

PERCEPTIONS ON MATCH-FIXING AND REPORTING OF BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN SPORTS

Final report on the implementation of functional training sessions for Open Educational Resources (OER) in Slovenia



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Report of Slovenia

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This report corresponds to the Intellectual Output 4 and results of the analysis of the implementation of training in Slovenia.



Training on Protected Reporting from Professional and Grassroots Sports

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Intellectual Output 4

The implementation of T-PREG Project training sessions in Slovenia was strained by the COVID19 situation and measures that were preventing physical contact for more than 6 months. Over more than 12 months, different collective and individual sessions were held in several events targeting multiple audiences and stakeholders.

1) Description of the sessions

Collective training sessions were held during 3 events developed between October 2019 and March 2020. Between March and September 2020 only one virtual training sessions was conducted due to Covid19 limitations and significant disruption of public life and functioning of majority of sports stakeholders.

a) Multipliers Events

The first training session was held during the event multipliers event, jointly organized by the Transparency International Slovenia and Olympic Committee of Slovenia, within the framework of the European Week of Sport 2019 (ESW 2019).

TI Slovenia conducted the training about match-fixing in Slovenia. Participants of the workshop agreed that match-fixing exists in Slovenia, but many stakeholders deny this fact. They emphasized that athletes are not familiar with whistleblowing reporting systems and that important step towards it is the rising of awareness about unethical and unlawful behaviour in sports among athletes and managers of the clubs. Considering the whistleblowing system, participants discussed two whistleblowing hotlines: Žvižgavka (established by Slovenian Olympic Committee) and Anonimna prijava (established by Slovenian Football Association). A major part of the workshop was a discussion on the National Platform for Prevention of Match-Fixing that will be led by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and Slovenian Olympic Committee. In this case, preliminary contents of the eLearning were presented. The objective was to receive their feedback and collect inputs to optimize the modules. Similar approach was taken by our colleagues in Portugal as well.

Subsequently, a list of contacts was established with those interested in receiving access and doing the eLearning once it was operational.

b) Collective sessions

TI Slovenia held two separate collective sessions.

TI Slovenia met with high level executives of National Football Association of Slovenia on February 4 at the premises of National Football Association of Slovenia to present the intellectual output – national report on match-fixing and whistleblowing and to further exchange views and gather feedback on preliminary eLearning.

TI Slovenia was invited to participate in the first working group meeting in the framework of National platform on prevention of match-fixing. As such, we presented the preliminary T-PREG e-Learning and gathered additional feedback. Due to the nature of the event (i.e. high level participants) TI Slovenia did not use usual feedback channels via questionnaires. The event was held on March 5, at the premises of Olympic Committee of Slovenia.

c) Individual Sessions

Due to COVID19 situation majority of sports actors were busy in their own contingency and safety planning, hence TI Slovenia switched focus and reached out to grassroots sports actors, via Faculty of Sports in Ljubljana. The procedure began with an informal contact to sessions participants who had agreed to be contacted. In case of accepting to do the training, a formal email was sent to them with all the necessary data to carry out the eLearning, including a general pre-established username and password for accesses. The creation of an official username and password greatly simplified the process and streamlined the participation of the public, since the registration process was indicated as "complicated" by some people who, finally, gave up on the training.

The perceptions and evaluation questionnaires were sent attached to that email, in Word version. Participants had to complete the first questionnaire before taking the eLearning and the second at the end. Both questionnaires had to be forwarded in full by replying to the original email. At the end only 4 students, who are actively engaged in different grassroots sport clubs took part in training. This is also a result of limited ways of engagement with outside stakeholders, who were reachable only via e-mail.

2) Results

It is important to highlight that the sample of respondents is too small to extrapolate conclusions. However, these results will support the overall sample collected by different partners in the T-PREG consortium.

