



Ilko Kucheriv
Democratic Initiatives
Charitable Foundation

Ukrainian public opinion toward Russia and war in the East of Ukraine

Recent changes and long-term trends

The Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation conducted a poll from December 17 to 22, 2021 in all regions of Ukraine except Crimea and the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. 2018 respondents aged 18 and older were interviewed. The theoretical sampling error is 2.3%.

In 2018-2021 fieldwork done by the sociological service of Razumkov Centre, Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, and Center for Political Sociology (former Ukrainian Sociology Service).

Dates of other mentioned polls:

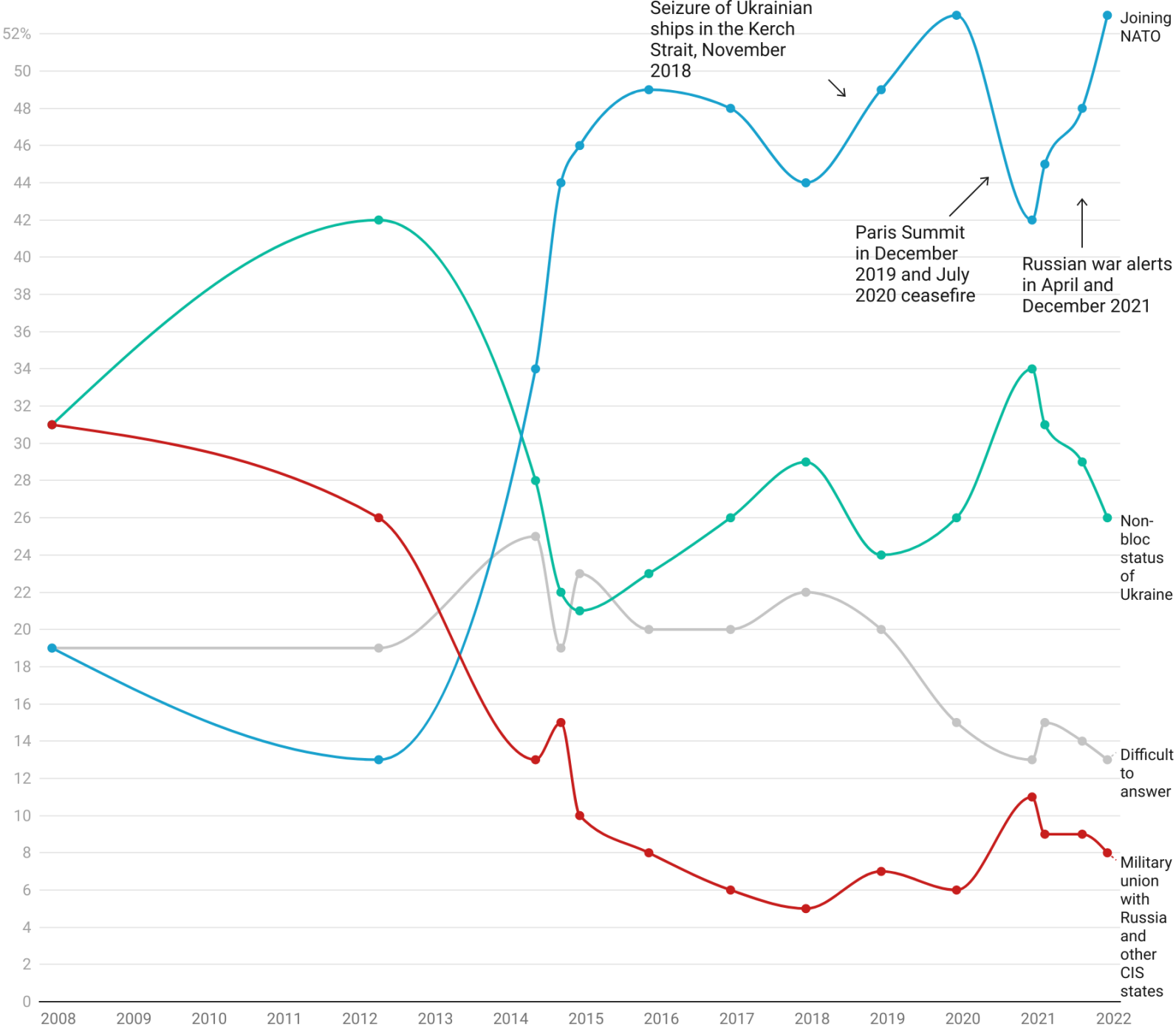
- August 14 – 24, 2021 (DIF/CPS)
- May 14 – 19, 2021 (DIF/RC)
- February 15 – 26, 2021 (DIF/CPS)
- November 3 – 16, 2020 (DIF/CPS)
- August 14 – 19, 2020 (DIF/KIIS)
- July 29 – August 4, 2020 (DIF/RC)
- December 13 – 18, 2019 (DIF/RC)
- November 4 – 9, 2019 (DIF/KIIS)
- June 13 – 20, 2019 (DIF/RC)



