

Violence Against Women: An EU-wide survey



Sami Nevala

**Head of Sector Statistics and Surveys
Freedom & Justice Research Department**

Data needs

Calls for FRA to carry out the survey:

- European Parliament, Council

Indicators:

- UN Statistics Division / UNECE indicators
- Council of the EU indicators (Beijing indicators)
- OHCHR indicators

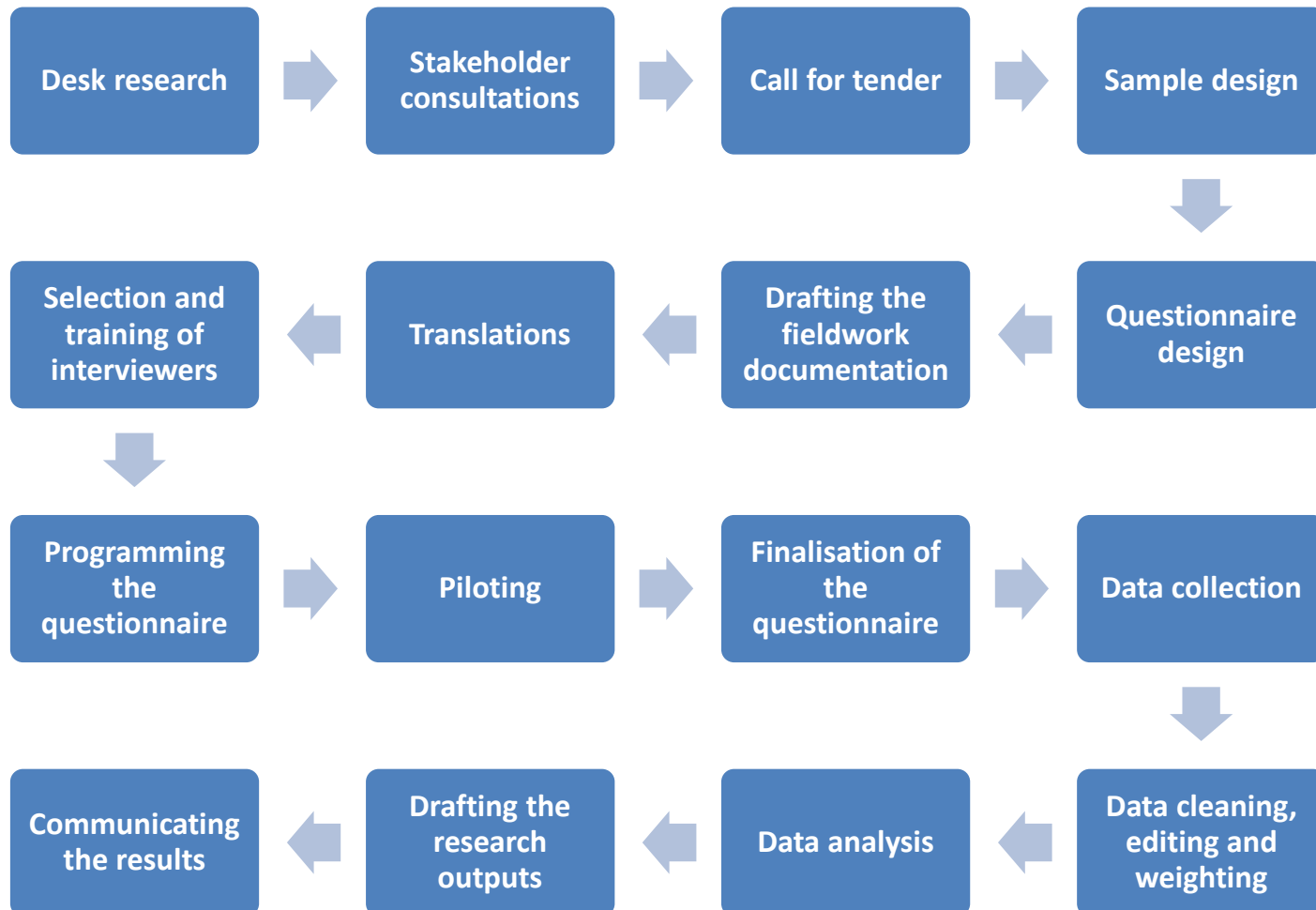
Other data needs:

- CEDAW comments to the Member States
- CoE Convention on preventing and combating VAW and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)
- CoE recommendation 2002(5)

