Combating racism in Portugal: an analysis of public policies and anti-discrimination law
What is COMBAT?

The COMBAT project addresses the relation between public policies for integration and anti-discrimination law and human rights frameworks that protect against discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin in Portugal and the European Union. Through an analysis of the past and present of the struggles against racism in Portugal and the EU, this project proposes a sociological understanding of the main issues currently raised in this area, such as the permeability of institutions to racial discrimination; difficulties in raising a public debate on racism; the reluctance of victims to report cases of racism to the competent bodies; the propensity to consider racism just as isolated events and not as integrated within institutional practices and arrangements.
Research context
The project carries out empirical research within the institutional framework of the Portuguese state and the EU, with a focus on the development and implementation of integration public policies and anti-discrimination/human rights law. Case study research will be conducted in the spheres of education and housing.

Expected contribution
COMBAT will contribute to build innovative and more complex and critical approaches to the dominant understanding of racism in public policy and anti-discrimination law in Portugal and the EU. Case-study research will allow the project to identify and thoroughly understand the general characteristics of discrimination against ethnic minorities in education, housing, and police harassment targeting ethnic minorities, and the effectiveness of current policy and legal frameworks.

Who does COMBAT address?
Policy makers; legislators; grassroots movements, associations and NGOs; journalists; academics.
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