

The top five most interesting topics for the respondents look as follows:

1. Weather (35%)

2. State politics (32%)
3. War in the East of Ukraine (31%)
4. News about events in your city / village (31%)
5. Health, health care (29%)

Diagram. Distribution of answers to the question «Which topics are of the highest interest for you?» (in % to all the respondents; * marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research)

/ Weather

State politics

War in the East of Ukraine

News about events in your city / village

Health, health care

Lifestyle, entertainment

Local politics

Crime

Everything about famous people

Environment

Sports

News about events in other regions

Local cultural events

News from Europe

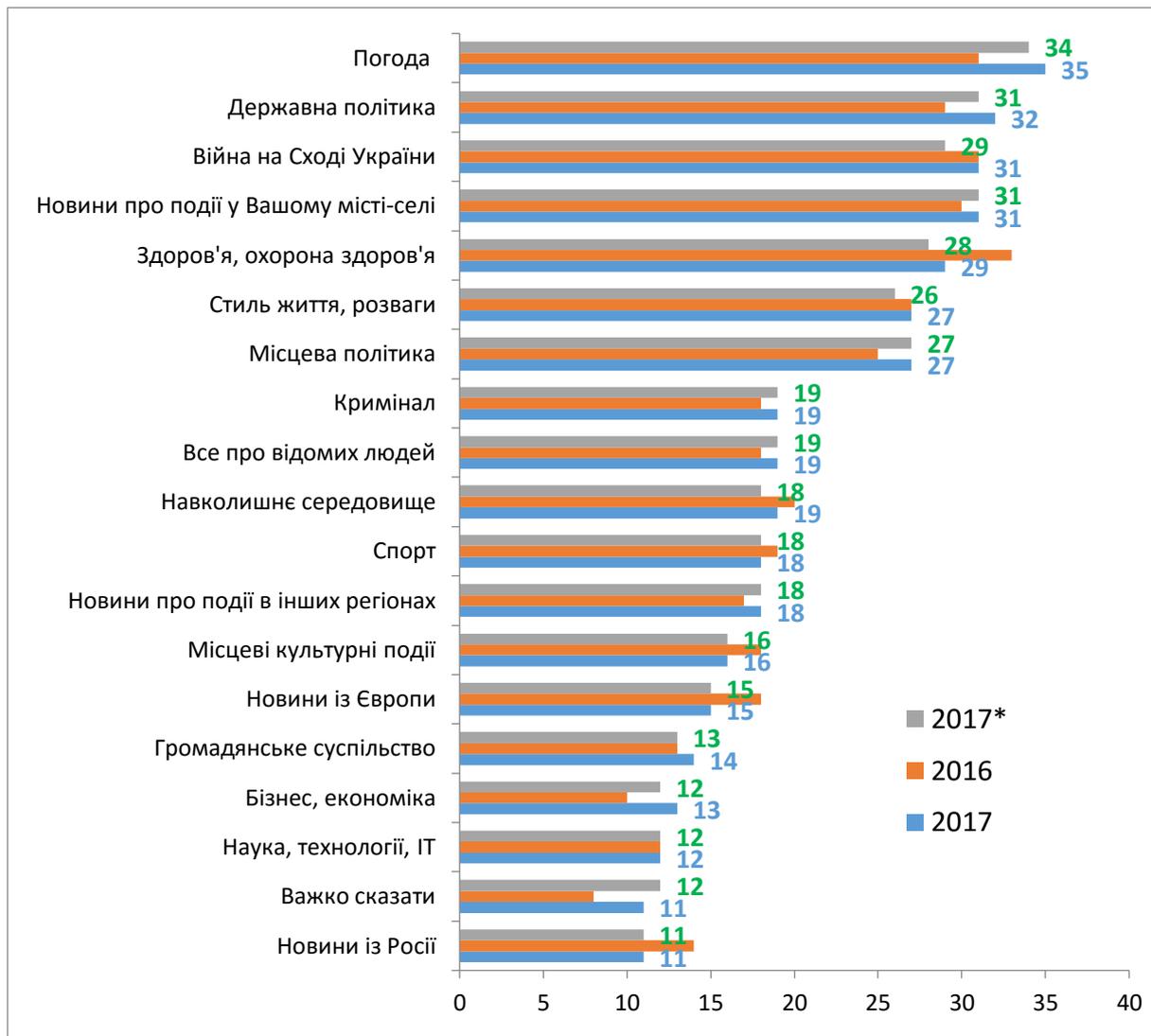
Civil society

Business, economy

Science, technology, IT

Difficult to say

News from Russia/



Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, the preferences for information among the residents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research, manifested the following comparatively significant shifts:

- Interest to the following topics somewhat increased: weather (from 31 to 34%), state politics (from 29 to 31%), business and economy (from 10 to 12%)
- Interest to several topics, conversely, went down. These are news from Russia (from 14 to 11%), health and health care (from 33 to 28%), the war in the East of Ukraine (from 31% to 29%), news from Europe (from 18% to 15%).

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

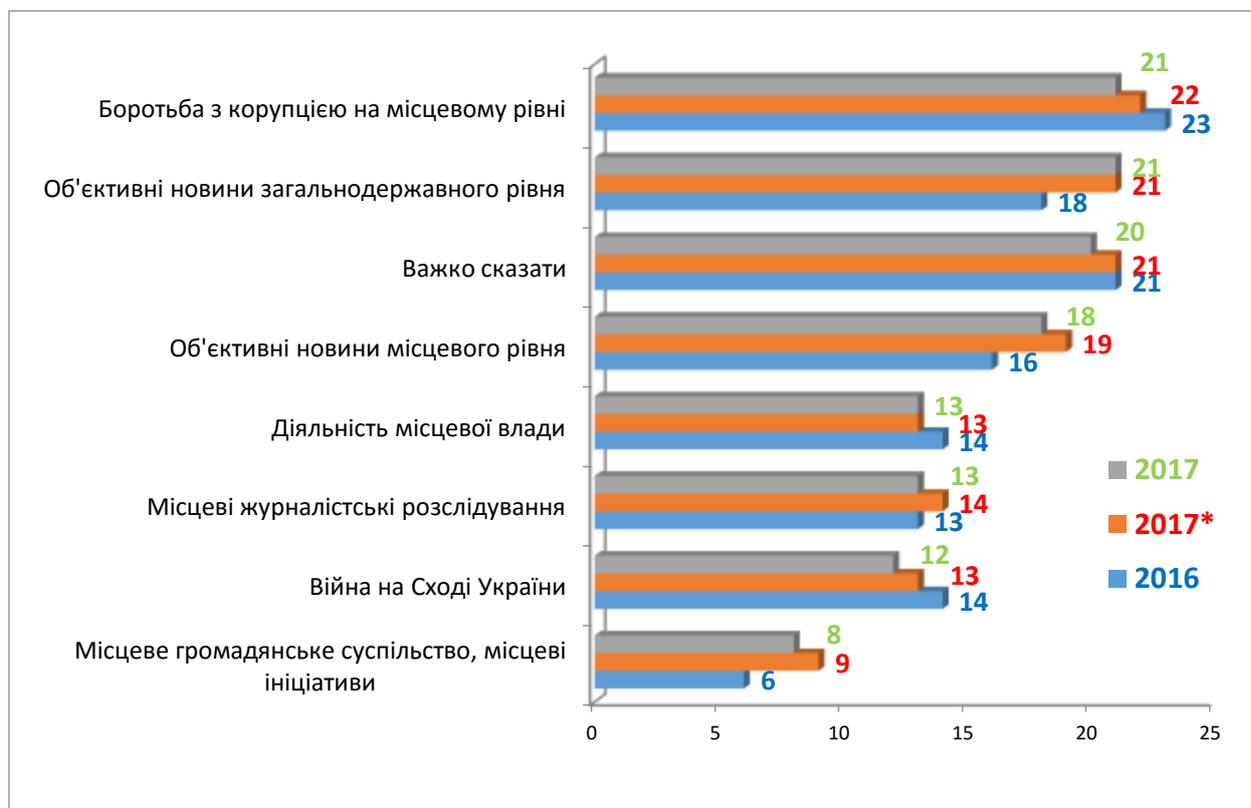
In general, no significant difference is observed in thematic preferences of residents of different oblasts. On top of that, no dependence of interest towards certain topics from key sociodemographic factors was identified.