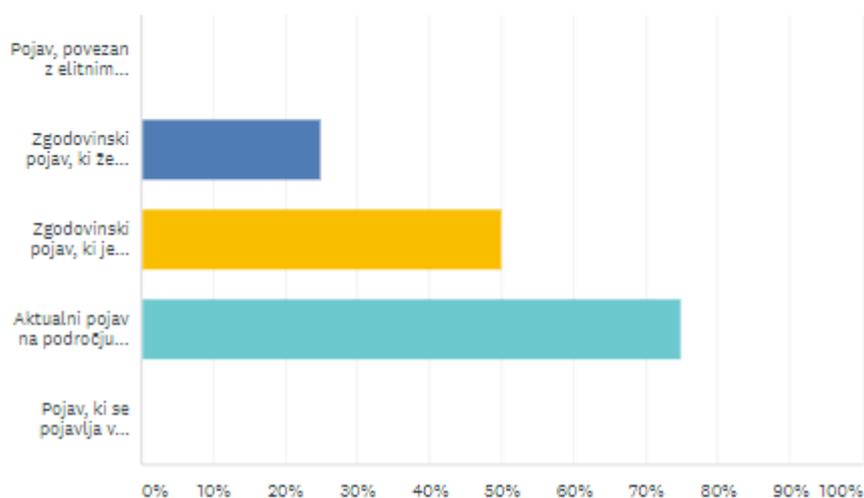
Questionnaire 1

Questionnaire 1 had the objective of knowing the initial perceptions of the participants about the phenomenon of manipulation of results and about protected systems to reporting wrongdoing in sport. This allowed, on the one hand, to deepen the knowledge of the situation, started with the data collection on perceptions and attitudes implemented during T-PREG Intellectual Output 1, and, on the other, to have evidence to carry out a better assessment of the training and learning process.

Issue 1 – Perceptions about match-fixing

Prirejanje tekem je (Izberite največ dve možnosti)

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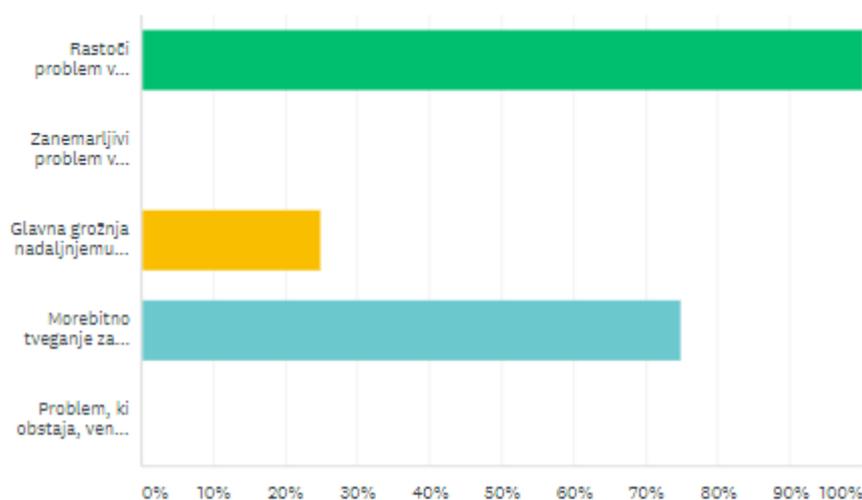


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Pojav, povezan z elitnim športom.	0.00% 0
Zgodovinski pojav, ki že od nekdaj obstaja v športu.	25.00% 1
Zgodovinski pojav, ki je v omejenem obsegu vedno obstajal, v zadnjih desetih letih pa se je zelo razširil v vse športne discipline.	50.00% 2
Aktualni pojav na področju stav.	75.00% 3
Pojav, ki se pojavlja v tistih športnih disciplinah, kjer je pomembna ekonomska razsežnost.	0.00% 0

The one respondent understands match-fixing as a historical phenomenon that has always existed in sport and has become widely present in all sports in the last decade (2 respondents). This is a perception validated by countless scientific works and historical records, which conveys the awareness that most of the participants have about the phenomenon at the level of the historical dimension. Nevertheless, majority of respondents (3) interpret match-fixing as a recent phenomenon in sport related to sports betting. These indicators highlight the importance of conducting training (such T-PREG eLearning) and educational campaigns to raise awareness of sporting actors for the classification of match-fixing and its prevalence in sport.

