

POLICING ETHNIC MINORITY AND IMMIGRANT GROUPS

Evidence from
FRA research



Dr. Joanna Goodey

Head of Freedoms & Justice Department

FRA

FRA surveys on policing & ethnic/ religious minorities

- ❑ **EU-MIDIS (EU Minorities & Discrimination Survey) – EU27**
 - ***23,500 - ethnic minorities & immigrants interviewed – random sample***

- ❑ **Anti-Semitism Survey – 9 Member States**
 - ***6,000 respondents – online***

- ❑ **Violence against Women Survey – EU28**
 - ***42,000 women interviewed face-to-face – random sample***
 - ***data can be disaggregated at EU level by women’s ethnicity***

FRA studies on policing ethnic minorities

- ❑ **Understanding & Preventing Discriminatory Ethnic Profiling - A Guide**
 - *rights-based approach to inform policing*

- ❑ **Making Hate Crime Visible in the EU: acknowledging victims' rights**
 - *rights-based approach for police and other actors*

- ❑ **Fundamental rights-based police training: A manual for police trainers**
 - *piloted with different police academies*
 - *contains modules on non-discrimination in relation to police check points and identity checks*

FRA Guide on

Understanding and Preventing Discriminatory Ethnic Profiling

Towards more effective policing

Discriminatory Ethnic Profiling

Discriminatory ethnic profiling involves:

- Treating an individual less favourably than others who are in a similar situation (in other words ‘discriminating’), e.g. potentially through police stop and search
- Where a decision to exercise police powers is based **only or mainly** on that person’s race, ethnicity or religion

A clear principle in EU law

- **Discrimination** on the grounds of race, ethnicity or religion can never be justified or lawful
- Article 19 TFEU; Charter of fundamental rights of the EU (2000): articles 20 & 21 – on equality/anti-discrimination
- Racial Equality Directive (2000) on discrimination

Positive Practices – focus on:

- Ethnicity can be used as part of a profile
- Behavioural analysis
- Good suspect descriptions and good intelligence
- Good ‘quality encounters’ – service-focused policing
- Clear guidance to officers & training that distinguishes discriminatory profiling practices from legitimate practices
- Regular and on-going engagement with civil society groups – work with communities
- **Collection of data to be able to identify and counteract discriminatory practices**

EU-MIDIS

Data in Focus Report 4 Police Stops and Minorities

EU-MIDIS: Largest EU-wide survey to date on minorities

- **23,500** randomly sampled migrant/ethnic minority respondents; face to face interviews; all EU countries.
 - Roma
 - Sub-Saharan Africans
 - Central and Eastern Europeans
 - Turkish
 - Former Yugoslavians
 - North Africans
 - Russian
- **5,000** majority pop interviewed in 10 MSs
- Key questions on police stops

What was asked about stop & search? (1)

General questions to all respondents – majority & minority:

- Trust in the police
- Have you been stopped by the police (in last 5 years and in last 12 months)?
- How many times have you been stopped in the past 12 months?

Minority respondents only:

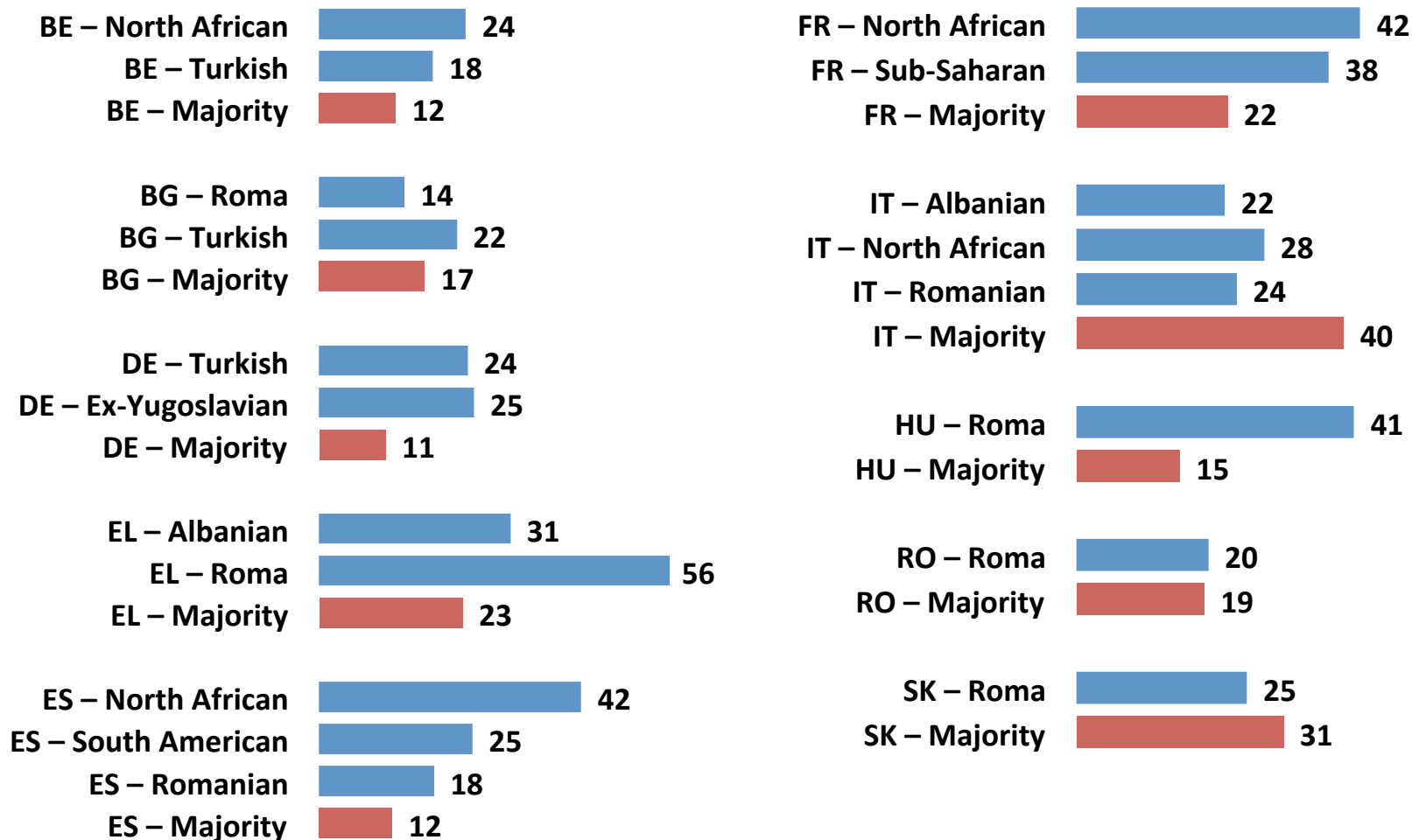
- Do you consider you were stopped because of your immigrant/minority background in the past 12 months?

What was asked about stop & search? (2)

Of those who were stopped in the last 12 months, they were asked the following in relation to the last stop:

- Where were you when stopped – car, public transport, on the street, etc.?
- What did the police do?
- How respectful were the police when stopping you?

