Each year, approximately one thousand homicides are committed with firearms in the EU. While significant national differences in rates and characteristics of gun violence exist between EU member states, so far, in-depth research into the characteristics and dynamics of gun homicide in Europe is scarce, due to a lack of reliable and detailed data on this phenomenon.

Drawing on data from the European Homicide Monitor, capturing detailed incident-level homicide data from seven European countries, this paper compares firearm- to non-firearm homicides. The most salient results regarding characteristics of victims, perpetrators and types of homicides committed with and without firearms provide insight into the scope and dynamics of lethal gun violence across Europe.