

Inclusive journalism

Examining media coverage of ethnicity and religion in nine EU countries



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EC: Fundamental rights and citizenship



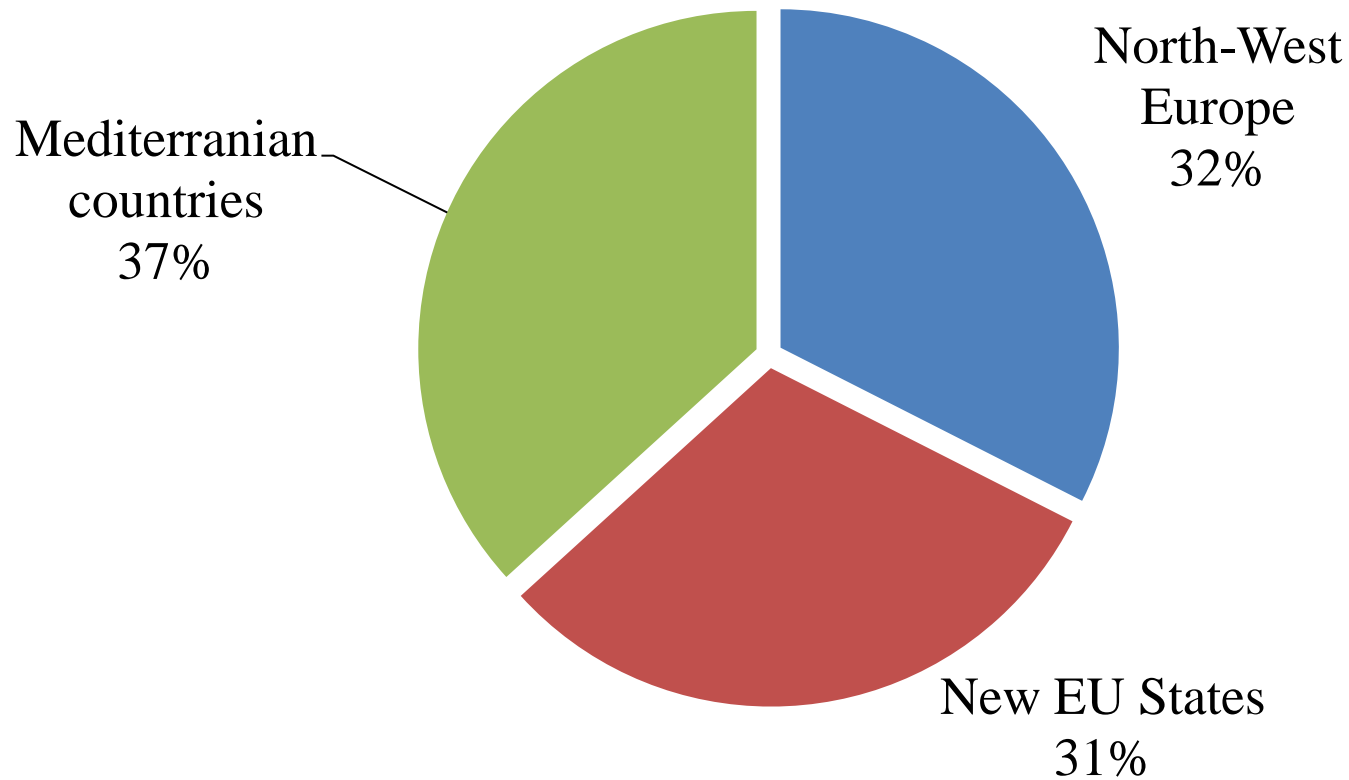
- **Action grant:** actions aimed at fighting traditional and new stereotypes whose diffusion are at the roots of racist attitudes and speech, discriminatory action and violent incidents.
- **IFJ, Article 19 and MDI:** Ethical journalism initiative: Campaign to fight racism and discrimination through the highest professional standards of journalism
- **Study** on media, ethnicity and religion in the light of the EU fundamental rights framework

EJI study

- Journalistic sector is a vehicle to public conversation and civic action
- Denmark, Slovakia, Lithuania, Italy, the UK, Hungary, Greece, France and Germany
- Interviews with journalists and case studies:
 - **Who they are?** (demographics and norms)
 - **What they know?** (awareness of anti-discriminatory legislation)
 - **How they do it?** (case studies)
- **How it can be improved to breakdown prejudices, tackle discrimination, endorse common values and provide independent and trustworthy information?**

