

Civil Society as a Key Factor of the Resistance and Democratic Development in Ukraine



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Where Russia miscalculated?

Russian Narratives:

- Ukraine is part of the “**Russian world**” or at least is the torn or divided country
- Ukraine was a **failed state**
- Pro-Russian puppet regime will be supported by Ukrainians, who suffered since 2014 after the “**nationalistic illegal coup**”
- Local leaders and inhabitants will cooperate, especially in the eastern and southern regions
- **Propaganda** works

Ukrainian Reality:

- Primarily **civic identity** (67% + 30% local identity) regardless of ethnical or lingual belonging. **84% were rather or very proud of the Ukrainian citizenship** (as of August 2022).
- All public **institutions are working** even despite some buildings being destroyed (*and highly trusted*)
- **90 % believe that democracy is the most desirable type of government for Ukraine**
- Positive effects of the **decentralization** reform and uprising of the civil society (*loyalty of almost all mayors in the cities affected by the war, protests against the occupation in Kherson, Melytopol, Berdyansk*)
- **Digitalization**, greater freedom of speech and media, free Internet in Ukraine

Decentralization and the Civic Participation

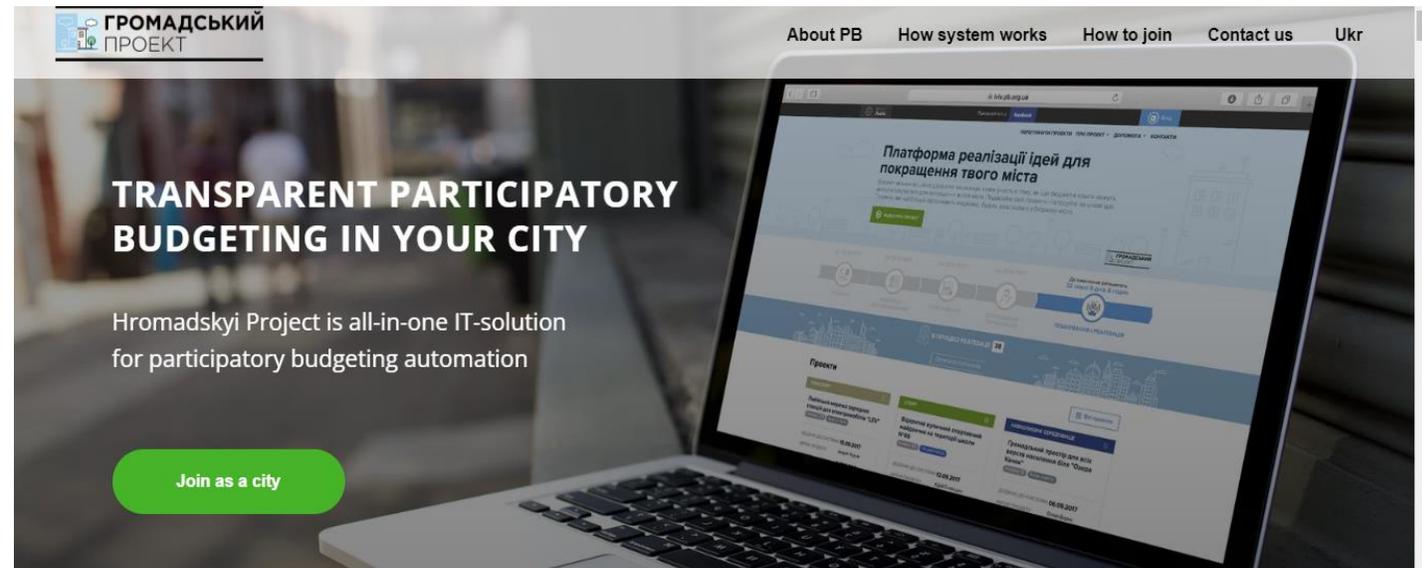
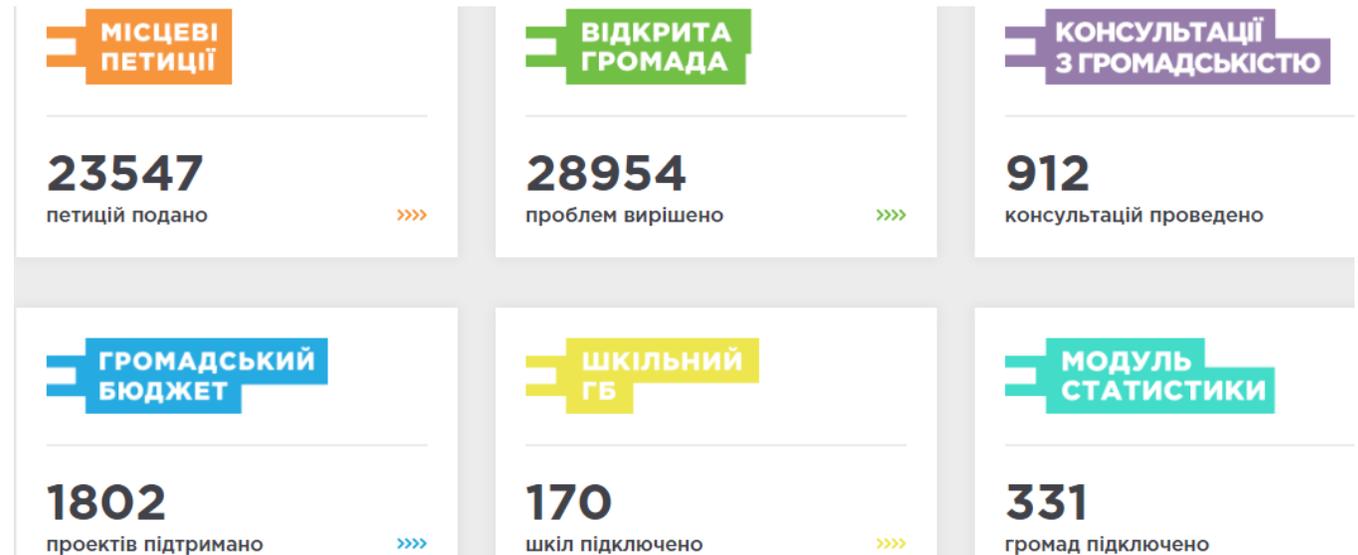
- The share of **citizens taking part in community life** is reportedly growing (from **25 % in 2017 to 33 % in 2021**)
- The level of **awareness** of the ways that Ukrainians can **engage in civic activities** has grown significantly over the past years: *awareness of the creation of a housing committee or participation in their activities* grew from **38% in 2017 to 71% in 2021**, and awareness of *reporting on infrastructure issues to the local administration* has risen from **42% to 69%**.



