



Female genital mutilation: estimating girls at risk in the EU – focus on Greece

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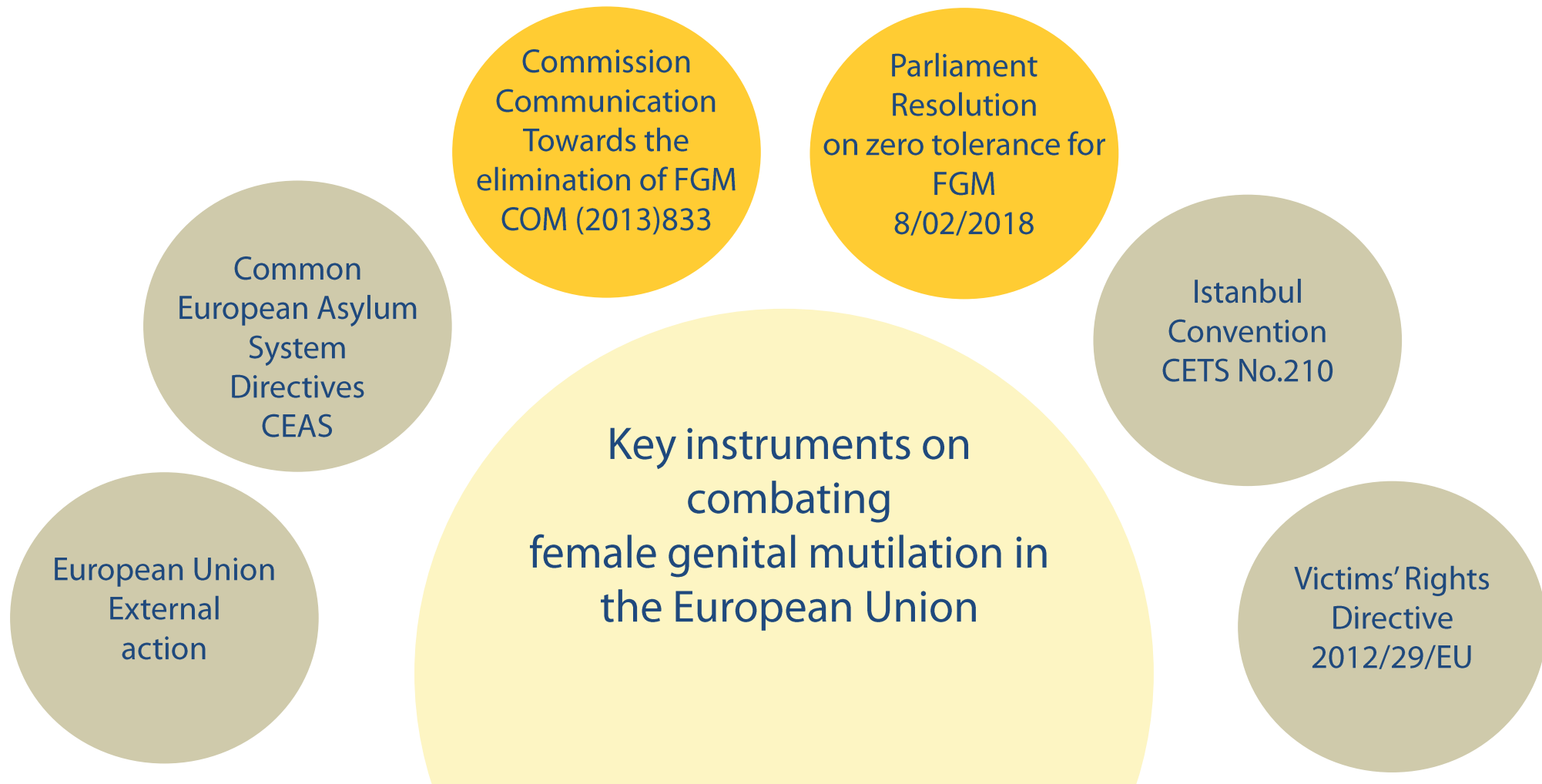
Female genital mutilation



