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FATIGUE programme



FATIGUE

How the fear of Muslim refugees and Islamophobia stole the Czech political agenda

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“No to Islam. No to terrorists. A safe country for each [one]”
October 2017 Parliamentary Election



“STOP Immigrants and Drahoš [his opponent]. This country is ours!
Vote for Zeman!”
January 2018 Presidential Election



“Havířov without migrants!”
October 2018 Municipal elections



“Refugees? I do not want a single one”

September 2018 – ANO movement's official newspaper

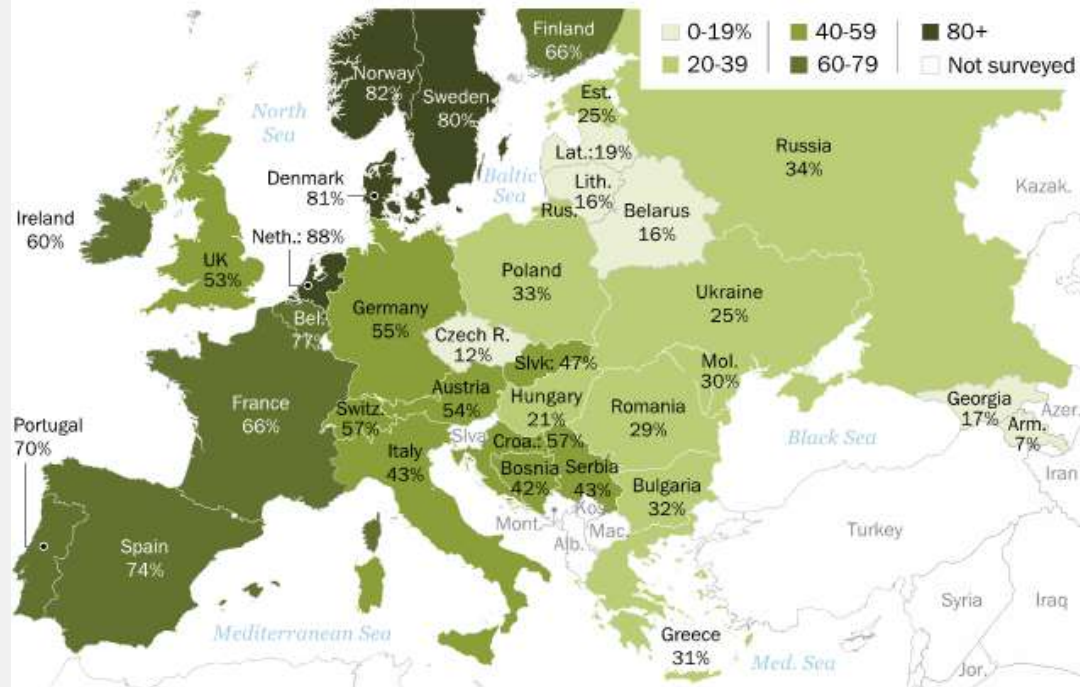
The puzzle

Is Czechia an infertile ground for prejudice?



Vast differences across Europe in public attitudes toward Muslims

% who say they would be willing to accept Muslims as members of their family



Note: This question was not asked of Muslims.