Prيرهانje tekem je (Izberite največ dve možnosti)

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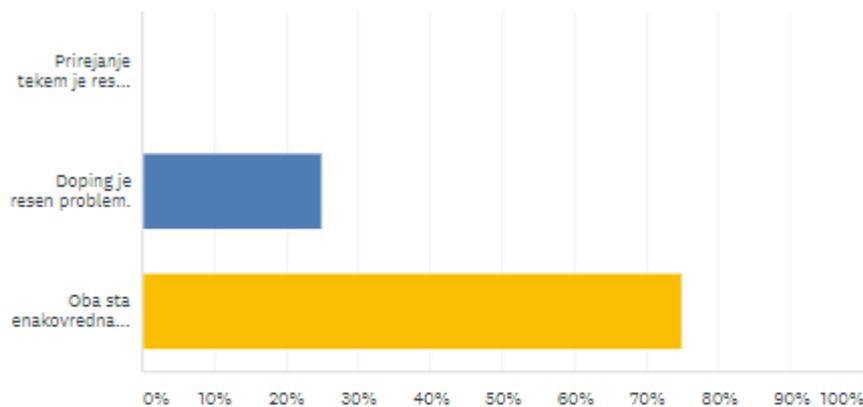


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Rastoči problem v športu.	100.00% 4
Zanemarljivi problem v športu.	0.00% 0
Glavna grožnja nadaljnjemu obstoju športa.	25.00% 1
Morebitno tveganje za prihodnost.	75.00% 3
Problem, ki obstaja, vendar ni prednostna naloga.	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 4	

The second question was intended to gather insights about the consequences of match-fixing for sport: all 4 of respondents recognize the growing threat that this phenomenon poses to sport, while none see this phenomenon as a marginal problem for sport, or a minority problem. However, the focus of the discussion is whether match-fixing is the main threat to sport survival (1 respondent) or is "just" a potential risk for the future (3 respondents).

Prirejanje tekem je v primerjavi z dopingom. (Prosimo, izberite samo eno možnost)

Answered: 4 Skipped: 0

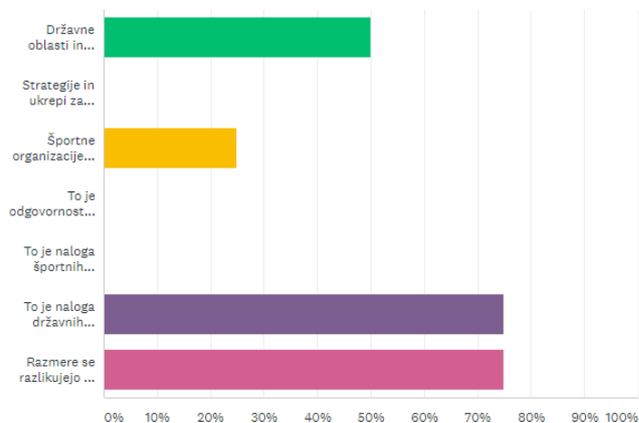


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Prirejanje tekem je resen problem.	0.00% 0
Doping je resen problem.	25.00% 1
Oba sta enakovredna problema.	75.00% 3
Total Respondents: 4	

Regarding the danger of match-fixing compared to doping, 3 of the respondents think that both are equally dangerous, while 1 respondent thinks that doping presents a bigger challenge. Match-fixing and doping are two types of result manipulation that affect sporting integrity. Perhaps because of this, a slight majority equates these two phenomena.

