

Sport Against Match-Fixing

Final Research Report

Funded by
the European Union

www.sportagainstmatchfixing.com

Title

Sport Against Match-Fixing. Final Research Report

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Reference

Santos, T. (ed.) (2022). *Sport Against Match-Fixing. Final Report*. Oeiras: Sport Evolution Alliance.

Cover photo

Sport Evolution Alliance

Layout

Sport Evolution Alliance

Print

Revised edition, Portugal, December 2023.

ISBN*: In press*

Published by

Sport Evolution Alliance

João Luís de Moura Street, 22

2740-071 Porto Salvo

Quoting from this report is allowed with proper acknowledgements.

Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

The Sport Against Match-Fixing has received funding from the European Commission under the programme Erasmus+. The Commission is not responsible for any communication and publication by the project or any use that may be made from the information contained therein.

Executive Summary

The fight against corruption has been highlighted as one of the central themes in sport. In line with this idea, promoting integrity and values in sport is one of the main challenges in this context. Nowadays, the increasingly repeated cases of match-fixing have weakened the fight against corruption and impacted the image of sport for the community.

In this context, Sport Against Match-Fixing (SAMF) emerges, a Project funded by the Erasmus+ Sports program with the coordination of the Portuguese Football Federation and the collaboration of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA Europe), Malta Football Association, Lithuanian Football Federation, Panathlon International, Sport Evolution Alliance and European Network for Innovation and Knowledge, which aims to develop a set of initiatives to enhance the fight against match-fixing in grassroots athletes.

This document aims to present SAMF Work-package 2 and is structured for this purpose. At first, the concept of match-fixing is introduced. The second step presents the theoretical and methodological rationale for the SAMF Project. In the third moment, the data obtained from the bibliometric analysis of the literature on the subject are presented. Then, data from six focus groups carried out with sports stakeholders are given to understand their views on the topic, the causes, consequences, and proposals for innovation that may impact the fight against match-fixing. The fifth moment presents a set of good practices worked by partner organisations in this project (or not) to promote the fight against match-fixing. The last moment of this report is intended to present real cases of match-fixing and how the sports community received this over time.

The results of these steps suggest the need for a better understanding of match-fixing as a systemic problem. In addition, it ratifies the need for educational programs that privilege athletes and the entire ecosystem that supports them.

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Introducing “Sport Against Match-Fixing” Project

SAMF
Sport Against Match Fixing

The “Sport Against Match-Fixing” (SAMF) project aims to raise awareness among young athletes about the nature of match-fixing and the negative impact of this practice on the careers of the athletes. By providing the proper tools, we will support them in consolidating attitudes to best answer this type of corruption.

The project has three main objectives:

1. Through the bibliometric analysis, identify and explore the "state-of-the-art" of match-fixing.

2. To promote an awareness campaign.

3. To develop a game-based learning program tailored to young athletes.

The project is coordinated by the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) and has 6 other organisations from Portugal, Switzerland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, and the Netherlands as partners.

Over 24 months, the project will hold 5 work packages. It will produce research reports, an awareness campaign with online and offline implementation, and game-based learning (based on web app gamification from real stories about athletes involved in match-fixing cases).

For the massification of the project, a Final Conference will be organised with the presence of relevant stakeholders. A Handbook with guidelines for implementation will also be provided, allowing any organisation in the Members States to adopt this project.

Project background

In recent years, there have been a preoccupying number of match-fixing cases. These episodes have negative consequences for sports, enormously damaging its image and impacting its social and economic representation in society.

In 2012 the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the European Commissioner responsible for Sport and the participants in the EU Sport Forum 2012 signed the Declaration of Nicosia that refers five key areas as essential for the fight against match-fixing practices: 1) Education, Prevention and Good Governance, 2) Monitoring, 3) Sanctions, 4) Cooperation, 5) International coordination. In 2014, a report developed by Sorbonne University and the International Centre for Sport Security provided an outline of the research in the field of the manipulation of sports competitions and, for example, an overview of the state of a globalised sports economy in the entertainment and professional aspects. Still, data from this report consider Europe to be the region of the world where most cases of match-fixing are found across the largest number of different sports disciplines (ICCS, 2014).

By the end of the year 2022, there are 41 countries who signed the Convention and 8 countries (out of those 41) who ratified this Convention (EU Council, 2022). The Macolin Convention seeks to create a network of collaboration between public authorities, sports organisations, betting operators, and competition organisers to prevent, detect, and sanction match-fixing. These organisations work based on a common legal framework and efficient international cooperation to respond to this global threat.

Complementarily, the governance practices established by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) - which supports this project application - at the 2017 Congress, are based on the promotion of ethical values, integrity, and good governance in football to strengthen the fight against conflicts of interest, corruption, and match-fixing. UEFA also aims to protect minors and potentiate fair play. The UEFA Strategy (2019-2024) aims to be the standard-bearer for good governance by establishing the need to work together with the football community and ensure transparent and democratic processes. This strategic plan considers that integrity and trust must underpin football development and all European football competitions. To do so, UEFA fostered the improvement of mechanisms/procedures to detect suspicious activity concerning match-fixing using advanced technology. Besides promoting integrity in football, these measures aim to ensure the protection of the athletes as well. Several Major International Organisations are concerned about match-fixing and its consequences and aim to prevent and tackle it.

Knowing that the match-fixing phenomenon often takes advantage of the economic weakness of clubs and players, the Portuguese Football Federation has implemented an Integrity Program, in place since 2011, based on the three central pillars: Regulation (i.e., stipulates the rules and punishment to protect the integrity of competitions), Education (educates and raises players' awareness – men and women, aged between 15 and 40, both amateur and professional), referees, coaches and managers explaining the dangers and consequences of match-fixing) and Monitoring (operates a reporting channel - integridade.fpf.pt - which ensures the necessary anonymity and/or confidentiality and cooperates with judicial and police authorities and betting operators).

Another important partner in this project is the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Europe, which also focused its action on the prevention of match-fixing. FIBA developed a website with information about match-fixing (http://playershub.fiba.com/en/integrity/betting-and-match-fixing/protecting-integrity-sport) aiming to raise awareness among athletes and to reinforce their obligations to comply with rules (even outside the competition). The information on the website addresses integrity and match-fixing and explains how it may affect athletes in different negative ways. The sanctions for those involved in episodes of match-fixing are also described. There are several possible punishments, including banning athletes from the sport (in most severe cases).

The Malta Football Association (MFA) has been developing a project since 2014 entitled "Malta FA Integrity Tour 2014". This is an educational program aimed at tackling betting-related corruption in Maltese football. It focuses on educating players, referees, and club officials about the nature of match-fixing episodes and their consequences. In addition, this program is related to monitoring and detection systems used to identify cases of match-fixing and the consequences of engaging in corrupt activity.

One of the Lithuanian Football Federation's (LFF) priorities has been the protection of fair football and the fight against match-fixing. To pursue these aims, the LFF constantly cooperates with the Lithuanian authorities (Police and Public Prosecutor's Office). In addition, the Disciplinary Code of the LFF provides disciplinary measures, and the Penal Code of the Republic of Lithuania also provides for criminal liability for handling matches. Through its website, the LFF has

encouraged stakeholders to complain/inform about possible match-fixing episodes to the federation's integrity department. In addition, the LFF is working on a new project to provide football players playing in Lithuania the opportunity to participate in electronic training on the prevention of match-fixing and become familiar with anti-corruption measures.

Finally, Panathlon International (PI) promotes awareness actions, in partnership with other sports organisations, about match-fixing (e.g., presentation of "Evidence-based Prevention strategies of Sporting-related Match-fixing" promoted by Ghent University) and systematically fosters the concept of fair play as an integral part of the sports culture at all levels of competition. Through its clubs and university network, Panathlon International has also been launching and promoting educational programs, as well as congresses/webinars, in which the phenomenon of match-fixing has been widely discussed.

All the organisations involved in this proposal have experience in their work with sports management, sports sciences and integrity in sport. Regarding international projects, some of them are very experienced and others less, thus, we believe that the mix of partner organisations is appropriate to reach the set goals. The project is designed with inter-related and inter-connected local, national, and international activities with European Dimension. The realisation of the project will support us in developing a solid transnational network, and we are convinced that its deliveries will have a national and international impact.

General objective

The general objective of SAMF is to prevent and tackle Match-Fixing in sports among adolescent athletes at a grassroots level. The choice of this target group is based on the impact that sport has on the career of young athletes. According to Danionia and Barni (2019), the sport setting may offer many opportunities to young athletes to develop life skills such as problem-solving and to incorporate values such as honesty. This value tends to influence young athletes' attitudes and behaviours in many contexts of their lives, including sports (Danionia & Barni, 2019). By fostering integrity in sports, we expect to prevent young athletes' involvement in possible future matches-fixing episodes and improve their overall internal values framework. We will focus our attention on athletes between 14 and 16 years old. Additionally, we intend the athletes to reflect on moral and ethical values (how to stand among others) and to avoid unsportsmanlike behaviour. We will pay attention to grassroots sports clubs; these are often characterised by a high dependence on volunteers and family-style structures and by having a low level of financial resources - that are potential gate-openers for corruptive behaviour (Nowy & Breuer, 2017).

The EU Work Plan for Sport (2021-2024) and the recommendation from the Council of Europe to the health-enhancing increase in physical activity among the EU population are based on several main priorities. The specific priorities in the field of sports include promoting integrity and values in sport with a focus on combating match-fixing and corruption in sport by improving good governance and promoting the positive values of sport. Another specific priority (horizontal) considered in both the EU Work Plan for Sport (2021-2024) and the new Erasmus+ program 2021-2027 is to encourage the "Digital" dimensions. These priorities underpin our proposal: SAMF aims to prevent and tackle match-fixing and promote education through innovative game-based

learning (100% digital form) focused on raising awareness and providing new skills to grassroots athletes on the prevention of match-fixing. The use of this online tool tends to contribute to further development and dissemination of this project among minorities and people with disability. Additionally, by defining that we will include athletes from both genders, we will follow the European Commission's strategic actions (2014-2020 and 2021-2024) regarding gender equality in sport. Still in the inclusion priority, SAMF also aims to reach athletes with disabilities and special needs. By doing so, the project complies with the recent EU Guidelines to encourage social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport. Considering the exposed, the "Sport Against Match-Fixing" project is based on European priorities, promoting education in and through sport, focusing on young athletes, and encouraging social inclusion, gender equality and equal opportunities.

Based on the previous rationale, the project is relevant for the call's overall scope and the Objectives of the Cooperation Partnership's Action. Through SAMF, participant organisations propose to:

1. Increasing the quality of the work, activities and practices of organisations involved in the theme of the fight against match-fixing.
2. Building the capacity of organisations to work transnationally in identifying causes and consequences of match-fixing.
3. Addressing everyday needs and priorities in the fields of education, training, youth, and sport to improve grassroots athletes' awareness about match-fixing.
4. Enabling transformation and change about integrity (at individual, organisational or sectoral level), leading to improvements and new approaches in proportion to the context of each organisation.

Project innovation

At the EU level, the European Commission (2007) first mentioned the problem in its White Paper on Sport, and the European Parliament acknowledged the issue in its various resolutions related to online gambling and match-fixing and corruption in sport. In 2011, the European Commission introduced a set of measures to fight corruption. Integrity in sport and match-fixing were explicitly addressed in a Communication on Sport (2011) and a Green Paper on Online Gambling (2011), followed by a Communication on a comprehensive European framework on online gambling (2012). The preparatory action, "European Partnership on Sports", launched in 2012, provided funding for projects focused on the prevention of match-fixing through actions to educate and raise awareness of main stakeholders such as athletes, referees, match officials, and sports managers (Katsarova, 2016).

Meanwhile, the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union has been supporting in the last seven years the fight against match-fixing under its Sport chapter. Most recently, in 2021, the Commission and the Agency have prioritised the aim "Promoting integrity and values in sport" as one of the main aspects of the EU Work Plan for Sport (2021-2024), encouraging the increased knowledge on how to tackle cross-border threats to the integrity of sport (EU, 2020).

The European Union, under the Erasmus + Sport Program, has been addressing match-fixing topic by supporting a range of European partnerships to promote education and training (e.g., IAM and ATT) or to challenge broader societal issues in different contexts, such as sports events (e.g., FIX), non-competitive matches (e.g., CFNCM), or academic and on-the-field organisations (e.g., EPOSM). Some of these EU projects aim to raise awareness and moral judgment about match-fixing by promoting integrity and positive values in sports. Here we provide some examples:

- 2015 - FIX the FIXING: Proactive quelling of sports events manipulation (567159-EPP-1-2015- 2-EL-SPO-SCP).

- 2016 - Anti Match-fixing Top Training (579736-EPP-1-2016-2-PT-SPO-SCP).

- 2017 - Against match-fixing - European Research & Education Program (590606-EPP-1-2017-1-PL-SPO-SCP).

- 2018 - Combating Match-fixing in Club Football Non-Competitive Matches (603138-EPP-1-2018- 1-CY-SPO-SCP).

- 2019 - Promoting Integrity Against Match-fixing through education among young athletes (613162-EPP-1-2019-1-IT-SPO-SCP).

- 2019 - Evidence-based Prevention of Sporting-related Match-fixing (613385-EPP-1-2019-1-BE- SPO-SCP).

- 2019 - PROtect Integrity Plus (590549-EPP-1-2017-1-NL-SPO-SCP).

Despite their significant contributions, these projects focus on something other than match-fixing prevention and awareness at the grassroots level, neither seems to consider the digital dimension as a key to successful learning opportunities. Although there have been attempts to proactively raise awareness about the negative outcomes of match-fixing in sport (e.g., FIX the FIXING; PROtect Integrity Plus), there is still a lack of a solid theoretical body, a trans-national reflection about match-fixing, and a clearly articulated framework for the understanding causes and consequences of match-fixing on the development of the careers of the athletes (Numerato, 2016). In addition, according to a preliminary informal needs analysis conducted amongst partner countries of this project, we may conclude that:

1. There are a few social initiatives and projects for Match-Fixing based on grassroots athletes (14-16 years old) in each country.

2. Few organisations have the capacity to investigate and analyse in the theoretical and empirical way the match-fixing topic.

3. The stakeholders possess a variety of opinions regarding how the fight against Match-fixing should be articulated in the sport field and its impacts on athletes' careers.

Raising awareness among grassroots athletes through research development, game-based learning and awareness campaigns against match-fixing requires an international approach from various sports organisations. In this sense, the "Sport Against Match-Fixing" project brings

together a wide range of stakeholders such as the Portuguese Football Federation, Malta Football Association, Lithuanian Football Federation, FIBA Europe, Panathlon International, Sport Evolution Alliance and European Network for Innovation and Knowledge.

Our proposal also considers other forms of innovation. SAMF aims to launch a set of tools based on online initiatives, including 1) game-based learning and 2) an online video-awareness campaign. These will foster a genuinely European impact of the project, reaching many more grassroots athletes and other countries than the ones directly involved (partners). Additionally, we intend to disseminate both active (participating in the game-based learning) and passive (visualisation of online and offline campaigns) learning, establishing a win-win situation for the sports field and (above all) grassroots athletes.

Game-based learning is the application of any game-based approach designed with the primary purpose of delivering learning rather than entertainment (Haruna et al., 2021). Haruna et al., 2021, consider that this type of method for educating adolescents (as in the case of our project, athletes between 14 and 16 years old) tends to positively impact the motivation, attitude, knowledge, and engagement of this audience in the learning process. Therefore, it is a good option to develop the dissemination and learning of this project. Specifically about game-based learning, this project aims to create a platform based on the web app. This game promotes options on what kind of initiative to take when the athlete is groomed to commit to the practice of match-fixing and which are the consequences of their choices for the athlete's career in the game. To this end, we intend to use examples of real scenarios and ensure the anonymity of athletes who were groomed or practised match-fixing, allowing grassroots athletes to understand how match-fixing can affect their careers and what kind of mechanisms can be used against this practice.

Additionally, Raudeliuniene et al. (2018) consider that using friendly user online content, like online videos on social media platforms, free and available in different formats, will allow wider dissemination and successful implementation of campaigns. We intend to recruit ambassadors for the project (i.e., five elite athletes and/or former elite athletes) and to create a set of storytelling videos about real match-fixing cases (preserving the identity of athletes who want to share their stories in the project, or stories already known about the subject). These actions are part of an awareness campaign. We plan to share the videos on online platforms to highlight the impact of match-fixing on the athlete's career and their personal life.

Gender equality criteria were considered when choosing the participants. We aim to include a wide range of athletes from the grassroots level, including those typically less represented in sports, such as female athletes and/or disabled athletes (according to the guideline highlighted in the EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024). Once we intend this project to be truly inclusive and comprehensive, we don’t want to restrict its action to athletes with access to technology. In this sense, the development of the awareness campaign will also take place in grassroots clubs, through the partners of this project, to support a better outreach to participants from more diverse backgrounds, those with fewer opportunities facing obstacles to participate in European Projects a guideline highlighted in the EU Work Plan for Sport (2021-2024).

By devising and implementing a trans-national project at the EU level, “Sport Against Match-Fixing” contributes to the exchange and dissemination of good practices and learning experiences in the fight against match-fixing and its impact on athlete career, as recommended most recently in the EU Work Plan for Sport (2021-2024). This is reinforced by enabling knowledge transfer among the partnering countries, allowing the dissemination of best practices on various levels of this topic. This follows the principles of cooperation and collaboration proposed by the European Commission and embodied by the different expert groups working to achieve the objectives of the 2021- 2024 Work Plan for Sport (European Union, 2021).

Previous studies and projects at the national level do not enable us to single out and compare the influence of contextual and socio-educative characteristics among different involved partners. The cross-national aspect of this project allows for such comparisons and several data analysis processes. Joint research and exchange of knowledge will allow to develop more detailed and cross-nationally sound recommendations regarding the development of policies/programs/best practices to encourage the fight against match-fixing.

As we have already mentioned, it is widely known that some countries have formulated different solutions to the issue of the fight against match-fixing. Therefore, “Sport Against Match-Fixing” seeks to integrate the main approaches and other solutions that will allow for the cross-generation of ideas and cooperative learning. Finally, this project will result in greater acknowledgement among participating partners across Europe to raise awareness of the fight against match-fixing in grassroots athletes and their careers.

SAMF Partners

Portuguese Football Federation (FPF)



The Portugal Football Federation (FPF) was founded on 31st March 1914 and is a non-profit-making legal person governed by private law, with the status of public utility, which comprises twenty-two district or regional associations, a professional club league, associations of sports agents, clubs and sports societies, players, coaches, and referees. The primary purpose of the FPF is to promote, regulate and manage, at a national level, the teaching and practice of football and futsal in every branch of the game. The FPF is the coordinator of the SAMF project.

Through its vision, the FPF intends to: "increasingly strengthen its role as a central reference in the development of football in Portugal, in such a way that this activity increasingly stands out as one of the most relevant in Portugal's project in Europe and the World." (FPF, n.d.)

The FPF's mission is: "to coordinate, streamline, develop and organise football in all its dimensions and categories, in a harmonious whole, ensuring its continuity and growth throughout the national territory and in all social environments and age groups, to position itself as one of the most competitive on the international scene." (FPF, n.d.) cooperating with its international and national partners in a perspective of independence and mutual benefit.

Finally, the values that frame the mission and vision of the FPF are (FPF, n.d.):

1. Solidarity, transparency, and loyalty in pursuing its objectives.

2. Promotion of the highest ethical, social, and environmental responsibility standards.

3. Guarantee of sporting truth through the democratic functioning of its structure and dialogue with its partners.

4. Inclusion, the acquisition of knowledge and a healthy lifestyle, without prejudice safeguarding football's entertainment and economic activity.

5. “ZERO TOLERANCE” towards racism, discrimination, and violence in football and game or match-fixing.

6. The rationality and economic success of football, ensuring transparency, integrity, loyalty, and honesty.

Match-fixing, or the manipulation of matches and competitions, poses the greatest threat to the credibility of sport, not only because it violates the basic principles of sport but mostly because it is a complete negation of everything that makes the essence and beauty of sport. Knowing that, this phenomenon is caused by criminal organisations that take advantage of the economic weakness of clubs and players. As already mentioned, the FPF has implemented an Integrity Program since 2011 based on the three central REM pillars: Regulation, Education and

Monitoring. Therefore, the Portuguese FA: 1. Through Regulation: stipulates the rules to protect the integrity of competitions, punishes any violations to it and publishes disciplinary decisions; 2. Through Education: educates and raises players' awareness (aged between 15 and 40, both amateur and professional), referees, coaches and managers - Each season, 30 trainers organise hundreds of sessions directed to thousands of football and futsal sportspersons (men and women), explaining the dangers and consequences of match-fixing and manipulation to their life and career; 3. Through Monitoring: operates a reporting channel (integridade.fpf.pt), which ensures the necessary anonymity and/or confidentiality and cooperates with judicial and police authorities and betting operators.

The COVID-19 pandemic intensified vulnerabilities in sport, and the Portuguese FA believes that the development of this project will be extremely useful in training young players who can thus learn from the mistakes of others with whom they identify themselves, even when they live in different countries or different realities.

International Basketball Federation Europe (FIBA EUROPE)



FIBA Europe is a Zone created under the General Statutes of Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA). FIBA Europe is organised as a registered Association. Its headquarters are in Munich, Germany. FIBA Europe consists of 50 national member federations. It is designated as the sole competent authority authorised and delegated by FIBA for promoting, supervising, and directing all men's and women's basketball activities within the European Zone. FIBA Europe fulfils this purpose by promoting basketball practice in the territory under its jurisdiction. For example, by educating and training players, referees and coaches, support of teams at youth competitions, support for basketball for disabled people, and controlling the organisation of international competitions in Europe, both for national teams and club teams, in a permanent, regular manner and in strict compliance with the FIBA Official Basketball Rules. FIBA Europe shall pursue the above purposes solely and directly in a not-for-profit way. The International Federation shall not act for its own gains and shall not primarily pursue its own economic goals. Currently, FIBA Europe employs 28 permanent members of staff. There are also up to 50 freelance contractors employed at various periods of the year.

Starting with programmes for young kids aged 6 to 11 under the umbrella of mini-basketball, FIBA Europe is organising annual conventions for specialists working in this area. Additionally, FIBA Europe supports a wide range of friendly tournaments, coaching clinics, Get-Togethers, and conferences for the age group U12 up to U18. Two of the highlights in this youth-centred programme are the Women's Basketball Summit (U15 Girls Camp, female coaches, and female referees), which is an annual event, and the recent launch of the Girls' Promotional campaign, "Her World, Her Rules" (6 to 15 years old). Furthermore, with its annual youth 16 European national team championships, all 50 European federations participate in 3 age groups equally split for male and female. One of the key pillars of FIBA's strategy is the empowerment of National Federations.

FIBA Europe oversees the delivery in the European region and, in addition to organising major competitions and events, has developed a range of programmes and projects which include support for governance and administration structures, dual career for active and recently retired players, technical courses for sports administrators, officials and coaches. Specific focus and attention are given to the topic of integrity with the launch of a new programme named SWISH – "Remaining on the rim of Integrity". All European National Federations are invited to participate by nominating a member of their staff and go through a training course led by the FIBA Integrity Team and supported by the IOC, EOC, and partners from UEFA, academic and professional organisations.

Simultaneously to SWISH, another high-level programme is delivered by FIBA Europe in cooperation with the commission. The WiLEAD (Women in Leadership) is a course for female

employees of the European National Federations with identified leadership skills and potential. The participants go through a comprehensive programme consisting of individual leadership training led by the academic team of Northumbria University in the UK, a range of seminars, webinars, and interactive sessions with top female leaders from the world of sport, business, politics and media. They will deliver a specific project at the national level aimed at growing popularity and participation among women and girls.

Malta Football Association (MFA)

In the year 2000, the Malta Football Association celebrated the first century since its foundation in 1900, having been the first sports organisation on these islands and becoming one of the oldest. The principal aim of the Malta FA is to foster the game of football through the organisation of competitions, coaching, refereeing and love for the game amongst youngsters. The Malta FA comprises 53 clubs and 13 Member Associations, which organise football competitions for the clubs and teams affiliated with them or other activities related to their status.

The Malta FA joined the world governing body of football - FIFA (1959), and a year later, it became a member of the European Football Union - UEFA (1960). The Malta Football Association is a private non-profit making organisation of an associative nature. It is registered with a local legal body, Sport Malta, which regulates the Association according to Chapter 455 of the Laws of Malta entitled 'Sports Act'. As one of FIFA's oldest member national associations, founded four years before FIFA itself, the Malta Football Association has made great strides, especially during the latter part of the past century. It will continue to do so in the further development of the game of Association Football in all its aspects and at the different levels in the coming years.

The Malta Football Association's Mission is: "To organise, promote and protect the game of football in Malta and Gozo concerning the laws of the game and without discrimination on the grounds of race, colour or creed."

The Association understands that for the implementation of EU-funded projects, the responsible organisation needs to have the capacity to implement such a project. The Association can guarantee that it can manage such a project without difficulties as it is a well-structured organisation comprised of paid individuals with separate responsibilities. The Association is ultimately an umbrella organisation for football clubs in Malta.

During these last years, the Association has assisted clubs, NGOs, and individual groups, albeit indirectly, to help society in general by financing the improvement of their infrastructure and providing adequate equipment to give more opportunities for community members to play football. MFA also plays an active role in supporting national campaigns which address social inclusion initiatives and educational sessions at all levels of good sporting and football practices off and on the field.

The Malta FA has an Integrity Unit within the administrative structure of the association to monitor, combat and engage in issues concerning match-fixing, integrity in football at all levels, on and off the field and related matters. The Integrity Unit organises an Integrity Tour in clubs, schools, and other organisations each season on the issues related to the potential breaching of football regulations and national laws. These sessions are fundamental in making our audiences

aware of the evolution and complexities of the match-fixing phenomenon locally and internationally. We engage with football people using the 3 “R”’s approach: Recognising and being aware of “fixers”; Resisting and recognising potential invitations to fix; Reporting potential “fixers” because it’s right to and because it’s the law.

Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF)

Lithuanian Football federation, as a member of UEFA and FIFA, oversees all football-related activities in Lithuania; youth football development, national and international competitions, promotion of amateur and professional football, football integrity, regulations and disciplinary, all fall under the jurisdiction and responsibilities of LFF. With a staff of 49 and the support of member associations, LFF covers the whole of Lithuania and represents the country in international matters and competitions.

Through its vision, the LFF intends to: "make football accessible, friendly, enjoyable, and empowering for everyone who wants to play or otherwise participate. To provide the most talented with an inspiring football path that would turn dreams into reality." (LFF, n.d.)

The LFF's mission is: "increasing football awareness and forming a positive image of the federation, managing external and internal communication, working with sponsors, and effective and active marketing projects." (LFF, n.d.)

