

Introduction

*Centre for East European and International Studies
(ZOIS)*



About us

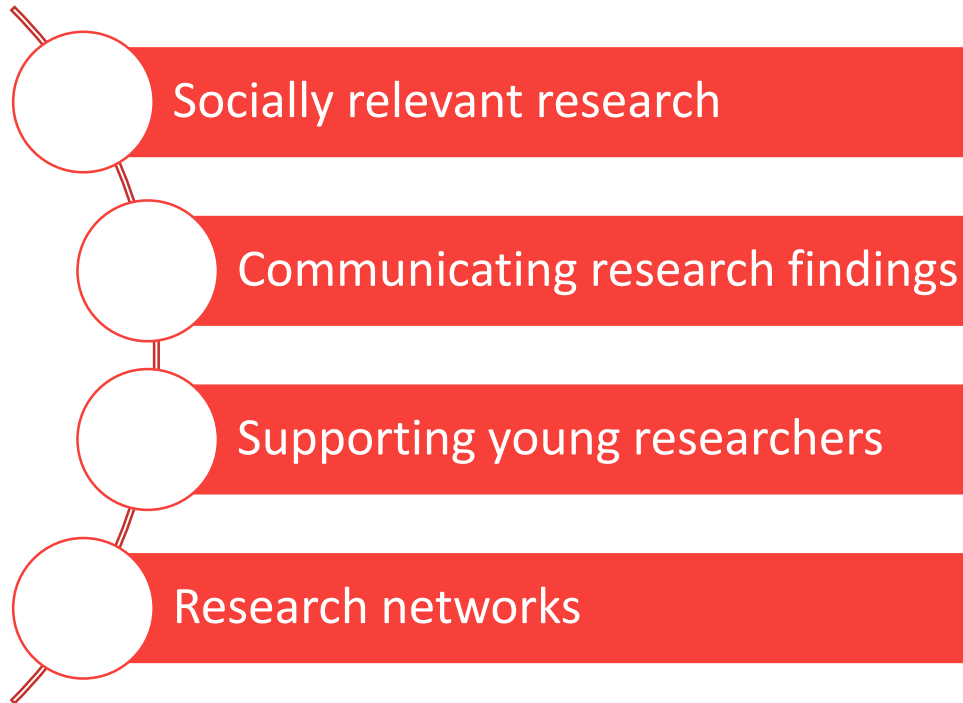
ZOiS is an independent, interdisciplinary research institute, focusing on foundational and policy-relevant academic research on Eastern Europe.

- ▶ Founded in 2016 by a resolution of the Bundestag
- ▶ Public funding, scientific independence
- ▶ Regional research based on longer-term projects
- ▶ Main focus on social sciences: Political science, sociology, geography, political economy i.a.
- ▶ Communicating results to political sphere, media, wider public
- ▶ Cooperation with scholars from Eastern Europe and other countries

