

# Violence Against Women: An EU-wide survey



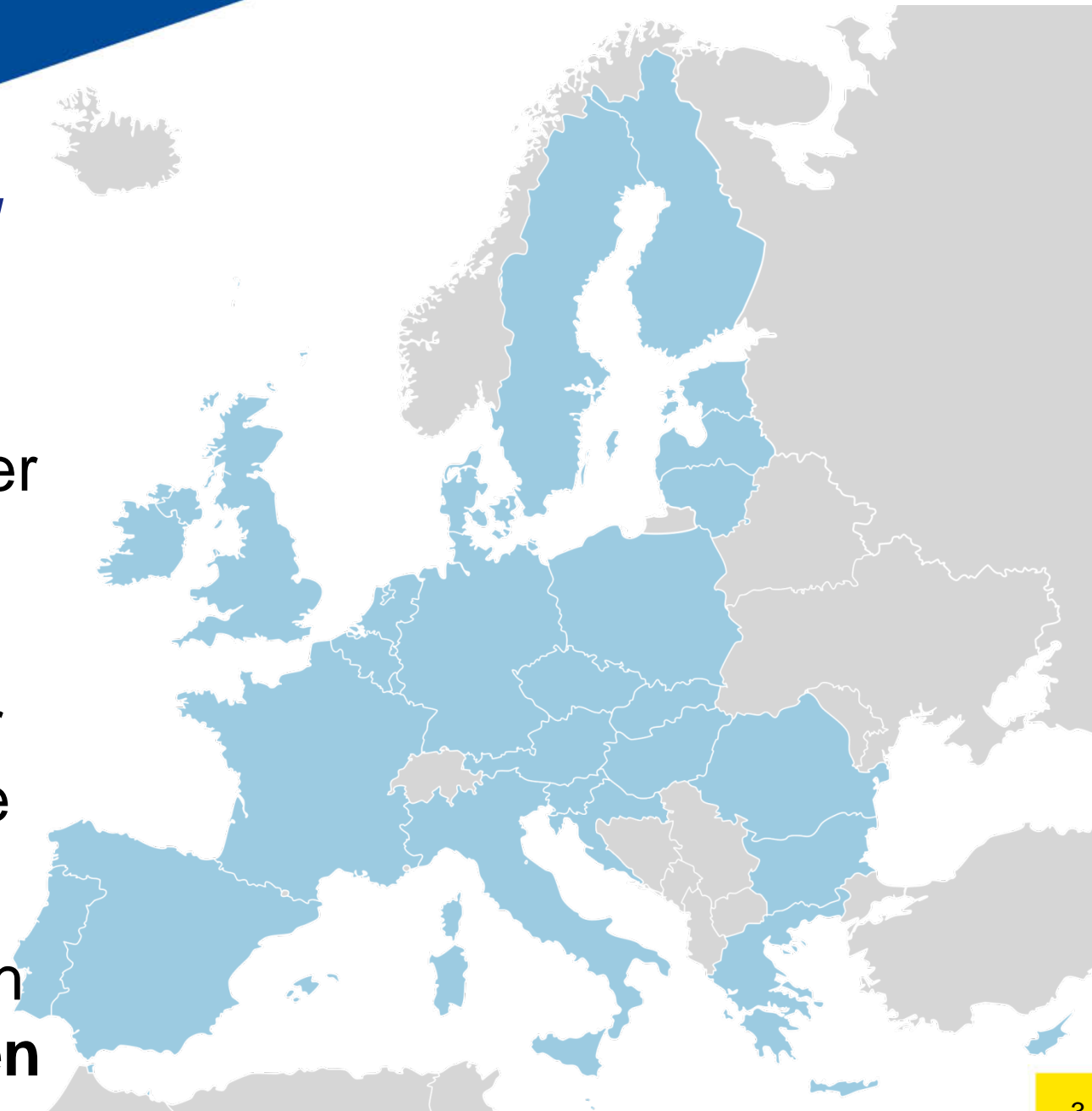
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Justice Research Department**

## How the survey was carried out

- Random sample of women aged 18-74 years old
- Only one women 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**

