

# LIGHT ON: CROSS-COMMUNITY ACTIONS FOR COMBATING THE MODERN SYMBOLISM AND LANGUAGES OF RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

Understanding the perception of racism  
Research as a tool against racism

LIGHT   
your turn to stop racism



LIGHT ON is a project co-financed by the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Union

The project “LIGHT ON - Cross-community actions for combating the modern symbolism and languages of racism and discrimination”, funded by the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Commission, aims to tackle racism and its related images and habits, providing a set of tools for the community and law enforcement professionals, through a preventive and participatory approach.

LIGHT ON is carried out by an interdisciplinary consortium of European actors engaged at different levels in activities to counter discrimination.

LIGHT ON objectives are:

- To challenge the normalization of racism and xenophobia and their acceptance in the dialogue and social dynamics of everyday life, through scientific research that identifies the images that explicitly and implicitly express racism while at the same time analyses how communities perceive them;
- To strengthen the capacity of professionals and authorities against hate crimes and discriminatory behaviours, through a highly specialised training model and a toolbox;
- To encourage citizens to report if they become victims or witness an incident of discrimination.

The editors of this volume are Anna Maria Boileau, Daniele Del Bianco and Ramona Velea, researchers at the ISIG - Institute of International Sociology, Gorizia.

The volume summarizes the main findings of the LIGHT ON research activities, as coordinated by the project Scientific

Board, composed by Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem (ELTE) (G. Csepeli), Peace Institute (PI) (V. Bajt) and the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG) (D. Del Bianco).

Main contributions of consortium partners:

**Introduction**

Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG) (AM. Boileau, D. Del Bianco, R. Velea)

**Mainstream research to combat racism**  
Peace Institute (PI) (V. Bajt, A. Frank)

**Putting a spot on racism: case studies and qualitative analysis**

Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem (ELTE) (G. Csepeli, G. Bernath)

Finnish Ombudsman for Minorities (J. Forbom)

Migrant & Refugee Communities Forum (MRCF) (Z. Bralo)

Abruzzo Region (A. Cerase)

Peace Institute (PI) (V. Bajt, A. Frank)

**Perceptions and interpretations of racist expressions**

Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG) (AM. Boileau, D. Del Bianco, R. Velea)

*DISCLAIMER*

*This report has been produced with the financial support of the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Union.*

*The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.*

*Contents of this publication may be quoted or reproduced, provided that the source of information is acknowledged.*

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>2</b>
CHALLENGING RACISM ACROSS EUROPE: PROJECT METHODS AND TOOLS .....	2
UNDERSTANDING THE PERCEPTION OF RACISM – RESEARCH AS A TOOL AGAINST RACISM.....	2
<b>MAINSTREAM RESEARCH TO COMBAT RACISM</b> .....	<b>4</b>
THEORY AND CONCEPTS OF RACISM .....	4
<i>Historical roots of racism</i> .....	4
<i>National identity construction and the Other</i> .....	4
<i>Contemporary racism</i> .....	5
<i>Neo-racism and immigration</i> .....	6
DISCRIMINATION AND INTOLERANCE AS PRACTICE OF INEQUALITY .....	6
A SNAPSHOT OF RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION PRACTICES IN THE 5 PROJECT COUNTRIES .....	7
<i>Finland</i> .....	7
<i>Hungary</i> .....	8
<i>Italy</i> .....	8
<i>Slovenia</i> .....	9
<i>United Kingdom</i> .....	10
CONCLUSIONS.....	11
<b>PUTTING A SPOT ON RACISM: CASE STUDIES AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS</b> .....	<b>12</b>
METHODS AND INSTRUMENTS .....	12
RACISM UNDER THE LOUPE: KNOWING FOR COUNTERACTING .....	12
<i>Visual racism: the LIGHT ON Visual Database</i> .....	12
<i>Languages of racism: the Glossary of racist terms and the LIGHT ON Bliki</i> .....	13
RACISM IN EVERYDAY LIFE - A SELECTION OF CASE STUDIES .....	13
ANALYZING RACISM MANIFESTATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE .....	20
<i>General characteristics of social psychology of exclusion in contemporary Europe</i> .....	20
<b>PERCEPTIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF RACIST EXPRESSIONS</b> .....	<b>24</b>
MATERIALS, INSTRUMENTS AND METHOD .....	24
<i>The proposed items</i> .....	24
<i>The sample</i> .....	26
<i>Previous knowledge and experience with the proposed items</i> .....	27
<i>Dimensions of meaning ascription</i> .....	28
<i>Significant differences in ascribing meaning to the items</i> .....	30
<i>Dimensions of meaning intentions</i> .....	32
<i>Significant differences in interpreting the meaning intentions of the users</i> .....	34
<i>Dimensions of meaning eteroperceptions</i> .....	37
<i>Significant differences in interpreting the eteroperceptions</i> .....	38
<i>Dimensions of social value/disvalue</i> .....	40
<i>Significant differences in figuring out future scenarios</i> .....	42
SOME IMPLICATIONS FROM RESEARCH FINDINGS .....	47
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>48</b>