

FRA Violence against Women Survey



Sami Nevala
Statistician

Freedom & Justice Department

Background

- Request of the Council of the EU
- European Parliament Resolution – 25th Nov 2009

‘Calls for the collection and compilation by the FRA of reliable, comparable statistics on all grounds of discrimination, [...] including comparative data on violence against women within the EU [...].’

Background (cont.)

- EPSCO Council conclusions 8 March 2010 on the Eradication of Violence Against Women

*‘Despite the progress achieved in recent years, there is still a lack of timely, reliable, accurate and comparable data, both at national and EU level, and **there has still been no detailed EU-level study on violence against women.** This limits understanding of the real extent of such violence and impedes the further development of national strategies and actions and an efficient response by the EU.’*

Background

- EPSCO Council conclusions 8 March 2010 on the Eradication of Violence Against Women

‘All forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women of their human rights, more specifically, the fundamental rights to life, security, freedom, dignity and physical and emotional integrity, and cannot therefore be ignored by governments.’

Existing surveys

National – limited comparability

- Council of Europe Stocktaking Study
- CAHRV project
- UN Secretary-General's database on VAW

International – limited coverage of EU Member States

- International Violence Against Women Survey (IVAWS)
- WHO Multi-country study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence
- UNECE survey module

Data needs

Indicators:

- UN Statistics Division / UNECE indicators
- Council of the EU indicators (1999)
- OHCHR indicators

Other data needs:

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

FRA survey on VAW – Objectives

- **Reliable and comparable data on women's experiences of violence**
 - For the first time covering the EU

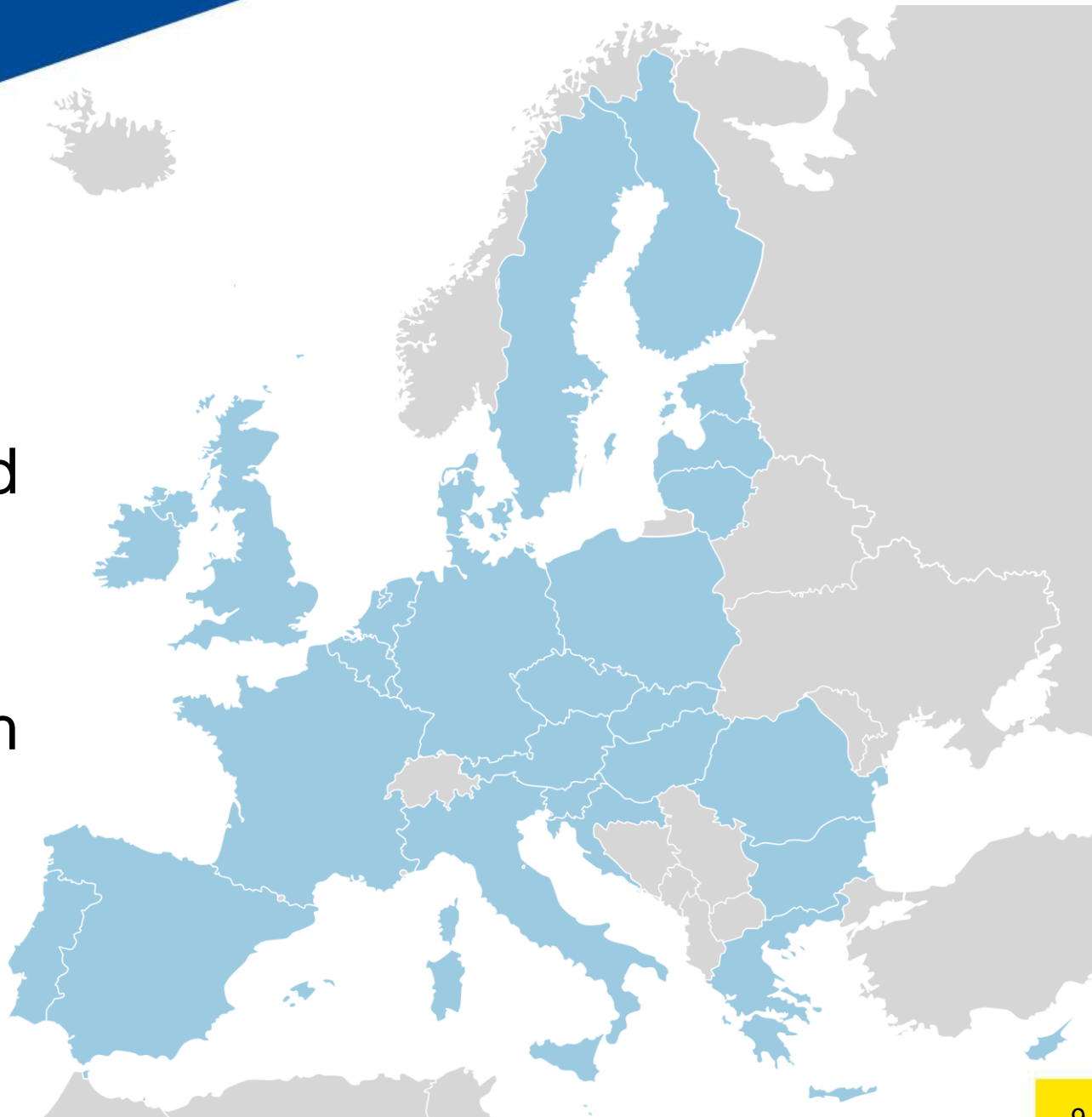
- **Data with policy utility**
 - For the development of policies at the European, regional, and national level

Timetable

- Pre-test study in 2010-2011 (cognitive interviews and focus groups discussions on key concepts of the survey to inform questionnaire development)
- Full-scale survey data collection in 2011-2012
- Analysis and release of results in 2013

The FRA VAW survey

- 27 EU MS and Croatia
- In total, interviews with over 40,000 women



Survey design

- Random (probability) sample of women
- 18 years of age and older
- One respondent per household
- Face-to-face interviews
- Average length each interview 50 mins
- Based on a standardised questionnaire
- Female interviewers with specialised training

Survey content – in brief

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence (including stalking and harassment)
- Violence by partners and non-partners
- Prevalence and incidence of violence
- Consequences – injuries, time off work, use of services and assessment of help received, reporting to police, reasons for not reporting...
- Victimization in childhood
- Rights awareness, knowledge of services

Survey content (cont.)

- Which services were contacted (police, victim support, health care, etc.)?
- Satisfaction with the assistance received
- Reasons for not contacting the police
- Reasons for not contacting other services
- What kind of help would have been useful?
- Awareness of support organisations