

INEQUALITIES IN GERMANY

INEQUALITIES ARE RISING, THE GENDER
GAP IS HIGHER THAN THE EU AVERAGE,
SOCIAL SYSTEMS ARE BEING DISMANTLED
AND GERMANY IS DRIVING INTERNATIONAL
INEQUALITIES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Income and wealth

Despite its wealth, Germany is facing entrenched poverty and increasing inequalities. The top 1% of earners receive nearly as much as the bottom 50% and over 20% of employees earn less than two thirds of the median income.¹ One half of the population share 1% of the country's assets between them while the wealthiest 10% of German households own approximately 65% of assets,² one of the highest concentrations of wealth among OECD countries.

Although Income inequality is reduced by taxation and transfers,³ most of the gains from economic growth go to higher income earners. Childless working couples and singles earn the most, followed by couples staggered by the number of children. The earning potential of single parents is lowest of all, again graduated according to the number of children.

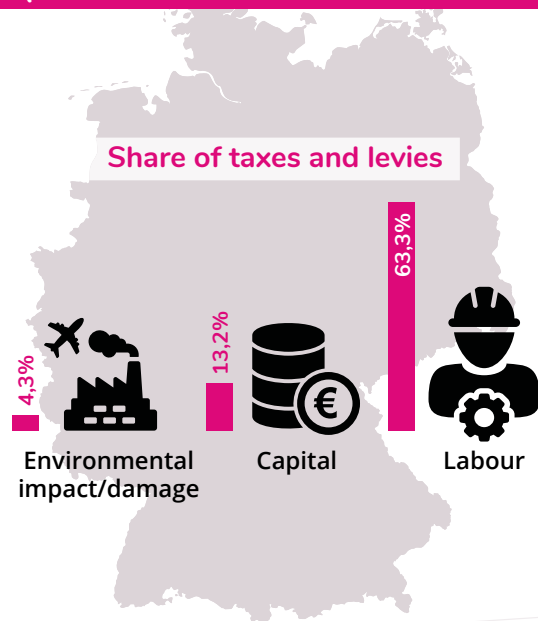
Employment in Germany is at a record high (45 million)⁴ and unemployment (2.2 million) at a record low.⁵ However, nearly half of all employed people have 'atypical' employment (21.7 million, of whom two thirds are women),⁶ because they work part-time, are subcontracted, are freelancers, have fixed term contracts or are marginally remunerated.⁷ Today employment is not an escape from poverty:⁸ one third of all people in poverty in Germany are employed, 40% of them working full-time. Regressive tax reforms over the last 20 years have reduced the redistributive impact of government policy while basic social security benefits, received by about 7.6 million people, are barely sufficient to keep households above the poverty line.⁹ Currently 15.8% of the population (approximately 13m people) live at or below the poverty line,¹⁰ compared to 14.4% in 2008.¹¹

Gender

Recent legislation is narrowing the gender gap in pay and political participation. However, women earn approximately 20% less than men¹² and almost 50% of women in employment work part-time owing to the lack of support schemes and care infrastructure. Only 12% of men work part-time.¹³ 90% of single parents are single mothers, earning 71.5% less than male single parents.¹⁴ One consequence of women's inferior earning power is that the pensions of retired women are 46% less than those of their male counterparts.¹⁵

Recent legislation is beginning to bridge the gender gap in terms of representation. The state of Brandenburg now requires that there should be equal numbers of female and male election candidates;

INEQUALITIES IN TAX REVENUE IN GERMANY



Source 2016: <http://www.foes.de/pdf/2017-06-Hintergrundpapier-Steuerstruktur.pdf>

federal law stipulates that 30% of the boards of large companies should be women;¹⁶ and in large companies¹⁷ women and men must be paid equally and women have the right to see how much their male counterparts are paid. However, pay structures can only be revealed in organisations with more than 200 employees as well as for positions that can be compared to the average salary of at least six colleagues of the opposite sex holding a similar position - a comparatively large group, in particular for higher positions. Despite some progress there is still a long way to go until gender equality is enforced and realised.

International inequalities

Globalisation has opened up opportunities for German companies in developing countries, allowing them to benefit from low wages and lax regulations. Their activities, including large-scale land investment, which can have damaging impacts on local communities and the environment, have been of questionable benefit to countries of the Global South. Germany is the fourth largest arms exporter,¹⁸ with over half of the arms exports going to countries outside the EU and NATO – including to countries in crisis regions, such as the Middle East and North Africa¹⁹ – helping to fuel conflicts, displacement and migration. At the same time in 2015 and 2016 Germany accepted over one million migrants²⁰ and was the second-largest donor country, spending US\$25 billion on net ODA 2017 - 0.67% of GNI.²¹

Despite some progress in fighting tax evasion and money laundering both internationally and nationally, there are loopholes in national legislation. Lax enforcement of tax and anti-money laundering regulations undermine their effectiveness.

