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Empowering coaches and trainers in sports to prevent youth
radicalization and violent extremism

Youth, Marginalization and Sports

European Seminar

zoom  VIDEO CONFERENCE

June 30, 2020

10:00 – 13:00 CET

Register in advance for this seminar on

www.safezoneproject.eu





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Despite the efforts of many EU governments, European youth today still face an increasing number of challenges that hinder their participation in society and can lead to social exclusion. At the societal level, chronically unbalanced circumstances that result in unequal access to socio-economic opportunities (lack of educational, cultural and employment opportunities) as well as discrimination (racial, religious, and gender-base, among others) can result in social exclusion. Whereas at the individual level, arginalization can also stem from the youth's desire to express opposition to mainstream values – disagreement with social values, lack of a sense of belonging to the overall community - that can be traced back to factors that are not necessarily linked to socio-economic disadvantage. Scarce participation in society, marginalization or self-marginalization, and isolation, are generally regarded as **potential risk factors for radicalization and extreme violence**. Combating radicalization thus implies adopting strategies and tools that have proven to be effective in daily practice.

The **SAFE ZONE** project intends to develop a **preventive action** aimed at young people in sports. In fact, sports play a relevant role in the life of many young people - both practically and symbolically - and sports coaches and educators are well placed to play a key role in preventing radicalization among youngsters. **SAFE ZONE** aims to contribute to the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism amongst youth in sports by **increasing the awareness and capacity of sport coaches and educators** to address radicalization and by adopting a **multi-agency approach** in order to consolidate preventive cooperation networks.

Within this framework, the "**Youth, Marginalization and Sports**" seminar will look at sports as a privileged observatory of daily practice to address marginalized youth and youth at risk of radicalization and violence. This seminar - the first of a series of three transnational exchange opportunities with experts from the participating EU countries (Germany, Italy, Portugal and Slovenia) - intends to **stimulate a transnational discussion** about the prevention of radicalization in sports and advance the development of related practices and procedures.

The seminar's aim is to provide a European opportunity for practice exchange and mutual learning while acknowledging the value of sports as an effective educational tool against youth radicalization. The seminar is also expected to contribute to the **creation of a network of European stakeholders** interested in, and working on, combating youth radicalization and extreme violence through sports.





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Seminar Agenda

- 10:00 **Welcome and seminar presentation, Vanja Stenius, IPRS**
- 10:10 **A brief overview of the Safe Zone project, Alessia Mefalopulos, IPRS**
- 10:20 **The value of sports in society against violence and extremism, Tomasz Barada, Vicepresident of the Olympic Committee in Slovenia**
- 10:30 **Marginalized youth and the risk of radicalization in sports, Goran Gumze, Expert on radicalization and migration issues, Alma Mater Europae University**
- 10:45 **Roundtable:**
Youth 'on the fringe' and radicalization: identifying risk factors in sports.
- **Alice Blum**, Education researcher, University of Giessen
 - **Renato Marino**, Manager of the School for sport coaches, Italian Sports committee (CSI)
 - **Nicole Selmer**, Journalist and co-chief editor of the football magazine "Ballesterer" from Vienna
 - **Matej Plavec**, head coach of the Universal Aikido Association of Slovenia and a professional mixed martial arts trainer
 - **José Carlos Lima**, Coordinator of PNED - National Plan for Ethics in Sport (IPDJ, Portugal)
- Moderator: Eckart Mueller-Bachmann, CJD**
- Q&A and plenary debate**





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11:45 Roundtable:

Tackling the risk: practical tools and strategies to address youth at risk of radicalization and extreme violence in sports.

- **Nina Reip**, *Network Sport & Politics at the German Youth Sport Association (DSJ) in the German Olympic Confederation*
- **Beppe Basso**, *Manager of the School for sport coaches, Italian Sports Committee (CSI)*
- **Iztok Kvas**, *Vice-president of the Sport Association of Maribor, Slovenia*
- **Nuno Ferreira**, *Rugby coach and Coordinator of Project "Cercar-te" (Espaço T, Portugal)*

Moderator: Mariana Barbosa, *Catholic University of Porto*

Q&A and plenary debate

12:45 Concluding remarks

 The seminar will be audio and video recorded.



The SAFE ZONE team represents a mix of research centers, universities and sports organizations in Italy, Germany, Portugal, and Slovenia.



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