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**Assisted suicide in the view of Europeans**

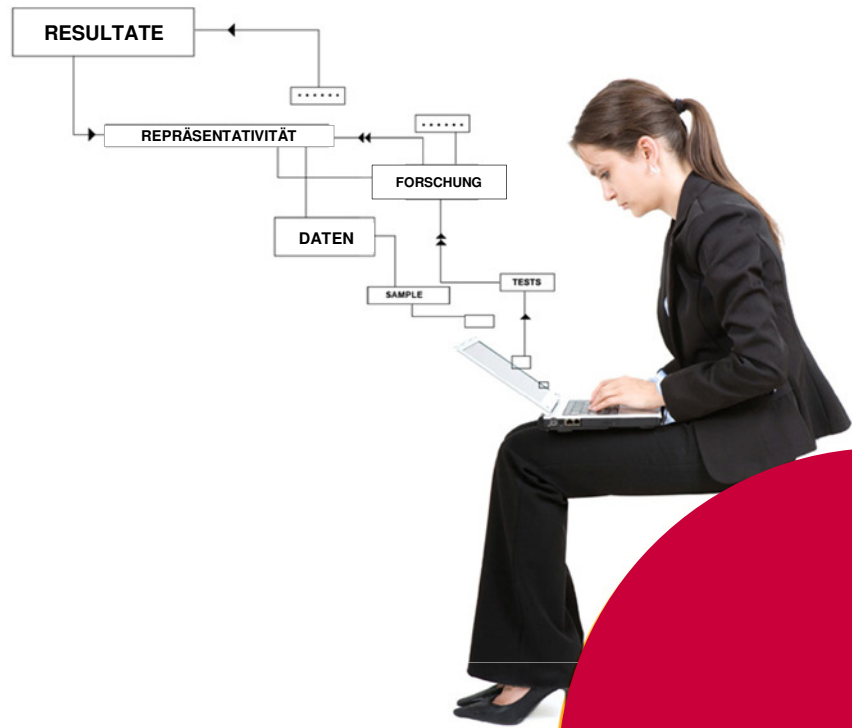


# ISOPUBLIC

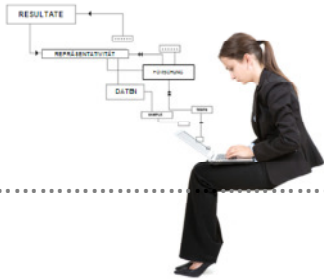
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# Research methods



## FORSCHUNGSMETHODEN

### Method

The study was executed by online interviews through the online panel of ISOPUBLIC.

### Fieldwork

Fieldwork took place from 24 September to 9 October 2012

### Sample

	Sample	Internet-Penetration
Denmark	1000	89%
Germany	1002	83%
Finland	1000	89%
France	1001	77%
Greece	1000	47%
United Kingdom	1013	84%
Ireland	1000	67%
Italy	1000	59%
Austria	1000	75%
Portugal	1000	51%
Sweden	1001	93%
Spain	1000	66%

