



ProS4+ – Promoting and Strengthening the Council of Europe standards to safety, security and service at football matches and other sport events (Erasmus+)

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**“Promoting and Strengthening the Council of Europe Standards to Safety, Security and Services at Football matches and other sport events” (ProS4+)**  
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**Annual/season report 2016**  
**on violence, disorder and other prohibited activity**

*Analysis of current trends and emergent challenges  
in connection with professional football matches in Europe  
(and, where appropriate, other sports events)*

**Prepared by**  
**Adrian Dinca, Consultant**

**For further information please contact:**

ProS4+ project, Sport Conventions Division  
Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Sport  
Values  
DGII – Democracy  
Council of Europe, F- 67075 Strasbourg  
[sport.pros4@coe.int](mailto:sport.pros4@coe.int); [www.coe.int/sport/pros4](http://www.coe.int/sport/pros4)

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## Introduction

This report is the product of the Joint Project “**Promoting and Strengthening the Council of Europe Standards on Safety, Security and Service at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (ProS4+)**” co-funded by the European Commission and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe.

The project incorporates a number of sub-projects, including one focused on establishing a process for gathering authoritative data and information in respect of football related incidents of violence, disorder and other related criminality across Europe. The aim is to provide a sound factual basis for undertaking an annual quantitative and qualitative analysis of current trends, identifying emergent challenges and thus determining work priorities.

A first version of this document was drawn up in the framework of the previous ProS4 project, as a pilot project, incorporating contributions of NFIPs from 17 Member States. The outcome of the model version provided the basis for an embryonic analysis on football-related violence across Europe in 2015.

The current version of the questionnaire has been refined and updated in order to facilitate a better response rate from the network members and consequently to offer a more accurate overview of the current trends and challenges across Europe.

To achieve this task, it is imperative that a source of comprehensive data and other information is established, along with a format for gathering the necessary data to meet the aims and objectives of the initiative.

Data and information presented in this report were provided by NFIPs according to their national legal provisions and the typology of incidents, as well as police recording methodologies. The rankings of national figures presented across this report should be interpreted in this context.

Therefore, it would be important to harmonise as much as possible the way data and information - on football-related incidents of violence, disorder and other related criminality across Europe, as well as on attendance rates and banning orders - are collected and registered by the different NFIP's, in order to ensure the highest possible accuracy, credibility and added-value of this report.

Alongside with it, it would also be important to harmonise the criteria to define the severity of the incidents.

Two important legal provisions supporting the introduction of this questionnaire, on a yearly/season basis:

- article 2, section b, point 6 of the Council Decision 2002/348/JHA concerning security in connection with football matches with an international dimension, as amended by the Council Decision 2007/412/JHA of 12 of June 2007, which states: “National football information points shall produce and circulate for the benefit or other national football information points regular generic and/or thematic national football disorder assessments” and;

- article 7 on “provision of information” of the 1985 European Convention on Spectator Violence requires that each Party shall forward to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, all relevant information concerning legislative and other measures taken by it for the purpose of complying with the terms of this convention, whether with regard to football or other sports”<sup>1</sup>.

## 1. Role of NFIPs

The view of both the Council of Europe and the European Union is that the only potential and viable source of such data is provided by the European network of National Football Information Points (NFIPs). Previously, the data collection roles of NFIPs varied considerably across Europe and a more harmonized approach to data collection was necessary in order to implement this important initiative.

The questionnaire distributed on 10th of April 2017 aimed to provide a flexible format, which NFIPs should have been able to complete without generating a significant amount of additional work or completely transforming their current data collection activity. For example, the questionnaire was designed to enable each NFIP to provide data gathered on the basis of an annual period or on the basis of a football season (depending upon current practice or preference).

The questionnaire also sought information on matters like the number of arrests, convictions and exclusion measures imposed in accordance with national law, along with other relevant material such as attendance figures and stadium bans imposed by courts, national football associations and/or football clubs. In requesting this information, it was anticipated that some NFIPs would need to liaise with other relevant authorities or partner agencies responsible for recording the information concerned.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 12 on provision of information of the Council of Europe Convention on an integrated Safety Security and Service Approach at football matches and other sports events foresees the same provision.

## 2. Format of Questionnaire

Section A of the questionnaire focused on incidents in connection with national and international professional football matches played in a State with a NFIP (which covers almost all European States whose teams participate in UEFA and other international competitions).

However, it was recognized that some, but not all, NFIPs also gather and record comparable data in respect of other sports events. Section B of the questionnaire, therefore, provided each NFIP with the (voluntary) option of supplying data on incidents, etc., committed in connection with other sports, if any, where such data is routinely recorded. Section C provided opportunity to highlight any national trends or emerging challenges and to propose work streams for detailed consideration.