Information residents of the South and East of Ukraine lack

One in every five surveyed residents of the South and East of Ukraine (21%) lacked information about combating corruption at the local level. The same share of the surveyed needed unbiased news of the national or local levels.

Roughly one in every ten lacked information about activities of local authorities, the war in the East of Ukraine, local journalist investigations and information about local civil society, local volunteer initiatives.

Diagram. Distribution of answers to the question «What information do you lack?» (in % to all the respondents; the respondents were allowed to select more than one answer; *marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research)



/ Combating corruption at the local level

Unbiased news of national level

Difficult to say

Unbiased news of local level

Activities of local authorities

Local journalist investigations

War in the East of Ukraine

Local civil society, local volunteer initiatives. /

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, some shifts took place in the structure of information lacked by the residents of the six Southern and Eastern oblasts of Ukraine covered by both waves of the survey:

- The demand for unbiased news of the national level has increased (from 18% in 2016 to 21% in 2017)
- The demand for unbiased news of the local level has increased (from 16% to 19%)

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

Information about combating corruption and local journalist investigations is in somewhat more demand from the residents of big cities (with the population of more than 500 thousand), than from the residents of smaller populated localities.

For instance, 26% of the surveyed in big cities stated their unsatisfied need for information about combating corruption, and among the residents of villages and towns with the population of less than 50 thousand, this share constituted 19-20%.

No significant difference was identified for other types of information the respondents lack among the groups determined by such factors as the size of the populated locality, sex, age, education, ethnic self-identification, etc.

At the same time, the structure of unsatisfied information needs differs between the oblasts. Information about combating corruption was lacked the most by the surveyed residents of Dnipropetrovska (28%), Zaporizka (27%), and Kharkivska oblasts (20%).

Unbiased news of the national and local levels are most needed by the surveyed residents in Donetska (24% and 26%, respectively), Luhanska (24% and 25%, respectively), Mykolayivska (30% and 27%) and Khersonska oblasts (14% and 17%).

More information about the war in the East of Ukraine is needed by the residents of Dnipropetrovska and Odeska oblasts (16% each).

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «What information do you lack...?», in the eight oblasts of Ukraine (in % to the surveyed in 2017 in each oblast; the respondents were allowed to select more than one answer)

	Dnipropetrovska	Donetska	Zaporizka	Luhanska	Odeska	Kharkivska	Mykolayivska	Khersonska
Combating corruption at the local level	28	10	27	16	23	20	24	9
Unbiased news of the national level	18	24	26	24	25	15	30	14
Unbiased news of the local level	17	26	24	25	22	11	27	17
Activities of local authorities	19	11	19	13	10	8	14	10
War in the East of Ukraine	16	13	13	14	16	7	15	7
Local journalist investigations	21	4	19	10	9	12	12	6
Local civil society, local volunteer initiatives	14	3	15	6	6	6	6	2
None of the above	19	21	25	25	25	28	32	41
It is difficult to answer	12	35	14	18	24	25	15	19

Local journalist investigations are the most needed by the surveyed residents of Dnipropetrovska (21%) and Zaporizka oblasts (19%). They also lack information about the local civil society and local volunteer initiatives more (14% and 15%, respectively), than residents of other oblasts.

It bears mentioning that in Donetska oblast, the respondents significantly more often (35%), than in other oblasts, found it difficult to give an answer to the question concerning information that they lack.

It is telling that local media outlets of the East and South of Ukraine offer virtually no information about combating corruption: on average, this topic is covered in up to 1% from the general number of materials, according to the Institute of Mass Information's content analysis of media outlets. On top of that, the share of materials about the ATO zone and the war in the East constituted only 4%¹.

Level of interaction of residents of the South and East of Ukraine with mass media

Only 1% of the surveyed residents of the eight oblasts of the South and East of Ukraine themselves suggested topics to local journalists or submitted their suggestions to editorial offices during the last year.

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «Did you ever suggest any topics to local journalists by yourself or, maybe, send your suggestions to an editorial office in the last 12 months?» (in % to all surveyed; *marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research)

	2017	2016	2017*
Yes	1	2	1
No	97	94	97
It is difficult to answer	2	4	2

According to the results of the research of 2017, only 1.5% of the surveyed participated in surveys or interviews conducted by local mass media during the last 12 months.

Over the year that passed, no significant shifts took place in the level of interaction of the surveyed residents of the six oblasts of the South and East covered by both waves of the research, with local mass media. On top of that, no regional or other peculiarities were identified.

In general, 14% of the surveyed in 2017 tried to find an alternative media channel in the case, when they doubted information from media outlets, to check it. A half of this group made such attempts in the last 7 or 30 days. The other half said that they made such attempts in the last 12 months.

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «In the cases, when you doubted information from media outlets, did you try to find an alternative media channel to check it?» (in % to all surveyed; *marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research)

	2017	2016	2017*
Yes, I did so in the last 7 days	3	6	3
Yes, I did so in the last 30 days	4	5	4
Yes, I did so in the last 12 months	7	7	7
No, я never did so	77	72	78
It is difficult to answer	9	11	8

¹See <http://imi.org.ua/news/56613-naybilshe-informatsiji-u-mistsevih-zmi-pivdnya-ta-shodu-ukrajini-pro-kriminal-naymenshe-pro-borotbu-z-koruptsiyu-doslidjennya-imi.html>

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

The share of those, who did not look for alternative media channels to check information from media outlets has somewhat increased compared to the previous year. In 2016, it constituted 72%, and in 2017 – already 78% among the residents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

No significant regional peculiarities or special sociodemographic characteristics were identified concerning the respondents' activities on finding alternative sources of information.

Level of awareness concerning the right for information about the environment and the right to know about use of personal information

Among the surveyed residents of the East and South of Ukraine, 40% are not aware that they have a right for information about the environment, quality of food and goods, natural disasters and emergencies that can be dangerous for health and well-being of people.

More than one third of the surveyed also are not aware that each citizen of Ukraine has a right to know when information is being gathered about him or her, what the goal of collecting this information is, how it will be used and to whom it will be provided.

A little over one half (53%) of the surveyed are well aware or have heard something about the right for access to information about emergencies, etc. The least informed are the respondents, who live on the territories of Donetsk oblast under control of the Ukrainian government (only 34% are well aware or have heard something about this right). Among city dwellers, the least informed were the surveyed residents of Mariupol, Bakhmut, Volnovakha, and Podilsk (former Kotovsk), where one half of the surveyed or more are completely ignorant about this.

The residents of Donetsk oblast turned out to be the least aware about the right to know, who, when, and how collects information about them (only 43% were aware of it).

The leaders in this sphere were the surveyed residents of Mykolayivska, Kharkivska, Khersonska and Zaporizka oblasts, where more than two thirds of respondents declared that they were aware of this right.

The level of awareness about both rights declines as the age of the person in question increases. In the age groups under 55 years, the share of those aware of the right for information about emergencies gets close to two thirds; in the age group of 55-64 years, it is 50%, and in the age group over 65 – only 40%. People with higher education also show a much greater level of awareness.

The indicators of awareness did not change considerably compared to early last year, when the survey was conducted for the first time.

Political views and values of the population of the East and South of Ukraine

The research aimed to identify the foreign-policy orientations (attitude to Ukraine joining NATO, EU or the Customs Union; view of the desired geopolitical choice of Ukraine; attitude to the EU countries, USA, and Russia), view of the armed conflict in the East of Ukraine (the respondents' opinion as to who is to blame for the conflict; their attitude to the future of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as to certain actions of Ukraine concerning the territories not under control of the central government), as well as their attitude to support of the Ukrainian language, national-patriotic education of the youth and other values.

Foreign-policy orientations

The surveyed residents of the South and East of Ukraine favor the EU countries the most. The balance of favorable and negative attitudes constituted +31%. More than a half of the respondents (53%) said that they perceive the EU countries very favorably or rather favorably. At the same time, almost one in every five surveyed admitted their negative attitude (22%).

The attitude to USA stays favorable; however, the balance of attitudes is smaller than towards the EU countries (+16%).

Finally, in general, the surveyed residents of the eight oblasts of the South and East of Ukraine showed a negative attitude to Russia. The balance of attitudes is negative (-2%). Their favorable attitude to Russia was reported by 35%, and negative – by 37%.

