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Staff training
on prevention of
sexual violence

stop ! sv

2018

newsletter #04

Project updates

TRAINING OF STAFF IMPLEMENTATION



The importance of the **stop ! sv** project has been acknowledged by the Government of the Balearic Islands. The Government of the Balearic Islands awarded the Tourism Awards 2018 in six categories. This year, the Good Practices in Gender Equality was given for the first time. The **stop ! sv** Project was awarded for a commitment to civic tourism to address the drug problem linked to sexual violence. Congratulations IREFREA – Spain team for this great achievement!

Mariàngels Duch (2nd from the left) representing the organisation IREFREA – Spain at the ceremony, with the President and the Vice-President of the Balearic Government (on her right) and the President of the Ibiza Council (on her left).

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. One of the aims of the **stop ! sv** project is to facilitate the development of community coalitions who will support the prevention of SH/SV, and the development and implementation of the **stop ! sv** project.

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 organised many European conferences and have led 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 organisations 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)

The Department of Addictology (DA) is a scientific and clinical workplace of the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague and General Faculty 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 in prevention, treatment, harm reduction. The DA provides education in addictology (addiction science) on the bachelor, masters, and Ph.D. levels. The DA has a specialized section for law and criminology with extensive experience on surveys for criminal victimization and crime measurements.

Coalitions

Collaboration is considered as key to advocacy success, and one of the most recognised forms of collaboration is through a coalition. Coalition can be defined as an organisation of organisations that work together for a common purpose [1]. The collaboration of public and private services, enterprises, and non-profit services within the coalition is of great benefit to the community and represents diversity in knowledge and viewpoints.

In each pilot site (Coimbra, Portugal; Palma, Spain; and Prague, Czech Republic), a community coalition has been created to facilitate project implementation and encourage engagement of key stakeholders for increased project adoption and sustainability. The close collaboration between prevention experts, administrations, civil society organisations and night-time economy (NTE) is helping to increase knowledge on this under-researched issue as well as bringing to the surface a hidden problem with profound adverse effects. The work undertaken through the community coalitions is oriented to facilitate changes in the management of the night life environment (NTE) that will have a considerable social impact both in the definition of the problem and in the solutions to confront it.

Different strategies have been implemented according to local context and needs:

- In **Spain**, the strategy has been to involve main industry umbrella organisations and give them a key role, along with the prevention practitioners/academics participating in project development, and then involvement of main administration agencies/department working in close related subjects.
- In **Portugal**, a coalition has been established creating synergies with previous initiatives working in the nightlife context and engaging the main organisation representing door and security staff to overcome the lack of recreational nightlife umbrella organisations.
- In the **Czech Republic**, since nightlife is less organized than in the other pilot sites, the coalition has been created involving the main NGOs working in the nightlife context and/or addressing sexual harassment and, through them, reach the main industry groups working in nightlife.

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



Department of Addictology
General University Hospital in Prague

**Department of
Addictology – CUNI**
<http://www.adiktologie.cz/en/>
Contact person Roman Gabrhelík
roman.gabrhelik@lf1.cuni.cz

Country specifics

SPAIN – BALEARIC ISLANDS

In Palma (Spain), the strategy has been to involve the main industry umbrella organisations. They have played a key role, supported by the prevention practitioners/academics participating in project development, in the engagement of main administration/government agencies working in related issues. In addition, they have been very active in inviting the media to all meetings held, extensively publishing the aims of the project and their involvement to the general population as well as facilitating the knowledge on the initiative to more specialized audiences.

As soon as the project was launched, first contact was made individually with the main industry organisation including CAEB; confederation of industry organisations in the Balearic Islands; ABONE, main federation for nightlife venues; and FEHM, federation of hotel organisations in Majorca. The three organisations agreed to collaborate both leading the coalition along with IREFREA, as leading partners; and facilitating staff trainings among their associates. An agreement was signed on the 24th of January, along with a public presentation of the coalition.

During the meeting held in the Spring of 2017, it was agreed that having a supporting coalition, including government and administration entities as well as other organisations, will facilitate sensitisation on the problem at community level and, therefore, facilitate venues participation. Contacts were then established and individual meetings held with potential candidates and a working meeting set. On the 14th of July 2017, CAEB, ABONE, FEHM and IREFREA held the second coalition meeting with the participation of 20 entities. Among them, several regional government offices and institutions, the Majorca Council and the Municipality of Palma, the British Consulate in the Islands, as well as several local and regional civil organisations including the Federation of Parents Associations, the Students council and LGTB organisations, and the University of the Balearic Islands, were represented.

