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Intervention program in nightlife, leisure and socialization venues to raise awareness and prevent GBV behaviours – including LGBTIphobia – linked to sexual violence and substance use

CRISSCROSS RESEARCH REPORT

Needs Analysis & Joint Good Practices to address Gender-Based Violence and Harassment in Nightlife Environments

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INTRODUCTION

The general objective of the CRISSCROSS project is to **combat gender-based violence (GBV) in nightlife**, **leisure, and socialisation venues** (from now on nightlife environments) frequented by youngsters and young adults through the design, testing and evaluation of innovative intervention pilots based on the behaviour change wheel methodology. The main aim of the project is to raise awareness, change attitudes and prevent GBV - including LGBTIphobia-linked to sexualised violence and drug use. The project is based in a European consortium, with a European-wide dissemination but local implementation in 5 European countries: Spain, Italy, Portugal, Ireland, and Luxembourg.

This research report was developed in the Work Package 2 (WP2) scope – "*Participative research based on European best practices and needs analysis*", led by Kosmicare. The main objectives of this WP are:

- To deepen the knowledge of effective intervention programs tested in Europe concerning gender-based violence (GBV) prevention in nightlife environments targeting young people with a particular focus on sexuality and drug use
- Understand the central gender stereotypes and problems identified by young people 18-24 years old] concerning GBV experienced in entertainment spaces and which solutions and messages they identify to prevent it

The data presented is based on qualitative research that included the implementation of **focus groups, collective and individual interviews** with young adults (ciswomen, cismen, trans and non-binary people) and professionals in Porto, Barcelona, Milan, Luxembourg and Dublin. The qualitative data allowed the identification of the leading gender stereotypes related to drug use as well as the perceptions and lived experiences of gender-based violence and harassment among young adults in nightlife environments (bars, clubs, discotheques, music festivals and other leisure and socialisation spaces). The project partners also performed desk research using their country languages to support the identification and categorisation of good practices and recommendations for promoting safer and gender-responsive nightlife environments.

To enable a comprehensive reading and integration of the data, the research brief is divided into two main sections:

1. **Needs assessment** – qualitative analysis of gender stereotypes and experiences of gender-based violence and harassment in nightlife environments
2. **Joint good practices** – good practices and recommendations to prevent, detect and respond to gender-based violence in nightlife environments

The primary data presented in this output is complemented by an annexe folder available HERE (all the annexes are in English).

This research brief compiles evidence-based data to inform the design of capacity-building activities and interventions aimed at preventing, detecting, and responding to sexism, LGBTIphobia and gender-based violence in nightlife environments.

METHODOLOGY

Considering the general aim of the CRISSCROSS project and the objectives of the WP2, this research included two different studies using different methodologies to collect information regarding gender stereotypes and GBV and harassment and good practices to inform capacity-building and intervention in nightlife environments. Below, we briefly describe the methods used.

- **Qualitative study targeting young people [18-24] and professionals.**

The qualitative study was based on the implementation of 4 focus groups in the five countries represented in the project consortium. Considering that one of the aims of this study is to inform the development of capacity-building activities and pilot interventions, the focus groups were facilitated by researchers from the five cities where the activities will be implemented – Porto, Barcelona, Milan, Luxembourg, and Dublin. Regarding the study design, we decided to implement a gender approach to identify gender-specific needs, experiences, and priorities to address in the pilot intervention. In this sense, we organised three focus groups with young people (ciswomen, cismen, and non-binary people) in the [18-24 y/o] age group. Our recruitment strategy involved the use of social media and contact with youth centres and the use of incentives [a voucher per participant]. Some partners had difficulties in recruiting cismen and trans and non-binary people. For this reason, in some cases, we implemented individual and collective interviews (2/3 participants) (see the distribution of the groups in annexe 2). The project consortium implemented fifteen focus groups, four collective interviews, and three individual interviews, with the participation of 30 ciswomen, 19 cismen, 15 trans and non-binary young adults and 38 professionals. The focus group script was designed by using elicitation techniques (Barton, 2015), images, news headlines, and graphs from previous research to stimulate the discussion, analyse their representations and stereotypes and explore their tacit knowledge of the topics under discussion (see script on annexe 1). The focus group with professionals was facilitated using a script with ten questions related to the topics discussed in the focus groups with young people. The recruitment of professionals was based on their work experiences and their context of intervention. We invited professionals working with people who experienced GBV, professionals working in the drug field, in youth centres and lower and upper secondary education, nightlife professionals (see the profile of the participants in annexe 2).

The data analysis was performed with the support of the software MAXQDA Analytics Pro 2022 (release 22.8.0). In terms of the data analysis strategy, we used a gender analysis approach where the main themes were disaggregated by gender (ciswomen, trans and non-binary people and cismen) and profile (young adults and professionals) to identify gender-specific experiences, perceptions, and priorities (see the themes, categories and subcategories used in the qualitative analysis in annexe 3).

In this report, we will address people who participated in the focus groups and interviews as "respondents" and "participants", identifying the gender group (ciswomen = CW; trans and nonbinary respondents = TNB; cismen= CM) or profile (the gender groups and professionals = PROF) when needed to contextualise the data. We didn't perform country-based comparisons but highlighted country-level experiences and specificities when appropriate. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Science of the University of Porto (ethics approval reference nº 2023/06-08). Moreover, we followed Do-No-Harm ethics to minimise the possible harm related to this research. We avoided the use of hypersensitive content in the focus group and interviews, provided contacts for people who might be emotionally triggered by the content being discussed, and avoided reproducing harmful stereotypes without context when writing this report.

- ## Desk Research

This study was based on secondary data analyses, and Kosmicare previously defined the methodology. The project partners search for practices in their languages (Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, English, Luxembourgish, French and German) by using a combination of keywords in 4 main axes – gender stereotypes AND nightlife environments AND alcohol and drug use AND target group (young adults). Their search should include research papers and grey literature focused on the discussion and evaluation of practices but also actual practices (e.g. intervention projects, protocols, and campaigns). The search was made using scientific databases (Web of Science, Scopus), Google, and Google Scholar. The partners received specific guidance for the identification and compilation of the identified practices. Kosmicare prepared a template sheet, adapted from the EIGE´s manual on gender mainstreaming approaches (2013) and the partners filled one sheet per practice. In total, 49 practices were collected. However, six were excluded since they were mainly focused on interventions in the drug field. The practices were evaluated following the recommendations of EIGE (the table with the practices is available in annexe 4). In section 2 of this research report, we explain the categorisation and assessment of the practices.
The identification of the good practices was based on the triangulation of primary and secondary data analysis. Specifically, we used the qualitative data of the focus groups, collective and individual interviews and the good practices evaluated to identify ten good practices and recommendations for implementation to inform the design of capacity-building and intervention activities in nightlife environments.

1. NEEDS ANALYSIS

Qualitative gender analysis of gender stereotypes and gender-based violence and harassment in nightlife environments

Below, we highlight the main findings resulting from a gender analysis of the qualitative data collected. The presentation of the findings is based on the categories that emerged during the discourse analysis (annexe 3). The findings' presentation is subdivided into two main topics:

1. **Gender-based violence and harassment in nightlife environments**
2. **Gender stereotypes related to drug use in nightlife environments**

In this report, we present a summary of the main findings and, due to the complexity of data and space needed to contextualise it, we opted to include a limited number of quotations from the participants. To avoid improper use of the raw material, the full gender-analysis report, with all the quotations is a private output only shared among the project consortium and European Commission. Specific discourse analysis will be submitted as scientific research papers to complement the data presented in this report.

1.1 Gender-based violence and harassment in nightlife environments

To collect information regarding the perception and experiences of gender-based violence and harassment in nightlife, we asked the participants in the different focus groups and interviews to comment and discuss an image illustrating a scene of sexual harassment in a club (image 1 of the script, annexe 1). To collect information on this topic, we asked the professionals in the local focus group: "To your knowledge, what are the main forms of gender-based violence that young people experience when going out at night (e.g. at bars, clubs, discotheques, parties, festivals)?"

The content analysis revealed six main themes that emerged in the discourses of young adults and professionals, namely:

- ***Normalization of sexual harassment***
- ***Perception/ reaction to gender-based violence and harassment***
- ***Perception of safety/ unsafety when going out at night***
- ***The perpetrator in nightlife environments***
- ***Recognizing violence***

Below, we present the main findings disaggregated by group - ciswomen (CW), cismen (CM), trans and non-binary people (TNB) and professionals (PROF), and country (PT, SP, IT, LUX, IR).
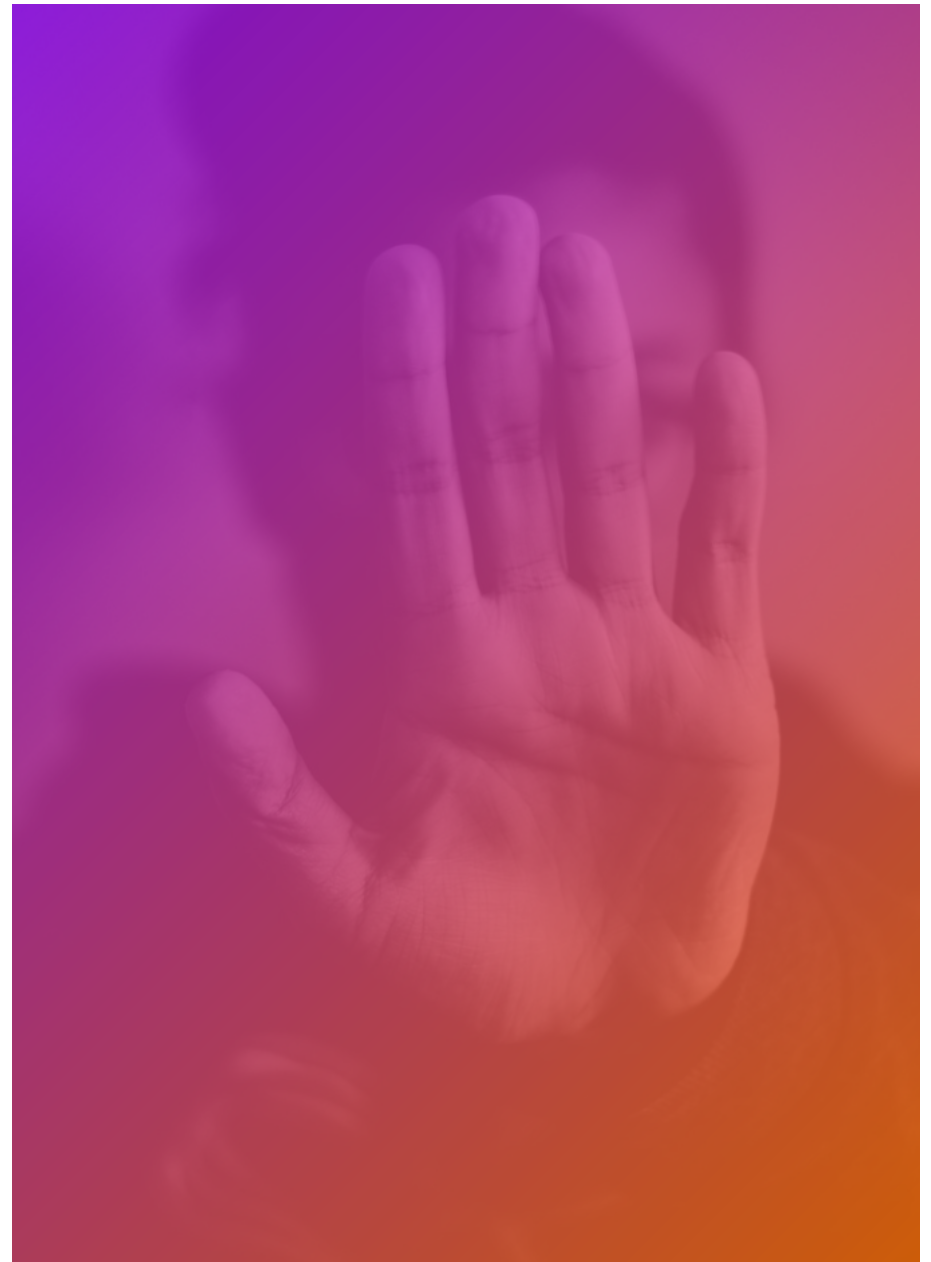
1.1) Normalisation of sexual harassment

This theme was particularly present and discussed by **CISWOMEN** in all countries. Most of them shared personal experiences of sexual harassment, and some said that it is normal and that there is a sense of impunity since nobody does anything to interrupt it.

