

PARLEMETER: REGIONAL ANALYSIS 2016 PERCEPTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN GERMANY

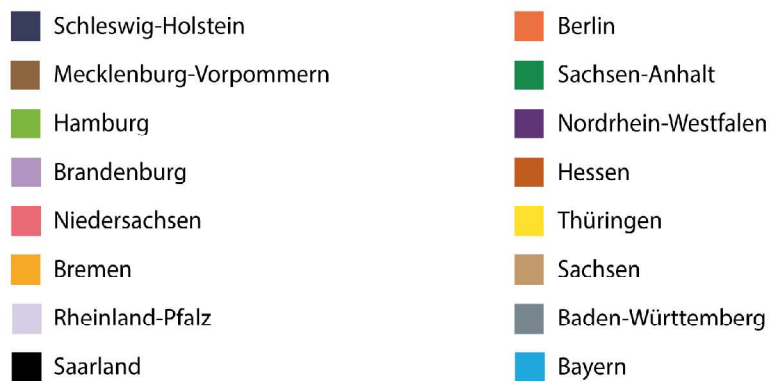
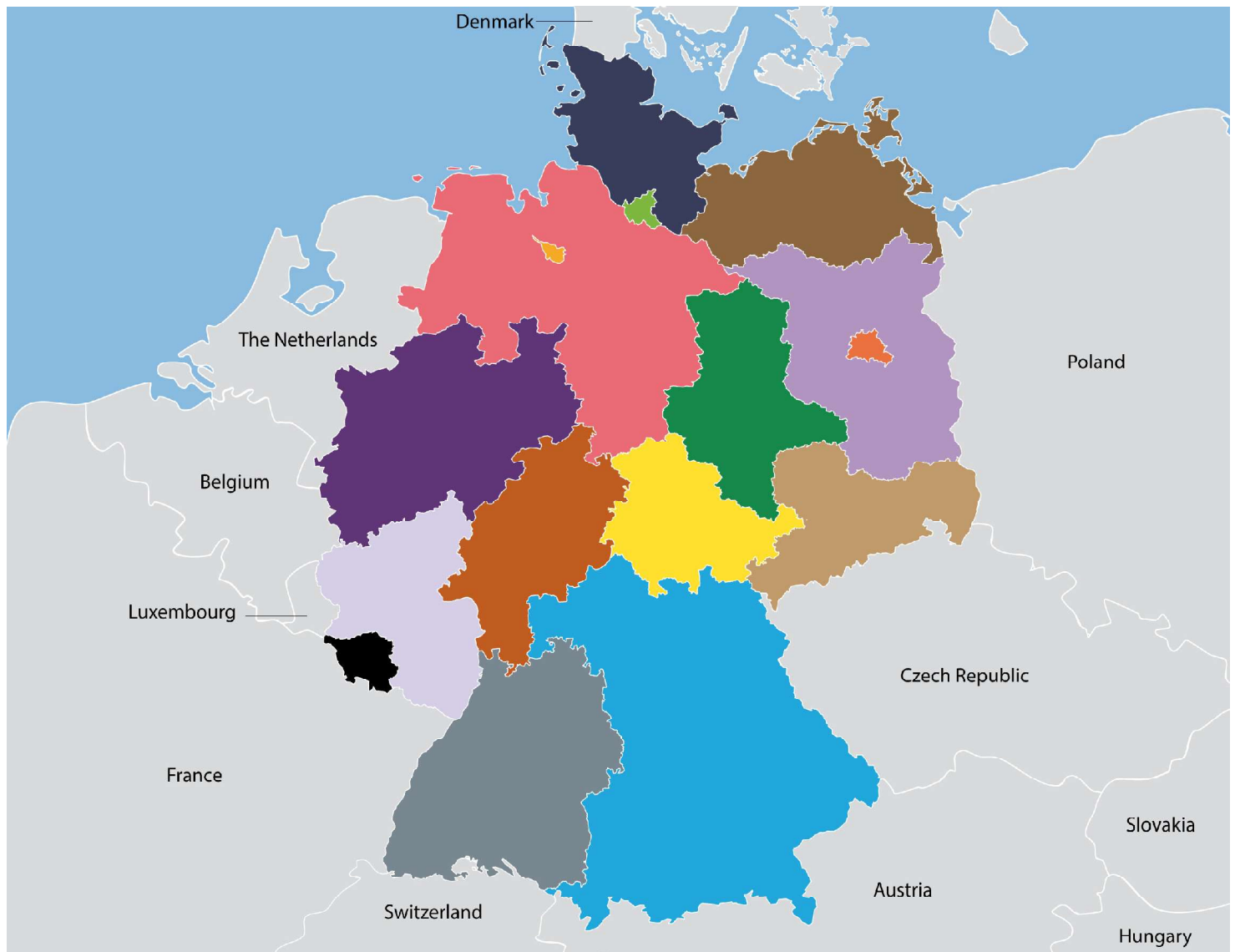
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NATIONAL REGIONS



REGIONAL ANALYSIS RESULTS FOR GERMANY



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METHODOLOGICAL ANNEX: REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE EUROBAROMETER RESULTS

The regional analysis that follows is based on the European Parliament's *Eurobarometer* surveys.

Eurobarometer surveys are carried out on **national samples of a standard size, composed of Europeans aged 15 years and over**, which ensure **representativeness** on a national scale. Thus, approximately 1000 interviews are conducted in each country, except in Germany (N1500), the United Kingdom (N1300), Luxembourg (N500), Cyprus (N500) and Malta (N500).

However, even in the biggest countries, **the number of interviews conducted in each region is too small for the results to be reliable at this level in a single survey**. However, combining the data from several EB/EP surveys in which the same questions were asked makes it possible to uncover regional results. A sufficient number of interviewees is needed (generally at least 150) to begin drawing conclusions about overall regional *trends*.

The eighteen surveys taken into account for this data aggregation were commissioned by the European Parliament's Directorate-General for Communication. The surveys were carried out by Kantar Public Brussels between September 2007 and October 2016¹. Please note that some questions are analysed here over a shorter time period, covering only the waves in which they were asked.

Given the geographical features of some countries, please note that up to 5% of a country's territory may not be covered by *Eurobarometer* surveys.

Public Opinion Monitoring Unit

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¹ The eighteen surveys taken into account in this analysis are as follows: EB/EP 86.1 (fieldwork conducted from 24 September to 3 October 2016); EB/EP 84.1 (19 – 29 September 2015); EB/EP 82.4 (29 November – 9 December 2014); EB/EP 79.5 (7 – 23 June 2013); EB/EP 78.2 (17 November – 2 December 2012); EB/EP 77.4 (2 – 17 June 2012); EB/EP 77.2 (10 – 25 March 2012); EB/EP 76.3 (5 – 20 November 2011); EB/EP 76.1 (3 – 18 September 2011); EB/EP 75.2 (13 April – 8 May 2011); EB/EP 74.3 (25 November – 17 December 2010); EB/EP 74.1 (26 August – 16 September 2010); EB/EP 73.4 (5 – 28 May 2010); EB/EP 73.1 (29 January – 17 February 2010); EB/EP 71.3 (12 June – 6 July 2009); EB/EP 71.1 (16 January – 22 February 2009); EB/EP 70.1 (6 October – 6 November 2008); EB/EP 68.1 (22 September – 3 November 2007).

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REGIONAL ANALYSIS

- **MEDIA RECALL OF THE EP:** Media recall of the European Parliament is greater in Germany (64%) than in the EU as a whole (55%). In every German region, an absolute majority of respondents can remember recently reading, seeing or hearing information about the European Parliament (ranging from 55% in Schleswig-Holstein to 73% in Bremen).
- **SUBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON THE EP'S ACTIVITIES:** A third of respondents in Germany feel that they are well-informed about the European Parliament's activities (33%, compared with 29% for the EU as a whole). Subjective knowledge is the most widespread in both Hamburg and Rheinland-Pfalz (41%), and the least so in both Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Thüringen (27%).
- **MY VOICE COUNTS:**
 - a) **IN THE EU:** An absolute majority of respondents in Germany agree that their voice counts in the EU (51% vs. 43%), whereas a minority of respondents say so in the EU as a whole (38% vs. 56%). There are substantial differences between German regions: seven in ten respondents consider that their voice counts in the EU in Hamburg (70%), whereas less than a third do so in Sachsen (31%).
 - b) **IN OUR COUNTRY:** Three-quarters of respondents in Germany consider that their voice counts in their country (75%), a much higher proportion than in the EU as a whole (58%). Sachsen is the only German region where less than six in ten respondents consider that their voice counts in Germany (57%), compared with nearly nine in ten in Rheinland-Pfalz (88%).
- **MEMBERSHIP OF THE EU:** Seven in ten respondents in Germany believe that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing (70%, a much higher proportion than the European average, 52%). Absolute majorities share this opinion in all German regions, with the highest proportions in Hamburg (89%) and Bremen (87%), and the lowest in Thüringen (52%).
- **IMAGE OF THE EP:** 47% of respondents in Germany have a neutral image of the EP (for 43% in the EU as a whole); 29% have a positive image of the EP and 21% a negative image (compared with 29% vs. 24% in the European average). Hamburg (41%) is the region where respondents are most positive about the EP, compared with 17% in Thüringen.
- **THE EXPECTED ROLE OF THE EP:** A majority of respondents in Germany want the EP to play a more important role than at present (44%), a proportion below the European average (48%). In every German region, a majority of respondents would like the EP to play a bigger role than it currently does. Respondents in Hamburg (64%) and Berlin (57%) are the most likely to think so, whereas this opinion is less widespread in Schleswig-Holstein (38%).

