RVRN Experience

A Coalition to Monitor Hate Crimes

Racist Violecne Recording Network

- Established in 2011 at the initiative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Greece (UNHCR) and the National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR);
- Findings:
  - The identified absence, back then in 2011, of an official and effective data collection system on racist violence.
  - The need to coordinate organisations which recorded, on their own initiative, incidents of racist violence against people who sought their services.
- The Network is consisted of agencies which provide medical, social and legal aid and/or come in direct contact with the victims | RVRN is open to every organization fulfilling the criteria and wishing to participate;
- Today, apart from the coordinators - UNHCR and GNCHR - RVRN is comprised of 51 Non-Governmental Organisations and civil society bodies, as well as the Greek Ombudsman and the Migrant Integration Council of the Municipality of Athens, as observers.

Why a collective response was necessary in 2011?

- Escalation of xenophobia and racist violence;
- No reporting of hate crimes and no access to justice and supporting services for victims;
- Impunity for the perpetrators;
- Impact on victim's communities | Increase of insecurity;
- No common recording methodology, but data of individual NGOs on victims | focus mainly on access to services (e.g. medical or social support);
- Need for NGOs having direct contact with the victims for coordination to ensure support through their services;

Common aims

- Comprehensive indications on the qualitative and quantitative trends and support to the victims;
- Recommendations to authorities based on national and international human rights law;
- Information sharing and public awareness.

