



November 2022 / Nationwide public opinion survey

# “Perceptions of Germany in Greece”

Special section in a broader FES study of *Right-wing populism in Greece*

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS



FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
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# Survey details

Agency	Kapa Research
Principal	Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Greece)
Sample	Men and women, 17 years old and over
Sample size and coverage	2,121 respondents nationally, proportionally distributed throughout Greece's 13 regions
Data collection period	7 – 12 October 2022
Sampling	Random sampling using quotas with respect to geographical distribution, gender, and age of the population based on the latest census of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT). Data are weighted by gender, age, education, region, and vote in the 2019 national election results
Data collection method	Web interviews through a digital questionnaire (CAWI) addressed to members of Kapa Research's inhouse online panel ( <i>kapa_trends</i> )
Error and rounding	Standard error of 2% with a confidence interval of 95%. Results (%) are rounded to 1% and <u>answers may not add up to 100%</u>
About Kapa Research	Kapa Research is a member of the Greek Association of Opinion and Market Research Companies (SEDEA) and complies with the ESOMAR codes of conduct and publication of opinion surveys

# Main research questions

Perceptions of Germany in Greece

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- 1. How do Greeks feel about Germany today?**
- 2. What are the main factors shaping Germany's image?**
- 3. What is the legacy of former Chancellor, Angela Merkel?**
- 4. Have things changed under the new German coalition government?**

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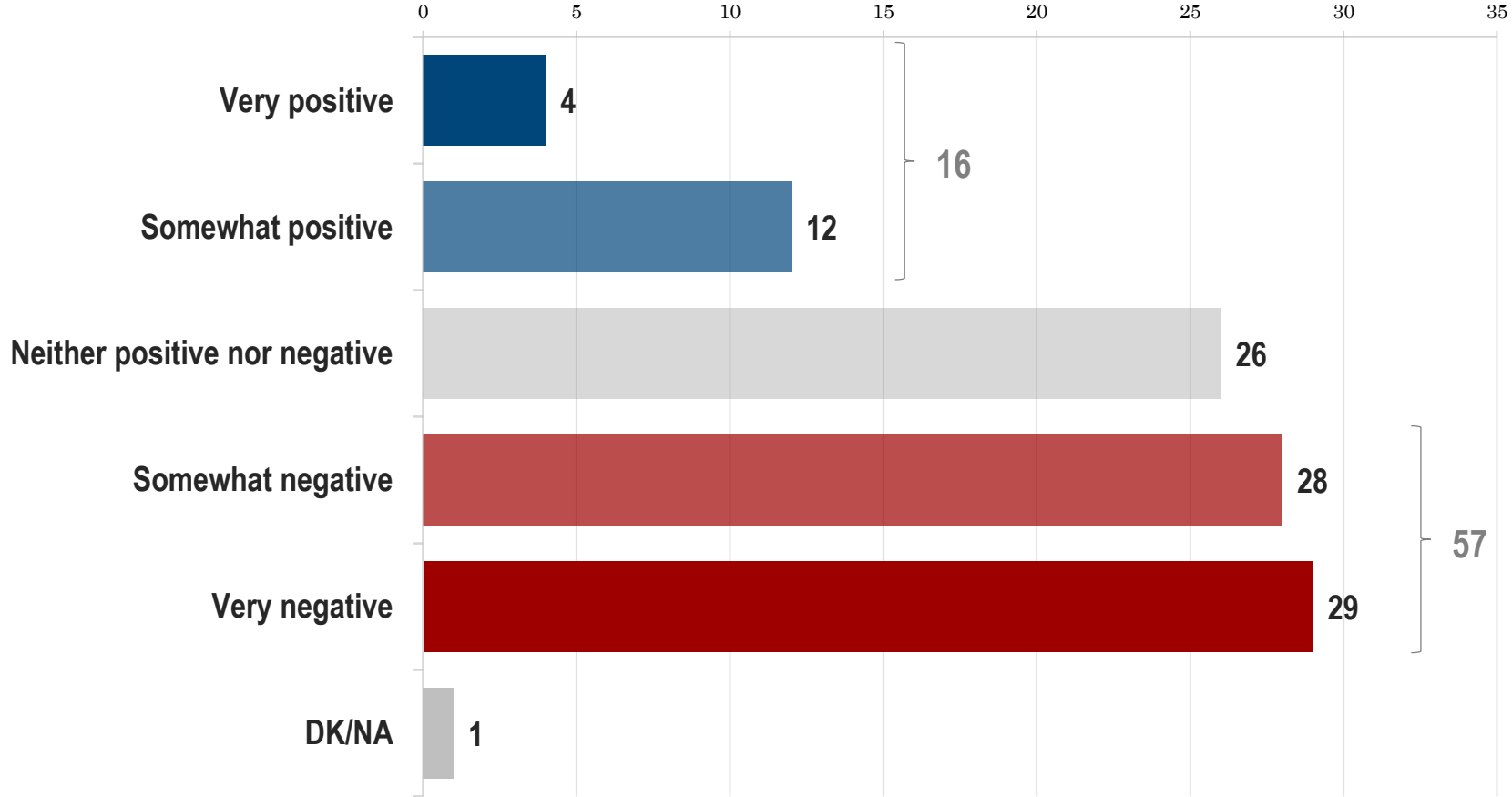
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# General perception of Germany

