

Strasbourg, 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2023

EPAS(2023)69

## **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**

### **Roundtable: “Safer recruitment in sport: human rights-compliant screening of criminal and disciplinary records”**

Held in the framework of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport

Tuesday, 5 December 2023

2.30pm - 5.00pm

Hybrid format:

Room G4 - AGORA building

Online on the Kudo platform

Simultaneous interpretation in English and French

### **Concept note and draft programme**

## Background

In recent decades, the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) has supported national authorities responsible for sport, child protection authorities, and sports organisations in their efforts to create sports environments for children that are free from harassment and abuse. EPAS has also raised awareness, both in the public and private sports sector, of the importance of putting in place measures to ensure that professionals and volunteers who have regular contacts with children are properly screened. In June 2021, the EPAS Consultative Committee organised a webinar on Criminal record checks as a tool to protect children in sport. The webinar recording and presentation are available [here](#).

At the 17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport held in Antalya (Türkiye) on 26 October 2022, the Ministers responsible for sport invited EPAS to continue supporting States and sports organisations in the design and implementation of child safeguarding policies and support exploratory work on human rights-compliant sharing of information on criminal and disciplinary records of staff and volunteers working with children in the context of sport. In response to this mandate, the EPAS 2023 Forum on Sport in Human Rights (30 June) hosted a panel on International exchanges of information, where experts from different disciplines explored data protection challenges in transborder data flows, including in the context of child safeguarding (the Forum presentations are available [here](#)).

As it is necessary to continue the work in this important area, The EPAS "Start to Talk" project will hold a roundtable on "Safer recruitment in sport: human rights compliant screening of criminal and disciplinary records", on 5 December 2023, in the framework of the 2023 Annual meeting of the Pool of international experts on safe sport.

## Objectives

The aim of this roundtable is to provide the opportunity for dialogue between professionals from different sectors, to address emerging human rights challenges in the area of the sharing of the criminal and disciplinary backgrounds of employees and volunteers who are in regular contact with children in sport at national and international level. After the presentations, the members of the Pool of experts and other participants will be invited to share their views on how to enable human rights-compliant information sharing, and to explore avenues for further action.

## Participants

- Members of the Pool of international experts on safe sport;
- EPAS Governing Board members;
- EPAS Consultative Committee members;
- "Start to Talk" national focal points;
- Representatives from sport organisations not members of the Consultative Committee.

## Registration

Participants are invited to complete this [registration form](#) by **Monday 4 December** end of the day at the latest.

## Practical arrangements

The meeting will be held in Room G4 of the AGORA building, Avenue de l'Europe, Strasbourg. Please allow enough time for identification and security access to the building – queues can be long in December - and bring with you a passport or identity document, which you will be required to show at the entrance of the Council of Europe premises. For those unable to attend in person, a hybrid option is available on the Kudo online platform.

The working languages will be English and French with simultaneous EN/FR interpretation provided.

Travel and subsistence expenses will only be covered for members of the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport.

## Draft Programme

1.	<b>Welcome words</b>	2.30pm - 2.35pm
2.	<p><b>Roundtable: “Safer recruitment in sport: human rights-compliant screening of criminal and disciplinary records”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Francine HETHERINGTON RAVENEY, Deputy Executive Secretary, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), Council of Europe</li> <li>• Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>George NIKOLAIDIS, Psychiatrist and Research Director of the Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare, Institute of Child Health, Greece</li> <li>Iris JANSSEN, Policy officer, Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security, The Netherlands</li> <li>Håvard B. ØVREGÅRD, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF), Norway</li> <li>Ieuan WATKINS, Safeguarding Consultant, Sport Safeguarding Limited, Wales, United Kingdom</li> <li>Sébastien BOUEILH, General Director, Association Colosse Aux Pieds D'Argile, France</li> <li>Caroline NOGUERAS-FLAVIGNY, Journalist and producer of investigative reports and documentaries, France</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Roundtable: participants are invited to present views on the following questions”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are the human rights challenges in the screening of criminal and disciplinary backgrounds of professional and volunteers in contact with children in sport?</li> <li>○ What can we do to help sport organisations effectively ensure that professionals and volunteers in regular contact with children are properly screened?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2.35pm - 4.55pm (including a 15 minute coffee break)

3.	<b>Closing</b> Sophie KWASNY, Head of the Sport Division, Executive Secretary of EPAS, Council of Europe	4.55pm - 5.00pm
----	---	-----------------