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100 DAYS OF SCHOLZ

An Allensbach opinion poll shows what the German population thinks about the new administration

23.03.2022

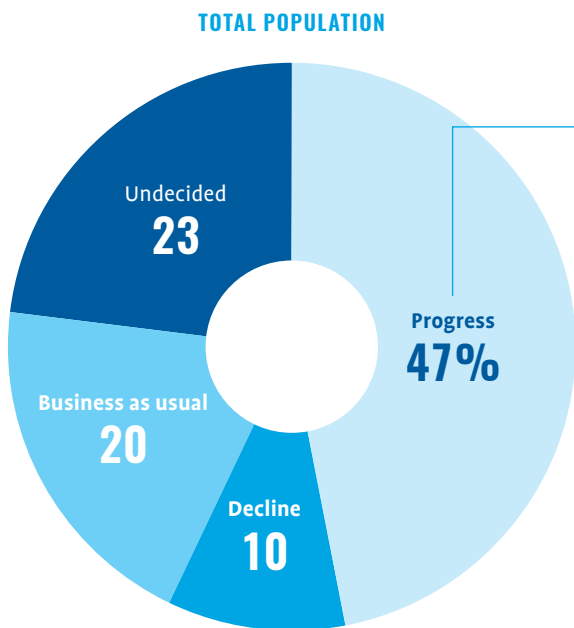
FEAR OF THE EFFECTS FROM CLIMATE POLICIES, TRUST IN PROMISES OF REFORM, AND AN INCREASED BACKING FOR THE CHANCELLOR

The new German administration started its first term with an ambitious coalition agreement and the promise of progress and a new era of politics. At the same time, several crises set the agenda of Scholz’s administration during its first months, from the pandemic, to soaring living costs affecting low-income households, inflation and also the war in Ukraine. 100 days after the Social Democrats, Greens, and Liberals (known colloquially as the *Ampelkoalition* or the “traffic light coalition”) replaced the Merkel-led administration, a first assessment can be

made. The following Allensbach opinion poll commissioned by the Berlin-based think tank *Das Progressive Zentrum* and *Open Society Foundations* shows what the German population thinks about the new administration after their first three turbulent months.

The poll shows that almost every second person understands the *Ampelkoalition* as a progressive coalition. Only 20 percent of the respondents believe that the Merkel-era successor represents “business as usual”. 47 percent associate Scholz and his partners with progress, including an absolute majority of 16-29 olds. The results indicate that the administration’s rhetoric of progress is catching on.

A COALITION OF PROGRESS? YES!



Question: “In your opinion, what does the new administration made up of SPD, the Greens, and FDP mostly stand for: progress, decline, or more ‘business as usual?’”

The traffic light coalition is associated with progress above average by:

- the young generation
- West Germans
- the higher social classes
- the supporters of the Social Democrats and the Greens

In contrast, below average by:

- the supporters of the Free Democrats
- the supporters of the opposition parties
- the East German population

Figure 1 Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population 16 and over
Source: Allensbach Archives, IFD Survey 12050

Looking at the social implications of climate politics, the picture is less optimistic. The majority of the German population believes that the administration’s policies against climate change will increase inequalities in the country. Only two percent of the respondents think that the policies against climate change can decrease

inequalities. The opinion poll was done under the shadow of the war in Ukraine and the ensuing higher energy prices. It clearly shows that almost every second German expects to personally expect disadvantages from policies against climate changes. In east Germany the figure is 61 percent.

THE MAJORITY IS CONVINCED: POLICIES AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES INEQUALITIES

Question: “What do you think: will the new administration’s policies against climate change more likely increase, decrease, or have no effect on inequality in Germany?”

