



**VOICE**  
**Voices for truth and dignity -**  
**Combating sexual violence in European**  
**sport through the voices of those affected**



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Newsletter  
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## Overview

## Combating Sexual Violence in Sport

### AIMS

The project is based on the principle that policy and initiatives generated from the accounts of those that have experienced sexual violence in sports settings will be highly valued and, therefore, most effective in 'reaching' the sports community and promoting knowledge-transfer, education and development.

### THE RESEARCH WILL:

- Provide a space for those who have suffered sexualised violence in institutions related to the delivery of sport, to recount their experiences;
- Consider the causes, nature, and circumstances of harassment and abuse within the sport context;
- Prepare and publish reports including recommendations.

Research of this nature is highly sensitive and is subject to strict ethical procedures and protocols developed from best practice in the field.

## Design and key actions



The VOICE-project started in January 2016 and will finish in June 2018. It is delivered via six work packages:

- Conduct a European and comparative research study with those who have been affected by sexual violence in sport, including a status quo analysis on intervention policies in 8 European countries;
- Stage 8 national/regional 'Acknowledgement Forums' with key stakeholders from the sport and victim-support communities;
- Convene a multi-national European workshop to:
  - initiate/develop networks,
  - exchange good practice, and
  - create concepts for education resources on prevention of child sexual exploitation and abuse in European sport;
- Generate evidence-based educational resources for the European sports community aimed at the prevention of child sexual exploitation and abuse in, and through sport.

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# Partners Progress Report Vienna, February 2017



On February 23 and 24, partners in the European project VOICE met for a report meeting in Vienna, Austria. The project focuses on combatting sexual violence and harassment in European sport through research and by listening to voices of those affected, promoting safe sporting environments and freedom from harassment, violence, exploitation and abuse. The meeting started on Thursday morning with an overview of the main activities and achievements by the coordinators & steering group, led by German Sport University, NWG-Network and a survivor of sexual abuse.

University partners from eight participating countries - German Sport University (GER), Edge Hill University (GBR), University of Ljubljana (SLO), University of Southern Denmark (DEN), University of Debrecen & University of Budapest (HUN), University of Vienna (AUT), University of Antwerp & Thomas More University College (BEL), University of Vic - University Central of Catalunya (ESP) presented their status quo in the project. The research started with interviews with the victims and survivors of sexual harassment & abuse, and the call is still open. Analysis will follow, and stories will be shared after being anonymised.

The four sport organisations partners European University Sports Association (EUSA), European Paralympic Committee (EPC), Youth Section of the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO Youth) and the European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF) also presented their activities and shared their commitments and -dissemination plan. Sports organisations play an important role in the project, especially in the promotion, education and dissemination part, as well as in implementation of the recommendations that will follow the project outcomes.

The national forums will start end of March and will continue throughout the year; the first one will be organised in Barcelona on March 29, 2017. A European workshop will be held September 25-29, 2017 in Cologne and the Final Conference May 3-5, 2018 in Bergisch Gladbach near Cologne.



A traditional local hostelry to get to know each other.

## APPEAL

The project consortium is looking for organisations to support the initiative and activities, as well as individuals affected by sexual violence or abuse in the context of sport or physical education.

**If you have been affected, or know somebody who has been, we would like to hear from you.**

*We apply a broad definition of sexual violence, including a wide range of behaviours, e.g. verbal and emotional sexual harassment, physical sexual violence and also homophobic violence.*

We especially invite individuals living in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Spain and United Kingdom (project partner countries) to contact the researchers in these countries, helping us share the story and conduct a European research study. All contacts are strictly confidential and identity of participants taking part in a research interview is protected.

**If you wish to contribute your experience to the research please contact the research team in your country:**

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