

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



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NEWSLETTER #3



1. MATCH FIXING: MACOLIN CONVENTION

The emergence of the manipulation of sports competition has occurred since the beginning of sports. Numerous studies were prepared by researchers and sports governing bodies as well as prevention systems. Despite major efforts by international sports organisations to promote good governance, the sports movement is far from immune to corrupt practices.

The manipulation of sports competitions is a problem with a global dimension. For these reasons, the fight against the manipulation of sport required a worldwide legal instrument seeking to contribute to greater national/international cooperation. This was provided by the ground-breaking Council of Europe's Macolin Convention.

The purpose of the Macolin Convention is to combat the manipulation of sports competitions in order to protect the integrity of sports and sports ethics in accordance with the principle of the autonomy of sports.

The main objectives of this Convention are (1) to prevent, detect, and sanction national/international/transnational manipulation of national/international sports competitions; and (2) to promote national/international cooperation and information exchange between public authorities, namely Regulators, betting operators and sports organisations, through the setting-up of national platforms.

The fight against the manipulation of sports competition shall ensure respect for the following principles: human rights, legality, proportionality, and protection of private life and personal data.





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:



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



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 innovative Educational Program to deliver high-quality resources including historical perspective, 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.

The BITEFIX's Education Program (6 Modules) is freely available on the project's

More information



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 (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.



2. PROJECT STATUS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

NEXT STEPS

1. OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK PILOT EXPERIENCE

During **April and May 2023** the consortium promotes **face-to-face Thematic Workshop** (with 10-15 participants) as part of the Pilot experience:

- Group 1 (**ICSS, P1PSU, ISCTE and SIS**): Workshops with experts in countering match-fixing such as law enforcement authorities, betting regulators and operators, government agencies and sport governing bodies.
- Group 2 (**Sevilla Foundation, Lega Pro, HAŠK, and Estoril**): Workshops with athletes, referees and umpires, coaches, administrators and support staff, which are main targets of the criminal networks, with special focus on those involved in grassroots sports.

2. INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF EXPERTS AND PODCAST

The **e-Community**, based on an **“International Network of Experts on match-fixing and betting-fraud in sports”** will share the Experts' views on a group of incidents that came to public knowledge through news or other sources in our **Podcast**.

The engagement of Experts, while giving visibility through the project's website to the work in this area, will:

- a. Showcase innovative approaches and practical instruments to assist sport organisations, governments, regulators and key-stakeholders in identifying the key-aspects of the phenomena and
- b. Promote the acquaintance with systems to exchange timely, secure and reliable information to counter match-fixing incidents

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

With the aim to help raising awareness amongst EU policy-makers and the broader public on the need to combat the manipulation of sports competitions, the Consortium will deliver the project's final Intellectual Output: Policy Recommendation.

Such *Policy Recommendation* is informed by evidence, perceptions, opinions and experiences previously gathered (Intellectual Outputs 1, 2 and 3), and will encourage reflection, discussion and creativity in the approaches to tackle the phenomena of match-fixing, with a special focus on:

- Capacity building and awareness raising at grassroots sports' level.
- Promotion and strengthening of exchange of information systems
- Inform policy-makers about options that are evidence based, robust and considering various scenarios.



3. PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES RELATED TO BITEFIX

SEVILLA FC FOUNDATION

BITEFIX Collaborative Partnership directed to help tackling match-fixing in sport held its 4th Transnational Project Meeting with all its partners on 28th October 2022 at the Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán Stadium in Seville, Spain. Hosting a round table discussion on the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions with representatives from Sevilla FC, Andalusian FA and Spain's La Liga's Integrity Director, Florentino Villabona.

More information

SEVILLA FC FOUNDATION



STARLIZARD Integrity Services

Starlizard Integrity Services (SIS) announced on 9th March 2023 the launch of Komodo, an **innovative online integrity alert system** offered free of charge for use by sport's governing bodies and enforcement agencies globally in the ongoing fight against match manipulation in sport.

