WHERE IS UKRAINE HEADING FOR?

September, 5-6 2015

The Russian interest in Ukrainian developments has gone down since the beginning of the year: the share of Russians who kept track of the situation was 83% in January and 81% in September 2015. Rarer Russians call the developments a civil war (from 50% in January to 36% in September). The number of those who consider that the situation can be treated as terror and genocide has also decreased (from 17% to 6%, respectively). Simultaneously, much more Russians (18%) describe the situation in terms of “country’s disintegration” and “complete destabilization”.

Graph 1. Do you keep track of what is currently happening in Ukraine? (close-ended question, one answer, %).
Graph 2. Can you describe in two or three words the current situation in Ukraine? (open-ended question, any number of answers, % of those who keep track of the situation in Ukraine)

Graph 3. In your opinion, in what direction is the situation in Ukraine currently evolving? (closed-ended question, one answer, % of those who keep track of the situation in Ukraine)
RUSSIA AND GERMANY: FROM PARTNERSHIP TO CONFRONTATION

September 12-13, 2015

Twenty-nine percent of Russians treat the German Federal Republic as Russia’s strategic and economic partner; 26% - as competitor and rival. What bring two nations together are common economic interests (12%) and trade relations (6%). The main obstacle that hampers further rapprochement is the impact that the U.S. and the E.U. have on Germany. Three-third of Russians believe that the Ukrainian crisis could be resolved if Germany put pressure on the Kiev authority (74%) and helped weaken or lift sanctions imposed against Russia (72%). More Russians assess the future of German-Russian relations positively than it was a year ago: 26% of respondents predicted deterioration in relations in 2014 compared to 13% today.

Graph 4. In your opinion, how does Russia treat Germany today? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)
Graph 5. In your opinion, what brings Russia and Germany together today?
(open-ended question, not more than three answers; answers given by at least 1% of respondents)

- Common economic issues: 12
- Situation in Ukraine: 10
- Trade relations: 6
- Common political views: 4
- Gas, oil: 3
- Common history: 3
- Many people left for Germany: 2
- Friendly relationships, friendship...: 2
- Refugees: 2
- Cars: 1
- Confrontation with the U.S.: 1
- Attitudes of the heads of states: 1
- Nothing brings them together: 9
- Other: 3
- Don`t know: 4

Graph 6. In your opinion, what hampers the Russia-Germany rapprochement today?
(open-ended question, not more than three answers, answers given by at least 1% of respondents)

- Influence of U.S. and E.U.: 33
- Situation in Ukraine: 13
- Sanctions: 9
- Politics of the country and its leadership (Merkel): 7
- Different political views; political differences: 2
- Memory of Great Patriotic War: 2
- Economic issues: 1
- Different mentality, culture: 1
- Their ambitions, sense of superiority: 1
- Nothing hampers: 1
- Other: 3
- Don`t know: 33
Graph 7. In your opinion, what role does Germany play in modern Europe today? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

- Peacekeeper; Germany tries to extinguish the conflicts that take place in Europe today: 25%
- Aggressor; Germany conducts aggressive foreign policy: 31%
- Don’t know: 44%

Graph 8. Some people believe that Germany follows the U.S. in issues related to foreign policy; others believe that Germany conducts independent foreign policy. Which of these points of view is closer to yours? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

- Germany follows the U.S. in all questions related to foreign policy: 66%
- Germany conducts independent foreign policy: 22%
- Don’t know: 1%

RUSSIA – UKRAINE: RELATIONS DOWN OR UP?

September 5-6, 2015

In September 2015, the Russian-Ukrainian relation index fell to a record low (-51 p.). According to the recent data, more than two-thirds of respondents (38%) think that there is a tension between Russia and Ukraine; more than one-quarter of respondents (29%) think that the relations between the two countries are hostile. Most of respondents believe that Russian authorities should not change any decisions to reset relations with Ukraine and Western countries.
Graph 9. How would you assess the current relations between Russia and Ukraine?
(closed-ended question, one answer, %)

Graph 10. In your opinion, in what direction have the relations between Russia and Ukraine been evolving during the recent month? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)
Graph 11. In your opinion, should Russia stop supporting Donbass rebels to improve relations with Ukraine and Western countries? *(closed-ended question, one answer, %)*