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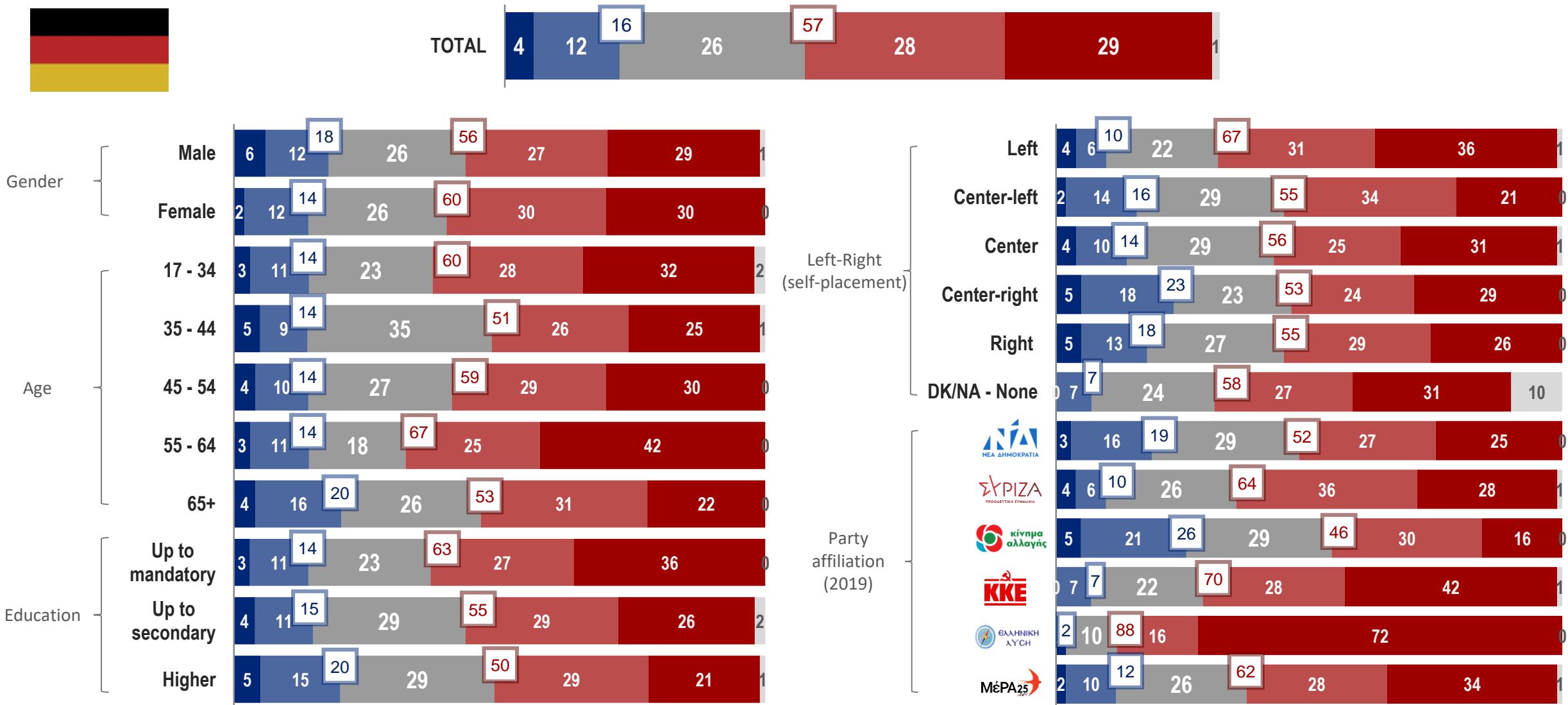
# 6 out of 10 Greeks hold a negative view about Germany

What is your opinion about Germany? Positive or negative?



# The same pattern evident across most population segments

Perception of Germany among different groups

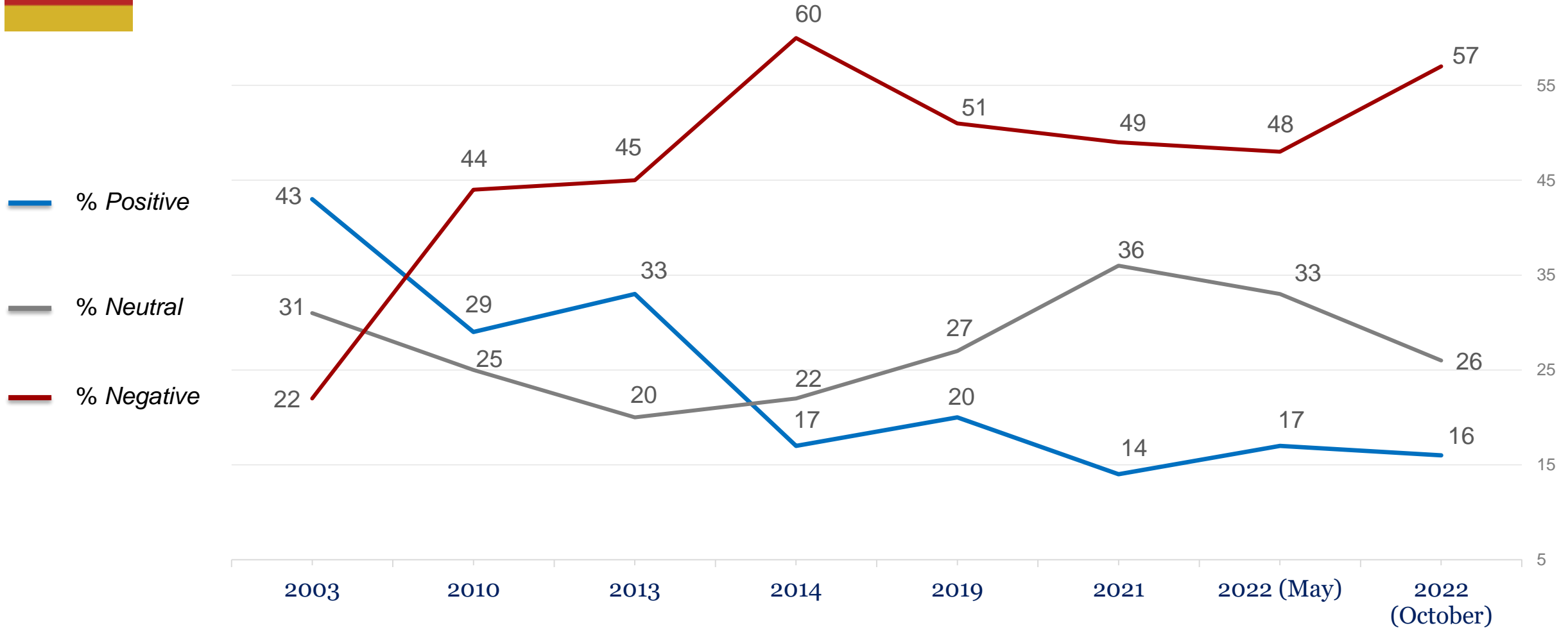


# Attitudes shift significantly as the Greek economic crisis commences

Perception of Germany; 2003 – 2022



Source: Kapa Research archives



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# Main factors shaping Germany's image in Greece

