CRTA:

POLITICAL ATTITUDES OF CITIZENS OF SERBIA

February 2023

Opinion poll
Methodology

**Population**: Population of Serbia (18+)

**Sample size**: 1011 respondents

**Data collection method**: telephone interviews (CATI)

**Sample type**: One-stage random stratified sample: RDD telephone numbers

**Margin of error**: 3.1%

**Response rate**: 22% (interviewed/successfully contacted)

**Questionnaire length**: 16 minutes

**Data collection time frame**: February 25 - March 3, 2023
Foreign policy
Russia is perceived as the most important political partner of Serbia.

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
Russia is also seen as the most important security partner for Serbia.

**Serbia’s most important security partner**

- **Russia**: 42
- **China**: 13
- **EU**: 11
- **USA**: 4
- **Hungary**: 3
- **Germany**: 3
- **Turkije**: 1
- **Other**: 2
- **None**: 4
- **Don't know**: 18

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
EU (and members states) are perceived as the most important economic partner for Serbia.

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
Citizens’ attitudes regarding Serbia's foreign policy are polarized between West and Russia.

What should Serbia’s foreign policy be

- Focused only on Russia: 10
- Focused on Russia, but keeping good relations with the EU and the West: 33
- Don't know: 36
- Focused on the EU and the West, but keeping good relations with Russia: 8

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
16% of citizens believe Serbia should introduce sanctions on Russia (the same as in November 2022).

Which of these two opinions on the relationship of Serbia towards the armed conflict in Ukraine is closer to yours?

- Serbia should impose sanctions on Russia in order to harmonize its foreign policy with the EU
- Don't know
- Serbia should keep a good relationship with Russia, even if that means giving up on the EU

16 15 69

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
Slightly higher share of citizens believe that Serbia would have more harm than benefit from EU membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>More benefit</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
<th>More harm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All things considered, do you think that Serbia would have more benefit or harm from membership in the EU

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
Citizens show more pragmatism when it comes to the EU referendum (a slight improvement compared to the November poll).

How would you vote if the referendum for EU accession were taking place next week

- For EU accession: 44
- Wouldn’t vote: 6
- Don’t know: 42

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
EU referendum pragmatism aside, almost a half citizens believe Serbia will never reach the EU.

When do you think our country will finalize the EU accession process and become a member?

- In the next 5 years: 12
- Between 6 and 10 years: 16
- Between 11 and 20 years old: 10
- More than 20 years: 8
- Never: 43
- Don't know: 11

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
Kosovo
Citizens are not sure what the Franco-German plan represents.

The Franco-German Proposal for the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Priština has been in the public eye for some time now. What do you believe this proposal represents:

- Pressure on Serbia to impose sanctions on Russia: 20%
- Distraction of the public from the real issue of corruption: 16%
- Recognition of Kosovo’s independence: 14%
- Nothing in particular, but the EU needs it as a diplomatic success: 13%
- A step towards a final agreement: 7%
- Don’t know: 30%

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
**The ideal and most likely solution to the problem of Kosovo.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideal / best solution</th>
<th>The most likely / most realistic solution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34% For things to go back to the way they were - for Kosovo to remain in Serbia</td>
<td>35% Some kind of deal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% Some kind of deal</td>
<td>● 22% recognition of Kosovo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● 8% recognition of Kosovo</td>
<td>● 9% Franco-German proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● 7% division of the territory</td>
<td>● 4% division of the territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38% Don’t know what would be the ideal solution</td>
<td>14% Everything will return to the way it was - Kosovo will remain in Serbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Don’t know what would be the most realistic solution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Izvor: CRTA Istraživanje, februar 2023. Metodologija: CATI, n=1011, slučajni uzorak, reprezentativan za punoletne građane Republike Srbije (bez KIM), MG 3.1%
¼ citizens would accept Franco-German plan, while ⅕ would accept the recognition of Kosovo’s independence.

Do you find the following statements acceptable

- Completely unacceptable
- Somewhat unacceptable
- Don’t know
- Somewhat acceptable
- Completely acceptable

Serbia won’t prevent Kosovo from entering the UN, in exchange for a safety guarantee for Serbs in Kosovo and a fast-tracked membership in the EU

50 10 15 11

Serbia will recognize Kosovo’s independence, in exchange for a safety guarantee for Serbs in Kosovo and a fast-tracked membership in the EU

64 7 13 7

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
Democracy and institutions
Almost half of citizens believe that Serbia is moving in the right direction, while slightly less than a third believe that the country is going in a bad direction.

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
The majority of citizens believe that Serbia is a deeply flawed democracy, while ¼ points out that this is not a democracy at all.

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%
Almost half of citizens believe a strong leader, who makes decisions alone (unencumbered by democratic institutions), is the best option for Serbia.

At this moment, our country needs a strong leader that makes decisions alone, without interference of the Parliament or the Government. Only a firm hand can lead us through this crisis.

Source: CRTA’s survey, February 2023. Methodology: CATI, n=1011, randomly selected, representative for adult population of Serbia, ME 3.1%