# 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 – including cyber
- Experience of violence before age 15 – by an adult
- Fear of victimisation and its impact
- Awareness of law & support services
- Violence - different settings, different perpetrators M/F
- Experiences since age 15 & in last 12 months

# Overall prevalence of physical & sexual violence

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An illustration of what women  
said about their experiences

- **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

## Physical violence since age 15 (%)


	Any partner or non-partner
Pushed or shoved	23
Slapped	17
Hard object thrown at them	9
Grabbed or pulled by the hair	13
Beaten with a fist or a hard object, or kicked	10
Burned	1
Tried to suffocate or strangle	4
Cut, stabbed or shot	1
Beat head against something	4
<b>Any of the above</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Any of the above, excluding 'pushed or shoved'</b>	<b>25</b>

## Sexual violence since age 15 (%)

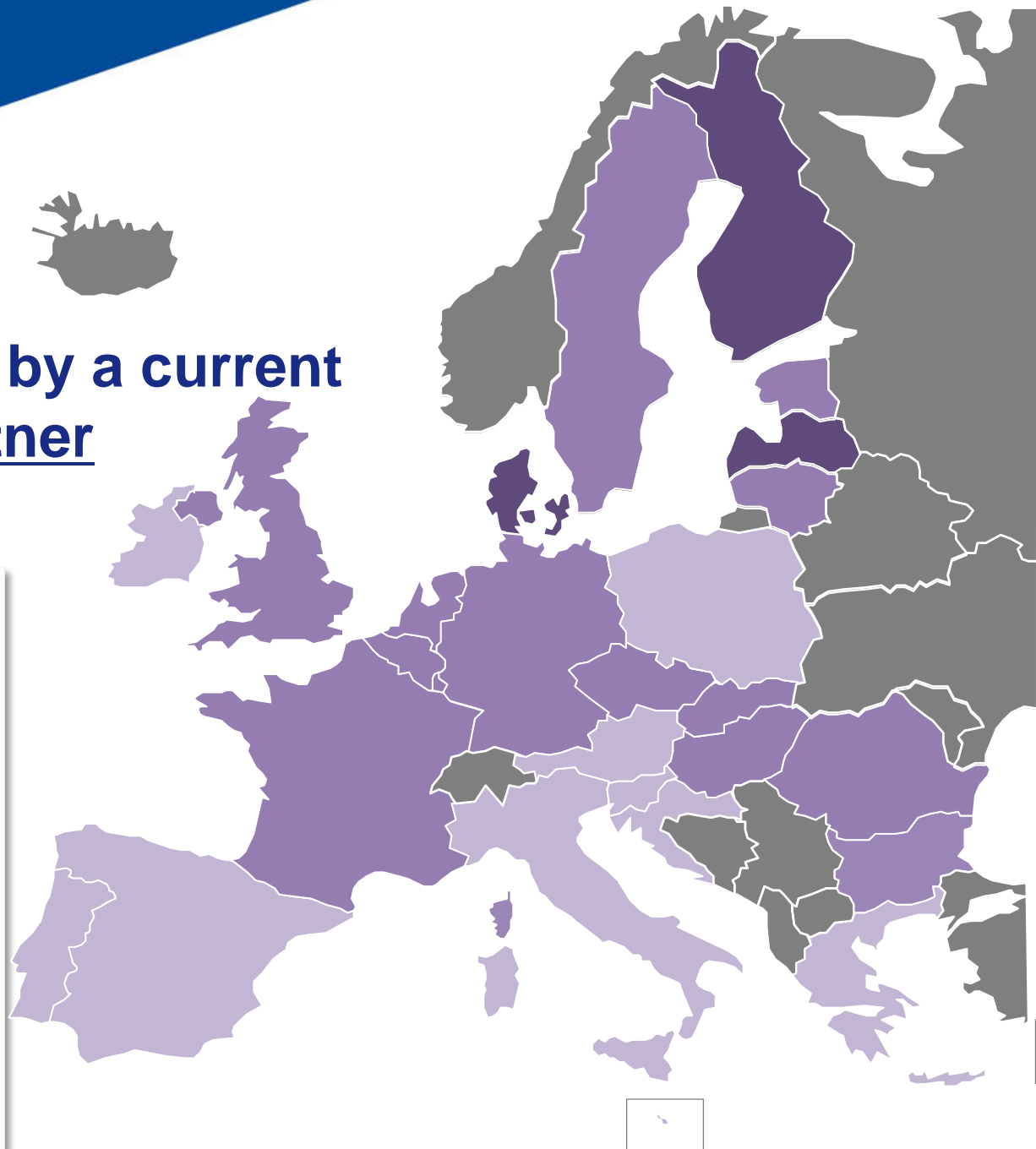
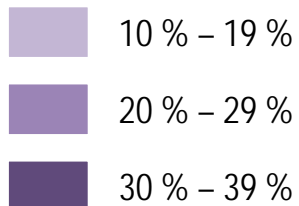
	Any partner or non-partner
Forced into sexual intercourse – by holding down or hurting	5
Attempted sexual intercourse with force – by holding down or hurting	6
Made to take part in sexual activity when didn't want to or couldn't refuse	6
Consented to sexual activity because was afraid of consequences if refused	6
<b>Any of the above</b>	<b>11</b>