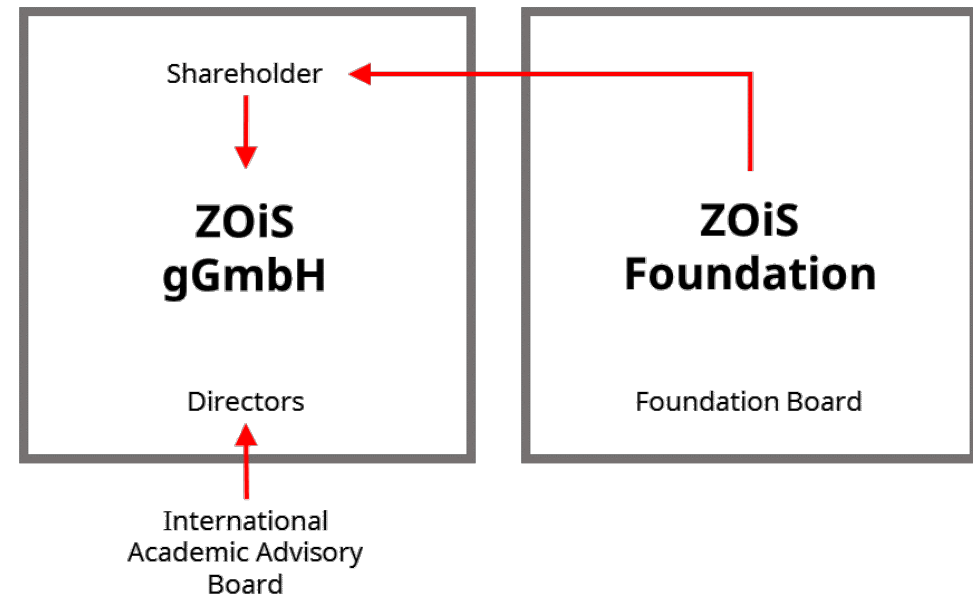
Tasks and bodies

Aims and organisational context

► Tasks

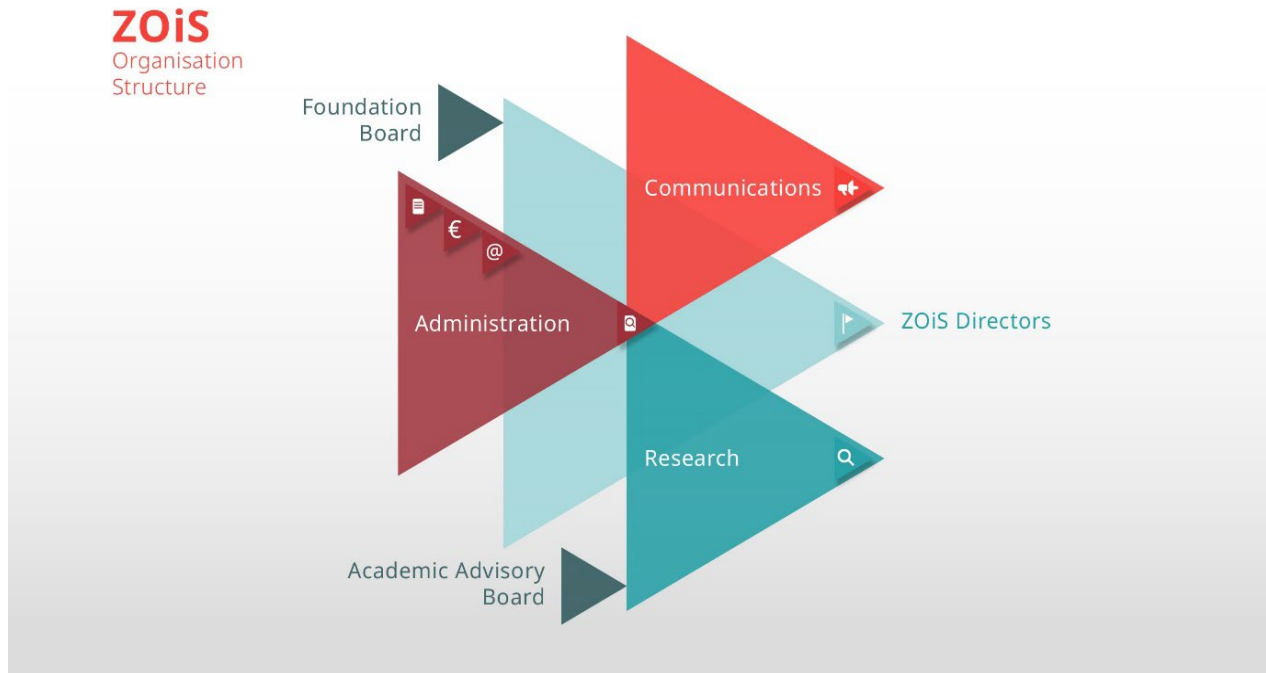


► Structure



Internal structure

Organisational context



Positions

- ZOIS Directors**
 - Director
 - Managing Director
- Communications**
 - Communications Director
 - Communications Coordinators
 - English-Language Publications Editor
 - Trainee
 - Student Assistants
- Office Management**
 - Office Manager
- Finance and Staff**
 - Head of Finance
 - Administrator
- IT**
 - Chief Information Officer
 - IT System/Network Administrator
- Research Management / Academic Coordination**
 - External Funding and Research Manager
 - Academic Coordinators

Research Structure





Internal structure

- ▶ 66 people
- ▶ 45 full-time equivalents
- ▶ 3 departments: research, communication, administration
- ▶ 26 scientists (including 6 visiting researchers and affiliates)
- ▶ 5 research clusters
- ▶ research assistants, visiting researchers, fellows
- ▶ Location in Berlin Mitte



Mission statement

Our values

The mission statement sets out the central functions, objectives, and values of the institute. It aims to serve as a basic framework for staff and give the public a clear overview of the most important elements of research and working life at ZOiS.

- ▶ Empirical research
- ▶ Good research practice
- ▶ Research communication
- ▶ Interdisciplinarity
- ▶ Support for young researchers
- ▶ Equal opportunities
- ▶ Team spirit

Research

- ▶ **Region**
 - ▶ Eastern Europe defined in broad terms
 - ▶ Main focal points currently: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, the South Caucasus and Central Asia
 - ▶ Transregional relations
- ▶ **Basic research**
 - ▶ Detailed in-country studies
 - ▶ Combining qualitative and quantitative methods
 - ▶ Innovative approaches and interdisciplinarity
- ▶ **Multi-perspective approach**
 - ▶ Political science, sociology, social anthropology, economic and social geography, political economy + theology and cultural studies

