

**AN OVERVIEW
OF THE ACTION
PLAN**



ACTION PLAN

for the Implementation of
Educational Measures to Fight
Violence in Sport, at and
outside of Sports Events



Ministarstvo znanosti, obrazovanja i športa Republike Hrvatske



Hrvatski nogometni savez



MINISTARSTVO UNUTARNJIH
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Agencija za odgoj i obrazovanje
Education and Teacher Training Agency



HRVATSKI
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AN OVERVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL MEASURES TO FIGHT VIOLENCE IN SPORT, AT AND OUTSIDE OF SPORTS EVENTS

Violence is widespread in modern society, manifesting itself to varying degrees and in various forms in families and in schools, at work and in sport. The Republic of Croatia has recognized how important the safety and security of its citizens are in and outside of the sports facilities and has embarked on a program aimed at strengthening the role of educational institutions in prevention of violence in sport and at sport events (hereinafter referred to as *violence in sport*). The goal is to educate a new generation of sports fans who would attend the sports events and express their support in the spirit of tolerance and respect for all participants of a sport event.

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (hereinafter referred to as the *Ministry*) and the *Education and Teacher Training Agency* (hereinafter referred to as the *Agency*) have recognized the preventive potential of educational institutions and their importance in preventing violence in sport. A number of children and youths take part in this type of violence, before, during and after various sports events, in and outside of the Republic of Croatia. Incidents and inappropriate behavior of some Croatian fans in the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Austria, and the Czech Republic have substantially damaged the reputation of the Republic of Croatia. All the fans who wanted to enjoy sports events have also suffered: those who saw the events as an opportunity to get together, not as an opportunity for fans to fight other supporters, foreigners or the police.

Since 2007 the *Ministry* and the *Agency* have been implementing various measures highlighting the importance of educational institutions in the prevention of the sports fans' violent behavior and the promotion of culture of fandom in the spirit of tolerance and respect of diversity.

In 2008, the *Ministry* and the *Agency* have formalized their activities and produced the *Action Plan for the Implementation of Educational Measures to Fight Violence in Sport, at and outside of Sports Events* (hereinafter referred to as the *Action Plan*). The main goal of the *Action Plan* is to raise the public awareness of the problem of violence in sport and to actively involve children, youths and educational institutions in various preventive programs at sport events.



The Action Plan is implemented through following activities:

- **Organizing conferences as a part of a program of continuous training of educational workers for the preparation and implementation of preventive activities;**
- **Providing technical literature and working material for the implementation of preventive activities in school environment;**
- **Active participation of students in the preparation and implementation of preventive activities.**

Since May 2007, the *Ministry* and the *Agency* have been working together with relevant Croatian and international institutions, partnering with them in the preparation and implementation of specialized training programs about violence in sport (*the Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, the Embassy of the Republic of France in the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian Football Federation, the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences and Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Zagreb, the cities of Zagreb and Rijeka, the Croatian School Sports Federation*); this is part of the activities related to the continuous training of educational workers for the preparation and implementation of preventive activities in line with the *Action Plan*.

In cooperation with the *Council of Europe, the Agency and the Ministry* have translated and published a book, *Sport and Violence in Europe*, written by Dominique Bodin, Luc Robène and Stéphane Héas of *the University of Rennes*. According to Dr. Drazen Lalic from *the Faculty of Political Sciences in Zagreb*, the book offers an excellent overview of the state of play in the sphere of violence in sport and is a valuable source of information about the issue. On the other hand, there are the books and studies by Croatian experts in sociology of sport (Srdjan Vrcan, Furio Radin, Drazen Lalic), which have also contributed to improving the violence prevention programs in schools, with a special emphasis on the prevention of violence in sport. 1,500 copies of the book *Sport and Violence in Europe* have been distributed for free to participants from educational institutions, police stations, faculties and the media at various conferences.



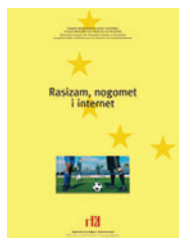


Since May 2007, various conferences and seminars have been organized in all major cities in the Republic of Croatia where there is a strong sports fan sub-culture (Osijek, Zagreb, Rijeka, Split, Pozega, Porec). This has been an opportunity to present the book *Sport and Violence in Europe*.

The problem of violence in sport and the importance of preventing violence at sport events have been among the main topics debated at the conferences. Dr. Drazen Lalic of the Faculty of Political Sciences in

Zagreb, Zoran Cvrk, Security Commissioner in the Croatian Football Federation and the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and the Education and Teacher Training Agency have been among the presenters.

On 30 November 2009 a conference, Sport and Violence in Europe, was held in Siroki Brijeg in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and the West Herzegovina County.



Since 2009, the Ministry and the Agency have been worked side by side with the Embassy of the Republic of France in the Republic of Croatia and the Police Directorate in organizing a series of conferences entitled *Sport and Violence in Europe*. Eminent Croatian and French experts have given presentations on the issue of violence in sport at the conference, held in Zagreb in June 2009 and on 21 May 2010; in Rijeka on 18 May 2011, and in Split on 20 May 2011.



The Ministry and the Agency organized a conference in Bol on the island of Brač; the Police Directorate and the French Embassy were also involved. The conference was entitled *Review of School Prevention Programs*; the participants heard about the school prevention programs implemented in 35 primary schools, high schools and student housing facilities in the Republic of Croatia. There was also an exhibition showing 191 works done by primary and high schools students from the Republic of Croatia focusing on the prevention of addiction and violence in sport.



