

POOL OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS ON SAFE SPORT

“Start to Talk” project

Call for applications

The [Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport](#) (the “Pool of Experts” or the “Pool”) is a unique group of multidisciplinary experts covering all forms of violence and abuse against children in sport. It brings together policy-makers, researchers and academics, specialists supporting people with lived experience, (child) safeguarding officers, trainers/consultants and agents of change.

The Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport was established within the context of the European Union-Council of Europe joint project “[Child Safeguarding in Sport](#)” (CSiS). Since the end of the CSiS project in June 2022, the secretariat support for the Pool has been provided by [Start to Talk](#), a project of the Council of Europe’s [Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport \(EPAS\)](#) that aims to protect children from harassment and abuse in sport. The Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport provides opportunities for peer-learning, capacity building and fostering exchanges between those who have a role to play in combating and preventing violence against children in field of sport.

The Pool, which currently has 34 members, will be increased by up to 6 new members (possible total of 40 members). **In that context, the Start to Talk Secretariat is launching a call for applications to join the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport.**

Call for applications

This call for applications is launched to invite interested and qualified candidates to submit their application to become a member of the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport. The aim of this call is to expand the existing Pool, not to renew it. Therefore, current members of the Pool do not need to renew their membership on this occasion.

In the following pages you will find the terms of reference and the application form.

All applications will be assessed on the basis of expertise and experience and those in line with the Pool requirements will be selected. Successful and unsuccessful candidates will be notified by the Secretariat. The profiles of those experts who have been selected will be published on the Start to Talk webpage.

Application forms are to be submitted by **6 November 2023** at the latest. If you encounter any issues, please email maria-elena.casero@coe.int and sport.epas@coe.int.

Members

The Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport brings together six categories of experts:

- Policy-makers, responsible for the development of safeguarding policies and strategies in public authorities responsible for sport or sports organisations, at both national and international level.
- Trainers/Consultants, providing any kind of support on safeguarding in sport, including educational/training resources and activities.
- Researchers/Academics, with an expertise in safeguarding in sport.
- Specialists in supporting adults and/or children with lived experience of violence in sport, including harassment and abuse (legal, psychological support...).
- (Child) Safeguarding Officers, appointed by a sport organisation or public authority to work on preventing and/or responding to all forms of violence in sport, including against children.
- Agents of Change, including advocates and people with lived experiences within the world of sport, who are actively contributing to improve safeguarding measures in sport and raising awareness about the issue.

The Pool will be increased by up to 6 new members (possible total of 40 members). Members of the Pool of Experts shall have expertise and/or experience in the field of safeguarding in sport. The Start to Talk Secretariat will screen the applications and nominate the new members. The Start to Talk Secretariat will ensure gender balance in the Pool and give priority to candidates of underrepresented categories. Candidates may be assigned to a category other than the one for which they applied if the Start to Talk Secretariat deems it appropriate, according to their main activity and their profile.

Membership

Membership of the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport is voluntary. Members are free to relinquish their membership at any point in time. The Pool will be regularly updated; its members will be asked to provide the most recent information.

Members will be asked to provide a short annual summary (max. 1 page) on their activity in relation to safe sport and, in particular, the themes covered by the Pool of Experts, as a way of expressing their commitment to the Pool and their interest in membership. These reports will also provide an insight into activities carried out in different countries and organisations, as well as priorities, trends and concerns in this field.

Mandate

Members of the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport are invited to contribute to the work of EPAS and the Council of Europe as a whole in the field of safe sport:

- ❖ Participate as speakers in relevant events, conferences, seminars etc. to share knowledge and experience on safe sport;
- ❖ Engage in the Pool of Experts meeting(s) and actively contribute to the development of topical issues and outputs;
- ❖ Provide advice and support to the EPAS Secretariat, member states and partner organisations when developing their strategies, projects or activities on safe sport;
- ❖ Disseminate information and expertise on safe sport.

The Council of Europe allows members to:

- ❖ Take part in the annual meeting, network, share their experience and learn from their peers;
- ❖ Increase the visibility of their profile and promote their work at European and international level;
- ❖ Participate in and be informed about the work of relevant services of the Council of Europe and of its partner organisations;
- ❖ Be invited to take part in restricted calls for tenders.

Activities

- An annual meeting to set out a working programme for the year. Additional ad hoc meetings (online or physical) can be organised throughout the year to follow up on the decisions taken during the annual meeting.
- Use of an online collaborative platform to share resources with the group.

[**APPLICATION FORM**](#)