

*Dr. Valery Engel,
President of the European Centre for Democracy Development.*

XENOPHOBIA, RADICALISM AND HATE CRIME IN EUROPE, 2015

(Text of Presentation)

The conducted study aimed to analyse the most prominent manifestations of hate in European countries in 2015 and to identify factors that affect the demand for radicalism in society. The study also focused on the preparedness and responses of governments to modern challenges. Research was conducted in 8 EU member states (France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom), as well as Russia and Ukraine, as countries who play a significant role in political and economic processes in Europe.

The study involved researchers from various universities and research centres across Europe: Department of History at Northampton University, UK; Teesside University, Centre for Fascist, Anti-Fascist and Post-Fascist Studies, UK; Chair of sociology at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest; Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington, US; Panteion University of Athens; Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement; Jagiellonian University, Dept. of History, Krakow; Russian Institute of the National Policy and Inter-Ethnic Relations Studies, Moscow; Ukrainian Institute of the Political Analysis and Management; Human Rights Centre “Religion and the Law”, Kiev.

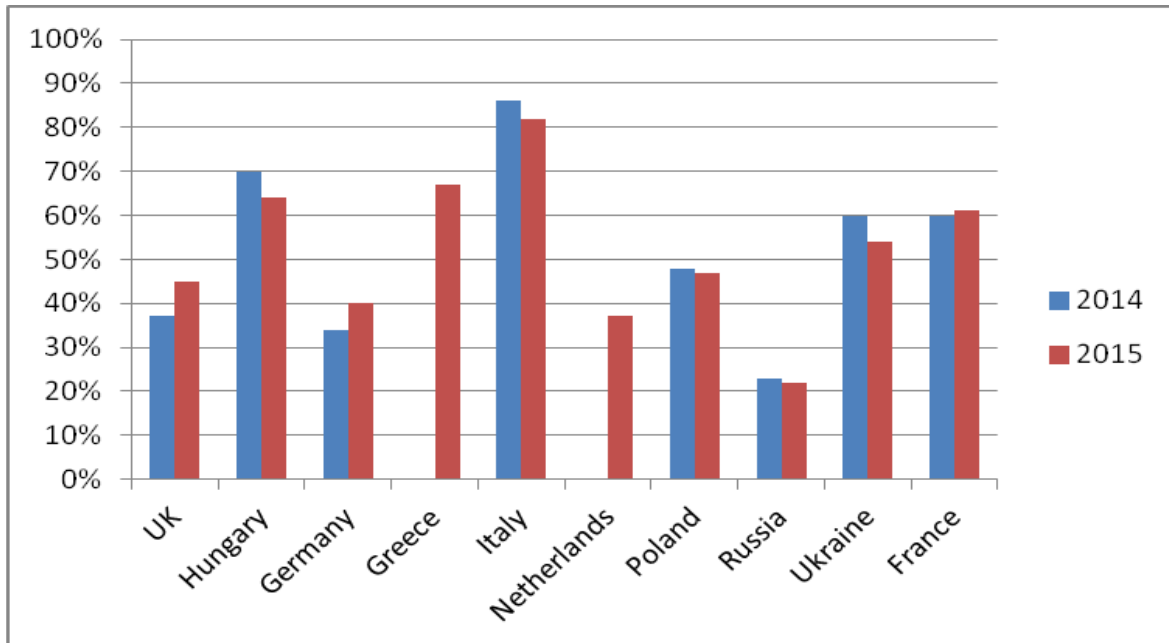
Conducted analysis indicates a growing crisis of tolerance in Europe. This is revealed by the explosive growth of hatred, which is expressed in widespread xenophobic attitudes, increased popularity of radical parties and groups, sharp increase in hate crime and extremist activities, and so on.

We can say today that European society is currently on the brink of a conflict between two civilizations, a split along ethnic and religious lines and a “war of values”.

First of all we can say about the high level of Xenophobia in 2015. Like in 2014 the widely spread are the anti-Roma sentiments. According to various opinion polls, negative attitude towards Roma has been expressed by 82% in Italy (86% in 2014), 67% Greece, 64% Hungary (70% in 2014), 61% France (60% in 2014), 54% Ukraine (60%), 47% Poland (48%), 45% United Kingdom (37%), 40% Germany (34%), 37% Netherlands, and 22% in Russia (23% in 2014). Aside from

Germany and the United Kingdom, most countries maintained neutral or negative trends compared to 2014.

Fig. 1. Anti-Roma sentiments in 2014 and 2015.¹

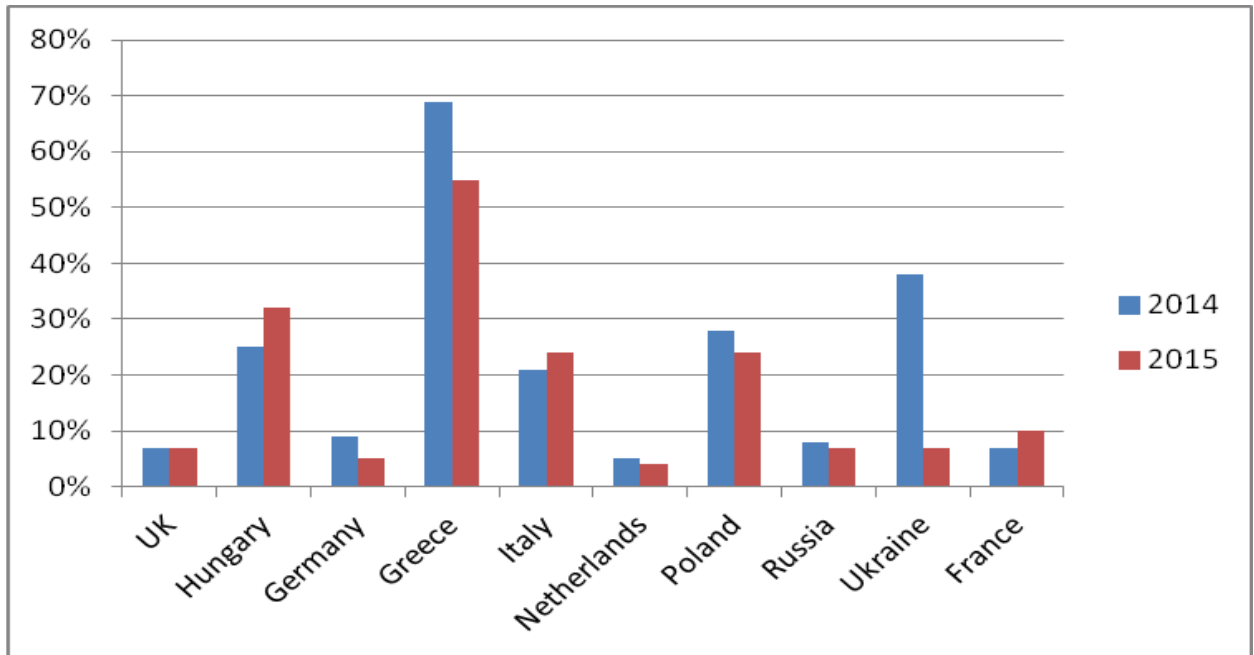


There have been positive developments in terms of *anti-Semitism*.

We observed a general decline in levels of anti-Semitism in most countries, except for France, Hungary and Italy. The number of people expressing such views in Greece is 55% (69% in 2014), 32% in Hungary (25% in 2014), Italy – 24% (21%), Poland – 24% (28%), of French – 10% (7%), Russia – 7% (8%), Ukraine – 7% (there is no data available for 2014, however in 2013 this figure was 38%, according to Anti-Defamation League), United Kingdom – 7% (7%), Germany – 5% (9%) and the Netherlands – 4% (5%). It must also be noted that the level of anti-Semitism in Europe is directly affected by tensions in the Middle East.

