

9TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY



University of Maribor

Faculty of
Criminal Justice and Security



Erasmus+



Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

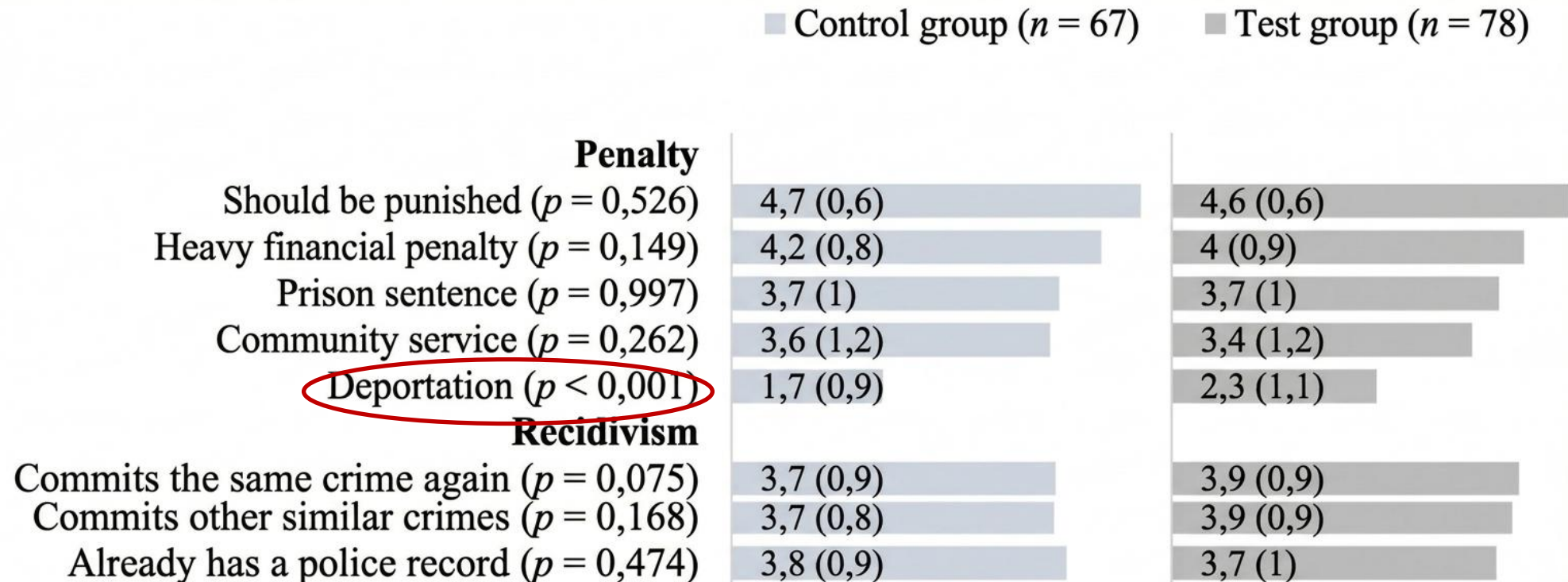
PREJUDICES AGAINST CERTAIN MINORITY GROUPS AND ATTITUDES TOWARD PUNISHMENT

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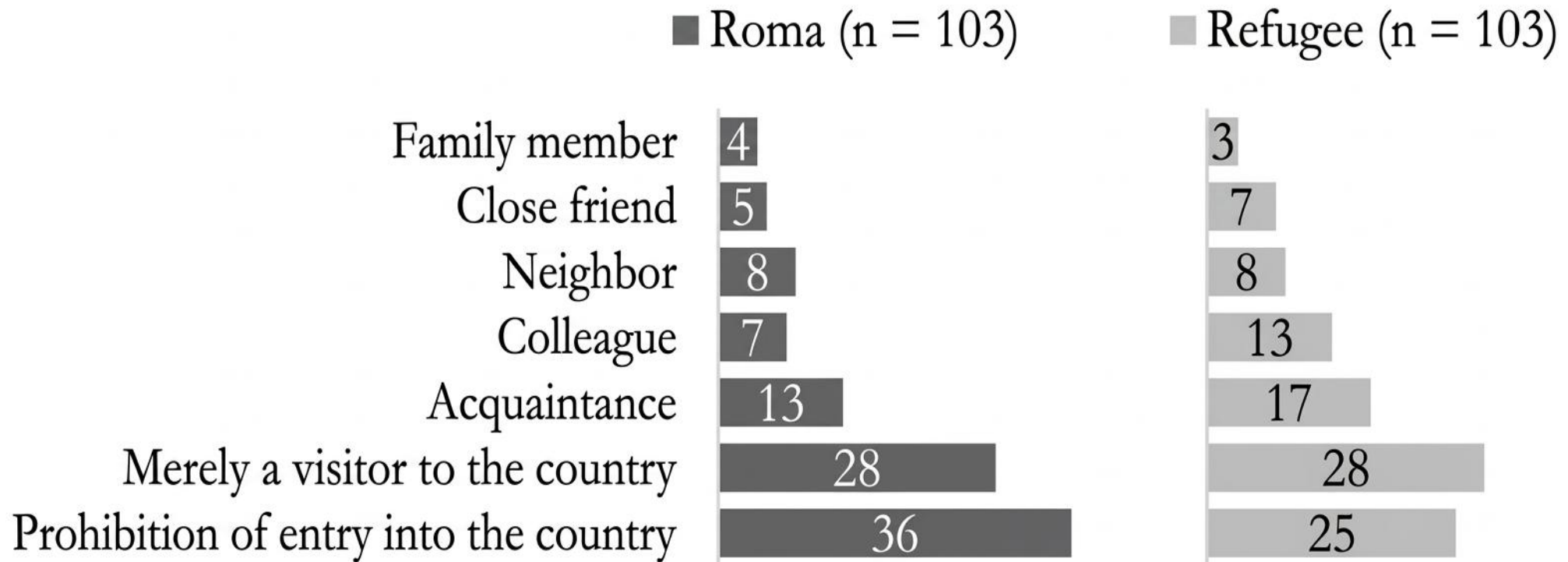
Prejudices against minority groups

- They arise through socialization, the media, history, and political discourse
- The division between “us” and “them”
- They can be expressed as distrust, fear, and negative expectations

Views on punishment and recidivism among the control and test groups



Social distance



Findings

- Prejudice is a broader social mechanism
- Presence alone is not the key issue; what matters are relationships, history, and the nature of cooperation
- Willingness to support harsher penalties when it comes to a “different” group



Current situation in Slovenia

- Roma community: rights are officially recognized in the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia
- Legislative changes
- Turning point: an event with tragic consequences in Novo Mesto
- The Act on Emergency Measures to Ensure Public Safety, or the Šutar Act



What measures does the Šutar Act introduce?

1. Expansion of police powers
2. Surveillance in so-called high-risk areas
3. Strict oversight of social benefits
4. Reclassification of minor criminal offenses as misdemeanors
5. Etc.



The role of the media in the formation of prejudices

- The way news is reported influences public opinion
- Individual incidents receive greater coverage when they involve the Roma community
- Mostly linked to crime or other negative topics
- Minorities are often portrayed in the media as a “problem“

The situation of the Roma community in Slovenia

- Limited access to education
- Problems with employment
- Poor living conditions
- Social status



- Example of good practice: Pomurje
 - cooperation
 - education
 - employment



Refugees



- The prevailing division between “us” and “them”
- The role of the media
- Prejudices and negative experiences



**Thank you for
your attention!**