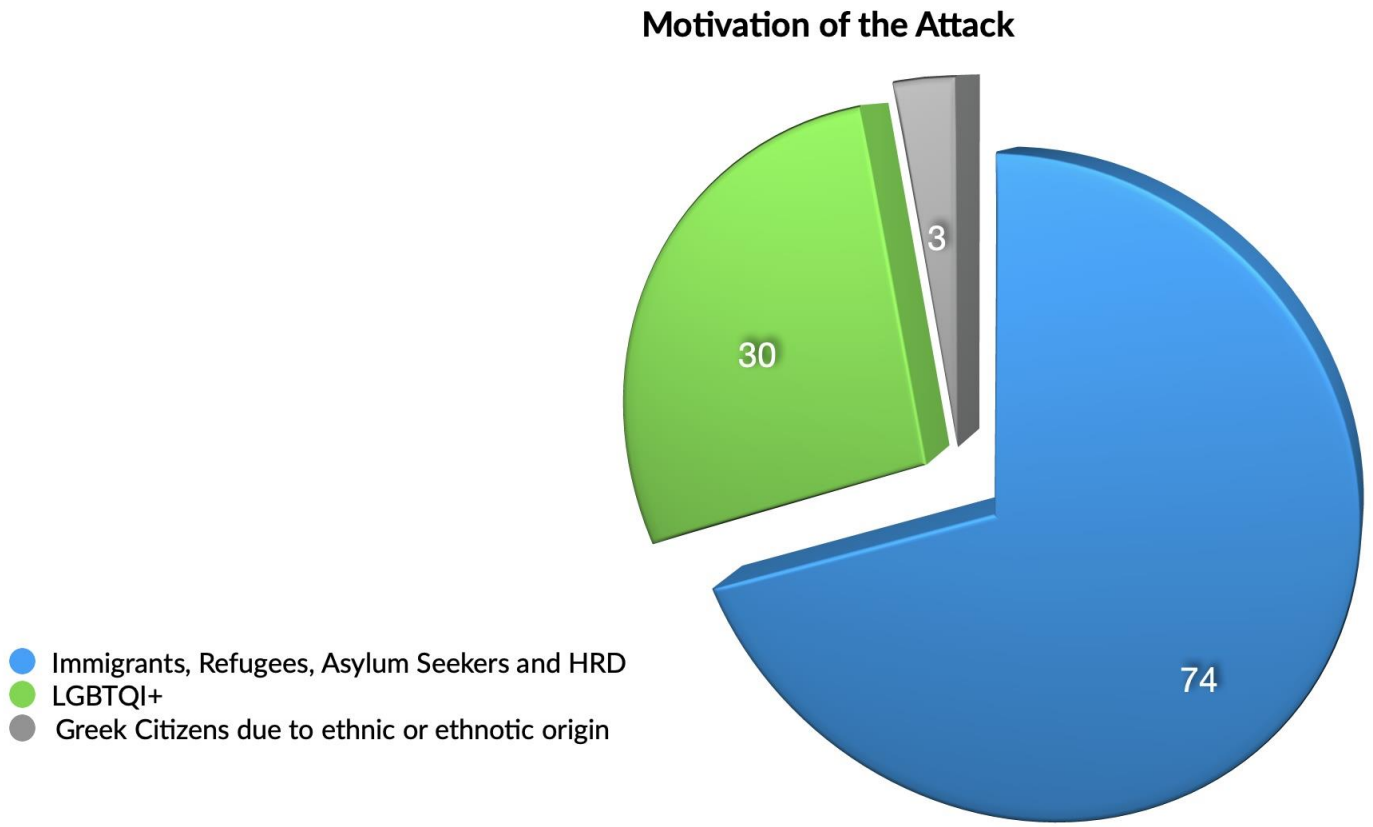
Tools and Procedures

- Inclusiveness and coordination;
- Clear objectives and tools;
- Common agreement on definitions, rules, rights and obligations;
- Common methodology on recording the incidents of racist violence;
- Dissemination of common findings (quantitative and qualitive trends of racist violence);
- Development of alliances and cooperation with other stakeholders;
- Internal and external capacity building.

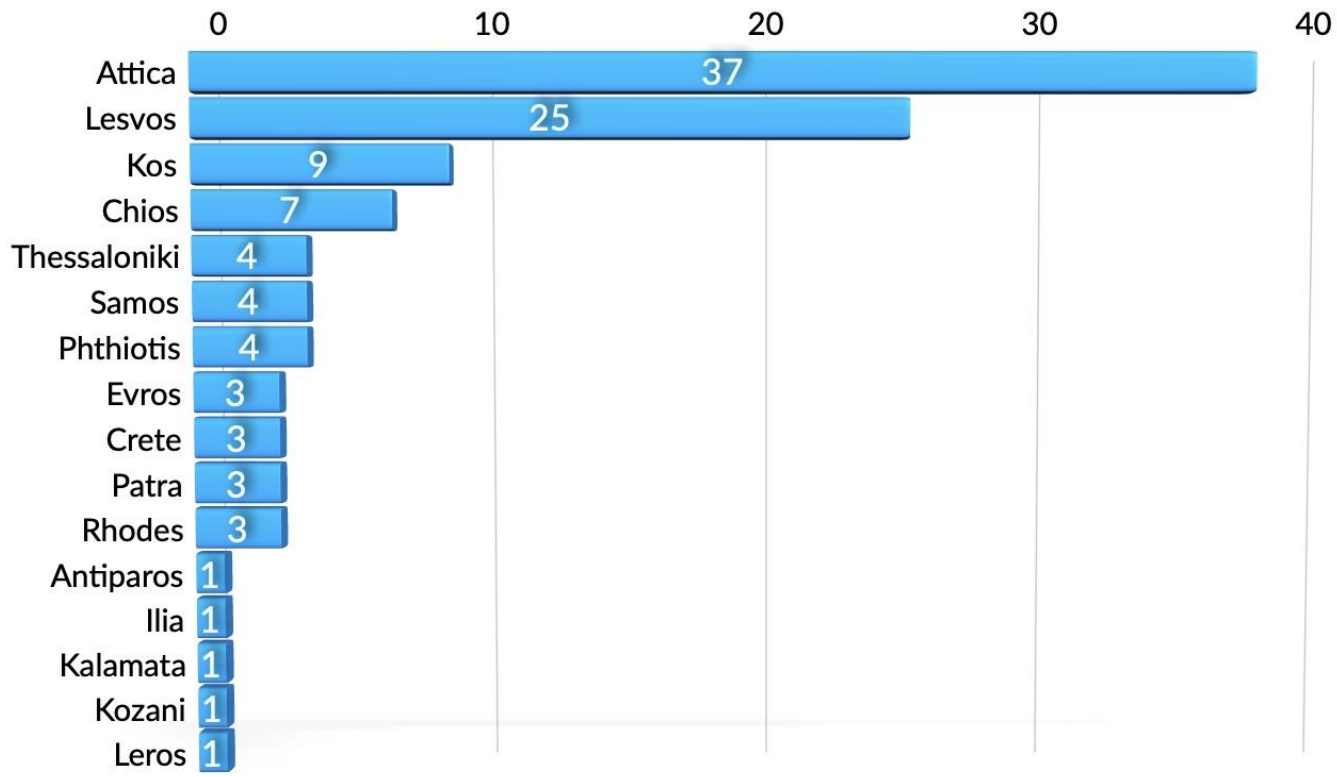
Methodology = Power of data | Safe Environment