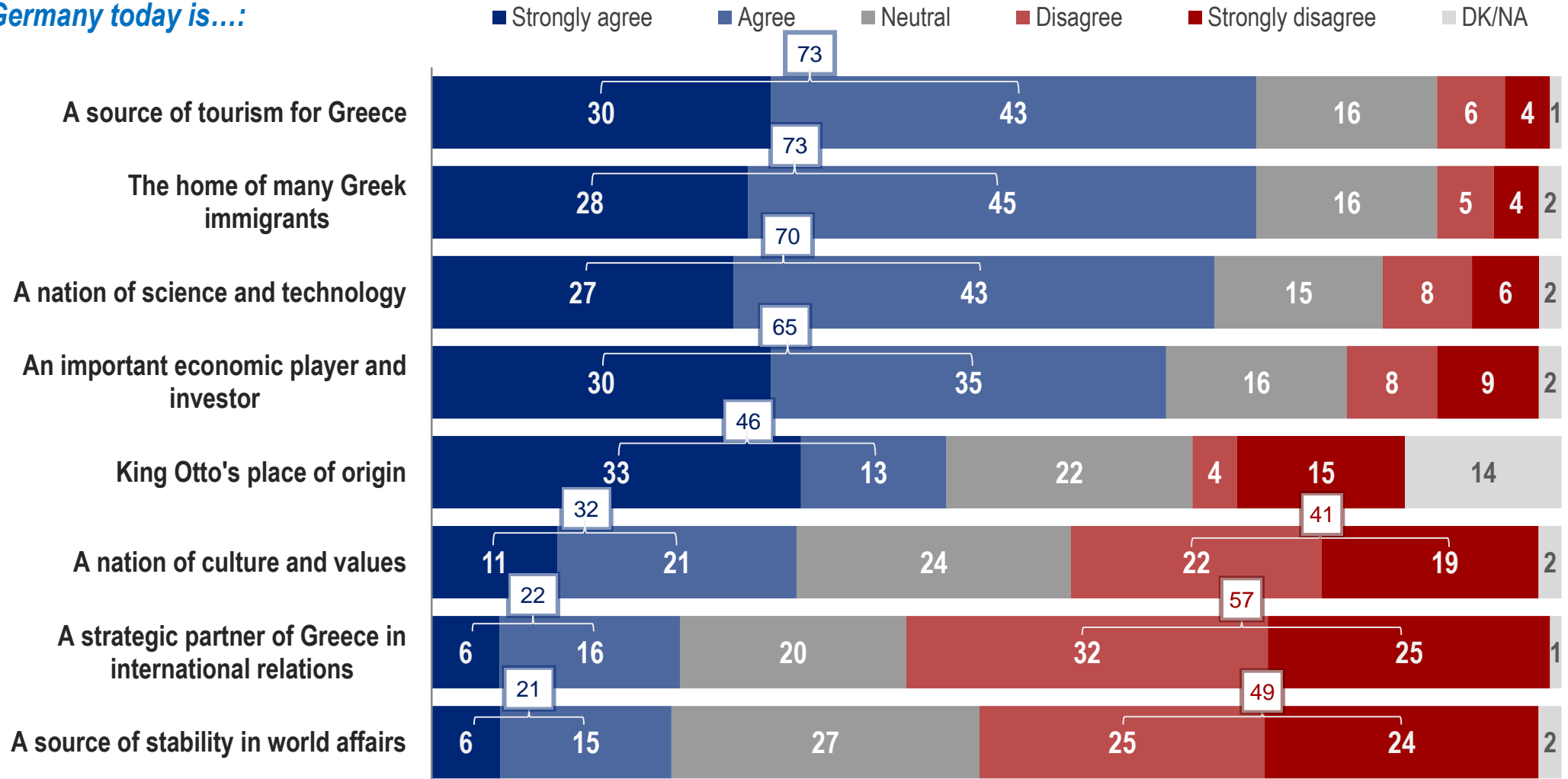
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# Greeks respect German economic and tech influence; skeptical on stance in world affairs

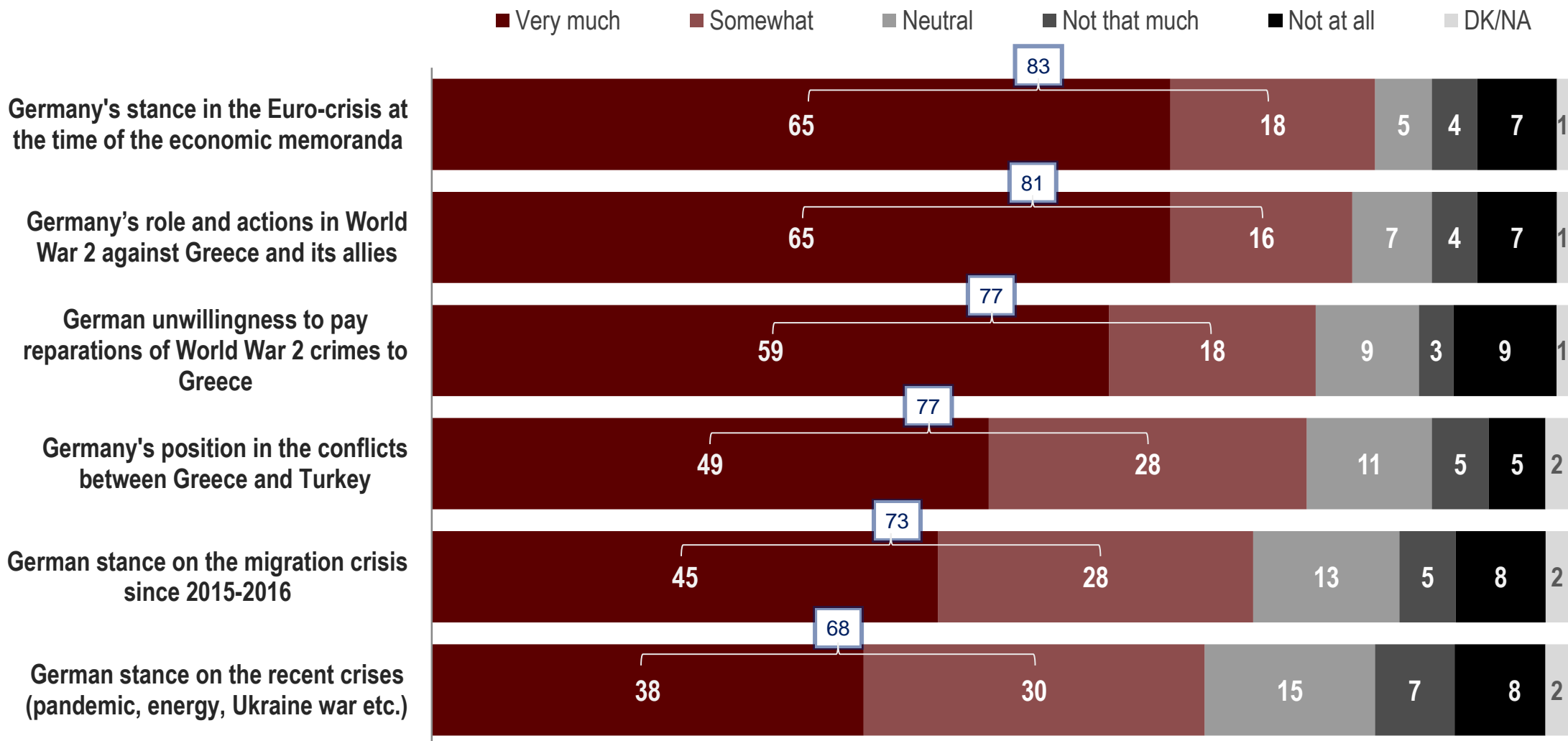
For each of the following opinions about Germany, please indicate whether it expresses - or not - your own opinion of this country today.