It's such a common thing to be, like walking at night, or anywhere at night and just to feel preyed upon I think, like. (P5_CW_IR)

TRANS and NON-BINARY participants from all countries also revealed their experienced of sexual and LGBTIphobic harassment when they go out at night, mostly when they choose to publicly perform their queerness (particularly feminine-presenting). Several participants agreed that sexual harassment is transversal and emerges in queer nightlife environments that traditionally are created as safer spaces.

For me, it depends a lot on how I present myself, how I dress or what parts of my body I reveal, yeah? I mean, (…) when I show the part of my belly, then I feel more eyes on me than if not…. than when I'm more covered up (…) (P2_TNB_SP)

When referring to sexual harassment, **CISMEN** state they believe it to be widespread because of what they heard from women they are friends with. However, some of them shared their or their friends' experiences of harassment in nightlife environments (in most cases, from older men). Having as reference their personal and professional experiences, **PROFESSIONALS** from the different countries who participated in this study considered that sexual harassment is very prevalent and normalised in nightlife, affecting disproportionately women, and being mainly perpetrated by men.

1.2) Perception/experience of gender-based violence and harassment in nightlife environments

When asked about what they saw in the image 1 (<u>annexe 1</u>), most of **CISWOMEN** described the scene from the perspective of the people being harassed describing the impact of that invasive behaviour, particularly the feeling of vulnerability, fear, and threat. Some participants related the "shadow hands" in the image to harassing gazes they experience when going out at night.

Yes, as if not being able to focus on having fun and more on the looks of others, I mean, more on what might happen rather than having fun and letting go, not caring about judgement or possible violence, harassment that might happens… (P3_CW_IT)

TRANS and NON-BINARY like ciswomen participants also considered that the scene expressed fear and vulnerability and related the "shadow hands" to harassing gazes. Some respondents pointed out the curiosity and increasing interest of people outside their communities in safer spaces as a threat.

I have several interpretations of the hands, based on different experiences I had. It can simultaneously be the hands of people outside that space that feel because it is different, because it is new, that novelty, that they feel at ease to see, touch, as if it were an experience in a museum. Something like that. But it can also be seen from the other side which is, often in alternative spaces and queer spaces, the people themselves within that space feel that, because they are uninhibited, normally, from the prejudices from which they are victims, they feel, at the same time, that their personal space is expanding, sometimes even into the personal space of others. Which may not be always the same thing, they start to invade other people's space. (P2_TNB_PT)

Contrarily to other gender groups, not all **CISMEN** respondents immediately identified sexual harassment in the image, describing it instead as a sexualised environment. Other respondents recognized harassment but connected this with the experiences of their ciswomen and queer friends, while few respondents shared their experiences of sexual harassment when going out at night.

Yes (pause), to me it inspires a certain sense of play, a kind of fun, a release of internal libido, hum, I mean, anyway, it reminds me of Greek antiquity… I don't know, certain bacchic rituals, a bit of bacchanalia. Precisely, red is quite the color symbol of passion. (P3_CM_IT)

The group of **PROFESSIONALS** complement this information with their intervention experiences. They highlighted that most of the people who experienced gender-violence and harassment are ciswomen and queer people, but that there are differences, being the last group more exposed to LHBTIphobic harassment. Professionals brought a more complex and nuanced perspective on gender-based violence in nightlife environments. They shared different situations of gender-based violence like sexualized violence, date violence in drinking and drug use environments, the use of information and communication technologies in the context of perpetration, the self-stigma and self-blaming of the people who experienced violence and elaborated on the contexts of victimization. Surely, this complexity emerges from their professional practices, where they tend to intervene with people who experienced different types of gender-based violence, while the young people who participated in the focus groups referred mainly to sexual harassment.
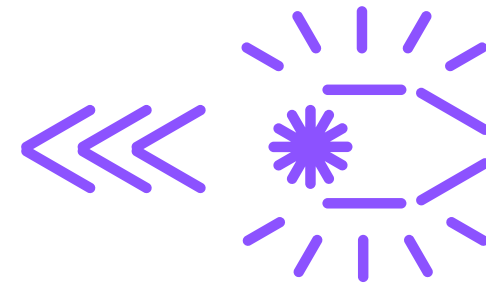
There were some differences between countries related with their experiences working in intervention models specific to their contexts (e.g. Lilac Points in Spain, a helpline for people who experienced GBV in Ireland).

We also asked the group of **PROFESSIONALS** to refer to specific situations of gender-based violence they detect among minors to complement the information collected with the experience by youngsters. In general, professionals consider that violence among youngsters tends to be mainly expressed verbally and through specific forms of sexual harassment, bullying and social humiliation, sometimes mediated by the use of information and communication technologies (cyberviolence). Date violence was also mentioned.

It is important to add that respondents who work in nightlife environments (some of them participating as young adults and others as professionals) also shared specific sexual harassment situations they experienced in the scope of their professional activities. They highlighted that prevention efforts should also address staff working in this context.

1.3) Perception of safety/ unsafety when going out at night

This topic was discussed more in-depth after we share image 2 ([annexe 1](#)) used in the Focus Group script. This was a graph produced in the Sexism Free Night project scope, reporting gender differences in the perception of safety and unsafety when going out at night. From the content analysis, we identified three main themes, highlighted below, related to safety/ unsafety perception, and we found relevant gender differences in some of them.

- **Fear of going out at night**

We found gender differences in the experience of fear in nightlife environments. In all focus groups and interviews, it was consensual that the perception of unsafety and the type of violence feared differ according to gender identity. This was particularly revealing among the trans and non-binary respondents who connected their sense of safety to the way they were expressing their gender identity, feeling less safe when they expressed femininity.

CISWOMEN reported specifically their fear of being raped or experiencing other forms of GBV. In contrast, **TRANS and NON-BINARY** mainly reported being afraid of suffering physical violence and socially humiliation when their gender expression – particularly the clothes and makeup – was more feminine (this was also referred to by gay men who participated in the interviews). **CISMEN** reported they are afraid of being beaten and robbed.

In the focus groups in Italy, respondents (particularly from the group of cismen and trans and non-binary people) said they are also afraid of the police when they go out at night.

I think it's really complicated to look at it as objectively as possible, because the threat towards cismen in nightlife is, I think, a bit different from the threat towards ciswomen. And feeling insecure, from our point of view, I would argue, is more about being touched or being seen as weak or being told, depending on how we dress, "okay you're looking for it and blah blah blah" which I totally disagree with. With men, the threat is more… if someone who's drunk… if they might fight or something. And I think socially (…) men are less able or less comfortable to reveal "I feel insecure." (P6_CW_LUX).

From the moment I hold hands with my boyfriend and pass through an area where there are people who aren't so different or something, it starts to get a little scary. You already have the looks. And then, that's just holding hands, imagine now when sometimes I decide to dress in clothes that are not considered so masculine. (P1_TNB_PT)

- **Gender socialisation and embodiment of fear**

When discussing safety/ unsafety perception in nightlife environments, **CISWOMEN** and **TRANS and NON-BINARY** respondents revealed that, due to their gender identity/ attribution, they learned – mainly from their family and media – that they could be targets of gender-based violence in nightlife environments. Despite any of them sharing difficult experiences, the violence they learned by systematically hearing about it resulted in the embodiment of fear that makes them feel unsafe in specific contexts (particularly in the street and outside the venues).

(…) but this fear is also built up for us, right? Maybe at the beginning you don't feel any fear, but people around you would say: what if this happens…? what if whatever… and finally you end up feeling scared, right? In the end, someone around you have suffered an aggression or felt unsafe (…) or something, this also is transferred to you, and either you want or not, you end up internalizing it, right? (P4_CW_SP)

- **Protective behaviours**

To deal with the fear and unsafety perception at night, several respondents, particularly **CISWOMEN** and **TRANS and NON-BINARY** people, reported some of the protective strategies they implement to avoid violence and harassment. In all the focus groups and interviews, most of the references to protective strategies were focused on their mobility in the public space or by public transportation at night, before and after entering a nightlife venue or event, demonstrating that, in general, they are terrified outside crowded and social environments. **PROFESSIONALS** confirmed that ciswomen and trans and non-binary people disproportionately refer to feeling afraid at night.

At least, from my personal experience, whenever I go out at night, more when I´m arriving home, which is the time when I'm alone, I run from the car home. There's always that insecurity of… it's night, it's very late… someone is on the street… hum… I think it is normal or normative for men in this case to feel less insecurity, if they are alone because… if you see the news, there is almost a social conception that men are not at as much risk of being approached or be in danger. Therefore, perhaps this also contributes to their sense of security. (P1_CW_PT)

Some respondents related their fear with the news and some urban threats they had learned from their parents and peers. The protective strategies are several times expanded to their peers who don´t experience the same levels of fear or unsafety perception. CISMEN respondents were referred to as "protectors" or even "saviours" in some situations, despite the fact they (cismen) recognise that this could be unsafe or socially tense for them.

If we were also a little braver and said things, kind of, that she or the two of us or whatever had gone over or I was there like "sorry, she's feeling uncomfortable, can you dance further away?" but also ((laughs)), I mean, of course, that's something that I think would be better. But I also think that what would be better for you might be upsetting for the other person, but I also have the feeling that it could lead to more problems, I mean, we also must play it safe, right, act innocent and... (E1_SP)

Finally, beyond specific individual and group protective strategies, it was consensual among young adults that queer/ LGBTI+ friendly spaces are safer than heteronormative mainstream venues. In this respect, in the focus groups with professionals, particularly in Portugal and Ireland, it was pointed out that the touristification of nightlife and hostility of bouncers or security staff are elements that contribute to increasing the unsafety perception, particularly among ciswomen and queer people. The lack of queer venues and places to organise queer parties was particularly referred by professionals from Luxembourg and Dublin.

1.4) The perpetrator in nightlife environments

To explore the representations of "the perpetrator in nightlife environments" of the young adults who participated in the focus groups and interviews, we used two contents: a graphic from the research report of the project Sexism Free Night, highlighting that "most of the people who reported having experienced any form of sexualised violence [in nightlife environments] stated that this was perpetrated by a cisman" (image 3, <u>annexe 1</u>) and a news headline stating "blaming the Swedish festival rapes on migrants isn´t just wrong – it´s dangerous" (image 4, <u>annexe 1</u>). Considering that, in general, the respondents self-described as feminists and left-wing and demonstrated high levels of intellectualisation and awareness regarding sexism and gender-based violence and harassment, the discussions focused on the perpetrator tended to centralise the structural cultural and social dimensions that tend to perpetuate gender asymmetries. However, when analysing their discourses, it was possible to identify more subtle representations and internalised stereotypes related to the profile of the perpetrator. Below, we categorise and describe the main findings regarding the stereotypes and representations around the identity of the perpetrator.