Section D was designed to offer a first overview of the NFIP network as regards the size, number of specialized officers involved in these activities, operational support missions, best practices/updates of national legislation and police training needs in order to complete the overall picture of the European policing efforts in respect of preventing and tackling football-related violence.

Each NFIP was asked to fill in this questionnaire with the available data held at the moment of data input and try to adapt its procedures in the future in order to provide a comprehensive and complete overview of its national football disorder assessments.

Section E aimed at assessing the needs and identifying the challenges faced by the NFIP network in connection with EURO 2020.

## 3. Findings of the questionnaire

The questionnaire was forwarded using the NFIP network and the Sports Conventions Secretariat of the Council of Europe to **41 Member States Parties to the European Convention on Spectator Violence** and Misbehaviour at Sport Events and in particular at Football Matches.

**29 replies were received from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Ukraine.**

An online version of the questionnaire was designed in cooperation with the University of Liverpool, in order to facilitate a higher rate of responses amongst the NFIP's across Europe. This decision

proved to be a successful one as 25 replies were submitted via the online version of the questionnaire and only 4 via different formats (pdf or word documents).

The reply rate has increased compared to the previous edition of the annual report ( $\nearrow 70\%$ )<sup>2</sup>, following a proper dissemination and awareness raising done via the NFIP network and the Standing Committee of the T-RV Convention and also due to the publishing of the previous report, which proved to be an useful tool by the experts from the Member States.

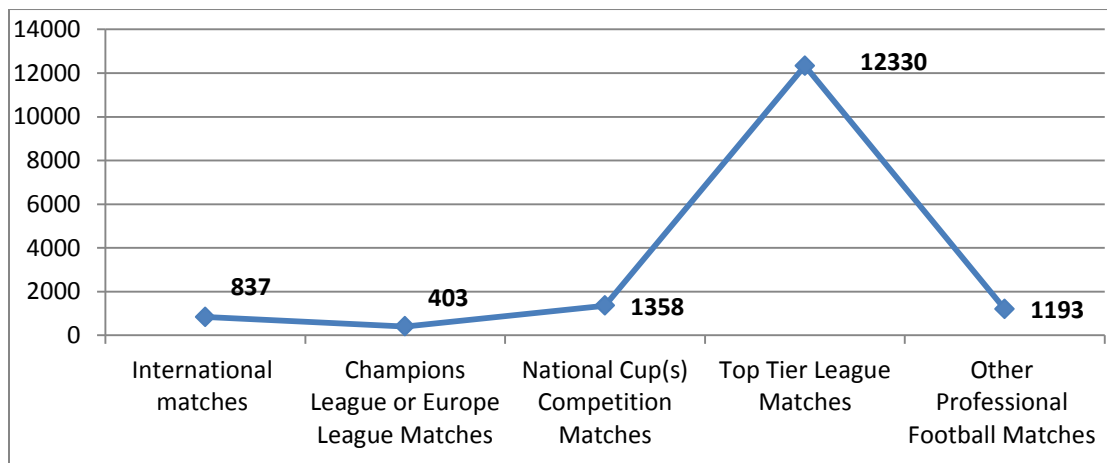
This report is not aimed at criticising any of the responding States, but it is aimed at delivering a snapshot of the current status and emerging trends as regards violence, disorder and other prohibited activity in connection with professional football matches (and, where appropriate, other sports events) in Europe, for the benefit of all the interested stakeholders and practitioners.

Also, it is acknowledged by the authors of the report that there is a wide variation of policing styles across European countries, this being the result of the interference of various factors like: national coordination, available resources, political engagement, integrated approach, exclusion strategy etc.

It is very important to highlight the fact that the figures below mentioned by the responding countries refer only to football matches or other sports events monitored by the police in that State and not all the football/other sport events.

## Section A. Professional Football Matches

### Question 1 - Number of football matches by competition for which data was collected?

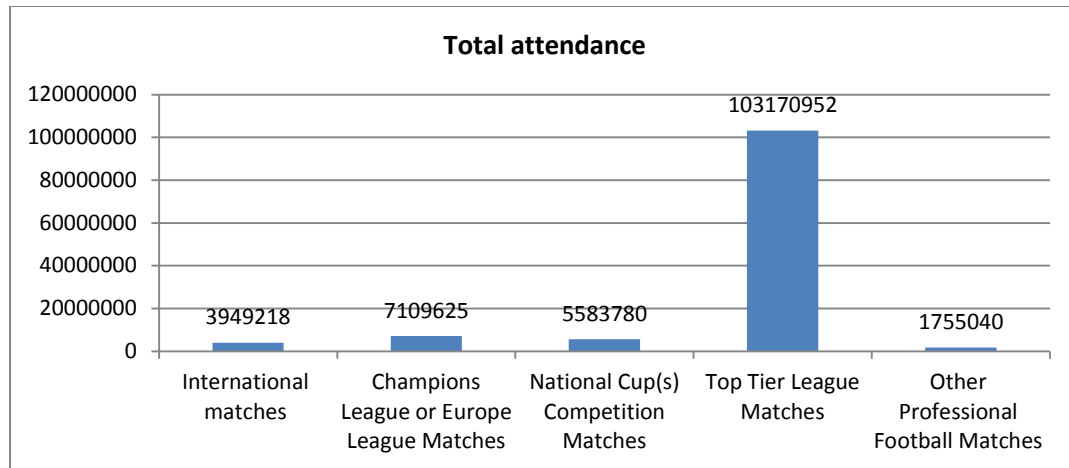


<sup>2</sup> 17 countries have responded to the previous questionnaire.