Structural issues

Taxation on capital accounts is 13.2% of the total tax take, while taxation on labour contributes two thirds,²² with social security contributions, in turn constituting two thirds of individual taxes. Contribution rates and thresholds favour higher income earners. Most employees are not guaranteed a fixed pension because the value of their accumulated contributions depends

on capital markets.²³ Future retirees can now expect pensions worth about half of average earnings.²⁴ Public revenues from taxes on environmental pollution have declined. In 2017 they were 4.3% of all tax revenue.²⁵

Recommendations

Implementation of the 2030 agenda requires a holistic approach across government. It should give less emphasis to economic growth; greater priority to affordable education, health, care, and sustainable (public) infrastructures; and compliance with international human rights obligations and the Aarhus Convention.

Transparency and taxation

- Ensure greater data transparency and determined action by the EU on money laundering.
- Implement a more progressive tax structure, including taxation of socially and environmentally harmful products/activities.
- Enact fair corporation taxation in Germany and the EU.
- Assist low-income countries on issues of taxation and repatriation of illegal assets.
- Put in place a financial transaction tax.

Pay and benefits

- Ensure that pay for any employment, social benefits and pensions are sufficient to provide a living above the poverty line.
- Enhance parental leave and allowances.
- Enable partnership-based work-sharing in the care of relatives.

Environment

- Integrate environment, conservation, health and social considerations in all decisions.
- Promote decentralised (energy) structures and expand renewable energies.
- Increase sustainable and affordable public infrastructure.

INTRODUCTION

1. What are the most striking inequalities in your country? Which social groups in your countries are the most affected by inequalities?

The German Institute for Economic Research describes Germany as a country with “lasting poverty and established wealth”, steadily intensifying the unequal distribution of wealth and income among citizens.²⁶ This manifests in several indicators which will be addressed in this report:

- Gini coefficient
- Income inequality
- (Un)employment
- At-risk-of-poverty
- Social mobility and educational inequality
- Political inequality
- Environmental inequality

Gini coefficient

In 2015 the Gini coefficient²⁷ for market income distribution in Germany - i.e. the income before government redistribution through taxes, social security contributions, transfers and statutory pensions - was at 0.50 in comparison to the *net income* Gini coefficient of 0.29²⁸ (0.31 according to the World Bank²⁹), obtaining average results among OECD countries.³⁰ Hence, overall income inequality in Germany is reduced by more than 40% due to pensions, other social transfers and after deduction of income tax and social contributions. However, with a *net asset* Gini coefficient of 0.79, Germany has one of the highest concentration of wealth in the top decile of households among OECD countries.

In other words, the lower half of the population has only 1% of the net assets at their disposal while the wealthiest 10% of German households own approximately up to 65% of net assets (compared to 44% in 1970).³¹

Income inequalities

While the average national income in Germany has increased rather consistently, not everyone is benefitting equally. The income of the top 1% earners has become nearly as much as the income of the bottom 50%³² and the share of employees who earn less than 2/3 of the median income (low-wage sector) has increased from 16,5% in 1995 to 22,6% in 2016.³³

At the top of the income hierarchy are childless working couples and singles, followed by couples staggered by the number of children. Worst of all is the earning potential of single parents, again graduated according to the number of children. Considering all single parents, 90% are single mums, earning 71.5% less than male single parents.³⁴

Over the last couple of decades women have consistently earned approximately 20% less than men³⁵ while female retirees have received 46% less than male retirees. This is mostly due to unpaid care activities that drive many women into precarious employment (2/3 of precarious jobs are done by women), create career gaps, and more often deny the possibility of leadership positions or borrowing.³⁶

(Un)employment

The unemployment rate in Germany is at a record low: Since 2011, less than 3 Million people were unemployed, approximately 2.2 mio. people in December 2018. At the same time³⁷ the number of employed earners has been increasing for several years and reached more than 45 mio. people, a record high, in December 2018.³⁸ Yet, still 746,000 people are affected by long-term unemployment with 25% of them being unemployed for more than 4 years.³⁹ Furthermore, the share of atypical employment has increased from 15 mio. people in 2003 to 21,7 mio. people in 2016⁴⁰, including

- Social insurance contributive part time employment (8.55 mio. people)
- Subcontracted employment (1 mio. people)
- Solo freelance (1.99 mio. people)
- Fixed-term employment (2.66 mio. people)
- Marginally remunerated (7.44 mio. people)

Problematic is that atypical employment does not necessarily prevent from poverty, meaning that 1/3 of all people in Germany who are considered poor⁴¹ are employed, of which over 40% are working full time. At the same time approximately 7.6 mio. people receive social security benefits (ALG II), yet, for almost all household constellations, basic rates lie below the poverty risk rate.⁴²

At-risk-of-poverty

In Germany 15.7% of the population (approximately 13 mio. people) lived at or below the poverty line⁴³ in 2018 (compared to 14.4% in 2008)⁴⁴. However, there are large regional disparities: while in the Western federal states 14.7% of the population are affected by poverty, in the Eastern federal states 19.7% of the population are affected by poverty.⁴⁵

