

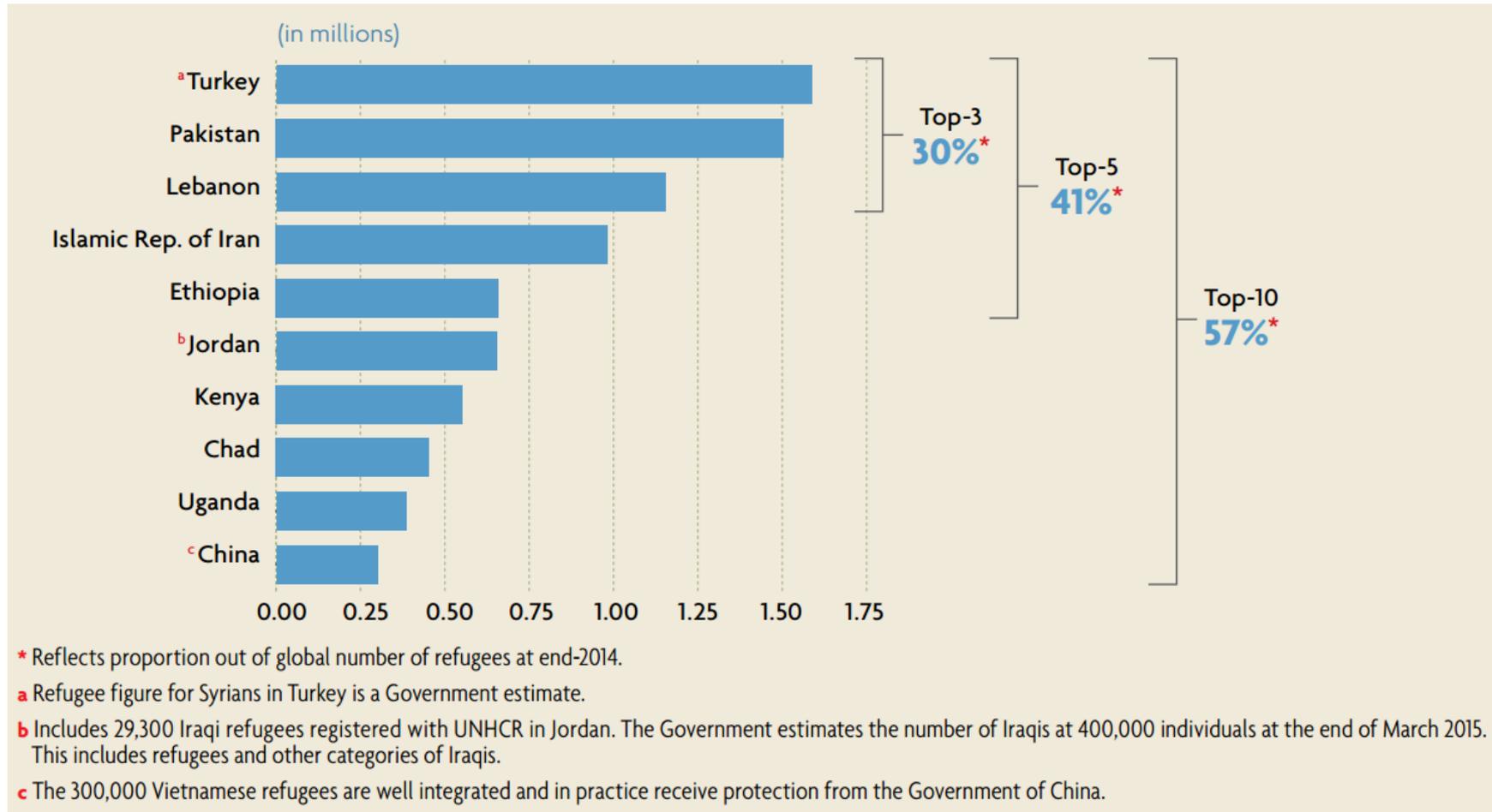
Migration and integration policies in Germany

