

Being Black in the EU: Experiences of people of African descent

Sciences Po

1 June 2026, Paris

FRA's mandate (Council Regulation (EC) 168/2007)



To provide **assistance and expertise on fundamental rights issues** to the European Union institutions and the Member States, when they implement European Union law



To collect, record, analyse and disseminate relevant, **objective, reliable and comparable information and data** on fundamental rights issues in the EU



To promote **dialogue with civil society**, in order to **raise public awareness** of fundamental rights and actively **disseminate information about its work**

Data collection: primary research

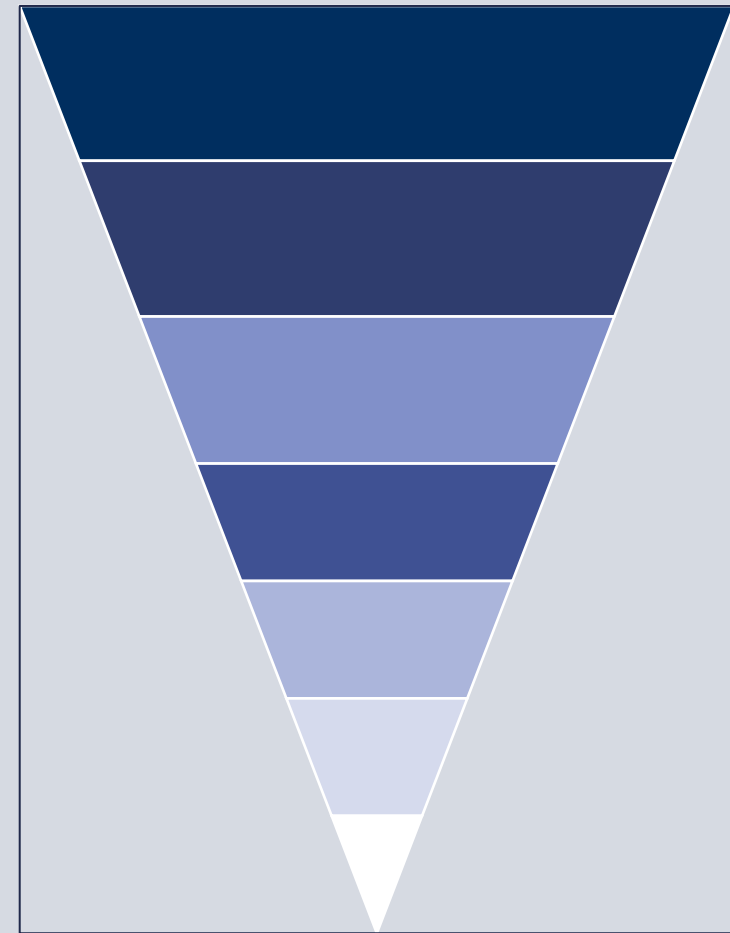
- EU-wide comparable (equality) data is essential for monitoring the effective implementation of EU legislation
- In the absence of data in many EU Member States & Eurostat on:
 - ✓ fundamental rights issues (e.g. discrimination & hate crime)
 - ✓ hard-to-reach or underrepresented groups
- **FRA fills this gap through:**
 - ✓ Quantitative EU-wide surveys:
 - ✓ Qualitative research:
 - ✓ In-depth socio-legal and desk research

FRA surveys: unique source of comparable equality data

Attrition: Case for survey research to produce more reliable data on crime (and discrimination)

