



Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sport and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism

An initiative of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in association with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)



**Compendium of existing policies, projects and initiatives aimed at
making use of sport and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism**

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
I. Introduction	3
II. Methodology	6
III. Abbreviations	8
IV. PVE Instruments	9
1. Legislation, Regulations, Frameworks and Policies	9
1.1 International	9
1.2 Regional	15
1.3 National Action Plans	16
2. Reports, Guides and Tools	19
2.1 International	19
2.2 Regional	24
3. Programmes, Networks and Task Forces	27
3.1 International	27
3.2 Regional	27
3.3 Multi-country, National and Local.....	32
V. Conclusion.....	46

I. Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Security Council Resolution 2419 (2018) on Youth, Peace and Security recognises the “growing contribution of sport and culture to the realization of development and peace in the promotion of tolerance and respect as well as the empowerment of youth and women, individuals and communities; health, education and social inclusion objectives”¹. Sports have historically played a significant role in the dissemination of positive values throughout the world and across civilisation and cultures, especially for youth. Sport can play a positive role in promoting gender equality, empowering individuals, and facilitating global integration, thus making it a powerful vector for the development of efforts aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization.

In this context, in February 2020, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in partnership with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), launched the *Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and the Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism* (the *Global Programme*) as part of its efforts to counter-terrorism.

The *Global Programme* aims at developing innovative policies and practices to strengthen the protection of major sporting events through enhanced international cooperation, public-private partnerships and sustainable security approaches while promoting the values of sport as a powerful means to counter terrorism and Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE).

The Compendium: objectives and scope

Within the framework of the *Global Programme*, the *Compendium of existing policies, projects and initiatives aimed at making use of sport and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism* is an attempt to communicate a holistic approach and enable stakeholders to access information on the main international and regional instruments, frameworks, reports, programmes and initiatives that pertain to the leveraging of sport and its values as a tool to PVE. Primary stakeholders that will benefit from this document include governments, sports federations, local organising committees,

¹ [Resolution 2419, UN Security Council \(2018\)](#), page 2

sports organizations, sports leagues and civil society organisations, including non-governmental organisations (NGO), communities, women, youth and volunteers associations.

The *Compendium* includes a desk review that draws extensively on instruments available online from a broad spectrum of international, regional and national organisations with relevant experience in leveraging sport to prevent violent extremism. It also contains information collected through questionnaires distributed to the *Global Programme's* National Focal Points as well as instruments highlighted during the *Virtual International Expert Group Meeting on Sport for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism* held on 21-23 September 2020, the first *National Focal Point* meeting held on 10 December 2020, and the first *Youth Consultations* held on 20-21 January 2021.

In addition to listing initiatives, short descriptions about the mechanisms available at the international, regional, and national levels are provided. This aims to give the reader a snap-understanding of the policies, good practices and/or resources available and to assess which instruments are relevant to their specific needs in leveraging sport and its values to PVE in order to better sharpen future initiatives within and beyond the framework of the *Global Programme*.

Despite the fact that there is a significant amount of research, knowledge, and expertise in the field of Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) and also a large body of literature that has examined the value and benefits of sport in preventing crime, addressing psycho-social behaviours or forms of social exclusion leading to anti-social and violent behaviour, only little reference has been made in the literature to the role that sport might play in preventing violent extremism specifically. Currently, there is a lack of updated globally recognised strategies and operating procedures for the promotion of sport and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism.

At the same time, the recognition of the importance of sport-based initiatives is growing and the role of sports has been increasingly included in comprehensive and holistic approaches to Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism (P/CVE). For instance, the European Commission recommended that sports be incorporated in broader education efforts to build resilience against violent extremism². Similarly, ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2019/16, adopted in July 2019, encourages the Member States to advance the integration of sport into cross-cutting crime prevention and criminal justice strategies, policies and programmes.

² [Preventing Radicalisation to Terrorism and Violent Extremism: Strengthening the EU's Response, European Commission, \(2014\)](#)

For these reasons, the focus of this *Compendium* varies according to its different sections. The first one *Legislation, Regulations, Frameworks and Policies* retains a broader scope on conflict prevention and the power of sports, and recognises the relevance of SDP in addressing some of the root causes of violent extremism. The second and the third sections, *Reports, Guides and Tool* and *Programmes, Networks and Task Forces* focus more specifically on the use of sport in preventing violent extremism, providing stakeholders with examples of initiatives that could be adapted to different local contexts.

Clearly, sports interventions do not necessarily have to be specifically related to P/CVE, but they can be successfully integrated into P/CVE programming. Bearing in mind the relevance of the peculiarities of local contexts in the PVE context, using sport-based initiatives within this framework should be examined carefully in order to evaluate the preferred ways to incorporate it within at-risk communities. Lastly, it is important to consider that a few of the sport-based initiatives included in this *Compendium* are not necessarily directly aimed at PVE, but are designed to address the drivers of violent extremism such as marginalisation, discrimination and racism.

Sport is a major component of global reference that cannot merely be reduced to rigid standards. Likewise, violent extremism is a phenomenon which root causes and manifestations are deeply embedded in local contexts. Each instrument can and should be used and shaped according to local specific conditions. At the same time, a common point of origin and a shared reference framework ensures effective international dialogue on sport and PVE. This *Compendium* is ready to be used in the design of autonomous policies to address growing local and global violent extremism trends. It is also a stimulus to further analyse and master the typologies of problems that are continually evolving and the gaps that need to be addressed by the international community.

II. Methodology

This *Compendium* gathers evidence from UN Member States, international, regional and national organisations and sports federations with the aim to present a comprehensive compendium of policies, projects and initiatives aimed at making use of sport and its values as a tool to prevent violent extremism.

In this document, in the absence of an internationally agreed-upon definition of violent extremism, the suggestion of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is considered, according to which violent extremism “refers to the beliefs and actions of people who support or use violence to achieve ideological, religious or political goals”³. This includes terrorism and other forms of politically motivated and sectarian violence.

This *Compendium* was drafted from an international perspective, treating the subject in the most comprehensive manner through open sources, collection of empirical data, and using methods such as questionnaires, and expert meetings, when and if necessary. Information was collected in a pyramid-like manner going from international instruments to regional and lastly narrower national or local perspectives that focus on specific policies or initiatives implemented by a specific Member State.

Online desk research was conducted through a systematic approach to identify, assess and synthesise evidence in order to limit bias. Systematic reviews are rigorous and transparent forms of literature review that closely adheres to a set of predefined standards. For the purpose of this *Compendium*, core systematic review principles included rigour, transparency and replicability. Throughout the research, the scope of the assessment and the information needed for the preliminary synthesis and writing of the final document provided focus.

Most secondary sources are publicly available such as datasets, peer-reviewed journals, research reports, policies, institutional websites, and laws and regulations. Review activities included examining the literature, analysing secondary data, and creating a reference list so that all documents are organised and easily accessible. The method consisted of:

- data reduction through selecting and filtering,
- data display,
- data comparison,

³ [Preventing violent extremism through education, UNESCO \(2017\)](#), page 19

- preliminary analysis, and
- conclusion drawing

In terms of limitations, searching institutional websites can undermine the objectivity of the search and retrieval process and introduce bias to the review. However, the restricted number of researchers involved ensured the criteria for the retrieval process were consistent and interpreted in the same manner. Another limitation is that the review focused mainly on those mechanisms available in English, with some exceptions for instruments available in Portuguese, German, Greek, Italian, Romanian, French and Spanish.

Each of the identified instruments is summarised and presented in a way that provides an added value to the target audiences, offering a general overview on the subject and gathering the current knowledge in the field of making use of sport and its values in preventing violent extremism. At this point, the provided information is extensive, though limited. This report does not provide an exhaustive list of all mechanisms available but is a collection of those currently known by the *Global Programme*. This is a living document where new tools, mechanisms and procedures can be added as they become available and are shared with UNICRI.

III. Abbreviations

CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
IDSDP	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IOTF	International Olympic Truce Foundation
IOTC	International Olympic Truce Centre
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
P/CVE	Preventing / Countering Violent Extremism
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
SDP	Sport for Development and Peace
UEFA	Union of European Football Associations
UN	United Nations
UNAOC	United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC	United Nations Security Council

IV.PVE Instruments

The mechanisms and instruments presented in this report are organised according to chronological order and outreach. Therefore, each section is divided into International, Regional and Multi-Country / National / Local

1. Legislation, Regulations, Frameworks and Policies

1.1 International

Sport as a Means to Promote Education, Health, Development and Peace, UN General Assembly A/RES/59/10 (2004)

The General Assembly Resolution 59/10 recognises the role of sport as a tool to promote education, health, development and peace and, in this context, proclaimed 2005 the *International Year for Sport and Physical Education*. It encourages governments and the United Nations system to seek new and innovative ways to use sport for communication and social mobilisation, particularly at the national, regional, and local levels, engaging civil society through active participation and ensuring that target audiences are reached. The resolution acknowledges that the Olympic Games and its values contribute to understanding between people and civilisations.

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, UN General Assembly A/RES/67/29 (2013)

Due to its vast reach, unparalleled popularity and foundation of positive values, sport is ideally positioned to contribute towards the United Nations objectives for development and peace. To raise awareness of this potential, 6 April was declared as the *International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)* by the UN General Assembly. The adoption of this Day signifies the increasing recognition by the UN of the positive influence that sport can have on the advancement of human rights and social and economic development. It recognises the role of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in placing sport at the service of humankind by promoting a peaceful society and healthy lifestyles. The General Assembly also recognises the role that the International Paralympic Committee plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with an impairment to a global audience

and in acting as a primary vehicle to change societal perceptions of disability sport. In this resolution, the General Assembly reaffirms its previous Resolution 65/1 (2010), in which sport was recognised to be a tool for education, development and peace, with the power to “promote cooperation solidarity, tolerance, understanding, social inclusion and health at the local, national and international levels”⁴.

