

Collecting reliable and comparable data on the Roma across the EU

EU-MIDIS

European Union Minorities & Discrimination Survey

The FRA



- Council Regulation 168/2007
- Main task: Data collection and research
- Geographical scope: European Union
- MB: EC, CoE, 27 independent experts (MSs)
- Objective: To provide Community institutions and MSs with assistance and expertise, when implementing Community law, on fundamental rights

Towards evidence based policy development



- FRA Regulation: “Objective, reliable and comparable data”
- ‘Comparable’ = direct comparisons of MSs data
 - **MSs data rarely comparable** (different legal definitions)
- Direct comparability - harmonisation of legal definitions
standardisation of data collection practices at EU level
 - FRA examines official data comparatively (similarities/differences)
 - FRA attains **directly comparable data through EU surveys**

“Ethnic data” – the argument



- Right to information – right to privacy (historical legacy)
- **“Decisions can only be as good as the information on which they are based”**, EU Handbook on Equality Data
- In EU’s knowledge-based societies statistical information must feed into every stage of the decision-making process
→ Accurate documentation on the situation of minority ethnic groups is necessary prerequisite for policy development

“Data protection”

- a fundamental right



- **Fundamental right**: protection of personal data
- Linked to the right to respect private and family life
- **Highly developed in the EU**: Protection of individuals with regard to processing and free movement of personal data
- EDPS independent supervisor
- National data protection authorities

“EU legislation - overview”



- Directive 95/46/EC
- Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 rights and obligations at level of EC institutions and bodies - EDPS
- Directive 2002/58/EC personal data and protection of privacy in electronic communications "e-Privacy Dir"
- Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA on personal data protection in police / judicial co-operation (criminal matters)

“Personal data”



- Directive 95/46/EC: "Any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person, referred to as "data subject" - an identifiable person is someone who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identification number or to one or more factors specific to his or her physical, physiological, mental, economic, cultural or social identity".

“Sensitive data”



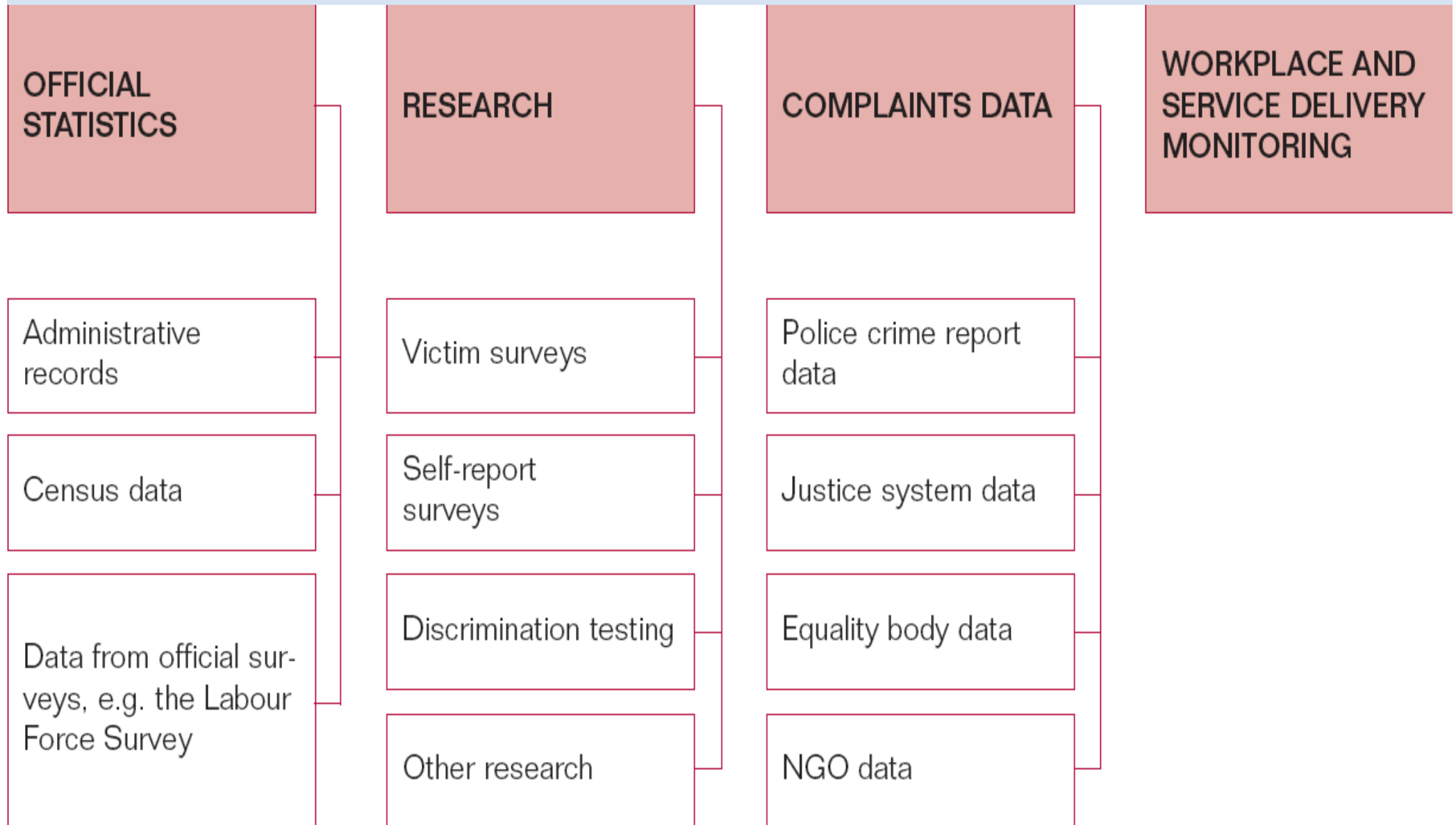
- Directive 95/46/EC (Article 8): “Revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade-union membership, and the processing of data concerning health or sex life”

