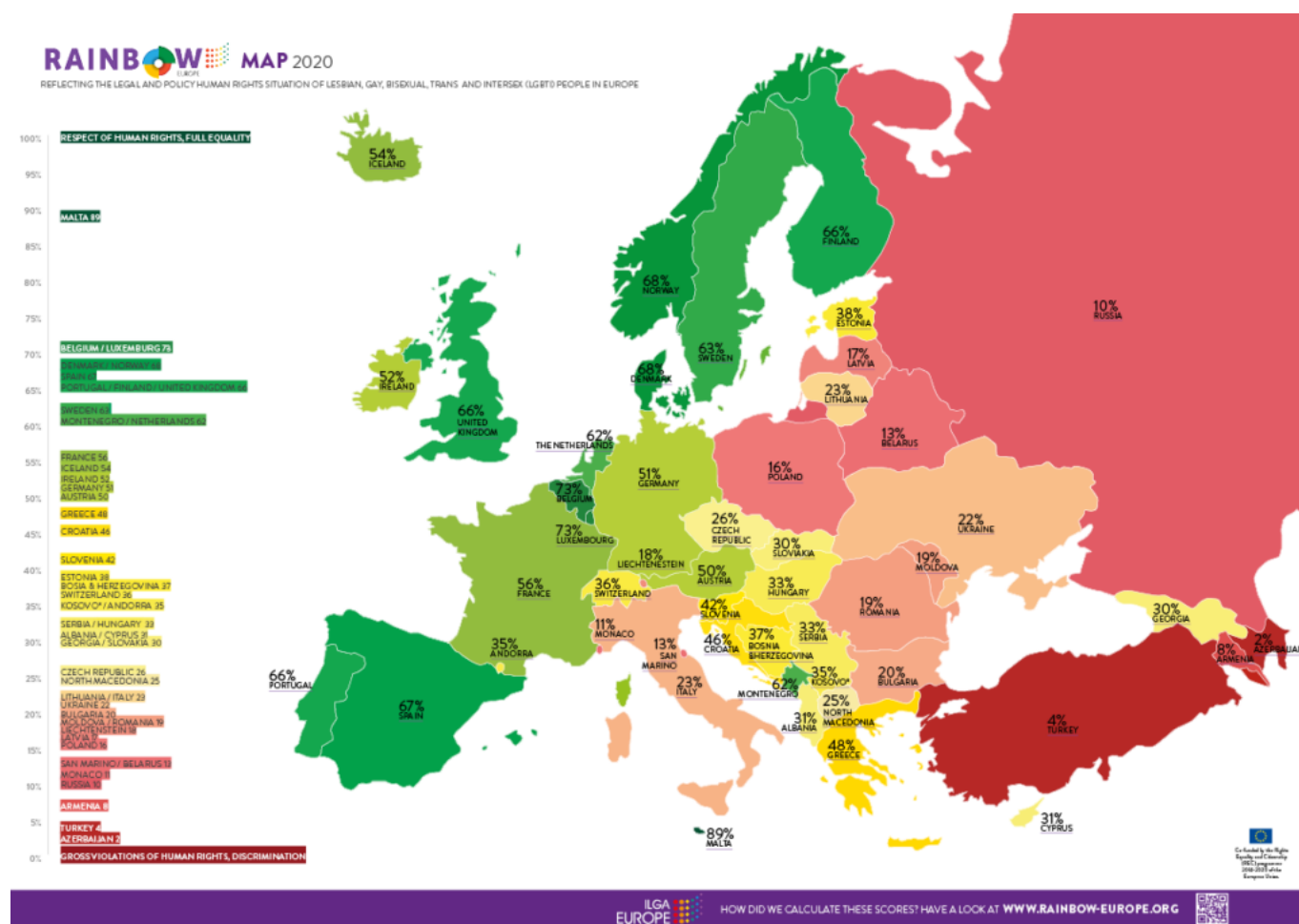# Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2020

[Report](#), [Rainbow Map and Index](#)

ILGA-Europe Rainbow Map and Index 2020 reveals that once-leading countries in Europe are falling behind in their commitments to equality for LGBTI people.