[International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, UNESCO \(1978, revised 2015\)](#)

The Charter is a rule-based juridical reference that guides and supports policy and decision-making in sport. It introduces universal principles such as gender equality, non-discrimination and social inclusion in and through sport. The benefits of quality physical education, the sustainability of sport, the inclusion of persons with disabilities, the protection of children, the role of sport for development and peace, as well as the need to protect the integrity of sport from doping, violence, manipulation and corruption are highlighted. The revised Charter marks a shift away from expressions and policy intent to action and implementation. It sets ethical and quality standards for all actors designing, implementing and evaluating sports programmes and policies, and it sets the tone for a new international sport policy debate, which should now focus on the exchange of good practices, education and training programmes, capacity development, and advocacy. The values and benefits of sport are highlighted in Article 2.1 titled *Physical education, physical activity and sport can yield a wide range of benefits to individuals, communities and society at large*, and in Article 11 titled *Physical education, physical activity and sport can play an important role in the realization of development, peace and post-conflict and post-disaster objectives*.

[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations General Assembly A/RES/70/1 \(2015\)](#)

The United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises violence as a threat to sustainability and marks a paradigm shift towards a more balanced model for sustainable development aiming to secure freedom from fear without discrimination. Strongly grounded in international human rights standards, the new Agenda strives to leave no one behind and puts the imperative of equality and non-discrimination at its heart. With its universal applicability and its importance in shaping development priorities, the 2030 Agenda will open up new avenues to integrate human rights into global and national policies. There is a strong focus on women and girls and gender issues and the inclusion of children, youth, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants. In paragraph 37, it recognises the role of sports as an “important enabler of sustainable

⁴ [International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, UN General Assembly A/RES/67/29 \(2013\), page 1](#)

development” and “the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives”.⁵

Sport as a Means to Promote Education, Health, Development and Peace, United Nations General Assembly A/RES/71/160 (2016)

The General Assembly Resolution 71/160 recognises the contribution of sport to the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals and acknowledges the important role of the UN, its country programmes and Member States in promoting human development through sport and physical education. The resolution acknowledges the important role of sport and physical activity in preventing non-communicable diseases and, to this effect, also acknowledge UNESCO’s revised International Charter for Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport. The Assembly supports the independence and autonomy of sport and recognises the unifying and conciliatory nature of major international sports events. The invaluable contribution of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development is affirmed. This is realised in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce.

Kazan Action Plan, UNESCO (2017)

The Kazan Action Plan (KAP) was adopted on 15 July 2017 by UNESCO’s Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, MINEPS VI. The KAP sets out actions in the field of inclusion, sustainability, and sport ethics. As a tool for aligning international and national policy in the fields of physical education, physical activity and sport with the United Nations 2030 Agenda, it addresses the needs and objectives identified in the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace. Specific goals include the enforcement of gender equality, the fostering of inclusive participation and the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships. It supports five priority areas for international and national multi-stakeholder cooperation, including a feasibility study on the establishment of a Global Observatory for Women, Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity and developing a clearinghouse for sharing information according to the sports policy follow-up framework developed for MINEPS VI.

⁵ *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations General Assembly A/RES/70/1 (2015), page 10*

Building a Peaceful and Better World Through Sport and the Olympic Ideal, United Nations General Assembly A/RES/72/6 (2017)

The General Assembly Resolution 72/6 underlines, among others, the key role of the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee on using sport as a mean to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sport as an Enabler of Sustainable Development, United Nations General Assembly A/RES/73/24 (2018)

The General Assembly Resolution 73/24 reaffirms that sport is an important enabler of sustainable development and recognises the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect. It welcomes the growing attention of the international community to exploring and leveraging the role of sport and physical activity in the attainment of development objectives and the enjoyment of human rights. It encourages Member States and all relevant stakeholders to effectively use sports in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to advance the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development and peace strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development and peace policies and programmes. Furthermore, the resolution encourages all relevant stakeholders to use the organisation of sports events as a tool to promote and support sport for development and peace. It also calls Member States to join the Group of Friends for Sport for Development and Peace.

Youth Peace & Security, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2419 (2018)

Resolution 2419 (2018) recognises the positive role young people can play in negotiating and implementing peace agreements and conflict prevention. While recognising the growing contribution of sports in development and peace through the promotion of tolerance, respect and empowerment of women and youth, the resolution calls on all relevant actors to increase the involvement of youth in conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Their marginalisation is detrimental to building sustainable peace and countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism. Furthermore, the resolution recognises the role of youth in promoting peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue as a mean to counter violence, terrorism, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination. The resolution also recognises the important role youth and youth-led civil society can play in peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Integrating Sport Into Youth Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Strategies, ECOSOC E/RES/2019/16 (2019)

The ECOSOC Resolution 2019/16 reaffirms the important role of sports to achieve sustainable development and encourages Member States to integrate sports into their cross-cutting crime prevention and criminal justice strategies, policies and programmes. The resolution also encourages Member States to enhance the use of sport in promoting crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law. It also affirms that sport can be used as a tool to realise gender equality and to promote tolerance, mutual understanding and respect. Henceforth, the resolution invites Member States to consider developing clear policy frameworks that enable the implementation of sport-based initiatives in the fields of crime prevention and criminal justice. The resolution also calls upon Member States to provide sport and recreational facilities and programmes for at-risk youth.

Sport as an Enabler of Sustainable Development, United Nations General Assembly A/RES/75/18 (2020)

The General Assembly Resolution 75/18 reiterates the importance of the role of sport in facilitating sustainable development. It recognises the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all aspects of professional, amateur and grass-roots sport, including organized and informal youth sports gatherings. The ongoing pandemic is limiting access to physical activity and physical education, which in return put the mental health and physical wellbeing of individuals and communities at risk. COVID-19 are furthermore disrupting sporting events and sport supply chains related to athletes' working conditions, the management of sporting events and mass gatherings. It acknowledges the importance of holistic approaches to health and well-being to promote healthy lifestyles and to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, especially for the health of older persons and children. It welcomes the growing attention of the international community to exploring and leveraging the role of sport and physical activity in the attainment of development objectives and the enjoyment of human rights. It recognises the power of sport in the realisation of peace and development through the promotion of tolerance and respect. Furthermore, the resolution encourages all relevant stakeholders to use the organisation of sports events as a tool to promote and support sport for development and peace. It also calls Member States to join the Group of Friends for Sport for Development and Peace. It encourages Member States and all relevant stakeholders to effectively use sports in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to advance the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development and peace strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development and peace policies and programmes.

Sport: a Global Accelerator of Peace and Sustainable Development for All, United Nations General Assembly A/RES/75/155 (2020)

This report by the Secretary-General reviews progress towards the implementation of the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, more specifically in the context of COVID-19 and the importance of physical activity and sport in mitigating the risks with regard to health and well-being associated with the pandemic. The role of digital technology in helping sport fulfil that role is examined. COVID-19 is the first pandemic that makes use of technology and social media on a massive scale to keep people safe, productive and connected while physically distancing. It is acknowledged that sport and sports policy can be utilised to build resilience in communities to counter future global shocks such as pandemics. The report specifically provides an update on the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, which describes approaches to leverage sport for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

General Assembly Resolutions on Olympic Truce

Since 1993, the UN General Assembly has repeatedly expressed its support for the IOC by unanimously adopting, every two years, a year before each edition of the Olympic Games, a symbolic resolution titled '*Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal*'. This symbolic resolution calls for the Olympic Truce to be respected from seven days before the start of the Olympic Games until seven days after the Paralympic Games. Through this resolution, the UN invites its Member States to observe the Olympic Truce individually or collectively, and to seek, in conformity with the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter, the peaceful settling of all international conflicts through peaceful and diplomatic means, recognising the importance of the IOC's initiatives for human well-being and international understanding. All over the world, the Olympic Movement inspires all those seeking to help build a peaceful future through the values of sports education.

International Olympic Truce Foundation, International Olympic Organisation (2000)

In the framework of promoting peace through sport and the Olympic ideal, the IOC established an International Olympic Truce Foundation (IOTF) in July 2000. An NGO affiliated with the Olympic Movement, the IOTF links its actions to two objectives, being (1) the promotion of Olympic ideals focussing on peace, friendship and understanding and (2) the advancement of conflict prevention and resolution through sport, culture and the Olympic ideals. This is achieved through cooperating with all NGOs specialised in this field, by developing educational and research programmes, and by launching communication campaigns to promote the Olympic Truce. To meet these objectives, the IOTF established an International Olympic Truce Centre (IOTC), which is responsible for the

implementation of projects related to the global promotion of a culture of peace through sport and the Olympic ideal, in accordance with the principles and policies established by the Foundation.

The Abu Dhabi Memorandum on Good Practices for Education and Countering Violent Extremism, Global Counterterrorism Forum (2014)

This non-binding good practice document focuses on ways in which education can be used as a resource and tool by policymakers, teachers and educators, community-based and other non-governmental organisations, families and parents to prevent and counter violent extremism. Education can be leveraged as a tool to achieve both beneficial and harmful results in the context of violent extremism. Good Practice 26 deals with sports, arts, and culture. There are many good practices that can be derived from existing peacebuilding initiatives working on conflict transformation, mediation and youth empowerment that show how sports, arts and cultural programmes can be powerful and effective tools for building resilience. This is especially the case when such programmes are integrated into broader, comprehensive ones for CVE and education and utilise deliberate strategies and theories of change. It also emphasizes the need to avoid potentially negative effects of sport when used as part of CVE. Competition inherent in some sports may have a negative impact if this competition leads to violence. Competitive sports such as football, basketball, and baseball may involve aggressive tactics, but actual violence is considered to fall outside the boundaries of good sportsmanship. Contact sports, such as American football, ice hockey, rugby football, boxing, mixed martial arts, wrestling, and water polo, involve certain levels of physical violence but include restrictions and penalties for excessive and dangerous use of force. CVE programmes may address these potential negative effects through coaching and mentoring strategies incorporated into programme design.