In line with the income inequality, people and households at high risk of poverty in Germany are particularly single parents (43.6% of households are at risk of poverty), large families with two or more children (27.4% of households are at risk of poverty)

and single households (26.3% of households are at risk of poverty). The type of households at risk of poverty further intersects with gender, migration background and age. Thus, more women (16.2%) are at risk of poverty than men (15.2%), as well as people with a migration background (28%), young people under the age of 25 years (25.5%) and elderly over the age of 65 years (14.8%). Hardest hit are children and elderly females with a migration background.⁴⁶

Social mobility and education⁴⁷

The income prospects of a person in Germany depend significantly on his or her educational level. For example, 31.5% of people without vocational education are in the bottom fifth of the income distribution, compared to just 7.4% of university graduates in 2014. Looking at the intergenerational mobility of 35 to 44 year olds, 29.1% have a higher level of education than their father and only 21.6% have a lower one. The proportion of people with a higher level of education than their mother is 40.4% while only 11.3% achieve a lower education level than their mother. Considering the mobility of young men and women separately, the situation is more favourable for young men.

Political inequality

For the first time since 1998, the social divide in voter turnout⁴⁸ dropped for the national elections in 2017, from 29.5% in 2013 down to 26.7%. One of the main reasons was the success of the AfD (Alternative for Germany) in socially disadvantaged areas where the voter turnout rose from the lowest to above average. Yet, it is evident that within districts with low voter turnout people were less likely to have a job (3 times as many unemployed people), to have finished school (70% more people without qualifications) and 50% more likely to belong to the lower middle class.⁴⁹ Thus, people from a socially disadvantaged background are still less represented in the election process. In line with the turnout, the interest in politics is significantly higher among people with a high income compared to those with a low income.⁵⁰

Environmental inequality

The environmental quality plays a major role in the well-being and development of citizens and has most likely impacts on their health. Yet, social status is crucial in determining whether and to what extent children, adolescents and adults are affected by environmental pollutants. For example, low-income families live more frequently on busy roads and are therefore exposed to higher levels of pollution, while, particularly in socially and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, there are less green and open spaces. This social and ecological inequality hampers social participation and the perception of opportunities for realization and causes higher social and health expenditures at an individual level.

2. How is your country responsible for inequalities at the international level/between countries?

Inequalities between and within countries have been due to many economic, political and environmental factors, such as the globalisation of trade and therein trade agreements, privatisation, foreign investments, war and climate change.⁵¹ With the world's highest annual trade balance⁵² for three consecutive years (299 billion in 2018), Germany has ultimately contributed to the trade deficits and debts of other countries.⁵³ Favourable trade agreements, which accelerated market openings, the protection of international investors, the dismantling of trade barriers and the development of regulatory barriers, have further strengthened this position of Germany while worsening the global trade position of other countries, potentially forcing them to further decrease prices to be competitive. Furthermore, due to decreased state control environmental, consumer and employee protection are likely to be eased. For instance, JEFTA (Japan-EU Free Trade Agreement)⁵⁴ is far from ensuring the highest standards for employees. The opposite is true: the agreement does not even require ratification, implementation and compliance with all eight core labor standards of the International Labor Organization (ILO). Thus, Japan has ratified only 6 of the 8 ILO core labor standards. It lacks the conventions on the abolition of forced

labor (No. 105) and the standard on the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation (No 111). JEFTA also poses many risks to the provision of services of general interest and to the quality of public services. These risks include for example the deregulation of the wastewater industry.⁵⁵

German industries have further invested heavily in other countries, particularly countries of the Global South. For instance, current regulations allow industries to locate parts of their value chains in countries with low social and environmental standards, such as textile industries in China, Vietnam and Bangladesh, which cause destruction of valuable natural resources and breadline wages. Similar results can be found in the agricultural sector, including the examples of the Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF), TRIPS and UPOV which accelerate land grabbing, environmental destruction and the rise of local inequalities.^{56 57} While the official land matrix data indicates that German companies have purchased a total of 300,000 hectares of land worldwide, a study published by FIAN Germany in 2010 found that the German investment group DWS has invested approximately € 279,500,000 in companies which own at least 3,057,700 hectares of agricultural land in South America, Africa and Southeast Asia alone.⁵⁸ In addition, it can be seen in countries such as Paraguay that investment agreements (between Germany and Paraguay) are major obstacles to the implementation of just measures such as redistributive land reforms, which are intended to redress previously suffered injustice and which would play a significant role in achieving land-based human rights.

AATIF was set up by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is headquartered in the financial paradise of Luxembourg, together with KfW Entwicklungsbank and Deutsche Bank AG. The fund is intended to attract private investments "to unlock the potential of the African agricultural sector at all levels - production, processing, services and trade - for the benefit of the poor". Instead of integrating the poor throughout the value chain and lending money to them, 79% of the US\$ 140 million was given to firms that operate or control from financial havens, many of which perform

land grabbing activities without compensation, rather decrease the amount of jobs available, use pesticides and sell their products abroad or to the middle class, increasing inequalities.

