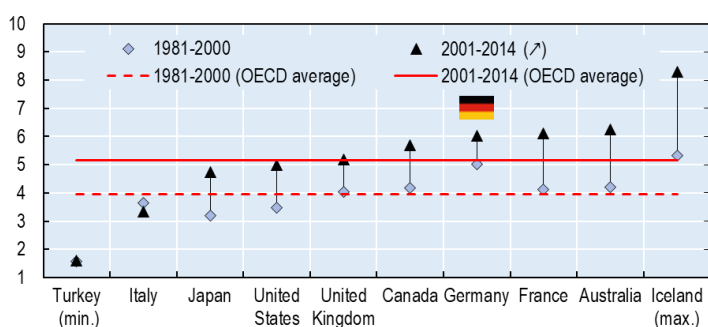




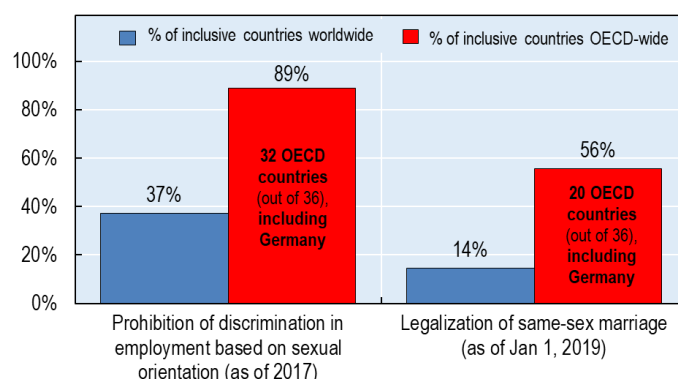
The 2019 edition of *Society at a Glance* examines trends in social well-being across the OECD. It features a special chapter on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people: their numbers, how they fare in terms of their economic situation and well-being, and what policies can improve LGBT inclusivity. It also includes a special chapter based on the 2018 OECD Risks That Matter Survey on people's perceptions of social and economic risks and the extent to which they think governments address those risks. The publication also presents 25 indicators on general context, self-sufficiency, equity, health and social cohesion.

Fig.1. Despite improvements, acceptance of homosexuality remains limited



Note: Acceptance of homosexuality is measured on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that homosexuality is never justifiable and 10 means that it is always justifiable. Source: [Figure 1.6 of OECD Society at a Glance 2019].

Fig.2. There is still a long way before sexual and gender minorities meet full-fledged legal recognition



Source: [Figure 1.18 of OECD Society at a Glance 2019].

A SPOTLIGHT ON LGBT PEOPLE

Germany is one of the 15 OECD countries that include a question on self-identification as heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual in at least one of their nationally representative surveys. According to the Socio-Economic Panel, the share of LGB people in Germany amounted to 1.9% in 2016. In other OECD countries where estimations from different survey rounds are available, the share of LGB people is on the rise [Figure 1.4 of OECD Society at a Glance 2019]. Increasing disclosure of an LGB identity is likely to continue in the future since it is driven by younger cohorts. As most OECD countries, Germany does not yet collect information on the share of transgender people among the adult population.

Attitudes toward LGBT people are improving worldwide and have consistently been more positive in OECD countries than elsewhere. However, there remains substantial room for progress. Germany performs slightly better than the OECD average regarding acceptance of homosexuality: German citizens score six on a 1-to-10 acceptance scale, one point above the average OECD score [Figure 1 above]. However, only a minority of German respondents (30%) would feel comfortable

having a transgender or transsexual person in the highest elected political position, as a work colleague, or as a daughter- or son-in-law [Figure 1.8].

Low acceptance of LGBT people puts them at risk of discrimination. Representative survey data reveal that LGBT people are penalised with respect to employment status and labour earnings [Figure 1.12]. Experimental data confirm that this penalty at least partly reflects labour market discrimination: with the same curriculum vitae, lesbian German applicants are nearly 20% less likely to be invited to a job interview than heterosexual female German applicants.