Finally, the values that frame the mission and vision of the LFF are (LFF, n.d.):

1. Transparent and open

2. Passion

3. One team

4. Professional

5. Devoted

In terms of strategy, the LFF defines eight priority areas for the development of its initiatives in the context of football and the impact on its community:

1. Participation (i.e., to increase the number of football players in Lithuania in different contexts);

2. Technical development (i.e., to implement the system of technical development, to raise the talent selection and the level of excellence in mass and youth football competitions and teams);

3. High performance (i.e., to improve the results and ranking of the national teams);

4. Development of women's football (i.e., to demonstrate a positive image of women's football in the media, inspire to choose this sport);

5. Improve stakeholders' qualifications (i.e., to provide our community with high-quality development opportunities and activities directly related to football and off the pitch);

6. Facilities development (i.e., to enhance the opportunities to play throughout the year, improving training infrastructure for technical development and high-performance programs);

7. Management (i.e., to support planning with business principles using data and seek to maximise commercial and publicity opportunities);

8. Engagement (i.e., to be modern, open in communication and make football the most popular sport in Lithuania, improving the recognition and identification of the LFF brand).

LFF has extensive experience in football development and promotion and is willing to share this expertise with our European partners. LFF has come face to face with modern risks and challenges to football, especially in the context of the integrity of the game. In the 2019-2020 season, LFF encountered a match-fixing severe situation, which was successfully resolved, leaving the organisation with the knowledge of risks and problems as well as the experience and insights in preventing and dealing with integrity concerns. LFF is ready to participate in sharing its experience of safeguarding the beautiful game of football and promoting integrity as the core value of football across European football communities.

Panathlon International

Panathlon International is a free, non-governmental, non-profit-making Association. Furthermore, it is an International Movement that also, through its clubs, promotes and shares culture and sporting ethics. The International Olympic Committee officially recognises PI. As such, it aims to deepen, divulge, and defend the values of sport as a tool for training and enhancing the individual and as a vehicle of solidarity between men and people.

The word "Panathlon" is of Greek origin and can be translated as "group of sport disciplines", and its motto "Ludis Iungit" means "united by sport".

Panathlon International's goals are:

• To systematically and continuously act at all levels to spread the idea of sport, inspired by the spirit of fair play, as an integral part of the culture of all men and people.

• To promote studies and research into sport's problems in collaboration with schools, universities, and other cultural organisations.

• To participate in drawing up sports rules through proposals, consultations, and programming in the field of sport.

• To work towards the ideal of a healthy sporting education guaranteed for all, Panathlon undertakes to encourage and support activities for the disabled, activities for the prevention of drug abuse and the recovery of its victims, and the promotion and development of educational programmes against violence and doping.

• To commit to raising public awareness for a sustainable sport in harmony with nature and environmental protection.

• To support the Olympic Movement in any activities consistent with the aims of the Association.

It has about 10.000 members, with 265 clubs, spread in over 27 countries all over the world (4 different continents), its headquarters is in Rapallo (Italy), and it has six paid employees in its offices.

The core mission and vision of Panathlon International are deeply connected with promoting positive sporting values. As such, the encouragement of adopting ethical principles, fair-play values, and fighting against match-fixing and other sports threats is of utmost importance. Taking this into consideration, Panathlon International can help this project by sharing and promoting a more positive sport, particularly the fight against match-fixing, to and through its Clubs, and especially, but not exclusively, by targeting youth education, so this scourge, that not only undermines healthy sporting behaviour, but also contributes to the

abandon of sporting positive values, can be prevented. In addition, Panathlon International can also divulge and promote this project through its Panathlon Club Universities (https://pcucommittee.com/).

Sport Evolution Alliance (SEA)

Sport Evolution Alliance (SEA) is a non-government private association formed in Portugal, at the initiative of a group of sports managers, with significant experience in European grants management and implementation. SEA provides services seeking differentiating intervention and advanced solutions for developing policies in the field of health, education, and culture, with a particular focus on sport.

Sport Evolution Alliance assumes the following mission, vision, and values:

Mission - Contribute to the development of the community through the connection, promotion and application of initiatives associated with sport.

Vision - Become a national leader in the field of European projects in the sports area, promoting the most innovative communitarian trends locally.

Values:

- Sustainability - Sport Evolution Alliance believes that only through sustainability solutions is possible to introduce the necessary changes.
- Excellence - Sport Evolution Alliance seeks excellence, promoting the overcoming of the realities in which it intervenes.
- Ambition - Sport Evolution Alliance is driven by the constant ambition to practice and generate social development.

SEA's main activities are sport management, project planning and control, courses and training, education and sports programs, market studies, consultancy in the areas of sport, data analysis and treatment and sports events. SEA brings innovation, knowledge and access to Portugal's most relevant stakeholders, groups, and public bodies. SEA experience makes a significant impact on each project that the organisation is involved in. SEA can work in different areas and contexts in the field of sport, and the diversity of experiences and backgrounds of the team's experts is an added value to its performance.

Through their research team, composed of prestigious PhD in the scope of action, and through their knowledge and expertise in managing European projects, SEA will be the main responsible for all the research part and will also deliver all the technical support to the coordinator, to fulfil all the tasks that are programmed. The project will be chaired by the Olympic Athlete Pedro Dias, ambassador of the national program of ethics in sport.

European Network for Innovation and Knowledge (EUNIK)

The European Network for Innovation and Knowledge is a Foundation based in the Netherlands but working internationally. EUNIK has been formed by higher education and R&D experts, with more than 15 years of experience working in the international field and with EU Grants management.

EUNIK's Objectives:

- The design and implementation of Research & Development activities and promotion of competition regarding public funding calls.
- The promotion and implementation of activities and actions to promote digitalisation in education, culture, and sport.
- To encourage international network cooperation between institutions, mainly European, profit, and non-profit institutions that require support for the digitalisation of their activities.
- To provide support services for the network members, associates, and stakeholders.
- To bring Educational Management and Innovation know-how to the organisations.

Moreover, EUNIK aims to contribute to the EU and the Erasmus+ Scheme by supporting public and private bodies with their specific needs on knowledge management, eLearning and online education programmes' implementation, and the digital transformation that will lead the EU to the next generation. There are thousands of organisations making significant contributions to the EU strategy and its programmes, putting hands on problem solving and making relevant contributions to the cultural and scientific communities. But sometimes, the visibility and impact of these works, because of their traditional methodologies, do not reach their maximum. Therefore, EUNIK brings to ambitious quality-oriented organisations the resources that usually are only available to big companies and universities, with the aim of:

- Scale their organisation and projects using tailor-made apps and web-app technologies.
- Reach a bigger audience and have a greater engagement by using EUNIK's eLearning platform, either on the website or on our smartphone apps.
- Make a more serious and meaningful contribution with their projects thanks to the research and the scientific contributions our scientists can develop.

SAMF Method

Aims to research

An initial effort was made to ensure a theoretical and practical framework for the theme of this project, focusing on the impact of match-fixing on athletes. This allows a specific and adequate direction to what will be intended in the SAMF Project.

In this regard, this consortium proposed to produce this report. The general objective is to present a document to identify the leading causes and consequences of match-fixing to athletes' careers and possible good practices identified in the cross-cultural context in the countries participating in the SAMF project. Following this idea, it's expected that this document shows common causes and consequences among the countries involved in the project. This can help us build and identify more effective actions in the fight against match-fixing. Thus, this report aims to:

1. Present a bibliometric analysis of match-fixing research. Research papers were the primary sources evaluated for this task.

2. Together with descriptions of similarities and differences about the theme in participating countries, an interview guide was created that was part of the focus group step.

3. Five focus groups were performed from Portugal, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, and Germany from the previous step and the dimensions identified in the literature review about match-fixing and its impact on athlete careers.

4. Throughout the process, each consortium member had the chance to discuss and suggest new questions for the interview guide (based on previous steps) that was applied in a focus group. These focus groups were conducted following the proposed model from Freitas et al. (1998) for around 90 minutes, online or offline, to empirically confirm and identify the causes and consequences of match-fixing on athletes' careers.

Rationale

The “Manipulation of sports competitions” means an intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sports competition to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the aforementioned sports competition to obtain an undue advantage for oneself or others (Macolin Convention, 2014). Some authors conceptualised match-fixing as "irregularly influencing the course or the result of a sports event in order to obtain advantages for oneself or others (people or institutions) and to remove all or a part of the uncertainty normally associated with the result of a competition" (Moriconi & Almeida, 2019, p.2). Other researchers consider match-fixing as a sub-dimension of corruption and that it has become a considerable problem in the European context (e.g., football) (Gorse, Chadwick, & Byers, 2014; Haberfeld & Sheehan, 2013; Nowy & Beuer, 2016). Hill (2010) refers that from the athlete’s perspective, there are three factors explaining match-fixing: 1) the players are poorly paid, 2) athletes perceive their bosses as corrupt, and 3) the existence of large networks of illegal gambling. According to Huggins (2018), match-fixing has been more likely in sports in which the volume of betting is higher, and it is more prone to exist in sports when: 1) the actions of one individual could ensure the appropriate result, 2) the athletes are about to finish their careers, and 3) among youngsters unsure of their success.

Following Hill (2016), match-fixing is increasingly related to poor governance, corruption scandals, organisations with increasingly centralised powers, and lacking transparency and almost no accountability. Three factors drive match-fixing: 1) the sports betting market has grown and unified; 2) it is now possible to bet money on more games in more leagues; 3) international broadcasts are taking sports to new audiences. For example, the International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) reported 2021 236 cases of suspicious betting to the authorities. During five years (2017-2021), IBIA signs 1,222 alerts in 19 sports and 101 countries. The 2021 alerts covered 13 sports and 49 different countries. Tennis and football continue to dominate. Europe also continued to provide the most significant number of signs, with 50% of the total annual (IBIA, 2022). 80 total tennis alerts, down 18% from the 98 reported in 2020. 66 football alerts, an increase of 8% in 2020 and the highest annual number reported. 27 alerts on sporting events in Russia, the highest number for a single country in 2021. 11 sports or criminal sanctions successful during 2021 from IBIA alerts. 10 alerts were reported in North America, a 54% drop from 22 reported in 2020 (IBIA, 2022).

According to Theodorou (2017), in an investigation conducted with 656 athletes from different sports, the three main reasons for match-fixing are financial difficulties, pressure from other players and/or game officials/team officials, and easy money. In addition, risk factors that compromise the fight against match-fixing are related to problems with gambling, sports betting addiction, anticipated pride, indifference, and moral disengagement. Werner et al. (2012) refer that for athletes, match-fixing can be a disappointment concerning the expectation of loyal competition, which results in poor motivation, lack of confidence, and even a negative impact on talent recruitment since the image of sport tends to be distorted.

Besides its well-known negative outcomes, match-fixing has also received large amounts of media attention (mostly related to football), contributing to the sport’s governing bodies to

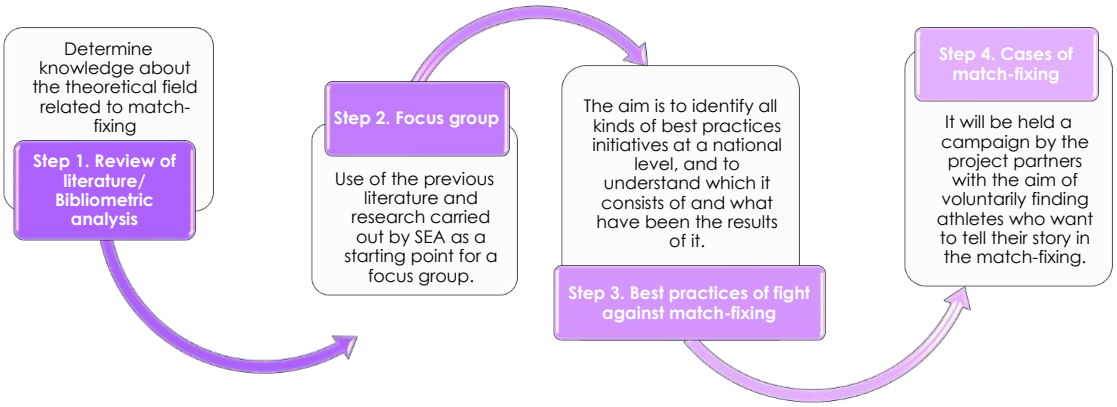
develop new action and prevention strategies (Haberfeld & Sheehan, 2013). In fact, football remains the most targeted and manipulated sport due to its worldwide popularity, economic dimension, and significant turnover betting market (EUROPOL, 2019). The value generated globally on football betting outweighs by far any other form of sports betting and is reported to be €895 billion/year (Sportradar, 2019). This means a strong link between match-fixing and organised crime, promoting new markets to profit from manipulated football matches played in Europe and beyond (Hill, 2010).

As seen, sports corruption is still a reason for concern in European sports, particularly in football, in the lower leagues, and in smaller countries in general (Aquilina & Chetcuti, 2014). This rationale suggests, for example, that minor leagues have less possibility of having sustainable clubs from a financial point of view. Consequently, the athletes receive lower salaries and are more susceptible to enticement through match-fixing.

As mentioned before, research on match-fixing is often perceived as having empirical poverty, some analytical reductionism, and under-theorization (Numerato, 2016). These features may be justified by the sensitivity of the phenomenon, imperfect data, and the limited reported and detected cases. Whilst reaffirming the autonomy of sports organisations, the EU Council also identified the need for further research in this field to determine the extent to which match-fixing is widespread (establishment of a baseline), to acknowledge the range of behaviours that need to be tackled, and finally to suggest possible solutions (Chappelet, 2015). According to Moriconi (2018), training and education programs lack a holistic approach and the establishment of a national diagnosis (baseline of the prevalence of episodes). These results suggest the need to develop further research about match-fixing and to increase the cooperation and sharing of knowledge among the stakeholders, who often have different perceptions about the causes and consequences of match-fixing for sport and athletes.

Based on athletes' feedback, Theodorou (2017) considers that all sports community face the challenge of providing grassroots athletes with a set of contents and practices that allow the development of their careers based on behaviours that enhance the positive values of sports (e.g., equal opportunities and fair competition) to avoid match-fixing. Therefore, a research roadmap was defined to identify practical and theoretical aspects of the match-fixing phenomenon.

Research roadmap



Step 1: Review of literature / Bibliometric analysis

In Step 1, the SAMF focuses on understanding the topic of match-fixing. This stage aimed to identify, through a bibliometric analysis, the scientific evolution of this theme. First, the search criteria were selected to determine the records in the database. “TITLE-ABS-KEY (("Match-Fixing" OR "Manipulation of Results in Sports Settings" OR "Fight Against Match-Fixing" OR "Integrity" AND "Match-Fixing" OR "Betting and Match-Fixing" OR " Athlete Career" AND "Match-Fixing")) AND (EXCLUDE (PUBYEAR, 2022))”. After obtaining the records matching the search criteria, the data was exported for analysis using VOSviewer v. 1.6.18. Having extracted the database through the Scimat software version 1.1.04 (Cobo et al., 2012), the database was analysed and cleaned for duplicate words, error entries, and differences in the spelling of the author's names. Additionally, this software validated the Scopus database's performance indicators. In the analysis of the thematic area, VOSviewer software version 1.6.15 was used to identify and run techniques for science mapping (van Eck & Waltman, 2010).

The following research questions were formulated to provide a better understanding of the topic:

Q1. What have been the behaviours of scientific publications concerning match-fixing in sports?

Q2. What are the most relevant topics and publications on match-fixing in sports?

Q3. Which authors, journals, institutions, and countries are most productive in the research field?

Q4. What are the leading international cooperation networks between authors and countries?

Q5. What are the top themes for sports match-fixing research in the present and the future?

The section "Literature report – A bibliometric analysis of match-fixing research" presents data from this investigation step.

Step 2: Focus group

The application of the Focus Group technique allows us to collect an appropriate amount of data in a short period. However, we cannot argue with total conviction about the spontaneity of the participants' contributions. Nevertheless, some of the information gathered during an FG session will potentially be of great worth because it will be collected with great difficulty through the simple observation of reality (Freitas et al., 1998, p.4).

The goal of a Focus Group is to have the participants understand the topic of interest to the researcher, irrespective of its use, alone or together with other research methods.

Focus groups will be followed in the different cases under analysis, considering the grassroots athletes. Taking advantage of the intersubjective and shared nature of this technique, we believe that prior to the application of the survey, it will be particularly useful to identify match-fixing determinants, given that the review of the state-of-the-art points to very general factors. This way, the survey's dimensions and indicators will be more accurate.

Following the literature (Hill, 2016), the match-fixing topic is susceptible. Not all people approached to give their testimonies on the subject feel comfortable allowing their testimonies to be recorded. In this sense, these guidelines were built to help guide organisations in a better structure to conduct the Focus Group, allowing the steps to be used for a recorded or unrecorded session.

This section describes the focus group method carried out by the partners of the SAMF project.

1. Inclusion criteria: As a suggestion, this focus group was composed of representatives of athletes (03 participants, above 16 years), managers (01 participant), coaches (01 participant), and other sports stakeholders (02 participants, e.g., law agents or people involved in organisations that work in projects with match-fixing topic preferably). These participants need to be involved with the theme of this Project.

2. Schedule: The partner set the focus group date, which did occur between June and August 2022.

Steps for the data collection

Pre-session

After the choice of participants, these were contacted and clarified to understand the participation in this Step following the information:

- This study aimed "to identify possible impressions about causes and consequences of match-fixing for the athlete's career."

- The participation was voluntary.
- The focus group could be held onsite or online.
- No one was identified during data collection and then in the data analysis.
- The focus group could be recorded if all participants agreed.
- The focus group lasted about 90 minutes.

Session

1. The focus group was reunited outside the organisation's environment, which allowed a more relaxed atmosphere during the meeting.

2. Participants sat in a circle.

3. The session could be held online. In this sense, the organisation needed to guarantee that the session would occur on an online platform like Zoom or Google Meet.

4. Before the session, all participants needed to sign the 'Informed Consent Term' and authorise the session recording.

5. Each participant was identified by a Letter and a Number from the number of participants of each represented segment, for example, Athlete 1 (A1), Athlete 2 (A2), Coach 1 (C1), Manager 1 (M1).

6. Two people from the organisation were responsible for the following:

a. A mediator who asked the questions and conducted the dialogue.

b. A person responsible for taking notes of the participants' responses, highlighting only the main points. As already mentioned, this person was only necessary if the session was not recorded.

7. As cited, in the case of the need to point out the answers of the participants, the participants were to be identified with letters or numbers, for example:

- "The Athlete 1 or A1 refers that the match-fixing is not a good practice in sports."
- "The Coach 1 or C1 refers that the match-fixing could create bad athletes."
- "The Manager 1 or M1 refers that..."

8. On the other hand, in the recorded sessions, the data were transcribed and included in the online tool Microsoft Forms.

9. At the beginning of the session, the moderator needed to:

- Explain the project,
- The aim of the session,
- The duration of the session,
- That does not exist a right or wrong answer,

- The participants only needed to answer the questions if they felt comfortable.

Guidelines to conduct the session

1. Each participant had 3 minutes to introduce themselves.

2. At the end of the presentation, the moderator initiated the questions for the group discussion.

3. Questions were asked one at a time.

4. The questions were directed to the group, and the moderator intermediated to understand if the answers given were related to the topic.

5. In addition, the moderator did understand the moment when the answers were repeated (or the theme was exhausted) and then proposed a new question.

6. Participants weren't interrupted, but the time of each response was informally controlled.

7. The moderator conducted the session so the participants had the same role and did not interrupt other participants' responses.

8. Others could supplement questions during the focus group if the moderator understood that more information is needed.

Measures

The questions below arose from Step 1 and were related to the theme of this project. It did in the context of the focus group for all participants, seeking to extract as much information that could help better understand the context of match-fixing and which topics should be adapted to the proposal of the SAMF educational program.

1. We established a priori five categories of analysis that were divided into nine questions.
2. In this sense, we had questions that complemented each other and that could be asked quickly in sequence.

Following the categories and questions below:

Category: Match-fixing concepts

- *Question 1.* What do you mean by match-fixing?

Category: The manipulators

- *Question 2.* In your opinion, who are the main gambling corruptors (e.g., managers, ex-athletes, gamblers, and others)?
- *Question 3.* In your opinion, what are the communication channels that the gambling corruptors use the most to recruit athletes to match-fixing?

Category: Causes of match-fixing

- *Question 4.* In your opinion, what are the reasons that make athletes accept to participate in match-fixing?
- *Question 5.* Do you know, or have you seen any case of match-fixing happen near you? How was it?

Category: Consequences of match-fixing

- *Question 6.* Thinking about grassroots athletes, in your opinion, what are the consequences that match-fixing can bring to your sporting career and your personal life?
- *Question 7.* In your opinion, what consequences can match-fixing bring in the short, medium, and long term for an athlete (in general)?

Category: Initiatives to fight against match-fixing

- *Question 8.* In your opinion, sports organisations should fight the match-fixing issue through which initiatives?
- *Question 9.* In your opinion, how can an educational program for grassroots athletes against match-fixing help to potentiate this struggle?
- *Question 10.* Did we forget something? / What advice would you have for us?

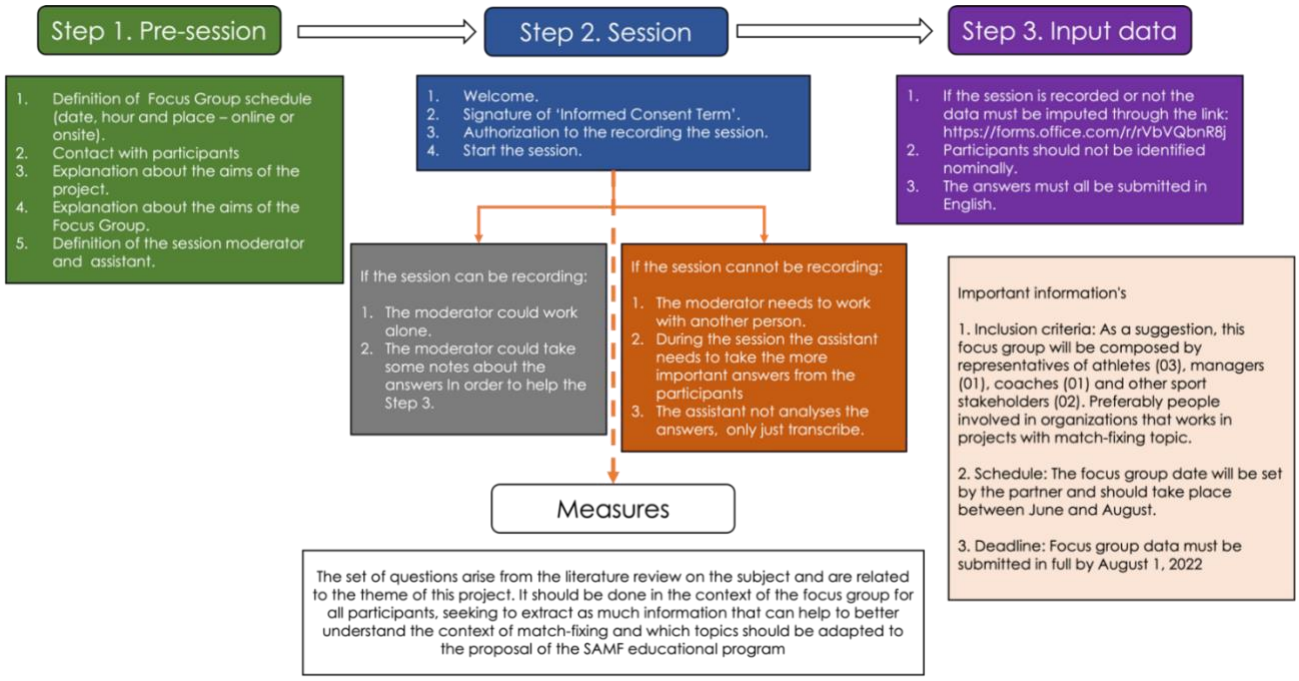
Data input

1. The data was imputed on the online platform.
2. Participants didn't be identified nominally.
3. The data were transcribed and translated into the English language.
4. Then, through the link referred to above, they must be added to the response space of each of the Focus Group participants.
5. Only answers from participants were included in the online platform, which were summarised and transcribed *ipsis litteris*.
6. The data imputation officer didn't interpret the participants' answers.

Data analysis

Atlas.ti 22 for Windows was used to conduct a content analysis. Three stages of data preparation and analysis were involved: data organisation, material exploration, and treatment of results (coding and interpretation). We categorised the data into five categories: definition of match-fixing, causes, consequences, main perpetrators, and combat initiatives, based on participants, athletes, coaches, managers, and other stakeholders. A word frequency cloud was generated for each category based on the codification.

The 'Flow' of the Focus Group



Step 3: Best practices in the fight against match-fixing

This SAMF Step aimed to identify best practice initiatives in the fight against match-fixing at a national and international level. The scientific knowledge of SEA members led this Step with technicians from all partners. In addition, a guideline was formulated to gather information such as the type of initiative against match-fixing, the target groups and the organisation that carried out the initiative. The general objective was to create an initiatives list based on match-fixing in Europe, allowing the identification of those best practices.

Measures

The measures used to identify the best practices from the SAMF partners were:

1. Type of initiative/program.
2. The target group of the initiative/program.
3. Number of people (athletes, managers, referees, and sports community in general) assisted in the initiative/program.
4. The time when this initiative takes place.
5. Number of organisations participating in the initiative/program.
6. Dissemination channels of this initiative/program.
7. Evaluation of the initiative/program impacts.
8. A brief description of the initiative/program.

Step 4: The 'Cases' of Match-Fixing

Knowing the match-fixing cases helped us develop the Step-in sequence. In this sense, was sought to identify through the project partners:

Prospecting for match-fixing cases and athletes' testimonials

In this first step, the SAMF partners identified up to 4 known cases of match-fixing. The data collected are representative of a set of questions that involve the identification of causes of match-fixing and "The five stages" (Hill, 2010):

1. Access to the athlete (through which channel does the corrupting access the athlete).
2. The set-up (how was the enticement happen).
3. The calling of the fix (what method was used by the corruptor to ensure that the athlete would comply with the agreement).
4. The performance (at what point in the game does the deal result occur).
5. The payment (how the athlete gets paid).

Finally, the participant indicates what consequences are known (and public) or not for the athlete (personal and professional context).

Interview with the athletes

Based on this previous step's examples, the project partners promoted a campaign to voluntarily find athletes who want to anonymously tell their stories about the match-fixing, considering the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - (EU) No. 2016/679.

We sought to identify cases of match-fixing. This step aims to allow the creation of a campaign that tells real cases that can be used to raise awareness among grassroots athletes about the leading causes and consequences of match-fixing.

This data was obtained through a one-by-one interview with athletes who volunteer and want to tell their stories.

Guidelines to interview

1. The interview could be conducted face-to-face, online, or by phone.
2. The interview could be recorded, provided the athlete's prior authorisation.
3. If the recording was not authorised, the data were written by the interviewers, following the structure of the guide shared by the SEA researchers.
4. Athletes should be aware of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679.
5. By GDPR (EU) 2016/679, personal data will not be disclosed unless authorised.
6. Even so, the athlete has the right to revoke this permission at any time.
7. The purpose of data collection is for educational purposes for creating the SAMF program.
8. The purpose of data collection is for scientific purposes.

9. The researchers of SEA partners in the project processed the data.
10. The interview data will be stored for 24 months in a database on an external disk, without access to any online network, from the date of its collection.
11. Athletes have the right to demand a copy of the data collected in a standard format and demand that such data be deleted in circumstances that violate GDPR (EU) 2016/679.

Suggested to interview questions

These questions follow the logic of a semi-structured interview. In this sense, these questions guided the discussion, but the interviewers could add other questions and information that they deemed relevant.

