



Analysis

2023 IN CZECH PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT THE EU

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About the Author

Vít Havelka is a Ph.D. student at the Department of European Studies, Institute of International Relations, Charles University in Prague. Mr. Havelka focuses on institutional relations of the EU and its member states, the EU budget, Europeanisation, and the transformative power of the EU. Since 2016 Vít Havelka was employed as the Political Officer at the Norwegian Embassy in Prague, and from February 2018 he is a Research Fellow at EUROPEUM.

About EUROPEUM

EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy is a non-profit, non-partisan, and independent think-tank focusing on European integration and cohesion. EUROPEUM contributes to democracy, security, stability, freedom, and solidarity across Europe as well as to active engagement of the Czech Republic in the European Union. EUROPEUM undertakes original research, organizes public events and educational activities, and formulates new ideas and recommendations to improve European and Czech policy making.

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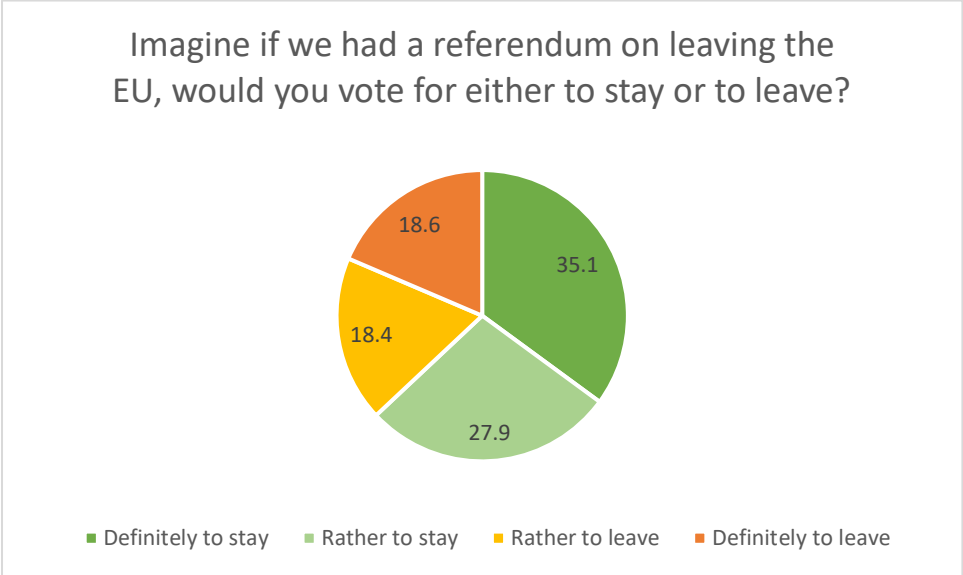
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EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy conducted with its long-term partner research Institute STEM a series of public opinion polls mapping Czech attitudes towards the EU and its policies. In 2023, the two organizations focused their research on Green Transition, migration wave triggered by the Russian full-scale invasion in Ukraine, as well as post-pandemic recovery. There were in total two large data gatherings in the first half of 2023, including several focus groups. In case of interest, you can contact our team for additional data.

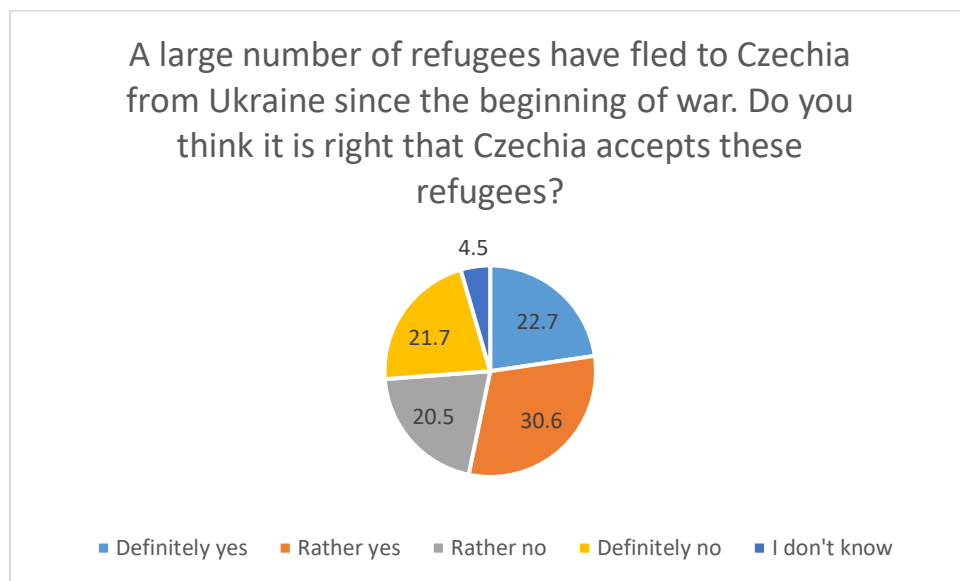
Support to EU membership remains solid

In spite of the war, high inflation and sluggish economic growth, the support to EU membership remains comparatively high. It is surprising as during the past crisis (economic, migration), we measured a significant slump in the support of the Czech membership. Two factors probably contributed to this – firstly, the Czech Republic held a rotating presidency during the second half 2022, and geopolitical pressure from Russia causes a certain degree of “rally around the flag” effect.



Ukrainian refugees

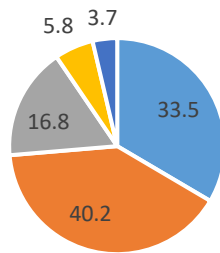
The most important news regarding the Russian war in Ukraine is that the number of Czech citizens supporting Ukrainian refugees is not significantly decreasing. In the past, we could observe a strong “rally around the flag” effect that quickly vaporized once the crisis started dragging on instead of ending swiftly (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic).



Green Transition

Czech citizens agree that climate change exists and that it is caused by human activity. In this sense, the population has overcome the climate sceptic period in 2000s. It also seems that Czechs do want to address the problem as soon as possible, although they cannot yet agree on concrete steps forward. From our previous research, we know that the more tangible a green measure is on personal life, the more resistance there is to adjust one's behavior.

Do you think climate change is man-made or natural?

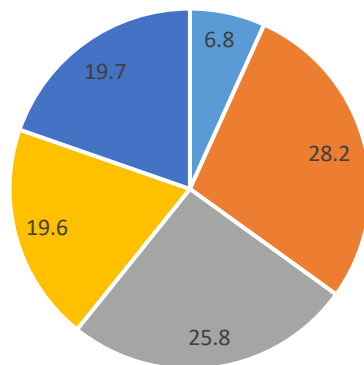


- Definitely man-made
- Rather man-made
- Rather natural (phenomenon)
- Definitely natural (phenomenon)
- I don't know

Post-COVID recovery

Creating NGEU meant a turning tide in the European Integration – for the very first time in history, the EU borrowed money to finance its policies. The process was closely followed in the Czech Republic, and most political parties voiced their objection. In reality, the Czech population is split approximately in half vis-à-vis EU taking loans for its post-pandemic recovery.

NGEU financed from joint borrowing, is it a good thing?



- Definitely yes
- Rather yes
- Rather no
- Definitely no
- I don't know