# Racism and discrimination in the context of migration in Europe:

ENAR Shadow Report 2015/2016

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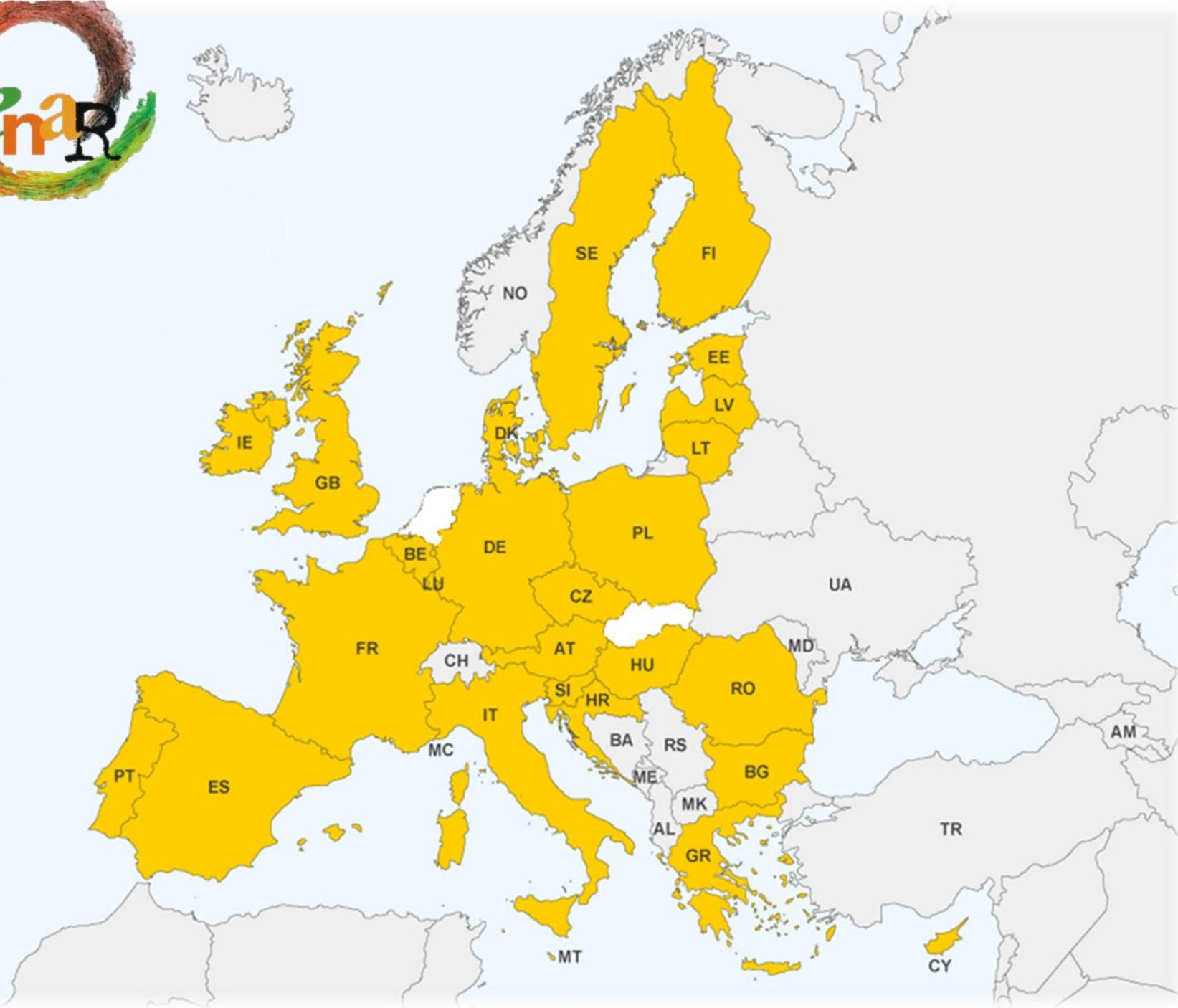
Migration

ENAR's Shadow Report looks at the intersection of racism and migration in Europe in 2015/2016.

