



WELCOME TO HALT4KIDS

HALT4Kids is a EU funded project (2023-25), focused on developing awareness about harassment and abuse in sports among child athletes (specifically of ages 5-12 years). The project also aims to educate the coaches, athletes/former athletes, physical education students, physical education teachers and other stakeholders of sports who work with young athletes and to support them to recognize and avoid harassment and abuse among child athletes.

In this edition of the Newsletter, you can learn about the various events and developments from the partner organizations and around the world in the field of promotion of safe sports, especially for children and young adults.

UFEC organized a training day with the Mossos d'Esquadra (Catalan Police) on Prevention of Sexual Violence and Extreme Radicalization in sport.

Under the HALT4Kids project, UFEC organized a special event for Catalan Police, aimed at spreading effective practices to create safe and respectful sports environments for children. Representatives from the Catalan Police shared their experience and knowledge on preventing sexual violence in the sports field.

The main target audience of the event were the Catalan sports federations and clubs, who got the unique opportunity to acquire essential knowledge and strategies to combat sexual violence in sports, thereby strengthening their internal capacities and protocols from the HALT4Kids team which was based on the Project resources which relies on solid research, gamification, and virtual communities to raise awareness about child abuse in sports. In addition, the event served as an excellent opportunity to improve the understanding and increase coordination efforts and apply effective protocols in the sports communities.



Unió de Federacions
Esportives de Catalunya



Halting Harassment and Abuse in Sports
using Learning Technologies for Kids

Prevention Conference: Halt4Kids and Mossos d'Esquadra
(Catalan Police) Joining Forces Against Harassment in Sport

Jornades de Prevenció: Halt4Kids i els Mossos d'Esquadra
(Policia Catalana) Unint Forces contra l'Assetjament a l'Esport



To know more about the event, we invite you to watch the below [video](#) which beautifully summarizes the event and also request you to share among your networks, to help us together promote safety and respect in all sports environments.

HALT4KIDS Project Partners reunite in Salzburg

HALT4Kids project, which began in January 2023, has reached its halfway point, and calls for taking a stock of the results achieved till date. On June 11, 2024, ASVÖ Salzburg hosted the latest transnational HALT4Kids project consortium meeting, which was attended by the representatives of all the project partners, i.e., European University of Cyprus (EUC), Unió de Federacions Esportives de Catalunya (UFEC, Spain), ASVÖ Salzburg (Austria), Aps Asd Margherita Sport e Vita (MSV, Italy) and European Gymnastics (EG, Switzerland), led by the Project coordinator Auth Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH, Greece). The consortium especially is thankful to the experts of the IT team of AUTH and EUC, which helped develop, design and launch the beta version of the first version of the learning tools for the young children (i.e., child athletes of 5-12 years of age).

During the meeting, the content of the online tools, including the beta version of the Community of Practice (CoP) and the online game were presented to the project partners. The content of the tools, which have been created following the principles of gamification, shall be launched during the pilot phase in the coming months. These innovations are set to play a crucial role in the Project's mission for child safety across Europe. The presentation sparked engaging discussions on the practical applications of these tools and their potential impact on our target communities.

The project partners highly commended the first version of the digital tools and together are excited for the launch of the same, and collect the feedback which will help develop the tools even further.

The first apps will be available soon for using/testing for all – so stay tuned and follow us to get all updates!



NEWS FROM PARTNER COUNTRIES

European Gymnastics Webinar on Safeguarding in Gymnastics for All

In May 2024, European Gymnastics held a webinar on the topic “Safeguarding in Gymnastics for All”. The target audience of the webinar was the Gymnastics Clubs where they were informed and educated about the crucial role of ethical regulation and codes of conduct in sports. Establishing these codes for judges, coaches, and participants is essential for maintaining professionalism and strengthening organizations. Even seemingly trivial rules, such as prohibiting eating on the training carpet and using respectful language, are fundamental for creating a safe and respectful environment.

