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“Keep Crime Out Of Sport”

Regional Seminar 1 – RECOGNISING THE PROBLEM, CREATING THE TRUST

FINAL REPORT





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Introduction to Report

This was the first regional seminar in a series of five planned for the project. The main aim was to unite all relevant actors from the different participating countries, encourage networking, animate sessions to start tackling the challenges that have already been identified and to end with some new outputs and aims for the upcoming months.

Principal stakeholders from Albania, Belgium, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, as well as international actors including Interpol and Europol and independent experts

Overall feedback:

- The format of the regional seminar, with a number of interactive workshops, is definitely a working model. Smaller working groups are definitely more productive and allow for more active interaction.
- Many bilateral exchanges took place between countries.
- Certain countries appreciated the opportunity to meet and discuss with stakeholders from their own country and move towards the building of national platforms
- Very useful input was provided for a guide/handbook to be produced at the end of the project in June 2017

Actors from all the main sectors were present, represented within almost all countries

In the sport sector, in particular, personal relations are primordial to the success of professional projects.

Questionnaire Analysis

At the moment of the regional seminar, there were 33 out of a possible 35 possible replies from the seven participating country relevant actors. All participating countries have at least begun or already established national platforms. There is also an increasing interest in risk assessment tools, which have benefits and consequences, with regard to alerts, resources and limitation of bets. Countries are increasingly making it compulsory for betting operators to report suspicious betting patterns (for example, as part of the licence, as is the case in the NL, BE, UK and SU). Betting operators are in general in favour of such legislation. Legal and practical issues are a main problem highlighted by respondents. More tools are required than just the national platforms, which would deal mainly with practical rather than legal challenges. Building trust, creating a willingness to share and increased understanding and boundaries of the Data Protection Act would be important. Some countries, including Albania, Slovenia, Switzerland and the UK have or are in the process of introducing specific legislation on match-fixing.

Session 1 – Working Together as a Country

Countries worked together in groups (As Slovenia only had one representative, he joined the UK group). Reports were produced by all countries, each of which had named a 'rapporteur'. On the whole, this method of working was successful as it encouraged participation from the countries themselves, notably at the time of reporting information. Certain countries, including the Netherlands and the UK are already very communicative nationally on these topics among the different stakeholders. Countries such as Belgium and Spain, who are in the early stages of setting up a national platform appreciated the opportunity to tackle questions specifically related to assistance from the Convention.

Session 2 - Different Countries, Same Objectives

Stakeholders came together in separate working groups and were guided by a number of set questions and a moderator. Once again, a participant was named as rapporteur for each group. Overall, notably law enforcement and ministries are well tuned in to activities carried out by other ministries. Betting operators, working in international circles also generally have a very good idea. Regulatory authorities appeared to appreciate the opportunity to exchange some operational information, as did sports organisations.

Plenary Day 1

- Short recap by each mini-rapporteur, plan for Day 2*. Countries appreciated the opportunity to conduct bilateral exchanges within and outside of the sessions. This was a particularly successful outcome.

Session 3 – National Platforms

GROUPS moderated by *Daniel Andersen* and Morten Larsen, Oxford Research

The scope of the NP and Key Features

The UK and the Netherlands are the two countries of the RS1 participants who currently have established a NP. The Netherlands and the UK have National Platforms and shared their experience setting up and running national platforms at the session. The remaining countries pitched in with ideas and asked questions about key features of national platforms.

In the UK, the SBIU is the heart of the platform. It was organised as there was a need for a unit to combat match fixing. Operators are obliged to report to SBIU. The unit was built over time and included more actors as it developed. It sits with UK GC (which is an independent non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)) because of the obligation. Another important feature is the so-called triage process in the UK to better manage incidents of sports betting corruption where criminality is suspected. See appendix 1 here: <http://www.sbif.uk/images/Documents/SBIF-Sports-Betting-Profiles-External-Final-Version.pdf>. The operators are obliged to report to SBIU. Whether the operators have an obligation to report also affects how the National Platform receives information. In The platform initially had more of an operational role but today also have a strategic role and a group of more strategic people involved.

It is the experience from the UK that in order for a national platform to be effective it needs to be recognised. People have to have faith and confidence in it. We want everything going through the platform → it will be more active and that will strengthen it. It can be difficult to work together with law enforcement but the UK has made improvements. It is difficult to work with law enforcement because of the many regional levels. It has to be made a case that is worth investigating.

In The Netherlands the NP has been established for two years. In the Netherlands the National Platform is under the Ministry of Sport .It was originally under the Ministry of Justice and the secretariat is mainly operated by law enforcement (The Public Prosecution Service), who organises meetings etc. It is still in the initial process of learning what is working. They do not feel it is a question of who's leading the platform. You have to have a secretary but every party has own responsibility. It was organised from the Sport Ministry down – the agenda is made in connection with other parties prior to each meeting. The platform has a broader goal than just investigating as they seek to work more strategically. If there is a specific point that only needs some actors' attention they will meet in smaller groups.

In the UK and The Netherlands the platform has about 20-25 members. Beyond that it becomes very large and could become inefficient.

The platform will have meetings at an overall policy and strategy level with high-level people involved. In the UK and The Netherlands the Platform meets 4 times a year.

In countries that have not yet established the platform there are current discussions about how it should be designed. Spain and Slovenia pointed out that investigation should be led by LE and not be in the NP competencies. Belgium is currently discussing what goals they seek to achieve and also on people involved as well as budget. Switzerland and Albania is at a very early stage and have not yet anything concrete to report.

