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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Strasbourg, 25 February 2016

KCOOS (2016) 02

“Keep Crime Out Of Sport”

Kick-off meeting of partners

Dates of the meeting: 9 February 2016 14:00 – 18:00
 10 February 2016 09:00 – 12:00
 12:30 – 13:30 Inauguration

Venue: Council of Europe – Liaison Office with the European Union
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 Brussels, Belgium
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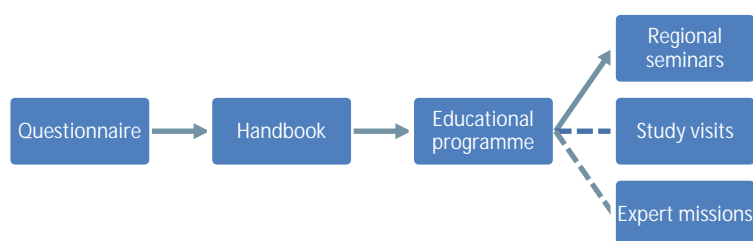
Final Report

OPENING SESSION Introduction

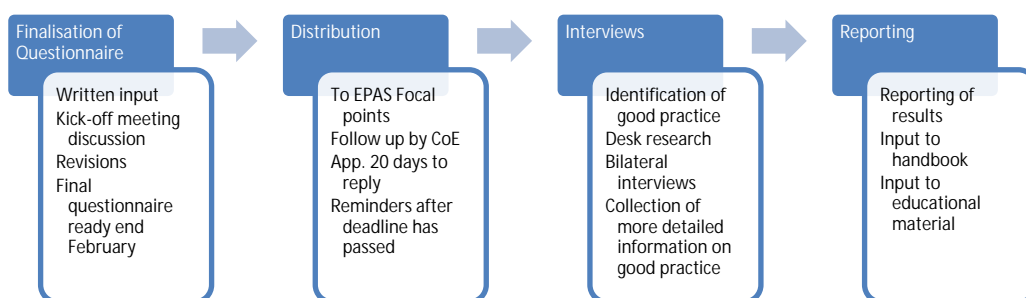
Michael Trinker, EPAS Deputy Executive Secretary opened the workshop and introduced the room briefly. The draft programme for the meeting was presented and adopted. The meeting report from the pre-project meeting, dated 8 December 2015 was also approved and adopted.

WORKSHOP ON DESK RESEARCH – WP 1

The workshop was run by Oxford Research's Morten Larsen and Martin Styrn Koch. Various desk research materials were discussed and they presented the flowchart of development of the various research tools. The overall objective of the questionnaire is to gather information for the handbook and educational material to best serve needs at the Regional seminars, study visits and expert missions. Information on countries' progress in implementing measures of the convention and other anti-match fixing and sports betting regulatory measures will hope to be gathered and a network of national contacts in CoE countries will be updated:



- a) **Questionnaire** The questionnaire's latest draft was discussed following feedback from the partners. The ultimate aim is to highlight countries' needs in the present in order to address this at the Regional Seminars. In relation to sport sanctions, the IOC has already gathered information on this and is willing to share. Questions should also focus on clarifying the work of national platforms and the wording of the question should be clearer ('mandate' may be misinterpreted). With questions related to illegal betting, the focus will remain on implementation. In reality, only one country really has a problem with the Convention definition, which will be the accepted definition. Thus, focus will remain on the implementation of measures and then examples to cover the Convention definition and the definition of the countries using a different definition. It was suggested that the word 'whistleblower' be used with care. Questions will relate to protection by sport organisations and by public authorities. The questionnaire will be finalised by the end of February. Deadline for further comments to Oxford Research was set by the CoE: Friday 11/02. In the interview phase, a question that may be asked is for jurisprudence that highlights such shortcomings.



- b) **Handbook on Good Practices** The handbook was then presented; its future content was described. The content will evolve, depending on results from the questionnaire, and continuously reviewed following regional seminars. It will seek to provide inspiration in implementing measures from the match-fixing Convention. Relevant stakeholders are the target audience and the handbook will focus on exchange of information, national platforms, betting regulatory authorities, cooperation with law enforcement, and

help address problematic aspects of implementation. It will result in a practical, accessible, concrete written document, example: specific examples of sanctions, including comparisons. Petri suggested including information on how some measures currently in place are insufficient, so that possible solutions may be suggested. Optimise bilateral contact between Oxford Research and project partners in order to collect good case examples and capitalise on follow up interviews of the questionnaire, to gather more information.