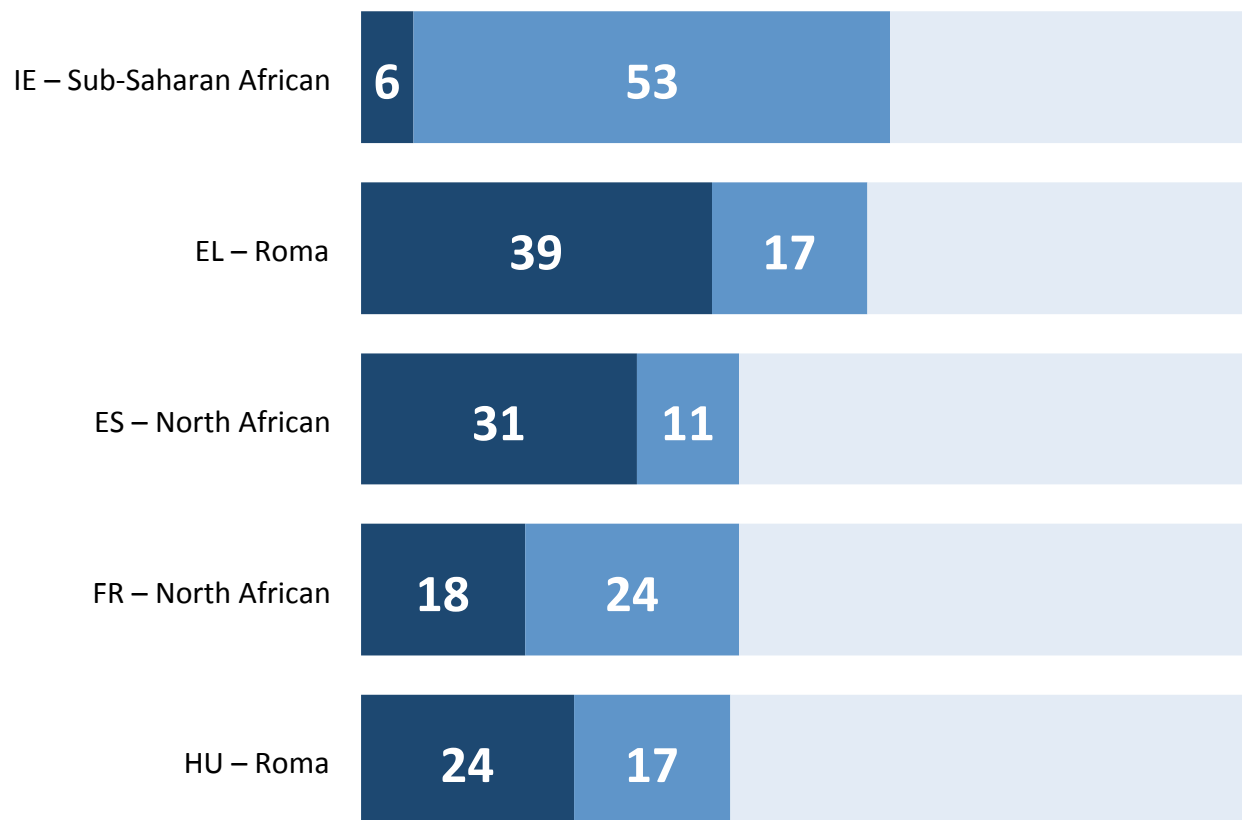
% stopped by police in last 12 months – comparison with majority respondents in 10 MS



