



Monitoring of the Russian Society

# MIRROR OF RUSSIA

Third  
Wave

One year since the beginning of the full-scale invasion

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THE MIRROR OF RUSSIA

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# Research Methodology



**Survey methodology:** CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview) – telephone survey on an interactive structured questionnaire using software for conducting sociological surveys.

**Field dates:** 6-19.02.2023

**Sample size:** 1600 respondents

**Sample type:** The sample is proportionally stratified according to the characteristics “8 federal districts of the Russian Federation” and “type of settlements” (urban/rural population; for the Central Federal District - Moscow and St. Petersburg / other urban population / rural population).

For each stratum, gender and age quotas were calculated – men/women in separate age groups (18-24 years old, 25-34 years old, 35-44 years old, 45-59 years old, 60 years and older).

The sample reproduces the geographic parameters and sex and age proportions of the general population - all adults (18 years and older) residents of the Russian Federation\*.

The statistical error with a probability of 0.95 does not exceed 2.5%.

\*Official statistics on the population of the federal districts of the Russian Federation and the age and sex composition are taken from open Internet sources.

# SURVEY SUMMARY



## The war has entered the everyday life of Russians, who are looking for a reason to end it.

The Institute for Conflictology and Analysis of Russia (ICAR) conducted a monthly sociological survey of Russian society called "Mirror of Russia".

From February 6th to 19th, 2023, the third wave of the study was conducted on an all-Russian sample dedicated to the anniversary of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation. The survey method is CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview), a telephone survey based on an interactive structured questionnaire using special software for sociological surveys.

A total of 1,600 respondents were interviewed.

## The main results of the third wave of the survey:

After a year of the war, most Russian citizens (69%) have relatives or acquaintances who have been mobilised since the beginning of the large-scale attack on February 24, 2022.

- With each survey, the share of Russians who answer that someone close to them and/or acquaintances has already died since the beginning of "SMO" increases - from 29% in December to 38% in February.

The share of those who tell about the death of people from their close circle is gradually increasing: relatives (from 1% in December to 3% in February), several relatives (from 1% to 3%) or several friends (from 3% to 5%).

- Currently, the "Special Military Operation" against Ukraine remains the main problem Russian society is facing (45%).

At the same time, Russians are struggling of low salaries and pensions (from 25% in December to 32% in February), which should catch up with the rise in prices.

- The majority of Russian citizens surveyed believe that the goal of the "SMO" regarding the "denazification of Ukraine" was not achieved during the 12 months of the war (52%); the same applies to the "demilitarisation of Ukraine" (48%).

On the other hand, the majority believes that the goal of "SMO" regarding the "protection of the residents of Donbas" has been achieved (68%).

# SURVEY SUMMARY



Among Russians, the share of those who are confident that the Russian Federation has already partially achieved the goals of the "SMO" (from 39% in December to 55% in February) or has done so completely (4%) is steadily increasing.

At the same time, the number of supporters of an eternal war until the fulfilment of all goals has significantly decreased (from 48% in December to 12% in February). The share of those who want to see the time frame of "SMO" for no more than one or two years has increased sharply (from 6% in December to 29% in February), as well as the share of undecideds on this issue (from 15% in December to 26% in February).

Therefore, after a year of full-scale warfare, most Russians (69%) would positively agree to the decision to end the "SMO" at least tomorrow. Even though, the majority of respondents answered that the events in the country are taking place in the right direction (69%), the war had to be started (66%), and everything is going according to the plan (56%).

An additional argument in favour of prompt ending of "SMO" for citizens is that almost three-quarters of them (73%) agree with the opinion that the war was a trap for Russia on the part of the United States, and this was precisely what official Washington sought for. Therefore, a relative majority (45%) assumes the scenario of breaking these "plans" by the return of Russian troops at the turn of February 24, 2022.

. During the 12 months of the war, volunteerism did not become a mass movement in the Russian Federation: more than three-quarters (77%) of citizens answered, that they were not engaged in helping the army.

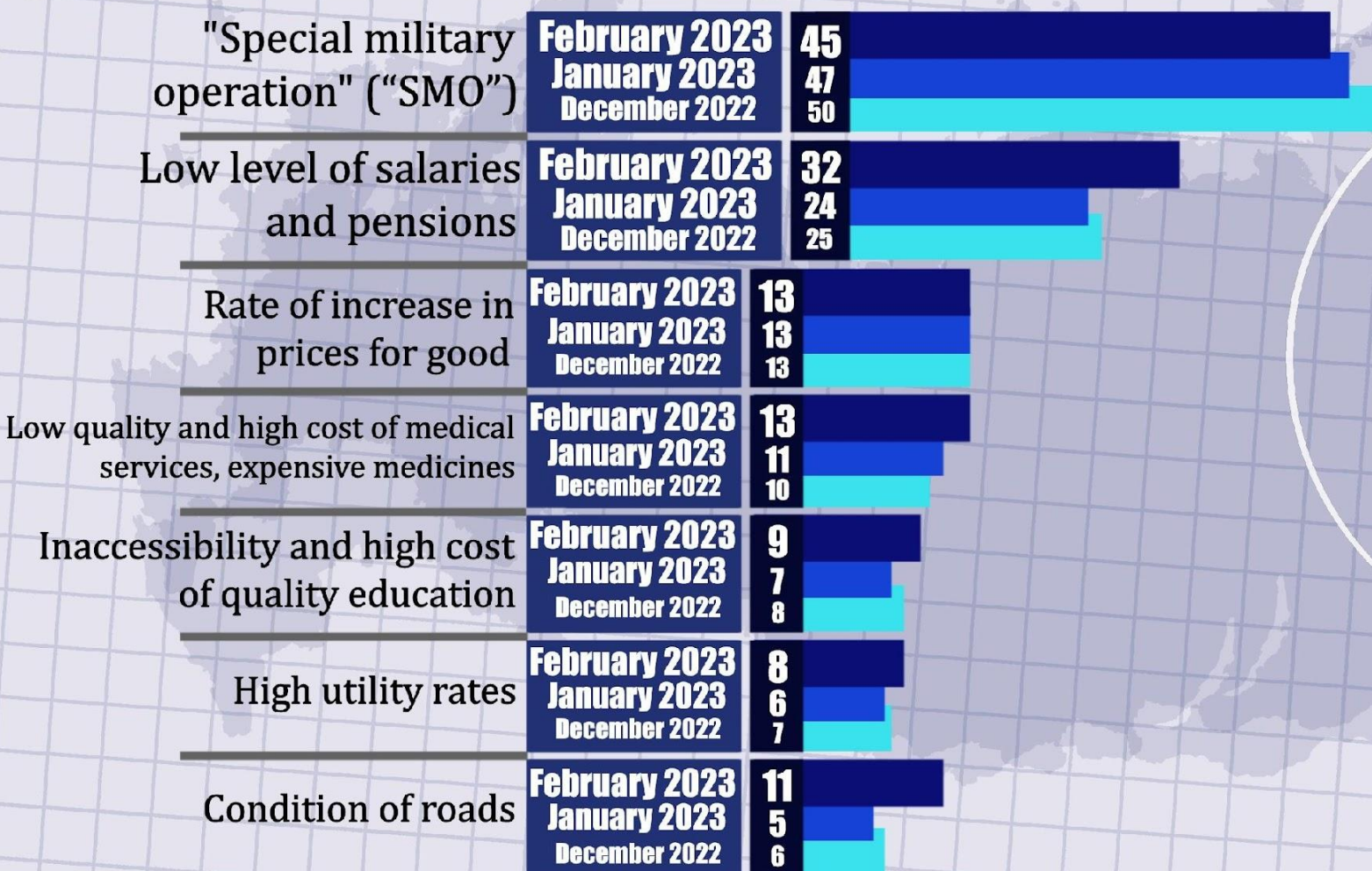
The statistical error with a probability of 0.95 does not exceed 2.5%.

# THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS IN RUSSIAN SOCIETY



## What are the most urgent problems in the Russian Federation today?

- Dynamics of attitudes, % Respondents could choose more than one answer.



# THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS IN RUSSIAN SOCIETY



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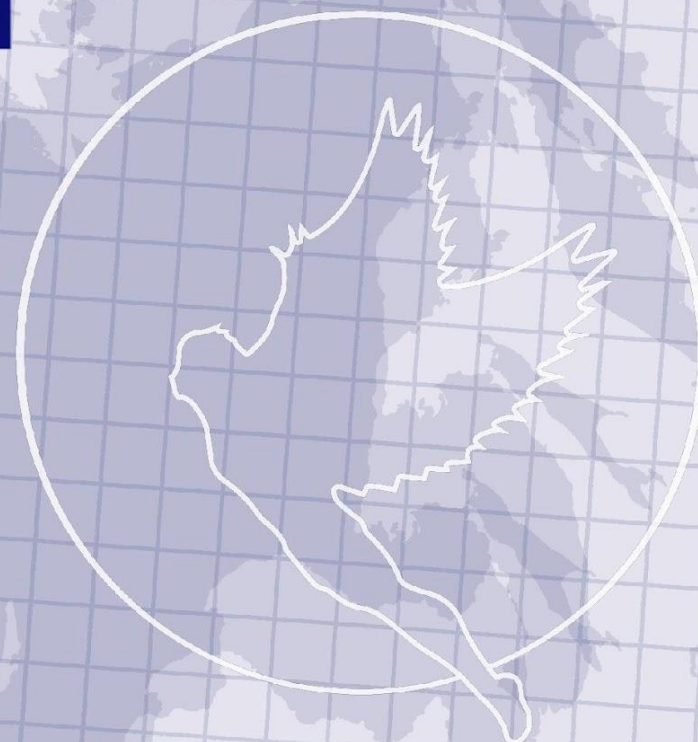
- Dynamics of attitudes, % Respondents could choose more than one answer.