Decentralization and Digitalization

Numerous towns and villages are able to use a single hosting platform, such as **E-Dem** where more than 200 ATCs perform **democratic tools**, including 118 with participatory budgets, as of December 2021) or the **Participatory Budget–Civic Project** (with over 90 communities);

- larger cities perform services and participatory budgets via their respective websites and were pretty **free in using tools of the direct democracy**



Ukrainian civil society under the gun-points

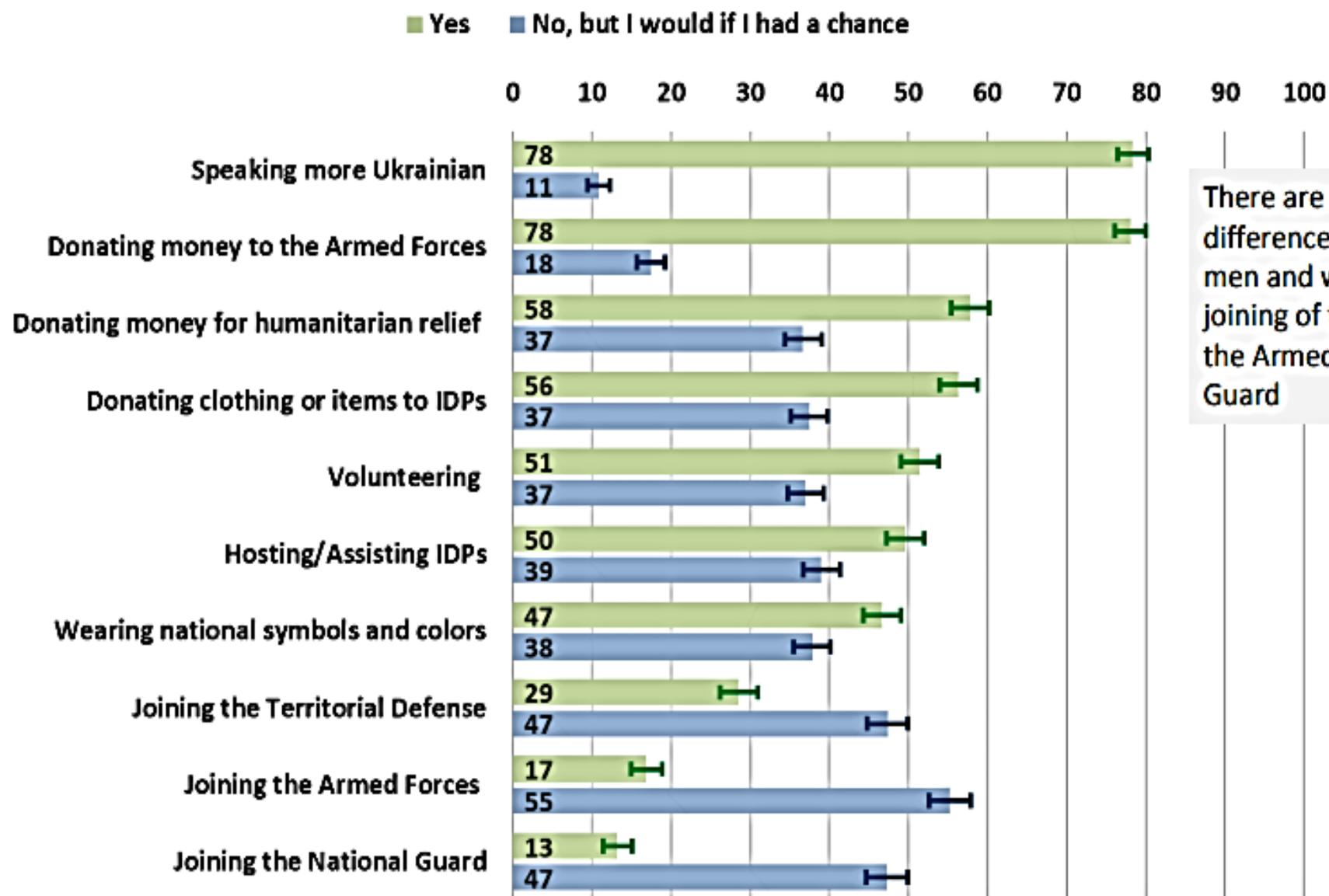
Before 2022

- Enjoyed the **liberal legislation** and small restrictions (one of the highest CSOSI ranking in the region)
- Volunteered for the army and IDPs
- Created a lot of **horizontal networks and coalitions**
- **Advocated reforms** and the EU-integration, was included in decision-making after 2014 (and after 2020 on the local level)
- Suffered from the **lack of budgeting and inequality in funds allocation**

In February-August 2022

- Some **liberties** and possibilities are **limited but aren't canceled**
- Using previous experience across the entire country and abroad
- CS dramatically **expanded** through businesses, churches, artists, condominiums and citizens
- **Cooperates** with **public authorities**, military and law enforcement agencies
- Suffering from the **lack of budgeting accomplished by decrease of the governmental transparency**

