

# Applying behavioural insights to reduce gender stereotypes and VAW

Kick-off meeting w/ awarded projects
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#### **AGENDA**

- 1. What are BIs & how to use them
- 2. Behavioural capacity at national level
- 3. Bls in the context of the 3 Calls for Proposals
- 4. Checklist for projects taking a behavioural approach
- 5. Success factors to keep in mind

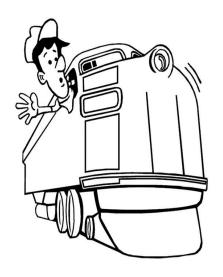
#### **BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS (BIs)**



BIs inform policy-making by shedding light on how people *really* behave.



#### **BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS (BIs)**



Identifying of the <u>behavioural drivers</u> (inertia, myopia, overconfidence, information overload, ...)



Exploring and testing the effect of acting upon <u>behavioural</u> <u>levers</u> (simplification, standardisation, self-commitment strategies, social norms, ...)



#### BEHAVIOURAL CAPACITY AT NATIONAL LEVEL





Behaviourally-tested initiatives: initiatives explicitly tested, or scaled out after an initial ad-hoc experiment.



**Behaviourally-informed initiatives:** initiatives designed explicitly on previously existing behavioural evidence.



Behaviourally-aligned initiatives: initiatives that, at least a posteriori, can be found to be aligned to behavioural evidence.



## BIs in the context of the Calls for Proposals



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

#### RESTRICTED CALL FOR PROPOSALS JUST/2016/RGEN/AG/VAWA

Action grants to support national information, Awarenessraising and education activities aimed at preventing and combating violence against women RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME (2014-2020)

#### Checklist for projects taking a behavioural approach

#### 1. Context, target population and behavioural elements:

The proposed project is likely to affect the behaviour of a number of people. But the opposite is also true: the behaviour of the people concerned is likely to determine the effectiveness of the project.

A behavioural element is an aspect or factor that has an impact on the target group's decision and behaviour.

Research shows that, in general, individuals' decisions and behaviour are not "rational". Individuals do not necessarily make choices that are most likely to improve their well-being in the long-run. For instance, they might be resistant to change and prefer to preserve the status-quo. They might focus



JRC SCIENCE FOR POLICY REPORT

Insights from behavioural sciences to prevent and combat violence against women

Literature review

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2016





#### LITERATURE REVIEW



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- unveils possible behavioural causes of violence against women
- presents behavioural levers to its prevention and reduction + general principles for effective communication
- Exs of several awarenessraising and education initiatives in the field containing a behavioural component.
- strong focus on the evaluation of actual impact.



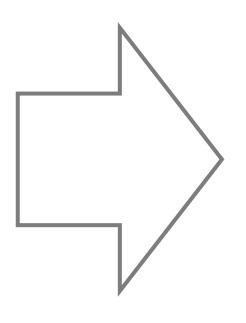
#### CHECKLIST FOR PROJECTS TAKING A BEHAVIOURAL APPROACH

- 1. Context and possible determinants
- 2. Target group
- 3. Target behaviour
- 4. Behavioural lever
- 5. Pretesting and evaluating the impact



## **TARGET GROUPS**



























## **TARGET GROUPS & TARGET BEHAVIOURS**

Target groups	Target subgroups	
Perpetrators	Prospective	
	perpetrators	
	Actual perpetrators	
Victims	Victims	Report violence to the police. Seek help in dedicated shelters. Stay away from perpetrator.
Social environment	Relatives or friends	
	Bystanders	
Professionals	Police officers	
	Medical professionals	Detect signs of violence against women. Provide safe environments where women can get out of the cycle of violence.
	Social workers	get out of the cycle of violence.
	Journalists and bloggers	Change people's attitudes regarding violence against women.  Avoid portraying violence against women as a 'crime of passion.'
	Judges	
General public	Adults	
	Children and teenagers	Decrease likelihood of acting violently against women during adulthood.  Report violence witnessed at home to teacher.