TRIPS and UPOV ensure that agricultural corporations either have their seeds patented or that they can demand money for the use and reuse of their seeds through the established plant variety protection. The International Intellectual Property Protection Agreement (TRIPS), which was adopted under the umbrella of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the UPOV International Plant Variety Protection Treaty provide the basis for this. Farmers become dependent on corporations as a result of these agreements, as their traditional use of seed is prevented and criminalized. Unnoticed by a wider public, 74 countries have joined UPOV. The regulations also apply in the European Union - with detrimental consequences for farmers.

Germany is the fourth largest exporter of weapons⁵⁹. Since 2012, the German defence industry has sold more than 50% of its weapons to third countries outside the EU and NATO. While less arms exports have been approved in 2018 compared to 2017, the recipient countries are still in crisis regions, such as the Middle East and North Africa. Particularly controversial export permissions in the Middle East, such as to Saudi Arabia, have increased.⁶⁰ In addition, the Federal Government does not want to restrict controversial exports of foreign subsidiaries of German arms companies. This facilitates the outsourcing of arms production abroad and must be legally stopped by an amendment to paragraph 49 of the Foreign Trade and Payments Regulation.⁶¹ In 2018 arms exports worth € 1.2 billion were approved (€ 440.6 million to third countries).

Results are repression, violence and war, displacement and migration, human rights violations and increased inequalities. Hence, while Germany had accepted over 1 million migrants in 2015 and 2016⁶² and was the second-largest donor country spending US\$25 billion on net official development assistance (ODA) in 2017 (0.67% of gross national income (GNI), down from 0.7% in 2016)⁶³, it has played a major role in people's poor working and living conditions, people's displacement and rising inequalities abroad.

Regarding Germany's general financial transparency, it was ranked 7 in the 2018 Financial Secrecy Index (FSI). Germany accounts for over 5% of the global market for offshore financial services and has taken important steps to fight tax evasion and money laundering both internationally and nationally. However, serious loopholes remain in national legislation and negligent enforcement of tax and anti-money laundering regulations still pose a threat to their effectiveness. At the same time, the German government has blocked the public country-by-country reporting (CbCR) negotiations at EU level, and opposed public registers of beneficial ownership as well as unilateral automatic reporting of tax information to developing countries, insisting on reciprocal exchange. This opposition to true fiscal transparency is alarming as the involvement of civil society and the access to information by countries most harmed by illicit outflows are crucial for an effective fight against illicit financial activities.⁶⁴ Furthermore, in 2018 Germany was ranked 11 in the International Transparency Index. While most indices relevant to the German index remained unchanged, there was a clear deterioration in the determinant of the World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey (EOS), which polls business executives every year: it dropped from 74 to 66 points (out of 100) because business leaders see increasing corruption and bribery in business and public institutions in Germany.⁶⁵

3. What are the structural causes - underlying political, economic, social, environmental, historical reasons - of these internal and external inequalities?

Until the mid-1970s - at the time of "industrial welfare capitalism" - social benefits were successively expanded. With stable economic growth, the official poverty rate fell from 22 to 12% between 1960 and 1975. In Germany at that time, both the pension and the unemployment insurance had met the principle of living standard protection.

Deindustrialization has put an end to social security arrangements. Most employees would no longer be guaranteed certain pay-outs and the amount of the pension depends on the capital market. At the same time, there have been cuts in state benefits, especially in single-parent and long-term unemployed benefits. Since future retirees could expect only a net replacement rate of 52% and occupational pensions are not widely used in many sectors, a significant increase in old age poverty has followed. As a result of the Hartz reforms only 40% of the unemployed receive income-related unemployment benefits. Between 1996 and 2010 the low-wage employment rate increased from 13.6% to over 20% in Germany.⁶⁶

The taxation of labour bears the brunt in Germany. Taxes and duties on labour account for almost two-thirds of the total. In international comparison, the burden on labour in Germany is relatively high (OECD 2016). Social security contributions (pension insurance, health insurance, unemployment insurance and long-term care insurance) account for more than two-thirds.

Problematic is that, unlike income tax, social security contribution rates do not progressively increase with income and therefore do not take into account the financial capability of taxpayers. In addition, they are capped due to the income threshold, which additionally relieves higher-income households. Yet, public revenues from taxes on environmental pollution decline significantly: the environmental contribution of 4.3% in 2017 was extremely low and has been falling for years. The German tax and levy system thus provides little incentive to reduce pollution and environmental destruction and the extensive consumption of resources. The steering effect of the so-called environmental taxes remains far behind their potential⁶⁷.