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



EIGE's work on female genital mutilation



Girls are at risk

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

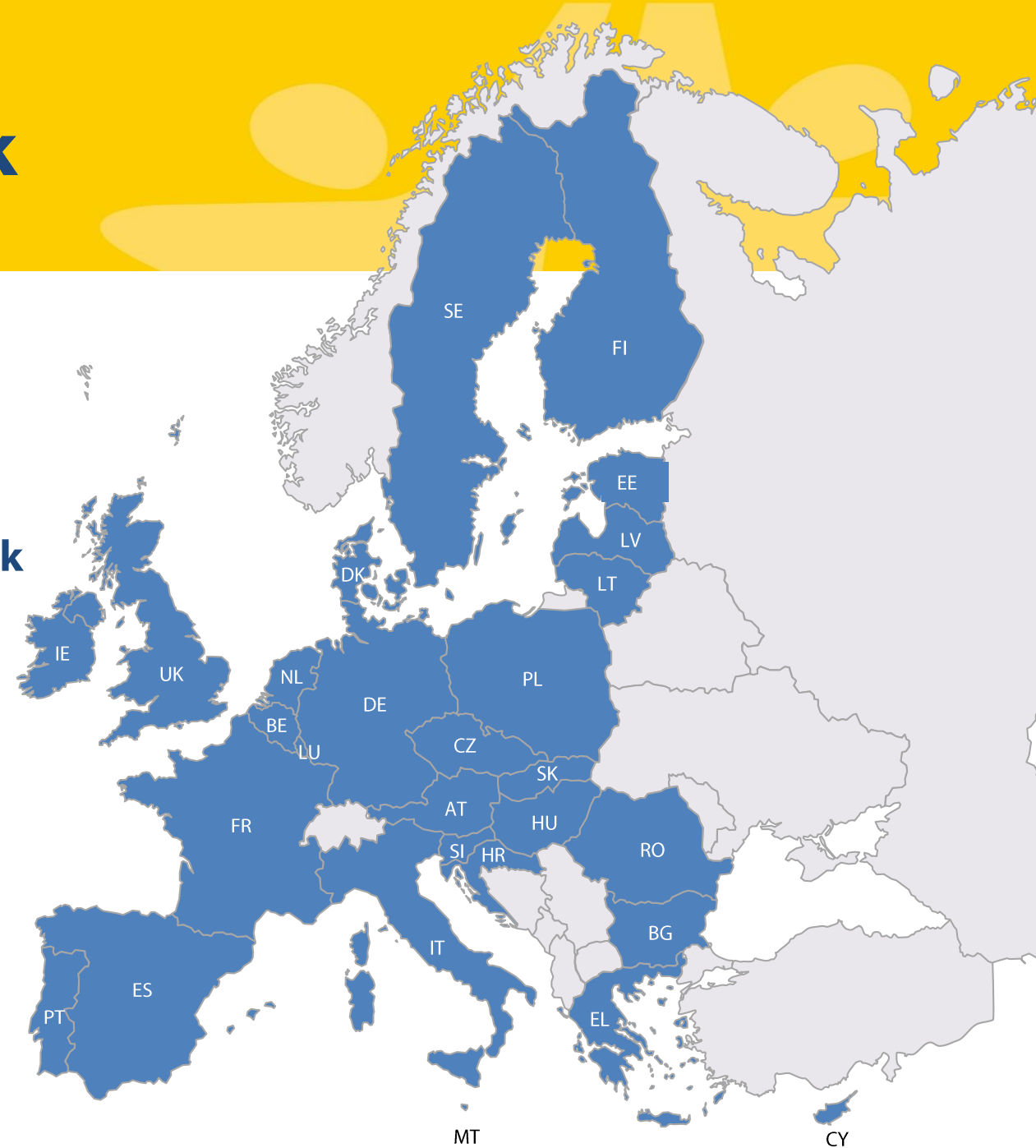
2015

2017 **DE** 25 325 girls, 6-17% at risk

