

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

The tripartite EU Agency providing knowledge to assist in the development of better social, employment and work-related policies

# Evidence on violence and harassment at work from the European Working Conditions Survey

Agnes Parent Thirion with Julie Vanderleyden



### In this presentation

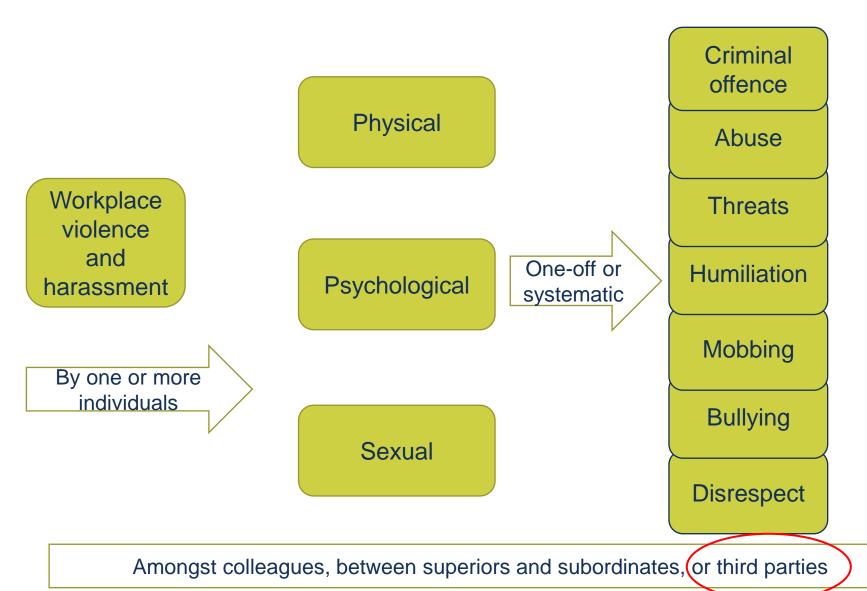
Data from the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS)

Prevalence of forms of violence at work

- Impact of violence at work
- Link between job quality, work organisation and violence at work

