

UKRAINE'S EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

ON THE EVE OF ELECTIONS IN EU COUNTIES

Expert Survey

 THE CZECH REPUBLIC

 POLAND

 ROMANIA

2025



UKRAINE'S EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

IN THE MEDIA SPACE OF EU COUNTRIES

Expert Survey

Opposition to EU enlargement, particularly regarding Ukraine's accession, is regularly voiced in European countries. Russia exploits these sentiments to expand its destabilizing influence on European nations and interfere in the domestic politics of EU member states.

In this context, elections are a particularly vulnerable period in the information sphere, characterized by an acceleration of the dynamics of news and media content on socially and politically significant topics.

These risks are especially relevant in the coming months due to the election campaigns in Poland, Romania, and the Czech Republic. Notably, in May 2025, presidential elections will take place in Poland and Romania, while in September, the Czech Republic will hold parliamentary elections.

Given this, within the project "Ukraine's European Integration and Elections in EU countries. Informational perspective" the Ukraine Crisis Media Center conducted Expert Survey by the questionnaire method.

Methodology: More than 115 journalists, academia, political scientists, information security experts from the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania took part.

The survey was conducted from 10th to 20th of March, 2025.

The purpose of the survey is to highlight the expert community's perception of the trends and dynamics of media coverage of the European integration of Ukraine in the media spaces of three EU countries: the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania.

This survey aims to draw attention to the topic of Ukraine's European integration and the issue of anti-Ukrainian disinformation in the media space of the mentioned countries ahead of the elections.

Therefore we asked respondents to answer these five questions:

- Please evaluate the level of danger that Russian informational interference might pose to the election process and the expression of the people's will?
- Is the topic of Ukraine's European integration relevant in the information discourse of your country as of March 2025?
- Do you expect the idea of EU enlargement, particularly Ukraine's accession, to be addressed in the campaigns of political actors?
- Are there manipulative narratives and disinformation connected to the topic of Ukraine's European integration present in traditional media or on social platforms (Facebook, TikTok, X, etc.)?
- What impact would possible deployment of your country's military contingent on Ukrainian territory after the signing of a peace agreement have on support for Ukraine's accession to the EU among society of the Czech Republic / Poland / Romania?

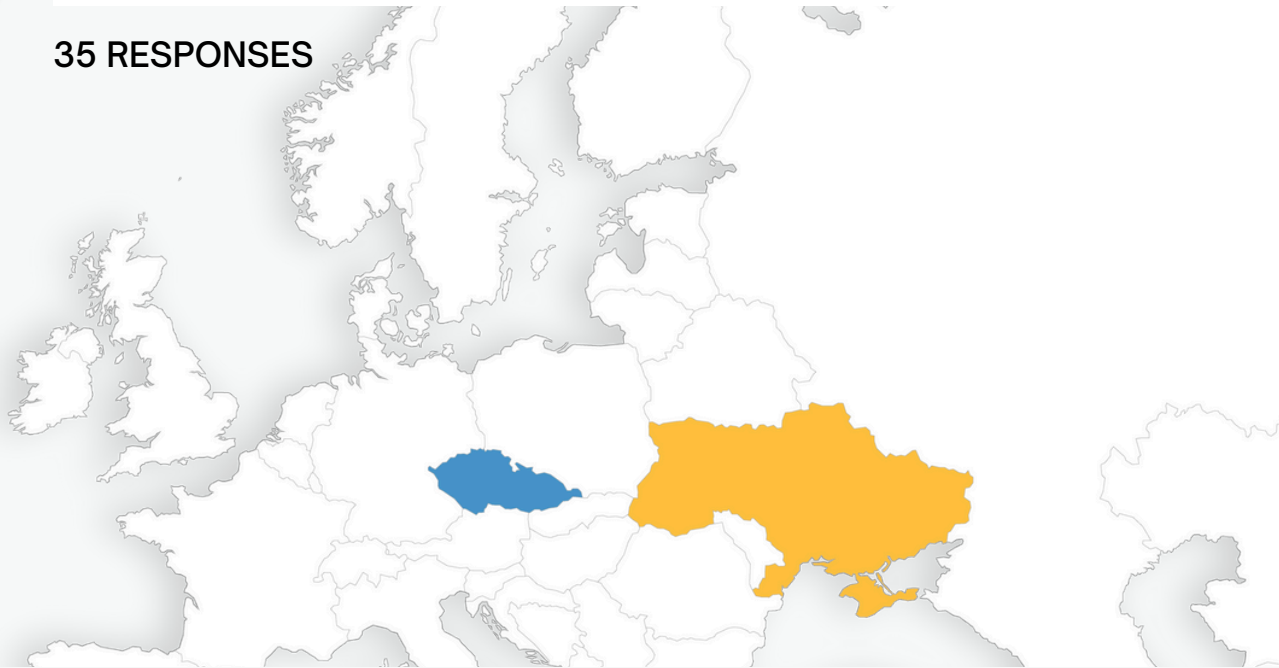
The expert evaluation was predicated on publicly available or condensed data.