[Rainbow Map 2020Download](#)

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Key findings of the Rainbow Map 2020 include (as of May 2020):

- There has been no positive change in 49% of countries
- For the second year in a row, countries are moving backwards on the Rainbow Index, as existing protections are disappearing
- Trans rights are where most of the current movement in terms of LGBTI equality is happening, for better or worse.
- Other forward movement, although on a smaller scale, is in the inclusion of equality measures protecting intersex people against discrimination
- Regression is most visible where civil and political rights are eroded: LGBTI human rights defenders increasingly at risk, authorities taking active measures to undermine civil society associations, and attempts to ban public events.

Executive Summary

Rainbow Europe – ILGA-Europe's annual benchmarking tool – is comprised of the Rainbow Map and Index and national recommendations. ILGA-Europe have produced the Rainbow Map and Index since 2009, using it to illustrate the **legal and policy situation of LGBTI people in Europe**.

The Rainbow Map and Index ranks 49 European countries on their respective legal and policy practices for LGBTI people, **from 0-100%**.

In order to create our country ranking, ILGA-Europe examine the laws and policies in 49 countries using a set of 69 criteria – divided between six thematic categories: **equality and non-discrimination; family; hate crime and hate speech; legal gender recognition and bodily integrity; civil society space; and asylum**. More information on the list of criteria and their weight on the total score can be found at www.rainbow-europe.org/about

Rainbow Europe 2020 **individual criteria and the percentage 'weight'** assigned to them remain exactly the same as the 2019 version, meaning that it is easier than ever before to compare a country's momentum or regression on LGBTI equality laws.

Policymakers, researchers and journalists are able to go 'behind' the points and see the original information sources that we base our Map and Index ranking on. This additional layer of information is available through **our updated Rainbow Europe web module**, www.rainbow-europe.org.

The Rainbow Map and Index presents a picture of what the policy landscape is like right now, while **our country-specific recommendations** attempt to answer the question **"what's next?"** These recommendations for national policymakers are intended to encourage policymakers to address the most pressing legal and policy priorities within the framework of our Rainbow Map and Index. The recommendations were gathered following an online consultation with a wide range of LGBTI organisations in the various countries. As a result, the recommendations are tailored to the needs of activists working on the ground.

TOP 5, Rainbow Europe 2020	BOTTOM 5, Rainbow Europe 2020
1. Malta (89%)	**45.** Monaco (11%)
2. Belgium (73%)	**46.** Russia (10%)
3. Luxembourg (73%)	**47.** Armenia (8%)
4. Denmark (68 %)	**48.** Turkey (4%)
5. Norway (68%)	**49.** Azerbaijan (2%)

For the fifth year in a row, Malta continues to occupy the number one spot on the Rainbow Europe Map, with a score of 89%.

Belgium comes second place for the third time with a score of 73%.

Luxembourg receives the same score as Belgium and occupies the third spot on the ranking for the second year in a row.

The three countries at the other end of the Rainbow Europe scale are Azerbaijan (2%), Turkey (4%), and Armenia (8%). Turkey's score has been decreasing since 2015, due to restrictions on freedom of assembly and association. Azerbaijan has also lost points over the past two years due to irregularities on legal gender recognition.

Hungary is the country with the most dramatic drop in its score, **losing 8.46% points** in relation to the suspended procedures for legal gender recognition and the lack of proper state protection at public events. Poland has also dropped by 1.9% and is now the lowest EU country on the map.

Another important deduction happened, with France losing 6.80% points due to the expiration of the government's action plan.

Montenegro, North Macedonia, and the Netherlands were the three **countries with the biggest jump** in scores. Montenegro announced a **comprehensive action plan** for the next four years and **prohibited discrimination** based on sex characteristics. North Macedonia amended its equality and criminal codes, adding **sexual orientation** and **gender identity** as protected grounds. In the Netherlands, the Equal Treatment Act was amended with the **inclusion of gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics** grounds.

