



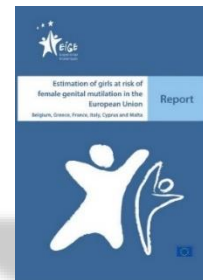
Female genital mutilation: estimating girls at risk in the EU

Eleonora Esposito - Jurgita Pečiūrienė

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**.

EIGE's Research



Good practices

Methodology

Risk estimations

Country factsheets

2013

2015

2018

2021

2013

2015

2018

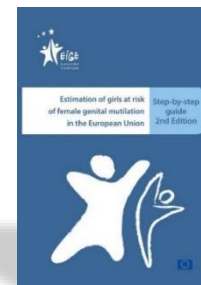
2018



Country factsheets

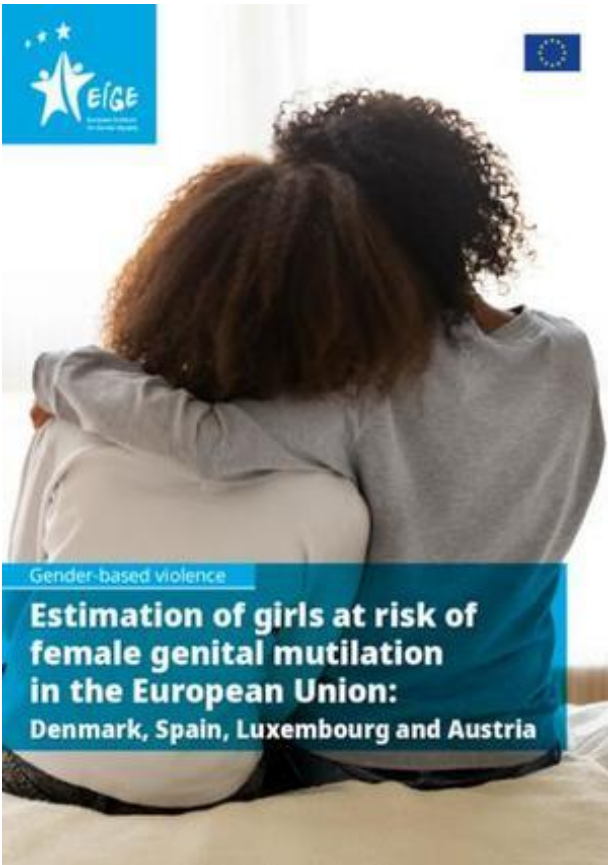


Risk estimations



Risk estimations
Country factsheets

Refined
Methodology



Female genital mutilation

How many girls are at risk in Luxembourg?

Girls at risk

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) estimates that 10.17% of girls (150-199 girls aged 0-18) are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Luxembourg, out of a total population of 422 girls aged 0-18 in 2019 and originating from countries where FGM is practised. Of these 150 require girls, 76 (51%) are second-generation.

Girls at risk of FGM in Luxembourg mostly originate from Eritrea. Smaller groups of girls originate from Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Somalia and Sudan (1).

Asylum-seeking and refugee girls

In 2019, there were 121 asylum-seeking girls in Luxembourg (this number is separate from regular migrants). EIGE estimates that 16% of asylum-seeking girls aged 0-18 in Luxembourg are at risk of FGM (2).

FGM is a severe form of gender-based violence, leaving deep physical and psychological scars and affecting the lives of victims around the world. It is a violent form of subordination of women and girls and it stands in gross contradiction to the principles of gender equality. It is a violation of women's and girls' human rights.

According to the World Health Organization, FGM refers to all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (3).

About the study

EIGE has developed a methodology to estimate the number of girls at risk of FGM in the EU and has applied it to a total of 10 Member States. The calculation of FGM risk considers two scenarios. In the high-risk scenario, it is assumed that there is no influence of migration and that girls originating from an FGM-practising country and living in an EU Member State face the same risk as they had never migrated. In the low-risk scenario, it is assumed that migration and acculturation influence changing attitudes and behaviour regarding FGM (4).

The latest study 'Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union - Denmark, Spain, Luxembourg and Austria' was conducted in 2020. It provides the EU institutions and EU Member States with accurate information on FGM and its risk among girls in the EU. This enables the design of targeted policies to eradicate FGM.

(1) Population Agency (2019) (2) EIGE (2019) (3) World Health Organization (2018) (4) EIGE (2019)

Female genital mutilation

How many girls are at risk in Austria?