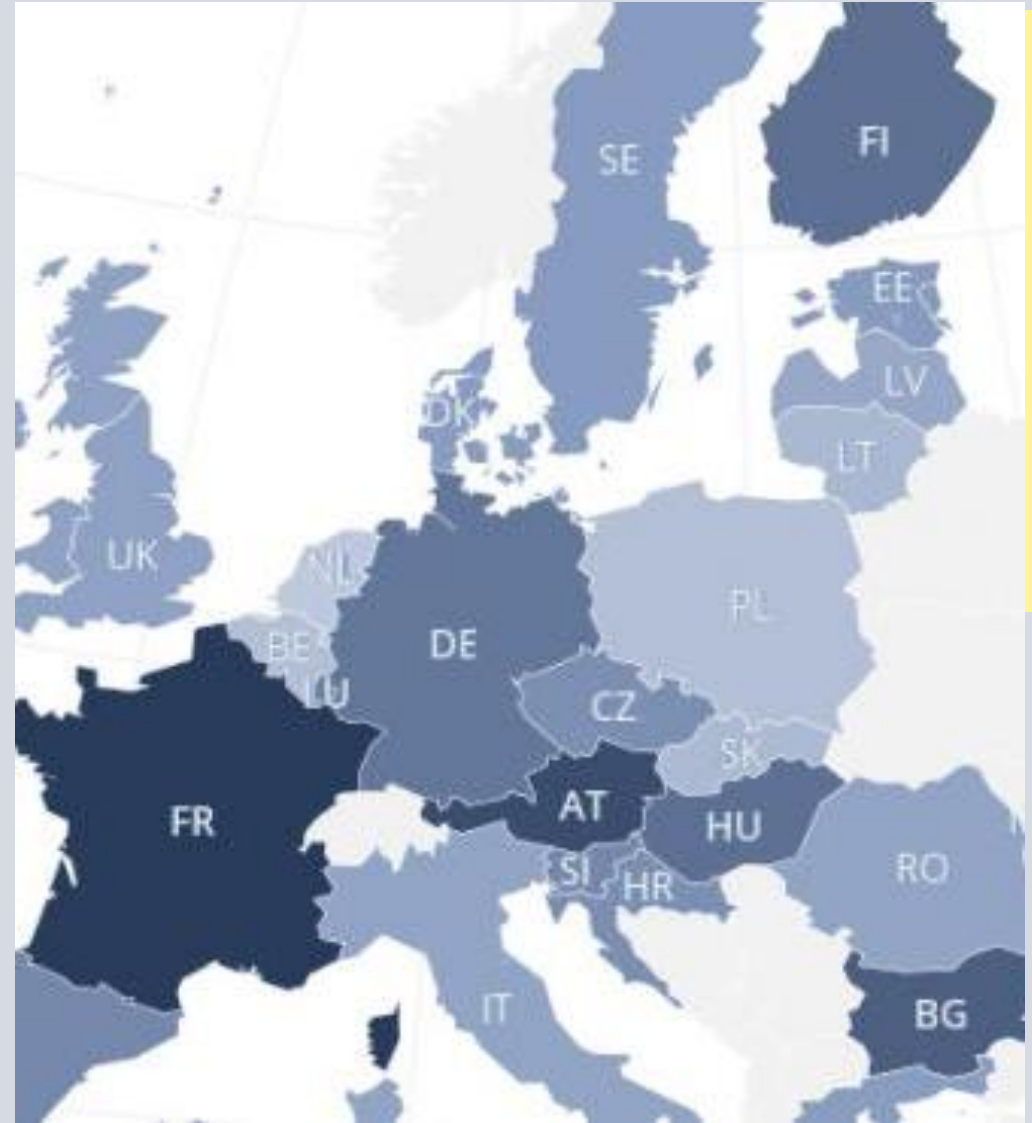
- All incidents
- Disclosed in a survey
- Reported to the police
- Recorded by the police
- Arrest made
- Person charged
- Prosecution
- Conviction

Administrative
data collection



FRA surveys: filling the gaps in equality data collection

- **Minorities and discrimination survey – EU-MIDIS (2008, 2016, 2022)**
- Roma/Travellers survey (2011, 2019, 2021, 2024)
- Survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jewish people (2012, 2018, 2023)
- LGBTIQ Survey (2012, 2019, 2023)
- Fundamental rights survey (2019)
- Violence against women survey (2012, 2023)
- FRA survey on displaced people from Ukraine (2022)
- Data collection on violence and related human rights abuses against women fleeing the war in Ukraine (2024)



FRA survey results inform EU policies: EU-MIDIS II (2016)



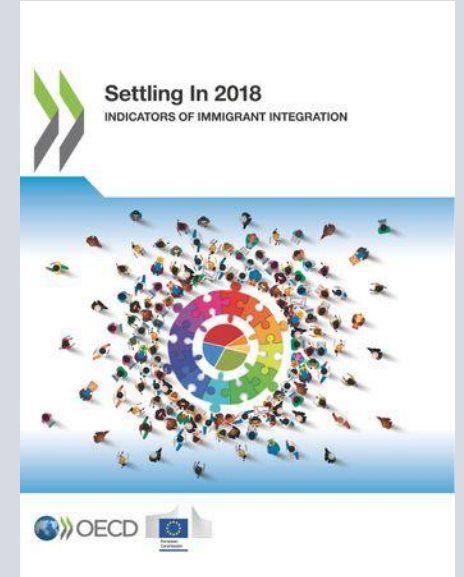
EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025