How the survey was carried out

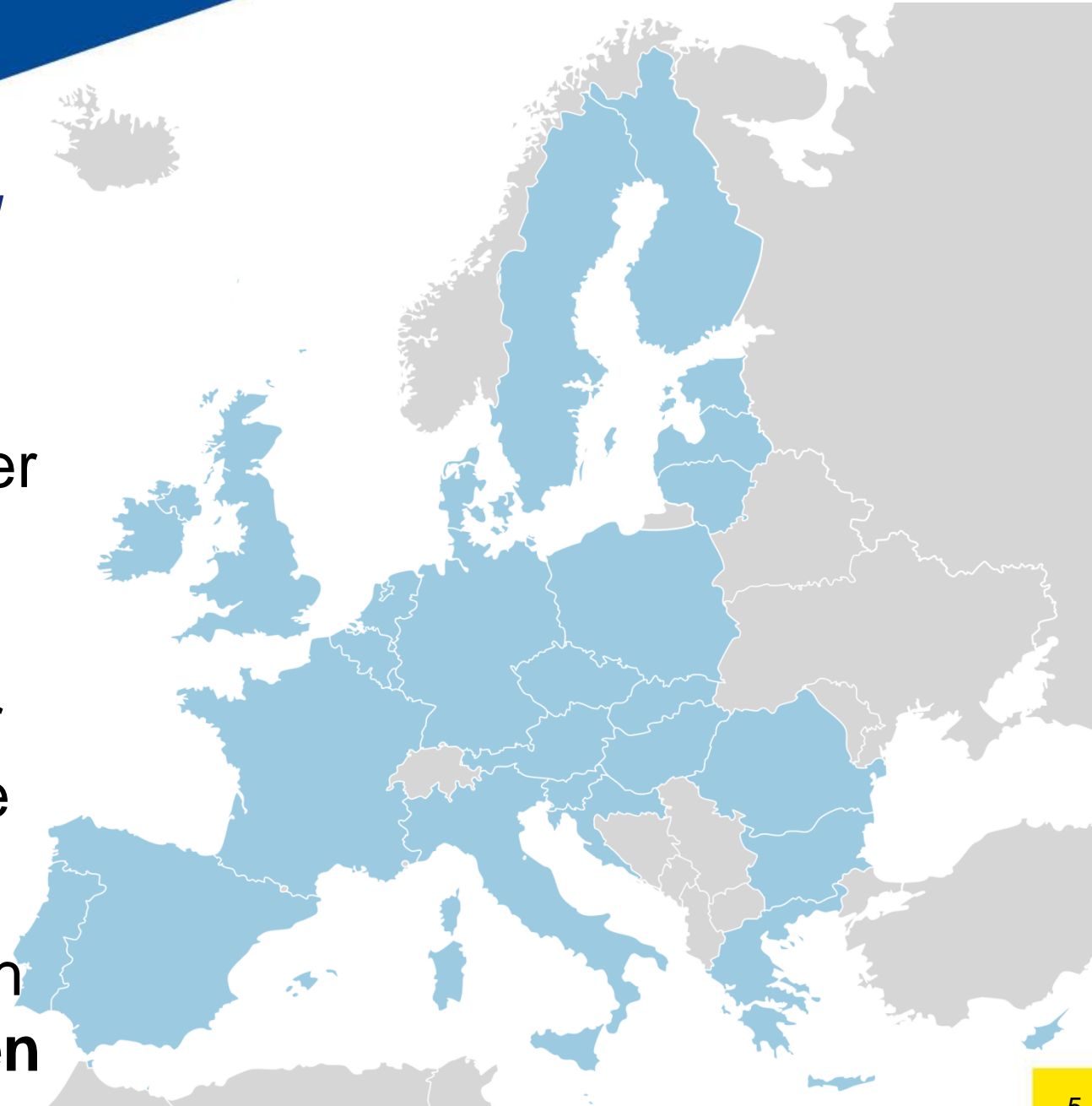
- Random sample of women aged 18-74 years old
- Only one woman per household
- Face-to-face interviews
- Each interview between 25 mins to over 2 hours
- A standardised questionnaire for all countries
- Female interviewers with specialised training
- **2 years to develop the survey + 1 year for fieldwork**

Survey project roadmap



The FRA VAW survey

- 28 EU Member States
- 1,500 interviews per Member State
- In total, interviews with **42,000 women**