# ASSESSMENT OF EVENTS IN RUSSIA



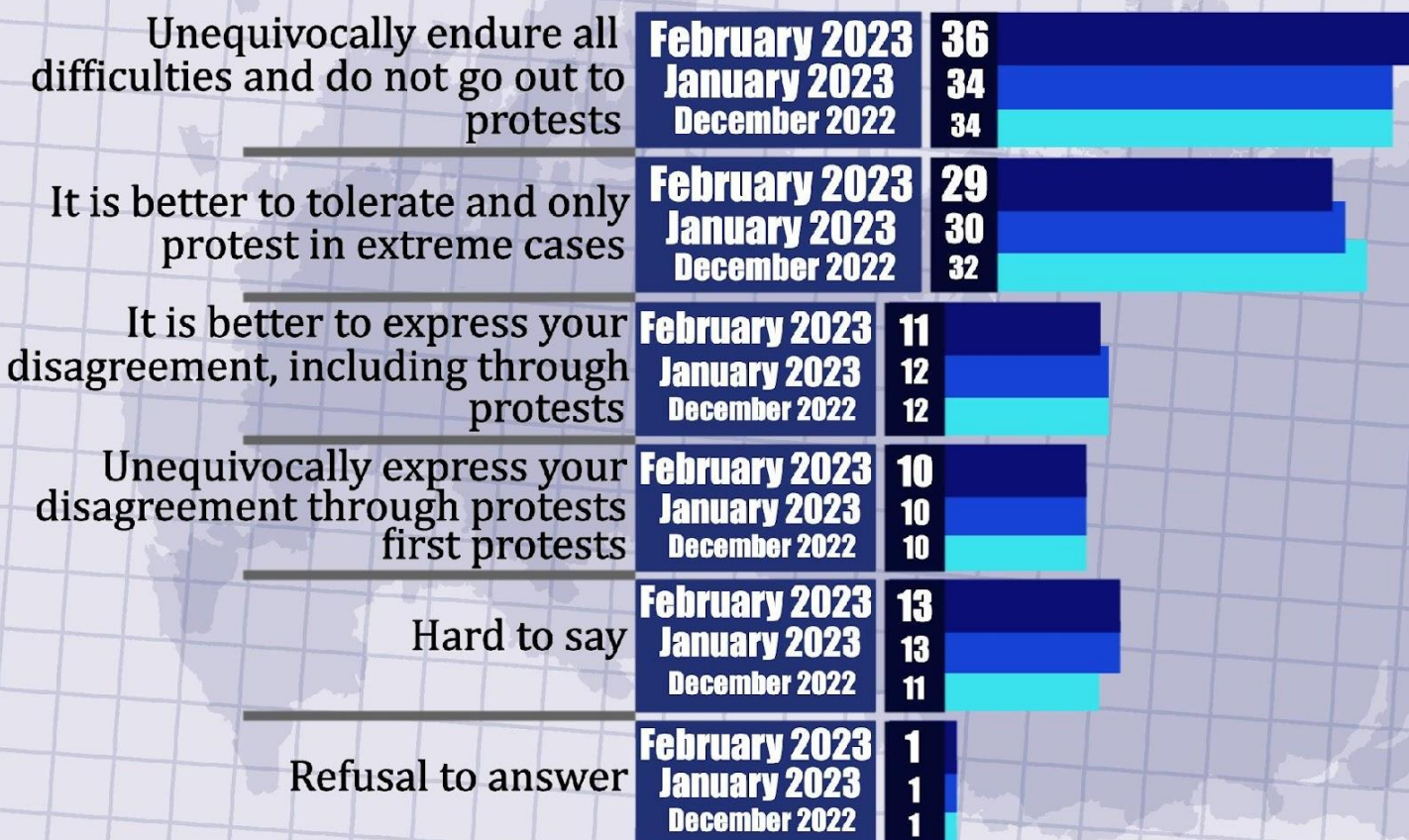
**Do you think that events in the Russian Federation are developing in the  
or wrong direction? - Dynamics of attitudes, %**



# READINESS FOR PROTESTS

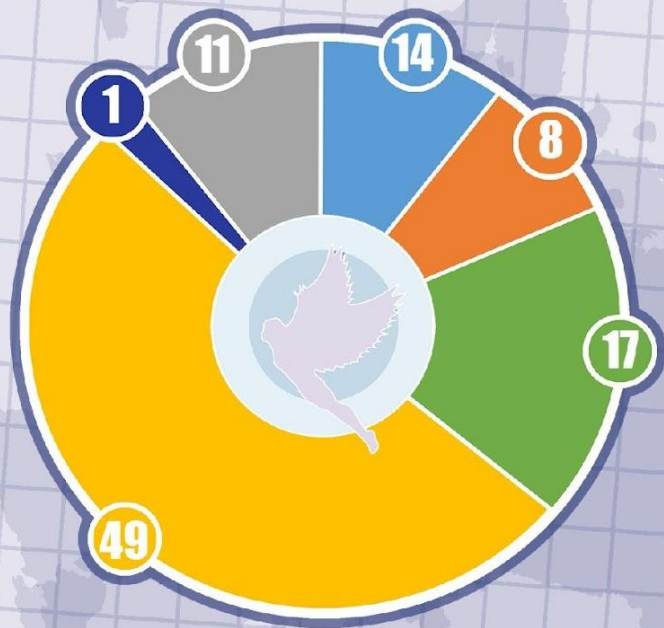


**In your opinion, is it better to tolerate social and economic problems or to express disagreement with them? - Dynamics of attitudes, %**



# RESULTS OF THE 12 MONTHS OF THE "SMO"

Based on the results of the 12 months of the "Special Military Operation", in your opinion, was it worth starting?, %



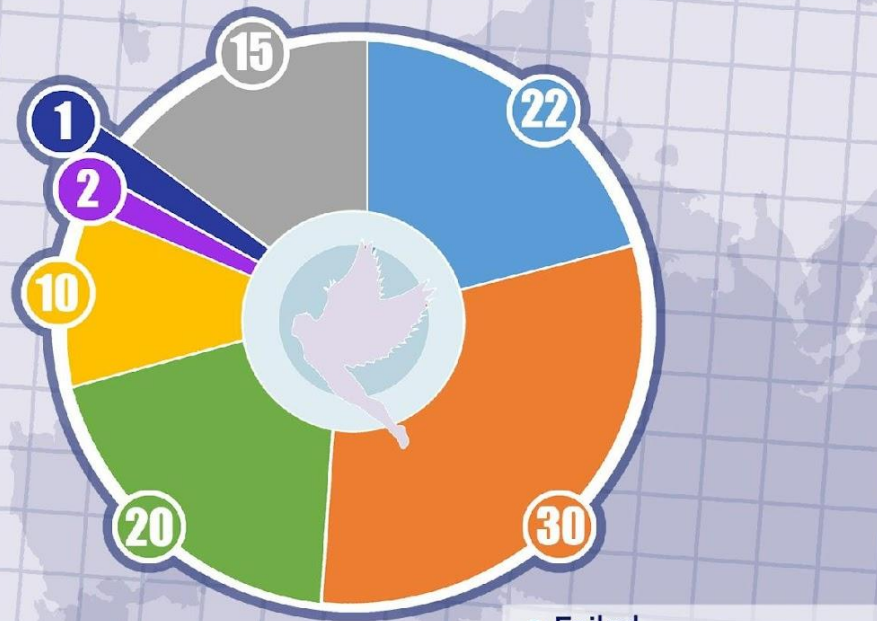
- Not worth it
- Relatively not worth it
- Relatively worth it
- Worth it
- Refusal to answer
- Hard to say



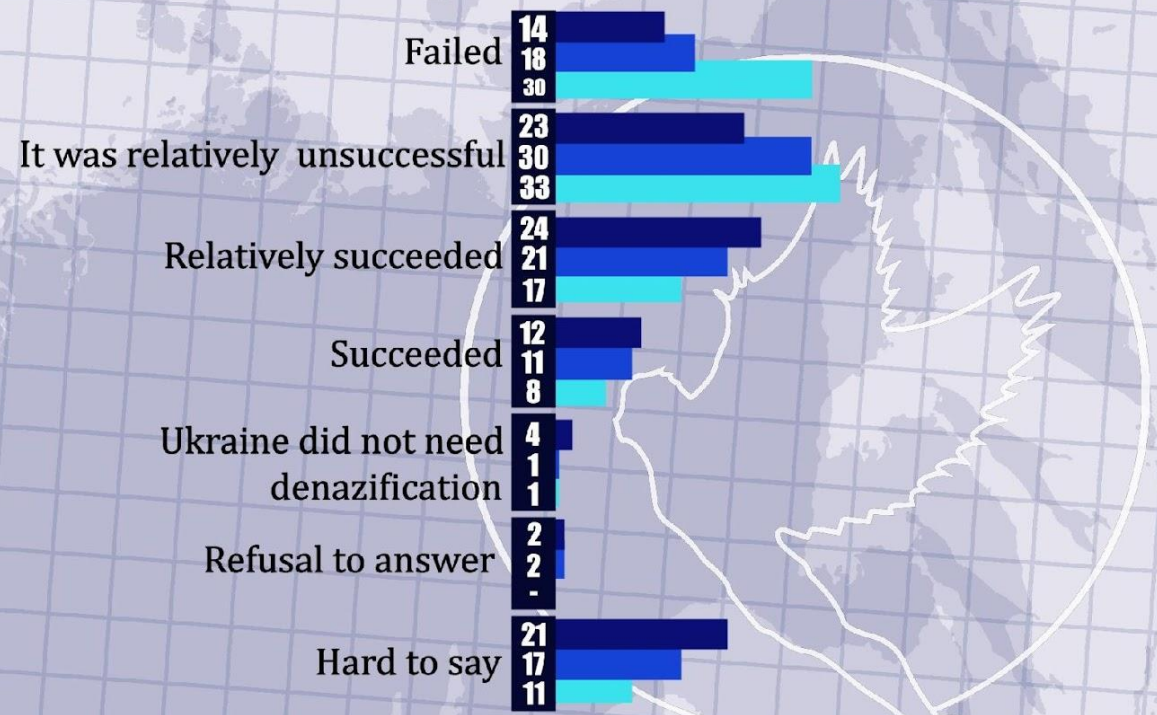
- Youth (18-30 years old) N = 249
- The middle age (31-54 years old) N = 762
- The older generation (55+ years old) N = 589