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «How favorably do you perceive the following countries?» (in % to all surveyed; *marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research)

	EU countries			USA			Russia		
	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*
Very favorably	14	14	14	8	11	9	7	10	8
Rather favorably	39	37	38	36	33	35	28	27	29
Rather negatively	16	16	16	20	17	20	23	20	22
Very negatively	6	8	6	8	16	9	14	15	13
Balance of attitudes (in general favorably and negatively)	+31	+27	+30	+16	+11	+15	-2	+2	+2
Difficult to say	16	15	16	18	16	17	17	16	17
Refusal to answer	10	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	13

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, the attitude of residents of the six oblasts of the South and East of Ukraine covered by both waves of the research, underwent the following changes. The attitude towards the EU countries improved (the balance of positive and negative attitudes increased from +27 to +30%) and USA (the balance of attitudes increased from +11 to +15%), and the attitude towards Russia did not change and stays at the level of +2%.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

There are significant regional differences in how the residents of the eight oblasts perceive the above-listed countries.

... EU?	26	25	25	43	40	43	31	35	32
... NATO?	13	13	12	56	51	56	32	36	32
... Customs Union?	14	20	14	51	40	50	35	40	36

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, the attitude of the residents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research became more determined, which manifests in a significant reduction of the share of those, who found it difficult to give an answer (for instance, from 40 to 36% for the question about joining the Customs Union).

The support for joining EU did not change and stays at the level of 25%, and the support for joining NATO and the Customs Union somewhat dropped (from 13 to 12% and from 20 to 14%, respectively). On the other hand, the shares of those, who were directly against each of the suggested options, have grown significantly. Primarily, this applies to the share of the opponents of joining the Customs Union – it has increased from 40% to a half of all surveyed in the six oblasts.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

Evaluation of desired international affiliations noticeably varies from one oblasts to another. The greatest support of joining the EU was registered in Dnipropetrovska (35%) and Khersonska (32%) oblasts. The weakest support of this option was registered from the respondents, who live on the territories of Donetsk oblast controlled by the Ukrainian government

The residents of Zaporizka and Mykolayivska oblasts showed the greatest support of joining NATO (19% each). The lowest support was registered in Donetsk oblast (4%).

Table. Distribution of positive answers to the question « Do you want Ukraine to become part of...?», in the eight oblasts of Ukraine (in % to the surveyed in each oblast in 2017)

	Dnipropetrovska	Donetska	Zaporizka	Luhanska	Odeska	Kharkivska	Mykolayivska	Khersonska
EU	35	9	28	22	20	27	26	32
NATO	14	4	19	11	11	11	19	11
Customs Union	16	17	9	16	22	8	11	9

Joining the Customs Union has the strongest support in Odeska oblast (22%). The weakest support was observed in Kharkivska (8%), Zaporizka, and Khersonska oblasts (9% each).

It should be mentioned that in several oblasts, the share of the respondents, who evaded giving a clear answer to the given questions is too high. In Donetsk oblast, it varies from 41-42% for the questions related to joining the EU and NATO, to 46% for the question related to joining the Customs Union. In Luhanska and Mykolayivska oblasts, 36-38% of the respondents also were reluctant to answer the question regarding joining the Customs Union. For this reason, one needs to treat with reserve the distribution of opinions in these oblasts, as it is impossible to identify,

what share of those, who do not want to answer the mentioned questions, really simply feel uncertain about them, and what share is afraid to express their opinion for one reason or another.

There is certain connection between such indicators as ethnic self-identification, language of communication, and foreign-policy preferences. Among those, who self-identify as Ukrainians, there are twice as many supporters of joining the EU compared to those, who self-identify as Russians (27% and 16%, respectively). Vice versa, the share of those, who support joining the Customs Union, is twice as big among ethnic Russians, compared to Ukrainians (26% and 12%, respectively). The difference in support of joining NATO is smaller (9% for Russians and 13% for Ukrainians).

The respondents, who use Russian language to communicate at home, are more supportive of joining the Customs Union (16%), compared to those, who use Ukrainian (8%), or both Russian and Ukrainian (12%). For other questions of the survey, no difference between users of different languages was discovered.

Support of joining the EU and NATO goes down for older respondents, and support of joining the Customs Union, inversely, goes up. For example, for the youngest group of the respondents (18-24 years old) 40% and 18% picked joining the EU and NATO, respectively, and among the respondents of the age exceeding 65 years, the same indicators were much lower (16% and 8%, respectively). Almost one in every five in the eldest age group (18%) supports joining the Customs Union, and in the youngest – only one in every ten.

Among the respondents with higher education, there are more supporters of joining the EU (31%), compared to the respondents with complete secondary (20%) or vocational education (24%).

Support of joining the EU and NATO is the lowest among the respondents, who self-identify as the poorest group in the population. For example, among those, who are «forced to skimp on food», 16% and 8% support Ukraine joining the EU and NATO, respectively; among those, who have «enough money for food, but need to save up or borrow to buy clothes and footwear», the same shares are 25% and 12%, and for those, who «have enough money for food, the necessary clothes, footwear, but need to save up or borrow money to buy good clothes, a cell phone or vacuum cleaner», – 30% and 15%. As to those, who have «enough money for food, necessary clothes, footwear, other goods, but need to save up or borrow money to buy expensive goods (for example, a TV set or refrigerator)», their respective shares are 38% and 20%.

Support of joining the Customs Union is somewhat greater among the poorest of the respondents (18%), compared to richer groups (11-14%).

The attitudes to directions of the Ukrainian foreign policy are not unanimous, either. The prevalent opinion is that Ukraine should be neutral / should balance between the West and the East. It is shared by 42% of the surveyed. Almost one in every five believe that Ukraine should move towards Europe, and almost one in every ten – towards Russia. However, one in every four found it difficult to give an answer to the question or the respondents directly refused to answer to the question.

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «In what direction should Ukraine move in its foreign policy?» (in % to all surveyed; *marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research)

	2017	2016	2017*
Towards Europe	23	24	22
Towards Russia	9	13	10
Be neutral	42	36	41
None of the above	6	5	6

I don't know	16	15	16
Refusal to answer	4	7	5

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, the share of those, who believe that Ukraine should be neutral, has increased significantly – from 36% in 2016 to 41% in 2017 (as in other cases considered over time, it is the opinion of residents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research).

At the same time, some decrease was observed in the shares of supporters of movement towards both Europe (from 24 to 22%) and Russia (from 13 to 10%).

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

The opinion about the «neutral status» of Ukraine is prominent in all of the eight oblasts. Only in Khersonska oblast, its supporters constitute the majority (55%). In other oblasts, their share varies from one third (Odeska) to almost a half (49% in Donetsk oblast).

The movement towards Europe enjoys the highest support among the surveyed residents of Dnipropetrovska (30%), Zaporizka (27%), Khersonska (26%), and Kharkivska oblasts (25%). The least support was expressed by the residents of Donetsk oblast (9%).

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «In what direction should Ukraine move in its foreign policy?», in the eight oblasts of Ukraine (in % to the surveyed in each oblast in 2017)

	Dnipropetrovska	Donetska	Zaporizka	Luhanska	Odeska	Kharkivska	Mykolayivska	Khersonska
Towards Europe	30	9	27	17	18	25	23	26
Towards Russia	9	16	5	12	15	7	8	4
Be neutral	38	49	40	44	33	45	45	55
None of the above	3	5	5	7	13	6	6	4
Refusal to answer	2	6	7	10	7	3	2	0
I don't know	19	16	17	10	14	15	16	11

The movement to Russia enjoyed the highest support among the surveyed residents of Donetsk and Odeska oblasts (16 and 15%, respectively). The least support was expressed by the surveyed residents of Khersonska (4%) and Zaporizka (5%) oblasts.

Evaluation of the armed conflict in the East of Ukraine

Overall, the opinion of the surveyed concerning those at fault for the armed conflict in the Donbas is not unanimous. More than one third of the surveyed put blame for the conflict on Russia, one third – the central government of Ukraine, and roughly the same share of the respondents indicated Western countries (16%) and Individuals, who wage war against the Ukrainian government in the East of Ukraine (17%).

A significant part of the respondents was unable to give a clear answer to this question.

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «What is your opinion on who is the one to blame in the military conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts?» (in % to all surveyed; the respondents were allowed to select more than one answer; * marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts, which also participated in the first wave of the research)

	2017	2016	2017*
Central government of Ukraine	33	31	33
Russia	35	32	33
Western countries: EU, USA	16	15	16
Individuals, who wage war against the Ukrainian government in the East of Ukraine	17	12	17
Other	2	0	0
Difficult to say	36	35	37

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

The opinion of the surveyed in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research, in general, did not change much over the year that passed.

