

 **FACTS AND FINDINGS EXTRA**

**Asylum seekers and refugees –
What makes the average German tick?**

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TV and online news all over the world recently pictured how German chancellor Angela Merkel was booed by a small group of right-wing interferers while visiting a shelter for refugees in Heidenau, Saxony. The refugee center near Dresden was the scene of two days of rioting by right-wing extremists before.

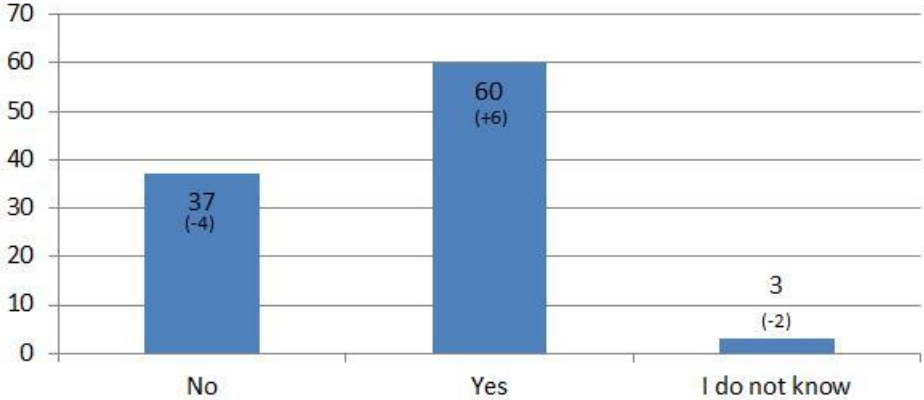
Germany has to cope with a projected number of 800,000 people seeking asylum in 2015. Facing this enormous challenge, the events in Heidenau may have received worldwide coverage, but they are not at all representative for the general mood of the German population towards the issue. This paper briefly examines the current public opinion in Germany based on the representative polls of the "Forschungsgruppe Wahlen". A random sample of 1,251 Germans has been polled between 18-20 August 2015.

Most important issues in August	July - II	August
Foreigners/ Immigration/Asylum	62%	80%
Euro-Crisis/ EU/ Greece	38%	36%
Unemployment/ Labour market	9%	10%
Social justice	4%	5%
Education / School	6%	4%

Refugees, asylum and migration are the most important current political problems for the Germans. The current perception of importance at 80 % is the highest value since the 1990s, when Germany was hit by huge waves of refugees

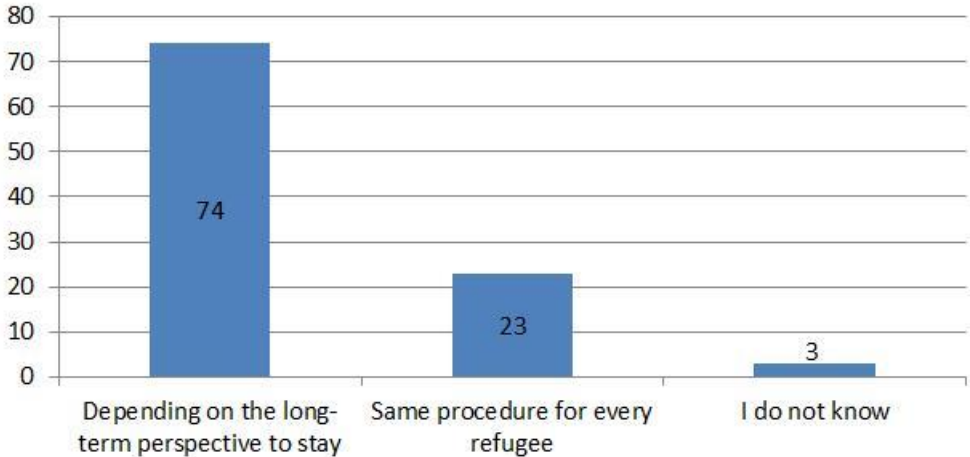
from then war-torn Balkan countries. Usually, unemployment and labour market are dominating this poll question.

Is Germany able to cope with the increasing number of refugees?



Despite of new projections of 800,000 migrants to Germany in 2015, 60 % of the German population thinks that the country can bear the situation. This number has been recently growing from 54 % in July.