¹ 2014 - http://www.nationalpolicy.ru/obshcheevropeyskiy-doklad/DOCLAD2_1.pdf
 2015 - <http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2016/07/Lede-chart-2.png>; <http://www.levada.ru/2015/08/25/ksenofobiya-i-natsionalizm/>; https://www.gfk.com/fileadmin/user_upload/dyna_content/UA/Molod_Ukraine_2015_UA.pdf

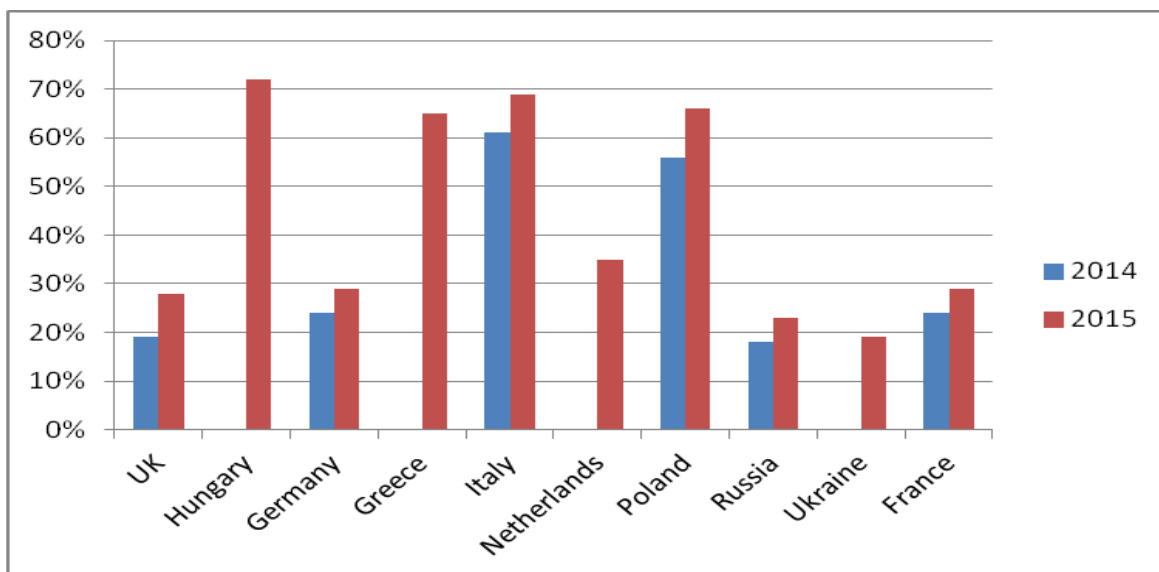
Fig. 2. Anti-Semitic sentiments in 2014 and 2015.²



Indicators of *Islamophobia* paint a different picture.

There has been an increase of anti-Muslim sentiments in 2015, with Hungary demonstrating the highest level of Islamophobia – 72%. It is followed by Italy – 69% (61% in 2014), Poland – 66% (56%), Greece – 65%, the Netherlands – 35%, Germany – 29% (24%), France – 29% (24%), UK – 28% (19%), Russia – 23% (18%) and Ukraine – 19%³.

Fig. 3. Anti-Muslim sentiments in 2014 and 2015.



² Ibid.

³ 2014 - http://www.nationalpolicy.ru/obshcheevropeyskiy-doklad/DOCLAD2_1.pdf

2015 - <http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2016/07/Lede-chart-2.png>; <http://www.levada.ru/2015/08/25/ksenofobiya-i-natsionalizm/>; https://www.gfk.com/fileadmin/user_upload/dyna_content/UA/Molod_Ukraine_2015_UA.pdf

It is worth noting that while Italy, Greece, UK, Germany, France and Russia have proportionally high Muslim and refugee populations, they are much lower in Hungary and Poland. Therefore, the rising anti-Muslim sentiments in these two countries can be attributed to discussions of the refugee crisis in the media.

There is another factor, that is less commonly discussed. In spring 2016, American Pew Research Center conducted an interesting survey among EU residents. Respondents were asked whether being Christian is truly important to be considered a true citizen of their country. The question was answered positively by 54% of Greeks, 32% of Poles, 30% of Italians and 29% of Hungarians. More than 80% of citizens of other countries subject to this review responded negatively⁴. In the same survey, respondents answered whether they believe that the majority of Muslims in their countries support the so-called Islamic State (ISIS). 71% of Greeks held such a belief, along with 85% of Italians, 85% of Hungarians and 88% of Poles⁵.

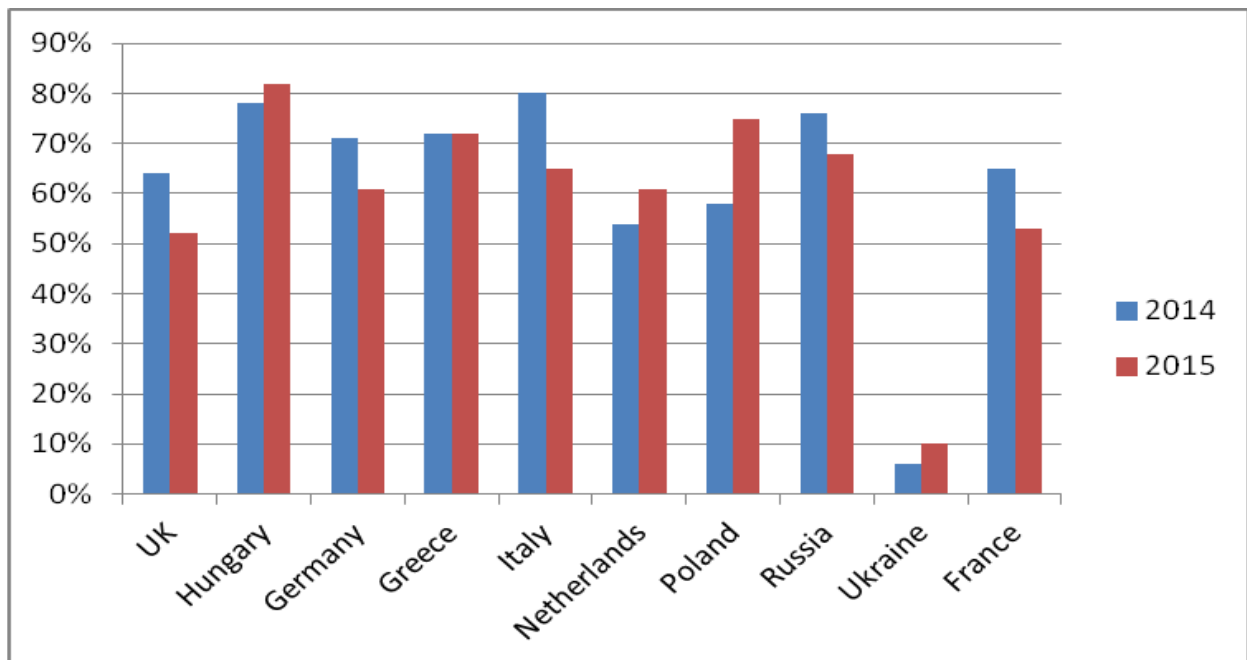
If we compare this information with figures 2 and 3 above, which demonstrate attitudes towards Muslims and Jews, we see that these sentiments are not affected by the number of immigrants or Muslims in the country, but rather the strength of Christian traditions in the population. It is these countries that have the strongest extreme right-wing parties. Of course, this does not mean that the Church is responsible for the growth of xenophobic sentiments, but the key to tolerance is largely in the hands of the Church.

One of the widely spread phobias today is Migrantophobia. However, oddly enough, it is slightly down compared to 2014, with the exception of Hungary and Poland. This, again, those countries, especially Poland, where the migrant is substantially less than in Western European countries.

⁴ http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2016/07/GA_2016.07.11_national_identity-01-07.png

⁵ http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2016/07/GA_2016.07.11_national_identity-02-04.png

Fig. 4. Anti-migrant sentiments in 2014 and 2015.⁶



The general decline in anti-migrant sentiments in other countries indicates that their residents became more sympathetic towards migrants fleeing the atrocities in Syria and Iraq. Government policies and rhetoric also contributed to this improvement. Respondents in these countries do not associate the term “migrants” with “Muslims”, even though majority of refugees are followers of Islam. Furthermore, we noticed that many of those who fear migrants are nevertheless prepared to help them. For example, according to a survey conducted by the Greek Polling Company in January 2016, more than 60% of Greeks living in cities and towns expressed solidarity with refugees against 40% of Greeks living in the countryside⁷.

