

- 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

1. [Malta](#) (89%)
2. [Belgium](#) (73%)
3. [Luxembourg](#) (73%)
4. [Denmark](#) (68 %)
5. [Norway](#) (68%)

BOTTOM 5, Rainbow Europe 2020

45. [Monaco](#) (11%)
 46. [Russia](#) (10%)
 47. [Armenia](#) (8%)
 48. [Turkey](#) (4%)
 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.

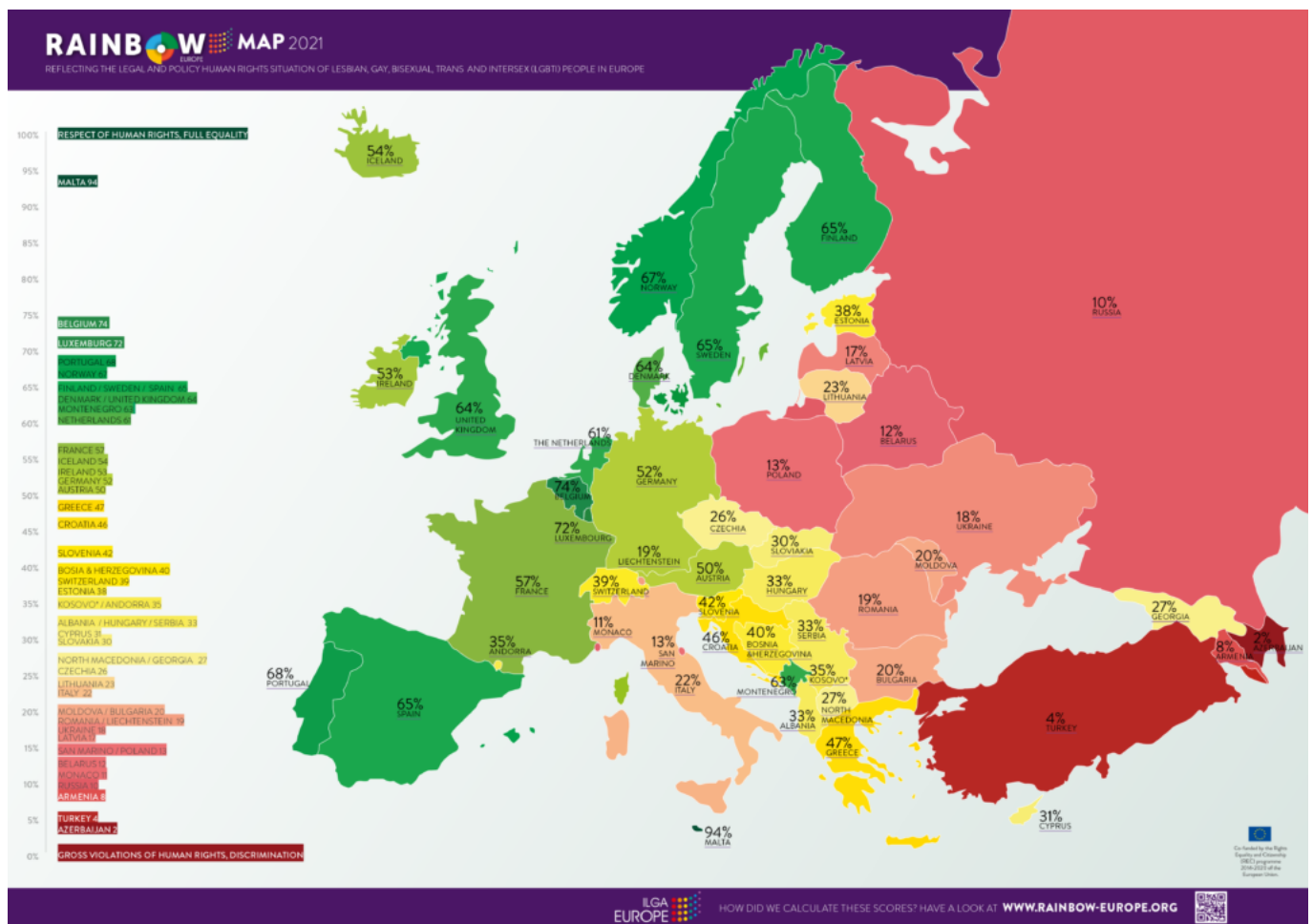
Court judgements in several countries had groundbreaking effects on the lives of LGBTI people, including [Spain](#)'s Constitutional Court's ruling