

EU AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS 2007 REPORT

ON

RACISM &
XENOPHOBIA
IN THE EU

6.1.2. Trends in racist violence and crime

Looking at the last column in Table 6.3 the following can be noted:

- Eight of the 11 Member States experienced a general upward trend in racist crime during the period 2000-2005 or 2000-2006: **Denmark, Germany** (2001-2006), **France, Ireland, Poland, Slovakia, Finland** and **England and Wales** (as well as Scotland for which data is available for the period 2002-2006).
- Three of the 11 Member States experienced a general downward trend in racist crime during the period 2000-2005 or 2000-2006: **Czech Republic, Austria** and **Sweden**.

Caution should be exercised when looking at trend patterns for those Member States that report consistently low actual figures – such as **Denmark, Ireland** and **Slovakia** – as dramatic upward and downward trends can be reported on the basis of a few figures.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 DNA = data not available	% change 2004-05 or 2005-06	% change mean average 2000-05 or 2000-06
Czech Republic	364 crimes	452	473	335	364	253	248	- 2%	- 4.0% 2000-06
Denmark	28 incidents	116	68	52	36	85	DNA (02/07)	+ 136.1% 2004-05	+ 70.9% 2000-06
Germany	–	14,725 crimes	12,933	11,576	12,553	15,914	18,142	+ 14.0% 2005-06	+ 5.3% 2001-06
France	903 reports	424	1,317	833	1,574	979	885	- 9.6% 2005-06	+ 27.1% 2000-06
Ireland	72 reports	42	100	62	84	94	DNA (02/07)	+ 11.9% 2004-05	+ 21.2% 2000-05
Austria	450 complaints	528	465	436	322	406	DNA (02/07)	+ 26.1% 2004-05	- 0.2% 2000-05
Poland	215 crimes	103	94	111	113	172	DNA (02/07)	+ 52.2% 2004-05	+ 2.3% 2000-05
Slovakia	35 crimes	40	109	119	79	121	188	+ 55.4% 2005-06	+ 45.1% 2000-06
Finland⁴²⁰	495 incidents	448	364	522	558	669	DNA (02/07)	+ 19.9% 2004-05	+ 8.4% 2000-05
Sweden⁴²¹	2,703 crimes	2,785	2,391	2,436	2,414	2,383	DNA (02/07)	- 1.3% 2004-05	- 2.3% 2000-05
England & Wales⁴²²	47,829 incidents	53,060	54,858	49,340	54,286	57,902	DNA (02/07)	+ 6.7% 2004-05	+ 4.2% 2000-05
Scotland	offences		1,699	2,673	3,097	3,856	4,294	+ 11.3% 2005-06	+ 27.3% 2002-06

419 Note – direct comparisons between Member States of absolute figures should not be undertaken; instead, the table should be read with respect to the trend shown within each Member State!

420 Caution should be exercised when looking at trends as the data collection system on racist violence and crime was taken over by the Police College of Finland in 2003 from the Police Department of the Ministry of Interior.

421 Caution should be exercised when looking at trends in Sweden as the data collection system on racist violence and crime changed slightly after 2003.

422 Unlike most Member States, figures for England and Wales are not reported by calendar year. The figures presented in the table refer to the following periods: 2000 = April 1999-March 2000; 2001 = April 2000-March 2001; 2002 = April 2001-March 2002; 2003 = April 2002-March 2003; 2004 = March 2003-April 2004; 2005 = March 2004-April 2005 (clarification offered by Home Office; note: in the Home Office's publication on 'Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System – 2005' [published in 2006] tables refer simply to reporting periods as, for example, 2003/04 or 2004/05). The same periods apply for data collection in Scotland.

6.1.2.1. Trends in crime with an extremist right-wing motive

Some Member States also collect data on specific trends. For example, **Austria, Germany, France** and **Sweden** collect criminal justice data on racist crimes recorded with an extremist right-wing motive⁴²³ – see Table 6.4 below.

When looking at the information in Table 6.4 due consideration should be given to the fact that the categories ‘right-wing extremist’ or ‘White Power’ can include offences that are not specifically ‘racist’ in nature. However, what these figures do show is the extent of right-wing extremist activity that is captured by these Member States in their criminal justice data; with France and Germany experiencing notable upward recorded trends for the respective periods 2000-2006 and 2001-2006, compared with the downward trends recorded in Austria and Sweden for the period 2000-2005.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% change 2004-05 or 2005-06	mean % change ⁴²⁵
Austria Right-wing extremist motive	291	301	261	264	189	188	Data not available (02/07)	- 0.5% 2004-05	- 7.5% 2000-05
Germany Right-wing extremist crimes		10,054	10,902	10,792	12,051	15,361	17,597	+ 14.6% 2005-06	+ 12.2% 2001-06
France Extreme right at- tribute	207	198	179	148	461	419	283	- 32.5% 2005-06	+ 23.1% 2000-06
Sweden ⁴²⁶		1,201	1,161	1,278	1,266	1,062	Data not available (02/07)	- 16.1% 2004-05	- 2.6% 2001-05
White- Power motive ⁴²⁷	566	392	324	448	306	292		- 4.6% 2004-05	- 9.2% 2000-05

The observation of this apparent upward trend in extremist activity in **Germany** is supported by reports of increased right-wing attacks noted by victim support organisations in eastern parts of the country: 563 cases in 2003, 570 in 2004, 694 in 2005, and 819 in 2006.⁴²⁸ At the same time, evidence collected in Berlin schools⁴²⁹ indicates that recorded incidents with an extremist background have been increasing successively each school year (from 39 in the school year 2003/2004, 62 in the school year 2004/2005, and 80 in the school year 2005/2006).⁴³⁰

424 Note – direct comparisons between Member States of absolute figures should not be undertaken; instead, the table should be read with respect to the trend shown within each Member State.

425 This percentage mean change is calculated on the basis of an average of the year-by-year percentage changes for the period in question for each country.

426 Sweden: Data published until 2004 by the Swedish Security Service and from 2005 by the Swedish Crime Prevention Council produces different interpretations of White Power crime. The higher figures include incidents that have been identified as having a White-Power motive with evidence of xenophobic, anti-Semitic or homophobic characteristics as well as incidents with a White-Power motive that do not contain information about their xenophobic, anti-Semitic or possible homophobic nature. The lower figures include only those crimes that have a White-Power motive and evidence that the crime was xenophobic or anti-Semitic in nature. It is possible that some of the cases that are classified with a general White-Power motive (without more detail about the characteristics of the incident) have included racist/xenophobic elements. Comparison of the two sets of figures shows that in over two-thirds of cases no specific motive is available apart from the incident being White-Power related.

427 Includes all data on numbers of reported crime with a White-Power motive, including those connected with White Power but not specified as xenophobic or anti-Semitic.

428 Association Opferperspektive Germany.

429 Source: Berlin/Senatsverwaltung für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung, Presse und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit (2006) *Gewaltsignale an Berliner Schulen 2005/2006. Handout zur Pressekonferenz am 13.12.2006*, available at: http://www.berlin.de/imperia/md/content/sen-bildung/hilfe_und_praevention/gewaltpraevention/handout_gewalt.pdf (04.01.2007).

430 In France, Netherlands and the UK, data is also collected in schools on a broad range of racist incidents (see [education chapter](#) in this report).