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REGIONAL ANALYSIS

- **KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EP:** A relative majority of respondents in Germany know that MEPs sit in the Parliament on the basis of their political affinities (41%, compared with 43% in the EU as a whole), while around a third wrongly believe that they sit together on the basis of their nationality (32%, compared with 38% in the EU as a whole). In fourteen regions, a majority of respondents give the correct answer, with the highest proportion measured in Hamburg (54%). In Thüringen (38%) and Brandenburg (37%), a majority of respondents think that MEPs sit according to their nationality.
- **KNOWLEDGE OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN THE EP:** 32% of respondents in Germany think that decisions in the EP are primarily adopted according to the interests of the Member States from which the MEPs come, whereas 31% believe that the political affinities of the MEPs are more important (compared with EU averages of 36% for both options). Majorities cite the interests of the Member States from which the MEPs come in seven regions, with the highest proportion in both Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Rheinland-Pfalz (36%). Lowest proportions for this item are found in Baden-Württemberg, Sachsen and Schleswig-Holstein (28% in all three regions).
- **KNOWLEDGE OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE EP IS ELECTED:** 54% of respondents in Germany know how MEPs are elected, compared with 57% in the EU as a whole. In all German regions, majorities give the correct answer: residents of Hamburg are the most likely to know that MEPs are directly elected by EU citizens (85%), far ahead those of Rheinland-Pfalz (46%).
- **PRIORITY POLICIES:** "Tackling poverty and social exclusion" is the first priority identified by respondents in Germany (49%) as in the EU as a whole (51%). It reaches its highest scores in both Bremen and Thüringen (59%), and its lowest in both Hessen and Rheinland-Pfalz (41%). "Coordinating economic, budget and tax policies" comes in second position in Germany (39%, for 30% in the EU, in equal second position). It is cited more often in Thüringen (51%) than in Schleswig-Holstein (30%). "Combating climate change" comes in third position in Germany (34%, compared with 23% in the EU, in equal seventh place). Its regional scores range from 19% in Hamburg to 44% in Bremen.
- **PRIORITY VALUES:** "The protection of human rights" is the most important value that should be defended by the EP for respondents in Germany, as in the EU as a whole (67% in Germany, for 57% in the EU). This value is cited much more in Thüringen (72%) than in Bremen (53%). "Solidarity between EU Member States" comes in second position in Germany (36%, for 33% in the EU, in equal third place); respondents in Hamburg are most likely to mention this value (48%), which is cited least in Thüringen (28%). "Equality between men and women" completes the trio of values mentioned most frequently in Germany (33%, for 34% in the EU, in second position). Its score ranges from 22% in Hamburg to 48% in Thüringen. "The dialogue between cultures and religions" comes in fourth position in Germany (28%, for 22% in the EU, in sixth place), with proportions varying between 20% in Schleswig-Holstein and 33% in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

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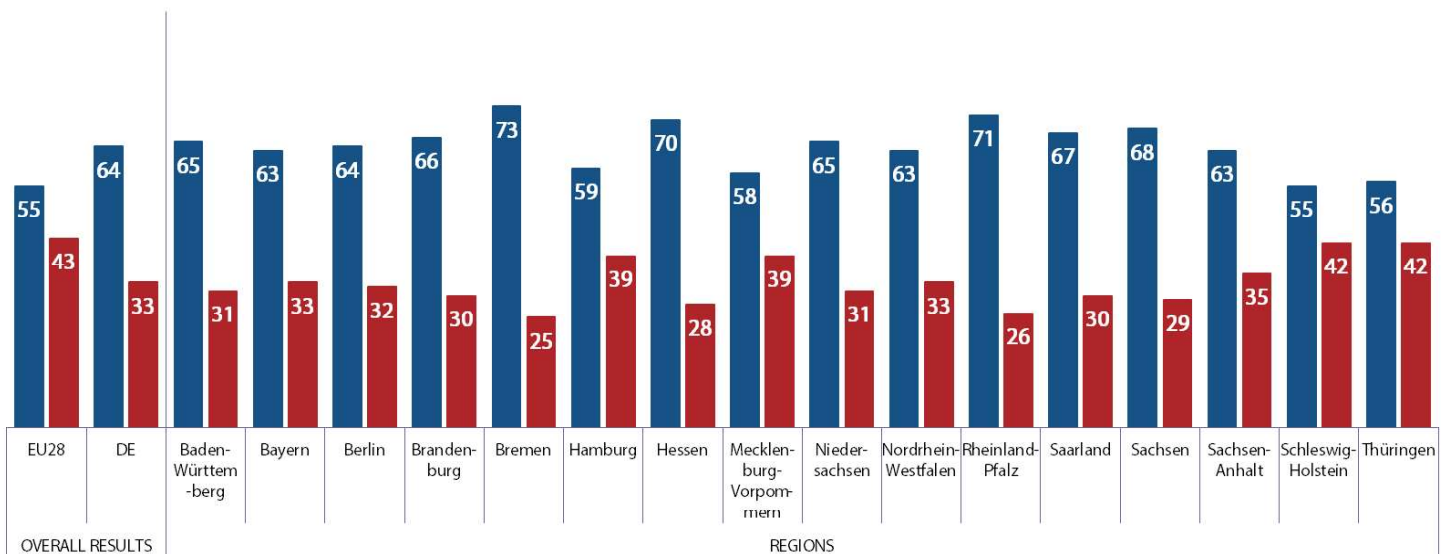
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MEDIA RECALL OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the European Parliament? (%) - Aggregated results 2007-2016

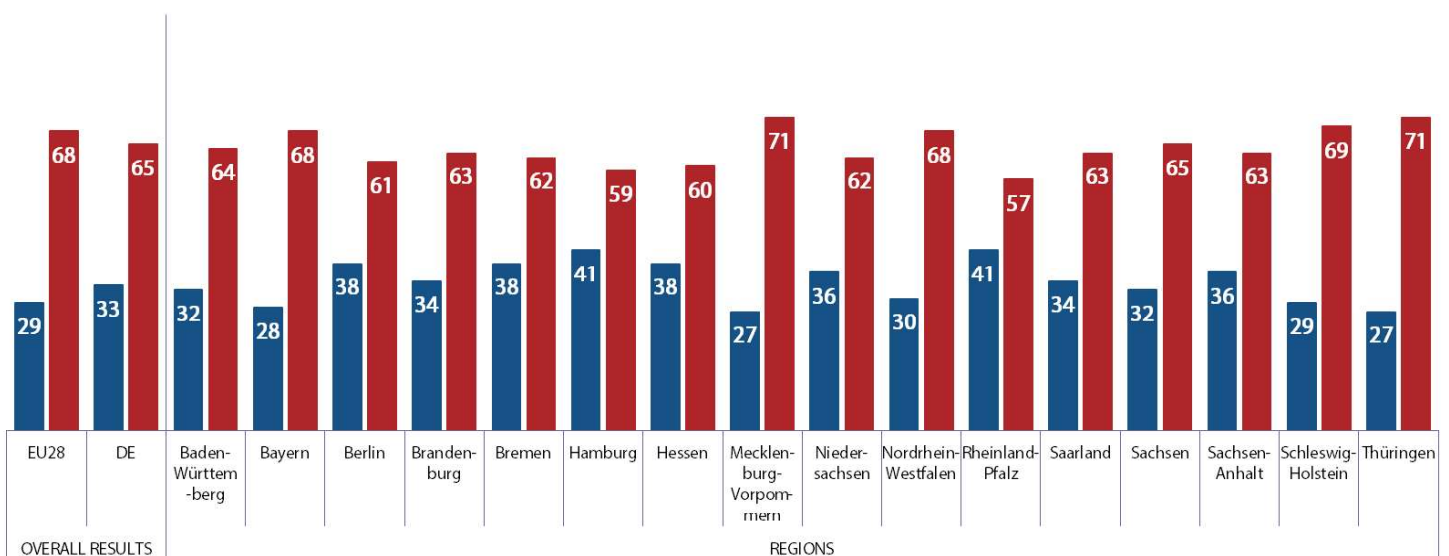
■ Yes ■ No



SUBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S ACTIVITIES

In general, do you consider that you are very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly informed about the European Parliament's activities? (%) - Aggregated results 2007-2016

