

Initial Project duration of 36 months, starting from February 2019. New end date 28/02/2023, extended 12 months due to COVID-19

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Public health, sociology, epidemiology

Overview

The aims of POSITIVMASC are four-fold: 1) To explore and position the discourses that young people (men and women, 18-24 years) in Sweden, Spain, Ireland and Israel use in their understanding of masculinities, 2) to explore how these discourses influence young people's attitudes, behaviors and responses to violence against women (VAW), (3) to explore individual and societal factors supporting and promoting anti-VAW masculinities discourses and 4) to develop strategies and resources to support and promote anti-VAW masculinities in these settings.

POSITIVMASC will achieve these aims by conducting innovative, participatory research using a multi-country, mixed-methods approach. In the first phase, data will be gathered using semi-structured interviews and focus groups discussions (FGDs). In this phase, we aim to identify the discourses that young people use to conceptualize masculinities and VAW. Phase two will consist of a concept mapping study that will quantify the coherence, patterns of priorities and perceived relationship between the different strategies/actions for supporting and promoting anti-VAW masculinities identified in phase one. Phase 3 will involve the dissemination of our results with national and international stakeholders and the development of resources to promote and support anti-VAW masculinities.

Engaging participants in the design and findings of the study, through interactive workshops, a young people's advisory group, community partners' advisory group, the project will develop a road map containing key strategies to reduce VAW, including the promotion of anti-VAW masculinities. Building on an inter-disciplinary team, drawn from public health, social science and law, the project will provide an evidence-base for the design and implementation of gender-sensitive policies aimed at challenging and reducing VAW and patriarchy.

Progress to date

In terms of scientific objectives, we have collected the data for phase 1 (qualitative studies) and we are in the process of analyzing it. We are currently starting to collect the data for phase 2. We think that we might finish data collection by March 1st, 2021. We had to shift the leadership for some working packages due to issues described in a longer explanation.

Impact of COVID-19

In many countries the lockdowns and other restrictions have delayed data collection and data analysis. face to face meetings have been cancelled and we have used Zoom as our main tool for communication.

Team members

	Woman	Man	Other
Gender balance in the whole consortium	13 (72%)	5 (28%)	0 (0%)
Presence of women as lead researchers/PIs	3 (75%)	1 (25%)	0 (0%)
Gender Experts in the team	8 (62%)	5 (38%)	0 (0%)
Subsequent team members trained (Gender equality and/or IGAR)	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	0