1.2 Regional

Preventing Radicalisation to Terrorism and Violent Extremism: Strengthening the EU's Response, European Commission (2014)

The European Union (EU) strengthened its response to P/CVE in communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions and emphasised that more should be done to encourage young people to think critically about extremist messages. The Commission recommended to include sports in broader education efforts to support in building youth's resilience to extremist views. The EU uses

Erasmus+, the EU funding programme for cooperation in education, training, youth, and sport, to offer substantial opportunities for the mobility of students and teachers and to support partnerships between stakeholders. Support is given by the EU to local and community groups working with former violent extremists and with victims of extremist violence to show young people that there is another side to the story. The Commission also tasked the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) to establish a pool of knowledge involving practitioners, victims of terrorism, and former terrorists for the benefit of schools interested in addressing PVE in more depth.

Jeunesse et sport: quelle contribution dans la lutte contre le radicalisme, l'immigration clandestine et l'extrémisme violent, pour le vivre ensemble, Conférence des ministres de la jeunesse et des sports de la Francophonie (CONFESJES) (2018)

CONFESJES is an intergovernmental institution that works for the promotion of youth, sports and leisure within the French-speaking world and is composed of ministers from Member States responsible for youth, sports and recreation. Every two years, CONFESJES organises a ministerial session to consult and examine the programming of specific activities. In 2018, the theme and related objectives of the session were in relation to the role youth and sport can play in the fight against radicalization and violent extremism. On that occasion, Member States suggested in-depth reflections that should lead to the development of coherent sports policies to PVE. Various initiatives were detailed, such as the relaunch of school and university championships, the development of a teaching programme for physical and sporting activities, financial support for sports federations, the training of executives and coaches and the creation of a school and university sports federation.

1.3 National Action Plans

In 2015, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon released a *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism* in response to the fourth review of the *Global Counterterrorism Strategy* (A/RES/68/276) and Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014). The Plan recommends that all Member States “consider developing a national plan of action to prevent violent extremism which sets national priorities for addressing the local drivers of violent extremism and complements national counterterrorism strategies where they already exist”⁶. The UN further recommends that National Action Plans be firmly grounded in human rights, developed in a multi-disciplinary manner, promote respect

⁶ [United Nations General Assembly, *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism* \(2015\)](#), page 11

for the principle of equality before the law and are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 agenda. Some examples of National Action Plans that explicitly include sport as a tool in their PVE strategy are:

The Albanian National Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism, Albania (2015)

In 2015, the Albanian government approved the National Strategy Against Violent Extremism, for which it describes a series of measures and actions to be taken by a wide range of government and public sector actors in the field of education, law enforcement and social welfare. The focus is on community outreach and engagement, countering extremist propaganda through the promotion of democratic values and the development of comprehensive long-term CVE policies. Following the adoption of the National CVE Strategy, the National Action Plan envisages activities to be undertaken with stakeholders at the local level as part of efforts to address radicalization and the threat of violent extremism and to provide examples of effective CVE practices. The Ministry of Education and Sports undertook to broaden the *School as a Community Center* network to increase support to prevent radicalization through sporting activities, education, and resilience-building activities.

Prevent to Protect National Plan to Prevent Radicalisation, France (2018)

Prevent to Protect is the French national PVE plan adopted by the government and launched in February 2018. It involves twenty ministerial departments, including Youth, Health and Sports, and the role of sports centres are included in the PVE strategy. The role of sports people in the development of counter-narratives is emphasised in Measure 17. Measures 23-26 furthermore deals with a sport-specific context and include:

- Developing a shared culture of vigilance in the field of sports in cooperation with radicalization contact officers in the Ministry of Sport;
- Building radicalization prevention into inter-federal training for sports instructors and the training of the instructors who facilitate courses;
- Developing administrative monitoring actions and apply them in regions and sporting disciplines affected by radicalization;
- Nominating a citizenship officer in each national sports federation to act as a representative of the decentralised authorities and as a point of contact for law enforcement officials, and
- Appointing a liaison officer (gendarmerie or police) to the Ministry of Sport.

National Action Plan for Countering Violent Extremism, Philippines (2019)

The focus of the National Action Plan is on a wide range of aspects tied to counter violent extremism and deradicalization, including education, detention, and disengagement and rehabilitation policies. Activities in the Arts and Culture pillar include holding annual sport and cultural events⁷. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Civil-Military Operations Group (AFP-CMO) and the Information Development Group also run programmes focused on community engagement, education about CVE, stakeholder engagement, and counter-radicalization. As part of the community engagement programme, the AFP-CMO provides families with the opportunity to learn about CVE; enables local actors to deliver interventions to individuals and communities to make them less vulnerable to extremist influence; and connects with youth by organising a youth leadership summit, as well as sports and arts activities.⁸

The Austrian Strategy for the Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism and Deradicalisation, Austria (2017 to 2022)

In a reaction to growing radicalization and recruitment tendencies in Austria, an increasing number of PVE and disengagement measures were taken over the last couple of years. Adopting a general and broad approach in their strategy, Austria offers guidelines and orientation to all Austrian actors dealing with the topics of PVE and deradicalization. These include providing people with the opportunity to become actively involved in sports organisations to help them to overcome frustrations, which can sometimes be a catalyst for radicalization. Individuals participating in events and empowered as decision-makers develop a strong sense of social cohesion. The positive role of volunteerism in the fields of youth work, sports and security are emphasised in the Strategy.

National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism, Finland (2019-2023)

In its National Action Plan (NAP), Finland recognises young people as a major resource in PVE as they can support their peers and make use of their experiences and expertise in preventive work. For this reason, one of the NAP's objectives is for young people to be directly involved in the planning and implementation of measures to PVE.

⁷ [Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, Cleveland, Glaeser, Jorgensen, Lewi, Shropshire, \(2020\), page 37 and Guidance on implementing gender provisions in the Philippine National Action Plan on P/CVE, UN Women \(2019\)](#)

⁸ See: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA233-2.html, visited on 20th April 2021

Furthermore, sports and physical exercise are considered effective ways of bringing together young people and thus reduce tension, hostility, and prejudice between different groups. By creating opportunities for low-threshold sports activities open to everyone, the NAP aims for more young people to be able to meet each other, reduce prejudice towards different groups and also offer opportunities to talk about difficult themes. Another related goal is to develop non-discrimination and equality work in sports and to support anti-racism activities.

At the same time, in combatting the activities of violent extremist groups, Finland recognises that recruitment can take place in and around premises intended for sports and youth work. This is the reason why one of the aims of this NAP is also to ensure that professionals have enough up-to-date information to identify the emblems, symbols, propaganda and recruitment methods of violent extremist movements as well as the connection between hate speech and violent radicalization.

The responsible parties to realise these goals are the Ministry of Education and Culture, local cooperation groups, youth work, sports clubs, NGOs and volunteers working with young people.

2. Reports, Guides and Tools

2.1 International

In 2015 UNODC has launched a global youth crime prevention initiative that leverages the power of sports as a tool for peace: the [*Crime Prevention through Sports*](#). The initiative aims to promote sports and related activities to prevent crime and to effectively build the resilience of at-risk youth. One of the main objectives is to strengthen the life skills of youth and influence their behaviour in positive ways. For instance, youth are placed at the core of outreach activities. By sharing their experiences on how sports and life skills training helped them to stay away from crime, youth engage and reach out to other at-risk youth. Publications supporting the initiative include the *Line Up Live Up Trainer Manual*, a *Desk Review on Sport as a Tool for the Prevention of Violent Extremism*, *Girls' Empowerment - On the Move and On the Rise* and a *Technical Guide on Preventing Violent Extremism through Sports*, expanded upon below.

[Line Up Live Up Trainer Manual, Life Skills Training through Sport to Prevent Crime, Violence and Drug Use, UNODC \(2017\)](#)

The Line Up Live Up Trainer Manual features ten sessions carefully designed to target a specific set of life skills and has been developed as a tool to assist coaches, trainers, youth workers and other professionals working with young people to deliver sports-based training

exercises to males and females aged 13 to 18 years. Apart from addressing life skills, the programme addresses as important mediating factors both young people's knowledge of crime, violence and drug abuse, including their perception of risk, and young people's attitudes, including positive and negative behaviour, that are affected by their normative beliefs. The programme can be run in sports centres, schools (either as curricular or extra-curricular sport activities) and other community settings.

Desk Review on Sport as a Tool for the Prevention of Violent Extremism, UNODC (2018)

The first objective of the desk review is to map existing PVE through sports initiatives targeting risk factors and protective factors and/or any that may be used as a vehicle for social development and community engagement, especially for at-risk youth. The review further seeks to identify any evidence-based underpinning sports-based initiatives which substantiate claims regarding their effectiveness and impact. The majority of the sports-based activities considered were social development in nature, seeking longer-term sustained impact, rather than being primarily diversion-based interventions with the objective of, for instance, preventing criminal activities in the short term. Consequently, many of the programmes considered utilised sport-based activities, which were intended to facilitate other educational, vocational, and mentoring activities and opportunities. It concluded that the literature available on PVE activities using sports is very limited, whether as a sports-based PVE tool or as an entry point for other PVE orientated activities.