against the age limit for gender marker change for trans people; [Switzerland](#)'s Federal Court decision saying that the Constitution protects 'gender 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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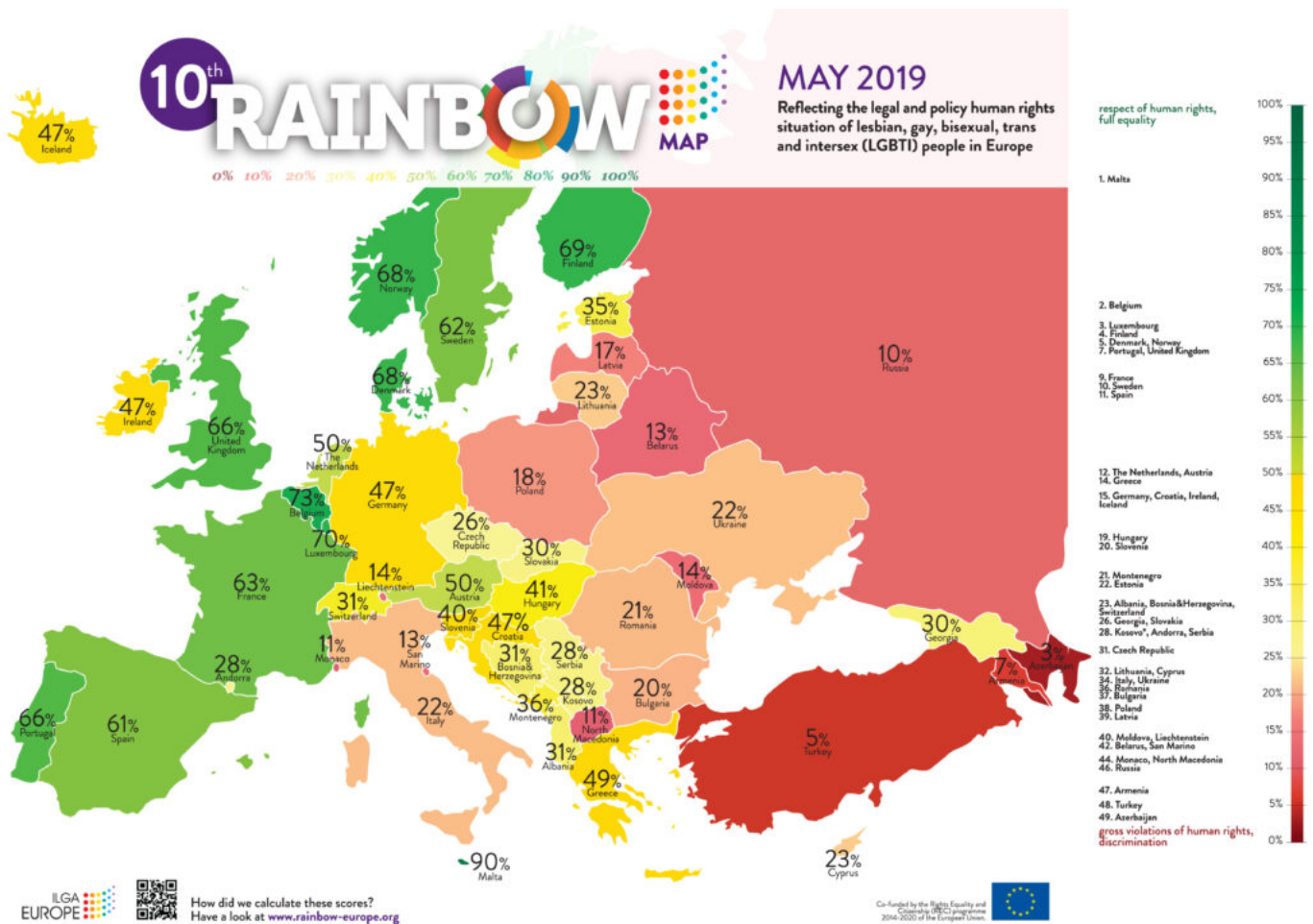