- **Who is the perpetrator?**

In general, all the respondents agreed that their imagery of a perpetrator in nightlife environments is a cisheterosexual man. There were references to their age identifying him as an older man, but they also referred that in drinking and drug use environments, they could be younger.

They may be drunk since, according to respondents, alcohol tends to increase their aggressiveness as well as being in groups of men. In some cases, they expressed that they tend to be more afraid when the person represents the idealised image of the perpetrator (e.g. unknown, older).

I'd describe them as normal. They tend to be normal people. Nor is it like falling into the mind-set of the aggressor, who's a sleaze or older person, right. They're normal people. They could be young people..., if this is a young people's party, they could also be young people and so what... (1) I think that in these environments, well, the thing is in the rave atmosphere, yikes, it tends to be, yeah, it's people who tend to be a bit more drunk and so maybe it's something they wouldn't do sober, but they do end up doing it. But, well, that doesn't justify it, but my experience of drinking says that. (E2_SP)

TRANS and NON-BINARY reported that sexual harassment in queer scenes could be related with the socialisation of masculinity of the harassers, and that it is more visible in sex-positive parties.

(…) despite being a queer space, people sometimes forget that the others who are there, on the edge, they did not give consent for this physical intimacy to occur, which often happens. Even though on a daily basis, people from the LGBT community have, I would say, higher levels of knowledge about social problems, simply by the position in which we find ourselves. However, you arrive at a party and there may be many people who, completely, either neglect these, hum, these topics, or simply don't remember or don't feel that it applies to this specific place. Therefore, they often break these boundaries that people can have. Just because a person is celebrating, it doesn't mean that others have the right to touch them, or anything like that. (P1_TNB_PT)

- **Relationship with the perpetrator**

When referred, different respondents described the relationship with the perpetrator differently. In the focus group with ciswomen in Porto, there was an interesting discussion where, despite the fact they tended to identify the perpetrator as a stranger, they also assumed it could be a friend who was drunk or high and, consequently, more uninhibited. Other respondents, particularly from the focus group with trans and non-binary people in Spain, identified their harassers as someone from their group of friends.

- **Justification of the perpetrator's behaviour**

During the discussions, some stereotyped arguments somehow tended to justify or understand the behaviour of the perpetrator. Considering the high level of awareness of the respondents, these were very subtle and circumscribed but still relevant to highlight considering the aims of this research. There were few references to the alleged biological hypersensitivity of men to violence, their lack of understanding of sexual mutuality and/or sexual resistance, and their lack of awareness deriving from their gender socialisation processes and performance of hegemonic masculinity.

Yes, I think that some rapes, on the part of the perpetrator, are not: he is aware that he is committing a rape and perhaps he has misinterpreted the signals and thought that it was not a no, it was a yes. And if she had interpreted the signs correctly, she would not have done anything. Then there are many others that are conscious. (P5_CW_SP)

- **(Dis)identification with the perpetrator**

Even though all respondents considered that sexual harassment was very prevalent in nightlife environments, and some of them even shared personal stories, no participants identified themselves as the harasser. Nevertheless, in one of the collective interviews with Cismen in Portugal, two of the participants shared some past experiences assuming that despite the fact spite they had no intention or were not aware of the impact of their behaviours, they felt they might have an impact on the other people.

I don't feel that cisgender men represent me. I'm part of this group and I don't feel like they represent me. I think it's quite sad, there it is, the percentages are so high, and I was thinking (…) There you go, maybe even I have done… I have practiced certain harassment. I was remembering an experience that was a bit funny, but later I thought about it a lot. That I was in NAME OF THE EVENT and took MDMA and I was all hugs, kisses, etc., lots of kisses to my friends. And a girl passes by with glasses saying, "kiss me". And I was like, "yeah! I'll give you a kiss!" And she was very [surprised expression] … And only later I realized what I was doing. And there it is, maybe she felt… For my part, harassment - it wasn't the intention - but that's when I really realized how things are and… I don't know. (P3_CM2_PT)

- **"Racialization of sexism"**

When discussing the citizenship status of the perpetrator, triggered by the news headline presented in image 4 (annexe 1), most of the respondents considered that it is wrong to blame migrants for rapes that may happen in a festival or nightlife environment. The title of this sub-category was based on the criticism that emerged in the focus groups in Italy, where the respondents commented on a local situation of sexualised violence where the media used this expression to blame migrants for the occurrence.

It was interesting to note that in all focus groups, the archetype of migrant that emerged was a person representing a migratory group from the global south, and from countries and geographies known for their lack of gender equality policies. Following the do no harm ethics, we are not replicating the names of these countries and ethnic identities to minimise the possibility of reproducing harmful stereotypes. However, it´s worth adding that migrant was rarely perceived as a white person from the global north.

Some respondents highlighted that by othering the perpetrator of sexualized violence, there is a cultural distancing from this type of crime and an extra-penalization and exclusion of migrants that serve far-right political agendas. Despite the politicised and rational discussion, some respondents also assumed some of their internalised racism, expressing that they may feel more uncomfortable or unsafe when the person they recognize as a potential perpetrator is a migrant.

Hum, but, for example, I think that if it's a guy from the UK [United Kingdom] looking at me, the first time I'll think it's normal, but maybe if it was an ETHNIC IDENTITY, maybe my first thought, would be: "Why is he looking?".
(P3_CW_PT)

Finally, by analysing the content of the focus groups with PROFESSIONALS, we had a more complex and nuanced description of the perpetrator's profile. The information they shared were based on their experiences supporting people who experienced gender-based violence, intervening with people who use drugs and/ or young people or working in nightlife environments. For this reason, their profiling tended to be more grounded on real cases observed or supported in the scope of their professional activities.

At the beginning of the discussion, respondents from the different focus groups demonstrated their scepticism towards the relevance of profiling the perpetrator (particularly in the Focus Group with professionals in Luxembourg and Milan). Some of them considered that it could be problematic to describe or attribute characteristics to the perpetrator because there could be a risk of turning something culturally structural into individual attributes. In this discussion, they tended to attribute the perpetrating behaviours to gender socialization processes but also to the sense of impunity of these behaviours in nightlife environments and to the role of drinking and drug use in facilitating gender aggressiveness.

After the first moment, professionals began to elaborate and to attribute some characteristics to the perpetrator, having as reference their professional experiences. Similarly to the perspectives of young adults, professionals considered that GBV is mainly perpetrated by cismen. However, in comparison with the perceptions of young adults, there were some differences in the profile of the perpetrator. They identified him as a national or a tourist from European countries (particularly Northern Europe). The professionals also considered that usually, the perpetrator is not a complete stranger but someone that the person who was victimized knows or begins to trust.

Professionals in all focus groups identified date violence and power imbalances in intimate partner relations as something that is also prevalent in nightlife environments and should be considered in intervention.

So, starting a little, once again from my counselling experience (…), most of the perpetrators [of sexualized violence] are Portuguese cismen. Sometimes they [the victims] didn't know the person, so they ended up meeting them in these nightlife environments, but they [the perpetrators] transmitted a certain, a certain confidence here, throughout... all the fun, isn't it?

During the time they were at the club and then it ended up escalating towards the end of the night, when, for example, they wanted to take the girl home, or they wanted to have sex with her, and she ended up saying no. Or, often here, also by spiking the drinks. We also had some of cases like this, hum… Sometimes, these are people they already knew previously and with whom they went out and, later, even through their own [voluntary] consumption [of psychoactive substances], hum it ends up in situations of sexual violence. (P1_PROF_PT, psychologist working in a rape crisis center).

That's what I've seen. Men. I've never seen men from [NAME OF THE COUNTRY OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH], and I can tell you that since 2018, I've worked at countless parties, and I've never seen a [NATIONALITY FRO THE GLOBAL SOUTH] man of any age, being accused of sexual or sexist assault, or even LGTBIphobic incidents. Because it does not arrive to the stand, or maybe I don't see it, or maybe, I don't know, it happens less. The cases that arrive to the stand are always white tourists from England, France, Germany, wherever, who come here to get loose, and a lot of white Spanish fascists. I'm sorry. (P1_PROF_SP, professionals working in Lilac Points − outreach initiatives to detect and respond to sexualized violence in large-scale events).

1.5) Recognizing violence

Another interesting theme that emerged in the discussion was the topic of recognizing violence or becoming aware that what happened to them was a form of violence or harassment. This topic emerged particularly among some **CISWOMEN** and **CISMEN** respondents. The respondents considered that, in some cases, they need time to process and understand what happened to them. The discussion around this topic allowed a nuanced elaboration, particularly in the focus group with ciswomen in Italy and in one of the collective interviews with cismen in Portugal.

In one case, a woman reported that it is more difficult to understand GBV in the context of an intimate relationship, with the later agreement of her peers. Cismen, on the other hand, are referred to as having more difficulties to recognize the violence and harassment they experience, and even when they feel it, they tend to be silenced or ridiculed by their peers. In addition, it was reported that men have more difficulties in recognizing their behaviours as harassment or violence.

And I mean, in my opinion, it is less easy to realize. I mean, I know many people who are very strict about 'the man must not touch me, you must not look at me when I'm around, but my boyfriend can be too jealous, go a bit further', do what for me is violence and for those people maybe it is not, this is something I suffered a lot, for example. (P5_CW_IT)

I had an experience, it happened to me to suffer a violence and I realized it a year ago. I was little, I was 16, so you realized afterwards, you realize afterwards, you realize that you were forced to do certain things, but there you didn't actually realize that…. (P3_CW_IT)

Uh, what I said about taking time to go through the process and realizing it was violence... From the moment I started talking about it with friends, uh, there were friends of mine who started... At the time, they said "did this really happen?", people I really had the confidence to talk to. And they "really, what happened? But seriously? But are you sure?" They didn't want to believe it, but (…) Uh, these 2 guys, in particular, were there for me and said, "oh man, I didn't realize it", "But isn't this the first time this has happened to you?" And I "no, and they, "Ah… It never happened to me!" But then we start having the conversation again. And then they say again "look, I was thinking about what we were talking about… I think, actually, maybe I've had situations like this where I thought…" (P2_CM2_PT).