*For me, Germany today is....:*



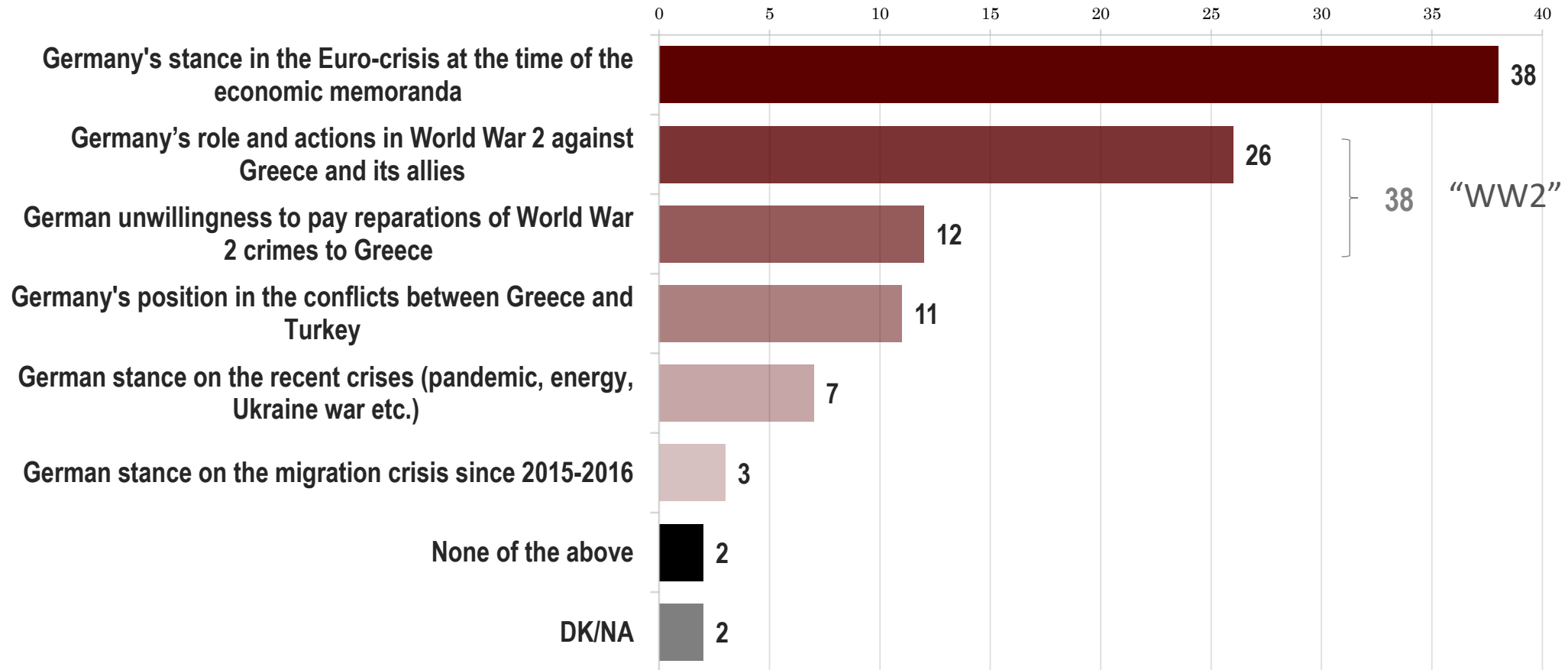
# Crises mishandlings, WW2 history and a pro-Turkey bias stain Germany's image

How much has your view of Germany been affected negatively by each of the following?



# Treatment during Greek crisis and WW2 history, the main sources of resentment

And if you had to pick one of these, which one has negatively affected your view of Germany the most?



# Older generations (65+) more sensitive on WW2

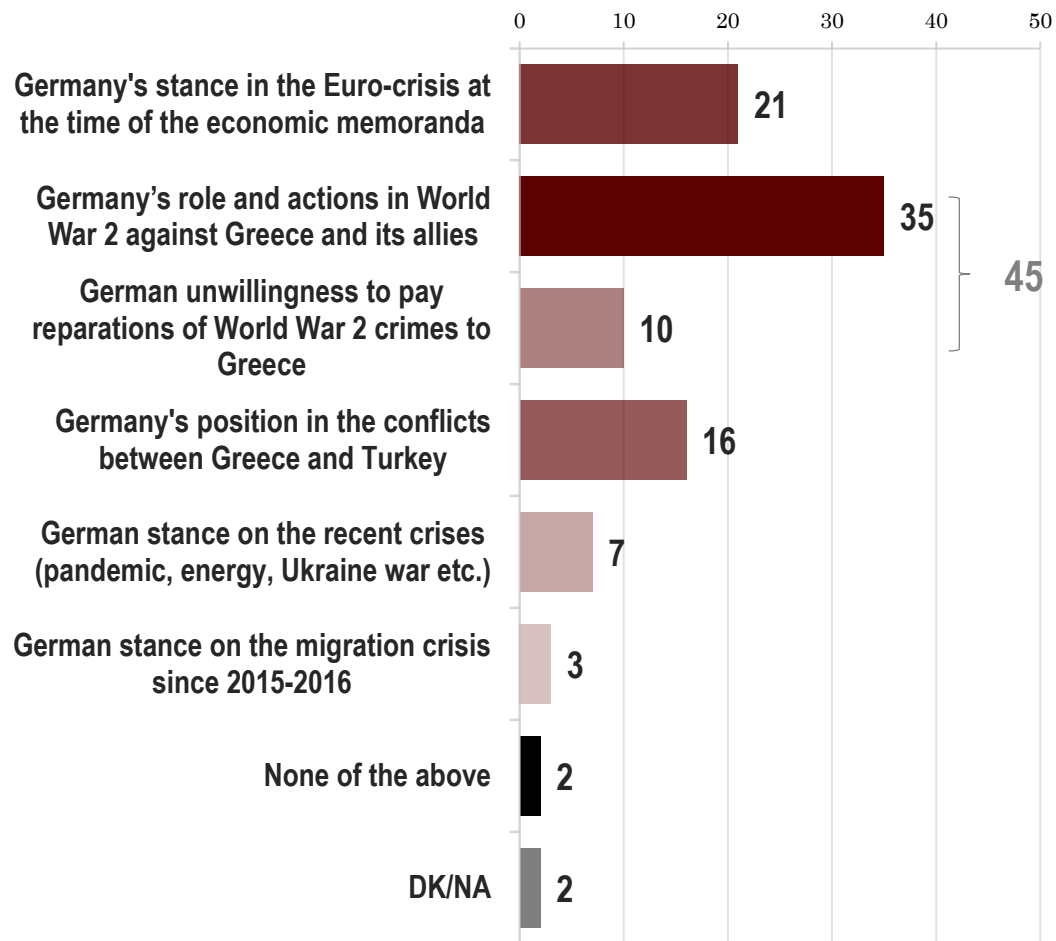
Analysis based on Age

Age	17 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65+
Germany's stance in the Euro-crisis at the time of the economic memoranda	46	40	37	43	27
Germany's role and actions in World War 2 against Greece and its allies	16	21	26	22	40
German unwillingness to pay reparations of the World War 2 crimes to Greece	10	13	15	12	11
Germany's position in the conflicts between Greece and Turkey	7	10	12	13	13
German stance on the recent crises (pandemic, energy, Ukraine war etc.)	13	6	4	7	5
German stance on the migration crisis since 2015-2016	4	5	3	-	-
None of the above	2	3	2	1	2
DK/NA	2	1	1	1	3