Research Locations



● Research locations

▨ Region Surveys

□ Country Surveys

— Donbas Contact Line

Research Clusters



Societies between Stability and Change



Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions



Migration and Diversity



Political Economy and Integration

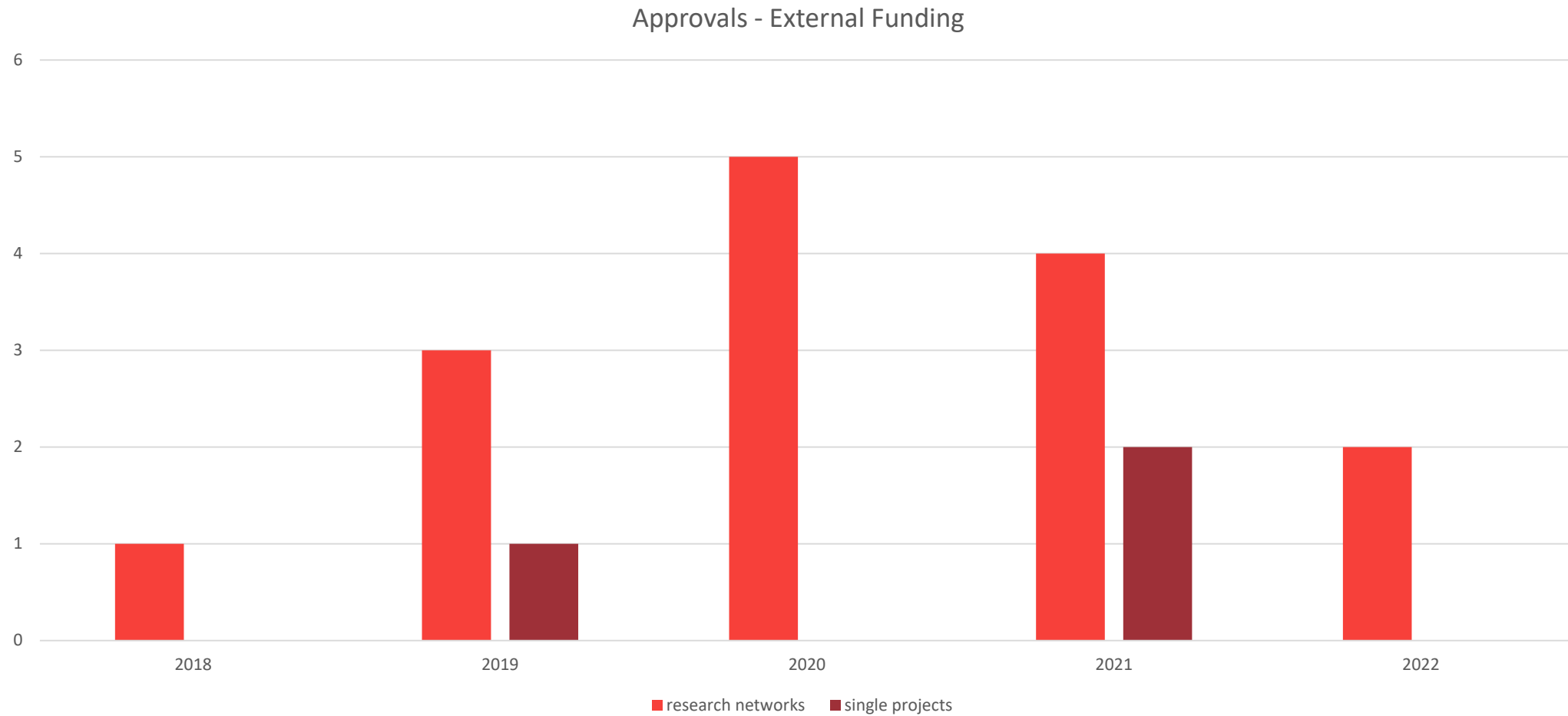


Youth and Generational Change

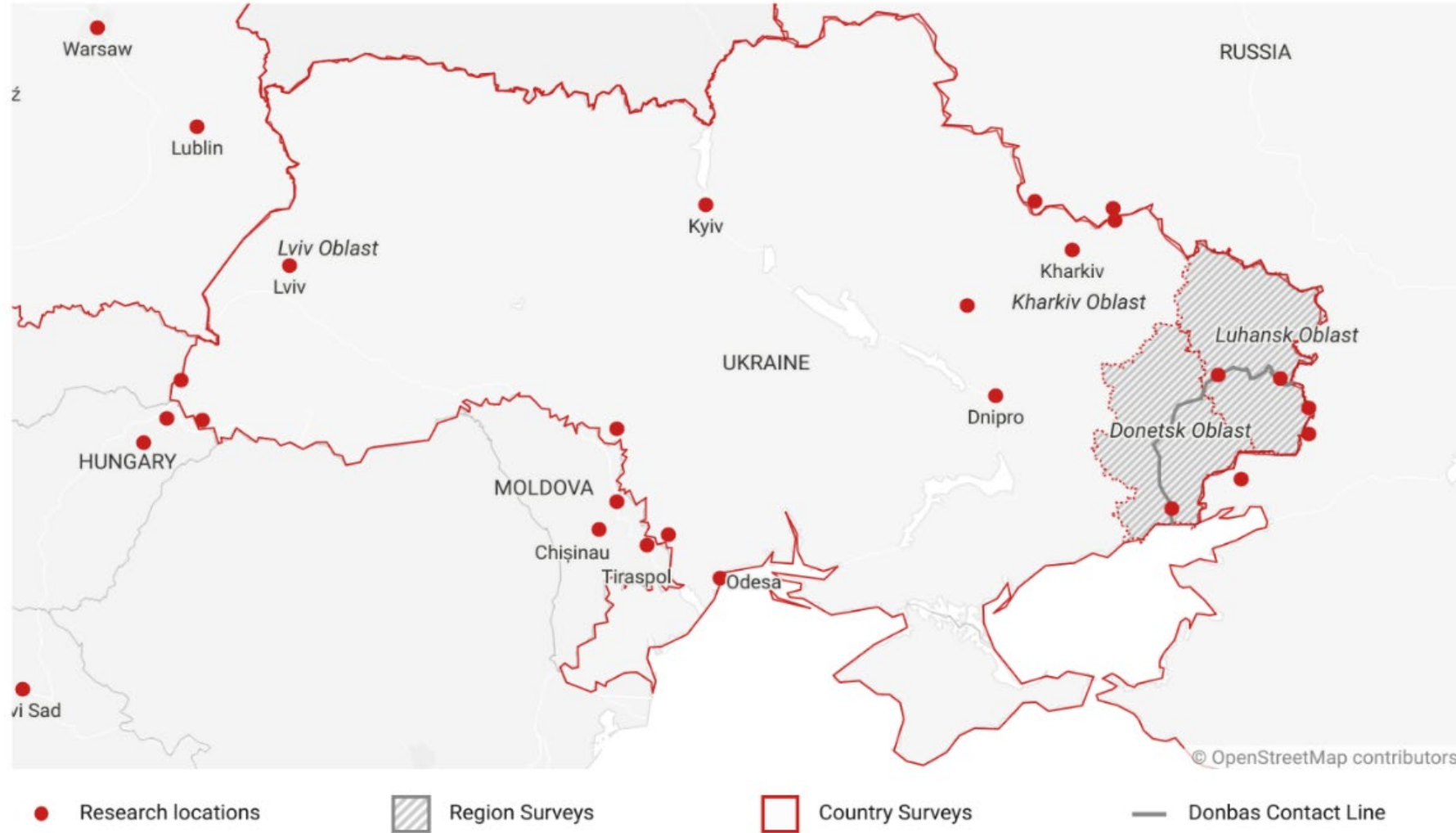
Selected externally funded projects

- ▶ Conflict and Cooperation in Eastern Europe (*KonKoop, BMBF*)
- ▶ Ukraine Research Network@ZOiS (*UNET, BMBF*)
- ▶ Moving Russia(ns): Intergenerational Transmission of Memories Abroad and at Home (*MoveMeRU, ERC Starting Grant*)
- ▶ The Liberal Script in Ukraine's Contested Border Regions (*Part of SCRIPTS Cluster of Excellence*)
- ▶ Living with Uncertainty. Strategies of Adaptation and Horizons of Expectation in Ukraine and Moldova (*LimSpaces, DFG/ANR*)
- ▶ Determinants of Mobilisation at Home and Abroad: Analysing the Micro-Foundations of Out-Migration & Mass Protest (*MOBILISE, ORA funded*)
- ▶ China, the EU and Economic Development in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (*De:link // Re:link, BMBF*)

External funding at ZOIS



Focus on Ukraine (research locations)



Focus on Ukraine (research)

Prof. Dr. Gwendolyn Sasse



Identities in Wartime: the Case of Ukraine



When Every Act is War: Post-Crimea Conflict Dynamics and Russian Foreign Policy (WARU)



