



# Guidelines for the Creation of Multi-Agency Networks

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WP4\_D4.2\_CESIE\_ITALY



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Programme (2014-2020)



## Partners

KMOP – Greece

CARDET – Cyprus

CESIE – Italy

CESIS – Portugal

Children 1st – United Kingdom

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## Acknowledgements & Disclaimer

This document was produced within the framework of the ACTIVE project: *Focus on Children; Strengthening Policies in Sports and Leisure Activities*, and is funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC 2014-2020) under the number 856826.

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## Guidelines for the Creation of Multi-Agency Networks

ACTIVE is a **transnational project** that aims to promote the **embedding of child protection policies in sports organisations, including clubs, academies and associations.**

Our objectives:

- To improve **data collection and knowledge** around the **prevention of violence against children and on child protection policies** in the field of **sports and leisure activities** by identifying gaps and best practices;
- To increase knowledge and **skills of professionals** in appropriately preventing and responding to violence against children through a **Capacity Building program**
- To implement concrete safeguarding policies through the provision of an online assessment tool for sports & leisure activities organizations
- To improve **child-centered approaches** to fight and respond to violence cases against children in sports through **transnational exchange of good practices** and the establishment of **Multi-agency networks (public authorities/institutions, local authorities, civil society, academia, practitioners).**

The Work Package 4 of the ACTIVE project - **Exchange of knowledge on how to build partnerships and enable cooperation with stakeholders** aims to:

- exchange knowledge on how to build partnerships and enable cooperation with key stakeholders at national level enable the implementation of the capacity building program and the tools that will be developed through as systematic approach (WP3).

It involves three main activities:

- ✓ 4.1 Exchange of knowledge and best practices workshop 14th– 15th October 2020 – held Online
- ✓ 4.2 Development of guidelines to create multi-agency networks
- ✓ 4.3 National workshops to establish cooperation



The main aim of the **Guidelines** is **to enable partners to create multi-agency networks** (sports and leisure clubs and organizations, sports federations, public authorities/institutions, local authorities, civil society, academia etc) to foster **cooperation with key stakeholders** at national level and the **implementation of the capacity building program and the tools developed** so far.

Grant Agreement requirements: max. 20 pages long and include how to better define adaptation requirements for a specific country context. It will be developed in an electronic version, in EN and will target partners, professionals and relevant stakeholders.



## Contents

1. Guidelines to create multi-agency networks.....	5
Tools.....	5
Stakeholders in the network.....	6
Activities.....	7
Challenges faced by sports organisations and staff – to be adapted to country contexts.....	7



## 1. Guidelines to create multi-agency networks

Following the exchange of knowledge and best practices workshop that was held online on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020, Guidelines are needed to support the ACTIVE **team to create multi-agency networks among relevant professionals and stakeholders** such as sports and leisure clubs and organizations, sports federations, public authorities/institutions, local authorities, civil society, academia. The objective is to foster cooperation with key stakeholders at national level for preventing and countering violent incidents in sports and leisure activities and support a successful implementation of the capacity building program and the tools developed within the project. The guidelines will include common and country specific elements, and guidelines on how to better define adaptation requirements for a specific country context. The document also contains **challenges** we have collected so far during assessment activities, workshop and self-assessment tool implementation.

### Tools

- **Template contact list of local stakeholders (ANNEX 1)**

A template has been developed to help partners collect information and contacts of relevant stakeholders in their country. It is highly recommended to involve both public and private entities (municipalities, civil society organisations, sports club, etc.).

- **Project Info sheet for stakeholders with challenges and resources for improvement in the field of child violence prevention- to be translated and adapted to national context (ANNEX 2)**

The **Info sheet** is a summary of **information, resources and tools developed within the ACTIVE project**. It aims at giving the stakeholders a general idea of our **objectives, results but also learning outcomes** we would like to achieve. Partners can choose to translate the info sheet in their own language and adapt it to the national context if needed.

- **Email Invitation Tips**

This is a list of information you may want to add in your email when inviting stakeholders. Partners can have a look to these tips before inviting stakeholders to join our network and/or invite them to the national workshops and/or additional informal meetings. In case partners organise additional meetings, it is recommended to collect evidences if possible (agenda, attendance sheets, list of participants, registration of participants, pictures, etc.).



- ✓ If it is the first time you send an email to this person, please explain briefly your organisation work and role;
- ✓ in one sentence, explain the objective of the ACTIVE project and refer him/her to the info sheet (attached to the email) for further and detailed information on our resources and activities;
- ✓ include country-specific challenges you want to overcome, how and why you need his/her help. PLEASE NOTE: underline you are not only asking for support but you are also actually offering support and resources (research&data, self-assessment tool, workshops, capacity building);
- ✓ clarify that you are inviting him/her to join a network, specify the purpose and why you are inviting him/her and what role you want him/her to have in this network;
- ✓ when inviting for a workshop/meeting, always clarify the format (online, face to face..) and preferably already suggest a day and hour, ask for availability and be flexible when necessary!
- ✓ announce your next activity within the project and invite them to subscribe/ join (i.g. Capacity Building Programme).

## Stakeholders in the network

### Numbers and categories of stakeholders:

- around 15 stakeholders involved (minimum 10);
- sports and leisure clubs and organizations, sports federations to be included;
- public authorities/institutions, local authorities, academia to be included;
- civil society to be included;

### Evidences to be provided:

- Screenshots of emails;
- Letters of interest to be signed (optional);
- Screenshots of meetings (online/face to face): screenshots of the list of participants, pictures of the meeting, etc.



