

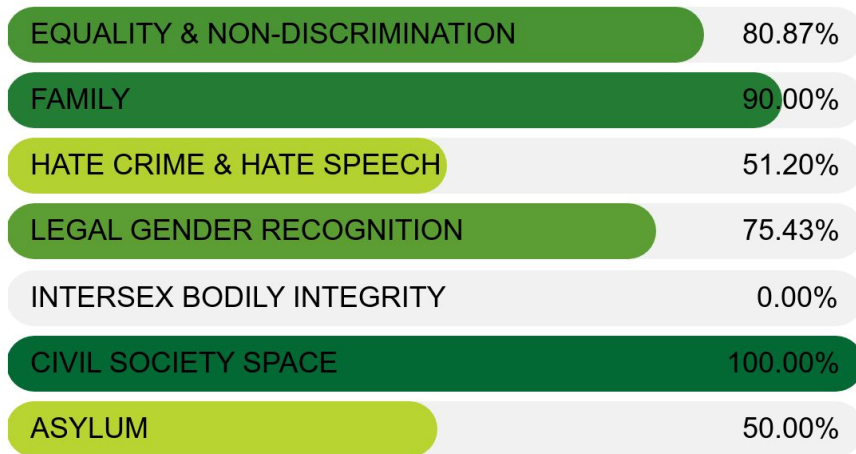
Eliciting and Evaluating Asylum Claims Based on Sexual Orientation: Findings from Finland

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2024 Country Score - Finland 6th Position



2024 Categories Global Scores Finland



(Download date: 2024-09-05)

ILGA Europe (2024)

The myth of a “save haven”?



Sexual and Gender Minorities Among the Foreign-Origin Populations in Finland

An intersectional analysis

Mercédesz Czibalmos
Shadia Rask



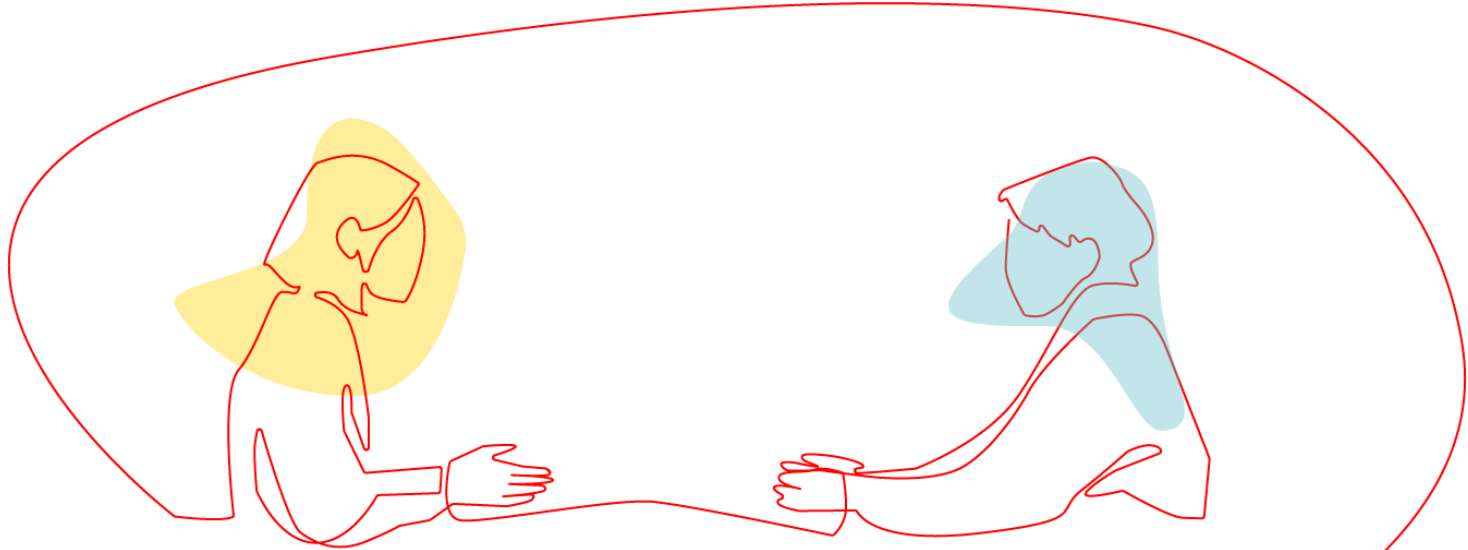
REPORT 10/2022



Czibalmos and Rask (2022)

Background • Decision-making patterns • Interviewing techniques • Late disclosure • Conclusions

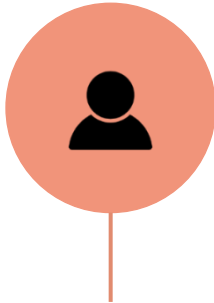
A unique collaboration between asylum practitioners and researchers.