Equality action plans have expired in Belgium, Finland, and France, while Croatia, Ireland, and Kosovo have shortcomings and implementation problems with their action plans. Serbia and Andorra included sexual orientation and gender identity protection in healthcare legislation. Belgium and the Netherlands were the only countries that recognised 'sex characteristics' in their equality laws.

Recognition of family legislation is stagnating across Europe. This year, only Northern Ireland (UK) introduced marriage equality and Monaco recognised the right to cohabitation for same-sex couples (coming into effect on 27 June 2020). Serbia imposed a ban on medically assisted insemination services for people with a history of same-sex relationships.

Court judgements in several countries had groundbreaking effects on the lives of LGBTI people, including Spain's Constitutional Court's ruling against the age limit for gender marker change for trans people; Switzerland's Federal Court decision saying that the Constitution protects 'gender identity' under 'sex/gender'; and Kosovo's Basic Court decision approving the legal gender recognition of a trans man.
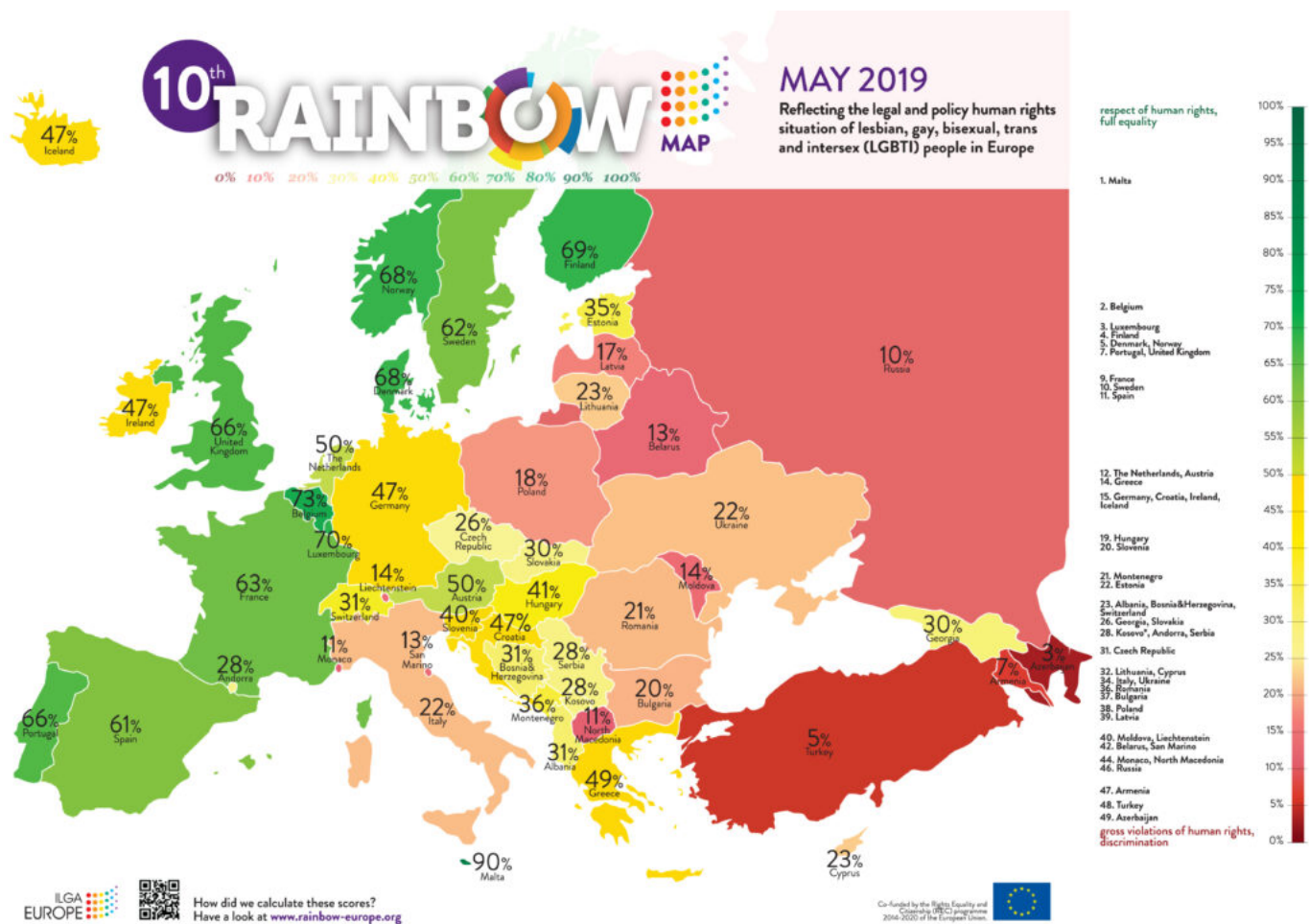
North Macedonia was this year's only country extending protection from **hate crime**, amending its Criminal Code to add sexual orientation and gender identity grounds. Switzerland's referendum approved the inclusion of 'sexual orientation' grounds in the Criminal Code.

