

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.



Athletes, Journalists, and Influencers Join Forces to Say “Enough” with HALT4Kids at CUFADe Congress

At the 4th CUFADe Congress, a powerful message resonated throughout the event as athletes, journalists, and influencers came together to support the HALT4Kids campaign, raising awareness against bullying and abuse in children’s sport.

Participants held a bold banner with two key statements:

🗣️ “I stand against bullying and abuse in children's sports. I support #Halt4Kids.”

😊 “I stand for safe, abuse-free sport for all children.”

👏 Influential Voices Join the Movement

Prominent figures from the world of sport and media lent their voices to the cause, including:

- Helena Condis Edo, journalist at Cadena COPE
- Joan Verdú, former captain of RCD Espanyol
- Strong Ferrer, European Champion in Strongman

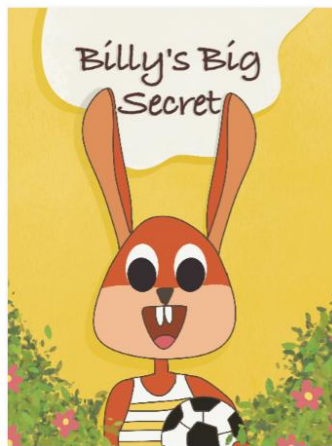
KEY PROJECT UPDATES

Digital Story Board (Billy's Big Secret) & Mobile/Online Game (Peaceful Pines)

We are excited to announce the launch of Peaceful Pines, an interactive serious game developed under the H4K Project. This innovative tool is designed to educate and empower child athletes aged 9-12, promoting safer sports environments through awareness and informed decision-making.

About Digital Story Board - Billy's Big Secret

The digital story board focuses on increasing the knowledge of child athletes for harassment and abuse in sport, by creating scenarios for child athletes aged 5 to 8, along with short readable and audible text.



In his office, the coach makes a strange request. He asks Billy to take off his shirt. To see how strong, he has become after so much practice and hard work. But Billy feels very strange about such a request.

[Read Text](#)

Screams NOOOOOOOO.... and runs fast outside feeling confused and upset.

[Read Text](#)

The characters in the digital story are presented as animals and the title is “Billy's Big Secret”. It presents cases of harassment and abuse in sports in child athletes to promote awareness in athletes and also mobilize and sensitize the public about this, as well as to support the whistleblowing of harassment and abuse in sports in these ages.

You can access the digital story book on the Halt4Kids website here: <https://halt4kids.phed.auth.gr/digital-story/> or by scanning the QR code below:



About Mobile/Online Game (Peaceful Pines)

The game aligns with the H4K Project’s mission to enable knowledge sharing and develop best practices in child athlete safeguarding. By fostering awareness and practical skills, the game, titled as ‘Peaceful Pines’, equips young athletes (of ages 9-12) to build confidence and resilience while encouraging sports stakeholders to create safe, inclusive spaces.



The game takes young players on a journey where they learn to:

- Identify Trusted Adults: Recognize who they can turn to for support.
- Recognize Safe and Unsafe Situations: Understand how to assess their surroundings.
- Learn Boundaries and Consent: Build confidence in setting personal limits.
- Report Inappropriate Behavior: Take actionable steps when encountering unsafe situations.

Through these missions, players navigate real-life scenarios, making decisions that help them understand harassment, abuse, and how to protect themselves in a supportive and engaging way.

You can start exploring the game **Peaceful Pines** now and join us in making sports safer for everyone. Together, we can empower the next generation of athletes with the tools they need to thrive.

You can access the online game from our website: https://halt4kids.phed.auth.gr/peaceful_pines/, or download the app on [Android here](#), [iOS here](#) or by scanning the QR codes below:



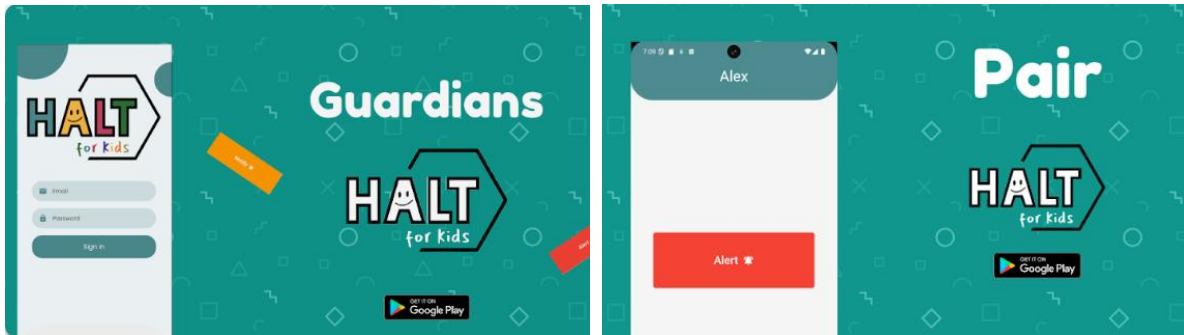
[App Store](#)



[Play Store](#)

HALT4Kids Launches New Safety Apps: PAIR & GUARDIANS

HALT4Kids consortium is excited to share the launch of two cutting-edge mobile applications designed to enhance safety in sport for children and young athletes: **PAIR - HALT4Kids** and **GUARDIANS - HALT4Kids**.

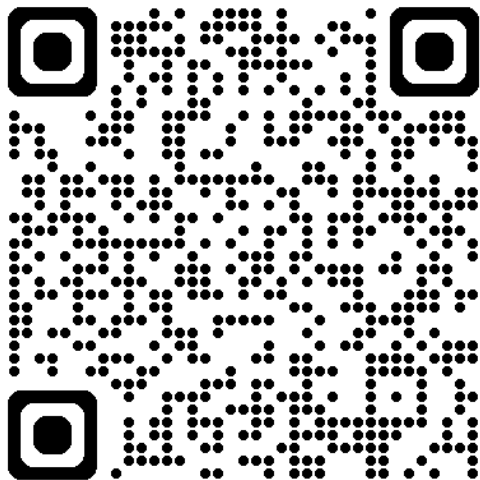


- ◆ **PAIR - HALT4Kids** empowers children to send real-time alerts when they feel unsafe—whether at school, in sport environments, or during everyday activities.
- ◆ **GUARDIANS - HALT4Kids** allows parents or trusted adults to pair their app with the child’s using a unique code and instantly receive location-tagged notifications when assistance is needed.

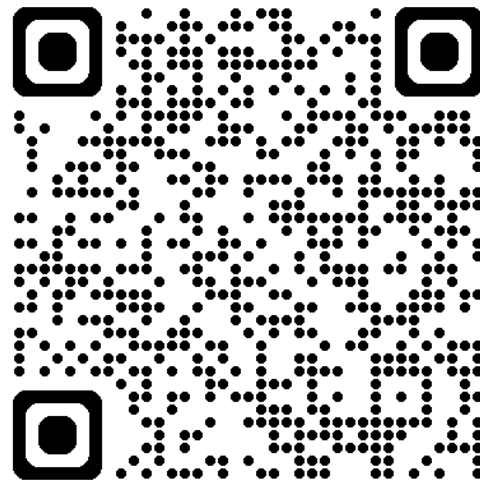
Together, these apps form a responsive alert system that allows families and caregivers to act swiftly and confidently in safeguarding their children from harassment and unsafe situations.

At HALT4Kids, we believe that digital tools can play a transformative role in building safe, inclusive, and supportive spaces in sport.

You can access both the apps from the HALT4Kids community portal here: <https://haltvm.phed.auth.gr/course/view.php?id=4> or download directly from the Android App store by scanning the QR codes below:



[GUARDIANS - Android Play Store](#)







[PAIR- Android Play Store](#)

RELATED NEWS FROM PARTNER COUNTRIES

Catalonia Unites to Protect Children: New Safeguarding Network Launched

On May 7th, the *Catalan Network for Protection and Good Treatment of Children and Adolescents* was officially launched — a powerful initiative led by **FEDAIA**, with the support of **Educo ONG**. This milestone comes in response to a pressing need: in just four years, more than 3,000 cases of violence against minors have been reported in Catalonia, with 25 new cases each week.

The newly formed network aims to become a central hub of support and coordination for child-focused organizations across the region. It will:

-  Support and guide organizations working with children
-  Promote safe environments and good treatment practices
-  Advocate for the real implementation of **LOPIVI** (Spain's child protection law)
-  Collect and monitor rights violations through a dedicated digital channel



HALT4Kids Gains Momentum: Promoting Child Protection in Sport

Creating safe environments for children in sport isn't just a goal — it's a necessity. In this spirit, HALT4Kids has entered its first evaluation phase and is being actively promoted by ASVÖ Salzburg among parents, coaches, and key figures in the sports community.