Technical Guide on Preventing Violent Extremism through Sport, UNODC (2020)

In 2020, UNODC published a valuable tool to support global efforts in PVE through sport and to inform policy development and practice in this field. The *Technical Guide on Preventing Violent Extremism through Sport* provides comprehensive guidance on how sport and sport-based programmes can be used to PVE and form part of comprehensive responses and interventions that aim to engage young people. It provides practical guidance on policy development, programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sport-based interventions and tips for facilitators and other practitioners. Interwoven through the Guide are five areas of intervention considered key to predicting youth resilience and empowerment through sport: safe spaces, social inclusion, empowerment, education and resilience.

Sport for Development and Peace: Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals, UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Sport for Development and Peace (2003)

This report analyses the potential contribution that sport can make towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (now replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals). The report considers the broader potential of sport and it is recommended that physical activity be leveraged to reduce violence and foster social integration, development, and peace. As an international language, sport should be considered as a practical means to communicate messages of peace to help find non-violent solutions to problems. It reiterates that sports programmes increase attendance rates and reduce antisocial and uncooperative behaviour, including violence. For instance, UNHCR worked closely with many partners to provide refugees, as vulnerable groups, with sports activities in refugee communities around the world in order to reduce aggression and violence.

Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons, UNODC (2016)

This Handbook constitutes a technical guidance tool to address the manifestation of radicalization to violence and violent extremism in prison settings. It provides practical guidance on the management of violent extremist prisoners and on the design of interventions aimed at their disengagement and rehabilitation, and at facilitating their social reintegration upon release. Within this framework, sports coaches can play a key role in disengagement interventions that normally consist of a variety of activities, including yoga, sport, exercise as physical therapies. Sports and exercise can be leveraged to develop teamwork, trust and self-fulfilment without the need for violence. It is important to note that the Handbook makes it clear that participation in “sports-based interventions is unlikely to lead to desistance from criminal activity by itself, but it can make a significant contribution to desistance in indirect forms. Sports, arts and culture can provide compelling alternative narratives”⁹.

Youth-led guide on prevention of violent extremism through education, UNESCO and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (2017)

This youth-led guide was developed to harness youth voice and to deliver new insights and plans for action, therefore strengthening PVE efforts. In this report, sports, arts, and culture are considered valuable opportunities to engage youth, women, and communities as well as effective tools to guide the development of alternative, positive means to understand and address the grief and tension that can contribute to the support of violent extremism. This guide seeks to highlight the fact that “to reach

⁹ *Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons*, UNODC (2016), page 89

young people effectively, we must respect their ability to grasp the reality of injustice, intolerance, and inequity”¹⁰.

Frontlines - Young people at the forefront of preventing and responding to violent extremism, UNDP (2019)

The Frontlines global report was developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under the umbrella of the UNDP Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace (Youth-GPS 2016–2020), and in collaboration with the Oslo Governance Centre. Its aim was to inform inter-agency collaboration on youth and PVE to pave the way for innovative youth-inclusive initiatives. The report synthesises data from field case studies, focus group discussions, a mapping of youth-led actions in the five regions, a global literature review, and a global survey on youth and countering and preventing violent extremism for practitioners, to better understand young people’s aspirations and perceptions and improve programming. Sports and recreation initiatives are often included in the context of PVE interventions, based on the theory that they help creating positive socialisation experiences. There is no firm evidence to date that these initiatives alone play a role in shaping ‘alternative pathways’ and identifications for vulnerable youth. However, it states that there is in fact evidence that these activities, “when paired with training in conflict resolution, interfaith encounters, and other peacebuilding components, can act as positive socialisation experiences that enhance both in-group bonding and increased appreciation of diversity across lines of difference”¹¹.

Sport Values in Every Classroom, UNESCO, World Anti-Doping Agency, Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage, International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education, Agitos Foundation (2019)

This toolkit aims to guide teachers to instil in children the values of respect, equity and inclusion through engaging events in the form of activity cards designed to be used with 8–12-year-old learners. According to the authors, sport brings people together and provides a bridge between diverse backgrounds and individual personalities. The values learned through participation in sport transcend into all areas of life and underpin a peaceful, productive, healthy and cohesive community, offering a unique way of moral development. In recognition of the potential of sport, six international partners collaborated to create this resource which engages youth through movement-based classroom

¹⁰ *Youth-led guide on prevention of violent extremism through education, UNESCO and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (2017), page 9*

¹¹ *Frontlines - Young people at the forefront of preventing and responding to violent extremism, UNDP (2019), page 76*

activities while helping teachers instil some of the core values synonymous with sport: respect, equity and inclusion. The toolkit recommends stimulating discussion regarding moments in history when a lack of understanding or fear of differences has caused violence. It further suggests that learners identify and reflect on similar instances within their own lives. The conversation around being inclusive and considerate regardless of differences is also important, and such an opportunity can be used to explain how uncertainty and lack of understanding can cause judgement, fear, exclusion, intolerance and even violence.

Sport for Protection Toolkit - Programming with Young People in Forced Displacement Settings, UNHCR, IOC, Terre des Hommes (2020)

This Toolkit is a multi-agency collaboration between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Terre des hommes organisation, and it aims at better understanding the role that sport can play in the protection and well-being of refugee and internally displaced young people. It focuses on three protection outcomes that can be achieved through *Sport for Protection* programmes, namely social inclusion, social cohesion, and psychosocial well-being. The purpose of *Sport for Protection* is to provide young people with a safe and supportive environment and opportunities to build their individual skills, capacities and resources through meaningful engagement in and leadership of *Sport for Protection* activities. This is achieved through sustained support and mentoring of peers, coaches and other significant adults.

Good Practice Guide on Diversity and Anti-discrimination, FIFA (2017)

This Guide is aimed at the national football associations members of FIFA. It provides constructive support to strengthening their diversity and anti-discrimination activities and encourages cooperation with the confederations. The Guide provides positive approaches and practical examples of how football is experienced worldwide – both on and off the pitch. In-depth information on what diversity, human rights and anti-discrimination mean in football is provided. The purpose of the Guide is to encourage member associations to learn both from each other and from their own activities so that they can project themselves as outward-facing organisations in a convincing manner. To do this, FIFA created a variety of recommendations that can be tailored according to the particular challenges that different associations face in promoting diversity and anti-discrimination. These recommendations are based on five pillars: regulations, controls and sanctions, education, networking and communication. As the forms of discrimination change constantly, the Guide also

suggests associations to maintain a high level of awareness and to keep reviewing their own anti-discrimination efforts.

The Missing Peace: independent progress study on youth and peace and security, Graeme Simpson (2018)

In August 2016, the UN Secretary-General appointed an independent lead author, Graeme Simpson, to develop this independent progress study, demonstrating young people's positive role in sustaining peace and proposing concrete recommendations for the peace and security community to work with young people in new ways. The study defines critical issues and areas of interventions for the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agenda. Youth-led peace and security work is noticeably innovative and resourceful in using art, sport and media. From interpersonal engagements to spontaneous, autonomous and leaderless social movements mobilised online, the diversity of youth initiatives in this sphere is significant.

2.2 Regional

Youth Engagement to Counter Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: Report on Findings and Recommendations, OSCE (2012)

In 2012, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) held an expert roundtable on Youth Engagement to Counter Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT), bringing together over 100 participants from state authorities, international organisations and civil society, including many youth representatives, with expertise in the fields of countering terrorism, protecting human rights and promoting tolerance. Participants discussed both the challenge of countering VERLT among youth and the role of youth in countering VERLT, addressing potential concerns arising in these contexts from a human rights and gender perspective. The report lists some good practices and lessons learnt for youth engagement to counter violent extremism that leads to terrorism (VERLT) through arts and sport. According to OSCE, sports initiatives should have a neutral and enjoyable character for youth and may be used not only to establish the first contact with vulnerable youth but also to directly develop and disseminate counter-narratives. Sport has a positive impact on young generations and society at large and helps youth develop skills and talents. Sport initiatives contribute to the promotion of intercultural dialogue, reconciliation and integration. Sport also provides a forum where youth can raise issues and formulate their grievances in a supportive and friendly environment. The report warns, however, that, understandably, sports initiatives cannot counter VERLT alone.

Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism: A Community-Policing Approach, OSCE (2014)

According to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, sport is a form of support that can be used as a civic or community engagement tool, particularly in terms of community policing to prevent violent extremism. It acknowledges that police officers can provide sports coaching, fitness training, art and other youth-focused activities as means of initiating contact, creating a platform for regular interaction and promoting peaceful modes of expression. The Project *Schnittmengen*, implemented by the Islamic Centre and district police of Gütersloh, Germany and the *Youth engagement initiatives of the Diyarbakır Police Department, Turkish National Police* are presented as case studies. The former is a youth programme that engages mainly Muslim youth with the aim to raise their awareness of violence and to foster tolerant attitudes and a sense of belonging to society among participants. Participants meet once a week in small groups to participate in sporting activities and once a month for practical training on de-escalating violence. The latter initiative relies on sports, art activities and the experience of fun and positive interaction with public servants and peers, with the objective of addressing issues such as inclusion and equality of opportunity, living together and following rules, teamwork and developing trust in people from diverse backgrounds.

Monitoring discriminatory signs and symbols in European football, Fare Network (2016)

The Fare network works across football, including with European football's governing body UEFA, and human rights organisations to help eradicate all forms of discrimination from all stadiums. Fare Network published a booklet that contains contentious material about discriminatory signs and symbols that should have no place in football stands. The message is that sport should be open and free to be enjoyed by everyone, without the fear of abuse and discrimination. The Fare network reiterates that hatred is poisonous and should have no place in sports culture. To achieve this, society must be vigilant against the types of symbols that are set out in this booklet. Also contained are chapters dealing with symbols used in a particular country and context.