The right to self-determination for trans people has been recognised only in Iceland with its new Gender Autonomy Act. Legal gender recognition procedures have become more accessible through trans activists' efforts in Armenia, Cyprus, Kosovo, and Montenegro. The implementation of existing procedures has worsened in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Serbia, Turkey, and Northern Ireland (UK).

Visit Rainbow Europe website!

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17.05.2021

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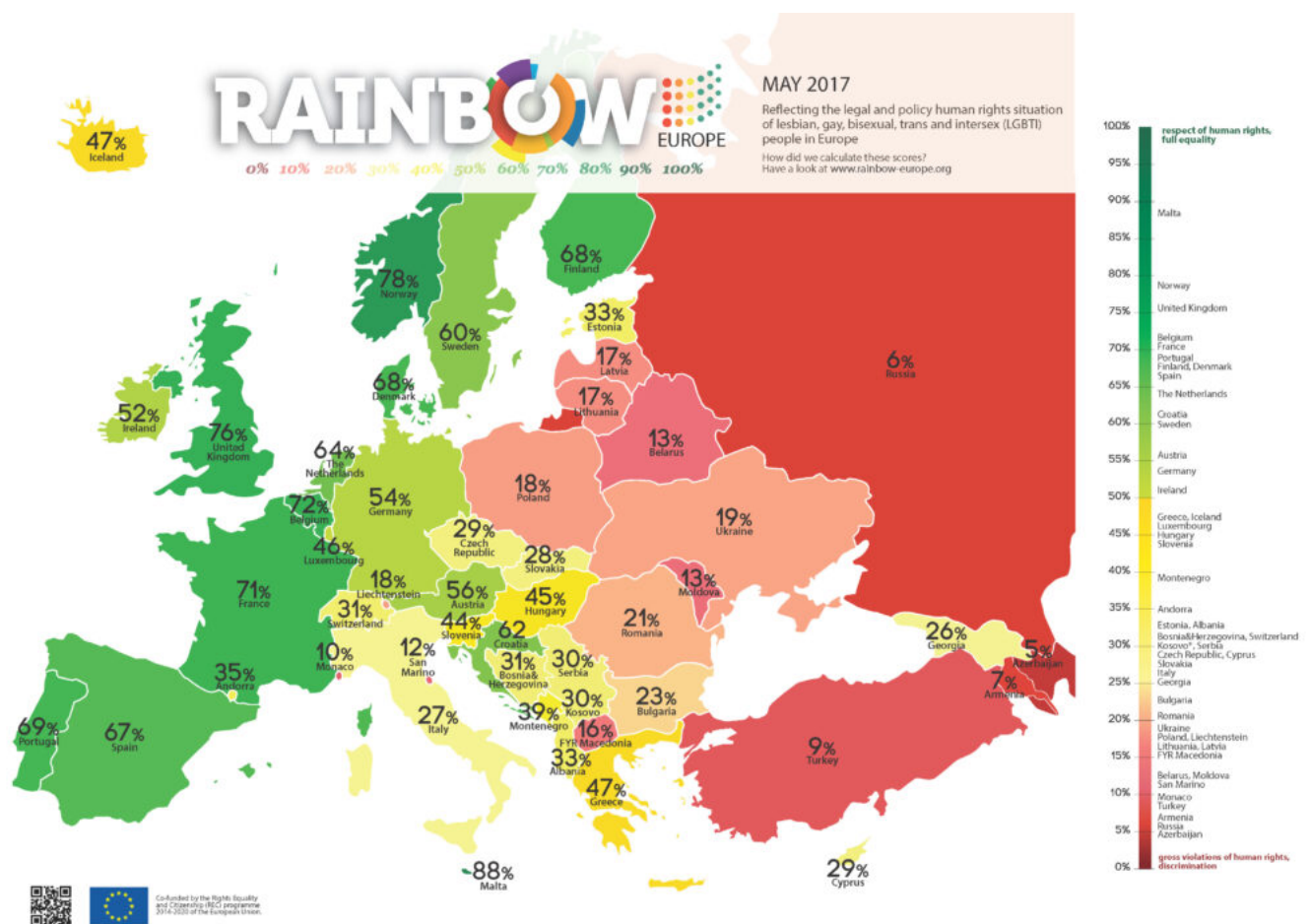
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RAINBOW EUROPE