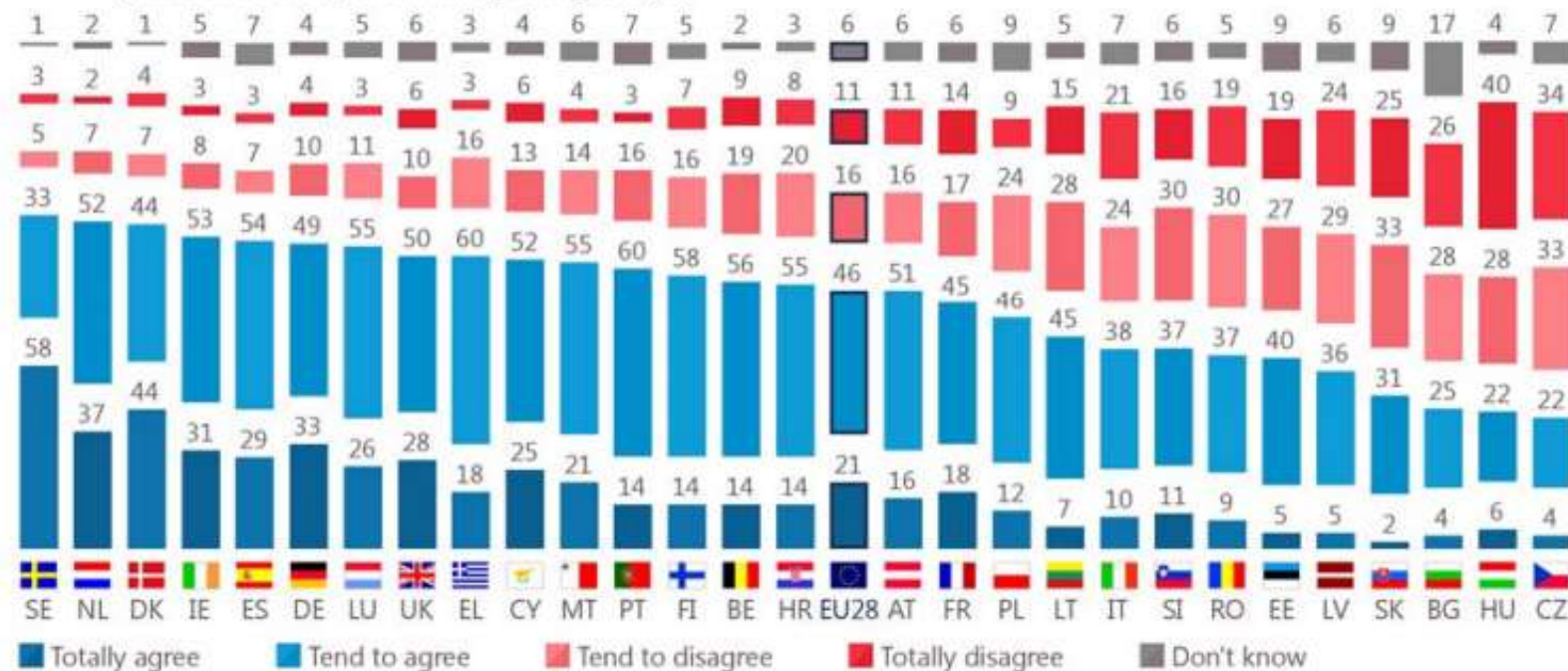
Source: Surveys conducted 2015-2017 in 34 countries. See Methodology for details.

“Eastern and Western Europeans Differ on Importance of Religion, Views of Minorities, and Key Social Issues”