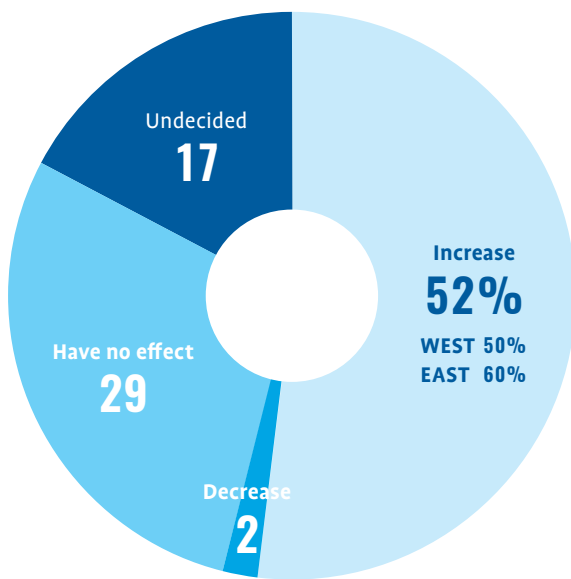


Figure 2 Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population 16 and over
Source: Allensbach Archives, IfD Survey 12050

ALMOST EVERY SECOND PERSON EXPECTS TO PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE DISADVANTAGES - IN EAST GERMANY, THE MAJORITY

Question: “And what does that mean for you personally: do you expect the new administration’s policies against climate change to be for you more advantageous, disadvantageous, or neither?”

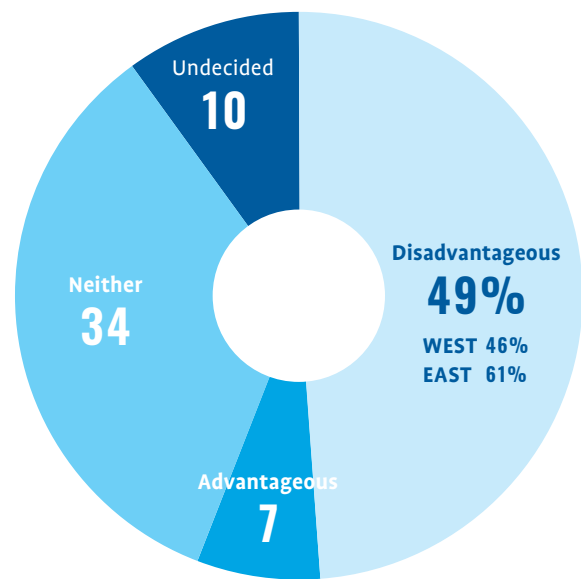


Figure 3 Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population 16 and over
Source: Allensbach Archives, IfD Survey 12050

PARTIAL DISAGREEMENT ON THE SPEED OF CLIMATE POLICIES

After 100 days of the new administration, there is public disagreement when assessing the speed of implementing policies against climate change. While almost half of the respondents who identify with the SPD found the speed of climate policies appropriate, most of the respondents who identify with FDP think the tempo is too fast. In contrast, those who identify with the Greens mostly responded that the work to protect the climate is being implemented too slowly.

Question: “Generally speaking, how would you assess the speed that the new administration uses to advance climate protection policies? Do you think the speed is too fast, too low or appropriate?”

	Total population	Identify with		
		Social Democrats	Greens	Free Democrats
	%	%	%	%
Too fast	23	16	4	34
Too low	22	19	39	21
Appropriate	31	44	34	25
Undecided	24	21	23	20
	100	100	100	100

Figure 4 Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population 16 and over
Source: Allensbach Archives, IfD Survey 12050

FOCUSED ON CLIMATE PROTECTION

Question: “What is your impression of the new administration after several months in office?”