The importance of documents and policies to be accessible and available in multiple languages to ensure broad understanding and compliance was discussed with the audience which came primarily from various gymnastic clubs under European Gymnastics. Ideas were shared to help them develop effective safeguarding measures along with several practical examples like creating specific guidelines for different stakeholders, such as head of delegations, parents, and coaches, and establishing social media guidelines for coaches to maintain professionalism.

HALT4Kids project consortium believes in continuous communication and education as most vital in building trust and ensuring long-term commitment to safeguarding. Regularly repeating these messages through webinars and training sessions reinforces their importance, even if only a few new participants join each time.

For those interested, the full video of the webinar can be replayed on the Youtube channel of European Gymnastics [here](#).

Safeguarding Our Future: ASVÖ Salzburg's Lecture on Child Safekeeping in Sports

On 15 March ASVÖ Salzburg held a presentation on ‘child safekeeping in sports’, as part of a program on bio-psycho-social health for future teachers. This lecture emphasized the importance of integrating safe sports practices in educational settings to foster children's overall well-being.

The session was in line with ASVÖ's goals to promote child safety in schools, where it is essential to sensitize teachers and adults to recognize and address dangerous or uncomfortable situations. Training educators to identify signs of distress, bullying, or abuse is crucial. Regular workshops on child protection, creating open communication channels for students to express concerns, and fostering an inclusive, supportive school culture can help. Encouraging vigilance and empathy among staff ensures a proactive approach to safeguarding children.

Ensuring safety in sports is crucial for children's physical health, helping them gain cardiovascular health, muscle and bone strength, and healthy weight maintenance. Psychologically, a safe environment boosts self-esteem and resilience, while socially, it promotes positive interactions, teaching cooperation, communication, and respect.

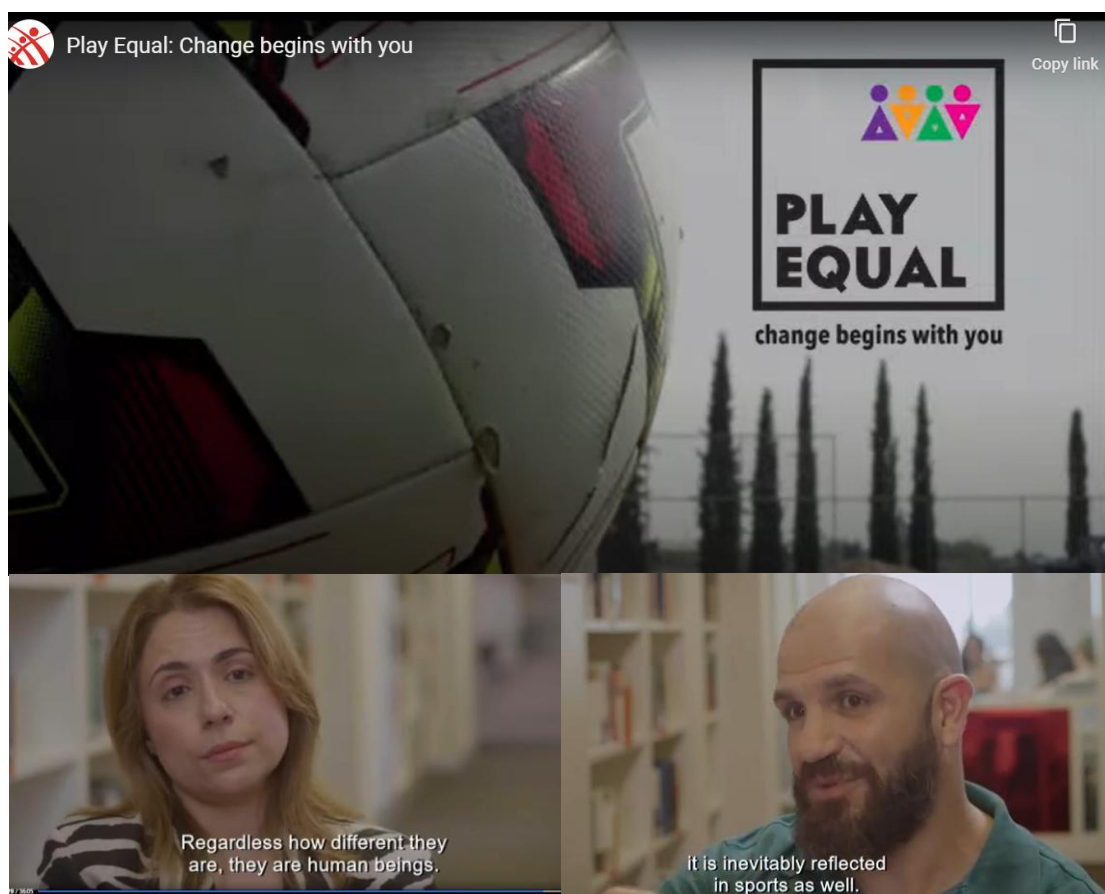
ASVÖ Salzburg's lecture underscores the importance of safeguarding in sports to promote children's bio-psycho-social health. By ensuring safe, supportive sports environments and sensitizing educators to recognize and address risks, future teachers can significantly enhance their students' holistic development and well-being.