Based on national questionnaire responses from 26 EU Member States.
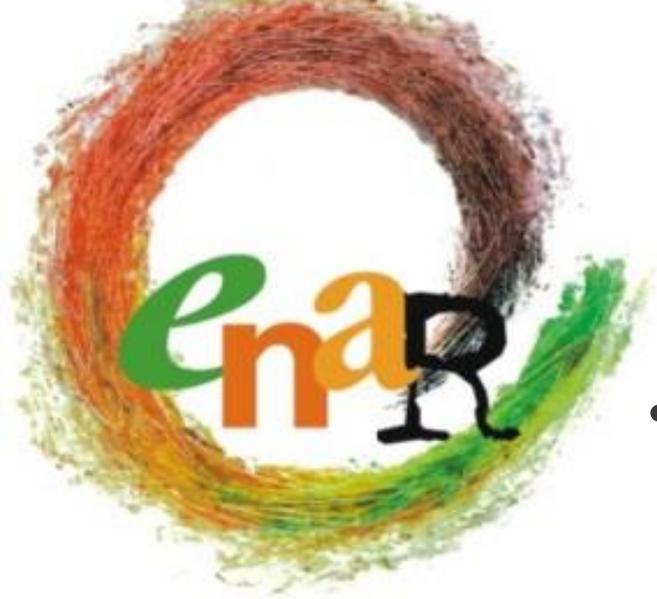
"Migrants"

- Migrant - refers to several categories of migrants: **third country nationals, refugees, asylum seekers, regular, irregular and undocumented migrants.**

- Focus on migrants from outside the larger European continent and who are of colour.

- **Racialized migrants -** the process of racializing groups occurs when their assumed phenotypic, ethnic or racial identities and characteristics become associated with positive or negative meanings and social worth relative to other groups.

"Migration Crisis"
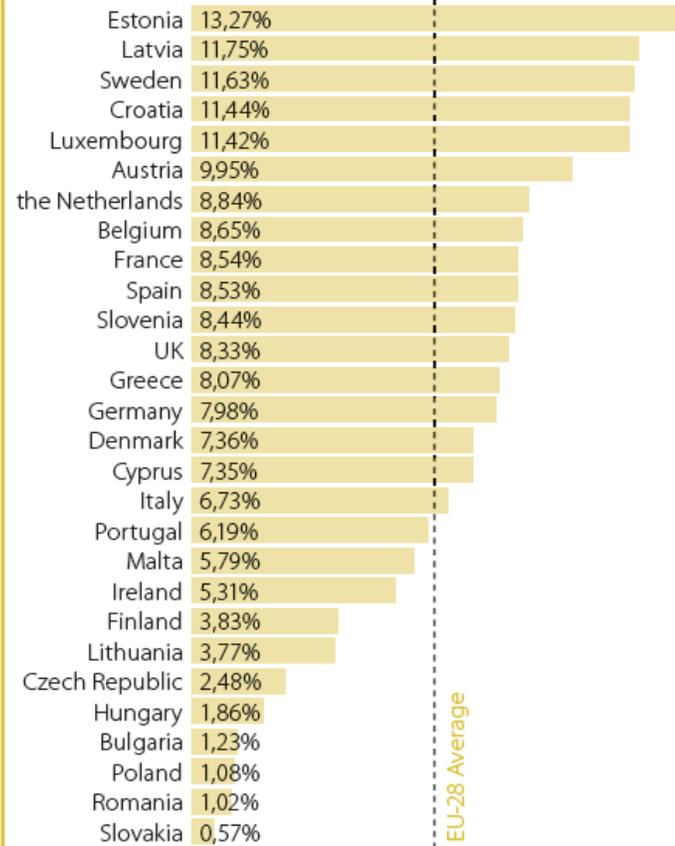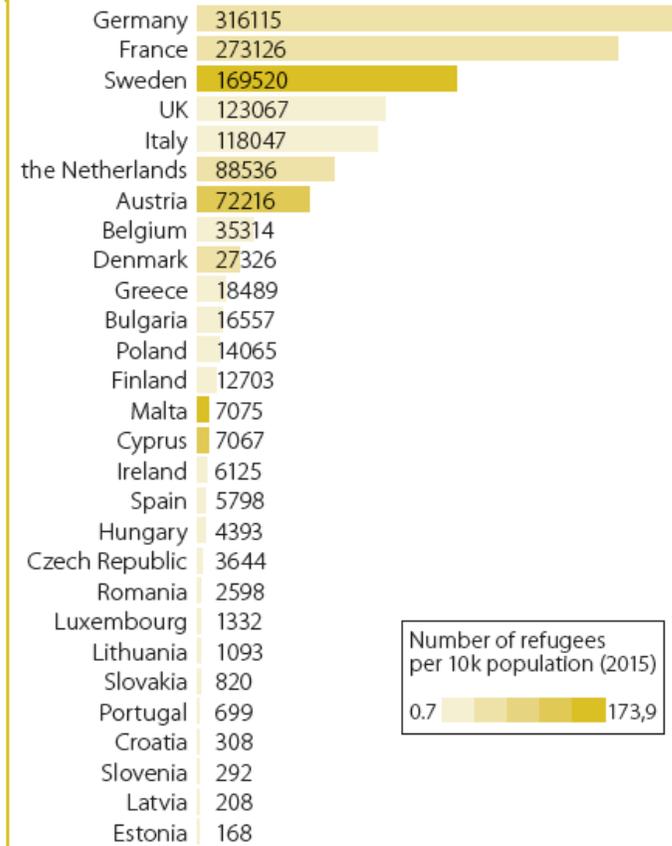
EU Migration Agenda