The total number of matches reported by the responding States is 16.121, during one season or year, this representing an increase of 48% compared to the last edition of the analysis. This is due also to the increased number of responding countries.

92,30% of this total is represented by national matches and 7,69% by international matches.

## Question 2 - Total attendances at football matches for which data was collected during the season/year?



The overall attendance of football matches in the responding States is **121.568.615 fans**, which shows the magnitude and importance of this kind of events and the impact it can have on the public order climate. 90,91% of that amount is recorded at the national matches and 9,09% at international fixtures.

The **average attendance is 6408 persons/match** (724%) which is underlining the fact that football matches are one of the most important public gatherings that occur on a recurrent time basis and require special attention and dedicated police deployment. In view of this, football stadia are potentially vulnerable to terrorist attacks due to the high media exposure and the impact that they can have on large crowds.

The **highest attendance** is recorded in the United Kingdom – **32.050.726 persons**, which represents 26% of the overall attendances, followed by Spain - 17.324.438 and Italy – 17.055.295. Lowest attendances in Luxembourg (22.624), Latvia (67.000)<sup>3</sup> and Georgia (83.192). These results are closely linked to these countries size, population and level of development of the national football competitions.

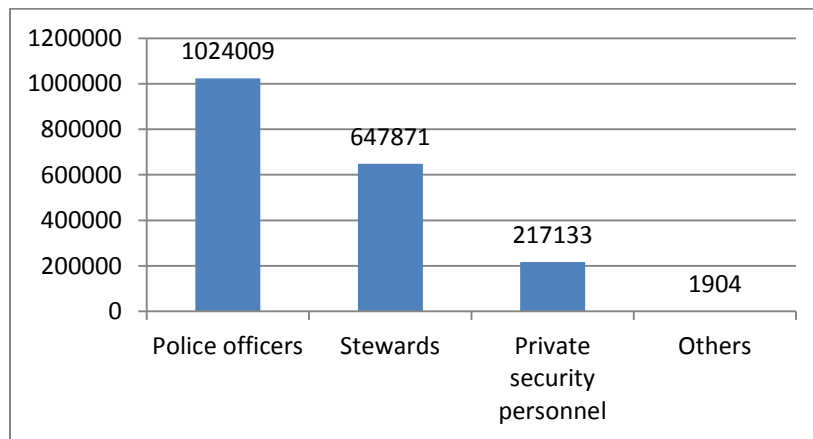
<sup>3</sup> Decrease of 27% comparing to the previous season.



**The highest average attendance** is in Germany (35.069 spectators/match) followed by Spain (17.255) and the United Kingdom (15.711), whilst the lowest are in Lithuania (379), Latvia (372) and Estonia (245).

No.crt.	Responding countries	Total attendances	Number of matches	Average attendance
1	<b>Germany</b>	16131881	460	<b>35069</b>
2	<b>Spain</b>	17324438	1004	<b>17255</b>
3	<b>United Kingdom</b>	32050726	2040	<b>15711</b>
4	<b>France</b>	11365199	797	<b>14260</b>
5	<b>Ukraine</b>	429800	34	<b>12641</b>
6	<b>Russian Federation</b>	3328272	293	<b>11359</b>
7	<b>Slovenia</b>	2664730	264	<b>10094</b>
8	<b>Portugal</b>	4275130	439	<b>9738</b>
9	<b>Netherlands</b>	7142952	793	<b>9008</b>
10	<b>Belgium</b>	3741053	458	<b>8168</b>
11	<b>Italy</b>	17055295	2265	<b>7530</b>
12	<b>Switzerland</b>	2663502	439	<b>6067</b>
13	<b>Georgia</b>	83192	19	<b>4379</b>
14	<b>Denmark</b>	2267362	543	<b>4176</b>
15	<b>Czech Republic</b>	1906750	537	<b>3551</b>
16	<b>Luxembourg</b>	22624	7	<b>3232</b>
17	<b>Hungary</b>	647412	211	<b>3068</b>
18	<b>Greece</b>	1899133	638	<b>2977</b>
19	<b>Finland</b>	615000	227	<b>2709</b>
20	<b>Ireland</b>	630000	240	<b>2625</b>
21	<b>Austria</b>	2576766	1005	<b>2564</b>
22	<b>Serbia</b>	768158	414	<b>1855</b>
23	<b>Romania</b>	1426311	779	<b>1831</b>
24	<b>Bulgaria</b>	599338	379	<b>1581</b>
25	<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	789440	1233	<b>640</b>
26	<b>Lithuania</b>	168450	444	<b>379</b>
27	<b>Latvia</b>	67000	180	<b>372</b>
28	<b>Estonia</b>	93862	383	<b>245</b>
				<b>6896</b>

