

CHANGING PRIORITY VALUES OF THE EUROPEAN POPULATION UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR

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Abstract: Based on the study's results, the article's authors confirmed the hypothesis that the Russian-Ukrainian war affects the change in the priority values of the population of European countries. Military spending tends to be increased in countries that were NATO members before 2014 and share borders with the Russian Federation, Belarus and/or Ukraine. This pattern was confirmed using the trend approach. According to the forecast, in Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, and Hungary, military spending in 2025 will be at least 2.24% of their gross domestic product (GDP). In 2014, this indicator was less than 1%. The authors also used correlation analysis to identify the dependence of the increase in military spending in those mentioned above Eastern European and Baltic countries. These results confirm that the priority values of the population of European countries have ensured the integrity of their states and the safety of their citizens.

Keywords: Russian-Ukrainian war, priority values, European countries, NATO, military spending, gross domestic product, military security.

1 Introduction

The Russian Federation's attack on Ukraine in 2014 and its large-scale invasion since 2022, along with several other significant events in and around Europe, have once again raised the fundamental question of what interests and values different European countries share or do not share. In the past, the primary political debates and decisions of the European Union revolved around the speed and direction of European integration. Nowadays, international security challenges are becoming increasingly critical.

Values are essential for every person as they motivate one to act. People's values determine the values of an organisation, region, or state and, accordingly, their culture. Therefore, studying people's values and creating conditions to support them is crucial for every organisation, region, and state to ensure their development.

The Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to reduce poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people live in peace and prosperity. The 17 goals are mutually reinforcing: actions in one area also affect results in others, so development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Countries have committed to prioritising progress for those countries and communities lagging behind the most. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women and girls. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in every context requires creativity, know-how, technology, and financial resources from society (Sustainable et al., 2024).

Changes in a person's environment can change their values or priorities. A vivid example is a person's education in a higher education institution. However, there are also negative examples. One such example is the Russian-Ukrainian war, which affected not only the priority values of the Ukrainian population but also the values of other European countries. This is confirmed by the daily news in the media about changes in people's behaviour. One of the features of values in light of the current study is that it is a set of rules that are acquired to regulate human behaviour

through which the desirable and undesirable lifestyle and behavioural patterns are judged, and what these values ultimately constitute as values of a sense of social responsibility (Alasmari, 2021).

The primary objective of our research is to analyse the impact of hostilities within a state on the evolving values and priorities of its population and that of neighbouring states. This entails understanding the patterns of priority and general values during wartime and post-war periods. Anticipated outcomes of this study include identifying shifting priority values, developing preventive mechanisms against adverse value changes for Ukraine and other European countries, and integrating these mechanisms into economic and socio-cultural systems to bolster national development.

Table 1: An example of a fragment of possible expected results of research on the change in the priority values of the population of European countries under the influence of the Russian-Ukrainian war

№	Priority values before the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation	Priority values after the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation	Consequences for Ukraine's development	Implications for the development of other European countries
1	Family, nation, and achieving success through forming and developing one's abilities	Preservation of life and health, obtaining sources of income not based on the results of one's activities.	Family divorces, migrants' reluctance to return to Ukraine regardless of the war's outcome, and a decrease in funds flowing into the Ukrainian budget	Expenditures on social benefits for Ukrainian refugees.
2				

2 Literature review

Research studies mention that strengthening values among Ukrainians is related to strengthening the national code and identity. A sense of pride in their country and patriotism have become characteristic of Ukrainians. Ukrainians began to favour intangible values: communication with loved ones, social interaction and mutual assistance, and altruism. In contrast, material values have become secondary. This has led to a revival of active citizenship among Ukrainians. A community of like-minded people united by new values has been formed and has spread beyond the country's borders. The change in the values of the population has intensified the volunteer movement, which became widespread after the events of the Maidan and the Revolution of Dignity in 2014. The volunteer movement in Ukraine is characterized by the active participation of concerned citizens in solving society's problems. It is important to note, along with the material contribution of volunteers and concerned citizens, the massive involvement of Ukrainians in providing information and organizational assistance. Examples include assistance to territorial defence units in the arrangement of protective structures; cooking, search for housing, and employment assistance to internally displaced persons; provision of professional labour services by doctors, teachers, educators, lawyers, and other professionals without receiving payment to persons affected by aggression, etc. (Zaloznova et. Azmuk, 2022).