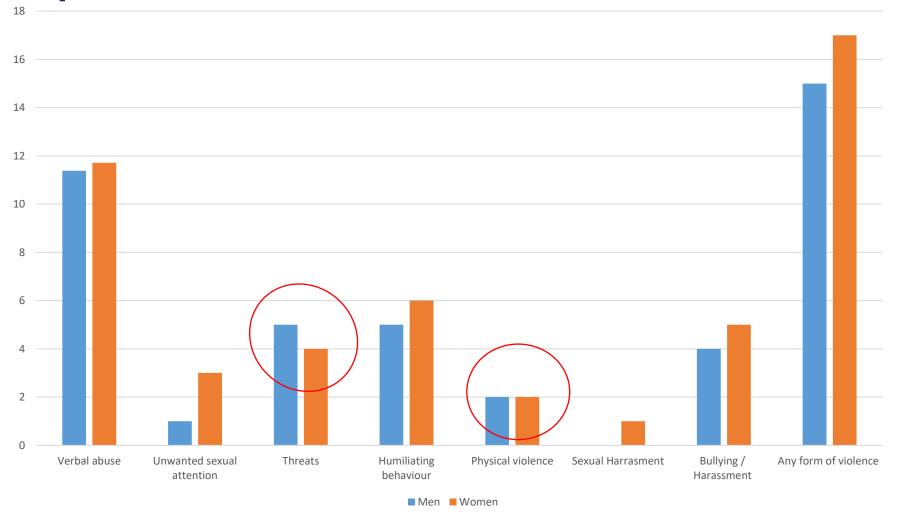


#### **Definition**



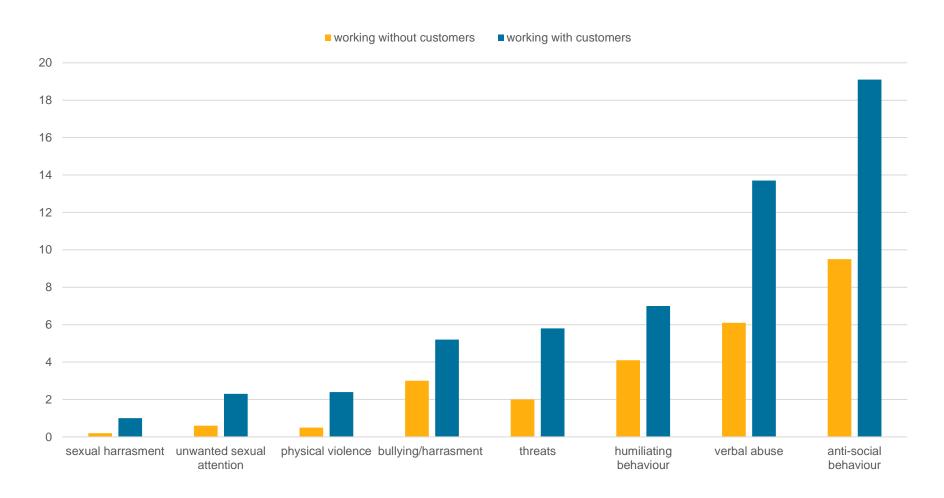


## Violence at work in EU28: Women report more exposure to violence at work than Men





## Working with customers increase the risk of experiencing violence at work - EU 28





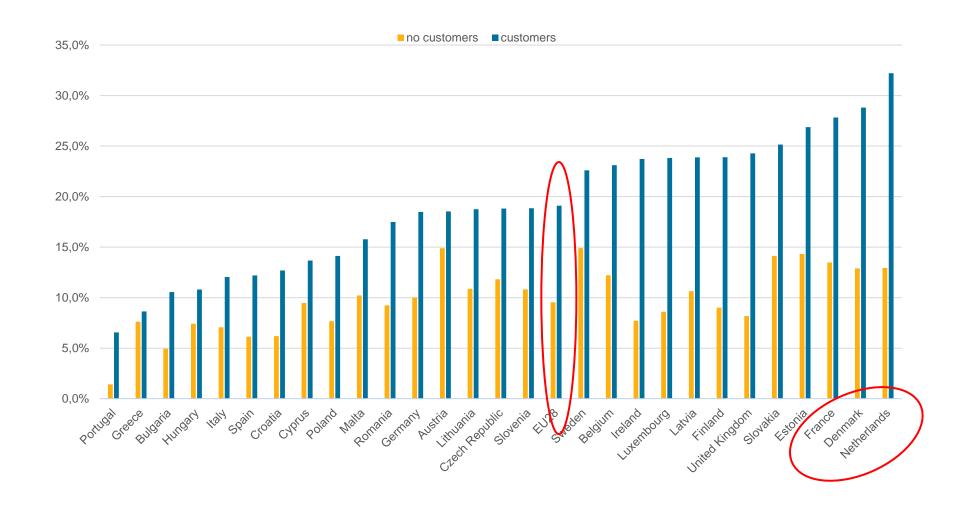
#### Prevalence of violence at work in EU28

#### Profile of claimants

- > Country
- > sector
- occupation
- > employment status
- > Age
- Ownership type