**RUSSIA AND DONBASS AGAINST MINSK ARRANGEMENTS**  
*September 5-6, 2015*

The number of Russians who think that there are more Russian volunteers than Ukrainians among the Donbass rebels is bigger than a year ago. In this situation, two-thirds of Russians (31%) think that Russian authorities should be neutral and provide no support both for Kiev authorities and for DPR and LPR. Every fourth (26%) believes that it is essential to recognize the independence of these republics. It is in Russia’s interests to conduct peaceful negotiations and freeze the conflict even at the expense of concessions and financial loss, according to 74% of Russians. At the same time, most of Russians (73%) advocate for the further humanitarian aid for Donbass.
Graph 12. The conflict between the Kiev authorities and Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics’ rebels keeps going. Talking about Donbass self-defense troops, which of the following statements do you agree with? *(closed-ended question, one answer, %)*

- Most of them are residents of Donbass and other regions of Ukraine: 66%
- Most of them are Russian volunteers: 15%
- Don’t know: 19%

Graph 13. Which of the following statements about DPR and LPR rebels do you most agree with? *(closed-ended question, one answer, %)*

- Their ideas are shared by most of Donbass residents: 64%
- Their ideas are shared by least of Donbass residents: 24%
- Don’t know: 12%
Graph 14. In your opinion, what position should Russia take regarding Donetsk and Luhansk People`s republics? *(closed-ended question, one answer, %)*

- Not to intervene, to be neutral: 31%
- Recognize DPR and LPR as independent republics: 26%
- Make DPR and LPR part of Russia: 16%
- Help DPR and LPR extend their autonomous status being part of Ukraine at the same time: 12%
- Help Kiev authorities return control over DPR and LPR: 3%
- Don`t know: 12%

Graph 15. Which approach corresponds with Russia`s interests, in your opinion? *(closed-ended question, one answer, %)*

- War until victory even at the expense of human losses but with a hope for quick conflict resolution: 16%
- Peaceful negotiations, freezing conflict which requires both concessions from Russia and huge financial losses to support people`s republics: 10%
- Don`t know: 74%
Graph 16. Russia sends humanitarian aid (food, medicine, water) spending money from its budget. In your opinion, should Russia continue sending humanitarian air to Donbass? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

RUSSIANS IN SYRIA: THE FIRST OPINION POLL

October 3-4, 2015

Russians still show high levels interest in the situation in Syria; more than two-thirds of respondents follow the developments with different periodicity (68%). Russians tend to blame the United States and its allies for this long bloody war (56%). Sixty-four percent of respondents believe that Russia should take part in the Syrian conflict and attack the Islamic terrorists at long ranges not to allow them penetrating Russian territory. According to half of Russians (52%), if Russia is to decide what party to support, it should choose the legitimate Syrian president. The decision of V. Putin to send air forces to fight ISIS was approved by 66% of Russians.

Graph 17. Do you keep track of what is happening in Syria, or not? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

- Rather yes
- Rather not
- Don’t know
There has been a bloody war in Syria for four years. In your opinion, who is to blame for this war? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

- U.S. and its allies: 56%
- Opposition that is fighting for the formation of the Islamic state: 14%
- President Bashar al-Assad and his allies: 7%
- Opposition that is fighting for the creation of the democratic state: 3%
- Russia: <1%
- Other: 2%
- Don’t know: 19%

What party should Russia support in the Syrian conflict? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

- President Bashar al-Assad and his allies: 52%
- Opposition that is fighting against Bashar al-Assad for the creation of the democratic state: 6%
- Opposition that is fighting against Bashar al-Assad for the formation of the Islamic state on the territory of Syria and other countries: 4%
- None: 13%
- Other: 2%
- Don’t know: 23%

Graph 18. There has been a bloody war in Syria for four years. In your opinion, who is to blame for this war? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)

Graph 19. What party should Russia support in the Syrian conflict? (closed-ended question, one answer, %)
Graph 20. What kind of support should Russia provide? (closed-ended question, not more than three answers, % of those who believe that Russia should support one of the parties involved in the conflict)