Dr. Gero Maass

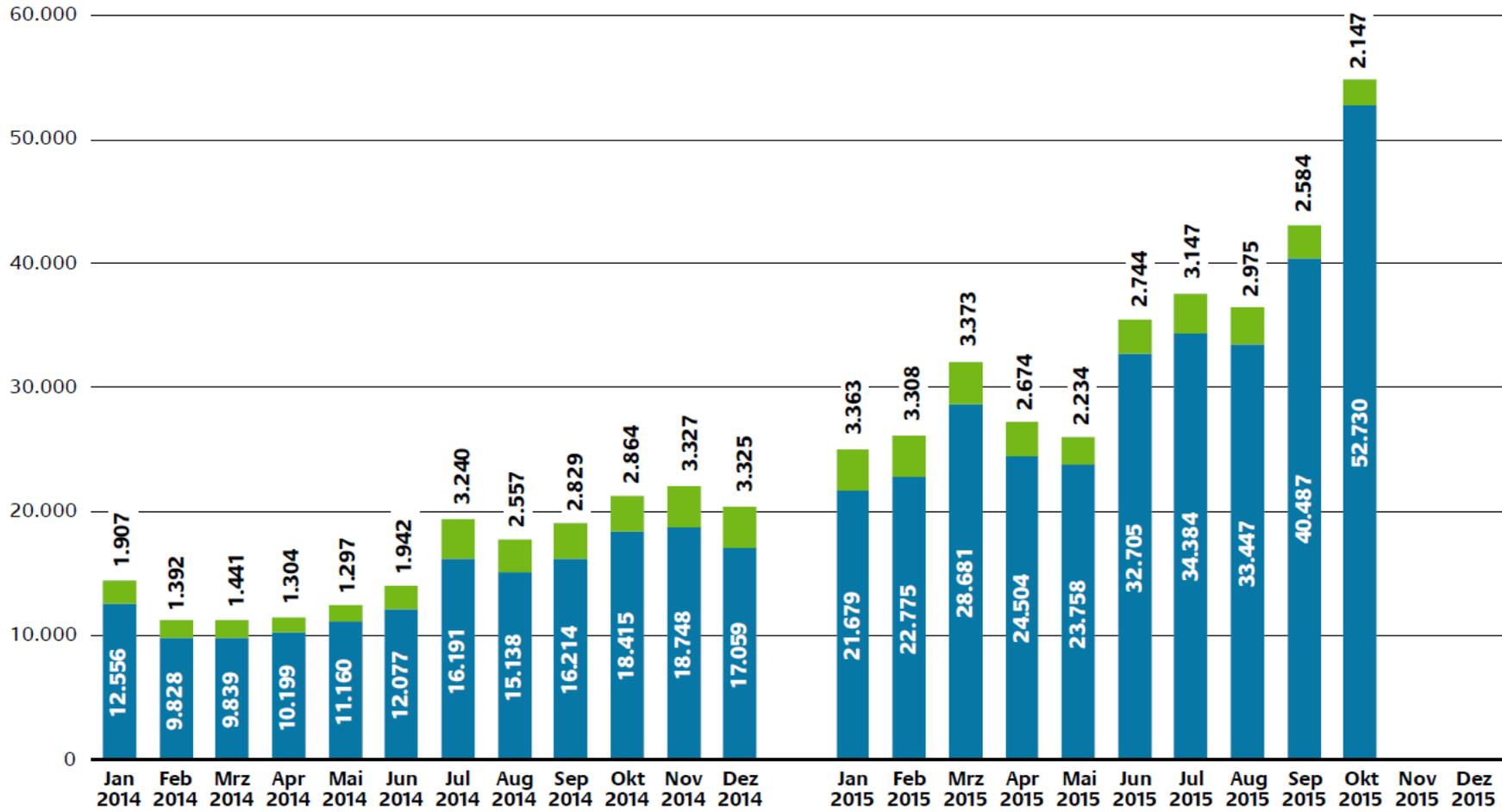
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Helsinki 23rd November 2015