### Languages

The study was executed in the correspondent language of each country

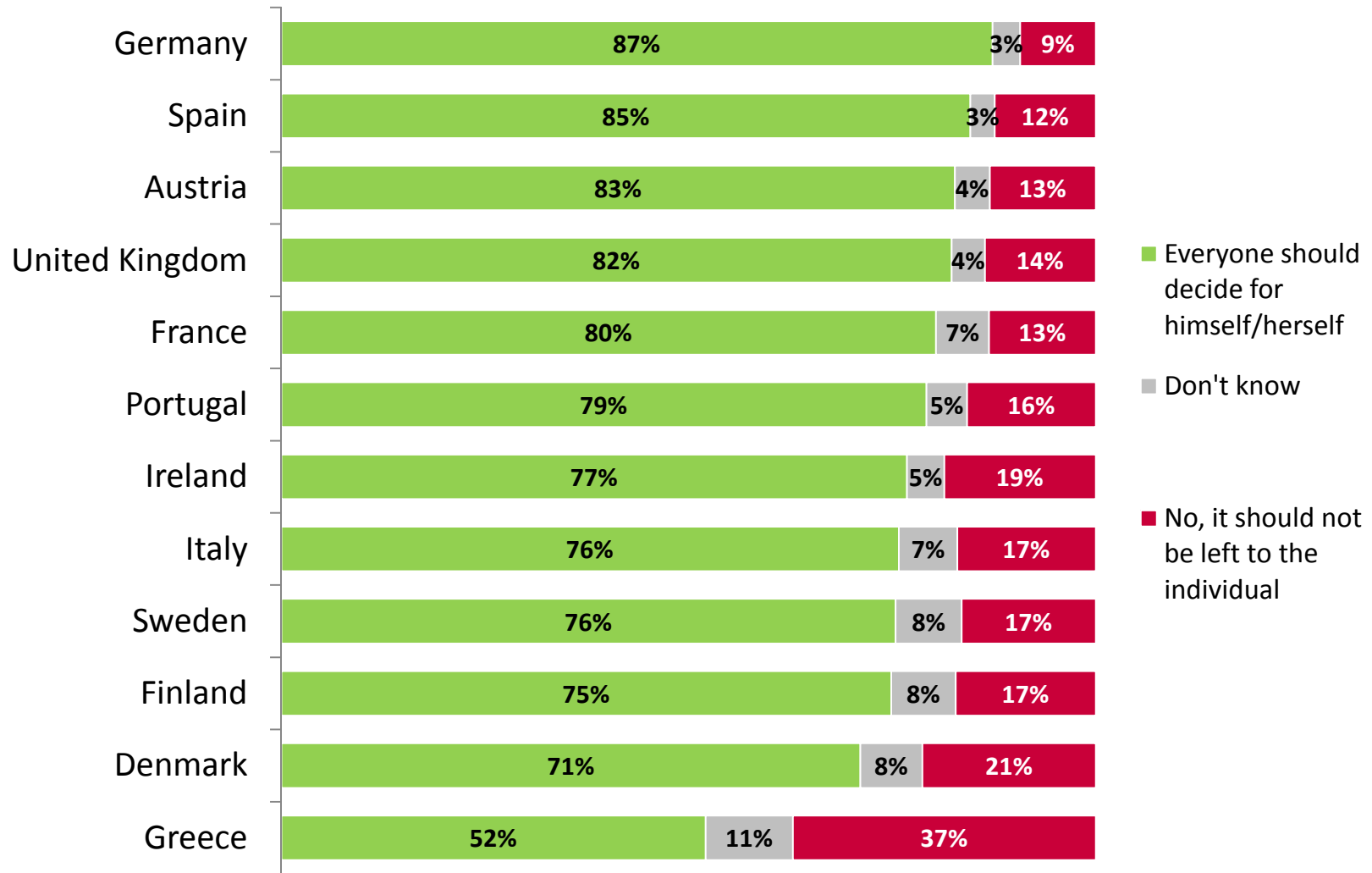
### Standard deviation

The standard deviation for each country was maximally 3.16 at a confidence interval of 95.5%





1. Firstly, in principle: Do you think that everyone should be able to decide for him/herself when and how he/she wishes to die, or should this not be left to the individual?





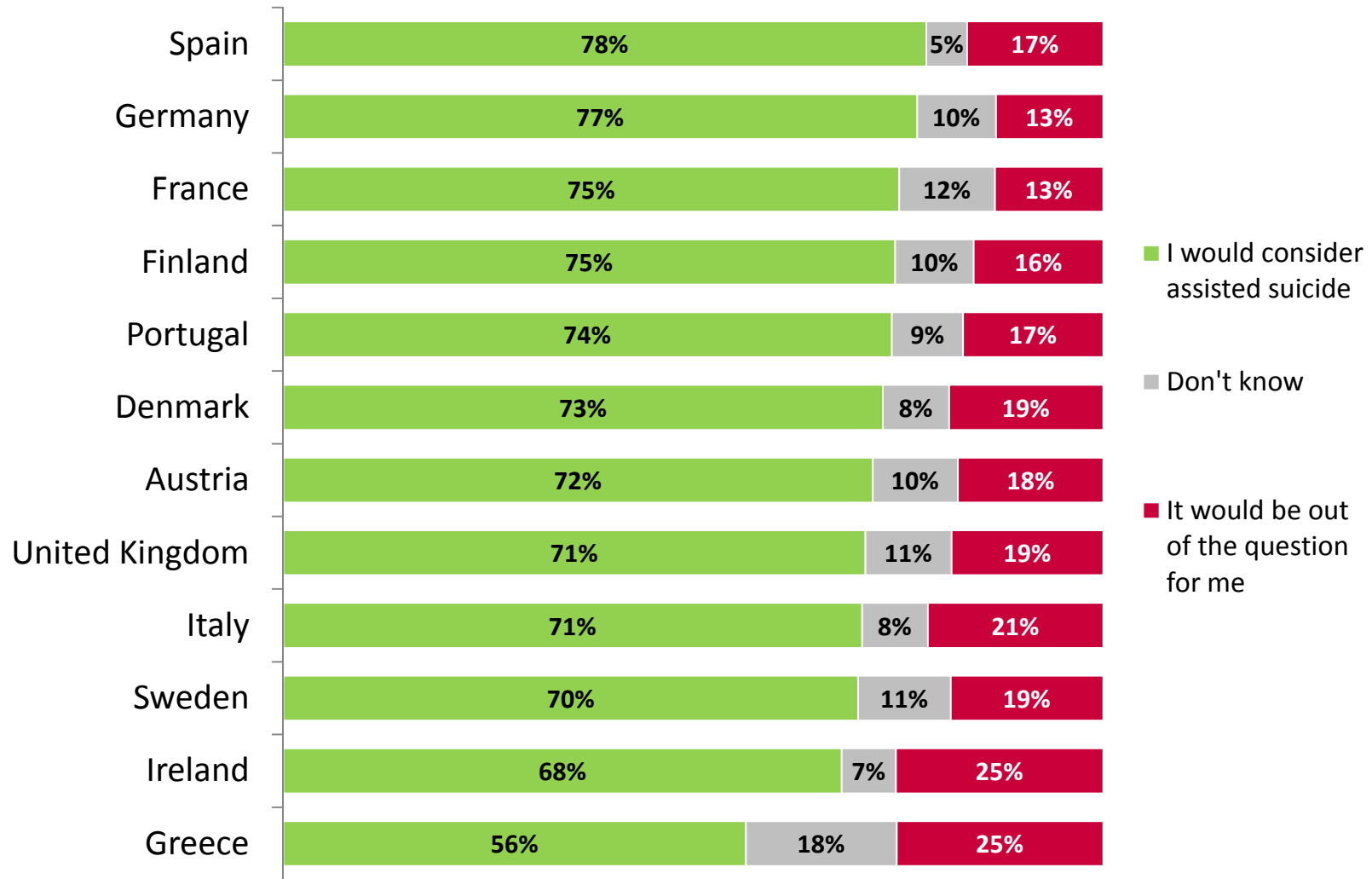
1. Firstly, in principle: Do you think that everyone should be able to decide for him/herself when and how he/she wishes to die, or should this not be left to the individual?