The 5 exceptions



- **Data subject has given her/his explicit consent**, except when Member State specifically do not allow it
- Necessary re **employment law** & authorized by national law with adequate safeguards;
- Necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject
- Processing by a foundation, association or any other non-profit-seeking body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade-union aim on its members
- Processing relates to data made public by data subject or necessary for establishing or defending legal claims
- **+ For public interest MSs may introduce other exemptions**

Sources of data



Largest EU survey on ethnic minorities including Roma



- 23,500 migrant/ethnic minority respondents
- Different groups surveyed across Member States:
 - Roma
 - Sub-Saharanans/Caribbeans
 - Central and Eastern Europeans
 - Turkish
 - Former Yugoslavians
 - North Africans
 - Russian
- 5,000 majority population respondents

Methodology



- Selected minority groups - generally the largest
- Data subjects consent
- Self-identified minority/migrant background
- Respondents age 16+, resident in MS at least 1 year
- Random sample of 500 – 1,500 respondents per MS
- Same standardised questionnaire in all MSs
- Face-to-face 20' – 60' interviews in people's homes

EU – MIDIS: Topics covered



Discrimination Experiences

Employment

Education

Housing

Health + social services

Consumer services

General perceptions of
discrimination

Rights awareness/complaints

Victimisation Experiences

Property crime

Assault and threat

Serious harassment

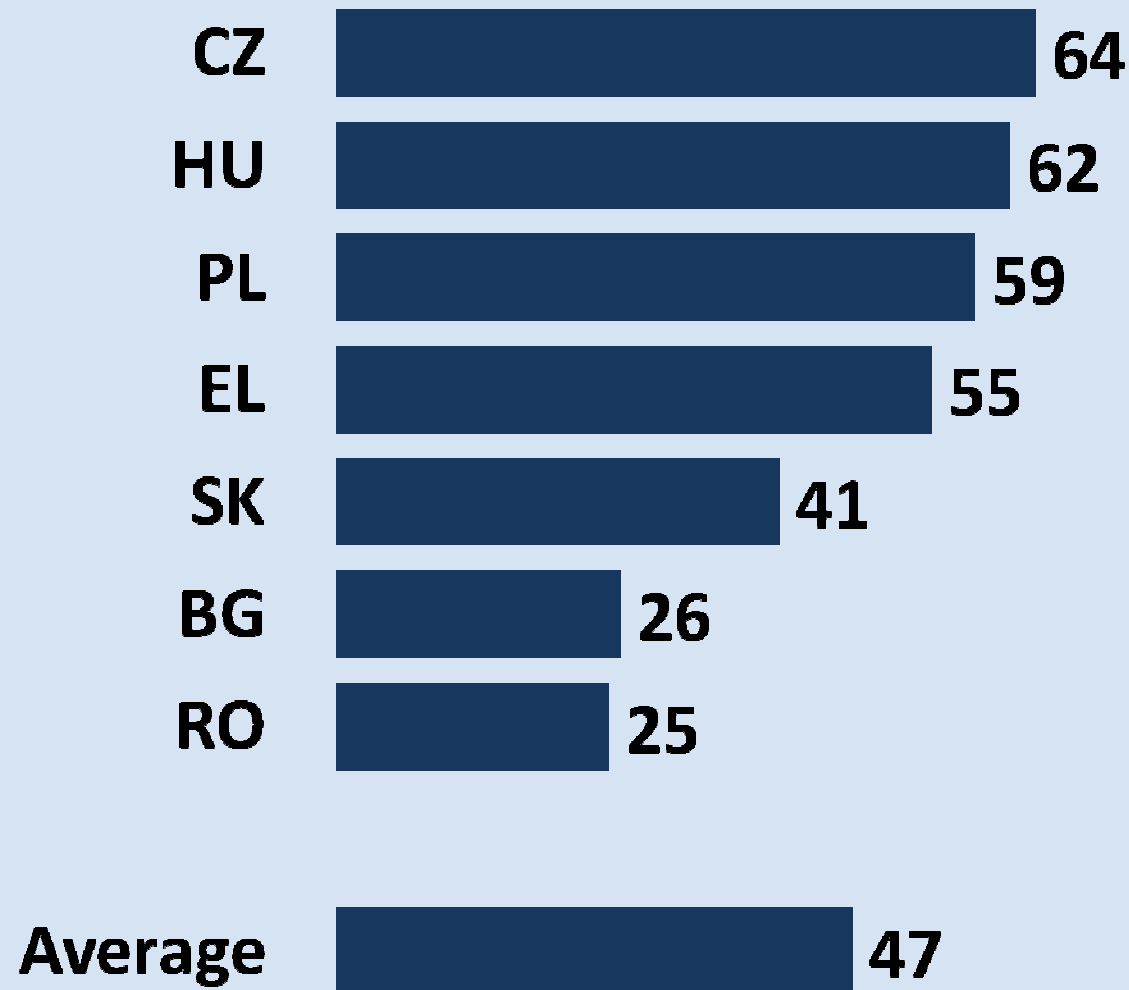
Corruption

Police stops/contact

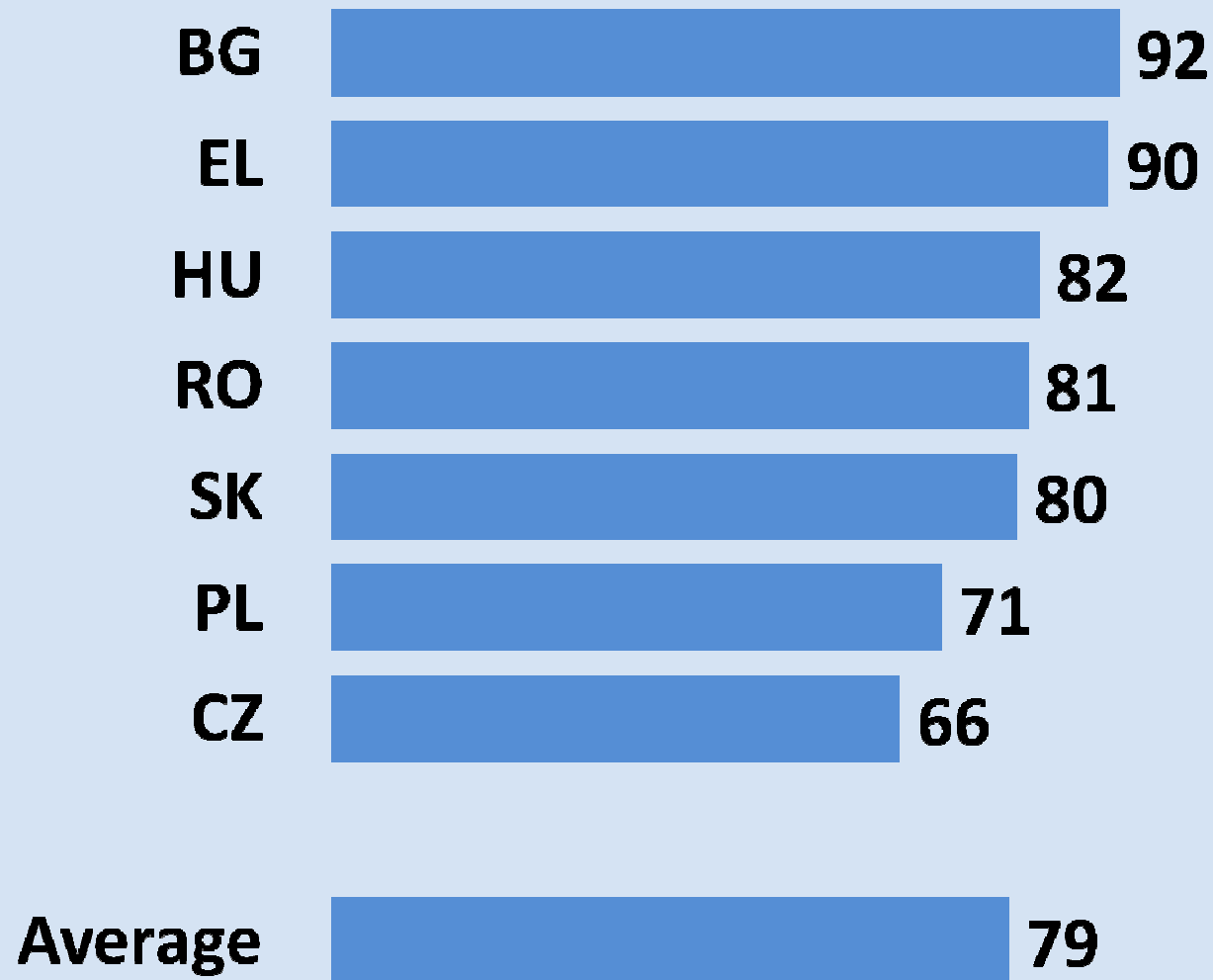
Border stops

Background
variables

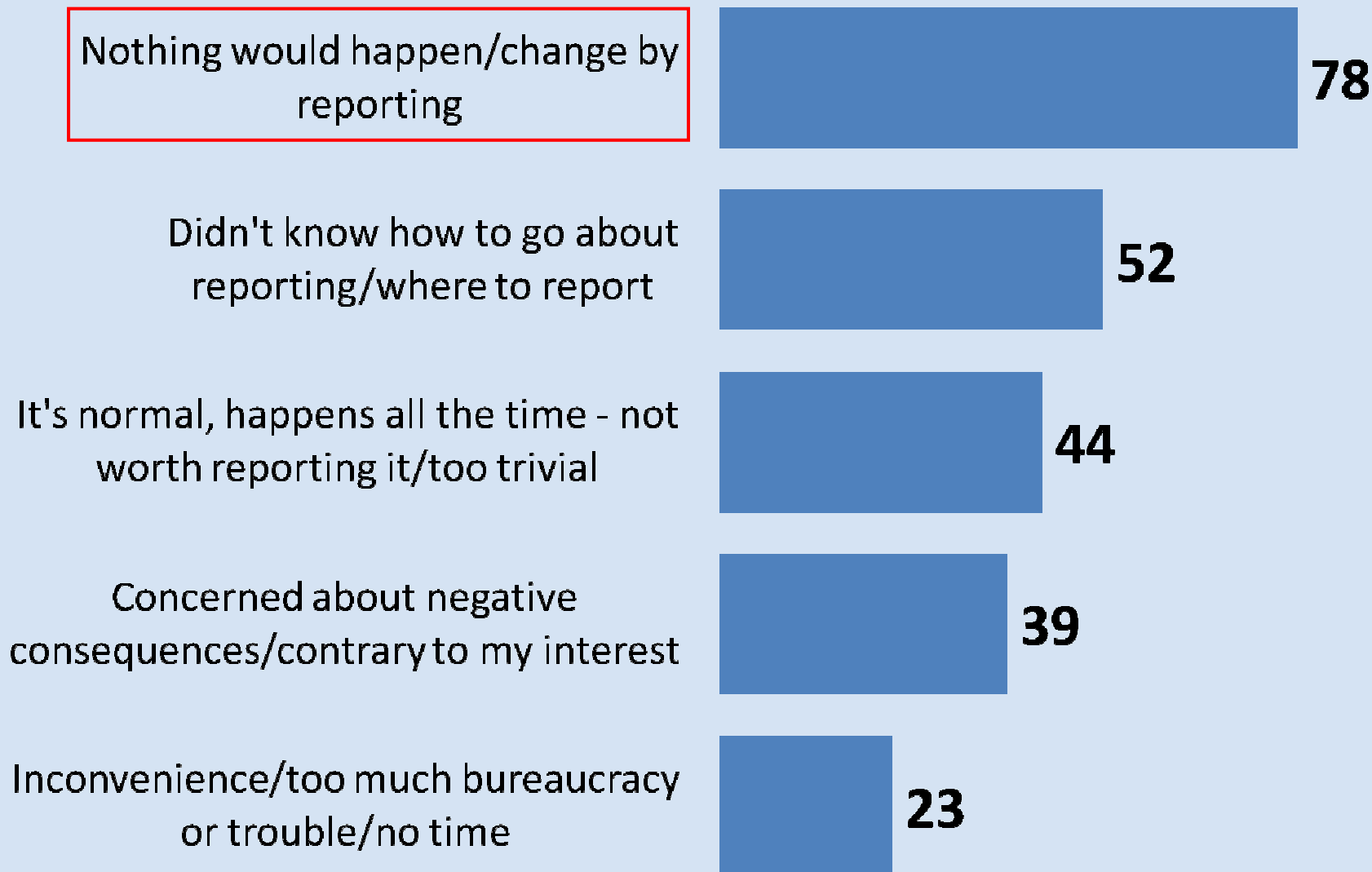
Experiences of discrimination in any area in the past 12 months (%)