The survey was organized with the support of the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation within the framework «European Renaissance of Ukraine» project. Its content is the exclusive responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union and the International Renaissance Foundation.



THE CZECH REPUBLIC

35 RESPONSES



1. Please evaluate the level of danger that Russian informational interference might pose to the election process and the expression of the people's will (in the context of 2025 Czech parliamentary election)

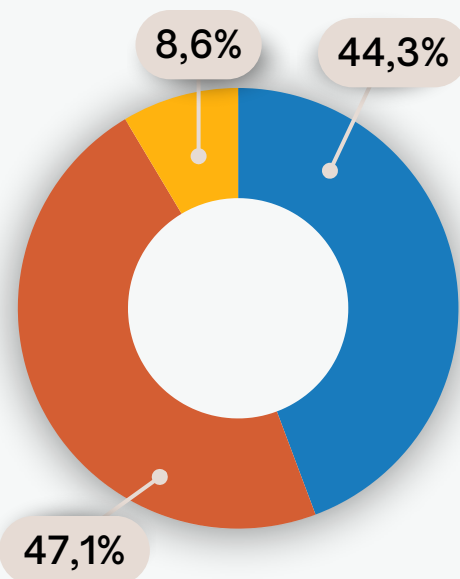
Almost half of the surveyed experts assess the threat of informational interference from Russia as high. A similar number of respondents believe that Russian information interference is limited and unlikely to significantly affect the results of elections.

● (High level) Russian informational interference poses a serious threat and has the potential to significantly influence the election results

● (Moderate level) The impact of Russian information interference on the electoral process is limited and unlikely to significantly affect the results.

● (Low level) Russian propaganda has a minimal impact on the electoral process and almost no effect on the outcome.

● (No danger) Russian informational interference poses no threat to the election process

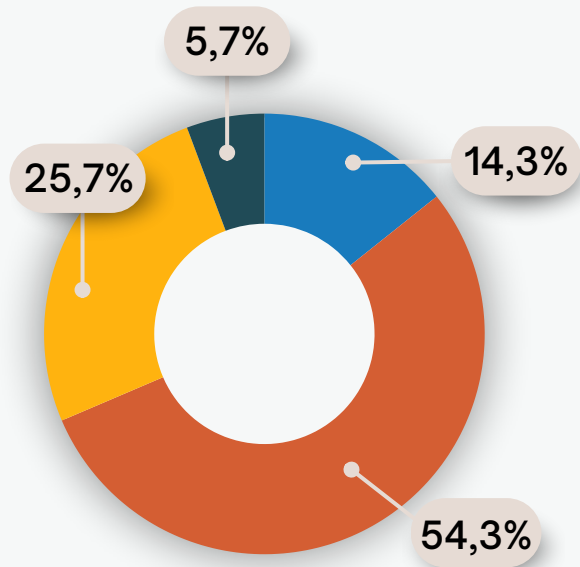


* Percentage figures in some infographics have been rounded for ease of display

2. Is the topic of Ukraine's European integration relevant in the information discourse of your country as of March 2025?