Major refugee-hosting countries end 2014



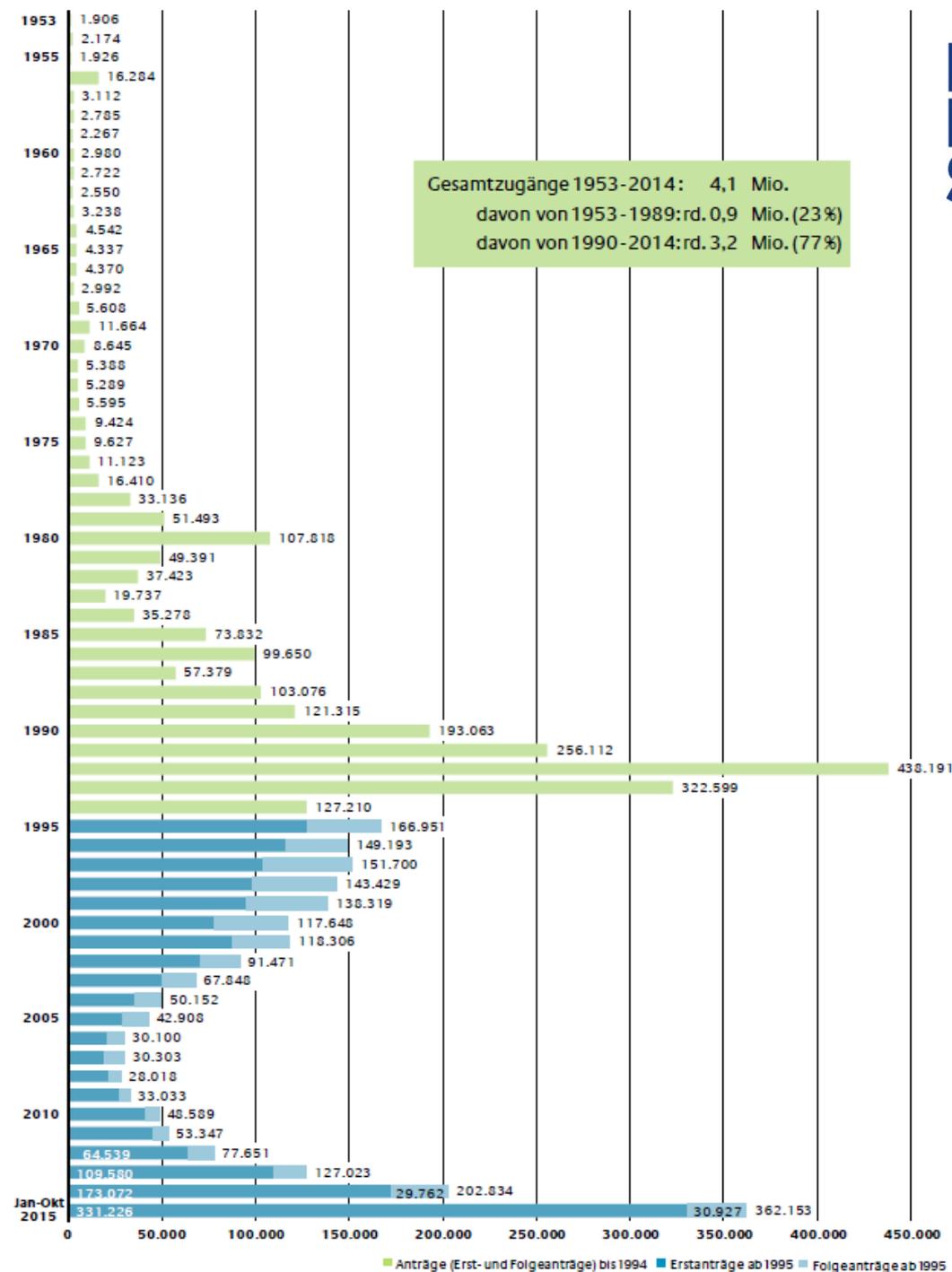
Requests for political asylums in 2014 and 2015



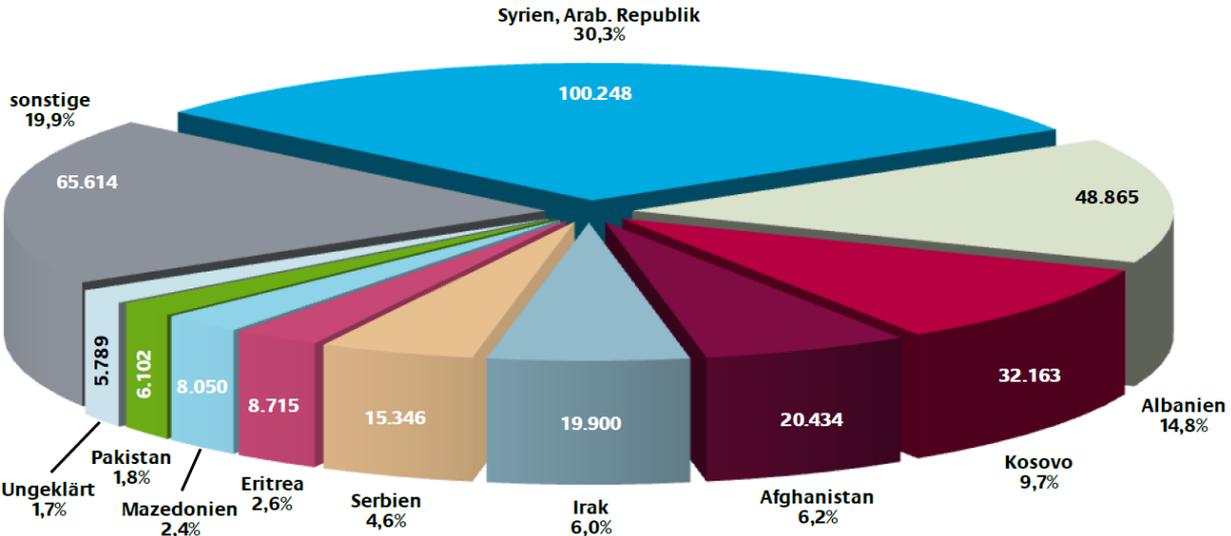
Die Monatswerte können wegen evtl. nachträglicher Änderungen nicht zu einem Jahreswert addiert werden.