# RESULTS OF THE 12 MONTHS OF THE "SMO"

## Did the Russian Federation's "SMO" manage to "denazify" Ukraine in 12 months? %



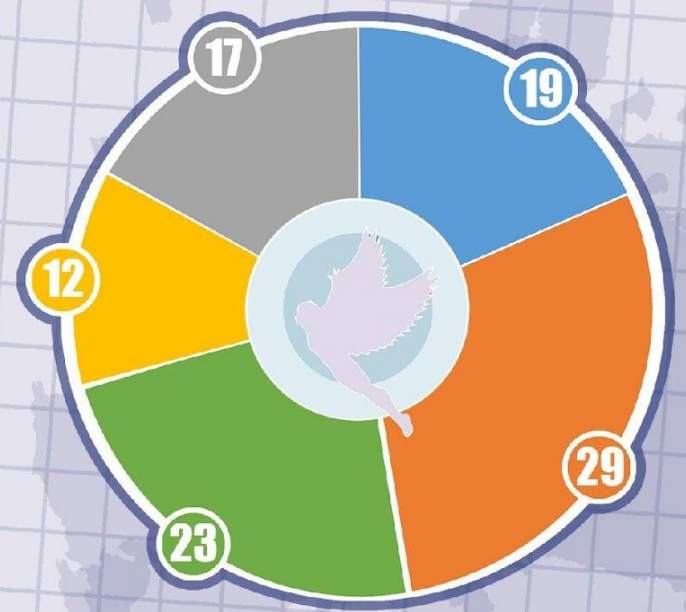
- Failed
- It was relatively unsuccessful
- Relatively succeeded
- Succeeded
- Ukraine did not need denazification
- Refusal to answer
- Hard to say



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# RESULTS OF THE 12 MONTHS OF THE "SMO"

Did the Russian Federation's "SMO" manage to demilitarise Ukraine in 12 months?, %



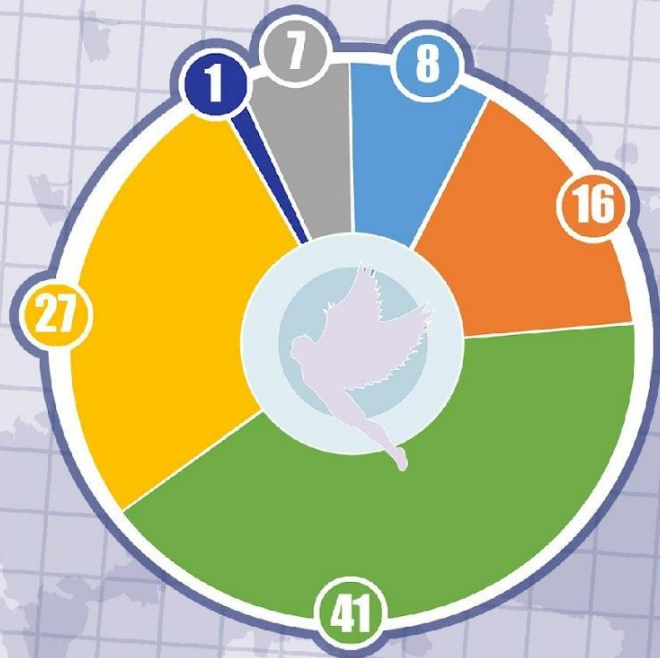
- Failed
- It was relatively unsuccessful
- Relatively succeeded
- Succeeded
- Hard to say



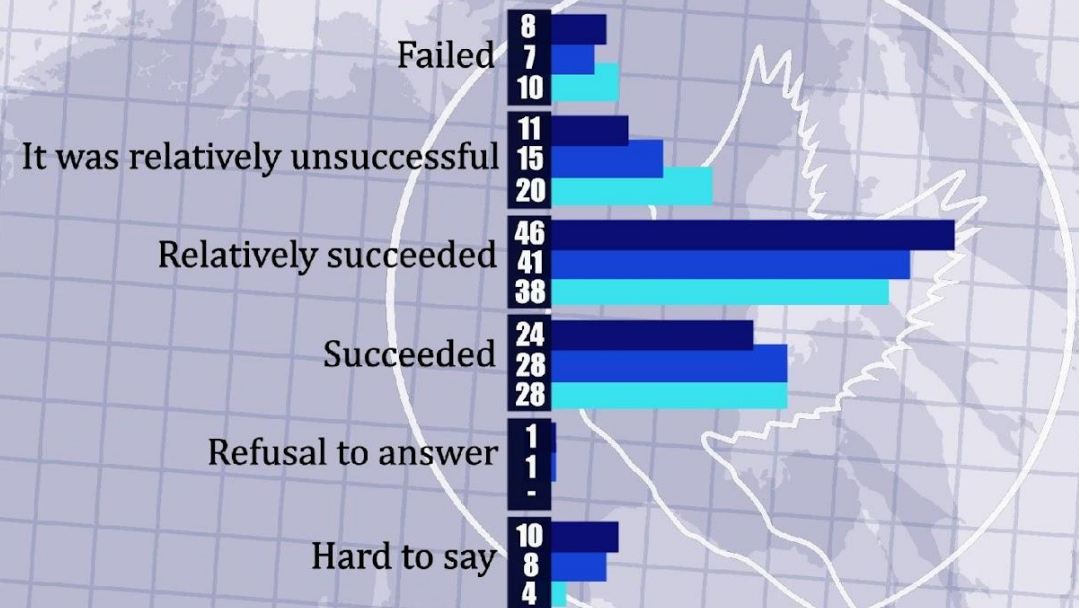
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# RESULTS OF THE 12 MONTHS OF THE "SMO"

## Age characteristics of the responses to whether the Russian Federation's "SMO" managed to defend the residents of Donbas in 12 months, %



- Failed
- It was relatively unsuccessful
- Relatively succeeded
- Succeeded
- Refusal to answer
- Hard to say

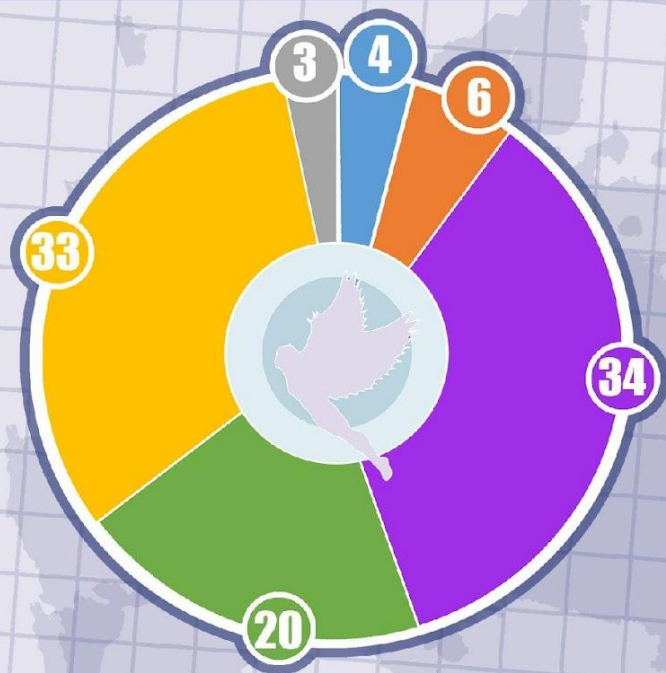


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# RESULTS OF THE 12 MONTHS OF THE "SMO"



Has your attitude to the Russian armed forces changed after 12 months of "SMO"? , %



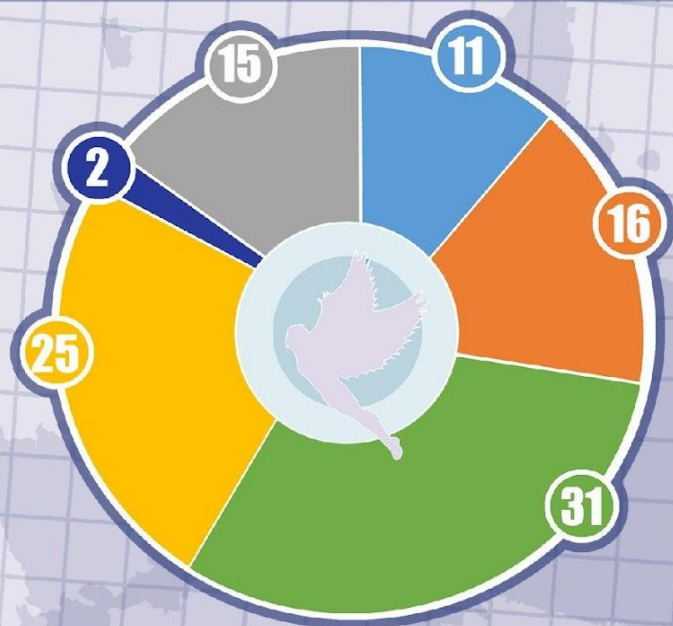
- Got worse
- It got relatively worse
- It remained unchanged
- It has relatively improved
- Improved
- Hard to say



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# RESULTS OF THE 12 MONTHS OF THE "SMO"

Do you agree with the statement that the "Special Military Operation" is going according to plan?, %