Distribution of interviews

Countries

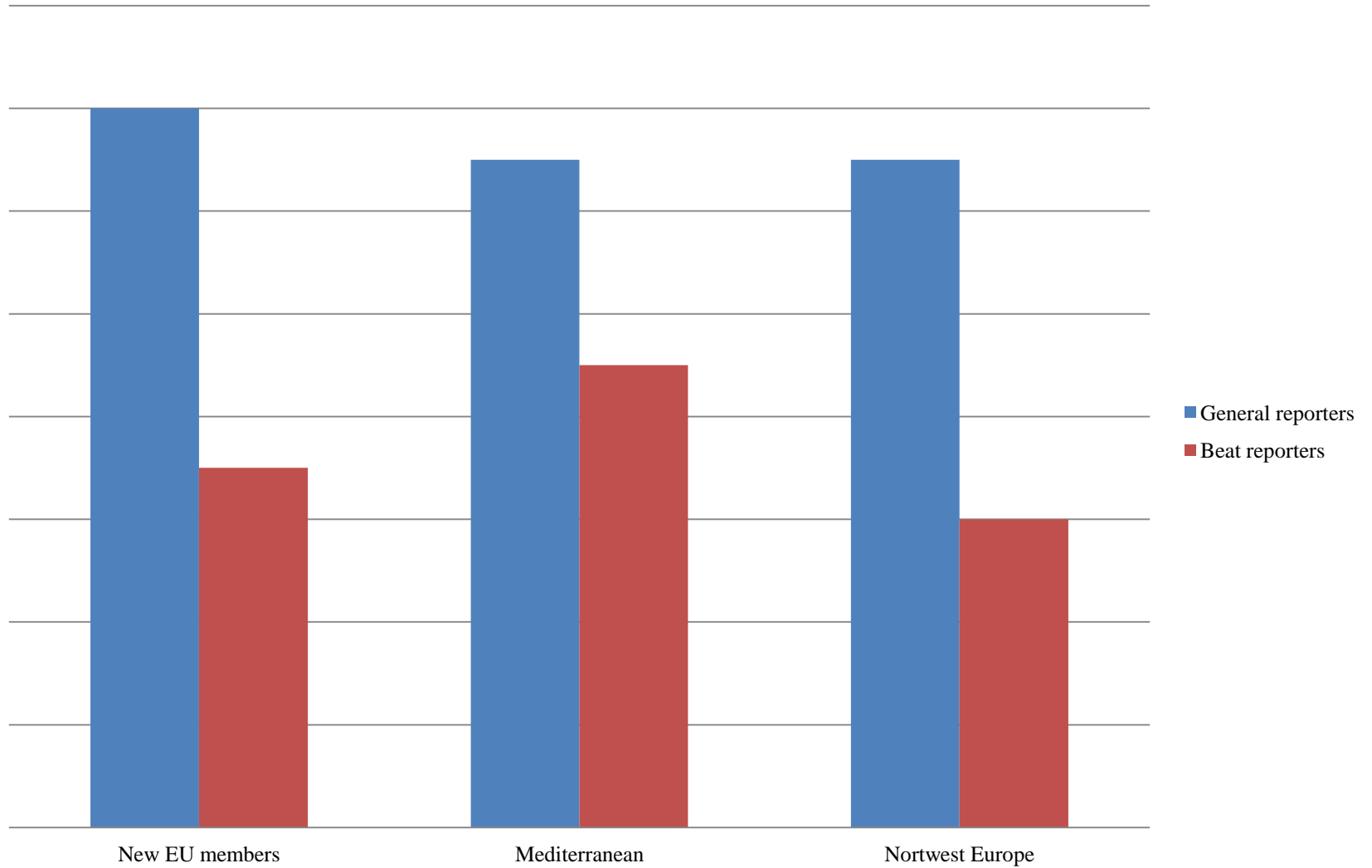


Who they are?