Preprečevanje in boj proti prirejanju tekem. (Izberite največ 3 možnosti)

Answered: 4 Skipped: 0



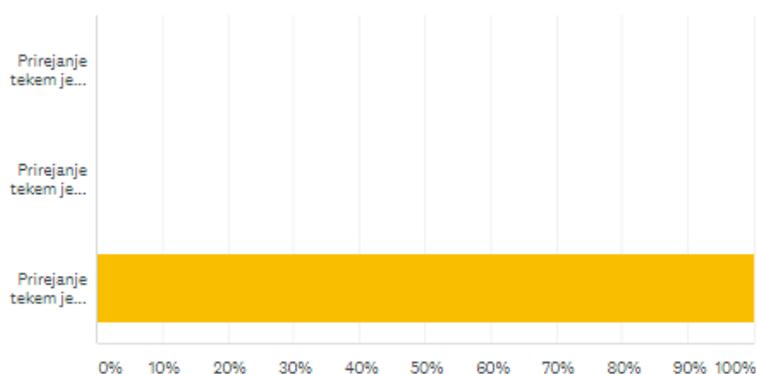
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Državne oblasti in športne organizacije močno spodbujajo oblikovanje strategij in ukrepov za preprečevanje in boj proti prirejanju tekem.	50.00%	2
Strategije in ukrepi za preprečevanje in boj proti prirejanju tekem so podprti s strani državnih oblasti, ne pa športnih organizacij.	0.00%	0
Športne organizacije v veliki meri spodbujajo oblikovanje strategij in ukrepov za preprečevanje in boj proti prirejanju tekem, kar pa je v veliki meri financirano s strani državnih organov.	25.00%	1
To je odgovornost državnih organov.	0.00%	0
To je naloga športnih društev.	0.00%	0
To je naloga državnih organov in športnih organizacij.	75.00%	3
Razmere se razlikujejo od države do države.	75.00%	3
Total Respondents: 4		

In terms of public and sports policies aimed at combating match-fixing, 3 of those surveyed have considered that state and sports bodies should lead the preventive campaigns and the implementation of measures and that situation is different from state to state.

On the other hand, the data collected show a great lack of knowledge regarding the promotion of these policies, since only 1 recognizes that policies and actions to prevent and combat match-fixing are highly promoted by state authorities and sports bodies.

Množični in profesionalni šport. (Prosimo, izberite samo eno možnost)

Answered: 4 Skipped: 0

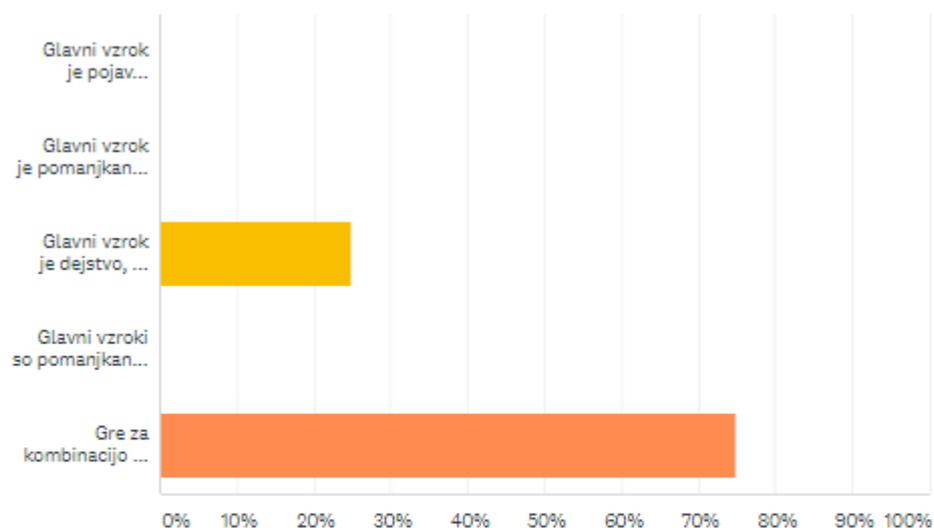


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Prirejanje tekem je težava, ki se pojavlja predvsem v profesionalnih športih.	0.00%	0
Prirejanje tekem je težava, ki se pojavlja le v profesionalnih športih.	0.00%	0
Prirejanje tekem je težava, ki se pojavlja v profesionalnih in množičnih športih.	100.00%	4
Total Respondents: 4		

Since T-PREG is focus not only in professional sports but also in grassroots sports, one of the questions in the survey aimed to collect participants' perceptions about the prevalence of match-fixing in these two areas. All 4 respondents see match-fixing as a phenomenon that happens both in professional and grassroots sports. Taking into consideration all of the interviewees come from grassroots sports, this might be an extremely relevant feedback.

