

‘NORDIC PARADOX’ OR ‘ILLUSION’ OF HIGHER RATES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE?

INTRODUCTION

In 2014, the results of the first survey providing comparable estimates on violence against women in the European Union were released (FRA, 2014). These results indicated a higher prevalence of physical and sexual violence against women perpetrated by any partner since the age of 15 in the Nordic countries.

THE LOCAL

Sweden stands out in domestic violence study

A new EU review of violence against women has revealed that one in three European women has been assaulted, and one in twenty has been raped, with the Scandinavian countries at the top of the league tables.

Source: The Local, 05.04.2014

LAVANGUARDIA

Las razones por las que Suecia no es tan feminista como parece

• Al "primer gobierno feminista del mundo" le quedan muchos problemas por resolver

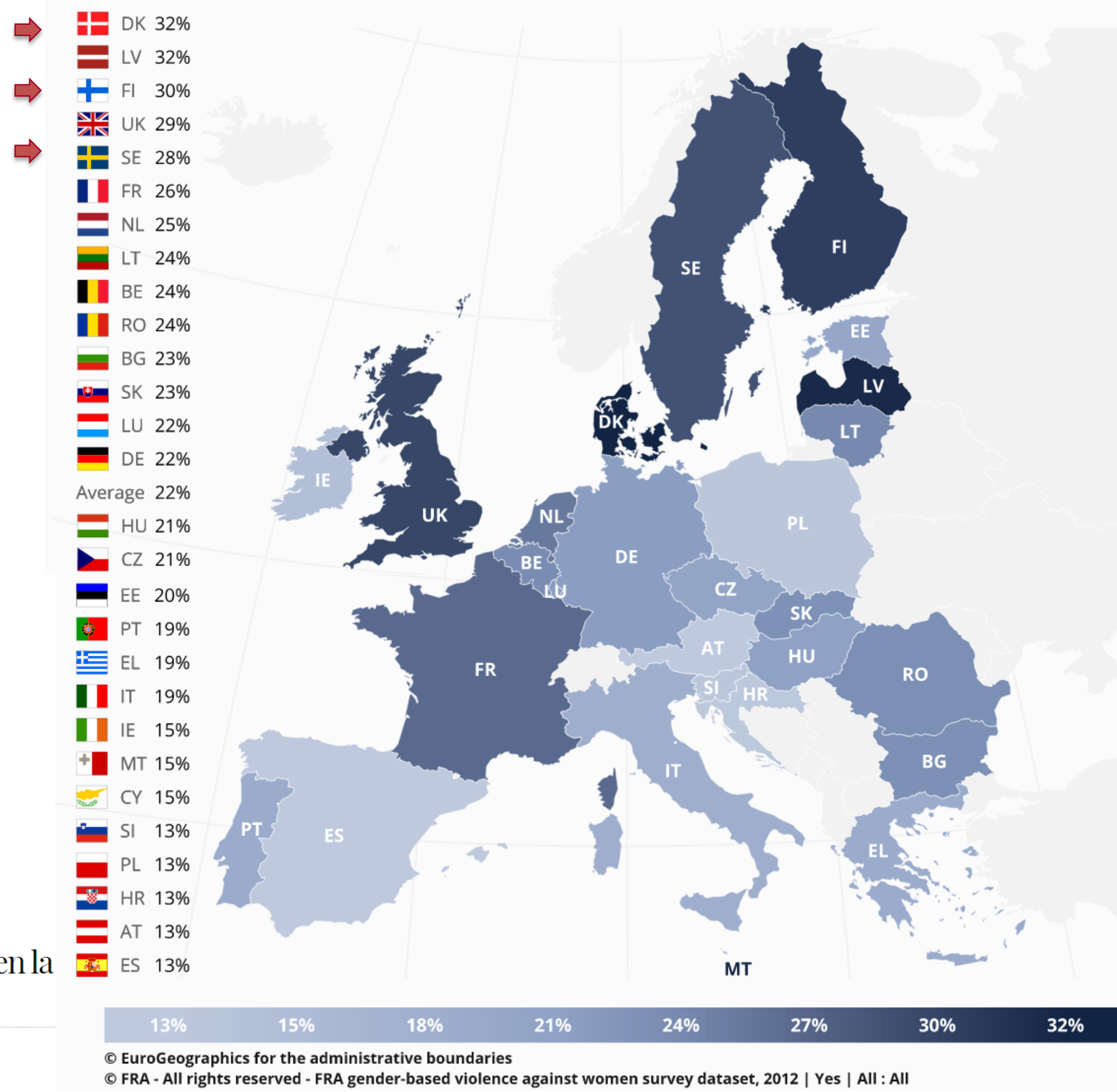
Source: La Vanguardia, 26.05.2017

LA GACETA

El maltrato tiene menos incidencia en la Europa católica. ¿Por qué?