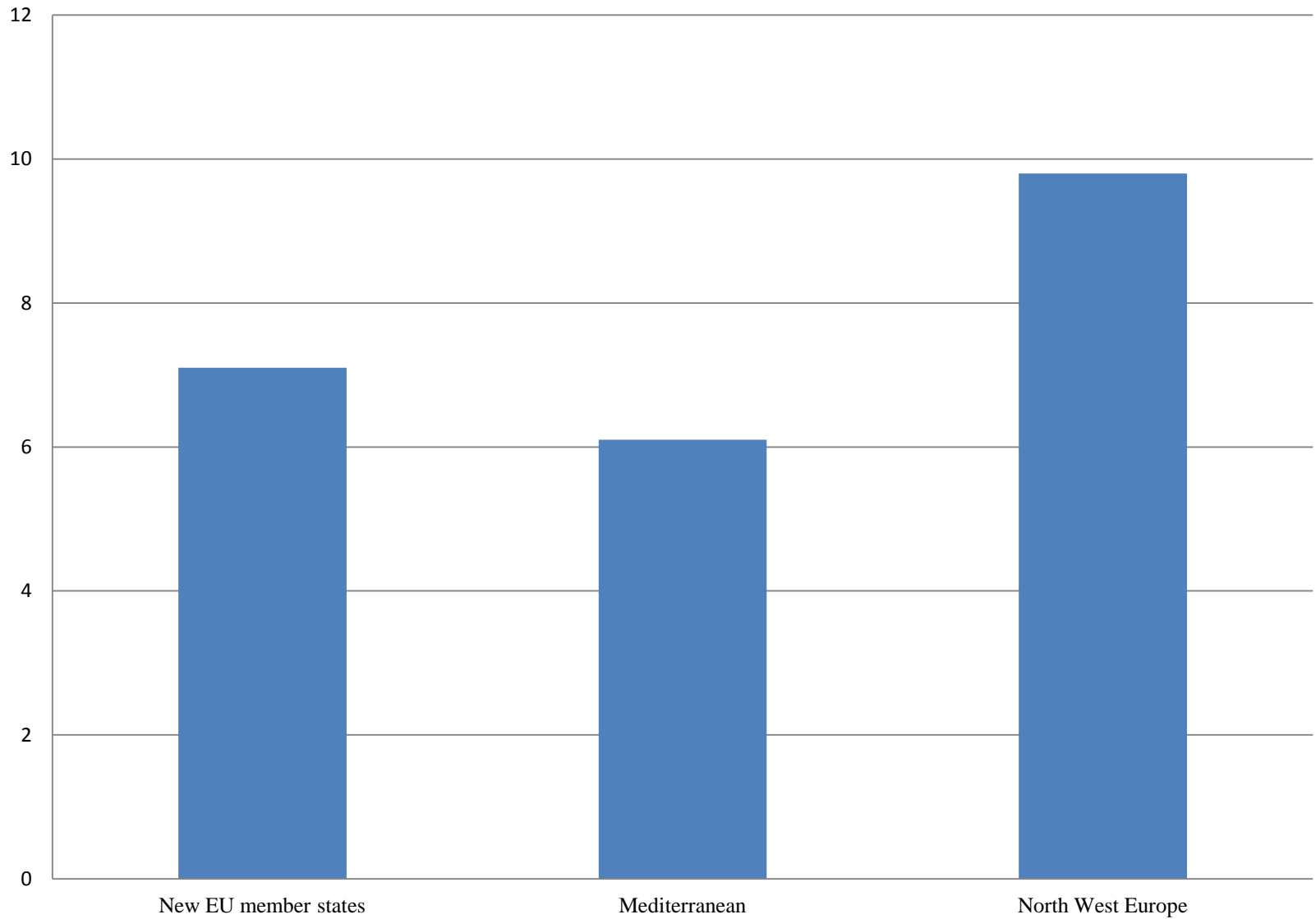
- White, male, mainstream...not always
- Don't feel strongly about their ethnic and religious background
- Social sciences background
- General and crime reporters
- Journalism culture comparisons



