

# Reforms Welcome?

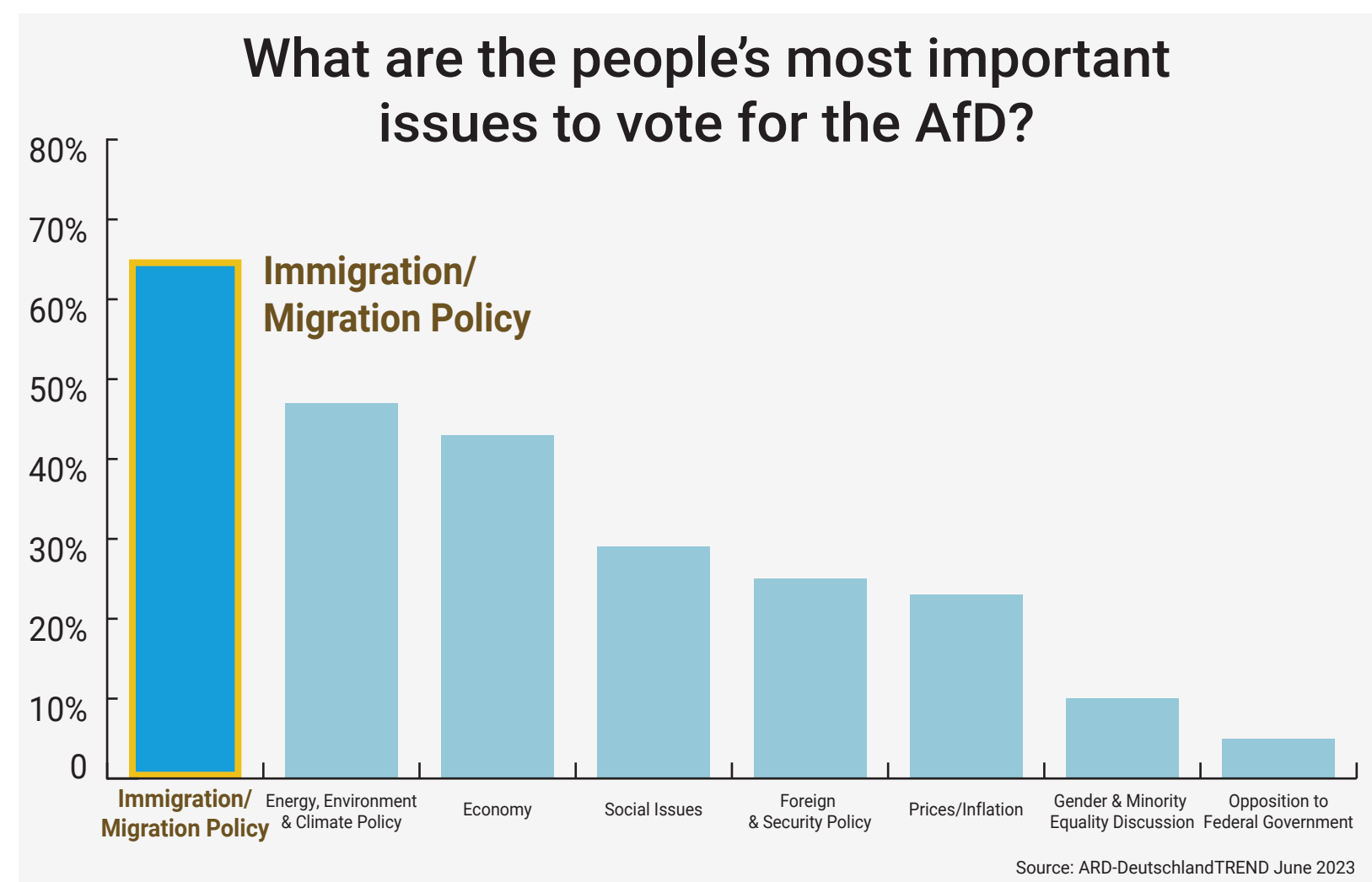