Minister of Interior, **Cyprus** stated in reference to the 300 refugees it was prepared to host as part of its share of the quota assigned by the EU that Cyprus *"would prefer them to be **Orthodox Christian refugees.** It's not an issue of being inhuman or not helping if we are called upon, but to be honest, yes, that's what we would prefer".*

Countries such as Sweden, Spain, United Kingdom, Austria, Hungary and Slovenia disapproved of the EU agenda with stricter border controls, derogation to asylum regulations and building fences.

National immigration policies

- Slovenia was the first country to introduce **selective entry admissions**, allowing only asylum seekers from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan to enter its territory.

- The **UK Immigration Act 2016,** focuses on 'illegal' migration and punitive measures for those who don't 'play by the rules'.

- In Spain, there have been changes to the process of obtaining **citizenship** that pose major obstacles for foreign people, both with regard to the economic cost and the difficulty of the required tests.

National immigration policies

- In Austria, the former minister for interior Affairs Johanna Mikl-Leitner stated that current immigration policies were designed to **make Austria unattractive to asylum seekers**.

- Tuomas Ojanen, a constitutional law professor and adviser to Finnish parliament stated that it is a clear goal of parliament to test how Finland can **water down constitutional and human rights** without breaching such guarantees.

- In Sweden, certain pieces of legislation which included higher standards have temporarily been adjusted to the minimum requirements of international conventions and EU law.

"securitisation of migration"
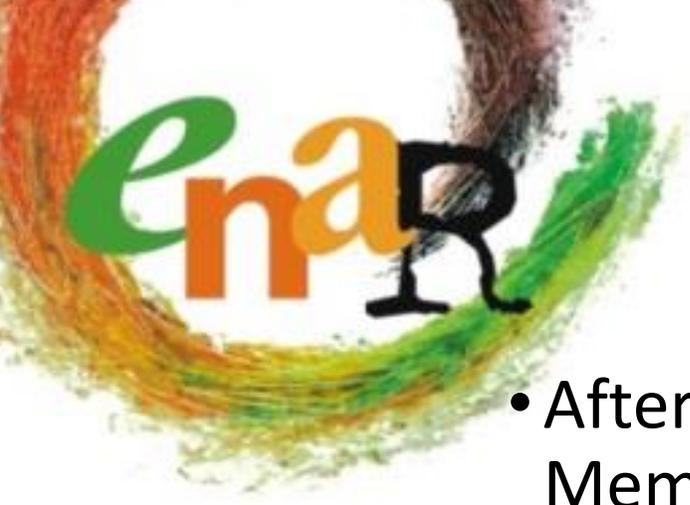
Counter-terrorism policies

