Prevention of sexual harassment and abuse in sports

Impulses for an open, secure and sound sporting environment in Europe
January 2012 - March 2013

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OUTLINE

THE PROBLEM  sexual harassment and abuse in the sport sector exists

THE PROJECT  awareness raising, collection of prevention initiatives and transnational exchange

THE FOLLOW UP  educational action/campaign funded by DG Justice/EU

THE RECOMMENDATIONS  issue on the political agenda, research, European task force
THE PROBLEM
Testimonial: I was a dead girl walking, my coach destroyed my life

Paedophile coach began abusing a 10 year old swimmer over seven years

“I put my whole heart and soul into my sport and my coach took advantage of that.”

He had the authority to use occasions after or before training to abuse her

“I’ve lived in a prison cell for the past thirty years of my life, since I was ten because I had a dream to swim for my country, …. I lost everything and now I’m working very hard to stay alive and to be well and healthy and to move on with my life.”

She attempted suicide, spent time in psychiatric hospitals, her mother committed suicide

“All I say is that please if you’re in a position to protect children please don’t let any other child end up with a life like mine.”
THE PROBLEM
What we know

- sexual harassment and abuse in the sport sector is existing
- not enough reliable numbers, the phenomenon of sexual and gender harassment is under-researched
- wide variation in the extent to which the issue is recognized and addressed in countries, regions, federations
- sport organisations and governmental structures in many EU-countries lack appropriate structures to prevent and protect
- the nature of abuse is the same in different countries of the EU (abuse of power, migration of perpetrators ...
THE PROJECT

- heterogeneous network of sport federations and child protection organizations
- 11 renowned European expert/academic advisors
- inform and raise awareness about the need of action, structures, mechanisms to prevent and to protect
- European conference in 2012, Berlin: Safer, better, stronger – Prevention of sexual harassment
download all presentations: www.dsj.de/childprotection
- catalogue Prevention of sexual and gender harassment and abuse in sports – Initiatives in Europe and beyond
download: www.dsj.de/childprotection
- recommendations to the European Commission Safer, better, stronger! Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse in sports
THE PROJECT
Conference „Safer, better, stronger”

Tuesday, November 20, 2012
12:00 - 13:00 Registration
13:00 - 13:10 Opening by David KÖNIG, editor-in-chief of Deutsche Sportjugend, moderator: chair
Welcoming address by Ingo WERNER, chair of German Sports Youth (DSJ) Board member of German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB)
13:10 - 13:30 Evert GROOTEN, Sport Unit Director General Education and Culture, European Commission
13:30 - 13:45 Welcoming address by Johannes-Wilhelm RÖHRIG, independent representative of Germany for issues of sexual child abuse
13:45 - 14:15 Keynote speech “The truth of abuse” by Karen LEACH, a former swimmer, Ireland
14:15 - 15:00 Keynote speech “What we know about sexual harassment and abuse in sports” by Colin BRACKENRIDGE, professor at Brunel Centre for Sport, Health and Wellbeing, Brunel University, the United Kingdom and Kim FASTING, professor at the Department of Social and Cultural Studies, Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Norway
15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break
15:30 - 16:00 Symposium I All - For more information see below
16:00 - 16:30 Coffee break
16:30 - 17:15 Symposium I All - For more information see below
17:15 - 18:45 Closing session with Heike TAUER, Minister for Social Affairs, Family and Health in Thuringia and Chair of the Standing Committee of the Sports Ministers of the Federal States of Germany
18:45 - 19:45 Reception with unlimited wine at the terrace of the house of the representative of the free state of Thuringia
20:15 - 22:00 Dinners at the NIH hotel

Wednesday, November 21, 2012
09:00 - 09:15 Background of the European network by Jan HOLZE, chair of the youth organisation of the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO Youth), Germany
09:15 – 10:00 Keynote speech “Results of the project on prevention of sexualized violence in sports – impulses for an open, secure and sound sporting environment in Europe” by Daniel RHIND, lecturer at the Brunel Centre for Sport, Health and Wellbeing, Brunel University, the United Kingdom
10:00 - 11:30 Symposiums III IV - For more information see below
11:30 - 12:00 Coffee break
12:00 - 13:30 Symposiums III IV - For more information see below
13:30 – 14:00 Closing session with inputs of partner organisations on the future actions
14:00 – 15:00 Convivial get-togethers and a light lunch
THE PROJECT
Catalogue of initiatives

1. Introduction
2. Empirical findings and existing recommendations
3. The status quo in selected European countries
4. Initiatives in Europe and beyond
   a) Action plans and policies
   b) Education and training
   c) Awareness raising
   c) Research
   d) Monitoring/evaluation
   e) Supporting and protecting procedures

5. Conclusion
# THE PROJECT
Catalogue of initiatives in Europe and beyond

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<td>Prevalence of male sexual harassment among Greek female sports</td>
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<td>Detection and prevention of sexual harassment and violence in sport (France)</td>
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<td>From research to a social change – preventing sexual harassment in sports (Czech Republic)</td>
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## THE PROJECT
Catalogue of initiatives in Europe and beyond

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<td>• Evaluating child protection and safeguarding within a national governing body (UK)</td>
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### THE FOLLOW UP

**Sport respects your rights -**

**Empowering young Europeans in sport for a culture of respect and integrity against sexualised violence and gender harassment**

Daphne III Programm 2011/2012/European Commission  

Empowering 16-22 year old Europeans in sport to combat and raise awareness about sexualized violence and gender harassment through youth-led campaigns and local cross-sector networks in six European countries

**Coordinator:** Sportunion Österreich  
German Sports University Cologne  
ENGSO Youth

**Partner:** Deutsche Sportjugend (DE), Italian Aerobic and Fitness Federation FIAF (IT), Campaign against Homophobia (PL), NOC*NSF (NL), ÖLV (AUT), Sportverband DJK (DE), Universität Edgehill (UK)

[www.sport-respects-your-rights.eu](http://www.sport-respects-your-rights.eu)
THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to the European Commission

The physical, social and emotional interaction experienced during sports and recreational activities is well documented in research. The European Union promotes the inclusion of sport on the political agenda of relevant national and supranational bodies. However, it is still not clear how countries within Europe handle the issue of sexual and gender harassment and abuse in sport.

put sexual and gender harassment and abuse in sports (SGHA) on the political agenda of relevant European agencies

support the development of national strategies and guidelines for the prevention of sexualized violence in sport

include European data drawn from statistical and research instruments on SGHA the sport sector and pay special attention to cross-national longitudinal studies

establish a European network of stakeholders, experts and governmental agencies

support a European Task Force on sexual and gender harassment and abuse in sport to develop an evidence-base policy response
Contact:

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