The Role of the Sub-National Authorities from the Mediterranean Region in Addressing Radicalisation and Violent Extremism of Young People, European Committee of the Regions (2017)

The report focuses on the situation in five countries members of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) and to varying degrees affected by radicalization and violent extremism, namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. It considers definitions concerning

radicalization and violent extremism, root causes of radicalization, and prevention and intervention programmes relating to violent radicalization and deradicalization in each country. In general, it recommends that “alternative cultural and sport spaces need to be created for young people to counter the issue of cultural desertification” and that “there should be investment in cultural, sporting, and other activities, particularly focused on youth, with a view to providing an alternative structure to that which may be offered by violent extremism”.¹² It is worth noting that in a recent study about youth radicalization in Jordan, participants stated that recruiters use sporting activities as a means of targeting youth and that there are no alternative sporting opportunities for youth in local communities.

Non-custodial Rehabilitation and Reintegration in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism, OSCE (2020)

This guidebook elaborates on the types of PVE interventions that are able to address the specific needs of individuals who become involved in violent extremism and it includes activities related to sports, theatre, arts and music as one of them. It states that, although this type of support might not be sufficient to disengage from violent extremism, it does provide a significant contribution to the process, for instance by providing valid alternative narratives. The guidebook also highlights that over the past decade, researchers have pointed to the positive role that sports-based interventions have played in the disengagement of individuals radicalized to terrorism. “Sports-based interventions can offer a way of connecting those delivering the interventions with young people who are detached from their communities and schools. Once established, those connections may then offer opportunities to engage with and ultimately educate individuals radicalized to violence.”¹³

¹² *The Role of the Sub-National Authorities from the Mediterranean Region in Addressing Radicalisation and Violent Extremism of Young People*, European Committee of the Regions (2017), page 44

¹³ *Non-custodial Rehabilitation and Reintegration in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism, OSCE (2020), page 63*

3. Programmes, Networks and Task Forces

3.1 International

International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, UNOCT

The International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism was launched in 2020 as a UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Programme Office in Doha, Qatar, to perform three core functions. The hub will conduct and advance research in behavioural sciences to gain a deeper understanding of the push and pull drivers leading to radicalization, violent extremism, and terrorism. It will furthermore provide capacity-building assistance to Member States, regional organisations and civil society partners to develop and implement programmes, projects and initiatives that integrate behavioural insights into counter-terrorism strategies. Lastly, it will promote communication, outreach and partnerships to share knowledge, expertise, experiences and lessons learned. The Chief of UNOCT's Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch said that they were keen to see how "research could be harnessed in strategic communications in leveraging sports and its value for preventing and countering violent extremism, in efforts to raise awareness, empower community and peer-to-peer responses, and in designing redirect intervention programmes, online and offline, to steer away susceptible individuals from violent extremism"¹⁴

3.2 Regional

The programmes, networks and task forces in this section are presented based on the geographical scope by region, namely Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe

AFRICA

S.H.E. 'Share Her Experience' & H.E. 'His Experience'

The Youth, Arts, Development & Entrepreneurship Network (YADEN) is an East African regional organisation based in Nairobi that works with over 200 art and development youth organisations drawn from the East African region (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda). It is a youth-

¹⁴ See: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1079432>, visited on 22nd April 2021

centred initiative that works with an innovative, inclusive and participatory arts and sports-based method, targeting marginalised and disfranchised young people as an entry to the wider community. YADEN aims to mobilise young people and assist in skills development to offer them an opportunity to earn a decent livelihood, at the same time empowering them to actively participate in the socio-cultural and economic-political development of their communities. Sports interventions aimed at addressing developmental challenges affecting vulnerable young people and their communities include the S.H.E. Programme for young women to ‘Share Her Experience’ and the H.E programme, exploring ‘His Experience’. S.H.E and H.E. create space for young people to leverage sports to express themselves to help them stand up against preconceived negative cultural and social expectations that marginalise and puts undue pressure on them to engage in violence. In the Edu-ART programme, individuals engage in sports competitions to address local challenges, including violent extremism. The programme supports young people to learn from one another by exchanging their ideas and experiences. Newfound knowledge and skills help unlock young people’s entrepreneurial potentials. Groups participating include urban youth living in informal settlements.

AMERICAS

Fútbol con Corazón

Fútbol con Corazón (FCC) is a football for development platform leveraging football as a tool for social change. The organisation’s main goal is to strengthen community cohesion in order to decrease violence and improve young people’s life prospect. Through play, participants learn life skills such as peaceful conflict resolution, assertive communication, and teamwork. The fourteen social, emotional and cognitive skills taught are also promoted by the World Health Organisation. Children and youth are taught the core values of respect, solidarity, honesty and tolerance in sport. For over a decade, the programme has had good results across six different countries in South America and Central America. An online course is available to coaches to empower them to incorporate the vision and methodology of the programme in their everyday training.

ASIA

UNESCO Youth and Sport Task Force

The Youth and Sport Task Force was launched to represent individuals working with youth and sport in Asia and the Pacific. It evolved as an outcome of the *2017 UNESCO Sport and the SDGs Funshop*, representing Asia-Pacific youth activists, each with their own sports programmes at the local level.

Across this region, a growing number of young activists are using sport to facilitate social change, pursuing aims such as the prevention of violent extremism by using a wide range of methodologies. These initiatives are innovative and creative and inform policy development. In 2019, a third partner, the Lee Seung-Yuop Foundation, hosted the second *UNESCO Sport and the SDGs Funshop* in Seoul. An outcome of the event was the expansion of the Task Force to 60 youth members, representing 28 countries. The task force represents creative, passionate and innovative young leaders across Asia and the Pacific who use sport as a tool for positive social change in their communities. The task force is youth-led, with youth designing their own programmes, determining their own priorities and collectively, deciding on strategic direction. UNESCO supports the task force by providing opportunities for the members to promote and enhance their work by connecting with each other and with regional and global opportunities for growth and capacity building.

EUROPE

Open Fun Football Schools

Cross Cultures Project Association (CCPA) is an independent, non-profit organisation that promotes peaceful coexistence and social cohesion between peoples of different cultures and backgrounds. Their *Open Fun Football School (OFFS)* project started in post-war Bosnia & Herzegovina in 1998 and then evolved into a programme covering all the countries in former Yugoslavia and, from 2005, expanded to the Middle East and Iraq. The project attracted considerable interest in communities deeply affected by violent conflicts and social upheavals where there is a strong desire to restore normality. Usually, OFFS is a five-day event organised during the summer vacation. Each school will involve 200 children from the age of 7 to 11 years, and at least 25 % of the participants should be girls. Participating children are coming from two different – often antagonistic communities – and OFFS is organised in collaboration with the involved municipalities and school authorities. During the five days, children play a lot of different games, mainly organised on a football pitch, where they circulate between the various activities. Some of the exercises involve training in football skills. Children experience that sport could be fun and not only repeated drills and harsh discipline. In many places, follow-up activities are organised for children to come once a week to engage in OFFS activities, and football schools are organised according to the twin city’ principle, implying that different groups are represented. An evaluation study was published in 2011¹⁵.

¹⁵ [CCPA's Open Fun Football Schools Programme \(2011\)](#)

The German Association of Martial Arts Schools against Violent Extremism

The *German Association of Martial Arts Schools against Violent Extremism (Deutscher Verband der Kampfsportschulen gegen Extremismus DVKE)* is a network of committed martial arts centres in German-speaking countries focused on leveraging martial arts to CVE. The initiative recognises that various violent extremist groups have attempted to run their own martial arts schools and to infiltrate existing mainstream training centres for recruitment activities. Apart from parents, martial arts experts and coaches are uniquely positioned to recognise a violent radicalization process and intervene as mentors for adolescents and youth. These mentors are specially trained to understand the psychology and signs of violent radicalization processes. DVKE members act as role models for a non-discriminatory society based on mutual respect and equal rights, in which martial art is leveraged to PVE. The goal of self-defence is to protect people, to boost their self-esteem and also to develop the ability to avoid conflict and defuse a dangerous situation as quickly as possible. Hence, the DVKE has introduced counter-radicalization into the daily training school routine and aims to train its members to spot violent radicalization processes as early as possible and to be able to react adequately. Ideally, DVKE mentors can act as strong partners for other more specialised CVE and de-radicalization programmes.

European Union Empowering Youth Volunteers Through Sport

EYVOL is a transnational and multi-sectoral cooperation initiative co-funded by the European Union within the Erasmus+ programme, involving partners from the Olympic Movement, the United Nations, Academia, and civil society. The main purpose of this project is to provide youth leaders, civil society activists and young sports volunteers with concrete training tools to be used in youth empowering activities based on social inclusion through sport. EYVOL offers innovative educational methods to train youth volunteers on how to utilise sport to promote inter-cultural dialogue, peace, and socio-economic development. EYVOL aims to share good practices for sports organisations as a tool for society, including good practices on how to promote the values and dreams imparted by sport to counter the narratives of hatred and mistrust and to prevent radicalization leading to violent extremism of young people.

Youth Anti Radicalisation through Sport in Europe

Youth Anti Radicalisation through Sport in Europe (YARSPE) is a three-year Erasmus+ project which commenced in 2020. The project has a multidimensional, proactive and positive approach to radicalization that aims towards collaborations between different actors, combating isolation and helping young people from identified communities at risk to participate in sports activities. Its general

objective is to create tools for coaches, teachers, and sports associations to prevent radicalization among youth by collaborating with local organisations, institutions and public authorities. It further aims to prevent discrimination and extremism of all forms by organising sports activities for young people at risk of different forms of radicalization. In particular, YARSPE seeks to address the push factors leading to marginalisation and discrimination and the pull factors by challenging the distortion and misuse of beliefs, political ideologies and ethnic and cultural differences by means of combining training courses, sport and leisure activities.