Since then two more meeting of the coalition have been held. The first one for preparation of the training courses (training of trainers and training of staff) and revision of the training materials; and, the second one to review the work undertaken

during trainings and programme implementation, and to discuss next steps. During the meeting held in September 2018, a strategy to support programme implementation and extension once the EU co-financing is concluded was presented for discussion. The strategy will include the establishment of a core group (strategic group), as a facilitator network including three main lines of work: i) Establishment of an observatory, for data collection and analysis as well as elaboration, implementation and evaluation of new guidelines; ii) Elaboration of a training strategy at three levels (administrations, industry and labour unions); and, iii) establishment of synergies with other European organisations. Advancements on this line of work will be presented during the project final conference to be held in Palma (Spain) on the 30th of November 2018.

PORTUGAL - COIMBRA

In recent months, Portuguese society has been confronted with several situations of violence related to staff and clients in night recreational settings with great repercussion on Portuguese communities.

Two meetings with potential members of the coalition took place in 2017 and 2018. During the initial meetings in 2017, the greatest interest has been shown by workers who help victims of sexual violence as part of special women's organisations and non-governmental agencies linked to human rights. Currently many women's organisations who aim to help victims of SV are usually focused around domestic violence situations. As a result of the coalition, and to meet demand from service users these organisations are looking to expand their work into the night life setting.

As a result of the STOP-SV project, links have been made with representatives of public and private prevention; harm reduction organisations, law enforcement, health and security. Involvement of the representatives of the entertainment industry has proven key to the success of the project. This success is in spite of the lack of interest from club management teams when contacting potential coalition members at the beginning. Interestingly, we have had very good feedback from the night-life workers (doormen, barmen and DJs) who took part in the training. We are now aiming to address and promote the issue of "safe & health night life" encouraging public discussions on national legislations with local measures that would introduce new requirements from

the nightlife industry. For example, the ongoing discussion on a common approach to closing times across municipalities.

We expect members of the coalition to expand in terms of both numbers and spectrum of the areas they represent. Our work is now focusing on strengthening the coalition and trying to involve more people from the industry at different levels, including security companies. We also aim to work with new partners on the regional level to implement our training at the night life settings in 21 regional cities in the region of Central Portugal.

CZECH REPUBLIC - PRAGUE

Despite the fact that the issue of sexual violence is burdened by a series of prejudices and low attention in the Czech Republic, the STOP-SV project contributed to a breaking down of views and increased interest in the topic.

According to research commissioned by Amnesty International [2], a substantial proportion of the adult population is of the opinion that, in certain cases or situations, a woman is co-responsible for her rape (up to 63% of respondents). In the Czech Republic, the ratification of the so-called Istanbul Convention [3] which reflects the issue of violence against women, took place on 12 May 2016. The treaty was signed by the Czech Republic but its ratification has not yet taken place. The analysis of the Czech Republic's readiness for the Istanbul Convention has identified in Czech legislation only one topic that can be related to the STOP-SV project, namely an insufficient length of time for acts of sexual violence. Catholic bishops, Christian democrats and other conservatives even refuse the convention, pointing to the alleged assumption of "gender ideology". These attitudes of both the public and important political and church figures are compensated by the process of forming various NGOs devoted to this topic and, also, the STOP-SV coalition. The formation of the Czech coalition is a clear sign of interest from the members of the coalition.

During the initial meetings and the formation of the coalition, the greatest interest has been raised by a few organisations that exist in the Czech Republic and that help victims of sexual violence. These specialised organisations, mostly focus on the area of domestic violence but they express interest in expanding their activities since they encounter an increasing demand in their clients related to the sexual violence and night life. At local government level, contacts with the representatives of prevention, public order and security have been established. As part of the coalition building process, the Coordinator for Prevention of Crime, Primary Prevention and Drug Prevention of the Capital City of Prague has declared that the subject of the prevention of sexual violence in the night environment is perceived as a common theme within the local administration of the City of Prague. They also pledged support to engage Municipal Police in coalition activities and open the debate on integrating preventative activities against sexual violence into the city's priority priorities.

When it comes to representatives of the entertainment industry, when contacting potential members of the coalition as well as offering training of staff as one of the main activities of the project, we have encountered a lack of interest from club managements. We are now addressing this issue and working collaboratively on it within the coalition, e.g. promoting the theme of the various "safe clubs" in the nightlife industry, encouraging formation of an association that would associate entrepreneurs in this area, trigger discussions on Czech legislations or local measures that would introduce new requirements from the nightlife industry other than those focused on providing different types of drinks, music or other forms of entertainment, etc.

Our work in forming a coalition had to start from scratch, negotiating with the individual clubs, NGOs, public bodies etc. Three meetings with potential members of the coalition took place in 2017 and 2018. Interest has also attracted students from the Centre of Addictology who perceive sexual violence in the night environment as an area related to their work in the field of prevention and treatment of addictive substances.

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