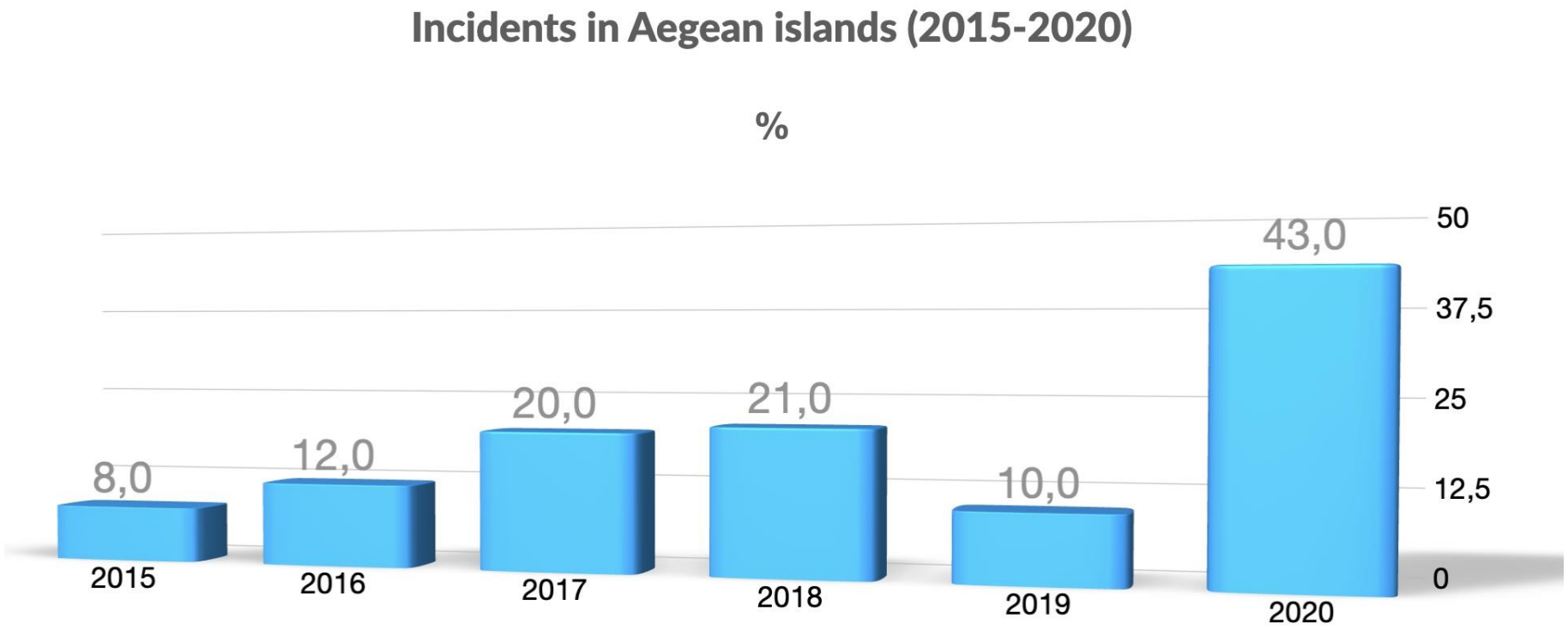
- Common recording form;
- Recording based on the victim's testimony | Effective communication with victims | Ensuring a safe environment for victims to report crime;
- Anonymous data, used solely and exclusively by the RVRN;
- Recorder's role and responsibility.

