# Discrimination in the EU

Survey Research Methodology II

2025-01-28

The LGBTI community frequently experiences discrimination and harassment, with biases against homosexuality and transgender identities further worsening the situation. Since 2008, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has conducted studies that reveal widespread discrimination in daily life. As a result, many LGBTI individuals conceal their identities to avoid verbal and physical abuse. Surveys in 2012 and 2019, involving over 93,000 and 140,000 participants respectively, highlighted ongoing discrimination in workplaces, educational institutions, public spaces, housing, healthcare, and shopping. Harassment, violence, and sexual assault remain critical concerns, particularly for transgender and intersex individuals, especially in scenarios requiring ID documentation.

Complementing the FRA studies, the European Commission conducted a Eurobarometer survey focusing on discrimination within the EU, with special attention to the LGBTI community. This multi-country survey explored societal attitudes and legal challenges, revealing significant variations between countries in supporting transgender individuals seeking official documentation. The table below summarizes the results by country.
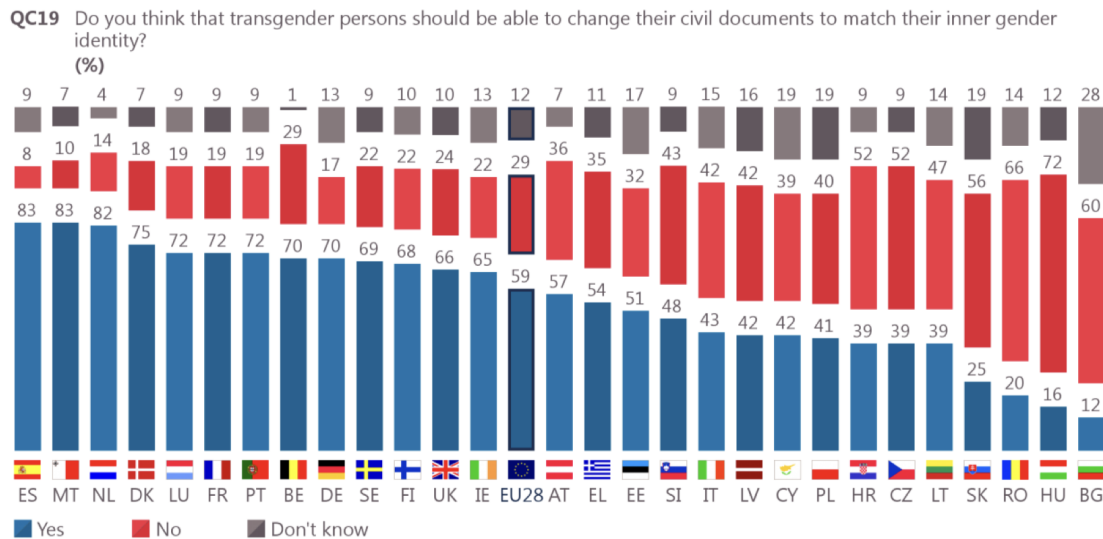
Figure 1: Question QC19 by country

CHALLENGE

Not to explain individual variations, but cross-country level variations

Mixed models (EMMA)

Survey data (individual data) + country level data (GDP, etc.)

The assignment has two primary objectives:

1. **Explaining Cross-Country Differences in Support Levels:** This involves analyzing the data to understand why support for transgender individuals obtaining official documents (cq19 in the questionnaire) varies significantly between countries. To achieve this, individual-level indicators from the survey must be complemented with country-level factors. These include cultural norms, legal frameworks, historical context, economic variables, and societal attitudes toward LGBTI rights, which can be sourced from databases like Eurostat or similar repositories.

2. **Developing a Predictive Model for Other Countries:** This task focuses on developing a predictive model. Building on the models from the first part of the assignment, machine learning techniques will be applied to forecast support levels based on observed trends. To ensure the model's accuracy and reliability, rigorous calibration and validation will be necessary. Key steps include 1) identifying relevant features (variables), 2) selecting an appropriate modeling method (e.g., regression analysis, decision trees, or neural networks), 3) training the model using survey data, and 4) evaluating its performance by testing predictions against known outcomes. *Train and test the model*

Successfully completing this assignment requires a comprehensive understanding of the data, proficiency in data analysis and statistical modeling, and a nuanced awareness of the complexities surrounding LGBTI rights.

ABOUT THE DATA

The Special Eurobarometer 493: Discrimination in the EU focuses on person's perceptions, attitudes and opinions of discrimination based on ethnic origin, skin color, sexual orientation, gender, age, disability, religion, and beliefs. The survey you're referring to was conducted across 28 countries. Fieldwork: 09-21/05/2019

ASSIGMENT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Teams are required to prepare a comprehensive submission package, which must include:

- Replicaton files: fully developed and well-documented source code created for the project
- Summary: a four-page summary of the work (excluding references) that explains the reasoning behind strategic decisions, outlines the challenges faced and proposed solutions, and provides an overview of the key results.

The completed package must be submitted to Aula Global. The work will conclude with an **oral presentation** of the findings, followed by a brief Q&A session. *15 min pre*

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

1. Creativity: originality and innovation in addressing the task
2. Adequacy of methodology: appropriateness and justification of the chosen methods
3. Analytical rigor: depth and precision in the execution and interpretation of analyses
4. Quality of presentation: clarity and professionalism in the delivery of the oral presentation

Prizes

- Best visualization: +0.5 points on the final grade (yes, you can get a 10.5 out of 10!)

- Best written/oral presentation: +0.5 points to the final grade (yes, you can achieve an 11 out of 10!)

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Final presentations are scheduled for **March 19th**. Each group will be allotted a 15-minute window to present their project, followed by an 5-minute session for Q&A. It is imperative to adhere to these constraints

Group	Start Time	End Time
Group 1	3:05 PM	3:25 PM
Group 2	3:30 PM	3:50 PM
Group 3	3:55 PM	4:15 PM
Group 4	4:15 PM	4:35 PM
Break	4:35 PM	4:50 PM
Group 5	4:55 PM	5:15 PM
Group 6	5:20 PM	5:40 PM
Group 7	5:45 PM	6:05 PM
Break	6:10 PM	6:25 PM
Group 8	6:25 PM	6:45 PM
Group 9	6:50 PM	7:10 PM
Group 10	7:15 PM	7:35 PM

Table 1: Presentation Schedule

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN WITH YOUR ANALYSIS!