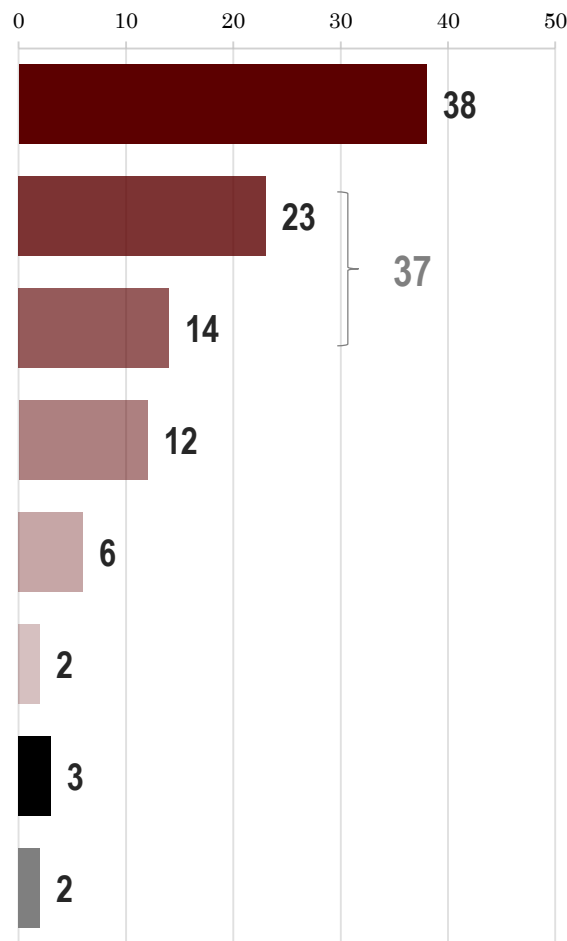
# The “Greek crisis” factor more influential among those with negative opinion of Germany

Analysis based on the Opinion about Germany

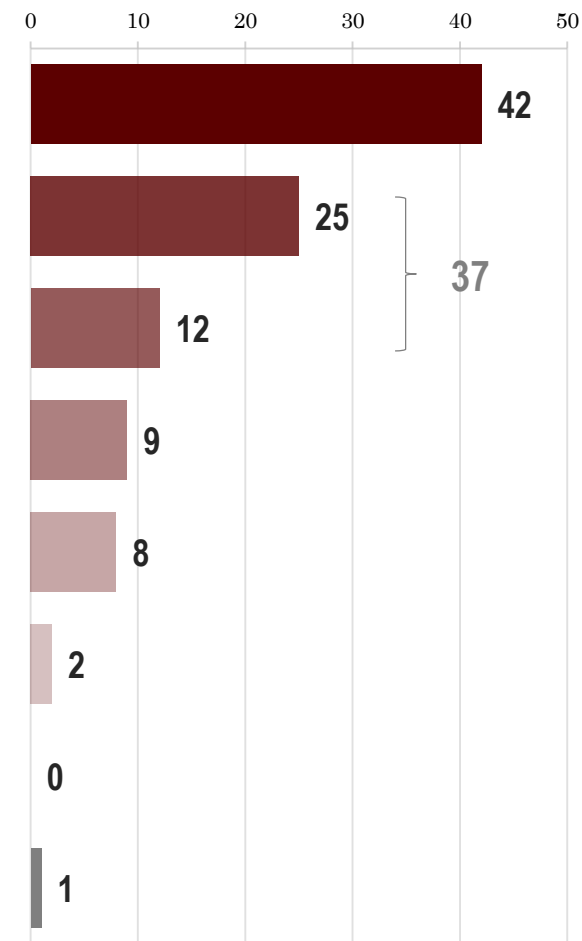
**BASE:** Positive opinion about Germany (16%)



**BASE:** Neutral opinion about Germany (26%)



**BASE:** Negative opinion about Germany (57%)



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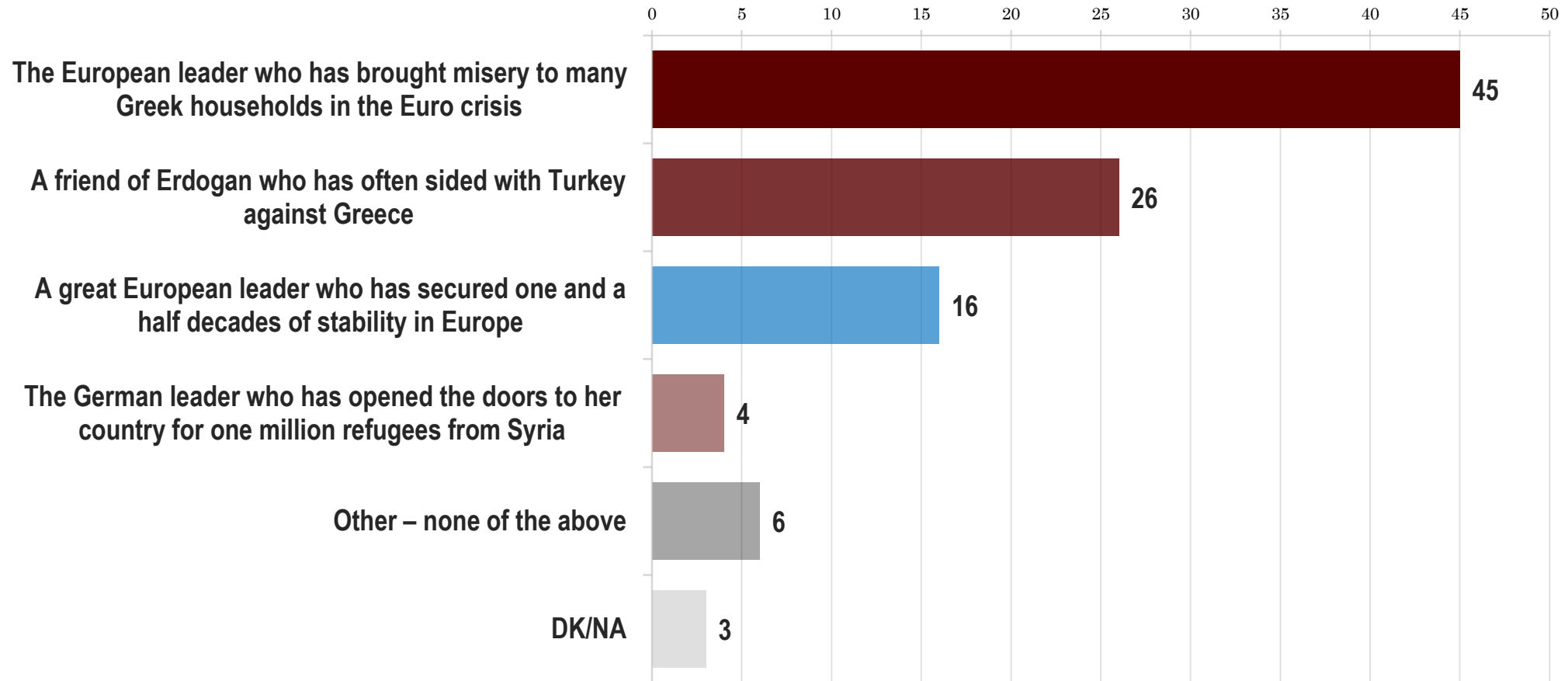
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# Angela Merkel's legacy