Proportion of perceived discriminatory ethnic profiling among all stops

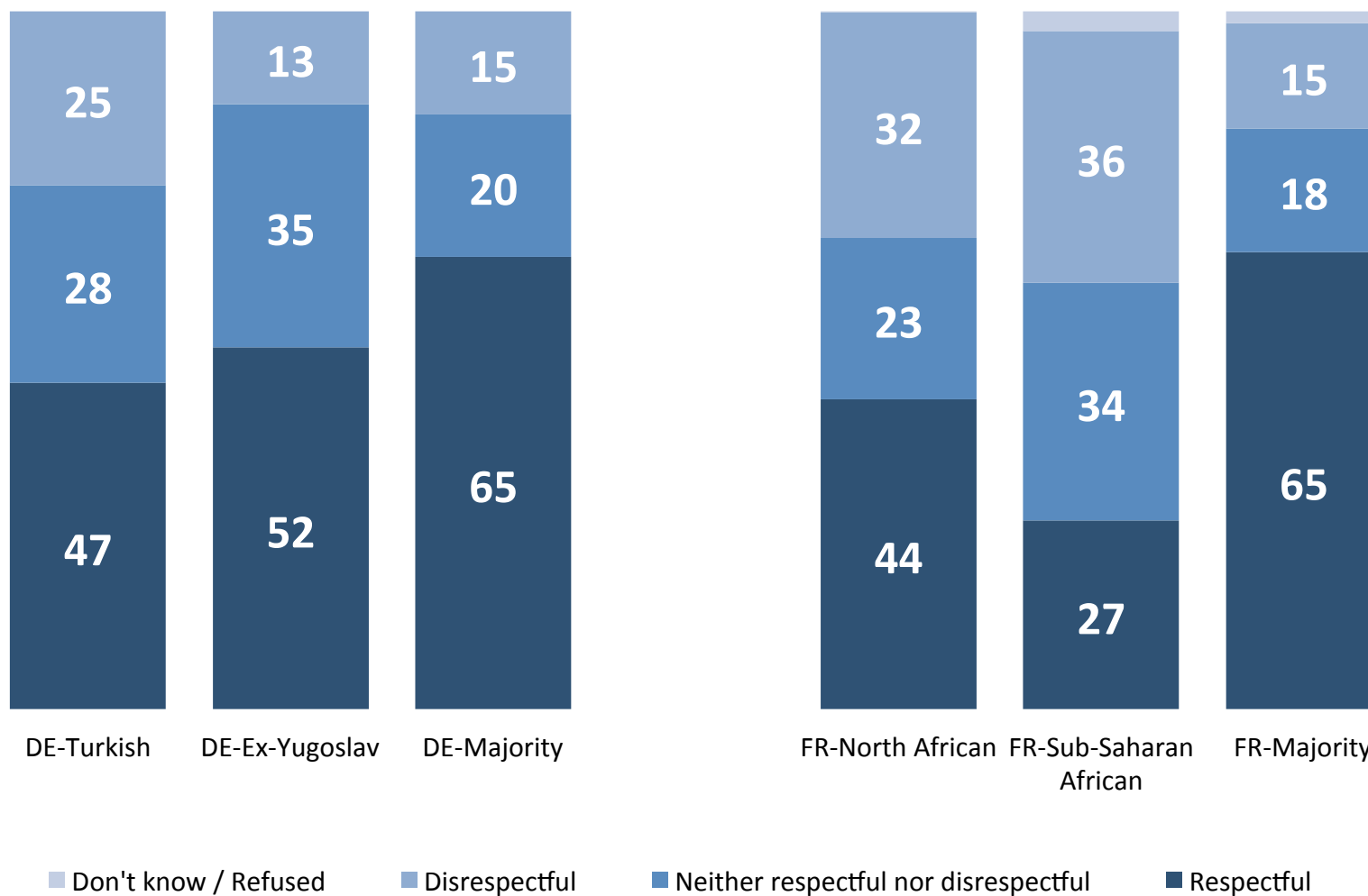
■ Stopped, with ethnic profiling
 ■ Stopped but no ethnic profiling
 ■ Not stopped

Top 5 Groups with highest number of stops (%)