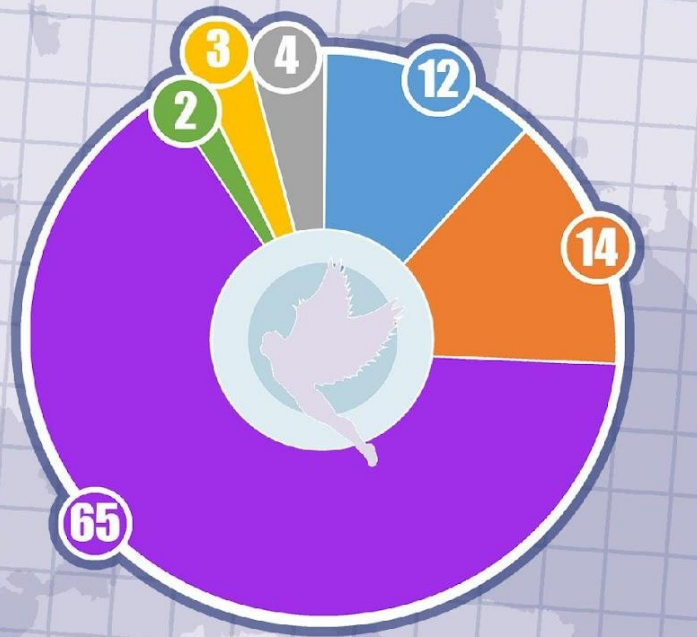
- Disagree
- I relatively disagree
- I relatively agree
- Agree
- Refusal to answer
- Hard to say



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# RESULTS OF THE 12 MONTHS OF THE "SMO"

After 12 months of the "SMO", has your attitude towards Ukrainians changed?, %



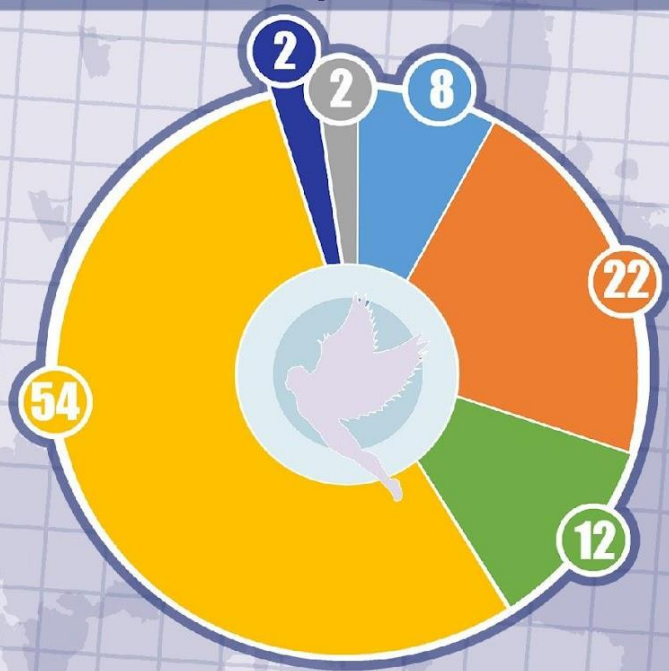
- Got worse
- It got relatively worse
- It remained unchanged
- It has relatively improved
- Improved
- Hard to say



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# RESULTS OF THE 12 MONTHS OF THE "SMO"

After 12 months of the "SMO", how different do you think Russians and Ukrainians are?, %



- These are entirely different nations
- These nations have both similarities and differences
- Russians and Ukrainians are very similar
- Russians and Ukrainians (as well as Belarusians) are one nation/people
- Other
- Hard to say

These are entirely different nations

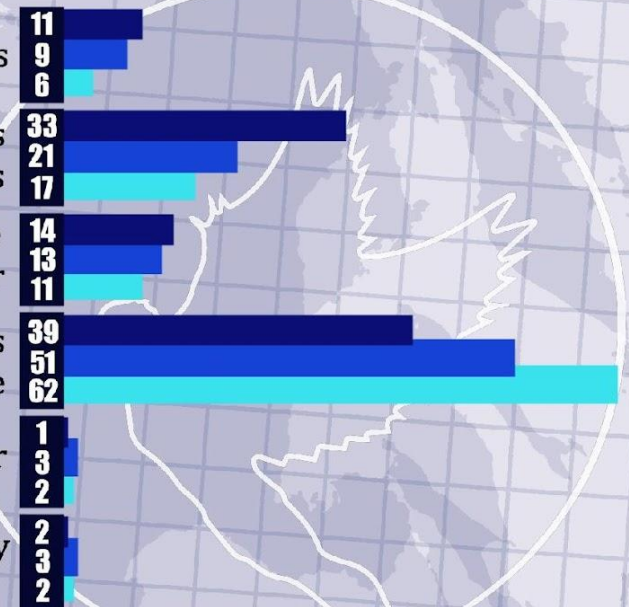
These nations have both similarities and differences

Russians and Ukrainians are very similar

Russians and Ukrainians (as well as Belarusians) are one nation/people

Other

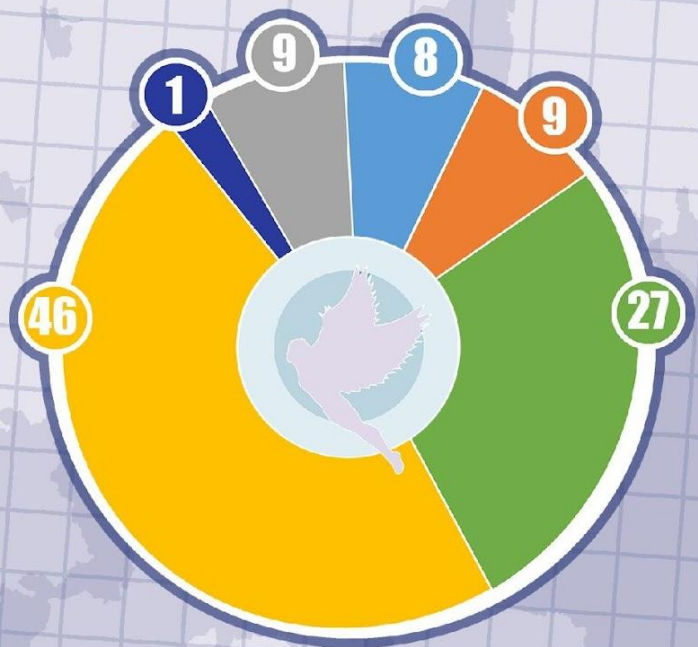
Hard to say



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# ATTITUDE TO THE CAUSES OF THE "SMO"

**In your opinion, the United States specifically lured Russia into a trap in Ukraine, and the "SMO" is what the US sought?, %**



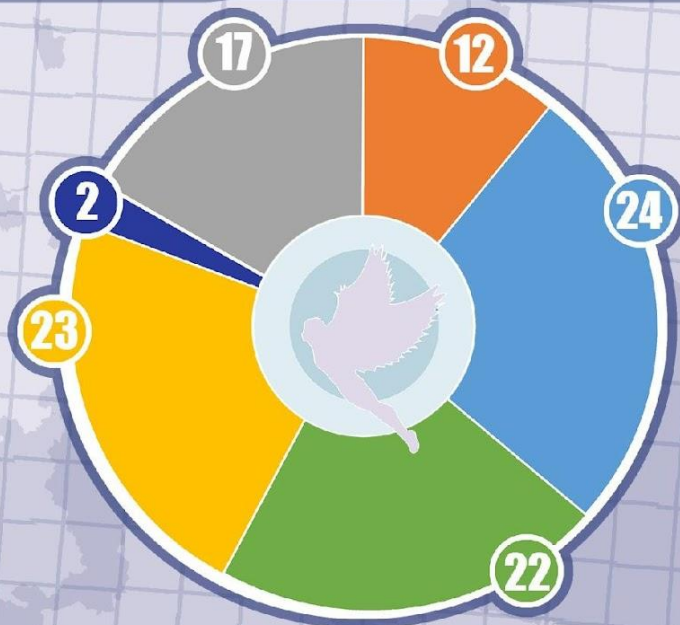
- Agree
- Relatively agree
- Relatively disagree
- Disagree
- Refusal to answer
- Hard to say



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# ATTITUDE TO THE CAUSES OF THE "SMO"

Can Russia disrupt the US' plans by ending the "Special Military Operation" in Ukraine and return to the front lines as of February 24, 2022?, %



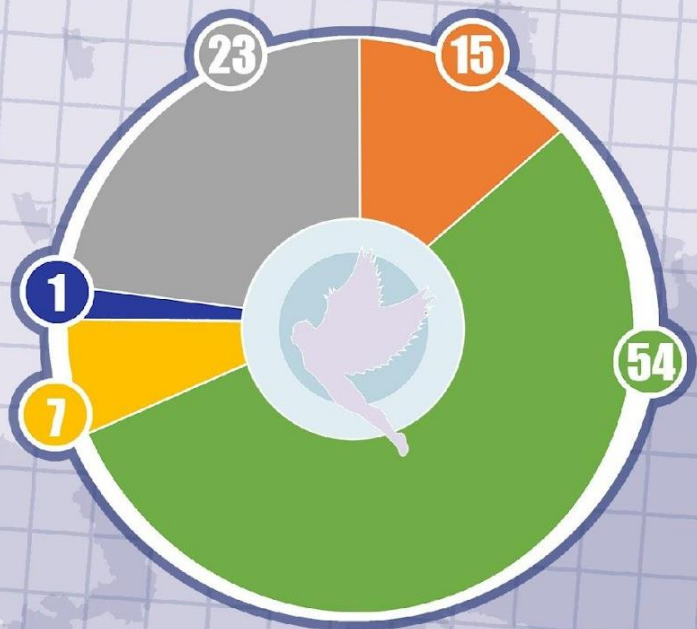
- Definitely can
- It can, relatively
- It cannot, relatively
- Definitely can't
- Refusal to answer
- Hard to say



