

Breaking the vicious cycle of discrimination and poverty



The case of Roma

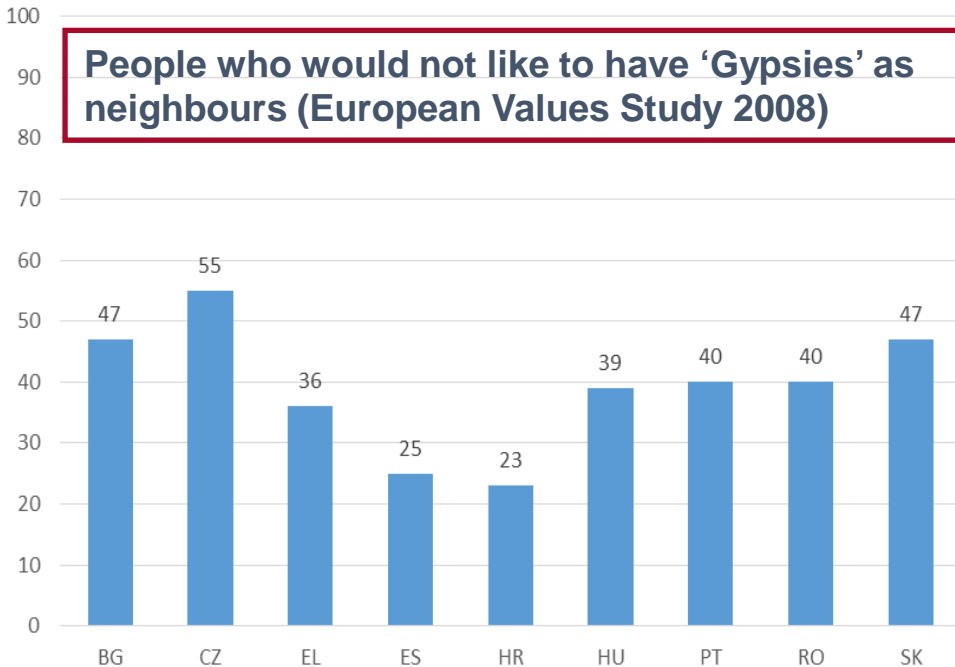
- Human rights violations → a driver and an outcome of poverty
 - Right to equal treatment and non-discrimination... to food, water and sanitation... to education... to healthcare... to social security protection...
- EU 2020 Strategy: ‘lift 20 million people out of risk of poverty’
- SDG No. 1: ‘End poverty in all its forms everywhere’
- SDG No. 10: ‘Reduce inequality within and among countries’

Fact → EU general population at risk of poverty, avg. **23.7%** (2015)

Fact → EU (9 MSs) Roma population at risk of poverty, avg. **80%** (2016)

Majority intolerance

People who would not like to have 'Gypsies' as neighbours (European Values Study 2008)