Over the past several decades, the armed conflicts/wars in Libya, Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and other countries have significantly impacted regional and global development. With this conflict's emergence, several nations' ability to achieve SDGs by 2030 can become unattainable. The conflict slowed the post-COVID-19 recovery and negatively impacted regional and Global SDG achievement (Pereira et al., 2022).

One of the problems that existed before 2022 (Medvid et al., 2018) and has become more acute today is the demographic problem.

The value of "tolerance" in people, its formation and development, particularly in the military, requires a separate rethinking (Medvid et al., 2021).

Given the current situation in Europe, its countries are trying to become economically independent from the aggressor, professing the abovementioned values. Figure 1, on the right, illustrates that the percentage of liquefied natural gas supply relative to total EU gas imports surpassed 40% in 2023, doubling its share in 2021 (Analysis of the European LNG, 2024).

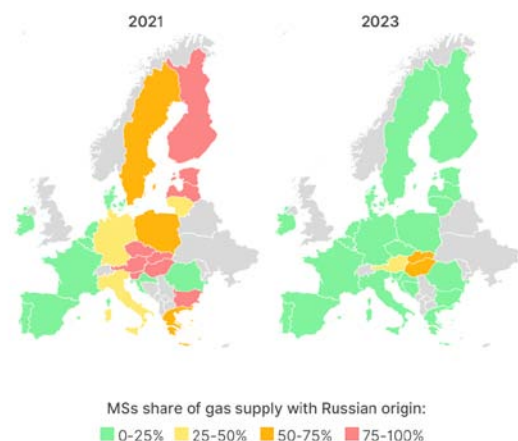


Figure 1 – Estimated share of gas supply with Russian pipeline origin per Member State 2021 vs 2023¹

To achieve the results of the study, the following research methods should be used: sociological surveys of both the population of Ukraine in Ukraine and abroad the population of European countries in order to identify the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the change in their values; methods of statistical research on changes in expenditures and revenues of European budgets in order to identify the impact of changes in the priority values of the population of European countries on their development.

The analysis of scientific works is a system of judgments that gives grounds to assume the hypothesis that the Russian-Ukrainian war affects the change in the priority values of the European population.

3 Materials and Methods

According to the authors of this article, changes in a country's national expenditures by end use are a derivative of changes in the priority values of the population of these countries. The hypothesis that the Russian-Ukrainian war affects the change in the priority values of the population of European countries can be confirmed or refuted using statistical research methods. For example, using the trend approach, it is possible to check whether there is a trend of increasing military spending in countries that were members of NATO before 2014 and share borders with the Russian Federation, Belarus and/or Ukraine. Using correlation analysis, it is also possible to check whether there is a correlation between the increase in military spending in those mentioned above in Eastern European and Baltic countries. To conduct such a study, it is advisable to use the materials of Stockholm international peace research institute (Military Expenditure Database, 2024). The results will confirm or deny that the priority values of the population of European countries have become ensuring the integrity of their states and the safety of their citizens.

¹ Source – Analysis of the European LNG market developments 2024 Market Monitoring Report 19 April 2024. European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators. URL: <http://surl.li/tqftl> (accessed: 23.05.2024).

4 Results

Since 2014, and especially since 2022, creating conditions to ensure the state's integrity and citizens' safety has become a priority value in European countries, particularly those that share borders with the Russian Federation, Belarus and/or Ukraine. Thus, European countries such as Finland (in 2023) and Sweden (in 2024) joined NATO to consume the collective good of military security (Figure 2).

