

Human rights-based approach to tackling energy poverty

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EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

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FRA's mandate & mission

Objective:

To provide EU institutions and EU Member States when implementing EU law with **assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights** to support them when they take measures or formulate courses of action within their respective spheres of competence to fully respect fundamental rights (Art. 2 FRA Regulation - Council Regulation (EC) No 168/2007)

Tasks (selected, Art. 4):

- relevant, timely and high-quality **data collection, research and analysis** about **fundamental rights** in the EU,
- Thematic and annual reports,
- collaboration with stakeholders at international, national and local level,
- communication and awareness-raising on fundamental rights.

Human rights-based approach

We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination.

- I. Grounding in human rights obligations and principles
- II. Attention to people in situations of vulnerability
- III. Participation and information
- IV. Data and monitoring
- V. Accountability



Fundamental rights basis to tackle energy poverty

- The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights



Article 34 - Social security and social assistance



Article 36 - Access to services of general economic interest



Article 21 - Non-discrimination



Article 37 - Environmental protection



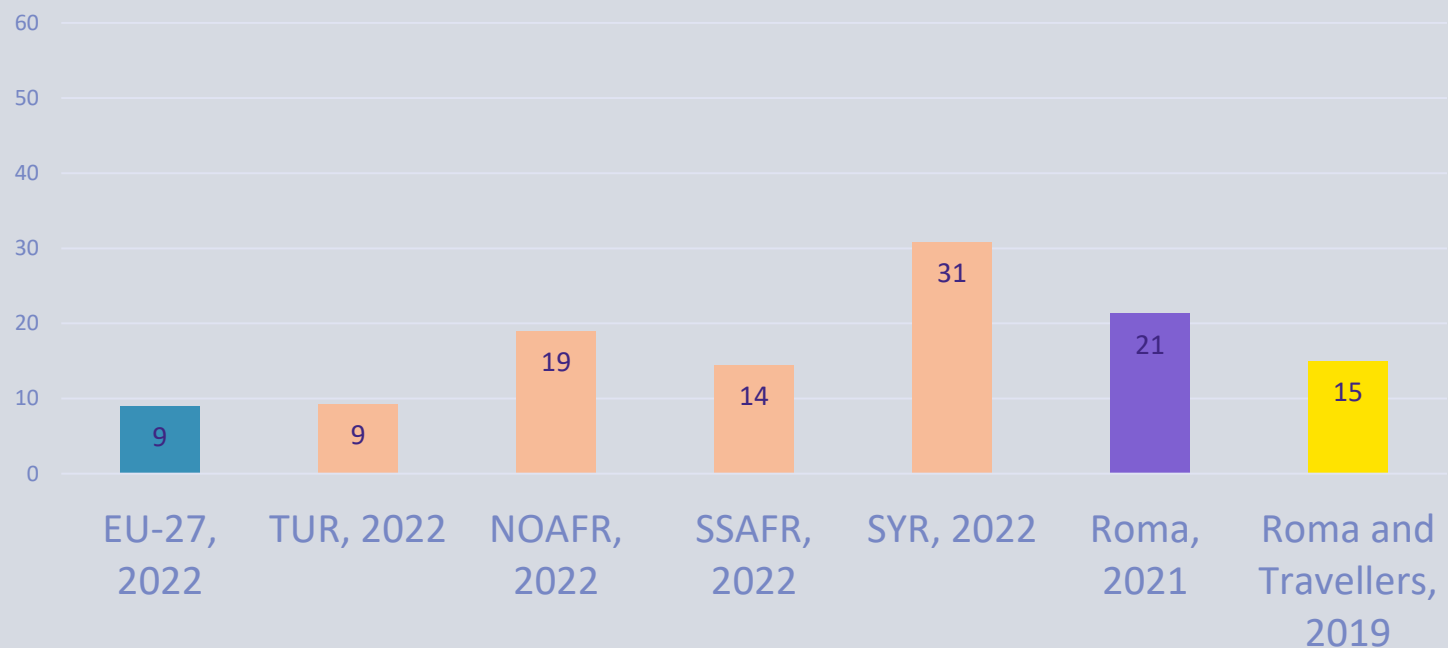
Article 38 - Consumer protection



Article 23 - Equality between women and men, Article 24 - The rights of the child, Article 25 - The rights of the elderly, Article 26 - Integration of persons with disabilities...