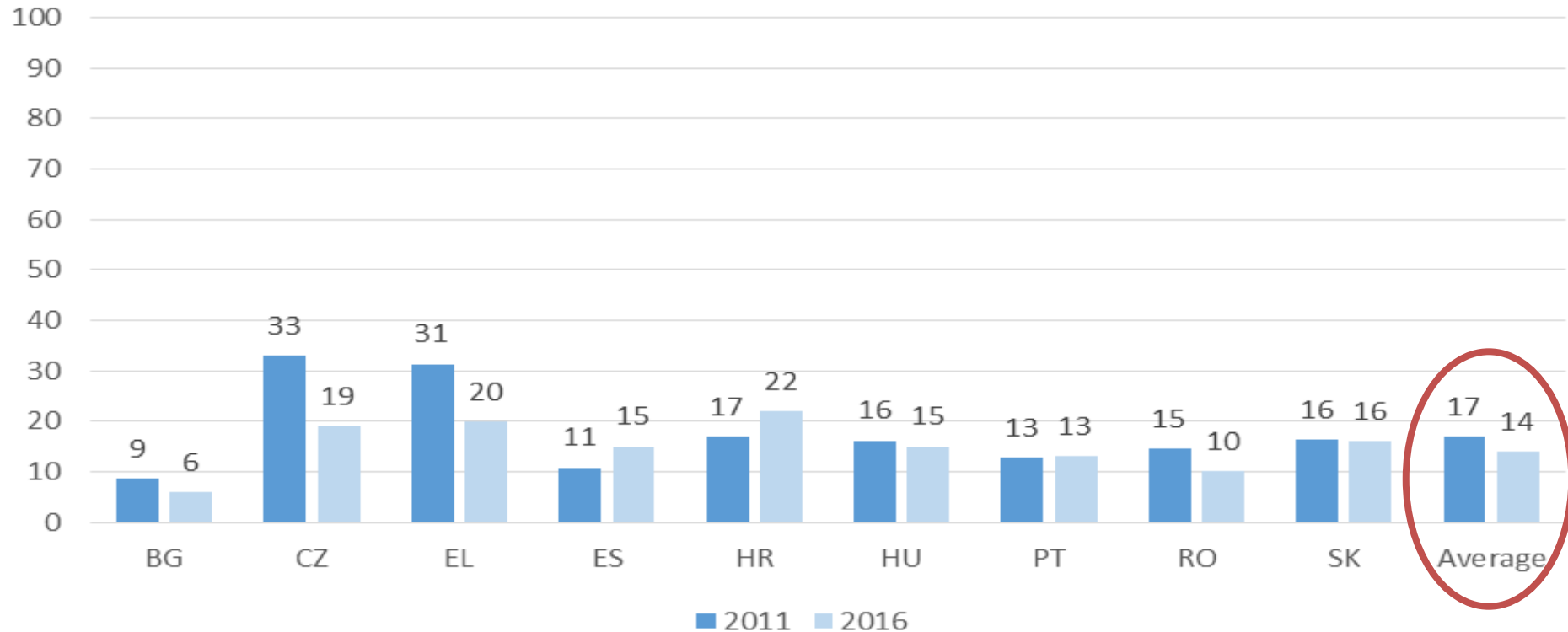


- ❖ 20% of Europeans feel uncomfortable if one of their colleagues at work were Roma.
- ❖ Less than half (45 %) would be comfortable or indifferent if their son or daughter had an affair with a Roma person
- ❖ 18 % have Roma acquaintances or friends

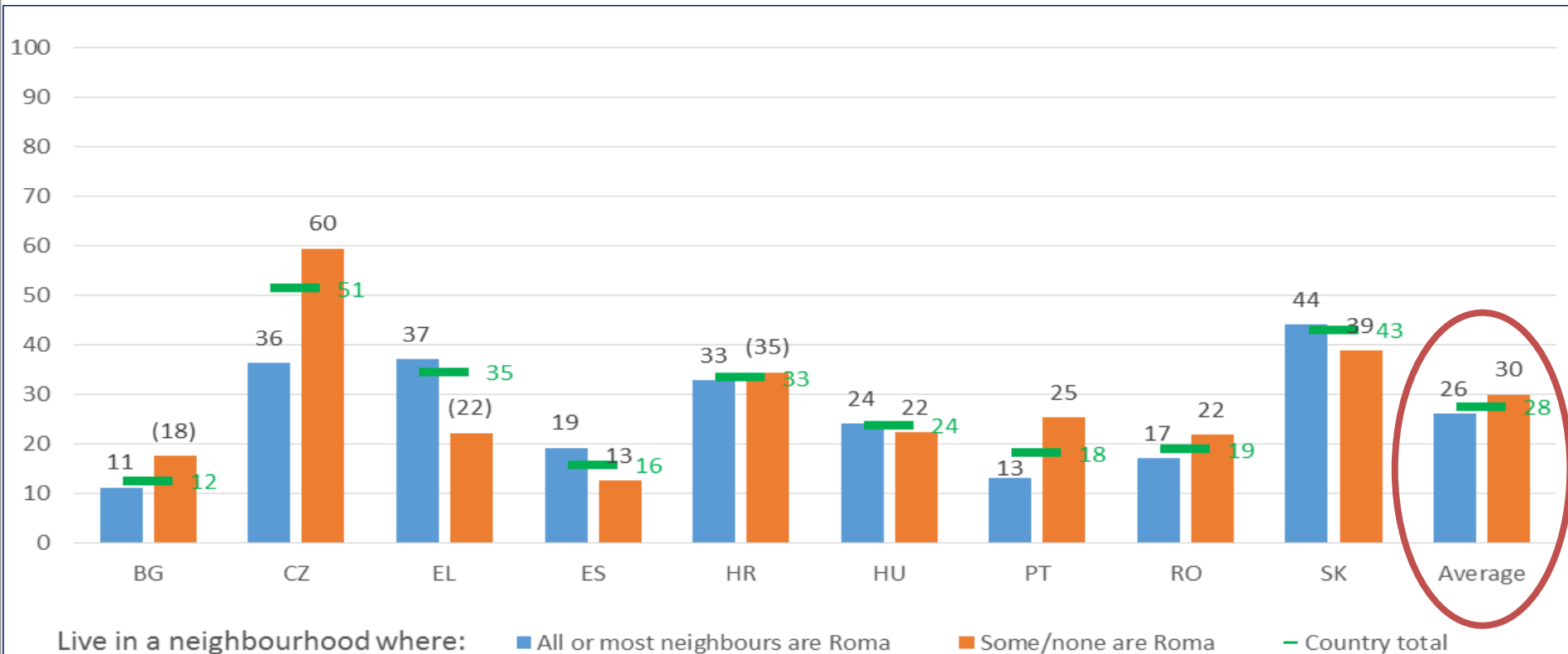
Eurobarometer (2015)