What the survey asked

- Physical and sexual violence – by partners & non-partners
- Psychological violence by partners
- Stalking and sexual harassment – incl. cyberharassment
- Experience of violence before age 15 – by an adult
- Fear of victimisation and its impact
- Awareness of law & support services
- Experiences since age 15 & in last 12 months

Overall prevalence of physical & sexual violence

An illustration of what women
said about their experiences

In the 28 European Union Member States:

- **1 in 3 women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence (at least once since she was 15)**
 - 8 % of women in the last 12 months

- **22 % of women have experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner**

- **11 % of women have experienced some form of sexual violence**

- **5 % of women have been raped**

- **1 in 2 women has been sexually harassed**
 - As many as 1 in 5 women in the last 12 months

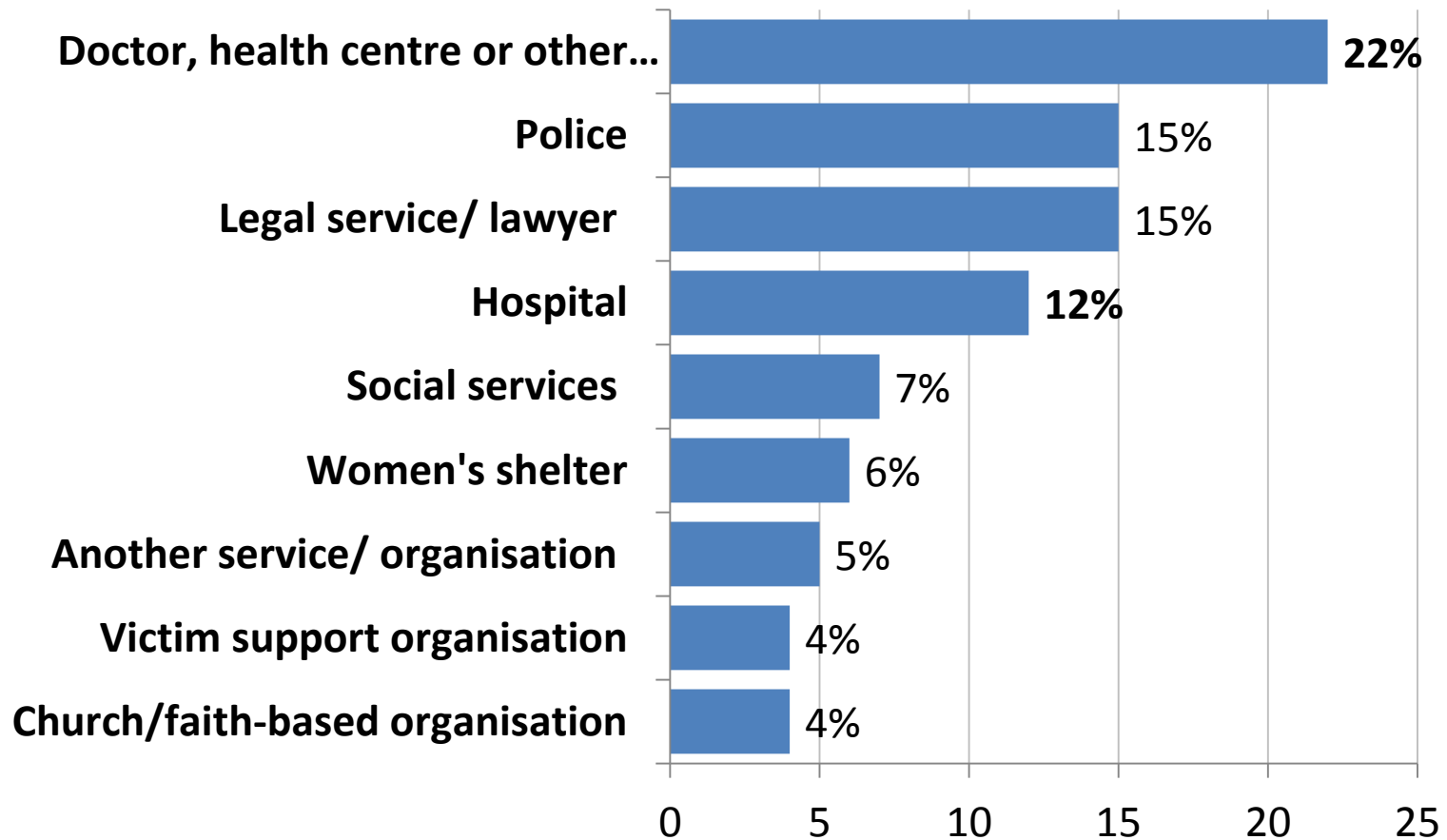
Women's emotional response in the most serious incident of violence by a partner (EU-28)