■ Erstanträge ■ Folgeanträge
Angaben in Personen

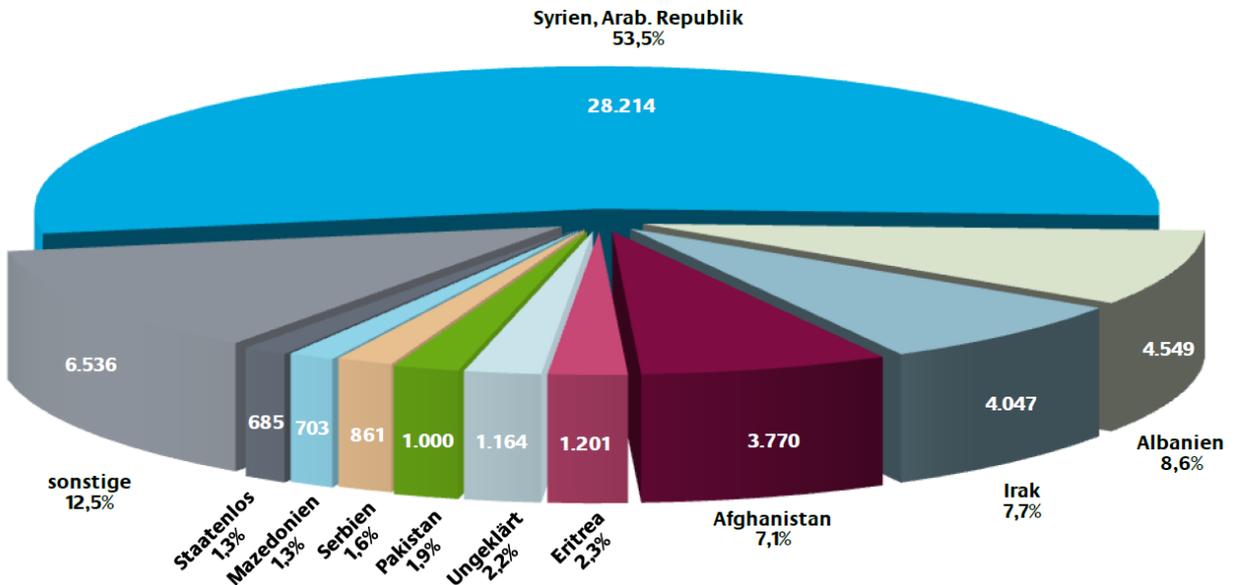
Requests for political asylums since 1953 in Germany



