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Public health, sociology, epidemiology

Overview

The aims of this project 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.

We will achieve 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.

Project Outcomes

Eight journal articles submitted to high-impact, peer-reviewed international journals, presentations at national and international conferences dealing with gender, global/public health and violence against women prevention, development of guidelines and materials to promote anti-VAW masculinities and challenge attitudes that tolerate VAW and a final project conference to present our findings.

This project will (a) make an important contribution to national and international debates on gender based violence by exploring the relationship between VAW and diverse masculinities; (b) inform policy and practice by providing an evidence-base for the development of strategies to address and prevent VAW; (c) raise public awareness of VAW, identify and promote anti-VAW discourses and challenge discourses which tolerate/support violence; and (d) build research capacity and expertise within the consortium as a basis for future research in this field.

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

Contribution to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The project provided evidence identifying the gaps in current interventions to promote Positive-Antiviolence masculinities across the 4 countries. We created an educational package to address this gap. These results contribute to the achievements of SDG 3 and 5.

Differences/inequalities between women and men highlighted by the project

Please see our policy brief *“Promoting Positive Masculinities to Address Violence Against Women in Young People: Evidence From the PositivMasc Project”* for a detailed description of the findings for both young men and women.

https://positivmasc.ki.se/wp-content/uploads/sites/113/2022/09/PosMasc_PolicyBrief_A4_FINAL-3.pdf

Positive impact of the project on gender equality/scientific evidence on gender in the field

Please see our policy brief *“Promoting Positive Masculinities to Address Violence Against Women in Young People: Evidence From the PositivMasc Project”* for a detailed description of the findings for both young men and women.

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Socio-economic impact; involvement of policy makers/civil society

The data gathered from this project was shared with stakeholders in all countries. Partnerships developed between researchers and NGOs were also developed in some countries. I, e. Sweden.