EU Roma strategic framework for Equality, inclusions and participation (2020-2030)



EP resolution of 26 March 2019 on fundamental rights of people of African descent in Europe



OECD report 'Settling In 2018 INDICATORS OF IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION'

- EU Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027
- EU strategy on victim's rights 2020-2025
- LGBTIQ Equality strategy
- EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025
- EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee
- European Commission Joint report on the application of the Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/CE) and the Employment Equality Directive (2000/78/CE) (2021)

FRA's socio-legal approach to FR analysis

What is the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)?

Definition

HRBA is a way of designing, implementing, and evaluating policies and programmes so they are guided by **human rights standards** and **human rights principles**.

Core principles

- **Participation** — people affected help shape decisions
- **Accountability** — duty-bearers are answerable for results
- **Non-discrimination and equality** — barriers and exclusion are addressed explicitly
- **Empowerment** — rights-holders can claim their rights
- **Legality** — action is anchored in rights, laws, and standards

What HRBA asks in practice

- Who is being left behind?
- Which rights are at stake?
- Who has the obligation to act?
- What barriers prevent equal access, voice, and protection?
- How will progress be measured fairly and transparently?

Why it matters: HRBA helps produce **more inclusive, legitimate, and sustainable outcomes**.

OHCHR human rights-based indicators

<u>Structural</u>	Legal, policy and institutional framework	Commitment	Commitment to international human rights law Legislation in place Policies, strategies, action plans, guidelines, adopted Institutional framework Complaint and support mechanisms exist QUAL	Duty bearers
<u>Process</u>	Policy implementation, effectiveness of complaints and support systems	Effort	Budgetary allocations Implementation of policies, strategies action plans, guidelines, etc. Effectiveness of complaint and support mechanisms QUAL / QUANT	Duty bearers
<u>Outcome</u>	Situation on the ground – rights realised in practice	Results	Actual awareness of rights Actual impact of policies and other measures Actual occurrence of violations QUANT / QUAL	Rights holders

Hard-to-reach groups: definitions

Is the target population....

- hard to identify?
- hard to sample?
- hard to find or to contact?
- hard to persuade to take part?
- hard to interview?

Source: Tourangeau, R., Johnson, T., Bates, N. and Wolter, K. (Ed.) (2014). Hard-to-Survey Populations. Cambridge University Press

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: „leave no one behind“

The term ‘hard-to-reach’, also refers to elusive populations, meaning populations for which – by virtue of their characteristics, or of the lack of suitable sampling frames, or difficulties in obtaining the required information – adequate data collections cannot be defined, drawn or implemented using the normal procedures of general population data collections.

(Verma, 2013)

OHCHR Human Rights-Based Approach to Data

Doing no harm: no data collection activity should create or reinforce existing discrimination, bias or stereotypes. Collected data should be used for the benefit of the groups they describe and society as a whole

UN-OHCHR principles for data collection:

- Participation
- Disaggregation
- Self-identification
- Transparency
- Privacy
- Accountability



EU-MIDIS III (2022)

EU-MIDIS III (2022)

- **4 target groups:** African countries south of the Sahara (13); North Africa (5), Syria (6) and Türkiye (4)
- **15 EU MS:** AT, BE, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, PL, PT, SE (1 to 3 TG in MS)
- Net total sample: **16,124** respondents and **34,344** households' members
- **Immigrants** – country of birth; **descendants of immigrants** – country of birth of parent(s)
- FRA developed the [survey questionnaire](#), translated into 17 languages
- **Fieldwork:** October 2021 to late September 2022
- **Data collection:** face-to-face interviews (9 MS), online questionnaire (6 MS)

Reports

- [Being Black in the EU](#) (2023); [Being Muslim in the EU](#) (2024)
- [Technical and Quality Report - EU Survey on Immigrants and Descendants of Immigrants](#) (2024)

Forthcoming

- *Main results report: Assessing Integration and Inclusion through a Human Rights-Based Approach*
- FRA Data Visualisation Tool
- GESIS Data Archive

Why the survey and the reports?