Survey among Cypriot sports stakeholders about regarding gender stereotypes and gender-based violence

Gender stereotypes are ingrained within us and are encountered in various aspects of life: in sports, social media, education, family settings, and professional environments.

To combat and address gender-based violence in football and other sports, the “Play Equal” project (by Cyprus Family Planning Association) conducted a comprehensive survey of the attitudes and perceptions held by Cypriot adolescent football players, coaches, and stakeholders regarding gender stereotypes and gender-based violence. As part of this initiative, Dr. Monica Shiakou and Dr. Antonis Alexopoulos were invited to contribute to the creation of a documentary “Play Equal: Change Begins with You”, which was aimed at preventing and addressing gender-based violence in sports. Leveraging their expertise from previous involvement in the HALT and HALT4Kids projects, these scholars shared their academic and research insights along with other stakeholders and policymakers in Cyprus.

The documentary was later presented in an open event on the 20th and 29th February 2024, in Nicosia and Limassol. For more information about this project and the survey, you can watch the full video [here](#).



New Safeguarding Policy in Italian Sport

Safeguarding identifies the protections that must be put in place to avoid, prevent, report, examine, repress and sanction any type of violence, abuse or discrimination within a specific context.

From 1st July 2024 all sports associations and clubs in Italy will have to adapt to the principles of safeguarding to fight and contrast the following abuses, violence and discrimination: psychological, physical or religious abuse, sexual harassment, negligence, neglect, bullying, cyberbullying, discriminatory behaviour.

Sports bodies will therefore have to equip themselves with an Organizational Management and Control Model (OMGC), a set of rules to avoid, prevent, report, examine, repress and sanction any type of violence, abuse or discrimination within their reality; of a Code of Conduct (CDC), a set of practical and concrete rules to be given to athletes, parents, managers and instructors to prevent violence, abuse and discrimination from occurring; and of an Abuse, Violence and Discrimination Manager, a person preferably with legal and psychological skills, who will have the task of ensuring a safe and inclusive environment, protecting the rights and dignity of all those involved in sporting activities. The person responsible for combating abuse, violence and discrimination will have to monitor and receive reports regarding risk situations, interfacing both with the administrative bodies of the sports body and with the "Safeguarding Officer" of the affiliated body.

These precautions are not exclusively for the protection of minors but of all those who in any capacity gravitate around sporting realities and who are victims, for example, of gender or ethnic discrimination. This is therefore an extremely important, advanced and civil innovation, a fundamental step towards creating a safer and more respectful sporting environment, in line with CONI's recent reforms and efforts to protect the integrity of all participants and which responds to a whole series of European directives on the topic aimed at making sport increasingly inclusive and educational.



 **SPORT**
E SALUTE

HALT4KIDS presented in the
27th International Conference on Physical Education & Sport, Greece

Halt4Kids project was presented by Ms. Stella Douka from Auth Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH, Greece) in the 27th international conference on physical education and sport organized by the association of gymnasts of northern Greece (EGVE). The event was hosted in Thessaloniki, from 19-21 April 2024 where Ms. Stella highlighted the key features of the project and on the importance of educating not only sports stakeholders but also the young athletes about recognizing and preventing abuse in sports using gamification and such science backed modern methodologies.