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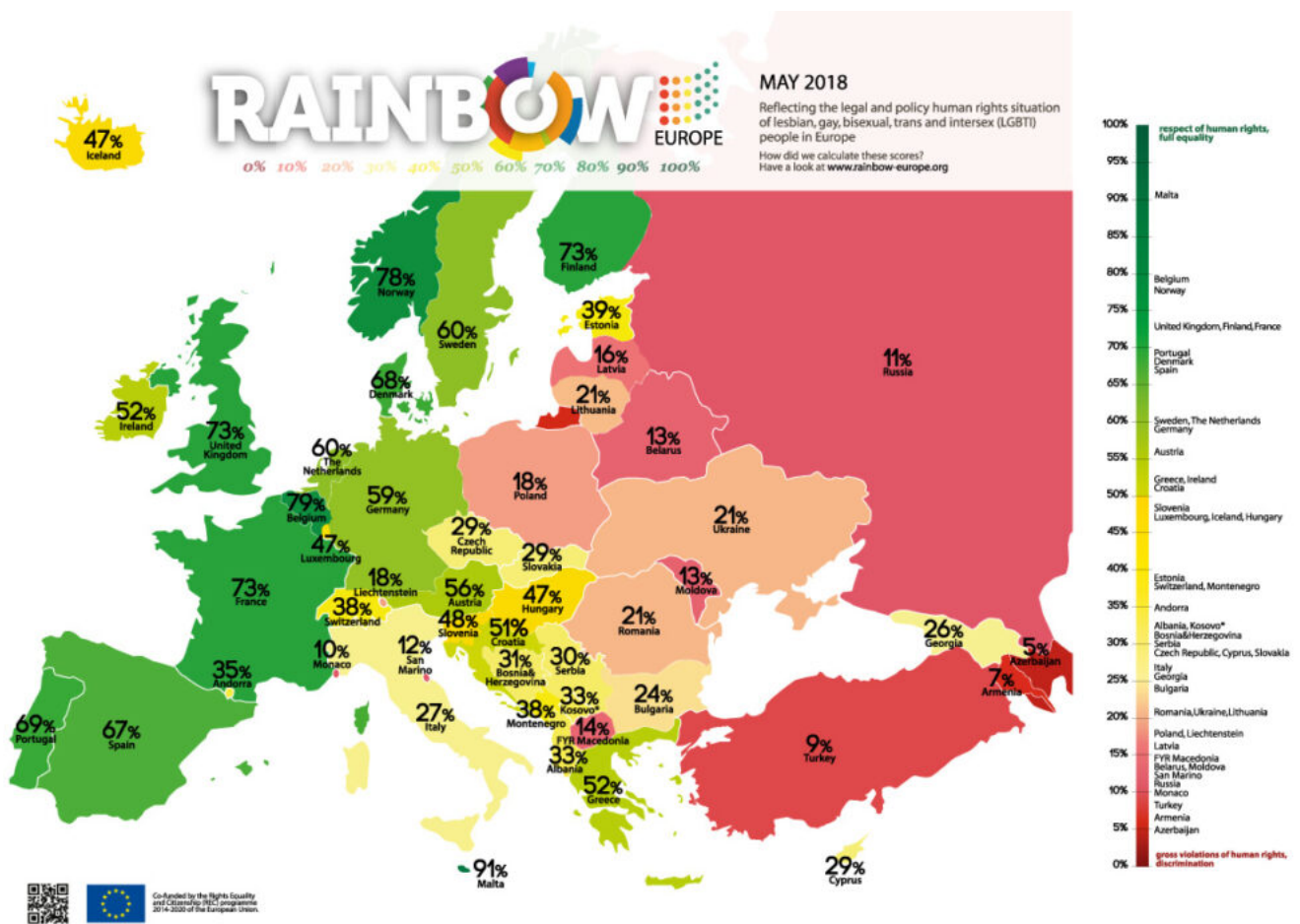
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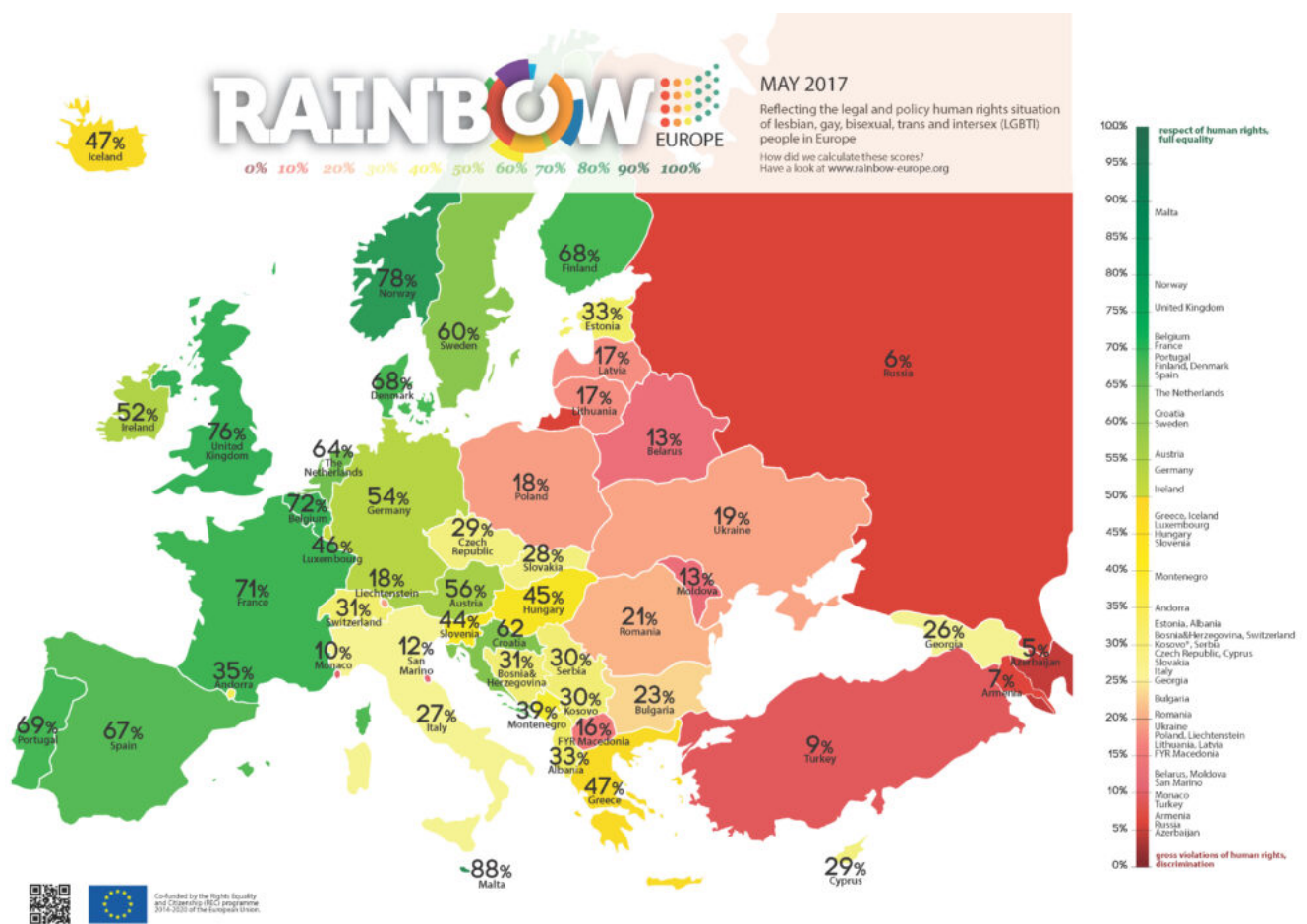
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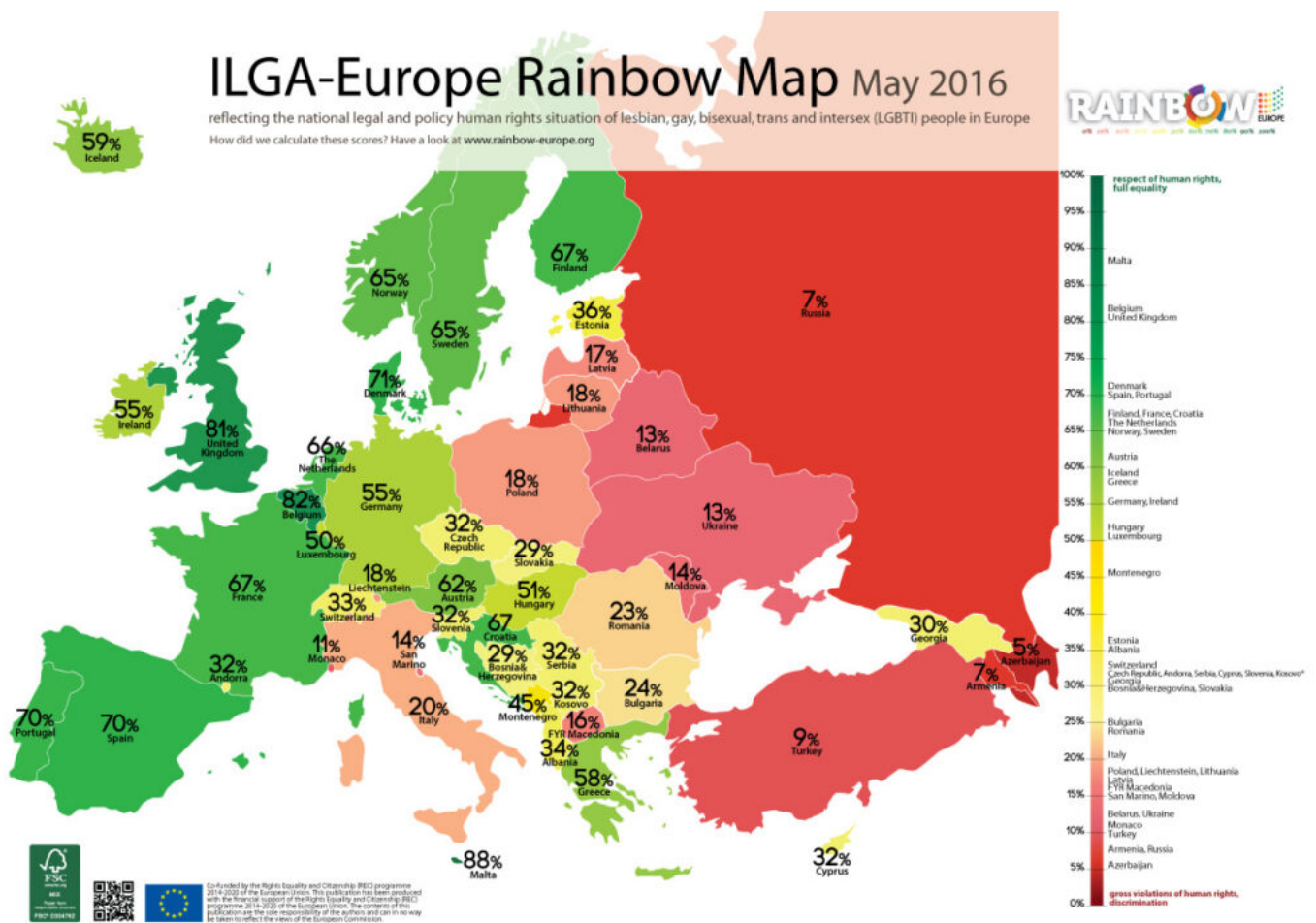