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- The populations of all examined European countries approved the statement that everyone should be able to decide for him/herself.
- The lowest approval for self-determination could be observed in Greece. Only 52% of the Greece population think that people should be able to decide for him/herself – 37% disapprove the right of self-determination.
- In the Scandinavian countries , around 71% to 76% approve the statement – 17% to 21% reject the statement.
- Germany and Spain were the countries with the highest values accepting self-determination, 87% in Germany respectively 85% in Spain.
- Apart from Finland, Italy, Austria and Sweden, there aren't any differences between the different age groups. In these countries, people aged 34 and below agree significantly higher with the statement than the older interviewed.



**2. Assuming that you suffer from an incurable serious illness, serious disability or uncontrollable pain: Can you imagine considering assisted suicide for yourself, or would this be out of the question for you?**







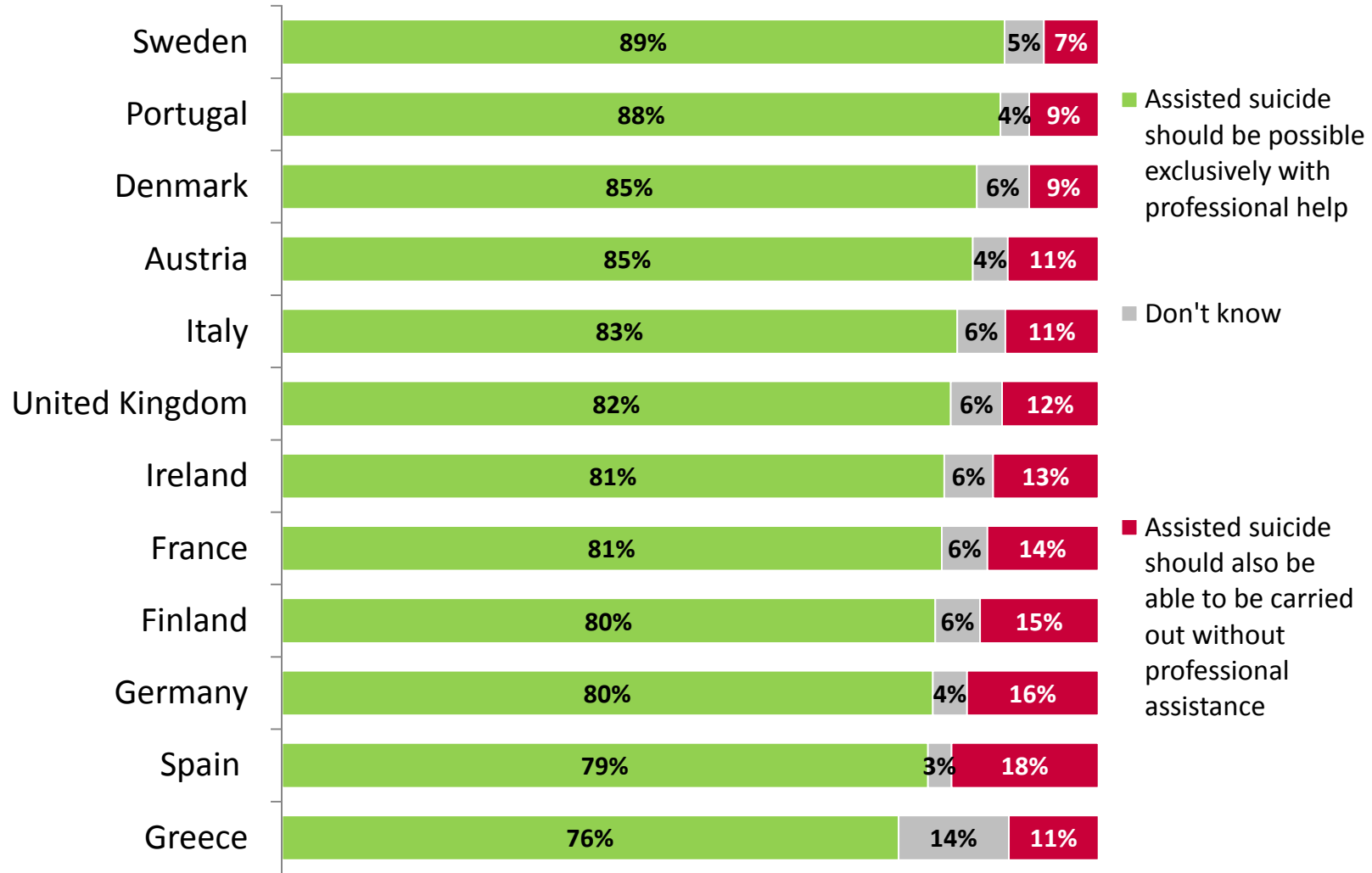
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- 56-78% of the Europeans can imagine to consider assisted suicide when suffering from an incurable serious illness, serious disability or uncontrollable pain.
- As in question 1, the lowest acceptance can be observed in Greece, 56% followed by Ireland with 68%.
- Most of all, Spain and Germany can imagine to consider assisted suicide.
- All in all, older people (more than 55 years) show the lowest agreement – in many countries the 35-54 years old would most consider assisted suicide.
- In terms of age groups, there are only significant differences in France (the 34 years old and younger as well as the over 55 years old show 71% agreement / the 35-54 years old show 82% agreement).



