

## PROtect Integrity & National Platforms

### Introduction

This summary paper was produced from the Round Table discussions in Milan as part of the Erasmus+ 2016 PROtect Integrity project.

National Platforms are being set up around Europe following the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Manipulation of Sport Competitions. These platforms are designed to bring together all the key stakeholders in the fight against match-fixing including: sport, gambling operators, national regulators and the police.



### Make-up of Platforms

The Convention does not specifically state that Player Associations should be included within National Platforms leaving it to each country to decide. Emerging good practice is now clear that Platforms need to ensure that sport includes the Player Associations as a key part of the fight against match-fixing as is the case in France and the United Kingdom.

### Different committees

It seems likely that National Platforms will have a policy and operational side. It may not be appropriate for Player Associations to be involved in operational discussions on current investigations. However, there is no doubt that the Player Associations can and do bring significant added benefits to the policy discussions, the delivery of education and also whistleblowing.

### Policy and Practice

Having the Player Associations present during relevant policy discussions will ensure that the policies have the active support of the player associations in the fight against match-fixing. This is important given that the fight against match-fixing may affect athlete fundamental rights, such as the right to privacy and data protection. The Player Associations are also well placed to report back to platforms on how various policies are working in practice as well as reporting back any emerging issues that the players are facing.

### Whistleblowing

There are a number of issues around an effective whistleblowing system that athletes trust and use. We are strongly of the opinion that the Player Associations are best placed to provide important information to National Platforms on player welfare concerns, delays in payment of salaries, and rumours of integrity breaches.

It is likely that the Player Associations will be well placed to manage and/or promote any whistleblowing lines that the National Platform wishes to support or establish. Our upcoming Erasmus+ project PROtect Integrity Plus will introduce whistleblowing apps for players in six countries.

### Research

EU Athletes is keen to monitor the Player Association involvement in National Platforms across Europe. With the help of the Members and the Council of Europe we will make periodic evaluation on which National Platforms include independent representatives of the players.

### Conclusion

Player Associations are strongly encouraged to find out about their National Platforms and to start up a dialogue with them. It is important that each National Platform has representatives from the Player Associations either as a member or observer. The fight against match-fixing can only be strengthened by including representatives of the players.