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Religious Belief and National Belonging in Central and Eastern Europe

In May 2017, [Pew Research Center](#) will release a major new study examining religious change and national identities in Central and Eastern Europe.

The study is based on a survey conducted from June 2015 to July 2016 through face-to-face interviews in 17 languages with more than 25,000 adults in 18 countries: Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine.

In addition to detailed questions about religious affiliation, beliefs and practices, the survey asked respondents about their views on national identity, cultural superiority, gender norms, homosexuality, support for religious leaders, Russia's role in the region, and the USSR, among other issues.

The study, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John Templeton Foundation, is part of a larger effort by Pew Research Center to understand religious change and its impact on societies. The Center previously has conducted religion-focused surveys [across sub-Saharan Africa](#); the [Middle East-North Africa region and many other countries with large Muslim populations](#); [Latin America and the Caribbean](#); [Israel](#); and [the United States](#).

The study's lead authors, Dr. Neha Sahgal and Alan Cooperman, will be traveling to Moscow (May 10-12) and Warsaw (May 15-16) to present the study's findings.

Dr. Neha Sahgal is associate director of research at Pew Research Center, specializing in international polling. She received her doctorate in government and politics, with a concentration in the comparative politics of the Middle East and South Asia, from The University of Maryland in 2008. She is an author of studies on the beliefs and practices of Muslims around the world, Christian-Muslim relations in sub-Saharan Africa, religious change in Latin America and religion's role in Israeli society.



Alan Cooperman is director of religion research at Pew Research Center. He is an expert on religion's role in U.S. politics and has co-authored studies on Jews, Mormons and Muslims in America, as well as edited many of the Center's reports on religious change around the world. Before joining the Center in 2009, he was an editor and staff writer at the Washington Post, foreign editor of U.S. News & World Report, and a foreign correspondent in Moscow and Jerusalem.



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For questions about the Pew Research Center, its religion research and the forthcoming report, please contact Anna Schiller at aschiller@pewresearch.org or (+1) 202 419 4514.