2. Gender stereotypes related to drug use in nightlife environments

To collect information regarding the gender stereotypes and gendered experiences of drug use, we asked the participants in the different focus groups and interviews with young adults to comment on some statistics focused on sexualized drug use (image 5, annexe 1), a news headline commenting about the social degradation of women who use alcohol (image 6, annexe 1), an image showing someone adding drops to a drink (image 7, annexe 1) and a preventive content using victim blaming messages.
The content analysis revealed 6 main themes that emerged in the narratives of young adults and professionals when discussing gender-based violence and harassment in nightlife environments, namely:

- *Drug use and the increased sexual vulnerability of women*
- *Women don't need drugs to have sex and men use drugs to "hunt"*
- *Drug use, disinhibition, and increased confidence*
- *Drinking and gender double standards*
- *Victim blaming in nightlife environments*
- *Spiking and the myth of rape drugs*

In this report, we will use "drug use" as an umbrella term to include the use of licit and illicit psychoactive substances. When needed, we will use "drinking", "alcohol use" or the name of other drugs in specific situations where they were referred to or their use was highlighted by respondents. Below, we present the main findings organized by theme and disaggregated by a group - ciswomen (CW), cismen (CM), trans and non-binary people (TNB) and professionals (PROF).
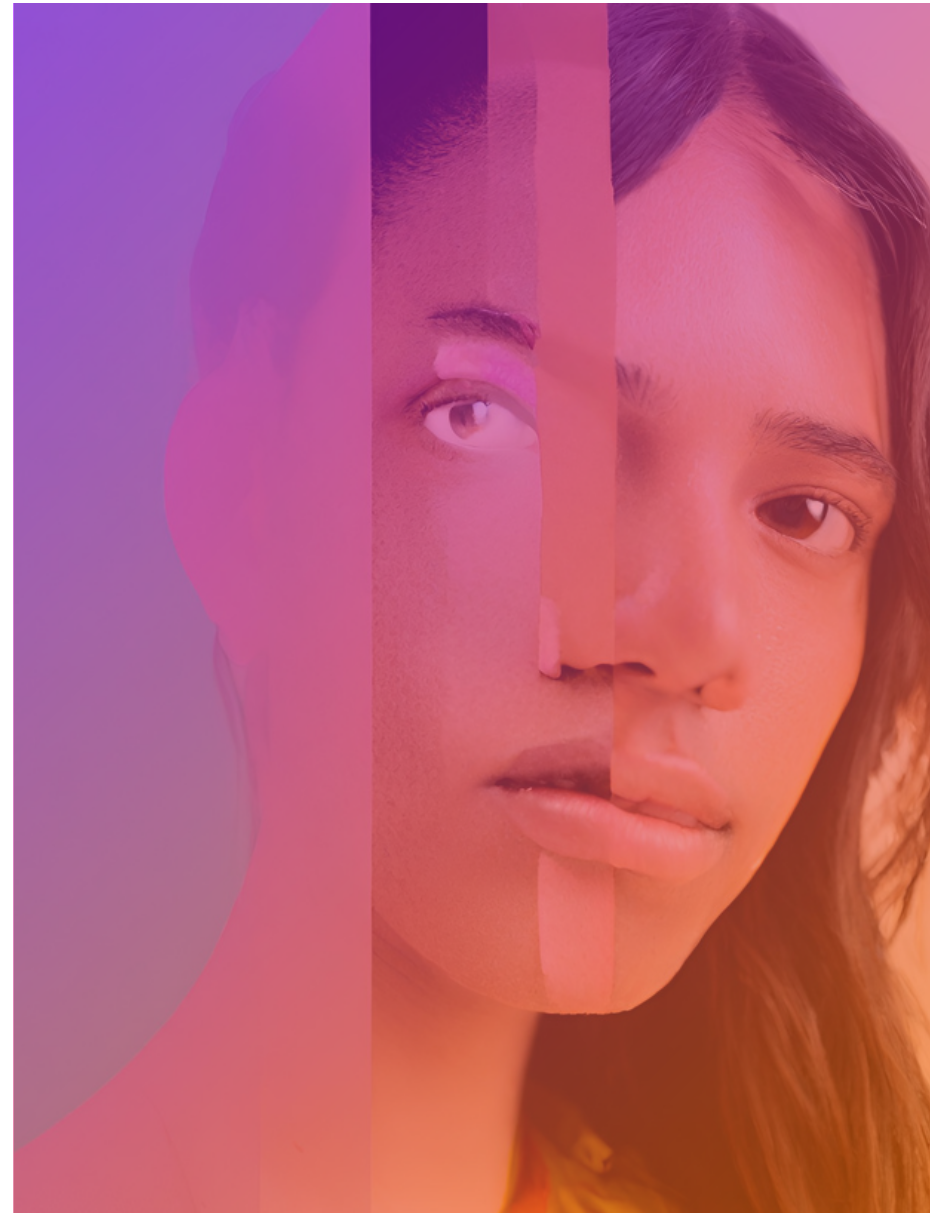
2.1) Drug use and the increased sexual vulnerability of women

One of the main topics that emerged in this discussion was the static attribution of increased vulnerability to women who use alcohol and/or other drugs in nightlife environments. We consider this to be a gender stereotype because it reproduces a problematic representation of femininity as inherently weak and susceptible to violation, being drug use represented as a behaviour that increases vulnerability and, consequently, facilitates sexualized violence. It was possible to observe the adherence to this stereotype in the discourses of the young adults who participated in this study, independently of their gender identity and country. In the discourse analysis, we noted that the adherence to this stereotype impacts the drinking and drug use behaviours of women, who tend to feel more afraid and adopt more protective behavioural strategies when compared to their cismen and trans and non-binary peers.

In the discourses of some respondents, we also found resistance to gender stereotypes. Particularly, they expressed their criticism towards the simplistic idea that women are inherently weak and vulnerable and that drinking increases their sexual vulnerabilization (1).

So that increasing drug use over a night also means that you're increasing a chance of being taken advantage of or being harassed, etcetera. Being less conscious just due to the effects of drugs. So that's just like, at least for me sometimes I get a little worried when I do get a little drunker and then I stop earlier. Whereas if I was a man, I might as well just continue drinking and have a good time and see what can happen. (P4_CW_LUX).

(1) Considering that vulnerability can be described as an attribute that is inherently internal, we use intentionally the concept of vulnerabilization to highlight the external process and the structural nature of gender asymmetries.

2.2) Women don't need drugs to have sex and men use drugs to "hunt"

Another topic that prevailed in the discourses of young people in all the focus groups, was the idea that it is easy for **CISWOMEN** to have access to sexual partners. On the other way around, men would need drugs to increase their confidence, power, and courage to search for sexual partners. We believe these to be problematic stereotypes that reproduce the myth that men are active and dominant in sex, while women are passive and sexually dependent. It also confines **CISMEN** to the category of a "hunter" always searching for sex in nightlife environments.

Ok. I mean on that basis I, I say that maybe yeah, man feels more insecure to, like, too, too insecure to, to get what you wish for [sex]. And a woman is more like yes, I know that hum, if I want, I can find it [sex] without, not much, not much struggle. (P2_CM_LUX)

In addition, some respondents highlighted that, despite the use of alcohol or other drugs to increase confidence and uninhibition, alcohol and/or other drugs may be used by **CISMEN** as tools to "break the ice" and be active in the establishment of a first contact with someone they are interested in, but also to facilitate sexualized interactions by inducing chemical vulnerability.

(…) there was a friend who, years ago, hum, when he was younger, he was going out with an older person, I think, who he trusted, and, and then he offered him alcohol, and I suppose in that sense he was disinhibited and then, I hadn't thought about it until now, because it's… but it's clearly a situation in which alcohol… because I'm sure he was drinking. Well, I don't think that was the root of the problem, hum, but it sure didn't help. (E1_SP)
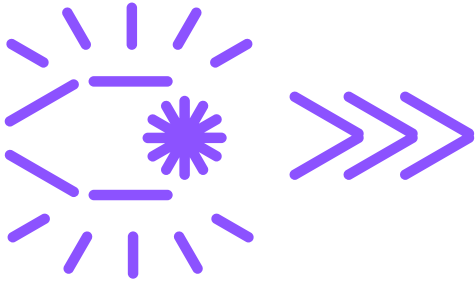
However, it was interesting to note, that when talking about their sexualized drug use experiences, the respondents presented more nuanced, fluid and less strict discourses that even contradicted and transcended the binary gender representations discussed before. Some **CISWOMEN** respondents revealed that drugs increase their confidence in social interactions and allow them to relax and experience pleasure during sex. While **CISMEN** and **TRANS and NON-BINARY** respondents brought some complexity to the discussion around the potential of drugs for sex. They assumed that drugs could facilitate social interaction and even increase sexual arousal, but they could also compromise masculine sexual performance. Some respondents also tried to present justifications for the disparities in the statistics presented in image 5, specifically, the personality of the person (particularly shyness or aggressiveness), male physiology (hypersensibility), and gender socialization (culture, porn). There were also some respondents who argued that drugs could be used to build the confidence needed to perform violent and harassing behaviours. Some of the **TRANS and NON-BINARY** respondents reported that, due to their gender-specific socialization processes and lack of references to create sexual intimacy, drugs can be used as a tool to build confidence to approach other people.

2.3) Drug use, uninhibition and increased confidence

The content analysis demonstrated that, independently of gender identity and the country, uninhibition and increased confidence and sociability were strong motivations for drinking and/or using drugs among the young adults who participated in this study. However, there were subtle gender-related differences in these specific motivations and the purpose of uninhibition. **CISWOMEN** reported they use drugs to increase their confidence and sociability when participating in nightlife environments. Some respondents even pointed out that they feel freer and safer when they use drinking demonstrating that they perceive these contexts as inherently hostile for them.

I personally try to limit myself to only a few drinks. Like, I have a limit, a certain amount of people will go slightly over, I feel safer. But I personally try to stick to my limit of quite a low amount of drink so that I stay aware of what's going on around me just in case something was to happen to me, or to one of my friends, which, like it's not fun that I have to always kind of be aware of that in the background. But it is what it is unfortunately. (P1_CW_IR)

Some of the **TRANS and NON-BINARY** respondents stated that drugs increase their social and sexual confidence and perception of being accepted. Some of them expressed that drugs are also useful to deal with their gender dysphoria.

(…) I mean, I can find a motivation maybe to use drugs and alcohol - I say alcohol because it is the substance we use more, since it is legal, maybe - to have sexual experiences, because maybe sometimes, I mean, as a trans person - and here I put my experience - uhm, it is much more difficult to manage to loosen up from that point of view there.

For a series of situations related to [gender] dysphoria, things like that, that is, the fear of not being... I don't know, performativity, of not meeting certain standards. And so maybe, I don't know, I mean getting drunk or smoking, being a bit more cheerful, it makes you overcome some bias, let's call it that, so you say 'OK, I can-' (…) (P1_TNB_IT)

CISMEN respondents consider that drugs may be used to increase their confidence and to facilitate socialization and the search for sexual partners. Some respondents reported that alcohol helps them to relax, calm down and feel more comfortable.

Yes, I don't like the way that leisure is subordinated to the consumption of alcohol, but I feel more comfortable… I mean, I suppose it must be more of a relaxation thing, because I think less and feel more comfortable when I've been drinking, at a party. It creates comfort. (E1_SP)

Some respondents also highlighted their sexualised uses of specific drugs, and in almost all focus groups and interviews queer spaces were referred to as safer contexts for sexualized drug uses, particularly because of their affirmed sex positivity.

PROFESSIONALS also highlighted the use of drugs by young people for uninhibition, to lose control and to increase social and sexual confidence. They also considered nightlife environments and spaces that promote a culture of intoxication and drug consumerism. Some respondents also highlighted the role of gender socialization on drug use patterns and sexualized drug uses among queer communities.

Culture; identity; accessibility; affordability; availability, yeah. (P6_PROF_IR)
Mental health; anxiety; depression. Culture, it's very normalized to use alcohol and drugs on the scene anyway. (P7_PROF_IR)
And what P1_PROF_IR mentioned earlier on around the fact that there's a lack of sober kind of options available for socializing. (P5_PROF_IR)

Yes, I have two theories. Lesbian women consume more drugs related to empathy, good vibes, drugs that allow them to live their sexuality with fewer taboos. Generally, they use them in safe or LGBTQ+ spaces. Lesbian women won't go to a town festival and get heavily drugged because they'll face backlash from all sides: for being lesbians and for being on drugs, right? Then, heterosexual men consume an enormous amount of alcohol, cocaine, amphetamines. These are drugs that give them a sense of uninhibited power, reinforcing gender norms of masculinity, right? Strength, power, and getting away with it. The LGBTQ+ community, well, gay men, sorry, I'm getting a bit mixed up, are somewhere in between, right? A mix. I see them using public spaces a lot, at public parties. The use of alcohol, cocaine, and M [MDMA], and this shapes a certain... I'm not sure if it's to tolerate the party better or to have a better time or because they need to... maybe it makes it easier for them to endure homophobic insults when they're at the town festival. I don't know; it's like if I had to categorize it, I'd do it like this: in terms of the drug effects, you go to a lesbian party, and they're all on M. All of them. ((some laugh)) It's intense. M and speed. Okay. You go to a gay sauna, methamphetamine, the other one, what's it called... buphedrone... those are super potent stimulants, right? They're related to stimulation, lasting longer, erection, sexual activity, well. (P1_PROF_SP)

2.4) Drinking and gender double standards

When analysing the discourses of young adults regarding alcohol use in nightlife environments, it was possible to detect gender double standards (evaluating women and men differently for the same behaviour) in the social perception of drinking and drug use. In some cases, they shared personal experiences, particularly in the context of groups of friends but also in intimate relationships. Below, we present the main double standards regarding the use of alcohol and/or other drugs identified in the discourse analysis.

