

UniSAFE was a project funded by the EU from February 2021 to January 2024 which has provided strong evidence of the prevalence of gender-based violence across European higher education and research institutions. It has also developed an operational toolkit to support these institutions in designing and improving institutional policies to tackle gender-based violence. Building on these insights, recommendations and tools, the GenderSAFE project promotes zero tolerance for gender-based violence in the European Research Area and supports research and higher education institutions in establishing safe, inclusive and respectful environments by setting up comprehensive policies.

The UniSAFE project has provided strong evidence of the prevalence of gender-based violence across European higher education and research institutions and countries. Nearly **62% of the 42,000 respondents of the project's survey disclosed having experienced at least one form of gender-based violence in their place of work or study** (Lipinsky et al. 2022a; Humbert et al. 2022). However, **only 7% of students and 23% of staff reported such incidents** experienced in their institution, mainly because they did not consider the behaviour serious enough to report, did not recognise the behaviour as violence at the time of the incident or did not think that anything would happen if they reported it (Lipinsky et al. 2022b).

In recent years, policy attention to gender-based violence in higher education and research has grown, responding to this prevalence, both at the EU level and at the level of responsible national authorities. Despite advances in policy adoption, institutions are however failing in implementation, very little is in place to monitor and evaluate existing policies, and there is a lack of understanding of what constitutes gender-based violence and how to proceed when something happens.

The GenderSAFE project builds on the results and tools developed in UniSAFE to support research and higher education institutions in addressing gender-based violence. Until March 2027, the project will **support research and higher education institutions in establishing safe, inclusive, and respectful environments by setting up comprehensive policies to effectively counteract gender-based violence.**

The UniSAFE Toolkit

The UniSAFE toolkit supports higher education institutions and research organisations in designing and improving institutional policies that tackle gender-based violence.

Discover the toolkit features:

-  **Facts and figures**
-  **Overview of legal and policy framework**
-  **The 7P framework**
-  **A guide to implement comprehensive policies**
-  **An action plan**
-  **Resources**
-  **Capacity-building materials**
-  **Recommendations**

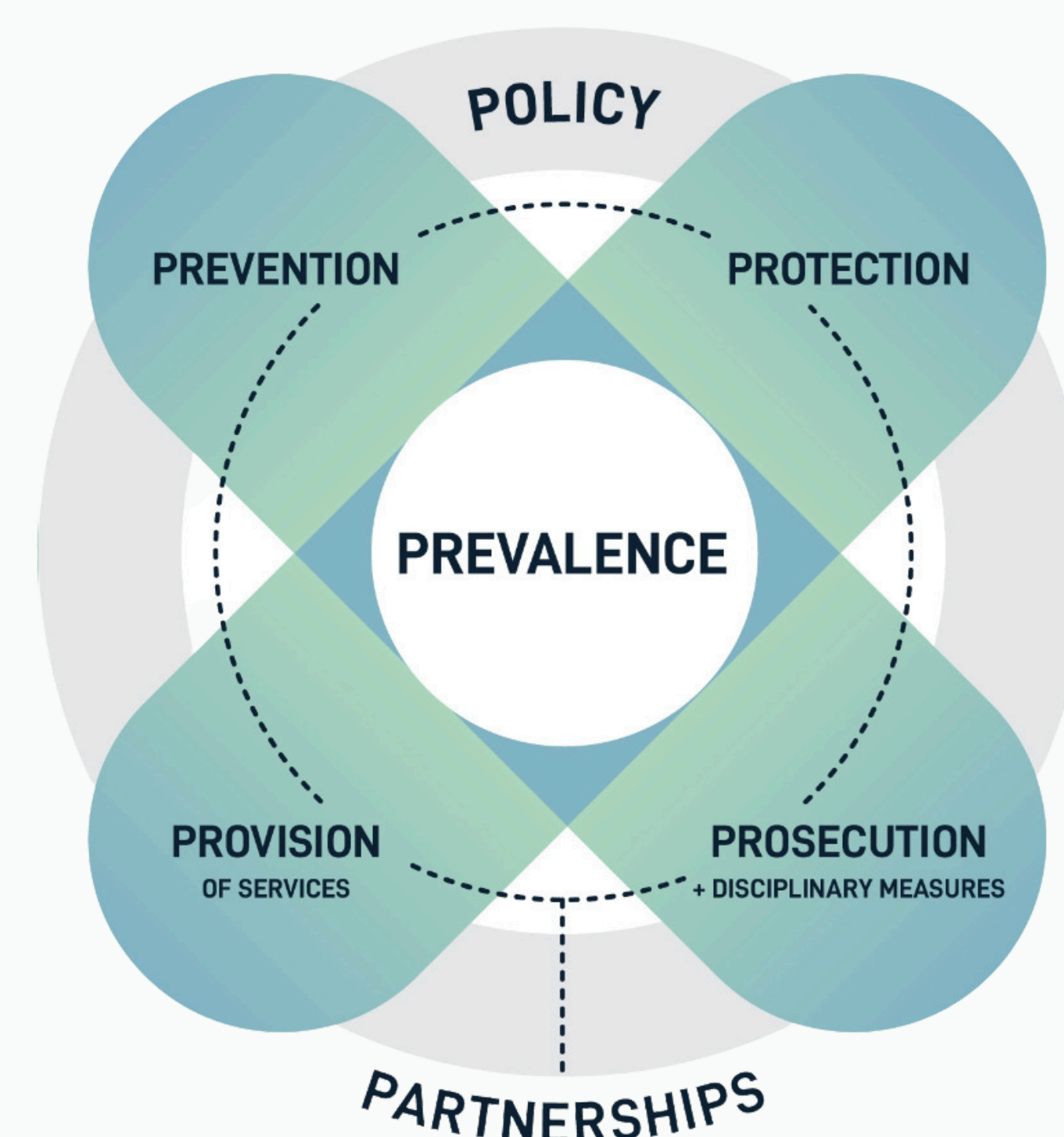
Explore the
UniSAFE toolkit



The 7P model as a conceptual framework

UniSAFE developed and tested a **holistic framework for the analysis, assessment and development of comprehensive policies aimed at ending and addressing gender-based violence, called the 7P model** (Strid et al. 2021; Mergaert et al. 2023) also used within GenderSAFE. The seven Ps refer to Policy, Prevalence, Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and internal disciplinary measures, Provision of services and Partnerships. This model thus extends the conventional UN's and EU's 3P approach (prevention, protection, prosecution), as well as the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention's 4P approach (prevention, protection, prosecution, policies).

Within the 7P framework, measures can have an impact on multiple Ps, and the boundaries between Ps are not always clearly defined.



Pledge for zero tolerance to gender-based violence

GenderSAFE is launching a call for all higher education institutions and individuals to pledge for a zero-tolerance approach to gender-based violence, according to the baseline code of conduct adopted by the Commission's ERA Forum Subgroup on Inclusive Gender Equality.



Join the movement, sign now!