ToGetTher(E)

ToGetTher(E) is an inclusion project with the aim to combat radicalization among youngsters through sports activities oriented towards inclusion. It creates opportunities for young people to meet and cooperate through sport in different European countries. Young people participate in awareness-raising campaigns, educational events and sports activities accompanied by two trainers, who attend workshops and seminars about the risk of radicalization and how to tackle it. This two-year project involves five countries, namely Spain, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Cyprus. During the first year of the project, 14–20-year-olds are exposed to a positive environment where they participate in sports activities. During the second year, young people are exposed to volleyball, soccer, and traditional dance to enhance skills. Sport is used as a tool of social integration, education and enhancement of all young people without discrimination. The intent is also to promote the right to sport among all, fighting racism and discrimination in order to help prevent violent extremism.

Geographic Platform for Amateur Runners for Deradicalisation (GEOpard)

GEOpard is the vehicle to integrate youngsters with their peers all over Europe under the umbrella of running for fun. One of the main aims of GEOpard is to promote the integration of marginalised youth in their community through this running programme. With the help of youth and citizenships organisations, the youngsters become part of a running community and participate via a social platform with their peers in Europe. Courses for online coaches on how to train and relate to youngsters at risk of marginalisation are organised, and the most motivated participants are given the opportunity to become online coaches after appropriate training.

3.3 Multi-country, National and Local

The programmes, networks and task forces in this section are presented based on the geographical scope by region, namely Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe

AFRICA

Creative Skills for Peace, Cameroon

Local Youth Corner Cameroon is a youth-led organisation with a focus on empowering youth in prisons in the domain of peacebuilding, preventing and countering violent extremism. The organisation was established as a response to an increase in youth socio-political and economic challenges, which pushed them into conflict with the law and made them more vulnerable to violence. In 2015, the organisation launched *Creative Skills for Peace*, a prison-based project that aimed at facilitating the rehabilitation of violent offenders and preventing radicalization through sports, education and recreational activities. This project was an outcome of a continuous rise in the number of young people in conflict with the law, radicalized and recruited by violent extremist groups. As part of this project, Local Youth Corner Cameroon launched the sport for peace tournaments that aimed to build team spirit and promote social cohesion and friendship among the inmates.

Capoeira For Peace, Democratic Republic of Congo

Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art characterised by non-violent movements, mixing the practice of sports, acrobatics, music and popular culture. This programme takes place in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The use of Capoeira in the DRC became a powerful tool to help demobilised children and adolescents from armed groups and victims of violence. It introduces former child soldiers to the practice of Capoeira to aid their reintegration into community life. It aims to show children how Capoeira can help liberate them mentally and physically. The programme was launched in 2014 with the support of the H.S.H. Princess Caroline of Monaco, UNICEF, the Embassy of Brazil in the DRC and AMADE-Mondiale, the World Association of Children's Friends.

UMMA Initiative Group (UIG), Kenya

UIG is a community-based organisation supporting youth socio-economic empowerment within the coastal region of Kenya. Marginalisation and exclusion of youth from development opportunities in

Kenya can lead to youth being vulnerable and susceptible to manipulation and exploitation by radical extremist groups. UIG encourages a multi-stakeholder approach to problems affecting youth, advocating for public and private sector collaboration in offering youth economic empowerment solutions through CVE initiatives. The organisation assists sports organisations, sports clubs, and individuals in developing the necessary skills to develop enhanced resilience against the pull and push factors of violent extremism. UIG, through sport, creates a more conducive environment for youth to engage in conversation on important matters concerning their role in resisting the allure for radicalization and engagement in acts of violent extremism.

SambaSports Youth Agenda, Kenya

SambaSports Youth Agenda is a youth-led programme and social platform which inspires and influences behavioural transformation in youth through the use of sport in Kwale County, an area proven to be hot ground for radicalization and violent extremism activities. The programme utilises a targeted, integrated sports and life skills approach to “colour the world” of youth and to challenge the pull factors of violent extremism. Youth are given the opportunity through skills development and expression to mitigate their vulnerabilities and risk of being drawn into violent extremism. The programme uses a two-pronged approach in addressing PVE through targeted as well as integrated initiatives.

Amani Mashinani Football Project, Kenya

HAKI Africa is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) based in Mombasa, Kenya that brings together community activists and leaders who work at the grassroots to ensure improved livelihoods for their people and the advancement of socio economic issues all over the country. In 2016, HAKI Africa launched its Youth Engagement and Empowerment Project at the King'orani 7-side football pitch in Mombasa, targeting youth from ages of 14 to 35 years for the project. The project saw over 1,000 youths directly engaged in sports, expeditions and other extra curricula activities to keep them away from crime, violent extremism and radicalisation. It was implemented in partnership with the Mombasa county government and all other elected leaders of Mombasa.

INUKA project #Maskaniforpeace, Kenya

Kiunga Youth Bunge Initiative (KYBI) is an independent non-profit organisation established in 2007. In 2019, in partnership with Search for Common Ground Kenya, implemented a project dubbed #INUKA which means “to rise”. The project was funded by the European Union in Kenya and aimed to increase the voice of vulnerable youth in peace and security in the coastal region. In order to build a more sustainable impact within the project, KYBI supported the delivery of a youth led sports event series called #Maskaniforpeace, that targeted girls to know their challenges in an out of the sporting context. The key focus was to use sports as a plenary focus in conflict prevention and “soft power” strategies for building peace and counter threats of radicalisation. The sport events helped to create trust, encourage empathy, raise awareness and inspire tolerance around differences amongst the youth who participated.

USAID Countering Violent Extremism Activity, Mali

The purpose of USAID Mali’s CVE interventions is to target vulnerable communities to support and build capacity in resilience to address conflict, radicalization and violent extremism leading to peace and reconciliation in Mali. As part of its interventions’ portfolio within the framework of Mali’s Conflict Mitigation Reconciliation Program, USAID has helped to create 100 inter-ethnic sports clubs to engage at-risk youth aged between 15 to 24 as sport team members and youth aged between 25 to 29 as coaches. Over 100 women and youth are engaged in conflict mediation, and the commune-level conflict mediation groups successfully mediated 31 conflicts in the targeted areas.

Peace Initiative Network (PIN), Nigeria

PIN is a non-profit organisation based in Kano, Nigeria. Its mission is to prevent and manage violent conflict through advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns. PIN has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and regularly organises and hosts seminars, workshops and sports events. It aims to help strengthen a peaceful society in Nigeria through organising sports events as a tool to develop friendships among young people from different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. A main objective of PIN is to advocate for the inclusion of Peace Studies in the school curriculum at all levels of education in Nigeria. PIN furthermore drives Para-football teams in collaboration with Peace Direct¹⁶ in Kano, Northern Nigeria. The universal language of sport is used to drive peace and tolerance in a region that has been mired with conflict

¹⁶ See: <https://www.peacedirect.org/international-day-sport-development-peace/>, visited on 22nd April

and tension for decades. Young disabled people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds learn and train together on common ground, gaining the values of tolerance and understanding and finding a way to deal with frustrations non-violently.

Channels Kids Cup, Nigeria

The Lagos State Football Association (LSFA) aims to restructure football through the Eko Football platform, which in return focuses on youth development in Nigeria. LSFA has partnered with Channels Television to present the *Channels Kids Competition 2020*, a football tournament accessible to all without reference to gender, race or location. All primary schools, public and private, are eligible to participate in this event. During the *Channel Kids Cup* the fair play code and the related ten golden rules were promoted, which encourage the rejection of violence and racism and highlight the fact that football is sport, and sport is peace.

USAID Transition Initiatives for Stabilisation, Somalia

Sport initiatives have been an important component of USAID activities portfolio to CVE. In Somalia, sports tournaments and youth events offer opportunities for youth vulnerable to extremism to positively interact with communities and local government, empowering them to resist the lure of extremism and act as agents of positive change. In areas previously controlled by al-Shabaab where sports, arts, and cultural activities were strictly prohibited, *Transition Initiatives for Stabilisation* (TIS+) supported the restoration of Somali dialogue, arts, culture and sports to their original prominence in Somali society. These activities, which promote social cohesion and peace in communities, are particularly important for engaging vulnerable populations which have endured trauma and social and political exclusion. Moreover, TIS+ assisted the Somali Olympic Committee and the National Basketball Federation in hosting the first women's national basketball tournament in 26 years and has constructed, rehabilitated and supported sports facilities and dozens of sports initiatives that serve more than 50,000 at-risk youth across Somalia.

AMERICAS

Luta Pela Paz, Brazil

The Brazilian programme *Luta Pela Paz* uses boxing and martial arts to channel aggression and provide a safe environment for young people and youth aged 7 to 25 to overcome community tension related to drug violence and political radicalism. Sport combined with education, mentoring, youth

leadership and employability is leveraged to help youth in Maré, one of the biggest favelas in Rio de Janeiro. Young people growing up in Maré face high levels of poverty, limited public services, social and economic exclusion, and human rights abuses. In 2017, there were 108 major shootouts in the community, resulting in 42 deaths, 57 injuries, and 35 days of school closures - 17% of the school year. The aim is to engage at-risk young people within the community through boxing and martial arts, offering them viable alternatives to crime. Children who attend *Luta Pela Paz* are 68% less likely to commit a crime or carry a weapon – a significant change in a community marked by violence.