#### BEHAVIOURAL LEVERS

- **Social norms** to stir social influence (e.g. societal acceptance of intimate partner violence)
- **Role models** to signal desired behaviour (e.g. caring men as role models for boys and men)
- **Overconfidence** (e.g. to what extend police officers tend to underestimate the real rate of gender violence in a given context)
- Reducing hassle efforts (e.g. seeking help, filling a complaint)
- **Commitment devices** (e.g. publicly commit to reducing gender inequalities in work promotions)
- Raising knowledge (e.g. risk factors of online sexual harassment)



#### PRETESTING AND EVALUATION

**Qualitative pretesting**: focus groups, interviews, examining cultural acceptance and credibility of message.

**Quantitative pretesting**: randomised controlled trials, field vs lab experiments, measuring the outcome variable.

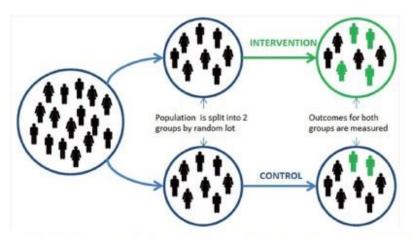


Figure 2: The basic design of a randomised controlled trial (adapted from Haynes, Service, Goldacre and Torgerson, 2012)

**Evaluation**: after-only designs; comparing participants and non-participants (or treatment and control groups); before-after or pre-post designs; field experiments (entailing randomised controlled trials or not)



#### **FURTHER SUGGESTIONS:**

- Outputs ≠ Outcomes
- Efficiency ≠ effectiveness
- Target behaviour <--> outcome measure
- Include all target groups in the evaluation
- Identify an appropriate control group
- Gather a baseline (before the intervention)
- To ensure intended effects, pretesting is crucial



#### **SUCCESS FACTORS**

## Box 1: Success factors designing effective awareness-raising and education initiatives

- 1. Identify clearly who the target group is and what the target behaviour is.
- 2. Identify clearly what the behavioural elements (i.e. causes) of the target behaviour are, and select which one(s) the initiative will aim to tackle.
- 3. Identify the target audience and describe it in terms of sociodemographics.
- 4. Set a measurable, ambitious, yet reachable objective: changing a given behaviour and/or tackling its behavioural causes.
- 5. Use behavioural levers to design the message and make sure the content is perceived as credible.
- 6. Use emotions with caution.
- 7. Wisely use framing tools to attract attention and to increase remembrance.
- 8. Identify the ideal messenger, or opt for none.
- Assess which message or which initiative is the most effective through pretesting.
- 10. Evaluate the actual impact of the initiative ex-post by using robust evidence and valid counterfactuals.



Project title	Round 1
ARIADNE	Behavioural Insights (Sara)
BiC	Policy
Break the Silence - End Violence against Women	Behavioural Insights (Joana)
BREAK!	Behavioural Insights (Sara)
Breaking the cycle of violence	Policy
Building more effective protection: transforming the system for combating violence against women	Policy
Career ROCKET	Behavioural Insights (François)
Circle of CHANGE	Behavioural Insights (François)
Coordinated multi-agency response to violence: from awareness raising to behavioral change	Behavioural Insights (Joana)
CREATIVE	Policy
CYBERVAW	Behavioural Insights (Sara)
deSHAME	Policy
Developing wholeschool Gender Equality Charter Marks in order to overcome gender stereotyping in education across Europe	Behavioural Insights (Sara)
Enhancing Professional Skills and Raising Awareness on Domestic Violence, Violence against Women and Shelter Services	Behavioural Insights (Joana)
EURO-AGEMI	Policy
Free to Choose (FtC)	Behavioural Insights (François)
Full Cooperation: Zero Violence	Policy
GECM	Policy
GENDER-ED	Behavioural Insights (Joana)
GET UP	Policy
HOPE	Behavioural Insights (Sara)
INSIEME	Policy
Justice has no gender	Behavioural Insights (François)
Manuela	Policy
ONE STEP CLOSER	Policy
Preventing sexual violence in intimate partner's relationships	Policy
RESPONSE	Behavioural Insights (François)
Stop Violence Against Women: From (A)wareness to (Z)ero Victims Blaming	Policy
SWIFT	Policy
Tell me the story Research	Behavioural Insights (Joana)

Project title	Round 2
ARIADNE	Policy
BiC	Behavioural Insights (François)
Break the Silence - End Violence against Women	Policy
BREAK!	Policy
Breaking the cycle of violence	Behavioural Insights (Joana)
Building more effective protection: transforming the system for combating violence against women	Behavioural Insights (Sara)
Career ROCKET	Policy
Circle of CHANGE	Policy
Coordinated multi-agency response to violence: from awareness raising to behavioral change	Policy
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SWIFT	Behavioural Insights (François)
Tell me the story  Research Centre	Policy



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# THANK YOU!

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