- Informs EU law and policies on anti-racism and non-discrimination and provides data to help monitor their implementation
- Responds to requests from the EC, EP and the Council
- Presents the most recent comparable data on racial discrimination, racist harassment and crime victimisation among racialised communities in the EU
- Looks at developments since EU-MIDIS (2016), the first 'Being Black in the EU' (2018), 'Muslims – selected findings' (2018)
- Considers multiple and intersecting grounds of discrimination

Being Black in the EU

 **FRA** EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY
FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

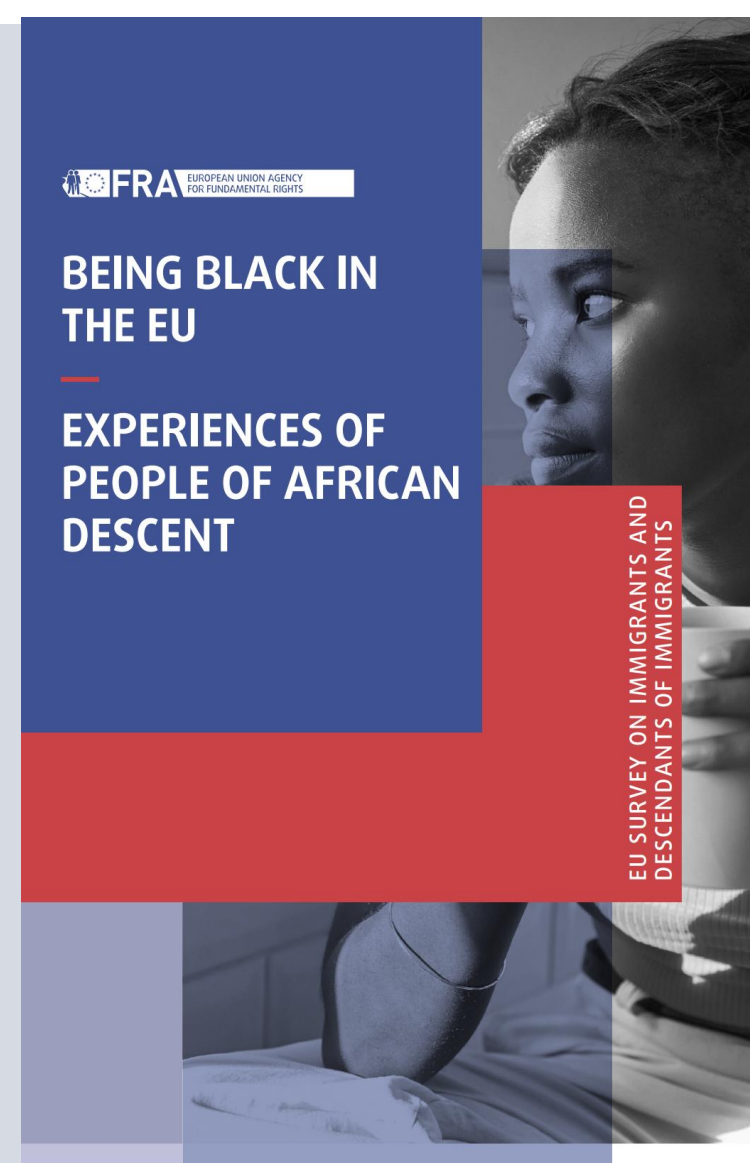
BEING BLACK IN THE EU

EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

EU SURVEY ON IMMIGRANTS AND
DESCENDANTS OF IMMIGRANTS

What does the report cover?

- Experience of discrimination
- Rights awareness
- **Hate crime:** harassment and violence
- **Police stops**
- **Socioeconomic situation and living conditions:**
 - Education
 - Access to employment and quality of work
 - Access to affordable housing and poverty
 - Health
- **Key findings and Opinions**
- **Annexes:** methodology, sample composition & socio-demographic profile of the respondents, terminology



‘Being Black in the EU – Experiences of people of African Descent’ (2023)

- **Sub-sample:**

- 6,752 persons of African descent from 54 countries of origin (inc. Caribbean countries in FR)
- 13 EU MS: AT, BE, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LU, PL, PT, SE
- Sample size: from 419 to 579 respondents in each MS

- **Sample characteristics**

- Average age: 38 years
- 47% women
- 46% of respondents are citizens of the MS they reside
- 86% born outside the EU
- Average stay: 16 years
- 54% Christian, 34% Muslim, 8% no religion



Sample size: 544 respondents

Average age: 37 years

51% women

54% are French citizens

80% born outside the EU

Average stay: 19 years

53% are Christians, 35% - Muslims



France: sample description & fieldwork

- Sampling frame: La Poste – National Addresses Base (addresses)

Census 2017; IRIS ('aggregated units for statistical information', smallest statistical units used for the census) level data for foreign-born population adjusted based on commune level data available for the target groups; counts for descendants of immigrants estimated based on EU-MIDIS II data.