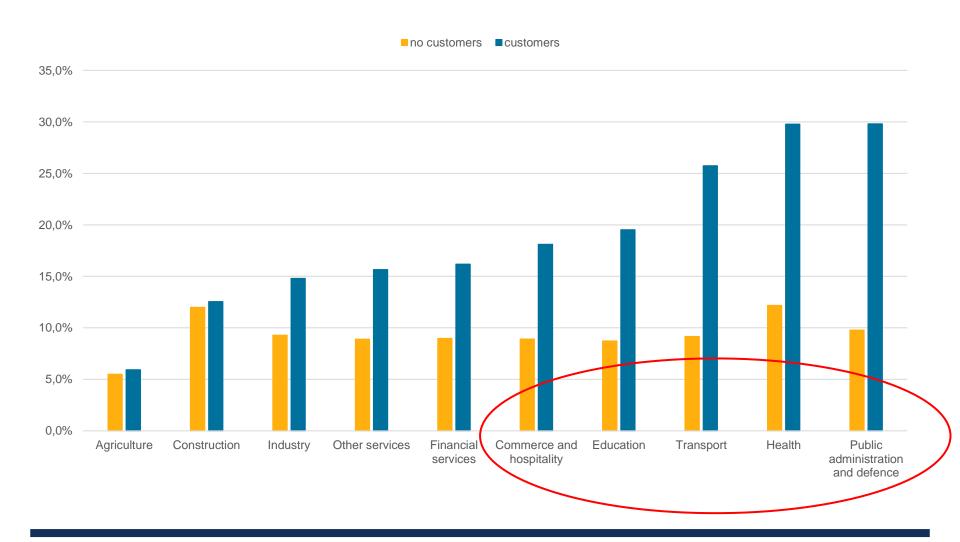


## Prevalence of violence at the workplace – by country



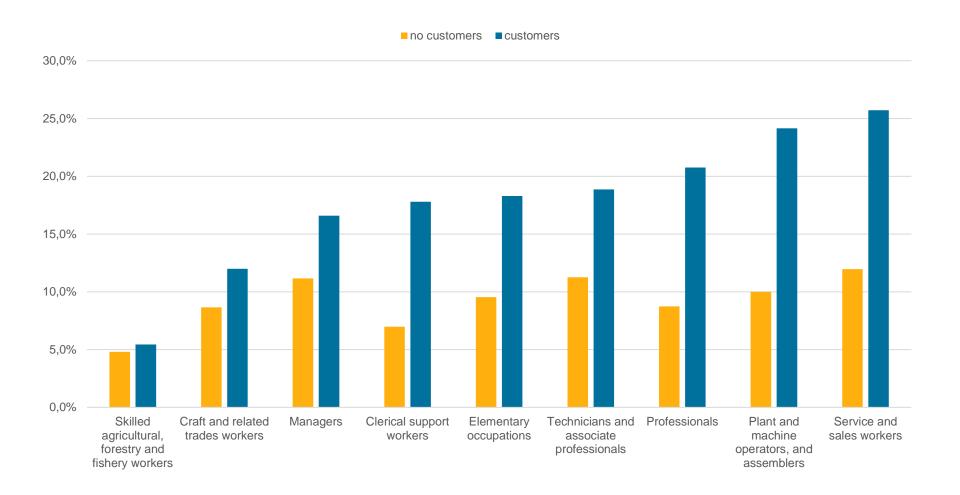


### Violence in the EU28 by industry





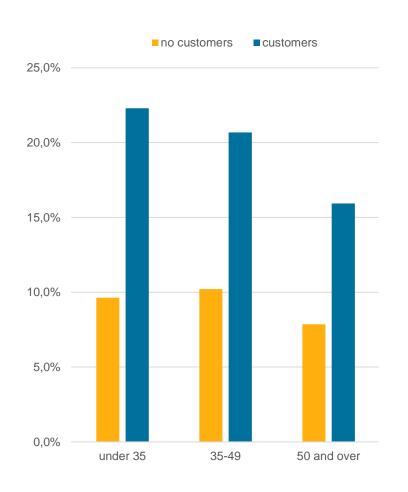
## Violence in EU28 by occupations

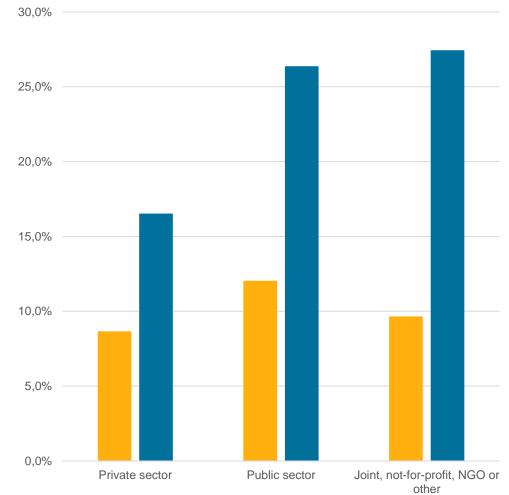




## Violence at work in the EU28 – age; ownership







■ no customers
