

Sexual harassment and violence in the nightlife environment has become 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 have developed and implemented the STOP-SV project: a training programme to prevent nightlife-related sexual violence.

The STOP-SV project started in 2016. The key aims of the project have been to facilitate community coalitions and to train staff from nightlife environment so that they can recognise, effectively respond to and prevent sexual violence in the night-time economy. Now, the project is coming to an end, a final conference was held in Palma de Mallorca on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2018.

## STOP-SV Final conference

The conference started with the presentation of several issues relating to the STOP-SV project. To begin with, the first presentation offered an overview of the collaborative strategy to prevent sexual violence in the nightlife context that was embraced in the projects approach. A summary of the project's objectives and the implementation carried out was outlined, with special emphasis on the development of the working coalitions established in each pilot site that have facilitated its development.



The second presentation dealt with the evaluation of the STOP-SV training programme, which provided an overview of the implementation and associated impact of the STOP-SV training programme. It also explored changes in trainees' attitudes and perceptions of sexual violence, and, confidence in intervening in sexual violence in nightlife settings. A brief summary of the evaluation report is provided along with this newsletter.

Finally, the last presentation addressed the prevention of nightlife violence through community partnerships. This presentation discussed the strategies for preventing nightlife violence and the importance of partnership working to develop effective community responses to violence in nightlife settings.

Later, during a press conference, an institutional presentation was carried out, with the participation of Ms. Isabel Busquets –Vice-president and Minister of Innovation, Research and Tourism of the Balearic Government–, the main industry representatives –CAEB, ABONE and FEHM– and the president of IREFREA. Following this, a panel with a representative of each project partner team was presented to give a brief explanation on their personal experience developing and implementing the project. After that, a round table took place to address the state of the situation. During the round table other key stakeholders participated, including members from the national coalition from each pilot site: Portugal, Czech Republic and Spain. To end the presentation, Professor Mark Bellis carried out a presentation on the way forward and next steps.

# STOP-SV: a training programme to prevent nightlife-related sexual violence (evaluation)

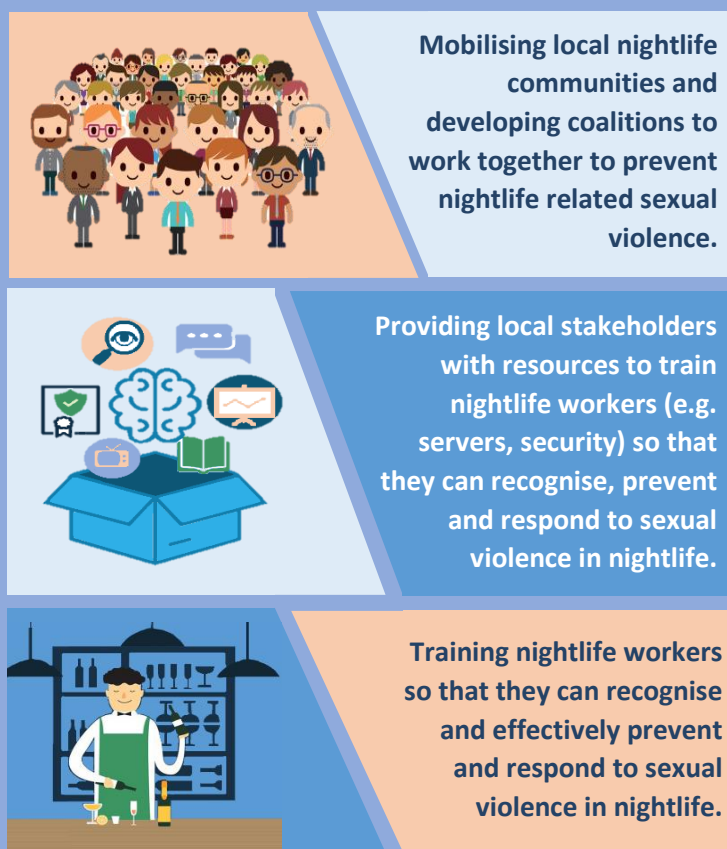
## TRAINING IMPLEMENTATION

### INTRODUCTION

Globally, sexual violence places large burdens on individuals' health and well-being, as well as local communities and services. Sexual violence that occurs in recreational settings, such as nightlife, is of increasing concern. Studies have started to emerge highlighting the nature and prevalence of sexual violence in nightlife, and critically have found that some forms of violence are often not recognised as such, and are thus socially accepted. This highlights the importance of developing and implementing prevention strategies. However, few prevention strategies exist that specifically aim to prevent and respond to nightlife related sexual violence.

### STOP-SV PROJECT

As part of the European Union Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, in 2016 the STOP-SV (staff training on prevention of sexual violence) project was established with partners from Czech Republic, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. The primary aim of STOP-SV is to support the prevention of nightlife related sexual violence, through:

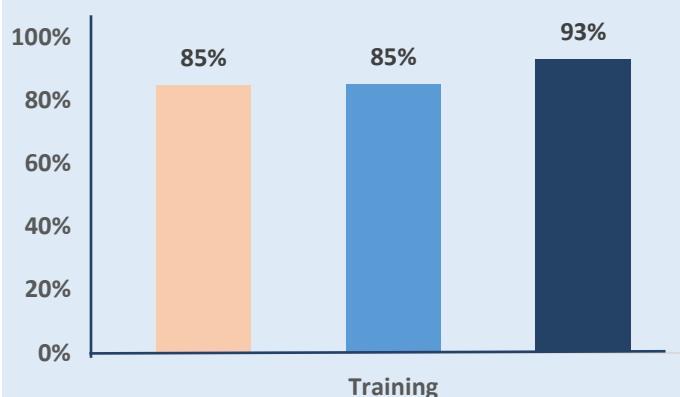


In 2017/18 **28 stakeholders** from Czech Republic, Portugal and Spain were provided with resources to train nightlife workers leading to the training of **114 nightlife workers**.