Identity and Borders in Flux (IBiF): The Case of Ukraine

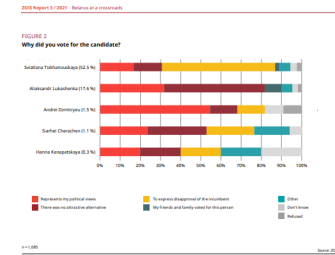
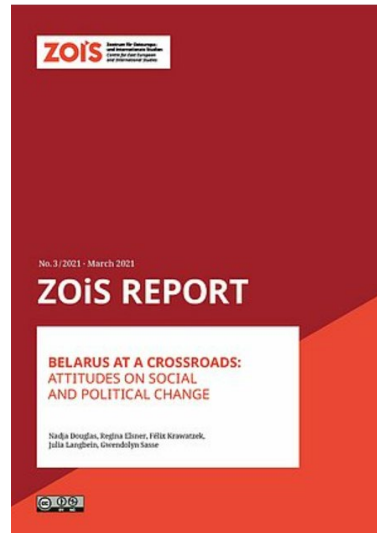
Dr. Sabine von Löwis and Prof. Dr. Gwendolyn Sasse



Forced Migrants From Ukraine in Transnational Europe: Between Personal Agency, Civil Society And The State (FORUM)

- ▶ Due to Russia's war on Ukraine, many projects had to be redesigned and restructured
- ▶ New projects were started
- ▶ We try to use our resources to assist researchers in Ukraine and displaced Ukrainian researchers in Berlin

Belarus at a Crossroads (research project)



These responses reveals that Lukashenko's support was highest among older and female respondents, people living in small cities, people with higher household income, and individuals who declare themselves to be followers of the Orthodox Church. Moreover, being male, being a student, living in a larger city, or working in the private sector correlated positively with voting for Tikhonashchuk.

When asked about the reasons for their vote choice, the largest share of those who had voted for Tikhonashchuk said they wanted to express their displeasure of the incumbent. Those who had voted for Lukashenko, by contrast, indicated that they did so because of a lack of an attractive alternative.

This reasoning is important: a mere quarter of the people who voted for Lukashenko did so because he represented their political views. A vote for Tikhonashchuk was primarily a vote against the incumbent.

The foundation election triggered months of antigovernment protests. To gain a deeper understanding of the protest movement, our survey explored the defining characteristics and motivations of the protesters, attitudes towards the demonstrations, and the broader politicization of Belarusian society.



Most people who joined the protests did so right after the contested election in August – or even before it. Only very few protesters – around 10 per cent – got involved in September or later. The election and the region's health situation also brought people onto the streets, and the survey demonstrates how quickly people made up their minds about the country's political situation and whether or not to take part in the protests.

Half of the protesters among our respondents described themselves as occasional participants; the others were either very committed weekly or even daily protesters or infrequent participants.

The daily protesters did not differ from the overall sample in terms of their age, their gender, or the size of the city they lived in. One distinguishing characteristic of the daily protesters was that they lived by themselves. The frequent demonstrators also indicated that their social trust had declined over the past six months, reflecting the lasting experience of protests.

1. Felix Krawatzek, 'Trust in Belarus: Outlook on Life and Political Attitudes', Centre for East European and International Studies (CEIS), Report 1/2021, 10 October 2020, <https://www.ceis.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Trust-in-Belarus-on-Life-and-Political-Attitudes.pdf>

ZOiS Spotlight 37/2021

Societal Fragmentation in Belarus

by Félix Krawatzek | 20/10/2021

Law enforcement in Minsk, Belarus. © IMAGO / ITAR-TASS

A little more than a year since the 2020 Belarusian presidential election triggered antigovernment protests, the balance sheet of what the protesters have achieved is sobering. Belarusian and Russian media refer to their success in preventing another colour revolution, and Belarusian politicians take pride in having strengthened Belarusian and Russian

- ▶ 1st part: Online representative panel survey of the Belarusian population aged 16–64 living in places with a population of over 20 000 (Dec 2020)
- ▶ 2nd part: same people interviewed (June 2021): Confirmed persistent societal fragmentation a year after the large-scale protests the regime had suppressed.
- ▶ Multidisciplinary project team: 5 ZOiS researchers
- ▶ Academic publications in *Post-Soviet Affairs* and *Nationalities Papers*
- ▶ ZOiS publications: *ZOiS Report* & *ZOiS Spotlight*

Belarus at a Crossroads (research project)

Top-Tweet 16.000 Impressions bekommen

Out now: [#ZOiS_Report](#) 3/2021

“[#Belarus](#) at a crossroads: Attitudes on social and political change” by ZOiS researchers Nadja Douglas, [@reginaelmo](#), [@Krawatzek](#), Julia Langbein, [@GwendolynSasse](#):

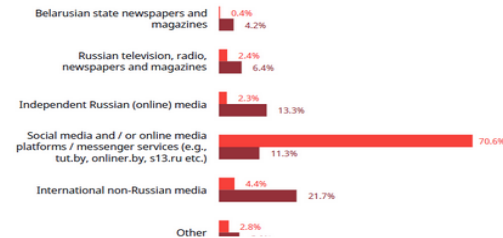
[zois-berlin.de/publikationen/...](https://zois-berlin.de/publikationen/)