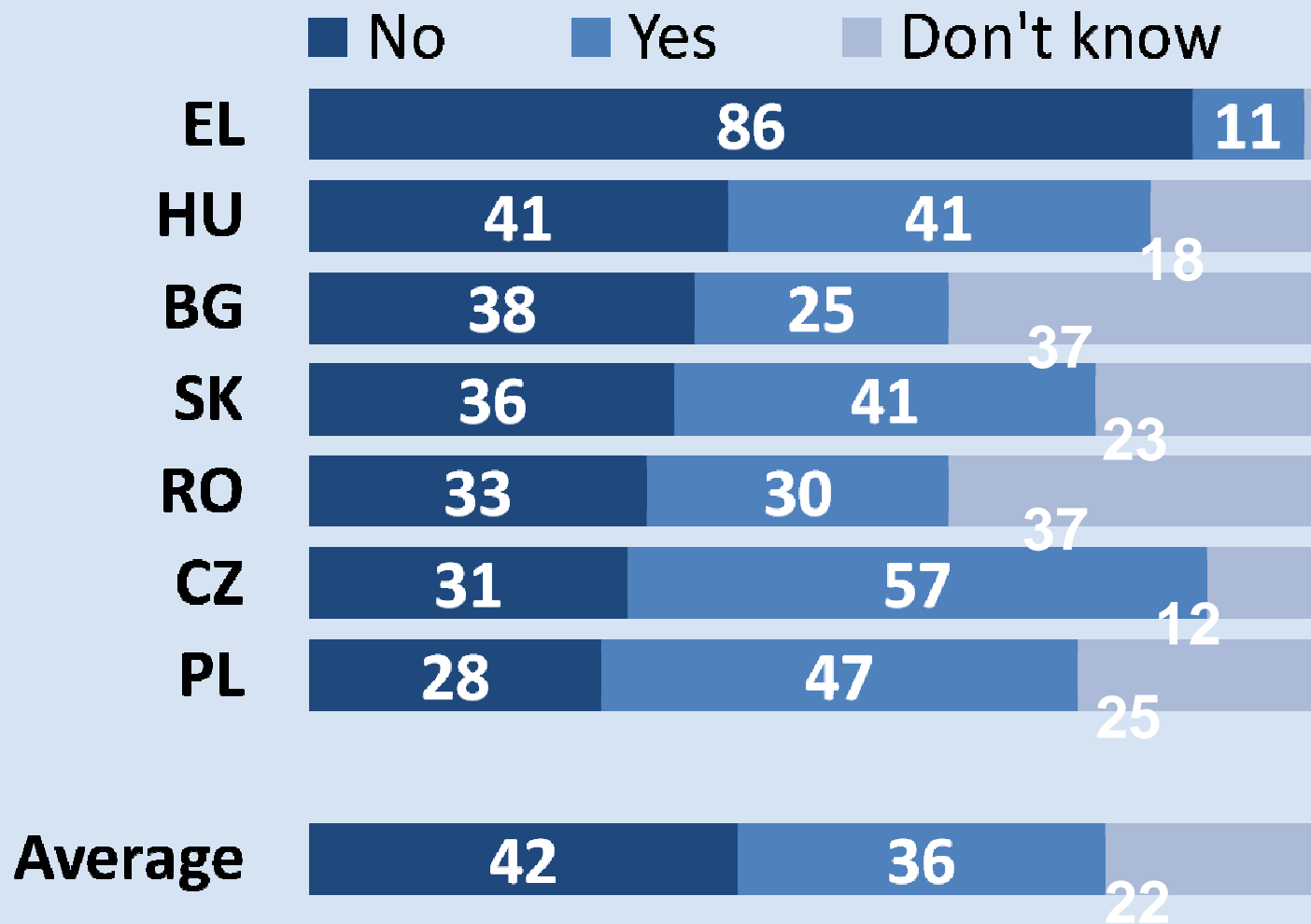
Respondents who did not report any discrimination incidents in the past 12 months (%)