■ Total 'Well informed' ■ Total 'Not well informed'



REGIONAL ANALYSIS RESULTS FOR GERMANY



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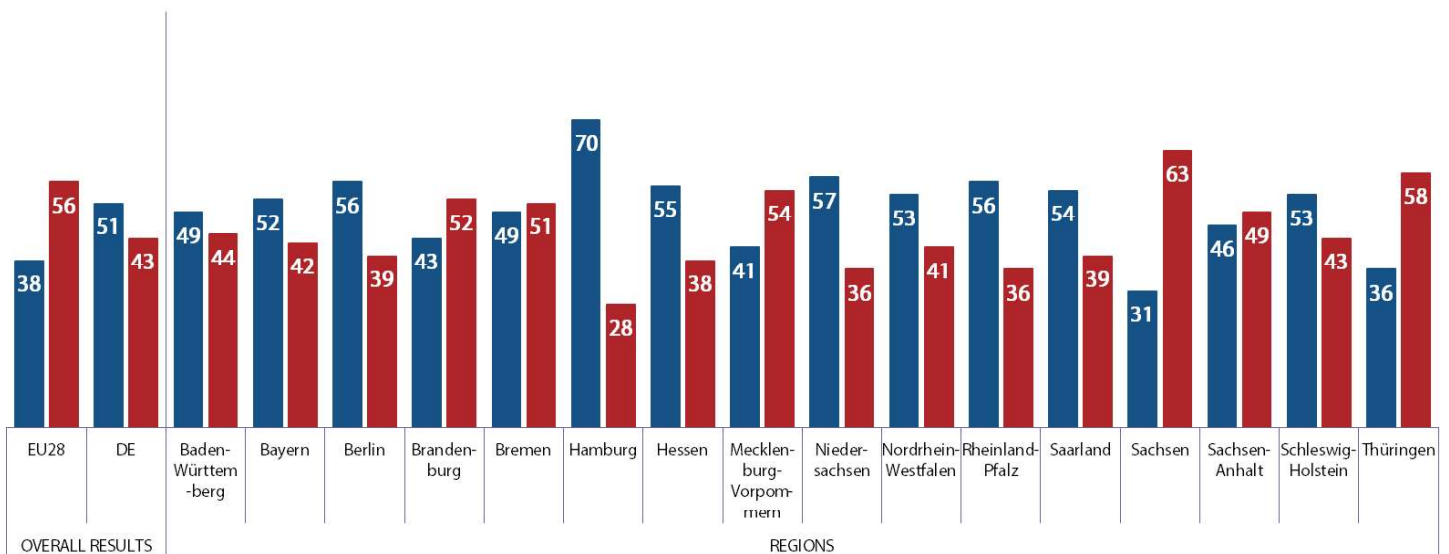
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MY VOICE COUNTS IN THE EU

Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
'My voice counts in the EU' (%) - Aggregated results 2009-2016

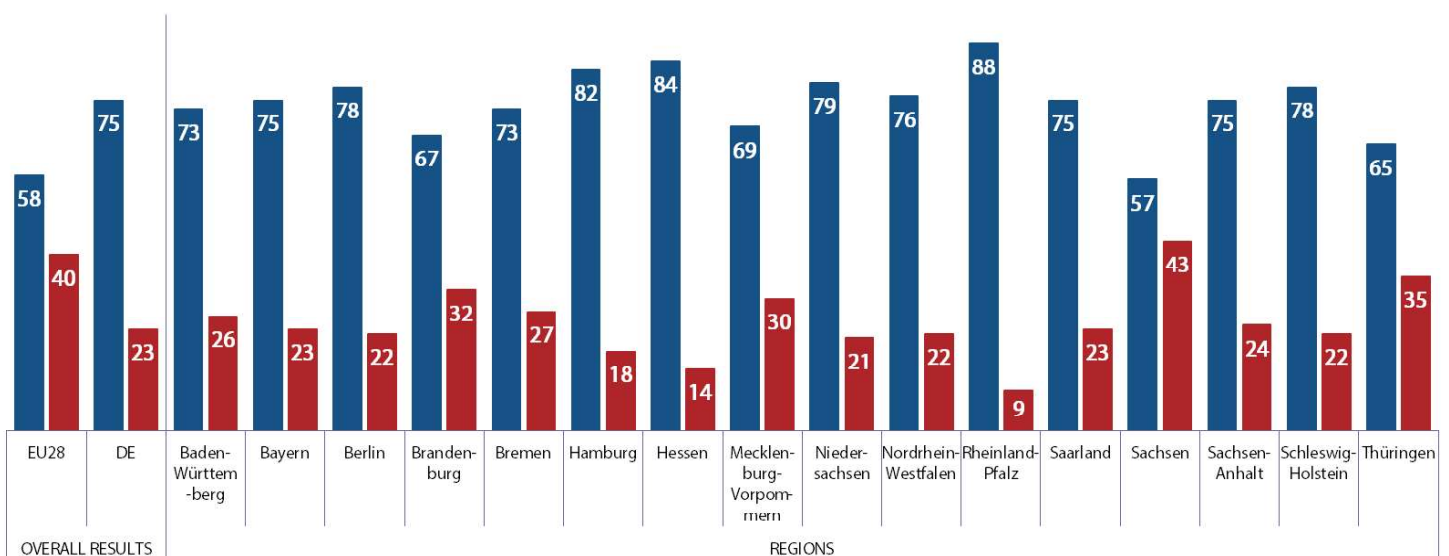
■ Total Agree ■ Total Disagree



MY VOICE COUNTS IN OUR COUNTRY

Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
'My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)' (%) - Aggregated results 2012-2016

■ Total 'Agree' ■ Total 'Disagree'



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MEMBERSHIP

Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (%)
- Aggregated results 2012-2016