- Sampling method: multistage clustered sampling, address register
- Survey coverage of target group in country: 60%
- Response rate: 31%
- Data collection mode: face-to-face interviewing
- Languages offered for completion: Arabic, French, Tamazight
- Fieldwork: 30.11.2021 – 30.09.2022 (covid-19 impact)
- Fieldwork company: Ipsos France

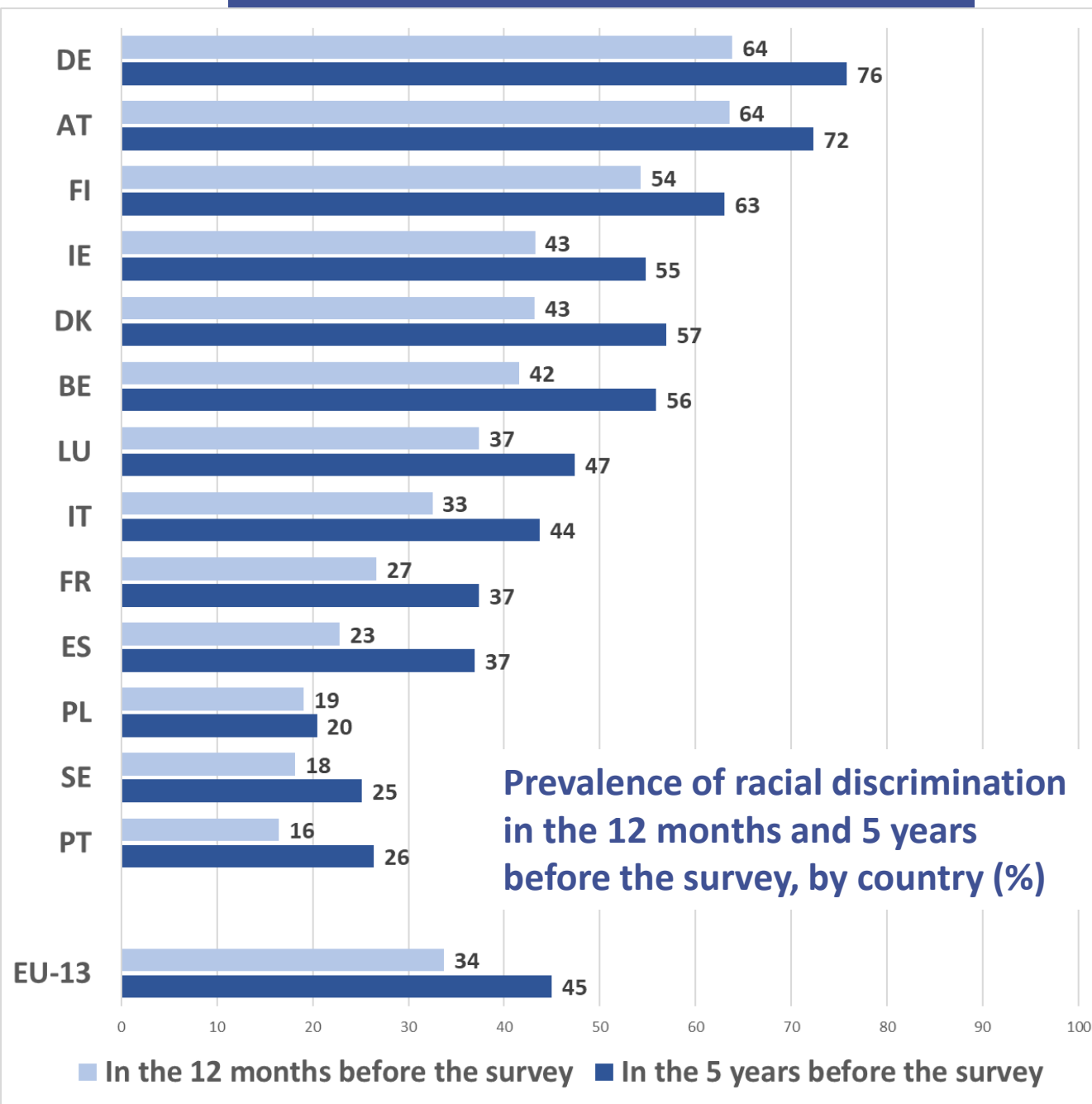
Selected key findings



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Racial discrimination increased in key areas of life