The data collected are representative of a set of questions that involve the identification of causes of match-fixing:

- Question 1. What motivated you to participate in match-fixing?
- Question 2. Do you feel you were doing something right or wrong at that moment?
- Question 3. How did the corruptor get to you? Can you describe the initial dialogue a little?
- Question 4. Who besides the corruptor was involved in the process (teammates, staff, coaches, managers)?
- Question 5. How did the corruptor convince you to participate in this process?
- Question 6. At that moment, did you share the situation with anyone else? What was the reaction of the person(s)?
- Question 7. What method did the corruptor use to ensure that you would comply with the agreement?
- Question 8. What situation was agreed upon?
- Question 9. How was the payment made?
- Question 10. After the game, how did you feel?
- Question 11. Was the case discovered?
- Question 12. What was the reaction of your teammates, staff, or managers who know about this case?
- Question 13. What was your family's reaction to hearing about this case?
- Question 14. What was the reaction of the club or organisation you represented when it heard about the case?
- Question 15. What did you feel when your case was publicised in the media? (If this happened)
- Question 16. If you could go back, what would you do differently?
- Question 17. What advice would you give to young athletes exposed to this situation?
- Question 18. In your opinion, what are the main reasons for accepting to participate in match-fixing situations?
- Question 19. In your opinion, how should sports organisations deal with the issue of match-fixing?
- Question 20. Would you like to add something?

SAMF Results

Step 1: Review of literature / Bibliometric analysis

Literature report – A bibliometric analysis of match-fixing research

Abstract: The practice of match-fixing appears almost opportunistic in sports where hostile environments are conducive to its implementation. In recent years, large organisations have given attention to the topic, such as The Macolin Convention, and thus this area of research has been developed primarily within the scientific community. Therefore, this study aimed to identify through a bibliometric analysis the scientific evolution of this topic. There were 202 articles found in the Scopus database on match-fixing and sport from 2000 to 2021, and it was possible to identify the publication behaviour in this field, the prominent authors, journals, and most productive institutions as emerging areas related to the subject. Furthermore, the main research topics during this period were organised crime, corruption, football, mafia, and betting. It is expected that motivation, athletes, morality, sports integrity, sports ethics, governance, and money laundering will receive more attention in the future. Moroconi is the most productive author on this topic, the University of Lausanne UNIL is the most influential institution, the United Kingdom is the most productive country, and Match Fixing in International Sports is the most abundant source. While there are still few publications in the thematic area, there has been exponential growth in the research line in the last five years, which confirms that it is a research area with great potential in the future.

Keywords: match-fixing; manipulation of results in sports settings; fight against match-fixing; integrity; betting; bibliometric.

Introduction

Approximately 1% of the global GDP arises from the sports industry (Schmidt, 2020). With the advancement of technology, sports consumption has changed over the past decades, and companies are exploring ways to improve the sports user experience (Schlegel & Hill, 2020). Despite many benefits, there is a possibility of a negative externality with the rapid growth of the sports betting market by leveraging spending on these platforms, combining experiences in sports venues via broadcast or streaming (Killick & Griffiths, 2021; LaPlante et al., 2008; Nelson et al., 2021). Due to regulatory resistance, problems such as match-fixing and gambling emerge as a side effect and have come to be considered one of the biggest threats to the integrity and sustainability of professional sport (Carpenter, 2012; Hill, 2009; Moriconi, 2020; O'Shea et al., 2021).

The number of cases of match-fixing in recent years has been preoccupying; these incidents have adverse implications for the sports industry, affecting its image and social and economic representation in society.

Match-fixing can reduce athletes' efforts in specific matches, depending on the potential reward. Sometimes this has to do with the opposition valuing victory more and being willing to pay for it. Likewise, it goes for the opportunity to profit from insider knowledge through play. Due

to the perception that match-fixing impedes spectator interest, organisers prohibit match-fixing from preserving the spirit of the game (Preston & Szymanski, 2003; Tweedie & Holden, 2022).

Using a prominent player as a ''project manager'' enables a gambling corruptor to fix a match successfully. The corruptor will pay this player a lump sum of money. By setting up a corrupt network amongst his teammates, the player will be able to gain an advantage. Generally, corruptors follow a five-stage process of corruption: access, set up, calling for the fix, performance, and payment (Hill, 2009).

Background

In 2012 the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the European Commissioner responsible for Sport, and the participants in the EU Sport Forum 2012, signed the Declaration of Nicosia that refers to five critical areas as essential for the fight against match-fixing practices: 1) Education, Prevention and Good Governance, 2) Monitoring, 3) Sanctions, 4) Cooperation, 5) International coordination. In 2014, a report developed by Sorbonne University and the International Centre for Sport Security provided an outline of the research on the manipulation of sports competitions and, for example, an overview of the state of a globalised sports economy in the entertainment and professional aspects. Still, data from this report consider Europe to be the region of the world where most cases of match-fixing are found across the most significant number of different sports disciplines (University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne & (ICSS), 2014).

Between 2014 and 2022 the Macolin Convention was signed by 41 countries, and ratified by 8 countries. The Macolin Convention is a legal instrument and the only rule of international law on manipulating sports competitions. This convention seeks to create a network of collaboration between public authorities, sports organisations, betting operators, and competition organisers to prevent, detect, and sanctioning match-fixing. These organisations work based on a common legal framework and efficient international cooperation to respond to this global threat (EUROPE, 2014).

Complementarily, the governance practices established by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) - which supports this project application - at the 2017 Congress are based on the promotion of ethical values, integrity, and good governance in football to strengthen the fight against conflicts of interest, corruption, and match-fixing. UEFA also aims to protect minors and potentiate fair play. The UEFA Strategy (2019-2024) aims to be the standard-bearer for good governance by establishing the need to work together with the football community and ensure transparent and democratic processes. This strategic plan considers that integrity and trust must underpin football development and all European football competitions. To do so, UEFA fostered the improvement of mechanisms/procedures to detect suspicious activity about match-fixing using advanced technology. Besides promoting integrity in football, these measures aim to ensure the protection of the athletes as well.

A study conducted to verify the reality of Brazilian football and the ability to fight corruption in the game found that a low priority is placed on combating match-fixing, that many matches

are unmonitored, that sports organisations are poorly governed, and that poor working conditions for players and referees contribute to a corruptive ecosystem in the sport (Marchetti et al., 2021).

Several major international organisations are concerned about match-fixing and its consequences and are working to prevent and combat it. However, according to Moriconi (2018), training and education programs lack a holistic approach to establishing a national diagnosis (baseline of the prevalence of episodes). In his view, Moriconi (2020) also agrees that further investigations are necessary to provide scientific evidence to counter the manipulation of results, leaving aside unfounded narratives that often fail to capture the depth of the problem.

A lack of uncertainty in sports competition undermines cultural, socioeconomic, and political institutions and the many ideals and norms they represent. Even when that match-fixing is not related to gambling or organised crime, it damages the integrity of sport (Holden & Rodenberg, 2015; Tweedie & Holden, 2022).

Based on these results, further research regarding match-fixing is needed, as well as increased cooperation and sharing of knowledge between stakeholders, who often have different perceptions regarding the causes and consequences of match-fixing.

Using a methodology of bibliometric analysis, the current research examines the development of the concept of match-fixing in sports to analyse the current level of knowledge and trends for future research in this area. The following research questions were formulated to provide a better understanding of the topic:

Q1. What has been the behaviour of scientific publications concerning match-fixing in sports?

Q2. What are the most relevant topics and publications on match-fixing in sports?

Q3. Which authors, journals, institutions, and countries are most productive in the research field?

Q4. What are the leading international cooperation networks between authors and countries?

Q5. What are the top themes for sports match-fixing research in the present and the future?

Methodology

Database and bibliometric analysis methodology

This study employed the quantitative method of investigation bibliometrics to analyse the intellectual and bibliometric structure of the research line (Cobo et al., 2011; di Stefano et al., 2010; Zupic & Čater, 2015). This analysis examined the structural and social relationships in the research field of match-fixing in sports among countries, institutions, authors, and journals.

First, the search criteria were selected to identify the records in the database. "*TITLE-ABS-KEY (("Match-Fixing" OR "Manipulation of Results in Sports Settings" OR "Fight Against Match-Fixing" OR "Integrity" AND "Match-Fixing" OR "Betting and Match-Fixing" OR "Athlete Career" AND "Match-Fixing")) AND (EXCLUDE (PUBYEAR, 2022))".* After obtaining the records matching the search criteria, the data was exported for analysis using VOSviewer v. 1.6.18. Following that, connections and associations among the scientific documents were established, and the discussion was presented. The scientific research was conducted according to the design suggested by Donthu et al. (2021), and the steps are described in Figure 1.

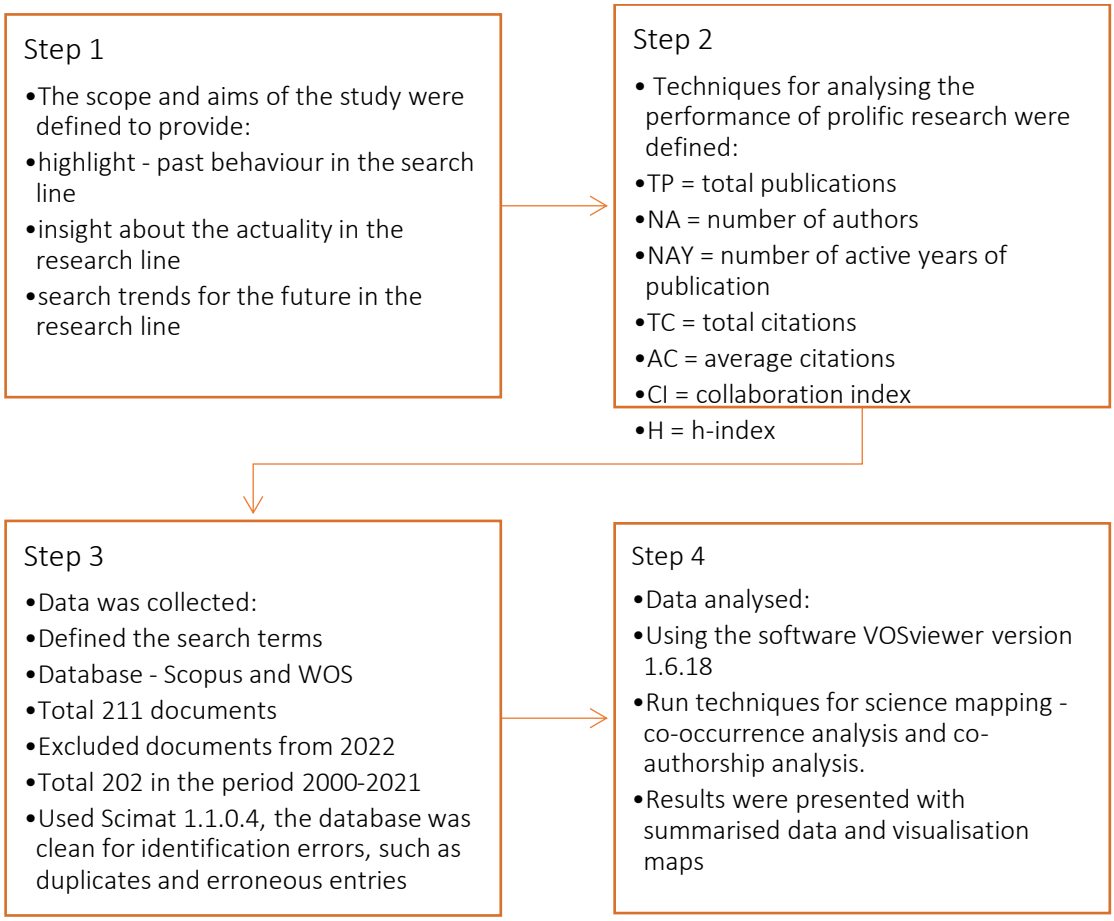


Figure 1. The bibliometric analysis procedure

As a result of the low number of documents found, no specific documents were excluded by type, only the time horizon from 2000 to 2021 was chosen, excluding papers published in 2022, understanding that at the end of the search, most documents would still be in the process of publication, and it was impossible to maintain the rigour of the database.

To complement this analysis, a search was conducted in the Web of Science (WOS) database using the same descriptors and criteria used for the Scopus search. Due to the inability of VOSviewer to integrate different databases, the data from Scopus databases were used since

Scopus provides more comprehensive data for bibliometric analysis. At the same time, the documents from WOS were presented for informational purposes only.

Having extracted the database through the Scimat software version 1.1.04 (Cobo et al., 2012), the database was analysed and cleaned for duplicate words, error entries, and differences in the spelling of the author's names. Additionally, this software validated the Scopus database's performance indicators. In the analysis of the thematic area, VOSviewer software version 1.6.15 was used to identify and run techniques for science mapping (van Eck & Waltman, 2010).

Furthermore, co-word analysis was used to verify a conceptual network of topics and research trends by calculating the frequency of co-occurrence of keywords, that is, the number of articles in which two keywords appear together (Leung et al., 2017; Zupic & Čater, 2015). Also, the co-authorship analysis and interaction in networks of authors, institutions, sources, and countries were run, which resulted in maps showing these networks (Castillo-Vergara et al., 2018; Donthu et al., 2020; Meseguer-Sánchez et al., 2021; Zheng & Kouwenberg, 2019). Lastly, indicators such as the number of publications and citations were used to evaluate the productivity and relevance of authors, institutions, newspapers, and countries.

Data presentation

General analysis

The results presented in this section describe the main characteristics of scientific research on match-fixing in esports from 2000 to 2021. Table 1 provides an overview of the research line's results summarised based on the number of published documents, authors, countries, citations, sources, the average number of citations, and the average number of authors.

Table 1. Main characteristics of scientific production on match-fixing and sport.

Period	TP	NA	Countries	TC	Sources	C/P	A/P
2000-2005	3	6	3	118	3	39.33	2.00
2006-2011	8	12	5	155	8	19.38	1.50
2012-2016	62	86	22	448	31	7.23	1.39
2017-2021	129	201	44	543	70	4.20	1.56
2000-2021	202	281	48	1264	99	6.25	1.39

(TP): total of publications; (NA): number of authors; (TC): total citations; (C/P): average citations per publication; (A/P): average number of authors per publication.

Scientific production in the area started incipiently at the beginning of the 21st century, with only three articles published until 2005. According to the last line of table 1, the total number of publications for the whole period is 202. A total of 281 authors are found, 48 countries are involved in publications on this topic, and 1264 citations and 99 sources are involved.

In 2007, the International Olympic Committee committed itself to fight sports corruption, focusing on manipulating results (Chappelet, 2015). In the follow-up of literary production, it is noticed that there is a timid increase in scientific output in later years, and this growth began to be seen in more expressive numbers from 2012 to 2016. However, it is the last period analysed, from 2017 to 2021, where the most significant production volume can be seen, with 129 publications being more than double the number of publications in the previous period. And as seen in Figure 2, the exponential growth in the number of publications shows a growing interest in the topic.

Regarding the number of authors involved in the subject, there has been a significant increase of 3250 per cent since the first period analysed (2001-2005). Despite this, the average number of authors is lower in the last period (2017-2021), with 1.56, as compared to the first period of publications, with an average of 2.00, suggesting that recent publications have tended to be less collaborative.

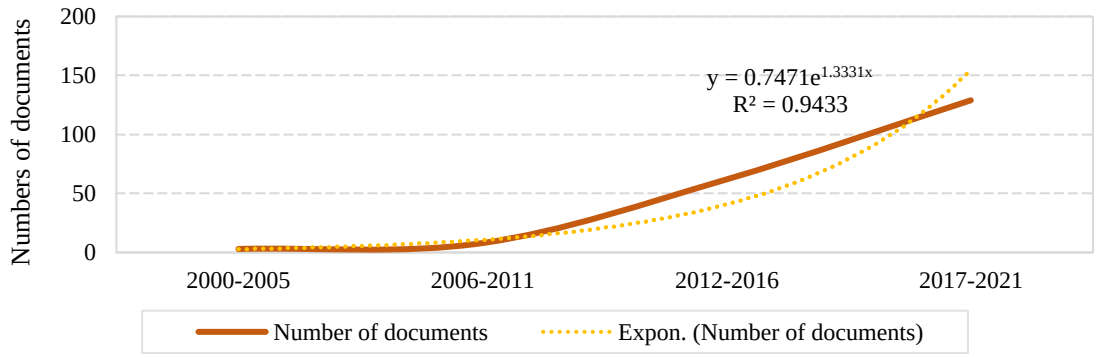


Figure 2. Evolution of scientific production over periods of years.

In the same way, greater involvement of countries has been observed in the most recent publications, and it is possible to determine an increase of 1366% in comparison with the first period, with a total of 48 countries that have discussed the topic so far, illustrating the margin for exploration that remains.

Analysis of thematic areas

This research line encompasses fifteen thematic areas. The subject area of Social Science contains the highest volume of scientific publications (n=132; 41.38%), followed by Business, Management and Accounting (n= 47; 14.73%); Economics, Econometrics and Finance (n= 39; 12.23%); Arts and Humanities (n= 21; 6.58%); Medicine (n= 19; 5.96%); and Psychology (n= 16; 5.02%). However, the remaining 14.1% of the publications are distributed across nine thematic areas, indicating that the research primarily focuses on three broad fields: social science, business, and economics. Figure 3 illustrates the evolution of the number of publications by the thematic area over time.

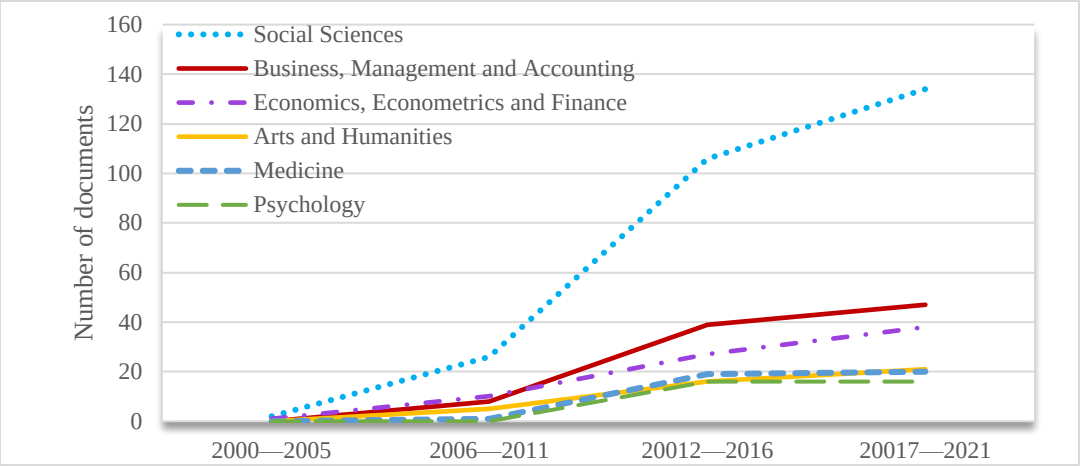


Figure 3. Evolution of growth trends of main subject areas (2000–2021).

Author and document productivity analysis

Based on the 281 authors identified in this study, only the 14 most productive are presented in Table 2, with some variables describing their productivity from 2000-2021. There is a predominance of authors from European countries (Portugal, Belgium, United Kingdom, Switzerland). The most productive author on this topic is Moriconi, from the University Institute of Lisbon in Portugal, with 7 publications, followed by Forrest, from the Centre for Sports Business in the United Kingdom (6). It is possible to point out that Forrest has been involved in this research line for a more extended period, from 2008 to 2018. Moriconi presents himself as a recent author, with his first publication in 2018 and his last in 2021, highlighting that this was the last year analysed.

Regarding the total number of citations, Hill from the University of New Haven in the United States is the most cited author with 108 total citations and an average of 21.6, and the second most mentioned is Forrest (104; 17.33), followed by Tak from Loughborough University in the United Kingdom (69; 13.80), and Moriconi (67; 9.57). As Tak and Moriconi have published more recent work, this indicator is expected to become more equitable over the next few years and more established as a reference. In addition, Moriconi also stands out with the highest H index (5), followed by Forrest and Tak, with an index of 4 each. This ranking also allows one to determine the novelty of the subject; for these authors, the oldest publication was published in 2017. In terms of scientific journals, the topic is relatively new.

Table 2. The most productive authors as measured by the number of publications.

Authors	TP	TC	TC/P	H	Institution	C	NAY	
							1st P	LP
Moriconi, M.	7	67	9.57	5	University Institute of Lisbon	Portugal	2018	2021
Forrest, D.	6	104	17.33	4	Centre for Sports Business	United Kingdom	2008	2018

Hill, D.	5	108	21.60	3	University of New Haven	United States	2009	2020
Tak, M.	5	69	13.80	4	Loughborough University	United Kingdom	2018	2021
Antonopoulos, G.A.	5	40	8.00	3	University of Northumbria	United Kingdom	2000	2021
Sam, M.P.	4	44	11.00	3	University of Otago	New Zealand	2018	2021
Manoli, A.E.	4	39	9.75	3	Loughborough University	United Kingdom	2000	2021
Constandt, B.	4	26	6.50	2	University of Ghent	Belgium	2019	2021
Bag, P.K.	4	24	6.00	2	National University of Singapore	Singapore	2011	2017
Saha, B.	4	24	6.00	2	Durham University Business School	United Kingdom	2011	2017
Lee, P.C.	4	20	5.00	2	National Taichung University of Education	Taiwan	2017	2021
Villeneuve, J.P.	4	15	3.75	2	University of Italian Switzerland	Switzerland	2015	2018
Steele, S.	4	4	1.00	0	Melbourne Law School	Australia	2017	2017
Opie, H.	4	4	1.00	0	Melbourne Law School	Australia	2017	2017

(TP): total of publications; (TC): total citations; (TC/P): average citations per publication; (NAY): number of active years of publication; (1st P): year for the first publication in the research line; (LP): year for the last publication in the research line; (C): country; (H index): Hirst index in the research line.

As shown in Figure 4, the map of the collaborative networks between the authors is based on their co-authorship of studies on match-fixing and sports published between 2000 and 2021. A co-authorship was achieved by authors who published at least one document and were cited at least ten times in the Scopus database between 2000 and 2021.

The different colours identify the work teams, and the larger the circles, the greater the number of articles that have been published. Out of 30 clusters, 14 are composed of only one author. This clearly reflects that publications in this area are being made with little collaboration between authors.

On the other hand, it is possible to identify 2 clusters with four authors each, one in green led by Tak, composed of Sam, Jackson, and Choi, and the other in red led by Constandt, written by Willem, Van der Hoeven, and De Waegeneer. In addition, it is possible to find six more clusters with three authors each and 8 clusters with two authors each. Thus, it was not possible to establish a collaboration network with a strong link on this topic.

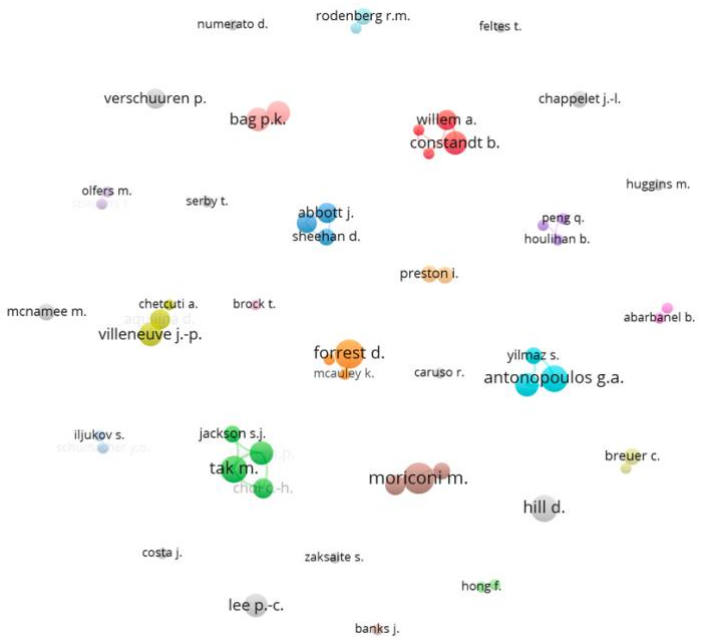


Figure 4. Network map of cooperation between authors based on co-authorship (2000–2021).

Table 3 presents the most productive documents based on the number of citations received. It is possible to discern a centralisation of the lines of investigation concerning the manipulation of results and corruption, as well as the view that football is the most studied sport concerning this theme based on the most productive documents. In an intriguing perspective, Tak (2018) proposes that football has a recognised role in society and, therefore, a solid financial base, with betting acting as a marketing tool for the sport and not merely as a way of surviving, as is the case in other modalities such as cricket and wrestling.

Chappelet (2018) offers a different perspective and recommends improving the international regulation of sport with better governance to combat match-fixing. Aquilina and Chetcuti (2014) state that combating earnings manipulation requires a long-term strategy that incorporates both prevention through education and better governance but argue that the state and the police should play a more active role in containing irregularities and investigating crimes. The document with the most citations is "Cheating in contests", which discusses the different forms of cheating in sports, such as sabotage, doping, and manipulating results, in the context of football, baseball, and cricket. Besides presenting a mathematical model of corruption in sport, the author shows that poor rules, low wages, and an excessive value placed on success increase the likelihood of cheating (Preston & Szymanski, 2003).

Table 3. The 20 most productive documents are based on the number of citations.

TC	Year	Title	Authors	Source	C/Y
103	2003	Cheating in contests	Preston I., Szymanski S.	Oxford Review of Economic Policy	5.7

59	2010	A critical mass of corruption: Why some football leagues have more match-fixing than others	Hill D.	International Journal of Sports Marketing and Sponsorship	5.4
48	2012	The threat to football from betting-related corruption	Forrest D.	International Journal of Sport Finance	5.3
36	2008	Say it ain't so: Betting-Related malpractice in sport	Forrest D., Mchale I., Mcauley K.	International Journal of Sport Finance	2.8
33	2016	Corruption and public secrecy: An ethnography of football match-fixing	Numerato D.	Current Sociology	6.6
29	2019	An analysis of the Chinese Football Reform of 2015: why then and not earlier?	Peng Q., Skinner J., Houlihan B.	International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics	14.5
29	2013	The professionalisation and commercialisation of football in China (1993-2013)	Hong F., Zhouxiang L.	International Journal of the History of Sport	3.6
29	2015	The Olympic fight against match-fixing	Chappelet J.-L.	Sport in Society	4.8
28	2013	Match-fixing in International Sports: Existing processes, law enforcement, and prevention strategies	Haberfeld M.R., Sheehan D.	Match-Fixing in International Sports: Existing Processes, Law Enforcement, and Prevention Strategies	3.5
25	2018	Too big to jail: Match-fixing, institutional failure and the shifting of responsibility	Tak M.	International Review for the Sociology of Sport	8.3
24	2018	The politics of countermeasures against match-fixing in sport: A political sociology approach to policy instruments	Tak M., Sam M.P., Jackson S.J.	International Review for the Sociology of Sport	8.0
24	2015	Jumping into Fixing	Hill D.	Trends in Organized Crime	4.0
24	2009	To fix or not to fix? How corruptors decide to fix football matches	Hill D.	Global Crime	2.0
23	2014	Match-fixing: The case of Malta	Aquilina D., Chetcuti A.	International Journal of Sport Policy	3.3
22	2015	'The only game in town?': football match-fixing in Greece	Manoli A.E., Antonopoulos G.A.	Trends in Organized Crime	3.7
21	2017	Match-fixing in European grassroots football	Nowy T., Breuer C.	European Sport Management Quarterly	5.3
20	2017	Roger Caillois and E-Sports: On the Problems of Treating Play as Work	Brock T.	Games and Culture	5.0
20	2011	Match-fixing under competitive odds	Bag P.K., Saha B.	Games and Economic Behavior	2.0
19	2015	Match-fixing: The Current Discussion in Europe and the Case of the Netherlands	Spapens T., Olfers M.	European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice	3.2
18	2018	Beyond governance: the need to improve the regulation of international sport	Chappelet, J.-L.	Sport in Society	6.0

(TC): total citations; (C/Y): average total citations per year of publication.