Other countries like Denmark and Finland have placed the national platform under the Anti Doping Agency. The platform could also be under the Betting Regulatory Authority.

Some actors highlighted that a non-governmental status made the platform more agile and able to act faster since they did not have to wait for approval from the political level. Another feature that sets National Platforms apart is whether they have investigative powers. A key feature of a national platform is to create trust between the actors involved. Whether you have a monopoly (national lottery) or a licence system for betting operators will effect who should be involved from the betting operators. If you do not have a license system it can be a challenge to establish and involve private operators.

Below that you must smaller working groups with "people on the ground". A smaller group with more operational people can for example meet to decide what to do with "signals" (reports of suspicion of match-fixing). The working groups meet more frequently.

In important part of the national platforms is to get to know each other so that law enforcement, policy makers and betting operators for example know who to talk to in the individual sports unions. And vice versa. Appointment of SPOCs (Single Point of Contact) is important in this regard.

Protocols for sharing of information are an example of a useful tool that the secretariat of the national platform can develop.

The role of the NP

The UK, The Netherlands and Belgium pointed out that the NP should have both operational and statically elements. They started out very differently with the UK starting the NP as an operational unit and then developing a strategic level around that with the Netherlands starting the reverse way and are now developing some sort of operational unit as well. The National Platform started more strategically but now they are also developing the operational side. The Netherlands pointed out that they do struggle however as information cannot be shared between LE and SO as there are very strict rules. As a result, the relations that are developed in the platform are very beneficial as they can share trends and that way know what the other actors are interested in and that way maybe hint that there could be some interesting information for either party that they could seek to get access to. The National Platform gathers 4 times a year. However, in case there is something to investigate some actors will get in touch and meet more often in

smaller groups. Overall, the NP in the Netherlands has more of a strategic role. It creates knowledge and understanding between each actor so it becomes easier to get in contact with each other if needed. There is the problem with sharing information from law enforcement to sports organisations. They weren't allowed to share anything. It's under very strict rules. To get the information in the Netherlands, they go to the ones they know through the national platform. They share trends so they know what the others are looking for and they can send back information to private partners with regards to trends they see so they can look to provide that info. When there is a case which is closed or it turns out there is no case the platform does a report to the government.

Belgium also pointed out that the strategic level is very important and that all parties agree on an approach that can be developed between the various actors.

Data from betting operators

In the UK the SBO's are obliged to inform any suspicion. The GC or the platform has the power to go ask SBO to get data that they need. This is done through the license conditions. These conditions make it clear what the GC wants to the operators to provide and what they have to be able to report on (new rules last year making this more specific). The UK SBIU gets a lot of alerts but not very often do they close betting on an event/match. A lot of the alerts are also after the event. 95 % of the alerts come after the event.

In Spain they made it clear that they are unable to interpret all this information. In their case the police request for info after the match and the SBO's share that information. They do not know if their will have real time system and do not have one currently. Their point out that the system is working OK for them and that they are currently not looking to design monitoring system. However, national football is trying to design a monitoring system that is more active than reactive. Spain considers that they have to try to become multilateral with all stakeholders. The system is working but they know that not all SO's wants to work with them. In their case there are several SO that are not cooperating with them (the BRA) – how is the situation in other countries?

Belgium still experiences a big amount of secrecy in the sports that needs to be overcome.

In Albania they have implemented new laws and will seek to develop a monitoring system to detect suspicious online gambling.

In The Netherlands, from a law enforcement perspective it would be better to let an event go and get evidence than to block it.

Other people say that that would be morally wrong by SBO's as they cheat other customers that don't know that the match is fixed and thus lose money in a case where the SBO already KNOW what the result will be.

For Switzerland, they consider that they have to build network of all stakeholders. It's not the case for all stakeholders. They will have to work together.

Expectations of NP

Regarding this issue, there was agreement between most actors that there was a hope of developing a more integrated approach. The hope is that it will lead to a multilateral cooperation between all stakeholders and increase the sharing of information.

For Slovenia it was also important to create this in order to make it clear to all actors that match fixing is indeed an important issue and problem that needs to be dealt with.

In Spain, the BRA has been experiencing some problems with cooperation from SO's and hope that the platform will lead to more and better cooperation with SO's.

The Netherlands sees the need for a more integrated approach and build trust. Everyone has to know what everybody does.

International cooperation

There was also a hope from many countries that there can be developed a bigger international network and cooperation between countries. There was a general request for this from most actors but also with a specific focus on international cooperation between the NP's. There is a hope that this will increase as more NP's are established. However, there were suggestions that there could be regular meeting across/between NP's (either between different national LE's, SO's etc. or represents from the NP's) to share information about how the NP can work most efficiently. Further, this would also increase international knowledge and contacts that would increase the international cooperation and maybe also create awareness of new trends and situations regarding match fixing.

Here, Switzerland pointed out that there also needs to be some sort of legal structure that means that people acting on the Swiss market but are established somewhere else can be prosecuted. There is a dependency on international structures in Switzerland. Most of the important markets in Switzerland are outside the country. Betting online is not criminalized. We need to share international. We need that to build a case and share info. Interpol and Europol information is needed. They have no current legislation that can be used but in the future if most of the countries have more or less the same legal framework it will be easier to prosecute. Problem with lack of awareness from SO's nationally. They actually have more cooperation with international SO's than with our national ones.

Albania showed a clear interest in learning from countries like the UK and Spain who have more experience with combating match fixing. They highlighted that they need to learn how to investigate and establish that knowledge.