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

 = 22 %

Key



Cyprus

# Reporting & victim support

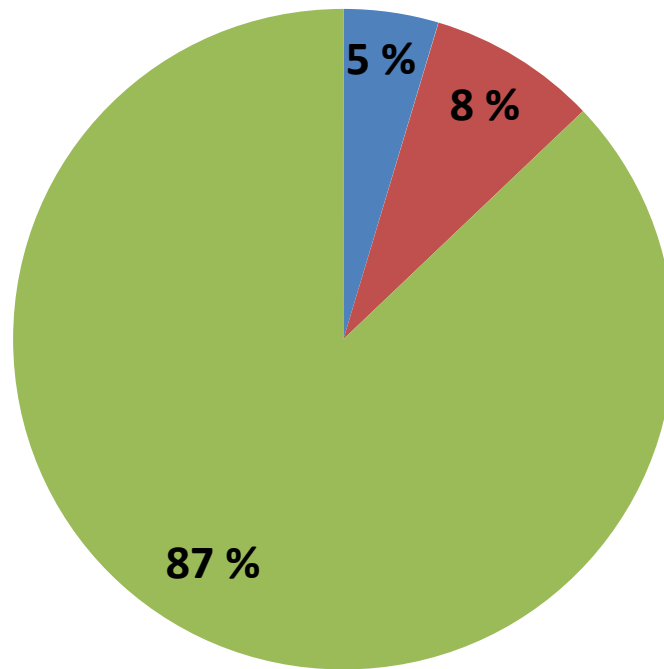
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What women did with respect to  
the most serious incident of  
sexual violence

## Who was contacted after most serious incident of sexual violence

SINCE AGE 15, %	By any partner (current and/or previous)	By someone else (not a partner)
Police	15	14
<b>Hospital</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Doctor, health centre or other health care institution</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>
Social services	7	2
Women's shelter	6	1
Victim support organisation	4	4
Church/fait-based organisation	4	2
Legal service/ lawyer	15	6
Another service/ organisation	5	3
<b>Any of the above</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>

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



■ Don't know ■ No ■ Yes

# Psychological violence

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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) %

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

# Stalking

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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 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
- Out of all stalking victims, one in five had been stalked for over two years
- 23% of stalking victims changed their email address or phone number due to the most serious case of stalking

# Sexual harassment

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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)