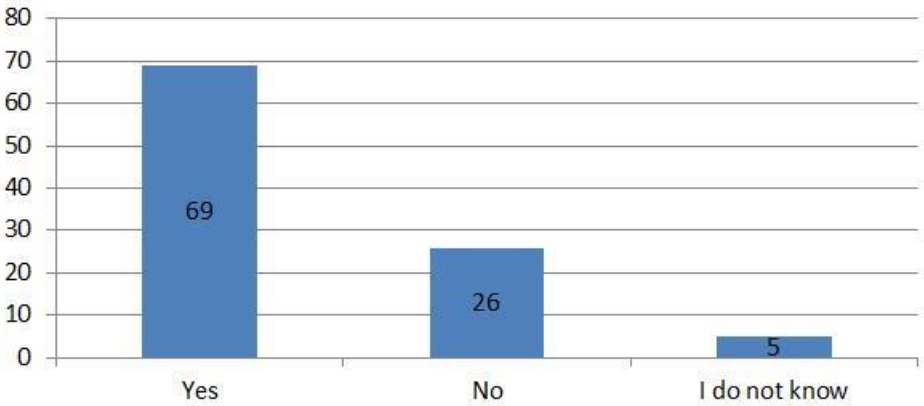
Accommodation for refugees and procedure for granting the right of asylum: Depending on the long-term perspective vs. same procedure for every refugee



A vast majority of Germans (74 %) believes that differences should be made regarding accommodation and procedure with respect of the likelihood of asylum seekers receiving a long-term perspective to stay in the country. It seems clear,

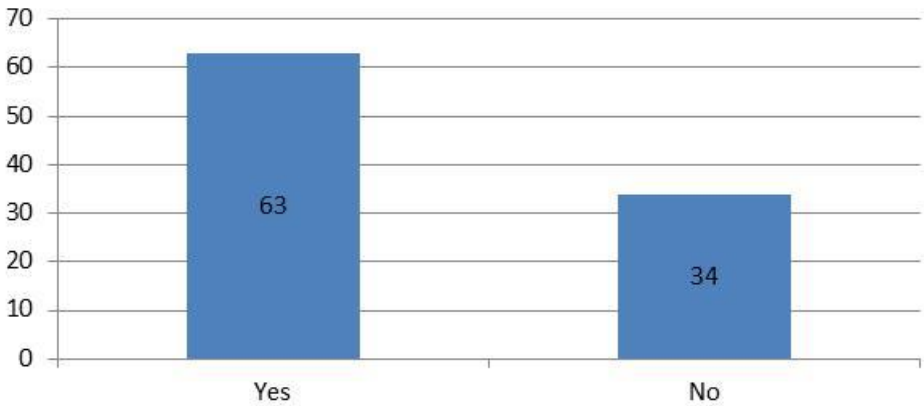
that Germans prefer differences between asylum seekers from countries such as Syria, Iraq and Eritrea whose applications for asylum are very likely to be recognized and people from countries on the Western Balkans entering the country as asylum seekers but having a quota of recognition below 1 %.

Should refugees get more non-cash benefits and less cash-benefits?



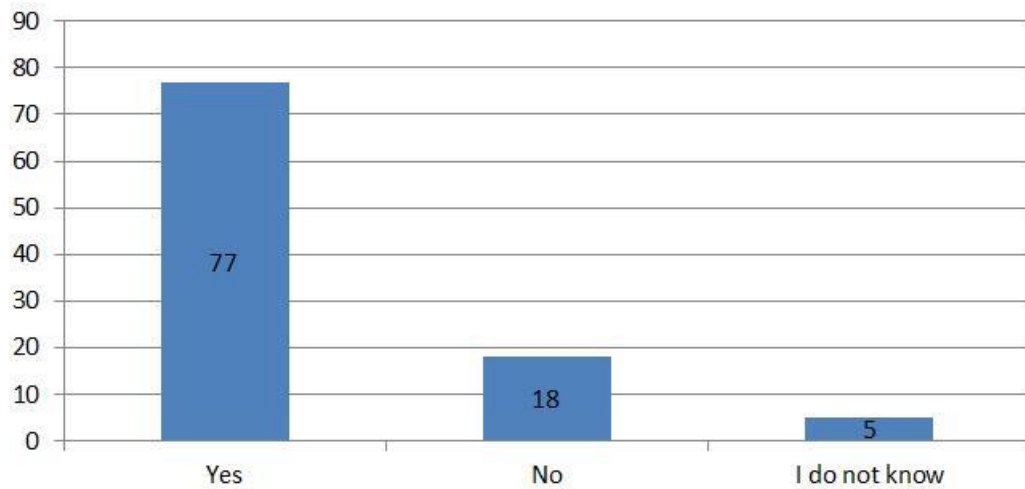
Also, a clear majority of Germans is in favor of replacing monetary benefits for asylum seekers with in kind benefits. This issue is under debate currently and changes have been proposed by the Minister of the Interior, Thomas de Maizière, and the head of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Manfred Schmidt.

Does Germany need more foreign workers in the future?



Even though the asylum situation is dominating the general discussion about migration to Germany, almost two thirds (63 %) of Germans stay convinced that immigration of qualified foreign workforce is needed.

Does Germany need a new Immigration Law for Non-EU workers?



A big majority of Germans (77 %) think that new legislative provisions regulating immigration are necessary. The number went up from around 60 % by the beginning of the year.

At the same time, 86 % of Germans think in August 2015 that Germany is an immigration country. Only 12 % disagree.

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