- In each location, local stakeholders were provided with approximately 20 hours of training to become STOP-SV training facilitators.
- Occupational background, levels of confidence in discussing the topic, and time constraints affected some training facilitators' ability to fully engage with the STOP-SV training (including delivery to nightlife workers).
- Nightlife worker training sessions lasted approximately 2-3 hours.<sup>1</sup>
- The STOP-SV training was generally well received. Some of those engaged in the training suggested that it could be less academic and provide a greater focus on experience of sexual violence across genders.

### Nightlife worker perceptions of the STOP-SV training, post-training survey



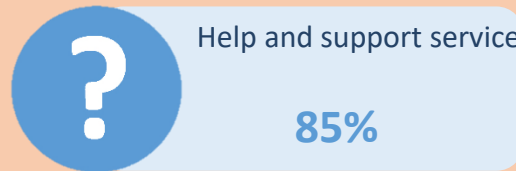
- The training is useful for me in my current job role in nightlife
- The training will help me to better deal with sexual violence in nightlife
- The trainer did a good job teaching and supporting me throughout the training session

<sup>1</sup> One pilot site conducted the training of nightlife workers over a 6-hour period.

# ASSOCIATED IMPACT OF THE STOP-SV TRAINING ON NIGHTLIFE WORKERS

Post-training, most participants agreed that the training had improved their knowledge on sexual violence

KNOWLEDGE



ATTITUDES/PERCEPTIONS

Post-training participants were significantly more likely to show increased agreement with the statements:

- Consent can be taken back at any time.
- Sexual violence is never the fault of the victim.
- I think I, and staff working in nightlife venues, can do something about sexual violence.
- I think sexual violence is a problem at the venue where I work.

CONFIDENCE

Post-training participants were significantly more likely to show increased confidence in:

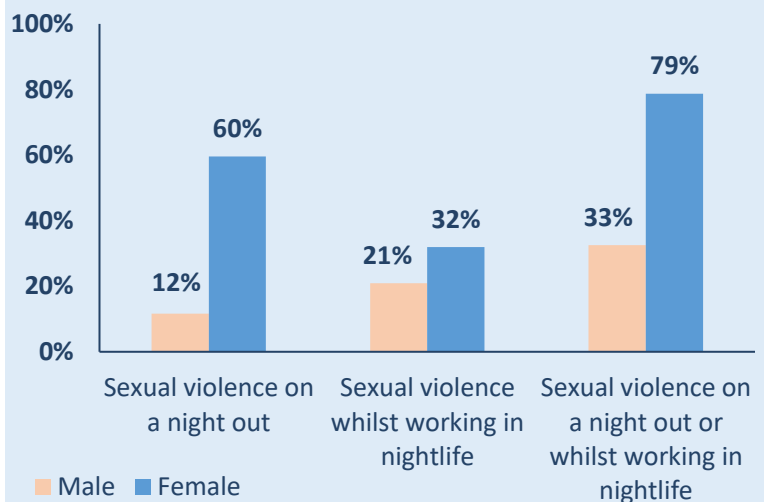
- Asking someone they work with to help them address sexual violence.
- Expressing concern if someone said they had an unwanted sexual experience but did not call it rape.
- Doing something if they saw a woman in a venue surrounded by men and she looked uncomfortable.

## NIGHTLIFE WORKERS EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE/VULNERABILITY

In the last 3 months:

- 73% had seen someone who looked drunk being escorted out of a venue by another patron.
- 66% had seen a person who had had too much to drink passed out in a venue.
- 58% had seen someone who seemed upset in a venue.
- 20% had seen a woman in a venue surrounded by a group of men looking uncomfortable or upset.
- 14% had someone tell them that they had an unwanted sexual experience but did not call it rape.
- 9% had heard someone making excuses for forcing someone to have sex with them.

% of trainees reporting being a victim of sexual violence whilst in nightlife (lifetime)



## CONCLUSION

Findings suggest that the STOP-SV training programme is associated with: improvements in knowledge; improved attitudes towards sexual violence; and, greater confidence to intervene in sexual violence, amongst nightlife workers. A longer-term follow-up study will aim to assess whether participation in the STOP-SV training programme is associated with positive bystander behaviours to prevent and respond to sexual violence in nightlife, and if associated improvements in knowledge, attitudes and confidence have been sustained three months post-training.



CHARLES UNIVERSITY  
First Faculty of Medicine

The STOP-SV project was designed and implemented by: IREFREA Spain, IREFREA Portugal, Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU; UK) and Charles University (Czech Republic). A report presenting the full study is available at [www.ljmu.ac.uk/phi](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/phi) Quigg et al (2018). STOP-SV: a training programme to prevent nightlife-related sexual violence (Evaluation Report). LJMU.

## 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 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)



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



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**STOP ! SV** – staff training on prevention of sexual violence: developing prevention and management strategies for the nightlife workplace



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