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VOICE



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***VOICES for truth and dignity –
combatting sexual violence in European sport
through the voices of those affected***

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Play the Game 2017, Eindhoven



Structure

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Aims and methodology**
- 3. First insights**



Introduction

- sexual violence as a long-standing taboo
- few cases public
- lack of empirical studies



Sexual violence – definition

A wide range of harassing and abusive behaviours that are based on the execution of power, subjection and humiliation by means of sexuality





Sexual violence - definition

Sexual violence without physical contact

e.g. sexist jokes, harassing text messages/ images with sexual content, ...

Sexual transgressive behaviour

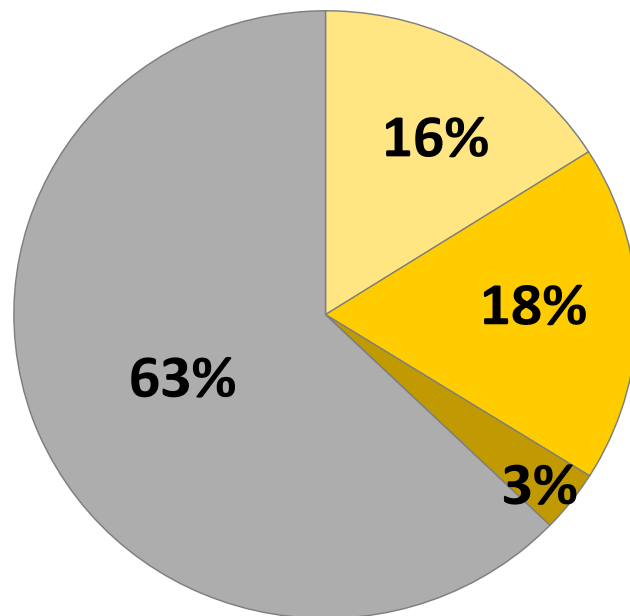
e.g. unwanted touching / massage, Exhibitionism, ...

Sexual violence with physical contact

e.g. unnecessary or forced physical contact of a sexual nature, penetration and rape, ...



Experiences of sexual violence among squad athletes in Germany (N = 1.799)



37% of athletes have experienced a form of sexual violence in sport

- sexual violence without physical contact
- sexual transgressive behaviour
- sexual violence with physical contact
- no experience of sexual violence

Source: Ohlert, Rau, Rulofs & Allroggen (2016)



Experiences of sexual violence among squad athletes in Germany (N = 1.799)