ASIA

STRIVE for Development. Strengthening Resilience to Violence and Extremism, Jordan and Israel

Strive for Development elaborates on the features of some successful CVE projects implemented across the world. Together with other thematics, intercommunal activities such as sport are highlighted by the European Commission as effective tools to strengthen community cohesion and increase individuals' resilience to violent extremism. Amongst others, the report describes the European Commission's programme *Strengthening Community Relations through Football*, aimed at providing solutions to the rooted division between Arab and Jewish citizens in Israel and between Israeli and Jordanian society. Through sports and education, the goal of this project was to provide a catalyst for positive attitudes and to facilitate social cohesion and inter-community interaction to aid the de-escalation of negative stereotyping and violence between communities. As explained in the report "the project created sustainable and professionally supported frameworks for the implementation of cross-community actions. These actions included sporting activities and equipping communities and their leaders with the tools required to utilise sport as a positive and non-violent mediator for encounters between divided communities"¹⁷. In order to do this, the project developed a sport curriculum (that can be adapted to different local contexts) and a training programme for coaches to be implemented through local networks. This included coach development, cascade mentoring and the dissemination of the methodology to the regional and international community.

Provincial Cricket Leagues, Afghanistan

¹⁷ *STRIVE for Development. Strengthening Resilience to Violence and Extremism*, European Commission (2015), page 32

Effectively responding to the challenge posed by violent extremism requires proactive initiatives through sport that counter efforts to recruit and mobilise followers. An example is the work of Private-Sayara Strategies in Afghanistan. Cricket is a popular sport in Afghanistan, with cricket leagues providing opportunities for messaging in three main areas to prevent violent extremism: “first, the cricket players themselves are often from at-risk communities, and their well-designed sports teams and coaching clinics can divert these individuals from violent extremism. Second, players are trained in messaging to the spectators in the pre and postgame interview. Third, the live broadcast of the sports activities provides opportunities for positive, non-violent messages”¹⁸.

Sabaoon, Pakistan

Sabaoon or *Sabawoon Rehabilitation Centre* is a de-radicalization programme in the Swat Valley that aims to rehabilitate ex-Taliban fighters and trainees of 12-18 years old through a programme conducted in a school setting. The centre, run and established by the Pakistan Army with the help of the Hum Pakistani Foundation and UNICEF, was inaugurated in 2009. The objective is to provide access to quality academic education and sports facilities to give these young adolescents a second chance at life. The Center focuses on treating the physical and psychological effects of traumatic experiences. It includes lectures refuting the doctrine of extremist groups, involves psychological counselling and self-worth training, and provides education on personal hygiene, health, ethics and vocational training.

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) Khyber Peace Games, Pakistan

The FATA Khyber Peace Games took place in the former tribal district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with players participating in many different games, including cricket, hockey, football, archery, volleyball, basketball, cycling, table tennis and martial art. The peace games also include activities for children such as tug of war, debates, competitions in national songs and funfairs. The aim of sports events in the tribal districts is to discourage anti-social elements, to prevent violent extremism and to simultaneously discover talented players. According to the FATA Secretariat, the games were arranged not only to celebrate Independence Day but also to express solidarity with Pakistan and to send a message that the tribal belt is no longer a safe haven for terrorists aiming to spread insurgency in Pakistan.¹⁹

¹⁸ [Abu Dhabi Plan of Action for Education and Countering Violent Extremism, Global Counterterrorism Forum](#)

¹⁹ See: https://pakistan.asia-news.com/en_GB/articles/cnmi_pf/features/2017/08/11/feature-01, visited on 22nd April

Football/Futsal to Combat Violent Extremism, Philippines

The project seeks to use the power of football/futsal to make a positive impact on marginalised and at-risk Filipino early adolescents aged 9-12 who are living in conflict areas on the island region of Mindanao. The goal is to promote positive universal values and life skills training, encouraging active community and parent involvement in the training, providing physical activities and games which are age-appropriate and values-based, and organising sports programmes such as futsal in safe play areas to allow these children to play and have fun. The idea is that together, these approaches will reduce the risk of adolescents being radicalized and will help to enhance their engagement and resilience through play and inclusivity.

EUROPE

The Sound of Sport, Austria

The *Sound of Sport* project took place in 2018 and was one of 14 pilot projects selected for co-financing by the European Commission from the call for proposals *Monitoring and coaching, through sports, of youngsters at risk of radicalisation*. The project aimed at helping young people at risk of exclusion and radicalization, including young refugees, to find a sense of belonging to the local community. It supported their access and their participation in specialised and organised sports activities. Coaches were trained in intercultural understanding, detection and (re)action to radicalization and extremism as well as coaching and mentoring. Young people (including refugees) at risk of exclusion and radicalization in age groups 7-12 and 13-18 participated along with young people not-at-risk in sports training conducted by trained coaches. The impacts of regular and specialised sports training on young people at risk were assessed and evaluated with the help of child psychologists, feeding into information material on lessons learned and conclusions, accompanied by policy recommendations.

Club Support for Socially Engaged Sports Organisations, Belgium

Socially committed sports organisations offer structure to young people, as these are places where they learn social skills, rules and discipline. These organisations create opportunities that help young people towards personal success experiences within and outside sport. To this end, a sustainable collaboration was set up between various departments of the city of Mechelen and sports organisations in the city, such as *Team Zohair* (kickboxing and Thai boxing), *Royal Gym* (kickboxing, Thai boxing, boxing), *Long Hu Men* (kung fu), *United Mechelen* (futsal), and *Salaam Mechelen* (futsal). The project aims to reduce the risk of youngsters who are vulnerable to

radicalization through sport, targeting kickboxing and football organisations to provide upward social mobility to young people through teaching social skills, rules and discipline. The programme furthermore aims to assist the capacity-building of different sports organisations in becoming more sustainable and collaborative.

Lutte contre la radicalisation par le Sport, Belgium

The programme is run in by Molenbeek Sport and the Johan Cruyff Foundation and brings together coaches interested in the wellbeing of young people. The community recognises radicalization of young people is impacting their city and that there is a need to leverage sport to positively support the young people of Molenbeek, Brussels. The aim of the programme is to train as many coaches and volunteers on the field as possible and to leverage sports organisations as a means to offer young people a place where they learn social skills, rules and discipline. This will provide youth at risk of radicalization with free sports activities and social support by qualified trainers. The insight gained from sports coaches who encounter cases of radicalization will be key to providing other coaches and peers with the necessary support and training to work with at-risk youth.

Rise-Up De Brusselse Organisatie voor de Emancipatie van Jongeren, Belgium

The Brussels Boxing Academy (BBA) is a recreational and competitive boxing club and gives boxing lessons to people aged 6-77 years old, including girls and people from minority groups. The BBA is a member of D'Broei, an organisation for the emancipation of young people at eight different Brussels youth centres that helps young people grow more self-reliant. Boxing at BBA also gives athletes the opportunity to participate in other interesting projects, including annual trips to the Ardennes or mountain areas in other countries. Social work and sports go hand in hand at BBA.

Spiel dich Frei Toolkit, Germany²⁰

The project aims to prevent radicalization among youth in Germany and targets young people between the ages of 13 to 25. It was launched by streetfootballworld, RheinFlanke, Liberal-Islamischer Bund and CrossArts Cologne. While combining sports, arts and political education through theoretical inputs on extremism and promotion of democracy, the project's goal is to lead youth to a reflection on their cultural identity and their role in German society. During the project week, participants critically assess their knowledge and perception of religion and its relationship

²⁰ Note: the toolkit is available in German

with democratic values as well as its place in an open, non-discriminatory society, combining physical activity, discussions on religion and personal experiences of discrimination. The toolkit is designed for teachers and social workers, who are in the position to quickly observe radicalization tendencies and notice conflicts among the youth. It is built on four pillars, with the fourth focusing on sport from an educational point of view. This pillar explains the football3²¹ method and explores in detail anti-violence training with a focus on intercultural understanding.

Zusammen1, Germany

The project aims to sensitize and develop a sustainable action plan for the prevention of anti-semitism on all levels of organized sports in Germany and is a joint cooperation within the aid program "Demokratie Leben!" between the Jewish sport association Makkabi Germany, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Central Council of Jews in Germany and the Jewish community of Düsseldorf. Originally launched in April 2020 under the name "Kein Platz für Antisemitismus" ("no place for anti-semitism"), the project has been relaunched under the name "Zusammen1" ("together1") in April 2021 and is composed of three pillars: i) "verstehen": to comprehend antisemitism as whole-society phenomenon, to name antisemitic incidents as such and to translate prevention measures into an empiric framework; ii) "vermitteln": to integrate pedagogical initiatives into sport and use the potential of sport to break down on prejudice and connect people; and iii) "verändern": to interconnect organized sport and critical antisemitic education with the aim to foster tolerance and social cohesion in German society. The target groups of the project are football teams, referees, sport associations managing boards and fan projects. Given the fact that the project was launched in April 2021, a set of specific activities is yet to be defined.

Let's START: Sports Against Radicalisation, Greece

The year 2016 was marked by terrorist attacks across Europe, with the perpetrators in most cases being European citizens. At the same time, the recent socio-economic crisis has led to the rise of far-right extremism in the EU, which in turn posed a major threat to the Union's democratic course. Although Greece did not experience any terrorist attacks, it was recognised that certain individuals could potentially resort to radicalizing a sizeable portion of young Greeks and immigrants. *Let's START*²² formed a network of municipal youth workers, teachers, educators, coaches, sports teachers

²¹ Through football3, players start to look at the dynamics of football in a new light: where they begin to respect their opponents and make a bridge between their behaviour on the pitch and in their daily lives. They learn to give as much value to the process as they give to the outcome. See: <https://www.streetfootballworld.org/football3/#stories>, visited on 22nd April 2021

²² Note: Blog in Greek

and young athletes to efficiently explore the concepts of youth radicalization, hate speech and violent extremism. The project raised awareness about the risk of radicalization, and prominence was given to sports as a tool for preventing the radicalization of young people. Training and the hosting of sports festivals are aimed at promoting human rights education and enhancing values such as solidarity, democracy, tolerance, integration, and intercultural dialogue through sports.