- **Women participating in drinking cultures are perceived as more sexually available**

When commenting on the news headline shared in the sixth content of the focus groups, several participants agreed that women who are drinking in nightlife environments tend to be seen as more sexually available. This stereotype demonstrates another dimension of the culture of the sexualization of women in these social contexts, where being drunk or high is perceived as a sign that they are open to sexual interactions and approachable. In their discourses, some respondents revealed their internalization of this stereotype.

[That's what I'm saying] Like, I don't behave the same way I'm behaving here If I'm in the middle of a nightclub drinking, and… maybe if someone is watching from outside, they would think I was more sexually available at a nightclub than outside. And then there's a lot of, hum, objectification, mostly drunk woman. I've seen it, even not intending to shame any woman or anything, but when I went out at night, I've seen girls, like…who take off their skirts because they are hot or take off their shirts because they're hot. (P4_CW_PT)
The boys do the same, just for them it's [normal...-] (P1_CW_PT)
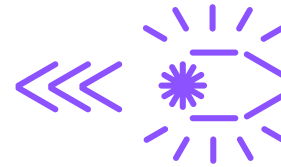
- **Being drunk or high compromises the traditional femininity attributes**

In line with the previous stereotype, some respondents shared their perception that women who get drunk or high socially transgress hegemonic femininity scripts and for this reason, they are perceived by cismen as potential sexual partners but not as potential partners for an intimate relationship. These two stereotypes reproduce the old moral dichotomization of women who are statically and rigidly evaluated as "good women" or "bad women". In addition, some ciswomen revealed, more or less explicitly, that in the context of an intimate relationship, they experience some control by their partners and different standards for the couple's regulation of their drinking and drug use.

And I would say people have perceived me in this way. I don't particularly perceive other people in this way, you know, but I have definitely been perceived in these ways. And a conversation I had with a male friend of mine recently, he was like, "Oh you know, like." He's out all the time doing whatever he's doing, I don't know, but he was like, "Oh like I could ever, I wouldn't want to be with a girl who's like that all the time. I wouldn't want to be with a girl who has a high body count." And I said, "NAME OF HER FRIEND, what's your body count?" And it's just they don't have the same standards for themselves as they would expect out of other people and that is obviously one, one small case and just my personal experience. But people are, it's not always but sometimes perceived as less. (P5_CW_IR)

- **Sexualization of women in nightlife environments**

The sexualization of women in nightlife environments represents a (re)production and a (re)configuration of the traditional gender norms. This means that the traditional vision of femininity is adapted to these social environments influencing the behaviour of women, but also the behaviour of men and the commercial and advertisement practices of the venues (e.g. ladies' night, free drinks for women, dress code).

[Like the dress code. They'll let in a girl in heels and a dress before they'll let in a girl who's comfortable in sneakers and normal jeans (…) (P5_CW_SP)

- **Gendered social perception of drunkenness**

The respondents said that being heavily drunk or high is, in general, socially humiliating. However, they evaluate differently women and men who are experiencing excessive effects of the drugs they took. While they consider that it can make women more vulnerable and exposed to potential situations of sexualized violence, these effects are seen as an excuse for the harassing behaviours of men. In addition, **CISWOMEN** reported feeling guilty, regretful, and ashamed after an episode of excessive drinking/ drug use, while some of the **CISMEN**, despite they may feel embarrassed, they refer that the episode became a joke in their group of friends.

(…) We hide the education of the man, of anyone who rapes a person, but we must be more careful, it's the woman who has to [be careful]. It happened to me, when you come back from an evening, that maybe you don't remember what you said the night before, you always think about how you could have made a fool out of yourself. I have a boyfriend, I mean, he doesn't say 'I made a fool out of me', as I do. I mean, I often say, "I made a fool out of me last night." (P3_CW_IT)

Let's see, not because he's a man, I find it ridiculous ((laughs)), all people, not because he's a man, ridiculous might be a very offensive word, but you feel sorry to see someone lying on the floor vomiting, well in this sense you do, not because he's a man do I find it more ridiculous, I understand, that if you put the woman in a similar image it would also work, but in the case of vulnerability, given that there are more assaults by men on women in general, even though alcohol can make us all equally vulnerable, the one who is most exposed in this sense is clearly a woman, it's true that there are more assaults (…) ((laughs)). [E1_SP]

PROFESSIONALS pointed out that there are gender double standards when evaluating drunkenness, women who are drunk are seen as more vulnerable and tend to be more socially degraded. They also reinforced that drunkenness is seen as something that justifies harassing or violent behaviours. Similarly to what was reported by young respondents, professionals also stated that in terms of care in nightlife environments, people are more aware and more vigilant towards women who identify as vulnerable than towards men in the same situation.

I have something to say after all. Then again, um, women are looked after more and then you feel a little more, not pity, but ((imitates an overly exaggerated concerned voice)), hum, I hope she gets home safe or, hum, hopefully she won't be kidnapped or gets something put in her glass. So, one looks, as has already been said, a little more vulnerable (…) like, an observer who thinks, "oh I hope she's doing well". Like, when a man lies there, yes, maybe, no idea... but you usually don't think, "oh, should I help him?", comparing with a woman there… (P2_PROF_LUX)

2.5) Victim blaming in nightlife environments

When analysing the discourses of the respondents, particularly when commenting the image 8, it was possible to see that, in general, there was a strong criticism towards victim blaming narratives. But in some cases, there was possible to see some of the internalization of victim blaming imagery. **PROFESSIONALS** also pointed out that voluntary alcohol and/or drugs used among women reinforced victim blaming among women who experienced violence. On the other way around, the violent or harassing behaviour of men tends to be excused or justified by the same drug use behaviours.

Because when she drinks, she becomes more uninhibited and makes herself known, even to [unknown] people and facilitates the contact, but then, too... They have less control, because perhaps they can't protect themselves as easily. And, there it is, the contexts were people drink makes spiking easier as well as for other types of things. (P3_CM2_PT)

2.6) Spiking and the myth of rape drugs

We used an image of someone dropping a substance in a glass with a drink (image 7, <u>annexe 1</u>) to analyse the representations of the respondents regarding the surreptitious administration of substances (spiking) to induce unintended or unexpected effects on the other person.

- **Reacting to the images**

Even though it was not clear in the image if it was a voluntary or a surreptitious administration of drugs, most of the respondents immediately reacted by identifying a spiking situation. Some of them even described the context of spiking and immediately associated this behaviour to a consequent rape, conceptualizing it as a premeditated drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA).

There were some differences in the reaction to the image. **CISWOMEN** immediately reacted to the image, relating it to their experiences of fear at night and describing cautionary narratives focused on the prevention of spiking when going out at night (we will return to this topic later). **TRANS and NON-BINARY** participants and **CISMEN** tended to describe a "typical" spiking scene.

There were also some nuances in the interpretation of the image that gave us information regarding the diversity of spiking situations they can find in nightlife environments. For some respondents, it was not clear if it was a spiking situation since the image could represent a voluntary administration of drugs to their own drink. Other respondents considered that it could be a situation where someone was spiked by their friends as a prank or to enhance their psychoactive experiences.

I find it interesting, like, the first thing I thought when I saw the image was like "wow, you can be drugged!" But like…you don't think "I'm getting high myself", you know? Like, as if we thought that this hand could belong to someone else who wants to get high in a club, but now we think directly about "we could get drugged" because of all that… Well, that happens to me too, you know? Like, when I go out partying, my parents are like "ahh, the drink" (…) (P2_CW_SP)
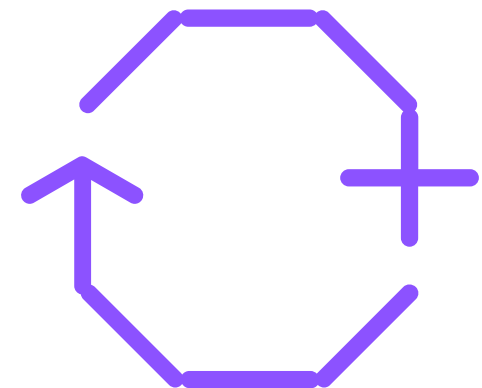
- **The myth of rape drugs**

When discussing spiking, some respondents expressed several myths regarding the substances used, particularly depressants (in specific, roofies, GHB, ketamine and scopolamine), the alleged effects of the drugs and its potential for rape. These discourses demonstrated a centralization on the drug effects instead of considering the overall context of victimization. Some respondents also highlighted that the substance used for inducing chemical vulnerability could be alcohol.

Often these drugs are really done to [rape], like... There are some that make the person very sexually active, and there are others that simply make a zombie so that, later, it is easier to [sexually] abuse. (P1_TNB_PT)

- **Perspectives on spiking**

When sharing their perspectives on spiking, it is possible to bring some complexity to the imageries and representations of spiking that, in some cases, contrasted with the immediacy of their reaction to image 7. Some respondents reported that spiking is almost a joke among young people and in some cases, expressed their willingness to be spiked.

Ha, ha, well tell me and I'll go there, you know? ((laughter)) Free drugs, you know? Sure, there you go, I'd have a great time ((laughter)). (P5_TNB_SP)

Other respondents highlighted that this is a very severe form of perpetrating sexualized violence, and it can happen randomly to everyone whenever a drink is left alone, even for a few minutes, while others expressed their scepticism around the alleged easiness of spiking someone.

Yes, then just think in any gathering place, how... it becomes filled with beer glasses... very full, left around (...) But not only, that they are not just out of laziness. Also, because certainly leaving a glass, even 2 minutes in a place you know it's no longer safe that thing in there when you've lost sight of it because you can't know you're being watched and they're watching. Serious. (P2_CM_IT)

Despite the focus on drug-facilitated sexual assault, some respondents considered that spiking can be used for other reasons, for example among groups of friends just for fun and to facilitate a robbery.

But I'm sure G [GHB] is also used for robberies though, and that way, like men, would just be as affected. Because like straight away, you think of like spiking and sexual violence. But it can also be spiking and complete like mugging, so... (P4_CW_LUX)

- **Experiences of spiking**

Several participants shared their self-reported experiences of spiking. Despite their differences, all have in common the description of unexpected effects and a sense of vulnerability. They also expressed a sense of being lucky since in any of the situations the person was sexually abused, despite their perception that anything could have happened. Some respondents revealed a direct association between the experience of unexpected or unpleasant effects and the perception of having been spiked, particularly when someone offered them a drink previously. In addition, even though when reacting to image 7 respondents imagined a ciswoman as the victim when sharing their experiences, it was possible to see that there were also situations where cismen and male-passing respondents claimed had been spiked.

Most respondents who shared spiking stories, both personal and from friends, were not sure if there was a real surreptitious administration of drugs. So, uncertainty was also something that emerged in the spiking stories and that mediated its psychological impact.

In addition, several respondents also shared experiences of spiking just for fun among groups of friends. At this level, the surreptitious administration of drugs was described as a behaviour to enhance the experience of friends, but an accidental spiking of a friend was also described.