	Any partner	
	Physical violence	Sexual violence
	%	%
Anger	63	58
Aggressiveness	23	26
Shock	34	37
Fear	52	64
Shame	21	47
Embarrassment	18	34
Guilt	12	32
Annoyance	32	37
Other	3	9
<i>Number of categories selected</i>	%	%
None	1	(1)
1	28	14
2-3	48	44
4 or more	23	40
No answer	0	(0)
n	5,415	1,863

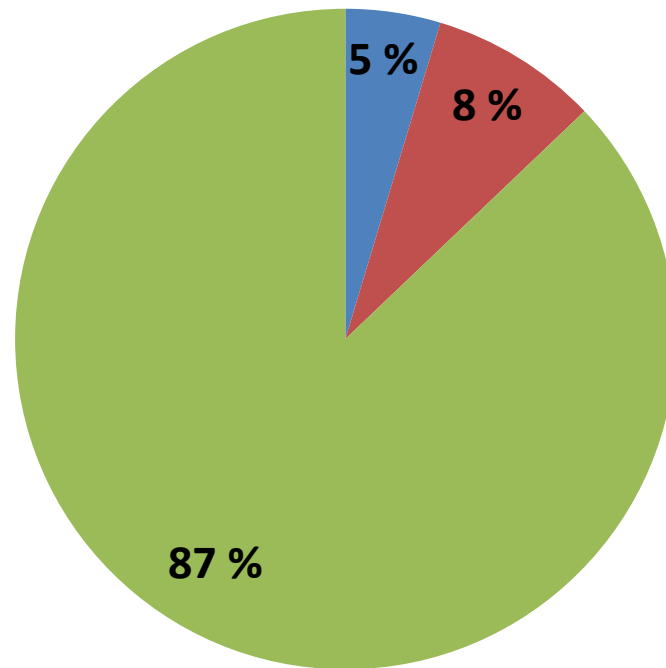
Psychological consequences of violence by a partner (EU-28)

	Any partner	
	Physical violence	Sexual violence
	%	%
Depression	20	35
Anxiety	32	45
Panic attacks	12	21
Loss of self-confidence	31	50
Feeling vulnerable	30	48
Difficulty in sleeping	23	41
Concentration difficulties	12	21
Difficulties in relationships	24	43
Other	3	5
<i>Number of categories selected</i>		
	%	%
None	28	9
1	26	21
2-3	27	31
4 or more	17	38
No answer	2	(1)
n	5,415	1,863

Services contacted after most serious incident of sexual violence by a partner (current or previous)



Acceptable if doctors routinely ask women who have certain injuries, whether they have been caused by violence (EU-28)



■ Don't know ■ No ■ Yes

Victims who were satisfied with the assistance received, by type of service contacted (EU-28)

	Any partner (current and/or previous)	
	Physical violence	Sexual violence
	%	%
Police	60	49
Hospital	88	84
Doctor, health centre or other health care institution	87	77
Social services	73	60
Women's shelter	88	62
Victim support organisation	86	72
Church/faith-based organisation	91	88
Legal service/ lawyer	90	79
Another service/ organisation	85	88

Some conclusions

- Ratification of the Istanbul Convention
- Implementation of the EU Victims' Directive, in particular with regard to the needs of victims of sexual violence
- Targeted prevention and awareness raising for young women
- Men need to be positively involved in awareness raising efforts

Some conclusions (cont.)

- Intimate partner violence should be treated as a public matter rather than a private one
- Heavy alcohol use as one of the risk factors of violence
- Role of healthcare professionals
- Ensuring that victim support services have the necessary means to assist victims and inform women about their services

Psychological violence

An illustration of what women
said about their experiences of
psychological violence by
partners

Types of psychological violence - examples

- Controlling behaviour trying to keep a woman from seeing friends, family or relatives; jealousy beyond normal concern;
- Economic violence preventing a woman from making decisions on family finances or shopping independently; forbidding her to work outside the home;
- Abusive behaviour forbidding a woman to leave the house or locking her up; scaring or intimidating her on purpose; threatening her with violence or threatening to hurt someone else the respondent cares about;
- Blackmail with/abuse of children