Analysis of the productivity of sources, countries, and institutions

Table 4 presents the eight most prolific research institutions investigating match-fixing in the sport from 2000-2021. In this ranking, it was observed that despite having a sizeable European majority (62.5%) from countries such as Switzerland, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and Germany, there was also a geographical variation from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.

Table 4. The eight most productive institutions on match-fixing and sport.

Institution	Country	TP	TC	TC/P	H	CI (%)	TC/P CI	TC/P NCI
University of Lausanne UNIL	Switzerland	12	98	8.17	4	25.0%	8.33	8.11
University Institute of Lisbon	Portugal	8	63	7.88	5	0.0%	0.0	7.88
Melbourne Law School	Australia	8	11	1.38	0	12.5%	8.00	0.43
Loughborough University	United Kingdom	7	71	10.14	3	71.4%	11.80	6.00
Transparency International e. v.	Germany	6	6	1.00	0	83.3%	0.80	2.00
John Jay College of Criminal Justice	United States	5	39	7.80	2	80.0%	8.25	6.00
University of Otago	New Zealand	5	64	12.80	3	40.0%	2.00	20.00
Teesside University	United Kingdom	5	36	7.20	2	0.0%	0.0	7.20

(TP): total of publications; (TC): total citations; (TC/P): average citations per publication; (H): Hirst index in the research line; (CI): collaboration index; (TC/P CI): average number of citations with international collaboration; (TC/P NCI): average number of citations without international collaboration.

The University of Lausanne UNIL in Switzerland is the most prolific institution, with 12 articles, as well as the one with the highest number of citations: 98. Still, the University of Otago in New Zealand obtained the highest average of citations with 12.80 citations per published document, followed by Loughborough University in the United States with 10.14 citations per published document. Furthermore, the University Institute of Lisbon of Portugal has the highest H index (5) in the research line.

Meanwhile, Transparency International e.v., a German organisation, had the highest percentage of international collaboration (83.3%). Despite this, international exposure does not result in more citations than articles written without international co-authorship. This result is also not very relevant due to the low number of citations received in the total number of documents (6). An international co-authorship between two institutions has proven profitable, for example, John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the United States, with 80% of its international collaboration, and Loughborough University with 71.4%, each of which has a higher number of international citations in their publications, which average 8.25 and 11.80 citations, respectively.

Table (5) below identifies the main variables associated with the countries that have produced the most scientific research on match-fixing in sports. Based on the results, it was determined that the United Kingdom had the greatest number of publications (43) and the greatest number of citations (547). In addition to having the highest average of citations (12.72), it was also the country with the greatest number of countries collaborating on the study. Nonetheless, these values do not reflect either the international collaboration index (37.2) or the citations received in international collaboration, which were lower compared to documents published without international collaboration.

The Netherlands had the highest international collaboration rate, 57.1%, with 7 published documents and 25 citations received in this thematic area, only 0.5 of which were in documents that were published in international collaboration. The important point is that the thematic area obtains publication values that are still incipient. In an international collaboration, it is not possible to verify production patterns that are representative of the area's reality.

Table 5. The 10 most productive countries and their cooperation networks.

Country	TP	TC	TC/P	H	#C	Main collaborators	CI (%)	TC/P	
								CI	NCI
United Kingdom	43	547	12.72	3	13	Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, South Korea, United States	37.2%	7.69	15.70
Australia	23	76	3.30	1	7	United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Germany, Ireland	30.4%	8.29	1.13
United States	21	96	4.57	1	6	France, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany	38.1%	7.38	2.85
Switzerland	18	128	7.11	2	5	Australia, Italy, Malta, Spain, Taiwan	27.8%	6.60	7.31
Germany	10	52	5.20	2	3	Australia, United Kingdom, United States	20.0%	2.50	5.88
France	9	57	6.33	2	5	United States, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland	44.4%	8.25	4.80
Portugal	9	73	8.11	5	1	Spain	11.1%	1.00	9.00
South Korea	8	17	2.13	0	2	New Zealand, United Kingdom	25.0%	2.50	2.00
Netherlands	7	25	3.57	1	5	Belgium, Canada, Luxembourg, Sweden, United Kingdom	57.1%	0.50	10.00
Belgium	6	32	5.33	2	3	Netherlands, Brazil, Luxembourg	33.3%	1.00	5.75

(TP): total of publications; (TC): total citations; (TC/P): average citations per publication; (H): Hirst index in the research line; (#C): number of the countries in collaboration; (CI): collaboration index; (TC/P CI): average number of citations with international collaboration; (TC/P NCI): average number of citations without international collaboration.

A map of collaboration among the major countries is shown in Figure 5 based on the analysis of co-authorships. Different colours represent different clusters formed by different

groups of countries, while the circle's diameter is determined by the number of articles published by each country. Based on the VOSviewer software, they were grouped into five components, led by the United Kingdom. The cluster in green indicates the cluster with the strongest link between the components, also including New Zealand and South Korea.

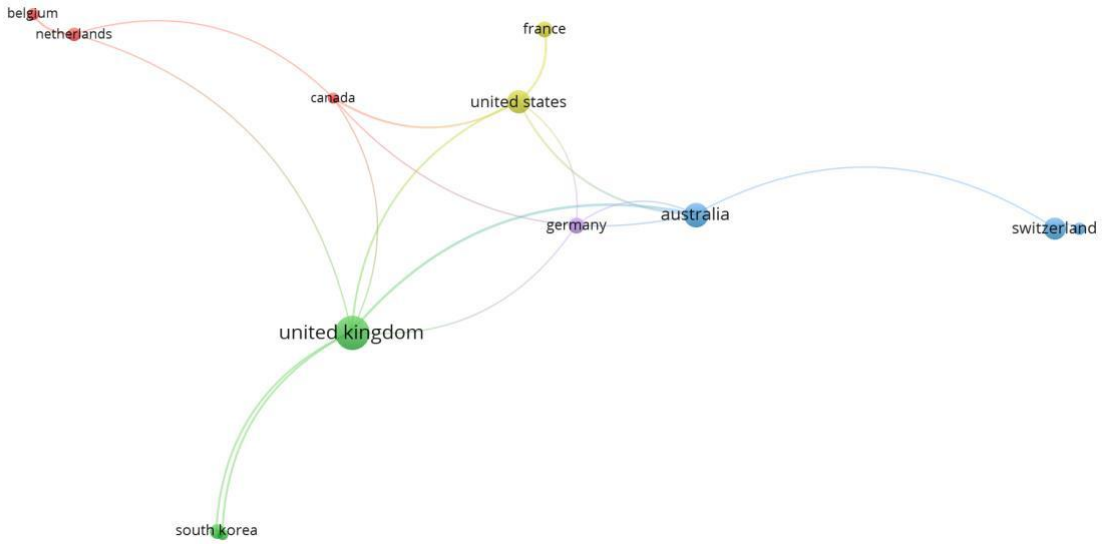


Figure 5. Network map of cooperation between authors based on co-authorship (2000–2021)

As can be seen in Figure 6, the development of scientific research in the area is still in the expansion phase, with only a small concentration of publications attributed to the United Kingdom, which can serve as an opportunity to study the realities of countries that are still in the early stages in this field and/or seek international collaboration.

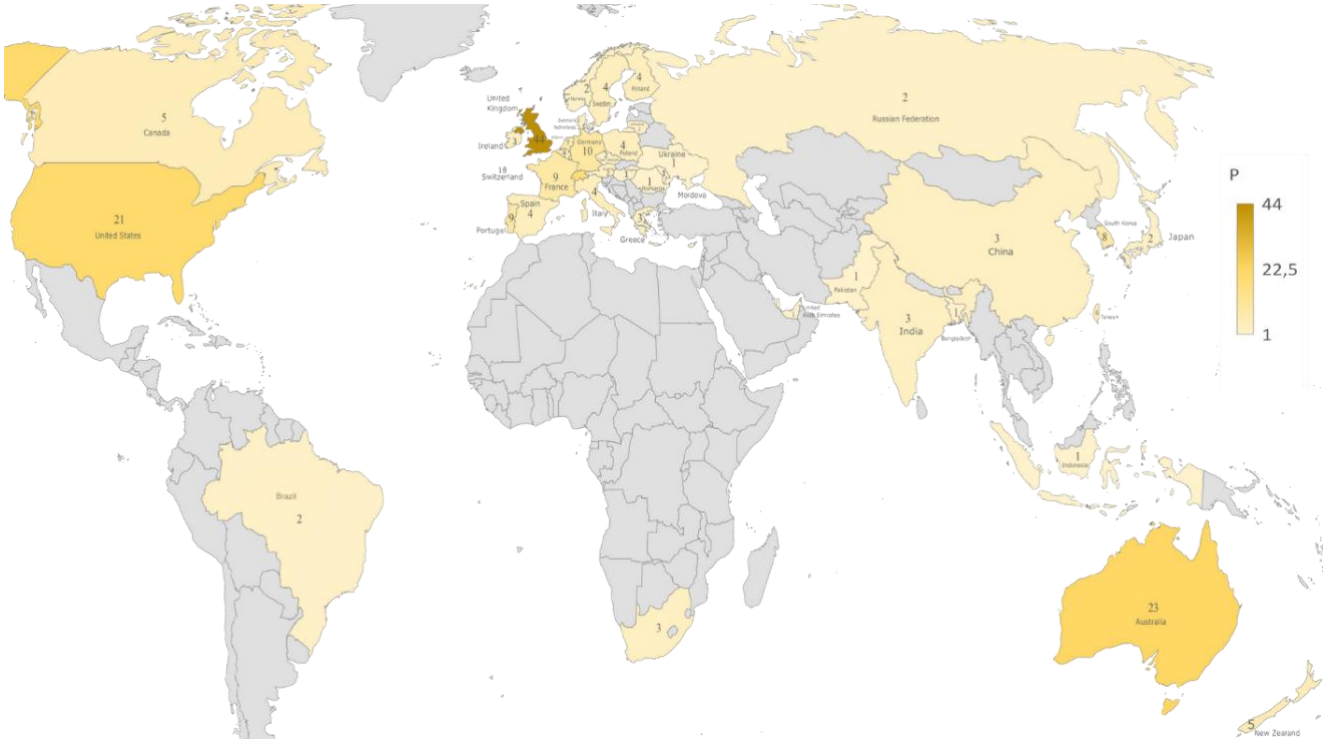


Figure 6. Distribution of publications by countries (2000–2021).

The characteristics of documents from the primary research sources on match-fixing in sports are shown in Table 6. In the ranking of the 15 sources with the most publications, the first one with 15 documents, "Match Fixing in International Sports" from Switzerland, stands out, with a total of 88 citations attributed to the book type.

When analysing the impact factor among the journals present in the ranking, it is possible to highlight "International Review for The Sociology of Sport" with 5 published documents with a total of 49 citations and an average of 9.8 citations. It is a journal from the United States with an impact factor of 1.14 belonging to the second quartile (Q2), which had its first publication on the topic in 2018.

Another highlight would be the International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics, belonging to the first quartile (Q1) of the SJR index, a UK journal with only 4 publications in the area but which already has an average of 6.75 citations, its first publication on the topic. It is very recent from the year 2019.

Table 6. The 15 most productive sources on match-fixing and sport.

								NAY	
	Source title	TP	TC	TC/P	Type	H /P	SJR	Country	1st P	LP
Match Fixing in International Sports		15	88	5.87	Book	1	N*	Switzerland	2013	2014

International Journal of the History of Sport	13	54	4.15	Journal	1	0.16 (Q4)	United Kingdom	2011	2021
Match Fixing in Sport Comparative Studies from Australia Japan Korea and Beyond	13	10	0.77	Book	0	N*	United States	2017	2017
International Sports Law Journal	11	54	4.91	Journal	2	0.27 (Q2)	United States	2013	2021
Crime Law and Social Change	10	51	5.10	Journal	1	0.45 (Q2)	Netherlands	2017	2021
Global Corruption Report Sport	8	7	0.88	Book	0	N*	Germany	2016	2016
Sport in Society	7	58	8.29	Journal	3	0.43 (Q3)	United Kingdom	2015	2021
European Sport Management Quarterly	5	49	9.80	Journal	4	0.90 (Q2)	United Kingdom	2015	2021
International Review for The Sociology of Sport	5	49	9.80	Journal	2	1.14 (Q2)	United States	2018	2021
Trends in Organized Crime	5	52	10.40	Journal	3	0.68 (Q1)	United States	2000	2021
Economist United Kingdom	5	0	0.00	Journal	0	0.10 (Q4)	United Kingdom	2014	2017
International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics	4	27	6.75	Journal	1	0.76 (Q1)	United Kingdom	2019	2021
International Sports Betting Integrity Deviance Governance and Policy	4	1	0.25	Book	0	N*	United States	2018	2018
Journal of Global Sport Management	3	15	5.00	Journal	2	0.39 (Q3)	United States	2019	2021
Lecture Notes in Computer Science	3	0	0.00	Journal	0	0.41 (Q2)	Germany	2018	2018

(TP): total of publications; (TC): total citations; (TC/P): average citations per publication; (H/P): Hirst index in the research line; (SJR) Scimago Journal & Country Rank 2021 (quartile); (NAY): number of active years of publication; (1st P): year for the first publication in the research line; (LP): year for the last publication in the research line.

Also based on the analysis of the most productive sources, it is possible to see the attention to the theme in recent years, with most publications being carried out in the last year analysed (2021).

Keywords Analysis

In the total sample of 202 document analyses on match-fixing and sport, between 2000 and 2021, 489 keywords were generated. Table 7 shows the top 20 keywords used in this field of research. As these terms describe the topic of the publication, their analysis enabled us to gain an understanding of the interests that have been generated in this area of research.

Table 7. The 15 most productive sources on match-fixing and sport.

Keyword	2000-2021		Keyword	2000-2021	
	TP	%		TP	%
Match-fixing	83	41.1%	Competition	4	2.0%
Corruption	41	20.3%	Ethics	4	2.0%

Sport	30	14.9%	Athlete	4	2.0%
Football	24	11.9%	Human Experiment	4	2.0%
Sports Betting	21	10.4%	Bribery	3	1.5%
Gambling	15	7.4%	Cheating	3	1.5%
Organised Crime	12	5.9%	Crime	3	1.5%
Sport Integrity	10	5.0%	Governance	3	1.5%
Betting	8	4.0%	Integrity	3	1.5%
Baseball	5	2.5%	Money Laundering	3	1.5%

(TP): total of publications used a keyword

Clearly, match-fixing (83 documents, 41.1%) and sport (30, 14.9%) are the most prominent keywords in the sample. It is noteworthy, however, that among the four most prominent keywords, we also found corruption (41, 20.3%) and football (24, 11.9%).

The keywords were grouped into eight clusters (figure 7). In addition to sports, red had nine keywords, including morality, manipulation, athletes and motivation, among others. Among the second most relevant cluster, the green is the most prominent, led by match-fixing, followed by corruption and football.

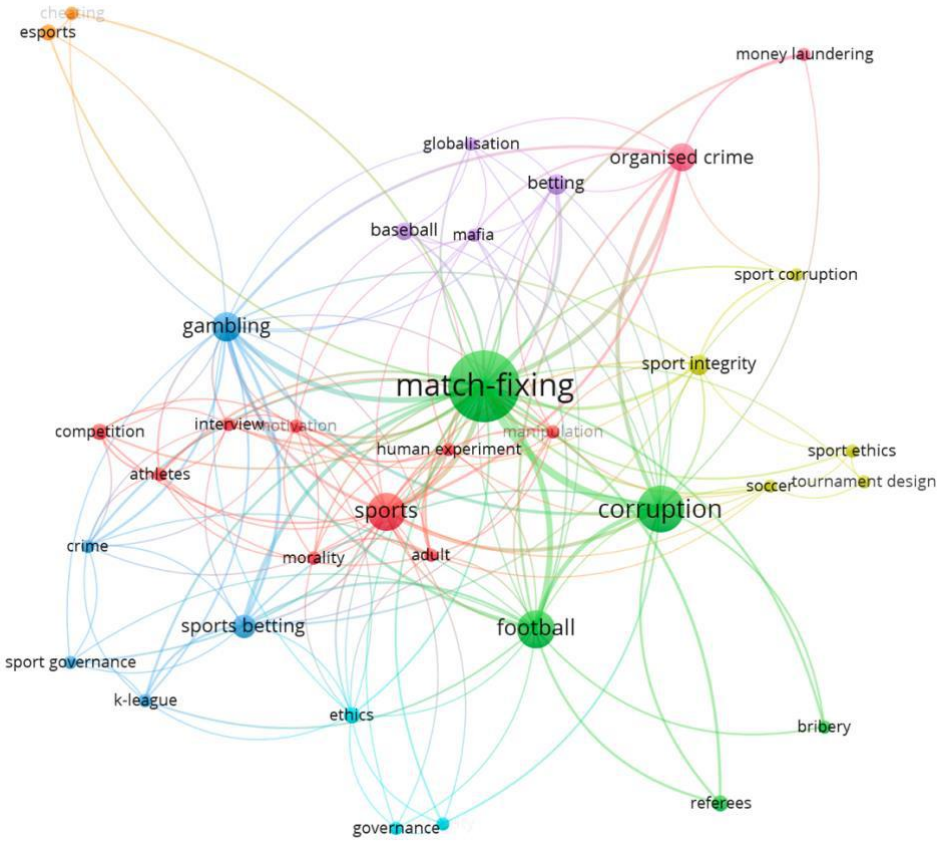


Figure 7. The keywords co-occurrence network (2000–2021).

Next is the blue cluster with 5 keywords led by gambling, including sports betting and crime. The following is in yellow and contains 5 keywords guided by sports integrity, including sports corruption and tournament design. In the purple cluster, there are four keywords led by betting, including globalisation and mafia. Finally, in the orange and pink groups, there are two keywords, each led respectively by esports and organised crime.

Through the analysis of the evolution of the use of keywords, it is possible to observe areas of investigation that have been explored for some time in the literature and emerging areas. In figure 8, we can see areas in blue documents published in years close to 2016, and we can also highlight the size of the football and corruption cluster, which indicates a greater volume of publications in these areas. Nodes close to yellow, such as crime, morality, sport integrity, sports ethics, and athletes, are considered emerging areas because they are barely explored in terms of publication amount and novelty.

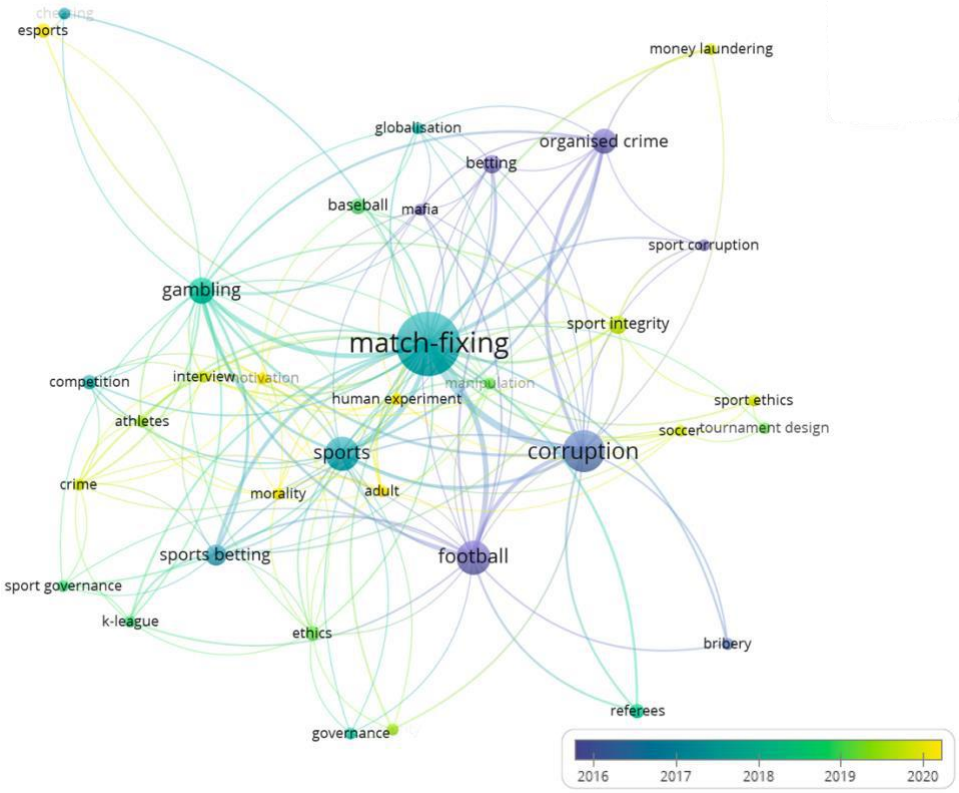


Figure 8. The keywords co-occurrence network, evolution view (2000–2021).

Database analysis with interaction with Macolin Convention

When using "Macolin Convention" as additional search criteria, only two articles were found out of 202 in the Scopus database. Both studies were published in 2021. A study by Diaconu et al. (2021), "The court of arbitration for sports jurisprudence on match-fixing: a legal update", published in the International Sports Law Journal, makes a chronological analysis of the awards issued by the Court of Arbitration for Sport and aspects related to the manipulation of competitions. As of today, it has received five citations. Furthermore, in the article "Match-fixing as a Threat to Sport: Ethical and Legal Perspectives", Mravec (2021) provides an overview of match-fixing in sports and its legal implications, as well as an examination of corruption and sporting values through the lens of match-fixing.

Comparative Analysis of Databases

As a result of comparing the different databases, 39 documents were found in WOS but not in Scopus. A total of 40 authors were identified in the 39 papers found that were not included in the Scopus database. Among these 39 documents, we selected ten that contained at least three citations for presentation in Table 8.

A relatively low number of citations can be observed by analysing the number of citations received by these documents. There is a significant discrepancy between the average number of citations per year of publication of these ten documents with the 20 papers presented in table 3.

In this regard, the most productive documents from WOS received less attention from the scientific community.

It is nevertheless possible to identify the study of Kihl et al. (2017), "Corruption in Sport: Understanding the Complexity of Corruption", that received 26 citations with an average of 6.5 per year. Following will be Guyon (2020) with the study "Risk of Collusion: Will Groups of 3 Ruin the FIFA World Cup?" with six citations, but published recently in 2020, resulting in a citation average of 6.0 per year of publication. These documents will likely be a valuable reference on the subject in the future.

Table 8. The ten principal documents are available on WOS but not on SCOPUS.

Year	Author	Title	Source	TC	C/Y
2015	Feustel, E; Rodenberg, R	Sports (Betting) Integrity: Detecting Match-Fixing in Soccer	Gaming Law Review & Economics-Regulation Compliance and Policy	5	0.83
2015	Irak, D	Turkish Football, Match-Fixing and The Fan's Media a Case Study of Fenerbahce Fans	Sports Events, Society and Culture	4	0.67
2017	Kihl, L; Skinner, J; Engelberg, T	Corruption in Sport: Understanding the Complexity of Corruption	European Sport Management Quarterly	26	6.50
2017	Breuer, M; Kaiser, S	Match-Fixing and Manipulation in Sport	Critical Issues in Global Sport Management	4	1.00
2018	Ncube, L	Sports Journalists and Corruption in Zimbabwean Football: Reflections on the Asiagate Scandal	Communicatio-South African Journal for Communication Theory and Research	4	1.33
2019	Yilmaz, S; Manoli, A; Antonopoulos, G	An Anatomy of Turkish Football Match-Fixing	Trends in Organized Crime	10	5.00
2019	Forrest, D; McHale, I	Using Statistics to Detect Match Fixing in Sport	Ima Journal of Management Mathematics	7	3.50
2019	Barkoukis, V; Stanescu, M; Stoicescu, M; Tsorbatzoudis, H	Tackling Irregularities in Sport Through Education on Whistleblowing	Revista Romaneasca Pentru Educatie Multidimensionala	3	1.50
2020	Guyon, J	Risk of Collusion: Will Groups of 3 Ruin the FIFA World Cup?	Journal of Sports Analytics	6	6.00
2021	Tjonndal, A	What's Next? Calling Beer-Drinking a Sport?!: Virtual Resistance to Considering Esport as Sport	Sport Business and Management-An International Journal	5	5.00

TC): total citations; (C/Y): average total citations per year of publication.

Conclusion

Question 1

Initially, five questions were proposed, and after analysing the scientific production on match-fixing and sport through a bibliometric analysis of 202 articles obtained from the Scopus database, the answers to the questions were determined.

Based on the results, we concluded that the behaviour of publications on this topic is still incipient, with the first publication appearing within the last two decades, and exponential growth in publications is observed. Also contributing to this result is the involvement of large organisations such as FIFA, UEFA, The Council of Europe, in the fight against match-fixing.

Question 2

Besides match-fixing, the most common keyword in this thematic area is corruption (20.3%). Preston and Szymanski (2003) also obtained 103 citations for their study "Cheating in contests", making it the most productive study on this topic.

Question 3

It was Moriconi from the University Institute of Lisbon who was the most productive author on the subject with seven papers published, followed by Forrest from the Center for Sports Business with six papers, Hill from the University of New Haven, Tak from Loughborough University, and Antonopolous from the University of Northumbria with five papers each. Match Fixing in International Sports was the book with the most documents published (15), receiving a total of 88 citations, followed by the International Journal of the History of Sport (13), a UK newspaper that belongs to the fourth quartile of the SJR impact factor, and actively engaged in publications in this area over ten years and received 54 citations in this topic. With 12 articles and 98 citations, the University of Lausanne UNIL was the most prolific institution. However, the highest H index was obtained by works affiliated with the University Institute of Lisbon, with a 5 H index. Melbourne Law School ranked third among eight law schools in terms of publications. Regarding international collaboration, the John Jay College of Criminal Justice has the highest index in journals (80%). Furthermore, the United Kingdom had the highest number of publications (44) and attributed citations (547). Portugal had the highest H index on the subject (5) and the highest average number of citations per document (8.11). The second country with the highest number of documents was Australia (23), but the second highest number of citations was Switzerland, with 128.

Question 4

Identifying an extensive network of collaboration between authors on the subject was impossible. Despite this, we highlight two small groups of isolated works, both with four authors each, one led by Tak (United Kingdom), composed of Sam (New Zealand), Jackson (New Zealand) and Choi (South Korea), and the other led by Constandt (Belgium), composed of Willem (Belgium), Van der Hoeven (Belgium) and De Waegeneer (Belgium). There is, therefore, an international

representation in the Tak collaboration group, whereas there is no international collaboration in the Consandt group. The United Kingdom has a working group dedicated to international collaborations at the country level. The works were awarded in partnership with 13 other countries, primarily Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, South Korea, and the United States. Additionally, the collaboration map demonstrates the most substantial link cluster between the analysed countries, establishing a solid working relationship with New Zealand and South Korea.