The Netherlands highlighted that it is important to get information from other countries about trends in other countries. How can you improve your detection system? Everyone wants to learn from other

countries and exchange that form of information. All parties should have international meeting with the partner (e.g. LE meeting, SBO meeting, SM meeting).

Others claim that happens with e.g. UEFA but still the general consensus is that there's a need to share practises and knowledge across borders.

Controlling SBO reporting

In the UK, operators are asked to inform GC/NP in terms of alerts no matter what. Even if the market is elsewhere the operators are still asked to inform as they also have a lot of foreign operators who have a license.

In Spain, International operators need a Spanish license. This is done in order to control and monitor them. All players will have to be registered on the websites. The employees and headquarters of companies are checked in order to check any criminal activity. SBO's are generally trusted.

Slovenia pointed out that they have an online monitoring system that they can show to Albania for them to see what they are doing.

Financing

In the Netherlands the platform does not have a separate budget as far as the participants at the seminar were aware. The platform was run by the ministry and The Public Prosecution Service as part of their regular tasks.

For the UK, the budget of the SBIU is 4 % of the budget of the Gambling commission, which is roughly 20 million pounds (app. 800,000). A body that has the power to investigate will most likely need a significantly bigger budget than without and will often employ ex-police investigators to investigate and analyse intelligence. The UK SBIU has powers to investigate suspicion of matchfixing. SBIU has 5 employees. The Dutch platform does not have any employees solely devoted to the platform.

The process of setting up a national platform in the remaining countries:

Spain: No National Platform. NP don't have power to investigate. That's police.

Slovenia: The police should have the main role because otherwise there are too many actors.

Belgium: Discussing currently. It's also a political decision on people and budget.

NP: also about the goals you want to achieve. What do you see of MF (only betting or broader?) – Who will take the lead is the discussion we're having currently.

Switzerland: Early stage. It will be done with the future gambling act. We will think about how to set it up.



Albania: Not yet approved national strategy or NP. In order to live up to convention we have set up group with ministries, prosecution, BRA – this way Albania has signed the Convention. We would like to establish task force and the live up to the Convention.

Three steps when dealing with MF: Education, measure, investigation

Session 4–Sharing Information & Trust– Too Secretive Or Necessary?

Split into two working groups: Public and Private Actors, as follows:

C. Public Authorities session moderated by Norbert Rubicsek, EUROPOL for Law enforcement, Ministries and Betting Regulatory Authorities

1) Type of setup for the National Platform

UK: SBIU (intelligence) is the heart of the NP, along with the UK GC and formulates the National Action plan for delivering the ability to work with LE. Working with LE is a little difficult because of the existence of 42 regions/departments.

The Netherlands: There is a secretary and a chairman; not a question of who leads, this could be dangerous even. There are monthly meetings.

Spain: the NP is not in place yet. Police should lead more, because gambling authorities do not have investigative powers.

Slovenia: police is under the supervision of the public prosecutor.

Belgium: political decision and a complicated situation

Switzerland: no investigation powers for the future platform, most probably.

Albania: a task force is in place to assess the issue. Gambling authorities, ministry of finance and the prosecutor's office will participate in the future NP.

2) Operational aspects

Strategic approach needed. Sharing of trends – this way private entities can share the information required. What data from betting operators? How can we trust information from betting operators?

Belgium: general information for gambling: not too much as Belgium is quite small? The collaboration between operators – police – regulatory authorities is okay. There is less information from the sport movement (awareness issue, historical issue of secrecy within sport).

Spain: receiving information after events; system works in Spain. No 'real-time' system but perhaps this will not be useful.

UK: most information received is after the event, not before; police would talk to athletes before the events. From the Government's perspective, there should be more building of trust, integrating a better

system of communication and be aware of the problem. Prevention, education. Establish protocols for exchange of information. Need multilateral relationships.

Switzerland: build a network; a legal procedure is being developed.

Albania: NP will be approved by the government. It will be necessary to better exchange information to protect the integrity in sports.

3) Connection with sport organisations?

Get information from other countries, share best practices. It is often difficult to know who to contact. NP should be used for ideas, strategies and networking.

SWITZERLAND: dependency on international structures; need help from Europol and Interpol. No legislation exists currently. Real problem of lack of awareness in sports federations – the problem is underestimated.

ALBANIA: country visits to understand best practices would be great.

D. Private entities' session moderated by Kevin Carpenter, Captivate Consulting for the Sports Movement and Betting operators.

The session was structured around the relevant articles of the Convention:

Article 5 - Risk assessment and management

- They want betting regulators to be a conduit/facilitator for this.

Article 6 - Education and awareness- raising

- In the UK, betting operators fund some education programs.
- The funding of education programs is the biggest concern.
- Need to educate about where and how match-fixing occurs without the presence of organised crime.
- There also needs to be better education of the general public.

Article 7 - Sports organisations and competition organisers

- The need for clubs to pay players on time and in full was considered vital.

Article 8 - Measures regarding the financing of sports organisations

- Still often the case that betting operators want a commercial relationship in return for providing integrity services which sits uncomfortably with some sports. This is not necessarily the case for all

- companies (for example, Paddy Power Betfair), as certain companies undertake to always make clear that any information sharing agreements or integrity relationships are non-commercial.
- Unregulated markets questioned how they "sell" regulation of sports betting to their government.

Plenary Day 2

Discussion on National Platforms and building trust- moderated by Kevin Carpenter – presenting case scenarios. Discussions took place on next steps with regard to an interactive 'guide' for implementing various measures to fight match-fixing. Participants were in favour of a sort of online platform tool that could evolve with the information and allow for exchange of information between actors and countries. The CoE Secretariat will look into this.