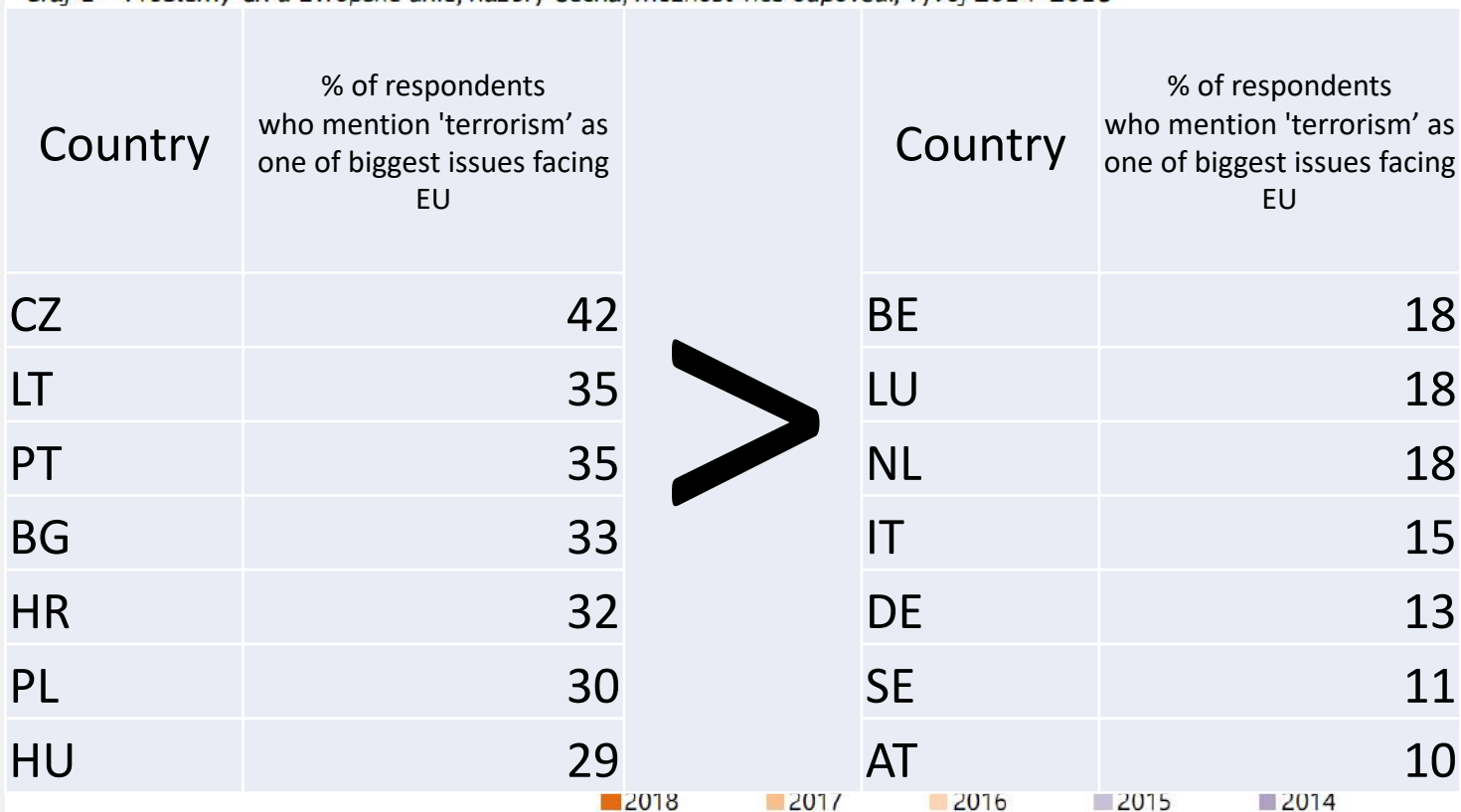
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

QD9.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

(OUR COUNTRY) should help refugees (%)



Graf 1 – Problémy ČR a Evropské unie, názory Čechů, možnost více odpovědí, vývoj 2014–2018



The Czech lands have a history with Islam...



Statue to the founders of the Trinitarian Order, Prague



Schwarzenbergs' coat of arms



Alois Musil



Minaret in the gardens of the Palace of Lednice

Muslim population in the Czech Republic is nowadays small and well-integrated





POST 1989

Islamophobia from non-state actors
Pro-Israeli turn



FIRST WAVE (2001-2009)

Specialised websites
Debates on multiculturalism and terrorism
Public opinion against Turkish accession



SECOND WAVE (2009-2014)

Anti-Islamic social media proliferation
Co-operation with far right

In the near future, the issue of Islam is unlikely to become crucial for extreme right politics in East-Central Europe, unless something extraordinary were to happen (e.g., an Islamist terrorist attack in the area with major consequences)”

(Mareš, 2014, p. 220)



June 2014



January 2015



January 2015



November 2015



NYE 2015-6

Media

Sensationalism and manipulation

Key role of social media

Lack of national expertise on Islam

Islamophobia hijacks Czech content on Islam



Politics

Activities of anti-Islamic groups

Popularity of populist radical-right

Co-option of mainstream actors

Key role of President



SPD rally in Prague (April 2019)

“the systematic tendency to evaluate one’s own membership group (the in-group) or its members more favorably than a nonmembership group (the out-group) or its members”

