



## Fact Sheet Briefing – Afrophobia in Hungary

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This fact sheet is based on ENAR's Shadow Report questionnaire 2014/2015, answered by Marcell Lőrincz from *Szubjektív Értékek Alapítvány* (Subjective Values Foundation) including both results of qualitative and quantitative research.

Defining 'People of African Descent (PAD)/Black Europeans (BE) population' is no easy task and indeed various definitions and descriptions exist for the group. The UN Working Group on people of African descent proposed that: "People of African descent may be defined as descendants of the African victims of the trans-Atlantic slave trade (...) Africans and their descendants who, after their countries' independence, emigrated to or went to work in Europe, Canada and the Middle East."<sup>1</sup> The term 'Black Europeans' is used here to refer to Black people born or raised in Europe or with an EU citizenship. In some places the term 'Black people' is used to refer more broadly to all those individuals, groups and communities that define themselves as 'Black'. Accordingly, 'Black' does not necessarily refer to a skin colour so much as a sociologically constructed identity.

According to various statistics available<sup>2</sup>, the size of people of African descent is estimated to be between three and four thousand people, most of them living in Budapest and the majority of them originally came to Hungary as students. The highest numbers of Africans residing in Hungary are from Nigeria as well as the Maghreb countries.

### Key findings and examples

#### Political developments

- Hungary's Migration Strategy, adopted in 2013, made a positive claim that immigration is necessary due to national economic and demographic reasons. However this sits in sharp contrast to the political statements which are very discriminatory towards migrants.
- It is reported that the current government and the wider society has strong racist and xenophobic attitudes which in the main does not target PAD/BE as long as they stay under the radar in the metropolitan area of Budapest.
- PAD/BE are able to avoid much of the effects of racism and discrimination because the relatively small number of this group work in relatively well-paid jobs and their social status affords them a level of protection.

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<sup>1</sup>UN Working Group on People of African Descent, Identification and Definition of People of African Descent and How Racial Discrimination Against them is Manifested in Various Regions, E/CN.4/2003/WG.20/WP.3

<sup>2</sup> Data table, Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Foreign citizens residing in Hungary by continents, countries, sex 2005-2015 [https://www.ksh.hu/docs/eng/xstadat/xstadat\\_annual/i\\_wvn001b.html](https://www.ksh.hu/docs/eng/xstadat/xstadat_annual/i_wvn001b.html) (accessed on 12/02/2016)

## Hate speech

- Although the leader of the right wing party, Victor Orban, has not specifically targeted PAD/BE, this group is nonetheless affected by his anti-migrant rhetoric and campaigns.

## Police violence and criminal justice system

- Disaggregated data on racist crimes and violence perpetrated by the police is not collected.
- Hate crimes are usually under-reported as victims are reluctant to turn to the police due to fear of further victimization and negative consequences regarding their legal status.
- Translation services and foreign language skills are limited which has an impact on investigation of incidents. It is reported that the investigation has failed due to communication problems between victims and investigators.

*It is reported that the police and the law enforcement authorities do participate in trainings and projects in order to develop hate crime reporting system.<sup>3</sup>*

## Employment

- Highly educated PAD/BE or students of African origin in Hungary can enjoy an “above-average” experience of well-being and are more likely to settle in Hungary. Less educated migrants of African descent are more likely to move to Austria and Germany.
- A number of people of African descent who attained their university and college degrees in Hungary have returned to their countries of origin, where some have entered into politics.
- Discrimination and significant barriers to employment for less educated Black people has resulted in high levels of self-employment for this group.
- It is reported that migrants from Africa are confronted with difficulties regarding visa issuing processes. There is a high degree of bureaucracy reported and an unofficial policy of the Hungarian consulate is to refuse half of the visa applications from Nigeria.

## Media

- All media outputs have the potential to (re-)produce racist stereotypes and contribute to the image of Black people in the wider society. It is reported that there is a polarisation of images, where Black people are either depicted as drug dealers or irregular migrants or as performers (singers, dancers or sportsmen).

## Migration

- The government has publicly made links between migration and terrorism. The counter-terrorism discourse and discussions at the political level is linked to migrants, integration and Muslims.

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<sup>3</sup>(Together against hate – project website) <http://egyuttagyuloletellen.hu/osszefognak-a-hatosagok-es-a-civil-szervezetek/>

## **Key recommendations**

The government should:

- In partnership with civil society organisations, and according to data protection principles, collect equality data to annually monitor people of African descent/Black Europeans' outcomes in key social indicators in employment, health, education and housing and develop policies in response to persistent racial inequalities. Such administrative data should be cross-referenced with data from the Census, which should allow for self-identification in ethnic and racial categories developed in consultation with civil society organisations and other stakeholders, including statisticians.
- Establish public duties to promote equality and increase the diversity within all public bodies and develop special measures and traineeships for people of African descent/Black Europeans within all public institutions and, in particular, public broadcasting agencies so that ethnic minorities, are able to gain entry and access into the roles that currently lack diversity.
- Ensure that national legislation and police guidelines prohibit ethnic profiling and establish a requirement for reasonable suspicion for all police stops. Collect data on the use of stop and search based on forms to be filled in by agents after every stop. Ensure regular training of law-enforcement agents on unconscious bias. Ensure that performance appraisal systems for law enforcement sanction the use of ethnic profiling.