european network against racism

ENAR Shadow Report 2013/14 on racist crime in Europe: Key findings

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) 2013/14 Shadow Report focuses on racist crime in Europe. It presents **patterns of racist crimes, the groups targeted, the nature of these crimes and the effects on victims**. It also examines EU Member States' response to racist crime. The findings are based on **data and information from 26 European countries** (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom), covering 2013. **A total of 47,210 racist crimes were reported in most of the countries covered, but this is only the tip of the iceberg,** as many EU Member do not properly record and report racially motivated crimes.

Black and Asian ethnic minorities, Roma, Jews and Muslims – or those perceived as such – are the main targets of racist crime and perpetrators.

In **Italy**, 57% of bias motivated crimes relate to race or ethnicity.

In **Greece**, over 200 racially motivated incidents targeting people with an Asian background were recorded.

In **Sweden**, 980 crimes with an Afrophobic motive were recorded.

In **most EU countries**, cases of violence, abuse or incitement to violence against **Roma** were reported.

Anti-Semitic bias crimes

Anti-Semitic crimes have risen in **Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden**.

In **Germany**, 1,275 crimes with an anti-Semitic motivation were recorded.

Islamophobic bias crimes

Islamophobic crimes have risen in **France, England and Wales**.

In **Sweden**, police reports of crimes with an Islamophobic motive increased by 69% from 2009 to 2013.

In the **United Kingdom**, 74% of incidents reported to the organisation Tell MAMA were online.

Crimes perpetrated by members of far-right groups are over-represented in racist crimes and complaints linked to political groups.

According to data from Denmark, France, Italy, Greece, Sweden and the Czech Republic, 49% of racist crimes and complaints linked to political groups concerned far-right groups.

In **Sweden**, 32% of racially motivated crimes can be directly linked to far-right groups.

There were several examples of political representatives publicly inciting to violence and hatred, including in **Hungary, Bulgaria, France and Greece**.

Most EU countries record racist crimes, but the data are not always made public, or are not disaggregated according to the race, ethnicity or religion of the victim, or by type of crime.

Only **one third of EU Member States recorded** and published information on racist crimes for 2013

Only **three EU Member States have comprehensive data collection** for racially motivated crimes: the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Poland is one of the few countries that records information on the type of racist crimes and disaggregates the data on the race or ehtnicity of the victims.

Victimisation surveys enable assessments of how victims feel about racially motivated crimes.

Only **five EU Member States** carry out victimisation surveys: Finland, France, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

In many EU countries **civil society organisations** provide key support to victims. Some victims also prefer to report racist crimes to civil society organisation rather than to the police.

In most EU Member States the bias motivation is not adequately or systematically investigated.

In **Italy and the Czech Republic**, 40-60% of reported racist crimes are not fully investigated.

There have been cases of **police failing to investigate the potential racist elements of a crime**, even when racist language was used at the time of the crime, including in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Germany, Luxembourg, Iceland, Italy and the Netherlands.

Under-qualifcation of racist crimes, i.e. prosecution of a racist crime as a less severe crime or as a crime committed without a bias, has been reported in Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Germany and Greece.

There have been cases of **victims being treated as perpetrators by the police** in Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia and Germany.

Several Member States reported that **the police perpetrate racist crimes**, including in Greece, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Cyprus.

How victims perceive they will be treated by authorities will inform their decision on whether to report these crimes.

In the **United Kingdom**, it is estimated that up to **86% of racist crimes went unreported** in 2013.

Reasons for non-reporting include lack of trust in the police, a lack of confidence that their case will result in any realy impact, a lack of awareness of victims' rights, and fear of repeat victimisation.

Selected recommendations

♦ The EU should launch infringement proceedings against Member States who do not implement EU legislation on combating racist crime.
♦ EU Member States should develop a clear legal framework that recognizes and defines racially motivated crimes, provides for real obligations to investigate the racist motivation, and punishes these crimes more severely.
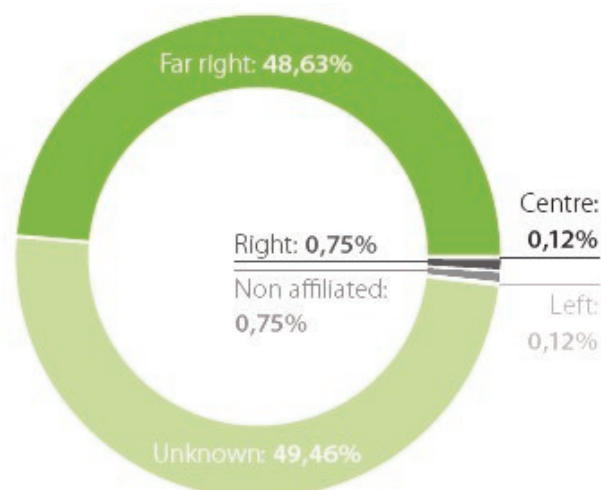
To read the full report, visit www.enar-eu.org

Official figures on reported racist crimes and complaints in 2013:

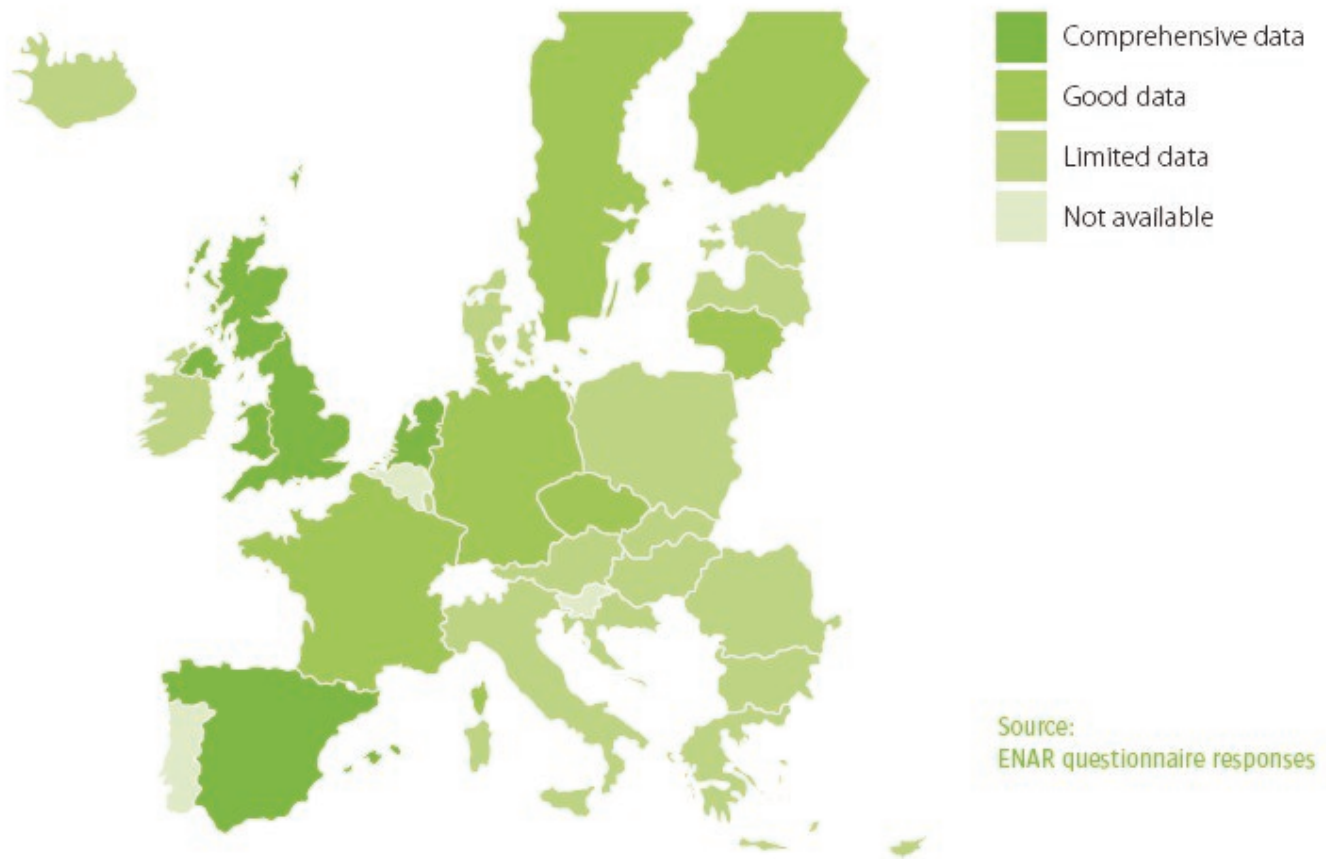|	
Austria	110
Bulgaria	Not available
Croatia	33
Cyprus	8
Czech Republic	186
Denmark	Not available
Estonia	Not available
Finland	833
France	1,376
Germany	5,131
Greece	43
Hungary	3
Iceland	0
Italy	194
Ireland	93
Latvia	22
Lithuania	84
Luxembourg	31
Malta	Not available
Netherlands	Not available
Poland	719
Romania	Not available
Slovakia	Not available
Spain	384
Sweden	1,733
England & Wales	30,788
Scotland	4,735
Northern Ireland	704

Racist crimes and complaints linked to political groups:

(based on data from Denmark, France, Italy, Greece, Sweden and the Czech Republic)

Far right: 48,63%

Centre: 0,12%

Right: 0,75%

Non affiliated: 0,75%

Left: 0,12%

Unknown: 49,46%

3

Civil society assessment of official data collection on racist crime:

Legend:
- Comprehensive data
- Good data
- Limited data
- Not available

Source:
ENAR questionnaire responses

Reasons given by victims for not reporting racist crimes:

- Lack of trust in the police **17**
- Lack of confidence in the impact of reporting **15**
- Fear of discrimination **8**
- Fear of repeat victimisation **8**
- Poor data collection **4**
- Lack of victim support services **5**
- Lack of awareness of victims' rights **9**