### Question 3 - Number of security personnel used for football matches during the previous season/year?



The total number of security personnel used for football matches is **1.890.917**, 1,024,009 police officers, 647,871 stewards, 217,133 private security personnel and 1,940 others. This shows the massive efforts that need to be put in place by States and other stakeholders in order to properly secure football fixtures across Europe. The costs associated to these safety and security measures are considerably high and certainly affect the policing budgets in Europe, but they are mandatory for the success of protecting the well-being, safety and security of the participating fans.

The average ratio of security personnel (police personnel + stewards + private security personnel)/match is **130** (↗10%).

The **average ratio of police personnel/match is 100**.

The **average ratio of police officers/total attendance** is 1 police officer to 128 spectators<sup>4</sup>. This average ratio shouldn't be considered as a standard to be met by all European countries, an adequate police deployment should be based only on a proper risk assessment.

The **average ratio of stewards & private security personnel/total attendance** is 1 steward to 75 spectators<sup>5</sup>. The average ratio previously mentioned is referring to the stewards deployed inside and in the proximity of the stadium and shouldn't be compared to the police ratio, as their functions and tasks are different.

<sup>4</sup> A decrease of 18% compared to the previous season

<sup>5</sup> No answers received to this question from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Italy, Liechtenstein, Latvia and The Netherlands.

#### Question 4 - Total number of incidents in connection with professional football matches?

The total number of incidents in connection with professional football matches is 14.994. Consequently, incidents are recorded at 93% of the matches played in responding countries<sup>6</sup> (both at national and international level), percentage which is considerably higher than the one recorded by UEFA at European competitions (approximately 47%).

Of course, the variation in the national legal frameworks and methodologies in the recording of incidents has an impact of the final percentage, but nevertheless this should raise the attention of all the national stakeholders.

#### Question 5 - Severity of incidents?

*Defining the severity of incidents can be subjective; however we tried to use the following criteria as indicator:*  
**Very serious** - Incidents generating significant media coverage, involving a high number of persons engaged in violence or disorder, or resulting in serious injury to persons or major damage to property.

**Serious** - Incidents generating some media or no media coverage and involving a low number of persons engaged in violence or significant disorder resulting in serious injuries or significant damage to property.

**Not serious** - Isolated incidents of disorder involving few people and no significant damage to persons or property.

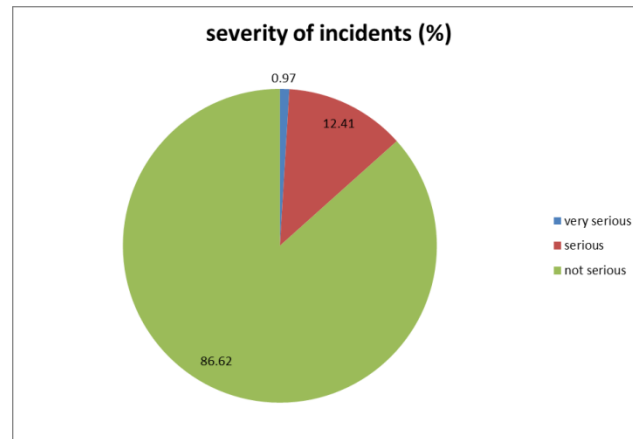
The severity of incidents is divided as follows: 0,97% are very serious, 12,41% serious and 86,62% are not serious.

Compared to the last edition of the analysis, the level of severity of incidents is constant. A slight decrease being recorded in the case of very serious incidents from a level of 1,22% to 0,97%.

It is recognised that figures reported can be influenced by the subjectivity of the local or central police forces, for various reasons, which can affect the overall results of the report.

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<sup>6</sup> Increase of 13% since last season.