- **Spiking as a cautionary tale - Embodiment of fear and protection behaviours**

In all the focus groups and interviews, spiking was described by the respondents as a tacit reality that everyone knows. The respondents brought some complexity to the typical spiking scenes, introducing the "spiking for fun" as something that can happen as a joke to enhance the psychoactive experiences among the group of friends. This is something worth highlighting due to its interest in informing harm reduction targeting people who use drugs in social contexts. Moreover, in this section, we discuss another dimension of spiking that is worth considering – the socialisation of women for the possibility of being spiked and experiencing rape when going out at night. This results in their embodiment of fear that may be triggered when they feel vulnerable at night. In the topic "fear of going out at night" and "gender socialization and the embodiment of fear", we already highlighted the discourses that help us to understand what makes them feel unsafe and why. As discussed, they systematically learned by the media, their peers and parents that they could be random targets of violence, and this impacts the way they feel in nightlife environments. In regards to spiking, according to our respondents, they were socialized to remain hypervigilant to protect themselves from spiking, using a specific etiquette that increases their safety perception and ultimately reinforces their femininity attributes when going out at night, since it is socially expected they perform that way. Considering this, spiking stories can be considered "cautionary tales" since they "are not merely stories that warn and instruct, they also clarify, frame, and consolidate our fears and social identities" (Moore, 2009, p.319). This is a fear that disproportionately affects women.

I think it was the first thing my [Mother told me]. Also, the first time I went out at night is… (P3_CW_PT)
[Mine too!] (P1_CW_PT)
My mother was "Never leave your glass anywhere" (P2_CW_PT)

I see the image and I remember when I was sixteen or fifteen going out or starting to go out, my father used to tell me "watch your glass, your drink" "always cover it" or "don't let them put anything in it, always make sure the drink is closed, that they don't give it to you opened" "watch how they put it in it". I mean, I became aware that this could happen, that they could put something in my drink that would leave me asleep, unconscious, hum, whatever it is and take advantage of me. (P5_CW_SP)

To protect themselves, **CISWOMEN** described a set of behaviours and protective strategies they implement to avoid spiking (e.g. to protect the glasses). When describing their anti-spiking etiquette, some respondents share drinking behaviours that ultimately are riskier in terms of their management of alcohol use (e.g. preloading, drinking very quick). This demonstrates that, having as reference to their risk perceptions, some women may be more prone to engage in behaviours they evaluate as protective strategies for spiking than in harm reduction strategies to manage and reduce the risks related to their alcohol use.

Yes, that's right, I remember the first time I went to VENUE, of course my friends were like "Don't forget to keep the glass always with you, because, right, it's a nice space here, very quiet (let's not say safe), because now the door is open for anyone, so" (…). OK, good. So, I like 'ok'. Really, I remember finishing that one drink within 0,3 seconds ((laugh)), and I spent the evening dancing (…) (P7_CW_IT)

I also have friends who are like, if it's not allowed to bring drinks to the party, they drink beforehand and then they go, because there's always a risk. Whenever there are parties like this, there is a risk, because there are a lot of people and there are always a lot of people who, even if they act like good people on a daily basis, at night have opposite intentions to what they say during the day. (P1_TNB_PT)

Several respondents in different countries (particularly women and trans and non-binary respondents) shared their knowledge about different anti-spiking paraphernalia (e.g. nail polishes, bracelets, drink covers) including the websites where these items could be bought. These references also demonstrated that prevention efforts and a sense of safety tend to be transferred to anti-spiking technologies, and these are strongly commercially advertised, demonstrating the capitalistic monetization of spiking fears.

- **The perception and experiences of professionals**

When discussing spiking, PROFESSIONALS shared their perspectives regarding the social narratives on spiking and its gendered impacts. In general, professionals emphasized also the role of offering alcoholic drinks or influencing the drinking pattern of the other person to induce chemical vulnerability. Some professionals, particularly from Porto, shared their experience regarding the cases of spiking they attended, including a mass spiking case perpetrated by the owner of a venue that was denounced in the city in 2019. In this case, a psychologist who supported the victims shared that when they woke up near the perpetrator, it was very confusing since he tried to create alternative memories to justify what happened.

The experiences of professionals demonstrated that spiking is both a mythologic narrative and a cautionary tale, but also a real threat since there are cases where the surreptitious administration of a drug is used to facilitate sexual assaults.

Yes, I just wanted to add, in this case that P7_PROF_PT is talking about, I also know it. Here there was also the after... Hum, the aggression was also a matter of implementing false memories in the heads of these women, almost as if it were an entire situation of consent. Hum, which also made the situation even more difficult, right? Then...reorganizing yourself mentally, about all the steps... Because there was a lot of this, again, there was a lot of this… creating an atmosphere of trust and security, as if everything had been consented to, otherwise nothing would have happened. Hum, as the memories were already totally distorted, right? Due to the drug… It was easier for the aggressor to try later also to distort those same memories… (P1_PROF_PT, psychologist working in a rape crisis center who attended some of these women)
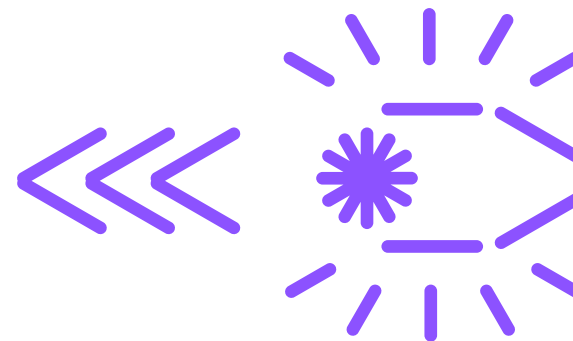
2. JOINT GOOD PRACTICES

Good practices and recommendations to prevent, detect and respond to gender-based violence in nightlife environments

In this section, we present the **10 good practices** and **recommendations** we identified from the desk research analysis.

The same categories of practices were found in the qualitative analysis of the focus groups and interviews and, for this reason, in this section we complement the desk research with the priorities identified by the young adults and professionals who participated in the qualitative research.

>>> 2.1 Desk research

As described in the methodology, partners identified different practices in their local desk research, namely: scientific papers, chapters, or others; grey literature (e.g. reports, white papers, manuals) and identification of practices (e.g. campaigns, intervention programs, protocols). It was possible to notice that most of the scientific evidence is from English-speaking countries (United Kingdom, United States and Australia) and refers to prevention and education programs in college campuses targeting potential perpetrators. For this reason and comparing to what happens in relation to other topics related to gender-based violence and drug use, the scientific evidence tends to be Anglocentric.

There were also several references to specific practices in Spain, namely, campaigns, protocols in Spain and Lilac Points (outreach intervention to promote awareness and to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in nightlife environments). Compared with the other countries involved in the CRISSCROSS Project (Portugal, Italy, Ireland, and Luxembourg), Spain has more practices, and these are more formalized, advanced, and widespread due to the support of local municipalities. However, even though there are several reports with recommendations for the implementation, there is a lack of evaluation of these practices.

The different practices were assessed by Kosmicare using as a reference the "Good practices for gender mainstreaming" approach suggested by EIGE (2013). The practices were evaluated and scored by using the categories:

- *Good practice*

"A 'good practice' can be broadly defined as a practice that, upon evaluation, demonstrates success at producing an impact which is reputed as good, and can be replicated" (EIGE, 2013, p.10).

- *Promising practice*

"A specific action or set of actions exhibiting inconclusive evidence of success or evidence of partial success. It may or may not be possible to replicate a promising practice in more than one setting" (EIGE, 2013; pp.11)

- *Unknown effectiveness*

The practice was not evaluated.

- *Recommendations for practices*

The sources included some evidence-based or practice-based recommendations for the implementation of promising practices or to increase the effectiveness or range of a practice.

In addition, we also categorized the types of practice we found to assess them and to give as a reference to create the list of 10 good practices. At this point, it is relevant to add that these practices were also prioritised by the people who participated in the qualitative research. Below, we describe the categories of practices.

- Education programs addressing gender stereotypes to prevent gender-based violence in college environments (**GBV prevention**)
- Bystander intervention programs targeting young people in college environments (**Bystander intervention**)
- Staff training informed by bystander intervention targeting professionals working in nightlife environments (**Staff training**)
- Implementation of outreach intervention to prevent, detect and respond to gender-based violence in nightlife environments and music festivals (**safer spaces**)
- Protocols to implement multi-component approaches to prevent, detect and respond to gender-based violence in nightlife environments. These protocols can be city-level (city-level protocol) or venue/event level (**NLE protocol**)

- Awareness raising campaigns to denormalize sexism and prevent gender-based violence in nightlife environments (**GBV awareness**)
- Capacitation of professionals working with people who use drugs in nightlife environments are recommended (**Training of professionals**)
- Participatory approaches including the perspectives and lived experiences of the target group are recommended, particularly when considering the needs of overlooked groups as LGBTQIA+ and ethnically diverse young adults (**Participatory approaches**)
- Multicomponent programs integrating more than one of the practices highlighted before (e.g. protocol, staff training, awareness campaign) may be more beneficial and effective (**multicomponent approaches**)

- Advocacy and capacitation activities to increase gender mainstreaming in the nightlife labour market and cultural activities are recommended to reinforce a gender-transformative agendas in the sector (NLE advocacy)

Below we summarize the list of practices according to the data of the desk. The information from the desk research evidence analysis was categorized and assessed, and we included the best examples of good and promising practices and recommendations for practice. The table with all the practices analysed can be found on annexe 4.

Source	Type of evidence	Target groups and settings	Quality evaluation	Critical analysis
GBV prevention				
Sexual Assault and Alcohol Feedback and Education (SAFE) for heavy-drinking college men (Abbey, 2011)	Research paper	Potential PerpetratorsCollege environments	Good practice	The SAFE program shows promising preliminary results, with a slight decline in campus sexual violence. The program serves an important purpose of focusing prevention on possible/likely perpetrators, (heavy-drinking college men) lessening the weight of responsibility victims are usually burdened with. The fact that both the target-group and the facilitator in the SAFE program where male might also give us insight into a positive gender intervention practice: by fostering identification with the moderators, more efficient learning is promoted.
Date Violence Prevention Programs on a College Campus - comparing traditional awareness programs with bystander intervention (Peterson et al., 2018)	Research paper	University students College environments	Good practice	When comparing a 90-minute bystander intervention with a 90 traditional education intervention, this study concluded the bystander intervention was more effective at changing attitudes, beliefs, efficacy, intentions, and self-reported behaviors regarding date violence. However, both were successful in having a positive impact on the listed aspects. intervention that has positive results, whether it is the bystander or educational program - is much less demanding than proposing a multi-session intervention, which might require more resources.

Source	Type of evidence	Target groups and settings	Quality evaluation	Critical analysis
Bystander intervention				
Considering the role of gender on bystander intervention at music festivals (Baillie et al., 2022)	Research paper	Party goers Music Festivals	Recommendations for practice	This paper analyzes the role of gender in bystander interventions in festivals. The value of these findings stems from the new insight it gives to project planners involved with bystander intervention - resource allocation may be revised since women are already more likely to intervene in a wide array of situations, when compared to men. Considering the differences found in the type of intervention each gender tends to choose might help mitigate participant resistance to bystander interventions, by providing a higher level of identification with the actions suggested, playing into the characteristics created by gender roles, such as giving male participants more assertive ways of intervening.