This is in many ways related to public awareness policies conducted by local governments and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. For example, in 2015 UNHCR organised a survey among refugees in Greece⁸. It assisted in creating a sociological portrait of an average Syrian migrant. It turned out that 86% of refugees are educated to a secondary or higher level – students were the largest group among respondents. Many were separated from and lost

⁶ Cm. <http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2016/07/Lede-chart-1.png>; <http://www.voxeurop.eu/en/content/news-brief/4932007-map-showing-eu-countries-attitude-towards-foreign-immigration>;

<http://www.levada.ru/2015/08/25/ksenofobiya-i-natsionalizm/>
⁷ http://www.dianeosis.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/immigration_04.pdf

⁸ <http://www.dianeosis.org/2016/02/to-profil-twn-prosfygikwn-rown-pros-tin-ellada-to-2015/>

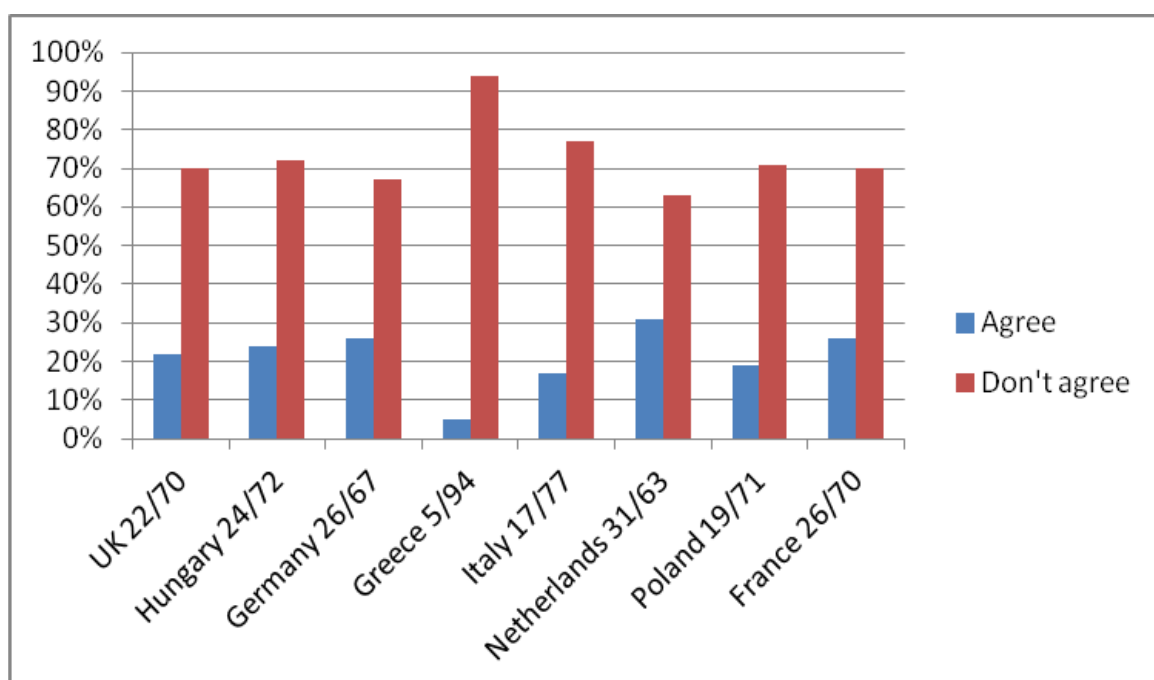
contact with their families, 6% were unaccompanied or separated children. 5% were victims of torture, 65% said that they have no special needs.

Majority of surveyed refugees intended to seek asylum in other EU countries – predominantly in Germany.

At the same time, most respondents in the monitored countries were unhappy with EU policy regarding refugees.

Amnesty International reported that 94% of citizens in Germany, 84% in Britain and 83% in Greece believe that refugees must be assisted, but placed in safe *third* countries⁹. Consequently, this was the catalyst for the European Commission introducing quotas in refugee placement across the EU.

Fig. 5. Opinions about the EU refugee policy (2015)¹⁰



Homophobia.

Figure 6 demonstrates high levels of homophobia in countries that have more widespread Christian traditions. These are: Russia (65%; 74% in 2014), Hungary (51%); Poland (48%); Ukraine (45%; 80% in 2013¹¹ - this is explained by the different age groups of respondents, where people under 35 years old are more tolerant towards LGBT¹²), Greece (38%; 40% in 2014). It

⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/05/refugees-welcome-index-shows-government-refugee-policies-out-of-touch/>

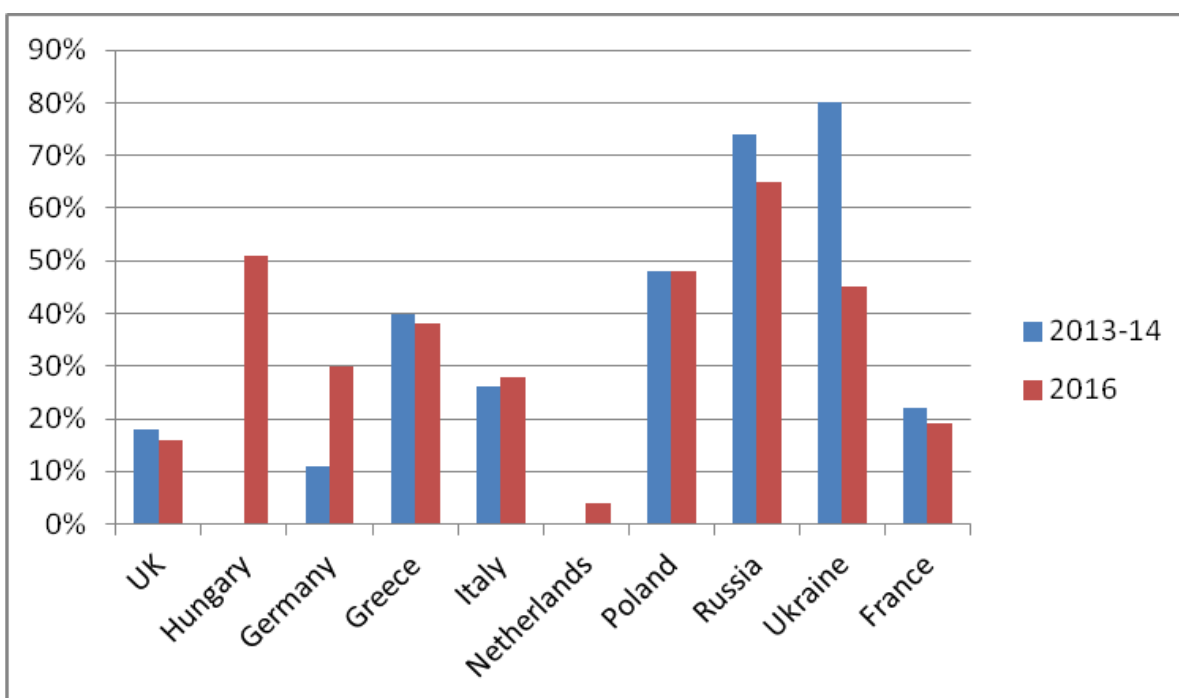
¹⁰ <http://www.pewglobal.org/2016/06/07/euroskepticism-beyond-brexite/>

¹¹ <http://newsplot.org/id/2013/09/10/ukraina-ne-evropa-otnoshenie-k-odnopoloj-lyubvi-v-ukraine-takoe-zhe-kak-i-v-musulmanskih-stranah/>

¹² The survey conducted in Ukraine in 2015 focused on people aged 18-35

must also be noted that such sentiments more often than not are disseminated through various media platforms that use hate speech against minorities

Fig. 6. Negative attitudes towards sexual minorities.¹³



Thus, analysing information relating to xenophobia in 2015 shows that Islamophobia was the main issue in the monitored countries, the level of which has risen since 2014 by 10-15% on average.

At the same time, hostile attitudes towards Roma and Jewish people are on the gradual decline, which could be due to these sentiments being replaced by Islamophobia. It must also be noted that there is a clear correlation between anti-Semitism in European countries and operations carried out by Israel in the Middle East. Israel did not conduct any large military operations in 2015, which also affected the decline of anti-Semitism. At the same time, 80% of terrorist attacks in recent years (for example in Belgium and France) have been aimed against Jews.

RADICALS

Radical parties and groups are a catalyst for xenophobic attitudes in society, capable of directing them into protest actions and even hate crime. They can only exist in conditions of perpetuated fears of “foreign influence” and perceived threats

¹³ <http://www.pewglobal.org/2013/06/04/the-global-divide-on-homosexuality/>; http://www.ilga-europe.org/sites/default/files/2016/full_annual_review.pdf; https://www.gfk.com/fileadmin/user_upload/dyna_content/UA/Molod_Ukraine_2015_UA.pdf; <http://www.levada.ru/15-05-2015/nevidimoe-menshinstvo-k-probleme-gomofobii-v-rossii>

to identity. In Europe, extremist groups can be split into the radical right-wing and Islamists.

Right-wing extremists are against EU membership, advocating closed borders, deportation of refugees, etc. Their positions are aggressively nationalist, Islamophobic, anti-Semitic or anti-Roma.

Islamists come out with anti-Western positions. Their task - to use a migration crisis in Europe, a wave of xenophobia and anti-terrorism measures of the authorities to incite hatred, not only among the refugees, but also among Muslims who are living in Europe for a long time. Their goal - to recruit as many supporters of "jihad" and, if possible, to provoke inter-ethnic clashes, which further divide society along ethnic and religious lines, and thus increase the base for recruitment.

Their propaganda basic thesis is: *there is a war between Islam and the West. And Muslims have to choose, where they are.* Islamist groups operate legally and illegally, combining propaganda, recruiting and terrorist activities. Moreover, each group is responsible for their part. For example, the *Hisb Ut Tahrir* is the propaganda Organization and *Al-Muhadzirun* is the illegal terrorists group in UK.