- 1969 first CoE PA **Rec 563** to speak of “discrimination against Gypsies”
- June 2011, European Council endorses **EU Framework** for Roma Integration to improve Roma equal access to fundamental rights, and to tackle poverty
- December 2013, EPSCO **Council Recommendation** provides guidance on implementing Roma integration addressing first the promotion of full equality for Roma in practice with special attention to the gender dimension.
- October 2017, European Parliament **resolution** calls for bold action against anti-Gypsyism, as major cause of Roma deprivation and social exclusion
- November 2017, EU leaders proclaim **Pillar of Social Rights**
- FRA conducts waves of major household **surveys** (2007, 2012, 2016, 2018)

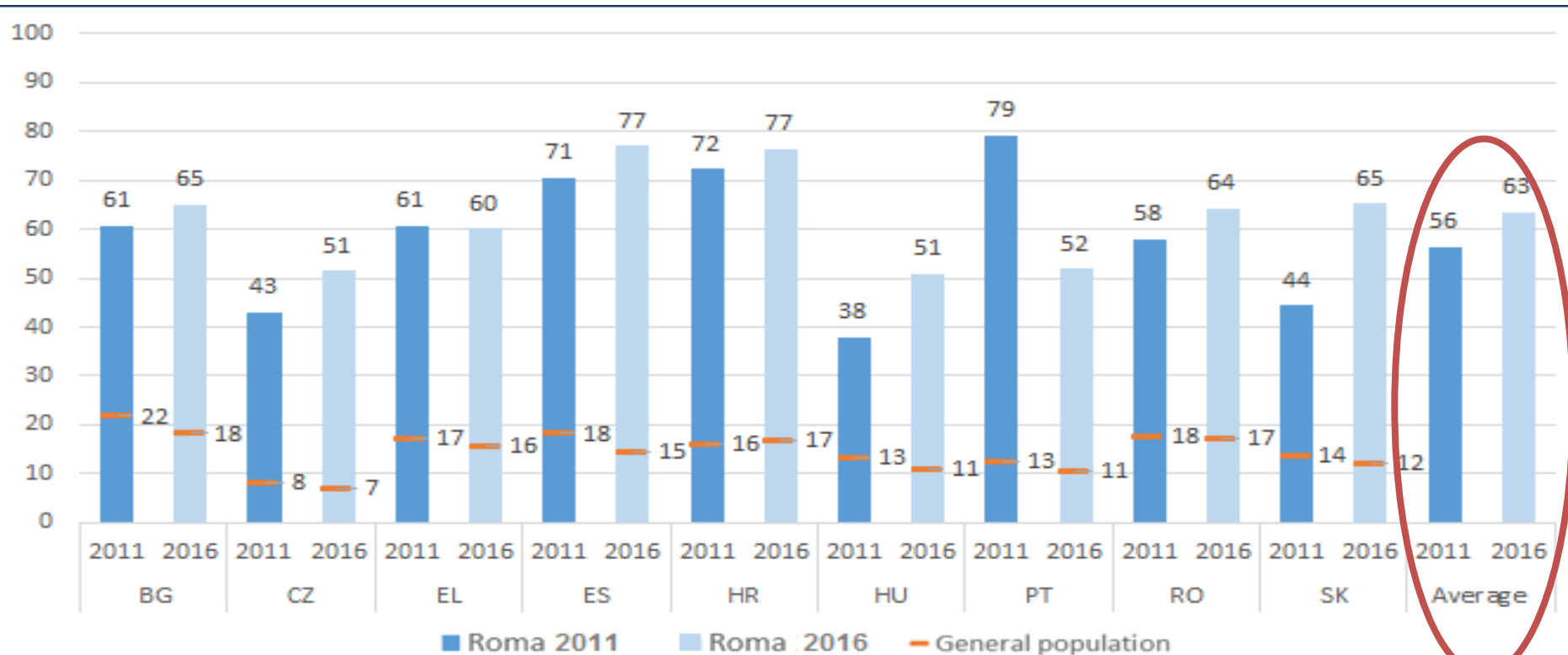
Proportion of Roma (16+) who felt discriminated due to their ethnic origin when in contact with schools as parents or students in the past five years (%)