Main countries of origin from January to October 2015



Main countries of origin in October 2015

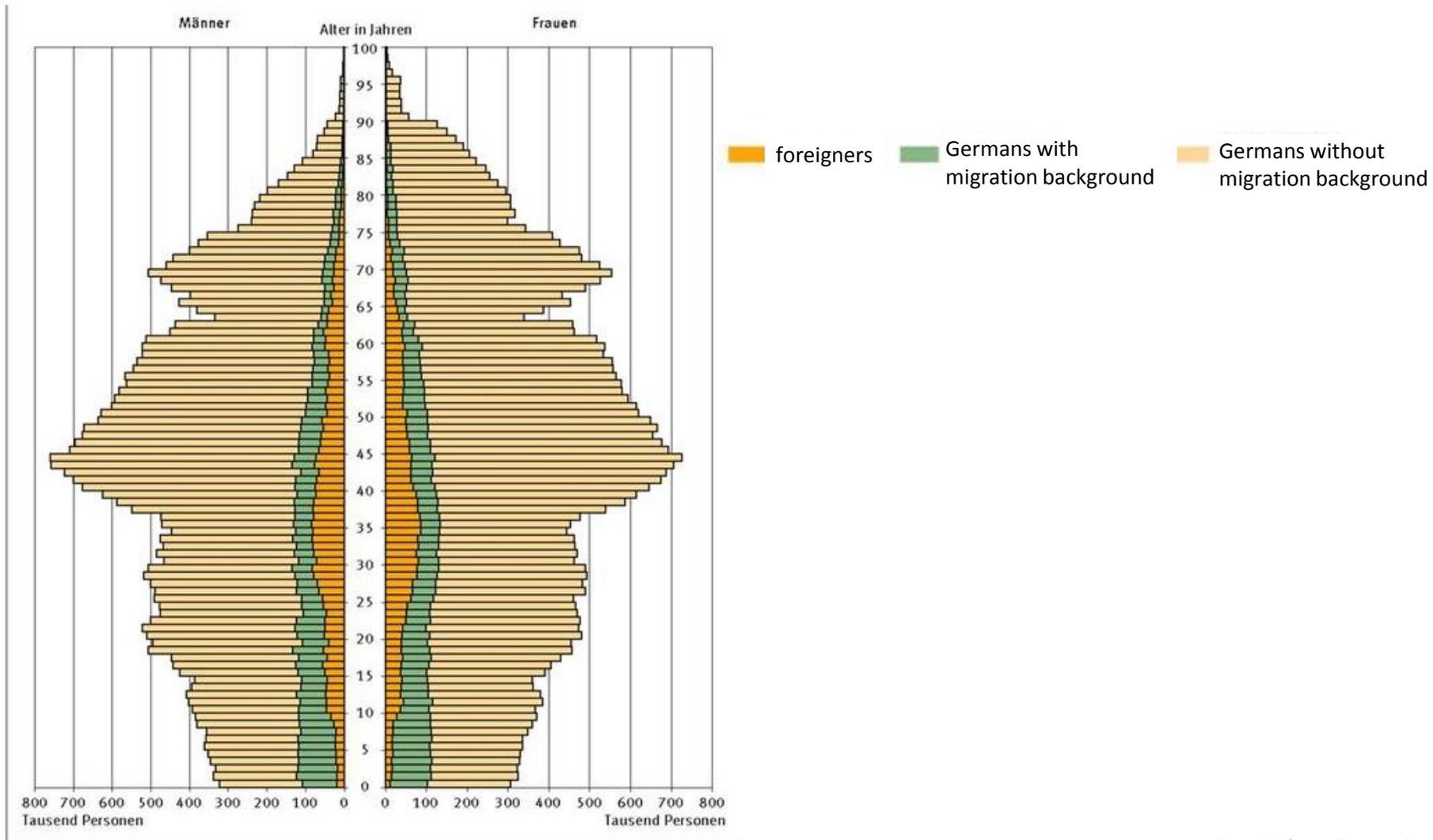


Economic costs & chances of migration

- The German Council of Economic Experts constates regards the costs of the migration as „bearable“: Germany is able to manage the challenges that come with the high number of immigrants
 - Germany should introduce minimum wage exceptions for refugees to facilitate finding a job

- Germany can even make an economical profit out of the migration:
 - Younger labour market
 - More young people in Germany to fill the demography gap