### 3. Assuming assisted suicide is legally permitted: Should assisted suicide be possible exclusively with professional assistance – i.e. with a doctor or a trained assisted suicide practitioner, or should assisted suicide also be able to be carried out without professional assistance?





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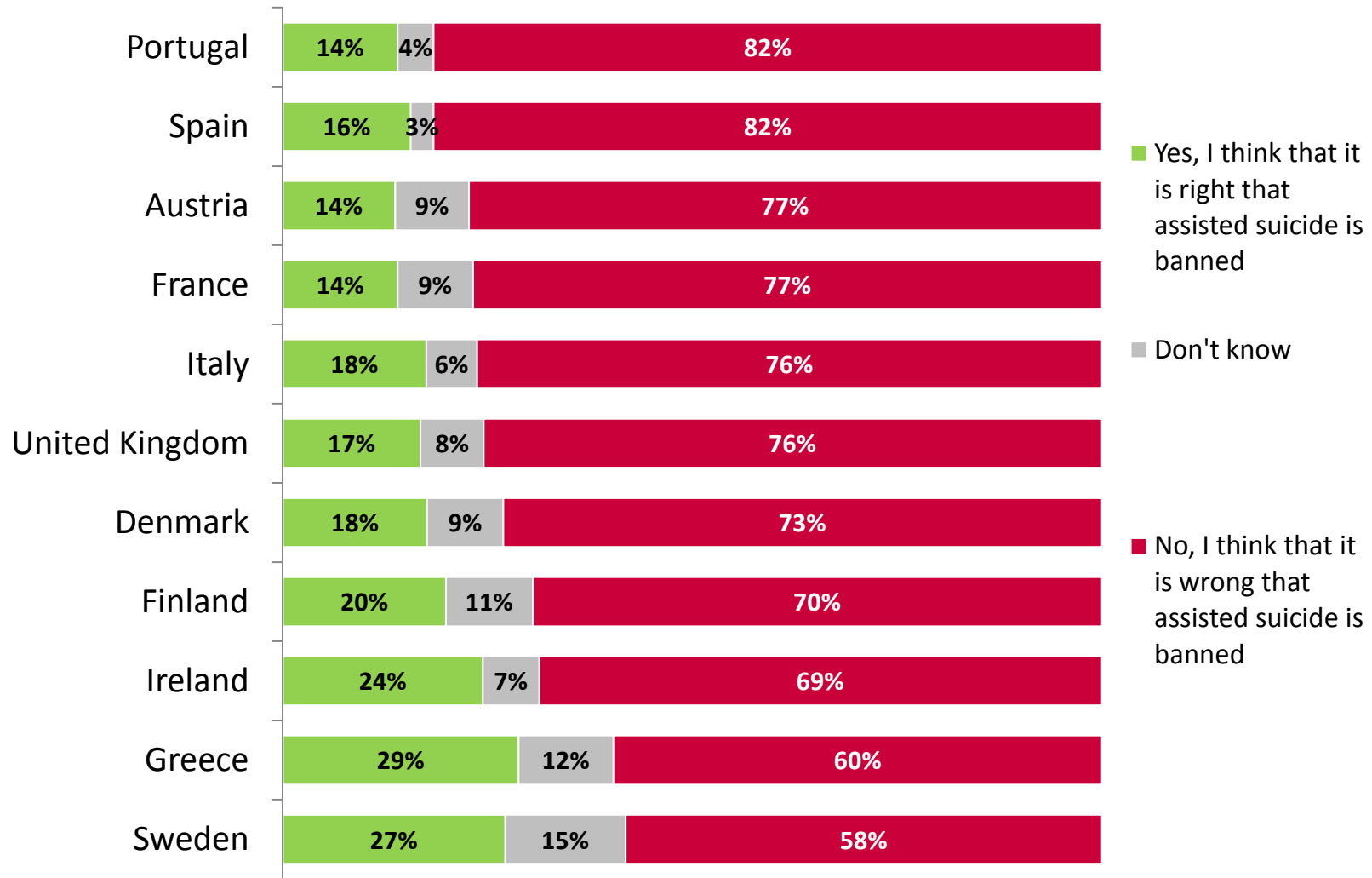
- Assisted suicide should be only realized by doctors or trained assisted suicide practitioners. This request is supported by 76% - 89%.
- Greece has the lowest acceptance in terms of a professionalism (76%). The reason for that doesn't explicitly relate to this question – in comparison with the other countries Greece least supported assisted suicide.
- Of particular interest is that the biggest differences between the age groups can be found in the two countries, in which assisted suicide according to question 1 gain most approval.