Source: La Gaceta, 13.01.2018

Physical and/or sexual violence by a partner since the age of 15*



Source: FRA, 2014

HYPOTHESES

✓ Backlash hypothesis (first proposed by Yllö, 1984; discussed by Gracia & Merlo, 2016; Gracia et al., 2019)

↑ Gender equality → ↑ Magnitude of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

✓ Higher disclosure of Intimate Partner Violence in more egalitarian countries (EIGE, 2017)

↑ Gender equality → ↑ Disclosure of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

✓ Data is not robust enough to draw any conclusion (Walby & Towers, 2017)

✓ Our hypothesis:

↑ Intimate Partner Violence → is an ‘illusion’ caused by → ↑ marriage market dynamics

DATA & METHODS

✓ Data: European Union-wide survey on violence against women (FRA, 2014)

✓ Indicators design:



Prevalence

$$P = \frac{d}{n} \cdot 100$$



Repetition Proxy Indicator

$$I_p = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{s=1}^{13} w_{js}}{n \cdot 13 \cdot 6} \cdot 1000$$

An assessment of the European Union women victimisation survey’s results

RESULTS

Physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15

Current Partner

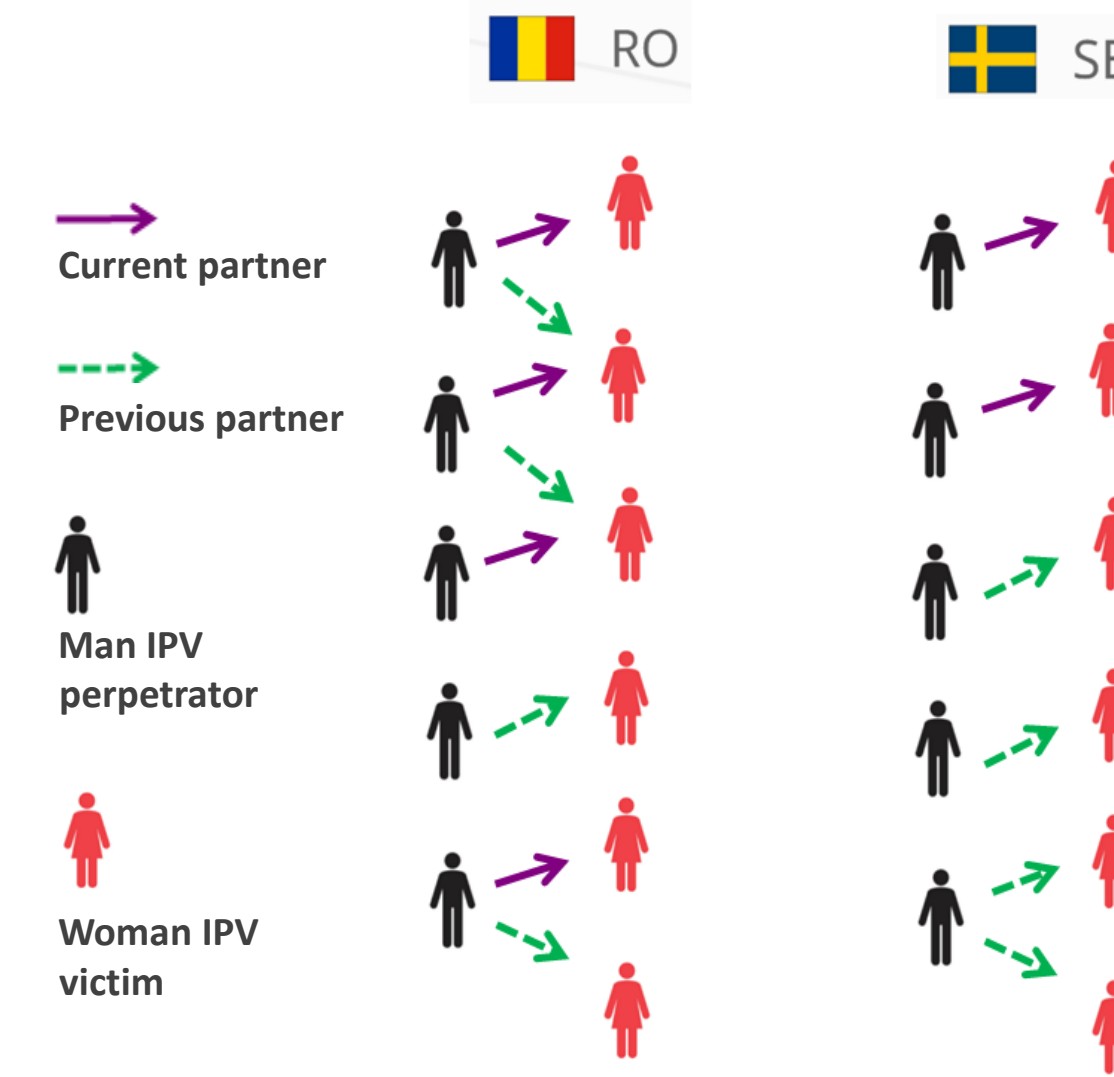
Count.	Prevalence (1)	Rkg (2)	Repetition Proxy Indicator (3)	Rkg (4)	Rkg Var. (2-4)
RO	14,3	1	21,3	1	0
LV	13,3	2	13,0	3	-1
SK	13,2	3	9,7	6	-3
LT	12,9	4	17,0	2	2
DK	11,9	5	5,3	18	-13
BG	11,6	6	11,5	4	2
FR	10,7	7	7,4	11	-4
FI	10,6	8	6,0	15	-7
EL	9,9	9	10,6	5	4
IT	9,5	10	7,2	12	-2
NL	8,9	11	6,0	14	-3
PT	8,2	12	8,9	8	4
BE	8,0	13	5,2	19	-6
EE	7,6	14	4,9	20	-6
HU	7,4	15	9,0	7	8
LU	7,2	16	6,0	16	0
DE	7,1	17	4,8	21	-4
HR	6,9	18	6,6	13	5
SE	6,8	19	2,3	28	-9
CY	5,8	20	8,3	9	11
CZ	5,7	21	3,8	24	-3
UK	5,4	22	2,9	27	-5
MT	5,2	23	5,7	17	6
PL	5,1	24	8,1	10	14
SI	4,8	25	3,2	26	-1
ES	3,7	26	3,5	25	1
IE	3,7	27	4,7	22	5
AT	2,9	28	4,4	23	5
UE-28	7,8		6,6		

