

IU Short study 2024

DEMOCRACY AND EDUCATION.

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MOST OFTEN SATISFIED WITH DEMOCRACY.

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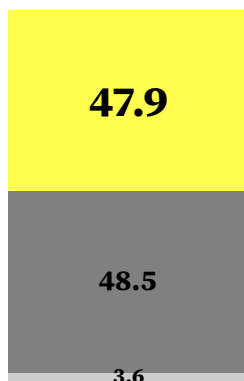
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF
APPLIED SCIENCES

Almost half of those surveyed are very satisfied or fairly satisfied with democracy in Germany. Among Generation Z, it is even more than half: In a representative study conducted by IU International University

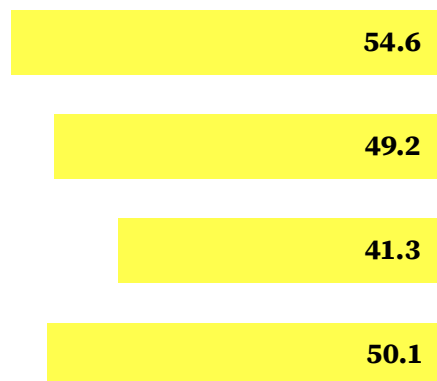
of Applied Sciences, 54.6% of respondents aged between 16 and 25 expressed their satisfaction. In contrast, 48.5% of all respondents say they are either fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

How satisfied are you with democracy in Germany in general? In%

- Very satisfied / Fairly satisfied
- Fairly dissatisfied / Very dissatisfied
- I cannot judge.



Due to rounding off, there could be marginal deviations in the results.



**GENERATION Z
AGED UP TO 25**



**GENERATION Y
AGED 26 TO 40**



**GENERATION X
AGED 41 TO 55**



**BABYBOOMER
AGED 56 TO 65**



“

The results of the study should make us think and encourage us to question why so many people are dissatisfied with democracy in Germany. It is important to reinforce the value and appreciation of democracy in society. This can be achieved through education, open discussion and active participation in democracy. It is crucial to make everyone aware of the value and importance of democracy and to encourage people to get involved. Knowledge of history also plays an important role - after all, we can learn a great deal from the past.”



Prof. Dr. Alexandra Wuttig
Chancellor of IU International
University of Applied Sciences and
Professor of Innovation and
Entrepreneurship

PROTECT DEMOCRACY. EXPERIENCE DEMOCRACY.

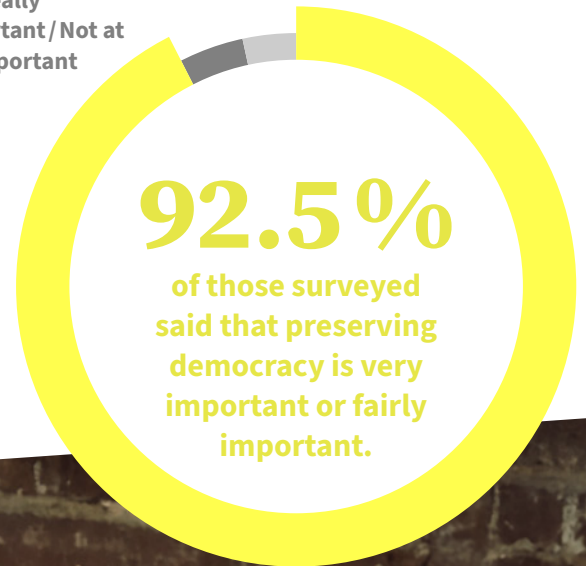
A LARGE MAJORITY IS IN FAVOUR OF PRESERVING DEMOCRACY.

92.5% of those surveyed said that preserving democracy in Germany is very important or fairly important. On this issue, all generations – from Generation Z to the baby boomers – are in agreement.

How important is it to you personally to preserve democracy in Germany? In %

4.1
Not really important / Not at all important

3.4
I cannot judge.



POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: MANY VOTE, FEW DEMONSTRATE.

What opportunities to participate in politics do you take advantage of? In %: top 10 answers



DEMOCRACY DECODED: WHAT PEOPLE VALUE – AND WHAT THEY FEAR.

BENEFITS OF A DEMOCRACY

The people of Germany paint a clear picture: The promotion of human rights, the opportunity to participate in decision-making, the expansion of peace, the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press, are among the most valuable benefits of a democracy.

Promotion of human rights **87.0**

Opportunity to participate
in decision-making **85.7**

Guaranteeing freedom of expression
and freedom of the press **85.1**

Expansion of peace **82.7**

Recognising political diversity
of opinion and discourse **79.0**

What do you think are the advantages of a democracy? In %: only respondents who answered “Major advantage” and “Somewhat of an advantage” on a scale of 1 to 5; top 5 answers

CHALLENGES OF A DEMOCRACY

The respondents cited the following as the main challenges facing democracy: A decline in trust in politics, lengthy decision-making processes, and increasing social inequality, closely followed by digital disinformation and fake news.

