

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: Evidence based advise, human rights education, awareness raising
- Geographical scope: European Union
- MB: EC, CoE, 27 independent experts (MSs)
- Mandate: To provide Community institutions and MSs with assistance and expertise on fundamental rights, when implementing Community law

Towards evidence based policy development



- FRA Regulation: “Objective, reliable and comparable data”
 - **MSs data rarely comparable** (different legal definitions)
 - 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

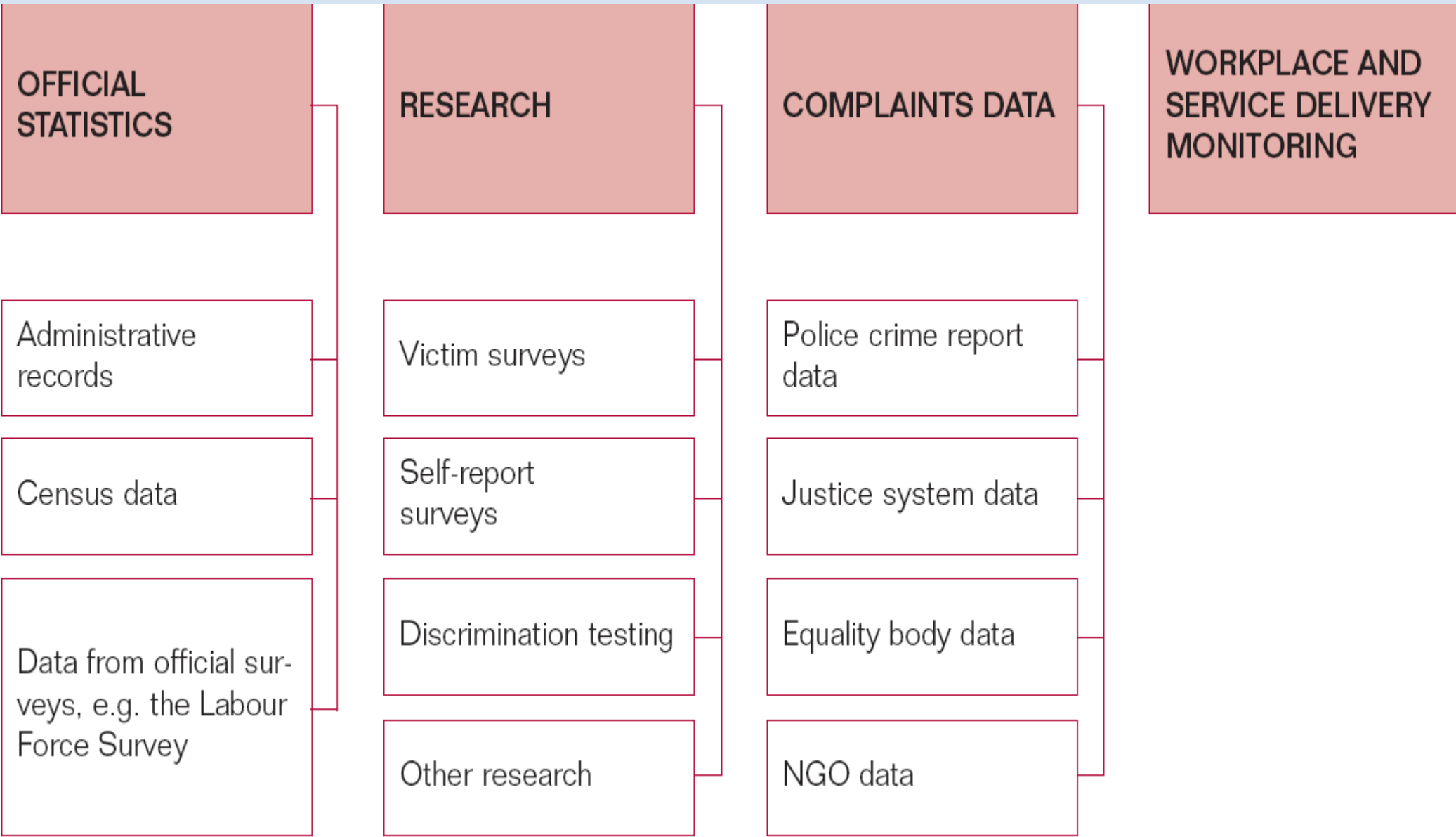
“Data protection”