More than half of experts from the Czech Republic note that the topic of Ukraine's European integration is sporadically present in the media space of their country.

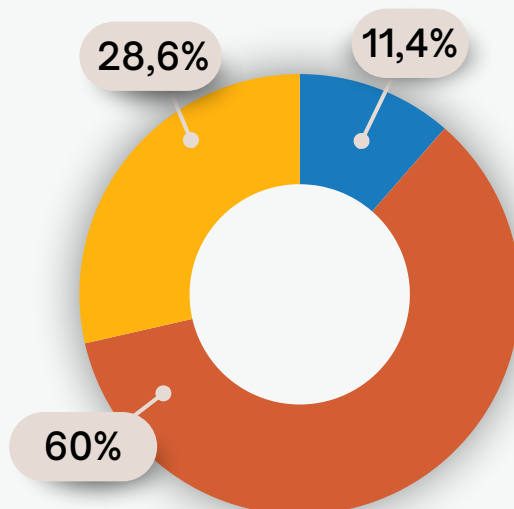
- *Yes, it is permanently present*
- *Yes, it gets some media attention, depending on the related news and events*
- *No, but it will become more relevant depending on how negotiations regarding Ukraine's membership in the EU*
- *No, the media does not pay attention to the topic*



3. Do you expect the idea of EU enlargement, particularly Ukraine's accession, to be addressed in the campaigns of political parties?

60% of respondents answered that the topic of Ukraine's European integration will be present on the political agenda of the parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic, depending on the events. At the same time, a third of those surveyed believe that this issue will not gain interest from the participants in the race.

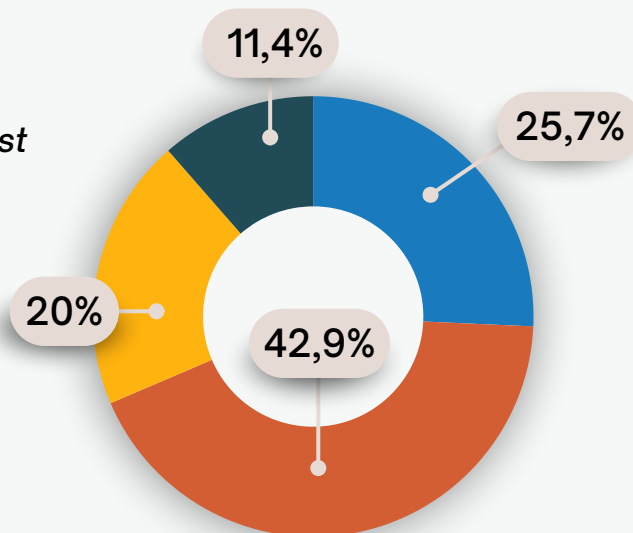
- *Yes, it may become one of the main topics related to foreign relations*
- *It may occasionally become relevant (depending on resonant events)*
- *No significant attention will be paid to this topic*
- *Difficult to say*



4. Are there manipulative narratives and disinformation connected to the topic of Ukraine's European integration present in traditional media or on social platforms (Facebook, TikTok, X, etc.) in the Czech Republic?

Almost half of the respondents believe that information campaigns against the idea of Ukraine's European integration are situational. At the same time, a quarter of experts see targeted discrediting campaigns.