Vzroki za prirejanje tekem. (Prosimo, izberite samo eno možnost)

Answered: 4 Skipped: 0



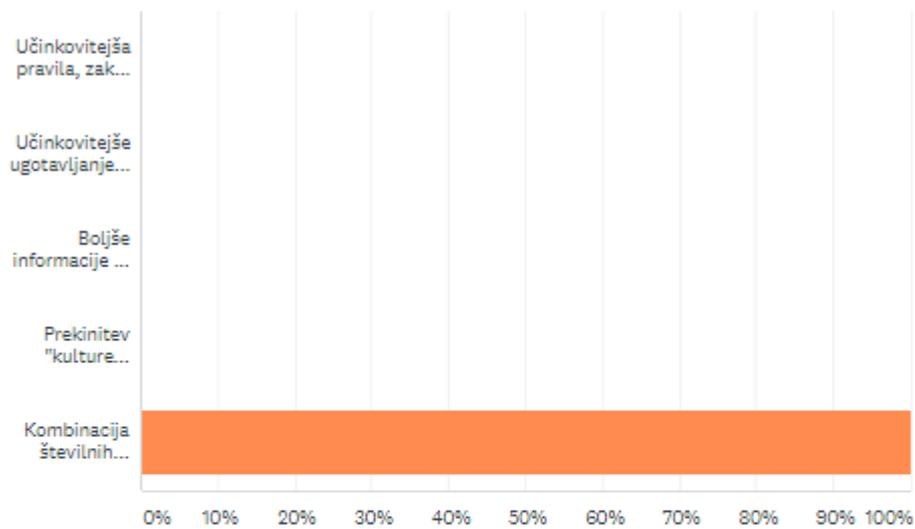
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Glavni vzrok je pojav industrije spletnih stav.	0.00% 0
Glavni vzrok je pomanjkanje etike.	0.00% 0
Glavni vzrok je dejstvo, da je šport postal posel.	25.00% 1
Glavni vzroki so pomanjkanje pravil in zakonov ter pomanjkanje nadzora.	0.00% 0
Gre za kombinacijo več vzrokov.	75.00% 3
Total Respondents: 4	

Match-fixing is a phenomenon that underlies a multiplicity of causes and this is recognized by 3 out of four respondents. 1 respondent thinks that the main cause lies in the fact, that sports has become a big business.

Even in terms of solutions, participants considered that match-fixing is a systemic phenomenon, and that fighting against the phenomenon requires a combination of measures (58.7%). Looking at the most important specific measures, respondents recognize that it is essential, above all, to improve levels of information and education (17.4%).

Rešitve. (Prosimo, izberite samo eno možnost)

Answered: 4 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Učinkovitejša pravila, zakoni in sankcije.	0.00% 0
Učinkovitejše ugotavljanje in preiskovanje.	0.00% 0
Boljše informacije in izobraževanje.	0.00% 0
Prekinitev "kulture tišine".	0.00% 0
Kombinacija številnih ukrepov.	100.00% 4