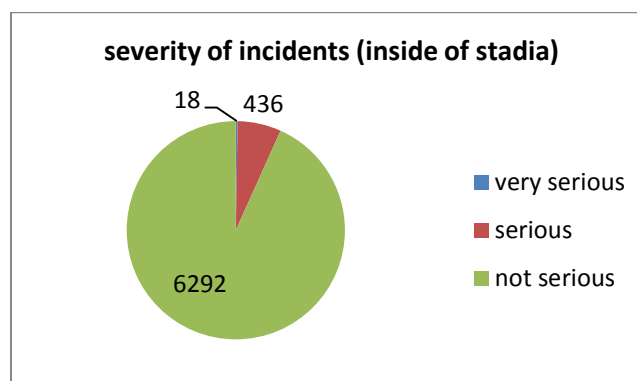


### Question 6 - Criteria applied in determining severity (if different from above)?

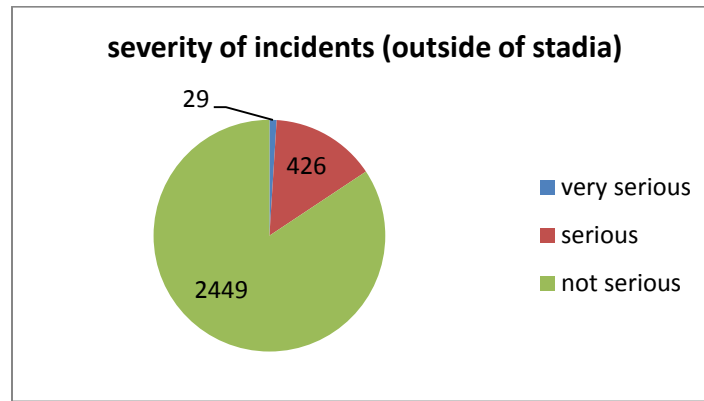
As seen above, the criteria applied in determining severity varies from country to country in terms of reference and national perception. Whilst some of the countries adopt a very strict policy and report all the minor offences as incidents, resulting in a high number of incidents, other countries consider only the high profile incidents/disorder and select them very carefully before reporting.

### Question 7 - Number of incidents by location and severity?

6746 incidents were recorded inside of stadia and 2904 outside. From those inside, 18 were very serious, 436 serious and 6292 not serious, whilst outside 29 were very serious, 426 serious and 2449 not serious.

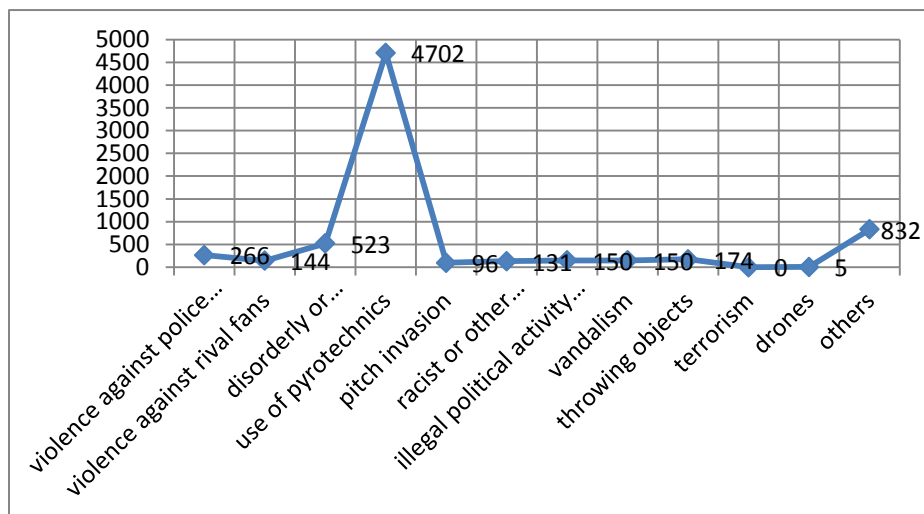


The very serious incidents recorded outside of the stadia (29) are slightly more consistent than comparable data for incidents inside of the stadia (18), which shows the tendency of fans to act more violent in an environment which is less controlled or secure than the stadia.



On the other side, the number of serious and not serious incidents outside of the stadia (2875) is considerably lower than the ones recorded inside of the stadia (6728).

### Question 8 - Character of incidents inside stadia?



The use of pyrotechnics is clearly the most common incident – 4702 (65% of the total)<sup>7</sup>. This figure is even higher than the one reported by UEFA for the same category of incidents in connection with European fixtures (25%).

Violent behaviour of the fans is reported in the following category of incidents: disorderly or threatening behaviour - 523 cases (7,29%)<sup>8</sup>, violence against police – 266 (3,70%)<sup>9</sup>, throwing objects – 174 (2,42%) and vandalism & illegal political activity – 150 (2,09%).

In the light of the above mentioned and the recent “Health and safety study on pyrotechnics in stadia”<sup>10</sup>, commissioned by UEFA and FSE, it is clear that there is an urgent need to act in an integrated

<sup>7</sup> An increase of 13% since last season.