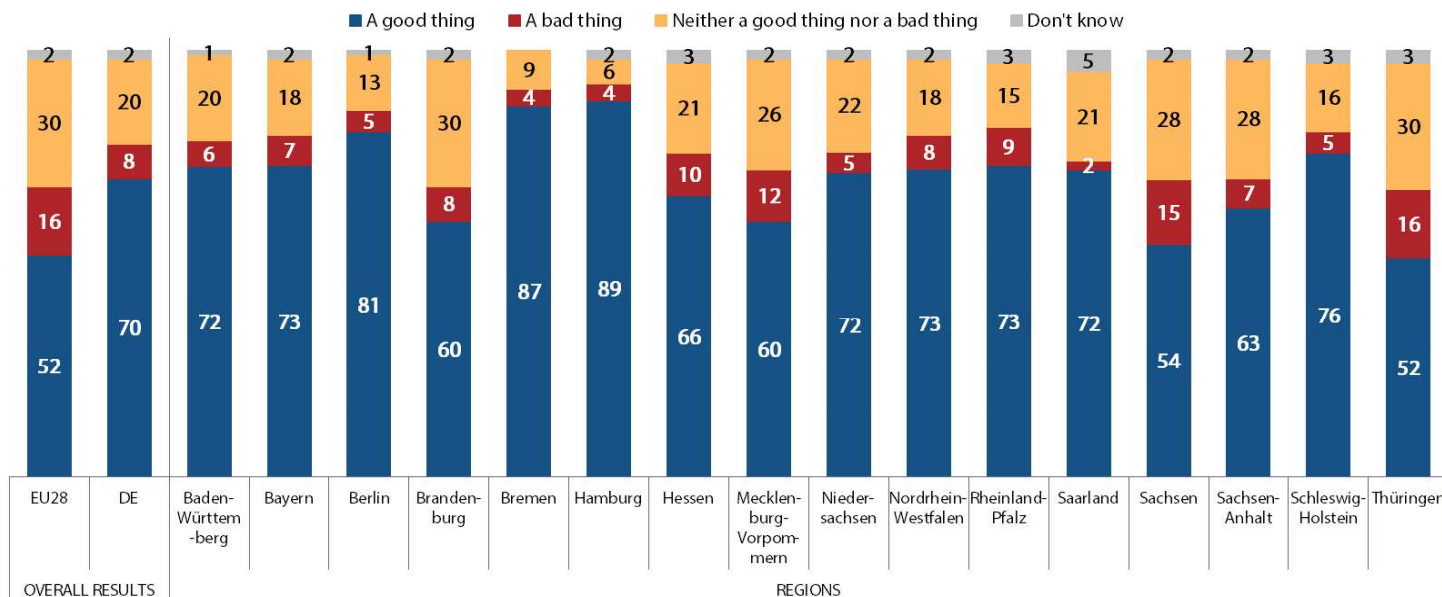
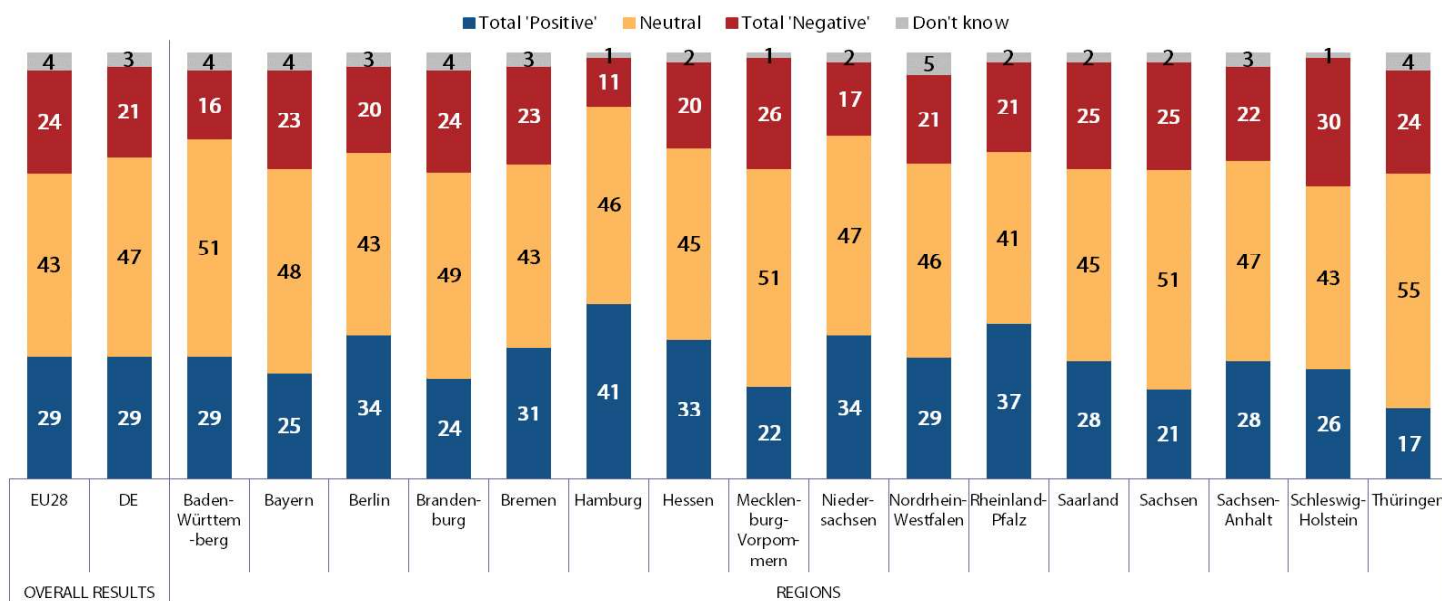


IMAGE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In general, does the European Parliament conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (%) - Aggregated results 2007-2016



REGIONAL ANALYSIS RESULTS FOR GERMANY



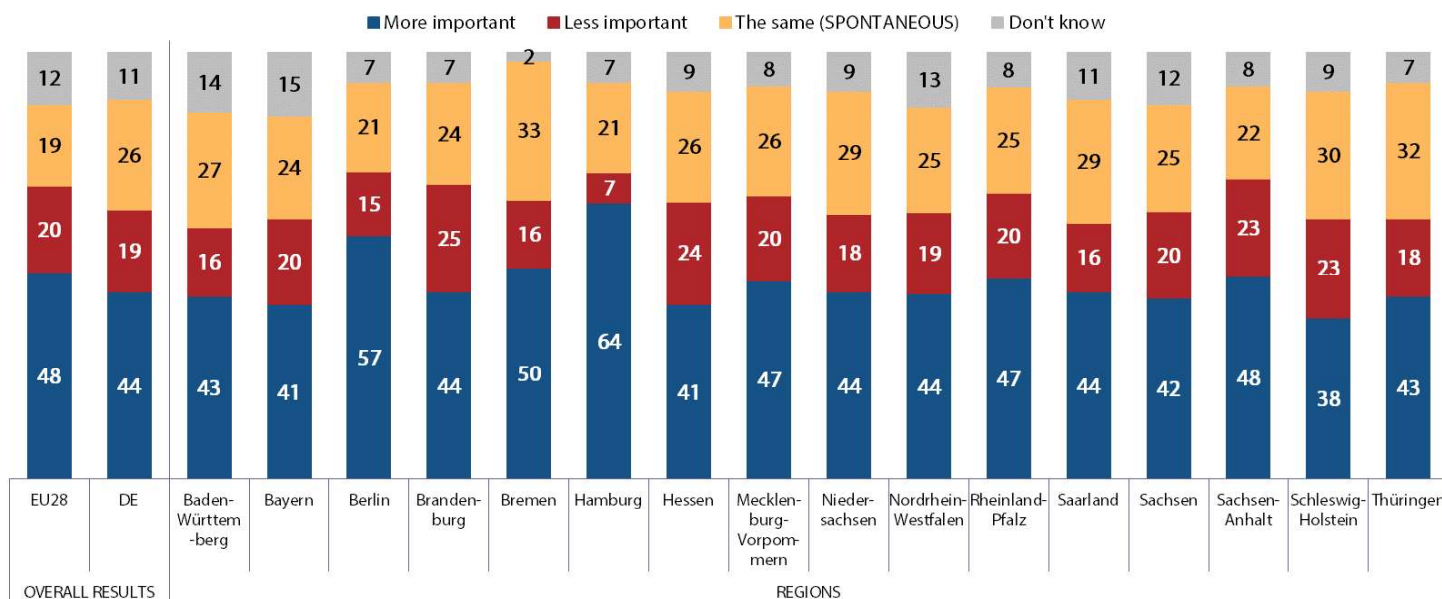
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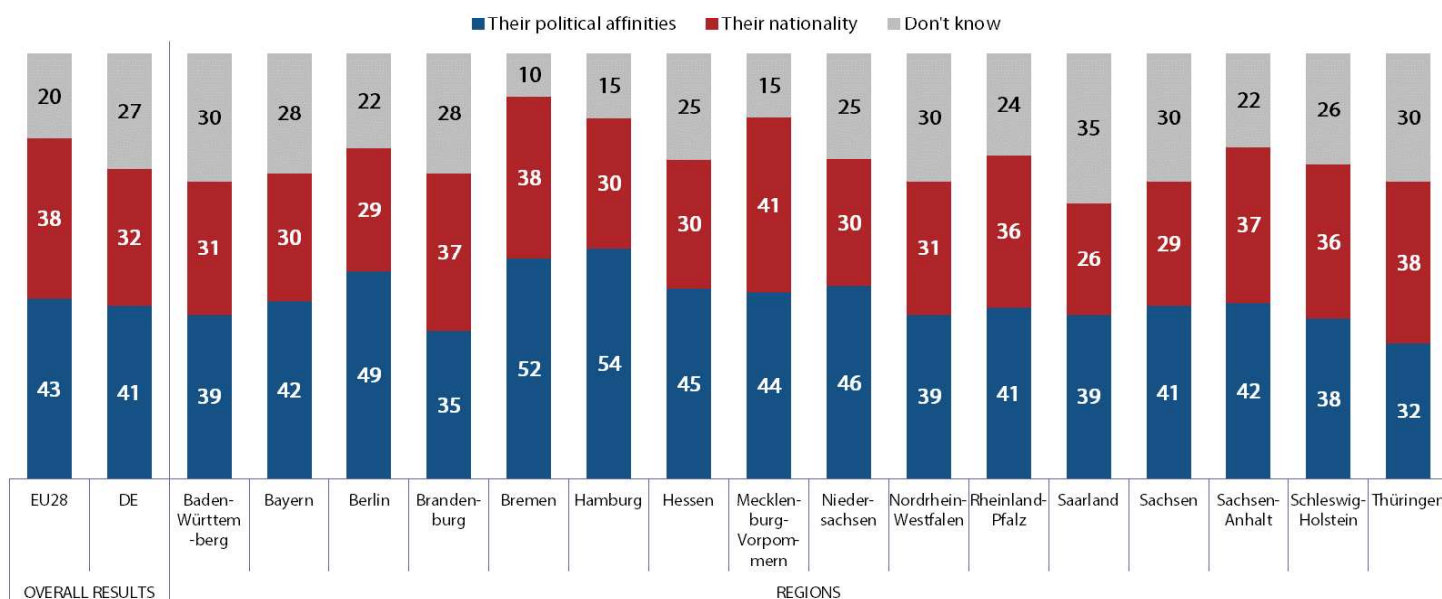
THE EXPECTED ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role than it currently does? (%) - Aggregated results 2007-2016



KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTION

And, in your opinion, do members of the European Parliament sit in the European Parliament according to...? (%) - Aggregated results 2007-2016



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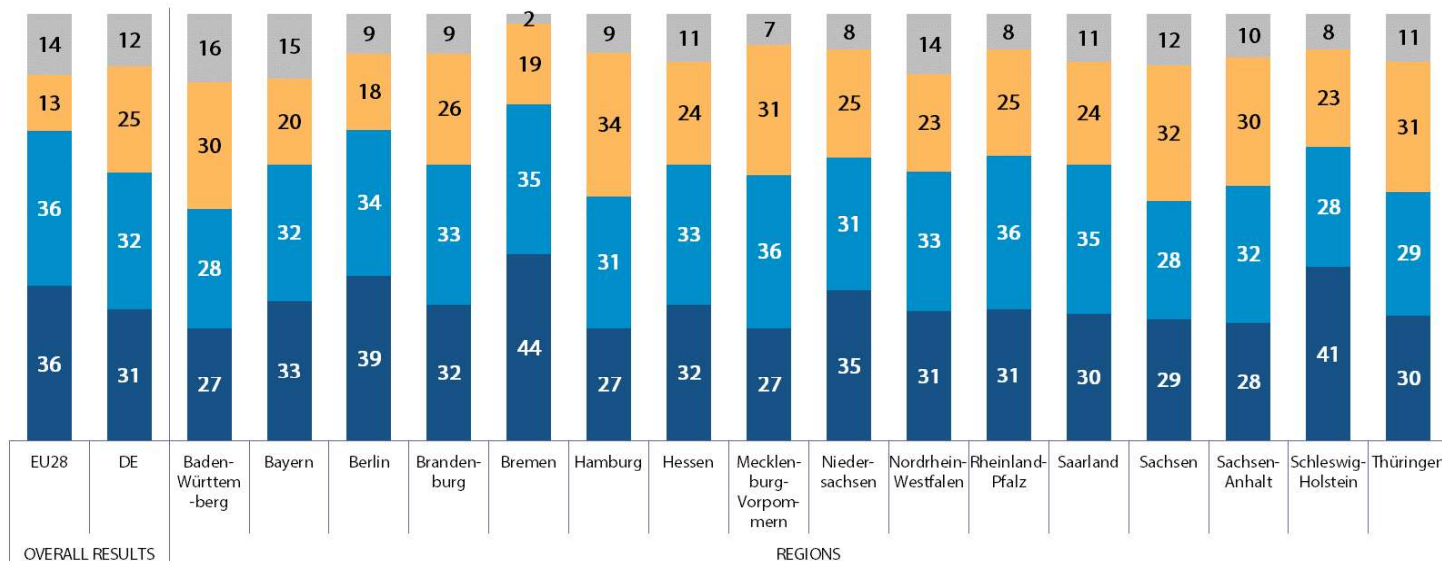
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KNOWLEDGE OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Would you say that the European Parliament's decisions are adopted above all...? (%)
- Aggregated results 2007-2016

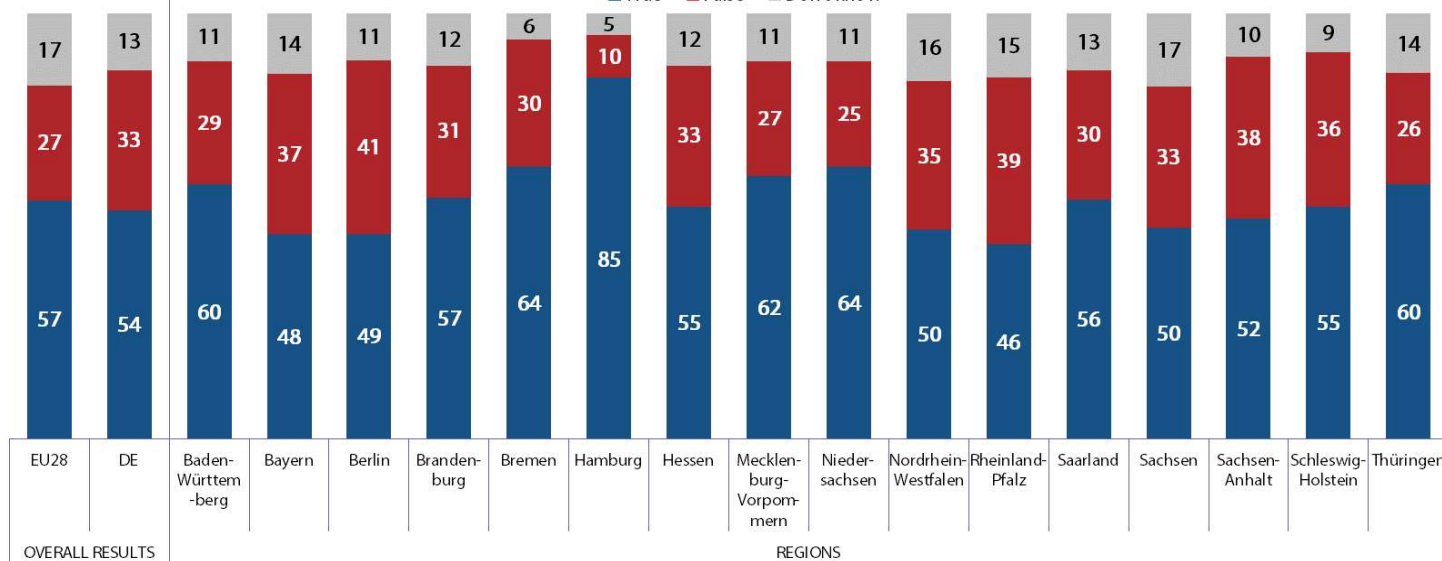
■ According to the political affinities of the MEPs ■ According to the interests of the Member States from which the MEPs come ■ Both (SPONTANEOUS) ■ Don't know



KNOWLEDGE OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE INSTITUTION IS ELECTED

For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false?
The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State (%)
- Aggregated results 2007-2015

■ True ■ False ■ Don't know



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PRIORITY POLICIES

The European Parliament promotes the development of certain policies at European Union level. In your opinion, which of the following policies should be given priority? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS)

Aggregated results 2010-2016	EU28	DE	Baden-Württemberg	Bayern	Berlin	Brandenburg	Bremen	Hamburg	Hessen	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Niedersachsen	Nordrhein-Westfalen	Rheinland-Pfalz	Saarland	Sachsen	Sachsen-Anhalt	Schleswig-Holstein	Thüringen
Tackling poverty and social exclusion	51%	49%	49%	45%	53%	52%	59%	53%	41%	51%	52%	52%	41%	46%	47%	56%	53%	59%
Coordinating economic, budget and tax policies	30%	39%	36%	38%	45%	43%	37%	47%	38%	40%	39%	34%	46%	37%	45%	41%	30%	51%
Combating climate change	23%	34%	39%	36%	37%	29%	44%	19%	31%	35%	36%	33%	35%	32%	22%	34%	37%	25%
Combating terrorism while respecting individual freedoms	28%	31%	27%	29%	27%	30%	26%	40%	24%	37%	28%	38%	27%	31%	26%	40%	36%	26%
A common energy policy intended to ensure the EU's energy independence	20%	31%	38%	32%	31%	27%	24%	46%	29%	24%	35%	26%	37%	38%	27%	26%	25%	30%
An immigration policy implemented in consultation with countries of origin	24%	30%	34%	34%	29%	27%	23%	42%	29%	29%	29%	29%	21%	32%	30%	28%	25%	31%
Improving consumer and public health protection	30%	25%	24%	26%	26%	30%	26%	15%	22%	31%	24%	24%	31%	29%	25%	36%	22%	36%
A security and defence policy that enables the EU to face up to international crisis	27%	25%	26%	24%	26%	23%	19%	30%	27%	23%	24%	27%	26%	20%	23%	23%	25%	22%
A foreign policy that enables the EU to speak with one voice on the international stage	19%	25%	29%	25%	23%	18%	30%	40%	31%	24%	25%	24%	31%	24%	20%	22%	20%	18%
An agricultural policy that is environmentally friendly and contributes to the global food balance	23%	18%	19%	21%	19%	19%	28%	15%	22%	21%	20%	13%	21%	9%	14%	21%	13%	21%
The assertion of a European social model	14%	17%	16%	15%	20%	25%	23%	18%	21%	19%	16%	18%	14%	8%	19%	18%	12%	16%
A research and development (R&D) policy that ensures competitiveness and innovation	15%	13%	15%	11%	13%	10%	21%	5%	15%	10%	12%	12%	18%	13%	14%	14%	8%	12%