- 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

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-Saharan/Caribbeans
 - Central and Eastern Europeans
 - Turkish
 - Former Yugoslavians
 - North Africans
 - Russian
- 5,000 majority population respondents

Methodology

- Selected minority groups - generally the largest
- Willing to be interviewed
- 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 in their mother tongue
- Fieldwork research May-Nov. 2008
- Living in the major cities (metropolitan region) or other areas of medium to high concentration

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

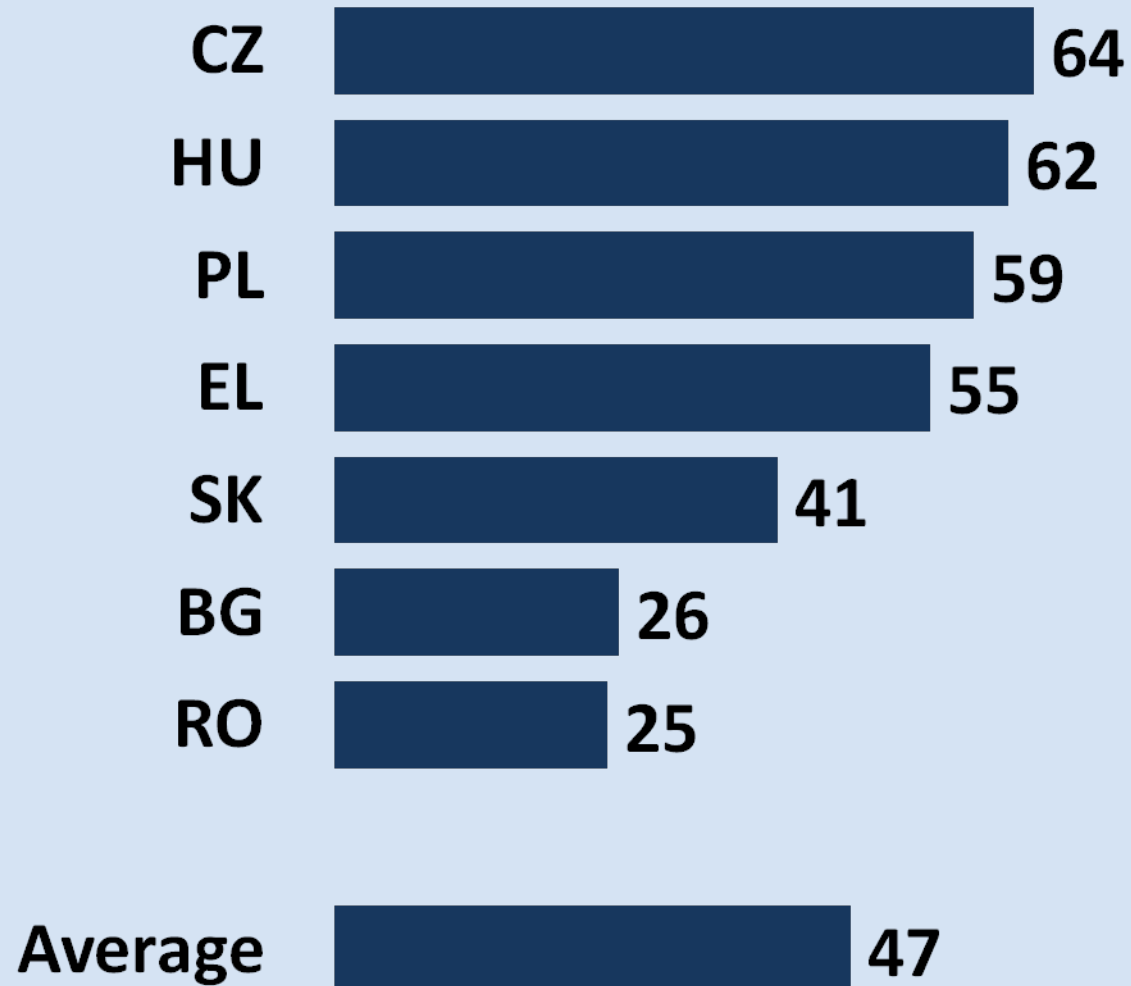
Corruption

Police stops/contact

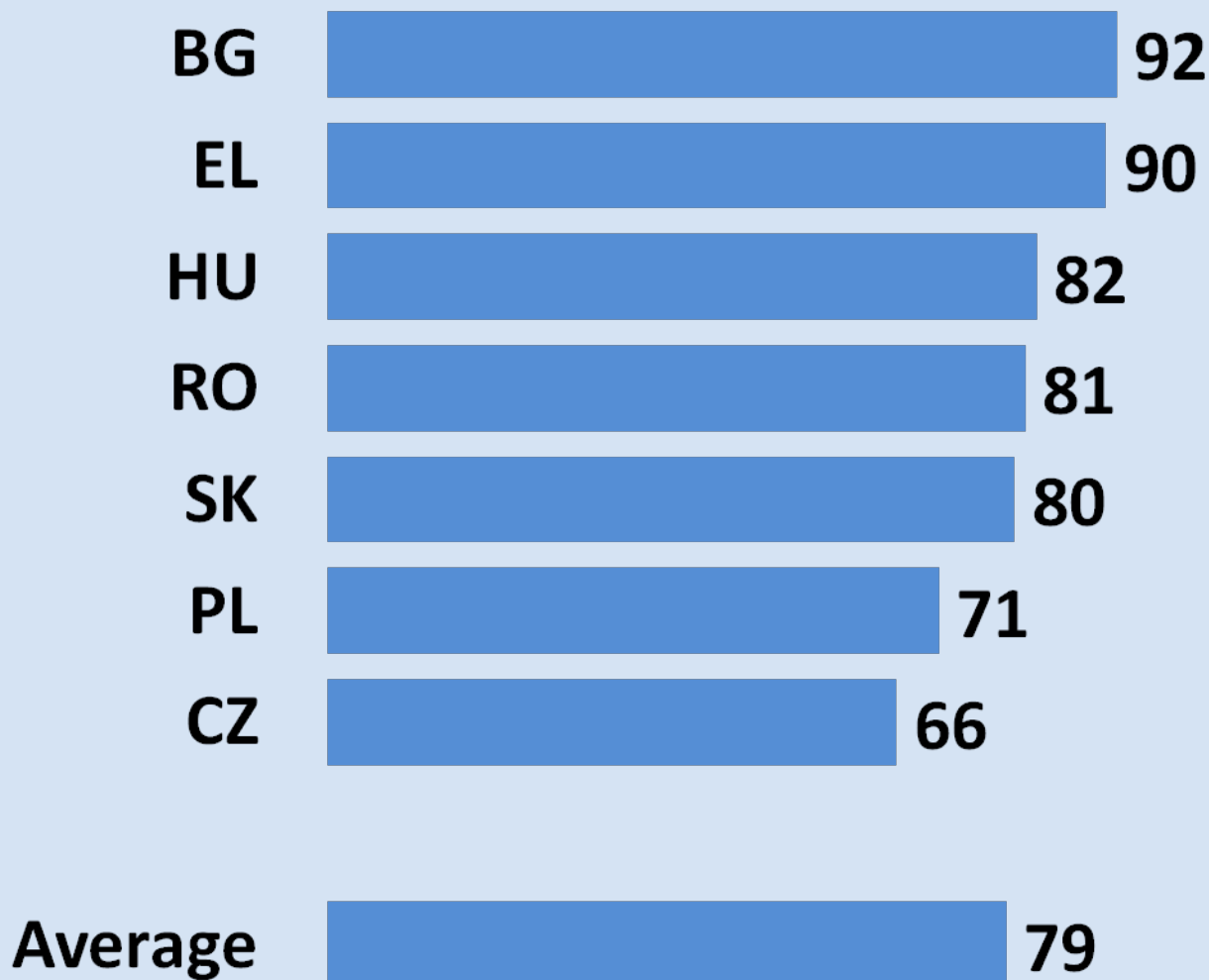
Border stops

Background
variables

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



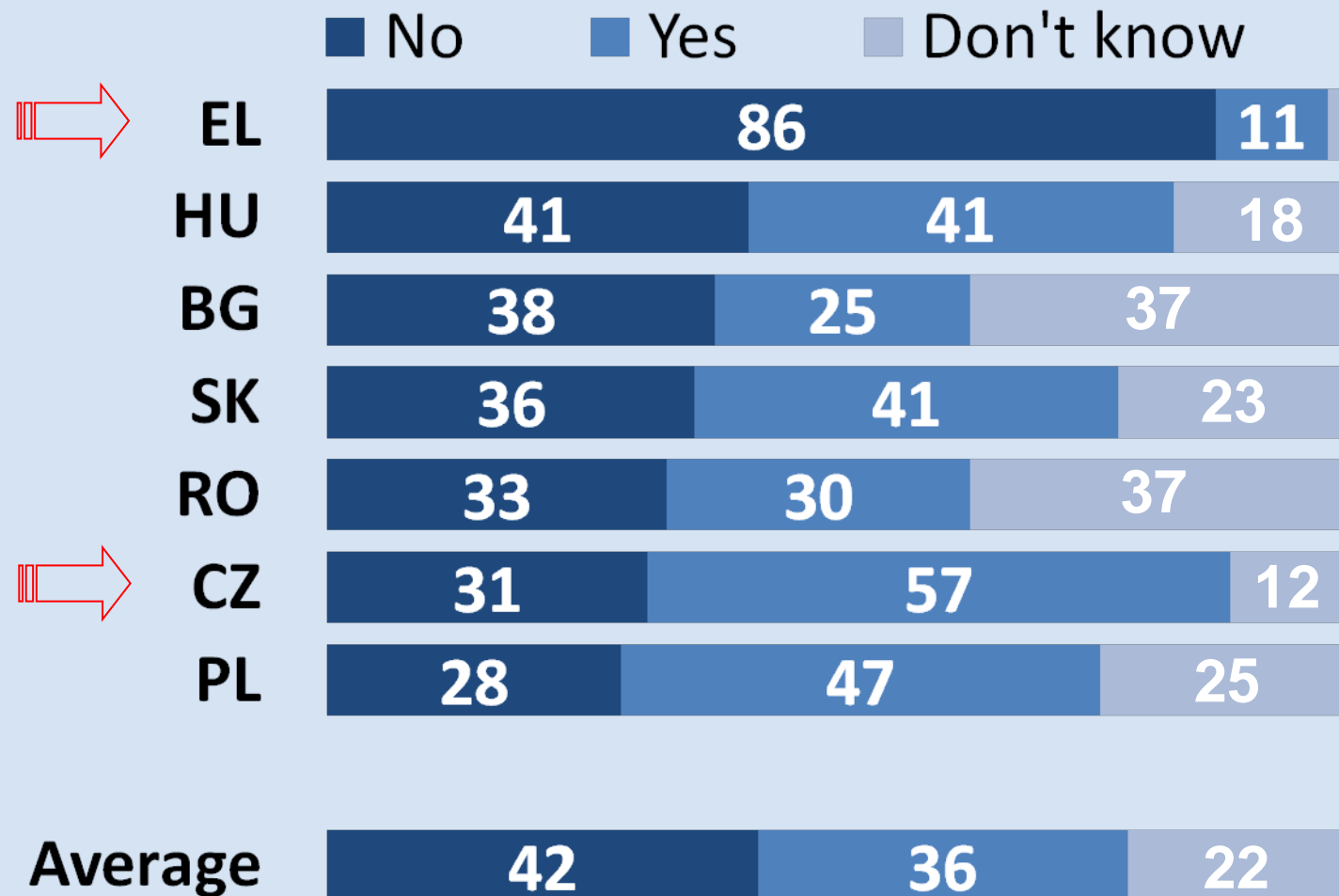
Respondents who did not report any discrimination incidents in the past 12 months (%)