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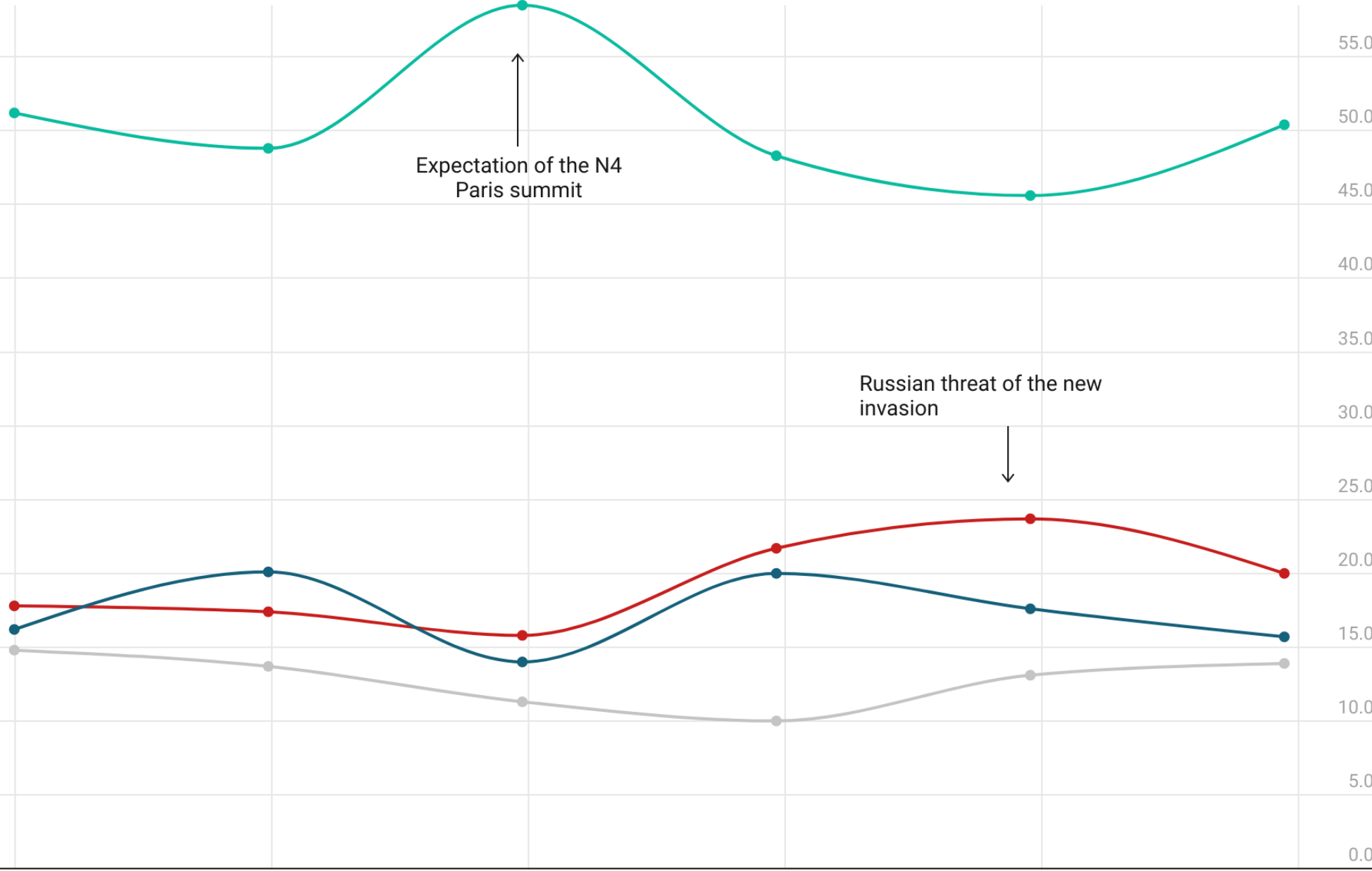
Public opinion in Ukraine about the best option for the national security, 2007-2021