- c) Educational Program on the Convention The objective is to educate relevant stakeholders on the content of the Convention and provide inspiration (good practice) on how to implement it. A master deck powerpoint (format to be decided) will be produced and available on the website and can then be adapted for the various RS, SV and EM, as well as for general use. Vagelis will send some presentation examples to Morten for inspiration and ideas. This should be ready by the first RS. The master deck will be continuously modified to represent the latest developments.
- d) Time periods for various deliverables A Circular Letter was sent out by EPAS to all EPAS Members and sport director from non EPAS Member States requesting, by 29 February, the national contacts for match-fixing issues. These people will then be sent the questionnaire in early March. Twenty days will be given to reply to the questionnaire, after which the Council and OR will follow up by telephone and emails. The final deadline for preparation of tools is summer 2016, although earlier results will allow for earlier preparation.

WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL SEMINARS – WP 2

This session was run by the Council of Europe. Cassandra presented the interest and objectives of the RS: to present legal, normative and practical aspects of the Macolin Convention; to inform public and private stakeholders – including law enforcement – about procedures, standards and norms on sports manipulation and sport betting risks; to mobilise partner expertise, facilitate exchange of information on good practices; to prepare and inform participants about possible technical assistance and advice through regional / international cooperation and multilaterally-approached actions (SV, EM); to allow for the Regional Seminars to target potential candidates for Study Visits and Expert Missions. The target audience is always the same and the content will be based on the questionnaire, handbook and educational tools.

Each RS will last 2 days and have 30-50 participants, depending on budget. It was agreed that too many participants would defeat the personalised approach. Cassandra and the KCOOS secretariat at the CoE are working on finalising the regions and finding host locations. The proposed format will include plenary sessions and breakout sessions. The deadline aim in order to allow for SV and EM is before end of November 2016, if not earlier.

WORKSHOP ON STUDY VISITS AND EXPERT MISSIONS WPs 3 & 4

This session was jointly run by ARJEL and UKGC.

SV: Both presented their proposals of how the SV would be run and the personnel involved. It was decided that for this package, a maximum of 10 participants should be in a single SV group. This would mean 3-4 countries per SV. The SV would also take place from November 2016 onwards, in order to allow for desk research to be ready and for the RS to have taken place. A criteria for selecting participants will have to be established, should the interest be high. The Council of Europe will establish this criteria, taking into consideration suggestions from ARJEL and UKGC. There is a possibility for other national systems descriptions to be included in the SV, depending on the organisation and decision of UKGC and ARJEL. Cross participation between the two entities is also possible in order to provide as much practical advice as possible for participants. The SV will last 2-4 days, depending on budgetary restrictions. The SV will allow participants to be active, with case studies and

brainstorming sessions. ARJEL will be able to talk about the experience following a Major Sport event as well (EURO 2016). The future selected participants will be contacted prior to SV for information as well as their development on setting up the National Platforms.

EM: This will depend on the outcome following the RS and the feedback on the questionnaire. These two aspects will also help determine countries for the EM. Criteria will have to be developed. It was suggested that at RS, we should check whether needs have developed – it is important to know and understand what countries are facing and how to help them overcome difficulties in setting up various entities and measures.

EMs will have 2-5 experts and last 2-5 days. Claire will present the project at the GREF meeting in June to allow us to have an initial idea of interest.

With regard to the law enforcement as a target group, ARJEL and UK GC will coordinate on a solution.

As for participants, other countries may be invited to participate in an EM, but it must be kept in mind that the focus will always remain on the beneficiary country; Claire pointed out that a group larger than 5-10 beneficiary participants may also affect the nature and efficiency of the EM.