Source	Type of evidence	Target groups and settings	Quality evaluation	Critical analysis
Staff training				
Sexism Free Night certification: From the visibility of sexual harassment to the creation of a safer and more egalitarian nightlife itinerary in Porto (Pires et al., 2022a)	Research paper	Party goers Staff in NLE Nightlife environments	Good practice	The integration of GBV bystander training into staff training effectively dispels rape myths, enhancing staff willingness to intervene in nightlife settings. Bystander intervention, focused on staff, proves instrumental in preventing and denormalizing sexist behaviors. The training equips staff to recognize, make visible and assess risks, and respond appropriately, fostering a culture of accountability. A protocol is used to unify these responses. The Sexism Free Night label employs bystander approaches in staff training, garnering satisfaction, and positive impact - more discussions around GBV amongst staff, who were more attentive and likely to intervene. Collaborations with DJs, communication teams, and an awareness-raising campaign (with material aimed at potential victims, perpetrators, and bystanders) demonstrate a comprehensive, integrated system-wide intervention.
STOP-SV - Training for professionals in nightlife environments (Quigg et al., 2021)	Research paper Report	Staff in NLE Nightlife environments	Good practice	The STOP-SV training program enhances nightlife staff's capacity to recognize and prevent sexual violence through positive bystander intervention. It's been implemented in Portugal, Spain and the Czech Republic, with alterations to best adapt to the contexts. It aims to explore and address conditions promoting sexual violence, mobilizing communities to prevent it. Targeting strategic stakeholders (e.g., policy-makers; prevention professionals; youth organizations), STOP-SV provides training materials and a two-step training package for facilitators and nightlife workers. Facilitators undergo 20 hours of comprehensive training, addressing sexual violence understanding, vulnerability, prevention, and response. Trained facilitators then conduct 2-3h sessions for nightlife workers. Results show improved knowledge, attitudes, and confidence among workers. The program exhibits good potential for replication, offering a transdisciplinary approach to address nightlife sexual violence.

Source	Type of evidence	Target groups and settings	Quality evaluation	Critical analysis
Safer spaces				
Take Kare Safe Space Program (Doran et al, 2021)	Research paper	Nightlife environments	Recommendations for practice	The program shows concern with top-down aspects of preventing violence, by considering as a main evaluation point the program's return on investment. The finding of positive results in the economic area might help justify and promote the implementation of more safe spaces in NLE to higher-ups. The use of both a static station where people can look for help when needed and a patrol-type approach can combat a major concern in many interventions - the fact that those who most need it might be the ones that use the resources less often. These approaches seem to have a wider-system value, as both are noted as viable options for city-wide interventions to manage alcohol-use related violence and disorders.
Resignifying Lilac Points. Lessons learned and new challenges to contribute to the eradication of violence against women (Gómez & Rodríguez, 2019)	Report	Party goers Staff in NLE Nightlife environments	Promising practice	Lilac Point provides information and advice on violence against women and began collaborating with the Department of Feminism and LGTBI. The concern with creating true feminist, inclusive party spaces is clear throughout the activity report, which includes recommendations to create such spaces. Since its creation, it has expanded its reach substantially, showing its value and sustainability. Lilac point acts as a safe space for prevention, awareness-raising, and advice related to GBV. The target audience includes individuals present at public parties, especially those who experienced or are at risk for GBV - to be able to provide quality, equal services, there is close contact with entities, local authorities who will be involved, and all other agents present before implementing the services. Whenever possible, everyone is given prior training to raise awareness of sexual violence in nightlife spaces and implement protocols with a gender perspective, creating a common framework and consistent care across agents. Authors emphasize the importance of community involvement and coordinated action for achieving success. Lilac Point also includes intervention agents circulating the party space to raise awareness in a wider-spread fashion. They begin their intervention before festivals begin, as substance use has likely already started. A unique contribution of this program is the acknowledgement of the need for self-care for the staff, which is central in preserving their ability to give out care to others. Despite not replicating the practice and lacking more formal impact evaluation, the intervention has important positive impacts, consistently addressing sexual violence, making its implicit forms visible and responding to them.

Safe Spaces at festivals in Aotearoa (Bennet, 2023)	Master dissertation	Party goers Music Festivals	Recommendations for practice	This study focuses on the harm-reduction and mental well-being promotion potential of safe spaces in festivals, providing guidelines for implementation with positive results, which promotes transferability to other contexts. As the study highlights the relevance of encouraging safe spaces as a mainstream concept that responds not only to individual, but communal well-being within larger systems. The creators of safe spaces consider them to be an opportunity for psychological intervention, while recognizing the importance of a complete network of other responses in festivals (such as drug testing), to respond to all the complex needs that might arise.
Protocols city-level or NLE				
Design and evaluation of protocols for the prevention, management, and resolution of gender-based violence in leisure spaces (Burgos Garcia, 2019)	Report	Local Municipalities Staff of NLE Nightlife environments	Recommendations for practice	The evaluation of the protocols prioritizes the process over impact assessment. Success hinges on the engagement of political institutions, technical staff, and grassroots associations. The Noctambul@s Observatory's Protocols, centered on prevention, detection, action, and reparation, adopt a local and dynamic perspective. These protocols involve macro and mesosystems - public administrations, institutional politics, technical staff, and local entities and associations tied to public festivals or spaces. They integrate perspectives from various feminist groups in Spain, which preserves some of the transformative and subversive nature of self-organized groups and includes them in the active shaping of proposals. Five action protocols addressing sexual violence in festive spaces have been implemented through community engagement in municipalities and joint administrations in the province of Barcelona.
Protocol "We won´t keep quiet" (No Callem) (Macaya-Andrés & Saliente Andrés, 2018) (Schossler, 2023)	Protocol	Local Municipalities Staff in NLE Nightlife environments Music Festivals	Promising practice	The No Callem Protocol, designed for public leisure spaces, aims to prevent sexual violence and enhance safety in nightlife. It consists of three components: prevention measures, guidelines for identifying cases, and instructions for handling different presentations of sexual violence. Preventative measures include rejecting discriminatory door policies and avoiding gender-based discriminatory practices. Establishments should communicate their adherence to the protocol and particularly focus on dark areas. NLE promotional actions also must exclude sexist content, avoiding replication of sexist messages at all levels. The protocol stresses the need for trained personnel to identify and address sexual aggression. Success factors involve widespread dissemination across Barcelona, Madrid, and Pamplona, marking an innovative engagement of the private leisure sector in combating GBV.This protocol was crucial for the response in the case of Daniel Alves (football player who sexual assaulted a woman in a nightclub in Barcelona). For this reason, and despite the fact that there are not scientific evidence of the effectiveness of this approaches, we will label it as a promising practice.

Source	Type of evidence	Target groups and settings	Quality evaluation	Critical analysis
GBV awareness				
Pilot rape prevention campaign promoted by the Liverpool City Hall (Gunby et al., 2017)	Research paper	Potential perpetrators	Promising practice	The authors emphasize the need for non-sexist and non-revictimizing approaches, citing a Liverpool-based rape prevention which is based on informal and non-formal education methods. The campaign's gender-equality objectives included raising awareness about consent laws and reducing sexual abuse. It involved distributing postcards with the message "Can't answer? Can't consent. – sex without consent is rape" in strategic locations to target possible perpetrators, including men's toilets. Evaluation revealed success factors like strategic implementation but challenges like low awareness (although there was a concern with disseminating the message through social media and radio) and resistance to risk-focused messages from young people in nightlife environments. The campaign's potential for replication is noted, but constraints include visibility issues and potential establishment resistance.
The prevention of sexist aggression in nightlife contexts: comparative analysis of prevention campaigns (Spora Sinergies, 2019)	Report	Local Municipalities Partygoers Staff at NLE	Recommendations for practice	The analysis of campaigns against GBV in leisure spaces reveals crucial considerations for entities and administrations. More campaigns should encourage dialogues among men and promote bystander intervention. Additionally, an inclusive approach considering intersectionality, gender and sexual diversity is vital to address diverse sexist experiences influenced by factors like age, race, gender, and socio-economic status. As such, prior demographic evaluations are crucial for effective planning. Ensuring co-responsibility within private nightlife venues and in a more sustained way over time is key, extending campaigns beyond major municipal festivals, where most interventions' focus is placed. Recommendations include reviewing cultural programming and public spaces through a gender lens and fostering collaboration with social networks, feminist groups, continuous analysis of the issue in the territory, and providing specific training for protocols. A contribution from these recommendations is that the gender equality goals go further into the "backscenes", including them in the recruitment processes.

Source	Type of evidence	Target groups and settings	Quality evaluation	Critical analysis
Training of professionals				
Prevention and Response Strategies for sexual violence in Selkirk College (Hillman, 2017)	Working paper	University students College environments	Recommendations for practice	Even though the interventions themselves have yet to be implemented or evaluated, the study focuses on finding recommendations for the Selkirk College GBV future interventions, which might be useful in other post-secondary contexts. These recommendations arise from a needs evaluation, which reveals on-campus services available for students who wish to disclose or report an act of sexual violence are limited. For example, without institutional support and understanding of the GBV prevention and response needs, such interventions may become undervalued and barriers to its implementation might occur. A peer-to-peer delivery model is another main contribution of the recommendations to this college, as it promotes credibility, reach and sustainability, while also strengthening support systems amongst students, which might become a protective factor against GBV or related issues following an aggression. This college is planning a Supporting Survivors Education (awareness handouts about SA disclosure) for everyone in the school system - it is also recommended that the college includes bystander training, delivered to everyone in the school system, by also integrating professional development opportunities, which may promote motivation of staff to participate. A proposal for a healthy masculinity group for students is an interesting contribution of this college, as acceptance of hegemonic masculinity is associated with a higher chance of perpetrating GBV. Lastly, it is recommended to make recruitment efforts relevant to minority groups, showing some concern with LGBTQ students, international and indigenous students. Responsibility for preventing GBV is placed on the entire institution, including professors and staff, and on potential perpetrators and bystanders, lessening the fault that is often placed on victims.
Considering how trans identities impact GBV experiences (Obradovic, 2021)	PhD Thesis	Trans youth Intervention in rape crisis centers	Recommendations for practice	Trans youth is a severely understudied population - it is critical to give it more attention, considering the high risks for sexual violence the community (especially trans women) faces. This literature review introduces a model outlining barriers for trans SV survivors, based on 10 themes that reveal how psychosocial conditions (e.g., shame; questioning their own validity as a victim) and service-level (e.g., internalized stigma and misconceptions about trans personhood) interactions impede support-seeking and perpetuate victimization risk among trans survivors. This research emphasizes the importance of cultural competence and trans-literacy in support settings - intervening at the service-level may alleviate barriers to help-seeking among trans people.

Lilac care guidelines – Taking care of people who experience(d) gender-based violence in large-scale events (Pires, 2022)	White paper	Harm reduction and awareness professionals Staff in NLE Music Festivals	Recommendations for practice	This protocol is based in the insights and knowledge produced in the scope of the Sexism Free Night project but also in the experience of harm reduction teams and collectives implementing psycare services in large-scale festivals. In addition, the implementation of outreach responses to detect and respond to sexualized violence in large-scale events in Spain, and later in Portugal – Lilac Points, also guided and inspired the writing of this document. These guidelines give practical advice to promote the enlargement and expansion of the focus of intervention of existing harm reduction and psycare services. Instead of segregating intervention in gender-based violence as new area of intervention in festivals, we believe that gender-responsiveness must be transversal to every service, and to every shift of harm reduction and psycare teams and collectives.This protocol is aimed at provide guidance to other harm reduction and psycare teams and collectives. Considering that we are still learning how to implement gender-based care in large-scale festivals, this is work-in-progress protocol able to be improved and updated when needed.
Participatory approaches				
Considering LGBTIQ Young Adults' Experiences and Perceptions about Unwanted Sexual Attention in NLE (Fileborn, 2015)	Research paper	LGBTQIA+ young adults Nightlife environments	Recommendations for practice	This study considers the specificities that might occur in different venues, specifically LGBT+ NLE. The venue and its surrounding (sub)cultures determine, for example, differences in what is considered "unwanted" sexual attention. In LGBT+ venues there are some clear aspects to account for: the threshold for this type of attention is higher, which might lead to a rise in bystander effect and acceptance of sexual violence, preventing disclosure. The issues at hand are largely understudied in the LGBT community and, while this study contributes to the body of evidence, it is important to note there were no trans participants in this study.
Young people's suggestions for GBV prevention in nightlife environments (NLE) (Fileborn, 2017)	Research paper	Young people Nightlife environments	Recommendations for practice	This paper considers young people's suggestions for GBV prevention in NLE. Any intervention should promote the participation of the target-groups in its development - young adults can provide unique insight on specific strategies, only brought on by their real, lived experiences. Opening the conversation also allows intervention planners to respond to the aspects young people see as valuable - which might augment adherence to programs. For example, young people contested prevention discourses that place the responsibility on the victim.