Psychological violence since the age of 15 by any partner (current or previous), EU-28

	Any partner (current and/or previous)
Controlling behaviour	35 %
Economic violence	12 %
Abusive behaviour	32 %
Blackmail with/abuse of children	8 %
Any psychological abuse	43 %

Some conclusions

- Correlation between psychological violence and physical/sexual violence suggests that psychological violence should be considered as a warning sign
- Police and other services should be trained to recognise the impact of psychological abuse on victims

Stalking

Women's experiences of repetitive behaviour by the same person that was offensive or threatening

Stalking

- Ranging from (for example):
 - waited for you outside your home/workplace without a legitimate reason;
 - deliberately followed you around;
 - made offensive, threatening or silent phone calls to you
 - posted offensive comments about you on the internet

Stalking

- 18% of women in EU-28 have been stalked at some point since the age of 15
- 5% of women have experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to interview – 9 million women in EU-28
- Out of all stalking victims in the EU, one in five had been stalked for over two years
- 23% of stalking victims in changed their email address or phone number due to the most serious case of stalking

Some conclusions

- EU Member States should review the use and effectiveness of laws against stalking
- Service providers need to be trained to understand and identify incidents of stalking
- Internet and social media platforms should take steps to proactively assist victims of stalking to report abuse

Sexual harassment

An illustration of what women
said about their experiences

Sexual harassment

- Ranging from (for example):
 - unwelcome touching, hugging or kissing;
 - sexually suggestive comments or jokes that offended;
 - receiving unwanted sexually explicit emails or SMS messages that offended (cyber-harassment)

Sexual harassment

- 55% of women have been sexually harassed in EU-28
- As many as 1 in 5 have experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to interview (EU-28: 21 %)
- 32% of all victims in the EU said the perpetrator was a boss, colleague or customer
- 75% of women in qualified professions or top management jobs have been sexually harassed
- 20% of young women (18-29) in EU-28 have experienced cyber sexual harassment

Some conclusions

- Employers' organisations and trade unions should further promote awareness of sexual harassment and encourage reporting
- Member States should review adequacy of existing policies with regard to sexual harassment online
- Addressing high levels of sexual harassment experienced by women in management

What can be done

Need for policy responses from different fields

- Employment, health, education – working together

To critically look at societal & state responses

- Review scope & implementation of existing laws & policies
- Need to target men and women – gender equality

Training and support

- Specialist training and adequate resources for support organisations, healthcare, employers, police

Internet / social media platforms

- Proactively assist victims and address unwanted behaviour

Main results report

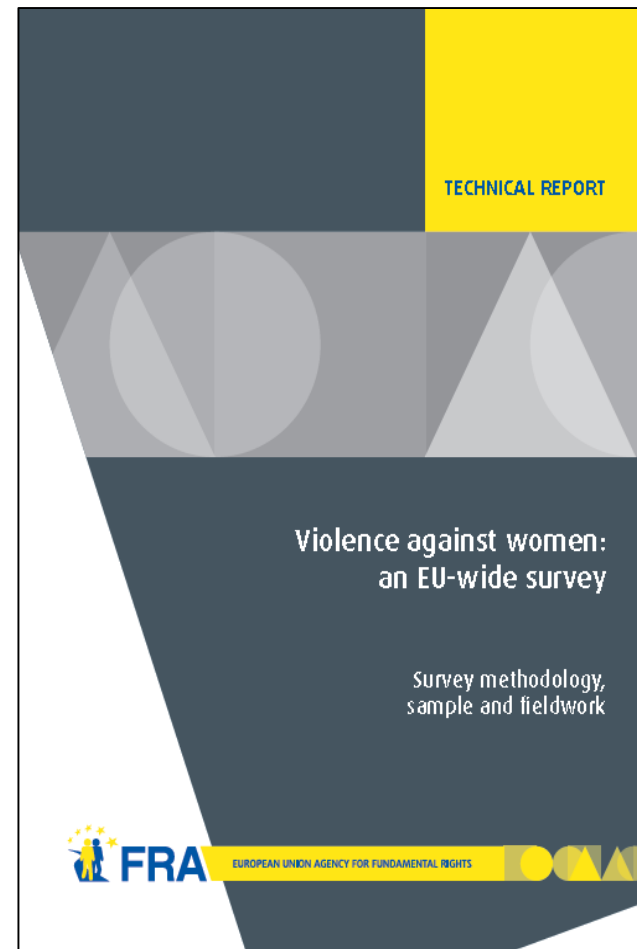
Available at
<http://fra.europa.eu>
to download or to order
print copies free of
charge



