

Mike Hartill

Beginning with oneself: Knowledge, understanding and the prevention of child sexual exploitation and abuse in European sport



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“Knowledge and understanding must be the basis of the society in which we live ...”

“Everything begins with oneself, and ends with oneself”.

(Henning Mankell, 13.2.15)

Extract 1:

Were you told not to say anything?

No, never! Never, never. That was never, ever suggested. He knew perfectly well I wasn't going to say anything.

Extract 2:

He used to get the stars to come to our competitions ... a lot of us tried to excel in the sport, and in the training ... to be more and more attractive to our abusers ... there was kind of a - what could be better than being a rugby hero? It's literally a *Faustian Pact*. But you have to sign - you know, it's not a choice, you have to sign.

Cases of Sexual Abuse in EU Sport

	1st known case
Czech Republic	2006
Denmark	1995
France	1995
Germany	1995
Greece	2013
Ireland	1994
Netherlands	1996
Slovenia	2007
Spain	1991
Sweden	2010
UK	1995

“visible public
community of alliance
and allegiances”

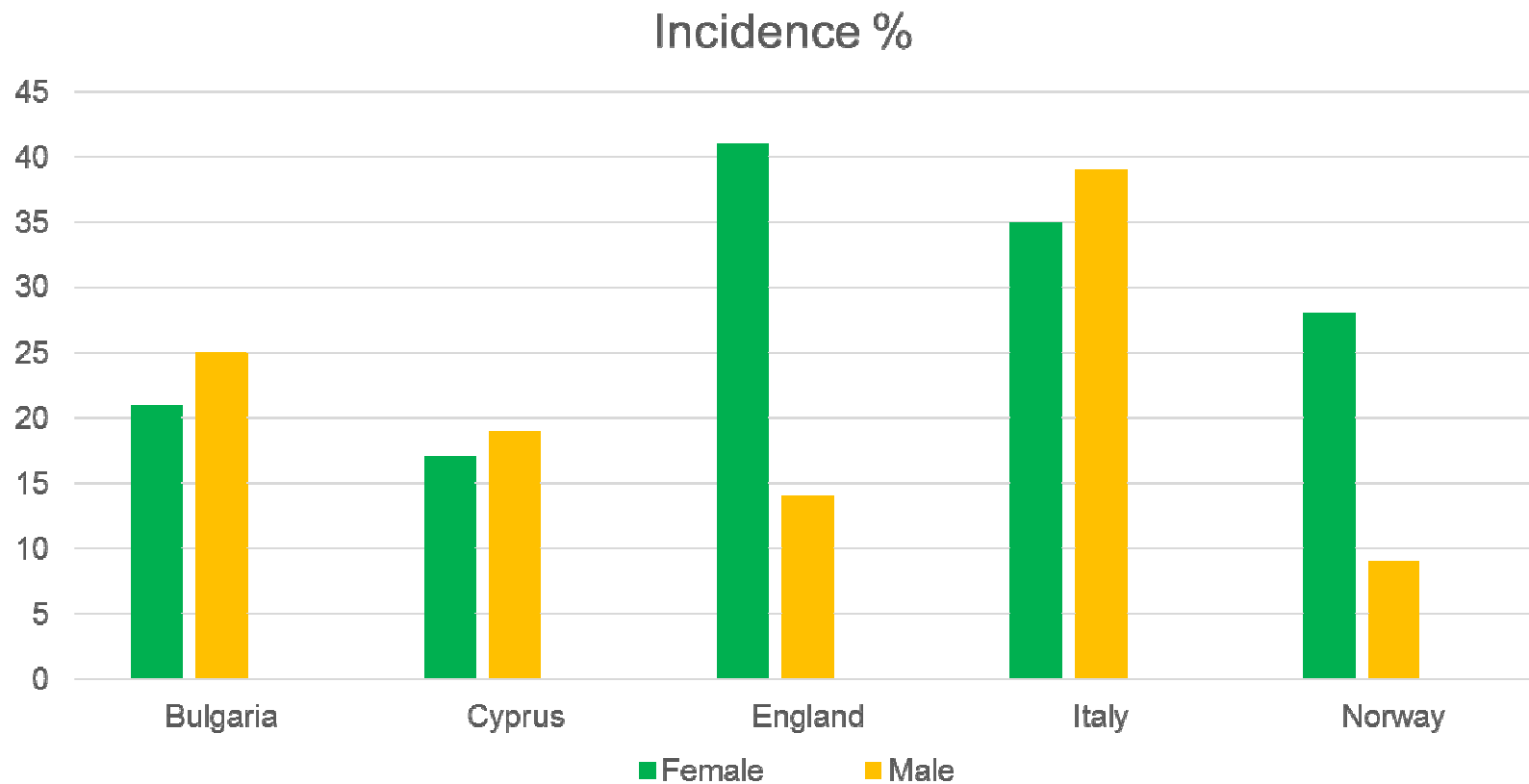
Scale

- 5-10% of girls & up to 5% of boys are exposed to *penetrative* sexual abuse
 - (Gilbert et al., 2009).
- 1 in 10 women has experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 15; 1 in 20 has been raped".
 - *European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights*

Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships (STIR)

- 3277 14-17 year olds who said they had been in a relationship
 - Bulgaria, Cyprus, England, Italy & Norway,
- Between a half and two-thirds of young women & between a third and two-thirds of young men reported experiencing Inter-Personal Violence & Abuse.
- STIR (2015) <http://stiritup.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/STIR-Briefing-Paper-21.pdf>

Incidence Rates of Sexual Violence Among Young People in Europe by Gender



Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships (STIR)

Sexual coercion needs to be addressed through education & awareness raising that aims to challenge attitudes and change behaviour.

Published research on child abuse in sport

	Published research
Belgium	✓
Cyprus	✓
Czech Republic	✓
Denmark	✓
France	✓
Germany	✓
Greece	✓
Netherlands	✓
Portugal	✓
Slovenia	✓
Spain	✓
Sweden	✓
UK	✓

English *Safeguarding Lead Officers*

- I don't think they understood it. I don't think it was seen as being particularly important.
- Initially it was, "umm, why are we doing this? Why is this on the agenda?"

English *Safeguarding Lead Officers*

- I think you have to be extremely, extremely determined and thick-skinned to be able to do it, and driven to do the job. I don't think you can do this without the organization buying in ...
- I hope the sector has learnt to support people better, because that role can be very isolating ... it needs specialist support, not everybody can deal with that stuff.

English *Safeguarding Lead Officers*

- We have to be able to drive it, and challenge a lot. And also stand by your guns ...
- I just wanted to be able to sort of change hearts and minds ... it's cultural stuff, it's a slow burner ...

“The power of young people is essential if we are to succeed in facing global challenges ...”

Ban-Ki Moon

Thank You

Published research on child abuse in sport

	1 st known case	Published research
Belgium	--	✓
Czech Republic	2006	✓
Denmark	1995	✓
France	1995	✓
Germany	1995	✓
Greece	2013	✓
Ireland	1994	✗
Netherlands	1996	✓
Portugal		✓
Slovenia	2007	✓
Spain	1991	✓
Sweden	2010	✓
UK	1995	✓