The pronounced gender differences in work are particularly persistent in part-time employment and have changed only little in the last 30 years. They are a clear sign that gender inequalities persist in the labour market. The disadvantages of part-time employment are obvious: Part-time workers forego a portion of their recoverable income due to the lower number of hours worked. Depending on the professional context, part-time employment often does not allow for an increase in hours or a change to full-time employment, which is why women in particular remain permanently in part-time employment. In high-skilled jobs, part-time work is often associated with lower career prospects - for example, part-time leadership has been scarce. These disadvantages usually add up over the course of working life, and in the end, part-time wages are proportionate and thus lower pension rights. Therefore, part-time work, in addition to more frequent career breaks by women, also contributes to women's lower pensions compared to men.⁶⁸

4. Do you think there are good practices/instruments/policies that have been developed by your government and civil society in your country to reduce/fight inequalities? If yes, please specify which.

The Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2018, a global ranking of governments based on what they are doing in terms of social spending, taxation, labour right and wages to tackle the gap between rich and poor conducted by Development Finance International and Oxfam, ranked Germany 2nd out of 157 countries.⁶⁹ Yet, while Germany's long-standing welfare institutions should significantly reduce inequality, since the early 1990s income gains have predominantly gone to those earning more, leading to increases in the level of income inequality before redistribution by the state. Regressive tax reforms over the last 20 years have in turn diminished the redistributive impact of government policy and as shown above, inequalities and poverty have been rising since, among others, even employment and social benefits do not prevent from poverty.⁷⁰

However, there have been some improvements on gender equality in professional environments, such as the law on the promotion of transparency of pay structures, the law on the equal participation of women and men in leadership positions and the parity law in Brandenburg. Hence, in order to reduce the gender pay gap, the Federal Government passed the Act on Promoting Transparency of Charges Structures, which entered into force on 6th July 2017. It is intended to ensure that equivalent work receives equal pay regardless of gender. Since January 6th, 2018, employees can request payment details and criteria in order to see how colleagues with the same qualifications are paid. However, this only applies to employers with more than 200 employees. Another problem is that only the average salary is based

on at least six colleagues of the opposite sex - a comparatively large group is, however, with ever less probability in higher management levels. In addition, some employers with more than 500 employees are obliged to report at regular intervals on equality characteristics and equal pay in the company and to make this information accessible for everyone.⁷¹

Another measure of the Federal Government was the introduction of a gender quota on private and public-sector supervisory boards by means of the Act on Equal Participation of Women and Men in Management Positions (FüPoG). This has created a commitment to respecting mandatory dimensions and offers the opportunity to address inequalities in this area. On May 1st, 2015, the act came into force. About 100 large companies in Germany were required to meet the prescribed gender quota of 30% which also adhered to this quota when appointing new members of their supervisory boards.⁷²

The proportion of women in the German Bundestag is currently 31.3% (as of January 2019) and has fallen significantly compared to 37.3% in 2013.⁷³ In order to counteract this development, a parity law was passed in Brandenburg as an effective remedy against gender inequalities in politics. Thus, Brandenburg is the first federal state that has introduced a regulation to ensure the same number of female and male state election candidates. The parity law already existing in France called for a constitutional amendment to not contradict democratic principles. Maybe this is necessary in Germany.⁷⁴ However, the Basic Law also stipulates that equal democratic participation for men and women is made possible by what the law can contribute, and thus the approach corresponds to valid legal bases. However, the parity law is not yet effective for the regional elections in autumn, as it will enter into force on June 30th, 2020. In addition, various parties have already announced that they will file complaints against the law at the Constitutional Court.⁷⁵

5. What are your demands to your government to reduce inequalities/to achieve SDG 10 (at the national level and within the EU)?

The implementation of the 2030 agenda at the political level would play a major role in fighting inequalities in Germany, the EU and beyond. While economic and technocratic solutions dominate Germany's current agenda, more holistic approaches are required, including social and environmental aspects, particularly affordable access to good services such as education, health, care, sustainable (public) infrastructures. The prerequisite for this, however, is the social and political recognition of good service work, including better pay for employees and good working conditions with sufficient staff. However, these offers can only be affordable if they are publicly organized and financed, because they must be geared to the needs of the individual and not to the profit targets of private companies. Instead, with international trade agreements such as JEFTA, Ceta and TiSA, we experience the opposite, namely the attempt to secure an international trade and investment order that gives priority to private profit interests over social and environmental issues. At most, these are mentioned in sustainability chapters, which, however, unlike the liberalization and investment protection rules, are non-binding.⁷⁶

Specific economic, social and environmental measures include:

ECONOMIC^{77 78}

- Sustainable de-growth
- More data transparency, e.g. (foreign) investments, paid salaries and benefits, increased accountability for transparent tax gaps and risk estimates and regular statistics on the recently adopted, effective fight against shadow financial markets and money laundering through a strong blacklist at EU level, an ambitious 5th EU Money Laundering Directive, the introduction of a public and comprehensive transparency register in Germany, a central land register and more transparency in tax and money laundering cases;
- Improved tax schemes, e.g. abandonment of tax relief for high incomes such as the abolition of 'Soli', the abolition of withholding tax without reintroduction of speculative period and unlimited loss offsetting, the reintroduction of withholding tax on foreign interest income in Germany, the termination of inheritance tax privileges and the introduction of wealth tax on assets of millions;
- Fair and effective taxation of businesses through public country-by-country reporting, rapid implementation of the G20 / OECD measures (BEPS), additional national defenses, waiving tax cuts through patent boxes, support for European corporate tax and the introduction of a minimum EU tax rate;
- Assisting low-income countries through their - even one-sided - involvement in the automatic exchange of information; development-friendly double taxation agreements without restrictions on withholding taxes and with a broad term of establishment, regular reports on illegal assets in Germany and their repatriation, as well as the establishment of an intergovernmental commission under the auspices of the United Nations, in which developing countries can have an equal say on future, multilateral agreements.
- The introduction of a financial transaction tax in accordance with the proposal of the European Commission.

SOCIAL

- Prevent atypical employment which cannot guarantee a living above the poverty line
- Prevent poverty among the elderly by ensuring pensions high enough to guarantee a living above the poverty line
- Increase social benefits, e.g. children basic security⁷⁹, unemployment benefits
- Enhance parental leave and parental allowance towards more parity between parents, and 'ElterngeldPlus' towards a family working time with family allowance as well as the introduction of "father protection" directly after birth
- Develop tools to support a partnership-based work-sharing in the care of relatives
- Make the Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), ILO und WHO standards within Germany and beyond a reality

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Implement the Aarhus Convention
- Consider interlinkages between environment, conservation, health and social status at all decisions -> include social aspects within technocratic approaches⁸⁰
- Promote decentralised (energy) structures, expansion of renewable energies, more resource efficiency and conservation, to reduce energy poverty and energy inefficiency
- Increase sustainable and affordable public infrastructures, particularly public transport and cycling paths
- Taxing bads not goods

- ¹ http://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/PDF-Pressemitteilungen/2017/5-arb-kurzfassung.pdf?__blob=publication-File&v=2
- ² The net asset Gini coefficient is 0.79. https://www.iwkoeln.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Studien/Kurzberichte/PDF/2018/lw-Kurzbericht_2018_29_Einkommens_und_Vermoegensungleichheit.pdf
- ³ In 2015 the Gini coefficient for income before government redistribution through taxes, social security contributions, transfers and statutory pensions was 0.50 in comparison to the *net income* Gini coefficient of 0.29. See https://www.iwkoeln.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Studien/Kurzberichte/PDF/2018/lw-Kurzbericht_2018_29_Einkommens_und_Vermoegensungleichheit.pdf
- ⁴ https://www.iwkoeln.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Studien/Kurzberichte/PDF/2018/lw-Kurzbericht_2018_29_Einkommens_und_Vermoegensungleichheit.pdf
- ⁵ <https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Wirtschaft/Konjunkturindikatoren/Arbeitsmarkt/arb110.html>
- ⁶ https://www.boeckler.de/pdf/atlas_der_arbeit_2018.pdf
- ⁷ Marginally remunerated means working in ‘mini jobs’ paying up to €450 a month. See Jon C Messenger and Paul Wallot (2015) The Diversity of “Marginal” Part-Time Employment. ILO – INWORK Policy Brief No. 7. Geneva 2015. Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms_375630.pdf
- ⁸ People affected by poverty are considered to receive 60% or less of the national median income which for an individual is currently 1000 Euros per month
- ⁹ https://con.arbeitsagentur.de/prod/apok/ct/dam/download/documents/Arbeitsmarktbericht-03-19_ba043161.pdf
- ¹⁰ Living below the poverty line means receiving less than 60% of the national median income.
- ¹¹ https://con.arbeitsagentur.de/prod/apok/ct/dam/download/documents/Arbeitsmarktbericht-03-19_ba043161.pdf
- ¹² <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/3261/umfrage/gender-pay-gap-in-deutschland/>
- ¹³ <https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/business/women-and-work-in-germany-five-facts>
- ¹⁴ https://www.nationale-armutskonferenz.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NAK_Armutsrisiko-Geschlecht.pdf
- ¹⁵ https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/fulltext/journal-vt/wzb-mitteilungen/wm2018_161.pdf
- ¹⁶ <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/gleichstellung/frauen-und-arbeitswelt/quote-privatwirtschaft/quote-fuer-mehr-frauen-in-fuehrungspositionen--privatwirtschaft/78562?view=DEFAULT>
- ¹⁷ The Act on Promoting Transparency of Charges Structures came into force on 6th July 2017. See <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/gleichstellung/frauen-und-arbeitswelt/lohngerechtigkeit>
- ¹⁸ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/MS.MIL.XPRT.KD?end=2017&start=2017&view=map>
- ¹⁹ <https://www.welt.de/wirtschaft/article165552297/Deutsche-Waffen-fuer-die-Scheichs.html>
- ²⁰ https://www.unhcr.org/dach/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2018/03/Factsheet_Germany_O1_2018.pdf
- ²¹ <https://donortracker.org/country/germany>
- ²² <http://www.foes.de/pdf/2017-06-Hintergrundpapier-Steuerstruktur.pdf>
- ²³ https://www.boeckler.de/51553_51569.htm
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ <http://www.foes.de/pdf/2017-06-Hintergrundpapier-Steuerstruktur.pdf>
- ²⁶ https://www.boeckler.de/pdf/p_wsi_report_43_2018.pdf
- ²⁷ A Gini coefficient of zero expresses perfect equality while a Gini coefficient of 1 expresses maximal inequality, with wealth distribution spreading out more unequally than income distribution since wealth is accumulated over time.
- ²⁸ https://www.iwkoeln.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Studien/Kurzberichte/PDF/2018/lw-Kurzbericht_2018_29_Einkommens_und_Vermoegensungleichheit.pdf
- ²⁹ <https://tradingeconomics.com/germany/gini-index-wb-data.html>
- ³⁰ <https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/cope-divide-europe-2017-background-report.pdf>
- ³¹ https://www.iwkoeln.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Studien/Kurzberichte/PDF/2018/lw-Kurzbericht_2018_29_Einkommens_und_Vermoegensungleichheit.pdf
- ³² <https://wid.world/country/germany/>
- ³³ http://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/PDF-Pressemitteilungen/2017/5-arb-kurzfassung.pdf?__blob=publication-File&v=2
- ³⁴ https://www.nationale-armutskonferenz.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NAK_Armutsrisiko-Geschlecht.pdf
- ³⁵ <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/3261/umfrage/gender-pay-gap-in-deutschland/>
- ³⁶ https://www.nationale-armutskonferenz.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NAK_Armutsrisiko-Geschlecht.pdf
- ³⁷ <https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Wirtschaft/Konjunkturindikatoren/Arbeitsmarkt/arb110.html>
- ³⁸ <https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Arbeit/Arbeitsmarkt/Erwerbslosigkeit/Tabellen/erwerbslose.html>
- ³⁹ https://con.arbeitsagentur.de/prod/apok/ct/dam/download/documents/Arbeitsmarktbericht-03-19_ba043161.pdf
- ⁴⁰ https://www.boeckler.de/pdf/atlas_der_arbeit_2018.pdf