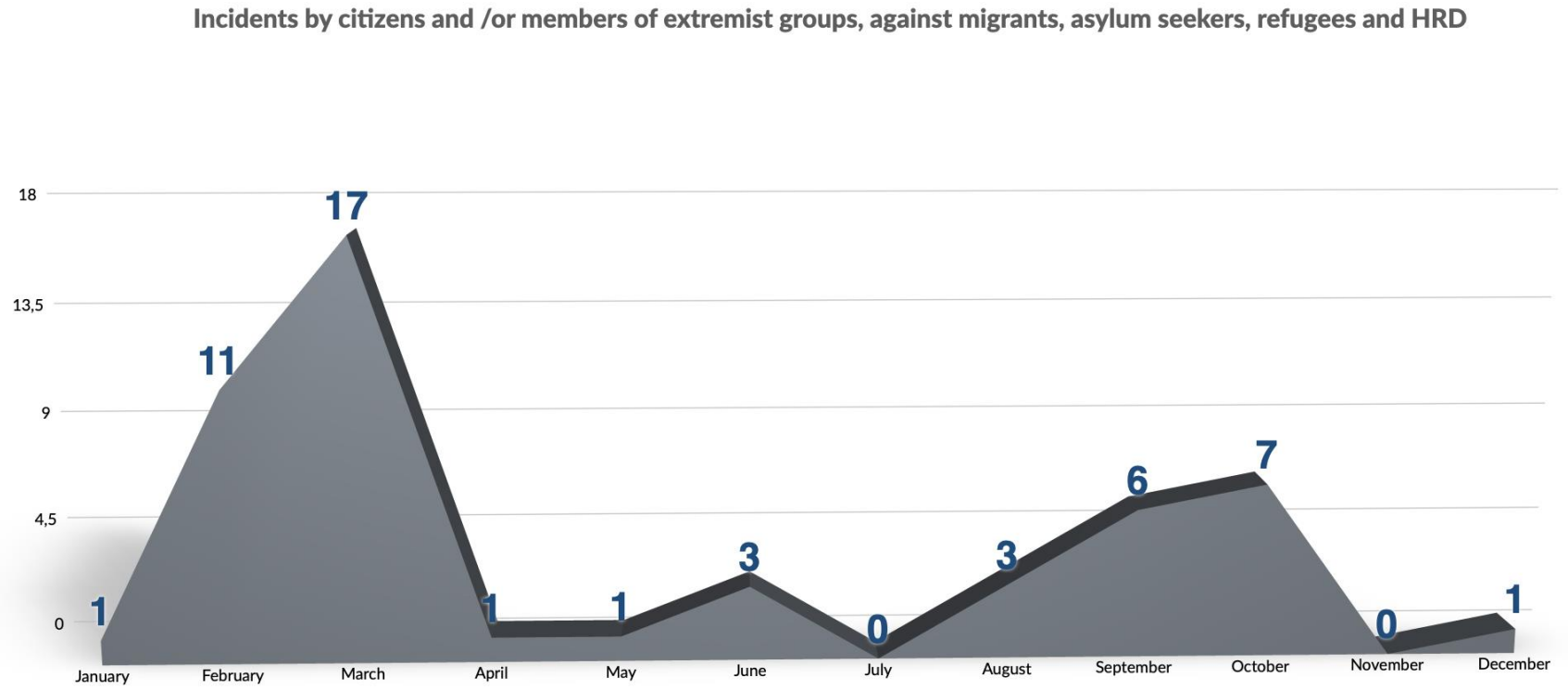
2020 RVRN Annual Report

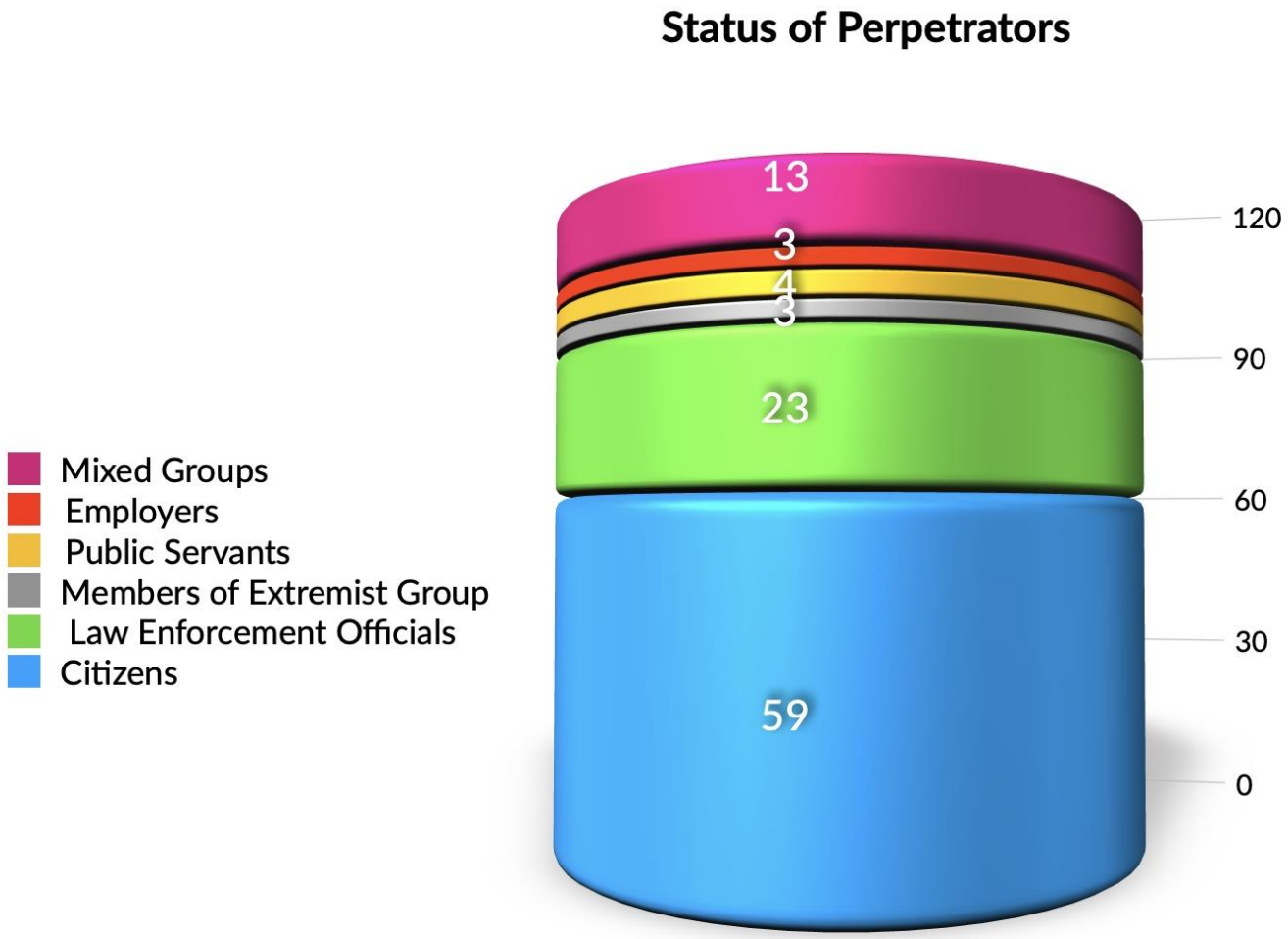

Motivation of the Attack
3
30
74
Immigrants, Refugees, Asylum Seekers and HRD
LGBTQI+
Greek Citizens due to ethnic or ethnotic origin