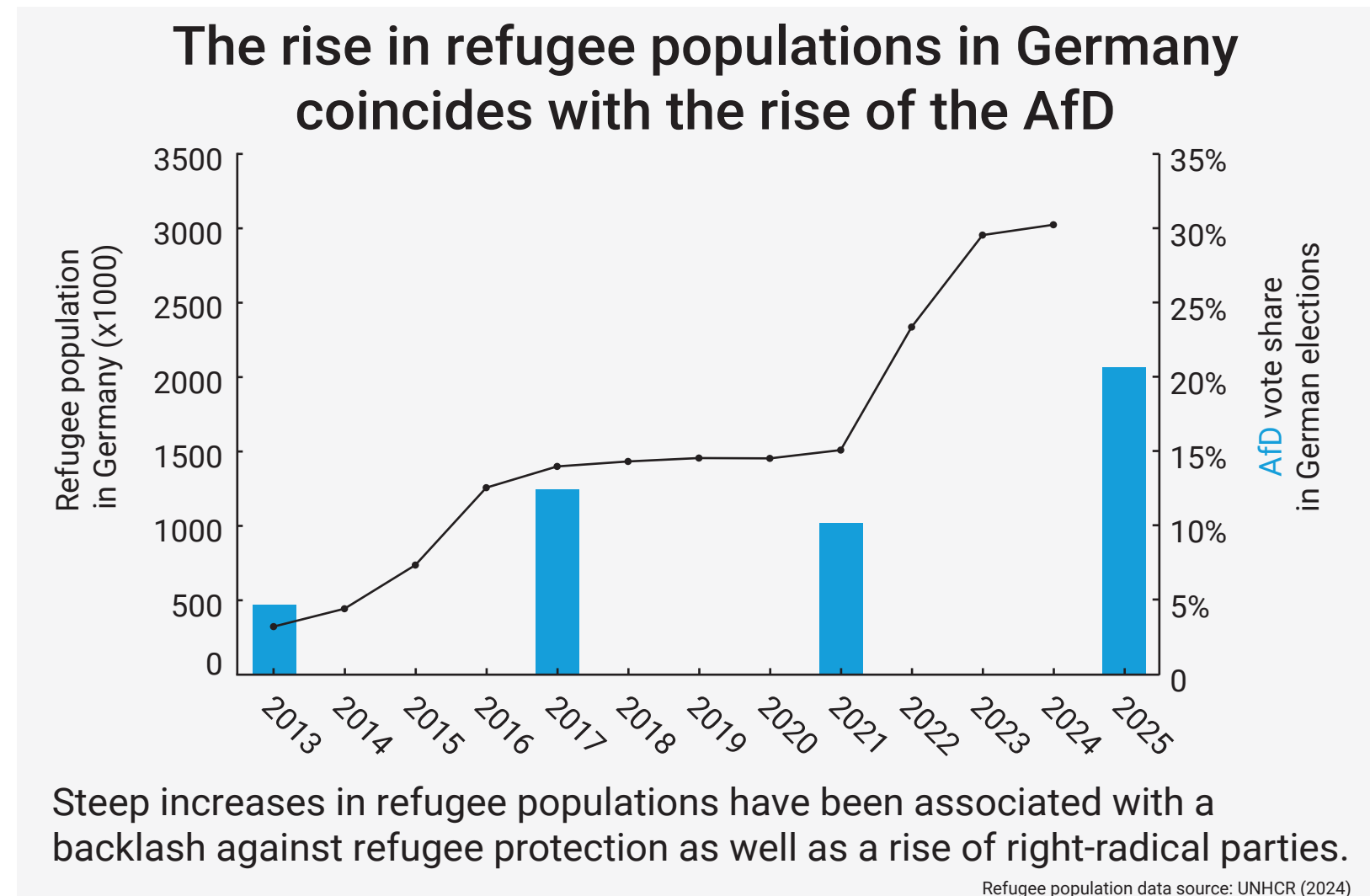
## How Germans view “regularizing” refugee protection

