



**CYPRUS SPORT
ORGANISATION**
The Highest Sport Authority in Cyprus



start to talk

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport
epas
Accord partiel élargi sur le sport



Strasbourg, 04 November 2025

EPAS(2025)72

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

1st roundtable for the 2025 Implementation of the “Start to Talk” project in Cyprus

Friday, 21 November 2025
9.00 am – 1.35 pm (EET)

Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO), Makarios Avenue, Egkomi 2400, Nicosia

Working language: English

Concept note and programme

Background

Safeguarding children in sport is defined as the actions we take to ensure all children are safe from harm. This implies that those responsible for sport, sports organisations, and other relevant stakeholders ensure that all children have a safe, positive, and enjoyable experience when participating in indoor and outdoor activities, and that they are protected from harassment and abuse at all times and at all levels.

Public authorities and sports organisations are increasingly taking meaningful action to create safer and healthier environments for children and young athletes. To support these efforts, the Council of Europe's flagship project, 'Start to Talk', provides technical support and practical tools to help develop comprehensive child safeguarding frameworks and procedures. Following the successful implementation of a national 'Start to Talk' project in Cyprus in 2024, the initiative is now assisting with the implementation of the Cyprus Sports Organisation's child safeguarding legislative and policy framework within four pilot sports associations: football, swimming, gymnastics, and triathlon.

This first roundtable will provide the pilot sports associations with technical advice on basic safeguarding elements. The outcomes of this meeting will inform the project deliverables, which will consist of bespoke child safeguarding policies and procedures for each of the four sports associations.

'Start to Talk' is run by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe. Implementation of the project in Cyprus is being carried out in cooperation with the Cyprus Sports Organisation.

Participants

Participants are the child safeguarding officers and other relevant staff members of the Cyprus Football Federation, Cyprus Gymnastics Federations, Cyprus Swimming Federation and Cyprus Triathlon Federation.

Practical arrangements

The roundtable will be held in Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO), Makarios Avenue, Egkomi 2400, Nicosia.

Participation in the roundtable is free of charge. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of participants. A lunch will be offered to participants by EPAS.

Hybrid participation is available.

Working language

The working language will be English.

Programme

Moderated by Elena Casero, Programme Manager, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), Council of Europe

Morning session	
9.00 am – 9.15 am	Opening
	Kalli Hatziosif, Vice President, Cyprus Sport Organisation
	Elena Casero, Programme Manager, EPAS, Council of Europe
9.15 am – 9.30 am	The “Start to Talk” project: practical tools
	Elena Casero, Programme Manager, EPAS, Council of Europe
9.30 am – 12.00 pm	Implementation of child safeguarding policies in four sports associations
9.30 am – 10.00 am	Introduction The policy document
	Stephanie Wheeler, Appointed Safeguarding Officer, Cyprus Sport Organisation
	Maria Papaefstathiou, National Consultant at the “Start to Talk” project, Cyprus
10 am – 10.20 am	Safe recruitment procedures
	Melanie Lang, Reader (Associate Professor) in child protection in sport, Edge Hill University
10.20 am – 11.30 am	Case-reporting and victims support
	Clea Papaellina, Head, FONI
	Maria Kountouri Logginou, Head of the Education, Training & Communication Unit, Safeguarding Sub-Directorate (video recording)
	Christina Ioannou, Psychologist, FONI
11.30 am – 11.45 pm	Next steps - Implementation plan
	Elena Casero, Programme Manager, EPAS, Council of Europe
	Maria Papaefstathiou, National Consultant at the “Start to Talk” project, Cyprus
11.45 pm – 12.30pm	Lunch break
Afternoon session	
12.30 pm – 1.30pm	The role of International and European sports associations (online)
	Nicoletta Flutti, Social & Environmental Sustainability Expert, UEFA
	Nicolò Juglair, Coordinator, Aquatics Integrity Unit
1.30 pm – 1.35 pm	Closing