Proposed timeline (the organisers will attempt to join SVs with other larger relevant meetings and conferences):

ARJEL SV – Nov 2016

UK GC SV – Dec 2016

ARJEL SV – Jan 2017

UK GC SV – Feb/Mar 2017

UK GC EM – Mar 2017

ARJEL EM – Apr 2017

CoE will help with logistics for the SV and EM as needed. More detail on this part of the programme will be developed at a mid-term steering committee meeting in October 2016.

TIMETABLE OF ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Information on contact person within member states expected by end of February 2016 following a circular letter sent out by EPAS. Follow up expected. Questionnaire to be finalised end of Feb 2016 and distributed in early March – 20 days deadline. Follow up, interviews and gathering of information in April/May.
- ✓ Handbook 1st version to be ready in June 2016. Educational tools to be ready by mid-summer 2016.
- ✓ RS to all take place in September/October/very early November. If possible, at least one RS in June (depending on preparation of educational tools).
- ✓ Mid-term meeting to take place in October in Strasbourg. A doodle will be sent out and partners have agreed to cover all costs of this meeting themselves.
- ✓ All SV to be carried out before March 2017.
- ✓ All EM to be executed by May 2017.
- ✓ Final conference in June 2017 (jointly with EC and the other DG HOME MF Projects)
- ✓ Final report by September 2017

VISIBILITY – WP

This session was run by the Council of Europe. Visibility and promotional activities by the CoE were presented, including the monthly mailing update for partners, a quarterly mailing update for an evolving mailing list, an A5 flyer, a theme colour (green) and a visual identity (being developed), a dedicated website (in progress), a twitter account (KCOOS_coe), a roll-up (being developed). Some doubt was expressed from partners about the current photo being used; the CoE had chosen this photo, but Cassandra will look into trying to modify this. There will also be publications: handbook, report (mid-term and final), desk research materials (e.g. the master deck presentation), as well as press releases. With regard to this, Cassandra asked that partners keep her posted on press articles they send out and any visibility they give to the project, for archiving reasons. Events have been organised promoting the project, including the launch event on 21/01, a PACE event on 25/01 and the inauguration on 10/02. A communication plan will be developed by the CoE.

Partners have also been promoting the project, for example at meetings (e.g. Finland at the National Platform meeting), via media (IOC, ESSA, UK GC and EL at least have all sent out press releases or posted the project

online), etc. Cassandra also asked Partners if it was okay to have their logo on the upcoming website; in this case, please email your organisation's logo ASAP.

Partners have been asked to use a template where possible for presentations, incorporating the Joint Project logo and using the colour (code: 337700). Partners were requested to send any presentations they give on the project to the KCOOS secretariat for archiving.

FINANCES

This session was run by Council of Europe. The budget breakdown was explained and Michael informed partners that there was going to be a meeting with the European Commission on budgetary issues on 16/02, which the Council of Europe would be attending. An information letter will be sent out to the co-beneficiaries explaining the payment of their services (via a service contract) in early March.

PRESENTATION OF OTHER DG HOME – FUNDED MATCH FIXING PROJECTS

Cassandra presented the BETMONITALERT project, run by Christian Kalb and the PRECRIMBET project run by Pim Verschuuren. Karolina Olufssen attended the meeting to present the Italian project, in her capacity as a consultant for the project. All projects have the same duration and are planning a joint closing conference in Brussels in June 2017.

INAUGURATION OF THE PROJECT

At the end of the kick-off meeting, a small inauguration event took place, with notable speakers, including the head of the Brussels Liaison office of the Council of Europe, Ambassador Tjorbørn Frosnes, Yves Le Lostèque and George Paterson from the European Commission and Bart Oijen from the Dutch EU Presidency. The European Olympic Committee was also present.

Immediate Follow-up action

Organisation of RS; uploading of website; collection of national contacts and distribution of questionnaire (all desk research); mailing updates, communication plan.

Conclusion

The feedback from partners from the meeting was very positive: the meeting was useful, produced good results and has set the path for the next few months. The following presentations will also be sent with the report:

- Template Ppt
- Desk Research (Oxford Research)
- Regional Seminars
- Study Visits (UK GC)
- Study Visits (ARJEL)
- Expert Missions (UK GC)
- Expert Missions (ARJEL)
- Christian Kalb Project
- Pim Verschuuren Project
- The Italian Project