

FRA Brief: Data on discrimination of Roma and anti-Roma crime

I. The work of the FRA on Roma

In response to the European Commission's Communication of 5 April 2011 on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, FRA has developed its Roma Multi-Annual Programme (2012-2020).

The FRA collects three types of data: primary statistical data; primary qualitative data at local level; and secondary official and non-official data on Roma.

Data collected over the past years by FRA and international organisations shows that many Roma continue to face challenges in employment, education, housing and health care and that their fundamental rights are not always respected. In response to the European Commission's Communication of 5 April 2011 on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, FRA has developed a Multi-Annual Programme (2012-2020) with several activities to support EU and Member State efforts for Roma inclusion. A key element of this Programme is to provide advice relying on robust and comparable data that can support evidence-based policy making. The Agency carries out its work in the four priority areas: employment, education, housing and health. In addition, it covers important fundamental rights issues such as discrimination, anti-gypsyism and hate crime, as well as citizenship and rights awareness issues.

In the framework of this Programme the Agency collects three types of data: primary statistical data collected through large quantitative surveys of randomly selected samples of Roma and non-Roma living near-by; primary qualitative data collected through participatory action research at local level; and, secondary official and non-official data. In this document we have compiled data and information from recent FRA reports regarding discrimination and racist crime.

II. Discrimination

FRA/UNDP/World Bank surveys

The FRA/UNDP/WB report *"The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States - Survey results at a glance"* published in May 2012 presents the first results of the FRA/UNDP/World Bank surveys carried out in 11 EU Member States, in 2011. It provides new robust evidence both about the socio-economic and the human rights situation of the Roma surveyed. Across 11 EU Member States (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain) the surveys interviewed 22,203 Roma and non-Roma living near-by providing information on a total of 84,287 household members. Interviews were carried out face-to-face in Roma and non-Roma respondents' homes with people who self-identified as Roma and members of the general population living in the

same area as or in the closest neighbourhood to the Roma interviewed (referred to as non Roma in the report). The results are representative for Roma living in areas in a higher than national average density. The results for non-Roma are not representative of the general population, but serve as a benchmark for the Roma since the non-Roma interviewed share the same environment, labour market and local infrastructure.

Selected findings of the Roma surveys

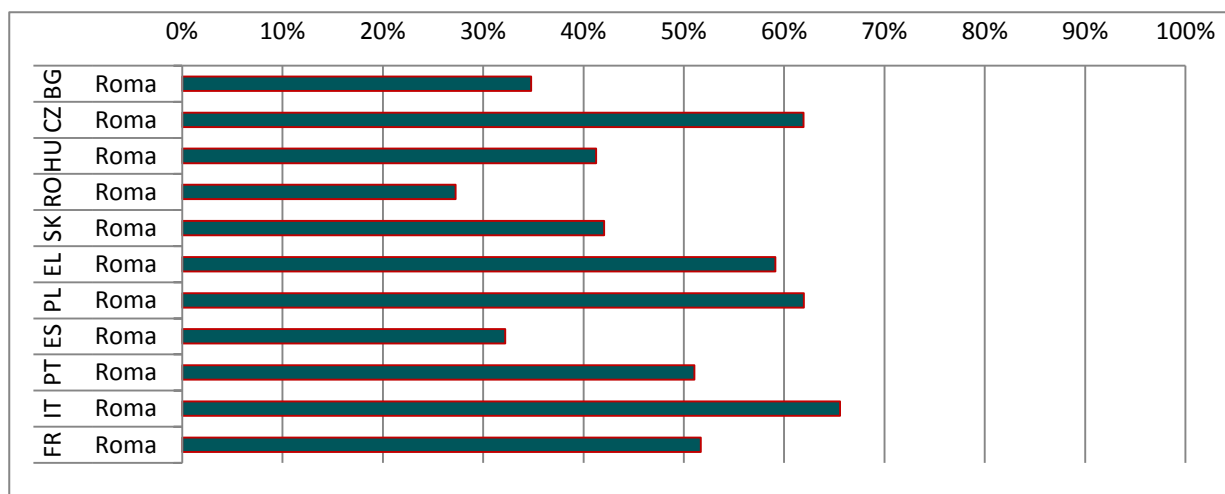
About half of the Roma surveyed said that they experienced discrimination in the past 12 months because of their Roma background

The survey results confirm that many Roma face discrimination and social exclusion living in marginalised and very poor socio-economic conditions. In the 11 EU Member States covered by the survey, the socio-economic situation of the Roma surveyed is not satisfactory in the four key areas of employment, education, housing and health and is worse, on average, than the situation of non-Roma living near-by. The results also show that many Roma experience discrimination and lack awareness of their fundamental right to non-discrimination guaranteed by the EU's Racial Equality Directive.

