

## RUSSIAN - UKRAINIAN CRISIS: NEW ENERGY AND HIGH PRICE CONCERNS FOR ITALIANS

Research by Changes Unipol, processed by Ipsos, shows that 9 out of 10 Italians are concerned by the ongoing energy crisis.

31% are concerned about expensive petrol, 48% state that it will be harder for them to deal with future water, light and gas bills.

The research also showed that:

- **Italians are most concerned about continued dependence on foreign energy imports (35%)**
  - ✓ This concern is felt throughout the country, but at higher levels in Milan (48%), Bologna (42%) and Verona (39%)
- **The two other primary concerns involve the possibility of resorting to nuclear energy (23%) and the risk of failing to give priority to the transition to renewable energy (15%)**
  - ✓ Generation Z (25%) and Baby Boomers (24%) feel more exposed to the nuclear energy issue, while Millennials are more concerned about the failure to transition to green (17%)
- **Only 15% are fully supportive of nuclear energy**
  - ✓ This support rises to 1 in 2 Italians in the case of employment of safer nuclear energy management technology than the methods currently used

Bologna, 22 June 2022

New research <sup>1</sup> by [Changes Unipol](#), carried out and processed by Ipsos, **measured the concerns of Italians** in the context of the war in Ukraine given the difficulties in the procurement of energy and higher prices.

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was carried out on a representative sample of the national population aged between 16-74 (over 44 million individuals) and resident in the main metropolitan areas (over 13 million individuals), in accordance with gender, age, geographic zone, size of the centre, education status, standard of living, job and household. 1,720 interviews were carried out using the CAWI method (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing), a data collection method based on filling out a questionnaire on the Internet.

### Italians are most concerned about continued dependence on foreign energy imports (35%)

In view of the war between Russia and Ukraine, **9 out of 10 Italians say that they are concerned by the ongoing energy crisis.**

Causing most worry is the continued dependence on importing energy from abroad, noted as the leading concern by **35% of Italians**, and in any case, among the primary three concerns for over 2 out of 3 interviewed.

The metropolitan area where this concern is most keenly felt is **Milan** (where 48% put it in first place), followed by Bologna (42%), Verona (39%) and Florence (38%), while Generation X (between 41 and 56) is the category that is most sensitive to the matter as 39% of this category listed it as their primary concern.

### The two other primary concerns involve the possibility of resorting to nuclear energy (23%) and the risk of failing to give priority to the transition to renewable energy (15%)

The concerns of our fellow citizens are also focused, even though to a lesser extent, on two other aspects: the possible use of nuclear energy - indicated by **48% as one of their main concerns**, and in 23% of cases, as the main threat overall - and the risk that priority will not be given to the energy transition and renewable sources: in this case, **54% of Italians as a whole express concern**, even though only 15% put it as their primary concern.

The **reactivation or opening of coal power stations** is a source of concern for 43% of Italians, and the main concern for 1 out of 10 Italians, but this concern **doubles among those who live near** these power stations (18% compared to 9%). On the other hand, there is less concern regarding the construction or increase in production of regasification facilities and the construction of new gas pipelines, both indicated by only 4% of interviewees as the biggest threat.

While the possibility of resorting to nuclear energy was of more concern in the South (Bari 25%, Naples 24%, Palermo 23%), it was Rome and Naples where there was more concern about the scaling down of the ecological transition, at **21% and 20% of cases respectively**, also considering the fact that in both cities the corresponding PNRR (national recovery and resilience plan) mission was considered to be one of the priorities.

The “oldest” segments of the public (Baby Boomers between 57 and 74) and the youngest (Generation Z between 16 and 26) are more sensitive to the possibility of resorting to nuclear energy, seen as the main threat by **24% and 25% respectively of the cases**. On the other hand, Generation Z and Millennials (between 27 and 40) are more likely to be concerned about a slowdown in the transition to renewable sources (**in 17% of cases**).

### Only 15% are fully supportive of nuclear energy

**Only 15% of people agreed** with the possibility of resorting to the use of energy from **nuclear power stations** also in Italy, but this support rises to 1 in 2 Italians (**45%**) in the case of employment of safer nuclear energy technology and management methods than what is currently used. **On the other hand, 42% declared that they were against it**, either since they were convinced that there were more risks than benefits (28%) or due to the high costs involved (14%).

Among the generations, it was the youngest Gen Z who expressed more doubts about nuclear energy (overall 47% are not in favour), while **Boomers were the most open and well disposed towards it**, but in any case, no more than 51% in agreement.

Finally, **in metropolitan areas**, nuclear energy met **greater approval** as a whole compared to the Italian average (48% compared to 45%), with more in Milan (56% in favour) and Rome (50%), while Florence is the city with most doubts about the nuclear option, limited to 38% of positive opinions.

**With respect to high prices, 48% of Italians note that it will be harder for them to deal with future water, light and gas bills.**

On the other hand, with respect to high prices and inflation, a good **82% of Italians** indicate at least one item of expenditure that they could **find it hard** to pay in the near future, which percentage rises to 91% of those who state that they have a low standard of living.

The most common concern was to have to meet a general unexpected expense, indicated by 1 Italian out of 2, while the specific item of family expenditure that is of most concern is, in 48% of cases, the water, light, gas and telephone bills. Among the other items, **31% fear that they will not be able to afford petrol**, and again, in 31% of cases, the costs of dental care.

**In metropolitan areas**, economic concerns were even more keenly felt: compared to the average in Italy, **dental costs** in particular **gave rise to most concern** (34%), along with home-related costs such as rent, mortgage or condominium (32%), and costs for children (16%). The possibility of encountering difficulties in meeting expenses was indicated with higher frequency especially in towns in the South and Islands (Palermo in 91% of cases, Bari 90%, Naples 86%) and in Verona (90%).

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