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# ATTITUDE TO THE CAUSES OF THE "SMO"

In your opinion, what outcome of the "SMO" is China interested in? %



- China is interested in a prolonged "SMO" and the weakening of the Russian Federation
- China is interested in a quick victory in the "SMO" and a strong Russian Federation
- China is interested in the complete defeat and loss of Russia's status as a great power
- Refusal to answer
- Hard to say



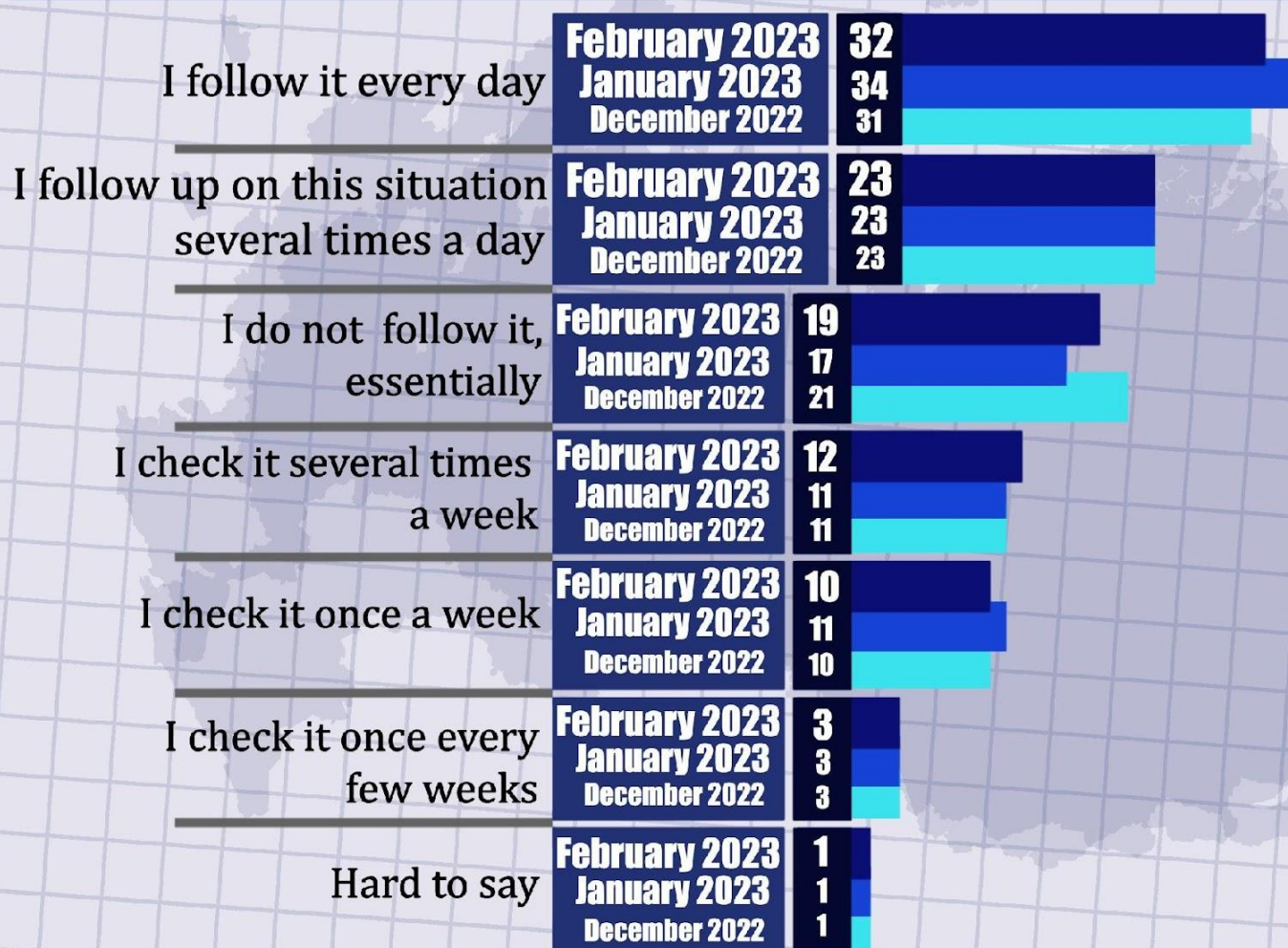
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# ASSESSMENTS OF THE "SMO"