MAY 2018

Reflecting the legal and policy human rights situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people in Europe

How did we calculate these scores?
Have a look at www.rainbow-europe.org

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

47% Iceland

73% Finland
78% Norway
39% Estonia
16% Latvia
21% Lithuania
60% Sweden
68% Denmark
13% Belarus
11% Russia
52% Ireland
73% United Kingdom
60% The Netherlands
18% Poland
21% Ukraine
79% Belgium
59% Germany
29% Czech Republic
29% Slovakia
13% Moldova
47% Luxembourg
18% Liechtenstein
56% Austria
47% Hungary
21% Romania
26% Georgia
5% Azerbaijan
73% France
38% Switzerland
48% Slovenia
51% Croatia
30% Serbia
7% Armenia
10% Monaco
12% San Marino
31% Bosnia& Herzegovina
33% Kosovo*
24% Bulgaria
9% Turkey
35% Andorra
27% Italy
38% Montenegro
14% FYR Macedonia
69% Portugal
67% Spain
33% Albania
52% Greece
91% Malta
29% Cyprus

Co-funded by the Rights Equality and Citizenship (REC) programme 2014-2020 of the European Union.

100% respect of human rights, full equality
95%
90% Malta
85%
80% Belgium Norway
75% United Kingdom, Finland, France
70% Portugal Denmark Spain
65%
60% Sweden, The Netherlands Germany
55% Austria
50% Greece, Ireland Croatia
45% Slovenia Luxembourg, Iceland, Hungary
40% Estonia Switzerland, Montenegro
35% Andorra
30% Albania, Kosovo* Bosnia&Herzegovina Serbia Czech Republic, Cyprus, Slovakia
25% Italy Georgia Bulgaria
20% Romania, Ukraine, Lithuania
15% Poland, Liechtenstein Latvia
10% FYR Macedonia Belarus, Moldova San Marino Russia Monaco
5% Turkey Armenia Azerbaijan
0% gross violations of human rights, discrimination