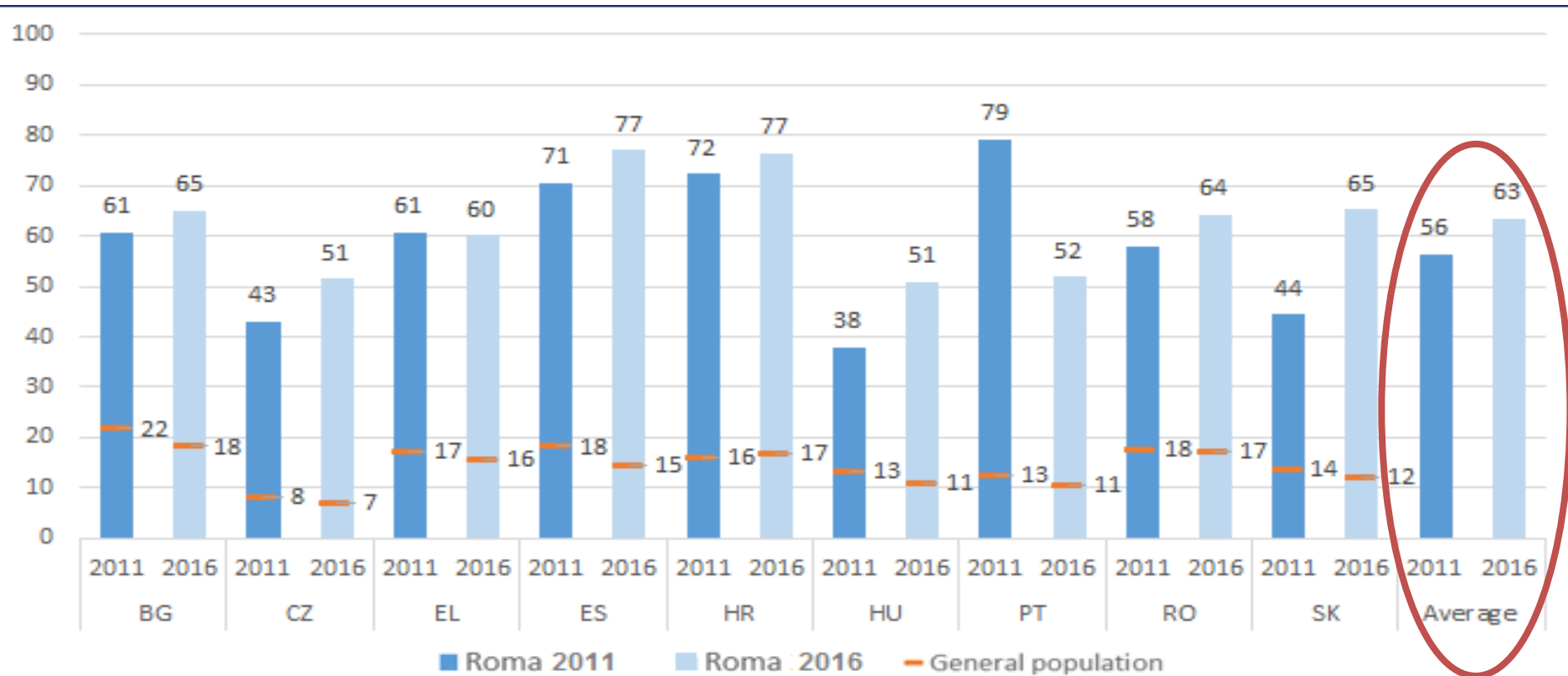
Proportion of Roma parents/guardians of school-age children reporting verbal harassment of children in school in the past year, by type of neighbourhood