The only exception is the significant growth of the share of those, who puts blame on the Individuals, who wage war against the Ukrainian government in the East of Ukraine. In 2016, 12% believed so, and in the early 2017 – already 17%.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

Russia is most often blamed by the surveyed residents in Dnipropetrovska (52%), Khersonska (48%), and Mykolayivska oblasts (41%). The least often – in Donetsk oblast (15%).

The central government of Ukraine is most often blamed by the residents of that very Dnipropetrovska, as well as Odeska and Luhanska oblasts (39% each).

It should be highlighted that almost in all oblasts, the share of those undecided with their opinion is rather high. It is the highest in Donetsk oblast (more than a half – 51%).

Table. Opinions on who is to blame for the military conflict in the East of Ukraine by oblasts (in % to the surveyed in each oblast; results of the survey of 2017 for 8 oblasts)

	Dnipropetrovska	Donetska	Zaporizka	Luhanska	Odeska	Kharkivska	Mykolayivska	Khersonska
Russia	39	30	29	28	30	25	41	48
Central government of Ukraine	52	15	34	39	39	25	34	33
Western countries: EU, USA	12	21	12	20	22	15	13	10

Individuals, who wage war against the Ukrainian government in the East of Ukraine	19	7	19	17	15	22	8	22
Difficult to say	19	51	42	36	36	46	34	26
Other	1	1	0	1	2	2	3	0

Of all oblasts, the opinion of the surveyed residents of Dnipropetrovska oblast seems the most determined. Only one in every five respondent found the question difficult to answer (19%; the lowest indicator of all oblasts). In addition, the difference from support of other variants is much higher, than in other oblasts. Among the respondents of the oblast, two points of view are prevalent – placing blame on Russia (52%) or on the central government of Ukraine (39%). In other oblasts, the attitudes are more dispersed.

There is a certain difference in the attitude between the respondents who consider themselves Russians and those who identify as Ukrainians. The former tend to blame Russia less (23% – Russians and 36% – Ukrainians) and to blame Western countries more (25% Russians, and 14% - Ukrainians). Yet, this difference significantly decreases in the issues concerning placing blame on the central government of Ukraine (38% among Russians and 33% among Ukrainians) and individuals who wage war against the central Ukrainian government in the East of Ukraine (13% of Russians and 17% of Ukrainians place the blame on them).

The language for communication in the family shows significant influence only in the question of Russia's blame. The respondents who use Russian at home tend to blame Russia less (31%), compared to those who use Ukrainian (44%) or both Russian and Ukrainian (39%). This correlation reduces or virtually disappears, when the issue is related to blaming Western countries (17%, 13%, 13%, respectively), the central government of Ukraine (34%, 32%, 32%, respectively) or individuals who wage war against Ukrainian government in the East of Ukraine (16%, 19%, 17%, respectively).

We failed to find any significant correlation between age, education, sex, employment of the respondents, self-assessment of their financial status or the size of the populated locality they reside in, and the opinions on who to blame for the military conflict in the East of Ukraine.

Time dynamics by regions. Interesting changes took place in the public opinion in some oblasts in the preceding year since the first survey in late 2015 – early 2016. For instance, the share of those who blame the central Ukrainian government significantly increased in Dnipropetrovska (from 24 to 39%), Odeska (from 25 to 39%), Luhanska (from 33 to 39%), and Donetsk oblasts (from 24 to 30%), while in Zaporizka and Kharkivska oblasts, conversely, shrank (from 36 to 29% and from 39 to 25%, respectively).

In Odeska and Luhanska oblasts, the share of those who place blame on the Russian Federation increased significantly (from 21 to 30% and from 13 to 28%, respectively).

Changes in the attitude to the Western countries also manifest contrasting tendencies. In Zaporizka, Luhanska, and Kharkivska oblasts, the share of those who blames them for the hostilities in the East, reduced (from 17 to 12%, from 26 to 20% and from 21 to 15%, respectively).

In Donetsk and Odeska oblasts, this share, conversely, increased (from 13 to 21-22%).

Significantly more of the surveyed now place blame on the «individuals who wage war against the Ukrainian government», in Dnipropetrovska (from 9 to 19%), Luhanska (from 3 to 17%), and Kharkivska oblasts (from 13 to 22%).

Changes in different directions can be traced also in how established the opinion is about who is to blame for the conflict. In Zaporizka and Kharkivska oblasts, the share of those who find it difficult to answer the question significantly increased (from 23 to 42% and from 34 to 46%, respectively). In Donetsk, Luhanska, and Odeska oblasts, the share of such people, conversely, decreased.

The research does not give sufficient grounds to give an exhaustive explanation for these changes, in particular, the different drift in attitudes in different areas.

Should the Ukrainian government resume a full-scale military operation to retake the Ukrainian territories in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts?

Almost two thirds of the surveyed residents of the eight oblasts (62%) remain in opposition to the idea that the Ukrainian government should resume the full-scale hostilities to retake the Ukrainian territories in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. About one in every five supports such actions and another 20% found it difficult to decide on their opinion concerning this question.

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «Please, specify to what degree you agree or disagree with the following statements...»? (in % to all surveyed; *marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research)

	Ukraine needs to resume the full-scale military operation to retake the territory controlled by separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts			Donbas and Crimea need to be returned to Ukraine – we should not agree to any compromises with Russia in this issue		
	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*
Yes	8	8	7	19	17	16
Rather yes	9	7	9	20	21	19
Overall agree	17	15	16	39	38	35
Rather no	15	18	15	12	11	13
No	47	49	48	14	21	16
Overall do not agree	62	67	63	26	32	29
It is difficult to answer	20	18	20	35	30	37

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, the share of the opponents of resuming of the hostilities shrank significantly – from 67% in 2016 to 63% in the early 2017 (among the residents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research). Other indicators did not change this much.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

The predominant majority of the surveyed in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast are against resumption of the full-scale hostilities (82 and 79%, respectively). The respondents in Kharkivska oblast hold a similar stance (68%).

The highest support was observed among the surveyed residents of Dnipropetrovska oblast (31%), while in the rest of the oblasts, it constitutes 22-23%.

Among all oblasts, the largest share of those undecided with this question was observed in Odeska oblast (almost one in every three, 29%). In the rest of the oblasts, it varies from 14-15% (Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk and Luhansk oblast) to 20-24%.

The respondents who identify as ethnical Russians, more often oppose the resumption of the full-scale hostilities compared to the respondents who identify as Ukrainians (73% and 61%, respectively).

On top of that, the respondents who speak Russian at home also share this point of view more often (58%), compared to those who speak Ukrainian (66%) or both languages (56%).

No significant correlation was discovered between the attitude to resumption of the full-scale military operation and such factors as age, education, size of their populated locality, etc.

Should Ukraine agree to compromises with Russia concerning returning Donbas and Crimea?

The answers of the surveyed residents of the East and South of Ukraine to this question are less unanimous, than to the question concerning resumption of the full-scale hostilities.

Almost two fifth of the surveyed (39%) are against any compromises with Russia, and almost a quarter of the surveyed (26%) tend to agree with such compromises. One third of the respondents found it difficult to decide on a clear answer to this question.

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, the share of those, who found it difficult to decide on their answer to the question, among the surveyed residents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research, has increased significantly (from 30% to 37%).

On the other hand, some decrease was observed in the shares of both the opponents of compromises (from 38 to 35%), and their supporters (from 32% to 29%).

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

The largest share of opponents of compromise with Russia was identified in Mykolayivska (75%), Dnipropetrovska and Zaporizka oblasts (47% each). The smallest share – in Donetsk (19%) and Kharkivska oblasts (20%). At the same time, in these very oblasts most respondents were not able to choose a clear answer to the question (52% and 48%, respectively).

The respondents, who self-identify as ethnic Ukrainians, to a significantly greater extent oppose any compromises with Russia than the people who consider themselves ethnic Russians (41% and 27%, respectively). The same difference was also identified in regard to language groups. The respondents, who speak Ukrainian at home, are much more often against a compromise (55%) than the respondents, who speak Russian (33%), or Russian and Ukrainian (46%).

No significant correlation was discovered between the attitude to admissibility of compromise with Russia and a number of other factors such as sex, age, education, etc.

