

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: AN HISTORICAL PHENOMENON



2. PROJECT STATUS AND MILESTONES



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NEWSLETTER #2



1. MATCH FIXING: AN HISTORICAL PHENOMENON

Match-fixing is a historical problem in sports. The first documented cases of manipulation date back to the Antiquity Olympic Games. In 338 BC, in Ancient Greece, *boxer Eupolos* from *Thessaly* bribed his opponents to become Olympic champion.

When an athlete was discovered cheating in Ancient Olympics Games, the fixer and his hometown had to pay a large fine. This money was used to build small statues of Zeus called "*Zanes*". For hundreds of years, other athletes have seen these statues on their way to the Olympic stadia. The statues served as a powerful example of the consequences of cheating. Some pedestals of these statues can still be seen in ancient Olympia (3000 years later) and the names of the cheaters are there for everyone to see.

Betting-related scandals are not a novelty either. In 1915, three players of Manchester United and four from Liverpool were banned from English football after they fixed Manchester United's 2-0 victory to make undue profits in the illegal betting market. Four years later, the world of Sports was shocked by the Black Sox Scandal. Eight members of the Chicago White Sox were banned from professional baseball after fixing the 1919 World Series against Cincinnati Reds in exchange of money from a gambling syndicate.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic still in 2022, "*ghost games*" have been rampant around the world over the past few years. Ghost games are different from fake games. Players, referees, and coaches are not taken to the stadium and there are no spectators. They do not exist. However, the illegal betting market deceives the customer as if the match exists. Deceiving sports fans through "*ghost games*" puts at risk the very fabric of sporting competitions and the entire sports industry, which needs to be incorruptible at all times.

In recent years, a still in active football player of Spanish club Getafe, Adrian Colunga pointed out that "*match-fixing has always existed; anyone who argues the opposite is lying*".





2. PROJECT STATUS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

The **BITEFIX project** (Building innovative tools for the exchange of information and awareness rising against match-fixing in sport), supported by EU ERASMUS + Sport program 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's Macolin Convention.

The project has achieved 2 of its main deliverables (intellectual outputs) marked as milestones since the beginning of the **BITEFIX project** and is developing the third:



1

GUIDE OF BEST PRACTICES: Repository of identified advanced good practices followed or implemented at national, regional, and international levels, such as regulations, codes, programs, and exchange of information and monitoring platform. This guide is expected to function as a useful resource to disseminate and share information on good practices all around the world.

More information



GOOD-PRACTICE-GUIDE

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AS A CAPACITY BUILDING TOOL: In order to create a comprehensive e-learning program on exchange of information and data protection to fight match-fixing, ISCTE (leader of WP 3) had designed and created an Educational Program to deliver high-quality resources including historical respective, current betting market and opportunity structures for frauds, prevention at European and national levels and traditions, historical practices and current perceptions on whistle-blower protection in sports and guidance for the implementation of the European regulations.



2

Ongoing

During the European Week of Sports 2022 edition, the launch of the first online modules (tutorials) of BITEFIX's Education Program on the project's e-Learning platform will take place.

More information



E-LEARNING PLATFORM



3

BITEFIX e-Community - NETWORK OF EXPERTS AND GLOSSARY ON MATCH-FIXING: through the analysis of match-fixing incidents that come to public knowledge, experts will explain what main risks they identify in the incident, sharing their views (3' min podcasts) that will constitute guidance on particular aspects relating to match-fixing. Also, to deliver clear messages and contribute for the dissemination of information and concepts, it will include a glossary of terms related to match-fixing.

NEXT STEPS

With the finalization of the milestones above (intellectual outputs), Paris 1-Panthéon-Sorbonne University and Starlizard Integrity Services (leaders of WP4) are now leading the setting-up of the **BITEFIX e-Community** - an electronic platform in which it will be possible to access advanced information and expert's views, analysis and advice.

In order to deliver and disseminate valuable knowledge on match-fixing and betting fraud, BITEFIX partners and external experts in the subject-matter will deliver a series of 3' min podcasts: a collection of testimonials related to incidents of match-fixing and betting fraud.





3. PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BITEFIX

SEVILLA FC FOUNDATION



La Razon, the sixth-highest circulation newspaper among general-interest Spanish dailies, and the fourth among those based in Madrid, published an article related to match-fixing making reference to BITEFIX project and highlighting the importance of cooperation, coordination and exchange of information to combat match-fixing. In order to establish a world example of the fight against the scourge, Sevilla is the only Spanish club that participates in the BITEFIX project funded by the European Union.

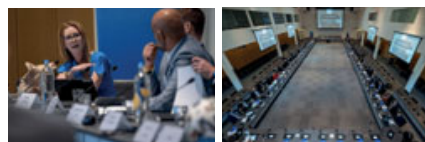
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STARLIZARD Integrity Services



Starlizard Integrity Services attended and spoke at the joint UEFA / Europol conference held at Europol HQ in Den Haag, The Netherlands, on 26th April 2022. The first event of its kind saw Europe and UEFA bring together key stakeholders to identify new ways to investigate and cooperate on an operational level in cases related to sports corruption and match-fixing.



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HAŠK



Miroslav MARKOVIĆ, the sport integrity officer for HAŠK Mladost, shared his useful insight on sport integrity and on the work developed in Croatia in recent years. In the South-Eastern Europe region, sport is definitely at the top of the popularity of social events and carries exceptional public interest and emotions for fans but also for the wider population. The manipulation of sports competitions needs to be integrated into a wider set of actions aimed at preserving the integrity of sports in order to contribute to a more effective and coherent management of integrity in sports. The goal is to protect the integrity of sports by preserving the credibility and uncertainty of sports competitions.

[More information](#)



FULL ARTICLE

ESTORIL PRAIA



With the official beginning of the 2022/2023 season, Estoril Praia organized on the 3rd of August 2022 an internal workshop to all its players and collaborators, to introduce the BITEFIX project and to establish the best practices at a national and international level, in case anyone with connection to Estoril comes across a potential match-fixing event. Estoril Praia is highly committed to become a national example of the fight against match-fixing in Portugal and is developing various initiatives throughout the season to raise awareness for the project."



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4. HOT TOPICS



Czech police have recommended 21 people be indicted for suspected corruption in a match-fixing scandal that involves former Czech Football Association deputy Roman Berbr.

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LaLiga's Integrity team, with a dozen people dedicated exclusively to stamping out match-fixing in Spanish football, has detected and filtered the alarms that have given rise to these 13 complaints, after monitoring 7,809 professional, semi-professional, youth and friendly football matches this season.

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The International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) reported 42 cases of suspicious betting to the relevant authorities during the first quarter (Q1) of 2022.

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UNODC launched the Global report on corruption in sport, which reveals the staggering scale, manifestation, and complexity of corruption and criminal networks in sport at international and national

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The Spanish National Police have dismantled an organized crime group dedicated to match-fixing in the Royal Spanish Football Federation and Gibraltar National League.

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FIFA and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) concluded its first-ever international integrity education programme.

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With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union