83.5 Decline in trust in politics

80.9 Lengthy decision-making processes

79.0 Increasing social inequality

77.6 Digital disinformation
and fake news

76.3 Lack of connection with citizens

What do you think are the challenges facing democracy? In %: only respondents who answered “Major challenge” and “Somewhat of a challenge” on a scale of 1 to 5; top 5 answers



Most people in Germany see the decline in trust in politics as a challenge facing democracy. Therefore, we need to find ways to make politics interesting and relevant to people’s everyday lives. This can be achieved by providing more opportunities for participation, more transparent communication and by involving the population more. Political education needs to be improved to promote interest and understanding. In addition, parties must allow for more diversity and become more attractive to people from different backgrounds. Issues should also be presented in a more innovative way in order to engage and involve people.”

Prof. Dr Alexandra Wuttig

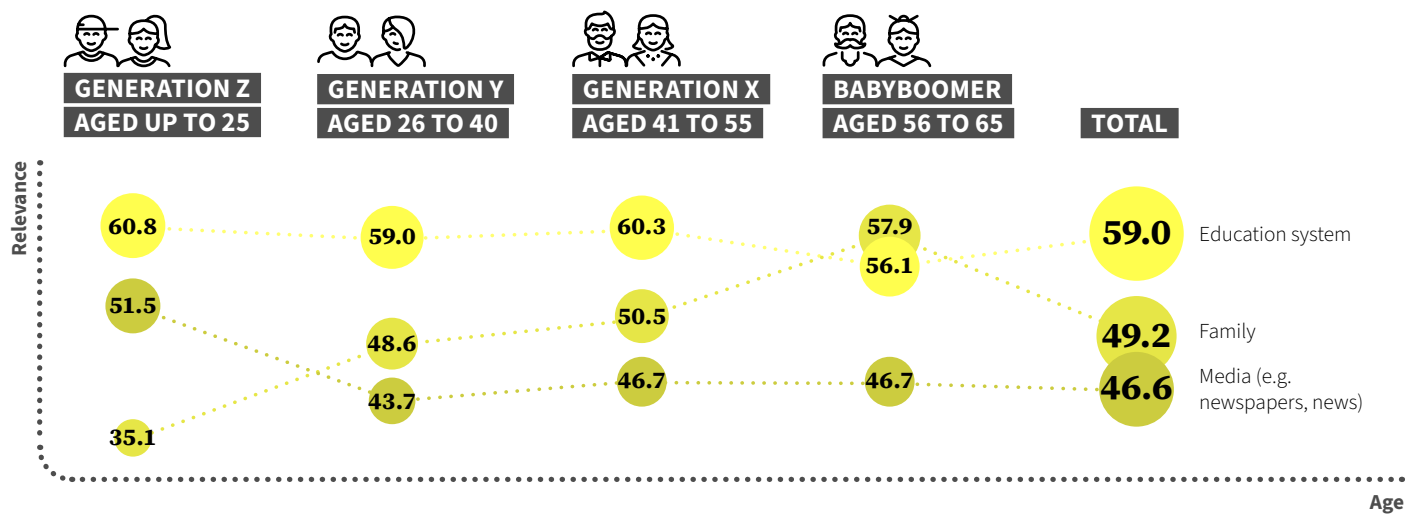
Chancellor of IU International University of Applied Sciences
and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

DEMOCRACY EDUCATION. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? A CLEAR MANDATE FOR THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

The German education system bears the main responsibility for teaching democratic values. That's the view of the majority of people in Germany (59.0%).

If we look at the generations, we see some differences: For baby boomers, family is more important than the education system. On the other hand, Generation Z thinks that the education system and the media bear the main responsibility.

In your opinion, who is mainly responsible for teaching democratic values? In %: excerpts from survey answers