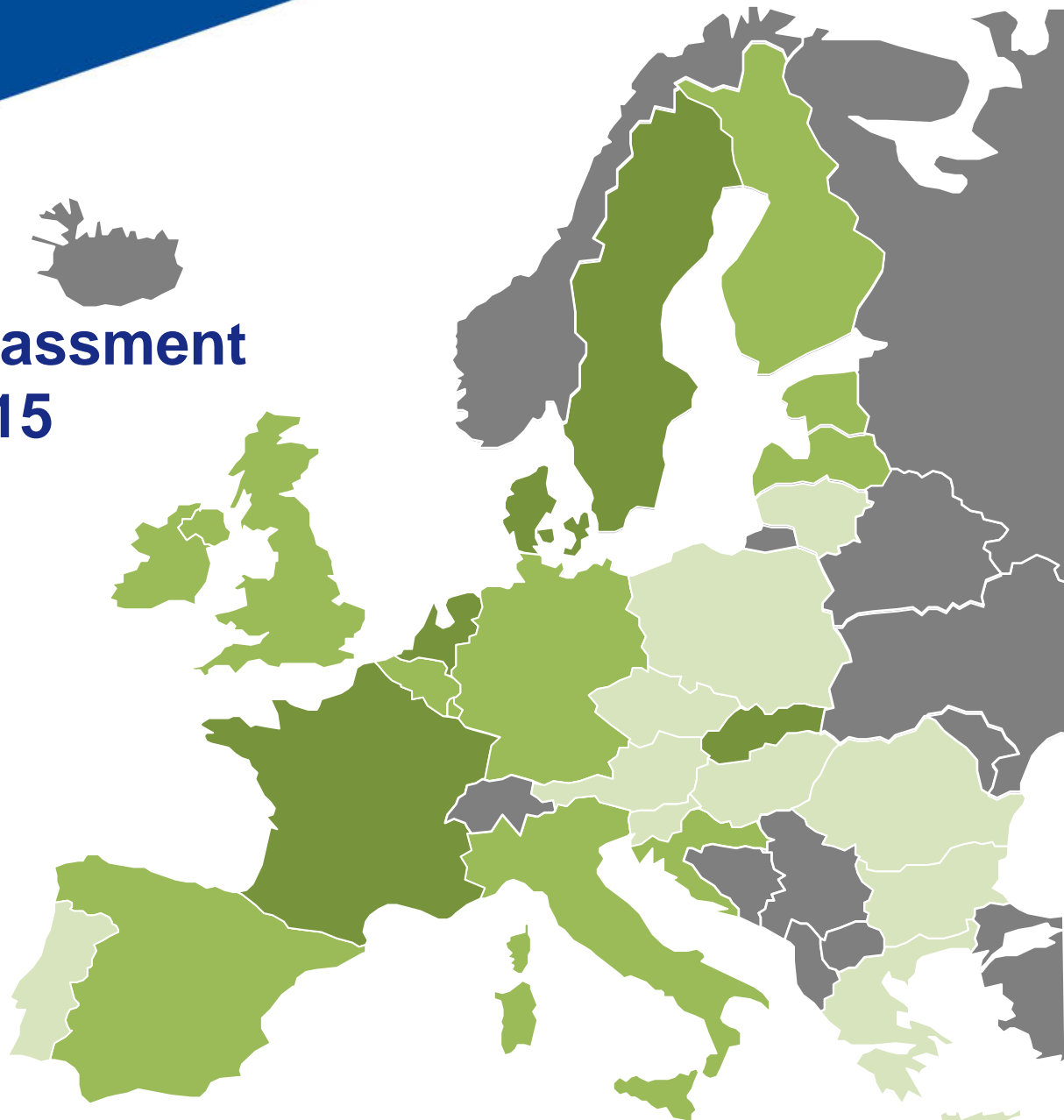
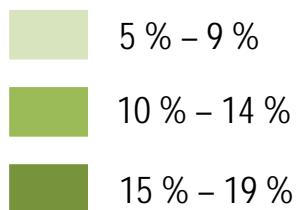
## Sexual harassment

- 55% of women have been sexually harassed
- As many as 1 in 5 have experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to interview
- 32% of all victims 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) have experienced cyber sexual harassment

# Cyber sexual harassment since the age of 15

 = 11 %

Key



Malta

Cyprus

# Violence in childhood

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An illustration of what women said about their experiences of sexual violence in childhood – by an adult

## Sexual violence before age 15, by an adult (%)

	Total
Exposed their genitals to you	8
Made you pose naked in front of a person or in photographs / video / internet webcam	1
Touched your genitals or breasts against your will	5
Forced to touch somebody's genitals (or breasts)	3
Forced into sexual intercourse	1
<b>Any sexual violence before the age of 15</b>	<b>12</b>



