

## Eight out of ten children and young people have a positive attitude towards refugees

### Positive attitude increases if there is personal contact with refugees

Representative study of 6- to 19-year-olds

**A recent study by the International Central Institute for Youth and Educational Television (IZI) shows that children and young people have a distinctly positive attitude to the topic of refugees. So far, their knowledge of refugees is mainly derived from the media. Only one in three has actually had contact with refugees so far.**

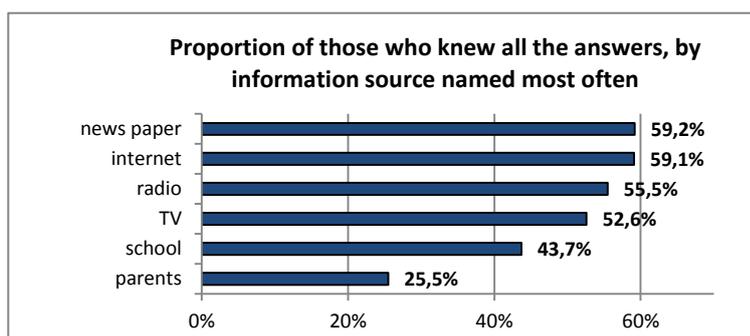
Munich, 11 May 2016. In a collaborative study by the International Central Institute for Youth and Educational Television (IZI) in March 2016, n=741 representatively selected children and young people aged between 6 and 19 were asked about their knowledge, their media use and their feelings about refugees.

*Basic knowledge about refugees present in every second respondent; in eastern Germany, the number of refugees is often considerably overestimated*

All the children and young people are now familiar with the basic facts, e.g. that most of the refugees come from Syria or the Middle East. When asked how many refugees came to Germany in 2015, though, only 6 out of 10 young people know the right answer, and in the former East Germany the number is often considerably overestimated.

*Newspaper-reading children are the best informed*

Children and young people get most of their knowledge from the media. Television is the most-used source, followed by newspapers, internet and radio. The best results in the knowledge questions are achieved by those who have obtained information from newspapers and the internet. Where children – especially those of primary-school age – have obtained information from their parents, they more often have erroneous ideas. This is different for those over the age of 10. If these children have received their information from their parents, they are often well informed. When it comes to television programmes, the best results are achieved by those who have obtained their information from *Tagesschau*, *logo!* or *heute*. Children and young people whose knowledge comes from *RTL Aktuell* and *Stern TV* often give the wrong answers.

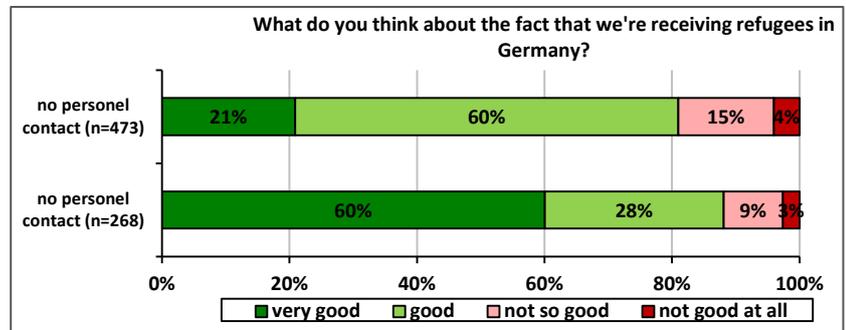


*So far only one in three has had actual contact with refugees*

So far only one in three, on average, has actually spoken to or shared an activity with a refugee. As far as the children and young people are aware, only one in three has had refugees join their educational or childcare facility. Here there is considerable variation between the different federal states.

**Attitude: 84% think it is good or very good that Germany is receiving refugees**

The majority of the children and young people surveyed have a distinctly positive emotional attitude towards refugees. 4 out of 5 think this is “good” or even “very good”. Children and young people perceive their parents’ attitudes as being somewhat more critical than their own, much more so in eastern than in western Germany. Actual encounters with refugees bring a much more positive attitude towards them.



**Fears only present in a small proportion of respondents, mostly those with critical attitudes and no actual contact**

Two out of three children and young people associate the increasing number of refugees with the hope of learning something new. Only a small proportion have specific fears. For one in three, the greatest fear is that more refugees will lead to an increase in terrorist attacks; in the former East Germany this fear is somewhat more common. Among those with a generally negative attitude towards refugees, the fears are also noticeably higher. Children and young people who have actually met refugees, on the other hand, only show such fears in exceptional cases.

**Children who have obtained their information from television programmes on commercial broadcasters are twice as likely to express fears**

The children whose knowledge comes from public service television have considerable fewer fears about a future coexistence with refugees. In particular, children who have obtained their information from the children’s news programme *logo!* hardly mention any fears. In contrast, those whose information comes from the programmes of commercial broadcasters are twice as likely to express fears.

The findings show, on the one hand, how important actual encounters are. On the other hand, they show the high importance of quality-oriented and age-appropriate information. Dr Maya Götz, who led the study, draws the following conclusion: “We need more awareness of and more sensitivity to children and young people’s information processing.”

The findings will be presented for the first time at the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2016 on 20 May 2016 in Munich. The world oldest international children’s TV festival and competition is held every other year at Bayerischer Rundfunk. Over 500 TV executives from over 60 countries come to Munich for 6 days, watch and discuss the best and most innovative programmes and learn about the newest research results.

For more information on the study and to register for the event, contact:  
Dr Maya Götz, head of the International Central Institute for Youth and Educational Television, ph.: 089/5900 42264,  
website: [www.izi.de](http://www.izi.de), [www.maya-goetz.de](http://www.maya-goetz.de); email: [Maya.Goetz@br.de](mailto:Maya.Goetz@br.de)

If you would prefer not to receive any further press releases from us, please send a short email to [izi@br.de](mailto:izi@br.de)