In all EU Member States, a significant proportion of Roma respondents said that they have experienced discriminatory treatment because of their Roma origin in the 12 months preceding the survey. The proportions range from more than 25 % in Romania to around 60 % in the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy and Poland (see table below). In consistency with the findings of EU-MIDIS, the levels of discrimination experiences in Romania and Bulgaria are relatively low compared with the other EU Member States.

Source: FRA/UNDP/WB (2012) The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States - Survey results at a glance.

Roma respondents aged 16 and above who experienced discrimination because of their Roma background in the past 12 months (pooled data) (%)¹



¹ Source: FRA/UNDP/WB (2012) The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States - Survey results at a glance.

Regarding their experiences of discriminatory treatment in employment, housing, health and education because of their Roma origin the results show high numbers of respondents indicating that they experienced discrimination

Healthcare

One out of three Roma respondents aged 35 to 54 years reported health problems limiting their daily activities;

On average, about 20 % of Roma respondents were not covered by medical insurance or did not know if they were covered.

Employment

On average, less than one out of three Roma were reported to be in paid employment;

One out of three Roma respondents said that they were unemployed;

Others said that they are homemakers, retired, not able to work or self-employed.

Education

On average, only one out of two Roma children surveyed attended pre-school or kindergarten;

During compulsory school age, with the exception of Bulgaria, Greece and Romania, nine out of 10 Roma children aged seven to 15 years were reported to be in school;

Participation in education drops considerably after compulsory school: only 15 % of young Roma adults surveyed had completed upper-secondary general or vocational education.

Housing

On average, more than two persons lived in one room in the Roma households that were surveyed;

About 45 % of the Roma lived in households that lacked at least one of the following basic housing amenities, namely indoor kitchen appliances, such as a refrigerator, an indoor toilet, shower or bath and electricity.

Source: FRA/UNDP/WB (2012) The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States - Survey results at a glance.

II. Anti-Roma crime

FRA evidence on anti-Roma crime (EU-MIDIS Data in focus report 6: Minorities as victims of crime; Making hate crime visible in the European Union: acknowledging victims' rights)

The FRA's EU-MIDIS (European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey) survey was the first and largest of its kind. It asked immigrant and ethnic minority groups across the EU about their experiences of discrimination and criminal victimisation in everyday life. In total, 23,500 respondents belonging to various ethnic minority and immigrant groups were interviewed. As many incidents of discrimination and victimisation go unreported, and as current data collection on discrimination and victimisation against minority groups is limited in many Member States, EU-MIDIS provides the most comprehensive evidence to date of the extent of discrimination and victimisation against different minorities in the EU.

In 2012, the FRA published an *EU-MIDIS Data in focus report 6: Minorities as victims of crime*. This includes data for Roma in 7 Member States: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia; 500 Roma respondents were interviewed in each of these Member States. The report presents data on respondents' experiences of victimisation across five crime types: theft of or from a vehicle; burglary or attempted burglary; theft of personal property not involving force or threat (personal theft); assault or threat; and serious harassment. The findings focus on experiences in the 12 months prior to the interviews.

In EU-MIDIS, between 32% and 16% of Roma in the Czech Republic, Greece, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia were victims of racially motivated assault, threat or serious harassment, with lower victimisation rates (3-6%) in Bulgaria and Romania.

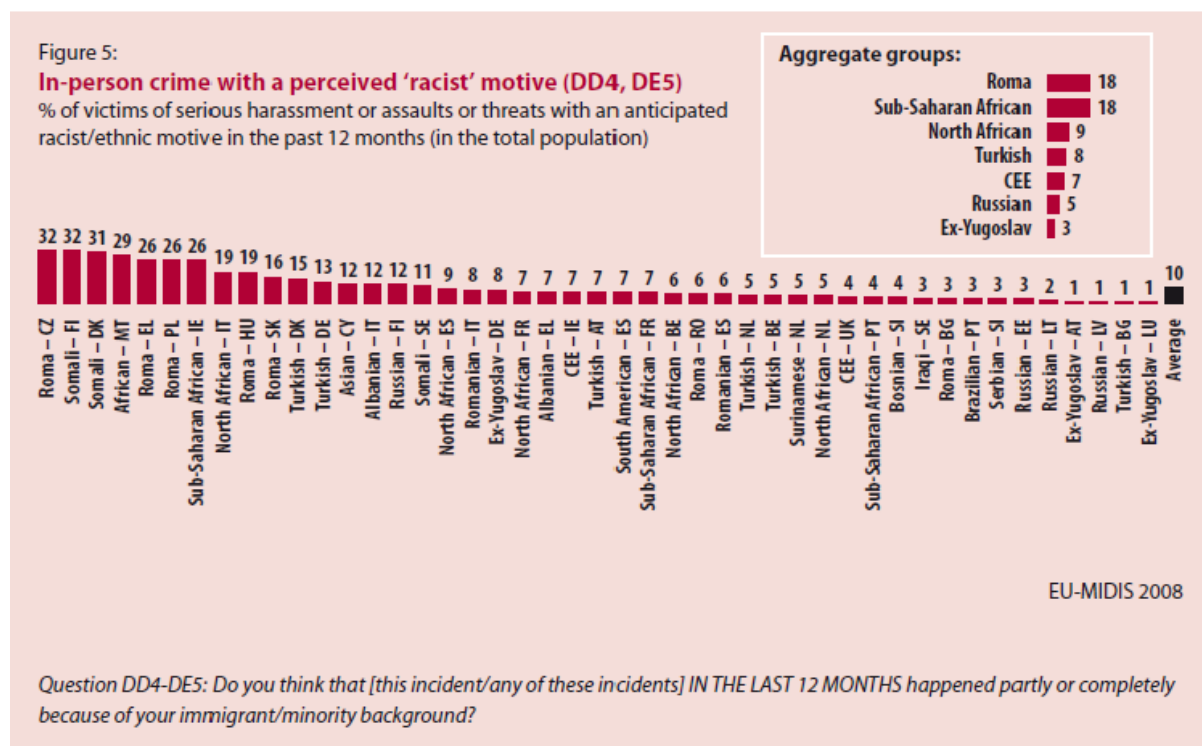
Most incidents of assault, threat and serious harassment were not reported to the police (57-90% depending on the country and offence). The main reasons for not reporting these crimes include that nothing would change as a result of reporting incidents, or that such incidents happen all the time. Compared with other groups in EU-MIDIS, many Roma victims of assault, threat or serious harassment said that they did not report because of dislike or fear of, or previous bad experiences with the police.

Source: EU-MIDIS: European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey.

Findings regarding the Roma being victims of racially motivated crime

On average, 18% of all Roma respondents in the survey indicated that they had experienced at least one ‘in-person crime’ in the last 12 months (that is – assault or threat, or serious harassment) that they considered as being ‘racially motivated’ in some way.

Among the groups included in the survey, Sub-Saharan Africans showed a similar rate of victimisation to racist in-person crime as the Roma (that is, 18% in the past 12 months), while less than 10% of respondents from other minority groups indicated that they considered they had been a victim of ‘racially motivated’ in-person crime in the past 12 months (see Figure 5 below). More than one in four Roma respondents considered that they were a victim of ‘racially motivated’ in-person crime in the last 12 months in the Czech Republic, Greece, and Poland.



Source: EU-MIDIS Data in focus report 6: Minorities as victims of crime.

Looking specifically at results only for those respondents who said they had been victims of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey, the EU-MIDIS survey asked these respondents about the most recent incident of assault and threat, and the most recent incident of serious harassment. The results, as shown in the table below, provide the kind of detail that is often not available through official statistics, namely: information about the nature of the incident, and specifically whether the interviewee perceived a ‘racist’ motivation and/or experienced ‘racist’ or religiously offensive language used in the incident.

Assault or threat, incident details

Incident details	Sub-Saharan African	CEE	Ex-Yugoslav	North African	Roma	Russian	Turkish
<i>Rate of victimisation (DD1, DD2)</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Not victimised	83	92	93	84	82	92	91
Victimised past 12 months	9	4	3	9	10	4	3
Victimised past 2-5 years	8	4	4	7	8	4	5
<i>Force actually used (DD10)</i>							
Yes (within all assaults or threats)	50	48	43	65	48	60	41
Yes (in the total population)	5	2	1	6	5	2	1
<i>Something stolen (DD5)</i>							
Yes (within all assaults or threats)	14	38	17	36	21	27	14
Yes (in the total population)	1	2	1	3	2	1	0
<i>Attributed racial/ethnic motivation (DD4)</i>							
Yes, including the most recent	70	46	32	46	73	42	60
Yes, but not including the most recent	2	5	4	10	5	2	5
No	21	39	55	39	18	42	30
Don't know/no opinion	6	9	9	5	4	14	6
<i>Racist or religiously offensive language used (DD9)</i>							
Yes	60	23	36	43	54	27	52

EU-MIDIS 2008

Source: EU-MIDIS Data in focus report 6: Minorities as victims of crime.

Gaps in the data collection of the Member States

In its report *“Making hate crime visible in the European Union: acknowledging victims' rights”* published in 2012, FRA examined data collection on hate crime across the EU.

The report found that the 27 EU Member States differ in the data they record and publish on bias motivations (including anti-Roma), which results in gaps in data collection across the EU (see table below). These gaps mean that official data collection mechanisms on hate crime in the 27 EU Member States often fail to capture the real situation on the ground.