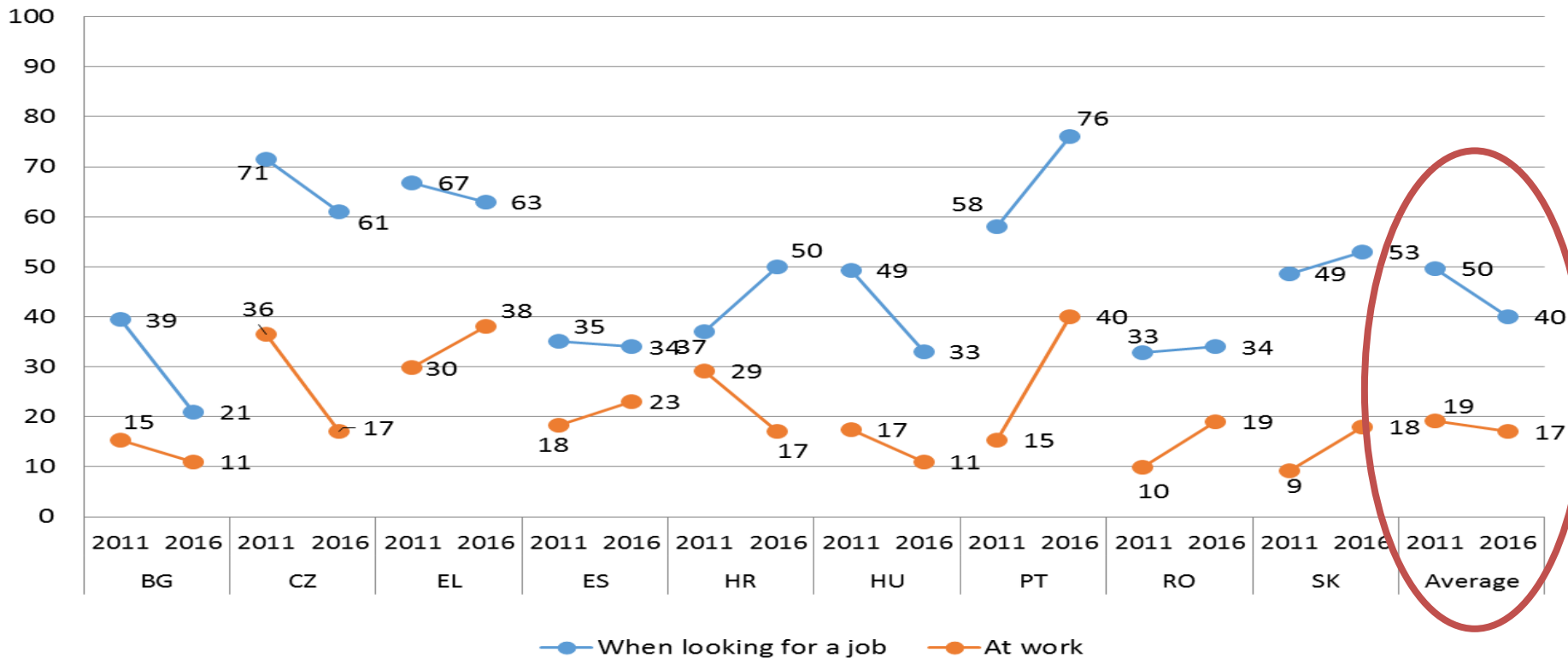
Proportion of young Roma (18-24) with completed lower secondary education and no further training – ‘early school leaving’