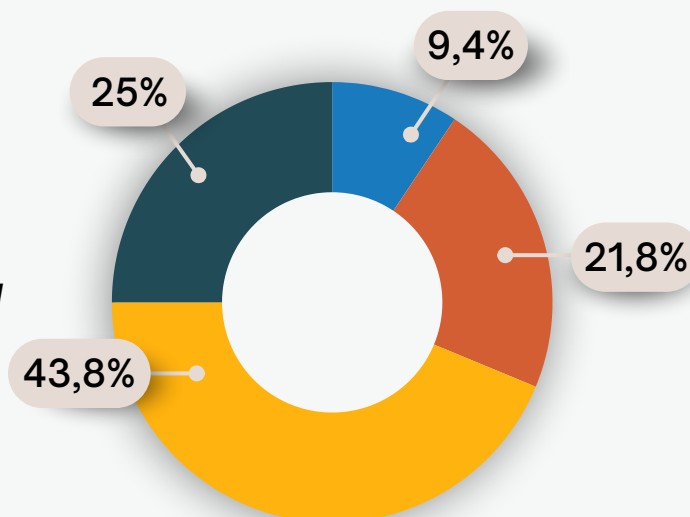
- *Yes, I see targeted and coordinated operations*
- *Information campaigns aimed against Ukraine's accession to the EU are fragmented and periodic*
- *No. Ukraine's accession to the EU is not the subject of manipulation and disinformation*
- *Difficult to say*



5. One of the possible ways to settle the Russo-Ukrainian war involves deploying European contingents to ensure security. If such a scenario were to materialize (deployment of a contingent of Czech military personnel on Ukrainian territory after the signing of a peace agreement.), what impact would this development have on support for Ukraine's accession to the EU among Czech society?

More than 40% of respondents believe that in the event of the Czech contingent being involved in the peacekeeping mission, the attitude towards Ukraine's membership in the EU will deteriorate.

- *Support for Ukraine's European integration would increase*
- *Support would remain at the current level*
- *Ukraine's EU accession would become more unpopular*
- *I see no correlation*









POLAND

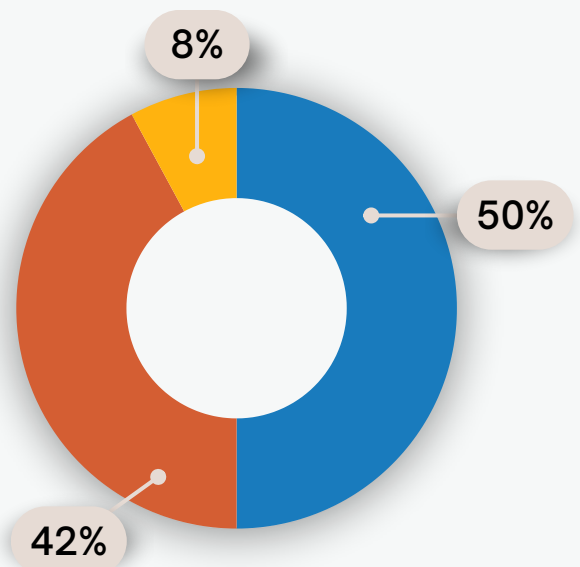
38 RESPONSES



1. Please evaluate the level of danger that Russian informational interference might pose to the election process and the expression of the people’s will in Poland (in the context of 2025 Polish presidential election)