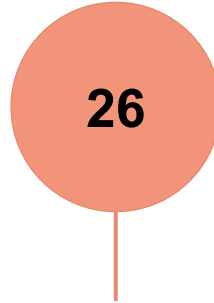
**Specialisation course in legal psychology
for asylum interviewers**

Skrifvars et al. (2023)

Sociodemographic profile of 129 claimants



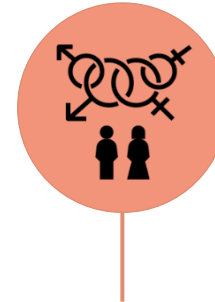
- **Men (N = 115)***
- Women (N = 6)
- Non-binary (N = 4)



Mean age
(Range: 16-55)

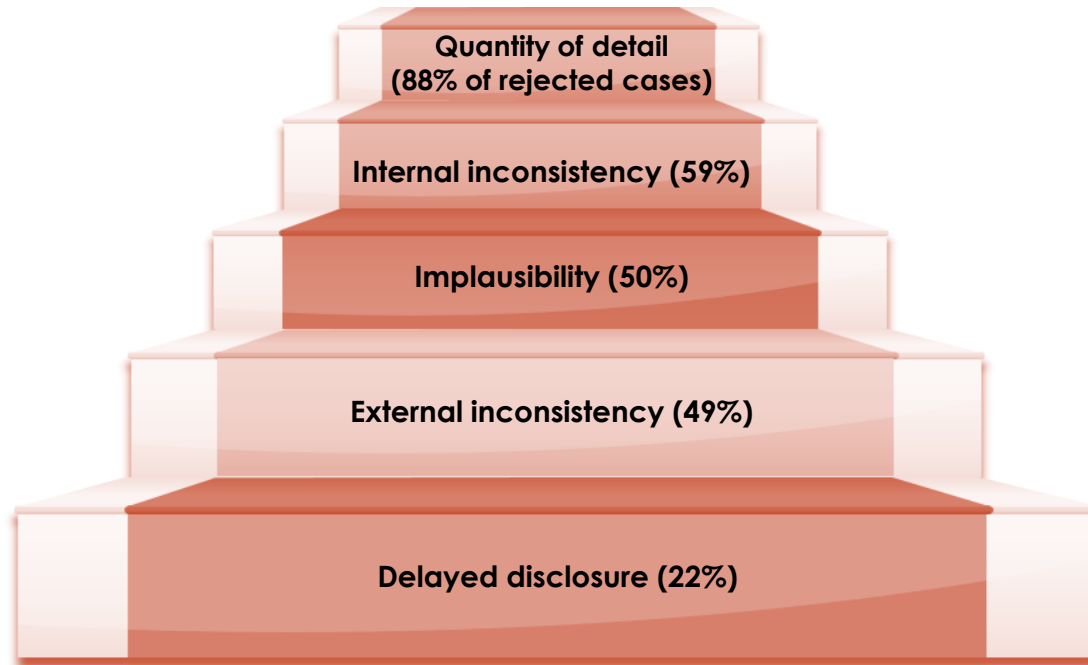


- **Iraq (N = 87)**
- Russia (N = 11)
- Cameroon (N = 6)




- **Gay (N = 85)**
- Bisexual (N = 14)
- No label used (N = 11)
- Perceived as non-heterosexual (N = 4)

70% of cases rejected because the sexual orientation was not found credible.



Selim et al. (2023)

Behaving (ir)rationally, reacting (im)plausibly?