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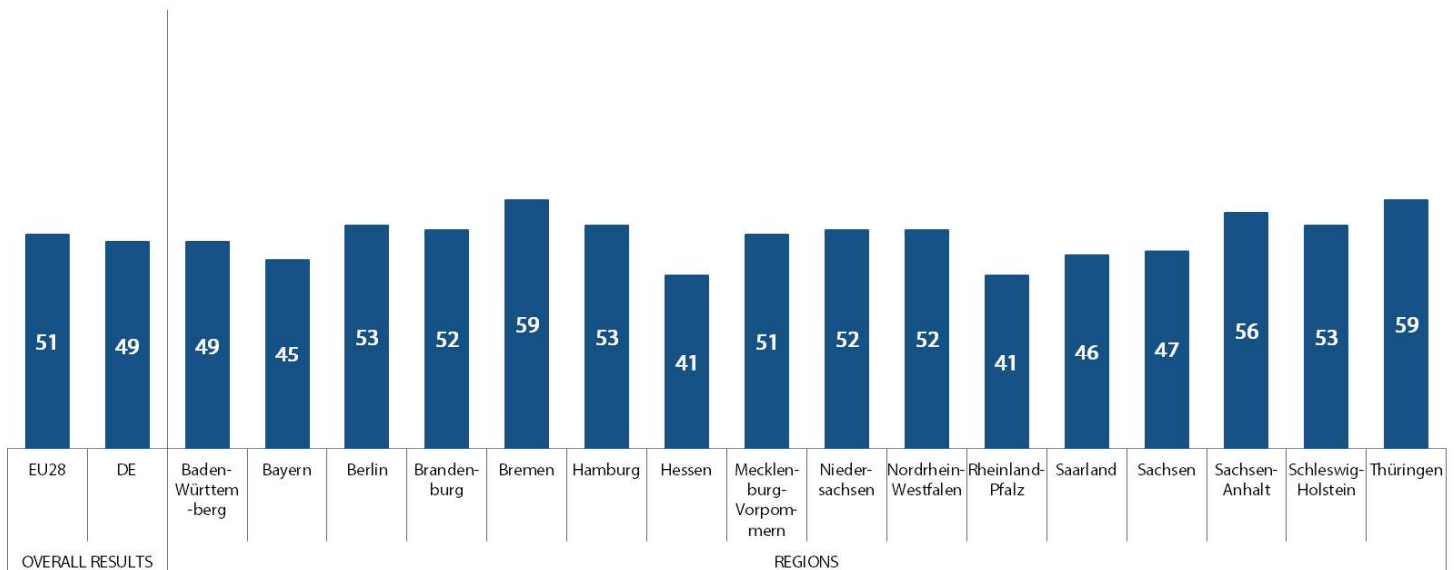


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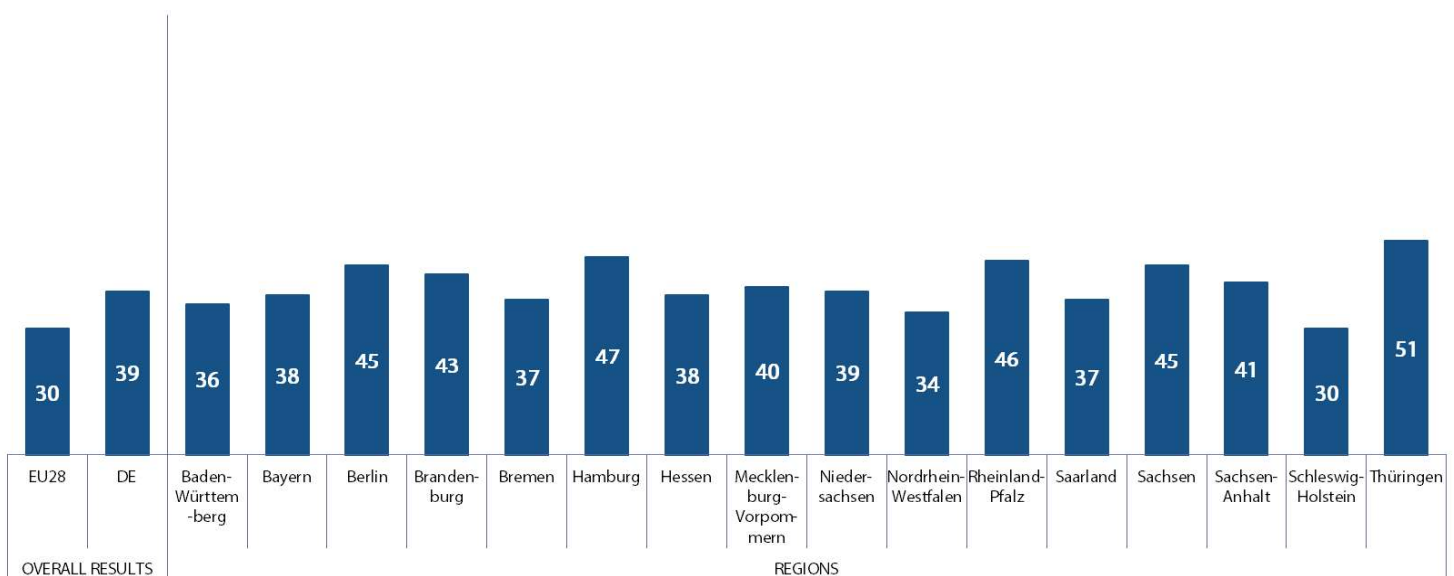


PRIORITY POLICIES: TOP FOUR POLICIES IN GERMANY

Answer: 'Tackling poverty and social exclusion' (%)
- Aggregated results 2010-2016



Answer: 'Coordinating economic, budget and tax policies' (%)
- Aggregated results 2010-2016



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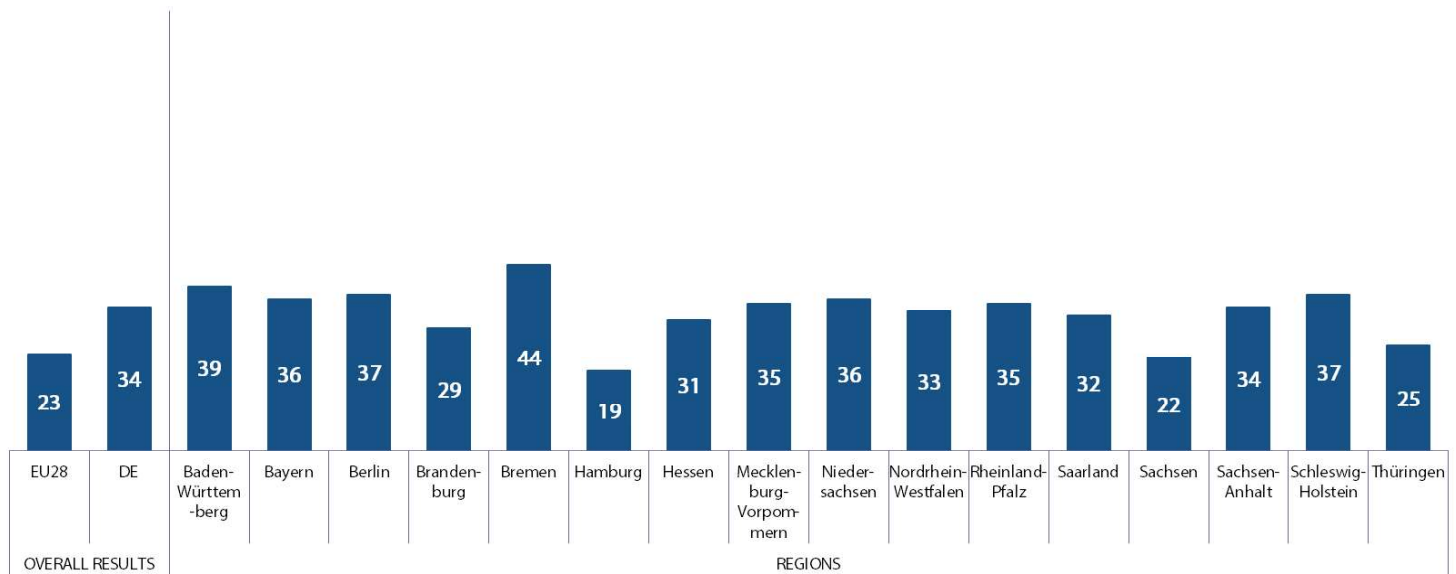