More information

STARLIZARD



LEGA PRO - INTEGRITY TOUR

The Integrity Tour is an itinerant project conceived and promoted by Lega Pro aimed at informing clubs of the phenomenon of fraud linked to sports betting and at carrying out careful education and prevention activities.

Thanks to the Integrity Tour meetings, clubs and members are equipped to face match fixing: knowledge tools are provided to decide what and how to do to face match fixing and avoid damage that derives from it. Each meeting is structured in two workshops: the first with the players of the first team, coach and managers; the second with the youth sector, their coaches and managers, who are closer to the betting phenomenon and less prepared to face the risks. During the meetings, the Integrity Officer of Lega Pro, supported by the Integrity representatives of Sportradar, shows how the manipulators act and some possible attempts to approach the members, the procedure to report the approach to the authorities, the sporting and penal sanctions envisaged in the event of illicit. During the competition Sportradar analyzes all sports data through its fraud detection system, sending a report to Lega Pro in case of possible anomalies. Lega Pro then interfaces with the Sports Betting Information Unit and the Sports Betting Investigation Group, bodies set up at the Ministry of the Interior, and the Federal Prosecutor's Office, to allow the competent bodies to initiate investigations.

"Today, match fixing is unfortunately still a widespread phenomenon in the sporting arena and training represents one of the first and most effective tools to adopt to counter it" declares Emanuele Paolucci, General Secretary of Lega Pro. Integrity Tour and the meetings with our clubs make it possible to increase the awareness of athletes, coaches and managers around the phenomenon, to understand the risks and to develop defense strategies".

The action of the Lega Pro has been widespread over the years: 115 meetings in total for more than 13,000 trained players.

More information can be found in the links below;

More information

<https://www.lega-pro.com/lintegrity-tour-in-casa-della-feralpisalo>

<https://www.lega-pro.com/lintegrity-tour-a-trento>

<https://www.lega-pro.com/l-integrity-tour-della-lega-pro-fa-tappa-a-reggio-emilia>

<https://www.lega-pro.com/avellino-e-recanatese-protagoniste-dellintegrity-tour>

<https://www.lega-pro.com/lintegrity-tour-a-san-giuliano-milanese>





4. HOT TOPICS



The **International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA)** has published on March 17, 2023, its **Annual Review 2022**, looking at the organisation's operations throughout the year from prevention and education to sanctions and engagement. Overall, in 2022, the ITIA published sanctions for four players concerning anti-doping charges, plus a further eight provisional suspensions. **A total of 26 individuals were sanctioned relating to match fixing and betting charges.** In 2022, the organisation received a total of 109 match alerts through its agreements with the regulated betting industry, slightly down on 2021 (113). Its education efforts in 2022 focused on players at the start of their career and the programme reached over 1,200 junior players who received information about the Tennis Anti-Doping and Anti-Corruption Programmes.

[More information](#)



Transparency International: Raising awareness through an easy-to-understand, animated online Corruptionary with definitions that will have you speaking the language of anti-corruption in no time.

[More information](#)



Betting Corruption and Match-Fixing in 2022:
A review by Sportradar Integrity Services - March 2023.

[More information](#)



Fight The Fix (UEFA FTF): The Fight The Fix programme (UEFA FTF) equips professionals involved in **fighting match-fixing** with the knowledge, tools and skills needed to gather intelligence, lead investigations and assist in prosecution proceedings.

[More information](#)



4. HOT TOPICS



Football (Spain): Six arrested over 2021 Spanish Cup match-fixing probe In Spain, an investigation on match-fixing in Copa del Rey game resulted in multiple arrests. The Spanish Police opened the investigation after complaints had been made by the country's top professional football league and a number of gambling clubs.

[More information](#)

[Newsletter.Laliga](#)



Basketball (Cyprus) match fixing report will be handed to attorney general

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E-sport - What is eSports match-fixing?

[More information](#)

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