The future of Donbas: attitude of residents of the South and East of Ukraine

Among the surveyed residents of the East and South of Ukraine, the prevalent opinion is that Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts need to preserve the relations with Kyiv in the same format as they were before the crisis (37%).

The next by prevalence is the opinion that these oblasts should obtain certain, or significant, autonomy (both variants are supported by 18% of the respondents).

The options of getting independence and division of Donbas into the Ukrainian territory and the territory under control of the so-called DPR/LPR are supported by 7% each.

And, finally, Donbas joining Russia is the desired future for only 2% of the surveyed.

One in every five respondents was undecided about an answer to this question.

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «What course of events would you want for Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts?» (in % to all surveyed; respondents could pick only one answer; *marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research)

	2017	2016	2017*
To preserve the relations with Kyiv in the same format as they were before the crisis	37	30	34

To remain a part of Ukraine, but to get certain autonomy from Kyiv	11	13	12
To remain a part of Ukraine, but to obtain significant autonomy from Kyiv	7	9	8
To become independent	7	8	7
To get divided: in this case, the currently Ukrainian-controlled territories would remain a part of Ukraine, and the territories controlled by the people waging war against the Ukrainian government would remain under their command	7	8	8
To become a part of the Russian Federation	2	3	2
Refused to answer	8	8	9
It is difficult to answer	22	21	22

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, the share of supporters of preserving the relations of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts with Kyiv in the same format as they were before the war began, has increased significantly – from 30% to 34% (among the residents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research). The changes of other indicators were insignificant.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

There are certain differences in the views of the residents of different regions. The largest share of supporters of preserving the pre-war relations with Kyiv was identified in Mykolayivska (59%), Khersonska (53%), and Zaporizka oblasts (43%).

Table. Attitude of the residents of the East and South of Ukraine towards the future of Donetsk and Luhansk oblast, by oblasts (in % to the surveyed in each oblast in 2017; numbers are rounded down)

	Dnipropetrovska	Donetska	Zaporizka	Luhanska	Odeska	Kharkivska	Mykolayivska	Khersonska
To preserve the relations with Kyiv in the same format as they were before the crisis	32	30	43	41	38	27	59	53
To remain a part of Ukraine, but to get certain autonomy from Kyiv	13	10	7	11	8	17	9	7
To remain a part of Ukraine, but to obtain significant autonomy from Kyiv	6	13	7	11	6	6	4	5
To become independent	12	5	9	3	5	3	6	8
To get divided: in this case, the currently Ukrainian-controlled territories would remain a part of Ukraine, and the territories controlled by the people waging war against the Ukrainian government would remain under their command	19	1	6	1	7	3	1	3
To become a part of the Russian Federation	1	2	2	4	2	1	1	1

Refusal to answer	4	11	9	18	13	7	3	1
It is difficult to answer	14	27	18	12	21	36	17	22

The largest share of supporters for giving Donbas certain, or significant, autonomy, is registered in Donetsk, Kharkivska (23% each), and Luhanska oblasts (22%).

The idea of an independent status of Donbas enjoys the highest support among the surveyed of the respondents of Dnipropetrovska oblast (12%). It is Dnipropetrovska oblast residents, among whom a significant share supports division of Donbas (almost one in every five), which is unique among all the oblasts.

And, finally, most respondents who were unable to decide or directly refused to answer are among the surveyed residents of Kharkivska (43%) and Donetsk oblasts (39%).

Attitude towards resistance of dominance of the Russian language, national-patriotic education of the youth and appointment of ethnic Ukrainians to higher government posts

Almost two thirds of the surveyed residents of the East and South of Ukraine (62%) do not support counter- measures to dominance of the Russian language in different spheres, in particular, in educational institutions, business, and media outlets.

This approach enjoys support from almost one in every five surveyed. One in every five found it difficult to give an answer to this question.

Almost one in every five surveyed (16%) supports measures of resistance to the dominant position of the Russian language, in particular, in education, business, and media outlets.

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «Please, specify, to what degree you agree or disagree with the following statement...»? (in % to all surveyed; *marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research)

	Ukrainians have to take measures to resist dominance of the Russian language in various spheres, in particular in educational institutions, business, and media outlets			Ukrainian youth should receive national-patriotic education in educational institutions			Only ethnic Ukrainians should hold high posts in the government		
	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*
Yes	7	4	6	24	29	21	13	11	12
Rather yes	11	11	10	35	30	34	18	18	17
Overall agree	18	15	16	59	59	55	31	29	29
Rather no	20	23	19	9	8	10	19	16	18
No	42	43	44	10	13	11	30	33	32
Overall do not agree	62	66	63	19	21	21	49	49	50
It is difficult to answer	21	18	21	22	21	23	21	22	22

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, among the residents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research, the share of the opponents to the counter-measures to dominance of the Russian language somewhat decreased (from 66 to 63%) and the share of those, who found it difficult to answer, has increased (from 18 to 21%). The share of supporters has increased negligibly (from 15 to 16%).

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

In all oblasts, the share of the opponents to implementation of support measures for the Ukrainian language exceeds a half of the surveyed. The highest shares were identified in Donetsk and Luhanska (67-68%), Odeska and Kharkivska oblasts (65-66%).

The highest share of supporters of such measures was observed in Mykolayivska (27%), Dnipropetrovska (25%), and Khersonska oblasts (23%).

Should Ukrainian youth receive national-patriotic education in educational institutions?

Around two thirds of the respondents (59%) answered affirmatively to this question. Only one in every five surveyed disagrees with such approach.

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, the share of supporters of introduction of the national-patriotic education for youth somewhat reduced (from 59% to 55%) among the surveyed residents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

The largest support to introduction of the national-patriotic education for youth was expressed by the surveyed residents of Mykolayivska (84%), Khersonska (79%), and Dnipropetrovska (71%) oblasts.

The highest share of the opponents to such measures was identified in Odeska oblast (27%).

Should only ethnic Ukrainians hold high government posts?

Almost one in every three surveyed answered affirmatively to this question, and around a half gave a negative answer.

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, no significant shifts took place in the attitude of the surveyed residents of the six oblasts of the East and South to this issue.

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

Closer to a half of the surveyed support the idea of appointing only ethnic Ukrainians to higher government posts in Mykolayivska (45%), Dnipropetrovska, and Khersonska oblasts (44% each).

The largest share of the opponents to such approach was identified in Donetsk (60%) and Kharkivska oblasts (57%).

It bears mentioning that it was the surveyed residents of Donetsk oblast that found it most difficult to decide on their answers to each of these three questions (from 35% to the question concerning ethnic Ukrainians at higher government posts to 26% to the question concerning support for the Ukrainian language).

Respondents' opinion on whether different bodies of authority represent citizens' interests

Almost one in every three of the respondents (29%) believe that local authorities in their populated locality overall represents their interests. This is the highest indicator among all bodies of authority, about which the question was asked. Almost one in every five respondents believe that the oblast council represents his or her interests.

Only 6% of the surveyed residents of the East and South of Ukraine believe that the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine represents their interests; as many said so both about the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the President of Ukraine.

The share of those, who found it difficult to answer, vary from 16% for the question concerning oblast councils to 10% for questions concerning the Verkhovna Rada and the Cabinet.

Table. Do you believe that authorities at each of the following levels represent interests of people as you...? (in % to all the respondents; *marks the results of the survey of 2017 in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research)

	Local authorities			Oblast council			Verkhovna Rada			Cabinet			President		
	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*	2017	2016	2017*
Yes	7	8	7	2	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Rather yes	22	19	22	15	13	15	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	7	5
<i>Overall yes</i>	29	27	29	17	17	17	6	7	6	6	6	6	6	9	6
Rather no	25	26	24	27	26	25	24	24	23	23	25	23	22	24	22
No	34	32	34	40	40	42	60	55	61	61	55	62	61	54	62
<i>Overall no</i>	59	58	58	67	66	67	84	79	84	84	80	85	83	78	84
Difficult to answer	13	16	13	16	17	16	10	13	10	10	13	10	11	14	11

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, a significant increase was observed in the share of those, who believe that the neither Verkhovna Rada, the Cabinet, nor the president of the country represent citizens' interests (from 79 to 84%, from 80 to 85%, from 78 to 84%, respectively) (among the residents of the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research). Whereas the share of those, who believe that these bodies of authority represent their interests, has virtually stayed the same or even decreased a little (for the President – from 9 to 6%). On the other hand, the share of the respondents, who found it difficult to decide on their answer, decreased as well.

