**Why do sports organizations need Single Points of Contact for Integrity?**

Fair and genuine competitions are the backbone of all sports. Sport creates passion, procures emotion, with spectacular success and heart-breaking defeat. In recent years, examples of bad governance in sport organizations, corruption scandals and manipulation of competitions have regularly made the headlines. The situation raises questions about the legitimacy and credibility of sport organizations, jeopardizes the unpredictability of sport and contributes to alter the vision of public opinion. The increase of financial interests involved in sport put the sector under media scrutiny and every scandal undermines the positive role sport is playing, including its social, cultural and educational values. Initiatives promoting sport integrity are therefore crucial to demonstrate the willingness of sport actors to protect the credibility of sport.

The position of the Olympic movement is central in the protection and promotion of integrity and several initiatives have been taken in the past few years to strengthen the capacity of sport organizations to efficiently preserve sport from incidents. The International Olympic Committee, in cooperation with other international organizations, is the driving force in this process, with the adoption of several strategic documents in the field of governance and competition manipulation, paving the way for sport actors to adapt their regulations and to tackle integrity issues with effective tools.

A central threat for the Integrity of sport is the manipulation of sport competitions. It is a global issue, affecting numbers of European countries and various sports, with the involvement of transnational networks. Thus, this issue cannot be solved by a single organization or country. In this perspective, it is crucial to strengthen cooperation between sport actors by helping them to develop their own networks and to coordinate their actions.

The aim of the POINTS project is to join the effort already engaged by the different stakeholders by supporting the setting-up of Single Points of Contact for Integrity (SPOCs) at European and national level sport organizations.

Built on a solid consortium of actors possessing a deep knowledge of integrity policies, the consortium has developed guidelines to give practical tools and guidance to sport organizations having the willingness to structure their integrity activities. Inspired by existing initiatives and documents as well as the concrete experiences collecting in the consortium the guidelines are following a flexible approach in the proposed activities with the idea to ensure that every sport organizations, regardless their size or capacity, can find their own path towards efficient structures to fight against integrity issues.

***Extracted from the: Guidelines for the setting-up of Single Points of Contact for Integrity within Sport Organizations***