Representative survey data also point to widespread psychological distress among LGBT individuals. LGB people in Germany are more than twice as likely to have ever been diagnosed with a depressive disorder compared to heterosexual people [Figure 1.14]. Lower mental health among LGBT people at least partly flows from stigma. By living in a social environment that largely views heterosexuality and congruence between sex at birth and gender identity as the only way of being normal, LGBT people experience stress not undergone by heterosexual and cisgender individuals.

A range of policies can help improve LGBT inclusivity. Making LGBT individuals and the penalties they face visible in national statistics is a prerequisite for their inclusion, suggesting that Germany could collect information on sexual orientation in a broader range of surveys, including the German labour force survey and the German census, and start collecting information on gender identity as well. Legally prohibiting anti-LGBT discrimination and ensuring equal rights for LGBT individuals is also essential to improve their situation. Germany has a proud record in this area, being one of the 32 OECD countries that prohibit discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation, and one of the 20 OECD countries that have legalized same-sex marriage [Figure 2 above]. Finally, educating people in countering their unconscious bias is a key component of any policy package aiming to better LGBT inclusion. Evidence shows that these interventions can be highly effective, even when they are short.

The OECD Risks that Matter survey suggests Germans are worried about pensions

Just under half (43%) of Germans say “making ends meet” is a top-three worry in the next couple of years, and when looking beyond the next decade [Figure 3.1], 76% of Germans cite “financial security in old age” as one of the top-three risks they face [Figure 3.2].

In the face of these concerns, Germans are sceptical of their government’s ability to provide them with adequate support. About half (52%) of Germans feel that they would not be able to access benefits easily if they needed them [Figure 3.3], and only 18% feel that the government incorporates the views of people like them in policy design. Overall, 78% of Germans say government should do more to ensure their economic and social security [Figure 3.6].

OVERVIEW OF OTHER SOCIAL INDICATORS

Affordable housing is a challenge

More than half (55%) of all households in Germany rent their dwelling. This share is the second highest in the OECD, just behind Switzerland and well above the OECD average of 26%. Buying a house with a mortgage can be particularly difficult for low-income people. In Germany, 39% of low-income owners with a mortgage spent over 40% of their disposable income on a mortgage in 2016. Among low-income renters, the share is only half as large (20%) [Figure 6.14].

High wealth inequality and relatively low social mobility

As a result of the low share of homeownership, **household wealth is more unequally distributed than in most other OECD countries.** In 2015, the richest 10% of

German households owned 60% of overall household wealth [Figure 6.2], the fifth highest share of the 27 countries studied, and significantly higher than France (51%) and Belgium (42%). Low levels of wealth taxation contribute to the high wealth concentration. Income inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, is lower in Germany than in the average OECD country (0.29 versus 0.32) [Figure 6.1].

Low social mobility

Social mobility in Germany is comparatively low in OECD comparison. It takes on average six generations for the offspring of a family in the bottom 10% of the income distribution to reach the average income, placing Germany at the top three of the least socially mobile OECD countries for which data are available [Figure 6.3]. The average across OECD countries is around four to five generations.

Violence against women

One in five women in Germany say that a husband may be justified in hitting or beating his wife, compared with only one in thirteen in OECD countries on average [Figure 8.8]. Germany ranks at the top of all OECD countries for this indicator. Between 2010 and 2017, nearly one in four German women (22%) reported having experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime [Figure 8.7]. While this share comparable with the OECD average, social acceptance of domestic violence against women is an obstacle to addressing violence against women.

Tobacco and alcohol consumption

More than one in five German adults (21%) smoke on a daily basis, placing Germany in the upper-half of the OECD ranking (OECD average: 18%) [Figure 7.13]. **Germans also consume more alcohol than the average OECD citizen.** With 11 litres of alcohol per adult, Germany stands eight in the OECD ranking (OECD average is 8.8 litres) [Figure 7.14]. Both smoking and alcohol consumption considerably decreased over the past decade in Germany, as in most OECD countries.

High internet take up

Internet usage is almost universal among German youth (99%), but also many 55-74-year olds use the internet (80%) – OECD averages are 97% and 67% respectively [Figure 8.13]. German youth (aged 14-24) spend on average four and a half hours per day online, comparable with youth in OECD countries on average [Figure 8.14].

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