





### **EUNMUTE** WORKING PAPER

LOBBYING FOR INTERSECTIONALITY: CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, THE OPEN SOCIETY FONDATIONS AND THE EU's ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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Lobbying for Intersectionality: Civil Society Organizations, the Open Society Foundations and the EU's Anti-Discrimination Policy

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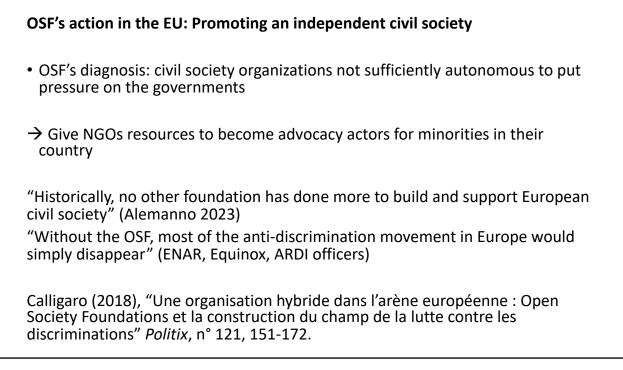
#### Background and research questions

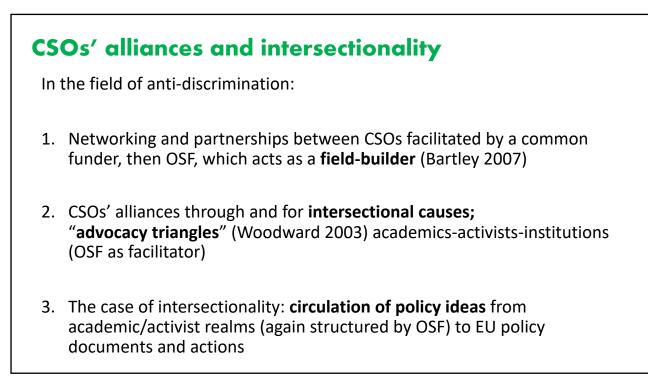
- Place and role of **civil society actors** in EU policymaking: capacity to put public issues on the agenda, to propose policy ideas and instruments.
- Who/what is European civil society? (Armstrong 2002, Kohler-Koch & Quittkat 2009)
- Weaker representation of "general interest" groups (human rights, consumers rights, health, environment)
- → A main issue for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs): funding and resources.
- → Which coalitions and advocacy strategies to reach and influence the EU institutional sphere?



 Objectives: promotion of 'open societies' (Karl Popper): liberal democracy, market economy, protection of marginalized groups ('lost causes')

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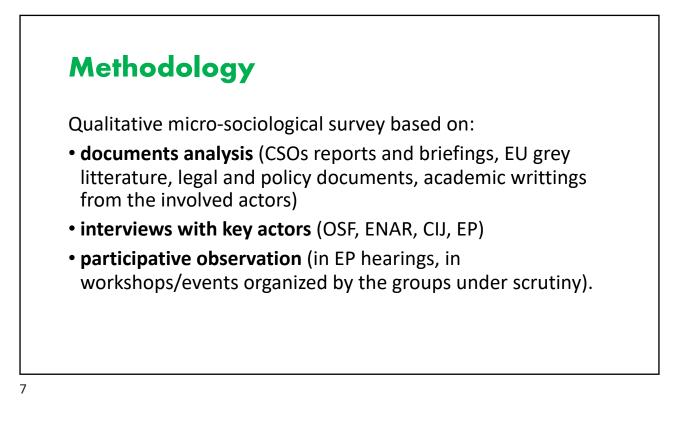




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### Actors of the advocacy triangles

- Open Society Foundations (OSF)
- European Network Against Racism (ENAR), Brussels
- European Womens' Lobby, Brussels
- Migration Policy Group (MPG), Brussels (academic/activist)
- Centre for Intersectional Justice (CIJ) Émilia Roig (academic/activist)
- European Parliament (ARDI Intergroup on Anti-Racism and Diversity)
- European Commission (DG JUST, Commissioner for Equality, Equality Task Force)



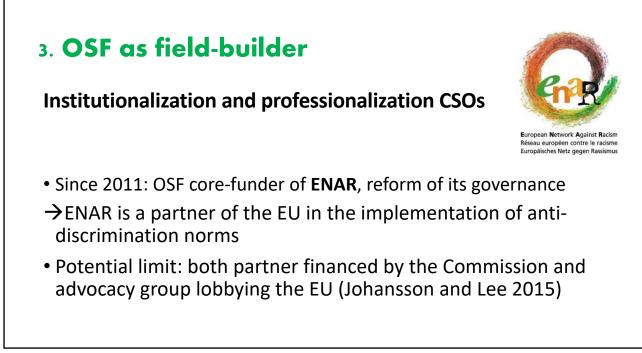
#### 1. EU anti-discrimination policy and the creation of ENAR