"Territory of *jihad*" for the Islamists are France, Belgium, recently, Germany and Russia. Italy and Greece are using by the Islamists now, mainly for logistical purposes - manufacturing documents, transfer of militants, of money, etc. However, the security services have already fixed: the Islamists began penetration into the Muslim communities in these countries.

Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) reports that Hizb ut-Tahrir often acts as a gateway to other Islamist terrorist organisations, such as Al Qaeda, ISIS and others¹⁴. SSU estimates that Hizb ut-Tahrir is predominantly recruiting Crimean Tatars and persons of Syrian, Azerbaijani and Turkish descent, including both citizens of Ukraine and citizens of these countries.

Voluntary units of the Ukrainian Army have several battalions consisting of Muslim soldiers – 2 Chechen and 1 Crimean Tatar: 1. J. Dudayev Battalion (50-300 people; first commander, Isa Munaev, died under Debacle; Current commander: Adam Osmaev). At least one of fighters in this battalion is affiliated with ISIS – a Japanese Muslim, Shamil Tsuneoka Tanaka¹⁵; 2. Sheikh Mansour Battalion, part of the "Right Sector" (200-300 people; commander – Muslim Cheberloyevsky; based in Mariupol). Most fighters in this battalion are radical Muslims, fought in the Caucasus and Syria. In 2014, two of its soldiers were arrested in France for their affiliations with ISIS; 3. Crimea Battalion, part of the Dnepr-1 regiment, consisting of Crimean Tatars and Ukrainian Muslims (up to 100 people; commander: Isa (nickname)); 4. Chechen battalion called "Smert" ("Death") fought on the separatist side, along with

¹⁴ <http://news.allcrimea.net/news/2009/9/23/1253704500/>

¹⁵ <http://navoine.info/shamil-jap.html>

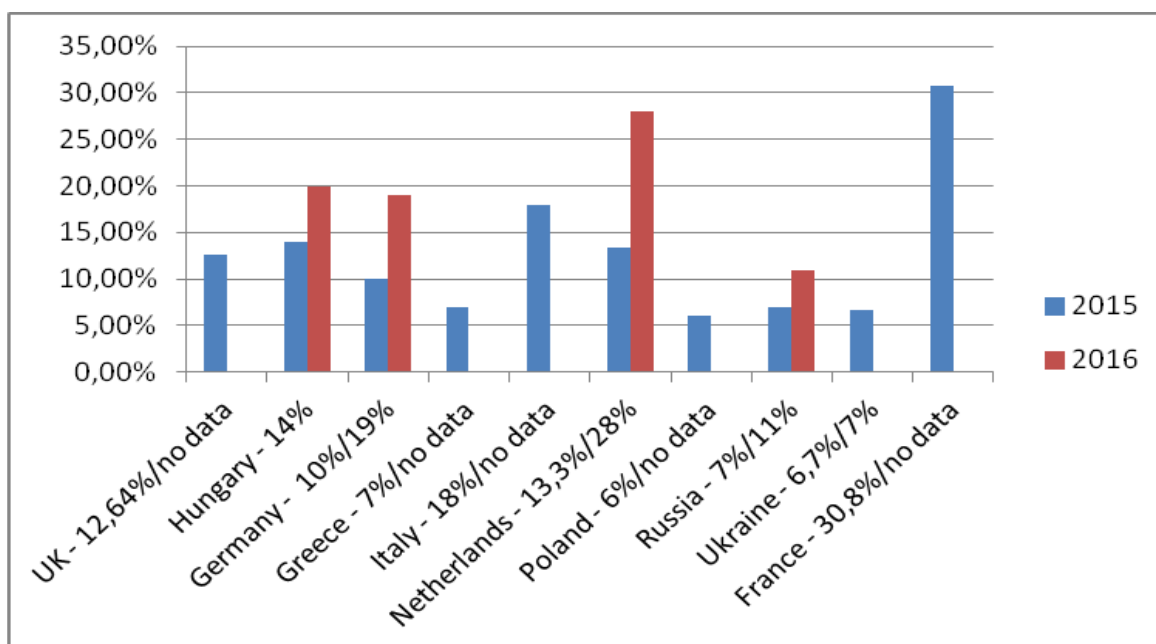
other Chechen units. However, no ties to Al Qaeda or ISIS have been revealed on their part.

At the same time, Islamist fighters have been gradually leaving Ukraine since the ceasefire. However, it is reported that groups affiliated with the Islamic State are recruiting volunteers experienced in Russian military technology.

Popularity of Islamist organisations is difficult to judge. British ICM Research organisation conducted a survey in France, which revealed that 16% of its citizens have positive views about the Islamic State. This figure was 27% among young people aged 18-24¹⁶. It is difficult to judge whether these findings reflect the real situation or not. French observers justifiably argue that 16% of the population is almost 11 million people, which seems an exaggerated figure.

But to measure the popularity of right-wing radicals was much easier.

Fig. 7. The Popularity of right-wing radical Parties in Europe



- UK - UKIP
- Hungary - Jobbik
- Germany - AFD
- Greece - Golden Dawn
- Italy - Liga Nord
- Netherlands - Freedom Party
- Poland - Ruch Narodowy
- Russia - Liberal-democratic Party
- Ukraine - Freedom Party

¹⁶ <http://europe.newsweek.com/16-french-citizens-support-isis-poll-finds-266795?rm=eu>

- France - National Front

What makes them successful?

- Migration crisis and the EU's inability to stand up to him.
- Total rightward of the Society (drift to the right of the ruling parties)
- The liberalization of the far right (pro-Jewish, pro-gay, pro-women, defenders of European values, only the anti-migrant and anti-Muslim slogans).

HATE CRIME

Hate crime is a prejudice-motivated crime that occurs when a perpetrator targets a victim because of his or her perceived membership in a certain social group. Examples of such groups include but are not limited to: ethnicity, gender identity, disability, language, nationality, physical appearance, religion, or sexual orientation.

Conducting a comparative analysis of crime rate and detection rate in different countries is extremely challenging, as the accuracy of sources and the availability of data, varies depending on the country.

For example, hate crime statistics in Great Britain, Germany, France, Poland, Russia and Ukraine are held to certain standards and are available in public domain (although some human rights observers doubt the validity of data in the latter two countries); however, countries like Hungary, Italy, Greece and the Netherlands do not publish such data or do not record hate crime at all. Non-governmental institutions in these countries also do not record accurate hate crime statistics.

This section provides statistical information relating to hate crime, sourcing information from open government institutions, where possible, and data provided by non-governmental organisations.

England and Wales saw a rise in hate crime by 18%, compared with 2014 (52 528 cases against 44 471 in 2014. Hate crime motivated by racism (82% of all hate crime) increased by 15% (42 930 vs 37 466). Religion-based hate crime saw a 43% increase in 2015 (2 269 vs 2 269)¹⁷. In addition, 6 202 hate crime cases were related to the LGBT minority (5 177 in 2014).

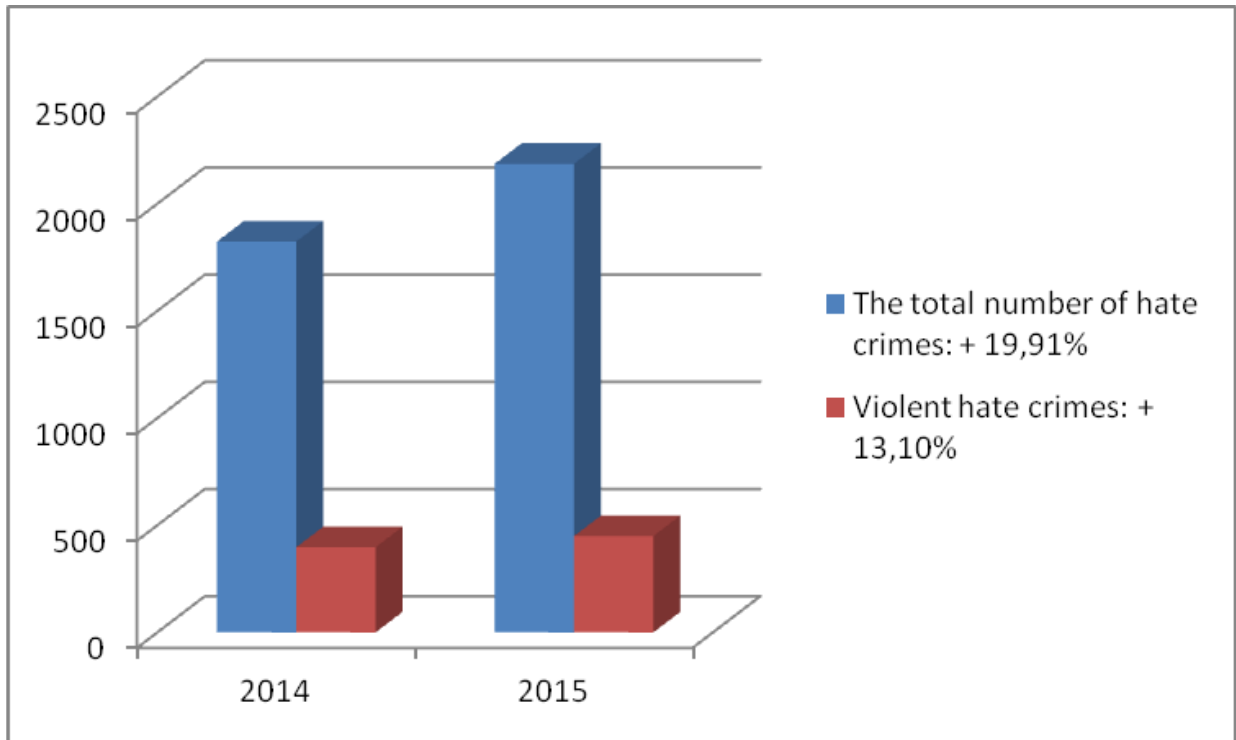
Police Service of *Northern Ireland* does not classify hate crime in the same way. Data published by PSNI in 2015 showed a 4.9% decrease in hate