Girls at risk

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) estimates that 10.16% of all girls (170-189 girls aged 0-18) are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Austria, out of a total population of 170 girls aged 0-18 in 2019 and originating from countries where FGM is practised. Of these 170 require girls, 108 (63%) are second-generation.

Girls at risk of FGM in Austria mostly originate from Egypt and Somalia. Smaller groups originate from Ethiopia, Guinea, Iraq, Nigeria and Sudan (1).

Asylum-seeking and refugee girls

From 2016 until the first half of 2020, there were 2,899 asylum-seeking girls aged 0-18 originating from FGM-practising countries. Of that total, the number of people granted asylum and living in Austria was around 1,000. EIGE estimates that 31% of asylum-seeking girls are at risk of FGM in Austria (2).

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Female genital mutilation

How many girls are at risk in Spain?

Girls at risk

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) estimates that 11.91% of girls (148-162 girls aged 0-18) are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Spain, out of a total population of 124 girls aged 0-18 in 2019 and originating from countries where FGM is practised. Of these 124 require girls, 76 (61%) are second-generation.

Girls at risk of FGM in Spain mostly originate from Guinea, Mali and The Gambia. Smaller groups of girls originate from Egypt, Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal (1).

Asylum-seeking and refugee girls

No disaggregated data for asylum-seekers and refugees was available from the Ministry of Interior.

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Female genital mutilation

How many girls are at risk in Denmark?

Girls at risk

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) estimates that 11.21% of girls (148-158 girls aged 0-18) are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Denmark, out of a total population of 132 girls aged 0-18 in 2019 and originating from countries where FGM is practised. Of these 142 require girls, 82 (58%) are second-generation.

Girls at risk of FGM in Denmark mostly originate from Iraq and Somalia. Smaller groups originate from Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Sudan (1).

Asylum-seeking and refugee girls

In 2019, there were 257 asylum-seeking girls aged 0-18 originating from FGM-practising countries, and 258 girls were granted asylum. Spain requires, from regular migrants, EIGE estimates that 17% of asylum-seeking girls are at risk of FGM in Denmark (2). Although only migrants who have been granted asylum are included in the 'regular migrant' category (3), EIGE estimates that a higher percentage of asylum-seeking girls are at risk of FGM compared to regular migrants.

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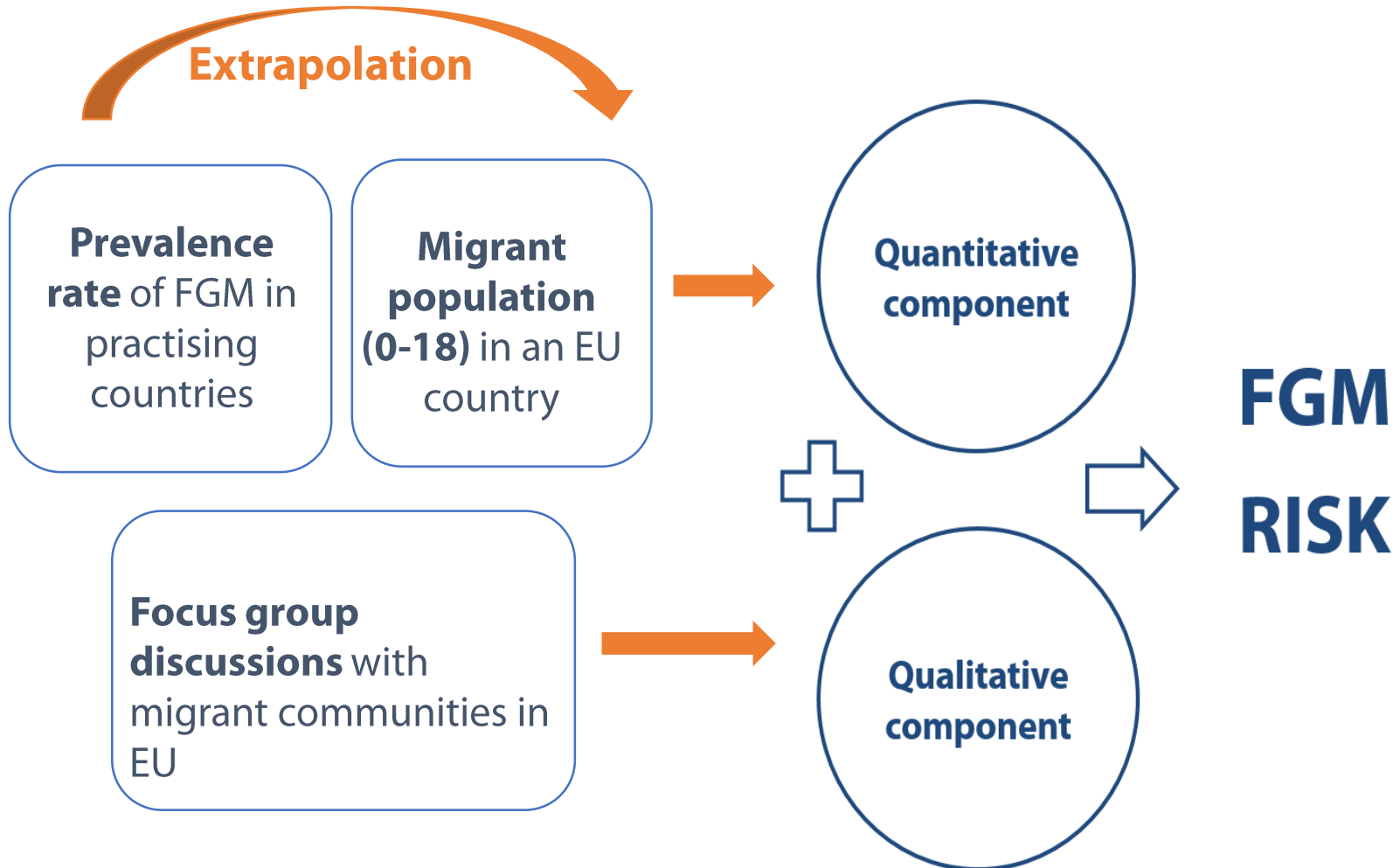
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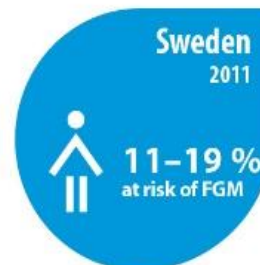