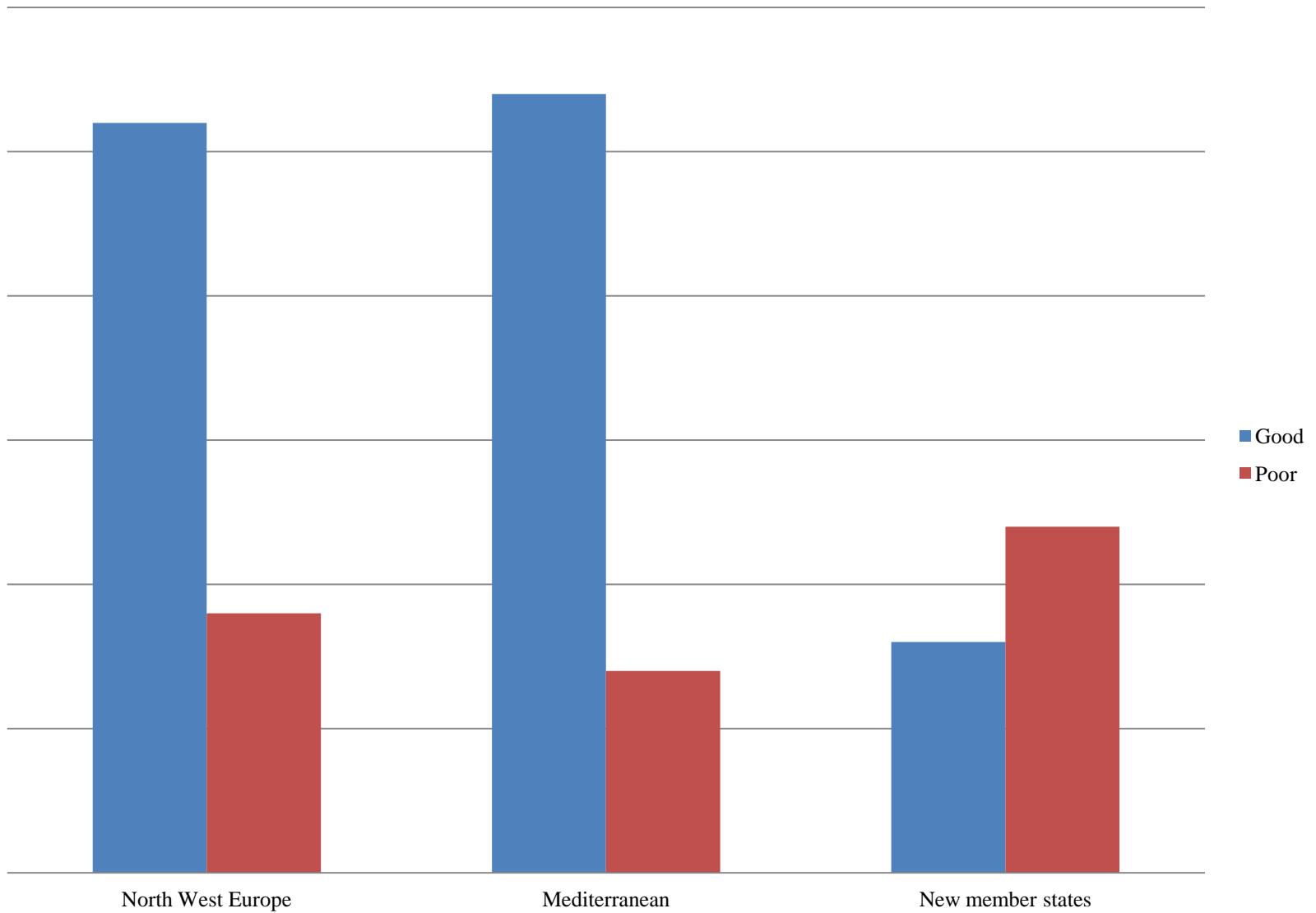
General reporters and beat reporters



Number of stories per a week



Knowledge of EU legislation



Reporting on ethnicity and religion

THEMES

- Immigration
- Poverty and crime
- Discrimination
- Playing politics
- Ethnic minorities

STEPS

- Finding topics
- Approaching sources of information
- Providing background information
- Finding an angle
- Presenting a story

Norms and practice

- Journalists declare their dedication to values of objectivity, unbiased reporting, promotion of plurality, democracy and civic society when reporting about ethnicity, while at the same time they all admit that media further negative stereotypes about ethnic minorities

But...

- “We are not racists, we support Greek citizens” (Greece)
- “People don’t care about successful integration stories” (Italy)
- No religious background unless relevant, but OK to use term “Muslim gangs” (France)
- “We have a *church* journalist and an *integration* journalist and a *religious* reporter reporting on other denominations than the Lutheran Church” (Denmark)

Obstacles to good reporting

- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of in-house training
- Poor financial state of the media
- Workload
- Lack of time



How they do it (successfully)?

- New forms of community engagement (UK)
- Revival of undercover reporting (Germany, Lithuania, Denmark, France...)
- Special supplements (Nuovi Italiani)
- “We believe individual stories of people for people are the most effective tool to raise awareness on these issues” (France)

I, Mustapha Kessous, journalist at Le Monde, am a victim of racism

- *Brice Hortefeux is very funny, I know it. He made me a joke one day. On Thursday, April 24, 2008 the minister of immigration and national identity was going to receive me in his stately office. It was an appointment to discuss a series of strikes led by undocumented workers in several companies. We had never met. I waited with my colleague, Laetitia Van Eeckhout, in this mansion belonging to the Republic. Hortefeux shows up, he presents his hand, smiles and asks: "Do you have your papers?"*

What is needed

- Journalism training and education (workshops, inclusive curriculum)
- Improving newsroom diversity
- Working with CSOs
- Internship programs
- Encouraging professional reflexivity (public editors, newsroom guests, awards...)
- **Improving journalism practice: method, account, approach**