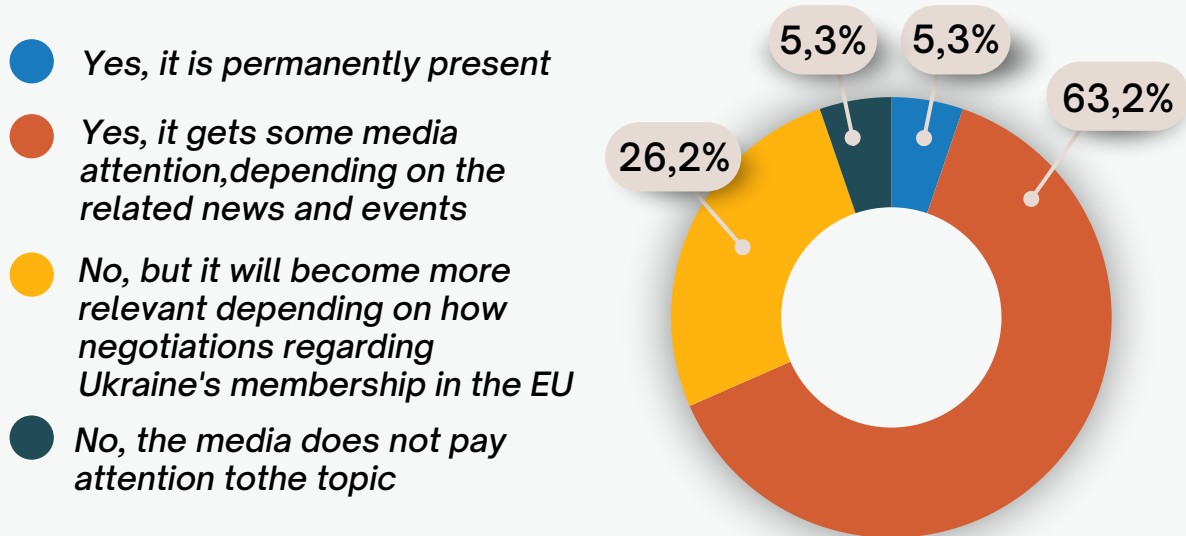
Experts' opinions were almost evenly divided on the level of potential informational influence of Russian disinformation on the Polish elections. Half of those surveyed considered the probability of the threat to be high, and almost the same number of respondents considered it moderate.

-  *(High level) Russian informational interference poses a serious threat and has the potential to significantly influence the election results*
-  *(Moderate level) The impact of Russian information interference on the electoral process is limited and unlikely to significantly affect the results*
-  *(Low level) Russian propaganda has a minimal impact on the electoral process and almost no effect on the outcome*
-  *(No danger) Russian informational interference poses no threat to the election process*



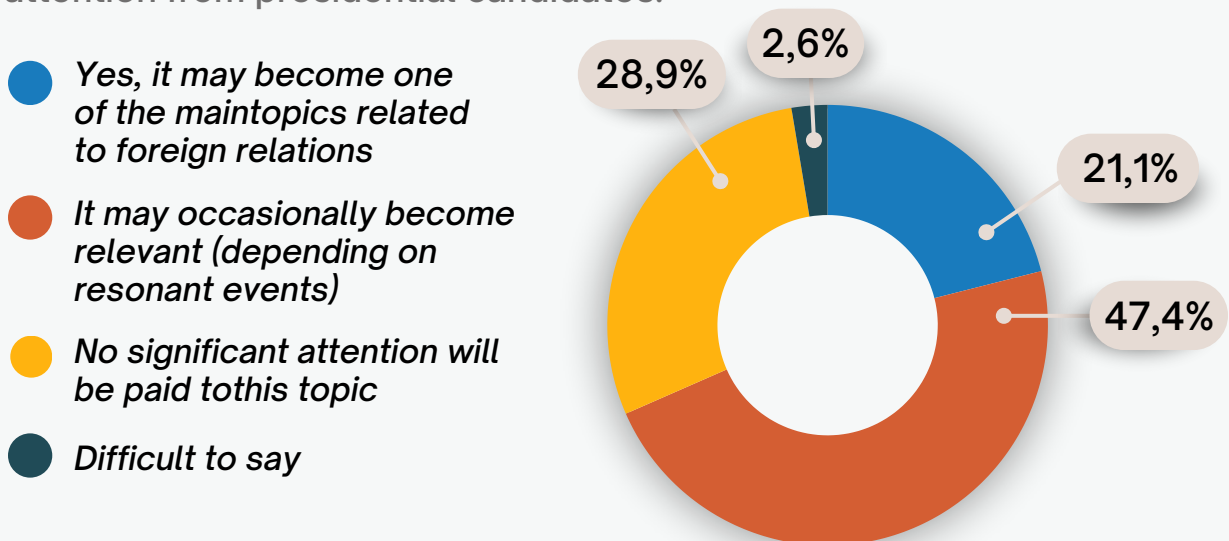
2. Is the topic of Ukraine's European integration relevant in the information discourse of your country as of March 2025?