Initial feedback is highly positive, especially regarding the digital story and online platform developed through the project. These tools offer engaging and accessible ways to raise awareness and help prevent sexualized violence in sport — empowering clubs, coaches, and families to take action.



HALT4KIDS Showcased at Two Major International Conferences

The **HALT4Kids** project continues to advance child protection in sports through the development and presentation of innovative digital tools. During two prominent international conferences, the project introduced practical, technology-driven solutions aimed at preventing harassment and abuse in youth sports environments.

STE 2025 – Smart Technologies & Education Conference

Date: April 9–11, 2025

Location: Santiago, Chile

At the 22nd International Conference on Smart Technologies & Education (STE 2025), the presentation titled:

“HALT4Kids Alert Ecosystem for Child Safety in Sports”

introduced a pioneering two-app safety system designed to protect children in real time:

- **HALT4Kids Guardians App**
Enables parents and guardians to receive instant alerts and live location updates when a child signals distress.
- **HALT4Kids Pair App**
Allows children to discreetly send emergency notifications using a unique pairing code linked to a trusted adult.

Together, these tools form a **responsive digital ecosystem** that promotes prevention, facilitates immediate intervention, and strengthens protection in sports settings. This solution reflects the potential of ethical, smart technology to uphold children's rights and safety in athletic environments.



ICPESS 2025 – International Congress on Physical Education & Sport Science

At the 33rd edition of ICPESS, the project also introduced its new educational storytelling resource under the presentation:



“Design and Implementation of Digital Storytelling via Platform”



European University Cyprus Showcases HALT4Kids: Advancing Child Protection in Sports Through Learning Technologies

In this edition of our newsletter, we spotlight two important information days that took place on the EUC campus. The one event was the MSE2 event – titled “Workshop on Learning Technologies for the Prevention of Harassment and Abuse in Sport in Children, which will be held in the framework of the presentation of the European Erasmus+ Sport Programme Halting Harassment and Abuse in Sport Using Learning Technologies for kids (HALT4kids).



***HALT4Kids: MSV Drives Awareness Through
Digital Storytelling and Serious Games for
Safer Youth Sports***

During the first semester of 2025, MSV focused on making VCOP materials more accessible and engaging for a wide audience, with the goal of promoting awareness and preventing violence against minors. Using interactive tools such as Serious Games and Digital Storytelling, the content was adapted to suit different age groups and learning needs, providing a balance between play and meaningful reflection.

The work included:

- *Reviewing and updating existing educational materials*
- *Translating and adapting questionnaires*
- *Coordinating efforts between MSV's research staff (led by Nadja Pavlovic) and Breaking the Silence, an Italian NGO specializing in the prevention of violence in sports*
- *Collaborating with the Provincial Command of the Carabinieri of Parma, whose special forces provided expert input to ensure alignment with the project's protection goals*

As a result, more than 500 young athletes, their parents, and former athletes were involved in project activities.

- *Younger children engaged with the Digital Story,*
- *Older youth explored the Serious Game,*
- *Parents and professionals (coaches, teachers, trainers) participated through structured questionnaires and feedback sessions.*

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Violence in Youth Sport: 78% of Young People in Spain Experienced Some Form of Abuse (2022 Report)

In 2022, the Spanish national report from the European research project CASES (Child Abuse in Sport: European Statistics) was published, revealing deeply concerning data on the violence experienced by children and adolescents in sport settings. The study, led in Spain by the University of Vic – Central University of Catalonia (UVic-UCC) and coordinated across Europe by Edge Hill University, surveyed 1,472 individuals aged 18 to 30 who had participated in sport before the age of 18.

The findings are stark:

● 78% of respondents reported experiencing at least one form of interpersonal violence in sport during childhood or adolescence.

Breakdown of reported abuse types:

- *Psychological violence: 70%*
- *Physical violence: 43%*
- *Sexual violence without contact: 36%*
- *Neglect: 34%*
- *Sexual violence with contact: 20%*

The report concludes that such experiences are frequent and normalized within sport structures, warning that sport is not always a protective space, but one that can reproduce wider structural violence in society.

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.