- After the 2015/16 terrorist attacks in Europe several EU Member States, amongst others **Belgium, France, Hungary, Poland and the United Kingdom,** introduced new counter-terrorism measures and counter-radicalisation policies with a disproportionate negative impact on foreign nationals and ethnic/religious minorities.

- A broad definitions of what constitutes terrorism or terrorist acts as well as enhanced executive powers under emergency law and a weakening of judicial controls left plenty of space for misuse.

Racial Profiling

- Ethnic profiling practices in this context were explicitly reported in Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary and Italy.

- The Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration (ASGI) reported cases of ethnic profiling in border areas in Italy. In 2015/16 Field research revealed that border guards **specifically asked people of colour for passports** or simply ordered them to leave the train under suspicion of moving 'illegally'.

- 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.

Political discourse, hate speech and migration 2015/2016

- Defined by terrorist attacks and rising numbers of refugees and migrants

- Delivered by political representatives, social commentators and journalists alike

- Sets the tone and influences general attitudes

- Support for far-right parties and groups in several countries is growing

Attack on migrants

- In **Finland**, the Interior Ministry reported 47 attacks against reception centres in 2015.
- 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.
- The **UK** witnessed a huge spike in reported hate crimes after Britain's vote to leave the European Union. In the 38 days after the 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 **Hungary**, the **UNHCR** and the **Hungarian Helsinki Committee** reported several physical assaults targeting Nigerians and other refugees.
- The Kantor Centre, a think tank on Antisemitism and racism, recorded 43 arson attacks on asylum centres in **Sweden** in 2015.
- In **Greece**, the Racist Violence Recording Network reported 75 racist incidents targeting immigrants and refugees in 2015 which represents a 60% increase compared to 2014.
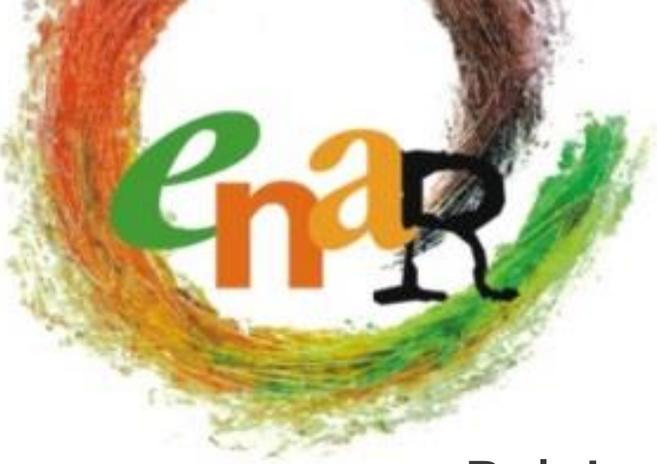
Online hate

Belgium - 48% of complaints regarding the internet and media relate to racism

Slovenia – 75% increase in cases reported to the police by Spletno OKO, which monitors trends concerning hate speech

Germany –

176% increase of online hate recorded between 2014-2015

Media

Traditional media perpetrators of hate speech

Social media used to organise

Alternative media

- Some Member States' approach has been one based on **emergency management** (Croatia, Hungary, Italy and Greece).

- **'Values'** have become a significant aspect of migration and integration policy making (Austria, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden) often with underlying racist assumptions.

- Distinction between EU and non-EU migrants.