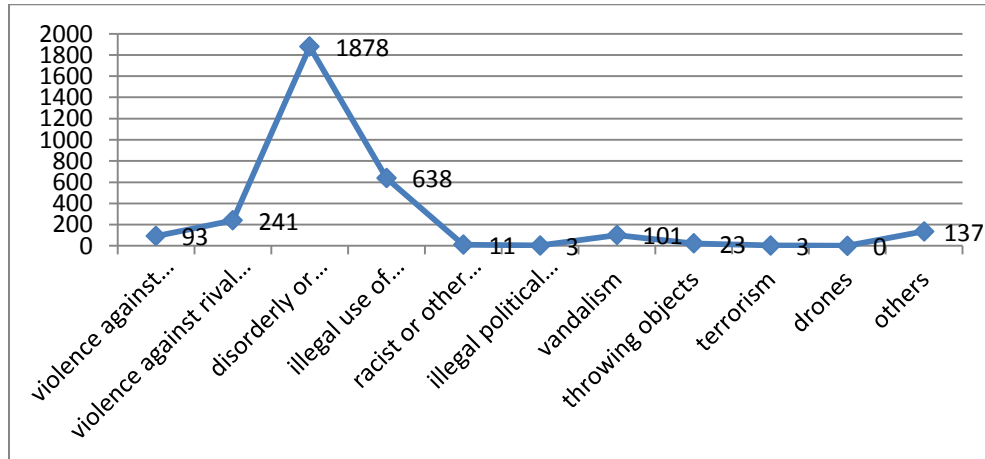
<sup>8</sup> Decrease of 10% compared to the previous analysis.

<sup>9</sup> Decrease of 2%.

<sup>10</sup> Dr.Tom Smith, CarnDu Ltd, UK, November 2016.

way, both at European and national level, in order to prevent and tackle the use of pyrotechnics in stadia, this being the most important issue/incident recorded at football matches across Europe.

### Question 9 - Character of incidents outside of stadium?



Unlike incidents inside of stadia, incidents outside are marked by violent behaviour of fans: disorderly or threatening behaviour – 1878 (60%), violence against rival fans – 241 (7,70%), vandalism – 101 (3,22%), violence against the police – 93 (2,97%); nevertheless, the illegal use of pyrotechnics outside of stadia is the second most important problem – 638 (20%).

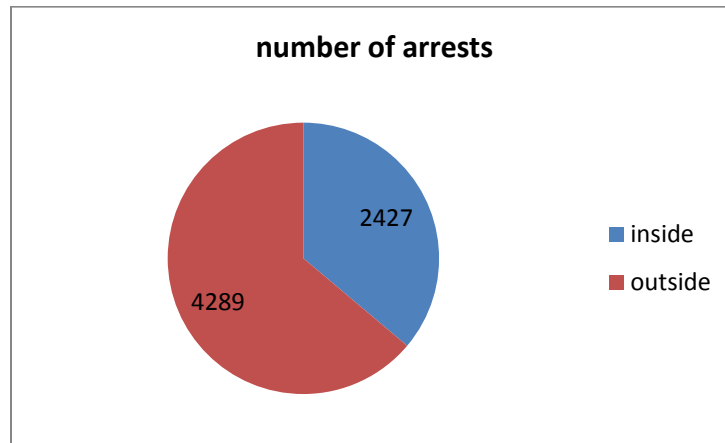
On the basis of the reported data, the use of pyrotechnics represents the most important challenge for public order forces (inside and outside of stadia) and also for the organisers of the football matches (UEFA, clubs, national FA's etc.). This raises a liability issue for all the above mentioned stakeholders that can only be dealt with by working together, in an integrated approach, so that the situation can improve in the near future.

### Question 10 - Number of arrests?

6716 people were arrested during the matches reported by the contributing States (2427 inside and 4289 outside), with an average of 0,41 arrests/match<sup>11</sup>.

Arrests inside of stadia account for (36,13%), whilst arrests outside account for 63,87% of the total number.

<sup>11</sup> Decrease by 22%;



### Question 11 - Number of criminal or administrative convictions for a football specific or football related offence?

**5722 criminal or administrative convictions** for a football specific or football related offences were issued by courts in the responding States, from which 2889 (51%) were convictions following a judicial procedure in accordance with national law<sup>12</sup> and 2833 (49%) were convictions following an administrative (code) procedure in accordance with national law<sup>13</sup>.

### Question 12 - Number of banning orders imposed?

9223 banning orders were imposed in the above mentioned period (6053 – 65% were issued following a criminal or administrative procedure and 3170 – 35% by a national football authority or football club).

Comparing to the total attendance in Europe, the ratio of banned individuals is **1 to 13.181 fans** attending.

### Question 13 - Number of banning orders imposed with geographical or other constraints on behaviour?

From the total of 9223 banning orders imposed, 1194 (approximately 12,94%) were imposed with geographical or other constraints on behaviour.

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<sup>12</sup> 14 States;

<sup>13</sup> 11 States.

**Question 14 - Number of banning orders imposed with a prohibition on travelling to football matches in another State?**

Only 929 banning orders were imposed with a prohibition on travelling to football matches in another State. This low number is determined by the national legislative provisions which make this measure being very difficult to impose, taking into consideration the free movement of persons across the European Union.