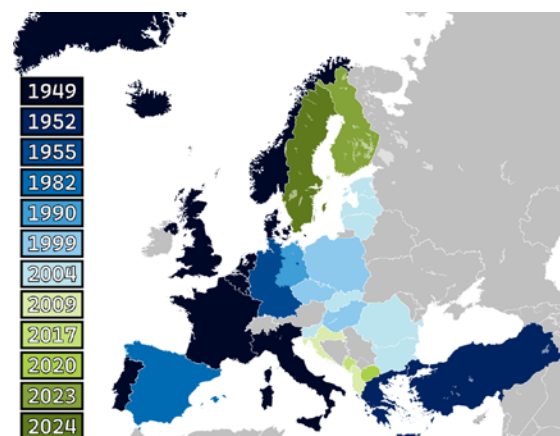


Figure 2 – Periods of NATO membership for European countries²

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the final use of a country's national expenditures, which can be used to assess the change in value priorities by changes in expenditures.

GDP is the main indicator of economic development and the most comprehensive indicator of overall output of goods and services production for a certain period of time. However, GDP per capita is considered the most accurate characteristic that defines the level of economic development as well as economy increase. GDP can be counted by three methods: productive method (method of added values), incomes and costs. The formula that is based upon the costs approach to determine GDP looks like this:

$$GDP \text{ by costs} = C + I + G + NE, \quad (1)$$

where: C – consumer spending; I – private gross investment; G – government spending; NE – net exports.

Military spending tends to increase in the countries that were members of NATO before 2014 (Table 2). One can use the trend approach to confirm or refute this, which extrapolates the forecasted indicator's corrected values of the dynamic time series. This approach is usually used to forecast indicators characterized by either monotonous growth or monotonous decline. Considering the studies conducted to determine the size of the forecasting horizon for making forecasts using trend models (Batsamut, 2020), the forecast was made as of 2025.

In the Baltic countries, military spending is projected to reach at least 2.37% of GDP by 2025, while in 2014, the value of this indicator in Latvia and Lithuania was less than 1% (Figure 3).

In Eastern European countries bordering the Russian Federation, Belarus and/or Ukraine, military spending is projected to reach at least 2.24% of GDP by 2025, while in Slovakia and Hungary, this indicator was less than 1% in 2014 (Figure 4). Even in the more distant Czech Republic, there is a trend toward increasing military spending. The exception to this pattern is Romania.

² Source – Map of NATO's historical expansion in Europe. URL: <http://surl.li/twnml> (accessed: 23.05.2024).

Table 2: Identification of trends in military spending in some Eastern European and Baltic countries and determination of their values in 2025³

Country	Military expenditures (as a percentage of GDP)			Trend line equation	Approximation probability value	Forecast for 2025
	2014	on average over 2015–2022	2023			
Estonia	1,93	2,08	2,87	$y=0.0001x^2-0.001x+0.0213$ (polynomial)	0,63	-
Latvia	0,94	1,81	2,27	$y=0.0063\ln(x)+0.0081$ (logarithmic)	0,92	2,37
Lithuania	0,88	1,84	2,72	$y=0.0018x+0.0086$ (linear)	0,92	3,02
Poland	1,92	2,10	3,83	$y=0.0004x^2-0.0031x+0.0244$ (polynomial)	0,7	-
Slovakia	0,98	1,47	2,02	$y=0.0012x+0.008$ (linear)	0,87	2,24
Czechia	0,97	1,15	1,52	$y=5E-05x^2+1E-04x+0.0092$ (polynomial)	0,95	1,8
Hungary	0,86	1,30	2,13	$y=0.0001x^2+0.0001x+0.0085$ (polynomial)	0,86	2,41
Romania	1,35	1,73	1,61	$y=0.0022\ln(x)+0.0135$ (logarithmic)	0,57	-

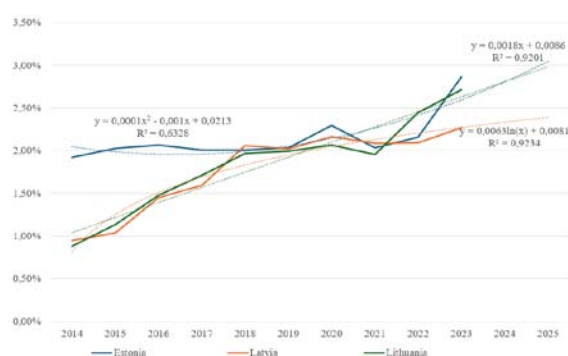


Figure 3 – Identification of trends in military spending by the Baltic States and determination of their values in 2025⁴