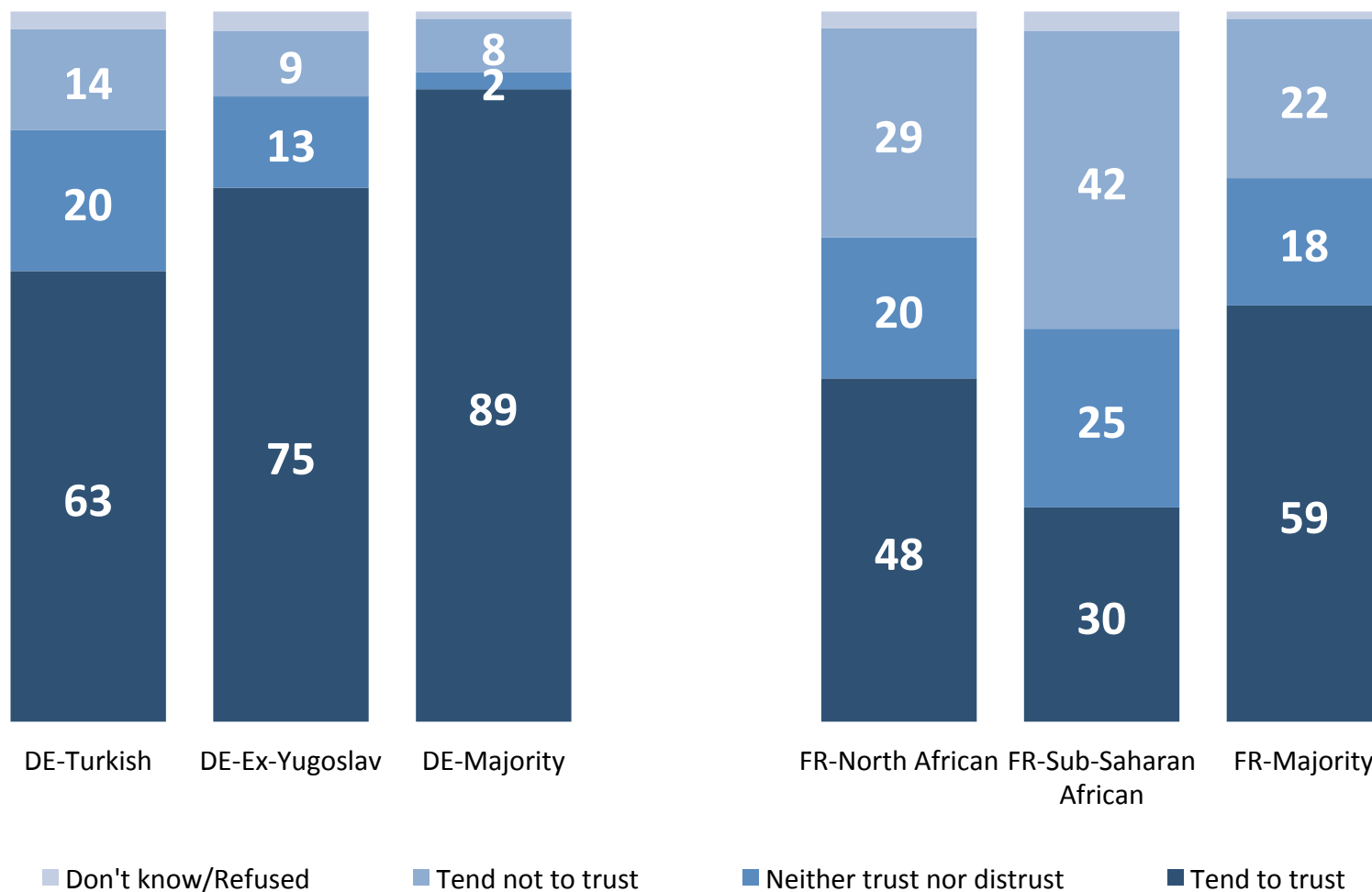
Police seen as respectful at last stop

Germany & France (%)



Whether respondents trust the police

Germany and France (%)