- 5-year prevalence: 45% in 2022 vs. 39% in 2016
- The highest rates occur in employment and housing
- Recurring experience

Discrimination remains invisible

- 9% of victims report incidents to anybody, and very few (4%) report incidents to an equality body
- Racial discrimination reduces trust in public institutions



Grounds of discrimination experienced in the 5 years before the survey (%)

	Skin colour	Ethnic or migrant background	Religion or belief	Age	Sex/gender	Disability	Sexual orientation	Gender identity or gender expression
FR-SSAFR	31	24	5	5	4	2	0	0
EU-13	38	30	6	6	5	2	0	1

Prevalence of racial discrimination, by survey year(%)

Target group	12 months before the survey		5 years before the survey	
	2022	2016	2022	2016
FR-SSAFR	27	29	37	48
EU-13/EU-12	34	24	45	39

Prevalence of racial discrimination in different areas of life in the 5 years before the survey (%)

	Looking for work	At work	Housing	Education	Health
FR-SSAFR	24	26	18	9	13
EU-13	34	31	31	18	11

Reporting any incident of discrimination in the 12 months before the survey (%)

	Reporting rate
FR-SSAFR	9
EU-13	9

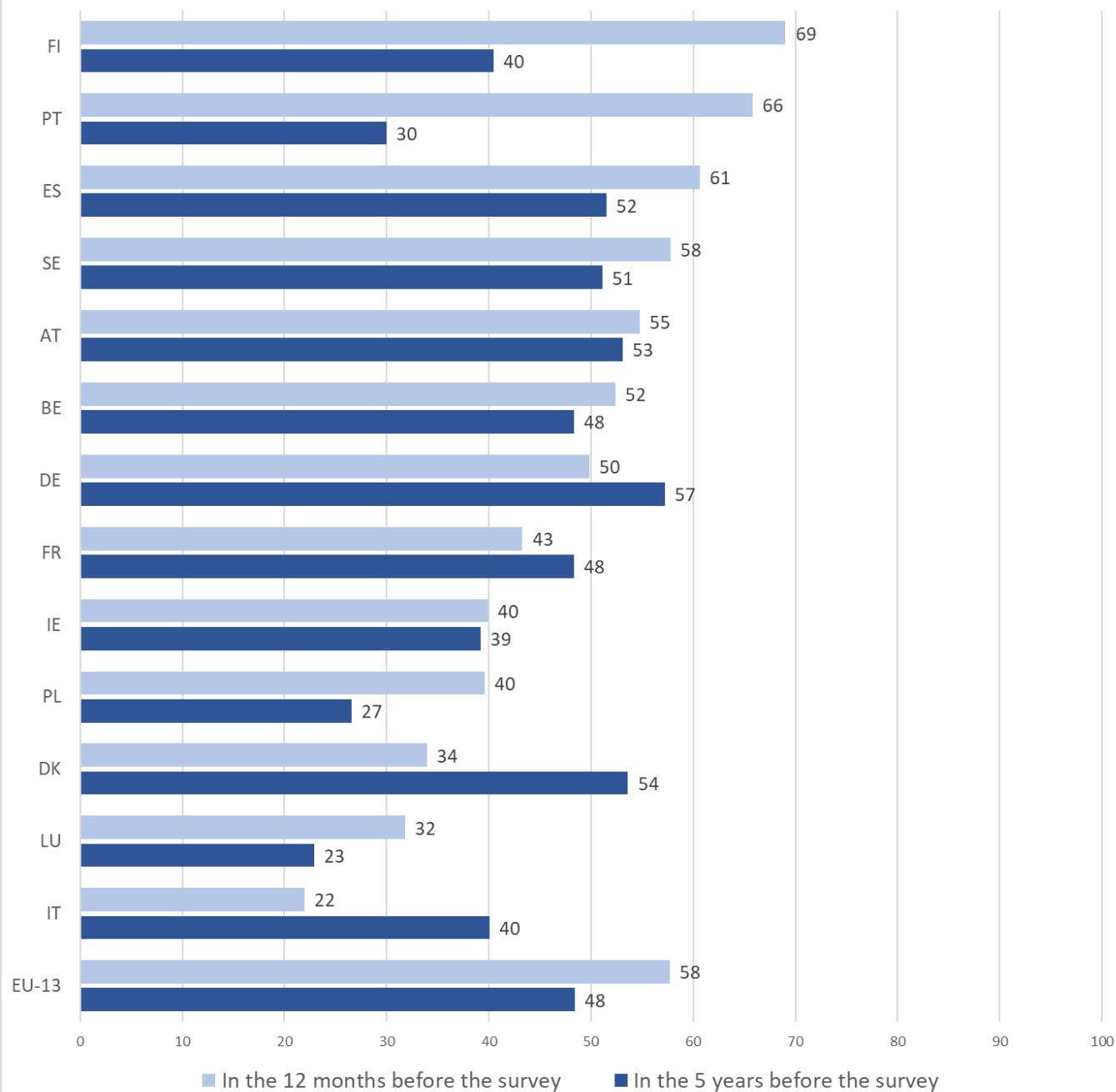
Awareness of *Défenseur des Droits*, by survey year (%)