# 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

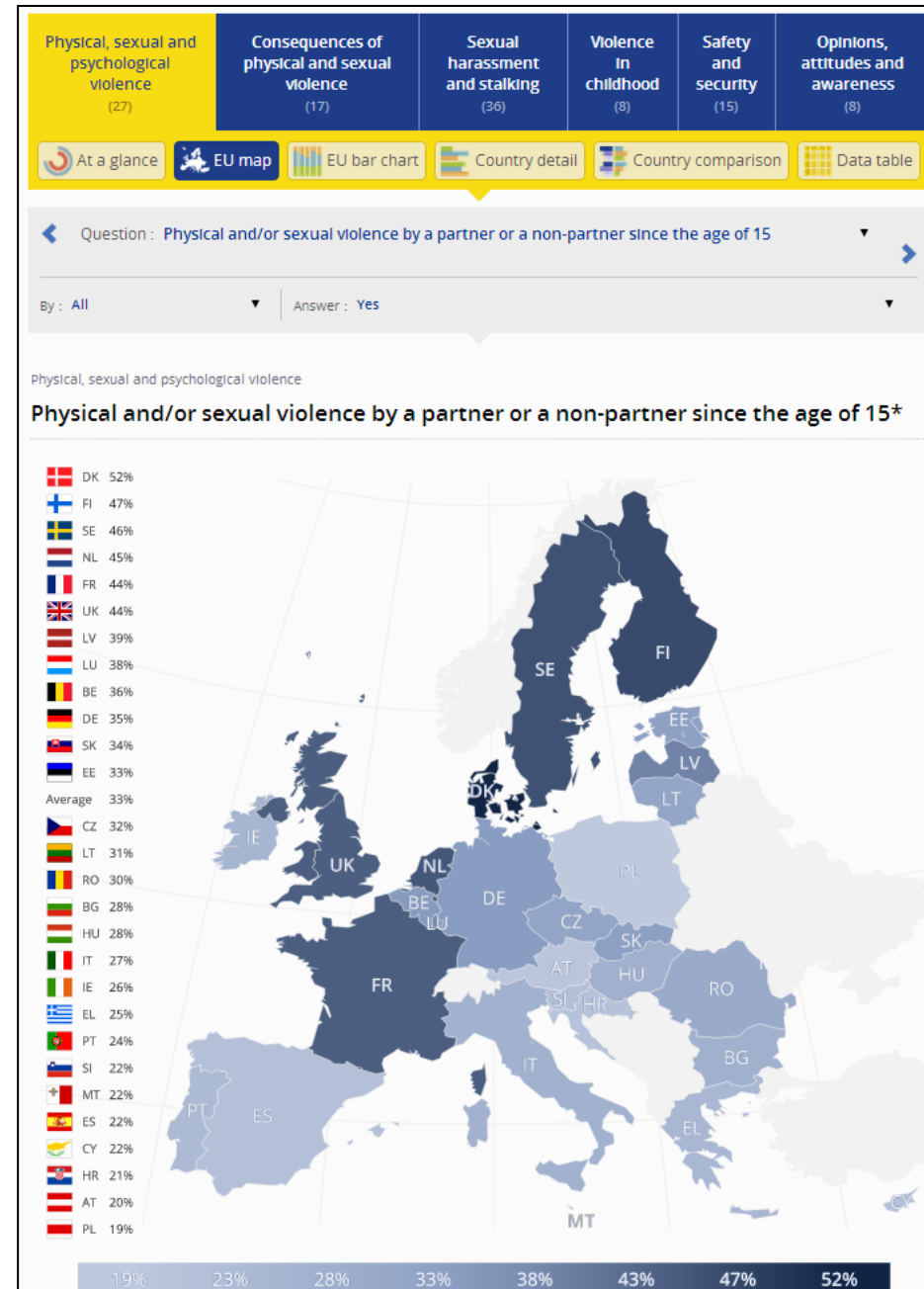
## **Internet / social media platforms**

- Proactively assist victims and address unwanted behaviour

# 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**



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