Press release

*(please ensure that all concurrent press releases include both, the EU joint project logo and Integrisport visual identity) – attach JPEG versions of both to email*

**Official launch of Integrisport ERASMUS+, 2019-2020 EU financed Project on tackling sport manipulation (match fixing)**

The official launch of the new EU-financed project under ERASMUS+, namely Integrisport ERASMUS+ took place on 30-31 January 2019 in The Hague during the project’s first steering committee meeting. The meeting was hosted by The Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security, one of the beneficiary countries of the project and the operational schedule and relevant organisational matters were discussed and decided.

IntegriSport Erasmus+ will run from January 2019 until December 2020 and aims to catalyze the efficiency of sport-manipulation-related crime investigation and prosecution activities by providing awareness raising on all aspects of the manipulation of sports competitions in Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Portugal and Slovakia.

The partnership is completed by: EU Athletes who represents the perspective of professional and elite level sportspeople; GLMS, the sports integrity body of the global lottery sector, which brings its expertise on betting and betting monitoring; and Aix-Marseille University, which has a vital role in research activities. Partner organisations in particular will add credibility to the project by including their network and expertise.

Integrisport Erasmus+ was one of two projects regarding fighting sport manipulation (match fixing) which was funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ Sport in 2018 and is unique in its approach to targeting notably law enforcement and the judiciary.

As the Partners of the Project agreed during the meeting, Integrisport Erasmus+ will not only raise the awareness of law enforcement and judicial authorities in the participant countries, but should also establish a standard level of knowledge as a benchmark for law enforcement and the judiciary in the field of tackling sports manipulations. These standards would be able to be used globally henceforth in the fight against criminals in this domain.

The Council of Europe, as the organization with the only international, legally binding text in this domain that notably criminalizes manipulations of sports competitions, through its Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions and its concept of national platforms, in which law enforcement and the judiciary would and do participate, welcomed the project and was also present at the meeting.

The organisation supports the development of Integrisport through the Macolin Roadmap and creating synergies with the KCOOS+ project.

Project Partners

**Coordinator**

Stichting CSCF – Counter Sport Corruption

Foundation for Sport Integrity

**Partner Organisations**

GLMS - The Global Lottery Monitoring System

EU Athletes

Aix-Marseille University (Centre for Sports Law)

**Supporting Organisation**

Council of Europe (TMC and KCOOS+)

**Country Partners:**

* Cyprus Police, **Cyprus**
* Finnish Center for Integrity in Sports (FINCIS), **Finland**
* Rapid Response and Special Police Force, **Hungary**
* National Tax and Customs Administration, **Hungary**
* Ministry of Justice and Security, **the Netherlands**
* The Department of Physical Education and Sports, **Lithuania**
* Ministry of Justice – Judicial Police, **Portugal**
* Presidium of the Police Force, Ministry of Interior of the **Slovak Republic**

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