Conclusions

The CoE secretariat is slowly integrating back into the network of progress at national and regional level in this area and countries and stakeholders are starting to increasingly turn towards the secretariat for assistance and coordination. KCOOS activities and planned deliverables are awaited with high expectation and despite the tight budget and schedule, has very high potential for continued success. Working hand in hand with the T-MC secretariat is a big bonus. The structure that is beginning to unfold places KCOOS at the operational part of the spectrum, together with the upcoming September Conference on Sports manipulations as the strategic actor and the November EPAS Ministerial Conference in Budapest playing a political role.

The report and content from the first regional seminar will be distributed to participants of consequent regional seminars and the information shall be used to develop a logic and progress further. Information will also be used for the International Conference on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, organised by the Council of Europe on 20-21 September 2016.

ANNEXES

I. QUESTIONNAIRE ANALYSIS (information extracted from Powerpoint presentation)

Agenda

The role of the questionnaires and the regional seminars

Replies received from the participants

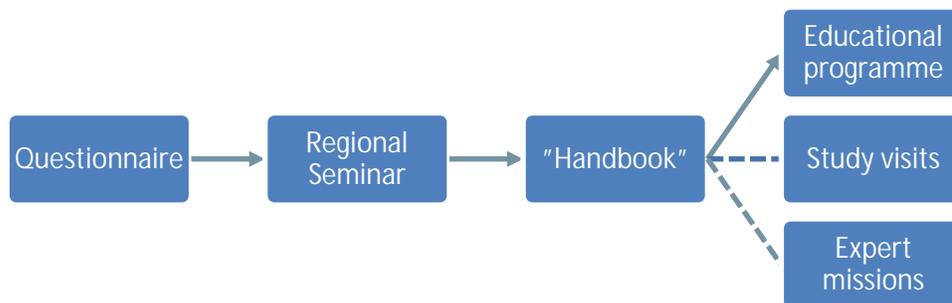
Analysis of replies – setting the scene for further discussion:

- National platforms
- Risk assessment
- Reporting of suspicious information
- Sharing of information
- Sanctions/penal code.

Oxford Research

- Research Partner in KCOOS
- Nordic Consultancy Company founded in Denmark
- Offices in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Latvia
- Specialised in research, analysis and evaluations
- Areas of expertise: regional development and welfare issues – and Match-fixing
- Partners/clients include the Council of Europe, The European Commission, Sorbonne University and ICSS.

Project process – connection between activities



33 replies to the questionnaire

	BRA	SM	SBO	SO	LE
Belgium	√	√√√	√	√√√	√
Switzerland	√	√	√		√
UK	√		√√√	√√	
Spain	√				√
Slovenia		√			√
Albania	√	√	√	√	√
The Netherlands	√		√	√√	√

Setting the scene for the discussion – analysis of the replies to the questionnaires

National Platforms

All participants in the seminar today have either established or consider establishing a national platform

Already established:

- The Netherlands
- UK

Under discussion/establishment:

- Switzerland
- Spain
- Slovenia
- Belgium
- Albania

Central topic for discussion over the next two days

Some countries without platforms have procedures for facilitating cooperation but most do not – so platforms should be very valuable.

The platforms are hosted by different organisations – BRA ((non)departmental), Anti-doping Agency, etc.

The platform alone does not solve the (legal) challenges related to sharing of information – even with a platform it can be a challenge to share information.

UK and the Netherlands both have additional forums for facilitating cooperation and fighting matchfixing (Sport Betting Integrity Forum; Strategic Council).

There is a lot of interest in learning from others.

The regional seminars will provide important input to good practice on national platforms.

Interesting topics to explore further over the seminars

Central questions:

Key features of a national platform?

Who should host the platform? Advantages of different models?

Mandate and competencies of platform?

How should the platform handle information? Be able to analyse and investigate information or just share information?

How to facilitate cooperation and build trust?

Formal versus informal structures and cooperation?

Should the platforms have sub-groups? Do we need additional forums?

Proactive versus reactive?

Risk assessment prior to and during games and tournaments

Not widely used – best known from France - but increasing interest in risk assessment tools. UK, Albania, Belgium.

Example of risk assessment tools

- Matrix for risk assessment
- Access to betting transactions
- Control at sports competitions/matches
- Analytical and investigative powers in BRA/national platform

Benefits and consequences of risk assessment:

- Alerts
- Prioritising of resources
- Limitation of bets

A potential tool to make BRA/national platform more proactive (as opposed to reactive)

Reporting of suspicious betting patterns

More and more countries oblige betting operators to report suspicious betting patterns. E.g. as part of the

licence (The Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Switzerland)

Can be trust or control based

Betting operators are generally in favour of such legislation

Central questions:

How can we check if betting operators report?

How can we set standards for their monitoring systems?

How can we make sure that betting operators report uniformly across actors?

Are such requirements necessary?