I Sport - Inclusive Sport Project Opposed to Radicalisation Tenets, Italy

The International Centre for the Promotion of Education and Development (CEIPES) is a global and non-profit association founded in Palermo, Italy, in 2007 and with satellite offices in eight European countries. The main aim of *ISport Inclusive Sport Project Opposed to Radicalisation Tenets* is to combat the phenomenon of radicalization in the most difficult contexts of the Palermo society, promoting inclusion and removing the physical and cultural barriers impeding young people in prison and/or reception centres for migrants to participate in sports activities with local peers. Further objectives include to:

- introduce young people living in prisons to the values of sport/raise awareness of the values of sport among young people currently populating prisons in order to lower the lure of radicalization by introducing them to alternatives to violence and solitude/loneliness;
- equip at-risk youth and young people with the necessary knowledge and skills to make the best use of sport over a nine-month preparation training course; and
- emphasise important European values through sport participation, such as gender equality, collaboration, and social acceptance.

A target group of 100 young people, between the age of 16 and 25, including young prisoners, refugees and young people with migrant backgrounds, as well as youngsters of the city, participated in athletic, futsal and volleyball sports modules. Through the activities, which consisted of non-formal education meetings and sports training sessions, they have been able to develop and test the values of solidarity and sharing, as well as the importance of belonging to a team, regardless of the cultural, religious or social background of its members. The project also developed a Training Manual²³, which includes the results of the research conducted by the University of Palermo and the methodologies used for the training of the target groups. It provides a model that can be replicated and adapted by practitioners working in disadvantaged contexts to combat radicalization and promote social inclusion.

²³ [Manuale I-Sport, CEIPES and Università degli Studi di Palermo \(2018\)](#), Note: available in Italian

Engaging Youth Through Sport Programme (EYTS), Netherlands

EYTS believes that through engaging youth in sports programmes, the community gains deeper insights into the benefits of sport as an instrument for anti-radicalization programmes and improved outreach and awareness among youth at risk. The goal of EYTS is to prevent social isolation and to increase a sense of belonging in Amsterdam by encouraging the self-sufficiency of 15 vulnerable youngsters per district across four districts through weekly indoor football training and group or individual coaching. This provides deeper insight into the relationship between sports and the prevention of radicalization shared with experts across the Netherlands and Europe. The main project aims are to gain insight into the factors contributing to vulnerability for radicalization and violent extremism by monitoring characteristics such as struggles with religious identity, unfavourable social circumstances, erratic and problematic behaviour and low emotional resilience.

Jestem kibicem przez duże „K”, Poland²⁴

This intergovernmental project was carried out from 2011 to 2015 under the partnership of multisectoral entities such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, National Police HQ, Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, State Agency for Solving Alcohol Problems, Polish Olympic Committee, and the Foundation for the Support of School Education. The main aim of the project was the promotion of positive activities for young supporters before, during and after EURO 2012. The programme included both physical education classes, sports competitions, art and photo competitions, as well as educational activities to help children and adolescents deal with aggression and anger, show an alternative to negative behaviour, learn about fair-play rules, present criminal responsibility for hooliganism and to improve the competences of the teaching staff.

Football for a Better Chance, Romania

The main objective of the *Football for a Better Chance* project is to prevent radicalization among young people between the ages of 14 and 18 through football. Particularly, the Football Association of Romania aims to provide access to sports activities to marginalised youth and to offer training to coaches on how to promote social inclusion through football. The project encouraged participants' involvement in society and raised their awareness about issues, including equality and discrimination. The project benefited from the expertise of sociologists from UNIMORE University in the Emilia-Romagna region, Italy, who put down the foundations of specialised training that football coaches in

²⁴ Note: information in Polish

Romania implemented with their own players. In total, 18 international specialists and experts collaborated in the project. In the final stage of the project, the knowledge and techniques acquired as a result of the research and implementation of training in Romania were applied in four other European countries, Ireland, Portugal, Greece and Lithuania.

Sport for Prevention of Extremism in Youth (SPEY), Spain

The SPEY project is aimed at young people aged between 16 and 25 years old who are at risk of exclusion and radicalization. Young people are first identified through a tool developed by academic experts. Subsequently, they are invited to a tailored programme of sports and leisure activities, including eGames, to work on skills and values, links to sports clubs, mentoring, volunteering and mountain activities, designed to help vulnerable young people with their integration into society.

Badminton Vs Radicalisation, Spain

The goal of this EU funded project is to prevent radicalization and to promote tolerance among the youth of Parla, Spain, through badminton competitions and workshops, promoting tolerance, integration, and cultural diversity. The project aims at preventing the radicalization of young people through a mixed double badminton competition in which values of inclusion, diversity, commitment, belonging to a group and gender equality are taught. Gender equality is emphasised, and young people are provided with the tools to manage tolerance, diversity, conflict resolution, and support in the detection of radical attitudes and organisations. The project paved the road for the creation of a Badminton Club for inclusion.

Saint Michael and the Dragon, Sweden

Saint Michael and the Dragon is a collective in Borlänge and Mora – which is located not far from the Scandinavian hub for Neo-Nazi groups – working to prevent violent extremism and combat marginalisation. The project creates safe-space opportunities for two groups of young people representing a local school and an ice-hockey team. The focus of the activities is on building trust, tolerance and democracy. The two groups meet to either play ‘value games’ or to listen to true stories (such as World War II), and reflect together to transfer these stories into the present and draw some lessons learned.

Play the Game Youth Project, United Kingdom

Hamara's *Play the Game Youth Project* aims to reduce young people's risk of being radicalized and it provides a platform for the community through which addressing inequalities. This is achieved through mentoring, coaching and skill development activities during weekly sports activities. Sports volunteers and Hamara staff receive training on how to prevent and fight radicalization among young people at risk. Sport is used as a vehicle to develop confidence and increase participation in the fight against violent extremism and radicalization.

Anti-Radicalisation through Sport for Youth Project (ARTSY), United Kingdom

Race Equality First (REF) works to eliminate inequality in sporting opportunities and participation levels in physical activity for ethnic minority people across Wales, especially women and girls. Through its ARTSY project, REF runs physical activity and sport sessions to benefit those suffering from the highest health inequalities due to lack of participation in sport and physical activity. This is often due to cultural, religious and language barriers. Over 340 young people at risk of radicalization participated in the project activities over 12 months, partnered with 24 National Governing/Sports Bodies and organisations. The programme also delivered ten *My Safe Space* groups which focused on teaching skills and confidence to young people. Awareness of radicalization was raised, fostering mutual understanding and respect among people with different ethnic or religious backgrounds, beliefs or convictions. The main project aims were to establish local partnerships to promote sustainability and pathways of progression for sports activities aimed at youngsters who are at risk of radicalization. New volunteering opportunities were created for young people at risk, and awareness of existing opportunities to increase the number of young people regularly volunteering in sport was raised. A Europe-wide Online Sports Forum was established to support and share information with a diverse range of community groups and sports clubs.

Leicester Prevent, United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, the Home Office works with local authorities to deliver Prevent, which is the government's counter-terrorist strategy. In Leicester, the Prevent work is led by the St Philip's Centre, working in partnership with other agencies and groups such as the Federation of Muslim Organisations (FMO). Their approach to Prevent is to empower local communities to develop resilience to violent extremism and have the strength to challenge all forms of extremism when it does arise. Tackling P/CVE through sport in Leicester takes place with the support of Leicester City Football Club. Activities include offering young people an opportunity for participation, allowing for teamwork and shared successes irrespective of faith, nationality or background and encouraging

'natural leaders' to become positive role models. Workshops on exploitation, coercion, radicalization, gang cultures, knife crime, anti-social behaviour, leadership, identity, self-esteem, life skills, employment are held, and the club offers the opportunity to learn coaching skills and progress towards a qualification. Leicester's Prevent work also included youth-voices in their policy documents, strategic decision-making activities, and CVE social media strategy.

V. Conclusion

Around the world, our societies are currently exposed to a virulent spread of violent extremism, with many of these threats coming from groups that seek to destabilise communities and to radicalise growing numbers of people, especially youth. This *Compendium* maps the main resources developed by Member States, international organisations, sports organisations and civil society organisations to effectively prevent violent extremism by leveraging sports.

Sport can cut across barriers that divide societies, making it a powerful tool to prevent violent extremism, especially among youth. Participating in sport represents a positive form of social engagement, promoting investment in the wider society. Sporting events are an important part of the culture of sports across the globe. Regardless of the level of competition, sports events bring together large audiences from diverse societies, regions, religions and cultures. This provides a great platform to disseminate messages of acceptance, mutual respect, humility, compassion, and tolerance at a time where discrimination remains high.

The ideologies, actions and goals of violent extremists run counter to the principles espoused in the UN Charter and enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Developing and implementing PVE programmes in a manner that ensures respect for these principles demonstrates the universal values and humanity that unify the international community.

PVE practitioners seeking to build capacity effectively should have resources to inform their work. This *Compendium* offers instruments that reveal the complex factors considered in capacity strengthening projects that can impact outcomes. Peacebuilding approaches can be directly relevant to PVE efforts to building resilient and free societies. Many initiatives outlined in this document are implemented at the community level, and it is crucial to recognise that strategies which are developed should be consistent with national legislation and the socio-cultural norms and values of the setting.