- Other international human rights instruments
- National constitutions and legislation

Inability to keep home adequately warm (%): EU level data for selected groups

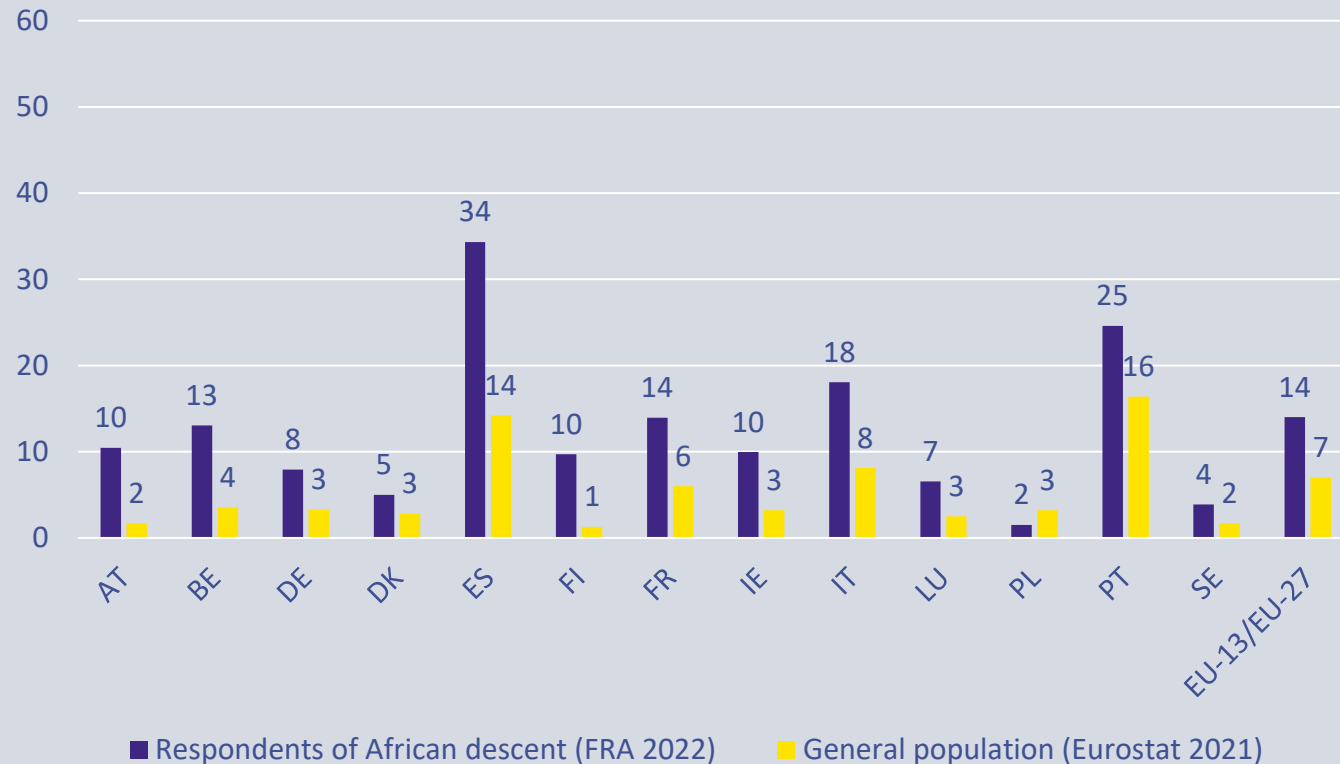


- EU general population average rate for 2022 was 9%.
- Among the persons of North African origin surveyed by FRA, the rate amounted to 19%, among persons of South of Sahara African origin it was 14%, and among persons of Syrian origin 31%.
- Among Roma and Roma and Travellers (2021 and 2019), respectively 21% and 15% of respondents were not able to keep their homes adequately warm.