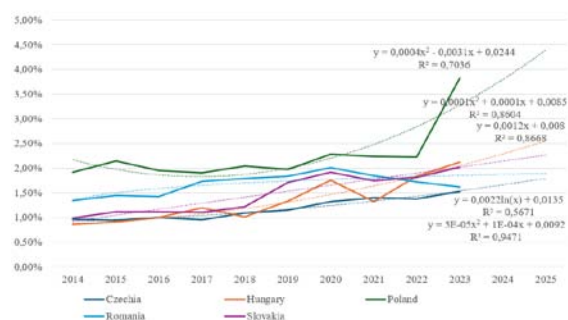


Figure 4 – Identification of trends in the military expenditures of several Eastern European countries and determination of their values in the year 2025⁵

The permissible degree of military-economic tension for the state in peacetime cannot exceed 4-5% of GDP judging by the experience of the developed countries (Borosova et. Drutarovska, 2016). The increase in military spending in Ukraine is understandable; by 2023, it will amount to 36,65% of GDP. However, the overshooting of the threshold of this indicator by the Russian Federation (as of 2023, it amounted to

5,86% of GDP), which negatively affects the welfare of the population of this state, is unjustified and will have negative consequences for this state in the future. After all, directing resources to accumulate productive capital contributes 3-12 times more to growth than using resources for military spending. (Shakhid et. Saba, 2015).

Correlation analysis can also confirm the trend of increasing military spending by countries that were members of NATO before 2014. If the value of one country's indicator changes, the value of another country's indicator changes, and then there is a direct relationship (if the correlation coefficient is more significant than 0,7, there is a robust statistical relationship). Out of seven possible strong relationships with other countries, the Czech Republic has 6, Latvia, Lithuania, and Hungary have 5, Slovakia has 4, Poland has 3, and Estonia and Romania have 2 (Table 3).

Table 3: Identification of statistical correlation between the increase in military spending by some Eastern European and Baltic countries⁶

Country	Latvia	Lithuania	Poland	Slovakia	Czechia	Hungary	Romania
Estonia	0,53	0,70	0,96	0,68	0,72	0,12	0,12
Latvia		0,94	0,47	0,85	0,82	0,81	0,81
Lithuania			0,53	0,86	0,86	0,83	0,82
Poland				0,63	0,72	0,75	0,03
Slovakia					0,93	0,91	0,65
Czechia						0,89	0,52
Hungary							0,48

Therefore, the results of testing the hypothesis confirm that the Russian-Ukrainian war affected the change in the priority values of the European population.

It should be mentioned that «The relationship between military spending and unemployment is a controversial aspect of the National Defence Economy. This relationship has been examined by many authors but the studies have not indicated any uniformity in empirical results» (Odehnal et al., 2023).

5 Conclusion

According to the authors of this article, changes in a country's national expenditures by end use are a derivative of changes in the priority values of the population of these countries. The study's results confirmed the hypothesis that the Russian-Ukrainian war affected the change in the priority values of the population of European countries. Military spending tends to be increased in countries that were NATO members before 2014 and share borders with the Russian Federation, Belarus and/or Ukraine. This pattern was confirmed using the trend approach. According to the forecast, in Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, and Hungary, military spending in 2025 will be at least 2,24% of their GDP. In 2014, this figure was less than 1%. The authors also used correlation analysis to identify the dependence of the increase in military spending in those mentioned above Eastern European and Baltic countries. The results confirm that the priority values of the population of European countries have become ensuring the integrity of their states and the safety of their citizens.

Further research will be devoted to conducting sociological surveys of the Ukrainian population in Ukraine and abroad, as well as the population of European countries, to identify the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the change in their priority values.

³ The following source was used to create the table – Military Expenditure Database. Stockholm international peace research institute. URL: <http://surli.itwbfh> (accessed: 23.05.2024).

⁴ The following source was used to create the figure – Military Expenditure Database. Stockholm international peace research institute. URL: <http://surli.itwbfh> (accessed: 23.05.2024).

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