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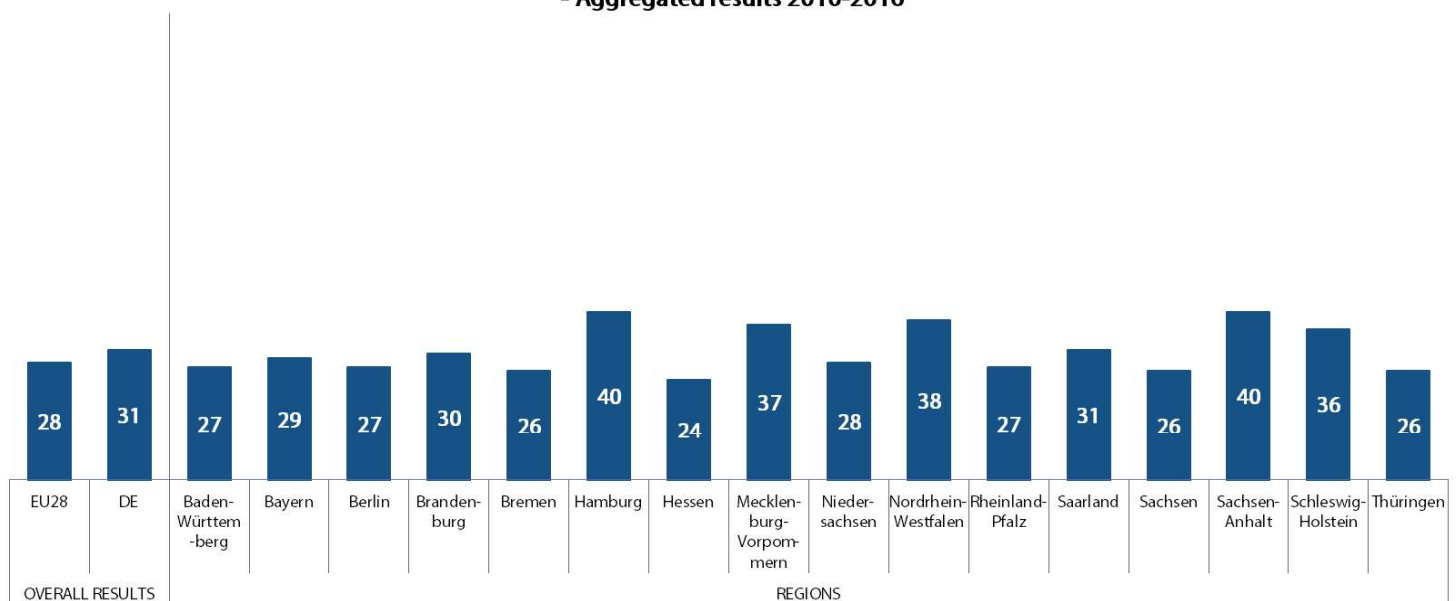


PRIORITY POLICIES: TOP FOUR POLICIES IN GERMANY

Answer: 'Combating climate change' (%)
- Aggregated results 2010-2016



Answer: 'Combating terrorism while respecting individual freedoms' (%)
- Aggregated results 2010-2016



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PRIORITY VALUES

In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

Aggregated results 2007-2016	EU28	DE	Baden-Württemberg	Bayern	Berlin	Brandenburg	Bremen	Hamburg	Hessen	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Niedersachsen	Nordrhein-Westfalen	Rheinland-Pfalz	Saarland	Sachsen	Sachsen-Anhalt	Schleswig-Holstein	Thüringen
The protection of human rights	57%	67%	64%	69%	71%	64%	53%	67%	66%	62%	66%	69%	66%	66%	64%	68%	70%	72%
Solidarity between EU Member States	33%	36%	45%	33%	33%	34%	42%	48%	38%	39%	37%	33%	40%	38%	42%	36%	30%	28%
Equality between men and women	34%	33%	32%	31%	42%	45%	28%	22%	27%	38%	31%	32%	24%	33%	35%	44%	38%	48%
The dialogue between cultures and religions	22%	28%	29%	28%	28%	21%	32%	31%	27%	33%	31%	30%	27%	23%	31%	26%	20%	26%
Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world	25%	27%	28%	26%	27%	26%	38%	30%	25%	33%	30%	24%	32%	21%	26%	34%	23%	24%
The protection of minorities	20%	24%	23%	25%	27%	20%	22%	26%	25%	19%	24%	26%	25%	23%	18%	16%	25%	23%
Freedom of speech	33%	22%	22%	28%	27%	20%	13%	17%	22%	20%	19%	22%	19%	21%	17%	19%	20%	25%
The abolition of the death penalty throughout the world	14%	20%	18%	24%	16%	14%	20%	36%	25%	13%	17%	22%	16%	16%	12%	20%	21%	16%



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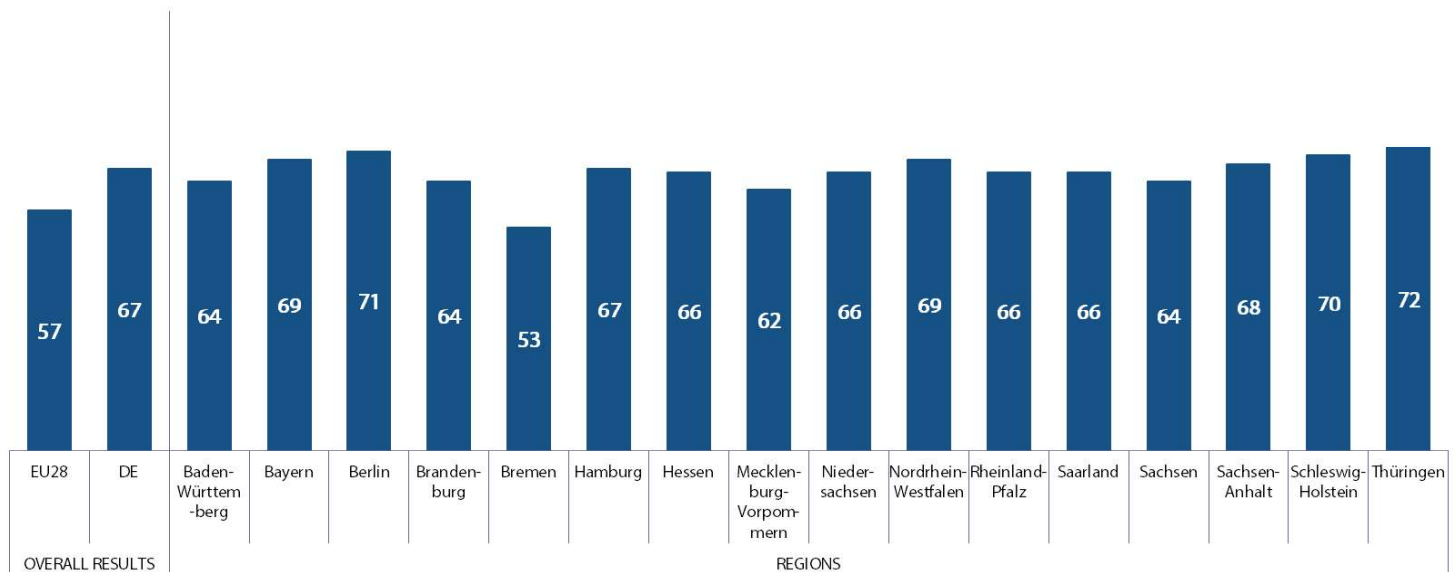