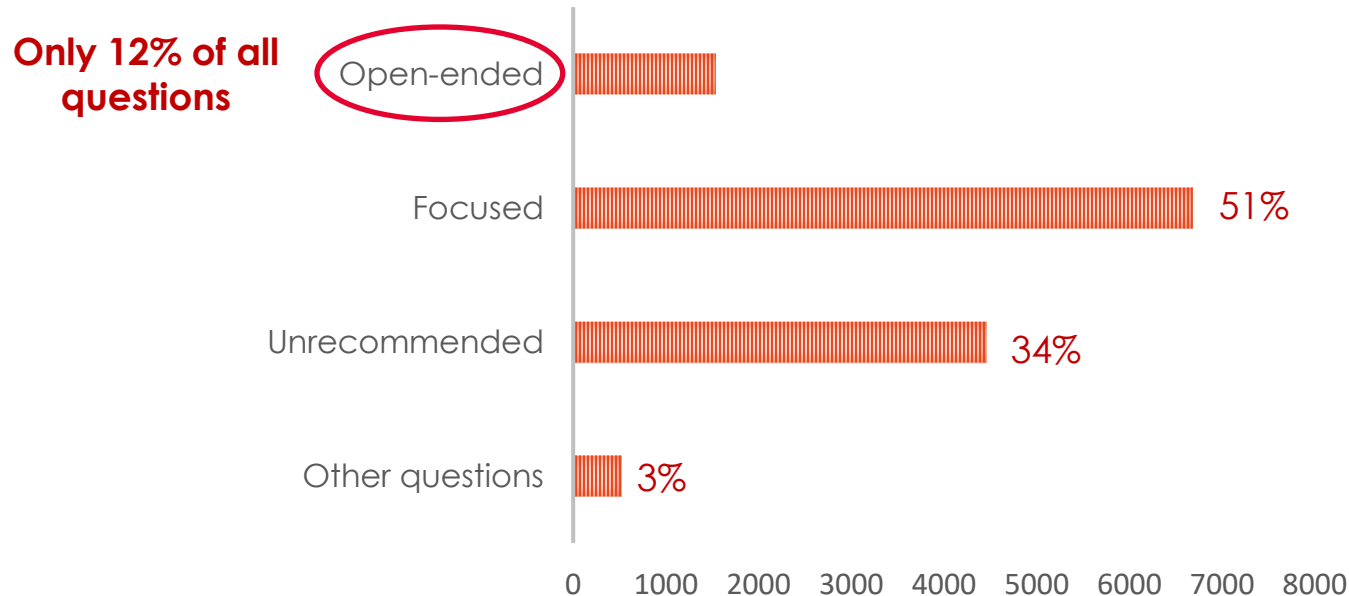
*“You have also been asked how you experience the relationship between your religion and your sexuality. You have responded narrowly that **you do not see that as a problem**, because **although you are Muslim, you do not practice Islam.**”*

Behaving (ir)rationally, reacting (im)plausibly?



*“Although your own family background would be more liberal than a normal family from Iraq, the Finnish Immigration Service believes that, considering the generally conservative attitudes of the society of [country of origin], a person **could be reasonably required** to be able to describe more precisely **their own feelings or conflicts connected to their sexual orientation.**”*

A predominance of focused questions, few open-ended questions.




One third of all questions were classified as 'unrecommended'.


*“So at no point did you want to **change yourself** or try to **be with girls?**”*

*“One may think that in a situation like this **one would feel like an outsider?**”*

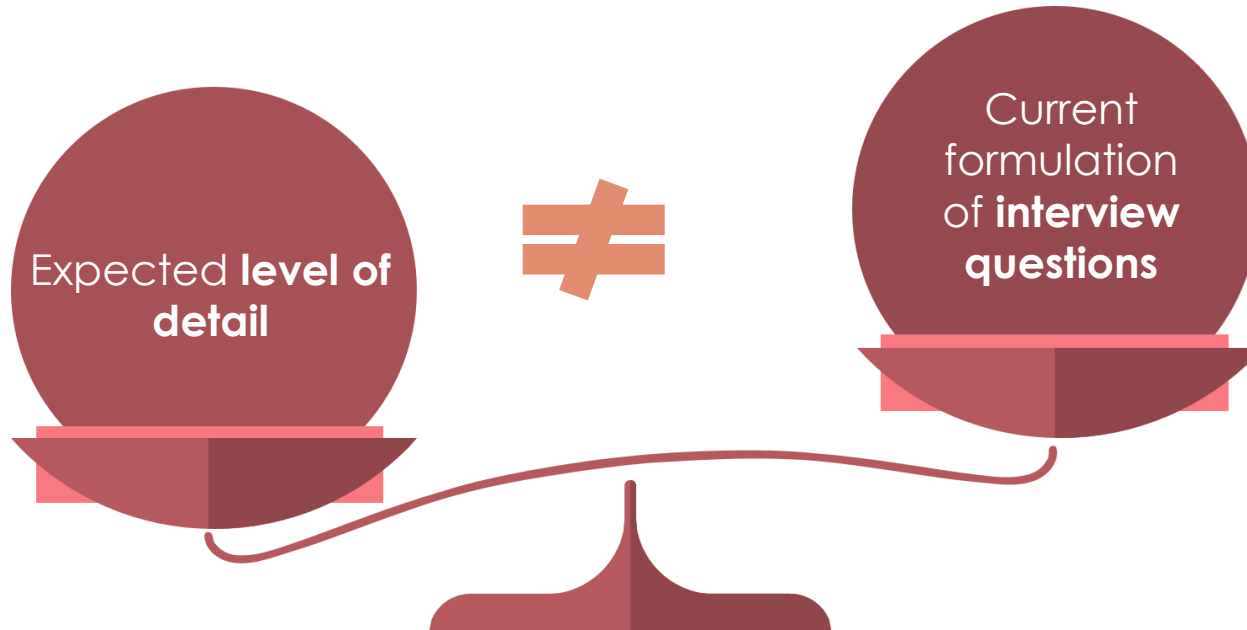
Why do claimants delay disclosure?