Details on the survey methodology:

Technical report and survey questionnaire

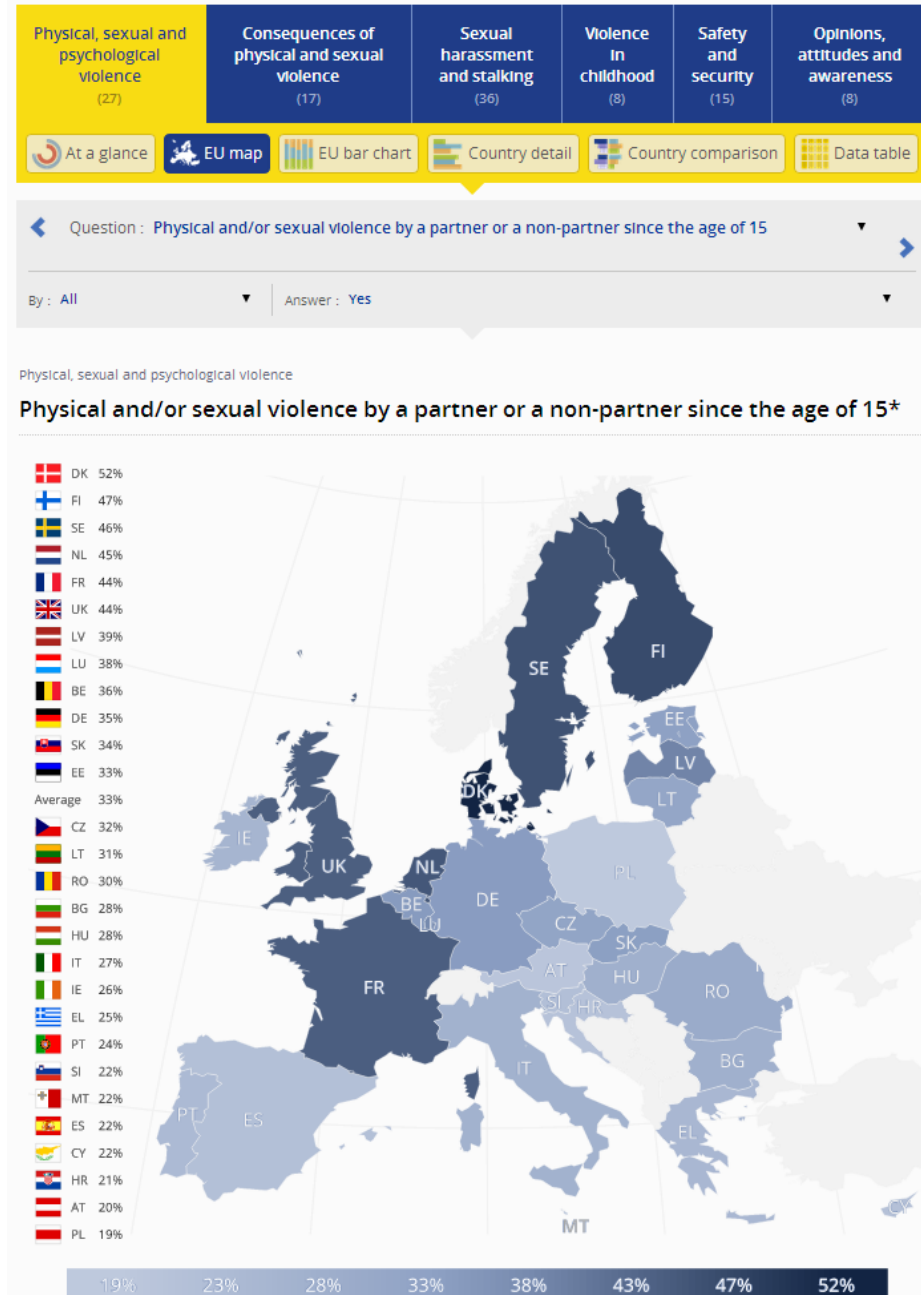
Available at
<http://fra.europa.eu>



Data explorer

- Data by topic, country...
- Visual presentation:
 - Country maps
 - Charts
 - Country comparisons
- Data tables
- All exportable for reuse