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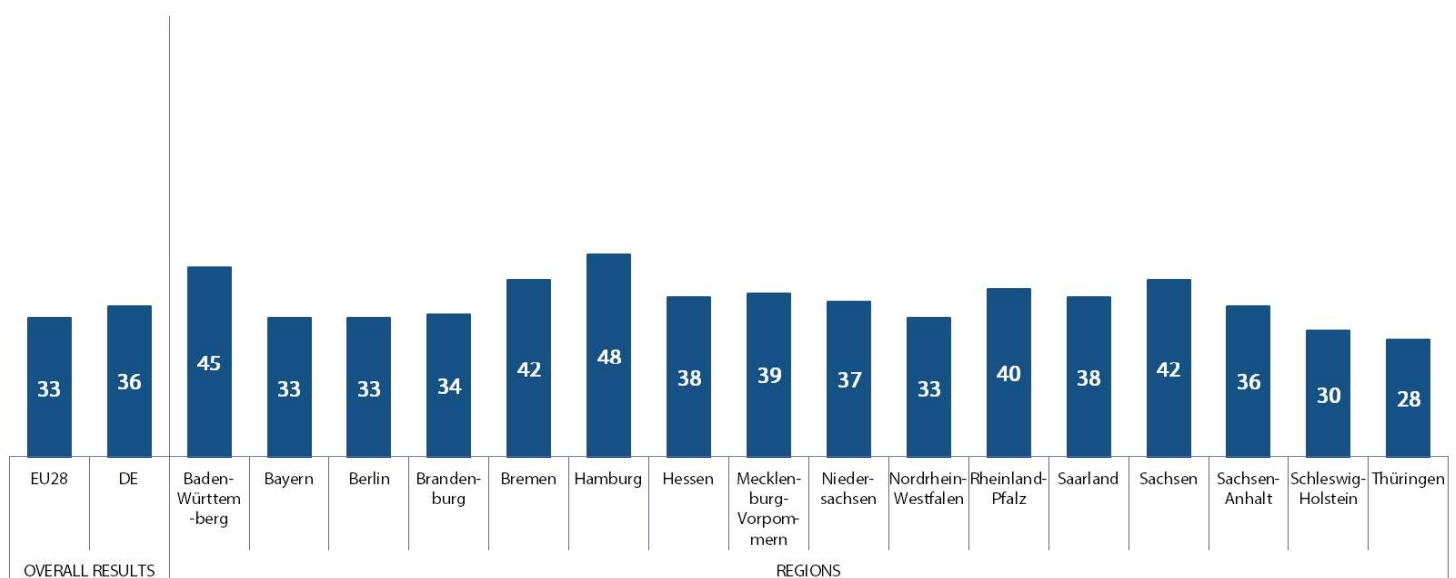


PRIORITY VALUES: TOP FOUR VALUES IN GERMANY

Answer: 'The protection of human rights' (%)
- Aggregated results 2007-2016



Answer: 'Solidarity between EU Member States' (%)
- Aggregated results 2007-2016



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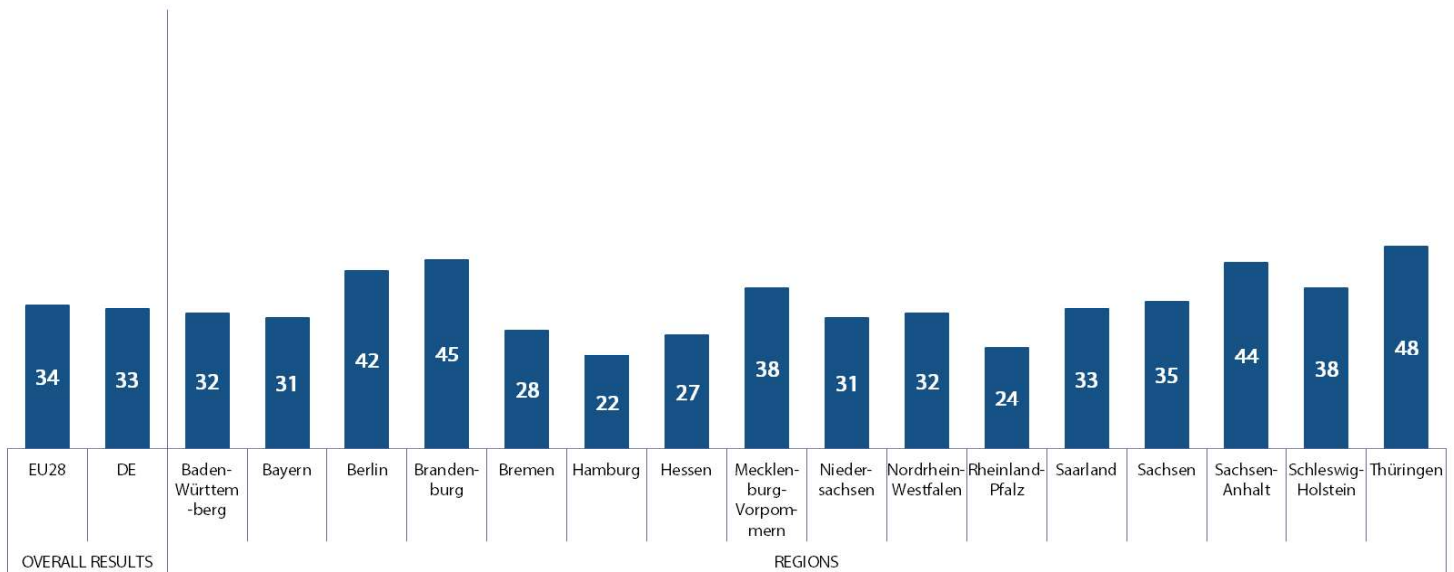


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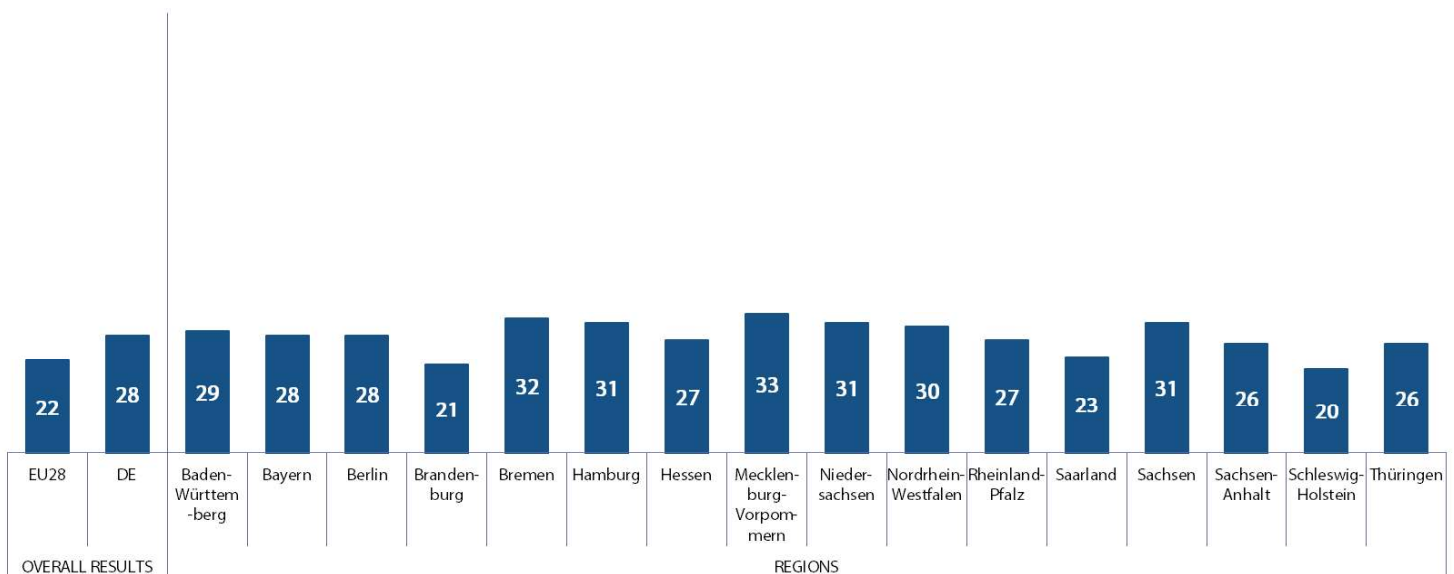


PRIORITY VALUES: TOP FOUR VALUES IN GERMANY

Answer: 'Equality between men and women' (%)
- Aggregated results 2007-2016



Answer: 'The dialogue between cultures and religions' (%)
- Aggregated results 2007-2016



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