	-34 years	35-54 years	55 years+
Germany	88%	78%	76%
Spain	86%	74%	78%



#### 4. Do you think that it is right or not that a form of assisted suicide is banned in [INSERT COUNTRY]?

*(Germany was not asked)*





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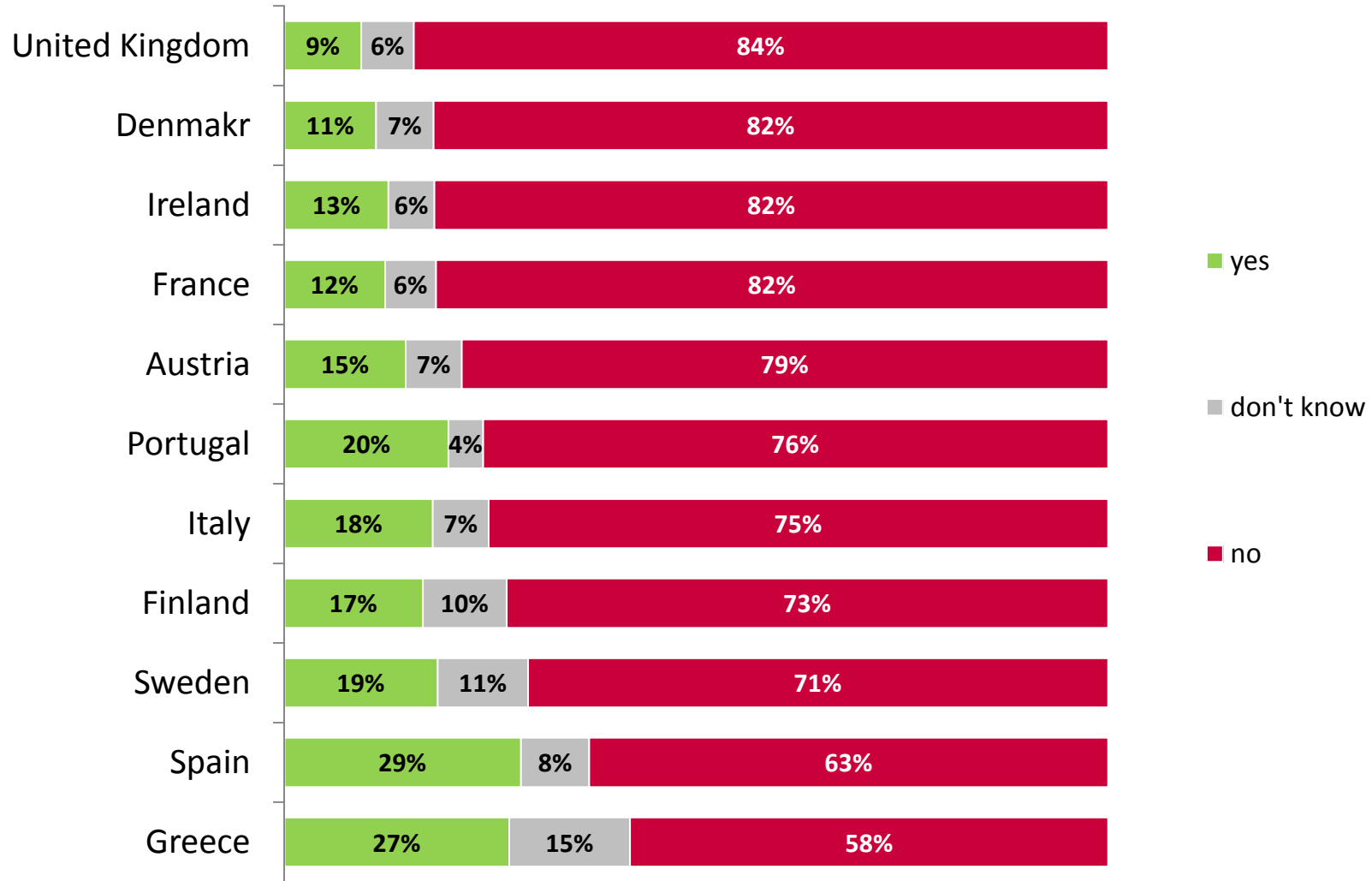
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- In all examined countries , punishment for professional activity in the field of assisted suicide is not approved. In Sweden 58% of the population reject punishment, in Greece there are 60% and in Ireland 69% who are against punishment. In all other countries 70% and more are against punishment.
- In Portugal and Spain 82% are against punishment – only 14% resp. 16% hold a different view.
- In many countries, the younger interviewed show even more disapproval for punishment than the older interviewed persons. Only in Denmark, France and in the UK more older people than younger favor punishment for assisted suicide.



5. Do you agree with the statement that doctors who assist the intentional ending of the life of a seriously ill person should be struck off, or do you not agree?

