

Sexually transgressive behavior (STB) remains a persistent and under-addressed issue in nightlife settings. Adolescents and young adults are particularly vulnerable in these contexts, where alcohol, peer pressure, lack of supervision, and social norms can create unsafe situations. Despite growing public awareness and various isolated prevention efforts, there is currently **no integrated, evidence-based strategy** that systematically addresses STB across the key sectors that shape young people's nightlife experiences—namely, **education, nightlife venues, media, and care services**.

Moreover, professionals working in nightlife or youth sectors often report a lack of tools, training, or frameworks that would allow them to act confidently and effectively. Media—particularly social media—further complicates the landscape by shaping attitudes, spreading myths, or reinforcing harmful gender norms. Addressing this issue requires coordinated action informed by high-quality research and co-developed with the stakeholders who operate on the ground.

### **Project Objective**

This Strategic Basic Research (SBO) project aims to design, implement, and evaluate an **integrated, cross-sectoral strategy** to prevent sexually transgressive behavior among young people in nightlife settings. Bringing together academic expertise and stakeholder input, the project will develop **scalable, scientifically validated interventions and tools** that support:

- **Schools** in educating youth on STB and bystander behavior
- **Nightlife venues** in creating safer environments and responding appropriately to incidents
- **First responders** (e.g., bartenders, event staff) in offering trauma-informed care
- **Media professionals** in shaping constructive, accurate narratives about STB

By focusing on adolescents and young adults, the project aims to shift both individual attitudes and systemic practices, fostering environments where sexually transgressive behavior is less likely to occur and more likely to be addressed effectively when it does.

### **Project Design**

The project is organized into four interconnected work packages (WPs), each contributing to a multidimensional, evidence-based prevention strategy aligned with stakeholder priorities and practical implementation needs.

**WP1: Education (Bystander training)** - A longitudinal survey and interviews with adolescents and teachers explore and address how adolescents (ages 14–18) perceive and respond to STB in nightlife. A bystander training will be developed and evaluated to promote empathy and active bystander behavior.

**WP2: Prevention (Nightlife evaluation tool)** - A practical tool will be developed and piloted to evaluate the effectiveness of existing STB prevention programs in nightlife venues. The tool will be co-designed with local stakeholders and based on behavioral indicators from WP1.

**WP3: Care (Training for nightlife personnel)** - Nightlife workers such as bartenders and security staff will receive simulation-based training on how to support victims of STB. The training will focus on trauma-informed communication, de-escalation, and referral pathways.

**WP4: Media (Role of news and social media)** - This work package investigates how media (news media, social media and entertainment media) shape young people's attitudes and norms around STB. It also examines how media narratives can be improved to support prevention and care efforts.