Q: Which option for the national security of Ukraine, in your opinion, would be the best one? (one answer)



Ukrainian society is ready to the conflict resolution that does not compromise sovereignty

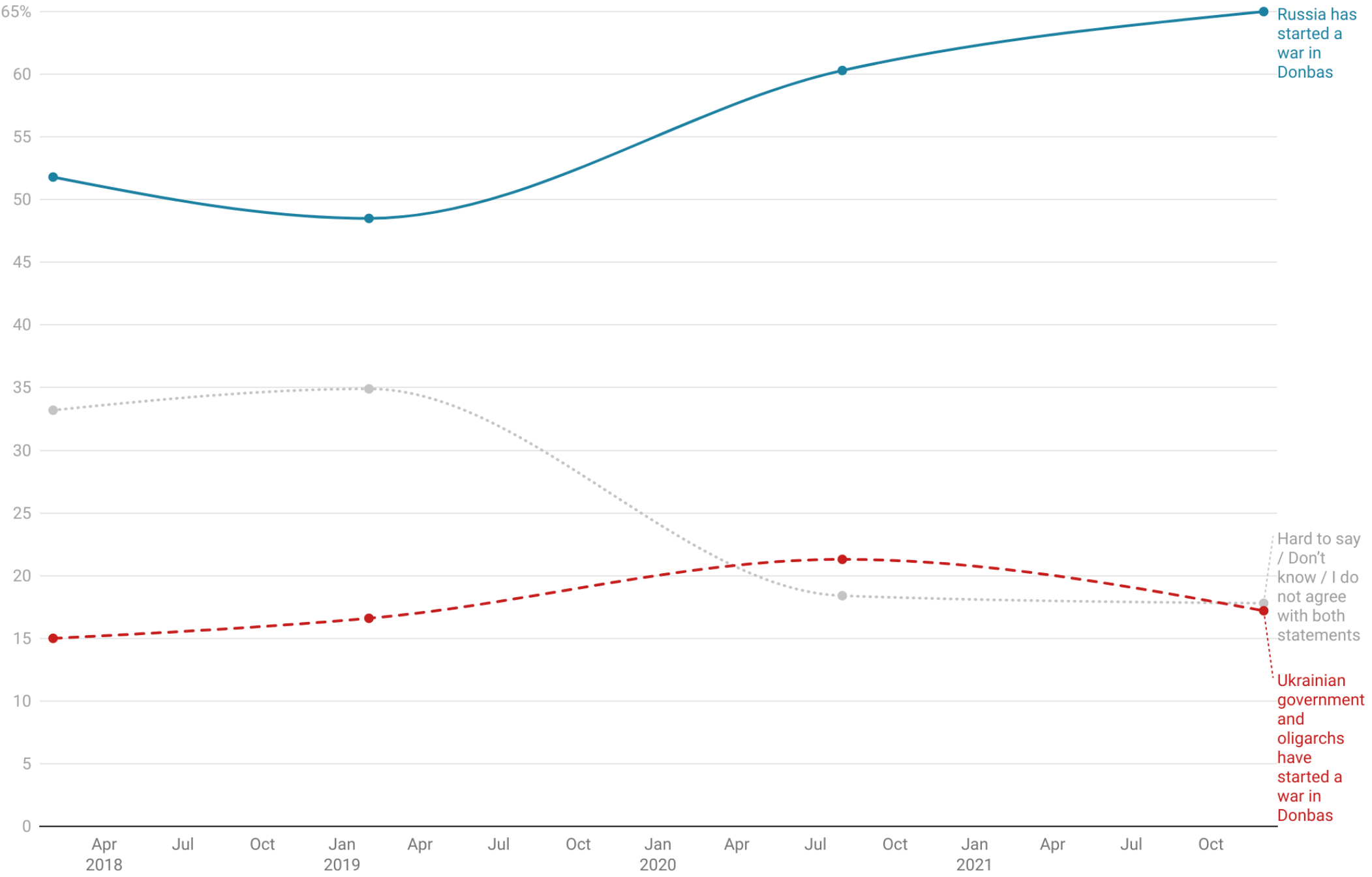
— Any compromises are acceptable for the sake of peace — Compromises are necessary but not at any price
— In fact, peace in Donbass can be established only from a position of strength - when one of the parties wins — Don't know