	2016	2022
FR-SSAFR	32	57
EU-12/EU-13	46	44

Racist victimisation

- **Racist harassment remains widespread and underreported**
 - 5-year prevalence: 30%; 12-month prevalence: 24%
 27% and 21%
- **Racist violence remains largely unreported**
 - 5-year prevalence: 4%  3%
 - 36% of victims reported the most recent incident to any organisation or the police
- **Most victims of racist violence suffer from psychological problems and worry about being attacked again**

Most recent police stop perceived to be due to discriminatory ethnic profiling among those stopped in the 12 months and 5 years before the survey, by country (%)



"I have no overall complaints of discrimination except with the police and the law enforcement."

Man, 25-44 years old, France

Education

Respondents of African descent vs the general population in the EU-27

- Average level of education (16-64-years old):

Level of education	FRANCE		EU-13	EU-27
	SSAFR	General Population	SSAFR	General Population
ISCED 0-2	29	22	36	25
ISCED 3-4	47	42	42	46
ISCED 5-8	24	36	22	30

- Young people (18-24-year-olds) ‘early school-leavers’: 36% vs 10%;  36% vs 8%
- NEET rate (16-24-year-olds): 14% vs 11%;  18% vs 11%
- 13% of respondents of African descent felt **racially discriminated against** when in contact with an education facility in the 12 months preceding the survey;  10%

Employment: gaps in quality and security

Respondents of African descent vs the general population in the EU-27

- **Paid work rate** (aged 20–64 years): 71% vs 73%;  women: 68%, men: 71%;
- **Work in 'elementary occupations'**: 32% vs 8%;  28% vs 8%; women: 21%, men: 36%
- **Have a temporary contract**: 30% vs 11%;  29% vs 13%; women: 29%, men: 35%
- The **over-qualification rate** for respondents of African descent is higher than for general population in EU-27 for both citizens of the countries where they reside (35 % vs 21 %) or non-EU citizens (57 % vs 40 %)

Living conditions

Respondents of African descent vs the general population in the EU-27

- Difficulties in making ends meet: 32% vs 18%;  33% vs 17%;
- Cannot afford to keep their house warm: 14% vs 7%;  14% vs 6%
- Ownership of accommodation: 11% vs 70%;  11% vs 70%
- Overcrowded housing: 45% vs 17%;  47% vs 9%

Health (16-64 years old)

- Subjective assessment of own health as '(very) good': 81% vs 79%;  78% vs 76%
- GALI (long-term, health-related limitations in daily activities): 20% vs 17%;  23% vs 15%
- Unmet medical needs in the 12 months before the survey: 9% vs 5%;  10% vs 7%

FRA calls on EU Member States to

- Properly enforce **anti-discrimination legislation** as well as effective, proportionate and dissuasive **sanctions**;
- Identify and record **hate crimes**, and consider bias motivation as an **aggravating circumstance** when determining penalties;
- **Collect equality data**, including on 'ethnic or racial origin' to assess the situation and monitor progress;
- Ensure that **equality bodies** have the necessary **mandates and resources** to tackle discrimination and support victims;
- Take steps to prevent and **eradicate discriminatory institutional practices and culture in policing**, drawing on FRA's guide on preventing unlawful profiling;
- Develop **specific policies** to address racism and racial discrimination in **education, employment, housing and healthcare**.

Thank you!

FRA – EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

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