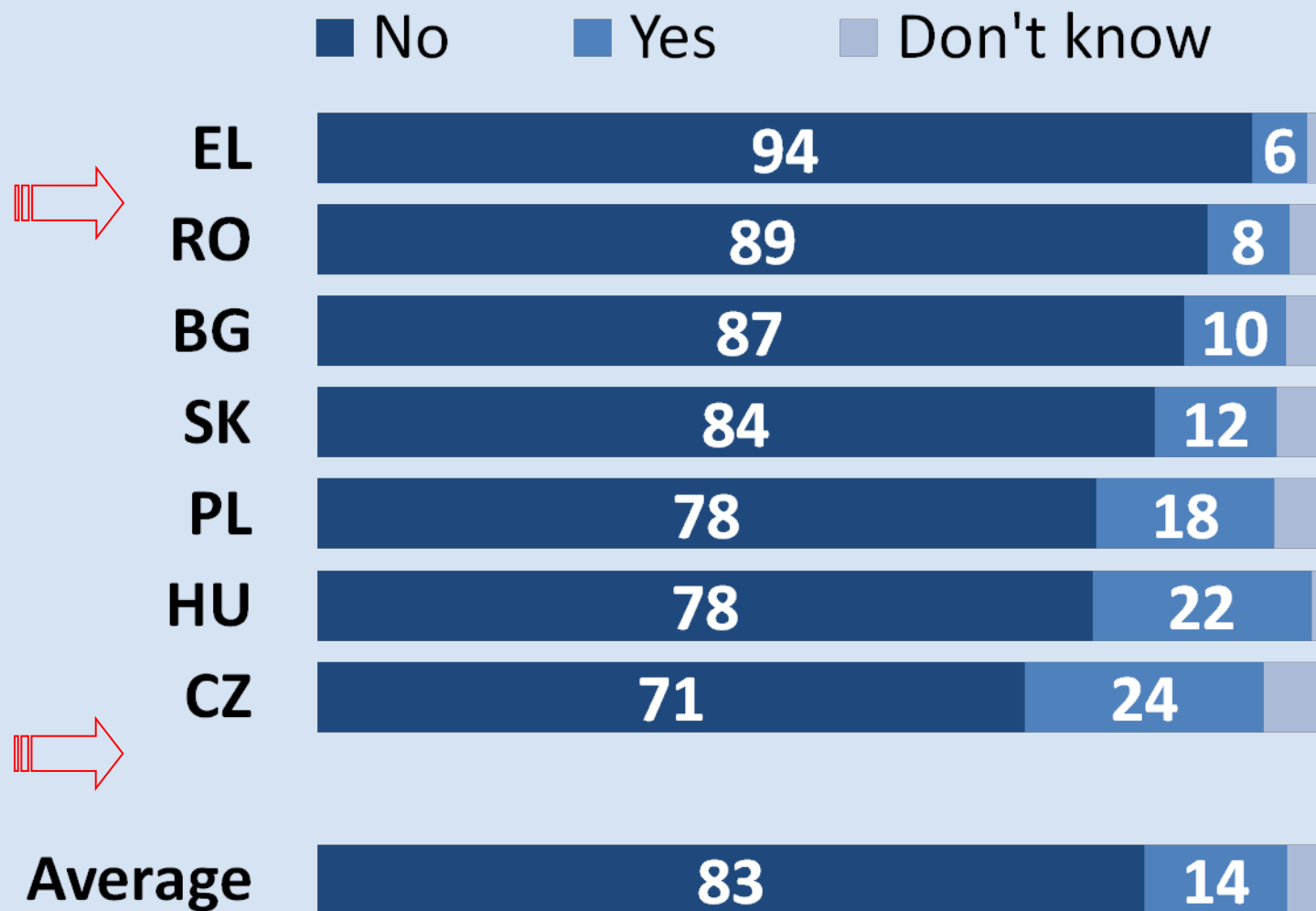
Main reasons for not reporting discrimination (%)