December 2018 June 2019 November 2019 July 2020 June 2021 December 2021

Since 2019, majority of Ukrainians has recognized Russia as a power that started the war in 2014

Q: Please, choose one of the two following statements which corresponds you're your own opinion on the matter (one answer)



Russian aggressiveness toward Zelenskyy government made people change their minds about the conflict in the east of Ukraine

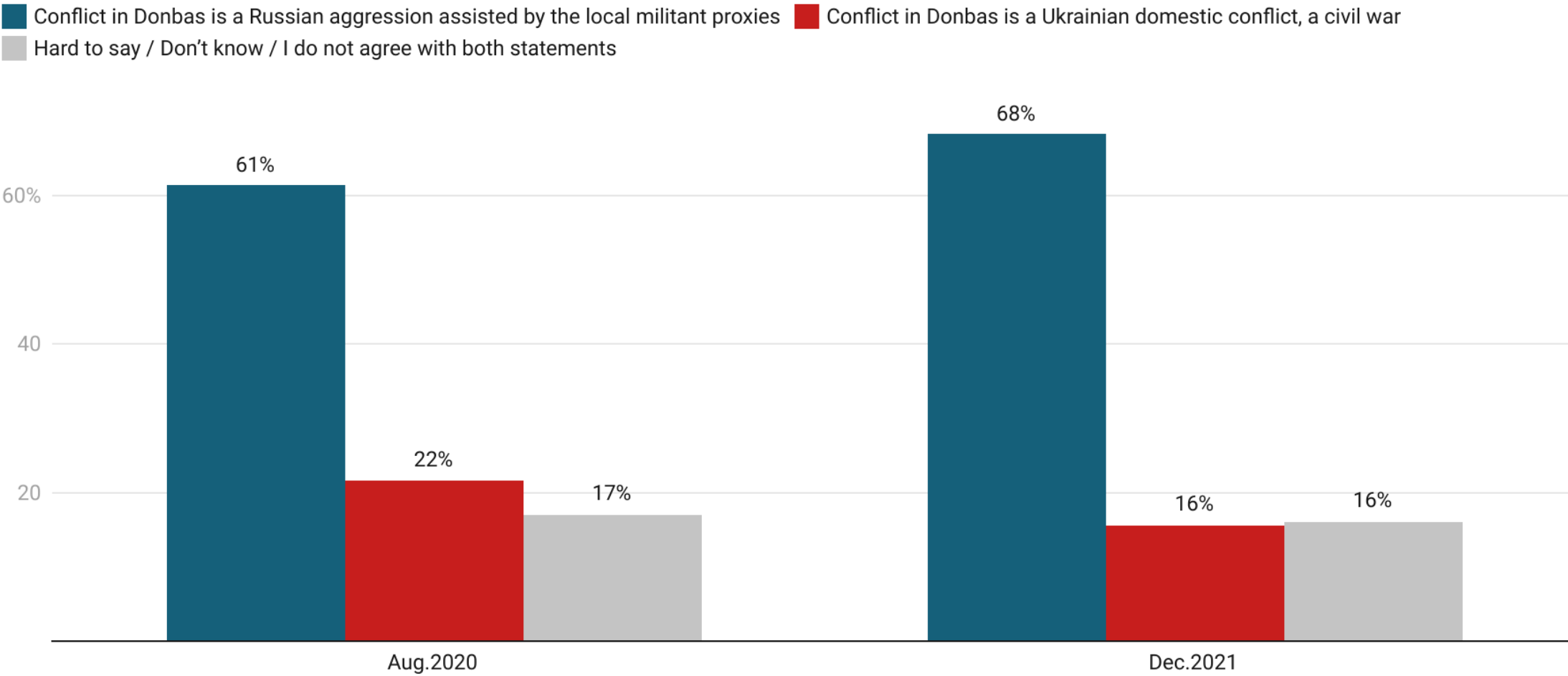


Chart: Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation • Source: DIF nationwide polls (August 2020; December 2021) • Created with Datawrapper