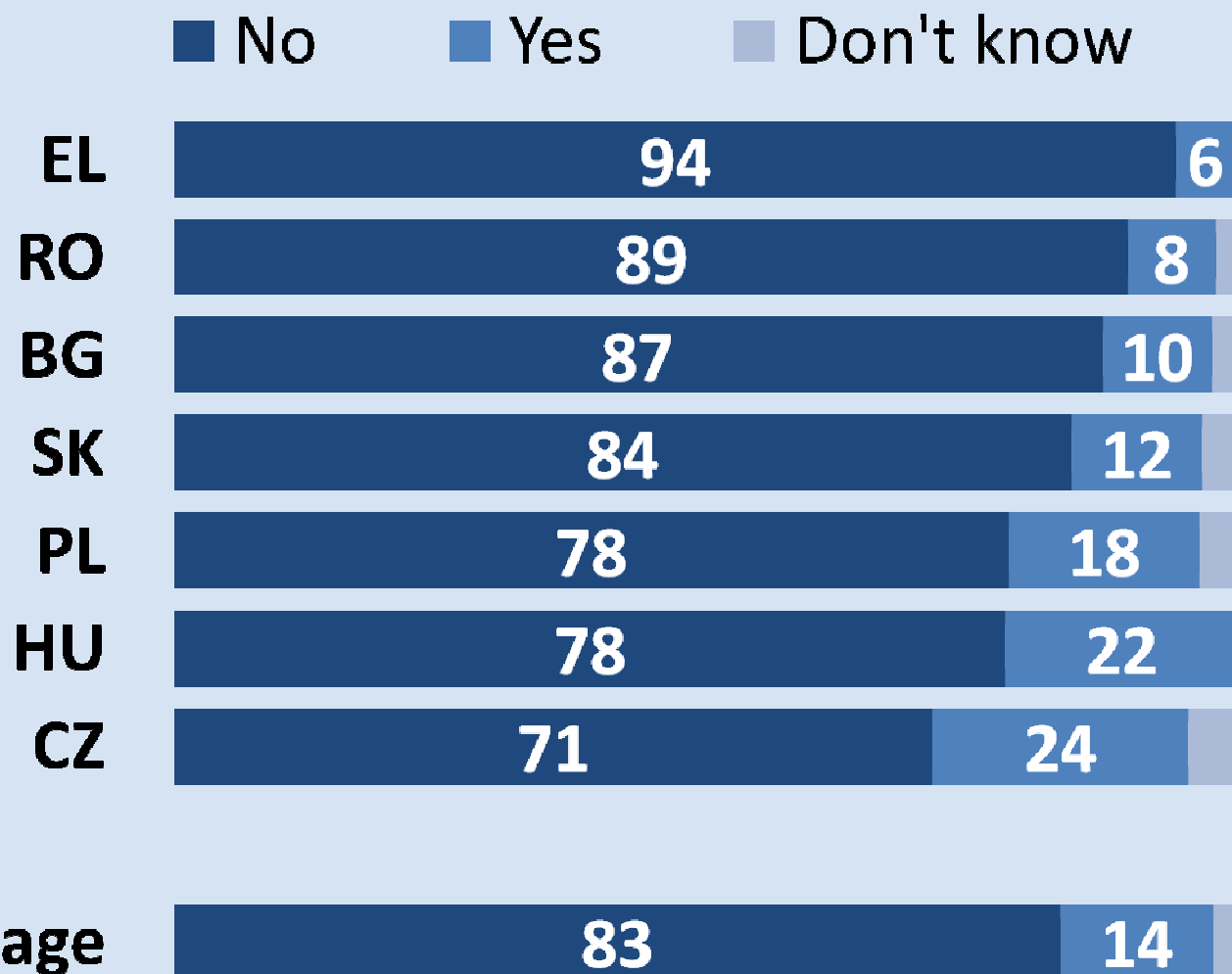
Main reasons for not reporting discrimination (%)