EU-MIDIS

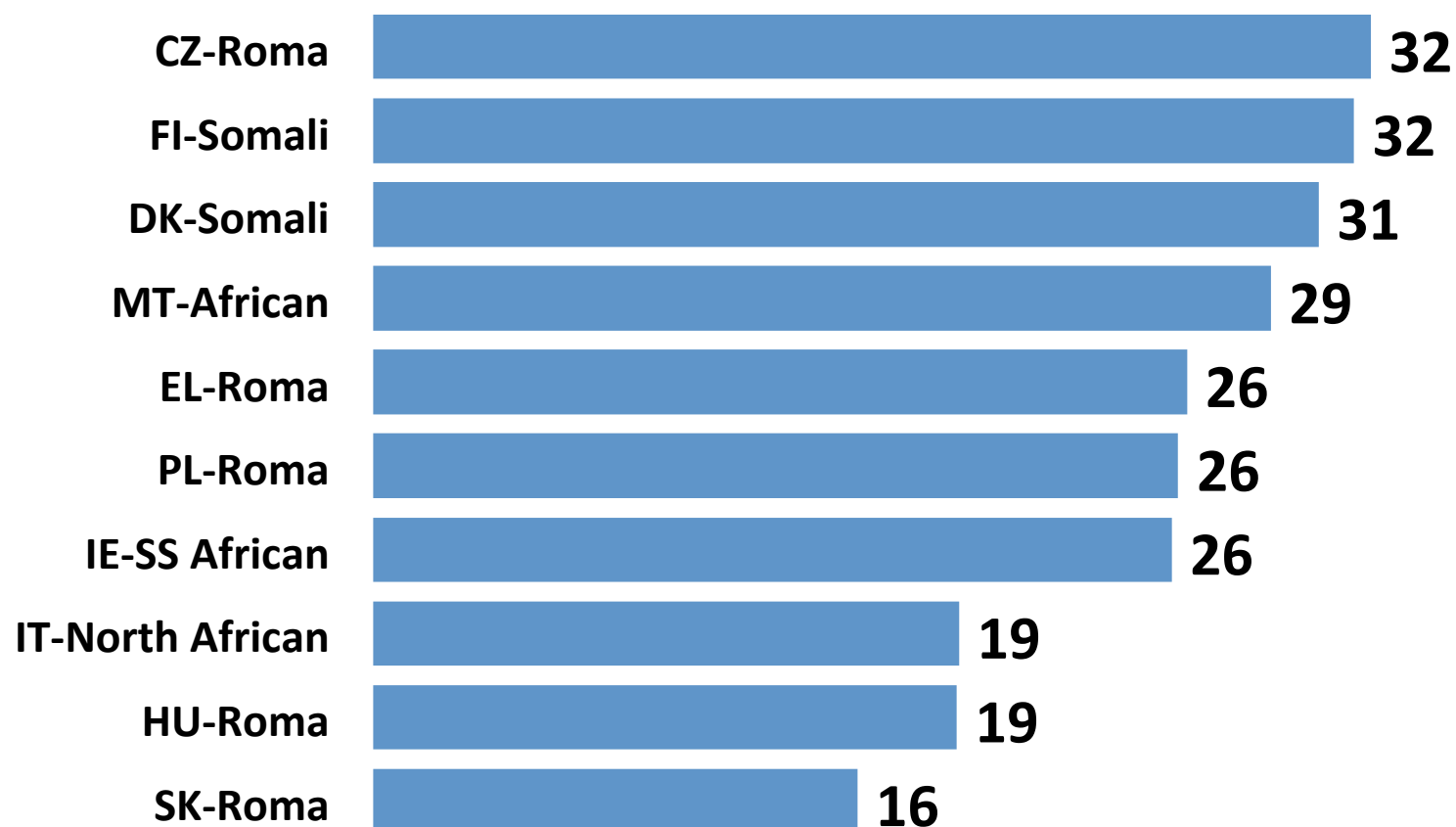
Data in Focus Report 6 Minorities as Victims of Crime