¹⁷ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/467366/hosb0515.pdf

crime (from 2 281 cases in 2014 to 2 169 in 2015)¹⁸. At the time of writing, *Scottish* government has not released their hate crime statistics¹⁹.

In total, there were 2 186 cases of extremist crime (1 823 in 2014) in 2015 in France. Of those 449 involved violence²⁰ (397 in 2014²¹).

Fig. 8. Hate crime in France (2014 - 2015)



Greece is among the countries that are extremely not willing to provide information on hate crimes. Anyway, by the NGO data, 305 cases of hate crime have been observed in Greece in 2015 (41 were incidents involving violence)²². OSCE reports, citing various NGOs, that there have been 92 hate crimes in 2014²³, of which 51 involved violence²⁴).

¹⁸ <https://www.psnipolice.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/in-year-performance-against-policing-plan/documents/performance-summary-2015-16---end-of-year-report.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRacistIncidents>

²⁰ <http://www.antisemitisme.fr/dl/2015-EN.pdf>, p.29.

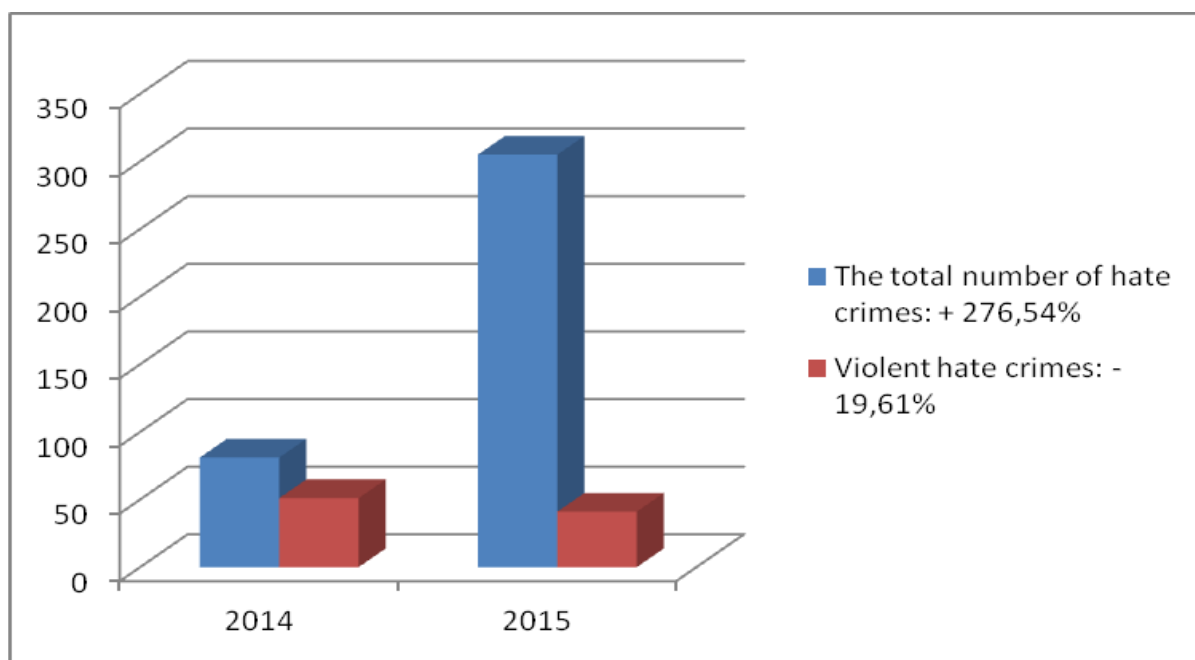
²¹ https://www.scribd.com/fullscreen/253859922?access_key=key-0UVFT1Tqs99tIuOt2uhY&allow_share=true&escape=false&view_mode=scroll, p.22.

²² <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/271/41/PDF/G1527141.pdf?OpenElement>

²³ <http://hatecrime.osce.org/greece>

²⁴ Ibid.

Fig. 9. Hate crime in Greece (2014 – 2015)



In *Poland*, Ministry of Internal Affairs reported 953 hate crime incidents in 2015, which is three times more than in 2014 (315 incidents; 176 in 2013).²⁵ More than 50% of those involved violence²⁶. 236 cases were committed against Roma (176 in 2014); 208 – against Jewish people (207); 37 – against Ukrainians (26); 12 – against Germans (12); 10 – against Russians (22)²⁷. Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs does not hold statistics for crimes committed against the LGBT community.

Italy is also not willing to share statistics. But NGO reports here about 732 Hate Crimes, for that year, of which 484 involve promotion of racism, 35 cases of physical violence (2 ended in deaths)²⁸. 596 hate crime incidents have occurred in Italy in 2014.

Therefore, if this information is valid, Italy has experienced a decline in violent hate crime and a relative increase in non-violent hate crime. This indicates that despite the general growth of xenophobic sentiments in the country, Italian government is so far successful in keeping the situation under control, including through preventative measures against incitement to hatred and hate speech.

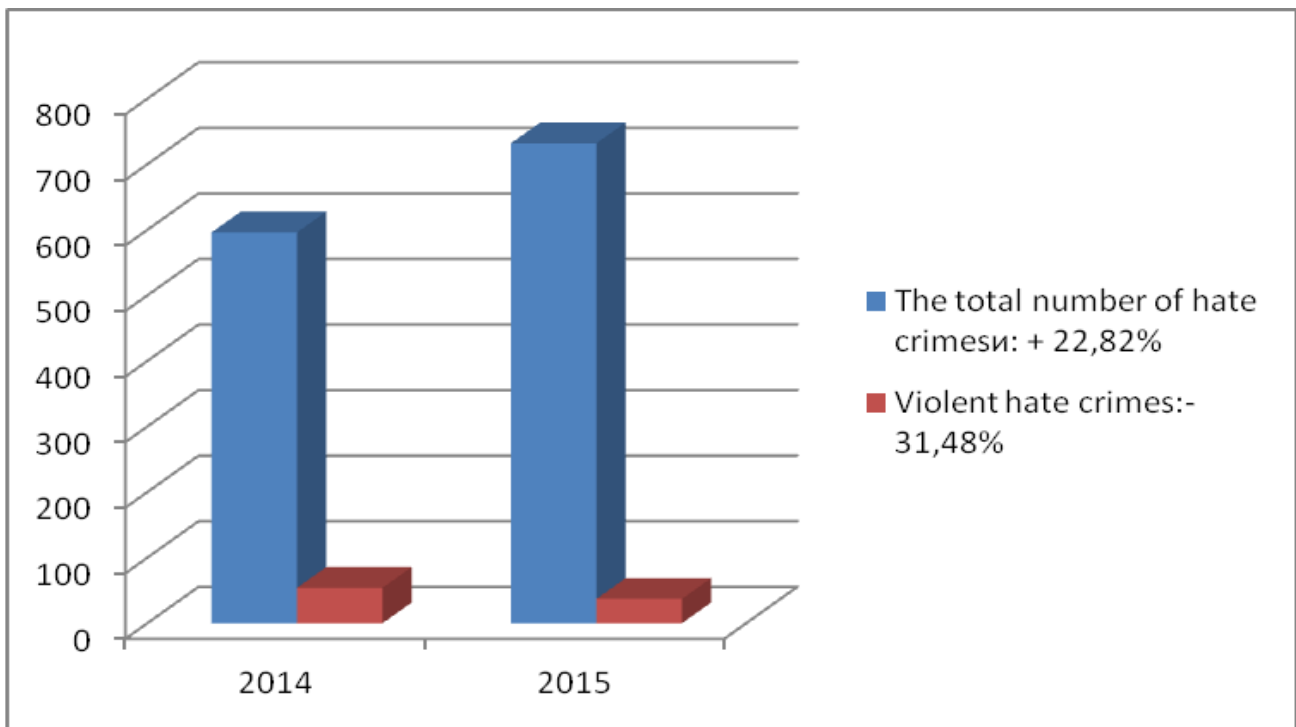
²⁵ Informacja o posiedzeniu Komisji Mniejszości Narodowych i Etnicznych, 27 kwietnia 2016 r., <http://www.sejm.gov.pl/sejm8.nsf/komunikat.xsp?documentId=B1E9CD52DE15EC2DC1257FA300428F6B>