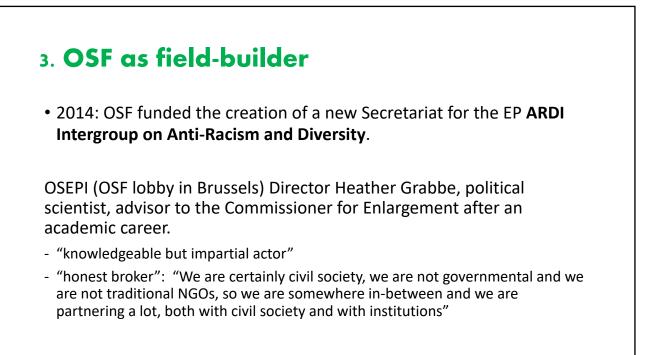
- 1997: Treaty of Amsterdam, Art. 13: action to combat 'discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion of belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation'
- 1998: Creation of ENAR, Umbrella Organization financed by the Commission Action Plan against Racism

ENAR is a partner of the EU in the design and implementation of anti-discrimination norms

2000: Race Equality Directive (Starting Line, key role of MPG)







# 4. The OSF, advocacy triangles and the intersectional agenda/approach

- Ethnic data collection: "Equality Data Initiative" 2014, coalition Open Society European Policy Institute (OSEPI), Migration Policy Group and ENAR
- Combination of academic and activist capitals to produce a report for the European institutions:

**ENAR:** Representativeness, first-hand data from the grassroots organization, expertise based on field knowledge

MGP: academic/institutional legitimacy

**OSF:** symbolic capital (academic and social capital of its staff), Expertise based on academic knowledge, Non-confrontational' advocacy, 'honest brokers', neutrality



#### 5. Circulation of the intersectionality concept and EU Action Plan against Racism (2020)

1. Centre for Intersectional Justice (based in Berlin)

Émilia Roig – Founder and Director, "Apostle of intersectionality in Europe"

Supervisee of Kimberlé Crenshaw ("mother" of intersectionality concept) while at Columbia Law School during her PhD.

- 2017: Creation of Centre for Intersectional Justice
- 2018: OSF proposes to become a core-funder
- 2018: ENAR/CIJ symposium on Intersectionality in Brussels: "How can intersectionality be mobilized by activists and policy-makers as a powerful tool for equality and solidarity?"

# 5. Circulation of the intersectionality concept

- 2. Advocacy coalition ENAR / CIJ
- ENAR commissioned a report to CIJ on Intersectionality in EU public policies, completed in December 2019 and transmitted to the EU institutions
- 2019/2020: many interventions of Émilia Roig in EU institutions on intersectionality (EP hearing of Gender Equality Programme, ARDI workshop for the EP, for the Equality Task Force of the Commission)

### 5. Circulation of the intersectionality concept

- 3. New political context: Black Lives Matter
- May 2020: massive BLM protests in Europe
- June 2020: Resolution of the EP ("structural discrimination", "intersectional approach")
- June 2020: Reaction of the Commission, DG JUST in charge of drafting EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025 for sept. 2020.
- The Commission relied on the work done by ENAR/CIJ (2019 report)?

### 5. Circulation of the intersectionality concept

#### 4. EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025 (Sept 2020)

- Strong similarities between the ENAR/CIJ Report and the Action Plan (vocabulary and measures)
- For the first time, a Commission document explicitly acknowledges the existence of structural, institutional and historical dimensions of racism in Europe.

"An intersectional perspective deepens understanding of structural racism, and makes responses more effective"

• Creation of an Equality Data Roundtable (including ENAR): "to examine the obstacles to the collection of data related to racial or ethnic origin and identify paths to a more harmonised approach, including on intersectional data as regards, for instance, religion or belief and gender"

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#### **Provisional conclusions and next steps**

- Intersectionality both a catalyser of CSOs coalitions (feminist, antiracist, migrants rights CSOs) and an objective of these coalitions (the integration of the intersectional approach in policies).
- The OSF played a pivotal role in putting intersectionality at the core of advocacy strategies.
- Limits of these coalitions: ideological divides, different understandings and uses of intersectionality.
- Further explore circulation of the intersectionality concept.
  - Further investigate the institutional side of the triangle: MEPs, DG JUST, Equality Task Force