Geographical Dispersion

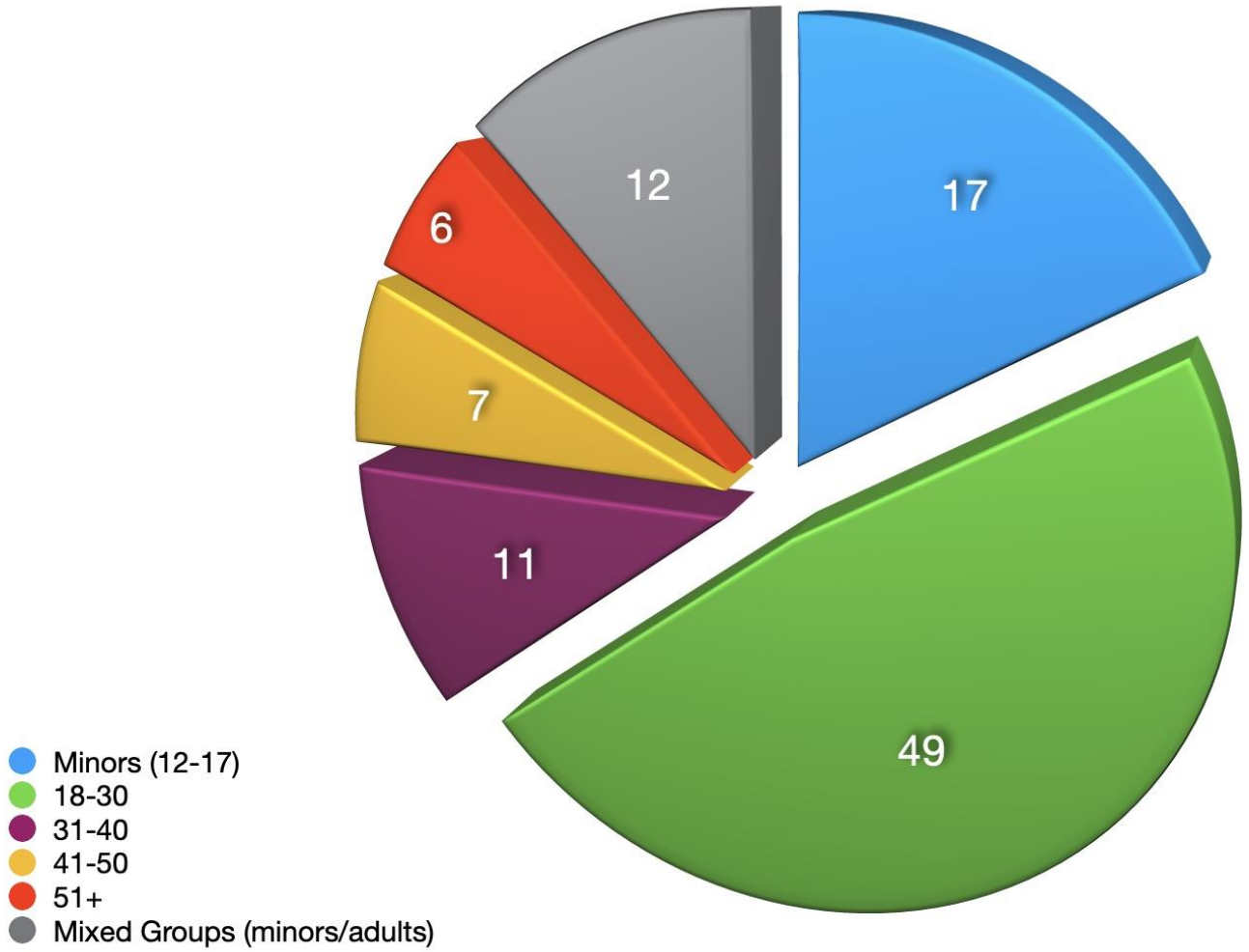


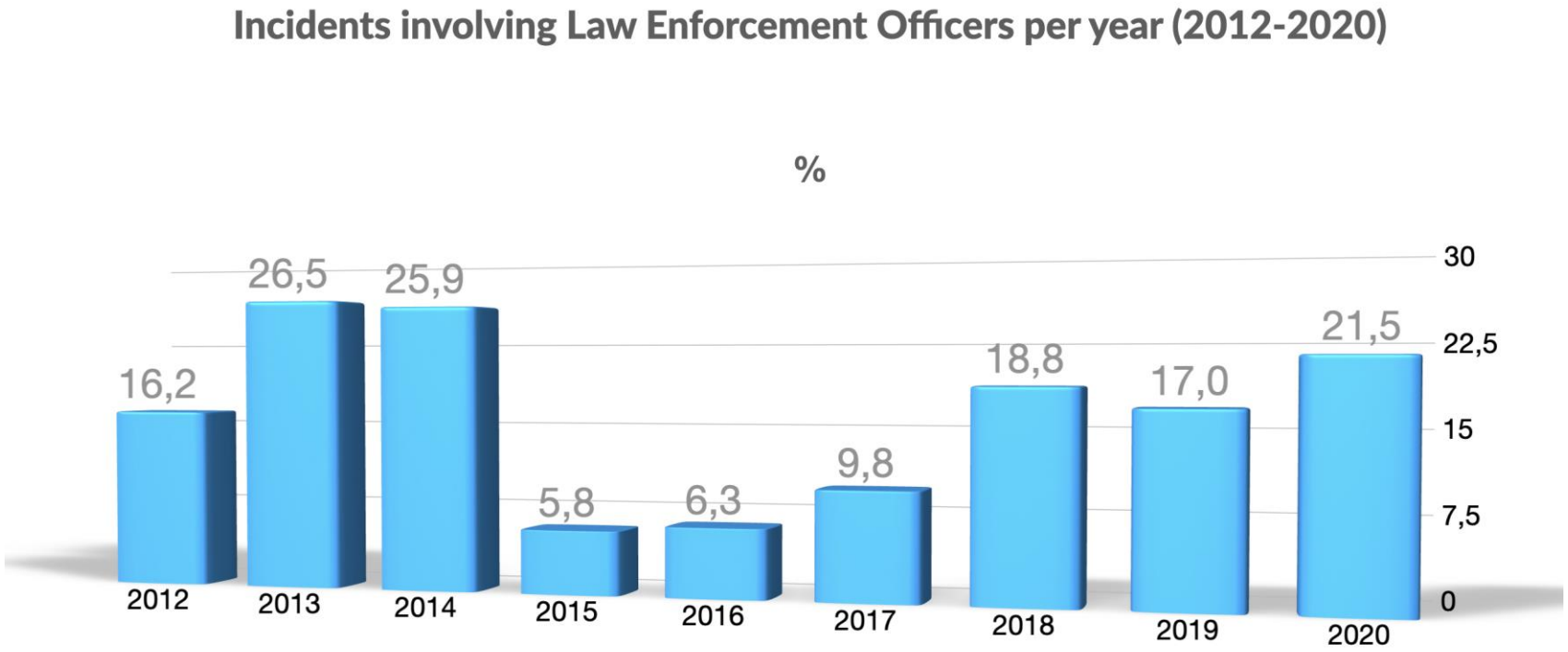

Incidents in Aegean islands (2015-2020)
%
50
37,5
25
12,5
0
8,0
12,0
20,0
21,0
10,0
43,0
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020


Incidents by citizens and /or members of extremist groups, against migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and HRD
18
13,5
9
4,5
0
1
11
17
1
1
3
0
3
6
7
0
1
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December


Status of Perpetrators
Mixed Groups
Employers
Public Servants
Members of Extremist Group
Law Enforcement Officials
Citizens
13
3
4
3
23
59
120
90
60
30
0

Age of Victims




Incidents involving Law Enforcement Officers per year (2012-2020)
%
30
22,5
15
7,5
0
16,2
26,5
25,9
5,8
6,3
9,8
18,8
17,0
21,5
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020

Communication Pathways with National Authorities

- Sharing common terminology;
- Apart from its contribution in making hate crimes visible and in promoting legislation combatting hate crime in practice, the RVRN was invited by the investigating authorities to actively contribute to the investigation of various criminal acts;
- Agreement on inter-agency co-operation on addressing racist crimes in Greece (ODIHR | Greek Authorities);
- Greek National Council against Racism and Intolerance;
- National Action Plan against Racism;

Operational challenges

- Challenges in data collection:
  - Victims' situation and profiles;
  - Members' capacity.
- Challenges in victims' support: Project-Based Services;
- Efforts to overcome challenges | Coordination.

Achievements