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Zapis przebiegu posiedzenia Komisji Mniejszości Narodowych i Etnicznych z dnia 27 kwietnia 2016 r., <http://www.sejm.gov.pl/sejm8.nsf/biuletyn.xsp?documentId=85690E6B6256F6A2C1257FB10047D016>

²⁸ <https://www.cronachediordinariorazzismo.org>; cfr. : <https://www.favacarpediem.wordpress.com/2016/07/08>; cfr. <https://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/22017/>

Fig. 10. Hate crime in Italy (2014 - 2015)



Germany continues to publish hate crime statistics as part of statistics for politically motivated crime, which conceals the true scale of racist violence. Consequently, racist incidents and institutional discrimination is hidden in general statistics. Nevertheless, the Interior Ministry report contains some important figures.

According to the report, there have been 38 981 politically motivated crimes in 2014, which is a 19% increase since 2014²⁹. Of those, 8 518 were “xenophobic crimes” (hate crimes) – 8 209 committed by local extreme right activists, 77 by foreign nationals and 232 by persons of no political affiliation. This is a huge figure, given that there have been only 3 939 such cases in 2014 – an increase of 116.25%! Of those, 1 151 involved violence (707 in 2014)³⁰; 20 of those were attempted murders.³¹ Attacks on refugee centres have increased fivefold, from 199 in 2014 to 1031 in 2015. This includes 4 attempted murders, 60 incidents with bodily harm, 94 acts of vandalism and 8 cases involving explosives³². [Amadeu](#)

²⁹ <http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2016/05/pks-und-pmk-2015.html>

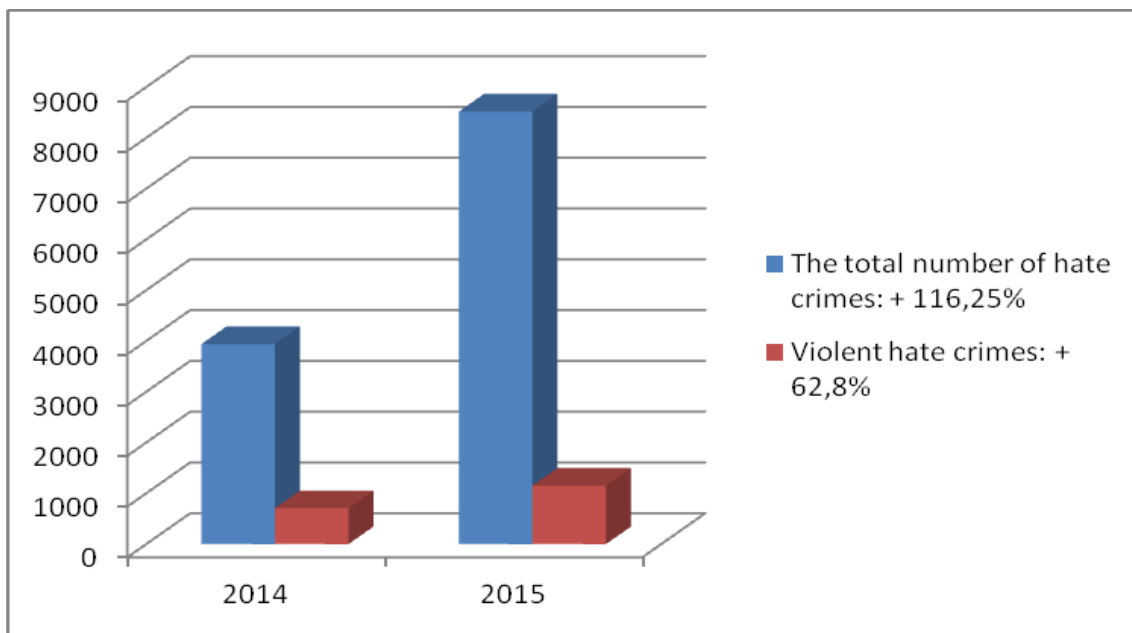
³⁰ http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Nachrichten/Pressemitteilungen/2016/05/pmk-2015-hasskriminalitaet.pdf%3Bjsessionid%3DD24B56A09330DC7DD969AE4C5FD0E938.2_cid373%3F_blob%3DpublicationFile&usg=ALkJrhjfBI7Kx2CE0e6vSN6S0G2QwpRpFw

³¹ <http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2016/05/pks-und-pmk-2015.html>

³² Ibid.

[Antonio Foundation](#) reports that 288 protest actions have been held near refugee centres in Germany in 2015 (292 in 2014)³³.

Fig. 11. Hate crime in Germany (2014 - 2015)



289 hate crimes were registered in 2015 in Netherlands (60 in 2014).

Hungary also refers to countries where there is no public official statistics on hate crimes. To some extent, non-governmental organizations cover this gap, although we have no firm confidence in the accuracy of their data.

According to the NGO's information, there have been 109 hate crime cases in Hungary in 2015, of which 32 involved violence (72 and 10 respectively for 2014³⁴).

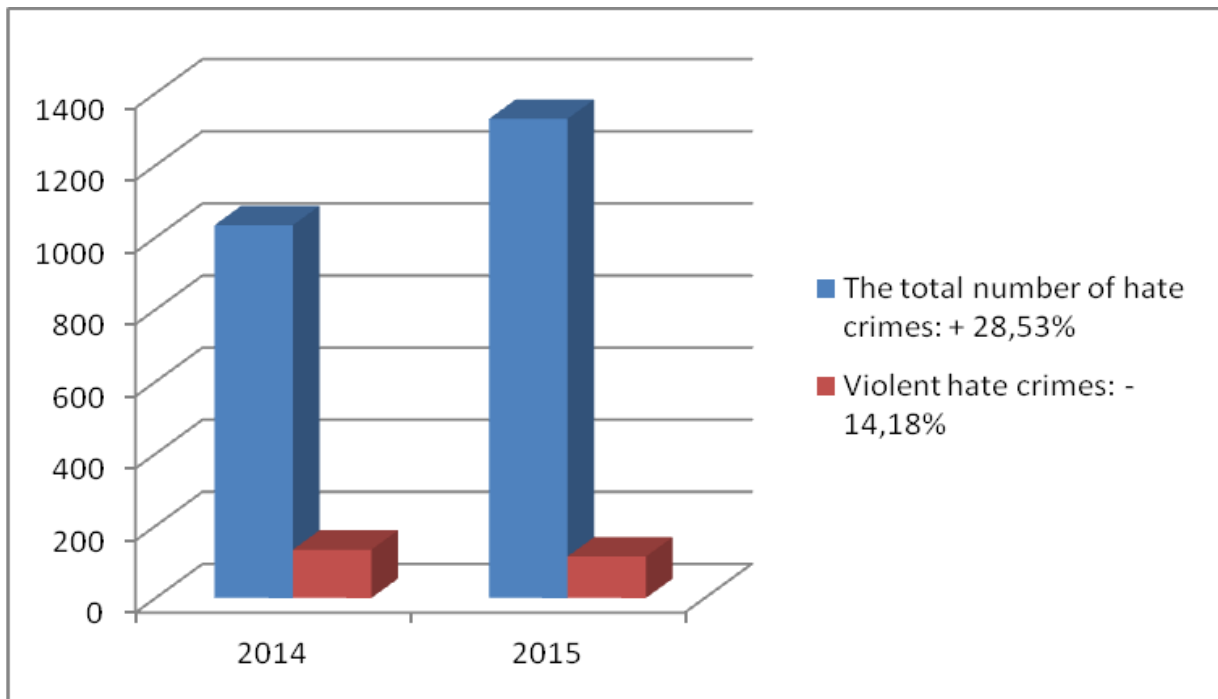
In Russia, according to the Prosecutor General's Office, 1'329 extremist crimes were registered in 2015, which is in 295 cases more than in 2014. The increase was due to the non-violent crimes - appeals as well as incitement to hatred and hostility. Basically, all these crimes were committed on the Internet. On the other hand, the number of reported violent crimes decreased from 134 to 115. Of these were 97 recorded attacks.