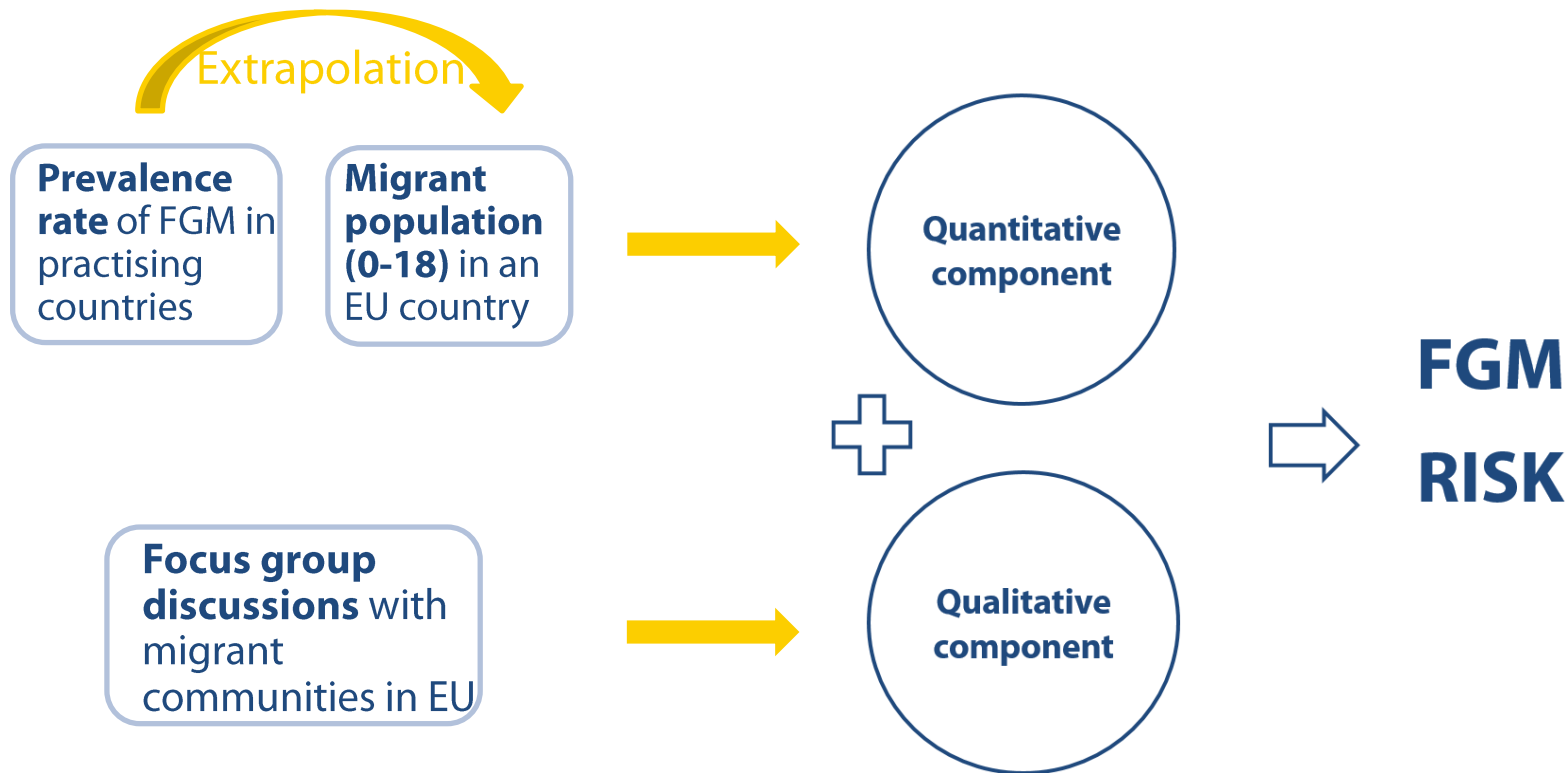
BE 22 544 girls, 16-27% at risk
EL 1787 girls, 25-42% at risk
FR 205 683 girls, 12-21% at risk
IT 76 040 girls, 15-24% at risk
CY 758 girls, 12-17% at risk
MT 485 girls, 39-57% at risk