Report

14.05.2018

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in Europe and Central Asia

ILGA-Europe's annual benchmarking tool, which ranks 49 countries in Europe on their LGBTI equality laws and policies, reveals a region where advances are not being […]
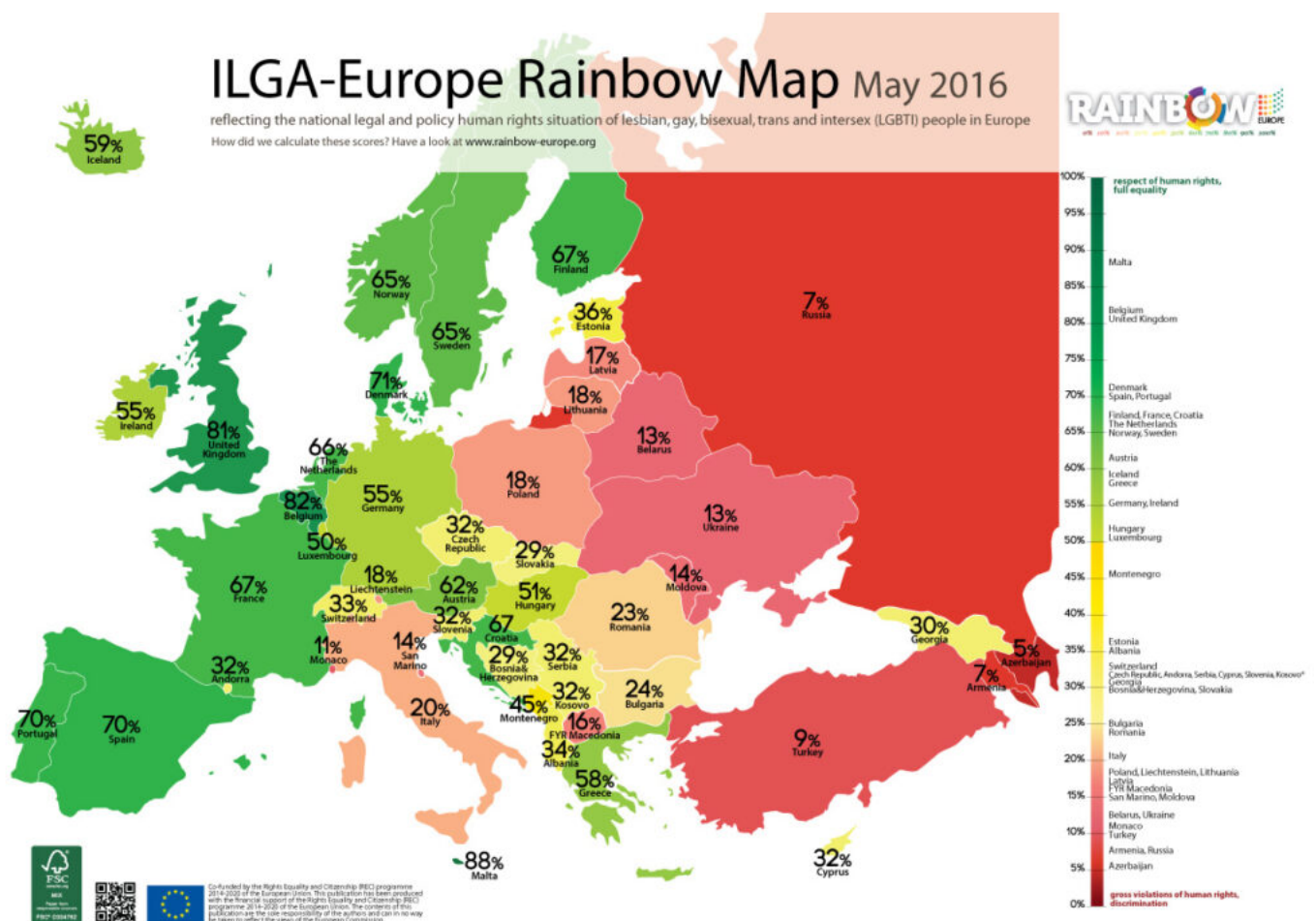
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