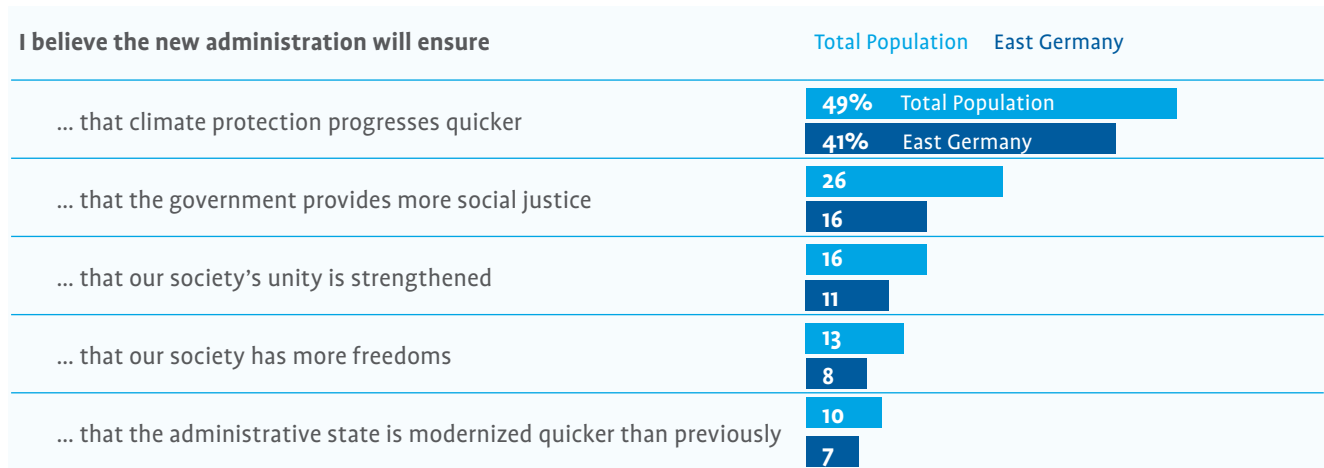


Figure 5 Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population 16 and over Source: Allensbach Archives, IfD Survey 12050

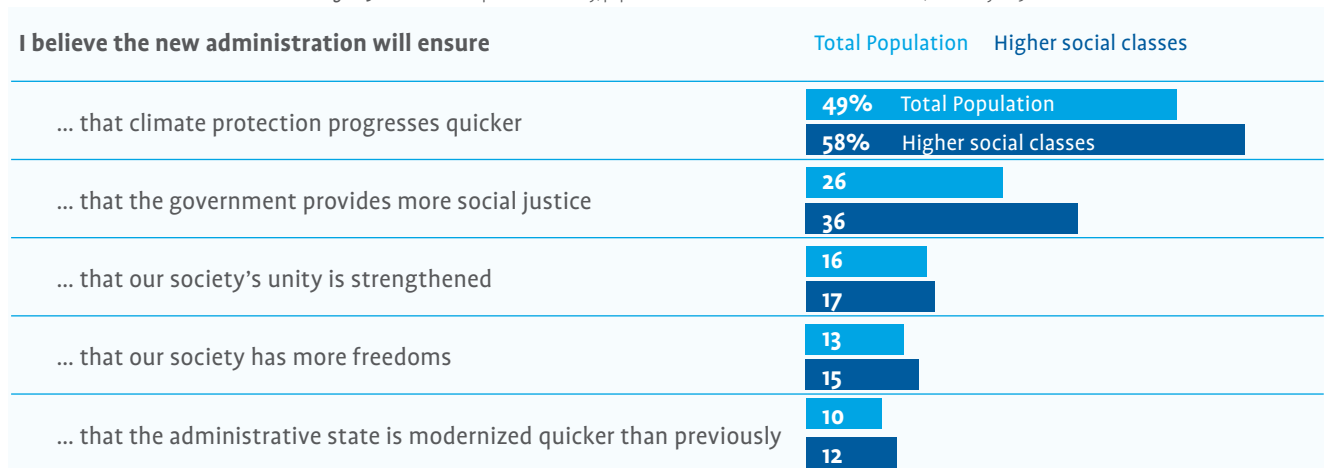


Figure 6 Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population 16 and over Source: Allensbach Archives, IfD Survey 12050

MORE PEOPLE TRUST THE GERMAN ADMINISTRATION’S GOOD CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

It is important to note when the opinion poll was conducted: the first day was on February 24th (the day that Russia invaded Ukraine) and ended on March 8th. On February 27th, Chancellor Olaf Scholz held an extraordinary address in the German Parliament to announce plans for a historic reversal in German foreign and security policy. Between the 24th and 27th of February, only 16 percent of the respondents answered that the administration was good at crisis management, and only 12 percent with good leadership. By the end of the poll’s period, these numbers both increased by five points to 21 and 17 percent, respectively.

Question: “What do you associate with the new administration?”