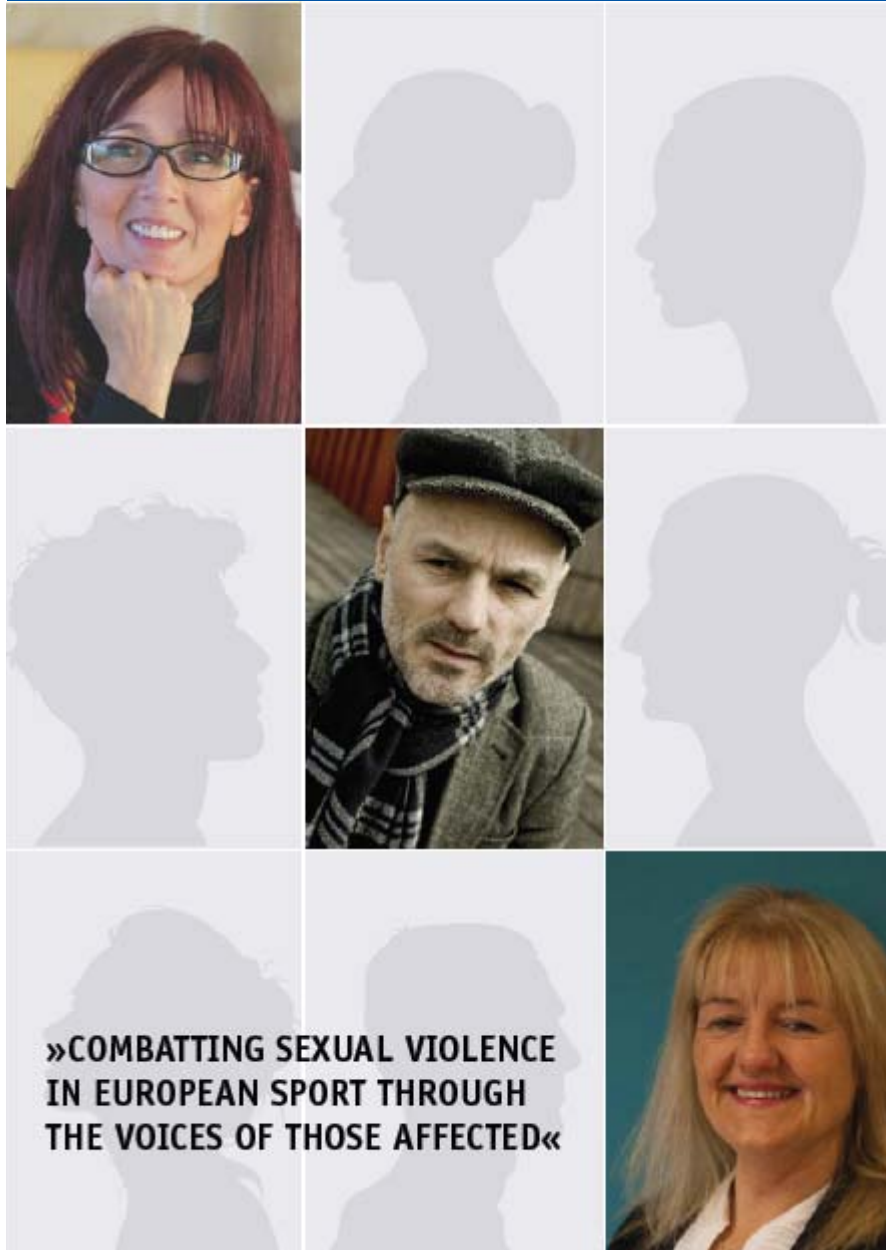
- 11% of responding athletes have experienced severe and/or continuous sexual violence
- 70% of the affected athletes under the age of 18
- female athletes are significantly more often affected than male athletes



Background of VOICE

- only few studies with deep insights into cases
- studies tend to urge the voices of victims/survivors into passivity
- reconstruction of cases is an important resource for knowledge
- stop silencing the victims, give them a voice !

(Fasting & Sand, 2015; Owton & Sparkes, 2015; Hartill, 2014; Brackenridge & Fasting, 2005).