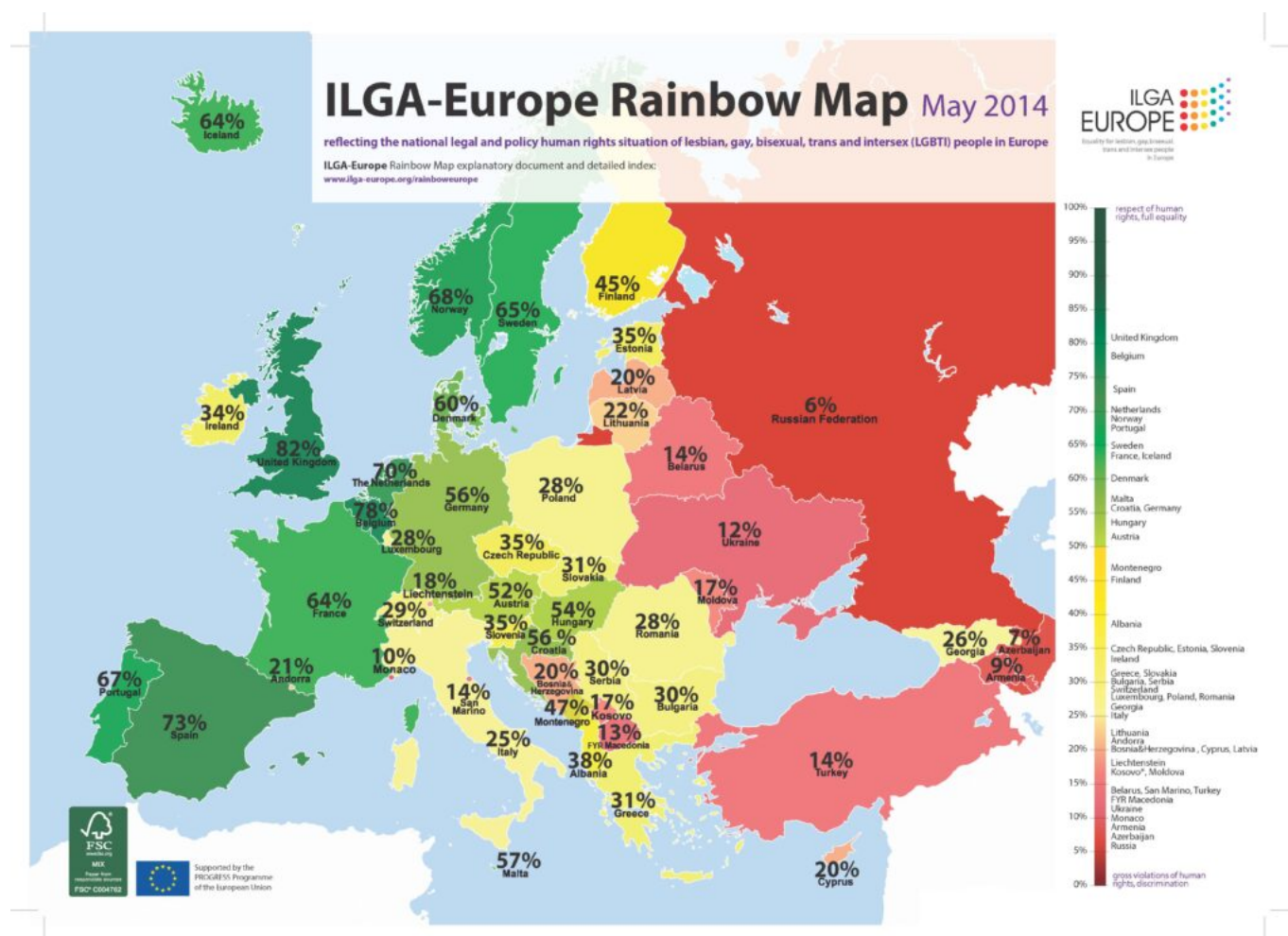
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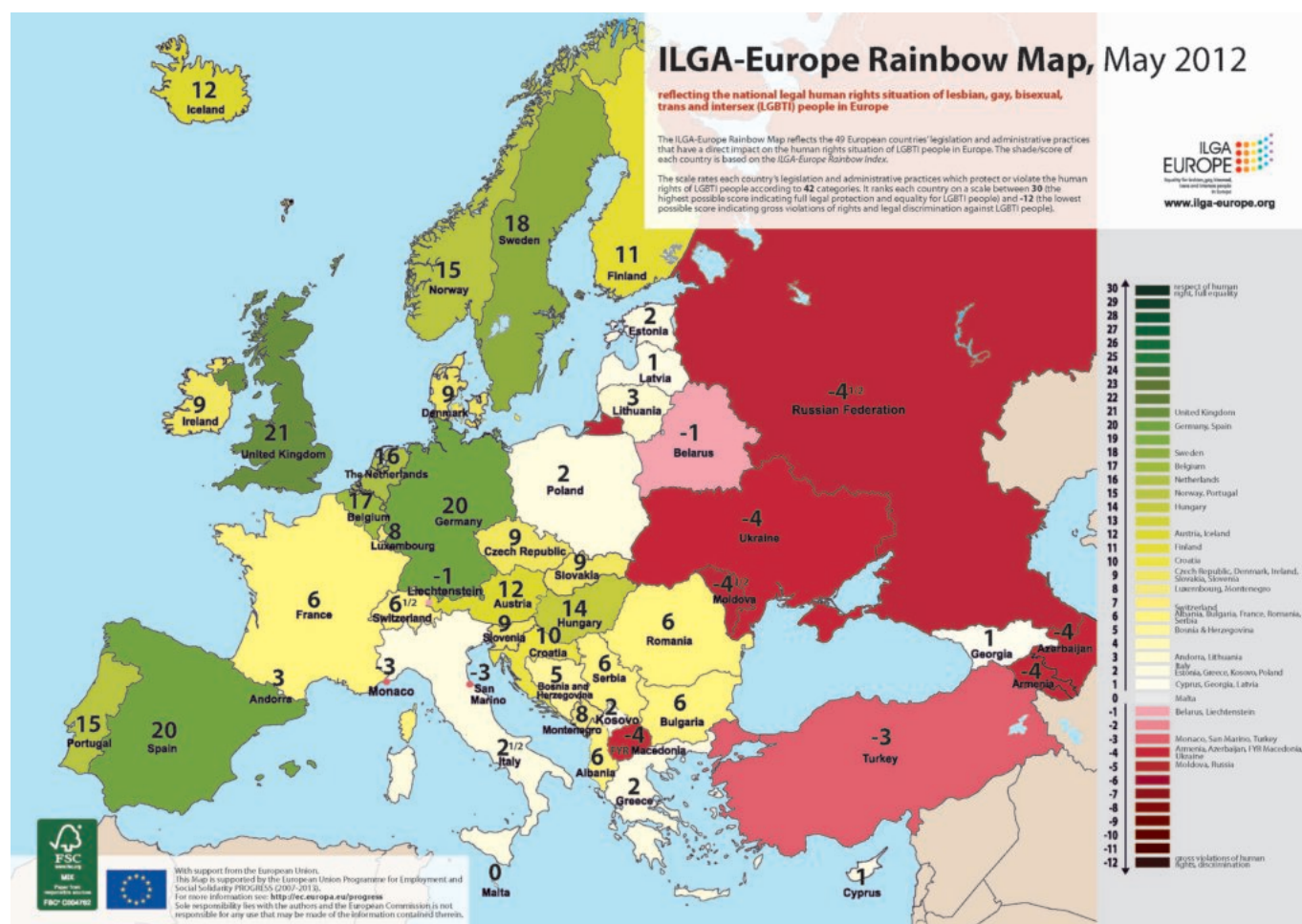
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