

### Introduction

■ In order to promote and strengthen the implementation of Council of Europe standards for safety, security and service at football matches and other sports events, the European Union and the Council of Europe have been co-operating between 2016 and early 2021 in the joint projects ProS4 and ProS4+.

■ The project has included the development of an e-learning tool, training, surveys and action plans in several European countries to provide guidance to countries in reviewing their safety, security and service policies to comply with good international standards and practices.

### A unique online course

■ An online course has been developed for government agencies, sports events organisers, sports events partners and stakeholders, safety and security officers and the general public.

■ The general objective of this course is to introduce participants to the Saint-Denis Convention and the associated Council of Europe Recommendation Rec(2021)1 on safety, security and service, while taking into account national policies. Composed of 8 modules, this online course successively addresses the main challenges faced by all stakeholders of a sports event.

■ In addition to the interest shown in the online course by the Ministries of Sport and Interior, football federations and confederations, the police and club safety managers, there are also users from professional football leagues, sports security authorities, safety and stadium assistance specialists, and private security companies.



” The online course, which will progressively be available in several languages, is an indispensable tool for fully mastering the principles and standards of the Saint-Denis Convention

### Presentation of the online course

#### Understanding the historic background of the Saint-Denis Convention

■ **Module 1** is an introduction to the course and the Council of Europe standards. It provides an overview of the events and incidents that have led to a fundamental review of safety and security operations in relation to football matches. This module develops an understanding of the history and events that led to the Council of Europe Conventions on security at sporting events. It also provides an understanding that good practice must be tailored to meet national circumstances and requirements.

## The multi-agency integrated approach, a key concept of the Saint-Denis Convention

■ **Module 2** looks at national co-ordination mechanisms. It presents the key principles of an integrated multi-agency approach and explains why these principles should be implemented through national, regional and local co-ordination mechanisms. The module recalls the importance of providing a legal and regulatory framework, including clarity of roles and responsibilities. Finally, it highlights the need for effective communication strategies.

## Minimise the risk of a safety breach

■ **Module 3** presents the various practices for identifying and minimising safety risks in key operational environments in order to prepare for a range of emergency scenarios.

## Infrastructure management and certification process

■ **Module 4** focuses on aspects related to sports venues, including the importance of roles and responsibilities within the venue, as well as the legal frameworks that should guide the certification of these facilities. More practical aspects are covered such as infrastructure, the maximum safety capacity of the venue, as well as good control room arrangements.

## Understand the co-ordination between the actors in charge of safety

■ **Module 5** describes the tasks and roles of the various partners and stakeholders. The focus is on the stadium safety officer and the stadium staff. It also provides an understanding of the role of the police and public authorities within a stadium.

## Risk assessment, a key issue for safety management

■ **Module 6** reviews the various steps and procedures required to conduct a comprehensive risk assessment in stadiums, as well as medical and emergency plans. The module also addresses the needs and requirements of disabled persons and the health and safety risks associated with the use of fireworks.

## The impact of policing strategies in football

■ **Module 7** provides an overview of how policing strategies in football have a major impact on the dynamics of football safety and security. It explores how policing tactics can reduce or exacerbate risk. It highlights the importance and crucial role of National Football Information Points (NFIPs).

## The so-called service measures

■ **Module 8** covers aspects relating to so-called service measures, which aim to ensure that spectators, fans and local communities feel welcome and engaged during sporting events, both inside and outside the venue. It also highlights the importance of active communication strategies and understanding the legal frameworks used to ensure inclusion and fight against discrimination.

## Quiz and validation certificate

■ To test your knowledge of the subject, take the [online course](#), answer the questions in the various quizzes and obtain your certificate of achievement.



## Reminder

The ProS4+ project was conducted between 2016 and March 2021.

This project provided tailored responses to emerging challenges and current trends in the areas of safety, security and service at football matches and other sporting events. It promoted the principles and standards set out in the Saint-Denis Convention in order to improve the capacity of public authorities and event organisers to ensure that individuals and groups feel welcome and cared for when attending a football match or other sporting event, whether inside or outside a sports venue.

The Council of Europe manages the updating of this course. There are plans to launch further language versions of the course, besides English, Polish and Portuguese, to help further promote the principles and standards of the Saint-Denis Convention in Europe and elsewhere.



” 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)  
<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>