Question 5

Until this study, the main topics for sports and match-fixing research focused on organised crime, corruption, football, mafia, and betting. The emerging research topics that may be important in the future are related to issues such as motivation, athletes, morality, sports integrity, sports ethics, governance, and money laundering.

Final considerations

Despite its limitations on bibliometrics, this methodology is a powerful tool for researchers to work with large data sets and integrate them to better understand a topic's reality. As a result of this study, new knowledge about match-fixing in sports has been gained in a small but significant way, which leaves room for further research into related areas, as indicated in topic 5 of the conclusions.

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Step 2: Focus group

Trans-national focus group report

As we said before, this Step aimed to understand the narratives about the perception of various stakeholders about match-fixing to describe the main points of contact between different realities on the subject of this investigation.

In line with this idea, we intend to present here the main results of the focus groups carried out with SAMF partners. These focus groups were based on a semi-structured interview structure. The data collected are representative of a set of questions that involve the identification of distinct categories of match-fixing:

Category: Match-fixing concepts

- *Question 1.* What do you mean by match-fixing?

Category: The manipulators

- *Question 2.* In your opinion, who are the main gambling corruptors (e.g., managers, ex-athletes, gamblers, and others)?
- *Question 3.* In your opinion, what are the communication channels that the gambling corruptors use the most to recruit athletes to match-fixing?

Category: Causes of match-fixing

- *Question 4.* In your opinion, what are the reasons that make athletes accept to participate in match-fixing?
- *Question 5.* Do you know, or have you seen any case of match-fixing happen near you? How was it?

Category: Consequences of match-fixing

- *Question 6.* Thinking about grassroots athletes, in your opinion, what are the consequences that match-fixing can bring to your sporting career and your personal life?
- *Question 7.* In your opinion, what consequences can match-fixing bring in the short, medium, and long term for an athlete (in general)?

Category: Initiatives to fight against match-fixing

- *Question 8.* In your opinion, sports organisations should fight the match-fixing issue through which initiatives?
- *Question 9.* In your opinion, how can an educational program for grassroots athletes against match-fixing help to potentiate this struggle?
- *Question 10.* Did we forget something? / What advice would you have for us?

The questions were asked randomly to try to verify the narrative related to each question more closely.

Participants

A total of 40 people participated in the study, including representatives from the Portuguese Football Federation, FIBA Europe, Malta Football Association, Panathlon International, Lithuanian Football Federation and Sport Evolution Alliance. These participants were comprised of ten athletes, four ex-athletes, nine coaches, nine managers and eight stakeholders (e.g., referees, sports betting agents), aged ≥ 16, around 34.6% aged between 35 and 44 years, and about 61.5% male majority, 34.6% female and 3.9% unidentified.

Table 1. Group characterisation of the sample

	Athletes and ex-athletes	Coach	Manager	Other stakeholders
N	14	9	9	8
Age	16 - 44	35 - ≥ 55	35 - 54	25 - ≥ 55
Gender	50 % male 37,5 % female 12,5 % unidentified	71,4 % male 14,3 % female 14,3 % unidentified	75 % male 35 % female	42,9 % male 57,1 % female
Sport/Role in the sports organisation	Basketball Football Skating Futsal Gymnastic	Basketball Football Volleyball Boxing Gymnastic	Football Weightlifting President of a club President of a federation	Team manager Staff Investigator Referee Sports betting agent Member of NOC

Next, we present the conceptual structure model associated with analysing data from the focus groups.

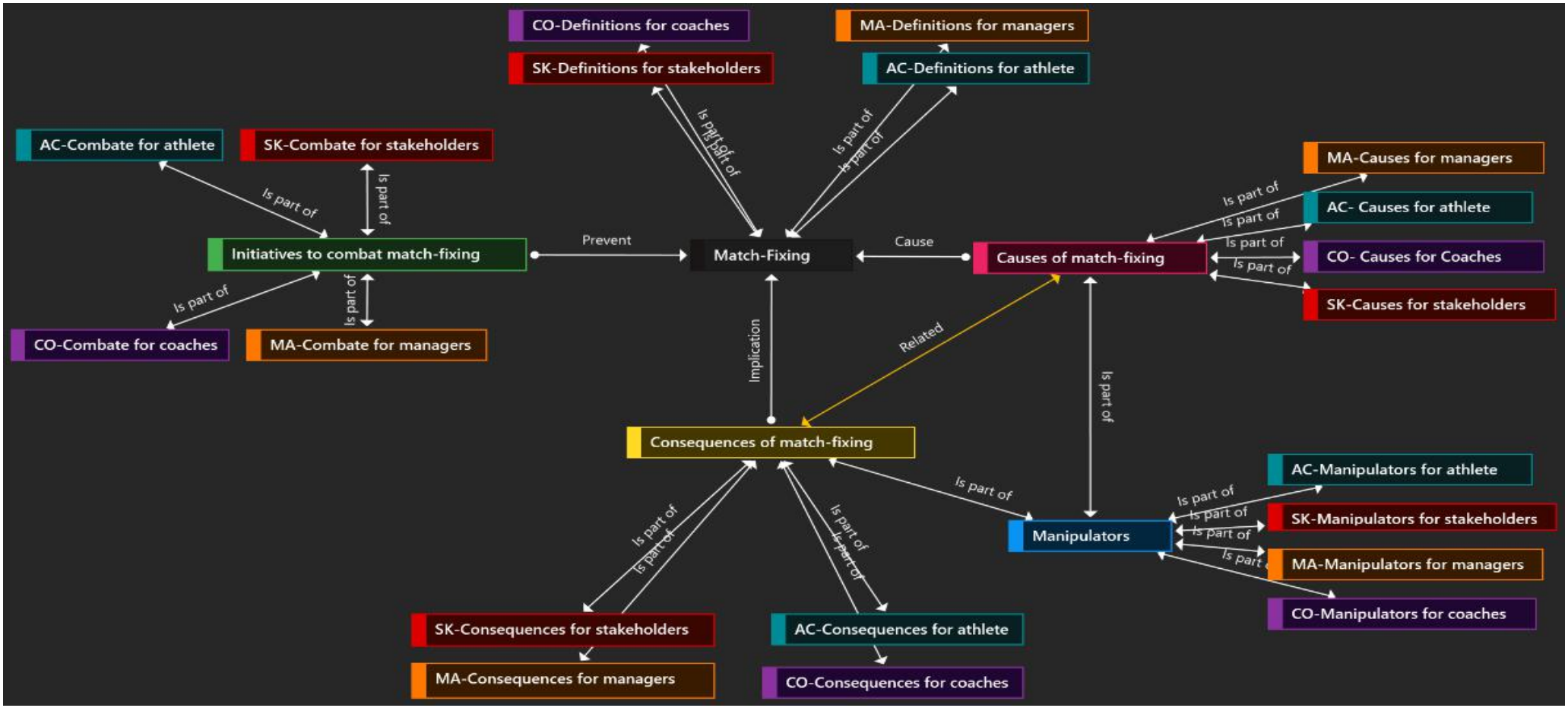


Figure 1. Scheme for analysis of speeches separated by groups

Results

In presenting the results, it was decided to establish the following criteria: a) describe only the complementary answers so as not to repeat information; b) divide by groups of respondents; c) evaluate the set of key terms of discourse analysis.

A summary of the main definitions of match-fixing is presented by each group of participants in Table 2, and a brief description of the participants' speeches as examples. In analysing the perception of match-fixing among participants in the focus groups, it is possible to establish that, in general, everyone believes that it involves match-fixing for personal gain, thus hurting the values of the sport as to the unpredictability of the winner.

Table 2. Concepts of match-fixing

Group	Description	Example
Athletes	Influence the game by manipulating results or elements in the competition for one's benefit	"The intent to take an action that will influence a game in an unnatural direction..."
		"...arrange results of a game for his/her benefit."
		"Any agreement between any participants of the match-fixing description, be it players, coaches or officials connected with the match, who may influence the events or the result of the competition, regardless of the financial reward, that may influence the result or events of the competition"
		"...match-fixing is when you get money for losing a match or conceding a number of goals."
Coach	Illegally influence the outcome of the game, and may influence the arrangement of other leagues	"... lose a match or concede a goal at an agreed time, get a penalty, or get a red card."
		"... deliberate use of tools to influence a game in your very subjective favour."
		"... illegally influence the outcome of the game."
		"...not playing as well as he could and so he will lose a game and some other person may be bet on this game and will get some money because he knew the results before the match was started..."
		"...something you can define by elements that are very clear, different elements that lead to manipulation for financial benefits, it can also be for sports results, benefits to save a clip from degradation and having to go to another league."
Manager	Dishonest behaviour to influence the unpredictability of sport for personal gain	"...a cancer in sport."
		"...influence the game for a personal reward/ benefit - not necessarily financial incentives."
		"...what to say is that to decide in a not honest way of the results before the match has started."
		"...offered a financial bonus by another team for beating their opponent that could be considered match-fixing, though we took the money but could not beat that team."
		"...Any attempt to influence any aspect of the unpredictable nature of the sport."
Other stakeholders	Dishonestly influencing aspects of the game by tampering with the sport's basic principle of winning and losing	"Missing the most basic principle of sport (winning or losing) for your benefit."
		"...is about honesty, is about to be really honest in life, not only something in the sport."
		"...influence the game by players or officials to become another result which can lead to having more money."
		"...influence the results, for example, to promote a certain club in first class or second class."
		"...concern not only the result but also other statistic aspects of the match, such as the number of goals, point difference."

"... not only for financial gain but also for other reasons, like getting a more acceptable opponent, a better qualifying position and many other benefits."

In Figure 2, the main words used in the participants' speeches are shown, and words with a greater length are used more frequently. For the players, it is possible to verify a stronger use of “match”, “game”, “influence”, “fixing”, “money” and “result”. It can be highlighted by coaches: “game”, “manipulation”, “element”, “influence” and “benefit”. For the managers, it stands out: “match”, “team”, “influence”, “beat” and “financial”. Finally, it can be highlighted for other stakeholders: “result”, “benefit”, “influence” and “sport”.



a)





c)

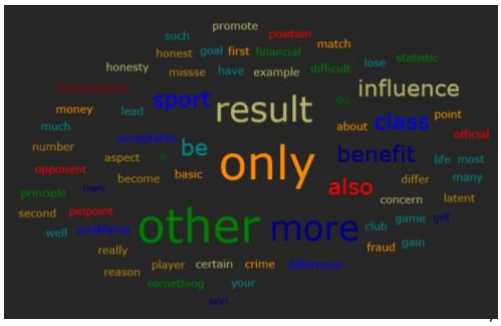


Figure 2. Word cloud on match-fixing concepts by groups: a) athletes; b) coaches; c) managers; d) other stakeholders.

As for the manipulators, a consensus was reached regarding the importance of the athlete's role in performing sports manipulations. Even though other agents can be involved, such as relatives, managers, coaches, criminal organisations, etc., if the athletes refuse to participate in the act, it is unlikely to be successful. It can be seen that social networks serve as decoys for identifying vulnerable athletes, either by displaying a luxurious lifestyle that values money or by exposing their personal lives and providing predators with fuel for formulating proposals to lure them into gambling. On the other hand, it has been reported that some perpetrators may prefer personal contacts because they do not trust the privacy of communication channels like apps.

They may even arrange meetings to entice athletes. Table 3 presents some statements concerning the perpetuation of the manipulators and communication channels used. In Figure 3, it is possible to observe the frequency of words used in the answers referring to questions 2 and 3 about the main perpetrators/agents in charge of initiating match-fixing situations and the communication channels used.

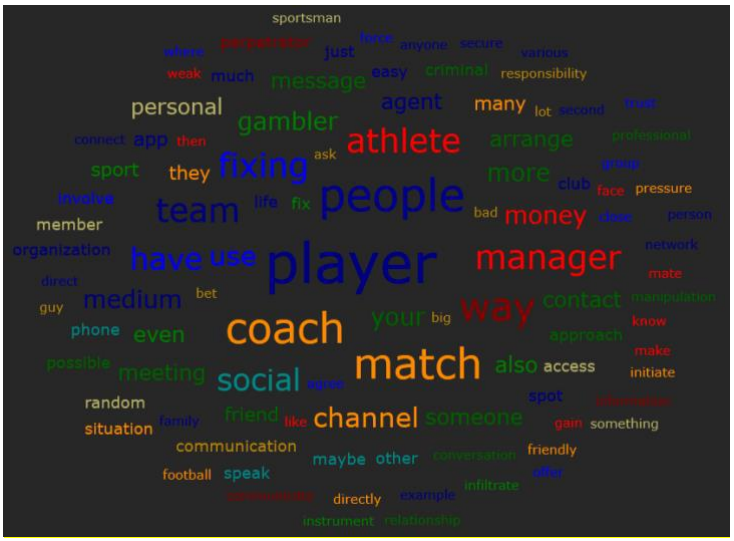


Figure 3. Word cloud on questions about manipulators analyses in 4 groups

Table 3. Manipulators

Group	Description	Example
Athletes	In the inner circle of players and coaches, anyone can manipulate. Besides, criminal organisations can identify easy targets and contact personal contacts to avoid being traced.	"Someone from outside the inner team circle. An unknown person who somehow intruded the player's space." "Can be random people, but also family, friends or teammates." "...The athletes go to match-fixing after, but in principle is of criminal organisations and managers." "..."bad guys" who create enrichment schemes. Players, coaches, and club managers are just instruments in making money for the "bad guys"" "...Social media or orchestrated "random meetings" to infiltrate a player's life." "...Hidden value and integrity check in a friendly conversation. Any way suitable to find weak spots." "...In my experience, another team official offered our team coach money directly." "...Personal contact is the safest way to arrange match-fixing or using the latest messaging apps."
Coach	Different ways to reach athletes. Athletes with transparent lives and low sports performance can be easy targets.	"Strangers approaching you, connecting with you in a friendly way and talented in gaining trust." "...very broad range of people, with varying access to the player." "...gamblers may be the agents for this so they can win money. And the sportsmen who are not on the top..."

	Analogue communication is perceived as more difficult to track.	"... Many components, it can be players, coaches, committee members or maybe friends of the perpetrator."
		"...who are very transparent on their life, so it is easy to spot the values/weak spots. They can be targeted in any possible way."
		"Social media. Direct messages. Holistic communication channels - the risk can come from various channels."
		"... who offered to arrange a meeting with "sponsors"."
		"...surely not mobiles or pc. Probably handwritten notes."
		"Various ways are possible, even people with ties to criminal organisations."
		"...might be networks and also I fully agree that coaches are involved..."
Manager	It could be a criminal network or even family that perpetuates manipulation. Believe all channels can be used to reach the athletes.	"...professional gamblers because obviously this is something you shall do how to say in the most discrete way possible, it's an institution."
		"...Anyone starting with an individual player, including coaches, managers, and people outside the club..."
		"...people can easily access inside information that can lead to match-fixing - media, family, agents, team staff."
		"Social media/apps/face-to-face through intermediaries who have access to the subject."
		"All communication channels are used."
		"Teammates, entourage or random people who gained trust or have a way to pressure the player."
Other stakeholders	People close to the players can perpetuate manipulation through face-to-face meetings but also secure communication channels.	"Players and coaches are just instruments for match manipulation..."
		"...ranking people indirectly connected with clubs and the leagues which have the means and opportunities to enable manipulations."
		"...Phones and messaging apps are used, but they are not secure."
		"...people involved in match-fixing do not use channels that may be traced and prefer more secure channels like Telegram."
		"...Meeting places in a sports bar, for example."

Table 4 exposes the leading causes of the possible reasons the athletes accept to participate in match-fixing. A major concern was the financial reward, although there were reports of the need for power in controlling situations and concerns about moral values and integrity. Although less significant, issues related to gaining a sporting advantage were also reported. Furthermore, athletes with poor sporting performance, less robust contracts, and poorly organised club structures are highlighted as signs of exposure to gambling. In figure 4, it is possible to observe the frequency of words used in the answers referring to questions 4 and 5 about the reasons that make athletes accept to participate in match-fixing.

Table 4. Causes of match-fixing

Group	Description	Example
Athletes	Mainly money, but match control can	"...Money as primary driver & sporting reasons as a factor that can accelerate decisions..."

	also be appealing. Most haven't observed game manipulation up close. However, doping to remove an athlete from the competition and receive money to win games has been reported.	"...Some kind of adrenaline rush. Players tend to have a betting and gambling affinity as they like to be in control on the court." "Match-fixing is done by players who receive small salaries or have bad contracts...." "Not in any moment of my long career. There are always rumours, but clear evidence or actual cases never surrounded me." "Not consciously impacted directly, aware of or been involved in cases." "I already experienced match-fixing cases happening near him. One of the athletes scheduled for the Olympics...one of the coaches there told her or gave her something: she would take some supplements or vitamins or whatever, some doping substance, we can call it, also like that. And of course, later in the following weeks, there was an anti-doping control, and she was ruled out of participating in the Olympic Games..." "My team was given money to win a match, so technically I took part in one...."
Coach	There was a strong emphasis on economic factors as the leading causes. Other factors are a low club organisational structure and moral deviation.	"Mostly, economic reasons or external pressure." "The moral compass at that moment is not there, and that's why some youngsters or some athletes could accept." "... If the club is not properly managed, if there is no financial discipline, if the players do not receive what is due to them, they become easy targets for manipulation." "I have seen many games with lots of mistakes, but I cannot know if those matches have been fixed" "...Coach that I know has influenced games for spot-fixing..."
Managers	An economic perspective dominates. Witnessing match-fixing and not reporting a case can result in extended sanctions.	"...desire to control a play, to dominate the game beyond the visible" "...get personal (economic) benefits." "...impression that their in/action would not impinge on the outcome." "...I have seen quite a few matches where the opposition made such mistakes that even players on our bench started doubting their integrity..." "...my worst moments were when I had to inform players personally that they had been sanctioned with a long suspension, mostly for not reporting a case."
Other stakeholders	Personal rewards and the end of the career are mentioned. Most have not lived it up close but are aware of reported cases.	"Personal rewards - mostly financial. Paired with the risk of addictive feelings, the satisfaction to manipulate a game..." "...financial reasons for match-fixing..." "...approaching the end of careers, are more likely to try to make money this way." "...I only saw matches on TV, which later were announced as fixed." "...Personally, no, but there were cases in Maltese football that were solved in the past. "

A summary of the main consequences of manipulating results can be seen in Table 5 based on the views of the different groups of agents interviewed. There is general concern over sports sanctions, which may result in temporary sanctions or a ban from participating in the sport. Besides the criminal consequences, mental health problems and a negative image in society can also worsen the athlete's quality of life.

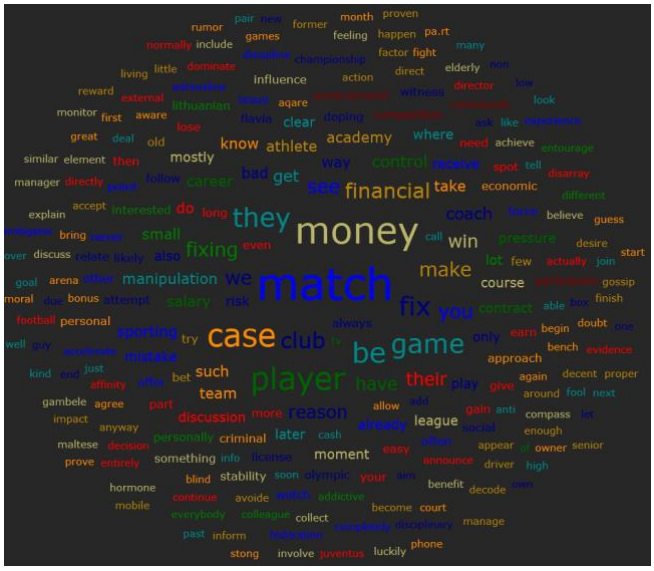


Figure 4. Word cloud on questions about reasons for involving in match-fixing.

Table 5. Consequences of result manipulation

Group	Description	Example
Athletes	The main consequences are sports-related career impacts, social stigma, criminal sanctions, and health effects.	"...As a player: it will impact your full career. Stigma will stay forever."
		"It can break your career on all levels."
		"Social stigma: loss of friends, family, create a bad atmosphere. Mental & financial impact."
		"...give up their sporting career as well as having criminal prosecutions..."
		"...brings criminal sanctions, teams or players guilty of match-fixing are subject to repercussions that can have long-term effects on the organisation or a player's career..."
		"...in the long term, it also impacts the athlete's health."
Coach	A social, mental, and financial perspective. Fines and suspensions, impact on image and loss of credibility, as well as a criminal process.	"Holistic set of consequences: from social to mental, to financial. Fines and suspensions - all regulatory consequences possible. Public shaming..."
		"...for the professionals, for sure they can get in prison..."
		"...reputation will be grounded... loss of credibility that could lead to the exclusion of your sport clip..."
		"...personal mental impact may be the longest lasting."
		"... impact your integrity picture for the rest of your life."
		"...life and success of your teammates and people close to you will eventually impact your mental health."
Manager	Mental health consequences, expulsion from their sporting careers, and sanctions across various areas.	"...players should be removed from football."
		"...Dilution of their values; fear; loss of enthusiasm in the sport..."
		"Regulatory consequences are immediate..."
		"...mental aspects - positive or negative - will influence the character of the player forever."
		"...civil, administrative, disciplinary or criminal nature."

Other stakeholders	An impact on a sports career, mental harm, or criminal sanctions	"...Leading to mental struggle & potentially impact your professional career beyond sport..." "Criminal sanctions are the ultimate punishment, but most of the sanctions should come from sports organisations." "Finish their career." "...step by step sanctions should be applied that send clear signals." "...The end of career and finally jail as per Laws..."

Figure 5 illustrates the frequency of words used in responses to questions 6 and 7 about the consequences that athletes may suffer if they accept to participate in match-fixing.

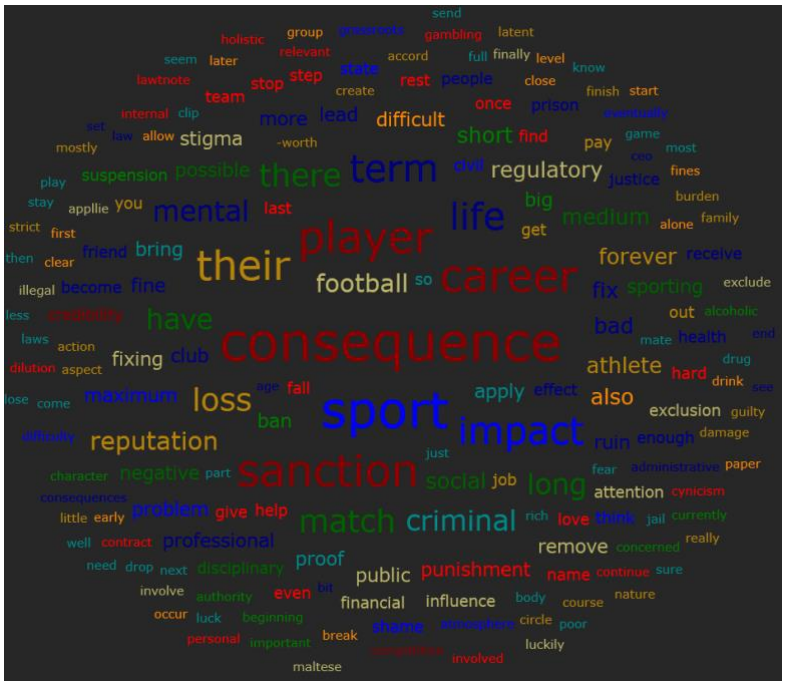


Figure 5. Word cloud on questions about the consequence for involving in match-fixing.

Figure 6 illustrates the frequency of words used in answering questions 8 and 9 about possible initiatives to combat match-fixing.

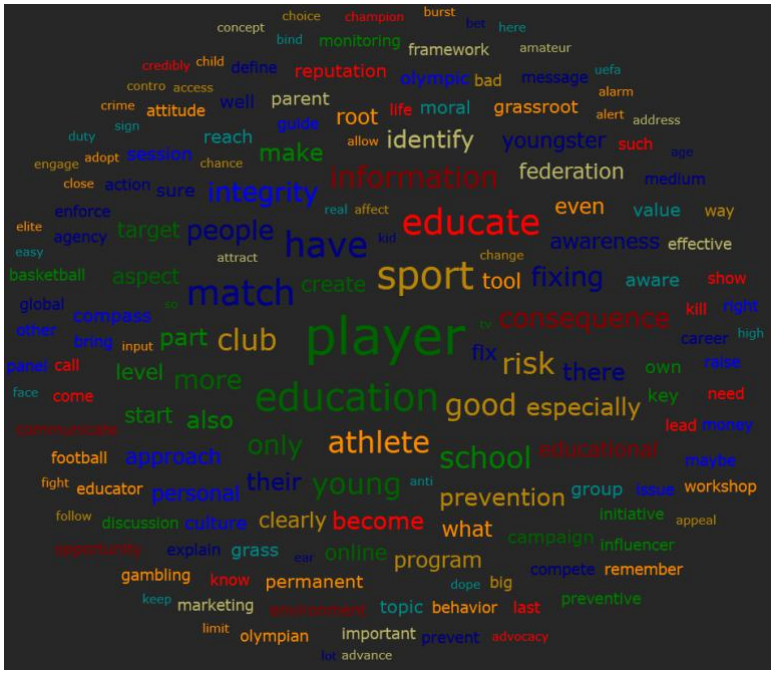


Figure 6. Word cloud on questions about initiatives to combat match-fixing.

Table 6 presents a summary of identified match-fixing initiatives. The starting point is education through information sessions or online training, personal discussions, workshops, and seminars. Build engagement and build trust. It seems vital to inform young athletes about what manipulation of results is and the main consequences it can have on their lives. In addition, educating the environment becomes crucial for family members, coaches, and sports managers. Using examples and real cases has the most significant impact. Additionally, the communication needs to be tailored to reach younger people using social media to educate them about latency.

Table 6. Initiatives to combat match-fixing

Group	Description	Example
Athletes	Training sessions in a welcoming environment, inciting the change of sports culture, starting with young people. Prevention education on both criminal and psychological consequences.	"...sessions, workshops, seminars. Create engagement and create trust. Online tools may be in and out the ears." "Personal sessions or well-designed online tools..." "...change the culture of sport through information campaigns by the federations right from the grassroots level to form the characters of young people." "Prevention should start as early as possible, especially detailing consequences for the players, e-learning and all other means..." "Educate and raise awareness. Especially kids and grassroots." "Be preventive and proactive. Communicate it positively and in advance." "...explain to children the consequences, both criminal and psychological."
Coach		"...Educate and prevent by targeting the right age and target groups."

