

## **Abstract**

After Russia's aggression in 2022, many countries, including the neutral nations of Switzerland and Ireland, had to reconsider their approaches to European security. This work examines how the neutrality and approach to NATO and the EU of both countries changed following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and simultaneously compares the two countries. The text is a comparative case study that explores and compares these states using a custom model. The model has three factors: the legal framework, the relationship with the EU and NATO, and public opinion. The results showed that Ireland intends to change the triple lock mechanism, but neither state plans any intervention in their neutrality. Changes in relations with the EU and NATO indicate that the countries are aiming for more integrated and deeper cooperation, with these changes being both qualitative and quantitative. A common theme is defense, while other topics are more specific. Similar conclusions are drawn from public opinion surveys. Respondents in both countries have a positive attitude toward neutrality, do not wish to abandon it, but understand the need for cooperation with other states. It can be concluded that neither country has undergone major changes, such as joining NATO or altering their neutrality, after February 2022, nor are such changes planned. However, this pivotal event has opened more space for discussions about neutrality and its impact on the flexibility of both countries' engagement in European defense.