<http://fra.europa.eu/DVS/DVT/vaw.php>




Thank you



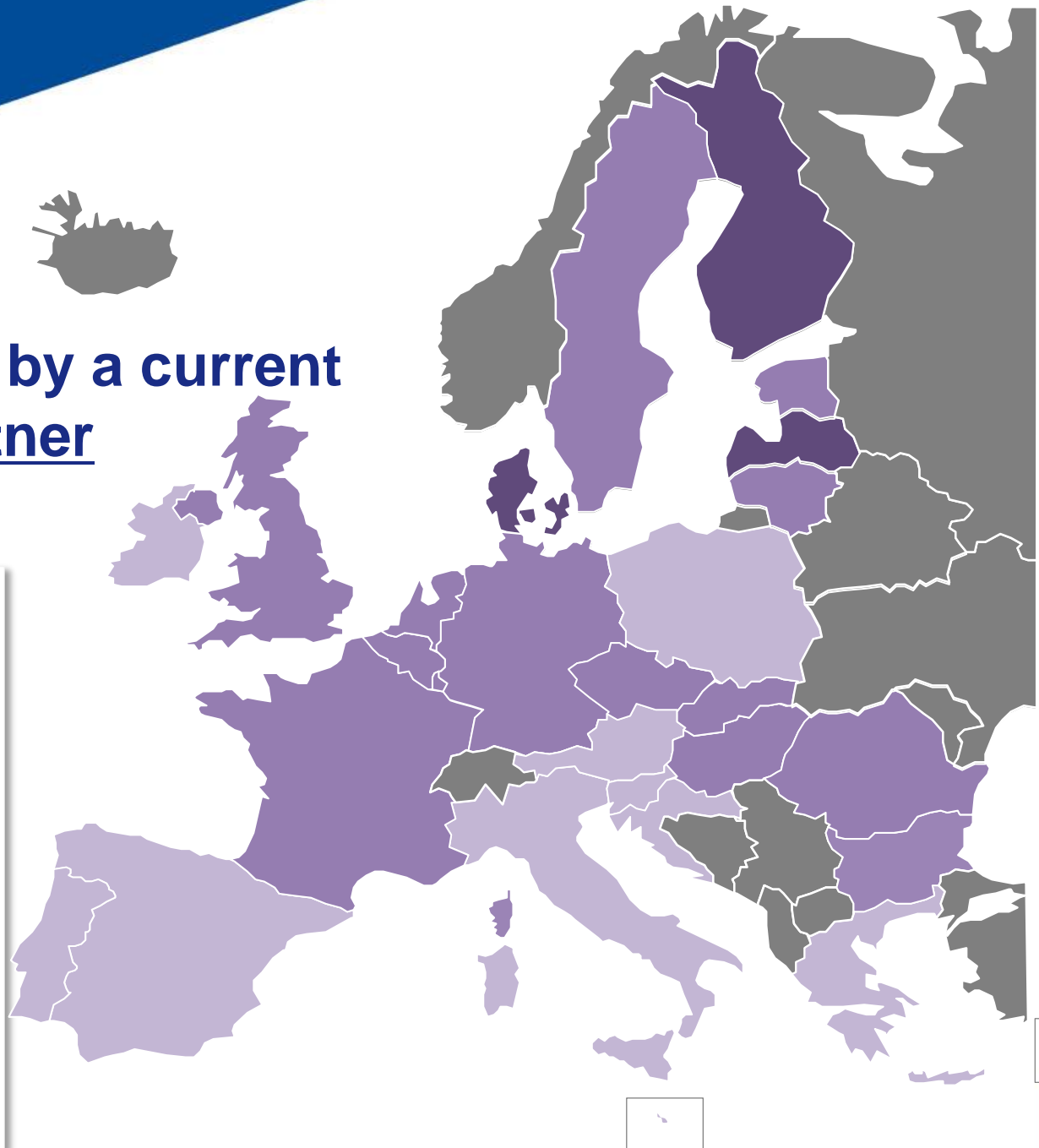
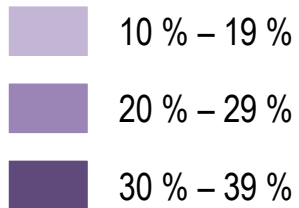
www.fra.europa.eu

sami.nevala@fra.europa.eu

Physical and/or sexual violence by a current or previous partner

 = 22 %

Key



Cyprus

Prevalence of violence and gender equality