Source: EU-27: Eurostat [ILC_MDES01], data extracted on 19th December 2023; FRA data (selected EU MS and FRA Observer countries): Immigrants and descendants of immigrants survey 2022 (per countries of birth of respondent or at least one of the parents; TUR: Türkiye, NOAFR: North African countries, SSAFR: South of Sahara African countries, SYR: Syria); Roma survey 2021; Roma and Travellers survey 2019.

Inability to keep home adequately warm (%): Respondents of African descent

Respondents of African descent who cannot afford to keep their home warm, compared with the general population, by country

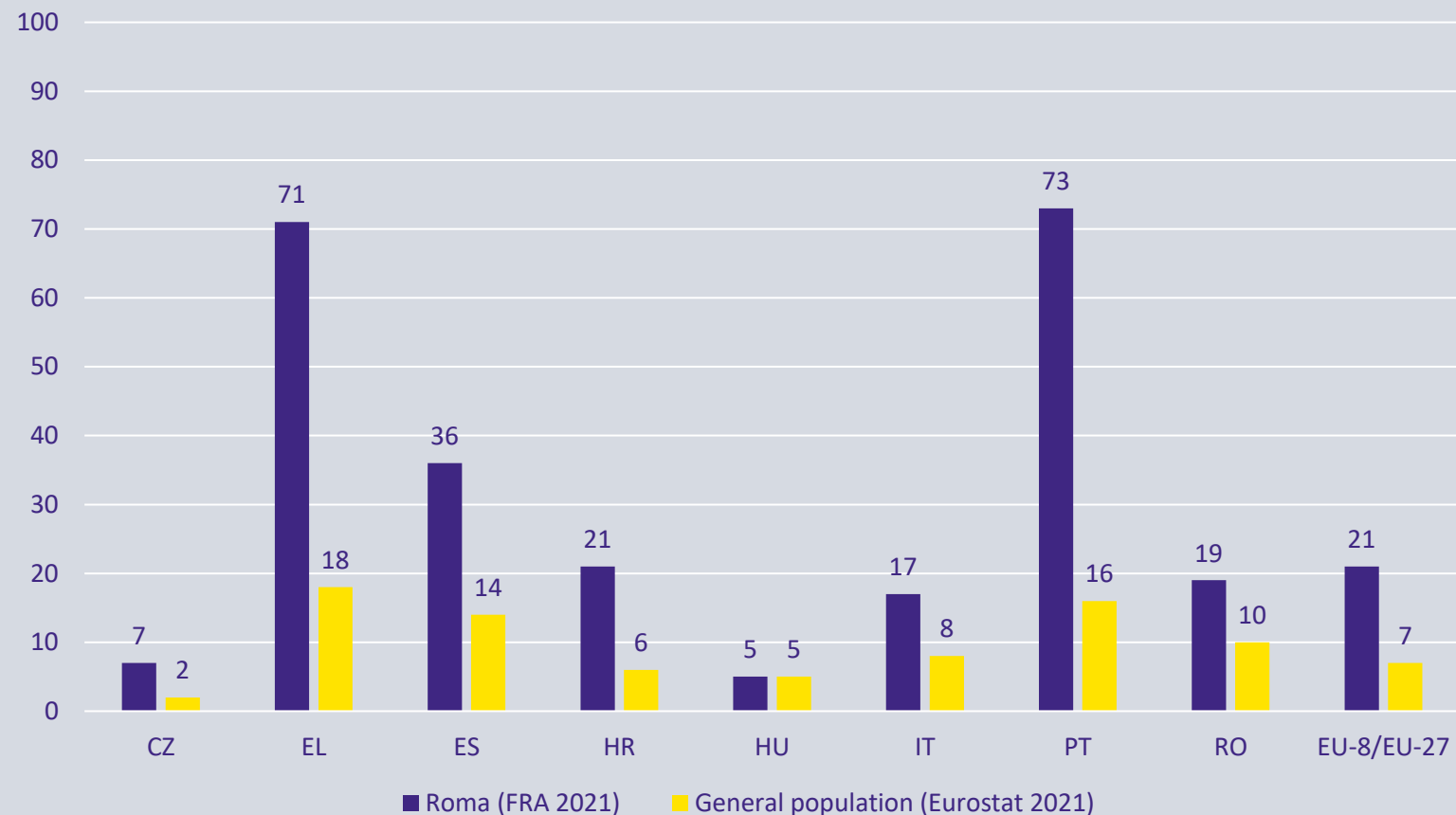


- In almost all countries included in the survey the rate of energy poverty among the respondents of African descent higher than in general population.
- In Spain, it was 34% compared with 14% among general population a year earlier; in Austria (10%) it was fivefold of the rate among general population, and in Finland (10%) tenfold.

