

WORK TOGETHER AGAINST MATCH-FIXING AND BETTING-FRAUD IN SPORTS

Contribute to a general strengthening of the system, exchanging information, allowing and facilitating methods to combat the combination of results



1. MATCH FIXING

2. PROJECT STATUS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED



3. PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BITEFIX

NEWSLETTER #1



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1. MATCH FIXING

The pressing issue of match-fixing in sport competitions has become more prevalent today than ever. Facilitated by the lack of quality information exchange systems, proper awareness of key-stakeholders, and shortage of efficient capacity building programs to sport organisations and other stakeholders, it fuels an increasingly damaging criminal infiltration in sports.

Therefore, continuous development and improvement of innovative tools are critical to enabling key-stakeholders (law enforcement authorities, betting regulators, betting operators, government agencies, and sport governing bodies) to work together against match-fixing and betting-fraud in sport through the exchange of timely, secure, and reliable information, while raising awareness to the importance of safeguarding the integrity of sport and its irreplaceable role across society.

To help tackling this issue, BITEFIX was created and forms a collaborative partnership project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Sport program of the European Union. The consortium includes 8 organisations: the International Centre for Sport Security INSIGHT, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University (France), ISCTE – Associação ISCTE Conhecimento e Inovação (Portugal), Sevilla Fútbol Club Foundation (Spain), Calcio Servizi Lega Pro Srl / Lega Italiana Calcio Professionistico (Italy), Starlizard Integrity Services (UK), HAŠK Mladost (Croatia), Grupo Desportivo Estoril Praia (Portugal).

BITEFIX allows a group of committed stakeholders from different areas and backgrounds to work together in the establishment of **networks** and in the development of **tools** and materials to counter match-fixing and betting fraud, while identifying and implementing new initiatives, projects and strategies. The project has a focus in awareness raising and aims at offering **quality training** and education packages to grassroots levels and key-stakeholders, thus contributing to the EU strategic objectives of solidarity and prosperity through sports.





2. PROJECT STATUS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

Recognising the need to enhance cooperation between stakeholders and design innovative practical tools to combat corruption in sports and tackle match-fixing and betting fraud, 8 organisations from 6 EU countries, joined forces in a *collaborative partnership* under the EU ERASMUS+ sport program to launch “**Building innovative tools for the exchange of information and awareness raising against match-fixing in sport**” (BITEFIX) project.

The **BITEFIX** project aims to create and offer tools to enable committed stakeholders to work together, contributing to greater efficiency of the existing exchange of information mechanisms, particularly in support of the national platforms under the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, also known as the Macolin Convention, while strengthening the resilience of the system in countering match-fixing and encouraging capacity building.

In accordance, the project has achieved 2 of the main deliverables marked as milestones since the beginning of the **BITEFIX project**:



Guide on best practices in the fight against match-fixing and betting-fraud: Following the identification and collection of measures and good practices at national, international, and regional level, HASK (leader of WP 2) and ICSS-INSIGHT (project coordinator) presented the 1st draft of the Guide of Good Practices on match-fixing and anti-corruption. The partners approved the 1st version of the draft which will continue evolving in parallel to the collection of responses of the questionnaires launched in May 2021.

<https://www.bitefix.eu/good-practice-guide/>



Creation of an e-Platform to disseminate and present the different resources created alongside the evolution of the project. This platform will include and provide detailed information about the different intellectual outputs developed by each partner. In order to involve not only experts in match-fixing and betting fraud but also the grand public, we created a user-friendly website with a dynamic and visual display to make sure everybody understands the content and its different capacity building tools.

<https://www.bitefix.eu/>

NEXT STEP

With the finalization of the milestones indicated above, ISCTE (leader of WP3) has started the design and creation of the **Educational Program** which aims to create a comprehensive e-learning program on exchange of information and data protection to fight match-fixing. The training packages will be available in the e-platform online, during the first quarter of 2022.



3. PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BITEFIX

ICSS -INSIGHT

As an official partner of the European Week of Sports (EWoS) since its inception, ICSS INSIGHT, organised an interactive e-forum with the aim of further strengthening the EU Commission's #BEACTIVE campaign. Building on the motto of "Sport Breaks Walls" (<https://sportbreakswalls.com/>), the activities aimed at helping to spread the message and raise awareness to the benefits of an active life, healthy lifestyles and physical and mental health.

Aligned with the BITEFIX project, ICSS-Insight launched a high-level e-forum "How to #BEACTIVE - Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport" held online on September 28th of 2021.

Within the topic, the panellists debated about Match Fixing and Corruption in Sport - with a focus on building networks, strengthening cooperation and resilience in face of the main threats to sports integrity.

The launch of the *Sport Break Down Walls* project's website, allowed the collection and discussion of multi-sectorial approaches to the phenomena of match-fixing and proposals on how to enhance the exchange of information among stakeholders, available on the platform

<https://sportbreakswalls.com/testimonials/> 

SEVILLA FC FOUNDATION

Invited by the State Network for Sports Safety (RIASPORT), an international network of experts on sports safety, the Sevilla FC Foundation participated in the III RIASPORT International Congress, "Safety in the sports field of the Americas", held in a hydrological way on November 11th and 12th, 2021 (Mexico).

A perfect setting to share the objectives of the BITEFIX Project with more than 160 participants from 10 countries, mostly Spanish-speaking, in order to generate greater international alliances against match-fixing and competition fraud.

The table on "Security and the fight against corruption in sport: progress and challenges" also included the participation of two other international experts, who complemented the vision of the challenges that match-fixing poses for today's sport in America in general, although it is a global phenomenon. All three speakers pointed out the need to regulate these subjects in each country, inform athletes and train from an early age to prevent this type of crime from occurring.

<https://www.riasport.es/iii-congreso-riasport-2021> 

HAŠK Mladost

At its General Assembly held the last 8th of December at the University of Zagreb, where there were more than 47 club delegates, HAŠK Mladost briefed its membership about the ongoing projects. A special focus was given on BITEFIX, which started January 2021, and which is about combating match fixing. The briefing was held by the HAŠK Mladost International Coordinator - Bojan MIJATOVIĆ, who mentioned that among other aspects, Croatia is still not among the very few (only 7 for now) European nations that ratified the Macolin Convention, recognising and setting the goal to fight match fixing by a clear criminalisation of its manipulation.

The Assembly was also about reminding about the Olympic and Sport Integrity values, for which HAŠK Mladost has been standing for since 1903. In that light, the ByLaws have been completely modernised and brought to Gold standards from the BIG4SPORTS system results.

The goal for HAŠK Mladost in 2022 will be to lobby that Croatia gets Macolin ratified.