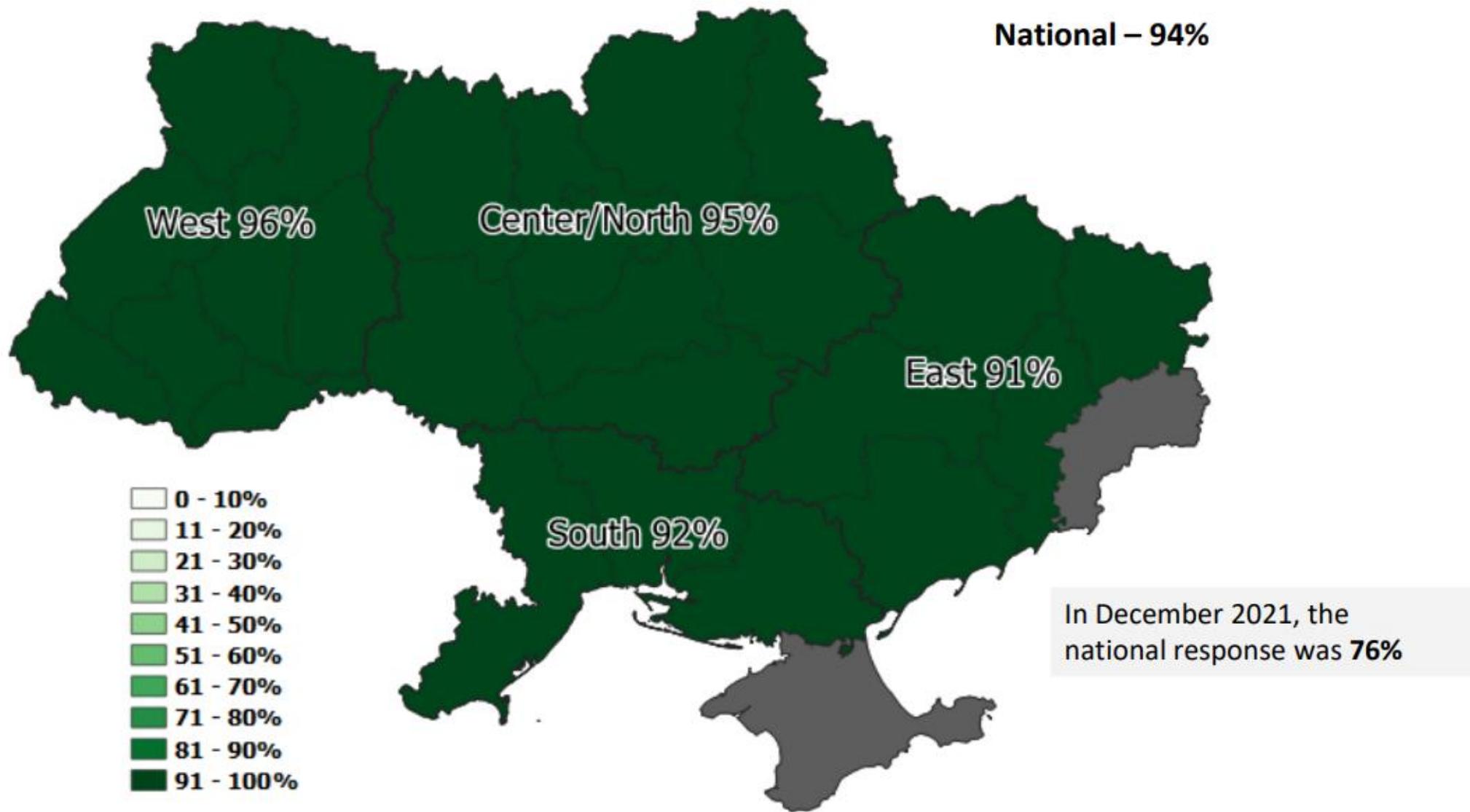
Have you done any of these since the start of full-scale war? (q7)



There are no statistically significant differences in responses between men and women, except for the joining of the Territorial Defense, the Armed Forces and the National Guard

How important is it to you that Ukraine becomes a fully functioning democracy? (q12 X Settlement)

“Very important/important” only



Risks for Democracy after the War

- Decentralization curtailing and **restrictions on the autonomy of local government** for the sake of **security**
- **Fast recovery by any means vs Lugano principles** (*involvement of civil society as an equal partner and community-based approach*)
- **Roll back in civic engagement** in policy-making galvanized by the local elites
- **Civil society fatigue** (CSOs themselves could be overwhelming and exhausting for providing comprehensive control and deliberation)
- **Populism** and long-lasting “rally around the flag effect”

Many thanks for your attention!

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