(Germany was not asked)





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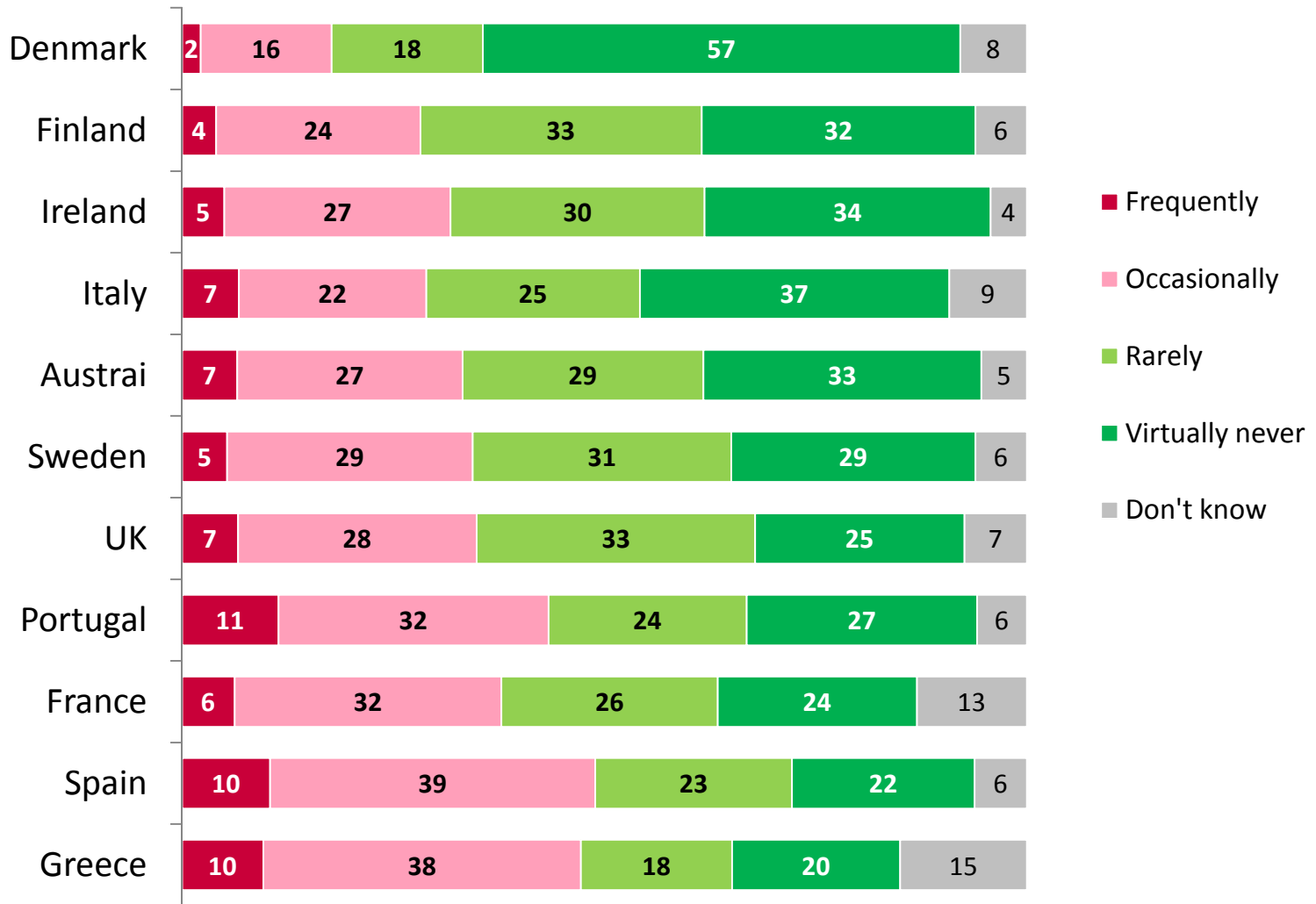
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- Prohibition for medical assisted suicide is generally not accepted. In UK, Denmark, Ireland and France more than 80% agree with the statement that there shouldn't exist any prohibitions for doctors.
- In most of the countries approval for a prohibition is low. Only in Spain and in Greece, more than 20% think that a doctor shouldn't be allowed to assist suicide.
- Generally, younger people show higher disapproval for prohibition than the older interviewed. Exceptions are Portugal, Ireland, France and UK. In Portugal, there aren't any important differences. In Ireland and France, the 35-54 years old show stronger disapproval than the other age groups. In the UK the age group of the 35 years old and older show particularly strong disapproval.



6. One final question on the subject: Do you think that if assisted suicide is legalised someone like you could be put under pressure to choose suicide as quickly as possible? Do you think that this ...could happen?







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- In most of the countries, no concerns (or only partially) were arisen that assisted suicide may impose pressure on people.
- In Denmark, Finland and Italy, less than 30% worry about the existence of pressure.
- In Ireland, Austria, Sweden, UK and France, around every third worries about influence and .
- In Portugal (43%), Spain (49%) and UK (48%) a relative majority fear the existence of pressure at least partially.