### Introduction



**“We must finally deport on a large scale”**

To reverse the rise of the far right and thereby protect democratic institutions, even centrist politicians increasingly curtail asylum rights.



But does humanitarian migration necessarily spark public resistance?



### Hypothesis

Opposition to asylum migration is targeted at the irregular rather than the humanitarian component.

**Humanitarian immigration  
=  
irregular immigration**

### Research question

How do Germans view a reform proposal to **regularize** refugee protection?

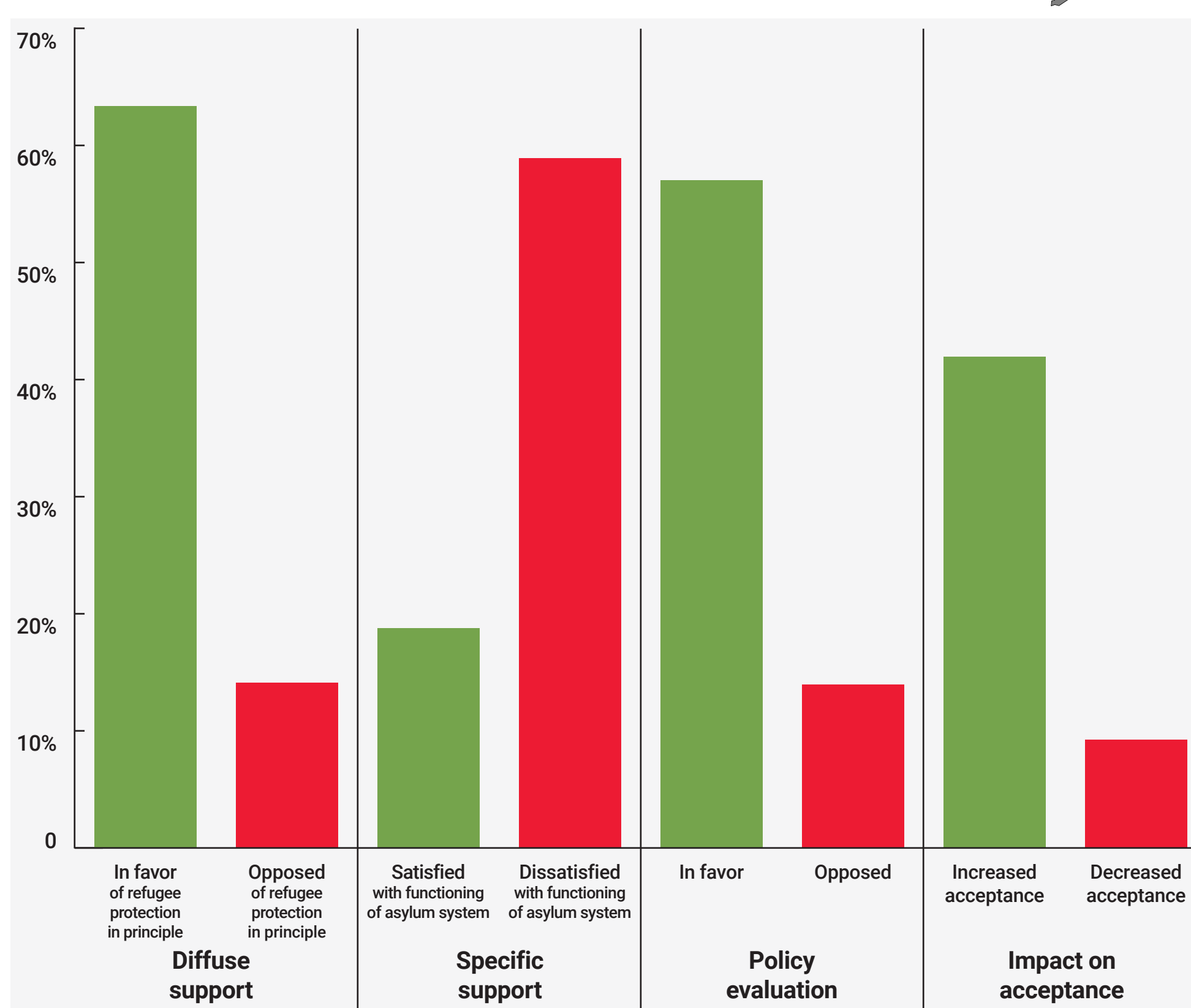
**What is regularization?**  
The proposal to ‘regularize’ refugee protection adopts a two-pronged strategy: closing irregular pathways through safe third-country agreements with non-EU countries, while simultaneously expanding regular pathways, primarily by drastically scaling up refugee resettlement.

