

Sexual harassment (SH) and sexual violence (SV) in recreational settings is increasingly becoming a concern across many local communities and authorities in Europe. To support the prevention of these harms, as part of the EU DAPHNE Programme, the Spanish and Portuguese teams of IREFREA along with the teams at the LJMU and CUNI are developing and implementing the STOP-SV project.

STOP-SV aims to explore and appraise the prevalence and nature of sexual harassment and sexual violence among young women and men (both as victims and as perpetrators) in recreational nightlife; and to mobilise and build capacity within local communities to prevent such harms. Implemented across three cities in Europe (Coimbra, Portugal; Palma, Spain and Prague, Czech Republic). STOP-SV will involve:

- ! Facilitating the development of community coalitions who will support the prevention of SH/SV, and the development and implementation of the STOP-SV project;
- ! Creating, piloting and evaluating tools (e.g. training materials) to build capacity for bar/club managers, bar staff and security staff to identify, prevent and reduce SH/SV.

To whom is the project STOP-SV addressed?

To foster changes in the recreational nightlife it is necessary to engage those managing and working on these environments, so that both problems and potential ways to overcome them can be discussed and overcome. In addition, the project also intends as to raise awareness among the broader community, especially among youngsters participating in the recreational context, and to create the necessary social consensus to facilitate changes in nightlife.

For these reasons, within each pilot site, the STOP-SV project aims to establish community coalitions, which will facilitate networking between industry representatives and other key stakeholders. Furthermore, coalitions will give support for the implementation of the staff training programme, while facilitating the development of multi-agency protocols to identify, prevent and deal with incidents of SH/SV in the nightlife context.

Industry representatives, managers and staff working in nightlife premises

The participation of the industry is vital for project development. Not only does the project intend to work within their premises, with their staff and clients, but industry contribution is also key to understand the problem and define prevention strategies according to the needs assessment undertaken.

The project STOP-SV will create a training programme to capacitate staff working in the NTE, so that they can actively participate in the creation of safer environments oriented to protect both people working in the venues as well as clients participating in the recreational nightlife. Therefore, industry's contribution in the design and implementation of the strategies will not only increase the knowledge of this under-researched subject but also promote the recreational context as an 'educational' environment offering training, tools and legitimacy to combat SH/SV.

Policy and decision makers / Prevention professionals

The activities planned in the STOP-SV project aim at fostering collaboration and exchange of best practices and experiences among a varied group of stakeholders and players. Along with the NTE, an essential element of the project will be the interactive dialogue between policy and decision makers, prevention experts and other stakeholders that will participate in the community coalitions. This collaboration will enhance the identification of collaboration opportunities to facilitate synergies between related activities, as well as assisting in the dissemination of project results and incorporation of project strategies, materials and tools.

In addition, policy and decision makers, through their organizational system constitute a key element to incorporate project results for development of public policy. Furthermore, their contribution is key to promote, expand, and give visibility to project strategies and results to the broader community. Therefore, their active participation, along with the NTE, is key to inform legislation and management of those environments.

Youth organizations / other civil society organizations

Recreational nightlife constitutes a scenario where in a few decades there have been many changes on gender discrimination although not in the overall paradigm. Women objectification is common in nightlife venues, men's it is becoming more common too, while desires and expectations are intensified and fuelled by alcohol and other drugs use.

The STOP-SV project intends to engage youth organizations so that practices, behaviours and attitudes commonly accepted and reproduced can be critically discussed. Their participation in the community coalitions will also be sought. In addition, to raise awareness and reach the broader community, leaders of parents organizations as well as responsible agents from neighbourhood organization will be informed along project development and linked to particular activities.

First project meeting in Liverpool, UK

The first meeting of the STOP-SV partnership was held, between the 7th and the 9th of February 2017, at the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University.

The meeting was very productive. A first draft of the literature review was presented and findings discussed. In addition, protocols and a first lay out of the sections of the training manual were underlined and debated. It was a pleasure to share time and experiences with the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Office representatives, who presented their work and training programme to prevent sexual violence in nightlife settings.



The STOP-SV partnership



IREFREA Spain and Portugal

IREFREA is probably the oldest European drug prevention network. The areas covered by the Spanish and Portuguese teams include alcohol and drug prevention (research, evaluation, and programme implementation) and its members are very active in professional and scientific arenas such as the EMCDDA and NIDA. These teams have also organized many European conferences and have lead or participated in over 30 research projects at European and national level. Both teams excel in research achievements having had a social impact on risk factors including youth and gender violence. The teams have extensive experience in training and empowerment of civil society organizations both at national and international level and IREFREA is represented in the Civil Society Forum on Drugs since its initial stages.

The Public Health Institute (PHI) at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU)



The PHI is a vibrant research community working to inform public health policy and practice, at local, national and international level. It specialises in applied research, systematic literature review, evaluation of prevention programmes and the development of public health intelligence on alcohol and drug use, violence, sexual

behaviour, and exploration of the effectiveness of interventions to prevent harm in drinking environments. The PHI is a WHO Collaborating Centre for Violence Prevention, including gender violence and youth violence, with a particular interest in violence occurring in nightlife environments and a broader research expertise, focusing on alcohol and drug use, risky sexual behaviours and safer nightlife environments. The PHI co-hosts the UK focal point to the EMCDDA.

The Department of Addictology at Charles University (CUNI)



Department of Addictology
General University Hospital in Prague

The DA has wide experience with quantitative and qualitative research in the field of substance abuse. The DA is experienced in leading projects including implementation, evaluation and dissemination activities. It actively collaborates with the Czech National Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addictions and participates in national and international research projects.

The DA has a specialized section for law and criminology with extensive experience on surveys for criminal victimization and crime measurements.

Project STOP ! SV

For more information on the STOP-SV project, please contact the partnership or visit our websites



IREFREA – Spain

www.irefrea.org | www.irefrea.eu

Contact person: Montse Juan | mjuan@irefrea.org



IREFREA – Portugal

www.irefrea.org | www.irefrea.eu

Contact person: Fernando Mendes | irefrea.pt@gmail.com



Public Health Institute – LJMU

<http://www.cph.org.uk/>

Contact person: Zara Quigg | Z.A.Quigg@ljmu.ac.uk



Centre for Addictology – CUNI

www.adiktologie.cz/en/

Contact person: Roman Gabrhelik | gabhelik@adiktologie.cz



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