■ customers



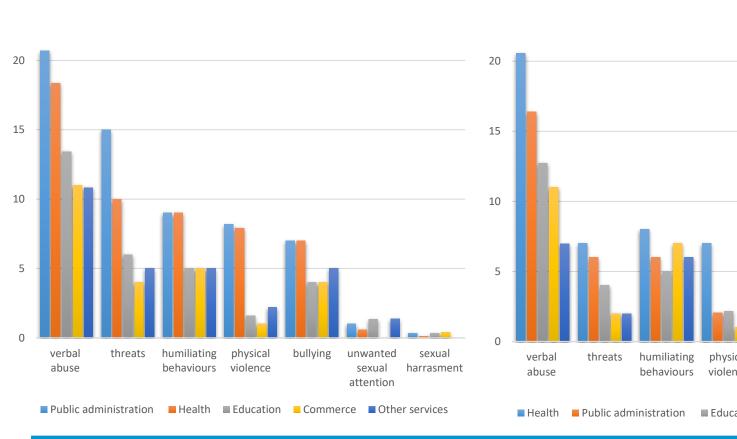
#### Men and women exposure to violence in selected service industries -

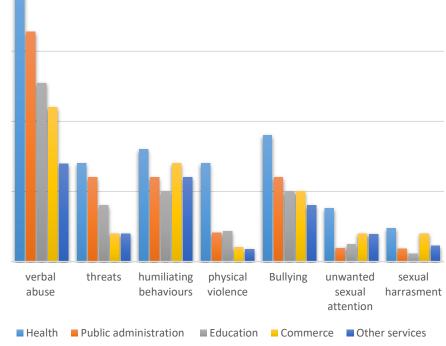
25

Exposure to violence at work in selected service industries: Men

25

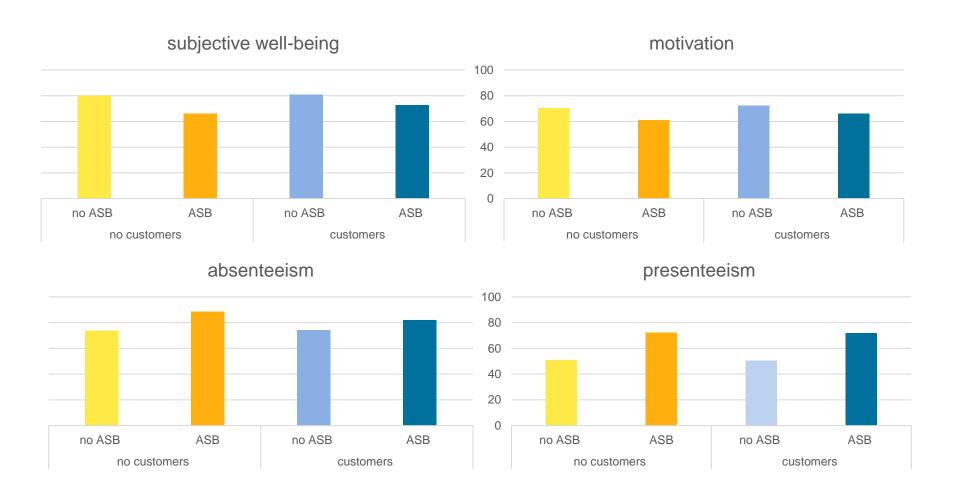
Exposure to violence at work in selected service industries: Women