Previous Partner

Count.	Prevalence (1)	Rkg (2)	Repetition Proxy Indicator (3)	Rkg (4)	Rkg Var. (2-4)
BG	38,9	1	78,3	1	0
LV	37,5	2	46,9	9	-7
LT	37,4	3	66,8	4	-1
UK	34,6	4	71,2	3	1
FR	32,5	5	44,4	11	-6
FI	31,5	6	46,7	10	-4
DK	31,4	7	38,7	15	-8
RO	31,1	8	71,8	2	6
BE	30,1	9	56,1	5	4
SE	29,8	10	37,5	17	-7
PT	28,7	11	50,9	7	4
SK	28,3	12	32,0	24	-12
MT	28,2	13	37,7	16	-3
LU	27,5	14	54,5	6	8
NL	27,0	15	49,3	8	7
EE	25,5	16	43,1	13	3
IT	25,4	17	32,1	23	-6
DE	24,2	18	36,5	18	0
CZ	23,8	19	35,2	19	0
CY	23,7	20	43,4	12	8
HU	23,7	21	32,7	21	0
SI	21,2	22	32,2	22	0
IE	19,8	23	42,9	14	9
EL	19,1	24	30,0	25	-1
ES	18,9	25	29,3	26	-1
PL	17,4	26	33,5	20	6
AT	15,3	27	25,7	27	0
HR	12,9	28	21,6	28	0
UE-28	26,5		43,4		

Source: authors’ elaboration based on FRA, 2012

Gómez-Casillas & Permanyer socio-demographic model for Intimate Partner Violence



Source: Gómez-Casillas, 2018

CONCLUSIONS

✓ Prevalence indicator provides a partial picture of Intimate Partner Violence ‘magnitude’: repetition is key (Walby & Towers, 2017)

✓ ‘Mixing’ categories of perpetrators (current and previous partner) in lifelong victimisation generates an ‘illusion’ of higher rates of Intimate Partner Violence

✓ Higher rates of violence perpetrated by a previous partner could indicate that women are able to escape from violence

✓ Higher rates of violence by a current partner, together with higher repetition could imply that women might be trapped in violent relationships

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