### Research design

Data	Priming experiment	Conjoint experiment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online survey experiment</li> <li>December 2024</li> <li>2,211 participants in Germany</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three conditions for introducing reform proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legality condition</li> <li>Humanitarian assistance condition</li> <li>National interest condition</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testing views towards four specific policy dimensions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to protection</li> <li>Resettlement selection criteria</li> <li>Cooperation with non-EU countries</li> <li>Welfare access</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Results

#### Key descriptive results



	Policy Evaluation
Female	0.057 [0.054]
Age	0.003 [0.002]
East Germany	-0.067 [0.074]
University Degree	-0.011 [0.064]
Unemployed	0.065 [0.125]
Income Struggles	-0.088 [0.060]
Migration Background	-0.042 [0.069]
_cons	3.521*** [0.104]
Obs.	1,378
R2	0.004

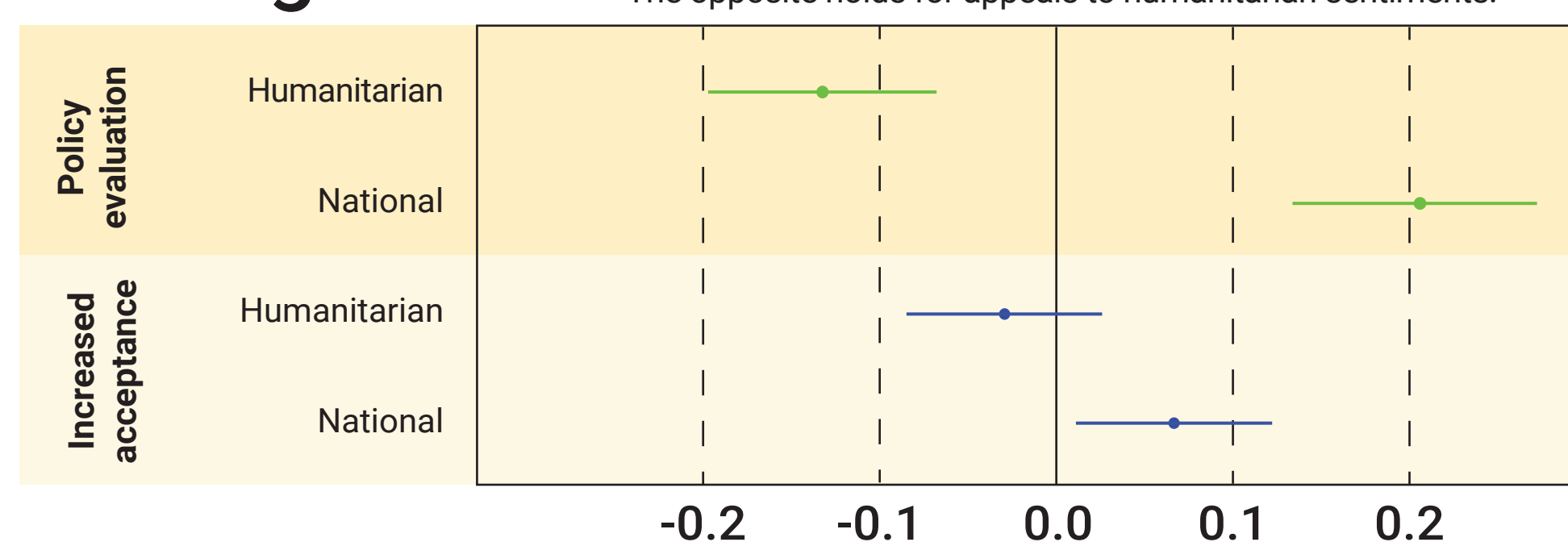
Standard errors in brackets  
\*p < .1, \*\*p < .05, \*\*\*p < .01

#### An impressive non-finding

The proposal garners widespread public support and bridges population segments that typically hold opposing views on immigration.