How does EIGE estimate risk?



Number* of girls at risk of Female Genital Mutilation

* The percentages are calculated out of the number of girls originating from countries where FGM is practised



Quantative data: AT DK ES LU

- The communities statistically **most at risk** across the four Member States are **Egypt, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan** and **Guinea**.
- **Spain** has the **largest number of girls at risk** but the has **the smallest proportion** of girls at risk in both scenarios.
- Detailed and reliable data on **asylum-seekers** in DK, LU and AT. Information on **refugees** was available in DK and LU.
- **Increases** in the number of migrants from FGM-practising countries since 2011 has pushed up the total number of girls at risk in **ES, LU and AU**.
- Changes in countries of origin of migrants in **ES and AU** have **decreased** the share of girls at particularly high risk of FGM.

Risk factors for FGM

- The absolute **number of girls** at risk must be read together with **prevalence**
- The risk of FGM is **less pronounced** while a girl is in Europe
- FGM is perceived as being a **cultural rather than religious tradition**

Specific criminal law on FGM

-  EU-27 Member States with specific criminal law provision on FGM 'mutilation'
-  Non-EU countries with specific criminal law provision on FGM
-  Draft changes proposed to penal code but not yet
-  EU-27 Member States with no specific criminal law provision on FGM or
-  Country not in scope of desk review



FGM-related court cases in Member States

- There is **insufficient information on the number of cases and prosecutions** available in Member States
- **Less than half** of all Member States monitor and/or publish ad-hoc information concerning FGM.
- **Number** of court cases is generally **low**

National strategies

- **FGM-specific action plan (BE, SE, FR, FI)**
- **Specific strategies (BG, CZ, EE, IE, EL, ES, HR, IT, CY, LT, LU HU, NL, AT, PT, RO, SK and UK)**
- **No plan tackling FGM (DK, DE, LV, MT, PL, SI)**

National strategies

- 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
 - **Few Strategies involving men or communities**
- **National guidance for professionals on how to deal with FGM**
 - **Developed by 10 EU Member States**

Tackling FGM - Denmark

- There is a general consensus that Denmark has made **substantial progress** in tackling FGM.
- FGM was made **illegal in 2003**. The law has not led to many prosecutions.
- Implemented a **general action plan** on gender-based violence, **not directed towards FGM**.
- FGM is part of the **medical training** for doctors and midwives. Focus group and interview participants suggested that doctors could be **better educated on FGM**.