1 13 15

Top-Medien-Tweet 9.892 Impressions

bekommen

Online+[#socialmedia](#) dominate society's news consumption, with >70% of respondents using these as their main source of info. [#Belarus](#)-ian state television, Russian media, and intern. media are used as well but are significantly less prominent as primary info sources. [#ZOiS_Report](#) pic.twitter.com/8N3keNqABn

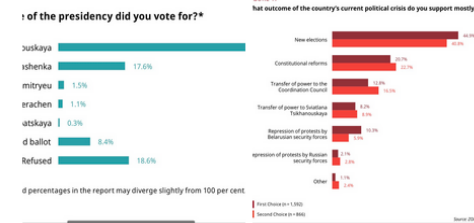


1 2 5

Top-Erwähnung 634 Interaktionen bekommen

Franak Viačorka
[@franakviacorka](#) · 30. März 2021

Recent research by [@ZOiS_Berlin](#) : at least 52,5% voted for Tsikhanouskaya. And the majority sees the new free and fair elections as the most favorable solution to the political crisis. Of course, before that, all political prisoners must be released, and violence should end. pic.twitter.com/e446utQAdG



2 17 80

NEWS
German researchers survey Belarus election results
2021.04.02 10:12

The younger generation at a meeting with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya in Barysau, July 23. Photo: Iryna Arakhauskaya / Belsat.eu

The German ZoIS research institute has published a study based on a December 2020 Internet survey of Belarusian citizens about society and politics.

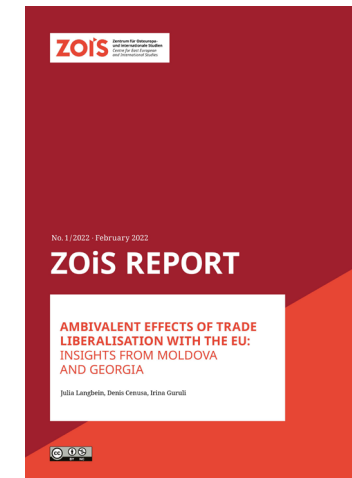
More than 2 thousand Belarusians aged 16 to 64 years living in cities with a population of over 20 thousand people took part in the survey. The number of

- ▶ Dissemination via Social Media
- ▶ ‘In conversation with...’ event
- ▶ Individual briefings by ZOiS researchers in the political sphere
- ▶ Cooperation with [dekode.org](#)
- ▶ German and int. media coverage
- ▶ Reception in the region: [ng.ru](#), [Deutsche Welle](#) (Russian), [TUT.BY](#), [Belsat TV](#), [interview with Radio Svaboda/RFERL](#) (Belarusian)

Research Communication - formats

Communicating with political actors, the media, and the wider public

- ▶ Publications for different target groups:
 - ▶ ZOiS Report
 - ▶ ZOiS Spotlight
 - ▶ Meet the Author
 - ▶ Expert*innenstimme (expert opinion)
 - ▶ Annual Report
- ▶ Member of the 'Länder-Analysen' consortium and editor of Zentralasien-Analysen



Research Communication - formats

Communicating with political actors, the media, and the wider public

- ▶ ZOiS podcast
Roundtable Osteuropa
- ▶ Video glossary
- ▶ ZOiS Newsletter and social media
- ▶ live recordings of ZOiS events
- ▶ Policy and media briefings

Newsletter

Email address *

I would like to be informed on a regular basis about ZOiS's current research topics, events and publications. I also agree to the measurement of my interactions with the newsletter (e.g. email opening rate, links clicked) so that ZOiS can optimise the newsletter and continue to display the most relevant content possible. You can revoke your consent at any time with future effect (unsubscribe link in every email). You can also prevent the measurement of your email opening rate by deactivating graphics or the output of HTML content in your email programme by default. For more information on data protection, please see our privacy policy. *

Submit

Video: ZOiS Forum

Caring and Solidarity - New Engine for Protests in Authoritarian Regimes?



The protests in Belarus after the 2020 presidential election revealed new forms and alliances to oppose the escalation of violence by state actors. Solidarity and concern for fellow citizens took centre stage, often shaping the forms of protest more than questions of identity and specific political demands. This development seems to contradict research that for years has



Events

- ▶ Academic events
 - ▶ Annual conference
 - ▶ Workshops, lecture series
 - ▶ Research colloquium
- ▶ Events for the public
 - ▶ ZOiS Forum
 - ▶ Focus on linking social science with the arts and culture
- ▶ Events for an expert audience
 - ▶ In conversation with...
 - ▶ Press briefings



© Peter Himsel



Research Communication

Example: Cooperation with dekode.org

- ▶ dekode is a German-language online magazine offering media and expertise on Russia and Belarus.
- ▶ dekode combines journalism with research expertise.
- ▶ ZOIS cooperation with dekode has led to a multimedia special on Crimea, content on Belarus, a joint event series focused on Belarus, an FAQ about the war in Ukraine and participation in various online publication formats.