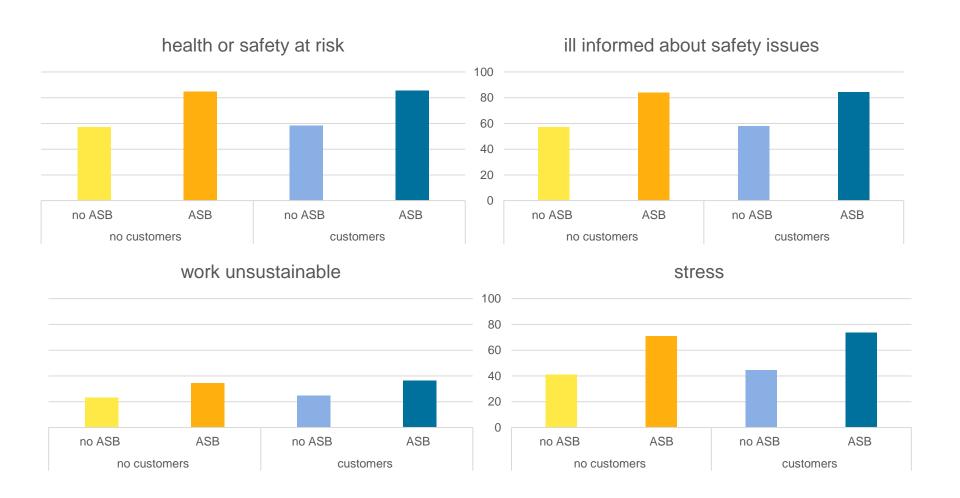


### Impact of anti-social behaviour (ASB)



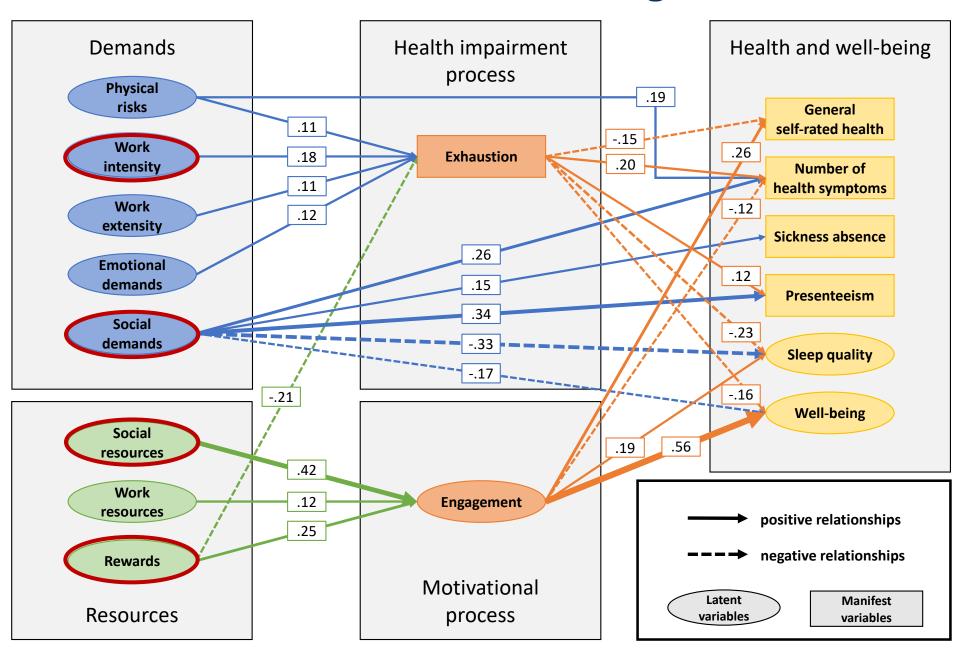


### Impact of anti-social behaviour (ASB)





#### Violence and health and well being



#### Job quality framework

#### **Physical environment**

- Posture-related (ergonomic)
- Ambient
- Biological and chemical

#### Skills and discretion

- Cognitive dimension
- Decision latitude
- Organisational participation
- Training

#### Social environment

- Social support
- Management quality

#### Working time quality

- Duration
- Atypical working time
- · Working time arrangements
- Flexibility

#### **Work intensity**

- Quantitative demands
- Pace determinants and interdependency
- Emotional demands