## Section B. Other Sports (Q15-23)

Only 10 countries responded to this Section, with references mainly to handball, volleyball, ice-hockey, rugby and basketball (total attendances 9.862.303).

The incidents in connection with these sports are lower than the level at football events<sup>14</sup> (due to the specificities of sports arenas<sup>15</sup> and the different spectator profiles), but similar trends apply in terms of the character of the reported incidents: usage of pyrotechnics (167)<sup>16</sup> and disorderly and violent behaviour of the fans (67)<sup>17</sup>.

Due to the design of the sports arenas (closed environment), the use of pyrotechnics inside can cause more harm to the health and wellbeing of persons than in the case of football grounds.

The number of arrests in connection with sports other than football is 300 (143 – inside sports arenas and 157 outside). Consequently the number of banning orders is very low – 34, all of which were imposed following a criminal or administrative procedure.

In the case of some of the responding States, part of the risk football fans groups tends to migrate to other sports played by the teams of the same club and consequently cause similar problems.

Policing other sports should remain in the spotlight also, due to a consistent attendance of fans, most of them with a different profile than those involved in football, but with the potential of generating risks to public order and safety.

## Section C. General Remarks

**Question 24 and 25** - Please provide a brief outline/presentation of any emerging trends over the past season/year regarding football-related violence, disorder or other criminality in your country?

The emerging trends identified by the responding countries refer to:

- the use of pyrotechnics both inside and outside football and other sports grounds continue to be one of the most important challenges for police forces across Europe. The extensive use of such devices has severe consequences on human health and causes liability issues for all the stakeholders involved;

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<sup>14</sup> Very serious – 1, serious – 37 and not serious -163.

<sup>15</sup> Different than of the open air stadiums.

<sup>16</sup> 24 inside sport arenas and 143 outside.

<sup>17</sup> 30 inside and 37 outside.

- organised fights between rival fan groups (outside football grounds) remain a trend, as the safety and security measures adopted inside sport arenas don't facilitate and discourage this kind of behaviour;
- resident fans in countries other than their country of origin, who attend football matches in a third country represent an emerging challenge that needs to be addressed in a more comprehensive and targeted way; (e.g. Besiktas fans<sup>18</sup>)
- the use of drugs and alcohol by the fans has been highlighted by some of the responding countries as being a contributory factor in generating incidents in connection with sport events;
- following the incidents in France<sup>19</sup> and in Germany<sup>20</sup>, the risk of a terrorist incident is an ongoing issue of concern which requires an enhanced cooperation between public order and safety and counter-terrorist experts, in order to reduce risk levels.

## **Section D. NFIP network, legislation and training issues**

### **Question 26 - Please provide the total number of police officers working in your NFIP national unit.**

The total number of police officers working in the NFIP's of responding States is 135, with an average of 4,65 officers/State. The composition of the NFIP's varies across Europe from 1 officer up to 16.

### **Question 27 - Please provide the total number of spotters used in the past season/year regarding football-related violence, disorder or other criminality in your country.**

As regards the national network of spotters, only 15 countries replied to this query and stated that they are using 868 spotters, resulting in an average of 58 spotters in the States concerned. Spotters lie at the heart of the information gathering arrangements used to prevent and tackle sports related violence and this should be clearly understood at national level and customized deployment, training and resources for spotters should be put in place.

17 countries confirmed the fact that spotters are used also for other sports than football (59% of the total).

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<sup>18</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2017, match Lyon vs. Besiktas.

<sup>19</sup> Football match France – Germany, 13 November 2015, Saint Denis Stadium.

<sup>20</sup> 11 April 2017, team bus of Borussia Dortmund was bombed while leaving the hotel.

Regarding the number of visiting police delegation missions in relation to international football matches undertaken in the previous season/year, 142 referred to receiving support (*523 spotters involved – costs associated 33.499 euros*) and 158 to providing support to other countries (*516 spotters involved – costs associated 64.037 euros*).

In some of the responding States new pieces of legislation in relation to sport-related violence were adopted/drafted during the last year/season, the main changes referring to:

- extend the ban of pyrotechnics to an area in the vicinity of stadia;
- improving the physical infrastructure of stadia;
- publishing the list of banned supporters on the official Internet-site of the Ministry of Interior;
- revision of policing procedures in order to ensure the safety and security at sport events in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention of the Council of Europe on an integrated approach as regards safety, security and services at football matches and other sport events;
- provide the possibility to ban a supporter to travel abroad for particular matches (plus the imposition of a sanction if a banned supporter is identified abroad).

**Question 34** - Regarding the training of the football policing personnel (match commanders, spotters and football intelligence officers), 11 of the 29 responding countries (38%) reported that they have set up national training schemes.