	It is crucial to educate and prevent. Look for ways to inform the target group according to their age. Make use of the latest technologies to attract the attention of young people.	"...talk with the athletes. They try to do some workshops with sports schools, federations, or sports clubs." "Teaching the values of sports from primary schools and in all club nurseries and tv ads and social media ads." "Grassroots education is key as the risk is not only with elite level athletes..." "...global approach and identifying risks, prevention of risks and having procedures installed..." "...educational programs should adopt modern technology appealing to youngsters." "Educate the educators, mixed with scalable initiatives for grassroots players, such as online tools and webinars."
Manager	Educate, raise awareness, and advocate for better legislation.	"Advocacy towards better legislation and intelligence-sharing..." "Sensibilities and educate that even providing inside information can lead to match-fixing..." "By creating awareness of the vulnerability of athletes; duties they might not be aware they have (e.g., reporting); and the consequences of simply being approached to fix a match or an aspect of it." "Best to educate people close to athletes and in a personal way." "Prevention for players and clubs - information should be clearly and regularly presented..."
Other stakeholders	Educate and engage with real-life examples sharing the Olympic values.	"Using real-life examples is a good way to engage..." "...education starts from school, always start from school in sport in many other aspects of society..." "...Olympic culture, there's Olympic part, that is a crucial part... bring the value of Olympians..." "Education is the key to success for this problem."

Conclusions

It is generally considered that low wages and the insufficient structure and sustainability of sports organisations mainly cause match-fixing. These focus groups also point out other situations that may be related to a greater willingness for match-fixing to occur, namely: a) greater access to bets and, consequently, the network of harassers; b) younger people's quest for a luxury lifestyle and access to "easy money"; c) the lack of more transparent and more effective laws and punishment in some countries, which allows for a higher level of impunity; d) precarious contractual relations on the part of the clubs, which increases the probability of an approach by the harassers; e) the sporting issue, athletes who need money to increase their sports performance become the target of harassers who guarantee financial coverage.

For the participants of the focus groups, there are two types of harassers. One which they call the mafia, that is, large organisations branched out and coordinated around the world. In these cases, most of the time, athletes are not approached by mentors but rather by people linked to a network of harassers who make the approach. Another type is when most harassers are close to the athletes and are part of their daily lives, whether directly (e.g., friends and family) or indirectly (e.g., other athletes). This demonstrates that the relationship of trust between the athlete and the harasser is an essential factor for cases of match-fixing to materialise.

Due to the ease of communication and the possibility of identity suppression, social media is where harassment is most prevalent. In addition, the safe environment of the clubs is pointed out as a favourable context for harassment situations for match-fixing. In addition, there is often a lack of parental control in knowing the context in which their children live from a sporting point of view.

In the case of match-fixing, respondents report that the loss of image credibility, loss of confidence, the stigma of being corrupt, financial disruption, and banishment from the sport are serious consequences involving the practice of match-fixing for match-fixers, i.e., athletes who engage in this type of initiative.

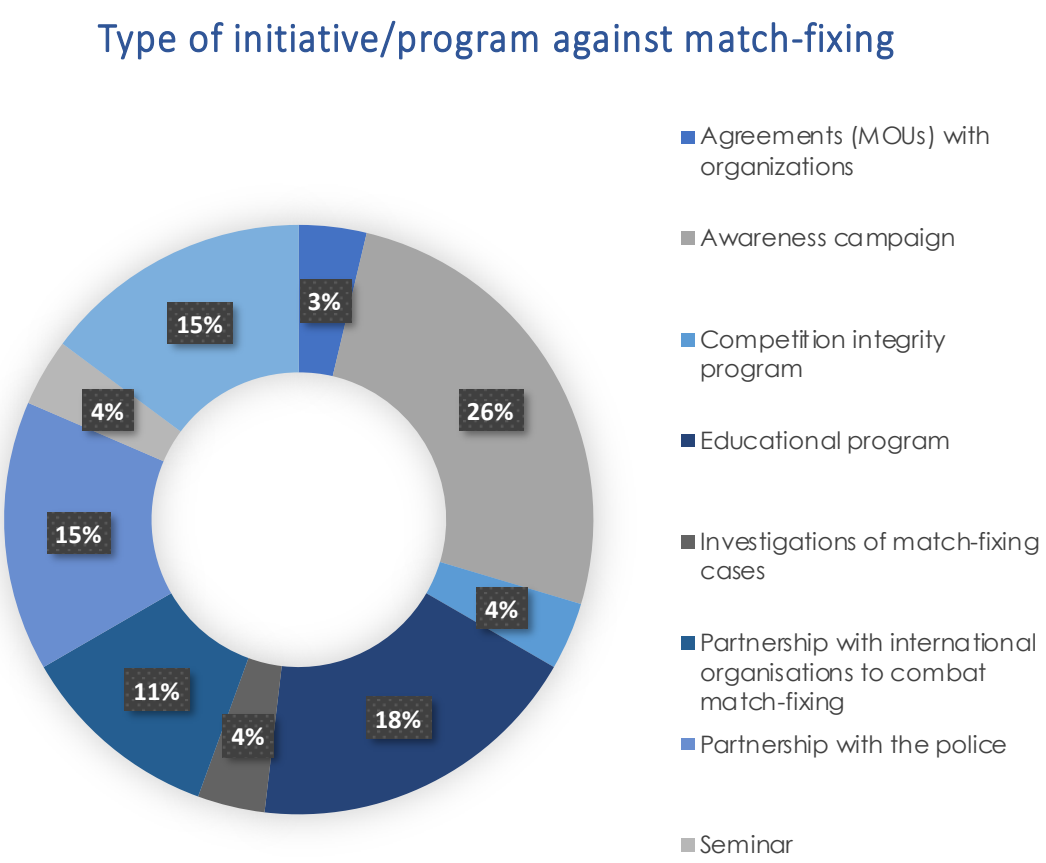
According to the interviewees, young people should be aware of the dangers of match-fixing, even in non-competitive situations. Thus, education projects on this subject are necessary within organisations and in the spheres of personal and professional life, not only among athletes but also among managers and families. In this sense, the interviewees also point out that the education program must be appealing to the point of attracting the attention of the athletes; they must also be worked on from the point of view of the sports references that can be involved in these projects, a kind of ambassador of the fight against match-fixing. The clubs' involvement in this process is another important indicator for the interviewees to establish greater adherence to combat and match-fixing programs.

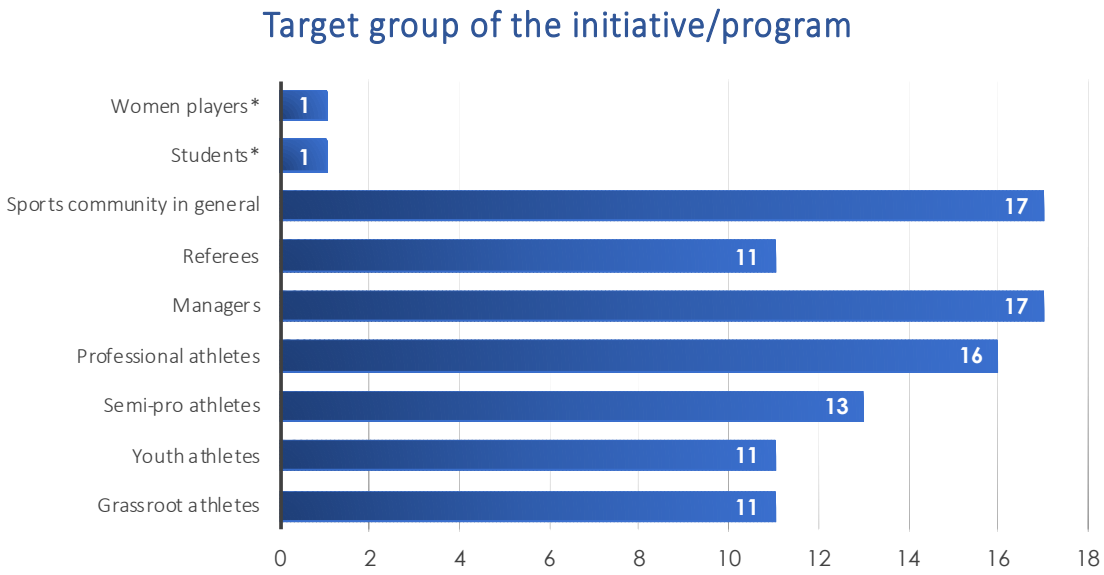
Step 3: Best practices in the fight against match-fixing

Best practices report

Best practices can be understood as a set of initiatives that allow a specific sector of society to have standards to promote different and efficient ways of developing. In the SAMF Project, we consider "best practices", initiatives identified by the project partners that meet criteria that help combat match-fixing by sports organisations.

The graphs below demonstrate which initiatives are most referred to by project partners. In addition to the target of these initiatives, it shows the number of organisations served.





Next, some match-fixing initiatives chosen by the project partners as "Best Practices" are presented following the indicators:

1. Name and Type of the initiative.
2. Brief description.
3. Target group.
4. Number of people assisted in the initiative/program.
5. The time when this initiative happened.
6. Number of organisations participating in the initiative.
7. Link to the promotional material.
8. Main results.

	Name and Type of the initiative
	FPF Integrity Programme / Educational program.
	Description
	Presentations to players, coaches, managers, staff, referees, parents of youth players explaining the phenomenon of match-fixing, types of approaches and consequences are explained. This program also has an anonymous platform for denouncing match-fixing cases (https://integridade.fpf.pt/).
	Target group
	Grassroot Athletes, Semi-professional athletes, Professional athletes, Managers, Referees, Sports community in general.
	Number of people assisted by the initiative
	All the federated athletes of the men's and women's national championships.
	The time when this initiative happened
	More than 5 years, and happens every 3 months.
	Number of organizations participating in this initiative
	Above 1.500 clubs and associations.
@	**Link to the promotional material for the initiative**
	www.fpf.pt (statistical data FPF, pages related to integrity).
	Main results
	www.fpf.pt (statistical data FPF, pages related to integrity).

	Name and Type of the initiative
	Reporting Channel for match-fixing cases.
	Description
	The Portuguese FA created a reporting channel to receive reports regarding match-fixing cases.
	Target group
	Grassroot Athletes, Semi-professional athletes, Professional athletes, Managers, Referees, Sports community in general.
	Number of people assisted by the initiative
	All the federated athletes of the men's and women's national championships.
	The time when this initiative happened
	More than 5 years.
	Number of organizations participating in this initiative
	All clubs from national championships of all competition levels.
@	**Link to the promotional material for the initiative**
	www.integridade.fpf.pt
	Main results
	www.fpf.pt (statistical data FPF, pages related to integrity).

Name and Type of the initiative	"Deixa-te de joguinhos" Campaign / Awareness campaign.
Description	The Portuguese FA in partnership with the Portuguese Players Union and the Portuguese professional League deliverers training sessions to the professional players regarding the dangerous of match-fixing.
Target group	Professional athletes.
Number of people assisted by the initiative	More than 500.
The time when this initiative happened	More than 5 years.
Number of organizations participating in this initiative	All clubs from national championships of all competition levels.
Link to the promotional material for the initiative	https://www.fpf.pt/pt/News/Todas-as-not%C3%ADcias/Not%C3%ADcia/news/8700
Main results	https://www.fpf.pt/pt/News/Todas-as-not%C3%ADcias/Not%C3%ADcia/news/8700

Name and Type of the initiative	Say no to match-fixing / Awareness campaign.
Description	The Portuguese rapper (JimmyP) created a hymn where the dangers of match-fixing is explained.
Target group	Grassroot Athletes, Semi-professional athletes, Professional athletes, Managers, Referees, Sports community in general.
Number of people assisted by the initiative	All clubs and athletes from national championships of all competition levels received training with this video.
The time when this initiative happened	Less than a year.
Number of organizations participating in this initiative	All clubs from national championships of all competition levels.
Link to the promotional material for the initiative	https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR1pzi-NElSiwAv8Mpqh9hLlmyYZ0kegkpbsRI7v2_Xjvgg7RhgisgMmEGU&v=HjIWlnoqr3I&feature=youtu.be
Main results	Almost 100.000 views on Youtube.

The FIBA highlights

Name and Type of the initiative	**Name and Type of the initiative**
SWISH Program / Educational Program.	SWISH+ Program / Training Courses.
Description	**Description**
The general objective of this action is to give the opportunity to the members of staff of the national federations to improve their competencies and qualifications in the field of integrity in sport and integrity in basketball. The Sport Policy SWISH program covers the following key topics: - What is sports policy and why it is important? - FIBA Integrity code and compensation players - Integrity in sport and the role of the IOC - Match fixing and prevention - Betting in Sport - FIBA Anti-Doping Programme and the New WADA code - Duty of care for players	The three-year program involved all 50 European national federations and was created in cooperation with Sportradar. SWISH+ aims at training the participants on integrity issues, converting them to ambassadors that will go on to impart their knowledge to young players in their respective countries.
Target group	**Target group**
Professional athletes, Managers.	Professional athletes, Managers.
Number of people assisted by the initiative	**Number of people assisted by the initiative**
Less than 100.	Less than 100.
The time when this initiative happened	**The time when this initiative happened**
Between 1 and 3 years.	Less than a year
Number of organizations participating in this initiative	**Number of organizations participating in this initiative**
Less than 20.	Less than 20.
Link to the promotional material for the initiative	**Link to the promotional material for the initiative**
https://www.fiba.basketball/europe/programs/swish#tab=element_1_0	https://www.fiba.basketball/news/swish-gets-underway-with-successful-kick-off-meeting
Main results	**Main results**
European Union founded project. Consequently, monitoring processes as per the application.	Participants are trained to become ambassadors and share knowledge nationally. One monitoring criterion for the program will be to see how many national workshops will be delivered to youth athletes.

	Name and Type of the initiative
	SPOC Program - Single Point of Contact / Training Courses.
	Description
	A new initiative enabling the creation of a network of integrity specialists within the basketball community. FIBA strongly encourages its National Federation members to appoint a Single Point of Contact (SPOC). This project aims to have a SPOC person responsible for integrity in each National Federation who will have direct contact with FIBA.
	Target group
	Managers.
	Number of people assisted by the initiative
	Between 100 and 299.
	The time when this initiative happened
	Between 1 and 3 years.
	Number of organizations participating in this initiative
	More than 80.
	Link to the promotional material for the initiative
	https://www.fiba.basketball/integrity-overview#|tab=element_2_1
	Main results
	Number of SPOC nominations, in relation to all FIBA NFs. Total SPOCs/ Total number of FIBA NFs.

	Name and Type of the initiative
	Integrity Education: FIBA x IOC / Awareness campaign.
	Description
	FIBA, in collaboration with the IOC, hosted a series of mandatory webinars on the topic of integrity for all 3x3 teams qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Games to raise awareness about the rights and obligations of players and staff towards betting and match-fixing. FIBA has also collaborated with Athlete 365, the IOC's official community for elite Athletes and Olympians which provides support through relevant advice, tools and services, to produce an educational video on betting.
	Target group
	Grassroot Athletes, Semi-professional athletes, Professional athletes, Managers, Referees, Sports community in general.
	Number of people assisted by the initiative
	Active participation unclear, general reach more than 500.
	The time when this initiative happened
	Between 1 and 3 years.
	Number of organizations participating in this initiative
	More than 80.
	Link to the promotional material for the initiative
	https://www.fiba.basketball/integrity-overview#|tab=element_2_1
	Main results
	No impact evaluation.

The Lithuanian Football Federation highlights

Name and Type of the initiative	**Name and Type of the initiative**
Integrity E-Learning Tutorial for Players / Educational Program.	Investigations of match-fixing cases / Investigations of match-fixing cases.
Description	**Description**
LFF, together with Sportradar elaborated the Integrity E-Learning Tutorial for Players. This innovative tool is easily accessible, attractive and mandatory for every football player (professional or amateur) who is willing to play football in Lithuania. The product consists of a video part introducing the main topics of how to recognise, resist and report match-fixing in football. It also contains questions – a quiz for players to check their basic knowledge in the field of ant-match-fixing. The tutorial is available in 3 languages: Lithuanian, English and Russian. As a final step, the system generates the certificate for those who completed the tutorial. The players must forward the certificates from LFF Integrity.	When LFF Integrity receives the BFDS Reports, whistle-blower information or any other relevant information regarding the possible match-fixing in Lithuanian football, it starts the investigation.
Target group	**Target group**
Grassroot Athletes, Semi-professional athletes, Professional athletes.	Grassroot Athletes, Semi-professional athletes, Professional athletes, Managers, Referees, Sports community in general.
Number of people assisted by the initiative	**Number of people assisted by the initiative**
Less than 100.	Less than 100.
The time when this initiative happened	**The time when this initiative happened**
Less than a year.	Between 1 and 3 years.
Number of organizations participating in this initiative	**Number of organizations participating in this initiative**
Between 50 and 79.	Less than 20.
Link to the promotional material for the initiative	**Link to the promotional material for the initiative**
www.lff.lt	N/A
Main results	**Main results**
The Admin area of the tutorial can track the relevant progress. In addition, we have noticed the manifestations of trust - the players are reporting the approaches & attempts to engage them in match-fixing.	The number of match-fixing cases in Lithuanian football decreased by over 90 % (comparing the period between 2019 and 2021).

	Name and Type of the initiative
	Cooperation with Sportradar / Partnership with international organisations to combat match-fixing.
	Description
	LFF with Sportradar company cooperates already been for some years. The efficient cooperation ensures the effective management of the LFF Integrity domain, including match-fixing investigations. Sportradar assists the LFF in match-fixing monitoring, I&I services and Integrity E-Learning opportunities.
	Target group
	Grassroot Athletes, Semi-professional athletes, Professional athletes.
	Number of people assisted by the initiative
	Between 100 and 299.
	The time when this initiative happened
	More than 5 years.
	Number of organizations participating in this initiative
	More than 80.
@	**Link to the promotional material for the initiative**
	N/A
	Main results
	The progress in LFF Integrity management is obvious. For instance, the number of match-fixing cases in Lithuanian football has evidently decreased.

	Name and Type of the initiative
	Partnership with Lithuanian Criminal Police / Partnership with the police.
	Description
	LFF Integrity closely cooperates with Lithuanian Criminal Police. We share the critical materials and evidence related to match-fixing investigations. Also, LFF is benefiting from the consultation process regarding the tactics and strategies applicable in the context of match-fixing investigations.
	Target group
	Grassroot Athletes, Semi-professional athletes, Professional athletes, Managers, Referees, the Sports community in general, 3rd persons concerned.
	Number of people assisted by the initiative
	Less than 100.
	The time when this initiative happened
	Between 1 and 3 years.
	Number of organizations participating in this initiative
	Between 50 and 79.
@	**Link to the promotional material for the initiative**
	N/A
	Main results
	LFF Integrity has improved its capacities in terms of match-fixing investigations. Also, the information that LFF Integrity cooperates with Lithuanian Criminal Police works as a prevention within the Lithuanian football community.

Name and Type of the initiative	Integrity Tour / Awareness campaign.
Description	The Integrity tours are anti match-fixing deliveries carried out by the Malta FA Integrity Unit within Maltese Football Clubs, Referees association and Schools.
Target group	Grassroot Athletes, Semi-professional athletes, Professional athletes, Managers, Referees, Sports community in general, Schools.
Number of people assisted by the initiative	Between 300 and 499.
The time when this initiative happened	Less than a year.
Number of organizations participating in this initiative	Less than 20.
Link to the promotional material for the initiative	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2XjcFjwZ4w&t=269s
Main results	No impact evaluation.

Name and Type of the initiative	Integriball Erasmus + / Partnership with international organisations to combat match-fixing.
Description	This project focussed on match manipulation in women and young footballers. It took on a unique perspective, developing and disseminating a multidisciplinary, comprehensive education programme on protecting grassroots (U16-18) and women football players from sports manipulations. The project partners were Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece and Malta in 2020 – 2021.
Target group	Grassroot Athletes, Women Athletes.
Number of people assisted by the initiative	Between 100 and 299.
The time when this initiative happened	Between 1 and 3 years.
Number of organizations participating in this initiative	Less than 20.
Link to the promotional material for the initiative	https://www.mfa.com.mt/news/archives/integriball-erasmusplus/
Main results	It is still in due process.

The Malta Football Association highlights

Name and Type of the initiative	**Name and Type of the initiative**
Integrisport / Partnership with the police	MOUs with the Gaming Regulator and with the Police / Agreements (MOUs) with organizations.
Description	**Description**
The event was the fifth in the IntegriSport Next programme of which there will be six in total over the two years of the EU-funded project. The seminar focused on issues around match-fixing from the perspective of sports betting, virtual currencies, related criminal offences (corruption, fraud, money laundering), policy-making and cooperation. The programme is targeted as law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities. The session in Malta brought together leading experts and representatives of the CSCF and the Malta Police Force and representatives from leading national and international decision-making organisations, including FIFPRO and Interpol.	MOUs with the Gaming regulator (data sharing agreement) have provided a crucial tool in the match-fixing investigation. Another MOU – a tri-party between the FA, Malta Police and the Players Association is regarding the protection of players and other sports people who report anonymously.
Target group	**Target group**
Sports community in general.	Sports community in general.
Number of people assisted by the initiative	**Number of people assisted by the initiative**
Less than 100.	More than 500.
The time when this initiative happened	**The time when this initiative happened**
Less than a year.	More than 5 years.
Number of organizations participating in this initiative	**Number of organizations participating in this initiative**
Less than 20.	More than 80.
Link to the promotional material for the initiative	**Link to the promotional material for the initiative**
https://www.insideworldfootball.com/2022/04/29/cscf-maltese-police-deliver-5th-integrisport-next-match-fixing-seminar/	N/A
Main results	**Main results**
No impact evaluation.	No impact evaluation.

The Panathlon International highlights

Name and Type of the initiative	**Name and Type of the initiative**
1st Edition of the University of Sports Ethics' Summer Course / Educational Program.	International Seminar "Match Fixing – Manipulação De Resultados Desportivos" / Seminar.
Description	**Description**
Specialisation Course in Sports Ethics organised by the Panathlon Clube de Lisboa through its University of Sports Ethics (UED), started September 2021. The UED Specialization Course in Sports Ethics, which adopts the distance learning model, is organised into thematic modules, "allowing total or partial attendance", being "accredited for the career purposes of coaches and teachers", and has specialist teachers in "Moral, General Ethics and Sports Ethics, Doping, Combined games and illegal betting, Violence in sports shows / GOAs5 and Card, Bullying and sexual harassment in sport, Integrity and corruption, Racism and xenophobia, Inclusion and equality and Sports Ethics the Sports Law".	"The Seminar "Match Fixing – Manipulation of sports results", organised by the Panathlon Clube de Lisboa, took place on the 16th of December 2017 in the auditorium of the Olympic Committee of Portugal. Specialists attended this event from different areas, and the presence of an interested audience filled the auditorium. The seminar, an action recognised by the Portuguese Institute of Youth and Sports and by the Ministry of Education for credit units in the certification of coaches and the continuous training of teachers, aimed to get to know in greater detail a reality that, due to corruption, manipulation and combination of sports results, threatens good practices and sports truth, as well as training sports players with practical tools to detect and combat the phenomenon."
Target group	**Target group**
Sports community in general.	Sports community in general.
Number of people assisted by the initiative	**Number of people assisted by the initiative**
Less than 100.	More than 100
The time when this initiative happened	**The time when this initiative happened**
Between 1 and 3 years.	More than 5 years.
Number of organizations participating in this initiative	**Number of organizations participating in this initiative**
Less than 20.	Less than 100
Link to the promotional material for the initiative	**Link to the promotional material for the initiative**
https://www.multidesportos.pt/wp/2021/06/19/etica-desportiva-curso-de-verao-promovido-pelo-panathlon-clube-de-lisboa/	https://www.panathlonlisboa.pt/2017/12/18/seminario-internacional-match-fixing-manipulacao-de-resultados-desportivos/
Main results	**Main results**
No impact evaluation.	No impact evaluation.

The Panathlon International highlights

	Name and Type of the initiative		**Name and Type of the initiative**
	La manipulación de resultados de competencias: Una problemática del siglo XXI / Awareness campaign.		EPOSM (Evidence-based Prevention of Sporting-related Match-fixing) / Awareness campaign.
	Description		**Description**
	A Zoom meeting to discuss: The sporting spirit is killed by manipulation. What is the point of competing if the game is fixed or negotiated in advance?		The EPOSM (Evidence-based Prevention of Sporting-related Match-fixing) project was a collaborative partnership between academic and non-academic parties, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union and studies sporting-related match-fixing in different sports disciplines across the EU. The Erasmus+ project EPOSM has 3 main goals: - Raising awareness about the prevalence of sporting-related match-fixing; - Stimulating moral judgment regarding the fact that sporting-related match-fixing is wrong, as it threatens the credibility and attractiveness of sport. - Sharing and transferring knowledge on sporting-related match-fixing through the organisation of a training procedure.
	Target group		**Target group**
	Sports community in general.		Sports community in general.
	Number of people assisted by the initiative		**Number of people assisted by the initiative**
	Less than 100.		More than 500
	The time when this initiative happened		**The time when this initiative happened**
	Less than a year.		Less than a year.
	Number of organizations participating in this initiative		**Number of organizations participating in this initiative**
	Less than 20.		More than 5.
	Link to the promotional material for the initiative		**Link to the promotional material for the initiative**
	N/A		https://www.eposm.net/eposm-result-reports
	Main results		**Main results**
	No impact evaluation.		Divided into three phases, the project was consolidated with 15 action plans, 58 workshops, 7 national reports and 1 book.

Step 4: The 'Cases' of Match-Fixing

Report from the identified cases

We carried out a campaign from the project partners intending to identify cases of match-fixing (between partner countries) and athletes who went through situations related to grooming for match-fixing.

This step aims to allow the creation of a campaign that tells real cases that can be used to raise awareness among grassroots athletes about the leading causes and consequences of match-fixing.

The objectives are to use these cases to create in the future a game-based learning narrative and to share at least 04 stories in online videos that can serve to raise the awareness of grassroots athletes about the dangers of playing match-fixing, as well as the primary way to approach recruiters and/or organisations that, for some reason, use this practice to gain the advantage.

Match-fixing cases

CASE 1
In which sport did the case happen?
Football.
Who was involved?
Athletes and Club managers.
What level of athletes are involved?
Professional athlete and Grassroots athlete.
What is the competitive level?
Professional competition.
What is the competition?
National competition.
Which organisations are involved?
Club/association.
Where was the athlete approached?
'Inside' the club/organisation.
Where did the enticement come from?
Club managers and Athletes.
What motivated the practice of match-fixing?
Easy money; Pressure from other players/managers; Pressure from outside the external sports person.
The manipulation was related to:
Match moments and final results.
What is the repercussion of the case for the organisation?
The club denied match-fixing.
What is the repercussion of the case for sports?
Negative and shocking reaction.
What is the repercussion of the case for those involved?
Sanctioned, got angry, quit football.

What is the impact of the case on the media?
There were a few announcements of the case (including a joint press conference with the Criminal Police and UEFA).
Who reported the case?
Betting monitoring companies/organisations (e.g., Sportradar, GLMS, etc.).
How much money was involved?
Unknown.
Was there punishment for those involved?
Yes.
What punishment?
Sport ban.
Please briefly describe the most relevant facts of the case, considering "The five stages": access to the athlete (through which channel does the corruptor access the athlete); the set-up (how was).
Access to the athletes - Unknown; The set-up - Unknown and denied; The calling of the fix - Unknown; The result occurred at the certain agreed point; The details of the payment – Unknown; The most considerable consequences - Many corrupt football players left football, and the club in concern disappeared from the map of Lithuanian football.