As we can see, the largest share of respondents note that the topic of Ukraine's European integration is partially present in the Polish media space, while about 25% believe that this issue may return to the agenda depending on the course of events.



3. Do you expect the idea of EU enlargement, particularly Ukraine's accession, to be addressed in the political campaigns of presidential candidates?

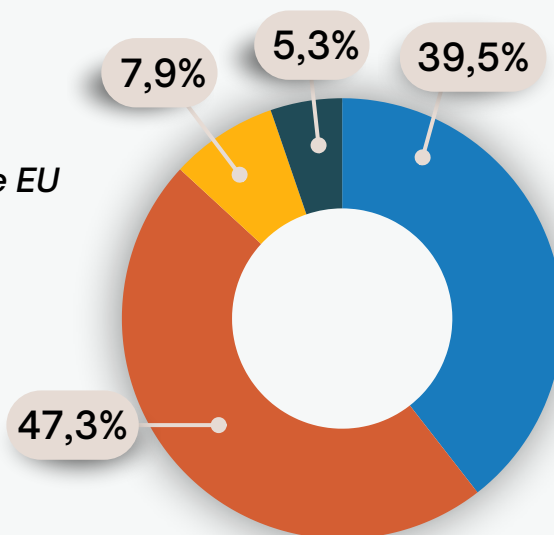
Notably, only 21% of the surveyed experts expect that topics related to Ukraine's European integration will receive significant coverage and attention from presidential candidates.



4. Are there manipulative narratives and disinformation connected to the topic of Ukraine's European integration present in traditional media or on social platforms (Facebook, TikTok, X, etc.) in Poland?

Experts' assessments were almost equally divided on the question of whether information campaigns against the topic of Ukraine's European integration are coordinated or rather sporadic.

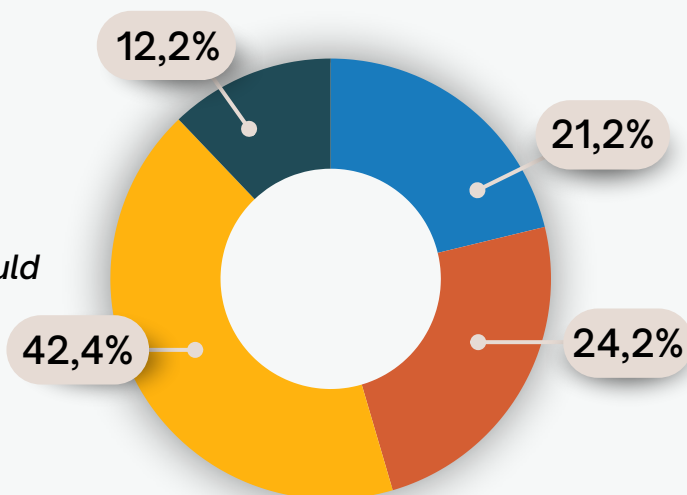
- *Yes, I see targeted and coordinated operations*
- *Information campaigns aimed against Ukraine's accession to the EU are fragmented and periodic*
- *No. Ukraine's accession to the EU is not the subject of manipulation and disinformation*
- *Difficult to say*



5. One of the possible ways to settle the Russo-Ukrainian war involves deploying European contingents to ensure security. If such a scenario were to materialize (deployment of a contingent of Polish military personnel on Ukrainian territory after the signing of a peace agreement), what impact would this development have on support for Ukraine's accession to the EU within Polish society?

Expert opinions are nearly evenly divided. However, a slightly larger number of respondents believe that under the described scenario, Polish attitudes toward Ukraine's European integration will deteriorate.