German demography



Asylum proceedings

Refugee is registered after crossing the border

Refugee is housed in initial reception center

Request for political asylum

Proof of Dublin regulation

If Germany is responsible:
personal hearing

If Germany is not
responsible: committal to
first entering country

Decision of Federal
Office for Migration and
Refugees

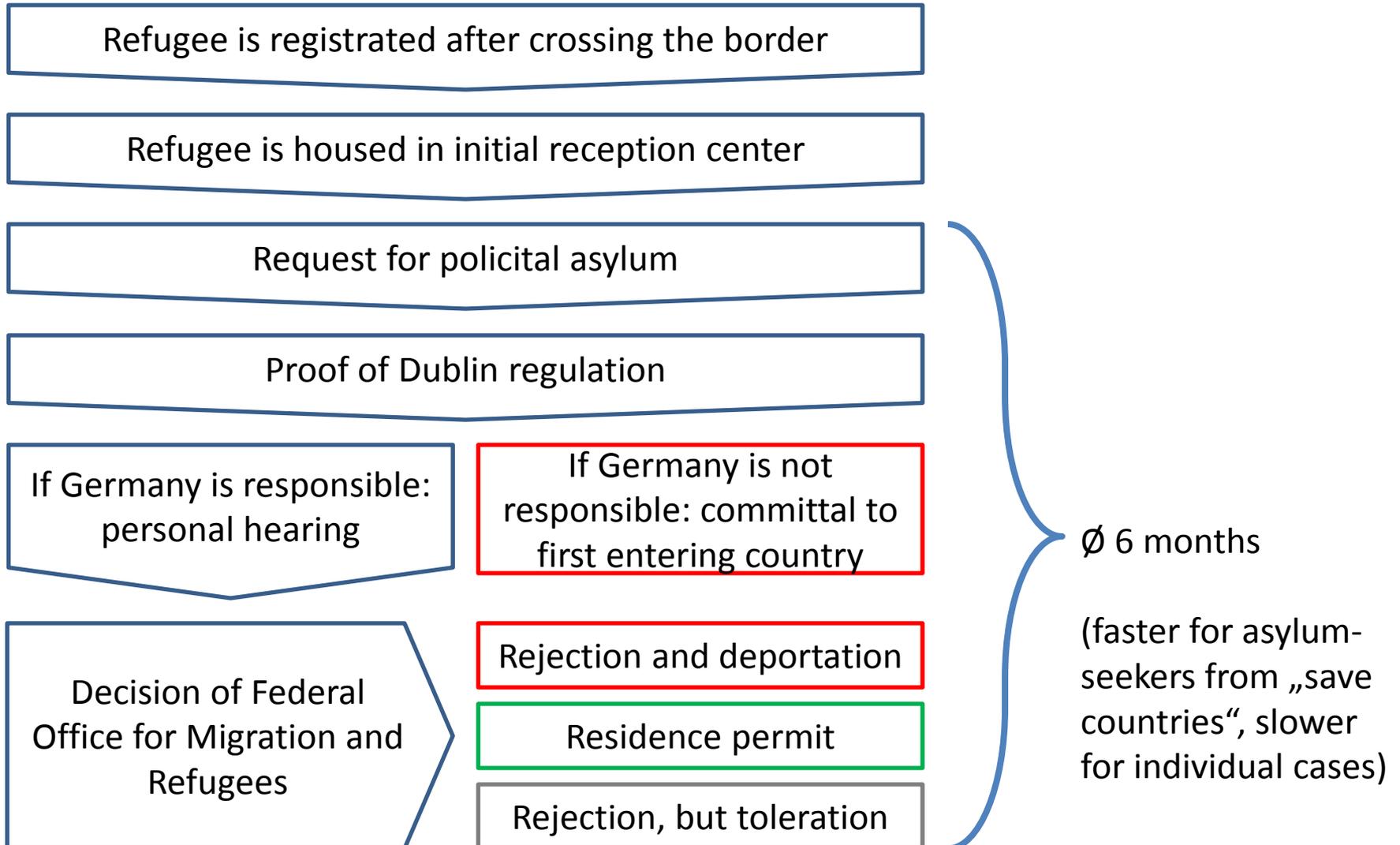
Rejection and deportation

Residence permit

Rejection, but toleration

Debate: extra reception
centres for people unlikely to
get a residence permit

Asylum proceedings



Working possibilities

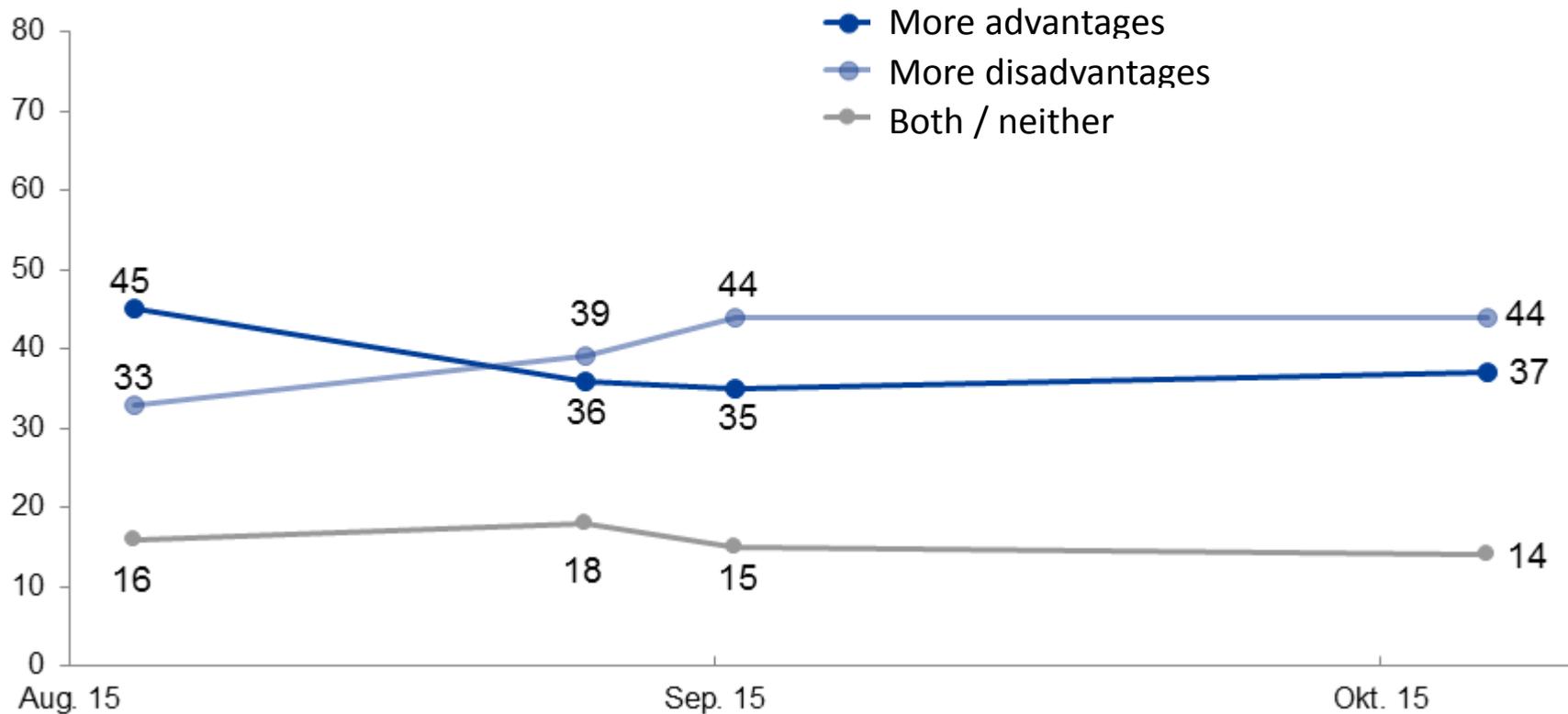
- **First 3 months:**
Asylumseekers are not allowed to work at all
- **After three months:**
Asylumseekers can get a work permit if there is no German or other EU-citizen who could do the job
- **After 15 months or after receiving the residence permit:**
Asylumseekers are allowed to work without these regulations