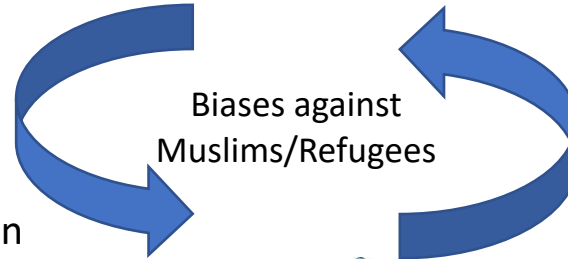
(Hewstone et al., 2002, p. 576)

Intergroup Bias

Prejudice
(attitudes)

Stereotyping
(cognitive schemas)

Discrimination
(behaviour)



Discourse

Ideas about:

Islam

Community

National Identity

Citizenship

Europe

Religion

Diversity

Etc.

To understand the **societal root-causes**, as well as the **political and cultural strategies** applied by various actors, that brought anti-refugee and Islamophobic sentiments to the forefront of mainstream Czech politics, particularly from 2015 onwards

Demand

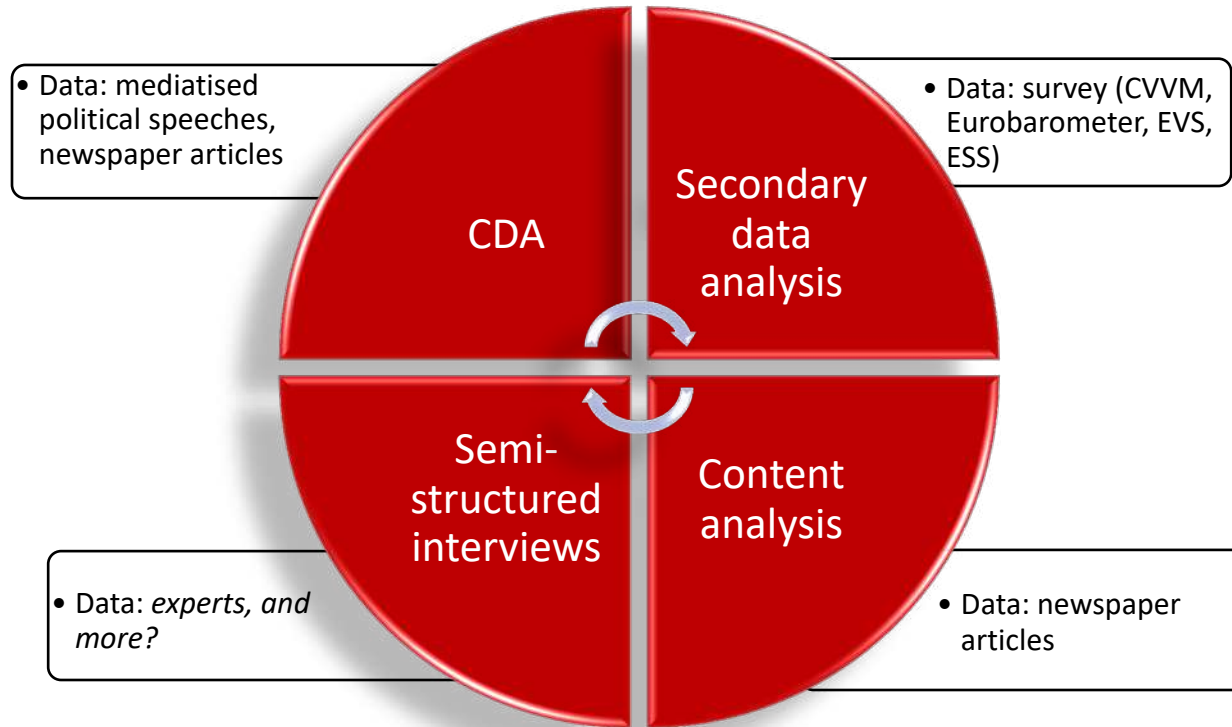
Who holds more/less negative attitudes?

What bigger ideas lie behind these attitudes?

Supply

How and why did politicians and newspapers contribute to the construction of the threat?

Which appeals/strategies were used by discrete actors?



Questions | Comments

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