**Do you follow the news regarding the development of "SMO" in Ukraine?**

- Response dynamics, %

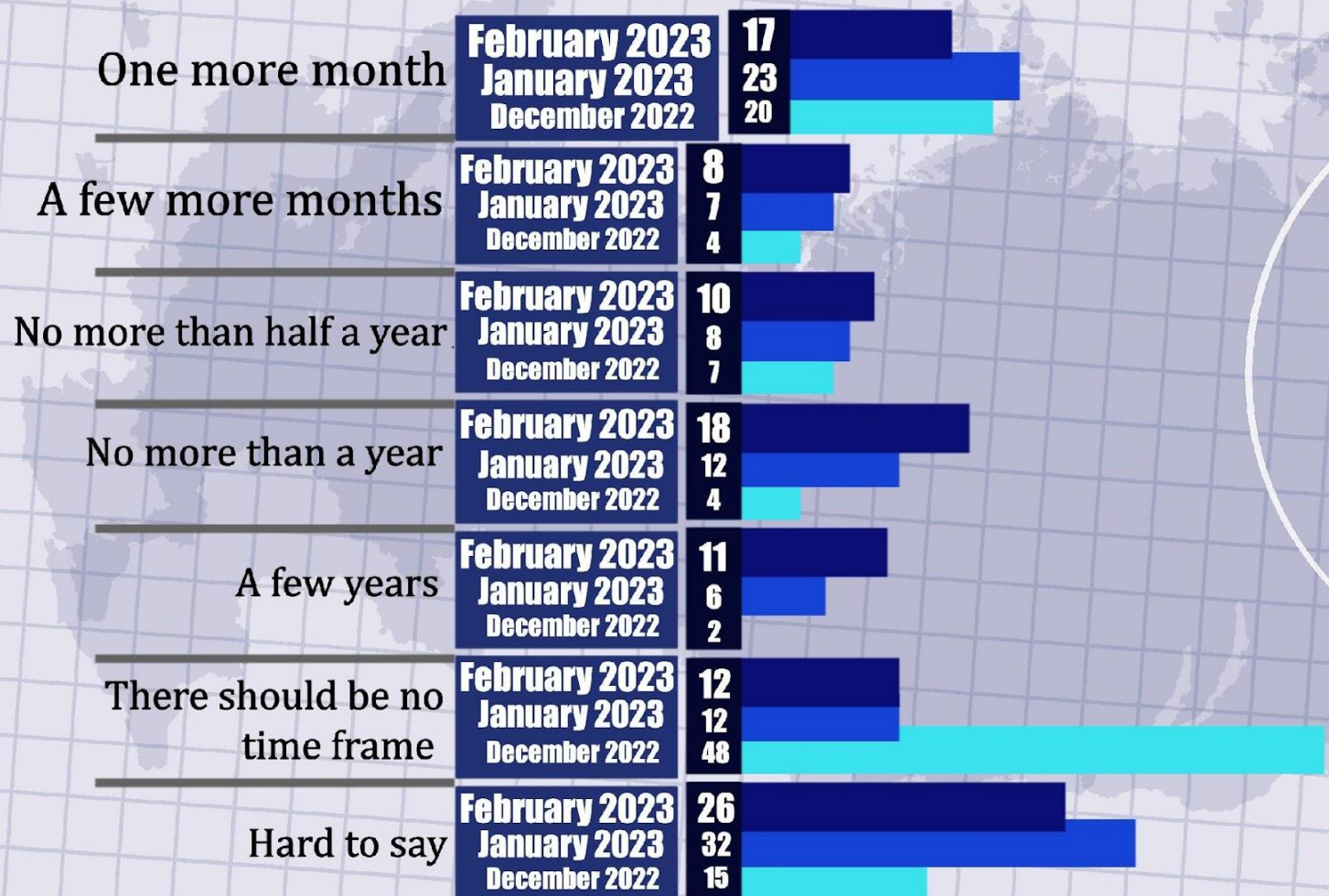


# ASSESSMENTS OF THE "SMO"



## What should be the maximum time frame for the "SMO" in Ukraine?

- Response dynamics, %

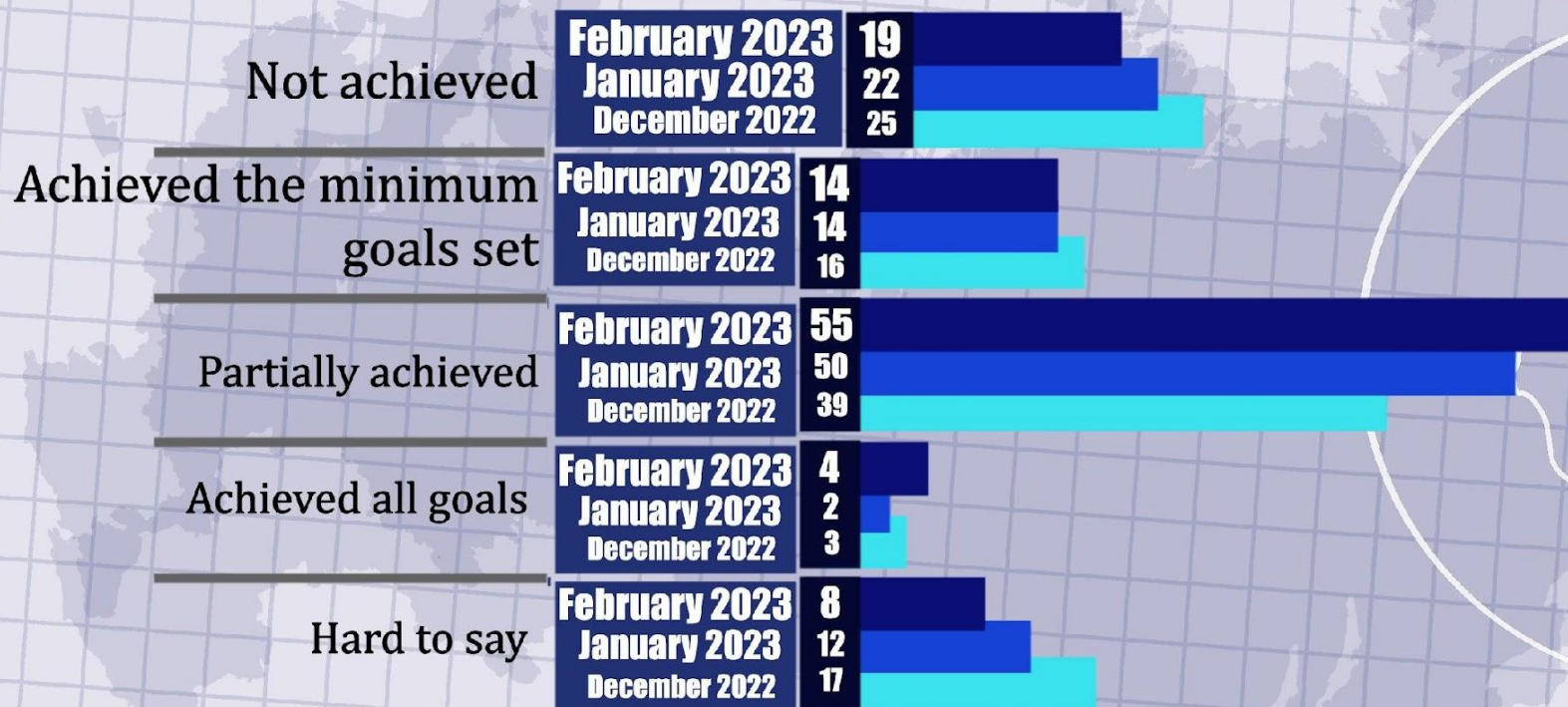


# ASSESSMENTS OF THE "SMO"



**In your opinion, has the "SMO" achieved its goals in Ukraine?**

- Response dynamics, %

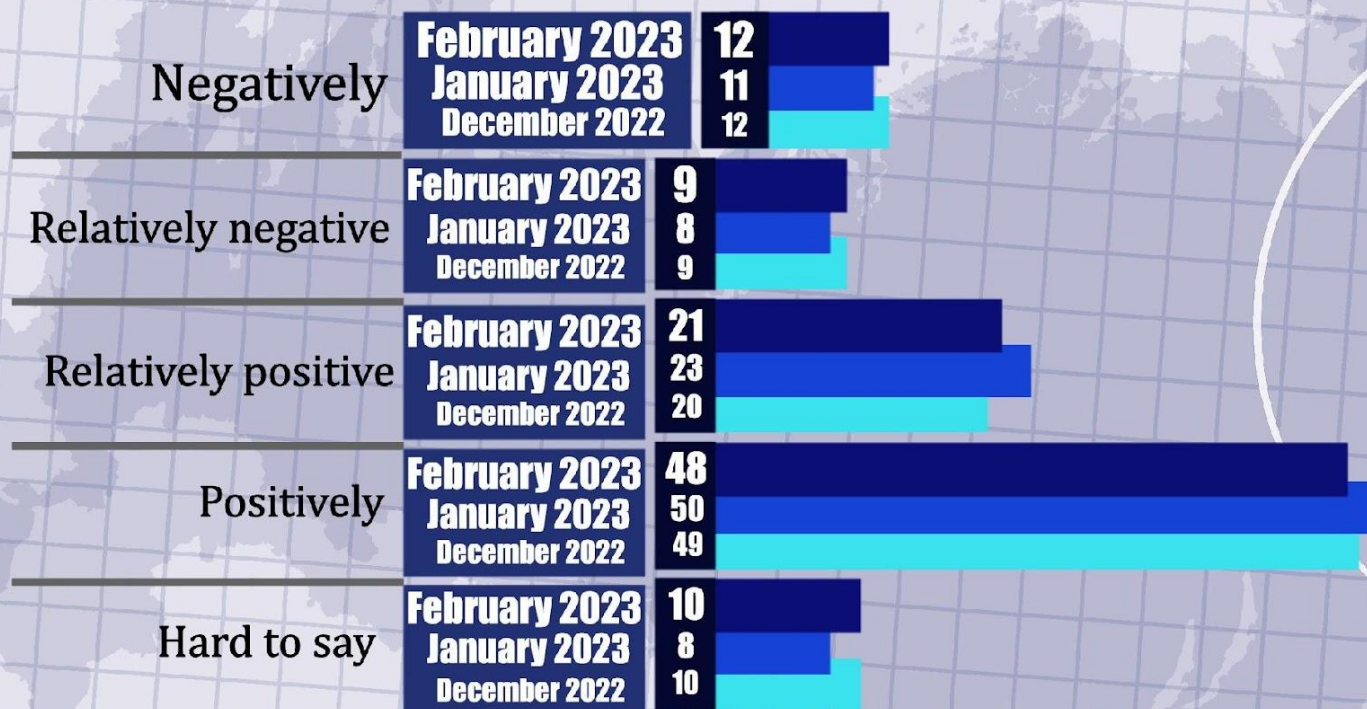


# ASSESSMENTS OF THE "SMO"



How would you react if the "SMO" in Ukraine ended tomorrow?

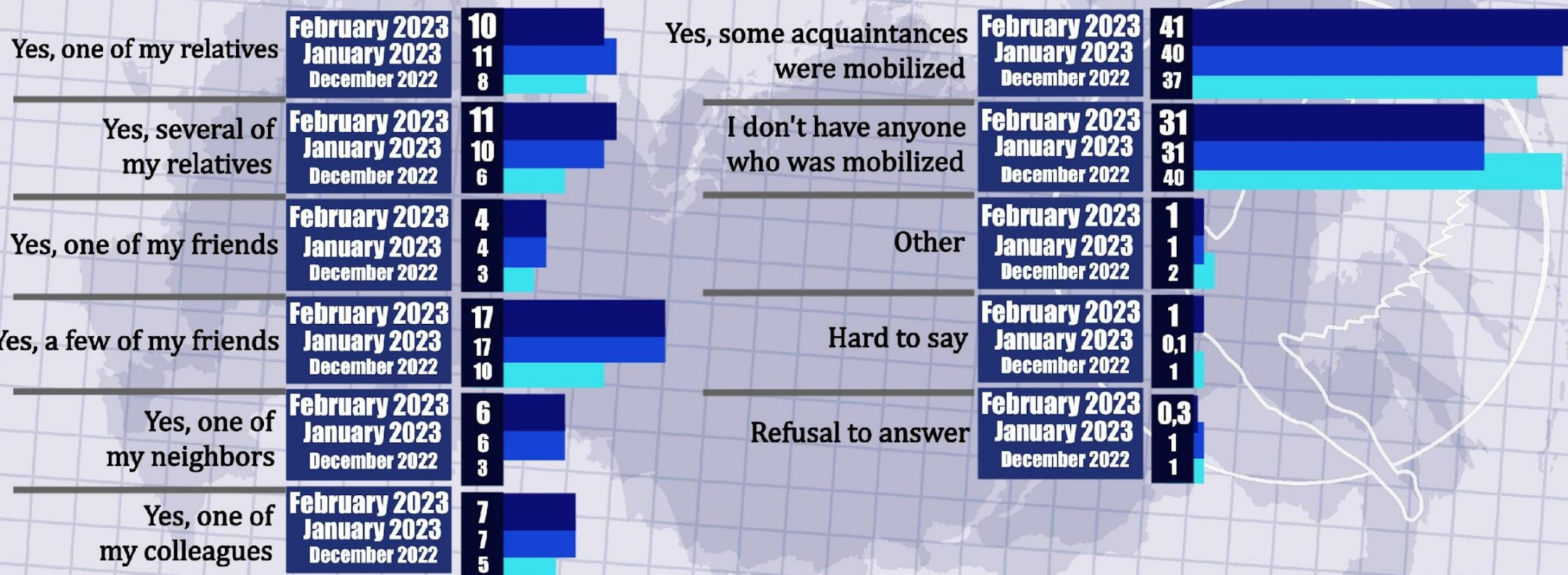
- Response dynamics, %



# EXPERIENCE OF THE "SMO"



**Among your relatives and acquaintances, are there those who have been mobilized since the beginning of the "Special Military Operation" in Ukraine (February 2022)?** - Dynamics of attitudes, % Respondents could choose more than one answer