- Between 2011 and 2020 the RVRN has documented, through interviews with the victims, more than 1.200 incidents of racist violenceand many victims were supported;
- Ten (10) annual reports on trends widely disseminated and press conferences with pluralistic representation;
- Reliability of trends extracted from incidents acknowledged by UN agencies, FRA, OSCE etc.;
- Golden Dawn organisation and other individual perpetrators brought to justice;
- Special status for the protection of the victims and witnesses of hate crimes in the Greek legal framework;
- Empowerment of communities;
- Communication for the supervision of the execution of judgments, relating to the case of Sakir v. Greece (pursuant to Rule 9.2 | Application No. 48475/09);
- Institutional influence and recognition;

RVRN Domestic Advocacy | Main Points

- Implementation and enhancment of the National Action Plan against Racism, in the implementation of which all the involved Authorities should be engaged | Adjustmegt of the Action Plan to the recommendations of the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights;
- Proper recruitment procedure, training and strict guidelines for the Police;
- Training of prosecutors and judges;
- Adequate investigation of racist motive from the early stages of the procedure;
- Victim protection and support in practice;
- Improvment of coordination between the involved actors and services for ensuring vistim's support and protection;
- Special measures for facing the institutional racism;
- **Last but not least:** Send a message to all the directions that racist motivated violence is not tolerated | Ensure that victims' needs are met and their rights are respected.

Thank you!

https://www.facebook.com/rvrn.org/

www.rvrn.org

racistviolence@nchr.gr