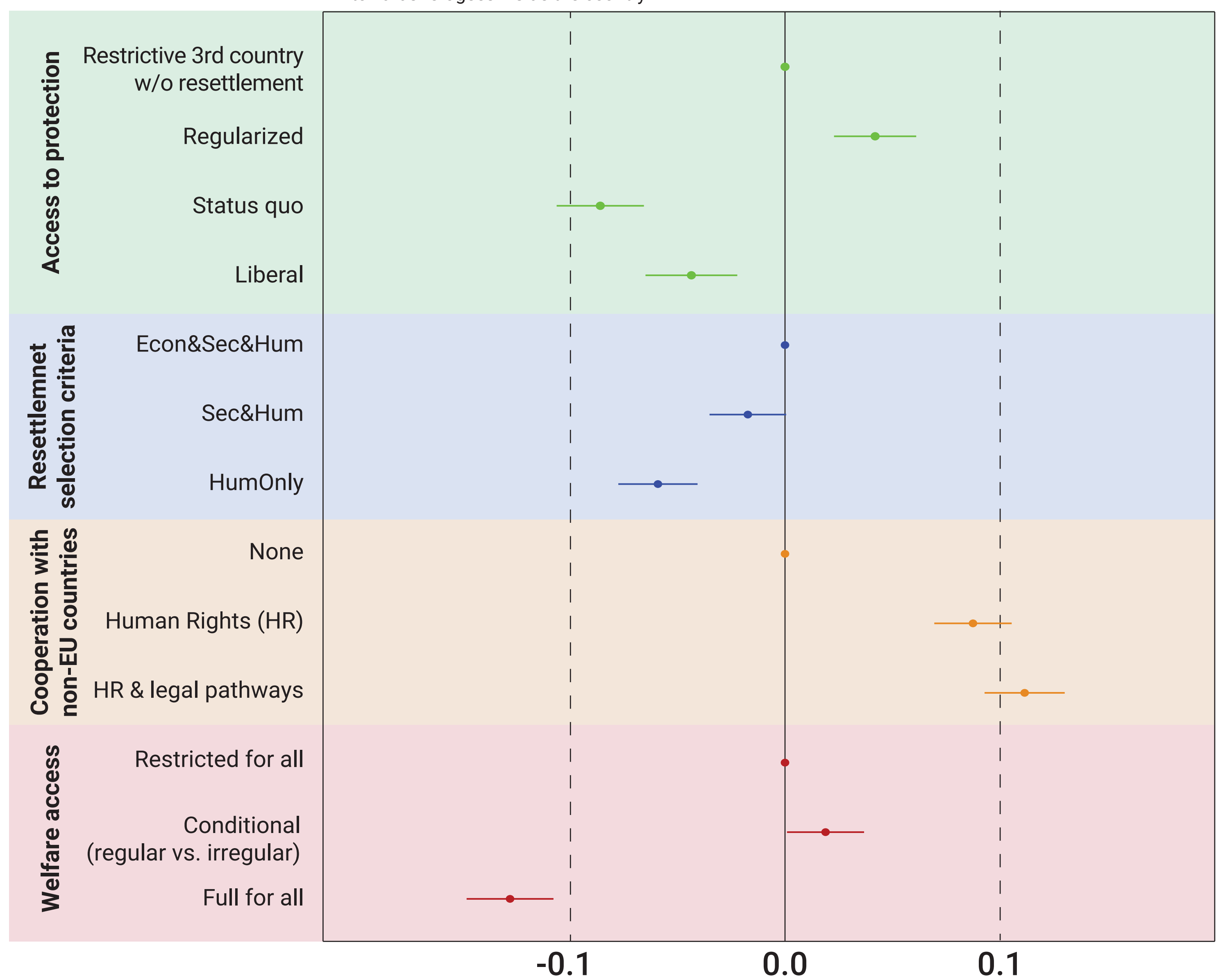
#### Priming results

Tying the proposal to national interest aspects increases support. The opposite holds for appeals to humanitarian sentiments.



#### Conjoint results

Germans desire regularization rather than maximal restrictions. They care for their own security, but also about the safety of migrants in partner countries. A regularized system may also enhance solidarity towards refugees inside the country.



### Conclusion