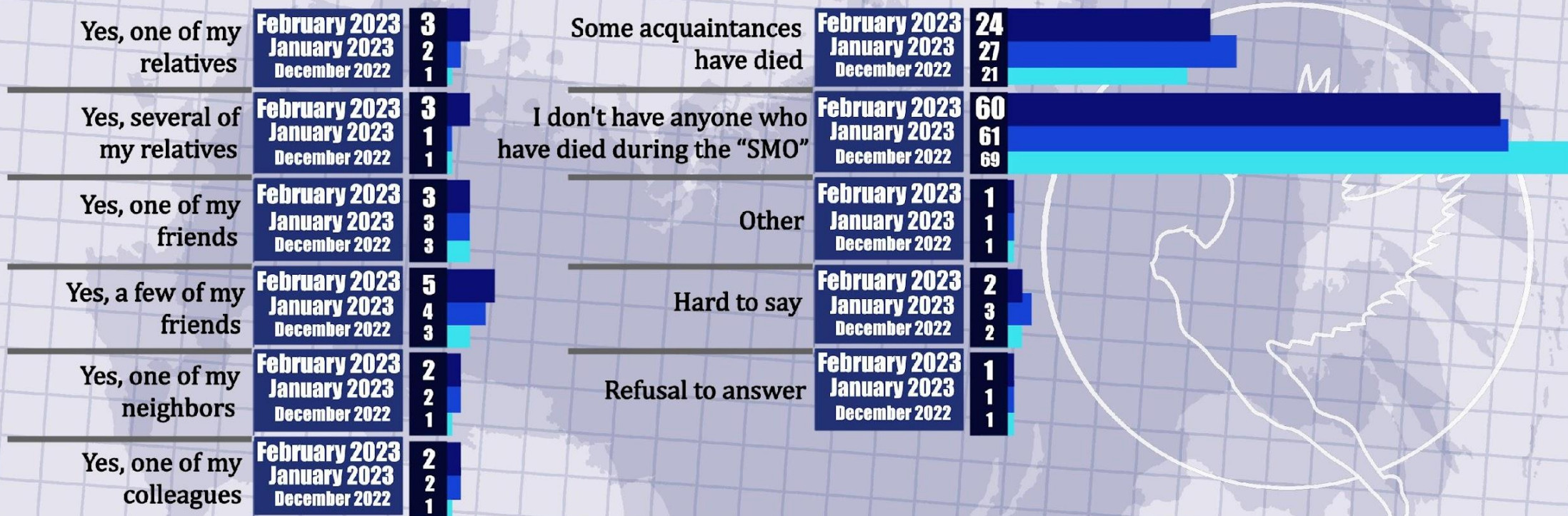


# EXPERIENCE OF THE "SMO"



Among your relatives and acquaintances, are there those who died during the "Special Military Operation" in Ukraine (since February 2022)?

- Dynamics of attitudes, % Respondents could choose more than one answer



# VOLUNTEERING IN RUSSIA



Did you start volunteering after starting the "SMO"?, %



- Yes
- No
- Was engaged in volunteering before the beginning of "SMO"

Was engaged in volunteering before the beginning of "SMO"



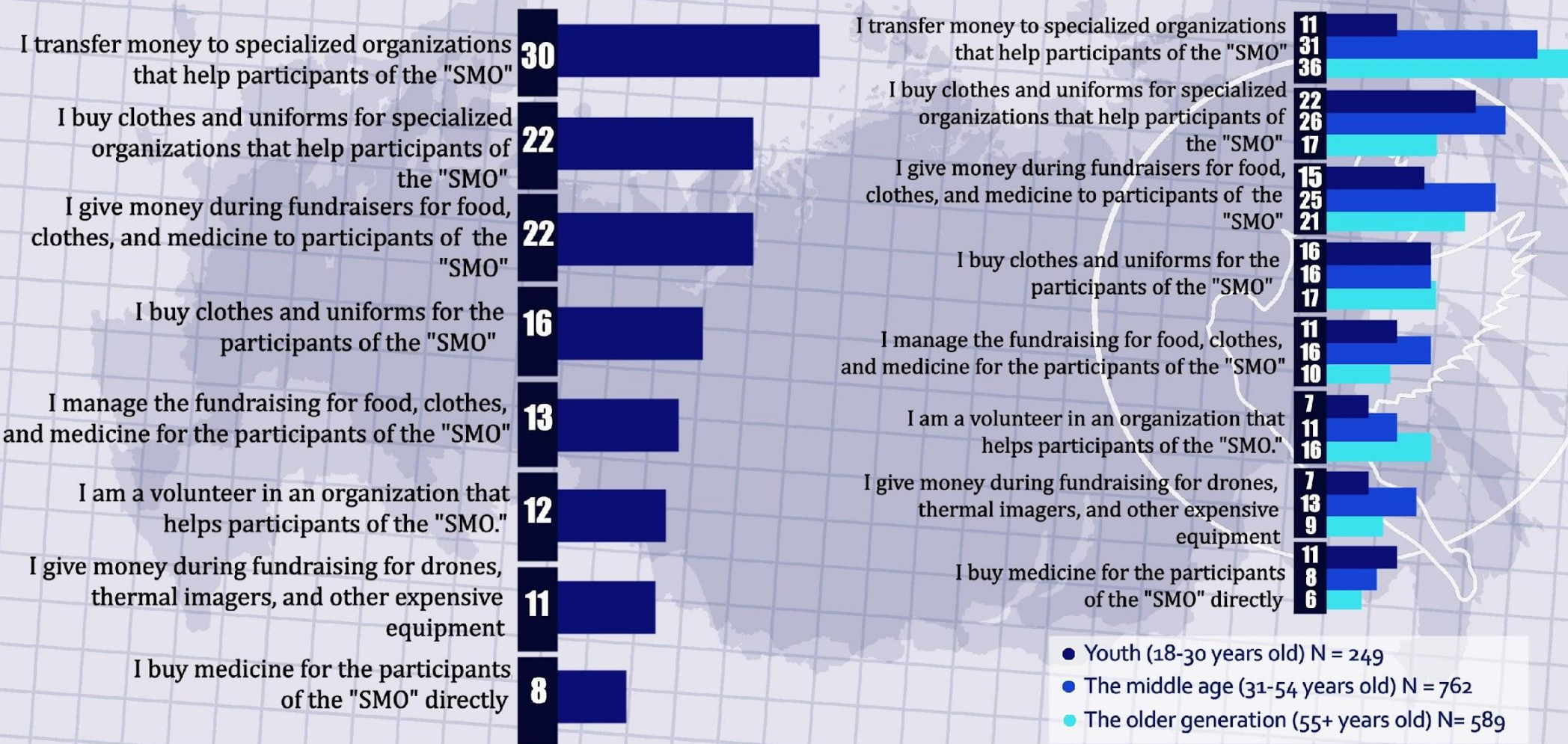
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# VOLUNTEERING IN RUSSIA



## If yes, what exactly do you do? %

Respondents could choose more than one answer



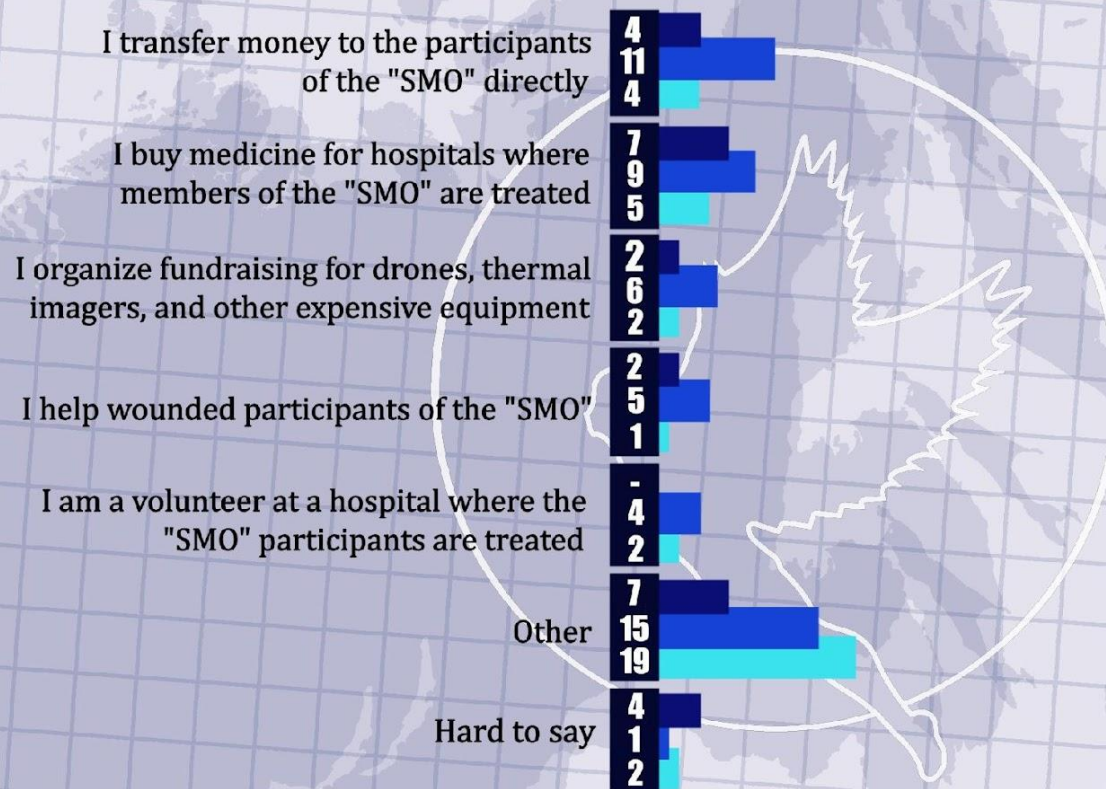
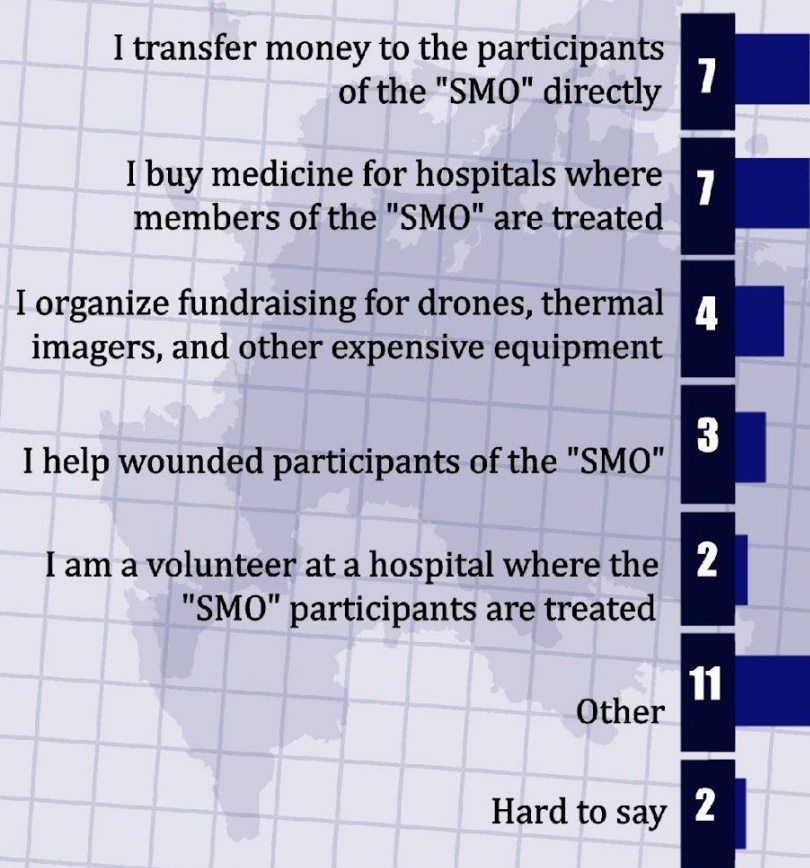
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# VOLUNTEERING IN RUSSIA