The share of those, who believe that local authorities in their populated locality represent their interests, has somewhat increased – from 27 to 29%, whereas the share of those who believe the opposite stayed the same (58%).

Regional and sociodemographic characteristics.

The respondents' attitudes to the above-listed issues have regional peculiarities.

In Donetsk oblast, the all-oblasts highest share of the respondents abstained from giving a clear answer to the question concerning all bodies of authority (from 15% to the questions about the Cabinet, Verkhovna Rada, and the President to 27% to the question concerning the oblast council).

The most critical attitude towards higher bodies of authority (Verkhovna Rada, Cabinet, President) was expressed by the residents of Dnipropetrovska and Kharkivska oblasts. For instance, in Dnipropetrovska oblast 88%, 90% and 86%, respectively, did not believe that the Verkhovna Rada, the Cabinet, or the President represent their interests.

The largest shares of the respondents believed that local authorities represent their interests, were in Odeska (33%), Donetska (32%) and Khersonska oblasts (31%), whereas in Luhanska oblast the largest share of those, who do not think so, was identified (67%).

As to the oblast council, the highest shares of those, who believe that it does not represent their interests, were identified in Dnipropetrovska (72%), Luhanska, and Khersonska oblasts (71% each).

Among 15 cities of the South and East covered in the research, the residents of Volnovakha, Donetska oblast, and Podolsk / Kotovsk, Odeska oblast, demonstrated the highest critical attitude to absolutely all bodies of authority – both local and central. At least 90% of the surveyed in these cities believe that these bodies of authority do not represent their interests. The only exception was a somewhat smaller share of residents Volnovakha (86%), who believe that local authorities of their populated locality do not represent their interests.

As to local authorities, the highest shares of the respondents who believe that they represent the citizens' interests, were identified in Izmayil, Odeska oblast (60%), and Mariupol (44%).

As to oblast council, the highest shares of the respondents believes that it represents their interests, were identified in Mariupol (29%) and Kharkiv (28%).

Value orientations of residents of the South and East of Ukraine

Freedom or welfare and safety? Should a person rely on the state or on their own strength? Does law apply to everyone, or can its violations be justified? Should income be the same for everybody, or should there be difference to encourage initiatives?

During 2016 and 2017, the residents of the East and South of Ukraine were asked to share their attitude to these four values. Almost for each of them, significant shifts have taken place.

In general, residents of the South and East tend to believe that freedom cannot be sacrificed for better safety and welfare. The average score increased from 6.9 during the survey in the early 2016 to 7.2 in March of 2017, if we consider the results of the surveys in six oblasts, which participated in both waves of the research (except for Mykolayivska and Khersonska oblasts).

Table. Distribution of average scores by oblasts according to the results of the answer to the question «How would you rate your position on this scale: For better safety and welfare, one can sacrifice freedom vs Freedom cannot be sacrificed – even for better safety and welfare? One means that you completely agree with the first statement, and ten – that you agree with the second statement.»

	2016	2017
Average score	6.9	7.2
Dnipropetrovska	7.2	7.4
Donetska	6.5	7.1
Luhanska	7	7.6
Zaporizka	7.1	6.7
Odeska	6.7	7.6
Kharkivska	6.8	6.7
Mykolayivska	-	6.7
Khersonska	-	8.4

Reluctance to sacrifice freedom for welfare and safety is most characteristic for the surveyed residents of Khersonska (8.4), Odeska and Luhanska oblasts (each 7.6).

The growth of the average score took place in four oblasts out of the six, which participated in the first wave of the research in the early 2016 (except for Zaporizka and Kharkivska).

Despite widespread negative stereotypes about the «slavish Donbas», the most prominent growth of importance of the value of freedom took place exactly in Luhanska (from 7 to 7.6) and Donetska oblasts (from 6.5 to 7.1), which are controlled by the Ukrainian government, as well as in Odeska oblast (from 6.7 to 7.6). At the same time, in these oblasts, as well as in Kharkivska oblast, the discussions concerning the balance of values of freedom, safety, and welfare continue, as in these oblasts the largest share of the residents found it difficult to choose the answer (from 13% in Odeska and Kharkivska to 17% in Donetska oblasts).

At the same time, the surveyed residents of the East and South of Ukraine tend to vest responsibility for welfare of citizens rather on the state, than on themselves. The average score on the corresponding value scale in one year dropped from 4.3 to 4 points.

According to the results of the survey, paternalist attitudes are most characteristic for the surveyed residents of Mykolayivska (3.3), Dnipropetrovska (3.4) and Odeska oblasts (3.7).

Table. Distribution of average scores by oblasts according to the results of the answer to the question «How would you rate your position on this scale: The state has to bear responsibility for welfare of each person vs People have to be responsible for their welfare by themselves»?

One means that you completely agree with the first statement, and ten – that you agree with the second statement.»

	2016	2017
Average score	4.3	4
Donetska	5.2	4.3
Odeska	4.6	3.7
Luhanska	4.5	4.4
Kharkivska	4.2	4.9
Zaporizka	4.1	4
Dnipropetrovska	3.4	3.4
Mykolayivska	-	3.3
Khersonska	-	4.7

The most significant growth of relying on assistance from the state took place in Odeska (from 4.6 to 3.7) and Donetska oblasts (from 5.2 to 4.3). Only in Kharkivska oblast, more respondents began to place responsibility for their welfare on themselves and not on the state (the average score increased from 4.2 to 4.9).

What could the reasons of such shifts be? In the case of Donbas, it can be the free fall of the living standards. In the early 2016, only 27% of the surveyed in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts said they had to skimp on food, and a year later, their share reached 35%. This is twice as many, as in the other oblasts of the South and East of Ukraine (17%).

In general, the surveyed residents of the East and South of Ukraine tend to believe that even in most difficult situations it is necessary to comply with the established rules and laws. The average score in support of this statement constituted 6.7 and somewhat increased compared to the early 2016

(6.5), if we consider the results of the surveys in six oblasts, which participated in both waves of the research (except for Mykolayivska and Khersonska oblasts).

Table. Distribution of average scores by oblasts according to the results of the answer to the question «How would you rate your position on this scale: There are times in life, when it is necessary to break rules and laws vs Even in most difficult situations, it is necessary to comply with the established rules and laws”? One means that you completely agree with the first statement, and ten – that you agree with the second statement.”

	2016	2017
Average score	6.5	6.7
Dnipropetrovska	6.6	6.5
Donetska	6.5	6.9
Luhanska	6.2	6.8
Zaporizka	6.4	6.2
Odeska	6.6	7.1
Kharkivska	6.6	6.7
Mykolayivska	-	6.5
Khersonska	-	7.7

The biggest supporters of the statement *dura lex sed lex* are residents of Khersonska (7.7), Odeska (7.1) and Donetska oblasts (6.9).

A certain growth of importance of strict compliance with the laws took place in Donetska, Luhanska, and Odeska oblasts, and in Zaporizka oblast, this indicator has somewhat dropped.

The majority of the surveyed of the East and South agree with the statement that income difference of citizens is necessary to encourage proactivity and individual efforts. The average score stayed the same since 2016 and constituted 6.1.

Table. Distribution of average scores by oblasts according to the results of answers to the question «How would you rate your position on this scale: Income have to be the same vs Income difference is necessary to encourage proactivity and individual efforts?” One means that you completely agree with the first statement, and ten – that you agree with the second statement.”

	2016	2017
Average score	6.1	6.1
Dnipropetrovska	5.6	5.4
Donetska	6.5	7.2
Luhanska	6.3	5.5
Zaporizka	6.3	6.2
Odeska	6	5.9
Kharkivska	6.2	6.6
Mykolayivska	-	5

Khersonska	-	8
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This data debunk another negative idea about Donbas as a region, whose residents support the Soviet-style «wage-levelling». In Donetska oblast, the average score went up from 6.5 to 7.2, and in Luhanska oblast, it was above the relative middle of the scale (5.5), although it significantly dropped in the preceding year since the time of the first wave of the research.

It was Donetska and Khersonska oblasts (the average score of 8), where the largest share of opponents of «wage-levelling» was observed.

Sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents

Ethnic and language characteristics

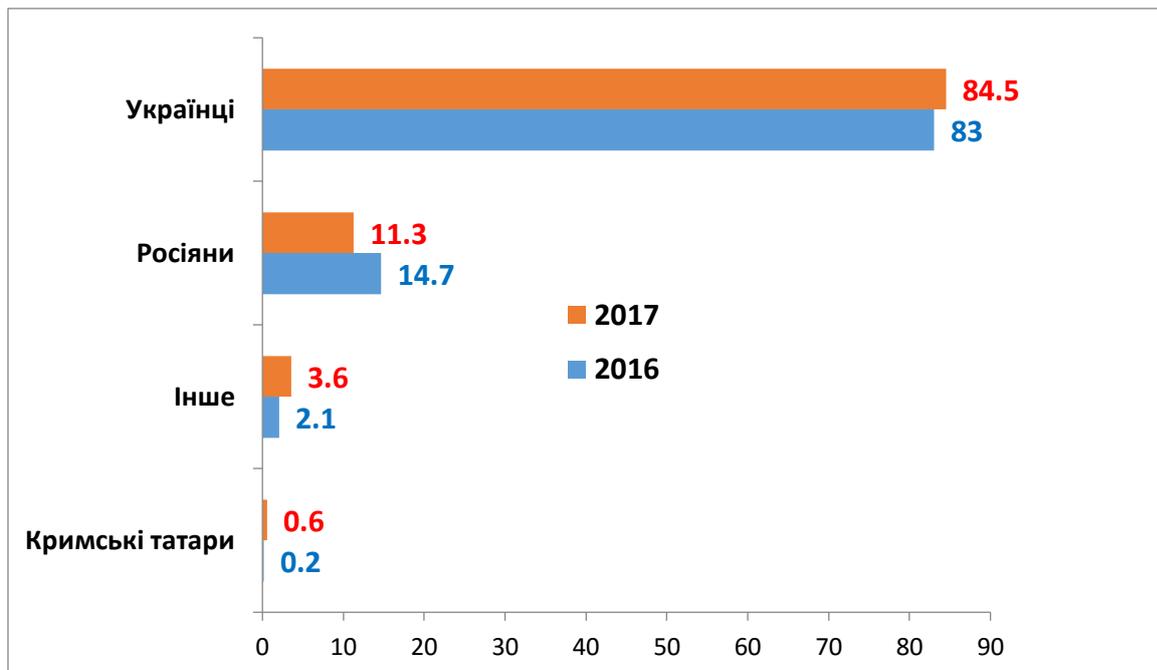
Ethnic characteristics

According to the results of the survey of 2017, 86% of the surveyed residents of the South and East of Ukraine identify as Ukrainians ethnically. One in every ten (11%) identified as an ethnic Russian. Around 3% identify as other ethnicity (among them: as Crimean Tatars – 0.7%, as Bulgarian – 0.7%, and as Moldovan – 0.6%).

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, the share of the respondents, who identify as Ukrainians, increased from 83% to 84.5% (these are the surveyed residents in the six oblasts covered by both waves of the research). However, the share of the surveyed, who identify as Russians, has somewhat reduced (from 14.7% to 11.3%).

Diagram. Distribution of answers to the question «What ethnicity do you identify with?» by the six oblasts of the South and East of Ukraine in 2016 and 2017 covered by both waves of the research (in % to all surveyed)



/Ukrainians

Russians

Other

Crimean Tatars/

Regional and city characteristics.

The largest shares of the respondents, who identify as Ukrainians, were observed in Khersonska (93.2%), Dnipropetrovska (90.8%), Mykolayivska (90.1%), and Zaporizka (88%) oblasts, according to the results of the survey of 2017. The smallest shares – in Donetsk (77.1%) and Odeska oblasts (78.7%).

The largest shares of the respondents, who identify as Russian, were observed in Donetska (18.7%) and Luhanska oblasts (16.1%). The smallest – in Khersonska (4.6%), Dnipropetrovska (7.3%) and Mykolayivska oblasts (7.7%).

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «What ethnicity do you identify as?» in the eight oblasts (in % to the surveyed in oblast)

	Ukrainians		Russians		Crimean Tatars		Other		Difficult to answer	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Dnipropetrovska	90.7	90.8	8.1	7.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.5	1.3
Donetska	71.3	77.1	25.5	18.7	0.2	0.7	2.9	2.6	0.1	0.9
Zaporizka	88.9	88	9.3	10.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	1.3	1.1	0
Luhanska	66.3	82.9	31.6	16.1	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.1
Odeska	81.9	78.7	13.5	10.7	0.1	1	4.3	9.3	0.3	0.3
Kharkivska	82	84.8	16.4	11.6	0.1	0.6	1.1	1.6	0.5	1.5
Mykolayivska		90.1		7.7		0.9		1.2		0
Khersonska		93.2		4.6		1.3		0.6		0.3

Over the year that passed since the first wave of the research in 2016, some interesting changes have taken place. The distribution by the surveyed residents' ethnicity underwent no significant changes in Dnipropetrovska and Zaporizka oblasts.

The largest changes took place in Luhanska oblast: in 2016, only 66.3% said they identify as Ukrainians, and in 2017, this share has increased almost by one quarter – to 82.9%. Respectively, the share of Russian almost halved – from 31.6% to 16.1%.

Similar changes, but on a lesser scale, are observed in Donetska (the share of Ukrainians has increased over the year from 71.3% to 77.1%, and that of Russian reduced from 25.5% to 18.7%), Odeska and Kharkivska oblasts.

Among the largest cities, the highest shares of the respondents identify as Ukrainians in Kryvyi Rih (95.5%), Kherson (93.7%), Zaporizhzhia (88.3%), and Dnipro (85.7%). The lowest shares – in Mariupol (67%), Severodonetsk-Lysychansk (71.4%) and Sloviansk-Kramatorsk (78.6%), according to the results of the survey of 2017.

The highest shares of those, who identify as Russian, were observed in Mariupol (28.2%), Severodonetsk-Lysychansk (27.7%) and Sloviansk-Kramatorsk (19.4%).

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «What ethnicity do you identify as?» by several major cities of the South and East of Ukraine (in % to the surveyed in city)

	Ukrainians		Russians		Crimean Tatars		Other		Difficult to answer	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Dnipro	85.6	85.7	12.9	13.1	0.2	0.2	1.3	0	0.2	0.9
Kryvyi Rih	94.2	95.5	5.1	3.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0	0.2

Zaporizhzhia	88.8	88.3	8.6	8.5	0.7	0.6	0.1	2.6	1.8	0
Mariupol	66.2	67	28.6	28.2	0.7	0.9	4.5	2.9	0.2	1
Sloviansk-Kramatorsk	68	78.6	31	19.4	0	0.3	0.7	1.5	0.3	0.2
Severodonetsk-Lysychansk	62.4	71.4	36.1	27.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.8	0
Odesa	85	85.9	12.9	10.9	0.1	0.9	1.8	1.9	0.1	0.4
Kharkiv	80.7		17.6		0.2		1.4		0.2	
Mykolayiv		85		12.4		1.3		1.3		0
Kherson		93.7		5.6		0.2		0.5		0

Over the year that passed since the first wave of the research in 2016, significant changes took place in such cities as Severodonetsk-Lysychansk and Sloviansk-Kramatorsk. In both cases, the share of those who identify as Ukrainians has grown significantly (for instance, in Sloviansk-Kramatorsk, from 68% to 78.6%), and the share of those who identify as Russian has decreased (for instance, in Severodonetsk-Lysychansk – from 36.1% to 27.7%).

Based on this research, it is difficult to establish the reasons of such changes in ethnic self-identification, which were observed at the level of both oblasts and separate cities. One can only assume that they can be a result of such factors as some of the respondents becoming aware of «being Ukrainian», some shifting from the Russian identity to the Ukrainian one due to pressure of the environment (informational, political, etc.), Russians moving to other regions of Ukraine or abroad, etc. However, individual contribution of each of these and other factors is currently difficult to determine.