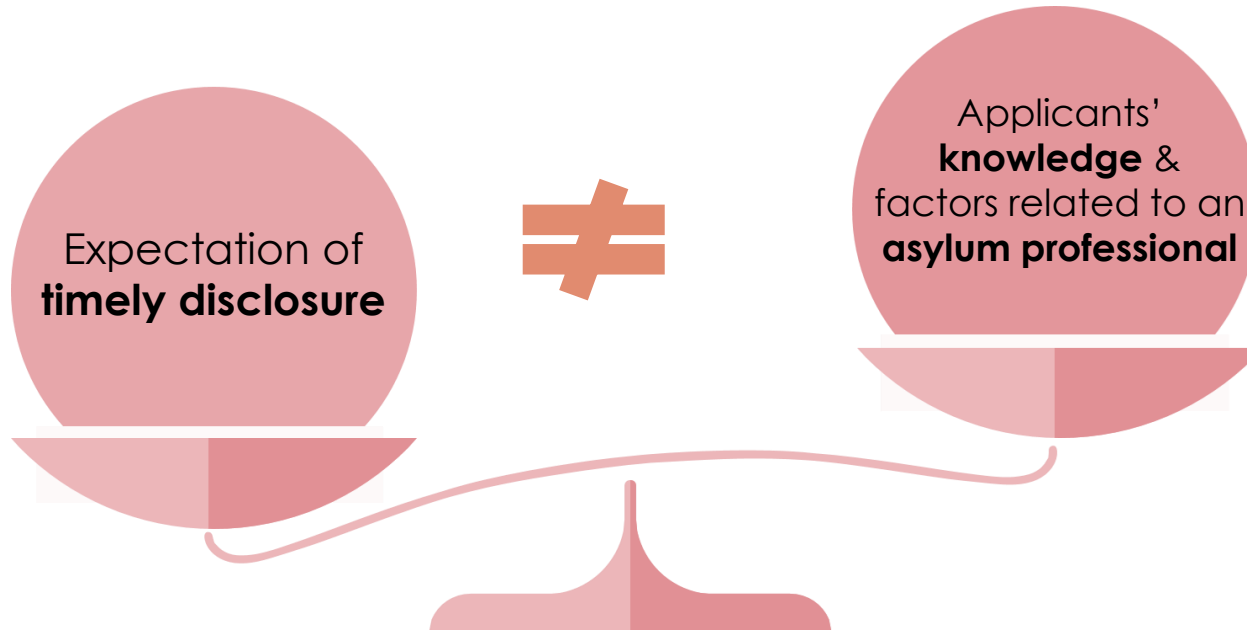
Reason	Number	Frequency
Claimant unaware of legislation	22	42%
Claimant concerned about confidentiality	18	34%
Claimant uncomfortable disclosing	15	28%
Miscellaneous reason	10	19%
No opportunity to disclose	7	13%
Reason related to legal aid	6	11%
Police-related reason	5	10%
Interpreter-related reason	5	10%
Interviewer-related reason	1	2%



Concluding remarks



Concluding remarks





Thank you!
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**Pure
Love.
Pure
Science.**

References

- Czimbalmos, M., & Rask, S. (2022). Sexual and Gender Minorities Among the Foreign-Origin Populations in Finland: An Intersectional Analysis.
- "Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2023: ILGA-Europe." *ILGA*, 15 May 2024, www.ilga-europe.org/report/rainbow-europe-2023/.
- Selim, H., Lindblad, P., Vanto, J., Skrifvars, J., Alvesalo-Kuusi, A., Korkman, J., ... & Antfolk, J. (2023). (In) credibly Queer? Assessments of Asylum Claims Based on Sexual Orientation.
- Skrifvars, J., Antfolk, J., & Korkman, J. (2023). Developing and Evaluating a Training Programme in Legal Psychology for Finnish Asylum Officials.