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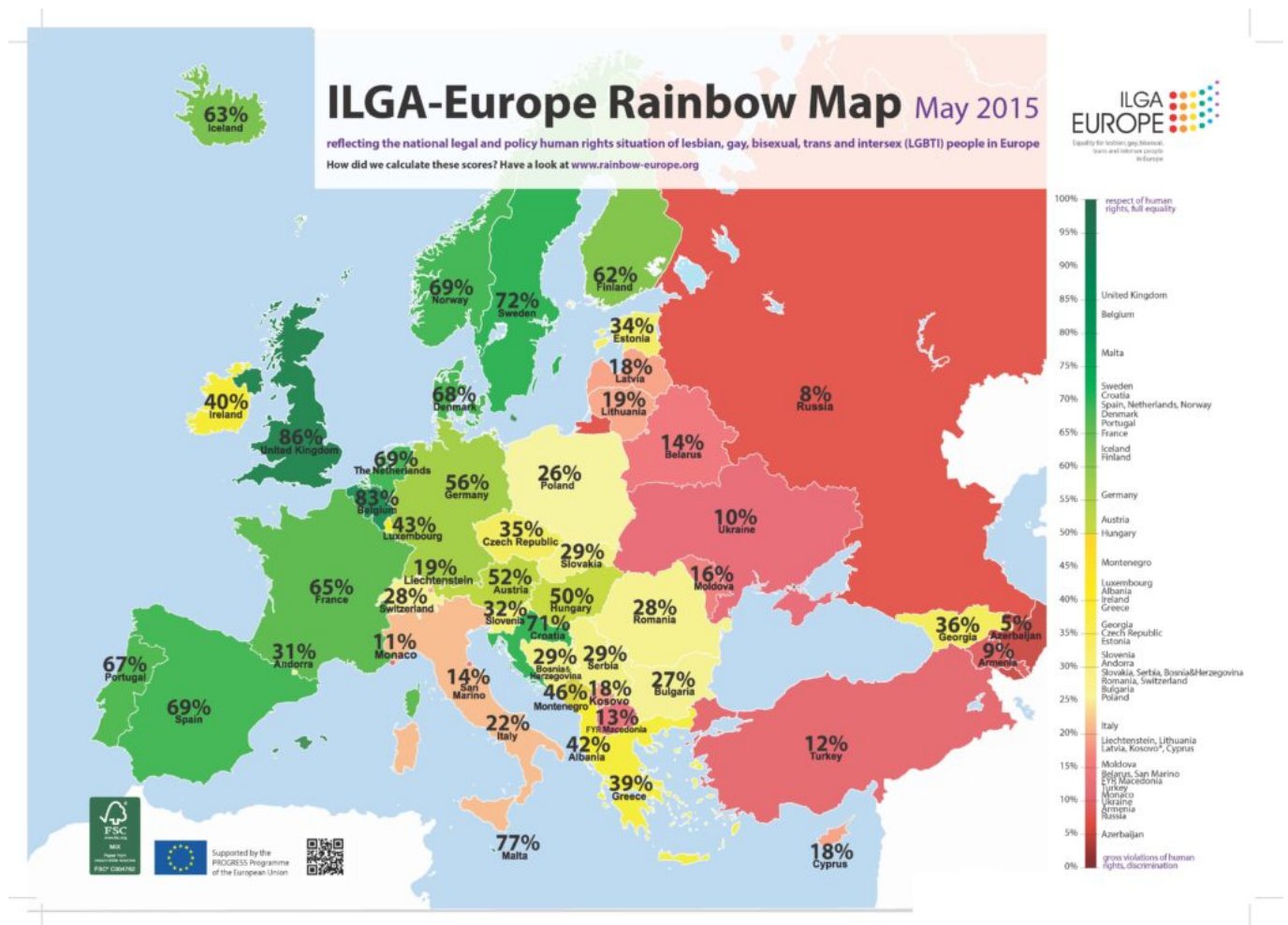
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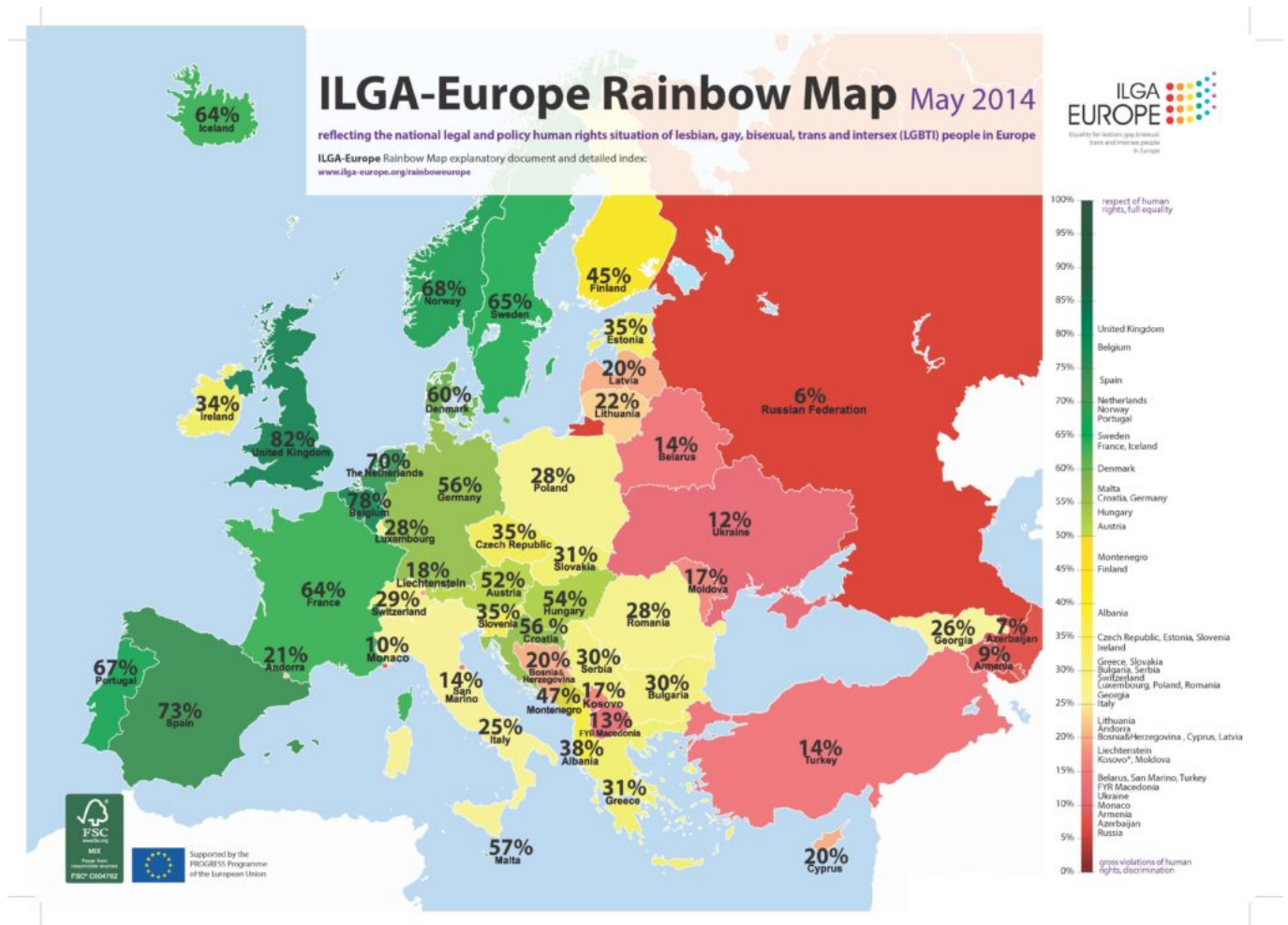
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10.05.2015

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Launched in Montenegro, at the 2015 European IDAHOT Forum celebrating International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (17 May), the 2015 Rainbow Europe package highlights [...]