CASE 2

In which sport did the case happen?
Football.
Who was involved?
Athletes, Coaches and Club managers.
What level of athletes are involved?
Amateur athlete and Grassroot athlete.
What is the competitive level?
Grassroot competition.
What is the competition?
National - First division
Which organisations are involved?
Club/association.
Where was the athlete approached?
'Outside' the club/organisation.
Where did the enticement come from?
Athletes, Coaches.
What motivated the practice of match-fixing?
Pressure from other players/managers. Financial difficulties – Poverty, Easy money.
The manipulation was related to:
Match moments, Final results.
What is the repercussion of the case for the organisation?
Denied and disappeared.
What is the repercussion of the case for sports?
It looks like many knew the malpractices ongoing in the club.
What is the repercussion of the case for those involved?
Denied and disappeared.
What is the impact of the case on the media? (please, if there is a link to any news, indicate it)

There were a few announcements of the case (including a joint press conference with the Criminal Police and UEFA).

Who reported the case? Betting monitoring companies/organisations (e.g. Sportradar, GLMS, etc.);

Brief announcement.

How much money was involved?

N/A.

Was there punishment for those involved?

Yes.

What punishment? (If you answer 'Yes' to the previous question)

Sport ban.

Please briefly describe the most relevant facts of the case, considering "The five stages": access to the athlete (through which channel does the corruptor access the athlete); the set-up (how was...)

Access to the athletes - through the circle of athletes;
The set-up - unknown and denied;
The calling of the fix - unknown;
The result occurred at the certain agreed point;
The details of the payment - unknown;
The most considerable consequences - many corrupt football players left football (they were from Latvia, so all sanctioned football players went back to their country of origin), and the club in concern disappeared from the map of Lithuanian football.

CASE 3

In which sport did the case happen?

Football.

Who was involved?

Athletes.

What level of athletes are involved?

Grassroots athlete.

What is the competitive level?

Professional competition.

What is the competition?

National competition.

Which organisations are involved?

Club/association.

Where was the athlete approached?

'Outside' the club/organisation.

Where did the enticement come from?

Gamblers.

What motivated the practice of match-fixing?

Easy money.

The manipulation was related to:

Match moments, final results.

What is the repercussion of the case for the organisation?

Difficulties in terms of reputation and trust.

What is the repercussion of the case for sports?

We realised that the football community knew the relevant malpractices and they appreciated the outcomes that it was stopped.

What is the repercussion of the case for those involved?

Sanctioned, shamed and disappeared from Lithuanian football.

What is the impact of the case on the media? (please, if there is a link to any news, indicate it)

A few brief announcements.

Who reported the case?
Betting monitoring companies/organisations (e.g., Sportradar, GLMS, etc.).
How much money was involved?
N/A.
Was there punishment for those involved?
Yes.
What punishment? (If you answer 'Yes' to the previous question)
Sport ban.
Please briefly describe the most relevant facts of the case, considering "The five stages": access to the athlete (through which channel does the corruptor access the athlete); the set-up (how was...)
Access to the athletes - unknown; The set-up - unknown and denied; The calling of the fix - unknown; The result occurred at the certain agreed point; The details of the payment - unknown; The most considerable consequences - the club was shocked and reorganised, ensuring real match-fixing prevention.

CASE 4

In which sport did the case happen?
Football.
Who was involved?
Athletes, Club managers, Coaches and Gamblers.
What level of athletes are involved?
Amateur athlete and Grassroot athlete.
What is the competitive level?
Professional competition.
What is the competition?
National competition.
Which organisations are involved?
Club/association.
Where was the athlete approached?
'Inside' the club/organisation.
Where did the enticement come from?
Club managers.
What motivated the practice of match-fixing?
Pressure from other players/managers; Easy money; Pressure from outside the external sport person.
The manipulation was related to:
Match moments and Final results.
What is the repercussion of the case for the organisation?
They deny the malpractices.
What is the repercussion of the case for sports?
It's a "public secret", and the football community is waiting for the outcomes of the case.
What is the repercussion of the case for those involved?
They deny, some of the foreign players have already left the country.
What is the impact of the case on the media? (please, if there is a link to any news, indicate it)
A few brief articles only; the most important announcements will be made in the future.
Who reported the case?
Betting monitoring companies/organisations (e.g., Sportradar, GLMS, etc.).
How much money was involved?
N/A. Prediction & information from some sources - 30 000 for a club for one fixed match.

Was there punishment for those involved?
Yes.
What punishment? (If you answer 'Yes' to the previous question)
Sport ban.
Please briefly describe the most relevant facts of the case, considering "The five stages": access to the athlete (through which channel does the corruptor access the athlete); the-set up (how was...)
Access to the athletes - the club searches for athletes who could implement the fixtures. Also, some agents are working as intermediaries. The set-up - unknown and denied; The calling of the fix - unknown; The result occurred at the certain agreed point; The details of the payment – unknown; The most considerable consequences are still awaiting - it might be that the municipality will quit the sponsorship, and the club will disappear from the map of Lithuanian football.

CASE 5

In which sport did the case happen?
Football.
Who was involved?
Referees.
What level of athletes are involved?
Semi-professional athlete.
What is the competitive level?
Professional competition.
What is the competition?
National - First division.
Which organisations are involved?
Club/association.
Where was the athlete approached?
Not applicable.
Where did the enticement come from?
Not applicable.
What motivated the practice of match-fixing?
Not applicable.
The manipulation was related to:
Not applicable.
What is the repercussion of the case for the organisation?
We believe there was a gain from this investigation because we decided to shake the Referee Department and set a deterrent.
What is the repercussion of the case for sports?
There was not as such for the reasons submitted in the preceding question.
What is the repercussion of the case for those involved?
The referee was suspended for 1 year.
What is the impact of the case on the media? (please, if there is a link to any news, indicate it)
It was not given media visibility.
Who reported the case?
Referees.
How much money was involved?
Match-fixing was not proven, but we proceeded to bet where we got a conviction on betting.
Was there punishment for those involved?
Yes.

What punishment? (If you answer 'Yes' to the previous question)
Sport ban.
Please briefly describe the most relevant facts of the case, considering "The five stages": access to the athlete (through which channel does the corruptor access the athlete); the set-up (how was...)
The Malta FA Integrity Officer received information that a particular referee was acting suspiciously and frequenting betting shops. The Integrity unit proceeded by sending a request for information to the Maltese Gaming Regulator. The MFA informed the Authority that Darko Stankovic is a registered referee suspected of possibly manipulating sports competitions and betting on his sport. In this regard, the Authority corresponded a Request for Information with all B2C-licenced operators who offer sports betting on 29/08/2021. It resulted that the referee held five different betting accounts where with one of them he placed a bet on Maltese football, which is a practice against the Regulations of the Malta FA. He was investigated for match-fixing, which was not proved, although it can never be excluded, and was prosecuted for betting against the Malta FA Regulations, where he was punished with a year ban from sports competitions.

CASE 7

Where did the case happen?
Malta.
In which sport did the case happen?
Football.
Who was involved?
Coaches.
What level of athletes are involved?
Semi-professional athlete.
What is the competitive level?
Semi-professional competition.
What is the competition?
National - Second division.
Which organisations are involved?
Club/association.
Where was the athlete approached?
Not applicable.
Where did the enticement come from?
Cannot say because it ended up in betting charges.
What motivated the practice of match-fixing?
Not applicable.
The manipulation was related to:
Not applicable.
What is the repercussion of the case for the organisation?
None.
What is the repercussion of the case for sports?
None.
What is the repercussion of the case for those involved?
Sports ban for 2 years.
What is the impact of the case on the media? (please, if there is a link to any news, indicate it)

It was not given media visibility.

Who reported the case?

Police.

How much money was involved?

100 euros.

Was there punishment for those involved?

Yes.

What punishment? (If you answer 'Yes' to the previous question)

Sport ban.

Please briefly describe the most relevant facts of the case, considering "The five stages": access to the athlete (through which channel does the corruptor access the athlete); the set-up (how was...)

On the 18th of July 2020, the Integrity office was officially informed by Malta Police that whilst carrying out a match-fixing investigation on October 2019, it arrested and interviewed St. Georges FC Assistant Coach Mr. Sean Galea. The Inspector explained that Mr. Galea was arrested alongside other individuals seriously suspected of fixing matches. He further explained that during his interview, he confirmed that he placed bets on his and other teams in that season.

On the 5th of August 2020, Mr. Sean Galea was called to the MFA Integrity Unit to be questioned on the above-mentioned. In his written and signed statement in the presence of MFA prosecutor Dr. Adrian Camilleri, he admitted that during the match Lija vs St. Georges (14/10/2019), he was tipping off his brother, who in turn was placing bets on the same game. He also explained that he put a bet for Sean, which bet earned him 100 euros. Upon being asked further, Sean categorically denied any involvement in match-fixing.

Sean Galea was eventually charged before the Malta FA panel for placing bets on local football and was banned for 2 years.

CASE 8

In which sport did the case happen?

Basketball.

Who was involved?

Athletes.

What level of athletes are involved?

Semi-professional athlete.

What is the competitive level?

Semi-professional competition.

What is the competition?

Regional competition.

Which organisations are involved?

Club/association.

Where was the athlete approached?

'Outside' the club/organisation.

Where did the enticement come from?

Friends/family.

What motivated the practice of match-fixing?

Easy money.

The manipulation was related to:

Final results.

What is the repercussion of the case for the organisation?

Two players from the club were involved in the match-fixing case. Under the applicable Italian laws, the club (even though they were the ones reporting the suspicion) was charged with strict liability. The

minimum regulatory sanction was imposed on the club (considering the proper conduct of the club). The said minimum sanction was a "one-point ranking penalty to be enforced in the current championship".

What is the repercussion of the case for sports?

Italian Basketball reinforced its anti-match-fixing efforts.

What is the repercussion of the case for those involved?

The players immediately lost their contracts with the Italian club. The Italian Basketball Federation suspended the players as follows:
Player 1: 4-year competition ban.
Player 2: 3-year competition ban.

The bans were extended on an international level by FIBA, so the players cannot sign a new contract in a country outside of Italy.

What is the impact of the case on the media? (please, if there is a link to any news, indicate it)

The news was picked up in some local and national newspapers.

https://www.informatorevigevanese.it/basket/2019/05/07/news/basket-serie-c-gold-caso-scommesse-squalifiche-battaglia-mortara-grabauskas-poguzinskas-ferretti-543319/

https://laprovinciapavese.gelocal.it/sport/2018/12/09/news/mortara-ipotesi-scommesse-cacciati-tre-giocatori-1.17548094/amp/

Who reported the case?

Club managers, Athletes.

How much money was involved?

Unknown.

Was there punishment for those involved?

Yes.

What punishment? (If you answer 'Yes' to the previous question)

Sport ban.

Please briefly describe the most relevant facts of the case, considering "The five stages": access to the athlete (through which channel does the corruptor access the athlete); the set-up (how was...)

Two Lithuanian players, playing in a semi-professional Italian team, were convicted of match-fixing. Per the prosecutors' decision and findings, the two players have actively tried to manipulate two games. More specifically, they have tried to influence the game's outcome and achieve a loss for their team.

The cases were unveiled as the players approached additional players from the team, asking them to participate in the match-fixing scheme. The players that were approached reported the situation to the club president, who immediately informed the respective authorities.

The initial match-fixing was initiated by a Lithuanian friend of the Lithuanian player - the initiator had never lived in Italy. The details on how much money they have (or should have) received and/or how payment was delivered are unknown.

CASE 9

In which sport did the case happen?

Basketball.

Who was involved?

Athletes and Friends/family.

What level of athletes are involved?

Professional athlete.

What is the competitive level?

Professional competition.

What is the competition?

National competition.

Which organisations are involved?

Club/association, National Federation and International Federation.

Where was the athlete approached?

One player approached externally, who then approached teammates.

Where did the enticement come from?

Friends/family.

What motivated the practice of match-fixing?

Easy money.

The manipulation was related to:

Final results.

What is the repercussion of the case for the organisation?

The team to which the sanctioned player belonged was banned from the championship for 4 games and received a punishment of 2 points.

What is the repercussion of the case for sports?

The case triggered several issues as it impacted the final standings of the championship, making it difficult to decide whom to advance to playoffs and whom to be relegated.

What is the repercussion of the case for those involved?

Player 1: acted as intermediate: he was asked by "friends" outside the club to convince a teammate to manipulate games. The player himself did not manipulate games. Said player received a 30-month suspension.

Player 2: also acted as an intermediate and tried to convince teammates to engage in match-fixing. As Player 2 provided significant assistance in the investigation, he only received a 24-month sanction.

What is the impact of the case on the media? (please, if there is a link to any news, indicate it)

The case was reported in local and national news, including news in neighbouring Argentina as the player intended to escape his sanction in Uruguay by playing in Argentina, which FIBA prevented.

https://www.futbol.com.uy/Deportes/Basquetbol-30-meses-de-suspension-para-Agustin-Zuvich-y-quita-de-puntos-a-Stockolmo-uc725805

https://970universal.com/2022/03/12/agustin-zuvich-se-me-sanciono-de-una-forma-desproporcionada-fui-inmaduro-me-equivoque-pero-la-justicia-tuvo-3-meses-mi-celular-y-no-descubrio-mas-que-un-mensaje/

Who reported the case?

Athletes, Club managers.

How much money was involved?

Between USD 500-1000 were offered to lose a game.

Was there punishment for those involved?

Yes.

What punishment? (If you answer 'Yes' to the previous question)

Sport ban.

Please briefly describe the most relevant facts of the case, considering "The five stages": access to the athlete (through which channel does the corruptor access the athlete); the set-up (how was...)

Both players who were banned for involvement in match-fixing were not actively manipulating games. They were sanctioned for establishing contact between the initiators of the match-fixing scheme and the teammates.

The teammates that were approached to fix the game (foreign players with significant game time and impact on the game) refused to fix the matches for USD 500-1000 and reported the attempt to the club management.

As per the evidence, the money was to be released in cash to the players who established the contact and the player who was to manipulate the game (if he would have accepted) 4.5 days after the game.

About 78% of the identified cases occurred in national-level competitions (and first-division leagues), followed by 11% in second-division national competitions and 11% in regional competitions.

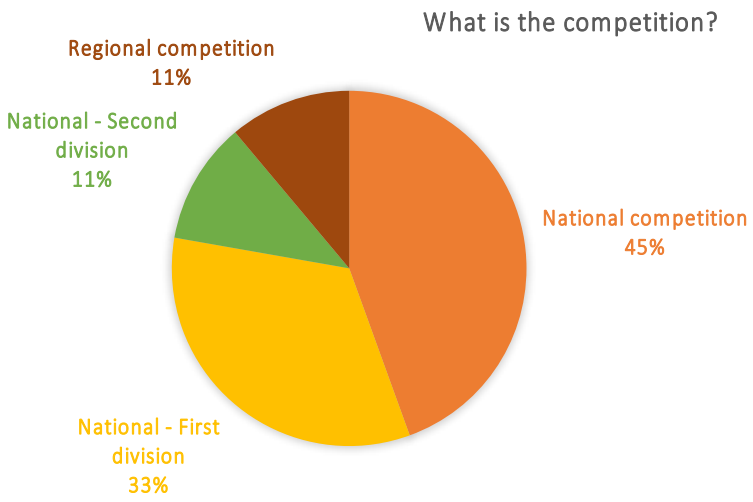


Figure 1. Flagged competition

Most cases (33%) occurred in competitions involving grassroots athletes and semi-pro athletes (also 33%).

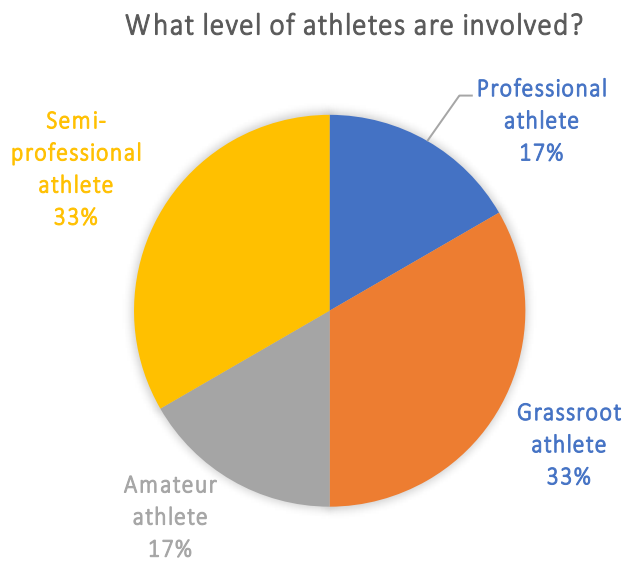


Figure 2. Level of athletes involved

In 60% of the mentioned cases, match-fixing occurred in situations related to the result and 40% in specific moments of the matches.

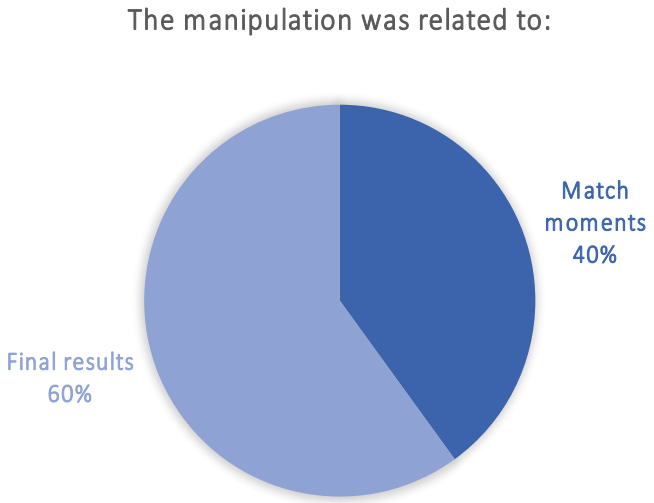


Figure 3. Manipulation moment on the match

As for the handlers/harassers, 20% are people close to the athletes (family and friends), and the same percentage refers to fellow athletes and club managers, which means that in the cases presented, 60% of the handlers/harassers are part of the athlete's daily life.

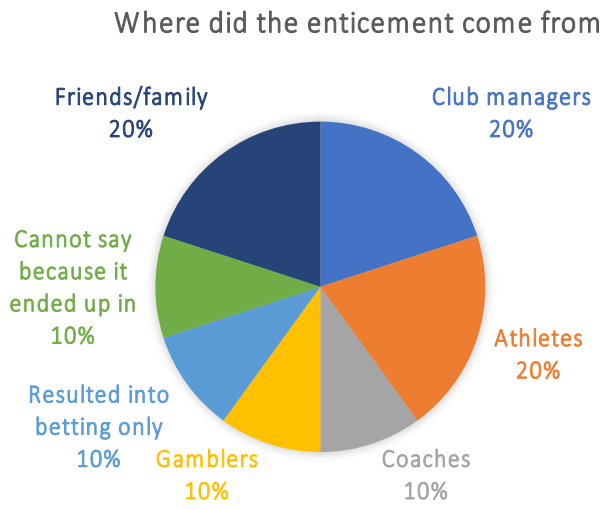


Figure 4. People are involved

Finally, 37% of the cases presented here were reported by organisations specialised in betting monitoring. Another 18% had the involvement of police authorities.

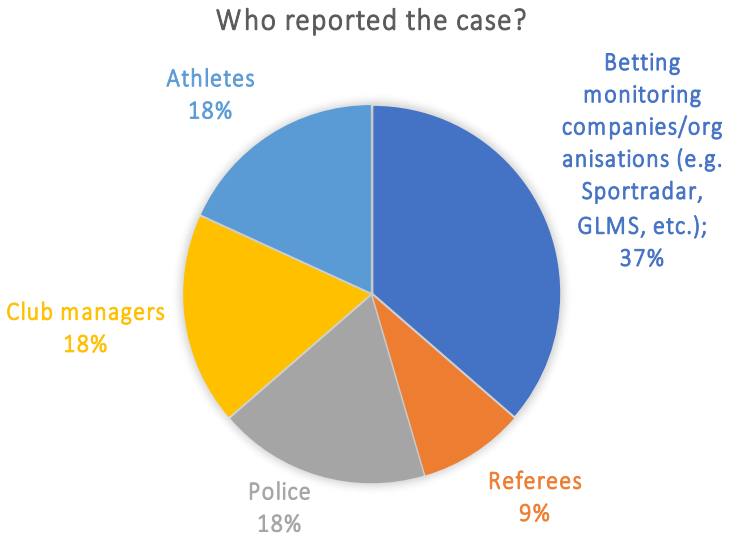


Figure 5. Who reported the case

Interviews Report

Four interviews were conducted to understand how some athletes who volunteered to talk about their experiences within the context of match-fixing felt and perceived everything that happened. We highlight the following interview.

1. The interviews were conducted by phone;

2. Following the athletes, not consent, the interviews were not recorded;

3. Athletes were informed about the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679;

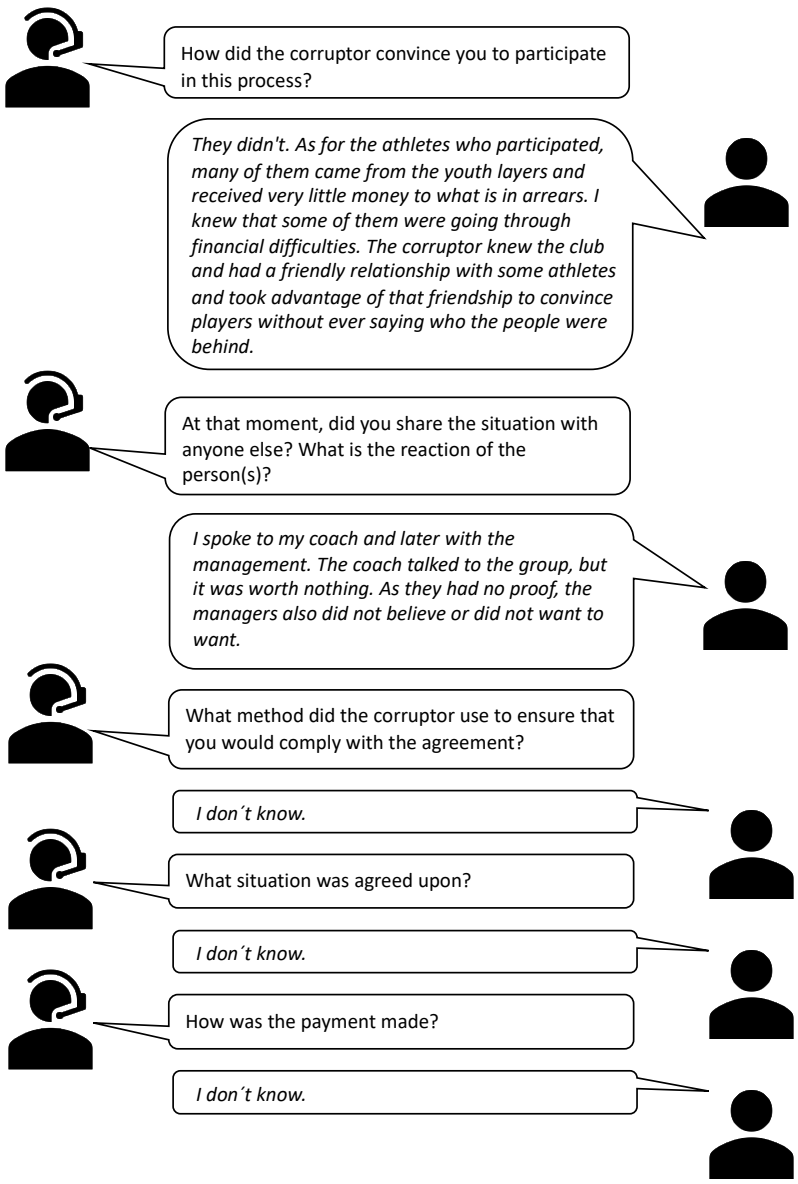
5. By GDPR (EU) 2016/679, the personal athlete data were not disclosed;

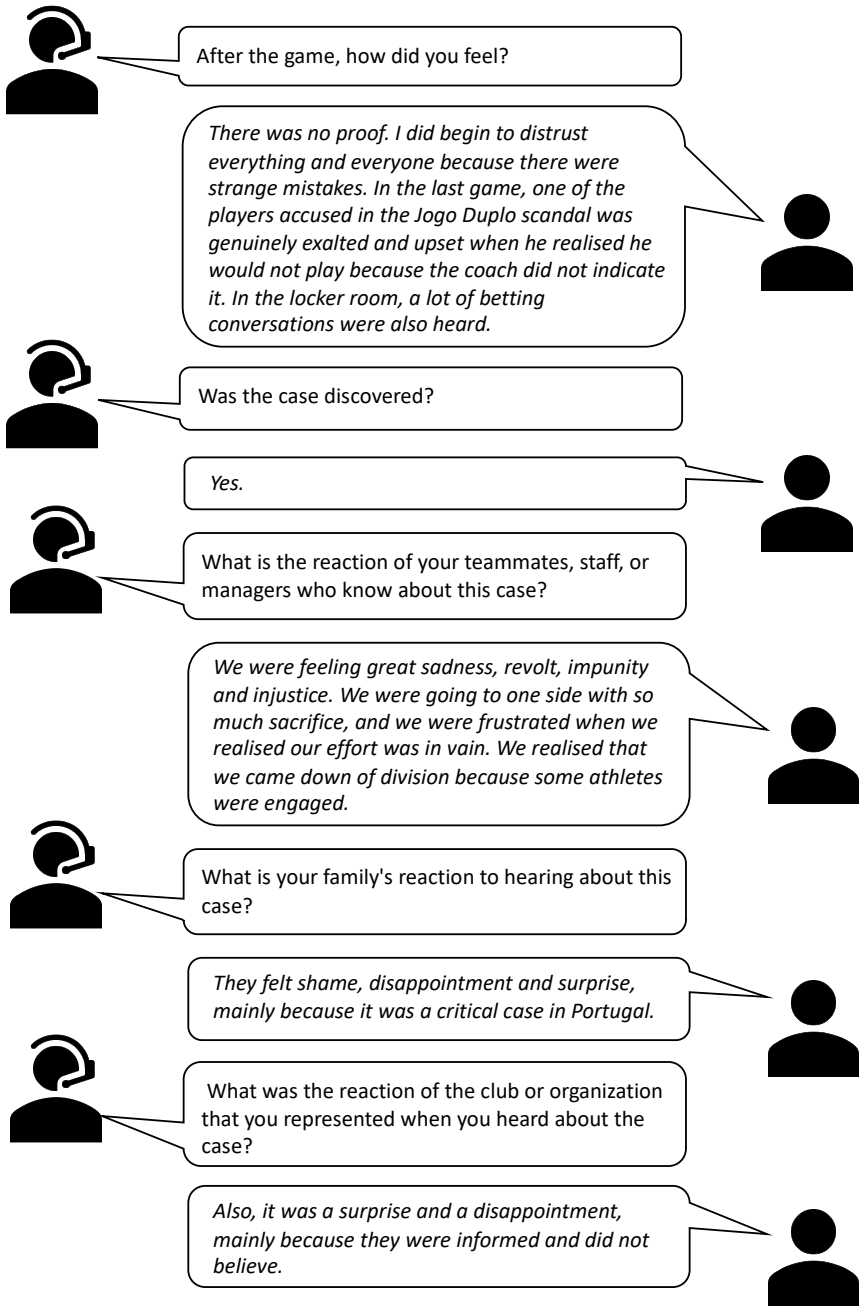
6. The researchers of Sport Evolution Alliance partners in the project processed the data;

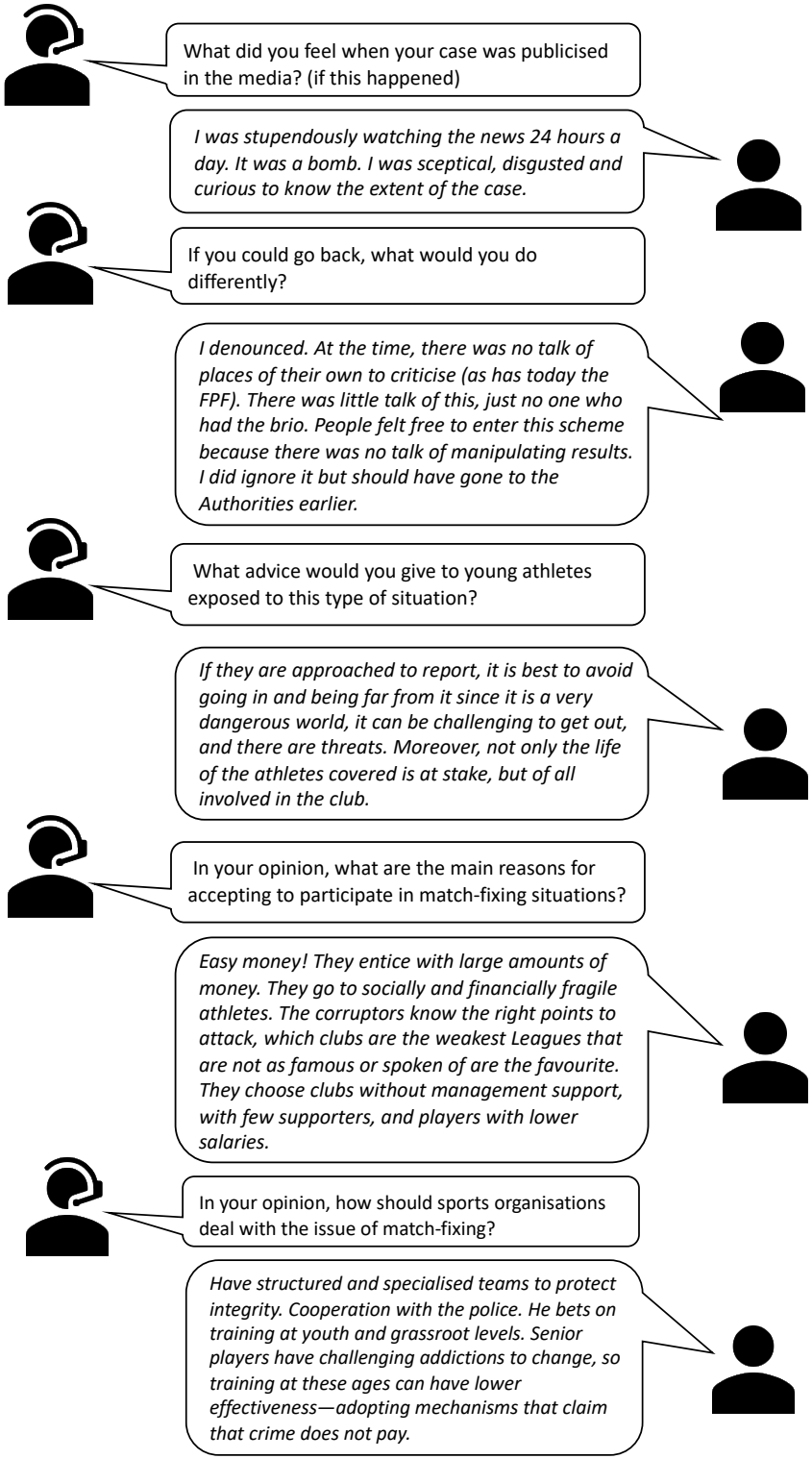
7. The stories told by the athletes will be part of educational material.