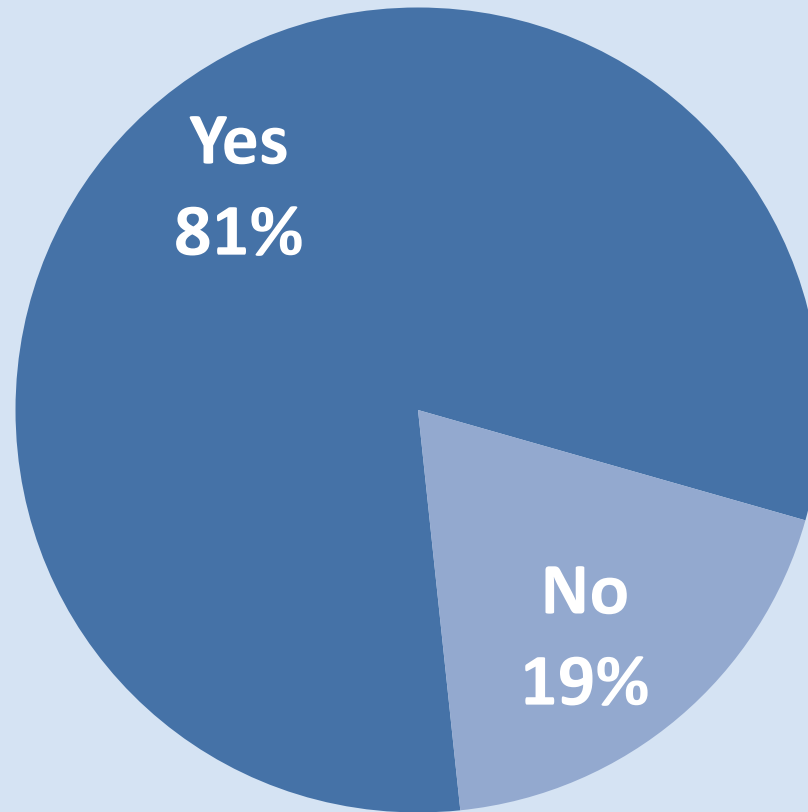
Awareness of anti-discrimination legislation on grounds of race or ethnicity when applying for a job (%)



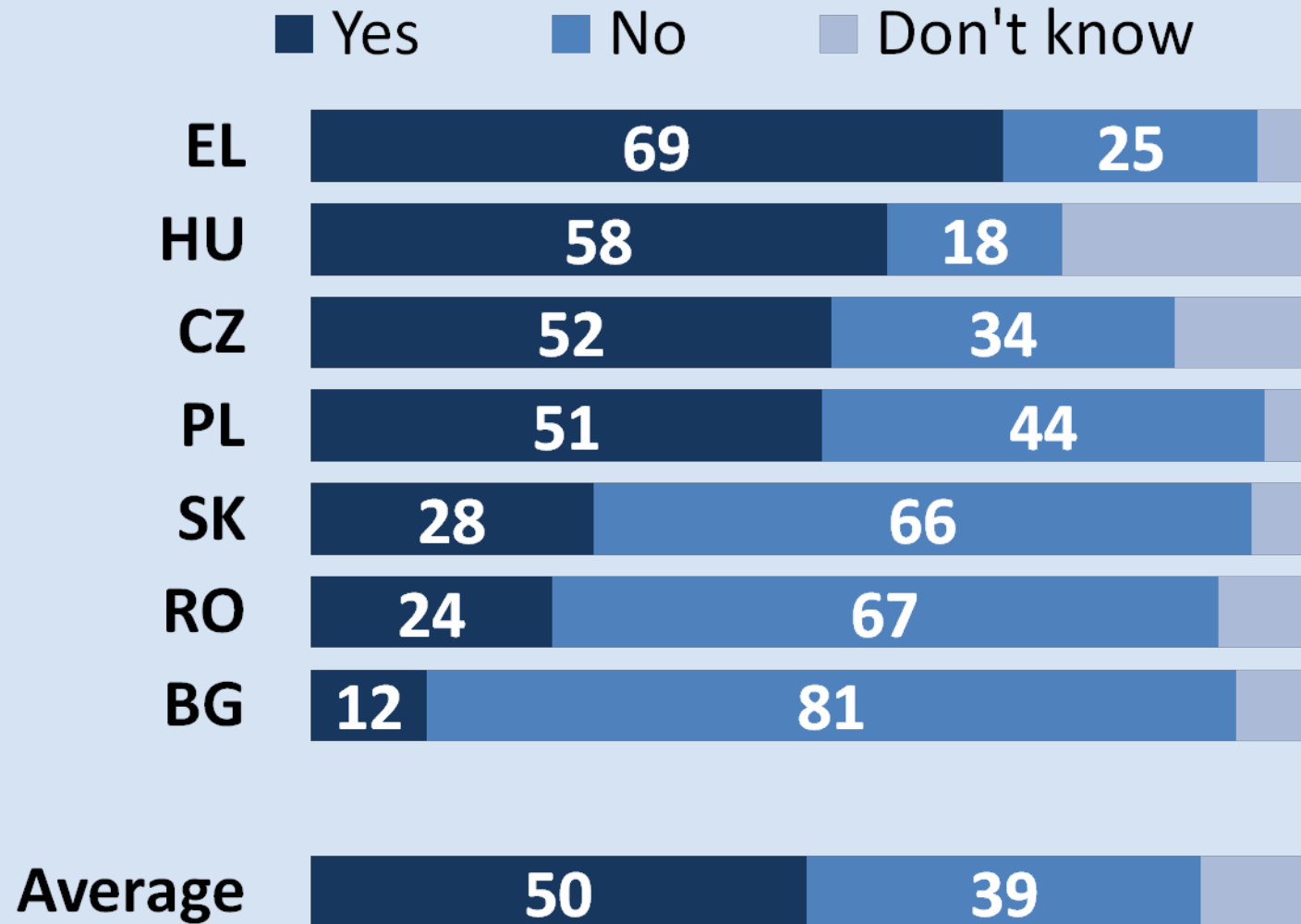
Knowledge of any organisation that can offer support or advise to people who have been discriminated (%)