- ⁴¹ People affected by poverty are considered to receive 60% or less of the national median income which for an individual is currently 1000 Euros per month.
- ⁴² https://con.arbeitsagentur.de/prod/apok/ct/dam/download/documents/Arbeitsmarktbericht-03-19_ba043161.pdf
- ⁴³ Living below the poverty line means receiving less than 60% of the national median income.
- ⁴⁴ <https://www.armuts-und-reichtumsbericht.de/DE/Indikatoren/Armut/Armutsrisikoquote/armutsrisikoquote.html>
- ⁴⁵ https://www.nationale-armutskonferenz.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NAK_Armutsrisiko-Geschlecht.pdf
- ⁴⁶ <https://www.armuts-und-reichtumsbericht.de/DE/Indikatoren/Armut/Armutsrisikoquote/armutsrisikoquote.html>
- ⁴⁷ https://www.iwkoeln.de/fileadmin/publikationen/2017/321687/IW-Trends_3_2017_Bildungsmobilitaet.pdf
- ⁴⁸ The social divide in voter turnout describes how much the voter turnout depends on the social profile of a constituency. The social divide in voter turnout is high if the turnout in economically and socially strong neighborhoods is very high while the turnout is low in economically and socially disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- ⁴⁹ https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/fileadmin/files/BSt/Publikationen/GrauePublikationen/ZD_Populaere_Wahlen_Bundestagswahl_2017_01.pdf
- ⁵⁰ <https://www.armuts-und-reichtumsbericht.de/DE/Indikatoren/Armut/Armutsrisikoquote/armutsrisikoquote.html>
- ⁵¹ https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/downloads/Citi_GPS_Inequality.pdf
- ⁵² This includes imports and exports of goods, services, revenues from foreign assets and payments to foreign countries.
- ⁵³ http://www.cesifo-group.de/de/ifoHome/presse/Media-Coverage/deutsch/2018/ifo_Presse_Echo_2018_Jul_Sept/medienecho_echo-sueddeutsche-de-20-08-2018.html
- ⁵⁴ https://www.bund.net/fileadmin/user_upload_bund/publikationen/ttip_und_ceta/welthandel_jefta_entzaubert.pdf
- ⁵⁵ <https://www.lobbycontrol.de/wp-content/uploads/JEFTA-Mythen-Fakten.pdf>
- ⁵⁶ https://www.fian.de/fileadmin/user_upload/news_bilder/Schuldenreport_2017_AATIF.pdf
- ⁵⁷ http://www.fian.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bilder_allgemein/Presse/Mediathek/FIAN_Infografik_AATIF_150dpi.jpg
- ⁵⁸ http://www.fian.de/fileadmin/user_upload/dokumente/shop/Land_Grabbing/2010_study_german_investment_funds_www.pdf
- ⁵⁹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/MS.MIL.XPRT.KD?end=2017&start=2017&view=map>
- ⁶⁰ <https://www.welt.de/wirtschaft/article165552297/Deutsche-Waffen-fuer-die-Scheichs.html>
- ⁶¹ <https://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2019-01/ruestungsexporte-waffen-saudi-arabien-drittlaender-tochterfirmen>
- ⁶² https://www.unhcr.org/dach/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2018/03/Factsheet_Germany_O1_2018.pdf
- ⁶³ <https://donortracker.org/country/germany>
- ⁶⁴ <https://www.financialsecrecyindex.com/PDF/Germany.pdf>
- ⁶⁵ <https://www.transparency.de/cpi/>
- ⁶⁶ https://www.boeckler.de/51553_51569.htm
- ⁶⁷ <http://www.foes.de/pdf/2017-06-Hintergrundpapier-Steuerstruktur.pdf>
- ⁶⁸ https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/fulltext/journal-vt/wzb-mitteilungen/wm2018_161.pdf
- ⁶⁹ <https://www.oxfam.de/system/files/rr-commitment-reducing-inequality-index-2018-091018-en.pdf>
- ⁷⁰ https://www.boeckler.de/pdf/p_imk_report_129_2017.pdf
- ⁷¹ <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/gleichstellung/frauen-und-arbeitswelt/lohngerechtigkeit>
- ⁷² <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/gleichstellung/frauen-und-arbeitswelt/quote-privatwirtschaft/quote-fuer-mehr-frauen-in-fuehrungspositionen--privatwirtschaft/78562?view=DEFAULT>
- ⁷³ https://www.bundestag.de/abgeordnete/biografien/mdb_zahlen_19/frauen_maenner-529508
- ⁷⁴ <https://www.zeit.de/gesellschaft/2019-01/frauen-politik-bundestag-paritaet-verfassung-juristinnenbund>
- ⁷⁵ <https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/brandenburg-gleichstellung-101.html>
- ⁷⁶ <http://www.movum.info/images/ausgaben/heft7.pdf>
- ⁷⁷ <https://wir2018.wid.world/files/download/wir2018-summary-german.pdf>
- ⁷⁸ https://netzwerksteuergerechtigkeit.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/steuerpolitische-forderungen_nwsg_koalitionsverhandlungen-20171.pdf
- ⁷⁹ <https://www.dgsf.org/themen/Familien-Jugend-Sozialpolitisches/das-buendnis-kindergrundsicherung>
- ⁸⁰ http://www.duh.de/uploads/tx_duhdownloads/Resolution_final_261011.pdf