Sharing of Information

Important challenge highlighted by many respondents – legal and practical issues

The establishment of a national platform alone does not solve the challenges related to sharing of information

Platform is well suited to deal with practical challenges

The legal challenge is mainly sharing of personal information with sports governing bodies, betting operators and other private organisations

Difficult to establish two way communication

Potential tools to improve the sharing of information includes:

- Building trust
- Create a willingness to share – increase risk appetite
- Increase understanding and boundaries of Data Protection Act
- SGB and SBO obtain consent from members/punters
- MoUs between e.g. BRA/NP and SBOs and SGBs

Sharing of information internationally and intelligence is an additional important challenge

Sanctions and Penal Code

It has been difficult to convict match-fixers in some countries

Move towards introducing specific § on match-fixing (Switzerland, Albania, Slovenia, UK) to improve chances of sentencing fixers

Articles on match-fixing can either be in general penal code or specific sports law – or both

Various approaches can work well depending on national context

Many central actors has pointed out that they wish to improve cooperation with law enforcement

IIa. ALBANIA COUNTRY ANALYSIS

a) Legislation: the 2009 provision within the criminal code criminalising the predetermination of sport results – how effective has it been? Reasons?

From 2008 in accordance with the European Union (EU) 'White Paper on Sport' The Ministry responsible for the sport took legal initiative to amend the Penal Code of the Republic of Albania on 2008, considering the manipulation of sport event as criminal offence. The Albanian legislation is complete regarding allowance to carry out proactive investigation when these criminal offences are done for profit and are included criminal groups inside and outside the country, including money laundering or corruption in the public and private sector. However the manipulation of sport competitions is part of Penal Code from 2009, we have not achieved success in this investigation field.

The reasons are: We have not yet implemented the monitoring online system which is already a legal obligation according the Gambling Law 2015 of Albania, and the criminals activities are extended out of our country.

b) What is the situation of coordination between law enforcement, sport organisations and other actors at national level? What about in the betting field? What are the reasons, in your opinion, for this? (also discuss the effectiveness of exchange of information between actors with regard to the 2015 law of games of chance)

Actually we have inter institutional collaboration, between the law enforcement state structures and the independent sport entities which exchange official information in cases there are suspicions and doubts for criminal activities in this field. Meanwhile, a closer collaboration exist between the prosecution, state police and Gambling Surveillance Unit, which are the main responsible structures that fight crimes in this field.

The inter-ministerial working group set up for this propose have proposed some legal changes, which will be reflected in the new Law of Sports, for the Gambling Surveillance Unit, and the Penal Code, fulfilling in this way all the demands and requirements of the convention. Untill now the exchanges of information between sports organizations, betting operators and the other actors of Law enforcement has not been effective, as we expect to be. In the near future, following the implementation of the online monitoring system, in appliance of 2015 law "Games of chance" all the actors will have the necessary information in real time.

The Ministry responsible for sport is concerned for a close coordination with all the actors, but the competences of each stakeholders are defined on their legal framework and so we can not breach our competences and interfere in their responsibilities. The approval of the national Platform along with the respective legal framework will further enhance the collaboration between all the stakeholders concerned.

c) What is the current situation of coordination with international institutions in this field? (law enforcement, European gambling associations, international sport organisations, Council of Europe, etc)? examples?

Regarding the collaboration at international level, the Albanian state police have a contact point with TASK force INTERPOL EUROPOL which investigate also the match fixing in sport. The Ministry responsible for sport is in close collaboration with EPAS Council of Europe.

d) What is the situation with regard to sport manipulations in your country? What are the links? (organised crime, money laundering, fraud, corruption)

While from 2009, the Albanian Football Federation, UEFA, information from police or the media, show that sports clubs, athletes or Athlete support personnel are involved in match-fixing football matches in Albania or abroad, the investigation results are not what we expected, it remains a challenge for our country.

e) What is the current status of progress on a national platform? What help would you like from the Council of Europe for moving ahead in this process? (e.g. study visit, expert mission, etc)

Currently we don't have a national strategy on this aspect. Following the approval of the convention, a national strategy will be drafted, based on the European countries experiences.

f) What competencies should the national platform have? What actors would be involved?

The National Platform will define the role, the competences of each stakeholders and will develop at a higher level the coordination and the effectiveness of the fight against the manipulation of sport event. The most important actors which should be part of the national Platform are the Ministry responsible for sport, Ministry of Internal affaire, Ministry of Finance (Entity supervising gambling authority) and the Prosecution.

g) What are you looking for from the other countries present today?

1. The experience of the organization and cooperation of law enforcement institutions in the fight against manipulation of sports events in the European Union country, which will serve as a model to implement at national level for our country.

2. The establishment of one network within European countries to share information for investigation proposes. The cooperation with INTERPOL, EUROPOL and companies which manage the flow of sports betting with the relevant institutions in our country.

3. The Law 155/2015 for "Games of Chance" in Albania has defined the establishment of a special mechanism which is "Online Central Monitoring System ". This system will control any transaction between the players and sports betting operators, can give reports on the movement of money, which is important information for investigative authority of match fixing cases.

In the framework of implementation of the Online Central Monitoring System, we are currently requesting your experience and suggestions on these systems.

h) What progress has been made on the signature and ratification of the Council of Europe Convention nationally? Despite the 'roadblock' within the EU institutions – how would you suggest that progress be made in this regard?

The establishment of the mechanism at European level and at national level in order to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention will enhance the effectiveness of the fight against the manipulation of sport event at European level and wider.

IIb. BELGIUM COUNTRY ANALYSIS

The report of this session is a general one as the questions intertwined in the given replies and comments.

There is no specific legislation regarding sports manipulation in Belgium but the existing criminal classifications suffice to tackle this issue (for instance organised crime, corruption, forgery, extortion, etc.).

After among others the YE-case, a hotline was set up with website www.footballfraud.be; a national coordinator was appointed within the Federal Anti-Corruption Unit as well as a national coordinator within the Federal Prosecutor's office. This could be considered as a kind of mini-platform, which now needs to be extended. The hotline should be rethought as well and its name should be changed to cover a wider range of sports.