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# Vast majority with negative feelings about Merkel's tenure

Angela Merkel was Chancellor of Germany for 16 years and influenced German foreign policy and the developments concerning Greece like few others. Which of the following views is closest to your view of Angela Merkel?



# The Left stresses the “Greek crisis” issue; the Right stresses the “pro-Turkey bias”

Analysis based on Ideology

Left-Right (self-placement)						
	Left (0-2)	Center-left (3-4)	Center (5)	Center-right (6-7)	Right (8-10)	DK/NA - None
The European leader who has brought misery to many Greek households in the Euro crisis	<b>60</b>	<b>53</b>	48	33	32	48
A friend of Erdogan who has often sided with Turkey against Greece	12	12	28	34	<b>41</b>	20
A great European leader who has secured one and a half decades of stability in Europe	13	18	14	23	17	10
The German leader who has opened the doors to her country for one million refugees from Syria	2	2	2	4	6	6
Other – none of the above	9	12	5	5	2	5
DK/NA	3	4	3	1	2	12



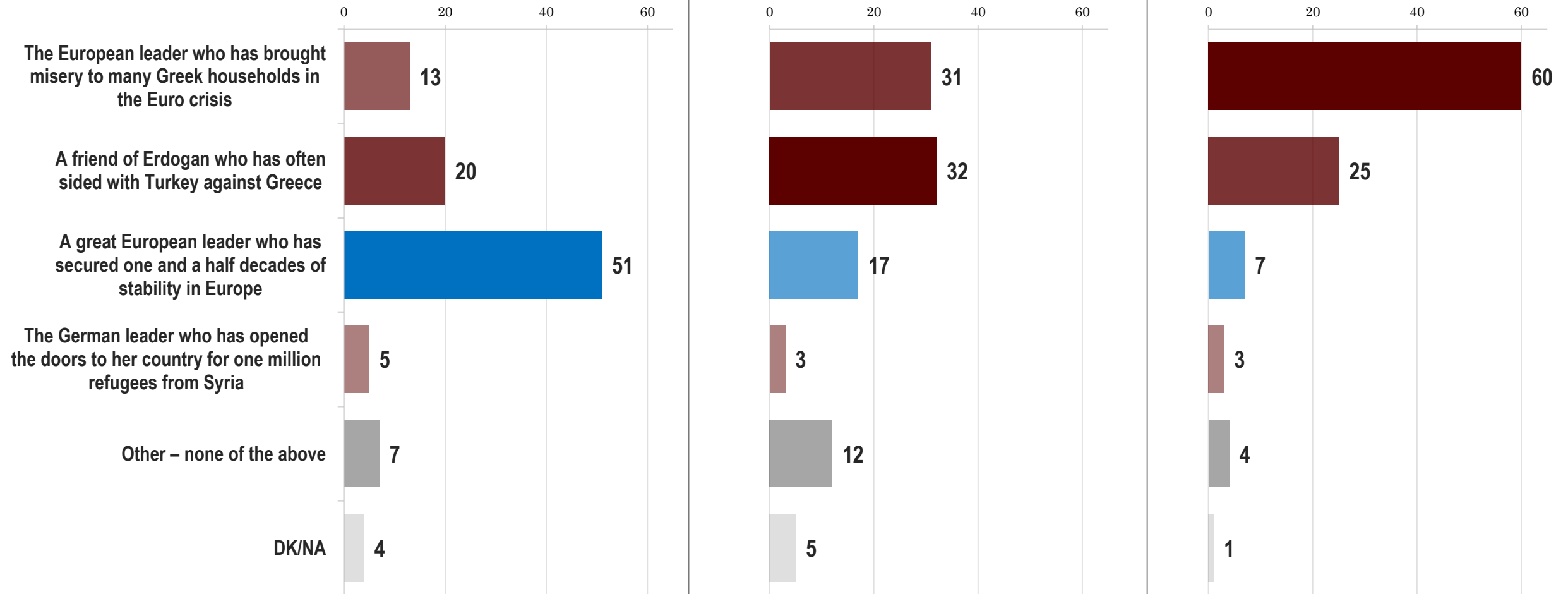
# Again, the “Greek crisis” factor higher among those with negative opinion of Germany