Majority of Ukrainians support policy of deterring and containing Russian aggression in Donbas rather than policy of concessions

In your opinion, what are the most efficient ways and means of achieving lasting peace in Donbas? (one answer)

Dec. 2019 May 2021 Dec. 2021



Ukrainian public see NATO and western military assistance as a major security tools that can deter Russian aggression

Do you think that the provision of weapons to Ukraine and the holding of joint military exercises with the United States and EU and NATO member states deter or provoke Russia's aggression against Ukraine? (one answer)

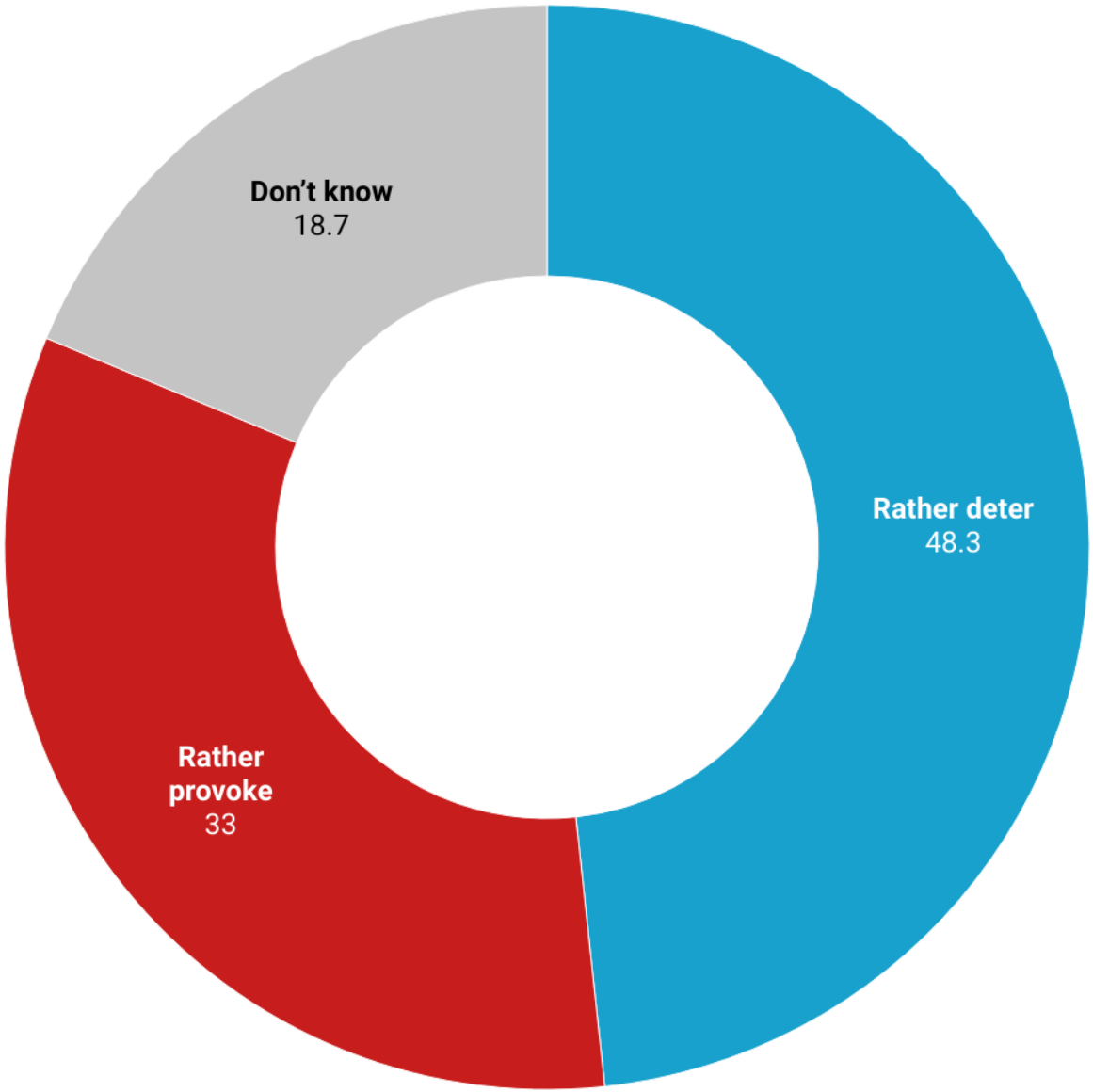
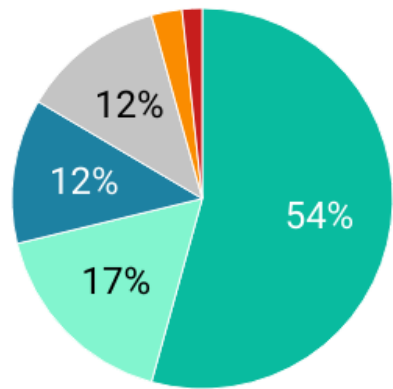