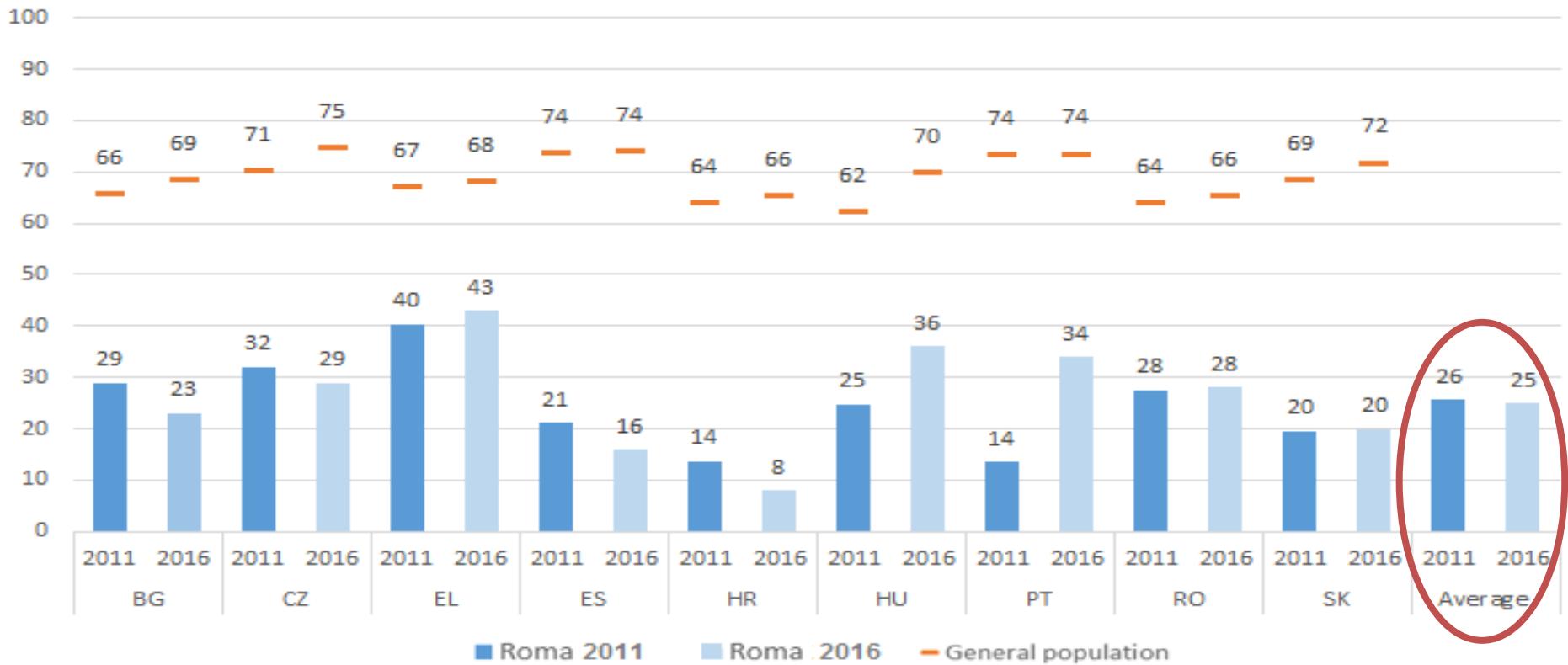
Proportion of young Roma (16-24) not in employment, education or training



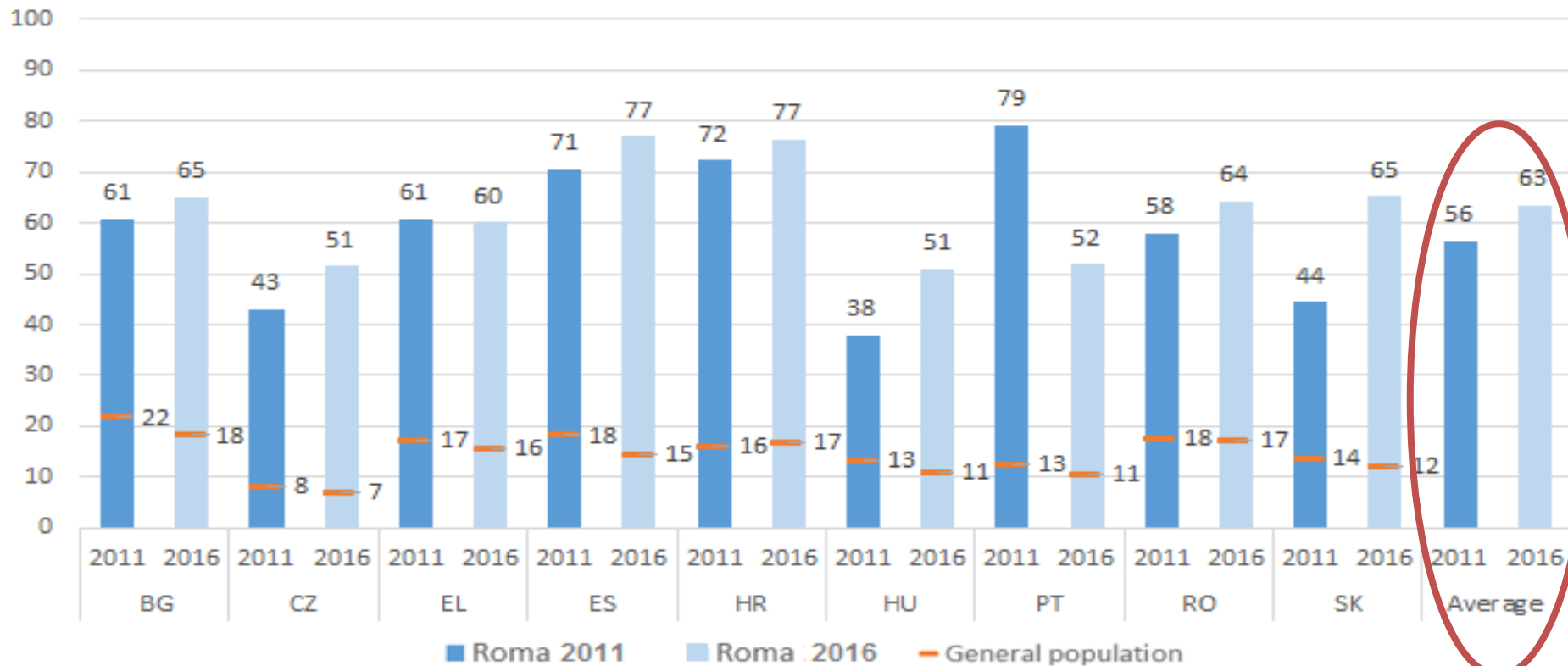
Proportion of Roma (16+) who felt discriminated on grounds of their ethnic origin when looking for a job and when at work in the past five years