Source: EU-27: Eurostat (ILC_MDES01__custom_5608083) (extracted 30 March 2023); FRA data: Immigrants and descendants of immigrants survey 2022 (per countries of birth of respondent or at least one of the parents)

Inability to keep home adequately warm (%): Roma respondents

Roma respondents who cannot afford to keep their home warm, compared with the general population, by country

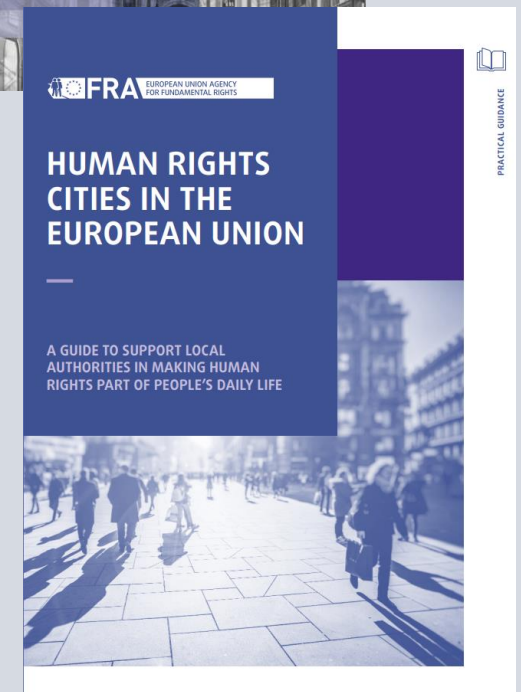
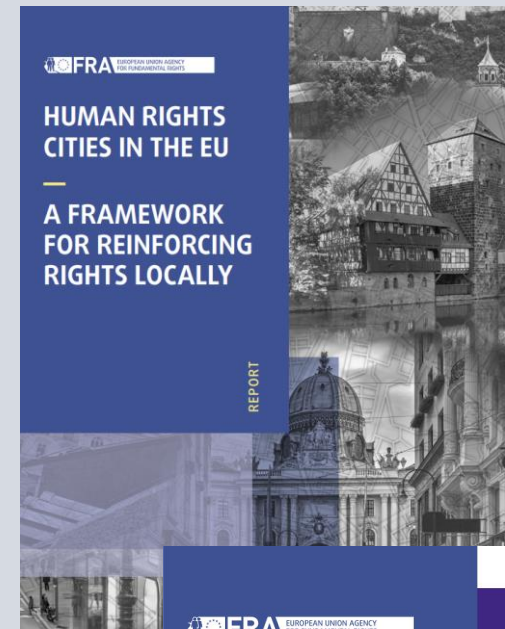


- In some countries (EL, PT) as much as 70% and more of Roma respondents reported not being able to keep their homes adequately warm.
- The average among the Roma population in the surveyed countries was three times the EU average from 2021.

Source: EU-27: Eurostat (ILC_MDES01__custom_5608083) (extracted 30 March 2023); FRA data: Roma survey 2021 (question hw_HLS05)

Relevant FRA research

- **Fundamental Rights Report 2024** – Chapter 1 Impact of the cost-of-living crisis and rising poverty in the EU
- **Being Black in the EU** – Experiences of people of African descent (2023)
- **Roma (2021) and Roma and Travellers (2019) surveys** (*data collection currently underway*)
- **EU funds: Ensuring compliance with fundamental rights** (2023)
- **Human rights cities in the European Union: A framework for reinforcing rights locally** (2021) and the Practical guidance (2022)
- ***Towards a fundamental rights compliant European Green Deal?*** (*forthcoming November 2024*)
- ***Project "Fundamental and social rights in the green transition"*** (*ongoing, report planned in 2025*)



Thank you!

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