Chart: Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation • Source: Nationwide opinion poll, December 17-22, 2021 • Created with Datawrapper

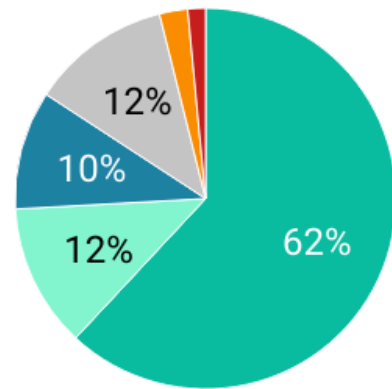
Ukrainian people will not support peace agreement that takes CADLR out of Ukraine's control

If we talk about the political future of the territories of the so-called "DPR" and "LPR", which option would you prefer? (one answer you are most inclined to)

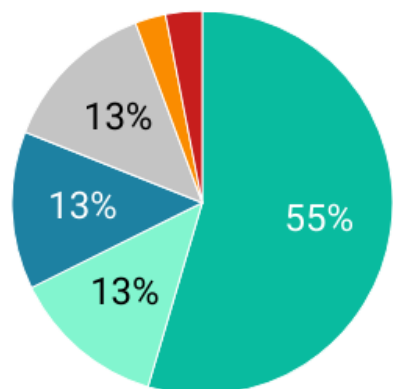
- These territories must return to Ukraine on the same conditions as before the war
- These territories must return to Ukraine but have more independence from Kyiv
- These territories must get autonomy within Ukraine
- Don't know
- These territories must become the independent states
- These territories must become the part of Russia