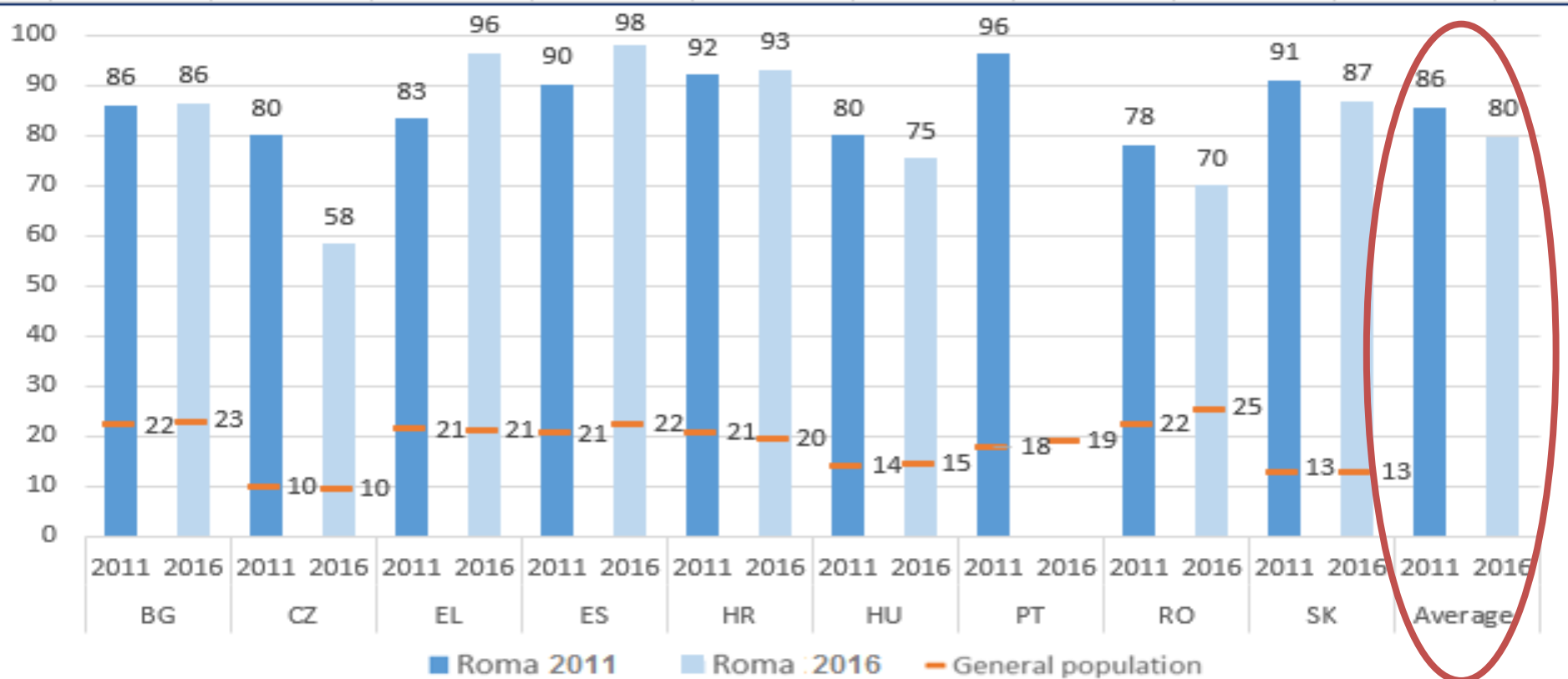
Proportion of Roma (16+) in "paid work"