Sexism Free Night Standards – Gender-responsive criteria to prevent, detect and respond to sexism and sexualized violence in nightlife environments (Pires & the Sexism Free Night Network, 2022)	White paper	Staff in NLENightlife environmentsMusic Festivals	Recommendations for practice	This white paper presents a sequential set of Sexism Free Night Standards, based on expert knowledge to inform, and guide the implementation of gender-responsive measures to prevent, detect and respond to sexism and sexualized violence in Nightlife environments. Considering that Nightlife is a polyculture, these standards are static nor universal (one-size-fits-all). They uniquely intend to provide expert-based guidance to inspire nightlife venues and events in implementing their tailor-made approaches. The target readers of this white paper are managers of nightlife venues and events interested in implementing policies and practices aimed at promoting a safer and more inclusive and diverse space for their visitors. Associations of bars and clubs and local decision-makers, who can financially support this process in their cities, are also key-stakeholders mainly considering that not all bars or clubs have the funding or resources they need to implement wider gender-responsive approaches in their spaces.
Multicomponent approaches & NLE Advocacy				
Noctambul@s Observatory recommendations for safer and more inclusive leisure venues (Noctambul@s, 2017)	Report	Party goers Staff in NLE Media professionals Nightlife environments	Recommendations for practice	To address sexual violence in nightlife, the Noctambul@s Observatory recommends a comprehensive strategy, departing from women-centric campaigns. The observatory's recommendation list includes clarifying consent, challenging alcohol as an excuse for assault, and debunking myths about false allegations. Targeting male partygoers and venue promoters, it urges for a rise in accountability, responsible venues, and staff sensitization. Advocating for collective responsibility, media visibility, and reduced sexist communication, the strategy engages municipalities, emphasizing the role of alcohol distributors. Integrating diverse interventions, it stands out for its holistic nature, widespread dissemination, and potential for replication. The approach's effectiveness lies in its comprehensive and integrated response, promoting collective responsibility and collaboration with various stakeholders.

Protocol "We won´t keep quiet" (No Callem) (Macaya-Andrés & Saliente Andrés, 2018)	Protocol	Local Municipalities Staff in NLE Nightlife environments Music Festivals	Promising practice	• Already described (see Protocols´ section)
Sexism Free Night Standards – Gender-responsive criteria to prevent, detect and respond to sexism and sexualized violence in nightlife environments (Pires & the Sexism Free Night Network, 2022)	White paper	Staff in NLE Nightlife environments Music Festivals	Recommendations for practice	• Already described (see participatory approaches)
FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT [TO PARTY] – good dancefloor practices (Civati, 2023)	Campaign	Staff in NLE Nightlife environments	Recommendations for practice	Italia Music Lab, in collaboration with Equally, is urging clubs and nightlife venues in Italy to promote a manifesto outlining four good practices for the dance floor. These practices focus on preventing abuse, harassment, complicity, or pack behavior, with an emphasis on consent, awareness of harassment and sexual discrimination, and a non-violent intervention approach when observing harassing behavior, including seeking staff assistance. The dissemination is promoted by creating readily available posters, flyers, stickers, and social media posts with awareness-raising for these good behavior practice recommendations. The recommendations don't include victim blaming messages. The initiative lacks an evaluation of the extent of the manifesto's dissemination or its impact.

>>> 2.2 Good practices and recommendations from the qualitative analysis

The data from the qualitative study was used to corroborate the practice, mainly considering that the same practices were identified by the participants, and to complement it with their recommendations and priorities. At this point, it is relevant to clarify that two recommendations that were identified during the focus groups and interviews will not be included in our top-10 list because they have the potential to increase risks and reinforce gender asymmetries and stereotypes. Some respondents suggested zero-tolerance approaches to drug use as potential measures to increase their safety (e.g. searches at the door).

We consider these practices problematic since they reinforce drug prohibitionism and can be harmful by promoting potentially harmful drug use behaviours. Other participants recommended the free distribution of anti-rape paraphernalia (e.g. covers for the cups). Still we will not include this priority since, as stated before, it promotes a false perception of safety, tends to disregard the overall context of gender victimisation and promotes a culture of sexual terrorism.

More detailed information regarding the thematic analysis of the focus groups and interviews can be found on the annex 3.

Practice	Focus Group and interviews Priorities from young people and professionals
GBV prevention	• Some professionals and young people considered that it is relevant to begin the prevention work among younger people (adolescents and youngsters). They considered that gender socialisation can have an impact in sexist behaviours and for this reason, it could be beneficial to begin the deconstruction of harmful stereotypes, including those related with nightlife environments, among younger groups in school environments.
Bystander intervention	• It is relevant that the venue/event promotes proactive bystanderism among their visitors. • Trained staff and awareness teams intervening to prevent and respond to GBV and harassment can act as bystanders.
Staff training	• Respondents consider that staff training on safer space policies, internal complaints' procedures, prevention, detection, and response to GBV is essential. • Bouncers and security professionals must participate in these staff training activities and be aware of the internal protocol since they are perceived as hostile and not an ally to support the visitors in difficult situations. • People attending the venue/ event may feel afraid or resistant to denounce a harassing situation to the staff because they may anticipate rejection or passivity. In this sense, it is relevant that visitors are informed that the staff was trained. • Staff training must include content referring to the specific situations of sexual harassment experienced by staff - how to recognise and deal with it on a team level.

Safer spaces	- Participants considered that it would be relevant to implement outreach interventions and awareness teams in nightlife environments to raise awareness and take care of people who experienced GBV harassment. - Spanish respondents had wide discussions about the relevance and limits of Lilac Points that we summarise below. Lilac Points are interventions implemented in nightlife environments to prevent, detect, and respond to GBV. This intervention model is prevalent in Spain, usually supported by local municipalities or venues/ events. - Some responders reported that Lilac Points are useful for identifying and intervening/dealing with perpetrators (e.g. evicting them from the event) and release bystanders from potentially tense situations when interrupting the harassment or GBV occurrences. - Cismen respondents consider Lilac Points to be services for women, however, paradoxically, professionals reported that more men than women visit the spaces. - Respondents considered that Lilac Points should do more than merely offer awareness materials (e.g. leaflets). In their opinion, it would be relevant to standardise this type of intervention to guarantee that they have robust protocols and that the staff is trained and prepared to deal with GBV in drinking and drug use contexts. - Outreach and awareness interventions must be clearly identified, visible and advertised in the venue/ event.
Protocols	Participants considered that the safer spaces policies of the place should be clear and explicit. Advertise a venue or event as a safer space is not enough to guarantee their safety.
(city-level or NLE)	- It may be beneficial to have at least, one awareness person or a member of the staff designated for that role in the venue/ event to deal with a person who experienced GBV or harassment and other situations of psychological or social crisis. The other staff may be busy dealing with their functions and unable to prioritise the request of the person asking for support. - The protocols should include policies and strategies to inform intervention with perpetrators. - In terms of accountability, respondents consider it relevant to have clear protocols to avoid pink and rainbow washing practices. - The protocols must also include specific strategies to take care of the staff who experienced sexual harassment and to prevent it.

GBV awareness	• Participants considered that having posters or other GBV awareness content is relevant because it increases their safety perception, and they believe that, in some cases, the perpetrator may be deterred. • Some respondents suggested the awareness should also be done directly by the staff, for example, by interrupting the music to remind the House of safer space policies or summarising them at the door before the person enters the space.- • The awareness messages should avoid the use of victim-blaming messages. Instead, they must use messages addressing potential perpetrators and empowering potential victims. • The participants see the awareness materials as relevant but insufficient and may create a false safety perception. It is relevant to know exactly what they can expect from the venue staff, who should be addressed in case they need if the staff is trained and if there is a real protocol behind the advertisement of code words or other safer space strategies to visitors.
Training of professionals	• Professionals and peers working in outreach and awareness interventions must receive appropriate training to respond and intervene appropriately in situations of GBV. • Professionals working on support services for people who experienced GBV or harassment should also receive training regarding specific GBV and gender stereotypes related to drug use and nightlife environments. • It would be convenient that helplines or other services attending people who experienced violence could also be active on weekends (usually they work in the daytime during the week). • Some professionals recommended that services working with youth should designate specific schedules for specific groups (e.g. trans people, lesbian women) to create a safer space for their issues and specific questions. • Some professionals advocated that abstinence should not be criteria for people who experienced violence to access support services.
Participatory approaches	• Some participants shared the relevance of having discussion groups or other participatory approaches because of the lack of spaces to discuss these topics and think in solutions. • At this point some respondents considered that it is relevant to involve and consult people belonging to minority and historically oppressed groups to create conditions that improve their access, participation, and safety in nightlife environments.

Multicomponent approaches	- In general, all respondents considered that the interventions should be multicomponent, integrating clear protocols, staff training and awareness strategies to prevent, detect and respond to GBV and harassment in nightlife environments.
NLE advocacy	- Transcend gender-segregation in the nightlife workplaces by involving more women as bouncers and security professionals. - Include gender-neutral toilets. These are seen as safer and more comfortable options for trans and non-binary people but are also referred to as more democratic options for women that several times must wait uncomfortably in long lines while the men's toilets are empty. - Avoid sexist discriminatory policies at the door, in specific, different prices according to the attributed gender identity, giving preference to people with specific dress codes (usually, sexualized, or fetishized outfits). - Some trans and non-binary respondents considered that giving free entrances or more friendly prices for queer people with less economic resources is a good incentive for them to access to these spaces. - Participants also perceive gender-balanced music line-ups as a measure that increase gender representativeness in nightlife environments. - Most of the activities implemented to promote safety and gender mainstreaming in nightlife environments are grassroots. Local municipalities and governments should provide funds to reinforce and professionalize this service (e.g. by paying volunteering peers).

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This report includes relevant information to inform the design of capacity-building and intervention activities to prevent, detect and respond to GBV and harassment in nightlife environments. An extensive gender qualitative analysis was performed to identify gender-transversal and gender-specific stereotypes and experiences of gender-based violence. The methodology we used was innovative and comprehensive and supported us in the identification of needs and priorities that should be addressed when designing intervention models addressing young people in nightlife environments. The triangulation of the intervention priorities of the young people and professionals who participated in the focus groups or interviews with the good practices identified in the desk research and evidence assessment also gives important references and recommendations for the design of effective and gender-responsive interventions in nightlife environments. We would like to highlight the relevance of using participatory approaches and multicomponent models to tailor our interventions to the characteristics of our target groups and contexts of intervention, to promote responsiveness to diversity and to involve relevant stakeholders in a collaborative and mutual learning and referencing process.

Finally, this research will inform the design of the capacity-building and intervention pilots to be implemented in the scope of the CRISSCROSS project. We expect this report to be useful as a resource to promote the denormalization of harmful gender stereotypes and to inform the implementation of good practices in the fields of prevention and response to gender-based violence.

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Intervention program in nightlife,
leisure and socialization venues to raise awareness
and prevent GBV behaviours – including LGBTIphobia –
linked to sexual violence and substance use