Belgian LE is in favour of a close cooperation with different stakeholders in this field. As such collaboration has been established with the Interpol Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF) and the IOC, and Belgium, although not a formal partner of the Europol Focal Point 'Sport fraud', does take part in meetings and keeps an eye on the decision-making process and action plans.

The intent to include international cooperation is best demonstrated by some initiatives taken by the Belgian Federal Police, such as the hosting of the IMFTF 8th meeting in Brussels last April and a Partnership Development Meeting (with support from the IOC and Interpol) aimed at exploring ways to bring all Belgian stakeholders together with a view to creating a national platform.

The Belgian Regulator (Gaming commission) also has international contacts, as do the different sports ministries in Belgium. The goal is to bring all of these contacts onto one platform, so that each stakeholder can reach out to various counter-parts and keep in the loop with developments in various areas.

The way forward for Belgium is the creation of a national platform. The second meeting thereto is planned on 29 June 2016. As many partners as possible have been invited to take part and first steps will be taken to achieve one common objective and proceed further.

As Belgium is very well aware that manipulation in Sports is not confined within national boundaries, representatives of Belgian LEA will attend the KCOOS meeting on establishing an international platform of all national platforms.

IIc. SPAIN COUNTRY ANALYSIS

- How effective is the current legislation (of any) in tackling various aspects of sports manipulations? (corruption, criminal, betting-related).

The penal legislation could be consider effective because the crime of manipulation is recognized in the Penal Code (article 286.bis) and, in fact, there are several issues under investigations by a Court and the Police.

On the other hand, there are sports regulations which includes the manipulation, even the participation on betting activities, in their disciplinary codes but the sport organizations cannot access to the player's identification because of data protection issues, so they are not able to sanction this activities.

- What is the situation of coordination between law enforcement, sports organisations and other actors at national level? What are the reasons, in your opinion, for this? What about in the betting field?

There are different levels of cooperation based on bilateral relations. For instance, the Directorate General on Regulations of Gambling and the Police has been cooperating for a time. On the other hand, the National Football League are cooperating with the Police too. At this moment, we are working in the improvement of the multilateral cooperation, integrating all the actors, betting operators, sports movement and gambling authority.

The reason of this situation could be the lack of awareness and acknowledge the fact that this phenomena is recent and there are no clear protocols to follow in case of one suspicious movement is identified.

Even though the national Football League is cooperating with the Police, the wish of all the stakeholders form the Spanish Platform is to spread the participation to other sport federations or sport leagues.

- What is the current situation of coordination with international institutions in this field? (law enforcement, European gambling associations, international sport organizations, Council of Europe, etc)? Examples?

We have coordination with Europol and Interpol in criminal investigations and we are participating in the Council of Europe's meetings in the context of the Convention and the meetings celebrate under the EU leadership.

- What is the situation regard to sport manipulations in your country? What are the main issues? (organized crime, money laundering, fraud, corruption).

The main issues are sports manipulation, corruption of players and directive and some cases could be related to organized crime.

- What is the current status of progress on a national platform? What help would you like from the Council of Europe for moving ahead in this process?

We have just started the conversation in order to create the national platform, attending the current political situation in Spain. With the new government, we expect to implement the national platform.

We consider that the study visits are the main tool in order to design our national platform.

- What competencies should the national platform have? What actors would be involved?

The national platform must have competencies in sharing of information in a multilateral way.

The sports movement (sports federations, national leagues), police, the gambling authority, betting operators, police and prosecutor.

- What are you looking for the other countries present today?

We expect that the members from other countries share their experiences in this issue in order to take it into account during the designing process of the national platform.

- What progress has been made on the signature and ratification of the Council of Europe Convention nationally? Despite the "roadblock" within the EU institutions – how would you suggest that progress be made in this regard?

The Convention is under ratification process but the block in the European institutions has delayed this process.

To progress we suggest to continue with the negotiations in the EU level in order to unlocked to ratification.

IId. SWITZERLAND COUNTRY ANALYSIS

A new gambling act is underway. It should come into force in 2018-2019. This project of legislation is currently being debated in the Parliament. Switzerland should also simultaneously ratify the Macolin convention.

There is no National Platform (NP) yet because of the missing proper legal basis. According to the project of gambling act, the Swiss lottery and betting board (Comlot) should host this NP. This text provides too, that sports betting operators and sports organisations in Switzerland should have the obligation to inform the Comlot about suspicious cases and alerts.

At the moment, awareness about match fixing in the sport movement is poor. For example, no Swiss sport federation takes part in this regional seminar, and no Swiss sport federation answered the questionnaire. There is no or little reporting from the Swiss sport federations, therefore only few occasions to investigate.

The same problem can be stated for the law enforcement level. A possible explanation to this situation: the current Swiss criminal code is not suitable to combat match fixing. The crime of fraud is not sufficient : cheating against a machine is not a criminal offence according to our Higher Court. To be able to combat match fixing effectively, we'll have to wait for the new legislation, which will contain an appropriate criminal provision. Switzerland, via the Federal Office of Police, is member of Interpol and Third-State member of Europol and takes part in the specific groups about match fixing. Although no own cases can be investigated under the current legal situation, Switzerland can anyway offer his legal assistance to third countries.

Because of this situation, Switzerland has very little experience/practice in terms of combating match fixing. We are preparing the future implementation of the Swiss NP and are therefore very interested in experiences made in other countries in this matter. We've started trying to sensitise all the Swiss stakeholders.