- *Support for Ukraine's European integration would increase*
- *Support would remain at the current level*
- *Ukraine's EU accession would become more unpopular*
- *I see no correlation*





ROMANIA

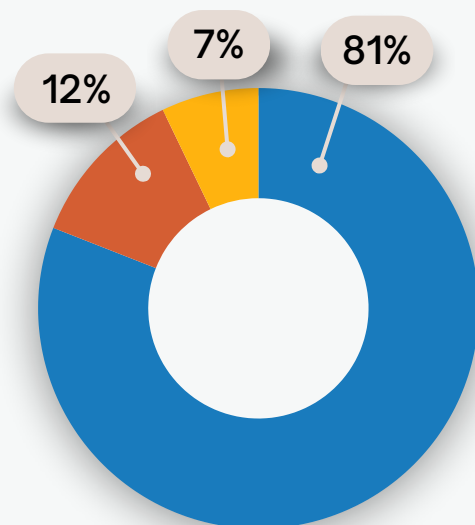
42 RESPONSES



1. Please evaluate the level of danger that Russian informational interference might pose to the election process and the expression of the people's will (in the context of 2025 Romanian presidential election)

The vast majority of respondents believe that the level of threat of Russian information interference in the electoral process in Romania remains high.

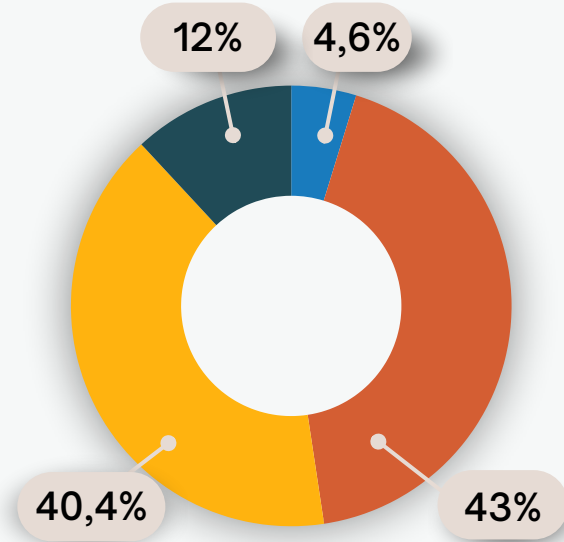
- (High level) Russian informational interference poses a serious threat and has the potential to significantly influence the election results
- (Moderate level) The impact of Russian information interference on the electoral process is limited and unlikely to significantly affect the results.
- (Low level) Russian propaganda has a minimal impact on the electoral process and almost no effect on the outcome.
- (No danger) Russian informational interference poses no threat to the election process



2. Is the topic of Ukraine's European integration relevant in the information discourse of your country as of March 2025?

The experts' opinions were evenly divided. However, it is noteworthy that only 2 respondents out of 42 believe that the topic of Ukraine's European integration receives sufficient coverage in the Romanian media.

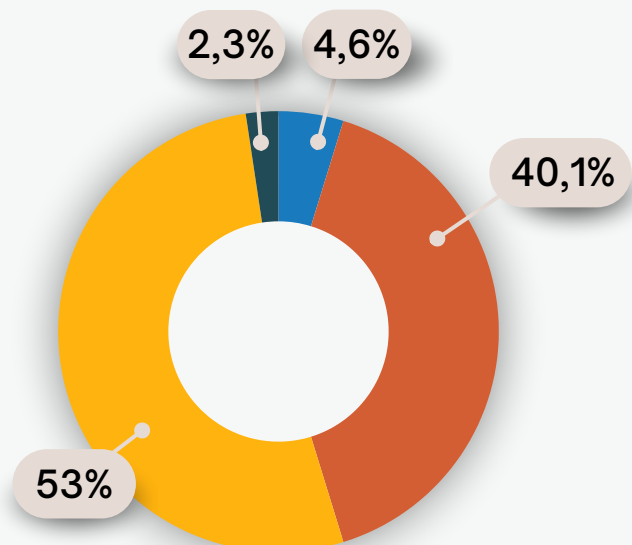
- *Yes, it is permanently present*
- *Yes, it gets some media attention, depending on the related news and events*
- *No, but it will become more relevant depending on how negotiations regarding Ukraine's membership in the EU*
- *No, the media does not pay attention to the topic*



3. Do you expect the idea of EU enlargement, particularly Ukraine's accession, to be addressed in the political campaigns of presidential candidates?