focusing on hate crime

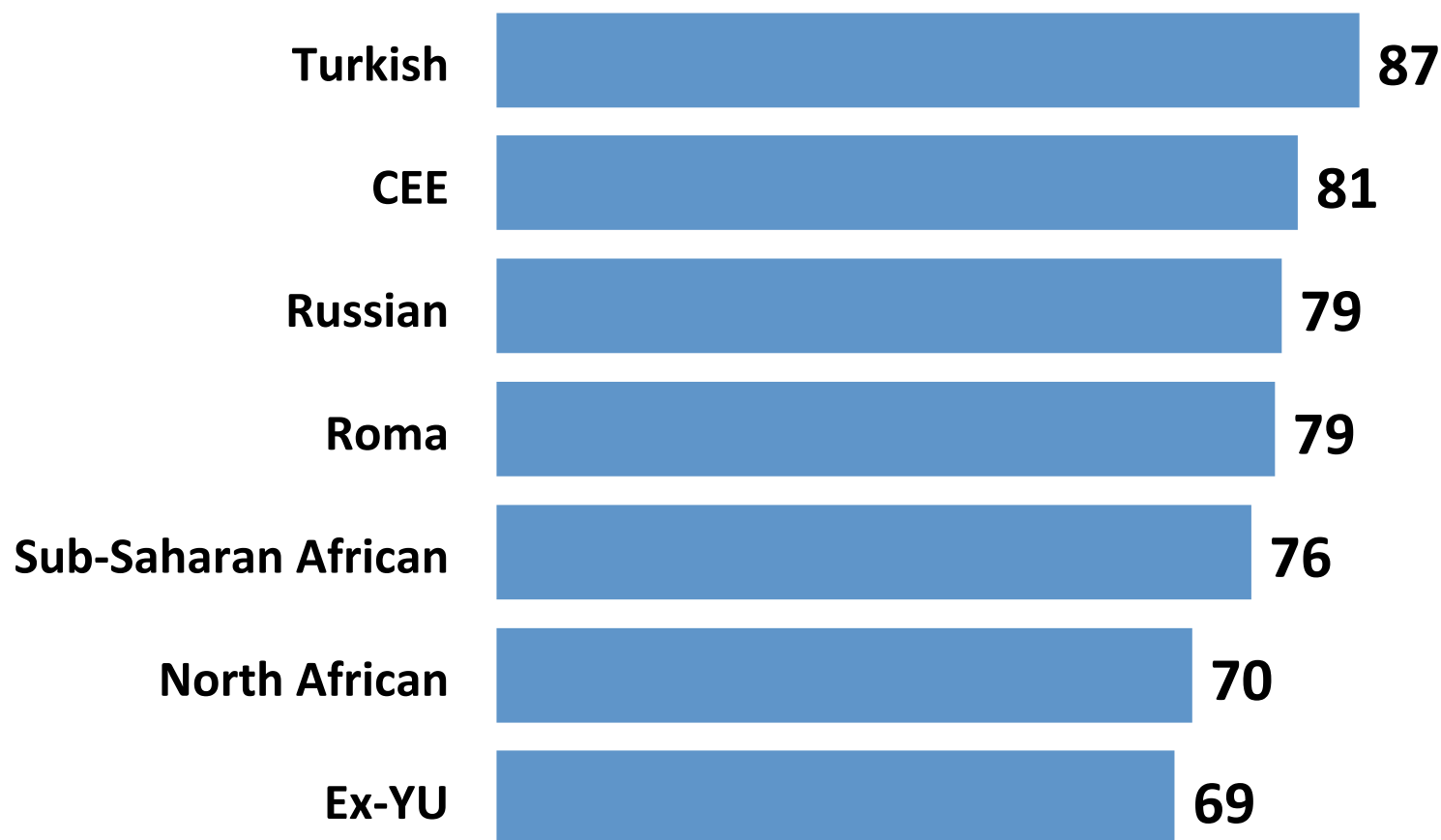


Limited data Few incidents and a narrow range of 'hate' or bias-motivated crimes are recorded Data often not published		Good A range of 'hate' or bias-motivated crimes are recorded Data usually published	Comprehensive Also types of crime and characteristics recorded Data always published
Bulgaria	Portugal	Austria	Finland
Cyprus	Slovenia	Belgium	Netherlands
Estonia	Spain	Czech Republic	Sweden
Greece	Romania	Denmark	UK
Hungary		France	
Ireland		Germany	
Italy		Lithuania	
Latvia		Poland	
Luxembourg		Slovakia	
Malta			

Perceived racist crime victimisation for assault, threat & serious harassment (%), all respondents – in the past 12 months



Percentage of victims of assault, threat and serious harassment who did not report it to the police (%) latest incident in the past 12 months



Using the results . . .

- Higher levels of reporting to the police in victimisation surveys often reflected in enhanced official criminal justice data on reported incidents/crime in a country
- Trust in the police emerges as a strong issue
- Notable differences between different ethnic groups surveyed in the same countries (and between countries)
- Why in some countries do LGBT persons have more trust in the police than ethnic minorities? Look at experiences between different groups

Using the results . . .

- Fundamental rights and accountability? Where are the checks and balances on policing?
- Data is important for checks and balances – needs to be transparently collected and reported
- Who is representing the experiences of different groups in society – are NGOs the only ones to collect data to identify problems?
- Police can only benefit by listening to the experiences of those they police

Thank you



www.fra.europa.eu

joanna.goodey@fra.europa.eu