Labour Market Integration

Barriers

A number of barriers – discrimination, labour market restrictions linked to migration status, lack of recognition of qualifications, language – result in an employment gap between migrants and nationals.

Promising development

In Portugal, the "strategic plan for migration" includes a series of measures aiming to integrate migrants in the labour market. In addition, the "Portuguese diversity charter" was signed by 80 employers in March 2016.

Employment rates (2015)

Member State	Nationals	Foreign citizens	EU citizens	Non-EU citizens
Austria	75,8%	65,8%	75,2%	55,9%
Belgium	68,5%	58,3%	66,5%	45,2%
Bulgaria	67,2%	45,5%	n.a.	n.a.
Croatia	60,5%	45,1%	n.a.	38,8%
Cyprus	67,2%	71,1%	68,3%	75,1%
Czech Republic	74,8%	77,3%	79,0%	76,0%
Denmark	77,8%	65,1%	77,3%	56,4%
Estonia	77,7%	69,8%	61,6%	70,1%
Finland	73,5%	58,%	72,9%	48,1%
France	70,8%	53,3%	67,9%	46,6%
Germany	79,6%	65,8%	76,7%	57,0%
Greece	54,9%	55,4%	56,8%	55,1%
Hungary	68,9%	71,1%	70,9%	71,4%
Ireland	69,5%	65,0%	70,3%	55,3%
Italy	60,3%	62,4%	66,3%	60,7%
Latvia	73,9%	64,3%	78,5%	64,0%
Lithuania	73,4%	68,2%	n.a.	70,8%
Luxembourg	69,2%	72,7%	74,5%	57,4%
Malta	67,9%	65,0%	67,4%	63,2%
Poland	67,8%	66,7%	79,8%	62,3%
Portugal	69,2%	65,6%	72,5%	63,5%
Romania	66,0%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Slovenia	69,1%	70,0%	62,3%	71,3%
Spain	62,5%	57,6%		62,2%
Sweden	82,1%	61,7%	78,8%	50,7%
United Kingdom	77,2%	73,8%	82,0%	63,3%
EU-28	70,6%	63,7%	73,4%	56,7%

Employment rates

- 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 (mostly North-African)** or Eastern European (mostly Romanians) 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 or industry.
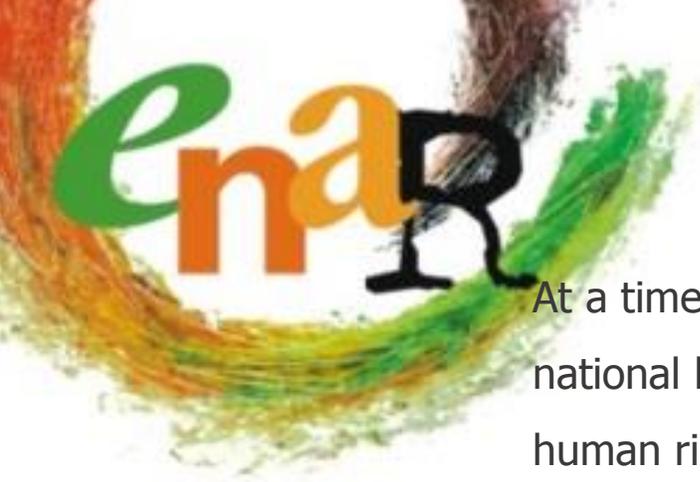
Recommendations

At a time when there are significant developments in migration policies at both the EU and national level, is that all new policies, programmes and legislation must be developed with a human rights approach and non-discrimination at the centre.

- Remove the exemption for equal treatment based on nationality from the **Race Equality and Employment Directives.**

- Reform national laws, policies and practice to ensure that migrants have **equal access to social rights** regardless of nationality, migration or residence status.

- Develop **new channels of migration** that allows – for example a one-year visa to search for employment.

- **Build a firewall** between service provision and migration enforcement

- **Better monitoring and data collection**.

THANK YOU