



Relevance of Integriball Erasmus+



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FOUNDATION FOR SPORT INTEGRITY





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Results

Developed material together with experts, federations, a players' union, and international partners in related fields from betting to policy-making. The project also had the support of UEFA and the Council of Europe ensuring consistency of progress.

Successfully mapped the sport manipulation understanding of football of Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece and Malta, focusing on a **vulnerable population** that has received much less attention on this issue: **youth and women footballers**. The surveys were conducted before the pilot sessions, during the sessions, and after sessions, which allowed for a complete mapping.

The Athletes' guide, Trainer's guide and integrity presentations were developed and tailored to all the country partners, giving each participating football organisation a new tool to fight sport manipulation based on the country's needs in their own language, focusing on their particular needs and situations, with examples from their countries and interviews with players from their own federations.

By using CSCF **international experts'** knowledge in the domain and the support of the country partners, more than **700 athletes** and trainers were trained through pilot sessions, train the trainers and delivery by the trainers to players in 2021.

The sessions by the trained trainers have already started in the partner countries. The knowledge of integrity has been **spread around the countries amongst** youth and women footballers, and is planned to directly **impact more than 10,000 people in the long term**.

The Integriball trainings will continue in all the countries after the project ends. The federations and union have committed to using the developed material to maintain knowledge and raise awareness among this specific target group of football players on fighting sport manipulation in Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece, and Malta.

The knowledge of the project is expected to help to develop a **knowledge product** which will be **adaptable for use not only in the countries of the Partners but also in other European countries and beyond**.



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Conclusions & recommendations

- 1** Sport manipulation (match-fixing) is known to be present in all the countries, amongst youth and female footballers.
 - 44-78% of the participants of our survey said that match fixing is a practice or a common practice in football in their country.
 - Integrity education is key in order to make the players understand what manipulation is, how dangerous it is for them to be involved in it, and what to do if they see such issues – Integriball Erasmus+.
- 2** Female footballers, mostly semi-professionals or amateurs, are put in a very vulnerable position.
 - Women's football is rising, and this attracts fixers. Although integrity awareness is high amongst women footballers, the federations need to pay attention and give support to the football players regarding integrity. This project illustrated that more focus needs to be placed on young players and female players.
- 3** The results of our surveys show that football players welcomed and shared that they needed the Integriball integrity education to boost their understanding.
 - We recommend continuing the education of youth and female football players with Integriball and other types of educational materials.
- 4** No disciplinary or criminal cases appeared in relation to female or youth football. This does not mean that there are no cases, as we understand from the survey.



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Conclusions & recommendations

According to the participants of our survey:

- 2-18% - have been approached by fixers to fix a game.
- 12-28% - know someone who had been approached before.
- 6-18% - believes that they played a game which was manipulated.

We recommend that the integrity and police authorities monitor or understand how to recognize such cases regarding youth and women's football – they are, unfortunately, no exception.

- 5** The awareness of reporting of match fixing is relatively high (although it is still in between 18-60%) amongst female and youth footballers.
 - It is essential to build and maintain the trust and the willingness to report. Use of Integriball education, engagement with players regularly and providing contacts to report are key.
- 6** Betting is present in football and known by the youth and women footballers.
 - 15-40% of the participants of the survey bet occasionally (and regularly). They learned during the project not only the rule on not betting on their sport, but also understood the whys and the consequences. They should regularly be reminded of this.

Integrity education needs to cover the dangers of betting. Use of Integriball education.