Similarly, it is worth noting the extremely low level of interest in the topic of Ukraine's European integration among presidential candidates, according to Romanian experts.

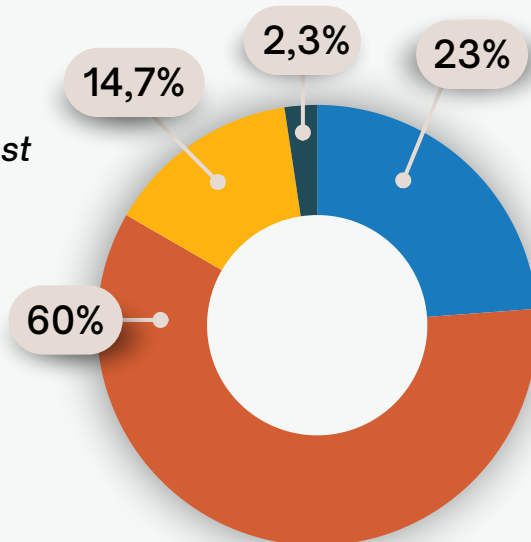
- *Yes, it may become one of the main topics related to foreign relations*
- *It may occasionally become relevant (depending on resonant events)*
- *No significant attention will be paid to this topic*
- *Difficult to say*



4. Are there manipulative narratives and disinformation connected to the topic of Ukraine’s European integration present in traditional media or on social platforms (Facebook, TikTok, X, etc.) in Romania?

60% of respondents believe that information operations against Ukraine's European integration are fragmented and periodic in nature

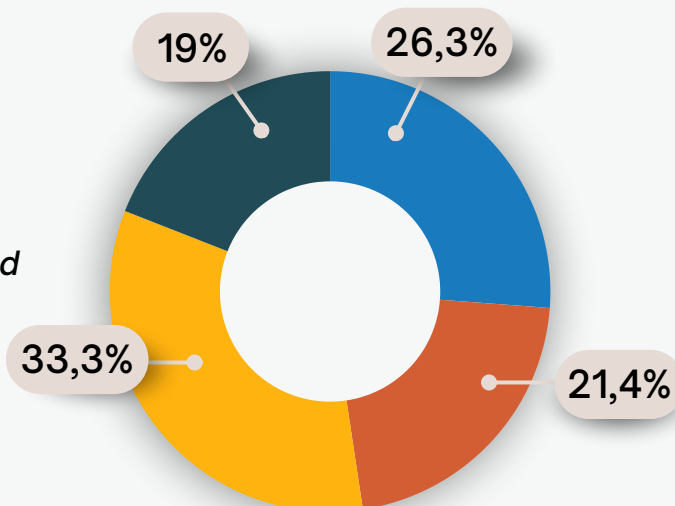
- *Yes, I see targeted and coordinated operations*
- *Information campaigns aimed against Ukraine's accession to the EU are fragmented and periodic*
- *No. Ukraine's accession to the EU is not the subject of manipulation and disinformation*
- *Difficult to say*



5. One of the possible ways to settle the Russo-Ukrainian war involves deploying European contingents to ensure security. If such a scenario were to materialize (deployment of a contingent of Romanian military personnel on Ukrainian territory after the signing of a peace agreement), what impact would this development have on support for Ukraine’s accession to the EU among Romanian society?

Experts' opinions are quite polarized on this issue, almost equally divided between different options - from increasing support for Ukraine's European integration to decreasing. Experts who provided a detailed answer (green segment) consider the scenario of the deployment of Romanian units in Ukraine to be extremely unlikely.

- *Support for Ukraine’s European integration would increase*
- *Support would remain at the current level*
- *Ukraine’s EU accession would become more unpopular*
- *I see no correlation*



EXPERTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY PUBLICLY:



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ROMANIA

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