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SPORT-SIDE STORIES

Strategies to prevent youth
radicalization and violence through
sport practice

European Final Conference

March 25, 2022

10:00 – 13:30 CET

Hybrid seminar in presence & zoom  *Video*  

IPRS - Passeggiata di Ripetta. 11 - Rome - Italy

INFO: +39.06.32652401 - segreteria@iprs.it

Register in advance for this conference on / Registrati su

Eventbrite www.safezoneproject.eu - www.iprs.it

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



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Education providers in Europe are facing new and demanding challenges due to the increasing complexity of modern society as radicalization and extreme violence rank high amongst the concerns shared by international bodies and public opinion. Addressing these challenges requires effective coordinated efforts involving all actors that play a role in the education of youth. Despite the universal recognition of the centrality of sports in guaranteeing the well-balanced psycho-social development of youth, coaches and trainers are not necessarily aware either of their role and functions, or how they can contribute to the educational needs of young people.

Funded by the **European Commission, Internal Security Fund Police (ISFP), DG Migration and Home Affairs, Safe Zone project** has addressed the need to empower coaches and educators in sports in order to strengthen their educational relationship with young people and contribute to the prevention of youth radicalization and violent extremism, in response to this lack of awareness. To achieve this aim, seven project partners from four EU countries – Italy, Germany, Portugal and Slovenia – have developed a training methodology comprising five training Units addressed to sport coaches and educators with the ultimate goal of contributing to the prevention of youth radicalization.

Additionally, **Safe Zone** has sought to increase awareness of, and promote cooperation between, the various local, national and transnational actors involved in youth education. The project partners have thus adopted a multi-agency approach with meetings in all partner-countries in order to maximize the effectiveness of joint risk assessment, information sharing, and responsibility for decisions.

The project aims at supporting the development of prevention strategies for local and national action as well as the development of national and EU policies also through three transnational exchange seminars carried out and the development of EU guidelines.

As the final event, the European conference "**Sport-side stories: strategies to prevent youth radicalization and violence through sport practice**" will provide an exchange opportunity between sport coaches, youth educators, and experts from four EU countries with the aim to stimulate a transnational debate on the most appropriate tools and strategies for the prevention of youth radicalization and violent extremism.

The stories and experiences of juvenile coaches and educators will add to the good practices presented by experts to address sports' valuable potentialities and opportunities in tackling youth vulnerability and radicalization risk. The event will also provide an opportunity to share the main findings and key outputs of the **SAFE ZONE** project – e.g., the **e-learning platform**, the **EU guidelines** and the "**Prevention through sport**" handbook.

Conference Agenda

- 10:00 **Welcome and conference presentation**
Raffaele Bracalenti, IPRS President
- 10:10 **Safe Zone project: key issues and findings**
Alessia Mefalopulos, IPRS
Mariana Barbosa, Catholic University of Porto
- 10:25 **Sport practice as a means to preventing youth violence**
Alessandra Pietrini, General Secretariat and Welfare Area, Italian
Sport Centre
- 10:40 **Young people's sport practice and the impact of Covid-19 pandemic**
Paulo Rocha, Head of Sport for All Division, IPDJ| National Sport for All
Program, Guest Assistant Professor at Faculty of Human Motility of the
University of Lisbon

10.55 **SESSION I:**

**THE PEDAGOGICAL DIMENSION OF SPORT PRACTICE:
THE VOICE OF SPORT COACHES**

*Moderator: **Goran Gumze**, Alma Mater Europe University*

- **Nuno Delgado**, European Champion and Winner of the first Olympic medal in judo for Portugal and sport educator at Judo School, *Portugal*
- **Matej Plavec**, Head coach of the Universal Aikido Association of Slovenia and a professional mixed martial arts trainer, *Slovenia*
- **Sebastian Mohr**, Sport coach and researcher on youth radicalization, *Germany*
- **Antonella Bellutti**, Twice Olympic champion in track cycling; Training Coordinator of European projects on Fair Coaching and Anti-harassment service in sport at ASSIST - National association of female athletes

11.50 **COFFE BREAK**

12.10 **SESSION II:**
**SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES FOR THE PREVENTION OF
YOUTH VIOLENCE IN SPORT**

Moderator: Eckart Mueller Bachmann, CJD

- **Mário Cachada**, IPDJ Ambassador for Ethics in Sport, Guest Assistant Professor at Faculty of Sports of University of Porto, Coordinator Professor at Higher Institute of Educational Sciences and Professor at School Almeida Garrett, *Portugal*
- **Sara Vivirito**, Athletics coach with children and teenagers and CEIPES project manager in the areas of sport, health promotion, disability and special educational needs, *Italy*
- **Andy Watzlawczyk**, Consultant for Social Affairs at the Federal Football Association of Schleswig-Holstein (Schleswig-Holsteinischer Fußballverband), *Germany*
- **Matej Lunežnik**, Sport psychologist working with young athletes, *Slovenia*.
- **Tommaso Trevisi**, GEA Project Manager in the areas of sport, education and social inclusion, *Italy*

13.00 **Q&A and plenary debate**

13.20 **Concluding remarks**

The seminar will be audio and video recorded.



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