Eine Veranstaltung von **ZOIS** Zeitschrift für Osteuropa- und russische Studien **dekode**

**Quo vadis, Belarus?
Eskalation,
Macht,
Unabhängigkeit**

29.11.2022, 18:30 – 20:30 UHR

Mohrenstr. 60, 10117 Berlin

Regina Elsner (ZOIS)
Ingo Petz (dekode)
Alesia Rudnik (Center for New Ideas)
Artyom Shraibman (Sense Analytics)

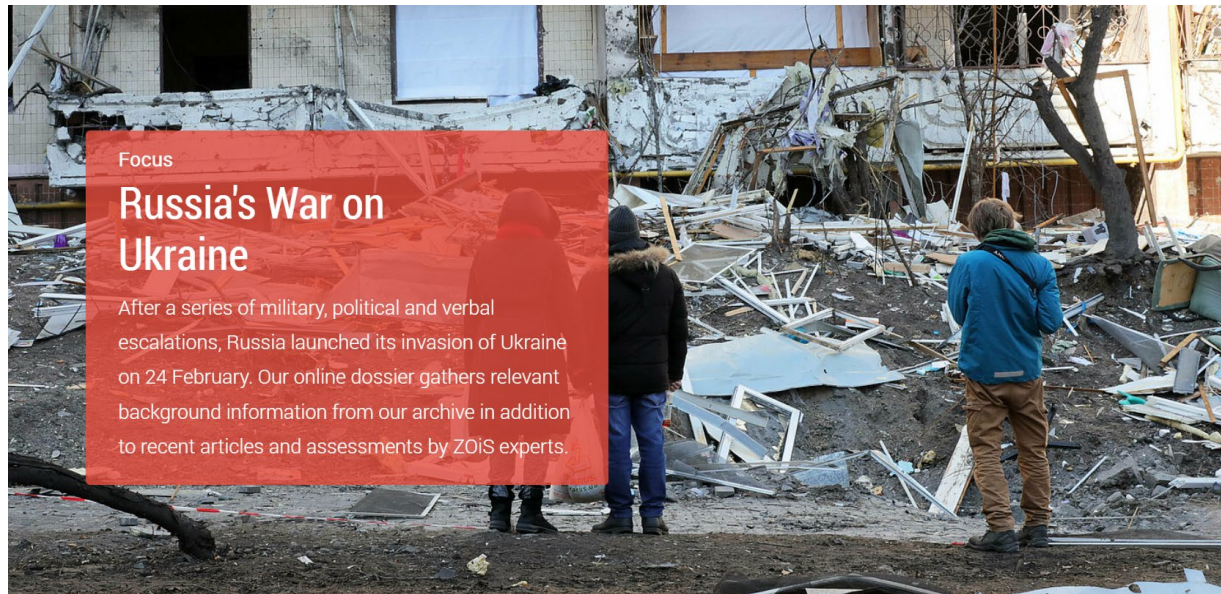
Research Communication

Example: #30PostSovietYears

- ▶ Thematic focus together with partner institutions in 2021
- ▶ Partners: Körber Foundation, the German Association for East European Studies (DGO), the German Historical Institute Moscow, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Russia, and Memorial International
- ▶ Activities: events, podcasts, publications, a youth project and a video glossary together with the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) with 15 short clips explaining terms related to the disintegration of the Soviet Union



Focus on Ukraine (communications)



- ▶ In reaction to the war, our communications activities (publications, podcasts, events) were adapted and reconsidered to ensure a strong Ukraine focus.
- ▶ An online lecture series was launched.
- ▶ Visibility of ZOiS's Ukraine expertise in German and international media
- ▶ Official statements were issued condemning Russia's invasion and indicating the termination of our cooperation with Russian state institutions.

Video: Lecture Series Ukraine

Long-term Trends of Polarisation in Ukraine

02/06/2022

with Tymofii Brik (Kyiv School of Economics)



ZOiS Lecture Series in cooperation with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Chair: Gwendolyn Sasse (ZOiS/Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)



Supporting young researchers & communicators

Our activities

- ▶ Cooperation with the Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences (BGSS)
- ▶ Hosting DAAD and Humboldt Fellows
- ▶ Teaching and supervision
- ▶ Internships, research assistants, traineeship (communications)
- ▶ Mentoring programme of the German Association for East European Studies
- ▶ ZOiS Research Colloquium
- ▶ Schule@ZOiS: thematic workshops for schools



Trainee Elena Goertler-Reck.