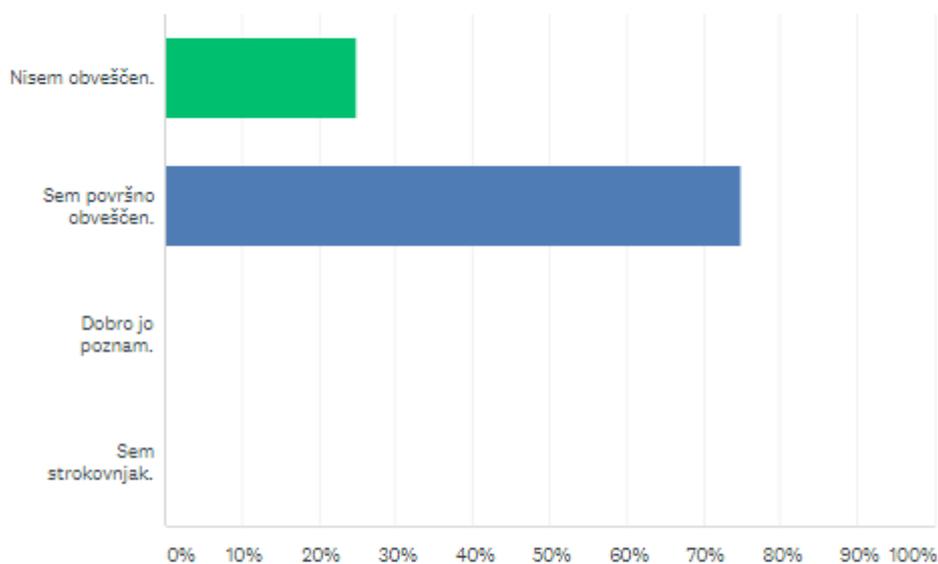
Even in terms of solutions, participants considered that match-fixing is a systemic phenomenon, and that fighting against the phenomenon require a combination of measures (4 respondents).

Issue 2: What do you think about reporting systems in sport

The second set of questions sought to collect perceptions about protected reporting systems in sport. From the analysis of the data collected, it appears that all of the respondents are poorly or not informed about this type of mechanisms. Due to the size of the sample it would be a pure speculation to draw conclusions on the reasons for this results, however other national studies suggest that national sports governing bodies need to invest more time and efforts into awareness raising.

Raven informiranosti glede problematike. (Prosimo, izberite samo eno možnost)

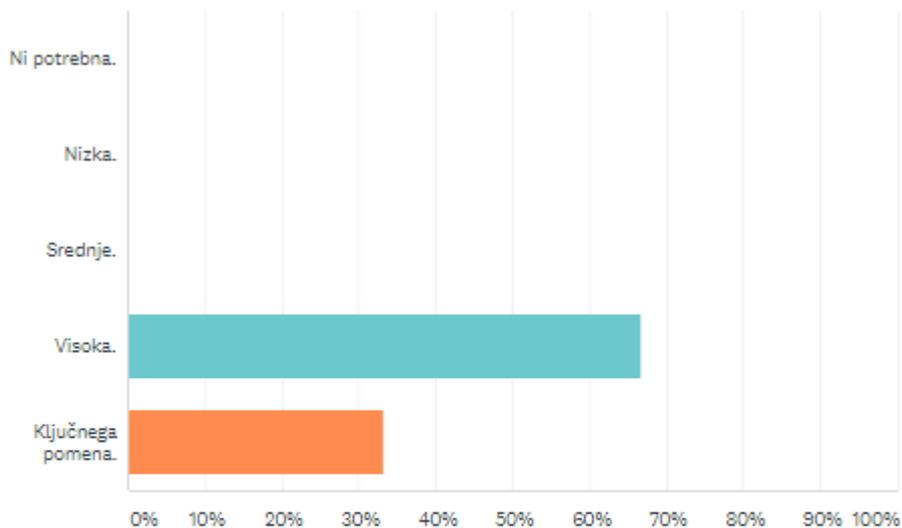
Answered: 4 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Nisem obvešččen.	25.00%	1
Sem površno obvešččen.	75.00%	3
Dobro jo poznam.	0.00%	0
Sem strokovnjak.	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 4		

Pomembnost reševanja problema prirejanja tekem. (Prosimo, izberite samo eno možnost)