Figure 7 Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population 16 and over Source: Allensbach Archives, IfD Survey 12050

INCREASED BACKING FOR THE CHANCELLOR'S POLICIES

At the beginning of the year, approval for the Chancellor's policies was clearly favorable, however in the following weeks it turned into criticism. In the second half of February and especially increasing after the new positioning towards the war in Ukraine, the approval clearly rose and outweighs critical opinions 2 to 1.

Question: "A question on Chancellor Scholz: broadly, do you agree or disagree with Olaf Scholz's policies?"

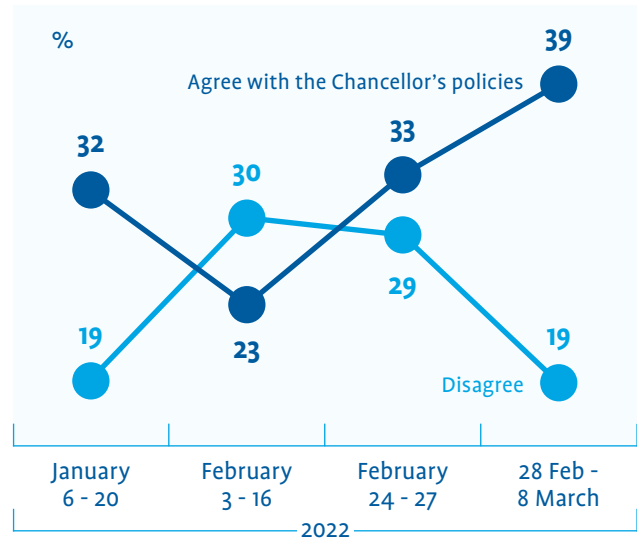


Figure 8 Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population 16 and over Source: Allensbach Archives, IfD Surveys, last 12050

ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE DESIRE TO REFORM THE COUNTRY

The new administration was elected based on the claim of putting forward an ambitious and wide-spanning reform agenda on climate, a modern state and social policy, especially on improving housing and increasing the minimum wage. This is reflected to a considerable extent in the population's perception. Most of the

German population associates the new administration with the desire for reform.

Question: "What do you associate with the new administration? What would you name from the following list?"

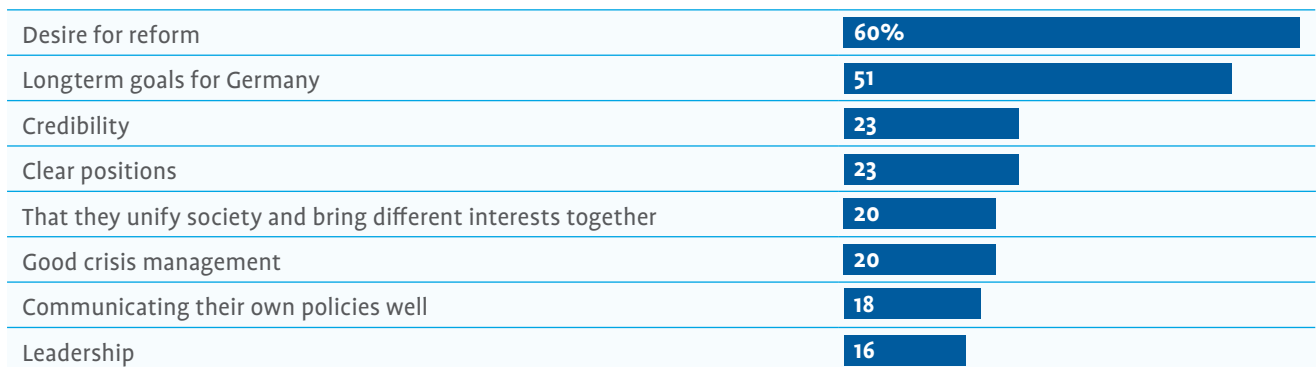


Figure 9 Base: Federal Republic of Germany, population 16 and over Source: Allensbach Archives, IfD Survey 12050

METHODOLOGY

The results are based on an opinion poll by the opinion research institute Allensbach. The sample of respondents is representative of the German population 16 and up. The opinion poll was commissioned by the Berlin-based think

tank Das Progressive Zentrum from February 24th to March 8th, 2022. The sample size included 1001 respondents. The questions were done in-person after filling out a standardized questionnaire.

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