## If yes, what exactly do you do? %

Respondents could choose more than one answer

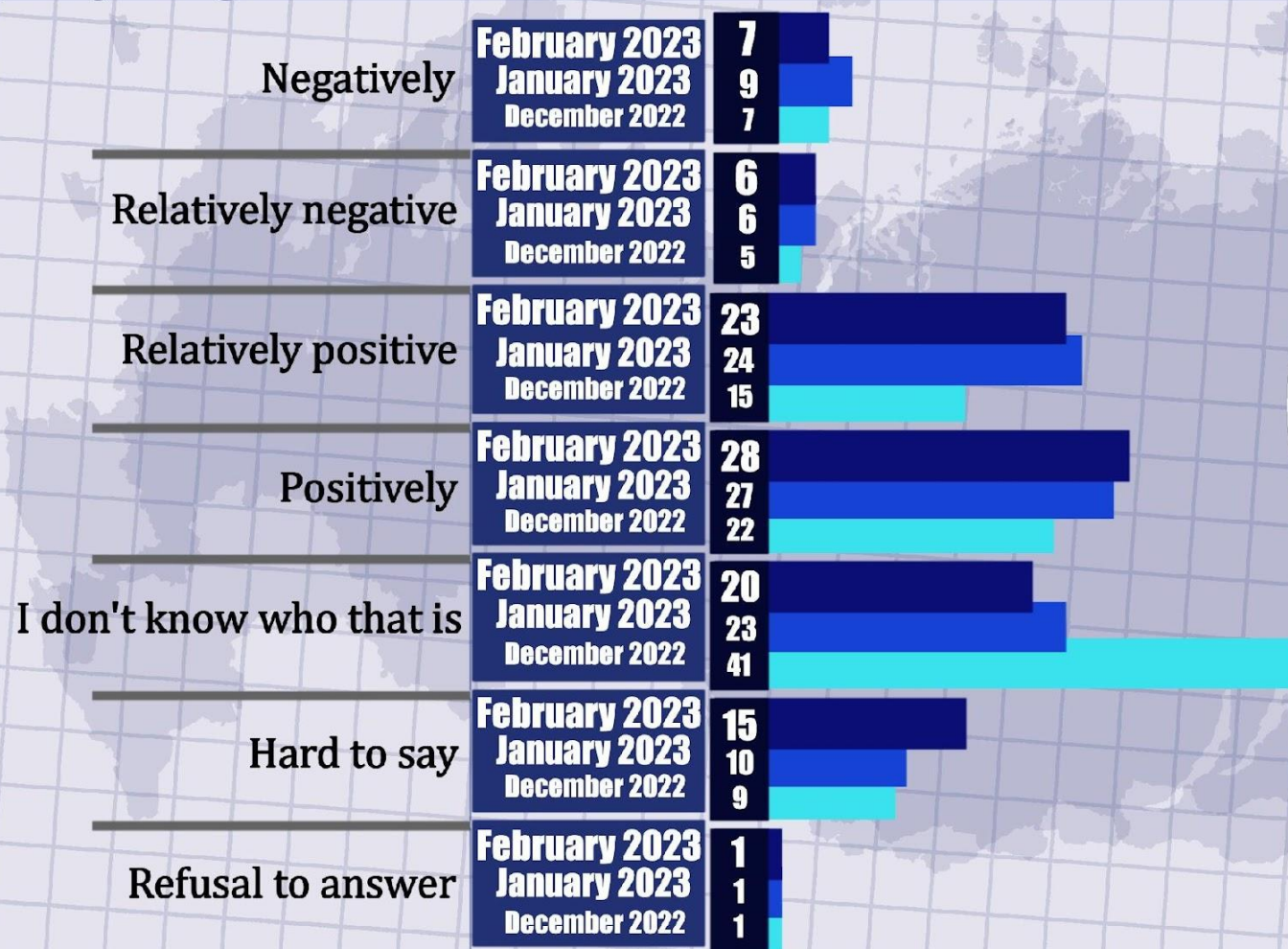


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# ASSESSMENT OF MILITARY OFFICERS AND POLITICIANS



**How do you rate the owner of the Private Military Company "Wagner" - Evgeniy Prigozhin? – Response dynamics, %**



# ASSESSMENT OF MILITARY OFFICERS AND POLITICIANS



## How do you rate the head of the Chechen Republic - Ramzan Kadyrov?

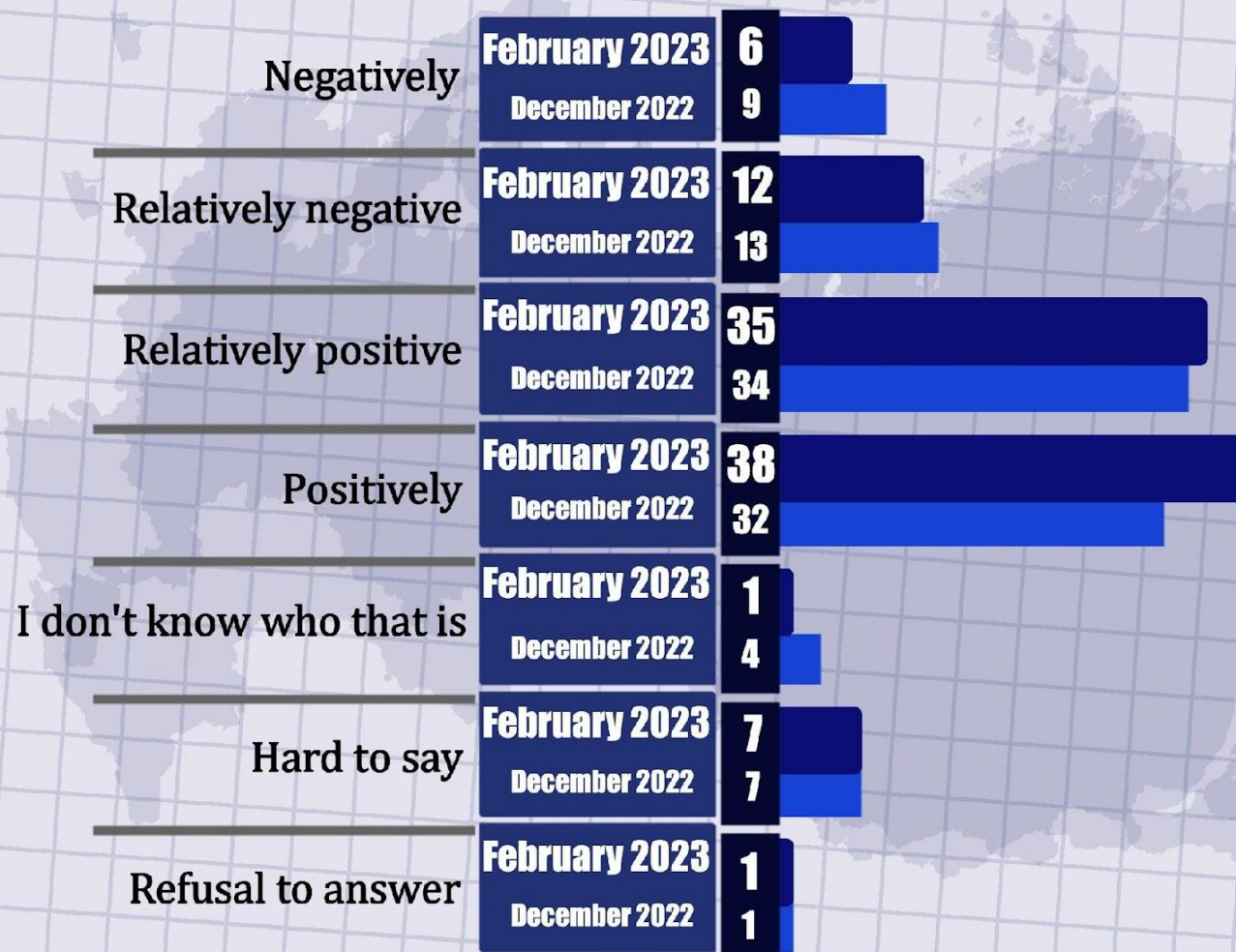
– Response dynamics, %



# ASSESSMENT OF MILITARY OFFICERS AND POLITICIANS



## How do you rate the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation - Sergei Shoigu? – Response dynamics, %



# ASSESSMENT OF MILITARY OFFICERS AND POLITICIANS



## How do you rate the commander of the "SMO" - General Valeriy Gerasimov?

– Response dynamics, %



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