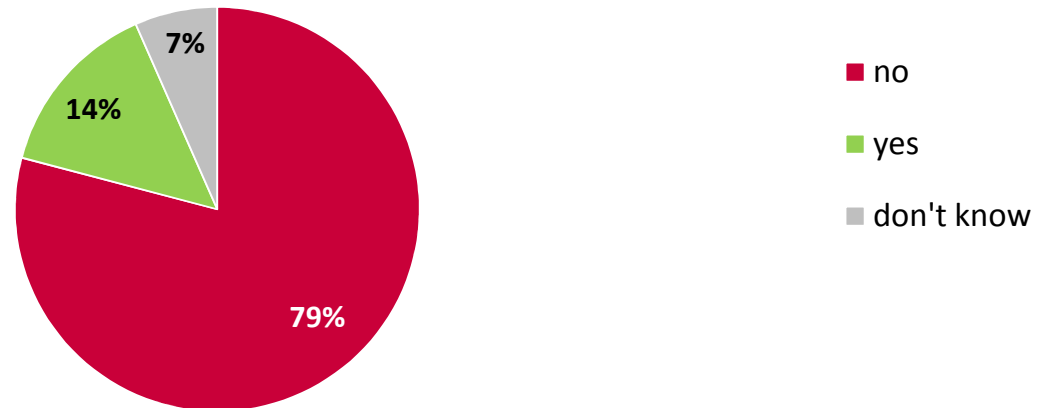


# Germany

4. Do you agree with the proposal of the German Government that a form of assisted suicide is banned in Germany in the future or do you not agree?



5. Do you agree with German Medical Association that doctors who assist the intentional ending of the life of a seriously ill person should be struck off, or do you not agree?





# Deutschland

4. Do you agree with the proposal of the German Government that a form of assisted suicide is banned in Germany in the future or do you not agree?

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- Germany doesn't agree with the proposal to ban assisted suicide in the future. Only 16% of the German citizens support the idea of the German Government – 76% don't agree with the proposal.
- Germany reacts very similarly as the other European countries, which were confronted with the almost same question.



# Germany

5. Do you agree with German Medical Association that doctors who assist the intentional ending of the life of a seriously ill person should be struck off, or do you not agree?

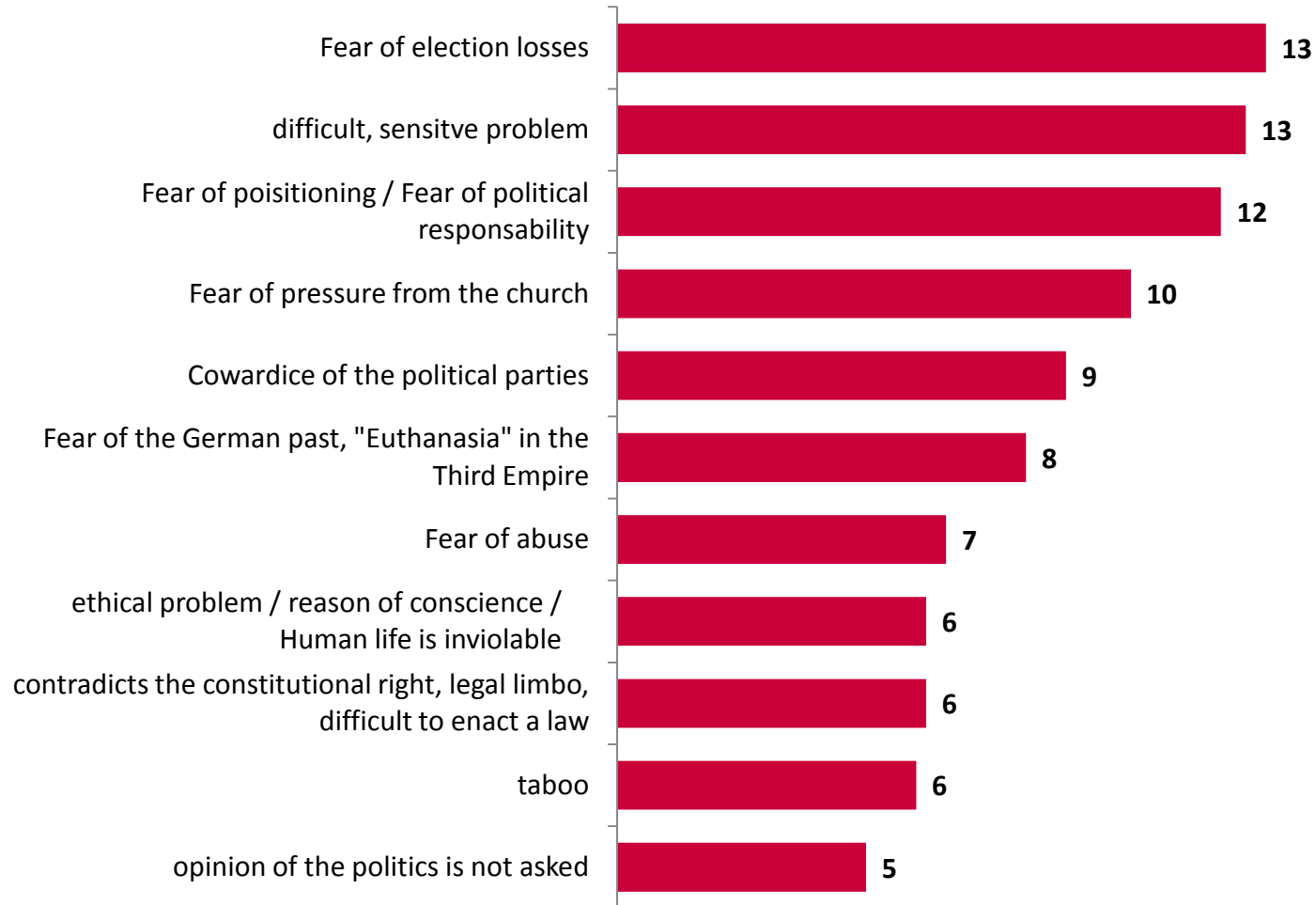
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- The request of the German Medical Association is rejected by 79% of the German population – only 14% agree with the proposition.
- Women (11%) less support the request than men (17%) – considering the age groups, the 35-54 years old show the highest disapproval.