Ile. UNITED KINGDOM COUNTRY ANALYSIS

a) How effective is the current legislation (if any) in tackling various aspects of sports manipulations? (corruption, criminal betting related)

The UK has a suite of legislative measures in place. Whilst these are not sport specific we currently believe they cater adequately for betting integrity related cases. Any review of these measures would be undertaken by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The majority of sports have regulation in place to address betting integrity issues which include education programmes, betting rules and sanction frameworks. We are working with those sports that don't have betting integrity programmes to share best practice and encourage implementation of appropriate processes and protocols. We do acknowledge that we do have a gap in cases that involve individuals that are not sports participants where criminal sanctions cannot be applied due to insufficient evidence. (e.g. where sports participants can be sanctioned under the relevant sports governance but there is not enough evidence to take criminal action against associates who are outside the jurisdiction of the sport)

b) What is the situation of coordination between law enforcement, sport organisations and actors at national level? What are the reasons, in your opinion for this? What about the betting field?

The Gambling Commission owns the betting integrity portfolio and has investigatory powers (for the offence of cheat) under the Gambling Act 2005. The national platform is in place with the Commission's [Sports Betting Intelligence Unit](#) at the heart of it supported by the [Sports Betting Integrity Forum](#). Betting operators are obliged to report suspicious activity to the SBIU under their licence conditions and also where possible report potential breaches of sports betting rules. Many operators have MOUs in place with sports governing bodies to help facilitate information sharing. The SBIU is the gateway to national tasking for criminal investigations. The [Sports and Sports Betting Action plan](#) supports the platform at a national level.

c) What is the current situation of coordination with international institutions in this field. (law enforcement, European Gambling Associations, international sports organisations, Council of Europe) examples

The SBIU work with (amongst others); LEA - Interpol, Europol; Sports – IOC, FIFA, UEFA, Tennis Integrity Unit; other Gambling Regulators and the Remote Gambling Association. The Commission is also plays an active role in various regulatory associations such as the International Association of Gambling Regulators. Members of SBIF and Government are involved in various European initiatives (e.g. DG Groups). Specific cases can involve liaison with national sports governing bodies which have on occasion prove difficult to identify the right organisation or contact

d) What is the situation with regard to sport manipulation in your country? What are the main issues?

We believe that the threats are relatively low but the impact high. Many reports are linked to breaches of betting rules or other regulatory offences. We are reasonably confident that sport has not been infiltrated by organised crime in the UK but we are not complacent and believe we have the relevant structure in

place to handle cases should any links be identified. The majority of match fixing cases have been opportunistic for example, players in lower league football teams agreeing the result of a 'dead rubber' match and profiting by placing wagers on that match.

e) What is the current status on a national platform? What help would you like from the Council of Europe for moving ahead in this process?

The UK's national platform is in place although we are undertaking a review to clarify our responsibilities under the Convention and to ensure we have the most effective process in place. The establishment of a network of national platforms would be of significant benefit.

f) What competencies should the national platform have? What actors will be involved?

The platform needs representation from the appropriate regulatory authorities, betting operators, and sport and law enforcement. It has to have relevant powers to educate, investigate and sanction across all areas. A clear understanding of each actor's roles and responsibilities is critical along with having dedicated points of contact within each organisation involved.

g) What are you looking for from other countries today?

Sharing best practice – we hope we can learn from what others are putting in place as well as sharing what we have done in the UK. Good to meet representatives from other jurisdictions who may be involved in the Study Visits or Expert Missions. It should be a good opportunity to start work the network of platforms. It would be really interesting if some thought could be given to some sort of early warning system to share information across platforms.

h) What progress has been made on the signature and ratification of the Council of Europe Convention nationally?

The UK are committed to signing the Convention this year, as announced in the [Strategy for Sport](#)

IIIa. SPORT ORGANISATION WORKING GROUP

Representatives from La Liga (ESP), Fifpro, Dutch FA, Dutch Tennis, UK Professional Players Federation

1. Exchange views on national point of view on MF and sports manipulations

All participants agree that:

- Match fixing / corruption is a growing threat to the integrity of sport
- To combat match fixing we need to practice zero tolerance, not just words but with actions
- We need to be pro-active in our approach, instead of reactive as has been the case
- Education of players is crucial in our strategy to combat match fixing

2. How do you consider your role as stakeholder in a National Platform?

- To combat match fixing, action is needed across three areas: Prevention / Detection / Correction. Sports organisations (SO) should take the lead in the area of Prevention (by education)
- All parties need to play a role in the area of Detection, yet currently coordination of efforts is lacking in this area
- The role of SO's within the NP is also to give players / athletes a voice
- We need to help protect the player and make them less vulnerable
- We need to make sure rules are fair, players rights are protected

3. Discuss challenges you face with other actors: reasons?

- Sharing of (case sensitive) information in a platform with numerous actors is a major challenge
- Cooperation between national and international stakeholders needs to be improved, lines need to be shorter, contacts for different platform need to be exchanged. Match fixing extends far beyond tennis and football, we therefore need to ensure a broader coalition of SO's in the NP

4. What do you want to receive from other actors

- We need more insights into betting activities from betting operators (volumes, transactions)
- We need more feedback from law enforcement / investigators on progress of cases once signals have been submitted. All stakeholders in the NP need to be transparent and consistent in their communication on MF and the role of the NP

5. How can the sport-movement help tackle the whistle-blower issue? What sub-actors are necessary?

- Whistle-blowers are crucial to uncovering existing corruption within our sports
- Therefore conditions need to be created to stimulate whistle-blowers to come forward and report
- SO's can 'enforce' this within sports regulations (ie. make athletes obliged to report), yet this alone will not suffice
- We need to create safe conditions for reporting, and ensure the safety and anonymity of the whistle-blower.
- SO's can only provide limited security, we need help from law enforcement / justice departments to create a truly safe environment, for instance by providing immunity to whistle-blowers.