New Safe Sport Podcast in Austria



100% SPORT has launched a brand new podcast in Austria which raises awareness, provides advice, and networks on the topics of gender equality and safe sport. Online, offline, hybrid, digital, analog.

Hosts Vikky Mall and our Managing Director Claudia Koller guide listeners through interesting conversations with personalities from the sports world, uncovering various safe, unsafe, and gender moments in sports.

The goal? To raise awareness and entertain!

The podcast explores everything that moves and influences sports from a gender and safe sport perspective. We aim to show that it is worthwhile, not just for equality reasons, to occasionally put on a gender or safe sport lens.

The first season kicks off with experts on topics such as internet safety, fair play, anti-doping, and prevention of match-fixing.

Available wherever you get your podcasts. Whether you're sitting, standing, running, or lying down. New episodes are released every other Friday!

Link to the podcast:

<https://100prozent-sport.at/100-sport-der-podcast/>

AI and Sports

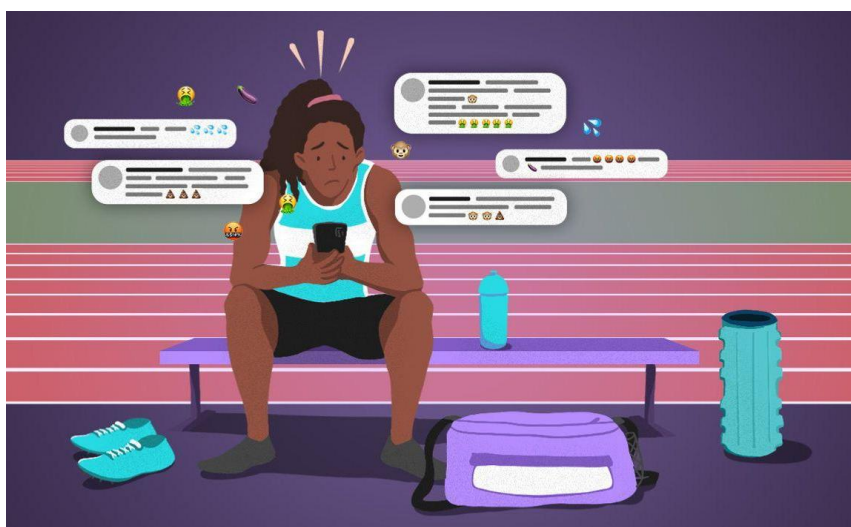
IOC brings AI to counter online abuse during Paris Olympics 2024

For the first time ever, IOC shall be employing a new AI-powered monitoring service, which will protect the athletes and officials from online abuse at both the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024 this summer.

Following the launch of the Olympic AI Agenda, which outlines the envisioned impact that artificial intelligence can deliver for the Olympic Movement, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is demonstrating how AI can improve safeguarding in sport. Paris 2024 will mark the first time that AI will be in use to provide safe online spaces for such a large number of athletes competing in so many sports at the same time.

The online monitoring system will be available to cover 15,000 athletes and more than 2,000 officials across the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The HALT4Kids strongly supports the use of Artificial Intelligence to strengthen child safety in sports. Innovative tools and using modern technology are at the heart of #HALT4Kids project. Such initiatives are strongly supported and welcomed by the entire #H4K consortium.



Read more about this initiative of IOC at <https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ai-system-to-protect-athletes-from-online-abuse-during-paris-2024>

HALT4Kids project is focused on developing awareness about harassment and abuse in sports among child athletes, coaches, athletes/former athletes, physical education students, physical education teachers and sport sector stakeholders.

Visit the website and follow the social media channels of the HALT4Kids project to keep yourself updated about the upcoming events and reports:

Website <http://halt4kids.phed.auth.gr>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091602860387

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/halt4kids/

X (formerly TWITTER): <https://X.com/HALT4kids>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/halt4kids/>

Don't want to miss any update from HALT4Kids? [Click here](#) to join the mailing list and receive this Newsletter and other updates about the HALT4Kids project straight to your inbox.