Non-governmental organizations provide a number of 70 attacks motivated by hatred, due, most likely, different assessment methods: the criteria of hate crimes in those and other can be different. According to the NGO in 2015, victims of violent hate crimes became 81 people, of whom 16 died and 65 were injured (101 in 2014 attack in which 35 people they were respectively recorded killed and 146 injured).

³³ https://www.amnesty.nl/sites/default/files/public/hate_crimes_in_germany.pdf

³⁴ <http://hatecrime.osce.org/hungary>

Fig. 12. Hate crime in Russia (2014 – 2015)



Thus, violent hate crime has been on the decline in Russia for the past two years, as well as cases of vandalism. At the same time, the number of non-violent hate crimes is growing, committed primarily online. As mentioned before, this rise is due to three factors: preventative measures conducted by the law enforcement, empowered by the changes to the counter terrorism legislation that allowed them to prevent serious crimes by punishing smaller hate speech offenses committed online; split of radical nationalists related to the events in Ukraine; and departure of many radical activists to fight in Syria and Ukraine.

In Ukraine there are no official statistics on the non-violent crimes. The lack of official statistics on non-violent crimes, and also disputed information NGOs, does not allow to assess the real situation in the country. Moreover, there are serious grounds to believe that the Ukrainian authorities refuse to register such crimes and prosecute.

For example, Official police report on criminal cases related to racial, national or religious intolerance that have been investigated by police in 2015, only 5 criminal violations have been committed during that whole year!

Simultaneously, analytical department of the General Investigative Department of the National Police of Ukraine reports 79 cases of discrimination (violations of Art. 161: "Violation of equality of citizens based

on their race, nationality, religion, disability and other characteristics”). Criminal cases have been initiated in 49 of these incidents (33 in 2014)³⁵.

Summarising all above information, we can conclude that the rate of hate crime has increased in all monitored countries in 2015. This particularly relates to *non-violent* offences, which indicates growing xenophobic attitudes and increased activity of radical organisations. At the same time, it must be noted that trends of *violent* hate crime offences have been different, depending on the country. Russia, Italy and Greece demonstrated a negative trend, while all others – positive. To understand the real situation, a comparative analysis of both violent and non-violent hate crime trends must be conducted.

A positive trend of non-violent offences with a negative trend of violent offences indicates the effectiveness of law enforcement in preventing the latter, as they are able to break the escalation at the level of, say, hate speech online, before it turns into actions. Most criminals guided by xenophobic feelings have previously expressed those sentiments on social media, trying to find friends and accomplices, fighting with their opponents and insulting members of certain social groups. At this stage, police have to stop the offender before he escalates to violence. In other cases, these trends indicate lack of influence of radical groups or displacement of xenophobic sentiments in society with other priorities, such as economic or domestic issues. In addition, possible statistical errors have to be kept in mind, particularly where governments refuse to publish official data on hate crime.

Positive trend of non-violent offences always indicates a critical mass of people dissatisfied with the current situation. This could lead to a quick transition to violent actions, like it happened in Germany recently and has been happening in Hungary, Greece and Czech Republic for some time.

Increase trend of both types of hate crime is particularly dangerous, indicating the process of rapid radicalisation of the population. It indicates that an increasing number of people holding xenophobic views are prepared to use physical violence. This situation is currently occurring in Germany, where non-violent hate crime offences have increased by 116.25% and violent hate crime offences increased by 62.8%. This is not just an exponential spread of hatred, but a sharp increase in the amount of those ready to inflict physical harm against “others”. It also indicates that government’s policy towards refugees and national minorities is failing and police are unable to deal with the problem. Indirect, unconfirmed sources indicate similar trends in

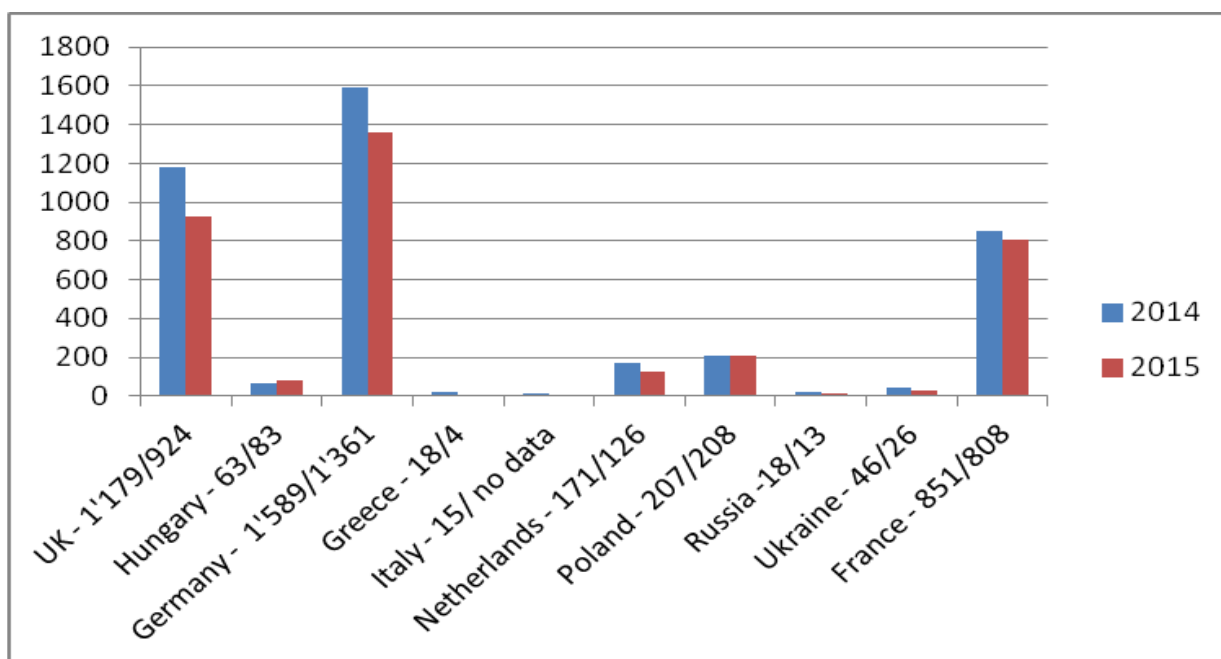
³⁵ <http://forbidentoforbid.org.ua/uk/policiya-navchit-svoikh-slidchikh-viyavlya/>

Hungary. However, the scale of events in that country are, of course, incomparable to Germany.

Small difference in dynamics of the two trends is also dangerous. It indicates that government is unable to slow down manifestations of hate crime at the level of racist propaganda, and that xenophobic sentiments are quickly manifesting as physical aggression. France faces the most difficult situation in this regard, where difference between two trends is only 6.8%.

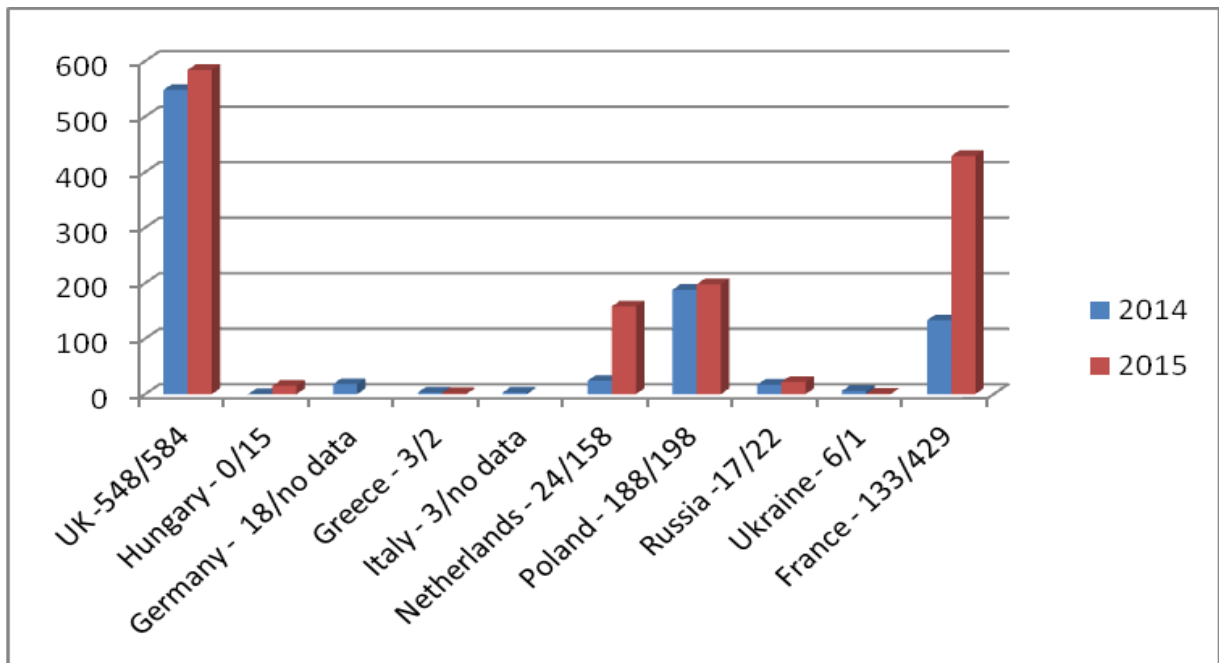
Breaking hate crime cases into different motivations, we can observe that cases of *anti-Semitism* were most numerous in Germany (1 361 in 2015, 1 589 in 2014). It is followed by the UK (1 179 and 924 respectively) and France (808 and 851). In general, however, the situation has improved since 2014, when Israel launched a military operation in Gaza.