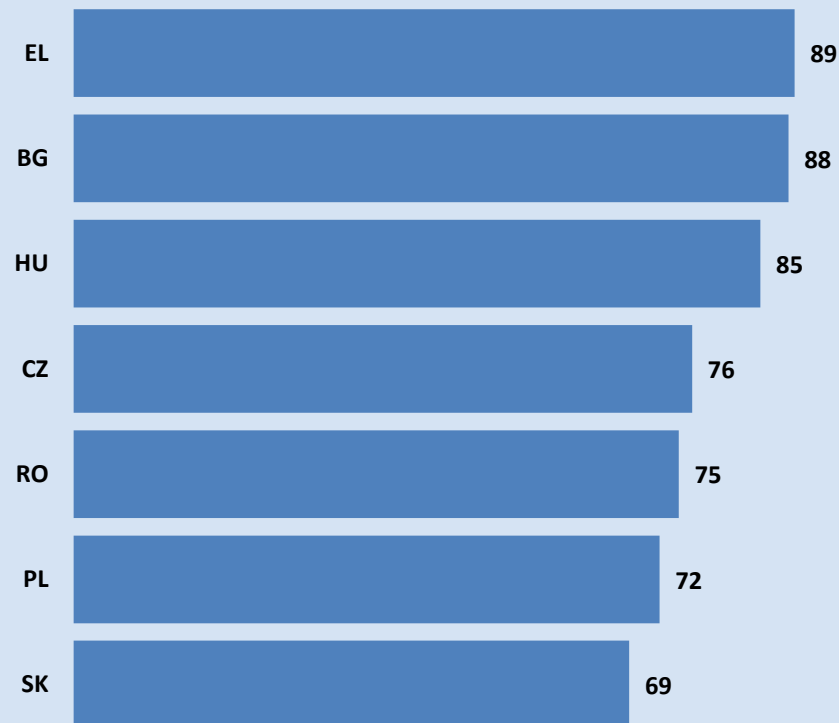
Respondents who were victims of racially motivated assault, threat or serious harassment in the past 12 months (%)



Perception of profiling when stopped by the police (%) in the past 12 months



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



Analysis

- Comparisons of groups across Member States
- Comparisons of groups within a country
- Comparisons of aggregate groups
- Comparisons with majority sample (10 MS)
- Comparisons with results from other surveys (Eurobarometer, EU-ICS)

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
EU-MIDIS Technical report and more info**

www.fra.europa.eu/eumidis

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