**Crisscross Focus Group**

**Informed Consent**

**The purpose of the Crisscross research**

The Crisscross project is a two year programme taking part across 5 EU countries – Spain, Portugal, Luxembourg, Italy and Ireland. The project will be led in Ireland by the HSE National Social Inclusion Office.

The main goal of the Crisscross project is to respond to a number of intersectional issues relating to gender, behaviours and substance use in nightlife settings. The project aims to **tackle gender-based violence in nightlife, leisure and socialization venues**frequented young adults (18-24 years old).

The project will involve research which will inform the development of a new training and awareness campaign with the aim to raise awareness, change attitudes and prevent behaviours in nightlife settings -including harassment and LGBTIphobia- linked to sexual violence and substance use. The overall aim is to create safer and more equal environments.

**Research focus groups**

You are being invited to take part in a focus group based on your gender identity, age, location (Dublin Region) and if you take part in nightlife to help inform this programme to contribute your views on these issues in an Irish context.

This focus group includes topics related to violence and discrimination, among other difficult topics. If you experienced any of the portrayed incidents or struggle with any of these topics, this focus might be difficult for you or bring up strong negative feelings.

You don´t need to disclose your own personal experiences during the focus group if you don´t want to and you can leave the focus group if you need to.

**What topics will be discussed?**

You will be shown a series of **imagery, statistics and media headlines** and asked to discuss the below topics

* Perceptions of gender based violence, safety and being unsafe in nightlife settings
* Intersection of substance use and sexual violence myths
* Perceptions on nightlife interventions, priorities for types of interventions, policies in nightlife and actions

We appreciate that the topics discussed in this research may be difficult and could lead to discussions on experiences of harassment, violence or assault. We ask you to keep this in mind before considering participating and for you to decide if this is the right time for you to be involved in this type of discussion and if you are prepared to share your experience or listen to others experiences. We ask those who are feeling low or with mental health concerns at this time to consider if this is a suitable time to discuss these topics.

We remind all participants that you are not required to share personal experiences if you do not want to.

**How will the research be used?**

The focus groups will be recorded and typed up by a transcription service to provide support to the HSE.

No details that identify people in the focus groups will be shared. The information discussed will be shared with the lead Crisscross researchers in the University of Porto and from the Kosmicare Organisation who will review the anonymous findings from the 5 participating countries. They will review the content find common and unique themes to inform a report which will be used in 2024 to develop training and a campaign.

**Why take part in this research?**

As young people are the target audience for this work, it is important for young people’s views and experiences in nightlife settings to be captured to help inform the development of this programme. Your feedback can help inform professionals to progress areas relevant to you with aim overall aim to raise awareness, reduce harms and create safer and more equal nightlife settings. Your feedback will be included and compared with the experiences of other similar young people across 4 other countries which will help inform EU and local research.

**Who are the research team?**

This research is being conducted by the HSE National Social Inclusion Office as part of their work responding to drug use in nightlife settings under the National Drug Strategy as well as priorities under the third Domestic and Gender Based Violence Strategy.

* Nicki Killeen, Emerging Drug Trend Project Manager, HSE National Social Inclusion Office
* Nicola Corrigan, Project Manager, Addiction, HSE National Social Inclusion Office
* Ruth Armstrong, Project Manager, Intercultural Health, HSE National Social Inclusion Office
* **María Otero Vázquez, LGBTI+ & DSGBV Health Coordinator,** HSE National Social Inclusion Office

Transcription support to document the discussion will be provided by Gwen Malone Stenography Services UC on behalf of the National Social Inclusion Office.

**What is the process?**

You will be placed in the **focus group of 7 people** based on the gender you identify as for an expected **90 minute discussion** facilitated by staff from the HSE National Social Inclusion Office. Each focus group will be separate and held on separate days.

The process is outlined below

* You will be informed of the time and date of the focus group which will take place in October 2023. The focus group is likely to take place on a week day at lunchtime which you will need to be available for. We cannot facilitate the study online or as individual interviews.
* Your registration details will be stored by the HSE National Social Inclusion Office research team on a password projected laptop for the purpose of the Crisscross study only. By consenting to take part, you are consenting to be contacted by the research team. Your details will not be shared further and will be deleted once the study is complete.
* You will be expected to arrive to the venue through your own arrangements.
* You will be asked to fill out an information sheet with your name, age, if you are a student or working, gender identity and agreement to take part. This form is being used across all EU focus groups as part of this project and will be safely stored by the HSE research team.
* Due to the deadline for the research, we will accept you withdrawing (removing your input in the focus group) for up to two weeks after you take part should you wish.
* Ground rules will be discussed at the start of the focus group. We ask that all participants are respectful to reach other, people’s views and experiences.
* You will receive a thank you voucher for providing your time and insights.

You can withdraw from the process in the lead up to the focus group, during or after. Should you want to leave during the group, you are free to do so. If you wish to withdraw your feedback as part of the group, you can do this up to two weeks after the focus group.

**Confidentiality**

Your anonymity will be withheld as part of this process. No identifiers (how a person may identify you such as name, date of birth etc) will be shared with what is discussed in the focus group discussion.

The facilitator may follow up in person after the group if concern is raised for your wellbeing.

In cases of severe concern for a person’s health such as the disclosure of harm to themselves or others, confidentiality may need to be broken.

Please contact Nicki.Killeen@hse.ie with any queries.

**Confirming attendance**

I confirm that I have read the above information about the Crisscross research project and wish to participate.

**Initials:**

**Date:**