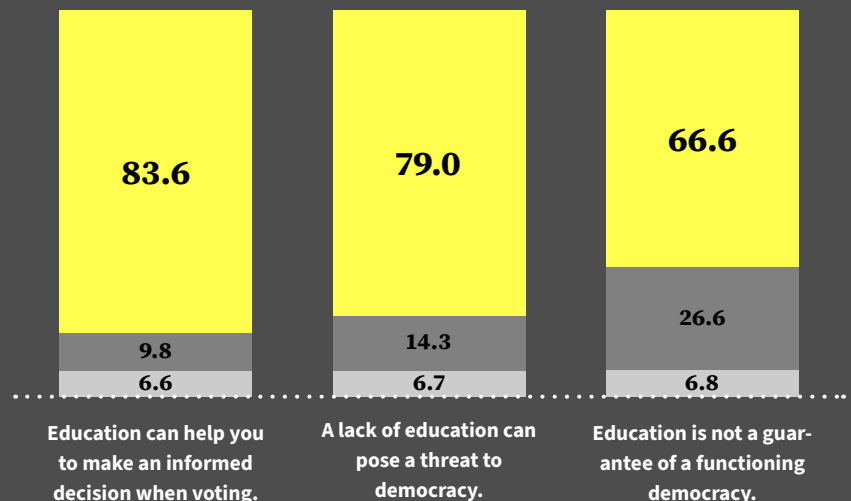


EDUCATION IS A FOUNDATION: BUT NOT A GUARANTEE.

More than 4 out of 5 people in Germany believe that education can help them to make informed decisions when voting. 79.0% of respondents said that a lack of education can pose a threat to democracy. And 66.6% believe that education is not a guarantee of a functioning democracy.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? In %: excerpts from statements

- Completely agree./Tend to agree.
- Tend to disagree./Strongly disagree.
- I cannot judge.





Making informed decisions at the ballot box depends on people being able to make political judgments. To do this, they need to reflect on their own values, consider them in a political context and align them with other value systems. This requires not only a high level of self-reflection, but also knowledge of the political system, the interests that various parties represent, and the processes of decision-making, i.e. policy-making. Therefore, there are many prerequisites for being able to make informed voting decisions. But even an informed decision can endanger democracy and is, therefore, no guarantee.”

Prof. Dr Stefanie Kessler

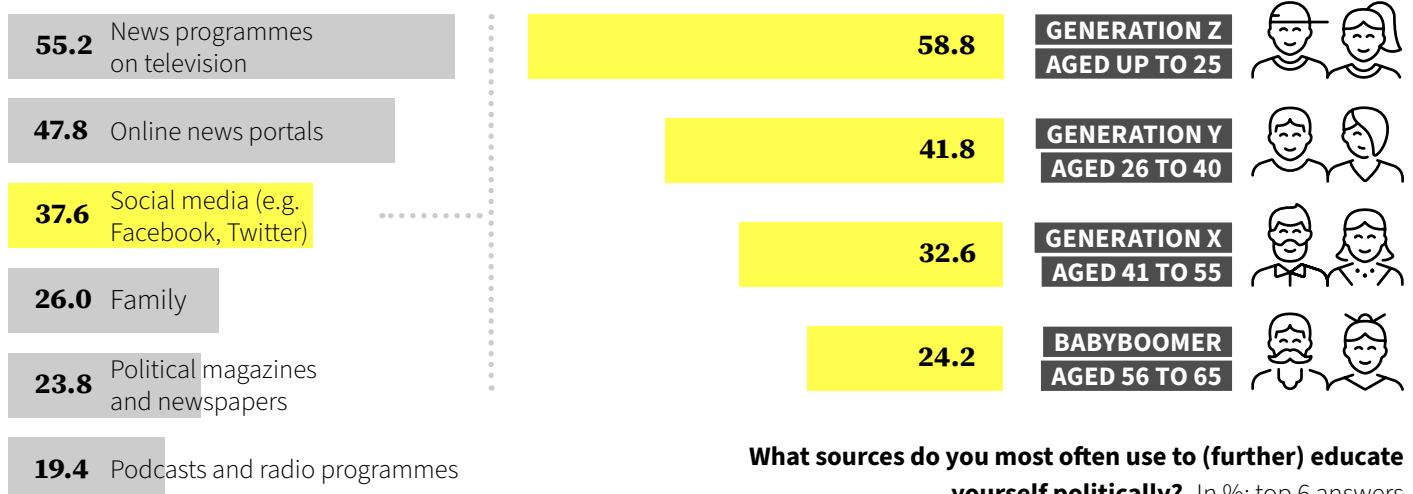
Professor of Social Work at IU International University of Applied Sciences and expert in learning democracy and political education

A QUESTION OF SOURCE: HOW DO PEOPLE GET THEIR INFORMATION? SOCIAL MEDIA LEADING THE WAY FOR GENERATION Z.

Important media for political education and further education for the people of Germany are: News programmes on television, followed by online news portals.

Exception: Generation Z.

58.8% of young people up to the age of 25 cite social media as their main source of information when it comes to their political (further) education.