2018

2019 **NL, AT**



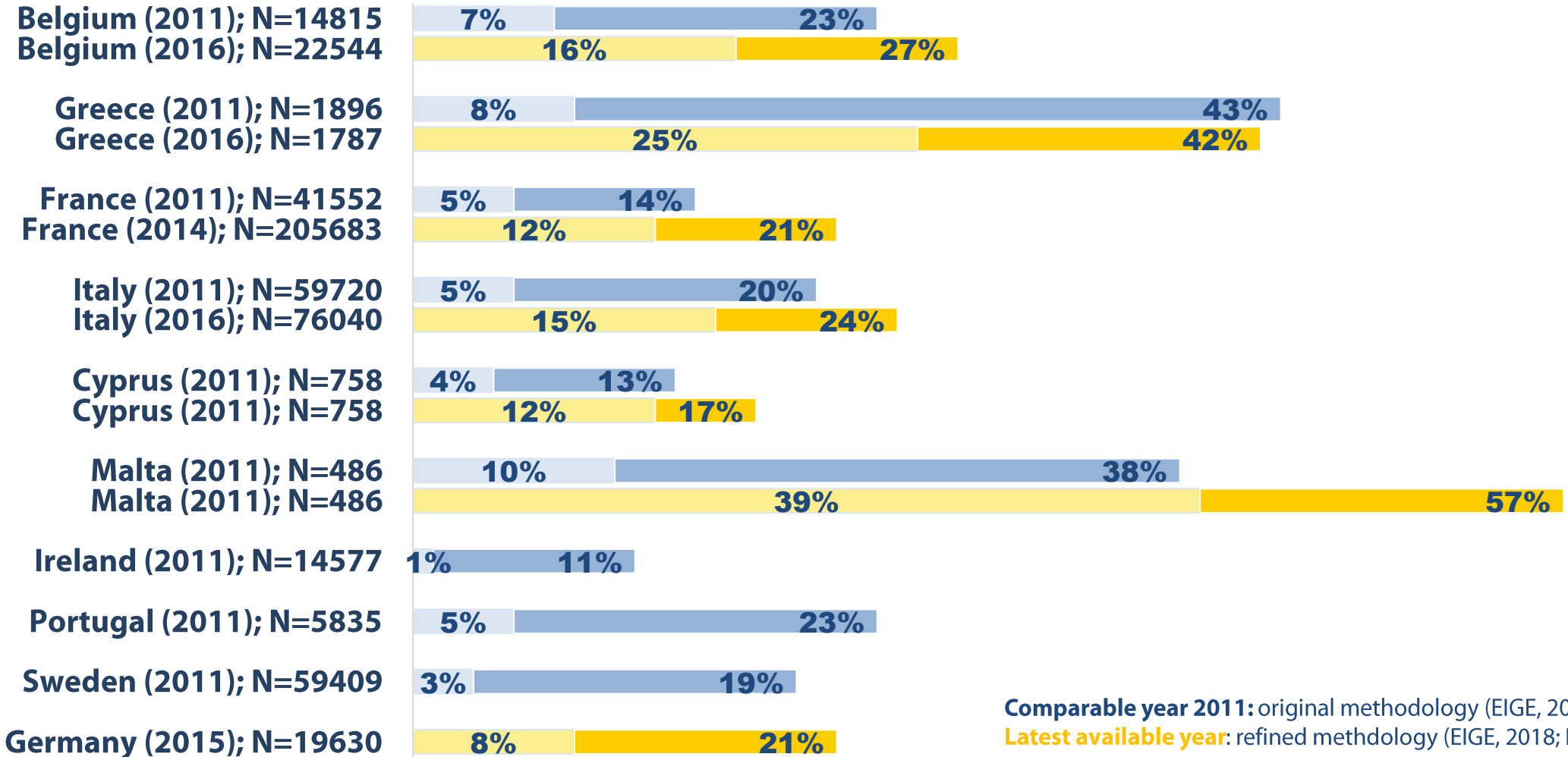
How EIGE estimates risk?



