



## A bird's eye overview on a landscape of racism and discrimination in EU

- Systemic and consolidated discrimination phenomena throughout EU countries
- Xenophobia and hate crime in steep increase in EU countries hit by the economic crisis
- Organized extremist far-right wing violence and political xenophobic discourse on the rise
- Existing legislation, mechanisms and positive initiatives struggle to produce tangible results

○ Data show that in Europe there is a systemic, chronic and consolidated landscape of serious inequalities, exclusion and discrimination against migrants and minorities despite the solid or [improving legal framework](#) – although in several countries [there is no definition of racist/hate crime](#) - and the [redress/reporting mechanisms](#).

○ Almost everywhere there is a disturbing trend of increase of organized groups' far-right extremist [hate speech](#) and violence/crime. Similarly, there is increased internet hate speech and diffusion of stereotypes and xenophobia into [main political public sphere](#) in the vast majority if not almost all 17 countries of the network.

○ There is a plethora of positive and anti-discrimination initiatives in [employment](#) and [education](#), nevertheless in net contrast with the effective situation. Migrants and minorities are excluded, [exploited or discriminated against](#) in the workplace, and Roma children are [segregated](#) in education in most EU countries of the RED Network.

○ In most countries [specific health issues affect migrant and minority groups](#), such as diseases most prevalent among migrant and minority groups, while they have limited and/or [differential access to social protection and care](#).

○ In almost all EU countries of the RED Network, [problems concerning the implementation of national legislation prohibiting discrimination](#) and combating racist and hate crime are reported. So far there has been is [no thorough assessment of anti-discrimination](#) and anti-racism legislation.

○ The shortcomings in [policing](#) and in [judiciary](#) response in many EU countries, [ethnic profiling](#), as well as the alleged [participation of public servants](#) (mainly in uniform) as perpetrators of hate crime appear to be crucial issues in understanding the problems in dealing with racist crime and xenophobia.

○ Where some [positive initiatives and policy responses](#) appear to be in place but not producing effectively significant impact and results.

○ There are serious [shortcoming in data collection, monitoring, assessing and reviewing policies and practices to combat racial discrimination and promote equality](#).

○ Migrants and minorities are by far [underrepresented](#) in the public sphere and the [media](#). On the contrary hate speech and negative [media representations](#) are quite frequent in public life and widespread in the media.

○ [Right wing extremist groups](#) and related [political formations](#) are on the rise both regarding the number of their members (militant – in the cases where they are violent), and the degree that they are tolerated or even voted for by the wider public at the local and national elections.

○ Parties and/or political representatives [throughout the political spectrum](#) in many countries express anti-migrant and xenophobic rhetoric.

○ In the majority if not all EU countries studied, the [police](#) and [judiciary](#) are reported by authoritative independent sources to be inadequate in combating effectively racist violence and hate crime despite the fact that relevant and comprehensive national legislation is in force.

➔ [Roma and Muslims](#) are the mostly victimized ethnic groups.

➔ [Roma minority](#) is the most common target of integration and social policies and positive measures and initiatives, albeit without any notable success

➔ [Differential pay rates, discrimination](#) and [unemployment](#) - serious obstacles in access to employment (mostly for immigrants)

➔ [Discrimination](#) and [obstacles](#) or [denial](#) of the access to housing and better living conditions (mostly for Roma)

The RED Network combating racism & xenophobia is composed by 18 [organisations](#) in 17 EU Member States

It is coordinated by the Institute for Rights Equality & Diversity, i-RED, [www.i-red.eu](#)

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*Racism, Discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance may be assessed as side effects of the crisis, but also as causes and conditions for further negative growth and for waste of human capital and public investment.*