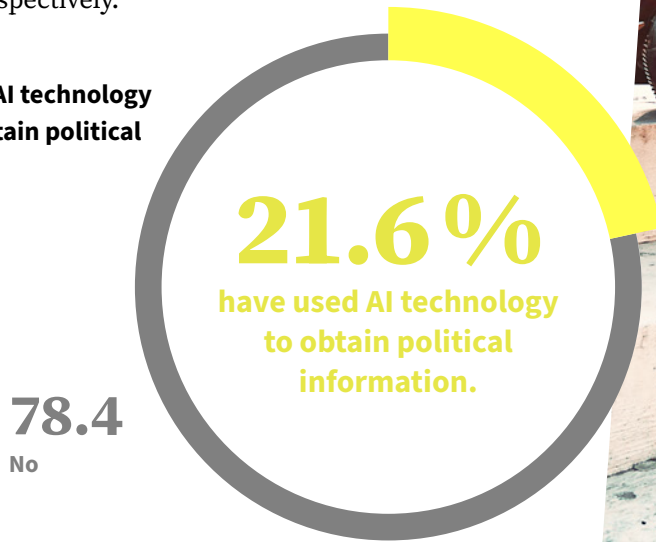


ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN POLITICAL EDUCATION.

THE YOUNGER THE RESPONDENTS, THE MORE LIKELY THEY ARE TO USE AI.

For more than three quarters of people in Germany, artificial intelligence (AI) is not a means of obtaining political information. There is a clear age gradient in terms of usage: Among generations Z and Y, 35.6% and 28.4% respectively have used AI such as ChatGPT as a source of political information – among generation X and baby boomers, this figure is only 15.2% and 11.6% respectively.

Have you ever used AI technology (e.g. ChatGPT) to obtain political information? In %

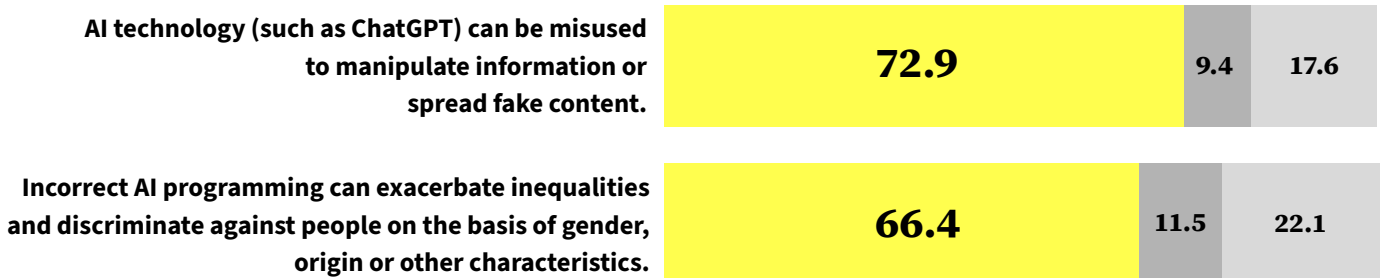


MANIPULATION, FAKE CONTENT, DISCRIMINATION: THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF SCEPTICISM TOWARDS AI.

Although younger people in Germany are more likely to use artificial intelligence, people across all generations have reservations about it. 72.9% of respondents tend to agree or completely agree that AI technology can be misused for manipulation and fake

content. And 66.4% believe there is a risk of increased inequality and discrimination due to flawed AI programming. **Interestingly, around one in five people were unable to comment on the statements.**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? In %: excerpts from statements



■ Completely agree./Tend to agree ■ Tend to disagree./Strongly disagree. ■ I cannot judge.

ABOUT THE STUDY.

FACTS ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS.

1,213

Respondents in Germany
between the ages of 16 and 65,
representative of age and gender.

Which state do you live in? In %



Lower Saxony 10.5

North Rhine-Westphalia 22.4

Rhineland-Palatinate 5.1

Saarland 1.0

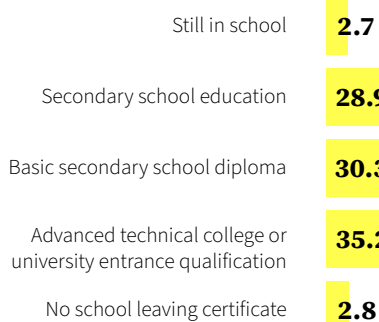
Saxony 5.0

Saxony-Anhalt 2.0

Schleswig-Holstein 4.0

Thuringia 2.7

What is the highest level of
education you have completed? In %



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Publisher:

IU International University of Applied Sciences
Juri-Gagarin-Ring 152 • 99084 Erfurt • iu.org

The Ministry of Economics, Science and Digital Society of the State of Thuringia is responsible for the IU International University of Applied Sciences at all study locations in matters relating to higher education

Survey period: 17.05.2024 – 29.05.2024
Panel: Horizoom

Although gender requires more than a binary classification into female and male, the data currently available for such an analysis is limited. In general, the numbers are too small to allow a statistically significant breakdown by additional variables. Therefore, for the purposes of this study, gender is considered in a binary system.

Contact us

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You can also find us on:

