



ENAR Shadow Report 2015-16 on racism and migration in Europe: Key findings

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) 2015/16 Shadow Report focuses on racism and discrimination against migrants in Europe. It highlights the **ways in which racism impacts migrants in 26 EU countries** (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom). The report found that anti-migrant political discourses and exclusionary migration policies are having a disproportionate impact on racialised migrants. Migrants are increasingly the targets of racist violence and speech; and face discriminatory policies and attitudes hindering their access to the labour market.

Political narratives

The debates concerning the response to rising levels of migrants and refugees arriving to Europe have become substitutes for **debates on exclusion, racialisation and global inequality**.

In several member states governments have made it clear that irregular and Muslim migrants are unwelcome.

Denmark, Hungary and Sweden have launched official adverts either at home or abroad to make it as obvious as possible that certain migrants are not welcome.

Support for far-right parties and groups in several countries is growing and they are setting the tone of the debate on immigration, particularly related to Muslim migrants. This is resulting in anti-migrant discourses (and policies) being seen as acceptable and mainstreamed across the political spectrum.

The number of **demonstrations and protests** show how effective far-right groups have been in spreading their version of Islamophobic and anti-migrant hate across Europe. Violent attacks are reportedly taking place before and following anti-migrant demonstrations. However, in most EU Member States there were also citizens-driven initiatives such as the 'refugee welcome' marches and counter-protests.

Mainstream media have been instrumented to spread hatred and racism. In many Member States, media outlets have done little more than reproduce the political discourse that frames refugees as a threat, contributing to shifting public opinion on this issue.

Social media is becoming increasingly crucial in forming opinions about migrants and there has been a growing dissemination of fake ethnicity-related news about migrants with alarming and sensationalist headlines.

Racist crime

Racist attacks against migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and their accommodation, in the context of an increasingly hateful anti-migrant political and public discourse, were reported across the European Union.

In **Germany**, 1031 right-wing motivated crimes targeting asylum accommodation were registered in 2015 and 988 in 2016, a massive increase up from 199 crimes in 2014.

In **Finland**, the Interior Ministry reported 47 attacks against reception centres in 2015.

In the **UK**, in the 38 days after the EU referendum there were more than 2,300 recorded race-hate offences in London, compared with 1,400 in the 38 days before the vote.

In **Sweden**, the Kantor Centre recorded 43 arson attacks on asylum centres in 2015.

In **Greece**, the Racist Violence Recording Network reported 75 racist incidents targeting immigrants and refugees in 2015 - a 60% increase compared to 2014.

In **Slovenia**, 55% of the cases of hate speech collected by Spletno oko, an internet-based contact point, were directed at refugees.

Vigilante groups linked to far right ideology and targeting migrants have been formed and there is an increased activity of those that already existed, in Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Sweden.

Racialised migrants are amongst the most targeted migrant groups.

In **Spain**: migrants from African countries

In **Finland**: migrants from Somalia

In **Poland**: Arab migrants

In **Romania** (perceived) Muslim migrants

In **Ireland**: Syrian refugees

In the **United Kingdom**: Eastern Europeans.

A huge proportion of racist crimes go unreported. There is limited access to legal aid for migrant victims of racist crime, in particular undocumented migrants.

In **Cyprus, Germany, Poland, Portugal and Spain** undocumented migrants are reluctant to report crimes for fear of arrest and deportation due to their irregular status.

In **Portugal**, there is a legal obligation to notify border guards when an undocumented migrant reports to the police.

Spain still requires showing an ID/residence permit when reporting a crime.

In **Latvia, Hungary and Bulgaria**, lack of victim support structures for migrant victims was reported.

In **Malta and Finland**, access to legal aid provided by the state is dependent on a residence permit.

Ethnic profiling and criminalisation in the context of counter-terrorism

Ethnic profiling practices targeting migrants took place in several EU Member States.

In **Italy**, border guards specifically asked people of colour for passports or ordered them to leave the train.

In **Finland**, police and border guards were observed carrying out spot checks specifically targeting “non-Finnish looking” people in the cities of Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa in April 2016.

In **Hungary**, ethnic profiling was reported in Budapest’s main train station Keleti in August 2015, where police were observed allowing white people in while stopping people of colour from entering the station.

In **Cyprus**, the Police Emergency Response Unit is reported to carry out stop-and-search targeting migrants, in particular of Asian and African origin, on a regular basis.

Asylum seekers are profiled on the basis of their nationality and there are asylum blanket bans for some nationalities in some countries.

Slovenia and Croatia introduced selective entry admissions, allowing only asylum seekers from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan to enter their territory.

In **Italy**, certain African nationalities, e.g. Nigerians, are systematically prevented from formally claiming asylum in hotspots, and instead are directly issued a formal 'refusal' order.

New counter-terrorism measures in some countries disproportionately affect migrants and there is an overall climate of suspicion against Muslim migrants.

In **Hungary**, a Syrian national who lived in Cyprus for 10 years and had an EU residency permit, was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Hungarian court for throwing stones at the police in an attempt to help his parents cross the border, which was considered an "act of terror".

In **Austria, France, Belgium, Spain and the United Kingdom**, foreign nationals and Muslim migrants are increasingly reported to the police or checked by the police due to alleged 'suspicious behaviour' or suspicion of radicalisation.

Employment and labour market

The faltering economy has had a specific impact on the integration of migrants into the labour market.

In 2015 non-EU citizens were among the worst off and the hardest hit by the economic crisis, with their unemployment rate at 5.7 percentage points above the EU-28 total in 2015.

A number of barriers result in an employment gap between migrants and nationals. Racialised migrants face a double difficulty regarding their migration status and the racist and discriminatory attitudes of employers. Many migrants (from all categories) end up working in the shadow economy and fall victim to exploitation.

In **France**, migrants from sub-Saharan Africa are more affected by unemployment (13%).

In the **United Kingdom**, migrants from some Asian countries experience significantly lower employment rates than the UK-born, and the employment rate of female workers from Bangladesh and Pakistan is around one third that of UK-born women.

In **Belgium**, a report showed that out of a total 176 contacted agencies providing cleaning and household services, a sector which employs a significant number of racialised minorities and migrants, more than 60% responded positively to discriminatory demands by clients.

In **Italy**, migrants of African or Eastern European background have lower salaries.

In **Denmark**, research shows a difference in hourly salary based on origin. Migrants and descendants with a non-Western background receive a lower hourly salary compared with Danes in the same job position.

In **Finland**, certain professions such as cleaners, cooks and waiters attract only foreigners because the wages they pay are unacceptable to white Finns.

Racialised migrants continue to work in low paid roles and sectors, in particular domestic work, caregiving, agriculture, construction and prostitution.

In **Slovenia** 33.16 % of all men who are non-EU nationals were employed in the construction industry in March 2016, compared to 8.35 % of Slovenian citizens.

In **Italy**, foreign caregivers corresponded to 77.1% of the total care workforce.

In **Finland**, 60% of all cleaners are men of foreign origin.

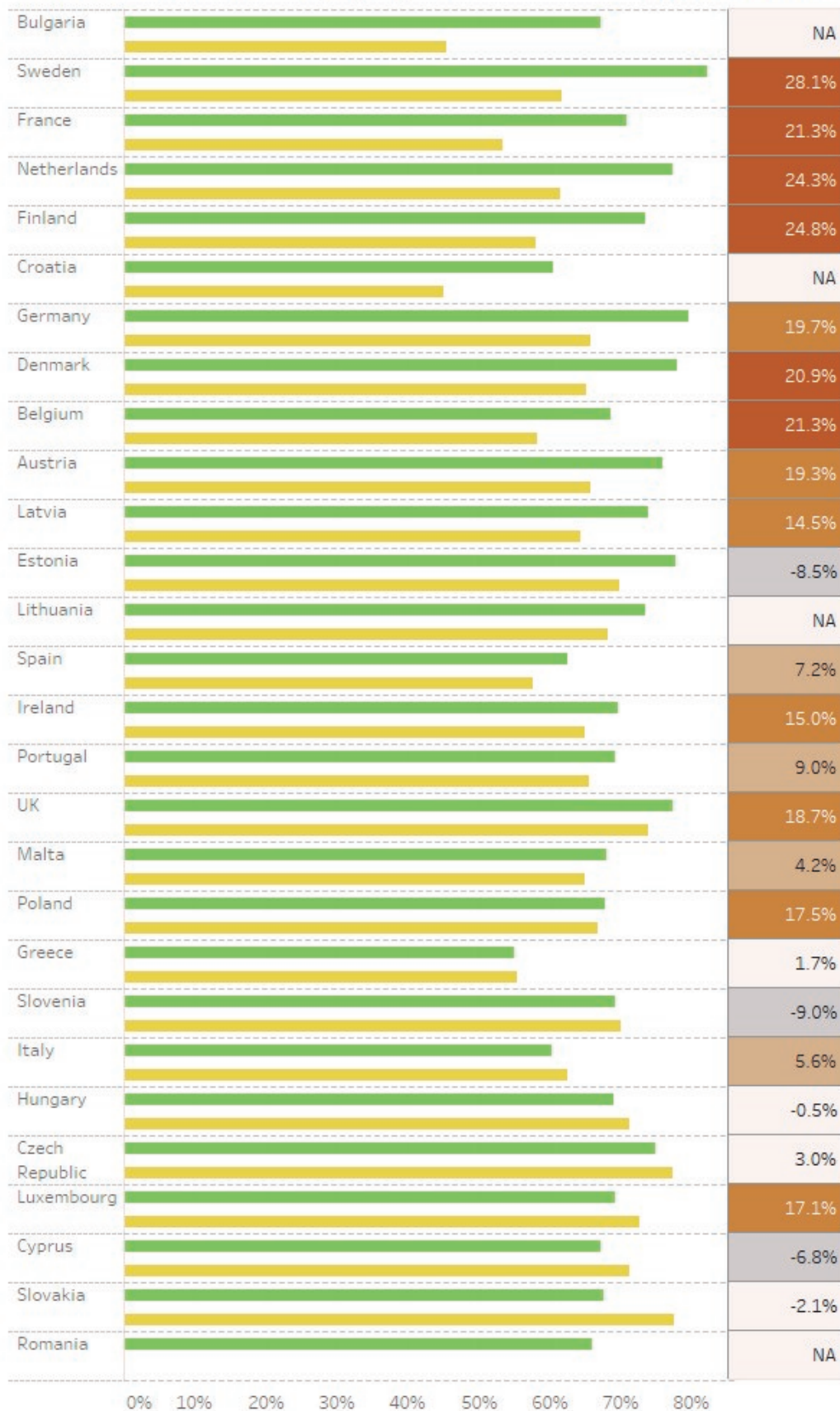
To read the full report, visit www.enar-eu.org

Employment rates of nationals and migrants

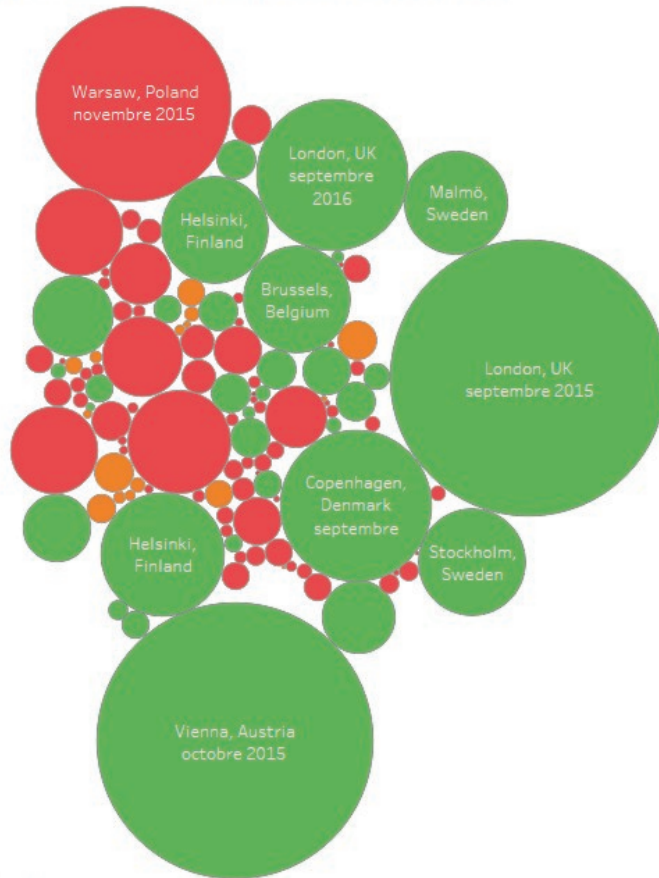
Countries sorted in the order of of disparity - High to Low

Nationals
Migrants

Darkness and %age below denotes disparity between employment rates of EU and non-EU migrants



Demonstrations related to migration in Europe 2015/2016



How to read and navigate:
 - Size of the bubble denotes the number of participants in the particular demonstration.

Electoral success for political parties using xenophobic/racist ideas and policies - percentage of votes from last two elections

Sorted in decreasing order of far-right vote share in the most recent national election