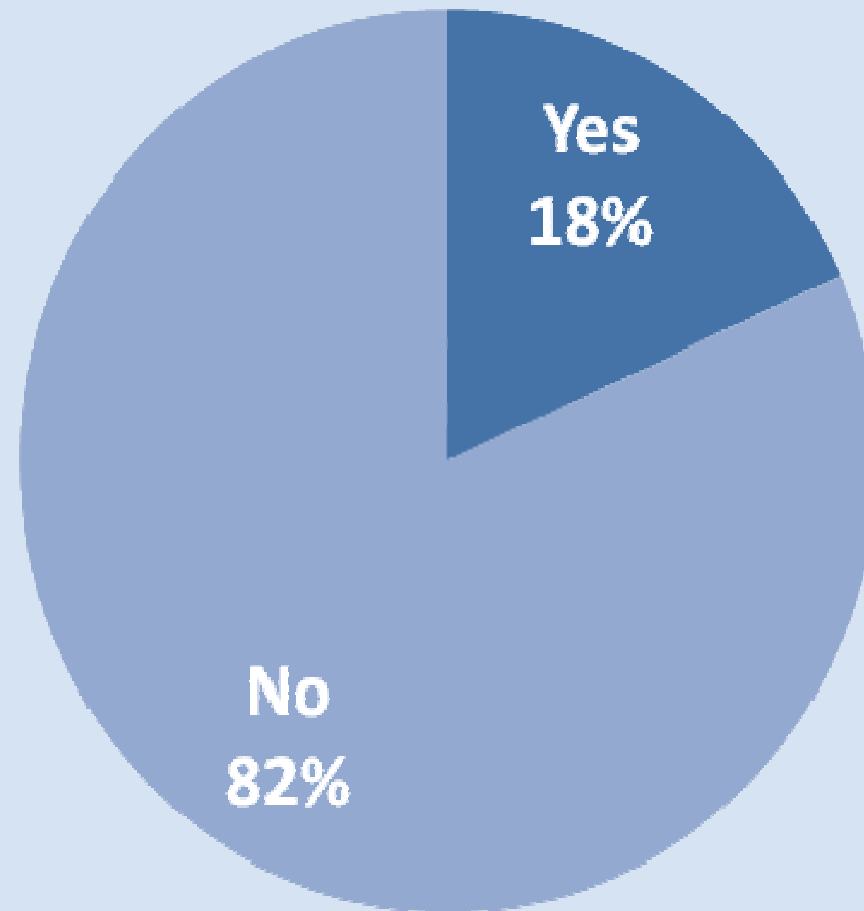
Awareness of anti-discrimination legislation on grounds of race or ethnicity (%)