***Your voice.
Your life.
Your truth.***

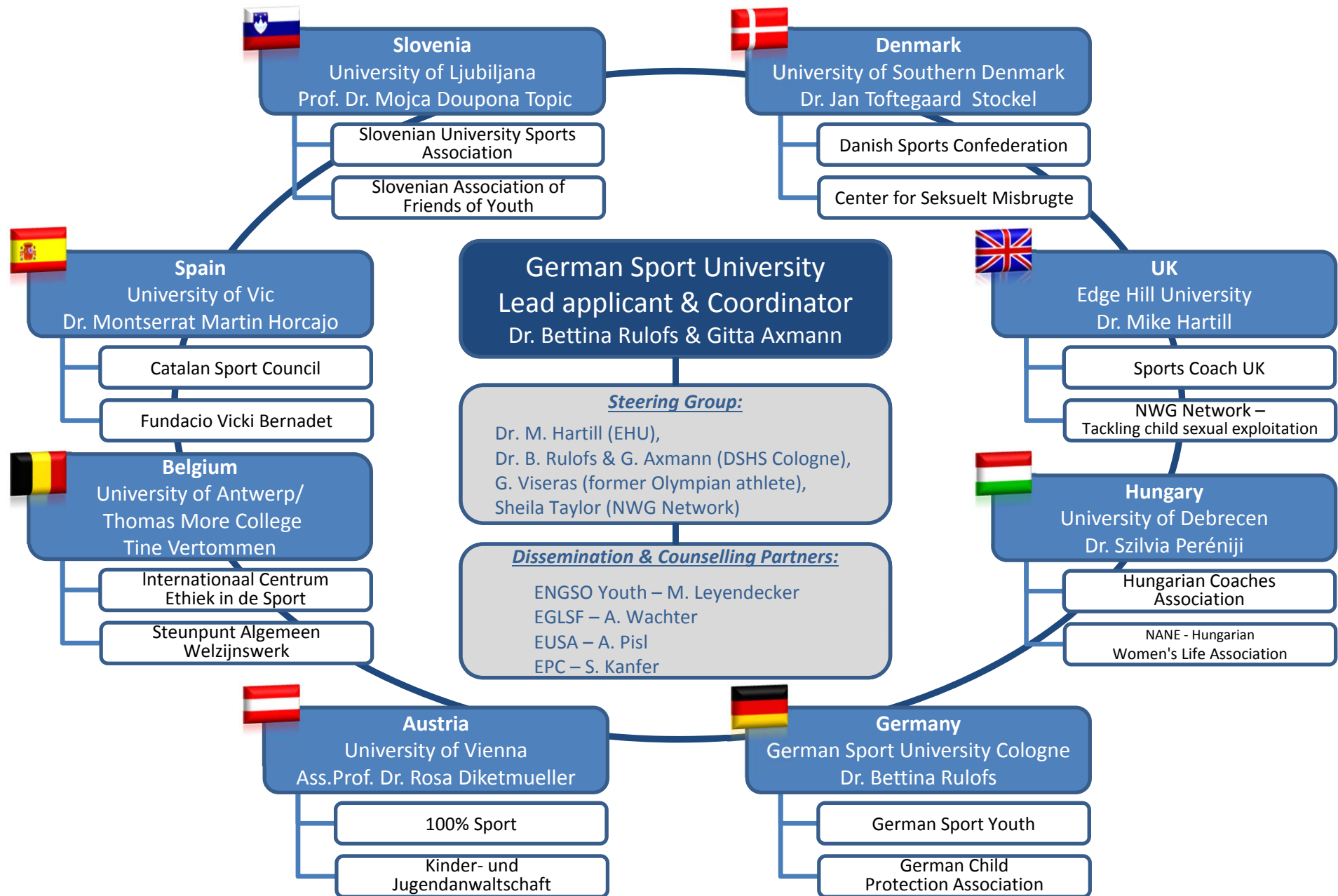
(Karen Leach)



Main Aims

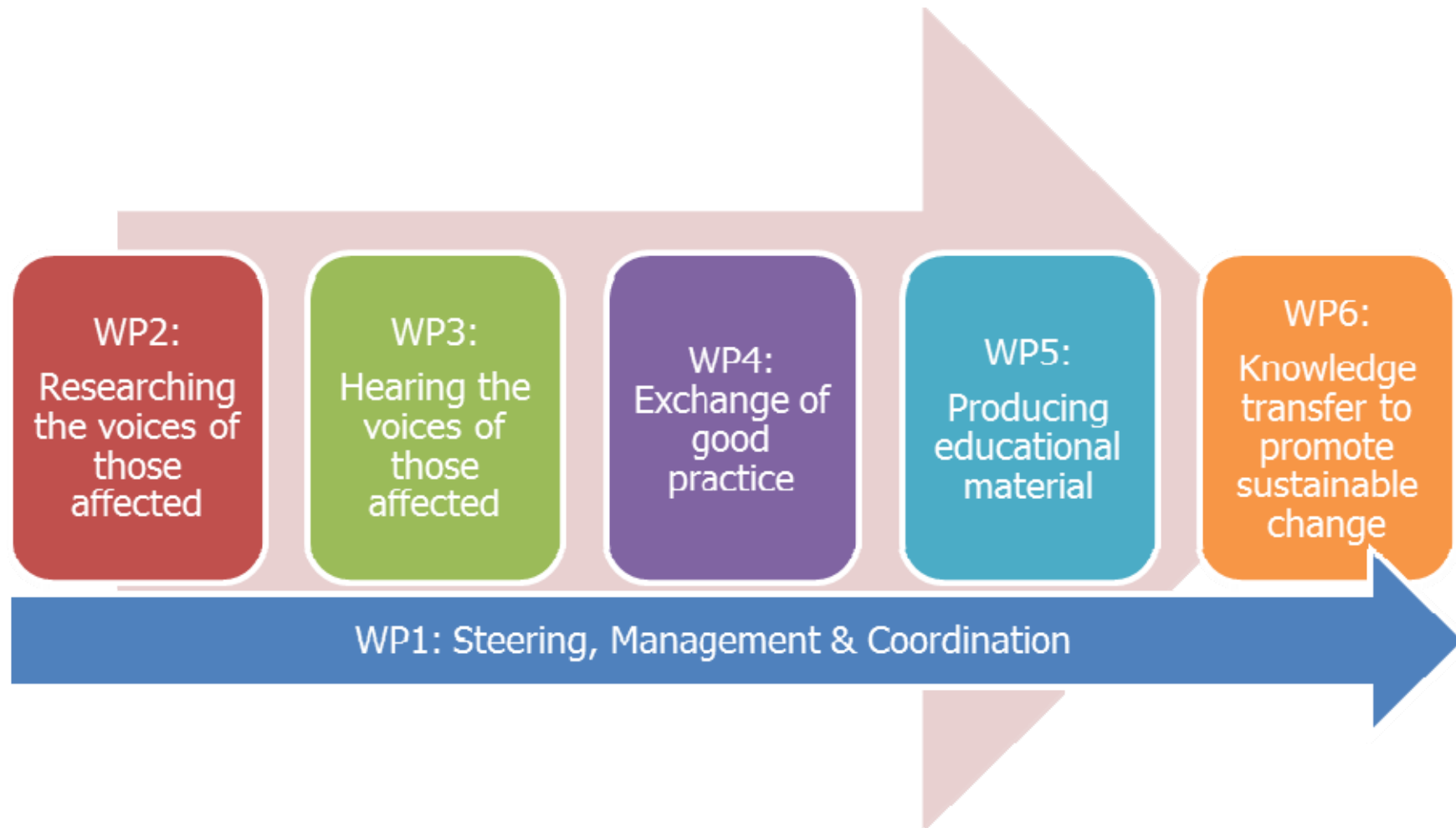
- 1. generate crucial research data on sexual violence in European sport**
- 2. produce a powerful knowledge-exchange and educational resources**