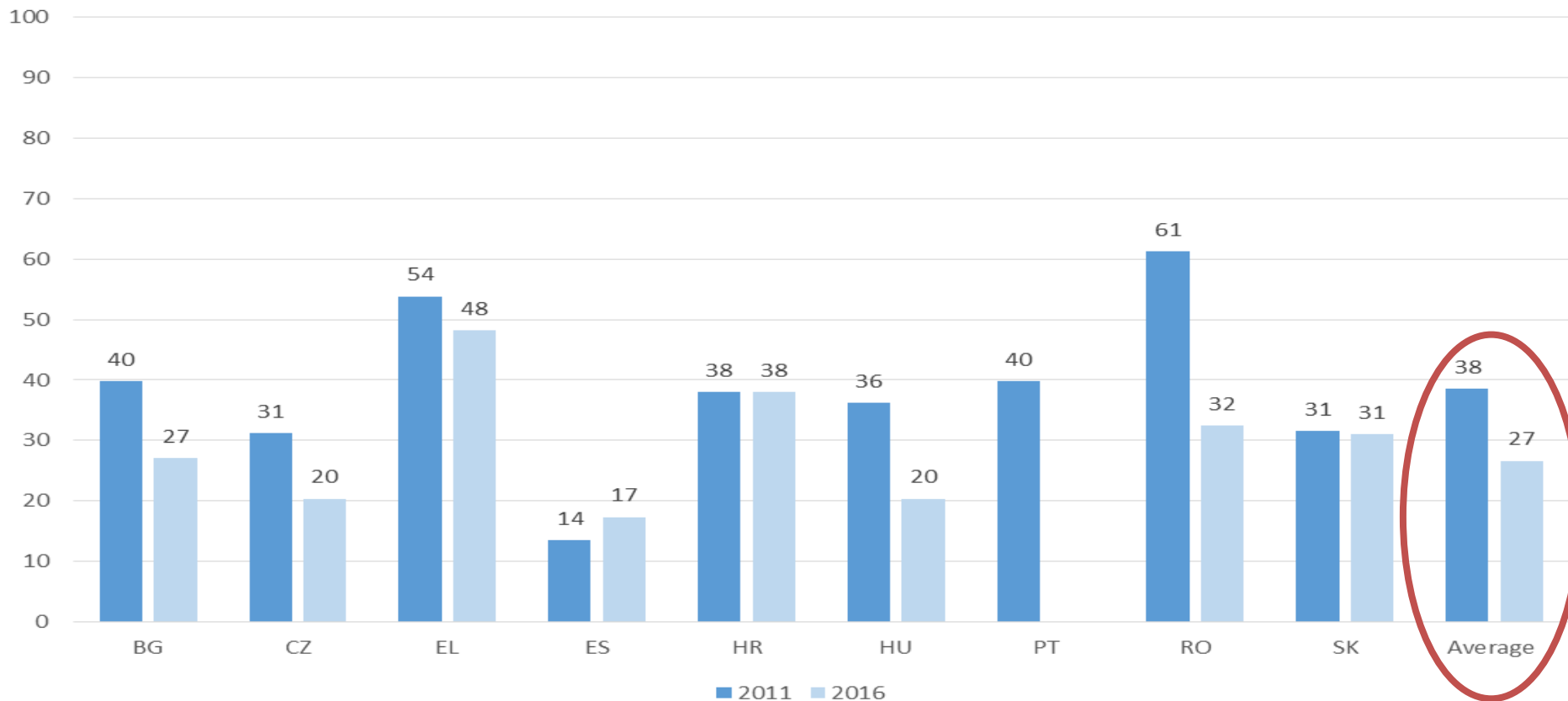
Young Roma (16-24) not in employment, education or training



Roma household members at risk of poverty (below 60% of average national income after social transfers)



Proportion of Roma households where at least one person was hungry at least once in previous month



- ❖ Discrimination, harassment and hate crime: key **structural** drivers of social exclusion undermining **policy measures** and **outcomes**
- **Starting point:** tackling poverty is a human rights duty + SDG commitment
- EU and national governments have a duty to ensure that equality law is implemented effectively, also in public investment (**ESIF monitoring**)
- Equality Bodies should reach out to those at risk of discrimination:
 - (a) To improve their awareness of rights, laws and redress possibilities
 - (b) To support them in accessing and using redress mechanisms
- ❖ CoE (ECRI) General Policy Recommendation No 2: Equality bodies to combat racism and intolerance at national level (adopted 7 December 2017)