© Annette Riedl

Supporting Young Researchers

Challenges

- ▶ As a non-university institute, ZOiS cannot grant academic titles or independently supervise theses.
- ▶ Only very few ZOiS staff members have a post-doctoral qualification (*Habilitation*) and are therefore eligible to supervise PhD theses.



Prof. Dr. Gwendolyn Sasse

Director

Einstein Professor for the Comparative Study of
Democracy and Authoritarianism at Humboldt-
Universität zu Berlin



PD Dr. Tsypylma Darieva

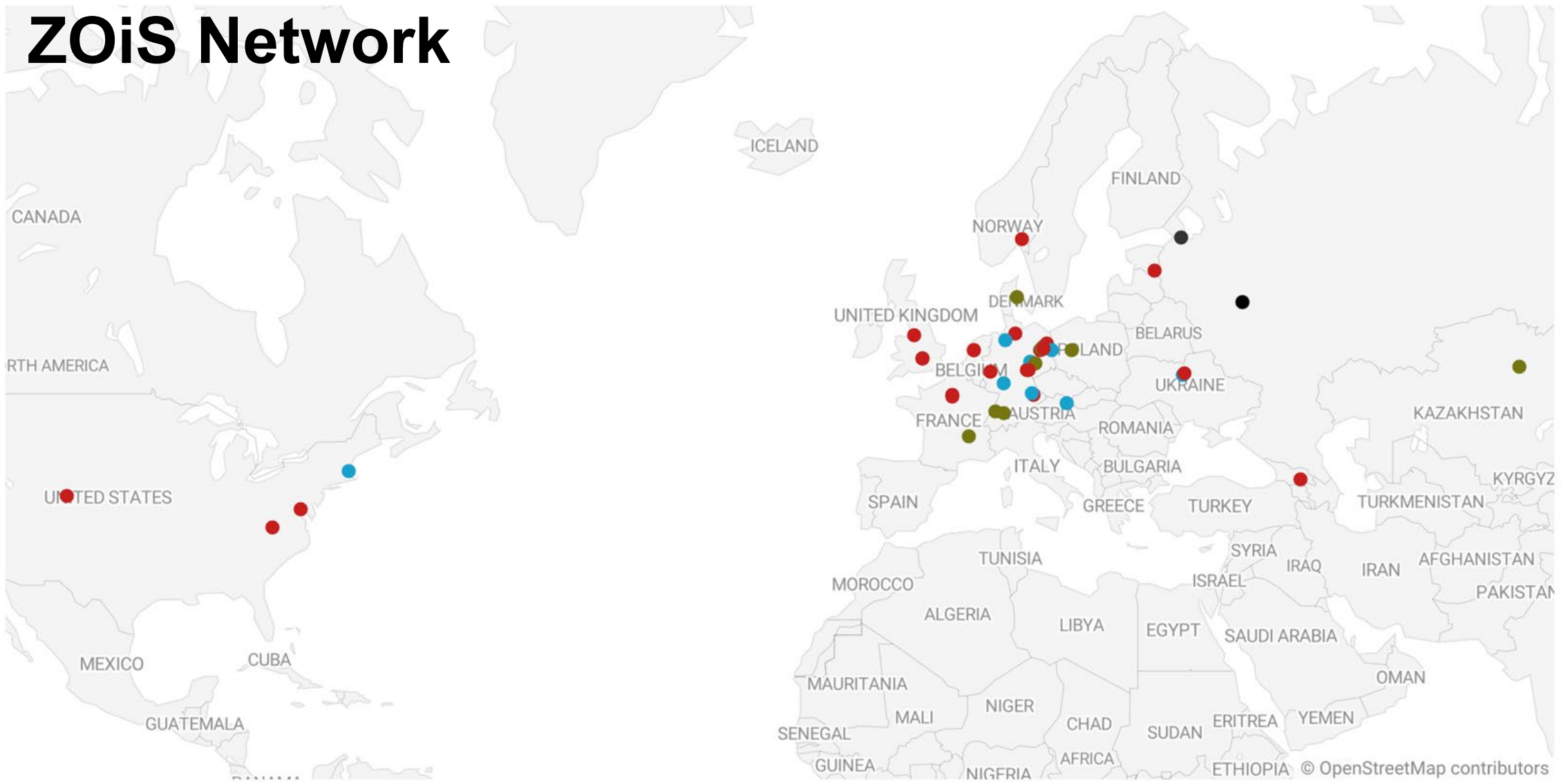
Head of Research Cluster
Migration and Diversity



Dr. Sabine von Löwis

Head of Research Cluster
Conflict Dynamics and Border Regions

ZOiS Network



● Joint projects and research associations

● Institutional cooperation

● Institutional cooperation until February 2022

● Teaching



**Zentrum für Osteuropa-
und internationale Studien**
*Centre for East European
and International Studies*

Thank you for your attention!

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