Recent changes in Germany

- Accelerated proceedings and faster deportations of refused asylumseekers
- Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro were declared to „safe countries“
- Referring to dublin regulation again
- Discussion about pocket money (now: 143 Euro) or vouchers to avoid wrong incentives
- Discussion about family joinings

The mood changes

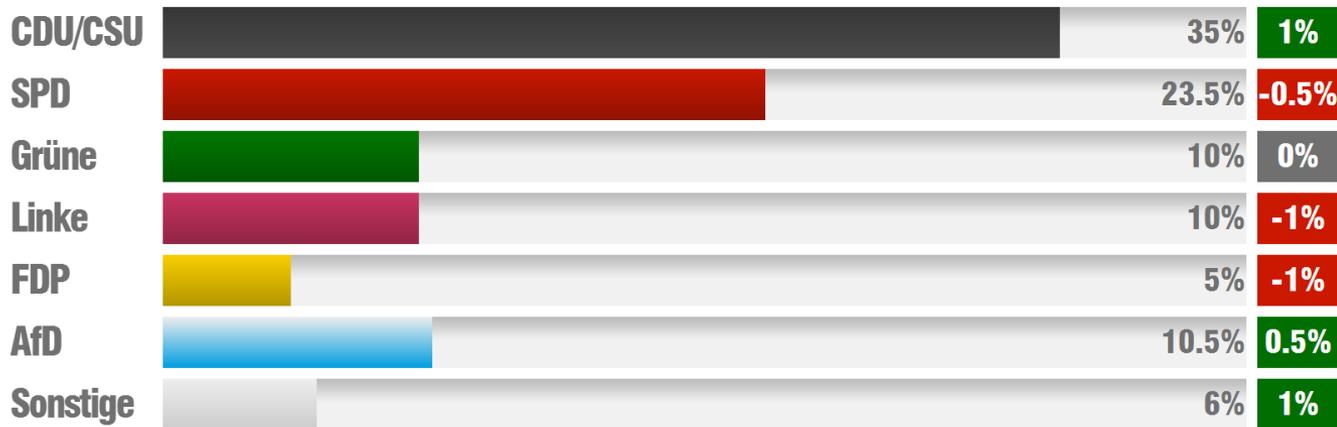
Migration: more advantages or disadvantages?



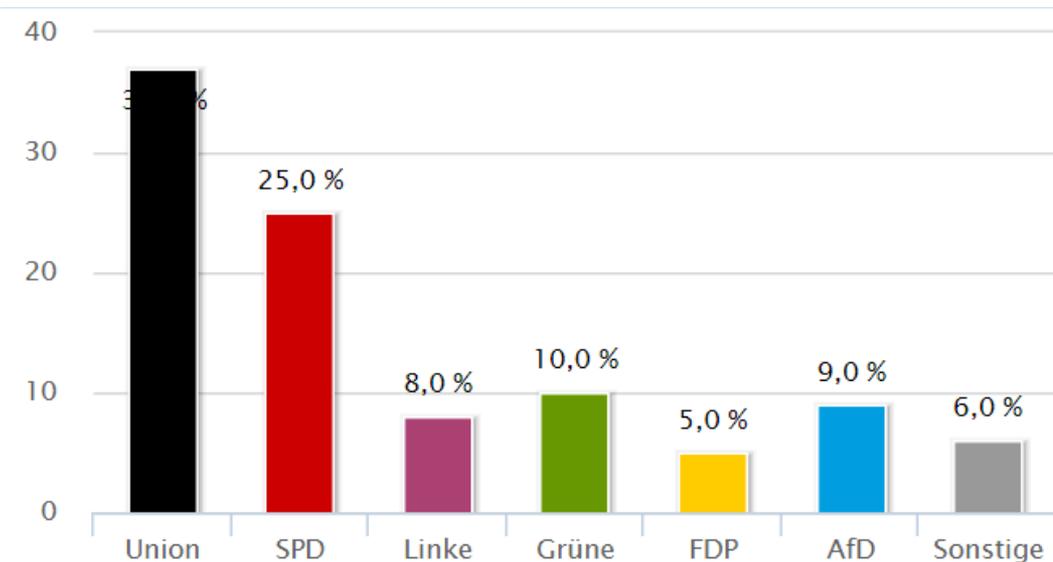
Effects on politics and society

- Still unexpected huge voluntary work
- Increasing uncertainty: What will happen?
- Right-wing populists are achieving success
- Merkel's popularity is decreasing
- Violence against refugees and refugee homes
- Germany = immigration country?
- Long term trend: „Germany will get more conservative“ (Opaschowski)
- No connection between criminality and terrorism danger
- Perspectives of integration: education, vocational education, job market