VOICE – Consortium





Project design (January 2016 – June 2018)





WP 2: Methodology of interview study

- round about 70 interviews with survivors so far
- in-depth informed consent process
- psychological support available
- Intense training and strict guidelines for interviewers
- narrative approach
- the interviewees decide on what and how they recount



First insights from interview study

- long periods of silence
- huge problems of finding support
- family-like structure in sport organizations with close relations
- disciplining regimes (chilly climate, no pain – no gain)
- selection processes in sport - being the “chosen one”
- interrelations of different forms of violence, abuse of power
- massive impact on the life of survivors

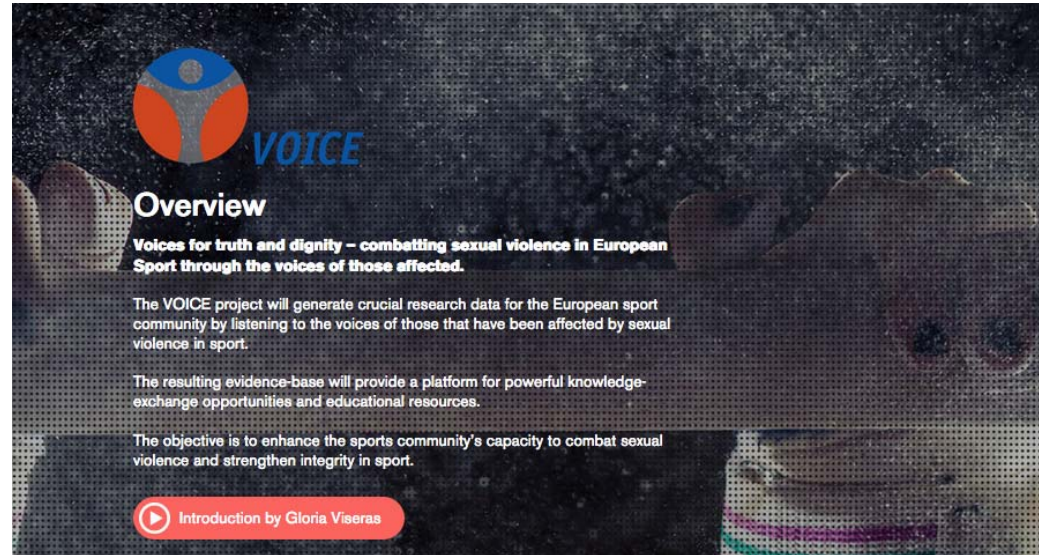


WP 3: First insights from national Hearings

- strong wish of survivors to tell their story and to be acknowledged
- the act of sharing the experience relieves from a burden
- listening to the survivors' reports fosters understanding and promotes concrete action in the field
- starting point for more systematic investigations
- in-depth process of reconciliation is still to come



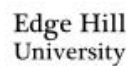
Thank you for your attention!