The European-wide project **Make Europe Sustainable for All (MESA)** is coordinated by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and implemented in 15 European countries by 25 partners. It aims to raise citizens', CSOs', and policy-makers' awareness on the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the 193 Member states of the United Nations in 2015. At the core of the project are campaigns and advocacy on inequalities, sustainable agriculture, gender equality, climate change, migration and sustainable consumption and production. This report was produced as part of the **Fighting Inequalities** in Europe campaign of the project, and contributes as well as the global **Faces of Inequality** campaign, which gives social exclusion, poverty and discrimination a face.

#SDGS4All ■ <https://makeeuropesustainableforall.org> ■ <https://makeeuropesustainableforall.org/fight-inequalities>
<https://gcap.global/faces-of-inequality>

AWO International was founded in 1998 as a professional association for development cooperation and humanitarian action within the framework of the German welfare organization "Arbeiterwohlfahrt" (AWO, literally: Workers' Welfare). In cooperation with local partner organizations, AWO International is committed to support marginalized and disadvantaged groups of society to sustainably improve their living conditions. In crisis situations, AWO International, also in cooperation with local non-governmental organizations, quickly provides humanitarian aid to the affected population and supports the rehabilitation and reconstruction process. The organisation also engages in development education and awareness raising. The head office of AWO International is in Berlin, Germany.

The German Forum on Environment and Development was founded in 1992 after the UN conference on Environment and Development ("Rio"). We coordinate German NGOs in international political processes on sustainable development and environmental issues. Our mission is to raise awareness in the German public on the connection between environment and development and to insist on a change of the current wasteful economy and lifestyle of industrial countries. The Forum's Steering Committee represents the involved environmental and developmental organizations.

WECF (Women Engage for a Common Future) is a nonprofit network dedicated to a gender just and healthy planet for all. Our international network consists of over 150 women's and civil society organisations implementing projects in 50 countries. We believe that a sustainable future and environment needs holistic solutions reflecting the lives of people on the ground. We work on transformative gender equality and women's human rights in interconnection with climate justice, sustainable energy & chemicals, less toxic waste, safe water & sanitation for all.