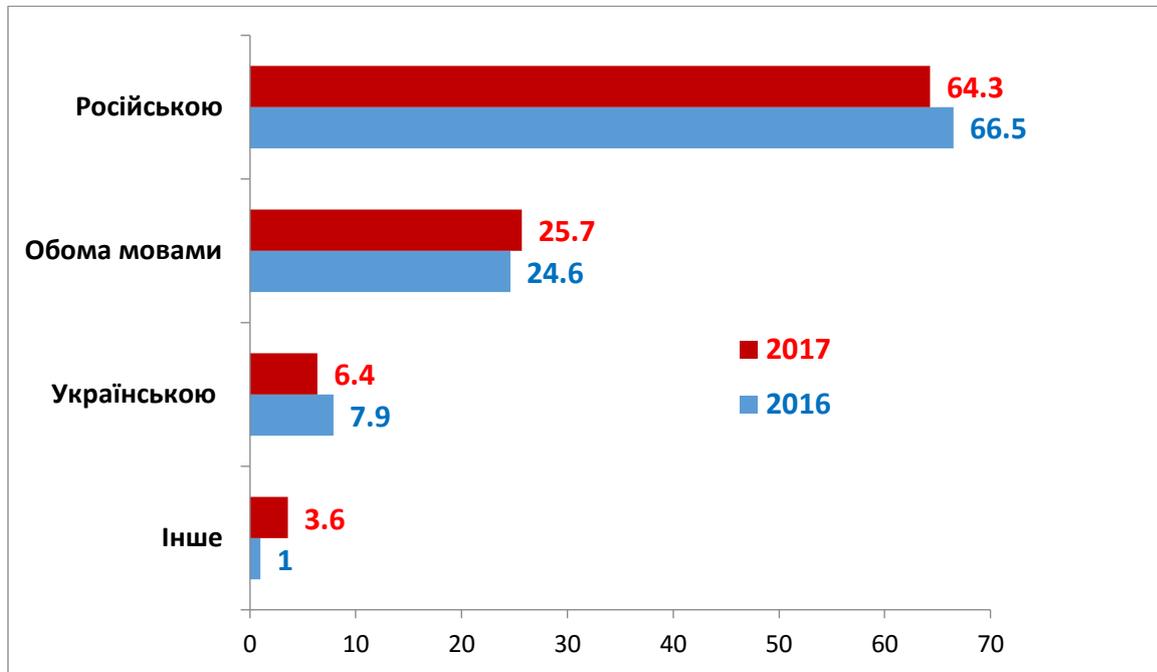
Language characteristics

Almost one in every ten surveyed in the eight oblasts of the East and South of Ukraine said that that he or she speaks at home only Ukrainian (8.9%). Around two thirds – only Russian (60%), and more than a quarter – both languages (27.6%).

Dynamics of 2016-2017.

Over the year that passed, the share of those, who speaks at home only Russian, somewhat reduced (from 66.5% to 64.3%), the share of bilinguals has increased (from 24.6% to 25.7%), and the share of those, who speaks at home only Ukrainian, somewhat shrank (from 7.9% to 6.4%), if we compare the answers of the residents surveyed in the six oblasts in 2016 and 2017.

Diagram. Distribution of answers to the question «What language do you speak at home?» by the six oblasts of the South and East of Ukraine in 2016 and 2017 covered by both waves of the research (in % to all surveyed).



/Russian

Both languages

Ukrainian

Other/

Regional and city characteristics.

The overall indicators and general dynamics conceal language peculiarities of certain regions and cities.

The highest shares of the surveyed speak at home only Ukrainian in such oblasts as Khersonska (24.9%) and Mykolayivska (21.9%), according to the results of the survey of 2017.

The largest shares of those who speak only Russian were observed in such oblasts as Donetsk (almost 80%), Kharkivska (75.5%) and Zaporizka (60.1%).

The highest shares of bilingual respondents were identified in such oblasts as Mykolayivska (40.2%), Khersonska (36.1%), Dnipropetrovska (31.4%), and Zaporizka (30.9%).

Over the year that passed, certain oblasts manifested some changes in use of languages in family communication.

In Luhanska oblast, the share of people speaking only Ukrainian at home somewhat increased (from 13.3% to 15.9%), the share of bilinguals has significantly increased (from 17.6% to 27.1%), and the share of those speaking at home only Russian significantly reduced (from 66.3% to 56%).

In Zaporizka oblast, the share of those only Ukrainian-speaking, conversely, somewhat reduced (from 10.2% to 4.7%); still, the share of bilinguals has significantly increased (from 18.7 to 30.9%) along with reduction of the share of those only Russian-speaking (from 69.5% to 60.1%).

In Donetsk and Kharkivska oblasts, the share of those only Russian-speaking has increased (for instance, in Kharkivska oblast – from 73.4% to 75.5%). In Kharkivska oblast, it went along with reduction of the share of those only Ukrainian-speaking, whereas in Donetsk oblast their share stayed almost the same.

In Odeska oblast, the share of those only Ukrainian-speaking somewhat reduced along with reduction of the share of those only Russian-speaking and insignificant growth of the share of bilingual respondents.

Finally, the changes in Dnipropetrovska oblast were even less noticeable.

Table. Distribution of answers to the question «What language do you speak at home?» in the eight oblasts of the South and East of Ukraine (in % to all surveyed in each oblast)

	Ukrainian		Russian		Both languages		Other	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Dnipropetrovska	8.2	9.8	57.6	56.7	33.5	31.4	0.7	2
Donetska	1.7	1.8	78	79.9	19.9	17.2	0.3	1.1
Zaporizka	10.2	4.7	69.5	60.1	18.7	30.9	1.6	4.3
Luhanska	13.3	15.9	66.3	56.5	17.6	27.1	2.8	0.5
Odeska	11.8	8.1	60	55.5	27.4	28.6	0.8	7.8
Kharkivska	5.5	2.6	73.4	75.5	20	18.2	1.1	3.8
Mykolayivska		21.9		35.1		40.2		2.9
Khersonska		24.9		36.8		36.1		2.2

Among the cities, the highest share of those only Ukrainian-speaking was observed in Dnipro (11.4%), according to the results of the survey of 2017. The smallest shares of those only Ukrainian-speaking – in Kharkiv (0.4%), Mariupol (0.5%), Odesa (0.7%), and Sloviansk-Kramatorsk (1.5%).

The highest shares of those only Russian-speaking were observed in Mariupol (94.3%) and Kharkiv (83.6%). The smallest – in Kryvyi Rih (56.7%).

The highest shares of bilinguals were observed in Kryvyi Rih (38.4%), Zaporizhzhia (29.5%) and Mykolayiv (29.2%).

Table. Distribution of answers to the question « What language do you speak at home?» in several cities of the South and East of Ukraine (in % to all surveyed in each city)

	Ukrainian		Russian		Both languages		Other	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Dnipro	8.3	11.4	71.1	62.4	20	22.5	0.6	3.7
Kryvyi Rih	7.2	4.4	65.2	56.7	27.7	38.4	0	0.5
Zaporizhzhia	7.8	4.7	76.2	61.2	13.5	29.5	2.5	4.6
Mariupol	1.4	0.5	84.9	94.3	13.5	2.7	0.2	2.5
Sloviansk-Kramatorsk	0.8	1.5	91.7	70	6.5	27.7	1	0.8
Severodonetsk-Lysychansk	1.8	6	87.1	70.2	7.8	23.6	3.2	0.2
Odesa	4.5	0.7	79.5	74.6	15.8	21.7	0.3	3
Kharkiv	2.1	0.4	83.6	89.3	13.8	5.8	0.5	4.6

Mykolayiv		2.5		64.6		29.2		3.6
Kherson		5.5		78		16.1		0.5

Over the year that passed, in several cities changes took place in use of this or that language.

In four cities, the use of the Russian language as the sole language of family communication has been dropping significantly, and the bilingualism at home has been growing. These are Severodonetsk-Lysychansk (the level of use of only Russian dropped steeply – from 87.1 to 70.2%), Sloviansk-Kramatorsk (the share of those, who use both languages, has increased sharply – from 6.5 to 27.7%), Zaporizhzhia and Kryvyi Rih.

However, in Mariupol and Kharkiv the reverse changes have been taking place: the shares of those, who speaks at home only Russian, have grown (in the former – from 84.9 to 94.3%), and the share of bilinguals went down (in the latter city – from 13.8 to 5.8%), with the simultaneous reduction of the shares of those, who speak Ukrainian.

In Dnipro, the share of those only Russian-speaking reduced significantly, whereas other indicators did not change substantially.

In Odesa, the shares of both those only Ukrainian-speaking and those only Russian-speaking decreased, whereas the share of bilinguals has increased (from 15.8 to 21.7%).

Like with the case with changes in ethnic self-identification, the available research results do not give grounds to make any consistent conclusions concerning the factors, which facilitated these rather contradictory changes in use of languages.