#### **Prospects**

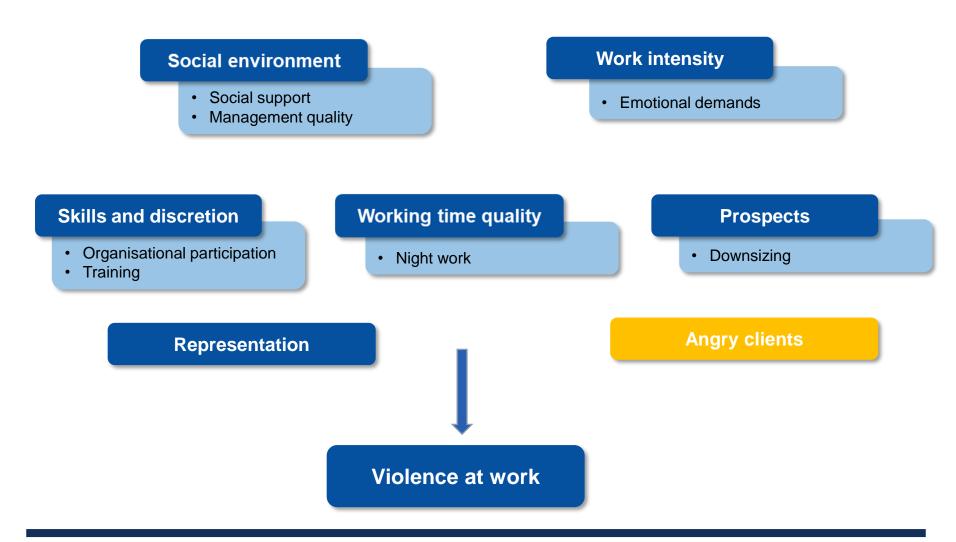
- Career prospects
- Employment status
- Job security
- Downsizing



Violence at work



## Link between job quality and anti-social behaviour





### In summary

- Big differences in prevalence of violence
- Workers working with customers are substantially more exposed
- Public administration, health, education and transport among sectors with highest exposure
- Workers with highest exposure are younger and more likely to be on fixed term contracts
- Violence impacts on health and well-being and productivity
- Job quality is linked to exposure









RESEARCH REPORT



Working conditions
Working conditions and
workers' health



- For more information: www.eurofound.europa.eu
- New data collected on violence at work during the pandemic – EWCS Extraordinary



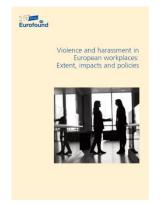


Table 1: Integrative elements of the different model components

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|--|---|--|--|--|
| Demands  |   |  |  |  |
| Physical risks   | Ambient, biochemical and posture-related risks  |  |  |  |
| Work intensity   | Working at very high speed or to tight deadlines  |  |  |  |
| Work extensity   | Weekly working hours; long working days   |  |  |  |
| Emotional demands  | Handling angry clients and emotionally disturbing situations  |  |  |  |
| Social demands   | Harassment and discrimination   |  |  |  |
| Resources  |   |  |  |  |
| Social resources   | Support from colleagues; support from supervisors; recognition; justice in organisation                               |  |  |  |
| Work resources   | Control over job; skill discretion; participation   |  |  |  |
| Rewards  | Fair pay; career prospects; job security  |  |  |  |
| Motivational and health-impairing processes                    |   |  |  |  |
| Exhaustion   | Feeling exhausted at the end of the working day   |  |  |  |
| Engagement   | Full of energy (vigour); enthusiasm (dedication); time flies (absorption)   |  |  |  |
| Health and well-being  |   |  |  |  |
| Self-rated general health                                      | Appraisal of one's general health as 'very bad', 'bad', 'fair', 'good' or 'very good'                                 |  |  |  |
| Number of health problems                                      | Hearing problems, skin problems, muscular pain, backache, headaches/eye strain, injury(ies), anxiety, overall fatigue |  |  |  |
| Sickness absence   | Days absent from work due to sick leave or health-related leave   |  |  |  |
| Presenteeism   | Days worked while sick  |  |  |  |
| Sleep quality  | Difficulty falling asleep, waking up during sleep, feeling of exhaustion and fatigue                                  |  |  |  |
| Well-being   | Feeling cheerful, calm, active, fresh and rested; life filled with interesting things                                 |  |  |  |
|  |   |  |  |  |

#### The relationship between awareness and reporting

Ideal case of low reporting and high awareness does not (YET) exist in the EU28!

|                | High<br>awareness       | Medium<br>awareness | Low awareness                          |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| High reporting | FI BE DK IE NL<br>SE UK | FR AT DE            | CZ EE LV LT                            |
| Low reporting  |                         | MT ES               | CY ES GR HR HU<br>IT PL PT RO SI<br>SK |



## The relationship between awareness and reporting

- Awareness identify an incident as harassment
- Underreporting
  - limitation for accurate information gathering
  - policy based on incomplete knowledge
- Legislative definition of violence and harassment helps claimants
- Importance of social dialogue

