

KEEP CRIME OUT OF SPORT - KCOOS

PROJECT GUIDELINES

This project 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 for 18 months, from January 2016 until June 2017.

BACKGROUND

The European Union, the Council of Europe and states around the world have recognized that sport has entered into the economic and criminal justice domain, due to links to fraud, organized crime and corruption.

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 1 December 2015, 21 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.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

The partner organisations in this project are important stakeholders from the public and private sectors, sport governing bodies, national ministries and international institutions, namely:

ARJEL – French Gambling Authority

EL - European Lotteries

ESSA – European Sports Security Association

FOC – Finnish Olympic Committee

INTERPOL – International Criminal Police Organisation

IOC – International Olympic Committee

NMOC - Norwegian Ministry of Culture

OR - Oxford Research

UKGC - UK Gambling Commission

Official supporter: EUROPOL – EU's law enforcement agency, has provided a letter of support for project KCOOS.

✚ WHY WE NEED SUCH A PROJECT

Since the introduction of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFUE), the EU has recognized the importance of sport as an economic factor within member states. This means that with its soft competence (via notably article 165 TFEU), the EU institutions can encourage good practices in the sport domain. In this regard, the Council of the EU recognized in 2012 the increasing danger presented by sports manipulation to sport and agreed that methods of fighting this phenomenon were necessary though collaboration between betting authorities, public authorities and the sport movement. The EU Work plan for sport 2011-2014 highlighted match fixing as a priority topic. The fight against anti-corruption, organized crime, financial fraud and cross-border criminality is one that is affected by this phenomenon within sport. Maximum visibility and raising of awareness is required in order to assist the different stakeholders within Member States to collaborate with each other in order to take concrete steps towards eradicating or at least reducing sport manipulation.

✚ SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Practical guides and exchange of information

Raise awareness and exchange experience and good practices on sports betting risks and match fixing. Assist law enforcement and other public and private authorities in setting up and/or developing procedure, standards and regulations related to the Convention. Assist with the transposition of Convention requirements into States. Encourage better cohesion and cooperation between authorities across countries.

- Capacity building - National platforms on manipulation of sport competitions

Support the setting up of national platforms and regulatory authorities to facilitate flow of information at national and international level. Support stakeholders including sport organisations in developing methods to combat sports manipulation. This includes strengthening the institutional capacity of relevant authorities.

- Monitoring mechanisms

Develop methods for following the implementation of relevant procedures, standards and rules.

- Promotion and visibility

Provide maximum visibility and information on the Council of Europe Convention, in order to encourage further signatures and notably ratifications. This is more effective when promoted by a healthy mix of relevant and affected stakeholders from the sport movement, the private sector and public authorities in sport and in betting.

Target groups

- ✓ Relevant public authorities – sport, law enforcement, betting/gambling related issues
- ✓ Sport movement
- ✓ Betting operators
- ✓ Member States

DELIVERABLES AND OUTPUTS

➤ Outputs

The expected outputs for this project are as follows:

- ✓ Kick off conference- January 2016
- ✓ 5 regional seminars, 1-2 day events. Over 18 months.
- ✓ 4 study visits; (4-10 participants) 2-4 days
- ✓ 2 expert missions –2-5 experts advising 5-10 beneficiaries, for 4-5 days (all flexible).
- ✓ Closing conference
- ✓ Meetings, trainings, events
- ✓ Report for each event for partners; press releases for each event for public
- ✓ Printed plans of events and evaluation reports
- ✓ Communication plan, project website

➤ Deliverables

There are a number of expected deliverables, which may evolve over the 18 month period, aimed at maximum visibility and assistance in the implementation of methods combating sports manipulation:

- ✓ Reports, minutes, agreements, newsletters, documents, financial report, evaluation
- ✓ Questionnaire on good practices, Handbook on good practices, Educational programme and tools for RS, SV and EM, Self-assessment grid for stakeholders, Resource book on legislation and literature, European mapping on achievements/work within Europe in this field.
- ✓ Project website – updates and information about the progress of KCOOS, contact details, links to partner stakeholders, links to relevant documents and authorities, etc.
- ✓ Self-assessment tool, Monitoring mechanisms
- ✓ An overview of work carried out within Europe in the fight against match fixing

➤ Timeline

- ✓ Launch: 21 January 2016 (Strasbourg)
- ✓ Phase 1 (January 2016 – May 2016): Questionnaires
- ✓ Phase 2 (June 2016 – October 2016): Regional Seminars (separated by region)
- ✓ Phase 3 (November 16 – February 17): Study Visits (visits to UK and France National Platforms)

- ✓ Phase 4 (March 17 – April 17): Expert Missions (country visits by experts to provide tailored assistance)
- ✓ Final Conference: June 2017 (in conjunction with 3 other DG HOME projects on match-fixing)
- Secretariat and contacts
 - ✓ Cassandra Matilde Fernandes – Senior Project Officer
 - ✓ Caroline Larghi – Project Assistant
 - ✓ sport.kcoos@coe.int
 - ✓ www.coe.int/sport/kcoos