<http://voicesfortruthanddignity.eu>
@voicessport
#voicesfortruthanddignity

Final conference:

3.-5. May 2018 in Bergisch Gladbach (close to Cologne)





References

Brackenridge, C. & Fasting, K. (2005). The grooming process in sport: narratives of sexual harassment and abuse. *Auto/Biography*, 13 (1), 1-20.

Fasting, K. & Sand, T. S. (2015). Narratives of sexual harassment experiences in sport. *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health*, 7 (5), 573-588.

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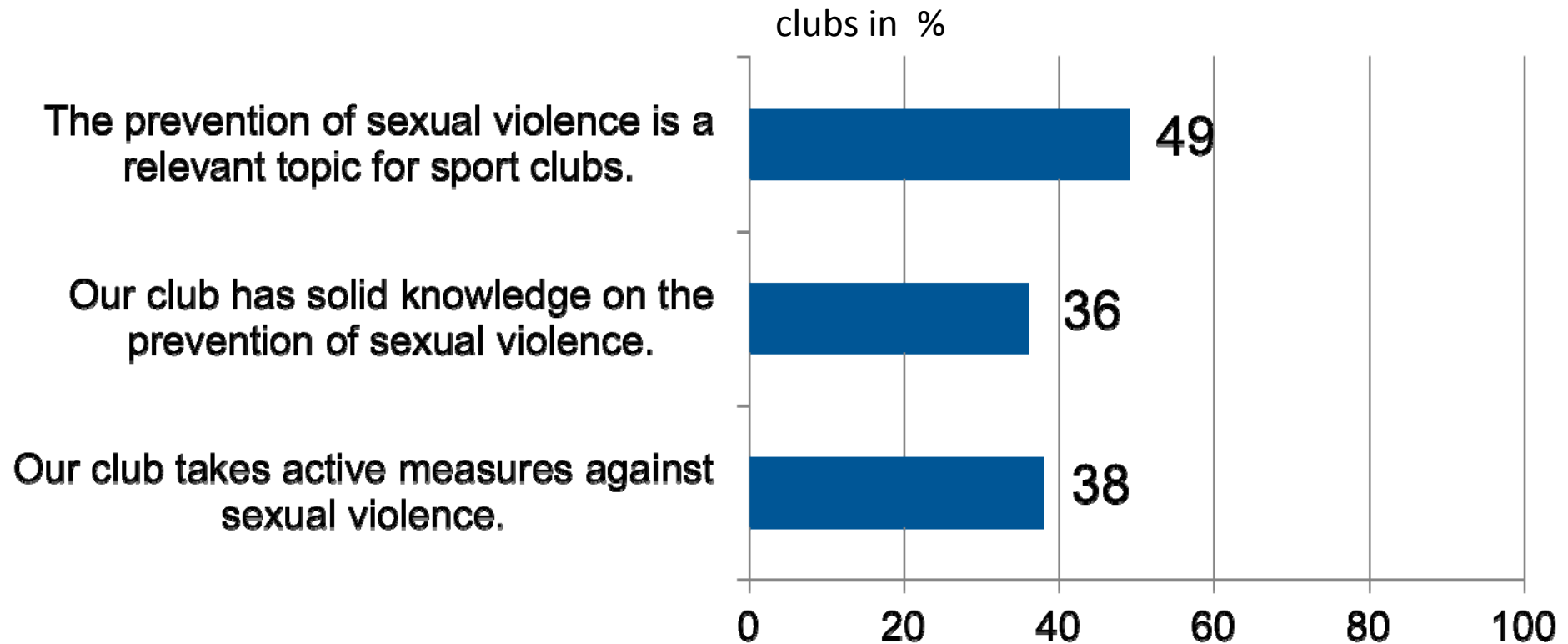
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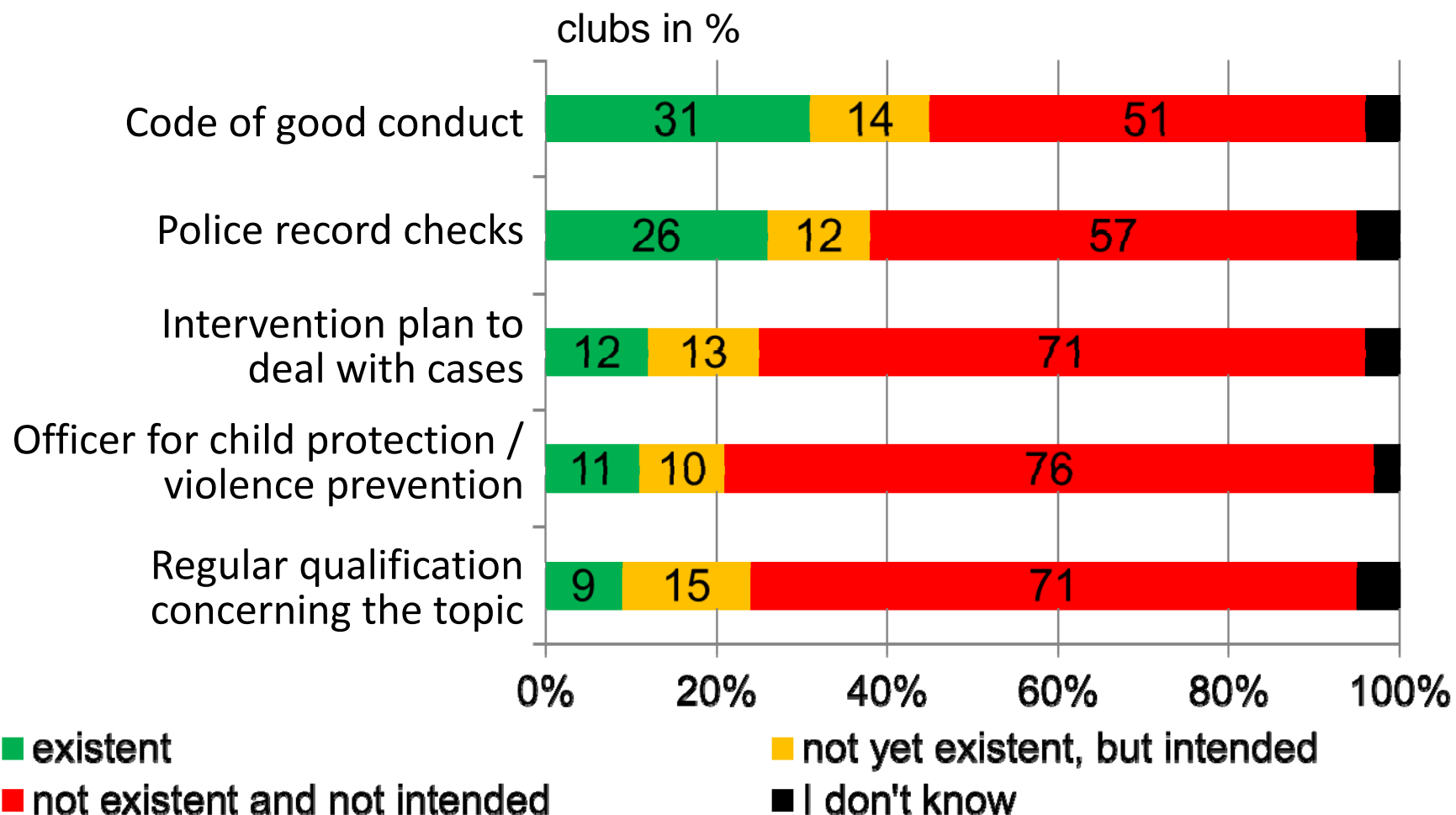
Access: https://www.dshs-koeln.de/uploads/tx_news/SafeSport_Broschuere2016.pdf



Statements on the prevention of sexual violence at the level of sport clubs (N=13.058)



Source: Hartmann-Tews, Rulofs, Feiler & Breuer (2016)





Well, the prevention of sexual violence is simply not a primary focus in our organisation. The lead of our organisation does not think it to be important. It sounds sad, when I say, that they don't take it seriously, but it has no priority for them. This will only change, if a concrete case occurs.

[child protection officer in sport governing body]