

### What does the Saint-Denis Convention say?

■ The Saint-Denis Convention, in Article 4, paragraph 4, states that "Parties shall ensure (...) that national and local strategies are developed, regularly evaluated and refined in the light of national and international experience and good practice".

■ In order to assist States Parties in developing these national, regional and local strategies, it is important to provide them with a model structure for a strategy on safety, security and service at sports events, which they can use as a basis for developing their actions. This model should be adapted to the needs and situation of each country.

■ This model structure is divided into ten separate chapters. However, it is important to remember that all the measures recommended in these different sections are interdependent and interrelated. It is therefore necessary that these measures are designed and implemented in an integrated multi-agency comprehensive approach.

■ This model structure is a good practice for implementing the Saint-Denis Convention in a structured and coherent way, from the national to the local level.

### What should a national strategy contain?

■ Any national strategy should include the following ten components:



#### 1. Main principles and legal framework

■ Any strategy will need to be developed by the government and regularly evaluated, updated and improved.

■ It should include measures to implement the principles of the Saint-Denis Convention and its Recommendation T-S4 Rec(2021)1, including: the protection of and respect for human rights for all participants in sports events; the integrated and balanced multi-agency approach to safety, security and service; the interdependence of these measures; and the importance of international co-operation.

#### 2. National Co-ordination

■ In order to ensure leadership at the highest political level and to promote a multi-agency approach, the development, implementation and evaluation of the strategy should be carried out by a national entity/structure reporting to the government.

” This model structure of a national strategy was adopted by the Saint-Denis Committee as Recommendation T-S4 Rec (2022)1



La stratégie nationale doit prévoir les dispositifs d'entrée et de sortie des stades

” States Parties to the Saint-Denis Convention are expected to adopt strategies that ensure the harmonisation, at national level, of standards and practices in the field of safety, security and service



The national strategy should encourage a welcoming and convivial environment in public places, namely in fan zones

### 3. Arrangements inside sports venues

■ With regard to the organisation of safety, security and service at sports venues, the strategy should, *inter alia*: ensure consistency of approach between public and private authorities; adopt a normative framework for private security; establish a national system of licensing, certification and inspection of venues; ensure a balance between arrangements for the state of the physical infrastructure (the P-factor) and safety management (the S-factor); encourage accessibility and diversity of spectators; and ensure the existence of contingency and emergency plans.

### 4. Arrangements in public places

■ With regard to the organisation of safety, security and service outside sports venues, the strategy should, *inter alia*: ensure the interdependence of operations inside and outside the venues; encourage the creation of a welcoming and user-friendly environment in public places; ensure compliance with safety, security and service standards in public viewing areas, fan zones and other public gathering places; and ensure the implementation of policies on transport, mobility and crowd management.

### 5. Policing

■ The national strategy should ensure that the policing strategies adopted take into account international best practice, including: intelligence-led and evidence-based policing; dynamic risk assessment and risk-based deployment of personnel; targeted, progressive, proportionate and legitimate intervention; and community policing.

■ The national strategy should also ensure that National Football Information Points (NFIPs) and other relevant international police co-operation structures are adequately resourced and take into account the relevance of international police co-operation mechanisms such as host and visiting police delegations.

### 6. Supporters and the community

■ With regard to relations between the authorities, supporters and the local population, the strategy should: encourage the participation of supporters' organisations, where applicable, in co-ordination bodies on safety and security issues; encourage regular communication and dialogue mechanisms with supporters' organisations and with the local population and businesses, including through supporter liaison officers and with persons with disabilities; and promote preventive projects of a social and educational nature for supporters.

### 7. Prevention and sanctioning

■ In the area of preventive and repressive measures, the national strategy should promote awareness of the safety and security risks associated with sports venues among prosecuting bodies and judicial, administrative and sports authorities.

■ The strategy should also ensure that: procedures and sanctions of different kinds (judicial, administrative and civil (sporting)) are complementary; any reprehensible behaviour inside or outside a sports venue constitutes a criminal or administrative offence; sanctions are individualised, proportionate and applied within a reasonable time; and that an exclusion policy is adopted, that it is effective, preventive and enables rehabilitation; and that convicted persons have access to justice and can exercise their right to a fair trial and their right to a remedy.



The national strategy should promote communication and dialogue with supporters



The design, implementation and evaluation of the strategy should be carried out by a national co-ordination body

## 8. Capabilities

■ In terms of capacity, the strategy should ensure that all personnel responsible for safety and security at sports venues are adequately trained and equipped; provide for joint training; and raise awareness among athletes and referees of the safety and security risks associated with sports events.

” The model structure of a national strategy, adopted by the Saint-Denis Committee in the form of a recommendation, is intended to assist States Parties in developing their own national and local strategies

## 9. Communication and Media

■ Finally, the strategy should be supported by a proactive and multi-agency communication and media strategy. This could include highlighting the importance of Council of Europe conventions and standards; emphasising the added value of the national, regional and/or local strategy; and explaining the crucial role played by all stakeholders in its implementation.

## 10. Implementation

■ For its implementation to be effective, the strategy should: provide for the necessary resources; be regularly evaluated and improved; include the possibility of requesting technical assistance from the Council of Europe to facilitate the implementation of the Saint-Denis Convention; and be updated following recommendations made by the Council of Europe.



The national strategy should ensure a balance between physical infrastructure and safety management



” The Saint-Denis Convention is the only legally-binding international instrument on safety, security and service at sports events

## The Saint-Denis Convention

The Council of Europe Convention on an integrated approach to safety, security and service at football matches and other sports events was opened for signature on 3 July 2016 in Saint-Denis (France), on the occasion of the UEFA EURO 2016 championship. It entered into force on 1st November 2017 after 3 ratifications – France, Monaco and Poland – and now has a large number of [States Parties](#).

It promotes an integrated multi-agency approach, covering three complementary and interdependent pillars: safety, security and service. It is the only legally-binding international instrument establishing institutional co-operation between all relevant stakeholders to make football matches and other sports events safer, more secure and more welcoming.

## Useful links

1. **Saint-Denis Convention**  
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/safety-security-and-service-approach-convention>
2. **Recommendations T-S4:**
  - i. Rec(2021)1: Recommended good practices on safety, security and service
  - ii. Rec(2022)1: Model structure of a national strategy on safety, security and service
  - iii. Rec(2022)2: Model national legislative and regulatory framework on safety, security and service<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/t-s4-recommendations>
3. To learn more about the Convention and Recommendation Rec(2021)1, you can register for the following open online courses:
  - i. MOOC on Human Rights in Sport (available in English, Russian, Slovak and Spanish)  
<http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/course/index.php?categoryid=590>
  - ii. MOOC on Safety, Security and Service at Sports Events (available in English, Polish and Portuguese)  
<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/security-safety-sport/pros4-e-learning-enrolment-form>