Analysis based on the Opinion about Germany

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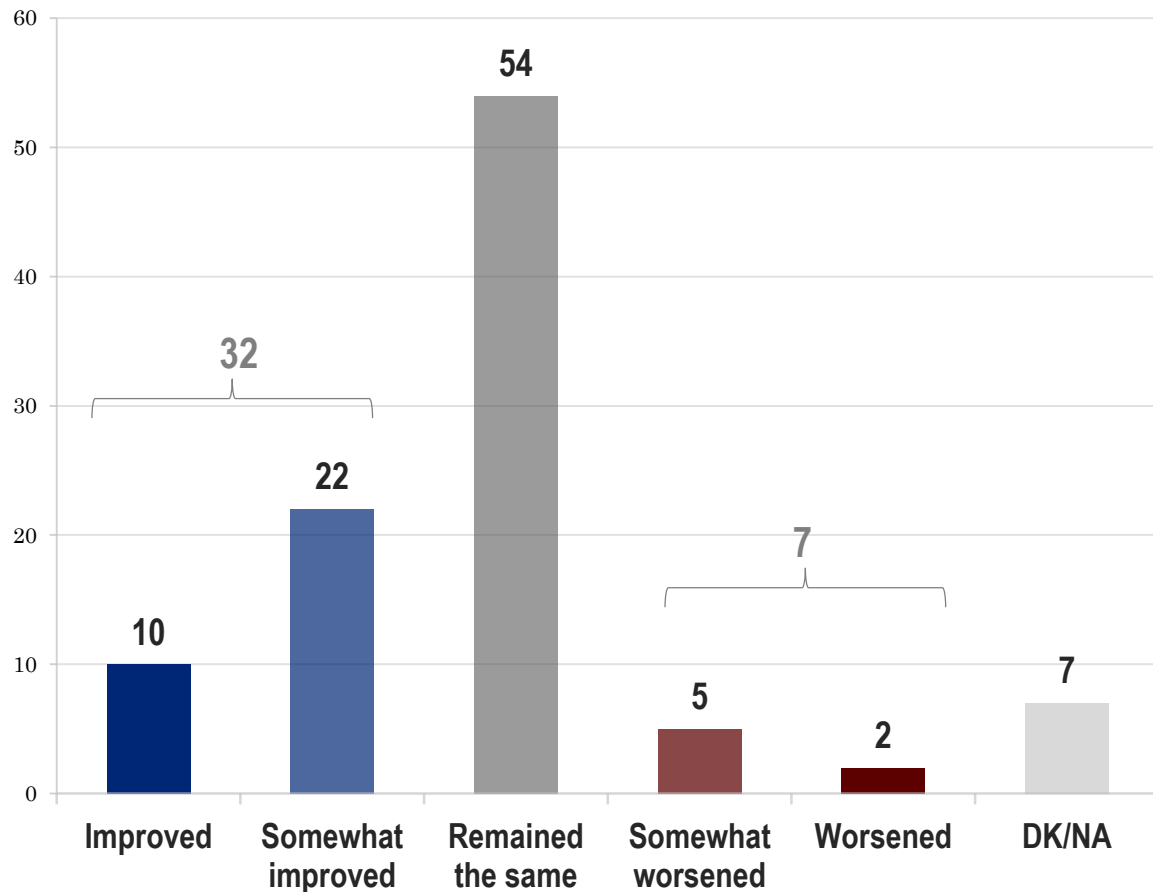
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# Greek-German relations under the new German government

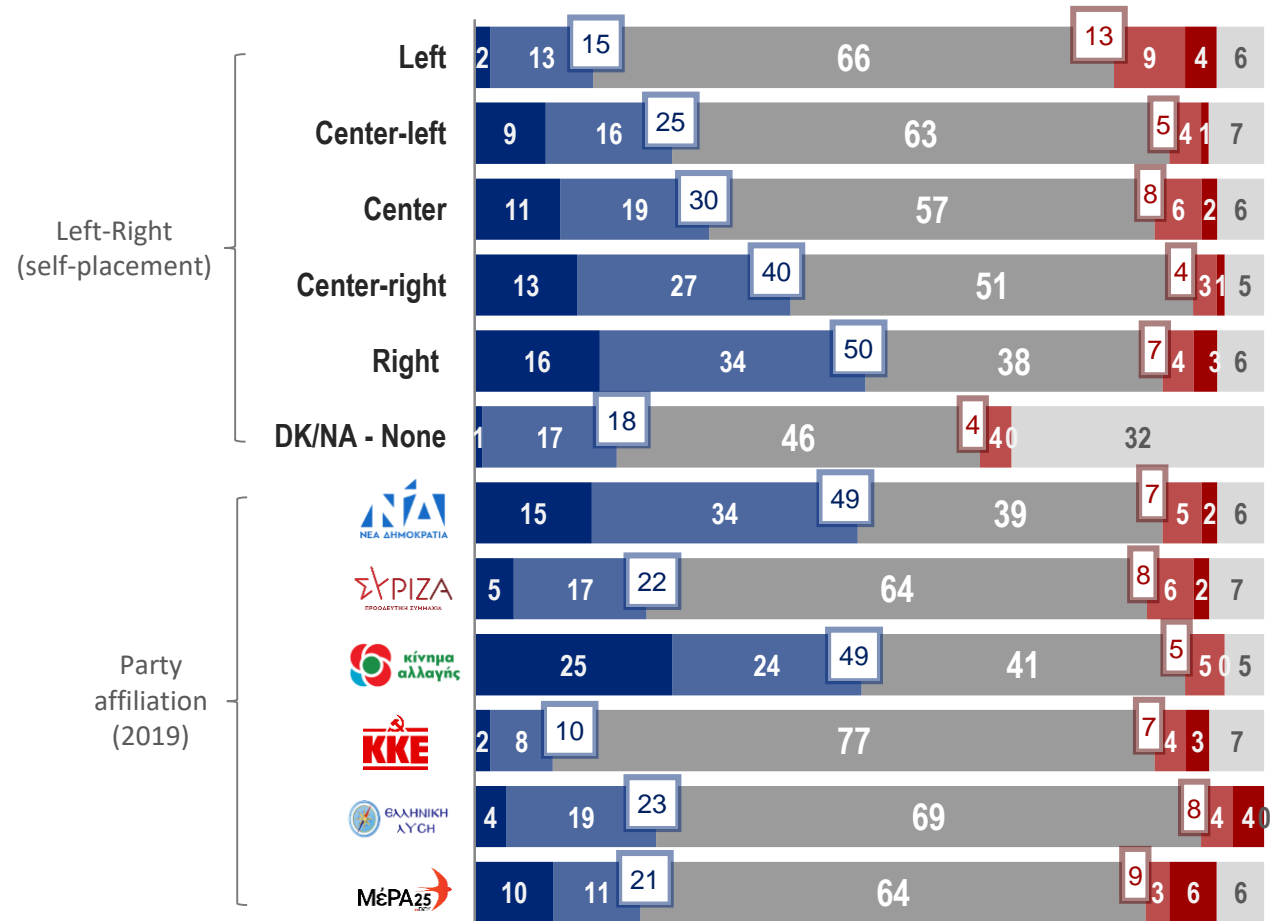
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# 1 out of 3 see progress in Greco-German relations under the new German government

After the departure of Angela Merkel, Germany has a new government with Olaf Scholz as the chancellor leading an alliance of the Social Democrats with the Greens and the Liberals. In your opinion, how have things developed between Greece and Germany under the new German government?