As seen in the case of the Hillsborough disaster, the lack of training for the football policing officers can be the cause of major incidents, resulting in the death and injury of spectators attending the sport events. At this point, positive references were made in connection with the UEFA training schemes for stewarding and joint match commanders and safety officers.

**Question 35** - Considering the areas and roles that would need additional attention and investment, references were made to counter-terrorism, pyrotechnics and football policing training needs. Also, the financial challenges associated to football policing and international police cooperation remains an issue that is adversely affecting police operations in connection with football and other sport events.

**Question 36** - In connection with the Recommendation Rec (2015) 1 of the Standing Committee on Safety, Security and Service at Football Matches and Other Sports Events, the responding States consider that the most effective ways of addressing these requirements are the two types of training sessions organised by the Council of Europe Joint Project ProS4+ and by the EU Think Tank with CEPOL, as well as the consultative visits organised by the Council of Europe.

## Section E. EURO 2020

### Questions 37 and 38 - Main challenges and main needs for NFIPs in the process of preparations for UEFA EURO 2020

Regarding the main challenges and needs in the process of preparations for UEFA EURO 2020 that were identified by the responding States, the following were mentioned:

- the need for a proper staffing of the NFIP's in order to fulfill their tasks effectively during the tournament, both at a national and international level;
- personal data exchange regarding the persons who can pose a threat to public order;
- effective information exchange, both before and during the tournament (via the PICC);
- an updated version of the NFIP website;
- bilateral/multilateral agreements concerning international information exchange.

#### 4. Main conclusions

The higher reply rate (29 States) to the second edition of this analysis, facilitated a more comprehensive and in-depth view of the violence, disorder and other prohibited activity in connection with professional football matches (and, where appropriate, other sports events). This should enhance its value to policing football strategists and practitioners across Europe.

The most important output of the questionnaire is to highlight the scale of resources required in responding States to provide a safe and secure environment in connection with football and other sports events. This, coupled with total attendances at these events amounting to more than 120 million people on an annual basis or season, evidences that huge demands are placed on police forces across Europe. This is especially relevant given the current financial climate and associated major budget cuts in policing budgets.

Both at a national level and more importantly at the international level, the movement of millions of fans is an important challenge for the State authorities and other stakeholders, who are tasked with securing the well-being of their citizens and transit individuals.

The necessary involvement of police forces into football matches should not be considered in isolation as they are not the only stakeholders responsible for safety and security at major sports events. A balanced multi-agency integrated approach should be developed in every country, involving public and private agencies, both of them being complementary and both liable to ensure safe, secure and welcoming sports events.

Intelligence-led policing and dynamic risk assessment are essential tools for security and safety bodies to determine, for each event, the reasonable needs of staff and other resources, thus ensuring a more efficient and effective planning and operation.

Furthermore the EURO 2020, an unique competition that will be hosted for the first time in history by 13 cities across 12 countries in Europe, will pose additional and major challenge that will test to the maximum the international police cooperation capabilities across the whole continent (especially the NFIP network).

Investing in police training, both at a national level (National Policing Trainings - NPT)<sup>21</sup> organised by the Council of Europe and also at international level (organised by the EU Think Tank and CEPOL), coupled with the need for NFIPs to be appropriately resourced and funded to undertake all of their crucial tasks, should represent top priorities for all European States, not only in respect of EURO 2020, but also for day-to-day operations.

The use of pyrotechnics is the most important challenge that the Member States are confronted with according to their assesment of the current situation. There is a clear need for an European integrated strategy for preventing and tackling the use of pyrotechnics, that will oblige and encourage all the relevant stakeholders to combine their efforts in tackling an issue which poses major risks to spectators, police, stadium safety and security personnel, players, officials and all other participants at football and other major sports events. Customized national strategies should be put in place by all European States in order to facilitate an integrated response to this threat (with a very important media campaign component).

Following an initiative of UEFA, starting November 2017, expert seminars on pyrotechnics will be available for the NFIP network members, safety officers of the FA's and UEFA security officers.

The terrorist threat remains at high level, which reflects the huge numbers of sport attendances across Europe and media exposure. Consequently, there is a need to include counter terrorism measures and expertise in the overall policing operations in order to have an integrated and comprehensive approach of this issue.

In conclusion, the questionnaire provided an opportunity to identify the current trends and challenges across Europe in respect of football related violence, and to contribute to the development of adequate and proportional means for responding to associated risks in a manner that will contribute to the enhanced safety and security environment for European citizens. It must be stressed that solutions to these problems cannot be identified in insolation, but only by working together and involving all the relevant stakeholders, both public (Council of Europe, European Union, European States), private (UEFA, FIFA) and non governmental (supporters associations, etc.).

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<sup>21</sup> National Police Training.

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The Council of Europe established this questionnaire on a yearly basis as from 2016 to be able to collect relevant data and present an annual overview of European current trends and emerging challenges in connection with professional football matches in Europe (and, where appropriate, other sports events).