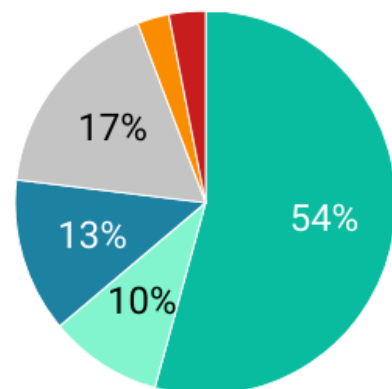
June 2019



Nov. 2019



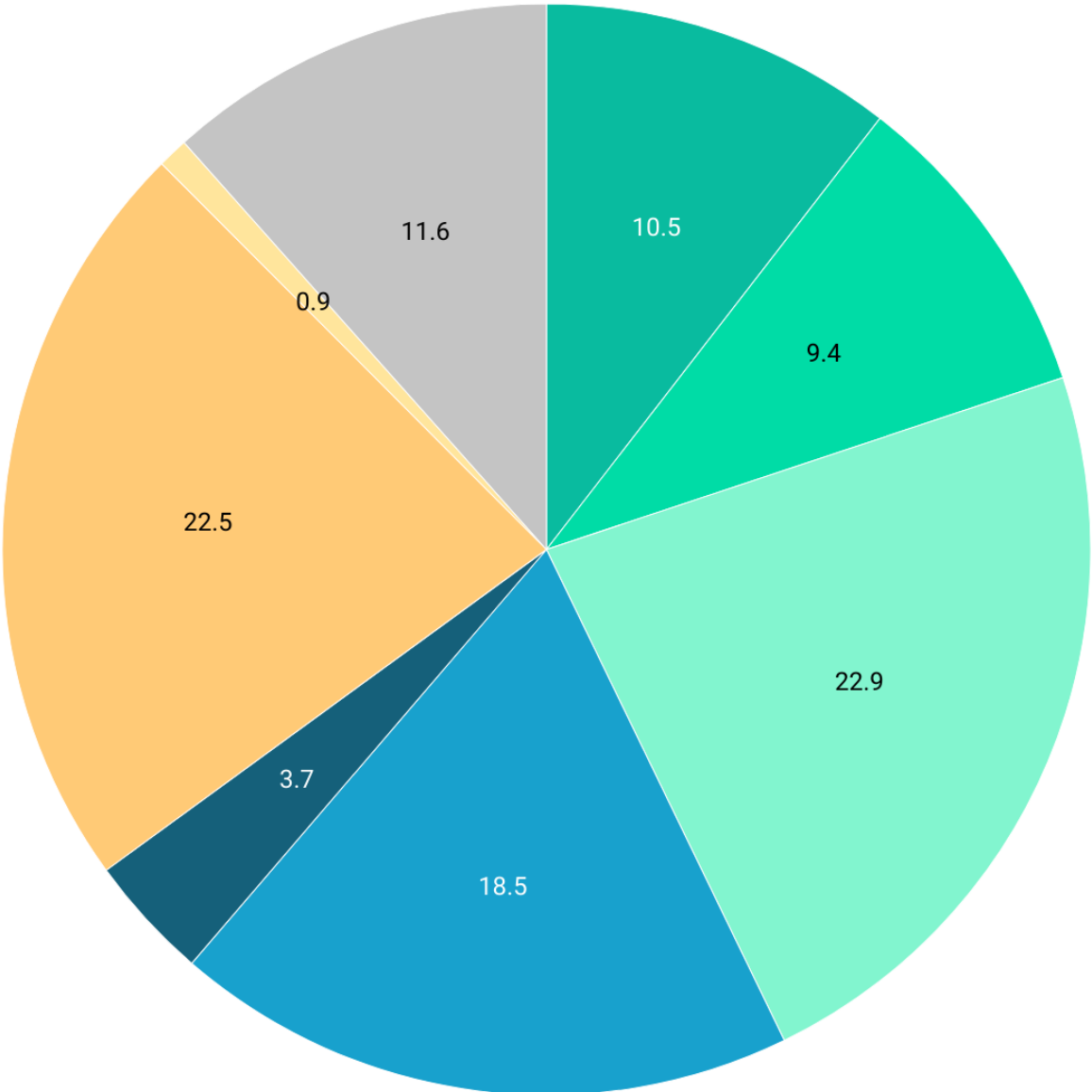
May 2021



Dec. 2021

Ukrainian government has got strong popular backing to counter the Russian aggression

- I will join the Armed Forces to repel aggression
- I join the volunteer forces to fight the aggressor at the front and in the rear of the enemy
- I will provide all possible non-military assistance (money, work, as a blood donor, etc.)
- I will not do anything, just try to survive
- I will try to leave the country
- I do not believe that this will ever happen
- Other
- Don't know