# Germany

6. None of the German political parties have supported assisted suicide (as described) so far. What do you think what is the reason? Please describe as precisely as possible.





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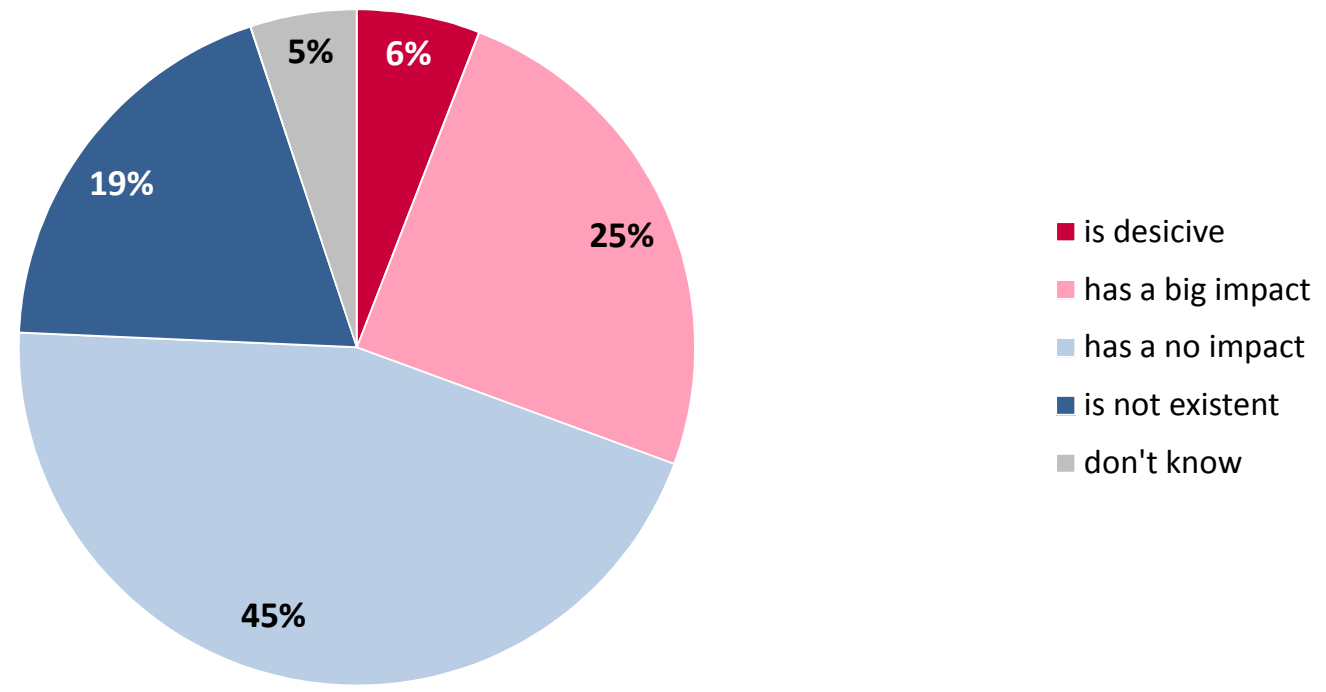
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- The reasons why no major political party has not taken care of this topic are manifold.
- Men believe that political parties would not cover the topic due to „fear of election losses“, „pressure of the church“ and „fear of political responsibility“.
- Women prioritize differently. The top three answers given by women have all the same background; they believe that the issue would be too sensitive for political parties, they would have „fear of political responsibility“ and „fear of election losses“.
- Mostly the older interviewed state reasons such as „fear of the German past“, „euthanasia“ in the third empire. Only 2% of the young interviewed (34 years and younger, 7% of the 35-54 years old and 17% of the older give the same answers. „fear of the German past“, „euthanasia“ in the third empire and pressure of the church are the most called answers of the over 55 years old.



# Germany

7. Is the position of a political party concerning this question decisive for you whether you vote for this party or not? Do you believe that for you personally the influence in your vote ...





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- The question of assisted suicide will have a certain impact on the next elections. 31% of the interviewed state that this question can have an impact on their personal decision.
- The impact is bigger for persons, who agree with self-determination (according to question 1), than for persons who don't agree with self-determination (27%).
- This question is for men less decisive as for women.
- Younger voters don't pay the same attention as the older. Totally 37% of the 34 aged stated that the question is decisive or partly can have a big impact, 30% of the 35-54 years old and 27% of the over 55 years old.



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