### An assessment of indicators of lethal violence

A contribution to the ongoing discussion in Europe

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Intentional homicide is considered the most robust data to compare violence between countries and intimate partner homicide is considered the most consistent indicator to analyse the gender patterns of violence. Despite the strengths of these indicators, and efforts (UNODC and Eurostat joint programme) to improve European data in 2014, it was not possible to include homicide data in the composite indicator to measure violence against women in Europe due to lack of EU-wide official comparable data (EIGE, 2017).

### DATA

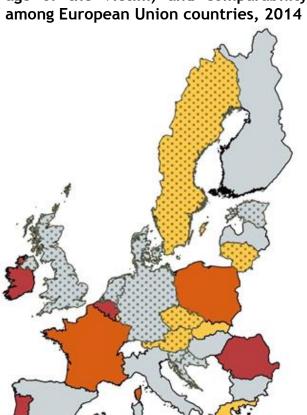
Eurostat's data on Intentional Homicide (Crime and Criminal Justice datasource) (last update 16/05/2017) and Eurostat's data on Death by Assault (Statistics on Causes of Death - Health System) (last update 11/04/2016)

### **OBJECTIVES**

- **1. Data Assessment:** to conduct critical analysis on data reported by European countries on Intentional Homicide
- **2. The indicator design assessment:** to assess indicator design to measure lethal violence
- **3. Draw conclusions on gendered lethal violence** based on countries with robust available data

## 1. What are the drawbacks of European data to measure gendered lethal violence?

1.1. Map of data availability (by sex and age of the victim) and comparability among European Union countries, 2014



- Data availability per country

  Data disaggregated by sex and age
  Data not disaggregated by age
- Data not disaggregated by age nor sex

  No data available
- Data reported following UNODC definitions

  Countries not following UNODC definitions

SOURCE: Authors' calculations based on Eurostat

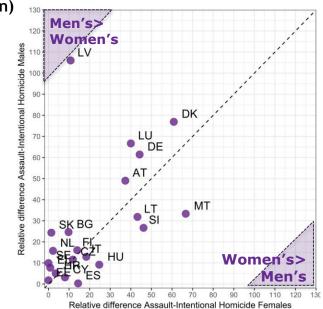
#### Intimate partner homicide data:

- √ 14 countries do not report this data to Eurostat
- ✓ Data is not disaggregated by age
- ✓ Do countries follow the same definition of intimate partner?

The definitions of Intentional Homicide (UNODC, 2015) and data of Mortality by Assault (WHO, 2016):

- ✓ Includes homicide and serious injuries leading to death
- ✓ Excludes death due to legal intervention or war and accidents

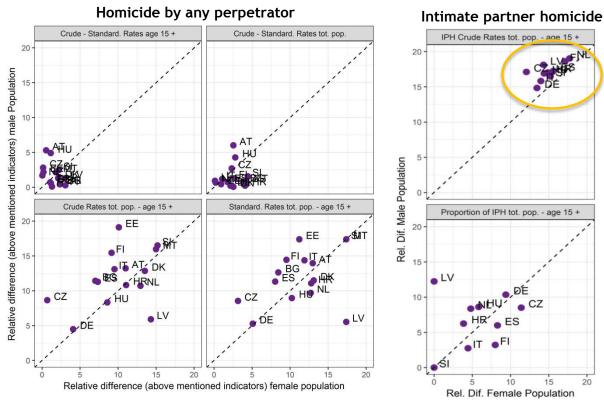
1.2 Relative difference between Intentional Homicide (Police data) and data Death by assault (Health data), 2013 (mean 2012-2014)



SOURCE: Authors' calculations based on Eurostat data

## 2. WHICH IS THE BEST INDICATOR DESIGN TO MEASURE LETHAL VIOLENCE?

2. Comparison between the relative difference of: Crude Rates, Standardised Rates and reference population (total population and population aged over 15), estimated for total victimisation and intimate partner homicide, European Countries, 2014 (mean 2013-2015)

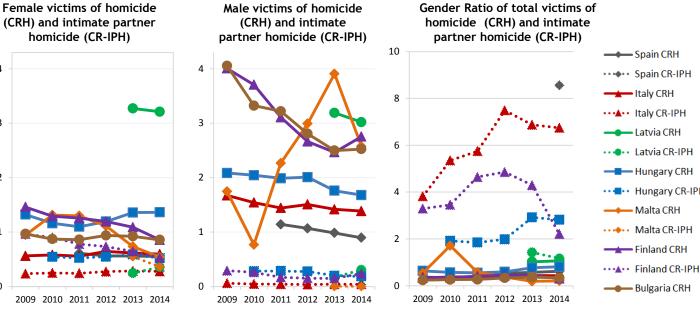


SOURCE: Authors' calculations based on Eurostat data

- ✓ **Indicator's design:** although relative difference between crude and standardised rates is lower than 7%, homicide rates should always be estimated following the standardisation procedure to account for the effects of population structure on the results. It is not possible to estimate standardised rates of intimate partner homicide because data is not disaggregated by age.
- ✓ Reference population: introducing a gender perspective in measurement involves not only considering the sex of victim and perpetrator and the relationship between them, but also age boundaries (Walby et al., 2017), such as limiting the population to those aged 15 and over.

# 3. What do we know about gendered lethal violence in Europe with the most robust available data?

3.1. Mortality by homicide for victims aged 15+, Crude Rates and Gender Ratio per sex of victims, European Union (three-year moving average 2008-2015)



Note: no disaggregated data by age was available for intimate partner homicide, therefore, it was not possible to estimate Standardized Rates

SOURCE: Authors' calculations based on Eurostat data

3.2. Ranking of homicide by Crude Rates and Gender Ratio per victims aged 15+ for countries European Union, 2014 (mean 2013-2015)

RANKING OF FEMICIDE		Ranking of gender GAP IN HOMICIDE		RANKING OF INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE		RANKING OF GENDER GAP IN INT. PART FEMICIDE	
Latvia	3.21	Latvia	1.06	Finland	0.53	Malta	0.36/0
Hungary	1.36	Hungary	0.81	Hungary	0.52	Spain	8.56
Bulgaria	0.86	Spain	0.62	Malta	0.36	Italy	6.74
Finland	0.86	Italy	0.43	Latvia	0.36	Hungary	2.82
Italy	0.60	Bulgaria	0.34	Spain	0.28	Finland	2.21
Spain	0.55	Finland	0.31	Italy	0.28	Latvia	1.16
Malta	0.54	Malta	0.21				

SOURCE: Authors' calculations based on Eurostat data

### Conclusions

- 1. Data quality. More efforts are needed to improve homicide data in every country: (i) data availability and disaggregation by age and sex; (ii) internal coherence of data; (iii) fostering the use of the same definitions among European countries; (iv) exploring data base differences in homicide reports.
- 2. Indicator design: the sex of the victim and perpetrator, the relationship between them and age have key implications in producing gendered lethal violence indicators. Gendered lethal violence should be measured using standardised rates and using only data for the population aged 15 or over.
- **3. Conclusions on gendered lethal violence:** using the most robust data from across Europe, we found that measuring victimisation as homicide rates or gender gap rates produces different gendered rankings of victimisation among European countries.

### REFERENCES

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