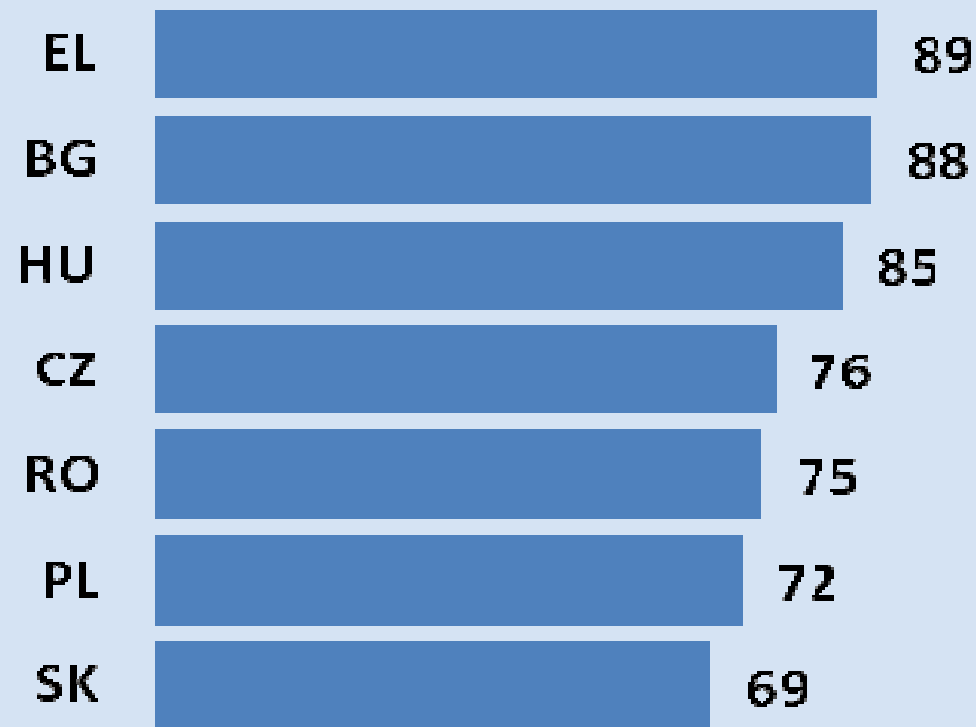
Knowledge of any organisation that can offer support or advise to people who have been discriminated (%)



Respondents who were victims of racially motivated assault, threat or serious harassment in the past 12 months (%)



Respondents who did not report assault, threat or serious harassment incidents in the past 12 months (%)



Some considerations for policy development



- **What is the impact of policies and measures addressing discrimination against Roma? Is there evidence that they have improved the situation?**
- **Do current social policies target the areas, where Roma are most discriminated against, effectively?**
- **What policies and actions exist to raise rights awareness?**
- **Are Equality Bodies and other organisations sufficiently resourced to reach out to those discriminated against?**
- **How can a public service culture be promoted among law enforcement to encourage Roma to report to the police?**

Thank you very much for your attention
You can order copies of FRA publications from

www.fra.europa.eu

For more information on our work with Roma

Please contact Eva Sobotka

eva.sobotka@fra.europa.eu