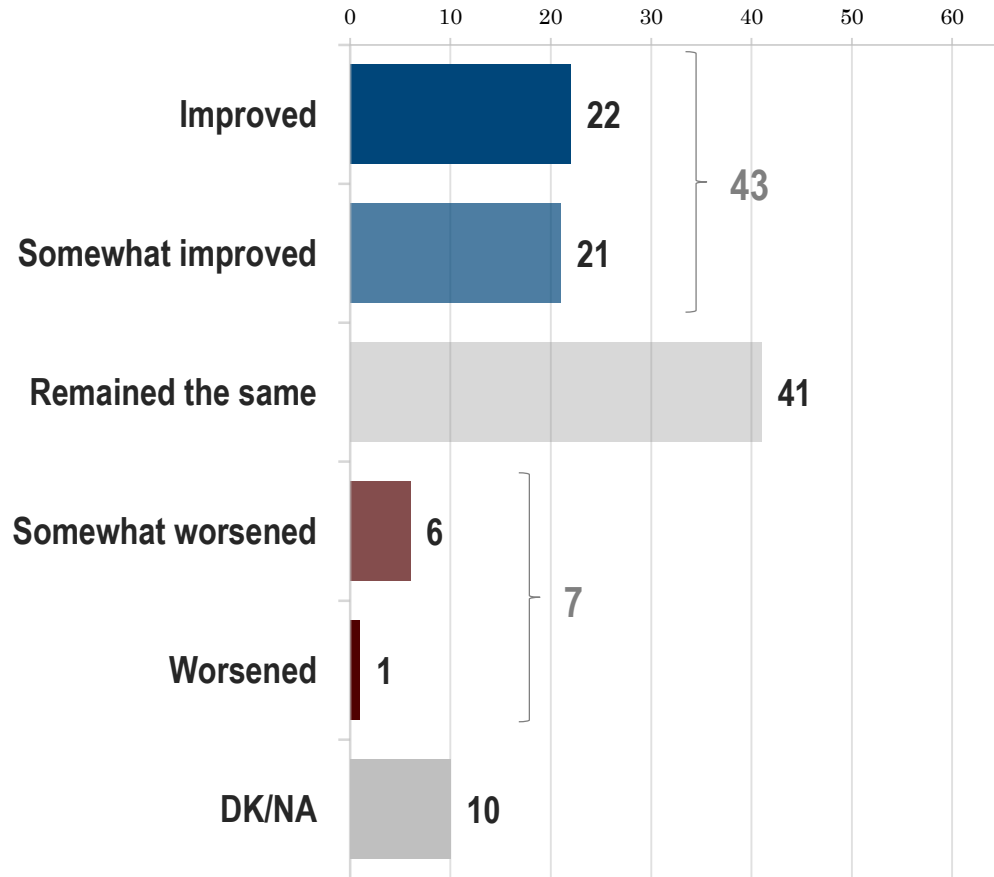
## ... more among the Center-right and the Right



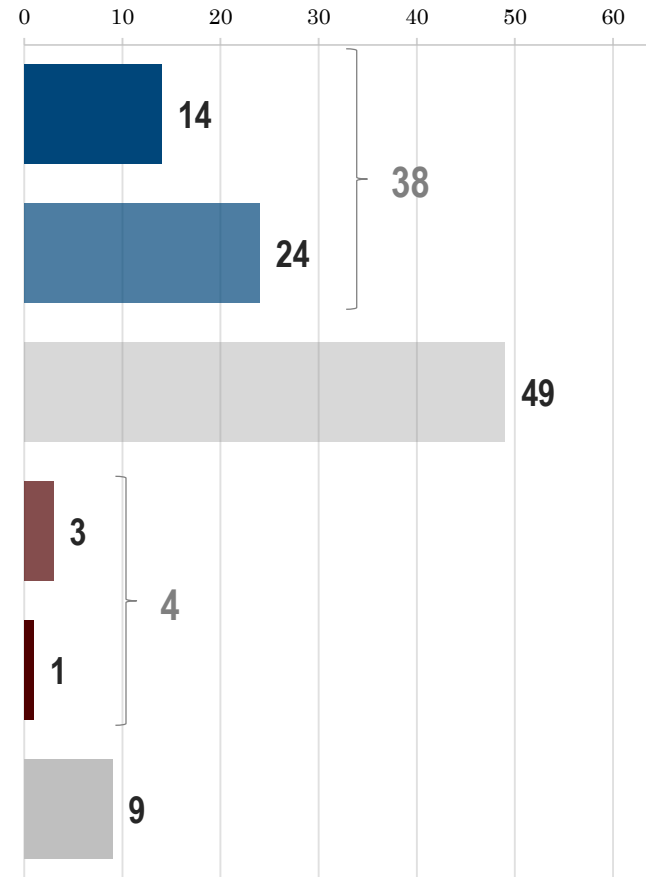
# Even 27% of those with negative opinion of Germany point out progress

Analysis based on the Opinion about Germany

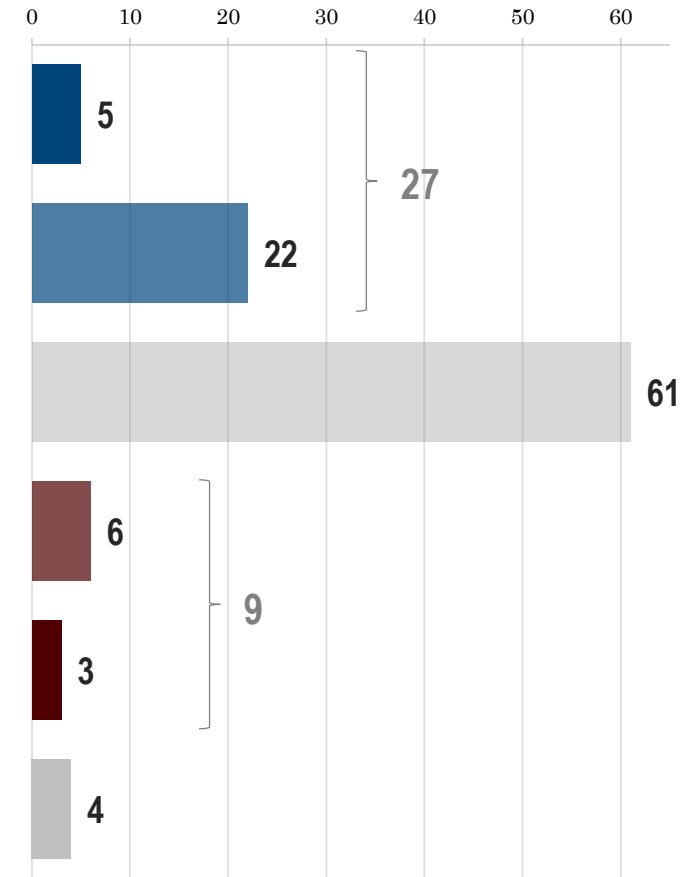
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# Conclusions

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# Main research findings

Perceptions of Germany in Greece

- 1. Germany needs to re-introduce itself in Greece as it keeps polling low for over a decade**
- 2. Management of the Greek debt crisis and WW2 history shape the image of Germany in Greek society**
- 3. Merkel's legacy is heavily injured by her stance in the Greek crisis and the Greek-Turkish conflict**
- 4. A glimmer of hope under the new German government; however, hard work still needs to be done for expectations to be fulfilled**

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Translating data into policy and practice

[kaparesearch.com](https://kaparesearch.com)