EU Member States with comprehensive data collection mechanisms – where victims report incidents, law enforcement agencies record them and the criminal justice system prosecutes them – do not necessarily have the highest rates of hate crime. These mechanisms simply record the incidence of hate crime more efficiently and are more transparent when it comes to publishing data. In contrast, EU Member States with limited data collection – where few incidents are reported, recorded and therefore prosecuted – can be said to be failing in their duty to tackle hate crime.

Official criminal justice data that are currently recorded in the EU provide only a patchy picture of the prevalence and nature of these types of crimes.

It is suggested therefore to expand the scope of official data collection on hate crime, both to make hate crime visible across the EU and to ensure that EU Member States effectively respond to hate crime as an abuse of fundamental rights.

Source: *Making hate crime visible in the European Union: acknowledging victims' rights.*

Official data on hate crime published in 2010 by bias motivation, by EU Member State²

EU Member State	Racism / Xenophobia	Antisemitism	Sexual orientation	Extremism	Religious intolerance	Islamophobia	Anti-Roma	Disability	Gender Identity	Other / Unspecified
AT	64	27		335		8				146
BE	924	2	58							49
BG	n/a									n/a
CY	32									
CZ	226	28		252			n/a			
EU Member State	Racism / Xenophobia	Antisemitism	Sexual orientation	Extremism	Religious intolerance	Islamophobia	Anti-Roma	Disability	Gender Identity	Other / Unspecified
DE	285	1,166		20,811						
DK	62		30		10					37
EE										86
EL	n/a									
ES	n/a		n/a							
FI	741	4	43		52	15		20	5	
FR	886	466		127		100				
HU	n/a									n/a
IE	122	12								
IT	n/a									n/a
LT	n/a	n/a								n/a
LU	24									n/a
LV	n/a									n/a
MT	n/a									
NL	1,168	286	660	139	108	93	4	7	17	668
PL	n/a	n/a	n/a			n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a
PT										

² Notes: Data are **not** comparable between EU Member States.

Data are included for 2010 as later data for all EU Member States that publish official data were not available at the time of printing.

"n/a" means that data for this bias-motivation were not published in 2010.

Data for Scotland cover the fiscal year: April 2010 to March 2011.

Source: FRA desk research and FRA analysis of data provided by the FRA's research network.

	n/a									n/a
RO										
SE	✓ 3,786	✓ 161	✓ 770	✓ 444	✓ 552	✓ 272	✓ 145		✓ 31	✓ 818
SI	✓ n/a				✓ n/a					
SK	✓ 114			✓ 51						
UK	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	
UK – England, Wales & Northern Ireland	31,486	488	4,883		2,007			1,569	357	
UK – Scotland	4,513	448			693			50	14	

Source: *Making hate crime visible in the European Union: acknowledging victims' rights.*

Trends of anti-Roma crime

Authorities in two Member States published data on anti-Roma crime in 2012: the Czech Republic and Sweden (see table below). These data show an increase in Sweden in recorded anti-Roma crime between 2010 and 2011, while the Czech Republic published such data for the first time in 2012. Although the Dutch police record data on anti-Roma crimes, it is no longer possible this year to extract the number of anti-Roma crimes from the report on criminal acts of discrimination published in 2012 by the police's national expertise centre on diversity as these data are now subsumed under generic categories.

Trends in officially recorded data on anti-Roma crime in the EU 2006–2011; published data

Recording authority – Source of data		Type of data recorded	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
CZ	Ministry of the Interior, Security Policy Department – Annual Report: <i>Zpráva o problematice extremismu na území České republiky</i>	Crimes motivated by hatred towards the Roma	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	69
NL	Police's National Expertise Centre on Diversity – <i>Criminaliteitsbeeld discriminatie</i>	Incidents of criminal discrimination – anti-Roma	n/a	n/a	0	1 ↗	4 ↗	n/a
SE	Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention – Annual Report: <i>Statistik över polisanmälningar med identifierade hatbrottsmotiv</i>	Number of anti-Roma hate crime offences	n/a	n/a	178	163 ↘	145 ↘	184 ↗

Source: FRA (2013, forthcoming) *Fundamental rights: challenges and achievements in 2012 – Annual Report 2012.*

The FRA reports are available on the website of FRA on the following links:

The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States - Survey results at a glance:

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/2099-FRA-2012-Roma-at-a-glance_EN.pdf

EU-MIDIS Data in focus report 1: The Roma:

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/413-EU-MIDIS_ROMA_EN.pdf

EU-MIDIS Data in focus report 6: Minorities as victims of crime:

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2012-eu-midis-dif6_0.pdf

Making hate crime visible in the European Union: acknowledging victims' rights:

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2012_hate-crime.pdf

Chapter 6: Racism and ethnic discrimination, in Fundamental rights: challenges and achievements in 2011:

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/2225-FRA-2012_annual-report-2011-chapter6_EN.pdf