## Activities

### ➤ National workshops to establish cooperation (4.3)

On the basis of the developed Guidelines (2) 1-day workshops will be organized in Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Portugal with 10-20 relevant local stakeholders (sports and leisure clubs and organizations, sports federations, public authorities/institutions, local authorities, civil society, academia etc.) in order to establish cooperation and exchange knowledge and good practices for the safeguarding of children in sports and leisure activities, keeping them safe from harm, abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect, as well as to identify potential strengths and weaknesses in terms of cooperation and coordination, and to promote common action planning (incl. also actors such as child protection and law enforcement professionals).

The workshops can be implemented until Month 22 of the project but it is recommended to hold one workshop before the implementation of the national trainings – to inform possible participants on the scope and content and get feedback on the program – and one after – to evaluate together the implementation and assess improvements and learning outcomes together with the participants, as well as to discuss the sustainability of the activities beyond the project life time.

Evidences to be provided:

- Agenda
  - Screenshots of participants list
  - Pictures
  - Presentations
  - Report based on the feedback of the participants
- **Additional meetings to explain and implement self-assessment tools, invite to Capacity Building, further explain and disseminate ACTIVE tools.**

## Challenges faced by sports organisations and staff – to be adapted to country contexts

- Lack of policies and mechanisms for children safeguarding that trickles down the responsibility of preventing or dealing with abuses or threats to the individuals (volunteers, trainers, coaches, supporting staff) directly working with children;



- Lack of knowledge: sports organisations and staff have poor knowledge regarding safeguarding rules and how to find relevant information
- Lack of specialized personnel in child protection and violence prevention supporting sports organisations;
- Lack or poor knowledge of parents and children about the legal frameworks and standards organisations should implement and share.

#### Notes per partner country

##### **Greece**

Some key notes from the research phase in Greece are the following:

- Need to update the legal framework concerning the prevention and protection of children against violence in sports;
- Need for a specific Child Protection Policy template that could be easily adjusted in different sports;
- More trainings to sports professionals on how to better manage violent incidents;
- Violence is more frequent in competitive sports than in leisure activities;
- More raising awareness campaigns are needed with famous players who would share their stories and experiences;
- Sports academies and especially sports public authorities should cooperate with schools and teach students sports from a very early age;
- Establishment of a national helpline for the reporting of incidents;
- The existence of a psychologist will help children and sports clubs better solve issues that may arise.

##### **Italy**

Some key notes from the research phase in Italy are the following:

- Need to raise awareness on the topic of violence against children among sports organisations, including tools on how to prevent it, especially the development of Child Protection Policies, presence of specialized personnel (e.g. psychologists) within the organisations, legal provisions on hiring staff, etc;
- Need to inform parents and children on the risks but also measures sports organisations can adopt to prevent violence;
- More trainings to sports professionals on how to better manage violent incidents;
- Need for a specific Child Protection Policy template that could be easily adjusted in different sports;
- More collaboration and support from public entities and among civil society organisations.



## Cyprus

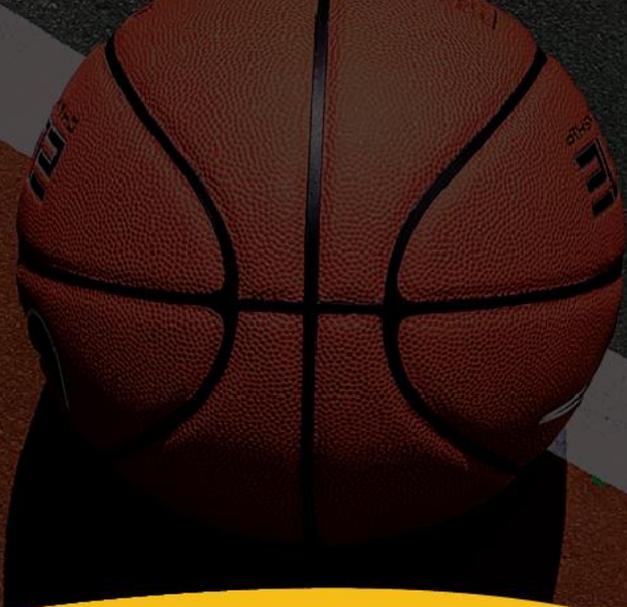
- Need to raise awareness on violence against children among sports organizations, parents and stakeholders
- Inform parents and children on the risks but also measures sports organizations can adopt to prevent violence;
- Promote and support the introduction of structured child safeguarding policies by sports federations, agencies and organizations
- Facilitate greater collaboration between sports organizations, Civil Society Organizations and national authorities to safeguard and promote children's rights in sports
- Educate and support sports professionals in child safeguarding
- Inform parents about the existence of a child protection policy and awareness for the existence of violence in sports in different forms;
- Spread the idea of sports as promoting child wellbeing.
- Introduce practices and tools to facilitate the identification and mitigation of children rights' violations
- Encourage and support the introduction of inclusive practices and safety and regulation measures by sports organizations and institutions
- Evaluation and improvement of National Sport Federation's strategy and policies in the field,

## Portugal

Some key notes from the research phase in Portugal are the following:

- Need to raise awareness on the topic of violence against children among sports organisations;
- More trainings to sports professionals on how to better manager violent incidents;
- Need for codes of conduct addressed to professionals;
- Need to inform parents about the existence of a child protection policy and awareness for the existence of violence in sports in different forms;
- Need to spread the idea of sports as promoting child wellbeing.





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