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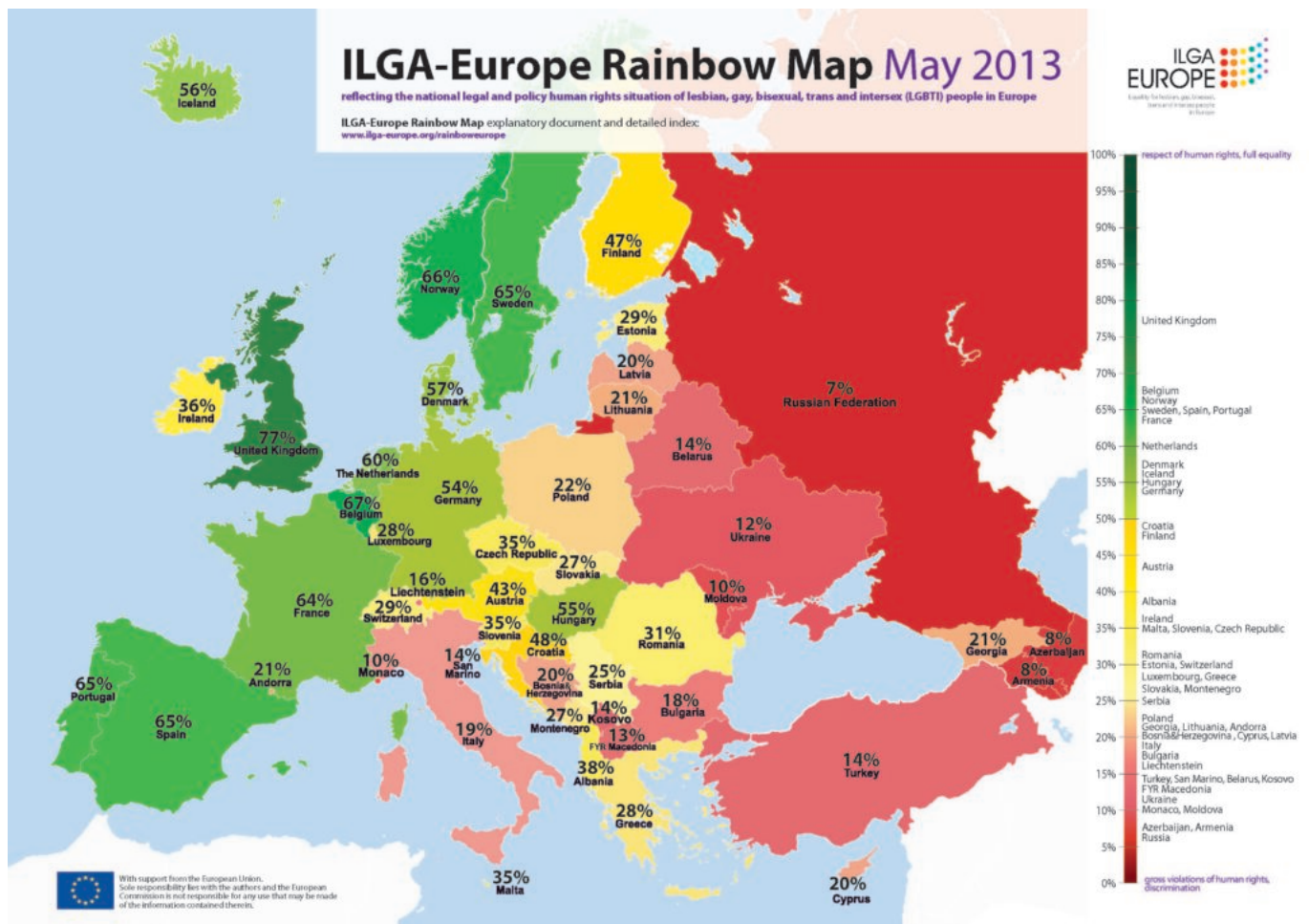
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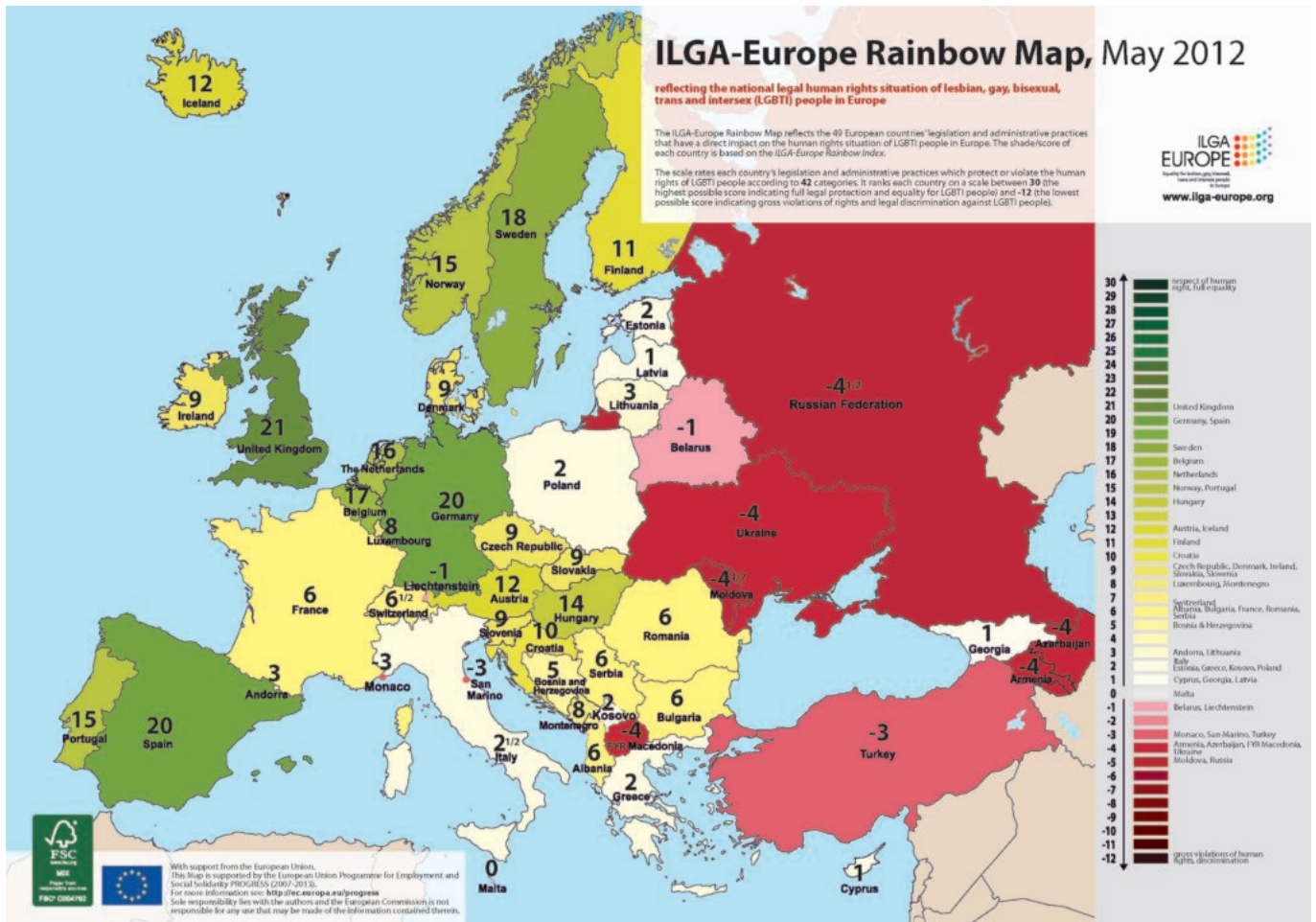
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Lately, we heard a lot about marriage equality debate in France and the large public demonstrations by the opponents, or the regressive developments in Russia [...]

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On 17 May, the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia is being marked. Every year on this day ILGA-Europe looks at progress made by European [...]

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