

Russia in Europe

A Cold War in People's Minds?

Executive summary of the results of a representative survey conducted for the Körper Foundation in Germany, Russia and Poland

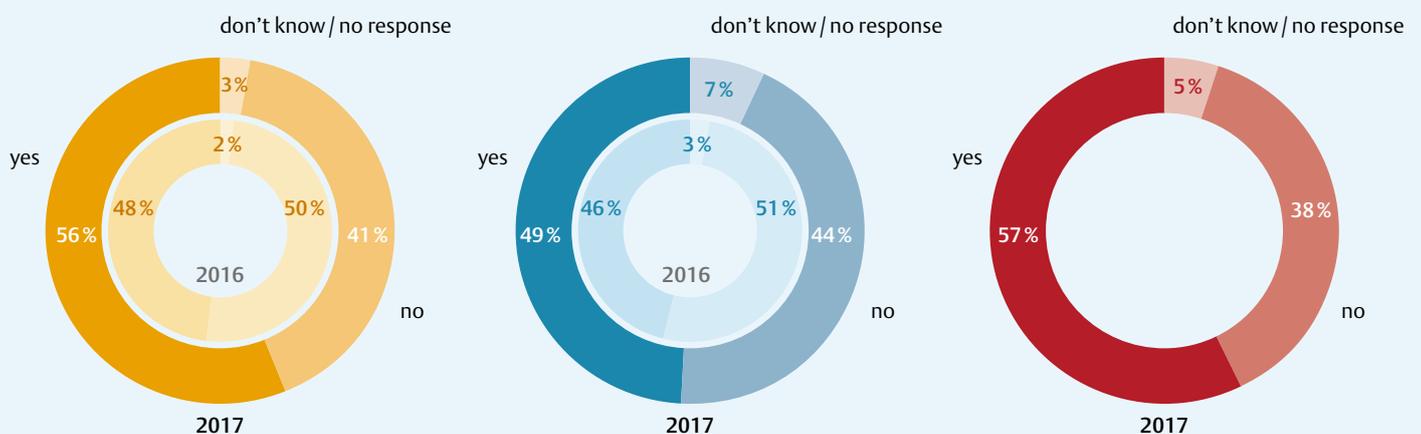
The background and topics covered by the survey

The annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict in 2014 marked the beginning of a cooling of political relations between Russia and its European neighbors. Since then, hardly anything has improved. In fact, further issues have developed that have continued to fuel the conflict, such as the opposing positions on hostilities in Syria and the differences over NATO. This has led to a great deal of mutual mistrust at the political level. But how do people in Russia and its

neighboring European countries view the current conflicts? What image do they have of each other? And, which values do they share?

In order to answer these questions, the Körper Foundation commissioned the representative survey "Russia in Europe: A Cold War in people's minds?" The survey took place concurrently in Germany, Poland, and Russia and its results update and supplement the study "Russia in Europe: Rapprochement or Isolation", commissioned by the Körper Foundation in Germany and Russia in 2016.

Does Russia belong to Europe?



On balance, do you think that Russia really belongs in Europe?

Inner ring: opinion poll result 2016; Outer ring: opinion poll result 2017



The most important results at a glance

- Russia is part of Europe. This view is shared by more than half of the population in Germany and Poland, and by almost one in two Russians. Respondents in all three countries stress that geography is the main reason why Russia belongs to Europe. Shared cultures and values hardly play a role in this respect.
- Different views were expressed about the sanctions that the EU and Russia have imposed on each other during the course of the Ukraine crisis. Well over half of the respondents in Poland want sanctions to be maintained or even tightened. Whereas Germans were divided on this issue, over 60 percent of Russian respondents called for the sanctions to be lifted or relaxed. However, there is a consensus in all three countries that the Ukraine crisis and the associated sanctions have caused relations between Russia and the EU to deteriorate.
- Many more Germans and Poles wish to see a rapprochement between the EU and Russia than is the case with people in Russia. In fact, the number of Russians who support renewed rapprochement with the EU has declined markedly over the last year.
- Germans and Russians rank each other's country as the second most significant in terms of the states with which they would like to see stronger cooperation in the future. They therefore believe that it would be very important to improve bilateral relations. The Poles hope for expanded relations with the US and Britain; collaboration with Russia only plays a subordinate role.
- There are significant differences about the importance of history in understandings of national identity: it is inconceivable for the vast majority of Russians to draw a line under what happened during the Second World War; in contrast, more than one-third of German and Polish respondents are in favor of doing so. The desire for a patriotic form of historiography is more strongly pronounced in Poland than in Russia, whereas less than one-third of respondents in Germany are in favor of emphasizing national victories and achievements.
- There is no clear common basis for shared values between Germany, Poland, and Russia. Germany and Russia are closer to each other on the rejection of xenophobia than Germany and Poland. In all three countries, a large number of respondents think that the media should support the government's work, with more than two-thirds of Russians believing this to be the case.

Detailed results are available at:

www.koerber-stiftung.de/survey-russia-in-europe

DATA POOL

1006 people in Germany, 1000 people in Poland and 1016 people in Russia participated in the survey. All respondents were eligible to vote and aged 18 or above. The survey was undertaken between 21 August and 15 September, 2017. Sample / Survey procedure: Telephone interviews (CATI), representative random selection/ random sample, dual frame approach.

Overall project management: KANTAR PUBLIC Germany. Interviews in Germany: KANTAR PUBLIC Germany; interviews in Poland: KANTAR PUBLIC Poland; interviews in Russia: CESSI-Russia.

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