

PARTNERS

The VOICE project is a collaboration between eight universities, four pan-European sports agencies and one victim advocacy organisation. In addition, each university is partnered with a national sports agency and a national child protection or victim support organisation. This systematic cooperation will secure support for the victims, generate sound research data and enable the development of contextualised resources for the benefit of the European sport community and beyond.

THE PROJECT IS LED BY THE

German Sport University / Dr. Bettina Rulofs & Gitta Axmann

FURTHER PARTNERS ARE

- » Edge Hill University / Dr. Mike Hartill
- » University of Ljubljana / Prof. Dr. Mojca Doupona Topic
- » University of Southern Denmark / Dr. Jan Toftegaard
- » University of Debrecen / Dr. Szilvia Perényi
- » University of Vienna / Ass.-Prof. Dr. Rosa Diketmüller
- » University of Antwerp & Thomas More University College / Tine Vertommen
- » University of Vic - University Central of Catalunya / Dr. Montserrat Martin
- » The Youth Organisation of European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation / Michael Leyendecker
- » European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation / Annette Wachter
- » European Paralympic Committee / Saskia Kanfer
- » European University Sports Association / Andrej Pisl
- » NWG-Network / Sheila Taylor

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT

If you have been affected by sexual violence or abuse in the context of sport or physical education, we would like to hear from you.

If you are interested in sharing your story with the VOICE project please contact us via the details below. Further details are available on our website. Any contact will be strictly confidential and if you decide to participate in a research interview your identity will be protected.

VOICE applies a definition of sexual violence that includes sexual abuse and exploitation, physical sexual violence, sexual harassment and homophobic violence. For explicit definitions please see the VOICE website.



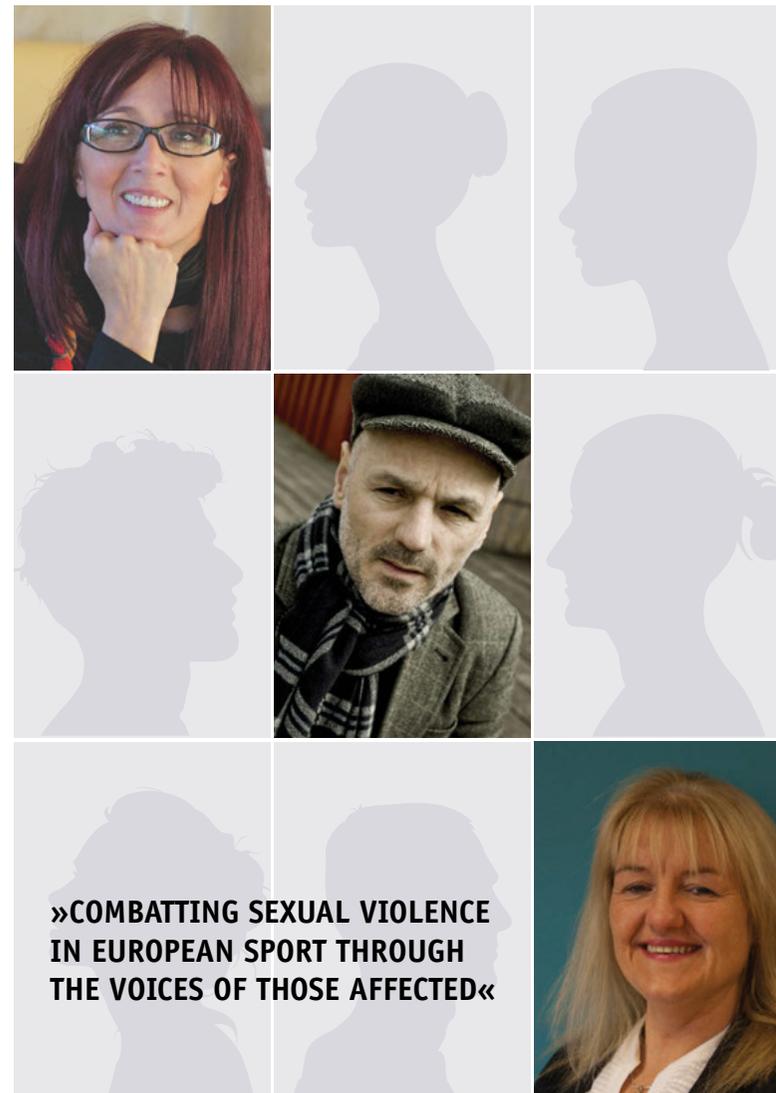
CONTACT DETAILS

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VOICES FOR TRUTH AND DIGNITY



» VOICE

SPEAK OUT FOR CHANGE

BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF THE PROJECT

In 2014 the European Union acknowledged that “gender based violence in sport, especially sexual harassment and abuse of minors, is a significant problem but requires additional research so that it can be better understood”.

The VOICE project acts on this premise and aims to prioritise the voices of those who have been affected by sexual violence, abuse and exploitation in sport. VOICE will generate a crucial evidence-base from life-history interviews across 8 European countries. The accounts of those who have been affected by sexual violence will be used as a platform to produce knowledge-exchange and educational resources. The objective is to enhance the sports community’s capacity to combat sexual violence and strengthen the integrity of sport.

Those affected by sexual harassment and violence in sport are at the centre of the project.

This includes the presence of ex-Olympian gymnast Gloria Viseras on the project steering committee. Gloria has spoken out about her childhood experiences of sexual abuse within sport. She is accompanied by others who have previously spoken about their experiences, such as swimmer Karen Leach in Ireland and football player Ralf Zitzmann in Germany. Their experiences will help sport organisations to develop a deeper understanding of this problem and, therefore, a greater capacity to prevent it within their own settings.

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“It is your right to speak your truth. Your voice, Your life, Your truth. Let no one take this from you, You did nothing Wrong ... Let your Voice be Free.” Karen Leach



“It makes sense to speak about what has happened.”

Ralf Zitzmann



“Your life story is very important. Your VOICE will help other athletes.” Gloria Viseras

KEY ACTIONS OF THE PROJECT

- » conduct a European research study with those who have been affected by sexual violence in sport in 8 European countries;
- » stage 8 national or regional ‘Acknowledgement Forums’ with key stakeholders from the sport and victim-support communities;
- » develop networks, exchange good practice and generate educational resources for the European sports community;
- » disseminate outputs to the wider European sports community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORUMS

A crucial feature of the project will be the staging of 8 ‘Acknowledgement Forums’ across Europe, with relevant stakeholders, to initiate formal dialogue between victims, sport organisations and victims’ organisations within each country.

These Forums will be an opportunity for victims, where they so wish, to engage in dialogue with each other and with key stakeholders in sport, in a supportive, safe environment. A key objective is to help create better conditions for reconciliation by encouraging institutional reform and changes in culture.