Answered: 3 Skipped: 1

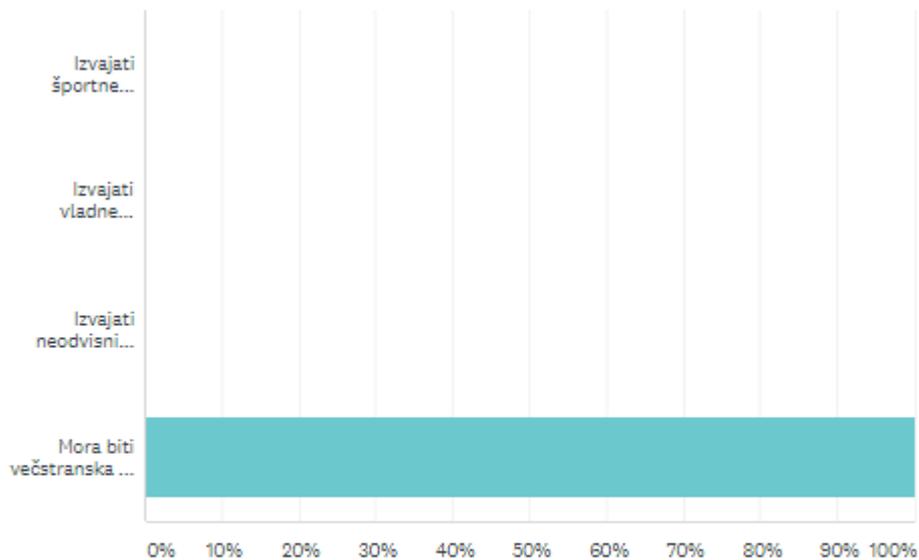


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Ni potrebna.	0.00% 0
Nizka.	0.00% 0
Srednje.	0.00% 0
Visoka.	66.67% 2
Ključnega pomena.	33.33% 1
Total Respondents: 3	

Although the knowledge about protected reporting mechanisms in sport has not yet reached the desired levels, awareness of its importance is very positive: 3 of the respondents attribute a crucial or high relevance to these mechanisms.

Izvajanje strategij in ukrepov za preprečevanje in boj proti prirejanju tekem morajo (Prosimo, izberite samo eno možnost)

Answered: 4 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Izvajati športne organizacije.	0.00% 0
Izvajati vladne agencije/LEA.	0.00% 0
Izvajati neodvisni organi.	0.00% 0
Mora biti večstranska in sodelovalna.	100.00% 4
Total Respondents: 4	

Finally, when asked about who should promote protected reporting mechanisms in sport, all participants understand that these mechanisms should be multi-stakeholder and cooperative.

Questionnaire 2: Training Sessions Assessment

a) Evaluation of the Educational Tool

Evaluation questionnaire had the objective of assess the effectiveness of the sessions and the eLearning. The participants answered about their cognitive evolution on different topics and contents included in the eLearning. The procedure was to evaluate the knowledge they had before on particular topics, and the knowledge they believe they have after the training session. The results were satisfactory and show that the eLearning module fulfils its pedagogical objective.

The results reflect the lack of initial knowledge on issues crucial to sporting integrity, such as legal frameworks and reporting channels. Likewise, the lack of lines of action and practical intervention is perceived. The biggest added value to the training was identified as raised awareness on the existing protected reporting systems. This further supports the collected data that sports governing bodies in Slovenia need to intensify the awareness raising activities on the available tools to fight match-fixing. Despite the fact that the evaluation shows the effectiveness of the pedagogical and educational tool, it is necessary to continue this type of educational programs and sustain them over time, since a simple training session (online or face-to-face) is not enough to sediment knowledge and practices to combat threats to sporting integrity.

b) Strengths, weaknesses, and tips

Biggest weakness that respondents identified was lack of physical contact and wider, moderated discussions on issue area. Based on these observations, training sessions should be followed by a panel or moderated discussion. Due to COVID19 limitations, this scenario was sadly impossible.

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