Tackling FGM - Spain

- **FGM is criminalized in Spain.**
- **State Pact against Gender-Based Violence (2018-2022).**
- In 2015, the **Common Protocol for a healthcare response to FGM** was developed by the Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality.

Tackling FGM - Luxembourg

- Luxembourg's **legal framework** has explicitly prohibited FGM since 2008.
- **Child protection provisions** has been in place with respect to FGM since 2008.
- **Asylum provisions** for reception conditions explicitly recognise victims of FGM.
- There is **no clear or explicit** government policy to tackle FGM
- **Prevention efforts** against FGM has been **scarce**.
- The issue of FGM is still **new and requires a lot more action**.

Tackling FGM - Austria

- Since 2006 FGM is considered a **crime against sexual integrity and autonomy**.
- Since 2020 The **National Children and Youth Services Law** was implemented.
- **Health counselling centres provide services for women.**
- Implemented a **general action plan** on gender-based violence, **not directed towards FGM**.
- **Austrian-wide advisory structure for victims of FGM** is a important measure to combat FGM (Austrian Red Cross and *FEM Süd*).

Winning the fight against FGM

- FGM-affected communities **hold negative views around the practice**
- Affected communities are usually aware that **FGM is illegal** in Europe
- Affected communities could not imagine **FGM being performed in Europe**
- Affected communities often **lead efforts to eliminate FGM**

Ways forward for Member States

- Address the **gender dimension** of FGM in all related measures
- Adopt a **national action plan** that includes FGM
- **Involve FGM-affected communities** in the creation and implementation of policies
- Ensure access to **comprehensive support services** and provide adequate **funding**

Ways forward for Member States

- Recognise FGM as a **ground for asylum**
- Apply **gender-sensitive asylum procedures** that are tailored to the needs of applicants
- Improve **enforcement of FGM-related legislation**
- **Monitor the impact** of FGM-related legislation and policy



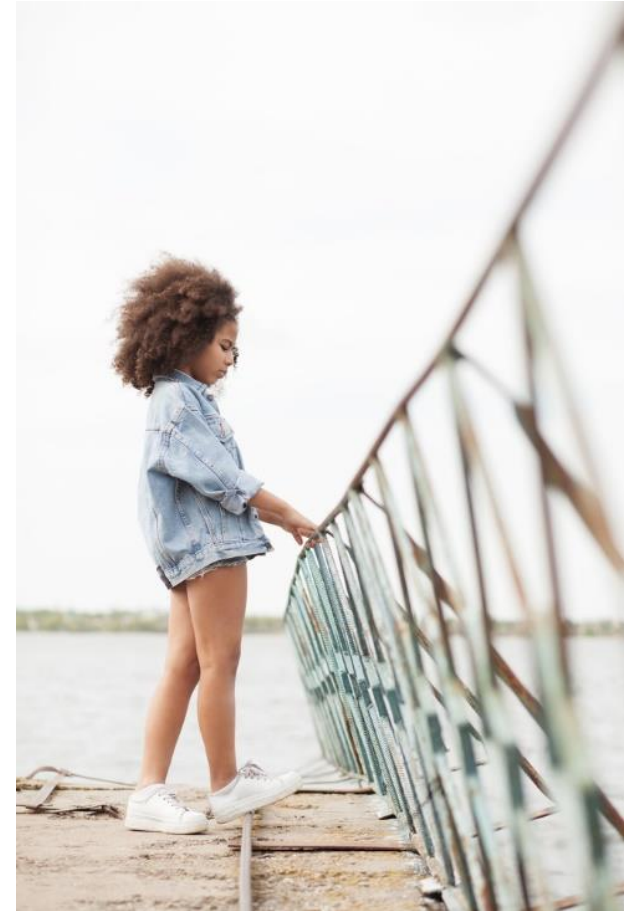
Ways forward for Member States

- **Prevent FGM** through the education system
- Effectively **engage communities** by breaking down cultural barriers
- Ensure **culturally sensitive outreach** to communities
- Create **safe spaces for community discussion**
- **Engage men**



Ways forward for the EU

- Accede the **Istanbul Convention** or propose measures to achieve same objectives
- Ensure that risks of FGM are addressed in the new **Pact on Migration and Asylum**
- Increase **integration** within Member States
- Increase the EU's **external action** to prevent FGM



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Enough is enough!



Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

EIGE research shows how important a strong legal framework is for the prevention of FGM. Simply having a law in place is not enough. Training for professionals implementing the law and awareness raising amongst the communities & asylum-seekers is vital.

www.eige.europa.eu

#endFGM