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

Proportions at risk



Comparable 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**

Greece

Numbers at risk and countries of origin

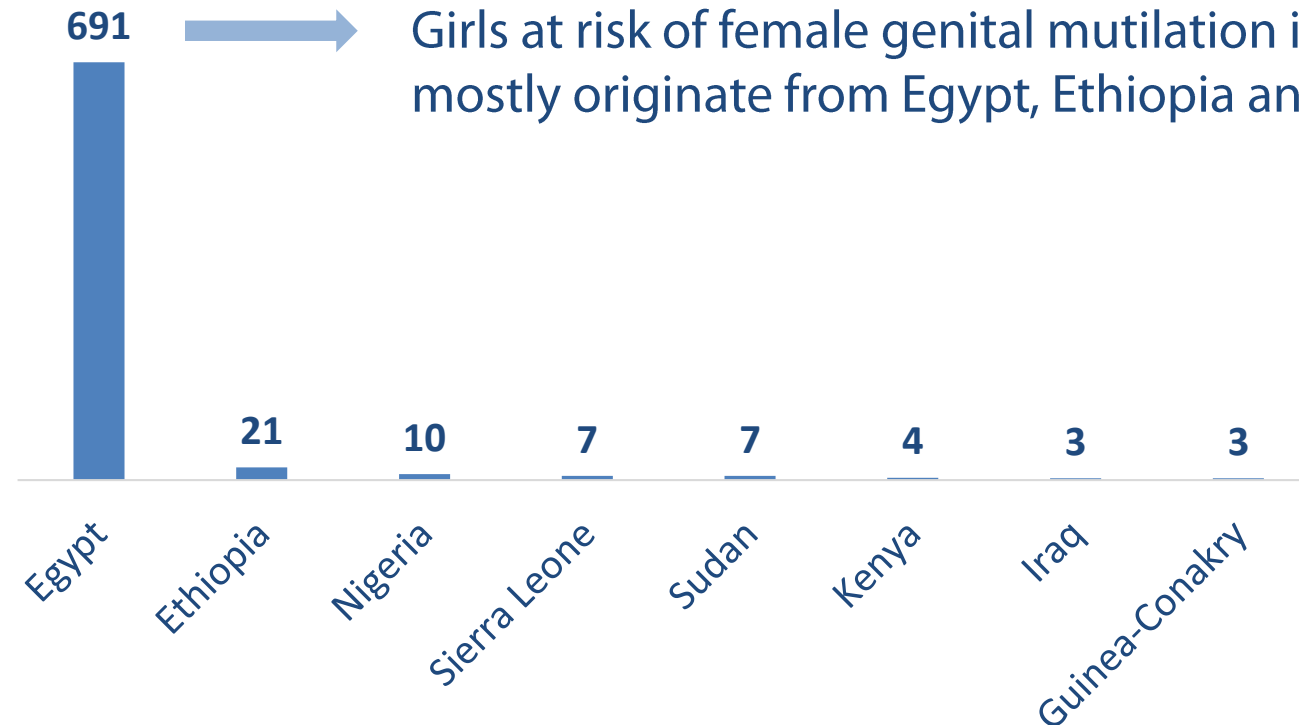
Greece



25 – 42 %
at risk of FGM



Out of a total population of 1787 girls aged 0-18 originating from countries where female genital mutilation is practiced.



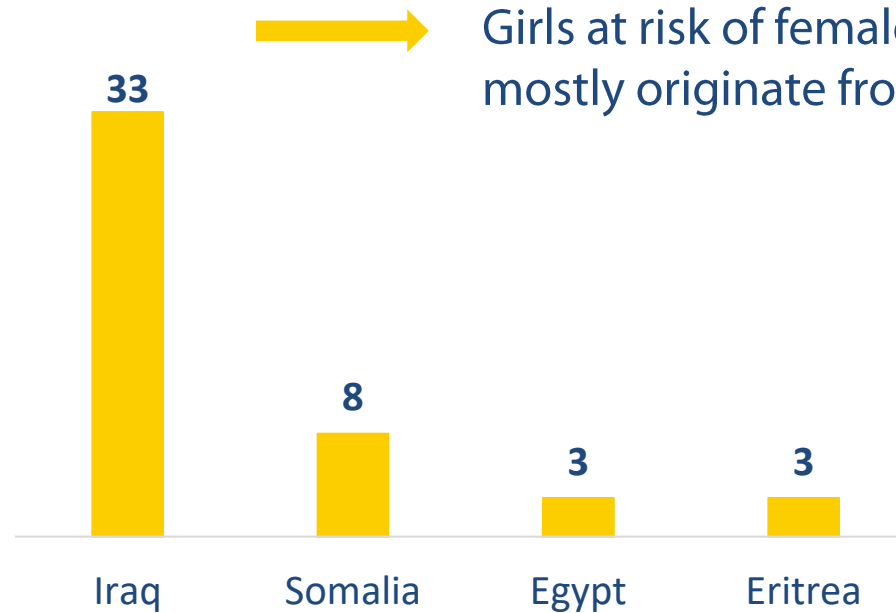
Asylum-seeking girls at risk and countries of origin

Greece



5 %
at risk of FGM

→ Out of a total population of 1 123 asylum seeking girls aged 0-18 originating from countries where female genital mutilation is practiced.



Community perspectives in Greece

Egyptian and
Sudanese women
Aged 25+
1 generation



Nigerian and
Egyptian women
Aged 18-25
2 generation

Open discussions vs. private matter

**Traditions in the home country vs.
risk when travelling abroad**

**Purity, chastity vs. ackling
traditionals views on girls' sexuality**

**Awareness-raising and tackling
misbeliefs**

Egyptian and Syrian
men
Aged 25+
1 and 2 generation



Somalian women
Aged 21-40
1 generation

Recommendations

Ways forward for Greece

- ✓ Strengthen prosecution
- ✓ Adopt a gender-sensitive asylum system
- ✓ Implement a national prevention strategy
- ✓ Create and implement policies with communities.
- ✓ Provide multidisciplinary support services.

Ways forward for Greece

- ✓ Train professionals and educate
- ✓ Engage men for change
- ✓ Raise awareness about the law and health consequences
- ✓ Tackle misbeliefs on religious requirements
- ✓ Undertake regular risk estimations with better available data.

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