The interview storytelling - Interview 1 (Football athlete)

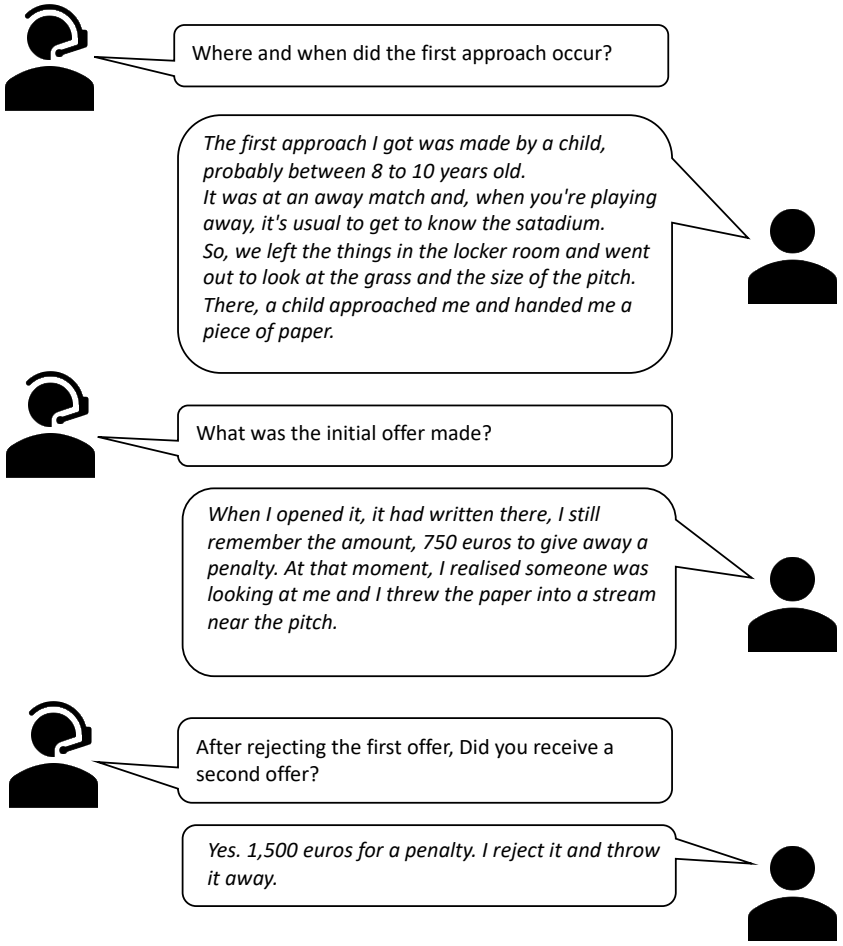


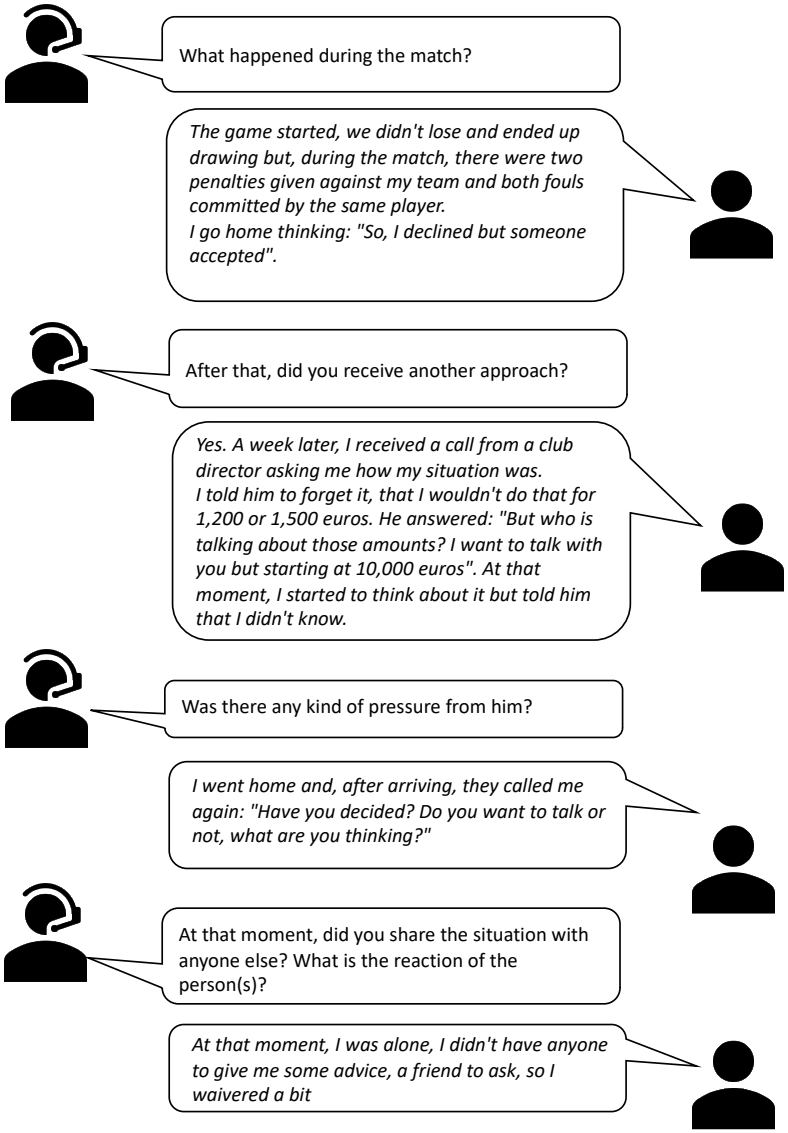



After the game, how did you feel?
There was no proof. I did begin to distrust everything and everyone because there were strange mistakes. In the last game, one of the players accused in the Jogo Duplo scandal was genuinely exalted and upset when he realised he would not play because the coach did not indicate it. In the locker room, a lot of betting conversations were also heard.
Was the case discovered?
Yes.
What is the reaction of your teammates, staff, or managers who know about this case?
We were feeling great sadness, revolt, impunity and injustice. We were going to one side with so much sacrifice, and we were frustrated when we realised our effort was in vain. We realised that we came down of division because some athletes were engaged.
What is your family's reaction to hearing about this case?
They felt shame, disappointment and surprise, mainly because it was a critical case in Portugal.
What was the reaction of the club or organization that you represented when you heard about the case?
Also, it was a surprise and a disappointment, mainly because they were informed and did not believe.


What did you feel when your case was publicised in the media? (if this happened)
I was stupendously watching the news 24 hours a day. It was a bomb. I was sceptical, disgusted and curious to know the extent of the case.
If you could go back, what would you do differently?
I denounced. At the time, there was no talk of places of their own to criticise (as has today the FPF). There was little talk of this, just no one who had the brio. People felt free to enter this scheme because there was no talk of manipulating results. I did ignore it but should have gone to the Authorities earlier.
What advice would you give to young athletes exposed to this type of situation?
If they are approached to report, it is best to avoid going in and being far from it since it is a very dangerous world, it can be challenging to get out, and there are threats. Moreover, not only the life of the athletes covered is at stake, but of all involved in the club.
In your opinion, what are the main reasons for accepting to participate in match-fixing situations?
Easy money! They entice with large amounts of money. They go to socially and financially fragile athletes. The corruptors know the right points to attack, which clubs are the weakest Leagues that are not as famous or spoken of are the favourite. They choose clubs without management support, with few supporters, and players with lower salaries.
In your opinion, how should sports organisations deal with the issue of match-fixing?
Have structured and specialised teams to protect integrity. Cooperation with the police. He bets on training at youth and grassroot levels. Senior players have challenging addictions to change, so training at these ages can have lower effectiveness—adopting mechanisms that claim that crime does not pay.

The interview storytelling - Interview 2 (Football athlete)





What method did the corruptor use to ensure that you would participate in this scheme?

He told me: "Look, you have to answer me quickly because my people are here, I already have 4 players from your team and, whether you confirm or not, I have to search for another. In fact, if you say no, I will need to talk with your coach to not pick you for the game and select the other player". He continued: "You will lose no matter what. The difference is that to some, I will give money, to others, I won't". That's when I made the worst decision of my life by accepting that money.

What method did the corruptor use to ensure that you would comply with the agreement?

From that point on, the person calling me is no longer the director, but tougher people, let's put it like that. They told me I had to return the money and I said I no longer had it. They answered: "So you have to do another game". From that moment on, it becomes a snowball that you can't get out of.

Was the case discovered?

Yes. On the last match of the season, the police approached me at the stadium. The game ended, they came up to me and gave me the worst news of my life: that I was under arrest. I already knew why but didn't realise how serious it was.

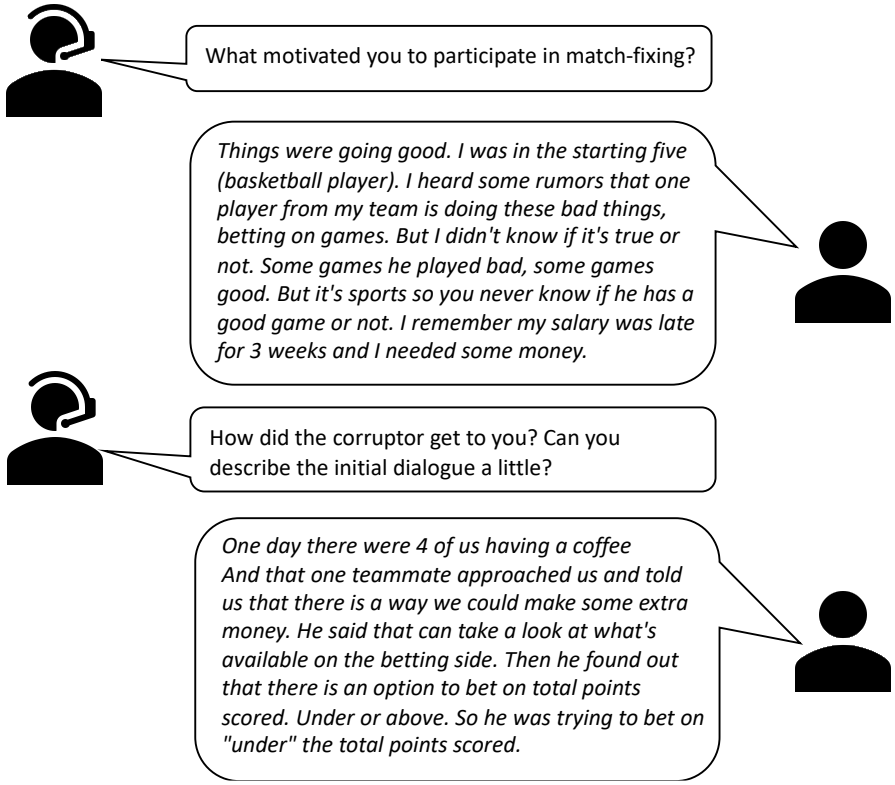
What were your feelings and those of the closest people when the case was discovered?

As to what this episode done with my life, it completely destroyed it. I think it was the worst mistake I have ever made because, besides the contract i had, the dream of being a player who started from the bottom and arrived at the top. When I achieved all that, my floor collapsed and collapsed because I made it happen, I did it. The impact on my life was huge, not only to me but to my family as well.

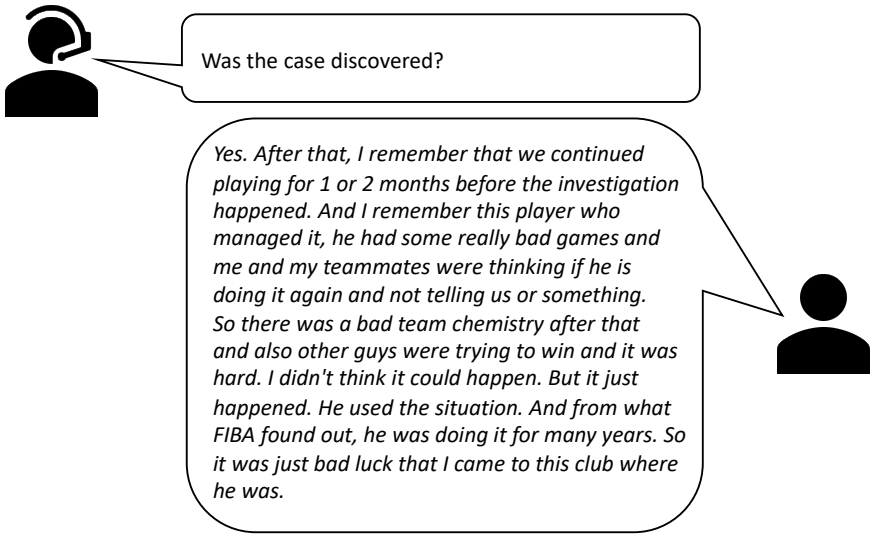
What advice would you give to young athletes exposed to this type of situation?

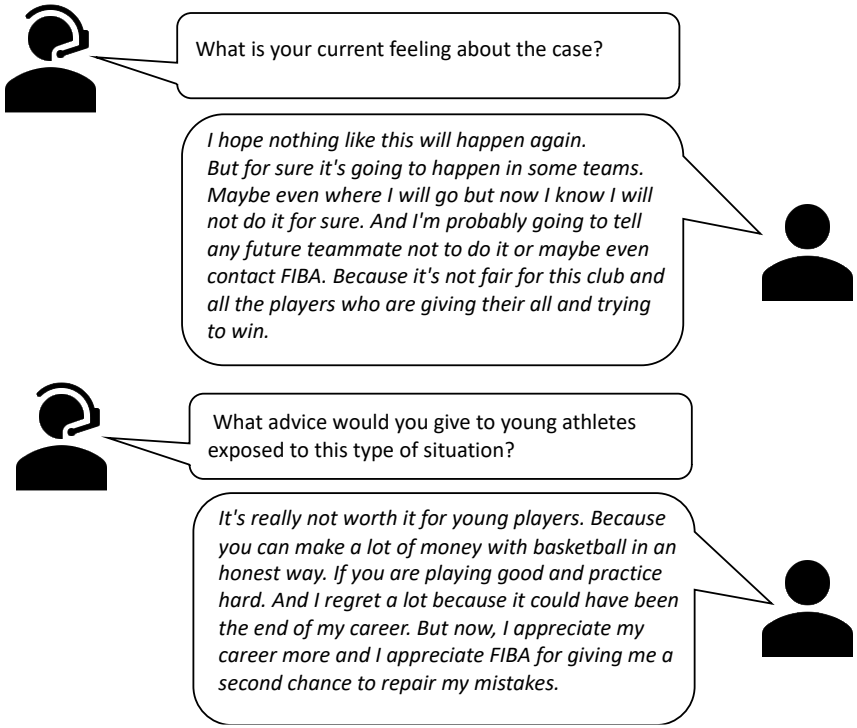
My message for everyone is: do not go into these situations. If you are alone, look for information, a friend, someone who can give you advice and really help. If somebody gets near you and offers you those amounts, decline immediately. Do not make that same mistake I made since, apart from your dream and wasted career, It will blow away not only your life but also your family's life who depends on you, your daughter, your father, brother. It's a life not worth living and that's why my message is: say no.

The interview storytelling - Interview 3 (Basketball athlete)

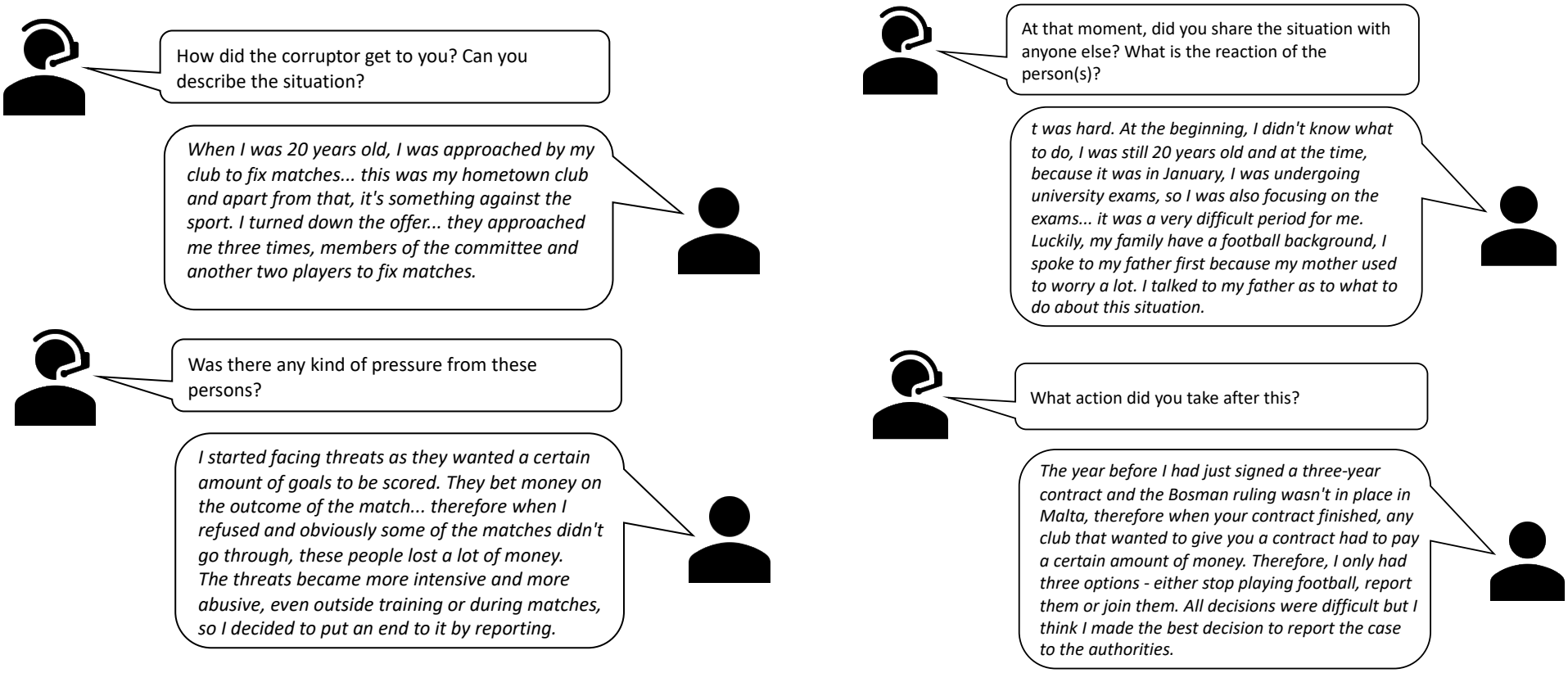





Was the case discovered?
Yes. After that, I remember that we continued playing for 1 or 2 months before the investigation happened. And I remember this player who managed it, he had some really bad games and me and my teammates were thinking if he is doing it again and not telling us or something. So there was a bad team chemistry after that and also other guys were trying to win and it was hard. I didn't think it could happen. But it just happened. He used the situation. And from what FIBA found out, he was doing it for many years. So it was just bad luck that I came to this club where he was.
What did you feel when your case was publicised in the media? (if this happened)
From what FIBA found out, he was doing it for many years. so it was just bad luck that I came to this club where he was. I maybe was just in the wrong place and at the wrong time. And I made a bad decision. I'm happy that it finished like this and I can still play and have a good career in front of me.


What is your current feeling about the case?
I hope nothing like this will happen again. But for sure it's going to happen in some teams. Maybe even where I will go but now I know I will not do it for sure. And I'm probably going to tell any future teammate not to do it or maybe even contact FIBA. Because it's not fair for this club and all the players who are giving their all and trying to win.
What advice would you give to young athletes exposed to this type of situation?
It's really not worth it for young players. Because you can make a lot of money with basketball in an honest way. If you are playing good and practice hard. And I regret a lot because it could have been the end of my career. But now, I appreciate my career more and I appreciate FIBA for giving me a second chance to repair my mistakes.

The interview storytelling - Interview 4 (Football athlete)



Do you feel you were doing something right or wrong at that moment?

Therefore, I only had three options - either stop playing football, report them or join them. All decisions were difficult but I think I made the best decision to report the case to the authorities.
It was a very difficult decision to take, that year we got relegated, and the year before we started with a point deduction... so imagine as a 20-, 21-year-old, You're playing regularly, training and playing with the national U-21 team and then all of a sudden you go through this case and suffer two relegations. Mental-wise, you can just imagine what I have gone through.
Then again, people admire me for what I did but it was not an easy decision and an easy route to take because, at the end of the day, the people that approached me are criminals.
They have no intention to increase the potential and ability of players and staff, they are only there for money and personal greed.

If you could go back, what would you do differently?

When I was young, I could have reported earlier because I waited three consecutive matches to report. When you're young, and like I said I was going through exams
and stuff like that, you don't have the knowledge of how things move in the real world, so yes if I had reported from the first instance that they approached me, I think I would have gone through less pain.
It's not an easy decision to report but if you accept once, it's like you've got into a cobweb because the person who approached you once and you accepted the offer,
you can't say no the next time because he starts threatening that he's going to report you and stuff like that.

What advice would you give to young athletes exposed to this type of situation?

It's a hard route, I can't say from my experience that it's an easy route, but better to report the case than to accept the bribe because money is temporary at the end of the day. From my own experience, I say I could have made like I don't know how much money from match-fixing but would I sleep well at night? I don't think that any amount of money is large enough that when I lie on bed, it makes me sleep well at night.

Final remarks

This report aimed to present SAMF Work-package 2, the Scientific Research.

The data collected in the different Steps of this Scientific Research allow us to perceive the development of the match-fixing theme and its scope from the conceptual and empirical points of view.

Since then, the results of these steps suggest:

1. The match-fixing theme is still very controversial in the literature. Although there are investigations with a high level of reflection on their impacts, as it is a topic often seen as taboo by organisations in the most diverse areas of sport (e.g., clubs) and outside them (e.g., police and justice), data is not always easy to access. This now brings considerable embarrassment to the maturing of the match-fixing theme as an area of research.
2. In consultation with the most diverse stakeholders of the sport, through the focus group proposed by SAMF, we identified causes and consequences that were previously aligned with the literature on the subject. Still, issues such as: a) the search for a lifestyle influenced by social networks, b) the pressure of people closest to athletes to participate in results manipulation initiatives, c) the ease of betting and monitoring sports through current online channels appear as three dimensions that still lacked greater understanding in the context of match-fixing;
3. About the best practices for combating match-fixing promoted by SAMF partners or their partner organisations, several programs that objectively aim to: a) enhance the training of athletes, coaches and managers on the implications of match-fixing; b) investigate with the collaboration of justice and police agencies, cases on match-fixing; c) establish integrity programs within organisations and competitions themselves.
4. Concerning the sharing of match-fixing cases, these data are not always clear and accessible to organisations. Still, in the cases reported here in this report, much of it happened in regional and national competitions and had the effective participation of family, friends, coaches and teammates in the grooming of athletes. And in part, they were reported by betting monitoring organisations as suspicious cases.
5. Finally, the interviews in this project demonstrate to some extent the great embarrassment caused by match-fixing to athletes, which confirms the need for more educational programs that allow a more open and in-depth discussion on the subject.

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Acknowledgement

We express our honest acknowledgment to the SAMF partners and the respective collaborators who, in their own way, contribute to the development of this report.

Portuguese Football Federation

Rute Soares

Miguel Bento

EUNIK

Grzergorz Botwina

Marcos Lopéz Flores

FIBA Europe

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Lithuanian Football Federation

Ramunè Bistrickaitè

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Sport Evolution Alliance

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Miguel Nery