Female genital mutilation: estimating girls at risk in the EU

Jurgita Pečiūrienė
EIGE’s work on gender-based violence

- EU COUNTRY FACTSHEETS
-コストのジンクスの性差に基づく暴力
- FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
- TERMINOLOGY & INDICATORS
- RAPE
- IPV
- FEMICIDE
- RISK ASSESSMENT OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
- ANALYSIS OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND VICTIMS’ RIGHTS DIRECTIVES
- Gender Equality Index
- DOMAIN OF VIOLENCE
- ADMINISTRATIVE DATA
- SOURCES
- GAPS
Female genital mutilation

A severe form of gender-based violence, leaving deep physical and psychological scars on the lives of victims around the world.

A violent form of subordination of women and girls standing in gross contradiction to the principles of gender equality.
EU Framework in place

Commission Communication Towards the elimination of FGM COM (2013)833
Parliament Resolution on zero tolerance for FGM 8/02/2018

Key instruments on combating female genital mutilation in the European Union

Common European Asylum System Directives CEAS
Istanbul Convention CETS No.210

European Union External action
Victims’ Rights Directive 2012/29/EU
Supporting policies

Accurate data to estimate FGM risk

Targeted prevention in the EU

Repeated estimations over time

Better informed policy measures
EIGE’s work on female genital mutilation

- European Commission request
- EU wide mapping 2013
- Good practices 2013
- Country factsheets 2013
- Risk estimations 2015
- Methodology 2015
- Country factsheets 2018
- Risk Estimations 2018

EIGE’s Strategic Framework on Violence against women

2014 European Commission Communication
NEW TRENDS IN FGM PREVALENCE
Identifying challenges

- Accurately and regularly estimating the risk of female genital mutilation
- Availability of data to estimate the risk of female genital mutilation
- Migrant, refugee and asylum seeking populations
- Interpret results with caution
Istanbul Convention ratified by 20 Member States and signed by the EU
Further ratification needed
Common European Asylum System changes entered into force since 2013
Gender sensitive asylum procedures needed
Legislation in Member States in place and targeted
Gaps exist and legal differences impact sanctioning.
Implementing laws

- Implementing the law and prosecute
- Training for people implementing the law
- Awareness raising of the legislation amongst communities involved
A policy focus beyond health

The national strategies on FGM vary across the EU Member States.

18 cover specifically it in recent initiatives

Actions most visible in the health and education sectors

Strategies involving men or communities rare

National guidance for professionals on how to deal with FGM

10 EU Member States developed a framework
How EIGE estimates risk?

Extrapolation

- Prevalence rate of FGM in practising countries
- Migrant population (0-18) in an EU country

Focus group discussions with migrant communities in EU

Quantitative component

Qualitative component

FGM RISK

Further refined in 2018

- New patterns of migration
- Travelling to the country of origin major risk factor
- ‘Opportunity to cut’ in the EU differs from the country of origin
- Sensitivity of the matter
Girls are at risk

IE  14 577 girls, 1-11% at risk
PT  5835 girls, 5-23% at risk  2015
SE  59 409 girls, 3-19% at risk

2017  DE  25 325 girls, 6-17% at risk
BE  22 544 girls, 16-27% at risk
EL  1787 girls, 25-42% at risk
FR  205 683 girls, 12-21% at risk  2018
IT  76 040 girls, 15-24% at risk
CY  758 girls, 12-17% at risk
MT  485 girls, 39-57% at risk

2019  NL, AT
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<th>Country</th>
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Comparability year 2011: original methodology (EIGE, 2015)
Latest available year: refined methodology (EIGE, 2018; Integra, 2017)
Understanding the practice in the EU

Discouraging factors

- Criminalisation
- Awareness campaigns
- Stigmatisation
- Health consequences

Motivating factors

- Social pressure
- Cultural beliefs and traditions
- Purity and aesthetics

Qualitative results

impact

quantitative results

Traveling to the country of origin = major risk factor
New patterns of migration

Women and girls from FGM-practicing countries continue to seek asylum in the EU

Collect data on migratory flows and how they impact policies
Ways forward for the EU

- Ratify the Istanbul Convention
- A gender-sensitive Common European Asylum System (CEAS)
-External actions to prevent female genital mutilation
- Incentive through EU integration Strategies
Towards a comparable picture in the EU: next steps

Comparable data on the number of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in 10 Member States

Supporting 2 Member States to undertake risk estimations

Increasing knowledge, Informed policy making, targeted actions