

Nationalism, anti-EU attitudes and populism in Germany

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North-South-Capacity Building

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1. Evaluation of the Situation in Germany

Question: Is Germany developing a new kind of nationalism when it comes to the EU? Are anti-EU attitudes growing in society? Does the populist answer to that have any future chance?

- support for the EU from the population from the beginning on
- but: scepticism is growing louder:

→ this scepticism has grown in the last years, change of attitude towards further going integration

- the crisis in Europe and the whole world had limited effects on Germany's economy (in contrary to most of the other member states)
- some aspects of the crisis benefitted Germany

- at the mean time: concerns about unexpected consequences of the ongoing crisis
- bail-out policies cost the German taxpayers
- European Stability Mechanism (ESM) and European Fiscal Compact
 - long discussed, didn't have the same overwhelming support in Parliament as the Treaty of Lisbon during its ratification
 - ESM was also challenged at the German Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe

- the crisis, ESM and Fiscal Compact: change in political debate about Europe
- Germans criticize EU's inefficiency, lack of transparency, bureaucracy, centralisation, lack of democratic accountability



- Euroscepticism started to find grounds in Germany: in April 2013 the newly formed party '*Alternative für Deutschland*' presented its views on Europe, the Euro, and Germany's future in it
- still: 70 per cent think that membership in the EU is good (EU27: 50%); 8 per cent think it's bad (EU27: 16%);
- 46 %: positive association with EU (EU27: 40%); 18 %: negative association with EU (EU27: 23%)
- [Eurobarometer survey in June 2012]

- Germans in general see Germany's future in a unified Europe
- history has proven: EU unites a continent that underwent centuries of war
- but: German support for the European project should not be taken for granted: Brussels seems too far away, it seems to interfere in national matters too much and unnecessarily
- it should be possible that power comes also back to the Member States
- calls for change in the democratic organization that would lead to more efficiency and transparency

3. Graphics

Growing Belief that National Economy Weakened by Economic Integration of Europe

% Saying overall economy weakened by economic integration of Europe

	2009	2010	2012	09-12 Change
	%	%	%	
Czech Rep.	37	--	59	+22
Italy	41	--	61	+20
Spain	32	41	50	+18
France	55	63	63	+8
Britain	54	57	61	+7
Poland	28	16	29	+1
Germany	43	48	39	-4
Greece	--	--	70	--

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q35.

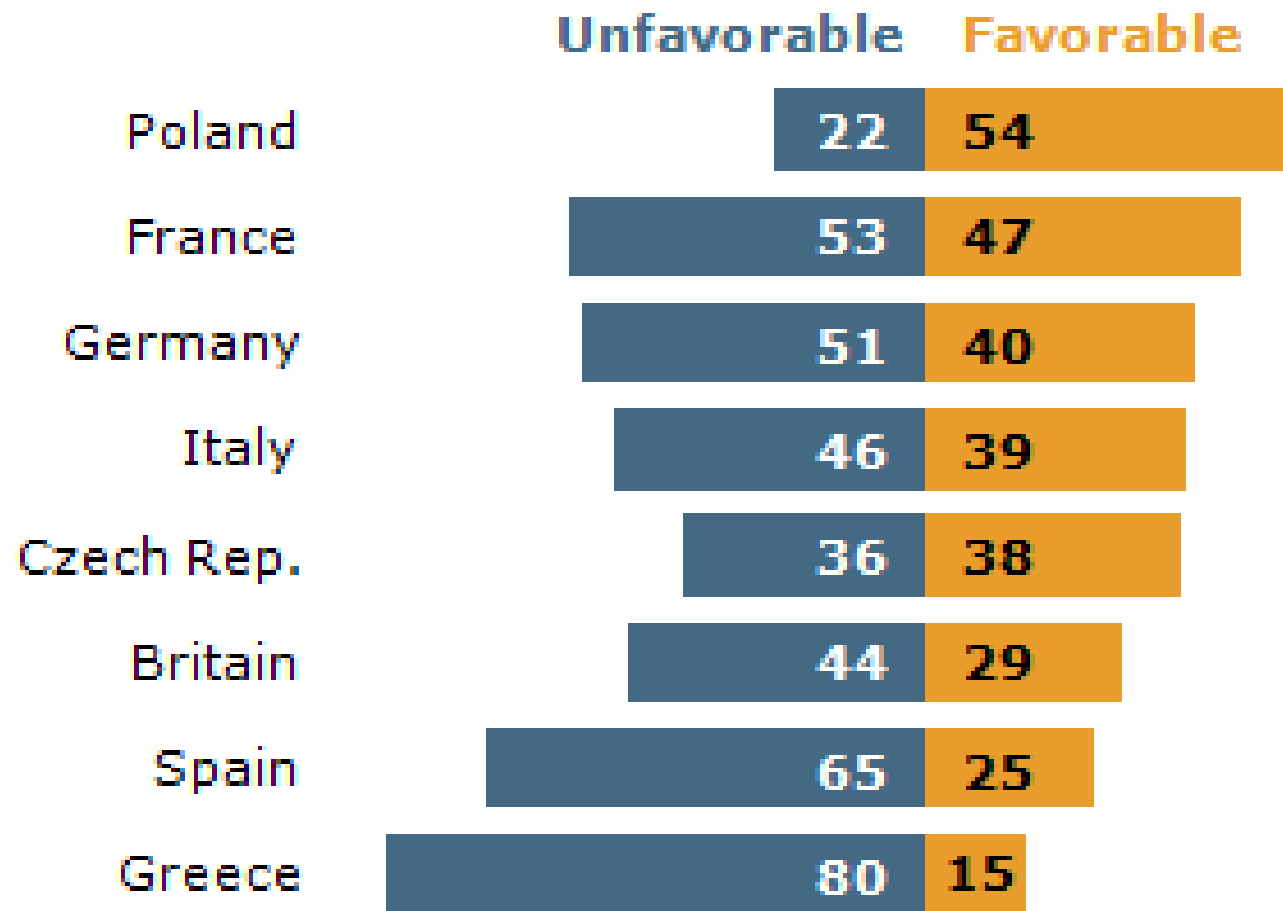
Membership in EU Good Thing?

% Good thing

	2009	2012	Change
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Czech Rep.	45	28	-17
Poland	63	48	-15
Spain	67	54	-13
Italy	47	40	-7
France	54	48	-6
Britain	31	30	-1
Germany	63	65	+2
Greece	--	43	--

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q34.

European Central Bank Generally Seen In Unfavorable Light



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q8o.

Non-Euro Countries Happier with Currency Than Euro Nations, But...

<i>% Saying</i>	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither	DK
<i>having euro is...</i>	%	%	%	%
Greece	46	26	28	1
Germany	44	31	23	1
Spain	37	41	22	1
France	31	40	29	0
Italy	30	44	24	2

% Saying not having euro is...

Britain	73	7	18	1
Czech Rep.	62	15	21	2
Poland	54	23	17	6

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Majorities Say Keep the Euro

	Keep euro	Return to	DK
	%	currency*	%
	%	%	%
Greece	71	23	6
France	69	31	0
Germany	66	32	2
Spain	60	36	4
Italy	52	40	7

* In France, question asked about franc; in Germany mark; in Spain peseta; in Italy lira; in Greece drachma.

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4. *Alternative für Deutschland*

- condemns European politics of the government of Angela Merkel
- want the Deutsche Mark back
- the party believes that they are representing a majority in the population
- want to stop the bailing-out politics of Germany
- Want a European Community but the monetary union is rather dividing the continent than uniting it
- leaving the EU is not that easy: 5-year-plan



Alternative

für

Deutschland

5. Sources

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