Russia has been losing its "soft" power in Ukraine during Zelenskyy presidency

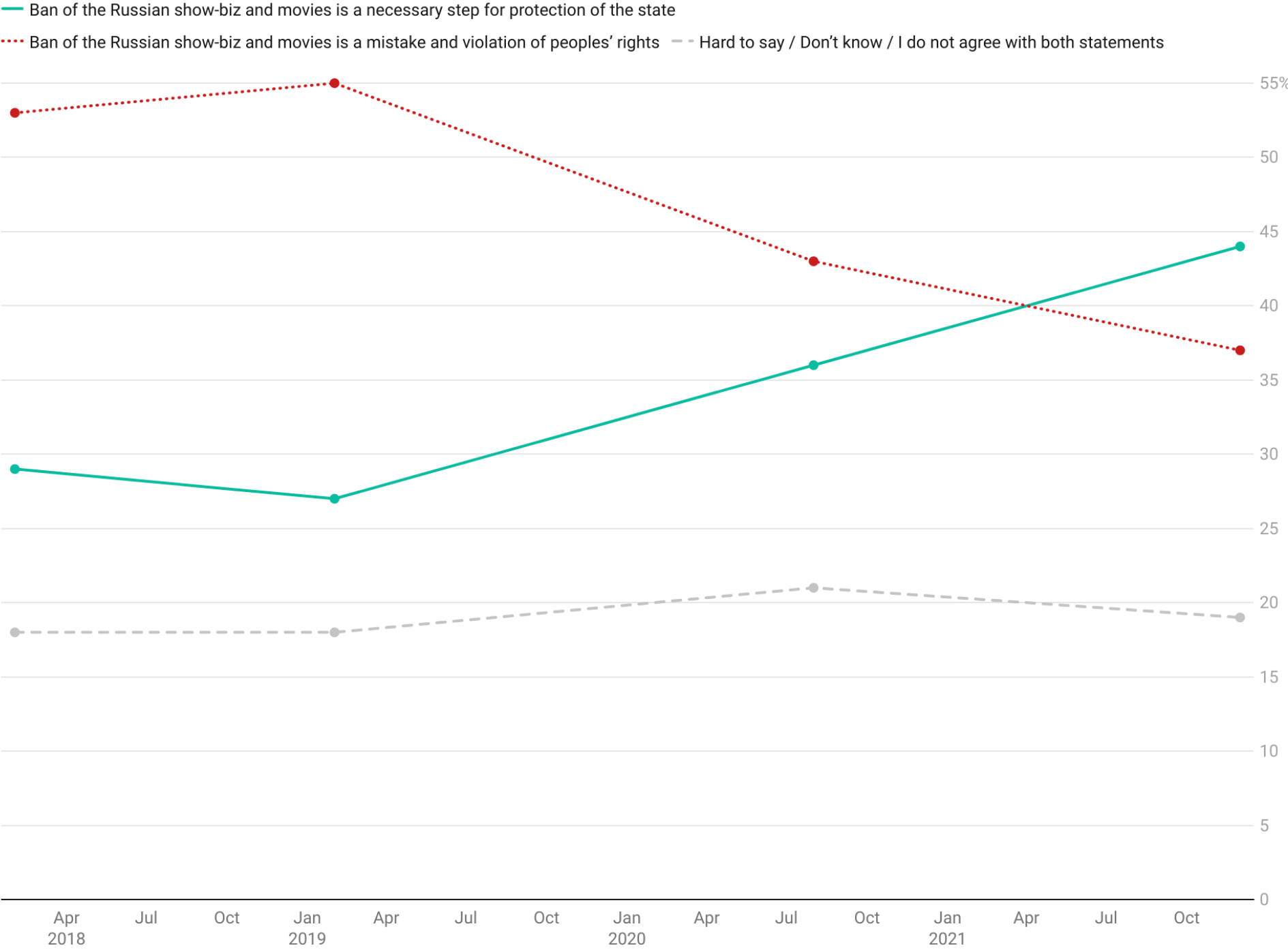


Chart: Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation • Source: DM nationwide polls (January 2018-2019) DIF nationwide polls (August 2020; December 2021) • Created with Datawrapper


DIF is an independent think tank focused on the study (ENG) of the Ukrainian society, development of policy solutions (ENG) for the governmental and non-governmental institutions, and advocacy in the Ukrainian and foreign media.

We conduct exit polls, nationwide, regional and group polls; we train journalists and local activists; we prepare policy analysis and evaluation of policy implementation.


Our findings and policy recommendations are valued and used by the Ukrainian authorities: National Security and Defence Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry on Reintegration of the Temporary Occupied Territories, Prosecutor General Office, Ministry of Agricultural Policy, Ukrainian Institute of National Memory.


According to the Global Go To Think Tank Index, DIF has been ranked among top 50 influential non-governmental think tanks in Central and Eastern Europe and “*Transparency and Good Governance Think Tanks*” in 2016-2020.

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