

Main actions of the project

- Identify and analyse the notion of sexual harassment in legal documents, including administrative sanctions for perpetrators and legal persons;
- Create a public awareness-raising campaign on sexual harassment, implemented in nightlife establishments with the involvement of the key actors concerned;
- Introduce social harassment prevention policies into local security strategies and policies and police patrol instructions;
- Develop training sessions dedicated to the topic of preventing and mitigating sexual harassment, addressed to nightlife entertainment spot owners and employees, law enforcement agencies;
- Enhance the spatial design and situational crime preventive measures at nightlife entertainment venues: e.g. installing video surveillance systems, improving lighting, reinforcing the presence of security personnel, controlling crowdedness, etc.

Project partners

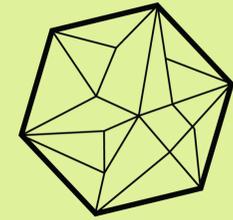
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SHINE

**Sexual Harassment in Nightlife
Entertainment Spots**

<https://efus.eu/tag/shine-en/>



University of Maribor
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Criminal Justice and Security

The goal of the project is to prevent and mitigate sexual harassment in nightlife entertainment spots by:

- Encouraging local businesses that run nightlife entertainment spots to create safe spaces aiming to be free of sexual harassment in their premises;
- Providing local businesses with knowledge and skills required for prevention and mitigation of sexual harassment;
- Building networks of local businesses, local law enforcement agencies, municipal services, and other stakeholders to support the prevention of and responses to sexual harassment in nightlife spaces;
- Co-create and operationalise, with the involvement of local authorities, nightlife establishment owners and staff, civil society actors active in the field and law enforcement agencies, a sexual-harassment prevention model;
- Engage the wider public, including potential victims and witnesses of nightlife sexual harassment, in the prevention of sexual harassment and support victims of these crimes;
- Transfer and tailor the SHINE prevention model to other local contexts.

The case study of Vilnius (Lithuania)

In Lithuania, official statistics report from 3 (2011) to 12 (2017) cases of sexual harassment annually (Lithuanian Criminal Code, Art. 152).

Only a small portion of cases are reported to the police or other institutions because of a prevailing social perception that “a victim is guilty” and the fact that the burden of proof rests on the victim. The number of incidents of sexual harassment at nightlife entertainment venues might be significantly higher, but only a few of them become visible to law enforcement agencies, media, and the public.

The analysis of Lithuanian online publications related to sexual harassment showed that the presented cases appear as “rare” and are mainly mentioned regarding the involvement of law enforcement agencies. Equally, these cases mainly present relations between young men and women. The dominant narration of the analysed publication fits the “Rational action theory formula”: the absence of control allows a “motivated” perpetrator to find a “suitable” victim.

Among the reasons that can be seen as an obstacle to a more active public and institutional reaction to sexual harassment, one can point to traditional patriarchal values, the lack of adequate legal regulation, and the weak preventive mechanism of harassment at the nightlife entertainment spots.

Finally, communication on sexual harassment among nightlife venue owners, city administration/ municipal services and police units are weak or almost non-existent.

The case study of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Sexual harassment represents a form of sexual violence and an infringement of sexual inviolability, which is included in Chapter 19 of the Slovenian Penal Code (2012) (Art. 171). Besides, sexual harassment is also encompassed in the Protection of Public Order act (2006) and the Protection against Discrimination Act (2016).

Slovenia and Ljubljana are generally considered safe places where people feel safe. Besides, the collaboration and information transfer between police, municipality and private stakeholders is quite good. The main problems of Ljubljana's nightlife are public drinking (before entering the clubs), sexual harassment, and public order violations.

There is some acceptance of sexual harassment in nightlife areas. Victims are unwilling to report sexual harassment for different reasons – from the fact that the incident was not severe enough and did not escalate to fear that society would not believe it and take it seriously. The statement of the police coincides with the victims' reports, who noted that the perpetrators are mainly younger men under the influence of alcohol.

The Slovenian media's analysis showed that sexual harassment in nightlife entertainment spots is underrepresented. Mainly the most severe cases of sexual violence had media coverage, e.g., rape and the occurrence of “rape drugs”. However, sexual harassment was rarely mentioned.