

Strasbourg, 23 September 2016

KCOOS (2016) 05

“Keep Crime Out Of Sport”

CRITERIA FOR PHASE 2.B: STUDY VISITS



Introduction

Project KCOOS aims to explore innovative approaches to combating the manipulation of sports competitions. The Directorate General for Home Affairs, DG HOME, of the European Commission awarded a grant to the Council of Europe/European Partial Agreement for Sport, for this project and both institutions are funding the implementation of KCOOS, in cooperation with a number of organisations. The project will run until June 2017.

The Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions has been open for signatures by member states and non-Member States since 18 September 2014. The purpose of this Convention is to prevent, detect, punish and discipline the manipulation of sports competitions, as well as enhance the exchange of information and national and international cooperation between the public authorities concerned, and with sports organisations and sports betting operators. As of 15 September 2016, 28 Member States have signed the Convention, and two of these (Norway and Portugal) have ratified it.

For such a Convention to be effective and useful in the fight against sports manipulation, public and private authorities need to be harmonized and collaborate in investigations. Cooperation between authorities from the various States needs to be fostered.

The Study visits come at an opportune time, when, besides all the other projects and initiatives, the Council of Europe, jointly with the EU is providing a selected number of countries with the opportunity to build on the recent events, including the regional seminars and the international conference on match-fixing in Strasbourg (20-21 September) to continue with actions in the field.

Early Phases of Project KCOOS

The first phase of the project involved filling out short questionnaires addressed to the different main stakeholders in match fixing, namely law enforcement and justice, betting regulatory authorities, betting operators, the sport movement and all relevant ministries.

Context

Now that we have a clearer idea, thanks to replies sent in via KCOOS questionnaires, as well as the upcoming international conference and all the regional seminars, during which exchange of information is so crucial and being extremely well exploited, we can move to a more hands-on assistance. Thus study visits will allow a number of selected countries to experience first-hand the functioning of national platforms and measures put in place by France and the United Kingdom.

Description

The Study visits will act as an illustration of good practice examples. The aim is not to encourage countries to imitate these examples necessarily, but rather to visualise the functioning of two national platforms and systems and to be able to find correlations between their systems and the presented systems. Countries should come to the study visits with an idea of the situation within their own countries and be able to take away the relevant aspects, as well as benefit from the knowledge and experience of the experts present. UK Gambling Commission and ARJEL are both associate partners of the project and the various actors have been heavily involved with the Council of Europe in putting in place not only the Convention, but also measures to fight match-fixing in respect of the Convention principles.

The study visits will be an opportunity to obtain technical assistance and advice through regional/international cooperation and multilateral actions to initiate various activities (preventative, normative, etc). Hosting countries will strive to respond to needs expressed by the beneficiary countries in their assessment reports.

In short:

- ✓ Following regional seminars
- ✓ 4 SV in total, organized by ARJEL and UK GC (2 each)
- ✓ Objectives: Illustration of a good practice example: technical assistance, advice through regional/international cooperation and multilateral actions to initiate various activities (preventative, normative, etc). This follows on from regional seminars, allowing for interested countries to visit another member state or partner organization in order to acquire examples and guidelines for good practices to implement within their own systems.
 - Support capacity building among participating stakeholders
 - Allow beneficiaries to experience first-hand administrative procedures and infrastructure

Hosting Countries

France (organised by ARJEL – French Online Gambling Regulatory Authority)

14-15 November 2016

TBC Janvier 2017

United Kingdom (organised by UK Gambling Commission)

TBC Dec 2016

TBC March 2017

Format of the Study Visit

- 2- 5 days (depending on the hosting organisation)
- 3 countries / total of 10 participants
- Presentations and explanations of UK/France National Platforms, legislative, operational and other measures in place to fight sports manipulations

Eligibility Criteria

- 1) Replies to KCOOS Questionnaires
- 2) Participation at KCOOS Regional Seminars
 - Countries having participated at Regional Seminars in The Hague and Zagreb are automatically eligible for applying to the first two study visits (SV 1 and 2) to take place in 2016
 - Countries participating in the Regional Seminar in Copenhagen, will be eligible for Study Visits 2-4
 - Countries participating in Regional Seminars in Bucharest and Athens are eligible for applying to the study visits (SV 3 and 4) taking place in early 2017.
- 3) A short summary (max. 10 pages) of a country assessment: Current situations, state of play, where are the challenges, what issues have been identified, etc. this will allow the Council of Europe and hosting countries to:
 - Support capacity building among participating stakeholders and to
 - Allow beneficiaries to experience first-hand administrative procedures and infrastructure
- 4) Any other information deemed to be relevant

Desired Criteria

- 1) Signatories to/State parties to the Convention or those in the process of signing

Beneficiary countries will also undertake the following:

- 1) Presentation of a report 2 weeks after the study visit
- 2) Presentation of an update 3 months after the study visit

What next?

Following the Study Visits, two countries will benefit from a highly customised assistance through project KCOOS, namely

Deadlines

- Expression of interest and deadline for applications: 06/10/2016
- Delivery of assessment report: 21/10/2016
 - Nomination of countries (this may occur before the set deadline): 28/10/2016



Expression of interest for participating in the KCOOS Study Visits Autumn 2016

Please return completed forms to sport.kcoos@coe.int

Applicant Country and contact person/details	
Study Visit desired (UK or France or Either)	
National Contact (as already indicated for the project through EPAS Circular 2)	
Has your country filled in all the KCOOS Questionnaires? (Yes/No/Some)	
Please specify and please note whether you intend to complete these:	
Have you participated/ are you participating in a Regional Seminar? Yes/No	
If you have not participated in a regional seminar, what information can you provide that would make you eligible for taking part in a study visit?	
Have you signed the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions? (Yes/No)	
If you have not yet signed the Convention, please describe your progress in this.	
Have you ratified the Convention? (Yes/No)	
If you have signed, but not yet ratified the Convention, please describe your progress in this. (For example, besides the blockage within the EU, what have you done to push the point further on the agenda?)	
Will you present a short country assessment report to support your expression of interest, by 21/10/2016? (Yes/No)	
Do you undertake to prepare a follow up report following the study visit? (Yes/No)	
Do you undertake to present another report at a later date following the study visit in order to demonstrate evolution and impact of the information acquired during study visit and other KCOOS events? (Yes/No)	
Other information/input	
Signature and Date	

The KCOOS Secretariat reserves the right to request additional information for the purposes of the selection process.