Success for right-wing party AfD



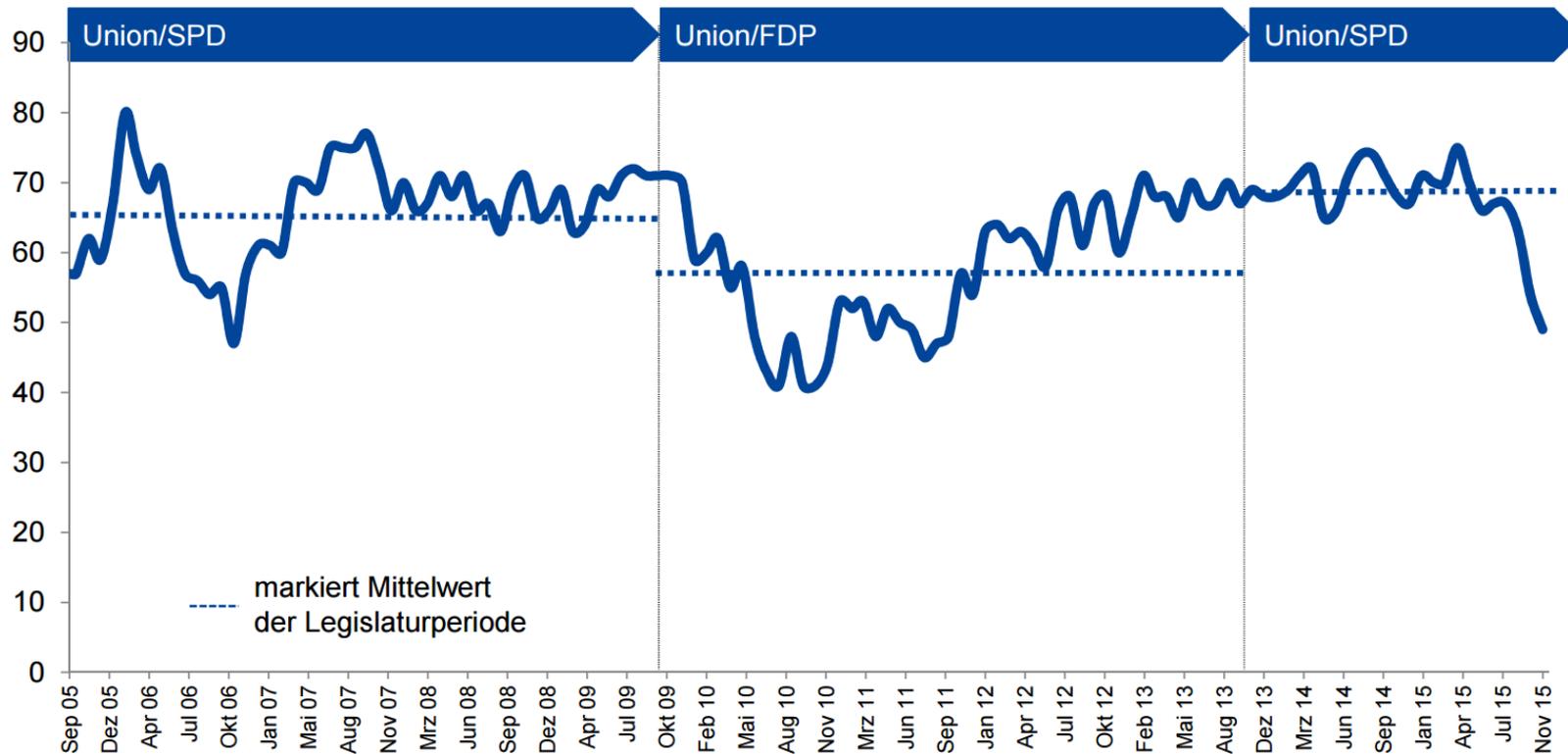
Insa-Meinungstrend für Bild.
13.-16.11.2015.



Infratest dimap: Sonntagsfrage.
16.-19.11.2015.

Political satisfaction with Angela Merkel

November 2015



Four-part policy of the German Government

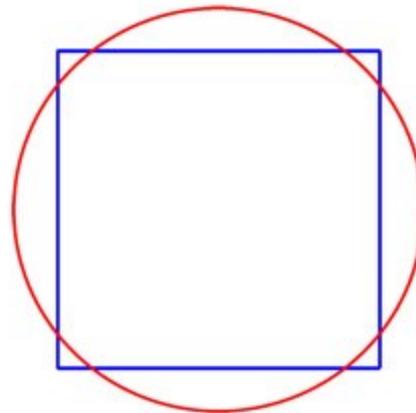
- Unapologetically absorb refugees at home: still no upper limit
- Share the burden across Europe and beyond
- Strengthen controls and the processing of asylum-seekers at Europe's external borders
- Negotiate with transit countries and other foreign policy

„Squaring the circle“ – social democratic challenges

in times of easy answers from right wing populist movements
... also a quick look into SPD's debate

value driven politics

... stand up for your
humanitarian commitment
... but not naive / right wing
populists



“digestion capacity“ of
the society & security
Critical review: limited
success of integration

Political refugees:

Asylum policy

Lack of economic
prospects: debate/is Ger a
country of immigration?

limits of national
solutions: Think and act
international/European