Since March 2011, *the Agency and the Ministry* have supported the conduct of a survey, *Gambling and Sports Betting among Adolescents in Urban Environments* and conferences that dealt with the topic, which were held in Zagreb, Osijek, Split, Rijeka and Sisak in collaboration with *the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences of the University in Zagreb*. Participants heard about the recent Croatian and international research into this phenomenon. This was an occasion to introduce a methodological guide on how to deal with gambling and betting in a home-room class.

The guide contains information about youth gambling and betting, and elaborates in detail the activities appropriate for a student discussion of the issue. The guide is the first step on the road to planning further preventive activities; the project will build on these once all the relevant data on the habits and features of youth gambling in Croatia are in. Preventive activities will thus be based on evidence and current data about the situation in the Republic of Croatia as comprehensive and systematic research is still lacking.



Since January 2011, *the Ministry and the Agency* have organized a number of conferences as a part of the program entitled, *I Have an Attitude: Social Skills Training*. The three-day conferences were held in Cerna, Vinkovci and Sisak in cooperation with *the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences of the University of Zagreb*. The program *I Have an Attitude* is part of a European project, *Unplugged – European Drug Addiction Prevention Trail*. Internationally, the project has been implemented by *Mentor Foundation International* from Great Britain in seven European countries (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain and Sweden) in the past five years. In the Republic of Croatia, the project is implemented by *the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences* with the support of *the Office for Combating Narcotic Drug Abuse of the Government of the Republic of Croatia*.

The program was initiated by *the European Union Drug Abuse Prevention (EUDAP)* and is supported by *the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)*. The program is based on the concept of social influences and promotion of learning life skills. In general, the program furthers positive and healthy behavior and has a positive impact on the prevention of abuse of addictive agents (smoking, abuse of alcohol and other addictive agents).



Two electronic media were produced within the framework of the activities related to technical literature and working materials for the implementation of preventive activities in schools: *School based prevention programs (2009)* and *How to support my team and behave in sport (2010)*. The media contain technical material, examples of good practice as well as drawings, videos and essays of primary and high school students on the topic of prevention of addiction and violence in sports.



The electronic media contain the following material:



- PDF book *Sport and Violence in Europe* by Dominique Bodin, Luc Robène, Stéphane Héas published by the Council of Europe
- Posters prepared as part of the *Action Plan for the Implementation of Educational Measures in Fighting Violence in Sport, at and outside of Sports Events*
- PowerPoint presentations to be used in homeroom classes, part of the *Action Plan for the Implementation of Educational Measures in Fighting Violence in Sport, at and outside of Sports Events* by Mr. Boris Vampula, senior advisor in the Education and Teacher Teaching Agency
- PDF booklet *Racism, Football and the Internet for teachers* dealing with the issue of racism, published by the *European Monitoring Center for Racism and Xenophobia in 2002*
- PDF comic book *What? Me? A Racist?* for teachers covering the issue of racism, published by the *Directorate General for Information, Communication, Culture and Audiovisual Media of the European Commission in 1998*
- *European Handbook for the Prevention of Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco* edited by Dr. Jaap van Der Stel in collaboration with Deborah Voordewind, published by *Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe and Jellinek Consultancy*
- PDF handbook *School based programs of addiction prevention* edited by Prof. Dr. Slavko Sakoman
- PDF booklet *Abolition of corporal punishment of children* published by the *Ministry of the Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity and the Council of Europe*
- *Examples of good practice from primary and high schools in preventing violence in sports, at and outside of sports events.*



In late October and early November 2009, the Ministry and the Agency produced and distributed an electronic compilation entitled *School based prevention programs* and posters dealing with the prevention of violence in sport as part of the implementation of the *Action Plan* (the following posters were produced: *Education against violence in school playgrounds and sport facilities*, *Good manners*, *Stop violence in the stands*, made by the students of the *School of Applied Arts from Rijeka*, *Red card for violence in sport*, made by Ivan Reljac, a student of the *School of Applied Arts from Rijeka*.) In December 2010, the electronic compilation *How to support my team and behave in sport* was published. The electronic compilation contains 97 essays and 446 drawings on the topic *How to support my team and how to behave in sport*.

On 17 November 2010, students, teachers, school principals and parents taking part in the contest *How to support my team and how to behave in sport* visited the *EURO 2012* qualifying match between Croatia and Malta, as guests of the *Croatian Football Federation*. At the match, the *Croatian Football Federation* handed out awards to Rebeka Kralj and Jelena Musulin, students of the *Diocesan Classical Grammar School Rudjer Boskovic* from Dubrovnik, to arts teacher Mirjana Lucic from the same school and to Bernard Plesa, its principal, for their contributions to the campaign *How to support my team and how to behave in sport*.

The *Education and Teacher Training Agency* and the *Ministry of Science, Education and Sports* will make a joint effort with the sports federations to procure tickets for various sports events taking place in the regional centers and will call free tickets for all school students, teachers and parents participating in the implementation of the *Action Plan*.

A webpage – www.preventivni.hr – is under construction. The page will provide access and unrestricted use of technical literature and working materials to educational workers and all other stakeholders (ministries, faculties and public institutions), giving them an opportunity to learn about the current studies and other materials about sport and violence. Depending on their own interests, they will be able to do further research and create preventive activities in their own environments and schools.



is difficult to evaluate in the short run the success and results of the *Action Plan* and preventive activities carried out in schools. All relevant institutions must work side by side as partners; there has to be a synergy of various measures and activities. This requires a modernization and increased comfort and safety at sports facilities, cooperation and direct work with fan groups. This will also require people engaged in sports to behave in an appropriate way and active promotion of tolerance and respect for all participants in sports events on the part of the media, including fighting racism.



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