Fig. 13. Crime motivated by anti-Semitism (2014 - 2015)



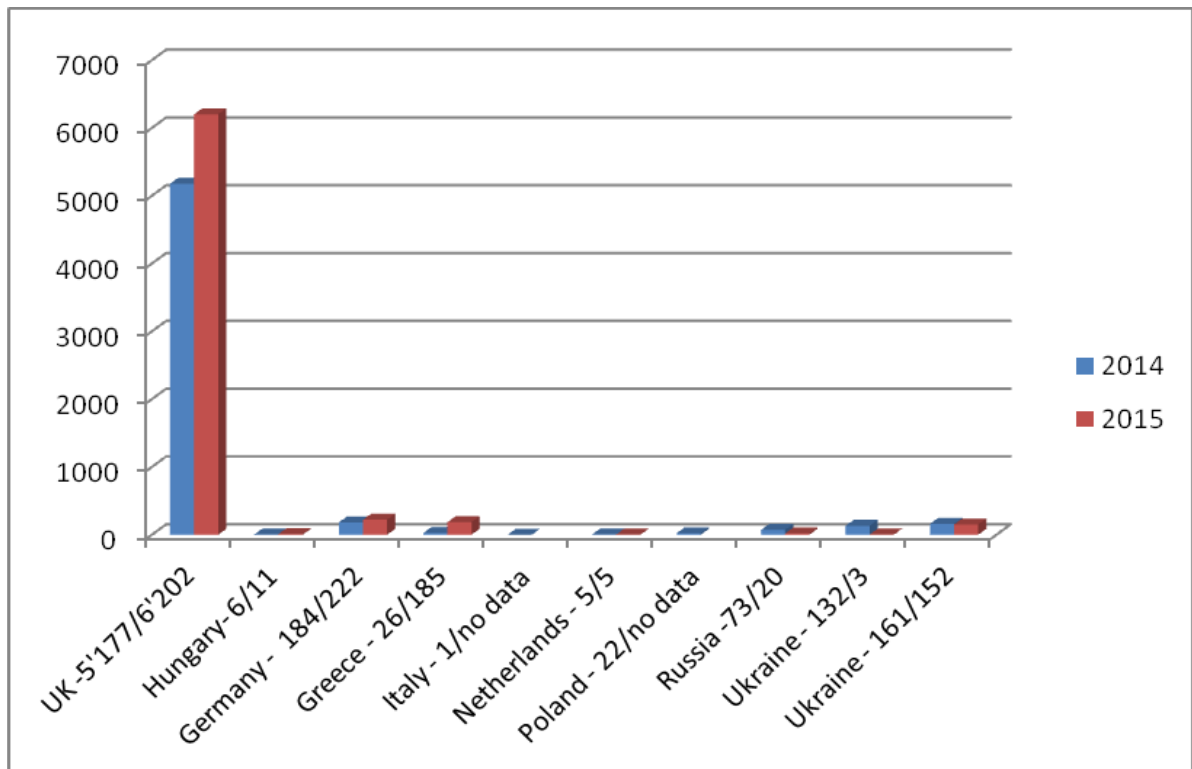
Islamophobia was most prevalent in the United Kingdom. *Tell MAMA* organisation reported 584 anti-Muslim incidents in 2015 (548 in 2014). It is followed by France – 429 incidents (133 in 2014), though it must be noted that most were committed early in 2015, caused by the *Charlie Hebdo* attack. Poland follows with 198 incidents (188 in 2014), as well as the Netherlands with 158 (24 in 2014).

Fig. 14. Crime motivated by Islamophobia (2014 - 2015)



United Kingdom is also leading by the number of *homophobic* incidents committed in 2015 – 6 202 cases (5 177 in 2014). It is followed by Germany – 222 (184 in 2014), Greece – 185 and France – 152.

Fig. 15. Crime motivated by homophobia (2014 - 2015)



What is being done in this regard in the European countries?

First of all, there are tightening of anti-terrorism and immigration laws. It is also important to note that in European countries, comes the understanding that it is necessary to combat racism. Significant events should be considered as changes in the criminal legislation of Germany and France. In France there is under consideration the Law for recognition of racial motivation like an aggravating circumstance in the commission of crimes.

In 2015, the German Criminal Code was amended with Art. 46.2, which instructed the courts to consider racist, xenophobic or other discriminatory motives as aggravating circumstances in the commission of a crime³⁶. This is an important development, since previously German legislation did not cover these factors when dealing with violent crime, stating instead that the courts *may* take them in consideration during sentencing.

In Greece, a proposed amendment to the Criminal Code (Article 361B) introduced criminal responsibility for refusing goods and services on the basis of race, colour, national or ethnic origins, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity. The article came into force in July 2016³⁷, and is predominantly aimed against the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party, which regularly organised giveaways to “pure” Greeks during Orthodox holidays.³⁸

This was a significant shift compared to previous periods when the solution to the problem was limited to declarations of hatred and purely police measures.

There were opposing trends. For example, criminal liability for discrimination has been eliminated in Ukraine. Instead, the administrative liability.

It is worth noting that in May 2015, Ukrainian Cabinet adopted a Decree №333, which dissolved the National Expert Commission on the Public Morality Affairs³⁹. The Commission was the last remaining body that had the right to monitor media and public events to identify incitement to hate crime, in accordance with the law “On the Protection of Public Morality” (20/11/2013)⁴⁰. In other words, the aforementioned commission was equipped to provide legal assessment of a public action, which had to be considered by court during trials. This included incitement to ethnic and religious hostilities, blasphemy, desecration of places of national and religious importance. Since its dissolution, Ukraine does not have a state body capable of assessing actions in this field.

³⁶ https://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2015/kw12_de_nsu/364372;
http://www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/aktuelles/20150407_Rechtsgutachten_Hasskriminalitaet.pdf?jsessionid=388532642DBE44BD106E5531442542A8.2_cid340?_blob=publicationFile&v=1

³⁷ http://rvrn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Report_2015eng.pdf

³⁸

<https://greekhelsinki.wordpress.com/2016/07/09/%CF%85%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%85%CF%81%CE%B3%CE%B5%CE%AF%CE%BF-%CE%B4%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%B1%CE%B9%CE%BF%CF%83%CF%8D%CE%BD%CE%B7%CF%82-%CE%B4%CE%B5%CE%BD-%CE%B1%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%80%CE%BF%CE%B9%CE%BD%CE%B9%CE%BA/>

³⁹ <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/333-2015-п>

⁴⁰ <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1296-15>

Some also develop and Law enforcement practice. In any sense, all this had an effect: treatment of migrants has become better, reduced the number of crimes against the Jews, sexual minorities, etc. However, all this was the result of the substitution effect, when the hatred of one group replaced by the hatred of the another. The level of Xenophobia is a major cause of hate crimes has not decreased. So, despite the improved treatment of migrants, the majority of Europeans believe that it is necessary to give them asylum in third countries. This increases the level of hatred and the number of hate crimes against Muslims. But most of all raise concerns sharply increased crime trends.

The main reasons are: 1)the migrant crisis and 2)the activities of radical groups. However, the main reason is the unwillingness of the authorities to change their approach to national policies and their national minorities. This applies both to the problem of recognition of the most numerous of them (and, consequently, the recognition of their specific rights), as well as approaches to integration policy, which is based on the principle of voluntary assimilation.

The main disease of European countries - the refusal to recognize the existence of national minorities. Because the refusal of national minorities constitute an absence of the problems of national minorities.

You can not deal with that which is not!