6. Current national projects in place

- National platforms are in place in the UK and the Netherlands
- Training and education programs for players and staff are in place in the UK, Spain and the Netherlands
- Parties agree to exchange education programs to create a uniform program

7. What other key-issues do you face and how can international level organisations contribute?

- SO's can focus on players, but since MF / corruption often involves transcontinental organised crime we need help from international crime fighting agencies (Europol / Interpol)



- International governing bodies for sports need to address the issue of good governance in sports to reduce the risk of corruption

IIIb. BETTING REGULATORY AUTHORITIES WORKING GROUP

In this working group we have discussed the issues which are more relevant for the gambling authorities in the context of the development and implementation of the national platform.

All the authorities have identified the sharing of information with private entities (for example, sports organisations) as the most important challenge, with special consideration of the data protection issues. This skill is essential for the purpose of the national platform, but there are legal restrictions when we want to share information with private entities. By contrast, there is not any difficulty to provide information to the law enforcement.

In this context, it is necessary a legal base to share information with all the stakeholders in order to establish all the obligations of each part of the national platform and provide a legal base to exchange information.

Related to this issue (exchange of information) the gambling authorities must take into account the autonomy of sports, because the sport organisations can punish some behaviors with sanctions which have a higher and stronger impact in the sport area (e.g. sport license suspension).

Finally, the gambling authorities have stressed that there are different experiences about the participation of betting operators and the relation with the law enforcement because there are different priorities. Not all the entities from the law enforcement have the same priorities in every jurisdiction, so the role of them within the national platform is different.

IIIc. SPORTS MINISTRIES WORKING GROUP

Different countries have different views on the issue of match fixing, formed by actual cases and experiences, and institutional culture on the other hand.

In the Netherlands, match fixing is perceived from an integrity in sports perspective, covering an overarching perspective also including good governance and doping challenges. It focuses on prevention, detection and sanctioning. Switzerland has developed policy initiatives following the Bochum case and has a gambling act under discussion in parliament. It is in the process of establishing a national platform and has good cooperation on the issue with international federations.

Belgium has a match fixing framework in place since the Ye Case, where it has a number of tools and instruments to fight match fixing and fraud in football mainly.

In Spain, match fixing is not high on the public agenda despite criminal law provisions on match fixing. It's national platform is under discussion including football as a focus sport.

Albania has had match fixing cases since 2005 and has criminal provisions since 2005. However, fighting match fixing remains a difficult process and additional capacity, including international cooperation, is needed.

When discussing the role of ministries in a national platform, several saw their role as a facilitator bringing together stakeholders, and supporting the platform in its administration, in building trust and confidence, and in fostering cooperation between stakeholders. One recommendation was to not unnecessarily institutionalize the platform but focus on concrete cooperation. Education and prevention were mentioned several times, and Switzerland foresees a central role for the gambling authority.

The main challenges mentioned included the sharing of information, building trust and functioning whistleblower systems. Additionally, it is important to keep the dynamics within the national platform to tackle the challenges mentioned. All agreed that despite instruments and platforms in place, very little information spontaneously reached the platform, and platforms had to rely on (indirect) monitoring systems and alerts. Challenges arise when stakeholders and federations have a reputation and business model to protect, and when dealing with a problem that is transnational in nature.

Finally, there was broad agreement that there is no one size fits all model for a national platform. While some countries have a culture of interventionist policies and legislation, others focus on practical approach and solutions. Additionally, the participants agreed that the challenge is so complex and part of a larger quest for good governance in sports.

IIId. LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKING GROUP

1. Exchange views on national point of view on MF and sports manipulations

Differences depending on countries. Difficulty with exchange of information. Signing of MoUs is not always possible between law enforcement and public authorities. The network of platforms should help with gathering signals (UK). More information is needed from the gambling world. NL: the Platform is a for policy exchange.

2. How do you consider your role as stakeholder in a National Platform?

Law enforcement can raise awareness about the world of organised crime. Thus information is needed from public organisations. Law enforcement should be a lead for the NP. In the NL, it is the Ministry. In Belgium, it is the Police. It also depends on the political situation and the urgency/need from the country. There is a risk of lack of trust if law enforcement takes the lead..? Ministries are less threatening to several parties.

3. Discuss challenges you face with other actors: reasons?

- international information exchange and notably with law enforcement.
- law enforcement has trouble gathering the required information.

5. How to cooperate with Europol and Interpol about the above? How do other countries collaborate with Interpol/Europol? How can we exchange more information at European Level?

- Occasional meetings
- Help analysis, travel abroad, support investigations.
- Information exchange already takes place but this could be better
- Better exchanges between Interpol and Europol – there are 2 databases – so countries chose and prioritise between the two. In Europe, priority is to Europol.

6. What sort of standard template of sensitive information could law enforcement officials provide to facilitate receiving important information?

- an Interpol/Europol gateway

7. What do law enforcement officials want from other actors in order to proceed effectively with investigations?

Data telling us how the world of the other actors works – signals/names of people who are part of the criminal financial flows. Help us understand their specific domains, more spontaneous information from betting companies, sport federations. In Albania for example, this is a legal obligation.